

Tuition expected to remain steady despite economy

Budget decrease likely to affect college in other areas, president says

By Stephen Sossamon
Editor

Although the downturn in the economy will almost certainly affect the college budget for next year, tuition is not expected to increase, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist.

In fact, Sechrist said, revenue from tuition and fees is expected to increase by \$1.1 million due to an anticipated 7 percent increase in enrollment.

But that money will only cover the cost teaching more students.

Sechrist said the Legislature is looking at a \$700 million shortfall out of a \$7 billion state budget — a 10 percent decline in state revenue. If spread evenly across state agencies, that would mean a \$2.6 million reduction in state appropriations for OCCC.

Sechrist said such a big loss is unlikely but said he can't pre-

See "Tuition," page 9

Cult classic finds way to OCCC stage

By John Gardner
News Writing Student

"The Rocky Horror Show" has a "don't be afraid to try something new" atmosphere that encourages audience members and actors alike to break away from the norm and explore their own passions, said Brent Noel, theater professor.

The music and theater department's upcoming production of Richard O'Brien's musical will be performed April 30, May 1 and May 2 in the Bruce Owen Theater on

See "Theater," page 9



Photo by Daniel Shaffer
"Rocky Horror Show" cast run through a dress rehearsal. Left to right: Jessica Carabajal as Magenta; Joley Johnson as Columbia; Ezra Copperpot as Riff Raff, and Grantly Brooks as Dr. Frank 'n' Furter.

Test run



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Ryan Elz-bade, automotive technology freshman, diagnoses an EVAP leak in a Chevy Trailblazer's controlled emissions system. OCCC automotive students have been running practice diagnostics to prepare for an upcoming exam, which simulates real customer complaints, Elz-bade said. For more on the college's automotive programs, visit www.occc.edu.

Choirs combine for May 3 concert

By Morgan Hill
News Writing Student

More than 130 voices will be lifted in song Sunday afternoon, May 3, when OCCC's combined college choirs perform Brahms' "Requiem," said music professor Ron Staton.

About 110 college singers will join 24 members of the Oklahoma Choral Artists to perform the classic piece at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 3, at the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City, 1001 N.W. 25th.

The Oklahoma City Philharmonic will accompany the singers with about 40 instruments, Staton said.

The free concert will last about one hour and 15 minutes.

Staton said three groups make up the college choral music program: the Chamber Singers, the Concert Choir and the Symphonic Community Choir.

The Chamber Singers is comprised of 22 student vocalists who audition for positions at the beginning of the semester.

The Concert Choir in-

cludes 30 to 35 voices and is made up of all students who want to sing in the group, Staton said.

The Symphonic Community Choir consists of 75 people and is open to members of the public and students.

Staton said the choirs have been working on the music since spring break.

He said he believes this year's choir is the best he's worked with in his five years at OCCC.

"I have enjoyed this choir and they have done exceptionally well," he said.

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Finals week relief

For some, finals week can be the most dreaded time of the semester.

Projects, exams and presentations will most likely be due during the final weeks of the semester, in all classes.

It would be nice if some professors could better accommodate students by giving some tests the week before finals week.

The idea isn't impossible. If the divisions got together and decided which courses would hold tests on week 15 and which ones would hold tests on 16, students and professors could enjoy less stressful lives.

In some cases, professors seem to think their class is the only class students are taking.

It sometimes seems there is no room to get caught up or make time to prepare.

Many students have jobs or children that subtract from the amount of time to study or prepare.

The University of Oklahoma has a dead week before finals week where students have a week to get caught up and prepare for their classes without being assigned any extra homework.

Having a dead week at OCCC would be nice, but even expanding finals week to two weeks would be beneficial for everyone.

Professors wouldn't have to grade 100 finals exams in a short amount of time just to get the grades in by the following Tuesday.

Final exams typically weigh heavily on the final grade. I would feel better knowing the professor didn't have to rush through the grading to make the deadline.

Classes with finals during week 15 could use week 16 to finish labs, make up homework or get extra credit opportunities.

Most classes do that during the last week anyway.

But for now, students should prepare for the worst. The most important thing about preparing for finals week is staying ahead on your schoolwork.

It is not too late to catch up if you are behind.

Taking one evening per night to get caught up on each class will ease the stress during finals week.

When students are caught up, they can get more sleep and will have less stress, ultimately enhancing their performance during tests.

By doing that, the workload during the last week should be cut in half.

Hopefully, someday professors will be able to accommodate the busy lives of students.

That, in turn, should make everybody happy.

—Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

Mentoring benefits children

To the editor:

I have researched several organizations that do great charitable work that benefits Americans and people worldwide. I have always thought of volunteering as a way to improve my community and to contribute something to the wellbeing of its residents, but I'd never thought about the national significance of volunteerism.

Recently, as a public relations student with the University of Oklahoma (and class of 2007 graduate of OCCC), I had the opportunity to represent Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cleveland County in order to bring attention to their need for adult male and couple mentors.

The time I spent representing them revealed the value of mentoring programs and the incredible impact only four hours a month can have in shaping a child's life. As a single parent, I have been personally impacted by the services BBBS provide children and families as well.

My 10-year old daughter has a "big" through the

program, which was a godsend because we have very few family members or friends in Oklahoma and the move took quite a bit of adjustment for both of us.

