

# The Knightline

Olney Central College Students & Employees Monthly Newsletter

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## Student finishes first in accounting challenge

Olney Central College student Nick Amerman captured first place in the 16th Annual Accounting Challenge at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Amerman, of Noble, received both a trophy and a \$500 scholarship to SIU's School of Accounting as the top finisher in the written accounting test.

"It was fun participating in the competition," Amerman said. "I was excited when I found out I won. I felt like I knew what I was doing when I went there and I was feeling very confident. I've already been accepted to SIU and it was a good experience."

This is the first time OCC has participated in the challenge for high school and community colleges. More than 400 students competed in the individual test and team event.

Amerman attended the competition with Accounting Instructor John Kendall and fellow OCC student Joe Nelson, of Olney.

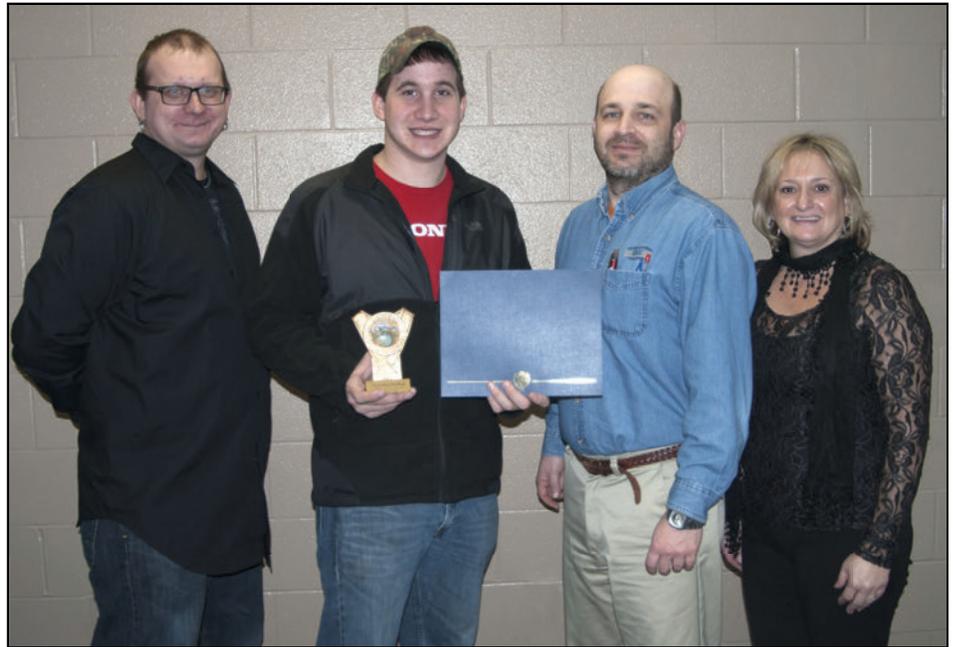
Kendall said the test changes each year so students never know what to study ahead of time. They also cannot use calculators during the competition.

"We are thrilled," he said of Amerman's accomplishment. "This experience at Carbondale is an affirmation of what we do at OCC."

Accounting Instructor Kristi Urfer said OCC's accounting students continually excel after graduation. Kendall noted an OCC graduate was among the SIU students grading the competition tests.

"I think our students benefit from the smaller class sizes and take more away from them," Kendall said. "The classes get them ready to go to work or on to a university."

Urfer stressed she and Kendall work on problems in class with the



**OCC students Joe Nelson and Nick Amerman participated in the 16th Annual Accounting Challenge at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Amerman finished in first place. Pictured, from left, are Nelson, Amerman, and Accounting Instructors John Kendall, who accompanied the students, and Kristi Urfer.**

students to ensure they understand concepts and to address questions as they arise.

"I think the competition results show this approach is paying off," she added.

Amerman and Nelson also participated in the group competition, which required students to use a chair and a newspaper to construct a bridge that could hold a cup of water. Entries were judged on the construction's length and strength.

"The team challenge has nothing to do with accounting, but focuses on teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills," Kendall added.

