

# NETWORK



SEPTEMBER 2024



## HIGHLIGHTS



Ethan Dhom is the latest family member to continue the tradition of LTC.



LTC to showcase creativity and performance during Arts Day.



Andy Bradbury reflects on 30 years of martial arts at LTC.

## ***A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE: HALEY BRICKER'S INTERNSHIP WITH THE CCDA***

A partnership between the Crawford County Development Association and Lincoln Trail College gave one student an opportunity to gain valuable experience. Haley Bricker ('24) recently completed a six-month-long internship with the CCDA.

The internship opportunity arose from a conversation between LTC President Tona Ambrose and CCDA Executive Director Resa Shaner. Ambrose, who also serves on the CCDA Board, and Shaner recognized the potential for student growth and community exposure via the internship opportunity. For Bricker, the path to this opportunity was paved by her business class instructor, Amie Mayhall, who recommended her for the position.

Shaner, who has decades of professional experience, embraced the role of mentor with enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility. "I was honored, but I also knew I had a grave responsibility to share the work that CCDA



## UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

- 1 Business Plan Challenge Workshop**  
5 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 2 Pastel Art Class**  
6 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 9 Midterm**  
  
**Pastel Art Class**  
6 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 10 Student Senate Pancake Night**  
6 p.m., Statesmen Grill  
  
**Psychology of a Serial Killer**  
6 p.m., Learning Commons
- 11 University of Illinois Eat. Save. Move. Booth**  
9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Williams Hall Hallway
- 14 COLLEGE CLOSED - Columbus Day**
- 15 Business Plan Challenge Workshop**  
5 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 16 Pastel Art Class**  
6 p.m., Statesmen Grill
- 17 Psychology of a Serial Killer**  
6 p.m., Learning Commons
- 23 Eagleton Book Club**  
6 p.m., Learning Commons
- 24 LTC Foundation Meeting**  
12 p.m., Lincoln Room  
  
**Trick or Treat at the Trail**  
4 p.m., Campus-wide
- 31 Dracula**  
7 p.m., Zwermann Arts Center Theater  
  
**Dracula Costume Contest**  
Follows play, Zwermann Arts Center Theater

does and an opportunity to help someone else learn. Being a mentor is hard work, but totally worth it!"

Initially, Bricker was tasked with administrative support duties, but as Shaner recognized her growing capabilities, the intern's responsibilities expanded. Soon, Bricker was preparing meeting minutes, organizing analytical work, and assisting with monthly financial reports.

Shaner says there were three key things that she wanted to make sure Bricker took away from the internship. "I wanted her to get exposure to the community by attending things like HR roundtable meetings and community meetings so she could get a glimpse of what happens in Crawford County and meet the key stakeholders who make a difference. I wanted to give Haley a vision of what it would be like to be a potential female leader in the community and instill confidence in her ability to achieve any task and make a difference. I also wanted to provide practical experience in daily tasks and time management."

Bricker says her knowledge of the community increased. She says she also improved her computer skills and communication skills. "It was great to have Resa as a mentor. Resa is very kindhearted, very knowledgeable, and a hard worker, it was a pleasure to be able to work by her side. She is someone I can say I look up to."

She says that her classes at Lincoln Trail College helped prepare her well for the internship with the CCDA, especially the classes that focused on things like Excel, Word, and PowerPoint. She says that LTC provided a solid foundation that allowed her to hit the ground running when she started her internship.

As Bricker moves forward, she carries with her not just new skills and knowledge, but also a

place in the Leadership Crawford County program. "This internship has opened doors and provided insights that will undoubtedly help in my future career path."

Shaner says the internship proved valuable not just for Bricker, but for the CCDA as well. "Until you have dedicated time to an internship program, the impact is difficult to understand and measure. I enjoyed fun times and difficult times with someone much younger, over 40 years younger, than me. I was challenged to see the workplace through a different lens, that challenge is important to the intern and mentor, when we forget others' perspectives, we lose the ability to help others and grow our organization. Providing that perspective is, in my opinion, one of the main reasons we do internships and how they can be effective in our community."

She says that she already misses having Bricker in the office and she's looking forward to her next opportunity to have an intern work with her.

Bricker offered advice to other students considering internships, "If the opportunity comes take it because you never know what you might learn."

