



The Knightline

Olney Central College Students & Employees Monthly Newsletter

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Culinary Arts Program begins this fall



OCC is introducing a new Culinary Arts Program this fall. A degree and certificates are available.

Beginning this fall, students can enroll in Olney Central College's new Culinary Arts Program.

The two-year degree prepares students for exciting careers as a chef, cook or food preparation worker in a variety of food service industries including restaurants, hotels and retirement facilities. The courses, which will be taught at the West Richland Center in Noble, will cover all aspects of culinary preparation and specialty cooking. Students also will cultivate supervisory and managerial responsibilities such as purchasing and cost control, planning specialty dietary menus and food sanitation.

The program also will feature two certificates, Baking and Pastry Arts, and Basic Cook. Students can complete the required coursework in one- and two-semester, respectively.

Professional Chef Nada Lunsford, of Olney, will be teaching Culinary Fundamentals, a requirement

for both the degree and certificates. Chef Lunsford received a degree in culinary arts from the College of Lake County and has accrued extensive experience in the field. She worked several lunches and high-end events while employed at the Hilton Hotel in St. Petersburg, Fla.

She helped cater fund-raisers for President Barack Obama and assisted with food preparation for the 2012 Republican National Convention. Chef Lunsford served as the executive chef for Fox River Apartments and recently joined The Holiday as general manager. She taught cooking classes at the West Richland Center during the spring and summer semesters.

"There is a growing interest in the culinary arts with the popularity of the Food Network," Chef Lunsford said. "It's exciting that people can now earn a degree right here and it isn't out of their reach. A culinary arts degree can open so many doors and there are so

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Efforts underway to form OCC Alumni Association

Olney Central College hopes to strengthen ties with its graduates through the founding of a new Alumni Association.

OCC Career Services Coordinator Allan Alldredge is spearheading the project, which will enable graduates to remain in contact with both the college and each another.

"Olney Central College has been in existence for more than 50 years and

there are a lot of alumni in the community," Alldredge said. "We are looking for people who are truly interested in exploring and assisting in the formation of an OCC Alumni Association."

Alldredge said active associations have been established at other Illinois Eastern Community Colleges and he hopes OCC's efforts will generate a similar response.

"This is a great opportunity to network and for graduates to keep in touch," Alldredge said. "Alumni can support the college in many ways. There is a wide range of possibilities if we can get it started. Ultimately, it will be up to the members to decide what direction they want to take."

In his position with OCC, Alldredge works closely with area

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OCC grad receives Spotlight on Achievement Award

Lisette Lopez came to this country because her family wanted her to complete her higher education in the United States.

A native of Lima, Peru, Lopez spoke very little English when she, her mother and sister arrived in Flora.

"I could say, 'hello,' which I learned in kindergarten, but that was it," Lopez said. "When I first came here, it was very hard and frustrating. People couldn't understand me and I couldn't understand them."

Four years later, Lopez's hard work and determination are being rewarded. She recently earned her associate's degree from Olney Central College and was honored as a recipient of the Illinois State Library Spotlight on Achievement Award. The award recognizes a learner who has made significant measurable strides in learning, who has overcome challenges that might have stopped someone else or whose story is particularly inspiring.

"I am one of just 10 students selected from the thousands of students who applied," Lopez said. "It is a big opportunity for me."

Lopez received both a monetary award and a plaque during a May 13 ceremony at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. She also met Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White.

Linda Sargent, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges' Coordinator of Literacy Development, nominated Lopez for the award.

"We are so proud of her," said Sargent, who worked



Olney Central College graduate Lisette Lopez is a recipient of the Illinois State Library Spotlight on Achievement Award. Pictured, from left, are Dean of Instruction Dr. Jeffery Cutchin, IECC Literacy Development Center Tutor Vanessa Anderson, who worked with Lopez, Lisette Lopez and OCC President Rodney Raney.

with Lopez through the IECC Literacy Development Center, which is housed at Frontier Community College. "When she came to us four years ago, she could barely speak any English. She has dedicated herself to school and she has really done well."

