

Students win for creativity







Madison Mings/The Lamp Above: Best Photography - "Bloody Christmas" Bottom Left: Best of Show - "Ryan's Hands of Inner Strength"



Students 'Go Near, Go Far'

By Karlee Thompson Lamp writer

SPRINGFIELD -- As the end of the semester nears, Loggers' futures are only beginning.

Students are not only anxious about summer, but their new life journeys as well. Many students are choosing to stay local longer, while others plan to go far from home. Student's come from all different backgrounds with many different life and career paths in mind.

The Lamp recently caught up with five Lincoln Land student moving on this fall to find out where they're going and what they liked about their time here.

Alyssa Koger

Alyssa Koger is a pre-health major at LLCC. She plans to go to Missouri Southern State University.

"I plan on becoming a labor and delivery nurse, but my ultimate goal is to become a Labor and Delivery travel nurse and travel the states," Koger said.

While Koger is excited to get the rest of her education rolling, she had nothing but good to say about choosing Lincoln Land first.

"I think attending a community college benefitted me greatly. I saved money, got to live at home and eat home-cooked meals every night, and got a great education," Koger said.

She said she chose her future school based on the fact that it is six hours from home and has a beautiful campus.

Ryan Larson

Ryan Larson is also going far from home after he finishes up his time as a Logger.

"I am going to the University of Central Florida," Larson said. "My major at UCF will be entertainment

LLCC Juried Student Art Show honors creative artwork

Madison Mings Lamp writer

Springfield— Lincoln Land Community College held there 2017 Juried Student Art Show on April 13 in the James S. Murray gallery exhibit.

The art show included 3-D designs, paintings, photography, life drawings, digital media and more.

There were sixty-four art students that submitted a total of 164 entries, representing 13 of LLCC's studio classes.

The winners are

* Summer Spain- Best Photography "Bloody Christmas", gicelèe print, Digital

* Binh Nguyen- Best of Graphic Design "Metamorphosis" Digital Media * Diane Wilson- Best in Show "Ryan's Hands of Inner Strength" oil on canvas

* Binh Nguyen- Best of Printmaking "Nymph" serigraphy, silkscreen Graphics

* Arthur Silver- Best of Drawing "Nude with Bun", contè crayon, Life drawing

* Katie Baer- Best of 3-D design "Creatures in Miniature" mixed media, 3-D Design

* Alicia Windisch- Art History

* Miles Guffy- Alexis Wernsing Pinnacle Award

The Pinnacle Award was created in 2016 to honor the memory of LLCC alumna, Alexa Wernsing, who graduated from LLCC in 2011. The Pinnacle Award, chosen by the LLCC full-time art faculty, goes to the student who strives for the best in all their academic endeavors without complaint and no matter what the context.

The art show to me was very impressive and I enjoyed it very much. It is set up beautifully and everyone of all ages will enjoy it.

I interviewed Summer Spain on her big win of Best Photography and how it feels to win. She said "It's absolutely amazing." The story behind the picture is that she was doing the 360 challenge, where you post a picture each day on social media. On the 4th day she was in the Christmas spirit and felt like taking the picture of the wine glass in front of Christmas lights. I also interviewed Diane Wilson, best in show, on how she feels about her big win. She said, "It feels great, I am proud of the pieces."

It was very special and a surprise to win best in show, she added. She also like this year's art show because there is a wide variety and talent with the art and professors. It's impressive work.

You can visit the Student Art Show in the James S. Murray Gallery on the second level of Mendard Hall through May 4 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays at the Springfield LLCC location.

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management. This major focuses on PR as well as event operations, and the business side of the entertainment industry."

Larson took classes at Lincoln Land that will help him excel in his studies at UCF and beyond.

When asking students, all mostly had the same views and reasoning behind choosing Lincoln Land as the first leg of their higher education path. Price and location were key. Students also said that being a logger was a good choice because they were saving money while figuring out what they wanted to do, along with still getting the college experience. Larson added, "The affordability and quality education that you receive with professors that actually care about you. At LLCC, you are not just a number.

Students, Continued on Page

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

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All letters submitted to The Lamp for publication must contain the writer's name and telephone number. The telephone number will be used only to verify the author of the letter. Letters need to be originals and not copies of letters to others. Viewpoints expressed in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect those of The Lamp.

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Editor says farewell to Lamp, LLCC

By Isaac Warren Editor

Almost two years ago, I was asked to be a part of the Lamp. I never thought that I would one day serve as editor of the student newspaper, let alone for an entire year. I have learned so much in my time at Lincoln Land and feel prepared to take the next major step in my life. As I prepare to leave, I would like to share what I have learned, and write up a quick guide for the next editor of the Lamp.

I would like to start off by thanking Tim McKenzie, for trusting me to take charge of the paper and the responsibilities that entails. It has been an honor to serve on the student newspaper.

I would like to also thank my assistant editors, and all that they have done to make sure I don't go insane over deadlines. It is very helpful to know that there are people who have my back in times of stress.

Thank you to Tim's editing classes, who worked for free to help put the paper together in record times, over and over again. It has saved us from a lot of late nights and headaches.

And finally, I would like to thank all the people I have interviewed, or asked information from. I appreciate your dedication and interest in the news, regardless of how big or small the medium is.

Now, I have watered down the role of editor into what I call the ABCs of editing.

A is for "always." Nearly every responsibility of an editor, in my opinion, starts with "always." For example, always be on time, always ask the interviewee to spell their name and always follow the deadlines.

B is for busy. The role of an editor is not an easy one, and at times, it can feel as if the next edition will catch you by surprise. There are articles to write, people to interview, and stories to tell.

Finally, C is for corrections. As the name would suggest, a lot of the editor's time will be spent reading other people's work. If it isn't good, don't run the story. Fix what you can, and make sure you understand it.

I sincerely will miss all of you as I go on to Greenville University, where I am planning on earning a degree in digital media.

Again, thank you to everyone who has helped the Lamp grow into the digital realm, and support student organizations.

