



# Students make a difference

## Education class takes on projects to help others

By: Regina Ivy  
Editor-in-Chief

Lincoln Land is dedicated to cultivating a generation of leaders who will go on to be influencers in their communities. The education program at the community college is no exception from this statement. This October one education class is focused on changing the community one step at a time.

Diversity of Schools and Society or EDU 220 is a course that aims to make future educators aware of the injustices that students are facing in schools right now and equips them to better approach unfair situations or avoid them altogether.

The professor of the course, Taibeh Hosseinali, assigns a big task to her students every semester.

The Make a Difference Project is for EDU 220 students to plan and organize a service project that will benefit the Springfield area community, specifically youth.

“The whole point of it is to hone in on how to make an impact in the lives of school-aged children,” Casey Hutchinson, a group project leader, says.

“It’s very important because it teaches community service.” Hutchinson hopes that this act of kindness will inspire students to make differences in their own little communities.

The group leader goes on to say, “It is important to get the community around you to realize how important school-aged children are how you can make an impact in their lives at any age.”

The community service project has called two teams to action, both are comprised of EDU 220 students. The team Casey is working with includes Karissa Hurst, Lauren Dambacher, Daneece Anderson, and Robby McQuinn.

“When I was doing my observations at Southeast, I couldn’t help but to notice how small the

libraries are in each classroom,” Hutchinson says

What the group wants to do is expand on the libraries in Southeast by building them a new bookshelf and hosting a book fair at Barnes&Noble that will raise funds for putting new books in that new bookshelf. The book-fair will be held on October 24th. Patrons can donate by mentioning the Southeast fund at the checkout.

“Our goal is to look at Southeast High School’s library and teacher’s classroom libraries and really focus on growing them, so students have better access to literature tools to grow their mindsets.”

Difference, Continued on Page 5



Lincoln Land couple Theaibold Kennon and Anne Anderson share their first glass of wine during their wedding reception at Bridgeview Park in Chatham on Friday, Sept. 20.

## New Ag building makes history

By Regina Ivy  
Editor-in-Chief

History was made at LLCC on Thursday, Sept. 19. It was not just a regular school day for the agriculture students for Lincoln Land, for on this day, they got to be a part of a special groundbreaking ceremony of the Kreher Agriculture Center that will benefit all of the students.

“This new building means a lot to us,” said Alexis Carroll, an Agriculture student at LLCC. “The new technology and the new building (are) going to bring new opportunities for a lot of us”

“We’re making history today,” added fellow student Hannah Carroll. “I feel like this new building is going to bring a lot more students to Lincoln Land’s Ag program.”

The \$7.5 million, 19,750-square-foot building on the east side of campus is expected to be completed in the Spring 2021. The building will be funded by annual distributions from the \$18 million Kreher Farm Perpetual Charitable Trust. That money was given by Irene and Charles Kreher, and it will also give LLCC’s agriculture program the chance to offer more scholarships, travel opportunities and better technology for students.

The building is designed to be specific to the needs of Springfield’s very own Ag students. According to Architect James Kemper of Demonica Kemper Architects, this will not be a building you can find anywhere else.

“Our process is that we talk to students, find out what their needs are,” Kemper said. “This is a building that is specific to Lincoln Land Community College.”

LLCC Board Chair Wayne Rosenthal commented on the specialties of the new building: “This cutting-edge facility will feature state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories, student gathering spaces and a spacious, glassed-in expo area for Ag simula-

Ag building, Continued on Page 3

# Love is blind

## Blind Lincoln Land students married with professor officiating

By Cam Boyer  
Lamp staff

Anne-Marie Andersen didn’t think she would ever get married, and after she went blind from diabetes, that seemed even more likely.

But it was due to the loss of sight that she met her future husband and fellow Lincoln Land student Theaibold Kennon.

Both blind, the couple met at Springfield’s Mary Bryant Home for the Blind and Visually Impaired. It was there that Theo knew when he first held her that he never wanted to let her go.

After being together for two years, Anne and Theo married Friday, Sept. 20, at Bridgeview Park in Chatham, with Speech Communications Profes-

sor, Brenda Protz, officiating.

Despite being able to see at one point in their lives, they both went blind as a result of diabetes. Their shared impairment is what brought them together in the Mary Bryant Home. Theo moved into the home toward the end of 2015, while Anne moved in February 2016 from Seattle, Washington.

The Mary Bryant Home is one of only six homes provided for blind people in the entire country. Little did they know that this home would lead them to love.

Theo and Anne began talking as friends almost immediately after she moved in. They met each other for the first time in the exercise center of the home, and they hit it off from there. Over the next year, Theo felt strong feelings toward Anne and hoped she felt the same.

“Circumstances worked out where I just realized I had strong feelings for her, so I asked her out,” Theo said.

On February 11, 2017, Theo took Anne Marie on their first date.

“He gave me this big, wonderful, stuffed Hello

Kitty for Valentine’s Day. She was holding a little box of gummy candy.” Anne said.

From that sweet gesture, their romance blossomed, and the rest is history.

“Almost from beginning people kept saying, ‘Oh you’d make a great couple.’ Turns out they were right.” Theo said.

Anne and Theo’s love has grown larger and larger since they first began dating.

“I love his warm hands. I love how funny and sweet he is, and how he can just pick me up when I’m feeling down, get me back thinking about the important things.” Anne said.

