

Harbinger

Spring 2022





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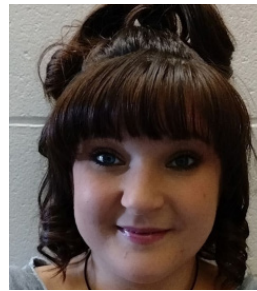
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ICC's 2022 Diversity Award Winners Revealed

BY BRYCE BRESNAHAN
APRIL 22, 2022

Illinois Central College's (ICC) annual Employee Recognition Ceremony took place on Friday, April 22. The ceremony celebrates the accomplishments of past and current staff and faculty at ICC and accepts award nominations from both students and staff. Some of the award categories include Staff Who Make A Difference, Gallion, and Teaching Excellence. The ceremony also hosts Diversity awards for faculty and staff; Margot Vance and Lonetta Oliver are the 2022 winners of the Faculty and Staff awards respectively.

Margot Vance is a professor in the Humanities department who integrates issues regarding race, equity and inclusion in her classes. Her English 110 course contains a section that compares education, housing, employment, and economics between black and white Americans in the Peoria area. Vance has also attended several events in the last year including:

- the seminar Equity Challenges and Making DEI Work for You
- a workshop on Africa through the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education, in partnership with Michigan State University
- The Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), sponsored by the University of Illinois (UIUC)
- the BH365 Racial Equity Training



Dean of Humanities Lonetta Oliver is the founder of the Minority Student Retention Team, an advocate for minority hires and LGBTQ+ students, and created programming for students in housing for Black History Month and Women's History Month. Oliver is also notable for bringing diverse speakers to ICC such as Dr. Asao Inoue and Illinois Poet Laureate Angela Jackson. She will host two book club sessions on the book "So You Want to Talk about Race" by Ijeoma Oluo in the spring 2022 semester. Some of the events she has been involved with in the last year are:

- Black Film Festival
- "Understanding Implicit Bias, Microaggressions, and Their Effects in the Classroom" Racial Equity Training provided by UIUC's Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL)
- OCCRL's Faculty Equity Academy
- Open Ed Resources Conference
- Webster University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference
- CC Assessment Fair

Oliver and Vance co-chair the Global Learning Committee and were both integral to reestablishing a relationship with CLACS and getting INTST 132 (Latin American Humanities) back on the course schedule for the fall 2022 semester.

ICC Welcomes New Chief to Campus Police Force

STEPHANIE MCCLASKEY

FEB 1, 2022

Chief Erika Schwiderski began her journey at Illinois Central College (ICC) as a student and graduated with an Associate in Criminal Justice. Chief Schwiderski was sent to the Police Academy immediately after completing her Bachelor's in Law Enforcement from Western Illinois University. Chief Schwiderski began as a Patrol Officer at ICC in 2009; she has worked her way up and was promoted to Police Chief starting Feb 1.

ICC campus police are available on all campus grounds whenever students and staff are present. If you see a campus police officer while you are out and about, be sure to stop and say hi and thank them for keeping our community safe.

Chief Schwiderski plans to expand student and staff access to campus police by implementing a social media presence in addition to the currently established Rave Guardian app, which grants anonymous reporting and quick access to assistance if needed. Our new chief also plans to expand more branches from the ICC Police Force Mission Statement to provide high-quality service and protect the campus community.

Campus police help with safety-related situations, such as escort services or the need to report suspicious behavior. Campus police also assist with traffic issues on the property, including car issues on campus grounds. If you have car troubles on campus, the campus police cannot assist mechanically. Still, they can assist in obtaining services such as contacting tow companies providing you safety until outside help arrives if needed. They are also here to give directions or say hi as you make your way across campus. They supervise sporting and entertainment events on campus to ensure the **safety of students while the general public may be visiting on campus.**



STUDENTS RESPOND TO CHANGE IN CAMPUS MASK

BRYCE BRESNAHAN
MARCH 11, 2022

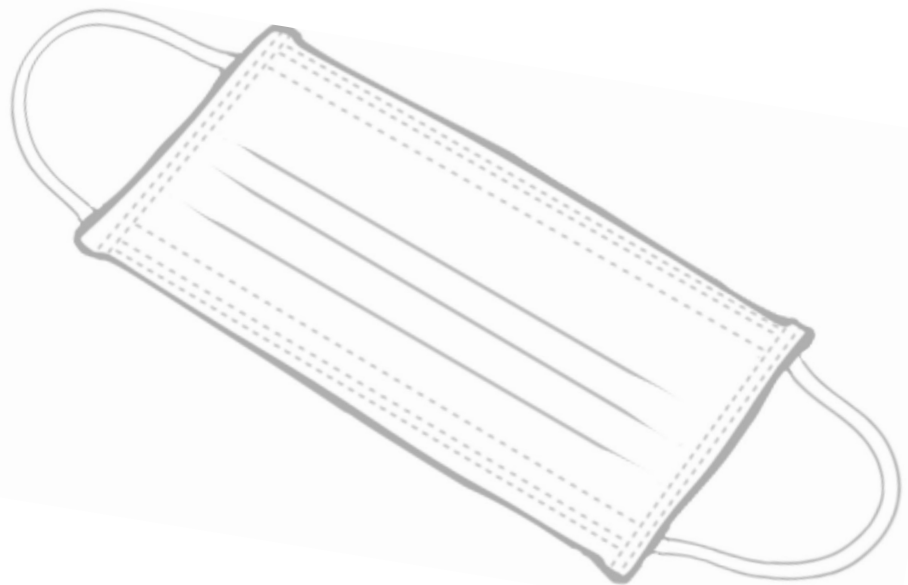
On Feb. 24, Illinois Central College (ICC) president, Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey, announced on their website that the school would be reducing its COVID-19 safety policies on campus. On Feb. 28, the mask mandate became optional but masks are still strongly encouraged.

