

## INSIDE

### VOLUNTEERING

#### CLEAN UP

Thirteen students spent a Friday afternoon picking up trash along May Avenue. Read about their reasons for helping out.

NEWS, p. 7

### JOB FAIR

#### FIND WORK

More than 100 employers will be looking for workers at OCCC's Job Fair. Find out who.

NEWS, p. 6

### EDITORIAL

#### OPEN RECORDS

Under the Open Record Act, we have the right to access many government records. However, getting proper access can sometimes be a hassle.

OPINION, p. 2

### ORGANIZATIONS

#### PREVENTING TERRORISM

OCCC's second Campus Voices lecture will discuss domestic terrorism and how we can prevent it.

CLUBS, p. 10

### RECREATION



#### FOOTBALL CLINIC HELD

OCCC hosted an NFL Flag Football Clinic and a Punt, Pass, Kick Competition Sept. 26. Find out how the events went.

SPORTS, p. 12

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# PIONEER

OCTOBER 5, 2009

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Some students without medical insurance

MARK SMITH

Senior Writer

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JOSHUA HOOTEN

News Writing Student

More than 569,000 Oklahomans live without medical insurance, said Craig Knutson, Oklahoma Insurance Department's chief of staff.

Of those people, 36.4 percent are between the ages of 19 and 24, Knutson said.

He said uninsured Oklahomans usually cite cost as the reason they don't have health insurance.

Many adults over age 30 have insurance provided through their employers or government-sponsored programs, Knutson said.

However, college students between the ages of 19 and 24 find it very difficult to obtain medical insurance through a group plan, he said.

Knutson said students often are carried on their parents insurance until they reach a certain age.

For example, Nathan Steinman, OCCC music major, was covered under his parents' insurance until he reached age 22.

Steinman found out the hard way that sometimes adequate medical care is not available without insurance.

After being dropped from his parents medical insurance, Steinman said, he developed an abscessed tooth and needed a root canal

However, he said, a root canal would have cost him \$800 per treatment, and it would have re-

See **INSURANCE** page 9

## Spreading the love



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Advocates of Peace club members Steve Deckard, visual arts major, and Katie Williams, human resources major, offer free hugs Sept. 30. The club organizes days to give out free hugs throughout the semester to promote peace and unity. The next Free Hug Day is scheduled Dec. 2. For more information about the Advocates of Peace club, contact Jon Inglett at 405-682-1611, ext. 7217, or Stephen Morrow at 405-682-1611, ext. 7350.

**DIRECTOR SAYS THE EARLIER STUDENTS SUBMIT APPLICATIONS, THE BETTER**

## Students urged to apply for graduation now

JAMES CULLEN

News Writing Student

Students who plan to complete their degrees in December should turn in their application for graduation as soon as possible in order to receive their diploma on time, said Barbara

Gowdy, Graduation Services director.

Gowdy said the earlier a student gets the application turned in, the better, because there is a much better chance the paperwork will be processed in time.

Students can pick up the applications at the

Records Desk or at the graduation office, but they must be turned into the graduation office on the first floor of the Main Building, she said.

Gowdy said the application process is designed to ensure students have followed

their specific degree requirements.

Elise Hopkins, diversified studies major, is just one student graduating this semester.

Hopkins said she was aware she needed to apply for graduation because she made several trips to see her academ-

ic adviser.

Gowdy said OCCC has gotten so big, it's hard to let all the students know they have to apply for graduation.

For more information on graduation, contact Gowdy or her assistant Amanda Williams at 405-682-7528.



# OPINION

**EDITORIAL** | Open records keep citizens aware

## The public has a right to know

Federal and State laws require that many government records are to be made available to the public. However, it is common to find elected officials and government employees who feel they are above the law.

According to the Muskogee Phoenix newspaper, Pauline Osburn, former Clerk/Treasurer of Boynton, Okla., was charged in April with two counts of violating the Oklahoma Open Records Act. It has been alleged that Osburn refused to turn delinquent water bills over to county trustees for inspection, Boynton officials told the Phoenix.



**MARK SMITH**

If government officials are denied open records, they cannot keep up to date on what's going on in the city or make appropriate decisions.

The White House is not immune from this requirement.

Ronald Sims, Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, has been ordered to pay the highest fine ever charged for open records violations. According to the Washington

Post, while serving as the Executive of King County, Washington, Sims withheld documentation about a cheaper alternative to the \$430 million Seattle Seahawks stadium built in 2002.

Even OCCC has had some open records issues. Certain public records requests have been delayed for lengthy periods of time.

Students cannot be expected to exercise their freedoms and independence if the college delays the release of information up to the point that it is no longer needed.

For example, college students rely on the crime reports to know what to protect themselves from.

If the college delays in providing these records, an unaware student could be lulled into a false sense of security.

To protect their right to public records, citizens can write letters of complaint to the Attorney General and local legislators.

The Oklahoma Open Record Act states people can be fined up to \$500 and sentenced up to one year in jail for violating the Open Records Act.

Simply put, custodians of public records should release these documents as prescribed by law or face the penalty. Democracy cannot survive if the public's access to public records is blocked.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

**YOUR VOICE** | Veiw before approved

## Draft for health improvement plan welcomes public response

**To the editor:**

The draft Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan is currently being put forward for a public comment period from Sept. 14 to Oct. 14.

The draft is available before the plan goes before the Oklahoma State Board of Health for approval in the fall.

We want to ensure all citizens and entities who desire to provide input will have the opportunity to do so before the plan is finalized and approved.

To view the plan and take a moment to provide feedback through our comment forum go to the Oklahoma State Department of Health website at [www.ok.gov/health](http://www.ok.gov/health) and click on the link Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan, under current features.

—OKLAHOMA STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**YOUR VOICE** | Your security in mind

## The college will protect your privacy

**To the editor:**

This is in response to the letter regarding a breach of security. I'd like to assure you that OCCC staff care about the safety and well-being of all our students.

Federal law requires that we not share student information with anyone other than the student.

Students may give their written consent for information to be shared

with someone else, and that consent may be rescinded at any time.

Complaints about how we share information usually involve unhappy parents or spouses who are paying the bill and who do not understand why the law prevents us from giving them information.

