

# Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



DECEMBER 2022

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

7 - *Cookie Decorating, Sponsored by OCC Active Minds, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Student Union*

9 - *Last Day of Fall Semester Classes*

9 - *OCC Music Department Christmas Concert, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.*

12 - *Spring Semester Textbook Sales Begin*

12 - *Fall Textbook Buyback, OCC Bookstore, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. & 5-6:30 p.m.*

12-15 - *Fall Final Exams*

13-15 - *Fall Textbook Buyback, OCC Bookstore, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.*

16-17 - *OCC Theater's It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, 7 p.m.*

18 - *OCC Theater's It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, 2 p.m.*

20-31 - *Winter Break, College Closed*

### JANUARY

3 - *College Opens*

9 - *Spring Classes Begin*

23 - *Last Day for 100 Percent Refund of 16-week Spring Semester Classes*

## OCC Concert Band invited to audition for festival at Symphony Center in Chicago

The Olney Central College Concert Band has been invited to audition for the Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in Chicago.

OCC Director of Bands Wade Baker is compiling submission materials which include video from last month's Fall Concert and audio from the concert and community bands' combined performance at New York's Carnegie Hall in 2019. He expects to learn next month if OCC will be among the four bands selected to participate in the March 24-25 event.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," Baker said. "To be able to perform this level of music on that stage would be beneficial to the future of the program. It's a chance for students in this area to experience cultural things they haven't been exposed to before and to give them a better perspective of the world outside the walls of Richland County."

If chosen, the ensemble will have a private clinic with Dr. Mallory Thompson, Director of Bands, Professor of Music and coordinator of the conducting program at Northwestern University. As a student, Baker had a chance to work with Thompson and he hopes the same opportunity is afforded to his students.

"If in the span of five years we can perform in two of the biggest concert halls in the world — that's not bad for a community college located in the middle of a cornfield," Baker added.

Baker said the band is in a rebuilding phase due to COVID-19. During the pandemic, many current students were unable to perform or make music together for more than a year.

Baker said the students have made considerable progress over the fall semester and are ready to tackle the challenging 27-minute performance of Grainger's music.

"The Fall Concert was really good and it's great to have that again," Baker said. "It was a new experience for some to get in front of people or to perform in front of that many people. The progress they have made from day one to now is pretty extreme."

The Music Department will again offer Community Band during the spring semester. Rehearsals will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning January 10. Baker said participants will have the opportunity to join the Concert Band in Chicago if OCC is selected.

As the department continues to move forward, Baker said monetary and instrument donations are always welcome.

"I am in my sixth year here and we are still procuring the basic necessities for a band department," he added. "We appreciate the community support."



**The OCC Concert Band performs during the Music Department's Fall Concert on Nov. 19. The band has been invited to audition for the Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in Chicago.**

# OCC Music Department Christmas Concert Dec. 9

The Olney Central College Music Department will present its Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

This special evening of holiday music will feature Vivaldi's *Gloria* performed by the OCC Community Choir under the direction of Dr. Andrew Pittman, OCC Director of Choral Activities. Soloists are Lori Weitkamp, Leia Meredith and Jessica McDonald.



The choir will be accompanied by a small chamber orchestra featuring students from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington and OCC's Director of Bands Wade Baker on piccolo trumpet.

"The choir sounds really good this year," Pittman said. "In fact, they sounded so good I changed the repertoire I was going to do. Despite a smaller number of people, I think it is the best-sounding community choir we have had in 10 years. It is a really great group of people."

Other selections will include the spirituals *African Noel* and *Keep Your Lamps*, arranged by composer and conductor Dr. Andre Thomas, along with the gospel-influenced *Rise up Shepherd and Follow!* arranged by Mark Hayes. The evening will conclude with *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch* and a Christmas carol sing-along.

## OCC Theater presents 'It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play'

Olney Central College Theater will present three performances of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* Dec. 16-18 at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve.

What is a live radio play? Set in a

1940s-style radio studio, live actors on stage will be "radio actors" who portray the characters in this classic holiday story. The actors will perform as different characters by changing their voices and facial expressions into new personas. They will also play Foley artists and create live sound effects right before your eyes. This special combination of a live radio show and a play will give audiences a unique experience through both sight and sound.

Performances for *It's a Wonderful*

*Life* are Friday, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$13. All seating is reserved, and tickets can be purchased online at [www.iecc.edu/occ/theater](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/theater). This show is sponsored by First National Bank.

