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PIONEER

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The future looks bright



Photo by Amber McBride

Freshmen Alicia Connett and Jose Latorre study for class in the Arts and Humanities area. The Arts Education Center, due to be completed this summer, will house many of the offices and classes that are now in the AH area.

Transferring entails a lot of planning

By Chris Lusk
Editor

Staci Russell nearly did not make it into the University of Oklahoma — not because of grades or finances, but because she almost missed the deadline to apply.

"I had been putting everything off and I didn't think I'd have everything I needed in time," Russell said.

Luckily for Russell, the necessary documents she needed came in time for her to submit her application before the April 1 deadline.

"Those few days of stressing were my own fault, completely my own fault," she said. "The process wasn't necessarily hard. I could have saved myself a lot of stress by applying early."

"I should have been more prepared."

Transferring to a four-year university is typically accompanied by anxiety, stress and frustration.

However, being properly prepared should help to ease most of these feelings.

Transfer and Distance Advising Coordinator Leslie Jones said, in addition to being prepared, students should start preparing early and ask questions.

"The more [students] know, the more they feel empowered," she said.

Jones said, before arriving at their new four-year university, students should get a contact person.

"[Four-year universities] can seem like a big monster," Jones said, "but if you have a contact person, it makes it easier to transition and to find resources."

Many times, students can look to others as an example of what to do.

English major Kyle Eaton was fortunate enough to learn from his brother's mistake.

"My brother messed around and didn't get his stuff turned in before the deadline last year," Eaton said. "So he basically had to take a semester off since he was done with his associates."

"Let's just say my mom didn't let me make the same mistake."

Some students avoided problems by applying well in ad-

"The more [students] know, the more they feel empowered. [Four-year universities] can seem like a big monster, but if you have a contact person, it makes it easier to transition and to find resources."

—Leslie Jones
Transfer and Distance
Advising Coordinator

Venezuela pianist to perform

By Alexandra Marcus
News Writing Student

Classical-improvisational pianist Gabriela Montero will perform at 7 p.m. April 8, in the OCCC Theater in the final event of the Cultural Arts Series.

The Venezuelan native will play a unique set that consists of two parts — traditional classical works by composers such as Bach, Chopin, Debussy and Liszt, and a unique improvisational style that has become the foundation of her career.

Cultural Programs Director Dan Yates said the audience is in for a treat.

"What's really neat about her is that she asks the audience to name a song of their choice, like 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,' then she will start playing that tune and turn it into her own unique classical or baroque piece."

Montero grew up in Caracas, Venezuela, where

she attended a school that taught young children how to play orchestral music.

Later, Montero moved to the United States with her parents so she could continue her education and pursue her musical career.

Yates said Montero became fascinated with the popularity of improvisation in classical music, but that popularity soon fell, making written music the prime focus of the classical genre.

"Though improvisation was of much interest to Montero, she quit performing in that way because it was looked down upon."

Montero eventually realized improvisation was her forte and decided to perform in that manner anyway.

She recently performed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York city.

"OCCC is beginning to bring a lot of big names to the campus theater, which is very exciting," Yates said.

Montero also will host a lecture and demonstration



Gabriela Montero

at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, in the theater.

"This will include a preview of her performance as well as discussions of her background in a more informal setting," Yates said.

The lecture and demonstration is free and open to the public. The evening performance is \$22 for general admission, \$17 for students, seniors, faculty, staff, and alumni association members, and \$10 for children 12 and under.

See "Transfer," page 12

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Don't let the media sway your vote

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are in one of the closest presidential races in American history, and they have not made it past the primary elections.

The two potential Democratic nominees are running marathon campaigns. They maintain similar views on many topics, as they should since they both represent the same party.

Clinton, through the help of her aides, still tries to sling the mud, and Obama continues to sling back. Yet they both share one constant friend and foe — the media.

The media have gone from pointing out the debate victories by Obama to questioning how easy the media has been on him after Clinton made mention of the fact at their last debate in Austin.

Then the media, being ever so influential in the lives of the major news network patrons, developed a breaking story about themselves not doing their job in asking Obama the same hard-hitting questions as Clinton. So who can be trusted to provide accurate and unbiased news — celebrities?

Clinton's appearance on "Saturday Night Live" is surely a way to gain votes from those who get their information about the candidates from sketch comedy. Major news networks exhaustively analyzed Jack Nicholson's endorsement of Clinton. If anything, the news coverage and exposure of the candidates is more superficial than factual news.

Obama has had his share of negative media coverage influencing its viewers and readers. There was the scandal about Obama wearing traditional Muslim attire. And the comments made by Obama's long-time pastor ended in the media, questioning if Obama is a racist.

He responded with a speech denouncing the minister's comments and addressing racism in America. The New York Times and Los Angeles Times both compared his speech to those of Lincoln and Roosevelt.

Instead of focusing on the positive steps forward in racism in America that Obama addressed, some media commentators overanalyzed his ability to read a teleprompter.

Is that really the hard-hitting news story people in our country want to read or hear about?

Maybe it is, but I know for a fact there are more important things going on in the world than Obama stumbling over a few words or discussing the importance of celebrity endorsements for a presidential candidate.

Try switching off your Fox News, CNN or MSNBC and turning on BBC news, or search for another country's national news website, like the Canadian Broadcasting Company. There probably will be a story about the presidential race, but it will be a straight forward report but from an outsider's perspective.

Since we are the self-proclaimed superpower of the world, shouldn't we, as concerned citizens voting for our next leader, want to know what the rest of the world has to say?