I'm not sure what is possible with respect to flagging student information. Since contact

information is stored in the student database, it is pulled automatically any time some type of correspondence is generated.

The best way to keep the information from going where you don't want it to go is to update your contact information. This can be done on campus or through MineOnline. As someone who's responsible for contacting students

on a regular basis, I can assure you that our biggest problem is having a current address or phone number with which to reach a student. Whether the issue is one of security or just a matter of getting information in a timely manner, students should update their address and phone number as soon as it changes.

—MARY TURNER  
LEARNING SUPPORT  
SPECIALIST

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**PIONEER**

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**Opinions** expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the **PIONEER**, the college or 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. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The **PIONEER** will withhold the author's 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 should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the **PIONEER** office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, faxed to 405-682-7843, or submitted via e-mail to [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu) with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER ONLINE** also can be accessed on the Internet at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).

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# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | Brooding vibe carries "Pandorum"

## Don't fear the end of the world; fear the aftermath

"Pandorum," a creepy sci-fi/horror hybrid about two astronauts who awake from an extended hyper-sleep to find themselves alone and amnesiac, crashed its way into theaters Sept. 25.

The thriller follows the aforementioned crewmen — Bower, played by Ben Foster, and Payton, played by Dennis Quaid — as they frantically search their now-desolate spaceship, the Elysium, for any of the 60,000 passengers who once occupied the craft.

In their explorations, the men quickly — and horrifically — realize they are, in fact, not alone.

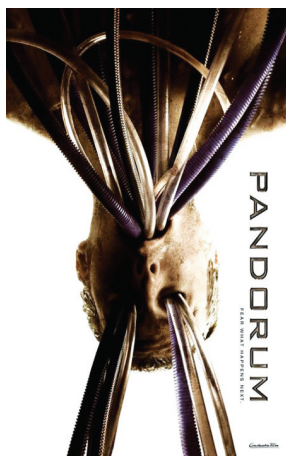
There are a handful of other passengers who've turned into ruthless survivalists, and a pack of grotesque, white-skinned mutants who roam the ship's metallic corridors in search of their next victims.

And then there is pandorum itself, a maddening condition that corrupts even the strongest of minds, leaving one to wonder: Did Bower kill the crew, or did Payton? Are they crazy? Is any of this even real?

The film also stars Cam Gigandet as Gallo, a wayward crewman with questionable sanity, and Antje Traue as Nadia, one of the ship's hardened survivalists.

"Pandorum" is dark, disquieting and a bit disappointing.

Its plot, though promising, is more complicated than necessary and drags monotonously for the first half of the film and flies by for the second,



including an abrupt ending that leaves many questions unanswered.

The camerawork is tremendously shaky and jerky, and while this adds wonderfully to the flick's suspenseful air, it can be confusing when combined with the flick's dark lighting, especially during action scenes.

However, the movie is by no means a complete

disaster.

Performances by the entire cast — Foster, Quaid and Gigandet in particular — are much better than a film like this deserves. The special effects and make-up are more than decent, and the set design of the Elysium is terrific.

And a surprising, mind-bending twist towards the end is almost enough to make up for the film's wearisome storyline. But only almost.

While "Pandorum" might prove satisfying for devout sci-fi fans, its droning, derived plot ultimately leaves it drifting in space.

**Rating:** C-

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

## COUNSELOR'S Corner

*"And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom." —ANNAIS NIN*

There are many ways to describe success: exceeding expectations, passing the test, growing, making it and the list goes on.

The description I like best is blossoming — transforming from the present self into the future self.

That transformation process is really what college is all about.

You come to college from many different places. You have been a high school student moving in a fairly sheltered world where others have made most of your choices. You have been an employee where life has depended on a status quo and on doing things a prescribed way.

Now, you are also a college student learning to adjust to a world that may be less black and white and more shades of gray.

Becoming empowered is an important component of that transformational process. Becoming empowered involves finding appropriate ways to advocate for yourself and to get what you need. It includes asking questions and asking for help when it's needed.

Sometimes, students are reluctant to do either because they believe (incorrectly) that asking for help shows weakness.

However, it actually requires strength to recognize your own limitations and to admit that you need help because both are risky endeavors.

In order to sail the world, you must be willing to leave the safety of the harbor.

We in Student Support Services hope that you have begun your voyage toward new knowledge and possibilities.

If you are still sitting in your harbor, come see us. We will help you catch the wind for your sails.

—MARY TURNER  
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW | More than just rides at the fair

## State Fair doesn't disappoint with concerts and big trucks

On Saturday, Sept. 26, carnival games, thrilling rides, corn dogs, live-stock and concerts were part of the excitement at the Oklahoma State Fair at the Oklahoma City State Fair Park.

Fairgoers experienced Monster Truck Nationals in the Grandstand Arena.

You could hear the excited screams of children and adults as the trucks crushed smaller

vehicles.

Thrilling rides were the focus of the night.

The Fair offered rides for the timid to the not-so-timid to the extremist.

One notable ride was Pharaoh's Boat.

This ride would swing close to 100 feet in the air.

Passengers on the swinging boat would look down at a vertical drop with the sensation

of falling off the boat.

In addition, OG&E sponsored a free Wind Power Tower, a wind powered ride, which would take passengers 300 feet in the air for a dramatic view of Oklahoma City.

Even Rumble the Bison—Oklahoma Thunder's official mascot — enjoyed the Wind Power Tower.

Rumble, however, had



a VIP seat on the very top of this Earth-friendly invention.

No fair is complete without the mouth-watering food concoctions that fairgoers dream of all year 'round.

However, the food vendors and ticket sellers charged a rather steep price considering the current economic environment.

With food items ranging from \$5 to \$7 and most rides costing \$5, some people could question the sanity of even going to the fair.

Still, patrons could be seen listening to mu-

sic concerts of different genres on the perfect cloudless day while eating a hand-dipped corn-dog and drinking fresh squeezed lemonade.

The Oklahoma State Fair 2009 is an example of what a fair experience should be like.

Kudos to Oklahoma.

