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PIONEER



Photo by MB Doescher

Artists at work: Mary Wilson, left, and professor Mary Ann Moore sift through tiles while working on the mosaic in the college courtyard. The fourth and final panel is almost halfway completed said Moore.

Long-time college supporter appointed to regents post

Alice Musser awaiting senate approval to begin work

By Daniel Lapham
Staff Writer

OKCCC, unofficially, has a new addition to its Board of Regents. Alice Musser is now awaiting state senate confirmation before assuming her latest community role.

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry appointed Musser to the position last month. The governor filed the appointment April 22 after State Sen. Keith Leftwich recommended her for the position. Leftwich, a Democrat, represents South Oklahoma City.

Musser attended high school at Marietta High School in Marietta, Okla. After graduating, she attended the University of Oklahoma.

Musser said she has been developing a relationship with OKCCC since she served as the state representative for District 91 from 1988 to 1990.

"The college was in my district when I was a member of the state legislature..." Musser said.

And since Musser lives near the college, she said she likes to take advantage of its facilities, such as the wellness center.

She said her family also has taken advantage of the educational aspect of the college by taking classes here.

"My stepson and his wife have both graduated with A.A. degrees from the college," Musser said.

She said she has taken a few classes at OKCCC as well.

Musser has served on many other boards in the past including the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma County Senior Nutrition Program Development Foundation and the Advisory Board for OASIS Senior Center.

She is a member of Oklahomans for Im-



Alice Musser

Photo courtesy PR Department

See "Regent," page 12

Former student found 'not guilty' in rape case

By Daniel Lapham
Staff Writer

The trial of former student Kevin Cassil, 25, for first-degree rape ended in a not-guilty verdict May 1 in the Cleveland County District Court.

Cassil was charged with the rape of a 17-year-old girl in 2001. The girl had dated Cassil for several months prior to the alleged rape but did not go to the police until a year after the alleged rape took place.

Mike Arnett, Cassil's defense attorney, said the girl gave testimony at the preliminary hearing that was

OKCCC student abduction trial scheduled for September

inconsistent with her testimony during the trial.

According to a report in the Daily Oklahoman, she could not remember much of the testimony she had given previously during the preliminary hearing.

Cassil is also facing charges in Oklahoma County. Some of those charges stem from an abduction that occurred on the OKCCC campus.

Cassil is currently being held without bail in Oklahoma County for five felony counts. Two for kidnapping, two for assault with a dangerous weapon and one for robbery with a danger-



Kevin Lee Cassil

ous weapon.

The attack on the OKCCC campus took place Feb. 11, 2002, in a parking lot. Multiple eyewitnesses say they saw Cassil get out of his car and approach the victim while she was walking to her car after class.

The victim reported that Cassil shocked her with a stun gun, choked her and punched her in the stomach. One witness called 911 while the woman tried to fight off the attack. When police arrived on the scene, they reported, Cassil was trying to tie the woman up.

The other kidnapping, and assault and battery charges are for the Jan. 16 incident involving a teenage girl outside of a tanning salon in Oklahoma City.

Cassil's Oklahoma County trial is set for Sept. 8.

Both sides of the upcoming trial seem confident in their case.

Arnett said he and Cassil are optimistic upon the outcome of the next trial.

"We are optimistic this will be the start of a trend. I think that it will point out that the scrutiny directed toward Mr. Cassil by earlier media reports is not being backed by the evidence," Arnett said.

The Oklahoma County District Attorney's public information director Debra Forshee has a different opinion on this case.

"The case in Cleveland County is very different from the one in Oklahoma County and the two cannot be compared.

"We are confident that justice will prevail."

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Improvement needed on open door policy

With the end of spring semester comes a good time for reflection.

There are some administrators, staff and faculty who need to reprioritize and remember why they are working at a college — for students.

For an institution so focused on education and students, there are many employees who are clearly annoyed by those very same students.

Communication is needed to fuel a better relationship and bridge the gap.

Students come to OKCCC to gain an education leading toward an all-important degree.

Wouldn't it make sense if everyone worked together to help students reach their goals?

Instead of receiving open communication, students are too often faced with a condescending tone, the proverbial red tape, a standoffish attitude, and a lack of enthusiasm to help students reach their goals.

Thankfully, the majority of faculty and staff are willing and able to help whenever possible. They are the silver lining in what can, sometimes, not be a very pleasurable experience.

These professors and staff members should be recognized as exemplary for realizing the true purpose of why they are here.

The fall semester should be a new start for everyone.

Start with an open door policy, a true open door policy. For many students this is the first college experience they have ever had, so help make it a good one. Professors should be available during their posted office hours and be willing to help students as much as possible, within reason.

Open the lines of communication and work together with students to gather information or find a solution. It's amazing what can happen when people work together. Jobs get easier and smiles are more plentiful.

OKCCC lays the groundwork for its students concerning education and future employment. Students should be entitled to leave with a positive attitude toward those things.

Students are the true employers of the college. Without them there wouldn't be any tuition paid or state funding to collect. Everyone would be unemployed.

College does not have to be filled with bureaucratic labyrinths, so make it a little bit easier for everyone else involved.

—Kate Brennan
Editor

The Pioneer is on vacation until June 9.
Have a safe and fun summer!

Be aware breast cancer seminar

To the Editor:

Thousands of women from across the state are already familiar with Dr. JoAnn Haberman. Some, however, may not be. OKCCC is pleased to provide this brief introduction both to Dr. Haberman, her philosophy and approach to breast cancer early detection, and her clinic, the Breast Cancer Screening Center of Oklahoma.

Dr. Haberman is the most experienced breast cancer diagnostician in the state, bringing more than 25 years of experience in the research and diagnosis of breast cancer, including the past 12 years in private practice as the Medical Director of the Breast Cancer Screening Center of Oklahoma.

During that time, she has spared thousands of Oklahomans from tragedy and anguish through the early detection of the disease. Dr. Haberman's practice is devoted exclusively to breast cancer screening and diagnosis, and is staffed entirely by women.

Recognizing that screening mammography is not 100 percent effective in de-

tecting small cancers, Dr. Haberman utilizes a multimodality approach to breast cancer detection, including breast ultrasound and breast physical examination.

Equally important, Dr. Haberman understands the fear and anxiety associated with this disease, and therefore patient education and empowerment are the touchstone philosophy of the clinic.

Dr. Haberman personally consults with every patient at the clinic. This personal approach to counseling patients reduces the stress and anxiety that many women experience while waiting for the results of their examination.

This also allows Dr. Haberman to obtain any necessary additional information from the patient.

Prior to opening the Breast Cancer Screening Center of Oklahoma, Dr. Haberman was Professor of Radiology at the OU Health Science Center. There she founded and directed the breast care center for more than 10 years. In the 1970s, Dr. Haberman was in charge of one of the 27 National Breast Cancer De-

tection Demonstration Projects, funded by the National Cancer Institute, the program that determined that screening mammography does in fact save women's lives.

Dr. Haberman will be on campus to present "Breast Cancer Detection," from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday May 13, in room CU3.

—Breast Cancer
Screening Center of
Oklahoma

PIONEER

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. However, the PIONEER will withhold the name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity.

Letters to the editor can be delivered in person to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to 682-7568.

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@okccc.edu. A phone number for verification must be included.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: <http://pioneer.okccc.edu>.



THE JOKE'S ON YOU by Phil Ryder & YOU



"Nah...we already met your leader. Now we're looking for intelligent life."

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Comments and Reviews

A controversial topic

To the Editor:

Is the college budget so compromised that the journalism department has had to resort to selling advertisement to radical organizations? Please let me know where to mail my dollar.

The cover of The Silent Epidemic is reflective to the information found inside the advertising supplement; misleading. Thinking I was going to get the latest information on the SARS virus as the cover projects, I was deeply disappointed but not surprised. These sort of tactics are the driving force behind radical groups.

Deception and manipulation are keys used to promote their cause. I think anyone living in Oklahoma City in 1995 knows to what lengths some people will go to make their point. Some of the "facts" contained within this supplement reek of political agenda seasoning.

Comparing Planned Parenthood to the Klu Klux Klan as well as linking abortion to breast cancer reveals the integrity of this publication. Students wanting accurate information about breast cancer should consult with the American Cancer Society or any other organization that presents facts and not a political platform.

I would also encourage

"Comparing planned parenthood to the Klu Klux Klan as well as linking abortion to breast cancer reveals the integrity of this publication."

—Penny Olivier
OKCCC Student

students to read authentic sources for information on the life of Margaret Sanger and the history of Planned Parenthood. As a student, I have learned the importance of substantiating fact from fiction.

Abortion is a complex issue and one that will always divide this country. Advocates of Pro Choice are not standing on the street corner handing out abortion tokens but rather supporting the basis of a free society. Human biology provides us with a brain.

This combined with the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution equips me with the ability to make my own choice, whatever that choice may be. This is also the same freedom that allows you to oppose abortion.

