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PIONEER ONLINE

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JUNE 1, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Construction zone



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Quality Plumbing and Meyers Dirtwork install water system piping for the Performing Arts Center theater under construction on May 29. The water system construction is expected to be completed by July 20.

Campus to become even more green

MITCHELL RICHARDS
News Writing Student

Students may have noticed new trees popping up around campus lately. OCCC has recently planted more than 100 trees around Faculty Circle, the road that loops around the campus, as part of the third phase of an ongoing 20-year Master Site Plan.

"The campus will pretty much be a forest by the time it's all done," said Gary Phillips, Building and Campus Services supervisor.

The blueprint for the Master Site Plan shows more than 150 trees lining both sides of Faculty Circle. The trees

See **TREES** page 9

THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL WORKED WITH SCHOOL OFFICIALS ON RESOLUTION

Tuition hike, raises await regents OK

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

JEREMY CLOUD
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Come fall, students may be paying more to attend OCCC, said President Paul Sechrist in an all-employee email dated May 29.

To "maintain [OCCC's] current offerings and services to students," Sechrist said, a "modest" tuition and fee increase will be necessary.

The proposed tuition increase — to be voted on by the OCCC Board of Regents next month — would include a \$3 per credit hour hike in tuition and a \$1 per credit hour increase in student activity fees — a \$4 increase overall.

"A full-time student (30 credit hours) per year would see an increase of \$120 per year," Sechrist said.

John Boyd, Business and Finance vice president, said the tuition increases are part of a resolution set forth by The Leadership

“A full-time student (30 credit hours) would see an increase of \$120 per year.”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

Council, a group made up of student representatives that "provides a forum for exchange of information between the student body and college administrators," according to the TLC website.

Boyd said the resolution set a limit of 5 percent on the tuition fee increase for FY 2012-2013.

"Through this resolution, The Leadership Council made a commitment, saying they would support our efforts," Boyd said.

"But they also said that it was our responsibility to effectively manage our budget and we made the commitment to do that," he said.

Boyd said the proposed tuition increase was a little more than 4 percent — within the limits set by TLC.

In addition, OCCC faculty and staff members may soon see raises after three years without any pay increases, according to the same all-employee email.

"Since salaries and wages have not increased in the past three years, a modest merit-based raise is a priority in the plan for next year," Sechrist said.

The proposed plan, which also will be presented to the Board of Regents for approval next month, includes an average 2.4 percent increase in basic salaries and wages, according to the email.

That increase is based on half of a stipend that was given to full-time employees in November 2011, as well as a merit-based adjustment based on this year's annual performance rating, Sechrist said.

The plan also would include a \$15 increase in adjunct professors' pay, bringing their pay rate from \$655 per credit hour to \$670 per credit hour, and student employees would see a 25 cent pay raise, he said.

Sechrist said the total cost of these planned increases is \$1,037,151 and will be funded using new revenue brought into the college.

"These pay increases will be funded from revenue that had been going into contingency budgets to cover the shortfall in state appropriations in previous years,"

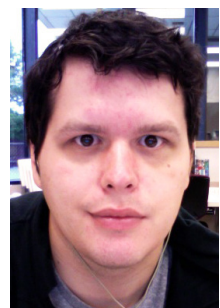
See **BUDGET** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writers have opposing views on changes made downtown after shootings

Limiting Thunder festivities good idea

Eight people were shot in downtown Oklahoma City after the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in the second round of the NBA Playoffs.



JOEY STIPEK

As a result, Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma City Thunder executives, and Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett decided to move the pre-game celebration known as Thunder Alley three hours prior to tip off.

Oklahoma City officials also eliminated outdoor viewings of the playoff games on a big screen outside of the Chesapeake Energy Arena.

While this is an unpopular opinion, Oklahoma City officials did the right thing by curtailing and limiting the festivities.

There are just too many people in a tight, cramped area for Oklahoma City Police to effectively monitor

the situation. Not every citizen has the best of intentions when going downtown to cheer on the Thunder.

Tyler Maxwell told The Oklahoman on May 23 he regularly watched games outside the arena and noticed “there was all kind of fighting” after Game 2 against Los Angeles.

Unfortunately, this isn’t the first time fan violence has occurred outside an arena during an NBA playoff series.

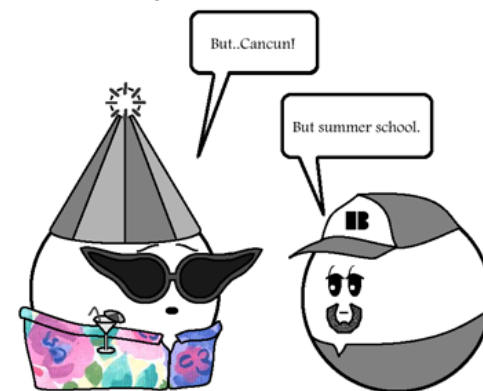
In 2000, a full-scale riot broke out outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles after the Lakers won the NBA Championship.

After the riot, Los Angeles Lakers executives and city officials decided to eliminate all outdoor big-screen viewings of Lakers games.

With crowds growing larger in size and becoming rowdier during each Thunder Alley event, Oklahoma City Police Capt. Dexter Nelson told The Oklahoman on May 23 there was a heavy police presence around the arena that evening for the Lakers game, but admitted police “... were outnumbered.”

What if that incident had grown larger and more

BALLIARD BILL



Due to a miscommunication between author and characters, there are no scripts this summer. We're freewheeling it, folks.

JEREMY CLOUD

out of control over the course of the evening?

The only shooting that should be occurring at Thunder games should be from Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and James Harden from the three-point line.

By curtailing the possibility of possible future fan violence and the possibility for riots after games, Oklahoma City Police, Cornett, and Oklahoma City Thunder executives made the right call.

