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PIONEER ONLINE

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DONATING BLOOD IS REWARDING

Community Writer Robert Bolton says more people need to suck it up and donate blood. Read his thoughts and get the facts inside.

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STUDENTS PUT ICING ON THE CAKE

Student Life held a Brown Bag meeting where students were able to learn about basic cake decorating. For pictures of the day, turn inside.

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OCCC is hosting the Mountain West Swim and Dive Conference. The meet has been at OCCC for more than a decade. Turn inside for more.

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 24, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Guitar Man



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Senior Communications Lab Assistant Brandon Isaak plays his guitar outside of the Arts and Humanities division office during a break. Isaak has been playing for 15 years and currently sings with the local band The Night Cart. More information on the band can found at www.thenightcart.com.

ABOUT 100 AREA EMPLOYERS TO CONVERGE ON OCCC

Employment fair set for March 7

EMILY SCHORR

Staff Writer
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OCCC is opening its doors to the employment world from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, in the College Union when Student Employment and Career Services hosts a job fair open to students, alumni, and the general public.

Kevin Fink, Employment Services coordinator, said 70 employers will be on campus, including Apple Inc., Dell Inc., Halliburton Energy Services, Frito-Lay Inc., UPS, and many more.

Those employers will be set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the general dining area of the College Union.

Fink said 30 health employers, including Norman Regional Health System, Stillwater Medical Center, EMSA, and Integris Health will be on hand from noon to 6 p.m. in CU 1 and 2.

“Attendees should dress professionally if they want to make a positive impression with on-campus recruiters.”

—KEVIN FINK
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Dressing for success is the key to making a good impression on potential employers, Fink said.

“Attendees should dress professionally if they want to make a positive impression with on-campus recruiters,” he said.

It’s not just about looking the part, Fink said. Potential employees should not arrive empty handed.

“A person should prepare as if they might be interviewed the day of the fair. [This] means they should dress professionally, bring multiple copies of their résumé, business cards if

Fall transfers should be started now

Expert says students planning to attend a four-year college later this year need to make a plan

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor
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Students looking to transfer to another college this fall need to get moving, said Linda Little, Transfer and Academic Advisement coordinator. In order to transfer, she said, students have to be enrolled at the college they will be transferring to.

“[University of Oklahoma] and [the University of Central Oklahoma] have very early admissions deadlines,” Little said.

She said OU accepts admissions for fall up to March 1, and UCO up to April 1.

“Students often don’t realize that because at OCCC you can enroll clear up to the first week of classes.”

Little said OU and UCO’s class enrollment cutoff is much earlier.

Little said another issue transfer students may run into is credit equivalency. While the credit hours may transfer, the classes they represent may not.

For instance, she said, while OCCC has articulation agreements — an understanding that nearly all general education classes will be accepted — with UCO and OU, those agreements only apply to general education classes.

“There’s a misconception sometimes that because we have agreements with OU and UCO that everything automatically transfers and not only transfer, but everything applies to the degree,” Little said. “And there’s just no way we can guarantee that. Schools are much more complex than that in what they require.”

She said major specific coursework could be completely different from one institution to another, leaving students stuck retaking classes at their new college.

To prevent this, Little said, she recommends students meet with an adviser

See FAIR page 9

See TRANSFER page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says healthy people over the age of 18 should consider

Donate blood, save three lives

Think of the most valuable thing you have. Money, a car or some other expensive item may come to mind.

However, one of the most valuable things everyone has is blood.

Someone could die from the lack of it or, if something gets into it, people get sick.



ROBERT BOLTON

Thousands of people are in need of blood every day.

Last year, St. Anthony Hospital alone used 10,150 units of blood.

Transfusion Service Supervisor Cathleen Blankenship said it's important that people donate.

"Earlier today, we had to give a type A patient type O platelets, because we don't have compatible platelets," she said.

Anyone can receive type O negative blood, according to the Oklahoma Blood Institute website www.ogi.com.

In addition, it's very important that people donate whenever they can, as one unit of blood can save

three or more people.

How is that possible?

According to the Oklahoma Blood Institute, blood is separated into its base components to help several people at once. Blood is separated into platelets, plasma and red blood cells.

The problem is that blood is very time sensitive. Platelets must be used within five days, red blood cells must be used within 42 days, while plasma can be stored for up to a year.

Another problem that arises is that some people are afraid they might catch diseases from the equipment such as the needles or bags. All needles and bags used by the blood institute have never been used before.

