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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# PIONEER

OCTOBER 1, 2010

[WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER](http://WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER)

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Waiting around



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Students (left to right) Sean Henry, Efrén Olivas, Kelsey Verrill and Nicholas McDaniel take the stage during dress rehearsal for the play, "Waiting for Godot," written by Samuel Becket. The play will be performed each night at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 7 through 9 in the Bruce Owen Theater. See page 4 for the full story.

### STUDENTS CAN FIND HELP THROUGH STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## Mental health counseling available

**CHRISTY JOHNSON**  
Community Writer  
[communitywriter@occc.edu](mailto:communitywriter@occc.edu)

At OCCC, accommodations are made for people with physical disabilities.

Some of those are ramps, handicap parking and specially-designed desks and water fountains for those in wheelchairs or for those who may have trouble walking.

However, said Jenna Howard, licensed counselor and social worker

in Student Support Services, some students have disabilities that aren't as readily seen and those students need a helping hand as well.

Mental health disabilities are just as debilitating as physical ones, Howard said, and there is no

shame in seeking help.

"We have two counselors on campus ready to assist students with these issues," she said.

Sometimes, Howard said, a student may not even realize there is a problem, but she said her office can help them

identify if there is.

"Many young people do not discover they have a mental health disability until they are in their early 20s," she said.

She said some students with mental health dis-

See **HELP** page 9

## About 180 additional parking spaces planned

**CHRISTIAN KOSTED**  
Senior Writer  
[seniorwriter@occc.edu](mailto:seniorwriter@occc.edu)

By early next year, about 180 new spaces will be added to the parking lot north of the library, said J.B. Messer, Facilities Man-

agement director.

Currently, the campus has 3,025 parking spaces not including faculty and staff parking, and the existing lot north of the library has 276 spaces, Campus Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque said

in an e-mail.

The project will be open for public bid on Oct. 12, Messer said. The estimated cost provided to the Board of Regents for the new lot is \$500,000.

“Additional parking will help because if you come at 9 a.m. it's hard to find a spot.”

—RIAN KEYLON  
OCCC STUDENT

He said the contractor with the lowest and most responsible bid will then provide a timeline

for completion and an estimate of cost.

See **PARK** page 9

# OPINION

**EDITORIAL** | Going green requires group effort

## More proactive recycling efforts would make campus, community a better place

Have you heard? Green is the new black. It's the color that goes with everything.

From using fluorescent light bulbs to buying electric cars, 'going green' — that is, becoming environmentally conscious in all your decisions — is quickly becoming a way of life in the U.S.



Whitney Knight

Here at OCCC, however, the trend has yet to catch on.

Every day, school trash cans overflow with the usual suspects: aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and discarded newspapers and white office paper.

Much of this could, and should, be recycled.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recycling is one of the easiest ways to go green.

Recycling reduces pollution, saves energy, lessens the need for garbage landfills and incinerators, and conserves natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals.

Recycling takes little effort and achieves great results.

However, even the simplest of tasks are unachiev-

able when the means to complete them are not readily available.

In the Main Building, where most campus traffic takes place, the only recycling receptacle on hand is located just outside the entrance of the Communications Lab.

Even in the College Union, where it would seem most recyclable materials go to waste, no similar container is available.

For students who are busy juggling heavy textbooks, laptops, backpacks and more, toting empty bottles and food containers around campus to find that one recycle bin isn't practical.

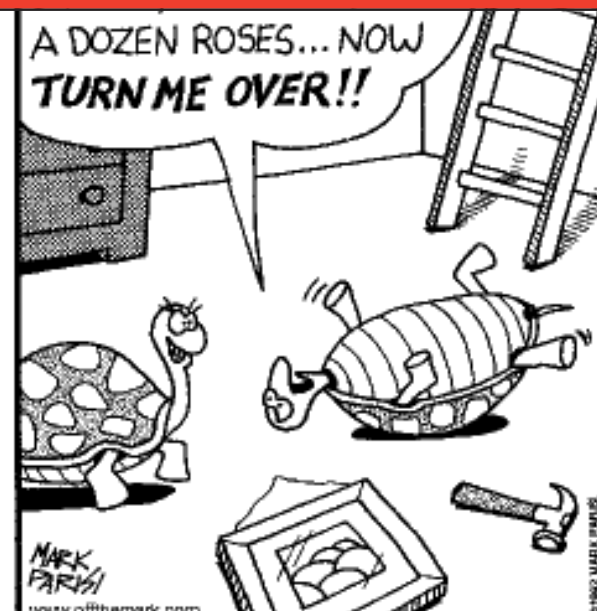
If more recycling bins were available on campus, more students would be apt to use them — and OCCC would be a better place for it.

For a campus community of more than 14,000 students, faculty, and staff members, becoming environmentally conscious seems like a mammoth task, and for one person, it might be.

But if OCCC were to come together and make a unified effort, that mammoth is more like a mouse.

Late cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead once said: "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world."

"Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

**YOUR VOICE** | Think before you speak

## Classroom no place for bullies

**To the editor:**

Regarding the Sept. 17 story about the student who was handcuffed after a classroom scuffle, I have to ask our students what they think might happen when they make fun of people and belittle them.

Even if you're in the most basic of remedial classes, you are still in college, and you need to leave the sandbox behaviors in the sandbox.

A violent outburst and possible assault on another person is not appropriate, but neither is deriding a person until he loses control.

I encourage you all to think before you speak or act.

If you wouldn't want something said or done to you, then don't say or do it to someone else.

It isn't trendy. It doesn't make you cool. And the end result may be more than you bargained for.

—MARY TURNER

LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

**YOUR VOICE** | Ill student appreciates assistance

## Security officer, student thanked for kindness in time of another's need

**To the editor:**

Recently on my way to class at OCCC, I felt ill and asked a student where the closest wash-room was located.

I certainly didn't want to disrupt class.

After pulling myself together, I left the wash-

room feeling weak and started down the hall.

A campus security officer approached me and asked if I wanted to go to the emergency room at a nearby hospital.

Apparently, he had been alerted by the student who had given me

directions earlier.

I thanked him but said I would like to drive home.

He called for a [security] vehicle and drove me to my car.

He took my homework and said he would see that it got to my [history] professor, Ron Gray.

Looking in the rear-view mirror, I noticed the security men were making sure I was able to drive.

The experience wasn't a cheerful one for me, but it was an act of kindness and efficiency all around: from the student tipping

off the security officers to the quick response and aid they gave me.

