



Congressional visit to LLCC



Niko Robledo/The Lamp

Nigel Tiller practices in the music recording classroom at Lincoln Land Community College. The 41-year-old audio production student has already started using his degree, releasing three songs available for purchase online.

## Loggers switch coaches

### Jones takes over women's team

By Noah Branson  
Lamp staff

SPRINGFIELD —Loggers basketball will start the year with new leadership for the men's and women's teams.

Chad Jones, who coached the men's team for 17 years, will move into the women's head coach position, and Gary Albert, who coached the women's team for eight years, will become an assistant coach.

Albert had a 108-121 record coaching women's basketball at LLCC, with three winning seasons. Last year, the Loggers finished 12-16.

Chuck Shanklin will take over coaching the men's team.

Jones had a record of 243-285, and that also included three 20-win seasons as the men's head coach. Jones said he will still work with the men's team as Shanklin takes over.

"I coached the men in college for 20 years, and 17 here as the head coach at Lincoln Land," Jones said. "I just got in the situation where I love teaching here, and I don't want to leave Lincoln Land because I love teaching here, but I needed something different."

Jones said Shanklin is "a great guy, a good local guy, so that will definitely help with the local connections."

Shanklin has coached for a number of years in the Springfield area schools. He most recently was an assistant coach at Southeast High School and before that an assistant at Lanphier High School.

Coach, continued on Page 2

## Jump-starting his career

Tiller produced three songs last summer with his band The-Late Bloomerz

By Paul Watson  
Lamp staff

Many students wait until they have finished school and graduated before they even think about working in their chosen field. This is not the case with one audio production certificate student, who recorded, mixed, mastered and distributed three pop dance songs during summer break.

Nigel Tiller, 41, worked with two other musicians under the band name The-Late Bloomerz. He wrote, recorded, mixed and mastered "Your

Love," released May 31, "Crown" on July 4, and "Big Dream" on Aug. 28.

TuneCore.com distributes his song files to streaming services and digital stores like Spotify and Apple.

Besides audio production duties, Tiller also played the keyboard, programmed drums and synthesizers, arranged the music on the sequencer and added his voice as one of the vocalists.

Tiller returned to college last fall, enrolling in the certificate program.

"I'm older now," Tiller said. "I'm more dis-

ciplined. I'm more focused. I just want to see what's going to happen after this."

Music Professor Jason Waddell said Tiller is one of only a few other students who have released music while completing the certificate program.

"Students like Tiller have been humble to take criticism and learn from it. And then to go above and beyond even the assigned level," said Waddell, who oversees audio production classes.

Audio, continued on Page 6

## Bistro focuses on convenience

Culinary department expands days of service

By Meredith Howard  
Co-Editor

Lincoln Land's student-run restaurant is expanding the days it's open and creating a new service called Bistro Grab & Go.

The Bistro, located in the Workforce Careers Center, will be open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

On Tuesday and Thursday, it will be the familiar Bistro To Go, a place you can order food prepared by culinary arts students as part of their training. On Wednesday and Friday, it will be the new Bistro Grab & Go, a new offering of food prepared in advance that can be purchased in the Bistro.

Both versions of Bistro will open until Nov. 15. Nancy Sweet, culinary program and operations

director, said the class that works for Bistro Grab & Go focuses on marketing, leadership and accounting skills. The pre-made lunch options and baked goods cannot be ordered in advance. However, Bistro To Go workers' main interest is cooking items as they are ordered and made specific to the request of the customer.

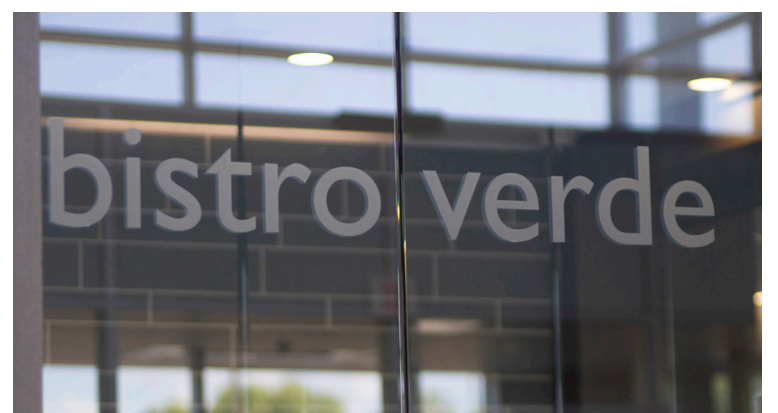
Sweet said every culinary student works for the Bistro at least one semester while a student.

