

## PIONEER ONLINE

To comment on stories, or to access the latest news, features, multimedia, online exclusives and updates, visit [occc.edu/pioneer](http://occc.edu/pioneer).



## EDITORIAL

## SOCIAL MEDIA SHOULD NOT BE CENSORED

Writer Sean Tolbert comments on the hypocrisy of the British Prime Minister in the wake of the recent London riots. Read his thoughts.

OPINION, p. 2

## CAMPUS LIFE

## HOW TO GET AROUND CAMPUS

Wondering how to successfully maneuver the OCCC campus? Look inside for helpful tips, and maps of the college, inside and out.

NEWS, p. 6 & 7

## RECREATION

## BLOW OFF STEAM WITH FITNESS CLASSES

Wellness Center employees offer suggestions to help students stay fit and to keep down the stress of daily college life. Read more inside.

NEWS, p. 6 & 7

## CAMPUS LIFE

## CLASS OFFERS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

Downtown class introduces students to live performances in Oklahoma City. For details, see inside.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

AUGUST 19, 2011

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

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Police chief says tobacco ban will be enforced

**Violators will face penalties that could include fines**

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

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

Incoming students and faculty are returning to a smoke-free campus this semester with the Aug. 1 implementation of the campus' ban on tobacco products.

"(The policy) encompasses the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes on the entire OCCC campus facilities, properties, and vehicles," said OCCC Police Chief Jim Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick said the ban includes personal vehicles on campus.

Penalties for violating the policy currently include municipal tickets and possibly college fines, he said.

"We can write you a ticket or a police officer can write you a ticket and take the case to district court.

"There, a district judge will hear the case, just like a traffic ticket, make a determination of guilt and they can fine you anywhere from \$25 to \$100."

Fitzpatrick said there is also the possibility of academic discipline being taken against students who repeatedly ignore warnings

### Hold that pose



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Matt Kendrick with [www.backporchmedia.com](http://www.backporchmedia.com) shoots a music video for Life Church in the VPAC Film and Video Production Studio Aug. 12. Kendrick, along with camera operator Matt Lowry (back), captured footage of dancer Anna James (right) and other dancers from the Radiant Dance Company to be featured during Life Church's Women's Event Aug. 25.

and violate the policy.

Mary Turner, Learning Support specialist, said situations where such action is required would be extreme.

"That would be a ... student who is defiantly continuing to smoke and displaying a 'What are you going to do to me?' attitude," she said.

"Ultimately, we could put a hold on their records, or something of that nature. But what we're trying to do is not to be punitive but to redirect peoples' behaviors ..."

Fitzpatrick echoed that sentiment. He said the primary goal of the OCCC police in this situation is to gain voluntary compliance.

"This is not going to be a race to see how many tickets we can write," he said. "In fact, our hope is that we can gain compliance from everyone voluntarily and that we never have to write a ticket."

Turner said help is available to all students who smoke whether they choose to quit

See **SMOKING** page 9

### DECREASE WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR ADULTS TO OBTAIN A GED

## GED funding cut back by \$2.3 million

HAYLEY ERWIN

News Writing Student

Adults who failed to complete high school will find it harder to study for their GED because of state funding cuts to adult education programs. This fall, \$2.3 million in adult education funding has been lost across Oklahoma.

This will require some adjustments to OCCC's offerings for the upcoming school year, but the program should survive, said Jessica Martinez-Brooks, Community Out-

reach and Education director.

She said OCCC received less state money than last year but still has enough federal funding to continue operating.

Two OCCC site locations, Crooked Oak High School and Western Oaks Middle School, will be closed due to the state funding cuts, Martinez-Brooks said.

The OCCC program serves around 3,000 students, she said. Funding received is based on the number of students served.

"OCCC received around \$640,000 in federal allocations due to the need for our

program in Oklahoma County."

OCCC had a budget of around \$800,000 in state funding that was reduced to about \$600,000, Martinez-Brooks said.

Steven Bloomberg, Community Development vice president, said OCCC has the largest adult education program in Oklahoma.

"There is no question it is critical to our core mission as a comprehensive community college," he said.

When trying to break the cycle of depen-

See **GED** page 9

## OPINION

EDITORIAL | Social media empowers citizens, frightens government

## Cameron: free-speech pretender

The western world has a wonderfully imbecilic track record for perpetrating the double standard.

Amidst the turmoil and violence surrounding the recent “Arab Spring” occurring in countries such as Libya, Egypt and Tunisia, the west (predominantly the U.S. and England) cautiously praises protestors and demonstrators who have wreaked violence in the name of what British Prime Minister David Cameron referred to as a “precious moment” for social and political reform in the Middle East.

The most integral part to organizing the various movements across the region is the use of social media to connect and organize groups of protestors.

This tool was recognized to be so important that it prompted then-Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to pull the plug on his country’s access to the World Wide Web to curb the flow of information between those who sought to oust him from his 30-year rule.

Cameron and other world leaders chastised the move and called for the return of social media access

in the name of “free speech.”

Mubarak’s attempt was unsuccessful and he was removed from power shortly thereafter.

Shift the focus six months later and we now see large portions of East London in flames, and rioting and looting dot the landscape of the entirety of Cameron’s British Isles.

The events, occurring in response to a police shooting that took the life of an east London man, has sparked some of the worst rioting in London’s history.

In the wake of the violence, Cameron addressed British Parliament on Aug. 11 to inquire as to whether the banning of social media access to those involved in the rioting is a viable solution to curbing the violence taking place in the city as well as the country.

It’s not at all surprising that when faced with similar protests — the shoe truly has moved to the other foot for Cameron and it would be a truly vacuous proposition on his part to assume the results will differ in any way.

The outlawing of social media as a method of controlling the populace is one of the hallmarks of a government that refuses to understand why their populace is in upheaval.

There is little fear that Cameron will be ousted in the manner of Mubarak, but the attempt to outlaw



Sean M. Tolbert



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

social media is a truly illustrative sign that, regardless of location, an informed and connected population is a frightening prospect to any world leader.

—SEAN M. TOLBERT  
STAFF WRITER

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS | Obama addresses U.S. downgrade by credit rating agency

## President says economy problems ‘eminently solvable’

On Friday, Aug. 5, we learned the United States received a downgrade by one of the credit rating agencies — not so much because they doubt our ability to pay our debt if we make good decisions, but because after witnessing a month of wrangling over raising the debt ceiling, they doubted our political system’s ability to act.

The markets, on the other hand, continue to

believe our credit status is AAA.

In fact, Berkshire Hathaway Chairman Warren Buffett, who knows a thing or two about good investments, said, “If there were a quadruple-A rating, I’d give the United States that.”

I, and most of the world’s investors, agree.

That doesn’t mean we don’t have a problem. The fact is, we didn’t need a rating agency to tell us

that we need a balanced, long-term approach to deficit reduction.

And we didn’t need a rating agency to tell us the gridlock in Washington over the last several months has not been constructive, to say the least.

We knew from the outset that a prolonged debate over the debt ceiling — a debate where the threat of default was used as a bargaining chip — could do enormous

damage to our economy and the world’s.

But here’s the good news: Our problems are eminently solvable.

Last week, we reached an agreement that will make historic cuts to defense and domestic spending.

But there’s not much further we can cut in either of those categories.

What we need to do now is combine those spending cuts with two

additional steps: tax reform that will ask those who can afford it to pay their fair share and modest adjustments to health care programs like Medicare.

I know we’re going through a tough time right now.

We’ve been going through a tough time for the last two and a half years. And I know a lot of people are worried about the future.

But here’s what I also know: There will always be economic factors that we can’t control — earthquakes, spikes in oil prices, slowdowns in other parts of the world.

But how we respond to those tests — that’s entirely up to us.

For the full transcript of Obama’s speech, visit the Pioneer Online at [www.occ.edu/pioneer](http://www.occ.edu/pioneer).

