

## PIONEER ONLINE

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## EDITORIAL

## DON'T PAY COLLEGE ATHLETES

Staff Writer Jacob Chambers says college football players shouldn't be paid for their athletic abilities. Read why he feels that way.

OPINION, p. 2

## CAMPUS LIFE

## STUDENT ENTERS FILM FESTIVAL

Film and Video major Shawn Barfield's short film "By Dawn" has been submitted to Oklahoma's deadCENTER film Festival. Read about his entry inside.

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## RECREATION

## INTRAMURAL LASER TAG OFFERED

OCCC's intramural department is offering a day of laser tag fun for students at the low cost of \$3. Find out more details and how to participate.

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## CAMPUS LIFE

## OCCC CELEBRATES GREEN WEEK

The Green Task Force will host an information fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 19. See how you can join in.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

## PIONEER

APRIL 15, 2011

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

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Artistic concentration



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Web design major Lacy La Shonda Carter adds finishing touches to her negative and positive still life project in Professor Pherapha Jaidee's Drawing I class. Carter's technique includes the use of white charcoal on black pastel paper.

## OCCC CARES FOR A STRETCH OF MAY AVENUE

## Adopt-a-street clean up planned

## HOLLY DAVIS WALKER

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

As part of Green Week and the celebration of the planet on Earth Day, OCCC will host a service day to clean up its adopted street, a stretch of May Avenue that runs from SW 74th Street to SW 86th Street.

The LitterBlitz cleanup will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 22.

This is the second service day this semester where volunteers picked up OCCC's adopted street, said Jill Lindblad, Service Learning and Student Life Programs Coordinator.

"When we went out April 1, we found a ton of trash all over the place," she said.

"We tried to clean up as much as we could, but there was still plenty left to be cleaned up. We will go back out on April 22 and clean that area up again, and try to keep it nice and neat."

Lindblad encourages any student, staff or faculty member to volunteer.

"Anybody that would like to come, we'd love to have you. The more hands we have, the faster the cleanup goes and the more we can clean up."

As part of the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful campaign, OCCC received supplies to use

while collecting trash, Lindblad said. Keep Oklahoma Beautiful encourages groups and organizations to get involved in keeping Oklahoma clean, Lindblad said.

Volunteers should dress appropriately for the occasion, including wearing closed-toe, comfortable shoes, Lindblad said.

"There have been times when we found needles in the ground and things like that," she said.

"We definitely take precaution because we don't want students touching those things.

"If they're out there, we want to make sure they're wearing the appropriate clothes."

Orange vests will be provided for safety reasons, Lindblad said.

Students also are encouraged to bring water and sunscreen.

"We will have some water, but we also encourage students to bring water themselves," Lindblad said. "We always provide refreshments and snacks at the end of our service days."

"I'm glad we take part in keeping [the area] pretty," Lindblad said.

"I hope our work helps people keep it clean and realize it isn't a dumping ground."

For more information or to RSVP, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523, e-mail [jlindblad@occc.edu](mailto:jlindblad@occc.edu) or stop by their office on the first floor of the Main Building.

## Tuition hike expected to be close to 5%

Predicted reductions for state funds has OCCC looking for money elsewhere

## JOEY STIPEK

Editor  
[editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu)

OCCC is expecting modest tuition increases next fall due to an projected 5 to 10 percent reduction in state funds.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist said the tuition increase is being considered because of a predicted shortfall.

"While we hope to make up some of the cuts from existing resources and controlling expenses, some modest level of increase in tuition will likely be necessary to maintain current course offerings and services to students," he said.

Sechrist said OCCC's commitment is to make the increase as small as possible.

"[The tuition increase is] not going to be double digit at all," he said. "I'm hoping it is going to be 5 percent or lower if we can keep it that low."

Sechrist said the school is funded 50 percent by the state of Oklahoma, 35 percent by tuition and another 15 percent by other sources of income.

He said one of those sources is the the South Oklahoma City Area Technical School District, an area in southwest Oklahoma City where the property taxes paid by those who live there go to the college.

"That's probably the most significant source of funding since about \$5 million comes from property taxes in the area near the college."

Sechrist said while OCCC has been able to control many costs such as personnel expenses, OCCC employee salaries, and the healthcare offered to OCCC employees, other essential costs, such as utilities and software licenses are expected to increase.

"We have campuswide Microsoft, campuswide e-mail, campuswide wireless," he said. "All of those systems cost money and there are maintenance fees for those, and they go

See **BUDGET** page 9

## OPINION

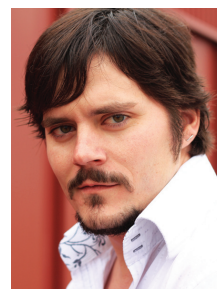
EDITORIAL | Writer argues paid tuition should already be considered a form of payment

## Athletes deserve only scholarships

A volatile topic circling the world of collegiate sports is whether student athletes deserve to be paid for playing.

College athletes earn major universities millions of dollars in revenue annually, while they receive an education in return.

According to the Birmingham Business Journal, the Texas Longhorns earn the most for the college with \$72.95 million in football revenue, and more than \$120 million overall.



Jacob Chambers

This monumental amount of income is catching the attention of NCAA Athletics President James Votruba.

According to [www.thenortherner.com](http://www.thenortherner.com), he doesn't like the idea of paying players to play for college institutions. And he's right. The idea of paying NCAA athletes is ludicrous.

Let's not forget most of these athletes receive tuition for most if not all of their already expensive education. Paid tuition should already be considered a form of payment.

Not all these players are scholars in the classroom and are already taking padded courses because they give their university a better chance of winning when they are eligible to play.

Former University of Oklahoma basketball star Blake Griffin was quoted during a basketball game he played in while attending OU, saying his favorite class was pilates.

This is a common theme around the country; athletes are brought in and are able to take relatively easy classes, to maintain a high GPA.

There are exceptions to this trend; many college athletes do, in fact, take demanding courses while participating in athletics. The Nov. 22, 2008, Rhodes Scholar recipient and former Florida State football player Myron Rolle, is an example.

According to [insider.espn.go.com](http://insider.espn.go.com), Rolle agrees with the idea of paying NCAA athletes.

"I am in favor of paying collegiate athletes, and I say that because football and basketball ... (are) the biggest revenue-generating sports," Rolle said.

