



The Knightline

Olney Central College Students & Employees Monthly Newsletter

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OCC to hold 51st Commencement May 15

Michael Baker recipient of 2015 Alumni Award

Olney Central College's 51st annual commencement exercises will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 15 in the OCC Gymnasium. Friends and relatives of the graduates are invited to attend.

During the ceremony, the 2015 Alumni Award will be presented to Olney native Michael Baker.

"I am humbled and honored," Baker said of receiving the award. "It is something I never expected. Hopefully it is helpful for students who are graduating or who are thinking of going to OCC to see from our small example that they can go on to do something meaningful with the education they receive; to see that OCC can set them on a path to impact the world in a positive way."

Baker completed his associate's degree in 1985, and 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. To complete his master's degree at SIU-C, he served an internship with the City Manager's office in Olney, where he led the preliminary work on establishing the county's 9-1-1 system. In 1989, Baker began his state government career as committee staff for the Illinois State Senate and later joined the State of Illinois Comptroller's Office as deputy director of the Office of Administrative



Michael Baker
Services 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. In this role, he created policy solutions for a number of economic development issues, such

as: brownfield redevelopment, business site selection, and competitive incentives to bring film and television production back to the state that had migrated to Canada, New Zealand and Eastern Europe. Baker's efforts resulted in both the Batman saga "The Dark Knight," and the comedy "Legally Blonde 2," among others, being filmed in Illinois.

Baker has been employed with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the past 14 years. He currently serves as the manager of Strategic Planning and Innovation Unit in the Office of Employment and Training.

In his current position, Baker is responsible for statewide strategic planning and innovation initiatives for workforce

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OCC adds Security and Loss Prevention Certificate

Olney Central College is expanding its Administration of Justice Program to include a new Security and Loss Prevention Certificate.

Classes will begin this fall for the one-year program designed to prepare students for positions such as loss prevention experts, security guards, detectives and criminal investigators as well as gaming and surveillance investigators.

"There is a demand right now for individuals who have this training,"

Instructor Chad Pusey said. "Stores and even insurance companies are looking for loss prevention specialists. This is a good program to add to what we already are offering students."

Like all Administration of Justice classes, Pusey said courses for the Security and Loss Prevention Certificate will be taught by experienced law enforcement officers.

Pusey said students in the Administration of Justice Program

can enhance their training and expand their employment opportunities by earning the Security and Loss Prevention Certificate. The programs share some required courses and Administration of Justice students need only six additional classes to complete the certificate.

"This would give them some additional training and would be a good resume builder," Pusey added.

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Programs host Automotive Showcase

Approximately 40 students from East Richland, Edwards County, Hutsonville, Newton Community, Palestine, Oblong and Robinson high schools attended OCC's Automotive Showcase Day on April 15.

The students had an opportunity to learn more about the Automotive Service Technology and Collision Repair Technology Programs. They also toured the facilities.



Instructor Mark Fitch, far right, talks to students as they tour the new Collision Repair Technology Center. Classes and labs will meet in the facility this fall.

Laurel Cutright elected to IMACC Board of Directors

Olney Central College Instructor Laurel Cutright is beginning a three-year term as a member of the Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges' Board of Directors.

Cutright was elected to the position last month during the 40th annual IMACC Conference in Monticello.

"I'm looking forward to serving on the board and am excited about the opportunity," she said.

In the position, Cutright will be involved in planning the organization's annual conference and producing the IMACC newsletter. She also will assist with selecting recipients of the IMACC Distinguished Service Award and the IMACC Memorial Fund Scholarship, which is awarded each year to a community college student who is transferring to a university to study math.

Cutright also served as a member of the IMACC Articulation

Committee, which updated the state of Illinois' articulation guide for math.

The IMACC is a collection of community college mathematics professionals who attend to the ever-changing education needs of students and is a leading voice informing policy and curriculum in Illinois Mathematics education. The group has worked with colleges and high schools on PARCC testing, Common Core standards and articulation.

Welding Program hosts open house

The Olney Central College Welding and Cutting Program held an open house for high school students and the public on April 25.

Students from East Richland, Newton Community, Flora and Clay City high schools attended. The Welding Program provided tours of the shop and gave plasma cutter and hands-on welding demonstrations.

A virtual reality welder was available for all to try. A few prizes also were given away.

