

# Clubs coordinate student fall formal

## LAB to host a dance with the help of other student organizations

By Regina Ivy  
Editor-in-Chief

It's finally fall in Central Illinois, and people are looking for ways to spend the season be-

fore the winter weather starts to come through. Several Lincoln Land clubs and organizations are working together create an evening of fun and music that lets all students celebrate fall.

The LLCC Fall Formal will be held 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019, in the school's Student Union (outside of Quiznos).

All students need for admission is proof they are a Lincoln Land student and a nonperishable or canned food item to donate. Friend of

Lincoln Land students are welcome, but they must be 18 years old and accompanied by an LLCC student, organizers said.

Loggers Activities Board Event Coordinator Riley Crouch is excited to be able to collaborate with the other clubs and organizations of the community college to pull this off.

"This isn't something that happens very often," Crouch said. "But doing this provides us with more opportunity and bigger and better

things for us to do."

LAB is excited to work with Student Government Association, Gay-Straight Alliance, Express Your Seoul, and the MP3 club to put together this event.

SGA will be responsible for the canned goods. They will be putting together baskets that will go to LLCC students and families in need during the Thanksgiving season.

**Fall Formal continued on page 8**

# Art gives voice

## Donating Lincoln books

By Rebecca Littrel  
Lamp Writer

A recent donation from Lincoln Land's library will help scholars studying the life of Abraham Lincoln in a huge way. More than 100 books were donated to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum last week. These books were originally owned by Dr. Benjamin P. Thomas, a well known Lincoln biographer.

"Benjamin Thomas was a phenomenal scholar who authored works that are still used daily by historians studying Lincoln and the early 19th century," said Ian Hunt, the acquisitions chief for the presidential library and museum. "Looking at his notes in these books are the closest that we can come to having a conversation with this man."

The donation of the books was the idea of the dean of LLCC's library Tammy Kuhn-Schnell. Lincoln Land President Charlotte Warren commended the dean and her staff for making this donation happen.

The significance of these books is a huge gain for the presidential library.

"This donation fits nicely in a couple of different ways beyond simply its relationship to President Lincoln and the American Civil War," said Hunt. "We are already getting requests from scholars to look at these books because they have questions about what Thomas thought of other scholars of that era, research that he had considered but never followed through on, Thomas's unvarnished assessments of what constituted good history from bad."

The books are a collection of works that share about Lincoln's life and presidency. These books will help scholars enormously and will be a huge addition to the library.

"We have a small collection of Ben Thomas writings already housed here and so by adding this material we are making those collections more complete." Mr. Hunt stated about how this addition will be of value to people who study Lincoln's life.

These books will be of tremendous use at their new home in the presidential library, helping scholars learn, and helping the library to grow its database of sources.



Regina Ivy/Editor-in-Chief

**Guests from the community came to see Stamps of Hope, the art show that visually showcases the lives of those who live as refugees.**

## Murray Gallery features work of Syrian refugees

By Megan Davis  
Lamp Writer

"It's really moving to see the struggle in the art from the artist," said first-year student Sarah Jebailat, when talking about the Stamps of Hope art show.

Stamps of Hope was founded upon the art done by Syrian refugees from the Zaa'tari Refugee Camp in Jordan. The artwork allows men and women currently living there, to express all of their energy into creating masterpieces, like the ones shown in the gallery.

The Zaa'tari Refugee Camp opened in 2012 and is home to about 80,000 people displaced by the years-long war in Syria.

Artists there regularly organize workshops for the children staying there to express their emotions into their artwork. As shown in many of the pieces we see anger, frustration and grief in each of the refugee's

paintings. But we also see a glimmer of hope for a better future with the paintings. Especially ones that include children smiling in the face of destruction.

"I was very dumbfounded when they were showing me each and every one of those paintings; I was speechless," stated Rihab Sawah, "There is only feeling when you see art like this."

Sawah is an assistant professor of physics and is the one responsible for organizing the exhibit. Sawah herself is from Damascus, Syria, and lived there for around 18 years growing up.

"And most people don't know that these people are held like hostages. They can't leave when they want. They have to have a really good reason and a time of departure, then return otherwise, they aren't allowed to leave," stated Sawah.

Leslie Stalter, an art professor here

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at Lincoln Land, makes the decisions of who gets to present their artwork in the James S Murray Gallery.

