

Illinois Central College Presents

Harbinger Student Media

Spring 2023

Harbinger Student Media
Print Edition
Date



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BLAST TO THE PAST

HARBINGER STUDENT MEDIA

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Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey

-Stephanie McClaskey

April 13, 2023

Any position of leadership comes with many responsibilities and rewards, but being a woman in leadership comes with its own set of challenges. Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey, President of Illinois Central College (ICC), would know. Dr. Quirk-Bailey rose from humble beginnings, growing up on a farm in Caseyville, Ill., to become the first woman president of ICC in 2016. Both her personal background and her professional experiences have given her insight into what makes for a quality leader, especially at community colleges.

Dr. Quirk-Bailey is the second eldest of five children. Her father, a factory worker, dropped out of school before graduating eighth grade and went to work. Her mother took a state test offered in Missouri, which granted her a high school completion credit. This test also came with the offer of a full-ride college education within the state, but she opted to marry Dr. Quirk-Bailey's father and begin a family instead. She later started an in-home daycare program.

"Even though my mother didn't have a college education, she made her choice and didn't regret it, but she always wanted to make sure that we had that opportunity," Dr. Quirk-Bailey explained.

Dr. Quirk-Bailey is a first-generation college graduate. She shared that her older sister chose not to attend college, her next youngest brother joined the United States Navy, and two of her younger siblings followed in her footsteps to achieve a college education. One is a chemist, and the other is a structural engineer.

"My mom was really my inspiration in terms of what you can achieve when you put your mind to it," she said.

Dr. Quirk-Bailey was on her high school's speech team, which helped her secure a place at Bradley University (BU) where she majored in communications and minored in business. Following



her time at BU, she attended Northern Illinois University where she became the assistant speech coach as part of an assistantship. She finished her time here with a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication.

Upon completion of her master's degree, Dr. Quirk-Bailey entered the workforce. She worked at Andersen Consulting for seven years in the education division, assisting companies in the training of workers who were transitioning into larger manufacturing companies. She then went on to work at Harper College in Schaumburg, Ill. for 26 years. During her time in this role, she experienced the difference in opportunities offered to women in the workforce.

"I had nine different administrative positions. They would move me around as there was an

area of the college that needed focus, and I would be the problem solver for that. As I moved up the tree, we would find men who had experience in maybe one or two departments being promoted, whereas I had to get the experience over nine before I made it to executive leadership,” Dr. Quirk-Bailey shared.

It was also at Harper College that Dr. Quirk-Bailey learned the impact of working for a good leader. She said that there were two college presidents who showed her the value of who sits in the top chair at an institution of higher education. One took the college to the next level, and the other didn’t do very well at all. “Sometimes, you learn as much from how you wouldn’t do it and the approaches you wouldn’t take as you do from the approaches that you would like to emulate,” she explained.

This experience is what motivated her to return to college to achieve a Doctorate in Leadership and Management from the University of Maryland (UMD) after more than 30 years in the workforce. Her doctorate helped her to hone the skills needed to effectively lead an educational institution. Upon completing her time at UMD, she became President of ICC in July of 2016.

“It really does make a difference who’s in the top seat. Don’t get me wrong; you can’t get anything done from the top seat, it’s your amazing employees,” she said. But leadership needs “to see the vision and the focus and hopefully the motivation and the desire for an organization to grow in the same direction in a way that really changes individuals’ lives and communities that can really make a difference,” she said.

Dr. Quirk-Bailey credited her success as a leader at ICC to the staff and faculty who work together for the betterment of students and the community as a whole. She said creating an environment that promotes inclusion and gives them a part in the growth of ICC and the surrounding communities makes ICC such a vision-driven organization.

“When you’re trying to share with another human being, helping them to become what they want to

become is probably the most impactful role anyone can have. I have tremendous respect for our faculty and for individuals who have chosen to devote their lives to helping other people,” she said.

Dr. Quirk-Bailey expresses that the faculty at ICC are dedicated to the growth and development of students. While graduation increases remain a goal, their bigger vision is to help students, whether right out of high school, non-traditional, part-time, or part of workforce programs, take their lives to the next level and improve their overall quality of life. Providing a variety of opportunities that can be tailored to fulfill the needs of students no matter where they are in their journey or the obstacles which may threaten their dreams of higher education, is what Dr. Quirk-Bailey says is one of the greatest successes at ICC.

“If you really want an education, if you want to move forward in your life, you need to come to talk to us at ICC, because we are going to find a way,” Dr. Quirk-Bailey said.

That goes to finances, as well. ICC maintains one of the lowest tuition rates in the region at only \$155 per credit hour. There are over 700 scholarships available, with one simple application process. Nearly 60% of current students qualify for state and federal funding, such as the Pell Grant and the MAP Grant. There are also apprenticeships and the Workforce Equity Initiative, which provides training to assist in promotions and advancement in credentials in a variety of fields.

“If money is what’s standing in your way, come see us, we’re going to help you find a way to make that work,” Dr. Quirk-Bailey promised.

Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey closed out the interview by sharing some wisdom and hope for individuals striving for leadership roles.

“When you want to be in leadership for leadership’s sake I would say just stop and re-examine because a leadership role is really a service role. If you know in your heart that you can serve well and you can help people and organizations move forward then don’t be discouraged. Not every organization is going to be the right fit, and not every culture is going to be the right fit. There will be

setbacks along the way, and if you receive some feedback, well, that's one person's opinion. That's one organization's opinion. If you know that's where you belong, don't let that stop you. I think sometimes we self-select something based on the opinions of other

people. If you're looking to do it out of a heart of service, then continue on that path. Make your decisions in a way that promotes you to that path, and don't let one piece of feedback or one organizational environment, or one person impact that. You've got to keep going."

Gov. Pritzker Plans Increase in Community College Budget

-William CP Spencer

Feb. 24, 2023

At the February Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting for Illinois Central College (ICC), there was a discussion regarding a report from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA). This report goes over a myriad of topics that are incredibly important to community colleges across Illinois. One topic, in particular, stood out amongst the rest; the topic of a \$19.4 million increase in the budget for community colleges in the fiscal year of 2024. If legislators agree to Governor JB Pritzker's fiscal year 2024 budget proposal, community colleges in Illinois, system-wide, would see the biggest budget increase in twenty years of at least 7%. The current budget is \$277.6 million, making the potential budget total \$297.1 million.

Terry Wilkerson, chair of the Illinois

tutions will have an even greater impact on the lives of those we serve. It means more programs to meet the needs of Illinois' growing industries, it means more access for students across our state, and it means a more secure future for tens of thousands of Illinoisans that want a better life through higher education," said Wilkerson.

The budget proposal would also include an additional \$18 million for workforce training in emerging jobs around the state. Some of the jobs mentioned in the report include advanced manufacturing, electric vehicles, and data center curriculums.