My daughter is an only child, so she looks forward to spending time with someone who has a sincere interest in her life. I appreciate my daughter being exposed to a relationship that will cultivate the spirit of community engagement in her.

Although I have volunteered my time for other organizations in the past, Big Brothers Big Sisters is different and it pains me that they are struggling to fulfill their mission, despite the worthiness of their cause.

Our country is on the verge of something. We all hope that "something" is greatness. But greatness starts at home, in our communities, and with our children. It takes individuals who care about the future of our children to tip the scales in favor of greatness once again.

We need to cultivate that sense of civic engagement

and responsibility that institutions of higher learning attempt to instill in their students.

I believe mentoring a child is a good place to start.

—Rashida Douglas
OCCC Graduate

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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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



Comments and Reviews

Tardiness shows disregard for those who are on time

To the editor:

Punctuality was once listed with the virtues of hard work, frugality, honesty and sobriety.

Like honesty, hard work, frugality and sobriety, punctuality is no longer highly regarded by too many people.

Someone said that "punctuality is the thief of time," and if that is true it is only true because so many are now "fashionably late."

I know in some cultures being approximately on

time is acceptable and that is perfectly all right with me if everyone understands that is the norm.

An individual who is habitually and consistently late shows a disregard for the rights of other people.

An instructor who gives a motivational reading quiz that takes between five and 10 minutes does the whole class a disservice by providing a quiz for those who come in late.

Why should 39 people have to wait because one person will not arrive on

time?

I say 'will not' because people can arrive on time, and if you have doubts, watch a platoon of U.S. Marines, or for that matter, a group of children going to recess.

They are not late.

Yes, anyone can be late every once in a while and provision should be made for those people but no provision should be made for those who treat other peoples' time cheaply.

—Ray McCullar
History Professor

Secrets come to light in '90s film

"Eve's Bayou" has thrilled audiences since it was released in 1997 by Trimark Pictures.

The movie is set in 1962 Louisiana, where Louis Batiste (Samuel Jackson) is a charming father, husband and doctor.

Louis pedals sugar pills for medicine to the wives of married men.

Eve Batiste (Jurnee Smollet) is the youngest daughter of Louis.

When Eve catches her father in a bar with a married woman, she becomes hurt and confused.

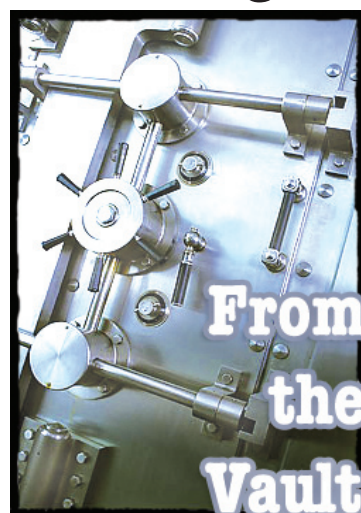
Eve doesn't understand why her father is committing adultery so she turns to her older sister Cisely (Megan Goode) for answers.

Cisely tells Eve not to worry about it, that everything is fine, but Eve doesn't buy it.

Not satisfied with the answer, Cisely turns to her aunt Mozelle (Debbie Morgan) for advice. Mozelle is a known psychic who has visions.

She also is known as a "black widow" by the people around town because of her first two husbands' untimely deaths.

As Eve is leaving Mozelle's house, she stum-



As Eve urges her father to leave, Lenny confronts Louis.

Lenny tells Louis to never speak to his wife again or he is a dead man.

Lenny and Mattie leave the bar with Louis and Eve closely behind.

Lenny and Mattie continue walking, but when Louis tells Mattie goodnight, and with no hesitation, Lenny turns around and shoots Louis killing him.

Once Louis is dead a host of family secrets come to light, starting with a secret Cisely is hiding.

For more information about "Eve's Bayou," visit the Internet Movie database at www.imdb.com.

Rating: A

—Derek Jones
Staff Writer

bles upon her father who is walking into a bar with Mattie (Lisa Nicole Carson), a married woman.

Eve enters the bar and confronts her father.

Around the same time, Lenny (Roger Guenveur Smith), Mattie's husband, also enters.

www.occc.edu/pioneer

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

Counselor's Corner

Are you graduating in May? Have you thought about transferring to a four-year institution yet?

If you haven't, it's not too late. Many universities are still accepting applications for the fall 2009 semester, but you have to act quickly. Here are a few tips:

- Fill out an application. Most applications are available in paper form and online.

- Send in your official transcripts from every college or university you have attended. At OCCC, you would contact Records and Graduation Services for an official copy of your transcript.

- Meet with an adviser at your new institution to get help with your educational plan.

- Enroll as soon as possible for the best course selection at your new university.

- If you are an international student, these deadlines could be earlier, so pay close attention.

- Act early and talk with International Student Services Coordinator Sunny Garner to make sure Sevis paperwork is in order.

- If at all possible, make your fall schedule before you travel home for the summer. This will ensure you get the most optimal times and days for your classes at your new institution.

If you still are not sure where you want to transfer, there are many services available to help you make an informed decision.

- Recruiter visits – Four-year university representatives are available in the Transfer Center, outside of Academic Advising. Visit www.occc.edu/TransferCenter/Calendar.pdf for a calendar of schools being represented.

- Campus Tours – The Transfer Center will take a group of students to an institution to get a tour, application and scholarship information, meet with and adviser, and sometimes lunch. The summer tour dates are coming, so watch the website for more details.

