



Network

FEBRUARY 2015

Upcoming Events in March

- 3 **Compass Testing**
8 a.m., Williams Hall 118/119
- 5 **Phi Theta Kappa Board Meeting**
11 a.m., Student Union
- 6 **Midterm**
- 8 **Daylight Saving Time Begins**
Move Clocks Ahead One Hour
- 9 **Pulaski Day - No Classes**
- 10 **Spring Break Begins - Runs through March 13**
No classes, college offices will maintain normally scheduled hours
- 11 **Career Day**
- 12 **Celebrate Art! Program**
- P-Tech Advisory Council Meeting**
11 a.m., Lincoln Room
- 19 **Alumni Association Meeting**
6 p.m., Cafeteria
- 20 **Health Careers Advisory Luncheon**
11 a.m., Lincoln Room
- 26 **Phi Theta Kappa Meeting**
11 a.m., Student Union
- LTC Foundation Meeting**
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- 27 **Brown Bag Lunch**
12 p.m., Cafeteria
- 28 **Pearson VUE Testing**
7:30 a.m., Williams Hall 117/118

**Network is a joint project of
Lincoln Trail College & Lincoln
Trail College Foundation**

In this issue...

- Upward Bound Celebrates 50 Years
- Performing Arts Scholarship Audition Day
- Homecoming Royalty
- Alumni Spotlight: Derek Grabner
- Children's Art Exhibit
- New Coaches Lead LTC

UPWARD BOUND CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

By Brandon Weger, LTC Upward Bound Coordinator



In 2007, the TRIO Upward Bound – East grant was awarded to Lincoln Trail College. The program serves 65 students, 9th through 12th grade, through four high schools in Robinson, Ob-long, Newton, and Lawrenceville.

TRIO Upward Bound is a national program that more than doubles the chances of low-income, first-generation students graduating from college so they can escape poverty and enter the middle class. It has provided millions of Americans with academic support and coaching to achieve the dream of attending college and continues to do so in nearly 1,000 rural and urban U.S. communities.

As a national program, Upward Bound has been in existence since 1964 when it was created as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. Specifically, Upward Bound was launched by the Educational Opportunity Act of 1964 where it began as an experimental program. The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges have administered an Upward Bound grant since 1989.

The Upward Bound program is awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of Upward Bound students served must come from families with incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level and in which neither parent graduated from college.

Upward Bound was one of the first of several federal college-access programs known as "TRIO" — so named because there were, at the time, three such federal programs for low-income students — Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and Talent Search. Today there are eight TRIO programs.

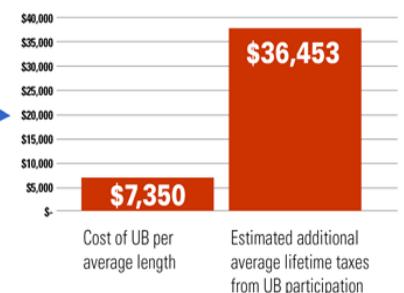
In the brief seven-year history of the TRIO Upward Bound – East program, the program has seen many successful students. Students, such as Katy Wilkin, [Oblong High School ('09),

Lincoln Trail College ('11)], who is currently enrolled in a Master's program at the University of North Carolina – Charlotte, have been guided to further their education. When asked about the reason she joined Upward Bound, Wilkin responded, "I joined upward bound program to have a support group to get prepared for college. Upward Bound was the perfect organization for me. It provided me with all the tools I needed to be ready for my college and career since I was the first to pursue a bachelor's degree in my family."

TRIO Upward Bound – East is just one of many programs at Lincoln Trail College that forges the path to success and enables students to discover their potential. In addition, Lincoln Trail is served by a Student Support Services program, which services TRIO eligible college students.

On average, Upward Bound students increased their earning potential for a higher return on investment

Increased taxes collected are 4.9 times higher than cost of program



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DEREK GRABNER

Lincoln Trail College graduate Derek Grabner is pursuing his dreams of acting in television and movies in New York City.

The 2009 graduate spent time both on the field and on the stage while he was at Lincoln Trail College. Grabner played baseball for the Statesmen and was also involved in theater productions.

“Doing both things, it was really stressful. When I was done with practice, I was going to rehearsal and then having weekend shows and the exhaustion that comes with working on plays while at the same time working on being a productive member of your baseball team, it was very exhausting. I look back and I was able to do both pretty well and was able to move on and keep going,” said Grabner.

In addition to his time in the theater and on the diamond, Grabner was an excellent student. He graduated with high honors with a cumulative GPA of 3.91.

After graduating from LTC, Grabner attended Ball State University where he continued to act and play baseball. He says his time at Lincoln Trail College helped prepare him for his future. “I remember coming out of high school and going to Lincoln Trail, I knew that this place would allow me the opportunity to go forward, and it totally did. I worked hard in school and graduated in two years with my associates’ degree. Everything prepared me for the next step and I’m really grateful for everything I learned and being able to use that going forward.”

