

INSIDE

GRADUATE LIST

2010 GRADS

Look inside to see the list of students who will graduate May 8.

NEWS, p. 4

INSIDE PACKAGE

SMALL WORLD

Read about one international student's journey from The Bahamas to the United States in pursuit of a higher education. More inside.

NEWS, p. 7

EDITORIAL

LAB HOURS NEED TO BE EXTENDED

Too many academic labs have limited availability, staff writer Whitney Knight says. Read to see what she thinks should happen to fix this issue.

OPINION, p. 2

SPORTS COURSE

GOLF CLASS SCHEDULED

OCCC adds golfing to its summer semester. Find out more information about the class.

SPORTS, p. 8

ORGANIZATIONS

CLUB PLANS SERVICE DAY

Student Occupational Therapy Association members will work with a group of mentally disabled adults to gain field experience.

CLUBS, p. 10

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

MAY 7, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Emergency task force gives communication improvements

ETHAN HENDRICKS

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

Better training of college staff is one recommendation made to OCCC President Paul Sechrist on May 7 by the Timely Emergency Communication Task Force, said Vicki Gibson, co-chair of the task force.

The task force made a number of proposals for better campus communication in the event of an emergency, Gibson said.

Thorough training in college emergency procedures is essential for evening and weekend staff, she said.

In fact, Gibson said, all supervising staff members must complete National Incident Management System training by June 30.

"They must complete this training ... in order for the college to continue receiving government grant funding," she said.

NIMS training is a program provided by the government to train faculty members who are in a position of authority in a proactive approach to emergency situations.

"The faculty members can then assist the security office with issues like crowd control," Gibson said. "This will allow the officers to do what we need them to do: Catch the bad guy."

OCCC set up the task force in response to a shooter alarm on

See **TASK FORCE** page 9

Visual art



LANDA McCLURE/PIONEER

Michael McMillian, photography major, admires a piece of art May 4. The gallery, Tromp L'Oeil, is showcasing portfolio pieces made by visual performing art students.

ENROLLMENT

Students have until June 8 to enroll for summer

BONNIE CAMPO

Staff Writer

While the summer semester begins June 7, students have until June 8 to enroll, said Jon Horinek, Recruitment and Admissions director.

Horinek said because most classes offered in the summer are general education courses, students should enroll quickly.

"Summer classes always fill up fast, and students have better chances to fit their schedule if they enroll as early as possible," he said.

Josh Tulluis, business major, said he works in admissions and has received lots of calls and questions about the upcoming semester.

Tulluis said he plans to enroll in a humanities course this summer.

Online classes typically fill up first, Horinek said.

OCCC selects classes to offer based on enrollment trends from previous years, he said.

Kelsey Garrett, a pre-med student at the University of Oklahoma, said she is enrolled in summer classes at OCCC to take advantage of cheaper tuition.

Many students from four-year universities take classes at OCCC because of its lower cost, Horinek said.

The college's tutoring services and small class size also attract students to OCCC, Horinek said.

He suggested that students take one or two classes in the summer.

He said it allows a better focus for students who would normally have a hard time taking a challenging class with a full-time schedule.

To enroll, visit Recruitment and Admissions or mineonline.occc.edu.

Enrollment for summer semester

REGULAR HOURS:

- 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday
- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday
- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday
- 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday

EXTENDED HOURS:

- 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 1 to 3
- 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 8

ONLINE:

- mineonline.occc.edu

OPINION

OUR VIEW | Adding more lab time to Saturdays would be a beneficial move

Extended lab hours would better accommodate students

From physical science to Photoshop, many OCCC courses require lab work as an integral part of course curriculum.

Fortunately, there are more than a dozen labs available on campus to help satisfy this need.



WHITNEY KNIGHT

Unfortunately, many of them offer limited hours of operation, meaning some students are unable to receive the help they need and, as a result, are unable to complete the coursework required for their class.

Though some labs, such as the Math Lab and both science labs, offer extended hours on Saturdays, many more do not.

The Accounting Lab, which offers various tools to assist business students in their study, offers lengthy hours during the week but closes on Saturday.

Similarly, both Macintosh classrooms, which are decked out with equipment used by an array of graphic

communications students, offer sporadic open lab hours during the week and none on Saturday.

For a student taking several classes, squeezing in time for a lab can sometimes be a difficult task.

That task can be even harder for OCCC's many non-traditional students, many of whom hold full-time jobs and manage families outside of school.

Labs are a vital part of student success. Not only do they offer tutelage and support for students, but also contain crucial equipment and software that a student might not be able to access outside of school but is required for them to complete homework assignments.

For example, many graphics communications students will find themselves in need of Photoshop, a \$600 program that is found in the Macintosh classrooms.

Film and video majors sometimes must access equipment that retails for thousands of dollars to complete their homework.

For these students and many more, completing assignments at home is simply not an option.

But if labs are not open at convenient times, how can they possibly use them?

They can't.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

It makes little sense that some labs, as well as other on-campus commodities such as the Testing Center, are open on Saturdays, while others are not.

Just a few hours of lab time on a Saturday could mean the difference between a student passing and failing a course.

It doesn't seem like too much to ask for. The college and many of its amenities are already open Saturdays. Why not extend those hours to all of the labs, rather than just some of them?

It could make a difference in the lives of many students.

YOUR VIEW | Banning students from using props on stage for any reason is the wrong decision

Policy discourages students from standing their ground

To the editor:

A decision was made prohibiting the starter pistol to be used on stage during the climax of "Uncle Vanya."

The decision fell on the specific wording of the "The Weapons- Free Environment Policy" which only allows starter pistols for sporting events.

OCCC's theater presentations are part of the curriculum of theater students, where, like those who are studying chemistry in their respective lab, students learn to perfect their craft on stage.

Classes like Stage Production teach students about props, set design, lighting, etc.

However, many of the things they need to learn have to be experienced: loading blanks, handling guns and swords, proper fighting techniques with dangerous weapons, etc.

These are very real things that they will work with when they begin to practice their craft outside OCCC.

"Weapons" are used in plays, in television, and in the movies. Will they be prepared with how to handle it?

How does the decision not to allow the starter pistol enhance the education of the student?

The OCCC theater department does not often receive the accolades it

should. Yet, the talent present in our academic community is equal to that of other community production groups.

It is only fair that the students be allowed the same experience as these groups.

The students involved in this play should have taken with them first

and foremost courage, honesty and a commitment to artistic/academic freedom of the craft, but instead they feared talking freely about their disappointment, taking with them the lesson "don't make waves or there will be consequences."

—NAME WITHHELD
BY REQUEST

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

Vol. 38 No. 32

Justin Combs.....**Senior Writer**
Whitney Knight.....**Club Reporter**
Landa McClure.....**Sports Reporter**
Ethan Hendricks.....**Staff Writer**
Bishal Malla.....**Staff Writer**
Adam Holt.....**Staff Writer**

Jennifer Massey.....**Staff Writer**
Cynthia Praefke.....**Ad Manager**
John Weis.....**Webmaster**
Chris Lusk.....**Lab Assistant**
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

The **PIONEER** is a publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

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.

Color printing this semester is paid for, in part, from a grant from OPUBCO Communications Group.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | The last doctor you'll ever need

We still don't know Jack

Dr. Jack Kavorkian is back in the spotlight of the controversy he adores, which is the light he is portrayed in the HBO movie "You Don't Know Jack."

Al Pacino does a great job playing the ill-famed Kavorkian, who became well-known for helping terminally-ill patients kill themselves.

Although the cast incorporates a roster of fine talent, the movie lacks any insight into the background of Kavorkian.

