

Let's do the time warp



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

"Rocky Horror Show" cast members perform a scene in the Bruce Owen Theater May 1. The play brought in a record number of theatergoers. Almost 100 people had to be turned away from a midnight showing after the 280-seat theater filled to capacity. Pictured are: (Left to Right) Joley Johnson, Kayla Epperson, Hollie Clear, Grantly Brooks, Brandon Rucker, CheyAnne Strickler, Vivian Le, Sarah Wilson and Christopher Baker.

Campus another step closer to being smoke free

Faculty Association votes to endorse policy, despite some objections

By Anthony Rhodes
News Writing Student

The Faculty Association voted to endorse the idea of a tobacco-free campus at the group's April 28 meeting.

Even though the resolution won the vote, several people at the meeting objected to the proposal.

The resolution passed with 16 votes in favor, eight votes against and five abstaining.

English professor Clay Randolph said he supported some kind of compromise instead of an outright ban.

"I don't much like walking through smoke-filled entry ways," he said.

"But have we considered having a single smoking area just for smokers? Why do we have to be so extreme about smoking?"

Math Professor Jay Malmstrom countered that some smoker's don't follow the rules.

"There are already areas for smokers and they are clearly marked," Malmstrom said. "Instead of using these areas, they will smoke right in front of the entry ways."

Malmstrom said instead of using the large ashtrays provided, smokers throw their cigarette butts on the ground or in planters. He said he observes this happening continually at the lower level entrance of the math and science building.

Fabiola Janiak-Spens of the biotechnology department said the endorsement of the Faculty Association is important if the tobacco-free policy is to be adopted. The student leadership council has already gone on record as supporting the policy.

Janiak-Spens said it would require some time to put the policy in place and set up smoking education classes for those students and staff who wish to kick the habit.

Lisa Vaughan, risk management coordinator, said the college would work for a smooth implementation. She said the college would need to add signs such as "Breathe Easy," and update student handbooks and procedures.

Vaughan said some of the formats the college may use might be WOW! sessions for faculty and Brown Bag sessions for students. She said OCCC would offer information to faculty, staff and students on how they could quit smoking.



Sell books early for best price

By Alice Horn
News Writing Student

Textbook buyback is the last week of the semester. That's the week students sell their books to the bookstore so they can be resold as "used" books the next term.

"The end of the semes-

ter is one of our busiest times," said Brenda Reinke, OCCC bookstore director.

The bookstore purchases most used textbooks for resale on campus, Reinke said.

However, even if the book won't be used at OCCC next semester, there is a

chance students can still get some money.

Some of the books go to a wholesale book buyer.

Reinke said the college will purchase most used textbooks, even if the owner has marked in them.

"As long as you can read

See "Buyback," page 16

See "Vote," page 16

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Let biologists explain origin

According to a 2005 poll conducted by the Pew Research Center, 58 percent of Americans believe that "creationism was definitely or probably true" and another 38 percent of Americans favor "teaching creationism instead of evolution."

Creationists maintain that the diversity of species on Earth is due to a creative act, usually attributed to a divine being.

This is not a scientific concept, but an idea grounded in religious belief.

Contrary to another popular misconception, the theory of evolution is not controversial, at least, not in biology.

"It's basically a fact that is now working for us but may well be falsified in the future if it fails to work for us," said professor of biology Julian Hilliard.

"[A]ll of the evidence we have now in biology is that evolution is the single most valuable idea we have to use in terms of where species come from, how they're all related to each other and how they operate within an ecological or phylogenetic (relating to a specie's evolutionary history) framework."

Hilliard continues to explain "There is no controversy about this in biology among biologists."

There is no counter culture in biology attempting to disprove evolution."

If there is no controversy about this subject in biology, why is 58 percent of the public convinced otherwise?

A breakdown in biology education combined with the well-known attempts of Creationists to infiltrate the science classrooms has left many confused.

This disconnect is caused by the influence of authority figures (teachers, parents, politicians, religious figures) and a lack of critical thinking on the part of those they influence.

The facts and evidence supporting evolution are well published and abundant. Anyone who can read has access to them. So what does this say about anyone who claims any other origin of species? They must consider their own unsubstantiated beliefs superior to the findings of hard science.

Contrary to yet another misconception, acceptance of the principles of evolution is not a choice between religion and science. There are many people who have no problem reconciling their faith with science.

If a deity had any creative input on the development of life, evolution was the tool it used.

This much of the question about the origin of species science can answer and has answered.

—John Weis
Staff Writer

Clinical Research program to offer summer institute

To the editor:

The Clinical Research Program at OCCC is offering a summer institute to middle school and high school students June 8 to 12, on the OCCC campus.

Each group will meet for two and a half days (middle school June 8 to 10, high school June 10 to 12).

This two-and-a-half-day program is designed to introduce students interested in health careers to the Clinical Research Career

Track. Students will learn about the profession, get information about clinical trials, conduct hand-on experiments, visit a local research facility, and learn about the rewards of being a perspective student at OCCC.

If you are interested in registering your child or student in this program, or for more information, contact Frank Rexach at 405-682-1611, ext. 7118 or e-mail frexach@occc.edu.

Stipends will be offered to students who complete the institute. This program is funded by the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

—Frank Rexach
Program Coordinator

A piece of gratitude for Absolute staff

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the staff of the Absolute.

The reception was fantastic, and it was obvious that a great deal of hard work, dedication, and professionalism went into the planning and execution of such an enjoyable event.

It was an honor to be surrounded by such remarkable talent.

Thank you for including my poem in this year's anthology and many thanks for the wonderful award, which I will cherish always. My next goal is finding a suitable frame.

—Karen Chapman
OCCC Student

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



PIONEER

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Stephen Sossamon.....Editor
Matt Bishop.....Staff Writer
Justin Combs.....Staff Writer
Bishal Malla.....Staff Writer
Joseph A. Moore II.....Photographer
Cynthia Praefke.....Ad Manager
Brian Stansberry.....Webmaster
John Weis.....Online Editor
Luke Carter.....Workstudy
Derek Jones.....Workstudy
Chris Lusk.....Lab Assistant
Ronna Austin.....Lab Director
Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

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

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

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

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

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: www.occc.edu/pioneer.



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Comments and Reviews

Some advice for students interested in nursing field

To the editor:

This letter is written to all the students who have aspirations of being admitted to one of OCCC's nursing pathways.

As the Learning Specialist, I don't typically get to meet with students as they are preparing themselves for admission into the program.

Instead, I work with the admitted students who may be having difficulty adjusting to some very different expectation and skill requirements.

With the nursing program director's blessing, I am offering some advice that might make that transition easier for you.

The time commitment in this program is very high.

Do not let the fact that each nursing process course is "only" nine credit hours lead you to a conclusion that it will be "easy."

Unless you routinely take between 18 and 21 credit hours each semester, you have no idea how hard you must work to get everything done each week.

I encourage you to have your non-nursing courses completed before you begin your professional courses.

It will also be helpful for you to have yourself in a financial situation that won't require you to work full time.

Save your money, apply for scholarships, apply for financial aid, check out hospital incentive programs, and so forth.

"Begin changing the way you do things so that you can live more frugally and conserve your time and money."

—Mary Turner
Learning Support
Specialist

Begin changing the way you do things so that you can live more frugally and conserve your time and money.

If you are not already a highly-organized person, begin working on this skill.

Very little information is presented in lecture format.

You must become an independent learner so that you can pull the required information from a variety of sources.

Without a system for knowing where everything is, you will waste valuable time just looking for the information.

Even 5 or 10 minutes lost searching for something in the syllabus, in the test, in an auxiliary text, or online can add up to hours over the course of a week.

Get comfortable using a calendar planner. It doesn't have to be expensive or fancy, but it does need to be functional.

Develop a love of reading and build those reading skills.

One of the main reasons why students in the program struggle is that they cannot read as fast or as fluently as is needed for the volume of assigned readings.

Too often, simple word recognition is taught instead of true reading.

Unfortunately, the English language relies on word order for meaning.

With between 1,200 and 1,500 pages of reading each week on average, strong reading skills are essential.

The ACT preparatory guide and the NET preparatory guide offer good practice exercises for reading a passage and answering questions about it.

Free resources can also be found online.

Change the way you view your general education courses.

Often, students believe that colleges make students take these courses just to get their money or to make them jump through hoops to get a degree.

These classes are much more important than that.

It's in the general education core that you get the opportunity to practice critical thinking, or problem-solving skills that will help you when the opportunity arises.

When you're asked to write essays or voice an opinion in class, see that as an opportunity to look at all sides of a situation and form a strong argument for your position.

Handling those "shades of gray" will help you develop comfort for working with people in ambiguous situations.

—Mary Turner
Learning Support
Specialist

JOB & CAREER POWER

Students, have you ever wished for a website with free videos on job and career field topics?

Let me recommend a visit to the OCCC Student Employment and Career Services job board at www.collegecentral.com/occc.

The "Career Advice Video Library" is a brand new feature I know you will enjoy and will benefit from viewing.

The video clips are brief, maybe three to five minutes, but they are packed with up to the minute advice and details that will make you the leading candidate in your quest for career field entry and job acquisition.

When registering on the job board your Access ID is your OCCC, 7-digit student ID number.

Once the program opens, click on the "Career Advice Video Library" located on the upper right hand corner of the page and view all of the 125 video options.

