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This semester, a group of paramedic students brought the Student Emergency Medical Technology Association back to life. Learn more information on the organization.

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OCCC is hosting the 18th Annual Chesapeake Elite Pro-Am Swim Meet this week.

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

DECEMBER 14, 2009

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Student loans get makeover with White House plan

MARK SMITH

Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A weakened economy that has prompted some lenders to drop out of the student loan market has resulted in the U.S. Senate considering a bill that would change some of the loan programs frequently used by students, said Financial Aid Client Services Specialist Linette McMurtrey.

An unstable economy and unreliable student loans market prompted Congress to pass the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (ECASLA) on April 30, 2008. The bill allowed the Department of Education to purchase student loans from lenders.

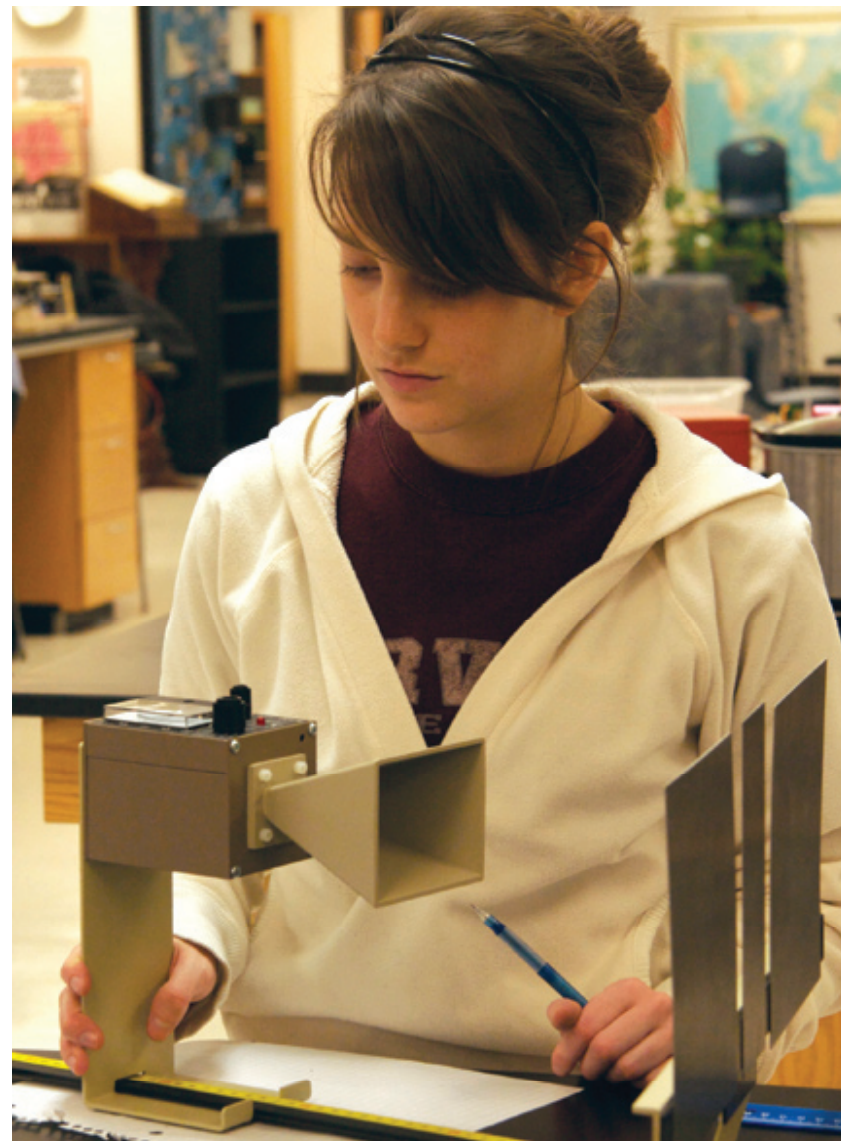
The theory was the purchases would relieve the pressure on the lenders. However, lenders were still dropping out of the market, according to reports from the U.S. Department of Education.

As a result, President Barack Obama's administration is supporting a bill called the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) which would ensure students can still receive loans to help fund their education through direct government lending.

Some of the benefits students could enjoy if the proposed bill is passed are: possible interest rate reductions, doing away with guarantee fees, better repayment plans, and payments based on the stu-

See LOAN page 9

Lab time



LANDA McCLURE/PIONEER

Lindsay Ross, meteorology major, conducts a microwave lab experiment for Engineering Physics II. The science lab is open from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

BOOKSTORE TEAMS WITH WHOLESALERS FOR BUYBACK

Students can get money for used textbooks beginning Dec. 14

MARK SMITH

Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Students needing extra money can sell their textbooks back to the OCCC Bookstore beginning at 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14.

Brenda Reinke, bookstore director, said representatives from wholesalers the bookstore contracts with also

will be at the college until Dec. 21 to buy books for both OCCC and the company they represent.

Students will go to a service window located outside of the bookstore, next to the store's entrance, she said.

Reinke said the representatives will buy any book on their list of books they need, while OCCC will only pur-

chase books being used by the college's professors next semester.

Students will be paid a higher amount for the books being purchased for use in the bookstore.

However, Reinke said, the wholesaler representatives will make their own purchases based upon the age, condition and demand for the book.

She said some books

may only be purchased for \$5 while others could be sold for \$20.

"It depends on how much they want your book," Reinke said.

The representatives will be purchasing for schools from across the nation. They may need the books even if OCCC doesn't, Reinke said.

However, books must be in good condition with no pages missing

or water damage, she said, although books with writing and highlighting will be considered as well.

Reinke said workbooks and lab manuals will not be purchased from the students.

Students who cannot attend the buyback should not worry, Reinke said, as the bookstore will have another buyback Jan. 19 and 20.

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Local, national leaders must pay attention to the facts

A debate with no end in sight

The debate over climate change is currently taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009.



JUSTIN COMBS

As advocates and skeptics from around the globe come together to talk about global warming and to come up with an agreement to replace the Kyoto Treaty, the global deal regulating greenhouse gases that expires in 2012, our state is being represented by a true non-believer — Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe.

Inhofe has called global warming “the greatest hoax ever played on the American people,” and opposes any kind of agreement.

He refers to himself as the “one-man truth squad,” determined to squash any talk of global warming having been caused by man.

The decisions made at the conference and the debates that will erupt from those decisions will affect the way world leaders handle the issue of global warming, including our own state leaders.

Yet, it’s likely Inhofe is at the conference, choosing to ignore all of the scientific studies that have been conducted and the data that has been gathered from that and instead, vehemently opposing all of the facts.

Hopefully, his lack of expert knowledge in the area will be noted and his off-the-cuff remarks ignored.

And, even more importantly, perhaps he will come back a changed politician, with a different mindset.

Adjustments need to be made in how we use energy and what we use for energy.

Solutions are available that will not destroy the way we live, commute and travel, and it’s time those solutions were implemented.

