

- Pick up your trash, editorial, p. 2.
- It's a small world, p. 7.
- Focus switches to fitness, sports, p. 8.
- Leadership retreat set, clubs, p. 10.

PIONEER

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Part-time workers switching to twice monthly paycheck

New system goes into effect Aug. 9

By Justin Combs
Editor

Starting Aug. 9, OCCC part-time employees, temporary employees and student employees will receive two paychecks a month instead of one, said Senior Human Resources Specialist Larry Robertson.

Robertson said House Bill 1032 passed in the legislature and will require every state agency to move to the bi-monthly payroll.

This will be in full effect at all state agencies by January 2011 or 2012, he said.

The change will be ushered in with a new time card entry system in which part-time workers enter their hours instead of filling out a paper timesheet.

Full-time/partial year employees will continue to turn in a paper timesheet and be paid on a monthly basis, Robertson said.

"These employees work full-time only 42 weeks a year, during major semesters such as fall, spring and summer, but not the weeks between semesters," he said.

Robertson said full-time employees' benefits and leave plans prevent them from switching to the new system just yet.

"We need some additional testing in the system in regards to how benefits and leave plan work with [it] before moving [full-time employees] to the new system," he said.

Robertson said the Web timecards will be accessed through MineOnline.

"Employees will fill out their timesheet on a daily basis and submit it to their supervisor for approval," he said.

Once approved by the supervisor, he said, it's filed in the payroll system process.

"The new electronic process reduces the time spent processing hourly pay by two to three days," Robertson said.

He said the Web Time Entry card also will eliminate errors that can occur on the current hand-written timesheets and help everyone keep better track of the timesheets.

It also will eliminate the need of making sure the correct position is on the timesheet so each employee is receiving the correct hourly pay.

"Currently, the payroll de-

"The new electronic process reduces the time spent processing hourly pay by two to three days."

—Larry Robertson
Senior Human
Resources Specialist

See **"Payroll,"** page 12

Student input



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Dallas Worth, freshman nursing student, and Marc Bird, sophomore computer science major, remodel room 1H6 in the Health Technologies Center. Both work for Facilities Management. Part of a bigger remodel project for the Social Sciences area, 1H6 will be used as a classroom in the fall. "This is by far the most fun job offered by Facilities Management," Worth said. He said he went online through the school employment site at www.occc.edu to apply for the student worker position.

Sechrist gets \$35K toward retirement

By Justin Combs
Editor

OCCC President Paul Sechrist is \$35,000 wealthier this month after the college Regents authorized a deposit into a special incentive retirement plan during its June 15 meeting.

The money will go into a benefit plan for the president similar to the retirement plans made available to all full-time college employees, said General Counsel Nancy Gerrity, in an e-mail.

While this money is in addition to his regular salary of \$227,429 it is not considered a raise, Sechrist said in an e-mail.

Instead, it is considered a part of his contract and

a procedure undertaken by the board several years before Sechrist became president.

"My salary and wages work exactly like every other employee, except that my contract includes this additional amount that goes into a retirement account," Sechrist said.

He said the money should not be considered a performance bonus, as the college does not award performance bonuses to the president.

"There is no reference to performance of either the President or the College in the President's job contract with the Board of Regents that relates to the special retirement contribution," Sechrist said.

Gerrity said the college

contributes money to the plan on behalf of the president.

Vice President for Human Resources and Support Services Gary Lombard said the Board began this practice several years ago when Bob Todd was president and has been part of Sechrist's contract with the Board.

The amount of compensation and the retirement incentive plan contribution are exactly the same with no increase, Lombard said.

Sechrist said the amount has increased each year that he has been president from \$25,000 his first year to \$35,000 last year.

"I asked the Board to not in-

See **"President,"** page 12

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Respect the enviroment

OCCC parking lots have become trash cans for some, and that practice needs to stop now.

Not only is littering illegal, it displays a disregard for the beautiful campus we are privileged to have.

It also shows disrespect to the workers whose job it is to keep the campus at an above par of cleanliness.

Sure, to some, an empty bottle tossed on the ground is just one bottle. But the candy wrappers and bottles are adding up.

In a recent stroll around parking lot A, at least 27 pieces of trash — including pop bottles, candy wrappers and fast food containers were found.

That does not even take into account the discarded food items, gum and cigarette butts, some still smoldering, that some do not consider as littering.

What's worse is that lazy students, faculty and staff aren't just making the campus an eyesore. They're also endangering the health of others.

In another parking lot, one can find dropped tissues and bandages, which are health hazards.

We just experienced a pandemic outbreak of the flu virus, and we are now experiencing an unusually hot season.

The combination of those things adds up to an unhealthy summer if we are not cautious.

One particularly disturbing incident of trashing of the parking lots happened the other afternoon in lot A.

A woman changing her child's diaper in the parking lot proceeded to drop the offending material to the ground.

Instead of picking it up, as she would if it were an accident, she offered only an odd look and then drove off in her sweet-smelling vehicle, leaving a disgusting mess for the flies to gather on.

Most responsible pet owners carry bags to pick up their dog's feces. Why, then, would a responsible parent not clean up after her child?

It could be slightly understandable for people to litter in the lots if no trash cans were provided.

But every lot has at least one receptacle near each entrance, so there is no excuse.

Littering is just plain laziness. It shows no sense of pride, a lack of understanding of the consequence of a person's actions, and neglect for the environment around us.

Cleanliness is not only about personal hygiene. It includes the proper disposal of trash.

If a person wouldn't drop something on their kitchen floor at home, they shouldn't drop it on the grounds at OCCC.

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

River water source of illness

To the editor:

The Oklahoma State Department of Health announced that an investigation of gastrointestinal illness reported in the recent Boathouse International Triathlon held in Oklahoma City May 16 and 17 was related to exposure to water during swimming practice sessions or the swim portion of the event.

