

Soccer may be cut

Board of Trustees to decide sport's fate on Feb. 25

By Ryan Wilson
Editor

SPRINGFIELD – Lincoln Land's soccer program is facing elimination. The Lincoln Land Community College Board of Trustees will discuss and possibly vote to

cut the program at the Feb. 25 board meeting. The college said cutting the sport would "better align" college athletics with Title IX and offer "significant cost savings." LLCC currently has 60 men and 47 women athletes. Title IX is a federal law passed in 1972 requiring colleges to offer equal athletic opportunities for men and women. Soccer has a 21-man roster, and only six will be returning for 2015-16, according to the board agenda. "That, combined with an annual large attrition of players and a constant need to rebuild the team roster are the reasons we are asking

the board to look more closely at the sport," says the agenda for Feb. 25's board meetings. LLCC spent \$133,515 on soccer last year, according to a 2014 report on LincolnLandLoggers.com. That is the third lowest of any sport. The college spent \$10,990 on soccer game-day expenses last year, the lowest of any sport. That cost includes lodging, meals, transportation, uniforms, equipment and referees. Lincoln Land Community College has had soccer since the late 1970s, the State Journal-Register reported. Lincoln Land has not cut a sport since 1992, when men's golf, tennis, cross country, track and women's tennis were

dropped. LLCC now has six sports: men's basketball, baseball and soccer, and women's softball, volleyball and basketball. This is the second time in the last three years that the soccer team has been in jeopardy, according to the SJ-R. Lincoln Land's board of trustees had the same discussion in January 2013, after Lesley Frederick, vice president of student services, brought a memorandum questioning soccer to the board's attention.

Soccer, continued on Page 3



Ryan Mazrim/Lamp photos

Students are dancing and playing with the balloons at the Homecoming dance. About 125 people were at the dance.

Homecoming excitement

The week featured basketball trivia, turtle apples, wars and wizards.

By Steven Hoskins
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – Orchestrated by Student Life for Lincoln Land students, Homecoming 2015 offered a festive myriad of events during the week of Feb. 9 to 14. Students waged war for pizza, made shirts they may never wear and ruined their diets by turning healthy apples into junk food. After the Homecoming dance held Saturday on Feb. 14, some slept until noon

after dancing like it was the '70s.

PENNY WARS

The 'Penny Wars' were held to raise money for the Grow Beyond Fund. The Veterans Club won, despite strong opposition from the Honors Program.

The Veterans Club earned 5,000 positive points and 306 negative points. The Honors Club was a close second with 4,642 points and 206 negative. Student United Way had 2,741 positive points and 87 nega-

tive, while Phi Theta Kappa had 382 positive and 830 negative.

The war raised a total of \$239.50. "It took about six hours to count the coins with the aid of a coin-counting machine," Amber Berman, Student Life program assistant. The 'Penny Wars' were part of a campaign by the Lincoln Land Foundation to raise \$2.5 million for scholarships, classroom equipment and more.

'70s TRIVIA

On Monday, students gathered

around a poster board with 19 faces from the '70s. They were trying to recall the names of some of the decade's biggest stars. After wrecking their brains, students blatantly asked others or turned to Google. It would seem the reward of candy didn't warrant a high level of honor.

TYE-DYE T-SHIRTS

On Tuesday, students made tie-dye shirts for the week leading up to the Homecoming

Homecoming, Continued on Page 3

Lincoln Land loses a friend

Kai Lundstrom dies at age 20

Ryan Wilson
Editor

SPRINGFIELD — Kai "Kai's Ketchup" Lundstrom, a Lincoln Land Community College sophomore known as sweet, unique, blunt, goofy, kind and caring, died Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, at his Auburn home. He was 20.

Kai was perfect. There was nothing bad about this kind soul.

Also an inventor, a gamer and a good friend, this was Kai's fourth semester at Lincoln Land. He also graduated from Auburn High School in 2013.

"Kai's Ketchup" was known his love of ketchup, which is what earned him the nickname.

He was known for having a coniving, toothy smile that looked as if he was conspiring against you. He never was.

He would always laugh at any joke. Funny or not, his face would turn blood red overtime. It was a silent laugh.

Kai was quiet. Quiet as a mouse, as the saying goes. But his words and the meaning behind them were loud. His words spoke his actions: care and kindness toward you. He was blunt, yes, though he truly cared about everyone. He once had a long conversation with his pastor at the Auburn United Methodist Church, Brian Caughlin, and left by saying, "I thought he'd never stop."

But Kai never tried to hurt anyone's feeling. Everyone was his friend. No matter who you were. He was also a creator. A builder. A hidden genius.

Kai made Lincoln Land's Vice President's List in the fall of 2014. He excelled in high school, especially with mechanics. He was studying to become a chemical engineer.

He built his own virtual reality

Kai, Continued on Page 3

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

Editor
Ryan Wilson

**Assistant Editor/
Visual Editor**
Jordan Minder

Writers
Tyler Allison
Roman Ballenger
Steven Hoskins
Ryan Mazrim
Dominique Lamp
Rhonda Leonard
Mike Whitlaw
Ryan Wilson

Photographers
Ryan Mazrim
Jordan Minder

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 2014 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 or 217-786.2311.

