

- Give the gift of time, editorial, p. 2.
- Donations needed at Christmas, p. 8.
- Vanover leads team on court, sports, p. 8.
- HOPE volunteers holiday time, clubs, p. 10.

PIONEER

www.occc.edu/pioneer

In the Christmas spirit



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Biomedical Engineering major Logan Branscum gets in the holiday mood by checking out the 10-foot Christmas tree in the student union. When asked what he hoped would be under his tree, he said, "I just want some money for Christmas." Classes will not meet from Dec. 15 to Jan. 2. Intersession classes begin Jan. 5. Spring classes begin Jan. 20.

Tuition freeze proposed

By Matt Montgomery
Editor

The time may have come for students to catch a break on their tuition costs, at least for one school year.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education has proposed a "tuition freeze" for the 2009-'10 school year.

They have vowed to freeze tuition costs for the 2010 fiscal year if the Legislature appropriates \$80.4 million for operating costs toward Oklahoma's public colleges and universities.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist is among several college presidents who support the tuition freeze.

Sechrist said holding tuition at the current rate would positively impact those who attend OCCC and their families.

"I believe that the families and students would appreciate a freeze for at least one year," he said.

"Holding tuition at current levels is a benefit to those who are paying for tuition, books and the other costs of attendance."

Sechrist said operational costs are difficult to control, such as insurance and utilities.

The college's primary sources to cover these costs are state appropriations and tuition.

He said he favors the freeze on tuition if the total appropriation for all colleges and universities is increased by \$80 million.

Sechrist said holding down tuition rates puts

International student numbers rise

By Bishal Malla
News Writing Student

58 countries represented at OCCC

This fall, 445 international students were enrolled at OCCC, a number that has increased since last year, said Marion Paden, vice president for Enrollment and Student Services. Paden spoke at the Board of Regents meeting Nov. 17.

Paden said the number of international students at OCCC is large compared to other two-year public institutions in Oklahoma.

Students from 58 countries are represented at OCCC this year.

How do students who live so far from the U.S. find a

small college like OCCC?

Lots of factors cause international students to choose OCCC to pursue their higher education, said Sunny Garner, International Student Services coordinator.

She said the location and size of the campus attract most of the international students to OCCC.

"The size of the campus is bigger than other two-year public institutions in Oklahoma like OSU-OKC or Rose State College," Garner said. "Most of the credits at OCCC are easily transferred to universities like the University of Okla-

homa, Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma. This is also an important factor for international students."

Garner thinks that international students not only help the college, but also help Oklahoma. She said they have an economic impact on the community because they rent apartments during their stay and make other purchases such as cars, food and clothing.

Nepal topped the list for the international students this semester with 145 students. Nepal is a relatively small country located in

South Asia and surrounded by the Himalayas where eight of the world's highest mountain peaks are found.

South Korea, Japan, Kenya and China round out the top five countries that have the most international students attending OCCC.

Computer Engineering major from Nepal, Bikram Chhetri, said referrals from friends and the friendly environment at OCCC attract most of the Nepalese students.

"Most of my friends study here, which helped me to know about the college," Chhetri said, "and that's

See "Students," page 16

See "Freeze," page 16

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Give the gift of time this season

Christmas lights, wreaths and gingerbread houses can only mean one thing—the holiday season is finally here.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, the holiday season is all about sharing, caring and giving to others.

Sadly enough, it seems like volunteerism has become more of a burden than a thoughtful expression of concern for others.

The stereotype for community service is viewed as a form of punishment. Juveniles and adults are reprimanded daily and sentenced to community service for wrongdoing.

Instead, young adults, their friends, families and neighbors should be volunteering their time when they are able, not when they are forced. If we join together and extend our arms, even just a little bit, anything is possible.

Most people have a routine for the holidays, something they do every year by tradition. Some open presents on Christmas Eve and others don't open presents at all.

Some families volunteer for their communities by organizing food drives, toy drives and excursions to feed the homeless, while others simply donate money to those who need it.

Money or no money, there are always ways to contribute.

Our nation is experiencing one of the most difficult economic times in its history. With the year's most expensive month just under way, it's time we change our holiday traditions.

Let us all lend a helping hand to those who need it this year. There is a wide variety of ways to help the less fortunate by simply volunteering and donating time.

Ever heard the expression, one man's trash is another man's treasure? Take it to heart and think about the things you have and don't want or need and donate them.

There are donation centers located around the metro area where people are working tirelessly to provide less fortunate Oklahomans with a wonderful holiday season of their own.

Give something back this year. Donate canned foods, neglected toys, clothes that don't fit and anything else you can.

Salvation Army stores and Goodwill donation centers are some of the best places to offer your kindness, but there are many other organizations and churches determined to lend a helping hand.

As the timely expression best puts it: "The best gift is the gift of giving itself."

For more information on volunteering and donating to your community, contact the Student Life Office at 405-682-7523.

—Daniel Martin
Staff Writer

Students with loans must enroll

To the editor:

Students who have borrowed a student loan for the current year and will be returning for spring are reminded they must be enrolled at least half-time (six semester hours) to remain eligible for the loan.

To insure your loan funds arrive on campus and are applied to your tuition and

fees for spring semester early, you should enroll now, but no later than Jan. 6.

Those students who are registered for classes by Jan. 6 and have direct deposit will receive any refund they have coming prior to classes beginning.

Students graduating, completing degree require-

ments or who haven't made satisfactory academic progress through the fall are not eligible for spring semester funds.

If you have questions please stop by the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible.

—Harold Case
Student Financial
Support Services Dean

International student help

To the editor:

International students attending OCCC on F-1 visas are required to complete the necessary paperwork before traveling abroad during the December break.

Students planning to travel outside of the U.S. are urged to bring their I-20s to the Records Office.

Students should bring their I-20s as soon as possible.

Before leaving the U.S., international students

need to get a signature on their I-20s and request a letter of good standing.

Due to the large number of these requests, students should plan to wait three to five business days for their documentation to be completed.

For more information, call International Student Services at 405-682-7518 or call Michele Heaton at 682-1611, ext. 7518.

—Michele Heaton
International Student
Services Assistant

www.occc.edu/pioneer

off the mark

by Mark Parisi

www.offthemark.com



Oklahoma City Community College
PIONEER

Vol. 37 No. 16

Matt Montgomery.....Editor
Matt Bishop.....Staff Writer
Daniel Martin.....Staff Writer
Meagan Bradley.....Staff Writer
Kenny Hilburn.....Photographer
Cynthia Praefke.....Ad Manager
Brian Stansberry.....Webmaster
Stephen Sossamon.....Online Editor
Luke Carter.....Workstudy
Chris Lusk.....Lab Assistant
Ronna Austin.....Lab Director
Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

The PIONEER is a publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher.

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

Comments and Reviews

Penn impeccable in 'Milk'

From his 1982 portrayal as stoner Spigolli in "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" to his Oscar for best actor in "Mystic River," actor Sean Penn has shown versatility, but none so much as in his latest film, "Milk."

Penn plays the first openly gay elected official in California.

As San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk, Penn abandons his macho image for a gentler persona.

Harvey, a New York native, kept his sexuality a private matter for much of his adult life.

On the eve of his fortieth birthday, Harvey meets Scott, played by James Franco.

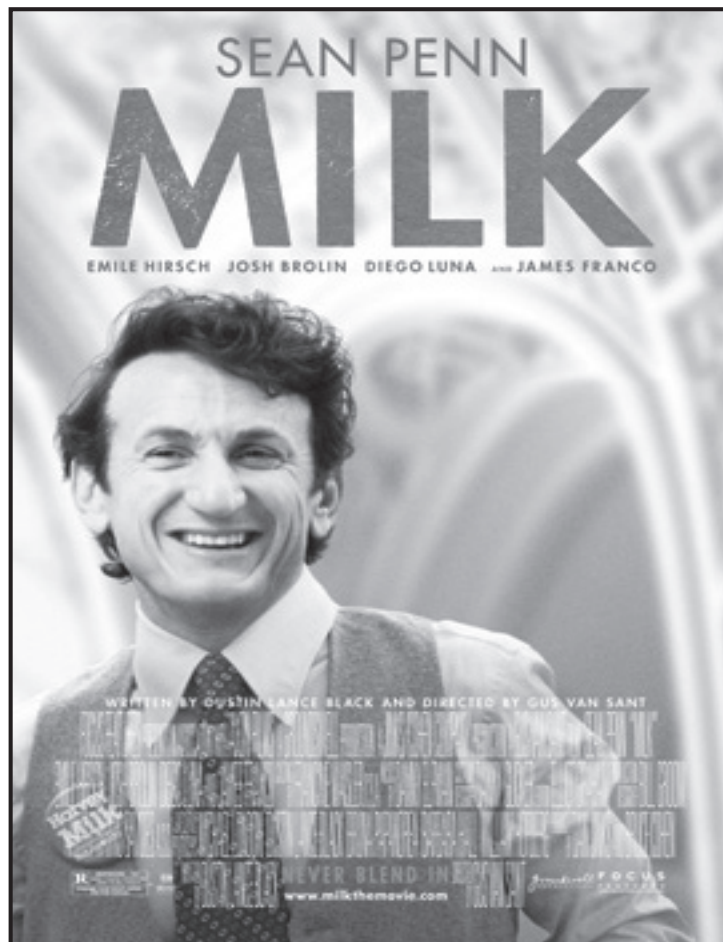
The two become lovers and decide to move to another city for a fresh start. The natural choice for a gay couple during the 1970s seems to be San Francisco, but the acceptance doesn't happen at first.

Harvey and Scott run into opposition from the merchants association when they try to open a photo shop in the old Castro area.

Harvey uses his gift of gab and great personality to win the friendship of neighborhood people and eventually favor with Mayor George Moscone, played by Victor Garber.

Harvey also meets and attempts to befriend a fellow supervisor, Dan White, played by Josh Brolin.

Brolin does justice to the role of White. White is a married family man with some obvious doubts about



his sexuality. He becomes more and more upset with his inward struggle.

He resigns his position as a supervisor when he feels Harvey has turned the mayor and the city council against him. When he changes his mind, and asks for his job back, the mayor will not rehire him.