—**JOEY STIPEK**

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS REPORTER

EDITORIAL | Bring back city area to what it was before May 21

Thunder Alley should stay untouched after shooting incident

Generally, when people think of alleys, wariness comes to mind. And wariness is exactly what rushed through the thoughts of thousands on the night of Monday, May 21, when shots were fired about three blocks east of the area known as near Thunder Alley, reportedly injuring eight people.



NADIA J. ENCHASSI

More than 6,000 people were leaving the area after the Thunder beat the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 5 in the second round of the NBA Playoffs.

The sight of people running away from the area — many crying — replaced the just-earlier scene of a blue-clad festive crowd.

Located outside Chesapeake Energy Arena on Reno Avenue in Bricktown, Thunder Alley is known as an enormous, free

block party. Besides the interactive games, entertainment stages, concessions and further merchandise,

basketball fans gather to watch playoffs broadcast live on the 74-foot wide, 20-foot tall video display on the northwest side of the arena.

With minimum exaggeration, Thunder Alley is the Times Square of Oklahoma. People of all ages, social classes, religions and backgrounds come together for the sole purpose of having a good time. Most are present to cheer on and celebrate one of the greatest of our state's features, the Oklahoma City Thunder professional basketball team. There also are the occasional two or three others present who support another set of players — the opponents.

Since the shooting, Thunder Alley's existence is on the verge of extinction. Opinions about banning the watch parties quickly spread after the nearby shooting. Some believe Thunder Alley should be no more.

Meanwhile, advocates of keeping Thunder Alley alive have differing thoughts about why the shooting occurred.

Some feel the shooting was related to one of the high school graduation ceremonies occurring at a similar time nearby. Some say the lack of adequate security for such a large crowd is to blame. Others

simply blame immaturity or booze. But all believe a seemingly isolated incident should not result in Thunder Alley closing.

Despite that, following the incident, Thunder Alley was off limits for a short time. Later, Thunder executives, the major, police and other city officials agreed on changes that would ensure Thunder Alley would remain open.

As of now, during playoffs, Thunder Alley will be open— three hours before tipoff. There will be everything there was before: games, music, food and more.

But, once the basketball game begins, the partying ends.

It's sad to think the exceptional experience of watching Thunder players Kevin Durant, James Harden, Russell Westbrook and the rest of the Thunder team alongside thousands of other Thunder fans outside of the stadium setting may now be forever gone.

It's sadder to think that all it took was one bad apple to spoil the whole bunch.

In any case, Thunder Up!

—**NADIA J. ENCHASSI**
COMMUNITY WRITER

PIONEER

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

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

7777 S. May
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

phone:
405-682-1611, ext. 7307

email:
editor@occc.edu

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

ARTIST REVIEW | DJ Alex Sin wows Oklahoma one beat at a time

Homegrown dubstep DJ best around

The earthquakes you may have felt in Oklahoma in the past year may not have been caused from tectonic shifting. There is a bigger movement sweeping through the plains, ravaging the radio air streams and dominating the night clubs: dubstep.

The dubstep artist causing these vibrations is Oklahoma City's own Alex Sin. To understand his influence, you must first understand the music.

Dubstep is the cousin to electronic dance music — the difference between the two being that they have a different beat structure. The rhythm, tempo and beat pattern are the key differences between the two.

Sin has a musical palette that has gained widespread play from local places here in Oklahoma City, such as regular appearances at Robotic Wednesdays at Kamps, The Office Drinks and Nosh, City Walk, and other venues that have reached maximum capacity with his group of followers.

From Oklahoma City to clubs in Dallas, he is affecting crowds with not only his music but the cultural importance dubstep is having on



PHOTO COURTESY JOEL CHANG

this generational dance music movement.

While he writes a lot of his own music and collaborates with other artists for original dubstep songs, he also has reincorporated elements from other songs as a remix of sorts while he plays at clubs and other big venues. Certain collaboration performances include big names in dubstep such as Figure, Crystal Vision, Candyland and Proper Villains.

If you say his name to local dub-

step fans, they will probably know whom you are talking about. He has recently created SugarSkull, a dubstep collaboration effort with fellow DJ MBP of Oklahoma City.

Now officially signed exclusively with LU10 Records and Prototype Platinum Records, this isn't the last we'll see of this dubstep DJ.

What once was just a genre that could be found in the UK, dubstep has now spread like wildfire with a greater international impact, and DJ artists like Alex Sin are breaking sound barriers, cultural influence and musical history as we know it.

Keep an eye on this one. He's shakin' things up.

Rating: A

—CASEY R. AKARD
VIDEOGRAPHER



SCAN THIS QR
CODE WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE TO
WATCH DJ ALEX
SIN ONLINE VIDEO
REVIEW

WEBSITE REVIEW | Pinterest website offers endless possibilities

Users share likes on virtual pinboard

People wanting to get in touch with their creative side may want to check out www.pinterest.com. Launched in March of 2010, Pinterest acts as a virtual pinboard where users can discover and share "pins" that appeal to or reflect their personality.

Users must first sign up. This can be done via an invite from a friend who is already registered, or by registering yourself and waiting to be approved. If you choose the latter, it can take up to two weeks before your account is approved and you can start sharing.

Once registered, users can begin to organize and share their interests. Each user has the capability to create boards and "like" pins they find interesting.

For example, those interested in fitness can create a board named "Fitness" to post all of the fitness-related pins they find. The option is given to post a short comment below your pin. Another option is to "like" a pin. Liking places all of your pins in one place on your page.

So how does one discover pins? There are several options. First, users have the option of following their Facebook friends. To find friends who are on Pinterest, users must go to the drop down menu by their name and select "find friends." Users will then be shown a list of Facebook friends on Pinterest they can follow.

