



## HIGHLIGHTS



*Three LTC students are helping as Spanish tutors at Robinson High School.*



*LTC students will soon benefit from faculty members working collaboratively.*



*LTC will offer five tuition-free classes this summer.*

## AMICONE ELECTED AS STUDENT REP

**L**incoln Trail College student Guadalupe Amicone won a four-way race to become the next Student Representative to serve on the Illinois Eastern Community College's Board of Trustees. Amicone will take office at April's meeting at Lincoln Trail College.

"It truly means a lot to me," says Amicone, who came to LTC from Buenos Aires, Argentina. "Coming here was the best decision I have ever made in my life. When I mentioned in my campaign that 'I want to give back all LTC gas given to me,' it was not just a pretty phrase. Students, professors, and the community made me feel at home. I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences they have given me. Therefore, being elected the Student Trustee allows me to improve both our educational experience as students and our community."

During her campaign, Amicone met with students at LTC as well as at Frontier Community College, Olney Central College, and Wabash Valley College. She said she wanted to tour the District because she believes each student is important and she wanted to hear

what they had to say. Amicone has met with IECC Chancellor Dr. Ryan Gower to share what she heard from students, and they will meet again to develop a plan for the next year.

Once she takes office, Amicone says she wants to make sure the students know she is there to represent them. "My first priority when I officially take office is to get my name all around the colleges. I want the students to feel if they want to talk and be listened to they have someone to do it. I will keep talking to them in order to know their needs and wants."

Amicone, who is in her first year at LTC, says the College has made a big difference in her life. "Firstly, LTC gave me the opportunity to achieve my dream to play soccer and studying in the U.S. by giving me a scholarship. The first day I came here I could not believe how helpful people were. I remember having problems with my Canvas or the financial website and people literally stopped what they were doing in order to help me. Each time something happened, LTC was there to support me immediately. I also stayed here for Christmas and people either from the community or the college did not hesitate to reach out to me and ask me how I was feeling or if I wanted to do something with them. I would be lying if I said that I do not miss my family. I do miss them and I would give many things just to give my parents a hug but, the truth is that LTC makes me feel that I am never alone. This college has made me feel that I am at my home because now, I consider this my home."

Amicone won a four-person race against Madisyn McIntosh, Sean Stone, and Abigail Vaughn. Raechel Hnetkovsky from Frontier Community College is the current Student Trustee. Student Trustees serve a one-year term after they are elected. IECC rotates the position between each college in the District.

## UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

- 1 **South Pacific**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 5 **Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony**  
6 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 7 **COLLEGE CLOSED: Spring Holiday**
- 12 **Statesmen Escape**  
7 p.m., Throughout Campus
- 13 **Scholarship Students Recital**  
7 p.m., DeMent Auditorium
- 14 **Employee Recognition Banquet**
- 21 **Spring Vocal Concert**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 27 **LTC Foundation Meeting**  
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- 28 **Spring Instrumental Ensemble Concert**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater



Work continues on the Crawford County Recreation Center. Workers erected the steel frame of the building and then started work on the exterior of the building. The project is expected to be completed this summer with the facility opening to the general public in late summer or early fall.

## **LOCAL STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM LTC'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM**



Guadalupe Amicone



Tomas Bascon



Juan Solivellas

Three international students at Lincoln Trail College are using their native language to help students at Robinson High School. The students, from Argentina, Bolivia, and Spain, are helping tutor high school students learning Spanish.

Guadalupe Amicone, Tomas Bascon, and Juan Solivellas visit RHS each Thursday to work with dual-credit students enrolled in Spanish II. The three provide help with listening and speaking skills, verb tenses, and generally understanding the Spanish language.

LTC Dean of Instruction Cynthia Boyce says right now, there's a shortage of foreign language instructors across the state at both the K-12 and collegiate levels, making it difficult to find qualified long-term substitutes. She says RHS had a need this semester for a Spanish instructor to continue offering dual credit to current students. Boyce says the students were able to enroll in an online section of Spanish II through LTC's in-district partner, Frontier Community College. Since there would be a need for students to have listening and speaking practice, LTC offered to have native Spanish-speaking students go to the high school once a week to help.

