

# KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



May 2019

## Upcoming Events

### May

**9** *OCC Community Band Concert, Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.*

**10** *Last Day of Spring Semester*

**10** *Graduation, OCC Gym, 7 p.m.*

**13** *Intersession Classes Begin*

**14** *Last Day for 100 Percent Refund for 3-week Intersession Classes*

**14** *Last Day to Pay Intersession Tuition & Fees*

**24** *OCC Foundation Golf Outing, Richland Country Club, 1 p.m.*

**27** *College Closed – Memorial Day*

**30** *Last Day to Withdraw from Intersession Classes*

### June

**4** *Summer Semester Classes Begin*

**10** *Last Day for 100 Percent Refund for 8-week Summer Classes*

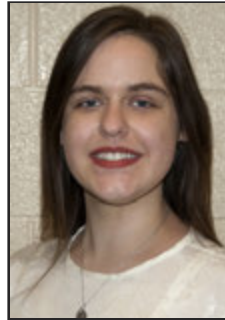
**10** *Last Day for Summer Textbook Refunds*

**28** *Midterm*

**28** *Last Day to Pay Summer Semester Tuition & Fees*

## OCC student on championship Scholar Bowl Team

Olney Central College's Abigail Etchison and her teammates defeated top community college students from across the country to win the 2019 PTK Scholar Bowl.



"I was really excited when we won," said Etchison, who is president of OCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. "I really never thought I would make it past the first round, but we had a really good team."

The event was held in conjunction with the honor society's annual convention in Orlando, Fla., April 4-6. This is the second time an OCC student has participated on a first-place team. OCC students Bridget Brian, Heather Vaupel and Nellie Schalasky were the 2016 Scholar Bowl competition champions.

"I watched the competition last year and decided I really wanted to do it," Etchison said.

She registered for the event and was randomly paired with students from Missouri's East Central College and St. Louis Community College.

During three rounds of competition, Etchison and her teammates answered questions on a variety of topics ranging from literature and history to science and math.

As a first-place finisher Etchison, of Flora, also received a scholarship.

PTK Advisors Amie Mayhall and Shasta Bennett are thrilled with Etchison's accomplishment.

"She performed wonderfully and was in the game the whole time," Mayhall said. "We are very proud."

Etchison will graduate in May. She plans to transfer this fall to Illinois State University where she will study fashion design and merchandising.



## OCC Commencement Exercises May 10



Olney Central College's 55th annual commencement exercises will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 10 in the OCC Gymnasium. Friends and relatives of the graduates are invited to attend.

OCC President Rodney Ranes will give the welcoming remarks and Dean of Instruction Michael Conn will present candidates for degrees and certificates.

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Board of Trustees Member Brenda Culver will confer the approximately 353 degrees and certificates being awarded this year. She also will give the "Charge to the Class."

# OCC grad pursuing career in crop genetics

Olney Central College graduate Matthew Runyon's roots in agriculture run deep.

Growing up on his family's farm in Noble, Runyon knew he wanted to pursue an agriculture-related career and found one in crop genetics.

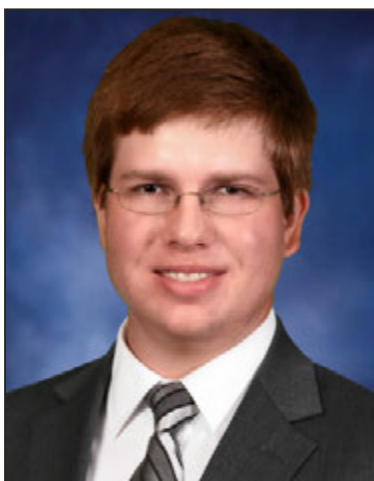
"It is a passion for me," said Runyon, who completed his associate's degree at OCC in 2017. "I want to help farmers grow the best crops they can. Crop breeding is very science-intensive work. It uses a lot of cutting-edge technology and that is something that really interests me."

Runyon is finishing his senior year at the University of Illinois where he is majoring in crop science with a concentration in plant biotechnology and molecular biology. Last summer he participated in a corn-breeding program during an internship at AgReliant Genetics' Champaign Research Station.