When asked about what he likes most about Anne, Theo replied: “Anne underestimates herself sometimes. I don’t think she realizes how big of an inspiration she is for me. I can’t imagine going through half of the problems she’s been through, and she still gets up every day with a smile on her face. She’s just so sunny and bright.”

Wedding, Continued on Page 6



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

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# Emmys surprise audiences

## 2019 awards and all the new fall TV shows to watch out for

By Tess Peterson  
Assistant Editor

This year's Emmys was like no other, full of surprises, heartfelt moments and goodbyes.

First things first, there was no host this year, mainly because the academy wanted to focus and give more time to all of the big shows that had their final seasons this year, such as "Game of Thrones," "Big Bang Theory" and "Veep."

But that didn't stop the night from having many comical moments and even some insults thrown in along the way that if you blinked you might have missed them. For example, one of the best jokes of night

regarded Felicity Hoffman: "Let's all give a special shout out to all our friends watching from prison and hope those two weeks go by fast."

Hoffman was sentenced to 14 days in prison in a college admissions scandal.

Many more surprises throughout the night included Phoebe Waller-Bridge sweeping the Emmys by winning Best Comedy Series and lead actress in a comedy series for her show "Fleabag."

Another history-making win was Billy Porter, who won lead actor in a drama series for "Pose."

Porter is first ever black openly gay man to win in this category.

Jharrel Jerome and Jodie Comer winning in their categories were two great wins. Jerome won lead actor in a limited series for his portrayal of Corey Wise, a member of "Central Park Five." Comer won lead actress in a drama series for "Killing Eve".

Even though all these actors are de-

serving of the awards they received, I still feel that some of my favorites were snubbed.

Rachel Brosnahan is a prime example because I absolutely loved her work in this past season of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." Even though she has won in years past, I feel she should have won this year too.

I was happy that Alex Borstein went home with Outstanding Supporting Actress in a comedy series for her portrayal of the "Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" manager.

Another comedian nominated was Julia Louis-Dreyfus. She would have made history for having the most Emmys in her category. Although she did not win, her portrayal of Selina Meyer in "Veep" was another one of my favorites and it would have been cool to see her making history.

Now that the Emmys are over, we can look forward to the new and re-

turning fall shows coming this year. Some of my favorite returning shows include "This Is Us," "Black-ish," "All American," "New Amsterdam" and "Saturday Night Live."

I am also very excited to see "Mixed-ish," a new show that is a spin-off of "Black-ish" focused on Bow Johnson's childhood and growing up mixed race. Other new shows getting a lot of buzz are "The Politician" on Netflix and "Bluff City Law" on NBC.

I have already started on the first few episodes of "The Politician," and it does not disappoint. The acting is great, and the storyline is something I think viewers will really enjoy.

"Bluff City Law" first episode was also a very good one, and I am excited to see what they do for the rest of the season.

Okay, now to my planner to schedule all this viewing around my studying.

## Smith: Keeping up during midsemester

By Blossom Smith  
Lamp staff

So here we are at the midpoint of the semester, and I wonder how everybody is doing. I'm doing pretty good, though I have lots of room for improvement.

I'm slowly learning that it's not just learning the facts, but also the concepts.

I hope everyone is using their resources wisely. For anyone who doesn't know, the Center for Academic Success is located below the library. You can get help from the Math Center; the faculty scheduled there are great at what they do.

The Writing Center is also a great source of help on any writing assignment you may have.

You can also sign up for peer tutoring there as well. I use them as frequently as possible. Recently I became aware that some students were not aware of these resources.

Also, FAFSA workshops are now being held, you can find the info on the LLCC website or you can go to the Financial Aid Office where they will be glad to help. There are lots of other resources out there too. Lincoln Land Community College is full of them and the faculty here do a great job of making sure that you get the help you need.

Going to college is definitely a great experience for me, and I love it because I appreciate the challenge. It feels so enlightening that I'm learning new things that are going to help me do great things.

Lincoln Land Community College inspires me to want to become part of the staff here, and someday, I hope to teach here.

I sure hope all you fellow Loggers are ambitious as well, and I would love to hear about the things that you would like to do with your education. Also, I really would like to hear what your fellow Loggers do to approach each class.

Also, keep in mind that open enrollment is coming up in the next couple of weeks. Are you ready for it?

## Panelists look to find truth

### Academy of Lifelong Learners hosts series

By Madison Mings  
Lamp staff

The Lincoln Land Community College of Lifelong Learning Academy and the Illinois State Museum wants to invite the public on Wednesday, September 18 to the upcoming presentation series titled "Finding Truth in the Age of Alternative Facts". There will be three presentation series on Wednesdays, September 18, October 16, and November 20 at 6 p.m. in the Thorne Deuel Auditorium at the Illinois State Museum at 502, S. Spring St.

This program is produced by the Tech Talk group at the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College and the Illinois State Museum. Vena Garrett is the Co-chair at Tech Talk. The events are all free and open to the public.

On Oct. 16 will present "Pants on Fire", Participants will uncover big and little lies in everyday interactions. Panelists include Bethany Bilyeu, Psy.D., LCPC, director, UIS Counseling Center; David Brady, senior software engineer, match.com; Lucinda Caughey, associate professor of computer science, LLCC; Siobhan Johnson, deputy director human resources, Illinois Department of Public Health; and Shane Overby, detective, Springfield Police Department.

