

PIONEER ONLINE

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BOXING OUT
NBA FANS

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 11, 2011

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

OCCC earns positive marks

College on way to reaccreditation by Higher Learning Commission

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

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Faculty and staff breathed a sigh of relief this past Wednesday, when they learned that the college will be recommended for reaccreditation.

Rebecca Nickoli, corporate college services vice president at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana, read excerpts from the first draft of the Higher Learning team's report to a standing room only crowd of faculty and staff in the Al Snipes Board Room.

The report was positive, overall, indicating that OCCC had met all criteria for reaccreditation, with only a few suggestions on areas for improvement made by the HLC team.

President Paul Sechrist said that while he's pleased with the results, he wants it to be clear that this is not the end of the process.

"There are a lot of people saying, 'does this mean we're reaccredited?' And it actually doesn't," he said.

"This is the team who comes to make the recommendation. The commission in Chicago will review the material the team submits, and then make the final decision."

"But the team's recommendation is to reaffirm OCCC's accreditation through 2021 with no focused visits in between," he said.

Among the positive comments read by Nickoli were compliments on the quality of programs and facilities.

"We've all been really jealous while we've been here, looking at your facilities," Nickoli said.

That's a welcome affirmation, Sechrist said.

"When you're here every day, you know where the areas are that you wish you could improve," he said.

"So to have a third party come in and say how nice the facilities are, and that they'd love to work here is a nice reminder that we really are a great college."

Among the concerns voiced by the team was a need for clarification over online classes.

Nickoli's comments indicated a concern that online classes did not have a standardized set of procedures and goals separate from on campus classes.

Sechrist said that while such policies are in place, they've never been given formal documentation.

"Up until now, we've considered online classes to be just another way of getting the knowledge out, of teaching students what they want to know. We didn't

Up close and personal



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Film and video production major Bobby Gardner admires a monotype by Kiowa/Cherokee artist Navarre Scott Momaday titled "The Actor" recently in the Visual and Performing Arts Gallery. The work was part of the Oklahoma Artists: Pioneers to Present show that was on display until Nov. 9.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION HELD ON CAMPUS

College alumni to be honored

CAYSIE GREENFIELD

News Writing Student

OCCC will be honoring seven college alumni, as well as two community leaders, on Tuesday, Nov. 15, by inducting them into the Alumni Hall of Fame. The banquet and inductee ceremony will be held in the general dining area of the Main building on campus and will begin at 6:30 p.m. All staff and faculty have been invited, along with members of the Association of Alumni and Friends.

All inductees have been nominated by their peers or college staff members, who find them extraordinary, said Lealon Taylor, the college's executive director of Institutional Advancement.

The 2011 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees are:

Dr. Jessica Estrada, Target pharmacist;

Angela Hill, associate librarian for the Metropolitan Library System;

Dr. Phong Hoang, pharmacist at the University of Oklahoma's Pharmacist Care Center;

Sunny Lee Fanning, superintendent of FAA Academy;

Michael Jackson, associate director of The Education and Employment Ministry;

Dr. Brian Lamkin, Age Management Medicine Physician for the Lamkin Clinic;

Mike McAuliffe, CEO of Doctors on Call, OKC Motorsports, Oklahoma Energy Grand Prix and OKC Events & Entertainment; Jaquie Sherrard, OCCC executive assistant;

Dr. Markus S. Smith, OCCC political science professor.

Also being honored with the seven alumni are Thomas L. Legan, president and CEO of Coppermark Bank and Coppermark Bancshares, Inc., and P.B. Odom, third generation home builder and president of P.B. Odom Construction Company.

Smith said he was humbled by the acknowledgement. He said his goal is to inspire students.

"I love the fact that being an alumni, I can look at my students and say that I once sat in their seats," Smith said. He wants his students to know that he understands how overwhelming col-

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See **FAME** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Absence of a basketball season may be bad for the OKC Thunder and its fans

NBA lockout could push the fans away

During the summer, football fans had to endure months of lockout news, gossip, and negotiations to a nauseating point. As I write this editorial, basketball fans are going through the same situation.



Morgan Beard

As we all know, the NFL owners and players solved their problems in time for the 2011 NFL season. Unfortunately, the NBA has not.

For NBA fans, the outlook is much more bleak than we ever thought it could be. In the back of everyone's minds there was this glimmer of hope, the thought that the NBA owners and players would resolve their issues in time for the start of the season. They just had to, so you figured a deal would be struck no matter how bad the situation was.

Boy, were we wrong or what? The NBA has already canceled a month of the season and at the time this editorial was written, closure isn't really near.

Some point out the fact that canceling games and losing that revenue contradicts the entire basis of the lockout in the first place. Both sides want more money, yet they are willing to sacrifice their paychecks because of stubborn greediness between the two sides.

The NFL's lockout situation was, essentially, something to pass the time in the off-season in comparison to the problem the NBA is facing. In fact, it's gotten so bad that the Oklahoma City Thunder's very own Kevin Durant is playing flag football in Stillwater to pass the time. It's November and KD is playing football, not basketball.

Luckily the college football season is in full swing to distract Oklahomans from the annoyance that is the NBA lockout.

Games are canceled and the entire season is in jeopardy, yet full-blown panic mode hasn't engaged just yet. What about when the football season comes to a close and there aren't any NBA games being played?

Die-hard basketball fans will still stick around and wait for any morsel of Thunder coverage. They aren't the concern.

The questions arise when it comes to the "on-the-fringe" NBA fans. Fans who are football fans first, basketball fans second. At a time where the Thunder is in the middle of a fantastic era, this lockout could not come at a worse time.

The Thunder is still relatively new to Oklahoma and the absence of basketball may push fans away at a time when they were just getting pulled in.

The last thing the NBA needs is a full-fledged cancellation of the NBA season. Aside from the lost games and the lost revenue, the biggest casualty may



GREG HOLKAN/GREGHOLKAN.COM

be the fans lost in the crossfire.

Here's to hoping the two sides can get rid of their stubborn ways, their egos, and their lack of urgency. Just get us some basketball. Please.

—MORGAN BEARD
STAFF WRITER

YOUR VIEW | Veterans, teachers and public servants are not hippies

Occupy protestors are all American citizens

To the editor:

Staff writer Priscilla Colley's commentary on the Occupy Wall Street movement in the Oct. 28th issue of the Pioneer would be right at home on right-wing blogs and "news" sources.

