

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



December 2019

Upcoming Events

December

8 *The Many Moods of Christmas: A Choral Celebration*, Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.

9 Spring Semester Textbook Sales Begin

9-12 Fall Semester Final Exams

9-11 Fall Textbook Buyback, OCC Bookstore, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5-6:30 p.m.

12 Fall Textbook Buyback, OCC Bookstore, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

13 OCC Music Department Christmas Extravaganza, Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.

18 Last Day of Fall Semester

19-31 Winter Break – College Closed

Bookstore Hours for Spring Semester

January 2-3

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

January 6-9

7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

January 10

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

January 13-16

8:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

January 17

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Last Day for Refunds for Dropped Classes

January 18-May 1

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Many Moods of Christmas Celebration featuring Dr. Vladimir Pleshakov Dec. 8

Master Class with Dr. Pleshakov Dec. 7

The Olney Central College Music Department will present *The Many Moods of Christmas: A Choral Celebration* at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

“This special evening of music combines your favorite carols with a concert band/orchestra, so it’s lovely and unique,” said OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman.

More than 100 area singers, from the OCC Community Choir, OCC Concert Choir and the Richland County High School Choir, will join together presenting *Messiah* selections and traditional carols.

“This year our community choir is sounding its absolute best, and I’m excited for everyone to hear their talent,” Pittman added.

A highlight of the evening will be Beethoven’s *Choral Fantasy* a 22-minute piece for piano, orchestra and choir. The piece will feature special guest internationally recognized pianist and published composer Dr. Vladimir Pleshakov, whose choral music and composition style were the focus of Pittman’s doctoral dissertation.



Dr. Vladimir Pleshakov

While health issues have sidelined Pleshakov in recent years, he is recovering and plans to begin touring again with his wife, pianist Elena Winther. The 85-year-old piano virtuoso has chosen to kick off his tour at OCC.

Originally written as a precursor to welcome the festive Christmas season, the audience will recognize within the work Beethoven’s first draft of *Ode to Joy*, later heard in his 9th Symphony.

“I am thrilled our community will be able to hear piano music like this played at such a high level,” Pittman said. “The Beethoven ‘rocks.’ It really jams like 1970s rock music. I think people will be really surprised at how fun and exciting it is.”

He added, “I’m very excited to have a joint performance with the high school choir, giving those kids a chance to

perform higher level music with an orchestra and professional singers, as well as with Dr. Pleshakov himself. *Messiah* used to be a staple of choral repertoire, but now fewer and fewer towns and programs are able to handle it, particularly with block scheduling affecting the arts so dramatically in high school. Every singer should know what it’s like to sing a major work with a large chorus and orchestra.”

Prior to the concert, Pleshakov and his wife will present a master class from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

“The master class will show off local pianists as they work on their technique under the guidance of Dr. Pleshakov and his wife,” Pittman said. “Dr. Pleshakov will also discuss his life as a composer, what inspires him, how he approaches his compositions and much more.”

The program will include a lesson in composing along with a question and answer session with Pleshakov, whose life story is as compelling as his musicianship. Pleshakov’s family fled the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution of 1917, joining an enclave of White Russians in

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Henton preparing for Drone Technology Program's startup

Morgan Henton has joined Olney Central College as the Drone Technology Specialist for the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant.

The Title III program is supported in part by a five-year grant awarded to Olney Central College from the U.S. Department of Education effective October 1, 2018. The estimated total cost for all project activities is \$2,506,775 financed by the grant award of \$2,249,968 (90%) and \$256,807 (10%) by Olney Central College. Initiatives at OCC include implementing a new Drone Technology Program.

"I'm looking forward to sharing my passion with the students," said Henton, who has held a commercial drone license since 2016. "Drone technology is one of the fastest growing industries. It is constantly expanding with new applications. I want to show the students that not only can it be fun to fly, but it can prepare them for a career in a fast-paced developing field."

Today drones are routinely used by fire departments and law enforcement agencies conducting search and rescue missions, utility companies inspecting infrastructure, and construction and engineering firms. Locally, the biggest user for drones is the agricultural industry, where they are incorporated into precision growing operations.

Henton has extensive experience working with drones having utilized them for his video production company.

Since assuming his new post, Henton has been busy developing the Drone Technology curriculum. The program, which will begin in August, will include both a certificate and a two-year associate's degree.

"I think it's exciting narrowing down the classes so we offer what is most useful to our students," Henton said. "I want them learning and using the equipment they will need in the field. We want classes that are meeting the industry needs. This degree and certificate will enable them to be qualified to fly a drone and those who complete the class will be pretty versatile."

While developing the program, Henton has researched drone programs at other institutions. He recently visited both Indiana State University in Terre Haute and Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

"We want to see what other programs are doing and make sure our program coincides with those," he added. "The goal we are working on is to ensure our students can easily transfer and complete their bachelor's degrees."

The Drone Technology Program will be located at the West Richland Center in Noble. Renovations on the classroom and lab space will get underway soon.

"I've been researching equipment for labs and trying to narrow down the focus of what we need," Henton said. "The drone industry is so large. Each area takes a different drone and camera system. I'm focusing on which will help prepare our students best. My goal is to have a variety of drones with a variety of uses."