He blames the mayor and Harvey Milk for his loss, and assassinates them at City Hall. The killing is an historic fact, and while his death is the tragic end to this story, the film is about the life of Harvey Milk.

This movie is about a man who sacrificed his own personal happiness for the

sake of helping others.

Director Gus Van Sant delivers the history of Milk's rise to power in a film that can be appreciated by the advocates of any cause.

Writer Dustin Lance Black gave us the biography of a man interested in the rights of all people, rather than of another gay man wanting his voice to be heard.

Harvey Milk felt he could make a difference for many people, and he did.

The movie runs 128 minutes and has an R rating for language, sexual content and brief violence.

Rating: B+

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

Counselor's Corner

Many years ago as an undergraduate, I was required to read a poem about a young woman who was doing her holiday shopping.

I don't remember much about the poem itself, but I'm often reminded this time of year about the image that poem invoked in me.

The woman involved struggled to balance and carry a huge load of packages, but she couldn't make much progress because of the obstacles in her way.

Everything kept shifting and falling, so she continually had to stack and restack them.

Some of you may be experiencing such a "shifting load" right now.

There is so much to do, yet little time in which to get it done.

The end of the semester is near, but much has to be done before we can call it a wrap and take some time off. Some of you may also be traveling or hosting family and friends who are traveling to your homes.

All the things you must do and places you must be and people you must see stack up on you the way the presents in the poem stacked up on their purchaser.

No matter how gingerly you tread, things shift and fall.

Before your load weighs you down, take a moment to sit and collect your thoughts.

Decide what things you absolutely must do (study for exams, finish a paper or project, etc.).

Plan a strategy involving how much time you truly need to do these essentials and how you will manage that time.

Try to find ways to keep yourself from worrying about things that are out of your control. Whether you worry about these things or not, they will happen as they happen.

So, try to channel that wasted worry into productive energy by focusing on those things you can control and handle.

Personal health and wellness are far more valuable than commercial "bling" and the ever-elusive perfection.

You can be just as happy buying a prepared meal from the grocery store and eating it on festive paper plates with the people you love, as you can driving yourself insane by stubbornly clinging to the idea that you must cook everything from scratch and serve it on fine china.

After all, it isn't the "things" in our lives that really matter; it's the people.

If the end of the semester or the season finds you feeling overly stressed or unhappy, please stop by and see one of us in Student Support Services.

We wish you peace.

—Mary Turner
Learning Support Specialist

THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON »»»»»

»»»»» Pioneer staff members list their favorite Christmas albums

- "When My Heart Finds Christmas" by **Harry Connick Jr.** — Daniel Martin
- "White Christmas" by **Bing Crosby** — Cynthia Praefke
- "Feliz Navidad" by **Jose Feliciano** — Matt Bishop
- "A Brutal Christmas" by **various metal artists** — Stephen Sossamon
- "Country Christmas" by **Johnny Cash** — Luke Carter
- "A Christmas Album" by **Bright Eyes** — Kenny Hilburn
- "Songs for Christmas" by **Sufjan Stevens** — Matt Montgomery

OKC-GO shows strides of success

More high school graduates taking advantage of OCCC's tuition-free program

By Sarah King
News Writing Student

OKC-GO enrollment has increased by 130 percent since 1999, according to a report provided by Joyce Morgan-Dees, senior research support analyst.

The goal of the OKC-GO program is to provide an incentive for high school students to graduate high school and then go to college, said Gayle Holmes, admissions adviser.

In another report given by Marion Paden at the Board of Regents Nov. 17 meeting, Western Heights High School, which is new to OKC-GO, had 43 percent of last year's graduating class attending OCCC on OKC-GO scholarships

this fall. That is a 142 percent increase since last year.

"The students the program was created for, which are the Oklahoma City public high school students, have a high drop-out rate so the goal is to get as many students to graduate high school and go to college as possible," Holmes said.

Oklahoma City schools such as Emerson, John Marshall, Pathways, Santa Fe South, Southeast and U.S. Grant all had at least 20 percent of last year's graduating class on OKC-GO.

What does that say about the re-launch and expansion of the OKC-GO program here at OCCC?

"This year is the largest year we have ever had, with the most students ever and that is really positive," Holmes said.

OCCC had a 42 percent increase in the number of students participating in the program this fall. Seventy-seven percent of those students are enrolled full-time with an average credit hour load of 13, according to the report.

OKC-GO student David Ho, a graduate of Northwest Classen High School, said he decided to take advantage of the program before moving on to a four-year college.

"I learned in high school around my junior year about OKC-GO," he said.

"I probably would have waited until I had the money to go to school. [OKC-GO] has helped me go to school to try to succeed in my life."

—Cassandra Lynch
OCCC Student

"It's a terrific, great scholarship where any Oklahoma City public school graduates are able to receive their tuition paid for."

Another student, Cassandra Lynch, said without OKC-GO, she might have delayed going to college.

"I probably would have waited until I had the money to go to school," she said.

"[OKC-GO] has helped me go to school to try to

succeed in my life."

Currently, 466 students are enrolled in the program and those numbers are expected to climb this spring, Holmes said.

"We have recruiters that are out in schools every day," Holmes said. "They are not only talking about OKC-GO, but many of the other things that OCCC offers."

"We have a lot of things we are really proud of and OKC-GO is just one of them."

Testing Center extends hours for finals week

By Alison Travis
News Writing Student

Two staff members from the Testing Center quit recently, leaving the Testing Center short staffed during upcoming finals, which is one week away, said Testing and Assessment Director Jim Ellis.

Although the Testing Center is short staffed, back-up plans will be implemented to provide full service to students, Ellis

said.

He said he plans to keep the staff as is and have staff members work overtime and adjust their schedules to make it work.

"We are also taking applications to hire temporary workers just through finals," Ellis said. "It's like hiring someone to work in a department store only through the busy hours of Christmas."

Students are not allowed to work in the Testing Cen-

ter because of the need for test security.

Finals week presents different challenges each semester, Ellis said, "but [Testing Center workers] still get people in and get tests out to get the job done."

Approximately 6,000 tests are administered during the last two weeks of each semester. Each year's total has increased in the last three years.

Nearly 3,600 tests are

given out during finals week, Ellis said.

With finals coming up, students need to be aware of the Testing Center's extended hours during finals week, Ellis said.

The Testing Center will be open 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The extended hours begin Monday, Dec. 8, and end Saturday, Dec. 13.

Spring grad applications due Feb. 6

By Karlee Bohn
News Writing Student

Students who plan to graduate in spring 2009 must fill out a graduation application by Feb. 6, said Barbara Gowdy, Graduation Services director.

Potential graduates may pick up an application in the Records and Graduation Services office or online.

Online applications must be filled out, printed and either mailed or faxed to the office.

"We encourage students to apply the previous semester to the one in which they plan to complete degree requirements to ensure that they are on track."

—Barbara Gowdy
Graduation Services Director

In order for graduates to have their names appear in the commencement program, they must have the application to the graduation office by Feb. 6.

The Graduation Services office will take applications through the end of each semester, Gowdy said.

"We encourage students

to apply the previous semester to the one in which they plan to complete degree requirements to ensure that they are on track," she said.

For more information regarding the graduation application or graduation requirements, contact Records and Graduation Services at 405-682-7512.



**AS CLOSE TO
BEING PAID TO
WATCH SPORTS
AND EAT WINGS
AS YOUR EVER GONNA GET.**

NOW HIRING
Bartenders and Servers
Apply in Person:
Edmond, Moore & I-40
Locations



BUFFALO WILD WINGS
GRILL & BAR

Sechrist teams with local high school to discuss issues affecting student success

Community members pledge to work together to get students into college

By Eduardo de Leon
News Writing Student

OCCC President Paul Sechrist told a group of students and parents at Capitol Hill High School that education is crucial to a promising future.

On Nov. 20, Sechrist talked about the scholarship that OCCC offers to all Capitol Hill graduates.

Sechrist finished his speech with a poem.

*He said, 'come to the edge.'
They said, 'but we might fall.'
He said, 'come to the edge.'
They said, 'but we might fall.'
He said, 'come to the edge.'
So they came to the edge and
he pushed them, but they
flew.*

This poem was the essence of Sechrist's message.

"I am going to encourage the teachers, principal, parents and the students

themselves to do some pushing," Sechrist said. "Education is the only thing that cannot be taken away from you."

Sechrist was invited to talk to parents and students at the school issues forum.

The event was sponsored by State Rep. Richard Morrisette, whose district includes south Oklahoma City, and The Oklahoma Parent Information and Resource Center.

The forum was an effort to get more parents involved in the school and their children's education.

Surrounded by reporters from local newspapers and television stations, Sechrist joined other leaders, school officials and higher education administrators to form a panel and discuss some of the serious issues that are affecting Capitol Hill High School.

Some of the issues dis-

cussed included drop-out and truancy rates.

Sandra Gonzales, a student at the high school, talked about her parents not supporting her desire to go to college. She said thanks to Rep. Morrisette, she was able to convince them to support her decision.

"I don't know where I'm going after high school but I know that I'm going to college," Gonzales said. "I just know that I'm not going to be afraid after high school like I was."

During his speech Sechrist encouraged students to finish school. He also talked about what programs OCCC offers, such as OKC-GO.

The OKC-GO program is offered to all graduates from Capitol Hill and the other schools in the Oklahoma City and Western Heights public school districts.

"I am going to encourage the teachers, principal, parents and the students themselves to do some pushing. Education is the only thing that cannot be taken away from you."

—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President

OKC-GO is designed to encourage students to finish high school and continue their education in college.

With this program, eligible students can attend OCCC tuition-free for up to three years or 61 college credit hours.

"The future begins with education," Sechrist said.

His speech was filled with

encouragement for the students to stay in school. He also encouraged parents to take action and help their students achieve their educational goals.

The forum concluded with students, parents and participants promising to be more involved in working together to push students toward an educated future.

College adds new health degree

By Caleb Day
News Writing Student

High job demands in health-related fields have caused OCCC to receive funding through the Department of Labor to develop an associate degree in clinical research studies, said Clinical Research Studies Outreach Coordinator Frank Rexach.