The video sample categories include:

- *Resume & Cover Letters* — guides job seekers on how to best craft and present their resumes to prospective employers.
- *Dress for Success* — informs job seekers on what is appropriate career apparel for creating a positive image, both in and out of the office.
- *Interviewing* — aids job seekers on how to handle job interviews and present themselves to employers.
- *Career Profiles* — examines job functions and skills, demands and objectives required for success in various career and job markets.
- *Celebrity Job Profiles* — profiles successful actors and entrepreneurs and issues they faced when starting their careers; features interviews with Tom Hanks, Tiki Barker, Whoopi Goldberg and other well-known professionals.

The "Career Advice Video Library" features: top-notch image consultants; fortune 500 employment recruiters; human resource professionals, and the celebrity interviews are fun to watch, with each star revealing the first jobs they ever had.

The celebrities also share the wise career and job choices they have made, and the pitfalls you should avoid.

While on the job board site, don't forget to check out the job listings for both on-campus and off-campus opportunities.

Please visit the Student Employment and Career Services office in the Main Building, first floor, room 1G7.

You may also call 405-682-7519 for more information.

—Debra Vaughn
Student Employment and
Career Services Director

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Comments and Reviews

'Obsessed' finds happy couple parting ways due to temptation of adulteress

Derek Chapman (Idris Elba) has it all. He has just received a major promotion and landed a multi-million dollar client.

He has a beautiful wife and son, and has recently moved into his dream home. So how could anyone change all that?

The answer: Derek is too nice and the new temporary office worker is "Obsessed" with him.

That must be where they got the name for this movie.

It is much less trite than the working title, "Oh No She Didn't," which would have kept most people from taking it seriously. At least "Obsessed" has a fighting chance.

Beyonce Knowles plays the lovely Sharon Chapman, who was Derek's secretary before she became his wife.

This is the reason no one finds it unusual when the new temp begins a flirta-

tion and acts as if Derek is interested in her.

After all, the office is where he found one perfect wife, why not another?

While this Sony release is reminiscent of the earlier movie in this genre, "Fatal Attraction," and is somewhat predictable, several twists make it interesting nonetheless.

The first oddity is that Derek is faithful to his wife. He is a kind person, so he is not rude to the antagonistic Lisa, played by Ali Larter. He tries to make it clear he wants no part of an affair, but he doesn't report her sexual overtures when he has the chance.

He also doesn't tell his wife, which is a greater mistake.

For an otherwise intelligent man, he shows poor judgment when dealing with an attractive stalker.

In other words, Derek is a handsome wuss and his failure to act almost costs



him everything he has.

Derek's personal assistant Patrick (Matthew Humphreys) is a homosexual chatterbox who gives out too much information to the temporary help.

Apparently Derek is trying to keep all temptation away from his office by having a gay man as his secretary.

This backfires when Lisa befriends Patrick and gets all the information she needs to stalk Derek and

his family.

Derek and Sharon are supposed to be a blissfully happy couple and yet when her husband is put in a questionable light, Sharon tells him to get out of the house rather than believe him.

He has done nothing and yet the fact that a crazy white woman makes it seem like he cheated is the reason for him to lose his wife, house and his job.

Larter plays the part of

a psychopath so well that much of the audience was actually yelling remarks at the screen.

While some of the remarks cannot be printed, the gist is that she needs to be put in her place in no uncertain terms, or slapped silly. Well, you get the idea. Knowles redeems herself as an actress in the final scenes of this movie.

She is raw and realistic as a woman protecting her family.

The confrontation between her and Larter is worth sitting through the rest of the 105-minute film to see.

Rated PG13 for sexual content and language, this is not a first-date movie if you want a second date.

It seems to evoke much emotion in women, and some of it is not attractive. A good chick flick.

Rating: B

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

'Rocky Horror Show' performance a success

If you were a "Rocky Horror Picture Show" purist, then your world would have been rocked at the midnight showing of "The Rocky Horror Show" on campus May 1.

Brent Noel, dressed as the director, (oh, the irony of it all) kicked off the show by explaining the contents of the participation bags to anyone who might be a Rocky-virgin.

We did not get to 'toast' the couple, or throw rice, but we did have bubbles and noise-makers for when the mood struck.

Jessica Carabajal, as Magenta, belted out a rousing rendition of "Science Fiction Double Feature" while the phantoms slinked about in teddies

and fishnet stockings.

Hollie Clear, Kayla Epperson, Sarah Wilson and Vivian Le were in excellent form (no pun intended) as they set the sexual tone of the play with their movements.

The naïve Brad and Janet were well played by Christopher Baker and CheyAnne Strickler.

It cannot be easy to do a play wearing only underwear, but they pulled it off. (pun intended).

Ezra Copperpot was an eerily perfect copy of Riff Raff in the original movie.

His voice and acting were strong and vibrant.

Brandon Rucker as Rocky added just enough comedy to his role to evoke laughter by flexing

his muscles and running from the doctor.

Speaking of the doctor, the part of Dr. Frank 'N' Furter was brought to campy life in a great performance by Grantly Brooks.

Not only was the role well done, but also it was well done in high heels and that is no easy task for a tall man.

Alex Massey was the Narrator of the story.

He let the audience bounce their remarks off him and continued in his monologue, unscathed by it. Massey was a real trooper through it all.

Speaking of troopers, the acting talent of Philip Aken was once more in the forefront in his portrayal of Dr. Scott.

"Hollie Clear, Kayla Epperson, Sarah Wilson and Vivian Le were in excellent form (no pun intended) as they set the sexual tone of the play with their movements."

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

Aken's character was in a wheelchair, but that did not stop him from donning the fishnet attire and high heels to show off a great pair of legs.

Joley Johnson and Candence Dickenson were in the cast in the roles of Columbia and Eddie.

The music was well played by a four-piece band led by music professor Michael Boyle.

At least 100 people had to be turned away at the

door because the midnight show sold out.

Rumor has it (from Hollie Clear) that some of those turned away were members of the cast from "The Lion King" playing in downtown Oklahoma City.

Too bad they did not get here earlier.

They missed a fantastic show.

Rating: A-

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

Film professor recognized for documentary about senator

By Alice Horn

News Writing Student

An Oklahoma creativity group has named OCCC film and video professor Greg Mellott as one of its 2009 DaVinci Fellows.

The award recognizes "faculty members of Oklahoma's higher education institutions who have made an innovative and significant contribution to their academic discipline," according to Oklahoma's Creativity Think Tank's website.

Felix Aquino, vice president of academic affairs, nominated Mellott for his documentary film, "Dream No Little Dream: The Legacy of Robert S. Kerr."

Mellott teaches courses on writing, directing and production in OCCC's Film and Video Production department.

The documentary film tells the story of Oklahoma's first native born governor and senator, Robert S. Kerr. It was created as part of the celebration of Oklahoma's Centennial, and sponsored by the

"In order to understand your students, you need to know how it feels to be an artist."

—Greg Mellott
Film Professor

Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

Mellott said he, along with a team of OCCC students and faculty, pulled photos, movie clips, historical documents, and archived footage from every available source, including old news clips from the major news networks, the Kerr family's private collection, and the University of Oklahoma's Western History Collection, as well as footage from President Franklin Roosevelt's public works projects.

Mellott wrote the script, interviewed the sources, scouted the locations, and produced and directed the project. He said finding the story was "like panning for gold."

"You sift through all this stuff and every now and then you get these tiny nuggets," he said.

Putting the pieces to-

gether, Mellott said he was able to uncover the story of Kerr, a story that had gone untold for more than 50 years.

The film premiered Nov. 6, 2007, at the Civic Center Music Hall, Aquino said.

It received a standing ovation from the 1,600 guests in attendance, he said.

Since then, the film went on to win the 2008 Heartland Regional Emmy for best historical documentary, a tribute both to Mellott and the students.

DVDs of the project have been distributed to area middle and high schools.

Mellott said the Fellowship has special meaning to him, due in large part to the artist whose name the award bears.

"I use DaVinci in all my classes," he said.

Mellott said he was inspired by DaVinci's pas-

sion for his art, tinkering with the Mona Lisa until four days before his death.

Mellott said that kind of commitment to one's art is what drives him.

Mellott is a teacher, but still very much an artist in his own right.

"My best teachers worked during the day, and came and taught us at night," he said. "In order to understand your students, you need to know how it feels to be an artist."

The Fellowship goes to educators whose "vision

is to improve the quality of education in Oklahoma and, by doing so, to help Oklahomans carry their creative talents to the world," according to the website.

This is exemplified in Mellott's commitment to his students, said Oscar winner Gray Frederickson, OCCC's artist-in-residence.

"Greg does everything around here," Frederickson said. "He is in large part responsible for the success of our program."

Gov. Henry appoints new Board of Regents member

By Matt Bishop

Staff Writer

Teresa Moisant is the newest appointment to the OCCC Board of Regents.

Gov. Brad Henry nominated Moisant in April. She is awaiting confirmation by the State Senate.

"It is an honor to be included in [Board of Regents]," she said.

"I have always been passionate about education and serving as a regret will allow me use my energy for something I truly believe in."

Moisant serves as the President of Moisant Promotional Products. She has served as a judge on the Promotional Products Collegiate Competition and is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City.