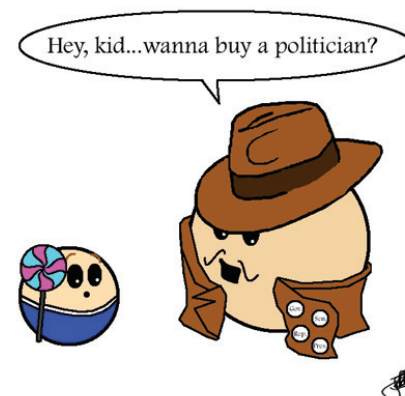
All products are bought, removed from the package at the time of donation, then disposed of entirely through biohazard containment.

Anyone older than 16 can donate, but they have to weigh at least 125 pounds and be healthy, so you can't be a stick if you want to save lives.

It's all used, but blood banks still need more. This is where donation drives come in.

The campus does two donations per semester normally, and has one during the summer. It's important

BALLIARD BILL



Talk to your kids about politics... before someone else does.

JEREMY CLOUD

to donate when able, so lives can be saved.

"It's critical that young people donate because they are generally the healthiest and they recover the fastest," Blankenship said.

There was a campus blood drive a week ago. If you missed it and you still want to donate to save lives, you can go to any Oklahoma Blood Institute donation center.

The next blood drive will be held April 18 in the greater dining area in the Main Building.

—**ROBERT BOLTON**
COMMUNITY WRITER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR | Letter writers ponder OCCC's stance on tobacco and guns on campus laws

Are smoking laws enforced?

To the Editor:

Every single day I sit in class in the VPAC building, and out the window, I see students go behind the red metal display behind the Arts and Humanities building to take a smoke break.

If it were one smoker, I would think nothing of a student being misinformed to OCCC's new non-smoking policy on campus.

However, Monday through Friday, it's student after student going behind the display to get their nicotine fix.

I am curious as to how much money OCCC has pumped into promoting the policy through advertisements,

signs, and classes that the school is now "smoke free."

It's simply mind boggling to have a policy with an on-campus police force only to have the policy never enforced in the first place.

Since the school is in the habit of wasting money, maybe they should give some of the money back to students, faculty, and staff instead of enacting or promoting policies onto students, faculty, and staff only so they can have a clear conscience about promoting healthy living to outside media and interests.

—NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

Don't allow guns on campus

This is a joint statement from the OCCC College Republicans and the OCCC College Democrats stating our opposition to any legislation that would allow firearms on Oklahoma's campuses in the hands of people other than security professionals.

The College Democrats and the College Republicans have voted unanimously to oppose any and all carry on campus legislation being brought before the Oklahoma State Legislature this legislative session.

These two campus clubs have joined together because any legislation that would allow firearms to be brought into an institution of higher learning, where

the free exchange of ideas should be safe and often, is dangerous and potentially deadly. We urge any and all legislators considering a vote on this measure to consider the safety and well being of all Oklahoma's students and to consider the requests of a majority of security professionals and educational professionals for a no vote on these measure.

We also urge all students to contact their legislators, whether for or against these measures, and voice their opinions.

—COLLEGE DEMOCRATS
PRESIDENT ANGELA GUITERREZ
AND COLLEGE REPUBLICANS
PRESIDENT ZACH SUMNER

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.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Letter writer says country must fight for peace

Iran war would create U.S. setback

To the Editor:

The possibility of war with Iran has never been greater. Daily there are new provocations, and at each step, the threat of hostilities escalates.

A third U.S. aircraft carrier has passed the Straits of Hormuz and entered the Persian Gulf. There have been attempts on the lives of Israeli diplomats. Iran nuclear scientists have been the victims of what could be covert operations on the part of the Israelis.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said the Israelis might attack Iran's nuclear facilities between

April and June. A conflict with Iran would be disastrous for the world.

Deprived of a significant source of oil and shocked by the sudden surge in energy costs, the still-teetering economies of the world would be dragged back into the sullen twilight of a new Great Recession. All the work and wealth that has been poured into reviving depressed markets would be negated.

From its stronghold in Lebanon, Hezbollah would rain fire on the Middle East.

U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan and the diplomatic corps in Iraq

would be threatened or engaged directly. Our ostensible allies, the Gulf States, could come under fire from Iranian missiles.

Worst of all, Iranians citizens who wish us no harm would find themselves in the terrifying gaze of the world's only superpower. How many thousands of innocents would die?

We must fight for peace because the alternative is too terrible to contemplate. A war with Iran is one we cannot afford, nor one we should wage.

—JESSE DEAN

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Healthcare access just another right Americans should have

Writer says Republican views 'flawed'

To the Editor:

I must strongly disagree with the College Republicans for slamming Obama for enforcing the right of Americans to have access to medical care, including birth control.

The arguments in their letter are flawed and demeaning. Let me count the ways.