It was professional on

security's part and I owe them a vote of thanks.

—MICKEY SHERMAN

OCCC STUDENT

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

**VIDEO GAME REVIEW** | Nintendo offers inexpensive games for Wii users

## Wii gaming library offers alternatives

Powering on your Nintendo Wii is like hearing your favorite song on the radio: you smile stupidly, you wave your arms around, and you know all the words — or in this instance, the hand motions — by heart.

But sometimes the routine gets a little mundane. So the next time you fire up your system, give Super Smash Bros. Brawl a break and swing your cursor to the right, where you'll find the Wii Shop Channel.

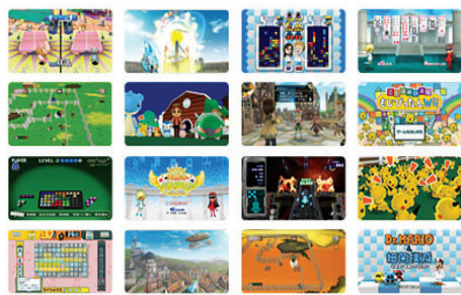
In this virtual store, you'll find a hidden treasure called WiiWare, a service that allows players to download exclusive games made specifically for the Nintendo Wii console.

For prices mostly ranging between \$5 and \$10, gamers can download a plethora of titles directly to their console — no discs, memory cards, or extension cables required.

The games carry no expiration date; they will remain with your system forever unless you delete them.

A quick browsing of the WiiWare library reveals there is something for everyone.

Titles vary from the silly, such as "Enjoy Your Massage!" and "Lead the Meerkats" to the serious, like "Rage of the Gladiator" and "Military Mad-



**WiiWare**

ness."

Not every WiiWare game is an original title. Official games from popular series like Pokémon and Final Fantasy also are included in the mix.

Although the games are priced cheaply, their quality easily matches — and sometimes exceeds — that of retail Nintendo Wii titles.

The gameplay is amazing, the content is new and original, and the graphics are everything you would expect in a game that costs more than four times the price.

That affordability is another terrific aspect of WiiWare.

Forking over 50 bucks every time a new video game drops on store shelves isn't practical for most, but skipping a cup or two of Starbucks certainly isn't a stretch.

So before you go out and buy the latest "Halo" or "Rock Band" installment, stop and take a look at what's already available in your own home.

You're sure to find something new — and you're guaranteed to save a few dollars in the process.

**Rating:** A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
ONLINE EDITOR

**FILM REVIEW** | New alternative album rates average

## Anberlin returns to old, lively sound

Florida-based alternative rock band Anberlin is back with yet another new release, "Dark is the Way. Light is a Place," less than two years after their last studio album.

Complaints about Anberlin dramatically changing their sound won't be heard. In what is a follow-up to a somewhat disappointing effort in "New Surrender," Anberlin gets back to their old ebb and flow in their fifth studio release.

The opening track, "We Owe This to Ourselves," throws us into the thick of what Anberlin is all about. Lively music and catchy choruses lead the way for the rest of a solid effort.

"Ourselves" transitions seamlessly into the second track, "Impossible," as if they are one. The liveliness carries on into more uplifting tunes even if the subject matter is about love and loss.

After a promising opening, the album takes a turn for the forgettable. Most of the middle tracks seem to blend into one another almost acting as filler until the eighth track.

"To the Wolves" is where loyal Anberlin fans will be delightfully surprised. The fast-paced, guitar-heavy tune is one of the few glimpses from "Dark is the Way. Light is a Place" of how Anberlin is ca-



pable of rocking out.

The rest of the album falls back into the lumbering ballads that are most of the album. While not entirely bad in terms of quality of music, the album as a whole will leave listeners slightly dissatisfied.

Anberlin's fifth studio release in less than eight years is nice for eager fans awaiting new music, but quantity over quality is rarely a good thing. Despite a few sure-to-be hits, Anberlin's latest effort falls short of past successes.

**Rating:** C+

—MORGAN BEARD  
STAFF WRITER

## COUNSELOR'S Corner

### Preparation aids future success

Successful people aren't successful by accident. They plan for it. Even when life throws unexpected situations their way, as it does to all of us at some time, successful people consider their options and make the situation work for them.

In a very short while, you'll be able to select your classes for the spring semester. I encourage you to take some time and really plan to have a successful semester.

First, choose classes that promote your academic strengths. If you have classes that will be challenging, try to mix them up so that you have at least one or two each semester that you will not only enjoy, but at which you can excel.

It will feel less like a chore to study for the one or two that will take more of your time if you can balance those classes with others that play up your strengths.

Consider your time constraints. Enroll in what you can do successfully. If you work, have a family, participate in community activities, etc., then you must be realistic in scheduling your course load.

One of the biggest problems I see in students who are not doing well is that they have very little time outside of class in which to study.

School is work, and you must devote yourself to your classes if you wish to understand the content and perform well on exams.

Keep your contact information current.

Sometimes, a professor or other staff member may need to reach you to let you know what is going on, but we can't because your address and phone number have changed.

Also, check your OCCC e-mail regularly. That is a primary way that we will try to communicate with you.

If you haven't already become familiar with all of the support resources on campus, take some time to become so before next semester begins.

Asking questions and fully participating in the campus experience are indicators of your interest and potential success in college.

Know how to appropriately advocate for yourself so that you can get what you need to move on with your life.

If you aren't sure where to start in that process, stop by and ask us down in Student Support Services (located on the first floor of the Main Building, near the Student Life office).

Your success matters to us.

—MARY TURNER  
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST



# 'Waiting for Godot' takes the stage Oct. 7-9

R. OWEN PICKARD  
News Writing Student

A cast of four theater arts students will star in the production of "Waiting For Godot," written by Samuel Beckett in 1948.

The play will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 7 through 9, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

"Godot" has been labeled by many as the most important play of the 20th century, said

Director Brent Noel.

In this two-act tragicomedy nothing happens — twice.

Noel said this is best described as a play about the human condition, asking the question "What do we do while we're waiting?"

The plot centers around Estragon, played by Efram Olivas, and Vladimir, played by Nicholas McDaniel, who wait for days for a character named Godot, a person barely known by either of them, Noel said.

Twice, their boredom is broken by the appearance of the slave, Lucky, played by Kelsey Verrill, tied to a leash controlled by his master, Pozzo, played by Sean Henry.

