

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



JULY 2022

CALENDAR

JULY

25 - Last Day to Withdraw
from 8-week Summer Classes

28 - Last Day of Summer
Semester Classes

29 - Summer Semester Final
Exams

29 - Fall Semester Textbook
Sales Begin

29 - Summer Textbook
Buyback, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., OCC
Bookstore

AUGUST

1 - Summer Semester Final
Exams

1 - Summer Textbook Buyback,
8 a.m.-4 p.m., OCC Bookstore

11 - Faculty/Staff Workshop

18 - Fall Semester Classes
Begin

BOOKSTORE HOURS

August 8-17

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

August 18

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

August 19

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

August 22-24

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

August 25-December 9

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

August 31

Last Day for Fall Refunds

Roger Eddy named Interim President

Roger Eddy is serving as the Interim President at Olney Central College following his appointment by the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Board of Trustees.

A longtime educator, administrator and five-term state representative, Eddy served as Interim President at Lincoln Trail College during the 2020-21 academic year, and most recently worked on special projects for the IECC District.

"I'm looking forward to working with the faculty and staff of what is a premiere community college," Eddy said. "I hear nothing but great things about the community. I'm looking forward to getting to know members of the community and the Olney Central College Foundation. OCC has a rich history here and historically there has been great community support of this institution."

Eddy attended Joliet Junior College and then graduated from Northern Illinois University with a bachelor's of science degree in education. He later received both master's and specialist degrees in Educational Administration from Eastern Illinois University. He also taught several years as an adjunct in the EIU Education Administration cohort program. During his nearly four-decade career in education, Eddy has also worked as a teacher, coach and principal. He was the Superintendent of the Hutsonville Unit 1 School District from 1996 to 2012, while also serving as the State Representative for the 109th Legislative District from 2003 to 2012.

After retiring from the General Assembly and leaving the Hutsonville schools, Eddy became Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards in 2012.

Following his retirement from the IASB in 2018, Eddy has developed and facilitated a new teacher mentoring program for the Regional Office of Education and returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher.

In 2021, he was appointed to the Illinois State Board of Education by the governor and confirmed by the Illinois Senate.

Eddy resides in rural Robinson with his wife, Becca. They have five grown children and seven grandchildren.

The search for a permanent president for OCC will begin later this fall.



Roger Eddy is serving as Interim President at Olney Central College.

Register now! Fall classes start August 18

Interested in learning more about OCC and our many career and transfer programs? Schedule a visit today at www.iecc.edu/occ/visit.

Fall registration is ongoing and schedules are available online at www.iecc.edu/occ.

For more information or to register, call 618-395-7777. Classes start August 18.



Unmanned Aerial Technology Specialist Morgan Henton is pictured with the program's new ag-specific drone.

UAT Program acquires ag-specific drone

Students in Olney Central College's Unmanned Aerial Technology Program will gain hands-on experience working with a new ag-specific drone this fall.

The DJI Agras T30 is the largest unmanned aerial vehicle acquired to date, weighing 55 pounds, and spanning 8 feet by 7 feet, with the arms fully extended.

"It is a pretty impressive sight up in the air," said UAT Specialist Morgan Henton. "The drone can spray liquid herbicide or fungicide from an 8-gallon liquid tank that can be switched out with a dry tank for dispersing fertilizer and cover crops. The dry tank can hold 70 pounds of dry material."

Students will typically use the new drone for mock exercises, substituting water for actual ag-related chemicals. The activities will provide students the opportunity to employ mapping technology with the information programmed into the controller along with spread and fill rates. The drone will follow a grid pattern and return to a predetermined location when the tank needs refilled.

"The drone is very autonomous," Henton said. "The students will gain experience working with the maps and learning to trust the technology to do its job."

The use of drones within the agricultural industry is continuing to increase. Drones enable farmers to access

fields when wet conditions would make the ground unsuitable for heavy equipment.

"They are ideal if you want to target a specific area. For niche crops like orchards and wineries, you can take work that has typically be done by hand and save time and money switching to the drone," Henton added.

With their versatility, Henton expects an even greater expansion of drone technology in the future.

"I know of four ag retailers who have purchased drones or will be in the next year," Henton said. "As technology gets better, battery longevity increases and the price comes down over the next 10 to 15 years, farmers will be having them in the shed. We are already seeing more and more. In the future, they will be used pretty heavily in this part of the world."

To learn more about the UAT Program, visit www.iecc.edu/occ/drone. Classes start August 18 and new students are being accepted. For more information, call 618-395-7777.