He is portrayed as a doctor who thinks every patient's wish should be granted. As a doctor he would be betraying his creed by not allowing his patients to die — almost

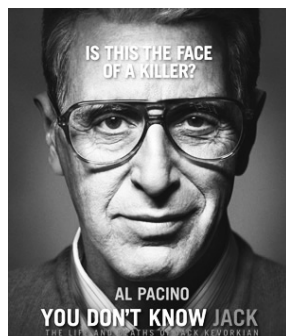
like a human rights activist, just the other way around.

The movie begins around the time Kavorkian is actively assisting his patients end their lives. As the movie progresses, Kavorkian receives an abundance of publicity for his methods that lead him to new patients.

The story not only focuses on his methods, but also explores the patients he assisted and those he turned away.

The movie does a good job of taking you inside the interviews the doctor conducts with patients as they justify their desire for the doctor's assistance of finality.

Those scenes are hard



COURTESY OF HBO STUDIOS

to watch as terminally ill patients explain the pain and suffering their bodies are in to the doctor and those who have simply lost the desire to live, which he rejects.

In view of patients, the movie has a hard time empathizing with them, projecting a grim light on their wishes.

The same can be said

for Kavorkian's legal opposition. One politician ruthlessly pursues Kavorkian, but we never fully understand why he is so passionate about stopping the doctor.

The audience does get a glimpse of Kavorkian's artistic side that perhaps gives you a broader view of him, as he vigorously exalts his frustrations onto canvas.

The movie does a good job of explaining how Kavorkian's lucrative methods actually played out and depicts his early years of helping patients end their lives, but we still don't know Jack.

Rating: B

—JUSTIN COMBS
SENIOR WRITER

View from the
**PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE**



2010 graduates deserved to be congratulated

The end of the spring semester includes one of the most significant ceremonies we hold at OCCC — our annual graduation ceremonies referred to as commencement. It is called commencement to reinforce the notion that the completion of a degree is not the end, but the beginning of what is next in life.

What lies ahead for graduates is potentially life-changing. On average, you will likely earn significantly more in wages and salaries than those who only have a high school diploma or less. You are more likely to hold jobs that include health care and retirement benefits. You are more likely to vote, volunteer and give back to your community. You will be healthier and live longer.

In the end, earning a college degree is one of the most positive steps you can take to ensure that you and your family will have a better life.

If you are the first to earn a college degree in your family, this accomplishment may change the course of those in your family that follow you. Eighty percent of children of college graduates also will go on to earn a college degree — more than double the rate for children of parents who did not go to college.

To the students who will graduate, I want you to know how much I admire and respect you. I realize that for many students, the road to graduation has not been easy.

To those who returned to seek a college degree after having already raised a family, to those who overcame enormous financial pressures, to those who in your journey of life have already experienced hardships, to those who had to learn a new language, to those who have had your studies interrupted by war, and for those who were told that you weren't college material — your accomplishment inspires me and gives me hope for the future of America.

Congratulations to the graduates of 2010!

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

MUSIC REVIEW | Drowning Pool's latest studio album lost in mediocrity

Creativity drowns in new rock album

Mention the band Drowning Pool to and the same song is bound to come to mind: "Bodies."

Even if you've never heard the band called by name, you've probably heard of their hit single, which has been used in video games, movies, television shows, and even as a method of psychological torture against captives held in extrajudicial detention.

Eight years and three studio albums later, Drowning Pool still hasn't managed to duplicate the success of its 2001 triumph, though it has made some valiant efforts.

The band's latest attempt is "Drowning Pool," the self-titled album released April 27.

The CD kicks off with "Let the Sin Begin," a typical yet catchy rock anthem that showcases a shout-along chorus and unique guitar riffs that will leave you head banging in no time.

The next track, radio single "Feel Like I Do," is an adrenalin-pumping ode to underdogs and arguably the best song the album has to offer.

Several tracks later, "Alcohol Blind" is perhaps the closest Drowning Pool has ever come to a ballad: wistful, acoustic and painfully out of place amongst a sea of scream-filled, instrument-heavy songs.



PHOTO COURTESY ELEVEN SEVEN MUSIC

But it's not a bad thing. In fact, it's more of a welcome reprieve from a seemingly endless string of mundane sound-alikes.

If you've never listened to a modern rock radio station, "Drowning Pool" may sound revolutionary to your ears.

However, for the rest of us, it's boring.

The mediocre album closes with "King Zero," a decent track that manages to stand out from the rest with its snarling riffs and commanding lyrics.

Unfortunately, it alone isn't enough to save "Drowning Pool" from drowning in a pool of monotony.

The problem with this CD is the same one many modern rock bands face nowadays: a lack of creativity, originality and deficient in musical progression.

None of the songs are particularly bad, but none of them are exactly memorable, either. A strict adherence to the usual hard rock formulas permeates "Drowning Pool," so much so that even when something a little different it all still manages to sound the same.

No one listen to this album expecting anything ground breaking, but if you're a fan of modern rock, "Drowning Pool" is worth at least a quick listen.

Rating: C-

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Check out the Pioneer's new blog:
occcpioneer.wordpress.com

CAMPUS

Graduates look toward May 8 ceremony

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

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

Marijah Adams, Mist Agarwal, Kathryn Alarcon, Courtney Alexander, Erick Almaguer and Auzawdeh Asgari.

Sunni Bailey, Charles Barclay, William Bateman, Holly Bates, Susan Battershell, Tyler Baxter, Andrew Beard, Regina Beecher, Wesley Bell, and Tracie Billings.

Sarah Blake, Dustin Brooks, Jessica Brunson, Eric Burlison, Dayshawn Burns, and Brad Burris.

Robin Caldwell, Mia Cantu, Jessica Carabajal, Alesha Carter, Charla Casteel, Alberto Celaya, Oukham Chansombath and Jonathan Chatman.

Patrick Chism, Danica Cindell, Paul Clark, Hollie Clear, Tacey Compton, John Corbin, Jim Couch, Megan Cramer, and Brady Curry.

Kenyatta Davenport, Krystal Davis, Samantha Dawes, Cheri Delker, Mia Diaz, Megan Dickson and Emily Dodson.

Sharla Dollins, Shannah Drach, Alysa Drapal, Ralph DuBreuil and Jennifer Dunn.

Matthew Edmonds, Amanda Evans, Patrina Faircloth, Anthony Foster, Calamity Gibbs, Adam Gogan and Becky Gomersall.

Jasmine Gordon, Lisa Graham, Ashley Graham-Smith, Marriah Gresham, Natalie Greuel, and Brittany Grimes.

Melissa Hagelin, Jamie Hall, LaToya Harrison, Johnny Haxton Jr., Ashley Helm. Ashley Hennessy, and Dianna Hernandez.

Robert Hubbard, Yvonne Hughes, Sherry Hull, Mike Huynh, Ashlee Jackson, Matthew Jackson, Sybril Jeffery, Laura Lee Jennings, Alicka Johnson and Krystal Jones.

Jennifer Kilpatrick, Johnathan King, Sarah King and Kyllingstad Samuel.

Bethany Lang, Crystal Lanigan, Monic Little, Brenna Littou, ThomasLooper, Elizabeth Lopez, Jonathan Loveless and Tyresa Lowery.

Al'lesha Mack, Rajya Maharjan, Bishal Malla, Carrie Marcum, Megan McGee, Aaron McGeisey, Chavon McMillian, Rakeia McNeill, Kathryn Meador and Tyler Mellinger-Holland.

Samantha Meneely, Sarah Miller, Robertson Million, Andrea Mills, Tomohiro Moriguchi, Kimberly Morton, Kyle Mottinger, Stephanie Murphy.

Shandell Nash, Jessica, Navarrete, Glenn Nunn.

Brandi Oliver, Ariel Oliver-Minson, Elizabeth Otido.

