

INSIDE

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

ART EXHIBIT

Mixed Media Collage
Juried Exhibition
starts Friday, June
18. Go online to find
out the details.

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

INSIDE

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

JUNE 11, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Summertime fun



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Naira Trolle, pre-engineering major, takes advantage of nice weather by having lunch in the summer sunshine in the college courtyard. The courtyard, located just outside of the Bursar's office in the Main Building, offers students a retreat filled with picnic tables, park benches and scenery such as a wall mural and trees.

Tuition increase possible after state funding decreased

JUSTIN COMBS

Editor
editor@occc.edu

For the first time since June 2008, OCCC is considering raising tuition, and for the second year in a row faculty and employees will not receive raises — all due to a decrease in state appropriations, said President Paul Sechrist.

For 2011, the college is expecting a \$1.46 million funding reduction over last year.

As a result of the reduction, the college has proposed a \$6 per-credit-hour increase for resident students and a \$10 increase per credit hour for non-resident students.

Hannah Williams, literature major and Welcome Desk attendant, said a \$6 tuition increase is not that much compared to other colleges, but what concerns her are other college expenses.

"I can agree with the tuition raise, but I'm spending a third to half of what I spend on tuition on books alone," Williams

See **BUDGET** page 9

STUDENT FILMMAKER NAMED AS HOLLYWOOD WINNER

OCCC graduate recognized for animated film

'Dried Up' wins Student Academy Award

JEREMY CLOUD
Staff Writer
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Isaiah Powers, a 2005 OCCC graduate, and graduate of the Kansas City Arts Institute of Missouri, has been named a winner of the 37th Annual Student Academy Awards competition.

"I'm very excited, pretty blown away, actually," Powers said.

"It's nothing we were expecting."

Powers and his col-

laborators Jeremy Casper and Stuart Bury, won for their short animation "Dried Up."

Powers said the short, made entirely in classic stop-motion animation, was a collaborative effort between the three from concept to finish.

"The story is about a quiet old man who toils daily to forge a last ditch effort to bring hope and life to a faithless, drought ridden old town," Powers said.

He said the sets and puppets — all handmade — took six months to build and overall, the film took eight months.

Many of the props

and sets in the film are created from objects found in junkyards or garage sales, Powers said, and some come from unlikely places.

"The old guy's hair actually comes from the tuft of hair on a Furby (toy)," Powers said.

"Scalping a Furby was definitely one of the weirder things I've done, especially at four in the morning."

Powers joins an elite group with the win.

The Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences created the Student Academy Awards in 1972 "to support and encourage excellence in filmmaking at the colle-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISAIAH POWERS

Former student Isaiah Powers said all sets and puppets, as shown above, are handmade in his short animation "Dried Up." Powers has been named a winner of the 37th Annual Student Academy Awards competition for his work.

giate level," according to the organization's website.

Past winners include

John Lassiter, chief creator and director of

See **FILM** page 12

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Has our dependency on oil become a vice?

Time to rethink our resources

In the wake of the disastrous and ongoing British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, it may be time to consider some of the ramifications of our national dependency on oil.

It's time this country honestly focuses on developing biofuels, incentives and subsidies for car manufacturers to produce more hybrid and electric vehicles, and tax incentives for using public transportation.



JEREMY CLOUD

These are all viable places to start looking for a real solution so this tragedy, which is killing wildlife up and down the Gulf Coast and displacing millions from their homes, never happens again. But they don't address the real problem.

Some will blame BP and say the oil spill was caused by the company's need to move faster to maximize the profit margins.

Others see that the real problem is not one BP spill. Rather, it is the country's overdependence on fossil fuels.

Used in everything from plastic to gasoline, oil is

arguably one of the foundations of American life. According to the Energy Information Administration, in 2008 alone, the United States consumed 7.14 billion barrels of oil. That puts the U.S. at almost 23 percent of the all oil consumption worldwide.

The use of oil and petroleum products to make plastics is certainly necessary for the continued growth and development of medicine, food storage, sanitation, and other fields that pertain to the health and well-being of this country.

But according to the EIA, of those billions of barrels of oil, less than 5 percent was used to make plastic, only 331 million barrels.

The rest of it goes to energy production in the forms of gasoline, diesel and commercial energy. The question that comes to mind is, why?

Instead of trying to get stricter regulations on offshore drilling, or stiffer penalties for health and safety violations, perhaps this nation should be turning its attention to ending the cause of this disaster once and for all.

But the only way these steps are going to be taken is if individuals, the people, take them.

Because as long as the oil business is more profit than loss, the companies involved in providing our energy and fuel won't take the steps for us.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

YOUR VOICE | Remember the date

Register to vote

To the editor:

On July 27, Oklahoma will hold primary elections to determine the candidates that will be on the ballot for November's election.

This election will be for numerous positions in the Oklahoma state legislature, including governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and numerous other elections.

Voting is very important to me. As a veteran of the Iraq Wars, I know that my votes truly do matter for things like Veterans benefits in Oklahoma, funding for my 6-year-old son's education, my state's laws and many other reason.

Most importantly though, voting is important because it is a civil right that has been fought for by our forefathers and a civil right that people have laid down their lives to ensure we have.

So please, join me July 27 and then Nov. 2, in casting your ballot for the elected official of your choice. If you aren't registered to vote head down to the Communications Lab and pick up a voter registration form.

—KENNETH L. MEADOR
COLLEGE DEMOCRATS PRESIDENT

YOUR VOICE | Actions distinguish character

Accountability will gain you respect

To the editor:

People ask "What is the state of the state, as well as the state of the United States and why has it gotten to the point it is at?"

Maybe because people of every race, creed, color and background expect something free.

If you are getting assistance with your cost of your schooling from

the government in any form, why do you whine over having to pay something or do something out of your norm.

Whether it is reading the "instructions," calling an office, or just asking questions if you don't understand something.

Then there are the higher-ups that don't want confrontation from the general public,

because it is their underlings that are suppose to handle the "situations."

Governments don't want to be confronted with the fact that the rules put down in black and white are continually broken because of the underlings being afraid of losing their jobs.

These types of circumstances lead to others being treated with con-

tempt because of their stand by the "rules."