Students around campus have mixed feelings about the mandate being lifted, though opinions are overall positive. One student was glad to be done with them, believing that masks “...are ridiculous and should’ve never been worn” and that they “just provide a false sense of security for people.” Another said that “giving people the option is the best route.”

While still believing the option to be a good thing, other students raised some concerns about fewer people being masked. One student said that while it was good that people have a choice now, they are concerned about those with increased vulnerability to COVID. “There’s still COVID going on. It could put some people in danger depending on their health issues,” he said.

Some urged respect for those who continue to wear a mask. “If you’re cautious about that kind of thing, I feel like more people should be more respectful about that,” one student said. Another said that “While I am for personal freedom, I do believe that masks are important.” At least one student is just happy to be able to see people’s faces again. “I like to see what they [people] say. I always like to see people’s smiling faces and everything,” he said.

Although masks are no longer required on campus, ICC’s vaccination policy will stay the same for now. Students and employees are still required to either vaccinate or follow a weekly COVID-19 testing protocol. Students are strongly encouraged to be considerate of each other during this transition and follow social distancing guidelines whenever possible.



Gillian Strachan acting bananas as bananas Shaughnessy ++

BRADLEY STUDENTS CAPSTONE A CALLING TO FUTURE EDUCATORS

ZANE DOBBELAIRE

APRIL 12, 2022

Bradley University Seniors are making a significant impact in communities across Illinois, by designing a public relations campaign geared toward solving the national teacher shortage following the pandemic. On April 12, 2022, Bradley University students will be hosting an informational seminar regarding these benefits at Bradley Hall, Neumiller Auditorium, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Bradley is partnering with the Peoria County Regional Office of Education to answer questions, discuss the benefits of substitute teaching, and even offer on-the-spot registration and fingerprinting.

Following the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines, temporary substitute teaching licenses now only require applicants to have 60 academic credits as opposed to the previous standard of 120 credit hours. These credits are required to come from a regionally accredited college or university in order to meet passing criteria.

Following these changes in requirements, three Advertising/PR majors, Quest Dobbelaire, Bri Durham, and Christiana Kolosvary have taken it upon themselves to make a difference by spreading the word about these changes and how it will benefit college students.

“My team and I decided to work on solving the national teacher shortage for several reasons, the main reason being that it’s a completely new issue that has never been addressed in American

history, so we wanted to be pioneer problem solvers,” Dobbelaire said. If college students can fill any substitute teaching vacancies, albeit temporarily, this will allow the Illinois school system to proverbially catch a breath. As of now, there is a very high demand for substitutes, seeing as many teachers are forfeiting preparation periods to make ends meet.

“Teachers are some of the hardest working members of our society, and it’s about time we started helping them out too,” he said.

Interested applicants need to be aware that there is a \$30 cash or check fee to the Peoria County Regional Office of Education to process fingerprints and background checks. There is also an additional \$25 fee required by the ISBE. Additionally, a printed copy of their official transcript is required for the application.

Editors Note: In the interest of full disclosure, the reporter and the participant in this interview are brothers. The reporter worked closely with the editor to ensure that no conflict of interest had an impact on the story.

ICC RECOGNIZED AS PARTNERING OFFICE ON ILLINOIS TUTORING INITIATIVE

TONIE WALTON

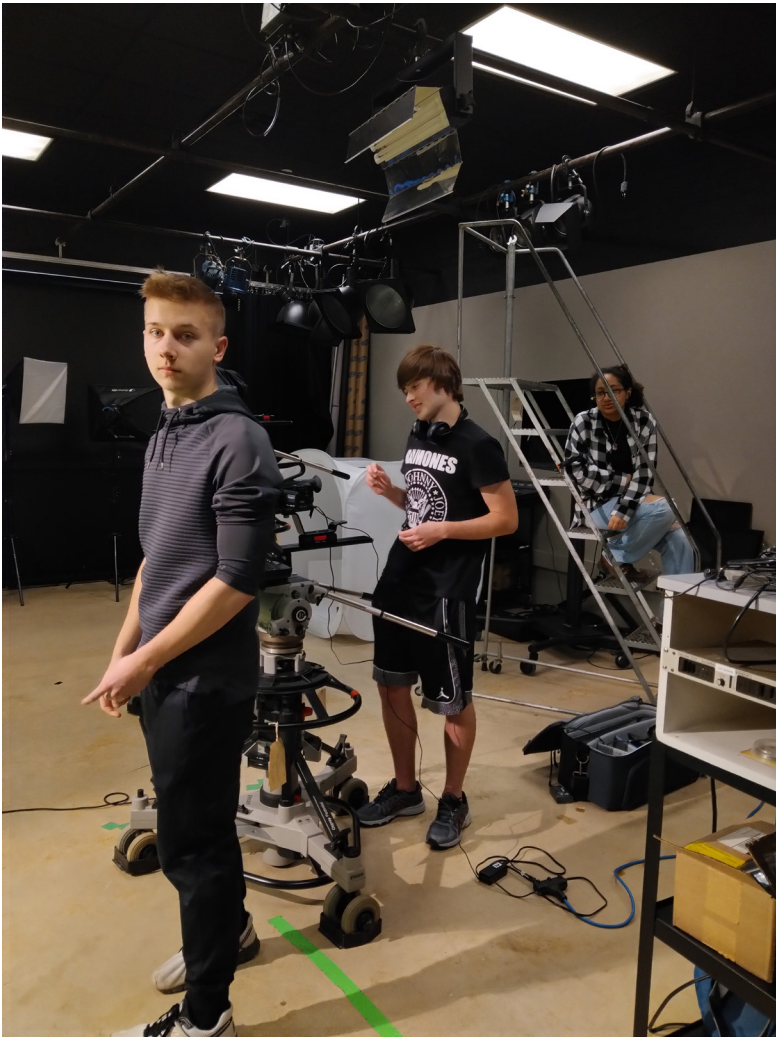
MARCH 2, 2022

Illinois Central College (ICC) held its monthly Board of Trustees meeting (BOT) on Thursday, February 24. The BOT meeting is held on the third Thursday of every month and consists of officials elected by the community.

