

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



JUNE 2022

CALENDAR

JUNE

18 - OCC Theater, *A Little Bit of Magic: A Salute to Disney Music, Pre-show Activities*, 5 p.m. outside the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center

20 - College Closed in Observance of Juneteenth

30 - Midterm

JULY

4 - College Closed - Independence Day

25 - Last Day to Withdraw from 8-week Summer Classes

28 - Last Day of Summer Semester Classes

29 - Summer Semester Final Exams

29 - Fall Semester Textbook Sales Begin

29 - Summer Textbook Buyback, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., OCC Bookstore

AUGUST

1 - Summer Semester Final Exams

29 - Summer Textbook Buyback, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., OCC Bookstore

18 - Fall Semester Classes Begin

OCC student advances to national welding competition

Olney Central College student Tyler Dowty is one of 16 finalists selected to compete in the 2022 Project MFG National Welding Competition in Wichita, Kan.

Dowty was among 78 competitors from 13 states who participated in the qualifying round. The Claremont resident received a \$500 cash award for advancing with the chance to win \$10,000 at nationals on June 28 at Wichita State University Tech.

"I was pretty happy learning I was selected," said Dowty, who just completed his first year toward

an associate degree in welding. "I thought the welding process was difficult and we really had to challenge ourselves. I've learned a lot about welding while I've been in the program. This was a chance to prove myself as a welder and to get better at it."

Dowty's classmates Lane Bradley, of Newton, and Jacob Taylor, of Olney, also participated in the challenge. Taylor was one of eight students selected as alternates to the national competition.

"It was a cool opportunity," Bradley said. "It was a chance for us to prove ourselves against the big welding schools."

Project MFG executes skills competitions designed to restore America's manufacturing prowess and attract new talent to skilled trade fields. The tournament-style competitions give hands-on experience in problem-solving and technological aptitudes required for success for the next generation of machinists, welders, programmers, mechanics and fabricators.

For the competition, students had to follow blueprints and Welding Procedure Specifications to fabricate a stainless-steel pressure vessel. Materials were shipped to OCC and the students completed their projects in the Welding Lab before returning them for judging. The vessels were tested for leaks and judged on appearance and fit up.

"I thought it was a neat idea," said Welding Instructor Curtis Marshall. "Everyone from across the country could participate without having to travel to one location. I'm proud of the guys for doing this. It wasn't required and they did it on their own time. It was a good way to showcase their welding skills and get experience reading blueprints."

He added, "I think it is a good reflection on the program when one of our students is chosen as a finalist. It shows we have a good, solid program."



OCC welding students, from left, Lane Bradley, Jacob Taylor and Tyler Dowty participated in the 2022 Project MFG Welding Competition. Dowty is one of 16 finalists advancing to the national competition. Taylor was selected as an alternate.

Miller named College Admissions Representative

Curtis Miller is looking forward to connecting with students and supporting them in the admissions process as Olney Central College's Admissions Representative.

Miller joined Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, in the newly created position, last month. He worked in the banking industry for five years and had previously been employed at Audibel Hearing Aids in Effingham.

"I needed something fresh and challenging and this position offers that," Miller said. "I'm here to guide students in the application process to ensure a smooth transition into college life. I will also be supporting each department within the college as we work together to meet student needs."

During the summer, Miller will be updating admissions-related areas of the website and reviewing the application process to ensure they are user-friendly for incoming students. He also is creating virtual and in-person tours that will introduce prospective students to the unique aspects of OCC.

In the coming months, Miller will be visiting area high schools, working with area guidance counselors, hosting recruitment events and promoting OCC in Olney and the surrounding communities.

"I will be the first person from OCC many students will meet," Miller said. "I will be available to answer their questions and guide them through the admissions process."

"I'm excited to see how I can help OCC grow," he added.

Miller also will work closely with IECC's college admissions representatives at Frontier, Lincoln Trail and Wabash Valley colleges.

Miller received an associate's degree from Lake Land College and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Evangel University in Springfield, Mo.

