

Writing for change

English class inspired by book, art show about refugees

By Megan Davis
Lamp writer

Going from classroom to classroom every day at school can be mundane. English Professor Alison Stachera had assigned a routine reading of “Refugee” by Alan Gratz in her English 099 class. She noticed an art show opening in the James S. Murray Gallery about Syrian refugee artwork. Stachera

figured she’d take them to see it. “It perfectly coincided with my lesson plans. So I thought, ‘Why not?’” Stachera said.

The Stamps of Hope show includes paintings that depict life in war-torn Syria and the harsh realities of war and violence. The artwork was done by refugees living in a refugee camp in Jordan. Physics Assistant Professor Rihab Sawah, along with the Stamps of Hope Foundation, brought the show to Lincoln Land.

Stachera planned for students to write about their reactions to the art and how it communicates without speaking.

“It touched all of us deeply, but it touched me particularly. And when we arrived back to

class, I wanted us to do something to help the refugees,” said LLCC student Kevin Kamde, who is from Cameroon, Africa.

It was this that would change the students’ mindsets. It was no longer about them and their needs; it was about what they could do to help others.

“Paintings can speak any language with no translator required. Even the most hard-hearted person could be softened by the piercing eyes of the children depicted in the paintings,” said student Marion Stonecipher.

Stonecipher wanted to do a fundraiser to help the class buy the painting, “Forced Displacement” by Mohammad Jokhader. This painting,

in particular, touched the students the most. The painting depicted a mother with her baby, forced to escape her war-torn country.

“I mean thinking of a little kid going through that, it’s just awful,” said fellow student Jessica Higgerson.

With the help of Art Professor Thom Whalen making the T-shirts and the funding of Academic Services Vice President Vern Lindquist, the class created T-shirts to sell to fellow students and faculty members at \$20 each.

The class came up with their fundraiser name, Writing for Change, once they got approved to

Writing, continued on Page 6



Photos by Regina Ivy/The Lamp

The students that are usually caught chilling in the corner have now relocated to the center of the A.Lincoln Commons. Here they are playing playing a game of Dungeons and Dragons on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019.

Student saves life

By Tess Peterson
Assistant Editor

On Tuesday, Oct. 15 Lincoln Land nursing student Maggie Jacobs responded to an emergency, when others might not have.

As part of her nursing program, Maggie does her clinical work at St. John’s hospital in Springfield. She was on her break in the hospital café when she heard a woman yelling



“Help!”

At first, she wasn’t quite sure what was going on, but when she heard the woman yell again she went over to her. Sitting next to the woman Maggie noticed a man choking. Without hesitating, Jacobs quickly performed the Heimlich maneuver on the man to save his life.

The man she saved was John Kienzler, a St. Johns Hospital volunteer. On LLCC’s Facebook post, Kienzler commented, “I was so grateful to be at the hospital, surrounded by health care professionals, when I had the unfortunate luck of choking on my lunch. I am very thankful to everyone who quickly appeared at my side, especially Maggie Jacobs the Lincoln Land Nursing student, to help me that day.”

Maggie Jacobs has always wanted to be a nurse to help others.

Her inspiration for this is her grandmother, Elizabeth Jacobs and anyone else in the Healthcare field “it’s pretty incredible to be able to do what a lot of them do, every single day,” Jacobs says about the people who work tirelessly to save people and help them every day.

After Lincoln Land, Jacobs says that she doesn’t plan in staying in Springfield but also does not want to travel too far from home because she is really close to family here in Springfield.

One option for her she says in North Carolina at Mercy Hospital where her Grandma attended. One thing she knows for sure is that she wants to get Masters and doctorate in nursing somewhere down the line.

Commons corner closed

Regina Ivy
Editor-in-Chief

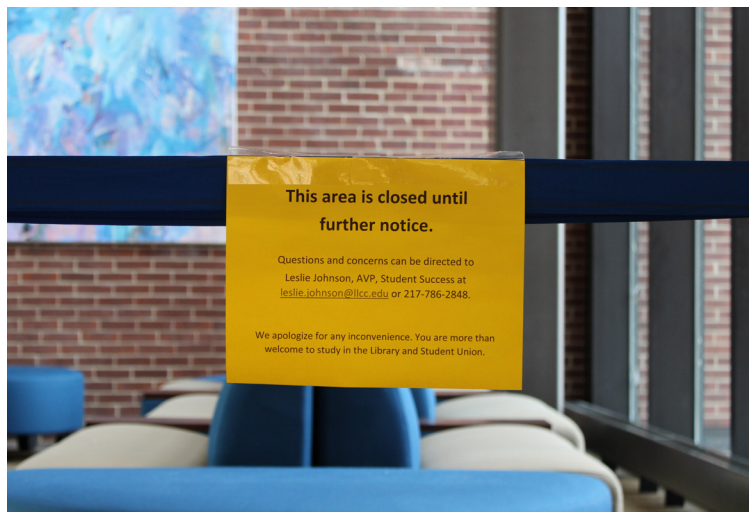
The corner of the A.Lincoln Commons reopened Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, after being closed for a week.

Many Lincoln Land students who find themselves on campus may know this corner as the hub for students, who congregate there every day. The “corner kids,” as they are known, were slightly thrown by this change but relocated to the center of the Commons.

When asked about what brought upon this change, students were hesitant to reveal anything that they might have known. They were told that they were not allowed to say anything.

In response to questions about the closure, Leslie Johnson, associate vice president of student success, wrote an email, stating: “A section of A. Lincoln Commons was closed during an initial investigation into concerning behavior/activities occurring in the space. The investigation is complete and the space is reopen.”

The Lamp followed up to ask what the underlying issue was and the out-



Regina Ivy/The Lamp

The corner of the commons was closed off for unclear reasons by Student Success through the week of Nov. 11 through Nov. 18 2019.

come of the investigation. Johnson did not immediately return a phone call on deadline.

One speculation is that the students were being too loud and received a noise complaint from someone in the

surrounding area, although there have also been rumors of harassment and fighting that prompted the closure.

The students who sit there enjoy having lively conversations about geek culture, politics, or whatever is going

on in their school and personal lives.