—PRESIDENT  
BARACK OBAMA

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PIONEER

Vol. 40 No. 1

Jeremy Cloud.....	Editor	Whitney Knight.....	Online Editor
Sarah Hussain.....	Senior Writer	Casey Akard.....	Videographer
Christy Johnson.....	Staff Writer	Robert Bolton.....	Online Writer
Mike Wormley.....	Staff Writer	John Weis.....	Webmaster
Priscilla Colley.....	Staff Writer	Cybele Hsu.....	Graphic Design
Emily Schorr.....	Community Writer	Cynthia Praefke.....	Advertising Manager
Sean Tolbert.....	Sports Writer	Aaron Donahue.....	Circulation Manager
Rachel Morrison.....	Photographer	Ronna Austin.....	Lab Director
Erin Peden.....	Photographer	Shawn Stawicki.....	Lab Assistant
Sue Hinton.....	Faculty Adviser		

7777 S. May  
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

phone:  
405-682-1611, ext. 7307

email:  
editor@occ.edu

The PIONEER is a publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

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

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author’s name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author’s

name if the request is made in writing.

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

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



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**FILM REVIEW** | Western thrill ride is a short flight

## Cowboys, aliens in Hollywood

“Genre blending” is nothing new for Hollywood.

Screenwriters and directors have been mining the same literary deposits of inspiration that fiction authors have already claimed for decades in order to develop pre-conceived settings and story arcs and interchange them with, sometimes-disparate counterparts.

This can be a successful transition (e.g. James Cameron’s sci-fi/horror classic “Alien”); but other times it can lead to failure.

“Cowboys and Aliens” is the film adaptation of the 2006 Platinum Studios graphic novel of the same name.

The stories diverge to a wide degree, but the

overall premise of old-American-west drifters, lawmen and prospectors facing the onslaught of alien invaders is essentially the same.

The cast of the film is notable with Daniel Craig (“Casino Royale” and “Defiance”) playing the lead as the amnesiac outlaw Jake Lonergan.

Lonergan awakens amidst the mesas and grass-stretched plains of New Mexico and finds his way to the mining town of Absolution. Craig plays the standard “tacit western hero with a squinting problem” with success and you generally grow to like the anti-hero throughout the film — in part due to the supporting characters he interacts with.

Olivia Wilde (Fox’s “House”) provides the eye-candy and serves as a vehicle for the plot while Sam Rockwell (“Moon,” “Choke,” and “Frost/Nixon”) uses the extremely limited role of Doc the bartender to further flex his under-rated acting muscle.

Rounding out the notables is film icon Harrison Ford (“Indiana Jones” — no, you know who Harrison Ford is.)

Ford plays wealthy cattle baron Colonel Woodrow Dolarhyde and serves as the closest embodiment of a human “villain.” And at the age of 69, Ford shows yet another facet to his awesome acting ability.

The film is entertaining with some well-dreamt

special effects and some pristine direction from actor/director Jon Favreau (“Iron Man”).

If you are looking for a film that distracts you then most assuredly, this will do the job.

Yet, as I walked out of the theater, I was left wanting just a bit more from the film.

It felt rushed and I never really grew to care about any of the characters except for Rockwell’s and there were questions I had about the aliens that bugged me.

Overall, this is an experience worth seeing in the theater, but I would hesitate to recommend anyone own the film.

**Rating: B-**

—SEAN TOLBERT  
SPORTS WRITER

**MUSIC REVIEW** | Hip-hop artist follows in his father’s footsteps, in a different way

## Diggy Simmons lives up to his name

Most children want to grow up to be like one parent or the other but who knew Rev. Run of Run DMC would have a hip-hop child prodigy on his hands?

Daniel “Diggy” Simmons, the 16-year-old son of Rev. Run seems to be following in his father’s lyrical footsteps, but is determined to make a name all of his own.

“Great Expectations” is one of Diggy’s first singles released in 2010. This song is pretty much what is expected from the title. He raps about what is expected of him considering who his father is as well as what he expects from himself. This is a feel good, keep-your-head-up song and it should not

be overlooked.

“Copy Paste” is a nice low mellow tune that can easily be bumped in the hottest of cars or just listened to at the crib, just on chill.

Diggy spits much game on the song “Made you Look,” on which he uses several clever punchlines with great lyrical timing.

This isn’t Diggy’s first foray into the field. He has appeared on other up-and-coming artists’ albums, one being the remixed version of Mindless Behavior’s “Mrs. Right.” He adds pure East Coast swag to this already danceable tune.

Diggy stunned hip-hop lovers when he participated in the Cypher on the BET Hip-Hop Music Awards with his

I’m-not-scared-because-I’m-ready-for-whatever attitude.

He proves his lyrical chops when he performs a free style to Mobb Deep’s “Shook Ones.” Deep’s version, released in 1995, is a hard act to follow but Diggy surprisingly holds his own in his two-minute sequel.

The Dig-ster deservedly made XXL magazine’s Freshman Class list of some of the most notable up-and-coming artists. This list includes Yela Wolf, Big Krit and Meek Mill.

Although he is known to use a few of what we in Oklahoma call curse words or just plain cussin’, his songs are not profanity laced or explicit.

He is not speaking

about women in an unflattering light nor is he promoting drug usage so he is somewhat parent friendly.

As of yet, Diggy does not have a release date or a title to his upcoming CD but it is highly anticipated.

He has two mixed tapes “The First Flight” released in 2009, and “Airborne” released in 2010, both of which met rave reviews.

If Diggy Simmons album stays in the same mind set of the songs he has already released his album would easily make it to number one status on the hip-hop charts ... uh, that’s if it ever gets released.

**Rating: A**

—CHRISTY JOHNSON

## COUNSELOR'S Corner

### Persistence equals success

*“Energy and persistence conquer all things.”*  
—Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

Welcome to all new and returning students. We hope the fall will be a great semester for each of you. Here are some tips that can help insure that this, and every other, semester is a productive one for you:

1. Attend class. Sometimes students think that because they aren’t in high school anymore, attendance is optional. OCCC expects that you show up and participate. An active learner is a more successful learner. Also, the first day of class exposes you to what the class will entail and all that is expected. If it doesn’t feel like a good fit, make adjustments before it might impact financial aid or your GPA.

2. Get to know people. Talk to your professors. Get acquainted with other students in your classes. Join a student group (or start one of your own if you don’t find an existing group to your liking). The more connected you become, the less isolated (and overwhelmed) you’ll feel.

3. Take advantage of campus resources. OCCC wants students to be successful. That’s why we hire friendly, knowledgeable people, furnish state-of-the-art learning spaces, invest in technology and offer real-time online tutoring for when we aren’t available. Successfully completing classes might be a challenge at times, but it shouldn’t feel like a struggle. Let us know if you need help.

4. Recognize what a unique and special person you are. Learn the strategies and techniques that best fit you. Explore different careers and academic paths that best fit your strengths. Most everyone can “do college,” but not necessarily in the same way.

5. Ask questions so that you can make the best decisions for yourself. It’s easy for any of us to get caught up in the emotion of a situation and react instead of think about our options. Take a deep breath and ask us what we might recommend. Ultimately, the decision is yours, but it will be a more informed decision.

Some of you may subscribe to the myth that it’s the “smart” people who are successful in college and in life. Smart people flunk out and drop out of school every year. Those who are persistent and willing to work hard are the winners in life. We in Student Support Services are standing by to help you have an awesome semester.

—MARY TURNER  
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST



BOOK GIVES LONG-TIME READERS SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# ‘Ghost Story’ a magical read

Somewhere in Chicago, there’s a wizard who freelances as a private detective and goes toe-to-toe with the worst the world has to offer, for the sake of truth, justice, and the American way.