Moisant said the confirmation from the State Senate should come by the third week of May.

She said she is going to attend the OCCC graduation in an observatory role this spring.

Moisant said she is going to be committed to perform to her best. She said her

attitude and motivation to strive comes from the ethics she acquired while growing up.

She said she is a team player and will do whatever it takes to help the board achieve its objectives.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist said the college is very fortunate to have Moisant appointed to the Board of Regents.

Moisant will replace Regent Candy Hines on the Board of Regents.

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

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employmentservices@occc.edu

Graduates to be honored at ceremony

The following are spring 2009 graduates. Fall 2008 graduates were listed in the Dec. 8, 2008 issue of the Pioneer and can be found in our archives section at www.occ.edu/pioneer.

Associate in Applied Science

Curtis Adams, Niaz Adu, Lucinda Akins, Nicolas Alexander, Rogelio Almeida Jr., Jessica Anchondo-McFarland, Stephen Anderson, Jimmi Baldwin, Danah Bartle.

Philip Belflower, Sun Benton, Tiffany Bottom, Steven Boyd, Odessa Brewer, Carson Brian, Maximilian Brodie-Mends, LaYona Brown, Kandy Brown.

Nicole Brown, Vickie Brown, Nicole Burleson, Patti Burris, Sharandia Cargile, Travis Carson, Ali Arslan Chaudahry, Jason Clemmons, Kimberly Cline, Victoria Collett.

Melissa Crawford, Darva Culbertson, Lilian Dakil, Jennifer Davenport, Tabitha Davis, Mikell Davis, Michael Delaney, James Dodson, Tresa Dorman, Rebecca Downey.

Whitney Dudley, Cari Duncan, Elizabeth Duncan, Kimberly Dyer, Paul Eastland, Kayode Efunnu-ga, Kim Epperley, Oscar Estrada, David Flesher.

Teresa Frazier, Tiffany Fuller, Christopher Gam-mill, Rick Garrett, Yumiko Garrison, Ryan Gaston, Crystal Gazaway, Paul Geymann, Elisabeth Glenn, Warren Goforth.

Neisha Gonzalez, Stacey Gooch, April Graham, Lucinda Harding, Amy Harryman, Melodie Harty, Earlene Henderson, Abbi Herbers, Jennifer Hierl.

Janet Hill, Candace Hladik, Lori Hogan, Holly Hopkins, Rachel Howeth, Marissa Huffstutlar, Peggy Humphreys, Candice Hunt, Lacy Jacobs.

Deirdreney Johnson, Dinah Joyner-Gantz, Jason Keeble, Kimberly Kennedy,

Jamie Kilpatrick, Brittany King, Monda King, Krista Kinyon, Sandra Klezyte, Jason Lankford.

Gayle Lanoy, M Lawson, Chao-Guan Lee, Stacey Lewis, Julie Linford, Tillie Little, Jill Lyman, Chasity Lynch, Kory Malcom, Dawn Mann.

Shella Mansell, David Markus, Kyla Maudlin, Matthew Maynard, Rita Mba, Kelly McAfee, Guiqin McAnally, Jay McGrew, Michael McReynolds.

Maureen Medders, Candace Milam, Tonya Miller, Greta Mohon, Roya Momtazzadeh, Heather Mullins, Christopher Mus-satto, Patricia Nettles.

Cathy Newby, Thuy Nguyen, Justin Niblack, Marina Ogden, Sarah Patterson, Kailie Patton, Brent Patty, Floyd Perry Jr.

Kelli Peters, James Pio-varchy, David Pitt, Neal Ponkilla, Julie Porter, Micah Prosser, Amber Randle, William Richards.

Rebecca Riner, Delmy Robertson, Guy Rodolph, Cassandra Rodriguez, Erin Rogers, Shari Rupe, Kristen Sanford, Amy School-field, Eric Sense.

Felisha Seward, Teri Shover, Robert Shupe, Kaleigh Sidwell, Herlinda Sigala, Sebrina Singleton, Ruth Slaughter, Suzanne Smeltzer, Justin Smith.

Misti Smith, Donna Smith, Melissa Spicer, Shari Stapleton, Dale Stoabs, Maria Sullivan, Kehmi Swehla, Kerry Swink, Bindu Thomas.

Terri Thomas, Kerry Thompson, Alberto Velazquez Jr., Andrew Weber, Jeffrey Weisbrod, Clarence White, Carrie Wickersham, Christopher Wiley.

Callie Williams, Chrystal Williams, Mollye Williams, Megan Winter, Angela Wood, Sara Yandell.

Associate in Arts

Kari Ait Moussa, Philip Aken, Yareni Alvarado,

Jenny Atteberry, Morgan Bateman, Marshall Berry, Tracie Billings, Keri Bobo, Amy Bonell.

Galaxia-Dawn Canada, Courtney Carlson, Ignacio Castro, Damaris Castro, Patricia Coker, Antonio Covington, Randolph Crawford, Laura Culley, Laura Cunningham, Sandra Curry.

Emily DeWitt, Lekita Diamond-Gaynor, Jessica Dunn, Sarah Dunning, Roland Echohawk, Patricia Estep, Mahdie Farzaneh, Lakitia Florie.

Amber Flud, Elizabeth Garrick, Teresa Gee, Brian Gililland, Guillermo Gonzalez, Cassie Goodwin, Jack Gouge, Allecia Graff, Jason Gwynn.

Randy Haas, Dana Hanley, Cynthia Henderson, Michael Hendricks, Mirna Hernandez, Katie Hill, William Hogan, Lisa Hulsey, Eric Hutchinson.

Donald Jackson II, Ter-rance Jones, Lindsay Kim-ber, Steven Kurdziel, Bika-lpa Lalchan, Julia Lamb, Vivian Le, Maribel Lopez.

Meghan MacDonald, Al'lesha Mack, Bishal Mal-la, Amy Marshall, Robert Martinez, Mitzi McBeath, Amber McBride, Serena McNair, Alisa McRae.

Amy Mercer, Perla Michel, Whitney Miller, Christopher Mussatto, Hunter Musser, Lesley Novak, Yvonne Oberly, Jacob Ogle, Juan Olvera, Omonigho Omokhomion.

Yuko Oshizawa, Isela Perez, Cynthia Praefke, Alexandra Protopopova, Mal-lori Puckett, Rocio Ramirez, Robert Retherford, Quincy Robinson, Heather Rockenfield, Caroll Sadler.

Stephanie Sandberg, Jennifer Sappington, William Schmidt, Serena Shoemaker, Cynthia Short, Rex Shoun, Tanner Simmons, LaDawn Smith, Rachel Smith.

Kyndra Spaulding, Joshua Stanley, LeTeecia Starks, Sherry Stewart, Tiffany Stratton, Barbara Tech-Buckner, Justin Tee-

man, James Tillman.

Lawrence Tran, Amy Turner, Billie Wallis, June Waters, Tammy Watson, Dustin Watts, Lindsay Williams, Jaiden Williams, Andrew Willingham.

Associate in Science

Sarah Adams, Isaac Babb, Mark Baumgartner, Terri Black, Jess Blumenthal, Hannah Bolinger, Amanda Boutwell, Debra Brown, Ryan Brummett.

Kristi Bulman, Andrew Clyburn, Laurie Coleman, Robert Conger, Tiana Cook, Britnie Costa, Jacqueline Cowan, Michael Crow, Lydia Cuellar.

An Dang, Christopher Davis, Dustin Dewett, Susan DeWitt, John Do, Tresa Dorman, Pammella Duran, Sarah Durbin, Loretta Dutton.

Krys Feyen, Margarita Flores, Tiffany Frazier, Adriana Gonzalez, Teresa Griffin, Alberto Guzman, Michael Hakim, Casey Halabi, Ramona Hale.

Kaydee Haney, Syed Hashmi, Coletrice Haywood, Kevin Hecksher, Chandler Hemphill, Susana Hernandez, Gary Hill II, Brian Holmes, Daniel Hunter, My Huynh.

Khurshid Jahan, Nuru Jemutai, Charles Jones, Tyler Lai, Trever Lee, Betty Limas, Quincy Loveless, Asberg Mahanti, Sabina Maharjan.

Amy Marshall, Kissi Martinez, Ivy Mateychick, Sandra Medrano, Tonja

Nelson, Kristi Newber-ry, Hien Nguyen, Quynh Nguyen, Araceli Orozco, Katheryn Orr.

Kendra Parker, Huan Pham, Bao Pham, Cheryl Phillips, Zack Pinkerton, Thomas Pirtle, Misty Pruitt, Laura Quenzer, Aurelien Quillet.

Anusha Regmi, Stephani Rouse, Michelle Rude-sill, Katherine Sanders, Christina Sharp, Rupak Shrestha, George Sports Sr., Luke Stovall.

John Taylor, Adam Tucker, Amanda Tucker, Jacqueline Underwood, Alberto Velazquez Jr., Kelly Walser, Matthew Weis.

Cassie Wingate, Victoria Witte, John Wojciechowski, Ruth Wuest, Elda Young, Agim Zakuti, James Zellner.

Certificate of Mastery

Jason Clemmons, Kim-berly Cline, Victoria Col-lett, Katrena Derrick, Rick Garrett, Haseeb Hafiz Ur Rehman.