Clinical Research Studies Academic Coordinator Kimberly Kyker has been developing the curriculum. She said she hopes it will be approved by late December.

Rexach said he has been visiting local high schools and middle schools to promote the new degree.

He said he also has been recruiting OCCC students interested in clinical research.

"We're looking for people interested in alternative health career opportunities," Kyker said.

Rexach said the application process is simple and once a student is accepted, grant money can be provided to help pay for classes and books.

Regular classes begin in the spring semester and classes should be offered online as soon as fall

2009, Kyker said.

Rexach said this is an exciting program that fits well with the health programs offered at OCCC.

He said it will enhance the existing health career programs.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/clinical or go by the clinical research studies office 1D8 on the first floor of the Main Building.

Comments? Opinions?
E-mail Matt at
editor@occc.edu
Let your voice be heard!

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Spring science class to cover dinosaurs

By Mara Nelson
News Writing Student

The history of Earth's largest creatures, the dinosaurs, will be the centerpiece of a biology class being offered during the spring semester, said Julian Hilliard, biology professor. Hilliard will teach the course.

Hilliard said the freshman level course would fulfill a general education biological science requirement.

The paleontology class is called History of Life on Earth (BIO 1204) and is virtually guaranteed to be a good time, he said.

"This class has a lab," Hilliard said. "So it fulfills the general education requirement for a huge number of our students at the college."

The class is equivalent to General Biology (BIO 1114) in academic rigor, but should be much more interesting, he said.

Students will learn about the age or dating of rocks, theories of the origin of life, geologic processes of fossilization, the evolution and divergence of living things, and paleontological controversies, Hilliard said.

"We talk about dinosaurs a lot, and will take at least one field trip," Hilliard said. "This class is not designed for science nerds."

The class is offered from 1:30 to 2:50 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday and will be followed by a short lab after class on Wednesdays.

For more information, call Julian Hilliard at 682-1611, ext. 7270, or e-mail jhilliard@occc.edu.

Fall grads receive diplomas for Christmas

The following students have applied for December graduation. Diplomas will be granted after credentials are completed and degree requirements are met. Students who have fulfilled degree requirements can participate in the May 8 commencement ceremony.

Associate of Arts

Crystal Alsup-McNeal, Yareni Alvarado, Melissa Anderson, Susan Angelino, Randy Aspell, Chase Barnes, Morgan Bateman, Matthew Bishop, Emily Brooks, Dustin Brooks.

Rachelle Buck, Michael Buckmaster, Nelson Bundrick, Michael Carrington, Shimena Carter-Brashers, Margarita Castor, Ignacio Castro, Damaris Castro, John Chancey, Michael Christian.

Amy Conn, Crystal Cordell, Heather Creekmore, Pavlandrea Cuevas, Susan Culbert, Brian Cunningham, Jessica Davidson, Lauren Davis, Chelsie Davis, Shawn Day.

Melanie Day, Antonio DeLara Jr., Jeffery Dittenber, Van-Anh Doan, Jessica Dooley, Rheagen Duckett, Jessica Dunn, Jamie Eason, Obibisom Emine, Christine Engelbrecht.

Kimberly Ferrell, Kayla Ford, Elizabeth Garrick, Teresa Gee, John Gilstrap, Katie Goldsmith, Guillermo Gonzalez, Jack Gouge, Allecia Graff, Jessica Gray, Jessica Grieshaber, Tiffany Harris.

Sarah Harris, Daniel Hays, Michael Hendricks, Mirna Hernandez, Cameo Hollant, Carolyn Honeywell, Samantha Johnson, Megan Johnson, Marian Johnson, Robert Jones, Jonas Kripas, Bikalpa Lalchan.

Stephen Lamb, Michelle Laurent, Riley Law, Joseph Lee, Cassandra Legg, Matthew Lemley, Jason Linger, Brandon Lovelace, Christopher Lusk, Tammie Mallow-Dresch.

Susan Maly, Crystal McGill, Michelle Mell, Nicholas Mendus, Amy Mer-

cer, Jeffrey Miller, Hunter Musser, Nhat Nguyen, Hai Nguyen, Yuko Oshizawa.

Melissa Parsons, Laura Pittman, Sabrina Prosser, Siham Rachid, Maryam Rahimi, Quincy Robinson, Belen Rodriguez, Kevin Rogers, Deivi Santizo.

Jennifer Skiba, Renee Smith, Le-Teecia Starks, Sarah Stewart, Tiffany Stratton, Penny Stuart, Matthew Suman, Ryan Summers, Jessica Taylor.

Justin Teeman, Lawrence Tran, Demetra Triggs, Tommy VanBrunt, Stephanie Walker, Tammy Watson, Dustin Watts, Derek White, Jaiden Williams, Roger Wood, Katye Wood.

Associate of Applied Science

Joshua Adams, Stephany Ahern, Kamaldeen Aleshinloye, Chad Allcox, Shawna Anderson, Janelle Arrasmith, Christine Atkisson, Souheil Badaa, James Bailey, Jessica Bandy.

Rachael Bates, Ryan Battles, Amy Bebout, Sanjiy Bhattarai, Antonia Bingham, James Brown, Meghan Brown, Gary Broyles, David Canizales, Emily Cannon, Luis Chavez, Louis Chenot.

Derek Coleman, Stephanie Conner, Arlinda Copeland, Britnie Costa, Jonathan Cotts, Jacqueline Cowan, Rachel Cox, Timothy Cravens, Sheila Curry, Veronica Datin.

Dustin Daugherty, Taffi Davenport, Rachael Davenport, Nicholas Davis, Victor Deras, Natalie Dickey, John Do, Tony Doan, Sarah Durbin, Zeke Eidson, Nicholas Ellis, Keenan English, James Etheridge.

Krys Feyen, Justin Fletcher, Tiffany Frazier, Alfredo Fuentes-Contreras, Jeremy Ginn, Antwaniece Green, Emily Green, Ramona Hale, Kristin Herb, Susana Hernandez.

Gary Hill II, Holly Holdman, Ashley Ann Hoyda, Lindsey Hulbert, Brittany Hunter, My Huynh, Kellie

Inmon, Julie James, Paul Jaramillo, Charles Jones, Destiny Jones, Muna KC.

Ibrahima Keita, Rebekah Kline, Heather Knowles, Chad Kolkman, Abhishek Kundalia, Patricia LaBar, Keely Lange, Lindsay Leiter, Betty Limas, Joel Lounmala.

Christian Lowden, Heather Maloy, Luis Martinez, Jessica McCarty, David McCrae, Linda Melendez, Jamie Miller, Newah Mofor-Tawo, Nancy Morgan, Christopher Mosteiroc, Carrie Mount.

Gabriel Muchemi, Cheyenne Murphy, Sean Murray, Cole Nelson, Lyle Nelson, Thierry Ngansop, Luong Nguyen, Mi Nguyen, Kimberly Oden.

Dinah Ogeto, Araceli Orozco, Ashley Peters, An Pham, Van Pham, Cheryl Phillips, Laura Quenzer, Sandra Rangel, Michelle Reeves, Anusha Regmi, Naomi Reneau.

Linday Roland, Jerren Ross, Stephani Rouse, Lashydra Rucker, Travis Sallee, Roberto Sanchez, Christie Sandefur, Melissa Schnoor, Donna Schruben.

Manish Shrestha, Anam Shrestha, Melissa Smith, Sara Stanbrough, Sarah Stewart, Luke Stovall, Monica Street, John Taylor, Anjita Thapa, Kristan Thompson, Vinh Tran, Thu Tran, Adam Tucker.

Richard Veit, Jennifer Vo, Nhat Vu, Shannon Washington, David Watts, Brian Wayland, Angela Wilson, Ruth Wuest, Rebecca Wyman, Christina Young, Daniel Young, James Zellner, Christina Zeppieri.

Associate of Science

Smriti Acharya, Narges Afzoud, Adekunle Alaba, Sarah Allen, Kayeh Aminkhoe, Stephanie Ast, Bryce Barrus, Ashley Bebout, Tony Blakesley, Rachel Boydston, Evans Brown.

Meredith Bullard, Amanda Burress, Kristi Cagle, Jim Camp, Michael Campbell, Jamie Carpenter, Kellie Carter, April Castilleja,

Ali Arslan Chaudahry, Yanghong Chen.

Carissa Christian, Michael Collum, Chris Cope, James Crabbe, Gentri Creager, Amber Crosby, Kenneth Cuff, Andrew Cypert, Alison Davis, Wanda Day, LeAnn Day, Valerie Dunn, Joni Espolt, Donita Fisher.

Angeline Fombe, Jared Friend, Christopher Froman, Lena Funkhouser, Jessica Garrett, Matthew Garrett, Paul Geymann, David Gil, Sarah Gladhill, Elisabeth Glenn, Megan Godwin, Alan Gray.

Michael Green, Johanna Greggs, Ashley Griggs, Paula Gullion, Jennifer Hames, Marla Hamilton, Kristi Hanna, Ryan Hardaway, Michael Hassell, Thi Haynes, Kelly Hess.

Michael Hisey, Melissa Hitt, Aran Hoffhines, William Hoffman Jr., Rachel Howeth, Glenna Huddleston, Lynsey Jacks, Jason Jester, Sherri Josephson, Patrick Kariuki, Alicia Kascinski.

Mary Lawson-Selzer, Tsien-yee Leong, Lisa Lewis, Michael Lyons, Mark Magnus, Kelsey Malicott, Tommy Manning, Kara Martin, Erin Mason, Matthew Maynard.

Gabrielle McDermott, Jay McGrew, Vanessa McNabb, Rhonda Mercer, Kelsey Miller-Teel, Amanda Mills, Kelsey Moreau, Brian Morgan Jr., Felton Morris.

Vicky Morrow, John Muzingo, Jessie Myers, Misty Nail, Daniela Newby, Bernice Ngwa, Bertha Nunez, Sean Oats, Dinah Ogeto, Robert Osburn, Michelle Parker, Karen Per-

kins, Christine Phelps.