- Meet with an academic adviser at OCCC. Our advisors can help you map out your educational goals.

For more information on transferring, transfer activities or Academic Advising, e-mail Sara McElroy at smcelroy@occc.edu or call 405-682-7567.

—Sara McElroy
Transfer and Academic
Advising Coordinator

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Students recognized at awards ceremony

By Laura Pope

News Writing Student

It was a night in the spotlight for students at the Student Awards Ceremony April 17 as family and faculty gathered to recognize them for their outstanding academic achievements.

OCCC recognized more than 100 students for their dedication to education at a ceremony in the college union.

Seventeen students took home the most prestigious prize, the President's Award for Excellence.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist presented awards to the following students:

Cara Hendrix, film and video; William Hogan, liberal arts; Sarah Jackson, diversified studies; Cynthia Praefke, journalism and broadcasting; and Jeremy Scott, music.

Vanessa McNabb, business, administrative office technology/administrative office support; Katherine Sanders, business; and Paul Varela, business.

Susan Fryrear, nursing.

Rebecca Downy, computer-aided technology and design; and Calvin Nelms, computer science.

Summer Hildebrand, science/pre-med; Huan Pham, pre-engineering; and Danielle Shuman, biotechnology.

Kathleen Anders, political science; Becky Gomersall, history; and Leslie Keller-Kenton, child development.

The minimum requirements for students to be nominated for the President's Award for Excellence are completing 30 credit hours with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

These students also exemplify excellence beyond the classroom through campus involvement or civic engagement.

History professor Ray McCullar nominated Gomersall.

He said she is an excellent student and role model. Gomersall said this

"I owe my collegiate success to my professors and a good learning environment."

—Rebecca Downey
OCCC Student

award is "tremendous."

"It shows the college's support for my hard work and I'm very appreciative of that," she said.

Gomersall spends her spare time as a storyteller at her local elementary school library.

Business professor Anita Williams said she nominated Varela because he is a leader.

Varela said he believes his success comes from his competitive mentality.

"This lets me know that my hard work has not gone unnoticed," Varela said.

Varela describes himself as a proud Native American and a member of the Caddo Nation.

He said he plans to graduate from OCCC in December and later plans to graduate from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in public relations.

Hildebrand said this award means hard work to her.

"My passion is school and I love to learn," Hildebrand said.

"This school really cares for their students and I would like to thank them for that."

She said she spends her time outside of the classroom volunteering at the Bricktown Food Bank and volunteering with the Special Olympics.

Hildebrand said she has a 4.0 grade point average with a long-term goal of obtaining a master's degree and working as a nurse practitioner.

Hendrix said college became possible for her after successful drug rehabilitation.

She is now drug-free and is on the National Dean's Honor List.

Hendrix speaks regularly to drug rehabilitation groups and is currently

making a film about her life.

Hogan's nominators wrote that his passion comes to light through his music.

Hogan said he plans to attend the Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma in the fall.

Hogan said he came to OCCC after 12 years of focusing on his music career and his band.

"I owe my collegiate success to my professors and a good learning environment," he said.

Downey is a wife and mother of five children. She has maintained a 3.73 GPA.

Downey said she was grateful to receive the President's Award for Excellence.

"I believe that through my hard work and with the encouragement from my professors, I will achieve a fulfilling career in the architecture field," she said.

Professor Bertha Wise nominated Jackson for her hard work and dedication in diversified studies.

Jackson is a single mother to a young daughter. Jackson said she will be the second generation in her family to graduate from college with honors.

"This gives my daughter something to shoot for," she said.

Jackson said she aspires to graduate from the University of Central Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in French and later a master's degree in Museum Studies from the University of Oklahoma.

Journalism and Broadcasting winner Praefke is a great grandmother of seven and grandmother to 13.

"It is never too late to achieve and succeed," Praefke said.

Other Award Winners

Certificates of Achievement were given to outstanding students in each program area.

Arts and Humanities

Tina Anderson, pre-education; Terri Black, speech communication; Carlos Borja, modern languages; Paul Eastland, graphic communications; Angela Ellefritz, public relations; Erika Glenn, music; Stefanie Gowdy, film and video; Chelsi Hedrick, diversified studies; Bishal Malla, journalism; Naisha Morris, humanities; Alexandra Protopopova, visual arts; Matt Sikes, broadcasting; Kyndra Spaulding, liberal studies; and Lisa Torneten, philosophy.

Business Division

Sandra Brown, banking and finance; Yumiko Garrison, business-administrative office technology; Shari Rupe, business and finance; Tanya Siddles, accounting; and Scott VanHouten, business.

Health Professions

Tanith Heesch, nursing; Guy Rodolph, emergency medical services; and Jeff Weisbrod, emergency medical services.

Information Technology

Michelle Burke, AAS computer science-cyber information security; Heather Clement, AAS computer aided technology-game design; Kimberly Fitz, certificate in computer science-cyber information security; Tara Holderbee, certificate computer aided technology-computer-aided design; Toby Kraft, AS computer science-computer science; Jay McGraw, AAS computer aided design-manufacturing/architectural; Bao Pham, AS computer science-management information systems; Luke Simpson, AAS computer science-computer programming; Michael Sparks, AAS computer science-computer systems support; Diana Trejo, AAS computer-aided technology-multimedia; David Vick, AAS computer science-WEB design and development.