LLCC student trustee Aaliyah Kissick made a statement about the situation. She discloses: “I am not personally involved with the decision making that goes on with the student success portion of campus, but I do know as student trustee that our staff members are dedicated to promoting student success. So for whatever reason they deemed it best for that section to be closed off, I believe that it will positively impact the student body once issues that stem from that corner are resolved.”

A concerned LLCC student tells his understanding of the situation, “Some students had a misunderstanding, and the corner exclusively was blocked off from student use.”

The student feels that the college should have been more clear and open about what is happening.

Student success has recently put out a code of conduct for those who find themselves in that corner. The barriers keeping students out of the area were taken down as of Monday evening, Nov. 18

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

Editor-in-chief
Regina Ivy

Assistant Editors
Tess Peterson
Ryan Scott

Writers
Alicia Blood
Cam Boyer
Quinn Brown
Megan Davis
Rebecca Littrel
Austin Sanderfield
Paul Watson

Photographers
Alicia Blood
Cam Boyer
Quinn Brown
Megan Davis
Rebecca Littrel
Austin Sanderfield

Coordinator
Tim McKenzie

Contact Us:
The Lamp
Menard Hall, LLCC
5250 Shepherd Road
Springfield, IL 62794
Lamp@llcc.edu
(217) 786.2311

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

Copyright Information
Copyright 2019 The Lamp. All rights reserved. All content is property of The Lamp and may not be reproduced or transmitted without consent.

Accuracy
The Lamp strives for accuracy. If you find an error, please let us know. You can reach us at lamp@llcc.edu.

People struggle with health

By Alicia Blood
Lamp writer

There are times when we find ourselves at a point where we hit a roadblock in life. For some people, it is finding out that they have cancer, while for others it is making changes to their life due to Chron's disease. Living with a disease -- bodily or mental -- can make life tough. But for some, however, they have found coping mechanisms and ways of dealing with the challenges they face when it comes to the certain disease they have.

Tami Carver, the wife of Pastor Charlie Carver of Southtower Community Church in Dawson deals with depression.

"It was very hard at first," Carver said, "But I have found that my faith in God and praying has been my number one method of coping."

Carver has had depression for several years but has kept it in check by her faith and fellowship at Southtower Community Church.

"I purposefully guard my mind when crazy thoughts run rampant," Carver explains her coping methods, "I visualize corralling the thoughts and throwing them out of my mind."

Carver says that she is no longer on medications and has dealt with her depression well ever since.

"I try to stay away from foul movies as well as bad music," Carver says, "Life has enough ugliness, which is something I definitely don't need!"

Carver says that since she stays away from a lot of negativity, she finds herself calmer.

"Don't get me wrong, I still have days where I find it hard to get out of bed in the morning," Carver said, "But I've learned to be easier on myself. With or without, you have to face it eventually, and that's OK."

Danielle Lanham

Danielle Lanham, a current student at LLCC, deals with stomach problems.

"They initially said it was IBS, but then it turned out that I just had an infection in the lining of my stomach," Lanham said, "It was called H. Pylori. Sometimes my stomach still hurts though."

Lanham says that she has dealt



Alicia Blood/The Lamp

Memorial Medical Center is just one of the many places where one can go to get the treatment they need. Whether it is Chron's disease or depression, hospitals are willing to help, whatever the case.

with these stomach pains for years and that she still gets them to this day.

"Yeah it hurts, but I've learned that I have bigger issues, such as school," Lanham said, "I use a lot of herbal teas and stuff to help soothe it when it's pretty bad, though."

Lanham says that the herbal teas have definitely helped and that she continues her coping methods. She is currently not on any medications.

Theresa Seiber

Likewise, Theresa Seiber, a member at Southtower Community Church, deals with stomach problems as well.

"After several disorders mentioned," Seiber said, "they finally attribute mine to adhesions, which is basically scar tissue."

Seiber says that she still gets severe stomach pains and has been admitted into hospitals several times.

"I'm careful with what I eat as well as the amount I eat," Seiber explains. "I've learned it's easier to nibble throughout the day as well as staying hydrated. If I get too full, I'm in pain."

But Seiber has also learned to joke about her disorder as well and make light-heart of it.

"I'm pretty much a cheap date!"

Seiber jokes. "I can order from a child's menu and be satisfied most of the time, but it's frustrating. There are times I really want to eat!"

Seiber also says that she is on medications.

"If I eat half of what is considered 'normal', I'm in pain," Seiber says.

"I have a pain medication, which allows me to eat and take the edge off of the pain."

Seiber also makes a comparison of her disorder.

"Watching what I eat is based on what makes the digestive tract work harder, like red meat," Seiber explains. "The more 'work' seems to pull adhesions. Adhesions are described as 'web-like' and 'sticky'. They can pull away and attach elsewhere. Imagine a spider web."

Seiber has learned to cope with her disorder through medication and the friends and family she has at Southtower.

Susan Colvin

Susan Colvin also deals with something similar to Seiber. In her case, she has diverticulitis.

"It's basically when small pockets develop on the intestines," Colvin explains. "If anything small gets into those pockets, they could get

irritated and inflamed, causing me pain."

Colvin was diagnosed with diverticulitis back in 2018 and is not currently on any medications.

"They really don't have any medications for it," Colvin says. "I basically have just had to change my diet."

Colvin says she has definitely had some big changes in her diet.

"I can't eat popcorn because the kernels could get stuck in those pockets," Colvin says. "I've also had to watch when I eat spicy foods, raw vegetables, nuts, such as peanuts, and even corn on the cob."

Colvin says that she still gets flare-ups every now and then, but she has become more careful with the foods she eats.

Scott Allen

Scott Allen, who was diagnosed with sleep apnea back in 2014, says that he has found tremendous improvement ever since he was diagnosed.

"I used to wake up so grouchy and angry," Allen says. "But that was only because I was getting roughly four hours of sleep a night."

Sleep apnea is a disease in which one cannot get enough air or oxygen while they sleep and some even have stopped breathing in their sleep.

"I used to take a deep breath, and my wife had to nudge me so I would let out a big breath," Allen says. "I would hold in that breath for several seconds."

Allen says that he is very thankful that he was diagnosed earlier and not later.

"Sleep apnea can cause glaucoma," Allen says. "Because you aren't getting that oxygen to your body. It could have killed me!"

