

- Summer classes helpful, editorial, p. 2.
- Earth Day time to reflect on use, p. 7.
- Club Soccer short of players, sports, p. 8.
- BCM offers fellowship, clubs, p. 10.

PIONEER

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Tie a blue ribbon...



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Judith Meraz, interior design freshman, ties a blue ribbon on a tree at the Child Abuse Prevention Month display outside the entrance to the College Union. "I believe one of the worst things people can do is hurt someone who has no way of defending themselves," Meraz said. Child Development Program Director Cecilia Pittman said the tree will be on display the entire month.

Bad economy prompts people to seek degrees

OCCC's headcount rises 6.8%

By Adriane Scherer
News Writing Student

"Now's the time to be a student."

—Jimmie Hendrix
OCCC Student

The connection between the state's economic struggles and the increase in enrollment at OCCC is becoming clear to students and administrators alike.

Spring 2009 enrollment numbers show an increase of 6.2 percent in credit hours and 6.8 percent in headcount, compared to the spring semester of 2008.

Enrollment growth has been highest among the age group of 25- to 29-year-olds, said Vice President for Academic Affairs, Felix Aquino.

The recession is most likely influencing the enrollment increase. Typically, community college enrollments go up when unemployment goes up, Aquino said. The state's unemployment rate has risen from 3.3 percent to 5 percent from January 2008 to January 2009, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This means that as the economy falters, enrollment rises due to an increase in returning students who have been laid off or are hoping for a more job-promising degree.

"Now's the time to be a student," said Jimmie Hendrix, a second semester public relations major and returning student in his 30s.

Hendrix is currently

working for Aflac Insurance, but said he returned to school because he wants to work his dream job.

Many would agree that now is the time to be a student, including 30-year-old Lawrence Cagle, who is still undecided about his major.

Cagle said he decided to attend college this semester after he was laid off by an auto auction company.

"I knew I wanted to go to school eventually but I was considering a later time," he said.

Although enrollment growth has been highest among older students, it is being felt across the board.

The number of students has risen by about 7 percent from spring 2008 to spring 2009 and the number of returning students also rose 5.3 percent from spring 2007 to the present semester, according to Executive Director of Planning Stu Harvey.

When asked their opinion about the cause of enrollment growth, many of the students usually suggest that it is OCCC's course transferability, one-on-one teaching, and tuition prices that have attracted more students. The eco-

See **"Economy,"** page 4

Audio books offered in library

By Kerri Wright
News Writing Student

Audio books are now available in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. This is the first semester audio books have been ordered for the library, said System Librarian Dana Tuley-Williams.

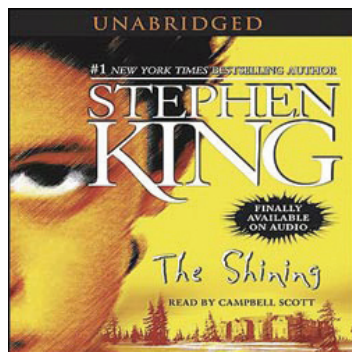
A display with a selection of audio books is located in the center of the first floor of the library.

"The audio books have been very popular," Tuley-Williams said.

"Even as I was setting up the display table, people were taking them."

She said the remainder of the audio books are located on the second floor, shelved with the print books.

"I tried to buy different books across all genres that would interest dif-



ferent people, students, faculty and staff," Tuley-Williams said.

She said there is a cross-section of fiction, literary classics, best sellers and casual reading.

"It's a good idea," said OCCC student Nidia Reyes. "They can help people understand books better."

Tuley-Williams said audio books are perfect for those who love to read but find themselves short on time.

"The Fountainhead" by Ayn Rand is a classic that many would like to read, she said.

However, Tuley-Williams said, at 743 pages in length, it may be hard to find the time to get through it.

Listening to the novel, while driving or relaxing at home or on vacation, makes the process much quicker, she said.

There are currently 117 audio books available for checkout. Some titles of note are: "The Innocent Man" by John Grisham, "The Shining" by Stephen King, "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte, and "The Audacity of Hope" by Barack Obama.

The process for checking out an audio book is the same as for all books.

See **"Books,"** page 4

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Summer classes benefit students

There are five weeks remaining in the spring semester. This means some students are thinking summer break.

What most students should consider is the summer intersession, or summer school.

Granted, there aren't as many classes available during the summer, but instead of just taking a break and running the risk of forgetting information, why not just continue to go to class?

Biology sophomore Devon Seilin said he would rather just relax and take time off, but is going to take summer classes.

"I just want my degree at this point," he said. "I would rather take classes now so I don't have to worry about them in future semesters."

Summer classes can be costly, but with financial aid and student loans, students could still attend classes.

Books are also a hindrance. They can become quite straining on the pocketbook when it would be much easier to continue to save for the fall semester.

What most may argue is summer is a time of relaxation. Going to the pool, staying out late, waking up late and working for those three months.

Student Jacob Narey said he just wants to work and save money.

"I'd rather take the time off and increase my funds so I can be sound going into the next semester than have the headache of more classes," he said.

A break would be nice, but it leaves students susceptible to forgetting what they've learned.

Knowledge retention in college can be extremely tough. What better way to fine tune your skills than by continuing to sharpen your mind?

If it is relaxation you wish to achieve, take advantage of going to class full-time during the summer, especially since full-time is only 6 hours.

Less class time than normal could provide for some relaxation.

Plus, the associate degree doesn't seem so far away, because if classes are taken in the summer, that lessens the amount of hours needed to graduate.

Working is still a viable option, and more hours could be opened up to work if the college load is less.

Applying for financial aid, scholarships and tuition fee waivers are excellent ways to offset summer costs.

College can be hectic and crazy, and a nice, relaxing three months off sounds good, but students would probably benefit a little more from taking summer classes.

So, instead of taking three months off and possibly developing rust, sharpen the skills already acquired.

—Stephen Sossamon
Editor

Smoke-free a possible issue

To the editor:

After reading the article regarding the OCCC campus going smoke-free by 2010, I have to say, I'm somewhat alarmed. In particular, "You wouldn't be allowed to smoke or have tobacco products anywhere on campus".

I share sympathy with all the complaints regarding smoking — discarded cigarette butts, clouds of smoke surrounding entrances, etc.

We have to keep in mind all these complaints represent irresponsible smokers. Some smokers hide themselves away from main entrances and discard their cigarettes in the proper containers.

In my opinion, the problem can be easily cured by campus officers.

A couple of years ago, my husband and I were entering the Main Building one evening for an event.

We used Entry 11 and just a few feet away from the door stood two campus officers, both smoking.

I know these two officers,

so I reminded them that smoking was not allowed so close to an entrance.

The response I got was, "Oh well." We have smokers who will smoke near the doors and toss their cigarettes on the ground because there's no enforcement of current policies.

On numerous occasions, I've called Security about smokers near entries and the response was that Security relies on the general public to take care of this problem.

In short, if you see someone smoking near an entry, you are supposed to tell them to leave by yourself.

The solution to the smoking problem is not to tell smokers they can't smoke on campus; the solution is to have the campus officers enforce current rules regarding smoking.

Do you really think you can go for years not enforcing the rules?

If OCCC is really considering pushing this issue forward, compromise could be an option.

Perhaps OCCC should

designate one or two areas for smoking on campus.

These could be far from main entrances where smokers can smoke in peace without endangering non-smokers.