Kendall said the event gave students the chance to visit SIU, to learn more about the programs in the School of Business and to meet department members.

"It was a good experience," said Nelson, who plans to major in marketing at SIU. "I would recommend it to any business student. It was a good way to get to know more. I had an opportunity to make contacts and to get information about scholarships to specific departments."

Kendall hopes even more students will participate next year. He would like to include students not only from OCC, but the other Illinois Eastern Community Colleges — Frontier Community, Lincoln Trail and Wabash Valley — as well.

In the future, Kendall would like to institute a similar competition at OCC.

"Our students had a great experience and I would like to bring that here for the local high school students," he added.

# Graduate enjoys career in state government

From student government to state government, Michael Baker credits Olney Central College with paving the way to his success.

Baker, an Olney native, has been employed with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the past 13 years. He currently serves as the manager of strategic planning and grants with the Office of Employment and Training.

“Being in Student Senate and organizing events like Homecoming and Spring Fling were great experiences,” said Baker, who served as OCC Student Senate president during his sophomore year. “Planning and executing those events, working on allocating limited funds, purchasing new game and stereo equipment for the union gave me the opportu-



**Michael Baker** nity to work with other people, lots of great people, to set goals and make progress toward those goals as a team. I also had the good fortune to be a member of a presidential search committee, working with faculty and foundation members. I got exposed to working on policies and procedures. I

learned a lot, made some great decisions, made some bad ones too, but that experience helped me to get to where I am today.”

After completing his associate’s degree in 1985, Baker transferred to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he received a bachelor’s degree in secondary education. He also earned a master’s degree in public administration from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. While attending SIU, he served an internship with the Illinois State Senate and later joined the State of Illinois Comptroller’s Office as deputy director of administration and budget.

In 2001, Baker joined the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs’ Division of Program and Policy Development where he

served as manager of the Office of Program Application.

His responsibilities included developing policy solutions for a number of economic development issues.

A major project Baker tackled involved identifying why the film and television industries were no longer utilizing Illinois as a production location as extensively as they had in the past. During his research, he discovered other localities were luring companies away from the state with better tax incentives.

“We weren’t able to compete,” Baker said. “We came up with an incentive package that, while modest compared to others at the time, along with the other advantages intrinsic to Illinois brought the film

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## SNA holds donor drive

The Student Nurses Association at OCC held an Organ/Tissue Donor Registry Drive on Feb. 21. They registered 10 new donors and answered numerous questions.

SNA is partnering with the Illinois Secretary of State’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program in its new “Be A Hero” Campaign to promote donor awareness and increase registration in Illinois.

SNA will hold a second drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 15 at the IGA in Olney.

SNA encourages everyone to take this opportunity to add their names to the registry.



**SNA held an Organ/Tissue Donor Registry Drive on Feb. 21 in the Student Union. They added 10 names to the state registry and answered numerous questions. Pictured are front row, from left, Tonya Thomas of Olney and Ashlee Goss of Oblong, and back row, Rachael Millman of Olney, Shawna Routien of Lawrenceville, Orvell Cline of St. Francisville, Em Hunt of Olney and Tiffany Nix of Olney.**

# Tickets still available for 'Shrek the Musical'

Tickets for the Olney Central College Theatre's production of "Shrek the Musical" are now on sale.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on March 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center. Afternoon shows will be offered at 2 p.m. on March 23 and 30.

Dinner theatres will be held before the Friday and Saturday shows at 6 p.m. The menu includes: chicken cordon bleu, loaded baked potato, green bean casserole, broccoli and cauliflower salad, double chocolate cake, roll and butter and beverage.

Based on the Oscar® winning DreamWorks film that started it all, "Shrek the Musical" brings the

**See Shrek, Page 5**



**A long line was waiting when tickets for the OCC Theatre's upcoming production of "Shrek the Musical" went on sale Feb. 24. Tickets are still available and can be purchased from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday in the lobby of the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.**

## Graduate

**Continued from Page 2**  
business back."

Baker's efforts resulted in both the Batman saga "The Dark Knight," and the comedy "Legally Blonde 2", among others, being shot in Illinois.

