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PIONEER ONLINE

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Lab time



BONNIE CAMPO/PIONEER

Students Cathlina Smith, left, Brittany Titriga, middle, and Richard Bryant, right, receive help from Biology Lab Assistant Kimberly Park, far right, with their first biology lab. The lab is located on the second floor of the SEM Center. For more information and hours, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7269.

'Phantom' to include student vocalists

CHRISTIAN KOSTED

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Two vocalists from OCCC will take the stage with four-time Tony nominated singer Franc D'Ambrosio on campus this semester. D'Ambrosio will be performing "Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway: Songs From the Great White Way" at 7 p.m. Oct. 12 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

A vocal competition is being held for one male and one female to perform with him that evening. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, Sept. 7.

D'Ambrosio is labeled "the world's longest running Phantom of the Opera," having acted in the role for more than a decade on Broadway according to D'Ambrosio's website.

See **OPERA** page 6

FASTING, REFLECTION PART OF MUSLIM RELIGIOUS OBSERVATION

Ramadan celebrated by OCCC students

MORGAN BEARD

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Like millions around the world, Muslims at OCCC are observing Ramadan, the month of fasting and religious reflection in the Islamic calendar.

During the long, hot days of an Oklahoma summer, refraining from food and water from dawn to dusk is a test of religious devotion.

Amin Shariat Zadeh, Communications Lab assistant, said Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar in which Muslims pay homage to their faith.

Fasting from dawn

until dusk for the entire month is a way to display patience and respect.

"From sunup to sundown, there is no eating or drinking at all," Shariat Zadeh said.

Milad Nematzadeh, a Muslim student from Iran, said during long classes, the need for food becomes more apparent.

"If you're in a three-hour class during Ramadan and haven't eaten all day, it makes it a little hard," Nematzadeh said.

"You need food in your body to help you concentrate but when you're fasting for Ramadan it makes it a little harder for you because it stays on your mind."

Because of the linger-

ing desire for food, sometimes a mishap might take place, Nematzadeh said.

It is not uncommon for a Muslim to absentmindedly eat some food or take a drink throughout the day, he said.

Nematzadeh said there is added temptation while fasting among many non-Muslims.

"If some people see food or a drink lying around, they might take a bite or a sip and realize right after, 'Oh man, what did I do?'"

To non-Muslims, the idea of Ramadan may seem strange.

“It is sometimes difficult (to fast), but I am very happy with Ramadan.”

—FARAH ABUOBEAD
OCCC STUDENT

OCCC student Farah Abuobead said most people don't understand the reasoning behind Ramadan and its rituals.

Abuobead, a Muslim student originally from Jordan, said she has no qualms about fulfilling her religious duties.

"It is sometimes difficult (to fast), but I am very happy with Ramadan," Abuobead said.

"The reason we fast is to know how the unprivileged feel and to allow us to step in their shoes for

a month."

Abuobead said there is more to Ramadan than just fasting.

"During Ramadan, Muslims donate a lot of food and money to many poorer people as well."

The process of fasting also gives Muslims a jubilation to look forward to each night, she said.

After a long day of fasting, Muslims gather together in the evenings

See **RAMADAN**
page 7

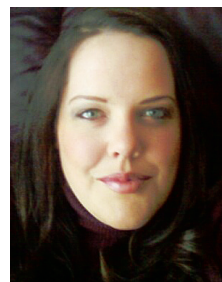
OPINION

EDITORIAL | OCCC administration learned lessons after February incident

College security better than ever

In a dark classroom, in late February, several college students crouched behind a rolling chalkboard, terrified, thinking a gunman was on campus.

The Visual and Performing Arts Center was quiet except for the scared whisper from the professor instructing his students to stay calm, quiet and off their cell phones.



JENNIFER MASSEY

Although most ignored his request, my cell phone wasn't within my reach, so I sat there, waiting, legitimately afraid for my life.

Once a little of the dust settled from the events of Feb. 26, the news of the — for lack of a better word — debacle came from our somber college president.

There had been no reason to be afraid. It was a mistake.

I will admit I was angry.

How many thousand people were unnecessarily traumatized by an incident that could have been avoided?

Now, six months later, the campus is buzzing and it feels normal again. This is in part due to a new semester and a new start but credit must be given to

those who have worked diligently to improve our college's safety procedures.

Starting at the top with Sechrist and his cabinet, and filtering down through the ranks of faculty and staff, the administration has made it clear that student safety is of the highest priority at OCCC.

Faculty and staff have been trained and several additional IP (Internet Protocol) phones have been installed. People's voices have been heard through communication forums.

In addition, the approval for a campus police department has been issued and the changes are under way with estimated completion by July of next year.

