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# PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 4, 2011, 2011

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

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Art imitates life



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Art major Una Anderson strokes acrylic paint onto her canvas in room 107 of the Visual and Performing Arts Center. The atmospheric perspective still life project is for Professor Doug Blake's Painting II class.

### NO RAISES IN THREE YEARS

## Stipends for faculty, staff coming

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

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

After three years without raises, faculty and staff will receive recognition for their hard work, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist in an email.

The recognition comes in the form of a stipend for full-time employees with the amount to be calculated using a merit-based formula, Sechrist said.

"This stipend is in recognition that our mission is accomplished through the great work of our faculty and staff, and that we have not been financially able to recognize this work through our merit-based system of raises for the last three years," he said.

In addition to the stipends for full-time employees, there will be a one-time adjust-

ment to the pay scale of adjunct professors, who are not eligible for the stipend, in the upcoming spring semester.

The adjustment will raise adjunct pay from \$640 per credit hour to \$655.

"I recognize that our mission capacity is reached only because we are able to employ adjunct faculty and that our full time faculty take on additional students and courses throughout the year," Sechrist said in an email.

"Again, I want to express my appreciation. I regret that I cannot yet commit to make this permanent."

It's a welcome recognition, said Rachel Olsen, Communications and World Languages Lab supervisor.

"While I think everyone might prefer an ongoing raise, in the current economic climate I think the stipends are very helpful," Olsen said.

"And I'm really pleased that employees are receiving stipends, especially since other schools can't offer anything in the way of monetary rewards."

The sentiment was echoed by Lyndsie StremLOW, Arts and Humanities division secretary.

"With the way the economy is, I'm just happy to have a job. And if I don't get a raise, I'm not going to take that as a sign that I'm not doing a good job. It's just the way it is," StremLOW said.

"But when I see the actual amount on paper, I feel very rewarded for all the hard work I put in to get merit."

The story is much the same for adjuncts, said Lynnda Newby, life skills adjunct professor.

See **PAY** page 9

## OPINION

EDITORIAL | Smokers affect others more than just physically

## Smokers should make healthier decisions

As a consumer, I wonder why people will make a choice, knowing that choice is bad for them. Why do people continue the use of a product knowing that the use of this one product causes 30 percent of the deaths each year in America alone? Simple: It is because of the addiction.



Emily Schorr

About 443,000 people in the U.S. die each year from illnesses related to tobacco use.

Smoking cigarettes kills more Americans than alcohol, car accidents, suicide, AIDS, homicide and illegal drugs combined, according to cancer.org.

Tobacco products are known killers in society. It doesn't discriminate: Tobacco can kill anyone who uses the products. The products are more addicting than illegal drugs, according to cancer.org.

I know the harmful effects of cigarettes first hand. My mother was a smoker for 40 years, a pack a day. For most of her life she was as healthy as the next person, but that slowly started to change.

When my mom started smoking at the age of 14, it was because her older friends were doing it and it was cool. At this time, the harmful effects of cigarettes were not known or at least not advertised.

A number of institutions have done many studies and all of them came back with the same results: Tobacco is bad for you. In the 21st century, it's known that tobacco products are unhealthy.

A U.S. Surgeon General's 1982 report stated,

"Cigarette smoking is the major single cause of cancer mortality [death] in the United States." This statement is as true today as it was then.

If people know this, why is it so hard to say no to tobacco use, especially for the youth of America?

According to cancer.org, 20 percent of the nation's high school students were smoking cigarettes in 2009. And, the most recent survey of middle school students shows about 5 percent were smoking.

Philip Morris, a popular cigarette manufacturer, promises to supply "quality" products. Popular cigarettes brands that Philip Morris makes include Marlboro and Virginia Slims.

Cancer of the lungs, mouth, throat, pancreas, cervix and kidney, can be caused by tobacco use. There is also the possibility of stroke, heart disease, aneurysms, emphysema and chronic bronchitis, according to cancer.org.

If slowly disintegrating health doesn't scare a smoker, and the pictures of the inside of a smoker's lung and mouth doesn't have an effect on the decision to smoke, then what will?

Maybe watching a loved one lying in a hospital bed with a ventilator making them breathe might shed light on the topic.

When asked how infants avoid secondhand smoke, a tobacco executive in 1996 replied: "At some point they begin to crawl."

According to thetruth.com, tobacco products yellow the teeth, leave a lingering smell and up the chances of periodontal disease (which cause swelling of the gums, bad breath and teeth falling out).

My mother ended up coming off of the ventilator,

APOPHENIAC

by Thor



Zealots.

by some miracle, but everyday is a battle for her and her loved ones. To go on a shopping trip it now requires oxygen and frequent stops for her to catch her breath.

There are numerous emergency room visits because of the emphysema and the chronic pneumonia. There are many death scares because she gets violently sick so often and with no warning.

So the question I pose to students at OCCC is: What will it take to put down tobacco products? What will it take to truly have a breathe-easy environment?

—EMILY SCHORR  
SENIOR WRITER

YOUR VIEW | Public education is systematically underfunded

## Resentment towards foreigners is not warranted

To the editor:

I agree with Whitney Knight's observation [Pioneer, Oct. 21] that higher education is "a distant dream for many Americans."

This situation is unfortunate. Also unfortunate is that Ms. Knight focuses on 'illegals' in colleges and universities, some of whom ostensibly get college "handed to them on a golden platter." I would hardly characterize in-state tuition as a "golden platter,"

regardless of the citizenship status of the student.

Perhaps Ms. Knight should ask why public school tuition in general is so expensive. Could it be that lawmakers have systematically underfunded public education so they might gift billionaires and corporations with tax cuts? Sadly, Ms. Knight has fallen for one of the oldest tricks in the repertoire of the American Right: conjuring up inveterate resentment toward foreigners and immigrants to distract Ameri-

cans from the real enemy, who is close to home and looks like "the rest of us."

It is, in my opinion, a dawning awareness of this fact that drives the "Occupy Wall Street" movement, which, for all its faults, makes a lot more sense than conservatives attacking Perry on "illegals" or cheering the idea of an electrified border fence.

—JOHN C. EHRHARDT  
HISTORY PROFESSOR

PIONEER

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, 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.

