Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti was touring rural communities in Southern Illinois and stopped at Frontier Community College to discuss educational concerns.

Faculty Ed Patton gave an overview of the Electrical Distribution Systems certificate program. Current students demonstrated pole climbing. Patton spoke about the training equipment and different job opportunities available to graduates of the program.

Pictured left to right: OCC President Rodney Ranes, EDS students, Faculty Ed Patton, Lt. Governor Sanguinetti, FCC President Dr. Jay Edgren, FCC Dean of Instruction Dr. Paul Bruinsma.

Automotive Faculty Rodney Maxey is shown discussing the Automotive Technology degree program with Lt. Governor Sanguinetti. Maxey highlighted the new equipment recently purchased for the lab. He also discussed job opportunities for graduates and how the automotive classes can tie in to the farming industry in the communities that Frontier serves.
Ten years ago, Fairfield native Leah Baumann Holman graduated from high school and chose to attend Frontier Community College. Staying at home made all the difference. She had the freedom to explore opportunities and build a solid footing before transferring to a four year university.

Leah liked the flexible class schedule at Frontier Community College and the block style classes that met only once or twice per week. She could increase or decrease hours as needed to achieve her personal goals. Leah also noted the high school dual credits were an excellent launch pad to completing an associate degree, which saved her both time and money.

As a student at Frontier Community College, Leah was accepted into membership of Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society among two-year colleges. She enjoyed the Beta Alpha Lambda Chapter activities on campus as well as traveling to regional and national conferences. “Being involved in PTK allowed me to get involved with other students and the opportunity to travel to Seattle and Chicago,” stated Leah. “Attending the conferences opened up different perspectives that I would not have experienced in Southern Illinois and expanded my personal career values.”

Leah completed the Associate in Science degree in May 2006, just one year following her high school graduation. “I had a hard time deciding at the end of my senior year where to attend college – should I stay home or go away,” stated Leah. “Choosing to attend Frontier Community College worked out well for me.”

In the fall of 2006, Leah transferred to the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. “It was a seamless transfer. All of my courses transferred.” Leah knew she was interested in a career in healthcare and chose to focus on the administrative side. She graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Health Service Administration in 2008.

Immediately after graduating from USI, Leah accepted a position as the Administrative Projects Coordinator at Orthopedic Associates, Inc., in Evansville. Responsibilities included physician and provider credentialing, front desk assistance, and administrative projects. She remained at this position for three years until she and her husband moved to Nashville, Tennessee.

In April 2011 Leah began working for MEDHOST, Inc., a healthcare technology company that provides comprehensive clinical and financial enterprise solutions to the healthcare delivery marketplace. She began as a Focus Manager, assisting customers (community hospitals) around the United States with acclimating to the electronic solutions. She was eventually promoted as the Customer Relationship Manager for the Hosted and Managed Services division, providing customer relationship management for over 35 customers. Responsibilities included direct to customer conversations about the products and future functionality, issue management and resolution, providing an ear to the customer’s needs and product enhancement requests, providing customer feedback to the business regarding overall satisfaction with the services, products, and delivery, and just being a trusted point of contact for the customers.

Currently, Leah is the Customer Relationship Manager for the YourCareUniverse, Inc. division, a small start-up, owned by MEDHOST, Inc., which provides hospitals and hospital corporations with patient and provider portals, analytics, and consumer relationship management tools, as well as an interactive consumer content site. “I’ve worked for MEDHOST for four and a half years and love every minute,” stated Leah.

“I would recommend Frontier Community College to anyone who is looking to take the first step in furthering their education but maybe undecided about what university they want to attend or what their career path looks like,” stated Leah. “It’s a great launch-pad to any institution of higher education for those with aspiring goals for their future.”
Local Authors Book Signing

The Learning Resource Center staff hosted a Local Authors Book Signing on Friday, October 30, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. There were 15 featured authors that included local history, children’s, young adult, science fiction, comic, and fantasy.


The event provided an opportunity for individuals to talk with the authors, purchase a book, or discuss the steps in having a book published.

Merna Youngblood, Director of the Learning Resource Center, stated “It was a great event. Listening to the authors tell how the stories came together was very interesting. All of the authors had positive remarks about the event and enjoyed the opportunity to meet with fellow authors.”
Automotive Technology Club Elects Officers

Officers have been elected for the 2015-2016 Automotive Technology Club at Frontier Community College.

Pictured left to right are: Secretary Nick Ewing, Fairfield; Treasurer Dustin Miller, Albion; Vice-President Brian Isaacs, Fairfield; President Greg Smith, Flora; and Program Instructor Rodney Maxey.

Work shirts are now required of students enrolled in the Automotive Technology program. The shirts have two patches: one with their name and the other with Frontier’s logo and Automotive Technology.