She proclaims that the protestors have no work ethic, and have made a conscious decision not to work, and instead to be hippies, lounging and dancing in the street and beating their drums. It's an interesting analogy, although not very accurate.

Reality painted a very different picture of the Occupy protests when a two time Iraq War veteran,

Scott Olsen, was injured in Oakland last week. He has only recently been upgraded from critical and is still currently in the hospital unable to speak.

The Occupy protestors all around our country are not the slovenly hippies that Ms. Colley would like to paint them out to be. Instead they are all American citizens. They are veterans, teachers, public servants, and employees from all walks of life all across this country who think that we have some serious and complex problems facing our country that our elected officials aren't working to solve.

We do have complex problems in this country, but

a large part of that problem has come from dialogue like Ms. Colley's. Proclaiming that people she has never met are lazy, or hippies, or unemployed, does nothing to attempt to solve those problems. Instead it only drives that wedge deeper. Perhaps instead of making hasty generalizations about a group of people that she has obviously never met maybe Ms. Colley should head down to Occupy OKC and try something new — talking to people, instead of writing about them.

—KENNETH L. MEADOR
OCCC STUDENT

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located 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.

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | 'The Rum Diary' well worth the money

Depp exceeds expectations

You could film Johnny Depp standing quietly in a plain white room for two-and-a-half hours straight. If you released that footage millions of women would still flock and happily pay good money just to watch him be.

Luckily Depp hasn't put us in that position. He keeps exceeding our expectations, film after film. "The Rum Diary" only follows suit.

"The Rum Diary," originally a novel by Hunter S. Thompson, is about an American journalist who finds himself confronted with himself and various difficult situations when he takes a job writing for a failing newspaper in Puerto Rico. He tries to balance his drinking and the antics that accompany island life, while consciously attempting to do his job, and salvage what's left of the paper. The only hitch is the plethora of other characters in his life bent on preventing this from occurring.

Thompson and Depp have an odd understanding of one other and one other's creative process. "The Rum Diary" being the second time Depp has taken on a Thompson novel. His portrayal of Raoul Duke in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" is unforgettable. As is his depiction of Paul Kemp, the protagonist in "The Rum Diary."

Depp is kind of a King Midas of film, only everything he touches turns to gold. Not that this film needed any help. The dialogue alone was worth the price of admission, not to mention the drool-inducing beauty of Chenault played by Amber Heard.

Every character was three dimensional, not in the "need glasses to see" kind of way, but in that they came to life. They didn't seem like a character in a movie, rather a human you'd met and genu-



inely care for or disliked. No one person "carried" the show, each actor brought something to the table that was cohesive with both the piece and each other.

Unquestionably one of the more likable characters was Moburg played by Giovanni Ribisi, a phenomenal actor all his own. Moburg is a cracked-out, moonshine-making journalist who shows up for work on payday, wearing only a trench coat, boots and a hat.

The movie alone would have been fantastic, but Depp has a commanding presence and a level of beauty to his acting that few possess. His presence gives movies a rare personality unmatched by others. Kemp was quirky yet believable as was the entirety of the film. Even in a recession "The Rum Diary" is well worth the ticket price.

Rating: A+

—PRISCILLA COLLEY
STAFF WRITER



Being appreciative

As I meet with students around the coffee shop, in the dining hall, or in the class that I am teaching, I often hear how helpful the faculty and staff are to students at OCCC.

One student, who drives a considerable distance to come to OCCC, told me that she is here because of the quality of the programs and the excellent faculty and staff. She went on to say that there are other colleges closer to her home than OCCC, but she prefers to come here.

Her comments spurred me to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the hard-working faculty and staff at OCCC.

In the past few years, with increases in enrollment and no new financial resources from the state of Oklahoma, many faculty and staff willingly took on additional responsibilities to accommodate and serve the increased number of students at OCCC.

As a full-time faculty member, adjunct faculty member, or staff member, please know that I commend you and thank you for your efforts on behalf of the nearly 15,000 college students and over 3,000 community education students who are attending OCCC this fall.

I still remember the faculty and staff members at Southern Nazarene University and the University of Oklahoma who took time to provide advice, mentor me, tutor me, and simply help me reach my goals of completing my college education.

I have had the opportunity to thank individuals at SNU and OU for their positive impact on my life. They believed in my potential when I had my doubts, helped me through challenges, and encouraged me with a smile and helpful attitude.

As a student at OCCC, I would encourage you to join me in expressing appreciation to the faculty and staff here. They are here because they care about you and simply love teaching and helping students—and your words of appreciation would mean so much to them.

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

CONCERT REVIEW | Concert kicks off over two hours late

STP concert frustrates fans

Nov. 5 marked a night of fun and frustrations at the Lucky Star Casino.

I was about to see a band from the '90s my mother never approved of — Stone Temple Pilots. I began to get pumped up as I took my place in line and waited for about an hour. This was not the most frustrating part of the evening, but waiting for the band to take the stage was.

As I made my way inside I notice that, because I didn't purchase ridiculously expensive VIP tickets, there was no way of getting anywhere near the stage.

This aggravates me a little but it was a lesson learned. The show was supposed to start at 8 p.m., and I look at the time and see it's now almost 9 p.m. This brings up a little concern, since the concert was scheduled for Sept. 17 and rescheduled for Nov. 5.

At this point I'm not too worried, so I got a drink, which was \$3 more than in the casino — which was ridiculous.

As I made my way through the crowd I noticed it is now almost 11 p.m. and the show still hasn't started. At this point, I am truly convinced that there will be no show. Again.

I decided to leave after two-plus hours, so as not to be duped by this band for the second time. As I made my way out of the crowd to leave, the lights went out and the band came on and began to play.

There was never an explanation given as to the reason the crowd was waiting two-and-a-half hours, which was annoying.

Scott Weiland, lead singer, is a great performer and he definitely can work the stage and the crowd. He had so much energy, dancing and jumping around. Guitarist Dean Deleo, drummer Eric Kretz and bassist Robert Deleo effortlessly played their instruments. They are truly talented and it showed on stage.