Precious Rolando, a 29-year-old Lincoln Land student, is working on two different degrees: one in Culinary Arts and another in Hospitality and Management. She also is pursuing a Baking and Pastry certificate.

Because of the two degrees, Rolando works for both the Bistro To Go and the Bistro Grab & Go.

"We all have our different roles for different weeks, this week I'm actually working on the numbers to figure out how much exactly each item costs and if we will make a profit," Rolando said.

Bistro, continued on Page 2



Lamp archived photo

The door to the Bistro is seen in the Workforce Careers Center. This semester, the student-run restaurant will be open four days each week. On Tuesday and Thursday, it will be Bistro To Go with items available for order, and on Wednesday and Friday, it will be a new service called Bistro Grab & Go.



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

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# Review: Glimpse of U.S. border

## Novel recounts friendship, experiences as officer

By Teresa Brummett  
Lamp staff

"The Line Becomes a River" gives a glimpse into the factual and emotional years that author Francisco Cantú spent as an Officer for the U.S./Mexican Border Patrol.

He explains the long hours he had to work searching in the hot day of the desert heat. Then in the dark on colder nights, searching for immigrants trying to cross over into the United States illegally; where occasionally he found them

injured or even dead from the heat, starvation or injury.

Cantú tells his emotional story of his friendship with a man named José. José's mother was dying in Mexico, so he left the United States in order to see her one last time. When José was returning to the United States, he was arrested and jailed.

Cantú discusses the emotional storm of dealing with nightmares related to his work, and whether he could truly handle being a border patrol officer.

Cantú gives a heartwarming and inspirational story from both sides: being a border patrol officer and having to follow the laws by the book, and being the immigrant, wanting families to be able to stay together.

Today Cantú still deals with the pressures of his past although it's been years since he was an active officer. Similarly, the Mexican border crossing issues continue to be a prevalent every day as part of American politics and society.

This story is well worth a read if you have any interest in being a border patrol officer, finding out the process of detaining immigrants who try to cross the border illegally, or if you just have an interest in immigration in general. This story is compelling and provides a valuable insight into the life of a Mexican-American border patrol agent.

Teresa Brummett can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu.

## Some students see difficulty finding parking

By Zach Miller  
Lamp staff

Freshman Madelyn Wilson was tardy and has found herself tardy locked out of class a few times this semester. She blames a long commute -- not from home but through the confusing parking lot at Lincoln Land Community College.

Wilson's voice raised and she became animated when asked about the parking at LLCC.

There are a lot of one-way roads,

there aren't enough signs to direct you, and when you finally find a space, it's a long way from the buildings, Wilson said.

For many new students, the parking lot at Lincoln Land can be their first difficult course to navigate. The first spots can fill up quickly, and the back end requires detouring around the first parking area. Exiting the lot also leaves students lining up at the end of busier days, with cars often backing up to almost 100 cars.

With more than 6,000 students taking classes at Lincoln Land, the parking lot can be a new experience for those who are unfamiliar.

"There are never any spots open so I have to go all the way to the far parking lot and then I'm late for class," said Lindsey Riedle, a sophomore Education major at LLCC.

Riedle said she has had numerous near accidents.

At the stop along Poorman Drive,

the college's main entrance, Riedle said people often run the stop signs in a rush to be the first one through it.

But Freshman Jordan Elliott said the parking didn't seem too troublesome.

"As long as you follow the signs it's easy to make it in and out," Elliott said.

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## Coach

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"He has been great to work with," Jones said of Shanklin. "It's a unique spot. I don't want to be looking over his shoulder or overstepping my boundaries, but I want to do everything I can to help."

While this is not the first time he has been on the coaching staff at LLCC, it will be the first time back since being an assistant from 1995 to 1997.