Payton Patterson, Jennifer Pearsall, Zachary Peavler, Sarah Penrod, Lindsay Pickelsimer, Deborah Putze.

Christina Ramos, Nicki Rangel, Justin Reynolds, Stevee Reynolds, Aaron Riley, Casey Roddy, Grae Rose.

Jeremy Scott, Serena Shoemaker, Tanner Simmons, Adam Smith, Alicia Smith, James Smith, Jose Solis.

Theresa Stanley, Nathan Steinman, Deann Stone, Drew Stone, Nickolas

Stout, Cheyanne Strickler, Mikki Stump.

Whitney Tippie, Jessica Toone, Tayler Tuck, Lauren Turner.

Katherine Vanderpool, Nicole VanDuzer, Paul Varela, Shannon Vazquez. Audrey Wall, Valerie Wallin, Robert Webb IV, Rachel White, Aaron Whitewolf.

Janus Wilinson-Roth, Lee Williams, Alicia Williamson, Stephanie Woodard, Heather Woolever, Donovan Ybanez.

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Jeremy Adams, Efen Afante, Carlos Akins, Claudia Alamillo, Wendy Alcala, Seanan Anderson, Janelle Arrasmith.

Tammy Avers, Isaac Babb, Madicyn Baker, Tamara Baldwin, Samuel Ballinger, Pramesh Basnet, Jonathan Bearrow, Michelle Beasley.

Lindsey Bird, Cassady Bivens, Brandon Brakcett, Logan Branscum, Valerie Brooks, Traci Browne, Andrea Bruce, Heather Burkhart, Rachel Burt, Rajen Byanjankar.

Andres Calderon, Elizabeth Carreon, Brittany Carter, Christopher Carter, Travis Cass, Michael Challis.

Nicole Chaney, Sandra Chrisman, Aissata Cisse, Melanie Clason, Mitchell Clingenpeel, Nancy Coffey.

Mariel Columbus, Brittany Copeland, Lauren Cox, Susan Craft, Donald Cramer, Jr., Duane Crumbacher, Andrea Cusak.

Oanh Dang, Mona Dangol, Darin Darling, Daniel Davis, Jackie Dawes, Jordan Dean, Kasey Delgado, Tuyen Doan, Clinton Driskill.

Michelle Ellington, Kory Ellis, Linda Espinoza, Miranda French, Amber Fugazzi.

Anisha Ghimire, Marian Gholston, Mark Gingrass, Theresa Giovanni Vanderlois, Andrew Gonzales, Angel Gonzalez, Ndeye Gueye.

Brandon Haddad, Angela Haggard, Sarah Haggard, Oumar Haidara, Nicolas Hale, Alexandra Hall.

Sarah Hallett, Joseph Hanselman, Kathleen Hargrave, Bethnee Hastings, Matthew Hicks, Emily Hill.

Rachel Hilton, Sharlet Hogue, Elise Hopkins, Kelsey Huber, Shayne Hudson, Erica Hutcherson, Joshua Hyche.

Julia Ibarra Duran, Julie Idleman, Farzana Jahangir, Theresa Jankowski, Priscilla Johnston, Junior Jones, John Jordan.

Vickie Kersey, Brian Kessler, Mark Kimble, Daniel Kines, Keny Kirts, Sabina Koirala, Joshua Koonce, Elisha Kuthu.

Shana Lancaster, Melanie Larkin, Diem Le, Kelly Le, Bryant Lee, Shelly Licklider, Tracy Lucas.

Krishna Shrestha, Jenna Sickels, April Sieman, Megan Simpson, Coren Smith.

Chris Song, Colby Sorenson, Alesha Spears, Erin Stanley, Michelle Stevens, Latisha Stoeher, Luke Stovall and Monica Street.

Kinu Tanaka, Emily Tarp, Shane Terrel, Suraj Thapa, Candace Thornton, Dipesh Timsina, Michael Torzilli and Uyen Tran.

Rhonda Uffen, Gyanendra Upadhyaya, Patrick Voeller and Linh Vong.

Ashley Walker, Holly Walker, Li Wang, Laura Weeks, John Weis, Megan West, Amanda Wheeler, Christopher White, Cristy Whitehead, Alexandra Wilkes and Douglas Wilkes-Ball.

Cedrick Williams, James Williams, Mary Williams, Regina Williams, Ronda Williams, Chad Woodard, Kyle Woods, Rebecca Wulff, William Wynd, Linsey Young.

Krishna Shrestha, Jenna Sickels, April Sieman, Megan Simpson, Coren Smith.

Krishna Shrestha, Jenna Sickels, April Sieman, Megan Simpson, Coren Smith.

Chris Song, Colby Sorenson, Alesha Spears, Erin Stanley, Michelle Stevens, Latisha Stoeher, Luke Stovall and Monica Street.

Kinu Tanaka, Emily Tarp, Shane Terrel, Suraj Thapa, Candace Thornton, Dipesh Timsina, Michael Torzilli and Uyen Tran.

Rhonda Uffen, Gyanendra Upadhyaya, Patrick Voeller and Linh Vong.

Ashley Walker, Holly Walker, Li Wang, Laura Weeks, John Weis, Megan West, Amanda Wheeler, Christopher White, Cristy Whitehead, Alexandra Wilkes and Douglas Wilkes-Ball.

Cedrick Williams, James Williams, Mary Williams, Regina Williams, Ronda Williams, Chad Woodard, Kyle Woods, Rebecca Wulff, William Wynd, Linsey Young.

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

Diane Abila, Andrea Adams, Jennifer Alder, Inga Ardzewanidze, Stephanie Armer, Emmanuel Attah, Roseline Attah and Kathleen Attaway.

Frank Balch, Beri Bamnjo, Candice Banks, Ronnie Barbee, Kimberly Barlow, Stacy Barnard, Danah Bartle, Jason Bartlett and Alexandra Bass.

Boyd Baxter, Rebekah Bays, Joseph Beeton, Jana Beihl, Julee Benson, Antonia Bingham, Cody Blackmon, Cordy Bradford and Kathryn Bridges.

Shawnna Bridwell, Brandon Brown, Christopher Brown, Dawn Brown, Haley Brown, Karen Brown, Leah Bryant, and Jennifer Buck.

Jovita Buenrostro, Stephen Buller, Stacy Burns, Hillary Burton, Paula Burton, David Canfield, Jon Carpenter and Taylor Cates.

Ka Lun Chan, Reagan Clement, Ruby Cline, Linda Cochran, Kathy Cochran, Jennifer Coker, Philip Coward, Anthony Crain, Edgar Cruz, and Amber Cummings.

Branden Dana, Kelli Davis, Lauren Davis, Summer Davis, Camille Deemer, Tonya Ditzler, Jennifer Dodd, Rhonda Downing, Zoran Dragicevic and Dominic Dungca.

Kevin Earnest, Rachel Easley, Kandice Edwards, Jessica Edwards, Carrie Ellis, Nicole Emerson, Danielle Epps, Kathleen Eropkin, Audrey Estell, Melissa Ethridge and Christy Ezell.

Mandy Farmer, Ahsley Fetterman, Julie Finch, Lemuel Finlay, Catherine Flowers, Annette Franklin and Jennifer Fricks.

Elizabeth Gallegos, Emily Ganus, Felicia Garcia, James Garcia, Katie Garrett, Jennifer Garrison, Katresa

Gean, Troy Geary, Rachel George and Melissa Geraci.

Joel Gifford, Pauline Giordano, James Goldsbury, Iliana Gonzalez, Grandon Gray and Melissa Gray.

Rachel Greenfield, Skylar Greiner-Hays, Stephanie Guerrero, Maryah Guice, Hardy Gunsalus and Jamie Guthrie.

