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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# PIONEER

SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Music man



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Engineering major Jordan Gaskins practices guitar by the fountain outside of the Student Union during the first day of the fall semester. Gaskins said he enjoys playing music as a hobby.

### FINANCE EMPLOYEE STEPS IN TO TEMPORARILY FILL POSITION

## Bursar's absence a mystery

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

“We haven’t been told why Ms. Henson is on leave or for how long but we do know that she’s still an employee of this college.”

—CORDELL JORDAN  
MEDIA RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Bursar Brandi Henson is on indefinite leave from OCCC and no one is saying why.

Henson has been with the college since November 1990 and was made bursar in August 2002.

Cordell Jordan, Media Relations coordinator, said his office hasn’t been told specifics.

“We haven’t been told why Ms. Henson is on leave or for how long,” he said. “But we do know that she’s still an employee of this college.”

Jordan said he could neither confirm nor deny a report that a college employee saw Henson being escorted from campus by a security officer, but said he personally does not believe that to be the case.

“This college doesn’t have a policy of escorting employees off campus.”

John Boyd, business and finance director, who is responsible for the bursar’s office,



Brandi Henson

could not be reached for comment by press time.

In Henson’s absence, Cynthia Gary has taken on the role of acting bursar.

Gary is the Purchasing and Finance Analyst for OCCC’s Finance department.

She declined to comment, saying any inquiries about Henson’s leave should be directed to Jordan or Marketing and Public Relations Director Paula Gower at 405-682-7590.

Efforts to locate and speak to Henson were unsuccessful.

As more details become available, this story will be updated at the Pioneer Online at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).

## Enrollment holds steady as semester gets started

College number-crunchers say reduced state resources to blame

EMILY SCHORR  
Senior Staff Writer  
[seniorwriter@occc.edu](mailto:seniorwriter@occc.edu)

The fall 2011 semester is well under way, and enrollment numbers are holding steady, said Stu Harvey, Planning and Research executive director.

“There was not a significant increase in credit hours for this semester,” Harvey said.

Credit-hour enrollment for fall 2011 totaled 130,659, almost exactly the same as last fall, which was 130,619.

Headcount — the number of individual students — shows a small increase at 14,029 for fall 2011, compared to 13,879 a year ago.

OCCC enrollment has not grown much from the previous fall semester due to a strain on state funding, Harvey said.

“When state resources are constrained, it’s difficult to hire full-time faculty, which we have not been able to do for the last few years,” Harvey said.

“[An] increase in enrollment is met by adjunct faculty and it is difficult to increase enrollment without full-time faculty.”

He said the lower numbers are nothing to worry about. OCCC will always draw new students — for a variety of reasons, Harvey said. One of those is affordability.

“Tuition at OCCC is one of the lowest in the state,” Harvey said.

“There (also) are many programs offered like OKC-GO, not to mention concurrent enrollment.”

When looking at a breakdown of students currently attending OCCC, some groups have seen an increase while others declined.

The largest minority group of students attending OCCC is African-Americans, making up 11.2 percent of the student population.

The Caucasian population dropped this

See **ENROLLMENT** page 9



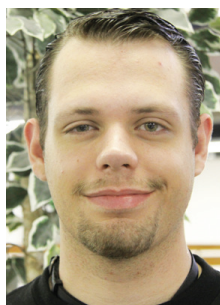
# OPINION

**EDITORIAL |** New wave of democracy heralds possibility of a major shift in world power

## We must adapt to the 'Arab Spring'

Over the past several months, the world has watched with growing excitement and respect as the citizens of several Middle Eastern and African dictatorships have risen up and thrown off their oppressors in the name of freedom and equality.

Collectively known as the 'Arab Spring' by various media sources, this new wave of democracy and those struggling to obtain democracy, heralds the possibility of a major shift in world power.



**Jeremy Cloud**

If this change holds, and there's little reason to believe it won't, the Middle East will be stable and self-governed for the first time in centuries. And they have a major economic hold on the rest of the world. For decades, the United States, the European Union, Russia, every country that springs to the average American's mind when one says "western culture" have been steadily declining.

Debts soar, jobs drop and the economy struggles to

maintain a minor growth rate. Liberties and freedoms are being carefully restricted in the name of public safety. Civic responsibility is declining as individuals lose interest in how the government works, leading to uninformed voters, restless citizens who don't understand the system and how to alter it, and a growing immunity for those in power to do as they wish, safe in the knowledge that Americans who can follow their actions are few and far between.

Meanwhile, the new democracy in the Middle East strengthens a geopolitical area that already supports a huge manufacturing infrastructure, a booming economy, and one of the fastest advancing science and education programs in the world. In other words, China and India.

Wake up. This is important, and the quiz will be final. As a nation, we need to raise civic awareness through high school education. We need to repair our education system, tighten our budget and clean up our law books.

World power is shifting, and if we want to be a player in what is rapidly pointing to a united world, we have to get up off our laurels and get back to work.

—JEREMY CLOUD  
EDITOR



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

COMMENTS? EMAIL JEREMY AT  
EDITOR@OCCC.EDU

**EDITORIAL |** Editor questions current state of Libya and new rule after Gaddafi

## Libyan revolution not without great amount of doubt

After decades of living under oppressive dictatorships, the Middle East has recently experienced a revolutionary uprising as citizens stake their rightful claim to democracy.