—Brian Schroeder
Staff Writer

Guns on campus 'good idea'

To the editor:

I am disappointed in your editorial on the bill that would allow students with concealed carry permits to protect themselves on campus.

While I respect everyone's opinion, you presented a one sided argument. You have no quotes from anyone who feels the bill may be beneficial. Your headline reads "Guns on campus bill opposed by students, cops." I must say that none of those people speak for me.

Regardless of any arguments from one side or the other, I encourage those to take this concept into consideration.

Laws that prohibit citizens from carrying on college campus will not prevent those people who are determined to commit a tragedy such as those at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois from doing so. If the laws had made a difference to those people, they would have never committed those horrible acts.

As recent history has also shown, law enforcement officials are too late to prevent a tragedy altogether. I can promise you, though, those people who have considered committing such an act would think twice before coming to campus if they knew that students were allowed to protect themselves.

To answer your question concerning officers not knowing which person is a good guy or bad guy, any responsible person who has completed the certification and training know that when law enforcement shows up, you put down your weapon very quickly. The bad guy won't do that. And if they do then you have accomplished the purpose of disarming the aggressor.

To put it simply, those citizens who would take the measures to receive the proper training and certification to carry a weapon are not the ones we as a society need to be concerned with. It is those people who have no regard for the law, and are in

fact, fueled by the knowledge that there is very likely no one who can stop them before they cause a horrible tragedy. I hope you will take the time to give equal coverage to both sides of a story before printing one on such a controversial issue.

—Roman Carothers
OCCC student

PIONEER

Vol. 36 No. 26

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

Letters to the editor can be delivered to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to 405-682-7843.

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.



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



Comments and Reviews

Nintendo brings on a 'Brawl'

Donkey Kong winds up his fist and, in the blink of an eye, Mario is flying out of the stadium.

This is just one of the exciting situations you can experience in "Super Smash Brothers Brawl," the third installment in the "Super Smash Brothers" saga, for the Wii. "Brawl" is a crossover fighting game published by Nintendo.

The characters are from various Nintendo games, such as Mario, Kirby and Zelda.

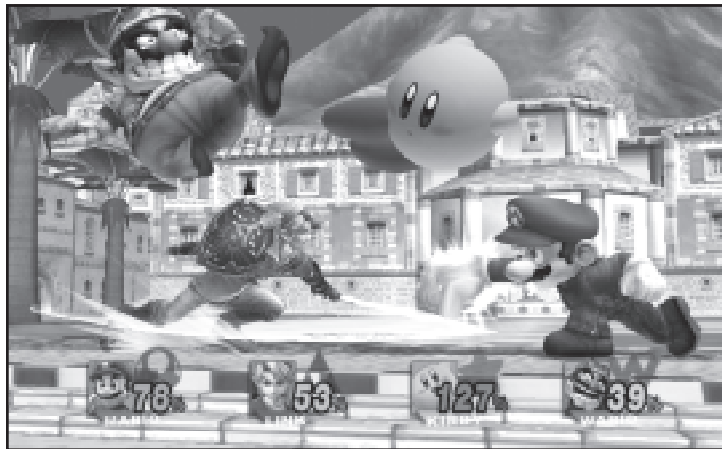
The unique thing that separates "Brawl" from other fighting games such as Mortal Kombat is that, rather than dying or getting KO'd, characters can be sent flying off the map if the damage they have taken is high.

Damage taken, instead of being shown on a health meter, is represented as a percentile.

If a character is in the 100-plus percentile, chances are far greater he will be knocked off before a player at the 50 percent mark.

If a player gets hit too far off the map, he loses a "stock token," which is the equivalent of a life.

Game controls are pretty basic, yet they don't take away from the amount of fun possible.



The most potent attacks are called Smash attacks, which are specific to certain characters. Smash attacks are more powerful than standard attacks and build up the hit percentage more quickly.

Items also can be found on the stages being dropped off randomly.

Among these are weapons such as ray Guns, Pokeballs, home-run Bats and hammers.

Players can choose from 23 stages to do battle, each with its own theme, according to the game they are derived from.

A new solo and co-op multiplayer campaign, "The Subspace Emissary," has been added to "Brawl," which is different from the Classic mode because of the plot and storyline.

Players can still choose

mini-games such as Hit The Target and Home-Run Contest, but others have been added to test other skills, such as speed.

Another new feature, the Stage Builder, allows players to build their own stage to do battle on. Players also can share and download stages through the Wi-Fi ability of the Wii.

"Brawl" is an addictive game, a game you can play for hours and not get bored.

The available characters are fun to play with, considering they are some of the most pivotal in gaming history.

"Brawl" will become one of those staple games, and is a must-have for any Nintendo fan.

Rating: A

—Stephen Sossamon
Staff Writer

'Horton' hears Seuss accurately

"Horton Hears a Who" may ring a bell to those fortunate enough to have been exposed to the writings of Dr. Seuss.

Past attempts to reproduce his work on film have been less than successful. This adaptation, however, seems to remain true to the author's ideals and love of entertaining children of all ages.

The moral "a person's a person, no matter how small," is a direct quote from the author as well as the theme of this film.

Horton the elephant (Jim Carrey) hears a small voice

that none of the other animals in the jungle can hear. He discovers the tiny town of Whoville existing on a speck of floating dust.

He catches the dust on a flower to keep it temporarily out of harm's way.

The Mayor of Whoville (Steve Carell) enlists the elephant's help in placing the dust speck somewhere secure. He must also convince the other members of his community that there is a crisis, their world exists on a speck, and all is not well as they believe.

