diploma. From there, we hit the ground running,” said Nicole Thompson, COTC admissions representative for the Knox campus.

In fall of 2013, three juniors from Mount Vernon High School and five juniors from Centerburg High School began taking classes at COTC. These students enrolled in a college schedule including upper level science and math courses with other COTC students, while still finishing the day in time to participate in their after school activities and to hold part-time jobs.

Prior to enrolling in the Knox Initiative, many participants had a common concern. “At first I was hesitant because as a sophomore in high school, all you hear about from your upperclassmen friends is this high school experience that you don’t want to miss out on,” said Megan Ryan, Centerburg High School, “probably the biggest decision for me was do I really want to leave this sheltered high school bubble that we all have, and miss out on the experience by going and taking these college classes.”

Paige Wilt, Mount Vernon High School, explained, “I was involved in different activities, and I figured if I left I would be very distant from my friends, and I wouldn’t be very involved in my activities anymore. But I still went to all the Friday night football games and basketball games, and I enjoyed it. And I didn’t lose any friends from joining this program.”

The Knox Initiative gave high school students an opportunity to step out of the traditional high school setting and enter a diverse learning atmosphere. “It’s really interesting having people who have different life

This spring, the first cohort of the Central Ohio Technical College Knox County Initiative graduated with Associate of Science degrees, prior to graduating from high school. The Knox Initiative is a partnership between COTC and Knox County schools where participating students can earn credit towards their high school diploma and an Associate of Science degree from COTC at the same time.

“The students, their parents and the school districts are taking great pride in the accomplishment of these students.”

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.
President, Central Ohio Technical College


Continued on page 6
As we close another successful academic year, I am pleased to announce Central Ohio Technical College has received official notification from the Higher Learning Commission of our continued mid-cycle accreditation. Accreditation means quality and our continuing accreditation from the HLC is an assurance to the public that COTC remains mission-focused to provide a quality education to students while also planning for the future. We are excited with the outcome of this mid-cycle comprehensive evaluation process and are already beginning to implement the visiting team’s recommendations to ensure that we continue to advance quality—which is, after all, the intent of the reaccreditation process.

I am also proud of this campus’ continued commitment to sustainability. Both Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University at Newark have received recognition from American Electric Power (AEP) for demonstrating commitment to energy efficiency and the environment through participation in AEP Ohio’s savings incentives programs. This continues COTC’s commitment to environmental stewardship and energy efficiency, demonstrated when Ariel Hall, the COTC Knox Campus in Mount Vernon, achieved Gold level LEED certification through United States Green Building Council, becoming the only LEED-Gold certified building in Knox County.

Central Ohio Technical College continues to innovate and lead the way with its Knox Initiative program. Under the leadership of Teri Holder, vice president of extended campuses and the Gateway and Nicole Thompson, admissions representative, eight Knox County High School students earned their Associate of Science degrees from COTC prior to their high school graduation. The Knox Initiative has been a life changing opportunity for these eight students from Mount Vernon and Centerburg High Schools and without a doubt a successful initiative for your Central Ohio Technical College.

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.
President

Groundbreaking Held for Facilities Operations Building

An estimated 70 people braved the single-digit temperatures on Tuesday, February 24th to witness the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Facilities Operations Building at The Ohio State University at Newark (Ohio State Newark) and Central Ohio Technical College (COTC). Following the ceremony, attendees heard comments from campus administrators inside the LeFevre Hall gallery.

“The development of this new building is aligned with the Newark Campus Framework Plan, which includes plans to further develop that part of the campus,” stated Brian Boehmer, superintendent of facilities and operations. This will be the first building constructed in what is considered the ‘south meadow’ of the campus.

The 15,000 square-foot facility will replace approximately 9,000 square feet of grounds-maintenance operations currently located in Adena Hall. The framework plan includes future expansion of Adena to allow for recreation, health/wellness amenities and other anticipated campus needs.

According to Boehmer, the new Facilities Operations building will house maintenance trades (mechanical, plumbing, electrical and carpentry) and grounds operations (shop areas, tool/equipment storage, service bays) as well as general campus storage, a conference room, locker rooms, and a Facilities staff break room. “The campus intends to seek LEED certification for the project, in keeping with our commitment to sustainability,” stated Boehmer.

