

INSIDE

SMALL WORLD

ARGENTINA TO AMERICA

Professor Jorge Lopez tells students about the struggles he was forced to overcome in his home country of Argentina. Read about Lopez's journey to America.

NEWS, p. 7

EDITORIAL

TAKING ADVANTAGE

OCCC offers students much more than what goes inside classrooms. The opportunity to build relationships with contacts will be just as beneficial to students as their education.

OPINION, p. 2

LEARNING LABS

MATH LAB

Due to increased enrollment, the Math Lab is making changes to help accommodate students.

NEWS, p. 6

FITNESS

WELLNESS INCREASE

Recreation and Fitness has seen an increase in the number of students using the Wellness Center this semester. Find out what programs are being offered.

SPORTS, p. 8

ORGANIZATIONS

LASTING BENEFITS

Experts agree: Students who get involved with campus clubs during college open doors to their future.

CLUBS, p. 10

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

NOVEMBER 2, 2009

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Attorney general ruling slows building plans

ADAM HOLT
News Writing Student

A vacated elementary school could allow OCCC to expand its child care services, as well as offer more outreach programs to children, adults and senior citizens. The hitch is how to acquire the building.

OCCC had planned on a donation of the former John Glenn Elementary School building, at 6501 S. Land, said J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director. The Western Heights School District wanted the college to have it.

However, the state attorney general ruled that such a transfer of state property would be illegal, according to an e-mail from Nancy Gerrity, OCCC's attorney.

"Although Oklahoma law generally permits a school district to give real property to another school

See **BUILDING** page 9

Pumpkin aid



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Anthony Gunns, graphic design major, views decorated pumpkins. The pumpkin patch was part of the OCCC's 2009 United Way campaign. People voted for their favorite pumpkins by dropping money into the pumpkins' corresponding jar.

USA TODAY, COCA-COLA PULL TOGETHER TO PROVIDE \$500,000 WORTH OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Money available for community college students

ETHAN HENDRICKS
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

Students who need money for college can now apply for help from Coca-Cola, said Marion Paden, Enrollment and Student Services vice president.

USA Today, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the Coca-Cola Foundation, the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa are working together to provide \$500,000 worth of scholarships to students currently enrolled in com-

munity colleges in the U.S.

Paden said students must meet certain requirements to be eligible for this scholarship.

Students must be enrolled at OCCC through December 2009, she said.

They must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 for all college coursework completed in the last five years, regardless of institution attended.

Paden said students are required to have a minimum of 36 semester college-level credits completed at or transferred to a community

college by Dec. 31 and 48 semester college level credits by Aug. 10, 2010.

They also must have 30 semester college-level credits completed at a community college in the last five years, she said.

And finally, Paden said, students must not have any record of probation, suspension or other serious disciplinary action.

Information and applications are online at www.ptk.org/schol/aaat/announce.htm. The access code, ausat2010 to download the application from the website.

The applications also can be acquired from the

“Every year, for the past decade, OCCC students have been informed about the opportunity and encouraged to apply ...”

—MARION PADEN

ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SERVICES VICE PRESIDENT

Enrollment and Student Services office and Student Life, she said.

All applications are due to Office of the Vice-President of Enrollment and Student Services by Nov. 16.

Paden said OCCC will choose two students from the applicants and nominate them for awards.

Those two students will be featured along with the rest of the nom-

inees, in the USA Today newspaper.

She also said they will be presented at the Phi Theta Kappa's President's Breakfast held during the annual convention of the American Association of Community Colleges Convention April 19, in Seattle.

This is the 20th year this scholarship has been offered to community

See **MONEY** page 9

ptk.org/schol/aaat/announce.htm

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Take the time to make connections on campus

It in for networking at OCCC

Too many students are rushing off campus after class and they are missing some valuable opportunities. Without a doubt, students learn tremendous amounts of information in a classroom. However, college experiences should not end there.



MARK SMITH

OCCC offers a potentially endless network of individuals who can help students gain a head start in their chosen fields.

When students leave campus without taking advantage of this network, they are making it harder to establish themselves in their chosen professions.

Students should become involved with a club or student organization.

Student organizations offer students the opportunity to network and share ideas with other students.

In addition, if a student chooses, being an officer teaches responsibility, organizational and leadership skills, and gives the student a chance to be part of a working community prior to entering their career.

Students who don't have enough time to join a club or a student organization still have networking opportunities on campus.

Students should get their name out there.

Talking with professors, introducing yourself, and making regular appearances in the division offices can be very beneficial networking methods.

In addition, students who make the effort to talk with their professors potentially have a better chance at completing the class successfully.

Professors who make scholarship and internship recommendations tend to refer students whom they know personally.

Therefore, it pays for students to start networking here on campus.

This is a great time to begin building a reputation for yourself and lead to healthy productive professional relationships.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

YOUR VOICE | Drive more friendly

Watch the road

To the editor:

Some students need to do a better job at paying attention to signs posted across campus parking lots. I almost got into three wrecks last week due to driver negligence.

Tuesday, I was driving down the one-way street in parking lot G when a driver turned toward me, missing my car by a couple of feet.

And even though there was a one-way sign clearly posted right in front of this person, I had the pleasure of being stared down as if it was my fault.