Changes will not occur overnight; to set a course for how to deal with global warming and modifying the way we live will be a daunting process but one that needs to start now.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

Inhofe and others who oppose making a new agreement are unlikely to be swayed by the conference, but the decisions will still affect the way global warming is handled.

But, here’s hoping he accepts those changes, whether he agrees with them or not.

—JUSTIN COMBS
EDITOR

YOUR VOICE | Take steps to avoid the stress

Don’t let the final school weeks lead to stressful holidays

To the editor:

This time of year can be filled with stress if we let it.

During the holidays, the end of the semester, and the end of a calendar year, we all have added responsibilities and opportunities that have the potential to cause each of us to feel stressed.

Stress is neither good nor bad for us; it is the impact on our health, our job performance, and our relationships that causes the damage. Eustress is the good

stress that helps us enjoy the upcoming holidays and time with family and friends.

It is distress over many of these same opportunities that can cause us physical and emotional trouble.

Four simple steps to a life after stress:

- Get specific about your anxieties.

If you are feeling overwhelmed and stressed-out, make a list of those things contributing to your anxiety. Examine the list and identify the

causes.

If it is financial woes, look realistically at what is best for spending during the holidays. Make a budget and stick to it. If your anxiety is founded in relationship issues, plan shorter visits with persons who pertain to that issue.

If it is work related, develop a project management plan, set SMART goals and work your plan.

Focus on one thing at a time.

Make a checklist and

gain confidence as you check things off the list.

- Ask for help.

Delegation and teamwork are keys to getting the work done at any time of the year for any tasks at hand.

At this time of year with so many deadlines to meet, a team that can work together eases stress together. For more serious emotional issues, spend time with your personal support system, or access the OCCC Employee Assistance Program.

- Accept imperfections.

Be realistic, nothing is perfect. Accept that you or anyone else might not get everything right. Use the buddy system for checking reports and end-of-the year documents to ease the stress.

Allow written documents to “take a break” and then review with a rested eye. Be kind and forgiving to yourself and to others. Let go of those things over which you have no control.

- Treat yourself well.

Eat healthy, exercise, get enough rest and continue to find time to participate in activities that you enjoy.

The holidays can be a time to give back to your family or community in service and time. It is also a time to embrace who you are and enjoy the season.

Keep the happy in your holidays and you will have life after stress.

—PENNY HAMPTON
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

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Mark Smith.....	Senior Writer	Cynthia Praefke.....	Ad Manager
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Ethan Hendricks.....	Staff Writer	Chris Lusk.....	Lab Assistant
Jennifer Pearsall.....	Photographer	Ronna Austin.....	Lab Director
Sue Hinton.....		Faculty Adviser	

7777 S. May
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

phone:
405-682-1611, ext. 7409

e-mail:
editor@occc.edu

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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 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 | Enough substance to cut through the cliché story

‘Blindside’ a captivating movie

In a surprising twist, “Blindside” outpaced Summit Entertainment’s “New Moon” in ticket sales over the weekend. Overcoming initial bad raps of your typical rags-to-riches story, “Blindside” captivated viewers with its true story of how one person can change the people around them.

Micheal Oher is a large, quiet and gentle boy who has been abandoned by his mother and whose father ran off at his birth. He has one shirt, which he washes in a sink at a laundromat every night and he sleeps in the school gym. He oftentimes will pick up the leftover food after high school football games so that he has something to eat.

Michael gets into a Christian school upon the recommendation of the school’s football coach who sees the chance for a really good offensive lineman. Of course, he doesn’t use this approach but instead tells the school they should allow him to attend because it is their “Christian duty.” Micheal, having a grade point average of 0.6, struggles with school and has a hard time fitting in due to his large size and timidity.

Leigh Anne Touhy, a mother of two children in the school, sees Micheal — or Big Mike, as everyone calls him — walking down the street in the cold rain one night and invites him into her house.

At first, Mike is hesitant to stay, due to being unused to kindness, and the next morning tries to leave. Leigh Anne tells him he can stay as long as he likes, much to his surprise, and Mike stays.

What follows is a heartwarming tale of how Big Mike’s entrance to the family immediately changes their lives.

The family originally has some trepidations about



ALCON ENTERTAINMENT

Mike’s staying with them but very quickly warm up to him, especially Leigh Anne’s son, S.J. He even saves the son’s life in a car accident and protects the family when burglars try to rob their house.

With the encouragement of the Touhy’s and the help of a personal tutor, Micheal begins earning better grades and soon, his grades are high enough to play football.

However, he struggles with the concept of protecting the quarterback. Leigh Anne, remembering he scored in the 98 percentile in “protective instincts” on the school aptitude test, tells him he has to protect the quarterback just like he protected S.J. in the car accident and the family from the burglars.

“Blindside” is a family-friendly movie that has a good balance of humor, love and the excitement of football. The message: a little bit of love can go a long way.

Rating: A-

—ETHAN HENDRICKS
STAFF WRITER

View from the PRESIDENT’S OFFICE



The recent chill in the air is reminder that the fall semester is rapidly coming to conclusion — which of course means that another Christmas and a new year will closely follow.

I recognize that there is much to be done to complete the work of this semester, but I would like to take this opportunity to wish you the very best during this upcoming holiday season.

The holiday break between semesters is a time of celebration, reflection, and renewal — a time to enjoy family and friends — a time of giving and receiving — and a time to prepare for a new year and a new semester.

Like many of you, I will spend time during the break with my family. Most of my immediate family now live in Oklahoma City, and we are already planning several gatherings — from a Christmas Eve dinner through a New Year’s Eve party. We will retell the stories of the past, some happy and some sad, remember those who are no longer with us, welcome those who are new, and share our hopes for the future.

To our faculty and staff, let me once again thank you for your tireless work on behalf of OCCC and our students. I know that you share with me a deep sense of pride and honor to be a part of Oklahoma City Community College.

To our students, I wish you the best as you complete your work for the semester. Enjoy the break, and I will see everyone back on campus in the new year — 2010!

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

FILM REVIEW | “Armored” an enjoyable watch

Short delivers compelling performance in action flick

New writer, James V. Simpson, hit the B-movie bull’s-eye with his first screenplay, “Armored.”

The story begins when Mike Cochran (Matt Dillon) gets his friend, Ty Hackett (Columbus Short) a job as an armored car guard.

Ty is grateful as he is raising his younger brother since the death of their parents.

Ty is facing foreclosure on his home, and he might lose custody of his brother unless he can make some positive

changes in his life.

What Ty doesn’t count on is the plans of his veteran co-workers to steal two trucks hauling \$42 million.

The men, including an intimidating character played by Laurence Fishburne, coerce Ty into joining them.

They promise no one will get hurt, and everyone will be rich if they stick together.

Of course, nothing goes according to plan or there would be no movie.

There is a great deal of fight action, killing, and a wonderful chase scene between two armored trucks.