**Rating:** A+

—MARK SMITH  
STAFF WRITER



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | True-to-life movie still captivates

## The movie 'Fear' still captivates, thrills viewers after over 10 years in the vault

The movie 'Fear' was released in 1996. Mark Wahlberg, Reese Witherspoon and William Peterson come together to bring alive this suspenseful and yet true-to-life story.

Witherspoon plays 16-year-old Nicole.

Nicole has recently moved in with her father, Peterson, and his new family.

Nicole tries to adjust to her new family.

Except, she unexpectedly finds herself falling for a mysterious man she meets at a party.

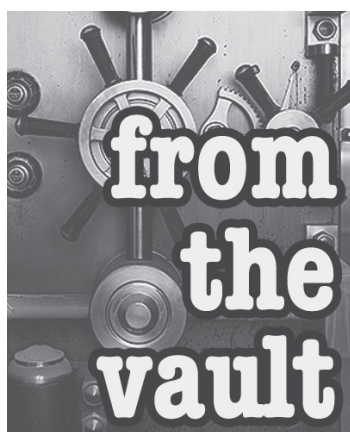
The man turns out to be David McCall, a young man who seems to be everything a girl could want in a significant other.

Her father Steven can see past David's act.

Steven can tell David is not as sincere as he seems.

Therefore, he tries to isolate Nicole to himself.

However, as Steven tries to



convince his daughter that David is not what he seems, the situation turns into the nightmare of his life.

David's jealousy causes Nicole to break up with him.

However, he is persistent in trying to win her heart again.

As Nicole and David patch up their relationship, Nicole's father still tries to warn her.

Her father bans her from seeing David.

Nicole stands by the fact she is going to listen to her heart and only her heart.

Nicole insists she loves

David and he is her one and only.

However, more turmoil arises in Nicole and David's relationship.

The interaction between Witherspoon and Peterson as father and daughter is undeniably convincing.

Most of the actors do a good job of showing how a teenage daughter would react to being told what to do by her father.

Wahlberg is an outstanding actor.

He will have the audience believing his character from the very moment he enters the movie to the very end.

The movie does show how poisonous some relationships are in real life and how important it is to be careful, maybe even listen to your parents. The movie is 97 minutes long and has an R rating.

Rating: A+

—LANDA MCCLURE  
STAFF WRITER



FILM REVIEW | Sandler tickles funny-bone

## 'Funny People' only average, not very funny

"Funny People" is a comedy starring Adam Sandler, who plays the role of George Simons.

Simons is a famous stand-up comedian whom everyone adores. Every girl wants to be with him and every guy wants to be him.

However, he is no longer happy with his career.

During a routine doctor's visit, Simons is diagnosed with a blood disorder.

The doctor tells Simons the disease will most likely take his life. Simons is offered medication by the doctor, who tells him the pills may cure the disorder, but the

chance is very minimal.

Later that night, he goes to perform at a club where he meets Ira Wright (Seth Rogen).

Wright is a delicatessen worker who enjoys doing stand-up comedy, but has had no luck getting noticed.

During Simons' performance, Wright begins heckling Simons because his performance is half-hearted.

Simons becomes fond of Wright's honesty and asks him to be his personal assistant.

Simons and Wright become good friends. Wright inspires Simons to live the remainder

of his life to the fullest.

Eventually, Simons tells Wright about his disease. Wright convinces him to tell all of the people who considered him a friend.

The last person Simons tells is his ex-girlfriend, Laura (Leslie Mann).

Simons' revelation prompts the pair to look back fondly at their past relationship, which makes them want to get back together.

The problem, however, is that Laura has a husband, Clarke (Eric Bana), and two children.

She becomes upset and starts to wonder if being mar-

ried to Clarke was the right thing to do.

What happens next is a series of twists and turns that leaves viewers surprised.

"Funny People" has a good story line. What it does not have, is good comedy.

Although the movie had people laughing, it was the interactions between Simons and Wright that were funny. The stand-up comedy scenes were confusing and dull.

"Funny People" isn't a bad movie, it's just not a great one.

Wait for the movie to play on television, I wouldn't recommend spending your



money.

Rating: B-

—MARCELLA CRAIGER  
STAFF WRITER

PANELISTS CONCLUDE ROBERT S. KERR WAS A GREAT MAN, BUT HAD FAULTS AND BIASES

# Emmy-award winning film topic of panel discussion

ETHAN HENDRICKS  
News Writing Student

Robert S. Kerr did great things for Oklahoma as governor and U.S. senator, but like anyone else, had faults and biases, an expert panel noted in the discussion following the screening of the documentary "Dream No Little Dream" Sept. 24, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

Three of the panelists were historians and two were film makers, thus allowing different viewpoints on Kerr's life.

The Emmy award-winning documentary was written and directed by OCCC Film and Video Professor Greg Mellott, one of the panelists.

The film documents the life of legendary statesman, oil tycoon and entrepreneur Robert S. Kerr and his efforts to secure Oklahoma's future during the Great Depression and years following.

"Kerr wanted to be someone and to do something to help Oklahomans," said panelist Glen Robertson, a historian for the Oklahoma State

Historical Society.

"Kerr's life is just a traditional hero type of life, the personification as what Oklahomans look at as the ideal."

The documentary showed how Kerr seemed to always be thinking of Oklahoma's future.

From erasing a \$36 million state deficit to putting in motion the industrial development of the Arkansas River, Kerr helped Oklahoma become not just a nationwide competitor in business but a worldwide competitor.

"I love these kinds of people, like Kerr, who are able to work with people," said Brad Raley, University of Oklahoma history professor.

"I love how quick he was on his feet, how he was able to tell a joke that disarms somebody."

"He's the quintessential American who defined what America is all about."

Some suggested the film may have played too heavily on Kerr's virtues.

Panelist Ron Gray, an OCCC history professor, said

the documentary seemed to portray Kerr as a perfect person, ignoring his self interest in some government projects.

"I was a little disappointed that the film didn't show both sides," Gray said. "Oil and Kerr-McGee (his company) were part of Kerr."

"Every decision that he made was 'What does that do for the oil industry?' 'What does that do for Kerr-McGee?'"

Lakresha Johnson, a Child Development major from OCCC, agreed with Gray's statement.