"Sawah talked to me about 'Stamps of Hope' a year ago," Stalter stated.

Stalter herself has lived in Jordan and was aware of their political system and was beyond fascinated with the artwork being shown to her by Sawah.

"I wish I would've had the connections Sawah had and had known about this sooner I would've done it a year prior," Stalter said.

The money that is coming from the artwork is going back to the refugee camp to give them more art supplies, and to help out the instructors there in Jordan.

If you are interested in purchasing a piece please go to Sawah herself or email her for more information regarding the artwork.

In regards to their situation, the artwork really heals the people living there. These paintings have so many messages in them. Powerful yet graceful, these Syrian refugees see hope and a future ahead of them. Even in the most tragic of times, they still find a reason to go on.

This means everything to the refugees in Jordan. Every little bit of money helps them temporarily escape their reality and devote their time there into their art. Art helps them all come together in the camp and create more of a community.

Those who want to learn more about the project can email Sawah at [rihab.sawah@llcc.edu](mailto:rihab.sawah@llcc.edu) or go to the James S Murray Gallery in Menard Hall. The show will be open until Nov. 14.

# Smith: Struggles with her identity

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

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By Blossom Smith  
Lamp Writer

I am 42 years old, have three children and have been married. I also am a transgender woman.

Marriage was good, but my internal issues made things very challenging.

During the middle to later part of my marriage, I began to notice things that were peculiar, but I really wasn't aware of what exactly. I had certain pains and went to doctors and somehow did not get any help, so I kind of just let it be.

As time passed, I became more aware that I was doing different things with myself, that I was not used to and could not explain. Many years passed, and what I was doing subconsciously were advancing in more seriousness. I got to the point where other people knew and would make fun of me. I knew that I was doing these things, but not until later. I just could not stop it, and nobody referred me to any help, even doctors that I visited.

Going through the things I have, the way I have, I lost everything I have known, except my parents.

These difficulties were so hard for my children to understand. They haven't spoken to me in a couple years. This was the only thing I couldn't bear to go through. My children were everything to me. I was never rich, but I cannot shake my love for them. It is a connection you just can't sever, no matter what. So, this is why I write, to help anyone that maybe going through similar experiences, so they know they can reach out.

For those who face issues of sexual identity, I hope they can learn a few things from my experience.

First off, transgenderism is not abnormal by definition; it only seems abnormal because as humans that's how we classify things that we may not know much about.

In most cases, it is not a choice. When you are transgendered, you just are. If it wasn't in you in the first place, then you wouldn't be. For instance, when people think of trans women as "women trapped in a man's body", you couldn't be more wrong. That is a horrible way to perceive trans women.

Science is still researching transgenderism, but a great way to picture it is to think that someone's sexuality or gender is not totally defined by sexual organs. Just try to imagine what it would feel like to not match how you are compared to your anatomy. Sometimes it is very difficult to deal with, sometimes not. But you cannot let it slow you down because in society, being trans is being an underdog in just about every category.

As for my experience, I eventually got to the point where my difficulties landed me in potential danger. Something tragic happened to me that drastically damaged me. This is something I am not ready to be specific about, but it was horrible.

I have realized that I am trans, which is the problem that I used to have so much trouble with. I have been forged through fire, I am so proud of hypothetically knowing who I am. In order to define that, I am trans and I am so proud, but something was still missing. It took some time, but I now have a total understanding of my sexuality.

I have realized that I am auto sexual and trans woman. When I come to this realization, everything that I remembered that had to do with my sexuality and gender, made complete sense. It was like all these specific things came rushing through my thoughts and totally clicked. At this, I feel amazing, in the fact that my sexuality and gender have a home now. I literally imagined the moment when Baker Mayfield planted the flag when his team defeated Ohio State. I visualized myself planting my flag, and it feels great.

I have expressed my thoughts to the public in order to help you understand what it is like to be unaware of your sexuality and/or gender. I feel compelled to make sure that nobody ever experiences the things I have. I thank God for my turmoil, because it has molded me into someone very strong. Through my darkest days, (and they were many and long), I have found myself, my purpose, now I just need to find one more thing to be completely ready to completely heal America.