## A FAMILY TRADITION: THE DHOMS AND LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

The Dhom family has found a common thread in their academic journeys: Lincoln Trail College. LTC has not only shaped their individual paths but has become an integral part of their family narrative.

The Dhom family's connection with LTC began with parents Laura and her husband, who pursued traditional associate degree programs right after high school. Their experience set the stage for what would become a family tradition. Laura reflects on this shared experience, saying, "It means a lot because we've all used LTC for different reasons, for different goals with our education. We all have different degrees in different fields. And so it really means that we were able to benefit as an entire family from LTC."



Laura Dhom speaks about her family's experiences at Lincoln Trail College

Following in their parents' footsteps, the Dhom children took their own unique paths through LTC. Their daughter began taking LTC classes during her junior and senior years of high school. Then came Ethan, the latest Dhom to grace LTC's virtual and physical classrooms, who completed his entire associate degree while still in high school.



Ethan Dhom shares his journey at Lincoln Trail College

Ethan Dhom's experience at LTC has been nothing short of transformative. "My experience here at LTC has been very good," Ethan shares. "I started off with Intro to Chemistry here in person, and that was a really good first step of learning what college life was like and how professors were and how it all went together."

Now a freshman at Purdue University pursuing mechanical engineering, Ethan credits LTC for his smooth transition. "Purdue actually accepted all of my LTC courses as is. I'm going in as a sophomore right now and I can't ask for much more," he explains. This head start not only saves time and money but also alleviates the stress of overbooked classes that many of his peers face.

For the Dhom family, LTC has served as more than just a local college. It's been a crucial stepping stone between the small-town high school experience and the challenges of a large university. Laura emphasizes this point: "There's a transition that happens when you're leaving such a small, tight-knit community and then going into, far, going far away from home into a bigger community. So it's helped that transition."

Ethan echoes this sentiment, adding, "LTC kind of allows you to bridge that gap at a slower pace. And I think it's nice."

When asked what advice she would give to students considering LTC, Laura doesn't hesitate: "I would tell them to definitely consider LTC as well as all the IECC colleges for the courses they need. It's a great way for our students in Crawford County to supplement their education, to be prepared for that next step and to really go into the four-year college experience with confidence."

To parents, Laura emphasizes the importance of collaboration: "Work closely with your school, work closely with the advisors at LTC, and also work closely with the four-year school that your student is desiring to go to."

As Ethan embarks on his journey at Purdue, carrying with him the foundation built at LTC, the Dhom family's story serves as a testament to the power of community colleges in shaping not just individual futures, but family legacies. Their experience highlights how institutions like Lincoln Trail College can provide a bridge to higher education, fostering academic growth and personal development along the way.



## **LTC TO HOST ARTS DAY ON SEPTEMBER 12**



Lincoln Trail College will host its annual Arts Day on September 12, offering prospective students a hands-on opportunity to explore the wide array of arts programs available at the college. The event is designed to introduce students to the vibrant arts community at LTC and showcase the diverse opportunities available for creative expression.

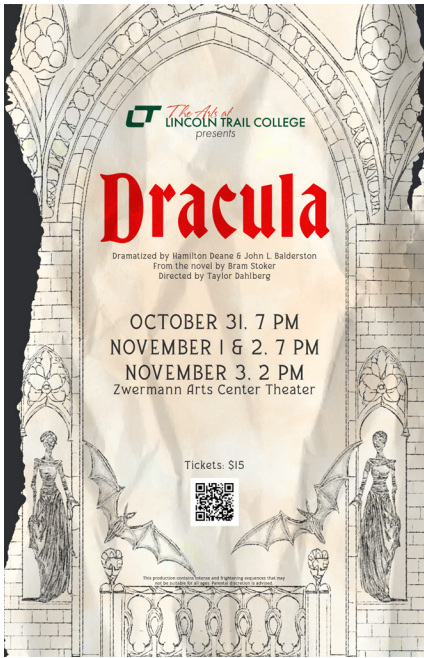
Attendees will experience interactive presentations led by LTC's arts faculty. Jena Combs and Yvonne Newlin will offer a deep dive into the world of music, providing insights into LTC's music program. Angie Compton will demonstrate various techniques in visual art. Taylor Dahlberg will lead students through the exciting and collaborative world of theater, highlighting the college's vibrant stage productions.