7777 S. May  
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

phone:  
405-682-1611, ext. 7307

email:  
editor@occc.edu



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**RESTAURANT REVIEW** | Tucker's Onion Burger serves up mediocrity

## Soggy burgers are not appealing

Only seven weeks ago, a new restaurant in Oklahoma City, Tucker's Onion Burgers, opened its doors at 324 N.W. 23rd.

Tucker's is owned by A Good Egg Dining Group that also owns Cheever's, Republic Gastropub, Red Primesteak and Iron Starr Urban Barbecue.

To say that Tucker's delivers the same uniqueness and customer satisfaction as the rest of their restaurants would be fallacious. For an onion burger, I would say Tucker's has hit a new level of mediocrity.

While I was there, I had the "Mother Tucker" burger, which consisted of a pound of beef, onion, lettuce and tomatoes. The juicy goodness had me scarfing the burger down like I was fresh out of prison, which is a good indication that something has tickled my taste buds.

The onions on the burger were piled high to heaven and the beef was cooked just right. I almost had no complaints. Almost. The same juiciness that made my tongue fall out and slap me in the face also made the bottom slice of my bun soggy half-way through my meal.

And by soggy, I mean soaking wet.

The buns they use are very non-industrial, and it was a nice switch from the standard sesame-seed buns that restaurant chains use. Come to find out they get their buns fresh from Prairie Thunder Baking Company right down the street.

Partnering up with local businesses? Oh, heck yeah. Local business providing fresh ingredients with no preservatives? I'm sold.

But the combination of the juicy burger and the fresh buns was literally a recipe for disaster. The only thing I want wet is the homemade lemonade



Tucker's Onion Burger, located at 324 N.W. 23rd, offers simple menu items consisting primarily of burgers and fries or salad.

they serve. In fact, I'll take seconds on that.

I also sampled their fries, and found the portion was more than plentiful. A serving size could easily be split between two people.

Other than a burger or fries, your only other menu option is a salad. A more extensive menu variety might have been more appealing, as the guest with me decided not to dine at Tucker's at all.

My meal was of moderate quality. Had my bun not had the soggy consistency of soup, I would be more inclined to dish out praise.

Would I regularly make the trip to Tucker's Onion Burgers? Probably not. But as a casual lunch-time spot if you are in the area? Sure, why not.

When it comes down to it, Tucker's Onion Burgers puts up a good fight. But they have a long way to go.

Rating: C

—CASEY AKARD  
PIONEER STAFF

**MOVIE REVIEW** | Prequel takes the best of the first two movies

## 'Paranormal Activity 3' a must see

It's that wonderful time of year again, when children run from door to door in search of candy. But for older kids and adults, a nail biting, hair pulling, "cling to one's boy or girl friend in interesting ways" thriller of a film can be a better way to spend the night.

Fortunately, "Paranormal Activity 3" dropped to theaters Oct. 21, and it's everything horror fans could dream of. A prequel to the first two, "3" takes the audience back to where it all started, and ties up loose ends and questions.

"Paranormal" takes the best of the first two movies and adds its own little twists and turns.

The cast is largely composed of unknowns to maintain the "found footage" feel the series strives for, with guest appearances from a couple of cast members from the first two movies.

While the entire cast deserves a standing ovation for the reality they infuse into their roles, special mention goes to the children who played Katie and Kristi (Chloe Csengery and Jessica Tyler Brown,

respectively.)

Both young ladies played their roles perfectly, from Csengery's detailed portrayals of sibling frustration, to Brown's elegant capture of a young girl getting used to a camera, to both young ladies flawless interactions with a character that never appears on screen.

Another change of note is the speed with which the movie takes off. The first two built up to their climactic poltergeist-like effects.

With "3," it seems as though the directors realized the audience knew what was coming and set out to see how fast they could reduce reasonable adults to huddling lumps of terror.

Less than 20 minutes, actually. Filmed with the same understated grace as the first two movies, the special effects, while astonishing throughout, are neither flashy nor overdone.

Overall, "Paranormal Activity 3" is perhaps one of the most heart-pounding, jarringly frightening movies I've seen in my life.

## YOU asked FOR IT

**Q.: When can I enroll in my classes for the spring semester?**

A.: Spring semester enrollment began Oct. 10 and will continue through Jan. 17th.

— MARY JONES  
RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS  
ASSISTANT

**Q.: What time is the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library open?**

A.: Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

— MONICA CARLISLE  
LEAD LIBRARY CIRCULATION ASSISTANT

**Q.: When do I need to apply for graduation?**

A.: You will need to apply for graduation at the Beginning of the semester in which you plan to graduate.

— BARBARA GOWDY  
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATION SERVICES

**Q.: What dates will the Thanksgiving break fall on?**

A.: The Thanksgiving break begins on Nov. 23 and classes will resume on Nov. 28.

— MARY JONES  
RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS  
ASSISTANT

**Comments? Opinions?**  
**Let us know. e-mail**  
**Jeremy Cloud at**  
**editor@occc.edu, call**  
**405-682-1611, ext. 7675,**  
**or drop by 1F2.**

The movie is rated R for violence, language, brief sexuality and drug use. This should definitely not be shown to children.

For consenting adults that want a scream (and an excuse to cling to one other), this one is a must-see.  
Rating: A

— JEREMY CLOUD  
EDITOR

NUMBER OF STUDENTS APPLYING FOR AID HAS BEEN GROWING AS ECONOMY WORSENS

# Financial Aid office reports increase

MADISON MARQUARDT  
News Writing Student

The Office of Financial Aid will be distributing about \$9.5 million to 4500 students this fall, which adds up to about \$2000 in aid per student.

The students will be receiving their money through their Higher One Cards. These are students who have qualified through the Office of Financial Aid and meet the requirements that state and federal governments mandate.

"In recent years, there have been more students applying for financial aid," said Harold Case, the dean of Financial Aid.

The growing number of students applying for financial aid could be associated with today's economy - there is more unemployment, people are getting fewer raises, and



ROBERT BOLTON/PIONEER

The Office of Financial Aid, located in the Main building just across from the Testing Center, offers assistance in applying for and receiving aid. The office reported an increase in applicants as a result of the current economy.

the cost of living is going up.

The numbers for the 2010-2011 recipients show that there are 6982 grants, 4620

loans, 1936 scholarships, 2770 tuition waivers, 342 work-study positions, and 781 military veterans.

cial aid. One goal of the Office of Financial Aid is to reorganize the staffing plan to estab-

**"In recent years, there have been more students applying for financial aid."**

—HAROLD CASE  
FINANCIAL AID DEAN

OCCC student Brooke Ward said she thinks the distribution of \$9.5 million in financial aid could not have happened at a better time.

