

## INSIDE

### PIONEER ONLINE

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### EDITORIAL

#### MIDDLE CLASS STRUGGLES TO FUND SCHOOL

Staff Writer Erin Peden says more funding options need to be available to middle class students. Read her thoughts inside.

OPINION, p. 2

### CAMPUS LIFE

#### LOOKING FOR FUN THIS SUMMER?

Oklahoma City offers a variety of ways to have a good time during the hot summer months. Turn inside for a listing of those activities.

NEWS, p. 6

### SPORTS

#### SPIN YOUR WAY TO GOOD HEALTH

OCCC is offering a 40-minute Spinning class this summer. Space is limited so enroll now at [www.occc.edu/rcs](http://www.occc.edu/rcs). See inside for more information.

SPORTS, p. 8

### CAMPUS LIFE

#### SEMSA TO HOST CPR TRAINING

Turn to page 10 to get all the details on CPR training classes that will be offered Friday, June 15 at OCCC.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

# PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JUNE 8, 2012

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

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## Splash!



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Antonio, 9, launches off a diving board into the pool below on May 31 in OCCC's Aquatic Center. OCCC Summer Camp kids get swim time as one of many physical activities. For more information on the camp, visit [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu).

## Library website offers Films on Demand feature

EMILY MAYES

News Writing Student

"Building a Dinosaur from a Chicken," "The Real Reason for Brains" and a video collection of speeches given by President John F. Kennedy are just a few of the topics available through the library website's Films on Demand.

Students can research a variety of subjects through Films on Demand, Librarian Amanda Lemon said.

Films on Demand features a large library of educational videos in a wide range of subjects, from humanities to business and from health to mathematics, she said.

"I tell students to look at it like an academic-minded Netflix," Lemon said. "It has short educational films and documentaries."

Films on Demand has been featured on the library's website for the last year and allows students to access videos both on and off campus, Lemon said.

The service is free to students through the library's website.

Lemon said Films on Demand allows

### STUDENT OPINION TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN MAKING SITE REVISIONS

See FILMS page 9

## OCCC website up and running with new look

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

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

Visitors to OCCC's website might notice a few changes — not only in the layout, but in the overall design.

The new look and layout are the result of a lot of research, said John Richardson, online marketing coordinator.

"Before there were any pictures, any renderings, we went through months of conversations and interviews and focus groups," Richardson said.

"We asked people to navigate our old website and find things. When we saw they had difficulty, we decided to take a different approach to help them get where they

“

We asked people to navigate our old website and find things. When we saw they had difficulty, we decided to take a different approach to help them get where they needed to go.”

—JOHN RICHARDSON

ONLINE MARKETING COORDINATOR

needed to go.”

The new site focuses on students, both prospective and current, said Paula Gower, Marketing and Public Relations director.

Gower said features designed specifically for students include a sidebar listing of

degrees offered by OCCC on the homepage, and toolbars at the top of the page with menus for financial aid, student services, and labs and centers.

The new look, which features a broad multi-color scheme and uses a variety of fonts and effects, was designed to be more engaging, she said.

"We want you to come to the page, and be more visually interested in the page itself," Gower said. "People tend to look at a website in a different way than they look at print," she said.

"So in order to guide the eye through the page, bits of color and design are placed in different spots, to lead a person through

See WEBSITE page 9

# OPINION

**EDITORIAL** | Rising cost of tuition presents new set of problems for some students

## Middle class struggles to fund school

With the rising price of college, many options are available to assist students in paying for their higher education. This comes in the form of grants, loans, scholarships, etc. While these forms of financial aid are helpful, some students still find themselves struggling to pay for college without having to start their lives out in debt. Perhaps the people who understand this best are the middle class.



**ERIN PEDEN**

For example, students who come from a background of wealth may be able to pay for their college in full with no financial aid help whatsoever while a student with significantly less income may have their college completely or mostly paid for by grants and scholarships which they don't have to pay back.

So what about the middle class?

It is true. Students claiming to be middle class are able to apply for scholarships and loans just like anyone else. However, this can sometimes prove to be a difficult task. Perhaps you were in the top percent of your high school class, making good grades and taking part in extracurricular activities. You apply to the school of your dreams and get accepted. One problem: You can't afford it.

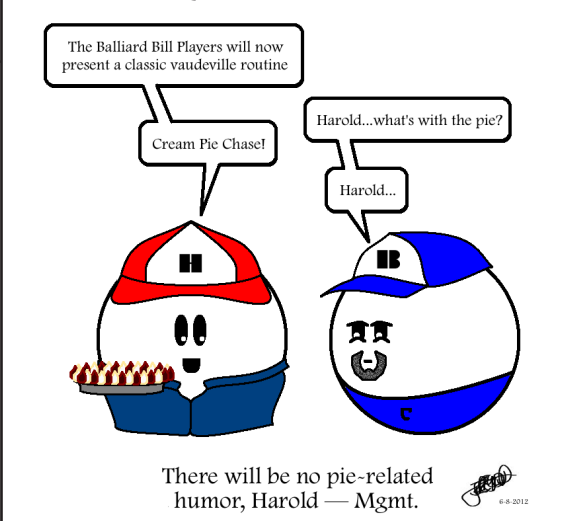
Many middle class people face this issue. Despite being a top-grade student, they do not qualify for enough student loan money or any at all in order to make their dreams a reality. Many are forced to compromise simply because the government tells them they make enough to be able to afford college on their own.

I believe there is a great flaw in this system. When most people think of the middle class, they sometimes think about students living with their parents while attending college. While a student may in fact be living with parents, this does not mean those parents are helping them pay for an education. Students who commute to school may choose to live at home because they can either not afford campus living, go to a community college, or they live close enough that it is more convenient to live at home.

These students may be working one or two part-time jobs while going to school full-time in order to be able to afford their education. Should they be penalized just because they live with their parents who the government claims makes enough money to help pay for their education?

Or what about adults who have spouses and families trying to further their education? Maybe they are completing a degree they never finished or taking classes in order to be able to make more money at their current job. Some of these people are working full-time, going to school full-time, and trying to

### BALLIARD BILL



JEREMY CLOUD

raise a family all at the same time but, because the government interferes, they may be having a hard time affording their education.

So how does the middle class pay for college? The answer is a complicated one. I believe middle class students are having to get creative and go above and beyond in order to find ways to finance their education. I know from personal experience what it is like racking up as many scholarships as possible, combining it with financial aid, and still not being able to afford my school of choice. I'm not saying the middle class should automatically get a free ride when it comes to education, but people have other things to pay for and shouldn't have to sacrifice where they want to attend school. I think the government should take all things into consideration before deciding someone has enough money to pay for college.