Obama "forced" the faith-based organizations to follow the law of the land. Any organization on our soil with the legal limit of employees must provide benefits, including health care. What is considered an "assault" is ludicrous.

Would it be an assault to enforce pollution controls? Traffic codes? What about labor laws?

I'm sure no one wants to go back to those good old days of the overpriced company store or unpaid mandatory overtime or disbanding OSHA.

To be fair, the organizations in question are merely being held to provide a freedom of choice.

Insurance claimants should have the right to make that choice, especially if they pay for it. It is an individual's right to accept or decline a service or procedure, including birth control — not a church or organization, as hard as that may be to swallow.

"I must strongly disagree with the College Republicans for slamming Obama for enforcing the right of Americans to have access to medical care, including birth control."

—WILLIAM M. SANDERS

VETERANS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

That is the root argument of both liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Life as we know it would be miserable and worthless if we were denied these values. As hard as it may be for you or me to accept, it should be argued within reason that people should live their lives as they see fit, regardless of political or religious views.

The actions people take now can set up future generations to make dangerous or immoral decisions, but the fact of the matter is, that is for us, the people, to decide.

To deny us of that right just because the subject matter makes you squeamish, or because it is "against your principles" is even more dangerous.

Under such conditions, people are no longer free citizens; they are merely kept prisoners under lock and key.

The people who work for religious institutions are under no ob-

ligation to continue doing so, but under the law, they are entitled to the same protections and entitlements as any other employee. No one should be forced to choose between their job and their religion.

No one should be coerced into unemployment or into uninsured status either by blatant or stealthy discrimination.

We were one of the greatest nations in the world to live in, but because of such short-sighted pettiness on issues like these, we are falling behind other industrialized countries and it won't be easy to catch up.

I'll be honest — Obama has plenty of flaws and little spine at times. But in this case, I'd say he was on the money.

You may not like Dick and Jane if they preferred planned parenthood but that is their decision, not mine, and certainly not yours.

If y'all have such a big problem with the issue, well, that is what the press and lobbyists are for.

But don't play the "freedom of thought" card just to defend someone denying that right to others.

—WILLIAM M. SANDERS

VETERANS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

COUNSELOR'S Corner

Test-taking fear can be overcome with correct steps

"Mistakes are the portals of discovery." James Joyce (1882-1941)

Part of what helps us grow and become the most that we can be is the ability to make choices and take risks, even though some of those choices may turn out to be mistakes.

Fear can be an important emotion in that it keeps us safe, but too much fear, especially in situations where the outcome will not be fatal, shuts us down and stunts our growth.

In the classroom, this fear of making a mistake often forces us to take the path of least resistance. We might sit in class wishing that we could ask a question or challenge assumptions and let our thinking soar to new heights, but we don't. We can't. We're afraid of being wrong. We're afraid of making a mistake.

The same is true when it comes to taking tests. Even though life itself is a test, and every day we call upon all that we know and all that we are in order to competently make it through our daily tasks, the idea of "taking a test" for academic purposes unnerves some people.

A test is simply an opportunity to demonstrate what you know and can do at a given time. While tests can be important, their outcomes are not so much that we should shut down at the prospect of taking one.

Test-taking is a skill, and as with all skills, can be improved upon. Going to class, doing homework, actively participating, and practicing answering test questions are all activities that can help improve test performance. Another activity that is often neglected is to review the items that were missed and figure out why they were missed. Not having a clue about the information indicates that there may be a study and/or time management issue that must be addressed.

Knowing the answer, but not allowing one's self to choose it indicates a test-taking or confidence issue. All of these can be corrected, but only if you are aware and take steps to do something about them.

We all make mistakes. The trick is to make them work for you. If you need help learning how, come down the back hallway and visit with one of us in Student Support Services.

—MARY TURNER

LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

GAME REVIEW | A variety of colorful animals combined with challenges makes for an entertaining time

Nintendo scores with latest game 'Rhythm Heaven Fever'

What do baby seals, colorful birds, monkeys, and golf clubs have in common? Normally, nothing. However, Nintendo's newest U.S. game release, "Rhythm Heaven Fever" brings all of these rather odd things together in a big way.

The game is largely centered around music or rather, the beat of the music. The game name suddenly makes sense, no?

The game itself is bright and cheerful and really makes you concentrate on your rhythm.

I found the game to be incredibly fun. My girlfriend was even interested in watching me play.

The game itself is deceptively easy. Press a button — maybe two buttons if you're lucky.

But it's a lot harder than the button layout suggests.

The games get more and more challenging the farther

you go, to the point that if you make three mistakes, you fail the challenge entirely.

That being said, even with the greater difficulty, the reward is that much more satisfying just because of the little scenes telling you how well you've done.