Free community college?

Yes ... free tuition will help to further educate Americans

By Rhonda Leonard
Staff Writer



President Barack Obama's college tuition proposal will give many Americans a great start to their college experience. His proposal will increase graduation rates and place more people into the middle class. However, there is a lot of opposition to his plan. Helping every American with the ability to start community college off tuition free should go a long way.

If a student is allowed to attend community college tuition free, the hope is they will have more successful rates of graduation and continuation of higher education. President Obama's proposal addresses quality and reforms so ensure student success, but does not include extra funding to obtain these efforts.

We're not just talking about anyone; we're talking about the future educators and leaders of America. We most definitely need to invest in our future. Requiring students themselves pay for a portion of their college tuition expenses can help ensure they continue in their education. However, asking a student to pay for their entire community college tuition is only aiding in many students' decisions not to attend community college due to

rising costs.

It is OK to require students to pay for a small portion of their community college expenses. Society at large should be required to pay for a much larger portion of that educational expense in order to ensure an overall better society.

We need to not only think about how students can afford college, but the bigger picture of how to make college more affordable. There is a big difference in affording college vs. affordable college expenses that we need to address and fix in order to protect our future.

We need to encompass all Americans previously excluded from obtaining a community college degree due to affordability. We as a society must invest more time and money to help build our future generation with education and opportunities.

Rhonda Leonard can be reached at rleonard@llcc.edu.

No ... free tuition will only erode the value of higher education

By Ryan Mazrim
Staff Writer

While the idea of "free education" at community colleges is an honorable endeavor, the fact of the matter is we live in a world of scarcity and limited resources and people scrambling to reach the next rung on the ladder.

As many of us have discovered, nothing in life is free, and more than likely if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is -- especially if its going to cost \$70 billion in taxpayer money. Free college degrees are exactly that; too good to be true.

The laws of supply and demand apply here and best describe the potential downside to the proposal. Offering free education would reduce the value of the college degree as whole while simultaneously holding taxpayers financially responsible for it.

Not more than a decade or two ago, having an associates degree separated you from the pack of potential hires and certainly from those with high school diplomas or less. This often was reason enough to motivate those who wanted those better paying jobs to work the extra hours to invest in themselves.

With the influx of recent Associate degree graduates to the job market, employers will consider it a prerequisite more than an accom-

plishment, much like a high school diploma is now.

With the current state of the job market, in order to remain a desirable candidate for a job, a four-year degree is preferred to typically even get a call back for that second interview that could put you into the middle class or better. There is a certain level of pride and feeling of accomplishment for graduates who look back on their long path of academia to get to where they are at now.

That raises the question: How much more charitable do we have to be before we just become a society that enables and further promotes an "everybody gets a trophy" mentality?

It doesn't make us a cold, callous society that doesn't believe in helping those less fortunate. The concern that we should have is that students drop out of community colleges at a fairly high rate already, it would not be unreasonable to assume those numbers would rise, thus making the cost outweigh the benefit.

Some may contend that education is a right, not a privilege. By the same logic -- health care, food, transportation, etc. -- should be free, as well.

Ryan Mazrim can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Community college myths don't hold up

By Dominique Lamp
Staff writer

The quality of education is "cheap" at community colleges. No one who goes to a community college will be successful.

Those are just two of the myths about community colleges that are not true.

Sometimes, community colleges get a bad reputation when compared to larger schools. Or as an educational provider in general.

The truth is, many of the rumors you hear about community college are based on assumptions. They are not true.

Here are a few of the most common myths about community colleges:

1. Students go to community college because they weren't accepted to a four-year university.

Although this may be true, most students choose to attend a community college for a number of reasons. For example, the price difference between, the location

or having to adjust to the college atmosphere.

Brice Magowan, a Lincoln Land student, received the presidential scholarship to attend Drake University in Iowa, but he chose LLCC. It is a bit cheaper.

"Community colleges provide an affordable and/or a convenient means of earning college credit prior to enrolling, or even while enrolled, in a four-year institution," said Nathan Bell, director at the Counsel of Graduate Schools.

2. The classes are cheaper. So the education quality is "cheap" and not respected by employers.

Although classes at a community college are cheaper, the education is still well-respected by employers. Most community colleges offer only an associate degree, while four-year schools offer a bachelor's. Even then, students must take general education courses.

Compared to the state's four-year universities' costs for tuition and fees, Lincoln Land is a bargain.

For two years of full-time studies

at LLCC, it costs \$6,210 in tuition and fees. But at a four-year, public university, it costs \$25,000 to more than \$30,000 for tuition and fees.

3. Students at community colleges will not be successful.

Here is a list of successful individuals who attended community college:

- Walt Disney, Metropolitan Junior College in Missouri
- Gwendolyn Brooks, Wilson Junior College
- Ross Perot, Texarkana Junior College
- James Dean, Santa Monica College before transferring to UCLA
- Clint Eastwood, Los Angeles City College
- Tom Hanks, Chabot College
- Sarah Palin, North Idaho and Matanuska-Susitna Colleges
- Eddie Murphy, Nassau Community College

College success is not defined by where you got to school. Success comes from within oneself, and how far one person is willing to go to make his or her dreams become

a reality!