Allen says that with the help of his continuous positive airway pressure, or CPAP machine, he has been sleeping well at night.

"The CPAP machine changed my life," Allen says. "The cool breeze from the mask at night is so soothing and relaxing. This CPAP has saved my life."

Coping with a disease is never easy, but with the help of family, friends, classmates, and others, it sure helps with the journey to recovery.

Environment class inspires students

By Paul Watson
Lamp writer

Drones planting trees. Houses floating on water. Towers vacuuming smog. People eating drink containers.

Even though this seems like a science fiction writer could have created these innovations, they exist today. Students in the Life in the Environment class researched and presented these subjects to their classmates this semester as hopeful innovations.

"The hopeful innovations assignment is my way of exposing students to as many innovative ideas as I possibly can," said Professor Becky Croteau, who has taught the class for three semesters. "The ideas and products they present in class, and the people who invented them, are great role models for what all of us can do."

"My favorite innovation is the edible water bubble," said Lindsay Auxier, 18, an elementary education major. "It's an alternative

to using plastic for water bottles."

The water bubble is created from algae. The packaging can be eaten or will biodegrade in a few weeks. London-based Skipping Rocks Lab developed the edible material in 2013.

Hannah Anderson, 20, an environmental science major, presented tree-planting drones as a hopeful innovation. DroneSeed, a Seattle-based company, specializes in reforestation after wildfires.

Anderson's presentation reported drones can plant trees six times faster than humans, can begin reseeding within 30 days after a wildfire is extinguished, and can plant 80 acres in less than 8 hours.

According to her presentation, tall shrubs replace up to 40 percent of the burned trees during natural reforestation. Using drones to replant forests solves the problem of shrubs replacing trees.

"It is exciting that people are getting together to help solve problems," Anderson said.

Croteau agrees. "New ideas, new ways to address our problems, start with innovative individuals," she said. "The solutions come from people who look at a problem in a new way."

"When researching these innovations," Auxier said, "you can learn about new inventions that can encourage you to be more eco-friendly and also it makes you more environmentally aware."

Among the other hopeful innovations presented was an air vacuum. Dutch Designer Daan Roosegaarde developed an approximately 23-foot tower that sucks in smog and expels clean air, using "patented positive ionization technology."

Another presentation described a 1000-square foot habitat called a WaterNest. The eco-friendly house is constructed of 98 percent recyclable material, with a solar-paneled roof, and designed to float on large calm water areas.

"Life in The Environment is a non-majors, general education, biology

course," Croteau said. "It introduces students to ecological and environmental concepts. Environmental issues are emphasized and addressed by identifying sustainable courses of action."

"Simply put, we explore the fact that everything is connected to everything else," she stated.

"Professor Croteau makes sure her students know that all hope isn't lost and there are ways anyone can help," Anderson said. "She also shows us that there are people all over the world working to help the planet."

"I had never taken a class like this before," Auxier said. "Prior to this class I had no interest in the environment, and I had no idea how much humans impact it."

Unlike Auxier, Anderson took an environment class in high school, which awakened her interest in environmental science. She also said her chemistry and physics teacher inspired her interest in general science.

Class, continued on page 3



Fall was great, ready for spring

By Regina Ivy
Lamp Editor-in-chief

The Lamp is looking forward to the 2020 spring semester!

When I started this semester as Editor-in-Chief I only somewhat knew what I was getting into. The job has not been a breeze by any means but looking back at the progress we have made as a news outlet, and the personal growth I have experienced I would say that the job has been rewarding.

The Lamp is honored to have received John M. Ryan Best of Show award at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association's 2019 fall conference, held at Eastern Illinois University.

We were credited as having strong editing and writing that allows reporters to breathe life into stories while staying true to journalistic standards," according to judges.

This was my first time receiving the award as the editor of the paper. It didn't feel real when it had happened.

Next semester, I hope to deliver the same amount, or even more of the hard news, features, photography and sports that the judges talked about when describing our paper. I look forward to working with my assistant editors Tess Peterson and Ryan Scott.

We hope to keep our online presence fresh and our physical paper in the hands of readers. We hope to put more emphasis on our online presence, we are keeping our website updated daily, and our social media presence more prevalent.



Regina Ivy/ Lamp Editor-in-chief

Math Professor Peter Embalabala helps two students with their coursework in the Math Center on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019. Embalabala, who has been teaching at Lincoln Land, sponsors a student back in Kenya, where he grew up.

Giving back

Embalabala sponsors student in Kenya

By Austin Sanderfield
Lamp writer

Peter Embalabala didn't know much about the United States at 21 years old and arrived for school in Michigan.

The LLCC math professor left Kenya in 1980 to study at Spring Arbor University. He was given \$34 and the three plane tickets necessary to make the trip from Kenya.

"I loved math growing up, and both of my parents pushed the importance of it, along with biology", Embalabala said.

Embalabala has been teaching mathematics at Lincoln Land since 1991. In addition to teaching at Lincoln Land, he still supports people in his home country of Kenya, sponsoring a student to attend the Vihiga Boy's High School, a boarding school in Kenya that Embalabala attended.

Embalabala came to the United States through the Private International Program. When he arrived, classes had been going on for two weeks, so he was behind in his classes. Embalabala didn't major in mathematics at first; he majored in business and minored in mathematics. He realized later that business wasn't for him and stuck with math.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in mathematics, he attended Central Michigan University to pursue his master's degree. Embalabala taught

math there for three years before getting let go for budgetary reasons.

Luckily, a year before, he applied for a teaching job at Lincoln Land, and the day he was let go at Central Michigan he got a call from LLCC to set up an interview.

Embalabala said he had to do a lot during the interview to see if he was qualified for the job.

Embalabala said that as the chairman walked him to his car after the interview, the chair asked, "What if I offered you the job right now?"

"I have to ask my wife first," Embalabala responded.

Before he could even ask his wife, Julie, they had already called her, and she accepted the job for him.

Embalabala has eight children, seven of whom attended Lincoln Land.

Twenty-nine years later, Embalabala is still working and teaching like it's his first year.

"Peter always has a positive attitude at all times, and he's constantly running somewhere," said Jennifer O'Malley, professor of biology.