"This partnership not only benefits the RHS students, but the LTC students as well," says Boyce. "The LTC students are improving their English skills while working on Spanish with the RHS students. Our students are getting to experience American high schools and interact with American high school students. In addition, they get to share information about their countries and cultures with the RHS students."

Amicone, who is from Buenos Aires, Argentina, says it has meant a lot to her to be able to help the students at RHS. "I would have loved to have a native English speaker in my class when I was learning English in Argentina. I am 19 and I was in their situation two years ago. Therefore, I know how they feel, and I understand the embarrassment that speaking another language in front of our classmates can cause. I always remind them I do not mind if they pronounce wrong a word or get confused about something. Learning a new language is a process and it takes time, a lot of time. You have to make many mistakes and that can be frustrating sometimes. I tell them that I still make mistakes in English every day and I appreciate it when people correct me. I highlight that is great because if I would not make mistakes and people did not correct me, I would not learn as much as I learned. I need to improve my English even more, and I enjoy this process."

She says that her favorite part of the experience has been being a part of a class from a different perspective. She says she enjoys explaining things the way she likes to be taught by her professors at LTC. She strives to be dynamic with the students at RHS and likes to make them smile when she explains something. "The best way we learn is when emotions are involved in our learning, this is the reason why we remember many more things when we travel rather than just reading a book."

Solivella, who is from Palma de Mallorca, Spain, says tutoring at RHS has been very beneficial to him. "Even though I'm there to tutor them and make them understand from someone whose first language is Spanish, I always learn something new. I see it as an opportunity to help local high school students learn a new skill and language."

He says this experience has caused him to reflect not only on his time in high school but also on his future plans. "This experience reinforces my thinking that I should always try to have an idea of where my future goals and path are leading me, and from this experience I'm trying to organize my ideas towards my transfer to a four-year university for my next semester."

Boyce says he's had good feedback from the high school and says that the students there have enjoyed getting to know the LTC students. She says they've found the LTC students to be very helpful to them in learning Spanish and they've also enjoyed learning about the students' home countries.

She says the partnership has been good for a lot of reasons. "Partnerships like this one help provide unique, high-quality experiences that will draw interests from potential future students which helps enrich the Crawford County community. It is important for us to be creative in expanding learning opportunities for all students. We want to maintain good working relationships with our area high schools. To be successful we need to support each other. In addition, foreign language requirements at the high school level will be changing within the next few years. So, we are adapting to assist the high schools ahead of this new challenge."



## DISTRICT-WIDE COLLABORATIVE EVENTS LEAD TO CLASSROOM INNOVATIONS



Phil Thorsen leads a discussion about neurons in one of his Psychology classes

Faculty across the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District are working more collaboratively and that effort will soon pay off at Lincoln Trail College. Students enrolled in Anatomy and Psychology classes will be able to learn more about the brain using an electroencephalogram.

Faculty from Frontier Community College, Lincoln Trail College, Olney Central College, and Wabash Valley College have started meeting through virtual events called Happy Half-Hours. OCC Professor of English and IECC Director of Assessment Kelly Payne says the meetings are a direct result of faculty feedback where more than 90 percent of faculty members said they were interested in attending more meetings if they were meaningful. The first meeting kicked off in February, with more meetings planned for March and April.

"Typically, the only time we're able to gather in our discipline or program groups is during the August workshop each year. But as we all know, that day's schedule is packed and the time with our group is limited. That often means we cannot have the conversations we want and need to have with our area colleagues. Happy Half-Hours is one of the ways we hope to fill in that 'gap.' And it's been clear even from our first meetings how much faculty appreciate and thrive on having this time to gather and collaborate, even in a virtual setting."

LTC Psychology/Social Science Assistant Professor Phil Thorsen had previously talked to his colleague Jason Hortin at OCC about how he uses the EEG in the classroom. Thorsen brought up the idea at February's meeting and one thing led to another and Thorsen ordered the machine, which measures electrical activity in the brain by using electrodes attached to the scalp. It is used as a way to observe brain function.