"Illinois community colleges serve as critical engines of economic opportunity by providing accessible and affordable workforce development training to students across the state, empowering them with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive



Illinois Central College Board of Trustees Discuss New Budget Proposal

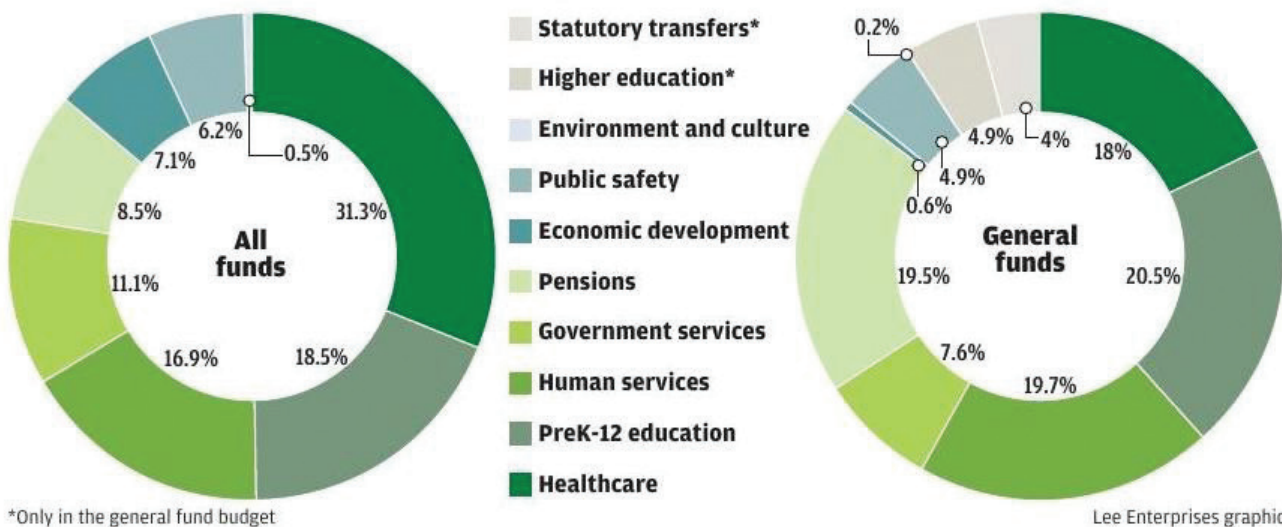
Council of Community College Presidents (ICCCP), elated by this news, speaking in a joint statement with ICCTA and ICCCP, stated: "We applaud Governor Pritzker and his administration for recognizing that an investment in Illinois community colleges is an investment in Illinois' future growth. With these additional funds, our 48 insti-

in a rapidly evolving job market," explained Dr. Brian Durham, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board.

Additionally, there would be an increase to the Monetary Award Program (MAP) of \$100 million. This potential increase would make it possible for

Budget proposal

Here's a breakdown of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's budget proposal, according to figures from the governor's office.



Governor Pritzker's Budget Proposal

those at or below the median income level in Illinois, to attend community college for free. This change to the MAP grant would make higher education an affordable goal for Illinoisians across the state.

"The Illinois Community College Trustees Association thanks Governor Pritzker for not only seeing the value of Illinois community colleges but also boosting investment to reach even more students and give them opportunities that may have previously been out of reach," said Jim Reed, executive director of the ICCTA.

Also included in this budget proposal is \$750,000 for the English as a Second Language (ESL) programs across the state of Illinois.

The budget proposal for the upcoming school year 2023-2024 offers great potential for current and incoming students across the state. These fiscal adjustments will benefit Illinoisians within ICC and across the state.

Illinois Central College Student Housing Dilemma

- Payton Benedict

Mar. 3, 2023



Concerns are growing regarding trash being littered across the grounds of Campus Housing at Illinois Central College (ICC). On the East Peoria Campus, many students are looking for a simple, yet effective solution. Students are looking to authority figures at both the student housing on campus, as well as ICC administration for a fix to the issue at hand. It is not only concerned residents who reside within Campus Housing who have taken an interest in this issue, off-campus students and student clubs have been collaborating to find a solution as well. Administration, ICC Campus Police Dept (ICCPD) and Campus Housing officials believe it starts with change on the student side of things before any real transformations can occur.

When speaking with Katherine Warren, Director of Housing, she alluded to the fact that she believes the issue is rather simple. She explained how the ICC student housing leadership removed the lids on the dumpsters and placed mini trash cans along the sidewalk in an attempt to make trash removal easier for students. When asked if there were any other solutions they had in mind, she didn't list any other ideas. She also stated her opinion on what more students not living on campus could be doing to help decrease

the amount of trash being disposed of outside of the designated areas on campus.

"Urge students to throw away their trash. Walk the 10 feet to a dumpster," stated Warren.

Additionally, where once stood a functioning guarded gate to aid in the accountability aspect, now stands an empty booth and broken gate that hasn't been functioning for several years. In addition to the broken gate being a safety concern, it results in less accountability for campus residents, as well as the possibility that residents could be causing the littered trash when attempting to utilize the campus housing dumpsters. Students proposed repairing the gate and installing additional surveillance to aid in combating the trash issue at campus housing, but officials state it is too expensive to repair.

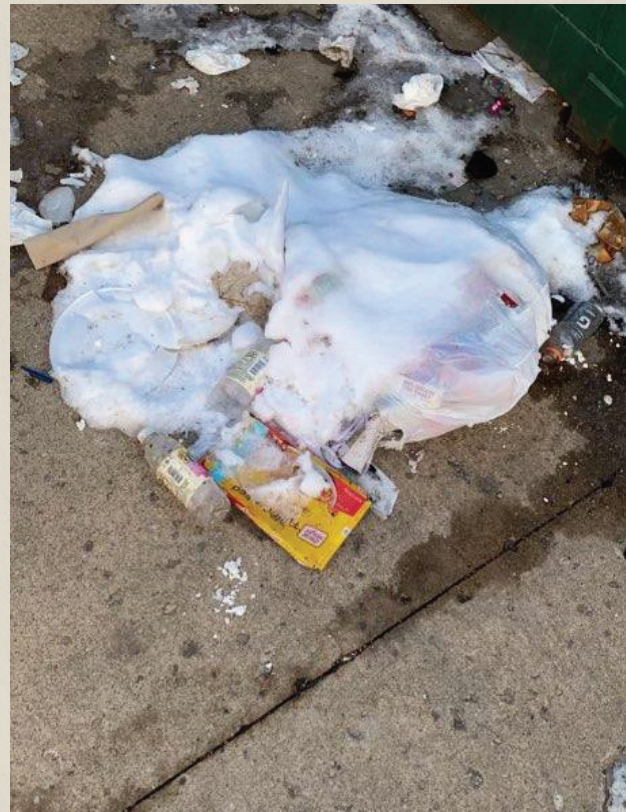
While inquiring more on the issue, Erika Schwiderski, Police Chief at ICCPD, gave insight on the police side of the issue at hand. While she doesn't believe trash and littering are an issue on the East Peoria campus, she detailed the fact that problems of this nature at the dorms on campus would ultimately be more in the scope of the facilities department.

“The facilities department has a whole grounds crew that would be the ones to oversee that or see if there are problem areas. I think they do a great job of picking up a lot of that stuff and people are fairly good about finding trash cans and campus housing is probably where people have talked about it being an issue,” said Schwiderski.

Anthony Murray, Facilities Manager, was asked multiple questions regarding the issue but failed to respond.