Initially, Lopez tried to learn English studying at home on her computer.

"I realized it was not enough," she said. "I asked my aunt if she knew of a program with a tutor."

They contacted the IECC Literacy Development Center, which arranged for Lopez to meet twice a week with a tutor at the Flora Public Library.

"They started teaching me basic greetings, money and numbers," Lopez said. "I was really happy when I started learning the first words and I could finally understand."

As she progressed, Lopez's second tutor worked with the young woman on improving her

grammar.

"I moved on to writing sentences," Lopez said. "My conversations were getting better and my writing improved."

When Lopez began a new job and was unable to meet as frequently with her tutor, the pair stayed in contact through email, with Lopez completing assignments at home. They continued working together even when Lopez's tutor was placed on bed rest during her pregnancy.

"The literacy program was so good for me," Lopez said. "I learned a lot and I'm still learning. Every day I hear new words I have to look up."

With her enhanced English skills, Lopez enrolled in classes at OCC three years ago.

"I always liked math and science and I decided to study chemical engineering," she said. "Taking classes has also helped me with my English."

Lopez has already been accepted to the University

of Illinois in Chicago and is waiting to hear from other schools before making a final decision on where she will transfer this fall. She also has been selected to serve a summer internship in chemical engineering at Hella Electronics Corp. in Flora.

"If you think it is too late to start learning, it is not," Sargent said.

"Lisette serves as an inspiration to show others it can be done. She has shown that with hard work, dedication and someone to believe in you — to show you the gifts you have inside of yourself and to help you bring those out — you can succeed. The literacy program helps students who don't believe in themselves, who have been told all of their lives they can't do something, and shows them they can. There are people who are ready for their lives to change. They just need someone to help them make it happen."

Lopez encourages others not to let obstacles keep them from attaining their goals.

"Sometimes everything looks complicated and hard," she said. "With a lot of hard work and perseverance, nothing is impossible. If you want to do something, you can."

In addition to Lopez, an IECC Literacy Development Center tutor was honored during the May 13 ceremony. Jan Herman received the Illinois State Library Spotlight on Service Award, which is presented to literacy volunteer tutors who have shown great dedication as they assist adult learners to reach their reading goals.

Dr. Linda Shidler new LSC Director

Dr. Linda Shidler has joined Olney Central College as director of its Learning Skills Center.

In her new position, Shidler will oversee OCC's tutoring and adult education programs, remedial classes and placement testing. She succeeds Donita Kaare, who is retiring after 30 years at the college.

Shidler brings with her an extensive background in education. She has been an early childhood educator and an instructor at both the high school and college levels. Shidler most recently served as adjunct faculty at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson teaching a variety of courses.

During her career,



Dr. Linda Shidler

Shidler has served on several national committees and been a presenter at international, national and regional education conferences. She is the author of numerous educational articles and served as an associate editor for the

Academic Exchange Quarterly.

A native of Crawford County, Shidler spent 23 years in Florida before relocating to Robinson. She earned a bachelor's degree in home economics education with a teaching certificate and completed a master's degree in human development from Eastern Illinois University. She earned a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction at the University of South Florida.

Shidler has devoted much of her career to identifying effective classroom methods and exploring the impact teachers have on students. She has served as a consultant compiling, analyzing and organizing

data; provided professional development and coaching for teachers, and developed school curriculum and assessment.

"My passion is teaching and coaching teachers. That is what brought me back to the college level," Shidler said. "This is an exciting opportunity and a chance to move into a leadership position. I'm looking forward to working with the teachers and helping them."

In addition, Shidler plans to continue her research focusing on "what works in the classroom."

"I'm enjoying getting to know Olney and the people," she added. "The people at OCC are great and very welcoming."



Auto Club 50/50 Drawing

The Olney Central College Automotive Technicians of Tomorrow Club recently held a 50/50 raffle as a fund-raiser. Adam Lewis, of Olney, was the winner. He is pictured accepting his check from Automotive Club Vice President Chelsy Dawson, of Olney. The organization is comprised of students in the Automotive Service Technology and Collision Repair Technology programs.