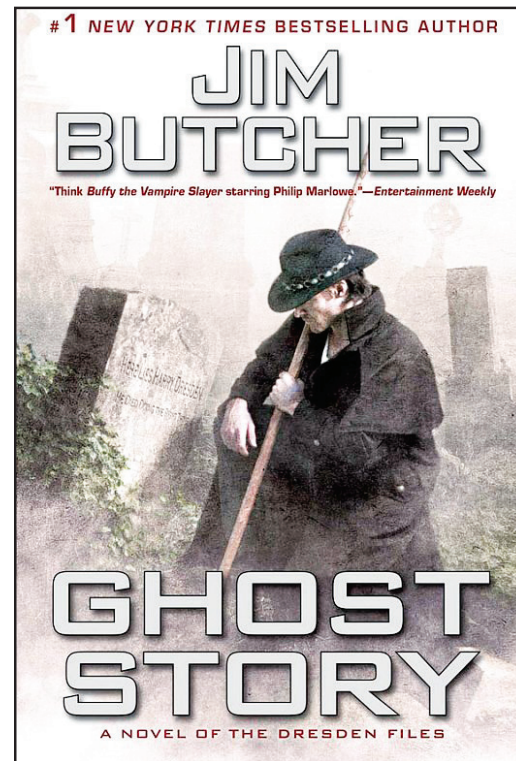
Corny as it may sound, that’s the basic premise behind Jim Butcher’s “Dresden Files,” an ongoing series that’s 13 books in and going strong.

Released July 26, the latest book “Ghost Story” is one of the best yet.

The story pushes the main character Harry Dresden to grow and mature while dealing with the death of someone close to him. Well actually, it’s his death.

Of course, being a wizard, death doesn’t stick quite as strongly and he gets sent back to solve his own murder.

While the premise is so cliché that Harry himself points out how cliché it is, the novel actually delivers a strong story, showcasing how the various supporting characters are dealing with the supernatural chaos that has taken over Chicago after the loss of its protector.



Despite the story’s serious tone, Butcher’s sense of humor sneaks in all over the place, lighting even the darkest moments with gallows humor.

And as always, the pop culture references are so thick you could cut them

with a butter knife.

One of the most startling elements of this story is that, as a ghost, Harry is almost completely unable to use magic.

Seeing not only how Harry reacts to being helpless, but also how his allies have learned to work around the absence of their mystical heavy-weight, drives the characters in new directions.

And it gives long-time readers some food for thought about where the series might be headed.

Finally, the ending doesn’t just twist — it tangoes, leaving readers pleasantly shocked and begging for the next one.

Due to Butcher’s habit of dropping explanations for everything into every book, “Ghost Story” can be read as a stand-alone novel. But unlike the rest of the series, to fully appreciate this one, readers should really check out the previous book, “Changes.”

RATING: A

—JEREMY CLOUD  
EDITOR

## TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of Aug. 15 through 17  
www.boxofficemojo.com

1. *The Help*
2. *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*
3. *The Smurfs*
4. *Final Destination 5*
5. *30 Minutes or Less*
6. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*
7. *Crazy, Stupid, Love.*
8. *Captain America: The First Avenger*
9. *Cowboys & Aliens*
10. *The Change-Up*
11. *Glee The 3D Concert Movie*
12. *Horrible Bosses*
13. *Friends with Benefits*
14. *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*
15. *Zookeeper*
16. *Cars 2*
17. *Midnight in Paris*
18. *Born to be Wild (IMAX)*
19. *Sarah's Key*
20. *Green Lantern*

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A  
REVIEW? SEND IT TO  
EDITOR@OCCC.EDU

BOOK GIVES LONG-TIME READERS SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# Southside Target store hits the bull’s eye

Next time you’re cruising through Moore, keep an eye out for a big red bull’s eye in the sky.

No, it’s not a shooting range — it’s heaven on earth for southside shopaholics and families alike.

Oklahoma’s newest Target store, located at 720 S.W. 19th Street, next to Home Depot, opened last month.

This location marks the second Target on the southside, and the only one worth visiting.

In the past few years, the state of south Oklahoma City’s flagship store at 44th and Western has greatly deteriorated.

What was once a family-friendly shopping experience transformed into a haunt for gang-bangers and other undesirables.

It became the kind of place you didn’t want to be caught in come nightfall.

However, this new store hits the mark.

From the moment you step through the automatic doors, the experience is unlike anything you will ever find at other mass retailers, including other Target stores.

The store associates are cheerful and friendly, often asking if you need any help rather than just trudging by you as if you are invisible.



They even wheel out shopping carts for you, making you feel a bit like royalty as you stroll about the store.

And even though you might feel like a millionaire, you won’t have to dole out cash like one. If you’re looking for a high-quality wardrobe on a low-quality budget, look no further than Target’s clothing departments.

With tees starting at \$8 and some jeans as cheap as \$15 a pop, Target offers Walmart-priced attire at a much higher quality.

But Target is much more than a clothing store, selling everything from Rachel Ashwell bedding to dishware and school supplies.

This new location even boasts a grocery section akin to the Walmart Neighborhood Markets.

You might not find any car tires down the same aisle as your hamburger meat, but is that really such a loss anyway?

And when you’re done shopping and your stomach is rumbling, you can stop by an expanded eating area that includes all the old standbys like hot dogs and pretzels, as well as a Pizza Hut that sells personal pan pizzas for \$4.99 each.

There’s even a miniature Starbucks that sells coffee and tea if you’re hankering for a caffeine fix.

Whether you’ve lived on the southside all your life or you’re just driving through Moore, you have to make a stop at the big tan building with the unmistakable red sign.

You won’t be disappointed.

RATING: A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
ONLINE EDITOR



## CENSORSHIP AMONG TOPICS TO BE EXPLORED IN NEW DOWNTOWN COLLEGE CLASS

# History of Photography class to be offered

KATE JOHNSON  
News Writing Student

Photographer Lewis Hine's photos had a huge impact on the creation of child labor laws, as his photos depicted visual images of children working and the harsh reality of their situation.

Graphic Arts professor Charles Rushton said he will include Hine's work when he teaches a History of Photography course this fall.

This is just one example of how photography has influenced American culture and public life, Rushton said.

The History of Photography course will be taught for the first time this fall through OCCC in conjunction with the Downtown College in Oklahoma City.

The class will take place at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art at 6 p.m. Tuesday nights, beginning Aug. 23 and continuing through Dec. 13.

Students will earn three hours of humanities credit that will satisfy general education humanities requirements.

According to his biography on the OCCC website, Rushton's photos have appeared in magazines and books. This will be his first time teaching History



COURTESY OF WWW.METMUSEUM.ORG

"Newsies at Skeeter Branch, St. Louis, Missouri, 11:00 am, May 9, 1910," a photograph by Lewis W. Hine (1874–1940) an American photographer who will be studied in the History of Photography class offered this fall.

of Photography, but he has taught other photography classes.

The class will focus on movements and issues related to photography as well as past photographers, such as the aforementioned Hine.

"We will discuss things like the use of

photographs in social change," Rushton said. "And issues of censorship, what should be allowed in newspapers, what should be shown in museums."

Understanding the history of photography can help a photographer to be better in the art, he said.

"I think it's important to know what's been done in the field. When you see what other people are doing, it gets you to work to a higher level."

The class will learn about documentary photography and how that style of photographs has "become part of the art world," he said.

Rushton also calls the class a cultural lesson. "It's designed to make you more aware of culture."

Gus Pekara, Downtown College director, said the class is open to anyone.

"It will be hands-on humanities class, not your normal style of class," Pekara said. "There will be an actual person in the field teaching the class."

Students enrolled in the class also will receive free parking.

Those interested can enroll at OCCC, at the Downtown College, or online. The special topics class is HUM 2003, History of Photography.

For more information, call Pekara at 405-232-3382 or email gpekara@occc.edu.