—Name withheld
by request

PIONEER

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

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

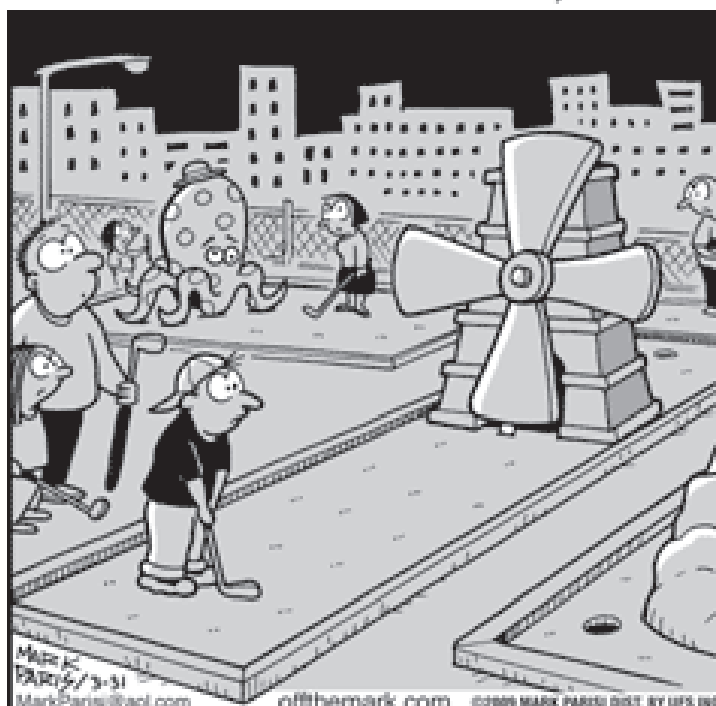
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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



EVERYONE LAUGHED WHEN JOEY'S BALL
GOT STUCK UNDER THE WINDMILL...
UNTIL THE ENTIRE CITY WENT BLACK

Comments and Reviews

Death penalty stirs heated debate for two professors

To the editor:

I was walking down the hall today behind a couple of political science professors and was quite surprised at the discussion I was eaves-dropping in on.

The two professors, Dana Glencross and Markus Smith, were trash-talking each other as to who could out-debate whom on the issue of the death penalty.

I was shocked at the compelling arguments they made and humored at the wit they displayed.

Smith: Who has any right to take the life of the other?

Glencross: Don't some crimes deserve it?

Smith: What evidence can you provide showing that the death penalty actually deters such crime?

Glencross: What evidence do you have that it does

not? Evidence shows the fear of death at the top of most people's list.

Smith: What does the Constitution have to say?

Glencross: What about the families of the victims that have suffered so much? Don't they deserve justice?

Smith: What about the families of the accused? Are they any less innocent?

Almost 2,300 people were executed and another 8,800 were sentenced to death worldwide, in 2008. What if any of them were innocent?

Glencross: Don't DNA testing and improved crime scene science eliminate all almost all uncertainty of a person's innocence and guilt?

Smith: Isn't it useless it doesn't bring the victim back to life? Shouldn't a person have to live with his or her guilt rather

than escape a lifetime of shame?

Glencross: You better come prepared. I have my research done.

Smith: All that I can say is that you better bring your "A" game on the 21st.

The death penalty is an issue people have very strong views about.

Walking behind these two the other day made me think a lot about it.

How do others feel about the death penalty? Is it Constitutional? Does it deter criminals? Does it serve justice? What about the costs? Does it cause pain? Is it right?

This debate was organized by the College Democrats and will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21 in CU3.

Do you know what you believe?

—Erin Wells
OCCC Student

'Adventureland' highlights 1987

Once again the 1980s pull me back to a time of the sideways ponytail and new-wave music.

"Adventureland," set in 1987, is the sophomore effort of director and writer Greg Mottola of "Superbad" fame.

However, you shouldn't go see "Adventureland" in hopes of enjoying the same kind of immature humor.

Don't get me wrong, "Adventureland" has some hilarious moments, but first and foremost, it is a coming-of-age story of an upper-middle class college graduate. Because of the state of the stock market in the '80s, he must pay his own way to grad school after his father is forced into a lower paying position.

Jesse Eisenberg plays James Brennan, the aforementioned grad, who is forced to take a summer

job at Adventureland, the local amusement park.

Adventureland is run by Bobby and Paulette, played by Bill Hader and Kristen Wiig respectively.

Hader provides the most enjoyable comic moments of the movie with his particular brand of off-beat humor.

Again, this film is not primarily a comedy. That is where the character of Em Levin comes in.

Played by Kristen Stewart of "Twilight" fame, Em becomes Brennan's love interest.

Their interaction seems tragically awkward, giving their story a feeling of realism.

Without revealing too much of the plot, Brennan makes new friends, problems arise with his love life and he begins to step into his new role as an adult.

This movie's characters

are about as true to life as it gets. They all seem like the friends of friends that everyone has a story about.

While the movie is set in the '80s, it doesn't feel like an '80s movie; it feels effortless.

In contrast to the reality of the setting and characters, some of the shots of the film seem surreal because of their simplicity and sheer beauty. The cinematographer, Terry Stacey, did an amazing job, and I don't think it would have been the same experience without his work.

Mottola has made an incredible film in which the fantasy of film embraces the rigors of reality. It is not a new story, but it would be a shame to miss this wonderful retelling.

Rating: A

—Luke Carter
Staff Writer

View from the PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



With the dramatic downturn in the economy and the forecast for a continued worldwide recession replayed over and over in the media, it is understandable if one feels uncertain about the future. In one way or another, I have been asked, "Will OCCC be OK during the next few years?"

The short answer is absolutely we will be ok. With that I don't mean to imply that it will be business as usual it probably won't be but OCCC is in a strong financial position and is well-positioned to see our way through this downturn.

My recent conversations with students and employees at OCCC provide great encouragement regarding the future. At a meeting with The Leadership Council, several students spoke to me about the importance of not cutting services to students, including making sure instructors have what they need to be effective in our labs and classrooms. The students also said if there had to be budget cuts and if all areas of the college would be pitching in to help balance the budget, they would be supportive of a small increase in tuition, if it would be used to maintain the quality of instruction at OCCC.

At a luncheon meeting with a small group of faculty, I asked what if the college did not give salary raises next year and had modest cuts in department budgets to cover the expected reduction in support from the state. Everyone there indicated that if that's what it takes to balance the budget, they would understand and felt they would be doing their part to help get through a difficult budget year. At a meeting with administrators, many indicated their willingness to take on additional duties without additional compensation, including teaching a class, to help reduce costs.

The selfless willingness of the students, faculty, staff and administrators to work together and contribute in some way to balance the budget is the best indication that we will meet the financial challenges that lie ahead. While no decisions about tuition, salaries or budget cuts are final, all options must be considered as we align our expenses with an expected shortfall in funding from the state.

As a student, your decision to go to college, stay in college, and complete your degree is the path to long-term financial success and stability and getting a college degree may be the best thing you can do to help Oklahoma and America not only survive the current situation, but also to thrive in the future. All the experts agree that it will take some time to recover, but recovery will come. The next couple of years may be lean, but I remain confident OCCC will continue to fully meet its mission of empowering students to achieve and empowering our community to thrive both now and in the future.

—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President

Student wins scholarship via creativity

By Justin Combs
Staff Writer

Nursing student Kristin Moore was recently awarded a \$500 scholarship through Tinker Federal Credit Union based on a video contest.

Moore said she placed third out of 30 contestants.

She found out about the

contest through banking online with TFCU.