The band put on a good show and played numerous hits like "Plush," but after waiting two-plus hours to

see them, on top of the previous show cancellation, it left a sour taste in my mouth.

I had a good time at the concert and the band was good on stage, but the wait times and the venue location made this concert seem less than an A+.

Rating: B-

—EMILY SCHORR
SENIOR WRITER

FACULTY ASSOCIATION BAKED GOODS AND SOUP SALE EARNS OVER \$400

Baked goods raise scholarship funds

ROBERT BOLTON

Online Writer

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Talk of delicious soup and sweet confections filled the air of OCCC Nov. 3 as the Faculty Association hosted a soup and bake sale to raise money for student scholarships.

Approximately 60 people bought baked goods and hundreds of people enjoyed the various soups donated for the event.

As with previous Faculty Association sales, the bowls were judged on various points by several people.

This year History Professor Ray McCuller, Police Chief Jim Fitzpatrick, and Speech-Language Pathology Program Director Kathy Wheat had to choose from 10 different soups.

McCuller said that he was looking for what tasted the best. Fitzpatrick said he was looking



ROBERT BOLTON/PIONEER

Soup and bake sale judges Ray McCuller, Police Chief Jim Fitzpatrick, and Kathy Wheat discuss the different soups to be tasted Nov. 3 just outside the OCCC bookstore. The soup and bake sale raised over \$400 for the Faculty Association in support of student scholarships.

for texture, taste and the blend. Wheat said that she was looking for the taste, texture and appearance of the soups.

Fitzpatrick said he liked soup number four the best, which

was the 15-bean soup with ham made by Curriculum and Assessment Director Catherine Kinyon.

The sale was received well by participants, and received

positive reviews.

"I think the sale is awesome," said political science major Kenneth Meador.

"They do it every semester, and it all goes to support student scholarships."

The sale raised \$417.37, for the Faculty Association's student scholarships.

"It's a Faculty Association scholarship, where students that are nominated by professors," said Scholarship Committee Chairman Jeff Carlisle, history professor.

Carlisle said the professors and students filled out forms, and the committee goes through and awards scholarships based on those applications.

"Sometimes everybody who applies gets a scholarship, but it depends on how many applied, and how much money we have," he said.

The winner of the soup con-

test was a tie, so both winners received a \$15 Panera Bread Gift card.

The winners of the soup contest were:

Soup #8—15 Bean Soup with Ham by Catherine Kinyon and Soup #4—"Almost Famous" Tuscan Soup by Terri Walker

Tied for third were:

Soup #3—Vegetable Beef Symposium by Charles and Shanda Myrick

Soup #7—Taco Soup by Sue Hinton

Soup #10—Chicken Noodle Mystery soup by Anonymous

Honorable mentions:

Soup #2—Loaded Potato Soup by Stephanie Holt

Soup #1—Cajun Crab Chowder by Tad Thurston

Soup #5—Black Bean Soup by Mary Grace Berkowitz

Soup #6—"Dinner in a Flash" Soup by Fabiola Janiak-Spens

PAUL SECHRIST AND HIS CABINET JOIN STUDENTS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

President participates in service

MIKE WORMLEY

Community Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

Students volunteering Nov. 4 at the Science Museum Oklahoma were pleasantly surprised when President Paul Sechrist and his cabinet joined them in service.

The volunteer work for the day was explaining basic concepts in chemistry through experimentation to children from various Oklahoma City Public Schools. It was organized as a partnership between the office of Student Life, the TRiO Programs and the Science Museum Oklahoma, with employees from WeOKIE Credit Union adding support.

When asked about the president's cabinet being active in service days, Executive Vice President Jerry Steward said, "The staff should participate in community service projects. We should, everyone should."

He also said he enjoyed working with OCCC students, and his favorite demonstration at the event was "Cold Chemistry," a demonstration of liquid nitrogen that involved cheese balls and slushies.

Steward said the greatest part of working with the schoolchildren was their expressions. Vice President for Community Development Steven Bloomberg echoed this sentiment.

"Seeing children light up when they [finally] un-

derstood how, but also why, the experiments worked," Bloomberg said of his favorite part of the experience.

While the president's cabinet organizes yearly service ventures, Sechrist said, it is students working under Student Life's direction that commonly represent OCCC with service agencies.

Like the OCCC staff, the students' remarks showed both an eye to the image of the school, but also the reward of service and its impact.

John Mitchell, pre-pharmacy major said, "[Volunteering] shows that we are interested in more than just getting a job and making money.

"It shows that we can help others and serve the community."

Hugo Mier, computer science major, focused more on the effect the service had on the children.

"We had a decent impact. You could tell from reactions that little light bulbs went off for them," Mier said.

The service day ended with a reflection directed by Jill Lindblad, director of service learning in the office of Student Life.

This reflection stressed the importance of museums in the community and the importance of community participation with museums.

OCCC Theatre Department Presents:

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

When:

Daily evening showings at 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 17 through 19.

Cost:

Thursday, Nov. 17, showing free for
OCCC students, faculty and staff
with valid ID.

General admission: \$10
Students with ID: \$5

OCCC

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

OPTIMAL RESUME

www.occc.optimalresume.com

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

Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills

Contestants wanted for TV game show

MICHAEL DENTON
News Writing Student

Students currently have the chance to try out for an OCCC college team to compete in a televised game show offering up to \$200,000 in scholarships and more.

Airing on KSBI, "Mind Games" is a statewide academic competition between teams from 16 different colleges.

The show airs on KSBI Wednesday nights from 8 to 9 p.m.

The fall portion of the KSBI "Mind Games" is airing now, so anyone considering joining the team should tune in to get an idea of what it's all about, suggested history Professor Jeff Carlisle, who is in charge of organizing the team and selecting team members.

OCCC is getting a team together to compete in the spring

section of the games, Carlisle said. The winner of the fall games will compete against the winner of the spring games to determine a grand champion.

According to KSBI's website, the questions will be in a toss-up or bonus format in which players answer questions by buzzing in. The first team to buzz in gets to answer. If the question is answered incorrectly, the opposing team is awarded a chance.

The questions will be drawn from all topics of collegiate knowledge. Science, humanities, and literature will make up the bulk of the questions, but they will include such topics as pop culture and current events.