Much of the film was shot at the abandoned site of California Steele Industries, which tends to give an eerie background to the scenario as it unfolds.

The focus of the story seems to be the major personality changes that happen to men when faced with the loss of a fortune.

In 88 minutes, Mike

goes from a nice guy to a cold-blooded killer for the lust of money. He makes the transition a realistic metamorphosis.

Palmer (Amaury Nolasco) is transformed from a devout Christian into a thief and murderer. All for the love of money.

Of course, there must be a hero in every film, and Short plays the part well.

His compelling portrayal of Ty had many audience members yell-

ing out helpful instructions as he fought back at the bad guys.

One interesting fact is there is only one woman in the movie, and she appears briefly and is gone just as quickly.

This is not just a guy movie though. There is plenty going on to hold the attention of all viewers.

The film is rated PG-13 for some intense violence, some disturbing images, and strong language.

The violence is un-

derstood in an action thriller.

There is blood from being shot, stabbed and having a broken bone sticking through the skin, which may be disturbing to some.

The language is no more offensive than is usual for a group of tough men.

No f-bombs though, so relax if you can, and enjoy a good action flick. “Armored” delivers.

Rating: B
—CYNTHIA PRAEFKE
STAFF WRITER

BUSINESS CLOTHES CLOSET TO BENEFIT STUDENTS BEYOND GRADUATION

Demand for ‘dressing to impress’ prompts professor to create closet to aid students

DEANS LE

News Writing Student

A student’s closet filled with only jeans and T-shirts can be a barrier in the business world.

Students need to go into a job interview “dressed to impress,” said Lisa Adkins, Administrative Office Technology professor.

Unfortunately, Adkins said, some students lack the funds to purchase formal business attire.

Luckily, Adkins is working to aid students.

For that reason, Adkins is working to debut the Business

Clothes Closet next semester for students who need, but can’t afford, business clothing, she said.

Adkins said she is accepting donations of lightly used or new clothes.

“Nothing is too small; nothing is too big,” she said.

Adkins said the donations can include shoes, jewelry, hosiery, long socks, ties, and about anything else appropriate for the business world.

She said she needs clothing for both men and women.

Whether it’s a job interview or showing up to a business gathering, Adkins said, looking professional is a key to

making a good impression.

She said men should keep it simple with a dress shirt, tie, coat, slacks and dress shoes.

For women, the current style is slacks, blouse, business jacket, simple jewelry and shoes with about a one- or two-inch high heel.

The clothes will be reserved for business graduates in the beginning, Adkins said.

She said she is still looking for an appropriate room for the closet.

As of now, the storage room only has a few clothes hanging up with the others still in their boxes.

For students to receive

clothes, they must be graduating and be nominated by a business professor.

Anita Williams, department chair of Banking, Finance and Insurance, said the business faculty fully supports the idea.

Business graduates needing attire after they graduate may soon be able to fill out an application and submit it to Adkins.

The distribution process is still in the works, Adkins said.

“It is just one more step that the business faculty is taking to help our students achieve their dreams — something

beyond the educational side of what we do.”

Adkins said she also is looking for dry cleaning owners who are willing to help sponsor the Business Clothes Closet by drying cleaning the donated suits and dresses.

Donors can receive a tax receipt, which they may be able to use as a tax deduction when they file their taxes, Adkins said.

“It’s my goal to have it ready for spring graduates,” she said.

For more information, contact Adkins at 405-682-1611, ext. 7235, or e-mail ladkins@occc.edu.

Correct dress makes good impression, McGee says

Employment coordinator says dress conservative

BLAIR CHANEY

News Writing Student

What a person wears to a job interview can affect whether the person is hired or passed over, said Judi McGee, Employment Services coordinator, in a workshop on campus recently.

McGee offered several tips on how to make a good first impression in an interview:

- Wear classic clothing
- Wear well-fitting clothing
- Limit jewelry
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Shower before interview
- Fix hair and makeup

Classic, form-fitting clothing and personal grooming show respect and professionalism when going to an interview, McGee said. Too much jewelry makes an outfit gaudy and sometimes causes

distraction.

The office of Student Employment and Career Services provides free advice and consulting for interviews to students and alumni at OCCC, McGee said.

Sometimes your choice of clothing can go wrong, even when you follow the rules, McGee said.

She told of an experience in which she had in a job interview for a teaching position.

McGee showed up to the interview in a Calvin Klein jacket with a tiny black-and-white houndstooth pattern, plain white silk shirt and black slacks.

She had just concluded a successful interview with the vice principal of the school who insisted on her meeting the principal.

“When I saw the principal, he had on the exact same outfit,” McGee said. The designer had made an ensemble for men in the same pattern and colors.

The principal went on and on about their matching outfits through the whole meeting, McGee said. “He was not amused.”

McGee tried to laugh it off and continue with the interview but the principal continued on about the outfits.

McGee did not get the job and the interview did not go well, McGee said.

She said she still laughs when she thinks about the look on the principal’s face when she was first introduced.

The moral of the story, she said, is always dress to impress. Keep every outfit clean and wrinkle free. Be comfortable. Keep all items of clothing conservative and always turn the cell phone off.

For more information about how to dress and perform appropriately in an interview, contact McGee at the Employment and Career Services office on campus or at 405-682-1611 ext. 7369.

Top 5 highest-earning Jobs attainable with an associate degree:

1. **Computer specialist** — \$59,480: Depending on the employer, computer specialists perform a variety of functions, ranging from technical support to coordinating network security. Hiring managers prefer graduates with an associate degree in a computer-related field.

2. **Nuclear technician** — \$59,200: Nuclear technicians monitor radiation and operate nuclear test and research equipment. They may also assist nuclear engineers and nuclear physicists with their research projects. An associate degree program in an applied science or specific technology should provide good training.

3. **Dental hygienist** — \$58,350: One of the fastest-growing occupations in the nation, dental hygienists provide routine dental services including cleaning teeth, taking X-rays and preventative care. Candidates must graduate from an accredited dental hygiene school and pass a written and clinical exam.

4. **Radiation therapist** — \$57,700: Radiation therapists administer radiation therapy to patients afflicted with tumors or cancer. Employers generally require an associate degree from a radiation therapy program.

5. **Nuclear medicine technologist** — \$55,840: Nuclear medicine technologists administer diagnostic tests that involve using radioactive materials to monitor organ functions. An associate degree in nuclear medicine technology is standard, and many employers also require licensure.

**List courtesy of and ranked by the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

MYRA DECKER AND FABIOLA JANIAC-SPEARS WIN AWARDS

Science, accounting professors earn recognition from professional groups

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Two OCCC professors recently were recognized for their efforts.

The 2009 Oklahoma Science Teachers Association College Faculty Award was recently presented to Fabiola Janiak-Spens, biotechnology professor, for her contributions to kindergarten through 12th grade science education.

OSTA is the statewide professional association that addresses the interests and concerns of science teachers throughout the state of Oklahoma.