"It was easy and fun," Moore said. "People should apply for scholarships and this one seemed a lot more up-to-date."

Moore said she's applied for scholarships before by writing essays but to no avail.

She said the freedom to be creative attracted her to

the video contest.

After finding an advertisement on the bank's webpage about the scholarship, Moore entered a unique video that depicted spending habits that lead to overdraft fees through drawings she did herself and captured to video with the help of her husband.

"What I did was a lot more complicated than

other contestants," Moore said.

"A lot of people just recorded themselves talking."

Moore said TFCU does the contest every year as well as other contests.

"They're doing a contest for a still picture next," Moore said.

"Just the funniest, most creative still picture of their thumb with a smiley face on it."

Moore said the only criteria for entering the contest was that you had to be a current college student.

Contestants had to campaign for votes and Moore won by handing out fliers to promote her video to fellow students and friends.

For more information about the contest, go to www.BuckTheNorm.com

Staff Writer Justin Combs can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Economy likely cause of numbers increase

"Economy,"

Cont. from page 1

economic status is not even mentioned.

Most of these factors do affect OCCC's enrollment rates, but they generally stay constant, attracting the same amount of students over time, Aquino said.

He said although transferability and teaching techniques stay the same, less expensive tuition prices are more appealing in struggling times.

Statistics of rising enrollment are more commonly seen in community colleges such as this one because of the lower cost, Aquino said.

Jon Horinek, Recruitment and Admissions director, said OCCC offers a less-expensive alternative for higher education than four-year universities and also offers over a hundred different in-school scholarships.

Horinek said the economy has had no effect on the number of scholarships available to students.

This year's list contains 165 different scholarships he said.

Ten OCCC students, ranging from age 18 to 50, were asked what they think about the increase in enrollment.

Of those, students over age 22 almost instantly mentioned the economy and how it affects enrollment increases.

Two younger students

said they are aware of the connection between unemployment rates and returning students.

Michael Lybolt, a second semester business major, and Dedrick George, a second semester entrepreneurship major, are 18-year-old first-time students who have lost their

part-time jobs.

Lybolt lost his job as Con-way cut back on employment, and George lost his job at Circuit City when the entire establishment shut down.

"Now with the economy, you have to have a degree to even get a job," George said.

Audio books great way to get through long books, novels

"Books,"

Cont. from page 1

Tuley-Williams said.

Simply make a selection and take it to the circulation desk with your OCCC ID card, she said.

At the end of the semester, Tuley-Williams said, she will evaluate the success of the audio books and determine whether to order more titles.

She said considering their popularity so far, she suspects she will be adding more to the library's audio collection.

"We are also going to

consider purchasing downloadable audio books," Tuley-Williams said.

"This would allow students, faculty and staff to download audio books to their iPod or other audio devices for listening."

To find a complete list of audio book titles carried by the library, visit the library's webpage at www.occc.edu/library and do an advanced search using the type AUDIOBOOKS.

For other information about the library, click on the "About the Library" link located at the bottom of the webpage.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Do you have news you'd like to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC student worthy of a mention. If so, contact Stephen at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409.

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The Pioneer Online is the place to go
for up-to-the minute sports news
and weekly sports podcasts!
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Newspaper receives \$1,000 grant from OPUBCO for color printing

By Morgan Hill
News Writing Student

Color photos on the front page have been a weekly feature of the Pioneer student newspaper this semester, thanks in part to a \$1,000 grant from OPUBCO, the publisher of The Oklahoman and NewsOK.com.

Joe Hight, OPUBCO director of information and development, said he initiated the grant because his company appreciates the work done by the college's journalism students.

"It was the appropriate place to give it to," Hight said. "OCCC has its journalism students support The Oklahoman and we felt that we should sup-



Joe Hight

port them."

Ronna Austin, Pioneer lab assistant, said the funding for color printing was appreciated.

"It is awesome that the biggest local newspaper showed they care about

our news on campus," Austin said.

She said this is the second year in a row the Pioneer has received a grant from OPUBCO.

Hight said color printing is important to newspapers.

Studies have shown that printing in color is more effective than printing in black and white, he said.

Austin agreed with Hight that printing the newspaper in color makes a difference.

Color printing costs an additional \$150 per week, said Cynthia Praefke, Pioneer advertising manager. She said the college budget doesn't include funds for printing the Pioneer in color.

Most of the cost is usually paid by advertisers who want their advertisements printed in color, Praefke said. But, she said, on weeks when no color ads are purchased, the grant money pays the extra charge.

Austin said she was surprised the grant was given because the Pioneer didn't ask for the money. But, she said, the entire staff was grateful.

"People are very visual," she said. "The pictures are the most readable element and they draw people to

the newspaper."

Some students agreed with Austin.

Shaniqua Holland, nursing major, said she prefers the color photos.

"I like that the Pioneer is printed in color," Holland said. "It is more attractive to my eye and the color pictures make it more interesting."

Elyse Johnson, business management major, said the bold pictures and headings attract his eye.

"It looks like the Pioneer is printed with more bright colors," he said.

Energy conservation techniques help lower campus average utilities cost

By Laura Pope
News Writing Student

How a building is constructed can save money for the college, said J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director.

Because of more energy efficient designs, the college has added 13 percent more square footage in the past eight months, yet the cost of heating and cooling has decreased by more than \$30,000 in comparison to February 2008, Messer said.

He said the Health Professionals Building and the Visual Performing Arts Center have saved on utilities compared to past building additions.

Messer said the conservation is due to energy efficient roofing systems, mechanical and electrical equipment, lighting systems and, most importantly, a full implementation automation system.

The full implementation

automation system allows one portion of a building to be heated or cooled without having to heat or cool the entire structure, he said.

This system helps centralize the specific region of the school that needs special attention to help save in the other areas, even in that same building.

Instead of each building having its own heating and air conditioning systems, it all comes from the super-efficient central unit, which averages \$1.69 per square foot annually to heat and cool campus buildings, Messer said.

He said the cost is half that for the new structures.

"The Health Professionals Building is averaging 80 cents per square foot and the Visual Performing Arts Center is averaging 70 cents per square foot," Messer said.

The addition of the two new buildings using the central system has lowered the average cost of utilities at the school.

The biggest advantage of the recent addition is that the campus average cost of utilities per square foot has been declining as the cost of utilities has been increasing, Messer said.

For example, the utility bill for February was the lowest out of any other month thus far with the new additions.

OCCC to offer flexible evening care

By Kimberly Jones
News Writing Student

Parents taking or teaching evening classes at OCCC now have evening childcare available at the Child Development Center and Lab School.

The new program accepts any child from infant to age 8-years-old for \$10 per evening.

A flexible schedule from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday is available "to help students as much as possible," said Lee Ann Townsend, Child Development Lab supervisor.

The CDCLS is licensed as a three-star facility with the state of Oklahoma and is the only nationally accredited two-year college child development center and lab school in Oklahoma offering student scheduled daytime and evening child care, according to the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"Students make a semester-long reservation which guarantees a place for their child every evening the student is in class," Townsend said.

Since this is not a drop-off service, a pre-enrollment process with an up-to-date shot record and \$15 enrollment fee is required for each child, she said.

Monthly pre-payments are required through the Bursar's office.

Lesson plans filled with project-type activities and reading time creates a learning environment for each child in the program.

"Older kids have an opportunity to receive help on their homework," Townsend said.

She said the program also will continue in the summer to aid students and instructors.