Melissa Haeske, Darlinda Hagens, Maegan Hambrick, Ty Hamilton, Anna Hammerle, Shalicia Hammons, Amy Hanks, Jonathan Hannan and Lauren Harmon.

Jessica Harris, Melissa Harris, Shawn Hartfield, Amber Hicks, Jeaneth Hidalgo de Rangel, Shannon Hixon and Maggie Hofener.

Berri Homer, Amber Huffer, Katie Hughes, Michael Hume, and Carla Hundley.

Jerrold Idleman, Shelley Jacks, Tamra Jackson, Timber Jackson, Kevin James, Amanda Johnson, Teresa Johnson and Kelli Jones.

Gary Kay, Franciscah Kilonzo, Darby Kinsey, Patricia Kinuthia, Christain Kotoucek and Bukola Kunle-Alaba.

Laura Labus, Kelly Lail, Vidyartee Lakhwani, Thai Lam, Brent Lamb, Christopher Larocco, Chris Lawson, Michael Lawson, Thomas Lawson, Quang Le, Jared Lemley, Raquel Lorenzen and Stephanie Lovett.

Amanda Maass, Caitlin Madden, Amanda Martin, Mindy Martin, Mindy Martin, Naaafi Martin, Gabriel Martinez and Victoria McCartney.

Kendall McCormick, Margaret McCown, Jennifer McCray, Holly McFarland, Leah McLennon, John Meadows, Amy Meeks and Allison Miller.

Misty Mitchell, Michael Mixell, Dulce Molina, Kalani Moniz-Bray, Khaleeah Moore, Paula Moore, Joshua Morgan, M. Jill Morrison, Jeri Mundy and Jessie Myers.

Candice Neal, Glenn Nelms, Hoai Nguyen, Truong Nguyen, Elizabeth Niroo, Tara Nixon, Thiago Omena and Jennifer O'neil.

Nicole Padden, Tracy Pappoe, Suzan Parks, Roger Pence, Joshua Perkins, Lisa Phillips, Matthew Phillips, Shawn Phillips and Hyacinth Phipps.

Michelle Pickard, Tania Pineda, Meredith Potter, Crystal Powell, Heidi Presley, Stephanie Price and Angela Quick.

Caitlin Ramirez, Melissa Ray, Morgan Resendiz, Jorge Reyes, Melia Roane, Eric Rose, Tiffany Rose, Lindsey Ross and Tabitha Rubino.

Mojibade Salewon, Kim Sands, Lauren Schroyer, Doris Seaman, Jay Sheldon, Shea Shephard, Angela Shepherd, M. Rex Shore, Melissa Simpson,

and Amber Sims.

Shelly Singh, Marla Snider, Eunice Song, Kelly Sovereign, Teresa States, Davide Steele, Deann Stone, Drew Stone, Lauren Sullivan, Belinda Summerville and Alyssa Swafford.

Brittani-Kaye Tambe, Adam Taylor, Christopher Terry, Renee Thomas, Lisbeth Thornton-Oakley, Rebecca Thrailkill, Carla Towler, Diana Trejo and Ashley Tucker.

Denis Varner, Finny Varughese, Michelle Venters, Chelsi Votaw, Lindsay Wainford, Caitlin Wakely, Cory Walkingstick, Michael Wallace, Jessica Walton and Eric Ward.

Sharon Wiess, Devyn White, Pamela Whittaker, Julie Whittington, Owen Wiggins, Darce Wilde, Shanteah Willis, Teresa Willis, and William Willis.

Stephanie Wingo, Jeffrey Woidke, Donald Wood, Tracey Wooster and Thanya Wren.

Minru Xiao, Rachael Yates, Joseph Zais and Xia Zhou.

CERTIFICATE OF MASTERY

Brandy Allen, Randy Antrikin Jr., Isaac Babb, Jeremy Box, Sean Chesley, Daniel Caimbella, Heather Clement, Andy Croppinger and Anthony Crain.

Dominic Dungca, Jason Dunn, Corey Edwards, Lakisha Faulkner, David Felder, Jeremiah Field, Jennifer Fleischer, and Chris Fly.

William Gempel, Ariel Godwin, Jason Godwin, Mitchel Gray, Dillon Grim, Cody Hallmark, Kyle Hallmark, Jonathan Hannan, Whitney Hargis, Douglas Hargrove Jr., Honey Harjo, Tina Harjo, Angelina Harrison, Philip Herman and Richard Huckaby.

Shekita Jackson, Kevin James, Brandon Jones, Jeffery Jones, Micah Jones, Chris Lawson, Thomas Lawson, Elizabeth Lewis and Gregory Lewis.

Shawn McCarthes, Heather McConnell, Patrick McGinnis, Chase McInroe, Kalani Moniz-Bray, Justing Mowdy and Alisha Murrow.

Lance Rainbow, Jorge Reyes, Kathryn Richardson, Gerald Richmond, Cynthia Ring, Tommy Robinson, Yancy Shephard, Nathan Smith, Deanna Stone, Drew Stone, Christa Stremble and Noah Swanson.

Akram Taghavi-Burris, Candace Taylor, Lynsey Taylor, Yen Tran and Lance Unrau.

Barbara Violette, Michael Wallace, Eric Ward, Bethany Wilczek, Jeffrey Wiodke, Andrew Womack, Seth Wood, Chad Woodard and Courtney Woody.

“I’m really proud of all the students who are graduating this semester and I wish them the best of luck.”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT



FEATURE

Cleek the geek animates the classroom

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Jeff Cleek is a geek.

By looking at him, you would never know it. His big, mischievous blue eyes are not framed by a pair of thick-rimmed glasses held together by a piece of masking tape — actually, he wears contacts.

His brownish-blond hair is trim and clean, not slicked back by a week's worth of unwashed grease. The teeth hidden behind his contagious smile are bright white and straight, and the pockets of his button-down shirt are unprotected.

Yet he wears his moniker with pride. "I embrace my inner geek," Cleek said. "I'm proud of it."

Since 2006, Cleek has taught his English students with a passion that surpasses his love of Spider-Man.

And that's some pretty powerful stuff.

As a child, Cleek said, his family often left him to wander the aisles of the local Homeland while they ran errands elsewhere.

"I really didn't know where they went sometimes," he said sheepishly.

When he was 12, another routine roaming of the magazine racks turned extraordinary when he bypassed the latest copy of Mad magazine and strolled over to the colorful assortment of comic books instead.

"I was amazed," Cleek said. "They were so colorful and exciting. I couldn't stop reading them."

He said he would sit in the middle of the aisle and read comics until his family came back to get him.

"Sometimes," he said, smiling, "I got kicked out of the place first."

Looking back, he said, he should probably go back and spend a lot of money on comic books to make up for the ones he read without pay for so many years.

Cleek, who was born in Oklahoma City and bounced between there and Guthrie for the majority of his life, said his parents gladly supported his bubbling addiction.

His dad would often take him to a bookstore called Archives and allow him a few precious books out of the quarter bin. The real treat, however, came on one weekend every month.

"My mom would give me between \$10 and \$20 to spend on comics," Cleek said. "It was the only time I was able to



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

English professor Jeff Cleek lectures May 4 in his English Composition II class. Cleek has taught English at OCCC since 2006.

buy new ones."

Though his childhood obsession was strong, he said he faced nary a trial with the junior high and high school bullies.

"The bigger thing was that my last name rhymes with geek," he said.

But he said there were never any Salem-style witch hunts.

However, Cleek said it took him a long time to be openly passionate about his love. For a while, like Spider-Man guarding his true identity of Peter Parker, he hid his joy away from the world.

"There was definitely a level of shame in admitting that I had devoted a large portion of my time and money to 22-page adventures of characters running around in brightly-colored spandex," he said.