The men's team struggled last year with the Loggers ending the season 12-17. The team had a recurring problem with closing out games. On multiple occasions, the Loggers led at half, only to let the lead slip away.

With multiple returning players this season, including sophomore guard Jake Pennell, Shanklin will have a strong set of experienced players eager to have better success this season.

"I like Coach Shanklin and what he's been doing with us doing this summer," Pennell said. "He's brought in some good guys that we're going to be able to use throughout the season, and I'm really excited

to play with these new guys and some returning red shirt guys."

Pennell, a graduate from Williamsville High School, hopes to continue to contribute to the team's success after the disappointing season last year.

"The whole 12-17 record doesn't sit very well, especially after only winning one game in conference," Pennell said. "We started off not too bad early last year but really started to fall apart throughout the season. We're going to win a lot more games, and we're going to be a lot better."

CJ May, a sophomore from Kansas City agreed and said he hopes Shanklin can help them finish games strong and deal with some problems they had last year.

Coach is always pressing us to do one more rep in the weight room, so that we have the energy to push through at the end of the game, May said.

May added: "I think we can win conference and be the conference champs and definitely be above .500."

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## Bistro

Continued from Page 1

David Carter, whose sister is a culinary student at Lincoln Land, ate lunch at the Bistro in its first operating week this semester.

Carter enjoyed the Mediterranean Whole Grain Salad.

The dish was "really, really good," Carter said. He usually doesn't favor spinach but thinks it blended well with the dish.

This was Carter's first visit to the Bistro, and he expressed his happiness in supporting his sister by dining at the cafe that furthers

her education.

Bistro To Go offers student-made soups, salads, sandwiches, baked goods and more. A full menu is available through Lincoln Land's website or the culinary arts program's Facebook page.

Orders can be placed in person, by email at bistroverde@llcc.edu or by telephone at 786-2821.

Customers can take their orders out or enjoy them at the tables provided by the Bistro.

Meredith Howard can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu.

## Letters to the Editors

### Phones only part of distracted driving

Trooper in a Truck is a program to catch distracted drivers texting or talking. Undercover Illinois State Police troopers sit in semi-trucks on Interstate 55 to observe motorist.

I don't promote a distracted or reckless driver on the highways. However, any motorist who is eating, having sex, or just not paying attention is a distracted driver and can cause a car accident. For example, in September 2013, a motorist captured on video a Chicago couple having sex while driving on the Eisenhower Expressway. These types of drivers should receive the same punishment as a driver using his or her electronic device.

If a driver is not punished, authorities are sending a direct message that it's OK to engage in distracting and reckless driving as long as you don't use your electronic device.

In 2016, the Department of Transportation reported 3,450 deaths occurred due to distracted drivers. However, the report doesn't say if distracted means using an electronic device.

If Trooper in a Truck was created to prevent fatalities solely based on the Department of Transportation's report. The Department of Transportation needs to categorize distracted drivers in specific categories such as a driver who was operating his or her electronic device while driving, or an alcohol- or drug-impaired driver, so the public can be made aware exactly how big of a texting- and talking-while-driving problem there is.

Until the report narrows down and isolates the number of deaths from motorists who were texting and talking while driving, I oppose this program.

Heidi Fields  
LLCC student

### Helmet law would save lives in Illinois

Just recently, Springfield was a destination to thousands of bikers for a rally. They came and enjoyed our food, bars, hotels and our Lincoln sites. But one thing I noticed was the fact that most of these bikers wore helmets. But why when Illinois does not have a law about having them? Did they know that we don't require them?

Illinois is one of three states that don't require them. The other states are Iowa and New Hampshire. With most of states having a helmet laws why don't we have them -- especially with Illinois being one of the states with the strictest gun laws and vehicle safety? Are motorcycles not seen as vehicles to those in power?

While motorcyclists may only be a threat to themselves, the problem is the themselves part. They may only injure physically themselves when they crash but, emotionally they target family and friends. While I am not expert on the body or emotions, I do know that my personal experience of a close friend being paralyzed because, of an accident without helmet has indefinitely shaped my views.