The construction is expected to cost approximately $3.65 million, which is supported through state and local funding and expenses are shared between Ohio State Newark and COTC.
Three New Faculty Hired

Central Ohio Technical College welcomes three new members to its full-time faculty: James Schrader, Maey Gharbiah and James Ellis; each with a unique skillset to offer their respective departments.

Maey Gharbiah, Ph.D., joins the natural sciences department from Arizona. Gharbiah has over a decade of laboratory research experience, and brings to the classroom hands-on experience from having worked in a professional laboratory environment.

James Schrader joins the accounting technology department with almost 30 years of experience serving in the Columbus police force. Using the knowledge he gained during his distinguished record, Schrader intends to offer accounting students his unique insight into uncovering fraud and criminal financial irresponsibility within financial organizations.

James Ellis comes to COTC from Lamar State College-Orange in Texas, where he served as the business management program director for over a decade. Ellis is a native Ohioan and graduate of The Ohio State University who seeks to help business management students develop into professional and successful business leaders.

The business management technology program has a diverse curriculum that allows for students to choose their area of focus. Choices include entrepreneurship, marketing and sales, and human resources. COTC’s accounting technology program prepares students for a wide range of possibilities, from specializing in financial management to forensic auditing. The natural science department offers courses useful to students enrolled in COTC’s many science and associate’s degree programs.

Arny and Imhof selected for Roueche Excellence Awards

The League for Innovation in the Community College has selected Jennifer Arny, assistant professor, human services and Howard Imhof, director, information and technology services for Central Ohio Technical College, to receive the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award.

Arny has been with COTC since 2011 as a full-time faculty and practicum coordinator. She has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio and a master’s degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She has been a licensed independent social work supervisor since 2001.

“I’m honored to receive this recognition and grateful to be in a position to give knowledge and skills to students who then go out and make a difference in their communities.” Arny said.

Imhof has been with COTC since 2008 as the director of information technology services. He has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Grove City College and a master’s degree in management information systems from Strayer University. Imhof is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Imhof said, “Working as a director of IT in the higher education arena has been one of the most gratifying jobs I’ve ever had in my life. Providing the highest level of customer service possible has always been a passion of mine. It’s an awesome feeling when you can combine that passion with the ability to use IT to enrich the learning experience for our students.”

The John E. and Suanne D. Roueche Excellence Award was created to recognize a long tradition of excellence in community college teaching and leadership. Award recipients were honored at a reception and award ceremony at the League’s 2015 Innovations Conference.
COTC Recognizes Basic Police Academy Graduates

The Institute of Public Safety at Central Ohio Technical College held a recognition ceremony to honor the following graduates of the Basic Police Academy.*

Graduation Class #15-015, Commander John Brnjic:


*Only graduates who have granted COTC permission to release their names to the public are listed.

Thousand of Dollars in Scholarships Available for Knox County Residents

Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University at Newark are currently offering scholarships to students residing in Knox County. All students are encouraged to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine their eligibility. In most cases, students will be eligible for some type of federal financial aid and scholarship assistance regardless of income.

“Many people do not realize the vast amount of scholarship dollars that are available to our students, particularly those who reside in Knox County,” says Faith Phillips, director of financial aid. Adding, “Because of the overwhelming success of the Next Generation Challenge Scholarship Campaign, the amount of available scholarship dollars continues to multiply each year.”

Both COTC and Ohio State Newark have several scholarship opportunities that are specifically for Knox County residents. Information on financial aid opportunities and scholarships is available through the Office of Financial Aid or by email at finaid@cotc.edu.

Campus Hosts Science Night

COTC and The Works hosted Science Night at the Coshocton campus’s Montgomery Hall.

This free event for families with children 3 - 6 years old held a night of excitement, games, food and fun. Children explored the world of science through hands-on activities on display from The Works in addition to participating in a safari scavenger hunt, games and a photo shoot courtesy of COTC.

