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Gay Straight Alliance members hosted a Spring Fling in hopes of raising awareness.

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

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# PIONEER

APRIL 2, 2010

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## New law strips student loans from banks

JUSTIN COMBS  
Senior Writer

Starting July 1, all student loans will be distributed via the federal government instead of private banks, as a result of legislation President Barack Obama signed March 30.

In a White House press release dated the same day, the president said the new Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010 will "free up \$68 billion for college affordability and deficit reduction over the next 11 years."

OCCC Financial Aid Adviser Linette McMurtrey said the college is prepared for the change and will make the switch this fall.

Currently OCCC participates in the Federal Family Educational Loan

Program, where students take out loans through private lenders such as banks.

"[Starting this fall] ... all students will borrow through the Department of Education and sign one promissory note that will be good for 10 years," McMurtrey said.

Obama said the change will help everyone.

"For a long time, our student loan system has worked for banks and financial institutions," he said. "... We're finally making our student loan system work for students and all of our families."

The president said no longer having to pay subsidies to private lenders will be where the \$68 billion in savings will come from.

Under the current

See **LOANS** page 9

## Club calls for unity



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

Camyron DeCarlo, Gay Straight Alliance president, performs Wednesday during the alliance's Spring Fling in the College Union. The Spring Fling was held March 31 as part of an educational event. For complete coverage, visit the Pioneer Online at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).

### MAKE-IT BAKE-IT SALE DESIGNED TO RAISE FUNDS THROUGH SILENT AUCTION, BAKED GOODS

## Faculty to cook up scholarships from chili contest

JEREMY CLOUD  
News Writing Student

A chili cook-off will provide the centerpiece for the Faculty Association craft and bake sale Tuesday, April 6, in the College Union.

Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., eight to 10 contestants in the competition will offer samples of their wares for \$5, said

economics professor Michael Machiorlatti, who is coordinating the sale.

The chili contest will be judged by a five-person faculty panel and by a popular vote from spectators.

"I think it just adds a little extra excitement to the whole thing," Machiorlatti said. "Having a little healthy competition will spur people on,

and hopefully, get the students involved."

Tad Thurston, physics professor, won the last chili cook-off, held two years ago. Thurston said he plans to enter again with the same recipe and looks forward to another victory.

"To all my competitors, I say: Bring it on," Thurston said.

He also said for a small

donation — probably about \$1 — people will be able to purchase recipe cards for their favorite chilis.

The Make-It Bake-It sale will run 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until all goods are sold, Machiorlatti said. Proceeds from the sale go towards the Faculty Scholarship Fund.

"Any time the Faculty Association holds

an event that brings in money, it's for student scholarships," said modern languages professor Dianne Broyles, Faculty Association chairwoman.

Elizabeth Medina, elementary education major, said she plans to attend the sale and buy something.

See **CHILI** page 9

# OPINION

**OUR VIEW** | Legislators propose \$100 fine to smokers caught breaking 25-foot law

## Senate decision to fine violators of smoking law a waste of time

On March 5, Oklahoma State Senate Bill 1674 passed through the Senate. This bill allows colleges and universities to fine people \$100 if they are caught smoking less than 25 feet from building entrances.



**ETHAN HENDRICKS**

In the Senate, the debate went back and forth as some senators argued the bill was a waste of time. Others argued the bill was necessary to protect the health of non-smokers while some argued the bill was just more infringement on the rights of smoking citizens.

In a day and age of economic difficulties, health-care issues, and many more pressing problems that need to be dealt with, this bill almost seems a waste of time.

Our state government should be dealing with more pressing issues such as reducing the state deficit, the

new health-care reform bill and funding for education. Instead, legislators are nitpicking. They should either ban tobacco on campuses or not, instead of wasting time that could be used to discover how to keep from running out of money.

Some students think the bill is wrong and should not have been passed. Their reasoning includes the fact that we all breathe the same air so we should get used to it or that it's a relatively unimportant bill in view of the current state and national issues.

Other students think the bill is necessary and good. They give reasons such as they don't want to walk out the doors and into a cloud of smoke or the 25-foot distance is a rule and people who break should be punished.

However, isn't a little bit of second-hand smoke a small price to pay in exchange for a better economy, better health care, balanced budget, adequately funded education system and monetarily successful state institutions?

Let's shift our focus toward major issues.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

**YOUR VIEW** | Application deadline April 15

## American Legion scholarship open

**To the editor:**

Children of fallen U.S. military service members are encouraged to apply for the American Legion's Legacy Scholarship. To be eligible, students must have had a parent that lost their life while serving on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001.