For more information, contact Townsend at 405-682-7561.

editor@occc.edu

Let your voice be heard!

www.occc.edu/pioneer

RateMyProfessors.com seen as a tool by students, instructors

But both voice caution over the anonymous nature of the site

By Caroline M. Echols
News Writing Student

For students wanting for a preview of a professor or class they plan to enroll in, www.RateMyProfessors.com can provide that service.

The site, which includes more than 600 OCCC professors, allows students to post a review rating on the performance of instructors. The reviews are based on easiness, helpfulness and clarity.

A yellow smiley face is given to those who rate above a 4. A green expressionless face is for those receiving a ranking between 3 and 4, and a blue sad face represents any rating below a 3.

An overall quality rating also is posted. The quality rating is determined by averaging all of the scores.

In addition to the rating system, students can post comments about their experiences with professors without having to register with the site.

Student thoughts

Allyce Cover, sophomore, said she used Rate My Professors when selecting her class this semester.

She said she heard about the website from another student who was talking about it in class.

Cover said she would recommend the site to other students.

"The majority of the comments left on the website were actually accurate," she said. "I looked at professors from my past semesters, because I had

a really bad biology professor last semester and found that he had really bad ratings.

"Several other people besides me were having problems with this professor as well. That helps, because now I don't think it was just me."

Students who may be thinking of leaving overly critical feedback over a professor on the site should be aware that professors have the right to respond.

Rate My Professors gives professors the option to leave a rebuttal to the reviews students leave.

Another student said he used the website when enrolling to ensure he didn't take on too heavy a workload.

Carl Freemont, freshman, said he uses Rate My Professors over its competitor, www.pickaprof.com, because it's more user friendly.

"(I like it because) I don't have to create an account with Rate My Professors," he said.

Students also can rate whether the instructors are "hot" or not.

Many students said they did not care about the "hot" option because it does not help students choose a good instructor.

"It doesn't matter whether they're hot or not, as long as they're a good teacher," said Angela Boyd, freshman.

Professor's respond

Students are not the only ones with opinions about the professor rating

site. Professors have some thoughts too.

One professor has undergone an attitude change about the website.

Melinda Barr, history professor, said she believes that, for the most part, the reviews left by students about her were fair and accurate.

She said she has made adjustments to her classes based on student responses and feedback.

"You know, I have tweaked my class requirements or teaching style here and there (because of the site)," Barr said. "Just as I do from the comments made by the students on the paper evaluation forms filled out in class."

She said she hasn't left any rebuttals to comments students have made, but she has had to have a couple of the comments removed from the site.

Barr said she sent an e-mail to Rate My Professors describing why she found certain comments inappropriate and the site removed them.

"Before that experience, I had a very negative opinion," she said. "And now that I realize that I do have some recourse regarding what is said about me, I do encourage students to go and look at that site."

Barr currently has an overall rating of 4.7 from 29 total reviews.

Barr learned what many professors do not know — they are not defenseless when it comes to the reviews left on the site.

In addition to responding to comments, professors can have comments removed from the site if they deem them inappropriate.

James Rose, social sciences professor, said he likes the site.

Rose has a 4.8 overall rating from 23 reviews.

He said he believes stu-

"You know, I have tweaked my class requirements or teaching style here and there (because of the site). Just as I do from the comments made by the students on the paper evaluation forms filled out in class."

—Melinda Barr
OCCC Professor

dents should do their homework before enrolling in a class.

"Students should have a good idea about what that class is and what the expectations for that class will be," Rose said.

He said at the beginning of the semester, he will ask his class who has looked him up on the site.

That show of hands tells him what kind of students he has, he said.

"It tells me they take initiative to gather information on their own to make decisions," Rose said. "That's a sign of a good student trying to make good decisions based on data."

"When we don't have enough data, that's when we make bad decisions."

Discretion advised

Josh Hammers, adjunct professor in the Arts and Humanities Division, said students should not assume everything they read on the site is true.

"While I believe that students should gather information about courses and instructors prior to enrolling, I would caution them to the anonymous nature of many comments and reviews on Rate My Professors," Hammers said.

"Anonymous comments are not necessarily inaccurate, but I believe students can gather the most useful information about courses and instructors by asking friends and trusted acquaintances who have previous experiences with

the course or the instructor."

On the site, Hammers has a 4.4 rating from 9 reviews.

Some students expressed similar feelings of caution.

Leslie Rogers, sophomore, said although she took a look at the website before enrolling in her classes this spring, she only used the ratings as a rough guide.

"I don't put much stock into what students say about the professors personally," Rogers said. "Most of the negative comments come from lazy people who weren't willing to work for their grade and then got mad when they got a bad one."

"I mainly use it to find out what kind of workload I can expect from certain professors."

Hallie Chambers, business major, said she uses Rate My Professors, but she relies on her friends for the bulk of her information.

"I normally try to find some friends who can give me their opinions and experiences about their past professors (when enrolling in classes)," Chambers said. "I use RateMyProfessor.com to find information, but you have to remember it's probably not 100 percent trustworthy since it's based on anonymous reviews."

"But if you're going to use it, you should remember to take all the comments into consideration, not just one or two."



OCCC promotes environment awareness in time to celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day

By Derek Jones
Staff Writer

OCCC will host "Green Week," the week of April 20, to recognize Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Earth Day is celebrated April 22, and Arbor Day is April 24.

"Going Green," a brown bag lunch presented by the Regional Food bank, will be held by Student Life from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, in CU1.

A blood drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 23, in the college union.

In efforts to promote a clean environment, "Adopt-A-Street Service Day" will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 24.

Students interested in participating in the Service Day need to register at www.occc.edu/StudentLife, or in the Student Life office.

Brandon Isaak, Communications Lab assistant, has made recycling available at OCCC.

Isaak said Waste Management has provided recycling bins, which are available in the Commu-

nications Lab, Recreation Center, and the Math and Biology Labs.

There also are recycling bins located in the Student Life office and Health and Technology Center, he said.

Isaak serves on the Green Initiative Committee at OCCC.

"Being wasteful is detrimental," he said. "We are recycling, but we should be reusing."

According to Earth Day Network, unhealthy levels of air pollution are in many U.S. cities.

Automobiles count for almost a third of the U.S. carbon dioxide emissions with power plants accounting for most.

Malaria and the West Nile virus will impact the U.S. tremendously due to warmer temperature.

People who live in urban areas because of affordability endure the worst of pollution since lead and paint exposure is so high, according to the Earth Day Network.

According to the American Lung Association, asthma will affect one out of 14 Americans and one out of five families by

2020.

There are many other things people can do to help protect the environment.

Carpooling with friends and colleagues can help reduce carbon emissions from automobiles.

Replacing one standard light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) could save approximately \$100 on a student's electric bill per year.

If everyone in the U.S. would replace one light

bulb with a CFL light bulb, according to the EDN, it would be equal to taking one million cars off the street.

The EDN urges everyone who is interested in helping protect the environment to contact local officials and see where they stand on these important issues.

For more information on how to help the environment, visit the Earth Day Network's website at www.earthday.com.

