

Graduate success measured

Employers happy with students being sent their way

By Matt Montgomery
Staff Writer

Employers of OCCC graduates said they value those employees and would hire more workers from the ranks of OCCC graduates.

This was one finding in a report given to the college regents Aug. 18 at a Board of Regents meeting where Regents discussed the Monitoring Report on Achieving the College's END: Graduate Success.

Institutional Effectiveness Director Janet Perry said employers who hire OCCC graduates are satisfied with our students.

"Approximately 54 employers were contacted," Perry said.

"Fifty percent responded and the result was, 95 percent who responded were happy working with OCCC graduates," Perry said.

The college also looked at other areas of graduate success. The report gave a detailed analysis of transfer student performance.

OCCC students who transferred to universities were tracked to compare their grade point average with other students at the receiving institution.

OCCC students maintained a grade point average equal to, or higher than, other students at the University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.

However, OCCC students' grades were slightly below other OU students.

Listed on the top 10 employers of OCCC grads were hospitals or health care providers. Graduates in health care professions generally must pass a national exam to be licensed.

OCCC graduates in the nursing field and the occupational therapy field had high pass rates on the licensure exams.

Licensure exams are a key component for OCCC students looking to succeed in the health professions industry, said Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director Jennifer Ball.

"In the history of our licensure exams, only one person hasn't passed the exam," she said.

See "Success," page 12

Brain food



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Bryan Headly, music education freshman, is served a hot lunch by grill cook Sandy Messer in the College Union. Carson's Market Fresh Cafe is open Mondays through Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fall graduation deadline Sept. 12

By Dillon Hart
Staff Writer

Friday, Sept. 12, is the recommended deadline for OCCC students to turn in graduation applications.

Students who are hoping to graduate this fall or spring should fill out an application and turn it in to the office of Records and Graduation Services, said Director of Graduation Services Barbara Gowdy.

The college accepts applications all semester she said. The deadline is to ensure everything is handled early.

"It's a published deadline to encourage people to apply early for graduation," Gowdy said.

Any student who plans to

"A lot of students assume they've finished all their degree requirements and they want their degree, but if they don't apply, then we don't know that."

—Barbara Gowdy
Graduation Services Director

graduate in December needs to fill out an application.

"A lot of students assume they've finished all their degree requirements and they want their degree, but if they don't apply, then we don't know that," Gowdy said.

Students who miss the Sept. 12 deadline, can still apply, she said.

"We're not going to punish a student for forgetting to apply.

"Now, if it's into the fol-

lowing semester, then they're going to have to be that semester's graduate.

"So if they finish their degree in the fall but they waited too late (to apply), then they'll be a spring graduate."

Gowdy said even students who plan to graduate in the spring should take care of the application process as soon as possible.

"We encourage students

See "Graduation," page 12

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Turn the channel

Reality television may be causing those who watch it become less intelligent. Why is this?

Maybe one of the biggest contributing factors is that reality television has taught us to be dumb.

Reality TV is leading to the demise of network television. Mainstream television has taken a plunge down the drain.

With the vast array of new television shows out there, only a select few are genuine and real.

Ratings are keeping reality shows alive; people are watching them. Reality shows have some of the best ratings even though they are some of the worst-made shows on television.

Scriptwriters for reality TV are writing to the general population as if we were all less intelligent.

They are casting characters who use improper language and speech. Their characters fall short of exceptional.

We shouldn't allow them to get away with this by watching their badly-made shows.

Reality shows like "Biggest Loser," "Project Runway" and "Hogan Knows Best" are a far cry from educational and, scarily enough, they don't seem very real. More or less, reality shows are taking over the networks and are beginning to eliminate better viewing, such as sitcoms.

The best sitcoms from 10 years ago, such as "Seinfeld," "Married with Children" and "Friends" are long gone. "Seinfeld" is considered by many to be one of the best sitcoms ever made. It was intelligently written with its characters carrying on conversations.

Although "Seinfeld" isn't considered an educational program and is just entertaining, it is still intelligently written. In modern day, shows like "Seinfeld" are obsolete. Audiences today are more interested in aimless reality shows.

The general reality TV audience is between the ages of 18 and 35. As college students we are the majority of those watching reality shows.

If we continue to dumb ourselves down by watching mindless reality shows, there might not be a chance to salvage good television.

Watching too much bad entertainment isn't good.

An easy solution would be to turn off the television, when nothing is on and find something else to do. Old pastimes such as reading a book or drawing are good supplements for watching too much television.

Watching television isn't necessarily the problem but watching bad television is a problem. There are some good alternatives for reality TV such as the Discovery Channel or the History Channel.

If more continue to watch reality shows, then more will follow.

Therefore, If we begin watching more fulfilling and better written programs instead of mindless garbage like reality TV, writers might notice this and eliminate reality shows altogether.

The absence of reality shows would be a good thing for all of us.

—Matt Montgomery
Staff Writer

Changes in nursing program come as a surprise to some

To the editor:

I have been a student at OCCC for three semesters. I came to this college to become a nurse because of the reputation that this nursing program has.

During my admission to OCCC, I was advised that I needed to talk with an academic adviser who informed me that I should make an appointment with the Health Professions adviser. I follow directions well, so I met with Claire Echols.