Friends can be followed by hitting the "follow" button by the user's name. The user will then begin seeing their friends' pins every time they access the main page of Pinterest.

Another way is to browse categories. Pinterest categories include interests such as art, food, DIY & crafts, photography, sports and much more.

By selecting a category to browse, users can see pins other users have re-pinned — or shared — into that category.

Once you find a pin you are interested in, click on the pin to be redirected to the website it originally came from.

In case the previous options do not work for you, a search engine is provided so you can search for a more specific pin.

The more you pin, the more people will discover your pins and maybe even follow your pins.

Pinterest is a great way to discover things you are interested in and share that with your friends via social media such as Facebook and Twitter. After spending even a day on Pinterest, I guarantee you will be hooked and maybe even be a little more crafty.

Rating: A

—ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

COUNSELOR'S Corner

Students who commit do better

"The first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: Decide what you want." —Ben Stein

As we move into the summer semester, nearly half of 2012 is behind us already. Time continues its steady march into perpetuity, and students arrive on campus for another round of classes.

Whether you are newly graduated from high school, an older student coming to school after a hiatus, or a college student who wants or needs some credit for the summer, it is important to remember that this session will move forward whether you are prepared for it or not. In order to help yourself be as successful as possible, I encourage you to remember a few basic tenets:

1. Make the necessary commitments to be successful. Success will require that you show up, in person or online, ready to commit to whatever is asked of you in the syllabus. Being gung-ho for the first week and then faltering for seven won't ingratiate you with your professors, especially if you plead for "extra credit" in July. For an academic relationship to work, you must show up and invest the time that is needed to perform the tasks that are required.

2. Be enthusiastic about learning something. Anything. There has to be a reason for you to take classes, but if you can't think of a good one, you might want to reconsider this investment until you're ready for it. Much of our experience in class depends on how we approach it and the attitudes we display. If you're going to sit there looking bored, staring at your smart phone, and yawning every few minutes, your grades will reflect that. Put yourself into the mix by listening, asking questions and participating in discussions. You'll enjoy the class more and learn more for your efforts.

3. Life doesn't exist in a vacuum. Look for ways that the knowledge and skills you're getting in class transfer out into other classes and to a future career. You may never have to discuss the short stories you study in English again, but you may be asked to organize your thoughts around a position you've taken and offer a logical argument for it.

4. Get outside of your comfort zone and take some risks. One beauty of college is that it allows you to meet and interact with people different from yourself. Try looking at life through other people's eyes. We can't mature and evolve without shedding our proverbial skins and growing new ones.

If you need a little help while you're here this summer, remember that we in Student Support Services are always ready to assist you.

—MARY TURNER
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

'AVENGERS' MOVIE HAS ALL THE ELEMENTS OF A HIT

Blockbuster harnesses ultimate performances

Christmas in May?

Not quite — but it sure felt like that for Marvel fans May 4 when the long-awaited “Avengers” swept into theaters in a glorious blaze of comic book goodness.

Four years after Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) first approached Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) about a little something called the Avengers Initiative in the first “Iron Man” flick, the ultimate superhero movie is finally here — and it doesn’t disappoint.

The film starts with a literal bang as the horn-helmed mischief god Loki (Tom Hiddleston) bursts through a portal at Fury’s S.H.I.E.L.D. headquarters, snatching an ancient artifact known as the Tesseract.

With the artifact, Loki plans to harness its power to bring an alien race known as the Chitauri to Earth.

They will conquer, and Loki will rule our planet as recompense for the throne he feels was wrongly taken from him back in his home world of Asgard — at least, that’s his plan.

Unfortunately for Loki, but luckily for the rest of us, Fury refuses to sit back and let that happen.

He goes full speed ahead with the Avengers Initiative: a top-secret plan to unite the world’s mightiest heroes.

Director Joss Whedon not only did Stan Lee’s masterwork justice, he went above and beyond to create an all-out smorgasbord of delicious, nerdy goodness that is so perfect, it probably left DC Comics executives holed up in their offices in tears.

A lot of the film’s success lies with the cast.

Whedon enlisted terrific actors, some of them reprising previous roles, while others earned their wings with scene-stealing performances.

Downey plays his finest Iron Man yet, combining just the right amount of smarts,

“Director Joss Whedon not only did Stan Lee’s masterwork justice, he went above and beyond to create an all-out smorgasbord of delicious, nerdy goodness that is so perfect, it probably left DC Comics executives holed up in their offices in tears.”

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

smoothness and sarcasm to portray the smart-but-silly playboy we all know and love.

Love isn’t, however, what Stark feels for Steve Rogers — better known as Captain America — introduced by Chris Evans in the self-titled flick last year.

Although that movie was admittedly lacking in, well, just about everything, the Cap roars back in “The Avengers” as a refreshingly wholesome, clean-cut patriot who butts heads with Stark on more than one occasion.

Chris Hemsworth reprises his role of Thor, Loki’s brother, brilliantly balancing the thunder god’s aloof nobility and hotheadedness to create a character that has really grown since his debut film.

His compassion for his misguided brother, despite his many evils, is both heartfelt and touching.

The actors who really steal the show, though, are the ones decked out in green.

Hiddleston brings a depth to Loki that no comic book ever has.

He is not just a villain, brought into the movie just to give the heroes someone to fight while he causes mayhem and plots to take over the

world — his purpose is deeper than that.

He is a brother scorned, a son betrayed.

His Loki is mischievous and murderous, but through it all, there is a shred of humanity left within him, beautifully illustrated as he sheds a single tear while fighting Thor.

But no matter how hilarious Iron Man and Captain America’s back-and-forth quips are, no matter how dynamic the brotherly bond that ties Thor and Loki together is, there’s no question that the movie’s not-so-secret weapon is the not-so-jolly green giant.

Mark Ruffalo is the third actor to play the Hulk in the past decade, and it would seem that, for Marvel, the third time’s the charm.