"Overall we had a great turnout and can't wait to do it again next year," Instructor Curtis Marshall said.



Students had an opportunity to utilize this virtual reality welder during the Welding and Cutting Program's open house.

Gallery exhibit features photography students' work

An exhibit showcasing the work of students in Olney Central College's digital photography class is currently on display in the OCC Anderson Library Gallery.

"This is an opportunity for the students to share what they have learned in class," said Instructor Tim Dunahee. "Most students in the basic photography class know very little about how to properly use their cameras other than setting them on auto mode and letting the cameras do the work. By the time they complete the eight-week course, they have a better understanding of their cameras and are able to take fantastic photographs and edit them."

Dunahee teaches both beginning and advanced digital photography classes



An exhibit showcasing the work of students in Olney Central College's digital photography class is currently on display in the OCC Anderson Library Gallery. Pictured, from left, are Instructor Tim Dunahee, former student Gerald Masopust and Anderson Library Director Brittany Bass.

showing students how to utilize various modes and settings as well as editing

techniques.

The exhibit includes both small and large photo-

graphs ranging from landscapes and portraits to artistic poses and photographs whose expert editing transforms them into works of art.

"Many of the photos in this exhibit illustrate what the students have learned from making collages, turning pictures from color to black and white and knowing how to take pictures in motion, in the dark and at low shutter speeds," Dunahee added.

The exhibit will continue through the summer. Photographs in the exhibit are for sale. Please contact Dunahee at 395-4624 to make inquiries.

Dunahee will offer a basic digital photography course this summer from 6 to 7:50 p.m. on Mondays, beginning June 8. To register, call 395-7777.

Community Band to present 'Moments in Time' May 14

The OCC Music Department presents its final concert of the 2014-15 season with the ninth annual Community Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. on May 14 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

The OCC Community Band will present the program "Moments in Time," featuring music that tells the story of the moments of our lives — both big and small — that define us. Selections include Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," "One Giant

Leap," featuring audio from the 1969 moon landing, and the W.C. Handy classic "St. Louis Blues," among others.

The OCC Music Department is proud to also host as their guests for this concert the Bend in the River Brass band, from Newburgh, Ind. This British-style brass band has developed a reputation of renown throughout the Midwest, performing both regionally and nationally. This group is comprised of both amateur

and professional musicians from throughout the Tri-State (Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky).

The Bend in the River Brass band will be performing "Themes from Harry Potter," "Seventy-Six Trombones" and "Kingdom of Dragons," which served as the test piece for the 2015 NABBA Brass Band Championship competition, among others.

Admission to this concert is free and open to the public.

OCC accepting applications for Student Ambassadors

Individuals interested in serving as OCC Student Ambassadors are encouraged to submit an application as soon as possible.

Student Ambassadors are trained student leaders who represent OCC at various college activities. These students act as valuable sources of information and liaisons between students, staff and faculty. The ambassadors will assist with orientation, recruit prospective students, promote campus-wide events, provide

tours to campus visitors and assist with retention activities and programs.

Students wishing to serve as ambassadors should demonstrate strong written and oral skills, reliability, leadership initiative and enthusiasm. They also must be able to participate during both the fall and spring semesters.

To qualify, students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 OCC hours in the fall and spring, main-

tain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and be a returning student. Applications are available at www.iecc.edu/occ. The form should be typed and must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation.

Completed applications and letters of recommendation should be submitted to Vicki Thompson in the Student Services Office. Recipients will be chosen by a selection committee.

Ambassadors will receive 15 credit hour tuition waivers each semester.

Collision Repair Comparison

Olney Central College's Collision Repair Technology Center is nearing completion and it is easy to see how the program and its students will benefit from the new 8,000 square-foot facility. At right, a look inside the new laboratory space. Collision Repair instructor Mark Fitch said the new facility is more than double the size of the current building, which housed the OCC Library prior to Wattleworth Hall's construction in the early 1970s.



New Classroom



Current Classroom



New Laboratory Space



Current Laboratory Space

Walmart awards TRIO Upward Bound West \$2,000

The Walmart Foundation recently selected the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) TRIO Upward Bound program to receive a grant through its Local Community Contribution Program.

Upward Bound West (UBW), located at Olney Central College, received a \$2,000 grant from the Olney Walmart. The grant money will be used to provide essential items necessary for college bound seniors to be successful in post-secondary education.