Ms. Echols gave me a plan and I have been following this plan without variation so that I could reach my goal of becoming a registered nurse.

One day, I spoke with my friend, who also plans to enter the nursing program, and I found that some of the requirements had changed. I became a little flustered to say the least.

I met with Claire very quickly to find out what things had changed and she adjusted my plan and gave

me the new information. I am fortunate that I can still meet my goal to enter the program in the fall 2009 because my math score will allow me to continue in a timely approach and include the new requirements.

I am writing this letter just in case there are other students who do not know about the change. In the fall there will not be a math course required for the nursing program but the pre-requisite for Principles of Chemistry, a new requirement, is Intermediate Algebra.

The other change is that Microbiology of Infectious Disease will not be the required Microbiology course. The new course is the five credit hour BIO 2125 Microbiology.

There may be other changes but I am pretty sure that these are the major problem changes, so far.

If you have not met with

an adviser, please meet with someone very quickly. I was also informed about information sessions that have been set up to provide information about the nursing program — this should help, as well.

—Name withheld by request

PIONEER

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

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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Comments and Reviews

'Traitor' earns perfect score

For anyone who enjoys an action-packed spy drama, the movie "Traitor" is sure to hit the spot.

"Traitor" was released Aug. 27 and it is a first-rate offering by Overture Films.

Samir Horn (Don Cheadle) is an American special operative working with a terrorist group in Yemen.

The question posed at the beginning of the movie is whether Horn is a traitor.

Because of his devotion to his Islamic beliefs and certain events that occur, the FBI begins to question Horn's loyalty to the U.S.

Operative Roy Clayton (Guy Pearce) begins an investigation of Horn, which has Clayton spanning the globe.

Jeff Daniels has only a small part compared to the length of the movie, but he gives a good performance as CIA agent Carter.

This action-filled movie is a realistic look at the

inner workings of terrorism.

It shows the passion of some members of the Jihad who truly believe that what they are doing is the will of Allah.

Said Taghmaoui plays Omar, who becomes Horn's brother in faith despite a rocky introduction.

"Traitor" also shows the greed and perversion of some leaders who exploit their religion for money and power.

Aly Khan portrays Fareed, who twists holy words to justify his lavish lifestyle, paid for by money laundering for the terrorists.

This brainchild of Steve Martin was turned into a screenplay and directed by Jeffrey Nachmanoff.

In an earlier interview, Nachmanoff said he thought of the ending after Martin suggested the premise.

Nachmanoff then had to write the story around the

ending. He was successful on both counts.

This film contains intense realism in story content, and keeps the audience wondering what will happen next.

The acting ability of Cheadle and Taghmaoui is excellent, as the characters become real people.

The theme of the film emphasizes the fact that suicide bombers and terrorists do not have a certain face, only a certain belief system.

The two hours of pure entertainment has a surprise ending that alone is worth the price of admission.

Rated PG-13 for intense violent sequences, thematic material and brief language, "Traitor" takes a realistic look at the question of national security — and gives an unsettling answer.

Rating: A+

—**Cynthia Praefke**
Staff Writer

'Censored' strong enough to contend for album of the year

Alaska isn't exactly known as a musical goldmine. Apparently, the state's frozen woods and arctic tundra aren't quite apt for great bands — except for experimental rock band Portugal. The Man.

The band's third album, "Censored Colors," is decidedly more low-key than the band's previous work. Its slow pace meanders through the album's 15 tracks.

But even with the new direction, the band manages to keep its signature sounds intact. The quirky approach and diverse instrumentation the band is known for are all here in spades.

Even the simpler, more acoustic-based songs are densely layered with strings, piano, rich vocal harmonies and a variety of

other elements.

The band touches on a variety of musical styles on the album. The opener, "Lay Me Back Down," is spacey and very much prog rock, while "Hard Times" brings to mind stoner rock bands like Black Mountain or Kyuss.

The album's centerpiece, "New Orleans," is a jazzy number that wouldn't be out of place in some Bourbon Street club.

That song also continues the trend set by "Chicago" on the band's debut "Waiter: You Vultures" in which the best song on the album is named after a city.

The album closes with the reggae style gang vocals of "Our Way," which leaves the listener on a very positive, upbeat note.

The album was released on the band's own record



label, Approaching AIRballoons, and is distributed by Equal Visions Records.

Fans who only liked the heavier, high-energy material on Portugal's previous albums may be disappointed in "Censored Colors," but for everyone else, it's an exceptional piece of work that is a strong contender for album of the year.

Rating: A

—**Cameron Buchholtz**
Staff Writer

JOB&CAREER POWER

Jobs available

The Student Employment and Career Services office is ready to help you find a job and to explore college major and career field decisions. Whether you are looking for an on-campus work-study, on-campus student, part-time, full-time or seasonal job — we can provide assistance.

Students undecided on a college major may work with the career guidance counselor through the online DISCOVER program from ACT to identify interests, abilities and values in their respective career paths. Individual User IDs will be provided for your registration.

We also provide the OCCC online job board that lists over 250 jobs daily. To register go to www.collegecentral.com/occc and when prompted for an "Access ID," enter your seven-digit student ID number. Alumni may register by entering "AL" plus the last 5 digits of their Social Security number. Employers list local jobs on a daily basis and the option to view over 200,000 nationwide job announcements is also available. Please visit the job board often as new positions are added daily.