The main topic among many discussed was the Illinois Tutoring Initiative. This newly established initiative is a state-funded grant designed around partnerships with local school districts that COVID-19 has impacted to help low-income students and families.

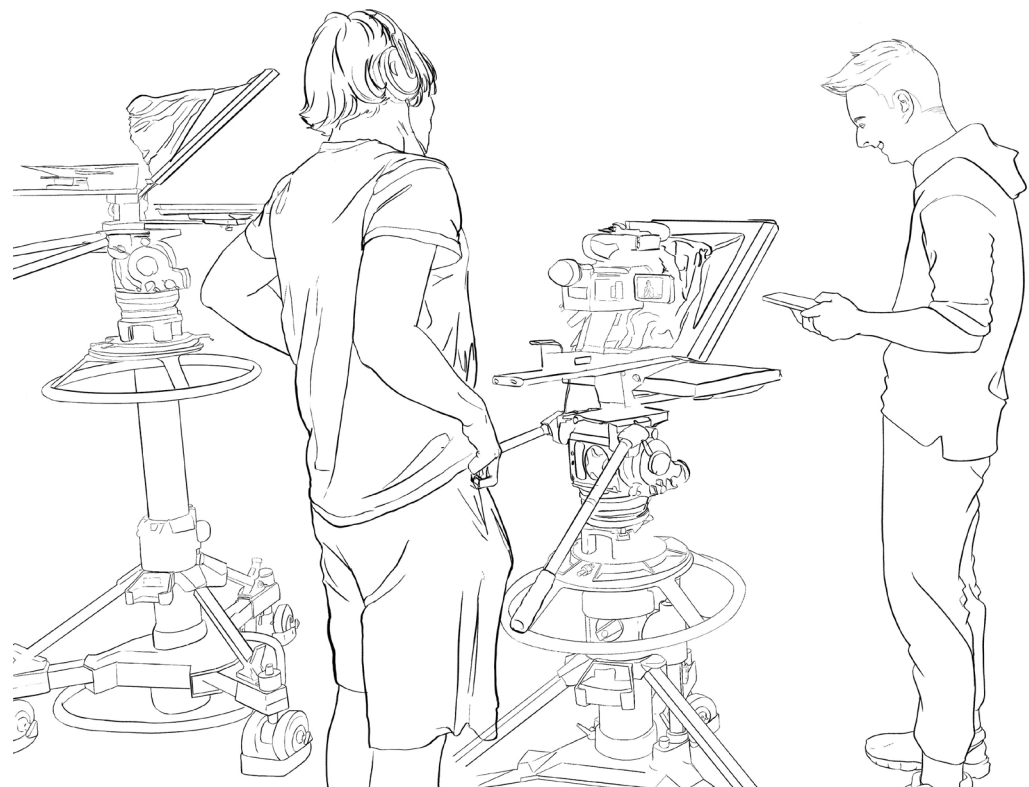
The Illinois Tutoring Initiative has launched with \$25 million in partnership with the Governor’s Office, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Community College Board. This initiative aims to provide tutoring for nearly 8,500 Illinois students participating in a two-year program. Students will either study one-on-one or do small group tutoring for about three hours a week for eight weeks.

Vanessa Hesh plays Bunn Flingus++





Behind the scenes Video Production



ICC SHOWS ITS TALENT AT OPEN MIC NIGHT

TONIE WALTON
MARCH 2, 2022



Thursday, March 24, Campus Housing and Student Life came together to host an open mic night. This event was held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center (PAC). The campus housing organized the event with Derrick “Diarr” Robinson taking the lead on organizing as well as being acting Master of Ceremonies (MC). The open mic night featured a range of talents on stage from the musically inclined, such as piano, guitar, and singing. This event also featured poem readings, rap, spoken word, and stand-up comedy.

“ICC Open Mic Night was about collaboration, diversity. A showcasing the innate talent of many creators.” -Derrick Robinson

One highlighted performance featured in this showcase had the audience wanting more. Samuel Abbey, Sophomore at Illinois Central College, performed an original piece, “Little Sacrifice”, which he sang along to as he played the piano. According to Abbey, his father was an inspiration and describes this piece as a boy’s journey into manhood.

Another performer who had the audience in stitches was a stand-up performance by Ryan Hallam. Hallam performed relatable jokes about going to ICC and the student life, being single and dating and Netflix murder documentaries. Hallam left the audience wanting more.

This next performer, Kelsey Bush, had the audience in awe with her soulful voice. Bush sang a cover of “My Mind” by Yebba. Bush is a long-term friend of the MC Diarr who endorsed her vocal talents beforehand. Despite her nervousness, Bush captivated the audience who offered a grand round of applause following her performance.

Diarr was the closing performance and ended the show with R&B-inspired songs featuring rap. The songs he performed were “Drinkin, AA, Clueless, Heartbreaker, and H.D.” Diarr walked through the audience, giving everyone one last burst of excitement and energy, to bring it all to an exciting end..

“We hoped we inspired all who participated.” -Derrick “Diarr” Robinson.

Student Life and Campus Housing hope to see all the performers and more at next year’s Open Mic Night.

Live footage of this event will be included in Harbinger Weekly videocast set to premiere Friday.