Of the 367 participants, 218 responded to the survey, and of that number, 45 met the OSDH case definition for illness, which was an acute onset of diarrhea in a 24-hour period and/or vomiting following the event.

Health officials also sought stool specimens from those reporting illness.

The OSDH was able to determine that those athletes who consumed more than approximately an ounce of river water were significantly more likely to develop illness.

Health officials investigated several other potential sources of illness including consumption of foods and drinks provided for athletes during the event and at the expo center, consumption of foods and drinks at an event reception, and dining at area food service establishments while staying in Oklahoma.

Analysis of the survey data indicated the risk of developing a diarrheal illness increased as the amount of time swimming in the river increased.

No single agent responsible for the outbreak was found. Laboratory analyses of stool specimens from a few ill athletes were positive for different gastrointestinal agents

This included norovirus, and a couple of different kinds of bacteria and parasites, all of which are compatible with this gastrointestinal outbreak and which could be associated

with exposure to water contaminated with human or animal waste.

The OSDH has shared results of the investigation with triathlon event organizers and Oklahoma City officials.

—Pamela Williams
Oklahoma State
Department of Heath

PIONEER

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

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

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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off the mark by Mark Parisi



Comments and Reviews

'B is for Bob' introduces kid-friendly Bob Marley

Four-time Grammy Award winner Ziggy Marley has released an album of Bob Marley tracks compiled for children.

"B is for Bob," was released June 23.

This record is a 12-song full-length greatest hits album.

The record includes 12 of the more popular Bob Marley songs from the 1970s.

The album offers a lot for children besides music, including an online coloring book, a sing-a-long music video, and audio streams of Ziggy Marley's "Family Time."

The first three songs are acoustic versions of Marley's "Three Little Birds," "Redemption Song," and "Stir it Up."

Ziggy Marley has revamped eight out of the 12 songs on the record, but left four of Bob Marley's greatest tracks unscathed, including "Could You Be Loved," "One Love/People



Get Ready," "Lively Up Yourself," and "Wake Up and Live."

A downfall of the record is its lack of any unreleased material, making this seem like a big-label scheme to generate some quick cash using Bob Marley's name and songs.

Each LP is sold in biodegradable packaging and includes a year's subscription to Parents Magazine.

The fact that label execu-

tives are promoting a Bob Marley record for children isn't necessarily a bad thing. It just doesn't seem fitting.

Regardless, the songs aren't explicit and they are excellent, so it's all for the better.

Expect a really good listen from "B is for Bob."

Rating: B-

—Matt Montgomery
Staff Writer

Lennon live album features guitar legend Eric Clapton

It has been almost 30 years since John Lennon was shot and killed outside of his apartment in New York City, N.Y. Since then, Lennon's words have become more prized than ever.

Lennon's latest album, "Live Peace in Toronto," released June 22, is a live recording from Dec. 12, 1969.

The album's sound is vintage, recorded at a time when the world was a bit shaken up.

It almost creates the illusion that this is an anti-Vietnam concert, but with a bit more class.

"Live Peace in Toronto" features both Lennon on vocals and Eric Clapton on



lead guitar.

The album is rather short, with only nine songs.

The first three songs on the record are classic blues and jazz cover songs including, "Blue Suede Shoes," "Money," and "Dizzy Miss Lizzy."

These songs are represented very well on the record, and in good fashion.

This may have been Lennon's first recorded concert aside from the Beatles.

However, Lennon does perform some classic Beatles songs such as

YOU asked FOR IT

Q: Why are the Pepsi machines \$1.00, and Coke machines \$1.10?

A: Vending services with Pepsi and Coca-Cola are contracted by different entities. OCCC contracts with Pepsi and Carson's Catering contracts with Coca-Cola. Coca-Cola's area of distribution is limited to the College Union area. OCCC has no control over negotiations between Coca-Cola and Carson's Catering.

—Brenda Carpenter
Assistant Director of Finance

Q: Can current OCCC students bring a friend who is not enrolled at the college to work out in the weight room or use the Wellness Center Gym?

A: Students can bring a friend to work out, but if they aren't a student at OCCC with a valid ID, they have to pay a daily admission. The daily admission is \$6, or they can buy a punch card for \$40 for a month if they are going to be pretty active.

—Tu Nguyen
Wellness Center Attendant

Q: Why isn't there a hospitality cart to chauffeur students who have to park so far away?

A: I don't think that has ever been a consideration. If you looked at other campuses and their parking structure, you would find that OCCC's accessibility to all the entries to the facilities is a very short distance no matter what parking lot you park in. The way the campus is circular with our parking lots, it's extremely accessible no matter where you park.

—J.B. Messer
Facilities Management Director

"Yer Blues," "Give Peace a Chance," and "Cold Turkey."

Lennon's wife Yoko Ono wrote the last three songs on the record, which are the longest songs.

Perhaps the last song, "John, John" may even be a bit too long more than 25 minutes.

Despite its length, it is a fitting epitaph for a classic live rock album.

Why the album took 40 years to release is definite-

ly a mystery.

"Live Peace in Toronto" is an absolute must-have for all who appreciate a real, live peaceful record.

The album can be purchased from www.amazon.com for \$24.98.

Rating: A-

—Matt Montgomery
Staff Writer

**e-mail the editor at
editor at occc.edu
with comments**

Comments and Reviews

'Transformers 2' less than meets the eye with subpar acting and no plot

It seems director Michael Bay has slid into an almost lazy mode of filmmaking with "Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen," released June 24.

The movie is made up of a thin plot, reminiscent of the first film of the franchise, and relies even more-so on action than the original.