I'm not sure how to end this, so I'm going to quote a Jim Carrey movie called "The Truman Show," instead: "In case I don't see ya, good afternoon, good evening, and goodnight."

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Assistant editor says bye to LLCC

Jared Gorrell Assistant Editor

Most of you will never know me. I've gotten to know far more of you than I ever expected, and to quote Tolkein's Lord of the Rings "I don't know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve."

I started at Lincoln Land Community College back in January 2014, in my junior year of "high school". I was homeschooled- and no, this does not mean I stayed inside and played video games all day, despite what several people have assumed. Nor was I given a repressive monkish education, as other people have assumed. (People make a remarkable amount of assumptions.) Indeed, I quite enjoyed homeschooling. What homeschooling did mean in 2014 was the ability to take college classes far ahead of everyone else. My very first class, the only one I took in Spring 2014, was Music Appreciation, and as a lover of orchestral music, I found it extremely fascinating. I still flash back to that class every time I hear Tchaikovsky's Montagues and Capulets. That happens more often than you might think! Now, I had little interest in birds back at this time, hard as it is for those who know me to believe

this. It was my second semester at Lincoln Land, and my first Biology class, that began to give me a fondness for birds. I started going to the Lincoln Land Community College's Bird Banding Station, and that is not to be missed, especially for biology majors like myself. I became obsessed with birds as a side effect, and that obsession has not yet subsided. During my third and last part-time semester, I applied for the Honors Program. I'm still not sure why they let me in, but they did. I'm assuming it has something to do with the fact that they need a homeschooler to round out the list. My sitting next to the then-president of the Honors Program in Biology class might also have swayed their vote. Either way, I ended up in the Honors Program. Having Honors classes, in addition to certifying my status as a knowit-all, also forced me to socialize with other people, and I made a few friends as a result.

However, I made many more friends randomly on the side. Heck, I met one of my best friends by calling him a stalker. He followed me from a math class to a history class, and promptly sat down near me. Under those conditions, what else would you call that person? We've been friends ever since. That is probably my favorite memory I've made at Lincoln Land.

I've enjoyed almost all of my classes at Lincoln Land, and with three exceptions which I will not list here, I think that I would recommend all the classes and teachers I had. My favorite classes were all my Biology classes, my Organic Chemistry classes (not for the coursework, but

for the teacher and students), my American Politics and U.S. History classes, and my very first class, Music Appreciation.

If I was to provide any advice... I'll stop right there. No one cares about advice. So, I'll give two commands. Be friendly. Explore everything. You can canoe on the pond if you know whom to ask. You can eat at a bistro on campus, and I don't mean Subway. You can hold a bird in your hand, and yes, it's worth more than two in the bush. There's hidden depths to Lincoln Land that I know I have never even explored. Seek them out and you will be greatly rewarded, I assure you.

Also, the snacks in the bookstore are noticeably cheaper than those in the vending machines.

I will be off to SIUC in the fall, and while as a botany major I'm excited at the prospects of living that close to the Shawnee National Forest, I really will miss Lincoln Land Community College, the place where I've spent seven semesters of my life. (Boy, do I sound like a college student- I'm measuring time in semesters!) To quote a friend of mine who will also be graduating from here this semester, "It's been real, and it's been fun, but it's not been real fun." The "real fun" is still to come, just down the road.

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Students

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You are a student with goals, and everyone at LLCC has been right by my side helping myself achieve them."

Megan Aubuchon

Megan Aubuchon, a criminal justice major, plans on staying close to home still by going to University of Illinois Springfield. She was a part of the softball team and says she wishes Lincoln Land was a four-year university.

She had a helpful tip to those attending Lincoln Land: "Get to personally know your teachers and get involved."

Her favorite part about being a Logger was being an athlete and making friends. Aubuchon has plans of using her criminal justice degree to become a law enforcement officer after she graduates from UIS.

Parker Ryan

Other students plan to further their education farther from home as well. Parker Ryan is looking into Purdue, Illinois State University or Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. He is looking for a school with a bigger campus, Greek life and intramural sports that he can become involved in. Ryan plans to pursue a degree as a physician's assistant and get a job in the medical field after graduation. Lincoln Land wasn't Ryan's first choice as he attended Purdue for his first year then transferred to Lincoln Land to save money and get back on his feet for his second year.

Sean McRae

Sean McRae is also looking down the path of becoming a physician's assistant. He is going to major in biology next fall at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He wouldn't have changed anything about his time at LLCC and offered a little advice: "Get involved, and don't just come to class and go home, stay and make some connections.'

McRae was involved in the Honors Program at LLCC as well as the Quiz Bowl team. Making new friends from the Honors Program was his favorite part about his time at LLCC.

As these students and the rest of the Lincoln Land graduates spend their last weeks on campus others are still enjoying their time here. The biggest piece of advice students have to offer with choosing Lincoln Land is to get involved and make friends. Whether that be with sports, clubs or sticking around campus to make friends, students have a lot of opportunities here at Lincoln Land.

Community college offers a great education while saving so much extra money over attending a four-year university right after high school. Class sizes are small, the professors are personable and it's all close to home. Loggers have a lot ahead of them whether they continue their education or head straight into the workforce. The choice is theirs.

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Unicorn Frappucino not that good

By Teresa Brummett Lamp staff

Recently I was online and while scanning through all the information online I came across an ad for Starbucks. The ad talked about their new frappuccino that was going to be the hit of the spring time season. I noticed that the released of said frappuccino wasn't going to be until April 18th, although a few Starbucks were giving out free samples beforehand.

I had recently been out of town and saw where the frappuccino was supposed to be available there. So I thought it would for sure be available for sampling here in Springfield. I went through the drive through at Starbucks and asked about the

free samples of the new drink. I got turned down.

Here in Springfield they were not giving away free samples. I should have tried it while I was out of town for sure. Then I wouldn't have wasted my money.