Henton also plans to incorporate software that will enable students to analyze data collected from the drones.

"I'm looking to have internship classes where students can meet with local industry people who have uses for a drone," Henton added. "The student would meet with the client, determine what the needs are, problem solve and complete the job."

Henton attended OCC and transferred to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where he earned a bachelor's degree in agribusiness economics. He worked in agriculture sales for eight years. Henton currently serves on the Richland County Board, is Vice President of the Parks and Recreation Board and is a member of the Richland County Development Corporation and the Richland County FFA Alumni.

To learn more about the Drone Technology Program, contact Henton at 618-393-3566 or send an email to hentonm@iecc.edu.



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SIU-E officials visit OCC to discuss new nursing initiatives

Officials from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, including Chancellor Randall G. Pembrook, recently visited Olney Central College to discuss new opportunities available to graduates of the OCC/Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Nursing Program.

“We had a good conversation about their bachelors and graduate degree programs,” said OCC President Rodney Ranes. “The university is expanding its programs in the healthcare area. We talked about the new nursing initiatives at SIU-E and scholarship opportunities available for our graduates. We also discussed student needs in our area.”

Also attending the meeting, from the IECC District were Interim CEO Marilyn Holt and Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Dr. Theresa Marcotte. Other SIU-E representatives included Dean of Nursing Dr. Laura Bernaix and Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Community/Global Partnerships Dr. Roberta Harrison.



Officials from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville visited OCC last month to discuss new opportunities for graduates of the OCC/IECC Nursing Program. Pictured, from left, are SIU-E Chancellor Randall G. Pembrook, IECC Interim CEO Marilyn Holt, Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Dr. Theresa Marcotte, Dean for Academic Programs and Community/Global Partnerships SIU-E School of Nursing Dr. Roberta Harrison, SIU-E Dean of Nursing Dr. Laura Bernaix and OCC President Rodney Ranes.



OCC Welding Club attends Fabtech in Chicago

OCC’s Welding Club traveled to Chicago Nov. 12-13 to attend Fabtech, the biggest metal forming and welding show in the United States.

“It was a great learning experience for the students,” said Instructor Curtis Marshall. “They were able to see the latest developments in welding, thermal cutting, waterjet technology, metal forming, stamping and finishing.”

Moods *Continued from Page 1*

China. The group, who became known as the “White Russians of Shanghai,” retained

their religious and cultural practices, which were virtually wiped out in their homeland under Soviet control. When the Communists came to power in China, Pleshakov and his family up-

rooted again, this time relocating to Australia, where he began his career, shortly before moving to California.

Both the concert and master class are free and open to the public.

SNA DONATIONS

The OCC Student Nurses' Association recently presented \$500 donations to area law enforcement agencies for their Shop with a Cop programs. SNA raised the funds through recent shirt sales, with all profits going to the agencies. At right, Jasper County Sheriff Brandon Francis accepts a check from SNA members Kyle Muska, Miranda Clinton, Lauren Probst and Taylor Johnson. Below, SNA members Abra Levitt, Elizabeth Sill and Alexis Shock present a check to Clay County Sheriff Andy Myers.



Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

- Dec. 7** — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, 3 p.m. at home
- Dec. 11** — OCC vs. Kaskaskia, 7:30 p.m. at home
- Dec. 14** — OCC at Lewis & Clark, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 8** — OCC vs. Vincennes, 7:30 p.m. at home
- Jan. 11** — OCC at Southeastern Illinois, 3 p.m. at home

Women's Basketball

- Dec. 7** — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, 1 p.m. at home
- Dec. 11** — OCC vs. Kaskaskia, 5:30 p.m. at home
- Dec. 13** — OCC vs. Brescia JV, 6:30 p.m. at home
- Jan. 8** — OCC vs. Vincennes, 5:30 p.m. at home
- Dec. 11** — OCC at Southeastern Illinois, 1 p.m.
- Jan. 15** — OCC at Lincoln Trail, 5:30 p.m.

Spring registration now underway

Spring registration is underway at Olney Central College.

Those wishing to enroll in spring classes should make an appointment to meet with an advisor. During the meeting, students will receive their plan, registration PIN and instructions explaining the new self-registration process.

Students can register for classes using the new kiosks in Student Services.

Music Department to present Christmas Extravaganza Dec. 13

The OCC Music Department will present its Christmas Extravaganza at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Welcome in the holiday season with performances by OCC's instrumental ensembles including the OCC Concert Band, Big

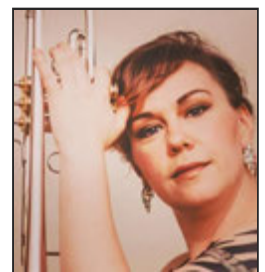
Band, Jazz Combo, Commercial Music Ensembles and the Contemporary Music Ensemble.

Dr. Lexie Signor will join the OCC musicians playing trumpet on Doc Severinsen's arrangement of *Sleigh Ride*.

Signor serves as the lead trumpeter for the NYChillhar-

monic and is the Trumpet Professor at Indiana State University.

Signor is a native of Mackinaw City, Mich. She holds two master's degrees and a doctorate (ABD) in performance from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.



Dr. Lexie Signor