While this writer is hopeful for the futures of Libya and other Arab countries, she is also doubtful.

As of this writing, Libya's former autocratic ruler Moammar Gadhafi is in hiding.

Libyan rebels have offered members of the

dictator's entourage a \$1.5 million reward for capturing or killing Gadhafi.

The triumphant fall of one of the world's most reviled leaders — at the hands of his own oppressed people, no less — is a victory for democracy everywhere.

Now, the question is: how long will it last?

In world history, few revolutions have been successful — and even in countries that have obtained freedom from dictatorship, many prob-



**Whitney Knight**

lems still remain.

For example, in the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the fascist rule of Shah Mohammad Reza

Pahlavi was overthrown and replaced with an Islamic republic led by Ruhollah Khomeini.

However, Khomeini proved no better than his predecessor. An anti-American, anti-Western, religious zealot, Khomeini became Iran's Supreme Leader — a position created in his new republic's constitution — giving him ultimate rule over political and religious authority in the nation until his death in 1989.

In the decade Khomeini governed Iran,

his reign was marked by extensive violations of human rights, including supporting the 444-day hostage-taking of 52 Americans and publicly calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie, whose book, "The Satanic Verses," was called blasphemous.

What will stop Libya from succumbing to a similar fate? Now that Gaddafi is gone, who will take his place?

There is no discernible objective in the Libyan conflict.

Gadhafi's tyrannical rule has been replaced with anarchy — a state of society with no government or law — which is hardly a better solution.

And when someone does take his place, who is to say that his successor won't be just as bad as Gadhafi — or even worse?

With so many odds against that area, the chance for a true democracy in Libya looks bleak at best.

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
ONLINE EDITOR

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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, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER ONLINE** also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**YOUR VOICE** | Cold food leaves student wishing for better service

## Carson's not student friendly

**To the Editor:**

It is the first week back and already students have begun to notice problems with the college's available food service.

Students have already started to complain about the wait time for cooking food. Any student interested in eating after 4 p.m. should expect waits of five, eight, even nine minutes before their food is ready. While the College Union stays open clear to 6 p.m. they

“The only food to be found in the grill line were ice cold stale French fries and mashed potatoes with a skin so thick it is questionable if they were ever edible.”

—OCCC STUDENT

seem to stop cooking food at 4, well before the dinner rush, leaving students in a hurry between classes out in the cold if they are interested in picking something up quickly.

At 5 p.m. Aug. 23, a clear hour before the

union was to close, the only foods to be found in the grill line were ice cold stale French fries and mashed potatoes with a skin so thick it is questionable if they were ever edible. From one student to another, if you plan on eating at school

after 4, bring a bag, eat at home, or grab some fast food on the way. The Union may say it stays open late for your convenience, but it apparently sells out at 3, along with all the hot food.

—NAME WITHHELD

BY REQUEST

**REVIEWS** | Chester's a haven for smokers

## Lowball prices for a good time

It's been rough on the wallet for the last couple of years, and planning a date or a fun night out with friends can be difficult.

But for those who enjoy shooting pool, or a round of billiards, salvation is at hand.

Chester's, a hole in the wall establishment on NW 50th and May, tucked away behind the Walgreens, is everything fans of the game could want in a pool hall, with few of the drawbacks.

Pricing is remarkably low, starting at \$3.50 per person per hour for up to four people.

Large groups will usually be charged a flat rate of \$10.50 per hour. Customers must be 18 to enter and 21 to drink.

With more than a dozen tables — ranging from tournament legal

tables to the small coin tables that most associate with bars — Chester's offers a variety of options for players.

for smokers like this author, but bad for those who want to breathe easy while playing.

The jukebox is the only source of music and while the selection is good, the machine only takes bills and does not give change or refunds.

To get their tunes, customers have to pay at least a dollar, and much more than that to skip the queue if there were others playing songs first.

And this author has personally witnessed someone mistakenly feed the jukebox a \$20 bill, only to find that there was nothing he could do but buy \$20 worth of songs.

Finally, the rough and casual nature of the place makes it unsuitable for the easily offended or

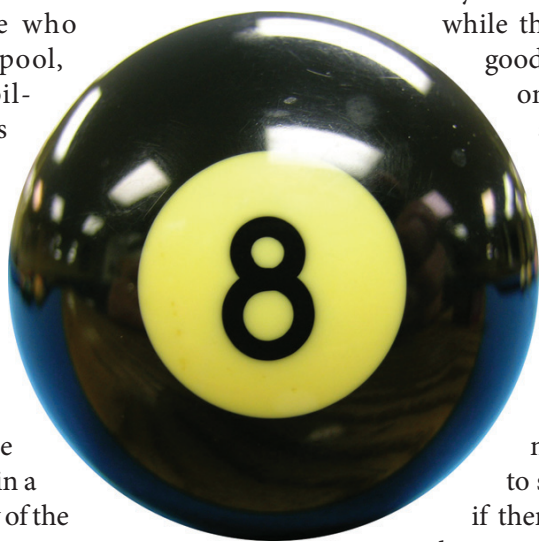
those seeking a romantic night.

Overall, Chester's is a good bet for those who want to kick back, knock some balls around and indulge in short order snacks.

But those who dislike cigarette smoke, coarse language or the classic bar atmosphere would be better off paying the extra to see a movie, and get dinner out.