[These are] things like government officials bouncing checks, letting illegal actions slide and deliberately looking the other way.

Whether it cost you money, time or embarrassment, be a big person and do what's right.

—NAME WITHHELD
BY REQUEST

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The **PIONEER** welcomes **letters** to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The **PIONEER** will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing. The **PIONEER** has

the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

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

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | China takes over American classic

‘The Karate Kid’ falls short

The 1984 “Karate Kid” was a well-directed film with a lot of heart. It’s a film that makes audiences feel good, like holding a cute warm puppy.

The 2010 remake takes that puppy, kills it, removes its entrails with an ice cream scoop, and replaces it with stuffing.

That’s what this remake is, a once breathing puppy that’s now displayed on your grandmother’s mantle place, glass eyes soullessly staring into the void.

Like the original, this film is about a kid who gets routinely bullied, so he learns martial arts to battle his tormentors.

The original film is about an Italian-American from LA named Daniel, who learns karate.

This film changes it

to be about a black kid named Dre who moves to China and learns kung fu.

Jayden Smith portrays Dre Parker, a miniature black version of Ralph Macchio.

Instead of acting like a child, Smith acts like an adult in a bad sitcom, constantly glib and obsessed with TV cool.

The protagonist doesn’t make moviegoers want to cheer when he succeeds, but rather laugh when he fails.

Jackie Chan plays Mr. Han, the kung fu-instructing Miyagi of the film. In his heroic introduction scene he beats up a dozen school children, takes off Dre’s clothes and sets his torso on fire.

Chan, whose knack for stunts and physical comedy is unparalleled since

the days of Buster Keaton, is completely wasted in his role.

“The Karate Kid” is a pointless, cheap replica of a film.

The only conceivable reason for its existence is to catapult Jayden’s career into the heart throb centerfolds of Teen Beat Magazine.

The portrayal of modern day China is bizarrely propagandist.

China is shown as a wonderland, a cultural melting pot that is filled with happy white children.

A few different times, the film shows examples of Chinese cultural superiority.

The hero wears the red communist star on his T-Shirt. In one scene, Han shows Dre an en-

ergy saving shower device, then he explains that communist China is an environmentally friendly country, and America needs to catch up, which is incredulous.

“The Karate Kid” was made by the China Film Group Corporation, a communist state-run production studio.

There is an undercurrent of post-modern nihilism and cynicism in our pop culture that makes films like this possible.

They exist because of a myth, perpetuated by the greedy and lazy, that everything has been done before. So why not make a new bad version of a good old film?

Rating: F-

—DANNIEL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

JOB & CAREER POWER

Students, are you undecided on your college major and future career path? If so, I would like to recommend the fall 2010 class PSY-1001 “Career Exploration” Section E15 which meets 11 to 11:50 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the SSC Bldg, Room 1H3.

The class begins with a series of self-assessment tools to help you identify your interests, abilities and career values.

The online DISCOVER career guidance program from ACT is demonstrated and fully described to facilitate your individual utilization of career surveys that ultimately provide a summary of specific career fields for you to explore.

The DISCOVER program contains 26 career and occupational fields and your “Career Box,” created through your likes and dislikes choices, will pinpoint fields for your in-depth analysis.

Questions such as “Do I need an associate, bachelor or master’s degree?” and “Do I need a license?” or “What is the salary levels, both entry and with experience, for this career?” can be answered. And, through U.S. Department of Labor data, outlook projections for the next 10 years are provided.

The “Career Exploration” course teaches students to understand the course catalog, what a college credit hour means, how to transfer to a four-year college or university, and through online GPA calculation sites, demonstrates the importance of earning the best grades possible for future acceptance into competitive entry programs.

These programs include medical, law, teaching and future graduate level work.

Each of the OCCC competitive entry programs also are reviewed, for example, nursing, PTA, OTA and our career technology partnership programs of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Respiratory Care Therapist and Orthotic and Prosthetic Technician.

Guest speakers from the OCCC Clinical Research Program and Student Life enrich this class along with career videos and scholarship opportunities.

The process of searching and applying for professional internships is highlighted as well as professional dress, dining etiquette for job interviews and the importance of having a positive social networking presence.

The course also provides professional career tool development with résumé, cover letter and job interviewing guidance.

Please visit the Student Employment and Career Services office on the first floor of the Main Building, next to Student Life for additional details or visit the website at www.occc.edu/es or phone 405-682-7519.

—DEBORAH VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

FILM REVIEW | Charming Brit steals the screen

Diddy finds new partner in crime

“Get Him to the Greek” is full of hysteria and touches all the aspects of a rock star lifestyle. The Rated R movie opened June 4 and each second of the 109 minutes is filled with entertaining adult content.

The Judd Apatow-produced movie is a continuation of “Forgetting Sarah Marshall.”

Yet, this go-around proves to be a more vulgar, witty and successful performance by Russell Brand.

Aldous Snow (Brand) plays a once sober A-list celebrity turned burned-out drug addict.

Aaron Green (Jonah Hill) works at a record

label for Sergio (Sean Combs) and is one of Snow’s last fans after his flop album “African Child.”

When asked by Sergio for revenue ideas, Green suggests that Snow perform a reunion show, thus beginning the quest to bring the heroin junkie to Greek Theater in Los Angeles.

The theme of the film drags. Every controversy is the same problem of getting Snow to his gig.

Though it is always presented in a new twist, it severs the potential the film might have had.

Combs, however, is the paramount of comedy by which he saves the

dragging scenes. Hill continues to play the same chubby endearing character as in previous films like “Superbad,” “Accepted” and “Knocked Up.”

This time his talent is overshadowed by that of Brand who captivates audiences with his provocative actions and charming accent.

This movie really had no use for special effects, but that seemed to have improved it.

It is refreshing to see real people instead of generated monsters or dramatized natural disasters.

Each of the main characters also engages in il-

licit drug use, and for this reason, the film should not be shown to children.

However, these scenes also are the most comical and finest in the movie. In terms of nudity, this film is fairly friendly with only one or two scene of women’s breasts, which seems unusually low for such a sexual actor like Brand.

This film is a vital part of both Combs’ and Brand’s work. They have shown audiences that they are a divine comedy couple.