Best ways to go green

- Buy recycled paper and print on both sides. When using paper in the office, print on both sides of the sheet and recycle the paper when you are finished. By recycling one ton of paper, you can save 17 trees, almost 7,000 gallons of water and more than three cubic yards of landfill space.
- Recycle your outdated technology. According to Environment Protection Agency, Americans throw out two million tons of e-waste each year. Avoid adding to that waste by recycling your old technology. For more information on electronic recycling, visit www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/recycle/recycling/donate.htm.
- Make recycling bins readily available. Make sure your home and office are outfitted with recycling bins for paper, plastic and metal. Keep them out in the open and label them appropriately. Sometimes the convenience factor is all that is needed.
- Recycle your empty ink and toner cartridges. Almost eight cartridges are thrown out in the U.S. every second of every day. That's almost 700,000 cartridges per day.
- Buy remanufactured ink and toner cartridges. Each remanufactured cartridge keeps approximately 2.5 pounds of metal and plastic out of landfills and saves about a half gallon of oil.
- Recycle old newspapers lying around the office. When finished reading the newspaper, either leave it for someone else to read or recycle it.
- Look for the recycled option in all the products you buy. It's not just paper that is recycled.
- Buy rechargeable batteries. It takes 1,000 regular batteries to equal the lifespan of one rechargeable battery. When you are discarding your batteries, recycle them.
- Purchase rewritable CDs and DVDs so that you can reuse them from project to project.
- Reuse your morning coffee cup. Or better yet, buy a mug to avoid the waste caused by throwing away the paper or Styrofoam.

*Source: www.ep.com.

Available recycling centers in OKC

Metal Check Inc
5604 S. Shields Blvd.
405-636-1916

Midland Recycling
1432 W. Main St.
405-232-8811

West Recycle Yard
3900 S.W. 15th St.
405-680-8700

Campbell Crushing
6900 S. Sunnyside Road
405-672-6800

Corrugated Services
803 S. Agnew Ave.
405-232-2206

CFF Recycling
100 N. Bath Ave.
405-239-7144

Waste Connections of OK
4625 S. Rockwell St.
405-745-2942

Recycle for Life
1110 N.W. 2nd St.
405-606-8448

Hite Plastics Recycling
5405 N.W. 10th St.
405-495-4483

Recyclers of Main
1001 S.W. Fifth St.
405-270-0006

Recyclers of Oklahoma
2115 S.W. 19th St.
405-631-2077

C & J Metals
1905 S. Eastern Ave.
405-672-2414

Interstate Metals Corp.
1101 E. Reno Ave.
405-235-2424

*Source:
www.recyclingcenters.org

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Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

•**April 17:** 4-on-4 Intramural Flag Football tournament. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**April 18:** Club Soccer plays the University of Tulsa at 5 p.m. on the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater. For more information, call K.B. Yeboah at 405-255-7735.

•**April 25:** Intramural soccer playoffs to be hosted on the field of the top-ranked team. For more information, call Jalal Daneshfar at 405-974-2377.

•**May 1:** Intramural 4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament to be held in the Wellness Center gym. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611 ext. 7786.

•**May 2:** Intramural soccer championships to be hosted on the field of the top-ranked team. For more information, call Jalal Daneshfar at 405-974-2377.

•**May 11:** T-ball practice begins. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786

Have a sports story idea? Call Justin Combs at 405-682-1611, ext. 7440, or send an e-mail to StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

OCCC Club Soccer Schedule and Results

Feb. 28 vs. OU Lost 0-2
March 7 vs. OSU Lost 0-3
March 8 vs. Rose St. Won 6-3
March 27 vs. OU-Colson PPD
April 4 vs. UCO lost 2-3
April 5 vs. OBU lost 0-3
April 12 vs. P'handle St. @ UCO 1 p.m.
April 18 vs. Tulsa @ OSU 5 p.m.

Just for fun

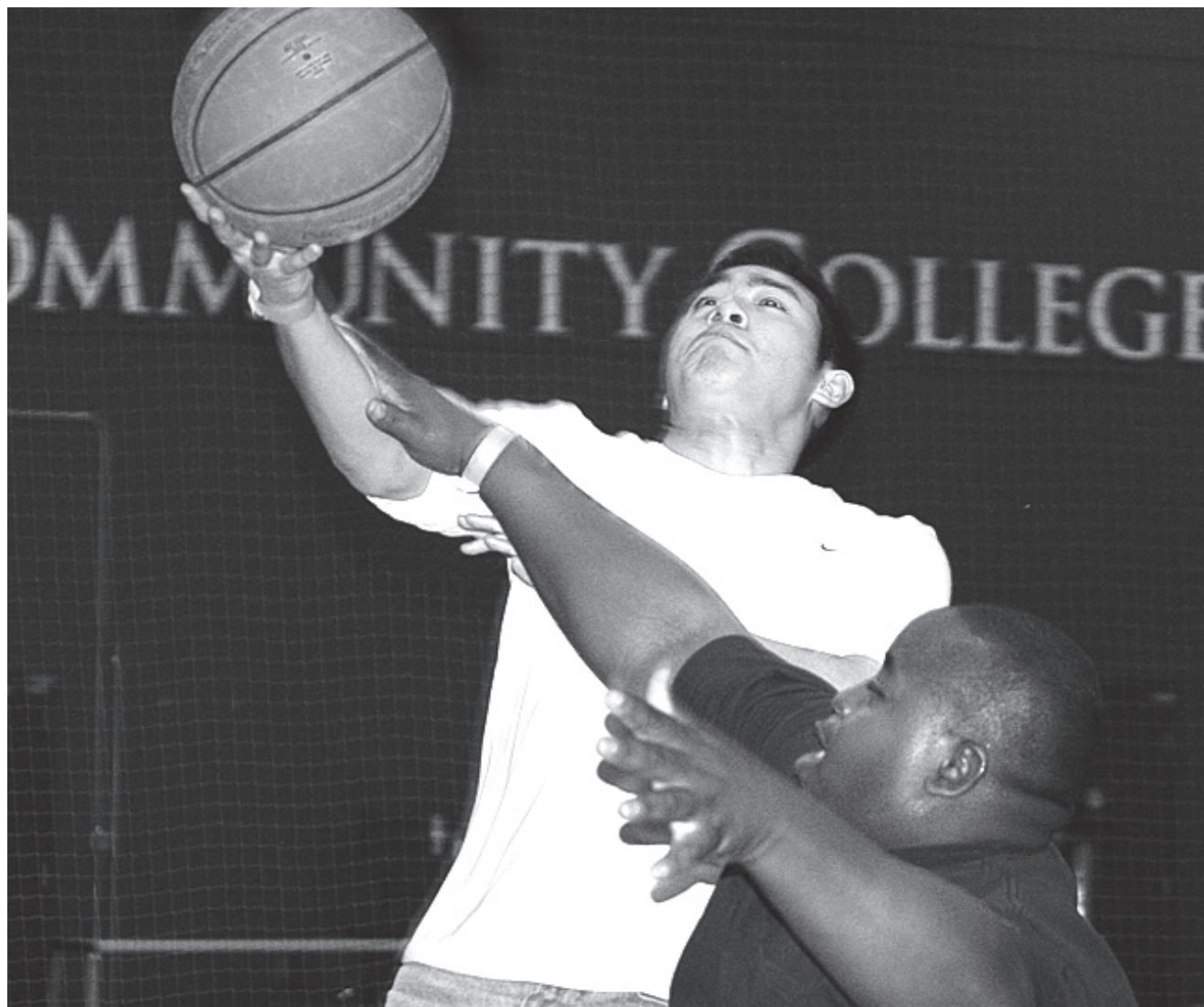


Photo By Joseph A. Moore II

Khoi Dinh, freshman psychology major, and Carl King, sophomore sociology major, get a game of basketball in at the Wellness Center gym before heading to class. For more information about other activities in the Wellness Center, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Club Soccer suffers loss to OBU

By Justin Combs
Staff Writer

Playing one player short may have contributed to Club Soccer's 0-3 loss to Oklahoma Baptist University, April 5 at the University of Central Oklahoma campus.