From tending to children in a third-world country to throwing literal punch lines, Ruffalo’s Bruce Banner has a heart as big as his alter-ego’s fists.

The film would be worth seeing for the performances alone, but it is much more than that.

For the diehard fans out there, Whedon remained true to the characters, and true to their stories.

Watching “The Avengers” is like watching all of your favorite comic book heroes and villains spring forth from the panels and come to life.

But casual viewers needn’t fret, either — even if you’ve never picked up a comic book in your life. You will quickly pick up on who the characters are, and where they come from.

The special effects are abso-



lutely breathtaking.

They range from the awe-inspiring, such as S.H.I.E.L.D.’s floating fortress in the sky, to the otherworldly, like the creepy space scenes where Loki consults with his Chitauri cohorts.

The script is masterfully written, and despite clocking in

at close to two and a half hours, there isn’t a moment where the flick loses its momentum.

In fact, there’s only one thing disappointing about “The Avengers”: seeing the credits roll.

Rating: A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

TOP 15 MOVIES

weekend of May 25 through 27
www.yahoo.com

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Men in Black 3</i> | Hotel |
| 2. <i>Marvel's The Avengers</i> | 9. <i>The Hunger Games</i> |
| 3. <i>Battleship</i> | 10. <i>Think Like A Man</i> |
| 4. <i>The Dictator</i> | 11. <i>The Pirates! Band of Misfits</i> |
| 5. <i>Chernobyl Diaries</i> | 12. <i>Bernie</i> |
| 6. <i>Dark Shadows</i> | 13. <i>The Lucky One</i> |
| 7. <i>What To Expect When You're Expecting</i> | 14. <i>Moonrise Kingdom</i> |
| 8. <i>The Best Exotic Marigold</i> | 15. <i>The Five-Year Engagement</i> |

GERMAIN PICHOP FIRST CAME TO OKLAHOMA AS A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Business professor wants to 'make a difference'

CLAYTON HOOPER
News Writing Student

In his native country of Cameroon, in West Africa, Germain Pichop grew up with a dream of coming to the U.S.

His main focus was school and the hard work that came with it, he said.

Now that he is established as a business professor at OCCC, Pichop has devoted himself to helping others achieve their dreams.

Pichop is involved around campus. He participates in and monitors multiple business clubs for students, including Kappa Beta Delta, Multicultural Business Club and Students in Free Enterprise.

"I love helping people," he said. "This is my primary motivation for becoming a professor."



Germain Pichop

As a youth in Cameroon, Pichop spent his free time constructing his own toys, playing soccer and helping his parents work around the family farm.

Pichop had an early interest in becoming a banker.

In school, he said, his favorite subjects were mathematics and science so he focused on these two things to try and achieve his goal.

In 1996, Pichop studied at the International Relations Institute of Cameroon, where he obtained his master's degree.

In 1998, his dream of coming to America to study finally came true and he took full advantage of it.

Pichop came to Oklahoma after being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a doctorate in agricultural and applied economics at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Since then his main motivation has been making a difference in people's lives and passing on the teachings he received.

Pichop has been working at OCCC full time since 2008. He serves as professor of business and economics, co-director of the Center of Excellence, International Business, and department chair for the business program.

Prior to coming to OCCC, Pichop worked for the World Vegetable Center as an economist and agribusiness specialist.

One thing Pichop wants students to know is the importance of business skills, he said.

"A lot of students believe that they do not need business until they graduate," Pichop said. "After graduation, they go on to work in an organization. All organizations use the same business principles whether they are for profit or not."

"Business skills are valuable no matter what field you decide to go in," he said. "Learning these before you go into the real world will help out tremendously."

RICHARD STEERE SAYS FAITH IS MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF LIFE

Automotive prof leads by example, co-worker says

ALISE SQUIRIC
News Writing Student

Growing up in Chicago, automotive Professor Richard Steere said he didn't click with any of the typical social groups in high school. Instead he found his place with automobiles.

While pumping gas at a Citgo station that also offered a repair shop, Steere said he realized he had a true passion for cars.

When tow trucks would bring in cars that wouldn't run, Steere would try to figure out the problem and fix it. Often he succeeded.

"It created a sense of accomplishment," Steere said. And the rest, as they say, is history.

After 16 years at OCCC, Steere said he still has a passion for what he does.

Upon graduating from a high school just north of Chicago, Steere attended West Texas A & M University in Canyon, Texas, majoring in Industrial Technology.

From teaching in Chicago Training Center to New Mexico Engineering College and now OCCC, Steere has traveled to wherever General Motors needed his expertise.

Along with being an educated and experienced

professor, Steere is a great inspiration to his students.

Brad Walker, automotive technologies professor, said Steere was his favorite professor during his time as an OCCC student.

"... And the top two favorite teachers I've ever had," he said.

Walker said the reason he wanted the teaching job at OCCC was so he could work with Steere and continue to learn from him.

Although Steere enjoys his job at OCCC, he said it is not the most important thing in the world to him.

Steere has a wife and five daughters that make up his "blended family."

Partly because his wife is from a Hispanic background, he said the Hispanic culture is very important to him and his family.

Because of the culture he has kept up in his family, along with a strong faith, Steere said, his oldest daughter felt a calling to become a full-time missionary in Guatemala.



Richard Steere

He said he has enjoyed visiting her there and loved meeting the children his daughter works with.

"Faith comes first and then family and career," Steere said about his priorities in life.

"Faith is the most important thing — not just talking about it, but living it in one's family and community."

Walker said Steere leads by example and does not just expect excellence from his team, but shows it and it rubs off on everyone else.