This new Unicorn frappuccino is pretty for sure but, it's all hype in my opinion. You have to have a taste for it. Some people loved it and some didn't. I myself was on the fence. I could have gone either way. I shoved my straw into my cup and the first taste I received was very tart/sour. Then it was gone. The rest of the drink tasted like some sort of berry frappuccino. There is a blue swirly stripe that went around the cup but it tasted like blueberry. The

tart or sour taste was on top of the whipped cream. But that was the only place I tasted it.

I think that although it was a pretty drink that Starbucks should have gotten the public opinion of people here in Springfield to let them know exactly what they had before they released it. A frappuccino that tastes alright but, that's it in my opinion. Even my daughter who really likes frappuccinos didn't care for it. So the next time you run through Starbucks you may want to find out how those fancy drinks are made and with what. Because sometimes it's no taste and all hype.

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Visit us online for more fantastic stories from LLCC students!

Gay Straight Alliance holds SpeakOUT

By Madison Mings Lamp Writer

Springfield— Lincoln Land Community college's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) held an event titled speakOUT on April 13.

The GSA have held speakOUT events as an educational event for a few years now. It was held in the R.H Stephens room where they provided subway sandwiches, cookies, water and soda for drinks.

The GSA club members and adviser that were there were advisor Beth Wiedgier, GSA President Terrelle Jackson, Public Relations Officer Samantha Wetter, D' Andrea Banger Vice President, Sydney McCabe Active Member, and Madison Mings Active Member.

SpeakOUT is an event that is held every year that educates about the LGBT community and our way of informing current events that talks about something with LGBT, President of GSA Terrelle Jackson said. The speakOUT started out with

introducing who was who in the club for the attendees to know. After that, President Terrelle Jackson

took to the podium to give the audience basic terms with a slide show titled Sexuality 101. He gave information on the LGBTQ and what they stand for and also had the help of Beth Wiedgier to speak on the different identities and definitions of the terms.

Next, Sydney McCabe read a poem she wrote called "Freedom". It's a perspective on what freedom is while being part of the LGBT community. That freedom is something we (LGBT community) have fought for so long that it has become a who we are. You will be able to hear it at this years Springfield PrideFest. Samantha Wetter took to the podium next after Sydneys poem and she shared her personal experience with being pansexual. Pansexual is which searched on Google is not limited in sexual choice with regard to biological sex, gender, or gender identity. She spoke on what it means and how people responded to the term.

They had The Phoenix Center guest speaker Jonna Cooley who is based in Illinois come and speak. Cooely shared information based on what goes on at the Phoenix Center. The LGBT youth group has 40 kids of ages 13 – 17 years old for group 1 teens. She said they get kids from city and county areas.

They also have transgender support groups and parents with transgender children support groups. They talk about what is going on and have children as young a 5 years old and 20 years old. Cooley also spoke on Housing for Homeless and they give HIV testing to men and women. She also shared that 47 people from Springfield/ Sangamon go through hormones replacement.

A topic brought up was the birth certificate change law along with transgender bathrooms. Some students that were in the audience shared their thoughts on the topics or shared stories on it.

I asked a few people who attended how they thought GSA speakOUT went.

D'Andrea Banger Vice President said "It was a successful event, because were are successful people."

Hanna Milton, LLCC student said "I enjoyed the speakOUT very much and my favorite part was Sydney's poem "Freedom". She would also like to attend GSA speakOUT next year as well.

GSA President Terrelle Jackson said "The event was a successful

event. It was meant for a series of information and to engage the audience in the event."

He also said there will be a speakOUT next year since it's a tradition and it will be more educational and be at an abstract angle and talk more about sexuality. For more information about The Phoenix Center there website is www.phoenixcenterspringfield.org hours are Monday - Friday Housing In-Take by appointment, testing hours for HIV and Hepatitis C is Noon- 3:00 p.m. or by appt. ShaRI (Springfield Harm Reduction Initiative) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. phone number is 217-528-5253 and there building is located at 109 East Lawrence Avenue (near 2nd & Lawrence) Springfield, IL 62704 and email Jonna at jcool.phoenix@comcast.net

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Taylorville man creates business success

By Andrew Paisley Lamp Writer

As customers enter Ben Curtin's shop in Stonington, they see the sparks fly, hear the exhaust fan wail, and feel the massive air compressor vibrate. They also hear the crisp sound of the CNC plasma cutter swiftly slicing through steel, producing the signs that many of you see on doors as you drive through not just the neighborhoods of Christian County, but all over the state of Illinois.

The current services offered are CNC plasma cutting, CNC wood routing, plate metal rolling, welding and cabinet sandblasting. However, the transition to metalworking has occurred over the last seven to eight years.

Curtin started working out of his shop, a twocar garage on his family's farm in Stonington, when he was 5 years old.

The farm had a detached two-car garage that was being used for storage. Curtin's parents decided to give him the space for a workshop.

"When I first received my shop, I was interested in woodworking." Curtin said. "I collected woodworking tools and worked on gaining woodworking skills for years, building workbenches, bookshelves, tool trays and more. In the fourth grade, I saved \$45, which I used to purchase a jigsaw from Wal-Mart."

With the new jigsaw, Curtin built tugboats and airplanes and sold them to students in his elementary class for \$1 a piece.

"I continued woodworking and selling my projects until I entered seventh grade," Curtin stated. "My mother was worried about the impending dangers associated with large saws, so she advised me to pursue metalworking."

At that time, Curtin saved and purchased a Miller MIG welder, which he used to practice fabricating and welding for his family's farm.

It wasn't until about 2012, during his sopho-

engraving this next month." Curtin said. Curtin additionally has a plate metal roller which will roll 12-gauge metal up to 4-foot wide and thicker pieces that aren't as wide. The ideal outcome would be for Curtin to begin using his future engineering degree from Purdue University to open an engineering firm and invent a product line which will employ the knowledge ers to many of the signs at Curtin's Creations. Curtin's parents also assist him when time permits in their schedules. His father, Steve Curtin, picks up steel from his supplier in Decatur and assists in any other tasks that may need completed. His mother, Susan Curtin, delivers and picks up signs and parts from powder coat and/or hardware stores. be for a gift, advertisement or for a personal request, to work with him. He is an excellent, young entrepreneur, and I am pleased to be able to support him." Williams said.