The Office of Financial Aid is made up of around 16 employees, which means each employee must meet the needs of 350 individual students who receive finan-

lish additional Financial Aid adviser positions from four to six, providing for improved direct service to students by reducing caseload size.

They have also established two assistant director positions to help with management, supervision and compliance.

Case said his job is extremely rewarding. He has been a part of the Office of Financial Aid for more than 17 years.

Since 93 percent of financial aid comes from federal funding, Case said, his biggest challenge is being compliant with federal regulations since they are constantly changing.

"AMERICAN BUFFALO" PERFORMERS INVITED TO REGIONAL FESTIVAL AT OU

## Students receive invite to competition

Alexandra Hawthorn  
News Writing Student

Two OCCC students have been invited to compete in a national theater contest as a result of their performance in this fall's production of David Mamet's play, "American Buffalo," which was performed on campus.

Gabriel Pranter and Mitch McFarland were nominated for the Irene Ryan competition affiliated with the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Theater Professor Brent Noel said the actors will go to a regional festival at the University of Oklahoma in February.

McFarland said it was difficult balancing rehearsals with classes.

"I was here for 13 hours [a day] all September," said McFarland, who played Bob, the young, non-confrontational

character in the performance. "It was a great show. I wouldn't do it again under those circumstances, but I would do the show again."

McFarland, who started performing in 2009, plans on sticking to theater and continuing to act after he graduates.

Pranter played Teach, the gritty character who denies ever being wrong. He said he plans on acting after college as well.

"I love this art. It is my life and I hope to continue for as long as I can."

"To be nominated for an acting award in the state of Oklahoma feels fantastic," Pranter said.

"I am quite humbled that I have been selected to compete against some of the best stage actors in this state. It is going to be a wonderful experience."

In addition to Pranter and McFarland, James Wilson,

the technical director for the play, was selected as a recipient of meritorious achievement based on his set design.

Approximately 18,000 students nationally enter the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival each year, according to the competition website.

"This is a chance for our actors to go experience the celebration of college theater in a festival setting," Noel said.

"It's going to be a great experience for them."

Noel said he hoped the nomination might attract more students to the theater program.

"Just being recognized for your work is encouraging," he said.

Noel said this is an opportunity for hard-working actors to receive a sense of validation.

The play, "American Buffalo," was expected to generate some

**"Just being recognized for your work is encouraging,"**

—BRENT NOEL  
THEATER PROFESSOR

objections from the audience because of its offensive language.

After the performance, Noel said, audience members said the play did not seem as bad as they thought it would be.

"The controversy was in the fear of experiencing the play,"

Noel said.

"People were afraid it was going to be something that was so offensive."

Noel said most people [in the audience] saw a group of guys that were trying to get by... even though those guys were speaking vulgarities.

OCCC

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

**OPTIMAL RESUME**

[www.occc.optimalresume.com](http://www.occc.optimalresume.com)

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

**Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills**



# College sign returns home for anniversary

**Former graduate presents a piece of OCCC history for viewing at institution celebration**

**SAMANTHA WADDELL**  
News Writing Student

A white-and-green acrylic sign with one of the college's earliest logos found its way back to campus just in time for the 40-year anniversary celebration.

On Oct. 18, OCCC graduate David Puente returned a sign that once welcomed students to campus. The logo depicts a tree, a seedling sprouting new leaves, on a sign that measures about 3 feet by 4 feet.

Gary Lombard, vice president for Human Resources, and Lealon Taylor, executive director of Institutional Advancement, accepted the gift on behalf of OCCC.

Lombard is one of OCCC's original employees and he said he remembers Puente during his college days.

Puente graduated in 1976 from what was then called South Oklahoma City Junior College.

He said earned his degree in Corrections due to the encouragement of Professor Pat Barker.

Puente went to work at El Reno federal prison and retired in the late 1980s, due to health problems.

Puente said he had been diagnosed with chronic arthritis of the blood vessels, which would cause his hands to freeze, almost paralyzing him. This condition not only caused problems for Puente but also put him in danger while working in the prison. Therefore he was given medical retirement at a young age.

Prior to retirement, Puente attended Central State University, which is now the University of Central Oklahoma.

After his retirement, he continued to do many other jobs, such as working in half way houses, and even at an Atlanta prison.

He said he considers himself lucky to have gotten a chance to attend college.

In fact, Puente said, he delayed his college education for one year after graduating in 1971 from Capitol Hill High School, waiting to see what his military draft lottery number would be.

During the Vietnam War, a lottery was created to select which men would be drafted into the war. The men were

told the first 100 would be drafted and the next 100 had the possibility of being drafted, depending on what the troop needs were.

The last 100 were told they would not be drafted and to move on with their lives.

Puente's lottery number was 313, so he said he enrolled in college knowing he could expect to finish without an interruption for military service.

He worked as a work-study student in the mailroom and on the ground crew.

He explained how he came to own this sign. The sign was lying on May Avenue, discarded along with other items.

"Elven Gray, who was the maintenance supervisor, told me to pick it up, that it might be worth something one day."

In his last moments of having the sign in his possession, Puente gave it a kiss and said: "I wish it never ended, best years of my life."

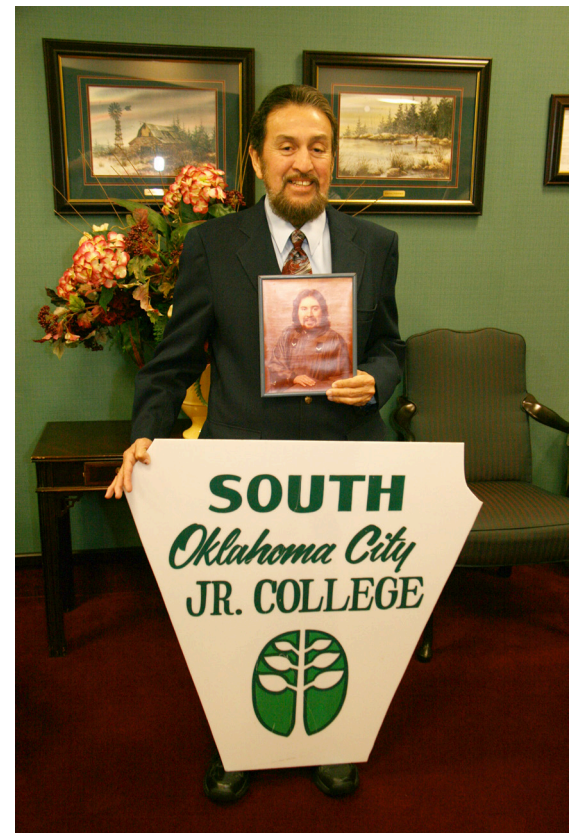


PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL CLINE

David Puente poses with his 1976 graduation picture from South Oklahoma City Jr. College, which would later become OCCC.