He found solace not in a comic book, but instead a book about comics — "Understanding Comics" by Scott McCloud.

"After (reading) that, I realized there was a lot more to the medium than most people realize and he provided some solid scholarship to back that up," he said.

As Cleek gained the confidence to

make his love of superheroes known to the world, his shared passion made him friends — as well as enemies.

In the eighth grade, he and his friends created a Wolverine rip-off comic. Rather than the Marvel character's signature three-bladed hands, this version had two blades and the ability to travel through time.

Sadly, Cleek said, their run ended after only one issue.

Through good times and bad times, Cleek said, comic books have long been his constant in life.

"Everyone has something to turn to when they're down," he said. "Comics are mine."

Cleek described a seven-part series entitled "Civil War," released by Marvel several years ago.

"All the Marvel characters were fighting each other," he said. "The comic was delayed. It was late, and it didn't live up to its hype."

He said the last issue was bad and it ended with a whimper, not a bang.

“

Great writing requires enthusiasm, and that enthusiasm is contagious.”

—JEFF CLEEK
ENGLISH PROFESSOR

"But I was going through a difficult year for a number of reasons, and Civil War became the one thing I could count on," he said.

"When I looked back, I felt this strange sense of closure that came with finishing a series I had come to look forward to when there wasn't much else."

Cleek stopped himself, exasperated. "OK," he said, "I'm being too serious. It's time to move on."

With his love of superheroes and villains as strong as ever, he progressed into college, where a six-year stay at the University of Central Oklahoma led to his graduation in 2006 with a master's degree in English.

It was that degree that led him to OCCC.

Cleek said while looking for a job during graduate school, his name came up as a person who might make a good teacher's assistant.

"I was scared of public speaking and had no teaching experience, so this took a tremendous amount of foresight and trust by a handful of people I can't thank enough," he said.

"I didn't see it as a career at all. I can't remember exactly what changed, but I'm glad that it did. This is the most challenging, rewarding, entertaining job I have ever had. It constantly changes and I get to talk about things I love."

Things like comic books.

Whether it be by inserting pictures of comic book characters into PowerPoint slideshows, showing movie clips or arguing what superpower is best as part of an in-class assignment, Cleek has no problem mixing passion with purpose.

"It gives me an opportunity to show how talking about something you care about will draw your audience in even if they don't have much interest in the topic," he said. "Great writing requires enthusiasm and that enthusiasm is contagious."

And it is that enthusiasm that makes Cleek more than just a geek. In the classroom, it makes him a superhero.

CAMPUS

Artists, professor honored at reception



LANDA McCLURE/PIONEER

Cynthia Praefke, Absolute student editor, and Marybeth McCauley, Absolute faculty adviser, show their appreciation to faculty adviser Clay Randolph after he was awarded the Master of the Western Horizon certificate April 29. The Absolute reception was held to recognize the authors and artists whose work was selected to be in the artistic and literary journal.

Automotive professor named finalist for national award

Ferguson up for GM teaching honor

JASON FRY
News Writing Student



Jason Ferguson

An automotive technology professor has been named a finalist for a national teaching award given by General Motors for the Automotive Service Education Program.

Jason Ferguson said he will find out if he won when award

is presented in November in Detroit.

Ferguson was awarded the 2010 GM ASEP Technical Instructor Award of Merit on April 14 in Dallas, at the South Central GM ASEP Conference.

He said he wasn't there to accept the award because he was teaching class on campus.

"I didn't find out I won until Thursday, the day after," he said.

Ferguson said he was both surprised and shocked.

When discussing his plans for the future, Ferguson said he wants to continue refining his teaching techniques.

Ferguson said regardless of recent success in the program, there is always room to improve.

Richard Steers, automotive technology professor, said the department was happy for Ferguson.

"We are all very proud of this accomplishment and recognition," Steele said.

ARACELY BAEZA
News Writing Student

Writers brought audience members to tears and sent them into fits of laughter as their published pieces were read April 29 on campus.

The Absolute, OCCC's literary journal, held its 2010 reception to recognize the authors and artists whose work was selected for publication, said Clay Randolph, Absolute faculty adviser.

Student Ningwen Chen read her story "Fly With Wings," about a sorrowful leave-taking from her native China, which caused many listeners to wipe tears from their eyes.

Ethan Anthony Burchett, author of "Nuclear Pizza," had audience members bursting with laughter at times.

Burchett said he started writing in 2008 as a way to prepare himself for the written test portion of the ACT, after having graduated high school a few years before.

He started out by writing serious columns for his own enjoyment, he said.

But, as he continued writing, he said he decided to try something more humorous and realized he enjoyed that style more.

"I try not to nail myself down to any one plot," Burchett said.

He said he likes to end his writing from a totally different place than where he began.

This is the fourth essay published for Burchett, with the other three having been published in the 2009 edition of the journal.

The Absolute is comprised of short stories, essays, poems and artwork produced by student writers, professors and community members.

Submissions are collected and culled in the fall, with the spring semester being devoted to editing and layout, Randolph said.

Faculty advisers Marybeth McCauley and Randolph, English professors, said they worked with student editors to choose the submissions that would be published.

Randolph said the student editors go through every submission. They discuss and critique them, and then, with his and McCauley's help, choose which submissions to publish.

This year, there were three student editors: Chris Conklin, Justin Lewis and Cynthia Praefke, he said.

The editors recognized five of the submissions with Critic's Choice Awards.

This year's recipients were Joseph Anthony Moore II for his photograph "Thrill Rides," Kortini Torralba for her poem "Last March in Bernalillo County," Chen and Burchett.

The staff also honored Randolph who will be retiring this year.

McCauley said she has worked with Randolph for years editing together, but said she will continue to work with the students to edit the journal.

Randolph has been at OCCC for 35 years. He said he has found great pleasure in teaching and that he will miss the campus.

"I've watched it grow up and watched it become what it has," Randolph said.

Copies of the "Absolute" are available for \$5 in the bookstore.

Randolph said contributions for Absolute 2011 are being accepted now.

2011 Absolute info

WHERE TO APPLY:

- Inside the Arts and Humanities Division office
- Online at www.occc.edu — go to the publications tab and click on the Absolute link

DEADLINE:

- All submissions must be turned in by Dec. 3

it's a small world

Student temporarily trades Caribbean home for educational opportunities in America

BISHAL MALLA
Staff Writer

Even a country that welcomes thousands of tourists each year to enjoy its beauties couldn't stop a girl from leaving to pursue an education in Oklahoma.

Gariece McDonald, aviation maintenance technology major from The Bahamas, is a full-time international student at OCCC.

The home she left behind — Nassau, the capital city of The Bahamas — is a relatively small island, one of a chain of 14 that make up The Bahamas, located in the Caribbean, in the north Atlantic Ocean, southeast of Florida, and northeast of Cuba.

Nassau had a population of 307,552 in 2009, according to The World Factbook.

McDonald, 26, said she first came to the U.S. in spring 2006 to visit her sister who is a resident here.

She found herself wanting to stay and enroll in college.

"I decided to continue my education and finish it, which made me decide to come to the U.S."

But things didn't work out for McDonald to pursue her education in Oklahoma at that time. She was unable to get a visa.

So, she said, she applied for a visa again in spring of 2009 and, that time, got it.

McDonald said she has chosen a field of study that will allow her to pursue her passion for flying.

"I love airplanes and I always wanted to know how they operate."

After completing her degree in Aviation Management, she said she hopes to open an Aviation School in The Bahamas.

There is no specific school in The Bahama that teaches any aviation, she said.



Gariece McDonald

McDonald said her life in the U.S. is much different than her life in Nassau, where, she said, every person knows everyone, and it's pretty hard to be open-minded and do everything freely.