Wednesday morning, one student must have forgotten that stop signs apply to all vehicles and was forced to slam on her brakes when she realized she was about to T-bone me.

Then, later that evening, a different driver was speeding down parking lot G's one-way street and honked at me when he nearly took my back bumper off.

Rules are rules, no matter if they are on city streets or in a campus parking lot. Having to deal with insurance claims and auto shops are not things I want to do because some students don't pay attention to basic signs.

—CHRIS LUSK
NEWS WRITING LAB ASSISTANT

YOUR VOICE | Needless death of student's pit bull

Was shooting the correct approach?

To the editor:

I'd like to bring up a few points I feel worth considering in light of the video which has been posted (on Pioneer Online) showing Officer Wheeler shooting a student's pit bull.

Let me say first that I do not know all the facts surrounding the incident, only what has been reported and what was shown in the video.

Why did Officer Wheeler assume that a pit bull walking with a young black man would be an aggressive animal?

Are our security officers engaging in racial profiling?

In the video, Officer Wheeler approaches the dog in an aggressive manner.

Anyone who works with dogs will tell you that whether a dog is aggressive by nature or not, certain human body language can cause them to become protective and hostile.

Why didn't Officer Wheeler remain in his vehicle and use the bull-horn to communicate with the student, espe-

cially if he was in such "fear" for his own life?

Why wasn't Animal Control called so the dog could be dealt with humanely?

In this case, it seems more reasonable to call in experienced professionals.

Oklahoma City has a firm leash law, one that OCCC violates on a daily basis. As much I enjoy interacting with "Luke," the dog adopted and cared for by Facilities Management, he is allowed to roam on campus off-leash.

Any dog can become aggressive in certain situations, regardless of breed.

I feel that this animal died needlessly; there were far better ways to handle the situation and our security officers let us down by not assessing the situation more carefully.

We will never know if this animal was aggressive or was just acting on an instinct to protect his owner, who, sadly, is now also gone.

—NAME WITHHELD
BY REQUEST

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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. 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 with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER ONLINE** also can be accessed on the Internet at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | Optimus would be ashamed

Oh, how the mighty have fallen

"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," the hugely-anticipated and highly-disappointing sequel to 2007's original blockbuster, rolled into stores everywhere with its DVD release Oct. 20.

The film is the second installment in director Michael Bay's planned trilogy of movies about the popular line of Hasbro action figures.

Set two years after its predecessor, "Revenge" again centers on human hero Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf). This time as he prepares to go off to college and leave his parents, girlfriend, and robotic car behind.

Unfortunately for Sam, normalcy is not so easily obtained.

While packing his belongings, he inadvertently comes into contact with a fragment of the All Spark, a powerful artifact that causes him to start seeing strange alien symbols.

The discovery prompts the evil Decepticons to return to Earth in hopes of kidnapping Sam and using his newly-acquired knowledge to ultimately destroy the planet. But as the heroic Autobots spring into action, they quickly realize they may have more to deal with than meets the eye.

Unfortunately, not even Optimus Prime could salvage this disgrace of a film.

"Revenge" succeeds only in turning a prom-

ising franchise into a laughingstock of mindless drivel punctuated by bad acting and potty humor.

The plot itself is easily lost amongst confusing action sequences, useless characters, and scene after scene of tasteless jokes and sexual innuendos.

The acting talent present in the first movie is no where to be found. Then again, it is hard for actors to shine when the material given to them is nothing more than dumb, profanity-laced blather.

Perhaps most disappointing of all, the titular robots share a pathetically small amount of screen time when compared to their hu-

man counterparts, and are noticeably weaker and dumber than their original versions.

"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" isn't worth renting, much less buying. The DVD itself is packed with a number of extras about as exciting as the lackluster movie itself.

Fans of the Transformers series should watch the original instead, and relive everything the sequel should have been.

It is simply inexcusable that such a fun, family-friendly franchise has fallen victim to the usual perversions of Hollywood.

Rating: F
—WHITNEY KNIGHT
STAFF WRITER

View from the PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Last week I received an e-mail from a new student at OCCC complimenting the staff for conducting themselves in a professional manner and for being pleasant and helpful.

What made this e-mail somewhat unique is that this student graduated from high school 27 years ago and had worked in a student retention campaign at a large university. Her perspective and knowledge of the challenges faced by college or university staff members bolstered my pride in OCCC and the people who work hard to serve students.

Her comments to me have spurred me to take this public opportunity to express my appreciation to the hard-working faculty and staff at OCCC. This year, with a record increase in enrollment and no new financial resources from the state of Oklahoma, many faculty and staff willingly took on additional responsibilities to accommodate and serve the increased number of students at OCCC.

As a full-time faculty member, adjunct faculty member, or staff member, please know that I commend you and thank you for your efforts on behalf of the nearly 15,000 students who are attending OCCC this fall.

I still remember the faculty and staff members at Southern Nazarene University and the University of Oklahoma, who took time to advise, mentor, tutor and simply help me reach my goals of completing my college education. I have had the opportunity to thank many individuals at SNU and OU for their positive impact on my life, who often believed in my potential when I had my doubts, helped me through challenges, and encouraged me with a smile and helpful attitude.

As a student at OCCC, I would encourage you to join me in expressing appreciation to the faculty and staff here.