Although the concept of the story can sound deep, the production is very humorous, Noel said.

He said the play was selected to go along with the theme "Season of Anticipation."

"There is a sense of anticipation that something is beginning to happen here with the arts," said Noel, referring to the building of the new theater on campus, which will begin in the spring.

"This is the show that we

**"Waiting for Godot"**

7:30 p.m.  
**Bruce Owen Theater**  
Oct. 7 through 9

**Tickets: Students \$5 with student ID**  
**General Admission \$10**

chose to kick off that season, because it is about waiting for something."


Noel also heads the theater program at OCCC.

The second of four plays, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, will be

performed Nov. 18 through 20.

Students and faculty will be able to attend free on opening night with valid student identification.


Tickets will be \$5 for students and \$10 for general admission on Friday and Saturday nights.



## CAMPUS VOICES


Fall 2010 Student Life Lecture Series

*"Living the Map" with Daniel Seddiqui*  
October 7 @ 2 p.m.  
College Union 2-3



Daniel Seddiqui completed a mission to work 50 different jobs in 50 states. He has been everything from a Rodeo Announcer in South Dakota, a Model in North Carolina, a Marine Biologist in Washington, to a Border Patrol Agent in Arizona. Listen to Daniel discuss differences among people and cultures, pursuing the dream job, and developing a reputation as a hard worker, regardless of the circumstances.

*"Inside the C.I.A." with Donald Hughes*  
November 17 @ 2 p.m.  
College Union 2-3



Hughes, a retired Army officer, worked for the CIA's Congressional Affairs office where he facilitated efforts to keep Congress informed of CIA activities. He joined the CIA in 2000, after working on a large Brazilian government program intended to improve the country's ability to exert its sovereignty over the Amazon. Hughes will speak about international affairs and intelligence operations.

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& part-time positions**

**Wednesday- Oct. 6, 2010  
College Union**

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**10:00am-2:00pm**

☒ **Health Professionals**  
**Noon-6:00pm**

For more information, contact Judi McGee,  
Coordinator of Employment Services at (405)  
682-1611, ext. 7369, (405) 682-7519 or email  
jmcgee@occc.edu.



OKLAHOMA CITY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Public Welcome

IN IT FOR THE CAREER

Student Employment & Career Services



## RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS FOR PARENTS JUGGLING STUDIES, FAMILY

# For parents attending college, balance is key

CHASADI C. FAILS

Contributing Writer  
staffwriter3@occc.edu

For psychology major Robert Bedford, failure is not an option.

Bedford, 29, is a single father of two girls, ages 5 and 4, and a 2-year old boy. And, like many other parents, he is juggling school with a busy home life.

"I came back to school to provide a better life for my family," he said. "I worked 10 years and I was barely making it."

Bedford said his children go to daycare while he is in school full-time. When he comes home, he tends to their needs first, then does his homework while they sleep.

In addition to duties at school and home, he said, he is currently undergoing a custody battle with his children's mother.

"[It's] hard," Bradford said. "[But] I am determined to make it better."

Cinnamon Russell, biology major, said she also struggles with balancing schoolwork and taking care of her 2-year-old son by herself.

"I am making a better, [more] stable life for my son and I," Russell said. "I sacrifice now so I won't have to later."

She said the variety of classes available at OCCC played a factor in her enrollment.

"I love knowing if I need to take online or evening classes, I can," Russell said.

Even for two-parent households, balancing classes and children is no easy task.

"It's really difficult," said education major Christopher Netty, who attends classes with his wife, nursing major Elizabeth Netty.

The couple has two school age daughters.

"Our zeal helps us propel ourselves for a better job and future for our kids," Christopher Netty said.



PHOTO COURTESY THE SINGLE PARENT FAMILY MINISTRY

He said he works full-time during the day and comes to school in the evenings, while his wife works part-time during the evenings and weekends.

A parent is always with their girls, he said.

The Nettys make sure they spend quality time with their girls on the weekend, Christopher Netty said.

"They see our hard work every day and know it's the way," he said. "It's not easy, but we press on."

Nursing major Jessica Onesky, 22, said her 2-year-old daughter attends OCCC's Child Development and Lab School on campus.

"[My life] is crazy, but determined," Onesky said. "It is not easy being a parent and going to school."

"I am thankful for the CDC and the learning skills they instill in my child."

Like Bedford, she said she spends time with her daughter after school and does her homework after she goes to bed.

"I know an education is the only way," Onesky said.

Barbara Carter, CDCLS assistant director, said the center

**"It's really difficult ... Our zeal helps us propel ourselves for a better job and future for our kids."**

—CHRISTOPHER NETTY  
OCCC STUDENT

provides learning experiences for children whose parents are students at OCCC.

Carter said the center offers student scheduled childcare, where students can bring their children in for the duration of their class session.

Childcare is extended for evening classes, she said.

Carter said sessions cost \$5 each and enrollment for the spring semester is tentatively scheduled to begin Oct. 25.

For children already enrolled in the CDCLS, she said, pre-enrollment will begin Oct. 18.

Because slots for child care fill up fast, the center runs on a first-come, first-serve basis,

said Lee Ann Townsend, lab supervisor.

For more information about the CDCLS, contact Townsend at 405-682-1611, ext. 7423, or visit [www.occc.edu/ChildDev](http://www.occc.edu/ChildDev).

*The Pioneer staff recently conducted a survey of 145 OCCC students.*

**Of the surveyed students, 36 percent said they have children**

**79 percent of students with children are female and 21 percent are male**

**69 percent of students with children are single parents and 31 percent are married**

**48 percent of students with children said their children are enrolled in daycare while they attend class**

**29 percent of students with children said they rely on friends and family to babysit while they attend classes**

**23 percent of students with children said they attend classes while their children are in school**



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# Therapy students create tools for clients

## Occupational Therapy Assistant expo showcases projects

JENNIFER MASSEY  
Editor  
editor@occc.edu

Building adaptive tools to solve daily-life problems for people with disabilities prompted second-year Occupational Therapy Assistant students to show their work to beginners in the program.

New students in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program observed demonstrations of adaptive equipment at an expo held in the corridor of the Health Professions building Sept. 21, said OTA Director Tom Kraft.

Lauren Ramos, Student Occupational Therapy Association president, likened the expo to a science fair.

"We all created a piece of adaptive equipment for people with any kind of disability to use," Ramos said.