Photos by Regina Ivy/Editor-in-Chief

## Raising \$3,200

**EDU 220 students set out to make a difference in community by raising money for classroom libraries at Southeast High School. On Thursday, Oct. 24, they had a book fair at Barnes & Noble where part of the proceeds were donated to the project. They earned \$3,223.64. Another group of EDU 220 students is collecting hoodies for the James Project, which helps foster children. That group just received a gift of hoodies from Macy's for the project.**

**Top left: Students posed with Education Professor Taiebeh Hosseinali.**

**Top right: LLCC students Hunter Beard and Maddie Cass look through books on Southeast's wishlist.**

**Center: The bookfair table set up in front of the store.**

## Most OK with legal marijuana

By Quinn Brown  
Lamp Writer

Illinois will be the 11th state to legalize recreational marijuana come 2020, and the majority of people in Illinois support the move.

According to a study conducted by Global Strategy Group, 60 percent of all Illinoisans gave a thumbs up to the move, while a slightly lower number in downstate agreed with legalization, at 54 percent approving.

"The majority of people I know in Springfield want weed legalized," said Jacob, a student at Lincoln Land Community College.

People 21 years and older will soon be able to purchase cannabis and related products from licensed dispensaries; while only those with medical cards can grow a limited amount of plants. Illinois residents will be able to own 30 grams of cannabis flower, 5 grams of concentrates and edibles amounting up to 500 milligrams of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Jacob also said that he thought the illegal sales will not disappear because of the high taxes imposed on marijuana in comparison to the tax-free black market.

Marijuana products will be taxed from 10 to 25 percent depending on the levels of THC.

A local woman who sells drugs and asked not to be named said, "There would probably be a few people who would stop buying [from me], and I understand if you want to go about it fully legal"

While most people support the move to legalize marijuana, some remain concerned.

Grace Underfanger, another student at LLCC, is concerned about people being high and deciding to get behind the wheel,

"I do not believe they are as alert as they could be, their heads aren't fully in the game. I'm concerned that someone will accidentally drive too slow and get thumped," Underfanger said.

According to House Bill 1483, the bill that legalized cannabis usage, marijuana will be regulated similarly to alcohol. Driving under the influence of marijuana will remain illegal.

# Foundation scholarships

## Students often don't apply for money

By Megan Davis  
Lamp Writer

Chloe Taft wished she had known about the LLCC Foundation Scholarships.

"I didn't even know that was a thing," said Chloe Taft.

Taft's twin sister, Mia Taft, was one of the many students who had received this scholarship.

"I would've applied for scholarships, but I didn't have enough time," Chloe Taft said. "I was originally going to attend UIS, but decided to go where Mia was planning on attending."

Chloe Taft wished she would've been informed of this scholarship earlier, that way she wouldn't have to worry about student fees to come in the future.

Student loans, books and school supplies carry a hefty bill for students, so Lincoln Land offers a variety of scholarships to new and returning students. However, many students don't apply for all the scholarships available.

"There's so many untapped scholarships that students never apply for," said Michelle Burger, scholarship program and alumni services administrator.

While many are national scholarships, Burger spoke about how more students need to take advantage of the Lincoln Land Foundation Scholarship program, which she administers.

The foundation scholarships provide funds for books and classes, and can be used for rent, gas and food.

"I applied last year for all different types of scholarships, and I didn't receive any. I couldn't use FASFA because I made 'too much money,' and so I just decided to use student loans," said sophomore student, Carolyn Baldwin.

Baldwin has been attending Lincoln Land for two years now and wasn't told either by faculty that this scholarship was a realistic option.

LLCC student Alicia Blood was informed by one of her high school teachers that she should apply for it.

"I applied for as many scholarships as I could for financial reasonings. I had earned the 'Dr. Pilapil Award' last year and was granted \$500, and this year, I was awarded for the 'Foundation Scholarship,'" Blood said.

## Recipient benefits from scholarship

By Alicia Blood  
Lamp Writer

Hannah Anderson, a current student at LLCC, received the Sangamon County High School Principals' Association Scholarship two years ago.

"I applied for the financial benefits," Anderson explained, "Because I did not have the funds to pay for my college education, I figured it would help if I applied for a scholarship."

Anderson found herself succeeding and thriving in college thanks to her scholarship.

