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# PIONEER

## College names new president

**Paul Sechrist fills role as OKCCC's ninth leader**

**By Christiana Kostura  
Editor**

OKCCC has a new president. On Dec. 12, the OKCCC Board of Regents announced Dr. Paul Sechrist's presidency would be effective immediately instead of in March as originally planned.

The decision came after the death of OKCCC's eighth president, Bob Todd, who died from heart complications Dec. 11.

Todd announced Sept. 12 he would be retiring on March 1.

OKCCC Regents voted Nov. 21 to make Sechrist the ninth president of the college, effective March 1.

Sechrist said he looks forward to leading the college. "It's the mission," he said.

"There [are] two pillars we stand on — access and opportunity."

Sechrist has worked to help build on those pillars in his many roles at OKCCC for nearly 10 years.



**OKCCC President  
Paul Sechrist**

Most recently, Sechrist served as acting president for the college from mid-January to mid-December 2005.

Prior to becoming acting president, Sechrist served as OKCCC's Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs from 2001 to 2005, Academic Affairs Vice President from 1996 to 2000, and Business and Computer Technology Dean from 1995 to 1996.

Sechrist also taught at Southern Nazarene University and for Yukon Public Schools prior to working for OKCCC.

"Teaching is such a noble job," Sechrist said.

"There is power to education."

Sechrist said his plans as president include focusing more on obtaining additional financial resources for the college and changing the college's perception of itself.

See "Sechrist," page 12

## Need help?



**Photo by Carrie Cronk**

Student ambassador P. J. Roberts, a freshman business major, makes preparations to help students navigate campus corridors during the start of the semester. Students will be directed to buildings by use of arrows on the floor. Employees also will be seen wearing "Need Help? Ask Me" buttons to encourage students to ask for help when they need it.

## Preliminary reports show enrollment down

**By Christiana Kostura  
Editor**

Enrollment is likely to be lower in spring 2006 than it was in spring 2005, said Marion Paden, Student Services vice president.

College officials are worried that preliminary figures show drops in both new and returning students.

Administrators have some ideas about why

enrollment among students has decreased, Paden said. "The unemployment rate in the metropolitan area is contributing to our lack of new students at the college."

The unemployment rate is currently about 3.9 percent, Paden said. While that's great for the community, it hurts enrollment rates for all area colleges.

The unemployment rate affects college enrollment because when more jobs are available, more people choose to work rather than go to school, she said.

Another reason fewer students have enrolled may be the cost of transportation, Paden said.

The cost of gas, which, as of Jan. 12 was, on average, \$2.21 per gallon in Oklahoma, may contribute to people's inability to afford college.

Students also may find it more affordable to study at a home computer. "Our online enrollment is up," Paden said.

See "Enrollment," page 12



## Comments and Reviews

# New twist on an old story

The timeless plot of the love story always makes for a great movie. This rings true with the new hit, "Brokeback Mountain."

The story is about two lovers who are kept apart by society's standards.

History is full of stories about love-struck couples who can never be together because of society. "Brokeback" is another "Romeo and Juliet," with a twist.

There are two Romeos.

The movie is set between 1963 and 1983, mostly in Wyoming.

Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger), a quiet man who grew up ranching, meets Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), an outspoken rodeo cowboy.

The two men head up Brokeback Mountain on a job together. They are required to herd thousands of sheep to pasture to graze for a few months.



During the time the men are performing their jobs, they have very little contact with anyone else.

They slowly discover their attraction for one another and begin to have a deeper relationship than friendship.

After their work with the sheep is done, the lovers agree to go their separate ways — Twist goes back to

the rodeo and Del Mar returns to his fiancé, Alma (Michelle Williams).

Both men initially decide to move on with their lives, separately, because society dictates that for the couple's safety, that's what they must do.

Twist eventually looks to renew the relationship with Del Mar, and that's when things get really complicated.

The script for "Brokeback Mountain," which was based on a short story by E. Annie Proulx, is well written. Director Ang Lee could not have chosen better actors.

This is a high-quality, deep, heartbreaking movie that provides an insight to the struggles many homosexual couples faced in the past and still face today.

**Rating:** A

—**Christiana Kostura**  
Editor

# 'Dead or Alive 4' rocks Xbox 360

Colors dazzle and frame rates fly as you slide across the screen and deliver a swift high kick.

As the winter weather approaches again, what better time to sit down and break some legs while delivering a six-hit combo?

No, I'm not talking about Black Friday. I'm describing what kind of intense action can be seen in the much-anticipated fighting game "Dead or Alive 4."

It has been several years since "DOA" has made it back to the consoles.

Team Ninja and Tecmo have brought one of the most beautiful fighters to the Xbox 360 this year.

Tecmo has been known for its eye-dazzling backgrounds and character models for several years but this game surpasses previous versions.

A multitude of colors are seen on some of the fighters' outfits when they move into differently lighted areas on the screen.

Arenas and some of the shading of the characters look impressive and have a nice shiny look.

Veterans to the "DOA" series will feel right at home with the characters, move sets and the all-important counter attacks.

Several fan favorite fighters have made it back to the series including Gen Fu, Brad Wong and Ryu Hayabusa. Specially included in the Xbox 360 version is Nicole,

a Spartan from the "Halo" series. The Spartan even has some signature moves. Team Ninja also included a grab attack involving a sticky grenade.

The game runs like a movie at times, with fluid motion and fast frame rates that seem to click by with ease.

Game modes include story mode, time attack and survival mode. Completing these modes with every character unlocks special characters like the Spartan and Gen Fu.

New players to this game need to be warned this is one of the most difficult "DOA" games available and even experienced players will have a tough time adjusting to the speed and timing of the game's counter attacks.

The online modes are nice and allow up to 16 players in a tournament. There is also a winner-take-all game where players can watch others battle as they await their turn.

This "DOA" is one of the best they have produced and a must-have for fighting fans.

If you like killer graphics and intense battling, this is one that should be in your library.

**Rating:** 4.7/5

—**John Savage**  
Staff Writer

## Counselor's Corner

*"Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself."*

—**Chinese Proverb**

Hello, and welcome to (or back to) Oklahoma City Community College. We're glad you've chosen us as the place to be for this phase of your life.

January is always an exciting month. It signals the birth of a new year, as well as a new semester. It is the quintessential reminder that time moves forward, past the end of the previous semester, past the holidays that both thrilled us and overwhelmed us, past the flurry of post-holiday sales. It is a new month, a new semester, and a new year. Now that you have begun to settle into a new school routine, you have a new opportunity to learn and grow and stretch to new heights.

Academic success is really a matter of practicing your A, B, C's.

- Attend class. Even if you borrow notes from a good friend who takes good ones, you lose something by not being there.

- Be involved. Life and learning are not spectator sports. Ask questions. Participate in discussions. Don't just sit there. Meet new people and find out about where they're from and why they're here. Join a club. Do something.

- Communicate. If you don't understand something, ask. Most of the time, when students come to Student Development to discuss dropping a class or to complain about not learning anything in a class, they haven't even spoken to their professors about the trouble they're having. They haven't spoken to the professor after class. They haven't bothered to see him or her during office hours. They haven't gone to a learning lab for assistance. We are all good at what we do, and we do what we do because we enjoy it. However, we can't read your mind. Talk to us... often... and before it's too late.