Students interested in work-study positions should visit the OCCC Financial Aid office to receive a copy of their Federal Work Study Authorization letter. With that letter our staff will assist the student's online job application process through the OCCC Human Resource website. We also assist students applying for student jobs not based on financial aid processing. Student first-year wages are \$8 per hour and second year wages are \$8.50 per hour.

In preparing and completing these work applications, students need to develop a résumé and cover letter. OCCC students may register on the online Optimal Résumé website at occc.optimalresume.com with their OCCC e-mail address. Both résumés and cover letter templates are provided for quick creation of professional-level documents.

Please mark your calendars for the OCCC Fall 2008 Job Fair and Health Job Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 1. General employers will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Health employers from noon to 6 p.m., in the College Union dining area.

This event is the largest job and career fair in south Oklahoma City and attracts over 100 employers each fall. Student, alumni and community members are invited to attend. A sampling of currently registered employers include: Norman Regional Hospital, Veteran's Administration Hospital, Rib-Crib Restaurant, IBC Bank, Homeland, television channels 25 and 34, and the Oklahoma City Police Department.

Have a great semester and visit the Student Employment and Career Services office in the Main Building advising area. Call 405-682-7519 or visit www.occc.edu/es.

—**Debra Vaughn**
Career and Employment Services director

Students learn keys to financial success

By Stephen Sossamon
Staff Writer

No one is too young to start saving money, students were told in a campus seminar Aug. 20.

The Financial Literacy Seminar, hosted by UMB bank, was a chance for students and faculty to learn more about managing their finances.

Jason Pound, of UMB bank, was the primary speaker for the seminar and opened for Oklahoma Congresswoman Mary Fallin.

Pound presented what he called "The Ten Myths of Finance," which were 10 things about finance that are commonly misunderstood.

The first two were probably the hardest to swallow, "finances are complicated" and "budgets prevent fun."

"After every myth, I want you to all say 'wrong,'" Pound said. "Because all of these myths are false."

Finances are simple, he said.

"Spend less money than you make," he said. "Or find a way to make more [money]."

Pound said this method prevents debt and is the reason finances aren't complicated.

To the "budgets prevent fun" myth, Pound said you have to have a plan so you can allow yourself to have

spending money for fun, and not be worried about expenses.

"You can't be a realist and a dreamer."

Another point Pound made was, no one is too young to start saving.

"You can't afford to not start saving," he said.

Pound said saving early will prevent bad financial habits.

Paying bills is extremely important, Pound said.

"You have to pay your bills when you say you're going to pay your bills," he said. "Otherwise, you will develop bad credit."

Another myth Pound pointed out was "becoming wealthy is based off luck."

He said most of the rich people in America got rich because they saved and managed, not because of luck.

"It's based on management," he said. "Not how much money you make, but how much you keep."

Pound, in closing, referred everyone who attended the seminar to read "The Richest Man in Babylon" by George Clason and "The Millionaire Next Door" by Thomas Stanley.

Fallin said the seminar could help the next generation.

"It's good to be able to train the young folks about how to manage their money," she said.

Fallin added that unex-

pected bills or financial slumps can really open eyes.

"Nothing will cause you to reevaluate your finances until something really hits you," she said.

Business major John Henson said he thought the seminar had great information.

"There was some good advice, like saving to spend," he said. "[Pound]

made a good point that you can also still have fun while managing your finances."

Staff Writer Stephen Sossamon can be reached at onlineeditor@occc.edu.

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OCCC preps for active shooter threats

Shelter in Place safety drill held for the first time, safety and security director gives college an above average grade for execution

By Chris Lusk
Editor

A college safety drill worked fairly well in July, but Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas said he found room for improvement.

On July 25, Safety and Security conducted a drill to test the response the campus would take if there were an active shooter or other physical threat on campus.

This was the first time the college has done this drill, known as Shelter in Place.

Sloas said the goal of the drill was to prepare everyone to know what to do in case of an emergency.

Sloas graded the college positively.

"I gave us a B for the first time," he said.

Sloas said the security measures worked and he considered the drill a success.

He said everyone was told to follow instructions in accordance to the Safety and Security Emergency Procedures, which are posted in every classroom and throughout campus.

According to these procedures, in the event of a physical threat on campus, everyone is instructed to close and lock the hallway doors, turn off the lights, shut any blinds and move away from exposed areas.

Desks, tables and other available objects are to be used to provide protection.

Sloas said individuals who are in open places when a warning is given should go to the nearest exit.

He said the campus is notified of shooter threats through voice alarms via the campus IP phones and through the fire alarm system.

These notifications are not alarms like a fire or tornado alarm. They are an

automated voice warning of the threat, Sloas said.

At 2 p.m. on the day of the drill, voice alarms and phone warnings were issued, instructing those on campus to take shelter and hide from view.

The drill took approximately 15 minutes to complete, Sloas said.

Sophomore Kristina Nunez said the drill was a good idea.

"I've seen the safety posters but probably haven't paid as close attention to them as I should be," Nunez said. "By training the faculty and staff on what to do in a bad situation, they can definitely help the students out."

"I feel safe knowing we're taking steps to be prepared."

Sloas said the Oklahoma City Police Department was on hand to observe the drill and they were impressed.

