

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



September 2019

Upcoming Events

September

**17 Constitution Day –
Classes in Session**

**29 OCC Theatre auditions
for “The Foreigner,” 2 p.m.**

**30 OCC Theatre auditions
for “The Foreigner,” 7 p.m.**

October

**1 IECC Faculty / Staff
Professional Development
Day – No Day or Evening
Classes**

5 Health Fest, OCC Gym

9 Midterm

**9 Last Day to Pay Fall
Semester Tuition & Fees**

**14 College Closed –
Columbus Day**

College Visits

*Tables will be located out-
side Student Services.*

**Sept. 16 Southern Illinois
University at Edwardsville
Representative Regiere
Lovett, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Sept. 17 Southern Illinois
University at Carbondale
Representative Sean
Conney, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Oct. 2 Millikin University
Representative Mackenzie
Larrick, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Oct. 10 Eastern Illinois
University Representative
Brianna Schmidt, 9 a.m.-
1 p.m.**



OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman conducts the OCC Concert Choir.

Pittman earns doctorate from USC

Announces famed pianist, composer

Dr. Vladimir Pleshakov to perform at OCC

Olney Central College Director of Choral Activities Andrew Pittman completed his doctoral work this summer.

Pittman received his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Conducting (Choral Emphasis) from the University of South Carolina at Columbia. It was the culmination of more than a decade's work, which included two and a half years of coursework in residence, comprehensive and oral exams, a 175-page dissertation document along with

four public recitals.

During the final recital, known as a Lecture-Recital, Pittman presented a lecture based on his dissertation, which focused on the choral music and composition style of the internationally recognized pianist and published composer Dr. Vladimir Pleshakov. Pittman also conducted a nine-member vocal ensemble to demonstrate musical points in the discussion.

A friend assisted Pittman in gathering top vocalists from

around the country to perform the works, which are written in the Church Slavonic, the conservative liturgical language of the Russian Orthodox Church. Members performed selections by iconic Russian composers Tchaikovsky, Chesnokov and Rachmaninoff, which set the tone for Pleshakov's compositions.

"It is the hardest music I have ever come across," Pittman said. "It is written at such a high level, it required absolutely top-tier expert singers. It was a truly elite

See Pittman, Page 3

Sports Schedule

Baseball

Sept. 15 — OCC at Busch Stadium, 5 p.m.

Sept. 20 — OCC at GRAC Showcase, 5:30 & 8 p.m.

Sept. 24 — OCC at Vincennes, 5 p.m.

Sept. 28 — OCC at Kentucky Wesleyan, noon

Oct. 2 — OCC vs.

Vincennes, 2 p.m. at home
Oct. 5 — OCC at Danville, noon

Oct. 10 — OCC at Frontier, 5 p.m.

Oct. 12 — OCC vs. Frontier, noon at home

Softball

Sept. 21 — OCC at IUPUI, TBA

Sept. 28 — OCC vs. Thunder Travel, TBA at home

Oct. 6 — OCC at Butler, TBA

Oct. 11 — OCC at Southeast Missouri, TBA

Men's Basketball

Oct. 6 — OCC at Danville Jamboree, TBA

Oct. 13 — OCC at Vincennes Jamboree, TBA

Free tutoring

Free tutoring is available to OCC students through the Learning Skills Center.

If you are having difficulties in a class, first talk with your instructor and then contact the LSC. A Math Lab is available from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday.

The LSC is located in the back of the Anderson Library. If you have trouble locating it, just stop by the library desk and the staff can direct you.

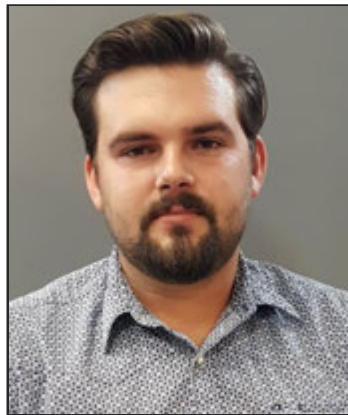
Fisher named Title III Welding Specialist

Maverick Fisher has joined Olney Central College as the Welding Specialist for the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant.

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. Initiatives at OCC include redesigning the Welding Program with the inclusion of a two-year associate's degree.

A graduate of OCC, Fisher brings more than eight years' welding experience to the position. A member of Boilermakers Union 374 in Hobart, Ind., Fisher has worked as a traveling boilermaker maintaining and building both coal and nuclear power plants. He was previously employed as a fabricator at BWXT in Mt. Vernon, Ind., which builds nuclear propulsion systems for the U.S. Navy. Fisher also served as a welder at GSI, Inc. and DC Weld, both located in his hometown of Flora.

