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PIONEER ONLINE

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JULY 20, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Brain power



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Nursing major Terra Corley works on pharmacology homework in the Student Computer Center located on the third floor of the OCCC library. The center has the programs Word, Excel, Photoshop, C++ and AutoCAD installed on computers available for use from 7:30 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Saturday.

FIND OUT ABOUT OCCC FACULTY

Rate my professor site helpful

MELANIE OLSON

News Writing Student

Some OCCC students use a networking website to rate their professors. The website — RateMyProfessors.com — allows students to post opinions on professors' levels of simplicity, helpfulness and clarity for a certain course.

While enrolling for the upcoming semester, students may want to review the website and attempt to determine which teachers best fit their learning style.

Some students may worry their identity will be revealed when posting about a professor; however, the website allows

See **RATE** page 9

STUDY SHOWS THREE OUT OF FOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NOT PREPARED FOR COLLEGE

Testing Center helps students get ahead

MARIAH S. JOHNSON

News Writing Student

When Elija Gill first came to OCCC in fall 2010, he was faced with having to take several remedial classes — zero-level classes that catch a student up to college-level learning but offer no college credit.

"I graduated from an inner city school and I barely had to study to pass my classes," Gill said.

"My ACT composite score was 15 ... I re-tested in the Testing Center and I was able to get into English 1113 but I continued to struggle in the math."

Gill is not alone.

Three out of four high school graduates aren't fully prepared for college and likely need to take at least one remedial class, according to the latest annual survey from ACT, the non-profit testing organization that measures half of the nation's high

“Our Testing Center gives students [who] tested poorly on the ACT or SAT another chance to score higher in their subsections.”

—SAMANTHA OLSEN

TESTING CENTER ASSISTANT

school seniors in English, math, reading and science proficiency, according to www.freepublic.com.

However, OCCC's Testing and Assessment Center gives those students a chance to redeem themselves by offering placement testing, said Testing Center Assistant Samantha Olsen.

Olsen said the Testing Center offers both entry-level and academic testing.

She said the service is beneficial for students who initially tested into remedial courses and want the chance to test higher, as well as advanced students who would rather test out of, or CLEP, a course for a

semester.

"Our Testing Center gives students [who] tested poorly on the ACT or SAT another chance to score higher in their subsections," Olsen said.

"[The] tests aren't timed which allows students to test at their full potential without worrying about how much time they have left."

There are four branches within OCCC's Testing Center and Assessment Services department: General Educational Development, The Testing Center, College-Level Examination Program, and Assessment Services, according to www.occc.edu/acs.

The General Educational Development (GED) program, offered to students who didn't graduate high school, gives students the opportunity to increase and continue their education. The introduction program (GED classwork) informs students what is required to obtain a high school diploma/

See **TESTING** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says healthcare system flawed

Obamacare win really a total loss

Ah, Obamacare. A topic of great sound and fury. To the everlasting surprise of many, myself included, the Supreme Court recently decided to uphold the law in its entirety.



JEREMY CLOUD

Why is this a surprise?

It was my assumption that, at the very least, the law would be sent back for revisions on the point of the individual mandate. The mandate states that all individuals are required to have healthcare.

Now granted, I've heard arguments both ways. "Those who don't have healthcare are a drain on the system" is a popular one; the other side, and the one I hold, is that it should not be legal for the government to force a private individual to buy a product in any situation that doesn't directly affect the well being of citizens.

Wait, I can hear someone thinking — "But doesn't the lack of insurance hurt the family of the one who doesn't have it?"

Well, yeah. But if someone needs it and doesn't have it, that's usually due either to a sudden act of God or a lack of affordability.

So ... healthcare should be affordable — check. Great, the bill handles that. But then it turns around and makes it illegal to not have it. But hey, the Court ruled. Conversation over. Let's all get on with our lives. Stop whining, you stupid journalist.

One problem: Didn't mandating car insurance result in really cheap, really bad car insurance that customers buy just to have car insurance?

I mean, how many commercials does the average person see for car insurance every week? Betcha lots. And of those, maybe a third are for reputable companies represented by a gecko, a perky saleswoman, or a comforting African-American (with an option on random mayhem.)

The rest are for "get legal for less" companies which is fine when it's a hunk of metal, plastic and glass on the line. Yes, losing a car hurts, but they're replaceable. Now sit back and imagine the "get legal for less" principle applied to cancer treatment. Or diabetes.

Or heck, think about those sudden emergencies that no one can plan for that put individuals thousands of

BALLIARD BILL

Once upon a time there was a princess with three fairy godmothers. When she was born, one gave her health, one gave her joy, and the third one called the first two soppy idiots and gave the princess a shotgun.

No one ever bothered the princess. The friggin' end.



Annd, that's as good as it gets. See y'all after the break!