Being in the U.S. now where she is on her own, is "tough sometimes," she said.

She said the Bahamian food, family and friends are a few things she misses.

"We eat lots of seafood ... taken from fresh salt water," she said. "It's hard to find such food here, especially in Oklahoma."

Nassau is one of the world's favorite tourist destinations but for McDonald, it's just a small town with very few people.

"I cannot get the same beauty that tourists get because I am used to seeing it," she said.

McDonald said she keeps herself busy at school so she won't miss her home country as much. "Normally, I spend all day ... going to class, work and [the] gym."

She works as a part-time employee with Facilities Management.

Material Control supervisor Steve Duncan said he finds it interesting working with McDonald.

He said it gives him an op-



The Bahamas (bah-HAH-muz)

Capital: Nassau

Population: 307,552

GDP: \$9,084,000,000 (USD)

Size: 5,358 sq. miles (slightly smaller than Connecticut)

National Languages: English

Currency: Dollar

Government: Parliamentary democracy and Constitutional monarchy

Religions: Protestant, Catholic

Details: Lucayan Indians inhabited the islands when Christopher Columbus first set foot in the New World on San Salvador in 1492. British settlement of the islands began in 1647 and the islands became a colony in 1783. Since attaining independence from the U.K. in 1973, The Bahamas have prospered through tourism and international banking and investment management. Because of its geography, the country is a major transshipment point for illegal drugs, particularly shipments to the U.S. and Europe, and its territory is used for smuggling illegal migrants into the U.S.

*source: www.cia.gov



portunity to learn about the culture, food and lifestyle of her native country.

Although she has settled into a routine now, the beginning days in Oklahoma were tough for McDonald, as it is for many international students.

Though she said communication was not a big problem for her because Bahamians also speak English as their first language, the loneliness, as well as the customs and rules, were big concerns.

For instance, paying taxes confused her, she said.

"We don't pay tax on anything in The Bahamas. I was so disappointed at first when I had to pay tax for a small piece of gum here."

She said there also are no speed limits on the road in Bahamas.

"We have pretty small roads compared to the U.S. and nobody drives fast or crazy."

"Wearing a seat belt is not

mandatory in The Bahamas."

One of the things McDonald said she likes most about being in Oklahoma is the independent life she is living here.

"I am from a very small place where if I do something good or bad, everybody will know it," she said.

"People are more open-minded here in U.S. and I can do whatever I want until and unless I break the law."

Despite her busy schedule of classes and work, McDonald also manages to find time to play football with Oklahoma City Lightning, a semi-professional football team that promotes women's athletics.

On an academic level, McDonald is very thankful for what she has achieved at OCCC.

"This is like a second home for me," she said.

"I spend more time at OCCC than my apartment."

The opportunities the various

departments at OCCC offer students are overwhelming, she said.

McDonald said she is grateful to some people who helped her get established in college.

However, she said, she wishes there were a few more opportunities for international students when it comes to financial aid and scholarships.

"There are few scholarships available for international students ... I wish there would be a little more," she said.

McDonald said although it is often hard to achieve what you desire, she is determined to succeed.

"Anything that comes hard is worth having."

Know a student or professor from another country who would be good to feature?

editor@occc.edu

Let us know!

SPORTS

Iron man



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

Daniel Chandler, business major, finishes his set of 10 on the EZ weight curl bar May 5 in the Wellness Center's weight room. The weight room offers a variety of machine and free weights to students at no cost with their student ID.

COMMUNITY | Students can learn to play golf during summer semester

Beginning golf class to start May 17

LANDA MCCLURE

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

Golfing instructor Gary Martin said everyone should learn to play golf, and he would be more than happy to teach them.

His six-week summer course in Golf for Beginners will start May 17.

The first class session will be at the OCCC campus, Martin said, with remaining classes at Earlywine Golf Course.

He said there are no requirements to join except for a passion to learn how to play the game.

Martin said students do not need their own equipment, but if they would prefer to bring their own they could.

"I have extra equipment for the students, but I do encourage students to use their own if they have the equip-

ment," he said.

Martin said students will learn the theories of golf and the fundamentals of how the game is played.

"For the first class meeting, I will show videos over different aspects of golfing," he said.

Then the class will move to Earlywine at 11600 S. Portland Ave.

Jennifer Kellbach, Recreation and Fitness secretary, said the six week course is \$60 and meets two nights a week.

Kellbach said the classes last from 5:30 to 6:55 p.m.

Martin said students will learn the full swing, short swing, putting and other game techniques.

He said when doing the full swing, any type of club can be used.

"There are many different types of clubs," Martin said.

"There's the putter, wooden, and iron clubs."

He said the students will face only limited competition against each other during the course.

"At the end of the course, I usually schedule a nine-hole scramble for the students to participate in," Martin said.

"That is the only competition between them."

A nine-hole scramble is when all the players play the best ball while trying to get it into the hole using the least number of strokes.

Martin said his class sizes can range from five to 12 students and all levels can join.

"I have had at most 15 students," he said.

Martin said he enjoys teaching golf and has been doing it for years.

"There is no life without golf," he said.

For more information contact Recreation and Fitness Center's office at 405-682-7860.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **May 7:** Youth sports: Registration for Mighty Midgets T-ball ends. League fee is \$60 and includes the team jersey. Ages are from 4 to 7 years old. Games are held Tuesdays and Thursdays.

• **May 10:** Combo aerobics class from noon to 12:55 p.m. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **May 10:** Zumba class from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **May 10:** Shallow water exercise class from 7:45 to 8:40 a.m., noon to 12:55 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. Classes are held in the Aquatic Center.

• **May 10:** Deep water exercise class from 10 to 10:55 a.m. Classes are held in the Aquatic Center.

• **May 11:** Zumba class from 10:30 to 11:25 a.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **May 11:** Youth sports: Coaches meeting for Mighty Midgets T-ball.

• **May 13:** Total body workout class from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. Classes are held in the Wellness Center.

• **May 15:** Lifeguard Challenge from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Aquatic Center. Students will need to bring CPR/AED pocket mask. Fee is \$20.

• **May 16:** Basic water rescue from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Aquatic Center. Fee is \$30.

• **May 17:** Beginning golf classes start and will be held from 5:30 to 6:55 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday until June 23. Classes will be held at the Earlywine Golf Course. Fee is \$60.

• **May 27:** Youth sports: Mighty Midgets T-ball season starts. Games are held Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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

Task force: Group submits proposals to Pres Sechrist

Continued from page 1

campus in February that resulted in the accidental discharge of a firearm by a security officer. A series of communications errors gave the false impression that an armed intruder was on campus.

The task force also recommended the college adopt a software package that would allow students, faculty and staff to choose how they wish to be alerted of campus emergencies, she said.

"You know, some people want to be contacted via an automated phone call," Gibson said. "Other people would rather receive a text message or an e-mail."

This package will allow people to not only choose which method is most convenient for them, she said, but it also will inform them sooner and hopefully, prevent injury or harm.

Other suggestions were:

- Faculty members should include an overview of emergency procedures during the first meeting of class.

- Professors should add an emergency-situation section to class syllabuses.

- The college should perform periodic equipment checks to find non-functional phones.

Sechrist said the proposals would be taken seriously and given a thorough examination by himself and his cabinet.

"The cabinet and I feel very positive about the results these recommendations will produce on campus," Sechrist said. "I am very confident these changes

will improve the safety of OCCC's campus and help us avoid any issues in the future."

The task force was established to strengthen communication between the college and the people on campus in case of an emergency, said Gibson, Information Technology acting vice president.

Gibson said the goal of better communication was established the first day the task force met, and its members worked toward that goal since then.

She said looking at the whole picture was challenging for the group.