Better luck next time, Jonah.

Rating: B

—BONNIE CAMPO
STAFF WRITER

GET THE HEAT OFF YOUR MIND WITH A GOOD READ

Library puts leisure reading at front desk

JEREMY CLOUD

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The Keith Leftwich Memorial Library is running its Summer Reading program again this year, said Barbara King, Library Services director.

"The primary purpose is to draw people into the library and let them know that we offer a well rounded collection," King said.

"We want students and faculty to know they can utilize the library for pleasure reading, not just a coursework."

The program consists both of books drawn from the existing collection, and between 100 and 150 new titles purchased with the summer program in mind, said Dana Tuley-Williams, systems librarian and creator of the program.

The books will be displayed in front of the circulation desk, on a pair of shelves.

Angelica Jimenez, pre-law and business major, said she usually uses the campus library

for its research and computer resources or for a quiet place to study. She said the program may prompt her to use it for fun reading as well.

"I knew the library had a collection of fiction, but it's really hard to find time to browse when you're attending college full time. Having the books right in front of the circulation desk will make it much easier to find a good book quickly," she said.

Unlike public library programs, which are often theme based or competitive, the Summer Reading program is centered more on leisure reading, said Tuley-Williams.

"The new titles are made up of a fair amount of fiction," she said. "But overall, the new titles are like the rest of our collection, a very broad range of genres and topics to appeal to a lot of people with a lot of different interests."

"We just try to select titles that are fun or interesting to read, or suited to relaxing with a good book," said Tuley-



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

OCCC's summer Reading Program will focus on leisure reading to give students a break from the usual curriculum they read.

Williams. "We also started offering audio books just last year, which we've incorporated into the summer program. They're great for roadtrips, or any time that you can't be focused on a book."

The entire library collection currently stands at around 102,000 volumes, comprised of audiovisual and print material.

If students or faculty would like to read a title that the library doesn't own, recommendations are always welcome, said King.

To recommend a title for the library to add to their collection, go to <http://www.occc.edu/Library/> and select Library Request Forms.

College implements new password security system

DANNIEL PARKER

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College faculty and staff must password protect all personal technological devices which might contain sensitive and confidential information OCCC related are result of a new college information policy.

The new college rule is part of the updated Information Technology Resources Acceptable Use Policy. The decision was made May 17 when faculty and students were on summer break.

"The purpose of the policy is to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information," said Jerry Steward, executive vice president.

The added section of policy reads, "Any mobile device

that contains any confidential OCCC information shall be password protected. This is to include, but is not limited to, personal computers, laptops, e-mail, telephones, cellphones, radios, pagers, or any new portable electronic device or message/communication applications such as texts, twitters, instant messages."

The reasons for the policy change are obvious, Steward said.

"Technology is changing. Ten or 20 years ago, everyone was a slave to their desktop computer and not very many people used cellphones. Now new communication devices and applications are introduced all of the time, and our security needs to adapt," Steward said.

Vicki Gibson, vice president of Information Technology

oversaw the writing of the policy change.

"Professors aren't supposed to communicate with students outside of their OCCC e-mail in the first place," Gibson said. "So this shouldn't affect any professor's ability to teach."

The vice presidents were asked but did not explain how this rule will be enforced.

But serious cases of faculty breaking the Information Technology policy could result in that person having computer privileges revoked, said Gibson.

Sue Hinton, journalism professor, said, "The confidential student information the school keeps on file ranges from grades, to social security numbers, to the student bank account numbers at the bursars office."

"All of that information could

be very valuable to anyone who wanted to benefit from your misfortune," said Hinton.

Other faculty members question the policy's clarity. Math Professor Jay Malmstrom said the decision doesn't address the real challenge in securing private information.

"The wording of the policy is too vague," said Malmstrom who said he worked as an applied mathematician in the U.S. Navy for 18 years. There he worked on security network information systems.

"It's my professional opinion that the schools' password protection doesn't provide any real security," said Malmstrom. "The login ID and password information of everyone here is pretty obvious. The only thing that could deter a possible information thief is encryption."

If a person stole a computer from the campus, the login information of the last user is kept on file and is available for information thieves. Password cracking software is freely available on the Internet.

The new policy is an effort to protect the school from spoofing attacks, Malmstrom said.

A spoofing attack is when a potential thief tries to lure confidential information from a victim by pretending to be someone he is not.

Dana Tuley-Williams, systems administrator for the Keith Leftwich Library, shares the opinion of Malmstrom.

"I don't know how they are planning on enforcing this," said Tuley-Williams. "I think these passwords can be easily circumvented, but the school is doing the best they can."

WAR VETERANS TAKEN CARE OF AT OCCC

OCCC ensures college veterans are not forgotten

ZAK HENSLEY
News Writing Student

Tucked away at OCCC is an office staff comprised of five people that serves as the liaison between military veterans and the college, said Janis Armstrong, Veterans Services coordinator.

Armstrong heads the staff in assisting veterans with their scholastic benefits and assistance packages. She said she is teamed up with five work-study students, all of whom are veterans themselves, who aid her, and the program, in any way they can.

When members of the military are discharged, they become veterans. Because of their service in the military, veterans

are entitled to a certain amount of benefits, Armstrong said.

Veterans who wish to attend OCCC can go to the Veteran Services office and receive help, information and guidance towards getting their degree.

The Veterans Services office will compile the paperwork for veterans, listing all the possible benefits they are able to receive depending on their military service, Armstrong said.

The Veterans Services office also makes sure that the veterans meet certain guidelines and criteria, so they can be provided with the best benefits for their goals, while attending OCCC.

The regional Veterans Services office resides in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and the OCCC office must report all information

to the Muskogee office to have it processed.

The Veterans Services office has been around for approximately 13 years, Armstrong said.

This small, but important, group is doing its part to make sure that the veteran's experience at Oklahoma City Community College stands second to none, she said.

The Veterans Service office encourages all veterans receiving benefits to enroll early for summer and fall, and to bring their paperwork for processing as soon as possible. Armstrong said this could help avoid processing delays.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7695, or e-mail jarmstrong@occc.edu.

OCCC film coordinator writes, produces movies this summer

DAMIEN LODES
News Writing Student

Producing a full-length feature film, based on a script he wrote, will keep Sean Lynch busy this summer.