**Rating:** A-

**JEREMY CLOUD**  
EDITOR



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## ADVISER'S 411

## Students should meet with advisers

This has been a busy enrollment period for the Office of Academic Advising. During the last three weeks of heavy enrollment our office has received 4,900 plus visits.

As always, students can avoid long lines during the heavy enrollment period which is the first few weeks before classes start by choosing classes at the beginning of the enrollment period.

We encourage students to start meeting with an adviser in late October for spring enrollment. Visiting with an adviser early to pre-plan your next semester is really a smart idea. Students who set their goals early and have an action plan are often times more successful in their academic careers.

Likewise, if you are working, have a family, or other activities that you must plan your coursework around, meeting with an adviser in advance can make enrollment a much smoother process.

When you enroll early, there is more class availability for you to choose from, the lines are shorter, and during the semester, faculty are available on campus to help you select your faculty approved electives.

The longer you wait, the quicker classes at what may be more convenient times for you will fill up.

Also, it is almost time for the Transfer and Graduation Fair. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, there will be 20-plus colleges and universities in the College Union to share with students about their programs and the transfer process.

This is a great opportunity for students to connect to their next institution, learn about the many programs available for their next step in academics, and to plan for their futures.

Students can learn about scholarships, the application process, financial aid, multiple majors, and how financial aid works in the transfer process.

If you are interested in getting ahead on that next step in your educational career make sure that you visit the Transfer and Graduation Fair!

—MARY ANN BODINE  
ACADEMIC ADVISING  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



**MOVIE REVIEW** | Jason Momoa brings life to '80s remake

## Sex and alcohol fuel barbaric 'Conan'

The new "Conan the Barbarian" movie wasn't too terribly bad, though there were a few issues that are fairly noteworthy.

While the action scenes were actually quite good, when it got bloody, it looked like somebody literally dropped a water balloon full of red paint, even when a sword hit armor.

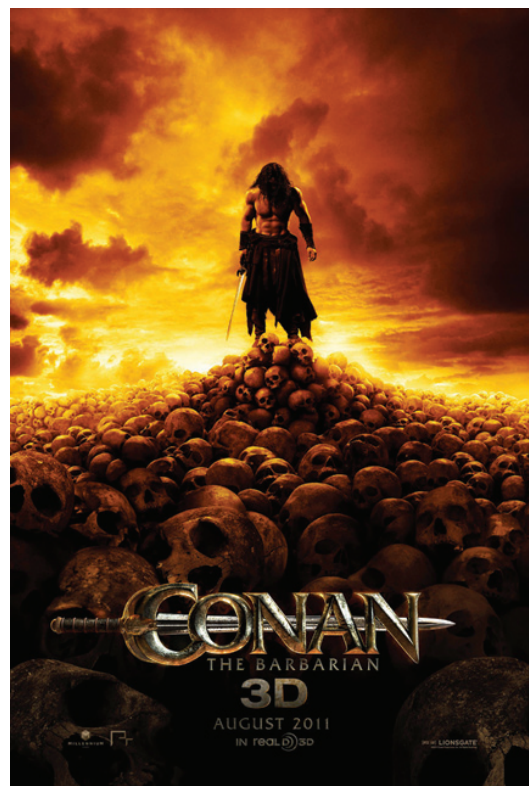
In the latest installment, Conan is extremely crude, as is expected with the stereotypical barbarian.

He is a womanizer, drinks large amounts of alcohol and is extremely violent. Jason Momoa played the part quite well in that regard.

One of the funnier parts of the movie is when he is trying to get all "alpha male," and protective over the lead actress (Rachel Nichols) but ends up binding and gagging her.

I found his method of taking care of his enemies to be rather creative as well.

The first one involves feeding the warden of the prison the key to the shackles and giving one of the prison-



ers a knife.

Another involves having his ward swing the enemy's sword that she could hardly pick up much less use, and ram-

ming him into it.

But then again, that seemed more like an accident than anything else.

The third involves a catapult, a very large rock, and stuffing a message inside the enemy's mouth. Message received, eh?

In general, the movie goes something like this: Sad, awesome, sad, awesome. Wash, cut, add large amounts of alcohol and blood, then there you have it. Something resembling a Schwarzenegger movie, but just a little updated.

Overall?

An entertaining movie, but I wouldn't go for the outstanding visual effects.

Fair warning for anyone who wants to see the R-rated movie: prepare for nudity and a little of what I call soft-core pornography.

Had it been shown back when the first two "Conan" movies came out, it would have been rated X.

**Rating:** A-

—ROBERT BOLTON  
ONLINE WRITER

### TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of Aug. 26 through 28  
www.yahoo.com

1. *The Help*
2. *Colombiana*
3. *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*
4. *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark*
5. *Our Idiot Brother*
6. *Spy Kids: All the Time in the World*
7. *The Smurfs*
8. *Conan the Barbarian*
9. *Crazy, Stupid, Love.*
10. *Fright Night*
11. *30 Minutes or Less*
12. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2*
13. *Final Destination 5*
14. *One Day*
15. *Cowboys & Aliens*
16. *Captain America: The First Avenger*
17. *The Change-Up*
18. *Midnight in Paris*
19. *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*
20. *Horrible Bosses*

**ANIME REVIEW** | Nigerian cartoon reminiscent of 'X-Men'

## 'Uru' more than just great anime movie

Azuka, a young African girl, is born with a tainted birthmark that deeply resembles the mark of Uru, a long-dead evil sorceress who once terrorized villagers with death and destruction.

