



FORMER PROFESSOR TO PLEAD IN COURT

Cassandra Meek, former biology professor, is scheduled to plead into drug court in August. Meek is facing multiple drug-related charges.



EDITORIAL

TWO SIDES EXPLORED

Was a part-time professor wrong in the way he taught his class last semester?

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NEWS

GRADUATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

June 26 is the last day to apply for summer graduation.

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RECREATION

LEARN TO SWIM

Swim lessons from refresher courses to advanced will be taught all this month and in July. See inside for specific dates.

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PIONEER

JUNE 18, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Enrollment up by 17.7% over last year's numbers

Developmental courses most affected by enrollment increases, official says

JUSTIN COMBS

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OCCC has experienced a record-breaking summer enrollment, due in part to an increase in adult students and those taking developmental classes.

The college headcount is expected to come in at 6,682 students enrolled for the 2010 summer semester said Stu Harvey, Planning and Research executive director.

Harvey said that is a 17.7 percent increase compared to 5,679 summer students who were enrolled in 2009.

Credit hours have risen to 34,059 versus 28,780 from summer 2009, Harvey said.

Developmental classes, such as College Writing I and College Prep Math I, have taken the brunt of the student surge.

There are many things that can be attributed to the high number of remedial students, Harvey said.

"Some students may be returning to school after a long period of time to brush up their skills or are coming academically unprepared out of high school," he said.

Harvey said general education courses such as English, history and college algebra also have experienced a large growth in summer enrollment as more students are trying to keep on track to graduate.

Kimberley Diaz, nursing major, said she's taking general education courses this summer to reduce the amount of time spent in college.

"I'm wanting to get my credits out of the way much sooner so I can move on with my life," Diaz said.

"So I'm wanting to get my general education requirements out of the way."

“People are thinking twice about leaving their education because there is a perceived value of having one.”

—STU HARVEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
PLANNING AND RESEARCH

See **SUMMER** page 9

Lighting the way



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Darrell Pearman, Facilities Management mechanic, searches an elevator for possible trapped people June 14 in the Main Building. The elevator quit working after people exited it on the third floor. After it was found no one was in the elevator, signs were left to inform students it was closed for repairs.

Professor put in spotlight over teaching methods

DANNIEL PARKER

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OCCC part-time biology professor Michael D. Talkington has gained attention recently — both at OCCC and nationally — for his alleged teaching of creationism and has found his teaching under scrutiny.

The college's Sciences and Math division is investigating Talkington based on one of his former student's allegations, said Max Simmons, Science and Math dean.

Talkington denied the student's claims.

The allegations stem from a May 27 complaint on the blog of student Bryan "Jaden" Walker at jadeneternal.wordpress.com, who alleged Talkington teaches creationism and wrong information about HIV/AIDS in his classes.

Walker said in his blog that during a lecture in spring 2010, Talkington shut the door to his classroom and handed out a sheet of paper titled, "The Origins of Life — Two Opposing Views."

Then, he said, Talkington dismissively summarized evolution for 20 seconds but then spent five minutes discussing his belief in intelligent design or creationism instead.

According to www.intelligent design.org, "The theory of intelligent design holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection."

See **DEBATE** page 9

OPINION

POINT/COUNTERPOINT | Intelligent Design in the classroom: More informed or unproven logic?

More ideas lead to more wisdom

The battle over the theories of Evolution vs. Intelligent Design has raged since Charles Darwin unveiled his concepts more than 200 years ago.



**ETHAN
HENDRICKS**

Recently, OCCC students, faculty and administration have joined the fight thanks to a choice by adjunct Biology Professor Mike Talkington who allegedly taught students Intelligent Design during his class this spring semester.

Intelligent Design roots lie in the ideas such as Earth is only about 6,000 years old, and humans were created by an intelligent entity and did not evolve from lower life forms.

College administrators say Talkington is within his rights to teach what he wants in his class as long as he meets all course objectives.

However, in his online blog at <http://jadeneternal.wordpress.com>, student Bryan Walker said Talkington mostly disregarded the evolutionary theory and chose to promote Intelligent Design.

He said the teacher did it behind closed doors in what seemed to be an attempt to hide that the theory was being promoted. He questioned why a scientist would teach such a controversial subject in a college class.

The real question should not be why Talkington taught Intelligent Design. Rather, it should be: why shouldn't he? After all, Talkington teaches both Intelligent Design and evolution in his class. He is not violating college policy nor shortchanging students of knowledge.

Instead, he's truly educating the students by showing them both sides. In high school, students are taught nothing but the evolutionary viewpoint for science.

When they get to college and take a biology course, there is probably not a lot of new information they will learn if professors keep to the evolution script. But, allowing Talkington to teach both views will create well-rounded students who will be better informed and better able to understand their chosen fields or argue their views.

Religion has no place in science class

At OCCC last spring, Mike Talkington, biology professor, allegedly taught an Introduction to Biology class in support of Intelligent Design and abstinence.

Intelligent Design is the theory that man did not evolve but was created created by an intelligent entity. It also centers on the idea that Earth is only about 6,000 years old. While some would argue, he did the right thing because students need to become more diverse in their education, what Talkington is said to have done is wrong.