Bethany Bilyeu, Psy.D., LCPC, Director, UIS Counseling Center, Dr. Bilyeu came to UIS from California, where she worked in the foster care system focused on residential and community-based services. She has over 10 years of experience working with trauma survivors and high-risk clients.

David Brady, Senior Software Engineer, Match.com, David is a professional software developer designing and building applications for over 20 years for clients such as Hitachi, Honda, MGM, Samsung, Sony, Unisys and currently with Match.com for the last 7 years. A technology enthusiast who is always learning and applying technology like 3D printing, Android, Arduino, Kubernetes, building, piloting and programming drones, and practicing machine learning with an emphasis on image classification.

Lucinda Caughey, Assoc. Prof. Computer Science, LLCC, Lucinda teaches courses in Ethical Hacking, Network Security, and Computer Ethics at LLCC. Her research interests have been in Autonomous Software Agents, Autonomous Robotics, and Big Data Analytics.

Siobhan Johnson, Human Resources Manager, IL Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Johnson is certified by the American Society for Quality as a Certified Manager of Quality and Organizational Excellence and has more than 10 years of Human Resources experience. Over the past 34 years, she has worked in the business sector, for a small not-for-profit corporation, a healthcare system, and state government.

Shane Overby, Detective, Springfield Police Department, Shane Overby has been in Law En-

forcement for 21 years. A member of The United States Secret Service Springfield Electronic Crime's Unit, Detective Overby investigates Crimes Against Persons specializing in Hostage Negotiations, Cybercrimes, Internet Safety, Computer Forensics, Cellular and Mobile Device Forensics, Network Intrusion Investigations, Sex Crimes, and Human Trafficking.

On Nov. 20 will present "Who's Checking the Fact Checkers?", In this presentation, participants will discover methods of finding truth on the internet and in other media. Panelists include Chris Krug, publisher, TheCenterSquare.com; Kate Schott, interim editor, The State Journal-Register; Tia Carol Jones, managing editor, Chicago Defender; Rachel Otwell, multimedia journalist, NPR Illinois + ProPublica's Local Reporting Network; and John O'Connor, political writer, the Associated Press.

Chris Krug, Publisher, TheCenterSquare.com, Chris Krug brings more than 25 years of award-winning media experience to The Center Square. He is the former publisher of the Chicago Pioneer Press newspaper chain and was vice president for Shaw Suburban Media and a deputy editor at the Denver Post.

John O'Connor, Political Writer, The Associated Press, John O'Connor has been an Illinois AP Statehouse correspondent since 1998. He won the AP's top reporting prize, the Gramling Award, in 2010, and the AP's Charles Rowe Award for best statehouse reporting in 2008. He previously worked for newspapers in Waterloo, Iowa, Bloomington, St. Louis, Arlington Heights, and Springfield.

Kate Schott, Editorial Engagement Editor, The State Journal-Register. A graduate of the UIS Public Affairs Reporting master's program, Schott has held various news reporting and editing positions in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin covering education, courts, state and local government and politics. She is a board member of the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors.

Tia Carol Jones, Managing Editor, Chicago Defender. Tia Carol Jones is the managing editor of the Chicago Defender, which switched to an all-digital platform in July 2019. She has written for newspapers in Washington, DC; Prince George's County, Maryland; Iowa; and Chicago. She was the editor of the Southeast Chicago Observer and worked as a science communicator at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

Rachel Otwell, Multimedia Journalist, NPR Illinois + ProPublica's Local Reporting Network. Rachel Otwell is a public radio reporter based in Springfield. She is spending all of 2019 on an investigative project under the guidance of ProPublica. She has degrees in women and gender studies, Black history and public affairs reporting. She has covered statehouse news with an emphasis on equity as well as other topics like education and culture. Her reporting has been featured locally as well as nationally.

For more information and panelist biographies, visit Lincoln Land's website. The public can register by calling 217-786-2432.



# Like father like son

## Baseball player wears his dad's jersey number

By Austin Sanderfield  
Lamp staff

When redshirt freshman baseball player Todd Fowler transferred back to Lincoln Land, he wanted to make sure he was wearing No. 14 on his jersey.

No. 14 was his father's number when he played at Lincoln Land more than 20 years ago.

"I was very pleased and proud, a son wearing his dad's old number over 20 years later in this circumstance is rare," said Steve Fowler, Todd's

father.

Steve grew up a huge Cincinnati Reds fan and idolized Pete Rose, so much that he wore the same number as him.

Originally from Chatham, Todd transferred to Lincoln Land from Delta State University in Mississippi.

"Lincoln Land was a better fit for me and a lot of my friends are on the team," Todd said.

The No. 14 and baseball are a shared passion for Steve and Todd, but not a family tradition. Steve and Todd are the only ones who have played baseball in their family.

Steve was only a two-year starter in high school because he got cut from his freshman and sophomore years. After playing his junior and senior

years, Steve got a college scholarship.

"I do feel a little bit of pressure to live up to my dad's accomplishments," Todd said.

However, his coach, Ron Riggle, doesn't believe Todd will have to worry about living up to any expectations.

"Todd is a very talented player, and I don't believe there will be any added pressure", Riggle said.

While wearing his father's number, Todd wants to make his coach and teammates proud by helping them get back to the NJCAA World Series while also leading the team in a hitting category as a personal goal.

Todd plans to enjoy the next two years at Lincoln Land, graduate and transfer to a four-year school, where he will continue to play baseball.