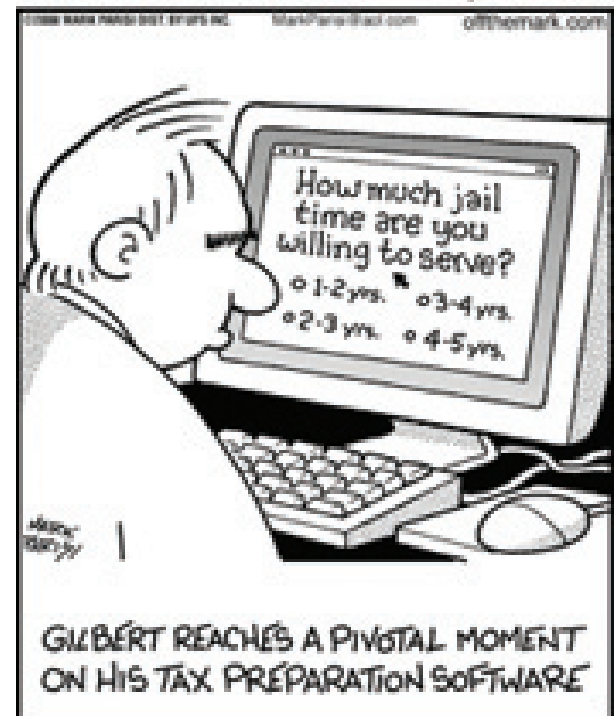
Finding common ground on this issue is difficult. It's simple really: college athletes do not get paid to play, because that is what makes NCAA sports entertaining to watch.

They are asked to train extremely hard while attending class, striving to earn the opportunity to earn a paycheck to play the sport they love.

If the NCAA tarnishes the legacy of the collegiate athletic world by paying players, then you may not see athletes going 110 percent on every play.

One of the main reasons college sports holds tradition is competitors go as hard as they can every second of every play.

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



GILBERT REACHES A PIVOTAL MOMENT ON HIS TAX PREPARATION SOFTWARE

MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

That's one of the major dilemmas with professional sports right now; fans must witness players constantly giving up on plays.

If college athletes get paid, they will not produce as much excitement on the field of play as they did before they got paid. They should remain unpaid, and be happy with scholarships and focus on what's important now — their education.

—JACOB CHAMBERS  
SPORTS WRITER

YOUR VOICE | Writer says students and faculty have food options

## Coffee shop employee says there are multiple options

## To The Editor:

I would like to respond to the letter in the April 8 edition about the OCCC coffee shop food selection. There was a comment how there is no food for evening students. I work the eve-

ning shift most days and students and faculty do have options. Fruit cups, sandwiches, granola bars, and other various pick-me-ups are offered all day long.

While the more popular items sell more

quickly, this is not to say the coffee shop does not care about students. Every morning before opening, we check to make sure everything is fresh. Aside from Friday and Saturday we are open until 8:30 p.m.

For those coming in for breakfast there is cereal, bagels, breakfast burritos and ham and cheese croissants. Evening students and faculty can enjoy a nighttime snack from cookies to a strawberry cream cheese

croissant.

Whether your snack is an apple, fruit bowl, or a piece of cake there are healthy choices. Everyone who stops by is welcome to slim down drinks with nonfat milk and sugar free flavors.

We work hard at offering various types of fruits, pastries, and sandwiches. We welcome suggestions on how we can improve the coffee shop.

—JENNIFER WALTER  
COFFEE SHOP  
EMPLOYEE

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 in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, faxed to 405-682-7843, or submitted via e-mail to [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu) with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).

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# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**FILM REVIEW** | Film is a visually arresting with surreal qualities

## Sucker Punch delivers blow to senses

Visually arresting. Deliciously twisted. An elegant commentary on personal freedom. All these could be used to describe “Sucker Punch,” the latest special effects extravaganza to hit theaters.

Released March 25, “Sucker Punch” is one of the very few movies that has left me still trying, hours later, to figure out all the nuances of the experience.

Initially, the movie seems strangely unfocused, moving through to what seems to be the climax within the first 10 minutes.

But then the main character, Baby Doll (Emily Browning) falls into what appears to be a dream and the real plotline begins.

The story begins with the death of Baby Doll's mother. After the funeral, her stepfather discovers that his wife has left her entire estate to Baby and her sister.

Enraged, he separates them, and although it is implied that he intends to rape them, it is never made clear what his plans for them are.



While attempting to save her sister, Baby points a gun at her stepfather.

But when she fires, possibly to prove she will, the bullet ricochets and kills her younger sister.

Baby's stepfather then uses the young girl's death, and Baby's involvement in it, as an excuse to commit her to an asylum.

The twists come hard and fast after that, as Baby Doll falls into a dream

world that parallels the asylum.

But from that world, she then enters yet another dream world, one in which she fights to reclaim her freedom against ever more impossible and fantastic creatures.

The special effects are the standout feature of the film. Vast, sweeping battle scenes cut in with hand-to-hand combat reminiscent of animé and martial arts films delight

the eyes and leave viewers hungry for more.

But unlike many movies where special effects are the central point, “Sucker Punch” never loses sight of the plot.

Throughout the movie, viewers are kept guessing on what is and what isn't real. The strangeness of the dream within a dream within a dream lends a surreal quality to everything within the movie.

The cast delivers a stunning performance, easily carrying the surrealism of the plot and visuals into their characters.

Perhaps the only bad thing about “Sucker Punch” is that nothing is ever truly explained. It is left to the viewer to decide whether the events in the movie really happened or were simply a delusion of Baby's.

Overall, “Sucker Punch” is one of the best movies I've ever seen.

I definitely recommend giving it a look, but with a warning: hold onto your mind.

This film will leave you questioning everything.

**RATING: A**

—JEREMY CLOUD  
SENIOR WRITER

## ADVISER'S 411

Are you graduating in May? Have you thought about transferring to a four-year institution yet? If you haven't, it is not too late! Many universities are still accepting applications for the Fall 2011, but you have to act quickly. Here are a few tips:

- Fill out an application. Most applications are available in paper form and online.

- Send in your official transcripts from EVERY college or university you have attended. At OCCC you would contact the Records department for an official copy of your transcript.

- Meet with an adviser at your new institution to get help with your educational plan.

- Enroll as soon as possible for the best course selection at your new university.

