



The Knightline

Olney Central College Students & Employees Monthly Newsletter

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Olney Central College marks 50 years

Since its founding in 1963, Olney Central College has continued to provide outstanding educational opportunities to the residents of Southeastern Illinois. OCC will mark its 50th anniversary with a variety of activities planned throughout the 2013-2014 academic year and tied to the theme, "Celebrating Our Past, Looking To Our Future."

The celebration kicked off Aug. 15 — the first day of the fall semester — with a free cookout for students.

The college will host a 50th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, Oct. 23 in the OCC Student Union.

The event will feature a historical display as well as tours of the facility and presentations by the college's technical programs. The celebration will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., with the formal program to begin at 2 p.m.

Follow OCC 50th Anniversary on Facebook at facebook.com/occ50 to keep up with the latest activities, to reconnect with alumni and friends and to share photos from the college's past.

Olney Community College — as it was known at the time — opened its doors to 154 students on Sept. 3, 1963 and more than 1,000 people attended a dedication ceremony on Oct. 6, 1963.

Efforts to form a Class II Junior College in Olney first began in the late 1950s when a citizens' committee for education was formed under the direction of Frank Bower, president of the East Richland Community Unit 1 Board of Education. Later a second committee, chaired by F. Ross Anderson, was created to study the need for a

OCC unveils anniversary logo

Olney Central College is unveiling a special logo to mark its 50th anniversary.

The modified version of the OCC logo, which features the theme "Celebrating Our Past, Looking To Our Future," will be used throughout the 2013-2014 academic year as the college celebrates its founding in 1963.

OCC invites everyone to follow OCC 50th Anniversary on Facebook at facebook.com/occ50 to keep up with the latest events and to reconnect with alumni and friends.



"Celebrating Our Past. Looking To Our Future"

junior college in Olney. At the time, the state was considering plans for a system of junior colleges.

The group found residents receptive to the idea, but with little money or the facilities to house a college, the prospect of forming one was several years away. That changed on March 10, 1961 when the Pure Oil Company donated its former office building and adjacent property to the East Richland school district to house the college.

Pure Oil officials made the announcement during a luncheon with 75 prominent citizens. Among those attending were East Richland Superintendent of Schools Leslie E. Purdy and Bower. The donation made OCC the first two-year college in Illinois founded with its own campus.

On June 13, 1962, the superintendent of public instruction approved a public referendum to determine if the

voters of the East Richland school district supported a Class II Junior College. In a special election on Sept. 15, 1962, they voted 2,578 to 585 to establish the college. An educational tax rate of 17 cents and a building maintenance tax rate of 7 cents were approved.

Preparations for the college continued throughout the fall of 1962. The Pure Oil Building underwent renovations and college officials entered into an agreement for the startup operations with Eastern Illinois University.

OCC became the first junior college in America founded on a working arrangement with an established university.

The college's early board members included Bower and Paul Buss Sr. Purdy and his staff oversaw the administration of the college. The dedication ceremony included the

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Vicki Thompson new retention coordinator

Vicki Thompson is looking forward to helping students reach their goals as the new retention coordinator at Olney Central College.

“I will be working with students and faculty members, assisting in knocking down barriers and issues that can interfere with a student’s education,” she said. “We will work together to find alternative resources to help them succeed.”

In the newly created position, Thompson will assist students with items ranging from academic and financial needs to problems with transportation and even paying for books and daycare. The goal is to help students work through these obstacles so they can remain in college and complete their degrees and certificates.

Thompson will not only be able to direct students to services at the college



Vicki Thompson

such as the Learning Skills Center and the Single Parent Program, but to other agencies as well.

“I will be pulling in resources from the community to assist students in overcoming these issues,” she added.

Faculty will play an important role in helping Thompson to identify students who may need assistance because they are missing classes or their grades are slipping. She also encourages individuals

to visit her in the Student Services Office or e-mail her at thompsonv@iecc.edu if they are finding it difficult to stay in school.

“I want them to know my door is open,” she said. “If they have any issues, they can come and see me. Even if they just need a shoulder to cry or someone to listen.”

Thompson has always enjoyed working with students. Before beginning her new job in July, she taught evening GED classes for six years at OCC and prior to that she served as a teaching assistant for 17 years in the Flora School District.

Thompson said her previous experience working with GED students helped to prepare her for this new position.

“We were always looking for ways to keep students in school and helping them to work through all the obstacles in their way,” she

said. “When I worked with the GED students, I felt I made a difference in their lives and I hope to carry that over into this position.”