Douglas Hargrove Jr., Lori Hogan, Patricia Keas-ling, Jason Lankford, Teresa Maston, Lana Milas, Christopher Morgan.

Christopher Mussatto, Justin Niblack, Guy Rodolph, Yesenia Santillan, Rochelle Smith, Rhonda Spain, Andrew Weber, Jeffrey Weisbrod, Tracie White.

If your name is not listed and should be, please call the office of Academic Affairs at 405-682-7546.

"Congratulations to everyone who has graduated in the last year or will graduate this summer. The completion of a college degree is a significant accomplishment. I commend you and wish you continued success in the future."
—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President



it's a small world

Professor from China considers job at OCCC his greatest accomplishment

By Bishal Malla
Staff Writer

A man who learned to speak English after he earned his bachelor's degree has been teaching computer science at OCCC for seven years.

Computer Science professor Haifeng Ji, 32, joined the college staff in 2002.

Ji, from Nanjing, regards this as a great accomplishment in life.

The People's Republic of China, commonly known as China, is the largest country in the world in terms of population with more than 1.3 billion people, about a quarter of the world's total, according to the CIA World Factbook.

Ji said when he was young he never thought he would be teaching in the U.S. As a child, his ambition was to become a scientist.

He said he used to have a small laboratory in the cor-

ner of his room where he performed experiments.

"I was not interested in English when I was young," he said, even though he was required to study it in school.

In Chinese schools and colleges, professors teach English reading and grammar, but they don't give much attention to speaking and listening, Ji said.

"Besides English, all other classes are taught in Chinese," he said.

Ji said he thinks that's the reason Chinese students don't speak English in China.

Ji changed his mind about coming to the U.S. when one of his friends from elementary school, who came here before he did, told Ji about opportunities available in the U.S.

In 1999, Ji came to Pennsylvania State University, along with four friends, he said.

After studying English as a second language for two

semesters, Ji transferred to the University of Nebraska, where he got his master's degree in computer science.

Ji still remembers the days when it was hard for him to communicate with American professors and friends.

"I had much difficulty understanding people and they used to have the same problem understanding me," Ji said.

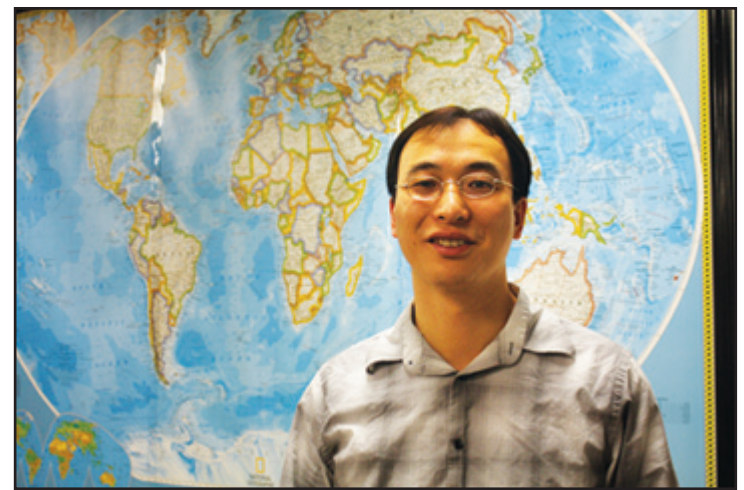
Things have been different for Ji since he came to OCCC.

He said he felt fortunate to receive a job offer after completing his master's degree in 2002.

In seven years, Ji established himself as a full-time professor at OCCC.

Ji said he finds the faculty members and staff at the college to be friendly and helpful.

He said some things about American culture surprised him when he first arrived.



Haifeng Ji

"In China if you see someone you don't know, you don't say 'hi' to them," he said. "But here, people say 'hi' to each other even if they don't know the person."

Ji said he misses his home and family a lot.

He goes to China to visit his family once a year and that makes him feel better, he said.

Ji said he thinks the U.S. education system is more accessible, compared to China.

He said it's difficult for students to go to college in China if they are from a poor family. Most students study full-time, and their parents pay the tuition for them.

At OCCC, students can study part-time and work at the same time to support themselves, which allows students to pay their own tuition, he said.

Ji has a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Nanjing University in China.

He said he enjoys teaching.

"I think teaching is exciting because students can learn something useful for their future," he said. "I like to help students understand and learn new

things."

He thinks the main reason for his success in life is doing things one step at a time.

"I think I can do more things in life that way," he said.

Ji also serves as a sponsor of the college's International Student Association.

He said he enjoys interacting with students from different parts of the world and learning their traditions and cultures.

Ji said he finds Oklahoma to be a great place to live.

"Oklahomans are very friendly," he said.

He said he also finds living expenses in Oklahoma to be lower compared to other states in the U.S.

He said he finds a great environment at OCCC, to teach as well as to learn.

As a sponsor of ISA, Ji welcomes all international and American students to join the club to explore cultures and traditions from all around the world.

For more information about ISA, contact Ji at 405-682-1611, ext. 7381, or e-mail hji@occc.edu.

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



China — (People's Republic of China)

Capital: Beijing

Population: 1,338,612,968

GDP: \$4,222,000,000,000 (USD)

Size: 5,963,274 sq. miles (slightly smaller than the U.S.)

National Languages: Mandarin Chinese

Currency: Renminbi

Government: Communist state

Religions: Daoist (Taoist), Buddhist, Christian, Muslim

Festivals: Spring Festival (Chinese New Year), Dragon Boat Festival, Moon Festival

Details: In term of land area, China is the fourth largest country in the world after Russia, Canada and the U.S. The total land area of China is about 5,963,274 sq. miles. Shanghai and Beijing are the two largest cities not only in China, but also in the world. China is the most populated country in the world. Due to its large population, the Chinese government has adopted a "one child" policy for families in an effort to curb the high numbers. China has obligatory military service of two years for all men between ages 18 and 22. Women of the same age group are also recruited for specific military jobs. The Chinese calendar is the oldest known calendar, which is based on the lunar cycle, originating in 2600 BC.

*source: www.cia.gov

World Region: Asia



Professor lectures students on alternative energy

By **Andy Jensen**
News Writing Student

Students fixed their eyes on the 6-inch engine, with no apparent power source, silently spinning away in the palm of engineering professor Greg Holland's hand.

"This looks like a perpetual motion device," Holland said. "It is a Stirling engine, powered using only the heat from my hand."

Holland gave a lecture on alternative energy April 9 to a class of journalism students.

"One of the things I see a lot of is the misuse of the term 'alternative energy,'" he said.

Alternative energy is a broad term, which covers both energy to power homes and vehicles, as well as renewable sources of energy, Holland said.

"Something doesn't have to be renewable in order to be an alternative energy source," he said.

As examples, Holland pointed out that coal and gasoline were once considered alternative energy sources.

He said he thinks alternative energy is a complex issue right now, as the world is looking for the next big source of energy. But it must have fewer, or none, of the drawbacks the current sources have.

"There is no 'good' source

of energy," he said. "You can find drawbacks to any source."

Solar power requires large mines for rare materials to build the panels. Wind power needs giant turbines that are visible for miles, and some people do not want to see them.

"I don't know why people feel that way," said Holland. "[Wind turbines] are very elegant machines."

Holland said he is a fan of the Stirling engine.

Originally conceived almost 200 years ago, the device is named after its inventor, Robert Stirling.

The engine uses pressure from hot expanding air to move a piston connected to a wheel, he said.

The wheel rotates and pulls a cooler piston, drawing hot air to the cooler area where the temperature and pressure come down.

Holland said when the air has cooled sufficiently, the pressure cannot hold the piston against gravity, so it moves down forcing air into the hot side to start the process again.

He said it is a simple design that helps address most of the negatives of other forms of alternative energy.

"It could be centralized in one location, or distributed," Holland said. "It's quiet. Everyone could have one in their back yard."

"It can also run off of bio-



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Greg Holland, engineering professor, displays a 6-inch Stirling engine to a class of journalism students. Holland visited the class to speak on the topic of alternative energy and to discuss the benefits of the Stirling engine. Stirling engines use pressure from hot air to power themselves.

mass."

This means a Stirling engine could be used to make energy from natural gas, ethanol, or even warm compost or garbage.

"That temperature differ-

ential is the driving force for heat transfer," Holland said. "You can run a Stirling engine off just the temperature difference between the ground and the air."

Today, Stirling Energy Systems is building 20,000 of the engines for use in concentrated solar dishes in "the largest solar power project in the world," according to its website.

Each dish works in tandem with a Stirling engine to produce enough power for 12 average homes.

Power company Southern California Edison has agreed to buy all the power generated by the alternative source when the project is complete.

Holland teaches Engineering 1000 Special Projects in which students build Stirling engines as a group project.

For more information on the Stirling engine and other alternative energy sources, visit Holland's website at www.occc.edu/gholland.

Spring career workshops moved to summer

By **Jeremy Neal**
News Writing Student

The Employment Power Workshop originally planned in the spring has been rescheduled to early summer, said Debra Vaughn, Student Employment and Career Services director.

Vaughn said there will be eight workshops available for students beginning June 3 and lasting through July 22.

The workshops will take place in the Student Em-

ployment and Career Services office, next to Student Life on the first floor of the Main Building, she said.

Vaughn encouraged students to attend.