- If you are an international student, these deadlines can be earlier, so pay close attention.

- Act early and talk with Sunny Garner to make sure SEVIS paperwork is in order.

- If at all possible, make your fall schedule before you travel home for the summer. This will ensure you get the most optimal times and days for your classes at your new institution.

- If you still are not sure where you want to transfer, there are many services available to help you make an informed decision.

- Recruiter visits – Four-year university representatives are available in the Transfer Center (outside of Academic Advising). Visit <http://www.occc.edu/TransferCenter/Calendar.pdf> for a calendar of schools being represented.

- Campus Tours – The Transfer Center will take a group of students to an institution to get a tour, application and scholarship information, meet with an adviser, and sometimes lunch. The tour dates are coming, so watch the website for more details.

- Academic Advisers – Meet with an academic adviser at OCCC. Our advisers can help you map out your educational goals.

For more information on transferring, transfer activities or academic advising, please contact Melissa Aguigui at [maguigui@occc.edu](mailto:maguigui@occc.edu) or 405-682-7567.

—MELISSA AGUIGUI  
ACADEMIC ADVISER

**MUSIC REVIEW** | “White Jesus” resurrects hip-hop with free mixtape download

## Mixtape has southern swagger and sound

With warm weather comes an urge for many to crank the music up and roll the windows down. The debut album from up and comer Georgian rapper Rittz makes this quest a simple one.

The first album released on superstar Yelawolf's label Slumerican Records; Rittz's “White Jesus” boasts work from Big K.R.I.T., Shawty Fatt,

8Ball and entrepreneur Yelawolf.

The much-anticipated release was coordinated by Rittz, DJ Burn One and DJ Booth.net for free download.

Rittz has a fast and dark style much like Tech N9ne, or Brotha Lynch Hung but with a more southern sound. With a secret weapon like DJ Burn One backing him,

his songs never get repetitive.

The album starts with the self-titled track “White Jesus” harboring an eerily played “Funeral March” by Chopin mixed with the sounds of rain and then accompanied by an intense hip-hop beat.

Track two changes it up a pace really speeding up the rapid-fire rhymes.

An intense groovy bass

line accompanied by a simple beat makes for the best song on this album. “Fulla Shit,” which has already created a large buzz among the Internet community and got instant reactions from early leaks, deals with men lying and cheating on women.

Rittz continues on a roll changing things up with mellower songs like

“Blowin My Mind,” “Sex-tacy,” and “Pie,” which have a bit more West Coast sound complete with vibrato organs.

With 12 tracks of intense songs intended to make your head swagger, this is a solid album sure to get critical acclaim.

“White Jesus” has

strong adult language and sexual content and is not for the easily offended.

To download a copy of the “White Jesus” mixtape for free, visit [www.djbooth.net](http://www.djbooth.net).

**RATING: B+**

—SHAWN STAWICKI  
LAB ASSISTANT



# Online class success can be challenging

THADDEUS AYERS  
Feature Writing Student

With the Spring 2011 semester nearing its end, fun in the sun is quickly replacing study in the shade. Perhaps you have a class you need to take in the summer or want to get a head start on assembling your fall schedule.

The summer semester shows more than 190 online courses available. That number jumps to more than 320 classes in the fall.

An online course may seem like an easy way to enjoy this summer without getting stuck in a class, but hidden pitfalls like time management and chapter readings can make your online experiment a failure.

To avoid the pitfalls, here are five ways to survive your online learning experience.

## GET READY FOR ANGEL

OCCC has the Student Online Readiness Tool (SORT) available to prospective online learners. Provided by the University System of Georgia, SORT is a program developed to give students an idea of what to expect when taking a class online.

Each answer is evaluated and provides helpful insight into the demands of online

learning. SORT can be found at [www.occc.edu/online-resources/readiness](http://www.occc.edu/online-resources/readiness) by clicking the "Student Online Readiness Tool" link.

Next, become familiar with OCCC's online learning program, ANGEL. There is an ANGEL Orientation available at [online.occc.edu](http://online.occc.edu). MineOnline login information is required.

## FIND A PROFESSOR

Even online, there is some variance to teaching methods. A website like [www.ratemy-professors.com](http://www.ratemy-professors.com) will help you learn more about the professor you are considering.

Complete with an OCCC page, the site allows visitors to search professors by name or department. Professors are graded on a scale from 0 to 5 in the categories of easiness, helpfulness and clarity with a bonus selection of a red pepper to indicate the professor's "hotness."

## UNDERSTAND THE SYLLABUS

At the beginning of each semester a typical professor will stand before the class and explain the course syllabus. Paying attention can be optional because the professors will repeat themselves as the semester wears on.

Online the syllabus does the same thing except now it is the

only means of communicating the expectations for the course. It is important that students understand what their professors expect.

"In geography, I didn't go through the syllabus," said sophomore engineering major Sagar Sharma. "Look at the course material as soon as possible because each class is different."

Communicating with professors through e-mail also is necessary, Sharma said. If something in the course doesn't make sense or is not addressed, ask the professor.

## BUILD A CLASSROOM

The allure of taking a test in your pajamas may seem ingenious, but don't be fooled. Just because it can be done doesn't mean it should.

"I did a lot better studying in areas besides my house," said psychology major Victoria Potvin.

"For some reason at my house I'd just get distracted really easily."

Find a quiet coffee shop or diner where you can study uninterrupted. If paying four bucks for a latte is not sensible, create a home study space where diversions like television, roommates or children don't distract.

In addition to removing

“In the first couple of weeks, you go ‘Oh well, it’s an online class, I can just do it whenever’ and then you forget and realize that you should’ve read two chapters last week.”

—VICTORIA POTVIN  
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

outside distractions, close the social media in your web browser.

## STUDY ON A SCHEDULE

Much of online learning is centered on time management. If you don't make study time, you can't expect to succeed. Schedule times to study so you're not always "cramming" for each test.

"In the first couple weeks you go 'Oh well, it's an online class. I can just do it whenever' and then you forget and realize you should've read two chapters last week," Potvin said.

An organized study calendar can keep you focused because that schedules life around class.

Google has free calendars available online to users who create a Google account.

The calendars can be customized with categorized and color-coded events so you can stay on task.

Sophomore biology major Roxanne Johnson said she would devote a day to her on-

line classes instead of spreading her studies over several days.