Lynch is the Film and Video Production equipment coordinator on campus.

Lynch said his latest project is a comedy titled "Just Crazy Enough."

The film is about identical twins, one of whom is a psychiatrist and the other a mental patient.

"Their identities get swapped in a hospital where the mental patient is now on the outside and the doctor is now trapped inside trying to figure out how to get out," Lynch said.

"It's like a zany '80s comedy,"

said OCCC nursing major Andrea Acuna.

"It sounds really funny, and I can't wait to see it."

The script for the film took Lynch and fellow writer Lance McDaniel over a year to complete.

The film is in pre-production, and Lynch is working hard to get the \$1 million needed to fund the film, he said.

Lynch said 40 different investors are pitching in \$25,000 apiece to come up with the money needed to fund the film. Shooting for the film is expected to commence June 30.

"Shooting will last five weeks," Lynch said. He said most of the filming will be done in Oklahoma City and Guthrie at the Masonic Temple.

"The project will offer lots of

paid intern positions for students as production assistants," Lynch said.

The producers also will offer positions as grips, electric, make-up, and hair.

OCCC students are being sought to fill these paid intern positions.

This will be the largest film that executive producer Lynch, director McDaniel, and photography director Dave Green have worked on.

The trio's previous film, "Unsolved," was about a group of college students who uncover the truth about a campus murder that happened 15 years earlier. It was released in 2009.

For more information about intern positions, e-mail Lynch at sean.m.lynych@email.occc.edu.

Film institute celebrates 10th year

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
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The Oklahoma Film Institute is in full swing during its tenth year on the OCCC campus and is working better for students than it has in previous years, said Film and Video Production professor Greg Mellot.

The program, which kicked off June 3, offers three-day seminars in production, direction, script writing, and editing. The clinics are held Thursday through Saturday and run all day.

"This is the second year which we've split the program up into four sections," Mellot said. "It simply works better for students."

Mellot, who won an Emmy for Robert S. Kerr documentary "Dream No Little Dream," said returning to OFI was like returning to OFI's roots.

"OFI started here at OCCC. Its always great to come back to it during the summer."

Students can sign up now for a production class in which they will produce their own short film July 12 through 16.

Students will use industry standard equipment at OFI, said artist in residence, Gray Frederickson.

Fredrickson produced all three "Godfather" movies and "Apocalypse Now." He won an Oscar for "Godfather Part II."

Some of the devices are Hollywood standard such as Mole Richardson Lights and Panasonic HVX-200 HD cameras.

Students at the clinics will also have access to the latest in movie-making equipment including a red camera, Mellot said.

"The red camera is a digital camera which produces an image which mimics film," Mellot said.

Those who are interested can also enroll in directing, editing, script writing three day clinics or the week-long movie program.

Mellot will teach the directing workshop through June 12 as well as the script writing clinic June 17 through 19.

The editing clinic is June 24 through 26 and will be taught by Grayson Cook, 20-year veteran of News 9.

The fee for the clinics is \$300 for the three-day clinics and \$500 for the week-long course. Any interested persons should visit www.occc.edu/ofi or call 405-682-7847 for more details.

Does your club have an exciting event
or meeting coming up?

If so, call Bonnie Campo
at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410,
or e-mail StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

VOTERS TO DECIDE NEXT GOVERNOR NOV. 2

Candidates speak out for higher education

ETHAN HENDRICKS

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As the race for the next Oklahoma governor ramps up, candidates are coming out strong on many issues, especially higher education.

Oklahoma's gubernatorial candidates agreed over the past week that continuing to improve higher education in Oklahoma is important but disagreed on how this should be accomplished.

The way to make colleges more accessible is by controlling costs, said Sen. Randy Brogdon, R-Owasso.

Atty. Gen. Drew Edmondson said he strongly supports government grants such as Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and scholarships as a way to increase access to the state colleges and universities.

U.S. Rep. Mary Fallin said as governor, her priority would be to support community colleges along with making college accessible to everyone.

Lt. Governor Jari Askins could not be reached for comment.

Her campaign manager, Sid Hudson, said Askins is supportive of the government helping out students.



Randy Brogdon Republican

What is your stance on higher education in Oklahoma?

"Higher education is important, but it does not drive the economy. The private sector drives the economy and college prepares people for the private sector."

What are your professional views on Oklahoma grants?

"I believe higher education should be paid for by the person who is getting the education. When the consumer is in charge of paying, it encourages competition between colleges and the prices will fall."



Drew Edmondson Democrat

What is your stance on higher education in Oklahoma?

"Higher education would be second, right behind getting the economy moving. Once the economy is moving, funds can be provided to education on all levels."

What are your professional views on Oklahoma grants?

"OHLAP is a promise that must be upheld. Not everyone can afford to go to Stillwater or Norman to attend college. That's where community colleges step in. They allow students to enhance their employability and increase the quality of their life."



Mary Fallin Republican

What is your stance on higher education in Oklahoma?

"Many of the employers I've met (in Oklahoma) have highlighted the need for a skilled, educated workforce. It's essential to support quality education in order to do this."

What are your professional views on Oklahoma grants?

"I'm going to work to turn this economy around ... to provide the proper amount of funds to the Endowed Chairs program. As governor, I will continue to support OHLAP Access Program and sustain these programs by getting the economy out of this rut."



Jari Askins Democrat

What is your stance on higher education in Oklahoma?

"Askins understands that higher education is vital to the future of Oklahoma because it provides future workers and ideas vital to helping Oklahoma grow."

What are your professional views on Oklahoma grants?

"Askins is 100 percent behind OHLAP and would very much like to restore the Endowed Chairs program to its original purpose."

Questions answered by Sid Hudson, campaign manager.

Voter deadlines approaching

ETHAN HENDRICKS

Senior Writer

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Anyone wanting to vote in the upcoming elections needs to be registered by July 2, the deadline for registering to vote or to change parties in the state primaries.

The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is July 21.

According to the Oklahoma State Election Board's website, people can register to vote at their County Election Board, post offices, tag agencies and libraries. Each potential voter must 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of Oklahoma.