"At the end of the Half-Hour meeting Brandon [Weger] and Kelly asked if there were any ideas in the works or any improvements, and I mentioned the idea of the EEG. When I mentioned it Kelly and Brandon mentioned that An Roy in life sciences talked getting a ECG machine for her classes. Since we were on the same page for these ideas, I reached out to An to see if she was interested in sharing such a machine and she enthusiastically said yes."

Thorsen says this will be beneficial for students in his classes because psychology students spend a lot of time discussing the brain and how it is researched. He says he plans to use the EEG to help his students see the workings of a person's brain in real time. He also plans to share it with Dr. Roy for her to use in her Anatomy and Physiology classes.

Payne says this is a great example of the importance of collaboration. "I firmly believe, and know, that we are doing great things in our classrooms and programs. Our faculty know and believe that, too. And yet, we're also committed and invested in doing more. Doing better. To finding ways to improve and enhance our teaching so that we can give our students a quality learning experience, one that truly embodies our assessment framework motto of "Students First!" One of the best ways we do that is by working together and sharing ideas, and in doing so, we all succeed."

Payne says the EEG is just one way faculty shared their successes in the first meetings in February. She says faculty members shared how they were using software in the classroom. There were also discussions about how faculty members were using Wacom tablets to better facilitate learning.

"With all of these examples, and so many more, we see that consistent theme: Collaboration. Faculty recognize that we're better, stronger, and more effective as a college district when we work together. Students directly benefit from this because it allows faculty to create more engaging lessons and dynamic learning experiences. The collaboration between academic departments and support services will also be a great benefit, ensuring students have access to the resources and assistance they need to be successful in our classrooms and beyond. The same is true for conversations about best practices and sharing innovative lessons. Our faculty care deeply about giving our students the best education we can – and when faculty are invested in that way, students absolutely reap the benefits. Happy Half-Hours has already become a valuable forum to facilitate that."

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## ***IECC EXPERIENCES FOUR SEMESTERS OF ENROLLMENT GAINS***

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At a time when college enrollment is declining nationwide, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges has had four consecutive semesters of enrollment gains.. District wide enrollment is up 1.69 percent this Spring as compared to the Spring of 2022.

"I am obviously very pleased with the positive trend in our enrollment," said IECC Chancellor Dr. Ryan Gower. "Andrea Loll and her team have done an excellent job developing a plan and building relationships with area schools and prospective students."

IECC hired Andrea Loll as the Director of Enrollment Management in 2021 and three new College Admissions Representatives, Tyson Murray, Curtis Miller, and Dane Inman were brought on in 2022 to join Carrie Halbert. The formation of this team comes at a time where college student enrollment dropped by about 1.9 million students over the last decade. The team is preparing for the looming higher education "enrollment cliff", which could see continued declines in enrollment of 10-15 percent nationwide after 2025. "IECC is not simply working to attract new students,; said Gower. "We are working to change processes and strengthen systems to improve student outcomes and experiences from entry to graduation."

"I was thrilled with the positive growth in our enrollment numbers," said Loll. "I have a great team in place and they are the foundation of our enrollment process. Carrie Halbert, our veteran recruiter and has been instrumental in leading our recruitment team. The team looks to her for guidance with situations and to bounce ideas off of."

Loll said the team has been active in coming up with new activities and events for prospective students. Another thing the team has been doing is reaching out to new groups like the homeschool community.



"During the past few months, a focus has been to reach out to the homeschool community and provide activities and events to educate them about IECC," said Halbert. "In addition, the recruiters are excited about working with all populations to inform them what IECC can offer."

Gower believes one of the reasons why IECC has seen growing enrollment is because of its unique degree and certificate programs. Frontier Community College and Wabash Valley College recently started new high-demand medical programs.

Frontier Community College's Medical Laboratory Technician program helps people prepare to work in medical labs where they help test, interpret results, and help doctors correctly diagnose and treat symptoms. The median salary for medical and clinical laboratory technicians is \$58,000 and the Bureau of Labor Statistics is projecting 11 percent growth in jobs in the next decade.