Lincoln Land isn't the only place that Embalabala is making an impact on people's lives. He also does a lot for his community back in Kenya. He has donated to orphanages and schools by giving them food, books, and supplies. Embalabala also sponsors kids that don't have the funds to move on from 8th grade to high school.

In Kenya, a lot of students don't get to go to high school because their families can't afford books, uniforms, bedding and food. A few years ago, Embalabala and his wife contacted the principal of

the Kidinye Primary School, a school in the Vihiga District in Kenya, and asked for a report of the top five students in the school.

The reports contain the biographies and family histories of the kids. After reading the reports, they then interview the kids and meet their parents. They decide which one to sponsor based on their potential, and that's how they decided to sponsor Domonic Onzere.

"I want them to go to boarding school because I want their lives to be dedicated to school," Embalabala said.

Because of that, Embalabala pays an annual fee of \$700 to make sure Domonic stays in school. That money covers books, bedding, clothes and food for the school year at Vihiga Boy's High School.

Embalabala also helped Doug and Tonya Deal of Springfield help sponsor a student, too. They sponsor Elvis Matata.

Embalabala is a pretty popular figure at Kidinye Primary School because of his donations and charitable actions. Embalabala even has his name engraved in the local church by helping fund the retiling of the church. Doug Deal, a Springfield firefighter, helped with the tile project.

"He is always willing to help anyone in need and his students feel the same way about him", said Samantha Reif, professor of geology.

Embalabala plans to continue to help his community and others back in Kenya for years to come. People who are trying to get involved with the sponsoring process themselves have asked him for guidance.

CLASS

Continued from page 2

Among the topics covered in Croteau's class are water and land use, climate change and its consequences, alternative energy sources, urban ecosystems, feeding a growing population, and biodiversity and conservation strategies.

Croteau said the class covers topics about which students are already worried, and she wants to ensure they understand the environmental challenges currently facing them.

"I want them to know the

truth," Croteau said. "When we look at the issues from an international perspective, the truth is indeed frightening.

"It is vitally important that we don't let our fear freeze us," she warns. "All of us can still make a difference. More importantly, I want my students to feel empowered to embrace the changes needed and, perhaps, to be the agents of that change."

Because of this class, Anderson said she uses canvas shopping bags, re-usable water bottles, and less energy at home. Her home energy strategies also involve educating her

parents and persuading them "to be more environmentally friendly."

She admits she sometimes forgets to bring her reusable bags when shopping and using less energy at home sometimes requires wearing sweaters.

Auxier is similarly affected.

"My life has changed, now that I am more aware of our environment and how much humans impact it," Auxier said. "I'm definitely trying to be more careful about my actions, because I do think that we have a beautiful planet, and I want it to be protected for future generations to enjoy."

She also said, "Professor Croteau inspires me because she's so active in environmental issues and she truly cares about educating others about them."

Auxier is at the beginning of her post-secondary education. She plans to graduate Spring 2021 with an associate's degree in elementary education, then transfer to a university to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Anderson plans to graduate in the spring with an associate's in science, then transfer to a university to earn a bachelor's degree in environmental science.

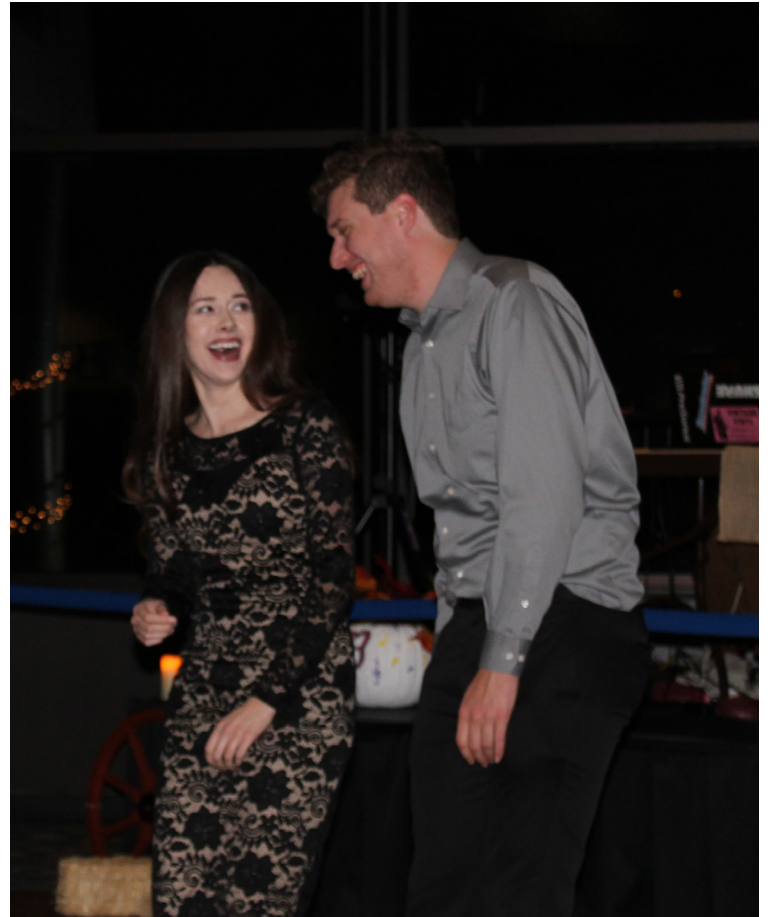
She hopes to start her environmen-

tal science career in Springfield, since environment-related jobs are available locally.

Croteau is in her 13th year teaching full-time at LLCC. Her teaching career spans three decades. Some of the notable jobs she has had during her career as a biologist include working in water pollution control at the IEPA, researching climate change patterns of the past at the Illinois State Museum, serving as the Nature Conservancy's Regional Steward for central Illinois, and being involved in numerous prairie and wetland restoration projects in Central Illinois.



Lexi Jones, Olivia Osborne and friend passionately sing and dance to a song. The members of Express Your Seoul were part of a featured part of the night.



Two Lincoln Land students enjoy their night on the dance floor.

Fall Formal gets Loggers groovin'

The Loggers Activities Board partnered up with several other clubs and organizations to host a Fall Formal for any LLCC student to attend. The dance was Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019. In order to gain admission, students were asked to bring a canned good that would be put in baskets to give to families in need for Thanksgiving.



