

WORKSHOPS
PROVIDE
INTERVIEW
INSIGHT

Job skill workshops are held every Thursday in July as a free service through Student Employment and Career Services. Find out about upcoming sessions.



CREDIT CARDS

FINANCIAL
PROBLEMS
CAN HAUNT
STUDENTS

OCCC counselors say a majority of students who visit their office are stressed out due to financial troubles stemming from credit card debt. Read to learn how credit card companies target students and how to avoid problems.

NEWS, p. 12

EDITORIAL

TRANSIT
SYSTEM
LAGGING
BEHIND

Some students' needs are not being met by Oklahoma City's transit system. Pioneer staff writer Christy Johnson says it's time for some solutions.

OPINION, p. 2

STUDENT LIFE

LEADERSHIP
RETREAT
PLANNED

Student Life's annual retreat is Aug. 13 to 15 and is open to everyone. See inside for more.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

PIONEER

JULY 9, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Campus security updates planned

JUSTIN COMBS
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Safety and Security will change two ways it handles information coming into the college about potential threats, as it continues to deal with the after-effects of a shooter scare, said Cordell Jordan, Media Relations coordinator

OCCC will more tightly control who gets access to sensitive information about threats such as school shooters and bombs, Jordan said. And, it will record calls made to Safety and Security.

Threatening information will be sent out "on a need-to-know basis," Jordan said.

"We need to get a hold on who we inform about what, and how [information] can be misinterpreted or miscommunicated," Jordan said. "We just need to be a little more careful with the policy we have."

The change comes after a message was sent Feb. 26 to the Community Outreach and Education department about how to handle a possible threat during a swim

See **UPDATES** page 5OCCC to consider
name badges

CASSIE STEGALL
News Writing Student

OCCC employees may be wearing name badges soon, as part of a recommendation made to the college by the Timely Emergency Communications Task-

force.

The recommendation came after a shooter scare Feb. 26, said Student Services and Enrollment Vice President Marion Paden, who co-chaired the

See **BADGE** page 5

Eggact science



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Student William Dorsey concentrates on the proper release of his egg vehicle June 30 off of the second floor of the Main Building. Adjunct science professor Kenny Tapp held the event as part of his physics class. See page 10 for an additional photo.

PORTIONS OF CAMPUS SHUT DOWN AFTER HEAVY RAIN

Storm floods college

ETHAN HENDRICKS
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Much of the Social Sciences Center, Wellness Center and the Aquatics Center were shut down July 7 after about 2.5 inches of rain the evening before led to partial flooding of the college.

The college reopened July 7 with students and faculty being moved into other campus buildings. The weight room reopened July 8 but the Social Sciences Center and pool remained closed

View slideshows of flooding in the parking lots and the water damage to OCCC buildings at www.occc.edu/pioneer



at presstime.

J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director, said the college was on top of the situation.

Facilities Management used

See **FLOODS** page 9

DIRECTOR ASKING FOR 400 TO 500 PEOPLE TO DONATE TIME

Arts Festival Oklahoma
in need of volunteers

ASHLEY MERRITT
News Writing Student

Arts Festival Oklahoma directors said they are actively seeking volunteers to help prepare for the Sept. 4 to 6 festival on campus.

Cultural Arts Director Lemuel Bardeguez said those interested in volunteering should contact

his office now, as July and August are the main planning months for the arts festival.

The festival has about 25,000 patrons and is the largest in Oklahoma during the fall, Bardeguez said.

He said the directors need 400

See **VOLUNTEERS** page 9

OPINION

OUR VIEW | More bus routes needed as the city grows

Transportation woes still a problem for many

OCCC students who don't have cars or reliable transportation to the college can only get here by using the METRO Transit system.

Route 12 comes to OCCC and puts a bus near the Main Building nearly every 30 minutes.

This bus covers much of the southwest side of the city.

Unfortunately, the bus system is letting many students down, especially when they are trying to leave the college.

Some say the buses are simply too slow, often turning what would be a 15-minute car ride into a nearly two-hour city tour — the bus ride from OCCC to NW 10th Street and MacArthur Boulevard takes an hour and forty-five minutes.

Others say the system doesn't offer enough stops during its 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. run.

For example, a student who lives in Spencer can

only ride a bus from the bus terminal downtown in the morning and one in the evening.



CHRISTY JOHNSON

If the student misses the bus either way, he or she must find another way to get to or from school because of the limitations on bus routes outside of the greater metro area.

And still others who have classes after 8 p.m. have to figure out a way to get home — the bus won't come for them.

METRO Transit is the only public transportation in the Oklahoma City area. It is surely safer than walking, and less costly than a car.

The public transportation system

has improved over the years, adding additional routes and extending transportation times.

Yet, some students feel that although public

transportation in Oklahoma City has improved, it still falls short of what bus riding patrons need.

These riders are right in noting the system is in need of an overhaul.

To remedy this issue the Oklahoma City METRO Transit system needs more buses, more routes and more frequent stops.

METRO Transit has yet to comment on the questions for when it will improve bus schedules and routes again.

The transit system needs to react to the needs of the community. There are too many people who rely on the service for those in charge to come up short with solutions.

For bus routes and fares, contact METRO Transit at 405-297-2484 or visit www.gometro.org.

Comment on this article at www.occc.edu/pioneer

YOUR VIEW | Update needed for college homepage

OCCC website difficult to navigate

To the editor:

As fall semester draws closer, new students are beginning to enroll for their first semester.

In the age of computers, more of these new students are turning to the campus website for information, enrollment and admissions.

Just as quickly, new students learn a very troubling fact: the OCCC website is nearly impossible to navigate without the help of campus employees.

The application to the college itself is hidden under the Admissions dropdown. With no easy access to the application, new students would never be able to find the application themselves.

Also, the costs to attend are difficult to find and scholarship information is not even offered online. The catalogue and schedule, while not hidden, are not easy for most new students to find.

To find anything with-

out prior knowledge of the website would be impossible.

Most new students looking for enrollment information or information on degrees or classes would be lost.

Some degrees, including the degrees offered in the Film and Video department, are not even listed on the website.

