

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



August 2020

Upcoming Events

August

20 Fall Semester Classes Begin

28 Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Student Union

September

2 Last Day for 100 Percent Refund for 16-week Fall Semester Classes

2 Last Day for Fall Semester Textbook Refunds

7 Labor Day - College Closed

17 Constitution Day - Classes are in session

Extra precautions in place for fall

As OCC prepares for the return of in-person classes, extra precautions are being taken.

Students will find some face-to-face class sizes to be smaller while other classes have been relocated to larger spaces that allow for social distancing.

All classes will be adhering to Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines and the use of facial coverings will be required when social distancing is not possible.

Students are reminded to wash their hands frequently. They will find additional hand sanitizing stations located across campus.

OCC awarded more than \$2.3 million for Applied Technology Center

Olney Central College will receive \$2,307,300 from the State of Illinois for the construction of an Applied Technology Center.

Gov. JB Pritzker announced that 15 Illinois community colleges would receive more than \$103.5 million to expand existing facilities and construct new buildings through the Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan. Lincoln Trail College also will receive \$8,370,000 for the construction of a Technology Center.

"It is hard to overstate the impact that these projects will have on these two colleges," said Dr. Ryan Gower, Chancellor of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. "At Lincoln Trail College, some of our technical programs are still being taught in buildings constructed in 1969 that were intended to be temporary structures."

Gower says those temporary buildings lack the physical space and infrastructure to allow faculty to use modern instructional technology.

The Applied Technology Center at OCC will house classrooms and laboratory facilities for the Nursing, Radiography, Phlebotomy and Basic Nurse Assistant training programs.

"The faculty and staff at OCC greatly appreciate the State of Illinois supporting our Allied Health programs and working to ensure we can train healthcare workers in the most up to date technology and curriculum for our rural area," said OCC President Rodney Raney. "The enhanced experiences

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OCC graduate Jeremy Walker captures top honor at Cornell Tech

Olney Central College alumnus Jeremy Walker finished his master's degree in electrical and computer engineering by winning Cornell Tech's prestigious 2020 Start Up Competition Award.

For their final project, Walker and Cornell classmate Tony Liebel developed Buzr, an easy-to-install device, which allows users to interact remotely, through a phone app, with their apartment building's front door. With Buzr, renters and building owners alike can simply exchange existing intercom units with the new device. This eliminates the need to replace aging and outdated buzzer systems, which is very costly for building owners.

With home deliveries increasing, Walker says there is a growing need for the technology. He and Liebel are already marketing and selling the device and plan integrations with top shipping providers. The pair will use the \$100,000 monetary award they received to promote the company and its product.

Cornell Tech is the technology, business, law and design campus of Cornell University and is located on New York City's Roosevelt Island. Its electrical and computer engineering program focuses on building products that can lead to entrepreneurial viability with real users.

Walker conducted the engineering work on the project and serves as Buzr's chief product officer

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KJ Conklin joins OCC coaching staff

KJ Conklin has joined Olney Central College as an assistant men's basketball coach.

"I am extremely excited about working with these players," Conklin said. "I've had a chance to meet and work with them for the last two weeks and they have a passion to get better. With the delayed start to the season, we will have the additional time to do that. I am really looking forward to helping them in their journey both off and on the court."

Conklin previously served as a graduate assistant coach at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La. During his two years at Louisiana Tech, Conklin assisted in all day-to-day operations of the program including travel arrangements, recruiting efforts and summer basketball camp.

During his time at Louisiana Tech, the Bulldogs compiled a 42-21 record. In his second season, the team finished tied for second in the Conference USA standings with Western Kentucky and led Conference USA in total wins with 22.

Men's Basketball Interim Head Coach Casey Wyllie is excited to have Conklin on the Blue Knights' coaching staff.

"He is a worker that will bring a tremendous amount of energy on a daily basis that will benefit our program," Wyllie said. "KJ came very highly recommended from the entire Louisiana Tech basketball staff. His experiences at the Division I level will be valuable for our players and entire program."

Wyllie also served as a graduate assistant coach for Louisiana Tech from 2015-2017.

"I've gotten to know Coach Wyllie and I'm excited to work with him," Conklin said. "OCC has a great program, which enjoys great community support."

Before going to Louisiana Tech, Conklin served as a varsity assistant basketball coach at Sterling High School in Illinois for the 2017-18 season under coach Ryan Vasquez. In that season, Sterling went 23-10, won the Northern Illinois Big 12 Conference Championship and made a IHSA 3A Sweet 16 appearance while also amassing a 15-game winning streak.

Prior to Sterling, Conklin served as a student manager for four years at Illinois State under head coach Dan Muller and received his bachelor's degree in Social Science Education. While at ISU, Conklin aided in opponent individual player scouting, supervision of team managers, and contributed in recruiting evaluations and letters.

A native of Rock Falls, Conklin also served as a Pure Sweat intern under NBA skills trainer Drew Hanlen during the summers of 2018 and 2019. As an intern, he has helped with the development of several premier NBA and college players in the pre-draft process.

Conklin previously worked college basketball camps at Iowa, Marquette, Kentucky, Illinois State and Louisiana Tech.





WAY COOL SCIENCE STUFF

Whoa!

JOIN NOW!

