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Big money awaits some graduates

Bachelor's degrees pay off

By David Miller
Staff Writer

Students with plans to complete a bachelor's degree after leaving OCCC will find that some fields are more lucrative than others.

Salaries in fields such as accounting, computer science, engineering and marketing are steadily rising for those holding a bachelor's degree. OCCC offers associate degrees in each of those areas.

According to CNNMoney.com, engineering majors are paid the most, followed by marketing, accounting and computer science majors.

In the engineering field, chemical engineers are the most sought after in respect to salary offers. Offers being made to chemical engineers have increased 5.6 percent over the last year to an annual salary of \$59,707, according to a study conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

In addition, offers being made to civil and mechanical engineers rose by approximately 5 percent.

OCCC offers a pre-engineering degree, which enables an engineering major to branch out into any engineering field offered by four-year colleges such as the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.

"In [OCCC's] pre-engineering program, there are basic engineering science-type courses ... Thermodynamics, Rigid Body Mechanics, Strengths and Properties of Materials, and Engineering Practice I," said Max Simmons, science and mathematics dean.

"All of those can be the fundamental things you need to go on and take the higher-level courses and become an engineer."

According to NACE, electrical engineering follows chemical engineering with an annual salary of \$54,915, up 1.6 percent from 2006. Mechanical engineering is a close third with an annual salary of \$54,695, up 5.7 percent from 2006. Although last, civil engineers still make a decent salary at \$47,750 per year, up 4.8 percent from last year.

However, despite high salaries, enrollment numbers in OCCC's engineering program dropped in the 2005-2006 school year.

Simmons partially attributes the decrease to a temporary contract allowing FAA employees to take engineering classes at the college. The contract has ended.

"That decline is a little deceiving because [the college] had a special deal worked out with the FAA where we were offering our engineering courses to FAA employees at the

See "Degree," page 16

Student vision



Photo by Ruben Gonzales

Black and White Photography student Ruben Gonzales captures an emotional moment in this photo he shot for Professor Alyssa Page's class. The lighting, contrast and textures Gonzales captured in this image lend to its emotional strength. In the class, students learn elements of composition, developing film and prints, as well as how to use a 35mm single lens reflex camera. For more photos and information, see page 7.

Anatomy class nears end

By Drew Hampton
Staff Writer

After a full semester of calmly dealing with four cadavers as faceless, impersonal entities, Professor Julian Hilliard's Human Anatomy students are facing their toughest lab challenge yet.

With only a few classes left in the semester, the class is currently dissecting the human head and neck.

Biology major Vaneza Ceballos said working on human heads was initially something of a shock.

"The first day of the unit, we uncovered the faces and began peeling the skin off," she said.

"Several people had to leave to take a break.

"It was very emotional, very intense ... because [seeing the face] personal-

"It was very emotional, very intense ... because [seeing the face] personalized the body."

—Vaneza Ceballos
Human Anatomy student

ized the body.

"It just felt wrong."

Ceballos said the class quickly adjusted to the new conditions, however, adding they have already started cutting open the cadavers' skulls in order to extract their brains.

"We will be cutting them on the deli slicers, to look at the different brain slices that we have to know."

Nuclear Medicine major Brandy Hodges said the adjustment wasn't too difficult to make.

She said she looks forward to seeing all the class has done so far come together in what she called

the most complicated part of the body.

"It's weird to see how complex the brain really is," Hodges said. "It's very interesting."

Hodges said it's important to always remember that the cadavers the class is working on were once living people who donated their remains to science.

As such, she said, the remains are treated with as much respect as possible.

"We don't waste that gift ... It's a privilege to be involved," Hodges said.

Because of the wealth of

See "Lab," page 16

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

What are ethics anyway?

As graduation draws near, many students are preparing to transfer schools or enter the professional workforce.

In their new positions, graduates may be called upon to make ethical decisions.

As Employment Services Coordinator Laura Choppy pointed out in the recent seminar "Ethics in the 21st Century," ethical issues are difficult to navigate.

Think about your actions before going along with something that makes you uncomfortable.

Even if an act is legal, it may be unethical. People won't know whether this is the case unless they consider the issue in depth. One's moral mandate should come from more than the letter of the law.

One hundred forty five years ago, slavery was legal. Was it any more ethical then than now? No — our society evolved by questioning its laws and the reasoning behind them.

Also, this year marks the 40th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*, the U.S. Supreme Court Case that determined state laws banning multi-racial marriage violated the 14th Amendment.

Ninety years ago, women were denied the right to vote.

These legalized injustices would not have changed without people who were willing to question the philosophy of the law.

Not to question renders a society vulnerable to groupthink and corruption. To justify one's actions solely through appeal to their legality is misguided, even lazy.

It can be challenging, frustrating and time-consuming, but we have a responsibility to our fellow humans to do what is right. What's right is not always what the rules say, or even what is legally allowed.

The temptation to go along with rules that disturb one's sense of ethics can be great. Sometimes people are afraid to anger higher-ups. Sometimes an unethical behavior makes life easier or more pleasant for a person. Sometimes people simply don't consider the implications of their actions.

However, as citizens we have a duty to understand as best we can the rationale behind the many laws of our land. We should not have our sense of morality served to us on a plate by the U.S. government.

If you find yourself with a nagging sense that the action you're considering is not the right thing to do, stop and think.

Citizens owe it to their fellow women and men to ensure they are within their rights ethically as well as legally. Often the two go hand in hand, but they are not intrinsically bound.

Give life's inevitable ethical quandaries the time and consideration they deserve.

—Amanda Bittle
Editor

Security has their fans

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. McKeown, who feels our Safety and Security department could have done more to prevent his truck from being stolen from our campus, I say this: You might be right. However, there are some concerns with your letter that I would be remiss if I didn't point them out.

I have it on good authority that the Major in fact did call you back and address your questions. Perhaps it wasn't on your time frame, but the conversation did occur.

Secondly, beginning a letter of any kind with "I am pissed off now" doesn't send the message that you are a college student. Beginning in an attacking tone will do little to solve your problem.

No one deserves to have their vehicle broken into, but it was also reported by the Pioneer on page 6 of the same issue that you had a broken window. This would seem to me to increase the likelihood of theft.

It is virtually impossible to drive by the "teacher's parking spaces" without also driving by the student's parking spaces. They are not in separate lots, but really located quite close to one another.

Video surveillance will be put into OCCC's parking lots, and this will happen upon the beginning of the new fiscal year, which happens in the middle of summer. The reason it is only being implemented now is simply a financial one; the plan has been in place for more than a year.

I respond to your letter for one main reason, really ... We are a college institution filled with young and older adults, but we're all adults nonetheless.

In such an environment there is no place for name calling or personal attacks. That should've been left in high school, at the very least.

If you're truly concerned about whether our security officers could catch a "would-be robber," please

turn the issue of the Pioneer in which your letter was printed to page 16.

And please keep your thoughts and prayers with the officer who stopped the "robber" and is still recovering. We'll pray for your vehicle's speedy recovery as well.

—Name withheld
by request

PIONEER

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Drew Hampton.....Staff Writer
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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.

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

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: www.occc.edu/pioneer.



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Comments and Reviews

'Spidey' losing gusto

With a budget exceeding a quarter of a billion dollars, the latest installment in the "Spider-Man" series, "Spider-Man 3," proves a bigger budget doesn't always equal a better picture.

In 140 minutes, Spider-Man/Peter Parker, played by Tobey Maguire, engages in two love triangles and battles his inner Spider-Man after experimenting with a symbiotic suit — black goop inside a shooting star that attacks the super-hero, leaving him with a new black suit.

But, a "Spider-Man" movie wouldn't be complete without a villain, so director and co-writer Sam Raimi provides three.

James Franco returns as Harry Osborn, the son of the Green Goblin, who is intent on claiming Spider-Man's life as vengeance for his father's death.

Spider-Man must also take on Sandman, played by Thomas Haden Church. Sandman is Flint Marco, an ex-con who's looking for any way to secure money for his ill daughter.

Lastly, Topher Grace plays Eddie Brock, a photographer competing against Parker for a staff job at the Daily Bugle who later turns into Venom.

If that seems like a lot to take in, it's because it is — "Spider-Man 3" is bloated.

This is a movie that demands your focus because of its complicated story lines.

That would be fine if "Spider-Man 3" were "JFK" or "The Color Purple," but someone might remind Raimi this is still just a comic book movie.

However, "Spider-Man 3" isn't without its bright spots.

Along with Grace, Bryce Dallas Howard as Gwen Stacy is another new face in the "Spider-Man" series.

Although Howard's role doesn't have much to do with the relevance or ad-



vancement of the plot, she still turns in a surprisingly good performance.