"Sometimes it's hard to remove the tunnel vision of focusing on just your area," Gibson said.

Despite this, Gibson said, the task force worked together well.

"The task force melded together very well," Gibson said. "They spent many hours talking to students, faculty and staff members about their opinions on the issue."

After gathering ideas from others, she said, the task force voted on the importance and priority of the suggestions.

Gibson sent the recommended changes to task force members, and they voted on which ones they thought were important. Task force members ranked each suggestions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least important and 5 being the most important, she said.

Sechrist said he and his cabinet will review the recommendations and implement any changes before the fall semester.

Top 5 task force recommendations

- 1 Evening and weekend staff should be receive thorough training of college emergency procedures.
- 2 The college should adopt software to give students, faculty and staff the option to choose how to receive emergency alerts
- 3 Faculty members should review emergency procedures with students on the first day of class.
- 4 Professors should add an emergency-situation section to their class syllabuses.
- 5 The college should perform periodic equipment checks to find phones that are not working properly.

**Source: Timely Emergency Communication Task Force*

Student wins national writing award

JENNIFER MASSEY

Staff Writer

According to the Society of Professional Journalists, Mark Smith is excellent.

His account of the murder of OCCC student Thyler Payne in 2009 has won him a national SPJ Mark of Excellence award.

The first-place award, in the on-line news writing category, is the highest honor Smith has received.

"Oh my God, it is just the most amazing thing to have ever happened to me, I never expected to win at nationals. I never even dreamed of winning something that big," Smith said.

Smith, who returned to college after a 10 year sabbatical, began studying news writing and fell in love with it. He attributes his success to Mark Schneberger, his news writing professor.

"He is the one who encouraged me to



Mark Smith

submit my articles," Smith said. "He pushed me and was really hard on me in his class."

Smith also said that one of his mentors is Sue Hinton, journalism professor.

"Sue has encouraged me and stood behind me," he said. "She taught me and trained me."

"The skills that Mark Schneberger taught me, Sue took them and molded me into a professional journalist."

Smith will graduate May 2011 and his plans are to continue on to a university in the state.

Until then, Smith said, he will continue to hone his craft and become a better writer.

"There are so many people I owe for what I learned."

His humility is endearing, and his laugh is infectious. In his presence, everything seems on the up and up. When he looks towards his future, he smiles.

"It's really exciting," Smith said.

TAKE THE
NEXT STEP TOWARD
a great career

Transfer qualifying credits from your community college to earn a bachelor's degree from DeVry University. With a bachelor's degree in a growing career field like Business Management, Accounting and Finance, Information Systems or Healthcare Technology you can be one step closer to your dream career.

Oklahoma City Campus

4013 NW Expressway St., Suite 100 | Oklahoma City

DeVry.edu/OklahomaCity | 405-767-9516

DeVry
University

Program availability varies by location.
©2010 DeVry Educational Development Corp. All rights reserved.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Fun in the sun



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

Mary Armitage, sociology major, and Lori Colbart, biotechnology major, study in the sunlight May 5 for their physical science final. Many students retreated into the OCCC courtyard for a bit of sunshine during the week as warm temperatures engulfed the state.

ORGANIZATIONS | SOTA continues 20-year tradition

Student club to host fall retreat for mentally challenged adults

ERICA YOUNG
News Writing Student

A group of mentally disabled adults will be treated to a weekend of fun and games this fall thanks to members of the Student Occupational Therapy Association, said Reeca Young, club sponsor.

Young said club members have carried out this service many times during the past 20 years in conjunction with the Oklahoma Foundation for the Disabled.

The camp allows students to work hands-on with disabled adults, she

said.

In addition, while the students are gaining vital field experience, Young said, adults from the foundation love doing activities with students.

The lakeside campsite will be located in Stroud, she said, where campers and club members will stay overnight in cabins and in the lodge.

Young said last year's camp was cancelled because of the H1N1 flu.

Because of the cancellation, she said, SOTA members want this trip to be a success.

Kory Patterson, public relations spokeswoman,

said she is excited for the trip. "I want (it) to be the best," Patterson said.

Young said SOTA will host several fundraisers to help pay for expenses, including crafts and prizes such as hats, T-shirts and stuffed animals.

The first of these fundraisers was held last month, when SOTA hosted a two-day bake sale to help raise funds for the trip. The club raised more than \$100 during the sale, Young said.

"For a lot of the members in the foundation, this is the only vacation they get," she said. "The trip is really a blast."

Young said occupational therapy assistants work with children and adults with emotional, physical, mental or developmental disabilities. They also can work in hospitals, nursing homes and schools, she said.

OCCC's occupational therapy assistant program was one of the first degree programs offered when OCCC opened in 1972 as South Oklahoma City Junior College, Young said.

For more information, contact Young at 405-682-1611, ext. 7506, or visit www.occc-sota.campusgroups.com.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Finals breakfast to be held

Student Life will serve a special finals pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. May 10 in the College Union. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Honors society to host game night

Phi Theta Kappa honor society will host a night of games and fellowship from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, May 14, in room 2A7 of the Main Building. For more information, contact Tamara Carter at 405-682-1611, ext. 7167.

President, CEO to host lunch workshop

OCCC Corporate Learning and The Persimmon Group will offer the "Identifying Risk in Projects" lunchtime workshop at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 12, at the John Massey Center. Bill Fournet, president and CEO of The Persimmon Group, will present a workshop to help project managers gain a deeper understanding of risk identification for their teams in real world situations. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch and materials. Seating is limited. For more information or to register, contact Rhonda Cantrell at 405-682-7853.

Baptist club offers free lunch

Baptist Collegiate Ministries will offer free lunch to all students, faculty and staff members from noon to 12:50 p.m. Monday, May 10, in the Bruce Owen Theater and from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. Thursday, May 13, in room 3N0 of the Main Building. For more information, contact Mark Barnett at 405-323-0583.

Boomer Institute to offer résumé class

The OCCC Boomer Institute will offer a two-day course on résumé writing from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, May 24 and 26, at the John Massey Center. Students will learn how to write a cover letter, format their résumé and develop a post-interview thank you letter. The cost for the course is \$40. Participants must be 50 years of age or older. For more information, contact Francine Gissy at 405-682-7856.

Boomer Institute to offer interview class

The OCCC Boomer Institute will offer a one-day course on successful interviewing techniques from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, at the John Massey Center. The class will provide the opportunity to roleplay an actual interview with emphasis placed on common interview questions, professional etiquette and appropriate dress. The cost for the course is \$25. Participants must be 50 years of age or older. For more information, contact Francine Gissy at 405-682-7856.

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.

APPLIANCES

FOR SALE: Maytag Atlantis washer and dryer. Matching set. Fully working. \$450 OBO. Call: 405-921-0837.

NOT PRETTY JUST HARD WORKING: Front-loading washer. Selling for \$200. Call: 405-882-3731.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Kitchen table and four matching chairs. \$125. All in good condition. Call: 405-921-0837.

READY TO SHAPE UP FOR SUMMER? Body shaping "Step and Flex" machine. \$40. Call 405-682-1611 ext 7765.

FOR SALE: New car seat. Still has tags on it. \$40. Call 405-882-3731.

FOR SALE: Samsung 19" color television with remote. Great picture. \$50. Email: adman@occc.edu.

TEXTBOOKS

"THE RED BACKPACK": Selling OCCC Nursing Program Kit. \$99. Call: 405-701-5931. Leave a message.



