

The LAMP

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Agriculture is growing



Professor William Harmon works with students in Lincoln Land agricultural field.

Teresa Brummett/The Lamp

Club hosts prom for seniors

By Logan McHenry
Lamp staff

CHATHAM — Senior citizens who reside at the Villas of Holly Brook got to relive their teenage days at the Seniors Citizens Prom on Friday, March 17.

The St. Patrick's Day prom acted as a service project hosted by the Lincoln Land Community College Honors Program.

"The best thing about it was dancing with hot college girls," said one of the residents in a conversation with Alicia Windisch, a member of the Honors Program.

Windisch mentioned one resident kept saying, "Life is good."

The families of the senior citizens were also in attendance for Family Day. Dinner and cake started being served at 5 p.m. while the dance followed shortly after from 6 to 8 p.m. Balloons, streamers and other St. Patrick's Day-themed decorations filled the room.

A photo booth was available for the residents to capture the good times. A lot of the residents loved taking pictures with other residents and the Honors Program volunteers.

Music of the 1940s and 1950s was played throughout the evening. Periodically, a popular dance song of today's time would come on. Some of these songs included the "Chicken Dance", "Macarena" and the "Cha-Cha Slide".

Some of the residents danced, and some of them didn't. However, it was evident that everyone had a good time.

"It was so nice to talk to each of the residents and learn about the lives they had and the family they grew up with," said Katherine Hoppe, another Honors Program member. "It was also fun for some of them to teach us some dances from when they were our age."

Another Honors Program student that helped with the dance, Will Acton, commented on his experience Friday night: "I really liked the service project overall, though it really didn't feel like a project to me. It felt the same as throwing a dance like I helped with back in high school. The elders were laughing and dancing and it truly was like they were in high school again."

"I liked this service projects more than others because it was more than just cleaning up highways," Windisch said. "You got to see everyone's reactions and see how much fun they were having."

Flowers were given to all the residents at the assisted living facility, not just the ones that participated in the dance.

"I had a blast and would love to do it again," Acton said.

Harmon provides students with hands-on experience in ag classes

By Teresa Brummett
Lamp staff

SPRINGFIELD - When we sit down to eat do you ever think about how there's a lot more involved in just farming to get the food on the table? Or did it ever make you think what type of work is involved before it's even planted?

When I visited with Professor William Harmon from the department of Ag. business management here at Lincoln Land Community College and his class of students that's exactly what I found out.

Professor Harmon teaches Agronomy, which is the study of soil management and crop production.

So even before the fields are disked, a person with this technical knowledge is hard at work. Their jobs are very important and are essential in making sure the crops that will soon be planted are going to withstand the soil, and grow healthy, strong plants in the fields.

There are a wide variety of jobs

that one would be able to acquire after they receive an Agriculture degree at Lincoln Land, such as sales marketing, livestock production and mechanics. These skills will allow the students to find future jobs with grain elevators, fertilizer plants,

Ag, Continued on Page 3

Future chefs gain experience with Bistro Verde

By Teresa Brummett
Lamp staff

SPRINGFIELD - When it comes to food, Bistro Verde can serve some beautifully-plated and great-tasting items.

With the help from one of the leaders, Chef Instructor Denise was guiding some of the students into what it takes to have the skills to be a chef one day.

There are several steps involved in the preparation of the food until it arrives to your table. But, that's just what this group of students learn here at Lincoln Land Culinary Department.

Stepping into the large kitchen area, one could tell that there was some serious cooking going on. The smell that seemed to have been in the air was balsamic vinegar. Step-

ping up to Chef Patrick Batsaikhan, he explained that he was making balsamic vinegar caviar. He was quickly making caviar even though it took several steps before he would be finished.

The texture of the caviar was like an over cooked pea, but the sample taste that I was given was definitely all balsamic vinegar. It was like a little burst of vinegar in my mouth. Chef Batsaikhan gave the reason for preparing so many of these little delicacies which would later be used in the Greek salad that a fellow chef was preparing on the other side of the table.

While one chef was preparing a huge pot of tomato soup, dough was being ran through a pasta maker roller attached to a Kitchen Aid mixer. Although the kitchen area seem hectic, it didn't seem to bother

any of the chefs who all were hard at work.

It was 11 a.m., and there was already a chocolate mousse cake with, of course, chocolate frosting and topped with the thinnest spun sugar in a beautiful golden color that I'd ever seen. Technique is definitely key in working as a chef here in the culinary department at Lincoln Land.

As I made my way to another section of the kitchen I ran into Jim Boosinger, who explained that he already completed classes in Baking and Pastry and the class he is currently in is Hospitality management and services.