- Do your homework. Don't whine because "It's not even for a grade." Even ungraded work is given for a reason. It gives you an opportunity to practice the skills you'll eventually see on a test. If you can do the homework, then you can probably pass the class.

- Enjoy life. Not every class is as thrilling and fast-paced as a music video, but you should be able to find something of interest in it. Life isn't always thrilling, but it beats the option. If your life is pure drudgery, then it's time for you to rethink what you're doing. Come see a counselor and talk about your goals and dreams.

As with everything in life, getting an education is a process. Some of you will find it easier to take the necessary steps than will others. Either way, the Student Development Counselors can help you learn how to be a more successful learner. Thank you for being here. We hope to see you again soon.

—**Mary Turner**  
Student Development Counselor

## Comments and Reviews

## 2005's best and worst movies

Now that the New Year's confetti has been cleaned up, it is time to prepare for another celebration.

This celebration is about 2005's best movies.

Each year, film geeks and movie snobs from all walks of life compile their "best of the year" lists in hope of predicting the Oscars and the Golden Globes.

Sorry to say, there is no red carpet here. Instead, here are the Pioneer's Favorite Flicks of 2005.

## 10 must-see movies

1. Although the giant ape will likely go without any love from the Academy, **"King Kong"** is the best film of the year. It is one of those movies that captures the audience's attention and doesn't let up. "King Kong" comes in first because of both its drama and entertainment.

2. **"Munich"** is a film that evokes strong emotions and gives people something to think about. It is a late entry to the list, as it is still in theaters.

3. **"Walk The Line"** not only shows why Johnny Cash is cooler than Elvis, but how he became a man. There should be a public outcry if Reese Witherspoon doesn't win the Oscar for Best Actress after becoming June Carter.

4. **"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"** is a film that is as fun for adults as it is for children.

5. Not only is **"Batman Begins"** the top comic book and adventure movie but also it is one of the best movies of 2005.

6. At number six, we have a little-known German film titled, **"Der Untergang"** or **"Downfall."** This movie follows the last days of Adolf Hitler from the perspective of his secretary. It is amazingly realistic and worth watching.

7. **"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"** shows how



adventure isn't just for kids. This is the most mature and well done of the Harry Potter movies.

8. **"Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith"** may not be on the same level of the original "Star Wars" trilogy, but it is a splendid movie.

9. **"A History of Violence"** is one of the biggest surprises of the year. An outstanding cast, led by Viggo Mortensen, tells the story of a man who just wants to change.

10. **"Crash"** is what happens when people live with too many biases and stereotypes. Multiple stories intertwine in this drama.

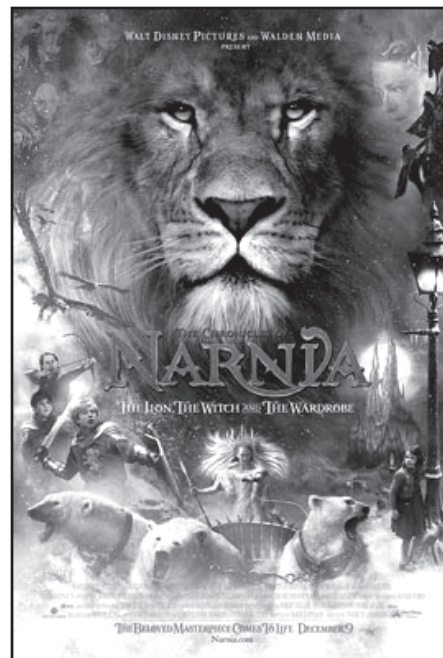
## Avoid like the plague

1. **"War of the Worlds"** was easily the most painful movie of the year. It is the worst movie of 2005 unless you enjoy crazy people, harmless aliens and the screams of Dakota Fanning.

2. **"Domino"** wins the award for "Movie-To-Walk-Out-of-After-

15-Minutes." Yes, it's that bad.

3. Sorry gamers and "The Rock" fans, but **"Doom"** was doomed. It won the award for "Worst Word of Mouth in 2005." The word of mouth was so bad it scared me away from seeing "Doom."



## Best family movies

1. **"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."** It is as enchanting and powerful as could be.

2. **"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"** is a great family movie but may be too scary for the younger kids.

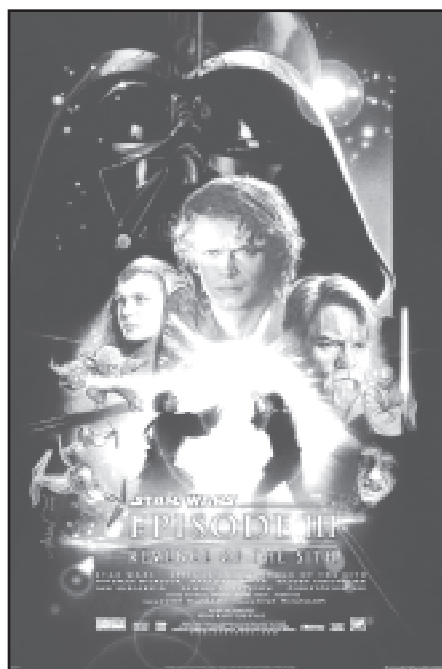
3. **"Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith"** is a movie that will have the kids lighting up their light sabers for days.

## Best comic book movies

1. Even with solid competition in this category, **"Batman Begins"** is simply the best.

2. Although **"Sin City"** really looks like a living comic book, it falls short of "Batman Begins." It is still a solid film that broke new ground in filmmaking.

3. **"Fantastic Four"** is another shining film and captures the essence of the "Fantastic Four" comic books and brought some fun to theaters.



## Best action/adventure movies

1. With **"Batman Begins,"** Director Christopher Nolan revived a dead franchise.

Essentially, the movie is a picture of the beloved comics come to life rather than the run-of-the-mill adventure movie.

2. **"Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith"** is a movie that defines the best parts of adventure and fantasy.

3. **"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"** is too much fun to not have here.

—Written and compiled by Matthew Caban, Staff Writer

# More than 2,500 parking spots available

**By Matthew Caban**  
Staff Writer

As the spring semester starts, the rush back to classes begins. With it come hundreds of cars and plenty of frustrated drivers.

Steps have been taken by Safety and Security to help students with parking during the start of the semester, Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque said.

Bourque said overflow

parking will be available, if needed, in the grassy area north of parking lot C.

He said the overflow parking gives students the option of parking on the grass if they cannot find a parking space.

"When lots A, B and C fill up, some people just pull into the overflow area," Bourque said.

"But if they want to park on pavement, they should pull around to the other lots [behind the college]," he said.

Physical Plant Director

**"[Students] need to get here in enough time to find a parking space."**

—Keith Bourque  
Safety and Security Coordinator

J.B. Messer said there are approximately 2,800 parking spaces on campus.

He said the spaces are spread around campus in parking lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and the service road.

A little more than 2,500 of the spaces are open to anyone.

Another 233 are for faculty and staff, and 85 are

designated as handicap spaces, Messer said.

Although parking on the grass in some areas is allowed, parking in non-designated grass areas will result in a \$5 fine, Bourque said.