Ramos said the purpose of the expo was to expose first-

year students to things they will encounter in their field work, Ramos said.

"We set this up so we could give them an idea of what they are getting into as far as the program and the jobs they are looking at," Ramos said.

It was a student's idea to offer the presentations in the form of an expo similar to some of the professional conferences the students will attend once they finish school, Kraft said.

"With each piece we explain what it is used for, how much it cost, how we made it, why we made it, and we give them time to ask questions and interact and get a hands-on look," said Kory Patterson, second-year OTA student.

First-year OTA student Mickey Strauss said he was impressed by the expo.

"I think it is really cool to see how the second-year students have utilized what they learned in the first year by creating adaptive equipment for people with conditions like cerebral palsy or multiple sclerosis or working with developmentally delayed children," Strauss said.

He said he liked that students



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

First-year nursing student Brenda Beaty (right) gets some hands-on training during the Adaptive Equipment Presentation for Occupational Therapy Development Sept. 21. OTA second-year student Casie Allison (left) said she helps introduce first-year students to the profession they are pursuing.

were given the opportunity to create their own adaptive equipment to use in clients' homes and during therapy sessions.

"They have just taken what they learned from their first year and what they learned by going on their field work," Strauss said.

In next year's expo, Ramos said, she hopes SOTA can invite the entire school to see the adaptive equipment the students have made.

# Occupational Therapy Assistant scores defended

JENNIFER MASSEY  
Editor  
editor@occc.edu

Program faculty defended recent graduates in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program who scored below the national average on the licensure test for the first time in the history of the college.

The program was brought into the spotlight at a recent OCCC Regents meeting.

There, Stu Harvey, execu-

tive director of planning and research, reported OTA graduates had ranked below the national average for first-time certification pass rates.

Tom Kraft, OTA director, said he wished he had been given the opportunity to speak at the regents meeting because there is more to the story behind the numbers.

"During that time, we had 17 students take the exam and we had 13 students pass the exam on the first time," Kraft

said. "Four students didn't do it successfully."

OTA Professor Reeca Young said the results are an anomaly.

"We have small groups and we have always been above the national average until this year," she said.

"This is the first year that we have had a pass rate below the national average."

Kraft said nationally 1,862 graduates tested, with 1,593 passing the first time for an 85 percent national first-time pass rate.

In comparison, OCCC's OTA program had a 77 percent first-time pass rate, Kraft said.

"What is student success?" Kraft asked. "Is it passing a test on the first round?"

"Each one of the four stu-

**“What is student success? Is it passing a test on the first round?”**

—TOM KRAFT  
OTA DIRECTOR

dents who did not pass on the first try retook the exam, passed, and is working in the field currently," he said.

Young said there is only one student in the history of the program who never passed the national exam.

Kraft said a problem for some of the recent graduates may have been the time lapse between leaving the program and taking the licensure test.

"One of the things we are talking about is that you don't want to wait to take the national exam," Kraft said.

Young agrees.

"You don't wait a year and not be working in the profession and then take the test."

Kraft said he understands the importance of the program's average but he didn't think it made his students any less successful in the eyes of OCCC.

Kraft defends the program as sound.

"I speak to the fact that we can become so numbers driven that we forget to consider the rest of the story," Kraft said.

"Every number has a face. Every number has a story."

**“We have small groups and we have always been above the national average until this year.”**

—REECA YOUNG  
OTA PROFESSOR



it's a small world

# Mexico native learns English from movies

BISHAL MALLA

Staff Writer

adman@occc.edu

Engineering and physics major Daniel Vargas, a native of Mexico, said he learned English at home partly by watching American movies.

As a child, he said, he hated English.

He remembers his mother telling him “maybe English is not your thing.”

The 22-year-old from the Mexico capital Mexico City, said his father was less accepting of his son's poor English skills.

It was his dad who hid the subtitles when they watched movies in English, so Daniel would learn English, he said.

“I even avoided watching movies with my dad because he used to hide the subtitles,” Vargas said.

“Later I realized that it helped me a lot to improve my English.”

Vargas said adapting to the environment of the U.S. was traumatic for him

when he first came to OCCC in the spring of 2008, even though he had been to U.S. five times as a tourist.

One particularly embarrassing moment occurred, he said, when he entered the women's restroom by mistake during his first week on campus.

“There were two ladies inside the restroom and I asked them what are you doing here,” he said.

“Instead, they asked me what was I doing there and I realized that I came to the wrong restroom, and I apologized to them.”

Communicating in English was not too difficult for Vargas, even at the beginning, because he had started speaking English as a child.

Nevertheless, he said, he sometimes felt uncomfortable speaking in a group, especially with people who speak English very fast, he said.

Driving also was not a big issue, he said, although he disagrees with a saying in Mexico: “If you know how to drive in Mexico City, you know how to

“Life always knocks you down but it's always about getting up again.”

—DANIEL VARGAS  
OCCC STUDENT

drive in the rest of the world.”

Even though Vargas had learned to drive in his home city of 20 million people, he didn't get his Oklahoma driver's license until his second attempt at the test.

When he first came to Oklahoma, Vargas said, he was disappointed with the unavailability of public transportation.

“Public transportation is very easy and convenient in Mexico,” he said.

“I was expecting the same thing in Oklahoma.”

Vargas is taking classes at both the University of Central Oklahoma and OCCC this semester.

He will have completed his associate degree in December and will graduate from OCCC, a college he said he has fallen in love with.

“It's like a second home for me.”

Vargas said he has actually completed his required classes at OCCC, and is now taking some basic classes just to hang around, he said.

“I feel very bad that I am leaving OCCC next semester because I will be done with all my classes here,” he said.

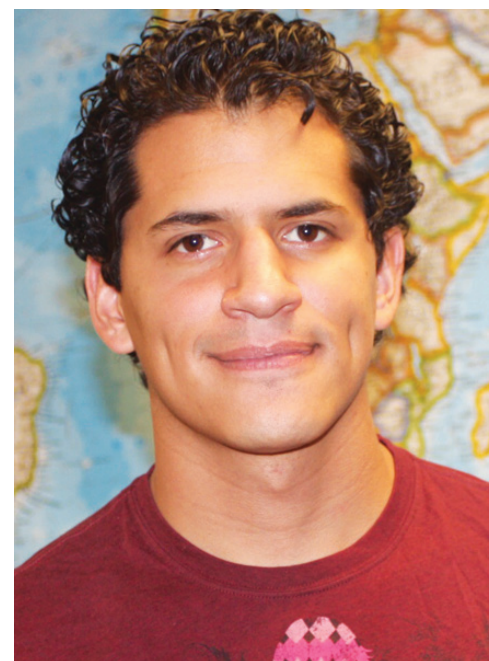
“But I might stay here taking some piano classes just to be here with my friends.”