David Pitt, Karen Porter, Michael Powers, Meril Punnoose, Ronald Riggs, Amanda Rimel, Jennifer Rinder, Kevin Robertson, Melanie Rumsey, Jill Sanchez, James Sanderson, Marilyn Satnes.

Kristina Seeds, Rachel Shearer, Sheila Smith, Blair Smith, Kristi Smith, Stephen Spiser, Maria Sullivan, Lara Teves, Sheril Thomas, Katie Torczon-Webster.

Yadira Torres, Carla Towler, Do Tran, Nathaniel Trent, Denise Tucker, Charlie Ward, Nathan Warden, Lindsey West-Goodson, Alysia Williams, David Wilson, Donald Wood, Latonia Woods, Brett Wright.

Certificate of Mastery

James Crabbe, Veronica Datin, Ashley Griggs, Willa Hill, Garrett Lake, Clifton Lawson, Johnson Melakayil, Leslie Pratt.

Felisia Robertson, Kristina Seeds, Roshan Singh, John Soderquist, Johnathan Soto, Billie Thompson, Heath Tims, David Wilson.

Don't see your name here? If you believe you should be graduating but your name is not listed, call 682-1611, ext. 7512 to check your graduation status. Students who applied late may not have made the published list. Congratulations to all OCCC graduates!

"Completing a college degree has never been more important. I offer my sincere congratulations to the fall graduates, and wish them the best."

**—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President**



OCCC Job Board, Optimal Résumé useful tools for job-seeking students

By Lacey Heatherly
News Writing Student

OCCC's Student Employment and Career Services offers two online sites for students needing employment, said Debra Vaughn, Student Employment and Career Services director.

"The Job Board, which is offered to students and alumni to be able search over 95,000-plus jobs online," Vaughn said. "[And] the Optimal Résumé, (which) is also offered to help students and alumni build their résumés online."

The OCCC Job Board is located online at www.collegecentral.com/occc.

Students can access Optimal Résumé at occc.optimalresume.com.

An average of 200 to 250 jobs are added to the Job Board website everyday as older job entrees expire, she said.

"The job board is always current and updated for students," Vaughn said.

The OCCC Job Board is offered through College

Central Network Services, which is used by colleges nationwide.

"Several colleges use this job board, not just OCCC," she said.

The Job Board offers students and alumni the option of many job types including: freelance, full-time, part-time, internships, seasonal and temporary jobs.

The website also gives students the option to search jobs nationwide, while matching their major or professional objective and finding jobs covered under their degree.

The job search website also gives students and alumni the opportunity to select and apply for a job or many job opportunities conveniently online.

"Students are being able to apply online for jobs and for their future," Vaughn said.

Users of the website are also given the chance to upload their own résumé and their registration information.

"The fact that students

can even upload their résumé right here online is very convenient," Vaughn said.

"But it is very important that they remember to remain professional and well prepared."

The Job Board also offers viewers the chance to view the expectations and requirements of the job or company of choice. The company's websites offer a "Job Snapshot" or more specific information on the job opportunity.

The website also offers contact information for the company or job.

Once a viewer has applied for a job of choice, they will be contacted through the website to report whether they have been offered the job.

Vaughn said the Optimal

The screenshot shows the 'Jobs Central' website interface. At the top, it says 'Your gateway to the best entry-level jobs on the Internet since 1997.' Below this is a 'Student Job Search Results' section. On the right, there are search criteria filters: Company Name, Job Title, Jobs Posted (All Dates), Degree (Associates), Job Target (Any Job Target), Job Location (Oklahoma), and Type of Job (Any Job Type). Below the filters, it says 'Click the Job ID to view the Job Details. Jobs are sorted by Deadline Date.' A message states 'There are 138 jobs that meet your criteria.' Below this, it says 'Displaying records 21-40 of 138'. The main content area shows a list of job postings with columns for Job ID, Location, Job Type, and Deadline. The jobs listed include: Specialist / Systems Technician at OSU - Oklahoma City (Job ID: 9910400, Location: Oklahoma City, OK, Job Type: Full Time, Deadline: 12/06/2008); Laid Off? We're expanding again! Jr Account Executive at Ace International Inc (Job ID: 9911342, Location: Oklahoma City, OK, Job Type: Full Time, Deadline: 12/07/2008); Motion Designer at Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. (Job ID: 9920288, Location: Oklahoma City, OK, Job Type: Full Time, Deadline: 12/08/2008); ICU Nurse - Registered Nurse - RN - Paid Relocation at Renown Health (Job ID: 9911673, Location: Oklahoma City, OK, Job Type: Full Time, Deadline: 12/08/2008); ICU Nurse - Registered Nurse - RN - Paid Relocation at Renown Health (Job ID: 9911714, Location: Tulsa, OK, Job Type: Full Time, Deadline: 12/08/2008); and Executive Chef at Casino Executive Search, LLC (Job ID: 9028059, Location: Catoosa, OK, Job Type: Full Time, Deadline: 12/09/2008). On the right side of the screenshot, there are links to 'Search 360,000 Tech Jobs', 'Search TechIT for network jobs Find Tech Jobs & Answers at TechIT', 'ATI Oklahoma City', 'Looking For A New Career In IT? Let ATI Help Find The One Today!', 'Culinary Arts Jobs', 'The Art Institutes - Get Info on the Culinary Management Program.', 'Career College: OK', 'Flexible schedules for adult students. Degree Programs. Reg info', and 'www.artinstitutes.edu'.

Résumé program is a great tool available to help students putting together a résumé or a cover letter.

She said the Job Board also can help users prepare for an interview while learning skills and helpful hints on how to prepare properly for an interview.

"Students can build their résumé online and Career

Services will even supply the résumé paper for students to come in and print off their résumés," Vaughn said. "Both of the websites are a great online services for our students."

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/es, call Vaughn at 682-1611, ext. 7369, or e-mail dvaughn@occc.edu.

Students, reporter experience Spanish-only weekend

By Lauren Dennison
News Writing Student

Twenty-two students spent the weekend of Nov. 14 through 16 surrounded by Spanish, speaking only that language for three days at Camp Canyon in Red Rock Canyon State Park near Hinton.

It was this reporter's first experience conducting interviews and taking notes only in Spanish.

During the event, Spanish-speaking students from English as a Second Language classes worked with students learning Spanish to develop their vocabulary and complete their assigned tasks.

Four professors from

OCCC's modern languages department provided the overall framework.

Juan Manuel Luna, an engineering freshman from Mexico, was one of the volunteers for the weekend. He accepted this reporter's beginner Spanish and was very patient during the interview.

Luna explained this was his first time to participate in the immersion weekend.

He said he enjoyed helping students learn Spanish and he had a great time getting to know the other students.

His aunt and uncle, Nubia and Sergio Gallegos, also were volunteers. They also participated in the

immersion weekend last year. Sergio Gallegos is an admissions adviser at OCCC.

Gallegos said this year's group was more talkative than last year's.

Over a lunch of veggie burgers and smiley face tater tots, students talked in Spanish about what attracted them to the program.

Rafael Cifoni, biology freshman, said he was using the program to learn different variations of Spanish. Cifoni is from Brazil, where Portuguese is the national language. He said he likes to travel and plans to travel throughout Central and South America.

Justin Parker said he is attending OCCC to achieve his Mastery-in-Spanish certificate.

Because all students were required to give a presentation in Spanish that told something about themselves, Parker planned to give a presentation about his trip to Chile, a country in South America.

After lunch, everyone went back into the main cabin where Abra Figueroa, ESL professor, was playing the piano. Soon after, Dianne Broyles, Communications and the Arts director, joined her.

After all the students were seated, the professors passed out scripts

written in Spanish. The students were put into groups and told they had 15 minutes to look them over.

After the time was up, the groups got up and acted out their part in the drama, which resembled a Spanish soap opera.

The narrative told a tale of two lovers in a park. The man expressed his love for his girlfriend.

The girlfriend, sadly, expressed her love for another.

When all was said and done, this reporter was pleased with her own ability to speak only Spanish for the three hours she was at the Spanish immersion weekend.

Volunteering for the holidays brightens lives

By Meagan Bradley
Staff Writer

Volunteer opportunities abound this December. Many organizations need volunteers to help brighten the lives of others during this holiday season.

United Cerebral Palsy of Oklahoma needs volunteers for their gift-wrapping booth at Crossroads Mall. No prior wrapping experience is needed. To volunteer, call 405-759-3562.

The Christmas Connection,

which helps low-income families with Christmas shopping, is looking for volunteers to help during Christmas shopping days, Dec. 9 to 14. Additionally, the Christmas Connection is working with the Salvation Army to coordinate Red Kettle bell ringers.

For more information on either opportunity, contact Valerie Finley at 405-634-2006 or e-mail christmas-connection@hotmail.com.

In Norman, the Citizens Advisory Board of the Cleveland County Child Welfare Unit needs volun-

teers for its annual Secret Santa program, which provides gifts for about 800 needy children, according to The Oklahoman.

The Citizens Advisory Board is organizing a shopping day on Dec. 16. To participate, contact the Advisory Board at 405-321-5999.

The Hospice of Oklahoma County needs volunteers to help with its Tree of Life program. Volunteers are needed to prepare ornaments for the Tree of Life, according to the hospice's website. To volunteer, contact Ruth Ann Frick at 405-

848-8884 or e-mail ruth.frick@integris-health.com.

Volunteers are needed for the annual Red Andrews Christmas Dinner Dec. 24 and 25 at the Cox Convention Center. The Cimarron Circuit Opera Company is helping organize volunteers. To get involved, contact Kira Sampson at 405-364-8962.

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma needs volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. According to their website, they help more than 63,000 needy Oklahomans every week. To volunteer at the Regional Food Bank, contact Liz Brandon at 405-604-7110 or Jackie Martin at 405-600-3133.

There really is a Santa, Virginia...

This classic was written in 1897 by Francis P. Church, the editor of the now-defunct New York Sun. He wrote in response to the following letter:

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus? —Virginia O'Hanlon

Dear Virginia:

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.

The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in this world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle to see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart.