"The documentary was interesting but I think it made Kerr almost too angelic," she said. "Everyone has their faults and I feel the movie should have shown some of his faults."

In short, the panel agreed on two important points Mellott made during the discussion.

"I just think this is a guy who should be remembered," Mellott said. "He was a different kind of politician."

“ I just think this is a guy who should be remembered. He was a different kind of politician.”

—GREG MELLOTT  
FILM AND VIDEO PROFESSOR

## Veterans Affairs aids student soldiers

DEREK SWARTZENDRUBER  
News Writing Student

Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan face a number of hindrances when they enroll in college, said Steve Scruggs, a psychologist and team leader for the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs readjustment program.

Scruggs spoke to a small audience on campus Sept. 25. He addressed some of the problems veterans face when returning home from combat. His focus was on soldiers from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the labels for those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veteran students have to bridge the cultural gap between military life and collegiate life, Scruggs said. Many veterans enter college while continuing to cope with the after-effects of their service in combat.

The number one diagnosis in veteran mental health patients is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, he said.

Scruggs said now that there is a diagnosis for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, about half of people who seek help for their problems get better when they get back.

"These ideas about combat stress are not new," he said. "An estimated 300,000 veterans of Afghanistan have PTSD or major depression."

Veterans also may have suffered traumatic brain injury or another impairment that may hinder performance in the classroom. Scruggs said his agency offers many programs for military veterans adjusting to civilian life.

"Like students with physical disabilities, we want to help but we also want to see them be self-reliant," he said. "Veterans returning from combat often feel wired and tired at the same time, struggle to shift from combat schedule, often view the world and themselves differently, and struggle with focus."

One member of the audience, Vietnam War veteran Dwight Immohotichey, said he does not believe Veterans Affairs is doing as much as they should for all veterans.

"They have denied several of my claims," Immohotichey said. "They act like nothing happened."

Immohotichey, an OCCC employee, said his claims were filed because of exposure to Agent Orange and he developed prostate cancer about two years ago.

Scruggs said veterans wishing to file a claim can get more information by contacting the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center at 405-456-3295 or visiting [www.oklahoma.va.gov](http://www.oklahoma.va.gov).

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ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR GIVES AUDIENCE A LOOK INTO THE PAST

# Paragon Ragtime Orchestra captures bygone sound

SADIE SHORT

News Writing Student

People today take music for granted, said Rick Benjamin, Paragon Ragtime Orchestra conductor. They have no memory of a time less than a century ago when listening to any kind of music was a luxury, he said.

With his round-rimmed glasses comparable to Harry Potter's and his high-button shoes, Benjamin gave a presentation entitled "Inventing Sounds for the Silent" to a small audience before playing a concert on campus the evening of Sept. 22.

The presentation discussed the invention of music in cinema and its evolution, including how music in the early days of silent films was an au-

ditary treat for movie goers.

"A lot of people think of old movies, and they think of an out-of-tune piano, but really it was an orchestra piece behind the music you heard," Benjamin said.

Silent films accompanied by live orchestras emerged in the early 1900s and hit their high-water mark in the 1920s.

Music in movies was a unique experience for the audience, he said.

"The effect with the live music was a very good one." "At the time, music was a rare thing. It was something to look forward to."

Before the world of mass communication, the Internet and television, music was not as common, Benjamin said.

"It was a special occasion to hear music," he said.

"You heard it at church, you heard it if your town had a brass band on Sundays in the park during the summertime, or if you had a piano at your house."

"So going to the cinema to hear music was a big deal."

Benjamin said the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra is the only orchestra in the world keeping that style alive.

Benjamin gave attendees a taste of what his orchestra does by showing them a short Charlie Chaplin film entitled "The Rink," with the Ragtime orchestra as the soundtrack.

"It was wonderful," said Rochelle Mosby, Arts and Humanities assistant.

"It makes you think about music and cinema, and its origin."

Mosby admitted to being



Paragon Ragtime Orchestra

skeptical about the entertainment level when it came to silent films.

"Silent films can be entertaining," Mosby said. "It made

me realize that you don't need words to be entertained."

That's something Charlie Chaplin would be pleased to hear.

## Look for work at Job Fair on Oct. 7

BLAIR CHANEY

News Writing Student

More than 100 employers will be looking to hire full-time and part-time workers at the OCCC Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, in the College Union, said Judi McGee, Employment Services coordinator.

McGee said attending the job fair is not only helpful to those who will soon be graduating and entering the workforce, but also for students early in their education.

Students can learn more about what classes they should take to improve their future job prospects, she said.

"The job fair is very helpful for not only second year

students looking for jobs, but also for first-year students who need guidance for the classes that should be taking for their future job prospects," McGee said.

More than 3,000 job seekers attended the job fair last year with about 17 people being hired on the spot, she said.

McGee said many of the employers attending the fair offer extra help to students.

The U.S. Postal Service offers the Learn and Earn program, she said.

They provide \$3,000 per calendar year with a lifetime maximum of \$15,000 in tuition assistance if students agree to work for them part time during the year, McGee

said.

Farmers Insurance gives a similar benefit where the company will pay for tuition through the student's doctorate as long as the student works for them in the future, she said.

Not only does the job fair include part-time and full-time jobs, but also includes internships, McGee said.

An internship is an opportunity to integrate career-related experience into an undergraduate education by participating in planned, supervised work.

Internships are offered throughout the year, she said.

McGee said some of the general employers attending the job fair include City National Bank, Braum's, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, IBC Bank, Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma Parks and Recreation, FAA, and many more.

Richard Sims, energy man-

**"The job fair is very helpful for not only second year students looking for jobs, but also for first year students who need guidance for the classes that should be taken for their future job prospects."**

—JUDI MCGEE

COORDINATOR FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

agement major, said he will attend the job fair.

"With the current state of the economy, it is smart to take advantage of every opportunity available in finding a job," Sims said.

"This job fair gives me access to meet new employers and lets me distribute my résumé to numerous companies."

In addition to the general employers, OCCC will welcome medical-related employers from noon to 6 p.m., McGee said.