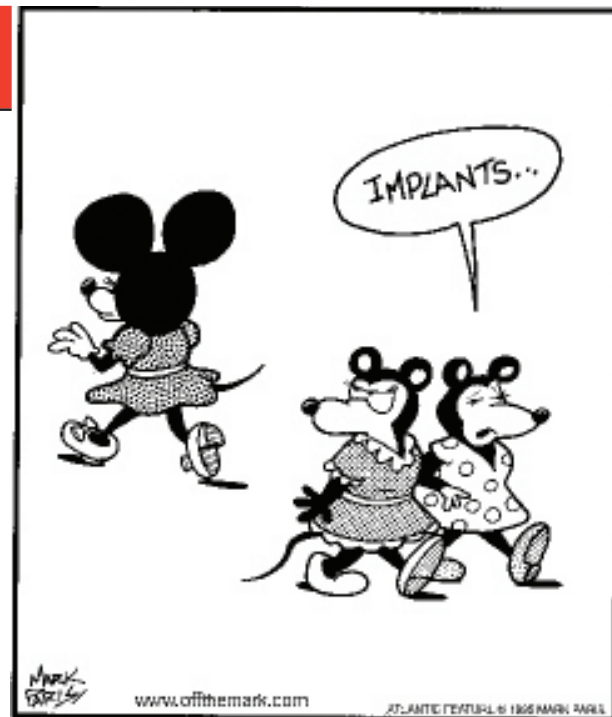
He is teaching a state-funded class that students are required to take for graduation, and he is teaching this class at a state college. This could be interpreted as the state forcing students to participate in a religious class, which is illegal.

Another aspect to consider is uniformity. Students transferring to another college are expected to receive instruction in general education that is similar to the transfer university's or college's own core curriculum.

For example, according to the University of Oklahoma's website, all transfer credits must be compared for equivalency and warns students that their credits may not be accepted if they do not meet these requirements.

Not only did Talkington's alleged religious lecture violate the students' rights to not participate in religious activities; what Talkington did may have damaged his students' educational careers. Because the class did not focus on academically-accepted scientific theories, they may have to retake the class when they transfer to another state school.

The college should offer a course that is devoted to the teaching of Intelligent Design as a theory. The point is students should be allowed to make a decision whether or not they are educated in matters of religion. They shouldn't have religious views forced on them because of one professor's preference.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

YOUR VIEW | Think outside the box

We can do more

To the editor:

I was a bit disappointed to hear of all OCCC's budget woes in the latest edition of the Pioneer. It seems there are several places we could save money that have not been addressed.

First off, how many times have you visited a classroom or office on campus that was extremely cold? The vents in my office routinely blow at anywhere from 64 to 70 degrees.

When I was a student here, I always brought a jacket (even in the summer) because classrooms were so cold. I understand that air circulation is an issue, but does the air have to be so cold?

Also, to our faculty: turn off the lights and turn off the computer when your class is over.

We should also be speaking to the IT department regarding whether or not they recommend computers and equipment being unplugged at the end of each day. If this could be done, energy costs could be drastically reduced. What about printing? Is it really necessary to print out e-mails and syllabi? If faculty would agree to it, syllabi could be posted solely online and stricter printing policies would save the college money on paper and ink. I guess all I'm proposing is that we start thinking outside the box in terms of saving money around here.

—LAURIE THORTON
SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION ASSISTANT



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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

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

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

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

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MUSIC REVIEW | Listen to my words

Lyrics rescue MGMT album

The techno-rockband, MGMT, released a new more intimate sound in the new album "Congratulations" this past month.

Compared to their hit CD "Oracular Spectacular," their creation produces a peculiar melody accompanied by toe-taping beats with excellent vocal stimulation.

The eight tracks shred all ideas that MGMT would continue in their old ways.

Formed in 2002, the band's front man Andrew Vawngarden continues to captivate the most attention of the two bandmates, with his unique voice that puts listeners in a trance like state.

Once relying upon solid bass lines and computer-generated noise, the band has revolutionized its style into a even more homophonic texture.

The evidence is expressed in some of the band's tracks with new use of a contemporary acoustic guitar.

The first MGMT CD was geared for radio listeners, but provided enough revenue for them to explore and construct a resonance that better describes their style.

They now play with a variety of instruments, and possibly use their innovative technique to attract a diverse audience.

Issues of self-identity arise within "Congratula-



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

tions" in tracks of "It's Working" and "Flash Delirium."

The band strives to be so different they insert too many random noises and odd harmonies, in which they lose pure simplicity.

If there were ever an album that was constructed to be lyrically concise, this would be it.

MGMT sings a song titled "Song For Dan Treacy" that offers the lyrics, "No rest for the mind that's seen it all before."

The album personifies sorrow and amplifies uncertainty.

The CD's most impressive track is "Siberian Breaks." Compared to the band's others, it's tamed, yet the most lyrically apathetic of all.

Vawngarden sings in the song, "If you can't save it, leave it dying on the road."

This work of art provides endless possibilities to multiple listeners, but because of its unconventional tempo and melody the sound places the piece far from being an instant classic.

Rating: B-

—**BONNIE CAMPO**
STAFF WRITER

FILM REVIEW | Good for laughs, but I'm not buying it

Suspense and laughter lift 'Killers'

Katherine Heigl is back in a fast-paced, clever romantic comedy featuring Ashton Kutcher as her sexy costar in "Killers."

Jen Kornfeldt (Heigl) is your average, beautiful computer genius recovering from a bad break up when her parents invite her on a European vacation.

Mortified at vacationing with her parents, she accepts an invitation to dinner from Spencer Aimes (Kutcher), a mysterious and romantic hunk of a man.

Unbeknownst to Kornfeldt, her dream guy is a former agent for the CIA who left a lonely but promising career to be with her.

Fast forward three years. Suddenly, Jen and Spencer are forced to dodge bullets from people they thought were their neighbors and friends.

Spencer must come clean about his past and together, they have to find out who has put a multi-million dollar hit on them.

The action is suspenseful and at times, the film is hilarious. Heigl brings her girl next door charm and her performance is genuine. The chemistry between Kutcher and Heigl has moments where it sizzles but lacks a certain something special.

