



New Ag building approved

By Olivia Hoots
Lamp staff

The Ag program plans to break ground on a new \$7.5 million building this summer. It hopes to see twice as many agriculture students attending LLCC with the changes under way.

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, the board of trustees approved the sale of \$7.5 million worth of bonds to pay for the construction and furnishings of the Kreher Ag Center” said Bill Harmon, Lincoln Land agricultural professor and adviser.

The Kreher Ag Center will be funded by the \$18 million Kreher Trust that the Ag program received in 2018.

The building and Kreher Trust will “provide amazing new opportunities for our students,” said Lynn Whalen, executive director of public relations and marketing.

“We are thrilled with what this gift means for LLCC and its students for generations to come,” said Karen Sanders, executive director

of LLCC Foundation, which administers the Kreher Trust.

Since receiving the Kreher Trust, the Ag program has hired Ag program recruiter Holly Bauman, bought a car, a shuttle bus and a John Deere combine simulator.

“We’ve used some of that money for scholarships for the judging team and Ag students,” Harmon said. Other technology purchases include drones and software for the fertilizer program.

The Kreher Ag Center, however, is the biggest advancement for the Ag program yet.

“The building will house all Ag and horticulture classes,” Harmon said.

The plan is to start construction on the building this summer and for the entire program to move into it by the spring of 2021.

It will “have classrooms and labs, some improved student spaces, whether it is for studying, working on projects, or relaxing, a place that students want to be even when not in class.” Harmon continued.

There will be meeting spaces for both small and large groups.

Nathan Goebel, the vice president of the LLCC Ag Club, said “I believe the new Ag building will allow (the) LLCC Ag program to expand and provide more opportunities for LLCC Ag students to work with newer technology and accommodate for large class sizes.”

Overall, “we are really early in the design process,” said Harmon.

Harmon stressed the need for a flexible space. For example, there would be a cart with laptops instead a computer lab. Also, there will be large rooms that can be made smaller when divided to allow for more functionality. The design is to allow students to take classes in a high-tech environment. This specific design “should have some wow factor,” said Harmon

Harmon continued by saying that “it will serve as a recruiting tool.” This fall, the program will begin offering afternoon Ag classes to high school students who attend schools without Ag programs.

“As far as why, part of what we have been asked to do with the gift is to grow the Ag program. We’d like to double it.” said Harmon. Everything being done because of the Kreher Trust is for that main goal.

“I believe that the new Ag building is going to broaden the Ag department tremendously. It will allow us to have the resources and space to host events and get our name out there. With that being said, hopefully it will bring in multiple new students which we will be able to accommodate with bigger classrooms and advanced technology for learning opportunities. Unfortunately, I won’t be able to experience the new building, but I am excited for the future Ag students who will.” said Lori Jackson, current LLCC Ag Club president.

The Kreher Ag Center will be located just south of Cass Gymnasium in the southwest corner of the parking lot.

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Students prepare to graduate



Regina Ivy/The Lamp

Simon Okbazghi and Joyce Kamau pose with cap and gowns during GradFest in the A.Lincoln Commons on Tuesday, March 21.

Denzelle Moore, a student and spring graduate, said “My biggest accomplishment was managing being a full-time student, athlete (womens basketball) and having a full-time job.”

Any students who did not purchase their graduation items during GradFest can get them from the LLCC Bookstore online or in person for \$25.

Commencement 2019 is May 17.

Baseball has high expectations

By Ryan Scott
Lamp staff

There are high expectations this season for the Lincoln Land baseball team.

The hope for the team is to get back to the National Championship in 2019, and stop a near two-decade drought since their last National Championship in 2000.

The Loggers opened the season with a 2-1 start against the College of DuPage in Springfield at the SHG field.

They won the doubleheader on Friday, Feb. 22, but fell in a high-scoring Game 3 on Satur-

day, Feb. 23.

Ron Riggle, head coach, said they had too many errors and couldn’t get enough outs in the Saturday loss against DuPage.

The team made pitching changes and substitutions during the first couple games of the season.

Riggle continued on that he had pitchers on a pitch count and wanted everyone to get a chance to play.

To begin their 9-game Florida road trip, the Loggers would blow out Delta College.

They played their last game in Florida on March 10 as part of the Russ Matt Tournament.

They beat Lakeland (from Ohio) 14-2.

With the frigid Midwest weather affecting the beginning of the season, the team must prepare indoors for the season, Riggle said.

They practice all of the fundamentals that they can, but they can’t do full scrimmage practices inside.

Freshman Graham Bender and sophomore Bryce Torricelli said the fall baseball season was a big help in preparing for the spring season.