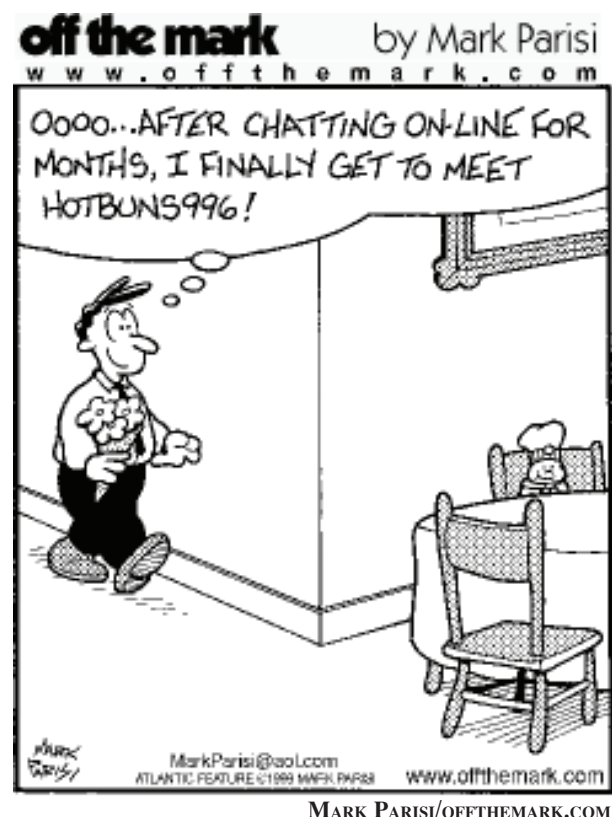
This will ensure OCCC is even more protected because police assistance will be available more quickly.

Reported in a recent OCCC Board of Regents meeting, a survey among OCCC students indicated that the college ranked much lower than average, nationally, in the category of safety and security.

Marion Paden, Student Affairs vice president, said the survey was conducted shortly after the event in February and this may have been a reason for the low score.

If a survey were taken now, it is my opinion the college would rank much better.

With all the improvements that have been made and will continue to be made, it is apparent there is



reason to feel safe on campus.

There is a lot of pride here.

We are a campus of beauty.

Although mistakes have been made in the past, it is how we learn from them that speaks to our integrity and wisdom.

In an educational setting, that speaks volumes.

YOUR VOICE | Biology classroom belongs to science

Reader says church or home place to learn about faith

To the Editor:

I am responding to Mr. Storey's comments regarding ... Michael Talkington's alleged focus on creationism rather than evolution.

Mr. Storey contends he is "saddened ... to think that a few students ... have made things so difficult for him ... [to] continue teaching at OCCC."

What saddens me is that Mr. Storey continues to insert his faith into scientific discussion.

Creationism is not a scientific theory. It is a belief system by many people on how our known universe was "created."

Creationism cannot be proven in our natural world. It does not ad-

here to natural laws and cannot be explained by science.

Creationist adherents claim that their use of the word "theory" is the same as the "theory" of evolution. The theory of evolution is based on science.

It has been shown consistent in our natural world. It does adhere to

natural laws and can be explained by science.

His statement that the theory of evolution has never been scientifically proven is misleading as no theory is ever scientifically proven just reinforced, such as the theory of gravity.

If Mr. Storey wants to teach his kids, as he reports that he does, about

his faith then by all means do that — at church or in his home.

A place of higher learning with peoples of all faiths should not be subjected to others' beliefs while in a biology course based on science and not on faith.

One more point, and this is the key difference between scientists and

those of faith: scientists look to disprove their theories and those of faith look to prove their "theories."

This is in no way condemnation of whatever faith Mr. Storey has, but I should not have to be subjected to it.

—MICHAEL E. HENDERSON
STUDENT

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the **PIONEER**, the college or the publisher.

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

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

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

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Fitness program offers benefits

Students encouraged to be active

To the Editor:

Recreation and Fitness and Student Support Services invite all OCCC students to “Fall into Fitness” this semester.

Successful people typically are those who engage in some kind of activity each week to help keep them focused and less stressed.

We know that not everyone is or can be a competitive athlete, so we have planned this fall’s

promotion to encourage rather than compete.

Personally, thirty years ago, I could do an hour of high impact aerobics with Jane Fonda every day. Today, I could get the same workout just trying to get into spandex workout clothes.

Beginning Sept. 6, for each time you use the facilities in Recreation and Fitness or engage in one of their sponsored activities (either free or

for a fee), you will be eligible to place a ticket into a box.

Each week, we will draw names for weekly prizes such as water bottles and insulated lunch bags. Each month, names will be drawn for prizes such as exercise travel kits and T-shirts.

At the end of the semester, even bigger prizes such as \$50 gift cards will be up for grabs.

The more you partici-

pate, the more chances you have to win.

Whether you choose to compete on an intramural team, sign up for an exercise class, or just lift weights, you’ll be able to improve your health and fitness, make new friends, and possibly win cool prizes.

We hope to see you there all semester.

—MARY TURNER
LEARNING SUPPORT
SPECIALIST

OPINION | Laymen misuse definition, writer says

Scientific theory more than hunch

To the Editor:

“It’s just a theory” is being heard all too [often] these days.

Numerous school boards have attempted to place such a disclaimer in science textbooks, and in his Aug. 27 opinion letter (to the editor), James Storey states, “the theory of evolution has never been scientifically proven, and therefore remains just that, a theory.”

This is a complete misuse of the scientific definition of “theory,” and probably makes every science professor on campus cringe to see it used as such.

Unfortunately, these school boards and Mr. Storey are either trying to deceive with their words, or are just plain ignorant of scientific terminology when they make statements that portray scientific theories as little more than unproven hunches.

Within science, a theory is to be championed as the most up-to-date explanation available.

A theory is as close

to proven as anything in science can be. It is built up logically from testable observations and hypotheses of natural phenomena.