"It helped my family out a lot," Anderson said, "I didn't even think I'd be able to go to college, but thanks to the opportunity for scholarships, I was finally able to."

Though some students rely on Financial Aid to get them through college, some students are not aware that scholarships are available for everyone, said Michelle Burger, scholarship program and alumni services coordina-

tor. Other students think that they are not worthy of scholarships and feel that there are other students who deserve the scholarship more than they do.

Burger said everyone and anyone can apply for scholarships -- and everyone should.

The average amount of money given out for Lincoln Land Community College Foundation Scholarships is \$1,500, Burger said. Most of the higher amounts go toward careers such as agriculture, culinary and

radiography, which require higher tuition.

The Foundation Scholarships range from \$500 to \$8,500. There were more than 200 students in 2019 while 397 people applied.

Some scholarships are geographically related, meaning a student can get a scholarship based on the district or city they live in.

Scholarships also support students for reasons not associated with their education, such as food, rent, and gas.



Students study in the LLCC Library. Those who work hard to succeed are good candidates for an LLCC scholarship.

Photos by Regina Ivy/Editor-in-Chief

To apply, you can either do it online, or have an administrator assist you in the financial aid resources office. It takes roughly 10 to 15 minutes, and all you have to do is write a personal essay on yourself and why you chose Lincoln Land to be your alma mater.

"I feel like some students don't feel worthy enough to apply for such a generous scholarship," Burger said. "Students say that they feel as though they're taking away someone's scholarship, so they tend to stick with what FASFA gives to them."

They award about 50 percent of the students

who applied, with an average award of \$1,500.

"I don't understand why students won't write a personal essay," Burger said.

The earlier you apply for scholarships, the better. It shows that you care about your schooling and gives the impression to the staff that you are ready to receive such a gracious award, Burger said.

"I was awarded the 'Foundation Scholarship' last year, but this year I decided not to because of how time consuming it was trying to write about myself. It helped a lot, but I couldn't handle the

stress of trying to get in a good essay on time," stated sophomore student, Madison Wagner.

Overall, this scholarship is very helpful for not only for financial reasons, but for peace of mind as well. Students can use the money for housing expenses, gas to and from school and food.

Lincoln Land's Scholarship and Alumni Services Coordinator, Michelle Burger, among many other faculty members, highly suggest you take some time out of your day to apply for this scholarship.

## How to apply

By Rebecca Littrel  
Lamp Writer

Each year, \$2.9 billion worth of scholarship money goes unclaimed. Scholarships are money that you are given and do not have to pay back, unlike student loans. Here at Lincoln Land, the college's foundation has scholarships specialized to students and their needs. Applying is easier than many might think.

LLCC has more than 150 scholarships, said Michelle Burger, scholarship program and alumni services coordinator. There is one easy application that will apply one to all eligible scholarships. The application, open Dec. 1 to March 1, is online at [www.llccfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.llccfoundation.org/scholarships).

The application takes about 10 to 15 minutes to fill out, Burger said. The average amount received is \$1,500.

While writing an essay about oneself may not be the first thing on a to-do list, it should be. The application requires a personal essay. Telling personal stories is encouraged because the panel wants to

hear how students will benefit from the money, even if they need it for things such as rent, food and gas.

If students are still struggling with the essay, the LLCC Writing Center is happy to help with essays as well.

Degree and program-focused scholarships are just one type of scholarship the foundation offers. The foundation also has scholarships for people doing an unpaid internship. It can help students pay for everyday necessities.

Some are location-based, too. Students should check out the list of counties and towns with scholarships for people from those communities.

These foundation scholarships range from \$500 to \$8,500, Burger said.

While unfortunately if students are on athletic or tuition waiver, they are not eligible for the Foundation scholarships, there are thousands of others that are available. See an advisor or Burger with any questions about these or other scholarships!



# Stamps of Hope

Photos by Regina Ivy/Editor-in-Chief

On Thursday Oct. 24, 2019, the LLCC's latest show, **Stamps of Hope**, held a reception. Several students, staff and members of the community pile in to see the gallery. The presentation was given by Rihab Sawah, an assistant professor of physics at LLCC. The presentation was held in the Trutter Center. The art was created by Syrian refugees, living in a refugee camp in Jordan.