Horton is challenged and

almost thwarted in his efforts by a selfish kangaroo (Carol Burnett), who doesn't believe the Who's exist.

With Seuss' power of imagination ever in the forefront, I believe this beautifully animated movie would have made the author proud to see his work come to life on the big screen.

Whether you are young or young-at-heart, the latest effort to bring one of Seuss' creations to the movies is delightful entertainment.

Rating: B+

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

CAREER POWER

Ok, you want to become an astronaut? Well, I can't think of a more exciting career field — so here you go.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, accepts applications for the Astronaut Candidate Program on a continuing basis. Normally, candidates are selected as needed approximately every two years.

The first group of astronauts was drawn only from the military services in 1959 and required jet aircraft flight experience and engineering training.

Today, astronauts are selected from a greater range of career backgrounds and both civilian and military personnel are considered. Basic requirements are listed below.

Pilot astronaut candidates:

- Bachelor's degree in engineering, physical science, biological science or math
- Minimum of 1,000 hours as jet pilot in command
- Pass a physical
- Be a U.S. citizen

Mission specialist astronaut:

- Bachelor's degree in engineering, physical science, biological science, or math
- Minimum of three years of related professional experience
- Pass a physical
- Be a U.S. citizen

Majors to help prepare for this occupation:

- Aerospace and Aeronautical Engineering
- Applied Mathematics
- Air Transportation Work
- Astronomy
- Biology
- Physics
- Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology

OCCC has majors and introductory courses that mirror these fields: Engineering/Pre-Engineering; Mathematics; Aviation Maintenance Technology & Business Aviation Management; Biology; and Physics. We also have General Astronomy that studies the solar system, the sun and stars, galaxies and current theories of the origin, evolution and fate of the universe.

Please visit the Career and Employment Services office at your first opportunity to begin your personal career journey. The information above was gathered from the OCCC college catalog, the DISCOVER (ACT) career exploration program and the NASA Astronaut Candidate Program at www.nasajobs.nasa.gov/astro-nauts

From astronauts to accountants or anesthesiologists, we are ready to assist your major and career decision-making process.

—Debra D. Vaughn
Career and Employment Services Director

Film workshops headed by Hollywood professionals

By **Daniel Martin**
News Writing Student

Once again OCCC will be the site of the summer film workshops. Registration for the Oklahoma Film Institute will last until July 2.

There is no prerequisite, said OFI Production Manager Greg Mellott, also a Film and Video Production professor. He said anyone with an interest in various aspects of film would be interested in the workshops.

"This is the best chance for students from all ages and backgrounds to gain authentic Hollywood experience in today's busy entertainment industry," Mellott said. "The main principal of this program is that it is not limited to film students or intended for any specific person."

Students can sign up for one week or the full three weeks at a cost of \$575 per week with a registration fee of \$100. The workshops are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 7

through 25.

The three-week program is composed of one-week workshops, each concentrating on specific filming techniques, methods and tricks of the business, Mellott said.

Week one of the program will focus on "pre-production." During this week, students will learn different aspects of film, ranging from how to create a shooting schedule and budget to seeking proper locations, props and costumes.

During the second week or the "production" period, participants will learn to produce feature-length films, Mellott said.

They will have the opportunity to shoot a real movie with real equipment, sit in the director chair, manage their crew and experience the life of movie making.

Week three or "post-production" is a period where students learn picture and sound editing, which is done with a professional AVID non-linear editing

computer program.

"Other than working for a major studio, there is no experience quite like making your movie at OFI," Mellott said. "The AVID editing system is the largest in the mid-continent area and gives students the chance to work with the most sophisticated equipment Hollywood has to offer."

By the end of these workshops, participants will be able to try their hands at a variety of film jobs including direction, camera, sound, production, lighting and grip operations.

Students will have wrapped up their film projects by editing, cleaning and putting the final pieces of their movie together.

Students will spend most of their time on a real film set with the industry's most high-tech digital equipment.

Participants will work side by side with experienced Hollywood profes-

sionals like Mellott and Gary Fredrickson, who have helped produce movies such as "Jackie Chan's First Strike," "American Soldiers," "A Day in Iraq," and "The Godfather" trilogy.

Mellott said former OFI students have gone on to do great things in Hollywood, such as working on hit television shows like "24" and "Lost." Some are producing feature-length movies and others are on the sets of Los Angeles' renowned independent films.