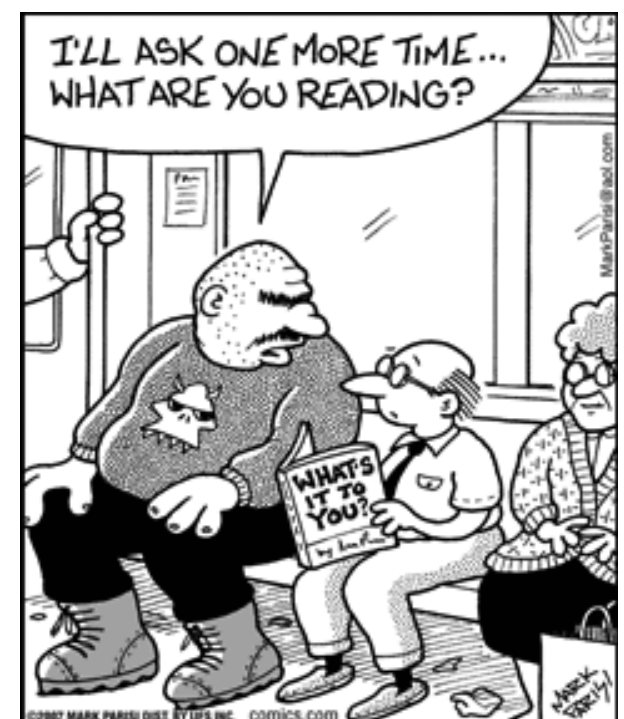
When the OCCC website is put up to comparison against the University of Oklahoma's website, OCCC pales

greatly in comparison.

All of OU's prospective student information is easily accessed showing scholarships, costs, housing and more, and the link to apply is a large, clearly visible link on the home page.

The OCCC website needs a very serious facelift if OCCC's officials want students to ever be able to effectively use the website for gaining information.

—**KELSEA BURTON**
OCCC STUDENT



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

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

FILM REVIEW | He said/She said: Not all fans agree with the outcome of new vampire movie

How does 'Eclipse' compare?



COURTESY OF SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

He said: Better acting make it best 'Twilight' so far

Thousands of fans are flocking into theaters to see "Eclipse," and those fans will not be disappointed because it is easily the best movie in the the "Twilight" saga so far.

The third installment continues the heavy use of character-driven plot lines that made the first two movies work so well.

But it also has the added draw of being the first movie in the series to show the vampires and werewolves in full-out, no-holds-barred warfare.

Century-old vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), his human lover Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), and Bella's werewolf friend Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) continue their love triangle, as Jacob decides to try one last time to win Bella away from Edward.

And while Edward and Jacob fight over Bella, the Cullen clan faces threats from all sides, as enemies old and new return to make their lives difficult.

The cast has hit their stride in this one. All the

actors and actresses present relaxed, believable performances and work seamlessly with each other to bring the story to life.

Pattinson and Stewart's onscreen romance has finally left the anguished, insecure stage and moved on to a love that looks and feels natural.

Lautner delivers a powerful portrayal of an angry man who loves a woman who loves another man.

The special effects are nothing short of astounding. The effortless speed

and strength of both vampires and werewolves is made to look real. It's made to look as simple for them as breathing is for a human.

This movie is strong enough to stand on its own, independent of its predecessors.

Rating: A+

—JEREMY CLOUD
STAFF WRITER

“The cast has hit their stride in this one. All the actors and actresses present relaxed, believable performances ...”

She said: Great movie for fans, but lacks overall bite

Team Edward or Team Jacob? Wherever your allegiance lies, there is plenty to go around in "Eclipse."

The film is the third of Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" saga, a series of books-turned-movies centered on Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), a human teenager who is torn between vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) and werewolf Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner).

In "Eclipse," the story takes a dark turn when a series of grisly killings is believed to be the work of newborn vampires: newly-changed monsters whose desire for blood is uncontrollable and insatiable.

Soon, Edward determines these newborns are soldiers in an undead army created by Victoria (Bryce Dallas Howard), an evil vampire bent on killing Bella to avenge her mate James (Cam Gigandet), who was destroyed by Edward in the first book/movie.

Those who liked the first two movies will probably like "Eclipse." Fans of the books will appreciate how true the film managed to stay to its hardbound counterpart.

“'Eclipse' will meet diehard fans' expectations, but it won't do much to soar above them.”

Little of the novel's original allure is lost in translation, though Edward devotees may be a little peeved at how easily Lautner's witty, often-shirtless Jacob steals the spotlight away from the brooding vampire.

Action junkies will relish the thrills this film has to offer over previous installments, especially in the climatic final fight scene, where fangs and fur go a-flyin'. The greatest disappointment of "Eclipse" is the replacement of the original Victoria, played by Rachelle Lefevre.

Her doe-eyed, soft-spoken demeanor is a far cry from the dangerous killer Meyer created — and that Lefevre played flawlessly.

Howard's watered-down performance isn't enough to ruin the movie, but it certainly dampens it.

"Eclipse" will meet diehard fans' expectations, but it won't do much to soar above them.

Rating: C+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

JOB & CAREER POWER

Question: How can students learn about interviewing for jobs?

Answer: Please visit the office of Student Employment and Career Services for a variety of helpful resources.

First, I highly recommend registering at www.optimalresume.com and utilizing the Optimal Interview Prep Module. You may select from nine types (behavioral, screening, panel, etc.) of interviews or build your own interview for the particular career field you seek to enter.

The number of interview questions, from one to 20, may be chosen as well as the response format, whether you will record your responses through the webcam and microphone on your computer, or use the written response option.

This website presents four interviewers and a virtual coach who shares strategies for the most appropriate way to answer those tricky questions that can make or break your chance of landing the job. After recording your responses you may view them in split-screen to critique and then improve your interview skills. You may also share your interviews with mentors and colleagues.

A second resource is the student job board at www.collegecentral.com/occc that features multiple interviewing videos through the Career Advice Video Library.

Some of the titles include "Interview Advice – Do Your Homework," "Tricky Interview Q&A; Apprentice Interviews" and "Interview Advice – Common Mistakes."

To register, please use your OCCC seven-digit student ID number as your access ID.