"With the current economic recession and rising unemployment rates, our students need to understand that competition for jobs are growing," she said.

"They need to be as prepared as possible for presenting themselves in a professional matter that lands them the job they

want.

"These workshops assist that goal."

To register for a summer workshop, e-mail employmentservices@occc.edu.

For more information on Student Employment and Career Services, contact Vaughn at 405-682-1611, ext. 7362, or e-mail dvaughn@occc.edu.

Summer Career and Power Workshops:

- June 3 — *Jobs On-Campus*
- June 10 — *Job Board Registration*
- June 17 — *Optimal Résumé Creation*
- June 24 — *Optimal Cover Letters*
- July 1 — *Dress for Job Interview*
- July 8 — *Lunch Etiquette for Interviews*
- July 15 — *DISCOVER Career Exploration Hot Occupations*
- July 22 — *Internships*

Coffee shop creator prepares to move on

By **Jamie Malthaner**
News Writing Student

In just two years, the OCCC coffee shop has become a favorite gathering place for students to meet and relax — or to study.

The mastermind who suggested the coffee shop be built is Murod Mamatov, also known as “D.J.” He has managed it since its opening in August 2007.

In May, Mamatov will leave OCCC to pursue a bachelor’s degree at Oklahoma City University.

Mamatov came to Oklahoma as an international student in 2005 from Uzbekistan. He graduated with honors last May in international business.

In one of his classes, Introduction to Business, Mamatov said he was working on a project when he came up with the idea of putting a coffee shop in the college.

“I was thinking of ideas I could do,” he said. “There was a spot on campus where there was an empty, unused fountain. I thought it would be great if it could be turned into a hangout place.”

Mamatov said he took the idea to Jack Kraettli, Extended Services admin-

istrator at that time, and Kraettli gave him the encouragement and motivation he needed to succeed in his plan for the coffee shop.

After he made presentations to groups on campus, the idea gained the support of students and college administrators.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist approved the project and appropriated the funds, Mamatov said.

Mamatov was working in the college cafeteria at the time as assistant manager. He said John Carson, owner of Carson’s Catering, chose him to manage the coffee shop operation.

Carson played a key role in Mamatov’s learning experience and success with the coffee shop by giving him freedom to experiment with marketing techniques, Mamatov said.

“He must have seen potential in me, and I’m glad he did,” he said.

Mamatov said the coffee shop was a success from the time it opened.

It now has extended hours and is even open on Saturdays, which has been welcomed by weekend and evening students, he said.

Mamatov said he works full-time as a manager at

the coffee shop and part-time as a circulation assistant in the library.

The 22-year-old said he recently learned he had received a generous scholarship from OCU.

He said he plans to major in business marketing for non-profit organizations.

Mamatov said he will pass the coffee shop down to new management once he leaves OCCC in May.

“I’m sure the crew and new manager will do a great job, even better maybe, in serving students at the college,” he said. “I’ll definitely be stopping by to visit.”

Mamatov’s coworkers speak highly of him.

“D.J. is a very hard worker and a very polite young man,” said Lailani McBryde, a psychology major and Mamatov’s co-worker at the library.

After earning his bachelor’s degree, Mamatov said he hopes to continue to OCU’s law school.

Joanne Cole, a microbiology major who works at the coffee shop, also commends Mamatov for his abilities.

“D.J. is a lot of fun as a boss,” Cole said. “He has a lot of potential to go very far.”



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Murod “D.J.” Mamatov, coffee shop manager, displays the wide variety of pastries and snacks offered to customers. The coffee shop was opened in August 2007 from an idea Mamatov had for a class project. President Paul Sechrist approved the project and turned it into a reality. Mamatov earned an associate’s in international business from OCCC and will be attending Oklahoma City University in the fall.

Nursing students turn to patient simulators for practice

By **Jillian Chopin**
News Writing Student

While most students at OCCC use pen and paper as their regular classroom tools, nursing students use life-like human patient simulators, said Sherri Givens, Human Patient Simulator coordinator.

Givens said students have to respond with their medical knowledge to scenarios ranging from tracking a patient’s pulse and breathing to a more difficult task, such as inserting and monitoring a chest tube.

These simulators are used during labs where instructors will set up a scenario, she said.

Givens said most of the simulators are operated with remote controls.

Depending upon whether the students are administering proper medical care, the instructor will either improve or worsen the condition of the “patient” until the students have brought the simulator to a satisfactory condition.

She said OCCC owns 17 simulators, the most state-of-the-art being “Dan the Man.”

Dan is OCCC’s most sought after simulator because he can perform many life-like simulations, Givens said.

Dan can perform many actions, such as breathe, talk, moan, groan and ac-

tually “die” if not treated with proper medical care, she said.

The college purchased Dan in 2004 for \$180,000; however, Givens said, as simulators have become more desired by colleges nationwide, their value has increased.

A human patient simulator like Dan, who is manufactured by Meti, is now running at \$225,000, she said.

With a price tag like this, much comes along with the simulator.

Dan can respond to medications, perform pupillary changes, and provide IV access through his right arm. He also weighs in at approximately 180 pounds

— providing another human similarity.

Most of the other simulators weigh around 60 to 80 pounds, Givens said.

Dan also can change genders, and when this happens, students change the name from Dan to Danielle or Daniella, she said.

When instructors decide to change the gender, Givens said, they can switch the genitalia parts, and to complete the transformation they will dress the simulator in women’s clothing, and add a wig or hat as a finishing touch.

While some of the less advanced simulators are battery powered, Dan is hooked up to a computer system and runs off four

different tanks including oxygen, nitrogen, compressed air and carbon dioxide.

If Dan is run for about eight hours, the two compressed air tanks will completely run out and have to be changed before he can be used again, Givens said.

In Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma is the only other institution with a simulator comparable to Dan, she said.

OCCC is the only Emergency Medical Sciences program in the state with such a sophisticated and high tech simulator.

For more information, contact Givens at 405-682-1611, ext. 7395.

Prof brings experience to OCCC nursing program, aims to help students succeed

By Destanie Ellis
News Writing Student

Nursing professor Sarah Brown is on a mission.

She is half of a two-person team whose goal is to graduate more nurses through a special OCCC program that takes students with bachelor's degrees in other fields and retrain them to become registered nurses.

The program is called BADNAP, which stands for Baccalaureate to Associate Degree Nurse Accelerated Pathway. The program has been going for about three years, Brown said.

This year, 60 students have been accepted. BADNAP's biggest class thus far, she said.

"BADNAP is very intense and educationally demanding," Brown said. "The pace is twice as fast as the traditional nursing program."

Courses which traditionally require 16-week semesters are taught in four eight-week terms. Half of the instruction is online.

Students have six hours of in-class theory and six hours of online work, where teachers post pa-



Sarah Brown

pers, and any other kind of class work.

Brown said she had worked for 11 years as a nurse before coming to OCCC full-time in August.

Previously, she said, she mostly did adjunct teaching for other schools.

She has taught part-time at the University of Central Oklahoma, and worked at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center and Moore Medical Center.

Brown said she has practiced nursing for eight years at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center and continues to work a few days a month at the Moore Medical Center.

This gives her hands-on experience to pass on to her students, she said.

Brown said she worked in the nursing area of Labor and Delivery, which had always been an interest to her.

Brown said she chose to teach at OCCC because she liked the philosophy and mission of the school.

"I like the students and the people I am working with," she said.

Brown earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from UCO. She said she is currently working on her master's degree in nursing education at OU and will graduate in the summer of 2010.

She said she makes it a point to keep work and home separate so she can spend time with her family.

Married with three children, Brown said she doesn't always find time to do everything on her list.

However, she said, she never lets that distract her from keeping her family as her number one focus.

Brown said she also is active in her church and loves to read.

Next year's BADNAP

class has already been picked. In order to be eligible for the BADNAP program, students must have their application in by mid-February.

For more information

about the BADNAP program, contact Robin McMurry at 405-682-1611, ext. 7772, or e-mail rmcmurry@occc.edu.

Brown can be reached at sbrown@occc.edu.

Nursing grads earn high test scores

By Destanie Ellis
News Writing Student

The nursing graduates at OCCC have exceeded the state and national pass rates on their license test, known as NCLEX-RN exams, said Rosemary Klepper, nursing program director.

Klepper said the NCLEX-RN is a national licensure exam for registered nurses.

The NCLEX-RN pass rate for OCCC graduates in 2008 was 92.78 percent, exceeding the state pass rate by seven percentage points and the national pass rate by six percentage points, she said.

She said 182 nurses graduated in the 2007-2008 school year.

This is not the first time OCCC students have performed so well, Klepper said. Nursing graduates also exceeded the state and national pass rates in 2003, 2004 and 2007.

Klepper attributed their success to a nursing program that not only prepares the students in taking their test, but also to be good nurses.

"Our curriculum prepares students to take the exam, that is our job," she said.

"We also use computerized support materials throughout our program to help students prepare for the licensure exam and for being safe entry-level RNs."

Before they can be approved to take the exam, nursing graduates must apply to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, or to another state where they expect to practice.

In addition, a licensure exam review course is offered on campus for students who wish to take advantage of it, Klepper said.

A company called Assessment Technologies Institute provides the course at OCCC for nursing students.

Nursing graduates from many Oklahoma programs come to the college to take the review class.