She added, “I’m really looking forward to working with the students. They have so much energy and enthusiasm when they come in and I want to help them to keep that. When they are worried about dropping classes, I want to be able to help them overcome those issues and to keep them fired up about school.”

Thompson completed her associate’s degree at Frontier Community College and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration through McKendree University’s AiM Program. She resides in Flora with her husband Rob, and is the mother of three grown children, Samantha, Ben and Dalton.

Anniversary

Continued from Page 1
installation of Purdy as college president and G. Robert Darnes as college dean.

During its early years, OCC experienced rapid growth and by the fall of 1965 had 303 students. During this time, efforts began to make OCC a Class I Area College. Committees were formed to promote the effort and more than 200 meetings were conducted by the college board and administration. Judge Larry Arnold served as the attorney for the school system throughout the process.

In February 1966, Olney Community College officially filed a petition to be identified as one of the 33 Class I colleges in Illinois. A year later, OCC won approval for an area college from the Junior College

Board, and in April 1967 received approval from the state Board of Higher Education.

A referendum for Class I status was held on Sept. 7, 1967 and was approved by a vote of 7,278 to 778. The first Class I Board of Trustees was selected on Nov. 30, 1967 and included Dr. Kent Wattleworth as chairman. Leslie E. Purdy was named interim president and served in that capacity until May 1968.

OCC officially became a Class I College on July 1, 1968, and was renamed Olney Central College. The following year, OCC joined with Lincoln Trail and Wabash Valley to form what would become the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District. Today the district also includes Frontier Community

College.

With the new name also came plans to replace the former Pure Oil Building with a permanent administrative and classroom facility. The groundbreaking ceremony for Wattleworth Hall was held on Dec. 8, 1971. Construction began early the next year and classes were held in the new building in 1974. Two years later the gymnasium and Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center were completed.

OCC has enjoyed continued growth during the past five decades. Today students can complete Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Science and Arts or Associate in Engineering Science degrees. The college also offers a number of technical degrees and certificates.

Students construct table for plasma cutter

Students in Olney Central College's Welding and Cutting Program gained some additional real-world experience as they constructed a table for the program's new Torchmate plasma cutter.

"We spent about a month getting it ready," said Instructor Curtis Marshall. "It gave the students experience with welding and general fabrication. While they were building the table, the students also were learning to deal with precise measurements and metal distortion."

Marshall said the plasma cutter can be used for general fabrication as well as for artistic projects. The equipment includes a computer-aided drafting program, which allows students to create designs and then cut them out at the plasma table. Students can even take a photograph, scan it into the CAD program and cut out the image.

"You can use the plasma cutter for whatever you can



Students in Olney Central College's Welding and Cutting Program gained some additional real-world experience recently as they constructed a table for the program's new Torchmate plasma cutter. The new equipment can be used for general fabrication as well as for artistic projects. The plasma cutter includes a computer-aided drafting program, which allows students to create designs and then cut them out at the plasma table. Students can even take a photograph, scan it into the CAD program and cut out the image.

imagine and design," he added.

Marshall said the students enjoyed building the table and experimenting

with the plasma cutter.

"This is a newer technology that shops are using and it will open up the educational experience for

our students," Marshall said. "It will give them more of an edge over those individuals who do not have this experience."

LSC offers free tutoring

Need help with a class? Olney Central College's Learning Skills Center offers free tutoring in any subject taught at OCC.

Biology study guides are available, as well as videos for Basic Math, Beginning Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.

The LSC also can provide

tape recorders, large screen monitors, readers and note takers.

If you have any special learning needs, come and see the LSC staff.

The LSC is located in the back of the Anderson Library in Conference Room 4. Stop by to learn more.

Upcoming college visits

A representative from Franklin University will be at OCC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 21 and Monday, Sept. 9. A table will be located outside the Student Services Office.

Tosha Baker from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale will have a table set up outside the Student Services Office from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Sept. 18 and Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Find OCC and others on Facebook

Find us on Facebook and keep up with the latest campus information and events. You can find OCC on Facebook at facebook.com/olneycentralcollege.

Under OCC's likes, you'll also find OCC Anderson Library, IECC, Olney Central College 50th Anniversary, OCC Automotive Service Technology, Olney Central College Bookstore and Learning Skills Center/GED.

Olney Central College is now on Twitter

Beginning this fall, you can follow OCC on Twitter @OlneyCentral.

This is a great way to keep

up with the latest happenings at OCC and to connect with other students. Take a few minutes to follow us.