Nikki Carls contacted Curtin to build a sign for her husband's 30th anniversary working at Sloan Implement Company.

"I was absolutely amazed at the talent and the awesome way that the sign turned out. It's just phenomenal. The sign is truly one of a kind, and it will be cherished for years to come in my husband's man cave." Carls said. Curtin said: "I have been influenced by several people throughout my lifetime. However, a majority of my influences haven't been woodworkers and metalworkers. I have been motivated and inspired by people who have created the American dream for themselves. I am encouraged by the people who have started with nothing, worked hard, and made a life for themselves.' Anyone interested in a product from Curtin's Creations can contact Ben Curtin by calling him at 217-823-5657, emailing him at bcurtin9@gmail.com, contacting him on his Facebook page "Curtin's Creations-Welding and CNC Plasma Cutting" or his Instagram page @curtin cnc.



more year of high school, that Curtin officially developed Curtin's Creations, a welding business that originally specialized in building industrial furniture.

"I purchased scrap engines from Remmert Auto & Tire in Stonington, stripped the engines for pistons, camshafts and crankshafts and utilized the engine parts to build bookends, lamps, and tables." Curtin said of his beginning experience, "I additionally built barstools with a car rim as the base and an antique tractor seat to sit on, and I would market these products on my Facebook page and by having a booth at local county fairs."

After Curtin's freshman year of engineering school at Purdue University, he took a gamble and decided to purchase a CNC Plasma Cutter to begin producing custom signs and custom/ reproduction parts.

"I currently have two CNC machines, one being a 5-foot-by-20-foot machine which is utilized for plasma cutting, and a 4-foot-by-20-foot machine which will be converted to wood routing and he gained in college while also using the skillsets and tools he has acquired throughout his lifetime. "Ben Curtin's mind never stops working."

said Andra Ebert, a local customer. "He is a true entrepreneur that utilizes creative forward thinking and media marketing with his business. To be a great father, full-time student at the top of his class and begin a new, exciting business is a daunting task that he tackles with grace and determination."

Curtin currently has three main employees at his business. His brother, Jack Curtin, is responsible for sign preparation and delivery to powder coat. Sign preparation entails wire wheeling the dross remaining on the signs after cutting and applying acetone the signs to remove grease and oils. Jack also typically delivers and picks up signs from powder coat. Bryan Brown is responsible for powder-coating signs, and Aarika May completes the final touches and, if applicable, manages logistics and delivery of Curtin's seasonal product lines. May crafts and installs bows, ribbon, and door hang"Of all my projects thus far, my personal favorite has to be the entryway to the Taylorville High School football field that I designed this past fall." Curtin said.

"Ben is an articulate, business-minded, young entrepreneur with thousands of ideas and gifted talent to go along with it," said Darla Cochran, another customer. "Last fall, I was looking for a gift for my husband's birthday, and I wanted to find a one-of-a-kind sign to greet visitors on our farm. I hired Ben to make our sign, and when he delivered it just a few days later, the design even had a perfect stencil of the antique tractor that my husband drives in parades for the Christian County Shrine Club."

Melissa Williams, the Foods instructor at Taylorville High School, has hired Curtin to design three different projects for her.

"Ben recently created two signs for a benefit auction that I am helping with. I am so excited to be able to share Ben's outstanding talent with others, and I highly recommend anyone who wants a metal sign for any reason, whether it

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OPINION

To catch a mockingbird

By Logan McHenry Lamp writer

SPRINGFIELD - As the weather is finally starting to feel like spring, it's a great time for another bird banding season.

The spring banding season started on Monday, March 20, and will continue running until the middle or end of May. The bird banding station can be found on the northeast side of campus behind the batting cages near the baseball and softball fields.

This spring marks the 10th season that the Lincoln Land Bird Banding Station has been in operation. The biannual research program first opened in the fall of 2012. The building, which was constructed by Lincoln Land Community College construction trade students in the fall of 2015, has made the banding of birds more efficient with the storage of useful items like tools, field guides, the Polaris (or birdmobile), etc.

Before the building was constructed, all bird banding took place outside and was canceled during inclement weather. Now, birds can be banded inside on cold or slightly rainy days during the fall and spring banding seasons.

"Before fall of 2015, our banding station was a picnic bench," stated Vern Kleen, retired ornithologist and president of the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders. All the volunteers would agree that they are grateful for the addition of the building. The bird banding station gives

students a scientific experience outside

of the classrooms on campus. The hands-on experience allows students to hold the birds and appreciate the importance of what is being done at the station.

The birds are caught primarily with mist nets, as well as other methods of traps, that are scattered throughout the north side of the campus property. Every 35 to 45 minutes, the nets are checked so that the birds are not trapped for very long.

Stevie Emmons, a former LLCC student, went to Kleen and Biology Professor Tony Rothering's banding station at the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary before they eventually moved to LLCC's campus. Emmons, who earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Illinois State University, still volunteers at the station to this day whenever her time allows.

Emmons comments on the thrill and excitement of being out at the station by saying: "There's always a giddiness about net-check times. What will we catch? Will we get a new species? It's basically a birdy Christmas morning every 30 minutes!"

The research being done at the bird banding station consists of studying bird populations and migration patterns and how they relate to the ecological world outside of the campus grounds. They track the populations that live in or visit these habitats during the spring and fall migratory seasons. They record gender, age (if applicable), wing chord, and the date it was caught. They also examine the brood patch for the amount a of fat a bird has on migratory species.

Sometimes, the same bird gets caught again, in which we label it as a repeat or return. Sometimes, the volunteers get the same bird twice in one day, a couple days a part or a couple seasons or years apart. Birds banded at Lincoln Land are sometimes caught by other people at other stations throughout the country. Comparisons are done with past seasons at LLCC's station and with other stations in the state and the country. They attempt to see if patterns are similar or different in other regions.