OCCC
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES
JOB BOARD
www.collegecentral.com/occc
Students register with their 7-digit student ID number
Alumni enter AL+last 5 digits of Social Security number
Find Jobs • Post Your Resume • Apply for Positions

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED
United Way
Want to make a difference? Find out how at LIVEUNITED.ORG.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Flaws in a system
- 6 Dance for Cinderella
- 10 Arab prince
- 14 Happening
- 15 Have — in one's bonnet
- 16 Church part
- 17 Having more spunk
- 18 Information
- 19 Network
- 20 Fell in flakes
- 22 Was enough for
- 24 Pull
- 26 Baby grands
- 27 "An — and a Gentleman"
- 31 Type of contact
- 32 Islam deity
- 33 Entertain
- 36 Traffic problem
- 39 Harness part
- 40 Overflowed
- 41 Ruler of Venice
- 42 Drain
- 43 Visitor
- 44 Actress Hayes
- 45 "Alley —"
- 46 Responded
- 48 Drinks noisily
- 51 "— seeing things?"
- 52 Swindler

DOWN

- 1 Beer barrels
- 2 "Terrible" one
- 3 Fictional captain
- 4 Was acquainted with
- 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

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

OSLO MOOR CAPP
RHINO OGLE AGUE
BISON SEEN MERE
SPA ISLE OPENER
COKE SVELTE
ANTONYM TAR
LOOMS JETTISON
TUNE AGAPE REBA
ANYTHING COLOR
ALA STANLEY
VELVET HIES
VENEER FENS DAB
ETNA OPAL ALOHA
SCUD NEIL RIDER
THIS SIRS DOME

8-18-98 © 1998, United Feature Syndicate

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
38 Repair
40 Displace
41 Last mo.
43 Al or Tipper

44 Scariest
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

OCCC
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES
OPTIMAL RESUME
www.occc.optimalresume.com
Students' access ID is their OCCC email address
example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu
Resumes • Cover Letters • Interview Skills

NEW! The Pioneer blog is the place to share your feedback on the issues and to let your voice be heard
occcpioneer.wordpress.com
Check it out today!

ADOPT A PAL: OKC Animal Shelter. 405-297-3100

FEATURE

Graduate living dream working for Vh1

NICK STOUT

News Writing Student

The bright lights and big city life have led OCCC graduate Christina Leake to write the next chapter of her radio career in New York City.

In a speech to radio broadcasting students on campus April 29, Leake explained how she landed a job with Vh1 and is now the associate producer for a radio show called "Vh1's Classic Nights."

As associate producer, Leake will be in charge of updating the show's website, organizing interviews and sound bites, and helping the show run smoothly.

Leake said she is an example of how one thing can lead to another — if you follow through with your plan to reach for the top, she said.

Leake got her start in radio in the summer of 2009 when she got an internship at WILD 104.9, an Oklahoma pop music station. It was there, she said, that she learned the ropes of working in an actual radio station.

After interning at WILD, Leake made some Facebook contacts and learned about an internship available at MTV in New York City.

Leake said a course she took in journalism writing helped her get the internship at MTV.

While there, she said, she wrote around 90 short news stories a day about different celebrities.

It was through her boss's assistant at MTV that she learned about the new show at Vh1.

She immediately set up a meeting to express her interest in working for the show. After many interviews and countless hours of waiting, she received the news she hoped for.

Leake credits her family and MTV for her new job at Vh1.

"One of the first things they tell you during the internship orientation was to utilize the internship ... it was basically a 10-week job interview."

Leake said she and her four brothers have always been very competitive with each other. She said having a large competitive family is motivational.

"Reaching for the stars and trying to be the best comes along with having a big family," she said.

Leake's Audio Production professor, Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, is very excited for her.

"I'm ecstatic," Faulconer-Lippert said.

"The fact that she can be one of 500 interns in New York City and then land an associate producer job with Vh1 shows how dedicated, talented and prepared she was to take on the industry."

Leake earned her associate degree in broadcasting from OCCC in December.

She has some advice for others wanting to pursue careers in big markets.

"You have to be professionally persistent," Leake said. "You have to consistently follow-up until you get the answer you want. I have a hard time settling with anything. I find a way to go bigger and reach further."

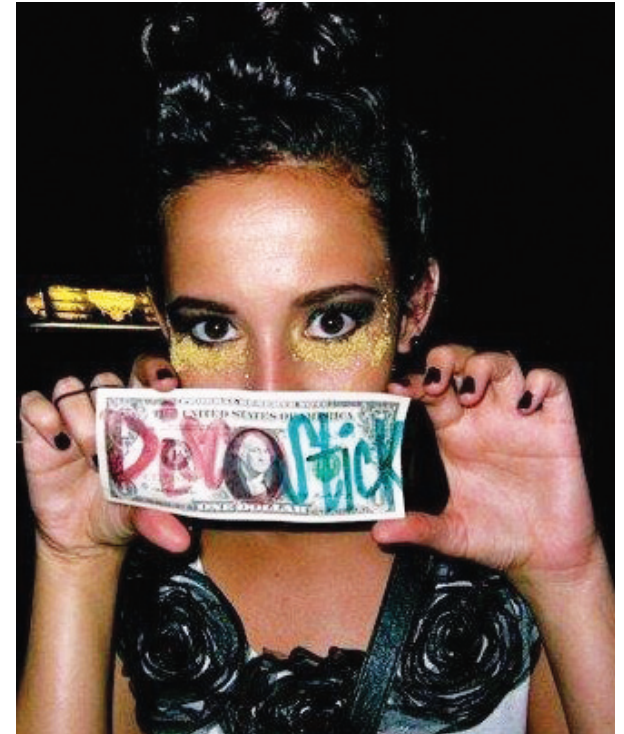


PHOTO PROVIDED

OCCC graduate Christine Leake spoke to a group of students April 29 about achieving goals. Leake said she used writing skills she learned at OCCC to land a number of radio broadcasting jobs that have now culminated in her moving to New York City to work at Vh1 as an associate producer.

EMS program offers state-of-the-art equipment

MALLORY DODSON

News Writing Student

Since the advent of cardiopulmonary resuscitation 50 years ago, emergency teams have acquired more and better equipment to save lives.

Emergency Medical Science professor Harvey Conner said OCCC's EMS program has taken many steps to be on the forefront of cardiac emergency response and training.

In addition to CPR, Conner said, a state-of-the-art portable heart monitor-defibrillator, the LIFEPAK 15, can be used during a cardiac emergency.

The college's EMS students use this device for

training.

Its unique features are carbon monoxide monitoring as well as the ability to transmit heart attack data from the monitor to a cardiologist through the Internet, Conner said. The device costs \$35,000.

Maegan Wilkinson, group product manager for Advanced Life Support Solutions at Physio Control, said LIFEPAK 15's ability to send important data to a doctor's smart phone via the Internet cuts down on the time a patient must wait to be treated.

The goal is for the time between the initial emergency contact and treatment to be less than 90 minutes, and LIFEPAK 15 helps to enable that

possibility, Wilkinson said.

The computer inside the LIFEPAK15 determines how the patient should be assessed, then gives step-by-step instructions to the caregiver responding to the patient that shows symptoms of cardiac arrest.

The survival rate increases dramatically with the addition of electric shocks to the heart provided by defibrillation, Conner said.

Though the paramedic program at OCCC uses the LIFEPAK 15, it is not the only heart monitor-defibrillator on campus, Conner said. OCCC uses two Automated External Defibrillators, Conner said.

Conner said OCCC

security officers are trained to use the AEDs and can reach anyone on campus within a minute and a half.

"If the patient's heart rhythm meets conditions of a rhythm that the device can shock, it will tell you to stand back, it will

charge itself, and then tell you to push a button that will defibrillate the heart," Conner said.

As a community service, student members of the Student EMT Association at OCCC provide CPR training to those who are interested, said

Conner. Classes are offered every semester, and will be available before the summer semester starts.

For more information, contact Conner at 405-682-1611, ext. 7304, or e-mail hconner@occc.edu.