"If you don't keep up with it, it's hard to catch back up," Johnson said.

"Don't fall off track."

For more information about online learning, visit the their website at [www.occc.edu/online-resources](http://www.occc.edu/online-resources).

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# Student receives two journalism awards

JOEY STIPEK

Editor

editor@occc.edu

OCCC journalism student Mark Smith won two Region 8 Mark of Excellence awards at the Society of Professional Journalism conference April 9 at the Gaylord School of Mass Communications at the University of Oklahoma.

This is the second year Smith has taken home an award from SPJ.

Smith placed first in online feature reporting for a 2-year college for his story "OCCC president more than a educator."

He also placed second in general news reporting for a 2-year college on his "Student sues state after vanity tag re-

“Whether it was here at a regional conference or at national conference, he [Smith] is known because of his work.”

—SCOTT COOPER

REGION 8 DIRECTOR FOR THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

quest denied.”

Region 8 SPJ Director Scott Cooper said Smith has been a valuable asset to SPJ.

“Whether it was here at a regional conference or at national conference, he is known because of his work,” he said.

“His stuff his good. He’s not afraid to let everyone know that.”

Standing tall among the displays of Oklahoma journalism giants such as Bob Dotson and

Mike Boettcher, Smith said he owes a lot of his success to his professors and peers.

“Journalism professor Sue Hinton has been a big inspiration in my writing career,” he said.

“She has trained me and helped me acquire the skills that I have and hone those skills to a fine a point. She has helped me, supported me and just been there.”

Smith said he wrote his



PHOTO COURTESY MARK SMITH

Mark Smith

feature article in class under the tutelage of Magazine Feature Writing professor Clay Randolph.

“He didn’t make it easy. He made it pretty hard,” Smith said. “He made me dig in there and get after that.”

Smith also credited Pioneer lab director Ronna Austin, and former Pioneer lab assistant Chris Lusk as influences that helped shape and influence him.

Hinton said she is always pleased when OCCC journalism students win awards and when they win awards at the regional level.

“He deserves a lot of credit for that,” she said. “He’s a hard worker under rather difficult circumstances.”

Smith said he is very humble about his success.

“I am just honored that SPJ recognized me and I thank everyone for their help.”

## Students invited to learn in sun at Blue Sky Lab

IFEOLUWA IDODE

News Writing Student

Having fun and learning at the same time are the goals of the Blue Sky Lab on Wednesday, April 20, in the campus courtyard. It is being hosted by the World Languages and Cultures Center, said Chiaki Troutman, lab coordinator.

Beginning at 1:30 and continuing until 2:30 p.m., picnic style tutoring and language activities will be offered.

Troutman said one of the highlights will be dance lessons for the bachata, a Latino dance that is something like

the salsa.

Keven Mendoza, a Mexican American student at OCCC, will teach the bachata. He said the dance will be simple enough for everyone learning it for the first time.

Mendoza assists in the lab and will be coordinating the dance lessons at 2 p.m.

All students are invited to participate in the events of the day, including singing, dancing, playing games and learning songs from other countries. Students from the Spanish classes in particular will be attending.

Troutman said those inter-

ested can come along with snacks or samples of their native food to share with others.

All international students are welcome to share their language and songs, Troutman said.

It is open for everyone who wants to have fun and get information about other cultures. No registration is required and walk-ins are welcome.

“Students often read outside in nice weather,” Troutman said. “We want to offer language and cultural activities under the blue sky.”

“That is what we want to

offer in a fun and entertaining way.

“Pray for a good weather, so it will not be postponed.”

The Blue Sky Lab will also be a way of making students aware of the different ways the center is useful to them.

The World Languages and Cultures Center is located on the second floor of the Main

Building.

The center has satellite television, foreign movies, events and cultural program that are targeted at bridging the gap between students from different background.

For information regarding the lab, contact Troutman at [ctroutman@occc.edu](mailto:ctroutman@occc.edu) or at 405-682-1611, ext. 7104.





## HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION CAN HELP OVERCOME ADVERSITY

# Professor offers 'words of wisdom' to students

DEMERIE PAULIN

Feature Writing Student

A little boy walks up to the refrigerator and opens it: no food to fill his stomach. He walks into the living room to relax from another day of uncertainty. With no books to read, he flips the switch and there is no light to shine on his curiosity.

Sometimes in life, a thing called adversity will knock on the door and take a seat on the couch, if there is one to sit on.

OCCC political science professor Markus Smith credits his success today to the hardship faced in the past.

Born on a U.S. Air Force base in Tachikawa, Japan, Smith credits instances like that to accepting responsibility.

"Hard work will pay off," he said. "A strong work ethic and a will to be responsible for my actions made me who I am today."

Smith admits he has made bad choices in life, but said he learned from them.

The family returned to the states and moved to Wyoming, staying until he was 2. From there they proceeded to Oklahoma. That movement came 38 years ago and counting.

Smith, his mother Japanese and his father black, leans back in his chair when asked about the negativity he faced as a young man in the of Oklahoma City public school system.

He describes, with the aid of hand movements, the low expectations the teachers provided.

"Their negative perceptions motivated me to pursue the highest degree in my field of academia, maybe it was reverse psychology," he said.

Between the ages of 18 and 28, Smith was faced with a decade that would mold him for years down the road.

"These 10 years were the most chaotic times of my life. I was spiraling out of control. I was partying at all hours of

the night and at 19 I learned that I was going to be a father," says Smith.

He then describes working odd jobs wherever he could find one, and running the streets. At the age of 28, he decided to get his life back in order, and go back to school.

"I had attended OU immediately after graduating high school, but it was very apparent that first semester that the public school system had not prepared me for college," says Smith.

With a grin, he says that the system's preparation resulted in him withdrawing and taking a 10-year sabbatical.

Smith decided that in order to provide the things for his daughter that his parents were not able to provide, he needed to go back to school and get an education.

As a 28-year-old student at OCCC, Smith enrolled in a class taught by professor Clay Randolph. Smith recalls at the beginning of the course, Randolph told him something he would remember forever.

"Well, I'm glad you decided to come back to school and that you're here," Randolph said. The 28-year-old had an instant connection to those words that most people wouldn't understand.