He said other parking violations and moving violations will be enforced.

Parking in either a handicap space without a proper

permit or in a fire lane would result in a \$100 fine, he said.

Bourque said a list of campus traffic and parking regulations is available in the Safety and Security office located on the first floor in the main building.

Bourque offered another piece of advice.

"[Students] need to get here in enough time to find a parking space," he said.

For more information, contact Safety and Security at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7691.

Staff Writer Matthew Caban can be reached at StaffWriter3@okccc.edu.

## Three ways to raise your grade

**By Patricia Roberts**  
News Writing Student

Students looking to improve their grade point average can do so several ways, said Admissions and Records assistant Mary Jones.

"Grades will never come off your transcript," she said, "but students have the opportunity to improve their grade point average."

OKCCC offers students the chance to improve their GPAs by repeating, reprieving and renewing courses.

If a student wants to repeat a course, the original grade must be a D or below. Students are allowed to repeat four courses totaling no more than 18 hours.

Academic reprieve allows students to remove an entire semester only under certain circumstances.

They must have a maximum of two consecutive semesters that average below 2.0. To qualify, students must have a minimum of 12 credit hours above 2.0 since the semesters they're requesting to remove.

Students wishing to reprieve their grades must wait at least three years before requesting to do so.

Academic renewal removes courses five years after they've been completed. However, through renewal, none of the courses will count as credit.

Jones said academic reprieve and renewal requests must go through the proper channels to get approved.

"Both academic reprieve and renewal must go to the Admissions Appeal Committee," Jones said.

For more information, refer to page 41 of the college catalog.

**"Grades will never come off your transcript, but students have the opportunity to improve their grade point average."**

—Mary Jones  
Admissions and Records Assistant

## Food service changes owners

**By John Savage**  
Staff Writer

Returning students will notice something a little different about the cafeteria this semester.

Sellers' Catering has left the campus and Carson's Food Concepts has moved in.

Though the name has changed, all the familiar faces will still be working and many of the items offered in the past will stay put.

OKCCC decided to change food providers due to the retirement of Jim Sellers, owner of Sellers' Catering.

"Mr. Sellers was wanting to sell the business and we were wanting to buy," said Carson's Area Manager Dennis Peters.

"We are not going to change a lot of things," Peters said. "We will be enhancing the foods already in place."

Peters said the deli will be enhanced with the addition of more meats and cheeses.

Peters said there would be a slight makeover to the menu items.

"We will add some different names, some different

**"We will be enhancing the foods already in place."**

—Dennis Peters  
Carson's Food Concepts Area Manager

ideas and different breads," he said.

The prices will remain the same on the items that are currently being sold.

John Carson, owner of Carson's Food Concepts, said the prices will remain the same and the only new prices students, faculty and staff will see are those attached to the new items.

All meats and cheeses will be brought through Buddy's Produce, an Oklahoma City-based company.

Peters said most of the students will be familiar with the prices and menu items that Carson's will provide.

"We're not going to go in there and change the world overnight on them," Peters said. "There will be a few subtle changes."

In the past, some of the menu items actually came from outside providers like Pizza Hut and Subway, Peters said.

That is something Carson's will be taking a look at in the future.

Debit and credit cards are now being accepted in the cafeteria.

Peters believes accepting cards will help students by allowing them to buy healthy, well prepared meals they can afford, all on-campus.

"We want to bring things to the students we have had a lot of success with," Carson said. "We believe in presentation cooking and we want to offer healthy choices to the students."

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at Senior Writer@okccc.edu.

**Get it off your chest — write a letter to the editor. E-mail the letter to editor@okccc.edu or drop it off at 2M6, located in front of the elevator on the second floor of the main building.**

# SEM Center renamed, moving along

**By Holly Jones**  
Staff Writer

Recent mild weather has allowed the contractors on the Robert P. Todd Science, Engineering and Math Center to finish some projects ahead of schedule, said Eddie Cox, Physical Plant project manager.

"The interior floor, stair landing and top section were not supposed to be poured 'til a later date," said Cox. "The dead time allowed us to finish projects that would have disrupted classes.

"We connected piping, which we will finish during spring break, prepared flooring and completed roofing."

Cox said, with the roofing complete, this should put a stop to the leaks on the interior of the building.

With the new roof complete, Cox said, it will allow for construction to continue even when the weather will not cooperate.

Some work will be completed later.

"The roofing debris needs to be picked up, we still need to take down the brick screen walls and finish fireproofing the exterior as the weather warms up.

"The schedule is going well, as long as the weather cooperates. By the end of February we should have the building enclosed," Cox said.

On a fair weather day an estimated 30 workers can be seen on the construction site, Cox said. Typically this will include three to five electricians, nearly seven mechanics, 12 roofers and about 20 construction workers.

The SEM Center will occupy 64,000 square feet, and will include 16 classroom and labs, and 30 offices.

The completion date is set for fall of 2007.

The center was recently renamed in honor of former OKCCC President Robert P. Todd, who died in December.

Staff Writer Holly Jones can be reached at Staff Writer1@okccc.edu.



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Construction crews work on the Robert P. Todd Science, Engineering and Mathematics Center. They recently began removal of the roofing material from the original building, upon which the center is being constructed. The SEM Center was renamed to honor former OKCCC President Bob Todd, who died in December.

## Bursar call turns ugly, law upheld

**By John Savage**  
Staff Writer

A parent's threatening phone call after being denied information to his daughter's bursar account has led to a call to Oklahoma City police.

According to an incident report, a father became upset when he was denied his daughter's information and began cursing at OKCCC Bursar Cashier Nancy Spradling.

After several calls back, the man made the threat that he would come to campus and blow some heads off.

At times, parents of students may not know the college must follow rules to protect student's privacy.

"We cannot give anybody else information unless the student has authorized it,"

she said. "We have forms in the office and they are to be filled out every semester."

In this case, the student had not authorized access to the bursar account.

The student's father wanted to know the balance of his daughter's account. Spradling told the man it was against federal privacy regulations.

After the incident, campus security was called, a written report was made and a call was made to the Oklahoma City Police Department.

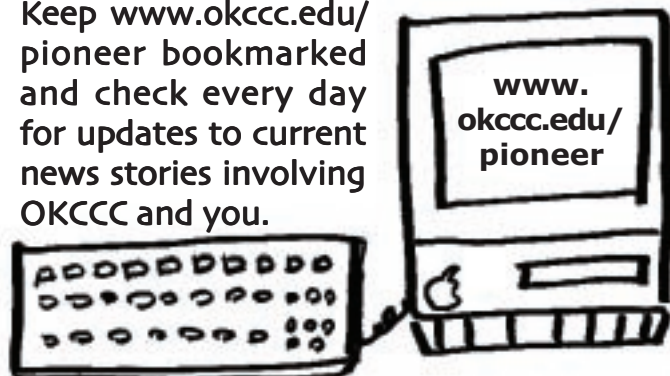
Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque said no report was made be-

cause the cashier chose not to file a complaint.