JEREMY CLOUD

dollars in the hole without notice or warning.

But that'll never happen, right? Our government regulates things so well. Things like banks, investment funds, auto sales, car insurance, federal budgets ...

Yeah, I for one plan to get decent insurance as fast as humanly possible — and pray to never be broke.

—JEREMY CLOUD
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Oklahomans urged to take action against being bitten by mosquitos

West Nile virus report spurs officials to urge precaution

To the Editor:

Evidence of a resurgence of West Nile virus has state health officials warning Oklahomans to take precautions against the mosquito-borne illness.

"The first WNV case in a Pittsburgh County man and positive mosquito tests in Tulsa County are a reminder that WNV is here and precautions need to be taken to protect against the disease," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Kristy Bradley.

Although the past three years have been relatively quiet for WNV in the state, Bradley said early indicators may signal a dramatic rise in Oklahoma cases in 2012. While only one case of WNV was reported in Oklahoma in 2011, 329 cases and 20 deaths have been reported in the state from the disease since 2002. Additionally, health authorities in Texas are reporting an increase in human cases and positive mosquito tests this year.

"July typically marks the beginning of our high risk period for exposure to WNV in Oklahoma. It is also a time when Oklahomans are busy with yard

work, participating in outdoor recreational activities or just relaxing on the patio," Bradley said. "All of these activities provide possible encounters with WNV-infected mosquitoes, so we want to remind everyone to use insect repellent when outdoors and mosquito-proof their home and yard."

West Nile virus is spread through the bite of the Culex mosquito, which feeds on infected birds and then transmits the virus when biting humans, horses and some other mammals.

Symptoms of WNV include sudden onset of fever, headache, dizziness and muscle weakness. Long-lasting complications can include difficulty concentrating, migraine headaches, extreme muscle weakness and tremors, and paralysis of a limb. If one or more of these symptoms develop, especially after suffering mosquito bites within the previous two weeks, a health care provider should be contacted. Persons over the age of 50 are at greatest risk of developing severe neurologic disease from WNV infection. Some may be permanent.

Among the precautions to take against mosquito bites are the following:

- Use an insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin and clothing when you go outdoors, particularly if you are outside between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are more likely to bite. (Insect repellent with permethrin should be used on clothing only.)
- Repair or install window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Prevent items such as buckets, cans, pool covers, flower pots and tires from holding standing water so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed.
- Empty your pet's outdoor water bowl and refill daily.
- Clean leaves and debris from rain gutters regularly to ensure they are not clogged.

For more information, visit the Oklahoma State Department of Health's WNV website at <http://go.usa.gov/wpz>.

—OKLAHOMA STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

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

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

GAME REVIEW | Cards rate an A with new expansions

Just-released 'Magic' core set rocks

For those people out there like me who are "Magic the Gathering" nerds, welcome to the 2013 Core set. For anyone who plays "Magic the Gathering," the expansions are a blast. They offer lots of cool, weird stuff with fun themes and quirky mechanics. But the life and soul of the game are the core sets, those cards that come out every year and keep the game moving.

And there's plenty to love in the new core set. The set brings a heavier focus on exalted, a mechanic that gives a boost to any creature that attacks alone.

Since exalted stacks, it's entirely possible to bring out a whole bunch of cheap little creatures that have exalted, and suddenly attack with a little 1/1 that turns into a face-eating monster.

Another addition that excites me is the return of Nicol Bolas as a Planeswalker. While he costs the Earth and requires a tri-color deck (blue, black, red), the cards that support him, the abilities he has and the advantages offered by those three colors more than make up for his high-casting cost.

I could go on for hours covering this set, but I'll close up with one more shout out. The non-basic lands for this set are almost all freaking awesome. There's



six bi-colored lands that give you your choice of which color you want to tap it for, with options for black/red, blue/black, blue/white, white/green, and green/red.

There's a colorless land that gives you "you have no maximum hand size," which makes me cry tears of joy. Another colorless land lets you tap and put counters on for one colorless and one red, then tap, sacrifice it, take off two counters and get a 4/4 creature with haste.

The last awesome land is a colorless that gives your creatures exalted. No, seriously, they want you to have those suddenly monstrous 1/1's.

Unfortunately, the designers decided to take the ol' tap and sacrifice this land, go find a basic land mechanic and stick it on another card. Not a bad card but it would have been nice to have something fresh on that front.

Overall, the new set rocks. Go forth fellow nerds and nerds to be, and make savage pasteboard war upon your enemies.

Rating: A

—JEREMY CLOUD
EDITOR

PRODUCT REVIEW | Sally Hansen's Magnetic line delivers

Nail polish lives up to expectations

When somebody describes you as magnetic, they're usually talking about your striking personality.

Now, thanks to the latest in Sally Hansen's ever-expanding line of revolutionary nail polishes, they might be talking about your fingertips instead.