No matter how vast the scientific facts grow on a particular topic, the explanation as to how and why it occurs will forever remain a theory.

We are doing a very poor job of teaching this very fundamental scientific concept.

When Mr. Storey and school boards across the country state that something is “just a theory, that has not been proven,” as an opposing argument, they are not adding to the debate, but making science even more confusing than it need be.

From Newton to Einstein to the future, we have updated and will continue to update gravitational theory.

No matter how advanced our knowledge becomes, our explana-

“A theory is as close to proven as anything in science can be.”

—PHIL GAINER
OCCC ENGINEERING CLUB PRESIDENT

tion of gravity will always be “just a theory.”

Should we question the effects of gravity just because the theory is “unproven?”

It would be wise not to, because regardless of what the theory states, the facts remain the same:

the apple will always fall from the tree.

Just a theory? Considering what constitutes a scientific theory, how about (instead), triumphantly a theory.

—PHIL GAINER
OCCC ENGINEERING
CLUB PRESIDENT

WANTED: STUDENT VOICES

Do you have news to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC student worthy of a mention or have an opinion about something you’ve read. If so, contact Jennifer Massey at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409.

Don’t be left in the dark.
Follow us for instant news and updates!

www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer

JOB & CAREER POWER

Job fairs good networking op

The OCCC Job Fair and Health Job Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 6, in the College Union. Approximately 70 general employers will be available from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Greater Dining Area, and 30 health employers are expected in College Union rooms 1 and 3 from noon until 6 p.m.

OCCC students, alumni and community members are invited to attend, and are encouraged to be prepared for on-the-spot interviewing by multiple employment recruiters.

OCCC Students and alumni may visit the Student Employment & Career Services office to create or update résumés for sharing with recruiters. Up to 10 résumés per day may be printed on professional résumé paper and handouts on “Job Fair Success Strategies” are available:

- First impressions are important.
- Be well groomed, dress professionally and be enthusiastic
- Dress conservatively and modestly
- Tattoos should be covered
- Body piercings should be removed
- Bring extra copies of your résumé
- Be prepared to introduce yourself
- Smile, and have a firm, not crushing handshake
- Utilize the time allocated by the recruiter, being respectful of other job seekers
- Gather business cards and send thank you e-mails to potential employers

With the current U.S. unemployment rate of 9.5 percent and Oklahoma at 6.9 percent, being successful at job fairs and applying for employment successfully has never been more important. Visit our office at your first opportunity and together we can work to improve your chance for career and employment entry.

—DEBRA VAUGHN
OCCC STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER
SERVICES DIRECTOR

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

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MUSIC REVIEW | C.K. Williams authors book in series

‘On Whitman’ offers revealing inside look

Publisher Princeton University Press recently released “On Whitman,” its second book of a series “Writers on Writers.” C.K. Williams was chosen to author the book.

Williams has won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and many others.

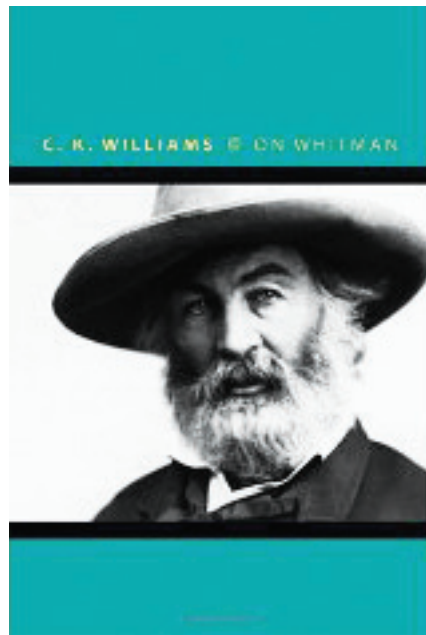
His other recent works include: “The Singing,” “Wait” and “Poetry and Consciousness.”

Williams goes into depth about the ideas, concepts and imagination of Whitman.

“Who else, even from the perspective of the sexually-liberated culture of America in the ’60s and ’70s, did it better?” Williams said.

Himself also a poet, Williams is allowed by this book to study and analyze Whitman’s words, but also to translate his focus of writing while adding his own mastermind commentary.

Williams writes, “But how wildly exciting, how really exalting it must have been to him when his



poetry first offered him a way to see and record so much — it can feel like everything.

“Just reading it, the brilliance of the moments of inspiration are like raw synaptic explosions, like flashbulbs going off in the brain, in the mind: pop pop pop.”

Williams relays what Whitman’s contemplations were when considering moral conduct, sex and his personal life before and during his writings.

One emphasis is that these were ideas representing a counter culture of philosophical reform, and how Whitman was a beatnik of his time.

One particular work of Whitman’s that Williams seemed compelled to quote from, and rightfully so, is “Leaves of Grass,” a compilation of transcendentalist poems.

“On Whitman” is a wondrous and enchanting book.

It reveals sides of Whitman that may be left unconsidered, thus accomplishing his goal.

However, it seems a cheat, telling readers what to think about Whitman’s writing, rather than allowing readers to make their own discoveries.

It should be more of a supplemental read along with Whitman’s original works.

“Writers on Writers” spells out the mystery behind the artist, letting the masses be spoon fed.