## Coach 'beyond excited'

### Softball alum takes over as head coach

By Rebecca Littrel  
Lamp staff

There's no place like home

Two years here at Lincoln Land wasn't enough for Rachel Wisner. After playing softball here for two years, she is back and facing some even bigger responsibilities than when she was a student. At just 24, Wisner is the new head softball coach.

Although Wisner is young to be

a head coach, she believes it helps her in her coaching journey.

"I believe I am able to connect with the girls as I went

through similar circumstances," Wisner said. "I understand how time-consuming softball and school can be, not to mention jobs and family time on the side."

Wisner played as a catcher at Lincoln Land for two years before transferring to Tusculum University, a four-year college in eastern Tennessee. After college, she returned as an assistant coach in the Loggers program for one year before taking over the role of head coach.

"I knew Rachel was ready to coach when she played at LLCC. During her time here she was a leader on and off the field," said former head coach John Marsaglia.

Not only is Wisner a new coach, but she is the only coach for the program right now.

"There is a lot that goes into coaching that people don't realize," Wisner said. "The girls have been great about being able to do things on their own in practice, and that really helps me out."

Sophomore second baseman Shaye Virgin said: "As a player, I have never seen her struggle or be flustered. We are very lucky to have her."

Wisner said coaching is rewarding on and off the field.

"The best part of coaching is seeing the girls grow and learn new things," she said. "Being able to see things that we worked on in practice be put into action in games is amazing. The worst part is only having these girls for two years before they have to go on. I was blessed with a great group for my first year as a head coach."

Players said they have enjoyed learning from the new coach.

"It's exciting to learn from someone who really isn't that much older than us. Rachel is doing a great job," said sophomore Caroline Keller.

Taking over as head coach has been a shift, but everyone is determined and ready for the change.

"I am very positive about this season, and I am beyond excited and ready for the spring season," Wisner said.



Wisner



Regina Ivy/Editor-in-chief

Lincoln Land officials hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the new ag building on Thursday, Sept. 19. Pictured, from right to left, are student Trustee Aaliyah Kissick, Trustee Gordon Gates, student Skye Kretzinger, President Charlotte Warren and Board Chairman Wayne Rosenthal.

nutritionists, land surveyors and much more; they will be the future of agriculture."

Those participating in the groundbreaking were several LLCC Board of Trustee members and student trustee, Aaliyah Kissick. She is excited to be a part of the process,

"being student trustee during the breaking of a new building means that I also get to be a part of a continuation of history at Lincoln Land community college"

Kretzinger expressed her excitement to see where the building takes the agriculture program.

"All great things come with challenges and agriculture is no different, but throughout this building, our students will be able to learn how to face issues head on," she said. "Thankfully we are pouring more resources and dedication into an already amazing program."

## Ag building

Continued from page 1

tors" Rosenthal continued, "The building will incorporate technology and active learning to prepare students for success in the 21st-century workplace."

Charlotte Warren, LLCC president, expressed how proud she is of the Agriculture program and mentions how they are constantly bringing home awards and recognitions.

The program was recently voted the best college agriculture program in the Midwest by the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

"You can see why we're so proud of our students and our faculty and want to expand their opportunities and give them even better space in which to learn and to operate," Warren said. "We look forward to further accolades and achievements from our Ag program. With this new facility, we think that the sky is the limit."

Skye Kretzinger, a current Ag student, pointed out that today is a major day for those involved in agriculture at LLCC. "This building signifies change and our future of agriculturists. Throughout this new building, students will be learning to become our next agronomist, animal

## Students choose 2-year colleges

By Megan Davis  
Lamp staff

Imagine you're attending a family reunion, and one of your relatives brags about how her daughter will be attending Yale University. Then, she asks you where you will be going next year.

When you tell her, you plan to attend a two-year college because you aren't ready for a four-year university, she doesn't understand the decision.

The relative says you have more potential than that.

It's a similar scenario many recent high school graduates face. There remains a stigma around community colleges and a preference for four-year universities. Talking to students at Lincoln Land Community College, many said they weren't ready for a four-year university, and others also mentioned the cost-savings offered at the community college.

For Brandon Elliott, Lincoln Land was not his

first choice. It wasn't his second choice, either.

"It was actually my third choice to come here," Elliott said.

Elliott plans to transfer to a university and earn a master's degree in nursing, but he found Lincoln Land a good place to start.

"After graduating from Williamsville, I was nervous about having to adapt to a new surrounding like college," he said. "I'm skeptical of trying new things, so when I looked into Lincoln Land, I felt welcomed."

Elliott is considering becoming a neurology or pediatric nurse. He is also a member of the National Guard Medics and specializes in evacuation procedures.

Along with the feeling of community, tuition costs were another major factor in the choice of Lincoln Land.

A study by Top Universities said, "At the very top-tier US universities (the majority of which are private non-profits), fees and living costs are likely to add up to around US\$60,000 per year"





A pair performs a Latin dance at Lincoln Land's Multicultural Festival.

Eniola Babington/The Lamp

# Festival of cultures

LLCC celebrates the 16th Multicultural Fest with dancing, food trucks and fun

By Cam Boyer  
Lamp staff

On Wednesday, Oct. 2, Lincoln Land hosted its 16th annual Multicultural Fest, a celebration of diversity and culture among the Springfield community. The festival ran from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the bustling atmosphere radiated energy to anyone passing by.