The action is the only thing that does carry the film, making this 2-hour-and-40-minute-long movie feel more like an hour-and-a-half.

Many, including myself, expected this film to improve on the first Transformers film and have a stronger plot, but it seems Bay thought sticking to a frail plot and blowing more things up was the way to go.

The story picks up shortly after where the original left off.

Megatron, the leader of the Decepticons — a group of malicious alien robots — has been destroyed, but his minions are trying to resurrect him to fulfill their mission to find a machine that will destroy the sun.

Standing in their way are the Autobots (good robots) and Sam Witwicky, played by Shia LaBouf, who has begun to see patterns of a robot language as a possible side effect of his encounter with an alien artifact from the first "Transformers" film.

These symbols seem to be vital to the Decepticons' mission.

Of course, there is the other reason people will see this film — Megan Fox.

Fox hasn't improved her acting since the first "Transformers," and if possible, her performance in this film seems even less believable.

Whenever Bay can't show giant robots brawling, he shows Fox from suggestive angles.

"Transformers 2" does have a couple of redeeming elements, but they quickly become tiresome.

For example, while it was nice to see new additions to the Autobot forces, the characters of Skids and Mudflap could have been left out of the film altogether.

Also, while the return of John Turturro's character of Agent Simmons was a welcome one, that welcome was quickly worn out.

Turturro's character becomes annoying and tiresome.

If you are looking for a film that is almost non-stop



action and you don't care much for a plot then you should definitely check out "Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen."

If your tastes require an actual story, or you care

more about plot progression than special effects, you may want to skip this movie.

Rating: C

—**Luke Carter**
Staff Writer

Film adaptation of French novel 'Cheri' filled with emotion but drags audience on too long

Beautiful costumes, lavish villas, overindulgence, sex and boredom are the highlights of the Miramax film "Cheri."

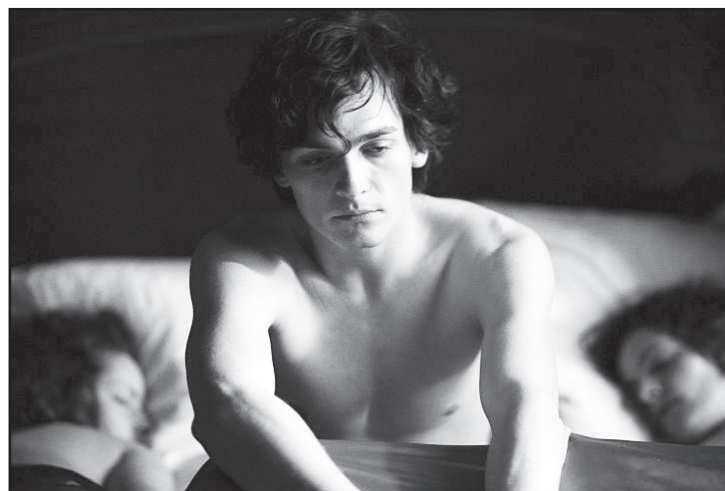
The adaptation of a turn-of-the-century book by French novelist Colette is the story of May-December love gone very wrong.

In the film, Lea de Lonval (Michelle Pfeiffer) is a wealthy courtesan living in France in the early 1900s.

Charlotte Peloux, Lea's retired coworker, has a 19-year-old son, Cheri, who seems to be bored with life.

Kathy Bates humorously plays Charlotte, one of the more interesting characters in the film.

In keeping with her por-



trayal of Molly Brown in "Titanic," Bates shows Charlotte as a woman who will do anything to achieve her goals.

Her goal is to get her son away from his life of debauchery and prepared for a suitable marriage.

What better way to accomplish this, she thinks, then by encouraging him to have an affair with an older woman who has a zest for living.

Her plan is to have Lea give Cheri a lust for life, but his lust is instead for

Lea.

Rupert Friend plays the dark and pouty Cheri. If this were a teen movie, Friend would be an immediate hit.

His good looks and mysterious mannerisms are much like that of the stars of the "Twilight" series.

At 51 years of age, Pfeiffer is still a beautiful woman with few flaws.

Even when Cheri is supposed to be seeing Lea as an aging mistress, absence of makeup and close up camera shots fail to make her look bad. It is no surprise that he keeps coming back to her.

The smoldering exchanges between Pfeiffer and Friend on screen are packed with emotion, but

too much of a good thing makes a film drag, and this film dragged on for 86 minutes.

This film has an R rating for discreet sexual content and harsh sentiments.

The banter of career mistresses can indeed be harsh.

The sex is not always discreet, but it is not in bad taste.

The ending of this film left the audience with mouths agape, wondering if they had heard the narration correctly.

Wait for the DVD so you can watch this one in your pajamas in case you fall asleep.

Rating: C

—**Cynthia Praefke**
Staff Writer

Students who use Communications Lab earn higher grades, according to study

By Scott Goodman
News Writing Student

Students who utilize the Communications Lab can raise their grade point averages, according to a recent lab report.

The Communications Lab performed a study during the fall 2008 semester which showed that students who used the lab finished the term with a higher overall GPA than those who did not, according to the report.

The study indicated that students who used the lab had an average GPA of 2.50, and those who did not had an average GPA of 2.20.

The study also shows 20.8 percent of students enrolled at OCCC dur-

ing the 2008 fall semester used the Communications Lab.

Of those students, the ones who used the lab one to 10 times had an average GPA of 2.5. Students who used the lab 11 to 20 times had an average GPA of 2.68, the report shows.

Tonya Kymes, Communications Lab supervisor, said she believes the rise in GPA is because writing skills are required in every class, and the lab can help students become better writers and organizers of their papers.

Kymes said when students improve these skills, they may perform well in all classes.