“It gave me and the rest of the freshmen a taste of what college baseball is about and allowed the upperclassmen to get back into the

groove of things,” Bender said.

“Coach Riggle has the same expectations for freshmen as he does for sophomores because they have already had the fall season to get out of high school mode and into the college baseball season. So by the time the spring season begins they should be as prepared as the sophomores for the season.”

Before departing for the Florida trip, Torricelli said,

“They are playing well together but there is always room for improvement.”

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

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Black vendors offer products, inspiration

By Sage Gass
Lamp staff

From clothing, jewelry, live entertainment, haircuts, food and more -- everyone attending LLCC was invited to interact and learn more about the culture, lifestyle and business practices of local black business owners at African American History Month Food & Vendor Day. "It's really cool that the school hosts this for students," said student Madison Mings. "Having an interactive and comfortable environment for students to learn about black culture and talk to other people is great." Some business owners sold items from bigger retailers, while others, like Beck & Call, built their businesses from the ground up. Beck & Call is a Springfield business where people are hired to essentially do anything clients ask -- from running errands, to picking

up groceries, to walking their dogs and more. Beck & Call is part of a bigger co-operation called UMOJA. UMOJA stated their goal at the event was to not only spread the word to potential customers, but to also recruit employees. Another home business looking to gain customers and spread the word was Curvy Closet. This company started as a hobby, and turned into a business. Owner Tia Mahr's goal is to offer cool clothes that are affordable and size-inclusive. She expressed that including everyone in fashion is important and that everybody should have something they feel good in, and that's why she made her own plus-size brand. She also has a smaller business where she makes baby clothing called TuTu's by Tia. Not unlike Mahr of Curvy Closet -- Kevia Maloney, knitter and designer of K-Nits by Kevia, makes

custom knit afghans, socks, blankets, scarves, cowls and even more, offering her products through her online business for customers. When she's not doing that, she works as a representative at the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. Many free services were offered at the event as well -- like the health table supplied by the Springfield Urban League. Worked by Brittany, the health table offered an array of information on sexual health items students may normally not have access to outside of school -- like lubricant, free condoms, and various pamphlets and informative articles on health problems and sexual wellness for students to take. The Springfield Urban League offers other free services for LLCC students throughout the year as well, like HIV testing and health screenings. Brittany stressed that offering

these services was necessary. If students weren't picking up snacks or getting their hair trimmed, they were jamming along to the band. Jazz by Footprints, staffed by Virgil Rhodes, a retired professor of business law at LLCC, played an array of traditional jazz tunes during the event. While some members said they performed at the event because it was something they enjoyed doing for the students, Rhodes had another message. "To make young people more aware of the history behind the music," stated Rhodes. He also stressed he wished young people where more comfortable to ask questions about the music, the culture and its importance. LLCC took the month of February to emphasize and highlight the significance of Black History and why it's important.

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Regina Ivy/The Lamp

Laurie Clemons, Black Student Union adviser, supervises the Ebony Dance on Feb. 23 at Lincoln Land's Trutter Center.

Student Union 'turned up'

By Regina Ivy
Assistant Editor

The African-American History Committee, partnered with the Open Door Mentorship Program, worked hard to put together the Black History Month Ebony Dance. The dance took place Feb. 23 in Lincoln Land's Trutter Center. There was free food provided for the people that attended.

Although the dance did not have the largest of turnouts, the people who did attend knew how to have a good time. Members from the Black Student Union "turned up" to the eclectic array of music being played at the event. Most of the music was by or inspired by African-American artists.

This event happened in celebration of Black History Month. Students and faculty both made the



Regina Ivy/The Lamp

Black Student Union president Saleana Moore and friends dance at the Ebony Dance.

most of their night celebrating the history they all helped to make.

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Regina Ivy/The Lamp

GSA honors queer black icons at event

By Madison Mings
Lamp staff

During Black history month, you usually hear about historical figures like Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr, and Malcom X--but LGBTQ+ historical rights figures don't really get the recognition like others.

The Gay Straight Alliance held an event on Feb. 25 for LGBTQ+ historical figures.

They had a table set up in the A.Lincoln Commons.

They displayed a board with pictures of Bayard Rustin, Langston Hughes, Patricio Manuel, Josephine Baker, Marsha P. Johnson and Barbara Jordan with information including the day of birth and death date, their sexual orientation, and information about them on who they were and what they did for the community.

They also gave out rainbow pins. Cierra Rose, an active member of GSA, said,

"The meaning behind the event was to educate people on the forgotten black historical figures of the LGBTQ+ community."

"I do think the event was successful. We ran out of rainbow pins and a lot of people came up to learn and talk to us. Overall, the event had a lot of positive feedback and there was a lot of positive people that came up to talk and read the information we have," Rose said.