Smith made up for lost time in the classroom with his degrees which include: a doctorate in educational studies and a master's in educational studies at the University of Oklahoma; a master's with honors in political science and a bachelor's in political science from the University of Central Oklahoma; and an associate degree in political science from OCCC.

As a mentor, taekwondo teacher, father, and husband, Smith's mindset every morning when he wakes up is how to affect or influence someone. Those feelings were apparent long before his first day as a professor on campus.

An appreciation quickly



PROFESSOR MARKUS SMITH

emerged for the now 37-year-old for his childhood. He testifies not knowing where the next meal would come from, and exposure to the idea of drugs, alcohol, and gangs, can strike any soul.

When walking into Smith's office, a person will often glance over the room with a set of eyes that soon get a sense of his personality.

Portraits of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., a touch of Barack Obama, the Declaration of Independence, Abraham Lincoln, and down below; a completed dissertation on his desk.

A typical day in the neighborhood of Smith and his family was described with a unique blend of gratitude and determination.

"I grew up impoverished on the northeast side of Oklahoma City. The neighborhood was filled with gang violence, drugs, and prostitution," Smith said. "It was not uncommon for me to see a dead body lying on the sidewalk or in a field as I walked home from school."

"We lived across the street from an apartment complex which served as the neighborhood crack house and brothel. It was also not uncommon for us to dive for cover when rival gangs decided to settle their disputes by shooting up the neighborhood," recalls Smith.

Toward the end of the school year at Southeast High School, seven people including Smith, out of a possible 400 students,

“Keep persevering. Education will unlock doors that you never even thought of.”

—MARKUS SMITH

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

were enrolled in a calculus class. Smith and two other classmates were black. Their teacher A.C. Green, also black, is credited by Smith for encouraging all seven to believe in destiny.

"Look forward to doing great things regardless of the obvious circumstances of poverty," Green told them.

Green also told the three he knew for a fact they would face more discrimination, racism, and hardship compared to other people in the racial spectrum.

Smith readjusts himself in his chair as he continues the story.

Green expected more out of the three students. He lived from paycheck to paycheck himself, but nothing less than the best was expected out of every aspect of a student's life.

When college testing peeked around the corner for the calculus students, there was a dilemma.

"Our parents didn't have the \$75 to pay for the math test," says Smith. Green stepped forward and paid in full for all three students to take the exam. Green also volunteered to pay for any students whose parents could not afford to pay for the test but primarily this option was directed towards the black students. Smith recollects not knowing even today how Green did it, but gratitude shined through his heart onto his face.

For Smith and the other students, the test was not a pass/fail. The scores ran from 1-5 and the students needed to score at least a 4 to be able to receive college credit for the class. Smith however, scored a three on the exam.

Smith's advice to all students

is to make sure the choice of a major is exactly what a student studies and prepares to a great extent.

"I will never be satisfied. I will always want to have a thorough scope of the world, especially religion," he said. "Educating one's self will never end. It will last forever."

Educating himself also includes educating students around him.

"Keep persevering. Education will unlock doors that you never even thought of. For me, education literally saved my life. If I had continued running the streets, I know that I would have ended up like the majority of my friends who are either incarcerated or dead," says Smith.

Smith has many mentors including Dana Glencross, political science professor. Her first impression concerning of him stems from her class, Introduction to Law.

"He was a very dedicated student and he always took me up on the option of coming into my office and reviewing every piece of work for feedback and that started out the relationship," says Glencross.

She says part of Smith's character that has rubbed off on her is his desire to make sure all political science students are prepared and have a desire to go to higher levels beyond OCCC.

A man comes home and greets his wife and daughter. He looks into the refrigerator and finds food to satisfy his hunger.

After a long day's work, he goes into the living room with the "good book" in hand. With that, the switch is flipped, and the light shines brightly on his curiosity.

FROM NEW YORK TO OKLAHOMA, JIM FITZPATRICK SAYS HE IS HERE TO PROTECT AND SERVE

# Police chief recalls moment he chose police work

**MISTY COWLEY**  
News Writing Student

College Police Chief Jim Fitzpatrick said he knows exactly when he decided to become a police officer.

It was the summer of 1972. Fitzpatrick had come to Oklahoma from the Bronx in New York City to pursue a degree in Liberal Arts from St. Gregory's University in Shawnee.

It was there he stumbled onto a summer internship with the Oklahoma City Police Department while looking for a job that he might be interested in.

Fitzpatrick was riding with a police officer when they were called to a gruesome triple homicide involving a convenience store clerk, her husband and their young son. They were all shot and killed execution-style in the store's back room. The killers escaped with \$50.

Fitzpatrick said this was the

defining moment that sparked his commitment to a field he has worked in for almost 40 years.

After 37 years with the Oklahoma Police Department, Fitzpatrick said, it was time to retire, so he did in 2010.

He wasn't looking for a job when a friend told him about the vacancy at OCCC.

Fitzpatrick said he came to the campus, sat in the commons area and just watched the students and the daily life of the college.

He sent in his application before Thanksgiving break and was hired in December.

Fitzpatrick is a family man who has two daughters. He knows that a career in law enforcement can be stressful for a family.

He recalled one traffic stop on Christmas Eve involving a drunk driver who acted like he was going to pull a gun. For a few tense moments, Fitzpatrick

said, he didn't know if he was going to have to engage the man or not.

This was one instance, Fitzpatrick said, when he didn't know if he was going to make it home to his family that night.

Security Officer Jacob Roby commented on the new leader.

"I am excited to work for a person who has veteran status like Chief Fitzpatrick has," Roby said.

"I am in support of the transition to a police department and look forward to what it will do for the campus," he said.

Since coming to OCCC in December, Fitzpatrick has started to transition the Safety and Security Department to a full-fledged police department. With this change come new responsibilities but also more opportunities.

"Having a police force will lead to better certification and better trained officers," said the



POLICE CHIEF JIM FITZPATRICK

staff and students."

Fitzpatrick said the department is getting closer to that end. The process for establishing CLEET recognition is almost complete.

"Complete transition of all personnel to police officers will take some time," he said.

In the time Fitzpatrick has been on campus, he said, he has increased weapons training and the number of days officers spend at the gun range so another accidental gun discharge is less likely to happen on campus.

Most important, Fitzpatrick said, OCCC's police department could receive national recognition which would open up more doors to grant funding for law enforcement purposes and better pay for officers.

Fitzpatrick says that should equal a safer campus for students.