Our faculty and staff, often overworked and underpaid, are here because they care about you and simply love teaching and helping students and — your words of appreciation would mean a great deal to them.

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

FILM REVIEW | Low budget film makes big impression

Slow burning suspense captures film

Let's get one thing straight: I'm not a big fan of horror movies. Any horror movie I have ever watched, I found pointless or boring.

I never really understand the reason why I should sit through two hours of people being hacked, crushed or otherwise gruesomely killed.

However, that was not the case with "Paranormal Activity."

Micah and Katie, a young couple, move into their new suburban tract home and are eager to settle down to living life together.

Everything seems to be going fine at first and they really enjoy their new home.

Katie and Micah love

each other very much and have a very good bond as a couple.

However, the happiness doesn't last very long.

Very quickly, the couple comes to realize that there may be more to the house than meets the eye, literally.

The couple begins to hear weird noises at night and it begins to worry them.

They hear whispering, heavy footsteps and knocking on the walls. After a few nights of this they call a paranormal investigator and seek his advice.

The investigator informs them that it is not a ghost that is haunting them and the house but a demon.

However, there is nothing he can do about the presence of the demon because he does not deal with demons.

He informs them that the demon doesn't like him being at the house. He also warns them not to communicate with the ghost and gives them the number of a demonologist for help.

Micah, like any male would if he was 100 percent honest with himself, decides to deal with the situation on his own.

He buys a video camera and sets it up to record their bedroom during the night to see if he can catch evidence of this demon.

From then on, things proceed to get out of hand quickly, as the cam-

era catches all the odd and disturbing things occurring during the night.

The oddities also cause a strain on their relationship and lives.

Paranormal Activity only cost \$15,000 to make. Don't let this fool you, however.

The plot line is original and home camera recording of the movie gives it a fresh and unique angle.

The build-up of the suspense to the explosive final 10 minutes in the movie is excellent and keeps you on the edge of your seat.

The movie is rated R for language.

Rating: B-
—ETHAN HENDRICKS
STAFF WRITER

In the You Asked For It column of the Oct. 26 issue of the Pioneer, the question about academic probation was incorrectly reported. The Pioneer regrets the error.

A: "Students are placed on academic probation if their cumulative GPA falls below 2.0. A student will continue on academic probation until their cumulative GPA is either at or above the 2.0 mark. If a student is on probation they must achieve a semester GPA of 2.0 in all regularly graded coursework, excluding activity or performance courses, to avoid being placed on academic suspension."

—ALAN STRINGFELLOW
REGISTRAR

KATIE TREADWELL ENCOURAGES SERVICE PROJECTS

Student Life program coordinator says community service beneficial to students

MIA CANTU
News Writing Student

Learning through volunteer service to the community is worthwhile for students, said Katie Treadwell, the Service Learning and Student Life program coordinator.

Treadwell recently spoke to a journalism class about the benefits of going outside the classroom to participate in service learning programs.

Treadwell is a Baylor University graduate with a hefty load of service learning projects under her belt.

She has been involved in many such programs including Teachers for America and Habitat for Humanity.

When describing her involvement in Teachers for America, Treadwell discussed

her time spent teaching in the Bronx, in New York.

"I have stories that involve third graders trying to beat up teachers, third grade students getting arrested in class, and pregnancy scares," she said.

Treadwell said the experience woke her up to a world where everything wasn't about her anymore.

Service learning is a program where students are able to dedicate their time to certain charitable organizations in order to gain something other than financial payment in return, she said.

Most students involved with service learning programs benefit in the sense that they leave the experience with a better knowledge of what their future careers might hold for them.

Treadwell said OCCC offers eight service days a year that she organizes and attends with groups of students.

The service days remaining for the fall semester are helping build a new home for an Oklahoma City family through Habitat for Humanity Saturday, Nov. 21, and ringing bells for the Salvation Army Saturday, Dec. 5, she said.

There are programs to benefit many majors, Treadwell said, but students also can get involved with them simply out of the goodness of their hearts.

OCCC sponsors many charitable organizations.

Some involve animals, like Oklahoma City Animal Welfare.

Others are open to volunteers at places such as the

Oklahoma Heritage Association/Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

Treadwell said service learning is a great way for students to discover whether they are going to enjoy the career fields they are studying.

When students lend a helping hand, she said, they are learning things they cannot receive in a classroom.

Some psychology majors

are required to participate in these programs because they need a real, personal experience with the types of people they will be dealing with on a regular basis.

Service learning offers a real life test run for countless careers.

For more information on service learning at OCCC, contact Treadwell at 405-682-1611, ext. 7683.

Accident, theft top campus crime

MARK SMITH
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A non-injury traffic accident was reported last week to campus Safety and Security.

On Oct. 22, Safety and Security Officer Tim Densmore reported he saw two vehicles stopped at Faculty Circle and J. L. Keels Boulevard.

According to the report, the first vehicle was pointing the wrong direction on J. L. Keels Boulevard.

Michellel Korenblit, driver of the first car, told Densmore her car spun around when the second car hit her car, causing her to be facing the wrong direction.

She said the accident was not her fault.

Korenblit told Densmore she stopped at the stop sign and when she pulled out, the

driver of the second vehicle was going too fast and hit her.

However, the other driver, Milton Sherman, gave a different version of what happened.

Milton told Densmore he was "crawling along" when Korenblit pulled out from the stop sign and hit him.