To his credit, Kutcher performs well in his high

action role.

Unfortunately, the script calls for a personal revolution in Aimes that is out of Kutcher's typically comical comfort zone. He does his best to be sincere, but the air is thick during deeper scenes in the film.

Tom Selleck turns out a surprisingly fun performance as Aimes uptight father-in-law. Catherine O'Hair is the highlight of the entire production as Aime's alcoholic mother-in-law.

The writing is inconsistent, which leaves uncomfortable moments throughout the film. But, all in all, the film is solidly funny and suspenseful.

The action and comedy work together to bring about an unexpected climax that will have viewers on the edge of their seats thinking "really?"

Although the plot is farfetched and slightly unrealistic, the film is a typical Hollywood production of secret agent meets unknowing blond. It is a feel-good movie without a lot of depth that may be better reserved as a rental rather than a night out at the theater.

Rating: B-

—**JENNIFER MASSEY**
STAFF WRITER

ADVISER'S 411

Seek assistance to plan ahead

June has already started off as a busy month in the Office of Academic Advising. Summer enrollment is now winding down and summer classes are well under way.

For students planning on attending in the fall, this is a great time to meet with an Academic Adviser or one of the Faculty Advisers working in our office for the summer semester.

Faculty Advisers can help you in the selection of your faculty approved electives, career exploration, and a variety of other needs particular to your major.

For international students who will be traveling within the United States and abroad this summer, now is a good time to come in and meet with an Academic Adviser to set up your fall courses.

By doing so, international students ensure that their enrollment and degree/course planning is done and they can spend their summer worry free about finding the appropriate courses at the right times for their schedules.

All students who wait until the last minute to enroll may find that class availability at times that are convenient with their work and personal schedules are more difficult to find.

Enrolling early also allows you to ask important questions and get informed responses.

Students often want to know: What classes do I have left to take? Can I take an intersession course? What is online coursework like, and is their online help if I have trouble? Can I enroll online? Do I need to test for course placement? When do I apply for graduation?

These are all questions that the Office of Academic Advising can help you to get the answers to.

Therefore, planning ahead and meeting with an Academic Adviser now may ensure optimal course placement and course availability. To set up an appointment for summer to meet with an Academic Adviser or a Faculty Adviser call 405-682-7535.

—**MARY ANNE BODINE**
ACADEMIC ADVISING
DIRECTOR

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

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES HOSTS WEEKLY CAREER POWER LECTURES

Workshops focus on internships, job hunting

JEREMY CLOUD

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Student Employment and Career Services is hosting Career Power Workshops at 12:30 to 1 p.m. every Thursday during the summer in Main Building, Room 1G7.

The workshops will cover important topics such as creating résumés and cover letters, internships and how best to approach an interview, said Debra Vaughn, Student Employment and Career Services director.

"We chose these workshops to present over the summer because these are the subjects students ask about the most, and that best represent the services we offer,"

Vaughn said.

Vaughn said she believes the workshops will help students become strong candidates for jobs.

The workshops will be presented by Vaughn and the rest of the staff in the Student Employment office, she said.

Bethany Lang, psychology major, who works in the Communications Lab, said she hears about many of the workshops and brown bags, and likes going to them.

"I think they're really helpful to students, especially résumé creation," Lang said. "That's always tricky once you sit down to do it."

The workshops will be presented in a lecture format, Vaughn said, with a question-and-answer session after the lecture.

Kiecharita Woods, radiology major, said she attended a few workshops in the spring and would like to go again if her class schedule permits.

"The things they teach always apply, especially topics like résumé building and career exploration," Woods said.

Students who are unable to attend the workshops are encouraged to visit the Student Employment and Career Services offices for help, Vaughn said.

"Please call us or come by," Vaughn said. "We're always happy to talk to you."

Student Employment and Career Services is located on the first floor of the Main Building, next to Student Life.

Employment and Career Power summer workshops

June 24 — Cover/Application Letter Creation

July 1 — Career Exploration (DISCOVER)

July 8 — Applying for Jobs on & off Campus

July 15 — Internships (Greater Grads)

July 22 — Optimal Interviewing

July 29 — Professional Dress for Interviewing

All workshops are held 12:30 to 1 p.m. in the Main Building, Room 1G7. For more information, contact Debra Vaughn at or 405-682-1611, ext. 7362, or dvaughn@occc.edu.

**Source: Student Employment and Career Services*

SMART Tech Inc. displays revolutionary SMART board during college math conference held at OCCC

DANNIEL PARKER

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Members of the OCCC Science and Math Division researched the latest in classroom technology when they participated in a demonstration of SMART Board technology recently.

OCCC hosted the summer conference for the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics June 11.

There, Susan Sawyer, certified SMART Board trainer, gave a demonstration.

The SMART Board Sawyer used was a third-generation model, produced by SMART Technologies.

Sawyer said they cost more than \$2,000 each but could be shared by multiple teachers.

Math Professor Gail Malmstrom said SMART Boards also allow teachers to save step-by-step class presentations, so if a student misses a class, it would be possible to could go on-



PHOTO COURTESY SMART TECH INC.

A SMART Board is pictured. A board trainer demonstrated how the board works to the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics on June 11 at OCCC.

line and get the information they've missed.

SMART Boards are interactive computerized white boards that connect to a

computer.

From the computer, they run off a software program called Notebook, Sawyer said.

The boards allow a user to screen capture all notations written upon the board and allow the audio recording of their accompanying lectures.

This allows math professors to play back their equations in step-by-step format, with an explanatory voice over, Sawyer said.

As opposed to dry erase boards or PowerPoint presentations, the boards can save any information written upon them, she said.

This allows a teacher to pull lessons from their computer, and thus pull up any information that a computer can store, like videos, Internet links or images.