The sign will be one of the many items featured in the OCCC 40th anniversary celebration next September.

## Religion, politics class to be offered in spring

**MORGAN BEARD**  
Staff Writer  
staffwriter2@occc.edu

OCCC students will have at least one more option when it comes to the classes available for the upcoming spring semester.

Religion and Politics in America is a new special topics class offered by the Markus Smith, Political Science Department chairman. The class will be 10 to 10:50 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The course is not currently listed in the OCCC spring course catalog list but it will be added to the list available online, Smith said.

Smith said it will give students a better understanding of the history of the early church, and the impact religion has had in America.

"Students should know that this course will not delve into students' interpretations of biblical scriptures, religious values, beliefs, etc.," Smith said.

"If that is what the student is looking for, then I suggest that they simply attend church."

Smith also said that whether the U.S. is a Christian nation, secular nation or something entirely different will be a topic of discussion throughout the semester.

In addition, the idea of separation of church and state, how religion has shaped politics, and what influence religion has on political leaders would be discussed as well, Smith said.

Political Science student Morgan Miller said he's interested in the class.

"This class definitely intrigues me; it is the controversial question concerning how

much religion can affect the political system either directly or indirectly through voting," Miller said.

On the complete opposite end of the spectrum, however, OCCC student Patrick Hartley said he disagrees.

"This class concerns me," Hartley said.

"I believe that politics and religion have no place together, even in the classroom."

"To me it substantiates the idea that religion has any place in American politics."

Despite the controversy religion and politics may cause among certain people, Smith assures students that is not the intention of the class.

"Students should know that this course is about educating and informing (them) on the impacts of religion to give (them) a better understanding

“

**I will ensure that the course is not dominated by religiously-driven political rhetoric,”**

—MARKUS SMITH

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

of how religion has shaped the American conscience," he said.

"I will ensure that the course is not dominated by religiously-driven political rhetoric, as this will be counterproductive and takes away from the constructive and academic setting in which this course was designed."

Smith also added that the class would be great for sociology or political science majors, as the class takes elements from both areas of study.

"Being that this course will study the impact of religion in society, it's a win-win situation for both political science and

sociology majors especially," Smith said.

All in all, Smith said he believes students should come away with a lot by the closing of the spring semester.

"The end goal is for students to have a better understanding of the history of the early church, as well as how religion has impacted American society throughout the centuries," Smith said.

The course is available on MineOnline for students to enroll in.

For more information, call Smith at 405-682-1611, ext. 7730.



OCCC CEREMONY TO BE HELD FRIDAY, NOV. 11

# Campus, community honor veterans

FRANCESCA BANKS  
News Writing Student

A ceremony honoring American veterans is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11, in College Union rooms 1 and 2.

This will be the fourth annual Veterans Day ceremony on campus, said Janis Armstrong, Veterans Services coordinator.

Armstrong said the goal is to recognize the sacrifices of those at OCCC and in the community who have served, or are currently serving, in the military.

“David Pruis from the Department of Veteran Affairs will be giving a patriotic speech,” she said.

Pruis spent 20 years in the Army.

Another speaker, John Adams, served in many branches of the armed services.

Armstrong said he is retired Air Force, Army, Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and Army National Guard Reserve.

He is currently serving in the Army Reserve.

“A Junior ROTC student from Grant High School will bring the colors,” Armstrong said. Another group of students will do a drill performance.

An OCCC student who works at the Student Life department will sing “The Star Spangled Banner.”

She will be joined by another veteran student, Kenneth Meador, who will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Refreshments such as cupcakes and finger foods will be offered.

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to the ceremony which is sponsored by Veteran Services and Student Life.

For more information, email Armstrong at [jarmstrong@occc.edu](mailto:jarmstrong@occc.edu).



COURTESY WWW.FREEDIGITALPHOTOS.NET

Veterans Day is celebrated on Nov. 11 in recognition of all former and current U.S. military members.

Share thoughts about a  
veteran in your life:  
[www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer](http://www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer)

## A brief history of Veterans Day

- Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place Nov. 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, Nov. 11 was “dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as ‘Armistice Day.’” As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.
- In 1954, after having been through World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress — at the urging of the veterans service organizations — amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.
- In 1968, the Uniform Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the last Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971.
- Finally on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.

<http://www.military.com>

## Parades and more set for Vets

There are several parades and assemblies organized in recognition of Veterans Day, according to [www.vetfriends.com](http://www.vetfriends.com).

At 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 11, Grant Foreman Elementary School in Muskogee will hold a “Stars and Stripes Forever” assembly where all Veterans are welcome.

At 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 12, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma – City of Wewoka will be hosting a parade between Wewoka Avenue and 6th Street and Wewoka Avenue A.

At 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 12, Blanchard will have a Veterans Day Celebration and Chili Cook Off Toy Run. Motorcycles will be a part of the parade down Main Street.

At 10 a.m. on Nov. 19, an Armed Forces Day Parade will start at Cameron University in Lawton, ending at Avenue C.

For more information on Veterans’ Day, visit <http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>.

Veterans Day is a public holiday held on the anniversary of the end of World War I to honor U.S. veterans and victims of all wars.

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, World War I was known as “The Great War,” which publicly ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France.

Conversely, fighting concluded seven months earlier when a temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, is largely deemed the end of “the war to end all wars.”

The upcoming date 11/11/11 marks the 93rd year the nation will recognize Veterans Day, possibly with more emotion as U.S. troops are still fighting a war in the Middle East.