Each game consists of two halves of up to seven minutes or 12 unit questions, in which two teams participate against each other.

The team with the most



Jeff Carlisle

points at the end of the game will be the winner. The competition is set up in bracket format, in which the winning team goes to the next round to face the winners from the two

teams next to them. Each round further into the competition will have harder questions than the one before.

In order for OCCC to participate in the spring games of 2012, OCCC will need to put a team together by December or early January, Carlisle said. To be eligible to try out for the team, students must be enrolled for at least six credit hours in the spring semester of 2012. Any student, from any degree program, is eligible to sign up.

The try-out dates and locations are listed below:

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 9 to 11 a.m. in CU1
Tuesday, Nov. 22, 9 to 11 a.m. in CU3
Tuesday, Nov. 29, 9 to 11 a.m. in CU3

Thursday, Dec. 1, 9 to 11 a.m. in CU1

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 9 to 11 a.m. in CU3

Thursday, Dec. 8, 9 to 11 a.m. in CU1

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 9 to 11 a.m. in CU3

Three contestants and two alternates will be chosen to compete.

"I hope to make my decision by the end of the semester," Carlisle said.

Students who are selected must be free on Tuesday afternoons during the spring semester for the taping of the show.

For more information, contact Jeff Carlisle at 405-682-1611 ext. 7391, or send him an email at jeffery.d.carlisle@occc.edu. More information can also be found on the KSBI "Mind Games" website, www.ksbitv.com/mind-games.

Modern Language Festival meets success

NADIA ENCHASSI
News Writing Student

More than 100 people, including both students and faculty, attended the festivities Nov. 3 in the World Languages and Cultures Center, said Coordinator Chiaki Troutman.

"It aspired to raise awareness of languages and cultures," Troutman said, referring to the third annual Modern Languages Festival.

"And it was a success from start to finish."

The festival commenced with Professor Abra Figueroa hosting a poetry-reading session filled with presentations in various languages. International students read their favorite poems from their native literature, then provided English translations.

There was poetry in Nepali, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, French and English. Figueroa is the ESL Academic Bridge Program coordinator and a profes-



Chiaki Troutman

sor of modern languages.

There were over 40 attendees, including about 10 presenters.

"Although I enjoyed it all very much, this was my favorite part," Troutman said referring to the poetry-reading.

"Everyone was so engaging, and it was wonderful. It was extra successful and especially educational."

At noon the sound of Aven-

tura's music provided the rhythms for dancing. Twirling and dance steps filled the room as Keven Mendoza taught the Bachata, a Dominican dance. Mendoza is a native of Mexico, was once a dance instructor, and now serves as a work-study student assistant in the WLCC.

His interactive session introduced students to the basic steps. It began with a demonstrative tutorial and a short lecture about its history, and then the dancing embarked.

More than 50 people came to learn the dance, some of whom had to remain outside because the room was full.

"It was a really fun experience," said Misty Turner, a cyber security major. "I love dancing, and he [Mendoza] was a great instructor."

Afterwards, Thabet Swaiss and Amin Zadeh spoke about the rising importance of the Arabic language and the potential influence it could have

on employment in the future. They also discussed the cultural aspects of learning Arabic.

"Along with Spanish and Chinese, Arabic's importance is vastly increasing," Swaiss said.

"Almost 20 percent of the world population speaks it."

Swaiss is a native Jordanian who has served as an Arabic professor. He is a former broadcast reporter who once worked for Jordan Television Corporation in Amman, Jordan.

Zadeh, a native Iranian, has a minor in Arabic and has studied it for five years at the University of Oklahoma.

Their presentation was followed by a question-and-answer discussion session. There were over 15 attendees, including some business communications students, health professionals, and modern language faculty.

In the final session of the festival, energy and laughter filled the room as 25 participants practiced greeting one

another in Japanese.

Japanese language instructor Keiko Shafer led a hands-on workshop filled with Japanese cultural practices and sayings.

She taught students how to write their names in Katakana, a Japanese character system, using sumi-ink. She also offered training in using chopsticks.

Alyssa Orton, a psychology major with a minor in Japanese, is one of Shafer's students. Orton said she especially likes Japanese because of its anime.

The festival was sponsored by the WLCC as part of the Arts and Humanities division and by Student Life.

Snacks and refreshments were provided for participants throughout the festival.

For more information, call the WLCC at 405-682-1611 ext. 7560, email them at wlcc@occc.edu, and check out their website at <http://www.occc.edu/world> and their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/OCCCWLCC>.

Students prep for Thanksgiving break

SARAH HUSSAIN

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

OCCC closed Nov. 23-27

OCCC will close at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22, in recognition of Thanksgiving.