Fisher, who holds numerous certifications in both the nuclear field and construction



industry, also taught basic and artistic welding classes as an adjunct instructor at OCC.

Fisher will officially begin his new duties on Oct. 1. In the position, he will be responsible for writing the new two-year welding curriculum and teaching the courses, which will begin in August 2020.

"I'm excited to get started on the two-year degree," Fisher said. "I would have loved to have been able to complete my associate's degree when I was here. This is a chance for students to further develop their skills and expand their employment opportunities."

The grant will provide funding for new state-of-the-art equipment for the welding lab, which will be located at the West Richland Center in Noble.

Fisher has always enjoyed welding and looks forward to preparing others to enter the field.

"It has been a really good career for me," Fisher said. "There are a lot of high paying jobs out there. Receiving additional training and earning a degree will be very beneficial for the students. Welding is a career where you don't have to wait 10 years to get top pay. If you have the skills, you can earn it right away."



**Mary E. Hartrich Nursing
& OCC Foundation Fall 2019**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply Now!

www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships

Contact Financial Aid For More Information

8-week mid-semester math classes start Oct. 10

Did you drop a math class this semester or change your major and need to complete a math course? Olney Central College is offering MTH 1103 Liberal Arts Math and MTH 1102 College Algebra as 8-week mid-semester courses.

Both classes will be offered in a hybrid format beginning Oct. 10. The hybrid format means that most of the homework and the exams for the courses will be online, while instruction will take place face to face. Students should consult their advisors as they may need to take a placement exam.

Liberal Arts Math is being offered from 8 to 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday with Instructor Tammie Bohnhoff. College Algebra will meet from 10 to 10:50 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and from 10 to 11:50 a.m. on Wednesday with instructor Lisa Benson.



STAIRWELL IMPROVEMENTS

OCC's stairwells were power washed and recently received a new coat of paint.

Pittman *Continued from Page 1*

ensemble and the rehearsals were just magical.”

The choir sang Pleshakov's *Cherubic Hymn*, his most recognizable work from his *Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*, *The First, Second, and Third Antiphons*, *The Trisagion Hymn*, *The Hymn to the Mother of God*, *The Lord's Prayer*, and *Communion Hymn*, *Psalm 150*.

Pittman is thrilled to bring Pleshakov's music to academic circles. He spent more than two years corresponding by email with the composer, who now resides in Charleston, S.C.

“He was answering all of my questions in these long, drawn out, beautiful narratives that included wonderful details,” Pittman said.

In his responses, the 85-year-old piano virtuoso, whose eclectic compositional style combines elements of Russian, French and English influences, shared his thoughts not only on music, but life and the current academic climate.

Pleshakov said, referring to his teenage years, “I did most of my homework on the bus. Occasionally the results were quite hurried, and did not endear me to the teachers who were dedicated people. In those days, knowledge was still prized for its own sake. Things did change radically around 1958 and knowledge became valuable only if it led

directly to monetary gains.”

The correspondence has enabled Pittman to amass the most complete and comprehensive biography of Pleshakov.

For many, Pleshakov's life story is as compelling as his musicianship. His family fled the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution of 1917, joining an enclave of White Russians in China. The group, who became known as the “White Russians of Shanghai,” retained their religious and cultural practices, which were virtually wiped out in their homeland under Soviet control. When the Communists came to power in China, Pleshakov and his family uprooted again, this time relocating to Australia, where he began his career, shortly before moving to California.

While health issues have sidelined Pleshakov, he is recovering and plans to begin touring again with his wife, pianist Elena Winther. Pittman is excited to announce that Pleshakov will kick off his tour at OCC, performing during the Community Choir Concert on Dec. 8.

“Dr. Pleshakov knew I was doing a concert,” Pittman said. “He told me, ‘If you are planning to do any of my music, my wife and I would love to be in attendance. After all you have done for me and my music, I would like to pay you back by playing at the concert.’”

The 7 p.m. event will feature more than 100 singers from the community in-

cluding the OCC Concert Choir, OCC Community Choir and the Richland County High School Choir.

“It is very exciting for us to have someone of his caliber here,” Pittman added. “This will truly be a communitywide event and a once in a lifetime opportunity for our area.”

Pleshakov will play Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, a 22-minute piece for piano, orchestral and choir. Originally written as a precursor to welcome the festive Christmas season, the audience will recognize within the work Beethoven's first draft of *Ode to Joy*, later heard in his *9th Symphony*.

“It is an exciting piece,” Pittman said. “It becomes more thrilling every time I listen to it.”

The audience also will be treated that evening to Pleshakov's *Cherubic Hymn*, *It is Truly Fitting* and *Psalm 150*, *O Praise the Lord*.