Grace also turns in a solid performance.

It's a shame his character wasn't better fleshed out because, as Brock, he steals nearly every scene he is in.

Also, the story of Spider-Man's symbiotic suit is fleshed out well.

The suit acts like a drug to Spider-Man, making him arrogant and colder to everyone around him, including Mary Jane, played by Kirsten Dunst.

The power of the suit culminates in a humorous montage of Spider-Man strutting down the street with a new hairdo, while thrusting his pelvis at any woman walking by.

The special effects also help save the movie.

The transformation of Sandman is a particularly pleasant sight to see, as are most of the other action sequences in the film.

However, despite the large budget, there isn't an action sequence in the third installment that lives up to the action sequence where Spider-Man saves a train full of people in "Spider-Man 2."

At the end of the day, "Spider-Man 3" will assuredly be one of the top grossing movies of the year, but when compared to the other "Spider-Man" films, this third installment is the worst.

Rating: C+

—Scott D'Amico
Online Editor

Cute, somewhat fun, but pass on 'TMNT'

Those crazy ninjas are at it again — I'm talking about the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." It's been a while since we encountered the four lovable turtles from the sewers, but they're back and spiffed-up for home televisions.

With a new movie out, what better way to promote it than get a game to reintroduce characters.

The four turtles make their way back onto the game scene with new graphics and some new tricks up their shells.

Players will start the game and get a brief tutorial on the maneuvers used in the game from their Sensei Master Splinter.

The turtles have several moves to scale walls, jump from high rooftops and perform team moves, which will allow the turtles to get to unobtainable areas in the game.

This game is an easy pick-up-and-play. Most of the fighting is done with two buttons. Although it's easy to hit those two buttons, players will find them-

selves hitting them over and over again which then turns into a button mashing fest.

The action is intense and at times enemies surround the turtles, making it hard to see what is actually taking place.

If players had control over the camera, it might have saved this from happening but that is not an option and at times is a nuisance.

As the turtles battle the Purple Dragon Street Gang and the Foot Clan, they work their way toward

fighting several bosses along the way.

"TMNT" graphics are nice but nothing revolutionary.

Experienced players will have no problem racking up 1,000 achievement points and beating this game within a weekend.

With no multiplayer, this game will more than likely collect dust after a week.

"TMNT" is a fun little game but nothing to scream cowabunga about.

Rating: 2/5

—John Savage
Staff Writer

YOU asked FOR IT

Q: If a student about to graduate fails a course at the end of the semester, will he or she be able to walk in the ceremony? Will he or she be able to make up the course in the summer?

A: Yes ... Their graduation application is moved to the following semester. However, they cannot officially graduate until they pass the class. Grades are not posted until the week after graduation, so we have no way of knowing if they pass or not.

—Barbara Gowdy
Graduation Services Director

Q: Is parking free for the graduation services held May 18?

A: No. Usually it's about \$6 unless special events are taking place.

—Barbara Gowdy
Graduation Services Director

Q: When does the book buyback end and what happens if you miss the date?

A: Book buyback begins May 14 and ends May 21. If students miss the deadline, they can speak to [a] Bookstore [clerk] and arrangements may be made to sell the book back. For the most part, we want to buy all the books back so we can resell them.

—Brenda Reinke
Bookstore Director

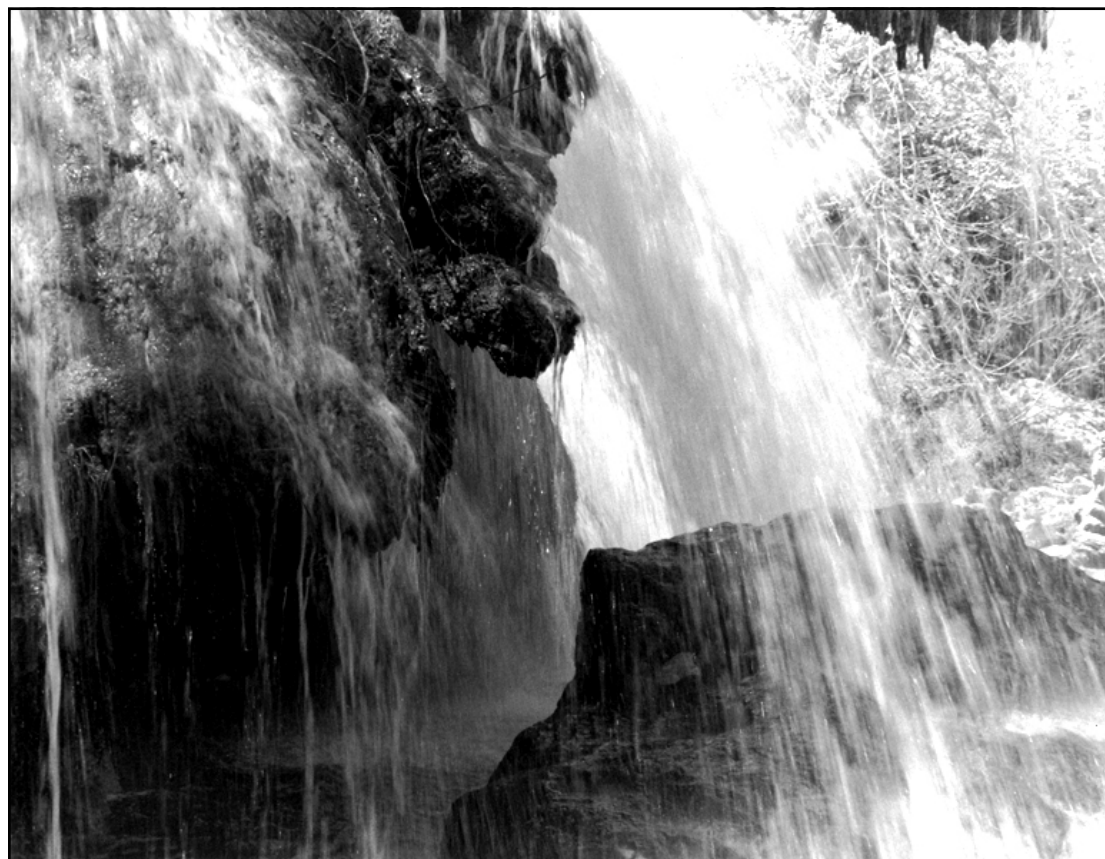
Q: Is there any way for someone who is not enrolled in a pottery class to use the pottery facilities?

A: No, a student must be enrolled.

—Nora York
Art Lab Assistant

Question? Get the answer: editor@occc.edu.

Photography class offers alternative



Dynamic photograph of a rushing waterfall by Charles Lubensky, a meteorology major concurrently enrolled at the University of Oklahoma. He is currently a student in Professor Alyssa Page's Black-and-White Photography I course.

By David Miller
Staff Writer

For those students with a creative streak, the college offers a unique photography class that doesn't involve a camera.

Adjunct professor Konrad Eek will teach Alternative Photographic Processes this summer.

Eek said he teaches three historic methods of making images, which are: Cyanotype, Van Dyke and Gum-Bichromate.

Eek said Cyanotype is a process in which a negative of an image is placed on watercolor paper that has been covered with a liquid emulsion, thus creating a blueprint-type version of the image.

Digital techniques are required to make the image larger than the negative.

"We use Photoshop, a computer-based photo manipulation program, to create the negatives so we don't have size limitations," Eek said.

Van Dyke is the next process students will learn in

"The sun's a source for all these emulsions, so we go outside to make our exposures ... in the summertime, it's not like you're cooped up in a classroom all night long."

— Konrad Eek

Adjunct Photography Professor

the class, he said.

"Van Dyke is a silver nitrate emulsion, which creates a brown print with copper tones to it."

The final process students will learn is referred to as Gum-Bichromate.

The Gum-Bichromate process involves sensitizing watercolor pigments but has several other possibilities as well.

"The interesting thing with Gum-Bichromate ... you can do, essentially, black-and-white pigments, watercolor pigments, multiple colors and multiple layers," Eek said.

He said paintings or drawings also could be used to make prints.

Six people have enrolled in the class, which will take place from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Monday and Wednesday

beginning June 4, in Room 2L7 on the second floor of the Main Building.

In addition to the creative aspect, another plus is students get to spend time outdoors as part of the class, Eek said.

"The sun's a light source for all these emulsions, so we go outside to make our exposures."

"So, in the summertime, it's not like you're cooped up in a classroom all night long."

There also will be standard photography courses taught over the summer.

Charles Rushton will teach Digital Photography, and Hugh Scott and Alyssa Page will teach separate Black and White Photography I courses.