Vargas works at the OCCC coffee shop.

He said he wishes OCCC were a four-year-university because it would be his first choice to continue his studies.

In the next 10 years, Vargas said he sees himself in a big city with a good job related to the engineering field.

“I would love to be in a big city rather



BISHAL MALLA/PIONEER

Daniel Vargas

than a smaller one,” he said.

Vargas said his life is great at the moment because of the good friends he has.

“An international student's life can be very difficult, especially in the first year of school,” he said.

Vargas said he thinks if international students find helpful people at the beginning stage then their lives can be good both in and outside of school.

He encourages all international students not to give up even though they may sometimes experience bad times.

“Life always knocks you down but it's always about getting up again,” he said.

Vargas said he is thankful to several people at OCCC who, he said, helped him adjust.

He named International Student Coordinator Sunny Garner, Mathematics Professor Paul Buckelew, and his best friend Murod Mamatov, an OCCC graduate.

“These are the people who made a huge impact in my life,” Vargas said.

“It's all because of them I was able to adjust to the environment here at OCCC,” he said.

“I am very grateful to them.”



## Mexico — World Region: North America

**Capital:** Mexico City  
**Population:** 111,211,789  
**GDP:** \$1.5 billion (USD)  
**National Languages:** Spanish  
**Currency:** Peso  
**Government:** Federal Republic

**Size:** 1,964,375 sq. miles (slightly smaller than three times the size of Texas)

**Religions:** Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jehovah's Witnesses

**Details:** Mexico is the developing country on the southern border of the U.S. The site of advanced Amerindian civilizations, Mexico came under Spanish rule for three centuries before achieving independence early in the 19th century. A devaluation of the peso in late 1994 threw Mexico into economic turmoil, triggering the worst recession in over half a century. The election held in 2000 marked the first time since the 1910 Mexican Revolution that an opposition candidate- Vicente Fox of the National Action Party (PAN), defeated the party in government, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). He was succeeded in 2006 by another PAN candidate Felipe Calderon. In January 2009, Mexico assumed a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2009-10 term. The nation had been making an impressive recovery until the global financial crisis hit in late 2008. Ongoing economic and social concerns include low real wages, underemployment, inequitable income distribution, and few advancement opportunities for the largely Amerindian population in the impoverished southern states.




\*source: www.cia.gov

**The Pioneer highlights International students once a month. If you are one or know of a student from another country and would like to see a profile on that students and his or her country, contact Bishal Malla at adman@occc.edu, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674 or drop by the Pioneer office in 1F2 on the first floor of the Arts and Humanities Building, just inside Entry 2.**



SPORTS



A photograph of a young woman, Graciela Cardenas, smiling while running on a treadmill in a gym. She is wearing a black t-shirt and brown pants. In the background, there is a red wall and a large age chart poster.

**RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER**

Business major Graciela Cardenas stays fit by doing a cardio workout three times a week. The cardio room on campus is full of treadmills and other machines available for students. It is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Intramurals | You know defeats the dream team 36-29

Flag football game goes to triple OT

MORGAN BEARD  
Staff Writer  
sportswriter2@occc.edu

A brotherly connection proved to be the difference as flag football team You Know finished with a dramatic triple overtime victory over the OCCC Dream Team 36-29 on Sept. 24.

Jordan and Josh Vanover's four combined touchdowns led their teammates to a victory in the week two flag football matchup.

The Dream Team put the first points on the board as a 35-yard bomb set up a quick goal line score early in the first quarter. You Know would find an equalizer a couple of drives later via quarterback Jordan Vanover's pass to Ben Dunn. The extra point gave them an early lead, 7-6.

The rest of the first half stalled as each team held the other offense in check by creating turnovers. During a last-minute drive for the Dream Team, Josh Vanover picked off a crucial pass

to end the half.

The scoreboard started to light up with the onset of the second half. You Know came out firing, led by a time-consuming drive capped off with a touchdown pass by the younger Vanover brother, Jordan.

The Dream Team's quarterback, Nick Pinkerton, led a 16-point surge to give his team the lead 22-14 early in the fourth quarter.

The lead wouldn't last too long as You Know came right back down the field as the Vanover brothers connected in the end zone for the score and eventual extra point to tie the game at 22 apiece.

The Dream Team's subsequent drive failed to garner a game-winning score and led to the first overtime. Dream Team player Justin Tran said he expected to win the game in regulation.

"It was disappointing not to get a score there," Tran said. "We wanted to get the game over with but we weren't able to put it in."

From there both teams drove the field

with ease finishing with 7 points each, keeping the score knotted up at 29 and forcing a second overtime.

In double overtime, The Dream Team began with the ball, but with a change at quarterback. Cameron Vanetten took over the passing duties in an attempt to provide a spark for his team.

However, the offense on both sides took a backseat as each team's defense had game-extending interceptions. The third and final overtime would ensue.

After stalling on the opening drive of triple overtime, the Dream Team turned the ball over on downs that gave You Know a prime opportunity to win the game.

Once again, the Vanover connection proved to be the decisive factor as Jordan threw yet another touchdown to older brother Josh giving their team the impressive victory.

Josh Vanover had nothing but praise for his team's effort.

"It was a hard fought game," Vanover said. "The better team won today."

**UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS**

- **Oct. 1:** Week three intramural flag football begins. The OCCC Dream Team play the Spartans at 1 p.m. The Crew play the Thunder at 2 p.m. The Smash Brothers play You Know at 3 p.m. All games will be held on the OCCC main soccer field. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786 or Charlier Tarver at ext. 7864.
- **Oct. 7:** Week two intramural volleyball begins. Kaos plays Hazardous Material at 1 p.m. The Sex Bob-ombs play the Strawberry Patch Kidz at 1:45 p.m. The Terminators play Strike Force at 2:30 p.m. J-CREW plays Team Higgins at 3:15 p.m. All games are played in the OCCC gym. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786 or Charlier Tarver at ext. 7864.
- **Oct. 8:** Week four intramural flag football begins. All six teams will be in action. For scheduling and time information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786 or Charlie Tarver at ext. 7684.
- **Oct. 14:** Week three intramural volleyball begins. All teams except for the Strawberry Patch Kidz will be in action. For scheduling and time information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786 or Charlier Tarver at ext. 7684.