The Aug. 24 primary elections determine which candidate will run for the Republican and Democratic parties.

State final elections, Nov. 2, will determine the governor.

Lauren Zuniga, a customer service representative for Oklahoma State Election, said if people want to change their political party they have to wait until September.

"From June 1 to Aug. 30 in an even year," Zuniga said, "you cannot change your party alignment. However, once Sept. 1 rolls around you can change your party alignment."

Students should take time to vote

ETHAN HENDRICKS

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

It's important for students to be aware of voting deadlines and to participate in elections, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist.

Sechrist said it's important for students to be involved politically — both nationally and on a state level.

"I encourage everyone to get involved at some level in the upcoming elections," he said.

"Students should know who the candidates are, what they stand for, what their priorities are, and most importantly, let your voice be heard by voting."

Sechrist said he has noticed a change in students' attitudes about politics caused by the recent presidential elections.

"It has been inspiring to see that young people have been energized by the recent elections," he said.

"Government that is of the people, by the people, and for the people requires that we the people get in-

involved.

"The most basic way for all of you to be involved and impact the future is to vote."

History professor Melinda Barr agrees.

"If you want to have some control over your life, you need to vote."

She said students can help determine tuition rates and interest fees by voting for someone who will lower those fees.

"That is why it is important for students to ... register to vote and actually vote," she said.

COUNTRY BLUES BAND TURNS PERSONAL TRAGEDY INTO ART

OCCC student slides into the blues

DANNIEL PARKER

Staff Writer

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Clinton Short is an OCCC computer programming major in his second semester. But on evenings and weekends, he picks up a Fender guitar and goes by the name Blue — one half of the blues/country band named Blue Country.

On Friday, June 4, they performed a free show at the Stone Pony, a bar located off the corner of SE 10th Street and MacArthur Boulevard, which is a dark, smoke filled venue whose clientele is people over 25 who tolerate the taste of cheap liquor.

"I like the guys in Blue Country, so we're making them our official house band on Fridays and Sundays," said Kelly Bradshaw the bar's owner.

Upon taking the stage, Blue gives off the aura of a mythic six string samurai.

Dressed in a red silk karate shirt and sporting a white martial arts headband, Blue and the

band brought in a mélange of people as bikers took shots at the bar and a nicely-dressed middle-aged couple played billiards.

Blue plays lead guitar with a clean toned, wammied out style similar to Stevie Ray Vaughn. He is backed up by his mentor, rhythm guitarist John Wesley. They've played together for 17 years.

Wesley, or J.W. as he likes to be called, is a 57-year-old American Indian whose speech is constantly interrupted by manic laughter. He said he has a master's degree in classical performing arts from UCLA and has played guitar for 42 years.

Together, Blue and Wesley share a sorrowful past, deeply rooted in the blues.

"When I was a kid, my brother committed suicide," Blue said. "So my mother handed me his guitar and said 'he can't play it anymore, it's yours.'"

One of Blue Country's original songs, a shadowy southern rock crooner called "Wayne"

is about Blue's parents sinking into drug abuse and having their lives destroyed by it, he said.

"When I was 13, my mother got put in jail for drugs. I went home, but my parents weren't there. The only person there was J.W.," said Blue, who was interrupted by Wesley, finishing his sentence.

"He showed up at my doorstep with two guitars and a Marshall Stax amplifier," Wesley said. "I told him I'd teach him everything I know."

Blue and Wesley make up one half of the group. Adding in the country flavor is singer and bassist, Kevin "Hoot" Stinson, drummer Adam Comer and multi-instrumentalist Gary Maloy.

Hoot, an African-American cowboy with a leading man's face, sings in a smooth mournful voice, perfect for country music. He dons a black Stetson hat and does the one-foot chicken stomp along to the beat of the music onstage.

He said everyone calls him



PHOTO PROVIDED

Clinton "Blue" Short of Blue Country performs Friday night at the Stone Pony in northwest Oklahoma City.

Hoot because friends liken him to Darius Rucker of Hootie and the Blowfish.

"When I write a song, all I care about is expressing myself," Hoot said.

"One of my songs is called 'Ten Miles to Town.' It's about my parents divorcing when I was young.

"They got into a fight, and my mom packed the car and drove away. But what if she stopped

10 miles out of town and turned around to find my Dad?

Wesley said blues is rooted in all music.

"All music is a circle that returns to the Blues," he said.

"If music is from the heart it's the blues. If you listen to Beethoven's 4th Symphony, it's pretty obvious that brother had the blues."

For more information, call Stone Pony at 405- 943-7372.

College plants 46 trees to enrich the landscape



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

David Swin, True Green Lawn Care employee, works on the electrical aspect of the sprinkler system. The sprinklers will help irrigate the newly-landscaped areas on campus. Forty-six trees were recently planted, funded by a citywide landscaping project.

CHRISTIAN KOSTED

Staff Writer

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The OCCC campus is more beautiful because of 46 trees and bushes planted on campus recently by Facilities Management staff, said Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer.

The tree planting is part of the \$250,000 Arts Festival Oklahoma Landscape Improvement Project.

The trees, shrubs and perennials were planted in the northwest portion of campus, near the Visual and Performing Arts Center and include 11 Lacebark elms, three live oaks, and thirty-two Shumard oaks.

"It's really pretty over there," said student Ashly Allen. "It looks great.

"We are making this site so we can use it for many different types of events year 'round," said Messer.

He said the \$250,000 project was needed because the former Arts Festival Oklahoma site formerly was held where the VPAC now stands.

Arts Festival Oklahoma is an annual event held on campus showcasing local artists and their work.

The new site will better meet the campus's needs and will offer improved landscaping, Messer said.

In addition to the plantings, he said, the college improved the electrical and irrigation systems in the area.

The college will continue to add to its landscaping initiative by planting 58 more trees along the west side of campus bordering I-44, Messer said.

The project will start later this month as part of the Spring 2010 Tree Planting Initiative intended to further beautify campus grounds.

"When students look at colleges' scenery, it's a big factor. I love trees and I think planting more is a great idea," said pharmacy student Joren Cummins.

Some of the trees used in both projects are from the college's tree farm on the southwest corner of campus, Messer said.