Densmore inspected the damage to both cars.

The vehicle driven by Korenblit had the rear door panel knocked off the car.

In addition, there was damage to the rear left panel, left rear rim of the tire, and the rear.

There was no noticeable damage to Sherman's car.

In another incident, a student reported the theft of her digital camera on Oct. 20.

Anayeli Paez, 19, said when she was finished in the Communications Lab that day

and was ready to leave, she noticed her bag had been disturbed and her \$200 Fiji Film digital camera missing.

She had been sitting next to a man earlier.

Densmore said in his report that Ike Sloas, Safety and Security director, reviewed video footage and saw the man go to the bus stop and leave campus property.

Even though campus security said they suspect this man of the theft, no arrests have been made.

If anyone has any information about these or any other crimes or incidents, please contact Safety and Security at 405-680-1611, ext. 7691.


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For 30 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share,
3400 International Drive, NW, Suite 2K (AD4),
Washington, DC 20008.



Earth Share

Playing for tips



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

OCCC President Paul Sechrist plays the piano for onlookers Wednesday Oct. 28, in the general dining area. Sechrist joined OCCC's 2009 United Way campaign to help raise money. Audience members were asked to donate "tips" while the president performed.

Middle schoolers race homemade boats at OCCC

BRADY CURRY

News Writing Student

The smell of chlorine and the sound of cheers filled the Aquatic Center Oct. 9 when a group of eighth graders from Newcastle Middle School raced their homemade boats.

The winning team was B.O.A.T. They defeated the S.S. Minnow.

The boats raced from one side of the swimming pool to the other and back again, a distance of about 75 meters.

Students began the project by forming groups of three, adding up to approximately 40 teams.

There was one person in the boat, one person to push them off the side, and one person to turn them around and push them back to the finish line.

"They chose pictures of what they wanted their boat to look like," said Wesley Southwell, a coordinator at the event.

The teams were allowed to use a 4-foot-by-8-foot piece of cardboard and unlimited quantities of duct tape to construct their boats.

"They probably spent \$500 on duct tape," said Darin Guthrie, a spectating parent.

Southwell said this is the third year his school has been doing this event at OCCC.

"It was a lot of fun to make the boat," said Jessica Talley, one of the team members. "We worked on it for three days."

The project was more than just fun for the students, Southwell said, it also was educational.

"It teaches them not only how to work in a group, but also how to use their math skills to make the boat," he said.



You need a flu shot too.

For information on seasonal and H1N1 influenza go to www.OCCCHD.org.



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER
Online
www.occc.edu/pioneer

Online Exclusive:
A look into the life of Thyler Payne

Comments? Opinions? Let us Know!

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JOURNALIST ATTRIBUTES HARD WORK TO SUCCESS

News media in flux, photojournalist says

ELIZABETH JONES
News Writing Student

The way people get news is changing — and is going to change even more, said Daniel Lapham, a photojournalist with Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, when he spoke to a class of journalism students recently.

Lapham told students these changes will likely affect their careers, including the amount of information available, the increasing media outlets from which to obtain it, and the fervor with which it is reported.

In his own short career, Lapham said, he has worked for a daily newspaper, a weekly newspaper and now television news.

Today, many people get their news from their mobile phones, he said.

Lapham said he is concerned that journalism is becoming a confusing mix of

“I am going to continue what I am doing to the best of my ability and just grow.”

—DANIEL LAPHAM
OETA PHOTOJOURNALIST

fact and opinion.

Lapham's best piece of advice to students was to develop a strong foundation in the fundamentals in journalism and writing.

With tattooed arms and pierced gauged ears, Lapham was not what journalism students were expecting when he entered the classroom.

Lapham recounted his journey in journalism to the aspiring journalists, offering advice to the students and providing insight into the profession.

Lapham holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and an associate degree from OCCC.

Even though he said he considers his current posi-

tion as possibly his dream job, Lapham did not always know what he wanted to do with his life.

In fact, he deferred college until age 22, opting for snowboarding and hiking in Colorado, before attending OCCC.

Lapham said he began his journalism journey at OCCC, where he landed a job on the Pioneer after taking a news writing class.

After graduating from OCCC in December 2003, he continued his education at the University of Oklahoma, he said.

Lapham said he worked for OU Nightly, the university's nightly television news program, as a photojournalist and part of the technical

staff.

After graduating from OU in 2006, Lapham said, he worked at the Muskogee Phoenix daily newspaper as a feature writer, followed by a move to the weekly El Reno Tribune as a city reporter.

His work at the newspapers offered Lapham two contrasting news-reporting opportunities.

Lapham explained that city reporting involves government news and crime stories.

He said this type of work is much different from the lighter side of covering local musicians and events as a feature writer in his previous job.

Lapham said he found himself committed to reporting on difficult public issues.

Nevertheless, he said he recalled his interview with the local band, Clips Springer, as one of his most enjoyable interviews.

The last leg of his journey,



Daniel Lapham

to date, was his move to his current position at OETA.

Lapham said he contemplates becoming a producer or news director,

However, he said right now, he is content where he is.

“I am going to continue what I am doing to the best of my ability and just grow,” he said.

Lapham speculated the secret to his success was: “I just tried really hard.”