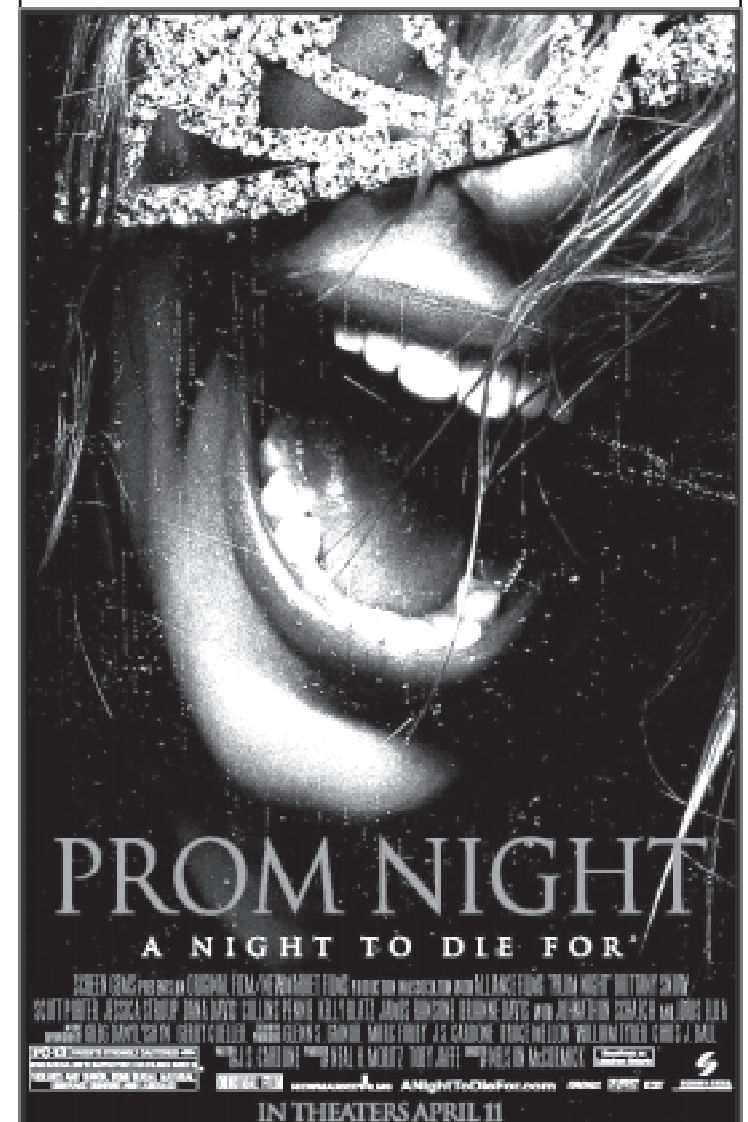
"The OFI summer pro-

gram does not teach textbook theory," said former OFI student Mark Hammer, who is now working for Lions Gate Entertainment, a major Hollywood studio. "Instead, it totally immerses you in the industry."

"It was a great experience all around," he said. "The three-week program has cemented my desire of working in the film industry."

For more information, contact the Oklahoma Film Institute by phone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7100, or by e-mail at ofi@occc.edu.

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Lieutenant governor glad to be a native

By Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

Lt. Gov. Jari Askins said she is proud to be an Oklahoman in a speech on campus March 26.

"Oklahoma is a proud state with a rich heritage. We are a dynamic, culturally diverse state full of hard-working, friendly people," she said.

About 150 students and staff listened as Askins spoke about the government and people of Oklahoma.

Askins said she felt fortunate to have been in her office during the state Centennial celebration.

"I was invited to many community events, and people were surprised that I accepted all of the invitations," she said.

"It was an opportunity for me to get to many communities throughout the state and witness the groundswell of pride as Oklahomans celebrated Oklahoma."

A native Oklahoman, born and raised in Duncan, Askins said one of her best days was Nov. 16, 2007, at the Guthrie reenactment of statehood.

"To see 80,000 people lined up and down the

streets to celebrate our 100th birthday was spectacular."

Askins said that March is Women's History Month.

"This serves to remind us of the many female contributions to Oklahoma, past and present."

Askins herself has been a significant part of that with her service as a district judge for eight years; being the first female elected as chairperson of the Pardon and Parole board, being elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1994, serving as Democratic House Leader in 2005, and being elected as the states first woman Democratic lieutenant governor.

"My family encourages me, and has always made me believe I could accomplish anything," Askins said.

"Their examples showed there were no limits to what women could do, and that instills self-assurance."

Askins said there are many statewide public service opportunities for women in Oklahoma.

When asked if she has considered running for Governor in 2010, Askins replied that her first duty is to the people of Okla-



Photo by Amber McBride

Lt. Gov. Jari Askins stopped by OCCC March 27 to give a speech on her experiences in Oklahoma. Pictured with her is Jon Horinek, OCCC's Service Learning and Student Life Programs coordinator.

homa, to do her best at her present job.

"My options are dependent on my performance in office."

She said many people have asked her about her plans, and she has not been willing to commit as yet.

"But," she said, smiling at the audience, "it has not escaped my attention that my governor is term limited."

Campus security improved, director says

By Chynna Collins and Shea Cannon
News Writing Students

OCCC Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas spoke to News Writing Students March 10. After the campus shootings in West Virginia, changes and improvements constantly are being made for campus safety, Sloas said.

The most recent and effective investment OCCC has made the telephones located in every classroom and office. These telephones are able to receive and send alerts when there is an emergency, such as an active shooter on campus. One thing Sloas said he would like to see added when funding is avail-

able is free standing speakers that would be located throughout the campus. These would sound alarms if an emergency were to occur.

Sloas said safety and emergency procedure signs have been placed all around campus and in classrooms in an effort to clarify what students and staff should do in case of fire, medical problems, bomb threats, severe weather or other emergencies. The signs are posted beside the exit door in each classroom.

The most serious crime problem on college campuses is theft, Sloas said. OCCC has 17 armed security officers. These officers must have 40 hours of firearms train-

ing. These officers work a four shift rotation and some are on duty around the clock.

"Cameras have also been added to parking lots which has helped tremendously," Sloas said. There are security telephones in the parking lots for students or faculty to use anytime they feel necessary. Car thefts have been greatly reduced, Sloas said.

"The administration has been very supportive for raising safety standards," he said. New vehicles and uniforms for security officers have been purchased. All officers now carry a standard weapon, the Glock Model 22, the standard police department firearm.

OCCC's security staff is well

trained, Sloas said. Before being hired, officers must have one year experience as a security officer and be certified by CLEET, Oklahoma's law enforcement certification agency.