4. Community College classes are not transferable.

Transferring classes from a community college is simple, if a student is organized and has an educational plan. Lincoln Land has many advisers and resources to help students do so.

LLCC advisers are very helpful in following a program of study. An adviser will ensure a student's educational plan is more focused and organized.

5. Community college is more for technical educational jobs.

Many community colleges offer classes for most degree options and career paths, as they offer classes for technical and vocational jobs.

Many students who attend a community college to save money, while also continuing to take their core undergraduate classes.

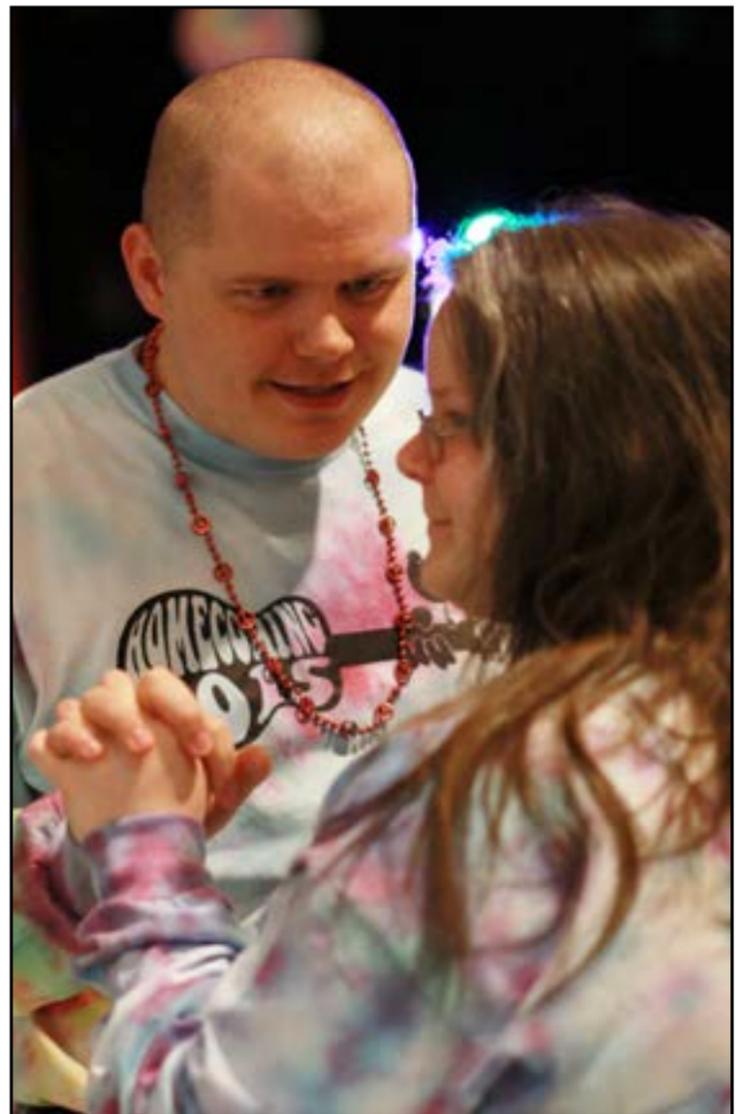
Dominique Lamp can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Visit us online at

www.TheLampOnline.com



Top: Two students pose for a picture at the homecoming dance on Saturday, Feb. 25. The dance had a '70s theme. Right: Two students dance at the Homecoming dance wearing their tie-dye T-shirts.



Homecoming

Continued from page 1

One might wonder how many would wear them in public. But the Homecoming Court had to wear its shirts on Saturday during the men's basketball game.

EDD FAIRMAN: WIZARD OF SORTS

On Wednesday, students gathered in the A.Lincoln Commons as magician/comedian Edd Fairman. Fairman wowed his audience with cardtricks, mind reading and daring acts.

During the show, he played a dangerous game of 90s Trivia Pursuit in which every wrong answer from his volunteers was a chance at a spike to the hand.

He astounded a volunteer, a student known only as Stretch, by showing him a series of sleight-of-hand moves that eventually led to a dollar from Stretch appearing in a kiwi.

EXPRESS YOUR PEACE, LOVE AND APPRECIATION

On Thursday, student made gifts for their favorite teachers at Lincoln Land Community College. Teachers then received handmade cards and goody bags.

TURTLE APPLES

On Friday the 13th, which some say is the most day, students ruined their New Year's resolution. They indulged in Turtle Apples covered in caramel, chocolate, peanuts and various candy.

HOMECOMING DAY: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

It was finally the big day on Saturday. It was also Valentine's Day.

Students started the day with the women's basketball game against the Lincoln College Lynx. The Loggers took a commanding lead and won the game, 72-39.

"It's been a hard year, been a couple hard years," said a parent from the Lynx. "That's why we cheer every basket."

HOMECOMING DAY: MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men basketball game proved

very exciting. The Loggers scored first and quickly took and held the lead throughout the first half.

In the second half, Lincoln put the pressure on. The team easily scored the first basket and tied up the game at 41. At 67-67, the game went into overtime. But the Lynx took the win, 72-79.