Because of the birthmark, Azuka's mother does her best to keep her isolated from others in their village for Azuka's safety — but to no avail.

When the mark is discovered by others Azuka's mother is forced to resort to drastic measures order to save Azuka's life.

Through her adolescent years Azuka is protected by Etido, one of many who try to keep her safe while training her mentally and physically in hopes that one day she will be able to fend for herself against those who believe she would be better off dead.

Under the direction of Obinna Onwuekwe, and with producer Segun Williams, Nigerian cartoon "Mark of Uru," could easily become one of the great animes of all time, even when competing against Japanese anime.



Many of the voices also are of some of Nollywood's biggest stars such as Angela Ukoh as Azuka, Patience Njoku as Mitai, Obinna Onwuekwe as Isi-Agu, Cyprian Sylvester as Ekong, and Yvonne Ukoh as Idia.

The animation of the characters may remind the audience of the Nigerian "X-Men."

An example is Isi-Agu, one of Azuka's

protectors plus trainers, who is a tall, slender but muscular humanistic leopard.

Direction, story line and animation are superb. Although it was produced on a low budget, "Mark of Uru," does not give the indication of low quality.

**Rating:** A

—CHRISTY JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

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## SEPTEMBER KICKS OFF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

# Hispanic community celebrates heritage

**PRISCILLA COLLEY**

Staff Writer

Staffwriter3@occc.edu

The influx of Hispanic immigrants has brought a wave of Latino culture to the U.S.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hispanic population accounts for 56 percent of the nation's growth in the past decade.

Hispanic Heritage Month — the celebration of that culture — is Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, many organizations commemorate and recognize the accomplishments and advances made by Hispanic Americans, and promotes young Hispanics into leadership.

One such organization is the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute or, CHCI.

They're a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that provides many leadership

and educational services to students. Their slogan is "Developing the Next Generation of Latino Leaders."

CHCI's theme for 2011 heritage month is "Keeping the promise: Unity, Strength, Leadership."

"This year's Hispanic Heritage Month theme and events reflect the strength and immense contributions of Latinos to the United States while focusing on the unity and leadership we must continue to develop to ensure the future success of this great nation," said Charles A. Gonzalez, CHCI Chair, in a press release.

They also are hosting many events and award ceremonies from Sept. 11 through Sept. 14. For more information or to join go to [chci.org](http://chci.org).

The number of Hispanic 18- to 24-year-old college enrolled students grew by 349,000 from 2009 to 2010, earning themselves the largest minority on

college campuses.

OCCC has many different people with diverse heritages. Among those heritages are many Latino backgrounds.

OCCC's Student Life is commemorating Latino culture on Sept. 15.

The college will have a performance by Mariachi Orgullo, Oklahoma City's own Mariachi band.

The performance will be held in the College Union near the cafeteria.

"In my family, my mom makes the same food her great grandparents made in Spain. I feel most connected to my culture in that and in Spanish music," said Mikela Delfino, OCCC student.

Student Dillon Espinoza said although he was born in the U.S., "... it's important to remember where you and your

**"Hispanics are tighter knit than other cultures. Even if you just met, it's like you're best friends."**

—MIKELA DELFINO  
OCCC STUDENT

family come from.

"In the U.S. we're so diverse we need to remember our cultures to pass on.

"Hispanics are tighter knit than other cultures. Even if you just met, it's like you're best friends."

Modern Languages Professor Ginnett Rollins said she feels as though language plays a huge role in a culture's heritage and shouldn't be forgotten.

"There's so many aspects of culture that affect language, you can't really separate them," Rollins said.

"You have to understand the culture to properly use the language."

Of the many clubs on the

OCCC campus, the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education club is particularly active, having many events throughout the school year.

According to their website, HOPE stays involved in everything from Latino candy sales to taco booths.

HOPE's mission statement sums it up.

"HOPE is an organization that helps the Latino community in Oklahoma City excel in academics. From preschool to the college level, HOPE is also involved with teaching and spreading the Latino culture on the OCCC campus. Students from North and South America work together to better themselves and the community."

For more information and events visit the HOPE website at [www.occc.campusgroups.com/hope](http://www.occc.campusgroups.com/hope).

## ADJUNCT PROFESSOR HELPS LOCAL THEATER RAISE MONEY

## Professor writes honorary play for fundraiser

**SARAH HUSSAIN**

Staff Writer

Staffwriter3@occc.edu

"Best in Ten," held Aug. 19 at the Carpenter Square Theatre in downtown Oklahoma City, was attended by OCCC professor Rick Allen Lippert whose play "Bettie's and Bobbie's Birthday" was one of those chosen to be shown.

Rhonda Clark, the theater's artistic director, asked Lippert to submit his work.

"This event is held as a fundraiser for the theater and the plays act as the entertainment for the night," Clark said.

"This was our eighth annual fundraiser."

The night consisted of presentations of the winning plays from the 10-minute play festival plus some already published 10-minute plays.

Clark said they had fewer than expected entries.

Lippert, an OCCC journalism, broadcasting and theater adjunct professor, said he was honored to be part of the event.

He said in years past he has entered plays for consideration and he has "been blessed" to be accepted almost every year.