—ERIN PEDEN  
STAFF WRITER

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR** | Demetra Triggs found she had been named in an Online Pioneer crime report from 2007 after Googling her name

## Former student hopes to clarify her part in a past incident

*(Editor's note: After a former OCCC student saw where she was named in a crime report posted to the Online Pioneer website in April 2007, she asked the Pioneer to run this letter in an effort to clarify her position on that day.)*

### To the Editor:

Even though this is a situation in the past, I would like to state my stance of what I did say.

That statement that I made was an example of (what could occur) when people jump into an argument without knowing the details. I stated that that is how people get shot. I was making an example ... not trying to play out the example.

A group of men in the class started to come toward

me as if protecting [the person I was arguing with] and this is when I made the statement.

(I) did not think about the accusation of shot representing a gun, especially on a college campus, because during this time students at other colleges had used a gun to harm others ... So I was not thinking, because if I was, I would have never expressed anything dealing with (the words) shot or gun. My example was taken into [various] avenues. However, the outcome was I lost that English class, had to retake (it), (but) still continued as a student there and graduated with my degree. [It was determined] I was not a threat.

I set in the front of the class (then) the same way I do today, because I want to make sure I do not miss anything. Being an adult going back to school, (I) need to fully hear and understand all course work.

I let things build up and I got tired of [another person's behavior] and responded ... but at no time was I a threat. I spoke my mind about [a professor's] behavior toward me in class.

[I gave] an example of how people get shot — by jumping into a situation, not knowing what had really happen. Had the men known, maybe they would have stayed in their seats.

—DEMETRA TRIGGS

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**Opinions** expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

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](mailto:editor@occc.edu) with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).

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## COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**PRODUCT REVIEW** | When you buy a pair of TOMS, you enable a child to get a pair

### Shoe company makes donation

“One for One” is a phrase that captured the hearts of many in 2006 when TOMS was first launched. Six years later, those hearts remain captured.

TOMS is a company that designs and sells products such as apparel, eyewear and other accessories. The most popular of the company’s products, however, are its shoes.

Why bring up the topic now? In all honesty, this writer got her first pair a mere few weeks ago – size 6 ½ Black Crochet Women’s Classics. They were tricky to locate because of their popular demand, but it was love at first sight.

Inspired by the simple yet traditional Argentine alpargata, TOMS shoes are often casually flat. Their seemingly effortless appearance and absolute comfort make them perfect for just about anyone, anyday.

With women, men, youth and tiny TOMS, there’s an ensemble of looks bound to satisfy all sorts of likings and occasions. Collections also include boots, wedges, vegan and even wedding-styled shoes, plus much more.

You’re probably thinking, “Another girl obsessing over shoes ... Typical.”

They’re more than just that, though. TOMS shoes change lives. With every pair purchased, TOMS will give a pair to a child in need. Hundreds of thousands of new shoes have already been handed out, not only nationally but worldwide. Children who have never had the option to not go barefoot, now do.

**ONE FOR ONE**  
TOMS + ELEMENT COLLABORATION



It’s the ultimate feel-good buy as it will comfort both your feet and your heart — from soles to souls.

Pricing ranges about anywhere from \$30 to \$80, plus or minus some depending on its type. A lot of people find the higher figures off-putting.

However, it doesn’t take long to realize that you aren’t only buying one pair of new shoes just for you but that you are also buying a pair of new shoes for a child who hasn’t owned any before. Then, suddenly, it’s anything but off-putting. One purchase results in at least two smiles, guaranteed.

For purchasing and further information about the movement, visit [www.toms.com](http://www.toms.com).

**Rating: A+**

—NADIA J. ENCHASSI  
COMMUNITY WRITER

**BOOK REVIEW** | Novel sure to make readers think

### ‘Amped’ a great summer sci-fi read

Finding something to read over the summer is pretty easy. There are lots of lists. Well, add one more to the stack: “Amped” by Daniel H. Wilson.

This near-future thriller takes an old sci-fi concept, the evolution of discrimination, and makes it exciting again. The question Wilson asks is simple: What happens when technological advances blur the line between what’s a tool, and what’s human evolution?

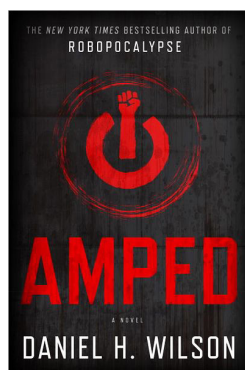
While the answers are varied, and the question ages old, the presentation sucks a reader in from page one, and keeps them turning the pages to the last.

The protagonist, Owen Gray, is one of the thousands of individuals who uses an “amp” — a tiny little brain implant that can cure everything from Alzheimer’s to ADD, or accelerate focus to create superhuman IQ. In Gray’s case, it prevents epileptic seizures. Or so he’s been led to believe.

When the IQ boosting properties of the amps come under fire in the world of the book, the Supreme Court rules that those who have amps are not a protected class. That first salvo sets off a domino of events that results in amps — also the name for people who use them — being stripped of their civil rights.

Gray’s life falls apart rapidly; a revelation from his father, who not only pioneered the amps but installed Owen’s, sends him fleeing to a trailer park in Oklahoma to uncover the truth about his implant and the war against amps in general.

Wilson’s writing style manages to convey the larger picture and keep the reader in step with the world around Gray, while still



staying true to the first-person clarity that keeps the book moving so fast.

One narrative trick that accomplishes this is the use of outside sources — like blogs, news releases, and court documents — in between chapters to get vital exposition in without breaking up the story by having the

characters discuss it.

With engaging characters, a blindingly fast plot, and enough twists and turns to keep even the savviest reader engaged, “Amped” is a top-notch read. But be warned: even as the plot provides sci-fi satisfaction, it also discusses the consequences of discrimination. Light reading it may be, but after all’s said and done, readers may be left with some weighty thoughts.

**Rating: A**

—JEREMY CLOUD  
EDITOR

## Financial Aid FACT\$

### The time to file for financial aid is now

Paying too much for tuition, fees, books, and supplies? If you are paying the full amount of your charges owed the college for these direct costs, then you should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

By filing the FASFA at [www.fasfa.gov](http://www.fasfa.gov), you are allowing the OCCC Financial Aid Office to determine your eligibility for grants, loans, and student work to help with your expenses. Be sure to list the OCCC Federal school code 010391 on the FASFA.

Students who file each year often receive more than enough funding to cover their direct expenses and have remaining funds available for other expenses such as transportation costs.

Sixty percent of OCCC students who file the FASFA each year are eligible for the maximum amount of Pell Grant for the number of credit hours they are taking each semester.

The support provided by financial assistance an eligible student receives from filing the FASFA plays a significant role enabling the student to attend OCCC and continue to pursue a certificate and/or degree.