The Communications Lab provides tutoring services to all students

in need of writing assistance.

The lab also offers workshops about organizing papers and using different documentation styles.

Nick Webb, Communications Lab assistant, said the lab has two sections — a computer lab, and a writing and tutoring center.

Webb said students can use the lab's computers to process or print papers, check e-mail or do other class-related work.

Some students said the study results have caused them to become interested in the lab.

Brenna Manley, human relations sophomore, said she sees how visiting the Communications Lab could be helpful.

"After being told the facts about the study and information about the lab, I think it's something that could help me with future classes."

—Brenna Manley
OCCC Student

"After being told the facts about the study and information about the lab, I think it's something that could help me with future classes," Manley said.

Students who have used the lab praise the services offered.

Lance Gore, business junior, said he has benefited from the lab.

"I've used the resources in the Communications Lab and they were very helpful," Gore said.

Kymes said she hopes the results of the study

will encourage more students to visit the lab and see how it can help them.

"Come try us out one time, just one time," she said. "Venture into the lab and see what you could gain."

The Communications Lab is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays.

For more information on the Communications Lab and its services, contact Kymes at 405-682-1611, ext. 7247.

Veteran students must apply now for benefits

By Jessie Sanchez
News Writing Student

OCCC students who are enlisted veterans must bring required documentation to Veteran's Services as soon as possible to apply for financial benefits, said Janis Armstrong, Veteran's Affairs coordinator.

Armstrong said veteran students are required to report to Veteran's Services each semester with a transcript, class schedule and other specific forms.

"It is imperative for enlisted soldiers (who) have not been deployed to stop by the VA office before it is too late to receive benefits," she said.

In order to receive financial benefits from Veteran's Services, forms and information must be sent to the regional office to be certified, Armstrong said.

She said this can be a lengthy process.

"It could be four to five weeks or longer to get it processed through the re-

gional office," Armstrong said.

She said soldiers' chance of receiving benefits decrease the longer they wait to submit their paperwork.

The specific forms, according to what regiment soldiers belong to, can be located in Veteran's Services or online at www.occc.edu/FinancialAid/veterans.html.

For some veteran students, receiving entitled benefits can increase their determination for an education.

OCCC veteran student Randy Sanchez said his benefits are a big help.

"The benefits I receive are a big part of what keeps my education going," Sanchez said.

Like Sanchez, there are many enlisted soldiers and veterans who are eligible for financial assistance throughout their college education, Armstrong said.

"If a veteran or enlisted soldier is unaware of the

mass opportunities we offer for financial assistance, please come see the Veteran's Services staff," she said.

Early Alert system to go electronic

By Ta'Chelle Jones
News Writing Student

Students having trouble academically can find assistance through the college's new electronic Early Alert system, which will go online this fall, said Mary Turner, Learning Support specialist.

Turner said the system will allow faculty to identify students who are failing classes, not coming to school, or who seem to be having personal problems and notify someone who can help them.

"A referral is sent to me, and I contact the student to intervene as early as possible to help them," she said.

The Early Alert system is not meant to be a punishment for students, Turner

said. Veteran's Services is located on the first floor of the Main Building. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through

Early Alert system to go electronic

said. "Students should not be frightened," she said. "We want to make sure they are not in trouble academically."

Some students said they see the benefit of the Early Alert system.

Tianna Pullen, sophomore, said she likes the idea of the system.

"The teachers are taking an effort to show that they don't want students to fail," Pullen said.

A similar version of the Early Alert system has been operating at OCCC since 2000, Turner said.

She said the benefits of the new system will include giving students a connection to various support resources on campus, helping students drop classes properly and

Fridays.

For more information, contact Veteran's Services at 405-682-1611, ext. 7695.

assisting students in resolving issues with online courses.

Turner said the new system would be easier to use than the old system.

"[The old system] was very overwhelming and not terribly user friendly for faculty," she said.

Students in need are not required to wait for a referral, however, Turner said.

She said if students recognize they need help, they may contact Student Support Services on their own.

"I don't care how they get to me, I just want them to get here," Turner said.

"We just want to see our students be as successful as they can be."

For more information, contact Turner at 405-682-1611, ext. 7544.

Library adds shelves to promote summer reading

By Kathryn Hodges
News Writing Student

Members of the OCCC community can find many books to read this summer on the two new browsing shelves at the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library, said Barbara King, Library Services director.

Titles such as "On the Road" by Jack Kerouac and "The Bell Jar" by Sylvia Plath can be checked out from the shelves, located near the circulation desk on the library's first floor.

In an e-mail sent to all employees May 13, King said the library had "selected fiction and non-fiction books for your summer reading."

She said the library has never had two large shelves to display a large collection of leisure reading.

King said the collection features works from various genres including: mystery, classics, best sellers, home improvement and self-help.

Several audio-books and biographies also are available.

The entire "Lord of the Rings" trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien is available in a set

of three audio-books, she said.

King said the library staff plans to add new titles to the shelves weekly.

She said the idea for the browsing shelves came from Dana Tuley-Williams, systems librarian, who compiled the collection by using the library's records to select frequently checked-out titles, such as the graphic novel "Watchmen" by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons.

King said the staff's intention in creating the shelves was to draw attention to the library during the slow summer session, and to encourage the OCCC community to utilize the library as a source for leisure reading material.

"We're not targeting any particular population, just the general college community," she said.

King said she hopes students and employees will enjoy the browsing shelves this summer while they may have a little bit more time to read.

Students who have visited the shelves said they are pleased.

Alyson Tinney, nursing freshman, said she was



Photo by Joseph A. Moore II

Malonna Davis, graphic communications sophomore, browses the shelves of the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library's summer reading material. Davis said she has been reading the Twilight series over the summer and finds nonfiction to be her favorite genre.

surprised by the selection the library offers.