Lippert said, he writes dramas and comedies.

"Personally I think the comedies play better."

Lippert said after he was told Laurel Van Horn and Donen Mackie would be recognized for their support of the theater, he decided to write a play that would allow them to be in the spotlight.

"I wanted to write something with the two honorary in mind."

Van Horn is a former theater board member and a "strong supporter of the theater since its first season in 1984," Clark said.

Donna Mackie, she said, "is more recent to the community, but is just a magic, lovely lady."

Van Horn and Mackie performed Lippert's play, which Lippert said, is about estranged sisters who share the same birthday and ex-husband.

"The sisters are five years apart. They are unwittingly brought together by a niece."

Proceeds from the event helped support the theater's building fund, as well as programming for its 28th season, which includes eight productions and educational outreach to at-risk students in the metro area.

After the June 2010 flooding in Oklahoma City, the theater had to temporarily relocate while the original



COURTESY RICK ALLEN LIPPERT

(Left to right) Donna Mackie (Betty), playwright Rick Allen Lippert, Laurel Van Horn Jaworsky (Bobbie) and Billie Nash (Amanda) pose for a picture Aug. 19 at the Carpenter Square Theatre.

theater is repaired from the flood damages, Clark said.

"We were really fortunate. We found an opportunity at the Bricktown Hotel and Convention Center, and we performed our entire 27th season there," Clark said.

The theater hosts student matinees for area at-risk high school and middle school students, and they also do workshops with them that are held in the spring.



## SEPTEMBER MARKS END OF RELIGIOUS FASTING

# Muslim holiday teaches followers self control

SARAH HUSSAIN

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

Eid ul-Fitr began Tuesday, Aug. 30.

"This marks the end of Ramadan," said Muhammed Al Kahtani, a teacher at the Islamic Society of Greater OKC.

"Practicing Muslims fast for 30 days, and on the holiday of Eid ul-Fitr we pray in the morning and have a big feast with family and friends afterwards."

Al Kahtani, 52, has been a practicing Muslim his entire life. He was raised in Saudi Arabia and came to Oklahoma 30 years ago where he started a family and now works at the Islamic Society.

"I have fasted since I was very young," Al Kahtani said. "It's not very difficult, especially when you know you're doing it for Allah."

According to Al Kahtani, it is "mind over matter."

"I say prayers five times a day all throughout the year. It can be challenging to plan a day around it, but it is necessary."

"Ramadan feels like a spiritual journey, a change which inshallah (God willing) will last. Ramadan has taught me

something extra special — that this life is too short wasting it disobeying Allah.

"Lastly, it has made me feel for the first time in my life the sweetness of imaan; the delights of being a believer over a disbeliever," he said.

"To me, Islam is a way of life and it's not a religion but a message delivered to Prophet Muhammad."

Al Kahtani said the Quran is a guide to fulfill the duties of the previous religions — to fulfill their rights and duties and seal the whole mission of Prophet Muhammad.

"Hence, there is no more guidance to come after this and that's what a Muslim means to me, one who submits to the will of Allah and has the yakeen (belief) in his heart that Islam was there from the beginning till the end," he said.

Ghazala Ahmed, 16, is a student at the Islamic Society.

"My family is Pakistani and we always have family members and close family friends over for Eid ul-Fitr."

"We have a lot of food, and hang out all day and think about the deed we just completed for Allah," Ahmed said.

Islam is a religion practiced over a vast amount of coun-



COURTESY BESTOURISM.COM

Jalal Ahmed of Western Hills prays before group prayer led by Sheikh Saad at Flint Islamic Center in Clayton Township on the start of Ramadan, where Muslims fast for 30 days with prayers and almsgiving — a giving to the poor or less fortunate.

tries.

Just like some Christians do not observe Christmas, some Muslims do not observe Ramadan.

Amin Shariat Zadeh, OCCC's Communication Lab assistant, said he was born and raised in Iran as a Muslim.

Zadeh said he no longer practices Islam; therefore he does not observe Ramadan.

His family is still religious,

he said, but they also do not practice Ramadan.

"As I studied, a lot of things didn't make sense to me," Zadeh said. "I think that religions are important from an anthropology and history point of view, but as faith, I do not believe in worshipping."

"I have a problem with the worshipping and the all good entity that people call God."

If he's all good, why does evil

exist? It's not convincing to say there's a heaven and hell. It just doesn't make sense to me," Zadeh said.

According to Travel Snitch the start of Ramadan shifts by approximately 11 days on the solar calendar each year. In 2012, Ramadan will begin July 20.

To learn more about Ramadan, visit [www.travelsnitch.org](http://www.travelsnitch.org).



COURTESY FREEDIGITALPHOTOS.NET

During Ramadan, bakeries make a bread called "Ramazan Pidesi" that it is special for this religious occasion. It translates to "Ramadan Bread" in the Turkish language.

## Ramadan a holy month observed by fasting

Ramadan (Ramazan in Turkish) is a holy month for Muslims. In these days, Muslims fast and have extra deeds to be better muslims and take care of their actions. Fasting is a total abstinence of food and liquids from dawn to sunset during the entire month of Ramadan.

Married Muslims also have to refrain from intimate relationships from dawn to sunset during this period. Muslims can still enjoy all of these things during the nighttime, from sunset to dawn.

Muslims usually eat a meal right after sunset called Iftar and another light meal right before dawn called Sahur (Sahoor).