I completely respect a person's right to oppose abortion.

What I don't respect is irresponsible journalism that chooses advertising revenues over the truth. I would like to see a follow-

up insertion where these people who value life so much justify murdering people who provided abortions legally under the law.

If you disagree with abortion, work to change the law rather than to take the law into your own hands. Distorting facts also makes me suspect as to what your real motivation is in seizing my freedom of choice. Which freedom will you choose next?

In closing, I would really like to know the name of the person responsible for making the decision to include this insertion with the Pioneer.

I would like to commend them for casting a shadow of ignorance over a campus where students are striving to learn. This shadow does not compare to enlightenment.

I extend sincere accolades to my professors, both past and present, by opening my mind through education and empowering me with the ability to make my own decisions.

—Penny Olivier
OKCCC student

Quote of the Week:

"The most momentous thing in human life is the art of winning the soul to good or to evil."

—Pythagoras

www.pioneer.okccc.edu



Dear Penelope,

I am a sophomore here at OKCCC. This is my fourth and hardest semester I have ever taken.

The reason I am writing is because my girlfriend of nine and a half months just broke up with me last week and I'm not sure how I should feel about the whole issue.

At first I was pretty shocked and hurt about the whole "let's be friends speech." I mean, I haven't had one of those since I was a freshman in high school.

Anyway after I had a couple of days to think about the whole issue, I was OK with just being friends, but here's where it gets weird. A couple of days after she broke up with me, she started acting like she made a mistake. So just when I was accepting the fact that the longest relationship I have ever been in is over, my ex starts acting like she wants me back.

Now I am experiencing inner turmoil on the issue of hanging out with her and being cool with the whole friends thing because she has been getting all emotional.

Then the other issue jumps up that if I happen to, not saying I will, find a girl that I like and want to date, she will freak out and our friendship will probably be ruined.

So, Penelope, what should I do?

—Hopelessly Single

Dear Hopelessly Single,

It's time to let the relationship go. Rubberband relationships rarely work and just end up making both parties miserable.

Another thing is that girls love to do the "just friends thing" as manipulation. As a friend, they can keep their eagle eye on you and try to win you back all at the same time. This may not be your girl's mentality, but beware.

Also, has anything been resolved to make this relationship work this time? If not, then why would there be any reason for this time to be different?

Sorry, Single, but it looks like you're gonna stay that way for awhile. You don't sound like you're too into getting back together anyway. The best advice is to always do what makes you happy, not everyone will like it, but at least you are doing what is right for you.

Relationships can be fickle, but so is life. Do what you have to do and the rest will become easier with time.

Have a great summer and be safe.

—Penelope

Write to Penelope. Drop off your letters in the Pioneer office in 2M6 of the main building or e-mail to editor@okccc.edu.

A little culture never hurt



Photo by MB Doescher

Debbi Pappas, secretary to the dean of student development, and Derek Byrd, Biology/Chemistry major, view Hobie Lasiter's untitled painting which is on display at the student art show on the first floor of the main building.

London with an OKCCC flair

By Teresa Robinson
News Writing I Student

Students can solve the mystery of Stonehenge and become the greatest Shakespearean actor in the history of the Globe Theater and become a student at Oxford University, all in nine days.

Students still have the opportunity to join OKCCC theater director Ruth Charnay, along with 14 others on a trip to London in early June.

The London trip includes the usual tourist sites, including Big Ben, and the British museum.

Also on the agenda is a trip to the Globe Theater, made famous by William Shakespeare and his plays, Stonehenge, as well as Windsor Castle.

"Everyone knows Shakespeare," said Charnay; the tour will also include the opportunity to attend three plays at the Globe Theater, and participation in an acting workshop.

"Travel is a great learning experience," said Charnay.

"[Traveling] gives one the opportunity to see the world through a different culture."

—Ruth Charnay
Professor of Theater

"It gives one the opportunity to see the world through a different culture."

The tour can be used for college credit. Students can write a paper about the tour, and turn it in for a grade.

The tour of London is scheduled for June 5 through June 13. The trip is open to anyone interested in learning about the history of London.

The cost is \$1800 to \$2200 dollars, depending on the traveler's age. The cost includes airfare, hotel accommodations, breakfast, and dinner.

For more information contact Ruth Charnay at Rcharnay@okccc.edu or call her at (405) 682-1611. Interested students may also log on to eftours.com, number 157237 for a complete list of the tour itinerary.

Tatting sparks fond memories

By Tamara Johnson
News Writing I Student

Computer Science Professor Kathy Cupp, 53, spends much of her time teaching about the complicated world of computer programming. The rest of the time she entertains herself with an equally difficult hobby, the art of tatting.

Tatting is a handmade lace created by tying a series of tiny knots using a needle or a small device called a shuttle.

"It's stressful like programming stressful," Cupp said. However, that is why she enjoys it. She had tried crocheting and knitting, but neither one could hold her attention. Tatting is "a challenge."

Cupp learned to tat about five years ago when she took her grandmother's shuttle and attended a free tatting class that is held on the third Saturday of every month at the Kingfisher Museum. She went to the class to observe.

"Four months later, I was making my daughter-in-law's garter," Cupp said.

Cupp said her inspiration for tatting came from her grandmother.

"She is why I went to Kingfisher to take the first lesson," Cupp said. "When I'm tatting, I sometimes feel like I am sitting with her."

Cupp said that she could remember watching her grandmother tat.

"Her fingers would really fly," Cupp said.

Cupp still has some lace her grandmother made for her on pillows and dishtowels.

Cupp can make many lacy creations, including baby booties, baby bonnets, wedding garters and bookmarks.

"I am proudest of the baby bonnets and the wedding garters," Cupp said. "There's something about making a bonnet for a grandbaby or a garter for your daughter-in-law, like creating an heirloom."

She said that bookmarks usually take her three to five hours to make, but a baby bonnet can take three to four months to make if she only works on it during her free time. The amount of time that she puts into each object is also the reason why she doesn't sell them.

"I couldn't sell them for the time I put into it."

Cupp said that she doesn't get to tat as much as she would like to.

"I can't tat and grade papers at the same time." For this reason, she usually only gets to tat for about three hours a month.

However, even though she can't spend a lot of time on it, she will continue to tat because tatting brings her the satisfaction of feeling like she is close to her grandmother.

"I'm doing something that not many people do."



File Photo

Kathy Cupp

The Pioneer will be on vacation until June 9.

Awareness key in helping prevent suicide

By Daniel Lapham
Staff Writer

In Oklahoma, suicide is the second leading cause of death among ages 15 to 24. Ranked eleventh nationally in deaths by suicide in 1998, Oklahoma now ranks seventh.

May is National Mental Health Month, a time to pause and consider one's state of mind and the emotional condition of friends and family.

Thousands of people each year are affected by mental illnesses such as depression, suicide and stress disorders. Help is available for Oklahoma teens and adults.

The Contact Crisis Helpline of Oklahoma and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill are two organizations dedicated to helping those who struggle with mental health problems said Nancy Medley Suhre, Contact Crisis Helpline developmental director.

NAMI has planned a 5K run to raise funds and awareness of mental health issues in America. NAMI Walks for the Mind of America will be at 11 a.m. May 17 at Hafer Park in Edmond.

Contact's Annual Walk for Life+Suicide Awareness took place May 3 at Stars and Stripes Park at Lake Hefner. Suhre said it is their hope that publicity from the Walk will increase the community's awareness of suicide and help bring the topic out in the open.

Psychology professor Thomas Jones said people who commit suicide usually show warning signs.

"There are some common warning signs to look for when people are planning suicide," he said. "A person may act like they are going on a trip when they really are not. They might clean up their rooms and pack their belongings into boxes.

"Depression is also a very possible sign to possible suicide," Jones said.

He said one of the most important signs to look for is discussing suicide with someone else.

"Sometimes it is just kind of laughed off, but this is not something that is discussed unless the individual is or has been thinking about [suicide]," Jones said.

According to statistics gathered by NAMI, one in four Americans are struck by mental illness.

Each year in the United States, approximately 30,000 people end their lives by suicide. Of these, 5,000 are teens and 2,000 are college students. Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death for all Americans and the third leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24.

"The statistics on suicide in Oklahoma make the work of Contact's suicide awareness and prevention program vital," said Janice Wilson, program coordinator for Contact, in an interview with www.contactcrisishelpline.org.

"In 2002, Contact's 24-hour Helpline received 500 calls concerning suicide and 4,000 others with issues often related to suicide. One hundred-sixty calls per month come from Oklahoma to the 1-800-SUICIDE Helpline from those who are contemplating, planning or threatening suicide, as well as third-party persons or survivors of suicide," Wilson said.

She said high school students are at risk for suicide. "It is estimated that at least one in every 10 teens will make a suicide attempt before they graduate — three students in any given average classroom. As many as two-thirds of high school students will consider suicide before graduating."