FLAG FOOTBALL STANDINGS

1. You Know	2-0
2. Thunder	2-0
3. Dream Team	1-1
4. Smash Bros.	1-1
5. Spartans	0-1
6. The Crew	0-1

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



# Help: No shame in seeking help

Continued from page 1

abilities function well without additional assistance but said she is willing to help the ones who feel they need it.

Tori Leon, psychology major, said because of her major, she is well aware some students may have a mental disability, but was unaware there are resources on campus to assist those students.

"Many times people do think about students having mental disabilities, only the physical ones, but I am glad to hear

that they are not being left out," Leon said.

Howard said Student Support services can assist students with long-term and short-term counseling.

She said it is impossible to know exactly how many students at OCCC suffer from some type of mental health disability because not everyone seeks help.

"Some students are too embarrassed to come forward about problems they may be having mentally," she said.

Howard said she wants to

encourage those who feel something may be wrong to visit her office located on the first floor of the Main Building for help.

"We have the resources here on campus to help those in need," she said.

"If we cannot help someone, we can point them in the right direction and refer them to someone who can help them," she said.

For more information, e-mail Howard at [jhoward@occc.edu](mailto:jhoward@occc.edu) or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7621.

# Park: New spaces will cost \$500,000

Continued from page 1

"The project will add 197 spaces but 16 spaces will be removed to accommodate a walkway from Faculty Circle to the library so there will be a net increase of 181 spaces," Messer said.

The project also includes irrigation and landscaping of the new lot, he said.

Student reaction to the building project was generally positive with many students saying they use the current lot north of the library.

"We need additional space because sometimes the lot is full and it's hard finding a spot," said Carmen Blackburn, a nursing major who uses the existing lot north of the library.

Rian Keylon, an engineering major who also uses the lot,

said he is glad for the expansion.

"Additional parking will help because if you come at 9 a.m. it's hard to find a spot."

Students who use other parking areas reported fewer parking problems.


"I never have a hard time finding a place to park," said Miriam Ahmad, undecided

major.

"But there's a lot of traffic around and I think it is a good investment."

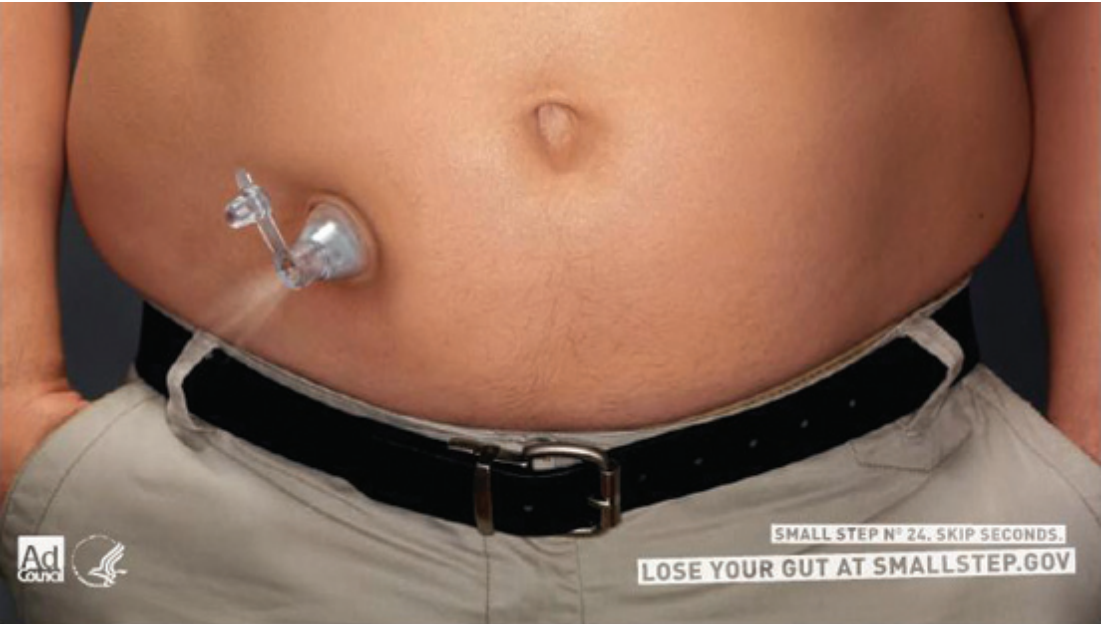
Nursing major Rusty Chandler said she thinks the extra spaces are unnecessary.

"I don't have a hard time finding a place to park and from what I see we don't need more spaces," Chandler said.



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and ZACH  
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**THURSDAY, OCT. 6, 7:30 P.M.**  
**QUAIL SPRINGS 24**

\*Supplies are limited. Complimentary passes are available in the Pioneer office 1F2 AH on a first-come, first-serve basis. One admit-two pass per person with a valid OCCC ID and proof of age.

**F O C U S PIONEER**  
F E A T U R E S

**IN THEATERS OCT. 8**

# 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](mailto:editor@occc.edu) or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409.

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# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Birthday bash



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Katie Treadwell, Student Life coordinator, serves a slice of red velvet cake to Danny Varghese, nursing major, during a celebration for OCCC's 38th anniversary on Sept. 23. Student Life employees passed out free cake, license plate frames, and OCCC T-shirts during the event.

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** | Campus club honors heritage with month-long celebration

## Club hopes to share heritage

**CHRISTY JOHNSON**

Community Writer  
communitywriter@occc.edu

Members of the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education at OCCC will celebrate Hispanic Heritage month in a number of ways, said Francisco Cervantes, HOPE club president.

For starters, the club has made plans to attend Fiesta de las Americas 2010, a multi-cultural outdoor festival scheduled from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, on the main street of Capitol Hill, SW 25 Street, between Walker and Shields.

The festival is being held in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage month, Cervantes said.

HOPE is sponsoring Hispanic Heritage month at OCCC as well, he said.

"We will be hosting several events here at the college and we would love for everyone to attend," he said.

"We will be hosting soccer games, auctions and dances," he said.

Cervantes said the club plans to have a dance instructor present at the dance to help people learn various Hispanic culture dances, he said.

