

# NETWORK



MARCH 2024



## HIGHLIGHTS



*Celebrate Art! event returns to Lincoln Trail College*



*Young Women LEAD brings empowerment for young women to LTC*



*Frog and Toad cast bringing their talents to local libraries*

## ***AMICONE WRAPS UP YEAR AS STUDENT TRUSTEE***

**L**incoln Trail College sophomore Guadalupe Amicone is wrapping up her one-year term as a Student Trustee on the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Board of Trustees.

"My experience as Student Trustee has been a valuable journey, involving both understanding the needs of the student body and personal growth," said Amicone. "Serving in this role gave me the opportunity to observe how a college works as a business. I realized how complicated it is to turn an idea into a real project and finally make that project happen. Additionally, I gained insights into the student body's desires for improvement, their feelings about college, and the significance of it in their lives."

Amicone says serving on the Board helped her develop her leadership skills.

"When I reviewed policies and projects, I consistently questioned whether they truly benefited the students. This experience has equipped me with valuable skills, including effective communication, proper etiquette,



## UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

- 1-5 **Celebrate Art! Display**  
Learning Commons
- 2 **IECC Career Skills Workshop**  
11-6, Lincoln Room
- 4 **LTC Foundation Concert Series: Motorown All-Stars**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 9 **Early Childhood Education & Social Services Town Hall Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 10 **Senior Start**  
8-11:30, Campus-wide
- 12 **A Year With Frog and Toad**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 13 **A Year With Frog and Toad**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 14 **A Year With Frog and Toad**  
2 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 17 **Broadband Telecom Advisory Council**  
8-1, Professional Annex 403
- 19 **CPR Training**  
8-4, Professional Annex 403
- A Year With Frog and Toad**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 20 **Music Scholarship Auditions**  
12-3 p.m., Lackey Music Hall
- A Year With Frog and Toad**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 21 **A Year With Frog and Toad**  
2 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 23 **Nuttall Middle School Health Careers Day**  
1:15-2:40 p.m.
- 24 **Eagleton Book Club**  
6 p.m., Learning Commons
- 25 **LTC Foundation Meeting**  
12 p.m., Lincoln Room
- 26 **Spring Choral Concert**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 27 **Children's Summer Theater Registration**  
8-10 a.m., Zwermann Arts Center
- 28 **Youth Recitals**  
1:30 p.m., Lackey Music Hall & Zwermann Arts Center Theater
- 29-30 **Music Juries**
- 30 **Nuttall Middle School Career & Technical Education Day**  
1:15-2:40 p.m.,
- Jazz Band Concert**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater

the ability to act appropriately in formal meetings and my networking abilities have improved as well. I gained the skill of understanding perspectives from both sides - that of the students and the college."

She says when she was first elected to the Board, her goals were to improve the pantry, cafeteria, and contribute to housing projects.

"My significant achievements on the Board include playing a key role in the approval of housing-related policies and enhancements to the LTC pantry. Additionally, I am currently involved in initiatives to enhance the cafeteria in collaboration with PTK. As the President of this chapter, we have chosen to focus our 2024 College Project on cafeteria improvement. The collaboration with the administration in our college projects adds a lot of value. We have held two meetings with President Tona Ambrose so far, and I am committed to completing the college project before my transfer. I am sure this is the first step towards making the LTC cafeteria better in the future."

Amicone has advice for her successor.

"For future Trustees, my advice is to acknowledge that you may not know everything discussed in board meetings, so do not hesitate to ask questions. Dr. Gower, despite a busy schedule, always makes time for Trustees, highlighting the importance of communication. The Board encourages you to share your perspective, so do not hesitate to speak up. I have experienced feeling nervous about talking in front of experienced individuals, but the truth is, that learning involves both listening and communicating. Moreover, pay attention to the concerns and desires of the students you represent."

Amicone, who is from Buenos Aries, Argentina, plans to transfer to Mid-America Christian University to continue her academic and soccer career. She says she's thankful for the students who had confidence in her and voted for her last year.