WHERE SINGLES COME TO MINGLE; “EX’S AND O’S VALENTINE’S DAY EVENT”

TONIE WALTON
FEB. 16, 2022

Keijah (Keke) Gray, a member of the Campus Housing Committee was the mastermind behind this event. Gray came up with this idea based on her personal experience of being a single college student. She knows how lonely it can be to spend Valentine’s Day alone and wanted to offer a safe outlet for others in her situation. Jacquan Binion, Derrick Robinson, David Rodden who are all Resident Assistants also helped with the event.

“I know Valentine’s Day isn’t always the most welcoming day for singles such as myself. So I wanted to make an event for single people and even people in relationships to come and hang out and not really think about being single or think about being lonely like they would on their average Valentine’s Day.”
Gray said.



We hope to see more events like these in the future and see more students participate in campus activities.



ICC’s Student Government Association also assisted with the “Ex’s and O’s” event. Emily King, President of the Student Government Association organized live music. The live music, a band named “Aftersome”, is a local band, all of whom attend ICC.

“It’s really fun to have local music, especially from students here on campus.”
Emily King

ICC PROFESSOR PERFORMS IN THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

BRYCE BRESNAHAN

FEB. 9, 2022

If you're looking for a nostalgic way to escape reality during these unusual times, look no further than Peoria Players Theatre's production of The SpongeBob Musical. This production originally appeared on Broadway in 2016 and is based on the iconic TV show SpongeBob SquarePants. Professor Kimberly Roe, who plays Mrs. Puff in the show shares more about the behind-the-scenes production and what makes this musical so relevant in 2022

When we asked about how the show's production occurred and what that would look like for any musical, Prof. Roe told us that the music and dancing were the first elements prepared when the musical started production in November of 2021.

"We just kind of all come together to start putting it all together, like 'this number goes here' and 'this dance is with this number'. It was a really different experience of working on these very separate components of the show and then just coming together and putting it all together."

Prof. Roe Explained

Not everything went as planned, with changes needing to be made as the show progressed. For example, members of the Electric Skates, a band that appears in the musical, were all supposed to be wearing skates or blades of some kind but had to be cut because it wasn't working on stage.

Comparisons were made between the ongoing pandemic and some of the themes presented in the musical, such as the town being shut down and mass paranoia over the threat of a volcanic eruption. In contrast to this, another major theme of the show was inclusion and acceptance and the crew's mindset that The SpongeBob Musical is meant to be a fun, lighthearted experience that everyone can escape to and forget about reality for a bit.

"I personally love that part of the show, I love that part in one of the last songs where it says 'all are welcome here' because we have such a diverse cast and people coming from all different cultures and places, and I love that,"

Roe said.

The copyrights to perform The SpongeBob Musical has only become available, which director Travis Olson jumped at the opportunity to bring to Peoria. Interestingly, some changes had to be made to the musical to avoid infringement on the original musical and the TV show. For example, the closing performance of the SpongeBob theme song had to be written in a different tempo than the original because they weren't allowed to sing it exactly like the TV show, Prof. Roe explained.



Check out our Award-winning Self-Care tips&tools using the QR code Below



THE MANY LAYERS OF SELF-CARE

STEPHANIE MCCLASKEY
FEB 24, 2022

February is International Boost Self-Esteem Month. HSM's Self-Care Tips&Tools podcast has been offering insight into ways to improve self-esteem and traps to watch out for that would lead to a backslide in your mental wellness journey. New terms and topics are introduced monthly based on the most relevant awareness topic.

Self-care has progressed significantly over the last 10-15 years, becoming a trending topic. The concept of self-care has changed in terms of perspective. What was once a spa day or a night with friends has evolved into trending more as an emotion-based practice.

It has become harder and harder to look inward for satisfaction. This typically leaves individuals feeling anxious and deprived of meeting their personal needs. This causes a rise in awareness regarding the topic of self-care. Most don't know that self-care is more of an umbrella term and must be broken down into many different layers to practice effectively.

Different ways of practicing self-care are needed depending on each person's struggles. For instance, a practice that someone uses during midterms may not be effective for friendship stresses. However, some techniques are universal and beneficial for different difficulties. An example would be a self-care practice that one uses during a breakup that could be helpful when working to improve their self-esteem.

It is vital to understand the full scope of self-care and explore the many self-discovery paths to obtain the full benefits of self-care. The better one knows themselves, the better they can heed to their needs at hand. Harbinger Student Media (HSM) offers a weekly Self-Care Tips&Tools podcast to assist in covering various topics of the self-care nature.

[Click here to listen to the Tips&Tools podcast to improve self-esteem as you continue your journey of self-care.](#)

SELF-CARE TIPS&TOOLS PODCAST

STEPHANIE MCCLASKEY
MARCH 3, 2022

This week, the Self-Care Tips&Tools Podcast dropped its final session for International Boost Self-Esteem Month, which occurs annually in February. In Boosting Your Self-Esteem part two, self-reflection was addressed as a critical component of recognizing and celebrating strengths. Self-reflection was broken down into two subcategories which included internal and external self-reflection.

Internal reflection focuses on the person you feel inside, while external examination focuses on the image of who you are on the outside. Both aspects play a crucial role in how you feel about yourself and your level of self-esteem. Rarely does an individual reflect, whether internal or external, and find themselves content with everything they discover during their reflection journey.

Following reflection, it was suggested to write down two lists; one consisting of five things complimenting yourself and the other listing five areas that need improvement. Following the lists is a week-long series of complimenting yourself out loud in the mirror while reflecting on the list of things that need improvement.

The term radical acceptance was introduced in this session, which means allowing life to flow without challenging its reality. This new concept goes hand in hand with powerlessness, which is inevitable in everyday life. It is present when addressing outside circumstances such as people, places, and things out of your control. If you can't change it, you must accept it or release it.