A native of Sullivan, Miller relocated to Olney five years ago. Miller's wife, Julia, is an OCC alum and a former Lady Knights softball player. Together they serve as youth leaders at First Assembly church in Olney.

The couple has two children Alexya, 4, and Sylas, 1 ½.

In his free time, Miller enjoys being outdoors with his children and bicycling.

Miller can be contacted at 618-395-7777, ext. 2008, or by email at millerc3@iecc.edu.



Thirty-two athletes earn Academic All-American status

Thirty-two Olney Central College athletes earned Academic All-American status in 2021-2022. Baseball led the way with 18 total, followed by softball with eight and men's and women's basketball with three each.

Overall, softball had a team GPA of 3.47, women's basketball earned a team GPA of 3.40 and the baseball and men's basketball teams finished the academic year with team GPAs of 3.36 and 3.34, respectively. As an athletic department, the overall GPA for all four sports was 3.38.

Individual Academic All-Americans fall into three categories: First Team (GPA 4.0), Second Team (3.80-3.99), and Third Team (3.60-3.79).

First Team Academic All-Americans include baseball players Nick Sutherlin, Connor Christopher and Zach Duenas along with Carlene Weiler and Molly Sheehan, members of the softball team.

Second Team Academic All-Americans are baseball players Blake Donnan, Will Gibbs, Noah Wagy, Gage Stevens and Cole Lambird; softball players Jessie Martin and Lanae Greifzu; and Allison Harris, a member of the women's basketball team.

Third Team Academic All-Americans include baseball players Tristan Crusenberry, Luke Genier, Josh Kuhns, Max Puckett, Hunter Small, Dane Stevenson, Cam Cowger, Drew Dillon, Alex Marx and Eric Martin; men's basketball players Jordan Graham, Dillon Harrison and Chaz Hinds; women's basketball players Tara Hughes and Abbi Peyton; and softball players Maddy Williams, Madison Hall, Liberty Dunaway and Jailyn Ballis.





Artwork by Bob Treece and Joe Gower will be on display now through mid-August in the Anderson Library Gallery. The exhibit is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Anderson Library Gallery Summer Exhibit features works by two local artists

The Anderson Library has opened its gallery this summer to feature works by local artists Bob Treece and Joe Gower.

“I really hope people enjoy it and the space,” said Chad Groves, Director of Instructional Support Services. “It is something a little bit different and I hope people will stop in to see it.”

Both artists are originally from Olney. Treece attended The Art Institute of Chicago and paints in both realist and surrealist styles. Galleries in Chicago and St. Louis exhibited his artwork while he was living in those cities.

Treece says of his artwork, “My realist paintings are in oil on canvas, usually painted from life and in some cases photos. My surrealist paintings are manifestations of unconscious, undifferentiated energy I am only just aware of and am fiendishly fascinated by.”

Treece’s surrealist pieces consist of poured or splattered paint, digitally manipulated printouts of previous paintings, ink, charcoal, spray paint, plastic and fire. Treece also is known for his murals, which are featured in The Holiday dining room and outside Hovey’s restaurant.

Gower has lived throughout the United States. A former OCC art instructor, he also taught on a Native American reservation. His work includes paintings and 3-D drawings.

“Both are really dedicated and good at their craft,” Groves said. “I think they are a very good pairing, I’m thrilled to have them and have other people here to enjoy their work.”

Groves hopes to exhibit works by other local artists in the future.

“This is something I would like to continue doing,” he added. “I would like to use the gallery space more than we have. It brings a certain energy and excitement to the place.”

Groves encourages the public to view the exhibit which runs through mid-August. Gallery hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



OCC Theater summer show sold out

Tickets for the Olney Central College Theater's summer show sold out in record time, but the pre-show activities remain open to the public.