"We are celebrating here at OCCC because we want other people, and students and faculty to get a sense of our pride and culture," he said.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time set aside for people of Hispanic and Latin descent to come together and celebrate, Cervantes said. Hispanic Heritage month will last until Oct. 15.

Cervantes said he feels that it is important for people to learn about the Hispanic and Latino heritage and culture.

"I feel that a person must know where they are from to know where they are going," he said.

Many countries in Central America, such as Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua participate in this month-long celebration, Cervantes said.

He said in 1968 Congress gave President Lyndon B. Johnson authorization to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage week. In 1988, it was increased from one week to one month.

Juan Luna, a HOPE club officer, said although their club wants to celebrate Hispanic and Latino heritage, they also want to celebrate and embrace diversity.

Luna said the HOPE club is planning to work with other clubs to host several different events.

HOPE club meetings are generally held every Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. in room 3N0 in the Main Building, he said.

Cervantes and Luna said there will be more information on upcoming activities soon.

For more information on this club and its upcoming events go to [occc.campusgroups.com/hope](http://occc.campusgroups.com/hope).

**If you have community news and you would like it to be heard, contact Christy Johnson at [communitywriter@occc.edu](mailto:communitywriter@occc.edu) or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676.**

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Students in Free Enterprise phone drive

SIFE is hosting an inactive cell phone drive beginning Wednesday, Sept. 29, until the end of the fall semester. This is a fundraising program where students and faculty can donate their old and inactive cell phones. The money raised from this fundraiser will go to the SIFE club organization. SIFE prefers all students and faculty who participate drop the cell phones in the boxes available in selected OCCC labs. All cell phone models will be accepted. For more information, e-mail Manuela Nkwinkwa, SIFE Vice president at [occc.sife@gmail.com](mailto:occc.sife@gmail.com).

### Christians on Campus

Christians on Campus club will host a Bible study on the book of Galatians beginning at noon to 12:45 p.m., Oct. 4, in room 2R7 in the Main Building. For more information contact 405-314-7739, or go to [campusgroups.com/christians](http://campusgroups.com/christians).

### Free Immunizations for Children

The Caring Van will be providing free immunizations for children from birth to 17, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, in the OCCC Child Development Center parking lot. This event is open to the public. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Parents must be sure to bring their child's current shot record. A parent or guardian must be present to complete the required paperwork. For more information contact the OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School at 405-682-7561.

### Course explores Performing Arts

OCCC humanities course, HUM 2003, is being offered through the OKC Downtown College Consortium. This is an 8-week course that meets from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays beginning Oct. 29. The class will be held at the Civic Center Music Hall. The course instructor is Ruth Charnay, Department Director for Communications and the Arts. For more information, contact OKC Downtown College at 405-232-3382.

### 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](mailto: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.**



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.

AUTOMOTIVE

**FOR SALE:** 2007 Volkswagen Bug, two door, light green color, sun-roof, heated leather seat. Excellent condition. \$13,700. OBO. Contact: Karen or Don Campo at 405-399-5780.

**FOR SALE:** 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix, two door, power locks, tinted windows, new tires, new battery, Good condition. \$1,500. OBO. Call: Tiffany at 405-429-7561 or e-mail tekingfisher@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT

**Job Offer:** Looking for part-time employee to work with a special need child. Interested person will be trained for CPR and first aid. Hours are flexible. E-mail tekingfisher@yahoo.com. Put "Cree" in the subject line.

SERVICES

**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.



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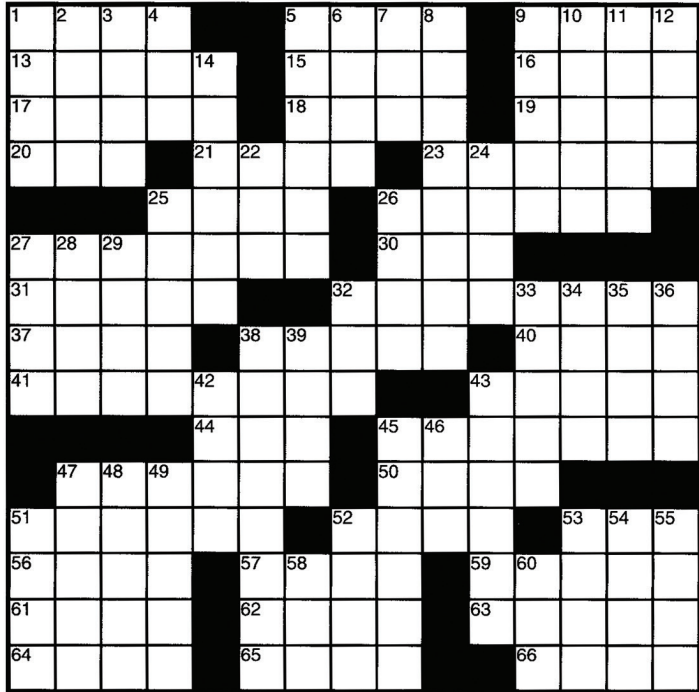
TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**  
1 Norway's capital  
5 Anchor  
9 Daisy Mae's creator  
13 Jungle charger  
15 Act like a wolf  
16 Flu symptom  
17 Buffalo  
18 Witnessed  
19 Nothing more than  
20 Mineral spring  
21 Capri, for one  
23 First game of the season  
25 Pepsi's rival  
26 Slim  
27 Word with the opposite meaning  
30 Paving substance  
31 Impends  
32 Toss overboard  
37 Melody  
38 Yawning  
40 Singer McEntire  
41 — but: by no means  
43 Coral or poppy  
44 Pie — mode  
45 Filmmaker Kubrick  
47 Soft fabric  
50 Scurries  
51 Thin coat  
52 Bogs  
53 Small amount  
56 Still-active volcano  
57 Fiery stone  
59 Luau welcome  
61 Move swiftly, as clouds  
62 Astronaut  
63 Armstrong  
64 The one here  
65 Gentlemen  
66 Circular roof
- DOWN**  
1 Spheres  
2 Freighter  
3 Mona —  
4 Lennon's love  
5 Islam follower  
6 S-shaped molding  
7 Bullfight cheer  
8 Restore to an earlier condition  
9 Desert animal  
10 Representative  
11 Fruit pulp  
12 Look closely  
14 Liver and —  
22 Shade of blue  
23 Sassy  
25 Hale-Bopp, e.g.  
26 Pace  
27 Can. province  
28 It could be

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

LOGO	SKATE	INNS
OMIT	UNLIT	COOP
PERT	BELLE	IOTA
ENDORSE	TRACKER	
MOO	NIL	
TITANIC	TALENTS	
ANON	LABEL	SORE
MAN	RIP	BOA
ENID	PONES	PLUM
DECIBEL	EYELETS	
OAR	MOA	
HATRACK	OBSCURE	
OSHA	HIPPO	ARIA
AHEM	ETHEL	TABS
XENA	SHINS	ELSE

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

**Read the Sept. 24 Pioneer issue for the answers. Send your answers to: adman@occc.edu.**

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

1: How much grant money did OCCC's new Performing Arts Theater recently receive?  
2: What is the total cost of the new Performing Arts Theater that is going to be built at OCCC?  
3: When and where is OCCC holding its annual job and health fair?  
4: When is the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education (HOPE) hosting a Latino showcase of the arts?