The Works is an interactive learning center where people of all ages can have fun and be inspired by the history and technology.
COTC Announces Director of Part-Time Faculty

Central Ohio Technical College is pleased to announce the appointment of Robi Rhodes, Ph.D., as the new director of part-time faculty. Rhodes has served as a full-time faculty member at COTC for four years and brings a strong background in teaching experience as well as being a valuable resource of institutional knowledge to this new role. Rhodes has held the position of assistant professor, English and communications at COTC since 2010.

Rhodes earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Oklahoma State University, as well as a master’s degree and Ph.D. in English from The Ohio State University.

Awards and accomplishments achieved by Robi Rhodes have been numerous. In 2012, she received the COTC Teaching Excellence Award. She presented at the Two Year College Association’s Midwest Conference at Grand Rapids Community College in October 2014, titled: “Mixing it up: Re-envisioning the Writing Process within Communities.” An active instructor, Rhodes has made several other major presentations related to teaching and learning within the two-year college environment.

Rhodes has served on the COTC Dual Enrollment Ad Hoc committee and as the Faculty Council Secretary, as well as on the Curriculum committee and many other academic service committees on an ongoing basis. “Not only am I prepared for but I look forward to recruiting, developing and mentoring our part-time faculty; they bring such talent and energy to the classroom,” stated Rhodes.

COTC Introduces New Vice President of Academic Affairs

Central Ohio Technical College welcomes Lauri White, Ed.D. as vice president of academic affairs. Dr. White brings with her over 23 years of experience in higher education. The last 15 years of experience were with Carl Sandburg College, a community college in Galesburg, Illinois.

While at Carl Sandburg College, Dr. White served as a coordinator/instructor in the dental hygiene program, dean of allied health, dean of career, technical and health education department, and most recently dean of career and corporate development. In conjunction with her administration duties, Dr. White taught as an adjunct instructor for various classes, including nutrition, medical terminology and first year seminars. She has provided leadership in grant development, various community partnerships and has assisted with departmental and Higher Learning Commission accreditations.

Dr. White earned her bachelor of science in dental hygiene from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, a master of public administration from the University of Wyoming, as well as a doctor of education, higher education and organizational change from Benedictine University in Illinois. Over the years, Dr. White served on various committees and boards, as well as volunteering her time and skills as a dental hygienist.

Dr. White’s leadership abilities and higher education expertise makes her a perfect match for COTC. Her diverse experience prepares Dr. White for any new challenges she may face. We are most pleased to have Dr. White join the leadership team of COTC.

Service Learning Showcase Features Students Giving Back

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) held a Service Learning Showcase in April featuring examples of community service projects completed by students in correlation with class requirements. Attendees learned about the benefits of service learning and viewed examples from the various organizations and businesses that the college has partnered with. This event is hosted by the COTC Service Learning committee.

“Service learning allows students to use what they learn in the classroom to impact their communities through work with community partners; it is an essential part of many of our programs,” said Erin McGuire, instructor and Service Learning committee chairwoman.

While COTC students have been incorporating service learning for many years, the Service Learning committee was formed in November 2011. The committee’s purpose is to offer support to faculty members and to acknowledge what was already in place with service learning at COTC.
Students

Continued from front page

Knox Initiative Graduates

experiences, and being able to sit there and talk with them,” said Wilt. Many students in the program found interacting with different age groups to be beneficial. “I think it was wonderful to interact with people that were in a much different age group than us. It gave us the opportunity to widen our perspective on not only ourselves, but the world around us,” said Austin Stage, Mount Vernon High School.

Parents saw positive changes in their child’s life as a result of participating in the Knox Initiative. “My daughter has really matured throughout the whole process,” said Debbie Ryan, mother of Megan Ryan, “They have to be very responsible in a lot more aspects then just the school work.” Students had the same responsibilities that any other college student would face, including transportation to and from classes, meeting homework deadlines, and juggling packed schedules. Maturity was not the only benefit felt by parents, Thompson explains: “A lot of these students are getting accepted to honors programs. Two current seniors have been up for Presidential scholarships, earning full rides at various colleges. Megan Ryan, for example, has received over $90,000 in scholarships from the colleges where she’s been accepted.” All students in the program received scholarship offers from various universities and numerous recommendations from their professors.