"The person that is receiving the threats needs to write down what is said, then the individual must contact the Oklahoma City Police Department themselves," Bourque said.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at Senior Writer@okccc.edu

Online Pioneer now has daily updates and will soon be getting a facelift. Since it's your newspaper, we want to know what you want to see in the online edition. E-mail all ideas and comments to [raustin@okccc.edu](mailto:raustin@okccc.edu). Keep [www.okccc.edu/pioneer](http://www.okccc.edu/pioneer) bookmarked and check every day for updates to current news stories involving OKCCC and you.



**Classifieds are free for students, faculty and staff!**  
(405) 682-1611, ext. 7674.

**Do you have a story idea? Let the Pioneer know. E-mail [editor@okccc.edu](mailto:editor@okccc.edu) with your ideas and keep your eyes peeled.**

# Downtown college now in tenth year

By Eric Nguyen  
Staff Writer

The Downtown College Consortium is offering 21 credit courses and 19 non-credit courses this spring semester for working adults and college students in the Oklahoma City area. It is an alliance of five institutions where all classes are transferable. OKCCC, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City, Redlands Community College, Rose State College and the University of Central Oklahoma participate.

The Downtown College Consortium, which opened in spring 1996, is located on the fourth floor of the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library at 300 Park Ave. in Oklahoma City.

Among the credit courses available are English Composition, Understanding Computer Applications and Introduction to Criminal Justice. Non-credit classes include Conversational French, Conversational Spanish and Tai Chi Chu'an, according to the website [www.downtowncollege.com](http://www.downtowncollege.com).

Undergraduate, graduate and continuing education classes are currently available at the consortium. According to its website, credit courses at the consortium are

offered in 8 and 16-week semester formats that mostly meet in the evenings or during lunch hours. Class scheduling is designed to tend to the needs of nontraditional students.

Credit classes offered at the consortium are for students currently enrolled in one of the five member institutions.

Emergency Spanish for Law Enforcement and Life-Saving Communication with the elderly are some of the future courses listed on the website that are in development.

For Oklahoma residents, freshman and sophomore-level credit classes are currently \$86 per credit hour while junior and senior-level classes are \$111 per credit hour, said Jimmie Sue Baker, consortium secretary.

Non-credit classes, as well as professional development courses for meeting specific corporate or group needs, are priced competitively.

Financial aid is available for classes at the consortium for students enrolled in a member college.

"Students can also buy textbooks at their respective college," Baker said.

For more information about the consortium, visit the online website or call (405) 232-3382.

Staff Writer Eric Nguyen can be reached at [StaffWriter3@okccc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter3@okccc.edu).

## 30 minutes of winter



Photo by Carrie Cronk

A dusting of snow covers the college grounds as a student leaves campus after making preparations for the spring semester. The brief flurry of winter precipitation occurred Jan. 10, after a week of unusually sunny weather for the coldest time of the year.

Students can find out the latest weather reports and school closings at the college's website [www.okccc.edu](http://www.okccc.edu).

# Nanotechnology degree being proposed for OKCCC

By Keri DeKinder  
News Writing Student

The study of tiny objects is making a huge difference in today's high-tech society. Engineering Professor Greg Holland said the field of nanotechnology is growing quickly and OKCCC is planning to offer a degree program for nanotechnology technicians in the future.

Nanotechnology is the art of manipulating materials on an atomic or molecular scale. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter. There are 25,400,00 nanometers in an inch.

The field studies all ma-

terials on this level, including chemical, physical, quantum and mechanical properties.

Holland said a two-year degree program in nanotechnology will be proposed to the College Regents in June 2007 with the program to start in the fall of 2007. Some new courses may be offered sooner, and nano technology will be integrated into some existing courses.

Dennis Donaldson, General Manager of XetaComp LLC. in Edmond, said he doesn't know of a nanotechnology program at any institution in Oklahoma. The field encompasses all points of engineering.

"Nanotechnology is not an actual industry, but allows others to exist," Holland said.

"It is used in the medical field, food and agriculture, environmental fields, aerospace, energy, and chemical and basic materials," he said.

Holland said his vision for the program, which is already in phase one of three phases, is to meet the growing need for technologically skilled workers in the greater Oklahoma City metropolitan area and provide a supporting role in the Oklahoma Nanotechnology Initiative.

The Oklahoma Nanotechnology Initiative, modeled after the National

Nanotechnology Initiative, is a group that concentrates on the growth of the field, bringing jobs and funding to Oklahoma he said.

The job market is currently limited which is why the ONI is working to expand it, Holland said.

Holland said XetaComp LLC. is a subsidiary of NanoBioMagnetics, Inc. He said they develop specialized nanomaterials for research and commercial applications.

Donaldson said XetaComp LLC. would probably hire someone right out of college as long as they had developed the skills for the job.

He said the pay range is

between \$25,000 and \$40,000, depending on the job and education.

"My advice to students embarking on a degree in nanotechnology is to understand that this is not only an emerging technology, but an enabling technology," Donaldson said.

"It will affect just about every facet of human endeavor, from medicine to materials, information systems to manufacturing... the applications are endless," he said.

"There will be a lot of room for specialization," Donaldson said.

"Explore the applications that interest you, then pursue those that are most promising."

# Sports

## UPCOMING

### OKCCC INTRAMURALS SCHEDULE

•**Jan. 16:** Sign up continues for the spring intramurals. Students with a valid ID are eligible to sign up for table tennis, men's or women's basketball and the men's Hot Shot basketball shooting contest. A complete schedule will be released Jan. 17 or 18. For more information, contact Community Health and Education Specialist Eric Watson at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7786, or visit the Wellness Center in the main building.

•**Jan. 18:** Recreation and Community Services will have a table set up from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the college union showing students information about the programs they offer. Staff will answer questions about the various classes and activities available. For more information, contact Community Health and Education Specialist Eric Watson at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**Jan. 27:** Beginning this semester all intramurals will be one-day events. The first event is an all-day basketball tournament. Students can put their own teams together prior to game day. Students without teams can join a team on game day. The games will be played like pickup games. This means there will not be time limits for the games, but point limits instead. A champion will be named at the end of the tournament. For more information, contact Community Health and Education Specialist Eric Watson at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**Feb. 1:** Spinning classes start. Spinning is a form of stationary cycling. The afternoon class is from noon to 12:50 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, from Feb. 2 to 28. The evening class is from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays from Feb. 1 to 27. The Saturday class is from 1 to 1:50 p.m. It begins Feb. 4 and ends Feb. 25. The classes cost \$25, except the Saturday class which costs \$15. For more information, contact the Wellness Center at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7310.

## Wellness Center can help people shed pounds

By John Savage  
Staff Writer

When the clock struck midnight on Dec. 31 many Americans made a vow to lose some unwanted pounds. The Wellness Center at OKCCC wants to help people keep that resolution.

The Wellness Center has everything from weight trainers to new spin classes to help shed those pounds this semester.

Although there is no new equipment this year, the Wellness Center has several options to start a healthy 2006.

"We haven't purchased any new equipment this year but that could be a possibility after we [look] over this year's budget," said Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson.

The newest equipment in the Wellness Center is a set of spinning bikes.

Students and faculty wanting to get a physical aerobic workout can now try the bikes in spinning classes.

Spinning is a form of stationary cycling, said Wellness Center Attendant Chico Dambreville.