"Two years ago, the idea of coming to the US as a student-athlete was unbelievable. But serving as the Student Trustee for IECC Colleges and representing the student body on the board has been an immense honor."

## LTC CELEBRATES ART



Over 70 high school artists in Crawford County participated in Lincoln Trail College's Celebrate Art! event. The day gives artists a chance to be inspired by hearing from a guest artist. They also viewed artwork submitted to the Celebrate Art! contest and voted for a People's Choice award.

This year's featured artist was Nancy Nichols-Pethick from Indiana State University. She has taught painting and drawing at Indiana State University for 20 years and exhibits her work nationally. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including the Grand Prize for the 2023 William T. Turman Plein Air Painting Competition. She grew up in Maine and received her BFA from the University of Southern Maine and her MFA in Painting from ISU.

Nichols-Pethick shared what she's learned in her lifetime of making art. She described her best friend as art, her worst enemy as "Purfekshun Izum," and failure as her favorite teacher. Throughout her presentation, she gave the students several opportunities to make drawings and share them with their friends. She left the students with one final challenge when it comes to art, "you will never know until you try."

Students submitted 41 pieces of artwork to the Celebrate Art! competition. Judges reviewed the work and awarded Robinson High School's Carlee Neeley the Best of Show Award for her clay and acrylic paint piece "Love Sick." Neeley's "Fallen Flame" won the People's Choice award.

Breana Pettigrew, Emma Newlin, Max Wallace, and LilyAnn Mullins from Hutsonville High School, Sydney Drum and Gracie Groves from Oblong High School, and Alix Bennett from Palestine High School earned Outstanding Artist Awards.

The eight winning pieces of art from the competition will be on display at the Lincoln Trail College Learning Commons through April 5.



Nancy Nicols-Pethick interacts with a student during her presentation.

## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS EMPOWERED AT YOUNG WOMEN LEAD



Sophomore and Junior girls from six area high schools came to Lincoln Trail College on March 7 for the Young Women LEAD Conference. The conference focuses on leadership, education, and development and features interactive keynotes, breakout sessions, and community and business leaders. The free conference teaches important skills needed to be successful in the workforce and ways to develop confidence and leadership potential.

Julie Carrier was this year's keynote presenter. She has been recognized as the number-one global coach for young women and is the trusted authority on leadership development and confidence for girls and young women worldwide.

Participants got to attend three interactive breakout sessions. They were delivered by a variety of successful women who represent a variety of careers and personal choices. The women are experts on issues that high school girls are currently facing.

The breakout sessions included topics like STEM, personalities, money management, finding your voice, life after high school, stress, entrepreneurship, healthcare, creating healthy habits, and championing yourself and others.

In addition to the sessions, the students had the opportunity to send a postcard to space. It was through Blue Origin's Club for the Future.

The postcards will be launched into space and returned back to Earth on a New Shepard rocket. The postcards will be returned to the girls stamped "Flown to Space."



Jamie Barbee and Andrea Loll pose with students participating in their breakout session.

## **FROG AND TOAD CAST HEADING TO LIBRARIES FOR READING SESSIONS**



Cast members from Lincoln Trail College's production of *A Year With Frog and Toad* are taking their talents to another venue. In addition to the six performances of the musical, cast members are participating in reading sessions of the popular books at libraries.

"We're very excited to share this wonderful show and these characters with the public," said LTC Theater Director Taylor Dahlberg. "Families are going to have a great time when we visit libraries and share the readings."

Cast members will be at the Robinson Public Library on Saturday, March 16 at 2 p.m. They'll perform another reading at the Lincoln Trail College Learning Commons on Friday, March 22 at 5 p.m. The readings are geared toward children and their families.

LTC's production of *A Year With Frog and Toad* is April 12, 13, 19, and 20 at 7 p.m. and April 14 and 21 at 2 p.m. at the Zwermann Arts Center Theater. Tickets go on sale to the public on April 1.