Madison Mings, a member of the GSA club, can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu.

Music at state museum

Review: Older songs brought to life

By Paul Watson
Lamp staff

Acoustic music, singing and humorous banter filled the Thorne Deuel Auditorium in the basement of the Illinois State Museum.

Wil Maring and Robert Bowlin performed original compositions and covered Americana, folk and blues songs for the March 14 installment of the Music at the Museum series.

Vallillo opened the concert a little after 7 p.m. He explained to the audience of about 50 people that the series features acoustic musicians whose music resonates with the history of Illinois.

In Vallillo's introduction of the performers, he said that Maring grew up in Southern Illinois, that he currently lives in Cobden, and that he has won a songwriting contest.

He said Bowlin had performed with Bill Monroe, a bluegrass music pioneer, as well as appearing on stage with other country artists. Both Maring and Bowlin have appeared on the Grand Ole Opry.

As soon as the duo took the stage, the light-hearted homespun personality of Maring engaged the audience with her humorous banter and well-intentioned ribbing with Bowlin. Maring sang most of the repertoire and played the bass lines on an upright bass for most of the songs. Occasionally, she would play rhythm on an acoustic guitar.

Maring wrote the majority of the songs performed. "Rows" is an ex-

ample of her lyric writing style. She paints word pictures for the audience to see with their minds' eyes, transporting them to a remote time and another place:

"Rows of daffodils roll across the hills.

"Rows of blackbirds on the line.

"Rows of wild red roses, climbing oak fence posts.

"My life lies in rows."

Most of the audience seemed to be familiar with some of the original compositions. For those who were not, they would have found themselves tapping their feet when Maring and Bowlin performed "Bottomlands," Maring's 1998 songwriting-competition-winning entry. The song's country-music style "boom-chuck" rhythm encouraged the foot tapping.

Maring's singing voice easily fits in the mezzo-soprano range. One of the pleasant surprises of the evening occurred during the first set's closing number: a cover of Etta James' "At Last." Maring worked her diaphragm as she belted out lyrics reminiscent of James. One could almost imagine James singing a duet with her.

Bowlin sang a song or two, contributed occasional backing vocals, and played violin on two songs, but primarily played acoustic guitar with a flat-pick. Bowlin knows the fretboard well and uses it to sound like two people are playing the same instrument. He plays fluidly, making the job look effortless.

Bowlin showcased his technique with his instrumental titled "On the Border." While he played, Maring sat at the edge of the stage listening

along with the audience.

Bowlin played violin on "A Dance to the St. Anne's Reel," while Maring played acoustic guitar. Bowlin began the song using the violin bow percussively against the violin strings. The solo clearly reflected the song's melody.

Bowling played a 1920s violin made in Italy, which he repaired himself. Maring wrote the words to a folk dance tune called "St. Anne's Reel."

Vallillo, who is also a guitarist and singer, opened the musical performance with a cover of Claudia Nygaard's "His Left Side." He accompanied his strong baritone vocals with a resonator guitar.

To begin the second set after the intermission, Bowlin joined Vallillo to play a cover of the song "Steel Guitar Rag," which Bob Wills recorded in the 1930s in a Western-swing style. They performed the song as an instrumental to spotlight Vallillo's slide playing on a resonator guitar and Bowlin's lead playing on a vintage Larson guitar.

During the intermission, cookies and coffee were available to the audience. Maring and Bowlin chatted with attendees and sold CDs of their music. Maring also sold her artwork.

The next installment of the Music at the Museum series features Suzie Vinnick, a roots and blues singer from Canada from 7 to 9 p.m. April 11, 2019. Admission costs \$10 for adults and \$8 for museum members and children under 12.

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Lifelong Learning Academy to present on black history

The Lincoln Land Community College Academy of Lifelong Learning invites the public to the presentation "Slaves, Indentured Servants and Free Black Leaders in Our 'Free' State, 1818-1860" by Kathryn Harris and Tara McClellan McAndrew.

The free event is 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 2, in the Trutter Center and 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4, in the Springfield and Central Illinois African-American History Museum.

Pre-registration is requested by calling the LLCC Community Education office at 786-2432.

Harris will share what she has learned about Priscilla Baltimore, who has been called the "Harriet Tubman of the West." Baltimore was involved in bringing numerous runaways from the slave state of Missouri across the Mississippi River

to Alton, Ill. She also fostered the establishment of the town of Brooklyn, Ill., an early African-American town that was incorporated and still in existence.

By shedding light on chapters of history that are significant despite their obscurity, Forgotten Illinois is designed to engage people throughout the state in feeding curiosity about the many facets that comprise Illinois' complex identity.