Math Lab makes changes to accomodate students

DREW STONE
News Writing Student

Fewer open seats and longer wait times for help are two things students will notice this semester in the Math Lab, compared to last semester.

“Enrollment in math classes has expanded 30 percent compared to a year ago,” said Max Simmons, Science and Math Division dean. “There are some concerns of the lab filling up.”

Steps have been taken to provide more space in the Math Lab, which was just built a few years ago.

“A countertop has been removed and replaced with an additional 20 tables and 40 chairs,” said Sharon Coleman, lab supervisor.

There are now upwards of 100 computers available for

students.

“The lab staff is handling the increase really well,” said Senior Math Lab Assistant Christine Peck.

“We’ve had to shift some schedules around a little bit to help meet demand.

“There has been a slight increase in wait times for assistance, but we’re learning how to manage it,” Peck said.

Due to budget constraints, additional lab staff has not been hired to help with the increase in students.”

Several faculty members have moved their office hours into the Math Lab in an effort to ease wait times.

“The lab staff seems to be doing well considering the increase, although it does look like they could use extra help,” said Jens-Karl Jenton, games design major, gazing across the students immersed

in their equations.

Jentoft uses the lab for assistance with College Algebra homework.

He noted that the lab thins

out a bit in the evenings.

“Demand for the lab fluctuates with tests, but there is a noticeable decrease in students in the evenings and on

Saturday,” Peck said.

For more information, students can contact the Math Lab at 405-682-1611, ext. 7291.

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it's a small world

Political unrest in Argentina forces Spanish professor to leave home

BRANDON WALLS
News Writing Student

Professor Jorge Lopez said he initially resisted moving to the United States, even though he is now a naturalized citizen.

Rather, he said, Argentina was his home.

"No one wants to leave his country," Lopez said in a speech to journalism students.

His speech focused on perseverance through life's struggles, then finding and pursuing goals.

Lopez, who is in the middle of his first semester teaching Spanish at OCCC, is originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

He began his college career

there, studying psychology and sociology, when the Argentinean military shut down the school and drafted him into service.

Lopez said the Latin American military is very different from the U.S. military.

He explained that, in the early 1970s in Argentina, if a student were studying any social subjects such as psychology, sociology or journalism, he or she could be considered "subversive," a label he believes the military assigned to him.

While in the Army, Lopez said, he was stationed in a remote outpost in Rio Gallegos, located in southern Argentina.

"Believe it or not, that place was a lot worse than a jail in

America," he said when describing the poor conditions of his post.

Luckily, Lopez said, his small stature and poor shooting abilities helped him in being released from combat duties.

He described how he then took an office job where he studied ways to get himself released from the military altogether, which he was later able to achieve.

After becoming a civilian again, Lopez's home was visited and ransacked in the middle of the night on two separate occasions by a violent militia group connected to the Argentinean police and government, Lopez said.

This group was known for breaking into homes, he



Jorge Lopez

said, sometimes kidnapping and murdering people they deemed suspicious.

Lopez said these victims became known as "the disappeared."

"I never knew why they came after me," he said.

After a second visit and a terrifying threat from the intruders, Lopez finally decided to move to America to start a new, safer life.

In 1981, he joined his mother, who was already living in New York.

After becoming a legal American resident, Lopez was able to put his original plan of going to college back into action.

He said he was working full

time cleaning office buildings, but going to college to exercise his mind.

At the same time, he was supporting his wife and three children.

He eventually earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in Spanish with a minor in Latin American history.

Like many in his student audience, Lopez's life and college career did not come without bumps, bends, babies and relocations.

But he did not let any of those stop him.

Failure was never an option for him.

"I love to be pushed to the limit ... where you have to do it," he said.



Argentina — (är jən tē nə)

Capital: Buenos Aires

Population: 40,482,000

GDP: \$527,668,000,000 (USD)

Size: 1,068,302 sq. miles (slightly larger than Colorado)

National Languages: Spanish

Currency: Peso

Government: Federal presidential republic

Religions: Roman Catholic

Festivals: Independence Day (July 9), Revolution of May (May 25), San Martín Day (Aug. 17), Malvinas Day (April 2), Flag Day (June 20)

Details: In 1816, the United Provinces of the Rio Plata declared their independence from Spain. After Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay went their separate ways, the area that remained became Argentina. The country's population and culture were heavily shaped by immigrants from throughout Europe, but most particularly Italy and Spain, which provided the largest percentage of newcomers from 1860 to 1930. Up until about the mid-20th century, much of Argentina's history was dominated by periods of internal political conflict between Federalists and Unitarians and between civilian and military factions. After World War II, an era of Peronist populism and direct and indirect military interference in subsequent governments was followed by a military junta that took power in 1976. Democracy returned in 1983 and has persisted despite numerous challenges, the most formidable of which was a severe economic crisis in 2001 that led to violent public protests and the resignation of several interim presidents.

World Region: South America



*source: www.cia.gov

Do you know of an international student or professor with an interesting story to tell?
If so, contact Justin at
editor@occc.edu
or call
405-682-1611, ext. 7409.

SPORTS

FITNESS | More people getting fit

Growth in fitness enrollment

PATTI ROGERS

News Writing Student

The number of students using the Wellness Center is up this semester, said Roxanna Butler, Recreation and Fitness director.