"Our department runs 85 percent like a police department," Sloas said.

Although improvements have lowered crime rates on the OCCC campus, there are more than 300 incident reported annually. When asked how students can help prevent crime on campus, Sloas said, "Be aware of your surroundings."

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Prof follows lead of major universities

By Cathy Murray
News Writing Student

Speech Communications Professor Julie Corff is excited about new communications technology on campus that allows students to download their speeches off the Internet.

About a year ago, Corff researched how the top five communication programs from different universities are instructing their students in the field.

She said she learned that filming speeches and then watching them was a popular technique among prestigious universities such as Harvard.

Armed with that information, Corff said she teamed with OCCC's Instructional Video Services to improve the learning opportunity for her students.

She formed a group that included Instructional Video Services Coordinator Tim Whisenhunt, Instructional Technology Coordi-

nator Bill Hill and Video Broadcast Engineer Mike Bates to make her dream come true.

Together, she said, they came up with a special computer program where Instructional Video Services could videotape student speeches, then upload them to the Internet so students could watch themselves as well as critique their own speeches.

The program allows the students to become aware of saying "um" too many times or fidgeting while they make speeches, Corff said.

Student Brittani Hill said it's helpful.

"It helps because we can see ourselves speak," she said.

"We've watched videos of student speeches from previous semesters which has allowed us to see how somebody else walks around the room or constantly uses the word 'um.'"

Corff said it has taken the

group a year to complete this program.

"It was first tested in the fall semester of 2007 and was very successful."

Student Michael Sparks said he believes this is a very helpful approach in learning how to make professional speeches.

"What helps is the practice," Sparks said. "Sometimes it's difficult to watch yourself on TV, but it really helps in the long run."

One of Corff's goals is to expand the program's availability to all public speaking students as well as the entire campus, she said.

"Eventually, we want to learn how to download the speeches onto phones and iPods so that they can be accessed by the students at any time of the day," Corff said.

"We are very excited with where this is going and can't wait to see what upcoming technology has in store for us to experiment with."



Julie Corff

Photo by Amber McBride

Annual Make It, Bake It sale set for April 8

By Lynsey Suchy
News Writing Student

The Make It, Bake It sale, scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, will include baked goods and many craft items provided by the OCCC faculty.

A silent auction will contain a number of choice items.

English Professor Richard Rouillard will auction off a gourmet meal to the highest bidder. He will cook and serve the meal at the winner's house.

Gary Dominguez, Student Computer Center supervisor, will auction a juggling lesson. He is a great juggler, said Librarian Linda Boatright, who also is the Faculty Association chairwoman.

Cecelia Yoder, acting Social Sciences dean, said she will provide handmade beaded jewelry for customers to purchase. Boatright

said. They are one-of-a-kind pieces and each one has a unique design. Some are made with precious stones.

Math Professor Linda Knox will sell potted geraniums at \$26 each. Available colors will be fuchsia, red, coral and light pink.

Knox said customers who would like to purchase geraniums should contact her via e-mail by April 4 so she will know how many of each color to provide.

Her e-mail address is Lknox@occc.edu. The geraniums will be available for pick up from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 7, in her office, 2B6A SEM Center.

"Thank You" grams also will be offered, Boatright said. This is a chance for students to express their appreciation to the faculty or other students, and can be sent to anyone who attends school or works on campus, she said. The

committee will make sure everyone receives their grams.

Assorted gift bags also will be for sale.

Some of the bags will have kits that contain preparation materials and books to help students with finals, while other bags will contain Mary Kay cosmetic products.

Boatright said the proceeds from the sale will go toward student scholarships.

The Faculty Association was able to award 27 scholarships from its garage sale last semester.

For more information, call any member of the

Scholarship Committee: Susan Mann, 405-682-1611, ext. 7211; Richard Rouillard, ext. 7389; Marty Ludlum, ext. 7412; Ray

McCullar, ext. 7301; and Linda Boatright, ext. 7468.

The sale will take place near the Bookstore windows on the first floor of the Main Building.



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International meet-and-greet at Capitol

By Sarah Penrod
News Writing Student

March 24 was International Student Awareness Day at the State Capitol in the House of Representatives.

Seven of OCCC's 442 international students attended. About 500 international high school and college students gathered there.

After all the legislator seats were filled, students were still pouring in. There were so many students that at least 50 were left standing in the aisles.

Chris Benge, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jari Askins, lieutenant governor, welcomed the students.

Abra Figueoa, OCCC English as a Second Language professor, said the most important part of the day was the naming of the countries.

It was an opportunity for each student to express their pride for their native land.

Shane Jett, International Development and International Trade Rules committee chairman, called out each country that was represented.

When a student's country was called, students would wave, shout, stand up and show pride.

There were 92 countries represented that day. Six countries were represented from OCCC.

After that, it was time for mingling and entertainment. Singers and dancers put on a show while everyone was meeting and greeting.

Lunch was served in the hallways of the Capitol. There was really no place to sit so everyone just stood around and ate.

The many different varieties of food included everything from Asian to pizza.

OCCC student Nawal Hayavi, from Iran, said it was "amazing." She said she would return next year.

Another OCCC student Tony Tian, from China, said he met some friends he already knew from another school.

The event is in its 16th year.



International student Qi Wang and English as a Second Language professor Abra Figueoa speak with Shane Jett, International Development and International Trade Rules committee chairman. International students from around the state had the chance to meet-and-greet, and be recognized, at the State Capitol March 24 for International Student Awareness Day.