"The police department thought we did a great job," he said. "They were here to see what is going on in an emergency while they are on their way to respond."

"They need to know what to expect when they get here."

Sloas said the goal is to have everyone locked down and the hallways cleared before the police arrive.

In addition to the police, Sloas and five other college employees were stationed throughout the campus to observe the drill: Media Relations Coordinator Cordell Jordan, Senior Human Resources Specialist Larry Robertson, Assistant Director of Facilities Management Chris Snow, Campus Armed Security Sergeant Kevin Tipton and Coordinator of Risk Man-

agement Lisa Vaughan.

These six employees checked for overall participation and how properly the procedures were followed, Sloas said.

"I'd say just about everyone cooperated, it was probably a 99-percent participation rate," Sloas said. "And [the observers] found a few things for us to improve on next time."

Robertson, an observer, said during the drill he, and other observers, went

around campus and attempted to enter classrooms and confront people.

"We were searching for mistakes, trying to get into rooms, sort of playing the bad guy," he said. "We found a few errors people made, but overall it was executed well."

Sloas said while monitoring the drill, there were reports of doors being left unlocked, people talking and cell phones ringing inside the locked down rooms.

"That is something we obviously don't want," Sloas said.

Sloas said the observers also found people who incorrectly hid in the restrooms, which do not lock. He emphasized the difference between a lockdown and a tornado drill. Restrooms are good for tornado shelters.

Sloas also stressed that people in the common areas around campus should leave the building immediately rather than search for a place to take shelter.

He said this was important information to consider, especially if an attack were to come during a class change.

"During a class change or busy time of the day when

many people are wandering about, the best option is to leave the building as quickly as possible," Sloas said. "We need to clear as many people as we can."

"We try to give the police department the best case scenario to engage the situation."

Robertson said holding such a drill stresses the importance of having a shelter plan in place.

"This is something we have for our own good," he said. "Everything ran smoothly."

Sloas echoed these sentiments, and said the drill was successful and the college was well prepared.

"We learned what we needed to learn from it," he said. "Now we'll make improvements."

Sloas said the biggest key to handling an emergency situation is preparation. To help prepare those on campus, Sloas has been holding a series of training sessions.

Two training classes were held prior to the drill and approximately 150 staff members attended these classes, Sloas said.

He also spoke to more than 300 employees during faculty orientation.

Sloas said for the most part, faculty and staff were educated on how to handle the Shelter in Place drill; however, he is still taking questions.

Sloas is offering two training classes — Safety on Campus and Active Shooter training — for students and

"I feel safe knowing we're taking steps to be prepared."

—Kristina Nunez
OCCC Student

employees this fall.

The Safety on Campus sessions will cover the safety instructions found on the Safety and Security Emergency Procedure posters, Sloas said.

He said the Active Shooter training would focus on how to survive an active shooter scenario.

"We will try to teach people how to react," he said.

In addition to the training sessions, other safety drills are being planned for the fall semester, at the request of OCCC President Paul Sechrist.

Sloas said the college plans to implement a Shelter in Place drill once a semester and said to expect a drill in late fall, before finals.

Sloas advised students to become familiar with the campus safety procedures. He said the best thing students can do to ensure their safety is to follow directions.

"We have a good plan and good staff in place," he said. "[Students] just need to follow directions and we will do everything we can to protect them."

For more information on campus safety, call Safety and Security at 405-682-1611, ext. 7691.

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



Fall 08 Safety Training Sessions

**Training classes are for students and staff*

Active Shooter

10 to 11 a.m. in room 2E2

- Sept. 11, 18
- Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23
- Nov. 6, 13, 20
- Dec. 4

Safety on Campus

Noon to 1 p.m. in room 2E2

- Sept. 11, 18
- Oct. 9, 23
- Nov. 6, 13

Professor ventures into 3-D world

By Matt Montgomery
Staff Writer

OCCC Graphic Communication professor Sean Gleeson has gone the direction of 3-D for his latest website venture.

The new site is full of commentary, games, videos, pictures and blogs — all of which are in 3-D.

"I had two main reasons for building the site," he said. "[To provide] links to other 3-D contents and to post my own 3-D games.

"Swell3d.com offers OCCC students and faculty a new medium to view art, entertainment and blogging in 3-D," Gleeson said.

"The site is filled with videos, games and a blog powered by moveable type.

"It offers new content daily," he said.

He said moveable type makes it simple to start a blog. Concept management software is used to build websites, according to a specific users design,

Gleeson said.

The 3-D website is an interactive site allowing users to post their own comments.

Graphic Communication professor Randy Anderson said he likes the website.

"I like what Sean has done with the website," he said. "It is very interesting to see a site in 3-D."

Macintosh Lab Assistant Cathy Bowman said Gleeson is a force to be reckoned with.

It took Gleeson one week to build the website and make it fully operational.

"Response to the website has been great," Gleeson said.

"I have been bombarded with comments from my page."

3-D glasses can be purchased at the website.

The site also describes how to make 3-D glasses from simple materials.

For free 3-D glasses and a chance to build a website, Gleeson said, students



Illustration by Kenny Hilburn

OCCC student Mikaela Allen dons 3-D glasses to check out Graphic Communication professor Sean Gleeson's 3-D website, www.swell3d.com.

should sign-up for one of his classes, located in the college course catalog.