Among employers looking for health-care workers will be Mercy Hospital, Norman Regional Hospital, Deacon-

ess Hospital, OU College of Pharmacy and OU Medical Center, she said.

Katie Matlock, pre-physical therapy junior, said she would attend the job fair to talk to health-care employers.

"I want to get ahead of the game and start making contacts," Matlock said.

"It can only benefit me to see who is hiring and let the employers know I am interested."

The job fair is free and open to current students, alumni and community members, McGee said.

For more information, contact McGee at 405-682-1611, ext. 7369.

### Employers attending job fair

- City National Bank
- Braum's
- IBC Bank
- FAA
- OKC Police Department
- Mercy Hospital
- Norman Regional Hospital
- Deaconess Hospital
- OU Medical Center
- OU College of Pharmacy



MANY STUDENTS SAID THEY CAME TO GAIN OKC-GO VOLUNTEER HOURS

# Students join together in Adopt-A-Street

**Thirteen students spend several hours one Friday afternoon cleaning trash**

**JENNIFER PEARSALL**  
Staff Writer

The roadside along May Avenue is a cleaner place today thanks to the efforts of 13 students who spent several hours Friday afternoon, Sept. 25, picking up litter.

The students and Service Learning Coordinator Katie Treadwell tidied up May Avenue between SW 74th and SW 89th streets.

"We finished in record time," Treadwell said afterward, as the group enjoyed refreshments and talked about the event.

Students who had participated in Adopt-A-Street before said usually the street sides contained more litter and took longer to clean.

Students said the trashiest locations were Braum's, gas station parking lots and intersection corners.

Treadwell talked about how drivers would pull into gas stations and throw their trash out their windows.

She said she wanted the group to think about that the next time they were driving.

Support was evident from the community.

Cars honked and people waved as they drove past the students, who were wearing neon orange vests.

Nothing out of the ordinary was found this time.

The previous work day students found car parts from a traffic accident, including a steering wheel and part of a bumper.

Students said they volunteered for different reasons.

Thuong Ngo, psychology major, said she was there to do a good deed.

Ngo said she likes volunteering for three reasons "(I volunteer) to have a clean environment, to meet new friends, and to be involved in school," she said.

Many students said they came to gain OKC-GO volunteer hours.

Students attending OCCC on OKC-GO scholarships are required to donate four hours of community service each semester, said Marcy Roll, Student Life assistant.

Several students said they came for Civic Honors, which is a service and leadership award for volunteering 50 hours during the course of a degree program.

Students earning Civic Honors are recognized at graduation.

A few students said they participated because one of their classes required community service.

Student Life hosts several Service Learning days throughout the year, said Treadwell.

This semester they offer Adopt-A-Street, Regional Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army, she said.



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Front to Back: Adam Gogan, speech major, and Patrick Pena, computer science major, pick up trash Friday along May Avenue. Student Life offers several Service Learning days throughout this semester including Adopt-A-Street, Regional Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and the Salvation Army.

To learn more about being a community volunteer or to sign up, visit Student Life located on the first floor of the Main Building.

Interested students also can e-mail Treadwell at [ktreadwell@occc.edu](mailto:ktreadwell@occc.edu), or call her at 405-682-1611, ext. 7683.



## SPORTS

## Swagga displays teamwork



MARCELLA CRAIGER/PIONEER

Josh Hartgrove and C.J. Johnson reach to catch the football as Charles Tarver, sports assistant, watches from the sidelines. Hartgrove and Johnson are members of Swagga. Swagga beat the Devil Dogs 63-56 on Sept. 25.

## NFL COMPETITION | Kids gain training

## Youngsters learn rules to NFL flag football

ETHAN HENDRICKS  
News Writing Student

About 20 children from the age 8 to 14 attended OCCC's NFL Flag Football Clinic and Punt, Pass, Kick Competition on campus Saturday morning, Sept. 26.

Sports Assistant Charles Tarver and a half dozen sports instructors coached the children on quarterbacking, route running, agility and flag pulling for preparation for the fall league.

The children got a chance to show off their talents in throwing, running, evading other players and taking good pursuit angles on their opponents.

"It's not like the other leagues where only the best get to play," Tarver said.

"Everyone gets to play during the season, regardless of talent.

"We are trying to teach them the basics of flag football in an hour. It's to show them what they would do if they were part of the NFL flag football program."

The instructors, all OCCC students, worked alongside the children, helping them in areas they needed to practice.

"I like hanging out with the kids and teaching them how to play flag football," said sports instructor Nick Pinkerton, Liberal Studies major. "It's fun."

The instructors weren't the only ones having fun though. The children all seemed to be enjoying themselves as they learned how to play.

"I like it. I had lots of fun," said an enthusiastic Cole Willoughby, 12. "I want to be a wide receiver because I like to run."

The parents said they appreciated the time Tarver and his assistants took to teach, coach and train the children.

"They did a very nice job," said Cathy Willoughby. "Cole is too small to play tackle football."

"OCCC's NFL flag football team gives him the chance to play."

The NFL Punt, Pass, Kick Competition took place after the clinic. Every participant was given one chance to punt, kick and throw the ball.

Instructors marked the distances and measured them in feet. The award for the farthest punt went to 12-year-old Kolton Pierce, who punted the football 101 feet.

The award for the farthest pass and kick went to 11-year-old Blayne Stann. He threw the ball 101 feet and kicked the ball 97 feet.

UPCOMING  
INTRAMURALS  
EVENTS

• **Oct. 5:** Volleyball: Yellow Jackets vs. Hard Hitters at 2:30 p.m. The Titans vs. Handlin' Bizz at 3:30 p.m. Games are held in the Recreation and Fitness Center's gym.

• **Oct. 6:** Volleyball: Latinos vs. Higgins at 1 p.m. Games are held at the Recreation and Fitness Center's gym.

• **Oct. 9:** Flag Football: Grim Reapers vs. Swagga at 1 p.m. Devil Dogs vs. Free Agents at 2 p.m. Games are held at the soccer field.

• **Oct. 11:** Soccer: OCCC vs. OU-C at Rose State College. Game will be at 3 p.m.