*A Year With Frog and Toad* follows upbeat Frog and grumpy Toad, two best friends who are waking up from hibernation and beginning their year in the Spring. We watch as Frog and Toad go throughout the four seasons, going on adventures, learning to garden, going for a swim, and playing in the Fall leaves before settling back down again in the winter. Throughout the year we meet several friends of Frog and Toad's like three Birds, Turtle, Mouse, and Snail who has a very important task to accomplish. Frog and Toad both learn important life lessons and celebrate their unique friendship in this jazzy upbeat musical.

The role of Frog will be played by Brennan Seth Tracy while Rowan Gray will play Toad. Makenzi Carlen will play the role of Snail. Becca Geffs will play Bird 1, Turtle, and Mother Frog. Al Crosley plays the roles of Bird 2, Mouse, and Father Frog. Anna Bales plays Bird 3 and Lizard. Ashtyn Reid will play Young Frog while Michael Johnston will play the role of Great and Terrible Frog. The cast is rounded out by Moles and Dancers Anna Osborn, Kinley Bradbury, and Reid.

## **GONZALEZ NAMED NEW SOCCER COACH**

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Lincoln Trail College named Jesus Gonzalez its new soccer coach. Gonzalez comes to LTC with 20 years of experience as a player and more than four years of experience as a coach.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity," said Gonzalez. "This is my first job at the college level and I really liked Lincoln Trail College when I came to visit. The people here are very nice."

Gonzalez served as the Head Soccer Coach at Maryville High School and Kearney High School. As a head coach, he has a 91-41-1 record and was named the MEC Coach of the Year in 2022. With the boys' team at Maryville, he led the team to a third-place finish in the state tournament, the best position in program history. He coached the State Offensive Player of the Year and the Goalkeeper of the Region. He led the girls' team to back-to-back

state quarterfinal appearances and coached the offensive and defensive players of the region.

He says his first priority is to start building for next season. "With the men's team, I want to keep the core players that helped them win the Region 24 Championship last season and I want to bring in additional players that will help them advance further. For the women's team, I want to work hard to help them surpass what they've been able to achieve."

Gonzalez earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Business Administration from Campbellsville University in 2016, an Associate in Coaching from Cloud County Community College in 2017, and an MBA from Northwest Missouri State University in 2020.

"I'm really excited to come to Lincoln Trail College and start working," said Gonzalez. "I looking forward to helping the program grow, the college grow, and to be a part of this community."

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## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

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### **Springing Forward...Together**

Daylight saving time, bright yellow daffodils, "Mr. Harmon's tree" beginning to bud, warmer temperatures, and birds singing are all welcomed "signs of spring." At Lincoln Trail College, we see "signs of spring" via midterm exams, spring sports, graduation applications, and 2024-25 LTC Foundation scholarship packets being dropped off to campus. A time of excitement and anticipation for the upcoming end of another semester, the fountain being returned to Miller Lake, and caps and gowns for soon-to-be graduates to wear while receiving their diplomas. Across the Illinois Eastern Community College District, "signs of spring" are unfolding as our new Divisions begin to work collaboratively for the first time with various offices, new inter-departmental partnerships are in bloom, and a promising vision continues to shine through the lens of the IECC Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP). This SEP functions as a blueprint that is helping everyone at IECC know where and how to plant seeds that will grow to build systems and foster processes that allow us to better meet the needs of our students and our communities. As the President of LTC and also the new Vice Chancellor for Institutional Outreach, I see this specific springtime as a pivotal season in which plans and strategies that were introduced in the Fall of 2023, are now taking root and bearing fruit both internally and externally. This is a special time in history to be part of Lincoln Trail College and the Illinois Eastern Community College District as we are not just progressing, we are **SPRINGING FORWARD TOGETHER** with a more defined purpose and a unified commitment to excellence.