Students also can apply online through the OCCC website, or can go through the Downtown College website at [www.downtowncollege.com](http://www.downtowncollege.com).

## TRANSITION HAS BEEN IN THE MAKING FOR A FEW YEARS

## Safety and security office is now campus police department

PRISCILLA COLLEY  
Staff Writer  
staffwriter1@occc.edu

OCCC transitioned from having a campus Safety and Security Office to having a Campus Police Department Aug. 15.

The change has been in the making since 2008, said John Boyd, Business and Finance Vice President.

"It was discussed before I was acting Vice President of Business and Finance," Boyd said.

He said the switch will be advantageous to students.

"A police officer is going to have a different level of experience, and will have dealt with many unique situations that our safety and security officers haven't."

OCCC student Keani Young said she welcomes the change.

"It's a great idea," she said. "Instead of waiting for security to call police if something happens, they're already right here to handle it."

Boyd said police officers have the ability to arrest and detain, something Safety and Security officers cannot do.

The changes won't happen overnight he said. Boyd said the college will replace security officers with police officers as positions become available.

"The transition will take time.

"Long-term, we're looking at having solely a campus police department," he said.

"We're not here to tell Safety and Security we're taking their jobs. As attrition occurs, we will fill those positions with police officers."

Boyd said the officers are employees of the college, not Oklahoma City Police Department officers, and have various law enforcement experience.

"We began creating the new department and working out the logistics."

First, Boyd said, job descriptions had to be created.

"We couldn't come up with those out of thin air. We consulted other law enforcement agencies and with other colleges who have police departments."

OCCC student Chris Waychoff said the move seems extreme, "based on the (low) crime rate here ..."

Boyd said that wasn't a factor.

"There was no criminal event or catalyst for the change. It had already been in the minds of administrators," he said.

He said business will go on as usual. The only noticeable change will be

uniforms.

"There are differences in uniforms from police officers to safety and security. That's by design."

"A person needs to understand if they are dealing with a police officer or a safety and security officer," Boyd said.

"Our top priority at the college is students. If the students weren't here, we wouldn't be here."

"The police officers know that and are expected to accommodate [students] to the same level as the safety and security officers."

"Our police officers understand they are here to serve the student body, and provide safety and security to everyone who steps on this campus."

For more information on the campus department, call 405-682-7572, or visit [www.occc.edu/security](http://www.occc.edu/security).



# Students can avoid costly parking violations

## Decals, reckless driving among campus parking infractions

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Online Editor  
onlineeditor@occc.edu

From registering your vehicle to parking in proper places, OCCC has parking regulations students should follow, said OCCC Police Chief Jim Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick said students who fail to obey the following rules could face fines of up to

\$100:

- All vehicles that will regularly be parked on campus must be registered. Free parking decals can be obtained from Records and Graduation Services, located on the first floor of the Main Building where student IDs are obtained. If students don't have a decal on their vehicles on the first day of classes, they could be fined \$5. If the decals aren't affixed properly, students could be fined \$3.

- Drivers also are required to park in designated areas. Students, faculty and employees, disabled drivers, and

visitors all have a designated place to park. Student parking spaces are identified by yellow parallel lines. Faculty and employee parking spaces are identified by blue parallel lines and lettering that states faculty and employee parking. Handicapped parking spaces are marked with the customary sign as prescribed by law. Students who park in faculty or employee parking spaces may be fined \$15. A fine of \$100 will be imposed on students who park in a handicapped spot or in a fire lane. They also may face fines from Oklahoma City.

- Students must also drive

with caution while on campus. Violations for failure to stop at a stop sign, going the wrong way down a one-way street and reckless driving carry \$25 fines. Similar fines can be imposed for not yielding for pedestrians and speeding. In addition to fines charged by OCCC, students may be required to pay fines to the city if they are in violation of any federal, state, or local laws and ordinances.




For more information about parking violations, fines, vehicle assistance, and temporary decals, contact the OCCC Campus Police Department at 405-682-7572.

If you get a fine...

Fines may be paid in the Bursar's Office. When a fine is paid, a receipt will be issued and the Safety and Security Department notified. Once all fines have been paid, all restrictions on the person will be removed.

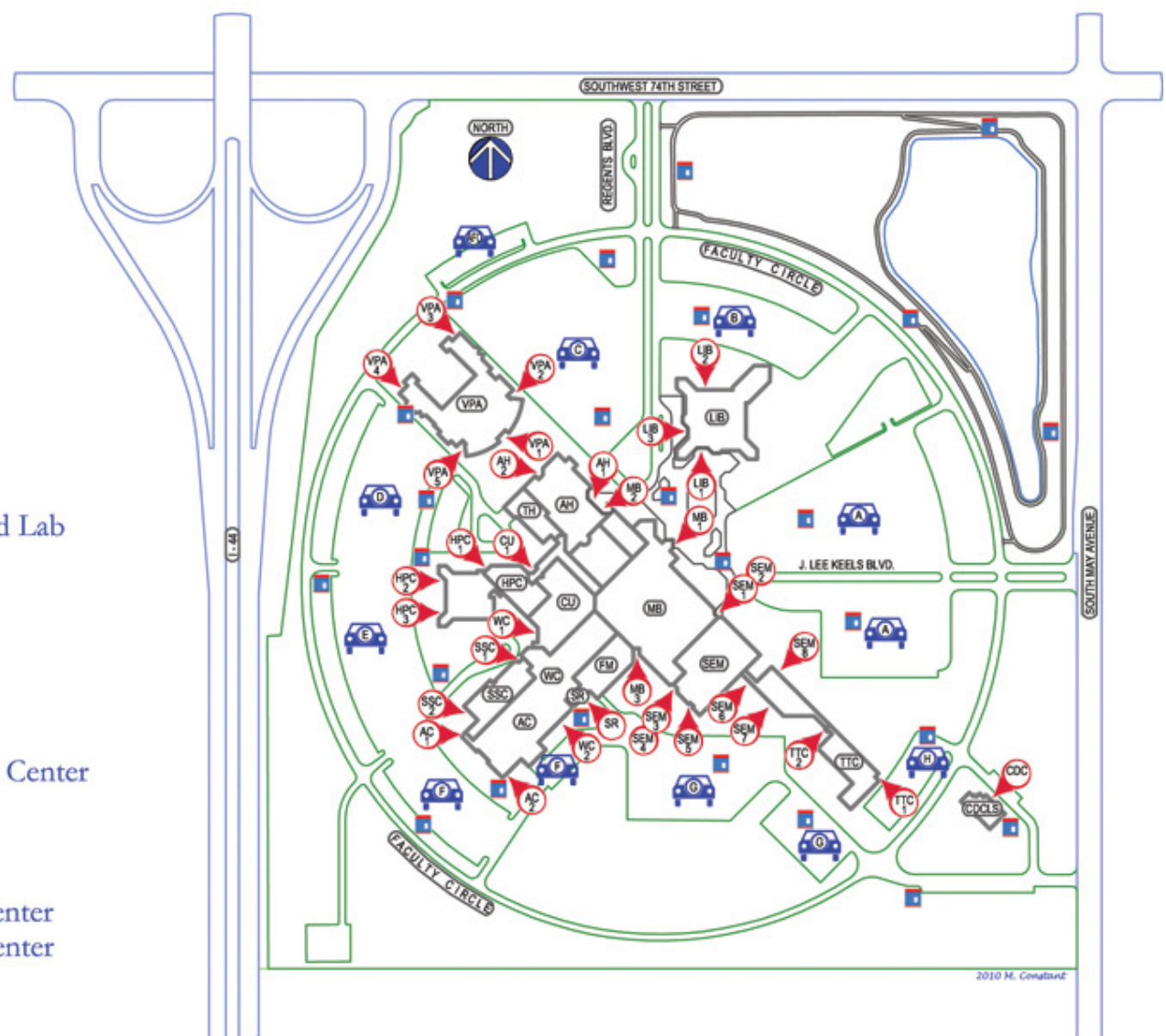


OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Campus Locator Map (06-10)