While there are some student-led efforts via organizations on campus that have scheduled clean-ups to hopefully decrease the amount of visible trash and improve the overall appearance of the student housing, there seems to be a disconnect between ICC and the owners of the dorms on campus.

“ICC doesn’t own and operate campus housing. Community colleges cannot technically own and operate student housing but The Foundation,



which is a separate branch of ICC, handles scholarships and donations and owns the property over there and then they contract with a management company. The people that do work in the office there are not actually ICC employees, although we obviously work very closely with them,” stated Schwiderski.

The current consequences involved with being caught littering on campus include community service and/or a \$50 fee added to their student account.

In Chief Schwiderski’s view, the easiest way students at ICC can help the ongoing littering disturbances is by downloading the “Rave Guardian” app. The app allows students to be in direct contact with campus police through the app, allowing them to report littering, as well as, other safety concerns. Users also can remain anonymous when contacting campus police if they wish. Schwiderski is adamant that downloading the app is good at solving or preventing a variety of issues on campus and doing so can greatly improve the physical and social environment at ICC as well.



Pictures of trash littered around campus housing.

Students Demand Healthier Dining Options on Campus

- Stephanie McClaskey

Mar. 5, 2023

College students require a healthy balanced diet to maintain focus, improve retention of information and provide adequate energy levels to make it through their long days on campus. In a recent presentation, students raised concerns about the quality and variety of options available at Illinois Central College (ICC) dining halls. They also expressed concerns about the proper handling and labeling protocols happening within the dining halls.

Each semester Professor Debbie Hedemann requires a presentation in her Group Communications course (Comm 203) on solving a campus issue. The students are required to adequately address an issue on campus, conduct research on how this issue impacts the student body and other college campuses, provide a solution and present a call of action to their peers.

One group chose to discuss the issue regarding the dining standards and food options available at ICC. The concerns included inadequate options for students and staff who have dietary restrictions, the lack of proper labeling of products and the difficulties in obtaining nutritional facts on various products.

“If you look on the breakfast and lunch menu on ICC website, they have zero vegan options, almost no vegetarian options and no options for people with lactose-intolerant and gluten-free restrictions,” said group member, Ryleigh Williams.

The group’s main concern was the lack of healthy options. They explained that there are extremely limited options available for vegans, vegetarians and individuals with dietary restrictions. The group demonstrated



Students Discussing Healthy Alternatives for the Cafeteria

a lack of access to meals on campus for these students and staff. Without access to menu items that meet their dietary needs, many students and staff who fall into these categories are forced to leave campus for food or go hungry. Do these individuals not deserve equal access to nutrition on campus?

The other main concern expressed was the labels on items that are handmade and sold in the dining hall. A few items such as fruit cups, slices of bread, various sandwiches and more, are packaged and labeled. These labels often do not contain the name of the product it is representing and never provide any nutritional information or the ingredients of the product, nor the date it was made

or when it expires. The labels simply state the price and a barcode used to scan during purchase. For individuals with dietary restrictions, this not only poses as problematic but also a serious safety concern. Consumption of ingredients outside of their restrictions could be fatal for some individuals.

During their research, the group asked dining hall staff about the contents of individual handmade products and only two of the employees could provide the information needed. The staff emphasized that inquiring about ingredients would require looking up each individual ingredient in the product, making the process time-consuming for students and staff, who are often on a time limit to eat and get to their next class.

“The reason why this is done is because the menu changes daily. I took that to be the daily specials because most of the menu and most of

the food items presented remains consistent,” said group member, Jordan Davis.

Executive Vice President of Admissions and Finance, Bruce Budde, sat in on the presentation and was the sole source of the group’s research regarding the issue. Budde ensured the audience and group members that the food is properly handled through the third-party food provider, Canteen, and is up to standard.

“Know that I take this all very seriously It’s something very actionable from us,” Budde stated.

“If you look on the breakfast and lunch menu on ICC website, they have zero vegan options, almost no vegetarian options and no options for people with lactose-intolerant and gluten-free restrictions.”
-Ryleigh Williams



A Guide to Safety Protocols at Illinois Central College

- Stephanie McClaskey Mar. 28, 2023



Front of the Illinois Central College East Peoria Building

Tornado season is upon us, and Illinois Central College (ICC) is preparing students, staff and faculty on proper procedures during an emergency. Last Thursday, ICC performed a tornado drill on the East Peoria campus. At 10:05 a.m. alarms rang through the halls, and a voice recording came over the intercom urging students and staff to take shelter.

As students exited their classrooms and made their way to the lower-level hallways, professors gave instructions and ensured safe execution of the drill. Additionally, the voice recording also provided instructions on how to seek safety. This message is for students or staff members who may not currently be in a classroom. Students appeared to be calm and well-informed on proper procedures during the drill.

“There were people in the hallway kind of guiding me and telling me what to do, so I didn’t feel lost or anything,” said student Sabrina Ruelas.

Additionally, campus housing has its own automated alarm and intercom system that is provided in each of the living quarters. In a recent interview, the Illinois Central College Police Department (ICCPD) explained that the doors closest to campus housing are unlocked in the event of a tornado at any hour of the day to provide shelter to campus residents. Campus housing, where basements are not provided, has a specialized recording that instructs them to take cover in the main campus building. While Illinois is located within tornado alley, this is not the only situation that calls for having safety protocols in place. In addition to periodic tornado drills, ICC also holds fire drills. Its most recent fire drill was held on the ICC North Campus. The goals are to have people exit the building as quickly and safely as possible. Then they are expected to put as much distance between themselves and the

building as possible and not block access for emergency responders.

“The biggest thing [on the East Peoria Campus] is to not gather in the courtyard. When you get out, keep going past that and out towards the parking lots,” said Chief Erika Schwiderski.

Another major emergency protocol that is in place is in the event of an active shooter on campus.

There have been 130 mass shootings in the U.S. in 2023 alone, and At least 30 of those shootings took place on school grounds. The most recent college campus shooting took place on February 13, 2023, at Michigan State University, which left four dead and five injured. In the event of an attack at ICC, a specialized alarm would sound off and notifications would be sent via MyAlerts, ICC’s online notification system, warning students and staff that there’s an immediate threat, as long as it is safe to do so. If it is unsafe to utilize the intercom system on campus ICCPD would rely solely on MyAlerts.

While there are many slogans that try to summarize the proper response to an active shooter, ICC utilizes the phrase, “Run, hide, fight”. Safety officials first recommend trying to run away and leave the premises. The second option is to hide. Find a place that puts as much space between you and the assailant as possible. Silence your phone

and text campus police on the Rave Guardian app to give them real-time updates of your location and the events unfolding. As a last resort, safety officials say you should fight. Remember, there is power in numbers. Band together with other students and staff to defend yourself, if necessary. Action and timing are essential in times of immediate danger.

“You have to think about what you are going to be willing to do in that situation. You have to be ready to act immediately because the faster somebody can act the more chance everybody has,” Chief Schwiderski stated.