The spin classes are available Mondays and Wednesdays, and start at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursday class sessions begin at noon. Saturday classes begin at noon.

Spin classes started back up prior to the spring semester on Jan. 4. New classes will start on Monday, Feb. 1, and run through the end of the month.

The Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday spin classes are \$25 for non-faculty and staff, and \$20 with ID. Saturday classes are \$15.

One change for the spring semester is the addition of new staff members.

Watson said two personal trainers have been added to the staff. The trainers, David Spaeteh and Christy Barnes, will be able to help gym users with weightlifting and aerobic training.

Recreation and Community Services Director Traci Wheeler said the trainers will be on campus at various times to answer questions. She said if trainers are not available, those interested in training sessions should leave their name and contact information with the Wellness Center staff.

Prices for personal trainers vary based on times and the number of sessions. Training session prices for students are \$25 for a single 30-minute session, \$50 for a single one-hour session, \$75 for three 30-minute sessions and \$125 for three one hour sessions.

Session prices for seniors are the same as those for students with the exception of the single 30-minute session which is \$30.

Training sessions for adults cost \$45 for a 30-minute single session, \$80 for a one-hour single ses-

## Court time

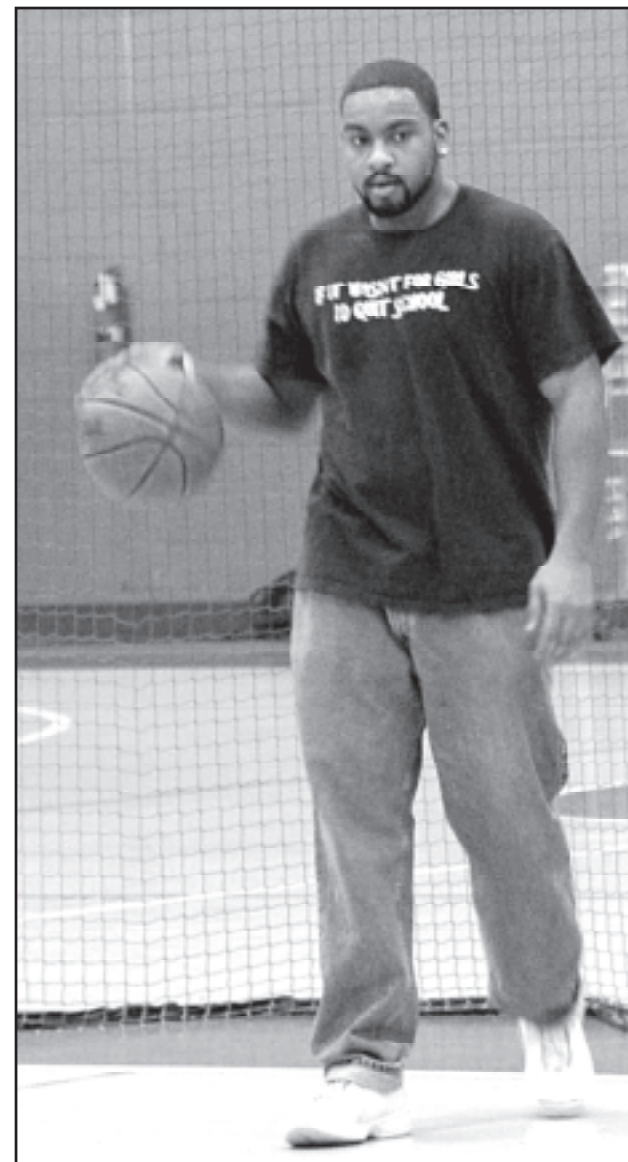


Photo by Carrie Cronk

Freshman business management major Lance Ables spends the afternoon shooting a few baskets in the Wellness Center gymnasium.

sion, \$120 for three 30-minute sessions and \$215 for three one-hour sessions.

Wheeler said she expects to see students use the Wellness Center soon.

"I think by the start of the semester we will see more students and faculty working out," Wheeler said.

Students and faculty who have a valid school ID and attend school at least part time will have all benefits of the Wellness Center and the pool area for free, she said.

Wheeler said spouses of full-time faculty also are able to work out and use the facilities free of charge.

She said this is possible because Wellness Center and gym fees are all included in the student's tuition.

From 11:50 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, the Wellness Center staff will offer more information about their programs.

The table will be set up along with bikes from Wheeler's spinning class in the first floor foyer of the main building.

For more information about personal training, contact Wheeler at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7280.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at [SeniorWriter@okccc.edu](mailto:SeniorWriter@okccc.edu).

# OKCCC library fun and educational

Students can choose from best-sellers to scholarly journals

**By Karen Dautre**  
News Writing Student

The college library is more than a reservoir of scholarly materials. OKCCC's library also contains several lighthearted publications.

"We carry a variety of casual or pleasure reading," said Systems Librarian Dana Tuley-Williams.

In addition to scholarly journals, the library subscribes to a variety of popular magazines, such as People, Entertainment Weekly, Sports Illustrated, GQ, Glamour, Vogue, and Ebony.

Magazines must be read in the library. The library receives its magazines as soon as they are published.

Newspapers are a part of the library as well. Generally they are a week or more behind with their issues. However, the Oklahoman is available on time each

day and the Pioneer is on time weekly, as well.

The library also contains best sellers and graphic novels, which are basically comic books that tell a story.

Some of the of the graphic novels include "Prince Valiant" and "BLAB."

A table in the library near the circulation desk features new books.

Readers can also view a list of new books on the library's website.

Students can connect to the library's catalog and there is a link in the upper right hand corner that says New Books.

Library Director Barbara King said materials are ordered on a continuous basis.

The librarians are in charge of ordering needed materials.

Part of their job is to ensure that the library is well balanced with the appropriate materials academically and also in leisure areas.



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Student Miga Stringfellow spends the afternoon going over notes in OKCCC's library. The library offers materials related to academic studies as well as literature for personal reading.

## College to host Spanish Immersion Weekend

**By Lauren Esposito**  
News Writing Student

OKCCC is hosting a Spanish Immersion Weekend Feb. 10 through 12 for all levels of Spanish students.

This is a one-credit hour class and provides a unique opportunity for students who want to gain a greater understanding of the Spanish language. This event will take place off campus, at Canyon Camp and Retreat Center, near Hinton. Only Spanish will be spoken for the entire weekend.

Dianne Broyles, professor of modern languages said, activities to be expected are singing, dancing, movies, and presentations. The weekend will display the culture of natives from Mexico.

The Spanish Immersion Weekend is an attempt to get students more involved in foreign languages.

"A foreign language gives a student insight into that particular culture," Broyles said. "Also, as our globe grows smaller culturally, communication is becoming an essential tool.

"A person can not separate language from culture," Broyles said. "To learn a language is to experience that culture."

"Americans are behind the rest of the world in foreign languages, but are improving."

There have been many government initiatives to promote foreign language studies such as starting languages in schools at a younger age.

However, there are shortages of teachers, Broyles said.

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language has marked 2006 as the "The Year of

Languages" in its attempt to enhance foreign languages.

For more information on

attending the Spanish Immersion Weekend, contact Broyles at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7657.