Yet, the series is capable of immense potential because of the historical detail it provides about the author.

And, for the true followers of Whitman, it leads to instant euphoria.

The book costs about \$20 and is worth the investment, but copies also can be found at most local libraries.

Whitman, and his works — dating back to the 1860s — still carry enough fervor for Williams to write about him today.

It proves that true genius is never lost or forgotten.

Rating: B

—**BONNIE CAMPO**
STAFF WRITER

MUSIC REVIEW | Heartache to oil spills covered on new release

Disturbed delivers on every level with ‘Asylum’

Chicago rock quartet Disturbed is back with a vengeance with their fifth studio album, “Asylum,” released Aug. 31.

The CD kicks off with “Remnants,” a surprisingly beautiful instrumental track that leads up to, and blends seamlessly into, title track “Asylum.”

Here, Disturbed fans are reunited with lead singer David Draiman’s familiar, scratchy vocals and master storytelling.

Metaphorical mad-houses aside, “Asylum” tells — in less than five minutes — the story of a man grieving for his wife.

Few bands could mingle such heartbreaking subject matter with instrumentals worthy of some serious head-banging and make it a hit,

yet Disturbed does so flawlessly.

A few tracks later, first studio single and chart-topper “Another Way to Die” references global warming and the recent oil spill disaster as warnings to change our wasteful, greedy ways before it’s too late and our Earth is permanently damaged.

The thought-provoking lyrics, powerful vocals and memorable guitar riffs of “Another Way to Die” fuse together perfectly, making it a stand-out among the endless stream of songs about sex, drugs and violence on the radio today.

Draiman touches upon his Jewish roots



on the next track, “Never Again,” which alludes to the horrors of the Holocaust with a heartfelt plea to civilization: never let it happen again.

The album takes a turn to the fantastical with “The Animal,” a markedly slower track told from the point of view of a werewolf struggling with his humanity.

Both lyrically and vocally, “The Animal” is among the album’s best tracks, and is poised for success amidst the recent vampire and werewolf craze.

“Asylum” comes to a close with something a little different: a remake of the U2’s 1978 hit single “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For.”

Such a slow, harmonious sound foreign on Draiman’s tongue, yet he manages to make it work.

It’s far from perfect, but it’s the most valiant attempt at a classic a hard rock band could ever make.

“Asylum” is undoubtedly the strongest album of Disturbed’s decade-long career.

The band has only gotten better with time, finding their stride and never straying from their origins.

Every track on the CD is teeming with verses that actually mean something, rather than a bunch of hollow words strung together and set to music.

Partnered with Draiman’s signature growls and a few unforgettable guitar riffs, “Asylum” is a smorgasbord of musical gold.

Even if you’ve never considered yourself a fan of Disturbed, “Asylum” will change that.

Rating: A

—**WHITNEY KNIGHT**
ONLINE EDITOR

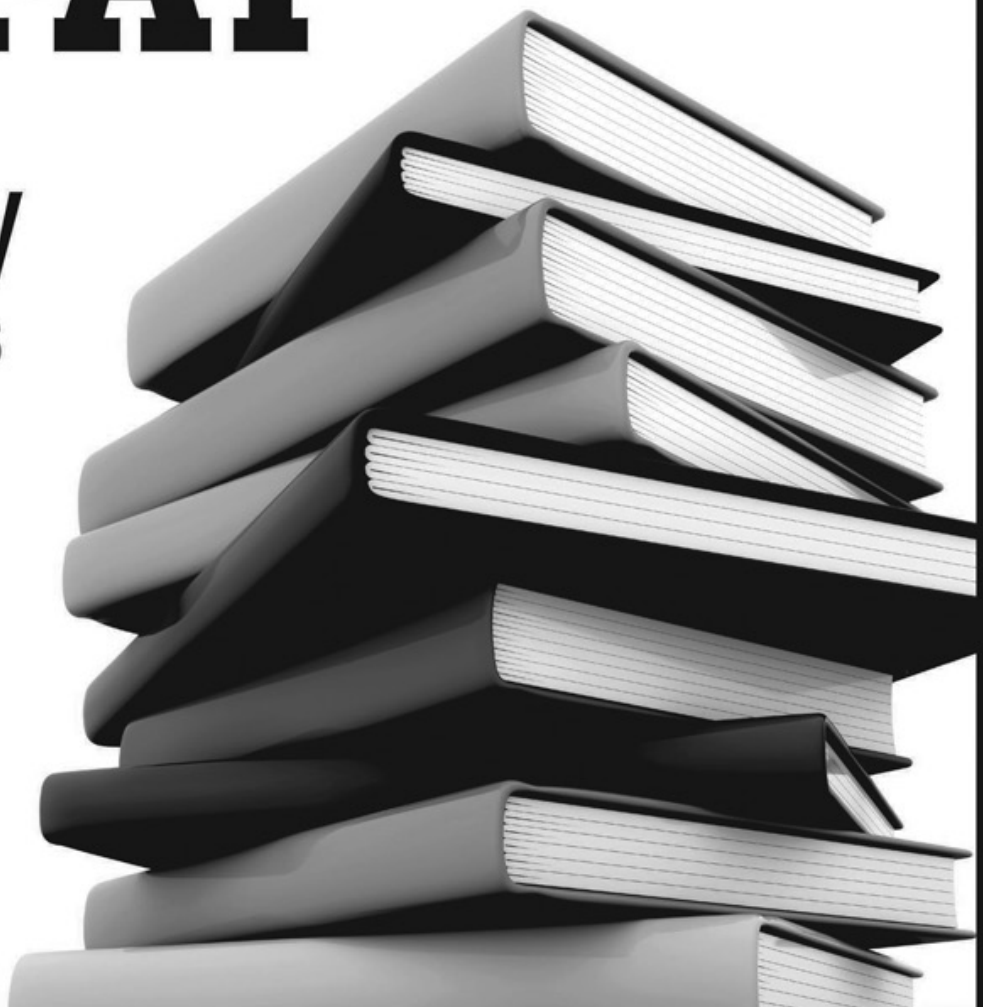
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TRAINING PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