Science and Mathematics

Michael Challis, pre-medicine; Dustin Dewett, physics; Maria Engel, biotechnology; Jennifer Hughes, pre-pharmacy; Christina Ramos, pre-allied health; Renee Thomas, biology; and Hai Tran, pre-dentistry.

Social Sciences

Shawnda Jameson, sociology; Jacob Ogle, psychology; Martin Ramirez, political science; and Adam Smith, sociology.

Honors

Honors director Nina Smith presented red stoles to students who will graduate with honors:

Terri Black, Dustin Dewett, Craig Nichols, Bao Pham, Alexandra Protopopova, Aurilien Quillet, Monserrat Randolph, Kathy Sanders, Danielle Shuman and Kyndra Spaulding.

Award-Winning Essays

Mark Smith, L. Carrol Kiser, Whitney Knight, Insook Kim, Carol Johnson, Andrew Beard and Kenneth Treagesser.

Civic Honors

Faustino Ceballos, An Dang, Dustin Dewett, Craig Nichols and Bao Pham.

Student Organization Awards

Christopher Belew, Baptist Collegiate Ministry; Faustino Ceballos, Business Professionals of America; Kathleen Anders, College Democrats; Drew Stone, Computer Arts and Technology; Becky Connett, Future Alumni Network; Francisco Cervantes, Hispanic Organization to Promote Education; Camille Njeugoue, International Student Association; Paul Verela, Native American Student Association; Gracelyn Spears, Nursing Student Association; and Jennifer Atteberry, Phi Theta Kappa.

Pioneer Student Newspaper Award

Editor Stephen Sossamon.

Pioneer staff brings home fistful of prizes

By Bishal Malla
Staff Writer

OCCC's student newspaper, the Pioneer, brought home top honors from a journalism competition, including best two-year college newspaper for the seventh consecutive year.

The Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association's annual contest winners were announced April 16 at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Along with first place for overall newspaper, the Pioneer also bagged a dozen more awards in other categories.

The newspaper won 13 awards in the OCPA contest last year as well, said Ronna Austin, Pioneer lab director.

The contest is organized every year by OCPA for its members.

OCPA is comprised of state, private and community colleges in Oklahoma, said Sue Hinton, Pioneer faculty adviser and journalism professor.

Hinton said OCCC has been a member of OCPA since 1979.

She said the awards are important to the newspaper.

"This is a tribute to the work that our students did for the Pioneer," Hinton said. "I always think we should get more awards."

She said she believes this is the first time the Pioneer has won first and second place in sports writing among two-year colleges.

She said she is pleased with the work of the sports writers who made the best of intramural material, soccer and basketball.

"They write about OCCC basketball like it's the

NBA," Hinton said.

Matt Bishop, who won first place in sports writing, said he was happy to receive the award.

"Getting the top sports writing award for two years in a row is a very big accomplishment," Bishop said.

He said the award will give him more confidence to work in sports journalism.

"Though we don't have many sports here at the college, we take covering our sports seriously," Bishop said.

He said he thinks it is fun to write about sports.

Bishop recently began working part-time for the Oklahoma City Thunder basketball team. He con-

tributes to the team's website and magazine.

The other Pioneer awards are:

Sports Writing, two-year colleges, Stephen Sossamon, second.

Editorial Writing, two-year colleges: Meagan Bradley, second, and Matt Bishop, third.

Former Pioneer editor Matt Montgomery was awarded honorable mention in feature writing among two-year colleges.

Cynthia Praefke took third place in reviews in an open category that included two- and four-year colleges.

Former Pioneer photographer Kenny Hilburn won second place in news photography in an open cat-

egory.

Former Pioneer photographer Amber McBride was awarded honorable mention in feature writing, two-year college division, and sports photography in an open category.

The Pioneer won second place in front page design among two-year colleges.

The Pioneer was awarded honorable mention in interior-page design among two-year colleges.

The Pioneer also earned an honorable mention in the online newspaper category among two- and four-year colleges. OCCC was the only two-year college to place in this category.

Staff Writer Bishal Malla can be reached at Staff Writer1@occc.edu.

Water line break closes restrooms

By Jack Chinn
News Writing Student

Students attending evening classes Thursday, April 13, found the restrooms closed for the evening in most campus buildings.

Loss of water pressure resulted from a water line being damaged when Facilities Management workers were boring a hole to expand the campuswide irrigation system, said J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director.

Messer said the water line break occurred at 4:40 p.m., and they closed the restrooms at 5:30 because of lack of pressure.

"The line was shallower than we thought," he said.

Messer said the water line was 42 inches under the ground, but in other places around campus, water lines can be up to 18 feet below the surface.

The damaged pipe may have been the original water line that was run to the campus in 1972, Messer said.

A six-foot section of the pipe was damaged and had to be replaced, but the Facilities Management crew accomplished this in only 15 hours, he said.

Restrooms remained open in the library, newer sections of the Heath Science Center, and the Visual and Performing Arts Center, because those structures use a different water source, Messer said.

The Facilities Management crew worked through the night and had the restrooms up and running by 7:30 the next morning, he said.



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College president tutors writing students

By **Stephanie Pham**
News Writing Student

Students seeking help in the Communications Lab April 7 would have seen OCCC President Paul Sechrist serving as an honorary tutor. He spent part of the day tutoring students and observing the lab's activities.

The lab's mission is "to be the best and most effective communications resource for OCCC students and faculty and to foster a community of academic writers and thinkers," according to the Communications Lab's website.