## Stairs repaired during break

**By John Savage**  
Staff Writer

OKCCC is one step closer to being a safer place.

The stairs in the main building have received repairs over the holiday break due to the tread becoming worn or cracked, said Physical Plant Assistant Director Chris Snow.

"The cracked stairs could cause a tripping hazard," Snow said.

He said the cause of the worn and cracked stairs is heavy traffic of students and faculty using the

stairs.

"The way people go up and down stairs a lot of times, most of their weight ends up on the front edge and that causes it to flex and start cracking," said Physical Plant Director J.B. Messer.

Even if the problem seems small the Physical Plant at OKCCC addresses the problems quickly and repairs things as necessary, he said.

The stairs receive repairs only when they are needed, Snow said.

"When we do repair the stairs, it ends up closing down the stairwell for a lim-

ited amount of time."

The replacement process begins with tearing up the flooring and cleaning the surface for the new adhesive used to hold the replacements in place.

Snow said, the life-span for the vinyl composition can average anywhere from five to 15 years depending on how much traffic comes in contact with the floor.

He said, the overall cost for the stair coverings to be replaced was \$500 and that included the parts and labor.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at Senior Writer@okccc.edu.

# Highlights

## Chamber Singers auditions

Auditions for Chamber singers will be held Tuesday, Jan. 17, and Wednesday, Jan. 18. Chamber singer members can qualify for a tuition fee waiver. Students can schedule an audition time by signing the audition schedule outside room 1D4B in Arts and Humanities or by calling Professor Ron Staton at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7249.

## Environmental Club meeting

The next general meeting of the Environmental Club will be at 3 p.m., Friday, Jan. 20, in room 1C4 across from the Science Center. The meeting will cover future projects for the club, a permanent meeting time and other issues. If you want to join, come to the meeting and enjoy free drinks and pizza. For more information, contact Publicity Officer Holly Jones at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7410.

## Society of Performing Artists to put on play

The Society of Performing Artists will put on a play with the Pathways High School students. The play, "The King's Creampuffs," will be presented Saturday, Jan. 21, in the college theater. For more information, contact Theater Professor Ruth Charnay at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7246.

## Health Professions Club meeting

The Health Professions Club will hold a general meeting from 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, in room CU2. The meeting will cover future events, open officer positions and membership information. Enjoy free pizza and door prizes at the meeting. For more information, contact Kendra Draper at (405) 401-5311.

## Irish Arts WinterFest

The fifth annual Irish Arts WinterFest will be held at OKCCC Saturday, Jan. 28. Several guest artists will be attending to teach classes and workshops in playing traditional instruments, singing, dancing and learning the Irish language. A concert/student showcase will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 28. The cost for a one-hour class is \$15 per person. A two-hour class is \$30 per person. Register before Jan. 24 or a \$10 fee will be added for late registration. Concert tickets in advance are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Add \$5 for purchase day of event. For more information, contact Jean Hill at (405) 528-0239, e-mail [hill\\_jean@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hill_jean@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.irishartsok.org](http://www.irishartsok.org).

## Post a used book online

Student Life has taken down the bulletin board that lists books for sale and replaced it with an online posting where students can post books or miscellaneous items. Visit [www.okccc.edu/studentlife](http://www.okccc.edu/studentlife) and click "Used Book Board" on the column at the left side of the screen.

## Research labs offer internships

OKCCC students can apply for a paid summer research experience in an Oklahoma City research laboratory. This year, 12 internship slots are available. To be eligible, students must have 30 credits of college work with an emphasis in science. However, math and computer science majors interested in bioinformatics also are encouraged to apply. Deadline is Feb. 15. Contact Biotechnology Professor Charlotte Mulvihill for details at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7225.

**Highlights are due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday for publication in the next issue of the Pioneer.**

## Sweet tooth



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Black Student Association members T. J. Calhoun, Georgia Flowers, and Whitney Wright sell cotton candy and popcorn to students attending January intersession classes and those enrolling for spring semester.

# Free T-shirt, free massage

**By Holly Jones  
Staff Writer**

A free shirt, free massage, free cups of hot chocolate and a game show with a chance to win \$100 in bookstore gift certificates await students during the first few weeks of class.

To celebrate Welcome Week, Student Life will be offering funny T-shirts and free massages during the week of Jan. 17.

The free shirts can be personalized with a photo from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, in the college union, said Liz Largent, Student Life director.

"They take your picture and place your face on a scene that you choose," she said.

"It can be on a body, on a city scene, or even as a group."

The T-shirt is provided as

are hundreds of different scenes for the students to choose from.

"It's like the funny photos we did last semester but on a shirt," Largent said.

The free massages will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the college union on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The massage will be a five-minute neck and shoulders massage given by Astrud Ray, a licensed independent massage therapist.

Astrud has worked with OKCCC Student Life on earlier activities Largent said.

The following week students will be treated to a game show, an Organizations and Clubs Fair, and two study skills workshops, Largent said.

She said Beat The Geeks Game Show will test the knowledge of students against the OKCCC faculty with subjects ranging from

geology to pop culture.

The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate from the OKCCC bookstore.

Beat The Geeks Game Show will be held at noon Jan. 25 in the college union.

For those who want to get a head start on their classes, two study skills workshops will be offered.

The first will be at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 24, and the second at noon Jan. 25, both held in college union.

Both workshops will cover learning strategies, test-taking skills and study routines, Largent said.

The Organizations and Club Fair will be held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 24 and 25 in the college union.

All participating clubs will be there to invite new members.

Students can enjoy hot chocolate at the fair.

Staff Writer Holly Jones can be reached at [StaffWriter1@okccc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter1@okccc.edu).

# 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. For more information, call (405) 682-1611, ext. 7674.**

## AUTOMOBILES

**FOR SALE:** '95 Chevy Astro, 58k miles. Runs great, clean, handicap equipped, \$4,500 OBO. Call 527-4448, M-F, 9-5.

**FOR SALE:** '91 Honda Civic DX, Lt blue, 183k miles, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, CD player, runs good. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call Scott at 314-4935.

**FOR SALE:** '91 Lexus LS400, V8, loaded, \$2,995. 326-5495.

**FOR SALE:** '90 Honda Accord LX, sports, manual. \$1,499. Nice student car. White, economical. For more info call 408-2828.

**FOR SALE:** '88 Fleetwood Cadillac. As is, \$500. 605-7728.

**FOR SALE:** '88 GMC 4 X 4. Runs great, \$2,250. 922-1284.

**FOR SALE:** '85 Chevy SWB Custom Deluxe truck, red, Trenz grille, APC Euro tails, tinted windows, bed rails, audio system (head unit, speakers, subs, & amp included). Owned for 6 years. Never wrecked. Great sport truck. \$2,300. Please call 821-4321.

**FOR SALE:** Honda Civic '93 EX, 2 door, automatic. Runs, but need some repairs. Asking for \$1,000. Call Linton@ 203-7283.

## ANIMALS

**FOR SALE:** 6-month-old rabbit, \$20. Includes the rabbit, cage, water bottle, food bowl, 1st month supply of food, 1st month supply of cedar, and shampoo. The rabbit is mostly white with a few gray spots. Likes to be petted and loved. If you are interested, please call Rachel Johnson at 639-9574.