All administrative and marketing costs for the American Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund are paid for by the American Legion, meaning 100 percent of all donations received go to scholarships. Eligible students are able to reapply for scholarships every quarter or semester for which they are enrolled as full-time students seeking an undergraduate degree.

For more information about the fund, visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), go the Children & Youth link at the bottom of the page and click "Scholarships."

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship application deadline for the 2010-2011 school year is April 15.

—JOE MARCH

THE AMERICAN LEGION MEDIA CONTACT

**YOUR VIEW** | OKC Improv begins second run of shows with a first in the state

## First all-girl improv troupe set to debut

**To the editor:**

OKC Improv, Oklahoma's first ongoing showcase for regional improv comedy and theater, begins its second five-week run with shows at 8 and 10 p.m. April 3 at Ghostlight Theatre Club, 3110 N. Walker, with weekly shows through May 1.

OKC Improv's inaugural run included

several sold-out performances and wowed audiences and critics alike by showcasing a broad spectrum of talent from almost every improv group in Oklahoma.

Comprised of some of the metro's best improvisers, Oklahoma's first all-female improv troupe, The MiDolls, will make its debut April 17 preceded by The Vic-

tims from Dallas, the first of two out-of-state acts to perform on the OKC Improv stage.

The run will close out with a brand-new Twinprov experience, Rap City. Based on suggestions from the audience, twin brothers Buck and Clint Vrazel will explore a living breathing world of imagination with a hip-hop soundtrack

that will be equal parts concert, comedy and theater.

Tickets are \$10. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by e-mailing [okcimprov@gmail.com](mailto:okcimprov@gmail.com) or by calling 405-343-1570. For more information, visit [www.okcimprov.com](http://www.okcimprov.com).

—ERIC WEBB  
OKC IMPROV  
PRODUCER

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](mailto:editor@occc.edu) with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER ONLINE** also can be accessed on the Internet at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).

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# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**FILM REVIEW** | DreamWorks, Paramount Pictures team up for a masterful project

## ‘Dragon’ a touching animated flick

Training a dragon is no easy task. Neither is finding a movie that is at once enjoyable, hilarious, tear-jerking and awe-inspiring.

“How to Train Your Dragon,” the latest brain-child of animation gurus DreamWorks and Paramount Pictures, flawlessly accomplishes this. The film was released into theaters March 26.

The flick revolves around Hiccup (voiced by Jay Baruchel), an awkward Viking boy who resides on the mythical isle of Berk, a seaside community frequently ravaged by dragons.

During the latest fiery attack, he manages to take down the most lethal of all dragons, the dreaded Night Fury. When he goes in for the kill, however, he’s ashamed to discover that he lacks the old Viking instinct to slay the injured beast.

Instead, he befriends



PHOTO COURTESY DREAMWORKS PICTURES

the dragon — whom he christens Toothless — and realizes dragons are not the violent predators they are believed to be.

Unfortunately, convincing his fellow Vikings of this won’t be easy. — especially his father Stoick (Gerard Butler), a stern man who is everything a Viking should be — and everything Hiccup is not.

From the film’s fiery beginning to its highly emotional finish, “Dragon” is a heartwarming tale of friendship, trust

and acceptance.

The animation is enthralling and beautiful, but it is the story that will capture your heart.

Unlike most animated movies today, “Dragon” truly has heart. It doesn’t rely on silly, crude humor to keep its story going.

The characters are never sacrificed in the name of slapstick humor and unnecessary references to pop culture in an attempt to be hip.

Instead, it relies on humanity. Anyone who has ever owned a pet, be

it goldfish or Great Dane, can relate to the story of Hiccup and Toothless.

The film does a beautiful job of illustrating not only how we care for our pets, but also how they care for us in return.

Whether it is the colorful dragons or the touching story, people of all ages will find something to love about “Dragon.”

The ending alone is more than enough for the cost of your movie ticket.

**Rating:** A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

**EVENT REVIEW** | Annual fair draws crowds from across the state despite poor weather conditions

## Thousands attend fair for Medieval fun

Norman’s 34th-annual Medieval Fair was a huge success this year despite poor weather conditions.

Undeterred by cold weather, rain and heavy winds, people crowded into the fair, eager to get a taste of the medieval life.

Despite being moved to March 26, 27 and 28 from the first weekend of April, its usual time, the Medieval Fair drew people from across the state to Norman.