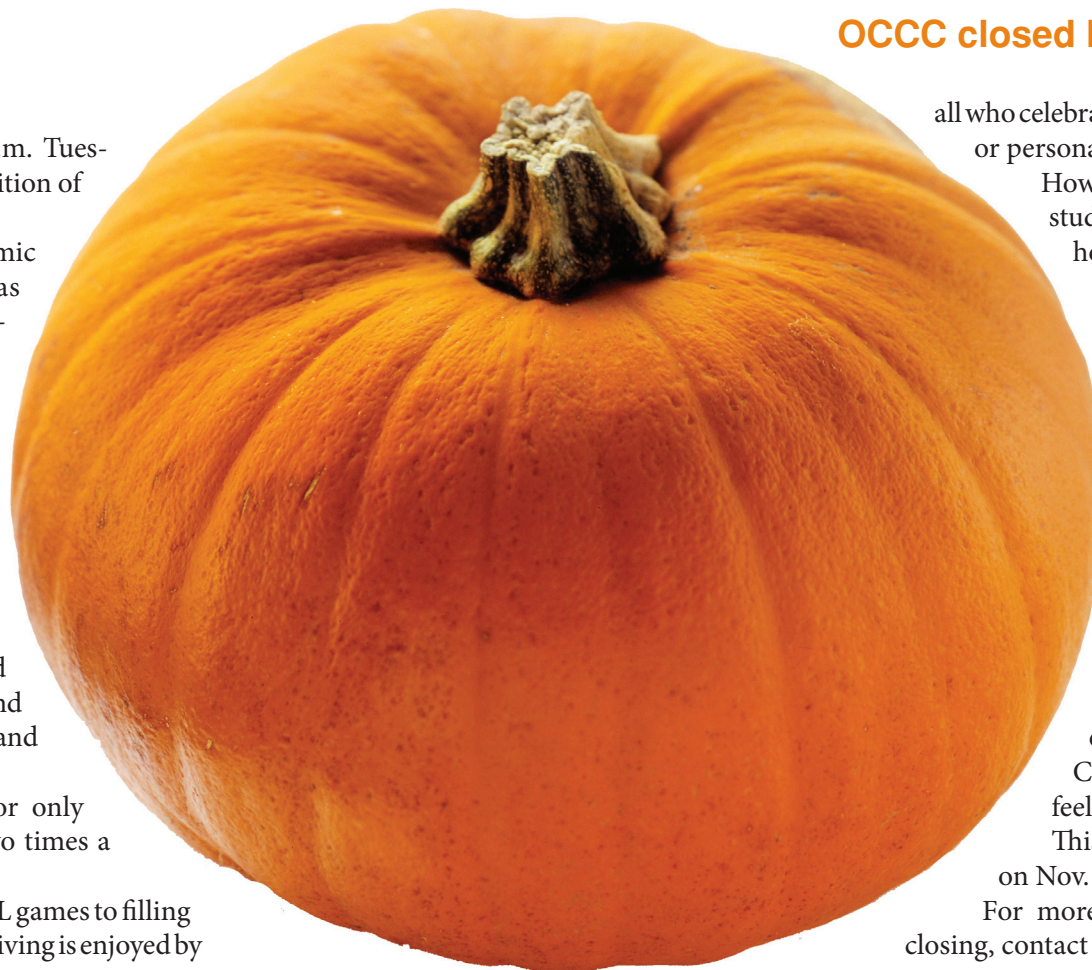
Although the 2011-2012 academic calendar shows the campus has limited access Friday, Nov. 25-27, Candice Parker, a student programs leader, confirmed the entire campus would be closed from Tuesday evening through Sunday night.

Students said they appreciate the time off from classes and work.

"Getting to spend time with the family I don't get to see a lot would be my favorite part of the holiday, and eating," said Jacob White, student and Welcome Center employee.

"It does make me thankful for only being able to see them one or two times a year," White said.

From watching the televised NFL games to filling up on turkey and stuffing, Thanksgiving is enjoyed by



all who celebrate the holiday for either religious or personal reasons.

However, there are also many OCCC students who do not observe the holiday.

Education major, Flora Taher is one of these students.

"During the break I'll just be at home sleeping," Taher said.

Abbie Figueroa, modern languages professor, has invited her ESL students to her home for a Thanksgiving Day meal in the past.

"They're fascinated by the giant turkey we cook," Figueroa said.

Thanksgiving Day is celebrated primarily in the U.S. and Canada. In North America, not all feel the need to observe it.

This year, Thanksgiving is observed on Nov. 24.

For more information on the campus' closing, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Turkey Day trivia

- The first Thanksgiving took place in Plymouth Colony, in present-day Massachusetts, in 1621. More than 200 years later, President Abraham Lincoln declared the final Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. Congress finally made Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday in 1941.
- The American Automobile Association estimated that 42.2 million Americans traveled 50 miles or more from home over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in 2010.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state in America, with a planned production total of 46.5 million in 2011.
- Illinois, California, Pennsylvania and New York are the major pumpkin growing states; together they produced 1.1 billion pounds of pumpkin in 2010. Total U.S. production was over 1.5 billion pounds.
- Three towns in the U.S. take their name from the traditional Thanksgiving bird, including Turkey, Texas and Turkey, North Carolina.
- The first time the Detroit Lions played football on Thanksgiving Day was in 1934, when they hosted the Chicago Bears at the University of Detroit stadium, in front of 26,000 fans. The NBC radio network broadcast the game on 94 stations across the country — the first national Thanksgiving football broadcast. Since that time, the Lions have played a game every Thanksgiving (except between 1939 and 1944); in 1956, fans watched the game on television for the first time.

www.history.com

“

Getting to spend time with the family I don't get to see a lot would be my favorite part of the holiday.”

—JACOB WHITE
OCCC STUDENT

Food, warmth offered on Thanksgiving

For those who need a place to eat on Thanksgiving, several area organizations are offering free meals. Some of these are:

- **Edmond Community Thanksgiving Dinner:** University of Central Oklahoma, Nigh University Center, 100 N University. 11 a.m. For more information, call 405-340-0691 or visit www.fccedmond.org. To arrange for a delivered meal, call 405-341-3602, ext. 130.
- **Great Thanksgiving Banquet:** City Rescue Mission, 800 W California Ave. in OKC. 11 a.m. For more information, call 405-232-2709 or visit www.cityrescue.org.
- **Norman Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner:** Norman High School, 911 W Main. Noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call 405-360-4954.
- **Noble Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner:** Noble Public Library, 204 N 5. 11 a.m. and noon. Each serving time will accommodate 200 people. For more information, call 405-872-3434.
- **Salvation Army Thanksgiving Breakfast Brunch:** Bricktown Coca-Cola Events Center, 425 E California Ave. 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 405-246-1100 or visit www.salvationarmyusa.org.
- **Thanksgiving Day Meal:** Britton Road Church of Christ, 2520 W Britton Road in OKC. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 405-843-0300 or visit www.brittonroad.org.



ROBERT BOLTON/PIONEER

Brad Walker, professor of Automotive technology, works on a Chevy truck in the OCCC auto shop. Winterizing your car is the best defense against cold weather hazards.

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROFESSORS ADVISE ON COLD WEATHER SAFETY

Tips to prevent winter weather hazards

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

editor@occc.edu

Winter is on its way, and in Oklahoma that can mean ice, snow and freezing rain. Road conditions can be hazardous, and the worst possible time to find out one's car has problems is out on the road in two feet of snow.

Avoiding such a scenario is the main reason that "winterizing," or preventative maintenance with a focus on cold weather, is so important, said Brad Walker, automotive technology professor.

"Your vehicle's only going to treat you as well as you treat it, and if you don't maintain it, it will eventually leave you stranded," Walker said.

Although such maintenance is important, getting it done properly is equally important.

"In some cases, the driver of the vehicle may know only where the gas goes, and how to start it," Walker said.