Overall, there are 50 games that you can earn medals on and those are just the main ones.

Medals are like currency in the game, and having more unlocks the chance to do perfect challenges, as well as other games such as endless games and rhythm toys.

After a certain point, you unlock two player mode, which while it doesn't involve all 50 games, it does

have a lot of them.

Overall, the game is an absolute blast and is worth the money spent. You should take your time to enjoy the game, as it's one of those games that if you go through it in one sitting, it will only last a day.

On the brighter side, that one day could be stretched out to weeks depending on if you manage to nail the games in one go each time, which I doubt is possible, save for those who have an extremely good sense of timing.

Rhythm Heaven Fever costs \$29.99, and is worth every red cent.

You don't even need to be playing to be entertained by the game. It's just as fun to watch as it is to play, and the box even says that.

Rating: A+

—ROBERT BOLTON
COMMUNITY WRITER



MOVIE REVIEW | Reviewer says movie is a must-see but not for children

Strong plot makes 'Chronicle' great adult fare

"Chronicle," released Feb. 3, is what would happen if "Spiderman" made babies with "Paranormal Activity": wild, insane, jump-and-yelp found footage, but with the plot and characterization of a big budget comic book adaptation. In other words, freaking fabulous.

The movie starts off by introducing the audience to Andrew Detmer (Dane DeHaan) a quiet teenager who appears to suffer from depression who has decided to record his day-to-day life on a professional camera.

It's rapidly shown that Andrew is one of those kids who gets bullied or ignored in equal measure every day. His only connection to kids his age is his cousin Matt Garrett (Alex Russell.)

In an effort to draw his cousin out, Matt invites Andrew to a party in an abandoned barn in the woods. When Andrew wanders away after be-

ing bullied, things get weird. Matt's has found a sinkhole in the woods and wants Andrew to document it with his camera.

Accompanying Matt and the young man, Steve Montgomery (Michael B. Jordan,) Andrew's camera records scattered footage of some alien thing interacting with the boys, before failing.

Two weeks and a new camera purchase later, Andrew demonstrates his new-found telekinesis for the camera, a trait it seems all three have gained.

From there, the movie goes on to explore how three normal teens would react and interact while possessing superpowers.

The plot, though strong, is a bit slow. But the powerful performances by the entire cast



more than make up for it.

Aside from the camera-goes-fuzzy effects used when the boys gain their abilities, the special effects are excellent. At no point does it seem unrea-

sonable for the boys to have or use their powers and, in many cases, the most astounding thing is made to seem natural.

Fans of found footage films will revel in the rich

variety of camera styles, angles and qualities used to show the boys' actions.

Everything from cell-phones to security cameras gets into the film at some point. One of the recurring characters is actually a vlogger and her recorded interactions with Matt add another dimension to his character.

On the other hand, fans of superhero movies will find much to enjoy as the boys develop and strengthen their abilities, and find new ways to use them.

Overall, "Chronicle" is a stylish found-footage film, with a strong plot and a heart-wrenching end. A definite must see, with a caveat: take your children at your own risk. The violence isn't cartoonish and lacks the stylized flair of most superhero films. It looks real.

Rating: A+

—JEREMY CLOUD
EDITOR

TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of Feb. 11
through 13
www.yahoo.com

1. *Safe House*
2. *The Vow*
3. *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D*
4. *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D*
5. *This Means War*
6. *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace*
7. *Chronicle*
8. *The Woman in Black*
9. *The Secret World of Arrietty*
10. *The Grey*
11. *The Descendants*
12. *The Artist*
13. *Big Miracle*
14. *Hugo*
15. *Red Tails*
16. *Underworld: Awakening*
17. *The Iron Lady*
18. *One for the Money*
19. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*
20. *Contraband*

Dress for success topic of Brown Bag workshop

MARY MCATEE
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Those worried about making a fashion faux-pas at their job interview have the chance to attend a lecture that will cover the do's and don'ts of dressing up.

The Brown Bag Series will host a "Professional Dress" event at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 in CU1, said Amy Reynolds, assistant director of Student Life.

"It's very important for students to attend, especially students going into the job market," Reynolds said.

The purpose of the event is for students "to learn what's

appropriate for interview attire" and what fashions are appropriate in the workplace, Reynolds said.

Reynolds said students will have the opportunity to get practical advice from people who have recently been in a similar situation.

"We're going to have one male and one female presenter," Reynolds said. "They'll be faculty or staff members who have recently gone through the interview process."

The presenters will have an opportunity to share their experience on dressing for an interview.

Reynolds's felt it was important for students to have the


opportunity to speak to people, instead of having to rely solely on media to make a wardrobe decision.