In the Digital Photography course, Graphic Com-



A still life photograph of a pair of apples that features interesting mixture of deep textures and contrast brought out by strong, direct light. This photograph was composed by Barbara Sandburg, a Graphics Communication Major who is also enrolled in Professor Page's course.



This photograph of a musician's hands moving over a piano keyboard conveys a strong sense of both rhythm and contrast. This photo was composed by Bianca Lopez, a Broadcasting sophomore currently enrolled in Professor Page's Black and White Photography I class.

munications Professor Randy Anderson said students will learn how to use a digital camera and how to enhance pictures in Photo-shop.

In addition to learning the functions of the camera, students will learn how to process and develop film in the Black-and-White Photography course.

The cost for materials in the Black-and-White Photography course rivals the cost of the course itself.

"At a minimum, the cost will probably be \$100 for the film classes," Anderson said.

He said the digital photography course is less expensive because students

don't have film or developing materials to buy.

Anderson said students could lease a digital camera from the school for \$25 a semester. Students in Black-and-White Photography must provide their own cameras.

For more information on the Alternative Photographic Processes class, contact Eek at Eekphoto@sbcglobal.net, or call his studio at 405-321-6552.

For more information on the digital and black and white photography courses, contact Anderson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7218.

Staff Writer David Miller can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

Professors recognized, honored by peers

By Kirk Helm
News Writing Student

Eight OCCC professors will receive teaching awards at a ceremony in Austin, which also will recognize top professors from more than 700 community colleges around the world.

The National Institute for Staff and Organized Development awards have been given to professors at two-year colleges for their excellence in teaching since 1989. The awards conference will take place May 20.

Thomas Ashby, computer science professor; Tamara Carter, mathematics professor; Carlotta Hill, learning skills professor; Thomas Jones, psychology professor; Steve Kamm, physics professor; Mark Schneberger, learning skills professor; Gary Tucker, business professor; and Terri Walker, nursing professor, will receive the awards.

"I was in disbelief at first, but overall, I am very honored to have won the award," Walker said.

Like Walker, many other professors were shocked

and thrilled that they had been chosen for the award.

"I was really floored when I had heard I was to receive a NISOD award," Schneberger said. "I read the letter twice and then checked the name on the paper to make sure it was really mine."

The dean of each division gives the award to one professor. This year, however, the Arts and Humanities division was allowed to recognize two professors.

"We are awarding two professors this year for their excellence and creativity in the classroom," said Susan VanSchuyver, former Arts and Humanities dean.

Hill was nominated for her outstanding, consistent teaching, she said. Schneberger was nominated for his idea to make his lectures available online.

"It is hard to get enrolled in Schneberger's classes because they fill up so fast," VanSchuyver said. "Students just love him."

The process by which a professor is recognized for the award differs in each di-



Photo by Carrie Cronk

NISOD winners Steve Kamm, Tom Ashby, Mark Schneberger, Terri Walker, Carlotta Hill, Gary Tucker and Tamara Carter. Thomas Jones was unavailable for the photo.

vision. VanSchuyver said she talks to the department chairs about the professors in their department.

"The faculty in that department would then nominate a few candidates and give those names to me," she said.

"I would then converse

with the department chairs about the nominees and choose one."

Many honorees are more excited about the conference than the award itself.

"I am really looking forward to meeting faculty from across the country so that I can learn new teach-

ing ideas and techniques to apply in my classrooms," Tucker said.

Schneberger agreed.

"I would like to get some new ideas on improving our cross discipline," he said. "In other words, form alliances between science and math in one class."

High school students share knowledge of DNA

By Mairead Todd
News Writing Student

Students at Highland West Middle School in Moore got a chance to demonstrate their recently-acquired knowledge about DNA extraction for elementary students on DNA Day.

The National Institutes for Health and other schools nationwide joined OCCC in celebrating DNA Day on April 25.

More than 1,915 students participated across the state with the help of OCCC's Biotechnology/Bioinformatics Discovery Project or the BBDDiscovery Project.

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is "the fundamental building block for an individual's entire genetic makeup," according to www.dna.gov.

DNA Day signifies the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003. Project researchers sought to identify the thousands of genes in human DNA and determine the

chemical base pair sequences that make up the DNA, according to www.ornl.gov.

"DNA Day started to celebrate the release of the Human Genome Project and was then called DNA Day," said BBDDiscovery Project Coordinator Dan Bell.

For the BBDDiscovery Project it was a day for thousands of students across the state to gain a better understanding of DNA, Bell said.

"You wouldn't think it, but Oklahoma is very progressive when it comes to scientific research," he said.

Participating teachers and high school students put together DNA extraction kits and took them to area elementary and middle schools.

Each team then provided demonstrations to the younger students as the main part of DNA Day celebrations.

Teachers who have completed the BBDDiscovery professional

"It's been wonderful. We're at a junior high so we don't get the fancy equipment that high schools are getting."

—Brandi Williams
Highland West Middle School
Biology Teacher

trainings led most of the activities.

Teacher Brandi Williams' Advanced Placement biology class participated in the celebrations.

Her class used salt, soap and papain, or meat tenderizer, to extract DNA from wheat germ, Williams said.

They received their kits from the BBDDiscovery project.

"It's been wonderful," Williams said.

"We're at a junior high so we don't get the fancy equipment that high schools are getting."

Not including the DNA extracting her students did on DNA Day, Williams' students have already

completed two other biotechnology units.

DNA is very abstract, so for students to actually see what it is and how to manipulate it really helps when teaching, Williams said.

There were dozens of additional activities provided for teachers to do in their classrooms during the day of celebration.

Both the BBDDiscovery Project and the National Institutes for Health provided a variety of special activities, including DNA extraction experiments, live webcast demonstrations, and live webcast lectures from leading DNA researchers.

This is a grassroots effort to get teachers involved in recruiting students to spread the word about biotechnology, Bell said.

The BBDDiscovery Project and DNA Day are opportunities not only to spread the word about biotechnology, but to recruit a new generation of scientists for the growing industry, Bell said.

Forty days, forty nights



Photo by Carrie Cronk

The sidewalk along the banks of the campus pond flooded following heavy rains during the early morning hours of May 8. Days of torrential rain caused flooding throughout the metro area.

Student gets scholarship worth \$125k

By Scott D'Amico
Online Editor



Jonathon Lopez

Hard work is carrying one high school senior all the way to his own American Dream.

Pathways Middle College High School senior Jonathon Lopez was named a recipient of the Clara Luper Scholarship, a \$125,000 award to Oklahoma City University.

Pathways is a five-year school on campus that allows high school students to earn college credit through concurrent enrollment.

"They based their decision on academics and community involvement," Lopez said.

The requirements for the scholarship were stringent.

Applicants were asked to write an essay and also to attend an interview.

Lopez, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico, said he wrote about his struggles as an illegal resident.

One of those struggles occurred after he was chosen to represent the U.S. National soccer team.

"I couldn't go because of my immigrant status," Lopez said.

Another struggle, he said, was being able to get a job.

Currently Lopez interns at a local credit union, but because of his immigration status, he can't be put on the payroll.

"They'd be willing to hire me," Lopez said. "But I don't have a Social Security number."

Despite his struggles, Lopez has made himself into a success.

Along with finishing his high school education, Lopez also is taking college classes at OCCC.

He said by the time he's finished with this semester he will have completed 37 credit hours.

For Lopez, high school, college, and an internship aren't enough to keep him satisfied.

He also spends time coaching soccer at a local Catholic high school. "I help coach Sacred Heart's soccer team. I like helping kids and my community."

Online Editor Scott D'Amico can be reached at onlineeditor@occc.edu.

Vice president shares experience

By Gabriel Marshall
News Writing Student

Felix John Aquino, 55, who was recently appointed Vice President of Instruction at OCCC, shared his experiences in school, work and life with journalism students.

Aquino spoke not only about his childhood in New York, but also his travels, research and teaching experiences on three different continents.

Aquino's father immigrated from Cuba in 1929; his mother from Puerto Rico in 1940.

Aquino was born in 1952, during the early stages of the Civil Rights movement.

Aquino spent his childhood attending public school PS 148 in Jackson Heights, New York.

"PS 148 was a typical big city school," Aquino said. "I didn't know any Anglo-Saxons."

Aquino found a love for learning in fifth grade, he said.

He had a rough time in grades seven and eight, he said, but began really enjoying himself in high school.

Though built for approximately 3,000 students, there were nearly 5,000 enrolled in Newtown High School when Aquino attended.

"My salvation was that this school had a school within a school

called an honor school," Aquino said.

This honor school, which had a "very rigorous curriculum," helped Aquino find his academic self. He studied Spanish for three years and Latin for two, and also took five years of science instead of the required four.

Upon graduation, Aquino attended Queens College in New York. Queens College is part of City University in New York, and was free. Here Aquino began studying anthropology.