A strong wind blew throughout the game. Club Soccer coach K.B. Yeboah warned his players about the wind affecting their handling of the ball.

Speaking to the team in a pre-game pep talk, Yeboah told his players to communicate on the field, take advantage of open shots and not give the other team easy opportunities.

OBU's offensive tactics came out strong from kickoff.

OBU sprinted toward the net on their first drive, booting the ball towards OCCC goalie Osvaldo Cuvarrubias. He blocked the shot, which ricocheted out of

bounds.

OBU scored their first point with a throw-in that was head butted by an OBU player. It sailed past Cuvarrubias into the net.

Club Soccer player Abulizi Yimamuassan got a yellow card after an aggressive slide tackle on an OBU player at mid field close to being out of bounds.

The referee gave Yimamuassan a stern warning that kind of playing would not be tolerated.

The action ignited a few heated words between Yimamuassan and the OBU player.

OBU made another goal in the first half despite Club Soccer guards teaming up around the goal to prevent the point.

The first half ended with OCCC down two goals with none to show their effort. During the half time breather, Yeboah wasn't timid about letting his players know about his disappointment.

In the second half, Javier Careon

defended an OBU goal attempt by head butting the ball away from the goal. He sent it in the air toward OCCC's end of the field, but no OCCC forwards were in place to capitalize on the opportunity.

OBU's final goal of the game was scored when an OBU forward dribbled the ball 10 yards from the goal and kicked the ball right past the hands of Cuvarrubias.

Yeboah said plenty of players show up to practice but many of them have to work on the weekends preventing them from making games.

Club Soccer played a make-up game April 4 at Rose State College. They lost 2-3 against the University of Central Oklahoma.

Club Soccer's next game is set for 1 p.m. April 12, at the University of Central Oklahoma against Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Staff Writer Justin Combs can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Mayor Cornett speaks of city's future

By Alice Horn
NewsWriting Student

Mayor Mick Cornett spoke about the success and history of the MAPS initiatives in Oklahoma City, as well as what residents might look for in the future, when he spoke on campus March 12.

Cornett is widely credited with bringing the National Basketball Association's Thunder franchise to Oklahoma City and with putting the city on a diet.

He focused his remarks on the proposed MAPS 3 initiatives.

MAPS 3, also known as the Core To Shore Project, is part of a multi-step plan to connect downtown Oklahoma City to the Oklahoma River.

Moving Interstate 40 seven blocks south of its current location will open up a large area for development, Cornett said. One initiative will consist of tearing down the Cross-



Mick Cornett

town I-40 bridge and replacing it with a metropolitan boulevard.

"For too long we've been focusing on getting people from one place to another as fast as we can," Cornett said.

"I actually want to slow down traffic."

He envisions a boulevard through the city that would do that.

The boulevard would then connect to a large

green space that could become park land.

New York City's Central Park and Chicago's Millennium Park were mentioned by Cornett as examples of what he is working toward.

The park would extend to the relocated section of I-40 where a footbridge over the interstate would link the park to the Oklahoma River development.

The relocation of I-40, the development of the boulevard and the footbridge are all currently funded, and set to be completed by 2012.

The green-space connecting the two, however, is still waiting on funds.

Cornett hopes the park will be completed by 2014. The proposed MAPS 3, which may be on the ballot by December 2009, would include funding to pay for the park.

"We are the envy of every other city in the country as far as what we have been

able to do," said Cornett, speaking of Oklahoma's willingness to invest in the city's future.

"We have asked citizens to believe in themselves and believe in the city, and they have supported us," said Cornett, adding that it will be up to voters to see how far they are willing to go, and how much they are willing to spend.

MAPS 3 also will likely include funding for a new convention center to replace the Cox Center which, despite a renovation in 1999, has remained largely the same since its construction in 1971.

The plan would propose building a new convention center, in an area with room for expansion.

The plan also would allow Oklahoma City to use the Cox Center during the construction and spare the city the cost of two years in lost convention revenue.

The third part of the MAPS 3 plan would re-

vamp Oklahoma City's struggling public transit system.

The city has used its vast physical size and its relatively low density, as an excuse to avoid the issue, he said.

Cornett wants a public transportation system that would not only help downtown residents commute, but also bring people into the city from the metro area.

"We need to stop creating cities where you need to own a car," Cornett said.

The MAPS 3 projects are a continuation of the 1991 MAPS Projects, which funded the renovation of the Bricktown area, including the canal, the Oklahoma River Development, and improvements to State Fair Park, and MAPS for Kids, which raised \$514 million for physical improvements to the Oklahoma City school district.

Students to get inside look at first response team

By Mandi O'Neill
News Writing Student

Students can look inside an ambulance or inspect a fire truck without being in the middle of an emergency by attending OCCC's second annual "Meet Your First Responder Day."

The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, in Parking Lot A south on the north side of campus.

"Meet Your First Responder Day is an opportunity for the campus community to meet the men and women who will respond to OCCC in times of crisis," said Ike Sloas, Campus Safety and Security director.

The complete list of agencies represented include the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office, Oklahoma City Fire

Department, EMSA, OCCC Safety and Security, OCCC Telecommunications, and OCCC Emergency Medical Sciences Program.

"We will be landing an ambulance helicopter on campus provided by the Oklahoma state police," Sloas said.

Have you ever wondered who would be the first person to respond in case of an emergency? There will be many different opportunities to meet a responder, said Sloas.

A first responder is the first medically-trained person to arrive on the scene of an emergency or accident.

This event is the perfect opportunity to witness what events would take place if an emergency were to take place on campus. Students will get to look inside the vehicles and look at the first responder's equipment. By attend-

ing this event, students will receive a free lunch, including a hot dog, chips and drink while supplies last, Sloas said.

Student awaits possible fraud charges

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

An OCCC student awaits possible charges of writing hot checks at the bookstore on March 30, said Sgt. Kevin Tipton, Campus Safety and Security officer.

Clyde Dorr wrote two checks of \$829.56 and \$872.58 for books totaling \$1,732.24, according to the OCCC Safety and Security crime report.

Dorr and an unidentified female suspect entered the bookstore as Dorr made his first purchase of five textbooks.

Dorr then left the bookstore without the woman.

Employees who attend the event and sign the check-in sheet will receive credit for their quarterly health and safety training — and get a free lunch, Sloas said.

Student awaits possible fraud charges

He returned about 10 minutes later, according to the report.

They approached the counter together and Dorr wrote the second check for her books.

According to the report, Dorr was heard telling the woman she could have to end up paying him back.

Later, Brenda Reinke, bookstore director, was advised of the problems with the checks and had them verified by Bank of American.

The account on which the checks were written was a closed account.

ing — and get a free lunch, Sloas said.

For more information, contact Sloas at 405-682-7891.

Student awaits possible fraud charges

Tipton said he reviewed the surveillance footage and determined Dorr was a suspect from earlier in March, in reference to the theft of a book bag from the Bookstore.

By the time the connection was made, Dorr was unable to be detained by OCCC Safety and Security, he said.

However, Dorr is currently in custody of Oklahoma City Police Department for doing the same at another institution, Tipton said.

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

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Highlights

'Best of Broadway' on campus

Three starring Broadway veterans will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, in the Bruce Owen Theater, located in the Arts and Humanities Building. They will perform music from Andrew Lloyd Webber's greatest hits. To purchase tickets, visit the Cultural Arts Series Tickets office in the Main Building, room 1G1(A), or call 405-682-7579.