Listen to the complete podcast here to get more insight on the final session of Boosting Your Self-Esteem. Next week on the Self-Care Tips&Tools Podcast, session one of Decluttering & Minimalizing to combat stress will be released.



CASTING FOR “SWEAT” HAS BEGUN

BRYCE BRESNAHAN

FEB. 18, 2022

On Tuesday, February 15th, Illinois Central College’s (ICC) theater began its casting process for its “Sweat” production. Auditions were held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the ICC Studio Theater room PAC 215.

Sweat, written by Lynn Nottage, is directed by Julie Peters. Peters is an adjunct faculty member who is currently teaching in the theater and psychology departments at ICC. Peters admits there are some themes and language in the production that are intended for mature audiences while expressing its direct relation to our current state in regards to politics.

“We’re really looking at some of the dynamics that are happening in the country right now, and the history of how we got to where we are in 2022,” she said.

Several students showed up to the auditions, hoping to explore their place in the realm of theater. One, Josh Phillips, is an older student at 38 and has never been in a play before, but considers himself a natural performer. Phillips has experience in entertainment and has a history of being a magician. Phillips decided to finally give theater a try when he was given an extra credit opportunity for auditioning.

Phillips told us that by auditioning, he hoped for *“experience, education, and understanding of how to make [himself] a better performer.”*

Another student, Grace Armstrong, has loved acting since she was a kid and has been in several plays throughout her school career. Armstrong was also a member of the drama club throughout middle school and high school. Armstrong said that she looks forward to being in this play and relates to the character she auditioned for.

“She seems like she’s struggling as well as me, money and financially wise, and she just seems like someone that came from where I come from,” Armstrong said.

Despite several students auditioning, the production is still looking for more participants. Auditions are open to ICC students as well as the public. If you’re interested in appearing in this play, you can contact director Julie Peters at julie.peters@icc.edu.

PUPS, CATS, AND SWEET TREATS; A FOSTER

TONIE WALTON

MARCH 12, 2022

Wednesday, March 9, Illinois Central College’s (ICC) Honors Program hosted a fundraiser for Foster Pet Outreach on the East Peoria campus. Foster Pet Outreach is a non-profit organization that was established in 1991; they rely on volunteers to help with their goal of helping at-risk animals. Foster Pet Outreach mainly focuses on dogs and cats, that are put into a foster home program until they find a new permanent home.

This event was organized by group members Alexia, Clara, Cassie, and help from Student Trustee, Raena Holloway.

A few items that were included in the bake sale included muffins, cornbread, crispy rice treats, brownies, fruit cups. They also had zaatar bread and Basbousa, baked by member Seereen. Their overall goal was to raise \$400 for the Foster Pet Outreach. During a brief interview, they had raised a little over 200\$.

We spoke with Cassie and Raena, who had an array of treats on display, ready to be purchased. View the live footage of that interview by clicking [here](#).



PRACTICE SELF-CARE WITH HARBINGER

STEPHANIE MCCLASKEY
FEB 24, 2022

Harbinger Student Media conducts a weekly Self-Care Tips&Tools podcast to educate the Illinois Central College community on the importance of practicing self-care and offers suggestions on how to do so.

On Monday, February 14th, the first session of this semester's podcast, "Mental Wellness Month," was released. January is annually recognized as Mental Wellness Month. The World Health Organization describes mental wellness as *"a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and can make a contribution to his or her community."*

Throughout this podcast, it is discussed that to achieve mental wellness, one must first practice mindfulness. Mindfulness is then broken down into four key components: meditation, rest, practicing gratitude, and asking for and accepting help when needed. These four

key components are discussed in detail in the podcast, with a few suggested tools to help achieve each step.

The Self-Care Tips&Tools podcast: "Mental Wellness Month" also provides its first guided meditation. The guided meditation is user-friendly for any level of knowledge regarding meditation.

Access this semester's Self-Care Tips&Tools podcast by clicking here.

PHI BETA LAMBDA HOSTS MINI GOLF

BRYCE BRESNAHAN
MARCH 25, 2022

Illinois Central College's (ICC) student organization, Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), hosted a mini-golf fundraiser in the student lounge on the East Peoria Campus on Tuesday, March 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event was hosted by PBL to raise money to send students to conventions, though it was free for all ICC students to attend.

"At the convention, we are able to compete in different events for leadership and business-related events to build our leadership skills," said Cassie Keller, a PBL member.

The PBL mini-golf fundraiser is usually an annual event but was put on hold, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first mini-golf fundraiser PBL has been able to host since the school closed in the spring of 2020. The golf courses took PBL about five hours total to put together.

PBL is an organization dedicated to students who want to gain business and leadership skills. Its members participate in competitions, attend leadership conferences and even offer scholarship opportunities.

To learn more about PBL at ICC, email PBL@icc.edu or visit their national website at <https://www.fbla-pbl.org/>.

MARCH LAUNCHES A NEW TOPIC ON SELF-CARE TIPS&TOOLS PODCAST

STEPHANIE MCCLASKEY
MARCH 10, 2022

Harbinger Student Media releases a new Self-Care Tips&Tools Podcast each week. These podcasts are broken down into monthly topics each relating to a specific area of focus to improve overall wellbeing. The topic for March is decluttering to reduce stress. The first of that series was released this week.

What exactly is decluttering? The Oxford Dictionary defines decluttering as the action of removing unnecessary items from an untidy or overcrowded space. Clutter may mean different things to different people leading to opposing opinions regarding the need to declutter.

Have you ever heard the saying “clutter leads to creativity”? According to a study featured by the American Psychological Association, clutter helps to produce new and creative ideas. While clutter can promote creativity, it can also harm one’s ability to relax if one does not practice boundaries and balance.