And in those cases, a visit to a professional might be in order.

"Those that aren't sure they know what they're doing might not only fail to make it better, but there's a chance you could actually make it worse."

Ron Anderson, adjunct automotive technology professor, cites the many types of antifreeze on the market as one such potential pitfall.

"Not too long ago, there were maybe four or five types of antifreeze; now there are dozens," Anderson said. "Knowing which one your car takes can be a challenge, and the wrong one can hurt your car badly."

But for those who feel up to the challenge, Walker and Anderson have a few tips.

First, keep an eye on the tire pressure, Anderson said.

"You need to see if that pressure is adversely affected by the cold temperatures," he said.

Walker agrees, and also notes checking the tire's tread is a good way to avoid trouble.

"Easiest way is to take a penny and put it in your tread upside down, heads facing you," Walker said.

"If you can see the top of (Abraham) Lincoln's head, you need new tires. Those tires are not going to be able to get

the traction you need, regardless of road conditions."

Another issue to watch for is one which might be easily forgotten until it's too late, Walker said.

"Wiper blades. Especially as dry a summer as we've had, your windshield wiper blades will get dry and crack, and you may not realize it until the roads get a little wet and freeze," he said.

"And once that salt hits the roads, once you get behind a truck and it starts throwing spray on your windshield, you can't see because the wipers can't clear it," Walker said.

Anderson also said cars tend to be under far more stress in cold weather than warm.

"If there's a service light blinking, you don't want to put that off."

"A small problem now can become a big problem once the cold sets in," Anderson said.

Anderson recommends getting an oil change, and checking all fluid levels thoroughly to ensure a vehicle is up to that stress.

"When the temperature drops, every single fluid in that engine gets denser. It's harder to start and harder to run until it warms up, because it takes more to push those fluid through the engine," he said.

Walker also said a quick check of the belts, especially the serpentine belt, is a good way to avoid trouble.

"What you want to do is make sure there's not too much cracking. Three cracks or more per inch of belt, and it needs to be replaced."

Finally, both Anderson and Walker recommend keeping an emergency kit in one's car.

"Even a properly maintained vehicle can break down, and if that happens and you get stranded, you're going to want some warm clothes or a blanket, and a flashlight at the very least," Walker said.

Professor Walker's Top Five Things to Winterize

1. Check your windshield wiper blades & fluid levels.

Fluid without de-icer added can freeze, cracking the lines. Blades that have dried and cracked won't be able to clear your windshield, and may leave you blind in bad conditions.

2. Antifreeze.

Without the right antifreeze, and the right amount of antifreeze, a car's engine can freeze and crack from the inside out.

3. Oil change.

In cold weather conditions, oil gets thicker. Having a new filter and clean oil of the right weight will improve starting and decrease stress on the car's engine.

4. Battery.

Cold weather can drain a battery, both from the increased density of the fluid inside, and from the extra effort a car needs to get started in the cold. Having the battery checked and replaced if necessary can prevent starting problems once cold weather hits.

5. Tire pressure.

Changes in temperature change the pressure of the air both inside and outside the tire. Checking the pressure frequently can improve traction, and ensure that the tires aren't wearing out too quickly from being underinflated.

Emergency Kit

When out on the road in wintery conditions, an emergency kit can make the difference between an annoyance and a long, cold wait for roadside service. Here are some expert suggestions from automotive Professors Walker and Anderson on what should go into your kit:

- Phone charger with a car adapter.
- Small shovel.
- Kitty litter, sand, or salt for extra traction.
- Warm clothes.
- Blanket.
- Flash light.
- Windshield de-icer and scraper.

SPORTS

Getting heavy

Ruben Gonzales deadlifts 180 pounds in the Wellness Center gym Nov. 8. The Wellness Center gym is free to current OCCC students and staff with current ID.



ROBERT BOLTON/PIONEER

SPORTS | Health insurance options exist that students may not know about

Health coverage not far for students

SEAN M. TOLBERT

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

Student Support Services says health insurance is closer and more affordable than students may think.

With intramural flag football and basketball underway for the fall semester, there is always the chance for the carefree celebration of a touchdown pass or drive to the basket to be replaced by sharp pains and lingering injuries.

How students deal with these, as well as everyday coughs and colds, depends largely on whether they carry health insurance.

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner said that the college, while having no specific partnership or endorsing any one insurance company, does provide a number of resources through which students can obtain health, dental and even vision insurance.

"There are a few providers that [OCCC] works with in order to help students to gain health coverage in the event that they need it," Turner said.

Many students may question whether they truly need insurance at all, but the time is coming when they

will be required to have insurance.

"I would have to talk with each student and discuss with them their overall situation," Turner said.

"Many students don't feel like they need it but there is also the chance that they could be involved in some random accident with a speeding car—so it really is a decision that each student has to make."

This decision may, however, be most important to one specific demographic of OCCC's student body.

"When we talk about international students, however, it is doubly important that they consider some form of coverage as a safeguard," she said.

In a quarterly report entitled: "Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, 2010," The Center for Disease Control released statistics that stated that approximately 48.2 millions Americans under the age of 65 carried no health insurance whatsoever and that 35.7 million had done so for over a year.

Some students now have access to their parents insurance, which may have not been the case earlier.

The new health care law mandates parents have the ability to keep coverage on their children to the age of

26.

"Recently, in fact, there have been companies that have allowed parents to carry their children on their own plans," Turner said.

Turner did state however that, in regards to the current economic climate, there is a widening financial gap for many people, regardless of being insured or not.

"When you look at the situation we have with this 'one percent' that we're talking about now, most of them may only carry 'crisis' insurance," she said.

"For them, they have the resources to go to the doctor and maybe pay \$200 out of pocket and a couple hundred more for their medicine and it's not a problem; but for most people they just don't have the income to do that sort of thing."

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

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.

OCCC's Student Support Service webpage offers a myriad of links to health care providers, including companies such as United Healthcare, that have special programs for college students.

The website also offers a list of free and low-cost community clinics.

For more information, visit the Student Support Services' health page at www.occc.edu/support/Health.



LISTEN WEEKLY AT
WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

THE PIONEER SPORTS PODCAST



with Sean Tolbert
Morgan Beard
Patrick Hartley

Report: College receives improvement recommendations

Continued from page 1

believe that separate documentation was needed," he said.