Each year, the association honors a college faculty member for his or her support and contributions to K-12 science in Oklahoma.

Janiak-Spens said winning the award was a humbling experience.

"I just like what I'm doing," she said. "I feel it's my responsibility. To be recognized for it is nice."

She said her own children, as well as others of their television- and video game-dependent generation, fuel her desire to educate them.

"Science is such an important field," Janiak-Spens said. "It's very, very important to not just educate college stu-

dents, but younger students as well."

DeAnn Campbell, Biotechnology/Bioinformatics Discovery Project coordinator, said she nominated Janiak-Spens for the award because she is "a true science educator."

In addition to working full-time at OCCC, Campbell said Janiak-Spens is a coordinator for the Sooner Elementary Engineering and Science after-school program, works with high school teachers through summer workshops, and is a part of OCCC's Biotechnology/Bioinformatics Discovery Program.

"To her, there are no barriers as far as age and location go," Campbell said.

"She is willing to help everyone."

Also, an OCCC accounting professor was recently given a prestigious award.

Myra Decker received the 2009 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Oklahoma Professor of the Year Award Nov. 19 in Washington D.C.

The award recognizes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country, according to the Web site at www.usprofessorsoftheyear.org.

Decker was the only Oklahoma professor to receive an award.



Myra Decker

"I am honored," she said.

In addition to receiving the award, Decker said, attending the awards ceremony and reception in Washington D.C. was the experience of a

lifetime.

"When I attended the ceremony in D.C., I was given the opportunity to meet past recipients of the award," Decker said.

"It was a very humbling experience."

“

"I really enjoy teaching here ... I love everything about the college. I love the community college environment. It is a wonderful place to be."

—MYRA DECKER

ACCOUNTING PROFESSOR

Decker has worked for OCCC for 28 years, she said.

She said she has no plans to leave OCCC any time soon.

"I really enjoy teaching here," Decker said. "I love everything about the college."

"I love the community college environment. It is a won-

derful place to be."

Ron Summers, accounting professor, said the award "couldn't have gone to a better person," and was glad Decker won the award.

"Her number one thing is helping students," he said.

"We need more like her."



Fabiola Janiak-Spens



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Fall graduates receive diploma for holidays

The following students have applied for December graduation. Diplomas will be granted after credentials are completed and degree requirements are met. Students who have fulfilled degree requirements can participate in the May 8 commencement ceremony.

Associate in Arts

Hazem Abdalla, Robert Ahboah, Jerry Albright, Rachael Allen, Eliezer Argot, Charles Barclay, Susan Battershell, Tyler Baxter, Wesley Bell.

Jenifer Bergman, Tracie Billings, Terri Black, Tiffany Briggs, Maria Buksh, Randi Burris, Kristie Bussing.

Jessica Carabajal, Shimena Carter-Brashers, Damaris Castro, Srey Chamreun, Alan Chapple, Jonathan Chatman, Paul Clark, Hollie Clear.

Kara Cline, John Corbin, Jessica Cozby, Randolph Crawford, Kenzie Cunnius, Charity Deaton, Alyssa DeVore, Emily Dodson.

Mireya Esquivel, Nayeli Favila, Alan Field, Cassidy Fitzpatrick, Carol Floyd, Joanna Garza, Marriah Gresham, Natalie Greuel.

Jason Gwynn, Misty Hamilton, Erin Hamm-Miller, Tyler Hargis, DeAnna Heaton, Leanne Heck, Cynthia Henderson, Katie Hill, Morgan Hill.

Christi Hinkle, Ashley Hovda, Brandon Hunt, Sarah Jackson, Phillip James, Priscilla Jaramillo, Laura Lee Jennings, Andy Jensen, Mary Johnston-Melott.

Krystal Jones, Johnathan King, Tina Kinsey, Charity Kinyua, Brandon Koonce, Christina Leake, Thomas Looper, Tyersa Lowery.

Al'lesha Mack, Benjamin Malone, Rogina Mathes, Suzanne Mayeux, Joshua McDonald, Shanna McLennan, Tyler Mellinger-Holland.

David Mendoza, David Milford, Jr., Tyler Miller, Deidre Moore, Maggie Mullins, Chase Myers, Shandell Nash.

Binh Nguyen, Darren Nich-

ols, Emily Niehues, Nichole Ochoa, Omonigho Omokhomion, Alicia Ouellet, Spencer Parker, Payton Patterson.

Brandon Pearson, Zachary Peavler, Lawson Petty, Lindsay Pickelsimer, Kristi Robertson, Samuel Rosko, Spencer Sakurai, Tanner Simmons.

Erica Slover, Miguel Soto, Le'Teecia Starks, Michael Stephens, Brittney Taylor, Daniel Thompson, Chrystal Torres-Caro, Shawnacie Tresler.

Amy Turner, Kari Velasquez, Valerie Wallin, Philip Ward, Aaron Whitewolf, Janus Wilkinson-Roth, Tanner Wilson, Haiget Yosef, Johnnie Young.

Associate in Science

Zainab Ahmad, Wendy Alcalá, Dominic Antony, Janelle Arrasmith, Tammy Avers, Isaac Babb, Flor Barker, Kyle Barton, Christopher Belew.

Lindsey Bird, Shanta Bista, April Blair, Calvin Bohanan, Sharmeka Bowen, Ryan Brummett, David Buchanan.

James Carter, Timothy Chicoraske, Sandra Chrisman, Nancy Coffey, Brandi Coleman, Mariel Columbus, Bradley Cottrell.

April Cribbs, Mary Daniels, Kasey Delgado, Adriana Delira, Christopher Denton, Tayeb Diouri, Anny Duangvilay, Pammella Duran, William Edds.

Wendy Espinoza, Kristina Evans, Justin Fancher, Krys Feyen, Dawn Finlay, Margarita Flores, Eric Fredrickson, Miranda French.

Rebecca Gomes, Andrew Gonzales, Samantha Goodwin, AnaCorine Gray, Reggy Gray, Shane Gunnoe, Sarah Haggard, Casey Halabi.

Kathleen Hargrave, Jonathan Henson, Gilbert Herrera III, Brett Hicks, Emily Hill, Josiah Hinkle, Angela Hogard, Elise Hopkins.

Yao-Chun Hsieh, Brittainy Irwin, Jennifer Jadeed, Priscilla Johnston, Destiny Jones, Julie Jones, Jon Kasper, Su-

ruchi Kunwar, Justin Le.

Jilliann Lee, Kristen Leech, Betty Limas, Michelle Lingle, Jui-wen Liu, Kristi Longhat, Makenzie MacMillan, Austin Madden, Robert Mason.

Ashkan Massahi, Edgar Matamoros, Jimmy McAnally, Nathan McCoy, Muhammad Mehedi, Amanda Miller, Meghan Miller, Randy Miller.