To more fully understand financial assistance programs, and to answer many questions you may have about financial assistance at OCCC you are encouraged to visit the Financial Aid Office webpage at [www.occc.edu/financialaid](http://www.occc.edu/financialaid). Review the valuable information from the numerous topics on the menu. Visit the Financial Aid Office for paper copies of various Fact Sheets or to ask questions. Call us at 405-682-7525 or email [financialaid@occc.edu](mailto:financialaid@occc.edu). File the FASFA now to access the financial resources for which you may qualify if you attend OCCC.

If you are a new student or a continuing student for fall semester 2012, you are encouraged to file the 2012-2013 FASFA now to allow time for the Financial Aid Office to review your eligibility for assistance.

General eligibility criteria include: U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen; a high school diploma, GED, or meet state graduation requirements through homeschooling; be seeking a certificate or degree in a program eligible for Federal Title IV student aid; have a valid social security number; be enrolled as a regular student. Males must have registered for selective service between the ages of 18- to 25-years old. Students who have previously received Federal Title IV assistance must not be in default on a federal student loan or owe a repayment on a federal student aid grant. Additionally, you must have made satisfactory academic progress and continue to make progress based on criteria established by the Financial Aid Office consistent with Federal Title IV Regulations.

—HAROLD CASE  
STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES DEAN

# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

EAGLE ONE PIZZA SOARS ABOVE OTHER PIZZA JOINTS

## Veteran-owned restaurant serves heavenly pie

Three cheers for the red, white and blue — and mouth-watering pizza, too. Eagle One Pizza, a new southside Italian joint, recently made its nest at 11613 S. Western in Oklahoma City.

From its eagle-emblazoned logo to pizza boxes adorned with a star-spangled shield reminiscent of Captain America himself, Eagle One serves up incredible Italian food with an unmistakable American flair.

Don't worry — I'm not talking about those macaroni and cheese, bacon-topped atrocities big-time pizza chains try to pass off as authentic Italian chow.

I'm talking about true blue Italian goodness served up by a true blue American family.

The owner of Eagle One is a combat veteran, and that sense of pride, responsibility and patriotism is evident in everything from the amazing food to the squeaky clean floor.

For a relatively small restaurant, the menu is extensive. Eagle One offers a scrumptious array of Italian goods, including sandwiches, calzones, salads and, of course, pizza.

There are also numerous side items, including amazingly-seasoned garlic bread sticks and cinnamon bread to satisfy those with sweeter teeth.

Although there are many foods to choose from, it's hard to pass up the pizza because it is just so perfect.

For starters, it's cheap: large pizzas with a couple of toppings start at \$4.99, and you can snag a loaded-down speciality pizza for a dollar more.

Of course, price doesn't mean anything if it tastes like cardboard soaked in grease and sprinkled with cheese. But that's far from the case at Eagle One.

The crust is freshly-baked and cooked to perfection.

While you can choose what kind of crust you want at most pizza joints — and you can here as well — you normally don't get a say in what type of sauce that crust is subsequently smothered in.

At Eagle One, you actually get to choose from three different types of sauce: traditional marinara, alfredo or barbecue.

I decided to go the old-fashioned route and opted for the marinara sauce, and was



“ In this world of drive-thru windows and fast food, it's refreshing to meet a staff that seems to not only genuinely take pride in their food, but in their customers, too.”

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
ONLINE EDITOR

not disappointed.

The portions were perfect — no soggy crust here — and the seasonings absolutely heavenly.

You also get a smorgasbord of toppings to choose from, from fresh veggies like peppers and mushrooms, to meats like ham, chicken and pepperoni.

And if delicious, inexpensive pizza isn't enough reason to stop by Eagle One, the fact that the staff is among the nicest you will ever meet might be.

In this world of drive-thru windows and fast food, it's refreshing to meet a staff that seems to not only genuinely take pride in their food, but in their customers, too.

Much like the majestic creature for which it was named, Eagle One Pizza is a rare gem that soars high above the rest.

**RATING: A+**

—WHITNEY KNIGHT  
ONLINE EDITOR

### TOP 20 ALBUMS

Across all genres for the week of June 9  
www.billboard.com

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Born And Raised</i> -John Mayer  | 11. <i>American Idol: Season 11</i> -Phillip Phillips |
| 2. <i>21</i> -Adele  | 12. <i>Trespassing</i> -Adam Lambert                  |
| 3. <i>Blown Away</i> -Carrie Underwood                                       | 13. <i>Not Your Kind Of People</i> -Garbage           |
| 4. <i>Apocalyptic Love</i> -Slash Featuring Myles Kennedy & The Conspirators | 14. <i>Vows</i> -Kimbra                               |
| 5. <i>Up All Night</i> -One Direction  | 15. <i>Tailgates &amp; Tanlines</i> -Luke Bryan       |
| 6. <i>Tuskegee</i> -Lionel Richie  | 16. <i>Making Mirrors</i> -Gotye                      |
| 7. <i>The Hurt &amp; The Healer</i> -MercyMe                                 | 17. <i>Listen Up!</i> -Haley Reinhart                 |
| 8. <i>Once Upon Another Time (EP)</i> -Sara Bareilles                        | 18. <i>Glee: The Music: Season Three</i> -Soundtrack  |
| 9. <i>NOW 42</i> -Various Artists  | 19. <i>Blunderbuss</i> -Jack White                    |
| 10. <i>...Little Broken Hearts</i> -Norah Jones                              | 20. <i>My Head Is An Animal</i> -Of Monsters And Men  |

### TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of June 1 through June 3  
www.yahoo.com

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Snow White and the Huntsman</i>          | 10. <i>For Greater Glory</i>            |
| 2. <i>Men in Black 3</i>                       | 11. <i>The Hunger Games</i>             |
| 3. <i>Marvel's The Avengers</i>                | 12. <i>Bernie</i>                       |
| 4. <i>Battleship</i>                           | 13. <i>Moonrise Kingdom</i>             |
| 5. <i>The Dictator</i>                         | 14. <i>Think Like A Man</i>             |
| 6. <i>The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel</i>       | 15. <i>Crooked Arrows</i>               |
| 7. <i>What To Expect When You're Expecting</i> | 16. <i>The Pirates! Band of Misfits</i> |
| 8. <i>Dark Shadows</i>                         | 17. <i>Rowdy Rathore</i>                |
| 9. <i>Chernobyl Diaries</i>                    | 18. <i>21 Jump Street</i>               |
|  | 19. <i>Mirror Mirror</i>                |
|  | 20. <i>Dr. Seuss' The Lorax</i>         |



## NON-TRADITIONAL COURSES CAN SHORTEN TIME SPENT IN CLASS

# Fast-Track classes offered to OCCC students

ERIN PEDEN

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Many classes are offered at OCCC but most students do not know there are classes offered separate from traditional 16-week classes.