Photo Illustration

# Scary Stories

## Lincoln Land students and staff share frightening experiences

**By Regina Ivy**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

Lincoln Land is an institution that confines both students and faculty alike to strict meeting times and deadlines. Homework, group projects and exams are enough to terrorize people here, but there is more that some have faced that has made their lives somewhat of an American horror story.

Shelby Cass, a current student at LLCC, was happy to have been casted in “Curse of the Edwards Place Mummy,” a murder mystery show at the Edwards Place in Springfield.

The Edwards Place is a mansion built during 1833, making it one of the oldest homes in Springfield. The place was the home of Benjamin and Helen Edwards, friends of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln during their “courting phase”.

The house is known for sometimes feeling a bit eerie or having some kind of supernatural presence. This is probably due to Tommy and Alice, the grandchildren of Benjamin and Helen, and the ghosts that haunt The Edwards place to this day.

“Every time I would go to set up my props for the night, I would always say, ‘Hello, Tommy.’ Just to greet him. It’s just good luck to do that.” Cass says about her experience with the show.

“We’ve seen lights flicker and rocking chairs move by themselves, or doors will open by themselves too.” These are all things that Cass swears happened while on set in the Edwards Place.

Cass goes into depth about one instance she’s experienced while she was there.

“One time, we heard running upstairs, which was really great because we just thought it was one of our friends upstairs working. So, we were like, ‘Sarah are you up there?’ When she comes out of the gallery and is like, ‘Why are you yelling for me?’ We checked the motion cameras and everything. No one was up there.”

Shelby isn’t the only one experiencing creepy things around town, and even Lincoln Land isn’t impartial to scary happenings. Professor Ellen Watkins has a scene of her own that she shares with her students and is still sending shivers down spines.

“I taught a Monday night class, it was about this time of year and almost Halloween actually.”

Professor Watkins was just a new professor here and was teaching night classes, the ones, according to her, that one else wants to teach.

Watkins had decided to stay late grading papers one night. Naturally, she gets thirsty and decides to go down to a vending machine for a Dr. Pepper. When she comes back there is suddenly a screeching sound from the elevator that is just right down the hall from her.

“Being the big chicken I am, I quickly closed the door to my office and didn’t check.” Watkins explains. Listening from her office, Watkins could swear she heard a high-pitch scream.

Watkins should have been the only person in the building that night, or so she thought.

“Several minutes later, I heard I heard someone walking down the hall, and from the foot falls it seemed like probably a man. I had a lamp in here at the time, so I could see shadows

underneath the door, and I knew he was standing in front of my door.”

Well, that person in front her door just happened to be the head of security at the time, and he was just as surprised to see her as she was him.

The security officer warns her that she shouldn’t stay so late on campus because of, well something that he’s supposedly experienced.

Watkins recounted: “He said that a couple of years before I started to work here, a woman was killed. She was an adjunct faculty member and stayed late to grade and got on the elevator, the next day security found her body in the elevator and she had been stabbed repeatedly, there was blood everywhere, and they never did find her killer.”

“But sometimes her screams can be heard from the elevator,” Watkins said the security guard told her.

When the two get out to her car, the security officer made her promise to never stay late like this again. She willingly agrees, but it was half-way on her way home where she realized that he was probably bluffing.

“I remember thinking, ‘you idiot, you believed him!’” Watkins says. Of course, new faculty would have been made aware if something like that had happened.

Watkins returns to Lincoln Land with a mission, “When I returned to campus, I located the head of security and confronted him about his story. He smiled and said Happy Halloween!”



Photos by Tess Peterson/Assistant Editor

**Chemistry Club members show the children an experiment on how to catch a ghost in the second floor Sangamon Hall lab on Friday, Oct. 25, 2019.**

# Haunted Lab

## Chemistry Club members amaze young scientists

By Tess Peterson  
Assistant Editor

When is the only time you will see more kids in the science labs than LLCC students? The Haunted Lab presented by the Chemistry Club.

The 7th annual Halloween night has a goal to get kids excited about science and learn a little about science at the same time, said Chemistry Professor Jennifer Ramm.

Every half hour, children dressed in costumes filled the LLCC laboratories, while across the hall, they had other hands-on activities and face painting.

Nathan Ifhlenfeldt, a Chemistry Club member, participating in his third Haunted Lab as a Chemistry Club member, said his favorite part of the event is getting to be around the kids and see how excited they all get about science.