While attending Queens College, Aquino spent a summer in far southern Mexico as a research assistant.

This was the first of several trips outside of the United States for Aquino.

After graduating from Queens College, Aquino received a graduate assistantship and began taking classes at Boston University, where he met the second great influence of his life, Professor Anthony Leeds.

"(Leeds) essentially invented modern urban anthropology," Aquino said.

Leeds was preparing to do a project on rural to urban migration in Portugal, and asked if Aquino would like to come along to Europe. Aquino accepted and,



Felix Aquino

on June 10, 1979, left to study labor migration in southern Spain.

Aquino said he enjoyed most of his time in Spain, but found the people of southern Spain to be "more openly racist" than in other places where he had lived.

After Aquino returned to the United States, he held several positions as a high level academic administrator.

He also taught as an adjunct instructor at several universities, including the University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas County Community College and Hudson County Community College in West New York, New Jersey.

Dragon hunting, internship meld in film

By David Miller
Staff Writer

Dragon hunting, a student intern and cheap whiskey abound in University of Oklahoma student Kevin Costello's short film "Internship."

Costello submitted the film to the deadCENTER film festival in March. Members of the festival's screening committee chose it.

Costello collaborated on the film with long-time friend and OCCC student Avery Cannon, who portrays Debit, the film's intern supervisor.

Cannon, who is a broadcast journalism major at OCCC and ultimately wants to work as a disc jockey or radio programmer, said he enjoys filmmaking as well.

"Me and my friend Kevin Costello started when we were freshmen in high school, just randomly making films to make ourselves laugh," Cannon said.

"Our high school had a film festival during our senior year, and we won first and third place in it, so we thought we might be able to do something with this."

In "Internship," an aspiring journalist named Travis has obtained what he believes will be a basic, mind-numbing internship at a local newspaper.

However, he realizes the moment he meets his intern supervisor that this will be no ordinary internship.

"It started as an idea Avery and I had in high school, where two delusional losers would troll fields and parking lots waiting for dragons to show up so they could fight," Costello said.

Now, as an adult, Costello has transformed



Video still provided by Google.com

OCCC student Avery Cannon is shown in a screenshot from "Internship," directed by Kevin Costello. The deadCENTER film festival will host the film at 7:30 p.m. June 8, at the Skirvin Hilton in Oklahoma City.

the premise of the film to apply to an unobtainable passion and the difficult road one must tread to achieve his or her dreams.

"A lot of times, whatever our lot in life, I think everyone has something they'd rather be doing — some passion that's going unfulfilled," Costello said.

"The whole idea of internships is that you work under someone who's already an established professional, and then ostensibly your goal or hope is to reach the same professional

level."

The film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 8 in the Crystal Room of the Skirvin Hilton at One Park Avenue in Oklahoma City.

To view the film online, conduct a Google video search under Internship+Kevin+Costello.

For information on other films in the deadCENTER Film Festival, visit www.deadcenterfilm.org.

Staff Writer David Miller can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

Buddy system to help students succeed in college

By Shavon Bowman
News Writing Student

In an effort to inspire students to stay in college once they enroll, OCCC faculty is doing its part to give students the best start possible.

Starting next fall, a new program called Learning Communities will allow students a more connected way to fulfill their general education requirements at OCCC.

Susan VanSchuyver, Special Initiatives dean, said learning communities are the ideal way for students to develop better study skills.

Learning communities are set up so that students enroll in back-to-back classes located in the same classroom.

This cuts down on the problems associated with timeliness and preparedness, VanSchuyver said.

In order to join the program, students must enroll in both of the

required classes.

Since the classes are set up to be close in time frame, students will be given 10 minutes between the classes each day to get acquainted with one another.

One of the benefits of the program is small class sizes, with no more than 25 people per classroom, VanSchuyver said.

This small class size allows people more personal attention from the instructor.

Also, learning communities give students the chance to develop individual study groups.

These groups, although not assigned, will provide help with forming friendships.

Also, the smaller class sizes allow professors to collaborate on their syllabuses so that students are not buried in schoolwork throughout the semester.

Another useful tool in learning communities is supplemental instruction leaders — tutors at

OCCC who have already taken the classes and offer tutoring services to all of the students in the learning communities.

For the fall 2007 semester, three different learning communities are being offered.

The first two communities are for general education requirements that all students must fulfill.

One combination is Sociology and English Composition I.

The second combination is for U.S. History since the Civil War and English Composition I.

The third learning community option is for students who want to get their skills up before advancing to a collegiate level.

This learning community will


give students an opportunity to prepare for a more challenging workload later, VanSchuyver said.

English Professor David Charlson will teach the composition course for one learning community.

"I see [learning communities] as a way of enlivening my course, because the students will have some material from the [other] course for possible writing topics."


Information regarding the learning communities can be found in the Admissions office on the first floor of the Main Building.

For more information on the program, contact VanSchuyver at 405-682-1611, ext. 7384, or e-mail svanschuyver@occc.edu.



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Security office undergoing changes

By Scott D'Amico
Online Editor

Students and faculty will notice changes in the office of Safety and Security this summer.

The most noticeable change will be in the uniforms worn by security officers around campus.

Campus Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas said the blue and black uniforms will be replaced by new tan and black uniforms.

"We want to be highly visible," Sloas said. "I guess it was part of an overall plan to move us forward professionally."

Another change for Safety and Security will be the vehicles they drive while patrolling around on campus.

The basic white vans will be replaced with two 2007 Ford Expeditions.

The SUVs are being purchased with a total cost for the two vehicles coming to approximately \$60,000.

Sloas said the SUVs, which were purchased at Bob Moore Ford, will come with a five-year warranty.

"[University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center] is also getting one for patrol and emergency management," Sloas said.

The other major change that will occur will be the way security officers can observe the parking lots.

Sloas said 10 video cameras are being purchased for the parking lot.

"Basically every lot has a camera watching it," Sloas said.

These cameras will supplement the SUVs purchased.

Sloas said a computer will be placed in each new vehicle, allowing images from the cameras to be seen by officers when they are on patrol.

Sloas said the additions will help curb crime on campus while also making Safety and Security better equipped to deal with emergency situations.

"Everything we've done, in my opinion, has lessened crime," Sloas said.

Sloas said a name change also is being considered for the office of Safety and Security. It will become the Department of Public Safety.

The name change is pending an opinion by Oklahoma State Attorney General Drew Edmondson.

The Department of Public Safety also is the name of a state agency.

That agency includes the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office.

Online Editor Scott D'Amico can be reached at onlineeditor@ouccc.edu.

"We want to be highly visible. I guess it was part of an overall plan to move us forward professionally."

—Ike Sloas
Safety and Security
Director

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Security officers say cheese



Ike Sloas, Director

Works: Days

Number: 405-682-1611, ext. 7891



Keith Bourque, Coordinator

Works: Days

Extension: 7532



Larry Lundy, Sergeant

Works: Days

Extension: 7880



Kevin Tipton, Sergeant

Works: Evenings

Extension: 7881



Scott Stetson, Sergeant

Works: Nights

Extension: 7691



John Hughes Jr., Officer

Works: Days

Extension: 7691



Tim Densmore, Officer

Works: Nights

Extension: 7691



David Shriver, Officer

Works: Evenings

Extension: 7691



Dennis Shelton, Officer

Works: Days

Extension: 7691



Jacob Roby, Officer

Works: Weekends

Extension: 7691



Brian Gilbert, Officer

Works: Evenings

Extension: 7691



Brent Williams, Officer

Works: Weekends

Extension: 7691

Not pictured...

Officers: William Busby (evenings), James Cobble (days), Eddie Connally (days) and Keith Thompson (days).



Aaron Folsom, Officer

Works: Evenings

Extension: 7691

Science center dedication coming in summer

By Amanda Bittle
Editor

A campus addition almost two years in the making will be officially unveiled this summer.

The dedication ceremony for the Robert P. Todd Science, Engineering and Math Center is planned for 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, said President Paul Sechrist.

The ceremony will take place in the lobby of the SEM Center, which is near the new Math Center.

"There will be a time to reflect on the life and contributions of former President Robert P. Todd and a brief ceremony to dedicate the center to the teaching and learning of science and math," he said.

During the ceremony, two plaques will be revealed. One will feature a portrait of Todd. The other will acknowledge the students whose fees will repay the bond for the construction of the \$10 million center.

There also will be a tour of the center and an informal reception for attendees. The ceremony is open to the public, Sechrist said.

Members of the Todd family, as well as the OCCC Board of Regents, faculty, staff, students and community members will attend, he said.