This accident could have been prevented by the simple use of a helmet. This is enough for me to think a helmet law is well worth it. While we may not be able to have our hair blowing in the wind. It could possibly save our lives. My proposition is for those in power and those reading this understand the depth of how helmet laws could save lives.

Anna Montgomery  
LLCC student

## Submitting Letters

The Lamp encourages students to share their opinions in the student newspaper. Letters may be submitted to lamp@llcc.edu.



# Laurenn York joins English faculty

## She previously taught in high school classroom

By Regina Ivy  
Lamp staff

Lincoln Land Community College has welcomed plenty of new staff members this year, one being the English department's Laurenn York.

Raised in the south suburbs of Chicago, York's passion for teaching was inspired by her frequent trips to her mother's classroom. York got her bachelor's degree in English Education from Eastern Illinois University and moved on to teach high school at Lockport East High School. Although York enjoyed getting to know the students, teaching in the high school environment wasn't the best for her.

York decided to further her education by getting her master's degree at Illinois State University, where she focused on Rhetoric and Composition. While at ISU York interned at Heartland Community College in Bloomington-Normal, falling in love with the diversity and culture that community colleges provide.

York commutes from her home in Bloomington daily, she lives with her husband, one-year-old daughter and Megatron, their Cocker Spaniel.

Professor York wants her students to know that she's passionate, hardworking, organized,



Niko Robledo/The Lamp

**Laurenn York recently joined the English faculty at Lincoln Land Community College. York emphasizes student-centered teaching, and she said she hopes her students never hesitate to reach out for help.**

student-centered, and tries to be laid back. Anyone who takes her class can expect York to be engaging with all of her students,

while she expects to receive the same level of engagement.

York is no stranger to working with students one-on-one.

She wants her students to never hesitate to reach out to her even after the semester is over, because she understands the importance of

tracking growth continuously over a lifetime.

Lauren York can be reached at [lamp@llcc.edu](mailto:lamp@llcc.edu).

# Stacey Olson joins biology department

## She wants students to share love for science

By Noah Miers  
Lamp staff

From Michigan to Massachusetts, new biology department hire Stacey Olson, brings her years of experience to Lincoln Land Community College.

"My goal at the end of my semester is for my students to love science and biology as much as I do," new Biology professor Stacey Olson says.

Olson comes from the Northern Michigan area where she got her bachelor's degree in Biology at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. She later got her Masters in Cellular and Molecular Science. Olson says that her love for science and specifically biology comes from it being a part of everyone's day-to-day life. She wants students to think every day about the impact that biology and science, in general, has on them and the environment around them.

She discovered her love of education from her experience teaching while in graduate school. However, she did not go immediately into teaching. Olson worked at a biotech company for 4 to 5 years and developed a biotech program at Roxbury Community



Meredith Howard/The Lamp

**Stacey Olson, new assistant professor of biology, works in her office on Wednesday, Sept. 26. Olson says she hopes her students will share her love for biology.**

College in Boston, MA. She came to Lincoln Land Community

College due to its reputation as a strong community college, and

her passion for developing biotech laboratories in colleges.

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Photos by Niko Robledo/ Co-Editor

Congressmen Rodney Davis, a central Illinois Republican, and Democrat Jimmy Panetta share a laugh Sept. 11 during the round table discussion held on bipartisanship in Trutter Center.

# Lawmakers talk bipartisanship

## Congressmen Rodney Davis, Jimmy Panetta visit LLCC

By Emma Shafer  
Assistant Editor

Lincoln Land Community College saw two important speakers on Sept. 11, 2018: Rodney Davis, who currently serves Illinois' 13th Congressional district, and Jimmy Panetta, currently serving California's 20th Congressional district.

The discussion about bipartisanship and civility was titled "Can two people with different viewpoints work together?" It focused on the friendship that Davis and Panetta have formed while serving on the House Committee on Agriculture and playing baseball together for the Republican and Democrat Congressional teams. The two are also the co-founders of the Congressional Agriculture Research Caucus.