Grabner now lives in New York City and is working on his career in acting. In November, he had a guest star role on CBS’ *Elementary*. He was with family when his episode premiered on November 27. “It was shocking at first because once you shoot the scene, you never know how it’s going to be cut together. There’s so much that happens in postproduction with editors coming in and the director and really finding the story they want to tell, so you never really know what is going to be shown in the episode.”

Grabner appeared with Aiden Quinn in the episode. He says when he watched the episode, it was hard not to look back at the

eight hours he spent filming and critique his own performance.

Since then, Grabner continues to audition. He was recently cast for a guest-starring role for a future episode of *Madam Secretary*. He’s also working with his agency to prepare for the pilot season in hopes of landing more roles.

Grabner says his dream is to someday reach the point where he can produce and star in his own work. “I want to produce and star in material that I really want to work on and tell stories that I find interesting, but that’s a luxury in this business. I think deep down, I have certain tastes and certain things that I like and I don’t see those represented as much as I want.”

He says one of his bucket list items is to play a villain in a superhero series. He says he would also like to do some stage shows and have complete control over his career, but he also knows it is all long way away and will take a lot of hard work. At the same time, Grabner says he’s ready for the challenge.

Looking back, Grabner says his time at Lincoln Trail College was special. “I enjoyed my time there. Robinson will always be special. It’s an interesting place and I really enjoyed my time there. I got a chance to get out into the country and had the chance to see how people can be all over the United States and that this place is just as good as any other place.”

“I also liked that I was able to take care of a lot of my core courses there,” Grabner said. He had no problems transferring the credits from his core courses to Ball State University and they got him ready for his next step in academics. “Those courses will help you prepare to move on to a four-year school.”

He also says Lincoln Trail College can be a great stepping-stone for anyone that attends the school. “This place is here to help you get to where you need to be. If you give it the attention and the focus that the teachers are expecting and the administration is expecting, you can move forward and you can achieve your goals.”



PETER PAN

April 10 • 7:00 p.m.

April 11 • 7:00 p.m.

April 12 • 2:00 p.m.

April 17 • 7:00 p.m.

April 18 • 7:00 p.m.

April 19 • 2:00 p.m.

LTC PREPARING FOR SCHOLARSHIP AUDITION DAY

Lincoln Trail College announces its annual Scholarship Audition Day on Feb. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Other dates and times are available by appointment.

Each year Lincoln Trail College awards over \$25,000 in scholarships and tuition waivers to deserving students in the performing arts. All performing arts tuition waivers are performance based. Scholarships are administered by the Lincoln Trail College Foundation and have a variety of criteria. To be considered for either a scholarship or a tuition waiver, you must schedule an audition with Performing Arts faculty and submit the appropriate scholarship applications by March 1. Forms for admission to the college, and applications for financial aid, including scholarships and tuition waivers, are available online at www.iecc.edu/ltc. Tuition waivers may be awarded for a full academic year or for one semester. Waivers are available with music, musical theater or theater specializations.

Lincoln Trail College provides a comprehensive music transfer program and theater preparatory program. Music ensembles include Concert Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, Pep Band and the award-winning chamber vocal ensemble Statesmen Singers. In addition, the theater department stages a play and a musical annually. Easy access to Indianapolis, St. Louis, Louisville and even Chicago and Nashville provides students with frequent off-campus field trips and tours.

Celebrating 40 Years of theater
1975-2015

Lincoln Trail College is celebrating 40 years of theater in 2015 and is looking for cast and crew members of past performances to take part in a special celebration on April 18.

If you were a part of a past performance or you know of someone in a past performance and you haven't reached out to the Performing Arts Department yet, please contact us at 618-544-8657 ext. 1433.

RODGER JOINS MUSIC FACULTY



Sarah Rodger

The Lincoln Trail College music department is pleased to announce a new part-time faculty member who will be teaching private guitar and violin lessons.

Sarah Rodger is a 2012 graduate of Indiana State University with a Bachelors of Arts in Music. She is currently a private lesson instructor at the Conservatory of Music in Terre Haute, Indiana. Her principal instrument is guitar, and she also has years of experience teaching violin. She enjoys sharing her passion for music with her students.

Growing up in San Diego, Sarah developed an early, and persistent interest in music. After moving to Indiana to attend Indiana State University, she gained valuable experience playing for the ISU Big Band and jazz combos. In Terre Haute, she has played with the

Community Theatre, various cover bands, small group jazz ensembles, and the band Pinball Heroes, for which she writes the material.