Some are already showing an interest in the 3-D site.

"I think having the web-

site in 3-D makes it much more interesting to watch," OCCC sophomore Brent Bugg said.

"I also think more people should check out the page."

For more questions about

swell3d.com or about 3-D in general contact Gleeson at Sean.gleeson@email.occc.edu.

Staff Writer Matt Montgomery can be reached at SeniorWriter3@occc.edu.

Coffee shop makes plans for fall specials

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

The OCCC Coffee Shop will start a new promotion this fall where anyone who buys 10 drinks will receive an 11th drink free, according to a press release from the OCCC Coffee Shop.

Coffee shop manager Murod Mamatov said the shop plans to start the promotion around Thanksgiving.

Punch cards will be given to coffee shop customers to keep track of the 10 purchases, Mamatov said.

Nursing majors Shanna Torres and Cherry Torres said they like the idea of being able to get a free drink.

"It gives me more incentive to buy a drink

when I come to school," Cherry Torres said.

Mamatov said 10 brewed coffees will get a customer one free brewed coffee of any size.

Ten drinks equal a free drink of any size, but the free drink does not include any extra ingredients such as caramel, vanilla, espresso and others.

Bethany Leiter said she buys two or three drinks a week so she would benefit from the promotion.

And, Mamatov said, although the price of milk has risen significantly since last year and Starbucks has raised the prices of their products by 5 percent, the coffee shop will not raise its prices.

He said the OCCC Coffee Shop prices are cheaper than any other Starbucks retail store. Students and faculty save anywhere from 10 to 80 cents per drink at the OCCC Coffee Shop, Mamatov said.

The Coffee Shop is fully staffed this semester with three or four people ready to handle the rushes in between class periods.

"We try to accommodate all students," Mamatov said.

Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, and 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Mamatov said the Coffee Shop has specials on Saturdays such as cheaper pri-



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

OCCC Coffee Shop employee Alicia Hyman makes change for student Tara Narvaize. The shop is starting a buy-10, get-one-free promotion this fall.

ces and half off on pastries and salads.

A website is almost complete that will show descriptions, prices, origin and nutritional facts of the products, he said.

He said students and faculty also may special order LaBaguette bakery products at the website.

"Anyone can order from LaBaguette bakery with free delivery

to the college. These prices will be cheaper than the actual LaBaguette bakery prices."

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

Student helps enact defibrillator law

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

Seven minutes may not seem like a lot of time, but when it comes to saving a life, it can be the difference between life or death for someone suffering cardiac arrest.

One tool that can be used to save lives is the defibrillator, an electronic device used to establish a normal heartbeat.

OCCC EMT student Rodney Johnson successfully lobbied the state legislature to have more defibrillators in public places, especially schools.

The Zachary Eckles and Luke Davis Automated External Defibrillators in Schools Act passed this year.

This act mandates that automated external defibrillators be made available at schools if funding is available.

This will make defibrillators available at athletic practices and competitions at schools.

During cardiac arrest, every minute that passes dramatically decreases one's chance of living, said Kathleen Treanor, whose son Zachary Eckles died from cardiac arrest during a soccer practice in 2006.

The dangers of sporting events brought the issue to light, Johnson said.

"This will save lives ... The student EMTs at OCCC feel like this is one of the most important things we can do to be able to save lives," he said.

Johnson said saving lives is a mission that all EMT students at OCCC have.

"The student organization has been fully involved in lobbying for getting the bill passed because it's something we believe in."

Johnson said it was a two-year process that had its hardships.

State Representative Wallace Collins (D-Norman) started carrying the bill in February 2007.

Politics got in the way of



Photo by Matt Bishop

State Rep. Wallace Collins, OCCC EMT student Rodney Johnson and Gov. Brad Henry meet after the signing of the Zachary Eckles and Luke Davis Automated Defibrillator in Schools Act on Aug. 20 at the State Capitol. The act mandates that automated external defibrillators be made available at schools if funding is available. This will make defibrillators available at athletic practices and competitions at schools. The act was prompted by the death of Zachary Eckles who died from cardiac arrest during soccer practice in 2006.

passing the bill, Collins said.

"Rodney made comments on this issue and I had seen on the news from time to time there would be an athlete somewhere who would die on the field," Collins said.

He said he didn't think anyone would be against it because it protects everyone involved with school activities.

"Little did I know it would take two years for the bill to pass," Collins said.

He said leaders such as Lance Cargill and Chris Binge would not allow the bill to be heard through the House of Representatives.

Majority floor leader Greg Piatt even had the bill scheduled to be heard but changed his mind on the last day, "due to a personal problem with me," Collins said.

In February 2008, Luke

Davis, a 12-year-old from the small town of Dickson, Okla., collapsed during a basketball game.

There were no defibrillators at the game so he was flown to a hospital in Dallas, but it was too late.

"I hate that it took so long and something like our accident to get more people involved and motivated to do things," said Luke's mother Kristie Davis.

"[Johnson and Collins] have worked very hard on getting this done and spent a lot of time getting people involved and aware."

Both mothers hope having defibrillators in schools will increase knowledge and awareness of cardiac arrests.

"When you mention cardiac arrest, you think of an older person," Treanor said.

"You don't think of a younger person but it happens every day."