"Instead of looking through

a catalog, or looking up an article on what's appropriate and what's not appropriate, they can have someone there to ask questions," Reynolds said.

For more information about the Professional Dress event, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523, or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife.

Employment Services
Job Fair



OKLAHOMA CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wednesday, March 7, 2012
College Union Dining Area

General Employment
10am-2pm


Health Professions
12noon-6pm

For information call
405-682-7519 or email
employmentservices@occc.edu

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DOZENS TURN OUT FOR UNIQUE BROWN BAG EVENT

Student helps make some sweet treats

CHRIS JAMES

Photographer

pioneerphotog@occc.edu

Student Life student programs leader, Diana Rivera demonstrated various cake decorating techniques at a Student Life sponsored Brown Bag lunch event held on campus Feb. 15.

"Wow. I didn't expect this many people," Rivera said of the event turnout which included more than a dozen students, faculty, and staff members.

GED teacher Suzanne Moore was among them. "We come to most of the Brown Bags," Moore said.

"Fun, hands-on, and sugar. Makes life good."

Rivera used cupcakes to show fellow students how to use a pastry bag filled with icing to make star and flower decorations.

At the end of the hour-long event, some students got cupcakes to practice on.

"I wanted to learn how to decorate cupcakes," said Mary Kerbo, GED student.

Rivera said Student Life asked her to host the event after she took cake decorating courses at Michael's Arts and Crafts store last year.

The courses she took consisted of four two-hour classes called Decorating Basics, Flowers and Cake Design, and Fun with Gum Paste and Fondant.

"It's good to have something fun to try out," Rivera said.

In addition to equipment and technique demon-



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student Life Programs Leader Diana Rivera, along with audience participants Mary Kerbo and Magdalena Morales, share a laugh over cupcakes they decorated at a Brown Bag lunch event Feb. 15.

strations, Rivera also shared baking advice and a recipe for buttercream icing.

"I learned quite a bit," said Magdalena Morales, premed major.

For more information about attending or planning

a Brown Bag Lunch event or for a complete schedule of upcoming Brown Bag events, contact the office of Student Life at 405-682-7523 or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Mary Kerbo, GED student, and Diana Rivera, Student Life student programs leader, critique Kerbo's cupcake at the cake decorating Brown Bag, Wednesday, Feb. 15.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Premed major Magdalena Morales demonstrates cupcake decorating as an audience volunteer at a Brown Bag lunch event on Feb. 15. For more information about attending Brown Bag events, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

To view more photos of the this Brown Bag event, visit www.facebook.com/Pioneer.

it's a small world

From Morocco to Oklahoma: Student leaves home in search of education

SARAH HUSSAIN
Senior Writer
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Seddik Halabi, 33, moved from his home in Morocco to Oklahoma in 2001.

"I chose Oklahoma after doing extensive research on the cost of living and schooling," Halabi said.

Halabi first majored in management information studies at the University of Central Oklahoma.

"I didn't like dealing with the cost and classes there [at UCO]," Halabi said.

Halabi said you can tell the difference between UCO and OCCC.

So he transferred to OCCC. "People care about you as an individual here," he said.

Once Halabi transferred to OCCC, he did research on the

"The U.S. is a great country. It has given me many opportunities – a life of my own with a house and family."

—SEDDIK HALABI
OCCC STUDENT

major that would provide him a decent salary and good job security after graduation.

"I became a petroleum engineering major," Halabi said.

According to Halabi, OCCC's Engineering Club and Stu-

dent Life have scheduled speakers in the past who have spoken on campus about his field of study.

"They help out because I know what I'm fixing to face [when I transfer]," Halabi said.

Halabi plans on graduating from OCCC in December.

He said he will continue his education at the University of Oklahoma.

Halabi said the one thing he misses from back home in Morocco is his family.

"In Morocco, love is a day to day thing. People are genuine about others," Halabi said.

He said he has hopes to eventually move back to Morocco, but is unsure if it will happen.

"I have an American wife and her family here," Halabi said.

"Picking up everything and moving her and my son would

Seddik Halabi

not be fair," he said.

"We are talking about possibly moving to Europe at some point, a good central location."

Over the past 10 years, the U.S. has lived up to Halabi's expectations.

"The U.S. is a great country," he said. "It has given me many opportunities – a life of my own with a house and family."

Halabi said he appreciates life in this country which he calls home.

"You can always find people who respect you for you."



Morocco —

World Region: Africa

Capital: Rabat

Population: 32,309,239

GDP: \$163,000,000,000 (USD)

Size: 277,473 sq. miles

National Languages: Arabic and French

Currency: Dirhams

Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Religions: Christian, Muslim, Jewish

Festivals: Marathon des Sables (The Sand Marathon) The Sand Marathon covers 151 miles and is run over 6 days. Set in the Moroccan desert, around 600 competitors from 30 countries take part every year.