• **Oct. 12:** Volleyball: Hard Hitters vs. The Titans at 2:30 p.m. Handlin' Bizz vs. Yellow Jackets at 3:30 p.m. Games are held at the Recreation and Fitness Center's gym.

• **Oct. 13:** Volleyball: Higgins vs. Latinos at 1 p.m. Games are held at the Recreation and Fitness Center's gym.

• **Oct. 16:** Flag Football: Devil Dogs vs. Swagga at 1 p.m. Free Agents vs. Grim Reapers at 2 p.m. Games are held at the soccer field.

• **Oct. 23:** Flag Football: Free Agents vs. Swagga at 1 p.m. Grim Reapers vs. Devil Dogs at 2 p.m. Games are held at the soccer field.

• **Oct. 30-Nov. 1:** Soccer: NIRSA Regional Tournament. Location TBA.

• **Nov. 7:** Soccer: OCCC vs. UCO at the University of Oklahoma. Game will be at 1 p.m.

• **Oct. 6:** Soccer: OCCC vs. OSU at the University of Oklahoma. Game will be at 3 p.m.

**For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.**



# INSURANCE: Some affordable student health care options available

*Continued from page 1*

quired several treatments to complete the entire service.

Therefore, Steinman said, he had the tooth extracted. Now he said he is \$150 poorer and without a tooth that could have been saved.

“Not having insurance is very frustrating,” Steinman said. “If you get sick, you can’t afford to go to a doctor or buy medications.”

Situations like Steinman’s are common, Knutson said.

Another student, math major Justin Zawoiski, said he doesn’t have medical insurance because of the high prices.

Therefore, he takes the chance that he will not get sick by taking over-the-coun-

ter medications and trying to keep healthy.

However, Mary Turner, Student Support specialist, said students can purchase relatively affordable insurance through campus-approved providers.

Although Turner said the college tries to provide cheap solutions to the uninsured, students should research the insurance coverage and not just choose whatever is cheapest.

“Just remember as a general rule, the cheaper the premium, the higher the deductible,” she said.

Among these campus-approved providers are the American College Association’s insurance plans, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of

Oklahoma, and Sentry medical and life insurance policies, Turner said.

According to Sentry, students under 24 pay \$25 a month for Plan I. However, Plan I covers only \$10,000 of medical expenses in a student’s lifetime.

Sentry’s Plan II costs \$61 per month and covers \$45,000 over a lifetime. Both plans only cover 80 percent of medical costs.

According to Blue Cross and Blue Shield’s website, medical plans for student can cost \$214 a month for a \$200 deductible. Blue Cross will cover 80 percent after the deductible.

However, these flexible plans are based on a student’s medical history, among other

factors.

Students could be denied for certain coverage if they have pre-existing conditions.

Even with these reduced prices, some students still find it hard coming up with funds for medical insurance.

Many students consider investing in cheaper insurances and prescription discount cards.

However, Turner warns against this.

Trimming too many options can be dangerous, she said.

Cheaper insurance plans could leave out important coverage such as pregnancy and delivery, Turner said.

“Having too little insurance can be just as bad, or worse, than having no insurance at

all,” she said.

Even though students may have no insurance, there are still some medical services available for them.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, there are many churches, non-profit groups and medical providers in Oklahoma City that will provide low or no-cost medical services to individuals who qualify.

For more information about insurance options, students can contact Student Support Services at 405-682-1611, ext. 7520.

For more information about low or no-cost medical services in the Oklahoma City area, contact 1-877-751-2972 or dial 211.

## UMUC BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

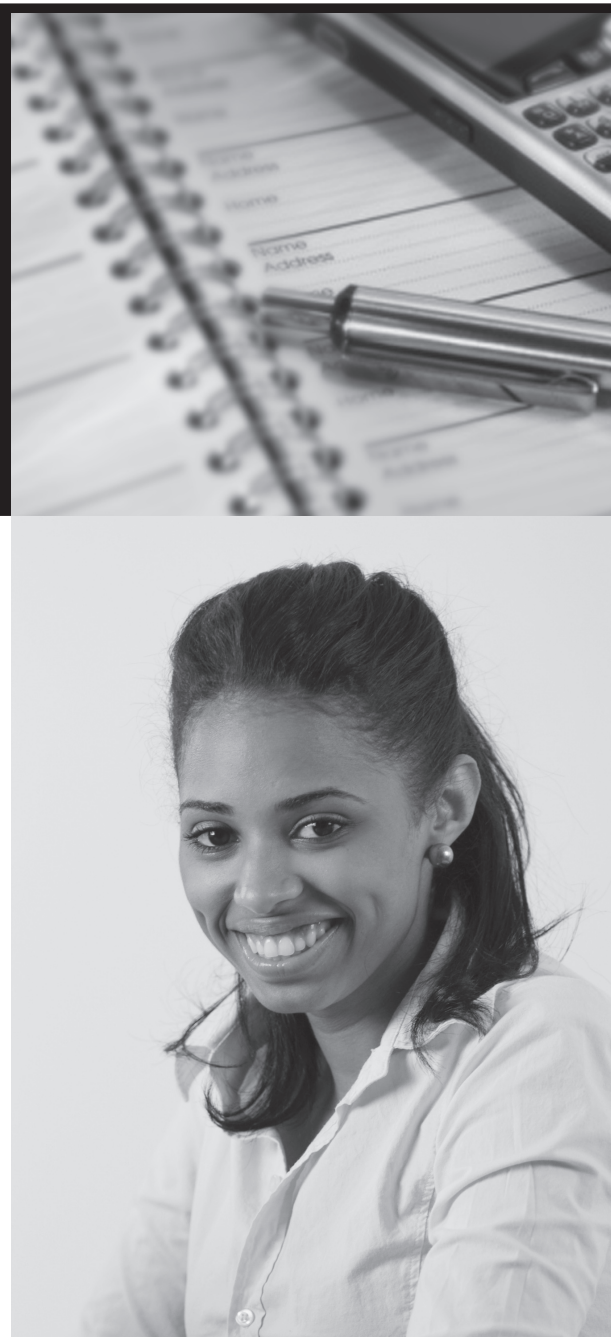
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# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

## Running for life



MARCELLA CRAIGER/PIONEER

Eunice Song and Stephanie Wingo, nursing majors, promote the LifeSaver 5K and the 1-mile Fun Run at a booth near the OCCC Coffee Shop. The runs, sponsored by the Nursing Student Association, were held Saturday, Oct. 3, to raise money for scholarships for the nursing program.