While students may have heard about Fast-Track class in passing, they may not be aware what it actually is.

Offered in three sessions per fall and spring semester, Fast-Track classes are four-to five-week classes in which a student attends once a week, generally on Saturdays, for the entire day.

Students can earn up to nine credit hours per 16-week semester from Fast-Track classes alone.

Director of Recruitment and Admissions Jon Horinek said Fast-Track classes can be beneficial to students trying to fit college into their schedules.

"If you work during the week or if the mix of online and evening classes isn't working for you, or you have a job, Fast-Track can be one way to take care of that,"

Horinek said.

"If students are working toward one of our competitive health care programs or trying to pick up a class as a prerequisite for another institution, Fast-Track can sometimes be the easiest way to get that credit knocked out as quickly as possible."

Psychology major Lorraine Casas said taking a Fast-Track class is something she would consider.

"I think it would be a pretty good idea for somebody who has work and children and wants to maintain somewhat of a social life," Casas said.

"I am definitely interested in trying it."

While Fast-Track classes are not necessarily more difficult than traditional classes, they are not recommended for first-time students because they are not yet used to the college environment, Horinek said.

"The only difference between [faster] classes is you're learning the same amount of material, just in a more compressed period of time," Horinek said.

"It really depends on your particular learning style as a student, what you think works best for you, and

“

I think it would be a pretty good idea for somebody who has work and children and wants to maintain somewhat of a social life."

—LORRAINE CASAS

PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

what's going to fit into your schedule."

Dayshawn Burns, Welcome Center attendant and psychology graduate who took Interpersonal Communications as a Fast-Track class with Professor Julie Corff, said she loved it and did not find the class to be any more difficult than a normal class.

"You have all the time there in class to complete assignments and study," Burns said.

"The next Saturday will come up really quick so just make sure you stay on top of [your work]."

For more information on Fast-Track or other classes offered at OCCC, call Recruitment and Admissions at 405-682-1611, ext. 7580, or check out the course catalog at [www.occc.edu/catalog/index.html](http://www.occc.edu/catalog/index.html).

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERS HELP TO STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENCY

## Expert says 6% of college students are alcohol dependent

SABAH KHAN

News Writing Student

For generations, alcohol has been a part of college culture.

Many students participate in partying every weekend, some a couple times throughout the week, and a few drink alcohol every day, said Jenna Howard, a licensed OCCC counselor.

"They feel the need for it, to escape," she said.

Howard said Student Support Services is available for students during the week and the staff is dedicated to helping students deal with personal issues they may be facing. The office is located on the first floor of the Main Building.

The counselors not only work to help with alcohol dependency, but also with other issues that students might be having trouble with, such as marital or family problems.

Drinking on the weekends or having a glass of wine a few nights throughout the week is not considered an addiction, Howard said.

It's addiction when you become dependent on the substance to escape from the bad in your life.

Although many don't realize it, 6 percent of college students meet the criteria for alcohol

“

Addictions are a need to get away from the stress in life."

—JENNA HOWARD

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COUNSELOR

dependency and 31 percent abuse alcohol to some degree.

Student Support Services offers short-term counseling for students to come in whenever they feel the need to talk to someone, Howard said.

"For alcohol addiction we usually refer students to some sort of long-term community group or program.

Sometimes Alcohol Anonymous is not enough for students who have a strong addiction.

"All addictions are similar," Howard said. "Addictions are a need to get away from the stress in life." Student Support Services will not turn away a student who needs help.

Howard said they encourage students to drop by anytime they have a serious issue or problem they need to discuss with a counselor.

For more information on addiction, call Howard at 405-682-1611, ext. 7621, or visit the website at [www.occc.edu/support](http://www.occc.edu/support), or for information go to [www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov](http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov).



## COOL DOWN FROM OKLAHOMA'S INTENSE HEAT

# Summer activities can be both fun and safe

BRANDON WILLIS

Online Writer

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Many members of the OCCC community this summer will try to escape the heat that accompanies Oklahoma summers. The Norman and Oklahoma City metro area offers a vast array of opportunities to be active and safe from the scorching summer.

Summertime is a great opportunity to go outside and be active with friends and family, however, since the record-setting summer of 2011 many are making plans to stay inside this round.

According to the National Weather Service, the summer of 2011 saw the driest four months in Oklahoma since 1921.

Without rain, or cool air for that matter, it was hard for Oklahomans to find activities to do inside where they would still get the same satisfaction as outdoors.

"Last summer was unbearable at times, especially since you couldn't even go to the park or even the zoo," said Ashley Cleveland, Public Relations major.

Fortunately for the OCCC community, there will be plenty of activities to take advantage of this summer.

To cool you off, Norman and Oklahoma City offer water parks and other options to keep you cool.

Of course there are many many more activities going on this summer. These are just some that can get you started in the right direction and to help you enjoy a heat-stroke-free summer.

## Doctor offers summer tips

### How to hydrate

- Drink plenty of fluid. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.
- If you must exercise, drink two to four glasses of cool, nonalcoholic fluids each hour.
- Avoid liquids with alcohol or sugar as they will cause you to lose more body fluid.
- Stay away from very cold drinks as they can cause stomach cramps.

Limit outdoor activity to morning and evening hours and wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Monitor young children and elderly people.

They are more sensitive to the heat exhaustion or heat stroke. A very important tip for summer health is to drink enough fluids -- hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

### Recognizing heat stroke

A body temperature above 103 degrees Fahrenheit,

red, hot dry skin and no sweating means that the body's sweating mechanism is failing and unable to cool down. If the person has a rapid strong pulse, headache, dizziness or nausea call 911 and get the victim to a shady area. Try to cool the victim using whatever methods you can like spraying them with cool water from a hose.

### How to alleviate a sunburn

There's no fast "cure" for sunburns, they may take days to heal. To treat the pain, take an over-the-counter pain reliever and keep the area moisturized

with aloe. Keep the skin cool by using cold compresses or taking a cold bath.

Keep in mind that there is no such thing as a "healthy tan." Unprotected sun exposure causes premature aging of the skin.

—DR. JENNIFER ASHTON  
WWW.CBS.COM



For a video on summer sun safety precautions by Videographer Casey Akard, scan this QR code.

## Metro cool spots great way to beat the heat

### Andy Alligator's Water Park — Norman

Andy Alligator's Water Park offers many options to guests. This water park includes a water playground as well as a lazy river and a current downstream for those who need more excitement according to travelok.com. The facility is open from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week and the admission is separate from Andy Alligator's Fun Park, according to travelok.com. Andy Alligators is located at 3300 Market Place Drive in Norman. For more information, visit [www.andyalligators.com](http://www.andyalligators.com) or call 405-321-7275.