DEADCENTER COULD SHOWCASE SHAWN BARFIELD'S SHORT IN DOWNTOWN OKC

## Student submits short film to Oklahoma festival

**SEAN TOLBERT**  
News Writing Student

Film and Video major Shawn Barfield's short film "By Dawn" has been submitted to Oklahoma's deadCENTER film Festival.

Barfield served as director and screenwriter. He said the film is based partly on the world of the supernatural.

"The film is a spiritual thriller that centers on a particular ritual connected to early 20th century occultist Aleister Crowley," Barfield said. "His grandson is going to attempt to succeed where he failed."

The film is based on Jo Lang's short story entitled "Dice."

The cast and crew consisted almost exclusively of OCCC students.

Barfield said he hopes the exposure the film could potentially gain from the festival will

not only entertain audiences but also guide others who are interested in filmmaking to look into the college's Film and Video program.

OCCC film major Cait Brasel, who played the role of Brittany, said the film possesses a roller coaster feel.

"I feel like the suspense [of the film] is strong. It felt like a downhill ride, beginning slowly, and then moving faster," Brasel said.

Brasel said that making the film was an enthralling experience that she hopes will open doors for a career in filmmaking.

"I am amazed by the film and video program," Brasel said. "I am completely sold on it. I actually try to talk my friends and brothers into going into it."

Barfield is quick, however, to warn away those who may be blinded by the bright lights of



SHAWN BARFIELD

the film industry.

"I think a lot of students tend to have misconceptions about the program," he said. "Many of them seem to come into it thinking: 'this is going to be a fun and easy course,' but it can be a lot harder than they imagine."

Barfield noted that any potential film student should do research into the program, the

industry, and the requirements before making the decision to pursue a career in film.

"It's important to have a reality check. The difficulties of the film industry are a lot greater than you may expect," Barfield said.

When talking about the impact that OCCC's Film and Video Production program has had on his education in filmmaking, Barfield was very quick to heap praise on his professors and instructors.

"There is no way to describe the level of insight, knowledge, and support that I've gained from working with people like Greg [Mellott], Sean [Lynch], and Gray [Frederickson]," Barfield said.

He said they encouraged him to submit his 24-minute film to the festival.

"Greg's screenwriting class is like the soul of filmmaking;

whereas, Sean's Cinematography and Production Design classes are like the meat and the bones. When you put them all together, you get the full idea of what filmmaking is really about."

Barfield's company, Roundhouse Film Productions, has already begun work on its next project, "Dancing in the Chamber," which is currently in pre-production.

The deadCENTER Film Festival, currently in its 11th year, will run in downtown Oklahoma City from June 8 through 12.

For more information, visit Barfield's production company website at [www.roundhouse-filmproductions.com](http://www.roundhouse-filmproductions.com) or visit the official deadCENTER film festival site at [www.deadcenterfilm.org](http://www.deadcenterfilm.org) on May 1 to see if "By Dawn" is chosen for this year's festival.



## SPORTS

## Soccer skills

Geography major Tanner Godwin juggles a soccer ball in the courtyard at OCCC. The courtyard is located in the Main Building and is being enjoyed by many students as spring weather lures them outside.



YASMIN SHIRALI/  
PIONEER

INTRAMURALS|STUDENTS CAN SHOOT IT OUT APRIL 27

## Laser Tag blasts onto the scene

JACOB CHAMBERS

Sportswriter

sportswriter@occc.edu

Laser tag will be offered to students at noon Wednesday, April 27, in the outdoor lawn area just south of the Aquatic Center said Sports and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson.

Watson said this is the first time OCCC has provided laser tag as a one-day intramural sport.

Mobile Laser Tag Company will set up the course and provide all necessary equipment, such as chest gear, laser guns, and inflatable walls that will resemble a paintball course, he said.

Watson said students can sign up for the event at the intramural leagues

“ I have only heard great things about laser tag and of course I’m interested in playing.”

—KARA LEE

BUSINESS MAJOR

website at [imleagues.com/schools/OCCC/registration](http://imleagues.com/schools/OCCC/registration), or at the Fitness and Recreation office located on the first floor of the Main Building.

There is a \$3 fee to compete in the action, he said.

Watson said participants can wear regular clothing but should bring comfortable shoes they can run around in.

He said there will be two options for play: individual free-for-all and a team capture-the-flag.

Accuracy percentages and stats will

be accounted for, Watson said.

Student Kara Lee said she has never played laser tag but is ready to give it a try.

“I have only heard great things about laser tag and of course, I’m interested in playing,” Lee said.

Student Kelsey Smalling said she played laser tag in her youth and is excited about the opportunity to play again.

“It’s cool that OCCC goes out of their way to provide activities like this for their students,” Smalling said.

## UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **April 23:** American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Course with a \$130 fee. Must be 16 years old, able to swim at level IV skills. Will be required to pass swimming skills test on first day of class. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **April 23:** Jr. Guard lessons Ages 11 to 15. Classes designed to give teens a foundation of lifeguard skills. Must be able to swim 25 yards front crawl, tread water for one minute, and swim underwater 10 feet. Fee is \$60 for course. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **May 2:** Abs Express class, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:05 to 5:25 p.m. in the Wellness Center room 004. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **May 3:** Hatha Yoga class in the Wellness Center room 005. Classes are on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **May 5:** Extreme Cross Training course in the Wellness Center room 005. Classes are on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **May 12:** Water Safety Class in the aquatic center. Participants will train to be certified to teach ARC swimming lessons and the Community Water Safety Course. Pre-requisites: must be 16 years old, and able to swim at level IV skills, must pass a swimming skills test on first day of class. There is a \$150 course fee. For more information call the Wellness Center desk at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Have sports news?**  
**Contact Pioneer sports writer Jake Chambers**  
**at [sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu)**



# Beer brought onto campus

**JEREMY CLOUD**  
Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC Safety and Security handled an incident of public drinking this past week.

At 4:40 p.m. April 10, Officer Jeffrey Porter said, while on patrol, he noticed what looked like a can of alcohol on the

hood of a car parked near the soccer field.

According to a report, Porter stopped and confirmed the can was Budweiser beer. He then asked the men around the vehicle who it belonged to.

One of the men confirmed it was his. Because of a language barrier, Porter was assisted by a member of the soccer team in

communicating with the men.