Chef Boosinger, and his assistant chef Katlyn, were working on making pizza dough to be used in several different dishes. Pita bread, pizza dough and empanadas. Chef Boo

explained that the empanada which they were currently preparing to make, is basically a meat stuffed pastry. It can be baked or fried and the stuffing can change for each person's preference.

The student chefs here at Bistro Verde are learning what it takes to either one day own their own restaurants or be a head chef at another. But, whatever they learn here will last them their entire lives. One chef explained that she is taking every class she can so that one day she'll own her own restaurant. She also mentioned that she's taken almost all of the culinary courses and has had a fun time doing it, while meeting other prospective chefs.

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This newspaper is dedicated to the students, faculty and staff of Lincoln Land Community College.

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Lifesaving donation

Organ recipient discusses experiences

By Andrew Paisley
Lamp staff

Janice Earl was born with what seemed like a constant cold and congestion in her chest.

"The doctor would put me on medicine, and I would clear up right away, but as soon as I was finished with the medicine, the cold symptoms would come right back," Earl said.

It wasn't until the age of 10 months, that doctors diagnosed Earl with Cystic Fibrosis.

Taylorville Memorial Hospital was honored to have Earl, a double lung and kidney recipient, speak March 1. The Decatur native was there to promote awareness for organ and tissue donation.

CF is a progressive genetic disease that causes persistent lung infections and over time limits the ability to breathe. In people with CF, a defective gene causes a thick buildup of mucus in the lungs and pancreas. The mucus in the lungs clogs the airways and traps bacteria leading to infections, lung damage, and eventually respiratory failure. In the pancreas, the mucus prevents the release of digestive enzymes that allow the body to breakdown and absorb food.

Earl did pretty well handling the

disease as she grew up.

"I had frequent colds and had to do breathing treatments every day at home to help keep my airways open and help me move some of the mucus out, and I took medicine that would help breakdown and digest the food I ate," Earl said.

At 8 years old, the mucus in Earl's lungs built up so much that she was diagnosed with pneumonia. Her doctor hospitalized her for two weeks and gave her IV antibiotics.

"The doctor explained to my family and I that since CF is a progressive disease, I would most likely have to go to the hospital periodically for IV antibiotics just to help keep the infections down, so we called these trips to the hospital my 'tune ups'." Earl said.

Towards the end of her junior year in high school, Earl's doctor explained that most of the antibiotics available weren't doing anything for her and that her health was just continuously getting worse.

"He said basically there wasn't anything else he could do for me, and he suggested we think about lung transplantation," Earl said.

The doctor wanted to send Earl's medical records to the lung transplant program at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. Earl and her family discussed the idea, and decided it was definitely something they wanted to check out.

The transplant program at Barnes Hospital reviewed Earl's records

and wanted her to come down for an evaluation. At the time, the lung transplant program was so new, that they would only accept you as a candidate if they thought you had a year or less to live. Earl was a perfect candidate, and she was put on a waiting list for new lungs.

"At that time, they wanted you to live within 30 minutes of the hospital so you could get to the hospital quickly when lungs became available for you," Earl stated.

So, in September 1991, at the beginning of her senior year in high school, Earl and her mother moved to St. Louis and began their wait for her new lungs. At the time, the average wait for new lungs was approximately two months, but they informed Earl that her wait time may be a little longer because of her small size and the fact that her blood type wasn't common.

Finally, on July 8, 1992, after 10 months and five days of waiting, Earl got the call that lungs were available for her. The surgery lasted approximately 7 hours, and on the second day after surgery, Earl was taken off the ventilator and was able to breathe on her own. Earl and her mother were then allowed to move back home to Decatur.

"After my transplant it was a totally different world for me," Earl stated. "I could breathe, I felt good, and I had energy! I could breathe and walk around at the same time." She said.

Earl did really well with her lungs for about seven years, and then she started having kidney problems. The kidney problems were caused from the anti-rejection medicine Earl had to take after her lung transplant. The anti-rejection medicine was used to suppress Earl's immune system so that her body didn't fight off her new lungs. Unfortunately, the medicine is very hard on your kidneys. Earl's kidneys were completely damaged.

The doctors decided that Earl needed a kidney transplant, and so family members tested to see if they were a match. It turned out, Earl's own mother was an excellent match and she decided she wanted to be her donor. The transplant took place on September 28, 1999.

"My mother and I are still both doing great," Earl said. "She can't tell that she has only one kidney, and I can't tell that I have only one kidney. The only thing I can tell is that the kidney I have is working and I feel great again."

"I feel so unbelievably blessed to have received not only new lungs, but also a kidney. I know had I not received my lungs when I did, I wouldn't be here today. My transplants have literally given me a second chance at life." Earl said of the experience.