## DAY TO TEACH SMOKERS HOW TO LIVE IN A SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

# Smokeout promotes healthier lifestyle

EMILY SCHORR  
Senior Staff Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

In an effort to have less cancer and more birthdays in the world, people will get a chance to clear the air. On Nov. 17 the American Cancer Society is hosting the Great American Smokeout.

The Great American Smokeout is a non-smoking day to promote healthier lifestyles.

The object behind the Smokeout is to help smokers quit if for only a day, giving them courage to know that a person can quit, according to cancer.org

Carol Jones, nursing major, said she leaves campus to smoke her cigarettes.

"I think the Great America Smokeout is a good thing, because it will be giving people the chance to quit," she said.

Jones said she believes quitting is not for everyone, and when a smoker is ready to quit, they are ready.

Until that point it is a waste of time trying to quit if a person doesn't really want to.

Jones said she thinks there should be a smoking section on campus that smokers can go to "handle their business"

"It would be so much easier than going off campus," she said.

"I enjoy smoking and

I will not be participating in the Smokeout," Jones said.

According to The American Cancer Society website, this event is helping smokers take a step in a healthier direction.

The Smokeout is a way for smokers to get the help that is needed to quit cigarettes.

Linda Cowan, OCCC nursing professor, said having been a previous smoker she knows the troubles with trying to quit.

"I don't think anything can stop a person from smoking," Cowan said. "It must come within."

Cowan said she is going to participate by not smoking and by encouraging her students to do the same.

"(The Great American Smokeout) probably brings awareness, and helps people think about quitting," Cowan said.

OCCC is not officially taking part in the Great American Smokeout, but unofficially the college has already taken a stand by making the campus completely smoke free.

Student Kayla Parmalee said she might give the Smokeout a try,

but can't say for sure.

"The campaign has put the thought in my head [to quit]," Parmalee said.

"I might participate for the day, but I don't see anything long term."

## Where can I get help?

A variety of information can help a person quit smoking.

[www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov) Helping the nation quit.

<http://women.smokefree.gov/topic-pregnancy.aspx>. Helping women who are pregnant quit.

<http://www.smokefree.gov/apps/> An application that goes with a person to assist every step of the way.

1-800-QUIT-NOW a free phone based service with educational materials and coaches to assist in helping someone quit smoking or smokeless tobacco.

[http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit\\_smoking/how\\_to\\_quit/pathways/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit_smoking/how_to_quit/pathways/index.htm) A downloadable booklet to assist in the success of quitting smoking.

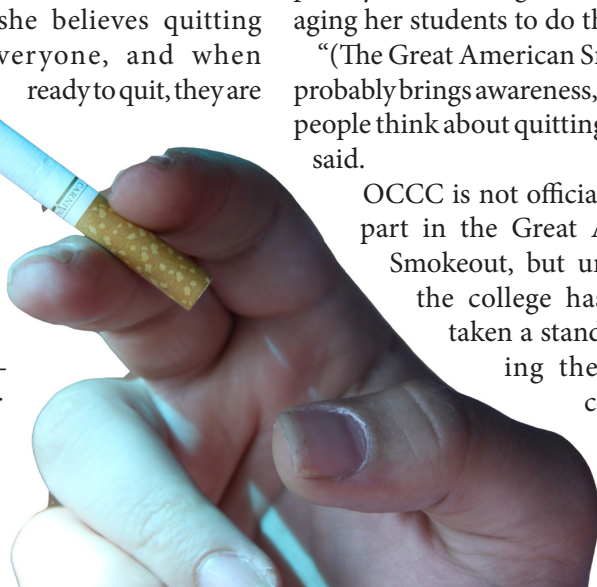
<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm198176.html>. A FDA approved products to help a person quit smoking.

<http://www.ucanquit2.org/> to assist military and their families in quitting tobacco products.

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/tobacco/cessation> A fact sheet from the national cancer institute.

[http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit\\_smoking/how\\_to\\_quit/quit\\_tips/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit_smoking/how_to_quit/quit_tips/index.htm) A quick guide to quitting.

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/> The Surgeon General website.



## FREE EXHIBIT IN OCCC GALLERY FEATURES OKLAHOMANS

# Art show promotes lesser known artists

PHILLIP WEIDMAN  
News Writing Student

A campus art exhibit has been arranged to show the development of art in Oklahoma as well as to promote lesser known artists, said Linda Bosteels, exhibit curator.

The Melton Art Reference Library provided 22 Oklahoma-based art selections to The Gallery in the Visual and Performing Arts Center at OCCC. The free exhibit will remain open through Wednesday, Nov. 9.

The works are arranged chronologically, from the ledger art drawings to contemporary Native American art. Ledger art is a type of art from the early 1900s, created by the Plains Indians. They are narrative drawings or paintings of scenes from everyday life.

The art depicts how the artists lived and what activities they took part in, which oftentimes was hunting or battle scenes. Much of the contemporary art consists of paintings of the land and nature, or life-like portraits.

"I really enjoyed the local aspect of the artwork," said Catherine Griswold of Del City, who came to see the exhibit. "I feel like I can relate better to this artwork than the usual, European-based painting. Oklahoma is a beautiful place, and it was depicted that way in this piece."

She was referring to a painting by Loraine Moore entitled "Farmhouse," which portrayed an old home sitting in the prairie with a view as far as the eye can see.

"It reminds me of grandmother's house," Griswold said. "It is an old, worn down home, which has withstood a lot, and is weathered because of it."

"Although it is worn down, it is still beautiful in its own right."

She added, "The view is gorgeous."

Mary Brennfoerder, OCCC employee and supervisor of the collection, said that the consensus favorite is a painting called 'CFO' by D.J. Lafon. It is a bright colored, profile portrait of a bald man who seems to resemble Dr. Evil. Lafon died this year, but his residence and studio were both located in Norman.

“I really enjoyed the local aspect of the artwork,”

—CATHERINE GRISWOLD  
DEL CITY RESIDENT

Brennfoerder said several of the artists in the collection were related. Nellie, Nettie, and Leona Shepherd were all sisters that were related in both an artistic sense as well as in family relation.

They all died in the early 20th century, and chose to donate their belongings to a local church. Upon searching their home, church employees found a large collection of paintings in the basement. These pieces of artwork are now property of the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City, three of which are temporarily on display here at OCCC.

The Gallery will be open from 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is located just inside the east door of the Visual and Performing Arts building, in the room labeled The Gallery at OCCC.