Outside of Menard Hall, an array of booths were present, each with their own presentation of unique items that represented their culture and ideals. These booths included Bahai Faith, the NAACP, Express Your Seoul Dance Club, and Sol Peru among others.

Great ethnic food was sold at the festival, provided by Gyros Stop, AZ-T-CA Mexican Grill, Coopers Streetside Bistro, and B & W Good Eats and Sweets. Students and other visitors paid for food tickets, which in turn, could be used to order food. T-shirts were also given away to each person who purchased a ticket.

Music from a variety of different regions such as Latin America, Asia, and Africa was provided by DJ Yinka, who also provided music for the entertainment that took place on the main stage. Performers included Torch Nation and Modeste Mundongi with Jacqueese Kongolo.

On top of having a booth, the Lotus Fire Belly Dancers also gave an electric performance on the main stage. Their performance was an American tribal style belly dance. Originating from California, this dance is a fusion of Middle Eastern, North African, Indian, and Flamenco styles of dance.

"I have a lot of joyful thoughts and feelings when I'm up there performing. I love showing what I can do, and seeing other people react to that," said Zach Booker-Scott of the Lotus Fire Belly Dancers.

Not only is the Multicultural Fest a fun celebration of culture and diversity on campus, but it's also an important tool for teaching tolerance and inclusivity. Raising awareness was one of the main goals that Student Life program assistant Asia Jackson had in mind.

"We wanted to raise awareness of different cultures and show inclusivity. We learned that in order to be more inclusive, you need to educate students about different cultures and their norms," said Jackson.

There was a sizable turnout for this year's festival. The atmosphere was full of joy and acceptance. Crowds of different people were consistently filling up the information area, and large lines for the ethnic food were forming throughout the day. By the end of the festival, Student Life had run out of T-shirts, and the food trucks were nearly out of food.

"I think this festival was amazing. People have been coming in even before the festival officially began. The turnout was incredible, and I hope it's even better next year," said Asia Jackson.

Diversity and acceptance of different cultures and backgrounds are extremely valued at Lincoln Land Community College. The annual Multicultural Fest is a beautiful celebration that holds up those values and shines a light on diversity in our community.



Jacob Deters, Student Life coordinator, looks at the items being sold by Felipe Buenrostro.

Eniola Babington/The Lamp



The Lotus Fire Belly Dancers perform at the Multicultural Fest.

Tess Peterson/Assistant Editor



# Million-dollar grant



**Micheal Phelon, Open Door Mentorship coordinator, talks Thursday, Sept. 26, in the R.H. Stephens Room about Lincoln Land receiving a \$1 million grant for the Open Door - Workforce Equity Initiative. The grant will provide 100 minority and low-income individuals with career training for high-demand jobs that takes less than a year of training. Participants will receive free tuition, a stipend, transportation assistance, child care assistance and other supports.**

Rosanna Cravens/Lamp staff

## Biden wants free college

By The Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden wants to make community and technical college free and federal college loan programs more generous as he shifts leftward but not as far as his 2020 rivals.

The former vice president's \$750 billion higher education plan represents a major expansion of the federal government's role in educating Americans beyond high school. But Biden's pitch Tuesday is not as sweeping as proposals from his more progressive rivals Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, both of whom offer plans exceeding the \$1 trillion mark.

The competing approaches reflect Democrats' efforts to address spiking tuition costs in the United States and the \$1.5 trillion-plus in student debt held by about 45 million Americans. The party's education policy divide is similar to the gap that separates Biden from the two progressive senators on health care, with the former vice president proposing to expand the federal government's role in the existing health insurance market, while Warren and Sanders propose a single-payer insurance system that would see the federal government essentially replace private insurance altogether.

Jill Biden, the candidate's wife and a longtime community college professor, explained her husband's approach.

"My students inspire me," she said in a conference call with reporters, "and they ask for one thing in return: opportunity."

The crux of Biden's higher education plan is a federal-state partnership to cover community college tuition and technical training. Biden calls for the federal government to cover 75% of the tuition costs, with states covering the rest. That's a similar financing concept to the Medicaid insurance program for the poor and the disabled, with states required to cover some costs to qualify for federal money to cover the majority of the program.

Biden proposes that the federal government cover 95% of the community college tuition cost at Native Americans' tribal campuses.

Sanders and Warren propose universal, free access to all undergraduate public colleges and universities.

On student debt, Biden's more limited approach calls for doubling the Pell Grant program for low-income Americans and cutting in half the income percentage caps on student loan repayments. Borrowers now must pay up to 10% of their discretionary income. Biden calls for capping payments at 5% of discretionary income, while also delaying payments for anyone making less than \$25,000, with the borrower accruing no additional interest.

Biden's plan would forgive any remaining debt after 20 years.

Sanders, conversely, proposes eliminating all student loan debt, while Warren calls for broad debt relief based on income.

## Difference

Continued from page 1

This project is more than just a grade to these students. Each person is taking responsibility for their own tasks in this project.

"We each have a role to hopefully help at least one student want to learn with these new books," group member Lauren Dambacher says.

The group wants to assign roles for each member, someone who can oversee taking care of one part of the project, such as recording the group's progress or keeping track of funds.

Hutchinson, as a leader of this group project, is mostly concerned about making things happen. "My role is just to really spearhead this project and make sure we get the biggest and best results for Southeast," he says.