Only faith, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives, and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

—Francis P. Church

—courtesy of www.nanellen.com

Donations help others

TOYS- 4- TOTS

Collection Box in the OCCC Bookstore
Now through
Friday Dec. 12.
New unwrapped presents.

FEED THE CHILDREN

P.O. Box 36
Oklahoma City, OK
73101-0036
405-942-0228
Fax: 405-945-4177

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

601 N.E. 6 St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405-228-9500

UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

1315 N. Broadway Place
P. O. Box 837
Oklahoma City, OK 73101
405-236-8441
FAX: 405-235-2011

OKLAHOMA BLOOD INSTITUTE

1001 N. Lincoln Boulevard
405-297-5700
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Christmas light displays shine in metro area

Bricktown Lights: Free canal rides 6 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday until Dec. 30. Located in downtown Oklahoma City.

OG&E Garden Lights at Myriad Botanical Gardens, and Crystal Bridge: 17 acres of lights. Spectators can take a walking tour through the grounds or the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory. For bridge, free viewings from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sundays through December. Normal admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children, and \$5 for students and seniors. Located in downtown Oklahoma City.

Yukon's Christmas in the Park: Held since 1995, 100 acres of lights are accessible by vehicle or walking. Admission is free but donations are gladly accepted at the end of the drive through. The lights will be displayed from 6 to 11 p.m. until Dec. 31 in the Yukon City Park, off of Vandament Avenue.

Midwest City's holiday Lights Spectacular: Includes a 118-ft. Christmas tree, a tunnel of lights, 80 lighting displays, a waterfall and animated displays. Located at Joe B. Barnes Regional Park off Douglas Boulevard.

Chickasha's Festival of Lights: In its 15th year, Chickasha's lighting display attracts people from all over the nation. New this year is an animated musically-choreographed show. Located at Shannon Springs Park, 2400 S. 9th Street.

Winter Wonderland Walk-Thru: Located at the Civic Center Park in Piedmont, this display includes a half-mile walking trail with more than 70 inflatable holiday scenes and lots of Christmas lights. Admission is free.

Territorial Christmas Celebration: Located in downtown Guthrie, this month-long celebration includes a variety of events, most notably the Victorian Walk — two nights during the holiday season when many local citizens don Victorian dress and walk the beautifully-lit and decorated streets interacting with guests and celebrants. Special holiday entertainment can be found including candlelit trolley tours, carriage rides, a decorated Christmas tree display, Victorian holiday home tours, and special productions at the Pollard Theatre and the Double Stop Fiddle Shop and Music Hall.

—Courtesy of okc.about.com/od/attractionsandevents/tp/topholidaylight.htm



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

OG&E Garden Lights at Myriad Botanical Gardens and Crystal Bridge in downtown Oklahoma City. Spectators can walk through 17 acres of lights.

The price of gift-giving varies

By **Stephen Sossamon**
Staff Writer

With the state of the economy up in the air, students may be searching for Christmas gifts that won't empty their billfolds.

Here are some helpful hints to stick to your budget while putting a smile on someone's face:

\$10 and under:

- Gift cards
- Candles
- Photo album
- Baked goods
- Hand-made craft



\$20 and under:

- CDs
- DVDs
- Gas card
- Board games

- Books
- T-shirts



\$30 and under:

- Full-sized mirror
- Bedding
- Jeans
- Photo skins for laptops, mp3s and cell phones
- Jackets



\$50 and under:

- LED shower light
- Custom photo watch by Face Time
- USB beverage chiller/warmer for the desktop
- Lavender-filled linens
- Juicy couture charm bracelet

- Tiffany & Co. Annual pocket diary
- Victoria's Secret The Sexiest Fragrances on Earth
- HoMedics MP3 Cush Music Playing Massage Seat



\$100 and under:

- Luggage
- Jewelry
- Several new cameras from companies like Sony, Fuji and Polaroid
- Guitar hero with guitar
- Global positioning systems



Library's second floor home to The Hangout

By **Victory Reneau**
News Writing Student

"The Hangout" is the newest addition to the second floor of the Library.

Labeled by students and faculty, The Hangout was created for students to study, have meetings, or just chill out.

Retired OCCC Art Professor Carolyn Farris was the key designer in the project.

Farris taught aArt at OCCC for 18 years until she retired in 2005.

Last year, Farris was asked to take on the task of turning the upstairs area into a place where students could study and relax.

"When I first saw the upstairs area in the library, it looked like someone had bought everything from a garage sale," Farris said. "Nothing matched or coordinated with the area."

Reference Librarian Rachel Butler said the library had wanted to remodel the upstairs area for quite some time, but the funds were too scarce.

"We weren't sure if we would have enough money in the budget for

the project," Butler said.

In the past year, many generous donations have been made to the OCCC Foundation from various donors such as retired associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Brenda Harrison, Butler said. That enabled the project to be done.

Once the money was put together for the project, Library Services Director Barbara King, Butler and Farris began to put ideas together.

"We had so many ideas up in the air," Butler said. "Carolyn was the vision behind the project."

Because new carpet had recently been laid, Farris had to work with the colors of the existing carpet.

What at first was thought to be a hindrance in designing the new area turned out to be a real piece of art.

Farris said her inspiration for the project came from former students she had so enjoyed working with.

"I wanted it to express energy and enthusiasm," Farris said.

"That's how I always felt when I worked with students, so that's what I wanted to portray."



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Jamie Swanson and Teresa Frazier, both nursing students, study in the Hangout, an area located on the second floor of the library. There, students can chat with friends or study for upcoming finals.

The Hangout, a well-lit area with comfortable couches, tables and a coffee machine nearby, is filled with contemporary colors, furniture and art, including a piece by Farris herself.

"I used red, yellow and blue colors to give it a con-

temporary look," Farris said.

"I wanted it to be an inviting place where students could talk and interact.

"I really loved doing it," Farris said. "I hope students will like it."

Student Lindsay Whelchel has used the area.

"I think the new upstairs area is a vital and refreshing aspect of the OCCC Library," she said.

For more information about The Hangout, contact the OCCC Library at 405-682-7564 or go to www.occc.edu/library.

Enroll now for spring semester for better choice of classes

By **Daniel Martin**
Staff Writer

With January intersession and the spring semester just around the corner, now is the time to enroll.

International studies student Julia Hicks has already enrolled.

"I like to get it out of the way," Hicks said. "Enrolling early gives you a lot more options to choose from."

The spring semester starts Tuesday, Jan. 20.

The Recruitment and Admissions Department is already preparing by staying open late for students' convenience.

They are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

"The earlier you enroll, the better," said Recruitment and Admissions Director Jon Horinek. "Don't wait until the last minute or things can get stressful."

He said when students wait until the first week of classes to enroll, their chances of getting their desired schedule is relatively slim.

Premed sophomore Andrea Johnson said she also already enrolled to ensure she could get the classes she wanted.

"Getting it done and over with early helps relieve a lot of pressure during finals week," Johnson said.

Students applying for the first time need to complete an application for admission found in the Admissions Office on the first

floor of the Main Building.

Students returning for another semester at OCCC have the option of enrolling online or in person.

"A vast majority of students can enroll online and the process is actually quite simple," Horinek said.

He said students need to make sure they take care of any bursar bills, charges, library fines and parking tickets before they enroll. Until those issues are taken care of, there will be stops on their accounts, he said.

Horinek said the January intersession also is a good time to add a class.

"January intersession is the best way to catch up on credits," Horinek said.

"It is a huge advantage to those who can finish the same material as others in

"Enrolling early gives you a lot more options to choose from."

—Julia Hicks
OCCC Student

a shorter time frame."

Intersession is a program that allows OCCC students to complete up to three hours of class credit in only two weeks.

A wide range of classes offered over the winter break starts Jan. 5 and lasts through Jan. 16.

OCCC offers everything from automotive technology to biological science, from history to economics and from humanities to communications.

According to the intersession webpage, OCCC has something for every student. For a complete list of classes for intersession and

the spring semester, visit www.occc.edu/schedules or call the Office of Recruitment and Admissions at 405-682-OCCC.

Staff Writer Daniel Martin can be reached at staffwriter2@occc.edu.

**The Pioneer
Online has Online
EXCLUSIVE
stories readers
won't see
anywhere else!
Visit www.occc.edu/pioneer
today!!!**

Drunk driving can cost as much as \$7,000

By Lance Lawson
News Writing Student

A charge of drunk driving will affect your life by taking away your free time and your money. The cost can be as high as \$7,000 for a guilty plea and going through the process of restoring driving privileges.

"I started off thinking that everything was going to be OK, that it wasn't a big deal," said "Adam," an OCCC student who asked that his real name not be used. "I had no idea that I was going to be spending this much money."

Another student going through the same experience agreed. "Melissa" also asked that her real name not be used.

"I couldn't believe everything I had to do and how much everything cost," she said.

Both received DUIs on their way home from an evening of social drinking on separate occasions.

"Six months later and I was already giving my lawyer anywhere from \$150 to \$300 a month, along with about \$100 to \$200 a month for court fines," Adam said.

Attorney fees for a DUI

case will range from anywhere to \$600 — if you have a lawyer who will give you a good deal — to \$5,000.

Both Adam and Melissa paid about the same amount of court costs, around \$1,250.

Adam owed his lawyer \$2,000 plus \$1,500 in court fines.

Melissa, however, was fortunate. Her father knew a lawyer who only charged her \$600. Her court fines were \$1,000.

"I came out lucky, I think," Melissa said.

Both Adam and Melissa were court ordered to take certain DUI classes.

The first thing they both did was take an Assessment Evaluation class and test, which cost \$175, to determine what DUI school they each would be attending.

The person that assigns each person to his or her DUI class is called an assessor and places someone in a 10- or 24-hour DUI school depending on the interview and a written test.

On this test are questions related to alcohol and drug use.

The DUI class costs \$200, plus an extra \$150

for a Drug/Alcohol Abuse Course. These two classes focus on the dangers of drunk driving.

"These classes were really boring, but if you can manage to stay awake, they're actually helpful," Adam said.

There also is one last required class, the Victim Impacts Panel class. This class costs \$50 and takes up to three hours.