In addition to understanding proper procedures for emergencies on campus, other keys to survival are being mentally prepared and having a personal plan in place. Knowing your personal limit and to what lengths you are willing to go in this situation is vital. ICCPD encourages students, staff and faculty to download the Rave Guardian app if they have not already done so. The app is the quickest way to give and receive notifications for safety situations on campus. The app is available on the Google Play store and Apple App store. Always report suspicious behavior to ICCPD immediately. Campus police are available 24/7, and they suggest that there’s no such thing as too small of an incident when it comes to reporting.



Student Trustee: Leaving Behind a Legacy of Leadership

-William CP Spencer
Feb. 17, 2023

Illinois Central College (ICC) provides endless opportunities for its students to gain hands-on experience in their field of study. Among them is the Student Government Association (SGA), which provides leadership training and extensive problem-solving skills to its participants. Whether the student is interested in politics or just looking to become more involved in campus life. The highest level of respect and responsibility within the SGA is acting Student Trustee. What is a student trustee you ask?

According to Cassie Keller, current Student Trustee, it's about leadership, communication and dedication to the student body and its needs here at ICC. Keller began her journey to leadership at ICC in her freshman year when she began as Senate of the Student Government Association (SGA) then she quickly took on

the responsibility of filling the Secretary seat and now sits on the highest level of counsel at ICC, as Student Trustee. The role of a Student Trustee includes a variety of responsibilities. The most important aspect of Keller's responsibilities is listening to the concerns of the student body and relaying those concerns to the Board of Trustees (BOT) with hopes of invoking a change of mutual satisfaction.

"Finding a voice for others that may not have that[voice], and being able to provide them with the resources they need, but don't know how to access," said Keller.

Keller's role as Student Trustee is very important to the student body at ICC. Student Trustee is about practicing extensive communication with students and members of the BOT.



Cassie Keller, Current Student Trustee

Student Trustees also a vital role within SGA. Many of the tasks put into execution by SGA must first be cleared through the Student Trustee.

The Student Trustee is responsible for providing information to SGA about the BOT meetings and expectations. With the student government needing a voice for the student body electorate, the Student Trustee embodies that voice. Keller states, “ It’s such an important role to be able to provide the voice for all of the students.”

SGA will soon be holding elections to fill the position of Student Trustee, as well as many others, as Keller and many of her colleagues at SGA are set to graduate in May. Keller leaves a word of wisdom for the next student to fill the Student Trustee role, that the position is about being open-minded and available.

She went on to reiterate the importance of being the voice of the whole student body at ICC.

“Just trying to open yourself to how many different types of people there are on campus and learning all the different views, and not just the people you kind of hang out with and are in organizations with, because those are the people who may need the resources more than the people you are around,” said Keller.

Keller expresses a few key points she is seeking in her successor. It’s not just about finding a leader who may thrive in the position but who might have the most growth in the position of Student Trustee.

”Being in a leadership role is not just about becoming a better leader yourself, but also investing in the future leaders and finding your replacement as a leader.”

If you are interested in becoming involved in SGA or running for a leadership position you are encouraged to contact Abbie Alsene at Student Life at (309) 694-5201, to have your name included on the ballot. All students can vote or run for Student Trustee in the Spring semester’s upcoming student elections this March. Voting begins for all positions within SGA on the ICC website, polls open at 8 a.m., on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, and will remain open through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 30. Voting will take place in the Atrium on the East Peoria Campus from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the aforementioned dates. All registered students at ICC, full-time, or part-time, are eligible to vote in the campus-wide election for student trustee.





BEHIND THE SCENES

-With the Harbinger Crew



Nick Cheesman

Video Production Crew

“My career goals are to further my education studies in Media/Music/Film/Business. I aim to work in a creative field someday, hopefully as a cinematographer, graphic designer, or producer for a major media company.

Hopefully being able to travel for work or move to a bigger city.”



Zane Dobbelaire

Video Production Crew

“My career goals are to graduate College and to go into the mass communications field to either work in television or radio.”



Find us on YouTube
by scanning the
QR Code



SAFE Trail Clean-up

-Payton Benedict

Feb. 10, 2023

While the recent cold weather is keeping many indoors, the Student Association for the Environment (SAFE) members are set on doing their part to better the environment. Several students involved in the organization took time out of their Friday afternoon to clean up the James E. Henry Nature Trail that neighbors the Illinois Central College (ICC) East Peoria Campus. The clean-up took place from 12 to 1 p.m., and they worked on trimming up trees and other forestry, ensuring the path was clear of debris and making certain other students could walk the trail comfortably. The students are making use of the resources available to make a difference in the world around them through both environmental conservation and preservation.

Members of SAFE are passionate about improving the campus grounds to not only make the nature areas more livable for the different plant and animal species but consequently improve the appearance of the college. Members also want to reach other students across campus and get them involved in their projects.

“Our mission is to both educate people about environmental issues that are problematic, especially in our area and to bring attention to anything that we or other people can be doing to fix those problems,” according to Jordan Bohannan, co-president of SAFE.

While Bohannan is driven toward the club's mis-

sion, he also wants his time here to be a stepping stone toward his future goals. “I’m going into marine biology and conservation and this was something that I felt would be a good step towards that future,” said Bohannan. This SAFE event was just one of the many planned for the remainder of the semester. There are about 15 members involved with the organization’s events.

Bohannan stated, “In the upcoming months, we’re planning to go behind student dorms and clean up that area because there is a lot of trash back there from people just throwing things back there. We also plan to keep maintaining the trails like we are going to do today and then we have some other stuff around the area we are going to be doing along that same line.”

SAFE is welcoming new students who are looking to get involved. Students interested in joining SAFE are encouraged to attend the meetings, held in room 318E in the academic building on the East Peoria campus, Mondays and Fridays weekly. Students can also contact the SAFE advisors which can answer further questions. Those advisors are Jennifer Fenner, Kristin Jacobson-Flex, and Tom Haner. You can reach Jennifer Fenner via email at jen.fenner@icc.edu or join the SAFE canvas page.

“Our mission is to both educate people about environmental issues that are problematic, especially in our area and to bring attention to anything that we or other people can be doing to fix those problems.”

**-Jordan Bohannan,
Co-president of The Student Association for the Environment**



“Kind hearted with a passion for science, Jim was a devoted faculty member and untiring leader at Illinois Central College. He worked countless hours diligently creating and clearing these nature trails on this East Peoria bluff so that students, faculty, and community members could explore nature's beauty in all its glory. The legacy of James Henry lives on as you enjoy this trail and all that Mother Nature has to offer.”