For help and information about suicide, depression and other mental health issues, call the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill at (405) 230-1900, the CONTACT Suicide Helpline at 1-800-SUICIDE or go online to www.contactcrisishelpline.org.

- Each year in the United States, approximately 30,000 people commit suicide. Of these, 5,000 are teens; 2,000 are college students.
 - Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death for all Americans and the 3rd leading cause of death for young people ages 15-24.
 - In Oklahoma, suicide is the second leading cause of death among ages 15-24.
 - Ranked 11th nationally in suicide deaths in 1998, Oklahoma now ranks 7th.
 - Youth suicide has increased more than 200 percent since the 1950s.
 - The average national rate of suicide deaths among ages 15-24 is 10.7 per 100,000. In Oklahoma the rate is 14.7 per 100,000.
 - It's estimated that at least one in every 10 teens will attempt suicide before they graduate. As many as two-thirds of high school students will consider suicide before graduating.
 - Every year, 775,000 persons attempt suicide and 4.4 million Americans are survivors of the suicide of a family member, loved one or friend.
- courtesy of CONTACT

VP Sechrist says tuition increases necessary

By Cacie Climer
News Writing I Student

Oklahoma higher education institutions need to raise tuition fees in order to maintain academic standards, said Paul Sechrist, OKCCC vice president for academic affairs.

OKCCC will be among them.

At Oklahoma colleges, students pay only 25 percent of the cost of their education, Sechrist said. The state pays the other 75 percent.

Sechrist explained the need for tuition increases. He said if students want the best education it simply has to cost money.

It costs to keep professors up to date on teaching methods, he said. The schools have to spend money to update faculty. Also, he said, important technological advances,

such as updating the college's computers every three years, costs money.

While no one is 100 percent sure at this point, Sechrist said OKCCC students could plan on a 9 to 12 percent increase.

A full-time student would pay about \$50 more per semester.

Next fall, students at four-year universities, such as the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, could see up to a 20 percent increase.

The schools will have the authority to raise tuition prices because of House Bill 1748, which allows college regents to vote on how much to raise tuition, which can be raised to the average of similar institutions in surrounding states.

For schools such as OKCCC, its board of regents will compare the school's tuition to other community colleges in the

state and in the region. As of right now, OKCCC is the least expensive school in its class.

Schools such as OU and

OSU will compare with other schools in the Big 12. Sechrist said while all of these increases may seem harsh, keep in mind that

OKCCC tuition is only half of its peer average, making it the least expensive community college in the region.

DNA Day celebrates biotechnology

By Jennie Keeling
News Writing I Student

Eleven area high schools attended National DNA Day April 25, honoring the 50th anniversary of the publication of the Watson-Crick paper describing the double-helix structure of DNA, a structure that codes all of the traits humans possess. DNA holds the codes for the body's processes and characteristics.

The OKCCC biotechnology department has been working with high schools throughout the state to incorporate biotechnology into their curriculum.

Students and teachers

listened to the discussion of a panel of local scientists and viewed a 25-minute web cast from the Genome center of National Institutes of Health.

"It was great for the students to see all of the advances that are taking place in genetics and to see how much of it has been accomplished right here in Oklahoma City," said Jana C. Jean, science department chair at Capitol Hill High School. Jean took six students to the event.

"I hope to see more conferences like this," she said.

The webcast featured James Watson who won the Nobel Prize, along with Francis Crick, in 1953.

The month of April also

marks the completion of the sequencing of the human genome.

The human genome is a genetic blueprint of all the genes that make up the species *Homo sapiens*.

The early discoveries of Watson and Crick led to what is today called the Human Genome Project. This project enables researchers worldwide to sequence and map all of the genes which together make up the genome of humans.

The event, held at Children's Hospital, also featured optional tours of the OU Health and Science Center throughout the day and a panel of local experts who debated issues and answered questions.

Employees have plans for retirement

Charlotte Wood-Wilson

By Megan Kahl
News Writing I Student

Charlotte Wood-Wilson is leaving this summer after 12 years because, she said, the early retirement offered by the college appealed to her.

"The offer would allow more personal time for myself while working part-time for the center," Wood-Wilson said.

"Before coming here, I had taught preschool and kindergarten, and I was wanting to do some work at a college level.

"I never wanted to be a principal or an administrator but I was intrigued by OKCCC's program. I was offered a position as a full-time professor in the Child Development Department by Peggy Tampkins who was the director for the center."

Mary Souza, Child Development Center clerk, said Wood-Wilson has taken on more and more responsibilities over the years.

"Because of the pressures from the many duties she has had to perform, our lab supervisor Lee Ann Nurdin has taken over some of those duties this year," Souza said.

Although she is cutting back on her time at the center, Wood-Wilson said she still plans to be involved with the program.

"It has been a great experience working here but I'm looking forward to spending some time with my family and friends and maybe do some traveling," she said.

No decision has been made on who will replace Wood-Wilson but she said someone will likely be chosen by June 10.



Charlotte
Wood-Wilson

Anna Wilson

By Tamara Johnson
News Writing I Student



Anna Wilson

After 30 years as an educator, Dean of Science and Mathematics Anna Wilson, 61, will retire on June 3.

"[As a professor] changing the lives of individuals was the greatest and most rewarding accomplishment," Wilson said.

Wilson is also proud of her accomplishments as dean.

"I am extremely proud of our science laboratories," Wilson said. "There has been a total renovation of all labs plus the Science Center."

Wilson said OKCCC is the only junior college in Oklahoma that has a cadaver lab where students can participate in dissection.

Although she will miss her friends and working with students, Wilson said she feels it is time to retire.

"I want to spend more time with my husband. We want to travel and do more things together," Wilson said. "You work all your life saving for retirement and you should do it before you get too old."

Wilson started teaching at OKCCC in 1973, one year after it opened.

Before that, Wilson taught at high schools in Arkansas and Florida.

"I think my 30 years have been outstanding," Wilson said. "I've enjoyed every day of my employment at this institution."

One colleague said Wilson will be missed.

"She's the nicest boss I've ever had," said Biology professor Julian Hilliard. "I wish I could've known her longer."

Nirmala Varmha

By Tamara Johnson
News Writing I Student

Intrigued by the singing and the dancing cowboys in Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "Oklahoma," English professor Nirmala Varmha jumped at the chance to relocate to the state years later.

"When I was 10, I saw the movie 'Oklahoma' and thought it was so romantic," she said.

Varmha, 60, was the first international student to teach English to freshmen at the University of Oklahoma. She will retire May 20 after 28 years at OKCCC. She said being a successful teacher is her greatest accomplishment.

"I love teaching and my students know that," she said. "Not one student has said I was unfair to them or treated them without respect. That's a nice legacy to hold."

Varmha, originally from India, plans to return to her home country for a while after her retirement to visit her sister, Rayma.

"I am hoping to give free tutorials to students in India who can't afford it," she said. "However, it will be after a break [from work]."

Varmha said her best teachers were her parents.

"My parents let us try anything we wanted. Education was very much a part of our lives."

Varmha said she has been blessed with students who have wanted to learn and has enjoyed teaching them.

"I have enjoyed this college and I think it has enjoyed me."

English professor Mary PUNCHES said Varmha will be missed.

"There is absolutely no one like [Varmha]. And there never will be," PUNCHES said. "She is overall a great human being and a fine colleague."



Nirmala Varmha

Peggy Tampkins

By Kate Brennan
Editor

Child Development professor Peggy Tampkins said, after 24 years at OKCCC, she still has a strong connection to her students.

"I love seeing the students change and develop," she said.

"Everything has changed so much since I started here."

Tampkins is retiring this year. She leaves with a word of advice to her students. She said they should keep studying and working toward their education.

"Your associate degree is very important," Tampkins said. "It can make a big difference."

Tampkins has eight children. Of those, she said, seven have attended classes at OKCCC.

She began her career at the college as director of the Child Development Center in 1979.

After retiring, she plans to spend time with family, including her 12 grandchildren, but also plans to continue to work part-time for HeadStart and as a consultant for a variety of programs.

"I'll do what I normally do. I'll just do it more slowly."

Tampkins received her bachelor's degree in home economics and education from Oklahoma State University, and earned her master's degree in family relations and child development, also from OSU.



Peggy Tampkins

Retirees vow to keep busy with life

John Perry

By Caroline Ting
Staff Writer

Biology professor John Perry, 63, said after 25 years at OKCCC, he’s actually two years away from retiring but when the college offered a good retirement package, he took the opportunity to retire early.

Perry received his doctorate in zoology from the University of Oklahoma in 1978 and was hired as a full-time teacher at OKCCC that same year.

“I have really enjoyed working in this college.”

He said it’s rewarding to see students move on to good professions.

“This is what teaching is all about,” Perry said. “I’ll certainly miss teaching full-time.”

He said he’ll always exercise his teaching skills by coming back periodically to teach a couple of courses part-time .