Those in the class will hear testimony from previ-

ous DUI and drug offenders, and actually witness their struggle, either in jail or out.

"Getting a DUI opened my eyes to see how irresponsible I was being, and made me realize that life is too important to be stupid," Adam said.

In order to get a modified driver's license that will allow them to drive to work and school, Adam and Melissa must pay to have a Breathalyzer device

installed in their cars. The total cost for this device varies, depending on the company, but ranges from \$700 to \$800.

"I had to pay a set fee of \$80 a month for six months, plus an extra \$25 for violations," Melissa said.

She admitted to a number of times when she tried to drive her car after drinking alcohol. Each time the device prevented the car

See "DUI," page 13

\$2,000 scholarship video contest

at **BUCK the norm .com**

Tell us about it: "My Money Mistake"

We know when you're just starting out, it's easy to take a few steps in the wrong direction every once in a while.

We want to hear your story, what happened and what you learned — in a video you make yourself.

Grand Prize: \$2,000 scholarship and a Macbook.

Visit **BucktheNorm.com** for complete contest rules. Deadline to enter is Jan. 30th!

financial empowerment for all

Powered by Tinker Federal Credit Union
Federally insured by NCUA

THINKING ABOUT TRANSFERRING?


OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY



OCU's challenging curriculum, small class sizes and well-rounded approach to teaching and learning helps OCU graduates find success everywhere they go, from laboratories and pulpits to boardrooms and Broadway stages. Transfer today!

- Undergraduate, graduate, seminary, law and accelerated programs
- Diverse and vibrant campus
- National recognition
- 91% of students receive financial aid

Schedule Your Personal Campus Visit Today!
(800)633-7242 • WWW.OKCU.EDU



OCU pledges to recruit, select and promote diversity by providing equality of opportunity for all persons. AD38508

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Dec. 12:** Deadline to register for the Junior Basketball League. This league is for boys and girls, grades three through six. For more information about this league, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 18-21:** OCCC Aquatic Center will host the Chesapeake Elite Pro-Am Meet. For information about upcoming Aquatic Center events, call Aquatic and Safety Training Specialist James Hensley at 405-682-1611, ext. 7662.

• **Dec. 24 - Jan. 5:** The Wellness Center will close at noon Wednesday, Dec. 24, for Christmas Break and reopen Monday, Jan. 5, with normal operating hours.

No strain, no gain



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Music major Chris Williams strains as he works out his biceps at the Wellness Center weight room. Williams said he lifts weights three times a week, and works on his cardio two days a week. The Wellness Center weight and cardio rooms are free to all students with a valid student ID.

Campus basketball star plans to boost efforts

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

Joshua Vanover has become a star on the basketball court this semester, and plans on continuing his efforts to boost his intramural team and the OCCC club basketball team, the Chance.

Vanover led his intramural team, the Short Bus, to the fall intramural title and is optimistic on the club team's chances.

"...This team will play together as well as [the Short Bus] did," Vanover said.

He said he plans on recruiting more players who played intramural basketball to play along with the Chance.

"Hopefully we will have guys with some talent that can work into the system," Vanover said. "I think we will play very well together."

Vanover encourages people around campus to play intramural basketball because it is a good way to enjoy the game.

"You don't feel the pressures and coaches yelling," he said. "You can

just go out and have fun and play your game."

Vanover also said the Short Bus will come back in the spring to defend their title. He also will be looking to add people to the Chance for the regional tournament held in Arlington, Texas, in March.

OCCC's team that went to regional's last spring played well, and Vanover said he believes it is important to have a good showing in the regional tournament this year to help the OCCC sports program.

"We can go out and play like any other college team can compete,"

he said. "[Although] this is just a community college, there are a lot of athletes."

The Chance plans to practice a few times before winter break, then pick up full force in the spring with two practices a week.

Sport and Recreation specialist Eric Watson said he will wait until the spring to make any further decisions concerning what the club team will be doing.

Sports assistant Charlie Tarver said Vanover proved to be a player of high quality after the intramural season.

"He is very aggressive and plays

both ends of the court, both offense and defense," Tarver said.

Vanover has played basketball since he was 13. He played in high school for Southwest Christian Academy in Moore.

Also, in his spare time, Vanover sings. He said he has been singing for eight years, impersonating Frank Sinatra. Vanover also performs his own music he said, but mainly Sinatra.

Vanover has been a student since the spring of 2008. He is a business major and plans on attending the University of Central Oklahoma when he leaves OCCC.

Gold medalist set to compete at OCCC

By Jessica Hensley
News Writing Student

2008 Beijing Olympic gold medalist Garrett Weber-Gale will be competing in the Chesapeake Elite meet, held at the OCCC Aquatic Center Dec. 18 through 21. Webe-Gale won two gold medals in the 4x100 relay and 4x100

medley.

The Chesapeake Elite meet is one of the biggest swimming meets held during the year at OCCC, said Chesapeake head coach John Brown.

The meet spans several days and runs full Olympic events. The events allow both professional and amateur swimmers to

compete.

"There are usually 70 to 80 teams, most of them from outside Oklahoma," Brown said.

"This meet gives swimmers the chance to race side-by-side with Olympic swimmers."

Approximately 500 swimmers are expected to compete at the Chesapeake Elite meet.

Drunk driving is a costly ordeal for two OCCC students

"DUI,"

Cont. from page 11

from starting.

"I can remember missing class and being late for work, because of drinking the night before and failing my Breathalyzer in the morning," Melissa said.

Adam found the Breathalyzer device to be embarrassing.

"I hated having that thing keep beeping and going

off all the time while I was driving," he said. "Also having to blow in a machine every time you wanted to start your car can get annoying."

Adam's fee was also \$25 per violation.

After the six months of driving with a modified license, the wait is over; they're both able to receive their driver's license again, after a small fee of \$300.

"I thought I was done

paying for stuff, then out of nowhere another fee arises," Adam said with disgust.

Adam and Melissa both agreed that getting a DUI and going through the

whole process made them more knowledgeable about the dangers of drinking and driving.

"If I'm going to drink when I have to drive, I'll be responsible and call a cab

or a friend," Melissa said.

For an exclusive account of how a DUI cost someone a night in jail, go to the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer. Look under "Online Exclusives."

YOU AND A FRIEND ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL SCREENING



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
WILL SMITH SEVEN POUNDS

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA AN OVERBROOK ENTERTAINMENT ESCAPE ARTISTS PRODUCTION
A FILM BY GABRIELE MUCCINO "SEVEN POUNDS" ROSARIO DAWSON MICHAEL EALY WITH BARRY PEPPER AND WOODY HARRELSON
MUSIC BY ANGELO WILLI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAVID CROCKETT DAVID BLOOMFIELD KEN STOVITZ DOMENICO PROCACCI WRITTEN BY GRANT NIEPORTE
PRODUCED BY TODD BLACK JAMES LASSITER JASON BLUMENTHAL STEVE TISCH WILL SMITH DIRECTED BY GABRIELE MUCCINO
PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
THREATENING MATERIAL, SOME DRUG USE, CONTENT AND A SCENE OF SEXUALITY
DECEMBER 19

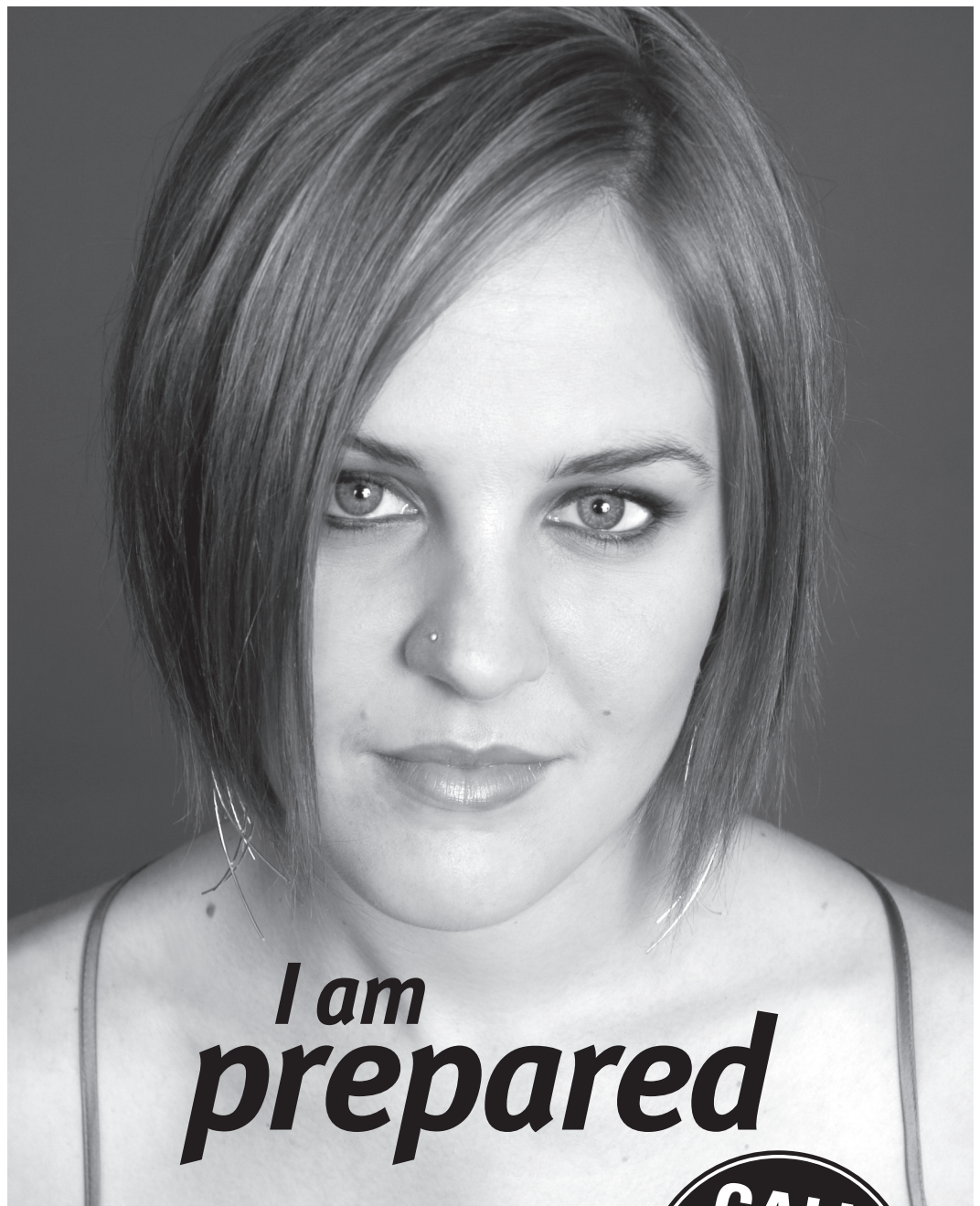
**Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Harkins Bricktown 16**

Supplies are limited. Complimentary passes are available in the Pioneer office 2M6 MB on a first-come, first-serve basis. One admit-two pass per person with a valid OCCC ID and proof of age.