"I think it rocks," Tinney said. "Now that I know our library has all that, I won't have to buy overpriced

books at Barnes and Noble."

The Keith Leftwich Memorial Library is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mondays through Thurs-

days, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information, contact King at 405-682-1611, ext. 7315.

Local grade school students receive training on campus

Adriana Knight
News Writing Student

Area grade school students learned about opportunities in the health care industry while participating in a new program hosted by OCCC, said Frank Rexach, Community and K-12 Outreach coordinator.

Thirty-three middle school and 22 high school students received hands-on training, as well as ACT preparation, as part of the Clinical Research Program Summer Institute for middle and high school students held June 8 through 12, Rexach said.

He said the institute

was designed to inform students about the OCCC Clinical Research Program as well as to allow them to gain experience in the medical and health fields.

This is the first time the summer institute had been offered at OCCC, Rexach said.

Joshua Jackson, 16, junior from Coyle High School, said he enjoyed the experience, which included a tour of the campus and practical instruction about various health field related job opportunities and career paths.

"It was hands on and you didn't have to sit there and hear somebody talk," Jackson said.

Rexach said the students also received ACT test books to take home.

Briana Jones, 15, from Putnam City North High School, said attending the program was a good thing to do during summer.

The college plans to host the program for the next two summers, Rexach said.

He said he hopes the students who attended this year's program will return to OCCC in the fall.

Each of the students interviewed said they would like to continue with the program next year.

Beginning this fall, several OCCC core courses will be provided for the

Clinical Research Program, including Introduction to Clinical Research, Rexach said.

He said the U. S. Department of Labor designed the Clinical Research Program, a \$1.7 million grant to develop an associate degree in clinical research in three years at OCCC, so students could go quickly into the work force.

In addition to the classes on campus, he said, there will be two classes offered

online.

OCCC students enrolled in the program can obtain financial aid, plus a three year grant which pays for books, tuition and fees, Rexach said.

There are 10 students declaring majors in the program, including one international student, but there is room for more to enroll, he said.

For more information, contact Rexach at 405-682-1611, ext. 7118.

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it's a small world

Student travels from central Asia to Oklahoma in search of opportunities

Uzbekistan native Feruza Isahodjaeva says she enjoys being at OCCC

By Rachel Ramsey
News Writing Student

A paycheck isn't the only benefit of working in the OCCC Coffee Shop for one 31-year-old shop employee from central Asia.

Feruza Isahodjaeva, an international student from Uzbekistan, said the coffee shop is not only a nice working environment, but the job has helped her language skills.

"The customers are great and working there has helped to improve my English," she said.

Isahodjaeva said while she does not like to drink coffee, she was interested in working at the coffee shop because of her brother, Murod Mamatov, the former OCCC student who came up with the idea as a project in his business class.

Isahodjaeva, a full-time student studying science and business accounting, said she came to the United States in January 2008.

She said she was drawn to the country to pursue more opportunities and freedoms.

Since coming to Oklahoma, Isahodjaeva said she has been taking classes at OCCC.

Isahodjaeva said she has enjoyed being on campus and is glad to be involved at the college.

"The school has every-

"I really like Oklahoma and could easily make it my permanent home. I love the people who live here. They are very friendly. I love everything about it."

—Feruza Isahodjaeva
OCCC Student from Uzbekistan

thing to get a great education," she said.

Isahodjaeva said another reason she left Uzbekistan was to see another world and learn about a different culture.

Since being in the United States, she has not had the opportunity to travel, but has enjoyed her experience and the people in Oklahoma, she said.

Isahodjaeva said she has seen a lot of differences between her country and Oklahoma, including scenic ones.

Uzbekistan is more mountainous than Oklahoma and has no tornado scares, said the native of central Asia.

However, Isahodjaeva said, the state has made a positive impression on her.

"I really like Oklahoma and could easily make it my permanent home," she said. "I love the people who live here.

"They are very friendly. I love everything about it."

Isahodjaeva said she also loves the OCCC employees and faculty, and is especially grateful for Sunny Garner, Interna-

tional Student Services coordinator.

She said Garner has done everything she can to help make her successful.

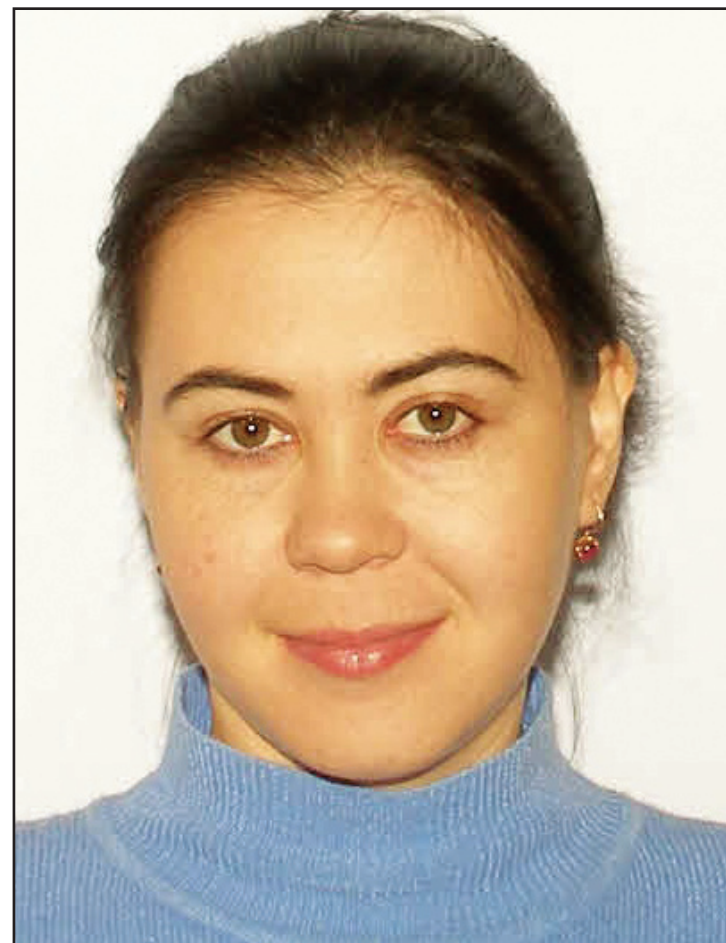
"The teachers and staff have really helped me to adjust to being here," she said.