## SPORTS

## Punch it up

Cardio Kickboxing instructor Cheryl Denley power punches for her fitness class Oct. 26 in the Wellness Center.

Cardio Kickboxing is offered Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. in the Wellness Center. Students may purchase a group fitness pass for \$50 per semester or pay \$20 a month to attend the kickboxing class.



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

SPORTS | Lack of professional basketball frustrating fans

## NBA lock-out taking a toll on fans

SEAN M. TOLBERT

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

The continuing NBA lockout is leaving many Oklahoma basketball fans feeling left out in the cold.

For a city that is in its relative infancy in terms of its venture into the arena of professional sports, Oklahoma City and its residents are facing a harsher-than-normal winter in the shadow of the first NBA lockout since the 1998-99 season, as well as the second major professional-sports breakdown after the NFL lockout that occurred earlier this year.

Since June 30, NBA owners and players alike have failed to come to a consensus on a new collective-bargaining agreement that would raise the average player salary to the \$7 million level in its sixth year. NBA Commissioner David Stern and National Basketball Players Association President and Los Angeles Laker guard Derek Fisher lead the respective sides in the negotiations.

The failure to compromise has re-

sulted in the cancellation of the first two weeks of the NBA season, and leaves the possibility for further cancellations to ensue.

OCCC business major Misael Serna said he firmly supports the players in the negotiations.

"Just give the players their money — the players are who the fans come to see," Serna said.

"It's the players that make [the owners] money, anyway."

In light of the continuing lockout, however, the NBPA has already begun seeing some of their players begin either training abroad or signing short-term contracts with overseas clubs in the interim.

The Oklahoma City Thunder currently has stars of their own moving abroad in order to continue playing.

Swiss-born guard Thabo Sefolosha confirmed via Facebook on Oct. 11 that he would be playing for Turkish-side Fenerbahçe Ülker until an agreement could be reached.

Also, Spanish-side Real Madrid confirmed Oct. 25 that Thunder forward Serge Ibaka would be joining

them for two months worth of games while the lockout continued.

Serna was not fazed by news of Sefolosha and Ibaka's moves abroad and said that players relocating would help the game overseas as well as in the U.S.

"Players moving abroad will help make the game more popular," Serna said.

"I think they should get television rights to broadcast [international] games, too."

Further games have yet to be cancelled, but the two sides will continue to meet in order to save as much of the regular season as possible.

## UPCOMING INTRAMURALS

**Nov. 12:** Westmoore High School Jaguar Invitational Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Nov. 18 - 20:** Extreme Aquatic team EAT Turkey Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Nov. 19:** Capitol Area Special Olympics Basketball Tournament. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Dec. 2:** Edmond/Altus Dual Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Dec. 3:** Joe Stocker Invitational Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Dec. 9:** Edmond/Norman Dual Swim Meet. 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.**

**Have sports news you wish to share? e-mail Sean at sportswriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676**



LISTEN WEEKLY AT  
WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

## THE PIONEER SPORTS PODCAST

WITH  
SEAN TOLBERT  
MORGAN BEARD  
PATRICK HARTLEY



OKLAHOMA MAN WAS TOLD HE WOULD DIE FOR CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT

# Author shares story of false imprisonment

ALISHA DAVIDSON  
News Writing Student

The Innocence Project estimates that almost 3 percent of the nation's inmates are falsely convicted, said Dennis Fritz in a speech on campus recently.

Fritz spent 12 years of his life in the Oklahoma prison system serving time for a murder he did not commit. Fritz spoke about his "nightmare out of hell" during his presentation attended by a standing-room-only crowd of approximately 200 people. He also signed copies of his book, "Journey Toward Justice" before the event.

Fritz recalled the pivotal day in his life in 1987 when he was arrested at his mother's home in Kansas City, Mo., and charged with the 1982 rape and murder of Debra Sue Carter, a young woman from Ada, Okla. Fritz said he had never met the victim.

"I was really shook up," Fritz said when he recalled being told by Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents and Ada police that he had failed two lie detector examinations. He found out 12 years later that the investigators lied about the tests.

After his arrest, Fritz quickly realized he was in deep water. Before his extradition hearing, the OSBI and Ada detectives told him that he would die by lethal injection for his actions.

"I was like a lamb going to slaughter," Fritz said. "People were looking at me like I was a murderer."

An overzealous prosecutor continued to mount evidence against Fritz and his friend, Ron Williamson, a local high school baseball legend who suffered from mental illness and alcohol abuse.

Since he could not afford a criminal defense attorney, Fritz received a court-appointed lawyer whose specialty was in bankruptcy and civil litigation.

"The pressure was just too enormous," Fritz said about the possibility of receiving the death penalty looming ahead. The trial jury rendered a guilty verdict which was no surprise to Fritz.

"I knew early on that only the good Lord above could get me out," Fritz said about his miscarriage of justice.

"I was scared," Fritz said about the trial's penalty phase. He recalls his knees shaking when told that he was sentenced to life without parole. Williamson got the death penalty.

Fritz said what hurt the most was being taken away from his family and the "seed of thought that I (Fritz) could do this" planted with Fritz's young daughter, Elizabeth.

"Prison is a cruel, rough, dangerous place," Fritz said about settling into his life behind bars and eating breakfast with convicted murderers.

“

I was like a lamb going to slaughter. People were looking at me like I was a murderer."

—DENNIS FRITZ

OKLAHOMAN FALSELY IMPRISONED

He spent eight years in the same cell while working on his case in the prison's law library. While Fritz ran out of appeals, Williamson received a new trial due to 60 constitutional errors made at his first trial. With help from the Innocence Project, Fritz and Williamson were vindicated in 1999 after DNA technology exonerated both men.

Fritz felt cautious following his release from prison. He watched for cops all the time. He recalled a funny moment when he took his mother's car for a quick trip, stopped for gas and discovered that the gasoline pump spoke to him.

"I knew I was really in trouble then," Fritz said with a smile, since his years in prison had sheltered him from changing technology.

While Fritz received post-traumatic stress counseling to adapt back into society, Williamson's mental health continued in a downward spiral.

"Ronnie couldn't go on because it hurt him too much," Fritz said wistfully about his friend who died of cirrhosis

in 2004.

DNA testing also identified the true killer, Glen Gore, who originally testified against Williamson. Gore was convicted and sentenced to death. Gore's sentence was overturned and he now is serving a life sentence without parole in the same prison where Fritz was incarcerated.