Glen Johnson, chancellor for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is scheduled to speak at the ceremony. Other speakers include OCCC Board of Regents Chairwoman Alice Musser, Sechrist, Academic Affairs Vice President Felix Aquino and Science and Mathematics Dean Max Simmons.

The speakers also will include students, though which students has yet to be determined.

The highlight of the dedication will be the tours, Sechrist said. Faculty, lab personnel and students will be on hand to give information about labs and instructional areas.

Construction of the SEM Center began in July 2005. It was completed in March 2007, four months ahead of schedule, Sechrist said.

Sechrist said the new center will give OCCC students an educational advantage.

"With this addition to the science and math complex, OCCC now boasts the finest science and math labs and classrooms in the region."

Two other campus construction projects also are in progress.

The Arts Education Center and the Health Professions Education Center both are scheduled for completion in May 2008, said Project Manager Larry Barnes.

In spite of setbacks due to heavy rain, Barnes said, both projects are expected to be completed on time.

Editor Amanda Bittle can be reached at Senior Writer@occc.edu.



The Robert P. Todd Science, Engineering and Math Center will be unveiled this summer. In addition to various labs and classrooms, the SEM Center also houses a greenhouse. The Center is named in memory of the former OCCC president who died in 2005.



The Health Professions Education Center is in the beginning stages of construction. It has a completion date scheduled for May 2008.

**Photos by
Carrie Cronk**



The Arts Education Center is scheduled for completion in May 2008. It is the third area the college is expanding and building along with the already-completed Robert P. Todd Science, Engineering and Math Center, and the Health Professions Education Center.

Outreach director leads by example

By Katie R. Jones
News Writing Student

Being the first family member to attend and graduate college makes a huge impact on how the rest of the younger generations of your family will lead their lives, said Jessica Martinez-Brooks.

By having an older family member to look up to as a successful college graduate, younger generations are less likely to doubt their ability to follow in their footsteps and earn a degree.

Martinez-Brooks, 30, was the first in her family to attend and graduate college. She knew she wanted to make a difference with youngsters who faced the same problems she did.

Martinez-Brooks is half Hispanic.

She grew up on the south side of Oklahoma City, which is becoming predominately Hispanic.

No one in her family had attended college; therefore, no one knew how to apply to college, apply for financial aid, or anything else that comes along with attending college.

Luckily, she had the help of



Jessica Martinez-Brooks

teachers and mentors who showed her what to do.

Martinez-Brooks graduated from OCCC with an associate degree in 1997.

She continued her education at the University of Oklahoma, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1999.

Summer internships throughout her college career helped Martinez-Brooks realize what she did

and did not want to do in life.

She didn't like corporate public relations because she "couldn't see the immediate results" of her work.

This led her to working in the public relations office at Oklahoma City University. A year later, she was at OCCC working as the college's Media Relations Coordinator.

Now, Martinez-Brooks is the director of Community Outreach at OCCC. Her job involves helping students who may be unprepared and discouraged from attending college.

Martinez-Brooks works with many Hispanic community-based organizations including the Latino Community Development Agency.

At the LCDA, English as a Second Language classes are available.

As of now, classes are completely full, with some waiting for openings on a waiting list.

Also available at the LCDA are programs such as a homebuyers program, a day care and a job searching program.

"It's a complete support system," Martinez-Brooks said of the LCDA.

As a staff member at OCCC, her

goal is to give the younger generations of the Hispanic community the tools and skills needed to attend college.

She serves as sponsor for OCCC's Hispanic Organization to Promote Education. Through this organization, she sends students to public schools on the south side to help children who are having trouble speaking and reading English.

It doesn't take much to help these kids, she said.

"All they need is someone to say, 'You can do it! You are smart enough!'"

"Just showing up to tutor them shows that you care about them, and that means a lot to them. They may not have anyone who cares about their schoolwork except you."

The Oklahoma Hispanic population is predicted to increase by 24,000 people between the years of 2005 and 2015. This statistic shows the need for help in the Hispanic community is only going to increase.

Helping now will influence how the community and future generations lead their lives, she said.

Say no to stress with coping techniques

By Katie R. Jones
News Writing Student

As the end of the school year approaches, tensions always run high with students trying to study for finals, transfer schools, or graduate.

On Tuesday, May 1, the Brown Bag Seminars had their final program focusing on helping students manage stress.

More than a dozen students attended as Maurisa Mahan, counselor at TRiO Student Support Services, led the seminar and described how to avoid becoming overly stressed.

Students went through a "stress inoculation training" (SIT) pioneered by Donald Meichnbaum.

"Avoiding stress can be done in three steps: learning what stress is, learning skills to avoid stress, and applying the skills in your daily life," Mahan said.

"Most people believe that an activating event causes the stress, or the behaviors, feelings and automatic thoughts that we perceive as stress," Mahan said.

"But it really all depends on a person's beliefs system. If the activating event goes against what a person believes is right, it triggers the automatic thoughts and feelings of stress."

Mahan said there are two

types of coping skills: problem-focused and emotion-regulation.

"Problem-focused skills include thought catching, where you realize when you are having an automatic negative thought leading to stressful emotions," Mahan explained.

"Then gather information against those negative thoughts to prove to [yourself] that the thought is

pointless," she added.

Through emotion-regulation, Mahan said to "ask yourself if this really matters. Will it matter in 10 years?"

Mahan recommends diverting your attention from the stress by doing things you like, whether that is exercising, driving or hanging out with friends.

"It'll start to give you a sense of control and confi-

dence back," Mahan said.

Mahan also handed out progressive muscle relaxation instructions.

"It is physically impossible for your body to be relaxed and stressed at the same time," Mahan said.

These exercises should be practiced at least three times per week and eventually the person should be able to relax his or her entire body at once.

Film and video department awarded grant

By Kerry Lowery
News Writing Student

This semester the OCCC Film and Video Production department was awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

Under the tutelage of film and video production Professor Greg Mellott, students have been producing a documentary for the

foundation.

The work will be about the importance of arts education in schools, and what the arts mean to the children and teachers of the community.

"The entire documentary will be shot and edited by OCCC students," Mellott said.

The completed work will be presented to Susan

McAlmont, executive director of the Kirkpatrick Foundation, and OETA to be screened at the Arts Spectacular concert at 7 p.m. June 10 at Stage Center, located at 400 W. Sheridan.

As an incentive for the hours of hard work put in, all students who have helped the project come to fruition will receive a \$500 scholarship in the fall.

The money will be spent on improvements to the Film and Video department.

"We'll be getting at least three more high definition cameras," Mellott said.

Other equipment upgrades will include new sound hardware, several different types of microphones, flash drives and camera accessories.

Mohawk variations make a comeback

By V'Netra Daniels
NewsWriting Student

Fashion constantly recycles itself. The same goes for hairstyles.

The mohawk has been reborn many times since Native Americans first introduced it to the social scene.

The mohawk is a hairstyle that consists of shaving both sides of the head, leaving a strip of noticeably longer hair.

Today, people wear mohawks to make bold statements.

"A mohawk wearer is someone who is confident and outgoing," said Loretta Anderson, nursing sophomore. "In order for a person to wear a mohawk, they have to be used to getting attention."

"Someone who is fun, energetic and up for anything. Somebody who has to have that personality, that attitude, you know?"

All races have embraced this "rock star" hairstyle and are making it their own with hair dyes and different "hawk" styles.

The liberty spikes are a form of mohawk so named because of their resemblance to the spikes on the crown of the Statue of Liberty according to answers.com.

In this style, the unshaven parts of the hair are formed into thick spikes that radiate outwards in all directions or all point up in the same direction. They are favored for their durability when used with extremely long hair.

There is no limit to the number of different styles that have risen from the original mohawk.

There's the faux-hawk, which is an approximation of a mohawk made without buzzing or shaving the sides of the head, and dread-hawks, which consist of dreadlocks.

Then, there are bi-hawks and tri-hawks which have, respectively, two and three center strips of longer hair.

Eva Pigford was a pioneer who brought back the faux-hawk on the

show "America's Next Top Model."

Since then, mohawks have been seen all throughout Hollywood.

Justin Shorney, advertising sophomore and faux-hawk wearer, said people who wear mohawks are "people who are not very socially normal."

"They go against a lot of social norms to express themselves. It's a form of expression."

However, when it comes to employment, how is a mohawk received?

Career and Employment Services Director Debra Vaughn said she looks beyond a hairstyle.

"I don't care," she said.

"I'm looking for the attitude, scholastics and work ethic."

However, she said, some employers will expect a certain look.

"When in Rome, do as the Romans do," Vaughn said.

"If you really want that job, you will adjust to their specifications."

Valerie Avila, Gordon's Jewelers manager, said she likely wouldn't hire someone with a mohawk although personally, she is a fan of the hairstyle.