Wabash Valley College's Physical Therapist Assistant program is designed to help students prepare to be service-oriented patient care providers. There's a strong demand in the field with the employment of physical therapist assistants and aides expected to grow by 24 percent between now and 2031 according to the BLS. The median salary for physical therapist assistants is \$62,000.

Gower says Lincoln Trail College's Broadband Telecom program is the only one of its kind in Illinois and one of the few in the country. Students train in fiber optic and copper cabling, computer hardware and software, networking, and home and business phone systems. The BLS says the median salary for telecommunications equipment installers is \$60,000 with a projected nine percent growth in jobs.

Olney Central College's Collision Repair Technology degree lets students get hands-on experience repairing body and frame damage to vehicles. There's a projected seven percent growth in jobs with a median salary of \$46,000 according to the BLS.

Gower says another key for IECC is a belief in making sure students receive one-on-one attention to set them up for success. "What sets IECC apart from other schools is that our employees understand that enrollment management is not just about getting new students. Our faculty and staff do an excellent job making sure our current students have the resources they need in order to be successful."

IECC is currently preparing for the Fall '23 semester. All four colleges have a March 17 Priority Registration Deadline. Students applying by March 17 and completing their FAFSA are eligible for internal and external scholarships.

## TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR LTC'S PRODUCTION OF SOUTH PACIFIC

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PACIFIC**

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BARBARA SHIMER & CARY SCHILLER  
&  
MUSICAL DIRECTION OF  
YVONNE NEWLIN**

**MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS  
LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

BOOK BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II AND JOSHUA LOGAN  
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Tickets are on sale now for The Arts at Lincoln Trail College's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. Performances are March 24, 25, 31, and April 1 at 7 p.m. and March 26 at 2 p.m. at the Zwermann Arts Center Theater. Tickets for the show are \$20 and available online at [ShowTix4u.com](http://ShowTix4u.com) or at the Performing Arts Center Box Office.

*South Pacific* is adapted from the Pulitzer Prize winning novel "Tales of the South Pacific" by James A. Michener. Barbara Shimer and Cary Schiller are the co-directors of the production. The show is under the musical direction of Yvonne Newlin. Completing the production crew are Brooke Olaivar, Mary Arabatgis, Jessica Cheesman, Lincoln Jake Wright, Steve Jenkins and Colt Poettker, and Ken Martin.

On a South Pacific Island during World War II, Ensign Nellie Forbush (Rebecca Trivett), a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with French planter Emile de Becque (Jeremy Dix). When Nellie learns that Emile has children (Tessa Walton and Tyler Pleasant) with an island native, the relationship becomes complicated. Meanwhile, the strapping Lt. Joe Cable (Colby McGahey) falls in love with a Tonkinese girl named Liat (Makenzi Carlen), but he, too, has

doubts about their future due to the same prejudices that Nellie is experiencing.

The story unfolds with additional cast members Bloody Mary (Antje Pippen), Billis (Dan Dix), Captain Brackett (John Sutfin), Cmdr. Harbison (Tom Moore), Marie (Vickie Becker), Stewpot (Samuel Mikeworth), Professor (Brennan Seth Tracy), Quale (Ryan Pinkston), and McCaffery (Rudy Nichols). The show will be brought to life by soldiers (Brian Manhart and Jonathon Murray,) and a vivacious group of nurses (Olivia Teska, Jessica Moore, Sydney Schottman, Katrina Ferguson, Sicily Rawlings, Al Crosley, Kinley Bradbury, Monroe Nethery, and Vickie Becker and Abigail Metheny.)



## LTC OFFERS FIVE TUITION-FREE CLASSES FOR SUMMER

Lincoln Trail College is giving students a chance to save money while taking important college classes this summer. The College is offering five classes tuition-free in the Summer 2023 Semester.