TRIO Upward Bound is a 100 percent federally funded college preparatory program through the Department of Education, designed to provide academic support, counseling and cultural enrichment to high school students who desire academic success in both secondary and post-secondary education.

The program provides



TRIO Upward Bound West recently received a \$2,000 grant from Walmart in Olney. Pictured, from left, are Upward Bound Counselor Samantha Krumreich, Sandy Dean, of Walmart, Upward Bound Director Tiffany Cowger, Upward Bound Office Assistant Jennifer Jennings and Upward Bound Counselor Jodi Schneider.

assistance to low income, first-generation (neither parent having earned a bachelor's degree) and/or high school students demonstrating academic need.

Application for admis-

sion to the IECC TRIO Upward Bound program is open to students in a specific target area which includes Crawford, Edwards, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland and Wayne counties. The

Upward Bound program currently serves a total of 140 students at seven local high schools.

Upward Bound West serves students at the East Richland, Edwards County and Fairfield Community high schools.

"We are passionate about providing support necessary for post-secondary success," said Director Tiffany Cowger, adding, "The grant from Walmart will allow us to better prepare our students with items necessary for college success. We are grateful for Walmart's belief in the Upward Bound program."

For more information, contact the TRIO Upward Bound West office located at Olney Central College, 305 N. West St., or call 395-7777, ext. 2282.

You can also visit www.iecc.edu/upwardbound for additional information about the program.

Registration underway

Olney Central College is currently registering students for intersession, summer and fall semester classes.

Three-week intersession classes begin May 18 and eight-week summer semester classes start June 8.

Most summer classes meet Monday through Thursday. Take a class now and reduce your course load for the fall.

Fall semester classes begin Aug. 20.

Summer and fall schedules may be obtained from the Student Services Office or visit www.iecc.edu/occ.



Jazz Ensemble Performance

The OCC Jazz Ensemble performed as part of the University of Evansville Jazz Band Invitational on April 19 at the Wheeler Concert Hall, on the campus of the University of Evansville.

SNA Donations

At right, members of Olney Central College's Student Nurses Association present St. Joseph School Principal Carol Potter with a donation for the school's building fund. Below, SNA members present a donation to John and Addison McLaughlin and Kim Houchin of the Together We Play Project. The funds will assist the local organization in its efforts to create a playground area in Musgrove Park that will be accessible to children with disabilities. SNA collected the money during the 2014-2015 academic year.



Students make GRAC All-Conference teams

Three Olney Central College athletes have been recognized by the Great Rivers Athletic Conference for their work this season.

Brad Colvert made the GRAC All-Conference Baseball Team.

Bailey Walker and Macie Cain were named to the GRAC All-Conference Softball Team.

Alumni

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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 develop accelerated training programs to meet the needs of employers and jobseekers.

"One of the highlights of my professional career was having the opportunity to be a mentor and supervisor for an OCC graduate," Baker said.

Samantha Krumreich worked with Baker for two years on workforce development projects in the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, while attending the University of Illinois in Springfield. She now serves as a counselor for the TRIO Upward Bound Program at OCC.

Baker said OCC provided him with opportunities he would never have experienced at a larger university.

"I was able to participate in the decision-making and policy-making process," said Baker, who is a former OCC Student Senate President. "Student Senate experience was key to my professional development and helped me to get where I am today. Many friends from OCC are now leaders in manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, finance, education and logistics, to name a few."

As a student, Baker even served as a member of the presidential search committee and discovered the resume of Dr. Stephen Kridelbaugh, who was later selected to fill the post.

"OCC provided a great foundation on which to build," Baker said. "I have no regrets about beginning my college career there. It was very affordable, and I learned solid academic and life lessons that were

invaluable. The faculty and staff helped keep us on track; several became mentors and eventually life-long friends. OCC is where I wanted to be and where I wanted to go. If I had it to do over again, I would do it the same."

Baker is active in his community, providing strategic planning support to Habitat for Humanity and the United Way of Central Illinois. He also serves 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 tutoring and mentoring programs for homeless and at-risk children.

Baker and his wife, Julie, son Mitch and daughter Natalie, reside in Rochester. He is the son of Carroll and Marie Baker of Olney.



IECC Upward Bound celebrates students who are reaching higher

The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges TRIO Upward Bound West staff are proud to showcase their 2015 high school graduates and soon-to-be college students sporting their college gear.

