

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



AUGUST 2024

CALENDAR

AUGUST

15 — Fall Semester Classes Begin

15 — Last Day to Pay Fall Semester Tuition & Fees

16 — Thriving in College with Holly O'Brien, Student Union, noon

20 — Q & A Session with the OCC Student Ambassadors, Learning Commons, 10 a.m.

20 — Alumni Spotlight with Mark Richardson, Learning Commons, 1 p.m.

23 — Active Minds Meeting, Student Union, noon

27 — Club Rush, Student Union, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

28 — Last Day for 100 Percent Refund of Fall Semester Classes

28 — Last Day for Fall Semester Textbook Returns

SEPTEMBER

2 — College Closed - Labor Day

5 — Last Day to Enroll in Fall 2024 Tuition Payment (3) Plan

17 — Constitution Observance Day - Classes in Session



OCC Alum Robert Wray shared his research in a scientific poster presentation at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium in Hartford, Conn.

OCC Alum Completes Undergraduate Research Experience at Harvard

Olney Central College alum Robert Wray engaged in cutting-edge research this summer as an intern with the prestigious Genes, Ecosystems and Organisms REU at Harvard University.

Wray, a senior zoology major at Southern Illinois University, was one of just 25 students selected — from more than 550 applicants nationwide — to participate in the Research Experience for Undergraduates.

“When looking for REUs for this summer, I applied to about 10,” said Wray, who was surprised by the honor. “I applied to Harvard on a whim never expecting to get it because it is an Ivy League school after all. It still

blows my mind that I was chosen.”

The immersive 10-week summer program is designed for undergraduate students majoring in the life sciences and geared toward students, like Wray, who are interested in pursuing a PhD in evolution, ecology and environmental biology.

Hosted by the Departments of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and Human Evolutionary Biology, the experience enables students to engage in multidisciplinary research projects, professional development workshops and networking activities.

Wray and 11 fellow students were
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selected to focus on Organismal and Evolutionary Biology, which includes animal, plant and fungal biology.

"I personally have been working in the Hecht Lab, studying behavior in domestic dogs," Wray explained. "Particularly, I chose to research attachment behaviors in Golden Retrievers during a period of separation and reunion with their owner."

The preliminary results noticed a significant correlation between the household size and the number of times the dog vocalized. Additional attachment behaviors monitored included touching the door and physical contact with the owner.

"We noticed that the larger the household size, the less frequently the dog vocalized during the separation period," Wray pointed out. "We assume this is because the dogs from larger households may not be as attached to any one member of the house. Dogs from larger households also spent less time making contact with their owner during the reunion period."

Wray shared his research in a scientific poster presentation at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium in Hartford, Conn. His team is continuing to gather data and hopes to publish its findings next year.

Wray said the experience has helped solidify his future plans.

"The program has given me a better idea of what it means to do research," he said. "I was already interested in pursuing animal behavior and behavioral ecology as a field and this opportunity has been very topical and relevant to my goals. Obviously going forward having the name Harvard on my resume will look impressive and will perhaps help me obtain future opportunities."

Along with the academic challenges, Wray enjoyed the opportunity to explore Cambridge and Boston while connecting with other undergraduates.

"It's been really fun talking with and getting to know the other students in the program, learning about their research and hanging out with a few of them outside of their labs," he added.

Wray said OCC provided a solid foundation for his educational journey.

"OCC was helpful in giving me an idea of what college life was like," he said. "I learned at OCC the value of joining different student organizations and participating in things. Some of the classes I participated in at OCC gave me a good basis for classes I took at Carbondale. And of course, OCC gave me the ability to get halfway through my bachelor's degree without paying university prices."



Online zoology course available

For the first time ever, Olney Central College is offering LSC 1104 General Zoology as a fully online course with a shipped lab kit for students.

This non-major course emphasizes inquiry through selected topics in animal biology.

There is no college prerequisite for the course, but students are expected to have a basic understanding of high school general biology.

Contact your advisor for more information or to register.

OCC 2024-2025 Student Ambassadors

Olney Central College welcomes three Student Ambassadors for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Returning are OCC's first Student Ambassadors Emma Gill and Bel Cline who are being joined by Courtney Crawford.

The students work under the supervision of College Admission Representative Curtis Miller. Ambassadors participate in new student orientation and first-year experience activities, provide campus tours to prospective students and their families, and assist with a variety of office-related tasks.

Ambassadors also act as valuable sources of information and liaisons between students, staff and faculty.

Courtney Crawford

As a sophomore, Crawford has already made a significant impact at OCC. She is a devoted member of Phi Theta Kappa - Alpha Theta Eta, having served as last year's Public Relations Officer and now as Vice President.

She is also actively involved in TRIO Student Support Services and will be an ambassador for the organization this year, continuing her commitment to supporting her fellow students.

Crawford is a familiar face to many, as a dedicated work-study student in Student Services

"I am excited to be selected as an OCC Student Ambassador," she said. "I want to be a leader for my fellow classmates and OCC. I also want to serve as an advocate for the college and its programs."