Perry said he’s received many gifts in his life, but none have been greater than the opportunity to work at the college.

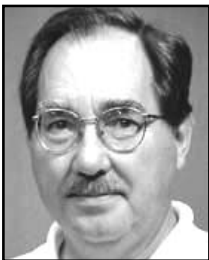
“So as I walk through the last years of my life,” Perry said. “I’ll always look back upon my experiences [at OKCCC] gratefully.”

Biology professor Dennis Anderson, who has known Perry since he began 25 years ago, said he hates to see Perry leave.

“He is a great person [who is] well liked by faculty and students,” Anderson said. “He is very knowledgeable.”

Perry has plans to write short stories and poetry, travel, visit his grandchildren and spend more time with his “wonderful wife, Shirley,” who is already retired.

“[My wife] is already retired so she’s been missing me at home,” Perry said with a laugh.



John Perry

Masil Masilamani

By Kate Brennan
Editor



Masil
Masilamani

Masil Masilamani, professor of engineering at OKCCC for 19 years, will retire after this semester to spend time with his wife of 36 years, Ananthi.

He said one of his most memorable times at the college was around 10 years ago during an egg drop competition, held in the main building on the upper floors.

He said he enjoyed the students’ enthusiasm for the activity, the audience and the engineering skills.

“It made the front page in the [Dallas Morning News,]” he said.

As for retirement plans, Masilamani said he wants to just “take it easy.”

“I’m going to catch up with all my sleep and release all the tension that I’ve been building up,” he said.

He said he hopes students realize that engineering is a strenuous program and that “you can’t have a social life,” he said half-jokingly.

Masilamani also wants to remind teachers of one thing.

“It’s important to go that extra mile, but make sure that it’s not more than a mile.”

Masilamani earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Madras in India and a master’s in engineering mechanics and materials from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Carroll McNish

By Melissa Wilkins
News Writing I Student

He came to OKCCC and conquered, listing his greatest accomplishment as being one of the founders of the college’s automotive service program. Now, after 14 years, Carroll McNish, automotive technology professor, is retiring.

McNish is a member of the National Association of Trade and Industrial Instructors. He said he also is a boat lover and spends most of his free time with his family on the water.

His college family is impressed with his contributions to OKCCC.

“He is a very kind family man,” said Elaine Svec, human resources assistant, “[He’s] very talented with mechanics.”

McNish’s co-worker and close friend of 25 years Larry Grummer, director of transportation technology, said he admires McNish’s dedication as an instructor.

“It is rare when you see someone working weekends, but [Carroll] was dedicated to the students and his job,” said Grummer, “He always put the students first.”

Although retiring, McNish does not plan on taking any time off.

“It won’t be long before I’m back in the saddle,” said McNish.

McNish will return to the OKCCC faculty as an adjunct and taking part in the ACDelco construction at the college.

McNish received a bachelor’s degree in trade and industrial education from Oklahoma State University and a master’s degree in secondary education from the University of Central Oklahoma.



Carroll McNish

Francis Foster

By Kate Brennan
Editor

The success of her students will be what Francis Foster, mathematics professor, will always remember.

Foster is about to retire from OKCCC after 15 years of teaching the difference between negative and positive numbers, and the quadratic equation to countless math students.

She said she is happy to have instilled an understanding of math into some students who may have been unsure about their abilities in that area.

“Some of my best memories will be of the many students that I have had in basic math and elementary algebra who have gone on to have success with my college algebra and calculus classes,” she said.

“It has been very rewarding to see these students realize they could be successful with mathematics.”

Foster said she will miss her colleagues, but is excited about retiring.

“I do not have any definite plans at this point, but I look forward to wherever the new and exciting path of my retirement journey leads me,” she said.

She also said she is thankful for the leadership of certain people that have contributed to making her time at OKCCC special.

Foster earned her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Oklahoma City University and a master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Central Oklahoma.



Francis Foster

Callboxes available for emergencies

By Monica Smith
News Writing I Student

Inside OKCCC there are 33 emergency call boxes sporadically placed. Outside there are 10 parking lot boxes. These boxes are a direct link to campus security. Just push the button and an officer will respond.

Nine uniformed officers walk around campus on a regular basis.

You might recognize them sporting French blue button-up shirts, with the collegiate badge on the sleeve, and their names monogrammed on the front. Three women that go unseen, but certainly not unnoticed, work as the college security dispatchers.

The OKCCC security office sees itself as adequately staffed and see themselves as more than the average 'rent-a-cop'. The men and women currently working for the security department at OKCCC, "are at minimum medically first responder certified," said Keith Bourque, coordinator of campus security.

When Bourque is looking for new officers, he looks for a minimum of three years in the security field, preferably college campuses.

Bourque said the officers have the same licenses and training as the police officers in Oklahoma City.

The men and women on staff are armed security officers. They are required to re-qualify their weapons once a year (which is not technically required). In addition they are required to practice with a judgmental firearm simulator once a year. This is a shoot, don't shoot immediate response situation, said Bourque.

In addition to firearm simulator training, the security officers are trained for weather situations too.

"Our officers are trained with outside responders. They attend the national training in Norman, for hazardous weather"

When in doubt, trouble or distress, go immediately to the little red box on the walls inside the college or the blue boxes in the parking lot.

OKCCC security officers are here to help.



Photo by MB Doescher

Karen Hartline, sports and recreation specialist, points out the emergency call box located just outside the wellness center.

Summer plans for teens

By Meredith Creger
News Writing I Student

OKCCC offers a summer program for those kids who are too old for day care, but too young to stay on their own.

"This is a development leadership program," said Karen Hartline, OKCCC's sports and recreation specialist.

Teen Xtreme consists of 11 week-long programs, which teach kids ages 11 to 15 to be involved in the community, and to value each other.

The camp costs \$80 per week, with a \$25 registration fee per child at the time of the first week's enrollment.

Enrollment for Teen Xtreme continues all summer long, with each child being required to sign up for at least five weeks. Kids may sign up for more, but space is limited.

Youngsters are divided into two groups, 11- and 12-year-olds, and 13- to 15-year-olds. There are spaces for 21 kids per group, for each week.

Each week, the children take two field trips. One is an adventure field trip. For example going to White Wa-

"[Teen Xtreme] is a leadership development program."

—Karen Hartline
Sports and Recreation Specialist

ter or Frontier City. The other trip is a community service or career exploration trip.

The kids will take a tour of the State Capital building, or go to Norman to help with Food and Shelter for Friends.

The other three days the children spend at OKCCC will be spent playing games, learning etiquette, writing journals, and contributing to group activities.

The week of Aug. 8, the children will take a trip to Six Flags in Dallas. Children will be conducting fund-raisers all summer to help raise money to pay for the bus to get them there. They will be selling candy bars, and possibly doing a car wash.

Each child needs to bring a sack lunch, two snacks, and their swimsuit and towel each day to camp.

Worldly music and dance

By Monica Smith
News Writing I Student

Vibrant red dresses with black fringe will swish before the audience's eyes as the dancers doing the Mexican Salsa perform before the crowd. An evening of international music, dance, drama and visual arts is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 17, at the OKCCC theater.

It will leave the audience with a feeling of sensuality, sassiness, love and passion flowing through their veins, said Hazel Lopez-Crutcher, director of International Dance Studio and director of The International Extravaganza.

"I have really seen the need to bring the combination of different cultures," said Crutcher, originally from Guatemala City.

With that goal Crutcher has brought together a collection of performances for the Extravaganza. Dancers from Spain will be doing the flamenco, dancers from Argentina doing the tango, dancers from Mexico doing the mariachi, in addition, drummers from Brazil, and dancers and musicians from Columbia, Guatemala and Ireland will contribute.

"There will be jazz music, modern dance and ballet," said Crutcher.

In addition to the music and dance scene, Carlos Tello artwork will be hung in the entryway. The two-hour performance costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. There will be a raffle at the door, with prizes to give away. For more information contact Hazel Crutcher at 348-5841 or 831-9752.



JJ Harder concentrates hard while trying to hit the ball. Harder ended up with a single from this swing.

Swinging into summer

The great American pastime baseball is in the air at OKCCC. Children ages 4 to 7 are participating in the spring T-ball league that is organized by the wellness center.

Children are divided by age into two groups in the T-ball league. There are six teams in the 4 to 5 age group and four teams in the 6 to 7 age group.

The entire T-ball league is described as a non-competitive, fun oriented league by organizer Karen Hartline. Both age divisions do not keep score and allow the entire team to bat every inning. Games last an hour and are played on spray painted fields with temporary backstops in the area just south of the aquatic center.

In the 4 to 5 age group, there are no outs. All players reach base with a single no matter how many swings it takes to hit the ball fair off of the tee. When the last batter bats, all the players on base get to run around the bases to home like a home run has just been hit. Then, all the players grab their gloves and head out into the field to attempt to stop the ball while the other team takes its whacks at the t-ball.