-Engraved onto the Entrance Sign

Will You Be My Valentine

-Patrick Rolling

Feb. 8, 2023

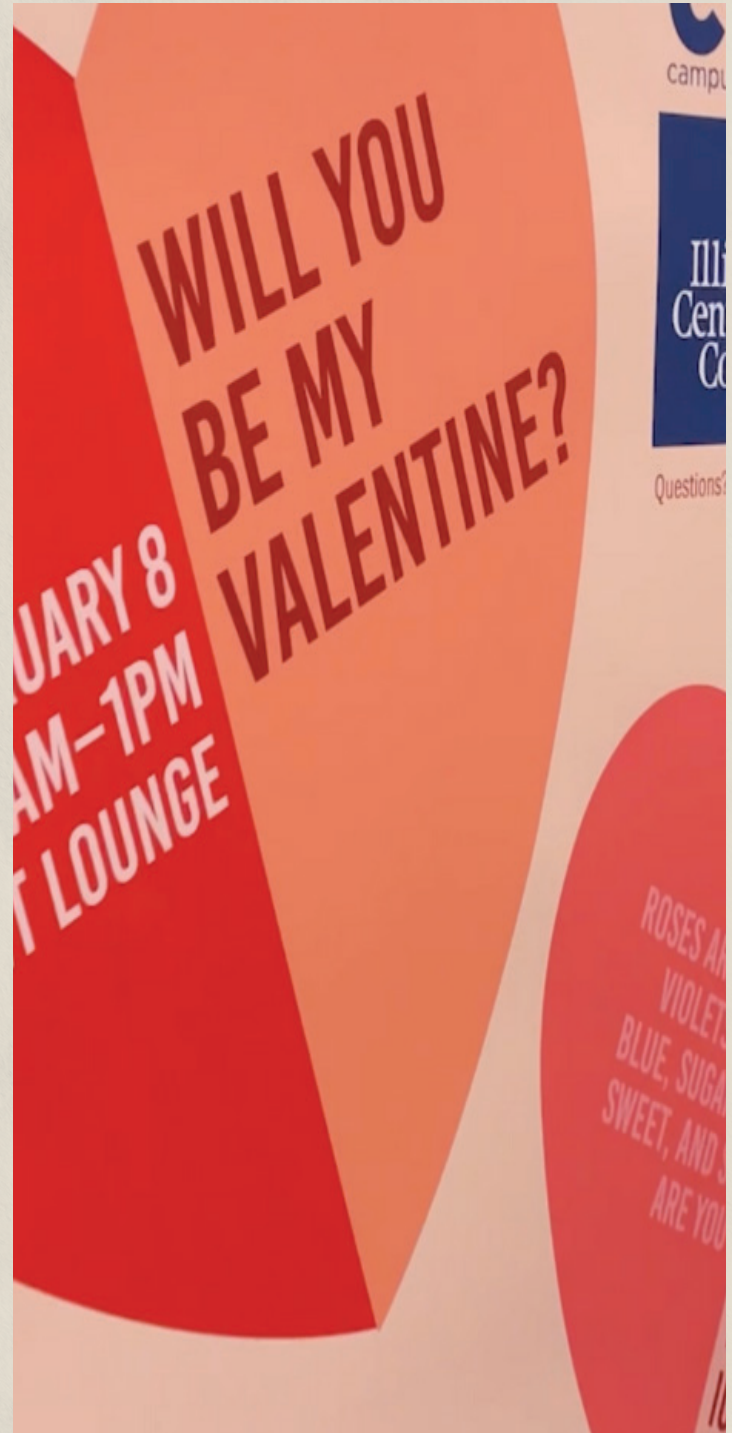
Valentine's Day-themed festivities took place in the Student Lounge from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Illinois Central College's (ICC) East Peoria Campus. This event was hosted by both Campus Activities Board (CAB) and Student Life and is an annual celebration. Participants in the fun could choose to have their caricature drawn by an on-hand artist, shots in the photo booth, cookie decorating (and eating!), and participants could also spend five dollars to Build Your Own Stuffed Animal.

The turnout for the event was on par with past predictions, according to Wes Eggert, a member of CAB and one of the organizers. Eggert, a Sophomore from East Peoria majoring in Psychology, was positioned at the cookie table and kept the music flowing throughout the event.

"We're giving out free cookies to decorate, we have food coloring and sprinkles and giving away CAB stuff. We're trying to get people involved and sign up for CAB. We also have our Stuff-a-Plush, each plush is five dollars and all the proceeds go to CAB. We also have our photo booth, so free photos and you can wear silly hats. We have all kinds of silly stuff to wear," Eggert said.

Small Forward of the Illinois Central College Men's Basketball team Lavell McIntosh, Sophomore from Kankakee, IL. majoring in Pre-Law was seen sitting with the caricature artist. McIntosh planned to hang this new caricature next to one he had displayed at the home of another caricature featuring himself with his mother.

Next up for CAB is a Casino Night, being hosted on March 8, 2023, starting at 6 p.m. in the Student Lounge. CAB is hoping for more members to assist in planning more events this Spring. Those seeking to join CAB are encouraged to stop by Room 303A on the East Peoria Campus.



Student Activities Fair on East Peoria Campus

-Bailey Newhouse

Feb. 3, 2023

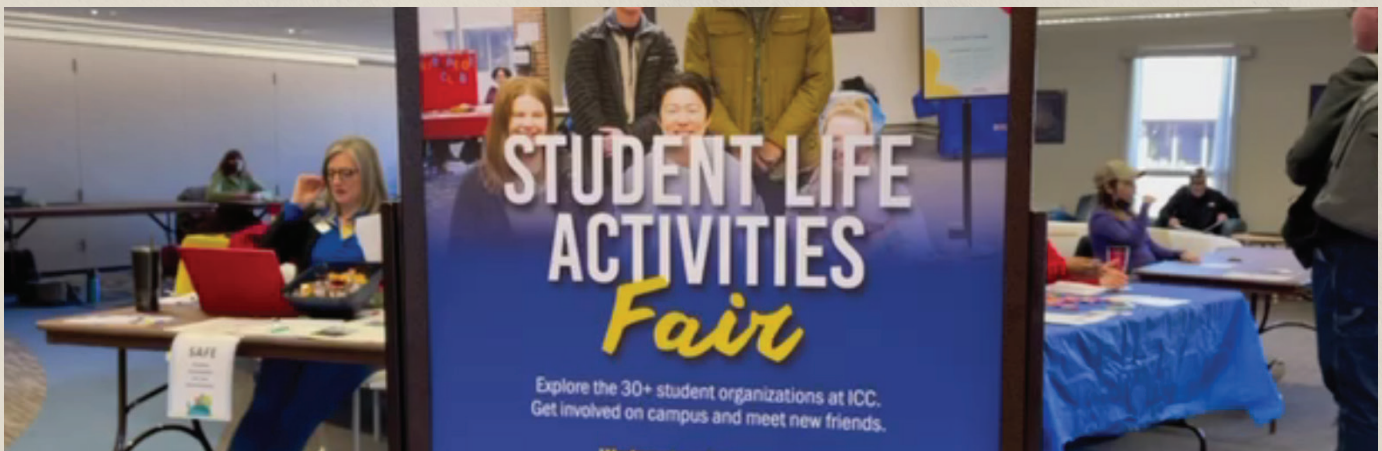
Wednesday, February 1, Illinois Central College (ICC) Student Life held its annual Student Activities Fair, showcasing all of the different organizations and clubs held here at ICC; and Harbinger Student Media (HSM) was able to interview some of these special clubs. They explained what their clubs were about, how to join, and even some of their plans for events in the near future.

One club that was interviewed was the Cru Association of Peoria. They meet every Thursday at Bacci Pizzeria, located on Bradley's campus. This location was selected because both Bradley and ICC students are part of this organization, which is a great way to talk to some of the students there if you are interested in attending Bradley University. Some of their plans for future events are to host a Super Bowl Party, in which people can come, eat food, and watch the Wednesday game with their friends and possible acquaintances.