"This will save lives ... The student EMTs at OCCC feel like this is one of the most important things we can do to be able to save lives. The student organization has been fully involved in lobbying for getting the bill passed because it's something we believe in."

—Rodney Johnson
OCCC EMT Student

Johnson said the next step for the OCCC Student Emergency Medical Technician Association is to raise money to ensure there are defibrillators in all secondary schools in the Oklahoma City area.

"We would like to see friends of our current students protected also," Johnson said.

The student organization sees it has a responsibility, not only to the profession, but also to the public at large, Johnson said.

Defibrillators have been

on campus with the Student Emergency medical Technician Association, and the Safety and Security office for several years.

Trained personnel are not necessary for use, Johnson said.

However, OCCC Safety and Security are trained in using them.

"Our goal is to do anything and everything we can to save lives," Johnson said.

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

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Sept. 6, Sept. 27, Oct. 4: OCCC Aquatics Center will offer a stroke development clinic from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on the above dates. Participants must be able to swim 25 yards and be knowledgeable of different swim strokes. They will learn to improve their technique, stretching, endurance and speed. The cost of the camps is \$6. For more information, contact Melissa at 405-682-1611, ext. 7442, or call 405-682-7860 to register.

Sept. 20: OCCC will host the NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick Competition on Saturday, Sept. 20. The program is a national skills competition for boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 15 to compete separately against their peers. Girls and boys in four separate age divisions (8-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15) compete against each other in punting, passing and place kicking in a fun and engaging forum. The PPK program will start at 10 a.m. and is free for everyone.

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Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Kyle Bernhardt, paramedic student, takes time out of his day to visit the Wellness Center and lift weights. The Wellness Center facilities are available to students and staff members at no charge.

Fitness memberships available

By Daniel Martin
Staff Writer

Students and staff get in free to all OCCC fitness facilities, but friends and family can come too, for a low-cost membership fee.

Recreational and Fitness memberships include use of any Wellness area during open public times, including the aquatic center, weight room and gymnasium.

OCCC staff and students can use the Wellness Center facilities any day of the week for free.

OCCC sophomore Sam Chase said he uses the facility almost every day.

"Between basketball, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, free weights, treadmills and stair climbers, I can't think of one reason not to enjoy it," Chase said, "especially when it's free."

Recreation and Sports Specialist Eric Watson said the Wellness Center is ready for the new semester.

"The Wellness Center Staff has been doing maintenance, cleaning, painting and re-organizing to accommodate all the traffic that comes through the Aquatic and Wellness Center during the semester," Watson said.

ter," Watson said.

All patrons who purchase a membership are assessed a one-time \$50 joining fee. As long as the member is current or there hasn't been more than a six-month lapse in membership, then the patron will not have to repay the joining fee.

The cost for a six-month youth membership ages 14 and under is \$75, an individual membership age 15 and up is \$165, individual senior membership is \$110, and a family membership is \$215.

The Recreation and Fitness Office accepts cash, check or credit card for payment options. People seeking a membership can pay for six months plus the joining fee or for the entire year in full at the time of enrollment.

"It's a great facility for the cost," Recreation and Fitness Office Manager Rita Manning said.

"Compared to other health and exercise gyms, ours is pretty clean and uncrowded," Manning said, "The only thing is, we're only open when the school is open."

She said, except for a whirlpool and sauna, OCCC has just about everything she could want.

Memberships may be refunded

on a pro-rated basis but the joining fee is non-refundable.

Patrons also can pay by the day.

Daily admission fees are \$6 for adults. For children age 15 and under, accompanied by an adult, the cost is \$4, and for senior citizens the cost is \$2.75.

Open recreation swim is a fun swim time designed for people of all ages to enjoy water basketball, volleyball, diving, and much more.

Open swim is from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and on Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

OCCC student, staff and faculty swim time is from 8 to 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Wellness Center weight room and gymnasium hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on the Wellness Center, contact Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Staff Writer Daniel Martin can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Vehicle accidents, stolen laptop computer highlight report

By **Stephen Sossamon**
Staff Writer

Two stuck vehicles, a non-injury accident and a lost laptop computer highlight recent campus reports.

On Aug. 18, security officer Brent Williams came across a non-injury accident at the center median of Faculty Circle and Regents Boulevard, according to a report.

Williams said both drivers were driving northbound on Regents Boulevard. Tara Willis, driver of a red 2007 Toyota Camry was in the inside lane, and Lindsay Oehler, driver of a black Acura, was in the outside lane.

Williams reported that Oehler struck the front fender of Willis's car, caus-

ing her to hit the curb and drive up into the grass.

Williams said the driver's side front tire on Willis's vehicle was blown out during the accident.

A wrecker was called to pull the vehicle off the curb and tow it away, according to the report.

On Aug. 20, security officer Tim Densmore noticed a black Chevy 1500 pickup, driven by Roberno Gomez, in the drainage ditch on the east end of lot A south, according to a report.

Gomez said he tried to back out from the grass, but his tires started spinning in place.

He said he also tried to pull forward and turn around, but the vehicle lost traction and slid down the slope into the drainage ditch.

A wrecker was called to pull the truck from the ditch, according to the report.

Later that day, Densmore responded to another call about a stuck vehicle.

Jerren Ross's gray GMC Sonoma was stuck in the grass on the south side of lot A, according to a report filed.