The tree farm has more than 1,000 trees. Among them are bald cypresses, elms, maples, and evergreen varieties, Messer said.

The tree farm, started 10 years ago, has provided trees for several campus improvement projects including the walking trails, he said.

SPORTS



Relax

Water Safety Instructor, Jacob Kiper, coaches Aleta Pipkin, 9, on proper swimming techniques June 7 in the OCCC Aquatic Center. Pipkin is part of the Snoopy Squad swimming lessons. To learn more visit Recreation and Fitness at www.occc.edu/rf or call 682-7860.

JENNIFER PEARSALL/
PIONEER

RECREATION | AFRICA TO HOST WORLD CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

Students excited about soccer World Cup

DEMERYE PAULIN

Senior Writer
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The international tradition, known as the World Cup soccer, is set to kick off June 11 in South Africa.

This will be the first year the Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup has been hosted by an African nation.

On campus, many international students feel the pride of their country and excitement in preparation for the games, which favor Brazil and Spain.

According to a 2008 study, students from as many as 58 countries attend OCCC.

Dauren Konyrbayev, Kazakhstan native, said he would be rooting for the Turkish team, the Crescent Stars.

Konyrbayev said, in his opinion, soccer is the biggest sport in the world and the game's passion reaches new heights every year.

"I really support all the teams, and the really interesting and close games

is what draws me in the most."

Of course, some students rooting for the home squad, despite the odds, which are 66 to 1 against the U.S., according to Ladbrokes.com, an international betting and gaming firm.

Wesley Okeke, Nigerian native, said he is excited about the World Cup this year and he is rooting for the U.S.

He said even though he is thousands of miles away from his elementary school, seeing his home team, the The Super Eagles play on television gives him a little taste of being right back at home.

K.B. Yeboah, OCCC head soccer coach, said he sees similarities between the professional teams competing in World Cup and his soccer club.

"It is all about determination, commitment and also to be able to have a group of people together as a team and not as individuals to represent this school," Yeboah said.

Yeboah, a native of Ghana, said he would cheer for The Black Stars.

He said watching the World Cup has

changed his style of coaching.

"The World Cup allows student athletes here on campus to emotionally play within themselves, and helps us coaches to be more organized in coaching them.

He said he is now making efforts to better understand players and at the same time make sure they understand him.

Some professors also are excited about the tournament.

Germain Pichop, Business and Macroeconomics professor, said he believes the World Cup's impact goes beyond the field.

"The passion of the crowd is amazing," he said. "It brings everyone together, and the only thing that matters most is the heart."

Pichop's said his favorite team is Cameroon's Indomitable Lions, and thinks his team has an early edge to victory.

"The players are just naturally gifted and the physical labor over the years has paid off for the guys," he said.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **June 14-18:** Children ages 10 to 14 will be offered tennis and golf lessons in the Youth Sports Camps at 8 a.m. to noon. The price per child is \$60. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **June 14-18:** FitKids Camps will offer Going 4 Gold for ages 6 to 12 and ESPN OCHO Sports ages 12 to 15 with both times from 1 to 5 p.m. The price for Going 4 Gold is \$35 and the price for ESPN OCHO Sports is \$40 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **June 14-18:** Also presented will be All Ball, at 8 a.m. to noon for children 6 to 11. The price is \$40 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **June 21-25:** Youth Sports Camps will offer children Baseball (Santa Fe South) and Basketball for girls ages 6 to 14 at 8 a.m. to noon. The price for the activities is \$60 per child. The FitKids Camps will offer Moving and Grooving, and Olympic Week at 1 to 5 p.m. The Price of Moving and Grooving is \$35, and the price of Olympic Week is \$40 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **June 21-25:** Camp-Rec Youth will offer children the Amazing Race to children ages 6 to 11. The price for the activity is \$40 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **June 28-July 2:** The Youth Sport Camps will offer children ages 6 to 11 and 12 to 14 Multi-Sport 1. The cost is \$60 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Budget: OCCC employees won't receive raises for second year in a row

Continued from page 1

said.

Sechrist said the proposed tuition increase, if enacted, "will help us balance the budget to be able to provide the sections students need to keep the labs open and not reduce staff."

He said the proposal will be discussed at the June 14 regents meeting, but won't be up for approval until the June 21 regular board meeting.

The State Regents for Higher Education will then vote on the proposal June 24.

Although it's not good, the funding reduction could have been much worse, Sechrist said.

A higher reduction in funding to the college could also have resulted in layoffs and furloughs as at least one state college has seen.

However, last-minute negotiations with the state legislature brought the funding reduction to just a little more than 5 percent, resulting in no layoffs, Sechrist said.

However, employees will still be affected.

Sechrist said the funding reduction means no raises for college employees.

"I regret that this will be the second year in a row that we're not able to provide salary increases to our employees," Sechrist said.

Dayshawn Burns, psychology major and Welcome Desk attendant, said it's unfair that employees don't get a raise with the cost of living on the rise.

"In my opinion, if you don't get a raise you're going to end up being behind on everything," Burns said. "We deserve raises because the

economy's changing."

One student worker is feeling the funding decrease.

Alicia Summers, health sciences major and Welcome Desk attendant, said she's been cut back to 20 hours per week as a result.

She said she understands the necessity of cutting back hours, but said she figures the college will eventually have to hire more workers to fill in the gaps, making this move a moot point.

"Right now we're really having to really push around people and make sure the Welcome Center is fully attended at all times which means we're going to have to hire on more people, which does not make sense."

Sechrist said the choice to not provide raises or merit pay is logical since personnel costs make up 70 percent of

the college budget.

He said by holding salary and wages the same, the college will see a savings of \$1 million.

"Freezing wages doesn't reduce current costs, but at least keeps personnel costs at their current level," Sechrist said.

Even with the salary freeze the college is struggling to cut costs and raise additional revenue, Sechrist said.

Along with the proposed tuition increase, the college is moving toward a self-funded health insurance program, Sechrist said.

The partially self-funded health insurance plan would have the college placing employee health insurance premiums into a special college account.