“The Knox Initiative offers benefits to students and parents. I would say, being a parent, the number one thing is the maturity level that I have seen with these students. They enter the program as sophomores in high school, and develop into incredible college students,” said Teri Holder, vice president of extended campuses and the Gateway. “Also the financial benefit, there is nothing better than to see those savings and scholarship dollars these kids are receiving, and the leg up that it is giving them when they get ready to go on to pursue the rest of their career and educational journey.”

All eight students will be graduating from COTC with an Associate of Science degree. This degree was specifically selected for the Knox Initiative due to its transferability and difficulty level. “In the Knox Initiative we specifically identified the Associate of Science degree because it is one that is tied directly to the workforce. These graduates have a multitude of possibilities. They can go right out into the workforce and get a job – a great job - or they can go on. It is a transferable degree, and so they can transfer right into a bachelor’s degree program,” explains Holder.

The Knox Initiative has been a life changing experience for participants. “I honestly don’t think I would be where I am today without the Knox Initiative. It has helped me obtain scholarships, and to not just focus on the academic side of things – but the real life things that I have learned. I have learned so many valuable life lessons, it’s helped me to mature a lot,” said Ryan. “I believe that the Knox Initiative is just a great opportunity for high school students to get a college degree right out of the gate,” added Stage.

For more information on the Knox Initiative, contact Nicole Thompson at 740-755-7668, or nthompson@cotc.edu.

High School Options/College Credit Plus

COTC Holds High School Options Nights for Students and Parents

Central Ohio Technical College held a series of high school options nights on all four of their campus locations in Newark, Coshocton, Knox and Pataskala. The sessions highlighted information on College Credit Plus and provided opportunities for middle and high school students to get a jump start on earning college credit.

College Credit Plus replaces Ohio’s Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEOP) program and all dual enrollment programs. This initiative establishes clear pathways for students to earn college credit, and is open to students in grades 7 through 12 who are deemed college-ready. College Credit Plus is offered at no cost to students.

For general questions and inquiries about College Credit Plus at COTC, contact The Gateway - admissions office at (740)-366-9222 or cotcgateway@cotc.edu.
Central Ohio Technical College bestowed awards on two of its alumni at a recent ceremony. Licking County residents April Orr Dusthimer and Kris Read were selected for honor.

### Outstanding Alumni Award

The Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes Central Ohio Technical College alumni who have personal and professional achievement that brings honor and distinction to the college as well as individual attainment and contributions for the betterment of the community.

Outstanding Alumni Award recipient April Orr Dusthimer graduated from Central Ohio Technical College in 1999 with an associate’s degree in accounting as the youngest graduate ever, just after her 19th birthday. She concluded her studies with a 4.0 GPA. After graduating from COTC, April began her career at Park National Bank and continued her education, earning a bachelor’s degree in business management from Otterbein University and a master’s degree in financial economics from Ohio University. Dusthimer was promoted to vice president in the Park National Bank accounting department’s treasury unit in 2012.

Dusthimer participates in numerous community events as Parky, the Park National Bank’s mascot including parades, school events, the Hartford Fair, 5K/10K events and Trick or Treat on the Square. Beyond playing Parky, April is involved in various other community activities, such as Teach Kids to Save Day, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters Christmas Kids. April has served on the Accounting Technology Advisory Committee at COTC, and has taught as an adjunct instructor.

### Transitions Alumni Award

Established in 2009, the Transitions Alumni Award recognizes COTC alumni faculty and staff who have made the transition from student to partner in career development, making a difference in the lives of current or future students.

Transitions Alumni Award recipient Kris Read, a 2007 graduate of Central Ohio Technical College, has served as webmaster at Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University at Newark since 2011. In addition to his associate’s degree from COTC, he is currently enrolled at Franklin University, working towards his bachelor’s degree in eMarketing.