During Sawyer's presentation, her SMART Board didn't appear to work properly, as the screen would stop registering her touch.

The same problem was encountered at a second demonstration, at the Pro Presenter's merchandise table later that day.

Devon Gunter, Math Lab

developmental instructor, said he felt buying SMART Boards for math classrooms would be a good use of college funds.

"Anything we can do to get the students more interactive in their learning is a good investment," Gunter said.

"I believe SMART boards can revolutionize online learning."

OCCC has two SMART Boards, Malmstrom said.

She said she doesn't believe SMART Boards are feasible for the college, due to teachers not having their own classrooms.

Sawyer said the boards are not very portable, so if OCCC were to implement SMART boards, it would need one per classroom.

"But it's feasible for multiple teachers to share one SMART board, provided they have their own personal user login, and you can circumvent changing of lessons if professors saved their material on portable flash drives," Sawyer said.

AUTOMOTIVE STUDENT THE VICTOR IN STATE MECHANICS CONEST

College student wins automotive contest



CHRISTIAN KOSTED/PIONEER

Daniel Murphy, automotive major, checks the fuel rail pressure on a Buick LeSabre in the Automotive Lab. Murphy placed first out of 25 students in the SkillsUSA State Secondary Contest of Oklahoma.

CHRISTIAN KOSTED

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OCCC automotive student Daniel Murphy won first place in the SkillsUSA State Secondary Contest of Oklahoma at the OSU Institute for Technology in Okmulgee, recently.

The event was an automobile skills contest highlighting different areas of auto care. Murphy won after demonstrating 12 different types of auto care and maintenance.

Murphy, a high school student when he won, will attend the national competition in Kansas City later this month.

"The feeling of winning this competition was very rewarding and I couldn't be happier," Murphy said.

"The competition involved measuring brake drums and rotors with a micrometer, repairing torque converters, and three or four categories involving electrical systems in which I measured voltage and

amps," he said.

Murphy is preparing to enter OCCC's Automotive Service Education Program. The ASE program is specific to General Motors vehicles and is sponsored by GM, Murphy said.

Automotive Technology professor Jason Ferguson was pleased at the win.

"I've only had Daniel for two classes but he's been an exceptional student," Ferguson said.

Murphy said he became hooked on car repair when he was in eighth grade and his father bought a 1997 Thunderbird with a blown head gasket.

"My father and I overhauled the engine," he said.

"The feeling of bringing something that was dead back to life was amazing."

He said he will be completing his internship at Bob Moore Cadillac Saab in Norman.

"Short term, my goal is to be the best mechanic in the shop," Murphy said, "and eventually manage my own automotive shop someday."

OCCC to update math placement testing program beginning this fall

JENNIFER MASSEY

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The college is changing the way students are taught math and the number of developmental math courses students must take beginning this fall.

Students who are placed in developmental math courses will now enroll in courses including College Prep Math I, II, III, or IV based on their placement test scores.

The classes are specially designed to improve pass rates among adult math students, said Janet Mitchell, math professor.

In a presentation to area-wide math teachers and professors June 11, near the Math Lab, developmental mathematics program coordinators Mitchell and Linda Knox explained the changes that will take place this fall.

The developmental mathematics curriculum will be divided into four, three-credit hour, eight-week courses, Knox said.

Mitchell said the first college prep math will encourage student interaction by incorporating mini lectures and hands-on activities.

Knox said College Prep Math II through IV will be different than the first preparatory class.

These courses will be taught using an approach that blends face-to-face, small group and computer-guided instruction, Knox said.

The department also has set new admissions placement score guidelines, Mitchell said.

Mitchell said the previous placement testing was like rolling dice to get students into the appropriate classes.

Knox, who is in the first few weeks of summer classes, has already implemented the new structure in her classroom.

"For some, it was like brushing off cobwebs," Knox said.

Mitchell said the first thing students said after participating in some of her hands-on activities was that it made them think.



Read us online
www.occc.edu/pioneer

FORMER STUDENT GRANTED AWARD FOR GOOD DEEDS

OCCC graduate 'happy' to receive President's Volunteer Service Award

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Faustino "Tino" Ceballos Jr., a 34-year old business, political science, and pre-law OCCC graduate, recently won the President's Volunteer Service Award for assisting with Oklahoma City humanities programs.

The award is signed by the president of the United States and is meant to encourage others to participate in a volunteer service.

Cabellos said he is happy about the award.

"I feel highly motivated and excited," Cabellos said.

Cabellos he said he has been volunteering at local churches and parks before he began college at OCCC.

After starting college, Tino said he began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity,

Oklahoma City's Adopt-A-Street program and the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon.

This is the latest honor Cabellos has been given.

Katie Treadwell, Student Life coordinator, said Cabellos is a great student leader at OCCC.

"On service days he is the first one here and the last one to leave," she said. "He is very dedicated to whatever he is involved in."

Last year, Cabellos received the College Civics Honors award, presented by OCCC President Paul Sechrist for his volunteerism.

Cabellos is not a newcomer to public service.

His first volunteer job was about 15 years ago after the Oklahoma City Murrah Building bombing.

Then he volunteered at a local church to help identify

victims for their families, he said.

Cabellos said he will continue to volunteer long after he has achieved his personal goals.

With his financial and business degree, he said he plans to help people in many communities who own businesses and homes.

"People out there need help," he said. "They are hungry and need clothes and shelter. There is always going to be someone who needs help."

"This is the passion I feel when I do these things."

Cabellos said he has not decided which school he plans to attend after his time here. But, he plans to obtain a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in finance and economics as well as a master's degree in political science and law, he said.