Logan McFarland and Felipe Buenrostro are doing the worm during the beat drop of DJ Snake's Turn Down For What at the Fall Formal.

Photos By Regina Ivy/The Lamp



The LLCC Dance Club 'Express Your Seoul' perform a dance routine at the Fall Formal that includes mostly Kpop songs, but also a collaboration between a western pop star and a Kpop group.

Phi Theta Kappa ceremony



Photos By Regina Ivy/The Lamp

The Phi Theta Kappa honors society inducted new members on Nov. 12 2019. The group is dedicated to recognizing and encouraging the academic achievements of two-year college students. (To the right) PTK induct their new members, each member has a candle and a flower. The items were used as symbols through the night. (Above) President Meredith Niermann and Vice President of Scholarship Hyler Pence are cutting cake for the new members.

Chinese software targets minorities

By Paul Watson
Lamp writer

Facial recognition can be used to make your life simpler. With the right device and app, facial recognition can unlock front doors or smartphones. You never have to worry about locking your key in your house or forgetting your password. In a few countries, like China, your face can act as your debit card at ATMs.

Unfortunately, facial recognition is also used as part of a technological system that oppresses 12 million Uyghurs, who live in the northwestern Xinjiang district of China. They are subjected to facial recognition surveillance, as well as other oppressive measures such as mandatory biometric profiling, re-education camps, and forced labor.

Facial recognition, as well as any other tool, can be used for good or bad. Professor Darran Byler, in his contribution to UIS Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) Speaker Series Program on Nov. 8, used the plight of the Uyghurs to illustrate this point and draw attention to ethical use of technology at the personal, national and international level.

The Uyghurs are one of China's 55 minority ethnic groups, consisting mostly of Turkic Muslims. Byler said the region became important for its natural resources of natural gas, oil and cotton after China changed to a market economy in the 1990s.

To exploit these resources, 10 million Han, who are the ethnic majority in China, moved into Xinjiang, Byler said. Overtime industrial agriculture increased in the region, accounting for a third of the world's cotton production.

Unfortunately, disaffected Uyghurs perpetrated four terrorist attacks during 2013 and 2014, resulting in over 60 deaths. Byler said, the Chinese government labeled one of these attacks as China's 9/11, which involved knife-wielding Uyghurs murdering over 30 people at the Kunming train station.

In May 2014, the Chinese government declared "The People's War on Terror." Byler said this differs from the U.S. Global War on Terror because the Chinese are not fighting external threats, but internal.

"The 'terrorists' are minority Muslim populations who make state-directed capitalist expansion more difficult," Byler said. The security industrial complex uses cameras, digital media, biometric checkpoints, prisons, internment camps and coerced-labor factories against them.

"This type of response to terrorism is not the overt violence of U.S. drones and targeted killings," said Byler.

He identifies the technology that was used against the Uyghurs includes recovery of deleted files on digital devices, AI-enabled Uyghur speech translation and transcribing into Chinese, voice detection software and facial recognition of

Uyghur faces in surveillance video.

There are more than 7,700 "People's Convenience Police Stations" spaced within Uyghur neighborhoods every 656 to 984 feet. "And these are really surveillance hubs," Byler said.

"They talk about this as a seamless system," Byler said. "There's no gaps in the system. No matter where you are, the policing network is supposed to be able to assess you."

In addition, biometric checkpoints are at every institutional boundary.

"So if you go into a bank, you go into a hospital, a shopping mall, where you cross a county line, you'll go through a biometric checkpoint, which is one where you put your ID on the device and then there's a camera that will match the image that's on your ID to your face," Byler said.

"So, all of these checkpoints and the policing system is supported by a really unprecedented data collection program, which the Chinese state authorities called 'physicals for all,'" Byler said. The data collection occurred in 2017.

Citizens of Xinjiang were ordered to go to local police stations where biometric data is collected, which included DNA, fingerprints, blood type, voice recordings, and facial imagery.

Byler said they "had to speak into a microphone reading the text over and over until they had a unique voice signature."

He also said creating the facial imagery involved much more than a simple mug shot.

"It's actually thousands of images of each face taken from all directions," Byler said. Different expressions, such as anger or sadness, were taken in order to get potential emotional states for a complete face print.

Byler noted that iris scans were sometimes taken instead of face scans.

He said the government claimed a high participation rate and framed the biometric collection program as a public health initiative. Government workers also visited Uyghur homes to write biographical profiles of each person and link the data to their biometric dataset.

Byler reported 1,400 technology firms are involved with government security contracts, costing the government \$7.2 billion over a recent two-year period.

In the Spring of 2017, local police began ranking Uyghurs "using categories of extremism or 'pre-criminal' behavior," Byler said. This determined if a person was trustworthy, normal or untrustworthy.

The pre-criminal behavior included being ethnic Uyghur, unemployed, possessing a passport, praying daily, possessing unauthorized religious knowledge, and homeschooling children.

Byler also said there was a list of 75 official items that helped to determine Turkic Muslim extremism. The list included abstaining from alcohol, abstaining from cigarettes, telling others not to swear, inviting more than five people

to your house without registering with the police department, and having illegal Facebook, WhatsApp or Twitter accounts.

Byler said the Uyghurs that were found untrustworthy were sent to the nearest re-education camp. There are between 200 and 1,200 camps with inmate populations ranging from 2,000 to 130,000, totaling as many as 1.5 million people.

The largest camp is in Ürümqi, the region's capitol, which holds 130,000 people, Byler said.

The government refers to these camps as vocational training schools. Byler said the re-education routine included singing the national anthem, singing other patriotic songs, Chinese language training, and ideology training.

Byler said the camps were equipped with handcuffs, cattle prods and pepper spray, as well as other items associated with medium security prisons.

In 2018, camp inmates who passed the language and ideology tests were transferred to labor camps. Byler said the labor camps were textile manufacturing facilities.

Byler said U.S. companies such as Kohl's, H&M, and Croft&Barrow sell garments manufactured by Uyghurs in labor camps.

The security-industrial complex has another connection to the U.S., concerning facial recognition. CloudWalk is a Chinese company that developed the "Fire Eye" system that can identify Uyghurs, Tibetans and other minority groups with its cameras. Zhou Xi is the company's founder. Byler said he graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"I think one of the biggest takeaways of this presentation was the ethical responsibility our universities have on presenting information to their students," Zachary McVey, 20, former LLCC student and UIS history major, said. "The knowledge we gain in college should be used to better the world as a whole not negatively take away from it."