The 6 to 7 age group differs from the younger group only in the fact that if a defensive player makes an out, the batter has to go back behind the backstop to await their turn in the field. However, the number of outs is not recorded and everyone still gets to bat.

The most common sight on the field is smiles from players, coaches and fans. The coaches who help in the field seem to work harder than the players in trying to keep the ball in fair territory during play. The only scary moments occur when a young player gets so excited they hit the ball and he or she forgets to hold onto the bat and sends it flying either into the field or at the crowd of parents watching the game. Otherwise, only laughter and fun are heard and seen at the games.

Karen Hartline, sports and recreation specialist, gave her view about the T-ball program: "Watching the players progress from the first game to their last and seeing how much they have improved is the best part for me."

In a time when coaches and fans have attacked umpires on the field and kids get sent home crying because they lost, it is nice to see a game played where everyone has fun and goes home with a smile. It shows maybe winning isn't everything.



Dakota Preble throws the ball back into the infield to prevent a run from scoring.



Coach Rodney McCallister gives instructions to his son Trevor on how to properly swing the bat.



Angelica Bryant gets a base hit with this ferocious swing during the first inning of the game. Bryant would later come around to score on a base hit by one of her teammates.



Bryan Ausmus takes some time to play with the grass during a pause in the action on the T-ball field.

Photos and text by: MB Doescher



Photo by MB Doescher

Stuffed: Eddie Dilworth attempts to spike the ball as Martha George, psychology professor, prepares to set the spike at the co-ed volleyball tournament, held May 6 and 7 in the wellness center gym.

CD puts college info at students' fingertips

By Eric Rose
News Writing I Student

Stacy Meldrum, director of Marketing and Public Relations, calls it "one of the most exciting projects for us."

Meldrum is referring to the college's latest endeavor, a CD-ROM that will partly take the place of the college catalog.

She said the CD, which will include a college admissions application, financial aid forms and a scholarship application, will be completed by late summer.

"This will provide all the information to students without them having to connect to the Internet," Meldrum said.

"We have found that a lot of our prospective students don't have full-time access to the Internet but do have a personal computer or access to one quite often."

Meldrum said the CD also will include another

"unique component" — a virtual tour of the OKCCC campus.

She said, aside from the convenience factor, the CD will reduce the number of catalogs and schedules that are mailed out to students each year.

The project, which cost an initial \$5000 to develop, will save the college money as well, Meldrum said.

She said the cost to produce a catalog is roughly \$3. If it's mailed, tack on another \$4 to \$5.

It costs about 60 cents to produce each CD-ROM and

62 cents to mail it.

Meldrum said her department plans to reduce the number of catalogs printed next year by 15 percent to offset the costs of the CD.

However, Meldrum said, catalogs will never be omitted entirely.

"We will always provide printed materials," she said. "This is just another medium for us, just like the Internet."

White Graphics is designing the CD-ROM according to Sally Edwards, director of Prospective Student Services.

Students act up at theater festival

By Stacey LeGrange
News Writing I Student

Five OKCCC students were chosen to perform in the 10-minute plays at the Irene Ryan Theatre Festival in Ft. Worth, Texas, in February.

Zakee King, Jessica Ball, Latoya Tucker, Tiuanna Harris and Stacey LeGrange auditioned for the 10-minute-long, student-written plays. All were cast.

"I wasn't even going to try out," Tucker said. "I'm always cast as an old person."

Tucker, King and Ball were cast in "The Situation." Harris was cast as the under-study.

"The Situation" is a play about a caretaker who enters her patient's house to find the patient's grandson threatening to shoot his grandmother. He also threatens to shoot the caretaker. The play twists and turns while the grandmother soothingly tries to calm her dismembered grandson who is torn apart by his faults in life. In the end, good prevails and the grandmother talks some sense into her grandson.

LeGrange was cast in the absurdist play, "Funkytown."

"Funkytown" is a play about a girl named Thumbelina who meets an old homeless man under an overpass. The girl is waiting on her drug dealer who is named Funkytown. The homeless man rambles on and on while Thumbelina impatiently waits on her dealer. After a while the two begin to talk and start to enjoy each other's company.

When Funkytown shows up, the homeless man takes all of his belongings out of his pockets while Thumbelina takes them and inherits the personality of the homeless man and the homeless man becomes Funkytown.

"All of the students had a good time at the Irene Ryan College Theatre Festival this week," said Ruth Charnay, theater arts professor. "The 10-minute plays are a good way for students from different schools to interact."

Attending the festival is a great learning experience for our students interested in theatre or film acting."

Students compete for tuition money

By Teresa Robinson
News Writing I Student

Four student actors from OKCCC — Jessica Ball, Courtney Diehl and Tiuanna Harris recently competed against hundreds of other college theater hopefuls for the coveted Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship.

The scholarship is made possible by the generosity of the late Irene Ryan, who is best remembered for her portrayal of Granny Clamptt on the hit 1960s television show, "The Beverly Hillbillies."

The competition was held in Ft. Worth, Texas, earlier this year with an awards

presentation on the last evening.

Though none of the OKCCC students won awards, they hold the competition in high regard.

Harris, one of the nominees, said the Irene Ryan scholarship is a great opportunity for people to learn about the theater.

"The competition is a chance to gain a lot of experience."

Harris performed a scene from the play "The Gingham Dog," about an interracial couple in the 1960s. Her partner for her performance was fellow OKCCC student Stacey LeGrange.

Ball, another Irene Ryan nominee, said the scholarship is "a big deal."

"It's prestigious, and

people hold it in high regard," she said.

The Irene Ryan Scholarships provide recognition, honor and financial assistance to students wishing to pursue further education.

The foundation offers 19 awards and two fellowships annually. The prizes offered start at \$500 and extend to \$2500.

The foundation sends the awards to the school designated by the winner where it is used to pay for tuition and fees.

Students interested in the Irene Ryan scholarship must be nominated by the head of their school's theater department, though the student need not be a theater major.

New technology to aid deaf students

Emily Forsythe
News Writing I Student

A new program for OKCCC students within the Services to Students with Disabilities Department was introduced on Friday, April 18.

Jennifer Hipp and Cyndie Blair, both C-Print interpreters at Tulsa Community College, came to introduce a new program called client-to-server for the C-Print program.

C-Print is a computer-aided speech-to-print transcription system that allows access to classroom discussions and lectures in "real time." C-Print is mainly used by the deaf and hard of hearing students.

When using C-Print, the captionist and student are both equipped with laptop computers, connected by a network. The captionist types lectures and classroom discussions and information appears on the student's laptop screen almost simultaneously.

The system uses word processing software aided by abbreviation software. Notes are then saved to a disk for further research.

A hard copy of class notes can be made available to the student, classroom teachers and resource teacher. The teacher can also use notes for other students when needed.

This program was intro-

duced by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) as a support service option by researchers eager to improve the classroom experience for students.

Hipp and Blair, both certified to train C-Print captionists by the NTID, introduced an additional program called client-to-server. This allows the students to talk to each other in the classroom about the lecture being given. Blair agreed that the client-to-server aspect is comparable to America Online's Instant Messenger.

Hipp and Blair did explain some downfalls to the system. The C-Print system along with the new client-to-server aspect requires the student to be on a certain reading level.

"We have only three students who would benefit from this program and who are savvy enough to use it," Blair said. Also, the laptops get expensive when trying to supply one to every student and interpreter, Hipp said.

"This isn't for everyone," Blair said. It gives the students a chance to get insight on what other students understand from the lecture, and then they can also read the text and use their notes taken by the interpreter. Hipp and Blair discussed the benefits of the program with OKCCC C-Print Interpreter Cheri Lee. "It empowers them more," Hipp said.



I won, I won: Barbara Gwinn returns to her seat after receiving the Critic's Choice Award for Short Story for her piece, *Austin Dreams*, at the Absolute reception held April 30. Vicki Hamm, an editor for the Absolute, applauds in the background.

Personalized education counts

By Cacie Climer
News Writing I Student

OKCCC Student Ambassador Kyle Shepherd reminds students that the college offers a great start for anyone who is looking to enrich their lives with higher education. Shepherd is a sophomore at the college who is an Act II recipient. Act II is a second-year scholarship that follows a freshmen scholarship.

Shepherd recently received an award for being an outstanding member of the Scholar's League, a club for students that have

scholarships at the college.

Shepherd is from Stella, Oklahoma, and graduated with the class of 2001 at Moore High School.

While Shepherd plans to finish his degree in engineering at Oklahoma State University, he said that OKCCC is a great place for students to start out. He also said, he would have gone straight to OSU if it hadn't been for the scholarship that the college offered him.

Shepherd said he urges everyone to check out the scholarships that OKCCC offers. Students might be surprised by the scholarships that they are eligible for. Shepherd spoke on be-

half of the center for Perspective Students, where he is employed by the college.