Ifhlenfeldt was one of the students working in the hands-on activity room.

In total, more than 125 kids came out to the Haunted Lab.

Ethan, 13, mentioned that he “loves science.” His favorite experiment was the experiment involving bubbles and methane where two chemistry club members competed to see who could make the biggest bubbles. They were giving each



**Chemistry Club President Brianna Skeeters, referee costume, and member Lexi participate in super-saturated experiment during the Haunted Lab.**

other high-fives while their bubbles were on fire.

“Every year we try to do some different demonstrations because we have some kids who come back each year,” Ramm said. Each year, the club members learn something new and tweak the event a little to improve it. This focuses on the kids and makes the event more exciting for returning as well as new young

science lovers.

Brianna Skeeters, Chemistry Club president, was also a big part of this year’s Haunted Lab, she partook in the super-saturated solution demonstration. In this experiment, two students compete to see who could build a bigger chemical “tower.”

Skeeters said she loved the experience of putting the event together and getting to work with kids and

see how excited they get during each demonstration. This was her second year working on the Haunted Lab.

Molly, 9, who loves science, said that her favorite experiment was the Cheetos explosion finale, partly because her sister did it and also because it was so cool. Molly and her mom also joked that she thinks that is what could happen to your stomach if you eat too many Cheetos.

## Team looks to improve

### Volleyball plagued by unforced errors

By Ryan Scott  
Assistant Editor

The Loggers entered the season as the 12th-ranked team in the nation and currently have a record of 28-14. Given previous year, that may be seen as a let down, but Head Coach Jim Dietz believes this team is an inconsistent but still good team.

“We are freshmen-dominated, so I knew that we’d be up and down with the consistency this year,” Dietz said.

He was pleased with how they played against John A. Logan on Oct. 5. That’s the level the Loggers want to play on a consistent basis.

Freshman Logger Molly Ashbaugh believes the team is ready and prepared for the postseason after a “rocky start”

The Loggers have had a lot of unforced errors leading to some losses in games where the Loggers should’ve won.

“We just need to eliminate unforced errors,” Dietz said. “We’ve had multiple matches where we bleed 5 or 6 points without forcing our opponent to do anything more than serve the ball in-bounds.”

Ashbaugh believes the team can have postseason success: “We all know what we have to do to win, but it’s easier said than done. We have to work on making less errors and picking up short tips especially against teams who know our weaknesses.”

“It’s a strange year for NJCAA volleyball,” Dietz said. “Teams under .500 are beating ranked teams, top D2 teams are beating top D1 teams, some D3 teams have wins over D1 and D2 squads. If you were a time traveler and told me, ‘Hey, you make it to the Final Four!’ I’d be happy and know we kept improving with our consistency, but it wouldn’t surprise me. Same thing the other way, ‘Hey, you guys didn’t make it to Nationals in 2019,’ and I’d know we didn’t avoid our runs of errors when we reached the postseason. The runs of unforced errors will determine our success when we get to November and crunch time”

Ashbaugh said on the postseason: “We are all very excited for the rest of the season and for post season because our whole goal this year was to go to Nationals, we just have to put it in the work to get there.”

## Writing Center asks students ‘Why they write?’

By Austin Sanderfield  
Lamp Writer

The National Council of Teachers of English has designated Oct. 20 as the National Day on Writing. Lincoln Land participates in this day, except they carry it on for an entire week.

This weeklong event has taken place in the Writing Center for the past five years. Laurie Myers, a writing center specialist, is the one responsible for organizing it.

Myers set up a message board for students to write on and finish the prompt, “Why I Write”, a prompt that the Council of Teachers of English has used

for the past several years. They want students to think about why they write, not just in class but outside of class.

Myers encourages every student to upload to the Writing Center’s Facebook page and enter for a goody bag drawing at the week’s end.