EDU 220 is responsible for Make a Difference Projects per semester. Jennifer Emerich, the group leader of a separate project is excited to shed some light in the lives of inner-city youth.

"For our service project, we will be doing a hoodie drive for an amazing local organization called, the James Project," Emerich says.

The James Project is a non-profit Christian organization that is dedicated to helping foster families in the Sangamon County area. It is located here in Springfield.

"They do many things; they actually have homes that they have for families. But the thing that we're

going to contribute to is called closet 101." Emerich explains.

Closet 101 is where the James Project asks the community to donate hoodies for students in their system. Emerich adds that hoodies for middle school and high schoolers would be best.

Their project is about getting donations from as many outlets as possible. They are asking for donations from retail stores, people in the community and Lincoln Land students and staff.

They will be posting a letter around a school telling the people of LLCC what to do to get involved with the project.

Emerich added that they are going to start a partnership with Twig's Bakery on Toronto Road.

"They are posting [the letter] in

their store so people can come in and drop off their hoodies," Emerich says. The bakery will do this over a two-week period. There will also be a donation jar for monetary gifts in the store as well.

Whatever funds that this group raises goes toward buying new hoodies that will be donated to the James Project.

Both groups doing this project have Facebook pages where people can find out more information about their projects. People can make a donation that goes towards a cause through each page.

Hutchinson's group is more than happy to share their love of reading by giving back to their community in this way.

"As a future educator, this project is extremely important to me. If

we can get at least one student to discover, or re-discover a love for reading, then I would say this project is a monumental success," group member Karissa Hurst says.

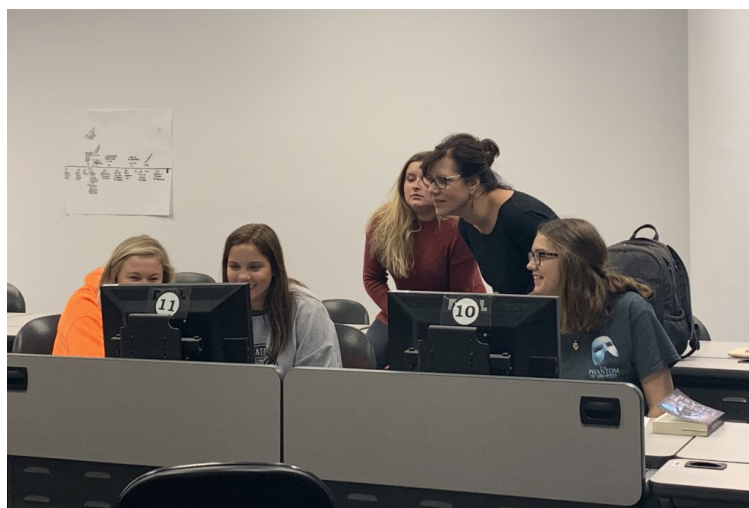
The leader speaks on what the project means to him. "This project is showing me that students and teachers still care about literature and it's showing me that students in our community have some willingness to learn. And if I can help students learn even just the littlest thing about literature than that warms my heart" Hutchinson says.

For Emerich, making a difference in her community today is just preparing her to take extra steps like this in the future.

"I have thought a lot about the videos and the words of our professor, and it really made an impact on me." Emerich is referring to the clips that her professor showed her from the 2001 documentary titled People Like Us that showcases the lives of people in different social classes, and the discussion the class had afterward.

"Then it dawned on me, this is what we are doing with the making a difference project! It's our way of saying, as future educators, that we choose to carry the individual responsibility to care for those who cannot care for theme-selves. We choose to go the extra mile and make a difference in others' lives." To Emerich, this is what the project is about.

The Southeast Book Fair is Thursday, October 24th. Emerich's group is accepting donations on their GoFundMe account up to up until November 6th.



Submitted photo

**From left to right, students Tori Brockmeyer, Maggie Galloway, Shea Murray, Jennifer Emerich and Lanie Ihlenfeldt brainstorm about their project.**





Photos By Regina Ivy/Editor-in-Chief

Theo and Anne share a passionate embrace under their wedding arch.

## Wedding

Continued from page 1

Setting up a wedding can be a major struggle for any couple to go through. There are so many different things that you need to focus on and worry about at one time. This can be a very stressful process.

Anne and Theo both share a philosophy that “if there comes a time where you want to do something, the opportunities will present themselves.” Luckily for Theo and Anne, that philosophy rang true.

“We were talking about setting a firm date for the wedding, and I just thought ‘I don’t know where it will be, and I don’t who will do it,’ but when I was in Brenda Protz’s class, she mentioned that she does weddings. It was like ‘oh well that’s convenient!’” Theo said.

Protz has been teaching at Lincoln Land since 2001 and became a full-time professor in 2006. She received her officiant license in 2013.

“Any time I get to bring a couple together, especially when I know them, it is an amazing honor. I feel like I get the best seat in the house,” Protz said.

This isn’t the first student couple that Protz has been an officiant for. However, Anne is the first student to be currently enrolled in one of Protz’s classes while getting married through her. Theo, on the other hand, was enrolled in her class last semester and brought up the idea.

“The fact that Theo thought enough of me, to want me to be a part of the biggest day of his life is an incredible feeling,” Protz said. “He is the most excited groom I’ve ever been around. He has been the most involved in planning, and you can see the love and happiness radiate off him.”

Although Anne and Theo are visually impaired, this has only

strengthened their connection.