The purpose of fasting is to acquire the concept of Taqwa. Taqwa might be defined as self control, self-restraint, self-discipline, self-obedience, self-training, self-consciousness, self-education and self-evaluation.

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



# Ten years later Americans still remember

## Attack on U.S. soil leaves images in minds, even after a decade

**MIKE WORMLEY**  
Community Writer  
communitywriter@occc.edu

Sept. 11, 2001, is a date that evokes powerful memories even 10 years later. The images of that fatal day are so irrevocably imprinted in people's minds, that to mention it elicits reactions instantly.

On that morning 19 hijackers took four commercial airliners in an attempt to carry out suicide attacks. Two of the airliners were intentionally crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A third targeted the

Pentagon in Washington D.C., while the last, also heading for Washington, was brought down by the passengers in a field in Pennsylvania. There were a total of 2,996 deaths including the 19 hijackers, and 246 passengers of those flights according to answers.com.

Karolyn Chowning, Trio program director, describes it as a "flashbulb memory" and compared it in terms of recall to events like the space shuttle Challenger accident, or the John F. Kennedy assassination. "It's those events, those 'where were you then' moments that really stick out," Chowning said.

A number of OCCC students were children during the attack and described what it was like to hear the news at school.

"I was actually 11 years old," said Drake Swopes, psychology major. "I was in middle school. I was at a dentist's appointment. I was sitting there and I remember the nurse that was working on my teeth, freaking out, saying, 'We've been bombed. We've been bombed' and they turned the TV on and the planes had just crashed into the World Trade Center in New York."

Mariah Abrams, video production major, said she was too young to understand what was going on at the time.

"I was in the fourth grade at the time and I just looked on the television and there was

something being said — like I'd just seen all the chaos going on and at the time I really didn't understand until I got a little older," she said.

Students are not alone in who was affected by the events of that day.

Marijah Addams, Communications Lab tutor, said she was in eighth grade at the time.

"... I remember walking into the school and there was nobody anywhere in hallways but all of the classes had their TVs turned on so I thought I was late for school," Addams said. "I realized when I went into the class and everybody was sitting in the dark crying

what had happened." Addams said the attack started a war that has existed her entire adult life.

The hijacking and attack also has created racial tensions for some.

"People look at me differently because I'm from a Middle Eastern country," said Bamir Nori, pre-pharmacy major.

"They're like, '... your people bombed our place' and I was like 'not my people.'"

For more information visit the Open Directory Project's September 11, 2001 page at [www.dmoz.org/Society/Issues/Terrorism/Incidents/September\\_11\\_2001](http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Issues/Terrorism/Incidents/September_11_2001).



COURTESY WWW.KEVINWEBB.COM

New York on Sept. 11 2001, with a view of the Statue of Liberty engulfed in smoke just after two planes hit the World Trade Center. Sept. 11 has gone down in history as the single worst attack on American soil.

## 9/11 events unfolded quickly

- 7:59 a.m.:** American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767, departs from Logan International Airport, bound for Los Angeles, California. Five hijackers are aboard.
- 8:14 a.m.:** United Airlines Flight 175, carrying 56 passengers and nine crew members, departs from Logan airport, also bound for Los Angeles. Five hijackers are aboard.
- 8:19 a.m.:** Betty Ong, a flight attendant on Flight 11, alerts American Airlines, "The cockpit is not answering, somebody's stabbed in business class—and I think there's Mace—that we can't breathe—I don't know, I think we're getting hijacked." She then tells of the stabbings of two flight attendants.
- 8:20 a.m.:** American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757 with 58 passengers and six crew members, departs from Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia, for Los Angeles. Five hijackers are aboard.
- 8:26 a.m.:** Flight 11 makes a 100-degree turn to the south heading toward New York City.
- 8:42 to 8:46 a.m.-** Flight 175 is hijacked.
- 8:46 a.m.:** Flight 11 crashes at roughly 466 mph into the north face of the North Tower of the World Trade Center, between floors 93 and 99.
- 9:02 a.m.:** Flight 175 crashes at about 590 mph into the south face of the South Tower of the World Trade Center, banked between floors 77 and 85.
- 9:37 a.m.:** Flight 77 crashes into the western side of the Pentagon and starts a violent fire. All 64 people on board are killed, as are 125 Pentagon personnel.

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

The front page of the New York Times on Sept. 12, 2001. Images of the attacks devastated the U.S.



## SPORTS

## Pump it up



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Business major Jonathon Craig does squats in the weight room of the Sports and Recreation area Aug. 24. Craig says he works out at the college at least three days a week. For more information about the Sports and Recreation area, visit [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu).

SPORTS | 5K, 1-mile run to be held on campus

## Nursing students organize Life Saver

SEAN M. TOLBERT

Sports Writer  
[sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu)

The OCCC Nursing Student Association and Student Physical Therapist Assistant Organization will sponsor the 3rd Annual Life Saver 5K and 1 mile Fun Run Sept. 17.

With its number of participants growing each year, OCCC Nursing Student Association President Jennifer Hader is keen to keep that trend going.

"I would very much like to encourage all current and previous nursing students to participate in the 5K, either by running or volunteering their time to help us make this event even more awesome than the last two," Hader said.

Race Director and Associate Nursing Program Director Deborah Myers also is optimistic that the number of participants will grow with the upcoming fun run.