Porter reported he explained alcohol is not allowed on campus, and the individuals apologized and left. No information was collected.

"The situation was calm and under control," Porter said in his report. "I didn't want to escalate the situation since I was by myself, with no back-up."

## Budget: Tuition will rise

*Continued from page 1*

up almost every year"

Sechrist said the cost to keep up the existing licenses and maintenance based upon the number of students who attend OCCC is increasing \$200,000 to \$300,000 annually.

While tuition is increasing, Sechrist said, at this point, there is no discussion of fee increases.

In the past two years Sechrist said, federal stimulus money and the state's Rainy Day Fund have offset the steep reduction in state revenue which funds state agencies, including OCCC.

"The stimulus funds were available for the last two years, but are not available for next year," he said. "The Rainy Day fund, which was also used for the last two years, is now almost empty.

"Oklahoma now has \$500 million less to provide to state agencies, including colleges like OCCC."

Sechrist said the goal is to use the college's savings, control all costs where possible, and increase tuition a little, so as to not reduce budgets any more than OCCC already has.

"Even with more students, our departments have been asked to provide all the increased courses and services with about the same resources they have had for the last three years," he said.

"While departments will not be hit with cuts, they will have to find ways to stretch the budgets to continue all of the

services to students."

Sechrist said an option could be to raise tuition even more to add some staff, but at this point OCCC really wants to minimize the costs to everybody.

As college employees enter the third year in a row without raises, Sechrist said, he realizes the sacrifices being made by everyone.

"We're all sort of sacrificing," he said. "I think our faculty and staff have sacrificed. I think they have done additional work with the same resources, with no pay increases, while their own costs have gone up.

"Students have had to sacrifice too because they have had to pay a little bit more each year."

Sechrist said even with the tuition increase, OCCC's tuition is lower than the average cost of community colleges in neighboring states.

Sechrist said the increases in higher education aren't just being felt by OCCC.

"Every state-supported college will face the same reduction percentage we're facing. Everyone's going to be impacted," he said.

"I suspect there will be modest increases in tuition across the board. I can't imagine an institution will be able to absorb a 5, 7.5 or 10 percent cut without having to raise tuition at some level."

Sechrist said he commends students, faculty, and staff for the sacrifices they have made in helping OCCC get through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

### CARSON'S PREPAID MEAL CARD AVAILABLE

## Students can buy meals in advance

**MONICA MANCEBO**  
News Writing Student

ents buy them all the time for students to use," Aguilar said.

For students who don't want to carry cash on them

Carson's prepaid card can be used to make any food

every day or who worry that if they use their debit or credit card too much they will overdraw

their account, Carson's prepaid food card is a perfect option.

The card is basically a debit card and a gift card together, said Corrine Aguilar, Carson's food services general manager.

The card also is great to give as a gift to someone who attends OCCC, she said.

There are no fees and no overdrafting, Aguilar said. Users put how much money they want on it and it never expires.

"Parents and grandpar-

or beverage purchase at the school cafeteria, she said.

The card is only good in the OCCC

cafeteria but those who love coffee can purchase a separate card to use at the OCCC Coffee Shop.

All the same great features apply, Aguilar said.

Carson's prepaid cards are sold by the food service cashiers, Aguilar said.

Additional money can be put on the same card as needed.

Aguilar said the cards never expire.

For more information about the prepaid meal card, call 405-682-0304.



## Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?



# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Taste of Ghana

Psychology major and Multicultural Student Business Club secretary Margot Mueller-Reid dishes an authentic Ghanaian dish called Jollof rice onto her plate April 4. The meal was prepared by Prince Tsagli Jr., MSBC president. It was served after the conclusion of a presentation on his home country of Ghana. The presentation included general information about the West African country Ghana, such as geography and demographics; a picture and explanation of the country's flag; history of how the Ghana became a country and examples of traditions in food, family and dress. MSBC plans to have more presentations throughout the semester. For more information about the Multicultural Student Business Club, attend a meeting from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays in the Business Lab, room 2R0 in the Main Building, or visit the club's page at [www.occc.campusgroups.com/msbc](http://www.occc.campusgroups.com/msbc).

RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER



**COMMUNITY** | Green Week celebrates the Earth in time for Earth Day on April 22

## Learn eco-friendly tips at fair

**BIRDGET SMITH**

News Writing Student

Since Earth Day coincides with Student Life's Green Week celebration, OCCC's Green Task Force will host an information fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 19 in the General Dining Area, said Marcy Roll, Student Life assistant and sponsor of Earth Day.

Roll said the Green Task Force is a group of students, staff and faculty members that are dedicated to creating and promoting awareness and moving toward an environmentally responsible campus.

"The Information Fair is a chance for students and student organizations to display what they are doing to make their lives and the campus more environmentally friendly," Roll said.

"The goal is to come up with solutions to reduce energy consumption and waste at OCCC."

During the fair, task force members will show an eco-friendly documentary film and pass out Loblolly pine tree saplings.

The task force, with the help of Facilities Management, has obtained a survivor tree sapling. The survivor tree is the tree standing at the site of the Oklahoma City bombing. The American elm tree survived the blast, despite considerable damage, and has since recovered to become a centerpiece in the memorial.

"Since the celebration falls on the anniversary of

the bombing, and the task force planted a tree last year, we thought it would be appropriate to plant a survivor tree," Roll said in an e-mail message.

"The survivor tree symbolizes the strength and resolve of the people of Oklahoma City," Roll said.

The tree will be planted between 1:30 and 2 p.m. The location is undecided.

Roll said she hopes students learn how they can become environmentally responsible citizens of OCCC, Oklahoma, and the Earth as a whole.

"Every little step towards becoming greener is a step in the right direction," Roll said.

Lisa Vaughan, chair of the Green Task Force, said she is happy they were able to procure a sapling from the survivor tree.

Many of the people who work at or attend OCCC were affected by the bombing, Vaughan said. Planting a sapling of the survivor tree is a way to carry on a living memory of those who were lost.

If you have questions or would like to find out how you can help, contact Marcy Roll at [mroll@occc.edu](mailto:mroll@occc.edu) or call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

## GOT NEWS?

**If you have community news, contact Holly Davis Walker at [communitywriter@occc.edu](mailto:communitywriter@occc.edu) or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675**

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### APA Style workshop in Comm Lab

Nick Webb, Communications Lab assistant, will demonstrate the most common techniques for citing and using APA style in writing during this workshop hosted by the Communications Lab. The workshop will be at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday, April 18, in CU2 in the College Union. For more information, please call 405-682-1611, ext. 7678 or visit [www.occc.edu/commlab](http://www.occc.edu/commlab).