"It really isn't suitable for someone to be wearing a mohawk and a couple walks in trying to pick out a wedding ring," Avila said.

Rico Jaurdon, manager of T-Mobile in Midwest City, said he would hire someone, regardless of hairstyle.

"In the cell phone business, everyone in all walks of life needs a cell phone, so I'm sure people don't really care about what you look like."

"What matters is how you present yourself when customers walk up to you and ask about cellular service and how much you know about the company you're representing."

He said, in fact, a unique hairstyle could actually be a conversation starter that could lead to a sale.

"You can take that unique thing about you and turn it into something completely different, and it just started because of your hair."



Photo by Carrie Cronk

The faux-hawk is an approximation of a mohawk made without buzzing or shaving the sides of the head.

Parking lot violence, missing doll reported

By Amanda Bittle
Editor

A violent exchange on campus and a missing theater prop kept Safety and Security officers busy recently.

On May 3, an unidentified party telephoned in a report of a possible fight in parking lot C, reported Safety and Security Officer Kevin Tipton.

When officers arrived at the scene, Jerry Thompson told them he had been confronted by two white males with baseball bats, according to the report. Thompson said one of the men struck his vehicle with a bat.

The man then got back into "a black Eclipse-style vehicle" according to Thompson. The suspects then left the campus, drove southbound on May Avenue and turned into a nearby neighborhood, according to the report. Thompson followed them.

The two men stopped at a house where the passenger retrieved a large sharp instrument and threatened Thompson with it, Tipton reported. Thompson then returned to campus. The suspects followed him, but left again when they saw him talking to Safety and Security officers. They went into the neighborhood north and east of Drexel Avenue, according to the report.

Safety and Security officers searched the area, but the suspects were not located.

Thompson, who is not a student at OCCC, was on campus to pick up his girlfriend, Tipton reported.

Officers noted no signs of damage to Thompson's vehicle, according to the report.

In another incident, an inflatable life-size female doll, used as a prop in the OCCC production of "Lysistrata," was reported missing on May 2 by Theater Professor Brent Noel, said Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas.

Noel said he thinks it's a shame that someone felt the need to steal the \$30 prop, which was never returned and had to be replaced for the show.

"Whoever stole [the doll]," Noel said, "I hope that every time they use it, they keep me in mind."

Editor Amanda Bittle can be reached at Senior Writer@occc.edu.

Graduation reception planned

A reception for 2007 graduates will take place from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 14, in College Union rooms 2 and 3.

A class photo will be taken between the Main Building and the Library at 4:30 p.m.

In case of rain, it will be taken in the General Dining Hall.

Graduates are invited to attend and bring one guest. Faculty and staff also are invited to attend.



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OCCC is offering Intro. to Chinese this Fall on Tues. & Thur. from 11:00 AM to 12:20 PM. If you are interested in learning more about this fun and interesting course, check out www.occc.edu/acoakley.

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

•**June 4-8:** OCCC Recreation and Community Services will offer baseball sports camps for young athletes ages 6 to 11, looking to work hard, improve their skills and make new friends. Registration and payment must be made by the previous Thursday. Camp is held Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$65 and includes a camp T-shirt. For more information, contact Recreation and Community Services Director Traci Wheeler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7280.

•**June 11-15:** OCCC Recreation and Community Services will offer boys basketball sports camps for young athletes ages 10 to 14. This camp will improve their skills and introduce players to the sport of basketball. Registration and payment must be made by the previous Thursday. Camp is held Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$65 and includes a camp T-shirt. For more information, contact Recreation and Community Services Director Traci Wheeler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7280.

•**June 18-22:** OCCC football youth camp will be held Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. The camp is for boys ages 10 to 14. Cost is \$65 and includes a camp T-shirt. For more information, contact Recreation and Community Services Director Traci Wheeler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7280.

•**June 18-22:** OCCC girls basketball camp is held Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. The camp is for girls ages 10 to 14. Cost is \$65 and includes a camp T-shirt. For more information, contact Recreation and Community Services Director Traci Wheeler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7280.

For more information, visit online at www.occc.edu/rcs

Full house



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Students and Recreation and Community Services community members take advantage of the Wellness Center's treadmills and elipitcal machine during the evening of May 8. RCS provides memberships to the athletic facilities to be purchased by members of the community as well as providing usage of the facilities to OCCC students, staff and faculty for free. The Wellness Center hours are subject to change during scheduled classes and events. Weight room and gymnasium hours are 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. For a complete listing of hours visit www.occc.edu/rcs.

Athletes gather for June Triathlon

By John Savage
Staff Writer

Athletes are preparing to kick, pedal and run to the finish line at the OCCC Super Sprint Triathlon.

The triathlon consists of swimming 500 meters, cycling 12 miles and running 5 kilometers.

This will be the 11th time this event has been held at OCCC and attracts around 225 to 260 athletes.

The triathlon will begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 9, near entry 10.

Athletes receive a discount if they sign up before May 18.

The cost for early registration is \$40 for adults, \$30 for youths and \$75 for a three-person relay team.

If registration is completed May 19 through June 7, the cost is \$50 for adults, \$40 for youths and \$85 for relays.

Athletes who sign up for the race a day before the race will pay \$55 for individual, \$45 for youths and \$90 for relays.

The relays allow three people to compete in one event each, instead of one person completing the whole race.

Aquatics and Safety Training Specialist Stephanie Scott said new to this year's race is the addition of chip timing.

According to marathonguide.com, chip timing is both extremely precise and capable of addressing several weaknesses that are inherent to traditional timing methods.

"They [athletes] get their results in about 10 minutes," Scott said. "They get more accurate split times."

Athletes also will have to purchase a USA Triathlon card.

The cost for the card is \$39 for an annual fee or \$10 for a single-event card.

Scott said the card must be purchased prior to the race and is not included in the package. The card is used when the race is an official race of the USAT.

Otherwise, this race would be considered an exhibition race.

These cards can be picked up from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 8, along with their packets, which contain other information about the triathlon.

Scott said there is always a need for volunteers to work the hospitality aid stations and help with unpacking and packing equipment.

Forms for volunteers can be found at www.occc.edu/rcs.

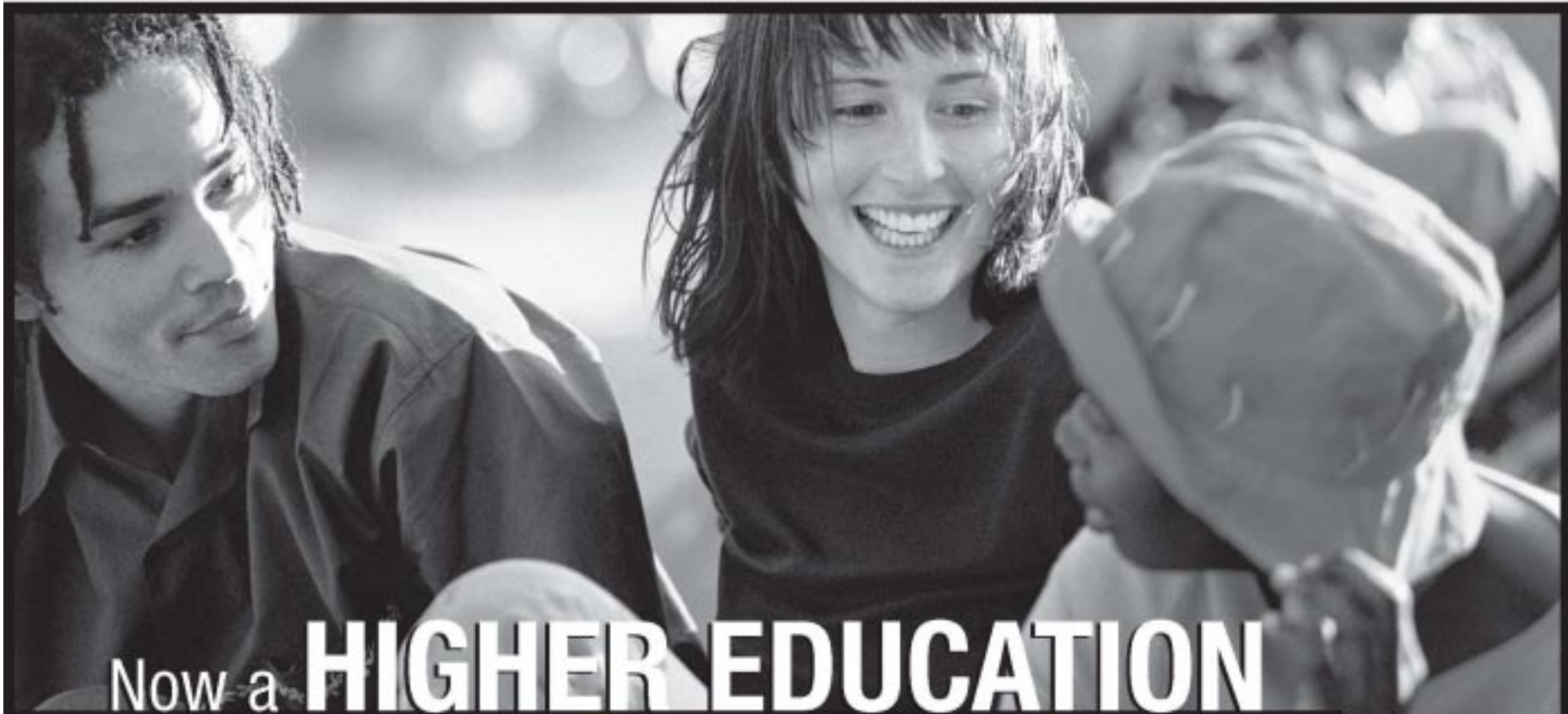
Volunteers will get a gift package and T-shirt along with snacks.