**Correct Answer for last week:**  
1: Marketing & Public Relations, 2: Sept. 23, Main Building GDA, 3: Sept. 25, 4: Sept. 21, Main Building GDA.



# 'Osage' play to feature OCCC staff

ESTHER VIDA ARVIV  
News Writing Student

OCCC's own Ruth Charnay and Rick Lippert will take the stage as two of the sanest characters in a houseful of crazy relatives when the dark comedy "August: Osage County" premieres at the Oklahoma City Repertory Theater on Oct. 7 and runs through Oct. 10.

Charnay works fulltime as department director of Communications and the Arts in the Arts and Humanities Division.

Her character in the play is Ivy, the quiet librarian who stayed close to home. She is the family caregiver in the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Oklahoma playwright Tracy Letts.

Ivy is the middle sister of the family and is in charge of taking care of her disturbed mother.

Also performing in the play is OCCC adjunct professor Rick Lippert, in the role of Uncle Charlie. Lippert teaches Video Production and Acting for the Camera.

He describes his character as having "more heart than anyone else in the play."

Charnay said the biggest challenge in balancing a full-time job with a major

theatrical production has been finding the time to memorize her part.

"The older I get, the more time it takes learning my lines."

Lippert said he too feels it is harder to memorize lines than it used to be.

The two spend their weekends with the cast preparing for opening night and both have several techniques for learning lines.

Charnay said she finds herself waiting in line at the store and practicing her script, or playing back recordings in her car.

Lippert also tapes the acts and replays them as well, going through the whole scene.

"It is important to not only know about your life but also you have to know everyone's life," he said.

The R-rated play tells a dramatic story of a highly dysfunctional family. It takes place in modern day Oklahoma. The play tells the story of middle-class family members willing to do anything to make one another miserable after the household patriarch mysteriously disappears.

Charnay, one of the founding members of the Oklahoma City Repertory, said she has been engaged in theater since she was a child. Theater has been

one of her life-long passions.

She said her colleagues have supported her in this project.

"I love the fact that the people I work with at OCCC also enjoy the arts," she said.

"It is wonderful to be in a place that is so supportive."

Lippert said he has been doing theater all of his adult life. Being in such a major American work "is a fantasy come true," he said.

Seeing the play on Broadway in New York two years ago was a powerful experience, Lippert said.

"It blew me away and I knew that I had just seen the best play of my lifetime," he said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be in the cast of the first regional equity production."

Charnay and Lippert urge everyone to attend.



COURTESY WENDY MUTZ/MUTZPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

OCCC Communication and the Arts Department Director Ruth Charnay and adjunct Professor Rick Lippert rehearse for their upcoming roles in "August: Osage County."

"The production will be fabulous," Charnay said. She warns the play contains adult language. "So if you're easily offended, then it's not for you."

Tickets are on sale at [www.cityrep.com](http://www.cityrep.com) or at the theater's box office located on 201 N Walker in Oklahoma City.

Tickets are \$8 for students with a student I.D. General admission tickets are \$30 for evening performances and \$25 for the matinee on Sunday.

## Vocalists hope to perform with Broadway star

CASEY AKARD  
News Writing Student

Singing on stage with Broadway star Frank D'Ambrosio is the goal of two OCCC vocalists who submitted audition tapes for his master class, to be held on campus Oct. 11.

Lauren Rose and Nidia Reyes will learn on the day of the class if they have been chosen to be among the three men and three women to receive singing lessons from the performer.

Rose crossed her fingers as she said she hopes to be picked to join the master class.

"This is a professional," she said. "It would be good to put on a résumé."

"I have potential, and



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Nidia Reyes and Lauren Rose will learn Oct. 11 if they will be chosen to perform with Broadway star Frank D'Ambrosio.

this is what I want to do, to sing."

D'Ambrosio has said he will choose one man and one woman from the class to sing with him on the night of his performance at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

Lemuel Bardeguez,

cultural programs director at OCCC, said four men and nine women applied for the musical parts.

D'Ambrosio is described on his website as the world's longest running lead in "Phantom of the Opera," one of Broadway's longest-

running musicals.

He opened the competition to the community, as well as students, Bardeguez said.

At the end of the master class, D'Ambrosio will choose one male and one female to sing the parts of Christine and Raoul, the young lovers in this lover's triangle.

Participants were required to send in an audio CD with two vocal pieces on it.

The first vocal piece was to be the song "All I Ask of You," a duet from "The Phantom of the Opera" that the winners will be singing. The second piece could be whatever the vocalist wanted to sing.

Rose, a music major

at OCCC, said she saw a poster advertising tryouts for the part. She researched D'Ambrosio's professional singing record and made the decision to send in an audition CD.

Though she is excited to hear the results, she also admits to being a little nervous. And she's not the only one.

Reyes said she feels the same way, but said she also looks forward to the experience.

Though she isn't a music major, Reyes said, she still has a passion for the musical arts. This past summer she took an individual voice class that OCCC offers to students who want one-on-one training with a professor.

"I came across the flier while I was studying with my professor," Reyes said.

"I told him about it and he knew about it already. He thought it would be a good idea for me to try out."

Even if she isn't the one female singer D'Ambrosio is looking for, Reyes said, it would be a great opportunity to make the master class.

"It would be an overwhelming experience to be able to sing with someone who is so talented."

For more information about ordering tickets to Frank D'Ambrosio's performance on Tuesday, Oct. 12, visit [www.occc.edu/cas](http://www.occc.edu/cas) or call the Cultural Program's ticket office at 405-682-7579.