Fairgoers could purchase arts and crafts, including handmade jewelry, steel-forged swords and costumes, among

other things, from more than 100 different tents spread across Reaves Park on the south side of the University of Oklahoma campus.

Included in the fair’s festivities were four separate stages across the fair that had skits and performances throughout the entire day.

Some of the performances included singing pirates, singing gypsies and a human chess game between Robin Hood and the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Participants also could try their hand at knife

throwing and ax throwing. They could meet the king and queen of the fair or ride a hand-powered carousel.

Other events to watch included jousting, fighting tournaments, camel riding and elephant riding.

As always, Brenda Rowlett’s Smoked Jumbo Turkey Legs vendor stand had long lines. The turkey legs, a fair favorite, are a best-selling food.

Other food choices included Mexican tacos, funnel cakes, nachos, corn dogs and more.

Despite heavy wind

Friday and cold, windy and rainy weather Saturday, fair crowds remained positive and undeterred and the fair stayed packed throughout both days. Sunday had the largest crowd due to sunny weather and moderate temperatures.

Overall, the Medieval Fair was excellent, fun and entertaining. It provided a wonderful weekend experience for students who went to take a break from school, relax and enjoy the fair.

**Rating:** A+

—ETHAN HENDRICKS  
STAFF WRITER

View from the  
**PRESIDENT'S  
OFFICE**



## Cooperation with safety follow-up has been superb

I want to thank everyone — students, faculty and staff — for the excellent cooperation and support as we continue to follow up on the safety and communication issues that became apparent following the incident Feb. 26 on campus.

I have had the opportunity to hear from you directly at a number of events, including two public forums, a special meeting of the President’s Advisory Committee, a special faculty meeting and a meeting with The Student Leadership Council. The information from these meetings has been provided to the members of the Timely Emergency Communication Task Force, coordinated by Vice President for Student Services Marion Paden and Acting Vice President for Information Technology Vicki Gibson.

This important task force, which includes students, faculty, staff and a number of resource people, was formed from volunteers and has begun meeting. While I have asked they finish their work with recommendations on or before May 7, I also have encouraged them to forward recommendations before then whenever possible.

The information from these meetings also has been provided to Jerry Steward, executive vice president. He is already working directly with the outside safety and security firm, 3CI, on the comprehensive review that is also due May 7 or before.

A number of early recommendations related to training and re-training of our staff in the Safety and Security Department have already been scheduled. Additional IP phones and other broadcast speakers have been installed or will be shortly to immediately improve communication on campus, both inside and outside of our buildings. With the work of the task force and the comprehensive review still in the early stages, additional considerations, recommendations and actions are anticipated.

Again, I greatly appreciate the enormous cooperation and support as we take this opportunity to learn important lessons that will better prepare OCCC for emergency situations and continue our excellent record of safety for all of our students, employees and guests.

—PAUL SECHRIST  
OCCC PRESIDENT



FORMER PIONEER EDITOR WINS THREE AWARDS FROM PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY

# Journalism student awarded for writing excellence

**CHAVON MCMILLIAN**  
Staff Writer

Mark Smith, former Pioneer editor, won three Mark of Excellence Awards in the Society of Professional Journalism Region 8 competition on March 6 in Austin, Texas.

Smith is the first student in the history of OCCC's journalism program to win a regional award, said Sue Hinton, journalism professor and Pioneer faculty adviser.

One of Smith's entries won first place and will be forwarded to the national contest.

Smith won the first place

award for his online news story that covered the tragic death of OCCC student Thyler Payne.

Smith also received second place in both general news writing and editorial writing. His editorial topics included Freedom of Information, Litering, and Networking.

"There were 3,600 entries in the overall competition," said Awards Coordinator Lauren Rochester.

Smith's online news story will be entered into the National SPJ competition that includes a total of 12 regions.

"I appreciate winning the awards on a regional level;

however, I do want to be recognized on the national," Smith said. Once national champions have been established, winners will be honored Oct. 3 through 6 at the 2010 SPJ Convention & National Journalism Conference in Las Vegas.

"I have high expectations," Smith said.

Smith said he was introduced to SPJ in summer 2009 by a journalism professor.

"Professor Mark Schneberger told me about it. I paid my dues, and joined," he said. "SPJ is considered one of the nation's top journalism societies."

The society was founded in

**"I have a passion for uncovering the truth and sharing it with the general public. Plus, I love to write."**

—MARK SMITH  
JOURNALISM MAJOR

1909 as Sigma Delta Chi.

Region 8 Director Scott Cooper talked about how the organization helps students.