Whether you are a beginner or you want to continue your musical endeavors, private lessons are a great way to get the one-on-one instruction needed to improve your skills. LTC provides instruction in all the band/orchestral instruments as well as guitar, piano, organ, and voice.

Children's Art Show



Lincoln Trail College is displaying art from area grade school students in the month of February.

Students in grades one through eight submitted a wide variety artwork for display. Lincoln Trail College will showcase the work in the college's library from Feb. 2-27.

The art exhibition opened with a reception on Feb. 2 featuring the artists and their families.

Lincoln Trail College will also host an event in March called Celebrate Art! featuring work from area high school students.

Students can submit entries in drawing, painting, computer generated art, 3-D artwork and photography. The artwork is judged on creativity, composition and technique.

Eight works will be selected for display in the LTC Library and the selected artists will receive recognition and gift certificates.

Artwork for Celebrate Art! Day is due to the LTC Library by 4 p.m. on March 6.

Celebrate Art! Day runs from 9-11 a.m. on March 12 and includes a presentation from artist Gregg Bonelli and an artist reception.



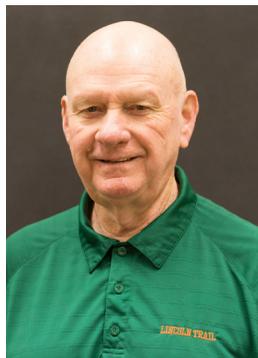
HOMECOMING ROYALTY

Lincoln Trail College students celebrated Homecoming on Feb. 7. Students voted for Jena Allen (Dieterich, Ill.) as Princess, Dominic Gentile (Defiance, Ohio) as Prince, Cord Church (Rantoul, Ill.) as King and Hannah Vaughn (Robinson, Ill.) as Queen.



LTC WELCOMES IN TWO NEW COACHES

Lincoln Trail College has named new head coaches for the softball and volleyball teams, but both coaches are familiar to the school.



Gary Rodgers

Gary Rodgers was named the new head coach for the softball team. This is his second stint as the coach of the Lady Statesmen. He was the head coach from 1984-1990 and guided the Lady Statesmen to the NJCAA

Tournament in Hutchison, KS in 1988. He also served as the head coach at Olney Central from 2000-06 and has an NJCAA record of 530-198. He served as the head coach at St. Mary of the Woods College from 2006-13, where he set a school record with 187 wins and guided the Pomeroy's to two USCAA National Championships, three runner-up finishes and one third place finish.

"I'm very excited to be a part of the program again. I had a great experience the first time and I look forward to another. Ashley Gordon left the program in good shape. I feel like we can play with any GRAC school, it's just a matter of doing it," said Rodgers.

"I have both academic and athletic goals for our players. I want our athletes to achieve high academic standards, have a high graduation rate and a one hundred percent retention rate. Athletically, I want to prepare our players to play at the college level. I want to make a commitment to make Lincoln Trail softball strong and get good, consistent play," Rodgers said.

Kristin Selph was named the new head coach of the volleyball team. She served as an assistant coach under Ashley Gordon in the fall of

2014 when the volleyball program returned to Lincoln Trail College.



Kristin Selph

Selph set school records for kills, digs and aces while playing at Mid-Continent University. She was the 11th player in the history of the Trans South Athletic Conference to surpass the 1,000 mark in both kills and digs. Selph served as a student

coach at Mid-Continent and has also served as an assistant coach on the high school level. She was the head coach of the WKVC Club Volleyball team, where she guided the team to two first-place Gold Bracket and two second-place Gold Bracket awards.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to be the new head coach of the Lady Statesmen volleyball team. This is my dream job and it is actually happening," said Selph. "With the program in its second year, there's a lot of work to be done, but I know that we'll have a good group of girls to work with. Right now, I'm in the process of recruiting and I look forward to growing the program."

Selph also serves as LTC's Retention Coordinator.

FALL TEAM GPAs

Women's Basketball	3.61
Baseball	3.56
Golf	3.5
Volleyball	3.29
Softball	3.2
Men's Basketball	3.15
Athletics Overall	3.42



March Schedules

Baseball

5	Southeastern
6	Spoon River
7	at Southeastern
9	at Georgetown vs Saint Catharine <small>(at Georgetown, KY)</small>
12	Rend Lake
14	at Rend Lake
16	Danville
19	at Wabash Valley
21	Wabash Valley
23	at Danville
24	at Lake Land
26	John A. Logan
28	at John A. Logan
31	Parkland

Softball

3	at Marthland
5	at Lindenwood
10	at Kaskaskia
13	at Crowley's Ridge
14	at Judson College
17	at Southwestern
19	at Olney Central
21	Lake Land
24	Wabash Valley
26	Shawnee
28	at John A. Logan
29	Rend Lake
31	Kaskaskia

Golf

28-29	at Rose Hulman
-------	----------------

ltcathletics.com