Following graduation, Runyon will begin an internship with Corteva Agriscience formerly known as Pioneer Hi-Bred International in Princeton, where he will work through December on the company's soybean breeding project before beginning his graduate studies in the spring.

While attending U of I, Runyon has served as a research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Studer on a project designed to improve corn's response to drought stress. The goal is to decrease the plants' water consumption and develop a more efficient crop.

Runyon has assisted with numerous approaches to research ranging from trait characterization through genotyping to



field plot and greenhouse maintenance.

"Students are highly involved in all of the lab work," Runyon said. "Over the past year, I have learned a lot and feel very prepared where I am headed."

Runyon and other members of the research team traveled to St. Louis, Mo., in March to present their research at the 61st annual Maize Genetics Conference. The event draws corn breeders from across the United States.

"It's an opportunity for the leading minds in the corn breeding world to discuss new developments," Runyon added. "It is exciting to be a part of."

Runyon is the recipient of the 2018 Golden Opportunity Scholar Award, which is presented by the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to agronomy through education, national and international service and research.

Runyon said OCC provided an excellent educational foundation for his success at U of I.

"OCC really prepared me for the lab work here at the university," he added. "My classes with Dr. Aaron Lineberry and Sarah Bergbower were especially helpful. I would like to thank them for that. I enjoyed all of the different events at OCC and the activities I got to do in the Science Club and other organizations. I got to work with a lot of different people who are going to be in my life for a long time."

## Information Systems Technology accepting students for fall

Olney Central College's new Information Systems Technology Program is accepting students for the fall semester.

Computer networking is essential in today's business world. The IST Program provides students with a solid foundation in both computer maintenance and networking.

OCC's partnership with the CISCO Networking Academy ensures students are learning the latest industry standards while gaining hands-on experience in a state-of-the-art lab.

Students can earn a two-year transfer degree, which offers electives and gives students the basics of IST while preparing them to successfully complete a bachelor's degree.

The two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree incorporates more technology and enables students to enter the workforce right away. Students have the opportunity to specialize in either Network Administration or Cybersecurity.

Students who excel in the program also will be prepared to take multiple industry certifications.

For more information about OCC's Information Systems Technology Program, contact Advisors Vicki Thompson at [thompsonv@iecc.edu](mailto:thompsonv@iecc.edu), Jodi Schneider at [schneiderj@iecc.edu](mailto:schneiderj@iecc.edu), or call 618-395-7777.

The Information Systems Technology Program is an Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant initiative. The Title III program is 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.





# OCC Youth Explorers Camp July 29-Aug. 2

Olney Central College is offering a summer Youth Explorers Camp for students entering sixth through ninth grades.

Students will spend the week of July 29-Aug. 2 exploring one of five subject areas taught by OCC faculty. Sessions meet from 9 a.m. to noon and include:

- **Grease and Gears with Tyler Boyles:** This automotive camp teaches students to understand vehicles and the tools required to fix them, including basic maintenance and how they work. Rev-up your brain as you work on and learn the ins and outs of cars and trucks.

- **The Artist Within with Heather Sandy:** Each day, students will create an original piece of artwork while experimenting with different materials and processes. Unleash your creative potential with projects that include paintings, drawings and sculptures.

- **Jazz for the Young Musician with Wade Baker:** Enthusiastic young musicians of all skill levels will enjoy this camp. Jam-packed with performing, learning and listening, it takes a creative approach to improvisation and ensemble playing.

- **Fun with Physical Science with Rob Mason and Aaron Lineberry & Ew! Awesome Biology! with Chris Mathews:** Students will explore all areas of science. Part of the morning will be spent in the world of biology and the other part students will be experimenting with chemistry and physics. See science in a way you never have before. Touch a real human brain. Blow stuff up. Play with electricity.

- **Expression Through Theater, Music and Technology with Jessica McDonald:** Campers will explore communication through forms of expression such as music, videos, acting and more. The course emphasizes personal creativity, both individually and in cooperation with others.

The cost for the camp is \$100 per student, which is due at registration. For more information, call 618-395-7777.



## OCC offering six-week math classes

Olney Central College is offering two summer hybrid math courses students can complete in just six weeks.