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From classroom to statehouse

Model Illinois Government students win several awards

By Karlee Thompson
Lamp staff

SPRINGFIELD — Lincoln Land students were among a group of college students who took over the Illinois statehouse on March 2 to 5.

John Vinzant, political science professor, and several students from the model Illinois government class attended a simulation at the Illinois state capitol.

Students picked their political party and then they picked whether they wanted to be a part of the House or the Senate. They then split up into committees led by spokespersons.

"Session consisted of a Senate debate between the democrats who were the majority and the republicans who were the minority," said Dustin Bumgardner, a student in the Model Illinois Government course.

Bumgardner was a member of Committee One "Education and Family Services", and also a spokesperson for the Republican's in his committee.

"I learned that the Senate gave students more talking time about political issues," said Kourtney McAllister, also a Senate Republican.

This experience offers hands-on, interactive experience for students to learn about the way government functions. Those participating or wishing to participate don't necessarily have to be thinking about pursuing a career in politics.

"As a political official, you cannot be afraid of opposition, and you have to have thick skin. I felt like during the simulation I was very passionate about my views, while still presenting them in a respectful manner," Bumgardner said.



Students had nothing but good to say about the experience. Bumgardner said that it was interesting to learn how actual government officials in different positions work together to create the laws we live under. Both Bumgardner and McAllister said that it was one of their favorite college experiences so far.

Not only was this a success among the students experience wise, but several Lincoln Land students brought back several awards as well.

"I was very pleased to see five different awards go to students from Lincoln Land," Bumgardner said.

The following awards received were as followed:

■ Outstanding Office of Management and Budget (OMB) analyst: Jason Edwards

■ Outstanding House Committee Chair: Mason Gordon

■ Outstanding Senate Committeeperson: Zach Fedor

■ Outstanding Senate Committee Chair: Gordon Davis

■ Outstanding Lobbyist: Silas Tockey

McAllister raved about how much she enjoys the class. "Anyone who loves politics would love this class. It gives students the chance how to actual debate topics or even their beliefs in a proper way. Essentially everyone gets a turn to properly say what they believe," McAllister said.

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Teresa Brummett/The Lamp

Professor William Harmon works with students in Lincoln Land agricultural field.

Ag

Continued from Page 1

farms or even sales.

The students who take Professor Harmon's class will earn an AAS Ag. Business Management degree. With other options as AAS in Precision Agriculture/Fertilizer and Landscaping/Turf Management.

Although 80% of the students will transfer to other universities to gain a bachelor degree, while they are here at Lincoln Land they have several options on the subject to take.

Ag Business, Ag Mechanics, Computer Application, Animal Science, Crops and Soils.

So, when Professor Harmon took his class down the street to a piece of property owned by Lincoln Land, it is there where they learned the hands on the process of what's involved in taking soil samples.

Splitting up in small groups they took what is called a Soil Sampler Probe, which is a metal rod type tool that is pressed down into the dirt and when raised it brings with it a soil sample which will then be tested. They allow the dirt to dry out, which gives a better result in the end. Testing wet or damp soil can give false results. And the more accurate the results the better the crops grow.

These probes can get very expensive. Prices start as low as \$22.00 and can go up as high as almost \$300.00. There are also several different types of probes available. So, having the few they do for the class, it at least gives each of the students a chance to learn how taking a real soil sample is done.

When the sample is then tested, it will break down the soil to show what nutrients it provides. It is then that the results show how much minerals, organic matter, air and water are in the soil. Alkaline and acidic results will allow the person to increase or decrease needed nutrients where it's needed, to end with the best soil for the plants health. This will also tell them what is missing in the soil.

During Professor Harmon's class, he explained that in class the students learn what they will be doing in the field. So, whatever they learn

in the lecture portion of class they can be aware that they will be doing just that. They get to test these things for themselves to see what does and doesn't work. They also learn electrical wiring and writing up a fertilizer plan for customers. Which makes the design of the class even more efficient for their future careers.

Men and women average about 14 students in each section and Professor Harmon teaches 4 different courses. Which keeps him pretty busy.

The program averages 70/30 men to woman. When the transfer program is closer to 50/50. And woman are given just as many job opportunities as men since the physical strength is less important for most of the jobs in the industry today.

With technology of computers and self-driving machines any person who ends up with this type of job can look for long hours and still have to be able to do maintenance on equipment when needed. While learning the ins and outs of the self-driving equipment they may or may not even use for their job.

During each semester, each student learns all the safety procedures as well. They also learn how to protect those around them. But, when these students do finish and get their degrees they'll be looking to start making around \$10 -\$20 per hour although, commodity prices will determine on how much those who get jobs on farms will be paid.