When I first started volunteering at the bird banding station, Kleen always told me how Lincoln Land had the only long-term banding station on any college campus in Illinois. This comment helped me realize how special the bird banding station is and how grateful I am to be given this opportunity that many biology students aren't given. I couldn't pass the opportunity up.

I, along with many other students, found our way out to the bird banding station while being enrolled in one of Rothering's classes. He always gives students the opportunity to come visit the station whenever their free time allows. He, along with other biology professors, like to bring their classes out so they get to experience the station at least once.

"I quickly got addicted, and have ended up back at the station every season, even though I have since graduated," Emmons said. "I first went for course credit, but quickly fell in love with the ability to hold these little creatures in hand and see up close all the little details that field guides talk about."

Emmons has even banded some birds herself under Kleen's guidance. He comments how the bird banding station has shaped her everyday life: "After my first day at the banding station, I went out and bought a field guide. I started really looking at birds and identifying them, rather than just seeing small, brown blurs."

Emmons has now found herself focusing primarily on birds over other animals, which, she has wanted to study since she was a kid.

She mentions how her life has played out since her time at LLCC: "I took an Ornithology course at my university (Illinois State University). Now, I work at the World Bird Sanctuary, training, handling, rehabilitating and caring for birds of prey. My future goals are to get my graduate degree in wildlife biology or avian ecology. I'm not sure where my career will end up, but I do know that my future will involve working with birds. I have the bird banding station, LLCC, and its staff to thank for that."

Kleen, who has banded over 100,000 birds in his lifetime, has been banding birds for over 50 years. His 100,000th bird was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Kleen bands many hummingbirds throughout the summer while they are in the area. Once the winter season hits, they travel down to Central and South America. Kleen has even caught a hummingbird that he banded nine years prior. This proves how the hummingbirds travel such a long distance and come back to the exact same place to nest.

I always wondered why Kleen, an extremely successful ornithologist, would choose a place like Lincoln Land Community College, as opposed to a wildlife sanctuary, to house a bird banding station.

"We looked at other areas in the Springfield area like Lincoln Memorial Gardens and Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary. We chose LLCC because of the various habitats it supports and so students could be involved," noted Kleen. "It helped that my friend and banding partner, Tony Rothering, was employed at the college."

Rothering has a sub permit under Kleen's permit from the United States Geological Survey, allowing him to band birds even when Kleen is unavailable. Rothering hosts a MAPS banding project during the summer just a couple miles away from LLCC's campus.

Rothering loves getting his students to come out to the bird banding station. One former student, Tyler Beckerman, was a volunteer at the station before heading to the University of Missouri to pursue his degree in wildlife and resource management.

"I already had a huge interest in wildlife so I thought the banding station would be a great place to gain more experience and network with professionals," stated Beckerman.

Birds, continued on Page 5



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Illinois flowers shine early

Jared Gorrell Lamp Editor

SPRINGFIELD - In the woods every year, an explosion happens. This is not a firey explosion of pyrotechnics, but it is equally bright and beautiful in its own way. It is the explosion of spring ephemerals. An ephemeral is a special kind of plant that blooms for a short time, then dies away. Tulips, daffodils, and crocuses are ephemerals grown in gardens. However, here in Illinois we have our own ephemerals, designed to grow, flower, and set seed just before trees leaf out in the spring. Unlike the bulbs we grow in our garden, most Illinois woodland ephemerals are dicots, a different group of plants. Other plants may keep their leaves after spring, but they, too, participate in the spring wildflower show. Once the leaves come on the trees, the show fades away with the light, and the woods become their shadowy self. The explosion ends, to be renewed again next year.

Here are some of the plants you might see:

Spring Beauty

Spring Beauties are our most common woodland flower, turning many of our parks white and pink in spring. Every plant has slight variations in its flowers, ranging from pink and deeply veined to pure, unveined white.

Dutchman's Breeches

Dutchman's Breeches, one of our most humorously named wildflowers, are so called because early English settlers thought that the inflated flowers looked like the pants, or breeches, of Dutch settlers. This ephemeral is closely related to the garden flower Bleeding Heart.

Blue-eyed Mary

Technically this plant can't be found near Springfield, but look at those flowers and tell me again they cannot be on this list! Blueeyed Mary plants are annuals, only blooming for one spring before dying. They grow along creeks and in lowland areas.

Bloodroot

Bloodroot is named for the sap in its roots, used to produce a red dye. However, as this dye is toxic, it would be best to let the plant grow and admire its flowers.

Trillium

In trillium, the various parts of the plant, the petals, sepals, and leaves, are all in threes. This unique symmetry is one reason I enjoy finding trilliums. Another interesting fact about trilliums is that they take, on average, seven years to flower from seed. As a result, trillium do not grow fast or spread quickly. If you find trillium in the woods, let them be.

Trout Lily

Also called Dogtooth Violet, Trout Lilies are neither lilies nor violets. However, they do get a lot of common names, including adder's tongue, yellow snowdrop, and fawnlily. They grow in colonies, with only a limited number of plants within that colony blooming each spring.

Violets

Fun fact- not all violets are violet. Violets can be yellow, white, purple, pink, green, or a mix of all of the above. Violets, especially the pictured Common Blue Violet, actually bloom all year long. They produce showy, pollinated flowers in the spring and often again in the fall. During the summer, they have unopened flowers that produce seeds genetically identical to the parent plant. With all their different flower types, violets have managed to self-sow themselves all across our landscapes.

Phlox

There are many species of Phlox, some of which bloom in the summer in our gardens. However, the most common wild species seen locally is the Woodland Phlox, a light-blue flowered plant that is one of the later woodland plants to flower in the spring.

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Spring beauty







Dutchman's breeches

Blue-eyed mary



Trillium



Trout lilly



Phlox

BIRDS, continued from page 4

Beckerman performed and individualized study out at the banding station. He tested bird densities and species richness at two different locations. One location had a presence of Japanese Honeysuckle and the other location had the invasive plant removed. His goal was to see if the invasive plant had an effect on bird species composition. A current student, Jared Gorrell, has been attending the banding station for a couple years and has been influenced into bird banding as his main hobby. He loves going to the bird banding station to see what species have been caught and are currently in the area.