In addition to these presentations, students will also learn about the various scholarship opportunities available to those pursuing the arts at LTC. With numerous ways to get involved and further their education, Arts Day is the perfect opportunity for students interested in the arts to discover how they can cultivate their talents and achieve their academic goals at LTC.

"We want students to leave Arts Day knowing that Lincoln Trail College offers numerous paths for creative growth," said IECC Director of Marketing Chris Forde. "Whether they're interested in music, art, or theater, there's a place for them here, and we're excited to show them what LTC has to offer."

Arts Day will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. on September 12.

## LTC ANNOUNCES CAST FOR UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF DRACULA



The Arts at Lincoln Trail College proudly announces the cast for its upcoming fall production of Dracula. Directed by Taylor Dahlberg, this thrilling adaptation of Bram Stoker's classic novel promises to captivate audiences with its gothic drama and suspense.

Tom Moore will play the role of Dr. Van Helsing. John Harker will be played by William Prindable. Brady Thompson plays Renfield and Ryan Pinkston plays the role of Dr. Seward. Aubrey Lawson will play Lucy and Dracula is played by Justin Janney. Grae Drake plays the Maid and Brennan Seth Tracy plays the Attendant.

Opening night for Dracula is October 31 at 7 p.m. Dracula will also have performances at 7 p.m. on November 1 and 2 and a 2 p.m. matinee on November 3.

In this timeless tale, Lucy Seward, whose father is the doctor in charge of an English sanatorium, has been attacked by some mysterious illness. Dr. Van Helsing, a specialist, believes that the girl is the victim of a vampire, a sort of ghost that goes about at night sucking blood from its victims. The vampire is at last found to be a certain Count Dracula, whose ghost is finally laid to rest in a striking and novel manner. The show does contain some

frightening sequences that may not be suitable for all audience members. Parental discretion is advised.

Tickets for Dracula are \$15 and go on sale to the public beginning October 12. Tickets are available online by visiting [cur8.com](http://cur8.com).

## LTC PLANNING DRACULA BOOK CLUB

In celebration of its fall production of Dracula, The Arts at Lincoln Trail College is excited to announce the launch of a Dracula Book Club, offering a deep dive into Bram Stoker's iconic novel that inspired the stage adaptation.

The book club will meet on October 4, 11, 18, 25, and November 8, allowing participants to explore the rich themes and gothic atmosphere of Dracula through engaging discussions.



For a fee of \$25, participants will receive a copy of Bram Stoker's Dracula, a themed bookmark, and a limited-edition Dracula T-shirt.

The club provides an excellent opportunity for fans of the book, newcomers, and theatergoers alike to immerse themselves in the world of Victorian horror before experiencing the story live on stage.

"We are thrilled to create this interactive literary experience to complement our production," said Theater Director Taylor Dahlberg. "It's a chance for our community to come together and explore this timeless tale in a fun and collaborative environment."



## MARTIAL ARTS MOVES FROM LTC TO CCRC



After three decades of dedication and countless lives touched, Andy Bradbury's martial arts program at Lincoln Trail College is embarking on an exciting new journey. The program, a cornerstone of community fitness and personal development, has found a new home at the Crawford County Recreation Center.

Bradbury's journey in martial arts began in 1984 when he was just 15 years old. "It took a very shy, insecure kid at 15 years old and gave him a sense of purpose in life," Bradbury reflects. That purpose has driven him to share his passion with others for over 30 years at Lincoln Trail College.

Throughout the years, Bradbury's classes have faced numerous challenges, from sharing spaces in the college cafeteria to utilizing hallways when student numbers swelled to 60-70 participants. "It was always a fluid, deal with what's at hand, type of situation," Bradbury recalls. Despite these obstacles, the program thrived, a testament to Bradbury's dedication and the community's enthusiasm.

The transition to the Crawford County Recreation Center marks a significant milestone for the program. "I do have more space, which is awesome," Bradbury says, highlighting one of the immediate benefits of the move.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the new location is increased visibility. "Being at the Rec Center now is an advertisement, because people see us," Bradbury explains. This exposure is expected to attract new students and further grow the program, which currently boasts 26-28 dedicated participants.