**'Obviously we both have professional interests, but the fact is that Rodney Davis is someone who I like not only professionally, but personally.'**  
**Jimmy Panetta, D-Calif.**

Davis and Panetta say their friendship is based on both representing heavy agriculture districts. Davis, who represents a majority of Lincoln Land's district, has many constituents who earn their living through corn and soybean production. Panetta's district is nicknamed the "Salad Bowl Capital of the World".

Panetta stated, "Obviously we both have professional interests, but the fact is that Rodney Davis is someone who I like not only professionally, but personally."

The discussion took place with 12 students, five faculty members, and six members of the Lincoln Land administration. Students who attended were given invita-

tions by members of the faculty, who were given 5 tickets each to distribute to students. Lynn Whalen, the executive director of public relations and marketing, said it was not the college's decision to make the event private, but the Former Members of Congress who contacted the college and set up the event.

Natalie Baker was a student who attended the event on campus. She asked the congressmen about the message behind the event and what the goal of it was supposed to be because she said the point was unclear.

Rodney Davis responded, "That's too bad."

After the event Natalie Baker said "I wanted to give the event a fair chance, but found that it

played out more like a photo opportunity where we all show up just to say what we did. I came with the hopes of engaging in a real discussion of civil responsibility. Instead, I found both Congressmen to be underprepared and unable to communicate a clear message."

Both Congressmen are currently up for re-election this November and are both running opposed. Davis traveled to Panetta's district in February of 2018 to present on a similar topic. Lincoln Land was the Congressmen's third stop of the day; they had previously visited Taylorville and Edwardsville High Schools to speak with students.

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# Constitution Jeopardy!



By Niko Robledo ■ Co-Editor  
 Student Life holds a game show day, providing prizes to students who show their constitutional knowledge.



## Young activists focus on connecting with others

### Summit at UIS grew from March for Our Lives rally

By Emma Shafer  
 Assistant Editor

On Sept. 22, Lincoln Land Community College students Claire Farnsworth and Ashley Broemmer helped organize an advocacy summit that was held at the Brookens

Library Auditorium at the University of Illinois at Springfield. The event was hosted by Young Activists of Action Illinois (YAAI), an advocacy group that began from the organizers of the local March for Our Lives that was held in March.

Claire Farnsworth, a freshman student at LLCC, is the founder and President of YAAI.

“Central Illinois and America, in general, is in desperate need of the space for young activists to learn and advocate together. We’re

trying to fill that void,” Farnsworth described as her reasoning for creating YAAI.

The summit began with a community fair bringing local community action groups such as Springfield Black Lives Matter, Planned Parenthood of Illinois, Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, Springfield Students Demand Action for Gun Sense and Faith Coalition for the Common Good to UIS. The groups set up tables to provide information to attendees.

The League of Women Voters and Faith Coalition for the Common Good partnered to register voters for the upcoming midterm election.

YAAI hosted a panel on women’s leadership providing guests such as Betsy Dirksen Londrigan (the current Democratic candidate for the 13th Congressional District), Brigid Leahy, Veronica Espina, Jennifer Lee, Anna Cianciolo and Sunshine Clemons. The panel discussed intersectionality for women within leadership and the problems

they had faced throughout their career.

The panel provided advice to young advocates about organizing and leading from a center of inclusion, organizing from a place of abundance and understanding one’s self and vulnerability. The main point the panel stressed was to make an effort to connect with others through activism.

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# Boy Scouts enrollment declines

## Some see social issues driving away future Scouts

By Karl Densmore  
Lamp staff

Jordan Twombly had a remarkable advancement through the ranks of Scouting, obtaining 81 merit badges and becoming an Eagle Scout at age 15.

"I was very absorbed in it, it was like a full-time hobby," Twombly said. "I just did a little bit of paperwork every day for 30 minutes, and I was able to get it done. That's a very important skill that I learned from Scouting. Leadership is also really important, and the high-adventure camping trips were really cool."

Despite the benefits for Twombly and the

long legacy scouting has held, Boy Scouts of America has seen a drop in participation among today's youth.

Twombly said that his troop basically died off. His troop is like many in the area that have become defunct due to lack of interest among youth.

"Basically, it's the old guys in charge at the national level," said Eagle Scout and Lincoln Land Community College student Jacob Beaird. "They act really traditional and strict, and they really overemphasize religion and patriotism and being a 'good citizen.'"