For more information, email [occtheater@iecc.edu](mailto:occtheater@iecc.edu) or visit [www.iecc.edu/occ/theater](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/theater). Be sure to follow Olney Central College Theater on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok.

## Grab a card and join the IECC Libraries Winter Reading Bingo

The IECC Libraries Winter Reading Bingo is underway. Pick up your card in the OCC Anderson Library and get started today.

For each bingo you get, in any direction on the card, your name will be entered into the grand prize drawing on

March 1.

The campus library with the most bingos turned in wins bragging rights and the Golden Journal Traveling Trophy for the year.

The event runs through Feb. 28.



# Welding Club attends FABTECH in Georgia

Olney Central College's Welding Club attended FABTECH, North America's largest metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing event.

More than 1,200 exhibiting companies participated in the Nov. 8-10 expo at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. Among them were major distributors Lincoln Electric, Everlast, Fronius and Miller Electric.

"It is such a big event that you can't see everything in two days," said OCC Welding Instructor Curtis Marshall. "It was a great experience for the students. They were able to see all of the latest innovations associated with metal working and had the chance to watch various demonstrations. They also had booths set up where the students could try different equipment. The latest and greatest in metal fabrication equipment was there."

OCC student Will Bookhout, of Olney, was one of 18 students who made the trip with Marshall and adjunct instructor Wes Phillips.

"Getting to see all of the new equipment that is coming out and getting a chance to use it was great," Bookhout said. "It was very fabrication-oriented. All of the companies sent their best employees to meet and talk with people. We had a good time and got to see some really cool stuff. There were even a few virtual reality welding machines you could try."

Exhibitors also gave away items including grinding disks, polishing pads, paint markers and clamps.

Welding student Ken Hake, who retired from the gas and oil industry, said the vast array of technology was impressive.

"I thought it was interesting how many various industries were represented," he said. "Welding isn't a narrow career choice. It can provide a pathway to other opportunities from robotics to fabrication. I think it opened the students' eyes and minds on what they can do within the industry and what it can hold for them."

Overall, Hake said it was a great experience.

"For me, I really enjoyed the fellowship and being with other people who are interested in the same field. I think it is great the college allowed the class to go as a whole and provided this opportunity for the students."

Marshall said students also were able to network with employers.

"A couple of students talked with companies and they plan to follow up and reconnect with them after they finish the program," he added.

The Welding Club funded its trip with proceeds from a recent pork loin sale. The group also received donations for items the members fabricated. These included custom brackets for a truck and tables and shelving for a local welding shop.

"We would like to thank everyone who supported the club's fund-raiser and made this possible," Marshall added.







Manager Cristina Seigel displays some of the customized items that are available in the Bookstore.

## Bookstore adds customization service

Want to personalize your favorite OCC T-shirt or even design your own OCC gear? You can with the Olney Central College Bookstore's new customization service.

Pricing starts as low as \$4 and is available for items purchased in the Bookstore or acquired from outside retailers. These can include cotton clothing, cups, mugs and blankets. Examples are currently on display in the Bookstore.

"If you have a design in mind, come in and see us and we will do our best to take care of you," said Bookstore Manager Cristina Seigel. "The sky is the limit on ideas. Everything is done in-house and at half the cost of ordering customized items online."

Customizable Christmas ornaments are now available for purchase.

## TRIO Upward Bound students give thanks

The IECC TRIO Upward Bound staff hosted a workshop on Nov. 19 at Olney Central College.

During one of the breakout sessions students and staff were asked to decorate a leaf with something they are grateful for. Once all the leaves were finished, the staff and students created a bulletin board outside of the Student Services area with a tree made of all the leaves that says, "We are thankful."

TRIO left a stack of blank leaves next to the tree so that others who wanted to could make a leaf of their own and add it to the tree.

It felt good for the students and staff to express what they are grateful for and put it out there for everyone to be able to see and we hope others will do the same!







## Students attend 'Hansel and Gretel' at IU

OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman and his students recently attended a performance of Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* performed by the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington.

"We had excellent box seats for the event, and it was a wonderful production," Pittman said. "The sets and costumes were beautiful. The students really enjoyed it, and the orchestra was amazing."

While in Bloomington, the students dined at Taste of India and enjoyed dessert at the Chocolate Moose.

## Face-to-face Spanish classes available for Spring

Interested in learning Spanish? Olney Central College is offering face-to-face classes for Spring 2023.