"We help foster students in journalism and make better journalists out of college students," Cooper said. "We also offer scholarships and jobs."

Smith said the journalism field appeals to him.

"I have a passion for uncovering the truth and sharing it with the general public," he said. "Plus, I love to write."

Smith expressed his appreciation for several faculty members that he said helped to cultivate his writing. He said he didn't win his awards by himself.

"It hasn't been easy, but getting to the top never is," Smith said.



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THIRD-ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BRING GAME ENTHUSIASTS, PROFESSIONALS TOGETHER, ORGANIZER SAYS

# Oklahoma Electronic Game Expo to feature ‘father of video games’

DAMIEN LODES  
News Writing Student

Ralph Baer, the father of video games, will be the keynote speaker at a gaming conference on campus.

Baer is considered the father of video games because he invented a game that Atari used to create the Pong system, said Akram Taghavi-Burris, computer-aided technology professor.

He will address attendees by conference call, she said.

The third-annual Oklahoma Electronic Game Expo and Multimedia Conference will be 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Saturday, April 10, in the College

Union.

The expo is free and open to the public.

The conference is a one-day event that brings together students, educators, enthusiasts and professionals in all areas of computer-aided technology and highlight Oklahoma as a creative outlet for these industries, said Taghavi-Burris, one of the event organizers.

“It’s not just for people who use computers,” she said. “It’s for anybody who likes computer art and has an interest in it.”

If you go

WHAT: Oklahoma Electronic Game Expo

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Saturday, April 10

WHERE: College Union

COST: Free for everyone

The conference also will include exhibits, an art workshop and a DeviantArt meet.

This year also will feature an animation festival as well as various design challenges in Photoshop and computer game programming. There also will be a preview of the new Adobe CS5 program, Taghavi-Burris said.

The expo will host a video game tournament for prizes.

Children ages 6 to 16 will compete playing Super Smash Brothers Brawl on Nintendo Wii. Those age 17 and older will compete playing Unreal Tournament 3 with levels designed by OCCC students.

“People should come out because you will have a great time,” Taghavi-

“ [The expo is] for anybody who likes computer art ... .”


—AKRAM TAGHAVI-BURRIS  
COMPUTER-AIDED TECHNOLOGY PROFESSOR

Burris said.


People who pre-register online at [oege.gamesok.org](http://oege.gamesok.org) get their names submitted into a drawing for door prizes, Taghavi-Burris said.

Organizers are still looking for volunteers for the day of the event.


For more information about the conference, or to volunteer, e-mail Taghavi-Burris at [ataghaviburris@occc.edu](mailto:ataghaviburris@occc.edu).



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MORE THAN 200 RADIO, VIDEO PROJECTS ENTERED IN OKLAHOMA BROADCAST EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONTEST

# Students win state broadcasting awards

**NICK STOUT**  
News Writing Student

Two students have won awards at the annual competition sponsored by the Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association.

Christian Kosted and Kara Cline had their audio production projects entered by their broadcasting professors.

Kosted took second place for his 60-second radio spot project. He said he knew his project was entered but the thought of winning never crossed his mind.

"I was so happy," Kosted said. "It made all the hard work worthwhile."

Kosted said he plans to continue his education at the University of Oklahoma after finishing at OCCC. In the fall, he said, he plans to do an intern-

ship at Renda Broadcasting, which plays mostly classic rock.

Kosted said his real passion, however, is talk radio and he would love to work for National Public Radio.

Cline said she feels honored to be recognized for her work. She placed third with her project titled, "Santa Truths Uncovered."

This project is a short minute-and-a-half piece where students have to take a bad interview with Santa Claus and make it good, she said.

Cline said she didn't expect to win. She said her audio production professor, Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, has been a source of encouragement for her.

"She has given me that extra push in the right direction," Cline said. "I thank God for giving me this talent and op-

## What they won

- Christian Kosted — Second place, Radio Commercial
- Kara Cline — Third place, Entertainment Short

portunity for success."

This year marked the 20th-annual OBEA student competition.

Students from 17 OBEA member colleges submitted more than 200 radio and video projects to be judged, said Rick Lippert, OBEA president and OCCC video production professor.

"Overall, the judges are looking for production quality and content," Lippert said. "But each category is criteria specific."

Faulconer-Lippert said she



Kara Cline



Christian Kosted

feels fantastic knowing her students are winning awards.

"It's very rewarding," Faulconer-Lippert said. "It's a validation for what I'm teaching. It lets me know that I'm teaching the right thing."