Claims would then be paid from that account rather than

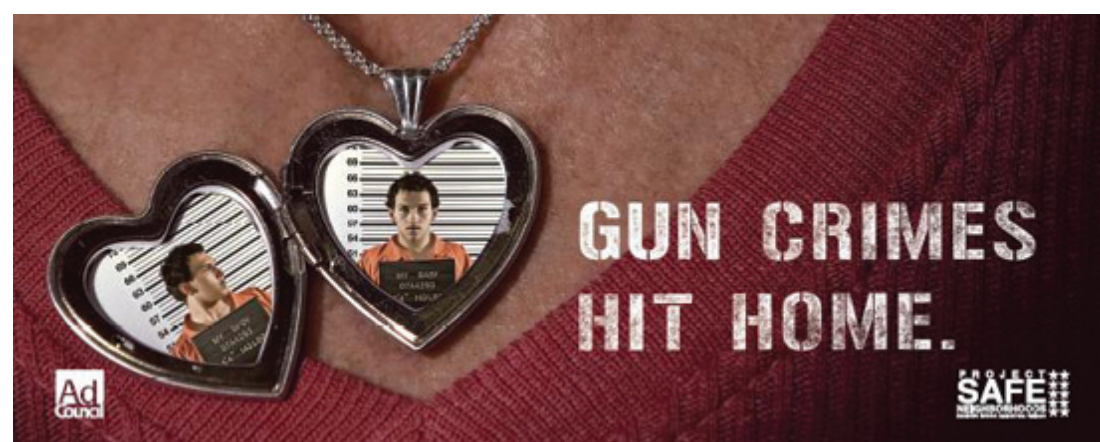
paying the premiums to a third party who then pays the claim on behalf of the college.

Sechrist explained the plan is partially self-funded because OCCC also will provide third-party "stop loss" insurance that will pay claims on behalf of OCCC should the self-funded account run short.

He said this change will save the college a 15.5 percent increase in health insurance costs.

The good news in all of this, Sechrist said, is the college has maintained all faculty positions and kept all resources available for students.

"We're going to work hard to make sure the student experience of what resources are available in the labs, the hours our college is open, and free tutoring in the labs remain in place," he said.



Do you have news you'd like to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC student worthy of a mention. If so, contact Justin at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hands-on art

Jesse High, video major, adjusts equipment on his music video set June 3.

The set is in the soundstage studio that High was able to use in his Cinematography II class. High said he has almost finished the music video, "Head Over Heels" by Crocodile.



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

ORGANIZATIONS | Gay Straight Alliance members plan to participate in annual Gay Pride events

Parade participants to march proudly

BONNIE CAMPO

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Oklahoma City gay and lesbian citizens and supporters, including OCCC's Gay Straight Alliance, will celebrate the annual Gay Pride events June 25 to 27.

The parade, the third of the three-day festival, begins at 6 p.m. June 27 at NW 36th Street and Classen Boulevard near Memorial Park and ends at the 39th Street Strip, NW 39th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Dan Hair, parade chairman, said this year's theme is "Simply Proud."

The event is a celebration for the gay community, Hair said.

"It is a bridge to the straight community that we more than ever want

If you go

WHAT: Gay Pride event

WHEN: June 25 to 27

INFO: Contact Dan Hair at 405-917-9699

WEB: okcpride.org

to be connected," he said.

The parade and festivities date back more than 30 years and had about 40,000 people attending in 2009, Hair said.

He said a block party will be held 7 to 11 p.m. June 25 at the 39th Street Strip.

The party will offer music, races and games for a younger crowd, Hair said.

Dell, the Pride's largest sponsor, donated \$10,000 to the event, he said. The group also has major support from Budweiser.

"The way they get in-

involved is they have a few gay employees who want to get involved and from there, it is a snowball effect," he said.

Gay Straight Alliance members are eager for the celebration, said Camryon DeCarlo, alliance president.

DeCarlo said she is excited to enjoy the parade and to cheer people on for being proud of who they are.

"I think the parade is a great way to say 'Hey we are queer and we are proud,'" she said.

For the first time in the parade's history, Hair said, a group of drag queens will perform at 4 p.m. June 27, before the parade begins.

Patrons can purchase food and non-alcoholic drinks and beer from local vendors at the event,

he said.

After the parade, prizes will be awarded in three categories:

- best in parade
- best use of theme
- most imaginative

Contest participants must register online before the parade.

Hair said although the deadline has passed, late fees will be waived.

Event organizers are hoping to see a great amount of involvement from the community, he said.

"Through this event, I want people to know this is a celebration of life, where everybody is one regardless of any difference between them," Hair said.

"We look forward to seeing even more people attend this year whether they are straight or gay."

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Employment workshops offered

Student Employment and Career Services will teach power workshops 12:30 to 1 p.m. every Thursday beginning June 10 in the Main Building, Room 1G7. Information about job strategies, résumé and career exploration are offered. For more information, e-mail Debra Vaughn at dvaughn@occc.edu

Career fair to be held

Rose State College will host a career fair 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 17, in the College Student Center. The fair will feature organizations such as Braum's, Frontier Electronic Systems Corp., Alpha Business Solutions and Tinker Air Force Base, among others. Registration is required and available online. For more information, visit aftercareers.eventbrite.com.

Employment Guide's job Fair

The event will be 1 to 5 p.m. June 22 at the Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center. Some of Oklahoma's top companions will be at the event for job seekers to meet face-to-face and shake hands with several companies representatives. For more information, contact the job fair hotline at 877-741-9534.

Clubs asked to update records

A club officer list for each organization is due and can be changed on the group profile on the club homepage or can be given to Karlen Grayson, Student Clubs and Organizations assistant, in Student Life. For more information, e-mail Darin Behara at dbehara@occc.edu.

Student Leadership retreat

Students can attend the 2010 Student Leadership retreat Aug. 13 through 15 at Quartz Mountain Resort. The trip will feature a special guest and information about how to deliver bad news, putting together a presentation, and becoming a strong leader. Applications are on the Student Life website at www.occc.campusgroups.com/, and the \$25 registration fee must be paid by cash or a check made out to OCCC and given to Marcy Roll in Student Life.

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.

Is your club or organization active this summer?
If so, contact Bonnie Campo:
staffwriter1@occc.edu

We want to hear from you!

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.