Allowing organized clutter is appropriate for a space intended for creative work, but keeping clear boundaries on this is essential. Numerous studies show that clutter has been proven to lead to stress and restlessness when it overflows into the space intending for rest or focus. These studies show that having balance and boundaries can help to keep the creative juices flowing without interfering with the other areas of life.

In Art 200, Anita Tuccillo, Professor of Art at Illinois Central College (ICC), guides students through the process of turning their passion into a career with a service-learning project. The project allows students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with turning their artistic skills into a profession. The service-learning project begins with establishing the client, agreeing on a design, gathering the supplies to complete the job, followed by finalizing the proper paperwork.

“We offer this so that students can make art into a career path,” Tuccillo said.

Though Tuccillo allows this project to teach students about the process, it is still a creative learning experience. As motivation, students were asked to compete in a design competition, the winning design is the one to be used during the process. Marissa Overholt, the winner of this semester’s design competition, combines geometry and the bright colors of nature to bring together the design of a sunflower.

Overholt’s design will be displayed in the Arts & Behavior Science (ABS) dept, office to Jill King, ABS Administrative Assistant. The students of Art 200 and Professor Tuccillo wanted to use this project as a way to give back to King’s dedication to the Arts program.

“She just does so much for the arts, we wanted to give back to her,” Overholt said.

The room where King’s office is located does not have windows and Overholt wanted to use her art design to offer some uplifting and positive vibes to the room with hopes of brightening King’s workdays. King wanted something that brought geometry and nature together, this led to Overholt using shapes to build a sunflower bursting with bright colors to enhance the energy in the space.

The class began the painting portion of their project late last week and looks to finish it this week. ICC students, staff, and visitors can find the mural in room 123 of the academic building on the East Peoria campus. To learn more about the Arts program visit the ICC Academic Catalog or speak with an advisor today

The Self-Care Tips&Tools Podcast suggests that having designated spaces that contrast the type of work environment one has will help add more balance and improve that individual’s overall sense of wellbeing. For example, suppose you work in a creative environment, you will want to have an organized general living space to help you relax and decompress after work and vice versa if you work in a structured environment.

Finding balance in creativity versus structure has found a whole new set of challenges since the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced many people to perform their jobs from home. Many have joked about working from bed or spending their workdays in pajamas, but this loss of clear boundaries for workspace versus home space has caused many people to be in constant work mode even after the workday is over.

To learn more about how decluttering can add balance and improve overall wellbeing check out the full audio available here. If you like the content please like and subscribe to be notified of the release of new content.

PAINTING SMILES IN THE ARTS & BEHAVIOR SCIENCE DEPT.

STEPHANIE MCCLASKEY
APRIL 8, 2022

ICC THEATER PROGRAM REHEARSES FOR “SWEAT”

BRYCE BRESNAHAN
APRIL 8, 2022

Illinois Central College (ICC)'s theater program is rehearsing for its production of “Sweat” by Lynn Nottage, directed by Julie Peters. Since auditions took place in February, many students and community members have come together to put on the show regardless of previous acting experience.

“I think it's been a really cool experience specifically because the cast is a combination of students who have little to no experience and people that have been doing this for years,” actress Tracy Willet said.

Willet has an extensive background in acting, having moved to New York for several years to study acting and musical theater. She worked as an actress and a singer/songwriter during that time, primarily appearing in film and web shows. She moved back to Illinois in 2019 and met director Julie Peters, who encouraged her to join the production earlier this year. Ronnie Hudson II, another community actor in “Sweat”, has been performing in theatrical productions since 2016, appearing in at least 10 shows in the Peoria area. When COVID-19 shut down the world, Hudson decided that he wanted to take his acting career to the next level. He looked into TV and film and soon appeared in commercials and indie films. He jumped at the chance to appear in the production when Peters contacted him.

“I'm always looking for another opportunity to continue the craft. It's one thing to take classes and learn, but the most learning you can do is by experience,” Hudson said.

Joining professional actors from the community are some of ICC's own students, who are appearing in the show to continue their passions for theater or trying something new. One student, Samantha Taylor, has been acting in school plays and musicals since kindergarten. When she learned about “Sweat”, she auditioned and fell in love with the production and its crew. The experience has made her consider a future career in acting.

“I think it's been such a thrill to work with everybody, you get to make your own kind of home because you can choose your family,” Taylor said. Grace Armstrong, a student who previously auditioned in February, is continuing her passion for acting in “Sweat”. Despite switching her original part in the play, she quickly adjusted and is having fun with her character.

“I'm excited about it, I've been getting my lines down,” she said.

In addition to the experienced actors appearing in “Sweat”, some students will be appearing on stage for the first time. Vicente Arias-Cruz Jr., one student at ICC, had never thought about acting before until he learned about the production and decided to try out for fun.

“I've watched TV and seen movies. Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, if they can do it why can't I?” Cruz said.

Director Julie Peters is looking forward to the performance of the production due to its timing in relation to political, social and racial divides in the United States today.

“This play leans right into it and goes into it deeply and thoughtfully. That's the thing that drives me the most to this play,” she said.

Julie Peters' production of “Sweat” premieres on May 23 and runs until June 2.

ICC SPORTS UPDATE

ALEX BERGER
FEB 9, 2022

After January, the women's basketball team is coming off a hot winning streak and is currently sitting in a tie for ninth place in the division. They've struck gold with their offense, averaging 76.6 points per game, making them the highest scorers in the top 9.

They are sitting at a 43.9% field goal percentage, establishing them as one of the most efficient scoring teams in the top 9. As for the rest of their season, it looks like success is ahead.

The men's baseball team is nearing its start, kicking off in Carterville. They will play a doubleheader, facing the John A. Logan Volunteers and the South Suburban Bulldogs as they hope to start the year off in the wins column.

They want to start their season on a positive note as they look to close their season out in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) World Series, bringing home a championship trophy.