"Legally Blonde 2 was actually filmed in Springfield and I got to watch Reese Witherspoon deliver her lines, while they filmed Sally Field and a cast of extras sitting in the House of Representatives, which was a fun experience," he added.

In his current position, Baker is responsible for statewide strategic planning and innovation grants for workforce development. Currently he manages an initiative partnering with the Illinois Workforce Investment Board, Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Manufacturers' Association, local workforce investment areas and employers across Illinois to identify skills and occupations in demand and to

develop accelerated training programs to meet employers' needs.

"Manufacturers have positions they need to fill, but they aren't able to find enough workers with the necessary skills," he said. "We're working to fill that skills gap by modifying existing and creating new accelerated training that is better tailored to allow people to learn the skills they need to land good-paying manufacturing jobs as quickly as possible."

Baker is leading a team working with the state's community colleges to develop programs and credentials that can be earned in a shorter time period and offered outside the traditional academic calendar.

"If someone loses their job, they don't want to wait until August to start retraining," Baker said. "They want to start right away so they can get back to work and supporting their families."

These are challenges Baker enjoys.

"I get to work with people across the state on a higher education partnership that will benefit the state for years to come, which is exciting," said Baker, who now resides in Rochester. "I feel like I'm part of something helpful for both the employers and the people with barriers to employment. Our team is helping people with challenges to overcome them and I feel like what I am doing is making a difference."

Outside work, Baker enjoys helping others by serving as president of the Family Service Center Board of Directors. FSC is the longest-serving social service agency in Springfield.

It opened in 1863 as the Home for the Friendless and served Union Army widows and orphans. Today it provides foster care and adoption services as well as programs for homeless and

at-risk children.

Baker is grateful he chose to begin his higher education at Olney Central College.

"I really enjoyed my time at OCC. It was filled with a lot of fun and great friendships. I also met my first real-life mentor, Gail Lathrop."

Lathrop, a former president at OCC, was the political science instructor and at the time was the mayor of Olney.

At Baker's request, Lathrop agreed to also serve as the Student Senate advisor.

"We maintained a relationship after I graduated and he gave me a lot of great advice until he passed away a few years ago."

Baker added, "OCC was right for me. It allowed me to start a degree without going into debt, learn some important life skills and lessons, and prepared me well for U of I. It was a really good experience."



## Sophomore Night

OCC Men's and Women's Basketball players were honored during Sophomore Night on Feb. 22. At left, Lady Knights recognized are front row, from left, Dominique Rubin, Kelsee Ennis, Samantha Scott and Leah Myers and back row, Brooke Callaway, Erin Barton, Samantha Shoulders and Emma Zerrusen. The Blue Knights honored included Brook Pampe, below left, and John Brown, below right.



## LSC offering free tutoring for students

Need help with a class? Olney Central College's Learning Skills Center offers free tutoring in any subject taught at OCC.

Biology study guides are available, as well as videos for Basic Math, Beginning Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.

The LSC also can provide tape recorders, large screen monitors, readers and note takers.

If you have any special learning needs, come and see the LSC staff

and they will be glad to provide suggestions help and/or accommodations.

The LSC also is looking for students to serve as tutors. Tutors must have an A or B in the subject they are tutoring. They need a reference from an OCC instructor if possible.

The Learning Skills Center is located in the back of the Anderson Library in Conference Room 4. Stop by to learn more.

## Kelsee Ennis sets new three-point record

Kelsee Ennis, of Bloomington, Ind., now holds the record for most three-pointers in a career for the OCC Lady Knights.

Ennis, a sophomore, broke the previous record of 103, set by Traci Roberts, during the Women's Basketball team's 68-58 win against John A. Logan on Feb. 12.

# Apply at OCC for positions with new Ruler Food store

Chris Huntman, a recruiter for Jay C Food Stores, a Division of Kroger Co., will be at OCC on March 10 accepting applications for 18 positions in the new Ruler Food store in Olney.

Both part-time and full-time positions are available.

A table will be located in the hallway outside the Student Services Office from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be

free popcorn for those who stop by.