A third option is the website of the "Society for Human Resource Management" at www.shrm.org with extensive professional interviewing guidance. For example, behavioral interview questions such as: "How do you know when you are stressed? What do you do to de-stress?" Or, "Tell me about a time when you were a part of a great team. What was your part in making the team effective?" And, one final example: "Give me an example of a time when you had to deal with a difficult co-worker. How did you handle the situation?"

The Optimal Resume/Interviewing website states that behavioral interviews are also known as situational interviews and are "... used to determine how you might perform in their situation by looking at past experiences and behavior."

They recommend "... being concise and giving answers using real-world examples is the best approach."

—DEBRA VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND
CAREER SERVICES DIRECTOR

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | New movie misjudges jump from TV to silver screen

‘Airbender’ decent, but could be better

“The Last Airbender” swept into theaters July 1 with a large marketing campaign costing \$280 million.

Despite grossing about \$70 million in its first five days, the movie is a flop.

Overall, the movie is not that impressive, and leaves viewers with a sense of disappointment and wishing for their money back.

The movie centers on the cartoon workings of Nickelodeon’s “Avatar: The Last Airbender.”

The setting of the movie is a fantasy world where people known as benders can bend or manipulate elements to their will.

The main character, Aang (Noah Ringer), is the Avatar, the only person who can bend all

four elements.

He is awakened after a centuries of slumber by Katara (Nicola Peltz), a novice water bender, and her brother Sokka (Jackson Rathbone).

The Avatar must battle the evil Fire Nation which has been waging war against the other nations for years.

When people go to see the movie, they must keep in mind that director M. Night Shyamalan had to take 20 episodes and stuff them into 103 minutes.

It’s not a great movie, and most of it doesn’t work, but the biggest problem is the acting.

Ringer’s acting as Aang is stiff and makes his character seem lifeless and dull compared to Aang in the cartoon.

Playing at —

Regular screenings:

- AMC Crossroads Mall
- Moore Warren Theatre
- Harkins Bricktown
- Dickinson Penn Square
- Cinemark Tinseltown
- AMC Quail Springs Mall

3-D screenings:

- Moore Warren Theatre
- Hollywood Spotlight
- AMC Quail Springs Mall
- Kickingbird Theaters

Dev Patel, who plays Prince Zuko, is over dramatic with his dialogue and Rathbone’s jokes bomb throughout the entire movie.

All the actors deliver stale characterizations, and their lines are said with forced agony.

Another bomb is the cinematography, which is choppy from begin-



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

ning to end, as the characters move from location to location with no explanation.

For those who have not seen the cartoon, the movie may be confusing and seem disjointed.

The 3-D viewing is less than spectacular and not

worth the extra money to see.

The movie is not a total loss, however.

The fighting and action scenes were very good due to good choreography, stunts and special effects.

Let’s hope Shyama-

lan does better at the plate with the two movies scheduled to follow which will chronicle the next two books of the series. (www.lastairbenderfans.com)

Rating: C-

—ETHAN HENDRICKS
STAFF WRITER

GAME REVIEW | ‘Naughty Bear’ provides a fun, entertaining game

Knocking the stuffing out of bears proves fun in video game

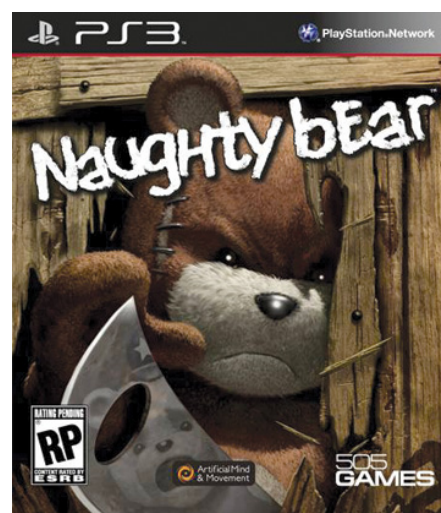
Take all the best parts of every slasher movie you can think of, throw in some teddy bears and the result is “Naughty Bear,” the hilariously macabre game released June 28 for PlayStation3.

The gamer plays the titular character, Naughty Bear, a teddy who’s tired of being made fun of and ignored by other bears on Paradise Island.

In retaliation, Naughty takes a butcher knife and sets out to slit his happy neighbor bears’ throats or tries to drive them insane.

“Naughty Bear” is a score-based game. The aim of the game is to get Naughty Points for destroying property, killing bears and driving them insane. Naughty Points also can be gained by completing side missions and fulfilling objectives.

The environment of the game is well done. A cartoonish style takes the em-



COURTESY OF 505 GAMES

phasis off graphics, and the world is full of objects that can be destroyed, most of which can be used to kill bears in creative and violent ways.

To those with twisted minds, “Naugh-

ty Bear” is a laugh fest.

The narrator is dementedly cheerful. The bears bleed stuffing when stabbed, and the startlingly detailed looks on the bears’ faces when Naughty kills them are pure entertainment.

Unfortunately, the game has a couple of downsides. While playing a murderous teddy bear is vastly amusing, gameplay slows down once an area has been cleared of enemies.

There also are side missions that take quite a bit of time to complete, and the player can become frustrated as the score multiplier ticks down to zero while he or she struggles to find the last item needed to complete the objective.

The controls depart from the classic PlayStation setup, which can be annoying in the middle of combat.

Attack, defense, and some of the interactions are set to the R2 and L2

buttons, which can make for some interesting accidents.

For instance, reacting instinctively to stab a bear that’s trying to shoot, Naughty occasionally results in Naughty’s weapon being dropped, as the X button is used for picking up objects, instead of hitting things.

“Naughty Bear” succeeds in that it’s funny and a great way to unwind after a stressful day at work.

Players looking for an in-depth gaming experience, such as the people who enjoy finding every last item, and getting the highest score possible should take a pass on this this game.

Otherwise, you just might take a cue from Naughty, and stab this game repeatedly.

Rating: B-

—JEREMY CLOUD
STAFF WRITER

STUDENTS TO MAKE A FILM WITH AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKERS

Movie project combines video, theater majors

AMBER HODGE
News Writing Student

For the first time at OCCC, theater students will team up with film and video students to make a short film.