UAT is a Title III Program 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.

Anderson Library revamping OCC archives

The Anderson Library is reorganizing Olney Central College's Historical Archives to make items more accessible and easier to locate.

Library Assistant Kaitlyn Weger started the project in early June. The collection ranges from photographs and negatives to old board minutes and video tapes of past productions by the OCC Theater.

"We really wanted to get the items organized so people could find what they are interested in," Weger said. "We're trying to identify and arrange the photographs by departments like Allied Health and Music and Theater."

The photographs date from the construction of Wattleworth Hall in 1972 to around 2010, when the college moved exclusively to digital photography.

"It has been interesting to see how different the college is now and how much things have changed over the years," Weger said. "I didn't know there used to be pool tables in the union until I started looking through the photos. I've enjoyed seeing the older faculty and staff photos and the people who used to be here."

Once the process is completed, the items will be stored in filing cabinets located in the back of the library near the genealogy collection.

"The items will be available to faculty, staff, students and the public," Weger said. "It should be open for viewing in late July."



Anderson Library Assistant Kaitlyn Weger organizes photos housed in OCC's Historical Archives.



Nursing Opportunities

Wexford Health representatives Jill Snyder (left) and Ashley Lackey, RN, provided lunch for all IECC District LPN students during the NCLEX Review at OCC on July 6. They also discussed opportunities for nurses in their correctional facilities.



Practicing CNA Skills

Incoming nursing students from throughout the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District gathered at OCC last month. To be accepted into the program, students must be Certified Nursing Assistants. Students who have completed the course within a specified time frame are eligible to take a summer refresher of Fundamentals of CNA course. The online course includes a one-day visit to OCC for skills checkoffs. Students attending the in-person activities practiced donning PPE — personal protection equipment.

Massage Therapy accepting students

OCC's Massage Therapy Certificate prepares students to work in the wellness area of professional massage therapy.

Employment opportunities exist in hospitals, chiropractors' offices, health care facilities and spas. Massage therapists also can choose to work as independent practitioners.

Upon completion of the two-year program, students will be eligible to sit for the National Certification Exam in Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

Evening classes will meet at the West Richland Center in Noble, beginning Aug. 18. Apply online at www.iecc.edu/apply or call 618-395-7777 to learn more.

New students are accepted only in even years and this will be your only chance to enroll until 2024.



GED Graduates

OCC's Academic Success Center honored 2022 GED recipients during a graduation ceremony on July 7. Students earning GEDs, from left, are Janette Akers, Valerie Yager and Jiazhen Zerrusen. Free GED and Adult Basic Education classes are held every 8 weeks at OCC. To register or for more information, contact Learning and Resource Specialist Brianna Simpson at 618-395-7777, ext. 2265.

OCC Remembers Retired President

Dr. Jackie L. Davis

Olney Central College is remembering former President Dr. Jackie L. Davis, who passed away June 3 at his home in Springfield.

Davis served as OCC President from 2002 until his retirement in 2010. At the time, he was the longest-serving president in the college's history.

"Jack was a staunch supporter of the faculty, staff and students at OCC," said former President Rodney Raney, who worked closely with Davis as Dean of Instruction. "He would fight ferociously for their interests at the district and state level. I thank him for supporting me when I became president. He always offered very good advice."

Davis began his career with the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District in 1980 as Lincoln Trail College's Director of Financial Aid. While at LTC, he also served as associate dean of Student Services and a full-time faculty member.

In 1988, Davis moved to the IECC District Office where he held numerous positions including dean of academic and student affairs/chief academic officer, dean of continuous improvement and customer services and dean of inter-campus affairs, as well as special assistant to the chancellor and director of central computer systems.

Davis joined OCC as dean of instruction in 1998, serving in the position for four years before being named OCC's 10th president.

At the time of his retirement, Davis said he couldn't recall a single day in his time at IECC that he didn't want to come to work.

"I didn't always know what to expect when I got there," he joked, "but I enjoyed every day at Lincoln Trail College, the District Office and especially working here at OCC. It has been an opportunity of a lifetime."

In a 2010 interview, Davis reflected on his contributions to the college.

"I think my legacy is stability," he said. "Dr. Hans Andrews managed the college especially well for six years. He kept it on an even keel, and I have tried to do the same in my eight years. When people know what to expect, the institution can run smoothly while meeting student needs. If people can say the institution is stable, then I've done my job."



Lisa Benson worked with Davis as both a faculty member and as Dean of Instruction.