HOMECOMING DANCE

Donning a stylish hat, Derek Copping said of the dance and his nomination or the homecoming court was "Awesome sauce!"

About 125 people attended the dance, said Michelle Burger, the grand master of the homecoming event and Student Life's student engagement coordinator.

Student came out to dance, gamble and drink nonalcoholic beverages at the Homecoming Dance.

Students walked around and mingled, got their picture taken, laughed at some awkward dancing and cheered for the homecoming court. This made it a wonderful night and well worth braving the cold.

"We came out because there is nothing like this in Jacksonville,"

said Sarah Brown, a Jacksonville native. "We (she and her sister) came to support the Jacksonville nominee for Homecoming."

Toward the middle of the night, the winners of the homecoming court were announced. Brown was happy to see one of the Jacksonville nominees win the king: Nathaneal Herbert.

Amanda Monke was queen.

Herbert and Monke said they never expected to win, but he said it was a great honor to be nominated among such a great group of people. He was

also honored to win the crown for Jacksonville.

The other nominees for king were Tyler Borski and Conor Ford. For queen, the nominees were Annie Lochmann, Emily Tomlin and Lindsay Floyd.

Before ending the night Burger said she felt everything had been a great success.

Burger said she was happy to see the students mingling and blending while having a fun time together.

Steven Hoskins can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Kai

Continued from page 1

mask. It had a black eye piece with white straps for his head.

This wasn't a normal eye mask, though. It projected the game screen (like 'Call of Duty') to his eyes, and if he turned his head, the screen also turned.

He also built a hand from only Legos. It had pieces for fingers, knuckles and a palm. The hand was life-size, too.

Also, life-size was his love of technology and the latest gadgets. Kai would often make trips to Best Buy to see what was new. He had an iPhone, a laptop and an Xbox.

Kai was an avid 'Call of Duty' fan. He would play this game with his friends. He could talk all day about it, if you wanted.

But 'if you wanted' was the key in his life. If you wanted help, he would help you. If you didn't want to do something, he wouldn't make you do it.

He was all about making friends. Making you happy. Seeing you smile, laugh. He would never hurt anyone.

He was always himself. If you knew him, you knew the real Kai.

As a high school and Lincoln Land classmate of Kai's, I can say that he taught me how to be myself.

We were in band together since the fifth grade through high school graduation. He played the trumpet and tuba. We spent hours on end together at band rehearsals and competitions. If I needed help or even just a laugh, he would be there.

Kai was not your average high school, though. Kids often put fitting in ahead of being themselves. Some kids will go above and beyond to have a 'cool' friend. Kai wouldn't. He was always himself, and he never changed.

Kai was a perfect example of individuality. He taught everyone to be himself or herself. If you treat people with respect, they'll respect you back.

Kai is survived by his parents, Tony and Tracy Nelson Lundstrom, his grandparents, Chuck and Sue Campton of Auburn. He has one sister, Katlin Lundstrom of Akron, Ohio.

Ryan Wilson can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.



From left to right: Ben Pearce, Kai Lundstrom, Zien Hammer, Greg Coffman and front Ryan Wilson pose for a band picture. Lundstrom died on Feb. 5, 2015 at the age of 20.

Ryan Wilson/Lamp photos

Soccer

Continued from page 1

The SJ-R reported Lynn Whalen, Lincoln Land's executive director of public relations and marketing, said in 2013 that the soccer players would have kept their scholarships, if the sport had been cut.

The college fell under public pressure and decided not to cut the sport.

T.J. Marble, then the soccer team's head coach, left shortly after the decision not to cut the sport.

"We now find soccer to be in a position which allows us consideration of cost reduction," said the agenda for the board meeting on Feb. 25.

Lincoln Land's soccer team went 7-12 this season. The Loggers won only one of their last 10 games of the season.

They were 15-4 in 2013, when they were ranked 19th in the NJCAA Division 1.

The board meeting on Feb. 25 starts at 5:15 in the R.H. Stephens Room (Menard Hall). It is open to the public.

Ryan Wilson can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.



The 'Laurel Girls' read a story together in on another's company. Nicole Barks, Brenna Byerly and Margo Mriscin, women in their 20s associated with Knox Knolls Free Methodist, moved into a house on East Laurel Street in order to minister to the East Side neighborhood.

Ministering to the East Side

Women move to 'Laurel House' to build community

By Tyler Allison
Lamp Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – Many citizens have long considered the East Side of Springfield a “rough part of town.” The East Side has long been plagued by stereotypes and assumptions of rampant crime and drug usage. While many people are trying to move away from the East Side, three ladies are doing the exact opposite: They’re moving in.

Nicole Barks, Brenna Byerly and Margo Mriscin are looking to disprove the common stereotypes surrounding these neighborhoods.

Tyler Boyer, the head pastor at Knox Knolls Free Methodist Church, and church member, Tammy Cox, understood the women’s vision. Boyer began reaching out to the community for a house that somebody would be willing to donate to the church.

He asked a parishioner who works at Wells Fargo about a house, and a short time later, the bank reached out about a home it was looking to donate.