Pharmacy Technician class good road to jobs

BONNIE CAMPO
Staff Writer

Once again, OCCC has reached full enrollment for its Pharmacy Technician training program that runs Sept. 13 through Nov. 3, said Francine Gissy, Corporate Learning Consultant.

Gissy said graduates of the program receive a certificate that states the student has completed the class. She said that can provide a way to be quickly employed at a reasonable salary.

Gissy said she can't give a definitive number on the pay rate, but said most pharmacy technicians tend to be hired for \$10 to \$14 per hour.

"Some who work for a veterans department can make

\$22," she said.

Corporate Learning Specialist Rhonda Cantrell said pharmacies in the area sometimes call the college looking for workers.

"We have been a great success, and we get calls about three times a year from Wal-Mart, CVS, and Walgreens asking if we have any students," Cantrell said. "Then we give our students their information. I would say a great deal have found jobs there."

Gissy said she feels the economic recession in the past years has led more people to enroll in the class.

"It opens options for them, and creates an opportunity for better jobs," Gissy said.

She said this year the college will offer three eight-week



COURTESY OF ACEONLINESCHOOLS

programs that require 32 clock hours of instruction.

The class meets Monday and Wednesday evenings, and costs \$325 which students must pay prior to the first day of class.

"We have 32 [students] enrolled ... and the average for the class is 12 to 15," Gissy said.

“We have been a great success, and we get calls about three times a year from WalMart, CVS, and Walgreens asking if we have any students.”

—FRANCINE GISSY
CORPORATE LEARNING CONSULTANT

"We usually see students in their 20s using this course so they can get a job and work as they get through school, but lately baby boomers have also begun to enroll as they seek employment."

Gissy said the class is delivered in a lecture format.

The focus is on pharmaceutical law and the math behind medicine dosages, she said.

The college will update the current program in 2011 in an effort to stay current and teach

the students skill sets they will need when applying for a position, Gissy said.

She said the next Pharmacy Technician class will be in January. Classes fill fast so it benefits students to enroll as quickly as possible.

But, she said, students who do not enroll in time can always be placed on a waiting list for next session or if a vacancy becomes open.

For more information, contact Gissy at fgissy@occc.edu

Opera: Broadway singer holding auditions for accompaniment

Continued from page 1

OCCC was able to schedule the Broadway singer because he had another performance already scheduled in the area, said Cultural Programs Director Lemuel Bardeguez.

"Booking Mr. D'Ambrosio was very fortunate," he said.

Cultural Programs Assistant Scott Tigert said participants in the vocal competition should submit a CD of two vocal performances, a biography and a photograph.

On Oct. 11 D'Ambrosio will select six finalists — three males and three females — and those participants will receive a master class from him, Tigert said.

At the conclusion of that class, D'Ambrosio will select the two vocalists who will sing with him at the performance, which will consist of a

series of Broadway musical numbers D'Ambrosio has selected.

The college singers will perform the roles of Christine and Raoul, the young lovers from Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Phantom of the Opera."

Reception from the music department has been very positive.

"I think that's amazing," said Stephen Salewon, music major.

"It makes the music program feel more important when we get opportunities like this."

Another student commented on the benefit of adding student voices to the show.

"Students would make for a more interesting performance," said Tommy Lewis, music theory major. "If you're trying to be heard as a vocalist, this is an interesting competition."

Veronica Nash, business major and aspiring

vocalist, had a similar perspective.

"We have several students who are aspiring opera singers, so this is good for them," she said.

Another student said he appreciated being exposed to a professional performer.

"I think it's a big step up when someone famous comes to your school," said Chris Smith, music major and a member of OCCC's Chamber Singers, an auditions-only performing group.

Music major and Chamber Singer Heather Rauhs said she hopes to try out for the role.

"I think it's really cool," she said.

Tigert encourages students to enter the contest.

"For people who are interested in vocal music, this is an amazing opportunity," Tigert said.

"Working with someone like D'Ambrosio is a rare opportunity."

The master class for the finalists will allow students to take directions from a professional, Tigert said.

D'Ambrosio appeared in Francis Ford Coppola's "Godfather III" as Al Pacino's opera singing son, according to IMDB, the Internet movie database.

He has been lauded with many honors, including Tony nominations, two Grammy considerations, and a National Theatre Award nomination.

D'Ambrosio is involved in teaching his craft to young adults, according to his website.

He lectures at the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music and also works with the Cherubini Music Conservatory in Florence, Italy.