**STUDENT LIFE |** Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism director comes to campus

## OCCC Campus Voices series to host domestic terrorism lecture

### Subject of domestic terrorism hits home

**WHITNEY KNIGHT**  
Staff Writer  
staffwriter3@occc.edu

Domestic terrorism and ways to prevent it will be the subject of OCCC's second Campus Voices lecture of the semester, taking place from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the College Union.

David Cid, acting director of the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism and a former FBI agent, will talk to students about counterterrorism, civil liberties, and MIPT's efforts to fight domestic terrorism.

A non-profit corporation, MIPT first began operation on the fifth anniversary of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, according to the website.

Cid said the organization was founded "on the impulse of survivors and family members of bombing victims."

According to the website, MIPT has since raised more than \$100 million to prevent terrorism by supporting technological research, creating knowledge bases, as well as sponsoring and participating in conferences, workshops and exercises.

Cid said he hopes students who attend the lecture will walk away with a deeper understanding of terrorism and its dynamic, as well

“We have been forever changed by terrorism.”

—DAVID CID

ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE  
FOR THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM

as a newfound appreciation for intelligence.

"The lecture will look at an overview of modern terrorism, as well as the role intelligence takes in identifying potential threats."

The subject of domestic terrorism holds extra significance in Oklahoma, he said.

"It definitely has more resonance here than in other places," Cid said.

"We have been forever changed by terrorism."

Katie Treadwell, Service Learning and Student Life programs coordinator, said domestic terrorism is something

all students need to be educated about.

"It's important for students to be informed."

Treadwell said the purpose of the Campus Voices lecture series is to educate students on a variety of different topics that are related to either academic or cultural issues.

She said the three-part lecture series will wrap up Nov. 17 with award-winning author Marty Essen.

For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523, or visit their website at [www.occc.edu/studentlife](http://www.occc.edu/studentlife).

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Terrorism lecture scheduled

Join Student Life in welcoming David Cid, acting director of the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, for OCCC's second Campus Voices lecture of the semester from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, in CU 2 and 3. Cid will discuss counter-terrorism, civil liberties, and MIPT's efforts to fight domestic terrorism. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### 'Deal or No Deal' competition planned

Join Student Life for the semester's second Deal or No Deal game, scheduled from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, in the College Union. Pick up a ticket and earn a chance to play. Contestants can win up to \$100 in Bookstore Bucks. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Domestic violence awareness scheduled

Learn more about the warning signs of domestic violence and how to help a friend in need with the Silent Witnesses awareness program, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, in the College Union. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Digital camera class offered

Learn which camera is best for you with the How to Buy a Digital Camera class, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, at the OCCC John Massey Center. In this class, participants will learn the difference between point-and-shoot and DSLR cameras, pixels, the importance of selecting a lens, how to select camera accessories and where to buy the best camera. The course costs \$30. Students will receive a non-credit photography certificate. For more information, contact Rose Beam at 405-682-7562 or e-mail [rbeam@occc.edu](mailto:rbeam@occc.edu).

### Faculty garage sale scheduled

The Faculty Association Garage sale will be Oct. 28 and 29 in CU 1, 2 and 3. All proceeds from the garage sale will go toward student scholarships. For more information, contact Jennifer Ball at 405-682-1611, ext. 7305, or e-mail [jball@occc.edu](mailto:jball@occc.edu).

### Club to offer free lunch

Baptist Collegiate Ministries will offer free lunches to all students, faculty, and staff during their meetings this semester. Meetings will be at noon on Mondays in the Bruce Owen Theater, and at 12:20 p.m. Thursdays in room 3NO of the Main Building. For more information, contact Mark Barnett at 405-323-0583 or e-mail [cverschage@occc.edu](mailto:cverschage@occc.edu).

**All Highlights are due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Highlights can be e-mailed to [staffwriter1@occc.edu](mailto:staffwriter1@occc.edu).**



CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

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Contact: 405-408-8102.

ELECTRONICS

**FOR SALE: Alienware, Area-51.** Desktop Intel Pentium processor. 1,024 MB of memory. 120 GB hard drive. \$350 OBO. Contact Taylor at: tay\_chan1990@yahoo.com

**Pentax K2000 SLR camera.** White, with 18-55mm and 50-200mm lenses. Like new. Produces great pictures. \$600. Contact: 405-570-1660.

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**FOR SALE:** Living and dining room furniture. Hunter green. Couch, love seat, end tables, coffee table, dining room table. \$500 OBO. If interested, email: kneisha.a.davis@email.occc.edu.

**FOR SALE:** 1940-vintage, mahogany Knabe spinet piano. Good working condition. Asking \$400. Contact Charlotte Mulvihill at: 405-682-1611, ext. 7225, or stop by office at OCCC,1D6 (C) for more information, MWF mornings.

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Donations can be dropped off at the library.

**STUDENT PERSONAL ASSISTANT NEEDED:**  
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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Bushy hairdo  
5 Desert plant  
10 Is wearisome to  
14 Writer Harte  
15 British sailor  
16 Walk or gallop  
17 Gravy dish  
18 Sleep sound  
19 Nothing but  
20 Taj Mahal site  
21 Persists in an annoying action  
23 Clever one  
25 Summer mo.  
26 Certain philosophy  
31 South American animal  
35 Chaney of film  
36 Part of a jacket  
38 Black  
40 Recognized  
42 Some portraits  
44 Golden Fleece ship  
45 Wild shrub  
47 Lariat  
49 "Ballad" ending  
50 Alpine region  
52 Bedsprad material  
54 Practical joke  
56 Bank amenity: abbr.  
57 Swift air current  
62 Speck

66 Seep  
67 Singer Lena —  
68 Russian river  
69 Gumbo veggie  
70 Keen  
71 Loch — monster  
72 High mountain  
73 — away: gets a free trip  
74 Ms. Sommer

**DOWN**

1 Swedish rock group  
2 Prince in disguise?  
3 Back  
4 City in Ontario  
5 Four-footed shepherd  
6 Liquors  
7 One way to run?  
8 Vice —  
9 Good look  
10 Inventor  
11 Rajah's wife  
12 Highlander's attire  
13 Farm home  
22 Act like a wolf?  
24 Wis. neighbor  
26 Kinds  
27 Bakery item  
28 Adversary

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

V	A	P	O	R	E	G	G	S	C	A	S	T
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MEEK SAYS DRUGS ARE FROM RECOVERING ADDICTS WHO WERE LIVING AT HER HOME

# OCCC biology professor placed on leave following drug charges

**WHITNEY KNIGHT**  
Staff Writer  
staffwriter1@occc.edu

An OCCC biology professor has been placed on administrative leave for the remainder of the fall semester following a drug charge, said Cordell Jordan, Media Relations coordinator.