### Brown Bag: Summer Nutrition & Fitness

Attendees will discuss ways to stay healthy this summer in this Brown Bag workshop at noon Wednesday, April 20, in CU1 of the College Union. Contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by their office in the Main Building for more information.

### Career Power workshop

Students will be shown how to register for and use the OCCC Job Board during the next workshop at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20 in room 1G7 of the Main Building. Contact Student Employment & Career Services for more information at 405-682-7519 or [employmentservices@occc.edu](mailto:employmentservices@occc.edu).

### Book and Bake Sale for Business

The 6th Annual Business Book and Bake sale will be Tuesday, April 19, outside the College Union. All proceeds from the sales will benefit the Connie Nieser Memorial Scholarship.

### Floats for the Float

Gay Straight Alliance will sell ice cream floats from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, and Wednesday, April 20, outside the College Union. The funds will go towards the cost of building a float for OKPride parade.

### Business Conference with Russia

The Multicultural Student Business Club will host a video conference with students from Russia's Ulyanovsk State University at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 20, in room 2R0 in the Main Building. Students, staff and faculty are invited to attend. For more information, contact Germain Pichop at 405-682-1611, ext. 7285, or e-mail [gpichop@occc.edu](mailto:gpichop@occc.edu).

### Tuition Fee Waiver Information

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the summer semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. April 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 682-7524.

**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.

ELECTRONICS

**FOR SALE:** 19" Samsung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. \$35 Call: 405-501-8777.

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**PART TIME CLERICAL WORK:** Insurance office needs bilingual person, fluent in Spanish, to do clerical work. Send resume to: larazains@yahoo.com.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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TODAY'S  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**  
1 Did the crawl  
5 Tops of cars  
10 Toy on a string  
14 Actress  
15 Comic Murphy  
16 Branding —  
17 Whirlybird  
18 Juice from  
19 Lima's place  
20 Pittsburgh  
22 Orchard fruits  
24 Newt  
25 "The African Queen" scriptwriter  
26 Marilyn —  
29 Customers  
33 Gather  
34 Indian garment  
36 Affirmative vote  
37 Sedan or coupe  
38 Old-fashioned brooch  
39 Science room  
40 Mandela's org.  
41 Singer Redding  
42 Ordinary speech  
44 Smart aleck  
47 Frankfurter  
48 Cat's murmur  
49 One, no matter

**DOWN**  
1 Omit  
2 Word following "minimum"  
3 Like — of bricks  
4 Business deals  
5 Enumerate  
6 Norse god  
7 Chances  
8 "For shame!"  
9 Harem  
10 Shout of glee  
11 Pitcher  
12 Days of —: long ago  
13 Blame  
21 Sci-fi craft  
23 Can. province  
25 Land measures

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

AMANDA BOG BITE  
CURIOUS ABA EDAM  
EDIBLE RES TYRE  
BEAUTY PARLOR  
BAWLS NOS SALT  
OGEE DIN PLY  
WILDCAT ZEE ALE  
ELL AVE OWE COP  
DES LID DEPLORE  
PIT PIE ERNE  
MAGIC FRA HONES  
YELLOWJACKET  
TRIO HOT UNABLE  
HINT ERE SCREEN  
SETS EDS HEDGED

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26 Parrot  
27 Muscat citizen  
28 Some cops  
30 Drip-dry fabric  
31 Fluff, as hair  
32 Cavalry sword  
34 Mythical creature  
35 French friend  
38 Traversing  
42 Cone producer  
43 "— the Fox"  
45 Noteworthy periods

46 Six-shooter  
47 Worked in a restaurant  
50 Hearty's partner  
51 Always  
52 Raise  
53 Mayberry kid  
54 Ploy  
55 Helen of —  
56 Flu symptom  
57 House sites  
60 Neither fish — fowl

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BREAKING RULES AND CONVENTIONS IS THE MANTRA FOR DYLAN JOHNSON

# Film and video student already paving his path

BRADY BOWERS

News Writing Student

Dojo Studio in Norman is the brain-child of OCCC student Dylan Johnson.

"I wanted to not follow any rules or conventions of typical business models, and give myself a place to work, meet clients, and give artists and musicians a dirty underground place to play shows and hang art," Johnson said.

He said he worked on web design at Orange Coast College in California, but took most of his multimedia and computer classes at OCCC where he graduated with a degree in diversified studies.

At the moment, he is finishing up coursework for his degree in Film and Video Production.

Johnson said he and others associated with Dojo Studio have produced

websites, rock shows, music festivals, art shows, clothing designs, photography, videography, logos, press releases, business cards, fliers, and "pretty much about everything in between."

The inspiration to create his studio came from his firsthand experience at a party in Los Angeles, at a place called BoxEight.

"It reminded me of Hansel's house in 'Zoolander' because it was so cool it was almost comical," he said.

The images stuck with Johnson and helped shape his own ideas about making a similar setting.

He said Dojo Studio became his ideal work and play place. He wanted to create something that had not been done yet in Oklahoma.

When he lived in Costa Mesa, Calif., Johnson said, he visited different art

**"I wanted to not follow any rules or conventions of typical business models ..."**

—DYLAN JOHNSON

FILM AND VIDEO PRODUCTION STUDENT

galleries, bars, and studios, collecting his thoughts and reflecting on each place he saw.

Dojo Studio's name came about more or less by happenstance.

The word dojo in its origin means place or way.

"But the conception was not that deep," he said.

When Johnson and his friends noticed the last occupant of the venue left behind little karate guy clipart on the windows, it produced the idea of a dojo, a training place for martial arts.

The name of the studio ultimately originated out of an inside joke, but they tried to keep the name pretentiously meaningful.

"I'm still surprised when I meet people from out of town who have heard of the studio," Johnson said.

"I am happy every time I book a new photo shoot or website. But, at the end of the day, we just try to live by our creed. What would Don Draper do?"

Dojo Studio has been open for more than a year now. For more information, go online at [www.whatisdojo.com](http://www.whatisdojo.com).

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