Bradbury emphasizes that martial arts offer benefits far beyond physical fitness. "It can provide personal and mental wellness when approached the right way," he states. The program has become a cornerstone for family bonding, with parents and children often training together.

As the program settles into its new home, Bradbury remains committed to its growth and impact. "I'm looking forward to working as hard as I can to keep the class fresh and relevant," he says. "I think that in time, the class will thrive better than it has by moving to the Rec Center."

For Bradbury, teaching martial arts is more than just a job—it's a calling. "It's a ministry for me," he shares. "I hope and pray that I'm doing God's work."

## HOLDREITH JOINS LTC AS SPEECH AND ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR

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Lincoln Trail College is proud to welcome Abby Holdreith as its new Speech and English Instructor.

Holdreith's path to LTC has been paved with dedication to the field of education. A native of Olney, Illinois, she knew from an early age that she wanted to pursue a career in teaching, inspired by several family members who were administrators.

After attending Olney Central College, Holdreith graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. From there, she started her teaching career.

"This is my first year at LTC but twelfth in education," she shares. Her journey includes three years at Selma High School in Salem, two years at Cisne High School, and six years at Richland County High School in her hometown of Olney. During this time, Holdreith also earned her Master's degree from Eastern Illinois University and began teaching dual credit courses, with the goal of eventually teaching at the college level.

In her role at LTC, Holdreith is teaching three in-person sections of Speech and two online Composition classes. She emphasizes that her primary responsibilities are "making sure my content is relevant, engaging, and informative for all students."

Holdreith's life outside the classroom is just as rich and varied as her professional career. She has been married to her husband Ryan for seven years. Ryan, interestingly, has his own connection to LTC, having been a student in the telecommunications program before pursuing a career in emergency medical services. The couple has an 8-year-old son named Reece, who Holdreith describes as loving "all things outdoors: hiking, building, riding his four-wheeler, and soccer."

When she's not in the classroom, Abby indulges in some unique hobbies. "I collect exotic chickens and currently have 30 different breeds," she reveals. Recently, she expanded her farm by adding four Nigerian dwarf goats to her menagerie.

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## OCTOBER ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Baseball

1	Danville Area Community College	3:00
5	at Fall JUCO Showcase (Millington, TN)	TBA
12	Vincennes University	3:00
17	PBR Scout Day	TBA

### Men's Soccer

1	at Harry S. Truman College	4:00
5	at Illinois Central College	5:00
14	Southwestern Illinois College	3:00
23	at Jefferson College	3:00

### Softball

5	at College Game Day (Kokomo, IN)	TBA
6	at College Game Day (Kokomo, IN)	TBA

### Volleyball

2	at Southwestern Illinois College	6:30
3	Kaskaskia	6:30
9	at Wabash Valley College	6:30
16	at John A. Logan College	6:30
21	Shawnee Community College	6:30
25	Vincennes University	6:00

## OSTING COMMITS TO WESTERN ILLINOIS



Lincoln Trail College is proud to announce that Paul Osting has committed to continuing his athletic and academic career at Western Illinois University.

Paul has been a key player for the Lincoln Trail Statesmen, consistently demonstrating his dedication, hard work, and love for the game. Reflecting on his journey, Paul shared,

"I have always had a love for the game so I have had the goal of playing for as long as I could and playing high level collegiate baseball has been a lifelong goal of mine. I am extremely excited and grateful for this next chapter."

Paul attributes much of his success to the rigorous training and supportive environment at Lincoln Trail. "Lincoln Trail further instilled the value of hard work. Basically my whole time at LT, we spent time in the depot working on game-like pitching so we could fail in practice and make games easier. This is one example of the process that we followed to have a successful season offensively and laid the groundwork for what I will have to do to have continued success," he explained.

In choosing Western Illinois University, Paul is confident that he has found the right place to continue his growth both on and off the field. "I chose Western Illinois because I believe it

will be a place where I will continue to be pushed and develop as a person and a baseball player. I expect to win games next year and continue developing both on and off the field," Paul said.

He also credited his development to the coaching staff at Lincoln Trail, particularly Coach Collin Maynard. "Coach Maynard pushed us to get our own work in on top of what we did at practice. This is something I will have to take with me wherever I go in order to have success, both on and off the field," Paul noted.