Film and Video Program Director Greg Mellott said the production — titled “Going Down” — is part of an Oklahoma Film Institute summer seminar held until July 16 at the college.

The film will be staged in an elevator car which will be constructed for the film, Mellott said.

Ruth Charnay, Communication and

the Arts department director, said she is glad students from both programs have the opportunity to participate together in the clinic.

“It just made sense to put the acting and film students together,” Charnay said.

She said the students will work with Mellott, who is the Emmy award-winning writer and director of the documentary “Dream No Little Dream.”

The students also will work with Gray Frederickson, the Oscar-winning producer of the “Godfather,” trilogy along with many other feature films,

Charnay said.

Sean Lynch also will work with students. Lynch is the producer and co-writer of the feature film “Unsolved,” Charnay said.

Theater major Elizabeth Chappell said she is excited to participate in the clinic and has already auditioned for a part in the short film.

“I have enjoyed the experience tremendously so far,” Chappell said.

She said, even if she does not receive a part in the film, she will be able to help out around the set and observe the process.

She said once she complete the seminar, she will receive three credit hours toward her degree.

Leonard Jackson, theater major, said he also is thrilled to be involved.

“I think it’s great and it will build my résumé,” Jackson said.

Mellott said all students will receive a finished copy of the short film.

The college will retain rights to the film, but the students will be able to use it for whatever they choose, he said.

For more information, contact Mellott at 405-682-1611, ext. 7793, or e-mail gmellott@occc.edu.

Updates: College aims to limit information access on ‘need-to-know basis’

Continued from page 1

meet. There was no actual threat, he said.

However, that message was miscommunicated by several people, and resulted in the college being locked down and an OCCC security guard shooting his gun.

Jordan said no one involved in the miscommunication or the shooting was fired or demoted but said he couldn’t comment as to whether any employees received a reprimand from the college over the incident citing the Open Records Act.

Jordan said from the incident, the college learned how things can be miscommunicated. In addition to restricting access to information, Safety and Security will begin digitally recording telephone calls made into and out of the office.

“The calls can be used for investigative purposes and also training to monitor how we handle dispatch calls and what the specific threat is,” Jordan said.

Those recorded calls will be available for the public upon request. General calls to the college operator will not be recorded. Only those sent to security will be digitized, he said. Also, the college will separate the college operator’s switchboard from the Safety and Security dispatch station, Jordan said.

“The dispatcher needs to be only in charge of security calls and dispatching security,” he said.

Alex Mangum, engineering major, said he’s surprised the college didn’t record any the dispatch phone calls in the first place. “It’s interesting that they’re just now using that technology,” Mangum said. “I always thought all areas of law enforcement used it.”

Stephanie Murray, general education major, said she agrees it’s been a long time coming for the technology. “As easy as it is for consumers to buy that technology, I can’t believe the college is just now doing that,” Murray said.

Badge: Task force recommendation stems from shooter scare Feb. 26 on campus

Continued from page 1

taskforce.

The incident involved a report of a gunman in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library on campus. At that time, no college policy required faculty and staff to wear name badges, according to the list of college policies and procedures on the college’s website.

The task force — which was made up of college staff, administrators, students and faculty — calls for all employees to be required to wear name badges somewhere visible on their bodies.

However, the group asked the college not to enforce the recommendation until fall 2011 at the earliest.

Paden said she thinks name badges are a good idea because students and guests often come in contact with staff members and faculty they may not know.

Student Life Assistant Marcy Roll also thinks name badges are a good idea.

“Name badges allows you to put a name to a face” Roll said.

Roll said she has always worn a name badge, and all the staff in her department wear them although they are not required to.

The name badges are gold colored with magnetic backs and cost \$7.50 cents each, said



WHITNEY KNIGHT/PIONEER

Durell Carter, literature major and Student Employment and Career Services employee, wears a staff name badge while he works on campus. The Timely Emergency Communications Taskforce has recommended all college employees wear name badges somewhere visible on their body by fall 2011.

Sara Hill, OCCC Bookstore employee.

Within the past month, an estimated 30 name badges have been sold, she said.

While employees are only recommended now to wear name badges, some OCCC departments such as Safety and Security are required to wear them, Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque said. However, not all are in favor of the name badge recommendation.

Student Marci Howard, said she does not think the name

badges will have an effect.

“I feel a little more at ease if I see a name badge,” Howard said. “But I figure if someone were to come on campus, they could find a way to do something bad.”

Read the Timely Emergency Communication Taskforce’s complete summary report at www.occc.edu/pioneer

PIONEER
Online
www.occc.edu/pioneer

TONYA KYMES SAYS SHE CHANGED THE COMMUNICATIONS LAB INTO A 'FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT'

Lab supervisor moving into teaching position

KATHRYN NASH
News Writing Student

Students who regularly receive writing help from OCCC Communications Lab Supervisor Tonya Kymes will soon have to find a new person to help them overcome writing challenges.

Kymes will leave the lab July 30 to take an English teaching position at the college.

She said she took over the lab, which is located in the Main Building behind the OCCC Coffee Shop, two years ago and transformed it into a friendlier environment.

Kymes said she will miss working with the staff and students.

"If you can leave with things being better because you were there, that is really all you can hope for," she said.

Kymes said one of her greatest accomplishments while supervisor has been creating a pleasant

“

If a student forms a friendship with a tutor, in addition to their academic relationship, more often than not that student will be more successful."

—TONYA KYMES
COMMUNICATIONS LAB SUPERVISOR

environment in the lab.

"This lab is not intimidating at all," she said.

Kymes said the lab is a friendly place where students can come visit as well as receive assistance.

"We like to say we are family," she said. "If a student forms a friendship with a tutor, in addition to their academic relationship, more often than not that student will be more successful."

Kymes said she also is pleased that she assisted in making her staff feel like part of the college.

She said she feels like she helped make her staff into teachers and gave them the skills to teach and tutor

writing.

"I love that I have increased their professionalism," she said.

"I smile big when I think about that."

She said she often tries to make her staff laugh because it tends to ease certain situations and just makes life better, she said.

"I love my job," Kymes said.

Dayshawn Burns, psychology major, said the staff is helpful and very friendly.