"Cru focuses on connecting people together through shared religions and communities," says Dylan Steidinger, an intern staff for the organization. Another club that was interviewed was the Student Government Association (SGA), which

much like Student Life, hosts a variety of events that range from setting up coffee carts to hosting carnivals and fairs. "Our future plans are to host a Mental Disorder Awareness event on Monday, February 13, in which we'll bring in mental health professionals and have them talk about a variety of mental disorders, as well as how to cope with some of them like depression and anxiety. SGA will also be hosting our March Elections for Senators, and November Elections for their President," says Emily VanBruwaene, the spokesman for the organization at the Student Activity Fair. However, students do not have to participate in the elections to join, they can just attend their monthly meetings on every first Tuesday of the month and be active members in the events that they host to join their organization.

Student Life's Activity Fairs are a great way to promote the clubs and organizations hosted at ICC. Many of them do not get enough promotion just from the website alone, so it's great to give these organizations a place where students can come in and hear from them. Even if the students aren't interested in joining, it's a good outlet for students to hear about future festivities so that they can be on the lookout for them.



Transgender Visibility Day

-Payton Benedict

March 30, 2023

Today is Transgender Visibility Day, the international day celebrating transgender individuals and raising awareness about the discrimination and injustices they still face. The Illinois Central College Minority Student Retention Team is hosting an event tonight from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held in room 212 C in the academic building of the East Peoria campus of Illinois Central College (ICC). The team is celebrating Transgender Visibility Day by holding a screening of the documentary, “The Future of Trans”. This will be followed by a discussion about the challenges and human rights violations that transgender individuals currently face in the United States.

With constant pressure on conformity for transgender individuals, as well as other members of the LGBTQ+ community, days like this commemorate and honor the current fight for equality. The day is also a celebration of non-binary people who continue to pursue acceptance and validation as well. Events like this are slowly but surely increasing the exposure of issues that transgender people and allies of the transgender community recognize on a daily basis.

ICC has proven to be an adamant supporter of inclusion and diver-



sity. The ICC website includes a mission statement on diversity that is short and sweet.

“Inclusion. Equity. Broad-minded thinking. Global understanding.” states the website.

It goes on to talk about their goal being that with each degree earned, they hope to spread change across the country. With other neighboring states deciding to make life harder for transgender individuals, it is important that students attend events like this to show their support.

ICC Resource Fair

-Bailey Newhouse

March 20, 2023

Thursday, March 9, Illinois Central College (ICC) held its Resource Fair, where any local organization could come in and talk about its organization's goal and purpose. Harbinger Student Media (HSM) was able to interview some organizations and what they wanted to achieve by participating in ICC's Resource Fair, as well as some of their future plans.

One organization that was interviewed was International Friendship, Inc (IFI). They are an incorporation that works with ICC to help welcome international

they missed during orientation or that would like to know more about the program, even if they meet them prior. Some activities that they have planned for in the future include working with other volunteers around central Illinois at the Morton Food Bank to help package food for locals in need and ice skating during spring break.

While this organization mostly focuses on helping international students, there was an organization we interviewed that is open for everyone to use; the Center for Prevention of Abuse (CPA).

Their goal for participating at the fair was to let ICC students know that, if they or anyone they know is going through abuse, there is a safe organization they could contact to seek help. They offered flyers, pamphlets with information about different types of abuse, and contact cards that contained different forms of contact information.

"Our mission statement is to help free those who are suffering from violence and abuse," says Grace Fritz, a member of CPA.

Even though they are an organization that mostly helps people escape from abuse and helps them deal with the trauma that may occur from those situations, they do host many activities that are open to the public. Some of their future activities include their 5k marathon promoting awareness of sexual assault in April and their annual summer duck race, which will be hosted at the East Side Center in Peoria near the end of August.

The ICC Resource Fair is a great way for many local organizations to promote themselves to both ICC students and staff. Many of these organizations provide great services and opportunities to young people, allowing them to start entering the workforce once they've graduated college or assuring them that there are local groups that they can rely on if anything happens to them, their friends, or their family and provide the help and support needed.

students and get them accustomed to their new surroundings.

"IFI helps provide hospitality, accommodations, needs, and a safe environment at ICC for all incoming international students," says Paula Hans, the lead director of IFI.

Their goal for participating at the fair was to introduce themselves to any international students that

**Illinois
Central
College
Resource Fair
2023**

Illinois Central College Athletic Hall

-Eleuria Starfish

Mar. 5, 2023



Illinois Central College (ICC) is officially inducting its first Athletic Hall of Fame to honor those who paved the road for student athletes' success. The ceremony took place Saturday, March 4, 2023, during the sophomore games double-header men's and women's basketball game which closed the season. During halftime at the men's game inductees were recognized and the of-

official ceremony took place at 5:30 pm. This event was open to the public and admission was free.

The soon-to-be-first members of the hall include five past iconic Cougar athletic members, past players, and coaches, alike.

Among the inductees are Lorene Ramsey, the namesake of the ICC gymnasium, and founder of ICC's Women's Basketball Pro-

of Fame 2023; First Class Induction



Erwin

Lorene Ramsey

Sue Sinclair

s Athletic Hall of Fame - Class of 2023

gram in 1969, the Softball Program in 1970, and the Volleyball Program in 1974. Ramsey is the only coach in the history of the National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) to win a national championship in both basketball and softball in the same year. In addition to this recognition, Ramsey has been inducted into 15 different halls of fame for her accomplishments in coach-

ing various sports.

Jim Thome, Peoria, IL native and former pro baseball player, was also inducted Saturday afternoon. Thome was drafted by the Major League Cleveland Guardians after one season at ICC. In 2021, Thome was formally recognized by ICC and is now the namesake for the baseball field, Thome



Field. Thome was awarded the Silver Slugger Award in 1997, the Marvin Miller Man Award in 2001 and 2004, the Roberto Clemente Award in 2002, the Lou Ghrig Memorial Award in 2004, the Brooks Robinson Community Service Award in 2011, and was named the President of the Major Leagues Baseball Players Alumni Association early 2022. Thome was unable to attend the ceremony Saturday, therefore he had a representative to accept his honor.

Also inducted, posthumously, Carrol Herman was honored for his 20-year tenure as the ICC men's basketball coach and athletic director. Herman was one of the most decorated basketball coaches in ICC's history. During his coaching career, Herman guided four NJCAA All-Americans and helped move over 100 athletes into four-year basketball programs. Coach Hermon was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1990. He was also inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 2007.

Dr. John Erwin, former president of ICC from 2001 to 2015, was also honored at the ceremony. Dr. Erwin, alongside Lorene Ramsey, helped to integrate the rise of the CougarPlex, which came to fruition in 2011. Dr. Erwin was also involved in the construction of Campus Housing on the East Peoria Campus. It was also Dr. Erwin who initiated the cross-country team and the men's and women's soccer teams at ICC. Dr.