If you are interested in applying, please visit the careerbuilders.com website to obtain an application for Kroger Co. or bring a resume with you that day.

OCC Career Services Coordinator Allan Alldredge reminds applicants to dress appropriately for their interaction with Huntman.

"He will decide

whom he will call for interviews from the applications he receives and a good first impression will assist him in deciding if he wants to call you for the interview," Alldredge said.

Kroger employs more than 10,000 people nationwide. It offers good benefits and pay with many opportunities for advancement in the company if you are willing to travel.

## Appointments available for Massage Therapy

OCC's Massage Therapy Program still has appointments available for its spring clinicals.

The clinics are open to the public and will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 21 and 28.

The cost for a relaxing, Swedish-style massage is just \$25 for a one-hour session. The massage treatments are for the sole purpose of stress reduction,

relief from muscle tension or spasm and to increase circulation and energy flow. A massage therapy instructor will be present at the clinics.

To schedule an appointment, call 392-2430. If you are unable to reach someone, please leave a message. OCC's Massage Therapy Building is located at 108 E. Main St., in Olney.

## Shrek

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hilarious story of everyone's favorite ogre to dazzling new life on the stage.

In a faraway kingdom turned upside down, things get ugly when an unseemly ogre — not a handsome prince — shows up to rescue a feisty princess. Throw in a donkey who won't shut up, a bad guy with a short temper, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand and his name is Shrek.

Tickets may be purchased from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday in the theatre lobby.

Tickets for the production are \$12 for reserved seating for children and adults. Tickets for the meal and show are \$24.

Those who wish to reserve tickets may call 395-7777, ext. 2408, during the hours designated for ticket sales. Tickets may be purchased with a Mastercard or Visa.

Reserved tickets will be held for five working days, until picked up in person or a check is received in the mail. Patrons may send a check with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to OCC and the tickets will be sent by return mail.

Any remaining tickets may be purchased one hour before the performance.

## PTK inducts members

Olney Central College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter recently inducted new members for Spring 2014.

Those installed include:

**Bridgeport:** Tamara Kelly-Hobbs

**Flora:** Courtney Gangi, Benjamin Pierce, Sterling Thompson and Lucas Whitehead

**Newton:** James Haddox

**Olney:** Erin Balding, Caitlin Bertin, Madison Cowin, Ibrahim Burhan, Aisha Ezkauriatza, Bruce Fessel, Crystal Ham, Stephanie Hunt and Mike Waggoner

**Palestine:** Stephen McPherson

## Cosmetology hosts raffle

The OCC School of Cosmetology is hosting a raffle fund-raiser. Drawings will be held for two different baskets, one filled with hair products and the other containing miscellaneous items.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 12. The drawing will be held on March 14.

Stop by the School of Cosmetology or call 395-1169 to purchase tickets.

## ONLINE PAYMENT

**Step 1:** Log into your Entrata account with your username and password. Click on the Banner Web icon at the right-hand side of your screen.



**Banner Web**  
Records | Financial Aid |  
Transcript

**Step 2:** Click on Pay Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges Online — Credit Card to make your online Payment.

### Student Records

Account by Term  
Account Summary  
Account Summary by Term  
Degree Evaluation  
Final Grades by Term  
Holds on Your Account  
Payments - Pay Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges Online - Credit Card  
Payment History and Statement  
Select Tax Year  
Student Information  
Tax Notification  
Transcript Unofficial

RELEASE: 7.5

If you encounter problems with making your online payment, please contact the IECC Helpdesk at 618-395-5299 or toll-free 1-866-529-4322, ext. 4357.



# SHREK

## The Teaser

Games and  
Contests

FREE Cookies  
and Drinks



You could **WIN** Musical  
Tickets, an OCC  
T-Shirt, or a Food Service  
Certificate!

Monday, March 17th  
Student Union, 12—1pm

## OCC participating in Jeans for Wishes campaign

OCC is participating in the Jeans for Wishes campaign for Make-A-Wish Illinois. Jeans for Wishes is a charitable campaign and fund-raiser in which companies, organizations and schools will join together to wear jeans or favorite sports apparel to raise funds to grant wishes for children in Illinois with life-threatening medical conditions.