Crawford, of Olney, plans to transfer to Eastern Illinois University in Fall 2025 to pursue studies in Psychology and Early Childhood Education.

"I have absolutely loved my first year at OCC," she said. "I have been able to build friendships and connections with fellow students, staff and administration that have greatly influenced my life. I look forward to more instances and interactions with fellow students at OCC."

Emma Gill

Gill is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and assists the OCC social media team, creating student content videos.

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Above, OCC Student Ambassadors for 2024-2025, from left, are Courtney Crawford, Emma Gill and Bel Cline. Below, Crawford and Gill assist with the OCC Freshmen and Sophomore Athletic Meeting on August 12.



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When she's not conducting tours or helping fellow students, Gill can be found working at Colyer Coffee House in Albion.

"The best part of being a Student Ambassador is the social interactions," Gill said. "You get to meet a diverse range of people and connect with fellow students. I've truly enjoyed the experience."

Gill is studying Administration of Justice at OCC and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree.

"My instructors have prepared me to transfer through sharing their years of experience in the field with us," she added. "They have shared personal stories and cases to help prepare us for what we might face in our careers. Transfer-wise, I feel like I have taken multiple classes that will prepare me for higher-level learning, and I have been able to take classes now instead of at the university."

Bel Cline

Cline is a member of TRIO Student Support Services and OCC Active Minds. Last year, they assisted the OCC Learning Commons in digitizing the West Richland High School yearbooks and created videos for OCC's growing Tik Tok account.

"As a Student Ambassador, I like being able to help students access resources on campus," Cline said. "It's fun talking to people and sharing my experiences at OCC with them."

Cline is from Cisne and plans to transfer to pursue a bachelor's degree in Information Science, and earn a master's degree in Library Science.

"I chose OCC because it is affordable and accessible to my home," they said. "OCC also has great arts programs. I really enjoy spending time on campus because there is such a strong sense of community here. Attending OCC has been a great choice for me."

upcoming
EVENTS →



15-28

AUGUST
2024

		15 THURSDAY	16 FRIDAY
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes Start <p>8-4: Getting Started Help in the Learning Commons. 11-3: Free Popcorn in the Learning Commons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAWSA Friday <p>8-4: The Learning Commons: Not Your Grandparents' Library. Explore the resources like games, massage chairs, pods, and more. 12: Thriving in College with Holly O'Brien in the Student Union. 11-3: Lawn Games on the Student Union Patio.</p>
19 MONDAY	20 TUESDAY	21 WEDNESDAY	22 THURSDAY
<p>8-4: Getting Started Help in the Learning Commons. 11-3: Free Popcorn in the Learning Commons.</p>	<p>10: Q&A Session with the OCC Student Ambassadors in the Learning Commons. 1: Alumni Spotlight in the Learning Commons — Mark Richardson shares tips for making the most of your OCC experience.</p>	<p>8-4: The Learning Commons: Not Your Grandparents' Library. Explore the resources like games, massage chairs, pods, and more. 11-3: Free Popcorn in the Learning Commons.</p>	<p>8-4: Getting Started Help in the Learning Commons. 11-3: Free Popcorn in the Learning Commons.</p>
26 MONDAY	27 TUESDAY	28 WEDNESDAY	
<p>8-4: The Learning Commons: Not Your Grandparents' Library. Explore the resources like games, massage chairs, pods, and more. 11-3: Free Popcorn in the Learning Commons.</p>	<p>11-1: Club Rush in the Student Union. Discover how you can get involved in OCC campus life.</p>	<p>8-4: First 10-day Survey in the Learning Commons. Register for giveaways. 11-3: Free Popcorn in the Learning Commons.</p>	

OCC's Kaitlyn Weger earns MLIS Degree

Olney Central College Learning Commons Specialist Kaitlyn Weger has earned her Master of Library and Information Science Degree from the prestigious School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Weger participated in the iSchool's graduation ceremony on May 12 and officially completed her studies on August 5.

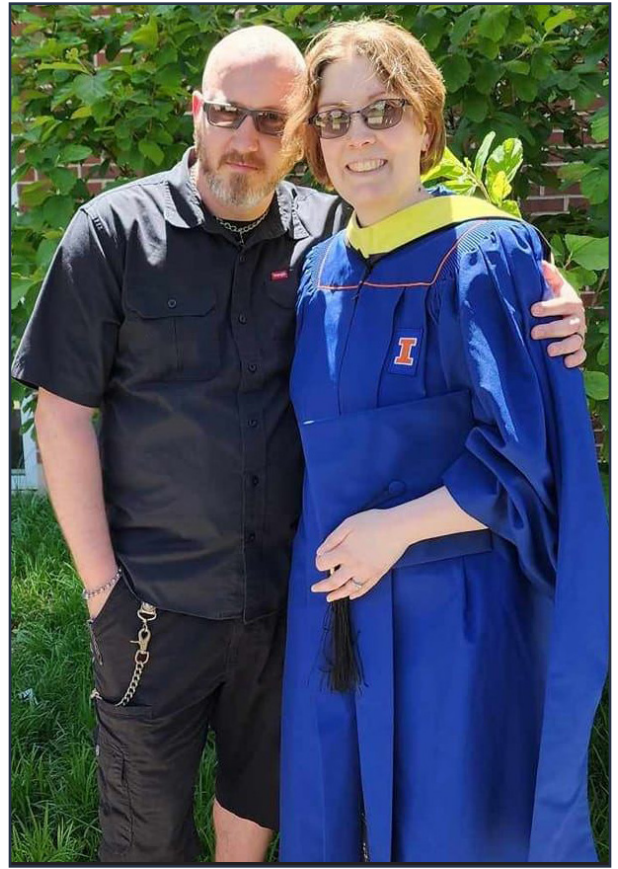
After initially hesitating for a few years, Weger made the decision to embark on this academic journey in January 2023.