The winners of the OBEA competition will meet for an

awards ceremony April 9 at the Oklahoma History Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

For more information about OCCC's broadcasting program, contact Faulconer-Lippert at 405-682-1611, ext. 7254, or e-mail [gfaulconer@occc.edu](mailto:gfaulconer@occc.edu).

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# Smokers who ignore policies may face fines

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Two bills making their way through the state Legislature could mean fines for smokers who violate campus tobacco

policies.

Senate Bill 1674, introduced by State Sen. James Halligan, R-Stillwater, would allow colleges and universities to penalize those who smoke within designated non-smoking areas with up to a \$100 fine.

The measure passed through the Senate on March 5 with a 29-11 vote.

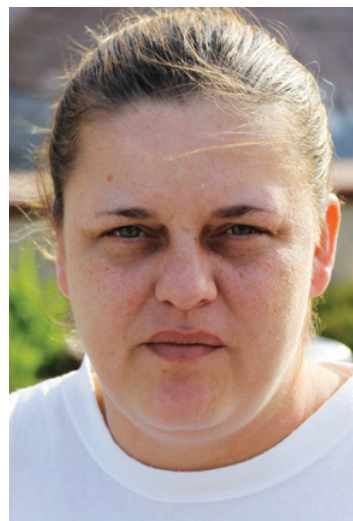
A similar bill, House Bill 2758, by Rep. Lee Denney, R-Cushing, would enforce these penalties in addition to allowing school administrators to

**POLL** Do you think it's fair to fine smokers who violate the law?

YES: 191

NO: 90

## Do you think people should be fined for breaking smoking laws?



"It's a good idea. I try to stay at least 25 feet away from the doors when I'm smoking out of respect for others. Maybe if they start fining people for breaking the rules, they will start following them"

—Amanda Lindsey  
Sociology Major



"It's a good idea. I don't mind if people smoke, but when they're sharing space with others, I think they need to respect their area."

—Karina Valerio  
Computer Technology Major



"It's the law. That's what it is in public places, so why not in schools too? I never smoke within 25 feet of the doors."

—Brian Snow  
Aviation Management Major



"I don't think it's fair to fine smokers, but a rule is a rule. They know that and they should be held accountable if they break the rules."

—Mike Harris  
Business major



"I don't think they should be fined. We're college students."

—Cleveland Washington  
Pre-dental major



"It's common sense. If there's a 25-foot limit, you should follow that. You can find somewhere else to smoke, like your car."

—Nicholas Threatt  
Physical Therapy major

designate their buildings and campuses to be tobacco-free.

The bill passed March 4 with an 81-11 vote.

The bills would have to pass both houses and go to Gov. Brad Henry for his signature to be enacted.

Currently, OCCC policy prohibits smoking in all campus buildings and vehicles owned by the college, said General Counsel Nancy Gerrity.

In addition, Gerrity said, smoking within 25 feet of any entrance to any campus building is prohibited.

Disciplinary action for students who disregard these restrictions are already in place under OCCC's Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook, said Erin Logan, Student Relations director.

Should a report be filed against a student who is in violation, Logan said, she would follow certain procedures.

"I would give the student in question a chance to hold a conference with me and tell their side of the story," Logan said.

"We would also check into records to see if they've had any previous offenses, and how serious they were."

Depending on the student's previous records, she said, the punishment might range from a warning to academic suspension.

Logan said she is unaware of any discussion on how the bill will be enforced on campus if the legislation is passed.

The law affects everyone on campus. However, numerous attempts to contact someone in Human Resources who could speak to how employees might be affected aside from

the fine, were unsuccessful.

Gerrity said she believes the measure, if passed, would help equalize tobacco-free schools and those that allow smoking in some areas of campus.

"Under the current statute, on a campus that has adopted a campus-wide tobacco-free policy, a person smoking inside or within 25 feet of an entrance is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine.

"But a person who smokes within 25 feet of an entrance (of a non smoke-free campus such as OCCC) is not committing a misdemeanor, even though both smokers are violating the same policy.

"If the bill is passed, both violations of the policy would be treated the same under the same law."

Nathan Clymer, liberal studies major, agrees the bill is a good idea.

"I support it completely," Clymer said. "It's a person's right to smoke if they want to, but it's also a person's right not to breathe it.

"If people start getting fined for not keeping a safe distance, maybe we won't have to breathe it anymore."

Sociology major Patrick Chisholm said he thinks it would be unfair to penalize smokers who violate the rules.