Taryn Bunting joins OCC as Records Office Assistant

Taryn Bunting has joined Olney Central College as an office assistant in the Records Office.

"I really enjoy working with everyone in the office and with the students," she said.

Before coming to OCC, Bunting served three and a half years as a grant administrator and administrative assistant with the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission.

An Edwards County native, Bunting earned an associate's degree from Wabash Valley College.

After graduating, she was employed as a veterinary assistant at the Albion Vet Clinic.

Bunting resides in rural Richland County with her husband, Drew, and their 4-year-old son, Mason, who attends Cozy Corner. The couple relocated to the Olney area last year when Drew accepted a position as a full-time deputy with the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

In her spare time, Bunting enjoys working in the yard and landscaping, running and exercising, coaching T-ball, cooking, and playing with the family's three dogs.



Taryn Bunting

Host families needed for international students

Olney Central College needs five host families to open their homes and their hearts to an international student arriving this August.

Students in need of host families are Manon from Belgium, Kusai from Qatar, Iris from Belgium and Zixuan/Steven from China, who are participating in the Youth for Understanding (YFU) program. Also needing a host family is Jana, from Germany, who is participating in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX).



**Manon
Belgium**

Manon

Manon, 17, is from a small peaceful village. She enjoys meeting new people and says she is a happy person. Her friends describe her as always smiling and fun to be around.

Manon earned very good grades in school and her teachers describe her as mature, hardworking and very motivated.

Manon's family includes her parents and a younger sister. They enjoy a simple and healthy lifestyle, avoiding junk food, smoking and drinking. In the evening, they usually eat meals together and often watch television, go to a movie or go shopping.

In her spare time, Manon enjoys watching movies, listening to music, reading and participating in outdoor activities. She also participates in gymnastics, skiing, running and jogging.

Manon has a golden retriever, whom she loves very much and helps care for. She hopes her host family also has pets.

Manon is looking forward to learning more about American culture with her host family.

Kusai

Kusai, 17, enjoys living in the city. He likes trying new things and participates in many activities including driving, swimming, writing and



**Kusai
Qatar**

playing video games.

He enjoys watching movies, including "Avengers" and "The Fast and the Furious." Kusai also likes playing and listening to the piano.

Kusai says his parents are hard-working individuals, who have a large social circle. Growing up they have given him the freedom to pursue new opportunities.

Kusai enjoys spending time with friends and hanging out with them after school. He plans to pursue a career in computer engineering and programming.

"I am very excited about going to America and I will do the best I can to make it such a great experience," Kusai said.

Iris

Iris, 19, is eager to gain new experiences in the United States.

"I don't really care if it is in a big city or in the middle of nowhere, I love everything," she said.

Iris engages in a variety of hobbies and interests she plans to continue while in the United States. She likes jogging in nature, crafting, baking and playing computer games. She also enjoys shopping, following youtubers and is a huge fangirl of Star Wars, Harry Potter and Disney.

She considers her family to be "modern" in the sense that both her parents work really hard and allow her a fair amount of independence as long as they know where she is and what she is doing.

At school, she is in a Fashion and Sales program where students have been learning how to design clothes and sell them.

Iris is very creative and a perfectionist. She receives inspiration from



**Iris
Belgium**



**Zixuan/Steven
China**

everything around her and online. She has been to the U.S. twice and loves all the striking differences.

She wants her host family to know, "It will definitely be a whole new life experience for me and I will do whatever it takes to make this a great experience for you as well."

Zixuan/Steven

Zixuan/Steven, 19, is optimistic and friendly. He hopes to become a better person after his stay in the U.S.

Steven belongs to an international club where groups of people talk about their culture and share their stories. His favorite subjects in high school are his honors calculus class and physical education.

Steven plans to go into business after studying at the university. He enjoys playing basketball and some of his favorite hobbies include baking and cooking, listening to music, reading, watching movies, traveling and being outdoors. He also likes spending time with family and friends.