"One of my favorite experiences was back in the fall of 2014 when we caught an Ash-throated Flycatcher," said Gorrell. "It's the only one the station has ever caught."

You never know what birds you will find when you go to the station. You can guess, but you are never positive on which ones will get caught. As of Monday, April 17, 40 different species and a total of 456 birds have been banded for the 2017 spring season. The station, since the beginning of its operation, has banded over 15,000 birds.

Students are still encouraged to attend the hands-on experience provided by the bird banding station and its staff. You may be able to release a bird and see it fly from your hands and back into its habitat.

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May 2017

LLCC students visit mosque

By Jacob Schmedeke Lamp Writer

"Ten years from now, 20 years from now, you'll probably remember going here," said Tim McKenzie, outside a Springfield mosque. " Having a little uncomfortable feeling, having to watch people bend over, doing it yourself, you know praying, taking off your shoes, the whole entire thing, you'll remember that for years."

McKenzie, assistant professor of journalism and humanities; and adjunct instructor Ken Berryman have been taking their students to the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield's Mosque each semester when possible, for their world religions courses. They do it to give students a firsthand experience with how Muslims pray, as well as a chance to talk to members of the faiths.

"I guess I'm just here for the experience of it and just very interested in seeing what will happen," said Nathan Janusweski, a sophomore at Lincoln Land.

He and other students were arriving early to meet with a member of the mosque and learn about what the prayer service would entail.

"I'm actually writing my term paper on Islam. I think it's a beautiful language, and I'm very intrigued to see what happens," said Sean Maher, a freshman at Lincoln Land.

All of the student out front spoke of many of the same things, curiosity of another religion, to have the experience and to gain some knowledge.

"I'm curious about the religion, so I decided to come," said Leanne Herring, a freshman at LLCC.

The structure of the mosque at 3000 Staunton St. in Springfield is different than most churches. The mosque has a plain exterior, with one key feature: a golden looking dome right in the middle of the building. No steeples, no points, no stained-glass windows, it almost looked like a state capital with the dome. The only way you knew what it was for sure was by a sign out front of the building near Kiwanis Park.

Inside is nice but not ornate. One difference hard not to notice was the small bathing areas in the bathrooms. Before prayer, one is supposed to clean oneself, so if you do not have a chance to, they provide it for you. Just imagine your local YMCA but a lot nicer.

The room where the men and children pray was very simple as well. Carpeted with a partition separating the room between where the men assembled to pray and the women assembled



Jacob Schmedeke/The Lamp

Islamic Society of Greater Springfield looks much like any building, except for the dome.

to pray. The men gathered up front, children in the back, and they had seats at the very back for the elderly who could not go up and down repeatedly. The one extravagant item was a huge chandelier.

They had double-sided glass windows on the partition, so the women could see in but the men could not see the women. I was told the women's prayer room was basically a blank room with a speaker so they could hear the service. Women in the mosque wear a hijab over their head and covering themselves from ankle to neck. Men also have a dress code, of not wearing shorts to prayer.

They had a small side room for special services or celebrations. Students went there after service to eat and have a discussion with the guest speaker that day Ahmed Rehab, executive director for CAIR Chicago, the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy group. CAIR is an acronym for the Council on Ameri-

can and Islamic Relations. Ahmed gave the noon sermon. He spoke with

passion about the religion's many values. People continued to arrive for prayers, from the first word at 1:15 p.m. to almost his last at 1:45 p.m.

The attendees sat in rows on the floor, shoulder to shoulder. When you think there is no way anyone else can fit, another person comes in and they all make room with smiles on their faces. Everyone is focused and intently listening. When they stand to start the four poses of

prayer it was like watching synchronized swimming. Everyone at once without a word was doing it. From the smallest 2 year olds, to the oldest man with Hulk Hogan hair. It was impressive to say the least.

After the sermon, Lincoln Land students gathered in the side room for a meal and a discussion with Rehab.

Many questions were asked, some serious and some more playful. For example, one might find it insane to not eat bacon, so Rehab was asked about that. He, in fact, had never actually slipped up just once and had a piece. That answer was a very strict, "No!"

While others asked more poignant questions, like Leanne Herring who asked, what is the Muslim stance on homosexuality?

To which Rehab smiled and said, "Not good." Rehab said it is not allowed and is forbidden, but that finally, the topic is coming up for discussions after all these years.

"You have them living with you in your society, so why act like they are not there and mistreat them," Rehab said.

He himself admitted to being on the more liberal side of being a Muslim and said he supports the LGBTQ community. Stating that as a civil rights activist, he must fight for all people's rights. He also stated that many imams or Muslim scholars are nowhere close to being OK with homosexuality.

Another question came from a girl about

women wearing the hijab: Was it obligatory, could women choose to not wear it in prayer or out of prayer?

A quick yes, it is obligated for women to wear it at prayer, but no it is not obligated for a woman to wear it outside of prayer.

He then explained the hijab in a unique manner. Rehab said, as Americans you understand the concept but not the extent. You understand that there are body parts that must be covered, but you don't get why we choose the head. You know there are certain parts of your body that your culture deems necessary to cover up. What you don't understand is the extent to which we do it.

Both Rehab and the imam spoke of many of the same things in their service. They are Godfearing people who get up every day and try their best. In fact, their religion requires them to do their best.

Rehab pointed out that there are always extremists to any religion, some of which are more extreme than others. But don't let the outliers deter you from the 1.6 billion people in this world who are Muslim.

The student's reactions were somewhat mixed as they left that day. Both men seemed to think their prayer session and sermon was beautiful. While Herring, who had to go to the women's room to pray and had asked the question about homosexuality, was a little put off.

"The women's room wasn't very big," Herring said. "It was just white with a speaker in it, so we could hear the sermon. There were a lot of carefree kids. It felt a little less equal to the men's room. I still enjoyed the experience though."