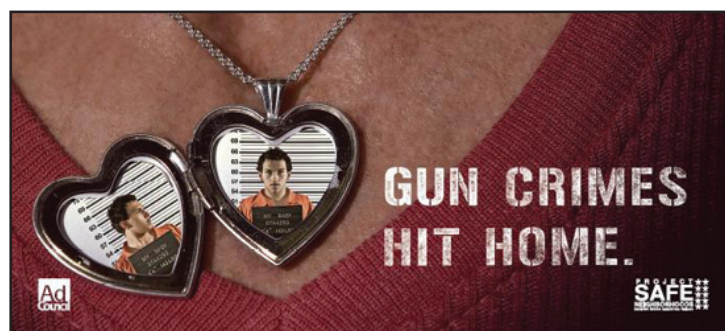
"He lives what he speaks," Walker said.

Steere said that is why he gives back to his community by doing what he loves and educating the students and technicians at OCCC.



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Crowd gathers for child development conference

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

Milking imaginary cows, flapping faux buzzard wings, and singing along to songs about a big red dog was just another day's work for more than a hundred child development professionals who recently gathered at OCCC's Child Development Center and Lab School for an annual conference.

The sixth annual Early Childhood Conference was held May 15 and 17 at the CDCLS, located off-campus at 6500 S. Land Ave.

Teacher Heather Pierce, who helped organize the conference this year, said the event's purpose is to provide "an opportunity for child care providers in central Oklahoma to learn and grow as professionals in the early childhood field."

"We want them to understand the vital importance of having an education, not only for their personal and professional benefit, but also for the benefit of the children and families they work with each day," she said.

More than 20 different learning sessions were held during the two-day conference, many of them taught by CDCLS faculty and staff members.

One of those sessions, "Music and Movement," was hosted by CDCLS Teacher Constance Pidgeon and Teaching Assistant Ramey Price on May 17.

"Music is a language and children are oriented to learning language," Pidgeon said. "Music evokes movement and children delight in and require movement for their growth and development."

Pidgeon said music stimulates abstract thinking, empathy, and mathematical skills and also transmits culture because songs, rhymes, and dances are passed down from one generation to the next.

As part of their demonstration, Pidgeon and Price, also



PHOTOS BY WHITNEY KNIGHT/PIONEER

Ramey Price, Child Development Center and Lab School teaching assistant, dances with teacher Constance Pidgeon as part of a demonstration at the 2012 Early Childhood Conference. The CDCLS welcomes child development professionals from around the state for the conference, which is held every year.

a licensed Zumba instructor, sang and danced to children's songs, including "Did You Feed My Cow?" by Ella Jenkins.

Called a "response song," the bovine ballad required audience members to nod their heads, milk an imaginary cow and flap their arms like buzzard wings.

"Kids love it," Pidgeon said, as the audience laughed at the silly words and movements.

Another song, a child-friendly take on "99 Bottles of Beer," featured Clifford the Big Red Dog and his dog bones, counting down from five bones that made the pup "smile, Clifford, smile" to no bones, making him "sad, so sad."

"Children are naturally active, so channeling it into some music and movement or some

“Music is a language and children are oriented to learning language.”

—CONSTANCE PIDGEON
CDCLS TEACHER

kind of an exercise is perfect," Pidgeon said.

Several employees at the CDCLS are involved with planning the conference, Pierce said.

"We start planning for it the day after that year's conference concludes," she said.

This year, Pierce said, all of that hard work paid off.

"It was a great success."

"When you can reach that many early childcare providers with professional and practical information, you help a lot of children," she said.

For more information about the CDCLS, contact the center at 405-682-7561 or visit www.occc.edu/childdev/.



Audience members at the 2012 Early Childhood Conference laugh during a dancing exercise. The CDCLS welcomes child development professionals from around the state for the conference, which is held every year.

OCCC ALUMNI LOOK FORWARD TO JOBS, FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

OCCC graduates take off to the future

JEREMY CLOUD
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Cheers, whistles and dozens of names rang out in counterpoint to the strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” as OCCC’s graduating class of 2012 filed into the Cox Convention Center Auditorium.

Before the ceremony, Alissa Thompson, who graduated with an associate degree in biology, said she felt nervous.

“I’m a disabled vet and I suffered amnesia in Iraq. So I ... have no memory of my high school graduation. This is like graduating for the first time.”

Despite her nervousness, Thompson encouraged others considering college to “go for it” and offered a bit of advice.

“Make sure you give yourself enough time to study and mix up your classes. Don’t take all the hard ones at once.”

Kenneth Meador, political science graduate, said he enjoyed

his time at OCCC. “It was great. O-Trip is a great school. Enjoy it while you can.”

Meador said he felt good about graduating.

“It’s been a long road for me. I dropped out of high school when I was 15. [Graduation] is a big deal — something I thought I’d never do.”

The students and family weren’t the only ones enjoying the festive air. Debra Vaughn, Student Employment Services director, said she was excited for the graduates.

“Every year when this evening happens, you see the students you’ve worked with and you know how hard they’ve worked,” Vaughn said. “So this is just a fun time. I just can’t stop laughing because I’m happy for the students.”

Student Life Director Erin Logan said for a lot of OCCC’s students, graduation is “a new beginning.”

“But it’s also an end of a chapter that’s starting a life that will change the history of their families forever. It’s just an amazing experience to be a part of.”

The celebratory air held as students took their seats for opening remarks and the commencement address given by U.S. Representative Tom Cole. Cole started his address by saying he was pleased to get the invitation to speak, but had a question:

“Why would you want to listen to a politician at graduation? Polls are now showing that members of Congress have a 6 percent approval rating among the public. That means we look way up to used car



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC’s graduates file into the main ceremony area to take their seats and await receiving their diplomas.

I dropped out of high school when I was 15. [Graduation] is a big deal — something I thought I’d never do.”

—KENNETH MEADOR
OCCC GRADUATE

moment at which you’re graduating is a difficult moment.