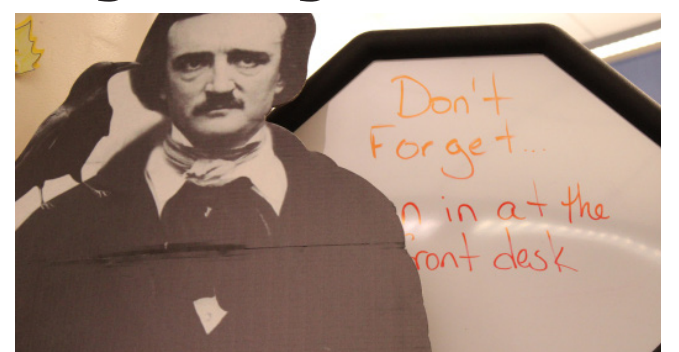
A cut out of Edgar Allan Poe awaits visitors who want to capture a selfie with the author.

Visitors to the Writing Center will find free horror- and romantic-themed books donated by the Land of Lincoln Book Share. This organization has been donating to Lincoln Land for the last two

years. They take leftover books that libraries are getting rid of and donate them to places and people that need them.

Myers said they are a very generous organization that live up to their mission statement: “sharing the love of reading, one book at a time.”

The main purpose of this week is to spread and bring awareness towards the Writing Center. The Writing Center has six computers dedicated specially for students to work on their writing. The services are free with your tuition and are there to help all students succeed and improve their writing skills.



Regina Ivy/Editor-in-Chief  
**An Edgar Allan Poe cutout is seen in the LLCC Writing Center for National Day on Writing.**



Photos by Tess Peterson Assistant Editor

Looking for costumes can be fun. Pumpkins were among the many options to choose from. The event was held on Saturday Oct. 19, 2019. The families that attended were given free costumes that had been previously donated.

# Giving out costumes

By Tess Peterson  
Assistant Editor

On Saturday, Oct. 19, the A.Lincoln Commons was filled with Halloween costumes instead of students.

This event, called The BOOtique, was presented by the students of the Honors Program and provided free Halloween costumes to families in need.

The goal of The BOOtique “is to give back Halloween costumes to families who can’t afford Halloween costumes because Halloween costumes are kind of expensive, and if a family has more than one child, it’s quite a bit of money buy new costumes every year,” said Jordan Bruder, president of the Honors Club.

The Honors Club distributed donation boxes throughout the community for people to donate costumes. About 30 costumes were collected, and any costumes left over after the BOOtique event will be given to schools in the area such as Matheny Withrow, Bruder said. Carmen, Carly, and Carter were



Alena Nelson looks for the perfect Halloween costume for her boys and niece.

there with their dad looking for their Halloween costumes. Their Dad learned about The BOOtique from his sister-in-law who goes to school at Lincoln Land.

When asked if they liked the costume, the girls responded that they

“love” them.

Alena Nelson came to The BOOtique with her two toddler boys. She found out about the event through Lincoln Land’s website newsletter. Nelson was very excited about the costumes she chose for her boys and

loved them because “they match,” she said.

Will Heikes, Olivia Dennison and Bruder, were there to help customers find the perfect Halloween costumes.

They said that the trends this year

for the Halloween costumes were princesses for girls and dinosaurs and turtles for boys.

The student workers said it will have been a success if even just one family gets costumes.



Honors Club President Jordan Bruder searches for costumes with kids.

# Halloween costumes bring concerns

By Alicia Blood  
Lamp Writer

Halloween is the time when candy is on everyone’s minds, as well as costumes and spooky decorations. Adults now join in the fun dressing up for the occasion each year.

“I love it!” said an excited Danielle Lanham, a current LLCC student. “Even though we’re all adults for the most part, I think it’s awesome that we get the chance to dress up and have fun, even if we have to go to class.”

But because of recent school shootings and violent fights, some schools, especially colleges, have become concerned about those who dress for Halloween. Beyond concerns for safety, there are also concerns about offensive or controversial garb.

Most schools have rules about Halloween costumes, and the No. 1 rule is no masks. But some may ask what the harm is in wearing a Darth Vader mask or even a just a mask of Jack Skellington from “Nightmare Before

Christmas.”

Lanham said she didn’t see any harm in dressing up for the holiday.

Though some may find concerns, there are those students, such as Lanham, who still find the opportunity to dress up fun and almost like reliving their childhood.

Some students, though, do not dress up, but find enjoyment in seeing others partaking in the festivities.

Hannah Anderson, another current student at LLCC, says that she does not really dress up for the holiday,

but she agrees with no masks.