After the race is over, Central State Massage Academy will have student staff on hand to rub down athletes and members of the OCCC staff.

For more information, contact Scott at 405-682-1611, ext. 7662.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Have a sports story to share? Share it with John. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7440.



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Highlights

Spring Nursing Pinning Ceremony

The Spring 2007 graduates of the OCCC nursing program will hold their pinning ceremonies Thursday, May 17. The ceremony will be at 6 p.m. in the College Union for the traditional nursing class and at 7:30 p.m. in the College Theater for the Career Ladder Pathway class. A reception will be held immediately after the ceremonies in room CU3 of the College Union. All students and faculty are invited to attend. For more information, contact Nursing Professor Terri Walker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7282, or Nursing Professor Valerie McCartney at ext. 7210.

Fall tuition waivers available

Departmental tuition waivers for the 2007 fall semester are available to students in the Financial Aid office. Waivers and academic histories must be submitted to Financial Aid no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1. For more information, contact the Financial Aid office at 405-682-1611, ext. 7527.

Relay for Life softball tournament

Relay for Life is holding a co-ed softball tournament at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 19 at Border Park, located at 100 S. 18 St. in Chickasha. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. T-shirts will be awarded to first and second place winners. For more information, contact Keith Daughtry at 405-227-1044, or Glenda Kelsey at 405-224-7927.

Engineering scholarship offered

Kelly Engineering Resources is accepting entries for its fifth annual Future Engineers Scholarship Program. Sophomore and junior-level college students can apply by submitting an essay on a designated engineering topic for a chance at the \$5,000 scholarship. Applications are due Oct. 1. For more information, contact Amy Grundman at 248-224-5630, or visit the organization's website at www.kellyengineering.com.

Book drive for breast cancer prevention

During the last week of the semester, unwanted used books can be donated to the Book Drive for Breast Cancer Prevention. The drive, taking place at OCCC for the first time this semester, benefits the Breast Cancer Fund, a charity that addresses the environmental causes of breast cancer, by recycling and reselling these books. For more information about the Breast Cancer Fund or the book drive, visit www.breastcancerfund.org, call 309-277-8053, or e-mail j-vasquez@bookdriveforbreastcancer.com.

Sechrist Endowed Scholarship applications available

Applications for the Bill and Carol Sechrist Endowed Scholarship are now available in the Arts and Humanities division office and the Institutional Advancement office. The scholarship, established by OCCC President Paul Sechrist, is intended to support low-income students participating in international travel-enhanced classes. To be eligible, students must have completed at least 24 credit hours, have a 3.0 or better GPA, and submit a one-page essay about how a travel-enhanced course would benefit them. For more information, contact modern language Professor Dianne Broyles at 405-682-1611, ext. 7657.

Highlights must be turned in to the Pioneer office by 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication in the next issue, or may be e-mailed to StaffWriter1@occc.edu.



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Club members accept awards for new members after games and a barbecue dinner at the Student Organizations Jubilee May 4 at Earlywine Park. From left: Chris Stewart, Business Professionals of America; Omar Lozano, Hispanic Organization to Promote Education; Brittney Hodges, Phi Theta Kappa; Karen Grayson, Student Life; Sharee Demby, Black Student Association; Joyette Farquaharson, Chi Alpha.

OCCC celebrates members, leaders of clubs at Jubilee

By Drew Hampton
Staff Writer

As another semester passes, student clubs and organizations have been recognized for their work.

At 4 p.m. Friday, May 4 at Earlywine Park, Student Life's 2007 Student Organizations Jubilee provided club members an opportunity for fun, relaxation and recognition.

Darin Behara, Student Life director, said the event was a year-end celebration of the contribution campus clubs have made to the college.

"It's to celebrate the year ... and recognize the clubs and organizations for what they do to make campus life that much better," he said.

One event of the Jubilee was the Crazy Olympics, a series of unconventional contests of skill and teamwork between the different clubs on campus.

Behara said the Black Student Association won both of the Crazy Olympics' relay races. One, dubbed

the "Fear Factor Relay," involved team members consuming food items such as packages of ramen noodles and cans of vienna sausages as an objective during the race.

The other relay involved avoiding obstacles while carrying a large piece of grapefruit dangling from nylon stockings tied around contestants' waists.

The final event of the Olympics, a race based on maintaining an interlocking human chain while running across the field, was won by a joint team made up of members from the Business Professionals of America and the International Student Association.

While outwardly silly, Behara said, these competitions helped display the attributes required for effective club leadership.

"[The last race] required communications skills, balance and teamwork," he said. "[The lessons learned from] each of these games can be taken back to the

clubs, but this one could be used in leadership development."

In addition to the games, the Jubilee also featured an awards ceremony recognizing club members, leaders and sponsors.

Individual winners of club awards included Phi Theta Kappa's Rebekah Green for Best New Member of the Year, Psi Beta's Laurie Thornton for Club Officer of the Year, HOPE's Grebil Castilliano for Volunteer of the Year, and Learning Skills Professor Stephen Morrow for Sponsor of the Year.

The Advocates of Peace, the Black Student Association and the Hispanic Organization for the Promotion of Education all took home group awards, while Psi Beta received the title of Most Improved Club. Finally, the Business Professionals of America was declared the college's Club of the Year.

Staff Writer Drew Hampton can be reached at StaffWriter1@occc.edu.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OCCC 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 PM Tuesday prior to the publication date. For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or fax 405-682-7843.

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FOR SALE: '97 Pontiac Sunfire. Two door, white, automatic, good condition. \$2,100. Call 405-824-6428.

FOR SALE: '96 Camaro. Black, V-6 Automatic, Engine in great shape. Some minor cosmetic problems with interior. Asking \$2,000 or trade for good truck. Contact me at 405-863-5822.

FOR RENT

ROOM FOR RENT: Homestay for Korean student. 20-25 minutes west of OCCC. All utilities, groceries, and house expenses paid. Delicious Korean & American food served. \$800 per month. Contact Sun: 824-5430.

ROOMMATE WANTED: I-240 & Walker. Furnished living, dining, & kitchen. High-speed Internet & cable, washer & dryer. Rent is \$350 + utilities (approx. \$150-\$200). Includes 2 bedrooms 10'x10' & 1 bathroom. Bedroom can be furnished if needed. Inquiries call 405-615-9603.

ROOMMATE NEEDED: (IMMEDIATELY) To share \$320 rent per month, nice habits. Contact: Hsn4you@yahoo.com

ROOMMATE NEEDED: (IMMEDIATELY!) Female only. To share \$300 rent + half utilities, approx. \$100-\$125/month. 2 bed/2bath apt. in NW OKC. No drugs, clean living habits. No kids, no pets please. Serious inquires only,

call Rebecca 405-227-2194.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Looking for a roommate to share a 3 bedroom house with myself and my cousin (male). Three minutes from school, clean and quiet environment. \$220 + shared bills per month. 1 car garage, washer & dryer available. No contracts, move out when you wish! No preferences. We are 22 yr. old students. If interested, call 361-0251.

SUMMER ROOM FOR RENT: College Student, female. Beautiful home, furnished. Gated community 20 min. from OCCC. \$395. Ask for Barbara: 405-485-3382.

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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FAST-PACED AND EXCITING? Trappers Fish Camp is now hiring experienced waitstaff. We have one of the largest per person guest check averages on Reno ranging from \$17-\$24 per person. Apply in person @ 4300 West Reno in OKC from either 9-11 AM or 2-4 PM, 7 days a week.

OFFICE ASSISTANT NEEDED: Part-time, typing, filing, data-entry. \$6.00/hr, apply in person at Earlywine Park YMCA, 11801 S. May, Attn: Lisa.