## MARCH ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Baseball

2	Lake Land College (DH)	1:00
4	Frontier Community College	3:00
6	at Frontier Community College (DH)	12:00
10	Danville Area Community College	3:00
11	at Olney Central College	3:00
13	Olney Central College (DH)	12:00
16	Wabash Valley College	2:00
18	at Rend Lake College	3:00
20	Rend Lake College (DH)	12:00
23	at Wabash Valley College (DH)	1:00
25	Vincennes University	3:00
30	at Danville Area Community College	3:00

### Golf

6-7 at Battle of the Woods  
 15-16 at Missouri Baptist University Invitational  
 20-21 at Vincennes University Invitational  
 29-30 at Region 24 Championship

### Softball

4	at John A. Logan College (DH)	2:00
6	at Kaskaskia College (DH)	12:00
9	Southeastern Illinois College (DH)	2:00
11	Olney Central College (DH)	2:00
18	Rend Lake College (DH)	2:00
20	at Lake Land College (DH)	12:00
23	Southwestern Illinois College (DH)	2:00
25	at Shawnee Community College (DH)	2:00
27	at Wabash Valley College (DH)	12:00
30	Frontier Community College (DH)	2:00

## AMICONE COMMITS TO MACU



Guadalupe Amicone, has announced her commitment to continue her academic and athletic journey at Mid-America Christian University (MACU) following her graduation in May 2024. Amicone, known for her exceptional skills on the field and her dedication to personal growth, looks forward to joining MACU's soccer program and pursuing her major in Marketing Management.

Reflecting on her time at Lincoln Trail, Amicone expressed gratitude for the opportunities she's had to acclimate to American culture and excel both as a player and a student. She remarked, "LTC has helped me get used to American culture, develop not only as a player and as a student but also as a person. I feel very confident to do this next step and I'm very grateful for Lincoln Trail."

Her decision to join MACU was driven by the university's renowned academic programs and the strong soccer program led by Coach Anthony. Amicone stated, "The good level of soccer was my priority. MACU has a great academic program where I'll be able to pursue my major of Marketing Manager. Coach Anthony and I connected very well."

In Amicone's two years at Lincoln Trail, she had 19 goals, and 13 assists.

Her advice to any upcoming Statesmen is "Get Involved! There are so many opportunities on campus to develop yourself. Ask questions, talk with people, get engaged with classes, groups, new experiences and get out of your comfort zone!"

## BASCON COMMITS TO MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



After an outstanding tenure at Lincoln Trail College, Tomas Bascon announces his commitment to further his athletic and academic career at Mid America Christian University (MACU). The accomplished soccer player credits his journey and success to his relentless dedication and the foundation laid at Lincoln Trail College.

Reflecting on his time at Lincoln Trail, Bascon remarked, "For me, Lincoln Trail was the beginning of everything. It gave me all the tools and training I required to make the leap I always desired." With perseverance and determination, Bascon elevated his skills and performance, setting the stage for his next chapter in collegiate soccer.

## **GRANJA HEADED TO SAINT THOMAS UNIVERSITY**

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Isabella Granja has officially signed with Saint Thomas University (STU). Granja's decision comes after a careful evaluation of her options and a desire to continue her academic and athletic pursuits at a university that aligns with her goals and values.

"Not being committed to a school was very stressful because I know how much my future here in the U.S. depends on being a student-athlete, but I also knew that I couldn't let that stress affect my performance as an athlete or a student because, at the end, that is what open the doors for us here," remarked Isabella.

Granja's journey to STU has been marked by both joy and stress, as she navigated the process of finding the right fit for her academic and athletic aspirations. Reflecting on her decision, Granja shared, "Looking for schools to transfer to was very joyful but also stressful experience. The way I found STU was looking for the best programs and schools in the southern part of the country, and as

soon as I saw St. Thomas I fell in love. Talking with the coaches really influenced that decision."

Granja credits her time at Lincoln Trail College for laying the foundation for her success in the United States. "Lincoln Trail helped me build a base in the United States and helped me be ready to transfer to a bigger school. Moving out of my home country could have been way more stressful but being surrounded by my teammates, coaches, and teachers really made this transition way easier," she expressed gratefully.

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## **MOURA COMMITS TO UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY**

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"I am excited to announce my commitment to play Division 1 soccer at the University of Missouri - Kansas City! I'd like to thank God for this opportunity, my family, friends and coaches. #ROOUP" Mateus Moura shared to Instagram.