Okla. City Community College
PIONEER

COLUMBIA PICTURES
© 2008 COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

IN THEATERS DECEMBER 19



If you've had unprotected sex — for whatever reason — Planned Parenthood® is here for you. Emergency contraception (EC) — also known as the "morning-after pill" — can prevent pregnancy if started within five days after unprotected sex. It's safe and effective, but the sooner you take it, the better. High-quality, personal care at an affordable cost.



 **Planned Parenthood®** | ppcok.orgsm

TALK TO US IN CONFIDENCE. WITH CONFIDENCE.

Highlights

Pathways Middle College Bake and Origami sale

Pathways Middle College is holding its annual Origami Holiday Ornament Sale from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, and Thursday, Dec. 11 in the Main Building near the cafeteria. The bake sale will be held in the same location. Origami ornaments will be 25 cents to \$1 and the bake sale is donation-based. For more information, contact Jackie Seabourn at 405-682-1611, ext. 7840.

Guitarist Brad Richter, cellist Viktor Uzur in concert

Guitarist Brad Richter and cellist Viktor Uzur will play in concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, in the college theater. Brad Richter taught himself how to play guitar and compose at the age of 12. At 18, he was awarded the Presidential Scholarship to the American Conservatory of Music, where he began composing, performing and eventually teaching professionally. Viktor Uzur has appeared as a soloist and has held concerts in many countries in Europe, Asia and North America.

College Poets and Writers meeting

The College Poets and Writers will meet from 1 to 1:50 p.m. on Wednesdays, in room 1C3 in the Arts and Humanities area. For more information, contact Chris Verschage at 405-682-1611, ext. 7140.

Graduation Application Information

The end of the semester is fast approaching and those who are completing degree requirements this semester need to go the the graduation office to apply. All students, whether getting a certificate or degree must apply for graduation. Students planning to graduate in the spring should apply as well. For more information, contact Student Records and Graduation services at 405-682-7512.

Baptist Collegiate Ministries meeting

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries will have a meeting at noon Monday, Dec. 8, in the theater entrance. Everyone is welcome for Christian fellowship and a free lunch. For more information, contact Mike Barnett at 405-323-0583.

Psychology/Sociology club meeting

The Psychology/Sociology club will have a meeting from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in room 1X3 of the Main Building.

Admiring art



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Wassim Tabet, Civil Engineering major, admires some of the art work that lined the hallway leading to the Arts and Humanities division. The artwork included canvas paintings, sculptures and photography. The works were provided the Student Art Guild.

HOPE helps children at party

Christmas event on OCCC campus for first time

By Michael Hendricks
News Writing Student

The college's Hispanic organization will assist Santa by helping host a Christmas party on campus, hosted by the Latino Community Development Agency, said Hispanic Organization to Promote Education president Martin Ramirez.

Almost 800 children are expected to attend, he said.

"Twenty members of HOPE are participating in the toy drive," he said.

The children will receive toys and take pictures with Santa Claus on Saturday, Dec. 15.

HOPE, along with the Future Alumni network, will supply volunteers to assist in running the event.

Ramirez said the volunteers from HOPE will direct children where to go, make sure each person who attends the event receives a meal and make sure each child takes a picture with Santa.

The event is geared towards children ages 12 and under from different elementary schools around Oklahoma City.

Paul Burkhardt, Community Outreach coordinator said the children are recommended through different family support programs, but it is also open to the Latino community.

In order to receive a gift, the child must also have an academic need.

"This toy drive helps mostly Latino children, because it is sponsored by LCDA," Burkhardt said.

This is the first time the event will take place on the OCCC campus, he said.

There will be entertainment by Ronald McDonald, pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, gifts and meals that include a McDonald's hamburger, fries and an apple.

The gifts will be based on the child's age and gender groups.

Christmas party coordinator Damamis Barajas said infants will receive blankets, teething rings

and rattles.

Boys, ages one-and-a-half to three years, will receive little toy cars.

The girls of those ages will receive baby dolls.

Boys who are between 4 and 7 years old will receive footballs.

The girls in that age group will receive Barbie dolls.

Children ages 8 to 12 will receive electronic toys, such as radios, mp3 players and handheld video games.

"In the spirit of Christmas, this is an event filled with joy for parents and kids alike," Burkhardt said.

The Christmas party will be held in two sessions. Each session will facilitate 350 children at a time.

The first session to the party is from 9:45 a.m. to noon. The afternoon session is from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Students wishing to participate can contact Ramirez at 405-682-7859 or Burkhardt at 405-682-1611, ext. 7280.

Let's fight hate with love.



SHOW THE HEART OF AMERICA

Like most Americans, millions of young people have been deeply affected by the terrorist attacks. They are asking for a way to get personally involved and make a difference.

By purchasing The Heart of America Pin, corporations and organizations can support the relief efforts and also help young people get involved in creating a better world.

All profits from the sale of pins will support The Heart of America Foundation's community programs and Family Relief Fund for the families of the victims of terrorism. Show the world the power of love.

Corporations and organizations can visit The Heart of America Foundation's website at www.heartofamerica.org for information about how they can help. Retail orders may be placed directly with the pin's manufacturer, Friends, Inc. at 1-877-1-CARE PINS (422-7374).



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 adman@occc.edu.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: 1992 Chevy Lumina. Needs some work. \$800 OBO. Call 405-881-7783.

FOR SALE: 1983 Ford Mustang. 4 cylinder. New transmission and carburetor. Drives fine. \$1,500 OBO. Call: 405-603-3576.

EMPLOYMENT

NEED SOME DOUGH?

Big Sky Bread Company is looking for an energetic, reliable person to help customers, slice bread and bag granola. Apply in person at 6606 N. Western Ave.

Independent Film: Accepting applications for an independent film shoot that will be in March and April of 2009. It will be filmed primarily in Oklahoma with some locations in Austin. The positions being offered are: FCP Editor, Key Grip, Grip 1, Grip 2, Grip 3, Best Boy, Camera Operator, Second A.C., Art Director, and Location Sound Recordist. Resume, references and photo required. Contact: Rockhousecinema@mac.com.

PART TIME EMPLOYEE NEEDED:

Bilingual, reliable, energetic person to work at Cricket Wireless store. 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Apply in person at Bucks, 2724 N Santa Fe Avenue. Moore Southwest 104 St. and Santa Fe Ave.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Playstation 2, seven games, memory card, one wireless controller, with Internet connection. \$100. Call: 305-802-1858.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: 7405 S Drexel Ave. 2bdrm updated home. Across the street from OCCC. New Price! Motivated seller! Buyers take advantage! Seller may help you with closing cost! For more information, please call: 405-745-6651, code 99985.



LOOKING FOR A
CAREER
AFTER COLLEGE?

CALL OKLAHOMA
EYE INSTITUTE
TODAY FOR A
REWARDING CAREER
IN THE
EYE CARE INDUSTRY AS AN
OPHTHALMIC
TECHNICIAN.

- Affordable 3 month program
 - Job placement assistance
 - Limited class size
- Financial assistance available

CALL MIKE AT
405-229-3679

700 CROSSROADS BLVD.
CROSSROADS MALL
OKLAHOMA CITY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
MASSENGALE EYE CARE
Licensed by OPBVS

Oklahomaeeyeinstitute.com

FOR SALE: North OKC area. One-bedroom condo. 423 sq.ft. Newly renovated with new stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, stackable washer and dryer. \$36,000. Call: 405-431-9001.

FOR RENT

YOU DESERVE TO LIVE A
LIFE OF LUXURY AT



Minutes from the OCCC campus. Call Debbie today and mention this ad to receive \$200 off at move in with your student ID. 405-717-0594

FEMALE STUDENT LOOKING FOR ROOMMATES: Share a three bedroom house, 3 minutes from school. Clean and quiet. Good for studies. Washer, dryer and internet available. \$250 per month plus share bills. Contact Ethel at 405-361-0251 if interested.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Looking for a single female to share a two bedroom, two bath apartment. \$335 per month, all bills included. One pet allowed with a \$125 deposit. If interested please call: 918-409-7122, or email at: bwebre@yahoo.com.