Erwin was recognized for his excellence when he was awarded the George E. Killian Award of Excellence from the NJCAA for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Sue Sinclair is a national champion volleyball coach and athletic director. Coach Sinclair has been the volleyball coach at Illinois Central College for 29 years, accumulating more than 900 victories. Sinclair was awarded the George E. Killian Award of Excellence in 2009. Sinclair completes the 2023 class.

Rob Buss, the current Director of Athletics at ICC, notes that there are several components to meet the criteria to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The first of which is that they must fall into one or more of the following categories: student-athlete, coach/administrator, contributor, and team.

"This will be an annual event held in late January/early February and will be toed in with a Saturday home women's & men's basketball double-header," said Buss.

ICC's Athletic Hall of Fame was created to offer recognition for teams and individuals who have stood out above the rest and gone above and beyond in performance, teamwork, sportsmanship, and other contributions to ICC's Athletics Department.

Season of Love and ... Baseball!

-Eleuria Starfish

Feb. 9, 2023

Valentine's Day is just around the bend, and coincidentally so is the Illinois Central College (ICC) baseball and softball season. For those without a valentine during the season of love, the good news is, there is another noteworthy season to look forward to. ICC baseball and softball season will ensue in the morning and evening of February 17, respectively.

The men's team will be departing from Illinois on an excursion to play in Mississippi. While in Mississippi the Cougars Baseball team will play against Northwest Mississippi, Baton Rouge, Jones, Pearl River, and Mississippi Gulf Coast, before returning to Illinois to play off in several different cities in early March.

The men's team consists of 18 freshmen, several of which are relief pitchers, 9 sophomores, and 2 juniors. Last year, the men's team had an overall record of 20-28 and a win percentage of .417. The men's team is looking to have a winning record this season and is excited about upcoming games.

Hunter Cooley, second baseman, started baseball when he was only five. Since the male Cougars kickoff their games in Mississippi, around 650 miles from home, Cooley notes that his favorite aspect of away games is seeing the new towns and cities, as well as the unique fields the team plays on. Cooley says this season that he is most excited about the new experiences that college ball brings, and hopefully winning a lot with the guys. Cooley notes, "It is usually difficult for me to join a new team, but from day one I knew these guys were special, and I love every single one of them. They're great teammates."

The softball team will also hit the road at the

start of its season. Facing off against several worthy opponents in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The women's team will initially face off against Bishop State, Coastal Alabama South, East Central, and Northwest Florida State in the Sun Chief Classic. The classic will end on February 14, and the softball team will then venture north to Burlington Iowa on February 24 where they will participate in the Southeastern Iowa Dome Tournament.

ICC's women's team consists of 9 returning sophomores and 7 freshman players. Last season, the softball team had an overall record of 33-20 with a winning percentage of .623. The indoor hitting cages at the Cougar Plex have allowed the team to prepare in the colder months to face off against their Alabama foes.

ICC's baseball and softball teams, with plenty of new freshmen on this year's rosters, are gearing up to work hard and have fun while showing up in the deep south. The Cougars will have their first home game Thursday, March 16, at 4 p.m. on ICC's Thome Field, against the Lakeland Lakers. The lady cougars will have their first home game on March 23, at 3 p.m. against the Danville Jaguars. Don't miss the chance to show some cougar pride at their next home games!



ICC Basketball is in Full Swing

-Eleuria Starfish

Feb. 6, 2023



The spring semester is here and in full swing at Illinois Central College (ICC). The return to academic duty comes alongside the return of a few of our sports teams. Both men's and women's basketball continued over the schooling hiatus, while soccer, golf, and volleyball concluded. ICC's baseball and softball teams will commence their seasons on February 17, in the meantime, Harbinger Student Media (HSM) caught up with the ICC men's basketball team Wednesday night.

Gameday kicks off with bright skies and dry but warmer temperatures. The men's basketball record is 7-13 and the women's team currently sits at an overall record of 15-7. This record, in turn, leads to the question of the day, can the gentlemen Cougars finish their season strong in time for

the Region 24 tournament in March?

To get the scoop on what the men's team plans to do for the remainder of their games, Mr. Tony Wysinger, the men's basketball head coach, was interviewed. Coach Wysinger has overseen the Cougars for 24 seasons. Under his leadership the Cougars have set school records for wins in a season (29), consecutive wins in a season (15), and four consecutive 20-win seasons. He has three times have been named M-WAC Coach of the Year, twice as Region XXIV Coach of the Year, and once as District 8 Coach of the Year.

Coach Wysinger remarks that "We have 12 new players out of 14 active players on the team this year. Getting everyone to understand our philos-

ophy and culture has been challenging the entire season. So that is what I am still looking forward to.”

The turnover rate for community college basketball is inherently higher than a 4-year.

Wysinger notes that “Boosting morale has never been an issue here at ICC. Our athletic teams have always been suc-

around. The Cougars trailed by ten until the last ten minutes of the game and attempted to close the gap but fell three points short by the final two minutes. The coach’s words rang true, the morale is high but the competitiveness fell short.

Courtland Soll and LaColis Ashby Jr., led the team in points, each individually putting up 12 a piece. The Cougars were



cessful, so being competitive as a whole is our concern.”

ICC has a strong sense of community, and the coach and team recognize that. Wysinger’s favorite aspect of home games is the support his team gets from the community, the men’s team has over 6 local students/athletes, and the community comes out to support them, win or lose.

The most recent game was intense, down to the wire until the second quarter, both teams traded buckets for several minutes. There were missed shots on both sides and plenty of fouls all

unable to recover after a Parkland timeout in the second half, as the Cobras rallied and established a 7-point advantage.

Ashby Jr. galvanized the crowd with a dunk, seemingly gaining momentum. Cougars on the sideline were visibly disgruntled as the game progressed, which could be interpreted as a sign of the team’s passion.

ICC men’s basketball, with 12 new freshmen on this year’s team, is working to unify with each passing game. Don’t miss the chance to show some cougar pride at their next home game on Wednesday, February 8.

ICC Baseball Heats Up

-*Eleuria Starfish*

March 31, 2023

Illinois Central College (ICC) is in the middle of baseball season. With 16 remaining regular season games, the men's team is looking to close out with a winning record. The Cougars currently hold a 10-12 record. The team's recent success can be attributed to their efficient pitching, solid hitting, and commitment to teamwork and hard work.

Recently, the baseball team has been on a sizzling six-game win streak—their last game took place on March 29. Four of the most recent wins have been against Vincennes University.

In an exciting baseball game, the hometown team out-performed their opponents, led by outstanding performances from Beau Durbin, Josh Heyder, and Hunter Thornton.

Durbin led the team with four hits and one RBI. Heyder wasn't far behind, with three hits, two RBI, and one walk. Powell contributed two hits and one RBI, while Gauf added one hit and two RBI to the team total. McCallister also had a good game, recording two hits.

Doty contributed one hit and one RBI, and Thornton's patience at the plate earned him three walks. Hansen also demonstrated his discipline by taking two walks.

The Cougars peaked their performance

in the 4th and 6th inning, scoring three points in both innings. Gavin Thompson, who was credited with the win in the first game, finished the job in the top of the 7th inning. Thompson shut the door, securing the win for the Cougars by inducing a pair of groundouts and a flyout.