Employees and students can wear jeans or other designated items in

March by donating \$5 per person for one day, \$20 for a whole week or \$50 for the entire month. Contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed.

To receive a receipt, donate online at [www.jeansforwishes.kintera.org/OCC2014](http://www.jeansforwishes.kintera.org/OCC2014). You also can give donations to Shasta Bennett or Amie Mayhall.

The campaign will run the month of March. Once you donate, you can choose your days.

## University representatives plan visits to OCC

The following institutions will be visiting OCC. Tables will be located outside the Student Services Office.

- Eastern Illinois University will be here from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, March 17 and Thursday, April 10.
- Franklin University

will be here from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, Monday, March 24, Tuesday, April 8, Wednesday, April 23 and Thursday, May 1.

- Tosha Baker with Southern Illinois University at Carbondale will be at OCC from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on

Wednesday, March 12 and Thursday, April 10.

- MacMurray College will be at OCC from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18.

- Ashley Ross with the University of Evansville will be at OCC from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2.

## Coach Conley reaches 1,200 career wins

OCC Baseball Coach Dennis Conley has reached a new milestone, earning his 1,200th career win on Feb. 19.

Conley has headed the Blue Knights for 34 years, leading them to 31 straight winning seasons.

He has produced 16 NJCAA All-Americans and 21 NJCAA Academic All-Americans while 243 players have signed to play at four-year schools and 41 have gone on to professional baseball.

In 2008, OCC and the IECC District recognized Conley's outstanding achievements renaming OCC's baseball diamond in his honor.

## Sports Schedule

### Baseball

- **March 11** – OCC vs. Mid-Continent, 1 p.m. at home
- **March 13** – OCC vs. Southeastern Illinois, 3 p.m. at home
- **March 15** – OCC at Southeastern Illinois, noon
- **March 17** – OCC vs. Danville, 3 p.m. at home
- **March 20** – OCC at Lake Land, 3 p.m.
- **March 22** – OCC vs. Lake Land, noon at home
- **March 25** – OCC at Wabash Valley, 3 p.m.
- **March 26** – OCC at Rose-Hulman, 5 p.m.
- **March 27** – OCC vs. John A. Logan, 3 p.m. at home
- **March 29** – OCC at John A. Logan, noon

### Softball

- **March 13** – OCC at Lake Land, 2 & 4 p.m.
- **March 14** – OCC vs. Morthland, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
- **March 15** – OCC at Wabash Valley, noon & 2 p.m.
- **March 18** – OCC at Shawnee, 2 & 4 p.m.
- **March 20** – OCC vs. Lincoln Trail, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
- **March 22** – OCC at Kaskaskia, noon & 2 p.m.
- **March 23** – OCC at Morthland, 2 & 4 p.m.
- **March 25** – OCC vs. Southeastern Illinois, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
- **March 26** – OCC vs. Danville, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
- **March 27** – OCC vs. John A. Logan, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
- **March 29** – OCC at Southwestern Illinois, noon & 2 p.m.
- **March 30** – OCC vs. Rend Lake, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

## Time to schedule your registration appointment

The Student Services Office will begin accepting appointments for summer and fall registration starting the week of March 25.

Stop by the office or call 395-7777 to schedule yours.

Current students can register for summer and fall semester classes beginning April 1. New students can enroll starting April 8.

## Keep vehicles locked

Students utilizing the OCC parking lots are advised to keep their vehicles locked when unattended.

## Lost and found items

If you have lost an item, please check with the switchboard in the Student Services Office.

## Student Senate Talent Show

The OCC Student Senate will host its annual Talent Show on Thursday, April 3.

## Happy Birthday To:

### March

- 3 Carl Sager
- 6 Ruth Lynn
- 9 Jennifer Jennings - UB

## Knightline Information

Please submit information for the April Knightline to Deanna Ratts by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 24.

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*Our mission is to deliver exceptional education and services to improve the lives of our students and to strengthen our communities.*