While OKCCC and four year universities both provide quality education, OKCCC provides a smaller classroom environment that universities have a hard time matching. When asked about what he likes most at the college, Shepherd said, "The nice professors. You're not just a number at OKCCC. The staff really cares about the success of the students."

People seeking scholarships or information on enrollment can stop by Prospective Student services or call 682-1611, ext. 7580.

Students learn to use knowledge that's available

By Christina Fasciano
News Writing I Student

The OKCCC library has 20 new flat screen Dell computers to assist students in the library orientation process. Previously, the library used a television to inform students how to use and

find the library resources. A librarian would direct this orientation process through lecture while the students watched the TV screen.

"It was hard to see on the big TV sometimes, because the resolution was not clear," said Linda Boatright, circulation librarian at OKCCC.

Instead of show-and-tell on TV, library orientation will be hands-on, explained John Rosenhamer the Technical Services Librarian at OKCCC. "Hands on will be better than talking about it."

There will still be an instructor, one of the librarians, to walk students through the program. How-

ever, the computers will allow for more individualized learning than the TV.

Library orientation teaches students how to use catalogs, get article databases, find books, and use other resources the library has to offer students.

Currently, the library is waiting on the arrival of one more computer for the in-

structor, then the new orientation process will be fully up and running. Rosenhamer said that orientations will probably start some time this summer and maybe even earlier than that.

To set up a library orientation for students, faculty can call 682-1611, ext. 7564 or drop by the library.

Pathways teacher recognized for passion

**By Naseem Cox
News Writing I Student**

A first year social studies and mathematics teacher has made a lasting impression on his students and co-workers at Pathways School of Choice.

Although Christopher Gehringer has only taught at Pathways for a year,

Principal Carol Brogan described him by saying: "He is very bright, genuine and interested in everything he comes in contact with. He is also talented in more ways than just teaching."

Gehringer said he was proud of his work. Getting the trust and respect of all the students was his biggest accomplishment.

Also he felt he had contributed to significant aca-

demic gains and an increased knowledge among his students.

Gehringer received his bachelor's degree from University of Tulsa and then went to Oklahoma State University where he received his master's degree.

After college Gehringer went into the workforce where he discovered what he described as his "calling to teach."

Gehringer then went on to get his teaching certification at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Following this he began teaching as an adjunct professor in the math and science areas for three years at OKCCC.

After that he landed his teaching position at Pathways.

Gehringer finds motiva-

tion when "a light bulb sparks within a student, when they understand something."

"When they figure it out and all of a sudden run with it, then take their knowledge, make it their own and relay that to me."

Gehringer said teaching is something he likes to do and is good at.

He researches different cultures to learn how they present information, so his students who do not learn in a traditional manner can find their knowledge through alternate outlets.

"Math does not have to be hard," he said.

"In math there are rules, if you don't know the rules of the game you won't win."

Holly Tiller, 15, a student at Pathways said he makes teaching fun.



Christopher Gehringer

"Teachers are the most important part of Pathways, especially Gehringer. He makes everything fun but isn't too serious to where you get bored."

Brogan summed up Gehringer's personality when she said, "He loves puzzles and he loves solving them."

Women at higher risk for sports injuries

**By Lane Lorenz
News Writing I Student**

OKCCC student Bizzy Swisher knows what it's like to have an injury that can put an end to all athletic activities. In her case, it was a torn ligament in her knee known as the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL).

For an athlete an ACL injury is catastrophic and can often end a career in sports. Six out of 14 players on the OU women's basketball team suffered the injury this year, and one player's career was ended due to multiple ACL injuries.

Swisher suffered this injury that is apparently very common among female athletes. Three years ago, Swisher was in her junior year at Casady High School. During a field hockey game, she tore her anterior cruciate ligament.

Swisher completed almost nine months of rehabilitation in order to return to play. She began rehabilitation at one physical therapy center in Oklahoma City, but did not have confidence in the knowledge of her physical therapist.

Swisher became concerned and transferred to a different physical therapy center. Because she was more comfortable and satisfied with the training, she finished the remainder of her physical therapy at the second center with a different physical therapist. The next year, she was able to return to field hockey and softball.

During the softball season, she discovered that her knee was not exactly 100 percent and that she would have to undergo a second surgery on the same knee. Although this surgery only required removal of scar tissue, instead of a complete ligament reconstruction, she would still have at least three months of rehabilitation before returning to any major sports. Swisher believes possible errors in her rehabilitation techniques could have been a contributing factor in the re-injury of her knee.

There are many theories as to why the ACL injury has become more frequent, especially among women athletes. According to an article in Newsweek magazine, the bone structure of a woman at the knee and hip, and hormonal changes during menstruation loosen the ligaments and joints which makes them more vulnerable to an ACL tear.

Physical therapy changes lives

**By Lane Lorenz
News Writing I Student**

OKCCC student Bizzy Swisher isn't the only one who has suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament. This season six out of the 14 players on the University of Oklahoma's women's basketball team have also endured the pain, and most of them plan to return to competitive college sports after rehabilitation.

Some however aren't so lucky. Stephanie Simon, a senior on the team had just earned a starting position when she re-injured her knee for the third time. She will not have the chance to return to basketball. This particular sports injury is very common, especially; it seems, in women.

So, what exactly is the anterior cruciate ligament, and why do we need it? The ACL is one of the most important of four strong ligaments connecting the bones of the knee joint. It prevents the knee from excessive forward movement of the lower leg bone (tibia) in relation to the thighbone (femur). The ACL also lim-

its rotational movements.

What does all this mean? It means that without this particular ligament, it is very painful to walk, and running becomes physically impossible.

An actual tear to the ACL results from overstretching the ligament within the knee. Usually this is caused by a sudden stop and twisting motions of the knee, or a force or "blow" to the front of the knee. The extent of a tear can either be partial or complete. Either way, it usually requires some type of reconstructive surgery.

After a knee surgery, there are many required stages of physical therapy. It usually takes about six months to complete all the stages, allowing a patient to return to full physical activity.

The physical therapy has to be fully completed and correct procedures must be followed to allow for a complete recovery. In some cases, athletes don't finish all their physical therapy because they want to return to the sport quickly, and sometimes a re-injury may occur. There are some cases in which correct pro-

cedures aren't used during physical therapy and this could also contribute to re-injury.

The physical therapist is an important part of the rehabilitation program. Rehabilitation begins immediately after surgery, which involves walking with crutches, and doing other muscular exercises. A few weeks after the surgery, a patient will begin a rehab program with a therapist, which is designed by the physician.

Peggy Newman, director of the physical therapist program at OKCCC, believes that insurance coverage contributes to the recovery of a patient undergoing physical therapy.

Many insurance companies don't completely cover all the physical therapy a patient needs. After their medical benefits are exhausted many patients stop therapy. Patients without health insurance often can't afford the proper training.

In the end, they may never be completely rehabilitated and they may experience a re-injury or another injury as a result of incomplete rehabilitation.

Secrets behind OKCCC symbol

By Lori Poe
News Writing I Student

The meaning behind the OKCCC symbol remains a mystery.

A long forgotten OKCCC document discovered by a retiring employee, states the meaning of the symbol.

"One of the emblems that represents OKCCC is the wheel symbol in the logo," said the retiring employee.

The design consists of a circle of interlocked symbols. One of the symbols is the international sign for



mankind. Two of the symbols interlocked represent friendship. A circle of the figures represents the community, said the retiring employee.

According to some students and professors at OKCCC, this symbol is much more than just a sculpture on the entrance signs.

When students were asked what their ideas of the symbol were, there was an array of responses.

OKCCC student Preston O'Brien said that he thought the symbol was

supposed to be a snowflake. He, along with others, were not aware of the meaning within the so-called 'snowflake.'

"I don't know. I've never really thought about it [the symbol and its meaning]," said student Trisha Bourke.

Student Katie Tillman said she did not know what the sign's significance was but wanted to know more about it.

In a meeting with Occupational Therapy Director Tom Kraft earlier this semester, he said the symbol was a circle of people holding hands along the outermost ring. The inner circle they surround is OKCCC.

Summertime actions for the youngsters

By Matt Ratcliff
News Writing I Student

Not quite sure what to do with the rugrats over the summer time while in class or at work? Moore Norman Technology Center can help with that problem.

Every year MNTC has a Summer Youth Program geared for children of different ages.

One of the programs is Fishing for fun, where Youngsters will learn all about fishing the lakes and ponds of Oklahoma, and what lures work best. Kids

will be able to fish the stocked pond at MNTC. Don't worry about bringing the pole. MNTC will provide that also.

Then there is Nails. Nails is where your little princess can learn all about the art of painting finger nails.

Other programs include Robotics, vigorous volcanoes, acting out, say it in Spanish, write way, fun with scrapbooks, computer shortcuts, digging in with digital cameras, better babysitting, sign language, cheers and chants, sew smart, math mania, manners matter, carpentry and wildlife adventure offered for your child.