The offensive display of the second game included the Cougars being led by Durbin, who tallied four hits and drove in a run. Heyder also had a standout performance, delivering three hits, including two RBI, and a walk. Jackson Powell recorded two hits and drove in a run, while Kaleb Gauf added a hit and two RBI to the Cougars' total. Riley McCallister contributed two hits to the movement, while Doty added a hit and an RBI. Thornton and Tyler Hansen were disciplined at the plate, each pulling three walks combined.

In Game Two, The team's starting pitcher, Jake Jacek, was in model baseball form, pitching five scoreless innings while only allowing five hits and one walk. Jacek's dominant performance kept the opposition's hitters at bay and set the tone for the team's success. Relief pitcher, Gage Burdick, also had a solid outing, pitching four innings and permitting only one earned run on two hits. Burdick was impressive on the mound, striking out five batters and providing critical support to the team's

defense.

The men's coach Brett Kelly noted that:

"I am excited about our final 30 or so games. We are starting to play well. If our bats can come through against some tough pitching, we should finish pretty strong. Our pitching and defense have been pretty good for most of the season. I like how the team plays together and pulls for one another. They practice hard as a group and it carries over into games."

Overall, the Cougars executed a win, with several players stepping up and delivering when it counted the most. With this victo-

ry, the group appears poised to extend its winning streak and is preparing to get ready for the postseason.

The Cougars baseball team is gearing up for their upcoming games against the Lewis & Clark Trailblazers this Friday, March 31. The doubleheader will take place at ICC's very own Thome Field in East Peoria, Illinois, with the first game starting at 1 p.m. and the second at 4 p.m. Be sure to show your Cougar pride this Friday, tickets are free when you present your ICC student ID. Stay tuned in for your ICC sports updates at icc.harbinger.com.



Cougar Softball Shutout

-Eleuria Starfish

Apr. 7, 2023



Front of the Illinois Central College East Peoria Building

It is now well into mid-season for the Illinois Central College (ICC) softball team. Less than ten regular season games remain. The current record is 11-10 and the Lady Cougars hope to increase their winning margin.

Despite the recent weather inclement, the softball team was able to have their games against Lewis & Clark this past Wednesday at ICC's Thome field.

The ICC softball team put on an impressive display of hitting to earn a 2-0 sweep against Lewis & Clark. The group recorded a total of 20 hits on the day and scored 8-0 and 7-3 wins in the double-header.

The Cougars hit seven home runs, with two each from Marley Williamson and Kiersten Manning and one each from Olivia Drish, Shylar Boze, and Savannah Clifton. The games

were played under the scorching sun, but the Cougars were unphased and delivered a dominant performance.

The victory sweetened the team's overall record to 12-10, while the Blazers dropped to 10-7.

During the first game, the team's hitters were in principal form, with Williamson leading the way with an ideal 2-2 record, including two home runs and four RBI. Boze also put in a solid performance, going 2-3 with a home run, double, and two RBI. Manning and Drish both went 2-3 at the plate, with Manning adding an RBI and Drish smashing a home run and driving in a run.

Alicia Casas also put in a strong showing, hitting a double and contributing to the team's overall success. The win improved

the Cougars' record and showed that they are a force to be reckoned with.

The team's impressive hitting was matched by their excellent pitching, with Manning leading the way. Manning went five innings, striking out an impressive 13 batters and allowing only a single hit. Her dominant performance on the mound set the tone for the game and kept the opposing team from gaining any momentum.

Manning, who during the second game put on another chief performance and went 1-2 at the plate, hitting a home run and driving in two runs.

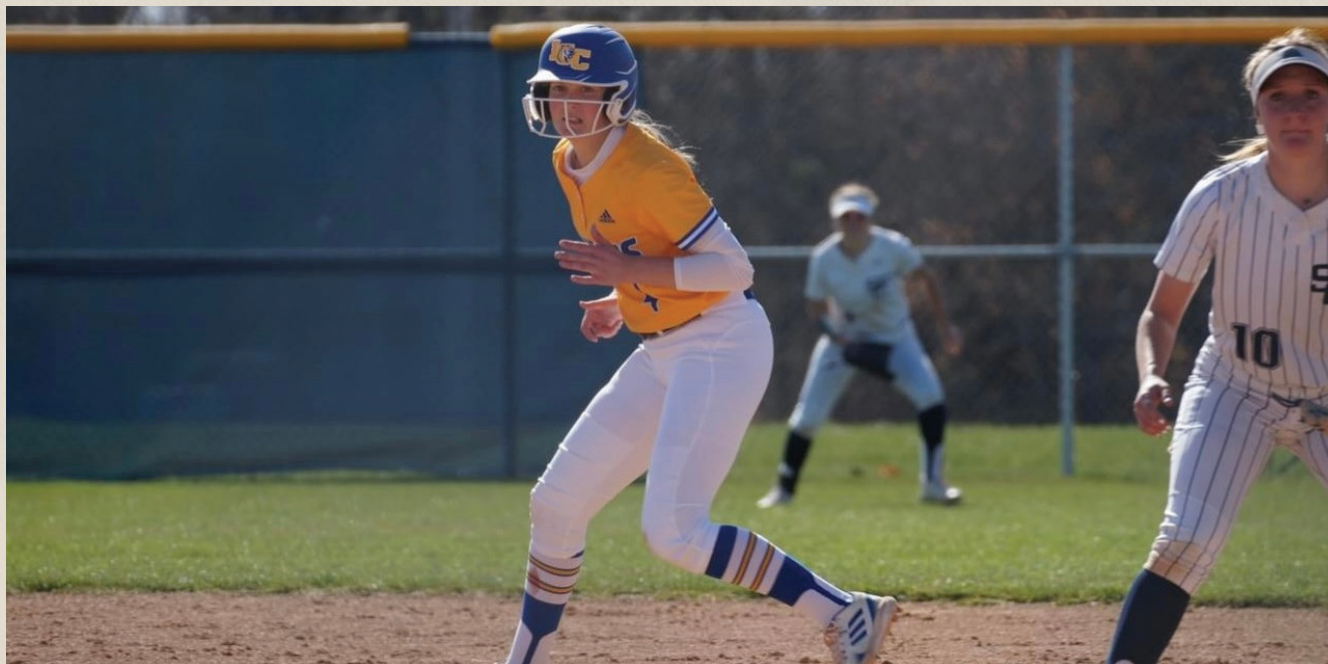
"The most important and impactful thing when it comes to pitching to remain dominant field is to have a good mindset. I constantly had to remind myself yesterday that even when I was doing good, you can't let that affect your mindset. You are there to do a job and I kept telling myself to take it batter

by batter and do the best you can because I knew I had phenomenal backup behind me," Manning said.

When asked what her favorite aspect of the double-header yesterday was, Manning stated:

"I would definitely say my favorite part of the game yesterday was celebrating everything with my teammates. Everyone did so good yesterday and it just makes the game more fun to celebrate other people's performances."

With words of wisdom from ICC's very own standout player, the ladies are looking forward to the remainder of their games. The team's next game is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, against Heartland at 3 p.m. in Normal, IL. Show some cougar pride and catch the next home game Monday, April 10, at 3 p.m. For more ICC updates be sure to check iccharbinger.com.





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