"But the HLC team thinks those classes do need their own policies and procedures, and we're going to work to improve in that area."

Another concern of note was a suggestion for more transparency in decision making when it comes to the budget for the fiscal year.

"What happens, basically, is the various departments submit their requests as to what they want or need on the

budget. And there's an openness in terms of knowing what those requests are," Sechrist said.

"Then at some point, decisions are made, but then not explained why. So she's encouraging us to give a little more attention to making sure that more employees understand the reasons for funding certain things, and not funding others.

"They really just want us to explain things better, which is something we plan to do," he said.

Nickoli said the team was impressed by the level of community outreach, and believed that OCCC had fulfilled its goal in becoming a community leader, as opposed to a community partner.

Finally, Nickoli said that, based on their preliminary findings, the college had met all criteria, and the team would not recommend further visits or follow-up investigation prior to the next accreditation study, scheduled for 2021-22.

After the presentation, Sechrist

thanked all present for their hard work, and said he believed the college was best described as "good people doing good work for the right reasons."

Although Nickoli read from the team's first draft, she politely declined to comment beyond that, and said that it would not be ethical to share a copy of a rough draft of a preliminary recommendation.

"But this is just a wonderful place, with a lot of really neat things going on," Nickoli said.

Fame: Honorees former students

Continued from page 1

lege can be.

Smith earned his associate degree in political science from OCCC in 2001. Since then, he has obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science, both from the University of Central Oklahoma. He earned master's and doctorate degrees in educational studies from OU. Smith has served as a professor of political science at OCCC since 2004. He also is an adjunct professor at UCO.

Lee-Fanning said she was surprised when she heard the news of her nomination.

"I received the news via email and never would I have guessed that someone felt that I was deserving of the recognition," she said. "OCCC gave me a great kickstart to pursuing both academic and career plans, and I will always be thankful for that.

Lee-Fanning is a graduate of OCCC, as well as UCO, where she earned her master's in business administration. She was recently named superintendent of the Federal Aviation Administration Academy. Lee-Fanning also serves as vice-president of the OCCC Alumni Association board of directors and is an adjunct professor.

Estrada earned her associate degree from OCCC in Advanced Science in 2006. She continued her education and majored in pharmacy. Estrada finished her degree at the OU Health and Sciences

Center in Oklahoma City. Just last year, she graduated with her doctorate in pharmacy and is currently working as the pharmacist in charge of a Target pharmacy in Oklahoma City.

Hill received her associate degree from OCCC in 2004. She has earned her bachelor's degree from UCO, and her master's degree from OU in Library and Information Studies. She currently works for the Metropolitan Library System as a librarian and also works part-time for Young Adult Services in the library.

Hoang received his associate degree from OCCC in 2005. He was soon accepted into OU's pharmacy school where he earned his doctorate in 2009. Hoang now serves as an adjunct faculty member for the OU Pharmacist Care Center and the Health Sciences Center's College of Pharmacy. He is also employed as a staff pharmacist with the OU Pharmacist Care Center.

Jackson earned his associate degree in sociology from OCCC. He then went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in social work from OU. Jackson served in the U.S. Army where he earned many awards. He currently works with The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM), a non-profit organization that serves Oklahoma City with education, training and job placement as-

sistance for those in need.

Lamkin began his college career at OCCC in 1992, where he obtained prerequisites to his profession in medicine. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree at OU in 1997. Lamkin achieved his Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine in 2002 from OSU's medical program. Lamkin currently owns and operates the Lamkin Clinic in Edmond.

Mike McAuliffe earned his associate degree in corrections and in sociology at OCCC. He went on to UCO and Southern Nazarene University, obtaining his bachelor's degree in journalism, and his master's degree in management. After college, McAuliffe served as chief of staff for two Oklahoma City mayors. Today, he is the president and CEO of Oklahoma City Motorsports and OKC Events & Entertainment.

Jaquie Sherrard received her Associate in Applied Science degree in business from OCCC. Sherrard went on to graduate from SNU with a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. She is currently working toward her master's in management. Sherrard is currently the administrative assistant to the vice president for business and finance at OCCC.

The festivities will begin with a welcome from Lealon Taylor and will conclude with a dinner. Business attire is required.



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CAMPUS COMMUNITY



ROBERT BOLTON/PIONEER

Lakesha Shields, OBI supervisor prepares OCCC Physical Therapy Assistant Lindsay Cox for her donation at the blood drive on Nov. 2. Cox was donating for a friend that was in need of a blood transfusion after undergoing open heart surgery on Nov. 1. Any student wishing to donate off campus is welcome to do so at any local blood bank. To find a local donation center, visit www.obl.org.

COMMUNITY | OBI brings mobile donation center to campus

Blood drive draws donations

ROBERT BOLTON
Online Writer
onlinewriter@occc.edu

The Oklahoma Blood Institute hosted a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 2 in the general dining area of the Main building.

The OBI set up a mobile donation center in the dining area and was giving cookies and soda to help raise the blood sugar of those who gave blood.

"Each donation saves three lives," said supervisor Lakesha Shields.

As of 1 p.m., 27 people had already donated. Though the results will not be released for a few weeks, Jill Lindblad, Student Life coordinator, said on average as many as 90 students show up to these events, and only about 50 will actually be eligible to donate.

According to the OBI website, people who are interested in donating can go to any donation center to give blood.

Several people who donate, were there to help a single person, however.

Taylor Jones, Mike Jones, and Lindsay Cox donated for their friend Chris Lasiter, who had open heart surgery on Nov. 1.

"I have a friend that's in the hospital and he needs blood," Physical Therapy Assistant Lindsay Cox said.

Another friend was on the same mission.

“ I have a friend that's in the hospital and he needs blood.”

—LINDSAY COX

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

"He had open-heart surgery yesterday and he lost a lot of blood, so the doctors asked us to donate," said Taylor Jones, a friend of Lasiter.

Lasiter, 22, went to the doctor for pneumonia when physicians noticed that his body wasn't working properly.

"They noticed that his blood wasn't clotting properly," Jones said.

The doctors did a full body check and found that he had a bad heart valve.

Besides saving friends, those donating had another reason to donate.