**FREE TO GOOD HOME:** My newborn son is allergic to our long-time family cat and the doctor says she has to go! Lovable and spoiled rotten. De-clawed. Spayed. 10 years old. Female. She is not an outdoor cat! If interested, please call April at 682-1611, ext. 7462, or e-mail at ajackson@okccc.edu.

**FOR SALE:** Pure bred red nose pit bull puppies. \$125. One dark brown beauty. The others are mostly white with great markings. I have 2 females/2 males. If interested, please call 301-0822.

**FOR SALE:** Pure bred American Big Head Pit Bull dogs. Born

09-22-05. Have several pure white. All are adorable with excellent markings. \$100 each. If interested, call 409-8871.

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EOE

Behavioral Health Provider to work in CARF Accredited program. Bilingual with Bachelor or Masters in Social Services field. Send resume to LCDA. Attn: Compliance Officer. 420 SW 10th St. OKC, OK 73109.

Employment Services worker for non-profit agency. Bilingual with experience in human services or related field. Send resume to LCDA. Attn: Compliance Officer. 420 SW 10th St. OKC, OK 73109.

## FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** Original owner looking for responsible renters for lovely townhouse duplex at S.E. 24th & Hwy 9 in Norman. This 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath has an extended one-car garage, fenced in big backyard, fireplace, w/d hook-ups, refrigerator, ceiling fans. In a quiet family/college student neighborhood. Pets OK with deposit. Immediately available. Easy access to Hwy 9. \$500/month. Call 682-1611, ext. 7305, or e-mail pneman@okccc.edu, for more information or to see your new home.

**FEMALE ROOMMATES NEEDED:** To share large home 3 miles from OKCCC, 20 minutes from OU. Nice neighborhood, 3 car garage, 2 1/2 bath. Fully furnished except bedrooms. \$340/month plus 1/3 bills. Call 615-2396, leave message, or e-mail im\_luv@yahoo.com. Pictures available.

## FURNITURE

**FOR SALE:** Very nice blue, twin-size racecar bed with mattress, \$175. Excellent condition. Must sell!! mrstoops@yahoo.com.

**FOR SALE:** Pulaski glass/mirror hutch. Gorgeous, 46" X 79." \$500 OBO. Call 627-1435.

**FOR SALE:** Full size bookcase headboard and matching chest, \$75 OBO. Call 364-6051 or 682-7544.

**FOR SALE:** Glass dining table w/ 4 chairs, excellent condition. \$150 firm. Call Candi at 573-4829.

**FOR SALE:** Large Octagon Train table with two pull out drawers. Fake landscaping on the top of the table and colorfully decorated on the outside. Excellent condition and only one year old. Asking \$50. Call Gretchen at 745-4156.

**FOR SALE:** Leather recliner, \$75. Leather executive style desk chair, \$50. Call Annie at (405) 360-6793 or leave a message.

**FOR SALE:** Vintage oak rolltop desk, like new. \$100 OBO. Call (405) 682-1611 ext 7305 or e-mail pneman@okccc.edu.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**FOR SALE:** Tanning membership to At the Beach. Why pay the initial membership start up fees, when you can purchase an existing membership for \$25. Please call Lesa at 414-4158.

**FOR SALE:** Travel 'N' Play play pen, in great shape, \$20. Infants bath tub w/ shampoo & conditioner holders, like new, \$10. Over 400 original music CDs available in all genres, good condition w/o cases, \$1-\$5. Contact for list of music at zum21zum@aol.com, or call Deedra at 388-2336.

**FOR SALE:** Two new 10" Alpine Competition Type R subwoofers in box w/ a 920-wt. self-cooling Kenwood amp, also new, \$700 OBO. Please call 606-9114.

**FOR SALE:** Electric wheel chair, good condition, \$1,500 OBO. Call 527-4448, M-F, 9-5.

**FOR SALE:** Cream king blanket, \$20. Green chenille king bedspread, \$20. Tan king bedskirt, \$10. OBO. All in very good condition; redecorating -- now colors all wrong. 685-3776, VMBox 3574.

**HELP WANTED:** Female student looking for a job as a nanny. Responsible, experienced, own transportation, afternoons and weekends. Please call 314-9017.

**FOR SALE:** Maytag washer, Gas hook-up, late '90s model, good condition. \$60. Call Jared 488-5330.

**FOR SALE:** Frigidaire washer & dryer set. \$450. Less than 1 year old. Warranty with Best Buy until October 2007. Call Rachel at 408-5327.

**FOR SALE:** Wedding dress size 12/14. Lace and beads. Heart-shaped neckline. Train and slip. Asking \$150. Call 632-6259.

**FOR SALE:** Boys bike in great

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

1 Door handle  
5 Large number  
9 A twist of —  
13 Volcanic flow  
14 Cougar  
15 — Seas  
16 Consistent  
17 Foray  
18 Vote to accept  
19 Ending for "auction"  
20 Garden veggie  
22 Cafeteria sights  
24 Pullover  
25 Plant pests  
27 Scent  
29 Freight boat  
30 Mast  
31 Expert  
34 Mil. address  
35 In the direction of  
38 Snag  
39 Noticed  
40 Nutmeg spice  
41 Topic  
43 Chalkboard material  
45 Halted  
46 Pay attention  
49 Some exams  
50 Ill-mannered  
53 Coffee container  
56 Genetic copy  
57 Harem rooms

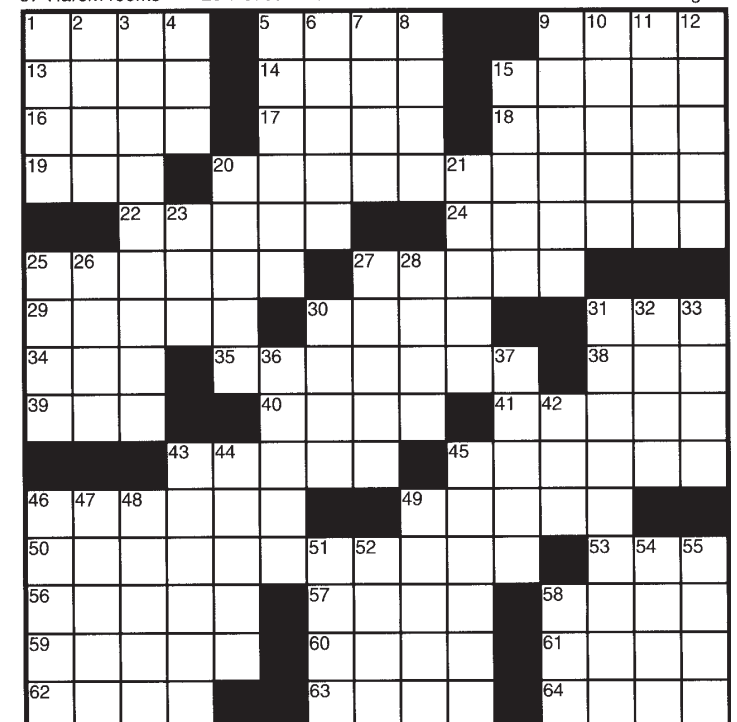
### DOWN

1 Swiss painter  
Paul —  
2 Church part  
3 Topple (a government)  
4 Prohibit  
5 Mists  
6 Hawaiian feasts  
7 Jannings or Zatopek  
8 Dry riverbed  
9 Felt hat  
10 Admits frankly  
11 Plains dwelling  
12 Vestibule  
15 Oregon capital  
20 West Point student  
21 Norwegian bay  
23 Eighteen-wheeler  
25 Loose robes  
26 "— Don't Preach"  
27 Swiftly  
28 Not common