After a historic season at Lincoln Trail, Moura's dedication to his craft has earned him spot at UMKC, where he plans to continue his athletic and academic journey.

Moura's journey to UMKC was marked by unwavering determination and focus. Reflecting on his strategy, Moura stated, "I knew if we had a good season we would have better chances of being seen by bigger schools and getting more offers, so that was where I focused the most this past season and it worked out well." A key aspect of Moura's success was his ability to manage pressure effectively. He shared, "What I did to not put myself in a pressure situation was to not think/care about the schools until the end of the season, so all I worried about was to perform good and help my team succeed."



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## **SANCHES COMMITS TO MARS HILL UNIVERSITY**

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Leonardo Sanches has announced his commitment to continue his soccer career at Mars Hill University.

Sanches mentioned his time at Lincoln Trail and how it gave him a huge opportunity. "Lincoln Trail helped me by giving me some tips to improve my performance on the field. They also gave me the opportunity to come to the United States."

## **SWEENEY LANDS WITH LANDER UNIVERSITY**

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Lincoln Trail College outfielder Collin Sweeney will continue his college career at Lander University after graduating from LTC. He announced his commitment on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"I'm very blessed and excited on my commitment to Lander University! I would like to thank my family, coaches, and friends who helped me along the way. Go Bearcats!"

Statesmen coach Collin Maynard believes that Sweeney will fit in well at Lander and impress the coaches from the moment he gets there with his work ethic and consistency.

"Collin Sweeney is a big time hitter at the plate. He has a smooth left handed swing that consistently results in hard contact and extra base hits. I am very proud of Sweeney and all of the hard work and dedication that he has put

in with us. I can't wait to see him continue to grow and develop at Lander University"

Maynard also mentioned that Sweeney has improved so much during his time at LTC. He says that Sweeney has really worked hard on his body to add strength and spends countless hours in the cage developing his swing.

He expects Sweeney to be an intricate part of their offense, hitting somewhere in the middle of our lineup for this upcoming spring.

As a freshman, Sweeney appeared at bat 99 times, 2 of those times resulting in home runs and an average of .232.

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## **PAYNE TO BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY**

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"Excited and honored to announce my commitment to Bellarmine University to continue my athletic and academic career. I want to thank God, former coaches, family, and friends who have supported me along the way!#swordsup" Owen Payne posted to X.

Collin Maynard, head coach of the LTC baseball team, expressed his confidence in Payne's abilities and readiness for the next level. "I believe Owen's time at Lincoln Trail has prepared him for the next level very well. He has shown that he is capable of any task set before him and will always attack it to the best of his abilities."

Maynard also spoke optimistically about Payne's future, despite an ongoing elbow injury. "Owen is currently rehabbing an elbow injury this season but I expect he will make a full recovery and come back stronger than ever."

Reflecting on Payne's journey, Maynard expressed his pride in Payne's commitment to Bellarmine University. "I am very proud of Owen's commitment to Bellarmine University. He has overcome a lot of adversity in his time here and no one is more deserving of this than Owen."

Maynard further emphasized Payne's potential impact on Bellarmine's baseball program. "I think once Owen steps foot on Bellarmine's campus he will immediately become an impact player. He has an electric fastball that has already been clocked as high as 94 MPH which will consistently jump on hitters and create uncomfortable at-bats."



# LTC IN PICTURES



Lincoln Trail College students enjoy a fun afternoon playing around in the snow.



Enough snow fell that the students were able to build a snowman.



Yvonne Newlin works with 5th and 6th grade band students from Marshall.



Dr. John McCarty works with 5th and 6th grade choral students from Marshall. Altogether, more than 90 students participate in the visit to LTC.



A men's soccer player shows off his Region 24 Championship Ring.



The men's soccer team received their Region 24 Championship rings during LTC's basketball games against Vincennes University.



Dean Cyndi Boyce spoke with students about the value of community college during Twin Rivers Career Day for 7th and 10th grade students.



President Tona Ambrose welcomes students to the Young Women LEAD Conference at Lincoln Trail College.