"I had a bit of self-doubt that always talked me out of it," she said. "A couple years ago, I decided I needed to step out of my comfort zone more often and just decided to go for it."

She added, "I love working in a library, connecting with fellow bookworms, and helping patrons. This program has really helped me grow personally and professionally. I'm excited to see what the future holds for me now that I have my master's degree."

Earlier this year, Weger was honored with the 2024 Student Award from the Illinois iSchool Alumni Association. This award recognizes a student who has truly "caught the spirit" of the library and information science profession while working in a library setting and chose to further their education in this field.

In his nomination letter, OCC Learning Commons Director Chad Groves commended Weger's dedication and expertise, stating, "Whether aiding a student with a research paper, assisting a community member with resume design, or simply recommending the latest and greatest work of modern fiction, Kaitlyn embodies the attentive and knowledgeable librarian. She is a shining example of someone who has caught the spirit of library and information science and who is committed to sharing her passion and knowledge with everyone around her."



Kaitlyn Weger and her husband, John, attend the University of Illinois' School of Information Sciences Convocation Ceremony in May.

Blue Knight Basketball Golf Classic Aug. 24

The OCC Annual Blue Knight Basketball Golf Classic will be August 24 at the Richland Country Club in Olney.

Registration begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by tee-off time at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$80 per entrant and includes green fee and cart for 18 holes of golf, refreshments on the course, lunch and dinner. Tee-Box sponsorships are available for a \$100 donation.

Prizes will be awarded for top team score, worst team score and closest to the pin.

The cost to attend dinner and the awards ceremony only is \$20 per person. The meal will include pork chops, brisket, potatoes, beans, slaw and desserts.

Registration forms are available by contacting Coach Jim Glash at 573-647-0153 or by emailing glashj@iecc.edu. Forms should be returned as soon as possible.

WINE
Tasting Fundraiser

OCTOBER 25
6:30-9:30 PM
RICHLAND GOLF COURSE

 **OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE
FOUNDATION**

Peer Support

Learning Commons

Study Pod 3

Monday 10-12

Wednesday 10-12

Friday 9-12

Peer to Peer conversation, to offer support, resources, or just to talk.
We're here to help you.





Work Study Peer Support Leader Positions

Pays
Current
Illinois
Minimum
Wage

Be a
Leader
and Help
Others

Flexible
Work
Hours



Contact Financial Aid
for more information



Let's Talk.

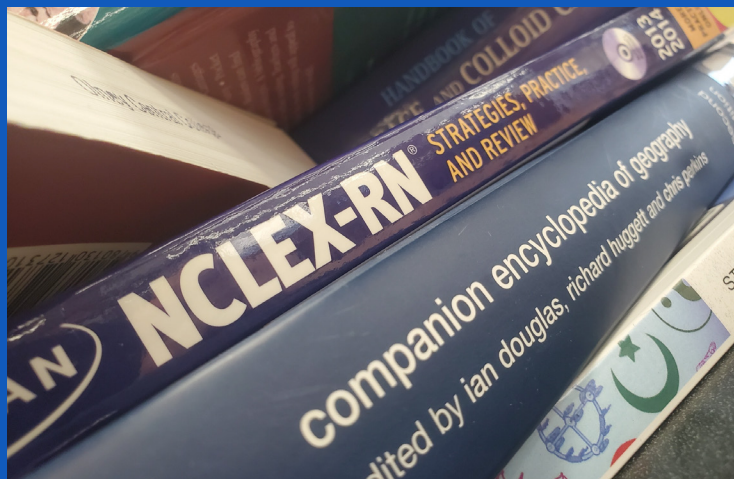
Drop-in Consultations with
Holly O'Brien ACSW, LCSW
IECC Mental Health Specialist

Informal, private
sessions meant to
provide support,
resources, or just
talk it out.

September 25th
9am-2pm
OCC Learning Commons
no appointment necessary

THRIVING IN COLLEGE

SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS!



COUNSELOR CHAT
8/16 @ 12PM IN THE OCC
STUDENT UNION
ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!