Davis named TRiO Student Support Services Director

Wain Davis has been named Director for TRiO Student Support Services at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges.

Before assuming his new post, Davis served three years as a counselor for the IECC's Upward Bound Program. He also has been an adjunct instructor at OCC.

"My major focus is to see how TRiO Student Support Services can best serve the students," he said. "I want the program to be the best it can be."

TRiO Student Support Services, previously known as Student Advantage Network, underwent a name change this summer to make it more easily identifiable with other programs across the nation, which are funded by the Department of Education. The program offices also moved from Lincoln Trail College in Robinson to OCC and are now located in Wattleworth Hall Rooms 113A and 113B.

As director, Davis is responsible for grant writing and overseeing the program's budget as well as providing training for the SSS staff, which includes counselors at Frontier Community, Lincoln Trail and Wabash Valley colleges. Davis also will provide academic counseling to program participants at OCC.

In addition, Davis will teach three classes — Success in College and Beyond, Career Exploration and Leadership Development — which are offered exclusively to SSS participants. The courses are designed to help students succeed in college and beyond.

TRiO Student Support Services assists students who are at risk for not completing college. The goal is to help participants stay in school,



Wain Davis has been named the Director of TRiO Student Support Services. He recently participated in a mentoring workshop with SSS Academic Counselors from the other IECC colleges. Pictured, from left, are Davis, Erin Volk (LTC), Tayna Smith (WVC), Justin Wiles (FCC), and Student Support Services Office Assistant Vicky Hayden.

graduate and successfully transfer to a four-year college or university.

"We want to help them achieve a bachelor's degree," Davis said "Those with a bachelor's degree are less likely to be unemployed and typically earn higher salaries."

TRiO Student Support Services provides advising, transfer assistance, free tutoring, study skills development, career exploration, job shadowing, financial aid counseling, workshops and seminars, community service opportunities and cultural experiences and educational trips. Students also can participate in the SSS club and a peer-mentoring program.

"We have sophomore students who volunteer to help freshmen acclimate to college life," Davis added.

The program also has a laptop computer and graphing calculators, which it can loan to participating students. Davis said Student Support Services recently created a Facebook

page for participants. SSS students can access it by contacting their counselors.

Student Support Services currently assists 190 students in the IECC District. SSS looks for students in need that are seeking a degree, especially those that are planning to transfer to a university after completing an associate's degree.

To be eligible for the program, participants must be first-generation college students and meet income guidelines or have a physical or learning disability.

Davis said SSS has openings for the fall semester and he encourages those who think they may qualify to apply.

"We would love to get everyone who is interested to come in and fill out an application to see how we can help them," he said.

Students who think they may qualify, can contact Davis at 395-7777, ext. 2146, or stop by the office.

Receive emergency and closure announcements through IECC Alerts

The IECC Alerts system notifies students and employees of campus emergencies and closures by e-mail and or cell phone text message.

When you create an Entrata account, you will be automatically registered for an alerts account.

Account creation for alerts will take approximately 24 hours.

IECC Alerts will automatically go to your Entrata e-mail account, but you may add additional e-mail accounts and/or text messaging.

To do so, login to Entrata

(entrata.iecc.edu) and select Emergency Alerts. You can then utilize the links on the page to manage your account.

While there is no direct cost for signing up for this service, you may be charged a fee by your cell phone provider. Please

check your cell phone plan to understand the costs you may incur using this service.

Those who previously signed up with IECC Alerts should verify that their contact information and preferences are current.



The OCC Student Senate recently attended an American Student Government Association training conference in Orlando, Fla. Pictured are front row, from left, Christina Banning, Beth Dunahee, Hannah Hohlbauch and Annie Conn and back row, Derek Novak, Royce Phillips and Advisor Mike Conn.

Student Senate attends training

The Olney Central College Student Senate recently attended the American Student Government Association training conference in Orlando, Fla.

Students attended many seminars during the July 11-14 event, including: Jump Starting Your Student Government, How to Run Effective Meetings with Robert's Rules of Order and Developing Signature Programs with Student Government.

New officers, including President Beth Dunahee and Vice President Hannah Hohlbauch, attended leadership training and networked with other student government officers from across the country.

Advisor Mike Conn received training on how to teach Robert's Rules of Order and how to develop transitional plans for future student government leaders.

The American Student Government Association is the largest student government association in the country and holds annual conferences across the nation.

This year's Orlando conference,

titled, "Improve Your Student Government," hosted senators from more than 200 different schools.