Submission CDs should include "All I Ask of You" from "The Phantom of the Opera"



COURTESY OF FRANC D'AMBROSIO

Franc D'Ambrosio

and a similar song from a Broadway musical. All entries must be received by Sept 7 and submissions should be mailed or taken to the Cultural

Programs Office, room 1G1 in the main building.

For more information, contact Scott Tigert at 405-682-7579 or stigert@occc.edu.

5K AND 1-MILE FUN RUN SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 25

Run fundraiser to benefit nursing scholarships

CHRISTY JOHNSON

Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Raising money for nursing school scholarships is the goal of the Nursing Student Association's second annual Life Saver 5K and 1-mile Fun Run.

The events begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, on the OCCC campus.

"This event is a fundraiser to help those who want to obtain a nursing degree but lack the funds to do so," said Deborah Myers, assistant nursing program director and race director.

"It will help provide some financial support by giving some nursing students the opportunity to continue their education by receiving scholarships to help them advance in nursing education," she said.

The amount of the scholarships will be based upon how much money is raised at the races, Myers said.

Deborah Myers said last year they were able to give out 13 scholarships.

"We had 188 people who registered last year and I hope we at least double that number for this year," Myers said.

Four of the scholarships given out last year were Jamison Watters scholarships, each for \$250.

The Jamison Watters Scholarship was set up in honor of a young boy who died last year of leukemia while his mother was in nursing school at OCCC.

"This particular scholarship is geared toward those nursing students who are going into pediatrics or pediatrics oncology," Myers said.



Myers encourages everyone to sign up quickly so they can make sure they have enough accommodations for everyone.

Beverly Schaeffer, nursing professor and race co-director, said approximately six to eight NSA officers as well as 60 volunteers are involved in the planning of the race.

Schaeffer said a nursing student has to apply and be interviewed by the scholarship committee in order to be considered for a scholarship.

Those who want to make a donation to help with the NSA scholarships can contact Kristen McMurray, division clerical assistant, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7480.

For more information or to register online, go to occc.edu/lifesaver/registration now until 11:59 p.m. Sept. 23.

Mail-in registration ends on Sept. 10.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Through Sept. 23

5K entry fee: \$20

5K student fee: \$15 (requires valid ID at packet pickup)

1 Mile Fun Run - \$12

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION

Through Sept. 10

Mail entries to:

Oklahoma City Community College

Deborah Myers - Nursing Program

7777 S. May Avenue

Oklahoma City, OK 73159

LATE REGISTRATION (IN PERSON)

4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 24 at packet pick-up or on race day from 6:45 to 7:45 a.m.

5K: \$25

5K student fee: \$20 (requires valid ID at packet pickup)

1-Mile Fun Run: \$15

Goody bags and T-shirts available while supplies last.

REFUND POLICY

Once submitted, registration fees will not be refunded for any reason, including inclement weather. Race T-shirts can be picked up during the scheduled packet pick-up time.

Ramadan: Some OCCC students make religious sacrifice

Continued from page 1

to enjoy a much-needed feast in celebration of Ramadan. Prayers are also conducted to give thanks for the food that is provided.

At the month's end, usually around the 29th or 30th day of Ramadan, the holiday known as Eid ul-Fitr commences, Shariat Zadeh said.

It marks the end of Ramadan and the beginning of a special celebration to come.

Ramadan is based on the Islamic lunar calendar, which translates to a different period each year for places like the United States.

Upon the ending of Ra-

madan this year, Muslims will have less than a full year before it commences again. Ramadan 2011 is set to begin on Aug. 1.

RAMADAN FACTS

- Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is also believed to be the month when the Holy Quran was sent down from Heaven as "guidance unto men, a declaration of direction, and a means of Salvation."

- Fasting during the month of Ramadan fulfills one of the five pillars of Muslim faith. The others are testimony of faith, prayer, almsgiving and pilgrimage.

- The Muslim calendar is based on the lunar cycle, which is approximately 11

to 13 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar.

- The holiday of Ramadan may fall during any month of the Gregorian calendar. It takes approximately 35 years for Ramadan to cycle through the entire solar/

Gregorian calendar.

- Muslims traditionally break their fasts with dates, because that is what the Prophet Muhammad is believed to have done.

- One-fifth of the world's

population is Muslim.

- The country with the largest Muslim population is Indonesia.

- The end of the month of Ramadan is marked with a joyous festival called

Eid al-Fitr. Eid al-Fitr literally means the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," during which many Muslims partake in elaborate feasts.

—Courtesy www.holidays.net

—Muslim map courtesy CIA World Factbook



SPORTS

English professor Tonya Kymes uses her lunch break to work out in the cardio room on campus.

Treadmills and other machines are available to students for free from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Students are encouraged to use the Wellness Center and its facilities at anytime.

Use of the Wellness Center is completely free to students and members.

A valid student ID is required for entrance.



MORGAN BEARD/PIONEER

FITNESS | GROUP FITNESS CLASSES INCLUDE ZUMBA, CARDIO KICKBOXING, AND MORE

Fitness classes offered to students

MORGAN BEARD

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

If you're feeling out of shape lately and looking for help, OCCC has the fix.

Numerous classes designed to help students get fit are now in session in the Wellness Center on campus.