On Nov. 14, the church received the deed to a house.

Located in the heart of Springfield’s East Side, the “Laurel House,” named for its location in 2200 block of East Laurel Street, began renovations right away.

Church members were able to finish the renovations for the home in fewer than four months, thanks to grants from the church’s conference and private donations. Barks, Byerly, and Mriscin moved into their three-bedroom house on Jan.

31.

On Feb. 7, Knox Knolls Free Methodist Church held a dedication service with more than 70 people, including family, friends, neighbors and Gateway Conference superintendents.

All three women, who range in age from 22 to 25, have at least part-time jobs to pay for utilities, food, etc., while also trying to develop relationships with their neighbors.

Byerly is still excited about this journey, despite having to work on top of building relationships, “When I am finished with work, I am excited to come home and spend time with people.”

The “Laurel Girls” have been living together for only a few weeks, but they are very excited to be in this position building relationships and community. Now, the “Laurel House” is a safe place where kids can receive attention, prayer and support.

For Valentine’s Day, the trio invited kids to their house to create cards and crafts to give to family members and friends.

One of the young women was also able to build a relationship with a student that needs a ride home from night classes due to buss schedule conflicts.

The girls are also trying to offer an “Open House” on Sundays. This is where families are welcome to spend time in fellowship and relationship building.

Although the girls have free reign on how to build the relationships with the other members of the community, they have regular discus-

sions with Boyer and Cox.

Boyer is in charge of keeping the sanity and the relationships of the women. Cox is in charge of the relationship building outside of the house.

“We don’t really feel unsafe,” Barks said, when asked if she ever fears her safety. “When people know who you are and what you’re doing, so far the result has just been respect and encouragement.”

Due to the rapport that the women are building with neighbors, they said they believe that those relationships are the gateway to safety.

“It is a lot harder to steal from someone that you know,” Byerly said.

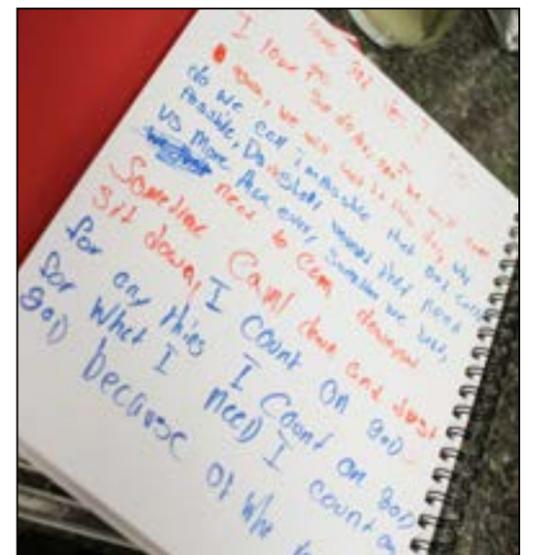
Mriscin also said that they reached out to the patrolling police officers to inform them of what they are doing.

“God is the reason this whole thing (the Laurel House) exists,” Barks said.

Tyler Allison
can be reached at
lamp@llcc.edu
or 217-786-2311.
Ryan Wilson



Original artwork made by one of the Laurel House children.



Above: Lyrics written by a visiting child the girls have kept.

At Left: Artwork made for the 'Laurel Girls' by one of the children.



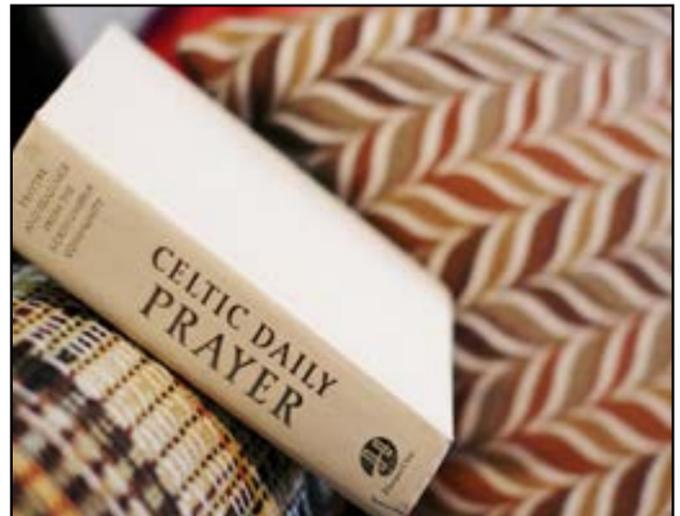
At Left: Margo Mriscin, Nicole Barks, and Brenna Byerly hold items of sentimental value.

Below: Barks and Byerly enjoy one another's company on the living room sofa.