-  Parking Lots
-  Entrances
-  Emergency Callbox

## Buildings / Areas

- AC Aquatic Center
- AH Arts and Humanities Center
- CDCLS Child Development Center and Lab School
- CU College Union
- FM Facilities Management
- HPC Health Professions Center
- LIB Library
- MB Main Building
- SEM Science Engineering and Math Center
- SR Shipping and Receiving
- SSC Social Sciences Center
- TH Bruce Owen Theater
- TTC Transportation Technology Center
- VPA Visual and Performing Arts Center
- WC Wellness Center



All OCCC parking lots are patrolled 24 hours a day by the campus Police Department. Unregistered vehicles, those with an improperly-placed decal, those illegally parked within faculty or employee parking spaces, or those illegally parked within handicapped spaces or fire lanes may receive fines of up to \$100. In addition, drivers caught driving recklessly, speeding, failing to stop at stop sign, going the wrong way on a one-way street or failing to yield to pedestrians may also be fined.



# Assistance available for help navigating OCCC

Shown are maps to all three floors of the Main Building which includes the SEM Center, Health Professions Center, and Arts and Humanities, as well as a map of the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Many of OCCC's labs and classrooms,

as well as the Bookstore and College Union, are located in the Main Building.

More classrooms and labs are found in the Visual and Performing Arts Center, in addition to faculty offices and a state-of-the-art film studio.


For the fall semester, the Main Build-

ing, and Visual and Performing Arts Center will be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Campus is closed Sundays.

College workers will be on hand throughout the first week of classes to

help students navigate campus. In addition, students are encouraged to ask any college employee for directions for help navigating any of the buildings.

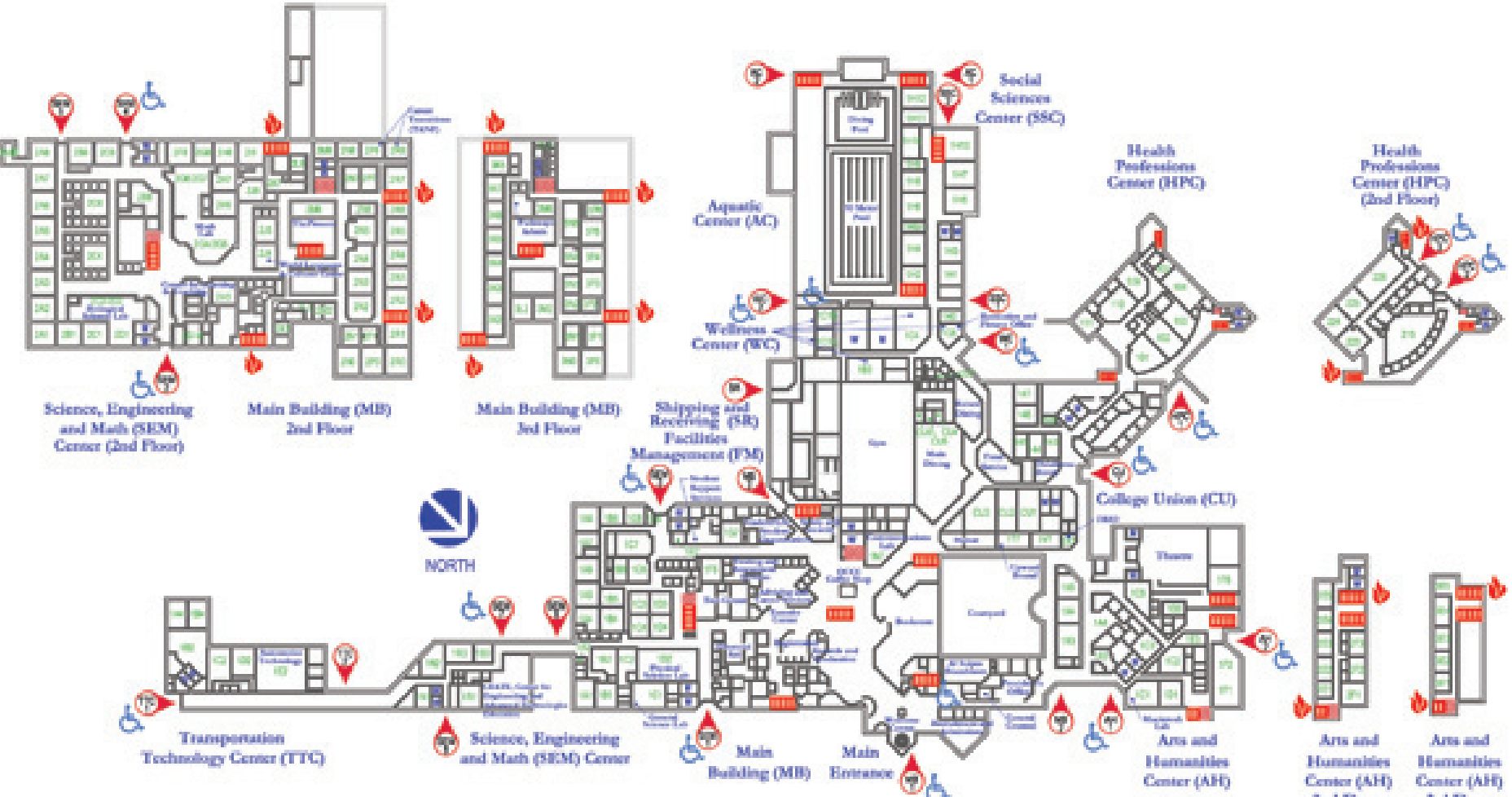
For more information about OCCC, visit the college's website at [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu).



**OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Main Building Locator Map (06-10)

**Legend:**

- Elevators
- Entrances
- Handicap Entrances
- Stairs
- Fire Stairwell
- Men's Restrooms
- Women's Restrooms




**Map Labels:**

- Science, Engineering and Math (SEM) Center (2nd Floor)
- Main Building (MB) 2nd Floor
- Main Building (MB) 3rd Floor
- Aquatic Center (AC)
- Wellness Center (WC)
- Shipping and Receiving Facilities Management (FM)
- Social Sciences Center (SSC)
- Health Professions Center (HPC)
- Health Professions Center (HPC) (2nd Floor)
- College Union (CU)
- Arts and Humanities Center (AHC)
- Arts and Humanities Center (AHC) 2nd Floor
- Arts and Humanities Center (AHC) 3rd Floor
- Transportation Technology Center (TTC)
- Science, Engineering and Math (SEM) Center
- Main Building (MB)
- Main Entrance

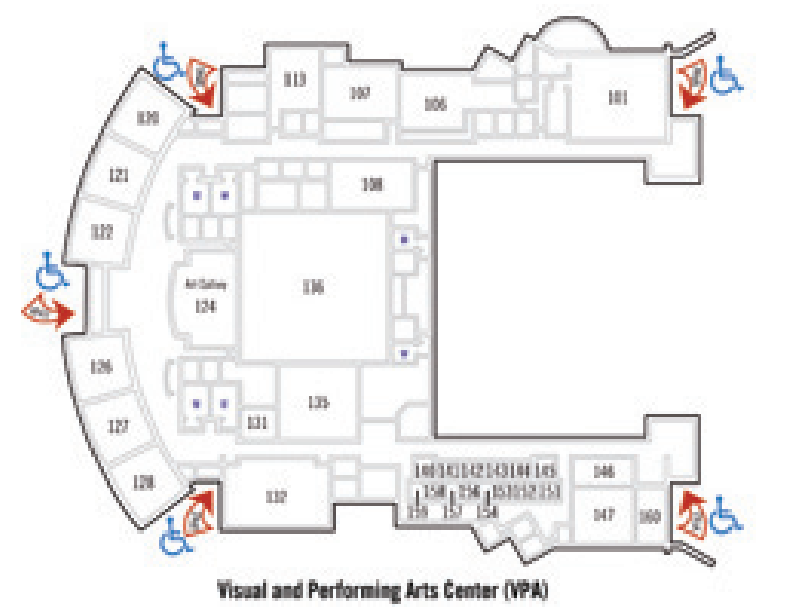
**Keith Leftwich Memorial Library Hours**

**Monday - Thursday:** 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
**Friday:** 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Saturday:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Closed



**PIONEER Online**  
[www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer)

Visit the Pioneer Online for additional campus maps, as well as exclusive news, interactive features, polls and more. You'll also find links to the Pioneer's Twitter and Facebook pages.