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Faustino "Tino" Ceballos proudly shows his President's Volunteer Service Award. Ceballos received the award for his extensive volunteer help with churches and other charity based organizations.

OCCC Students and faculty prepare for graduation as deadline approaches

Director explains process for summer graduation.

ETHAN HENDRICKS
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Students who plan to graduate at the end of this summer must submit their applications by the end of July, Barbara Gowdy, Graduation Services director said.

The deadline is June 26 Gowdy said, but said the department does accept applications until the last day of the semester.

"It's not hard to get the

forms needed to graduate," said Gowdy. "Students just need to come in and fill out the application.

"It's that easy."

Students also need to make sure they turn in their transcripts and make sure they are finished with all their classes, she said.

Gowdy said while students may finish classes in the summer and graduate, they won't be officially graduated until the commencement ceremony in May.

She said students also need to be aware of the graduation procedure when pursuing multiple degrees.

"Students don't always

know that if they are getting multiple degrees or certificates," Gowdy said. "They have to fill out an application for each one."

Gowdy said she is unsure how many students will walk in the ceremony to be held May 7.

"We don't really know how many students will graduate," Gowdy said,

"But with the economy, we are hoping for an increase in graduation rates."

She said the numbers might be higher than last summer when the college saw 144 students graduate.

That number was down from the year before, she said.

“Graduation is one of the happiest days of the year for the faculty and staff here at the college. It's the completion of a journey that started several years ago.

—GREG GARDNER

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS VICE-PRESIDENT

Greg Gardner, Academic Affairs vice-president, said graduation is something to look forward to.

Graduation is one of the happiest days of the year for faculty and staff here at the college," Gardner said.

"It's the completion of a journey they started several years ago.

"It's a proud moment for

those who work here at the college," Gardner said.

Gowdy agrees with Gardner that graduation is the pinnacle of the college experience.

"It makes us feel great to see all the graduating students who come through the office," she said.

"It makes it worth our while."

MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE COMPETE IN EVENT

Athletes endure OCCC SuperSprint Triathlon



Top: Bret Brewer of Oklahoma City takes off from his bike station after the 500-meter swim. Brewer rode 14 miles followed by a 5-kilometer run. He placed 27th in the 500 and 97th in the bike ride but didn't finish the run. OCCC hosted the triathlon June 12 for the 15th year.

Text and photos
by Jennifer Pearsall

More than 200 competitors swam, biked and ran to the finish line June 12 at OCCC as the college hosted its 15th SuperSprint Triathlon. The event consisted of a 500-meter swim in the OCCC pool, followed by a 14-mile bike ride around the outskirts of the OCCC campus and ended with a 5-kilometer run around campus.

Newcomer Justin Logan, computer science major and college lifeguard, said this was his first college triathlon.

In between gulps of a sports drink and while talking with his dad, Logan said the course was grueling. He finished with a time of 1 hour, 23 minutes, 6 seconds, placing him 60th overall.

"The wind was killing me — I'm out of shape. I saw some 51-year-old pass me," he said.

Area residents also competed in a relay event. Placing fifth was Team Mathe Soulek, led by Lauren Mathe.

As she stretched and had a few gulps of water before the running leg of the race, she seemed excited.

"My mother-in-law is biking, my

sister-in-law is swimming and I'm running," Mathe said.

"She (Mathe's mother-in-law) probably has 30 more minutes on the bike and I'll take off."

Athletes weren't the only ones caught up in action.

Volunteers, friends and family members were spotted around the course cheering for nearly every athlete.

Connie Franklin, Oklahoma City, one of Saturday's many supporters said, "I've been watching my husband race for five years and last year was my first year (to race)."

Franklin did not participate Saturday due to her pregnancy, but was a supporter for her husband and many friends.

The triathlon had a few minor mishaps, such as temporarily not having all the score sheets. Recreation and Fitness Coordinator Khari Huff said the event was running smoothly overall.

"It's being ran very very good," Huff said.

"I've got a lot of positive feedback."

SuperSprint Triathlon overall results

Top Male Scores

Christian Ballad — 00:58:04
Travis Newton — 00:58:45
Mike Franklin — 01:00:55

Top Women Scores

Abbie Smith — 01:07:12
Shannon Tigert — 01:08:01
Shelly Utsch — 01:11:42

To view a complete list of results visit www.occc.edu/pioneer



Top: Addi Floyd of Edmond swims across the OCCC pool during the 500-meter swim. Floyd placed 15th in swimming and 83rd overall in the women's division with a time of 2 hours, 7 seconds.

Right: Justin Logan, computer science major, downs a bottle of water after he finishes running in the final part of the triathlon. Logan placed 60th overall. He said the SuperSprint Triathlon was his first, and he was pleased with how he performed.



SPORTS



Motivation

Amber Smith, communication major, works out on the stationary bicycle while texting June 15 in the cardio room inside the Wellness Center. The cardio room is open 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Fridays in the Wellness Center. For more information, contact the Wellness desk at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

RECREATION | Learning to swim uniquely combines fun and discipline, swim program assistant says

Swimming classes designed for all levels

DEMERYE PAULIN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Throughout June and July, OCCC is offering swimming lessons to students and other individuals from 18 months to adults. The cost is \$30 per person.

The lessons will consist of seven divisions based on the skill of the swimmer: Parent/Tot, Preschool, School Age Beginners, Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Adult.

According to the Recreation and Fitness website, a participant can be placed in a specific class level after careful review.

Or, if a person is unsure of their skills, can asked to be place in a lower level class as a refresher course.

The refresher course also is available for those who have been away from swimming for at least three months.

The swim classes are taught by American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors who are on duty at all times

during lessons, according to the OCCC Recreation and Fitness website.