Beaird started as a Cub Scout in elementary school and stuck with it despite not always enjoying the activities that they do at the younger age. As he got older and was able to camp and do other activities, he saw the fun and value in Scouting.

"I learned how to camp, leadership skills,

conservation skills, and I honestly think that it helped me become a better citizen looking back at it," Beaird said. "Summer camp was kind of like real life in the sense that you're away from home for a week and you're kind of on your own, and you have to do things on your own."

For more than a century, scouting has been one of the most iconic youth programs in America. When people think of scouting, they often picture camp outs, community service projects and leadership training. At times, scouts have even taken up critical roles in their communities, such as assisting police in guiding traffic and fund raising for charities. Scouting also traditionally played an important part in providing youth with advanced first aid skills and lifesaving training.

"While scouting did help me become a better citizen in a lot of ways, I don't think any scout

subscribes to it 100 percent," Beaird said.

"And a lot of it is subjective stuff. They've lost touch with today's youth."

Beaird said, "Having a ban on homosexuals is a good example of this."

Twombly agreed with him saying, "They've kinda lost touch with what it originally stood for. ... They've gotten away from the whole Daniel Boone feel that Robert Baden-Powell imagined."

Baden-Powell was the founder of Scouts.

Both said the emphasis on being a "good citizen" and religion drives away many potential Scouts, as well as a lackluster experience in Cub Scouts.

Twombly said, "They're trying to make Scouting something it's not."

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# Gay Straight Alliance creates family

## Club focuses on how members are not different

By Kierra Harris  
Lamp staff

Gay Straight Alliance at Lincoln Land Community College offers a safe place and support for individuals that identify as LGBTQ or as an ally to the community. They also work to expand student's and the public's knowledge of the LGBTQ community through education.

There are officially ten individuals in GSA and five leadership positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and the public relations officer. The club currently meets biweekly, but are working to change to weekly meetings.

GSA's adviser, Beth Wiediger, plays a hands-off role with the club. She oversees the activities they hold, such as prom, bake sales and helping out with Lincoln Land's food pantry. "I'm just here to guide them and help them with what it is that they want to do," said Wiediger. "But they know that they can come here if they need me."

Wiediger became the adviser for GSA when a student approached her and explained that the club needed an adviser. Now seven years later, Wiediger loves being a part of GSA and getting to know members on a more personal level.

"It seems like every time students leave and new ones come in, I feel like they're my kids," Wiediger said. "They're really good with each other and they are really close friends. They even say that they are like family to each other."

The president of GSA, Samantha Wetter, joined the club at the end of 2015. She was questioning her

identity and GSA seemed interesting. She went to her friends asking for guidance and support, and they directed her to GSA.

The public relations officer is Elizabeth Davis, who learned about the club through the LLCC website. Her duties as the PR officer include sharing information about GSA and their upcoming activities.

GSA members refer to themselves as a family. They offer support to everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of sexuality or identity.

GSA puts on activities such as prom, where attendees are welcome

to bring whomever they want. All the proms are themed, with past themes being zombie and the 80's, in 2016 and 2017 respectively. GSA's motivation behind holding a prom was a response to many high schools limiting whom students were allowed to bring as dates to their prom based on their gender.

"We want to emphasize that we are not different," said Davis. "We are all flesh and blood. Who I like and who I dislike has no emphasis on me as a person."

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## Audio

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Waddell identifies four stages to the audio production process: the production or creative stage, the recording stage, the mixing stage and the mastering and post-production stage. He also identifies that making connections is important, too.

"Part of learning those techniques is just producing more and more and more," Waddell said. "And being willing to work with other people, which Nigel does. He's had other students come to his house to work on projects and I encourage that."

Jeff Milner, a music performance major, who is also pursuing an Audio Production Certificate, is one of the students who has collaborated with Tiller.

"Karran Robinson and I were collaborating on a project for song writing, and we both didn't have the necessary tools to record and mix our tracks," Milner said. "Then Karran talked to Nigel who offered his services to us, and we went to his home studio (where Nigel) recorded guitar, bass and vocals, and added a drum track for us and mixed it, as well. He was a great help to us and he taught us a lot of techniques and other tips to help in the recording studio."