"The staff gives a lot of feedback on papers and helps with different ideas on how to write," Burns said.

Lab staff members said they have mixed emotions as



JEREMY CLOUD/PIONEER

Tonya Kymes, Communications Lab supervisor

Kymes finishes out her last few weeks.

Lab Assistant Brandon Isaak said Kymes made the lab a better place to work.

Lydia Rucker, lab assistant, agrees with Isaak.

"She lets us be ourselves and supports our ideas," Rucker said.

The college has not found a replacement for the lab

supervisor job, Kymes said.

Kymes said she is on a search committee and hopes to have the position filled by the end of the summer.

Until a person is hired, her staff will fill in. She said she hopes to train the new director and said she wants to find someone whose personality meshes with the lab and staff.

Parenting course scheduled to launch in the fall semester

Class will be required for all child development students

DANNIEL PARKER
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

OCCC will offer a parenting class starting this fall to teach students how to raise children throughout the first 18 years of their lives.

The 16-week course is scheduled 1 to 1:50 p.m. Mondays beginning Aug. 23.

The parenting class is the brainchild of Cecilia Pittman, Child Development Program director.

According to the rough draft of the course descrip-

tion, the class will begin by teaching healthy pregnancy tips and end with how to deal with teenage power struggles.

Parenting is a one-credit life skills class, similar to Success in College and Life, and is a requirement for students working to receive child development degrees, Pittman said.

But for some parents, she said, the class will be mandatory as they attempt to regain custody of their children.

Those parents will be referred to the class from the Department of Human Services, and others will be court ordered because of crimes such as child abuse or neglect, Pittman said.

"It's important for the state to help parents, and offer as-

sistance to people and teach them how to raise their children," Pittman said.

Pittman volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate, representing children who are the victims of abuse in court, she said.

Pittman said she works with a child whose parents didn't know children need to be spoken to and read to from the day they are born.

"All their kids do is stare at the TV and watch videos," she said.

"Now that family has a 5-year-old child that cannot speak, and there is nothing mentally wrong with him — it's a developmental problem."

Pittman said she's contacted more than 20 organi-

zations that deal with child development services, to try to build working relationships between them and the school.

Parent's Assistance Center is one of the organizations the school is courting a co-operative relationship with.

According to research data provided by the center, parenting classes are beneficial to fixing the problem of child mistreatment.

PAC Executive Director Char Carter said they would love to provide guest speakers to help OCCC's parenting classes.

Pittman sent a mass e-mail June 26 to the OCCC community, introducing the parenting course.

Pittman said the response

was overwhelmingly positive.

She said Executive Vice President Jerry Steward responded to her e-mail and told her it was "the best idea the college has ever had."

But the reaction to the new class is not entirely positive.

Denny Myers, Information Systems and Services director, said he doesn't understand why the course can't be a non-credit class, available to everyone.

Myers offered a different solution for struggling parents.

"It's simple. Just raise your damn kids," he said.

"If you are struggling, don't take a college course and waste your money. Buy food for your kids."

HATS, PETS, LIGHT AND SENSES ARE ON THE CDCLS'S TEACHING AGENDA

Children experience hands-on learning

JENNIFER MASSEY

Staff Writer

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Children in OCCC's Child Development Center and Lab School are learning about light and shadow, hats, pets and senses this week, said Lisa Jones, Early Childhood Development teacher.

The center is divided into four classes, Preschool A and B, and Infant and Toddler A and B, Jones said.

Jones, a teacher in the Preschool A classroom, is teaching her class about light and shadow with Magna-Tiles.

"We are teaching them about objects that are transparent and opaque," Jones said.

"When you stand in front of light, it makes shadow," said Peyton, 4, a student at the center.

The Preschool B class is beginning a project about hats, said Constance Pidgeon, early childhood teacher.

"Especially because of the weather, our goal is to help them learn that hats protect us from the sun," Pidgeon said.

Theresa Cooper, early childhood teacher in the Infant and Toddler A class, said her students are learning about pets.

She said her students are reading books and singing songs about pets, and will be making puppy chow, a chocolate and peanut butter treat.

"The benefit of studying about pets is to teach them animal awareness," Cooper said. "The kids are approved to bring their pets on Fridays."

She said the children will learn about each pet brought to class.

Infant and Toddler B is learning about senses, said Heather Pierce, Early Childhood Development teacher.

She said it's important to teach them about senses through activities such as touching, smelling and hearing because that is how children learn when they aren't verbal yet.

For more information about the CDCLS, visit www.occc.edu/ChildDev or call 405-682-7561.



Above: Peyton, 4, (back) and Ethan, 4, (front) study light and shadows with Magna-Tiles in the Preschool A class. Once they are finished with the light and shadow unit, they will begin a unit on earthworms, said Lisa Jones, Early Childhood Development teacher.



Above: Heather Pierce, Early Childhood Teacher reads a book about senses to Mason, 2, in the Infant and Toddler B class.

Below: (l-r) Madison, 4, and Righley, 4, try on various hats in the Preschool B class. The students are learning about sun safety by studying hats that can protect them from the sun.



Left: (l-r) Kellan, 2, Bella, 2, and Summer, 2, use a puzzle to learn about pets in the Infant and Toddler A class with Lee Ann Townsend, Child Development Center Lab supervisor.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTY JOHNSON/PIONEER

SPORTS

Steady pace

Chris Acoff, business major, works out in the Wellness Center on one of the many treadmills available. The Wellness Center is open 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fridays. To learn more about the center or the weight room — both free to all OCCC students with a current student ID — visit the www.occc.edu/rf.



WHITNEY KNIGHT/PIONEER

RECREATION | Fitness classes creating understanding of proper technique

Wellness programs building momentum

DEMERYE PAULIN
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Throughout the month of July, students, non-students, faculty and staff now have various opportunities to increase their health and strength through a series of Wellness Center class sessions throughout areas of the Wellness Center.

Designated rooms on campus are offering Boot Camp, Pilates, Zumba, Spinning and Combo Aerobics through July 28.

Sports and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson said participants can enroll any time before the classes end.

Being active can make for a healthy lifestyle and can lead to a life of better living, Watson said.