Isahodjaeva said her father, mother and sister still live in Uzbekistan.

She said she would like to travel home once she finishes her degree.

The Uzbekistani said she recommends all students travel when they can.

"Traveling gives everybody more experience and the opportunity to see another world," she said.



Feruza Isahodjaeva



Uzbekistan — (ooz-beh-kih-STAN)

Capital: Tashkent

Population: 1,338,612,968

GDP: \$71,501,000,000 (USD)

Size: 172,742 sq. miles (about the size of California)

National Languages: Uzbek

Currency: Uzbekistan som

Government: Presidential republic

Religions: Islam, Orthodox Christian

Festivals: Navruz (March 21), Independence Day (Sept. 1), Flag Day (Nov. 8)

Details: Uzbekistan is a landlocked country in central Asia. Once part of the Persian empire, the region was conquered in the early 16th century by Uzbek nomads. Uzbekistan was incorporated into the Russian empire in the 19th century and in 1924 became a constituent republic of the Soviet Union. It has been an independent republic since December 1991. Uzbekistan's economy relies mainly on the production of cotton, gold, uranium and natural gas. Despite declaring their intentions to transition to a market economy, Uzbekistan continues to maintain strict economic controls which often ban foreign investors. In Uzbekistan, about 45 percent of the population live on less than \$1.25 (USD) per day.

*source: www.cia.gov

World Region: Asia



The Pioneer features
an international student once per month.

If you would like to be featured,
e-mail Justin Combs at

editor@occc.edu

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Currently Active:** Summer Sports Camps featuring T-ball at OCCC and baseball at Santa Fe South have begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Currently Active:** Soccer camp and girls basketball have begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Currently Active:** Tennis, golf, and Fitkids camps have begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Currently Active:** Boys basketball and swimming camps have begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 6-10:** Co-ed basketball gets under way. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 13-17:** Next session of Fitkids and swimming start. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 20-24:** Volleyball and indoor soccer starts. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 27-31:** Summer camps for cheer and dance as well as flag football starts for ages 6-11 and 12-14. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

All camps are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays

Shootin' hoops



Photo by Stephen Sossamon

Donald Worth, CAD major, defends Tavaro Hannah, nursing major, as Hannah drives toward the basket during a pick-up game of 21. The Wellness Center offers activities for students looking to stay active during the summer.

Wellness Center introduces new fitness program for fall semester

By Stephen Sossamon
Staff Writer

The OCCC intramural program will get a makeover this fall semester, said Stephanie Scott, Recreation and Fitness coordinator.

New to the intramural list is the Brown Bag Wellness Lecture.

"We aren't competing with Student Life with the Brown Bag specials," Scott said. "We are working in conjunction with them to show students how to stay healthy and fit while being on a budget in college."

Also being added to the roster, Scott said, is Zumba, Pilates and Spinning.

"Zumba is the new craze," she said. "We wanted to offer it because we think it's cool and could be big."

"Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a dynamic fitness

program that will blow you away," according to Zumba's website.

"The routines feature interval training sessions with fast and slow rhythms, and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat," the site reads.

Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, said students can begin signing up for the classes and sports when the fall semester begins.

"Right now we are still in the planning stages (for sports)," he said. "But the fitness aspect of intramural is what we are pushing for the fall semester."

"All our programs and activities are open to all students, faculty and staff, regardless of skill level or competitiveness," he said.

"(The Fitness program) is something we've been working on adding and we are hoping it will take off," he said.

Intramural sports has been dominated in the past by the intramural basketball league and flag football league, Scott said.

Club Soccer and the Chance Basketball Club also have been popular, Watson said.

Watson said he isn't sure if intramural basketball or flag football will be available in the fall. "If we don't have those sports, it's because we are pushing the fitness classes so much," he said.

Other team sports students may be interested in are dodge-ball and kick-ball, he said.

Watson said he hopes to have the intramural schedule done by the end of summer.

For more information about the intramural programs, contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

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

Students should prepare now for Oct. 10 career fair

By Matt Montgomery
Staff Writer

Although the OCCC Career Fair isn't until Oct. 10, students should begin planning for the fair by polishing their résumés now, said Employment Services Coordinator Judy McGee. The career fair starts at 9 a.m. in the College Union.

"This year the college will have over 100 employers," McGee said.

"FAA has tentatively confirmed they will be at the career fair this year."

Although she hasn't confirmed all of the companies who will attend, McGee said companies who frequently attend are OG&E, FAA, the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City.

She said the main hospitals in the city will most likely be at the career fair as well.

And, she said, not only do companies like FAA hire for full-time positions, they also hire for internships. She said sometimes an internship pays just as much as a job.

"The starting salary for a 20-hour a week intern at the FAA is between \$25,000 and \$40,000," she said.

McGee said students should take advantage of the services offered by Student Employment and Career Services, located on the first floor of the Main Building.

She said her office helps students with résumés and jobs.

"You want employers to remember you," McGee said.