**Visual and Performing Arts Center (VPA)**

## SPORTS

## Keeping focused



ERIN PEDEN/PIONEER

Film major Omsun Guevara spends his free time working out in the OCCC gym. Located in the Wellness Center, the gym is open from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and is closed Saturday and Sunday.

**SPORTS** | College fitness classes can help battle academic stress

## Relief not far for stressed students

SEAN M. TOLBERT  
Sports Writer  
sportswriter@occc.edu

Balancing a college workload and keeping an exercise regimen can sometimes be a daunting task.

OCCC's Health and Wellness Center is currently taking enrollment for Fall Fitness programs that, according to a recent college press release, are geared to help students stay healthy while maintaining a focus on their studies.

Mental health website [www.psychcentral.com](http://www.psychcentral.com) cites exercise as one of 10 ways to relieve stress, stating: "[exercise] releases good hormones that keep [your] stress hormones at bay."

OCCC student Fatemah Bennett said staying fit is often a welcome escape from her schoolwork as well as a way of helping her to feel productive.

"I'm the kind of person [who] likes to stay busy and not feel like a loser by not having anything to do."

“ I’m the kind of person [who] likes to stay busy and not feel like a loser by not having anything to do.”

—FATEMAH BENNETT  
OCCC STUDENT

Enrollment is currently open for programs such as intramural Flag Football and classes that include Zumba and “Learn to Swim.”

These classes not only use sports but “combine wellness activities such as group fitness, indoor/outdoor group games and swim time” according to the press release.

College students aren't the only ones who can benefit from the college's fitness programs.

For students with children who are looking to stay active during the school year, OCCC has a number of youth-oriented programs scheduled around the Oklahoma City Public School system.

The OCCC Health and Fitness

### STRESS BUSTERS

**Prioritize:** Put the most important and timely goals ahead of those that don't fall into your “gotta do” list.

**Exercise:** Be it intense aerobics, gentle stretching, or Tai Chi, exercise helps the brain release good hormones that keep stress hormones at bay.

**Laugh:** Laughter really is good medicine. Let yourself go with those deep belly laughs where you snort at the end and see how much better you feel.

—courtesy [www.psychcentral.com](http://www.psychcentral.com)

press release for the fall programs shows youth classes would include “Extreme Sports” and “Fitness Fun” over the fall break and “The Amazing Race” and “Reindeer Games” over the winter break.

For a list of class times, costs and enrollment options, call Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.

## UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

**Aug. 23 - Aug. 31:** Registration for OCCC 8 on 8 Flag Football League. Season begins Sept. 9. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Aug. 23 - Aug. 30:** Registration for 6 on 6 Volleyball Season. Season begins Sept. 6. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Aug. 23 - Oct. 19:** Registration for “O-Trip 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament” takes place Oct. 28. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Sept. 17:** Pepsi: Punt, Pass, and Kick Competition, Girls and Boys age groups from 8 to 15. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Sept. 17:** OCCC Youth Soccer. Ages 6 to 8 and 9 to 10. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Email [sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu).

**Have sports news you want to share?**  
**e-mail Sean at:**  
**[sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu),**  
**call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676, or drop by 1F2 in the Arts and Humanities building.**

**LOG ON TO THE PIONEER ONLINE FOR BREAKING NEWS, ONLINE EXCLUSIVES AND TO ACCESS ARCHIVES DATING BACK TO 1998.**

**WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER**



# Thieves target students on campus during break

**EMILY SCHORR**  
Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC students encountered thieves on campus during the last

part of the summer semester.

On July 28, Liliana Pineedo reported her wallet — zebra print with pink lilies — missing from the women's locker

room. According to a report, Pineedo said she placed her wallet in the locker but did not lock it. Later in the evening, she received a call from her bank about \$300

charged at Toys 'R' Us on her debit card. Pineedo said she canceled the card immediately.

Another report of theft by student Eva Anaya also was made on July 28.

Anaya told campus police officers \$300 in cash was taken from her backpack that, she said, was left unattended for 30 minutes on the second floor of the library.

Anaya said she didn't notice the money missing until the following day. According to a report, a security camera in the area was unable to substantiate her claim.

## Smoking: Police chief says 'voluntary compliance preferred'

*Continued from page 1*

or not.

"If you are a current tobacco user and you want to quit, we can put together classes to help with that.

"A couple of us have been trained and certified by the American Lung Association and we can offer classes or work with you one-on-one."

She said help also is available for those who choose not to quit.

"That may mean altering your smoking habits so that you smoke less or changing your class schedule so you're not here for an extended period of time," Turner said.

"While it may not be ideal, we can make it work if you want it to work."

The fact that the school is willing to help both smokers and non-smokers alike sounds good to Bethany VanderSchans, a writing tutor in the Communications Lab. She said she quit smoking more than five months ago.

"They don't smoke at [the University of Central Oklahoma] where I go now and it can be very stressful to be a smoker on a non-smoking campus.

"But it can also be a catalyst to stop smoking, if only to reduce that extra stress."

However, some of OCCC's penalties seem a bit harsh, VanderSchans said.

"I feel like taking disciplinary action against violators in their role as a student or employee might be a bit extreme but it's not hard to follow the rules and respect an institution.

"I would hope it wouldn't get to that, and that students, faculty and staff would choose to follow the policy rather than face those types of fines."

History professor Ray McCullar said while the policy itself is a good thing, it might not be the best solution to the problem it was put in place to address.

"I believe that we're talking out both sides of our mouths. If we're so worried about health

that we're going to ban tobacco, we should also ban high-fat foods and Big Gulps, and institute a mandatory calisthenics program.

"On the other hand, if it's just tobacco we're worried about, then the government needs to stop subsidizing tobacco farmers.

"But while we're all saying how worried we are about how unhealthy tobacco is, we're using the taxes on it to pay for health care programs like SoonerCare."

Despite misgivings about banning smoking in personal vehicles and concern over the need for a closer look at a complex issue, McCullar said he supports the ban.

"I hate cigarettes," he said. "I smoked for 25 years and I hate what they do to people, I hate that they're addictive and since I quit, I like who I am as a non-smoker."

Fitzpatrick said whether the policy works or whether it is or isn't the best solution is now beside the point.

"The bottom line is, good, bad or indifferent, no matter how anyone feels about it, this police department has been tasked with the assignment of enforcing compliance and we're going to have to fulfill that.

"But obviously, we realize that we're going to do this in a way that meets the best interests of the college and everyone here.

"No one's going to be ambushed. Everyone's going to be given a chance to comply."



— CAREER TRAINING. MONEY FOR COLLEGE. —

## AND AN ENTIRE TEAM TO HELP YOU SUCCEED.

Serving part-time in the Air National Guard, you'll have an entire team of like-minded individuals who want to help you get ahead. You can choose from nearly 200 career specialties, and develop the high-tech skills you need to compete in today's world. You also train close to home, all while receiving a steady paycheck, benefits and tuition assistance. Talk to a recruiter today, and see how the Oklahoma Air National Guard can help you succeed.