Steven describes his family as close-knit. Every Sunday they have Chinese tea breakfast together. Steven helps out at home by doing his own laundry, keeping his room clean and assisting with meal prep and clean up.

Steven enjoys watching NBA basketball and football. He also likes reading fantasy novels and watching American television shows such as "The Walking Dead" and "Vampire Diaries."

While Steven is motivated to do things well, he prefers situations

See Families, Page 5



**Jana
Germany**



OCC Commencement Ceremony

OCC held its 51st commencement ceremony on May 15. OCC conferred 380 degrees and certificates. At left, OCC President Rodney Raney presents the 2015 Alumnus Award to Michael Baker.

Families

Continued from Page 4
without pressure. While in the U.S., Steven hopes to improve his English skills and study the culture of America.

In his opinion, Steven says America symbolizes freedom and is full of magical opportunities. He wants to acquire some of the special qualities unique to Americans and feels that the exchange program will change his life.

Jana

Jana, 22, is from a rural area. Her family includes her father, mother, younger brother and their dog. Her brother is planning to spend a year in Mexico working as a volunteer.

Jana also has a large extended family. Every Tuesday she has a meal at her grandmother's home.

"I enjoy this a lot as she is one of the greatest cooks I know," Jana said. "I would love to become as good as her one day."

Like her parents, Jana currently works at a bank.

"Even though I wanted to become a primary school teacher in principle, I decided to give working in a bank a try after getting the opportunity to do an internship," she said. "I really enjoyed it. I am very glad to have taken this step, as I still absolutely like working there."

Jana also serves as a volunteer for

the local Catholic church preparing younger children for their confirmation.

"Even if I did not become a primary school teacher, I still love working with and taking care of children," she added.

In her free time, Jana loves to read and she also writes short stories. She enjoys a variety of music, not only pop, but also some classical.

Jana is a sociable person, who likes spending time with her friends. She loves to travel, visiting new places and learning about new cultures.

"The desire made me realize that spending a year in the USA was an opportunity I wouldn't want to miss," she said.

Jana is excited about participating in the youth exchange.

"I wanted to be a part of this great opportunity because I would love to get a closer insight on the American culture and the daily working life. The USA always fascinated me and I have already been there on vacation for two weeks last year. I went to Florida with a friend where we traveled around on our own. The people I was lucky to meet, the culture I was given the chance to cast a glance at, and the beautiful landscape I got to see already made me fall in love a little with the country I will now spend a whole year in."

Jana is looking forward to meeting and getting to know her host family.

"I would be happy to show you something of the German culture like cooking a typical German meal or talking about our way of celebrating the holidays, if you wanted me to. I think that it will be an enriching experience to both confirm and disprove some of the existing German and American stereotypes — to learn completely new things about each other's culture and to foremost share this year as a whole."

Upon arrival, the students will live with host families within reasonable commuting distance of the college.

Transportation to and from the college is provided. Students will take part in all aspects of college life, from attending classes to joining sports and club activities, but most importantly, they become a part of your family.

All kinds of families have hosted students in the past: married couples with or without children, single parents, singles without children, as well as families with teenagers.

Your family provides room, board, love, guidance and the experience of what everyday life is like in America.

To learn more about hosting a student attending OCC, contact Tina Pierce at 395-7777, ext. 2024.

Mary Corry joins AMMG Planning Committee

Mary Corry, coordinator of Allied Health Support and Development at Olney Central College, has joined the Age Management Medicine Group Planning Committee.

Corry received her age management certification from the AMMG in January and was invited to join the national committee in May. Age management training focuses on exercise, diet, supplementation and hormone replacement therapy.

"I'm excited and really honored they asked me to be a part of this commit-



Mary Corry

tee," Corry said. "I'm going to learn so much. I will be establishing contacts and working with individuals

who possess a wealth of information."