She said those who dress professionally and are well prepared, tend to get jobs, and some get hired

on the spot.

Students who attend the career fair should bring at least 10 copies of their résumés, McGee said.

The career fair is open to anyone looking for a job, McGee said.

OCCC freshman Nicole Northcutt said she looks forward to attending. "I just started my collegiate career, so I think this career fair will be a great opportunity for someone like me," she said.

Staff writer Matt Montgomery can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

Upward Bound students graduate, prepare for college

By Jack Norcross
News Writing Student

Thirteen high school students from around the area graduated May 15 from OCCC's Upward Bound Program, said Carmela Pyle, the program's assistant director. The students were seniors in high school, she said.

Funded through the U.S. Department of Education, Upward Bound is an educational student assistance program, according to the program website.

During the two-hour ceremony, all in attendance, including parents, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Marion Paden and other college representatives, watched a video presentation, listened to speeches by program personnel and cheered for the graduates.

All 13 students, dressed in colorful caps and gowns, walked across the stage, received their diplomas and hugged Pyle.

After the ceremony, the graduates and supporters were offered a light dinner and graduation cake.

Pyle said three of the students received scholarships.

Starting next fall, all 13 graduates are expected to attend the University of Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma, OCCC, or Oklahoma State University, she said.

Upward Bound has been at OCCC since 1992 with the purpose of helping students acquire

the skills and motivation necessary to succeed in high school and in education beyond high school, according to the program's website.

Students must meet income criteria and/or be a first-generation post-secondary student to qualify for the program, according to the program website.

Additional guidelines include students who have average to high standardized test scores, yet produce low grades in school, according to the website.

Students who also have frequent absences and are from areas with high dropout rates can qualify for this program.

One way the program fights absences is by offering students \$250 per year if they attend 90 percent of their weekly tutoring sessions, monthly counseling appointments, and monthly Saturday activities, according to the website.

"Around 75 to 80 percent complete the program," Pyle said.

Sammy Chader, a 2007 Upward Bound graduate and current employee of the program, said the program helped him socially and provided him something to do.

The program also offers a six-week summer session in which students can earn up to \$60 per month if they attend 90 percent of what the program has to offer, according to the website.

For more information, visit www.ed.gov/programs/trioupbound or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7373.



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Highlights

New Student Orientation

Student Life will present New Student Orientation at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 7 and at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 8 and Thursday, July 9 in room CU3. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

TRiO Student Support Services summer events

Upcoming events for current TRiO students include:

- July 7: University of Tulsa and Oklahoma Aquarium
- July 8: Mid America Christian University and Southern Nazarene University
- July 21: Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the Ropes Course
- July 22: TRiO SSS Day of Service

Students can pre-register in room 1X7 in the Main Building or contact TRiO SSS at 405-682-1611, ext. 7723.

H.O.P.E. to attend conference

The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education will attend the National Council of La Raza conference Wednesday, July 22, in Chicago, Ill. The NCLR is a Hispanic civil rights organization.

Tuition Fee Waiver Information

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the fall semester are available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Monday, July 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525, ext. 7188.

Child Care spots open

Several full-time child care spaces will be available for 3- and 4-year-olds beginning in August at the Child Development Center and Lab School. The CDCLS is open from 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Mondays through Fridays for students, employees and the community, and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. for students. For more information, contact CDCLS Lab Supervisor Lee Ann Townsend at 405-682-1611, ext. 7423.

Land and the Law for Non-Landsmen Workshop

OSCC, in conjunction with Professional Development Institute, will host a Land and the Law for Non-Landsmen Workshop from 9:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, at the John Massey Center, located at 11919 S. I-44 Service Road in Oklahoma City.

Key Topics to be discussed will include:

- Laws that affect land in oil and gas
- Clauses of a lease
- Mineral ownership
- Responsibilities and duties of the land department
- Legal description
- Lease negotiations

Cost to attend is \$299, which includes instruction and eight hours of continuous professional education credits. To register, contact Corporate Learning at 405-682-7562, or visit www.oscc.edu/corporatelearning. Also contact Linda Meux with PDI at (940)565-3354, or lmeux@pdi.org.

Cultural Art Series Season Tickets

Friday, July 10 is the last day to purchase CAS season tickets at a discounted price. Season tickets are now on sale at a discount of 20 percent or more in the OSCC Office of Cultural Programs in the main building in room 1G1 (A).

Advance Purchase Prices until July 11 are:

- \$75 for general admission
- \$65 for seniors, faculty, staff and alumni members
- \$45 for students
- \$40 for children (17 and under)

For more information, call 405-682-7579 or visit www.oscc.edu/cas.

All Highlights are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday for inclusion in the next issue.



Photo provided by Bishal Malla

Student leaders practice a team-building activity designed to increase understanding of the value of communication skills through experiential learning in January at the Oklahoma History Center. Thirty-five students, faculty and staff attended the workshop. Students will practice similar activities at the leadership retreat held Aug. 7 through Aug. 9 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Campus clubs required to send members to retreat

Any student interested may attend retreat

By Shawn Stawicki

Staff Writer

Student clubs that want to continue to receive funding and recognition from OSCC are required to send club members to a retreat Aug. 7 through Aug. 9 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, in Weatherford, said Darin Behara, Student Life director.

There, Behara said, club leaders, and any students who wish to participate, will learn team-building exercises designed to teach students how to properly operate a student club.

Participants will develop leadership skills they can apply to their college experience in a club or in a classroom, he said.

"Students will be learning from and meeting other students who desire to improve themselves and be successful," Behara said.

The retreat costs \$25 per student and is also open to non-club members, said Marcy Roll, Student Life secretary.

The cost will include:

transportation, lodging, meals, a T-shirt and entertainment.