"The technology system that controls the behavior of Uyghurs is one of the first instances in which the technologies like face and voice recognition, GPS tracking, and pattern recognition in on-line activity have been drawn together and used to target an entire population as "pre-criminals," Byler said. "By framing Uyghurs in general as potential terrorists, technology firms, police forces and factory owners have been given permission by the state and the Chinese public to act with impunity toward them, placing them in camps and making them work in garment factories.

"On the face of this, these violations of human dignity should be deeply troubling for students and others," he said.

"First, what is happening to the Uyghurs is symptomatic of how powerful technologies can be used by the powerful as weapons against the powerless," Byler said. "It throws into question the future of human agency and makes it clear that

clear regulations and safeguards should be put in place to restrict technology applications such as face surveillance and data harvesting.

"Second, these technology applications are built out of basic technologies that were developed in large part by North American institutions such as MIT, the University of Illinois and Stanford University as well as the U.S. Military," Byler said. "These institutions bear responsibility for what has happened to the Uyghurs, and as such they should take the lead in assuring that it does not continue."

"Third, the coerced labor that is ongoing in Northwest China as a result of these systems, is manufacturing garments and textiles for the global market. This means that buying cotton goods that are made in China has now become, more often than not, an act of complicity in the suffering of the Uyghurs," Byler said.

Billie Thomas, 18, LLCC psychology major, said she was unaware of the lecture until McVey invited her to attend.

"I learned so many different things but the two things that stuck with me were the treatment of the Uyghurs and the amount of technology that China has developed and is using," she said.

She characterized China's treatment of the Uyghurs as horrific and saw similarities in how the Nazi treated the Jews and how the U.S. treated Native Americans.

Thomas said she would like to do more research about the Uyghurs. "I would like to bring more awareness to the mistreatment of the Uyghurs and to the amount of technology that China is using."

"I think this lecture has inspired me to be more aware of global issues," said McVey. "The assimilation of the Uyghurs is a massive issue that not many people are aware of and I am sure there are other events occurring all over the world that violate human rights as well. The more we know about the issues facing our world the better we may be at stopping them."

McVey attended the lecture to support the UIS History Club because it co-sponsored the event. Byler's lecture was cosponsored by the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois, NPR Illinois, Global Studies, Department of History, Department of Sociology Anthropology, Division of Student Affairs, International Student Services, and the Diversity Center.

The ECCE Speaker Series Program is part of UIS' ECCE curriculum that offers a program of courses for undergraduates.

The next WACCI-sponsored event will be Kathy Johnson presenting "The Importance of Diplomacy" December 4 at 7:30 pm in the Hoogland Center's Club Room. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Byler received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Washington in 2018 and is a lecturer there. He has also provided expert testimony to the Canadian House of Commons on Uyghur human rights issues.



Tess Peterson/The Lamp

Students of Writing for Change sell baked goods to raise money for art supplies for refugees overseas. **BELOW: English Professor Alison Stachera talks at the Writing for Change event.**

Writing

Continued from Page 1

do it. Inspired by their homework assignment of writing down their feelings of the artwork.

"It perfectly blends art and writing for the greater good," Stachera said.

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, the class all gathered in the A.Lincoln Commons to sell T-shirts and baked goods. The students planned to raise \$200 for the painting done by Jokhader, but they sold \$700 instead. Enough money to buy at least two more paintings, and the rest going to the Stamps of Hope Foundation.

The whole class was at a loss for words when they saw Stachera count out the money they had earned.

"We now have the ability to buy other paintings that we originally couldn't," said Kamden. "It's amazing to know that our hard work paid off."

The mix of hard work and selflessness helped



this small English class donate money toward Syrian refugees who would have never gotten such a thing if it weren't for the students' dedication.

"I didn't even know who Dr. Stachera was, to be honest. But when I received an email from her for Writing for Change, I was speechless," Sawah

said.

Sawah invited Stachera's class to come and present their idea during the gallery talk on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, to inform others about the Writing for Change fundraiser. This helped spread the word of the fundraiser and started a chain reaction of people wanting to participate

and make a change.

"It definitely moved me, and it showed me how as human beings, we are connected," Sawah said.

This one act that these students from a small community college has helped people from across the world. No language needed, emotions are speechless, everyone understands the value of compassion and selflessness.

"I didn't think this would be more than just a homework assignment for them," Stachera said. "It really warms my heart knowing that my students want to make a change in this world. We live in a country where you aren't informed much about other countries' problems. And it makes it really difficult to spread the news, and even with this small act, it does make a change and informs others who would've never known if it weren't for them"

If anyone wishes to donate, they can still contact Stachera at alison.stachera@llcc.edu.

Rogers honored student with scholarship

Former automotive professor died Aug. 19

By Regina Ivy
Editor-in-Chief

When Dick Rogers died, he left a request to donate to a scholarship fund. Not in his own name, but the name of his former student: Ryan Landers.

The Ryan Landers Memorial Scholarship was founded and named after a student who went to Lincoln Land during 2007. He died in a car accident during his time at Lincoln Land. He was just 19 years old.

Lander's parents and Dick established the scholarship for automotive students in his honor in 2008. Dick's family requested that instead of sending flowers to his memorial, contributions should be made to that scholarship fund.

Rogers died Aug. 19, 2019, at the age of 66.

"I know Dick well enough to know that he wouldn't want people to send flowers that are just gonna die and be thrown away," said Joanie Rogers, his wife, and retired foundation office coordinator commented.

Dick Rogers inspired his students. Ryan Landers was no exception to that.

"Ryan was just one of those students that Dick just grew fond of and worked hard. I don't know if Dick kind of saw a glimpse of himself when he was that age," Joanie said.

When Landers was killed, Dick had lost someone who he had thought very highly of, thus the establishment of the LLCC scholarship.

"He would want people to give back to the college that (he) loved so much and to a scholarship that meant a lot to him," Joanie said.

Dick took opportunities he had to be a positive influence on someone else's life. Damon Tanke of the automotive department in LLCC's



Regina Ivy/The Lamp

Automotive professor Damon Tanke shows how a new piece of equipment works in LLCC's Workforce Center. Tanke was inspired by Dick Rogers to come back and teach at Lincoln Land.