Ninety-two countries were represented and seven of OCCC's 442 international students attended the event.

There also was entertainment from singers and dancers as patrons ate lunch. The varieties of food ranged from Asian cuisine to the Italian favorite pizza.

Photos provided



International students Emily Han and Qi Wang were two of seven OCCC international students who visited the State Capitol on International Student Awareness Day March 24.



Abra Figueoa, OCCC English as a Second Language professor, Emily Han, student, Sunny Garner, International Student Services coordinator, and Qi Wang, student, spent time with other students and faculty in attendance at International Student Awareness Day.

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

- April 5:** Club Soccer team plays Oklahoma State University at 11 a.m. in Stillwater.
- April 7:** Intramural dodgeball will start its season. This league is for both men and women. It is for all students with a current student ID. For more information on how to sign up, call Recreation and Sports Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.
- April 12:** Club Soccer team plays University of Oklahoma at 11 a.m. in Norman.
- April 19:** Club Soccer team plays the University of Arkansas at 3 p.m. at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.
- April 19:** The OCCC Aquatic Center will host the Chesapeake Tri-meet. For more information about this event, call Coordinator of Aquatics and Safety Training Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

Have sports news to share?
Call Matt at 405-682-1611,
ext. 7675, or e-mail
SeniorWriter@occc.edu.

OCCSL Soccer Standings

1. UCO	2-0-1	7 pts.
2. Okla St.	2-0-0	6 pts.
3. OCCC	0-0-2	2 pts
4. East Central	0-0-2	2pts
5. OU-Colsa	0-0-1	1 pts
6. Oklahoma	0-1-1	1 pts
7. Rose St.	0-1-0	0 pts.

Wins = 3 points and Draws = 1

Club Soccer Season Schedule

March 1 vs. East Central	1-1 Draw
March 9 vs. OU-Colsa	3-3 Draw
March 15 vs. UCO	Postponed
March 29 vs. Rose State	@ Home
April 5 vs. Okla St	@ There
April 12 vs. Oklahoma	@ There
April 19 vs. Arkansas	@ There
April 26 Playoffs	TBA
May 3 CHAMPIONSHIP	TBA



Photo by Matt Bishop

Ice Cream's Nik Grant (middle) tips a missed free throw as the Spartans' Matt Lohn (right) and Ty Ludvick (front middle) defend it with .8 seconds left in the Intramural Championship game. The Spartans were ahead 53-51. The game-tying basket was missed as time ran out, and the Spartans won their second straight Intramural Championship.

Spartan player talks about his game

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

Spartan captain Matt Lohn made quite an impact on his team's success this season as Intramural Basketball Champion.

With the 6-foot-7 Lohn in the line-up, the Spartans maintained an undefeated record.

The only Spartan loss came in the first week of the season against the Hustlas when Lohn was unable to play. The Hustlas were undefeated in the regular season.

After leading the Spartans to the championship, Lohn will lead the Spartans to the University of Texas-Arlington for the NIRSA Regional Basketball Championships.

"We are really pumped about going," Lohn said. "We were pretty crushed when we found out we weren't going at first ... it will be a lot of fun."

Lohn said an opening in that tournament allowed OCCC's intramural champion to fill in that spot.

Lohn said they will be playing against Division-I intramural schools such as Texas A&M, Hous-

ton and Division-I Men's Basketball Tournament "Cinderella" Western Kentucky.

"It will be interesting playing [Western Kentucky's] intramural team," Lohn said.

He said it's a good chance to see how well OCCC can match-up with bigger colleges and universities.

Lohn has plenty experience playing against Division-I athletes.

In high school and AAU basketball, Lohn said he played against University of Oklahoma's Blake Griffin, Oklahoma State's Obi Muonelo and the University of Michigan's Ekpe Udoh.

Lohn said he was named to the Oklahoma Coaches Association Large West All-State team in his senior year at Purcell High School in 2006.

He started playing basketball in the first grade and realized his athletic capabilities around seventh grade.

As an eighth grader, Lohn was 6-foot-1. He said he was bigger than everyone else, but it was his good ball control that put him at an advantage over the rest.

Lohn said he idolizes NBA superstar Kevin Garnett because of his inside/outside game. Lohn also is a Dallas Mavericks fan.

Lohn said he enjoys intramurals, but would like to test his skills at a higher level sometime in the future.

"I love the game, hanging out with the guys and the competition," he said.

"Sometimes [intra-murals] isn't the same, I would like to give it another shot."

Lohn is a secondary education major and would like to be a basketball coach in the future. But, for now, Lohn is focusing on the court and said he wants to keep the Spartan dynasty alive at OCCC.

"Hopefully I'll be back next semester," he said. "The Spartans will be back for sure and keep building that dynasty."

The Spartan dynasty also includes Drew Meadors, Ty Ludvick and Alberto Celaya, all of whom played for the first championship team.

Staff Writer Matt Bishop can be reached at SeniorWriter@occc.edu.

Sports



The Intramural basketball champion Spartans are shown at top from left to right: Matt Lohn, Alberto Celaya, Ty Ludvick, Drew Meadors, and at bottom from left to right, David Gray and Jeff Brewer.

The Spartans defeated Ice Cream 53-51 in the Intramural Championship 53-51 March 14.

The Spartans will travel to the University of Texas-Arlington to represent OCCC in the NIRSA Regional Basketball Championships March 28 through 30.

Photo by Matt Bishop

Spartans win back-to-back titles with a 53-51 win

Ice Cream misses tip-in with under one second remaining in the game

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

The Spartans capped off another championship season by winning their second straight Intramural Basketball Championship March 14.