"What's the point of fining them? They pay their tuition like everyone else," Chisholm said. "Smoking isn't an easy habit to break. It's not just an addiction; it's a chemical dependency. To fine someone for being addicted to something just isn't right."

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



## SPORTS

## Keep away

Alex Rivera, business management major, gets down low to avoid getting the ball stolen by Keifer Honeycutt, sociology major in a friendly basketball game in the college gym. The Wellness Center, which houses a gym, exercise room and Olympic-size pool, is open 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

FITNESS PROGRAMS | Students gain benefits from taking fitness classes

## Students encouraged to get active

LANDA MCCLURE  
Staff Writer  
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Students looking to relieve stress should look into the many different fitness classes the Wellness Center offers.

Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness sports specialist, said the Wellness Center offers eight land aerobic classes and two water aerobic classes.

Watson said the popular combo aerobics class is offered from noon to 12:55 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Combo aerobics is a good class to take he said, because it includes different workout routines.

The instructor, Lisa Vaughan, Risk Management coordinator, offers a good progression in the class routine, Watson said.

Vaughan said the workout routine begins with 30 minutes of cardio, step and floor exercises.

She said she starts the class out with

those exercises because it gets the participants' heart rates up.

Vaughan said for the next 10 minutes, the class will do weight work.

Weight work includes lifting weights provided by the Wellness Center.

She said when they do the weight work, they target certain areas, such as the lower body and arms and shoulders, a different area each class meeting.

Vaughan said for 10 minutes after the weight work, she will have the class do exercises that work the abdominal muscles and the last five minutes of the class is a cool down period.

"Combo Aerobics is a lot of work, but it is a good way to release stress, build stronger muscles and bones, work on balance and keep heart muscles healthy," she said.

Watson said other classes offered are body sculpting, yoga and zumba.

"The fitness classes are offered to students so they can balance the stress of going to class and working at a job,"

he said. "Taking a fitness class is a good way to stay healthy and calm."

Watson said the instructors are there to help students whether they are beginners or have taken the class for a while.

The instructors will start beginners out with the basics and work with them to catch up to the class, he said.

"I encourage students to take advantage of the fitness classes," he said. "They're not offered for credit, but students gain a healthy lifestyle and they get to communicate with other students which can develop into strong friendships."

Watson said students who want to join a class can sign up in the Recreation and Fitness Center's office and the price per month for a class is \$20.

He said if students want to bring a family member or friend they can, but the price for non-students varies from \$20 to \$40.

For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.

## UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Monday:** Adult volleyball: Serendipitty Slammers vs. Skippy's Mistake 7 p.m. Court 1. Brookwood - 1 vs. All Sets Are Off 7 p.m. court 2. All Sets Are Off vs. Brookwood - 2 8 p.m. Court 1. Garder vs. The Bow-Legged Pirates 8 p.m. court 2. Brookwood - 1 vs. Can You Dig It 9 p.m. court 1. Brookwood - 2 vs. Garder 9 p.m. court 2 in the Wellness Center gym.

• **Wednesday:** Coed intramural volleyball: Coaches meeting at noon in the Wellness Center gym.

• **Thursday:** Men's adult basketball league: OKC Chiefs vs Head Bustas 6 p.m. Court 2. Dream Team vs. BBDC 7 p.m. Court 2. Ballaholics vs. Ballerz 7 p.m. court 3. N UR Window vs. Express 8 p.m. court 2. Rock Solid vs. Fam Bam 8 p.m. Court 3.

• **April 12:** Adult volleyball: Can You Dig It vs. All Sets Are Off 7 p.m. Court 1. Skippy's Mistake vs. Brookwood - 1 7 p.m. court 2. Can You Dig It vs. Serendipitty Slammers 8 p.m. Court 1. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. Skippy's Mistake 8 p.m. Court 2. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. Brookwood - 2 9 p.m. court 1. Garder vs. Serendipitty Slammers 9 p.m. Court 2 in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 14:** Coed intramural volleyball: Tournament to be held at noon in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 15:** Men's adult basketball league: Head Bustas vs. Ballerz 6 p.m. Court 2. OKC Chiefs vs. N UR Window 7 p.m. Court 2. Express vs. Rock Solid 7 p.m. court 3. Fam Bam vs. Dream Team 8 p.m. Court 2. Ballaholics vs. BBDC 8 p.m. Court 3 in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 16:** Coed intramural softball: Coaches meeting at noon in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 19:** Adult volleyball: Games begin at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. on Courts 1 and 2 in the Wellness Center gym.