MTH 1102 College Algebra will meet from 8 to 9:50 a.m. and MTH 1105 Trigonometry will meet from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Both classes will be held Monday through Thursday, June 4-July 16 with Instructor Lisa Benson. The classes may be taken “back to back.”

Successfully completing the courses during the summer will enable students to enroll in higher-level math classes at OCC this fall.

To register or for more information, contact Student Services at 618-395-7777.

## Community Band Concert May 9

The Olney Central College Music Department will present its 13th annual OCC Community Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 9 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

The hour-long performance will feature selections by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Percy Grainger, Gustav Hoist, Richard Saucedo and Robert W. Smith. Joining the Community Band will be the OCC Concert Band.

Admission is free.

## Lost and Found

If you have lost an item, please check with Student Services.

 Olney Central College Baseball  
**EXPOSURE SHOWCASE**  
Tuesday, June 18  
\$60 for 1 Session  
\$90 for Position Players Who Want to Pitch Too  
Multiple College Recruiters  
REGISTRATION  
9:30 AM Position Players | 11:15 AM Pitchers Only  
Registration forms available at [www.iecc.edu/occ](http://www.iecc.edu/occ)

# Wade Baker advances as quarter-finalist for 2020 Grammy Music Educator Award

For the second consecutive year, Olney Central College Director of Bands Wade Baker has been nominated for a Grammy Music Educator Award and advanced as a quarter-finalist.

Last year's nomination led to an invitation for the OCC Music Department to perform at Carnegie Hall this June.

The Grammy Music Educator Award is supported by the NAMM Foundation, the National Association for Music Education and the National Education Association, and recognizes the importance of music educators in the lives of their students. Baker's most recent nomination came from two of his students.

"I think it is really cool," Baker said. "I'm just finishing my second year of teaching full-time. I have learned so much and feel like I still have more to learn. To know the students appreciate what I am teaching and feel I deserve an award like this, that is pretty awesome."

Since joining OCC in August 2017, Baker has greatly expanded performance opportunities for students. He has added a big band, two contemporary ensembles, two commercial music ensembles and plans to introduce an honors jazz quartet in the fall.

Baker also brought professional musicians Monte Skelton and Chris Parker to serve as adjunct faculty.

Skelton is an Evansville, Ind., artist who plays more than 20 musical instruments, specializing in woodwinds. He performs throughout the Midwest and has shared the stage with the legendary Temptations and jazz vocalist Sherrie Bias.

Parker travels once a month from his home in Brooklyn, N.Y. to work with OCC students on percussion and low brass. He has performed with many high-profile jazz musicians in the Midwest.

"I have seen drastic individual improvement in the students who are working with them," Baker said. "Monte and Chris have been invaluable resources to the students and to me. Anytime I have needed help with charts or finding new music they have always been ready to help. They are willing to do anything I ask. I can trust in them fully and their musical intuition."

In addition to helping the students improve their musicianship, Skelton and Parker have shared their experiences earning livings as musicians.

"It is something the adjuncts and I stress," Baker said. "A lot of students are super serious and want to get out and play music. We talk about how to get a performing gig and how to make money to pay the bills. We have several students who



are out working now. I think that speaks volumes about the atmosphere we are cultivating."

Baker continues to be impressed with his students and their level of performance.

"We have played some really difficult music and the kids are pulling it off," Baker said. "I'm picky. I have high standards, but the students have really impressed me. I don't have to force changes. The kids want to come here and get better. That's the situation you want to be in. We are three years ahead of schedule on my five-year plan for the program."

The students' hard work has been recognized with invitations to perform throughout the area. On April 27, the Jazz Combo served as the opening main act at the Golden Gate Wine and Jazz Festival in Huntingburg, Ind.

The Music Department also was represented at two events in Evansville. The Jazz Combo performed at the First Friday Festival on May 3 and the Big Band, Jazz Combo and Jazz Quartet performed at the University of Evansville on May 5.

The Community Band concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. on May 9.

Baker remains busy this semester recruiting and holding auditions for new students.

"I've been actively going to different schools in the area," he said. "Last year I didn't know a lot of the area band directors, but I am getting better connected with them and it is having a positive impact. More students in the area are contacting me.

"The program is gaining so much momentum," he continued. "If everyone who auditioned or said they were interested in the program signs up, we will have 35 students this fall. We were at 16 when I was hired two years ago."