Khaleeiah Moore, Cristina Moore, Arjan Mudvari, Cory Murphy, William Mwangi, Chuong Nguyen, Diana Nguyen, Bibidh Niroula.

Erika Palmacci, Nawaraj Parajuli, Patrick Pena, Cindy Permatasari, David Pham, Thomas Pierce.

Amiee Pinkerton, Samuel Prophete, Jeremy Queen, Aurelien Quillet, Kelly Reardon, Leslie Reeves, O. Reid, Melanie Remy, Erin Ritter.

Tanika Roberts, Matthew Rockwell, Quentin Rogers, Sallie Sacker, Barbara Sandburg, Emily Schat, Joshua Schoenborn, Anil Shah.

Kabindra Shrestha, Ilina Shrestha, Megan Simpson, Dibyeshwor Singh, Rojina Singh, Gerald Slover, Joshua Smith, Brandon Smith, Alan Spaulding, Robert Spencer.

Michelle Stevens, Luke Stovall, Shea Sublett, Michael Suttles, Sarala Thapa-Shrestha, Paris Triplet, Quynh Nhi Truong, Amanda Tucker.

Scott VanHouten, Stacey Viktora, Amelia Villines, Jennifer Vo, Marilyn Ware, Megan West, Cristy Whitehead, Brian Wiley, Alexandra Wilkes, Amanda Williams.

Kevin Williams, Ashley Wood, William Wynd, Amber Yarborough, Natalie Young, Boutaina Zerouali, Mennie Zoogley.

Associate in Applied Science

Adedoyin Abioye, Julu Acharya, John Addai, Shawna Aguilar, Rogelio Almeida, Jr., Allison Amos, Lisa Armstrong, Danah Bartle.

Shawnda Baumann, Dilasha Bhetuwal, Matthew Boaz,

Heather Brewer, Mitchell Brickey, Christina Briscoe, Karen Brown, Angela Brown.

Todd Bullock, Christi Butler, Christopher Carmon, Travis Cherry, Laura Chu, Joseph Cole, Michael Dancer.

Richard Dickens II, James Dodson, Jessica Dodson, Faye Dooty, Robert Douglas, Karie Dove, John Duong, David Eccles, Chelsea Ferrell.

Susan Fryrear, Jessica Garrett, Binita Ghimire, Lori Gifford, David Gist, Kristina Godwin, Christeina Gray, Jonathan Gray, Terri Groom.

Courtney Hailey, Evan Hardesty, Brandy Harris, Kristen Hartman, Lisa Haskin, Joseph Haymon, Katherine Hodges, Keven Horton.

Rachael Hutchens, Victor Johnson, Jr., Michael Just, Milka Kamau, Lucy Kamau, Cindy Karaffa, Gina Kilpatrick, Peter Kimani.

Wynesha Kirk, Yunwei Kuo, Angel Lopez, Christina Marston, Sabrina Martin, Tamarra Martinez, Sherry Minzey.

Desiree Mosley, Evalyne Muchene, Jideraph Murigi, Patricia Nettles, Tien Ngo, Pat Nguyen, Guiqin Niu, Elizabeth Njoku, Gabriela Nunez.

Steven Orr, Maria Patterson, Kelley Patzke, Samuel Pettigrew, Hoa Phan, Suzanne Randall, Jorge Reyes, Jennifer Ribelin, Jessica Rivas.

Jamie Roberts, Carrie Rohr, Cynthia Rowe, Kim Sands, Apryl Satterlee, Robert Satterlee, Jr., Suzanne Smeltzer.

Gracelyn Spears, Isaac Taiwo, Andrew Tapia, Stacey Taylor, Kristen Verser, Jerry

Walker, Kyle Watts, Mathew Wood.

Certificate of Mastery

Anthony Aponte, Stormy Archer, Brandon Arneson, Amanda Barker, Amanda Bigelow, Elrich Bost, Justin Clark, Chad Clingman.

Joseph Cole, Ryan Cooper, Fatima Danna, Tracy Davis, Amie Dunn, Matthew Evans, Amy Fox, Casey Gerbers.

Lori Gifford, Jason Godwin, Christeina Gray, Billy Grayson, Kevin Hatch, Stephen Hix, Tara Holderbee, Lucas Kirkham, Patrick McGinnis.

Stephen Mills, Candace Morris, Wesley Morrison, Nick Naifeh, Gabriela Nunez, Randall Old Crow, Travis Pace, Christopher Pankau.

Justin Parker, Yahya Piere, Cory Potter, Jorge Reyes, William Richter, Jesse Sappington, Annette Sharp, Danielle Shuman, Johnathan Sims.

Johnny Smith, David Snodgrass, James Sperry, Lynsey Taylor, Piravadee Thiensingchai, Joy Tolleson.

Ryan Van, David Walker, Michael Wallace, Matthew Waller, Robert Walling II, Eric Ward, Adrain Warrior, Lori Williams, Nathan Wright.

Don't see your name here?
If you believe you should be graduating but your name is not listed, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7512, to check your graduation status.

“I want to be one of the first to offer congratulations to our students who will be graduating at the end of this semester. Your hard work and determination are to be commended.”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT



NINE STUDENTS CHOSEN AS RECIPIENTS OF \$250

Faculty Association scholarships awarded

ETHAN HENDRICKS

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee recently awarded \$250 scholarships to nine students for the spring semester, said Linda Boatright, scholarship committee co-chair.

The winners are Andrea Adams, Kandice Edwards, Melissa Ethridge, Kelly Lail, Alisha O'Lague, Jennifer Pearsall, Aurelien Quillet, Amber Sims and Renee Thomas.

"I was surprised to be nominated," said Sims, a physical therapy assistant major and sports assistant.

"And I was even more surprised to be chosen as a recipient of the award. Being awarded the scholarship makes me feel what I'm doing isn't going unnoticed."

Thomas, also a PTA major, said she appreciated being chosen. "I mean, any little bit helps in regard to paying tuition in college."

Lail, a nursing major, said she was shocked to have been selected. "I live in Chickasha so I will probably use the money for transportation."

Edwards, also a nursing major, said she is grateful for the scholarship. "I buy a lot of study books so I will probably use the money to buy books."

Adams, a business administration major, said, "I was very, very happy. But at the same time I was like, 'They picked me?'"

Quillet, a biology major, is an international student from Normandy, France. "I will probably use the money to help pay for my tuition next semester."

Ethridge, another PTA major, said she is excited to win. "I mean, I called my mom, my mother-in-law, and my husband. I'll probably use the money to buy Christmas presents!"

Boatright, circulation and reference librarian, said the committee had 23 applicants.



CHRIS LUSK/PIONEER

Nine students were awarded a \$250 Faculty Association Scholarship for the fall semester. Back (l-r): Jennifer Pearsall, diversified studies major; Kandice Edwards, nursing major; Melissa Ethridge, physical therapy assistant major; Aurelien Quillet, biology major; Kelly Lail, nursing major; Front (l-r): Amber Sims, physical therapy assistant major; Renee Thomas, physical therapy assistant major; Alisha O'Lague, accounting major, and Andrea Adams, business administration major.