A Little Bit of Magic: A Salute to the Music of Disney brings the familiar and fun music of Disney to the Ruth Henry Stage at 7 p.m. on June 18. This concert-style cabaret features the music of Disney movies, TV shows, and theme parks. Thirty-two performers will take the stage and sing solos, duets, and ensemble numbers from new and old favorites such as *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, *Aladdin*, *Encanto*, *High School Musical*, Disney Channel themes, and many more. The musicians will be accompanied by a live three-piece band on stage as well as some extra magic to make the performances special for the audience.



"We are so excited about the Disney cabaret night. The audience is going to love it. Being able to do a multi-media show is fun and adds so much to the audience experience," says OCC Theater producer Jon Wright.

"We have been doing more 'one-night-only' shows in the summers over the last five years. Our theater has grown, and continues to grow, at a high rate in both attendance and performers. By adding these additional shows, it has given us the opportunity to allow more individuals to participate in the theater while providing new and different content for our audiences. As our audiences continue to support our events, our performers continue to improve their skillsets, and everyone wins."

Before the show, OCC Theater invites all ages to enjoy pre-show activities, including inflatables, food from The Smokin' Pig, Disney-themed snow cones from The Shiver Shack, and Disney coloring pages. The pre-show activities are open to the public and will begin at 5 p.m. in front of the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Wright added, "One of the big pushes of our theater for the next few years is recruitment. We want to see new faces on our stage. We have changed the rehearsal schedule to be more accommodating to potential performers' schedules as well as increased advertising for when and how to audition. For this Disney cabaret, 25 percent of the people involved have never been on our stage. They are also coming from other counties. OCC Theater is getting a great reputation for a place that puts on high quality shows that challenge performers to get better in a fun and encouraging environment. Our production team has really put in the work, and we are seeing the results of that work pay off exponentially."

If you are interested in becoming part of OCC Theater, please contact Wright at wrightj@iecc.edu.

For more information about OCC theater visit <https://www.iecc.edu/occtheater> or the OCC Theater Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OCCTheater>.

Celebrate summer with Theme Thursdays

OCC is celebrating summer with Theme Thursdays in June and July. If you are on campus and participate in the dress-up day, stop by Student Services each Thursday at 11 a.m. for a group picture and a chance to enter your name in a prize drawing. Even if you can't make the picture, stop by to show off your attire and enter your name in the drawing.

Theme Thursdays

- June 16 — Alumni Day — Wear your favorite college T-shirt.
 - June 23 — Tourist Day — Dress in a souvenir shirt or Hawaiian shirt.
 - June 30 — Holiday Day — Wear any holiday attire or mix and match your favorite holidays.
 - July 7 — Tacky Day — Wear plaids, stripes or dots together.
 - July 14 — Neon Day — The brighter, the better.
 - July 21 — High School Throwback Day — Dress like you did in high school.
 - July 28 — Comfy Day — Wear comfortable clothing, think athletic attire, not pajamas.
- Have fun, but please keep attire appropriate.





LPN Clinicals

Olney Central College LPN students are pictured with Instructors Shirley Smithenry and Becky Coleman at Carle Richland Memorial Hospital in Olney. Students will be participating in clinicals at the facility this summer.

OCC student sworn in as regional PTK officer

Olney Central College Phi Theta Kappa member Robert Wray has been elected as a regional officer for Illinois. The Flora resident will serve as Vice President for the Southern District.

In the position, Wray will assist with planning the national conference and other PTK events.

“It was cool and a little odd,” Wray said of the officer installation ceremony earlier this month. “I’ve never been part of anything where I had to take an oath before, but I look forward to serving.”

Wray is excited to represent the local chapter and district.

“I look forward to working with the other regional officers, seeing what the position entails and leaving a mark,” he said. “I want to contribute to the group in a way that will look good on a future application.”

A first-year student, Wray plans to pursue a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in zoology after completing his studies at OCC.



OCC student Robert Wray has been installed as a Phi Theta Kappa regional officer for Illinois. Pictured, from left, are Cassie Keller, Vice President of the Central District; Wray, Vice President of the Southern District; Ethan Zakowski, Illinois Regional President; Adonia Fulk, Vice President of the Northern District; and Ashley Dearborn, Vice President of the North-eastern District.