Heather Thein, summer youth counselor, said last summer MNTC had more than 1,100 students that participated in the youth activities.

"MNTC summer youth program is a lot of fun and the students have an awesome time," said Thein.

MNTC also has the classes separated into three age groups: 9-11, 12-14 and 15-16.

"It is not only fun but also a learning experience," said Christi Hager, a customer service representative at MNTC.

If you are interested in the different programs that go on during the summer at MNTC call 364-5763 ext. 7260 or log onto their website at www.mntechology.com and look under summer youth.

Employee leaving for marriage in spring

By Brent Hodges
News Writing I Student

Kelie Solis, coordinator in the Recreation and Community Services office, will be leaving at the end of the spring semester.

Solis said she'll be moving to Dallas where she has plans to marry Dallas Police Officer Keith Ashley on March 6.

Solis grew up not far from Oklahoma City in the city of Mustang and graduated

from Mustang High School. After graduation, she started working for the Bethany YMCA.

Solis said she had worked there for seven years when a staff position came open at the OKCCC Recreation and Community Services office.

That was three years ago. Since that time, she has moved into the coordinator position. Solis has been in charge of many programs while at OKCCC.

She has supervised se-

nior citizen functions, the college's aerobics center, wellness center, adult education, and college for kids.

Over the years, Kelie said, she has made many great memories.

"[It's been] a great experience," she said.

She said her most memorable experience while employed at the college was serving as a guest speaker at the 2002 Athletic Business Conference.

Solis said she will remain in the Athletics Business

field.

She plans to transfer from the University of Central Oklahoma to North Texas University.

As for working plans, she has been hired by the Garland [Texas] YMCA as summer camp director and fitness consultant.

OKCCC co-worker Denise Smith said Solis will be missed.

"We will deeply miss her and her enthusiasm for her work and her passion for this school," Smith said.

Nurse's licenses can be earned in stages

By Matt Ratcliff
News Writing I Student

Students can earn their Registered Nurses licenses in stages at Moore Norman Technology Center.

"Through Moore Norman Technology Center someone can receive their License Practical Nursing degree and then take that and go to OKCCC for the Registered Nurse program, said Janie Milum, director of Student Services in Moore Norman.

A few steps must be done before one can enroll in the LPN program at MNTC.

Some of these steps are like picking up an application for the Practical Nursing program at MNTC, and taking the prerequisites like medical terminology and CPR health care provider.

"Moore Norman really does prepare you for the nursing field because of all the skills that you learn and all the hands-on experience that you get," said Christy Scott, MNTC



graduate of the LPN program.

Scott currently works for a Home Health agency and applies her skills to her career.

"The experience was very beneficial for me," Scott said.

"MNTC has had 45 classes graduate from the LPN program since its inception in 1974," said Milum.

This is OKCCC's second year to have an LPN-to-RN program.

"The LPN-to-RN class can only hold a maximum of 35

students," said Shelly Tevis, division secretary for the health professions.

This program is different from many other programs. It is geared for people who might have to work while they go to school.

"The class only meets twice a week on Wednesdays for classroom lecture, and on either Friday or Saturday for the clinical," said nursing professor Susan Wright Mann.

The class meets starting in June and runs until May.

The Division of Health Professions begins taking application for this program in January.

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Highlights

Help small businesses

The Training Center at OKCCC and the local chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Executives are providing a series of low cost seminars to help startup and existing businesses with both planning and day-to-day operations. A seminar entitled "How to Write a Business Plan" will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13. The cost is \$39. Another seminar is scheduled from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 and the cost is \$39. Both seminars will be in the Training Center located on the fourth floor of the library. For more information or to register, call Melanie at 682-7562.

Breast cancer seminar at OKCCC

OKCCC is inviting Dr. JoAnn D. Haberman, the most experienced breast cancer diagnostician in Oklahoma, to present a seminar on Breast Cancer Detection from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, in room CU3 of the main building. For more information, call Dudley Freeman at 682-1611, ext. 7566.

Fund-raiser for scholarship and activities fund

Abilities Galore will hold a Bake Sale with Chance-to-Win option of a Graduation or Finals themed basket from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, and Wednesday, May 15, in the main building lobby. The drawing will be held in the afternoon on May 14 in the lobby. Those who enter the drawing do not have to be present to win. For more information, call Meredith Dunkeson at 631-3965 or Jenna Howard at 682-1611, ext. 7621.

Summer camps for kids

OKCCC is offering a variety of sports camps for children ages 6 through 10 this summer. Camps run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Camps are \$80 per week. For an additional \$25 per week, before- and after-care is available from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Another camp that will be offered for children ages 11 to 15 this summer is the Teen Xtreme camp, which is a leadership camp that includes two field trips per week. The Teen Xtreme camps run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning June 6. All camp participants need to bring two snacks, a snack lunch and swimsuit each day. For more information, call the Recreation and Community Services office at 682-7860.

Tuition fee waiver information

Applications for fall tuition fee waivers are available in the Student Financial Aid Center. Applications must be submitted to the Student Financial Aid Center before 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1. Students will also need to check with the Financial Aid office to see if they have been approved for the Academic Tuition Fee Waiver award. All waivers are pending until they are reviewed for eligibility. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 682-1611, ext. 7524.

Scholarship for the summer

The Financial Aid Office is offering two \$500 scholarships for the summer, which are based on both merit and financial need. Applicants must be recipients of federal need-based financial aid during the current year and have a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Each applicant must also have earned 24 college level credit hours by the application deadline of Monday, May 19, and be enrolled in at least six credit hours for summer. Applications may be picked up in the Financial Aid Office. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 682-1611, ext. 7524.



Photo by MB Doescher

Jazzy tune: The OKCCC Jazz Ensemble performs in the union on May 6. The jazz ensemble consists of O.J. Williams, saxophone, Bryan Mitschell, drums, Jose Olivares, piano, and Kevin Webb, guitar.

Civic engagement a new approach

By Caroline Ting
Staff Writer

College students are one particular group that volunteer for community services but are not actively involved in the political process, said Staci Owens, OKCCC representative for civic engagement.

Civic engagement offers students the opportunity to get closer with the policy makers.

Owens also said the collegiate Vocal Oklahomans in Civic Engagement Committee (VOICE) has just begun promoting civic engagement statewide in Aug. 2002. They wish to develop the effort from college campuses and gradually take it to the state and national levels.

So a campaign like civic engagement is dedicated to make college students realize that their opinions and votes all count, and they will make a difference in the political process.

In the past school year, events and activities related to the project include National Civic Engagement Day at the State Capitol and blood drives.

The Leadership Council

"[Being involved in civic engagement] is going to benefit [the students] by being the people [who] create policies in the future."

—Staci Owens
OKCCC Representative
for civic engagement

also helped promote civic engagement by inviting political science professor Rick Vollmer to speak to student representatives from different clubs about political and civic engagement. History professor Mendy Bergin was also asked to do a special presentation on Black history.

"Politics and being involved in the whole political process is something that has always been very important to me," Owens said.

Owens was chosen by The Leadership Council to represent the college in VOICE from fall 2002 to spring 2003. She majors in education and does student supplemental instructing for professors

Dana Glencross and Vollmer.

Owens encourages students to take a little bit of extra time to familiarize themselves with the political process.

"It's going to benefit them by being the people [who] create policies in the future," Owens said.

Students who are interested in being a part of Civic Engagement can contact Student Life office at 682-1611, ext. 7792.

According to a news release from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, a new website sponsored by VOICE is located at www.okvoice.org. Students can visit the site for helpful information on civic activities.

**Got club news?
~ Let the Pioneer hear it ~
Call Caroline at 682-1611, ext. 7676.**

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OKCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611, ext. 7674 for more information.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '02 Dodge Neon SXT. 9k miles. All power, cruise, spoiler, CD player, loaded. 90k miles left on factory warranty. Excellent condition. \$11,900 OBO. Call 392-9714 or 623-6820.

FOR SALE: '00 Toyota Corolla. 59k miles. All power, cruise, silver with gray interior. Good condition. \$8,900 OBO. Call 392-9714 or 623-6820.

FOR SALE: '99 Kia Sportage EX. 39k Miles. All power, auto transmission, CD, keyless entry, theft deterrent system, multiple airbags, loaded. 10year/100k mile warranty included. \$8,200. Call 329-6472.

FOR SALE: '98 Chevy 350. 3/4 ton cargo van, fully loaded, automatic, AM/FM Cassette. \$7,000. Call Robert 833-8571.

FOR SALE: '97 Toyota. Black, 60k miles. \$4,150. Call Tina after 9 p.m. at 579-0542.

FOR SALE: '96 Chrysler Sebring LXI. V6, Automatic, Tan with gray leather interior, fully loaded, with sunroof, CD player, power everything, 105k miles. \$4,999 OBO. Call 947-0131.