In addition to performing, Pleshakov will give a two-hour master class the morning of Dec. 7. Pittman plans to invite area high school students for the event, which will include a lesson in composing along with a question and answer session.

Originally from North Carolina, Pittman earned a B.M. in Music Education from East Carolina University and a M.M. in Voice Performance from New England Conservatory of Music. He joined OCC in 2013.



Coach Clint Burris and his father spent two months this summer revamping the Lady Knights' locker room. At right, Burris unveils the finished results of their hard work.



Lady Knights' locker room receives makeover

The Olney Central College Lady Knights have a revamped locker room.

Women's Basketball Coach Clint Burris spent about two months updating the facility with the help of his father, Larry. The work included demolition of a former uniform storage area and the removal of existing cement slabs.

"We had been talking about doing this for a year or two now and creating a space where our players could come in and spend time between classes," Burris said. "For recruiting and our players on campus, this is going to be an awesome area for them to be able to utilize and spend some time."

The upgrades give the facility a more open feel while making way for the installation of modern technology and other accommodations that will better meet the team's needs.

With a smart TV, computer and printer, Burris said the room provides a great location for conducting scouting reports or watching game films. The space even offers homey touches for the players, like comfy beanbag chairs.

Multi-plug electrical outlets were added so players can charge their electronic devices during practices and games. New stools also have been ordered and custom-built, solid red oak lockers will be added later this fall.

"With recruiting, it is going to be a huge advantage for us to be able to have a facility like this, especially once we get the new lockers built," Burris added. "The players will have their own personal space like most colleges do. We are excited to bring in recruits and show them what we have."

Burris said the project has received overwhelming support.

"Everything has been donated by people in the community, former players and parents," Burris said. "It has been awesome for us because it hasn't cost us a ton out of our budget. Once we reveal what we have been doing, we are going to put a sign up to acknowledge all of the people who have donated to make this happen."

He added, "I would like to thank OCC President Rodney Ranes for letting us do this project, along with maintenance's Clay Atkins and Tina Evans for helping us with planning and clean up. I also need to thank my dad and mom, who helped me do this, and my wife, Michelle, for coming in and doing some cleaning. It took a lot of people to get this project done, as well as our donors. It took all of their help to make this place something our girls can be proud of."





SNA DONATION

The OCC Student Nurses Association donated bottled water and sports drinks to the local fire departments in commemoration of the 18th anniversary of 9/11. Presenting the items are SNA members Miranda Harmon, far left, and Shelby Padilla far right.

Auditions for 'The Foreigner' Sept. 29-30

The Olney Central College Theatre will host auditions for its fall production of "The Foreigner" at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29 and at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Auditions will consist of a prepared reading from the script. Memorization is not necessary. Parts are available for two females and five males. College students age 18 and older as well as adult community members are invited to audition. For more information on auditions and to access prepared readings go to www.iecc.edu/occtheater.

Set calls will begin Oct. 1 and 2. Rehearsals start Oct. 8 and will continue each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening until the performances. Shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22 and Saturday, Nov. 23. An afternoon performance will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24.

Day and evening OSHA certification classes available

Olney Central College is offering day and evening occupational safety classes to assist individuals in completing their OSHA 10-Hour certification.

Instructor Ted Marshall said the Occupational Safety and Health Administration classes are designed for general industries including manufacturing, welding, retail and health care facilities.

The classes will be offered from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Oct. 15 through Dec. 10. Topics covered include an

introduction to OSHA and its founding, walking and working surfaces, electrical, hazardous communications, emergency plans and personal protective equipment. Marshall also may tailor discussions to meet specific student needs.

Once they have finished the course students can receive their certification cards for an additional \$10. Marshall noted the card is good for a lifetime.

For more information or to register, call 395-7777.

OCC to begin self-registration next month

OCC will introduce its new self-registration services next month.

Students can initiate the process by meeting with their advisor. Appointments start Oct. 7 and can be scheduled now by contacting Student Services.

During the meeting, students will receive their plan, registration PIN and instructions explaining how to register.

Spring registration opens Oct. 29. Students can register for classes using the new kiosks in Student Services.

Knight Kafe offers daily specials

The Knight Kafe offers daily Hot Bar and Express Bar lunch specials, for \$6 and \$4, respectively.

A link to weekly specials is available on the OCC website, www.iecc.edu/occ.

IECC Alerts

The IECC Alerts System notifies students and employees of campus emergencies and closures by email and text message.

You can sign up to receive IECC alerts through your Entrata account.

If you have already signed up, please check to make sure your contact information is current.

Lock Vehicles

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