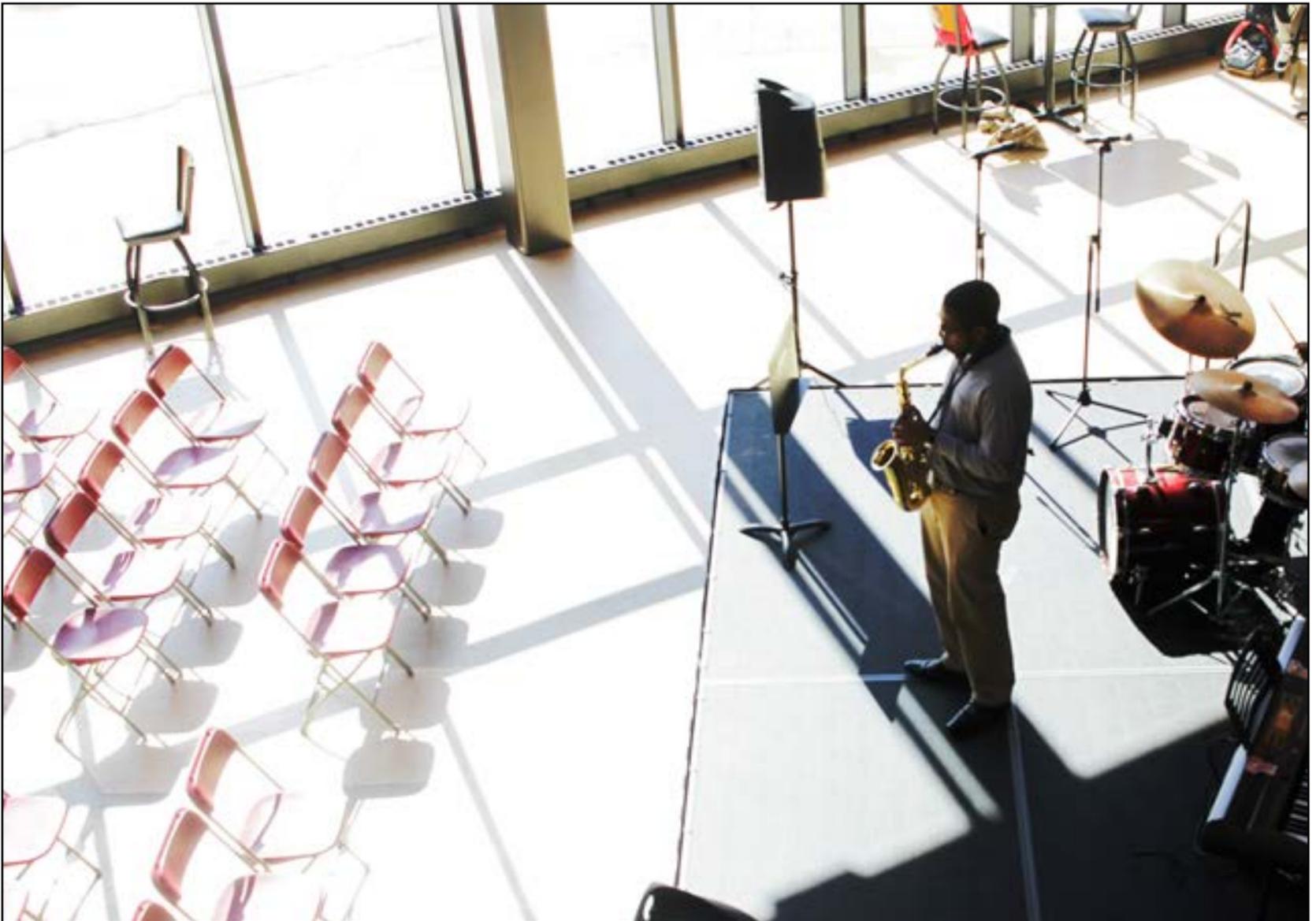
Above: Byerly and Barks read aloud a story they tell to the children.

Right: The girls gather to listen to Brenna read aloud a story.



One of the girls' many books set on the couch to be read.

Photos by
Ryan Mazrim
and Jordan
Minder



Jordan Minder/Lamp staff photo

The Kenny Humble Trio performs in the A.Lincoln Commons on Monday, Feb. 23, as part of 'A Musical Celebration' during African-American History Month.

Honoring diversity

Lincoln Land offers variety of cultural activities for African-American History Month

By Roman Ballenger
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – In honor of African-American History Month, Lincoln Land Community College has created several events to display the rich history that this cultural community has to offer for the college and world.

Tejumol Ologboni, a black culture enthusiast, was the first performer of the month.

Ologboni came to perform for more than 30 students on Monday, Feb. 2, in the A.Lincoln Commons. He had several acts with musical instruments that relate to the black culture.

"I was not expecting much when I initially walked by, but the loud music certainly caught my attention," said student Justice Council.

Several of the students at the show were excited for this show, although many were

not familiar with the traditions that Ologboni performed and discussed.

"Besides my friends and schoolmates who are African-American, I never knew so much about the different cultures, and how they affect us," said student Sydney Beck.

LLCC alum Kenneth Humble and the 'Kenny Humble Trio' also did a 'Musical Celebration' on Feb. 23. They did a "A Musical Celebration" in the A.Lincoln Commons.