"Our classes are just fantastic," said Learn to Swim Program Assistant Tre Kramer.

"All of our water and safety instructors are positive and current in knowledge of the fundamentals to assist people in their future."

Classes meet Monday through Thursday June 14 to June 24, June 28 to July 8, July 12 to July 22, and July 26 to Aug. 5.

Lessons in the Aquatic Center are 9 to 9:40 a.m., 9:50 to 10:30 a.m., 10:40 to 11:20 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. for the morning sessions.

Evening lessons are 5 to 5:40 p.m., 5:50 to 6:30 p.m., 6:40 to 7:10 p.m., and 7:20 to 8 p.m.

All participants need to bring their own swimming clothes and a towel.

Kramer said he wants students to grasp water safety and the priorities of swimming.

"Having an idea of how to react in

any situation is even more important," he said.

Kramer said he wants students to finish the classes able to swim without assistance.

"To me, a swimmer is someone in the water who swims for about 30 minutes with no life jacket, and a person who displays feelings of safety in the water with confidence," he said.

Kramer said he also believes swimming, which compliments everyone, will benefit participants in the long run outside of the water.

"Students will become more conscious about water safety and develop a knack for fun and discipline," Kramer said.

A Learn to Swim party will follow at 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 6 in the Aquatics Center.

The party is free of charge to all participants and families.

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

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **June 21-25:** Youth Sports Camps will offer children's 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 Groovin' and Olympic Week at 1 to 5 p.m. The Price of Movin' 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 The Amazing Race to children ages 6 to 11. The price for the activity is \$40 per child. Camp Rec Teen will offer Olympic Week to children ages 12 to 15. The cost 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 Multi-Sport 1 for ages 6 to 11 and 12 to 14. The cost is \$60 per child. Youth Sport Camps will also offer Swimming for children ages 9 to 11 and 12 to 14. The cost 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 FitKids Camp will offer Party In The USA for children ages 6 to 12. The cost is \$35 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **June 28-July 2:** Camp-Rec Youth will offer Olympics to children ages 6 to 11. The cost is \$40 per child. Camp-Rec Teen will offer Olympic Week to children ages 12 to 15. The cost is \$40 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611 ext. 7786

• **Have sports news you or an upcoming event? Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7786 or staffwriter3@occc.edu.**

Summer: College sees 17.7-percent increase in students this semester

Continued from page 1

David Yanez, architecture major, said he feels the same way.

"It's better to get this out of the way now rather than later," Yanez said.

The soft employment market has contributed to the spike in summer enrollment, Harvey said, however, the value of education is the most relevant trend.

"People are thinking twice about leaving their education because there is a perceived value of having one," he said.

Unemployment in Oklahoma has stayed lower than the national rate, Harvey said, but has still grown significantly during the past two years.

The national unemployment rate is 9.7 percent and Oklahoma's unemployment rate is 6.6 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The likelihood of having a career with a college education prompted Melissa Helms, sociology major, to stay ahead in the summer.

"Jobs are still widely available in Oklahoma, but in other states the standards for employment have been raised and employers are expecting more from workers," Helms said. "I'm just wanting to be prepared."

Debate: Professor says he can focus on topics he wants

Continued from page 1

Walker said he had no problem with the professor having differing opinions.

"But, to basically tell a class that evolution is wrong and creationism is right, and not teach evolution at all when it's part of the curriculum, is pretty unprofessional," he said.

"It really made me question the validity of everything else the professor taught afterwards."

Walker said he finally walked out on Talkington's class when he discussed the size of viruses, and gave inaccurate information about subjects of HIV/AIDS and abstinence.

"He used the example of the AIDS virus," Walker said. "He said the AIDS virus was so small it could easily pass through the holes in condoms."

"Then he said, 'So I don't feel sorry for anyone who catches AIDS through unprotected premarital sex.'"

Talkington, who is not teaching classes this summer but said he is applying for a full-time position with the college next year, counters that he does not teach creationism

nor abstinence in class but believes in intelligent design.

He said he also does not emphasize evolution to his students.

Talkington also denied covering HIV in his class but said he believes the statements Walker claimed he made are factual about the virus.

"I have things inside my mind, as a scientist and a man

City seminary school, said he has the freedom to highlight topics he wants in his class and not to focus on evolution.

"I believe in intelligent design," Talkington said. "Therefore, I don't put any time into talking about evolution. I'm allowed to choose what to emphasize. I don't emphasize evolution. There are no test questions regarding evolution and I don't discuss it at length."

Talkington said he believes evolution is unrelated to biology.

"The origins of life don't affect what we know about how life exists now," Talkington said.

"Biology is the study of how life exists. Scientists know how life exists and everyone agrees on those issues. I don't

see how the origins of life, whether it was 10 billion or 5,000 years ago, matters in the field of biology."

Walker's blog caught the attention of scientists from across the country and OCCC faculty.

Walker's allegations that the professor taught against the theory of Evolution, caused Discover Magazine blogger Phil Plait to call for action.

In his blog "Bad Astronomy," Plait insisted readers should contact the North Central Higher Learning Commission, which accredits OCCC, to attempt to get the college's accreditation revoked.

Later, Plait rescinded his call to action, saying every school can have instructors who "sneak in their own brand of nuttiness."

OCCC Biology professor Jullian Hilliard also expressed concern.

Hilliard was the lone faculty member to comment on Plait's blog. He called for Talkington to be fired.

"Evolution is the single-most important theory in biology," Hilliard said.

"Nothing makes sense in

biology without the light of evolution."

Hilliard said creationism is not a scientific theory.

"And this is not my personal opinion — it's the opinion of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Society for the Advancement of Science," he said.

"It's mainstream science. And students pay their money to come here and learn science, not religion."