SPN 1111 Elementary Spanish I will be offered from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. and 12 to 1:15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays .

The ability to converse in Spanish can be valuable in many careers including health care and public service fields.

For more information, contact your advisor or call 618-395-7777. Spring classes begin January 9.



## SNA Donation

The Student Nurses Association presented a \$500 donation to The Master's Hands in Olney. The funds were raised through SNA's annual T-shirt sale. Accepting the donation are Bekki and Ed White who are pictured with a few of the SNA members.

# Sports Schedule

## Men's Basketball

**Dec. 10** — OCC vs. Lake Land, 3 p.m. at home

**Dec. 14** — OCC at Lincoln Trail, 7 p.m.

**Dec. 17** — OCC at Rend Lake, 3 p.m.

**Jan. 7** — OCC vs. Indiana Elite Prep, 7 p.m. at home

**Jan. 11** — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, 7 p.m.

**Jan. 14** — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 3 p.m. at home

## Women's Basketball

**Dec. 10** — OCC vs. Lake Land, 1 p.m. at home

**Dec. 14** — OCC at Lincoln Trail, 5 p.m.

**Dec. 17** — OCC at Rend Lake, 1 p.m.

**Jan. 5** — OCC at Greenville JV, 7 p.m.

**Jan. 9** — OCC vs. Danville Area, 6 p.m. at home

**Jan. 11** — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, 5 p.m.

**Jan. 14** — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 1 p.m. at home

# Scholarship applications

OCC Foundation Annual and Spring 2023 scholarship applications are now available at [www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships).

Hurry, the deadline for Spring 2023 awards is Feb. 24.

For more information, contact OCC Financial Aid

# Lost & Found

If you have lost an item, please stop by Student Services.

The OCC Foundation Campaign for Excellence fundraising effort is currently underway. A letter was sent recently to hundreds of supporters and alumni of OCC inviting them to join in supporting OCC academic programs and services. Recently, the Foundation made mini-grant awards to various academic and student life requests totaling almost \$30,000. Including scholarship support, the Foundation made over \$271,000 available to OCC in 2021-22. Any donation is appreciated and can be made to the OCC Foundation by sending the contribution to: OCC Foundation, 305 N. West Street, Olney, IL 62450. All donations are tax deductible as the Foundation is a 501(C) (3) not-for-profit organization.



**Roger Eddy**

New and improved lighting has been installed in the OCC Theater, and repairs made to flashing and brick expansion joints to eliminate leaks in the theater lobby. These improvements come just in time for our next major production. On Dec. 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m., OCC will present, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. This is a stage "radio style" reproduction of the holiday classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, which will be great entertainment. You can learn more and purchase tickets by calling the OCC Theater box office at 618-395-7777, ext. 2408. This would be a terrific addition to your holiday entertainment list as OCC Theater Director Jon Wright is sure to provide the community with a great show.

David Denton in Hollywood! As you might have heard by now, OCC Professor David Denton will appear in two upcoming episodes of *History's Greatest Mysteries* on the History Channel. Recently, Mr. Denton traveled to Hollywood to share his knowledge and expertise with the world. He is respected as one of the foremost experts on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This appearance is just one example of the work that he has presented on this issue, which includes numerous published articles, appearances at other conferences, plus organizing a conference on this topic that was held in Olney recently. Mr. Denton is a long-time faculty member at OCC.

Several OCC Career and Technical Education programs recently purchased needed equipment thanks to IECC funding dedicated for these programs. The Allied Health program was able to purchase infusion pumps and vision ventilators for the nursing program. All four campuses received these upgrades. In addition, the welding program will be purchasing a welding simulator and a new kiln. The automotive repair program gets a collision repair virtual sprayer and industrial tech will add a 3D printer. All of these will modernize these important programs to continue providing high quality educational experiences for our students.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) held an induction ceremony on Dec. 6 to welcome new members and honor any students finishing degrees in December. It is always great to see new members of this society that recognizes academic achievement and provides students with opportunities to grow as leaders.

The OCC faculty and staff Christmas party was a huge success. The gathering took place at Irene's Vineyard near Sainte Marie on Dec. 2. There were other holiday-related activities led by staff and organizations which reflect the spirit of the season. For example, the OCC Phi Theta Kappa along with the Student Nurses Association teamed up to help a local family in need. A donation drive was held to collect items for a single mother and her two young children. That sums up the spirit of the season for OCC. All of us here at OCC wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and hope that 2023 is the best year ever for you and your entire family!