Sechrist said he kept this in mind as he blended into the lab routine.

"I was impressed with how organized everything was, how helpful the tutors were, and how flexible the tutors were to meet the students' needs," Sechrist said in an e-mail. "The lab is a busy place.

"Students were getting help with assignments from almost every department across the campus."

Sechrist received a doctorate in Communications from the University of Oklahoma, making him qualified to be an honorary tutor.

He visited the Communications Lab during one of its busiest periods — from

9 to 11:30 a.m.

All 26 computers were occupied, tutoring sessions were taking place, and ESL conversations were occurring while Sechrist was working.

"I think it is important for students to feel comfortable when discussing their paper, and Dr. Sechrist was definitely a calming presence," said Lydia Rucker, Communications Lab assistant.

Rucker conducted a tutoring session with a student while Sechrist assisted.

"I probably took away as much from the session with the president as the student did," she said.

The Communications Lab is busy much of the time, said Tonya Kymes, lab supervisor.

"During the fall semester, the lab tutored 2,800 students," Kymes said. "On a daily average, the lab tutors anywhere from 25 to 60 students, and caters to 200 to 300 students for computer usage."

The lab has a staff of 12 people — including lab assistants and tutors — ready to help students visiting the lab, she said.

While Sechrist was in the lab, normal activities occurred, even the students who print more than the lab's 10-page limit.

Some students said they are resentful of those who disregard the lab's printing limits.

"I saw this lady printing 30 pages and it really annoyed me," said Christina Whitman, sophomore nursing student. "Not necessarily because she was printing 30 pages, but because she knew the rules of printing and therefore was taking advantage of the lab."

Printing isn't the only problem in the lab, Kymes said.

The number of students using the lab often exceeds the number of computers and tutors, she said. Budget and space limitations make it hard to accommodate everyone.

Whitman said she is a regular visitor of the lab.

"The people in the lab are welcoming and sociable," she said. "And when I used the tutoring sessions last semester, I never received anything less than an A."

Suann Timberlake, freshman nursing student, agreed.

"The staff is friendly and it is a comfortable environment," she said.

Creating a cozy atmosphere is one of the lab's goals, Kymes said.

"We try to create an atmosphere where students are more likely to visit ev-



Photo by Stephanie Pham

OCCC President Paul Sechrist helps Bao Pham, computer science major, with his homework in the Communications Lab. Sechrist spent a few hours April 7 tutoring students in the lab.

ery day," she said. "With the students continuously returning, that establishes relationships."

"Research shows that establishing relationships better retention."

Sechrist said he appreciates the work the tutors do.

"My respect for the tutors deepened as a result of my experience there," he said. "I also commend the students for taking the extra time (to come to the lab)."

"Every student told me that they appreciate the lab and attribute improved grades or even passing courses because the lab was available."

Sechrist ended the visit with a lab staff photo and a smile.

"I had a blast," he said.

The Communications Lab's hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, and 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

The lab is open to all students who need tutoring for a writing assignment or who need to use a computer.

Students are asked to bring a current student ID when visiting the lab to sign in.

For more information, contact Kymes at 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

Bookstore Director: Profits reinvested into college

By **Alice Horn**
News Writing Student

The OCCC bookstore is one of few campus bookstores in the state owned by its college rather than run by a third-party, said Brenda Reinke, bookstore director.

That means 100 percent of the bookstore's profits are reinvested in the college, Reinke said.

She said the money raised by bookstore profits goes into the college's general fund, and is then combined with all state, private, and other funds, and distributed among various college projects.

Bookstore profits have funded several improvements on campus including the coffee shop,

parking lot expansion and resurfacing, and new equipment in the weight room, she said.

Alicia Humphreys, biology major, was surprised to hear about the bookstore ownership.

"I'm glad we're at a school that really takes care of their students," Humphreys said. "I like knowing that I'm contributing to a school that will contribute back to me."

Reinke said many schools contract out their bookstores to corporations. The University of Oklahoma Bookstore, for example, is run by Follet, a Chicago-based bookseller.

Because OCCC's bookstore is owned by the college, it generally has a much wider selection

of used books available than OU., and normally at a slightly lower price, Reinke said.

When it comes to new books, she said, the bookstore simply covers its cost.

"Textbooks are expensive," Reinke said. "There's just no profit in them."

Chelci Snodgrass, sociology major, said she would expect a college-owned bookstore to sell cheaper books.

"(Since the college owns its own bookstore) the books should be cheaper to help the students," Snodgrass said.

Reinke admitted textbooks could be cheaper, but doubted the difference would affect many students.

Reinke said the average student spends about \$875 per year on textbooks.

By her calculations, if the bookstore eliminated its profit completely that number would only drop to around \$800 per year.

"That still sounds like a lot of money to me," Reinke said.

She admitted the system might not be perfect.

"Everything made in this bookstore stays to support this campus and its students," Reinke said. "That beats the 4 to 5 percent of profit a contract bookseller might give back to its campuses."

For more information, contact Reinke at 405-682-1611, ext. 7242.

International Cultural Fair draws crowd

Approximately 100 students and staff lined up to enjoy a taste of the world's cuisine at the inaugural International Cultural Event and Food Fair April 20 in the College Union.

International Student Association held this event to raise money for international students who attend OCCC, said Sunny Garner, International Student Services coordinator.