"Illinois Humanities is proud to support not-for-profit organizations that promote the importance of the humanities in private and public life. Through their efforts, Illinoisans have greater access to lifelong learning opportunities," said Illinois Humanities Executive Director Deborah Epstein. "These champions of the humanities make their communities and our whole state more vibrant."

Event prepares new students to register

Lincoln Land Community College will provide an opportunity for students starting at LLCC in summer or fall 2019 to complete steps to enrollment during an Open Registration Prep event 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 9. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

Participants can attend a New Student Orientation session, activate an online account and meet or schedule a future appointment with an academic adviser. Lunch will be provided.

"For those who have made the decision to attend LLCC, this event provides a great opportunity to get

all or most of the enrollment steps completed in one day," explains Shanda Byer, associate vice president, enrollment services.

Before the event, participants must apply to LLCC at www.llcc.edu (click on "Apply Now"), submit official high school, GED and other college/university transcripts as well as SAT/ACT test scores (if available).

Registration for the event is required by March 25. For more information and to register, visit www.llcc.edu/Open-Reg-Prep.

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Illinois students get in-state tuition.

Show evokes emotions

Review: LLCC prof directs 'Monologues'

By Rosanna Cravens
Lamp staff

Among the things I took from this year's performance of the Vagina Monologues was a profound sense of camaraderie. The feelings of friendship, sisterhood and unity were simply infectious.

The setting was somewhat intimate at its new location, the Hoogland Center for the Arts. Friday evening tickets were sold out and some in attendance were left without formal seating.

The preshow entertainment began with an enthralling routine by the LotusFire belly

dance group. They showed the natural power and beauty that women of all body types have within themselves.

Then, Steph Mayotte of Champaign sang an exceptional cover of 'Breathe' by Anna Nalick. The acoustic guitar she played highlighted the raw emotion in her voice, and the mix brought goosebumps to my arms.

Possibly the best of the preshow was the poem "Black Girl," written and recited by author and cast member Shatriya Smith. She did not hold back her anger nor her grief, and the passionate delivery added to the sense that real progress was underway.

All 13 cast members took the stage for the introduction. It was obvious that these women were more than actresses in a show together;

they were a family, giving and receiving strength with one another.

The monologues were powerful, humorous, sassy and, in general, a celebration. Still, there were very distressing moments that shed light on some issues that women suffer from today.

Buffy Lael-Wolf, a nurse and child's advocate, brought justice to a woman whose husband blamed her lack of shaving for his adulterous ways in her voicing of the monologue "Hair".

"The Flood," voiced by mother and retired teacher Sherry Wold, brought attention to a largely unnoticed problem in today's society. Sex education does not necessarily tell a developing girl all she needs to know about her own anatomy. Many are ashamed

of what they cannot explain, leaving girls vulnerable to the detrimental impact of misinformation.

"I Was There in The Room," voiced by Resistor Sisterhood member Tracy Owens, remains closest to my heart. The miracle of childbirth has been watered down and demonized to the point that women across the world elect to have C-sections to escape the terrible light shed on vaginal birth.

Over all, the play was a 'rollercoaster,' as aptly stated by cast member and director of the play Brenda Protz, LLCC professor of speech communication.

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Uno in Commons

The LLCC games club played Uno in the A.Lincoln Commons from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 19.



Jailed reporter shares his story

Review: Journalist weaves in politics

By Meredith Howard
Editor-in-Chief

Jason Rezaian's book 'Prisoner' provides an insightful look into the Iranian government and the U.S.'s diplomatic relationship with Iran.

Rezaian, a reporter at the Washington Post, was imprisoned in Iran for 544 days after he was unceremoniously separated from his wife during a raid on their apartment. He was charged with espionage, with the main evidence being a crowdfunding campaign he had made with the satirical goal of bringing avocados to Iran.

His emotions of disbelief, anger and sometimes despair are expressed concisely yet passionately in his 320-page memoir that was released in early 2019.

Rezaian's harrowing description of the emotional manipulation that his Iranian guards used on him demonstrates the almost unbelievable dysfunction in the way that the Iranian government prosecutes people. He was tried, and convicted, in a court where he was represented by an official who did not understand English, and who acted far from Rezaian's best interests.

Rezaian does a fantastic job at keeping the attention of readers by sprinkling in updates about his trial throughout the recollection of his sometimes monotonous existence in prison.

Even though the majority of Rezaian's time in prison was spent undergoing repeated questioning from completely inept guards, his story remains captivating to the end.

I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in Iran, whether it be because of their tumultuous relationship with the U.S., or their sometimes misunderstood culture. I also recommend this memoir to journalists and people who have an interest in international journalism.

Rezaian's impressive journalism portfolio is only validated by his story about his time in prison.

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