Employment and Career Workshop

Employment and Career Services is doing a workshop on Internships, Greater Grads and Tinker Air Force Base from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, in room 1G7, located in the Main Building. For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Service Director Debra Vaughn at 405-681-1611, ext. 7362.

Advising and Transfer Center Events

The Transfer and Academic Advisement Office is hosting a tour of several universities for transferring students. Academic Advisement Office is taking a tour to the University of Central Oklahoma on Wednesday, April 15; Cameron University on Thursday, April 16; and Oklahoma City University on Thursday, April 23. For more information about the time and to sign up, contact Transfer and Academic Advising coordinator Sara McElroy at 405-681-1611, ext. 7567.

Student Awards Ceremony

OCCC is organizing the 33rd Annual Student Awards Ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, April 17, in the general dining area. For more information, contact Katie Treadwell at 405-682-7523 or e-mail ktreadwell@occc.edu.

Annual Business Bake Sale

The Business Department is organizing its 4th Annual Business Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, in the Main Building. All proceeds are for the Connie Nieser Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Business Cookbook, created by collecting favorite recipes from faculty, staff and campus competitions, also will be on sale during the event. For more information, contact accounting and business professor Myra Decker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7332.

Tuition Fee Waiver Deadline

Tuition fee waiver applications for the summer semester are now available in the Financial Aid office. Students can submit the completed applications until 5 p.m. Monday, April 20, in the Student Financial Support Services office. For more information, contact Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7524.

Faculty Association Scholarships

The following students received \$300 Faculty Association Scholarships for the Spring 2009 semester: Kathleen Anders and Nicole VanDuzer from Political Science; Frank Balch and Renee Thomas from Physical Therapy Assistant; Kandice Edwards, Susan Fryrear, Cynthia Karaffa and Christina Marston from Nursing; Michael Hakim from Pre-Med; Brenna Littou from History and Political Science and Nicole Slosky from Education.

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 StaffWriter1@occc.edu using the word Highlights in the subject line.

Learning Japanese



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Chiaki Troutman, World Languages and Cultures Center lab assistant, teaches the Japanese language to students during the Conversational Language Workshop on April 8. Students participated in the workshop and learned the basics of the Japanese language.

Baptist Collegiate Ministries offers Bible study, fellowship

By Kerry Wood
News Writing Student

Reaching out to students here on campus to educate them about God and the Bible is the mission of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, said Brad Savage, one of the student members.

In addition, the group provides a place on campus for students to find guidance and support while they pursue their college careers.

Student Kyndra Spaulding said she enjoys the lessons from Mike Barnett, who has been the BCM director since 1979.

BCM is one among the three religious organizations at OCCC.

Barnett said he enjoys helping students through difficult decisions in their lives and through their spiritual walk.

BCM holds two regular meetings each week where they provide food and fellowship.

One group meets from noon to 12:50 p.m. Mondays and the other group

meets from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. Thursdays in room 3N0, located in the Main Building.

BCM attracts an average 15 to 20 students at each meeting, Barnett said.

"The BCM is here to encourage and support students," Savage said.

He said this is his third semester with the organization.

BCM members are going to Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee to play in a basketball tournament April 17 and 18, Barnett said.

He said the Baptist student organizations around the state will participate in the tournament.

BCM members also are planning to attend the National Baptist Student Conference, which is going to be held from Aug. 3 to 8 in Glorietta, N.M., Barnett said.

He said about 20 or 30 members of the group are making planning to attend the weeklong retreat.

The conference is an event where 15,000 to 17,000 other BCM mem-

bers come from around the country, Barnett said.

He said students are raising funds to pay the \$275 fee that will be required to go.

BCM also does other fundraising events like bake sales and flower sales every semester to raise money for its various events.

Barnett said students are also given a chance to enjoy fellowship at Renown, a place where several Baptist college groups come together, listen to a great Christian worship band and meet friends from other colleges.

The fellowship takes place from 7:37 to 9 p.m. every Thursday, behind the Southern Hills Baptist Church located at 8601 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in Oklahoma City.

Barnett welcomes all interested students to join the organization. It's free to join BCM.

For more information on BCM events, contact Barnett at 405-323-0583 or e-mail occcbcm@gmail.com.

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.

ANIMALS

FOUND:

Female Boston Terrier in the lobby of OCCC. She is brown and white; six to eight years old. Please contact Mary at 405-682-7515.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: 2007 Honda Civic LX Sedan, black, 29,000 miles. Full warranty. Immaculate condition. \$14,300, OBO. Call 405-250-6531, or e-mail: royal_racing05@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: 2002 Midnight blue Mitsubishi Lancer. 167 K miles. \$3,500 OBO. Call 405-301-6814.

FOR SALE: 1998 Corolla LE, 144K miles. MP3/CD player. A/C, all power, mint condition. \$4,000 OBO. Call: 405-863-9982.

FOR SALE: 1998 Volkswagen, GOLF GTI VR6, 2-door hatchback. 129K miles. Great condition. \$5,200 OBO. E-mail me at: talharizwan85@yahoo.com.

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APARTMENT: I have a one-bedroom, Montclair Parc apartment to sublet. It is located at S.W. 104 and Pennsylvania Ave. The monthly rent of \$700 includes electric. Available now! Call: 405-850-3619.

THE 2009 EDITION OF THE ABSOLUTE IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PRODUCTION

Another year has gone by and with it a chance to see your name in print.
If you did not submit your poem, story or art, don't wait until November. Pick up a submission form at the Arts and Humanities office, for the 2010 OCCC literary and art journal.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Jump into the water
- 5 Buddies
- 9 He's no gentleman!
- 12 Idyllic spot
- 13 West Indies sorcery
- 15 South African warrior
- 16 Novelist Waugh
- 17 Foul-up
- 18 Vend
- 19 Plentifully supplied
- 21 Ambassador's residence
- 23 Finished
- 24 Bakery meas.
- 25 Pursued
- 28 Scrape
- 33 Burdened
- 34 Gourmet cheese
- 35 Jason's craft
- 36 Have the flu
- 37 Light bender
- 38 Set of tools
- 39 Takes to the slopes
- 41 "You — seen nothin' yet"
- 42 Annoy
- 44 Douse
- 46 Led
- 47 Santa's helper
- 48 Crooner Crosby
- 49 Varnish ingredient
- 53 Foams
- 57 Slope
- 58 Des Moines resident
- 60 Snare
- 61 Spring flower
- 62 Secret meeting
- 63 Busy place
- 64 Pod item
- 65 Makes after taxes
- 66 Distort