Nia Tiller, 18, is a freshman at Lincoln Land, pursuing an Associates in Liberal Arts. She is also Tiller's daughter.

Planning to pursue a degree in film, Nia Tiller shares her father's musical DNA. She plays

electric bass. She grew up, watching more and more bands because she enjoyed the music and decided to learn an instrument to play what she enjoyed.

Nigel Tiller's love of music came from his father, who played in a band with his uncle and achieved minor success. According to Tiller, his father was a self-taught musician and "could play anything by ear just by hearing it once."

Tiller remembers the advice his father gave him, "Never give up. No matter what goes on, don't stop."

This paternal advice has stuck with Tiller.

"He's been a very big go-getter as far as he's not afraid to try things," Waddell said. "And he's not afraid to fail because being afraid to fail is going to hold you back. You have to be willing to do something, take a risk, and if it doesn't work out, then learn from it and go on."

"This program at Lincoln Land," Tiller said, "is a really good program because I've looked into other programs outside of here that costs, man, way more than what Lincoln Land is charging. I am very grateful for this program. I've been telling a lot of people about it. I'm hoping [it] can expand more. I'm thankful for this program because without this program I don't know what I'd be doing right now to be honest with you. It gave me that drive back and it kind of motivated me in a whole different way. I feel way better about the music I am doing than I did before."

Tiller plans to complete the



Photos by Niko Robledo/The Lamp  
Audio production student Nigel Tiller works in the audio lab at LLCC. Tiller recorded three songs this summer, getting a jump-start on his recording career while still taking classes.

audio production program in the spring. He said the online and hybrid courses that comprise the program were a bit of a challenge at first, but he has grown accustomed to it.

After finishing, he plans to go to Western Illinois University for completion of a Bachelor of Music-Music Production through a 2+2 degree completion agreement between Lincoln Land and Western.

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# Review: Spider-Man PS4 lives up to hype

**Insomniac Games provides breather from cyclical Marvel Cinematic Universe**

Score: 9.5/10

By **Niko Robledo**  
Co-Editor

It has been a long while since we've seen a Spider-Man game of any merit. The Spider-Man game that probably most fresh in your mind is the subpar, "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," developed by Beenox Studios. They have developed Spider-Man games in the past but that one sticks out like an infected spider bite. The game was based on the equally subpar movie released in 2014, starring Andrew Garfield.

It incorporated a unique "hero or menace" system that forces the player to consistently stop crimes or you will fall into the menace category causing AI that is normally friendly start attacking you. For me, that's the most interesting part of the game. Otherwise, the web swinging felt wonky and the combat was just a lot of button mashing without much difficulty. Upon release it received mixed reviews, it currently holds a 44/100 critic score on Metacritic.com.

But when you think of the best Spider-Man game, it is without a doubt is Spider-Man 2 for the PlayStation 2. Developed by Treyarch and released in 2004, that game had everything. It improved web swinging, from just touching the sky with webs. Webs actually had to have a place to stick. Combat had enough depth that you weren't bored and Spider-Man was voiced by Toby McGuire! How could it get better than that? I spent hours of my childhood web-swinging through the skylines of New York, saving citizens and wooing Mary Jane. Treyarch pro-



vided all a kid could want out of Spider-Man.

So here we are now, 2018. I've got a lot of nostalgia and a couple of bad memories under my belt. So let me say this now, Insomniac Games developed an amazing work of art with their release of Marvel's Spider-Man; currently holding an 87/100 on Metacritic. 23-year-old Peter Parker has graduated from college and is finding his permanent role as Spider-Man. Besides Spider-Man and Peter Parker, Insomniac has also made missions where you play as Mary Jane Watson, Peter's ex-girlfriend and reporter for the Daily Bugle. These missions provide a break from regular gameplay and help set the pace for the story.