"The conference was great, and I have many ideas for the upcoming year," said Hohlbauch.

One of the most important sessions students attended was How to Develop a Signature Program at Your School.

One common signature program across the country is to give students discount cards that save money at local retailers. The cards serve the dual purpose of saving students money and creating awareness of the local student government program.

The OCC Student Senate plans to explore the possibility of developing a free student discount card, which could be available as early as the spring semester.

Other topics addressed during the conference included the importance of branding and identification, moving from beyond a club to a service organization, utilizing online voting, and how to survey students.

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OCC Community Chorus to begin rehearsals Aug. 19

The Olney Central College Music Department will be hosting the fourth season of the OCC Community Chorus.

The Community Chorus will begin rehearsals at 6 p.m. on Aug. 19. Anyone who has an interest in singing, from novice to advanced level singers is welcome.

This season the OCC Community Chorus will present a Holiday Concert in December. Rehearsals will be weekly on Monday nights from August until the concert.

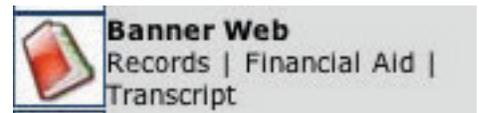
The OCC Community Chorus will be conducted by Director of Choral Activities Andrew Pittman. For more information, please contact Pittman at pittmana@iecc.edu, or by phone at 395-7777, ext. 2252.

Electronic versions of the Knightline

Electronic versions of the Knightline may be accessed at www.iecc.edu/occ or from Olney Central College on Facebook at facebook.com/olneycentralcollege.

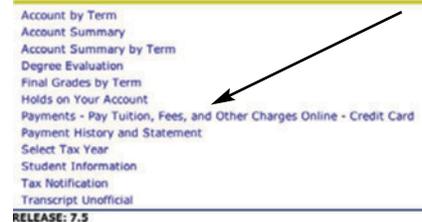
ONLINE PAYMENT

Step 1: Log into your Entrata account with your username and password. Click on the Banner Web icon at the right-hand side of your screen.



Step 2: Click on Pay Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges Online — Credit Card to make your online Payment.

Student Records



If you encounter problems with making your online payment, please contact the IECC HelpDesk at 618-395-5299 or toll-free 1-866-529-4322, ext. 4357.



Hunting for New OCC Apparel?

The OCC Bookstore has received its new fall clothing including items featuring camouflage designs. Stop by and check out these new looks before they disappear.

‘Steel Magnolias’ auditions Aug. 25-26

The Olney Central College Theatre will host auditions for its fall production of “Steel Magnolias” at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25 and 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 26 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Auditions will consist of a cold read-

ing from the script. Parts are available for five women and one young woman.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18 and Saturday, Oct. 19. An afternoon show will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20.

‘Shrek the Musical’ auditions Sept. 7-8

The Olney Central College Theatre will host auditions for “Shrek the Musical” at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

OCC Theatre Director Ruth Henry said auditions are being held earlier than normal to accommodate the large number of costumes, which must be created for the production.

Individuals auditioning will be required to give a cold reading from

the script and to sing from memory 16 measures from any Broadway musical song.

Several male and female leads are available and there will be a singing and dancing chorus. Adults as well as college and high school students are invited to audition.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on March 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29. Afternoon shows will begin at 2 p.m. on March 23 and 30.

Senate

Continued from Page 5

The OCC Student Senate is the local student government of Olney Central College and is seeking senators for the upcoming year.

The OCC Student Senate works as the advocacy group for student input regarding college operations and

administration.

Student Senators also serve as volunteers for blood drives and proctor many of the campus student activities throughout the year.

Students interested in Student Senate may contact Conn in Room 201A or call 395-7777, ext. 2220.

Library, student ID card

Students needing a library/student ID card can obtain one in the Anderson Library. Students will need their generated student ID number to receive their cards. Students can find the number on the top of their course schedules or by going to Entrata.

College closed

OCC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 for the Labor Day holiday. The college will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

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.

Knightline Information

Please submit information for the September Knightline to Deanna Ratts by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

Happy Birthday To:

August

- 3 Rob Mason
- 3 Sharen Wolke
- 15 Reba Stanfield
- 16 Vet Pritchard (WVC)
- 17 Angelia Williams (LTC)
- 17 Terrilynne Majors
- 18 Carole Fusco
- 19 Amie Mayhall
- 27 Mike Burriss
- 28 Rodney Ranes

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