With the start of this fall semester, students are required to purchase the shirts to wear during labs.

The TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) held their first workshop of the academic year on Saturday, October 24.

The October workshop focused on transferring to four-year universities. Representatives from Franklin University and Southern Illinois University - Carbondale gave a presentation and were on hand for the mini-college fair. Two TRIO SSS staff members presented on the universities they attended: FCC Annie Lankford presented for University of Southern Indiana and LTC Tiffany White presented for Eastern Illinois University.

Each workshop has a specific community service activity. The October workshop was dedicated to the appreciation of Veterans. Students made Veterans’ Day cards and a video was compiled of students telling the Veterans how much they appreciate their sacrifices.
Scott Talbert, Textbook Library/ Equipment Technician at IECC’s Frontier Community College, has announced his retirement, effective January 1, 2016. During his 30 year tenure, Talbert has worked to meet the textbook needs of staff, faculty, and students.

In the early years, Talbert’s office was located in Student Services with the textbooks located in an adjacent storage building. It was his responsibility to deliver the textbooks for each class – both on and off campus – each semester. Talbert would drop the textbooks off to the classrooms, the instructors would distribute the textbooks to the class, and students would sign for them. At the end of the semester, the reverse order would happen for pick up. The textbook rental was $10 per book.

In 2003, a building was remodeled on the north side of campus for an actual Bookstore. This allowed Talbert an easier way to receive shipments and load textbooks for deliveries.

In the spring of 2012, the textbook system was overhauled. An inventory software was purchased which provided Talbert a way to easily track inventory and payments. A change was implemented at this time that required students enrolled in Fairfield to pick up their books at the bookstore with deliveries only to off-campus classes. The textbook rental was increased to one-third of the purchase price, which is still a significant cost savings to students.

In 2013, Talbert added college apparel to the Bookstore. With the inception of the Bobcats Athletics, Talbert has been expanding the inventory with the Bobcats apparel.

Talbert has definitely experienced many changes in the Bookstore during his employment at Frontier Community College. Not only has he seen changes in procedures and technology, but he has also watched the college grow.

Talbert is a graduate of Rend Lake College and Wayne City High School. He and his wife, Janet (Sams), currently reside in Geff. They have two children Jessica and husband Eric Smothers and a son Jason.

Karen Bryant, Coordinator of Public Information and Marketing, will retire effective January 1, 2016. She joined the Frontier Community College family on August 11, 1986.

Bryant has been at her current position since 2005. Among her various responsibilities in this role, she is responsible for disseminating information to the local media outlets; creating printed marketing materials; keeping the college’s website and Facebook page updated; serving as the college photographer; and working closely with special events hosted by the college.

When hired in 1986, Bryant began as an Office Assistant to Wes Weber, the Director of Emergency Preparedness at that time. After a year, she moved to the Administrative Offices to operate the college switchboard and mail services for all departments. In 1989 a reorganization of staff took place at Frontier, and Bryant assumed additional responsibilities for the Business Office until 2005.

“I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work for Frontier Community College, which is one of four colleges of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. It has definitely been a rewarding experience,” stated Bryant. “It has been great to watch the campus grow over the years and see enrollment flourish. Our community is so fortunate to have a community college that serves both the degree seeking student and also those who just want a class for skill building or personal enrichment.”

Bryant is a 1986 graduate of MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas, and holds a B.A. in Office Administration.

A native of St. Louis, Bryant resides in Fairfield with her husband Gary. They have two daughters: Melanie and husband Josh Scott of Fairfield, and Julie, a senior at Indiana Wesleyan University.
The Bobcat Den Update

Above: Equipment and supplies have been added to the Frontier Perks Coffee Shop. Students enrolled in the Entrepreneurship class will be learning how to make coffee drinks, latte art, and smoothies.

Above: The classroom is complete with the exception of the top coat for the wood floor.

Left: The office is complete and ready for Tommy Kent, Athletic Director, to move in.

2016 Spring Fitness Classes

Fitness classes at the Bobcat Den will begin the week of January 11, 2016. In addition to the classes, memberships will also be available on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

- **Chair Yoga** (1/11-3/4)
- **Chair Yoga** (3/14-5/12)
- **Yoga** (1/11-3/4)
- **Yoga** (3/14-5/12)
- **Self Defense for Women** (1/11-3/4)
- **Self Defense for Women** (3/14-5/12)
- **Karate** (1/11-3/4)
- **Karate** (3/14-5/12)
- **Spin Class** (1/11-3/4)
- **Spin Class** (3/14-5/12)
- **Weight Training I** (1/11-5/12)
- **Self Defense for Women** (3/14-5/12)
- **Aerobics I** (1/11-3/4)
- **Aerobics II** (3/14-5/12)
- **Aerobics III** (1/11-3/4)
- **Aerobics IV** (3/14-5/12)

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