The appropriately-named Magnetic nail polish is the successor of the brand's Crackle Overcoat, a product that, sadly, did not live up to expectations.

But fret not, fellow nail polish connoisseurs — Magnetic is everything it promises and more.

According to the shiny little label that wraps around the bottle, Magnetic's formula is infused with tiny metal particles that move when exposed to a specially designed magnet — included in the bottle's cap — to create a three-dimensional effect the company calls "extraordinary."

I picked up a bottle of "graphite gravity," a deep silver shade reminiscent of gunmetal, on a recent Target trip.

Per the nail polish's directions, I first applied a layer of the polish to each nail. Even without the magnetic effects, the shade itself was bold and beautiful — but we didn't pay \$8.99 for just a pretty color, now did we?

I then applied a second layer of color to my left thumb nail and held the magnet over it for the 10 seconds the bottle requested. After waiting that time period, I eagerly pulled the magnet away from my nail, only to see no real difference.

Frustrated, I globbed on a bit more polish and

tried the magnet again, this time holding it over the nail for closer to 20 seconds before I pulled it away.

Recalling my prior failures with Sally's Crackle Overcoat line, I didn't hold my breath — which is why I was pleasantly surprised when the nail I saw looked like something out of one of James Cameron's 3D flicks.

The magnet had indeed created a series of waves in the wet polish, creating an incredible effect. For once, my nail looked exactly like the in-store display did.

After some tests and trials, I determined the instructions included with the product are definitely a bit off.

For optimal results, it's best to hold the magnet over the nail between 20 to 30 seconds — not the recommended 10 — to really get the wave effect rocking.

In addition, you need to make sure that after the initial polish application to each nail, you go one nail at a time to keep the second layer of polish from drying before you can create the magnetic waves.

If you follow these rules, the end result is eye-popping. In addition to the deep silver I sampled, Magnetic is also available in gold, copper, purple, fuchsia, blue and green.

At \$8.99, the price is a bit steep for nail polish, but if you want to have some fun with your nails, it's definitely worth the splurge.

Rating: A-

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

JOB & CAREER POWER

Student jobs available

Students looking for a summer job should visit the office of Student Employment & Career Services and let us help you land the perfect position.

We will assist your application process for both on- and off-campus jobs, and assist you in creating or updating your résumé and cover letter. We have hundreds of openings listed online at www.collegecentral.com/occc, and our student job bulletin boards and job tables are loaded with options. Listed below are just a few of the current job openings we have to share:

- If you have federal work-study designation through your FAFSA application you may apply for a position with the OCCC Financial Aid office. Job skills include: good customer service; reliability; motivated; willing to help students; friendly personality; and they offer a flexible work schedule based on your class schedule.

- Another federal work-study position is available through the YWCA: Our Sisters Closet Store. Candidates must have good customer service skills; be willing to help customers; and a friendly personality.

For both work-study positions, contact Mia Rojo in the Financial Aid office, call 405-682-7524, or email mrojo@occc.edu

- XEROX is currently conducting interviews for 250 customer support positions. Job responsibilities: Resolve customer inquiries; provide product and service information; process orders, forms and applications; and identify customer issues. To apply in person, dress appropriately, and bring your résumé to: 100 N Mustang Rd. in Yukon. To find out more, contact the Yukon Recruiting Team at 405-350-6131.

- For business and marketing majors, the Oklahoma Army National Guard has 10 spots available for paid interns. You do not have to enlist for military service. Interns work 40 hours per week and earn \$400 per week. The program will last eight to 10 weeks. Job duties are: shadowing the marketing department, and building educational materials such as brochures and handouts. Contact: SSG George Shafer at 405-615-4224, or email george.shafer@us.army.mil

- Duncan Equipment Co., A Division of Black-Hawk Industrial Dist., is seeking a distribution center clerk. Job duties include: receiving, stocking, pulling, and shipping product for customer orders accurately and in a timely manner with exceptional customer service. Fax 405-488-3994 or email your résumé to veronica.blakely@blackhawkid.com

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. You may also call 405-682-7519 or email employmentservices@occc.edu

—DEBRA VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER
SERVICES DIRECTOR

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

BAR & GRILL REVIEW | Norman establishment lives up to Esquire magazine rating

Library serves up great food and cheap spirits

Libraries often are filled with books and students cramming for finals.

However, the Library Bar & Grill, located at 607 W Boyd in Norman, keeps stu-

dents from worrying about the rigors and pressures of college life with its selection of 35 beers on tap, spirits, food and an amazing patio.

It's easy to understand why Esquire magazine recently rated the Library Bar & Grill one of the top 10 college bars in North America.