**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE
IN THE OCCC PIONEER!**
Call Cynthia at
405-682-1611, ext 7674

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Norway's capital
- Anchor
- Daisy Mae's creator
- Jungle charger
- Act like a wolf
- Flu symptom
- Buffalo
- Witnessed
- Nothing more than
- Mineral spring
- Capri, for one
- First game of the season
- Pepsi's rival
- Slim
- Word with the opposite meaning
- Paving substance
- Impends
- Toss overboard
- Melody
- Yawning
- Singer McEntire
- but: by no means
- Coral or poppy
- Pie — mode
- Filmmaker Kubrick
- Soft fabric
- Scurries
- Thin coat

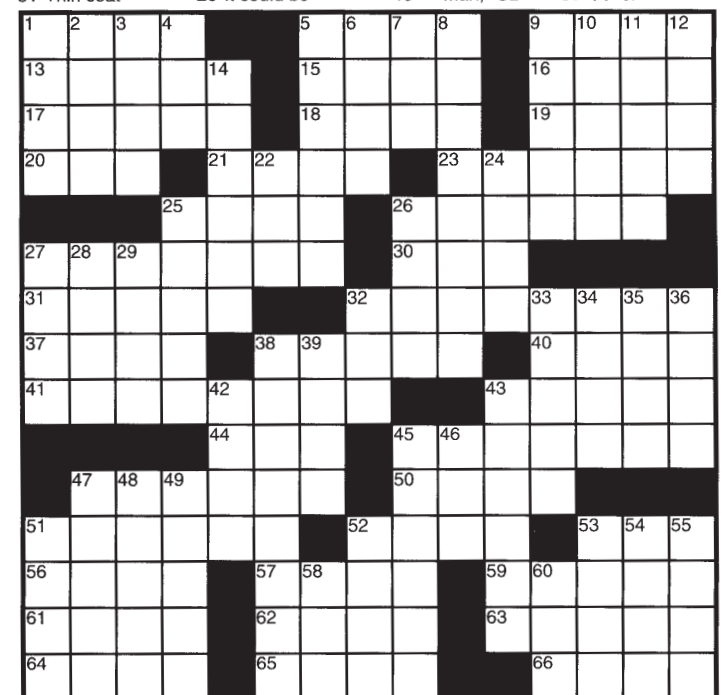
DOWN

- Bogs
- Small amount
- Still-active volcano
- Fiery stone
- Luau welcome
- Move swiftly, as clouds
- Astronaut Armstrong
- Passenger
- The one here
- Gentlemen
- Circular roof
- Spheres
- Freighter
- Mona —
- Lennon's love
- Islam follower
- S-shaped molding
- Bullfight cheer
- Restore to an earlier condition
- Desert animal
- Representative
- Fruit pulp
- Look closely
- Liver and —
- Shade of blue
- Sassy
- Hale-Bopp, e.g.
- Pace
- Can. province
- It could be

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



- proper!
- character
- Actor Perkins
- Ground-cover plant
- Notch
- Boredom
- Golf clubs
- Main roles
- Peddle
- Suit part
- Woodwind
- 51 Carnival
- 36 — a: not any
- 53 Extinct bird
- 38 Wing parts
- 54 Throat-clearing sound
- 39 Tiny fly
- 55 Empty
- 42 "Only Angels — Wings"
- 58 Architect I.M. —
- 43 Kind of salad
- 45 Turtles' homes
- 46 — Man, "Oz"
- 60 Cover



Join one of the **nation's top A/V commercial contractors!** Our clients include **world-class** corporate, educational, airport, houses of worship, government, casinos, and entertainment facilities. As we continue to grow, we are seeking top-notch talent for the following:

A/V Rental Technician (P-T)

Supports rental events and operations on a part-time/on-call basis. Performs all aspects of rental duties that include rental deliveries, returns, support on-site rental events, perform set-up, equipment operation, tear down and re-stock, routine maintenance/repairs, maintain rental records and customer files, process rental agreements, and inventory control. Requires a good driving record, ability to work nights and weekends, prior experience with audio, recording systems, mixing sound, video production, projection, camera operation, switching, and/or theatrical lighting systems; excellent communication skills, quality customer service, advanced PC skills (MS Office), and solid leadership ability required. Ford Audio-Video Systems, Inc.; Submit resumes via Email: hr@fordav.com; Fax: 405/ 946-9991; Phone: 405/ 946-9966; www.fordav.com EOE

**Classified ads are free to
faculty, staff and students.
e-mail ADMAN@occc.edu**

Students are excited about a tuition freeze proposed by state regents

"Freeze,"

Cont. from page 1

more money back in students' pockets.

Sechrist said OCCC has a long history of being committed to holding down costs to allow affordable access to college.

"While OCCC has increased tuition costs less than most colleges and universities in the state, we have had a modest increase every year," Sechrist said.

"OCCC's tuition is the lowest in the state and the nation," he said.

"We have been and will remain one of the best bargains for college students."

OSRHE Communications Director Ben Hardcastle said he does not believe the rollercoaster-like economy

would have an immediate impact on students' ability to afford a public college.

Several Oklahoma college presidents are in favor of the tuition freeze.

Among those are University of Oklahoma President David Boren and University of Central Oklahoma President Roger Webb.

In a press statement, Boren said students need a break from yearly tuition and mandatory fee increases.

Webb said students are struggling just to stay in school.

"We are reaching the elasticity point where we are discouraging students from going to institutions of higher learning and that is a tragedy to Oklahoma," Webb said.

OCCC students are very

optimistic about the possibility of a tuition freeze.

Biomedical engineering sophomore Logan Branscum said he is thrilled about the idea of a tuition freeze.

"School is expensive enough and I am ecstatic that I [might] get a break for at least one year," Branscum said.

"Perhaps in the 2010-2011 school year, tuition will begin to recede, making it easier on students like me who are going into a field that requires a lot of tuition."

Pre-pharmacy freshman Angelina Anaya said she also is excited about the idea of a freeze.

"Hopefully, in the future, we will begin to see tuition drop," she said.

"I am excited about the

[possibility of a] freeze but I would be even more excited if the state could lower tuition so I [could] finish my

degree."

Editor Matt Montgomery can be reached at editor@occc.edu.

International students adapt to changes

"Students,"

Cont. from page 1

the only reason I am here at OCCC.

"Though it was very difficult to adapt to the American society at the beginning, slowly we get used to it," Chhetri said. "Driving a long way to college is the most difficult part."

Many of the international students live in the Norman and Edmond area. This can present a problem as many of them do not have a driver's license when they come to the U.S., Garner said. Many students also do not know how to drive and most of them do not own a car.

Garner said most community colleges do not offer college housing, which is one of the reasons OCCC does not have dorms.

Khurshid Jahan is a nursing major from Bangladesh. Bangladesh is another South Asian country. It is the second largest Muslim country in the world. Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, has more than 2,000 mosques and is known as the city of mosques.

Jahan said non-resident tuition, which she has to pay, is the most difficult part for her at OCCC.

"We pay three times more than American citizens which is difficult for international students," Jahan said.

The Board of Regents determines the tuition fees at OCCC.

"International students and non-Oklahomans pay the same tuition at OCCC," Garner said.

She said, regardless of whether students are from India or Indiana, they pay the same tuition fees at OCCC.

Jahan believes OCCC should offer more scholarships for international students.

"It's very hard for international students to pay the tuition fees," she said.

She said she wishes the college would try to provide student loans or some kind of funds for those students.

Garner said most scholarships are funded by the state of Oklahoma and those go only for Oklahomans. She also would like to see more scholarships

for international students.

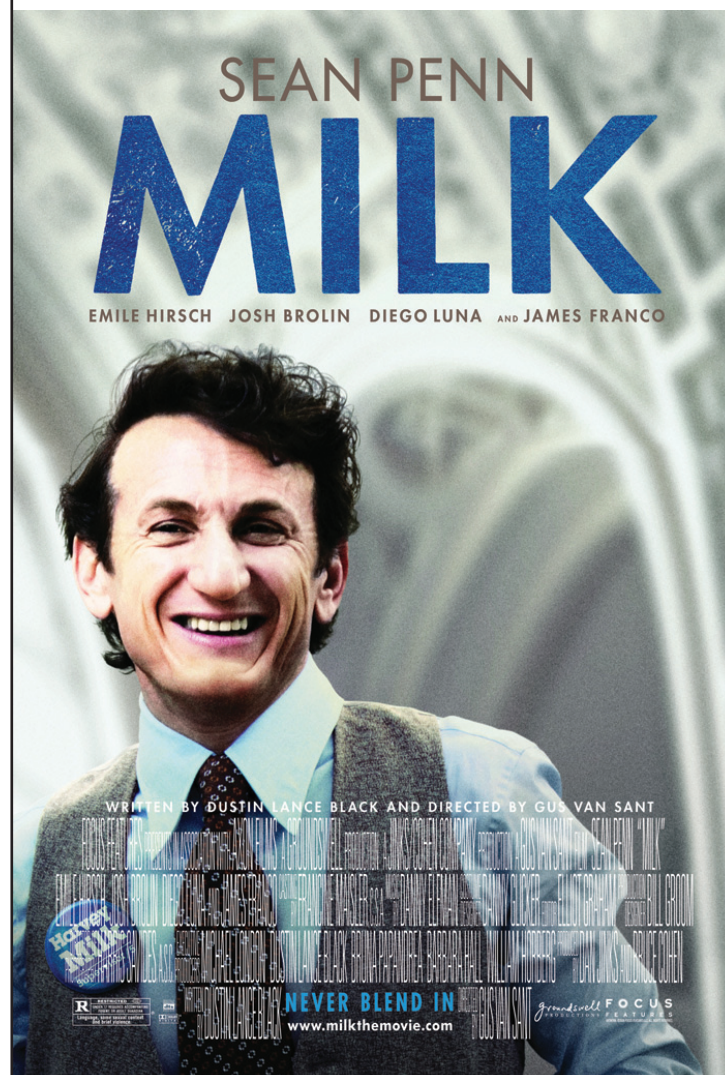
M.D. Tariquzzaman, biology major from Bangladesh who is a resident of Oklahoma, said the college should offer more jobs for international students to work on campus. This would at least help the students to pay the cost of tuition for the college, he said.

Some international students work off campus in gas stations and fast food restaurants to survive and pay tuition. However, they do so at a risk since U.S. Immigration does not allow international students to work off campus. They are allowed to work only on-campus jobs.

For more information about OCCC's International student program, contact Garner at 405-682-7884 or sgarner@occc.edu.



YOU AND A FRIEND ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL SCREENING



**Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Harkins Bricktown 16**

Supplies are limited. Complimentary passes are available in the Pioneer office 2M6 MB on a first-come, first-serve basis. One admit-two pass per person with a valid OCCC ID and proof of age.

Oklahoma City Community College
PIONEER



IN THEATERS DECEMBER 12

Enroll Now for Spring

**Spring semester intersession classes
are Jan. 5 through 16.**

Spring 16-week classes start Jan. 20.

**Enroll by calling 405-682-1611, ext. 7784
or online at www.occc.edu.**