Corry said the committee is comprised mostly of medical physicians including leaders in age management, Dr. Derrick DeSilva, an internist at Raritan Bay Medical Center and an adjunct professor at JFK Medical Center in New Jersey, and Dr. John Rush, president of Cenegenics, a global leader in age management medicine.

The planning committee is charged with organizing and selecting speakers for the AMMG's biannual con-

ferences, which are held in Las Vegas and Florida.

Corry is on the agenda to speak at the November conference and will give the presentation, "How to Motivate Older Clients When They Are Not Serious About Exercise."

Corry was the first registered nurse to earn the AMMG certification. Last summer she served as a moderator during the West Virginia Wellness Symposium discussing age management and how it has positively impacted her life through the Cenegenics program.



Donita Kaare Retiring

Olney Central College President Rodney Ranes recognizes Donita Kaare during her retirement reception on June 18. Kaare started teaching at OCC in 1985. She began overseeing OCC's Learning Skills Center on a part-time basis in 1994 and has served as its full-time director for the past 16 years. Her last day was June 30.

Culinary

Continued from Page 1

many jobs you can have. With the experience you gain, you can be a produce buyer or even work in food quality control. There are more careers than just working in a kitchen."

Chef Lunsford said the program is ideal for recent high school graduates or people looking for a second career.

Lunsford worked as an office manager until she was laid off and decided to return to school.

"I started in restaurant management, but the culinary arts drew me in," she said. "My parents owned restaurants and I have always worked in them. Food is involved in every aspect of life. We have a baby shower, a wedding or a

funeral and there is always food. Whether we are happy or sad, food always seems to be the common denominator."

Now, Lunsford wants to share her passion and skills with others. In her class, she will be teaching students basic cooking techniques, knife skills and how to create the five mother sauces.

"This is the class where students will really get their feet wet in the program," she added. "If someone has thought of opening a food service business, I would encourage them to get the degree because it will help better their chances for success."

To learn more, call 395-7777.

Alumni

Continued from Page 1

businesses as he assists students in locating internships and full-time employment.

"Our alumni know the value of an

OCC education," he said. "I hope by connecting with alumni through the association that I can help those employers find the quality workers they need."

Graduates interested in helping to organize an OCC Alumni Association are encouraged to contact Alldredge at 395-7777, ext 2019, or by email at alldredgea@iecc.edu.



Fingerprinting

Students in Mike Swick's Criminal Investigations I class practiced gathering fingerprints on June 15.

PTK collects textbooks

OCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter collected textbooks this spring for the Books for Africa program. Members Bridget Brian and Gideon Raley helped prepare the boxes for shipping. PTK filled seven boxes with textbooks donated by OCC students.



Make an advisement appointment online

Fall registration is currently underway, and you can now request an advisement appointment online. To schedule your appointment online, go to www.iecc.edu/occ/appointment and input your contact information and a preferred day and time to meet, and Student Services will contact you to finalize the appointment.

New students will be scheduled for a one-hour appointment, and current

students will be scheduled for a half-hour; however, if you need a longer appointment, please let Student Services or your advisor know.

Also, if you provide a mobile phone number, you will receive a text message reminder prior to your appointment.

Fall semester classes begin on Aug. 20 and there is still plenty of time to register.

Campus visit

A representative from the University of Illinois at Springfield will be here from 10 a.m to 1 p.m on July 1. A table will be located outside 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:

June

- 12 Carla Burgener
- 20 Donita Kaare
- 21 Linda Miller
- 21 Logan Marshall

July

- 3 Tyler Boyles
- 4 Kathleen Hudson - WVC
- 10 David Denton
- 12 Kim Wilson
- 13 Bobbi Hart-Walka
- 15 Bill Tucker
- 15 Heather Lowry
- 18 Curtis Marshall
- 21 Diana Emmons
- 22 Lora Smith
- 23 Pam Madden
- 28 Amanda Pantry
- 28 Laurel Cutright
- 29 Brittany Bass
- 29 Chad Schuetz
- 29 Clay Adkins

Knightline Information

Please submit information for the August Knightline to Deanna Ratts by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29.

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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