### Wild West Water Works — Oklahoma City

One of the newest additions to the area is Wild West Water Works. Located on the campus of Frontier City, Wild West Water Parks is a place where you can get wet at any time. They have eight water slides and also activities for the kids, according to travelok.com. If you feel tired from all of the fun you can chill-out at their lounge. Admission is free with park admission and open Memorial Day weekend through Sept. 9. For more information, visit [www.frontiercity.com](http://www.frontiercity.com) or call 405-478-2140.

### Oklahoma City Museum of Art — Oklahoma City

Three-stories tall, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art is located at 415 Couch Drive, in the OKC downtown area. The collection consists of European and American art of the 19th and 20th century, according to travelok.com. The museum's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Members of the museum receive free admission, but adults are \$10, students and children ages 6 to 18 are \$8, members of the armed forces are \$5, and children under the age of five are free. For more information, visit [www.okcmoa.com](http://www.okcmoa.com) or call 405-236-3100.

### Sam Noble Museum of Natural History — Norman

Containing four billion years of history, the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, located on 2401 Chautauqua Ave. contains the world's largest Apatosaurus, according to travelok.com. The museum houses a Hall of Ancient Life, Hall of Natural Wonders, Hall of the People of Oklahoma, Gallery of World Cultures, Paleozoic Gallery and even a discovery room where children can unearth their own dinosaur bones. The hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admissions vary by age group and OU students get in free. For more information, visit [www.snomnh.ou.edu](http://www.snomnh.ou.edu) or call 405-325-4712.

### YMCA — Oklahoma City

The YMCA, located at 11801 South May Ave., is known as Earlywine Park. The YMCA provides everything you could possibly need when trying to get your body summertime fit. The YMCA offers group exercise classes, a gym, an indoor pool and a fitness area with television for entertainment, according to [ymcaokc.org](http://ymcaokc.org). Facility hours are from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. For a single YMCA membership, the cost is \$38.75 per month, for a family the cost is \$58.75 per month, for teenagers the cost is \$19.50 per month and for children up to age 12 the cost is \$9.75 per month. For more information, visit [ymcaokc.org](http://ymcaokc.org) or call 405-297-7777.



OCCC ABOUT TO GET ITS 99 MINUTES VIA FILM SHOT ON CAMPUS

# ‘Just Crazy Enough’ to premiere at deadCENTER

JOEY STIPEK

Special Projects/Crime Reporter  
staffwriter4@occc.edu

The world premiere of OCCC's first-ever feature film “Just Crazy Enough” will take place as part of the deadCENTER Film Festival at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at Harkins Bricktown Cinema 16 located at 150 E Reno in downtown Oklahoma City.

The family comedy stars actor Chris Kattan (“Saturday Night Live,” “Night at the Roxbury,” “The Middle”) with former Oklahoma City Thunder basketball player Desmond Mason in a supporting role.

Portions of the film were shot on the OCCC campus and Pioneer Lab Assistant Shawn Stawicki also acted in the film as Kattan's double.

There will be an additional showing of “Just Crazy Enough” at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 10, also at Harkins Bricktown Cinema 16.

Tickets are \$10 available online at deadCENTER's website or at the door, said “Just Crazy Enough” producer, screenwriter, and Film and Video Production Equipment Coordinator Sean Lynch.

Lynch said tickets will go fast with limited seating of 200 people for both showings.

“Once it sells out, it sells out, and we do think it's going to sell out,” he said.

Lynch said OCCC students, faculty and staff should come out to support the film.

“We are a film program here and we think we're putting out excellent students, excellent faculty,” he said.

Lynch said with the exception of Kattan, every crew member and actor in the movie is from Oklahoma.

“And 70 to 80 of those were students from this particular college.”

Lynch said a fun aspect of “Just Crazy Enough” is the way in which the campus is portrayed in the film. He said people who are familiar with OCCC will recognize the mental asylum in the movie.

“It will be fun to see how it plays up like an asylum. Nobody has ever questioned it's an asylum,” he said jokingly.

Lynch said he enjoyed working with Kattan, with whom he shares writing credit. He said Kattan brought a lot of improvisation to the film.

“We gave him free reign to do what he does because he wrote for ‘Saturday Night Live,’” Lynch said. “It would have been stupid for us not to say, ‘Hey Chris give us something interesting’ — and he did about every time.”

While Lynch couldn't disclose the film's budget, he said “Just Crazy Enough” looks like a Hollywood film.

“We're super proud of it. It's a super indie movie as far as budget goes, but I think we pulled off something that looks like a million-dollar-plus movie.”

## DISTRIBUTION

Executive Producer for “Just Crazy Enough” and OCCC's Artist in Residence Gray Fredrickson said he is proud of Lynch and his students.

“They did a great job,” Fredrickson said. “It looks like a professional movie, not a student film. It's a real

“We're hoping at this point they're going to sell it worldwide ... so we'll find out a little bit after Cannes where we are sales wise.”

—GRAY FREDRICKSON  
OCCC ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

professional film.

“Otherwise it wouldn't have got all the attention it got at the film markets.”

Fredrickson said 90 percent of all feature films never even get picked up by a film distributor.

“Just to get up and walk down the floor [at American Film Market] is \$850 for the pass walk up and down the halls to sell your movie,” Fredrickson said. “People come from all over the world.”

“There are thousands of movies and maybe 700 get picked up for distribution.”

Lynch said the film's production team is getting ready to go to the Cannes Film Market in France.

“We're hoping at that point they're going to sell it worldwide ... so we'll find out a little bit after Cannes where we are sales wise,” Lynch said.

Lynch said the movie has already been “pre-sold (to) the Middle East in Iran, Iraq and Israel.”

Fredrickson said he views the movie as a tangible asset to be viewed all over the world.

“A movie, even if it's terrible — which it's not, it's a cute movie — but even if it was terrible, it has longevity,” he said. “[Lynch's] grandchildren may be seeing checks from that movie — you never know — but there's always a market for visual media material.”

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Film and Video Production professor Greg Mellott said the “Just Crazy Enough” production team of Lynch, Cinematographer Dave Greene and Director Lance McDaniel helped open doors to students that ordinarily wouldn't be available to them except at private universities.

Mellott said Lynch previously held a similar course at Oklahoma City University but each of the 25 students enrolled paid \$4,000 to take the course, then raised \$100,000 as a group to cover the budget for that film.

“Now, here these students got the same experience taught by many of the same people for less than \$300 dollars,” he said.

Mellott said students cannot get jobs in the film industry without professional credit and “Just Crazy Enough” provided OCCC with real world experience to help advance their careers.

“They get professional IMDb credits, so that helps them get a job — there's that catch-22,” Mellott said. “You can't really work for a professional film unless you have had experience.”