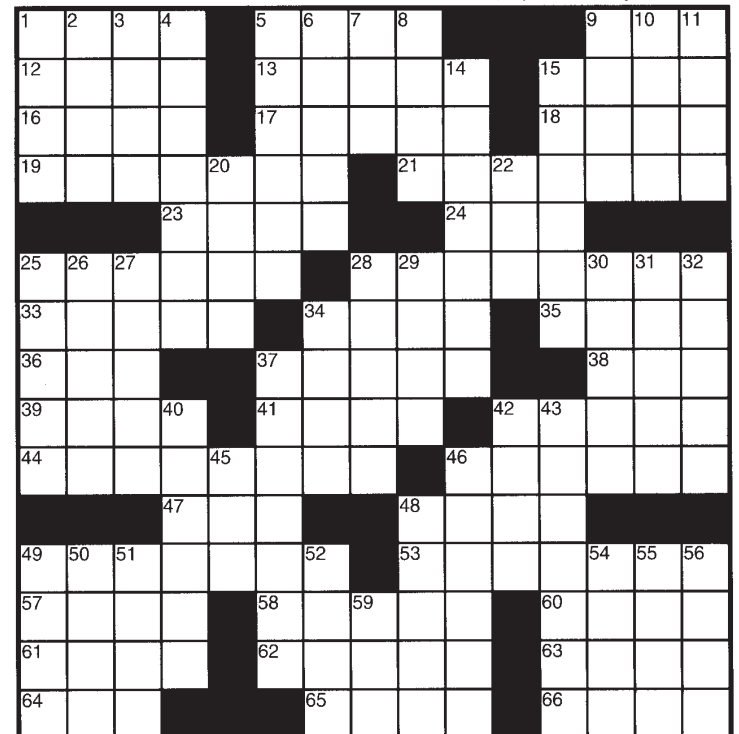
DOWN

- 1 Precious
- 2 Inactive
- 3 Prexy's asst.
- 4 Surround
- 5 Stationed
- 6 Mr. Doubleday
- 7 Meadow
- 8 Secure
- 9 Prompts
- 10 — fair in love . . .
- 11 Properly
- 14 So-so
- 15 Actress Gabor
- 20 Neck and neck
- 22 Powerful snake
- 25 Seminar

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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C	O	K	E		N	E	R	V	E		L	I
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The Pioneer staff is all a "TWITTER" about the newest addition to our media family. Visit us at: www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: "College Writers," 7th Ed, \$40. "Chemistry - The Central Science," \$60. Good condition. E-mail: littleox06_vn@yahoo.com. Call: 469-733-5677.

FOR SALE: Textbook for "Success in College and Life" by Gardner/Jewler/Barefoot. Good condition. \$20 cash only. Call 405-745-9322.

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Student success in math focus of college

By Joshua Fried
News Writing Student

Everybody knows that math is all about solving problems.

Now many people in the math department are working to solve one of the hardest problems on campus — how to enable more students to pass their math classes.

It's no secret the problem exists, said Tamara Carter, Math Department director. She said the numbers tell it all.

About half the students who enroll in developmental math classes fail to finish, causing them not to finish their degrees.

About 60 percent of all OCCC students have to take at least one developmental, or pre-college level, math class before they can enroll in the college math courses required for their degree.

The math department is trying to improve the pass rate by offering numerous ways to get help.

The Math Lab added three new instructors to its faculty this semester and has created weekly mini-lectures to help students enrolled in pre-college lev-

el classes including Basic Math, Elementary Algebra and Intermediate Algebra, Carter said.

The instructors, Zach Austin, Devon Gunter and Daniel Bakewell, are working with professors in the classroom, helping students individually in the math lab and presenting mini-lectures on various areas of math, Carter said.

These instructors give students different perspectives, Carter said. They can help a student catch up or advance in his or her classes and offer numerous ways to get help.

They supplement the videos, computer programs, and online textbooks available in the Math

The new mini-lecture service seems to be making a big difference, said Linda Knox, math professor.

Currently, she said, general help sessions and topic-specific sessions are offered.

The lectures take place throughout the week. A schedule is available in the math lab and is posted on the math department website, www.occc.edu/math.

The lectures are taught like a class with the exception that they are much more relaxed, said Bakewell.

"Students have (the) freedom to express their ideas and often have the ability to change the course of the mini-lecture."

Answering a student's questions is the ultimate goal of the mini-lectures.

"Students are welcome to come in with any questions or problems that they are struggling with and we answer as many of these questions as time allows," Austin said.

Austin has been working at OCCC for seven years as a lab assistant and has been tutoring in math for more than 10 years.

"I [love] the school's focus on students and their success," said Austin in an e-mail message.

His focus is basic math and elementary and intermediate algebra. He also offers individual help to students in the Math Lab.

Students have been very enthusiastic about having full time professors available for individual assistance, Austin said.

Both full-time and adjunct faculty will hold of-

fice hours in the math lab, Knox said.

Student enthusiasm continues to grow as more students use the lab instructors.

"As the semester has progressed, the demand for one-on-one help from individual students has grown exponentially," Austin said. "We definitely do

not have any trouble staying busy."

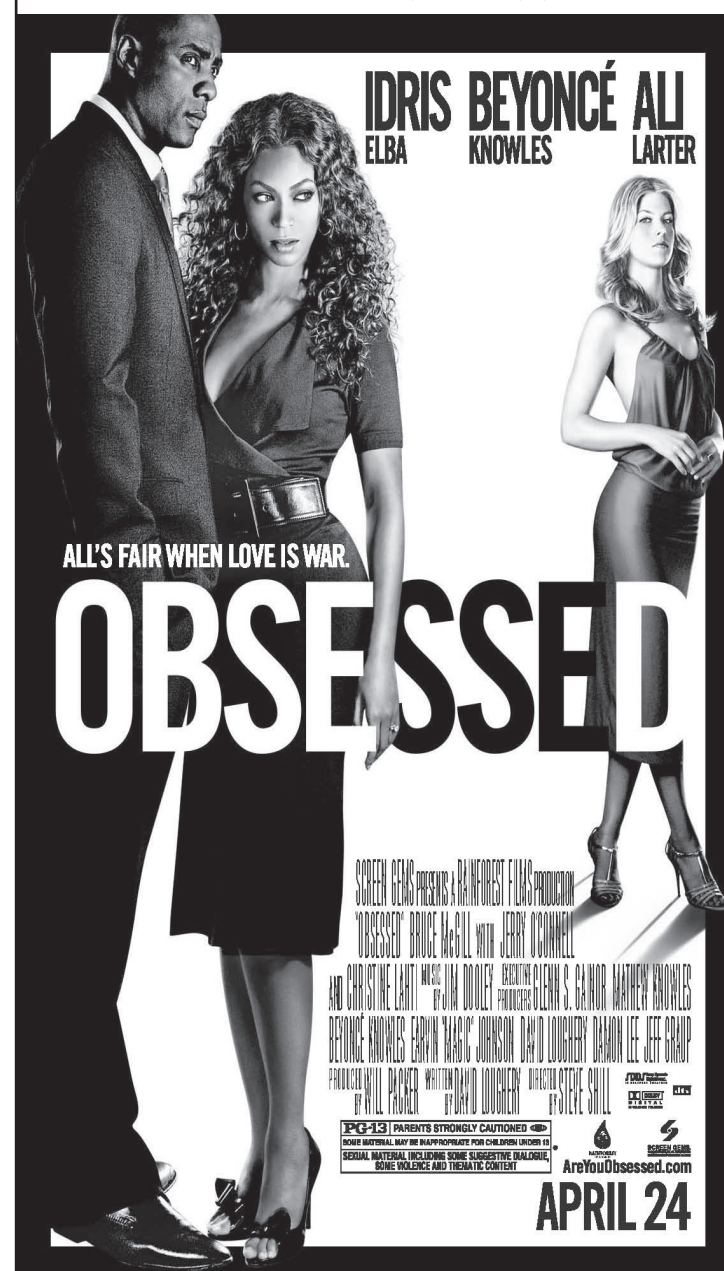
For Bakewell, a student's success is the most rewarding.

"I see a lot of happy faces leaving the testing center knowing that they just passed a test and many times this [is] due to the individual attention they received," he said.



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AMC Crossroads 16

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lid OCCC ID and proof of age.

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Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
Sexual material including some suggestive dialogue, some violence and thematic content

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