"We'd like to have 500 participants and we're hopeful that we'll reach that number for this year's run," Myers

said.

Whether you're looking forward to a serious run or a relaxed stroll around campus, you don't have to be in prime condition to participate in the event, Myers said.

Physical Therapy Association sponsor Jennifer Ball said this year's race also will offer contestants and spectators alike the option to participate in a Zumba warm-up class that will be personally instructed by Ball.

Ball's husband David, a participant in the 2011 Boston marathon, will emcee the event as well. She said they are both proud to be taking part.

"It's a wonderful event that is family friendly and gives people a chance to get out and promote a healthy lifestyle."

The majority of the proceeds generated by the event will go to supporting a scholarship fund Hader said.

"All of the money raised in the race goes for either scholarships for students in the nursing program or back into the race."

We had enough money to provide a scholarship to every applicant last

year," she said. "This year we're expecting more students to apply so we of course want to work hard to provide for them."

Hader said she also sees the event as a way of getting students involved on the community level

"[The run] is also a great time to encourage our students in the nursing department," she said.

"The PTA students work hard and know that we appreciate all they are doing to become great in their career fields."

Prizes will be awarded for the top three finishers in various age groups ranging from 12-and-under to 80-years-and-above.

"There will be food, drinks, a live band, and plenty of fun for the kids on the day of the race," Hader said.

Anyone interested is invited to register for the event either online or by mail.

For fees, information and details about registering, visit [www.occc.edu/lifesaver](http://www.occc.edu/lifesaver). Registration is currently open and will close at 11:59 p.m. Sept. 15.

## UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

**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.

**Oct. 15:** OCCC will be sponsoring a Zumbathon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Oct. 18:** OCCC will be sponsoring the Senior State Games. 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) to get your sports news published.

**Have sports news you want to share? email 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.**

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# Enrollment: Numbers holding steady

Continued from page 1

semester by 1 percent, according to a report from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

The report also shows the female student body is significantly larger than the male population.

Women on campus make up 59.6 percent of the students

and men make up 39.7 percent.

Most currently-enrolled OCCC students prefer to attend college part-time, the report shows.

The majority of students attending OCCC this semester are between the ages of 18 and 24, according to the OIE report.

The returning student percentage for the fall 2011 semester is 66.6 percent, Harvey said.

The college has reached its capacity during peak hours

— between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., — meaning this time slot is full with the faculty that is available, he said.

For a breakdown of past enrollment, visit [www.occc.edu/IE/Statistics/AnnualHead-Count-FTE.pdf](http://www.occc.edu/IE/Statistics/AnnualHead-Count-FTE.pdf).

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example > [john.t.doe@email.occc.edu](mailto:john.t.doe@email.occc.edu)  
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# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Kickball sign ups



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Service Learning Representative Jordan Belt assists psychology major Drake Swoops in signing up for a kickball game hosted by Service Learning and Student Life. To find out what other activities Student Life hosts, go to their website at [www.occc.edu/studentlife](http://www.occc.edu/studentlife).

**COMMUNITY** | Christian students from around Oklahoma make pilgrimage for event.

## BCM begins to gain momentum

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

Baptist Collegiate Ministries members from all parts of Oklahoma are gathering Sept. 9 for Momentum 2011, a collegiate conference sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

The event will be held at the First Baptist Church in Moore.

OCCC's BCM chapter will attend, said Brandon Laib, OCCC's BCM director.

"There will be between 20 and 25 different BCMs, or a couple thousand people," he said.

Laib said the event is a place to "hang out, get



some pizza and check out the band."

The band in this case is the Jeff Johnson Band, a worship rock ensemble.

According to their Facebook page, the Jeff Johnson Band formed in 2003 after Johnson stepped away from his corporate job.

The band resides in Dallas and puts on

weekend conferences for various organizations and churches.

Also at the event will be guest speaker Afshin Ziafat, a convert from Islam whose website claims that his family has disowned him because of faith.

"My story is not about a man's faithfulness to God; it's about God's

faithfulness to a man," he said on the site.

Ziafat travels nationally and internationally, speaking at conferences, youth camps, missions and retreats.

He also recently has begun speaking weekly to students at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and regularly trains Iranian pastors.

"We are really lucky to have him," Laib said.

The event — which runs from 7 to 11 p.m. — will cost \$10 per person.

For more information about Momentum or other upcoming BCM events, email [brandonlaib@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonlaib@yahoo.com) or visit their group page at <http://occc.campusgroups.com/bcm/about>.

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### OCCC invited to watch the Redhawks

Student Life is gathering students at the Bricktown Ballpark to enjoy some minor league baseball fun. The game will be at 7:05 p.m. Sept. 3. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Arts Festival Oklahoma starts Sept. 3

OCCC is proud to host Arts Festival Oklahoma from Saturday, Sept. 3 to Monday, Sept. 5 on the northwest side of campus. Parking is \$5 but admission is free. For more information, contact the AFO office at 405-682-7576.

### OBI blood drive needs participants

Oklahoma Blood Institute will be running a blood drive at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, and Wednesday, Sept. 7, in the General Dining area of the College Union.

### Nursing students to hold book sale

The Nursing Student Association will have a book sale from noon to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, on the second floor of the Health Professions Building. Students are urged to drop by and get some cheap nursing books.