The course will be hosted on campus May 27 through 29.

Graduates have to pay for the course, Klepper said.

For more information, please contact Klepper at 405-682-1611, ext. 7289, or e-mail rklepper@occc.edu.



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?

Security director explains safe refuge signs

By David Massey
News Writing Student

The safe refuge signs on the stairwell doors in the second, third and fourth floors of campus buildings may require interpretation for some, since the signs lack instructions in words.

The signs show a wheelchair in one block and flames in another — but no words.

Ike Sloas, Safety and Security director, explained the meaning of the signs.

The safe refuge areas are for “fire only” incidents, as indicated by the fire emblem on the sign that is coupled with the disabilities sign, Sloas said.

If a fire occurs above the ground floor, the elevators will be shut down, making it impossible for a person in a wheelchair to descend from a higher level, he said.

In case of a fire, professors with any students

that use a wheelchair or have challenges with mobility will direct the students to the designated stairwell areas on the second floor or above.

The professor will then notify the school’s dispatcher that a student is being directed to the area.

“From the time the fire alarm rings, [the Safety and Security Department officers] come into it,” Sloas said.

He said the officers will respond to the call of a student in a refuge area within minutes.

If a person is on the first floor when a fire alarm sounds that person should exit the building.

“There is no sense in [sheltering] on the first floor,” Sloas said. “If you are on the first floor, just evacuate.”

There are eight fire refuge areas in campus buildings, four in the Main Building, two in the Arts and Humanities building, and two

inside the Library.

If college officers must evacuate a person from a refuge area, they will use an Evac-U-Treck machine.

“These machines are basically a seat on top of treads similar to [treads] seen on Army tanks,” Sloas said.

The machines can maneuver up and down stairs to safely move a person to the ground floor. The school owns five of these machines, which cost \$500 each.

“The closest fire station is only 2.3 miles away from campus so their response time is typically five minutes or less,” Sloas said.

If a person is seeking shelter in a refuge stairwell, that person should know that these areas can withstand fire under extreme conditions.

They are “fire rated,” able to withstand an hour of fire, Sloas said.

This gives a window of



time for emergency personnel to respond so individuals waiting in the stairwell areas should remain calm and be patient until help arrives, he said.

Sloas said OCCC follows National Fire Protection

Agency codes in conjunction with local fire departments, as well as the ADA Standards for Accessible Design which checks on wheelchair access to buildings as well as regulates fire alarms in buildings.

Retiring professors, staff recognized at ceremony

By Ryan Campbell
News Writing Student

Eight college employees are turning the page on a new chapter of life as they leave the working world and enter retirement.

On the list are Patricia Jimenez-Brooks, Charlotte Mulvihill, Lloyd Kingsbury, Sheri Hobbs, Shirley Crosby, Mary Gundlach, Jack Kraettli, and Richard Rouillard.

All were recently honored at a reception on campus.

Jimenez-Brooks taught Spanish at the college for 29 years.

During that time, she organized many international trips with students where, she said, students used the Spanish they learned to travel with classmates and personally experience the language and culture of many different countries around the world.

“Being with students as they experience new cultures and open themselves up to the world — it’s great,” Jimenez-Brooks said.

The mix of age, ethnicity, and backgrounds of students has been one of the many rewards of Brooks’ career.

“I have loved working at a community college because of the variety of students,” she said.

“Over the years, one thing that hasn’t changed is the fact that the community college really serves the community.”

Jimenez-Brooks expressed enthusiasm about her teaching career.

“I’ve always thought my job was a lot of fun. I’m just hoping that the next chapter of my life is as fun as this one.

“This place has such an energy about it. It’s a stimulating energy that makes

you feel good to be here.”

Another person who has contributed to the growth of the college is Charlotte Mulvihill.

Mulvihill said she has been actively involved in the development of the biotechnology program at OCCC since the spring of 1999.

Because of her efforts over the years, OCCC has been awarded a total of \$4 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Labor, and the National Science Foundation.

Mary Gundlach will retire as the Health Professions Division Assistant on July 1, she said.

Lloyd Kingsbury retired as the Health Lab Coordinator in 2008. He had worked at the college for 20 years.

Sheri Hobbs served as the Arts and Humanities Division secretary from

1999 until her retirement in 2008.

Reference librarian Shirley Crosby has served as the afternoon and evening librarian since June 1997. She will retire July 20, 2008, said Sally Strebig, library secretary.

Professor Jack Kraettli taught Principles of Real Estate, marketing, and business during his ten-

ure at OCCC. He left his position as the evening administrator in 2008. He began working at the college in 1984.

Professor Richard Rouillard had been a professor since the college opened its doors in 1972. He retired in 2008, but was recognized with the others at the retirement ceremony April 22.

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Washington, DC 20008.



Earth Share

Read the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

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

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

• **June 1 to 5 :** Summer sports camps kick off with Baseball, T-ball and Water Polo camps. For more information about sports camps contact Recreation and Fitness specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

June 8 to 12 : Soccer and Basketball camps will be the featured sport of the week in the Summer Sports camp. For more information about sports camps, 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.

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

www.occc.edu/pioneer

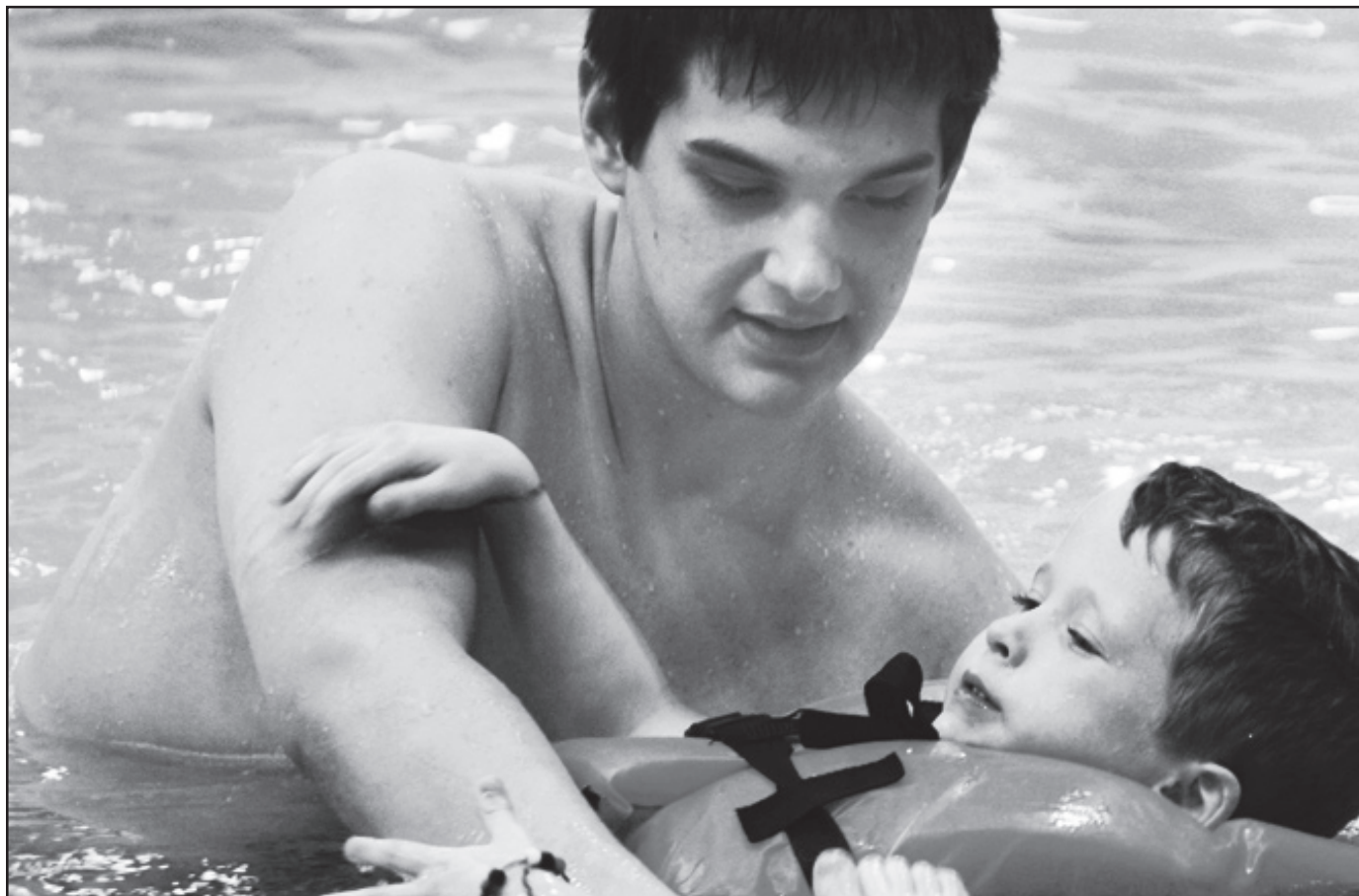


Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Robert "Tre" Kramer, assists a young swimmer at the Learn to Swim program in the Aquatic Center. Learn To Swim is just one of many programs offered this summer at OCCC. For more information about the Aquatic Center contact Aquatics and Safety Training Specialist James Hensley at 405-682-1611, ext. 7662.