She said the selection process wasn't easy.

"All of the recommended students were the cream of the crop at OCCC," Boatright said.

If applicants are really close, the committee considers the students' level of campus involvement.

"Then we examine their participation in clubs, vol-

unteer work and their level of activity in campus life," Boatright said.

The Faculty Association raised the money for the scholarships through sev-

eral methods including selling beverages at the fall arts festival and holding a garage sale.

In the spring the group will host a craft and bake sale.

Mini medical School a big hit with participants

Students have the opportunity to learn by experience

ETHAN HENDRICKS

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

Fifty-six OCCC students participated in the University of Oklahoma's Mini Medical School sponsored by the Health Sciences Center Nov. 10, said Kimberly Kyker, OCCC academic coordinator of Clinical Research.

Kyker said the Mini Medical School is offered once a year at the University of Oklahoma to undergraduate and high school students.

The students listened to lectures given by various OU professors on neurology and the brain, then were given quizzes on the material.

Kyker said the students enjoyed the program.

"I spent 18 years with the Health Sciences Center doing research on cancer," Kyker said, "so for me, this was everyday stuff, but for the students it was exciting."

"I mean, how many times do community college students get to sit in the seat of a medical student?"

Kyker said medical and grad students fielded questions asked by the visiting students and gave a guided tour of the medical school.

There also were human brains for the students to examine along with some of the salamanders used by the researchers.

Gordon Holaday, an OCCC nursing major, said the school was fun and interesting.

"The three professors presented the information very well," Holaday said. "Neuroscience is my favorite science to study."

"The professors didn't field a lot of questions during their lectures but they made up for it afterwards," he said.

"The professors and the medical students at OU answered a lot of questions in the little labs they had after the lectures and in the tour."

Holaday said he was reminded of OCCC's labs as they took the tour.

"[The labs there] were very much like the excellent labs here at OCCC."

"I would highly recommend the Mini Medical School to any nursing majors or anyone interested in medical research."

Kyker said OCCC faculty and sponsors were sent an e-mail from the coordinators of the Mini Medical School containing the information about the school.

"We advertised the information to students in the Health

Professions Club," Kyker said.

"Two of the sponsors — Steve Cash and Carl Hirtzel — teach physiology sections and they announced the school to the students in their class."

Kyker said the purpose of OCCC's Clinical Research Program is to train people to go into an entry-level position working with nurses and doctors on human subject research.

"The program prepares you for a broad base of research fields, whether it's pharmaceuticals, social science interactions or behavioral studies," she said.

"The goal is to have students who, upon graduation, will be prepared to enter a field of research."

For more information about Mini Medical School, call Kyker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7120, or e-mail kkyker@occc.edu.

SPORTS

Go team go



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

Campus cheerleading squad members practice at OCCC. Christina Hobbs, premed major; Jennifer Myers, pre-education major; and Rodney Wright, theater arts major, practice cheers in front of the mirrors in the aerobics room. The cheerleading squad began this semester after Sierra Brajas, psychology major, organized the group.

AQUATIC CENTER | Professional, amateur swimmers to compete

Chesapeake to hold swim meet at OCCC

LANDA MCCLURE
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Between 400 and 500 professional and amateur swimmers will participate in the Chesapeake Swim Club's 18th Annual Chesapeake Elite Pro-Am Swim Meet on campus Thursday, Dec. 17, through Sunday, Dec. 20, said Aquatic and Safety Training Specialist James Hensley.

"Some of the amateur swimmers will be competing to qualify for the 2012 Olympics," Hensley said. "The professional swimmers have already competed in previous Olympics."

He said swimmers will come from across the U.S. and some competitors are from the Oklahoma City area.

Hensley said some of the swimmers will compete in groups and some will compete individually.

Paul Thompson, swim meet director, said the Chesapeake swim meet is

one of the biggest meets around.

"It is one of very few USA swim meets where professional athletes swim with amateur swimmers," Thompson said.

He said the first swim races will be Thursday night and preliminary rounds will be held Friday through Sunday morning.

"The top 24 swimmers in each category will compete in the evenings, Friday through Sunday for finals," Thompson said.

Hensley said the professional athletes will be awarded cash prizes.

"First-place winners will receive \$600, second-place swimmers will receive \$300 and third-place winners will receive \$100," Hensley said.

Awards will be given to the fastest amateur individuals and groups.

"Many of the swimmers are also trying to receive a high point so they can move up a level and qualify for another meet," he said.

Hensley said a few of the races include the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle and 1000-meter freestyle.

Hensley said one reason the college is chosen to host the Chesapeake meet is because its swimming pool is known to produce good speeds for the swimmers.

"The pool is a fast pool because of the gutters," Hensley said. "When a swimmer turns, the water will go into the gutters instead of splashing back into the pool."

Oklahoma hospitality also may factor in, he said.

"The staff works well with the host club and I'd like to think the good hospitality from the city is why OCCC hosts the swim meet," he said.

The Aquatic Center will close for the event at 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 16 and reopen at 6 a.m., Monday, Dec. 21.

For more information, contact the Aquatic Center at 405-682-7860.

UPCOMING
INTRAMURALS
EVENTS

- **Dec. 1-22:** Hatha Yoga classes held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays in the Wellness Center.

- **Dec. 1-22:** Zumba classes held from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays; from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Fridays in the Wellness Center.

- **Dec. 1-22:** Pilates classes held from noon to 12:55 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Wellness Center.

- **Dec. 1-22:** Deep water exercise classes held from 4:30 to 5:25 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Aquatic Center's pool.

- **Dec. 1-22:** Shallow water exercise classes held from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Aquatic Center's pool.

- **Dec. 1-22:** Body Sculpting classes held from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

- **Dec. 2-22:** Combo Aerobics classes held from noon to 12:55 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

- **Dec. 2-22:** Cardio Boot Camp classes will be held from noon to 12:55 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Wellness Center.

- **Dec. 17-20:** Chesapeake Elite Pro Am Swim Meet hosted at the Aquatic Center. Pool will close at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16.

- **Dec. 24-Jan 4:** Recreation and Fitness Center closes Dec. 24, and re opens Jan. 4.

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

LOANS: Financial Aid office ready to implement possible changes

Continued from page 1

dent's income, McMurtrey said.

Although the current loan program — the Federal Family Education Loan Program — offers some of these benefits, according to statistics provided by McMurtrey, only

1 percent of borrowers meet the requirements for interest reduction under the current plan. Under SAFRA, that number would increase.

In addition, students would only have to conduct business with one lender under this proposed system rather than having to sign a new prom-

issory note each time a new lender must be used as with the current program, McMurtrey said.

SAFRA has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is being considered by the U.S. Senate. In the meantime, ECASLA still offers much-needed benefits to students,

McMurtrey said.