He said OCCC's fitness classes are special.

"The participants understand what needs to be done, and they understand

the basics of exercise in a normal perspective, which brings them a long way in staying unique," Watson said.

Boot Camp is held 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Participants will use hand weights, tubing and body bars to increase lean muscle.

The cost is \$30 per person and \$20 for OCCC students.

The Pilates program, which consists of exercising on a mat and abdominal exercises, is 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost is \$30 per person and \$20 for OCCC students.

Zumba, a Latin dance class which focuses on principles and benefits the active adult group, is 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. The cost is \$30 per person. Spinning also is offered from 6 to 6:45 p.m. The \$25 program offers stationary bikes for users.

Watson said one payoff of being in a fitness classes is the satisfaction participants get in setting a goal and dedicating themselves to completing that goal.

According to the Wellness classes website, OCCC also continues to offer personal training assistance for students needing help.

"Through setting up the fitness classes and working with people, the courses have even taught me how to multi-task and get more things done," Watson said.

Certified personal trainers also are available for all OCCC students, faculty and staff.

The initial assessment is \$30 per person and four sessions is \$120 for a minimum of 30 minutes. Also, one session including initial assessment and training is 45 minutes minimum for \$60 per person.

For more information about Wellness Classes, contact Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786, or the Wellness Center at ext. 7310.

Students and those interested in enrolling can visit www.occc.edu/RF/Wellness-Classes.html for more information.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **July 12-16:** The Youth Sport Camps will offer Multi-Sport 2 to children ages 6 to 11 and 12 to 14. The cost is \$60 per child. Youth Sport Camps also will offer Swimming-competitive stroke to children ages 9 to 11 and 12 to 14. The cost is \$60 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 12-16:** The FitKids Camp will offer We Are Family to 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.

• **July 12-16:** Camp-Rec Youth will offer Sports Extravaganza to children ages 6 to 11. The cost is \$40 per child. Camp-Rec Teen will also offer P.E. Week to children ages 12 to 15. The cost is \$40 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 19-23:** Youth Sport Camps will offer Volleyball to children 8 to 14. The cost is \$60 per child. Youth Sport Camps also will offer Soccer to children 6 to 11 and 12 to 14. The cost is \$60 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 19-23:** The FitKids Camp will offer Amazing Race to children ages 6 to 12. The cost is \$35 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Sports specialist, 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 19-23:** Camp Rec Youth will offer Survivor to children ages 6 to 11. The cost is \$40 per child. Camp Rec Teen is offering Iron Man to children ages 12 to 15. The cost is \$40 per child. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Sports specialist, 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Have sports news?

E-mail Demerye Paulin at staffwriter2@occc.edu



WHITNEY KNIGHT/PIONEER

Brad Finlason, Facilities Management employee, cuts a new ceiling tile July 7 in the Main Building. Finlason said he was sent out to repair water-damaged tiles that were affected by a July 6 storm that dumped 2.5 inches of rain at the college.

Floods: Some buildings experienced water damage

Continued from page 1

fans to dry the wet carpets and air out classrooms.

"It's just the normal roof leaks," Messer said. "We've combated all immediate needs."

Social Sciences Dean Susan Tabor said the flooding, which stranded cars in the parking lot, covered first floor areas with 1 inch of water after seeping through the ceiling and under the doors of her center.

"The Aquatic Center has this steep pitch. And where the pitch and the flat roof come together, the water just builds up and comes through the roof and down the walls," Tabor said.

While this isn't the first time flooding has shut down areas on campus, Tabor said, the flooding has never been this bad.

In the Wellness Center, the gym, aerobics and spinning rooms, and locker rooms were

unaffected, said Eric Watson, OCCC Sports and Recreation specialist.

However, the weight room had to be closed, Watson said.

He said none of the equipment in the weight room was damaged, but many of the ceiling tiles will need to be replaced.

The pool also was closed July 7 due to sanitation and hazard issues, Messer said.

"The big thing about the Aquatic Center is it's a public bathing area," he said. "So you have certain sanitation type conditions that have to be maintained," he said.

Messer said the pool deck had up to 4 inches of standing water, which created a safety hazard.

"Getting the patrons out of the center was a top priority," Messer said.

"The Recreation and Fitness Center was very proactive about being in control of that situation."



JUSTIN COMBS/PIONEER

A white Camaro sits stranded July 6 in parking lot G at OCCC. Oklahoma County received about 2.5 inches of rain Tuesday evening, which resulted in flash flooding around the metro, according to the National Weather Center.

Charles Tarver, sports assistant, said water was leaking into the Aquatic Center either through the drains or through Entry 10.

"When I left last night, water was already coming up out of the drain," Tarver said.

Recreation and Fitness will hold the children's swimming activities in the gym for now, Tarver said.

Students arriving on campus seemed unaware their classes had been moved.

Jonathan Prewitt, business major, said he didn't know about the flooding until he

showed up for class.

"I talked to Tabor and she told me my class was being relocated," Prewitt said.

"It doesn't inconvenience me too much."

Want to know what is going on around campus?

Follow the Pioneer on Twitter for instant news and updates!

www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer

Volunteers: Festival held Sept. 4 to 6 on campus, director says

Continued from page 1

to 500 volunteers who would donate their time in about four-hour shifts.

Volunteer opportunities include artist assistants, mascots or food taste testers, Bardeguez said.

"The festival would not be possible without the hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly on the event," he said.

One of the most fun positions is still open, Bardeguez said. Organizers are in need of volunteers to be Seemore Art — the festival mascot.

"That's definitely a young person's gig because the costume is hot, but it's a lot of fun," he said.

Annalyn Gill, Advocates of Peace club president and pre-law major, said she is in charge of recruiting volunteers.

Gill said she will set up a sign-up stand within the next couple of weeks on campus.

Volunteers who help for a few hours a day have the privilege to taste test the food for free from the many vendors before the festival begins, she said.

Gill said other volunteer benefits include free arts festival T-shirts and prize raffles.

She said she served as a festival volunteer in 2009 and had a lot of fun.

"Volunteering has great benefits for students in clubs and organizations because the club members' participation helps to earn support and donations towards their organization," Gill said.