OKLAHOMA  
**AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

**GoANG.com ► 1-800-TO-GO-ANG**

## GED: Cuts result from state downturns

*Continued from page 1*

gency, the GED is an important tool, Bloomberg said.

Bloomberg said the reduction is a result of declining state revenues.

The state Board of Education that oversees the adult education funds voted to cut adult basic education out of the state's common education budget, he said.

Rural communities have been hurt even more. Martinez-Brooks said that because rural areas don't serve as many

students, places like Woodward and Watonga are receiving 50 to 60 percent cuts in state dollars, which is more than half of their funding, she said.

Rural communities have had to lay off teachers and some classes are being dropped due to lack of funding.

"It's sad because those students need assistance just like those in Oklahoma County," Martinez-Brooks said.

Bloomberg said OCCC's GED program is important because 98 percent of all businesses will accept people who

have a GED in lieu of a high school diploma. Ninety-six percent of all colleges and universities who accept a high school diploma will accept the GED as an equivalent, he said.

"Without the GED, as an interventional tool, the door to a better standard of living is effectively closed."

For adults who were not able to complete high school, there is not another alternative, he said.

For more information about GED classes at OCCC, call 405-686-OCCC (6222).



# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Counting the days



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Student Fikirte Hagos picks up an OCCC calendar from Student Life. The Student Life office, located on the first floor of the Main Building near the campus police department, has staff available to answer questions and provide information.

**COMMUNITY |** Downtown College class offers students chance to see live stage performances

## OKC Arts Alive! class offered

**MIKE WORMLEY**

Community Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

A lot is going on in downtown Oklahoma City, when it comes to the performing arts.

Students enrolled in OKC Arts Alive! will learn firsthand when they attend concerts, plays and other performances as part of their class assignments, said Ruth Charnay, OKC Arts Alive professor.

Every semester includes attending at least one ballet and one performance by the Philharmonic orchestra. The three-credit-hour humanities class will be taught every Friday night beginning the second half of the fall semester, Charnay said.

Last year's required productions included "Phantom of the Opera," a collection of music written by Billy Joel and performed by the Philharmonic, the Broadway musical "Shrek," the OCCC production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Tuna Christmas," "Oliver," and "The Nutcracker" ballet.

The shows are different every time and the Civic Center has yet to post its fall season, Charnay said. However, she said, this year's selection should be just as good as last year's.

OKC Arts Alive! is an eight-week class that begins Oct. 18. The intent is to explore the performing arts through attractions available in Oklahoma City.

Two features of the class are that it does not have a

textbook, and most weeks the class is held downtown at the Oklahoma City Civic Center rather than on campus. OKC Arts Alive! is a humanities class open to everyone.

Charnay said classes comparable to OKC Arts Alive! would be Music Appreciation or Introduction to Theater. However, she said, they are more focused in their field of art, whereas Arts Alive is more focused on the community around the arts.

"[This class] discusses professional, community, amateur, and union productions," she said. "It asks, 'How is Oklahoma City different because the arts community exists?'"

"Students find out it's not just a bunch of people who do this for fun, that it's a business."

A typical class meets at 6 p.m. when Charnay and the students discuss the upcoming event that night.

"We will talk about what it is, what it takes to put on the production, what to look for, aesthetics and the pleasure of the arts," she said.

There is a lecture followed by a trip to the box office to purchase tickets. Students are expected to purchase tickets, which usually cost between \$10 and \$12 for each show with a student discount.

Broadway shows are the most expensive, typically \$25 a seat. The total cost of all the shows for the class is between \$80 and \$100, which is still lower than the cost of a textbook in many classes.

After the event, students meet and review the

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Audition for Pulitzer Prize-winning play

Auditions for the theatrical production of "Fences," by August Wilson will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 24, and Thursday, Aug. 25 in the Bruce Owen Theater. Director Brent Noel is looking to cast the roles of five African-American males and one African-American woman. No experience necessary. Students and non-students are welcome to audition. For more information, contact Brent Noel at bnoel@occc.edu.

### Learn study skills at Brown Bag lunch

Learn how to improve your study skills. Student Life will be hosting a study skills session from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, in the Main Building in CU1. Students are allowed to bring their lunches. For more information, email Amy Reynolds at amy.e.reynolds@occc.edu or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife.

### How to get part-time jobs and internships

Learn how to search for part-time jobs and get internships. Student Life is hosting a Brown Bag session on how to search for jobs and obtain internships 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 13 in the Main Building in CU1. For more information on this Brown Bag special, email Amy Reynolds at amy.e.reynolds@occc.edu or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife.

### OCCC Garage Sale

The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee will hold their annual Garage Sale this fall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7, in CU 1, 2 and 3. All proceeds will go towards student scholarships. If you would like to bring donations during the summer please contact Linda Boatright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7468.

**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.**

show, sometimes including discussions with people involved in the production.

To further encourage students to explore the arts, Charnay said, there is also a project in which students select and visit an event independently, and report back on their experiences.

"Students love the class," Charnay said. "The majority of people that go haven't had those experiences before and [many] say 'I'll be back.'"

"For others it is an excuse to go out on a Friday night to see a concert."

For more information on HUM 2003 – OKC Arts Alive!, contact Charnay at 405-682-7558 or rcharnay@occc.edu.



# CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

**FOR SALE:** 1994 Mazda Protege', more than 200,000 miles, but very well maintained, good a/c. Standard. Priced to sell. Call 405-840-5334.

## CHILD CARE

**NEED HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE ON CAMPUS**

**WHILE YOU ATTEND CLASSES AT OCCC?**

For more information contact:

Dr. Barb Carter at the OCCC CDCLS.  
405-682-7561

## EMPLOYMENT

**MOM NEEDS HELP:** Need responsible, clean female to help with light housework in exchange for room and board. No babysitting. NW 122nd and Council area. Good personal references a must. Call 405-728-1710.

## FURNITURE

**FOR SALE:** Entertainment center/bookshelf/TV stand has multiple uses for books, photos, etc. Maple color engineered lumber. \$50. email: [4allmypets@yahoo.com](mailto:4allmypets@yahoo.com) for photo.

**FOR SALE:** Pecan Baldwin, upright electric piano. Great sound. Call 405-840-5334.

## RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Researchers at OU Health Science Center need healthy volunteers ages 18 to 30, who have a parent with, or without a history of an alcohol or drug problem. Qualified participants will be compensated for their time.

Call (405) 456-4303 to learn more about the study and to see if you qualify.



**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**  
**LIVE UNITED** 

Ad Council Want to make a difference? Find out how at [LIVEUNITED.ORG](http://LIVEUNITED.ORG).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**NEED 10 STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ROCK CLIMBING:** In order to petition to start a rock climbing club I need ten students, and 2 faculty or staff sponsors. Contact James at 405-694-7779, or [jamespear24@yahoo.com](mailto:jamespear24@yahoo.com).

**FOR SALE:** Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged, \$200; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, \$150. 405-818-0083.

**FOR SALE:** This space for your business ad. Reach thousands of potential customers for just \$16 a week. E-mail your information to [adman@occc.edu](mailto:adman@occc.edu). Or call Cynthia at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674.

## FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** Nice bedroom in a house with other students. \$380 per month with all bills paid, including internet. Located in good neighborhood near 104th and Western, \$100 deposit. No pets or indoor smoking. Call 405-794-9999.

**DO YOU ENJOY WRITING STORIES?  
ARE YOU A POET?  
IS PAINTING YOUR PASSION?  
CAN YOU CAPTURE LIFE ON FILM?**

Why not submit your entry to the OCCC Absolute literary anthology for possible publication? Applications are available on the table outside the Arts and Humanities Division office.

# TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Bushy hairdo
- 5 Desert plant
- 10 Is wearisome to
- 14 Writer Harte
- 15 British sailor
- 16 Walk or gallop
- 17 Gravy dish
- 18 Sleep sound
- 19 Nothing but
- 20 Taj Mahal site
- 21 Persists in an annoying action
- 23 Clever one
- 25 Summer mo.
- 26 Certain philosophy
- 31 South American animal
- 35 Chaney of film
- 36 Part of a jacket
- 38 Black
- 40 Recognized
- 42 Some portraits
- 44 Golden Fleece ship
- 45 Wild shrub
- 47 Lariat
- 49 "Ballad" ending
- 50 Alpine region
- 52 Bedsprad material
- 54 Practical joke
- 56 Bank amenity: abbr.
- 57 Swift air current
- 62 Speck

### DOWN

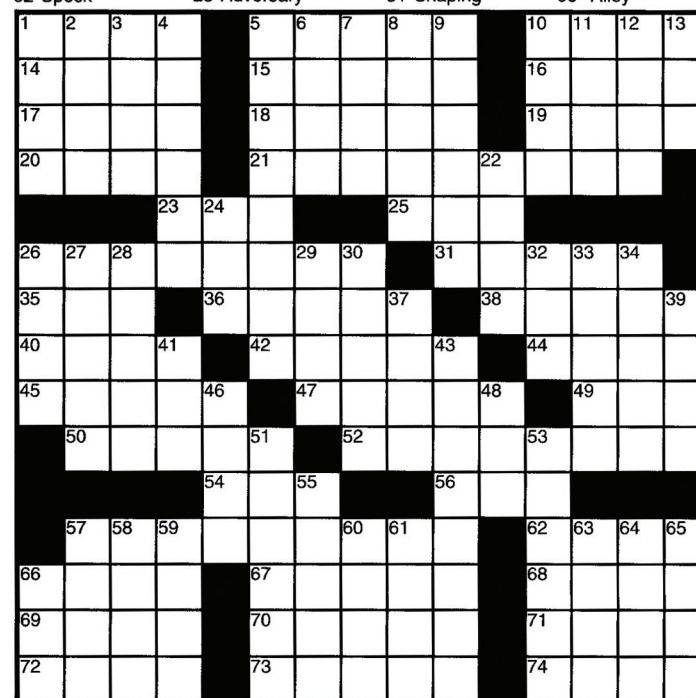
- 1 Swedish rock group
- 2 Prince in disguise?
- 3 Back
- 4 City in Ontario
- 5 Four-footed shepherd
- 6 Liquors
- 7 One way to run?
- 8 Vice —
- 9 Good look
- 10 Inventor Sikorsky
- 11 Rajah's wife
- 12 Highlander's attire
- 13 Farm home
- 22 Act like a wolf?
- 24 Wis. neighbor
- 26 Kinds
- 27 Bakery item
- 28 Adversary

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

V	A	P	O	R	E	G	G	S	C	A	S	T
E	L	O	P	E	V	I	O	L	A	G	A	R
N	O	S	E	S	E	L	B	A	B	O	L	E
O	N	E	C	U	R	L	I	N	G	I	R	O
M	E	R	C	U	R	Y	T	E	N	A	N	T
H	E	N	C	R	E	E	S					
T	I	M	E	S	H	R	E	D	S	F	U	R
S	N	A	F	U	Y	O	N	E	L	I	T	E
K	A	Y	N	O	M	A	D	S	O	R	E	O
S	T	U	N	K	H	O	D					
A	L	B	E	I	T	B	O	R	E	D	O	M
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	M	O	O	N	R	H
E	R	I	E	I	R	A	N	A	L	I	A	S
A	V	E	R	D	A	L	E	T	I	E	R	S
D	A	R	E	E	Y	E	D	E	S	S	A	Y

8-7-98

© 1998, United Feature Syndicate



## BUY RECYCLED.



Thanks to you, all sorts of everyday products are being made from recycled materials. But to keep recycling working, you need to buy those products. For a free brochure, call 1-800-CALL-EDF.

A Public Service of  
This Publication

SEPA

ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEFENSE  
FUND



TWENTY STUDENTS TOOK PART IN 12-DAY TRIP

# Students, staff sample Costa Rica's 'pure life'

KATE JOHNSON  
News Writing Student

In Costa Rica, locals have adopted an unofficial motto: "pura vida," Spanish for "the pure life."

Early this summer an OCCC group of 30, including 20 students, were able to sample the pure life of Costa Rica.

Modern Language professor Abbie Figueroa led the group to the Central America country from May 22 to June 3 in order to experience Latin American culture first hand.

Students said they came away from the experience with a new perspective on life outside the U.S.

"The trip impacted my life in a big way," said student Rebekah Davis. "It was life-changing. It opened my mind to different ways of life. I'm already ready to go back."

Elementary education major Tiffany Perry, who attended OCCC before transferring to the University of Oklahoma, said the trip opened her eyes.

"It made me want to learn more Spanish and more about their culture," Perry said.

She said she wants to have more interaction with the people she met in Costa Rica.

Planners designed the excursion to ensure that students got

acquainted with residents of the host country.

"During the trip, we only used local transportation," said Christian Alyea, trip coordinator.

"We wanted to show students the local way and the local life, just how the locals do it."

Figueroa shared Alyea's goal, to put students in direct contact with Costa Ricans. She wanted to avoid the tourist "bubble."

"The trip was for cultural immersion," Figueroa said.

She described the trip as a combination of studying and vacation.

"We started working on it last year, last summer in fact."

Students who enrolled in the program received three college credits in Spanish.

While there was no classroom learning, the students and other group members learned the language through activities.

One example is the shopping competitions when the group members had to negotiate with the locals of Costa Rica's capital San José using only Spanish.

They also were required to keep journals and some students later prepared reports about the trip.

The students also interacted with students at the University of Costa Rica, Alyea said.



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.CIA.GOV

Costa Rica's Volcano Arenal, seen here from the town of La Fortuna, remains active. Lava flows continuously on the opposite side of the 5,358-foot tall volcano.

While the trip was certainly educational, it was also a chance for fun and for students to learn more about themselves.

"At first it was hard to adjust," Davis said.

"It was my first time out of the country. I learned how to share. Everybody came together like a big family. I overcame a lot of fears I didn't know I had."

Among the activities was a mountain hike.

"I overcame a lot of fears, like heights," said Rainey Sewell, a student at the University of Oklahoma. "One of my favorite things was visiting a waterfall and getting to jump off it."

Other activities included sea kayaking, zip lining through the rain forest canopy on a cable suspended several feet in the air, and taking a wildlife tour where they learned about the animals and plants of Costa Rica.

"You could see so much of the nature," said Ruth Charnay, Communications and Arts director.

Charnay said the locals worked to keep the land "pristine" and less "touristy."

Figueroa said a similar trip may be offered next year.

The 12-day trip cost a total of \$1,350, airfare included. The students were advised to bring \$200 to \$300 for any extra expenses.

"It was an adventure, for sure," Sewell said. "Every day

was an adventure. We had new experiences each day."

Perry had similar thoughts about the trip.

"I would suggest it to anyone," she said. "Try everything. Do it."

**WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COSTA RICA?**  
**www.occc.edu/pioneer**  
**FOR MAPS, FACTS, AND MORE PHOTOS**



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.CIA.GOV

The sun sets over one of Costa Rica's many beaches, known as "playas" in Spanish. With a coastline that stretches over 1,100 miles, the beaches of Costa Rica are often referred to as the most idyllic and beautiful in the world.



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

**OPTIMAL RESUME**

**www.occc.optimalresume.com**

Students' access ID is their OCCC email address  
example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu

**Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills**



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

**JOB BOARD**

**www.collegecentral.com/occc**

Students register with their 7-digit student ID number  
Alumni enter AL+last 5 digits of Social Security number

**Find Jobs Post Your Resume Apply for Positions**