History: In 788, a series of Moroccan Muslim dynasties began to rule in Morocco. In the 16th century, the Sa'adi monarchy repelled foreign invaders and inaugurated a golden age. The Alaouite dynasty, to which the current Moroccan royal family belongs, dates from the 17th century.

In 1860, Spain occupied northern Morocco and ushered in a half century of trade that saw Morocco's sovereignty steadily erode; in 1912, the French imposed a protectorate over the country. An independence struggle with France ended successfully in 1956. Sultan MOHAMMED V, organized the new state as a constitutional monarchy and in 1957 assumed the title of king.

Gradual political reforms in the 1990s resulted in the establishment of a bicameral legislature, which first met in 1997. Under King MOHAMMED VI - who succeeded his father to the throne - human rights have improved. Morocco enjoys a moderately free press, but the government has taken action against journalists who they perceive to be challenging the monarchy, Islam, and the status of Western Sahara.

A commission set up in March 2011 presented a draft constitution that was passed by popular referendum in July 2011. Under the new constitution, some new powers were extended to parliament and the prime minister, but ultimate authority remained in the hands of the monarch.



*source: www.cia.gov

Do you know of an international student or professor with an interesting story to tell?

If so, contact Jeremy at editor@occc.edu or call

405-682-1611, ext. 7409

SPORTS

Keep your eye on the birdie



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Business professor, Ramachandran Vijayan serves the birdie in a game of badminton on Feb. 17. OCCC's gymnasium has equipment to accommodate a variety of activities for students, staff and faculty.

SPORTS | Mountain West Conference swimming and diving meet to take place at OCCC Aquatic Center

Championships grace college pool

BRANDON WILLIS
SportsWriter
sportswriter@occc.edu

The Mountain West Conference Women's Swimming and Diving Championships will take place Feb. 22 through 25 at the OCCC Aquatic Center. The first event will begin at 12:30 p.m.

For more than a decade now, OCCC has hosted the Mountain West Conference Swimming and Diving Championships. The Aquatic Center takes a lot of pride in being involved in the event, OCCC Director of Recreation and Fitness Roxanna Butler said.

"It is an honor to bring such a prestigious event to Oklahoma City," she said. "One more opportunity to showcase our amazing natatorium," she said.

Each year the MWC staff, coaches,

athletes and spectators comment about the wonderful hospitality they receive in Oklahoma. Everyone is friendly, and goes out of the way to make them feel at home.

The number one ranked team in the conference is San Diego State with a 16-0 overall record. Not far behind is the Air Force, at 15-2 overall. Other teams still fighting for the number two slot are Boise State, 9-2 and also Wyoming 11-4.

"The Conference has always been pleased with the facility improvement we have made over the previous years," Butler said.

"They are always looking for the latest technology and want the best for their athletes."

The Mountain West Swimming and

“It is an honor to bring such a prestigious event to Oklahoma City,”

—ROXANNA BUTLER
RECREATION AND FITNESS

Diving meet in Oklahoma City also creates a homecoming for two local swimmers. Boise State freshmen Megan Myers hales from Broken Arrow, and graduated from Tulsa Union High School. Myers, a business major, had a prestigious career at Tulsa Union as a threetime state champion in the 500 freestyle and a five-time OSSAA 6A state champion, according to broncosports.com.

Texas Christian University junior Parris Schoppa is one of the more decorated swimmers in Oklahoma history. While at Putnam City North High School, Schoppa broke the Metro Conference record for

50-meter freestyle, according to gofrogs.com. In 2009, Schoppa won the Oklahoma State Championship and was voted Oklahoma High School Swimmer of the Year. Schoppa is a fashion merchandising major who has helped her TCU team to a 13-6 overall record, according to gofrogs.com.

The Mountain West Conference could have chosen other locations in the country to host their swim meet but they specifically chose OCCC, and Roxanna Butler said she believes she knows why.

"The Conference likes the facility," she said. "But the positive attitude, dedication and commitment of the OCCC staff to see that all their needs are met help them feel confident that each meet will be successful. It is these relationships that make the conference staff and coaches want to return to see their old friends."

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Feb 25: OCCC Club Soccer Season begins. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb 29: Intramural Volleyball Meeting at noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

March 1 : NAIA National Championship Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

March 2: CoRec Intramural Volleyball. 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.

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PIONEER**

Leadership Council recruits for President's class

WES CARTER

News Writing Student

The Leadership Council, OCCC's representative student body organization, heard a recruiting speech for President Paul Sechrist's fall leadership class at its first meeting of the semester in January.