For instance, students who meet enrollment and financial need requirements could receive a second Pell Grant for the summer semester.

McMurtrey said OCCC's Financial Aid office is ready to implement the changes if SAFRA is approved.

"We have attended (training) conferences and we are constantly researching the status of the bill," she said.

For a transcript of SAFRA and more information, visit www.occc.edu/pioneer. For information about financial aid, contact McMurtrey at 405-682-1611, ext. 7781.

Non-injury accident, computer misuse headline crime report

MARK SMITH
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A non-injury traffic accident occurred in the parking lot Thursday, Dec. 3.

Debra Callicoat told Safety

and Security Officer Chad Clingman that as she pulled out of her parking space, she stopped to look for a coupon in the passenger side seat.

While looking for the coupon, she told Clingman, another vehicle struck her car.

The driver of the other vehicle provided her name and insurance documentation to the officer.

However, the report stated, she refused to give her driver's license to the officers.

Later that same day, OCCC

visitor Raymond East was reported misusing a computer in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library.

Library staff told Clingman that East was viewing inappropriate Web sites on the computer.

Clingman questioned East and checked for warrants against him.

After finding no warrants, Clingman issued a no-trespass warning and told East to leave the property, which he did.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Study break

Student Kelli Wisby pours orange wax into her candle creation on Dec. 9. Students could create a candle by pouring colorful wax into a container, picking a scent and having their candle melted by a Hog Wild Entertainment worker.



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

STUDENT LIFE | Students hope to change profession, lives

Paramedics revive dead club

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Teaching paramedic majors the value of teamwork and instilling within them a sense of community are some of the reasons a group of students revived the defunct Student Emergency Medical Technology Association, said Melissa Vice, club president. "I hope this club will bring paramedic students together," Vice said.

"This career is all about teamwork. We want to promote that."

Vice said being involved in the club will

provide members an opportunity not only to sharpen their communication skills, but also give them a taste of what the profession is all about: helping others.

"We really want to help the community," she said.

"That's the entire reason I wanted to become a paramedic."

"I want to help people. I want my life to have mattered."

In addition, Vice said, club members will be given the opportunity to improve the profession itself.

"There are a lot of important changes that

need to be made in the paramedical field," she said. "It's up to the next generation to make them."

Vice said the club also is for students who aren't sure if the paramedical field is right for them.

"This is a great chance for students to see where this career can take them," she said.

Because the club got off to a late start, Vice said, she hopes to make the spring semester a "good one."

"We were thrown into this right in the middle of the semester," Vice said. "Next year, we plan to be a lot more or-

ganized. We have a lot of activities lined up."

Among those activities, she said, will be visiting fire stations and nursing homes during the holiday season.

Club Treasurer Danny Bull said, "We are dedicated to making a difference."

SEMTA club meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month in Room 109 of the Health Professions Center.

For more information, visit the SEMTA Web site through Student Life at www.occc.edu/studentlife or contact Vice at melissa.m.vice@email.occc.edu or

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Christmas goodies auctioned

Are you planning a party? Do your guests have a sweet tooth? The Business Professionals of America club is auctioning off holiday keepsake ceramic party platters filled with delectable homemade treats. Brownies, cookies, candies and carrot cakes are just a few of the items to be sold and auctioned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at the College Union counter. There also will be jewelry sold for those wishing to accessorize with holiday cheer. For more information, contact Germain Pichop at 405-682-1611, ext. 7285.

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.

Veterans benefits available

The Department of Veterans Affairs has made funds available for Veteran students who are still awaiting their education benefit claim to be processed. Eligible veterans can receive up to a \$3,000 advance, which will be recouped from future benefit payments. If you are a student who applied for one of VA's educational programs and have not yet received your monthly benefit payment for the fall 2009 semester, you can request a one-time advance payment at your local VA Regional Office or through VA's website at www.va.gov. For more information, contact Janis Armstrong at 405-682-1611, ext. 7527.

Generator program planned

In spring 2010, OCCC Corporate Learning will offer a Generator and Emergency Power Technician certificate program. During the course, students will learn how to keep their facilities running even when electricity fails. This class is designed for anyone involved with power generation in the work place. Dates and times for the upcoming course have not been set. For more information, contact Corporate Learning at 405-682-7562.

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

Highlight forms can be picked up in the Pioneer office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator.

Attention students:

Do you have a club-related story you would like to share? We'd love to hear about it! Contact Whitney at 405-682-1611, ext. 7440, or e-mail 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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 2000 Nissan Altima. 170,000 miles, black, 4-door, automatic. Fully loaded, power steering, A/C, stereo, new tires. Best condition for this price. \$3,000. Call 405-885-5297.

ELECTRONICS

FOR SALE: Iomega zip drive, new, never out of box. 250MB, USB powered. PC/Mac. \$40. Call: 405-682-1611, ext. 7765.

EMPLOYMENT

NOW HIRING: Employees to conduct surveys over the phone. Part-time work. You set your own schedule. Located in Moore at 210 N Broadway. Please call William Perez of CHS and Associates at 405-799-6362.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Kenmore washer and dryer in very good condition. \$250. OBO. Queen-size bed \$200, OBO. Blue leather recliner \$60 OBO. Call: 405-436-4964.

RIDE NEEDED: Looking for someone who could give me rides from the OU campus in Norman to OCCC. Also need rides to Norman from OCCC. Call me at 405-413-2177, or e-mail: juanse2606@hotmail.com.

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FOR SALE: This commercial advertising space for \$8 a week for the first seven lines and \$1 each additional line. Call Cynthia at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, for details.

FOR RENT

ROOMMATE WANTED: Two-bedroom, two-bath apartment near Baptist Medical Center. 3 pools, workout room, tennis court, washer & dryer included. \$300 plus half utilities. Warwick West at NW Expressway and Independence. Contact Harley at 405-627-9269.

ROOMMATE NEEDED: Live with 2 males and a female in a 3-bedroom home. 2-car garage. no internet or cable. Close to OCCC. Rent is \$300 per month all bills paid. Call Lou: 405-596-5929.