“Lincoln Trail College is a financially-smart choice for students,” says Illinois Eastern Community Colleges and Lincoln Trail College Director of Marketing Chris Forde. “We want to be able to give students a chance to earn valuable credits they can use towards a degree while saving money.

That's why we've picked five key courses that we're going to offer tuition-free this summer.”



Elementary Spanish II (SPN 1121) will meet on Wednesdays from 9-11:50 a.m. The class can help students satisfy part of the foreign language requirement or elective. The class is also a good class for education majors to take.

Composition and Analysis (ENG 1121) meets Wednesdays from 12-1:50 p.m. The course can help students satisfy an English requirement.

Forging the American Character (HUM 2161) is an online class and will satisfy part of the humanities, fine arts, and cultural diversity requirements.

General Biology I (LSC 1101) is a science lecture and lab course and will meet part of the life science requirement. It meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30 a.m.

General Psychology I (PSY 1101) meets Tuesdays from 9-11:50 a.m. It can satisfy part of the social science requirement and is a Nursing general education requirement.

Lincoln Trail College's Summer Semester begins on June 5 and the final day of the semester is July 28. Final exams are scheduled for July 31 and August 1.

Students that want to register for any of the courses can schedule an appointment with an advisor by calling 618-544-8657.

“The classes we chose are not only for students currently attending Lincoln Trail College,” said Forde. “Many colleges and universities recommend students take classes like these at a community college. The free tuition is for our current students, juniors or seniors in high school, students who are enrolled at other colleges, or anyone who has an interest in the subject or making progress towards a degree.”

The five classes are being offered tuition-free. Students enrolling in these classes are still responsible for fees, books, and materials.

## LTC OFFERS A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

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Lincoln Trail College is offering several community education classes for Spring and Summer 2023. These classes are a great way to learn new skills or simply have fun. From chickens to sourdough, there's something for everyone.

Carrie Brown will lead a class called Chickens 101 on April 3 from 6-8 p.m. The class will cover an introduction to caring for chickens, and the fee is \$35. The registration deadline is March 29, 2023.

Improvisation classes will be held from April 6 to May 4, on Thursdays from 6-8 pm. The class will introduce students to the fundamentals of improvisational comedy through exercises, games, and scene work. The fee for the class is \$25, and the registration deadline is April 4. The final class will give students a chance to perform in front of a live audience. The instructor for this class is Chris Forde.

Rachel Carter will lead Crisis Intervention Training will be held on April 14, from 5-8 pm via Zoom, April 15 and 22, from 8 am – 4 pm, and April 21, from 5-8 pm via Zoom. The class will teach students how to support survivors of sexual violence. The class is free, and the registration deadline is March 24.

Goat Milk Soap 101 will be held on April 15, from 10 am – 12 pm. The class will teach students how to make basic goat milk soap. The fee for the class is \$80 plus supplies, and the registration deadline is April 6, 2023. Students will take home a finished project that is ready to cure. The instructor for this class is Lynn Wolff.

The final lecture in the Psychology of a Serial Killer series takes place on April 20 from 6-8 p.m. Marcia Thorsen will explore the psychology of Aileen Carol Wuornos, an American serial killer who killed seven of her male clients while engaging in street prostitution along highways in Florida. The fee for the class is \$25, and the registration deadline is April 14.

Hannah Hoekstra will be teaching a Basics of Sourdough course on April 22, from 1-3:30 p.m. The course is a hands-on, step-by-step walk-through of everything you need to know to keep and bake with a sourdough starter. Students will go home with a live and active sourdough starter, weck jar, bread lame-blades, dough whisk, bowl, personally developed recipes as well as a bowl of dough that will be prepared during the class. Online registration is required for this class at <https://ourhumbledhomestead.com/classes>. The cost of the class is \$85.

Children and adults will once again be able to take martial arts classes with Andy Bradbury. Karate for Kids I meets on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. while Karate for Kids II meets Mondays from 7-9 p.m. Taekwondo meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-9. All of the classes run from June 5-July 28. The cost of Karate for Kids I is \$35 and Karate for Kids II costs \$45. Taekwondo costs \$52.