“It’s a time of war. War is with us. Right now, others are shielding and protecting us. It’s a uniquely competitive time. As Fareed Zakaria, commentator on international relations said, ‘it’s not that America is getting worse, it’s simply the rise of the rest.’ The rest of the world is adopting the economic, social, governmental and progressive practices that have made us great. We’re working now to keep up,” he said.

Cole said it’s also a time of pessimism. “For the first time since the Depression, if you ask a parent if the world will be a better place for their children than for them, the answer will be no.”

While it’s impossible to promise an “easy path” or that “our country will always make the right decisions,” Cole said, “our history as a nation is one of getting the big things right.”

After the address,

salesmen.”

Cole used humor throughout his speech to soften the blow of his message. “The time in which you live is a difficult one. The mo-

and shouting for each other’s success.”

Emmanuel Gyebi, nursing graduate, said he enjoyed the graduation ceremony.

“Every last little bit of it. The speeches were straight to the point, and everything was fun.”

Gyebi said he was “absolutely excited” to receive his degree. “I’m just happy to be done. I really am.”

Graduate Athena Eggleston said she enjoyed the commencement though it “was a little long-winded. But it was humorous enough to hold my interest.”

Gyebi said students thinking of taking classes, “will not regret it. It’s one of the best decisions anybody can make in their life, to enroll. If anybody’s waiting, I would say go ahead and do it.”



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

U.S. Representative Tom Cole addresses an audience of OCCC graduates May 11 during commencement.

SPORTS

Making time to get fit



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Conie Vazquez works out to Latin-inspired music in a Zumba class instructed by Sandi Price on May 31 in the OCCC Wellness Center. Zumba classes are \$20 per month or a Summer Group Fitness Pass is \$35 to current students. For more information on all fitness classes, visit www.occc.edu/rf/Wellness-Classes.

SPORTS | OCCC Recreation and Fitness Center to offer summer programs

Fitness classes offered for all ages

MITCHELL RICHARDS

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

With the summer session here, the OCCC Recreation and Fitness Center is ready to begin its summer programs.

The center offers several programs such as camps and fitness classes for adults and children alike.

"The main thing we have going on during the summer is our youth camps," said Eric Watson, Sports and Recreation specialist at the Fitness Center.

Watson said beginning in June and going through July, OCCC will host multiple week-long youth sports camps.

Flag football, soccer and cheerleading are just some of the sports being offered to children ages 6 through 14, he said.

Camps are \$65 per week per child, Watson said.

OCCC also has a world class indoor swimming and diving complex that offers an array of swimming and diving lessons, including lessons for toddlers beginning at 18 months old, and adult intramural sports, Watson said.

The majority of student activities won't start up again until the fall, he said.

In the past, the college has offered many sports including basketball, soccer, laser tag, swimming and mini-golf

"The main thing we have going on during the summer is our youth camps."

—ERIC WATSON

SPORTS AND RECREATION SPECIALIST

as intramural activities, Watson said.

For the athlete who needs to be challenged a little more, Watson said OCCC also has a Triathlon Club that offers training plans, group workouts and team camaraderie.

Members pay an annual fee that covers the cost of swimming, biking and running clinics, and training and nutrition seminars, he said.

As always, OCCC students are able to use the Aquatic and Wellness Centers as well as the gymnasium free of charge with a current student ID.

The hours of operation for each area vary day-to-day during the summer, and a detailed list of hours is posted on www.occc.edu/rf.

For a complete list of camps and classes offered as well as pricing details, the Recreation and Fitness office has booklets available just outside their offices, call 405-682-7860 or visit the website at www.occc.edu/rf.

Wellness class listings are at www.occc.edu/rf/Wellness-Classes

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

June 4 - June 8: Youth Basketball Camp. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

June 9: OCCC Super Sprint Triathlon. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/super-sprint.

June 11 - June 15: Youth Soccer Camp. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

June 18 - June 22: Youth Baseball Camp. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

June 25 - June 29: Youth Golf Camp. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

All event news is due
Monday by 5 p.m. for
inclusion in the next issue.
Email
sportswriter@occc.edu.

Have sports news you
want to share?
email Mitchell at:
sportswriter@occc.edu,
call 405-682-1611, ext.
7676

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Stolen purse, dinged car door, disturbance reported

JOEY STIPEK

Special Assignments/Police Reporter
staffwriter4@occc.edu

A few incidents on OCCC's main campus kept officers busy during the end of the spring semester.

On April 30, Teresa Whited reported she lost her purse in the women's restroom near Arts and Humanities Entry 1. Whited told campus police that, on March 9, she left her purse — black with pink stitching and the words "Baby Phat" embroidered on the front — in the women's restroom located just inside of Arts and Humanities Entry 1.

According to the report, Whited reportedly hung her purse on the hook inside the door of a bathroom stall, then left the restroom, forgetting her purse. She said she didn't realize she had left her purse behind until later that afternoon.

Whited told officers she didn't return to campus immediately for the purse because she had been running late for work.

The purse wasn't recovered and in a phone interview, Whited said she has had to deal with identity theft as a result of the incident.

"I've had suspicious activity on my debit card as a result of losing my purse," she said.

On May 2, Alicia Brown reported to OCCC Campus Police that her car had been struck. According to the report, Brown stated she had parked her car in parking lot D and gone to class. When she returned from class she found white paint on the door and door handle of her 2012 black Jeep Compass.

Security Officer Gordon Nelson drove to the location of the incident and took photographs of two white scuff marks on the driver door.

Information on a second individual listed in Nel-

son's report was redacted because, according to the report, there is an active ongoing investigation.

Attempts to reach Brown were unsuccessful as of press time.

On May 12, OCCC Police Officer Jimmie Watts received a report of a disturbance in the library between two people.