With upwards of 12 classes, all students will be able to find something that caters to their needs.

Jenny Kellbach, Recreation and Fitness secretary, said there is room in just about every class right now, although more popular topics such as Zumba and Pilates could soon reach capacity.

"You'll usually see the turnout rate for these classes shoot up around the holidays, but around summer time there is plenty of room to join," Kellbach said.

"Zumba's really popular probably because it's marketed so well, plus the times are convenient ... They're later in the day so more people attend after work or class," Kellbach says.

Classes also are offered if you're worried about shaping up certain areas on your body.

Classes such as Abs Express, Body Sculpting, and Bosu Blast will help target those areas as well as enhance overall fitness and strength, said Eric Watson, sports and recreation specialist.

Cardio kickboxing and combo aerobics are offered for those looking to improve their fighting technique and cardio respectively.

OCCC student Mark Cruz said the kickboxing class is very intriguing.

"I've never gotten into kickboxing before but since OCCC offers it, why not?" Cruz said. "It sounds really fun, plus it'll get me in better shape."

For those looking to step it up a notch, Boot Camp is yet another class offered at the college.

Boot Camp is designed to improve strength, speed, and agility by using many exercises including a stability ball, weights, and body bars.

The list doesn't end there. Spin class

is available as well for those looking to improve cardio health in a relaxed yet focused environment while using stationary bicycles.

If working in the water sounds fun, OCCC also offers two water-based fitness classes.

Water exercise and deep-water exercise focus on low-impact activities to improve fitness while also providing the comfort of a pool.

For students, prices and schedules vary for each class. For more information on pricing and scheduling, contact Roxanne Butler, Recreation and Fitness director, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

Interested in more than one fitness class? OCCC now offers a Group Fitness Pass to all students and members starting this semester.

The Group Fitness Pass can be purchased for a \$50 fee per semester, a savings of more than \$100, and allows access to all fitness classes for the fall semester and entry will be on a first come, first serve basis, Butler said.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Sept. 1-29:** Abs Express class every Monday and Wednesday from 5:05 to 5:25 p.m. Registration is still open. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Sept. 1-29:** Cardio kickboxing class every Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. Registration is still open. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Sept. 1-29:** Combo aerobics class every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 12:55 p.m. Registration is still open. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Sept. 1-29:** Pilates class every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Registration is still open. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Sept. 2-30:** Hatha yoga classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is still open. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Sept. 2-30:** Bosu Blast class every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Registration is still open. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Sept. 2-30:** Body sculpting class every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Registration is still open. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Have sports news?
E-mail Morgan Beard
staffwriter2@occc.edu

VOCAL COMPETITION SEEKING A "CHRISTINE" AND A "RAOUL"

In conjunction with the Cultural Arts Series' Oct. 12 performance of Broadway star Franc D'Ambrosio, OCCC is sponsoring a vocal competition to find a "Christine" and "Raoul" to sing with Mr. D'Ambrosio during his concert.

The competition will take place at 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11, in the Bruce Owen Theater at OCCC.

Six finalists — three males and three females — chosen from previously submitted materials, will be announced at the beginning of the competition/master class.

The winning finalists, one male and one female, will sing with Franc during his Tuesday night performance. The competition is open to all interested parties, ages high school and older.

To become part of the competition, each participant must submit a CD with two songs, a one-page bio and a photograph by Sept. 7. Complete details regarding the competition can be found at www.occc.edu/cas/competition. Potential applicants may also contact the Office of Cultural Programs for more information at 405-682-7579.



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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Black Student Association officers Renitta Server and Shana McLaughlin organize treats for students during "Why BSA Day" Aug. 25. The club handed out candy during the event, which was held outside of the College Union.



CHRISTY JOHNSON/PIONEER

STUDENT LIFE | Club president says organization membership promotes education

Black Student Association offers equality, library study sessions

CHRISTY JOHNSON

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

The Black Student Association is currently recruiting new members for their organization, said Centerria Wright, club president.

Wright said the BSA wants to ensure that all students realize the club is open to anyone who wants to join, regardless of race.

Ashley Thomas, BSA club secretary, said the club does not discriminate.

"The Black Student Association is not only open to African-American students," Thomas said. "Everyone from all walks of life is welcomed and encouraged to join."

She said club members are highly motivated individuals who are very interested in helping their peers succeed in school and beyond.

Thomas said the BSA hopes to increase membership by spreading word via their library takeover sessions this semester.

A library takeover is when the club literally takes over a portion of the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library, usually on the second floor lobby

area, to help their members study and focus on their lessons, she said.

During library takeovers, Wright said, the club serves snacks to students to ensure they are keeping their strength up while studying hard.

They also have club members on hand to help students with their homework and other studies at the takeover, she said.

"We love to have fun," Wright said. "But we focus mainly on education."

The next BSA library takeover is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, on the second floor of the library.

BSA activities are not limited to library study sessions, Wright said.

"We often host car washes and bake sales in order to raise money for our club trips and outings," she said.

In fact, she said, BSA is hosting a bake sale at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 13, in the College Union, to help fund their trip to the Big Twelve conference next year.

For more information on the Black Student Association or to join, visit www.occc.campus-groups.com/bsa.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Arts Festival to take place

Arts Festival Oklahoma will be held on the OCCC campus from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5, and Monday, Sept. 6. There will be visual and musical arts as well as many types of food. General Admission is free. For more information, call 405-682-7576 or visit the Arts Festival Oklahoma website at www.occc.edu/afo.