Workforce Development Center was once a student of Dick's.

"He was very inspirational to me as a student going off into the industry and Brian (the other automotive instructor). He was the one who really inspired us to do teaching," Tanke said.

The automotive field has lots of opportunities for people going into it. There is a deficit in technicians due to people retiring, and there isn't a lot of people going into the industry. Tanke's advice to the next recipient of the Ryan Landers Scholarship is to seize the opportunities that are being presented in this field, especially now.

He clarified, "There are lots of opportunities out there, but most people think that it's just working on cars, but there's much more than that. You can go on to expand yourself other

than just working in the shop."

The current recipient of the scholarship, Todd Leuelling of Williamsville, is a father. He juggles his family life with his school life. He says that "The Ryan Landers Scholarship has really helped me with my tuition costs."

Although Leuelling never had the opportunity to have Rogers as a professor, there are those that have moved on in the automotive industry who have been impacted by Dick's caring teaching style.

Alicia Davis, a former LLCC Workforce student was once a student of Dick's, she felt as she was close to him, even as a female automotive student.

"Professor Dick Rogers was very important to me." Davis started.

"He really had straightforward, no gray-

area way of reaching out, and that was really important to me, especially as a female student, and someone who has not grown up in the automotive-industry setting. I had to teach myself everything that I knew up to that point, so his straightforward teaching really meant a lot. He just had a really just had a great ability to teach," Davis said.

Karen Sanders, executive director of the scholarship foundation, explained the details of the scholarship.

She said that the scholarship offered to automotive students is valued at \$500. The application will open Dec. 1 and will close March 1. Students who are planning on applying for this scholarship should make sure they are a first-time freshman at LLCC and in good academic standing. This means that they have a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and are taking a minimum of 6 credit hours. There is even a special preference for students who are graduates of Capital Area Career Center's auto tech program.

The scholarship can be applied for once a year. Awards are made for the following academic year.

"He (Ryan) must have touched Dick's heart in some special way because he established the scholarship and named it after him," Sanders remarked.

LLCC Foundation scholarships are competitive. Nearly 400 students applied for foundation scholarships last year.

"Dick never stopped teaching," Joanie commented. "He loved Lincoln Land, it was his home for several years and he had a lot of students that looked up to him. I don't think he ever realized how much he meant to some of his students and how much of an impact he made on their lives. He's always been a hard worker and dedicated to everything that he does."

To learn more about the scholarship or to donate, go to llccfoundation.org.

Loggers men's team will try to bounce back in Shanklin's 2nd season

By Ryan Scott
Assistant Editor

The Loggers are trying to bounce back this season after a 5-24 season last year. This season they hope to improve.

Head Coach Chuck Shanklin has the expectation that they improve. He wants opponents to not be able to look at them as an "easy win" anymore.

Benji Eaker a Sophomore Forward for the Loggers believes the team can win the conference this season. Jordan Brooks a Sophomore Guard said, "Our main expectation for the year is to find a way to get a banner hung in our gym".

On the team this year Shanklin believes the sophomores can step up and help lead the team. He also believes the freshman class could be good but the adjustment from high school can take time.

On the strengths and weaknesses of the team, Shanklin said one of our major strengths is that we're more athletic than we were last year.

We've got some length to us and have some depth as far as the perimeter is concerned. One of our weaknesses is that we don't have the depth in the trenches. Rebounding is a huge concern for us.

Benji Eaker Believes that the strengths are that the team has great attitudes and they are a close group. Jordan Brooks believes the team can cause mismatches for their opponents and that their weakness is that they're a new team and could take a few games to play as a team, but he believes it can be fixed quickly.

Coach Shanklin enters his second season as the Loggers head coach. He reflects on learned last year and what he plans to do in the future years.

"It's been a huge learning experience and continues to be navigating the collegiate athletic landscape," Shanklin says. "I think we've recruited a little bit better and brought in some guys that will help this year and really take off next year. If we can slowly but surely get some much-needed wins, then our recruiting will pick up. If we can get guys moved on and further their careers with that Associates in their hands then it'll be a "win-win" for everyone involved".

The Loggers are currently 0-5, their next home game is Wednesday, December 14th and their regular season ends Feb. 29.

Making a difference

Ron Riggle balances his time as athletic director, baseball coach

By Rebecca Littrel
Lamp writer

You always find your way back home. That saying is all too true for Lincoln Land Athletic Director Ronald Lee "Ron" Riggle Jr.

Riggle has been LLCC's athletic director for 22 years, but before he took on that job and coaching the baseball team, he played baseball here at LLCC.

Riggle grew up in Springfield, attended Springfield High, where he participated in golf and baseball. Graduating in 1986, he continued his athletic and academic career at Lincoln Land, pitching for the loggers from 1986 to 1988.

After LLCC, Riggle attended Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to play baseball and study business.

After working for his father for five years, Riggle became the athletic director in 1997.

"He was a pitching coach for Lincoln Land before he was the head coach," said Loren White, a long-time friend of Riggle.

Riggle was the pitching coach for two years before starting full time at LLCC.

"He coached both of my sons, and I was in his wedding," White said.

Now, Riggle has to balance both coaching as well as being in charge of all athletic programs.

"It's hard sometimes, there is only one of me," Riggle said. "And when I am with baseball, I can only be in one place at a time. But I have great coaches who understand what they need to do to get things done."

Riggle has found the balance between being an athletic director and coach.

"Ron has always cared about his athletes. As a coach, I now see how hard he works to provide the best facilities and opportunities for the athletes," said Softball Head Coach Rachel Wisner.

Wisner played for two years as a Logger and now works beside one of the people who helped her throughout her years at LLCC.

"My favorite part is making a difference in young lives. I obviously love the competition and teaching the game, but making an impact at such an influential time in their lives is so much more important to me than the number of games we win," he said.

Riggle has been very successful over the years with the baseball program. He has been to the national tournament seven times as a coach and won the championship twice in 1994 and 2000. Riggle took last year's baseball team to the NJCAA World Series, finishing in 7th place. The team hopes for another shot at the title this year.