“It's a wonderful thing for them that will open up job opportunities for them.”

Mellott said they would love to make another full-length feature film after witnessing the passion displayed by OCCC film students.

“The students loved it, loved the experience,” he said.

OCCC students agree with Mellott.

Dolly Grip Jeff Marks said working on the film was an excellent experience.

“It was a lot of fun and a lot of hard work,” Marks said. “I feel like that's where I learned what it really takes to make a movie. You can learn so much in the classroom but actually making a movie makes it real.”

Kattan's personal assistant for the film, Cait Brasel, said working on her first feature film was a “really good” experience. Brasel said she cannot wait to see the finished movie on the silver screen.

“I've seen some dailies, I've seen a little bit of the beginning of [the movie], so it is funny,” she said. “I'm definitely excited about it.”

Stawicki said he is excited to see the finished movie as well.

“I got to see a lot of it while it being recorded from in front of the camera and behind the camera, and can't wait to see it on the big screen,” Stawicki said.

Mellott said he loved the experience just as much as the students, crew members and actors who worked on the film.

“That's really what this place is here for. It's really like a small studio. Small studios exist to make movies. It's all very exciting.”

For more information on the deadCENTER Film Festival or to purchase tickets for “Just Crazy Enough,” visit [www.deadcenterfilm.org](http://www.deadcenterfilm.org).



## SPORTS

SPORTS | Recreation and Fitness Center offers classes throughout the summer

# Spinning class great for all levels



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School Director Mary McCoy, CDCLS Assistant Director Barb Carter and CDCLS Teacher and Lab Assistant Kendra Miller take a noon spinning class at the Wellness and Fitness Center. Spinning classes are \$20 per month. A Summer Group Fitness Pass for current students is \$35.

**MITCHELL RICHARDS**  
Sports Writer  
sportswriter@occc.edu

Throughout the summer, the OCCC Recreation and Fitness Center is offering a variety of workout classes including a spinning program.

Spinning is cycling on a stationary bike and is beneficial to all fitness levels.

In a 40-minute spinning class, the average person can burn 400 to 500 calories if they maintain 80 to 110 rpm on their stationary bike.

If the participant were on a moving bike, that would equal out to about 15 to 20 miles.

Jayme Butler, class instructor, said “everyone that cares about their body and their heart should take the class.”

An OCCC faculty member taking the class said that it was a great workout and a lot of fun.

The class has nine bikes available, so

you must reserve a spot through the Recreation and Fitness Center if you wish to join.

Butler said she recently had someone leave the room to throw up in one of her classes, and afterward jokingly said, “I knew I had made it as an instructor.”

Butler, who also participates in the class, has been teaching the class at OCCC for two months.

The class offers a variety of intensity and endurance options with specific workouts to each one.

“You can make it your own workout,” Butler said.

That is possible because the person controls their own bike settings and tension, she said.

There are five “Energy Zones” that a participant can choose from, each one varying in difficulty: Recovery,

“Everyone that cares about their body and their heart should take the class.”

—JAYME BUTLER  
SPINNING INSTRUCTOR

Endurance, Strength, Interval and Race Day.

“It would be a good workout for the triathlon coming up,” Butler said.

However, she also emphasized that the class is great for people of all fitness levels.

The OCCC SuperSprint Triathlon is June 9 and consists of a 12-mile bike ride as well as a 500-meter swim and a 5K run.

No extra equipment is needed for the class.

Participants are asked to wear comfortable workout clothes, but breathable tops and padded shorts are optional for extra comfort.

OCCC is an Official Spinning Center of Mad Dogg Athletics, Inc., an

## UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

**June 9:** OCCC SuperSprint Triathlon. For more information, visit [www.occc.edu/supersprint](http://www.occc.edu/supersprint).

**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.

**July 9 - 13:** Youth Competitive Swimming Camp. For more information, call the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.

All event news is due  
Monday by 5 p.m. for  
inclusion in the next issue.  
Email  
[sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu).

**Have sports news you want to share?**  
**Email Mitchell at:**  
**[sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu),**  
**or call 405-682-1611,**  
**ext. 7676**

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Follow us for instant news and updates!

**[www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer](http://www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer)**

equipment-based education company.

Spinning classes are offered throughout the summer Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 4:45 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 12:40 p.m. at the Recreation and Fitness Center.

The class fee is \$25 for a month and is offered to anyone above the age of 16.

For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.



# Cab driver reports woman cheated him out of fare

**JOEY STIPEK**  
Crime Reporter  
Staffwriter4@occc.edu

A taxi driver said he got stiffed on a fare he drove to the OCCC campus on Tuesday, May 29, according to a report filed by OCCC Police Officer Kevin

Hammond.  
Hammond reported Yellow Cab Taxi driver Ron Lee Witcher said he picked a woman up from her place of employment in northwest Oklahoma City and drove her to OCCC where she said she needed to use the ATM located in the Main Building.

Witcher said he asked the woman to leave her purse in his taxi, but she declined. "That's when I got suspicious," Witcher told Hammond.  
Witcher said he followed the woman to the ATM but lost track of her when she ran up a flight of stairs.  
Witcher said the woman owes him

\$32 in taxi fare plus an extra \$15 for the time he spent reporting the incident.  
He said he also notified her work.  
The case was referred to the Oklahoma City Police Department. Assistant Public Information Officer for the OCPD Sgt. Jennifer Wardlow said the woman is still at large.

# Website: Students speak out on new website look

*Continued from page 1*

the page to the information they need."

Gower said the color scheme actually changed right before the site went up.

"We had anticipated the site going live earlier in the year, and the colors we had for the site matched the branding and marketing we've had for the last six years. But because of the timing of when the website went live, it was just better to make the shift to the color for the new campaign, instead of going live and then changing it in a month."

But while the design may be the most visible change, many of the updates aren't visible to the public, Richardson said. The new site allows for cascading changes, allowing the whole site to be updated at once, rather than a single page at a time.

"And that's a very good thing," Richardson said. "The thought of going through page



after page after page is just incredibly depressing."

Another change, Richardson said, is the integration of the site with OCCC's content management system, allowing all the pages on the site to be managed from a single interface.

He said the site also includes new search technology.

"We've acquired a Google mini-device that will go and crawl our entire site every day, and index it."

"It's still not tweaked completely but I think it's going to

be a positive thing for people that come to the site and don't know exactly what they're looking for."

Richardson said, when fully set up, the search function will not only allow users to confine their search to the OCCC site but also to a specific section of the site, such as a single department.

"I think it turned out really well," Richardson said.

"Obviously I'm biased, but I'm pretty happy with it. Some people have submitted questions, and we've either handled

them or are continuing to work on them, but I've generally gotten pretty positive comments on the new site."