"It is not an easy task for international students to come to the U.S. and attend school," Garner said.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist began the ceremony by welcoming international students and guests to OCCC.

"Today is a celebration that we are all global citizens, a celebration of mutual understanding that international students bring to us and that we bring to them," Sechrist said.

Food and entertainment were provided throughout the event.

Attendees filled their plates with food dishes from places such as Costa Rica, Spain and Vietnam while entertainers performed dances from Nepal and Mexico.

Donations of \$2 were accepted for the food.

Bishal Malla, journalism major from Nepal, led the crowd in the singing of the Nepal national anthem. Then, the event ended with a fashion show put on by Cameroon students.



Calvin McDonald, history major, and Bishal Malla, journalism major from Nepal, greet people in a customary Nepali manner during the inaugural International Cultural Event and Food Fair on April 20. This way of greeting people is known as Namaste in Nepal, a landlocked country in south Asia.



Alison See, Spanish major, performs a Flamenco dance during the International Student Cultural Event and Food Fair. The International Student Association sponsored the event.



Left to right: Jenny Olague, 4, John Charles, 6, Juile Oisten, 3, and Lydia Olague, 18 months, partake in some post-lunch fun at the International Food Day celebration April 20. Alisha Olague, business accounting major, brought the children to the college to sample various international foods and watch performances of students from all over the world.

Photos by Stephen Sossamon • Text by Derek Jones

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **April 25:** Sign-up day for kids summer camps from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wellness Center gym for a 10 percent discount. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness secretary Kristen Hoaglin at 405-682-1611, ext. 7860.

• **May 1:** Intramural 4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament 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 5:** T-ball coaches meeting at 7 p.m. in the Wellness Center Gym. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

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

• **May 28 :** T-ball summer league begins. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

The Pioneer Online is the place to go for up-to-the minute sports news and weekly sports vodcasts!

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Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Seventh grader Justin Colyott, from Mustang North Middle School, paddles his boat to the finish line during a field trip the seventh graders earned after a week of standardized state testing. Students studied the numerous calculations and preparation that are involved in building the vessels.

Middle schoolers learn to stay afloat

Students put knowledge and creativity to work

By Justin Combs
Staff Writer

Seventh graders from Mustang North Middle School turned the Wellness Center pool into a race-track April 17.

Students built cardboard boats for the contest. The USS Sooner and Chips Ahoy went head-to-head in the finals with Chips Ahoy coming away the victor.

"We won because we had the best boat out of any of them," said Joey Sandras, who paddled his team's boat to win the championship.

Seventh grader Rebecca Cook designed a boat that looked like it needed a trailer to drop it in the pool.

"My boat has air pockets to help it stay afloat and paddles for my hands if the boat gets water logged," Cook said.

The race consisted of teams of three with one person in the boat and one person at each side of the pool to push the boat away from the side when it reached the other end of the pool.

Six boats were in the water for each heat leading up to a final between the two top boats.

Not every boat proved sea worthy, as seventh grader Skylar Ridgeway learned about his floating device.

"My team's boat made it to one end, then on the way back the person in the boat started paddling funny to where it started sinking and he had to get out," Ridgeway said.

Students cleverly named their vessels, such as USS Booty, Bloody Mary, USS Botox, Flaming Cupcakes, Pink Pirates, Chips Ahoy and Pink Bones. "We got to design a boat and make it the way we wanted it by what we learned in each subject about it," said seventh grader Victoria Mediouni.

The students constructed one-person boats out of cardboard and duct tape after learning how each subject they study in school fits into the boat design.

"For each different core area of the boat, the students have an assignment that goes along with it," said Nathan Burch, geography teacher.

"In math the students do scale drawings and in science they learn mass, density and buoyancy, and how it all relates," said Ryan Booth, science teacher.

Booth said the students then take their scale drawings and transfer them to a four-by-eight-foot sheet of cardboard so everything still has to be done to scale.

In English, students learned

about the Titanic and wrote a paper over it. In History, they studied longitude and latitude to find pirate treasure.

Booth said the whole seventh grade class and teachers worked on it together during the week.

"The students don't go through their regular schedule in the day," he said.

"We put them in rotations to cover each subject that pertains to the construction of the boat and get into groups with other classmates to put it all together."

Booth said students had four hours the day before to build and cover their boats with duct tape. They do this learning activity on the week the students have standardized testing.

"The students test in the morning and they need something to do in the afternoon," he said.

"It's something fun for them to do that's also academic after they've been sitting around all morning."

Booth said students had to adhere to a standard of conduct throughout the week or they wouldn't be allowed to participate in the race.

"We've been doing this the past eight years and have always done it here at OCCC," he said.

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

State budget shortfall may possibly translate to some cutbacks at OCCC

"Tuition,"

Cont. from page 1

dict the amount with any certainty.

"It's a little more complicated than it has been in previous years," he said.

"There are a number of variables that make estimating at this point challenging.

"At this point, we anticipate state appropriations will be reduced to the State Regents, and therefore to the college. This reduction could be as high as 10 percent."

The president said if the loss is that great, it would

be difficult to balance the budget, considering that state funding makes up about half of the college's operational budget.

He said although tuition would probably not increase, cutbacks are likely. One area would be in new hires.

Sechrist said an increase in students creates a need for more faculty and staff.

Because of the shortfall, he said, any increase in staff to accommodate the increase in enrollment would be done on a part-time basis only. Probably no full-time instructors would be hired.