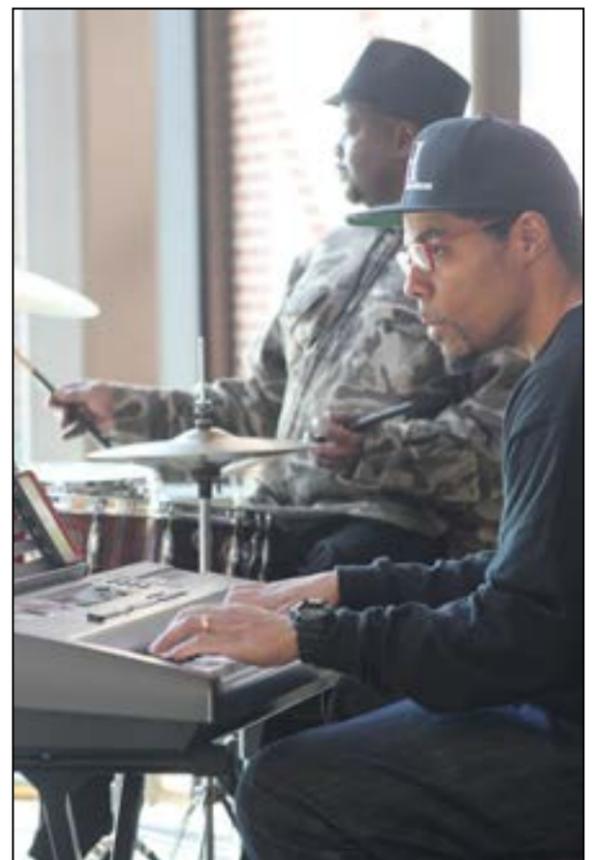
Besides music, stories were told to the audience that gave way to many questions from the audience. Many of the stories were experiences from his personal life and adapted from people he knows.

Students have shown enthusiasm for the events at Lincoln Land and the opportunity to learn about different cultures.

Roman Ballenger can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Upcoming

African-American Food and Vendor Day: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25, in A.Lincoln Commons. This free event gives students the opportunity to sample African-American food, see exhibits from black entrepreneurs and enjoy "Saxophone and African-American Poetry Improvisations," performed by retired LLCC law professor and jazz musician Virgil Rhodes.



Learning is two-way street

Softball team members gain valuable lessons while tutoring schoolchildren

By Ryan Wilson
Editor

SPRINGFIELD — Lincoln Land Community College's softball team has gone back to elementary school, where it is learning discipline and patience.

The Loggers are learning this from 18 kindergarteners through fifth-graders at Black Hawk Elementary School. These students are homeless or low-income. Some of these children do not have supportive families or food.

"Afterward, we (the Loggers) appreciate things a little more," said Taylin Balding, an infielder for Lincoln Land.

Five to seven members of LLCC's softball team helps tutor these students with reading or math from 2:20 to 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the South Side Christian Church on MacArthur Boulevard.

This is possible through the Compass Program. It is a nonprofit organization that helps homeless and low-income students with schoolwork, food, supplies and enrichment. It assists students from Black Hawk, Dubois, Graham, Harvard Park, Hazel Dell, Matheny-Winthrow and McClernard elementary schools and Washington Middle School.

"Compass works on educating the children as whole persons and

recognizes that social, emotional and life skills contribute to overall well-being and academic success," says the Compass Program's website, service2families.org/compass. "Compass aims to help all participants perform at or above grade level in school."

The Black Hawk program is also partnered with the Faith Lutheran Church.

"I think it (the Compass Program) is nice to have our girls (the softball team) — especially the ones that are going into education — to get a little hands-on (experience)," said John Marsaglia, LLCC's head softball coach and retired middle principal. "(They) kind of get a feel for what they're going into."

He said there are times in which the children act up.

Infielder/outfielder Stephanie Hunt said there was, for example, one time when a boy was frustrated that he had to clean his plate.

"I was trying to get a kid to clean up, and he didn't want to," she said. "He was running around the cafeteria, and he wouldn't clean up his plate. Teachers had to run him down."

There are also times in which the children don't want to do math, Balding said.

So, Shana Waldinger said, they have "math games." Waldinger is

'Afterward, we appreciate things a little more.'

**Taylin Balding,
Loggers softball infielder about tutoring**

Compass's volunteer coordinator and site director for the Black Hawk program.

She said the games are fun activities that help the students learn the relationships between numbers, multiplication and division.

"It's a little harder than I expected," said infielder Stephanie Hunt, who wants to become a teacher.

The Lincoln Land students also help the kids in relays and Zumba. Balding said these activities were to wear off some of the kids' energy.

"Yes, they (the kids) are rambunctious," Waldinger said, jokingly. "It feels like more than 18 (kids)."

Hunt said her favorite experience with the kids was Christmas. Some kids got bikes and clothes from donations.

The Compass Program hosts a 'Tree of Wishes' every year at the White Oaks Mall. The program has a Christmas tree that holds Christmas wishes of each child. People can take those lists and buy those presents.

"They were so thankful," she said. "A lot of them said they wouldn't get anything on Christmas, which was kind of sad. They were excited for the toys they got."

The Loggers started tutoring the students in October. Feb. 25 and March 4 will be their last days helping the students, as the softball team's season started Feb. 20.

"(Black Hawk) The students think it's cool that adults (volunteers) come, but really love college students," Waldinger said.