Despite his exoneration and Gore's guilty verdict, Fritz never received an apology from the prosecutor.

"False convictions are such tragedies," Fritz said. "All of us have a responsibility to safeguard against them."

One member of the audience commented on the speech.

"He changed my opinion on the death penalty because you're not always innocent until proven guilty," said Kristi Hendricks, Tuttle Times office manager and OCCC Library technical services assistant, following Fritz's speech. "It's compelling how this can happen in America," Hendricks said.

For more information about The Innocence Project, please visit [www.innocenceproject.org](http://www.innocenceproject.org).

## Pay: Stipend, raise welcomed by most faculty, staff

*Continued from page 1*

"Fifteen dollars more per hour isn't much, but every little bit helps."

Newby also agreed with Olsen, saying it's the recognition that makes it worthwhile.

"It's nice to know that they thought of the adjuncts, and that the hard work we do is being rewarded," Newby said.

It's a reward that's a little overdue, said Lesa Kean, adjunct math professor.

"I hope they do everything in their power to make it a permanent thing, rather than one time," she said.

"I realize the college is doing the best it can," Kean said. "Oklahoma City is funneling a lot of money into downtown and whatnot."

"And I think it's only right and fair that the rest of the individuals Oklahoma City is counting on to make the city better,

such as teachers, should get a piece of the pie."

Cathy Bowman, Macintosh computer technician, said the stipend is an unexpected pleasure, not only because of the recognition, but also because of the uncertain economy.

"Whether raises become possible again is all dependent on (the college's) budget," Bowman said. "If we keep seeing 5 percent budget cuts, I don't see how raises are going to be possible again any time soon."

Ray McCullar, history professor, said that while he's pleased with the stipend, he also doesn't see raises on the horizon.

"With what I read in the news about the state legislature and public opinion, I don't believe teacher raises are popular right now."

McCullar said, even if money did become available for raises, he'd rather it went to teachers of early education.

"Now, don't get me wrong, I like money. I've never turned down a raise, not even in my sleep," McCullar said.

"But as a college professor, even if I'm really bad at my job, there's only so much damage I can do."

"I feel we need to focus on getting the cream of the crop into the place in a child's life where their attitudes toward education are formed, where they learn the basics they'll use for the rest of their lives."

Sechrist agreed that uncertainty in the state budget and the economy make projecting for the future impossible.

"In anticipation of reduced allocations from state resources, we worked

to create some funds in reserve to cover the shortfall in state resources," he said in an email.

"We saved enough to cover the shortfall and provide a stipend. But since the funds are not a permanent part of funding each year, we can only expend the funds once for a stipend."

"If we provided a permanent raise, we would need to have permanent funding source for the increase — which at this point we do not have."

McCullar said that while yes, he wouldn't mind a raise, he thinks of the stipend as a gift.

"When someone gives you a present at Christmas and it's not quite as much as you were hoping, you have to remember: They didn't have to give you anything at all."

# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

**COMMUNITY** | Construction of the 1,000-seat theater will take about 2 years

## Theater costs rise for OCCC



ROBERT BOLTON/PIONEER

Workers from Downey Contracting prepare the ground for Oklahoma City Community College's new theater. The theater project is estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$20 million, an increase in funding was necessary due to the rising cost of materials. The theater will feature a 1,000 seat acoustical concert hall once completed.

**JONIEL PROUTY**  
News Writing Student

Downey Contracting began construction recently on OCCC's new 1,000-seat theater, which is being built inside the "U" formed by Phase 1 of the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Some of the existing interior glass windows in the VPAC will be replaced with sheetrock for the next two years.

Students taking classes in the VPAC now will be dealing with bleed-through construction noise for months to come. However, by replacing the glass with sheetrock, noise should be minimal, said Superintendent Al Forehand, a nine-year veteran with the company.

One student said he could live with the noise.

"The construction doesn't really bother me," said Keelan Layden, computer science major. "Except for the fact my truck gets covered in dust if I park near the VPAC."

Forehand said he believes this will be a big addition to the OCCC campus.

"Keep adding," he said. "You want it to grow. Pretty soon parking will extend as far as 74th Street."

Downey beat out eight other contractors who

“The project will cost in the neighborhood of \$20 million,”

—AL FOREHAND

DOWNEY CONTRACTING SUPERINTENDENT

also submitted bids. The Oklahoma-based company estimates the 600-day project will be finished by fall of 2013. Forehand said this would be Downey Contracting's first theater.

"The project will cost in the neighborhood of \$20 million," Forehand said.

The OCCC Board of Regents approved the project June 27. Due to rising cost of materials, an additional \$2 million was necessary to complete the anticipated \$16 million theater.

The theater will feature a 1,000-seat acoustical concert hall. The theater will be outfitted with technically advanced audio, lighting, projection, and recording system, Forehand said.

No additional parking spaces will be required for the project, Forehand said.

Downey Contracting has constructed numerous jobs in the area, including the riding arena at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, the Myriad Botanical Gardens, and the Oklahoma City Children's Zoo.

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Higher Learning Commission visit

The Higher Learning Commission Accreditation team will be on campus and wants to hear from you! This team, who is responsible for accreditation, will be giving students the opportunity to express their opinions of Oklahoma City Community College from 2 to 2:50 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7 in CU3. There is no need to schedule, or RSVP, just show up. An additional meeting will be held for members of The Leadership Council from 4 to 4:50 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7, in CU3. For more information about these meetings, please contact the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services at 405-682-7595.

### Reach Higher Program

Free lunchtime seminar: College Opportunities for Working Adults. Find out about the Reach Higher degree completion program and other programs designed for working adults. Includes complimentary box lunch. The seminar will be from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, at the Oklahoma City Downtown College located at 300 Park Ave., Oklahoma City. For more information or to RSVP please call 405-232-3382 by noon Monday, Nov. 7.

### Veterans Day Ceremony and Reception

The office of Student Life in commemoration of Veterans Day will be hosting a reception from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11 in CU3. For more information please contact the office of Student Life at 405-682-7523 or visit [www.occc.edu/studentlife](http://www.occc.edu/studentlife).