“A lot of people in situations like that never get to experience that level of intimacy,” said Brenda Protz. “I’m so glad that they found each other, and it’s great that they have a safe home together.”

The couple said their wedding plans have been aided greatly by the Mary Bryant Home’s outreach coordinator Misty Smith.

“When I wanted to ask Anne to marry me, Misty was the person I went to for help finding a ring. She is such a huge help for both of us.”

Misty has been heavily involved with the marriage process, and she has been fantastic at getting everyone at the home involved in wedding planning, he said.

“People are saying, ‘Oh I know who can get you flowers’ or ‘Oh I know who can do hair and makeup,’ and it’s just been an extremely supportive environment,” Theo said.

It’s no surprise to see that so many people are going out of their way to help this lovely couple.

“I feel like I’m about to burst through the ceiling!” said Anne.

The whole situation is surreal for the couple. Many people with disabilities believe that it just simply can’t happen for them.

“I never thought I’d get married; I’m just so glad I finally found a guy who’s worth it,” Anne said.

They show that even though life with a disability may be complicated, there is true love out there for everyone.

“The moment I met her I knew that I never wanted to let her go. Well, now I don’t have to!” Theo said.

The couple will continue to reside in the Mary Bryant Home for the Blind in a special room designed for married couples. They will be the only married couple currently residing at the home.



Professor Brenda Protz, Theo, Anne and family show off the signed marriage certificate.



Theo and Anne share their vows as Protz officiates wedding ceremony.





## Moulin Rouge showing at LLCC stirs discussion

By Regina Ivy  
Editor-in-Chief

Lincoln Land's campus is typically quiet at 6 p.m. A few students head to night classes and custodians clean. However, on Tuesday, Sept. 24, a movie about "freedom, truth, and above all else, love" would break some of that routine.

It was Lit Week at Lincoln Land Community College, which means that Loggers got to express their excitement about literature by getting "All Lit Up" from Sept 23 to 27.

The second day of this week included a special showing of the movie musical "Moulin Rouge" with a discussion led by Gillian Bauer, a professor of English.

"Moulin Rouge" is a story that is based on other stories that we already know" Bauer points out.

She starts the night off by giving the viewers some context before she starts the movie, "Eurydice and Orpheus and Romeo and Juliet are just two tragic love stories that have influenced this one"

Bauer said famous movie critic Roger Ebert said this movie feels like being trapped in an elevator with a circus. Bauer insists he meant that in a good way.

"If you can get past the first 15 minutes, then you're in store for a great movie" Bauer argued.

Baz Luhrmann, the director of this film, is known for fast-paced sequences where a lot is happening at one time. Bauer referred to the first 15 minutes of "Moulin Rouge" being filmed in this manner.

The film is a love story between a penniless writer who flees to Paris and Satine, a star performer at the Moulin Rouge. The lovers must hide their true feelings from an evil duke who is threatening to close the Moulin Rouge, a staple of the 19th-century French bohemian movement.

Following the film, Bauer discussed with students their thoughts on the movie.

"One of the general criticisms of this film when it first came out is that it is grand in nature yet at the end feels empty," Bauer said.

"The two main characters fell in love too quickly" Kenny Bixler said. "Their love seems too artificial for me to believe"

The film, which includes popular songs from Queen, Madonna and Nirvana, brought mixed feelings. "One of the things that surprised me about this film were the song choices" Bixler said

Bauer said the song choices, while they might be odd, still work within the context of the film.

"Maybe one of the reasons the film only uses music that we already know is to show how artificial love can be," added Christopher Casper, another student.

There was a general cloud of mixed emotions about the film, but Bauer loves this film. She said she could not wait to watch it with other people.

"I loved watching [some of] you sing along," she said to the people who were there. "This is truly a really good film."

Several scenes downtown of new businesses taking over. Upper left: Two employees at Buzz Bomb Brewing Co. Upper right: A mural at Dumb Records. Bottom left: The entrance to Benny Dewitt's Good Heart Tattoo Parlor. Bottom right: A display of knight's armor in Buzz Bomb.

Photos By Quinn Brown/The Lamp

# Business revitalize downtown

By Quinn Brown  
Lamp staff

Brian Galecki recently moved his business, Dumb Records, to Downtown Springfield.

The business, formerly at South Grand Avenue and 11th Street, found its home near Monroe and Fifth streets in what was formerly an Italian grocery store.

"Really there had always been the question in the back of my mind, and all of our minds, ... how would this look downtown?" Galecki said.

Galecki's Dumb Records is one of several businesses that appeal to younger consumers. Businesses, such as Buzz Bomb Brewery and Good Heart Tattoos, are trying to find a spot for 20-somethings amid the traditional landscape of tourist shops and restaurants in Downtown Springfield.

"We looked at places all over the city," said Josh Flanders, one of the owners of Buzz Bomb Brewery. "... We wanted to be downtown. We thought there was potential downtown. I mean, obviously,

it's not just us, many people want to revitalize downtown. Bring more businesses down here, bring more apartments down here, make it the center of the city again,"

Buzz Bomb is a brewery, not a bar, which means that they can't sell liquor or wine. They can sell directly to the public and wholesale to stores.

The idea of Buzz Bomb started after the Springfield Oyster and Beer fest in 2016. Flanders and his partner Bill Larson sold their homebrew at the Prairie Schooners Club and got a lot of praise.