ALEX BERGER
FEB 21, 2022

Last weekend, our Lady Cougars' softball season kicked off in Alabama. They returned home with two wins and three losses. A fantastic initial effort gave the Lady Cougars a big 13-1 win against Coastal Alabama East. Their other win came against Central Alabama, with the final score being 8-2. This Saturday, the Lady Cougars look to shake off the losses and come back strong against Saint Ambrose in Davenport, Iowa. In basketball news, the Lady Cougars brought home victory against the Parkland Cobras with a final score of 58-56. This triumph brings their golden winning streak to three in a row and their overall record to 19-9. In a fun statistic, the Lady Cougars sit at number one for home attendance in Division II Women's Basketball. The Lady Cougars will play Lewis & Clark on Wednesday. Good luck, Ladies!



A WEEK OF DEFENSE AND FISHING

ALEX BERGER
MARCH 1, 2022

The Men's Basketball team won against John Wood at home 73-66. It was a great victory, with a massive defensive effort to fend off the trailblazers to maintain the lead. This effort brings their overall record to 10-16 on the year after this Sophomore Day game. They play the Danville Area Jaguars this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in Danville, Illinois. Good luck, Cougars!

In fishing news, the Bass Fishing team traveled to Tennessee to compete in their first tournament of the year. Though the fish weren't quite biting like they wanted them to, they look forward to traveling all around, catching lots of fish, and placing high in tournaments. Check out the ICC Sports Update Podcast here with an exclusive interview from one of the stars of the fishing team Logan Morr on the show to talk more about the excitement of this season.

CHAMPIONSHIP DREAMS

ALEX BERGER
MARCH 7, 2022

Success is an understatement for what the Women's basketball team has accomplished. On Sunday, the Lady Cougars beat the Lincoln Land Loggers to be the Regional Champions. It was a fantastic win with a strong effort on offense.

Kayla Gordon scored twenty points for the first time in her athletic career at Illinois Central College (ICC). Playing as a team is really what the Lady Cougars are all about, and when you play as a team, you allow your teammates to have opportunities to score. This motto is what has carried our Women's basketball team to success.

Next up will be the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Tournament. With one of the best Lady Cougar basketball teams that ICC has had in years, the team looks forward to playing the best basketball they've played all season.

Challenges will come up, but if there is anything we've learned from this team's amazing year it's that when faced with adversity, the Lady Cougars overcome anything that gets in their way. The NJCAA Nationals in Michigan starts on March 15th. Good Luck Cougars!

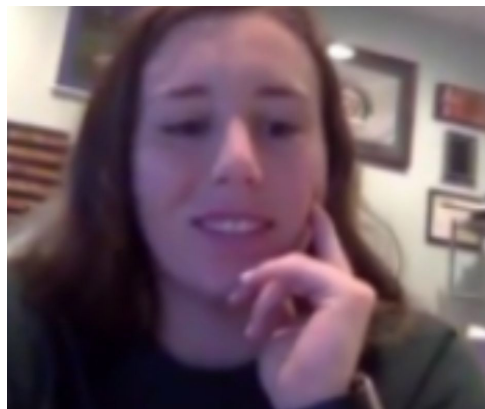
STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: PRISCILLA PEEK

ALEX BERGER
MARCH 23, 2022

Monday afternoon, Priscilla Peek, a freshman here at Illinois Central College (ICC), offered us an insider's perspective on the hot streak for the ICC Softball season. Peek grew up in Deer Creek, Ill, and graduated from Notre Dame High School last year. Peek leads the ICC Softball team in runs and has two home runs so far this season.

The Lady Cougars have an 8-4 record for the season and have struck gold with their ongoing five-game win streak. Peek accredited this winning streak to "coming together" and "good communication". She said during their games last week in Titusville, Fl, she felt the energy made a big difference.

"We just had each other's back no matter what."
Priscilla Peek



Peek shared that her favorite things about being on the ICC Softball team are the environment that was created by the coaches. She also enjoys the bond she feels with the rest of her peers on the team. Next year, Peek plans to go to Illinois Wesleyan University, where she also plans to play on the softball team. Peek will be majoring in physical therapy and minoring in psychology.

You can check out the full interview on the Harbinger Sportscast

KEEPING UP TO PAR WITH ICC GOLF

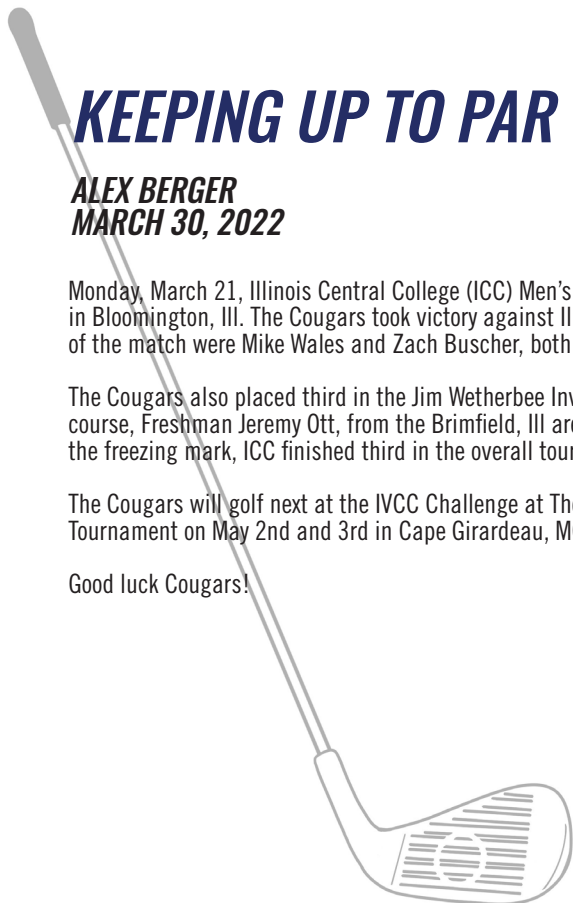
ALEX BERGER
MARCH 30, 2022

Monday, March 21, Illinois Central College (ICC) Men's Golf kicked off the first match of the season with a double victory at Weibring Golf Club in Bloomington, Ill. The Cougars took victory against Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) with a final scoring of 303-320. The front runners of the match were Mike Wales and Zach Buscher, both of them golfing a 74. Wales took the medal for his 3-over-par.