The information panels on the homepage are one of the features Elizabeth Claudio, premed major, said she likes in the new site. Claudio also said she likes the new website's design.

"The way the colors coordinate gives it a fresh look. It feels younger, more interesting."

Chau Le, nursing major, said the new design helps him in his role as a peer adviser.

"I work with the new website every day," Le said. "One of the things I really like is that I can see a list of the programs right on the homepage."

"I get phone calls from students when they're looking for the courses for their major and now I can tell them to go to the homepage and use the list on the right hand side."

Le also said he feels the new website is more clear, that it directs the user in more detail.

"It's not hard to use. You spend some time and play around with it, and you'll get it."

Kitty Burton, child development major, said the site is difficult to navigate.

"I can't stand it. It's impossible to navigate, and it lists all of OCCC's employees regardless of whether or not they're still employed."

"There's no way to get phone numbers of employees."

Burton said the color scheme makes no sense as well.

"I wish they would have stuck with the OCCC colors of red and white instead of using yellow and brown."

She said she would like if the college had just improved on its former website.

"It was easier to navigate despite taking years to make a new website. They need to hire a competent company to recreate the old website with a few new navigational buttons."

To offer feedback or ask a question about the new site, go to [www.occc.edu/forms/question](http://www.occc.edu/forms/question).

# Films: Films on Demand offers a variety of options

*Continued from page 1*

users to segment the videos and documentaries into shorter videos.

This gives students the opportunity to use these shorter segments in class projects and presentations.

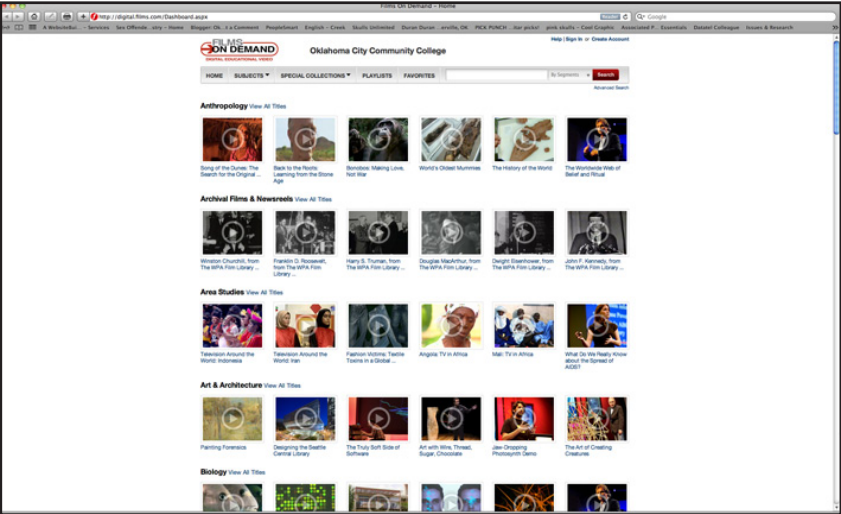
Another useful tool that Films on Demand offers students is the ability to cite the videos in research papers. Each video has a sample citation available in both MLA and

APA styles

"If I were doing a research paper and I wanted to use a video, I would probably avoid it because I wouldn't know how to cite it," Lemon said. "But at the bottom of the Films on Demand videos, there's actually a little button that gives a sample citation."

For more information about Films on Demand, contact Amanda Lemon at 405-682-1611, ext. 7416, or email [alemon@occc.edu](mailto:alemon@occc.edu).

"Building a Dinosaur from a Chicken," "The Real Reason for Brains" and a video collection of speeches given by President John F. Kennedy are just a few of the topics available through the OCCC library website's Films on Demands option at [www.occc.edu/library](http://www.occc.edu/library).



# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Exercise your brain



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Brain Injury Case Manager Penny Rott Miller answers questions June 1 about the Neurological Rehabilitation Institute at Brookhaven hospital for LaRicka Wingate, a visiting OSU faculty member at the Conference of Counselors in Higher Education, hosted by OCCC in the College Union.

**COMMUNITY** | SEMSA kills two birds with one stone

## Summer CPR classes June 15

**NADIA J. ENCHASSI**

Community Writer  
communitywriter@occc.edu

OCCC's Student Emergency Medical Sciences Association will host the last two of the four semesterly CPR classes this summer offered in a one-day format from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, June 15, in Room 110 of the Health Professions Center.

"It's Basic Life Support start to finish through American Heart Association," said Clinical Affiliation Compliance Administrator Shelly Tavis.

"The same content will be covered with two different groups of students."

The class is guided by upper-level students who have gone through the instructor course and are certified to teach through the American Heart Association.

Throughout the four hours, a combination of didactic lecture, video and demonstrative portions are presented.

The class also consists of hands-on practicing on mannequins.

The class concludes with a written test and one on one with an instructor to officially check off attained skills.

Upon successful completion, attendees receive a certified card that is required by the five paramedical programs, including Physical Therapist Assistant

and Nursing.

"Clinical agencies, hospitals, ambulance services, almost anywhere they go require that they have it," Tavis said.

CPR training by an American Heart Association healthcare provider is a prerequisite for Basic Emergency Medical Technician.

"We are a housing agent through them," she said.

Harvey Conner serves as Regional Faculty for the American Heart Association in BLS and ensures that the needed objectives are met.

The class is primarily intended for and geared toward those specifically in health fields, but anyone is welcome.

"We would like to see more community people because the more people that are certified, the better chances of someone's survival rate," Tavis said.

The class consists of an estimated 1:6 instructor-to-student ratio with up to 24 attendees, so seating is limited.

Registration is necessary beforehand. Cost of attendance is \$25 and can be paid at the time of registration or at the door.

Also necessary is a BLS Healthcare Provider textbook available in the OCCC bookstore and standard note-taking materials.

To sign up and for other information, visit the Division of Health Professions located on the second floor of the Health Professions Center, or call 405-682-7507.

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Kids Fitness classes start June 4

OCCC will host summer fitness and scholastic programs for adults and children in elementary and middle school beginning June 4. Programs include College for Kids, Fit Kids, Camp Rec and Teen Xtreme. For specific times, pricing and other information, contact the Sports and Recreation office at 405-682-7860.

### OCCC's Feature Film Debuts

OCCC's first ever feature film, "Just Crazy Enough," will debut as part of the deadCENTER Film Festival at 4 p.m., June 9, at Harkins Bricktown Cinema 16, located at 150 E Reno. Tickets are \$10. For tickets and other information, visit [www.deadcenterfilm.org](http://www.deadcenterfilm.org).

### Loan Disbursement dates announced

Loan Disbursement dates for the summer semester include June 8, 13 and 15. For further information, contact OCCC's Financial Aid office at 405-682-7525.