Ross said his vehicle wouldn't back out of the grass where he had it parked.

That vehicle also had to be pulled out by a wrecker.

Also on Aug. 20, security officer Brandon Wheeler responded to a call from Disiree Patton about a computer missing from her car, according to the report.

Patton said she parked her vehicle in lot A that morning at about 10:45

a.m. and as she was leaving campus at 5:20 p.m., she noticed her laptop and laptop bag missing.

She said the only way someone could get into the vehicle was through the passenger's side rear window because it could be slid up and down.

Security officer Kevin Tipton reviewed video footage, but no clear view could be found of Patton's vehicle.

Neither the laptop or bag had been recovered at press time.

Staff Writer Stephen Sossamon can be reached at onlineeditor@occc.edu.

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Highlights

Baptist Collegiate Ministries meeting

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries will meet at noon every Monday in the lobby in the Arts and Humanities building and at 12:30 p.m. every Thursday in room 3N0 of the Main Building. There will be a free lunch. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Mike Barnett at 405-323-0583.

Brown Bag lecture

The next Brown Bag lecture focusing on Test Taking will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 3 and 4 in College Union room 1. You may bring your lunch to the meeting. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

First Health Professions Club meeting

The first general meeting for the Health Professions Club will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4, in Main Building room 1C4. There will be officer elections with several positions open, planning for activities for the fall semester and free pizza. For more information, contact Steve Kamm at 405-682-1611, ext. 7268.

First Lecture Series of the semester

The first Lecture Series, "Race, Gender and Media in the 2008 Elections," with media critic Jennifer Pozner, will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 9 in College Union room 1. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

First Leader Quick session Sept. 9

The first Leader Quick session will be at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 9, in the Student Organization Meeting Room in the College Union. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Highlights are due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday for publication in the next issue of the Pioneer. Forms are available in the Pioneer office, located in 2M6 of the Main Building, or Highlights may be e-mailed to editor@occc.edu using the word Highlights in the subject line.

Does your club have an exciting event coming up?

Call Stephen Sossamon at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410, or e-mail onlineeditor@occc.edu



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

HOPE president Martin Alejandro Ramirez explains his club's objectives to Freshman Amir Darvishzadeh. The BCM meets at noon every Monday in the Theater entrance, and at 12:30 p.m. every Thursday in room 3N0 of the Main Building.

Clubs seek members at fair

By Stephen Sossamon
Staff Writer

Students were able to get a taste of what the various student groups at the college had to offer at the Club and Organizations Fair, hosted by Student Life.

Karlen Grayson, Student Clubs and Organizations assistant, said 27 clubs participated.

The Nursing Students Association, one of the college's most active clubs, had a booth at the fair.

Chrissy Marston, NSA vice president and public relations officer, said the goal of NSA is to encourage, mentor and support nursing students.

"We want them to move on to become professionals in the industry," she said.

Marston said the club will be active this semester, bringing in guest speakers to talk about the field of nursing.

"[NSA] is a good way to network with others interested in nursing," she said. "Plus, it builds camaraderie."

NSA president Susie Fryrear said the club's first meeting is at 4 p.m. Sept.

16, but she isn't sure where it will take place at this time.

Clubs associated with health fields will be active this fall, with the Health Professions Club also recruiting members.

"[The club] is a great opportunity for those interested in health," said club president Coralie McFarland.

"It'll open their eyes to the various opportunities and trigger different health-related interests."

McFarland said the club is directed towards showing students there are "more options than the standard MD degree."

The Health Professions Club will meet on Thursdays once a month, McFarland said.

Those interested in business will find the Business Professionals of America an informative club.

Tino Ceballos, club president, said the BPA provides information on leadership development, internships and scholarship information.

"[BPA] promotes business for students to help them become professionals

at the trade," Ceballos said.

The club is open to all students, but is aimed at those focused on business, Ceballos said.

"Our first meeting will be in two weeks," he said.

Martin Alejandro Ramirez, president of Hispanic Organizations to Promote Education, or HOPE, said the organization is going to be focused on community service.

"We will have a band for the Hispanic Heritage month event we have planned," he said. "We also help translate Spanish for people and sell food for fundraisers."

HOPE will hold meetings at 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays in the World Languages and Cultures Center.

Freshman Amir Darvishzadeh said he was interested in joining HOPE.

"I like that they get involved with helping kids," he said.

Freshman Amy Banks said she wants to be involved in the college.

"I am going to attend the Baptist Collegiate Ministries and am interested in Club Recreation," she said.

Staff Writer Stephen Sossamon can be reached at onlineeditor@occc.edu.