The Spartans defeated Ice Cream 53-51 to earn the title of back-to-back champions.

With 1:31 remaining, Spartan point guard Jeff Brewer hit a shot to give them a 49-44 lead that looked comfortable at the time.

But once again Ice Cream pulled close for another last minute thriller.

After putting the Spartans to the line, Ice Cream's Jesse Hargrave and Tu Nguyen hit back-to-back 3-pointers, and the Spartan lead was cut to 3 with 2.7 seconds.

Nguyen stole an inbound pass and was fouled on a desperation 3-pointer with .8 seconds left.

Nguyen missed the first and made the second.

Down 53-51, Nguyen missed his last foul shot on purpose to give teammate Nik Grant a chance to

tip in the rebound to tie.

The plan worked, until Grant's tip in hit the side of the rim and bounced off.

Ice Cream players dropped to their knees in defeat and Spartan players pumped their fists as their celebration began.

Spartan forward Matt Lohn said it was a tough road to defend the title due to having few players.

"We were lucky [to win], We only had five guys all year," Lohn said. "We have good chemistry on the court with each other. Although the teams beat up on us, we stayed focused and got our back-to-back title."

Drew Meadors led the Spartans with 17 points, despite a sluggish first half.

The semi-final games were played before the championship, and the whole Spartan team looked fatigued in the early minutes of the championship.

Ice Cream jumped out to an early 9-0 lead in the early minutes.

Grant scored 11 of his 15 points in the first half for Ice Cream as he dominated inside the paint.

"We have good chemistry on the court with each other. Although the teams beat up on us, we stayed focused and got our back-to-back title"

—Matt Lohn
Spartan Forward

The Spartans did cut into the lead during the rest of the half, trailing only 21-18 at halftime.

The Spartans caught a second wind in the second half, running Ice Cream up and down the floor.

David Gray came off the bench hitting three 3-pointers for the Spartans.

Gray had not played with the Spartans but was picked up as a free agent to help in the double-header.

Alberto Celaya, who scored 3 points for the Spartans, credited Gray for the Spartans success.

"Gray stepped up for us hitting those threes," Celaya said. "We were playing sloppy as a team and he helped build momentum."

The Spartans' Ty Ludvick had free throw trouble during the game, but found light through the tran-

sition game. Ludvick finished with 8 points.

The Spartans didn't take their first lead until the 13:30 mark in the second half, 31-29.

Meadors said the Spartans implemented a plan to run Grant and, hopefully, fatigue him.

On defense, Meadors and forward Lohn collapsed on Grant, holding him to no field goals in the second half. Grant's only baskets came from the foul line.

The two teams went back-and-forth during the rest of the game until the game was settled in the last second.

Lohn said it will be a challenge to win again in the fall, but said the Spartans would be back with a full team to "three-peat."

Staff Writer Matt Bishop can be reached at SeniorWriter@occc.edu.

Highlights

President's Award for Excellence in Teaching

The President's Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented during the spring of each year to a full-time faculty member who exemplifies teaching excellence. The office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs administers the process of receiving nominees and developing recommendations to the President. Faculty members, current and former students, and staff members can nominate. Nomination forms can be found at www.occ.edu/institutionalcommittees, and by clicking on President's Award for Excellence. Nominations are due April 4. For more information, contact Brenda Harrison, Academic Affairs associate vice president, at 405-682-7534, or e-mail bharrison@occ.edu.

Degree Check it Out

A Degree Check it Out will be held 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 8 and 9, across from the Communications Lab on the first floor of the Main Building. For more information, call Katie Kennedy, graduation adviser, at 405-682-7537.

Free income tax assistance on campus

Drop by and receive free income tax preparation assistance between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. through April 15 at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance booth across from Student Life. Bring your W-2's, 1099 tax forms, Social Security cards for all members of the household, a photo ID card, a copy of last year's return and any information concerning other income as well as information for deductions or credits.

Tuition fee waivers

Tuition fee waivers are available through April 20 in the Financial Aid office, located on the first floor of the Main Building. For more information, call June Water, Financial Aid assistant, at 405-682-7524.

Cultural Arts Series Spring 2fer Offer

There are 20 2fers — two tickets for the price of one — available on a first-come, first-served basis from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Cultural Arts Series ticket office located in the Office of Cultural Programs, Main Building Room 1G1. If you have questions, call 405-682-7579.

Student newspaper seeks work-study

The Pioneer student newspaper has an opening for a qualified work-study student employee to serve as circulation manager. The job entails picking up the newspaper from the Edmond printer on Friday, so a valid driver's license is required. For more information, or to apply for the position, please contact Pioneer Lab Director Ronna Austin at 405-682-1611, ext. 7307.

OSCC medical billing and coding classes

In an effort to meet the demands of the growing medical and health care industry, OSCC now offers classes in Medical Billing and Coding. For more information, visit www.occ.edu/corporatelearning.com.

Highlight submissions have a 5 p.m. deadline every Tuesday for consideration of inclusion in the next issue. Highlight forms can be picked up in the Pioneer office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator.



Drawing names

Madison Chadwick, journalism sophomore, takes names for a drawing at a Brown Bag luncheon that didn't happen due to a no-show speaker in College Union 1 March 11.

Photo by Amber McBride

Participating in campus clubs, activities rewarding

By Chris Lusk
Editor

Student clubs and organizations can be an important aspect of the college experience.

Yet, too often OCCC students seem to overlook them.