"I think one of the first things I remember is as a faculty member," she said. "I had gone to a national mathematics conference and Jack usually wanted a report from the faculty when they returned. At the time, we were starting to move toward assessment, but weren't where we are now. The presenter's institution had just been evaluated by the Higher Learning Commission and the individual was knowledgeable about the process — sharing that assessment encompassed much more than just testing. It impressed me that Jack really listened to what I had to say and realized the ramifications of it."

Benson also remembers Davis frequently sporting the SpongeBob SquarePants ties, given to him by his daughter, Jessica, and the occasion when his son Daniel, a hybrid controls development engineer for General Motors, brought a Volt hybrid to the college.

"He was so proud of both of his kids and grandchildren," she added. "He had a good sense of humor and always told it like it was. He was a straight shooter. He was patient and helped me to grow as a leader."

Physics Professor Rob Mason was interviewing for his current position when he first met Davis in 1999.

"After the interview, Jack took me to the third floor to show me the lab. That was when there was a very large snake that was loose in the greenhouse. Jack made it clear he hated snakes. We stopped outside the greenhouse, and he was looking in the window to see if the snake was visible. For a split second, I thought about startling him — and how badly did I want the job. I didn't do it, but I told him about it later and he thought it was funny. But I'm pretty sure if I had done it, I wouldn't have gotten the job."

Mason added, "I always looked up to him from the beginning. He was a great influence on my career, and he will be missed. He was so well-respected in education and there are so many people he has affected. We are saying farewell to a giant in higher education."

Davis' commitment to excellence in education was recognized throughout his career.

He received an associate's degree from Lincoln Trail

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College and completed a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from the University of the State of New York in Albany. He received a master's degree in education from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and earned a master's degree in human development and counseling from the George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. He received a doctorate in education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2003.

Davis was inducted into LTC's Hall of Fame in 2003 and received the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

As Dean of Instruction, Davis often remarked that the college's GED graduations were among his favorite events to attend. He encouraged students to continue their education and foster a lifelong love of learning. At the end of his speech, he liked to reveal he was not only the college president, but a GED graduate as well.

As such, Davis was the recipient of the 2002 Cornelius P. Turner Award. The national honor is presented by the GED Testing Services, a division of the American Council on Education, and recognizes GED graduates who have made outstanding contributions to society.

Professor Shasta Bennett met Davis in 2004 when she was teaching at Wabash Valley College, but requesting a switch to OCC to be closer to her soon-to-be husband.

"He put me through the 'wringer' making sure I was a good fit for his institution," Bennett recalled. "He was very professional, cut-to-the-chase and a little intimidating at that first interview. When I made the move to OCC, Dr. D became my mentor and friend.

"In 2006, I was pregnant for the first time, and he called me 'Mom' every time I saw him. He would make his daily rounds stopping at each door to check on every employee. 'How you doing, Mom!' he would say with warmth and compassion. His smile was honest and real, and his handshake was gold. He was the perfect representation of what an organization's leader should be. He made me a better employee."

It was Davis' ability to connect with those around him that left a lasting impact on Professor Amie Mayhall.

"He was an incredible encourager, supporter, and truly cared about the employees and students he worked with. He always called me 'Teach' and referred to Shasta and me as the 'Dynamic Duo.' As a faculty member under Jack, I never wanted for anything that could potentially enhance teaching in my classroom. Often, I would just mention in passing that I wanted to try using a new technology, and it would show up at my office. Jack's personality made it easy to trust and respect him.

"One specific instance I will always remember is when I was having an issue with academic integrity in a course," Mayhall said. "Jack had a 'Come to Jesus' talk with those involved, and all was well! I am a better person for working for Jack and I am thankful that he took a chance and hired me."

Like Mason and Bennett, English Professor Kelly Payne met Davis while interviewing for her current position.

"After the committee spoke with me, I was taken to Dr. Davis' office to have a quick chat with him. What could have been a very daunting experience was anything but – Jack was friendly, enthusiastic, and eager to chat. And that was always my experience with him at OCC. If he saw me in my office while he was out walking the hallways, he would always pause at my door. With a big smile on his face, he'd call out, 'Hi, Kelly! How are you today!' He'd do the same if he saw me standing in my classroom before a new class began. That was Jack — always ready with a smile and a warm greeting."



In 2010, Dr. Jackie L. Davis was honored as the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is pictured with then Dean of Instruction Rodney Ranes and former IECC CEO Terry Bruce.

At right, Dr. Jackie L. Davis and retired OCC President Dr. Hans Andrews attend OCC's 50th Anniversary celebration in 2013.