Coach Collin Maynard praised Paul's progress and impact on the team, saying, "Paul made great strides during his time at Lincoln Trail. He became a staple in our lineup and one of our top run producers all year. His consistency at the plate continued to improve all year long which made him a dangerous bat any time he came up to the plate."

Coach Maynard further highlighted Paul's resilience and leadership, stating, "Paul has shown to handle any challenges and setbacks head on. He is never one to shy away from any challenge put in front of him. His contributions to the team were invaluable. As far as performance, in Region 24 game Paul hit .320 with 11 home runs, 9 doubles, and 15 stolen bases. On the season, Paul led our team in home runs (12) and stolen bases (24). He was also a leader for us off the field, consistently leading by example, always doing the little things right and never cutting any corners."

Looking ahead, Coach Maynard expressed his confidence in Paul's future at Western Illinois University. "I believe that Paul will thrive at Western Illinois University. I expect Paul to go in with the hardworking mindset he has always had and fight to earn an impact role for them right away. I believe that Paul's journey at LTC has prepared him well for WIU both on and off the field. I have no doubt that he will work hard to achieve his goals in all facets of life when he arrives on their campus."



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The smell of apples and cinnamon, pumpkins popping up all around, leaves changing colors, Fall sports, cooler temperatures, pumpkin spice lattes, bonfires, and College Game Day on Saturdays - just a few of my favorite things (and if this makes you think of Julie Andrews singing her famous song, from Rodgers and Hammerstein's Sound of Music, then you are probably "older" like me).

Rewind though, to a few weeks ago, and it was the smell of burgers being

grilled in the parking lot on our new LTC grill made by our welding crew, back to school workshops across the district, "August in Illinois" humidity and hotter than blue blazes temps, orientations and onboarding sessions, faculty back on campus preparing for classes, move-in days for student athletes, last minute advising appointments and tracking down transcripts, AND... students! Some new and some returning, and yes, students back in our hallways and the classrooms - my all-time favorite thing.

One of the best parts about working in education is that we have an anticipated, exciting time to reset each year - we hit our back-to-school buttons and start all over, so to speak, and the fresh energy is evident at the beginning of every August.

Have you also ever thought that literally everything that everyone does at IECC trickles down to a student somewhere? Students are the central focus and absolute reason we do the work that we do. How fortunate are we that at LTC there are students here from all across the United States and from many different countries, as well as students from our local area who all decided to make LTC their college home. We have students from France, Brazil, Peru, Spain, Japan, Chile, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Iowa, Georgia, Connecticut, Louisiana, Hawaii, Missouri, Texas, Ohio, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Arkansas, Nevada, Washington D.C. and Illinois. Our student body is diverse, impressive, talented, unique, engaging, and the conversations that I've already heard are rich.

Right now, is when students meet new friends - some who become life-long, forever besties, some who become peers that they discover they have more in common with than they ever thought possible, and some - if you remember the LTC Network newsletter that Chris Forde did last February - who become spouses! Students bump into and take advantage of newfound opportunities like PTK, Student Senate, a work-study job, Future Business Leaders of America, TRIO, performing arts offerings, community service events, exercise classes and other happenings at the CCRC, and cheering on our Statesmen at sporting events - the list goes on and on.

Getting to participate in our students' lives, watching their personal growth, getting to know them, learning from them, and being part of this chapter of their journey is an awesome and rewarding experience, and I honestly can't think of anything better.



# LTC IN PICTURES



Students enjoy breakfast together during LTC's New Student Orientation.



New students tour campus during New Student Orientation.



Students enjoy a fun foam-filled afternoon in front of Lackey Music Hall at Lincoln Trail College, creating lasting memories during New Student Orientation.



A Lincoln Trail College student dances while enjoying the foam party fun.



LTC Student Ambassadors Erika Garrard, Kylee Hosman, Faith Shull, Gracie Stallings, and Bailey Duke.



President Tona Ambrose high fives a student entering Williams Hall on the first day of classes.



Lincoln Trail College's volleyball team poses with volleyball alumni following LTC's annual Alumni Game.



LTC soccer players celebrate a goal in the Statesmen's 10-0 rout of Oakland City University in LTC's season opener.