The level of detail that Insomniac has put into recreating the vibrant island of Manhattan is stellar. New York is filled with citizens and traffic is bustling down crowded streets, but who cares about that? You're a web-slinging and

swinging machine! The physics created for the web swinging mechanic is extremely smooth and you are provided a boost of speed at the end of every swing. So Spider-Man slowly gains momentum as he traverses through buildings. Through the leveling system, you are able to spend skill points in the "web-slinger" skill tree to improve your mobility in combat and on the move.

Insomniac captured what makes superhero beat-em-ups an enjoyable time by providing a plethora of ways to take down enemies. It's reminiscent of the Batman Arkham series in the way of stealth areas and finishers, but Spider-Man is overall superior in combat. Providing the player with faster-paced mechanics along with an emphasis on vertical combat.

It's so satisfying to knock someone in the air, punch the crap out of them and slam them into the ground. All of this happens while Spider-

Man is making sarcastic quips to his foes. You have several options of web shooting gadgets as well, one of my personal favorites in the impact web. If an enemy is close enough to a wall the impact web will completely immobilize by webbing them to a solid surface. It provides a beautiful "DENIED" feeling when you see an enemy trying to get the jump on you.

Overall, Marvel's Spider-Man is phenomenal. Insomniac showed that they have not lost their touch in creating a fun, challenging and extremely enjoyable gaming experience. They have come a long way from the days of Spyro the Dragon (another one of my childhood favorites) and Ratchet and Clank. The acquisition of the Spider-Man license was a step in the right direction for Insomniac they filled a gap in the hearts of fans that has been open since 2004.

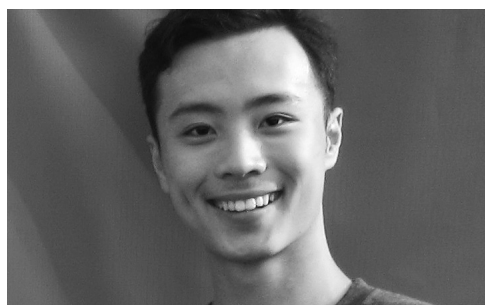
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Photos by Teresa Brummett/The Lamp

LLCC Police Chief Brad Gentry talks to students in an Active Shooter Training session. Students are shown how to fight a gunman if that is the only option.

# Fighting for your life

## LLCC Police teach students how to react in mass shooting

By Teresa Brummett  
Lamp staff

It's Tuesday morning. A couple of your friends and you are sitting in the Commons looking at some photos on your friends' phone of her new puppy. You hear a popping sound.

You look at each other wondering what the noise was. Then, you hear the sound again, and again. Soon, you hear screams.

It's then you all realize someone is shooting inside of the school. You're scared, as are your friends. Then there's chaos and everyone starts running. What should you do? You think back to your Active Shooter Training.

Lincoln Land's police hold regular Active Shooter Training sessions on how to respond if there is a shooting and how to take down a shooter if necessary.

While not all training is guaranteed, having an awareness of what to do and a strategy for what to do if a shooting begins. Lincoln Land police suggest a strategy: Run, Hide, Fight.

**RUN:** First if you hear gunfire, run away from the sound. This will get you out of the line of fire. And in the end keep you and others safe from harm.

**HIDE:** If the shooter is too close, then hide. Simply getting out of sight will slow the gunman who will have to search for a target or move to another area.

If several students can hide in a room, they should shut off the lights and lock the door. They should then block the door with whatever furniture is available. The difficulty of entering the room may deter the shooter from trying to gain access because the gunman will not want to spend the time to enter the room.

**FIGHT:** If it comes down to it and the shooter is coming after you, then you should fight the gunman as a last resort.

On Lincoln Land's website, there is a video on how to respond to an active shooter.

In the video, students huddle until a gunman enters an unlocked room. They throw a handful of loose papers toward the shooter as he enters the room to distract him.

If you are in that situation, the video tells people to devise a plan for who will do what if the gunman enters the room.

Working together and with a plan gives you and others time to take the shooter down and get the weapon away. But police urge this is a very last resort.

Take the time to watch the Active Shooter Video on Lincoln Land's website. It only takes a few minutes.

For further information, students can attend an active shooter "take down" demonstration. Contact the college police department in Sangamon 1143 to get more information.



Students are given a chance to disarm an officer to see how it would be done in a real-life crisis.