Butler said OCCC added a greater variety of fitness classes in the day and evening, targeting every age group, in an effort to get more people involved.

"There's rarely a time when you can go by the facility without seeing several students in there working out or in using the gym playing pick up volleyball or basketball," she said.

Butler said she feels "it's increasing, so it's a good sign."

According to records, she said, enrollment in land aerobics classes has doubled compared with last year. Participation in water aerobics classes is up as well.

Students and visitors can now enjoy early morning strength-training classes, Zumba and an Active Kids Fitness program on Saturdays, Butler said. They're all new this semester.

"The noontime aerobics and Pilates classes are really popular," she said. "And Zumba, because it's the latest rage."

Zumba is a dance class that combines Latin-style dance steps with body sculpting movements for a fun cardio workout.

In addition to a traditional high-energy class, which is offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons, a Zumba Gold class is available for active older adults or beginning exercisers.

Fitness instructor Kathie Hibbs said she enjoys the mixture of student faculty and staff participants who join her Tuesday and Thursday Pilates classes.

"Pilates is a great cross-training activity for all athletes," Hibbs said. "It strengthens your core, which enhances performance in other sports like running and baseball."

Pilates is considered a form of resistance training; however, she said, it does not tax the cardiovascular system enough to provide an aerobic benefit.

"Some people don't feel like it's a workout because they don't always sweat in class," Hibbs said. "It's nice



LANDA McCLURE/PIONEER

Nick Pinkerton, liberal studies major, spots Samuel Ballinger, kinesiology major, as he bench presses. Students can use the Wellness Center free of charge with their student ID.

to take mid-day when you don't have time to shower before heading back to class or work."

A longtime participant in the aerobics and Pilates classes at the Wellness Center, OCCC history professor Ron Gray takes noontime classes when his schedule allows.

Gray said he enjoys the benefits each class offers.

When Gray is stressed and needs an outlet, he said, "in aerobics I can take my mind off any distractions and concentrate on exercising to the sound of music that makes your pulse beat."

"After class I feel tired, but relaxed and I know that I have done something that has been good for both my heart and lungs."

Of Pilates, he said, "The music is soothing, the movements and positions are challenging. The atmosphere is peaceful and serene."

"I leave feeling I have better balance, more flexibility, and a calm frame of mind."

Butler said classes generally are small, with 10 to 12 participants per class.

"It's a good class size for us right now," she said.

"We want to get them upwards to

about 15 to 20, but just don't want to get them too packed."

Students can use their college issued IDs to access the Fitness and Wellness Center.

In addition, the general public can purchase daily passes, 20-visit punch cards or annual memberships to use the facilities. Memberships include use of the weight room, gymnasium and aquatic center.

However, Butler said, you do not have to be a member to participate in a class.

"This way, if you're a student and want a family member — a parent, a spouse or a sister or brother — or a friend to take a class with you, they can join," she said.

Class costs range from \$20 to \$40 a month. Students, however, receive a reduced fee of \$20.

The fall schedule lists class times. It is available online at www.occc.edu/rf or in the Recreation and Fitness office just outside the Wellness Center.

If you have an interesting sports story, contact Landa at 405-682-1611, ext. 7440 or by e-mailing staffwriter2@occc.edu.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Nov. 2:** Volleyball: Coasties vs. Can You Dig It at 7 p.m. on court 1. Garder vs. Serendipitty Slammers at 7 p.m. on court 2. Can You Dig It vs. Brookwood at 8 p.m. on court 1. Garder vs. All Set Are Off at 8 p.m. on court 2. Serendipitty Slammers vs. The Bow-Legged Pirates at 9 p.m. on court 1. All Set Are Off vs. Brookwood at 9 p.m. on court 2.

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

• **Nov. 8:** Soccer: OCCC vs. Oklahoma State University at the University of Oklahoma. Game will be at 3 p.m.

• **Nov. 11:** Volleyball: Can You Dig It vs. All Set Are Off at 7 p.m. on court 1. Serendipitty Slammers vs. Coasties at 7 p.m. on court 2. All Set Are Off vs. Serendipitty Slammers at 8 p.m. on court 1. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. Can You Dig It at 8 p.m. on court 2. Coasties vs. Garder at 9 p.m. on court 1. Brookwood vs. The Bow-Legged Pirates at 9 p.m. on court 2.

• **Nov. 16:** Volleyball: All Set Are Off vs. Coasties at 7 p.m. on court 1. Can You Dig It vs. Garder at 7 p.m. on court 2. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. All Set Are Off at 8 p.m. on court 1. Brookwood vs. Coasties at 8 p.m. on court 2. Brookwood vs. Serendipitty Slammers at 9 p.m. on court 1. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. Garder at 9 p.m. on court 2.

• **Nov. 30:** Youth Basketball: Pre-season coaches meeting at 7 p.m. in the Recreation and Fitness Center's gymnasium.

• **Dec. 4:** Youth Basketball: League registration begins for girls and boys between the ages of 9 and 12.

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

BUILDING: Plans to expand Child Development Center on hold

Continued from page 1

district, the Oklahoma Attorney General (Drew Edmonson) issued an opinion in March 2009 advising that a consolidated school district could not give real property to certain types of technical school districts operated by the boards of community colleges acting as the board of education for the school district," Gerrity said.

