

# New play plans to electrify Falcons



Sophomore Chloe Rogers and senior Dean Pederson rehearse for their mini-play, *The Russian Play*, for "Zap" (Photo provided by Hailey Hendricks).

By Luis Zepeda

The comedy show, directed by theater arts teacher **Ashlee DeGraaf**, will feature a mash-up of seven different "mini-shows" crammed into a fast-paced 87 minutes.

The theme of the show is actually what gave Zap its name.

"It's sort of like a tv clicker- you zap a channel to flip to the next channel, and it just doesn't follow a chronological order like how a one story line play would," DeGraaf said.

"It is unlike anything ever done," she continued with a hint of excitement in her voice.

This is DeGraaf's first year teaching and directing at PMHS. She direct-

ed "Holes" in the fall.

"Luckily, this set is really easy and really simple," DeGraaf said.

The average theater performance has about 45 light cues or changes while "Zap" has a total of 87 light cues, some very close to one another. The sound cues also play a key role in the play.

"Tech crew has a much bigger impact on this show than other shows," DeGraaf said. She attributes the progress of the play relying mostly on the tech crew and sound cues and light cues, rather than a focus on the acting and positioning as would normally be done for an average play.

But the actors don't get to relax.

They have to be fast enough and able to think on their feet in order to keep up with the quick tempo of the play itself.

Junior **Abigail Hoover** thinks that although "Zap" may be difficult to understand at first, the seven plays soon come together and interact.

"However, you'll have to come see the show to find out how!" Hoover said. Tickets for the show are \$5 for students and \$10 for the public at the door.

Hoover said people should come to Zap to "support Perry's theater department and the cast and crew"

"This show is a great way to relax and just enjoy an experience."

# Early college graduating first class 87% increase in freshmen compared to seniors

By Adam Crozier

Reduced college tuition can sound too good to be true. But for some under and upperclassmen, and an increasing number of next year's freshman, that's just the path of success they plan to walk.

The program is called Early College and it provides students the



Kevin Mowrer

opportunity to acquire 30 college credit hours, or one year of college courses, over their four years at Perry. Public universities agree that any college student, regardless of major, should complete 10 classes in various areas from biology, art appreciation, foreign language, and physics. This is considered general education. The Statewide Transfer of General Education Core is the blueprint of courses for every public university in Indiana to follow and accept for credit.

Under Indiana law, state-funded colleges must recognize the STGEC 30 college credit hours obtained while in Early College. Students can also enter the program for an associate's degree. "It's a very big deal," said Site Director **Kevin Mowrer**, "because it costs you \$750 versus \$15-20,000 at a state school." The average student loan debt

is \$30,000, he noted.

Because of the cost-savings appeal, the program grows every year. The incoming freshman class will clock in at around 120. Its increase in size demanded Early College Coordinator Martha Cook, who teaches English in the program, to take on extra management. Enter Site Director Kevin Mowrer, who came from Michigan to offer a direct line between students and college.

"It was a job that grew to someone being in the Vincennes side and the high school," he said. Mowrer is employed through Vincennes University and works in his own office in Perry's Early College Office.

"I've talked a lot to the eighth graders, because that's the next class," he said. "The program will probably top out at 120, 220-230 to around 450-500. I think it will be 50/50 STGEC, associate's."

Out of state, colleges vary whether they will accept STGEC, but the associate's degree is recognized nationwide.

"Sometimes when you're getting a bachelor's degree you can get credits, but it doesn't necessarily go on your transcript," Mowrer said.

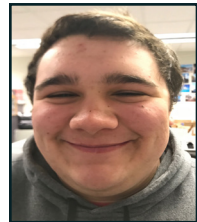
"There are a lot of degrees in college, chiefly, into specific things: IT, pre-med, engineering. They are very prescriptive about your college degree. If you go into engineering, and have a liberal arts degree, they could say 'We

recognize this, but you still have to take all these engineering classes."

"If you went down to Purdue they have a 2+2, so that means you would have the STGEC your first year, and take a year at Vincennes, and then two years of engineering at Purdue," he said.

"Business is another one that starts to encroach on your sophomore year of college. Finance, econ, marketing, one class of each of those and then you decide. A liberal arts degree won't really help you. If you go into English, the STGEC is perfect. But if you go into something more science-oriented, they'll want that sophomore year to train you. And if you're undecided you still get an associate's."

None of the first wave students had access to the associate's degree, but are glad the program is evolving. "The juniors are still getting a good experience, probably better than we got," said



Parker Buttrey

senior **Parker Buttrey**. "As it goes on, more diverse groups of students will be able to get the associate's degree from the beginning. It will become more competitive of a program."

According to Buttrey, the program

is "neck and neck" at Center Grove and a decade old by comparison.

Senior **Tina Cavender** spent two years at CG before she began attending PM. She said Early College students occupy an entire wing of CG and take classes "mostly with the same Early College students." Cavender was on track for the associate's when she was a Trojan, but is now on a path to the STGEC.

"The associate's doesn't help everyone. Sometimes the Core 30 is better because the associate's is for a specific major," said Cavender. "For people who want to major in English, taking AP English classes would probably be more beneficial." Even though she's pursuing a Bachelor of Science, and plans to be a math teacher, Cavender recognizes different students have different desires.

Buttrey takes AP classes, junior **Jaylee Johnson** goes to C-9 and senior **Tha Thang** engages in community service through National Honors Society. Still, all three are EC kids. Junior **Brynna Baker** has her eyes on an associates.

The path to an associate's can hinder student involvement, however. "The biggest issue is not knowing how many classes you have to take," said Mowrer. Because the courses are college-level, there's not much room for electives, even during senior year.

Part of the danger is students sign up and still want to take art or music classes, but are unable to do so because of the time a certain accredited class is offered in the day. As the program expands, scheduling will allow more flexibility as more class periods are offered to match subject requirements.

Cavender said, "Some kids might struggle with that, finding what you're passionate about. They're all classes you have to take, but you can work them into your schedule."

The first group of 16 seniors in the Early College program graduate in May, receiving high school and Core 30 diplomas as part of his or her STGEC.



Tina Cavender