FOR SALE: '96 Pontiac Firebird Formula. LS1 Corvette engine, Teal, 74k miles. Runs like new. Tee Tops, leather interior, new tires, new battery, recently tuned up. Asking \$10,500. Call Amanda at 302-5529.

FOR SALE: '96 Honda Civic EX. Black, gray interior, 2-door, power windows, locks & mirrors. Sunroof, spoiler, multi-disc changer, automatic, new timing belts & tires. In good condition, perfect mechanical condition. \$7,000 OBO. Call 816-4338.

FOR SALE: '95 Ford Contour. Very nice! New transmission. V6, power windows, power locks, sunroof, 130k miles. Must sell. \$4,000 OBO. Call 799-3412 or 613-0803.

FOR SALE: '95 Ford Taurus Sedan, white, 3.0 Liter V6, a/c, power seats & windows. \$2,800 OBO. Call Eddie at 246-2361.

FOR SALE: '94 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS, 5-speed, power locks, windows and mirrors, A/C, CD player, new timing belt, clutch and tires. Runs great! Must sell! \$2,800

OBO. Call Angel at 681-5086.

FOR SALE: '92 Toyota Celica ST. 5 spd, Black, alloy wheels, 110k miles. Asking \$1,150. Call Moe at 408-2753.

FOR SALE: '91 Nissan Sentra Coupe. White exterior. Intact gray interior. Sunroof, 5-speed manual transmission, recently rebuilt engine. \$1,700 OBO. Call 672-9519.

FOR SALE: '89 Buick Century. Blue, 4-door, loaded. Great grandma's car, garage kept until 2000. Family owned. approx. 65k miles. \$2,300. Call 692-0177.

FOR SALE: '71 Chevy Nova. Custom everything! 39k on a '95 LT1 motor. Blue with black racing stripes. Fast! Clean! Hot! \$8,000 OBO. Must Sell! Call Christopher or Katherine at 701-1867.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: 800 sq yards of emerald green carpet. 1 1/2 years old. Call Josh at 850-4880.

FOR SALE: Antigua Winds Saxophone. Great condition, looks great. Been checked by instrument tech. Includes 2 neckstraps, mouthpiece, ligature, reeds, reed holder, and swap. \$315. Call 202-4585.

FOR SALE: Blue bunkbed. Metal with full size bottom bunk. Also 3 drawer dresser with matching book case. Would like to sell together. \$150. Call 787-5952.

FOR SALE: Entire wardrobe of maternity clothes. Over 40 pieces worn by one owner. Size L and XL, mostly summer items. \$75. Call Gretchen at 745-4156.

FOR SALE: 50 + piece wardrobe of 0-3 month girl clothes. Mostly summer and winter clothes. Brands include Baby Gap, Gymboree, Old Navy, Oshkosh, and Carter. \$70. Call Gretchen at 745-4156.

FOR SALE: New cherry finish wood day bed with brand new mattress. Bought from Mathis Bros. paid \$671 will take \$400. Hunter green couch with sofa bed and matching loveseat-rocker-recliner. Excellent condition. \$200. Call Karla at 799-4406.

FOR SALE: King bed head board. Has large storage area and lighted top/mirror. \$100. Lingerie dresser with 7 drawers \$35. Beautiful 5' x 3" long black lacquer dresser with mirror. Has storage in middle. \$150. Call 632-7750.

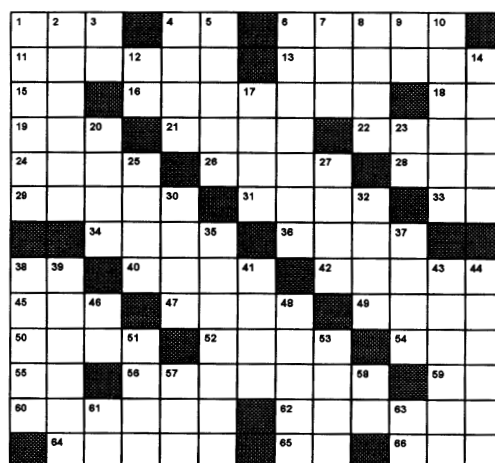
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weekly crossword

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ACROSS

1 Cooking vessel
4 State of being
6 Contest area
11 Salad plant
13 Type of window
15 Football position (abbr.)
16 Send
18 S. New England state (abbr.)
19 Top of container
21 Ride (p.t.)
22 Glide
24 Make written changes
26 Roman emperor
28 No (Scot.)
29 Domesticates
31 Snakes
33 The place of the seal (L., abbr.)
34 Catch sight of
36 Per
38 Take action
40 Frog
42 Owner of a landed estate (Scot.)
45 High card
47 Snare
49 Oak

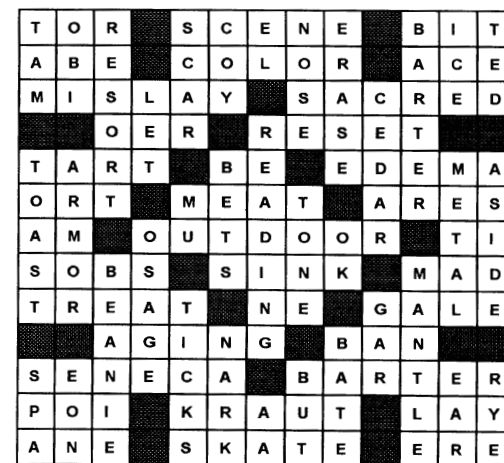
50 In the time of (L., abbr.)

52 Leak
54 Abstract concept
55 Raised railroad
56 Lacking professional skill
59 Twice; double (pref.)
60 Sharp bend in fairway
62 Deep hole
64 Test food
65 Erbium symbol
66 Metal

DOWN

1 Bullet; small shot
2 Iroquois tribe
3 Football score (abbr.)
4 Affirm
5 Fruit
6 Negative
7 Female deer
8 Makes mistakes
9 S.W. state (abbr.)
10 Lofty
12 N.W. state (abbr.)
14 Angers
17 Thought

puzz122



20 Small coin

23 Article
25 Exam
27 Gem
30 Stain; blot
32 Scram
35 Measurement in 3-ft. lengths
37 Employ
38 Old
39 Forest-dwelling cat
41 Slender, pointed missile
43 Present for consideration
44 Need
46 Type measurement
48 Portion
51 Friends
53 Meow
57 Encountered
58 Egyptian sun god
61 Southern state (abbr.)
63 At

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FOR SALE: The American Journey, Vol 1, second edition with Mapping American History CD. No marks, not bent, like new! Call Christopher or Katherine at 701-1867.

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Lost items range from the typical to odd

By Gillian Whybark
News Writing I Student

Lost items are an everyday matter at OKCCC. Jim Springer, security guard, said that many lost items are never picked up after they have been found.

Students find calculators, textbooks, clothing, car keys, and wallets and turn them in to the Security Office everyday.

Sometimes, unusual finds are brought to the Security Office.

"We also get underwear, everything from panties to boxers," Springer said.

He also has gotten roller blades and a spare tire.

"We also get a lot of car keys and the owners never come to pick them up," Springer said. "I wonder how they drive the car."

Springer said the office holds lost items for 60 days.

If they are not claimed, he takes the clothes to charity like the Salvation Army, the books back to the bookstore, cell phones to the Oklahoma County Sheriff. The sheriff's office gives the cell phones to senior citizens who can't afford a phone. They program the cellphones to reach 911. Anything related to money they give to the State Treasurer's Office where the student can go to claim it after the 60 days.

Springer said the number of lost items has remained steady over the last couple of years.

Governor appoints new OKCCC regent

"Regent,"
Cont. from page 1

provement of Nursing Care Homes (OK INCH), the Silver Haired Legislature Alumni Association, the Alliance on Aging and the Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma.

Musser said she is looking forward to her newest appointment.

"I have a long standing relationship with OKCCC," she said. "I feel that the college is a vital part of Oklahoma's educational system and I just look forward to being a member of the Board of Regents."

First floor fountain's future being debated

By Eric Rose
News Writing I Student

Gail Armstrong Construction has completed the main building, first-floor remodeling, but one item still looks incomplete — the area near the elevators that once housed a large water fountain.

John Knight, physical plant director, said the college is unsure what to do with the area.

Vice President for business and finance Art Bode,

said a couple of options are being considered.

He said the college might put a mosaic in the bottom of the area surrounding the fountain, then reinstall the fountain.

Knight said another option would be to fill the area with fake or real plants.

Knight and Bode are two of three people collaborating on the project.

With the budget cuts, Knight said, the amount of funding is a concern.

If the fountain stays in its current location, it will be inexpensive to operate and

maintain, Knight said.

He said the fountain holds about 15 gallons of water and needs to be topped off twice a week.

It costs about \$1 a day to run the re-circulating

pump in the bottom of the fountain, Knight said.

One student likes the mosaic project idea.

Sandra Delira said it would be nice to look at from the upper floors.

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