Basically, a normal K-12 school district is not allowed to give a school building to the South Oklahoma City School District (OCCC) due to the fact that it is a technical area school district.

Nevertheless, there is hope for this deal to be worked out, Gerrity said.

At a recent meeting, the Board of Education for Western Heights School District authorized the donation of the old John Glenn Elementary School to the city of Oklahoma City, which is permitted under Oklahoma law.

Once the transfer to Oklahoma City is completed, the city will decide what happens to the property.

If Oklahoma City decides to dispose of the building, OCCC may try to acquire it, Gerrity said.

In the meantime, some plans for the building are moving forward cautiously.

OCCC's Community Outreach and Education Center is already located in the former school building, Messer said.

He said the college is leasing it from the Western Heights School District.

The center provides non-credit courses to children, adults and senior citizens to improve basic skills in many school subjects.

But since the building is only being leased, Messer said, OCCC cannot make any changes or improvements to it.

If the college is able to purchase the building, plans to enlarge the Child

Development Center and Lab School could be carried out.

"That would significantly expand the services that they can provide,"

Messer said.

"They could also expand the programming and their student childcare service."

MONEY: Applications due Nov. 16

Continued from page 1

colleges in the United States.

"Every year, for the past decade, OCCC students have been informed about the opportunity and encouraged to apply for the All USA Community College Academic Team," Paden said.

Students who are members of Phi Theta Kappa also will be eligible for the Guistwhite Scholarship, which is also part of the All-USA academic team.

Paden said a committee will review the applicants and nominate two students to be forwarded to the 2010 All-USA Academic Team and Coca-Cola Scholarship.

The two students selected will automatically become part of the All-Oklahoma Team and will be eligible next year for additional tuition waivers and scholarships from many of the state's four-year institutions.

She also said stipends of \$2,500 will be awarded to the 20 First Team members, \$1,500 to the 50 Team Gold Scholars, \$1,250 to the 50 Team Silver Scholars, \$1,000 to the 50 Team Bronze Scholars, and \$1,000 to the All-State Academic Team National Finalists.

For more information, contact Paden at 405-682-1611, ext. 7595 or visit the Enrollment and Student Services office.

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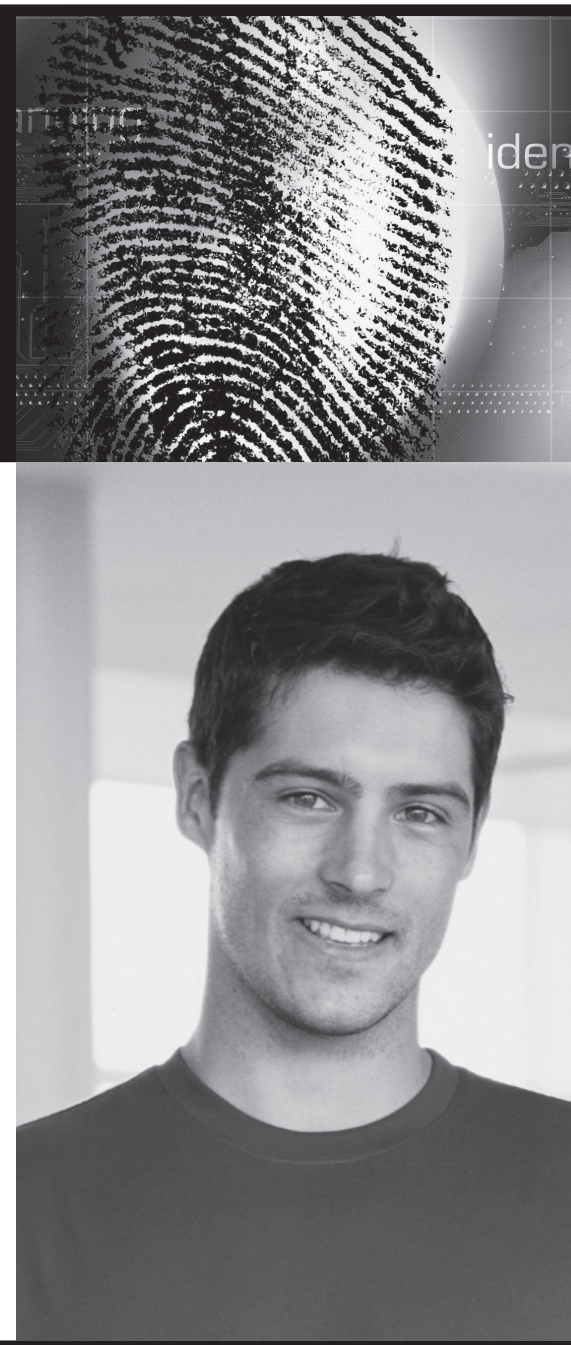
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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



Fit for a king

Tierney Eden, Transitions president, performs a dance tribute for Michael Jackson Friday, Oct. 23, in the Bruce Owen Theater. The Transitions Club hosted A Tribute to Michael Jackson, which included dances and open karaoke.

JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

STUDENT LIFE | Club membership reaps many educational, professional benefits

Involvement now, success later

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

It's a common refrain among community college students: too busy with work and study to have time for student clubs.

That is a shortsighted perspective that could reduce future earning power, said one campus club president.

Brandon Hunt, Military Student Association president, said club involvement extends beyond the collegiate world.