Professor Harmon who has been with Lincoln Land for twenty years enjoys teaching these young people what Agriculture really is. Although he enjoys his summers off he understands the importance of teaching these and other students agriculture for local communities and around the world.

He commented saying, "My favorite phrase in class is "who cares?". Then I try to help students see how the topic we are studying matters to them, or a customer, or another person." He makes sure that the students see the good and the bad side of a career in agriculture. Then that way they can decide for themselves if they want to stay with it or if they want to switch majors. But very few ever switch.

When I asked Professor Harmon if he had any inspiring words for his students he said, the ability to learn and solve problems in the most important knowledge they can acquire at LLCC. Technical knowledge becomes outdated in a few years. Jobs will change. Knowing how to adapt is an essential skill we want all our student to have.

He did say he's been teaching some of his original student's children which makes him feel old. But, he is amazed at how the students remember what it felt like to be a student in "Bill Land".

So, the next time you sit down to eat dinner just remember that there's a whole lot more involved than just the steps of planting and harvesting crops. It's those who are behind the scenes who keep the crops growing.

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Review: Beauty and the Beast

By Teresa Brummett

Lamp staff

Back in 1991 the release of an animation movie from Disney broke records from the first week that it was released. When the animated movie of The Beauty and the Beast was released no one would have thought that it would rank so high.

Even in its second week out the animation version of The Beauty and the Beast grossed over \$9,624,149 and kept climbing. By three months it had broken a few more records, as the fastest to \$200 million for its time. Which was just over \$202 million in sales.

It also hit other records, a total of 39 in all, with most being the biggest domestic weekend, which ranked from day 5 release till day 7,375. From week to week the movie broke record after record.

So, it's not a surprise that just a short 26 years later that we would be talking about it once again. But that's exactly what is happening.

Disney has redone the classic and brought it back with a slight twist. Instead of being those animated characters that everyone fell in love with the Disney corporation have created the classic using actual actors/actresses into these famous rolls.

The public not knowing exactly what to expect when they placed Emma Watson, from the Harry Potter movies as Belle, Dan Stevens from Downton Abbey as The Beast and Luke Evans from Dracula as Gaston. And these were just the start of a huge dynamic cast. Ian McKellen, Ewan McGregor, Andrea Mc Donald, Stanley Tucci and more. Of course, we would have to mention Kevin Kline as Belle's father Maurice and Josh Gad as Le Fou where their parts couldn't have been any more of a perfect fit for them as well as the other actors and actresses.

Although Stevens had a lot of hard work during the making of the film he also had to learn not only walk but dance in the stilts for his part. And even though his face was covered with makeup it showed every facial emotion that he had. Which brought the human side of him out for the viewer to see.

But, nothing could have prepared the audience when Stevens started singing a song of his very own along with Kline's character who also had a song of his own. Both songs that were created for the movie which were by the original composer Alan Menken with help from Tim Rice and Howard Ashman. Men-



ken has composed several other animated Disney movies on the list is movies like Aladdin, The Little Mermaid, Pocahontas and Tangled just to name a few. These songs that were added into the classic soundtrack music were too perfect. It was as if they had been created and placed on the original soundtrack.

And with names like Ariana Grande and John Legend singing

the original theme song, and Celine Dion with the new song "How Does a Moment Last Forever." There's no doubt that you may need tissues for this soundtrack because it is as enjoyable or a cut above the original.

Then you add in the acting that's found in this once again classic no one will be disappointed in the movie. In fact, believing that sales of the movie tells it's story couldn't be closer to the truth.

Since the day the new version of Beauty and the Beast has opened sales have hit a high of \$317 million, with barely ten days since its release on March 17. And once foreign ticket sales are added in per comScore that amount will grow to \$690.3 million for the first two weeks in the box office.

The original animated movie grossed \$425 million and that isn't such a far stretch for the new Beauty and the Beast to cross the \$500 million mark over the next few weeks.

For years Disney, has compiled their stories to encourage children and adults alike how people want and should be treated, with respect. For those who are arrogant, they can really change to be a better person and be a protector when needed. And those who want to find true love will find it in the most unexpected of places.

This new version of Beauty and the Beast brings back all the magical feelings as the original but updates it for all viewers new and old alike.

It brings back all the emotions that the original one gives you. But reminds you that you can love someone for what's hidden inside of them. Throw in the fighting villains, singing, dancing and comedy and you've got a great hit.

Then all the extra scenes the writers added into the story by showing you more of a connection with The Beast and Belle. It pulls you in within the first few minutes and keeps you on the edge of your seat waiting for that moment of their happily ever after.

So, watch out in a few weeks while Beauty and the Beast breaks a few more records before it's all said and done. I would suggest that if you liked the first one you'll love the new version because it brings the human emotion to it and who can resist...a Beast!

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