Mary Liz Wright will help students learn how to preserve their garden bounty with a class called Preserving and Canning Your Fruits and Veggies. It takes place on June 7 from 6-8 p.m. and costs \$20. The registration deadline is May 31.

LTC will offer a pair of welding classes in the summer. Welding 101 with Jackson Hemrich covers the basics of welding. It meets Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in June. Students need to register by June 1 and the cost is \$15. He'll teach a decorative welding class Thursday evenings in July from 6-8 p.m. The cost for the decorative welding class is also \$15 and the registration deadline is July 3.

Norvita Legg will teach the basics of cake decorating July 11-13 from 6-7:30 p.m. Students will receive a cake decorating kit as a part of their \$55 registration fee. The deadline to register is July 6.

People that want to register for Lincoln Trail College's community education classes can call the Eagleton Library at 618-544-8657, ext. 1425.

# LTC IN PICTURES



Behind the scenes: the talented cast of South Pacific putting in the work and perfecting their craft during rehearsals for the show.



Guitarist Ben Gateno from Rochester, Minn. performs at DeMent Auditorium.



Students in Yvonne Newlin's World Music class learn to dance to Klezmer Music.



Dr. Brad Logsdon helps a student with a chemistry experiment during a lab.



Students in Phil Thorsen's Psychology class draw neurons as a part of an assignment.



Lincoln Trail College's Dennis York talks about his military experience to 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders during the Twin Rivers Career Day event.



Andrea Loll and Chris Forde speak with Leadership Crawford County about what's happening at Lincoln Trail College.



Area high school girls pose for a picture with Young Women LEAD keynote speaker Amberly Snyder.



## APRIL ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Baseball

1	Southwestern Illinois College (DH)	12:00
4	at Southeastern Illinois College (DH)	1:00
6	at Frontier Community College	3:00
8	Frontier Community College (DH)	12:00
13	at Danville Area Community College	3:00
14	vs. Ivy Tech Northeast (DH) (at Westfield, IN)	12:00
15	vs. Ivy Tech Northeast (DH) (at Westfield, IN)	12:00
18	at John A. Logan College	3:00
20	Shawnee Community College	3:00
22	at Shawnee Community College (DH)	12:00
25	John A. Logan College (DH)	1:00
27	Lake Land College	3:00
29	at Lake Land College (DH)	12:00

### Golf

17	at Missouri Baptist	
22	at Vincennes	

### Softball

1	at Southwestern Illinois College (DH)	1:00
3	Lake Land College (DH)	2:00
6	Shawnee Community College (DH)	2:00
7	John A. Logan College (DH)	12:00
11	at Olney Central College (DH)	2:00
13	at Lake Land College (DH)	2:00
15	at Rend Lake College (DH)	1:00
20	Wabash Valley College (DH)	2:00
22	at Southeastern Illinois College (DH)	1:00
27	at Frontier Community College (DH)	2:00
29	Kaskaskia College (DH)	1:00

### Men's Soccer

1	at Southern Indiana	4:30
8	at Millikin University	3:00
16	at St. Mary of the Woods College	3:00
22	at Lindenwood University	4:30

### Women's Soccer

2	Wabash Valley College	2:00
16	at St. Mary of the Woods College	1:00
21	at Franklin College	6:00
23	at Millikin University	3:00

### Volleyball

29	at John A. Logan	TBA
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## POE NAMED TO ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM



Graycie Poe drains a three-pointer against Southwestern Illinois College. She scored 10 points in the game.

Lincoln Trail College freshman guard Graycie Poe was named to the All-Great Rivers Athletic Conference team.

Poe started all 28 games for the Lady Statesmen this season. She led the team with an average of 16.5 points per game. She shot 41.9 percent from the field and 38.1 percent from the three-point line. She also led the team in assists per game with 2.5 and steals with 1.7 per game. Poe added 3.8 rebounds per game.

"It's always great for players to receive post-season awards," said Lady Statesmen Coach Zach Loll.

"Graycie did a great job coming in as a freshman. I look forward to building around her as we continue to move the women's basketball program forward."