The council, under the student leadership of Chairman Chris Hanna, met to introduce members, discuss an executive board opening, and inform people about applying for the President's Leadership Class.

In a quest to develop more polished student leaders, OCCC is offering the President's Leadership Class once again, after a successful run last fall, said Erin Logan, director of student relations.

The leadership-focused one-credit-hour class offers students a chance to learn about different styles of leadership, enhance their critical thinking skills and get an iPad without paying \$500.

"Do the class," said Hanna, one of last year's participants. "You meet leaders from the school and community, and you learn how other people think

and how to communicate based off that information."

To be clear, it takes more than a trip to registration to take the class. Students interested in the class must have completed 15 credit hours at OCCC in 1000 level courses or higher and English 1113 by May 11. Also, students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average from the application date through the first day of the fall semester, according to the President's Leadership Class flier.

Class requirements don't end once a student has been accepted.

If a student is selected, he or she must be enrolled in a minimum of eight credit hours during the fall 2012 semester and plan on graduating from OCCC. However, the student doesn't have to graduate in December, said Marion Paden, Enrollment and Student Services vice president.

Although the class may have some rigorous requirements, there are perks.

Outside of learning about leadership and networking with many local leaders, the class will allow participants full in-state tuition and fees for up to eight

credit hours at OCCC next fall, a \$200 book stipend for the fall semester and an iPad that will contain the class textbook.

After successfully completing the course, students will receive full in-state tuition and fees for up to six credit hours in the spring semester and another \$200 book stipend in the spring, according to the flier.

TLC is comprised of a representative from each OCCC student organization, two at-large student representatives, an executive board of students and two staff positions, which are filled by Paden and Logan.

TLC was formed to cultivate the open line of communication between administration and students, Logan said. The council brings student leaders together to discuss upcoming events and current issues that students are facing.

For more information on TLC, students can go to the Student Life offices.

To apply for the President's Leadership Class, students must complete the process and email the paperwork to Logan at elogan@occc.edu by 5 p.m. March 9.

Transfer: Transferring to a four-year college starts now

Continued from page 1

from his or her chosen school to make sure the classes taken

will help transfer.

"Students are too passive.

"This is your education, your degree. You need to be asking

questions, not just with OCCC, but with the school you're transferring to," Little said.

Little said students also

should begin checking into colleges to transfer to as soon as they choose a major.

For more information about

transferring to another institution, go to www.occc.edu/transfercenter or contact Little at llittle@occc.edu.

Fair: OCCC commits to helping students find jobs

Continued from page 1

they have them, a pad of paper for notes, and a pen."

Fink said some recruiters will likely have laptops set up for students to apply online at the time of the fair.

The idea behind the job fair

is to maintain positive relationships with employers in the metro and surrounding areas, he said.

Carol Jones, nursing major, said she said she likes that OCCC hosts the event.

"I went to a previous job fair and enjoyed walking around

and talking to everyone."

Fink said Employment Services helps students year 'round, not just at the annual job fair.

OCCC can continue to assist students and alumni in finding employment opportunities during their school years and

beyond, he said.

"It is important to our department that we help each student prepare for their job search, whether that be résumé-development, helping a student prepare for an inter-

view, or connecting students with resources to find employers," Fink said.

For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519.



CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Bleeding for the cause



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Buisness major Ruben Garcia, 19, donates two units of red blood cells at the OCCC Blood Drive on Feb. 15. The machine removes red cells specifically, and puts back the plasma and platelets. Every donation of blood can save up to three lives, and is mostly separated into parts: red cells, platelets, and plasma.

COMMUNITY | Student Life schedules opportunities to work with others

Service learning days offered

EMILY SCHORR

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Whether its helping the homeless, the hungry or the helpless, OCCC is not a stranger to serving the community. The college is proud to have the ability to give back to the public, especially by getting students involved.

Student Life offers a program called Service Learning. The program schedules at least eight service days in a semester, said Amy Reynolds, assistant director of Student Life. During a Service Learning trip, transportation, snacks, meals and beverages are provided by OCCC.

Erin Peden, journalism major, said, she enjoys giving back to the community. Peden said she volunteers for the Regional Food Bank, Birthdays Made With Love and Meals On Wheels.

Up and coming are three service days for the spring semester. From from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 2, students will get the opportunity to work with Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children. Students will assist with gardening and landscaping for children's facilities.

From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3, students can register to help at the Regional Food

“The food bank is my favorite place to volunteer”

—CANDICE PARKER

SERVICE LEARNING VOLUNTEER

Bank. Volunteers will sort, organize, and package food to be shipped to Oklahoma City families.

From 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 9, brings opportunity for students to help homeless individuals at the City Rescue Mission. Students will assist with various projects benefiting the homeless.