FOR RENT

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female roommate needed to share room in SW Oklahoma City. Must have a good reference. Roommate offered own bedroom. Pets are allowed inside the house. Smoking and drugs are not allowed. Call Kelli at 405-205-0740, only after 6 p.m. or e-mail poohbear73064@hotmail.com.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1998, Chevy Silverado C1500, 350 engine, A/C, electric lock windows, automatic. Drives great. \$3,500. OBO. Contact: Kimberly at 405-686-0940.

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Ad Council Earth Share

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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9 Made sleep noises
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25 Note
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

MIRAGE PEA OPTS
ISABEL REV BAIL
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TRAFFICLIGHT
PLATE LEE ESSSES
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HOUDINI YAK TUG
ANS SIR OPE ONA
WYE SOS UPDRAFT
SUN BAY ODIE
ERNIE AIL FASTS
THUNDERCLOUD
HIDE AGE REMOTE
ANEW SUP CLAWED
NOSY YES ASPENS

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51 Alloy used for magnets
52 Ran
53 Avoid adroitly
54 Flat-bottomed boat
55 Beneath
57 Sea eagles
60 Nastase of the courts
61 Light tan
62 Fibs
63 For fear that
64 Music and sculpture

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Film: Grad plans trek to Hollywood for award ceremony

Continued from page 1

Pixar, and Robert Zemeckis, director of such films as “Forrest Gump” and “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?”

For his effort, Powers said, he’ll take home a few prizes.

Winners receive a trophy and a cash prize, — \$5,000 for Gold Medalists, \$3,000 for Bronze, and \$2,000 for Silver. The Honorary Foreign Film award’s cash prize is \$1,000.

Powers said while winners know they will receive a medal and prize, they don’t know how they’ve placed until the presentation at the Awards Ceremony, which is held June 12 at the Samuel Goldwyn

“I think it’s exciting that we get to do work here in college and then we get recognized in LA.”

—ISAIAH POWERS
OCCC GRADUATE

Theater in Los Angeles.

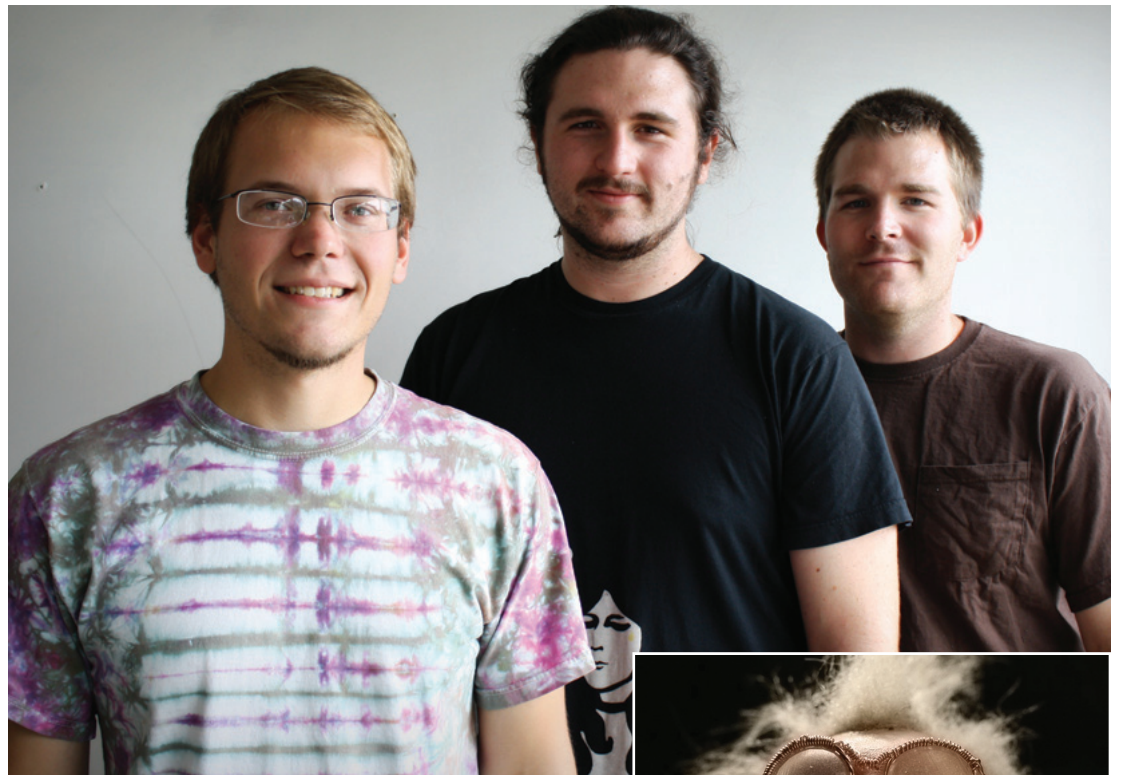
He said no matter the prize, he is happy.

“There was a pretty good amount of tunnel vision while we were working on the project,” Powers said.

“I think it’s just exciting that we get to do work here in college, and then we get recognized in LA.”

More information on the Student Academy Awards can be found at www.oscars.org/awards/saa. To find out more about the short film “Dried Up” go to driedup.wordpress.com.

For more on OCCC’s film program visit www.occc.edu.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ISAIAH POWERS

Top: left to right: Isaiah Powers, Stuart Bury and Jeremy Casper. The three friends collaborated to produce an animated short film “Dried Up” as their senior thesis while students at the Kansas City Arts Institute of Missouri.

Right: Powers said many of the props and sets in the film are created from objects found in junkyards or garage sales. “The old guy’s hair actually comes from the tuft of hair on a Furby,” he said.



OKLAHOMA CITY
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News about OCCC, events on campus, photos, videos – they are all on the college Facebook page! Go to the page, click on the “Like” button, and you will be able to view college postings directly from your own Facebook page.



Twitter – <http://www.twitter.com/OTripleC>

Want your news about the college in small bursts? Then following the college’s Twitter account may be right for you.



Alerts – <http://www.twitter.com/OCCCalerts>

Used only for emergency communications (campus emergencies, weather-related closures, etc.). And if you want these alerts sent as text messages to your cell phone, we can do that! Instructions can be found at <http://www.occc.edu/alerts>.