The bands are open to all OCC students, not just those majoring in music. Full and partial tuition waivers are available. Audition and waiver information is available on the website at [www.iecc.edu/occmusic](http://www.iecc.edu/occmusic).

The OCC Concert and Community bands continue to prepare for their June 14-17 trip to perform at New York City's Carnegie Hall.

The Music Department has already raised \$20,000 through private donors and students have generated another \$15,000 since the Music Department's concert in February. The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District is providing an additional \$5,000.

"We are just below what we need to make this happen and we are continuing to accept donations," Baker said.

Individuals interested in supporting the OCC Music Department with its fund-raising efforts can contact Baker at 618-395-7777, ext. 2251, or email [bakerw@iecc.edu](mailto:bakerw@iecc.edu).



# Students attend PTK convention in Orlando

Olney Central College students joined Phi Theta Kappa members from across the country at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., for the honor society's annual convention.

Attending the event were Abigail Etchison of Flora, Ruth Marie Simmons of Cisne, and Abby Roark of Olney. They were accompanied by Advisors Amie Mayhall and Shasta Bennett.

"The conference was awesome," Simmons said. "Everyone was so hyped about it. I enjoyed connecting with other people in the workshops, finding out where they were transferring to and how they were going about it. It helped to build up my own game plan."

Roark added, "I really enjoyed going to Florida. We had really nice weather and the resort where we stayed was beautiful. I spent my free time walking around and exploring it. I enjoyed the spirit at the conference. Everyone was really welcoming. There was so much energy. People were really happy to be there and they wanted to spread it. It was also nice to spend more time with the other OCC students. We are all studying different things and the trip gave me a chance to get to know them better."



The convention included a variety of educational forums. Featured guest speakers were celebrity chef and author Jeff Henderson and social media influencer Mel Robbins, author of "The 5 Second Rule."

Both Simmons and Roark said Robbins' presentation was one of the highlights of the event.

"She talked about how you need to take action now," said Roark. "She was a great speaker."

Simmons added, "She is a very influential woman and her speech made me cry."

Members also discussed chapter goals for the coming year. Illinois regional chapters will be working to make their communities a greener place.

"We will be coming up with our own activities and ideas," Roark said.

"I love the community service aspect of PTK," Simmons added. "I work at a food pantry in my community and it's nice to be working in Olney, too."

Simmons, who will graduate this month, plans to major in business and take classes through either Franklin University or Eastern Illinois University. Roark is finishing her freshman year at OCC and is a math major.



## ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME HONOREE GIVES MASTER CLASS

Drummer Philip Paul, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honoree, gave a master class to OCC music students on April 26. Paul played with Dizzy Gillespie and recorded the original drum track for "The Twist." At left, Paul speaks to students about his career. Above, Paul works with students on a piece for their spring concert.





## WELDING PROJECT

OCC welding students are completing their semester projects. At left, is a coffee table designed by Noah Norris. Above, is a coffee table created by Wes Phillips.

# Online math classes available for summer

Complete a math course in just 8 weeks with an online class at Olney Central College.

Classes meeting June 4-July 30 include:

- MTH 1151 Finite Mathematics and

MTH 1152 Applied Calculus with Instructor Tammie Bohnoff

- MTH 1153 Statistics and PRE 0420

Intermediate Algebra with Instructor Laurel Cutright

- REM 0421 Beginning Algebra with

Instructor Pam Mulvey

- REM 0422 Math Literacy with Instructor Lisa Benson

For more information or to register, call OCC Student Services at 618-395-7777.

## CAR SHOW

The OCC Automotive and Collision Repair Programs hosted their fourth annual car show on April 27. The event included food and music. Program facilities also were open for tours. The programs are accepting new students for fall. For more information, call 618-395-7777.



## Registration underway for summer/fall classes

OCC is currently registering students for summer and fall semester classes.

For more information or to register, call 618-395-7777. Request a registration appointment online at [www.iecc.edu/occ/appointment](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/appointment).

Eight-week summer semester classes start June 4 and fall semester classes begin Aug. 15. Schedules are available at [www.iecc.edu/occ](http://www.iecc.edu/occ).