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FOR SALE: 5-piece vintage cherry colored bed suite. Includes full-size bed frame, end table, desk /vanity, dresser, and armoire! Fun refurbishing project! \$175 OBO. Contact Laura at 397-5272.

FOR SALE: White 3-piece bedroom suite. Great for a young girl. Includes desk, dresser, 2 hutches, & full-size bed frame! \$150 OBO.

Contact Laura at 397-5272.

FOR SALE: Light Blue cloth couch/sofa bed, recliner chair & love seat that reclines! \$200 OBO. Great condition! Contact Laura at 397-5272.

FOR SALE: Black leather sleeper sofa: \$300, black leather chaise: \$200. Coffee table: \$25, end table: \$10. Entertainment center: \$100. Glass office desk: \$50. Call 210-5388 or e-mail TiffCull@aol.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

TRADE WANTED: Yamaha 12 string guitar FG-410-12. Will trade for 6-string OBO. Call 670-9060.

FOR SALE: Miscellaneous baby items. White changing table with pad: \$35. Evenflo playpen with bassinet: \$40. Evenflo rear-facing carseat: \$30. Snuggly infant carrier: \$10. High chair seat cover: \$5. Call 436-9509.

THREE LOVELY WEDDING GOWNS FOR SALE! One is satin, and two are off the shoulder. All have tags. Call Janis at 635-0656 in the evening. \$50 each.

FOR SALE: Three-year-old Ludwig Doetsch violin with soft-side case. In excellent condition. Kid graduated. A real buy at \$1500. Contact 306-3290 or 306-1396.

FOR SALE: Women's Hyperlite Diva 128 wakeboard. Never been used, brand new. Size small bindings included. \$100 OBO. 570-1499.

FOR SALE: Used TX Instrument TI-83 plus calc. In good cond. \$50. If interested call 600-8605.

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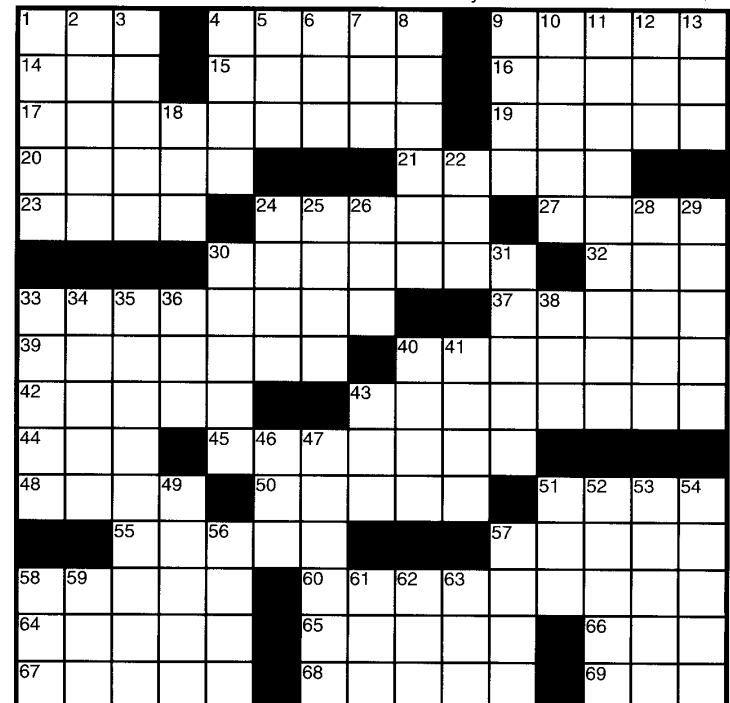
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Certain four-year degrees offer big salaries for graduates

"Degree,"
Cont. from page 1

FAA center," Simmons said.

"When that particular contract ended, we ended a special program that had resulted in an increase (of engineering course enrollment), so we were more or less returning to our normal student body."

Simmons also attributes the decrease to changes in the University of Oklahoma's curriculum. He said OU is where most OCCC engineering graduates transfer.

He said the University of Oklahoma, in an effort to reduce the number of credit hours in their bachelor's degree program, began requiring students to take specialized courses in engineering as early as a student's first and second semesters.

"If you're an engineering student now, particularly if you want to go to the University of Oklahoma, you have to choose in a semester or two whether you want to be a chemical engineer or civil engineer, and that's a hard thing to do when you don't quite know what you're doing," Simmons said.

According to the Institutional Effectiveness area of the college website, 26 engineering majors graduated in 2005, with 14 graduating in 2006.

Accounting majors follow engineering majors in terms of pay. Their starting salaries climbed 2.7 percent to \$47,421, according to NACE.

"Accounting is in really high demand right now," said accounting Professor Kayla Fessler.

Fessler said students planning to transfer to a four-year college to get a bachelor's in accounting should get an associate degree in Science Business at OCCC, as opposed to an Associate in Applied Science Business degree.

"The AAS in Business is not a transfer degree, but when [students] are fin-

ished they are ready to enter the workforce," she said.

The downside to the two-year AAS business degree is the lower annual pay.

According to www.salary.com, as of March 2007, entry-level accountants made an annual salary between \$36,297 and \$44,444.

Figures at www.degree-directory.org listed an accountant's base salary at \$32,320.

Although in third place in regard to its annual salary, the marketing field experienced the largest jump over the past year, with salary offers increasing 10.3 percent, on average, to \$41,285.

Debra Vaughn, Advising and Career Services career Specialist, credits the jump to the Internet.

"Marketing is a new world because of the Internet," Vaughn said.

"So many people are not looking at hard copy printed material any longer. The Internet is now their focus."

OCCC doesn't offer specific marketing courses, but students can use the A.S. degree in business to transfer to a four-year institution where they can begin taking specific courses in marketing, Vaughn said.

She said graphic design, and even film and video majors, could move into the marketing field.

"The visual arts [majors], a lot of them will work for advertisement agencies," Vaughn said. "Even our film and video students, they're selling the stories such as instructional videos."

Vaughn said graphic communications or film majors who do decide to enter the marketing field would have to take the business courses outlined in the business science A.S. degree in addition to the courses required for their visual arts degrees.

According to the CCN Money.com article, salary offers made to computer science majors rival those

of engineering majors with an annual salary of \$52,177.

While salary offers to computer science majors declined in 2005 and 2006, they have since risen by 2.5 percent.

Vicki Gibson, Information Technology division acting dean, attributes the decrease in computer science enrollment to the residual effects of the dot com downfall.

Gibson said the highest pay in computer science is still going to programming areas as well as cyber security.

According to www.salary.com, the annual salary for programmers in Oklahoma City ranges from \$37,824 to \$71,816 depending on the type and level of programmer. A web security administrator in Oklahoma City earns, on average, \$64,047 to \$95,328 a year.

OCCC offers A.S. computer science associate degree programs with an emphasis on computer information systems, general computer science emphasis and cyber/information security, according to the college catalog.

Gibson said the college has two versions of the A.S. computer science degree.

"One goes directly into the University of Central Oklahoma and one directly into the University of Oklahoma," said Gibson.

"We have partnership agreements with the University of Oklahoma and the University of Central Oklahoma where it says they will absolutely take these classes if the student completes their associate degree in computer science here."

Despite having specific partnerships established with the two institutions, Gibson said, the college would work with any four-year institution to which a student would want to transfer.

Also, the college is in the process of offering a bachelor's degree in computer technology.

"We're working on a partnership agreement with Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee so we can offer their bachelor's degree here on campus," Gibson said.

She said she hopes the program will be available at the college in the fall '07 semester.

Staff Writer David Miller can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

Human anatomy class helps build confidence



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Professor Julian Hilliard's Human Anatomy students meet to study for the last part of the class. From left to right: Vaneza Ceballos, Brittney Hodges, Sarah Stubbs, Brandy Hodges and Kayla Goforth.

"Lab,"
Cont. from page 1

new material to learn and a recent change in the format of the tests given, the course has become noticeably busier.

Ceballos said, because of the intensity of the class, the students, on occasion, have been forced to use open lab time to take lecture notes needed to finish the course.

She said the class has taught students what to study as well as a better way to study it.

"It's really helped my studying skills a lot," said Radiation Therapy major Brittney Hodges.

"It's built up confidence,

and [helped me] realize that I can be something on my own ... which is something that I would never have thought would happen in that class, but it did."

Ceballos said she highly recommends the course for anyone interested in the health professions field.

"One of the best ways to learn about the body is actually touching and feeling everything, and knowing where everything is supposed to go," she said.

"It's grueling, but it's stuff we'll never forget because of the impact it makes on you."

"It's an amazing experience."

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