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

DEFY	PODS	BRUSH
ERLE	ILIE	AERIE
BAY	WINDOW	NASTY
USE	CAIN	SAGAS
TERMITE	OONA	
ALA	IGUANAS	
WACKY	CORNS	BUS
OSLO	LOWED	VENT
EAU	GALAS	PESKY
PELICAN	JOE	
AVES	MESSAGE	
OARED	HOWE	DEN
AXLES	DETERMINE	
HEIDI	OREL	PERM
ANTON	NESS	HUEY

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**FOR SALE:** Women's size 11 Black Leather boots. 5 inch Stiletto heels. Zip on insides. Knee high. \$40. Call Christiana at 682-1611, ext. 7409.

## TEXTBOOKS

**BOOKS FOR SALE:** Macroeconomics, 7th edition by Arnold, \$30. Prentice Hall Guide for College Writers (Eng Com I), 7th edition, \$30. Please call 202-0032.

**BOOK FOR SALE:** HIST 2103, \$15. Please call 793-2774.

**BOOK FOR SALE:** Human Anatomy and Physiology by Elaine N Marieb, 6th edition. Asking \$80. Please call 408-2828.

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# Sechrist eager to start presidency Dr. Todd leaves legacy behind

"Sechrist,"  
Cont. from page 1

"[OKCCC] is approaching its 35th year of existence," he said.

"We have to start thinking of ourselves not as a college who's beginning, but as a college that is well-grounded in the community."

Sechrist said the best

advice he can offer students is to work to connect with a faculty or staff member and other students.

"It is about studying hard... but it's also about learning in a community. This is a community of learners; join the community."

The 51-year-old has a doctorate in communication from the University of Oklahoma.

He also has two degrees

from Southern Nazarene University — a master's in education with an emphasis in speech communication, and a bachelor's in speech communication.

For the duration of his contract, which runs Dec. 12, 2005 through June 30, 2007, the college will pay him \$17,253 per month (\$207,036 per year).

Editor Christiana Kostura can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

By Christiana Kostura  
Editor  
and Richard Hall  
Contributing Writer

Longtime OKCCC President Bob Todd, 65, died Dec. 11 after succumbing to complications stemming from heart surgery he had in January 2005.

At that time, Todd underwent two procedures — a single arterial bypass and mitral valve replacement.

In June, Todd was readmitted to Baptist Integris Medical Center where he had a pacemaker inserted and adjustments made to his medications.

In September, Todd announced he would be retiring effective March 1. That news came after a stroke left Todd unable to speak.

Todd was admitted to the hospital for the final time Dec. 6.

Todd joined the college when it first opened its doors in 1972 and was known as South Oklahoma City Junior College. He served in several roles over the years before being named president in 1995.

Brian Todd said his father will be missed.

"It's a tremendous loss for the college and our family," he said. "But he left a tremendous legacy. The college has taken some huge steps and Dad was there every step of the way."

Todd is survived by his wife Marge of Oklahoma City, daughters Cindy Bartley and Lisa Lawson, son Brian Todd of Norman, brothers Don and Claud Todd, granddaughters Sabrina Bartley, Bethany and Gillian Todd, and grandsons Miles Todd and Will Lawson.

Gov. Brad Henry declared all American and Oklahoma flags on state property, be flown at half-staff Dec. 14 to "honor Dr. Robert P. Todd..."

"The community was truly blessed by his service to higher education," Henry said.

For more information about Todd's health issues, retirement, upcoming celebrations and a photo tribute, visit the Pioneer online at [www.okccc.edu/pioneer](http://www.okccc.edu/pioneer).

Editor Christiana Kostura can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

## Students can mark class cancellation off worry list

By Christiana Kostura  
Editor

Despite spring enrollment lower than usual, students need not worry about classes being canceled, said Brenda Harrison, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

She said most classes with low enrollment have already been canceled and the students notified.

"[Cancellation of a class] is based on size," she said.

If a class has low enrollment within two weeks of the semester beginning, it

may be canceled, Harrison said.

"It is rare for the college to cancel a class once the semester has begun."

OKCCC has not canceled any more classes than usual this semester, Harrison said.

When the college must cancel a class, administrators do everything possible to assist students in making the transition to another section of the course, Harrison said.

Marion Paden, Student Services vice president, said the college contacts students right away when a class must be canceled.

"It is our intention to notify students as soon as possible if their class is not going to make so that we can give them options," she said.

Paden said if a class were required for a student to graduate this semester, OKCCC would make sure it's possible for the pending graduate to complete the requirements on time.

"We have a strong commitment to the students to make sure they have the classes they need to graduate," Paden said.

Editor Christiana Kostura can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

## College owed almost \$1.4 million in unpaid student billing

"Enrollment,"  
Cont. from page 1

Paden said some of the decrease in returning students may be related to OKCCC's new payment procedures.

Until this year, returning students were allowed to enroll at OKCCC, even if they had a balance remaining from a previous semester, she said.

This year, that changed and students were not allowed to enroll if they had any balance remaining.

However, in December, OKCCC administrators de-

cided to make a one-time offer to some of the 2,810 students who were enrolled last fall, but were not allowed to enroll this semester due to an unpaid balance.

The 1,272 students with less than \$500 in debt to OKCCC — who made a payment at some point last semester — are being allowed to enroll, Paden said.

Bursar Brandi Henson said the total amount owed by those students is \$240,080.

Another 531 students who owe more than \$500 in debt to the college, but had made a payment at some point last semester

and were willing to bring their balance down to less than \$500 now by making another payment, also are allowed to enroll.

Prior to any payments being made by that group, those students owed \$454,852 to the college, Henson said.

Henson said the 863 students who owe the college money and have never made a payment are not allowed to enroll as long as the balance remains.

That amount totals \$690,254.57.

As of Dec. 19, the grand total owed to the college was \$1,385,186.85.

"For the first time ever,

because of a financial obligation to the institution, there are some former students who are not eligible for enrollment," Paden said.

Students who were eligible for the offer were contacted via telephone or by letter, she said.

About 350 students accepted the offer and enrolled. Those who did not are still under their original financial agreements from the fall, Paden said.

Another reason OKCCC may be seeing fewer returning students also could be attributed to the cost of transportation, she said.

"Many of our students are co-enrolled (at more than

one college) and may be staying at one university this semester."

Paden said another possible reason for enrollment to decrease is a shift in demands and interests. Fewer students are checking the box that indicates they are attending OKCCC for personal enrichment.

"Eventually, we need to look at where we're down."

Paden said when administrators see where enrollment levels are in different areas of study, course offerings can be adjusted accordingly.

Editor Christiana Kostura can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.