### SuperSprint Triathlon June 9

The 18th Annual SuperSprint Triathlon will take place at 7:30 a.m., June 9. Participants will complete a 500-meter swim in the Aquatic Center pool; a two-loop, 12-mile cycling course around campus; and an out-and-back 5k run, also on campus. For specific pricing, registration, packet pickup, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities and further information, contact Marlene Shugart at 405-682-1611, ext. 7442, or visit [www.occc.edu/super-sprint](http://www.occc.edu/super-sprint).

### New Student Orientation June 11

Student Life will host a New Student Orientation session for the summer semester from 6 to 8:30 p.m., June 11, in CU3. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet fellow students, take a campus tour, become familiar with available resources and services and more. For further information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Résumés and Cover Letters Presentation

Student Employment and Career Services will host a 30-minute Creating Résumés and Cover Letters presentation at 12:30 p.m. on June 14, in 1G7. Attendees will learn how to create a résumé and cover letter that gets the attention of potential employers by highlighting personal experiences, skills and other related background. For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519.

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

**Email your event to**

**communitywriter@occc.edu or drop by the Pioneer office located at AH Entry 2 in room 1F2.**



CLASSIFIEDS

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

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**or call**  
**405-682-**  
**1611,**  
**ext. 7674**

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](mailto:wickitiwack@yahoo.com) for more info.

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THIS WEEK'S  
PIONEER PUZZLE

Transportation

Find and circle all of the transportation words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters will reveal an additional method of transportation.

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

AIRPLANE	FERRY	RICKSHAW	SNOWMOBILE
BICYCLE	GONDOLA	ROCKET	SUBMARINE
BLIMP	HORSE	ROLLER BLADES	TRAIN
BOAT	JET	SCOOTER	TRAM
CAMEL	MOPED	SHIP	TRUCK
CANOE	MOTORCYCLE	SKATEBOARD	VAN
CARRIAGE	PARACHUTE	SKIS	WAGON
ELEVATOR	RAFT	SLED	YACHT
ESCALATOR			

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NATE VANDEN BROOK LEARNED ABOUT POLITICS AT HIS PARENTS' DINNER TABLE

# Political science professor recalls his beginnings

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Peaceful protesters stood outside of the Ann Arbor, Mich., police station in opposition to a Ku Klux Klan rally being held in 1998. The Klan, protected by a chain link fence, shouted its borderline hate speech as anarchists decided to use the opportunity to turn the peaceful protest into a violent, window-smashing, rock-throwing riot in the hot May afternoon.

"I think I was 21 at the time," OCCC Political Science professor Nate Vanden Brook said.

Now in his 30s and a political science professor, Vanden Brook was one of the peaceful protestors gathered that day in opposition to the Klan's hateful message.

He said he is generally against violence and played no part in the anarchism, but Vanden Brook did have his Minolta camera at the ready when the riot broke out. He decided to do what most people would do in his situation, and started shooting some pictures.

Rioters were throwing rocks and breaking windows when the police began firing tear gas into the crowd. Vanden Brook framed a photo of a rioter throwing a tear gas canister back at officers. Just before he released the shutter, he heard a sinister thud and looked down to see a fresh canister coming to rest two to three feet in front of him.

When the canister detonated, it unleashed a face full of tear gas that rendered Vanden Brook unconscious.

"Hey man, are you okay?" a guy asked Vanden Brook after he had regained consciousness 10 to 15 minutes later.

This was not Vanden Brook's first or last time protesting the Klan. He said he had attended three to four protests prior to the tear gas incident and has attended five more since.

Vanden Brook believes the Ku Klux Klan, like all citizens, "have a right to gather and speak, but when the message is repressive in nature we have a right and obligation to also speak out against it."

Growing up, Vanden Brook recalls a household where political discussions between his parents were fairly common. His parents ensured that he and his brother knew the importance of voting and exercising your rights as



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC Political Science professor Nathan Vanden Brook said his mother strongly influenced the development of his political efficacy. In fact, he said, the first protest Vanden Brook attended was with his mother and brother.

a means of making your voice heard.

Raised Roman Catholic, Vanden Brook's parents always tried to instill a strong sense of civic duty and social involvement in their children. He remembers that even his grandparents seemed to have strong feelings about social responsibility.

During the Vietnam War, Vanden Brook's father let the draft exclusion afforded him as a machinist expire, because he felt he should be eligible to serve his country in its time of need. Being a skilled machinist actually saved him from a direct combat role, and he was able to serve his country and return home to his family afterwards.

Vanden Brook said his mother strongly influenced the development of his political efficacy. In fact, the first protest Vanden Brook attended was with his mother and brother.

They went to the Federal Building in Detroit to protest the first war in Iraq. His mother was using this as an opportunity to demonstrate public po-

litical speech as protected by the First Amendment to her two sons. She also made sure they understood this was only one of many ways to protest.

Driven to make a lasting, helpful impact on the world, Vanden Brook had a hard time trying to decide between becoming an attorney at law or a college professor. He eventually chose the classroom over the courtroom because as he said, "If I can reach two students a semester, it will have an exponential effect on the world."

It was at Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Kalamazoo, Mich., that Vanden Brook became inspired by his first political science professor to one day teach college courses.

Through Professor Tom Oberlink's example, Vanden Brook said he was able to see the power of a dedicated professor to educate and encourage young people to get engaged in the political world that defines our society.

Vanden Brook graduated from Western Michigan University with a mas-

ter's in political science, and taught as an adjunct professor at KVCC, Muskegon Community College and Western Michigan University.

Vanden Brook's decision to uproot and move to Oklahoma came when he was offered what he called, "a fantastic job at an institution where the faculty meets student enthusiasm."

At OCCC, Vanden Brook will teach American Federal Government through the summer and fall semesters, and Contemporary Issues in Political Science in the fall.

Aside from the job offer, he said, Oklahoma always had a place in his heart after that destruction exhibited by the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building. He was 18 at the time. "[It] solidified my belief in open and honest debate and discussion."

When asked for his thoughts on the current political climate, Vanden Brook describes it as a "toxic petri dish." He says, "neither side [right or left] talks to one another and the lack of civil discourse is destroying the democratic process."

Vanden Brook has yet to be involved in the Oklahoma political scene. He said he is still getting a feel for the political landscape here.

When asked what goals are still on the horizon, he paused for a moment, then said with smile, "Learn to ride a unicycle and get a Ph.D."

## Information Technology VP resigns

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In an email to OCCC employees, Executive Vice President Jerry Steward said Vice President for Information Technology Services Robin Ying has resigned from his post effective June 30.

Steward thanked Ying for his service, leadership and dedication to OCCC.

Information Technology Infrastructure Director Dave Anderson will become acting Vice President for Information Technology Services effective July 1, Steward said.

Ying declined comment.