There is no cost for sponsors, Roll said.

Any students who wish to participate will need to complete registration, sign a waiver and pay their fee to Student Life by Friday, July 17. There will be no refunds given once payment is made, she said.

Roll said the retreat is required for club members because it provides leaders with vital information on how to efficiently organize their clubs.

"The retreat benefits not only the (students) but the club as a whole in organization of club events," she said.

Rebecca Whitson, Student Life student programs leader, said she has never gone to a leadership retreat before,

"The retreat benefits not only the (students) but the club as a whole in organization of club events."

—Marcy Roll
Student Life Secretary

but is looking forward to it.

"I don't know what to expect," Whitson said. "I am going with an open mind."

Lori Harless, Student Life student programs leader, said last year's two-day retreat was held at Western Hills State Park and Resort near Tahlequah.

Roll said college policy prohibits students and sponsors from drinking alcohol while at the event. Any violation will result in immediate removal or disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

For more information about the student leadership retreat, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Staff Writer Shawn Stawicki can be reached at StaffWriter1@oscc.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

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6 Boxers' punches
10 Damage
13 Helicopter blade
14 Pitcher
15 Site of the
Colosseum
16 "The Singing
Cowboy"
17 Grow bored
18 Makes livestock
food
19 Ship's jail
20 Majestic
22 Short in supply
24 Loose robe
28 Doesn't have to
31 Danger
32 Ascended
34 "As — Like It"
36 Cut into cubes
37 Jewelry item
38 Piece
41 Expression of
surprise
42 Burden
44 Dip in liquid
45 Greene of
"Bonanza"
47 Willow
49 Regal chair
51 D or E
53 Saluted
56 Made noises
59 Sorrowful

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61 Striped
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64 Honey makers
65 Extra
66 PDQ relative
67 In — of:
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68 Flower
69 Desire
70 Shade trees
71 Silly ones

DOWN

1 Popular
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3 Storage place
4 Saddle horses
5 Snoop
6 Scribbled
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7 Soprano's solo
8 Comedian Lahr
9 Smooth and
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10 Extinct bird
11 Jimmy Carter's
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12 Thing, in law
15 Made a poem
20 Landscapes
21 Edge
23 Female
sandpipers
25 Hunter
constellation

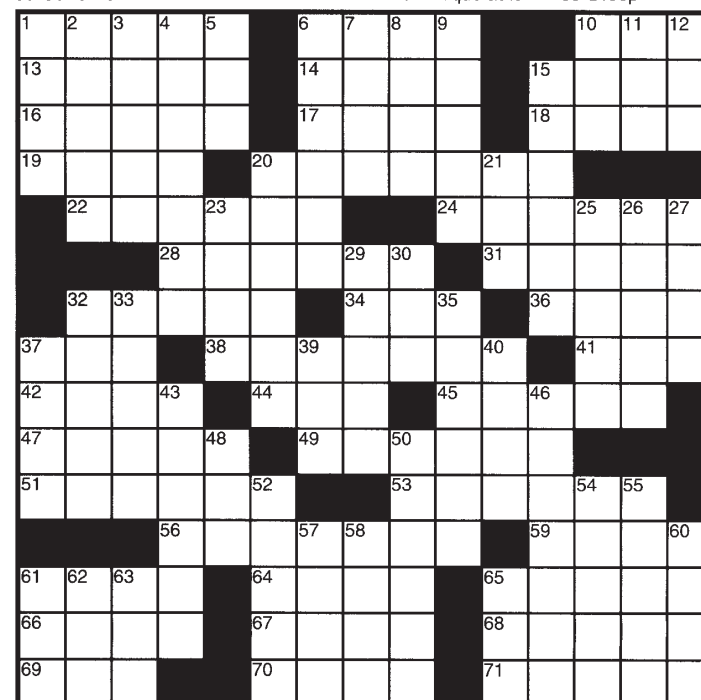
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New payroll system will have part-time workers being paid bi-monthly

"Payroll,"

Cont. from page 1

partment goes through every timesheet, deciphering hand-written information, making sure the hours have been calculated correctly, then physically putting the data into the payroll system," Robertson said.

Communications Lab Supervisor Tonya Kymes

— who manages several part-time workers — said it's important to take care of the part-time and student workers first.

"I know it's hard for the student workers I supervise to not get paid during the semester when they start," she said. "Sometimes, they won't get a paycheck until the end of September."

She said she understands why full-time employees

would have to wait to be included in the Web Time Entry program.

"For example, if an employee puts in sick time and they don't really have that, I can see how that would be difficult to monitor," Kymes said.

Michael Hendricks, an OCCC Public Relations graduate who works part-time in the TRIO office, said he thinks the web based timesheets will make it easier to track actual hours but said he could see where

it might take some time to implement.

"They're going to have to train new employees on the Web entry time cards and help current employees adjust, especially those that aren't computer savvy," Hendricks said.

Hendricks said the staff also will be affected by the adjustment.

"The staff is going to have to take time out of their day to teach new employees how to clock in and clock out," he said.

"I think it's a good idea to go [bi-monthly] because a lot of students struggle for money," Hendricks said. "It's hard to make your money last through the whole month."

He said the next information sessions, outlining the plans to switch to the new system Aug. 9 will be from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 7, in Library room 407 a/b.

Editor Justin Combs can be reached at Editor@occc.edu.

President rehired until 2010

"President,"

Cont. from page 1


crease either the salary or special incentive retirement contribution this year," Sechrist said.

"But to hold it to the same amount as last year, consistent with other employees."

The board also rehired Sechrist until 2010 and set his salary to remain the same as 2008-2009. As does every employee, Sechrist has an employment contract that is renewable yearly.

Editor Justin Combs can be reached at editor@occc.edu.


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