"The tuition students pay will cover the cost of an adjunct instructor," Sechrist said. "It won't cover the cost of a full-time instructor.

"Basically, when we get more money from more students paying tuition, it goes to cover the cost of that adjunct instructor."

Sechrist said there are three primary sources of revenue to the college.

The most significant source is state allocations which flow through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and makes up 50 percent of the college's \$51 million budget, Sechrist said.

The second source is tuition and fees from students, which make up about 30 percent of the budget.

The third source is the amount of money received from the south Oklahoma City technical school district.

Sechrist said the college is exploring all avenues for getting through the hard time.

"I think we are going to have to probably look at travel costs, supplies, equipment and other kinds of things," he said.

"We do have a reserve that we could take some money from to make up that difference."

Because there is an anticipation of an enrollment increase, and students need advisers, financial aid counselors, and instructors, the college will try not to lay off employees, Sechrist said.

"It's going to be our first objective to try not to reduce the faculty or reduce people that are working in the college," he said.

"We are in a people business and we could probably reach our mission with less equipment and fewer buildings, but if we have fewer people it'd be very difficult."

Editor Stephen Sossamon can be reached at editor@occc.edu.

'Rocky Horror Show' comes to college theater

"Theater,"

Cont. from page 1

campus.

Noel said the Friday night performance will begin at midnight, in keeping with the tradition of movie theaters showing the cult classic film, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," at midnight during the 1970s and '80s.

Campy sexuality, sexual repression, sexual awakening, monsters and vampires are a few of the suggestive themes in this spoof of low-budget science fiction films of the 1960s, Noel said.

Noel, director of the production, said he and music professor Michael Boyle wanted to produce something that would be fun, inspire audience participation, present a unique experience, and at the same time, contain a social message.

On Thursday, April 30, and Saturday, May 2, the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday's production is free for students, Noel said.

Otherwise, student admission is \$5 and general admission \$10.

Guests are invited to buy \$5 participation bags prior to show time.

The bags contain props to assist in the audience's



involvement in the play, Noel said.

He said the audience is what makes this spectacle come to life.

Audience members are encouraged to dress up, dance and sing along with the actors, and even participate in scenes from the play.

"It's the celebration between the actors and audience that truly makes this show what it is," Noel said. "This is an opportunity for the audience to become a part of a musical."

Its avant-garde style has attracted an almost cult following, Noel said.

But he acknowledged, "Not everyone will find this tasteful."

He made a point to encourage people "not to be afraid to take a risk."

One aspect of theater, he said, is that it does allow freedom to explore all angles of a subject and individualize a performance.

Although the subject matter is controversial, the OCCC administration has been very supportive, Noel said.

Actors starring in "The Rocky Horror Show" are Jessica Carabajal, Christopher Baker, Cheyanne

Strickler, Alex Massey, Ezra Copperpot, Joley Johnson, Grantley Brooks, Brandon Rucker, Cadence Dickenson, Philip Aken, Holly Clear, Kayla Epperson, Krystal Loyd, Sarah Wilson, and Vivian Le.

This diverse cast is the result of auditions that produced a multitude of interpretations by OCCC students, as well as local high school students and interested members of the community.

This production is a live version of the play written by O'Brien in the 1970s, Noel said.

Over the decades, performances have drawn a faithful following, many of whom have chosen to see "The Rocky Horror Show" numerous times.

"The play does improve upon multiple viewings," Noel said.

"Anyone who hasn't been to a live screening is missing out."

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- ☐ Job Fliers/Postings

ALL OF THE ABOVE

Highlights

Bake and Candle sale

Student Occupational Therapy Association is hosting a bake and candle sale from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. April 28, in the College Union. For more information, contact SOTA sponsor Recca Young at 405-682-7506, or e-mail ryoung@occc.edu.

Rocky Horror Show on campus

The Theater Arts and Music department will perform Richard O'Brien's "Rocky Horror Show" beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30; midnight Friday, May 1; and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2, in the Bruce Owen Theater. "The Rocky Horror Show" is one of the world's favorite rock 'n' roll musicals. Parental guidance is recommended for children. Audience participation and costumes are welcome and encouraged. Tickets are \$10 for general admission or \$5 with student ID. The entry is free for OCCC students, faculty and staff on Thursday with ID. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, contact theater professor Brent Noel at 405-682-1611, ext. 7246, or e-mail bnoel@occc.edu.

Business Professionals of America election

The Business Professionals of America club is electing new officers at its general meeting at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in room 2R7, located in the Main Building. Applications are available in the Business Division office, located on the 2nd floor in the Main Building. Deadline to pick up the application is Wednesday, April 29. BPA also is doing a Spring Bake Sale from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in the College Union. For more information, contact BPA Public Relations officer Tino Ceballos at 405-962-9384 or call the Academic Division of Business at 405-682-1611, ext. 7550.

Student Life Events

Student Life is hosting a Deal or No Deal game, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the general dining area located in the Main Building. Student Life also is hosting a Student Organization Jubilee from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at Earlywine Park, located at S.W. 19th and May, Oklahoma City. For more information about Student Life events, contact Katie Treadwell at 405-682-7523, or e-mail ktreadwell@occc.edu.