"There was a study done recently where human resource representatives hiring here in Oklahoma said they would rather hire someone with a lower GPA and club experience,

rather than a higher GPA and no experience," Hunt said.

"It shows them in juggling schoolwork and club activities, this person can multitask."

In addition, he said, club involvement teaches members to become involved with the community, not just themselves.

"Especially because we are a commuter school, clubs are even more important."

"It's a huge part of college life," he said.

Katie Williams, Advocates of Peace president, said being in a group has given her a sense of community, excitement and hope. "I never thought I would be a member of any club at school just because I thought it would take up

too much of my time," Williams said.

"When I got involved with Advocates of Peace, however, I realized that I was truly passionate about it and so being a member of the club was the natural thing to do.

"I think that is key: Find something you believe in and support. Then you will want to spend your extra time participating."

Kelsea Burton, film and video major, said her busy schedule has kept her from joining a student organization. "I would love to join a club, but it seems like meetings are always held while I am either in class or at work."

Karlen Grayson, Student Clubs and Organizations assistant, said conflicting schedules

are the number one reason why more students don't join clubs.

Grayson said she cannot stress how worthwhile club participation is for students, regardless of their time constraints.

"Not only does club membership help students out now, but will continue to do so in their future pursuits."

With 37 clubs currently available to choose from, she said, students should find one that matches their interests.

"Students who are involved in clubs gain priceless networking opportunities and develop crucial leadership and social skills," Grayson said.

For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Employment specialist visits campus

Employment specialist Karen Hunter will present "How to Find and Apply for Jobs at FAA" from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, in CU3. Employment opportunities such as data entry, information technology, accounting, psychology and many other diverse positions will be covered. For more information, contact Judi McGee, Employment Services coordinator, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7369.

Scholarship opportunity offered

Applications for the 2010 USA Academic Team and Coca-Cola All-State Community College Academic Team scholarships are now available. To qualify, a student must: be enrolled at OCCC through December 2009, have a cumulative college-level GPA of 3.5, a minimum of 36 semester college-level credits and no record of suspension, probation or other serious disciplinary action. Information and applications are available online at www.ptk.org/schol/aaat/announce.htm with use of access code ausat2010. Applications also may be obtained through the Enrollment and Student Services office at 405-682-7595 and Student Life at 405-682-7596. Applications are due to the Enrollment and Student Services office Monday, Nov. 16.

Tuition waiver applications available

Tuition waiver applications for the spring 2010 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20. For more information, contact Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

Absolute submissions sought by Dec. 4

Submissions for Absolute, OCCC's literary and art journal, are currently being accepted for publication in April 2010. Students, faculty, staff and community members are encouraged to submit poetry, short stories, personal essays, black-and-white photographs and drawings to mmccauley@occc.edu. The submission deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 4. For more information, contact Marybeth McCauley at 405-682-1611, ext. 7405, or Clay Randolph at 405-682-1611, ext. 7238.

Baptist club offers free lunch

Baptist Collegiate Ministries will offer free lunches to all students, faculty, and staff during their meetings this semester, held at noon Mondays in the Bruce Owen Theater, and at 12:20 p.m. Thursdays in room 3N0 of the Main Building. For more information, contact Mark Barnett at 405-323-0583 or e-mail Chris Verschage at 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.

www.occc.edu/pioneer

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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5 Omelet needs
9 Sword handle
13 Gumbo veggie
14 River nymph
16 Part of HOMES
17 Cry of woe
18 "The Sweetheart of — Chi"
19 Tibetan monk
20 Enthralled
21 Be- —: hippie happenings
22 Church book
24 Units of energy
26 — gin
27 Synthetic fiber
30 Picasso and Van Gogh
34 O. Henry's forte
35 Type of blocker
36 Distort
37 Wrongdoing
38 Al and Tipper
39 "— had it!"
40 Beer barrels
42 Strikes
43 — and dined
45 Hasty and careless
47 Geese group
48 Misplace
49 Farm sight
50 Short race

DOWN

1 Bellow
2 Tex. neighbor
3 Snare
4 From Asia
5 Naval officer
6 Profits
7 Musicians' jobs
8 Spade of whodunits
9 Firefighters' headgear
10 OPEC member
11 Type of bean
12 Shade of blue
15 Shaggy flowers
23 Over there
25 Cowboy Rogers
26 Cloys
27 Computer-users' needs
28 "The Tempest" spirit

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

LOBO	SOCKS	ASTA
ALOU	ABOUT	ZOOM
MINT	LORRY	ALTO
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IAN	BYE	
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AMISS	ITER	SULU
KID	BLANK	CAP
ILES	LEND	SPIKE
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OSU	AAA	
BERRA	GREENCARD	
RAIN	GUAVA	OREO
ARTE	ARKIN	CEES
GLAD	DUELS	KALE

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29 Winding dance
30 Australian city
31 — out: making ends meet
32 Take delight in
33 Stockholm native
35 Idaho capital
38 Dreadful
41 Did a film-editor's job
43 Battle
44 Lit

46 Actor Johnson
47 Courageously
49 Diamond corners
50 Bargain event
51 Ruse
52 Director Clair
53 Martial art
55 Prima donna
56 Cast a sidelong glance
57 Seabird
60 "Alley —"



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