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



# Loans: US government will back funds given through Direct Lending

*Continued from page 1*

system, the government pays a subsidy to banks for providing loans to students. Under the new system, that will come to an end, although private companies will be used to disburse the funds for the government.

According to the White House press release, "Starting July 1, all student federal loans will be direct loans, delivered and collected by private companies under performance-based contracts with the Department of Education."

McMurtrey agrees the new system is better for students for many reasons.

She said under FFELP, a

student may borrow from one bank but then that lender may sell the note or a portion of it, and the borrower ends up paying back more than one lender.

Once that happens, the original agreement can change as well, McMurtrey said.

"... In FFELP if a student had a promissory note with a certain lender and that lender sold your loan, you would lose those benefits that were originally promised in your Master Promissory note," McMurtrey said.

"With direct lending, since your lender's never going to change, you're not going to lose those benefits."

She said there were other drawbacks as well with the

current system.

"... Because of the credit markets, we did have lenders that pulled out and students would have to choose new lenders under the FFELP program," McMurtrey said.

She said through Direct Lending, funds are guaranteed through the U.S. Treasury, whereas with FFELP, funding was not guaranteed and was dependent on credit markets that can refuse to lend to schools and students.

McMurtrey said some of the repayment options also are better through Direct Lending.

Students can consolidate their FFELP loans with their direct loans and pay one lender in one monthly payment instead

of paying multiple lenders, she said.

Students are waiting to see the outcome with mixed emotions.

Caitlyn Bernhart, education major, said the fixed rate is a good thing, but doesn't like the idea of government being involved. She said citizens will feel the monetary weight in the long run.

"I just think it's more money that citizens are going to have repay someday," Bernhart said. "I think the more money they give to us, the more money they take from us."

Christian Leflore, business major, differs on the issue saying government intervention is good, but can have its drawbacks.

"I think it's good the government got involved and made a fixed interest rate because banks can really jack people up," Leflore said. "Then again, there is a downside to government intervention because it can go way wrong and it moves closer to socialism."

Betty Martinez, pre-law major, said the fixed interest rate is good, but government involvement is unnecessary.

"I think it's private matter, and you're a statistic the moment you're born and that classes you into another statistic," Martinez said. "It seems like a double-edged sword."

For more information about Direct Lending contact Financial Aid at 405-682-7599.

## Chili: Association accepting donations

*Continued from page 1*

"I'm totally excited about the sale," Medina said. "It gives the school a chance to show its generous side, by helping the Faculty Association give a helping hand to those who need it."

Almost anything that can be baked or made can be donated, and donations are accepted right up until the sale begins, Machiorlatti said.

He said the association usually receives donations of baked goods, arts and crafts,

and student artwork.

"We've had people bring in potted plants," he said.

The association also approaches local businesses, asking them to donate goods and services to the sale, then sells those donations in silent auctions, Machiorlatti said.

"When we say 'Make it, bake it,' it sounds pretty hokey, but it's actually pretty eclectic," he said. "It's always fun to see it all come together, because some of the stuff is really interesting."

Machiorlatti said the Faculty

Association is trying to raise as much money for students as it can. The association awards scholarships in the spring and fall, and its members like to give out as many as possible, he said.

"While we don't really have a specific monetary goal, we encourage as many people as possible to participate because all the money goes to student scholarships," Machiorlatti said.

For more information, contact Machiorlatti at 405-682-1611, ext. 7454.

### STATE HISTORICAL DIRECTOR TO SPEAK TUESDAY

## Historian to focus on thriving in hard times

**MATT LEES**

News Writing Student

The challenges and opportunities Oklahomans have dealt with in the past and how they have shaped the state will be the subject of a speech on campus at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, in the College Union.

Bob Blackburn, Oklahoma Historical Society director, will give his speech entitled "Oklahomans Who Followed Their Dreams."

Blackburn is a native of Oklahoma and an Oklahoma State University graduate.

Blackburn will share stories from Oklahoma's history about how Oklahomans have dealt with bad economic times in the past, using the past to create a successful future.

"The decisions people make lay the building blocks of communities," Blackburn said. "All of the decisions of the past paint a picture of how we got where we are today."

"If we do not know our history, we cannot make decisions for our future," Blackburn said.

Students will learn of the state's past to help them, as future leaders of the state, to make decisions that will benefit Oklahoma.

Blackburn said students will benefit from the speech no matter where they are from. Even those from other states or other parts of the world should know the history of the community they are living in, he said.

Students who do not attend the speech will miss out on how Oklahoma became what it is today and will miss many examples from the past that could potentially help them throughout their entire lives, Blackburn said.





# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

**STUDENT LIFE** | 23 OCCC students attend 18th-annual International Student Awareness Day



BISHAL MALLA/PIONEER

A group of international students pose Monday at the Capitol during International Student Awareness Day. Rep. Shane Jett, R-Tecumseh, spoke at the event, which is held every March to recognize international students from colleges and universities across Oklahoma.

## International students visit Capitol for awareness day

JIAPENG SONG  
News Writing Student

Rep. Shane Jett, R-Tecumseh, welcomed more than 500 international students from across the state, including 23 from OCCC, to the State Capitol March 29 in celebration of the 18th-annual International Student Awareness Day.

After his opening words, Jett began a roll call of the more than 75 nations represented that day.

As he called each country from the list, he used that nation's native tongue as a way to greet the students who were from there.

Students cheered when they heard the names of their countries called, and stood up to show their enthusiasm.

In his speech, Jett said that international students bring about \$1 million to \$2 million every year into the economy of Oklahoma.

College students from across the state participated in the annual event that included free booths, entertainment and international cuisine.

"It is really important for international students to feel a part of our state culture and feel welcome here," said Abra Figueroa, English as a Second Language professor.

During lunch, students enjoyed not only food from different countries, but also traditional performances

from various countries.

"It is so wonderful to see how many countries actually come and share their culture with us," said Ginnett Rollins, modern languages professor.

"It is a really good opportunity to meet students from different countries, make connections and learn from each other."

Azizakhon Mansuri, OCCC student and Tajikistan native, said he was thankful the government gave international students an opportunity to come together.

"It really helps us to build a stronger friendship," Mansuri said.

OCCC student Kento Hirata, who was born in Japan, said the same kind of hospitality should be offered to international students on their college campuses.

"As an officer of the International Student Association, I try my best to give students some interesting activities," Hirata said.

"We wish they can feel this is their home."

Rollins, who also serves as a club adviser for the ISA, said the club tries to plan activities once a month for students to learn from each other and see different local attractions.

For more information about the association, contact Rollins at 405-682-1611, ext. 7704, or e-mail grollins@occc.edu.

In addition, visit the ISA Web site at [www.occc-isa.campusgroups.com](http://www.occc-isa.campusgroups.com).

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Online courses Brown Bag scheduled

Learn about what it takes to do your best in online courses with the Succeeding in Online Courses Brown Bag, held from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, in CU1. Proof of attendance will be given to students who participate in the lecture. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Oklahoma history lecture to be held

Learn more about Oklahoma history and the Oklahomans who made it possible with the "Oklahomans Who Followed Their Dreams" lecture by Dr. Bob Blackburn of the Oklahoma Historical Society, held from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, in CU2 and 3. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### International club to host cultural fair

The International Student Organization will host the annual International Cultural Fair from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, in the College Union. For \$5, students will be able to sample foods from countries around the world, enjoy native costumes and dance and participate in an eating competition. For more information, contact Camille Njeugoue at 405-445-8697.

### Professor to speak on medical ethics

The Health Professions Club invites all students to attend a medical ethics lecture presented by adjunct professor Jane Carney from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. Thursday, April 8, in room 2A7 of the SEM Center. For more information, contact Steve Kamm at 405-682-1611, ext. 7268.

### Basketball mascot to visit campus

Oklahoma City Thunder mascot Rumble the Bison will visit campus from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 8, in the College Union to meet and take pictures with students. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Textbook author to present lecture

Psychology textbook author Don Hockenbury will speak to students about sleeping disorders from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 16, in room 215 of the Health Professions Center. For more information, contact Yuthika Kim at 405-682-1611, ext. 7715.

### Tuition fee waiver applications available

Tuition fee waiver applications for the summer 2010 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 20. For more information, contact Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525, ext. 7188.

**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.**



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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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Learn by —: memorize  
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

53 Toast topper  
54 Not working  
58 Baldwin or Guinness  
59 Cad  
61 Row  
62 The — Ranger  
63 Alpine song  
64 Level  
65 Viewed  
66 Bouquet unit  
67 Challenge

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

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MINT	LORRY	ALTO
BOYFRIEND	GLOSS	
IAN	BYE	
FEATHER	TAMALES	
AMISS	ITER	SULU
KID	BLANK	CAP
ILES	LEND	SPITE
RESCUED	SPEEDER	
OSU	AAA	
BERRA	GREENCARD	
RAIN	GUAVA	OREO
ARTE	ARKIN	CEES
GLAD	DUELS	KALE

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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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