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WANTED: 60 copies of each: American History by Alam Brinkley, 12th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2007, Volume 1 to 1877. Volume II, since 1865. Either free or sold cheap. Please contact Professor Claudette Robertson at claudette.robertson@occc.edu, or call 405-522-7842 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

TEXTBOOK FOR SALE: Music Appreciation, brief with 5 CDs. Kamien 6th Edition. For Hum1113 class. Very good condition. \$65. Foundations of Economics looseleaf. Bade & Parkin 1st Edition. Econ 2113 & 2123. Very good condition. \$65. Call: 405-556-1575.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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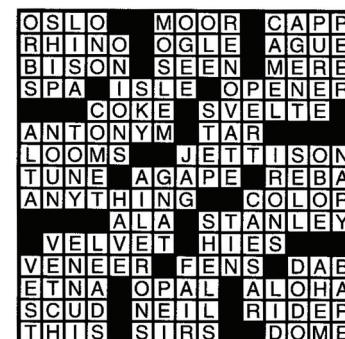
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- 32 Islam deity
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- 44 Actress Hayes
- 45 "Alley —"
- 46 Responded
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- 51 "— seeing things?"
- 52 Swindler

- 54 Seventh in a series
- 59 "You — seen nothing yet!"
- 60 Out of town
- 62 Singer Cara
- 63 Part of a grove
- 64 Pianist Peter
- 65 Overjoy
- 66 Mail
- 67 Streetcar: Brit.
- 68 Helicopter blade

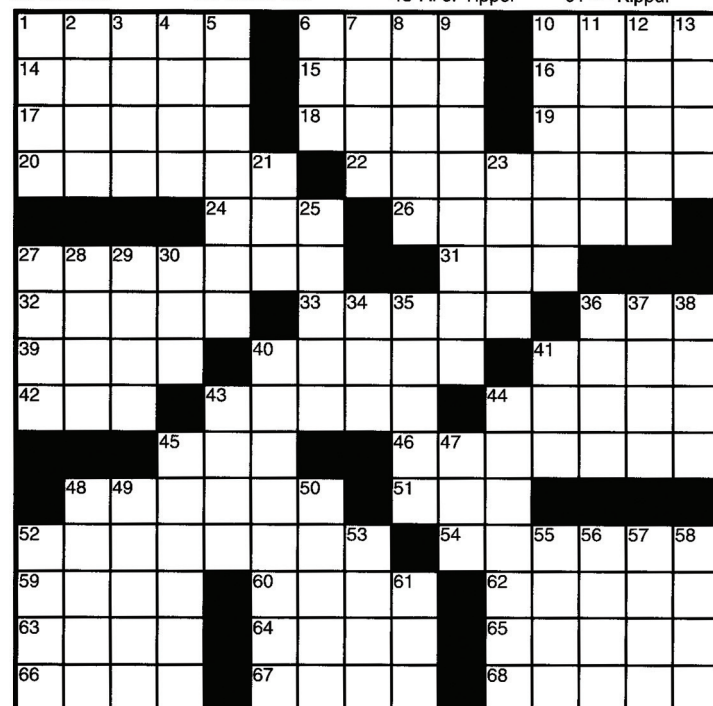
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- 5 Limber up
- 6 Awful
- 7 Sheiks' robes
- 8 Pause
- 9 Greenest, in a way
- 10 Motor
- 11 Traveler Polo
- 12 Climbing vines
- 13 Actor Foxx
- 21 Expected to arrive
- 23 Actress Dunaway
- 25 Green fruit
- 27 Rower's needs
- 28 Type of market
- 29 Type of chart
- 30 Writer Fleming
- 34 Prefix for "take"
- 35 Very very
- 36 Jar
- 37 Writer James —
- 38 Repair
- 40 Displace
- 41 Last mo.
- 43 Al or Tipper
- 44 Scarier
- 45 Expelled
- 47 Ostrich's kin
- 48 English county
- 49 Suit fabric
- 50 Storm drain
- 52 Household pets
- 53 — avis
- 55 Singer Guthrie
- 56 Tidy
- 57 "Do — others"
- 58 Fortuneteller
- 61 — Kippur

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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BOREN BRINGS PAST NURSING EXPERIENCE TO OCCC

Central America shapes nursing prof

ANDREA KIHEGA
News Writing Student

Working in Honduras and Costa Rica as a medic for the National Guard gave nursing professor Traci Boren a broader perspective on health care in different countries.

"I did learn how important primary care is to the health of society," she said of her work in Central America.

"I support legislation that promotes that idea here in the U.S."

Boren joined the OCCC nursing faculty full-time this semester.

She said she served in the National Guard as a medic

for eight-and-a-half years.

Her experience in the National Guard allowed her to visit many places. She said both Honduras and Costa Rica set up remote clinics to take care of the general population.

"I got a whole different perspective of health care in different countries," she said.

Boren said her initial attraction to OCCC's nursing program was that she knew it was a good program.

She said she has enjoyed the clinical and lecturing experience that she has done so far.

Boren is teaching in the Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program

that is offered in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma's nursing program.

Boren received her master's degree in nursing education from the University of Oklahoma in 2008, where she also received her bachelor's degree in nursing in 1998.

In addition to the master's and bachelor's degrees, she has two associate degrees from Rose State College in pre-nursing and liberal studies.

She is certified as an operating room nurse and still practices part time.

"I love being an [Operating Room] nurse because it gives you a chance to advocate for a patient when they are most vulnerable," Boren said.

"It tests your critical thinking skills all the time because you are responsible for the

room and all that takes place during a surgery."

Boren said she likes the small class sizes at OCCC.

"That enables good relationships with students which has been the best part of teaching here," she said.

"I wanted to teach because nursing has been a great career and I want to show others how much nurses do,"

Boren said. "You can find an area you enjoy and make a great impact on others."

Boren has been married for seven years and has a 4-year-old son. She enjoys camping, reading, hiking, and traveling.

For more information, Boren can be reached at tboren@occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7211.



Traci Boren

Students learn anatomy firsthand through dissection of cadavers

MARK SMITH
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC's cadaver-based anatomy class houses six human bodies. Two students from the course told of the secrets that have unfolded this semester.

In this last part of the cadaver-based anatomy class series, Daniella Peters, pre-allied health major, and Matt Merrill, premed major, tell of their experiences dissecting human cadavers.

Julian Hilliard, biology professor, covered the human body in intimate detail during this 16-week course, Merrill said.

The class started with the lower extremities of the body and worked its way to the heart and lungs.

"What stands out the most is the fact we got to dissect a

human cadaver," Merrill said. "The opportunity is so rare and the opportunity will last a lifetime."

Peters said she agrees; however, she said would not want to experience it again.

Both students said they learned things about the body that would help them in their medical careers.

"We discovered conditions in the bodies that sometimes surprised even Professor Hilliard," Merrill said.

Peters said the most remarkable thing she learned was about the lungs and heart.

"It was amazing to get to see these organs that keep you alive," she said.

The class may seem difficult, but both students agree it is beneficial and crucial to a student wanting to enter the medical field.

Peters and Merrill said

they advise students enrolled in the class next semester to study hard and ask for help.

Peters said students should not expect the class to be a walk in the park.

"Be prepared for doing things you do not like doing," she said.

In addition, she said, the class requires a lot of memorization of anatomical vocabulary.

The cadaver lab is a little unsettling at first, Peters said.

Although the class is difficult, she said, students should enjoy their opportunity.

"Appreciate every second of the class because this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the human body up close," Peters said.

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to an advance screening**



**Thursday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.
Harkins Bricktown 16**

*Supplies are limited. Complimentary passes are available in the Pioneer office 2M6 MB on a first-come, first-serve basis. One admit-two pass per person with a valid OCCC ID and proof of age.

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