Summer camps around the corner

A variety of activities offered for children and adults

By Justin Combs
Staff Writer

OCCC's Recreation and Fitness center is a few weeks away from kicking off their summer sports camps with a variety of sports for children to learn, or to hone their skills.

Youth camps are scheduled in June and July and cover the conventional sports, such as baseball, basketball and football camps.

In addition sports children may never have participated in will be offered as well, like water polo, kayaking and scuba diving.

Youth camps for children ages 6 to 11 will be held from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, June 1 through July 31, said Kristen Hoaglin, Recreation and Fitness secretary.

Advanced Youth Skills camps for young teenagers ages 12 to 14 will be held in the afternoons, from 1 to 5 p.m., on the same dates as the youth camps.

"Each week of camp costs \$60 and includes a camp T-shirt," Hoaglin said.

Each week is dedicated to a dif-

ferent sport in both camps.

Blue Water Divers of Oklahoma City holds weekly scuba lessons at the college with monthly trips planned to exotic locations.

Allen Aboujeib of Blue Water Divers of Oklahoma City, said participants in the classes aren't required to own scuba tanks to attend.

People as young as 10 can participate in the lessons.

"We provide the tanks and equipment for the lessons," Aboujeib said. "If you're already a certified diver, the classes will still be beneficial."

He said trips to Cozumel are planned in June and July with a loose itinerary to enjoy yourself.

Aboujeib said the June trip costs \$675 and the July trip costs \$650.

"All the food, snacks and drinks are included in the package," he said.

"The only thing not included is the off shore diving fee which is \$55 per person."

"Cozumel is the most popular location that we visit and the turnouts really good," Aboujeib said. "We take about 20 people

for each trip."

For more information, visit Blue Divers of Oklahoma City's website www.bluewaterokc.com or call 405-631-4433.

Swimming lessons will be offered to children with a kid friendly program called "Snoopy Squad and Peanuts Gang".

The children will have a 40-minute swimming lesson followed by structured activity time, story time, arts and crafts and snack time.

The Snoopy Squad is for children 3 to 5 years of age.

The Peanuts Gang will host children 6 to 9 years of age.

The cost is \$55 per session for both age groups.

Child-friendly themes will be implemented in this five session program, such as Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

For more information about youth and Advanced youth camps, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786, or visit the Recreation and Fitness website www.occc.edu/RF.

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

Government professors debate death penalty

By Alex Massey
News Writing Student

A debate on the death penalty pitted two political science professors against one another in an event sponsored by the College Republicans and Young Democrats on campus recently.

"As American citizens, we ask law enforcement and our military to do the very thing we are debating: to take a life," said political science professor Dana Glencross, speaking in favor of the death penalty.

Glencross wore a pastel yellow dress at the debate, which was attended by about 100 people, most of them the professors' students. They had been primed to attend by the promise of a lively interchange.

"The death penalty is not for retribution," she said. "The purpose is for public safety. Those who take a life forfeit their own."

Political science professor Markus Smith started by pointing out the role racism plays in assigning the death penalty, particularly in Southern states. Smith spoke against the death penalty.

Dressed in his Taekwondo uniform — white pants and a white tunic — Smith opened by stating the U.S. is one of only four countries that carry out the death penalty. The others are Saudi Arabia, Iran, and China. That's not good company, Smith said.

Smith said Southern states have openly dualistic judicial practices regarding race, which favors Caucasians over African Americans.

He added that 80 percent of those executed in the U.S. are executed in Southern states. Texas, which is the number-one state for executions, has never executed a white person for murdering a black person.

Glencross argued that the death penalty is not

applied discriminatively.

She also noted that women rarely receive a death penalty verdict. She said the system that issues the death penalty, as well as any other verdict, can be flawed. She said 50 percent of death penalty verdicts are overturned on appeal.

The moderators, an officer of the Young Democrats and an officer of the College Republicans, asked questions of both of the debaters. The first came from the College Republican for Smith: "Is the Death Penalty constitutional? Would you call it cruel and unusual punishment?"

Smith replied that the death penalty ought to be declared unconstitutional, and cruel and unusual in that it deprives a person of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Glencross was asked a question pertaining to the jury selection system. She reiterated her point that the system needs to be fixed if racist tendencies exist in it.

She was then asked if she felt the public was well educated about the death penalty, to which she answered that public opinion polls only favor the death penalty until other options are given, such as life in prison without parole.

Glencross was asked if the death penalty was just, in that it doesn't make a perpetrator live with the crime he committed. Glencross replied, "We must make sure no other crime like it is committed by the same murderer."

Smith replied to a question about the cost of the death penalty by saying that life without parole is cheaper because of all the appeals and other business that comes with execution.

Both professors addressed the deterrent effect of the death penalty.

Smith said if execution was a deterrent, then the

South wouldn't continue to execute 80 percent of those put to death. Smith said the majority of murders are crimes of passion and that is why the logical fear of execution doesn't enter into the minds of most murderers.

Glencross answered that the death penalty is a deterrent in instrumental murders, which involve planning, not passion.

She also argued that life in prison is a harsher penalty.

"It is more inhumane to imprison someone for life

"It is more inhumane to imprison someone for life than put them to death."

—Dana Glencross
Political Science Professor

"Poor defendants are more often wrongfully convicted [than the rich]."

—Markus Smith
Political Science Professor

than put them to death," Glencross said.

Smith said that economic standing affects proper representation in court.

"Poor defendants are more often wrongfully con-

victed [than the rich]," he said.

Glencross closed by stating that "It's about public safety. [Smith] is walking away from a chance to save lives," she said.



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Highlights

Asian Student Association meeting

The newly established student organization Asian Student Association is electing officers at its general meeting at noon Wednesday, May 13, in the World Languages and Cultures Center located in the Main Building. ASA is looking for enthusiastic people to serve as officers. ASA welcomes not only international students, but also American students to join the club. This is an opportunity to share and learn about the culture and people from different nations. Interested students can sign up to become a member. For more information, contact ASA sponsor Chiaki Troutman at 405-682-7104 or e-mail ctroutman@occc.edu.

Student Life Events

The Student Life office is offering new student and orientation before summer school. Times are 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12; 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 21, and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 28, in the College Union room located in the Main Building. For more information, contact Katie Treadwell at 405-682-7523 or e-mail ktreadwell@occc.edu.

Summer Enrollment hours extended

Summer enrollment is underway for classes beginning June 1. Extended hours have been added for the students convenience. The enrollment office will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26; Wednesday, May 27; Thursday, May 28; Monday, June 1 and Tuesday, June 2, according to the press release issued by the Media Relation coordinator Cordell Jordan. Students enrolling for the first time must complete an application for admission that can be found in the Admissions office located in the Main Building, or that can be downloaded online at www.occc.edu/ApplyNow. Returning students may enroll in person or online. For more information about enrollment, contact Recruitment and Admissions office at 405-682-1611, ext. 7580.

Certificate in Mastery in International Business

The Business division will offer two of the six classes related to the Certificate of Mastery in International Business in the fall semester. The 18 hour mastery program is targeted at business men and women who have a college degree, as well as the current associate degree seeking students of OCCC. For more information, contact Business Division office at 405-682-7550.

Graduates are only a postmark away

By Kevin Kues
News Writing Student

Graduates who walked across the stage May 8 received a red faux leather diploma cover, but no diploma.

The diplomas will be issued as soon as the college verifies the students have completed all the necessary coursework and other degree requirements, said Barbara Gowdy, Graduation Services director.

"The diplomas will be mailed out to the address that was supplied on the

graduation application," she said.

They will be mailed around July 1, Gowdy said.

If the address that was supplied has changed, the graduate needs to contact the graduation office and provide the correct address immediately.

If a diploma is lost, there will be a \$25 re-issuing fee paid through the bursar's office.

For more information, contact Gowdy at 682-7528 or e-mail bgowdy@occc.edu.



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Members of the Asian Student Association meet for the first time on May 4. (L-R) Haifeng Ji, sponsor; Li Wang, president; Anna Chang, vice president; and Chiaki Troutman, sponsor, were present to launch the new club.

Asian Student Association join club lineup with new officers

By Bishal Malla
Staff Writer

Spillover from the International Cultural Food Fair has led to the formation of a new campus club called the Asian Student Association.

The newly approved club held its first meeting May 4 at the World Languages and Cultures Center and elected a president and vice president.

ASA elected Li Wang, business major from China, as president and Anna Chang, nursing major from Taiwan, as vice president for the club.

Club sponsors are Haifeng Ji, computer science professor, and Chiaki Troutman, World Languages and Cultures Center lab assistant.

Ji said the club will elect other officers in its upcoming general meeting at noon Wednesday, May 13, in the World Languages and Cultures Center on the second floor of the Main Building.

He said the motive behind opening the club is to

create a friendly environment for Asian students at OCCC and to promote their cultures.

Troutman said she thinks the club will help Asian students feel more comfortable by providing opportunities to interact with each other inside or outside the college.

"It's a bridge between Asian students and other cultures, including American," Wang said.

Several clubs and organizations also elected new officers for the next semester.

The Alpha Theta Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa recently elected pre-engineering major Alexandra Wilkes as president for the next school year. PTK is an academic honor society.

The group also elected Tino Ceballos as leadership vice president, Sarah Belleau as service vice president, Gracelyn Spears as fellowship vice president, Frank Balch as scholarship vice president, and Cynthia Praefke as public relations secretary.