Science Club

For anyone interested in science

All majors welcome

Laboratory Activities Career Exploration

Field Trips Science Night Demonstrations

For More Information, Contact Advisor Sarah Bergbower

bergbowers@iecc.edu

Additional benefit of joining:

1 FREE credit hour—REGISTER NOW!

David Denton publishes new book featuring latest essays on JFK assassination

Olney Central College Professor David Denton has published a collection of his latest essays regarding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The 88-page publication primarily focuses on new witness information and previously classified documents related to the Kennedy assassination, which were released by the National Archives in 2017.

“The essays are my analysis of these things written over a three-year period,” Denton said. “The articles put a narrative and perspective to them.”

Nearly 57 years after the assassination, Denton says discrepancies remain between the official version of Kennedy’s death and the public’s perception of the events surrounding Nov. 22, 1963.

“One reason why it has stayed on the forefront is there are still a lot of unresolved issues,” Denton said. “Opinion polls suggest that 75 percent of Americans believe there was a conspiracy in Dallas, yet most academic institutions, the media and the government stubbornly cling to the lone nut gunman theory.

“I tried to put a historical bent to this,” Denton added. “There are enough facts in the case to point to something sinister going on in Dallas. My position is that Kennedy’s death is unresolved, not unsolved. There is enough evidence to create the probability that there was a conspiracy to kill the president and one man didn’t act alone.”

Published by Midnight Writer News, Denton’s “Essays on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy” is available for purchase at www.lulu.com and JFKHistorical.com.

Denton is already working on his next article. The essay involves new documents and information pointing to the idea that elements of the U.S. military may have been complicit in the assassination.

Denton has studied the Kennedy assassination for nearly three decades and has taught the course, Political Assassinations of the 1960s, since 2001. Over the years, he has interviewed several people associated with the case and has researched hundreds of documents related to both Kennedy and suspected assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

In 2013, Denton helped organize a two-day event at OCC marking the 50th anniversary of Kennedy’s death. The conference brought together nationally-known academics, scholars and authors to lend their perspectives on the events leading up to and following the assassination.

Last year, Denton helped bring the nation’s foremost experts on the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. to OCC for a four-day conference.



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this will provide to our students cannot be measured and will have a direct impact on our area healthcare agencies who are looking for skilled, career prepared employees.”

The newly designed space will allow the faculty to incorporate simulation technology into the program that Raney says will significantly enhance the experience for the Nursing students at Olney Central College and Allied

Health students from across the IECC District.

The decision to release this funding in a time when state budgets are tight has been met with questions.

“As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the economy of every state in the nation, it is more critical than ever that we continue to invest in the state’s educational institutions so they can continue to provide resources that advance livelihoods and spur the economy,” Pritzker said.

LSC offers free tutoring

Free tutoring is available to Olney Central College 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.

Men’s Basketball Golf Outing Sept. 12

The OCC Men’s Basketball team will host its annual Coach Gene Duke Memorial Golf Scramble on Sept. 12 at the Richland Country Club.

Check-in begins at 11 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded.

Proceeds from the event will go toward student athlete meal plans.

Interim Head Coach Casey Wyllie said due to COVID-19, this will be the largest fund-raiser prior to the season.

For more information, contact Wyllie at 815-822-4073.

Lock Vehicles

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

Lost and Found

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



Patio Improvements

Improvements are continuing to the patio area outside the Student Union as OCC prepares to welcome back students for the fall semester.

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while Liebel, who has a consulting background and a master's in business administration from Cornell, focuses on the business and marketing aspects.

"This project allowed me to use my two specializations in digital circuit design and mechanical engineering. It put all of my experience together," Walker said. "Now we just have to find a way to make sales and get the company off the ground."

Buzr was also the recipient of Cornell's Ronald Fichtl and Frederick Fichtl Innovation Award, which recognizes the most innovative and best-developed concept from the Cornell School of Engineering's annual Engineering Innovation Competition.

Walker's journey to Cornell Tech began by taking online classes through OCC's Industrial Maintenance Technology Program.

"I had a background in industrial maintenance and my family knew Russ Jausel, who was the lead instructor at the time. My dad even used to teach in the program and it was something I was interested in. Being around and working in a machine shop while growing up, it was the most applicable thing OCC had

for me," Walker said.

"The electrical and plc courses sparked my interest in electrical engineering," he added. "This combined with success in other advanced courses such as calculus and physics gave me the confidence to move away to pursue my bachelor's degree. In the Industrial Maintenance Program, you get hands-on experience, which really helped to cultivate my interest in engineering."

Walker graduated from OCC in 2015 with both an IMT Associate's Degree and an Associate's Degree in General Studies. He chose to continue his education at Fullerton College in California where he focused on math, physics and engineering. He then transferred to the University of California, Irvine where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering before heading to Cornell.

In total, Walker has earned an impressive seven degrees in as many years. He credits OCC with helping to make it possible.

"I got a very strong foundation in physics at OCC and it helped as I went forward into my higher-level courses," he said. "If I had gone straight to a university from high school, I don't know that I would have been as successful."

Student Senate seeking new members

The OCC Student Senate is recruiting new members.

Membership is open to current and incoming students.

Those interested in participating should contact their advisor and add Student Government to their fall schedule.

For more information about getting involved, contact Student Senate President Stormie Hartsey at 618-554-4505.

Blood Drive Aug. 28

The OCC Student Senate will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 28 in the Student Union.

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: OlneyCentralCollege to schedule an appointment.

Food for Thought items available

Do you need a snack before class? Are your kitchen cabinets empty?

Non-perishable items and other necessities are available and free to OCC students.

Please inquire at the front desk in Student Services.

If Student Services is closed and you have a need, contact Academic Advisor, Jodi Schneider at ext. 2018.