Director of Career and Employment Services Debra Vaughn said she encourages all students to join one of the college's various clubs.

Student organizations provide members with opportunities to create friendships, learn skills, and build connections, she said.

Vaughn emphasized the importance of networking within student organizations.

"Clubs and organizations place students around people with similar interests," Vaughn said. "It provides awesome networking

experiences.

"Plus, it looks great on a resume."

Vaughn said the exchange of thoughts and ideas is a great resource that will help prepare students for life in the workforce.

Many employers look for job candidates who participated in student organizations, she said.

"Participation in clubs shows potential employers your ability to work in a team," she said.

Vaughn said active club members could benefit while in school as well.

"Since many times you are interacting with people within your same degree program," she said, "you can receive advice from other students on things like classes and professors."

Black Student Association and The Leadership Council member Sharee

Demby said the opportunities in student organizations are important.

"Meeting faculty members to help with scholarship opportunities is beneficial," Demby said. "Being informed on topics helps to give you a voice."

Vaughn said everyone benefits from student organizations.

"Through the clubs students have the opportunity for the personal, one-on-one human exchange," Vaughn said. "That is what is important."

"That is what makes an impression."

Editor Chris Lusk can be reached at editor@occ.edu.

**E-mail club news to
editor@occ.edu.
Or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409.**

Classifieds

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

ANIMALS

FREE to a good home: Two, 10-week old pit-mix pups. 1 black and brown, 1 white and brown. Call Liliana at 405-227-3026.

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FOR SALE: 2005 Ford Focus ZX4S, 4 door, looks great and garage kept with only 27,900 miles. Zippy 5-speed. Black. CD player. Air conditioning. Great gas mileage for School or work. Asking only \$8,500. Great deal! Call David at 405-802-6090.

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FOR SALE: Lady Trek Cruiser Bicycle. Red, Heavy duty, new in box. \$150. Call 405-677-3714.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Aims
- 6 Alpine peak
- 11 Part of a week
- 14 Taxpayer's dread
- 15 Less common
- 16 Take advantage of
- 17 Type of pie
- 18 Farewell
- 19 Faint
- 20 Repair
- 22 Soft leather
- 24 Looked for bargains
- 28 Make rough
- 30 More concise
- 31 Urges
- 32 Stiff
- 33 Tailless pet
- 37 Palindromic name
- 38 — globulin
- 39 Director Howard
- 40 Business-suit pattern
- 43 Because of
- 45 Spirals
- 46 Flotsam and —
- 47 Joan Collins' series
- 50 Artfulness
- 51 Split —: quibble
- 52 Coffee cups
- 53 Electrical unit

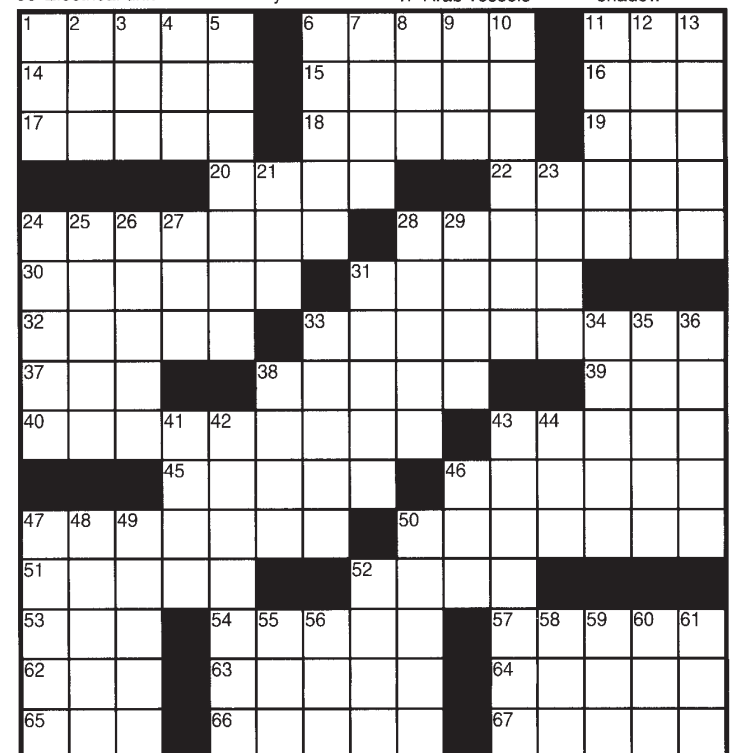
DOWN

- 1 Blank space
- 2 "Yes," to Yvette
- 3 Woodworking tool
- 4 Actress Taylor
- 5 Used a dater
- 6 Type of name
- 7 Alan or Cheryl
- 8 Mr. Onassis
- 9 Wedding-page word
- 10 Medieval war
- 11 City slickers, on the ranch
- 12 "All kidding —"
- 13 Middle Eastern country
- 21 Ending for "auction"
- 23 Bear: Lat.
- 24 Sandal part
- 25 Children's classic
- 26 Pipe —
- 27 Greek letter
- 28 Felony

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

LADLE	ASH	OATER
ORIEL	SPA	DRAMA
BIGDIPPER	DECOY	
OAS	REDD	BAITS
	ZION	PASTE
MASONS	JOEL	
IMPOSE	OARLOCK	
GERM	AUF	MOAN
SYSTEMS	WEALTH	
	UNIT	HANDEL
JADES	MAUI	
RULES	OMIT	WHO
ILIAD	RUNSCARED	
DIANA	ATE	OHARE
SASSY	NED	PAPER

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