Reception for Literary Magazine

The Literary Magazine is hosting a reception for the 2009 Absolute, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in College Union 1 and 2. There will be refreshments, classical guitar music and readings by the authors of selected pieces. The magazine includes poetry, stories and artwork from student, faculty and local people. The 2009 Absolute will be on sale for \$5 at the bookstore, from Friday, May 1. For more information, contact Cynthia Praefke at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

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.

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Photo provided by Chrissy Marston

Nursing Student Association officers sit together at a conference in Nashville. From left to right: Keven Horton, communication officer; Gracelyn Spears, treasurer; Christi Butler, public relation officer; Susan Fryrear, president; Cindy Karaffa, secretary; and Julie Lewis, mentor chairperson. NSA officers attended the 57th National Student Nurses Convention from April 15 to 19.

Nursing students honored

By Bishal Malla
Staff Writer

The student mentoring program established by OCCC's Nursing Student Association received recognition at the National Association's 57th annual convention, April 15 to 19 in Nashville, Tenn., said Gracelyn Spears, Club treasurer.

Seven students and two sponsors from NSA made the trip to the convention.

OCCC's mentoring program was established by professors and students to assist students at the beginning of their careers in the nursing program, Spears said.

"We work together to support the younger students by giving them study tips, helping them on assignments and giving them information about the program," She said.

"It's established mainly to support the students who enroll in the nursing program."

The former National Student Nurses' Associa-

tion president, Carol Fetters Anderson, decided the mentoring program qualified to receive the recognition certificate.

Spears said Anderson was impressed by the mentoring program and also is going to use that in her leadership university.

Julie Lewis, Nursing Student Association mentor chairperson, said she believes this is the first time all the NSA officers attended the annual convention.

Susan Fryrear, NSA president, said the convention was interesting, as well as helpful.

Fryrear said the officers participated in several workshops and also attended guest speaker sessions.

"Some of the test-taking

tips we learned during the workshops at the convention will help us with our state nursing examination," she said.

Fryrear also was pleased with the recognition NSA officers received at convention.

"It's a great honor for NSA and I am very happy for that," she said.

Fryrear said this would probably be her last convention to attend as an NSA officer because the new officers are already elected.

The new officers will take over next semester, she said.

For more information, about NSA, e-mail Susie Fryrear at susan.j.fryrear@email.occc.edu.

Staff Writer Bishal Malla can be reached at StaffWriter1@occc.edu.

Does your club have an exciting event or news idea you would like to be published in the Pioneer?

Contact Bishal Malla at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410, or e-mail StaffWriter1@occc.edu.

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.

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ACROSS

- 1 Flex
- 5 Ornamental fruit
- 10 Lean-to
- 14 Dueling sword
- 15 Volunteer
- 16 Yield
- 17 Beget
- 18 Small rock
- 19 Historical times
- 20 Ranges
- 22 Certain sea wave
- 24 TV's Seavareid
- 26 Movie dog
- 27 Eddy
- 31 Fragrance
- 35 Shell-shaped organ
- 36 Electric fish
- 37 Walks in the woods
- 38 Loose-fitting garments
- 40 Contact
- 43 Solemn promise
- 44 Ceremonies
- 46 Oddball
- 48 Beginning of "face"
- 49 Expensive
- 50 Popular flower
- 52 Baby's first words?
- 54 Pastrami seller
- 55 Sought to attain
- 58 Oyster's home

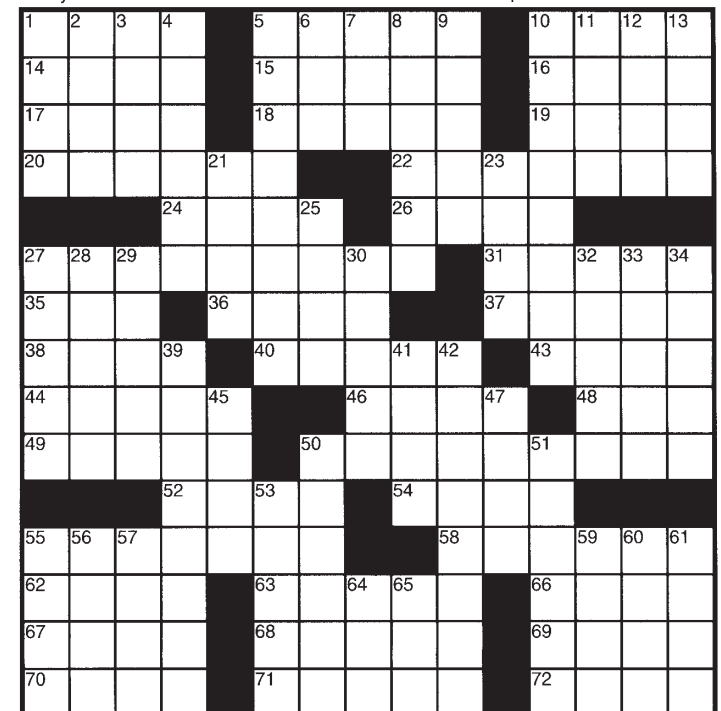
DOWN

- 2 Short-tailed rodent
- 63 Acclimate
- 66 Be dependent
- 67 Ostriches' cousins
- 68 Lawsuit cause
- 69 What George couldn't tell
- 70 Take a snooze
- 71 Very small
- 72 Musher's vehicle

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

HALL	MILES	CROP
OBIE	ANITA	AURA
OBSTACLE	COURSES	
FAT	FRAN	NOELS
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