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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.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Florida city
- 6 Pretenses
- 10 Burn
- 14 Caesar's tongue
- 15 Diving bird
- 16 After-bath attire
- 17 "— You Glad You're You?"
- 18 Division word
- 19 Jazz's home
- 20 Moocher
- 22 Allot
- 23 "What — is new?"
- 24 Badge
- 26 Giddy
- 30 Style
- 32 Type of spray
- 33 "— and the King of Siam"
- 35 Hand warmers
- 40 Solar spectacle
- 42 Walden Pond dweller
- 44 North Woods animal
- 45 Poet's inspiration
- 47 Social misfit
- 48 Farmer's produce
- 50 Highland misses
- 52 Take to task
- 56 Peddle
- 58 Arkin or Ladd
- 59 Insect repellent

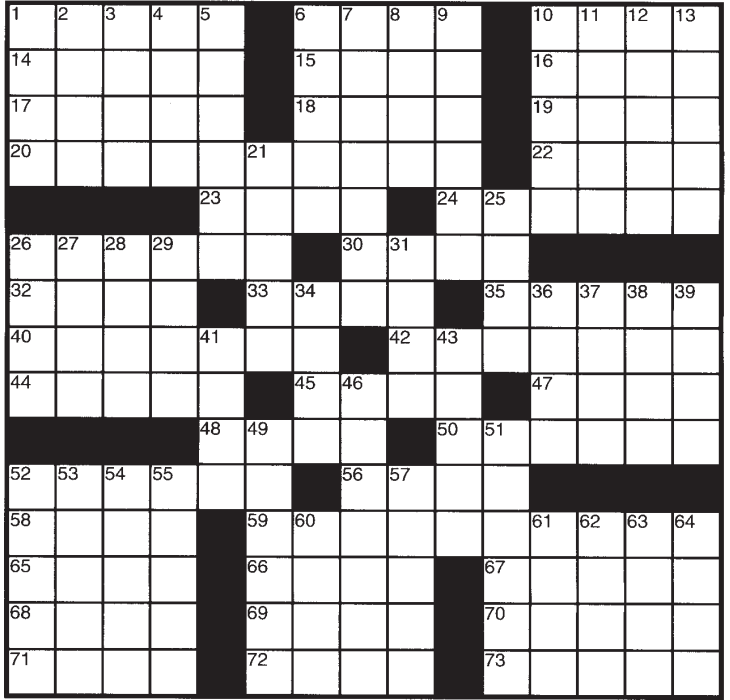
DOWN

- 1 Norway's patron saint
- 2 Mystery writer John Dickson —
- 3 Fit to —
- 4 Queue
- 5 Stag feature
- 6 Pseudonym
- 7 Express strong disapproval of
- 8 Carry
- 9 Made sleep noises
- 10 Bit of bread
- 11 Marriott holding
- 12 Subside
- 13 Change the length of
- 21 Earthenware pots
- 25 Note
- 26 Polite cough
- 27 Texas town
- 28 Hawaiian port
- 65 Bean —: tofu
- 66 Dash
- 67 Frostier
- 68 Brink
- 69 King's address
- 70 Ridge
- 71 Bambi, e.g.
- 72 Mounts (gems)
- 73 Ejects from power

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

M	I	R	A	G	E	P	E	A	O	P	T	S
I	S	A	B	E	L	R	E	V	B	A	I	L
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T	R	A	F	F	I	C	L	I	G	H	T	
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H	O	U	D	I	N	I	Y	A	K	T	U	G
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E	R	N	I	E	A	I	L	F	A	S	T	S
T	H	U	N	D	E	R	C	L	O	U	D	
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N	O	S	Y	E	S	A	S	P	E	N	S	

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*"Success,"
Cont. from page 1*

"Everyone is doing very well."

Ethnicity also was reflected in the report.

The report showed that although 10 percent of the college's enrollment was made up of African-Americans in 2007, African-Americans comprised only 7.4 percent of graduates.

President Paul Sechrist said he would like to see that improve.

Regent Ben Brown said

the issue is being looked into.

"We are working on finding the solution to this problem," Brown said.

"The answer to the low success rate of African-American graduates has eluded everyone."

Sechrist said the key to college success is clear.

"Students who attend class regularly and take advantage of the free tutoring in the labs, in general, will receive higher grades, and are more likely to persist in college and graduate," Se-

christ said.

Perry agreed, saying as students increase their education, they have a chance to receive greater earnings.

"There is a high cost of not attending college," she said.

Perry said those who never attend college are much more likely to experience poverty than those who earn an associate degree.

Staff Writer Matt Montgomery can be reached at SeniorWriter3@occc.edu.

Degree check crucial to timely graduation

*"Graduation,"
Cont. from page 1*

to apply the semester before, because a lot of times they're self-advised and they may be taking things that are not required for their degree or they may

forget to take some things that they don't know about," Gowdy said.

Students also can apply for graduation at the "Degree Check-It-Out" event Sept. 24 and 25. Staff from the Graduation Office will be doing degree checks,

open to all students.

Students can ask about degree requirements, find out who their faculty adviser is and update their records.

Staff Writer Dillon Hart can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Correction

Greg Mellott was incorrectly identified as the director in the Oklahoma Film Institute story in last week's issue. He is the program coordinator.

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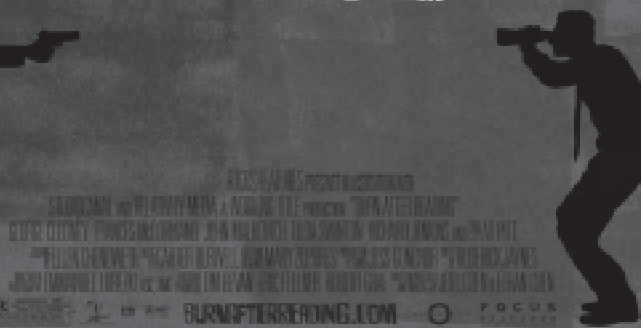
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