Cassandra Meek was charged Sept. 25 with methamphetamine possession, use of a surveillance camera while committing a crime, marijuana possession, and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to the Oklahoma County District Attorney's office.

In a phone interview, Meek said the charges are false.

"This is total and complete bull," she said. "It's bogus."

Meek said she didn't even learn about the charges until she saw a television report Thursday night that said she was on the run, according to NewsOK.com.

"Channel 5 ran this information, but it's not true," she said. "I have been able to be reached... I am in no way on

the run."

According to college records, Meek began working at the college as a part-time adjunct professor January 2005 and as a full-time professor August 2005.

What her status will be after the fall semester is currently unknown.

The story first broke on a local news station Sept. 24.

Some of Meek's students responded to the news with mixed reactions.

Leticia Martinez, business major, said she is in Meek's General Biology class this semester.

"She always seemed like a good teacher," Martinez said. "I never would have expected that from her."

J.R. Holaday, OCCC student, said he took Meek's Human Anatomy and Physiology I class this past spring semester.

Holaday said Meek would show up late to class often and was "scatterbrained."

"I always thought she was pretty out there," he said. "She seemed lost most the time. She

would be explaining things and then would just pause like she was confused."

April Aaron, another student currently enrolled in Meek's General Biology class, said she believes Meek is innocent and hopes she doesn't resign.

"In this society, you are innocent until proven guilty," Aaron said. "I read her side of the story in the Daily Oklahoman and I believe her."

"I don't think she should have to resign."

Chris Scott, psychology major, said he is also in Meek's General Biology class.

"If her side of the story is true, then this isn't her fault," Scott said. "She shouldn't have to resign for trying to help people."

"I wish her the best of luck."

According to NewsOK.com and The Oklahoman, Meek said she allowed recovering addicts to stay in her home in exchange for working on the property, and believes this might have led to the recent charges filed against her, as well as a previous drug arrest earlier this year.

Meek was arrested May 24 on possession of controlled dangerous substances and marijuana, according to police reports.

Meek told The Oklahoman she is a former drug addict who became addicted to painkillers following a surgery about eight years ago.

She said she has since been clean and was trying to use her home to help other recovering addicts.

"I was just trying to save some money and help some people," Meek said in a story published in the Oklahoman.

"That was a very poor idea. I like to give people chances. I like to think everyone is as conscientious as I am."

The situation is making Meek reconsider her position at OCCC, she told The Oklahoman.

She said despite her love of teaching, she may resign.

"I have such respect for [OCCC]," Meek said, according to NewsOK.

"It's such a great school, to cast any negative light on it," she said. "It's hard to live down



**Cassandra Meek**

a stigma."

In an e-mail, President Paul Sechrist said college officials are aware of the situation and "are reviewing the situation to determine the implications for OCCC."

Sechrist said he learned of the charges through media reports and inquiries.

"The allegations reported by the media are serious and are of great concern to me," he said.

Updates to this story will be posted online at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer) as they become available.

## Thefts top OCCC crime reports for Sept. 14 through 25

**MARK SMITH**  
Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A stolen laptop computer topped crime reports for the period from Sept. 14 through 25.

On Sept. 15 Chris Lusk, Pioneer lab assistant, reported his college-issued Macintosh G5 computer had been stolen during his trip to Florida.

According to Security Officer Brandon Wheeler's report, Lusk's laptop was valued to be \$1,461.68.

Lusk told Wheeler he filed a stolen-property report with the Miami-Dade Police De-

partment. No arrests have been made at this time.

That same day OCCC student Katie M. Meyer reported her mobile phone and a textbook stolen from her car.

Meyer told Security Officer Larry Lundy that on Sept. 10, she had returned to her vehicle in parking lot D on the northeast side of the campus when she found her LG touch screen phone and psychology textbook missing.

Meyer told Lundy her car was locked.

However, she told him it is easy for anyone to gain entry to her vehicle.

Lundy reported the total

value of the items is \$300. No arrests have been made.

Another vehicle break-in was reported Sept. 7.

Sarah Jackson, OCCC student, told Security Officer Jacob Roby her wallet had been stolen from her Chevrolet Malibu.

Jackson told Roby she returned to Parking Lot F after class around 3 p.m. However, she did not notice the items missing until after she returned home at 9 p.m.

Jackson told Roby her car was locked and windows were rolled up.

However, Roby reported finding no evidence of forced

entry or physical damage.

Jackson told Roby the missing items include: \$23 in cash, an Oklahoma driver's license, a State SSI debit card, checkbook, food stamp card, French language CD pack, cigarettes and a book of CD's.

No arrests have been reported.

Later the same week, Wheeler responded to a report of a theft on the Main Building's third floor.

OCCC student Viktoriya Rose told Wheeler her purse had been stolen. She said she noticed it was missing after returning to class from the OCCC Coffee Shop.

Rose assured Wheeler she was in possession of the purse upon returning to class.

Rose remembered the last place she had her purse was on the couch in front of her class.

Wheeler reported the missing items include: a light blue purse, a black billfold, Oklahoma state driver's license, MasterCard and Victoria's Secret credit cards, OCCC student ID card, Lexus car keys, and \$8 to \$12 in cash.

Anyone who has any information about these or other crimes, please contact Safety and Security at 405-532-1611, ext. 7691.