While Maher had a totally different experience. "I thought the call to prayer was amazing. I really enjoyed and admire the people and how together they all were. What stood out to me was the amount of flexibility Ahmed talked about with the Quran,"

Maher went on to say that we would love to learn the Arabic language one day.

Janusweski echoed some of the same sentiments as Mahler: "I was really impressed with the unity and togetherness of the people. Especially the children, they were unbelievably well behaved. I thought the speaker spoke about wonderful values."

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Writer reflects on experience with noon prayers

By Jacob Schmedeke Lamp Writer

Springfield - As I arrived at the mosque, I was running behind as usual. Coming from a Lil' Wayne concert the night before at the University of Illinois, the drive from Champaign to Springfield gave me time to recuperate. With the hangover subsiding, I was ready to ex perience a Friday noon prayer at the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield's mosque once again. This would be the second time attending in a year with fellow students and my teacher Tim McKenzie, assistant professor of journalism and humanities. I was behind my schedule, but luckily, I was not late for the call to prayer, which is one of the the most hypnotic, yet beautiful things, I have ever heard. It is exactly as it sounds, a call to prayer, called out five times a day to let all Muslims know that it's time to come to the mosque - or set up where they can – and pray. What struck me this time though when I heard it was that the muezzin, the person who sang the call, was a 6-foot-3 Irishman with his beard and plaid shirt resembling a lumberjack. He had a male hijab

thrown over his regular clothes and had his head covered. I was expecting or I guess assuming it would be the imam or a Middle Easterner. Yet this man had an incredible voice, which turns out to be the only qualification one needs - other than being Muslim.

The first time I heard it, I couldn't help but listen in awe. This time, I did the same, but my mind kept wandering - picturing Rafiki holding Simba up in the air while "The Circle of Life" played and all the animals went to Pride Rock. In fact, I couldn't help but think Disney ripped off the Muslims a bit. The people were all very kind to the students and to one another during each visit. The first visit, I prayed with them, and I felt as if they accepted me. I had no idea what I was doing and must say it was a once in the lifetime experience for an atheist to pray in the middle of more than 100 Muslims. While in the middle of all these people, I chose to listen to the people around me who were intently praying in many different languages. The focus and meaningfulness in their voices while praying was incredible.

something in Arabic to the person on both sides of you, to which I had no clue what to say. I just smiled and said, "You, too." The young kid smiled while the older man looked a bit disappointed in me.

I looked it up and Muslims say "Salaam Alaikum" to one another, meaning "peace be unto you."

couldn't have been more older than 2 up to teenagers.

After prayer the second time, I stood up with the rest of the people to talk. I must have stood up way too fast because I swear I saw a Muslim Barry Sanders weave through about 15 Muslims to get the attention and then embrace who I thought was Kurt Cobain. This image of a Muslim man in a suit making such an effort to talk to and embrace a grungy, white male stuck with me. There sermons were not extremely long. About an hour altogether, containing quite a bit of Arabic. Both speakers spoke of the Quran and then related it to how the people could use it to help themselves in life. The Mosque is a gathering place where people come not just to pray, but to assemble, which I was graciously told the difference by Ahmed Rehab. When you gather wood, vou have just that, gathered wood. When you assemble something, you are taking lesser parts to make something that is greater with them. That is why we assemble, he said. To make the community better as a whole through each of us. After listening to Ahmed and having been to their services twice. I can attest that they are no different than you and I. They are God-fearing people who get up every day and try their best. In fact, their religion requires them to do their best

There are extremists to any religion, some of whom are more extreme than others. But don't let the outliers deter you from the 1.6 billion people in this world who are Muslim. I was treated with respect, kindness, generosity and always with a smile by any Muslim I met there. They talk about helping each other and the community, being strong through difficult times of oppression and hate crimes towards them. How to not fight back physically but to turn the other cheek and educate people on Islam. Both men, the imam and Ahmed, urged his people to get out and try and educate and let people see and get to know them. People fear what they do not know or think they know from TV, Ahmed said. These men wanted their people to take the first step towards peace, even if a step of hatred had been taken against them.

After praying, you finish by saying

After and before prayer people talk and mess around just like Christians do before and after church.

The second visit, I watched from the back. Getting a sense of the room and the people. What stood out to me most was the focus and intensity in the room. Sitting shoulder to shoulder on the floor, and when I say shoulder to shoulder I don't mean it as a figure of speech. Countless times I thought, "Well that's it. No more can fit." Then another person would come in, weave his way through, tap a few shoulders, exchange a few smiles and sit bumper to bumper, so to speak, with everyone.

The children were incredibly behaved. All reciting and doing the poses for prayer in unison with everyone else. Not one was goofing around or had to be told to stop it. This goes from a young girl who

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The life of Serena Williams

By Teresa Brummett Lamp staff

When kids are at the age of 3 years old they are usually playing with toddler toys and splashing in the tub. But for this future Olympian who was Born on September 26th, 1981 in Saginaw, Michigan that's hardly all she was up to.

For the youngest of the two famous Williams sisters by the age of 3 years old Serena was starting her fierce tennis training.

Her father Richard Williams could tell that the life of a good future for his daughters wasn't a high prospect where they were living. With tennis courts, full of holes and nets that if they were torn up they weren't even there. This wasn't the life for his girls.

Williams along with her sister Venus were up rooted when their family moved to Compton, California.

Mr. Williams wanting to see both of their dreams come true moved the family once more to Florida when he didn't see the results he was hoping for. Although he didn't want them to get tired of tennis he scaled back a little on their tennis schedule.

In 1991, Serena playing on the Junior U.S. tennis association tour ended up first in the 10 and under division. And by 1995 she became a pro at the early age of 14. Then just two years later she ranked 99th out of 304. Where she's ranked just the year before.

After her high school graduation

Puma shoe company approached Williams to get a shoe deal. They ended up setting up a 13 million 5-year deal almost instantly.

During the 1999-year Williams beat out her older sister to earn her first Grand Slam win, with the U.S. open title. Which set both sisters up for the future careers.