To sign up, download the application form at www.occc.edu/AFO or contact Gill at annalyn.v.gill@email.occc.edu.

Shift scheduling information is available at www.occc.edu/AFO/Volunteer.html.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY



Students egg the college

Austin Alexander, releases his egg vehicle June 30 off of the second floor of the Main Building. The Egg Drop Challenge was put on by adjunct science professor Kenny Tapp as part of his physics class.

JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

STUDENT LIFE | OCCC students, faculty will attend leadership workshop in August

Retreat to focus on leadership, networking

BONNIE CAMPO
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Student Life will hold its annual clubs and organizations retreat Aug. 13 to 15 at Quartz Mountain Resort in Lone Grove, Okla., said Darin Behara, Student Life director. Anyone is welcome to participate. The retreat will offer instruction about leadership skills to students and faculty, and help everyone connect and network with each other before the upcoming fall semester, Behara said.

He said the last day to sign up is July 16.

Behara said students and sponsors can apply in Student Life or online on the Student Life homepage under the section Campus Groups.

The retreat costs \$25, which includes two

nights in a resort hotel, a T-shirt, transportation, meals, and the book "Leaders in Gear" by the guest speaker Rhett Laubach, Behara said.

"We are able to do this because we budget student fees," he said. "Also, the size of the group that goes makes it cheaper."

Behara said while at the camp, participants will learn skills to help them become better leaders within their organizations and communities.

They also will get to participate in workshops led by Laubach.

"Those who go will learn chapters from the book that discuss seven speaking basics, four ways to overcome failure, three ways to give respect and more," he said.

Behara said he expects 50 to 60 students to at-

tend.

As of June 29, he said, 31 people had signed up and 81 percent of those were female.

Nursing major and Health Club member Leah Payne said she is looking forward to the event because it will aid her in becoming a better participant in her club.

"I think this retreat can help all the officers work together as a group and get the word out to all nursing students and prospective students about what our organization does for the community, the school and all our members," Payne said.

She said she hopes the seminars will teach her to be a strong leader for her club so she can teach newer members the necessary steps to succeed.

English professor

Stephen Morrow, who sponsors the Advocates of Peace, said he has gone in years past.

Morrow said going to the retreat lets everyone come together before the semester, and allows club participants to make connections and learn things that are of immense value.

"I gain a deeper connection with the officer I will be working with," he said.

Morrow said Student Life provides great instruction at these retreats.

"Student Life has always taught leadership that gives motivation to students to improve planning skills, communication, and help them grow," he said.

For more information about the retreat, e-mail Behara at dbehara@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Opportunity Expo

RecruitMilitary is hosting a free hiring event for veterans who already have civilian work experience at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 29 at the Coca-Cola Events Center. This expo is for men and women who have had work experience in the military, are a spouse of a military member or are in the National Guard and reserves. Participants can enroll and find more information online at www.recruitmilitary.com

Essay contest

The Dr. Bill Brown Community College Student Essay Contest is offering OCCC students the opportunity to win three \$200 awards and the reading of the winning essays Sept. 20 at the Oklahoma Global Education Consortium Conference at OCCC. Students essays are due by midnight Aug. 20 and must be 500 words that focus on global education. Those who enter must be enrolled at OCCC at the time of the conference and must only have one entry. Essays can be submitted online or mailed in. For other essay requirements or more information, visit www.ocec.org

Oklahoma American Idol

Auditions for the singing competition will be held 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 20 and 21 at Quail Springs Mall. Cash and prizes up to \$5,000 can be won. The Bethel Foundation is hosting the event. On-site registration and check in begin at 9 a.m., but contestants also can register by sending an e-mail to registerforidol@gmail.com. For ticket sales or information, call 405-286-3602.

New student orientation

OCCC has begun teaching future students the basics of college on campus. The classes are offered at various times three times per week in July and four times per week in August. Students participate in a free one-time, two-hour session designed to assist students in their academic, personal and financial transitions. For a schedule of class times or more information, contact the office of Recruitment and Admissions at 405-682-7580.

Opening Day and Welcome Week

OCCC is offering Opening Day for students and their families to explore the school at 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 21. This event helps those who come find their classes, explore campus resources, and meet faculty and staff. Welcome week is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 23 through 27 and helps students learn things about the college while engaging in events such as TRiO's Ice Cream Social and the welcome breakfast. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

ANIMALS

Adopt Puppies: 10-week old affectionate, loving male and female English Bulldog puppies (AKC Registered) for free adoption. E-mail: David Sanchez at father-swill22@gmail.com.

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 pooh-bear73064@hotmail.com.


AUTOMOTIVE

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

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.



PIONEER Treasure Hunt
Search the Pioneer for answers to our weekly treasure hunt questions.

Correctly answer four Treasure Hunt Questions and be entered in our final drawing of the semester:

- 1: What is the percentage increase in tuition the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved June 24?
- 2: How many students have already joined the OCCC international students social networking site?
- 3: When is the OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School hosting its annual Christmas in July event?
- 4: When is the last day of the games of the FIFA World Cup 2010 soccer?

Read the July 2 Pioneer issue for the answers.
Send your answers to: adman@occc.edu.



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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Mist
- 6 Breakfast order
- 10 Play group
- 14 Marry in haste
- 15 Stringed instrument
- 16 Lab-culture medium
- 17 Pries
- 18 Corsica's neighbor
- 19 Tree trunk
- 20 — and only
- 21 Hairstylist's tool
- 24 Quicksilver
- 26 Apartment-dweller, usually
- 27 Biddy
- 28 Alberta natives
- 30 Fourth dimension
- 33 Small amounts
- 35 Mink or sable
- 38 Foul-up
- 40 Over there
- 41 Choice group
- 43 Singer Starr
- 44 Wanderers
- 47 Sandwich cookie
- 48 Smelled bad
- 49 Coal scuttle
- 51 Even though
- 54 Ennui
- 58 Fall sky sight
- 61 Greek letter
- 62 Buffalo's lake