"Bill and I started brewing mead, many years ago," Flanders said. "And our mead was not good. So we switched over to brewing beer, which that turned out was good."

Benny Dewitt is opening a tattoo parlor next to Dumb Records called Good Heart Tattoos. Dewitt has been tattooing in Springfield since 2001 and got into tattooing because his mother and step-father taught themselves how to tattoo after closing their hand-painted sign company.

Dewitt hopes to bring positivity to downtown

with his business

"Unfortunately because of the nature of my business it's sort of been on the outskirts of towns, but at this point, I think that it's popular enough and respected enough to be in downtown," Dewitt said.

He wants to create a place where people that want tattoos will feel safe and welcome.

"The college-aged crowd is on the outskirts of town because the way they decided to build things a long time ago, and the reason it's starting to be better is because people want to feel like their in an urban environment," Dewitt said.

Moving in near Dumb Records might catch them some foot traffic from vinyl shoppers and concertgoers. Dumb Records also doubles as a small music venue, moving some of the record stands to a backroom and turning half the store into a small concert hall.

"Black Sheep itself opened up 14 years ago, at the time I'd say that there was a need for an 'all-ages' show space, and there still is," Galecki said.

# Show excites Springfield car enthusiasts

By Alica Blood  
Lamp staff

Car enthusiasts all over Springfield watched in anticipation Friday, Sept. 27, as the parade rolled along for the Golden Age 18th Annual International Route 66 Mother Road Festival.

Drew Kerr, who only attends the parade, brought his bright red '69 Ford Galaxy 500, which includes power steering and two-speed windshield wipers, which was a rarity for his car model.

"There were only a few that were made like mine," Kerr said.

Kerr has been interested in cars since he was a child.

"I quit riding my Harley," Kerr said, "And I bought a '66 Palka to keep the wind in my hair."

This parade marked Kerr's seventh year of participating with his son.

"To me," Kerr said, "the older cars have more personality. The worse thing that people can do at car shows is bring newer cars. I can see them any day at a Ford or a Honda dealership. But if they do decide to show new cars, they should be separated from the older ones."

Another parade-goer, Rick Irwin, celebrated his sixth year of attending the parade. Irwin brought his 1936 red Chevy truck, and it has taken him five years to build it.

"It gave me something to do for myself," Irwin said.

The front bumper of the truck came from Utah and has an oak and stainless steel bed. Irwin has loved cars since he was a teenager and has enjoyed tinkering with them.

"I never really had money growing up," Irwin said. "But I found that the older the car was, the easier it was to work on."

Both Kerr and Irwin said one of the worst things for the cars at a car show is people touching cars that are not theirs. Irwin said even the oil from one's fingertips can scratch a car.

"One woman was walking along

one year with keys in her hand, and she tripped and fell," Irwin said. "The key scraped the side of the car and left a big scratch. She just kept walking as if nothing had happened, and the car wasn't even hers".

The car show is once a year, on the third weekend in September. There are about 750 vehicles each year. The car show has grown in popularity, and it brings in a large crowd of spectators.

"Most guys don't like to talk about how much money they spend," Irwin said. "But it's always fun to reminisce on the cruising I used to do to Top's Big Boy and McDonalds"





Photos by Regina Ivy/Editor-in-chief

**Morgan Tsu' Raun of the Crescent Circus dangles three hula hoops simultaneously during a performance in the A.Lincoln Commons on Thursday, Sept. 19.**

# Married to the circus

Couple who met at college juggling club now dazzle LLCC students with performance

**By Megan Davis  
Lamp staff**

Passers-by were wowed by the endurance and magical elements of the Crescent Circus performers on stage in the A.Lincoln Commons on Sept. 19, 2019.

"I was definitely impressed," said Hunter Beard, a sophomore picked to perform a trick with the magician.

"I knew they were going to perform here, but I didn't know what that would entail."

The Crescent Circus is comprised of married couple, Morgan Tsu'raun and Nathan Kepner. The couple met in 2010 in their college's juggling club.

"We both are nerds and so we were compatible partners both on stage and off," Tsu'raun remarked.

An Austin, Texas, native, Tsu'raun began hula hooping in 2008. Her friend, who was also a member of the juggling club, persuaded Tsu'raun to join forces with her future husband, a fellow juggler and magician.

Kepner from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, started practicing magic at 5

years old and began performing at 12.

The couple decided to follow their passion for performing and began touring full time in 2011.

"It was a really refreshing experience doing the thing I love the most, with the person I love the most," Tsu'raun said. "Most people aren't understanding of our career path, but

we don't let their lack of open-mindedness dictate what we love to do."

the pair have traveled the world together, appeared on multiple television shows such as "The Tonight Show" and "America's Got Talent."

"By far my favorite experience was at the prestigious Magic Circle Theater in London," Tsu'raun said. "We got to perform in front

of thousands and that's when I knew we could make it big!"

This is not the first performance at Lincoln Land by the couple. Past attendees said the audience "went wild" when they performed.

"They're super laid-back and are extremely nice people with a ton of talent," said Jacob Deters, student life coordinator. "I definitely would hire them again."



**ABOVE: A student laughs while on stage for a magic trick in which magician Nathan Kepner made her phone disappear and then reappear inside a box of cereal.**

**AT LEFT: Student Nia Tiller is stunned by a card trick.**

**FAR LEFT, IN TEXT: Kepner of Crescent Circus juggles in front of LLCC students.**