Talkington, who has taught at OCCC for 17 years, said he is distressed that "this got blown out of proportion."

"I wish Mr. Walker would have just talked to me about the problem. He had every opportunity to do that," he said.

More than one OCCC student backed Talkington, and said creationism or intelligent design should be taught in college.

James Brasseaux, who was not a student of Talkington, said he believes it should be open to interpretation whether a professor chooses to teach creationism over evolutionary theory.

"I believe God did everything. I don't how he did it, but I know he did it," said Brasseaux, computer science major.

In the meantime, Simmons said the division will continue with its investigation.

"We will take the appropriate action when it is done," Simmons said.

"We've heard from Talkington that he does not teach creationism in his class, but he does teach evolution," Simmons said.

Simmons said if it's found that Talkington is de-emphasizing evolution, then he is not meeting the criteria of the syllabus, and that needs to be corrected.

"The best result for Talkington is that he'll continue to teach here," Simmons said.

"The worst thing that could happen is that he will not be allowed to teach here."

"And there are many possibilities in between."

"I have things inside my mind, as a scientist and a man of faith, that prove to me that intelligent design is true. But if you ask any of my other students if I teach creationism, I'm sure they'll tell you that I don't."

—MICHAEL TALKINGTON
BIOLOGY PROFESSOR

of faith, that prove to me that intelligent design is true," Talkington said. "But if you ask any of my other students if I teach creationism, I'm sure they'll tell you that I don't."

Talkington, a doctor of veterinary medicine who worked at Mid-America Christian University, a south Oklahoma



Hundreds of children have been injured or have died because of dangerous power windows in vehicles. The average power window has the power to cut a cucumber or a carrot or a grapefruit in two. And, today, too many cars on the road have "rocker" or "toggle" switches that are too easy to push and windows that do not automatically reverse when encountering resistance. A child in a car, with their head out of the window, a knee inadvertently pushing the switch, is a disaster in the making.

The message to parents is clear: Never, ever leave a child alone in a car. Not for one minute. The message to auto manufacturers is also clear: Every single car should have the safer switches that must be pulled up to raise the car window. And, just as garage doors, every car should come with "auto-reverse" mechanisms on all power windows. Power windows have the power to kill.

KIDS AND CARS
www.KidsAndCars.org

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student budgets time



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Sarah Bishop, political science major, studies while waiting to hear about her financial aid award in the Financial Aid lobby. Financial Aid is located on the first floor of the Main Building across from the Testing Center.

STUDENT LIFE | Professor surpasses expectations in clubs and classrooms

Club values supportive sponsor

BONNIE CAMPO
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

English professor Stephen Morrow was commended recently for promoting peace on campus and in Oklahoma City.

As the sponsor for the OCCC Advocates of Peace for six years, Morrow has been an influential and positive role model, his students and club members said.

"I try to hold a safe space for our students who are advocates, and lend my support in all of their wonderful ideas," Morrow said.

Morrow said he has

been involved with the college since 1988, when he began as an adjunct professor in the Arts and Humanities division.

He said the club he built stems from a course he taught with the same name.

The club's mission of Advocates of Peace is to educate the college community about issues of peace and justice.

Club President Annalyn Gill said she has been helped by Morrow in and outside the classroom.

She said Morrow can make his students and club members feel anything is possible.

"It's obvious that this is

his life and peace advocacy means the world to him, so I think instilling this same passion in his students and those who encounter him is his biggest impact he makes," Gill said.

Morrow said he enjoys making a connection and working with students, as well as getting them involved with the Oklahoma City peace community.

"OCCC should be a high quality education for all of our students, and campus groups and social connection are an integral part to a first class education, so I want to support that," he said.

Katie Williams, club co-president, said Morrow has an unwavering commitment to his club and his students, and it shows through his effort and support.

"Having a strong sponsor is essential for a club's success," Williams said. "They are the momentum behind the events and the inspiration to the officers."

Williams said she feels lucky to know Morrow as a teacher and a person because he reflects a positive energy that spreads to everyone around him.

"He is certainly one of my biggest role models, and that doesn't just apply to school," she said.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Learn how to play drums

Classes to improve skills or teach styles of rock, funk, jazz and Latin are being offered in non-credit and one credit hour sessions each week over the summer. For more information, contact Professor Josh Knight at 501-269-1369

Annual essay contest

OCCC students may submit any past essay from College Writing II or English Composition I or II as long as they are or were enrolled in any Spring or Fall 2010 writing class. One essay per course may be entered. Cash prizes donated by textbook Publishers McGraw-Hill Pearson are given to winners. The contest deadline is in December and the contest is sponsored by Oklahoma City Community College Department of Language Arts. For more information, contact your English instructor or professor Kim Jameson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7653, or kjameson@occc.edu.

Humanities courses offered downtown

This fall, every Thursday evening from Aug. 26 to Oct. 14 two unique OCCC courses are offered through the OKC Downtown College. These courses examine museum collections and the behind-the-scenes operations. For more information, contact OKC Downtown College at 405-232-3382

FIFA at OCCC

Starting June 14, Student Life is airing a live web stream of the soccer games for students in the Student Union. Popcorn also will be offered. The schedule for games are posted in front of the Union. For more information, contact Darin Behara by phone at 405-682-7545.

GED graduation

Students in the GED program will celebrate at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the General Dining area of the College Union. Thirty-five to 96 students who will receive diplomas. For more information, contact Jessica Martinez-Brooks at 405-682-7545 or jmbrooks@occc.edu.

OBI drive

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 22 and 23, Student life will sponsor a blood drive in the College Union. Those who donate will receive a free T-shirt, a voucher for two tickets to the Oklahoma City Zoo and health screenings. For more information, contact the Institute by e-mail at www.obl.org

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.