Read coaches swimming at Newark High School, where he has served in that capacity since 2012. He donates his time at the Second Chance Dog Shelter in Johnstown, volunteering as the non-profit’s webmaster. Read began his career in public service as the web applications developer for Licking County government and assisted that entity in the creation of a website to improve their online presence for Licking County residents.

“We are proud of our alumni’s professional achievements, personal attainment, and dedication to the community,” says Matt Kelly, director of development for COTC. Adding, “We created the Alumni Program to serve as the principal link between the college and its alumni and we encourage all COTC alumni to participate.”

### July 3rd Alumni Event

The Annual Independence Day Alumni Celebration is held simultaneously with the public fireworks event and is held at the John Gilbert Reese Center. Seating is reserved around the building for COTC and Ohio State Alumni and their guests. For additional information about the event or to update your alumni contact information, please contact Laura Walsh in the development office at (740) 364-9514 or email lwalsh@cotc.edu.
COTC Expands 3rd Annual High School Egg Drop Competition

COTC expanded its Third Annual Egg Drop Competition to include area freshman, sophomore, junior and senior high school students. More than 350 students competed in the April event held on campus.

The objective of the competition is to design a device that will protect a large egg from breaking when it is dropped from a height of approximately 22 feet. Entrants competed to design the device with the lightest weight, the fewest number of parts, and the most accurate drop to the drop zone target.

Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team and individual finishers. Prizes include college scholarships, Apple iPad Minis, Beats by Dre headphones, medals and more. Event sponsors include: ADR & Associates, Ampacet Corporation, Ariel Corporation, Devine Farms, Englefield Oil Company, Jobes Henderson & Associates, Licking Memorial Hospital, McWane Ductile, MPW Industrial Services, Inc., Owens Corning Science & Technology Center, Park National Bank, Polymer Technologies & Services, Inc., Screen Machine Industries, UMD Automated Systems, Tech International and Weekley Electric, LLC.

2015 Winners

Freshmen
3rd Place-Nolan Blowers, Liberty Christian Academy
2nd Place-Bryant Younger, Liberty Christian Academy
1st Place-Clay Williams, Liberty Christian Academy

Sophomores
3rd Place-David Daniels, Fredricktown High School
2nd Place-Colton Adair, New Lexington High School
1st Place-Thomas Zygaraich, Beechcroft High School

Juniors
3rd Place-Payal Patel, New Lexington High School
2nd Place-Emily Bartholic, New Lexington High School
1st Place-Kirsten Nash, New Lexington High School

Seniors
3rd Place-Joachim Hodne, New Lexington High School
2nd Place-Matthew Deavers, New Lexington High School
1st Place-Zachary Spicer, New Lexington High School

Teams
3rd Place-“Hanover Easy”- Samuel Lehman, Zachary Sensenbaugh, Jeremy McNicol, Licking Valley High School
2nd Place-“Pretty Boy Droppers”- Nicholas Bundy, Sagar Patel, Westerville Central High School
1st Place-“SWCA”- Gary Hashman, John Price, Devin Lanter, Jarod Stevens, Southwestern Career Center

Most Scrambled – Madison Dyer, Sophomore, New Lexington High School
Most Egg-Extraordinary - Ethan Hardiman, Senior, Westerville Central High School
Most Egg-Cellent - Paul Sherrrier – Junior, Eastland Career Center
Spirit of Egg-cellence – Andrea Steen, Senior, New Lexington High School

OVERALL WINNER (Most Accumulated Points)
New Lexington High School

July 3rd Concert and Fireworks

The annual Independence Day Concert and Fireworks display is held annually on July 3rd, on the campus of Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) and The Ohio State University at Newark. The event is free and open to all.

Approximately 10,000 area residents attend this fun, free, family friendly event annually. The evening’s celebration begins with popular local musical groups with all performances held at the Martha Grace Reese Amphitheatre. Music begins at 6:00 p.m. The crowd-favorite fireworks display begins at dusk to the accompaniment of patriotic favorites.

Local vendors will be serving food and beverages. The public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs, picnics and blankets for a fun-filled evening of music and entertainment. Free parking is available at the campus. The annual Independence Day Concert and Fireworks is funded by the Reese Family Foundation, Ohio State Newark and COTC.