NSA Lifesaver 5K race registration

The Nursing Student Association will hold a registration booth noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8, in the Main Building by the coffee shop. For more information, contact Deborah Myers 405-682-1611, ext. 7138 or Beverly Schaeffer ext 7344 or go online to occc.edu/lifesaver.

Organization to host bake sale

Black Student Association are holding a bakesale at 10 a.m. Sept. 13 to raise money for their trip to the Big Twelve conference. For more information, go online to campus-groups.com/bsa.

Annual Life Saver run to be held

Participants can enter and help support Nursing Education in Oklahoma in the 5k or one-mile race Sept. 25. Runners can register Sept 24 in the lobby of the Health Professions building or from 6:45 to 7:45 a.m. Sept. 25 outside the Health Professions building. Registration varies from \$12 to \$30. The race is for all ages and split into different age groups. Entries are taken until the day of the race but after Sept. 23 will incur a late charge. For more information or to register online, visit www.dgroadracing.com or www.occc.edu/lifesaver.

Baptist club offers free lunch

Baptist Collegiate Ministries will offer free lunch and Christian fellowship to all students, faculty and staff members during their meetings this semester. Lunches will be held from noon to 12:50 p.m. Mondays in the Bruce Owen Theater, and from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. Thursdays in room 3N0 of the Main Building. For more information, contact Mark Barnett at 405-323-0583 or e-mail Chris Verschage at cverschage@occc.edu.

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 in 1F2 of the Arts and Humanities Building, just inside Entry 2.

If you have community news and you would like it to be heard, contact Christy Johnson at staffwriter1@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611 ext. 7676.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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FOR SALE: 2001 Ford Focus ZX3-S2 Special Edition, 80,500 miles, new transmission, water pump, four low-profile tires, light damage on driver side door and minor cracks due to the hail storm. Good condition and drives great. \$3,200. OBO. Contact: Lily at 918-740-7906.

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FOR SALE: 1996 Honda Civic, two-door, red color, rebuilt motor, recently changed new a/c. Good condition and drives great. \$3,500. OBO. Contact: Liton at 405-822-1638.

SERVICES

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Tutoring Offered: Do you need some assistance on Accounting, Business Statistics, Economics and French? Call Camille at 405-445-8697 or e-mail camillenjeu@yahoo.fr.

TEXTBOOKS

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Access 2007, volume 1. Grauer. Lockley / Mulbery. Leadership Development Studies. A Humanities Approach, Phi Theta Kappa. 4th Edition. All books are in good shape. Contact Camille at 405-445-8697 or e-mail camillenjeu@yahoo.fr.

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Students invited to free tour of museum all month

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Online Editor

onlineeditor@occc.edu

Throughout the month of September, college students across Oklahoma — including OCCC — will be able to visit the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, located at 415 Couch Drive in downtown Oklahoma City, free of charge.

Bryon Chambers, assistant education curator, said this is the first time OKCMOA has offered the event, called College Month.

“College Month is our opportunity to invite students from all Oklahoma universities and colleges to experience our museum,” Chambers said.

Students only need a valid student ID to gain admission into the museum, located at 415 Couch Drive in Oklahoma City.

English professor Jeff Cleek said he is encouraging his Modern Humanities students to take advantage of College Month by offering extra credit for students who visit the museum and complete a one-page paper about their experience.

“The only way to get a full impression of art is to see it in person,” Cleek said. “When you’re looking at a reprint, or something online or in a textbook, it loses something.”

“Seeing artwork in person allows you to see the piece in its proper size and colors, as

the artist intended.

“You could see the Mona Lisa 200 times on paper, but seeing it in person would be an entirely different experience.”

Cleek said students have nothing to lose by attending OKCMOA this month.

“It’s absolutely free, and it’s a really nice museum,” he said.

“If you go there, you’ll find pieces you like and some you don’t,” Cleek said.

“But your time will not be wasted.”

Chambers said students can visit the museum as many times as they like throughout the month.

He said he hopes many students take advantage of the event.

“Any opportunity we have to get involved in the community, any opportunity we have to make culture a part of college students’ lives, is an opportunity we’re going to take,” Chambers said.

OKCMOA has hundreds of pieces of artwork available for viewing, he said, including “Intersection,” a series of large-scale, steel and aluminum automobiles created by University of Oklahoma Professor Jonathan Hils.

Chambers said another new display, “La Serenissima” — Italian for “the most serene” — focuses on 18th-century Venetian art.

The works featured in the exhibit cover Italian art in the

age of the Grand Tour and through the decline of the Republic, brought about by Napoleon’s invasion of Italy in the last decade of the century, he said.

“We’re very excited about ‘La Serenissima,’” Chambers said.

If College Month is a success this September, he said, he anticipates OKCMOA will make it a yearly event.

OKCMOA is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is closed Mondays.

For more information, call 405-236-3100, or visit the OKCMOA website at www.okcmoa.com.



Throughout the month of September, college students across Oklahoma — including OCCC — will be able to visit the Oklahoma City Museum of Art free of charge. For more information, call 405-236-3100, or visit www.okcmoa.com.



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