“I don’t really dress up,” Anderson said. “I’m in a dance group, so I wear my dance outfit, which could be considered dressing up. But I can agree with no masks, since there have been several incidents where students have worn masks to school during a shooting.”

LLCC students to dress up, even Student Life and other organizations have hosted costume contests in previous years. However, the previous costume contest rules have stated:

“No masks, must be appropriate for classroom, no inappropriate cultural reference and no items that resemble weapons (guns, knives, etc.)”

Though there are some that argue that college students should not dress up for the Halloween festivities, LLCC definitely promotes the festive spirits in other ways, too. Student Life typically offers craft-making activities, bewitching treats and snacks and other activities and games in the A.Lincoln Commons.

# Basketball camp inspires positivity

By Cam Boyer  
Lamp writer

On Saturday, Oct. 19, Lanphier student Jaden Snodgrass watched his hard work come to fruition as the first Hoops for Change event was hosted at the Springfield Clear Lake Avenue Salvation Army.

Hoops for Change was a free basketball camp for fifth to eighth-graders, but also a chance to raise money to fight opioid addiction. That's an issue close to Snodgrass who lost his aunt to an overdose.

"Losing someone you love is never easy, especially when they are close to your age. I just wanted to find a way to honor and remember her. I feel like she was with us today," Snodgrass said.

The opioid epidemic is a serious problem in the United States. According to Selena Simmons-Duffin of NPR, about 70,000 people die every single year from drug overdoses, and nearly one in every three people know someone with an opioid addiction.

Allied Against Opioid Abuse is a national organization looking to spread awareness about the abuse and misuse of prescription opioids. This organization was chosen by Jaden to receive all donations and profit the camp made. AAOA received about \$6,500 from the Hoops for Change event, most of which came from local sponsors and donations.

These sponsors included Bank of Springfield, Zara's Collision Center, Renken Dentistry, Roberts Automotive, BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, INB, Robert's Seafood Market, Country Financial, Primo Designs, and ER Fitness among many others. On top of donating, Chick-Fil-A catered the event and provided meals for all the attendees.

"It's beautiful to see the community come together. Especially with all these local businesses donating and helping unite the community. I'm proud of what we've done," Snodgrass said.

Hoops for Change offered young basketball players the chance to work on their skills with instruction from experienced basketball players and coaches.

Drills were split up into two sessions -- one for shooting and one for ball handling. Working on solid fundamentals is very important for younger players. Assistants included Cole Harper, former UIS men's basketball team; former Springfield High star Zaire Harris; professional overseas player Herm Senior; former SHG basketball coach Kyle Krager; and area sports photographer Evan McClintock.

Hoops for Change was an incredibly uplifting and positive event for everyone involved, and Snodgrass says that he doesn't intend to stop here.

This year, there were 65 players signed up for the camp.

"Hopefully I can make this an annual event. I want to try to bring as much positive energy as I can into this community. Next year I hope I can return and double the numbers we had this year."

## Fall Formal

Continued from page 1

"It's been a tradition that SGA has done for years with very little publicity. We figured we would reach out to the student body for help," Student Government president Rick Hollinshead said.

The Gay-Straight Alliance will be helping out with the event. Most of the decorations that people will see at the dance will have been put up by members of this club.

"Everyone is super excited to do their part," GSA Vice President Jay-

lee Travis said. "Even though we're just helping with decorations, everyone is happy to help in any way they can."

Members of the LLCC dance club, Express Your Seoul, are excited to put together a dance to perform during the event.

"We will be dancing to a few K-pop songs and one American pop song that is a collaboration between K-pop idols and an American pop star," said President Adrianna

Trader.

The MP3 club has claimed responsibility for the music being played at the event. One of the club members, Karran Robinson, has actually stepped up to be the DJ for the entire night.

"The MP3 club is ecstatic to be a part of this event and hopes that it can be put on every year," MP3 club president Madison Leek said. "We are so happy that SGA contacted us about the event and were one of the

first clubs to be involved."

When asked about the fall formal, most students still don't seem to know that it is even happening, but when told about it, students expressed some excitement.

"It's almost like reliving my high school experience," LLCC student Jacque Price said.

Added student Sophie Sweetin: "Other colleges and universities have formals so yeah; it could be fun."

**The**  
**FALL**  
*Formal*

**NOVEMBER 9TH, 2019**  
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