This year's PTK presi-

dent, Jenny Atteberry, said the newly elected officers will start working soon.

Similarly, the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education has elected new officers.

HOPE elected political science major Devin Ramirez as president.

The club also elected Haylee Haworth as vice president, Francisco Cervantes as secretary, Freddy Valencia as The Leadership Council representative, Anayeli Paez as public relations officer, and Nayeli Favila as treasurer.

This year's HOPE president, Martin Ramirez, said the new officers already have started working. Their terms began immediately after the last meeting, on May 7 at the World Languages and Cultures Center.

For more information about clubs and organizations, contact Karlen Grayson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7185, or e-mail kgrayson@occc.edu.

Staff Writer Bishal Malla can be reached at 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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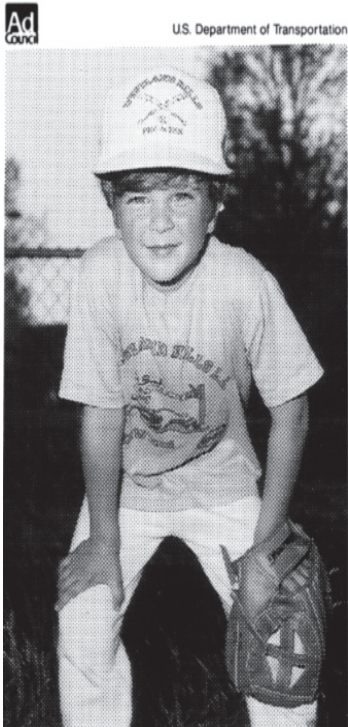
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U.S. Department of Transportation

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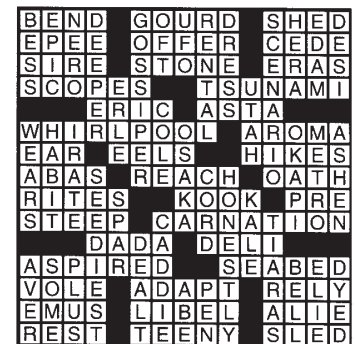
ACROSS

- 1 Iron or copper
- 6 Genuine
- 10 Coffee, slangily
- 14 "Good night" girl
- 15 "The Mammoth Hunters" heroine
- 16 Flying saucers: abbr.
- 17 Tropical vine
- 18 Eye part
- 19 Guys' partners
- 20 Kind of stand
- 22 Wading bird
- 23 Longings
- 24 Satiated
- 26 Cactus habitat
- 29 Squabbled
- 33 Untamed
- 34 Shopping —
- 36 Ramble around
- 37 Nabokov girl
- 38 Long time
- 39 Plead
- 40 Races the engine of
- 42 Hotel employees
- 44 Greek goddess
- 45 Sky diver's maneuver
- 47 Breakfast breads
- 49 Casual shirts
- 50 Actor James — Jones
- 51 Kind of force
- 54 Red bird

DOWN

- 1 Factory
- 2 Buffalo's lake
- 3 Cubs or Reds
- 4 Ticked off
- 5 Thinner
- 6 Forays
- 7 "Jane —"
- 8 Muhammad —
- 9 — Vegas
- 10 Medieval entertainer
- 11 From a distance
- 12 Mouse cousin
- 13 Helper: abbr.
- 21 Picnic pests
- 22 Animal with antlers
- 24 Demon
- 25 Type of cube
- 26 Grumpy or Doc
- 27 Duck prized for its down
- 28 Work very hard
- 58 Roundup gear
- 59 Sulk
- 61 Black
- 62 Lotion ingredient
- 63 Rabbit's cousin
- 64 Coin of India
- 65 Sawbucks
- 66 Roman road
- 67 One-pot dinners

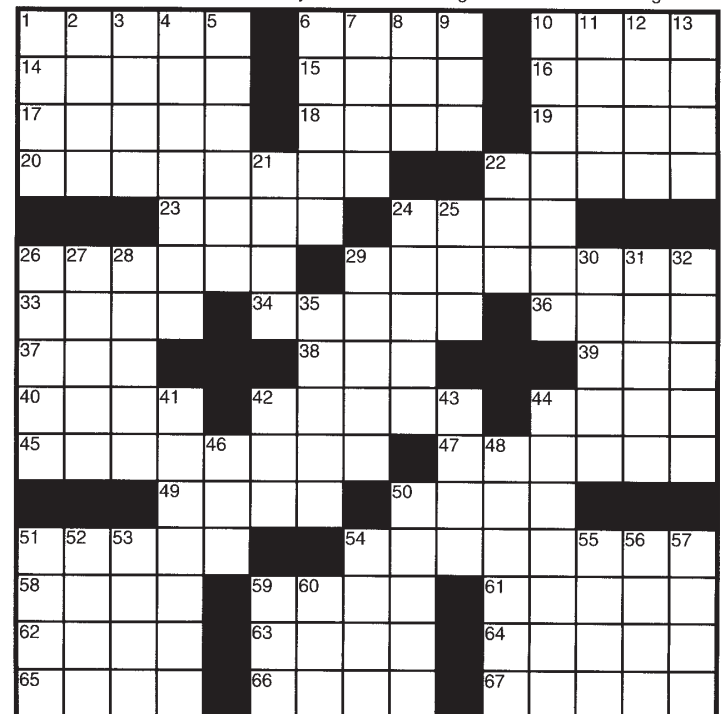
PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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- 29 Grill
- 30 Loose garments
- 31 Tennis champ
- 32 Painter of ballerinas
- 35 Chimes
- 41 Sofas
- 42 Daisy —
- 43 Leading player
- 44 Flatfish
- 46 Lawyer's charge
- 48 Selects from the menu
- 50 Cafe customer
- 51 Naughty kid
- 52 Movie part
- 53 On top of
- 54 Heal
- 55 "Nothin' doin'!"
- 56 Afresh
- 57 Soap-making ingredients
- 59 Upsilon's follower
- 60 Cereal grain



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International flags used for commencement

By Josh Perry
News Writing Student

Those who pay attention may have noticed the disappearance of the international flags hanging from the second floor clear story of the Main Building.

The flags have not van-

ished for good, said Marcy Roll, Student Life assistant.

Roll said they are going to be used during OCCC's commencement at the Cox Convention Center May 8.

The flags signify the diversity of international students who attend the

college, she said.

OCCC is home to more than 300 international students.

The flags symbolize the multiple countries the college represents.

Roll said the flags will return to campus shortly after the commencement

ceremony.

Davina Gricks, sophomore nursing major, said she was glad to hear the flags will be returning to the lobby.

She said her first reaction when she noticed they were missing was that

someone had stolen them.

The flags should be back in their normal position sometime after May 8, Roll said.

For more information about the flags, contact Roll at the Student Activity Office at mroll@occc.edu.

Book buyback times listed by bookstore

"Buyback,"
Cont. from page 1

it and the pages aren't falling out, you should be fine," Reinke said. Books with highlighting, notes in the margins, or dog-eared corners are accepted at buyback.

The only automatic disqualifier Reinke mentioned was water damage.

"Even if it is dry now, if the pages are crinkled up, and you can tell it's been wet, we can't buy them back. They will mold."

Although students won't get back their full investment, they will at least get some money back.

For biology student Maria Smith, it's frustrating.

"I spent \$400 to get my books, sold them back for \$125, and then I had to pay \$387 for books this semester," she said.

On the other hand, Andrew Turner, 19, said he's satisfied with the system.

"I love it," he said. "School is out, finals are over, and I have some cash to spend."

Reinke said she always staffs three buyers during buyback, so students rarely stand in line more than five minutes.

"It's better to sell your books early in the week,"

said Reinke, since the bookstore keeps on hand only the number of textbooks they predict they will need for the next semester.

After that quota has been met, she said, they sell used books to a wholesale book buyer.

The buyback price for books to be sold in the bookstore is higher than the buyback price for books that go to the wholesaler.

"They (the wholesalers) are taking more of a risk on being able to sell the books later, so the prices are lower," Reinke said.

For students who might need their books to study for final exams, Reinke suggested selling their books early, then using the textbook reserves for that last week of studying.

As long as students keep their textbooks, Reinke urges everyone to keep an eye on them.

"Textbook thefts are at their highest during buyback," Reinke said.

"People see the signs and think 'hey, here's some easy money,' and buyback is all cash."

The dates for book buyback at OCCC bookstore are:

Monday, May 11, from 8

a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday through Thursday, May 12 to 14, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, May 15, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to noon.

Monday, May 18, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Smoke-free campus idea taken to faculty association

"Vote,"
Cont. from page 1

Vaughan said from looking at Oklahoma State University in Oklahoma City as a model, she thinks it could take a year to put

everything in place for OCCC to go smoke-free.

Vaughan did say that of course the decision of when OCCC starts its smoke-free policy would be totally up to the college administration.

Springtime swim



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Pictured are the most recent addition to OCCC's wildlife. Child Development Center and Lab School Lab Supervisor Lee Ann Nurdin said she was able to make it into a learning experience for the children. She said for five weeks the children observed the eggs, fed the mother, and on the morning of May 1, they hatched with success.

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.

Do you have sports news for the Pioneer? Do you know of an OCCC athlete everyone should know about. If so, contact Justin at StaffWriter2@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7440.



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