The Cougars also placed third in the Jim Wetherbee Invitational last weekend at Soangetaha Country Club in Galesburg, Ill. Despite the wet course, Freshman Jeremy Ott, from the Brimfield, Ill area, shot a consistent 74 to 74. With winds of just nearly 25 mph and temperatures riding the freezing mark, ICC finished third in the overall tournament.

The Cougars will golf next at the IVCC Challenge at The Den At Fox Creek Golf Club in Bloomington, Ill. They also look ahead to the Region 24 Tournament on May 2nd and 3rd in Cape Girardeau, MO, and the National Tournament on May 17th through May 20th in Joplin, MO.

Good luck Cougars!



STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: BEN NOFSINGER

ALEX BERGER
APRIL 13, 2022

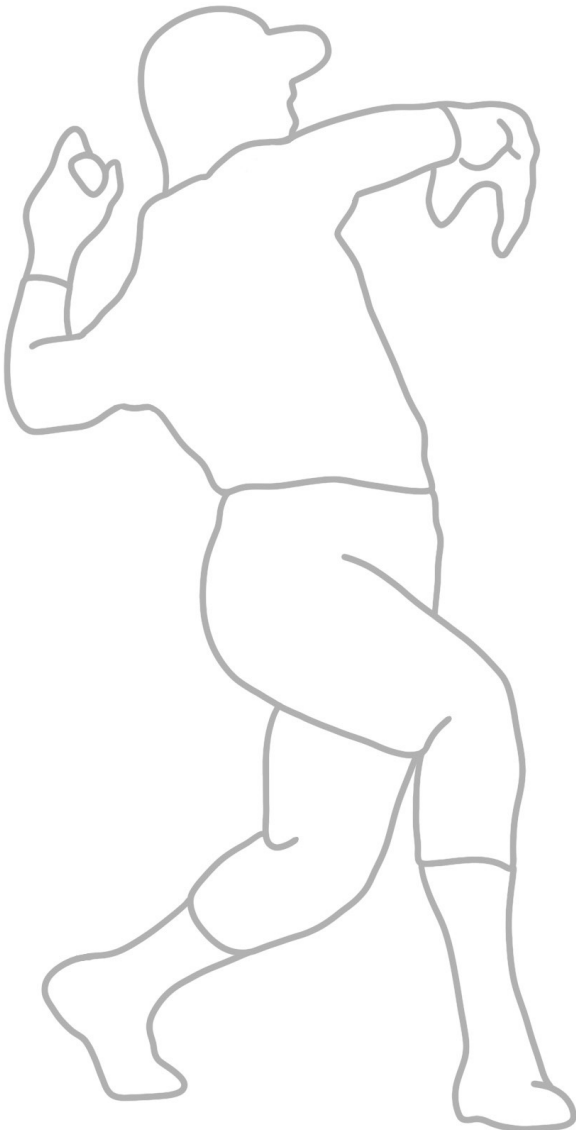
Leading the team in home runs, Ben Nofsinger has caught the attention of many. Nofsinger, currently a redshirt junior at Illinois Central College (ICC), is from Washington, Ill. He attended Peoria Christian High School before coming to ICC.

The go-to guy for out-of-the-park hits, Nofsinger has been a leader for the Baseball team. Though the cougars haven't found the dominating success they were seeking, in regards to victories, their statistics tell a different story.

Nofsinger is responsible for ten of the team's twenty-one home runs, twenty RBIs, and a .313 batting average. Nofsinger credits this success to his "dedication to the weight room" and "getting (his) swing right". He earned a Mid-West Athletic Conference All-Academic Team nod in 2021, a fantastic achievement for this student-athlete.

The cougars will play Southwestern Illinois College Blue Storm at home on Wednesday, April 12. This will be ICC's second time playing the Blue Storm ever, and they hope to even the score to 1-1 with a win.

Good Luck Cougars!



STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: SYDNEE USHERWOOD

ALEX BERGER
APRIL 19, 2022

The Illinois Central College Women's Softball team is coming off of two wins on a very good season, and part of their success has been the contributions that Sydnee Usherwood has made. Leading the team in hits, Usherwood has been a superstar for the cougars.

Usherwood is a freshman outfielder and biology major from Atlanta, Illinois. She attended Olympia High School. Usherwood, with one of the best batting averages on the team at .400, gives the cougars a chance for a championship run.

"I'm really big on self-discipline and I always work towards perfecting mechanics and pitch identification. So I always hold my hitting performance to the highest level. I'm always known for saying "just one more pitch" in the batting cage," Usherwood said.

Usherwood will play a pivotal role in the cougars' homestretch of regular-season games, as they look to extend their win streak. The cougars have home-field advantage against the Heartland Community College Hawks on Tuesday, April 19. This game is the first of five this week. After claiming a strong win against the Lincoln Land Loggers, they hope to keep this momentum as they go up against the five teams later this week.

Good Luck Cougars!



A dramatic sunset or storm scene over the ocean. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the sun or moon breaking through on the left side. A lightning bolt is visible in the lower left. On the right side, a white lighthouse with a black top is visible, perched on a rocky cliff. The ocean is dark and turbulent.

YOUR HEAD HERE

Email us for more information

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