In 2002 she then won the French open and the U.S. Open then beating out her sister yet again in the finals of and Wimbledon. Less than a year later in 2003 she underwent knee surgery and later that same year mourned the death of her half-sister Yetunde Price in Los Angeles, Ca.

Williams also had her sights set on a gold medal, which came true in 2008. In the Beijing games Williams, with her sister, won her second gold during the doubles. Stating her lack of motivation and injuries her rank slumped to 139. But change was coming in the way of a journey she made to West Africa which brought back a fire in her to renew her want for yet another win on the courts.

The Queen of the court, which is the name of her autobiography she released in 2009, brought her back to the top of the rankings.

That year Serena purchased a share in the Miami Dolphins football team and also became the first African American woman to be part owner of a NFL team. She went on to win Wimbledon for the 3rd time and Australian open singles for the 4th. In that same year winnings both Australian open and Wimbledon in doubles matches.

On September 13th, 2009 pressure got the best of Williams when she called out another player for foot fault during a semifinal game. The outburst made headlines and Kim Clijsters claimed that Williams threatened her life which gained Williams a fine on the spot of \$10,000. Although at the time Williams played it down what had actually happened.

Two months later Williams was ordered to pay another \$ 82,500 to the Grand slam committee for the episode which is the largest punishment ever given against a tennis player. She was also put on probation for two years.

Although John McEnroe, whose career lasted from 1977- 1992, isn't far behind her in fines. With tantrums, racket abuse, swearing, and arguing with officials McEnroe's total fines added up to \$69,500 during his career.

But Williams hasn't let that stop her. Although in 2011 she was slowed down by a serious health scare when the doctors found a blood clot in one of her lungs, which kept her tennis career on hold for several months. Fans of Williams wondered if this would be the end of her career. But after having a hematoma removed she's back.

Williams needed a change in view since she and her sister have lived very close to each other for the past few years and in December 2013 she moved to nearby area of Jupiter. Then most recently in December 2016 she became engaged to Co-founder of Reddit/ Alexis Ohanian, who she started dating in 2015

As of 2017 Williams isn't planning on slowing down. She's once again made it to the finals of the Australian Open and won her 23rd grand slam crown beating her sister.

And with her 100 wins so far to look back at it's not surprising that FADER magazine has called her a G.O.A.T. Athlete (Greatest Of All Time). Which is way past due if you look at records of other athletes.

But, it doesn't matter if she's playing singles, doubles, mixed doubles or a team competition. Williams shows how great of a professional tennis player she is with a 80 percent winning record. With sponsors like Fader, Sports Illustrated, and Nike. There's no telling where her career will take her.

Either way, she defiantly deserves credit where credit is due. For the last few years she's been showing girls and women out there that you can do whatever you put your mind to. And all it takes is determination and a little bit of hard work to achieve your goals.

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Taylorville resturaunts are hits

By Jacob Schmedeke Lamp Writer

TAYLORVILLE – Eating the same thing over and over again can be very depressing. As they say, variety is the spice of life.

Country Kitchen offers Taylorville diners a chance to sample a little bit of everything.

"It reminds me of my grandmother's cookin'," said customer Justin Hooper. The small, homestyle restaurant has been open for more than three decades and has deals like all-you-can-eat fried chicken on Wednesday, chili specials and horseshoes.

Country Kitchen is always busy and the only problem may be finding a parking spot.

Small towns are not usually known for their restaurants. Ninety percent of small restaurants close within the first year and then they have an average lifespan of about 5 years, according to the Restaurant Brokers Study.

This makes Taylorville special because it has multiple restaurants that have been open for decades. These restaurants have provided the people of Taylorville with many different options to eat, while knowing and trusting the people who run them.

Bill's Toasty Shop on the square opened in 1932. A small diner, it can seat a dozen people tops. With just three booths and a counter, diners are able to watch the usually just one person working to cook the food.

Patrons often feel like they are stepping back into the 1930s. Serving any and everything fried, Bill's is known for their burgers, shakes and being open 24 hours a day.

"Their fried cheese balls are the best," said Skyler Myers, a frequent customer of Bill's.

Another long-time favorite is China Pavilion, opened 27 years ago and a staple in the Taylorville community. They offer many different Chinese dishes, which have not changed much,

said manager Allen Chi. "We found a business model that works and found a good customer base here," added Chi.

China Pavilion also does a buffet a few times a year on special occasions, New Year's Eve and Mother's Day. Chi said the buffet was a good way to try new dishes out and see how the customers respond to them.

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Lamp staff wins awards

SPRINGFIELD - LLCC's student newspaper, The Lamp, received 11 awards at a statewide competition April 7. The awards were presented at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association (ICCJA) spring conference held at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey.

The Lamp staff won honorable mention for the Mike Foster General Excellence Award, a prize for overall quality of the paper. The Lamp staff includes Isaac Warren of Springfield as editor, and Jared Gorrell of Springfield, assistant editor. "I saw the other papers, and the competition was fierce," said Tim McKenzie, The Lamp's adviser and assistant professor of journalism and humanities. "Winning a staff award is always gratifying because it reflects on the quality journalism and contribution of the whole staff."

Other awards include:

Theresa Brummett of Salisbury won first

place for news photo. Brummett previously was assistant editor of The Lamp. Lukas Myers of Taylorville placed first in arts review.

Isaac Warren received second place for page design and honorable mention for headline writing. Theaibold Kennon III of Springfield won second place for feature writing.

Anne King of Springfield placed second in sports feature writing, while Jesse Baker of Springfield received honorable mention.

Tess Peterson of Springfield won second place for Editorial Writer of the Year and Ryan Mazrim of Chatham garnered second place and honorable mention for feature photos.

In addition to The Lamp awards, Adviser and Assistant Professor McKenzie was elected to serve on the ICCJA board of directors.



The Lamp staff pose for a photo at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association spring conference, at which they won 11 awards. Pictured (left to right) are incoming Editor Zach Aiello, former Editor Madison Mings, Adviser Tim McKenzie, Staff member Tess Peterson and former Assistant Editor Teresa Brummett.