According to the report, upon Watts' arrival, both parties were interviewed.

Watts determined Jeremy Dwaine Williamson and another person were both non-students and asked both parties to leave campus.

Attempts to reach Williamson for comment were unsuccessful as of press time.

Information on the second person involved was redacted before the report was given to the Pioneer because "no arrest were made in this case," said Media Relations Coordinator Cordell Jordan in an email.

Budget: Employees will see raises after three years

Continued from page 1

Sechrist said.

"We now feel comfortable in using all new revenue for (ongoing) expenses," he said.

"Unanticipated needs, opportunities and emergencies that may arise next year will be funded using our carryover (savings) rather than from new revenue."

Boyd said the recommenda-

tion for raises does not necessarily mean more funding is coming to the college but that the budget supports the ability to sustain raises in the long term — something the college wasn't sure of in past years.

"While there might have been a margin for pay raises, the uncertainty of where we were going [with the budget] in 2013 meant there wasn't sound enough information to

make that call, to commit to a recurring cost," Boyd said.

"That's why we did the one-time stipend.

"There was a slight ray of hope that with the turnaround in the state economy there might be some money for higher education, but that just didn't hold," he said.

"But I think that as a result of the college being good stewards of the money we've had,

we're going to have enough revenue to cover a recurring increase in salary, despite a downturn in 2013 as far as our enrollment."

Boyd said the tuition increase will not be used to fund the raises.

That increase will be used to cover rising costs and help the college maintain its current programs.

"Contrary to what you may

hear on the news, we have been experienced inflation this last decade," Boyd said

Costs to the college are increasing. It costs more to operate.

"So [the tuition increase] is not about paying for teacher's salaries. It's about allowing us to maintain the same level of service without having to cut any programs or services."

Trees: President said plan will give campus university feel

Continued from page 1

are Shumard red oaks, a tree native to Texas that should be able to withstand Oklahoma's scorching summers, Phillips said.

The plan is still in the beginning stages, with more trees to follow. An upcoming project includes a tree-lined walkway from the Arts Festival area straight through campus to the John Massey Center.

Completed plantings include all the trees that currently surround the campus: to the west along Interstate 44, the east side of campus along May Avenue, and along SW 74th Street on the north side of OCCC.

The south side of campus, separating the grounds from surrounding residential areas, has seen the planting of evergreens that provide a screen between the campus and nearby houses.

President Paul Sechrist spoke highly of the project.

"We wanted to give the campus a university feel," he said.

Sechrist said he also wants students to have a pleasant walk to and from class.

The idea of a leafy park-like environment has its appeal to student Emily Cooper.

"It would be really nice to walk around campus on a nice day or in between classes and the trees make it feel like a park," Cooper said. "Whoever is responsible should be called The Lorax, because it is all very beautiful."

Sechrist said Ben Brown, OCCC's Board of Regents chairman, was instrumental in getting the trees on campus and helping build a "climate conducive to learning."

It was Brown who brought the idea to have a more university feel to the campus to the attention of the board,

he said.

Sechrist said he wants the students to "want to be here."

Phillips said the Performing Arts

Theater currently being constructed on campus also is a part of the Master Site Plan and will include the planting of a number of trees around it as well.

OCCC CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

To see the full
40-page plan, visit
the Online Pioneer
at www.occc.edu/pioneer.



CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Map quest



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Systems Librarian, Dana Tuley-Williams and Library Technical Services Assistant Kristi Hendricks sort maps of Asia in OCCC 's library May 29. The library has current maps available for use within the library.

COMMUNITY | OTA students average 89 percent

Students exceed pass rate

MOLLIE HAWKINS
News Writing Student

The news is good for 2011 Occupation Therapist Assistant graduates taking their national exam for the first time.

They exceeded the national pass rate by 5 percentage points, with 89 percent passing at OCCC versus 84 percent nationally. In 2011 18 students took the exam and 16 passed the first time.

OTA Professor Tom Kraft sounded proud.

"We are pleased with our graduate performance on the national Certification Examination regarding first-time test takers," said Kraft, now serving as acting dean of the Health Professions division.

The 2011 grads surpassed their predecessors from the class of 2010, when 82 percent passed the first time, compared with a national pass rate of 84 percent.

They did much better than the class of 2009, when 77 percent of OCCC grads passed on the first try, compared to 86 percent nationally.

Kraft would like to see 100 percent of OCCC graduates pass the test the first time, as they did in 2007.

Student scores have been rising since their fall below the national average in 2009.

OCCC student Gretchen Wilson is preparing to earn her occupational therapy degree now. She

“ We are pleased with our graduate performance on the national Certification Examination regarding first-time test takers.”

—TOM KRAFT

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

knows the test will be tough.

"I participates in class activities and case studies and also attend review sessions with other students in the program," said Wilson, explaining how she is preparing.

Graduates must pass the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapist Exam (NBCOT) in order to become a licensed occupational therapist.

However the NBCOT records only show the score a student receives the first time they take the test. Most students successfully pass with later attempts at NBCOT.

"Please note that a majority of the test-takers pass when they take the test a second time," said Janet Perry, OCCC's director of Institutional Effectiveness.

According to the Occupational Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, a student may take the test as many times as necessary. However, there is a 45-day waiting period in between test dates.

In their professional lives, occupational therapist

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

OCCC Hosts Kids' Sports and Academic Classes

OCCC will be hosting summer fitness and scholastic programs for adults and children in elementary and middle school. Beginning June 4, programs such as College for Kids, Fit Kids, Camp Rec and Teen Xtreme are to take place. For specific timings, pricing and other information, contact the Sports and Recreation office at 405-682-7860.

OCCC's Semester Begins

OCCC's summer semester begins June 5. To sign up and for other information, contact Enrollment and Student Services at 405-682-1611, ext. 7784.