Do you know of any upcoming club activities?
If so, e-mail Bonnie Campo at
staffwriter1@occc.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

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: 2006, Hyundai Tiburan, electric lock windows and doors, very low mileage, two doors, black sports car. Good condition and drives great. \$8,000. OBO. Contact: Maria at 405-659-8028.

TEXTBOOKS

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

FURNITURE

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

FOR SALE: Samsung 19” color television with remote. Great picture. \$50. Call: 405-200-8690.

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ACROSS

1 “Them” author
6 Shade of blue
9 Derrick
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15 Montreal’s prov.
16 Type of space
17 April 15 document
19 Very very
20 Toronto’s prov.
21 Peruse a book
22 Fashion
23 Chief
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25 Sailing vessel
27 Kind of pepper
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40 Lofly nest
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44 Frozen dessert
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48 Shark part
49 Rests
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53 Couch
54 Harem room
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DOWN

1 Prefix meaning “eight”
2 Actor Alda
3 Schoolbook
4 Play it by —
5 Music-buff’s purchase
6 Team
7 Asian native
8 Urge
9 Messenger
10 Act like a king
11 Business-letter abbr.
12 Social misfit
13 Historical period
18 Pitcher with a spout
22 Endeavor
23 Kind of balloon
24 Mockery
25 Slumber
26 Zodiac sign
27 Beach
28 Seedless oranges

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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55 Car blemish
56 War god
57 Machine part
58 — Antonio Spurs
59 Crude metal



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New community development vice president has strong track record

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

A Florida University administrator with a penchant for fixing old sports cars was named OCCC's new Vice President of Community Development recently.

Steven Bloomberg, executive director of Community Development from Florida Gulf Coast University, said he plans to promote community development through cultural and recreational classes and activities.

Bloomberg said the first thing on his agenda will be to get acclimated and to help the members of his division.

"As an administrator, my job is to ensure that the students receive the best educational experience possible," Bloomberg said.

He also will supervise the directors of the Capitol Hill Center, Career Transitions Program, Community Out-

reach and Education, Cultural Programs, Recreation and Fitness and the extension agent of the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance.

While at Florida Gulf Coast University, Bloomberg implemented a new online registration system and founded the Southwest Florida Training and Educational Alliance, he said.

Bloomberg also created the Great Scholars Lecture Series featuring nationally recognized faculty members from universities such as Harvard and Stanford, he said. Bloomberg said he plans to mimic this program at OCCC.

"Mr. Bloomberg is a results oriented, dynamic leader with a strong track record of performance in higher education," said OCCC Executive Vice President Jerry Steward.

Bloomberg is familiar with the mission of community colleges. He began his college education at a Cerro Coso Community College in

Ridgecrest California. He said community colleges are very important to him.

"No other type of educational institution has as broad a mission and touches so many lives," Bloomberg said.

He holds a master's degree in education from West Texas A & M as well as a bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of La Verne, Calif., said Bloomberg.

Although Bloomberg grew up in Nebraska he is no stranger to Oklahoma.

"I'm very familiar with Oklahoma because my wife is an Oklahoma native," Bloomberg said. "Oklahoma is a great place and one would be hard pressed to find more genuine or honest people."

For recreation, Bloomberg enjoys automotive restoration, a hobby he has enjoyed since the age of 13. He is currently restoring a '95 Mustang Cobra.

For more information about Community Development activities call 405-682-7814.



BY JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Steven Bloomberg
Community Development Vice President

Students reminded about concise writing

JENNIFER MASSEY
Staff Writer
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E-mail has replaced the formal business letter in today's contemporary office, said Penny Hampton, Professional Development director.

Hampton guided students through how to write an e-mail June 8 during a summer workshop "The Anatomy of an E-mail."

She stressed the importance of being aware of grammar and other mechanics of communication.

"It is important to know the mechanics of a well thought out and written e-mail," Hampton said.

Hampton told the crowd e-

mail was first meant to be a way to send quick messages sort of like today's instant messaging.

However, it has evolved and is now today's formal business letter.

She told those in attendance every part of the e-mail is important, especially the To line.

"Most of us have funny stories we can tell about a misdirected e-mail," Hampton said.

"You have written a brilliant message. It is perfect in every way. Direct, detailed, precise and even humorous," she said.

However, when you send it and colleagues who receive it think it's nice but wonder-

what it has to do with them.

Then, she said, "all of your skills in writing the perfect e-mail are for naught."

She also explained the different options that can be used when addressing an e-mail.

She said the To line includes anyone who needs to receive the information.

The CC, or carbon copy, line is for those who need to know that the information was sent to the recipient.

The BCC or blind carbon copy, line is a little trickier and should be used with extreme care.

"Blind carbon copies are by nature, sneaky. They are electronic talking behind someone's back," Hampton

said.

She then spent a few minutes addressing what she considered the most important and the most neglected part of an email — the subject line.

Useful and to the point subject lines will prompt the reader to prioritize the information being sent to them, she said.

Hampton warned against using features which marked e-mails urgent, notify sender or follow up.

She said the content of the e-mail, if written correctly, should speak for itself.

"If you have worded the message and or subject line to communicate what your expectations are from the re-

cipient, you do not need to use the cutesy red flags, chili peppers, or other denotations of urgency," Hampton said.

As the seminar came to a close, Hampton touched briefly on the body of the e-mail message.

"To whom it may concern" is no longer used as a formal greeting," Hampton said.

It is the responsibility of the sender to research the proper way to greet the recipient, she said.

She also addressed the formal manner in which to complete the closing of a message.

In closing, sincerely is the coldest, but is appropriate in formal correspondence, Hampton said.