Candice Parker, music major, said, “The food bank is my favorite place to volunteer.”

Parker said she has friends and family who have benefitted from the food bank.

“Some of my friends and family members literally would not be able to eat if it wasn't for the Regional Food Bank,” Parker said. “Thats why I believe in what they do.”

Students are encouraged to register and participate in as many functions offered during the semester as possible.

To register for any of these service days along with others visit www.occc.edu/studentlife/serviceday.html. For all Service Learning adventures students will meet in Student Life office in the Main Building.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Black History month buttons

The Black Student Association is handing out buttons for Black History Month in the Main Building outside of the Communications Lab in the month of February. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Personal strengths to be explored

OCCC will continue to host the Strengths Quest seminar at noon during the last Monday in February. “Implementing Your Strengths” is on Feb. 27 in CU1.

Christians on Campus bible study

Christians on Campus is hosting a Bible study session on Monday, Feb. 27 from noon to 12:45 p.m., and on Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in room 2P7. The topic for study is the book of Romans. For more information, contact James Kennedy at 405-314-7739.

Brown Bag: Professional Dress

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28, in CU1. The discussion is “Professional Dress.” Bring your lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Student Org Leadership Series

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on March 1, in CU3. The series provides help to clubs in strengthening their organization. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Service days offered

Student Life will be hosting several service opportunity days in the month of March. March 2 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. will be Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children. March 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will be the Regional Food Bank, and March 9 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. will be the City Rescue Mission. All meet in the offices of Student Life. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Brown Bag: Smart Credit

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, in CU1. The discussion topic is “Smart Credit.” Bring your lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Beer Goggles Obstacle Maze

Student Life is hosting an obstacle course from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, March 12, in CU1. The maze will simulate the impairment effects of alcohol on vision. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue.

Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1993 GMC Conversion Van. Explorer Phantom High-top. V8, television, DVD, new tires. Clean. \$2995. Call: 405-818-5827 or e-mail lori.a.colbart@occc.edu.

FOR SALE: 2008 Dodge Avenger. Black. Fully-automatic. \$8000. Call: 405-512-3540 for more information.

ELECTRONICS

STUDENT LOOKING FOR A LAPTOP TO PURCHASE: Need a good, used, and reasonably priced MacBook Pro. Please contact me at: whiticu21@aol.com.

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Breakfast

Find and circle all of the breakfast items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a popular breakfast drink.

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O S E G A S U A S Y L L E J
F A L O N A R G A E T F E R
C R O I S S A N T S F T O D
S H U M M L O R T O A L W O
L A A I U A A I C L L M A U
E S L S T F U E O S A E F G
G K E M H C F C R R B G F H
A D E K S B O I M E A D L N
B A T I A H R A N H C I E U
L E B O C C L O O S O R S T
H R G T A A N N W J N R N S
A B O G D S E A A N G O E J
M H U E S Y T M P I S P C E
  
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BACON	EGGS	JELLY	ROLLS
BAGELS	FRUIT	MARMALADE	SAUSAGES
BISCUITS	GRANOLA	MILK	TEA
BREAD	HAM	MUFFINS	TOAST
CEREAL	HASH BROWNS	OATMEAL	WAFFLES
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THE MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE TO TAKE THE STAGE FEB. 28 IN BRUCE OWEN THEATER

Tickets now on sale for college play 'Doubt'

**HAYLEY STEVENS
AND MEREDITH
HUDSON**

News Writing Students

Alleged sexual misconduct between a parish priest and a Catholic school student forms the central conflict in a play to be performed on campus at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

John Patrick Shanley's "Doubt: A Parable" will be pre-

sented by the award-winning Montana Repertory Theatre.

OCCC's Cultural Arts Series has presented Montana Repertory Theatre before and is welcoming them back because of their high quality performance, said Lemuel Bardeguez, director of Cultural Programs at OCCC, in an email message.

"Doubt" is a winner of the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

It is a serious play that captivates the audience emotionally, intellectually and psychologically, Bardeguez said.

"Those with a love for staged intellectual dramas and those who have been following recent events in the media will be most interested in experiencing this wonderful, serious and important play"

The performance will appeal to those who "appreciate great writing and those who have seen the movie version of this play," Bardeguez said.

The Montana Repertory Theatre stated on its website that suspense is a strong component of the production.

"This performance will bring the audience to the edge of their

seat and keep them on their toes even after the final curtain drops," Artistic Director Greg Johnson said on the website.

The tickets can be purchased online or at the box office. The prices are \$10 for OCCC students and children 17 and under, \$17 for OCCC staff, \$17 for seniors, and \$22 for general admission.



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