OCCC Hosts Leadership Workshop

OCCC, in partnership with the Moore Chamber of Commerce, will be presenting the General Leadership Workshop from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., June 6, at 305 W. Main Street in Moore. The registration fee is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. To register, contact Francine Gissy at fgissy@occc.edu, call 405-682-7856 or visit www.occc.edu/corporatelearning.

Oklahoma Film Institute Cinema Clinics

The Oklahoma Film Institute at OCCC will be presenting the Summer 2012 OFI Cinema Clinics June 7 through June 30. Held in the Visual and Performing Arts Center, clinics include production, script writing, direction, cinematography and editing. Tuition for each session is \$300. To enroll, for specific timings and dates, and other information, call 405-682-7847.

OCCC's Feature Film Debuts

OCCC's first ever feature film, "Just Crazy Enough," will be debuting as part of the dead-CENTER Film Festival at 4 p.m., June 9, at Harkins Bricktown Cinema 16 (150 E Reno). Tickets are \$10. For purchasing and other information, visit www.deadcenterfilm.org.

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

Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu.

assistants help those who suffer from mental, physical, developmental and emotional disabilities. The therapists will use treatments that develop, recover, or maintain the daily tasks involved in their client's life.

"We require our students to have a minimum GPA of 2.5 in order to be accepted into the program," said Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Greg Gardner.

Applicants also must score of 86 or higher on the Standard Compass Reading placement test score or minimum score of 77 on the College Entry-Level Placement Test Accuplacer Reading placement test.

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.

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MISCELLANEOUS

BABY ITEMS FOR SALE: Fisher Price infant to toddler blue baby rocker with activity bar, barely used for only \$20. Slightly used clean tan Jumperoo with all accessories only \$50. Bright Starts baby activity gym, opened but never been used, only \$15. My baby was pretty spoiled and barely used these items. Feel free to make me an offer. Email wickitiwack@yahoo.com for more info.

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

USA Presidents Word Search

Find and circle all of the United States Presidents that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell an Abraham Lincoln quotation.

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

WASHINGTON	TAYLOR	B HARRISON	KENNEDY
J ADAMS	FILLMORE	MCKINLEY	L JOHNSON
JEFFERSON	PIERCE	T ROOSEVELT	NIXON
MADISON	BUCHANAN	TAFT	FORD
MONROE	LINCOLN	WILSON	CARTER
J Q ADAMS	A JOHNSON	HARDING	REAGAN
JACKSON	GRANT	COOLIDGE	G H W BUSH
VAN BUREN	HAYES	HOOVER	CLINTON
W HARRISON	GARFIELD	F D ROOSEVELT	G W BUSH
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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDY THE PAST

ESL students visit Oklahoma's historical sights

CHASE L. BLANKENSHIP
News Writing Student

Looking at the past is one way to help international students understand the culture of the state where they currently live.

That's one reason why six students in the English as Second Language bridge program spent a lovely spring day on a field trip to the Sulphur Springs area, home of the Chickasaw Nation.

On April 10 the students learned about the Chickasaw way of life and how the Indians lived off the land.

"We are going to have a great day," said Professor Abra Figueroa, director of the English as a Second Language program, at the beginning of the trip.

The ESL bridge group first stopped at "Little Niagara" in Sulphur, which is a natural spring that flows through the Chickasaw National Park.

The students were able to take pictures by the spring and explore the nearby trails.

"This area reminds me a lot of where I grew up in Korea. The scenery is fairly similar," said student Meesook Shin.

The students then made their way to the Chickasaw Cultural Center, also located in Sulphur. The Center is a museum evolving around the Chickasaw heritage and traditions.

Upon arrival at the museum, the group met up with their tour guide, Judy Donaho.

Before the tour began the students were welcomed through song and dance, followed by an invitation to participate in these traditional Chickasaw activities. Donaho then took the students through the museum and told stories of the Chickasaw Nation.

During the tour, the students first learned about the history of the Chickasaw people, and then they were able to examine and experience the actual living conditions that the Chickasaws knew in the 17th century.

While standing on an elevated bridge, the students overlooked a cluster of tribal homes.

"The part that I liked most was the bridge, staying up there," said Jorge Castillo, a student from Mexico. "You can see nature and you can imagine how the Indians lived."

"Being able to overlook the whole village from the bridge was a way of seeing the "big picture," he said.

The students made the final stop of their field trip in Davis, at the Arbuckle Historical Museum. This museum was formerly the Davis Santa Fe Depot. Records indicate the train station was operational as early as 1908.

Now a museum, one can find artifacts such as medicine, crafts, tools, clothes and railroad memorabilia.

Students were able to grasp the racial segregation of public accommodations in Oklahoma before the Civil Rights movement, as well as the operation of

“ This area reminds me a lot of where I grew up in Korea. The scenery is fairly similar.”

—MEESOOK SHIN
OCCC ESL STUDENT

an early 20th century train station. Toilets and drinking fountains bore labels that read "whites only" and "colored."

From the artifacts and their history, the students were able to gain knowledge and a perspective about Davis and the surrounding lands.

"I have never liked museums before, but I loved this one," said student Fikirte Hagos from Ethiopia. "It was different."

Seokmun "Jacob" Song, Hyundu Kim, and Eunsook Seo also participated in the field trip.



PHOTOS COURTESY ABRA FIGUEROA

English as a second language students Fikirte Hagos, Chase Blankenship (News Writing student), Meesook Shin, Seokmun Sona, Hyundu Kim, Eunsook Seo and Jorge Castillo pose for a picture, April 10 at the Chickasaw National Park.



Members of the OCCC ESL group cross the Little Niagara near Sulphur, Okla. The annual trip to Sulphur includes a visit to the Chickasaw Nation and the Arbuckle Historic Museum.