Rebecca Littrel/The Lamp

Lincoln Land Athletic Director Ron Riggle resets the scoreboard at halftime during a mens basketball game on wednesday November 13 2019 in Cass Gym. Riggle who is the head baseball coach often helps out with other ports as part of his job as athletic director.

"Being in the national tournament was an experience like no other, I feel like we became so much closer as a team knowing we were competing for a national championship," said sophomore catcher Josh Graves.

Added Graves: "Coach Riggle obviously played a huge role in what we had going last year. He showed up every day with a smile on his face and a huge plan to get us where we needed to be to compete for a national championship, and the results clearly showed that."

When Sophomore Ben Johnson found out he had to have surgery on

his elbow following his successful freshman season, he said he was not nervous about having to tell Riggle.

"Riggle always does what's best for the school and the person," Johnson said. "Riggle proposed that I take a year off and come back when I recover. Which meant I could keep that year of eligibility so that I could keep playing when I was healthy."

Finding time for all of these responsibilities and having a life at home is something Riggle is all too familiar with. Riggle and his wife, Angie, are raising four children:

Seth, 24; Noah, 22; Connor, 21; and Becca, 13.

Riggle as an athletic director enjoys attending home games for all other sports Lincoln Land offers. Often times, one will find him running the clock or scoreboard for these sports and talking to the athletes during halftime or between games.

"I love my job, making an impact on young lives is a huge part of why I enjoy what I do, seeing athletes succeed in the classroom and on the court or field is so rewarding," Riggle said.

Women's team hopes to sustain success

Coach looks to combine experience with strong freshmen

By Ryan Scott
Assistant Editor

The Loggers finished 27-4 last season and

lost in the 3rd game of the region tournament.

Head coach Chad Jones is entering his 2nd season as the women's coach after previously coaching the men's team. Jones expects a lot from the team this season.

"I expect a lot. This team is capable of doing great things. Can we match last year's record? That's a lofty goal but I definitely like the talent we have."

On the experience that Jones got from last

season "Experience always helps." He believes that he will continue to adapt this season."

Sophomore Forward Hannah Wallen expectations are to give 100 percent and work hard. "Our team motto is 10 in meaning we have 10 toes in this. We're all in this season and we hope that the hard work will pay off in the end and take us all the way to Nationals in March."

On the incoming freshman Jones says the

class is "strong", and on the sophomores, they have a lot of experience. "It all comes down to if they gel together or not"

On the strengths and weaknesses of the team, both Jones and Wallen say the team is quick. Wallen says the team "has a lot of naturally talented players".

The Loggers currently sit at 7-0. Their regular season ends on February 29th and the regional tournament starts March 4th.



elf

In Theaters November 7th

My top 5 holiday movies

By Tess Peterson
Assistant Editor

Cozy blankets, your favorite holiday candle, hot chocolate, and being with your loves ones are all thoughts that come mind when I think

of the holiday and winter season.

So to another thing to add to your list of holiday list of thing to do should certainly be participating in some down time and watching your favorite holiday movies. Here's a list of my top 5.

1. Elf

Another Christmas Standard is the popular Will Farrell film about an elf from the North

Pole who travels to New York City to find his biological father who works in the empire state building. You can catch this classic many times on Freeform as it plays during their 25 days of Christmas.

2. White Christmas

My favorite Christmas movie musical White Christmas is a 1954 classic directed Michael Curtiz starring Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney (George Clooney's aunt), Danny Kaye, and Vera-Ellen. I love this film because it is a classic and perfect to watch on cozy winter night or Christmas Eve.



4. A Christmas Story

Probably the most famous holiday movie of all time is "A Christmas Story". This movie is so beloved that is played all day long starring midnight of Christmas Eve. Staring child actor turned producer (Iron Man), Peter Dinklage is story about Ralphie who wants to a Ryder BB gun for Christmas despite how his parents and teacher feel about it.



3. Miracle On 34th Street

Miracle on 34th street will always be one of favorite films. I feel that is film through is an exception to just Christmas movies, as this film begins in New York City at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. But no worries this movie can be watched all holiday season long as it follows the characters all the way the Christmas Day.



5. How The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

What family doesn't love a Dr. Seuss classic? Whether you were naughty or nice this year this film is guaranteed to fill you with the holiday spirit and with all the different adaptations of this movie you're sure to find the one that suits your family or yourself the best.

World War II veteran shares his story

By Quinn Brown
Lamp writer

Sgt. John Wayne Mayes is a 99-year-old World War II veteran. Mayes was drafted and fought in the Pacific Theater.

"It was alright with me, I was just a kid. I didn't know what was going on," said Mayes.

Mayes, who will turn 100 on April 1, 2020, worked on a ship where he helped lay fiber optic cables between Fuji and the Philippines.

Mayes tried out to be a codebreaker, but said he "didn't like it because

it was too confining,"

Mayes also worked putting telephone wires through the jungles in the South Pacific.

"I had one of those six-by-six Army trucks with four or five guys with equipment putting up wire lines," Mayes said.

After the war, Mayes came back to the states and married Velma Viele.

Viele worked as a dancer for a traveling dance troupe from Chicago.

Mayes and Viele married in September 1946 and had three children Carl, Carleen and James.

They lived in an apartment behind Springfield High School. He would ride his bicycle with Velma on the handlebars and drop her off at her job, and he would then ride to his job.

Mayes worked in many places and owned a couple of businesses after the war.

He owned a Standard Oil filling station on Laurel and an Italian grocery store on Sangamon Avenue; and also worked as an auto mechanic at Studebaker, dump truck driver during the construction of Interstate

55 and truck driver for Matthews Transfer.

In 2012, Carl Mayes, John Mayes' son, took him on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

The changing of the guard at the unknown soldier was very moving for Mayes who said, "I sat and watched them change the guard two or three times."

Mayes went to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum while in D.C.

"We were in line they'd come and get us, take us up to the first in line.

We'd go in right away. Do all of our looking around and then we come out the same door and pass the same people in the line, and it hadn't moved that much," Mayes said.

After his trip with the Honors Flight, Mayes began helping set up for more flights for other veterans. He would have to wake up at 3 a.m. and drive out to Springfield Airport to set up wheelchairs for veterans and come back at 9 p.m. to set up chairs for when they came back, so people could have a homecoming for them.