### Spring 2012 Tuition Waivers

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the spring semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. on Nov. 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

**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.**

OCCC 

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

## JOB BOARD

[www.collegecentral.com/occc](http://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**



CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

**CAR FOR SALE:** 2004, VW Beetle, GLS. Two door, power windows, locks and steering. Leather interior. Sun roof. Cruise control. 71K miles. Excellent condition inside and out. Gets great gas mileage. \$9,995./OBO. Call: 405-863-4195.

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

FURNITURE

**FOR SALE:** Entertainment center/bookshelf/TV stand has multiple uses for books, photos, etc. Maple color engineered lumber. \$50. Email: [4allmypets@gmail.com](mailto:4allmypets@gmail.com) for photo.  
**FOR SALE:** Beige, bomber-jacket leather sofa. Good condition. \$75 or best offer. Call: 405-532-4872.

**READ THE PIONEER ONLINE FOR ALL THE LATEST IN CAMPUS NEWS!**  
[www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer)

CANDY

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PEPPERMINT PATTY

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SOUR BALLS

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BAZOOKA GUM

CANDY NECKLACE

COFFEE CRISP

GUMMI BEARS

JUJUBES

LIFESAVERS

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SEN-SEN

SPEARMINT LEAVES

TWIZZLERS

BOTTLECAPS

CHICLETS

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**BILLS ISLAND GRILL**  
*Now hiring energetic, fun people.*  
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MISCELLANEOUS

**SUBLET AVAILABLE:** Female to share with 3 other friendly, clean, non-smoking girls in a 4 bedroom, 4 bath apartment. Rent is \$369 per month, all bills included. Campus Lodge Apartments in Norman. Call for more information: 405-368-5886.

**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.



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SPINE CARE • REHAB

PT TECHS

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PLEASE FAX YOUR RESUME TO 936-6496 OR  
SEND BY MAIL TO 3705 WEST MEMORIAL ROAD, SUITE 310  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73134.  
PLEASE RESPOND IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON  
THE OPPORTUNITIES AT OKLAHOMA PHYSICAL THERAPY!

**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.

**Information on puzzle changes**  
  
The times, they are a-changin':  
The Pioneer is currently updating its puzzles.  
  
And we want your help.  
  
What kind of puzzles would you like to see in the Pioneer?  
Word searches?  
Sudoku?  
Something else?  
Let us know!  
Email [adman@occc.edu](mailto:adman@occc.edu) with your idea.

CONTRIBUTIONS BRING TOTAL TO OVER \$28,000 FOR UNITED WAY

# Silent auction raises additional funds

EMILY SCHORR

Senior Staff Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Oklahoma City Community College hosted a silent auction as part of the OCCC United Way campaign.

The total amount raised for the silent auction was \$3250.

The silent auction took place Oct. 24 through Oct. 27 in front of the bookstore. The auction included gift baskets donated by various departments on campus and vendors of OCCC.

All items in the silent auction for the United Way campaign were 100 percent donated said Erin Logan, student relations director and Student Life acting director.

A variety of options were available in each basket ranging from gift certificates to computer printers.

Megan Woody, occupational therapy assistant major, said

she likes that the gifts in all the baskets appeal to a variety of students.

According to Logan, there was not a specific price limit for the baskets, but range from \$60 to \$675, and that employees could donate as little as a single dollar to participate.

"Every single dollar raised goes to the United Way general fund, and will be distributed to agencies in order of need," Logan said.

The campus hosted three events to raise money for the campaign.

On Oct. 19, a used book sale took place, and faculty and staff helped with the campaign by donating books.

The books that were donated were sold for \$1 to \$2 each.

Big Truck Tacos visited on Oct. 19 as well. Students, faculty and staff participated by eating tacos, which assisted in raising money for the United

“

The goal for the campaign is to reach 100 percent participation from faculty and staff.”

—ERIN LOGAN

STUDENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Way.

In an effort to contribute more to the campaign, faculty and staff also made donations in order to wear jeans to work, and for popcorn.

These events and the personal donations by faculty and staff alone raised \$28,363 for The United Way.

This was an increase of nearly 14% over last year with over 30% of employees contributing.

"I think it is a really great gesture that OCCC is participating to raise money for the United Way," Woody said.

Logan said the event went well, but there's always room

for improvement.

"The goal for the campaign is to reach 100 percent participation from faculty and staff," Logan said.

"This year we are getting students involved," Logan said.

"We didn't ask students for money, we would never do that, we were simply seeking time."

"It's really exciting," Logan said.

The next OCCC United Way campaign is scheduled for October 2012.

To get involved next year, contact Erin Logan at 405-682-7821.



EMILY SCHORR/PIONEER

The United Way silent auction table was located just outside the bookstore in the Main building. The auction drew in over \$3000 in funds for the United Way.

OCCC OUTREACH PROGRAM HELPS THOSE WHO NEED IT

## Students can be successful in college

CHRISSY PICKETT

News Writing Student

The red flags are well known to teachers: a student suddenly stops attending class, is not doing well on tests or displays a change in attitude in class.

These indicators suggest that a student is struggling for some reason, said Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner.

The OCCC Outreach Program is designed to help students with problems blocking their road to success in class, Turner said.

Outreach Program counselors rely on professors, or the students themselves, to alert them when assistance is needed.

"When the faculty notices a student having difficulty, they refer the student to the Out-



The Student Support Services website, located at [www.occc.edu/support/learningsupport.html](http://www.occc.edu/support/learningsupport.html), houses access to the Outreach Program. The website is interactive and answers questions and offers assistance to students.

reach Program," Turner said.

Turner said she or another counselor will contact the student and work to identify

what's wrong and offer help according to the specific issue.

Turner said referrals are made throughout the semes-

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When the faculty notices a student having difficulty, they refer the student to the Outreach Program.”

—MARY TURNER

LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

ter, anytime a student displays signs of needing help.

Once a referral is received, Student Support Services attempts to contact the student by email, phone and mail.

Outreach receives hundreds of referrals each semester.

"It is a challenge making contact at times, due to the students' contact information not being up to date," Turner said.

When contact is made, the

student is usually appreciative of the services offered.

"We are not a punitive office," Turner said.

"We are here to help the students succeed."

The Outreach Program offices are located in the Student Support Services department, on the first floor of the Main building.

Students can also connect with them online at [www.occc.edu/support/learningsupport.html](http://www.occc.edu/support/learningsupport.html).

The website is interactive and offers lots of assistance to students, Turner said.