DOWN

- 1 Rattlesnake's weapon
- 2 Without help
- 3 Tough question
- 4 Unlock, poetically
- 5 Save
- 6 Each and —
- 7 Fish part
- 8 Mongolian desert
- 9 Tilted
- 10 Liner
- 11 compartments
- 12 Greek market
- 13 Beauty —
- 15 English river
- 22 Coffee servers
- 23 Silly ones
- 25 Escoffier, for one
- 28 Pond sound
- 29 Split
- 30 Expression of disapproval
- 31 " — jiffy!"
- 32 Spring month

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

LAST	ALARM	COBS
OGEE	DECOY	AMAH
CURMUDGEON	RATE	
KEEPS	MAGENTA	
OAF	MESAS	
HISS	OWED	USUAL
ONA	LOAN	AGENDA
VANDALS	SLEDDOG	
ENTERS	MOOD	IRE
LEASE	CASH	ORDER
IDAHO	ALL	
DISROBE	ADAGE	
ANTI	HEAVYMETAL	
SCAN	OSSIE	SELL
HANG	REACT	TEAS

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STUDENTS CAUTIONED ABOUT THE DANGEROUS OF ABUSING CREDIT CARDS

Credit card debt can send students into tailspin

DANNIEL PARKER

Staff Writer

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OCCC Counselor Jenna Howard said more than 50 percent of the students who come to her asking for advice do so because they are stressed out over financial troubles — much of that caused by credit card debt.

"I think a lot of people in debt feel like they're in a hole they can't dig out of," Howard said.

"They feel overwhelmed, they lose sleep and, in general, it affects their mental health."

According to a 2009 Sallie Mae study on credit card debt among college students, the median debt of students has almost doubled since 2004, rising from \$946 to \$1,645.

Eighty four percent of students have credit cards, and the average student is responsible for paying bills on four cards, the study shows.

A recent study from Georgetown University's credit research center shows college students accrue more fees and exceed their credit limits more often than any other segment of society.

Mounting problems

Saleta Bell, a 35-year-old psychology major, said she has experienced problems with living beyond her means.

At one point, Bell said, she found herself more than \$7,000 in debt. Her accounts were sent to collection companies who would call her on a daily basis.

Bell said she blames the astronomical interest rates of her credit cards for her debt, saying she failed to read the fine print on her signed contract.

She is still paying off that debt, she said.

Bell said she has cautioned her daughter to not fall into the same trap she did.

"My daughter just turned 18, and when she did she started getting tons of mail from credit card companies," she said. "At this point in her life, I'm urging her not to get a credit card, because she's not responsible enough yet."

Howard said she wouldn't recom-

mend that anyone between the ages of 18 and 24 get a credit card.

"Statistically, when a person uses a credit card, they spend 30 percent more money than they would if they used cash," she said.

Howard said credit card debt is a symptom of American culture.

"Our culture is obsessed with instant gratification," she said. "When you use a credit card, you purchase something instantly thinking you'll just pay for it later."

Credit card traps

Activist Janne O'Donnell said she has been interested in credit card issues since 1998, when she found her 22-year-old son Sean Moyer hanging in his closet.

She said he committed suicide because of his \$20,000 credit card debt.

O'Donnell, board member for Americans for Fairness in Lending, a non-profit organization whose goal is to reform the lending industry, said OCCC students need to be wary of using credit cards and the potential traps they entail.

She said colleges are partially to blame for students raking up massive debts at an early age.

O'Donnell pointed to a practice colleges engage in called affinity programs. She said this is where colleges allow financial companies to solicit their credit cards on campus. She used the University of Oklahoma as an example.

For letting financial institutions advertise on campus, OU gets \$14 million per year, plus a percentage of what a student spends, O'Donnell said.

"There are a lot of reasons why credit card companies are so active in marketing to college-age kids," she said.

"First of all, they suspect that if a college student gets in financial trouble, their parent's would bail them out."

Secondly, O'Donnell said, college students are easy marks because credit card companies play on their optimism.

Students have the idea that they'll graduate and immediately start making big money, she said. Often, that's not true.

"All credit card companies make their money off fees and late charges, and students tend to rack up those charges," O'Donnell said.

The college's approach

OCCC does not allow on-campus solicitation from credit institutions, according to the college's privacy policy and its contract with Higher One.

However, the Pioneer does accept advertisements from such companies.

Tinker Federal Credit Union also provides OCCC guest speakers and workshops during the Success in College and Life class.

Cynthia Campbell is the assistant vice president of the TFCU financial empowerment program and a frequent guest speaker at OCCC.

Campbell said TFCU is on campus to offer help, not solicit credit cards. The institution offered 400 workshops on understanding personal finance last year, she said.

"We teach people to understand credit and use it to their advantage," she said.

"We live in a credit-based society,

meaning that if you want to borrow money to buy a car or a home, you'll have to prove to the lender you are responsible."

Having a credit card and using it properly is important to establishing credit, Campbell said.

She explained why she feels credit unions are more ethical than other lenders when it comes to issuing credit cards.

Campbell said credit unions are not for profit and are governed by their members.

"Our board of directors aren't a bunch of fat cats on Wall Street in New York," she said. "They are here in the community. So our profits go back to our members in the form of lower fees in borrowing and higher returns in savings accounts."

Howard said students finding themselves emotionally or mentally stressed over debt should come talk to her.

The counselor's office is located in Student Support Services, in the Main Building, Room 1F8(A).

Howard also can be reached at 405-682-1611, ext. 7621, or jhoward@occc.edu.



Get credit card debt help

DANNIEL PARKER

Staff Writer

StaffWriter3@occc.edu

Jennifer Wallis, vice president of Consumer Credit Counseling Service in Oklahoma City, said although there are new laws in place that force a consumer to prove that they can afford a credit card, debt is still a big problem for students.

"Financial problems are the number one reason people drop out of college," Wallis said.

She said students who are mired in debt of any kind should take advantage of non-profit organizations such as CCCS whose mission is to help people manage their money and get out of debt.

CCCS is located at 3230 N. Rockwell Ave.

There also are other alternatives such as support groups.

Oklahoma City Grateful Debtors is a chapter of Debtors Anonymous. The support group gathers at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the All Souls Episcopal Church, 6400 N. Pennsylvania Ave.

For more information about Debtors Anonymous, visit its website at www.debtorsanonymous.org.