This is part of First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Nationwide Challenge on May 1, 2015.

Last May, the first lady launched "Reach Higher" at the Destination College's fourth Annual College Signing Day at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Standing before thousands of students, the first lady shared her personal success story and then charged the audience saying, "We need everyone reaching higher for our young people."

In response to this, Upward Bound West has done just that, by acknowledging our college-bound graduates and rewarding

them with their new college T-shirts. All of these students have signed up to go to college and will complete their post-secondary degree this May.

The staff is so proud of them and the obstacles they have overcome. These students challenged themselves and each other to accomplish their goals and reach higher for a better future. IECC Upward Bound West is very excited to see what they will accomplish in their near future and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments along the way.

Seniors, remember: "Once in Upward Bound, always in Upward Bound. Keep in touch and Reach Higher!" #ReachHigher

Information about IECC TRIO Upward Bound West can be found at <http://ieccub.wix.com/ubmain>. Find more information on Michelle Obama's Reaching Higher Challenge at www.ReachHigher.gov.

Certificate

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In addition, students who earn the certificate may choose to continue their education and apply the shared Administration of Justice courses toward the degree.

For more information about the Security and Loss Prevention Certificate or to register for classes, contact the OCC Student Services Office at 395-7777. Fall classes start Aug. 20.

Otis Shouse receives Distinguished Service Award from IMACC

The Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges presented retired OCC Instructor Otis Shouse with its Distinguished Service Award during the organization's annual conference last month.

The honor recognizes members for a career of outstanding service to IMACC and is given annually to an individual who has participated in the organization for at least 10 years, held an elected office in IMACC and served at least four years in some combination of elected offices or other duties. The recipient also must be recommended by an IMACC member.

IMACC Historian James E. Trefzger said Shouse was a charter member of IMACC when it was founded in 1975. Shouse served on the Board of Directors, a variety of committees and as IMACC's 16th president.

"During his presidency, attendance at the IMACC Annual Conference at Allerton Park topped 150 for the first time," Trefzger said. "He also instituted a number of changes that are still in effect 24 years later."

Those changes included the first parallel break-out sessions at the conference, an annual raffle to help fund the IMACC Memorial Scholarships and a restructuring of the Nominating Committee to insure greater input from the President-elect.

"On a personal note, I had the pleasure of serving with Otis on an ad hoc committee that developed the criteria for this very award in the mid-1980s," Trefzger said. "We all felt that the 40th Anniversary Conference was a particularly appropriate time to honor Otis."

The Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges is a nonprofit educational association that encourages and develops innovative mathematics programs to afford a medium of interchange of views regarding mathematics and mathematics education.

IMACC also encourages and promotes the cooperative study of problems relating to mathematics and the teaching of mathematics, especially at the community college level, and seeks solutions to them.



Police K-9 Demonstration

Newton Police Officer Doug Bierman and the department's K-9, Dano, recently provided a demonstration for the Administration of Justice students in Instructor Mike Swick's Substance Abuse Issues class.



These boots were made for walking

Submitted by Clay Atkins
OCC Maintenance

May 1, 2015 marks the one-year anniversary of my employment here at OCC.

At the get-go, it was clear that I would get several miles in each day.

My daughter gifted me a pedometer to attach to one boot to measure the distance walked each day.

I attached and began to keep a total of miles walked. Big days were sometimes over 8 miles a day and the average was over 5 miles a day.

So my total for the year is over 1,300 miles.

The boots pictured represents before and after the 1,300 OCC miles. I could have walked to Florida! So, these boots were made for walking!



On the left, are Clay Atkins' boots when he started at OCC, and on the right, how they appear today.

You may be eligible to take free summer classes

Did you know you may be eligible to take free classes this summer if you have left over financial aid from your Pell Grant.

To see if you are eligible, stop by the

Financial Aid Office in Student Services.

Summer classes start June 8.

For more information, call 395-7777.

College closed

OCC will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, May 26.

Lost and found items

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

Keep vehicles locked

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

Happy Birthday To:

May

- 5 Tina Pierce
- 8 Judith Hudson - WVC
- 12 Holly Farley
- 17 Shasta Bennett
- 21 Andrew Pittman
- 21 Stacy Hastings
- 26 Cheryl Dill

Knightline Information

Please submit information for the Summer Knightline to Deanna Ratts by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 22.

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



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