### Club raising funds for Somalia people

The Multicultural Business Club is raising funds to support the people of Somalia. The funds collected will go directly to their contact. The fundraising event will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 15 near the Communications Lab and the General Dining area.

### OCCC planning garage sale

The Faculty Association Committee will hold its annual Garage Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, in CU 1, 2 and 3. All proceeds will go toward student scholarships. Those who would like to make a donation should 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 AH building, just inside Entry 2.**

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

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**FOR SALE:** Entertainment center/bookshelf/TV stand has multiple uses for books, photos, etc. Maple color engineered lumber. \$50. Email: 4allmypets@gmail.com for photo.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

**INTERESTED IN VIDEO GAMES,** pen and paper games, trading card games, board games or just gaming in general? Check out the OCCC Gaming Guild. Contact: Mathew.J.Caldwell@email.occc.edu.

READ THE PIONEER ONLINE FOR ALL THE LATEST IN CAMPUS NEWS!

**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.

**NEED 10 STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ROCK CLIMBING:** In order to petition to start a rock climbing club I need 10 students, and 2 faculty or staff sponsors. Contact James: 405-694-7779, or james-spear24@yahoo.com.

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

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Smelting residue
  - 5 Old cattle town
  - 10 Similar
  - 14 Beneficiary
  - 15 Happen again
  - 16 Fizzy beverage
  - 17 Loosen
  - 18 Where to get a haircut
  - 20 Breakfast bread
  - 22 Treat with contempt, slangily
  - 23 Knolls
  - 24 Church council
  - 26 Farm animal
  - 27 Puppy's "hand"
  - 30 Gold medalists
  - 34 Pencil end
  - 35 Frost
  - 36 "Norma —"
  - 37 Lauer or Groening
  - 38 Gamut
  - 40 Roam about
  - 41 Southwestern Indian
  - 42 Ali —
  - 43 Required
  - 45 Lull
  - 47 Majestic
  - 48 Exploit
  - 49 Native New Zealander
  - 50 Passport requirement
  - 53 Have lunch
  - 54 Large quantities
  - 58 Gulf of Mexico fish
  - 61 Lamb's pen name
  - 62 Dairy-case buy
  - 63 Life of —: easy street
  - 64 Blue shade
  - 65 Bridge
  - 66 Play part
  - 67 "— the night before . . ."
- DOWN**
- 1 Fastened securely
  - 2 Letterman's rival
  - 3 Verdi opera
  - 4 Most disgusting
  - 5 Sphere
  - 6 Grassland
  - 7 Bitter
  - 8 Centers
  - 9 "— we having fun yet?"
  - 10 Give out (homework)
  - 11 Eye makeup
  - 12 Adulated one
  - 13 Sleeps
  - 19 Cologne's river
  - 21 Use a keyboard
  - 25 Tell (a story)
  - 26 Olive stuffing
  - 27 Thighbone
  - 28 Speak formally
  - 29 Prices
  - 30 False hair
  - 31 Crumble away
  - 32 "Bolero" composer
  - 33 Dilapidated
  - 35 Genetic initials
  - 39 Honest —
  - 40 Reserved in style
  - 42 Herd animal
  - 44 All —: attentive
  - 46 Dons
  - 47 Glossy fabric
  - 49 Kind of syrup
  - 50 Experts
  - 51 Lend a hand
  - 52 Concert halls
  - 53 On a grand scale
  - 55 "There ought to be —"
  - 56 Callas, e.g.
  - 57 Utters
  - 59 "— Poetica"
  - 60 Deli bread

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# Student makes a difference in Costa Rica

**CHRISTY JOHNSON**  
Staff Writer  
staffwriter2@occc.edu

While some twenty-year-olds in college are spending more time trying to decide on how they are going to split up their time between partying and studying, some are actually trying to make a positive impact on the world.

This summer, instead of hitting up beaches for some serious fun in the sun, Akash Patel chose to go help those in need.

Patel recently embarked on a trip to Costa Rica in order to help children and to assist in helping wildlife at Ostional Wildlife Refuge.

Patel helped tag and harvest sea turtles during the arribada — an event where thousands

of female turtles converge to lay their eggs simultaneously.

Patel said the local people are benefited because of the arribada.

“Every year the locals are given approximately two hundred eggs each and they can do what they want with them, whether it is selling them or using them for food,” he said.

When Patel wasn't working with the wildlife, he volunteered with local non-profits, working with orphaned children, some of whom had been abandoned and thrown out in the streets. He said he spent much of his time at the orphan-

ages teaching English, Spanish and some biblical teachings.

Many of the children Patel worked with are born to poor mothers, and to fathers who

some form.

“Many of the kids we took care of were of special needs. They didn't have hands, arms or legs and some of them had

been burned,” he said.

Patel offered advice for those who want to volunteer in different areas of the world. “It is best to go through the government rather than going through private organizations to volunteer to avoid getting ripped off,” he said.

Patel said he paid \$20 a day for room and board through the government program he worked with.

“It's a government program but you get the best meals and the best lodging, and unlimited Wi-fi use,” he said.

Patel said he hopes he has inspired students in Oklahoma.

“We need to impact the future of animals and the future of planet Earth,” he said.

For more information, visit [costaricanationalparks.com](http://costaricanationalparks.com).



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Akash Patel sits on a bench in the courtyard of the Main building. Patel spent his time helping others in Costa Rica for the summer.

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