Waldinger said the Black Hawk students recently made "Thank You" cards for the softball team. Same kids, she said, wrote, "You're my favorite volunteer," to a softball player, despite there being 26 other volunteers.

"It's just cute going through cards and seeing, 'You're my favorite volunteer,' and all these funny things," she said. "It's kind of funny to me. ... But they (the children) love the college students."

Marsaglia said this experience helps teach the softball players the importance of having a supportive family.

"The purpose (the Compass Program) of this is to provide both academic and activities for the kids," said Marsaglia. "So these guys (the softball team) tend to be as much of a role model, if anything. Because the kids will look up to them and listen, hopefully. Now they come back to me and tell me stories about, 'Oh, man, last night's kids were ...'"

This is the second-straight year Lincoln Land's softball team has helped tutor kids through the Compass Program. LLCC's volleyball and 'Loggers for Christ' also help. 'Loggers for Christ' is a club for athletes in which they perform community service.

The volleyball team works with the children during a 45-minute enrichment period every Wednesday. The kids learn about self-confidence, self-esteem and bullying.

"For me, I love seeing the kids every week and seeing the joy that they bring in Compass," Waldinger said. "But in particular, as the volunteer coordinator, I love the way it affects our volunteers. I love that different community partners come together."

Ryan Wilson can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Work for THE LAMP

The Lamp is searching for talented individuals to leave their mark on the college. Here are some of the opportunities that might be perfect for you:

- Editor
- Assistant Editor
- Online Editor
- Writer
- Sports Writer
- Copy Editor
- Opinion Writer
- Ad Sales
- Designer
- Photographer

Applications and interviews will be scheduled in the next few weeks for the 2015-16 newspaper. Email lamp@llcc.edu or contact Tim McKenzie at timothy.mckenzie@llcc.edu or (217) 786-4656.



Students get chance to schmooz

By Mike Whitlaw
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD -- It was noon and about to begin the opening moments of 'Schmoozfest 2015.' The whimsically named event was coordinated, promoted and conducted by Joanie Rogers.

Rogers is the coordinator for the LLCC Foundation and Alumni Services.

'Schmoozfest' was by reservations only, and it showed. There were five tables each with five to seven guests. Only a few seats were empty.

Collectively, there were some mighty interesting life stories around our table.

At my table, there were three students and a business "hostess."

Katie Hageman was our business executive. She was a former LLCC student, who went to Illinois State University. She graduated and then entered the teaching profession.

The story that brought her to our table is very compelling.

Hageman enjoyed teaching, but also liked the interaction of a sales representative and retail sales. It was at her part-time job as a retail sales clerk that a regional recruiter for Horace Mann talked with her about an opportunity at the insurance company. Hageman said the recruiter told her that the company's



Submitted photo

Students and local guests network during Schmoozfest 2015. The event, offered by the LLCC Foundation and Alumni Services, gave students the chance to learn from area business leaders.

owner was retiring soon. The owner had successful the business for 40 years.

To Hageman, this was an amazing coincidence, as her father was a Horace Mann Agency owner.

He had also been in the business for 40 years and was preparing to retire.

When she asked about the retiring owner's name, it was indeed her father.

The regional recruiter was from Nebraska and had just recently moved to the Springfield area. As the regional vice president, the recruiter knew the company's owner, but not, Katie. Hageman and her father had

Leadership Series

Schmoozfest qualified as Student Life Leadership Series event. Two more events in that series remain. They are:

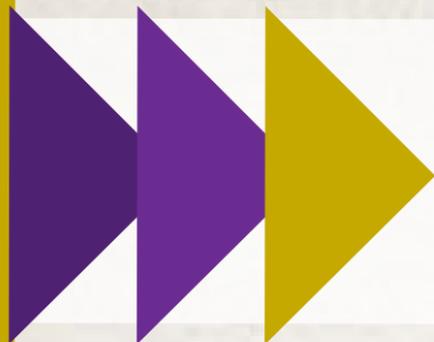
■ **Know the C.O.D.E. presentation:** Noon to 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 3rd, in the R. H. Stephens Room. Deadline to register is Thursday, Feb. 26. This session will present student leaders with a firm foundation of practices to enhance their abilities to market at their colleges. The C.O.D.E. aims to improve marketing efforts.

■ **Student Government Association Informational Session:** 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, R. H. Stephens Room. Come ask questions with the current Student Government Association (SGA) to inquire about running for an SGA officer or student trustee position.

never pushed her to enter his business before.

This happened more than five years ago. Katie now runs her father's agency and an additional office her efforts have added to her agency. She affirmed her father had assured her that he and the recruiter had not double-teamed her.

Mike Whitlaw can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.



In partnership with Lincoln Land Community College

BACHELOR'S DEGREES FOR WORKING ADULTS IN DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD

- One night per week, 5:30 – 9:30 for five weeks supplemented by online learning
- Only \$275 / credit hour
- Flexible – take five weeks off if you need to, then step back in
- Nine start dates per year

Degrees available in:

Business Administration

Criminal Justice

Health Services Administration

Liberal Arts

Organizational Leadership*

Entrepreneurship*

*requires earned AAS degree



abe.lincolncollege.edu/springfield | 217-717-9280 | ABEinfo@lincolncollege.edu