People who donated at the blood drive also received an OU shirt that reads "I bleed crimson," or an OSU shirt that says "I bleed orange."

For more information on the OBI or locating a donation center, visit their website at www.obl.gov, or call toll free to 1-877-340-8777.

For more information on the results of the mobile donation, follow the Pioneer online at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Learning to Compromise

The Communications Lab will be facilitating a workshop entitled "Learning to Compromise the 'Roger'ian Way." The workshop will be at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14, in CU2. For more information contact Nick Webb at 405-682-1611, ext. 7678 or visit www.occc.edu/comlab/Workshops.html.

South American Coffee

As part of International Education Week the office of Student Life will be serving coffee grown and roasted in the method of South American cultures. The coffee will be available for free from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 14, in the General Dining Area. For more information please contact the office of Student Life at 405-682-7523 or at www.occc.edu/StudentLife.

Talks with international flavor

This week there will be three Brown Bag workshops addressing international topics as part of the International Education Week. The first will be about the creation of Origami at noon on Monday, Nov. 14. The second will be about International Current Events at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15. The third will be about the anniversary of the Chernobyl incident at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 15. All three workshops will be held in CU1. For more information please contact the office of Student Life at 405-682-7523 or at www.occc.edu/StudentLife.

Spring 2012 Tuition Waivers

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

WLCC Information Session

In conjunction with International Week, the WLCC will host a study abroad information session in the lab Wednesday, Nov. 16. Join us for sharing the ecotourism and students' experience.

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

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

TODAY'S
PIONEER PUZZLE

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

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 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 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

Student Scheduled Child Care Enrollment for Spring 2012 November 15-22

November 15 enrollment for families who have children under the age of 12 months

November 16 enrollment for families who have children under the age of 35 months

November 17 enrollment for families who have preschool aged children

November 21 & 22 general open enrollment for any remaining spots

\$7.50 per session, per child
\$3.00 meal charge for session 2 & 4 for children older than 12 months
\$15.00 semester activity fee

Session 1: 7:30a.m.-10a.m.
Session 2: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Session 3: 1:30p.m. - 4:30p.m.
Session 4: 4:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.
Session 5: 7:30 p.m. - close

Any questions contact
Dr. Barb Carter at:
405-682-7561 Ext.7450

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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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

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BLACK RHINOCEROS	BLUE WHALE	BROWN BEAR	CHEETAH
CHIMPANZEE	CUBAN CROCODILE	DESERT MONITOR	DINGO
GIANT PANDA	GIANT PANDA	GRAY BAT	HOODED CRANE
JAGUAR	KAKAPO	KANGAROO RAT	LYNX
MACAW	MANDRILL	MEXICAN BOBCAT	OYSTER MUSSEL
PINK PIGEON	POLAR BEAR	PROBOSCIS MONKEY	PYGMY HOG
RED DEER	SNOW LEOPARD	TAITA THRUSH	TIGER
VAQUITA	WEASEL LEMUR	WOOD BISON	


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PLEASE RESPOND IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON
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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.

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.

TAMIL TO BE TAUGHT AT OCCC

Free language class offered Saturdays

ERIN BRINKWORTH
News Writing Student

The chance to learn Tamil, the official language of India, Sri Lanka and Singapore is now free and open to anyone who wants to attend class on Saturday afternoon. Classes were to begin Nov. 12, but students can join later, organizers said.

The class will be held on campus in room 1X5 from 4 to 5 p.m. every Saturday.

The International Student Association and several members of central Oklahoma's Tamil-speaking community are presenting the class for those who want to learn the language spoken by over 75 million people, said business Professor Vijayan Ramachandran.

Instructing the class will be retired engineering professor Masil Masilamani.

"The classes will begin at the pre-kindergarten level and end at the sixth grade," Masilamani said.

Ramachandran, who will be a co-instructor for the class, said the interest for the class "began as an opportunity for our kids to learn the language."

"I speak it," he said. "I've been trying to get my kids to speak it for years, and

Masil has been tutoring them."

The class will follow American Tamil Association teaching guidelines, and several Tamil-speaking people in Oklahoma City have offered to help teach.

"There are so many Tamil-speaking people in Oklahoma, I was surprised," Ramachandran said.

"We have plenty of teachers, but we're hoping for at least 20 students."

The class is not exclusive to those who are already familiar with the language.

"We are very user-friendly," Ramachandran said. "We'll decide during the first class who is in what level."

Mandarin, another Asian language, is rapidly becoming mandatory for international business students, but soon Tamil could also become vital for those who wish to work in the global market.

"If enough adults show interest in the course, perhaps it will be offered for credit hours through OCCC," Ramachandran said. "We want to see what the response is."

For information about the class, contact Ramachandran at 405-682-1611 ext. 7220, or by email at rvijayan@occc.edu.

Campus to host play

HILARY GROATMAN
News Writing Student

An award-winning children's play will be performed on campus at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22. Entitled "Danny, King of the Basement," the play offers serious themes, said Lemuel Bardeguez, director of cultural programs. These themes include poverty, homelessness, and frequent moves.

The play remains "not preachy," Bardeguez said, while exploring the themes of adapting to different situations in life.

Children in the audience will have the opportunity to feel like they are a part of the action, Bardeguez said.

"The Bruce Owen Theater is the perfect size," Bardeguez said.

At just under 300 seats it is smaller than most, but large enough to offer sufficient seating.

"Danny, King of the Basement" is targeted for late elementary to middle school children ranging from grades

3 through 8, but can be enjoyed by all, Bardeguez said. Parents can find educational material that parallels the play at www.occc.edu/CAS/danny-basement.html.

The Toronto Children's Theater is celebrating its 10-year anniversary by touring in the U.S. In 2001 "Danny, King of the Basement" won Dora Mavor Moore Awards including "Outstanding Production" and "Best Performance," along with others, Bardeguez said.

There are two daytime showings, at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., aimed primarily at public school students, while a 7 p.m. showing is for the general public.

Tickets are \$10. "Danny, King of the Basement" tickets are reserved seating, and for Cultural Art Series subscribers, tickets are discounted \$2.

To answer further questions, or to obtain more information, visit the Cultural Art Series website at www.occc.edu/cas, or call their office at 405-682-7576.



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