The Library earns high marks due to its selection of liquor and value due to their dual happy hours from 3 to 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The Library's happy hour features pints of the Brewhouse's selection of

“The Library Bar & Grill lives up to its reputation as one of the best college bars in North America.”

—JOEY STIPEK
STAFF WRITER

beers for \$2, as well as half price on their selection of nachos and pizzas.

In addition to specials, other beer, and food, \$3 well drinks make drinking at the Library an even more affordable option for those thirsty students on a small budget.

There are one or two areas where the Library doesn't make the grade however. Despite being on a relatively busy street, the Library is difficult to get to since it is secluded, thanks in part to a large number of trees and shrubs in front of the building.

The other problem with the Library



is it sometimes can take upwards from 20 to 30 minutes for your server to get your order during really busy periods of business. Minor complaints aside, the Library Bar & Grill lives up to its

reputation as one of the best college bars in North America.

Rating: B+

—JOEY STIPEK
STAFF WRITER

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Pizzeria has the right idea

Patrons go nuts over wood-fired pie

The Wedge Pizzeria was one of the first places in Oklahoma City to create delicious thin crust pizza the way it was meant to be: cooked in a wood fire oven. For many, The Wedge has become an OKC favorite.

Located at 4709 N Western Avenue, The Wedge serves appetizers, salads, gelato and of course, pizza. The Wedge offers a variety of fresh toppings, as well as coffee, beer, mineral water, tea, wine, Coke products and Italian sodas to drink.

Last Saturday, July 14, I had a pizza topped with locally-raised roasted chicken, fresh mozzarella and basil leaves, with a roasted garlic sauce. I went back the next day for a pepperoni, fresh mozzarella and marinara pizza. Both were excellent.

The crust was thin and tastier than most, but was less than crisp under toppings. This is understandable considering the thinness of the crust and the actual quality of toppings. It is definitely a fair trade, but make sure to use the spatula when lifting a slice.

Their toppings are great, but what I think puts The Wedge a slice above competitors is actually how the pizza is cooked.

A man employees call The Jesus has been responsible for producing pizzas, pecan wood-fired to perfection, for the past three years.

The Wedge takes pride in preparing food from scratch every day with the freshest ingredients available.

When I visited Sunday, General Manager Elena Farrar was preparing a couple of plates of skillet potatoes, prosciutto, eggs and toast. I asked if that was on the menu. Farrar said that it wasn't, but a customer had ordered it.



The meal was apparently prepared from ingredients they already had available in the restaurant.

“If it can be done, I'll do it,” Farrar simply said.

Overall, the Wedge seems to be about serving high quality food with pride and care.

You can stop by for a terrific dining experience inside, outside on a patio or order carry out.

Operating hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday for lunch, and 5 to 10 p.m. for dinner, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday for lunch and 5 to 11 p.m. for dinner, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Rating: A+

—CHRIS JAMES
PIONEER STAFF

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of July 13 through July 15
www.yahoo.com

1. *Ice Age : Continental Drift*
2. *The Amazing Spider-Man*
3. *Ted*
4. *Brave*
5. *Magic Mike*
6. *Savages*
7. *Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection*
8. *Katy Perry: Part of Me*
9. *Moonrise Kingdom*
10. *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*
11. *To Rome With Love*
12. *Marvel's The Avengers*
13. *Snow White and the Huntsman*
14. *Prometheus*
15. *Men in Black 3*
16. *Beasts of Southern Wild*
17. *People Like Us*
18. *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*
19. *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*
20. *Intouchables*

PROGRAM IMPROVES LIVES OF AT-RISK FAMILIES

Childhood Development Center receives grant

MACI SMITH
News Writing Student

With a \$10,000 project grant donated by the Potts Family Foundation and a new program called Single Mothers Academic Resource Team (SMART), the Child Development Center and Lab School at OCCC, part of the Family and Community Community Education Center (FACE), will improve the lives of infants and toddlers of at-risk families.

The Families of Promise grant outline states the project will focus on education for infants and toddlers, parents of infants and toddlers and childcare professionals.

The topics covered will include various workshops including Developmental Benchmarks of Children Birth to Thirt-Five Months, Creating a Nurturing Environment for Infants and Toddlers, Positive Behavior and Guidance Techniques and Providers as Partners.

There are two four-month training sessions being offered starting in the fall. The first session will be held from August through November. The second session will be held from January through April.

“The FACE Center is expanding and adding more classes with more children.”

—CECILIA PITTMAN
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROFESSOR

A new SMART program, funded by the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma, started July 1.

To participate in SMART, participants need to be single parents from OCCC and have at least a GED.

Mary McCoy, OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School director, said SMART's goal is “To improve parenting skills, create a systematic change in the lives of single parents and help single parent finish college.”

The department is in the process of hiring a coordinator, McCoy said.

Childcare will be provided during training, she said.

The staff at the FACE Center exhibited their excitement about all the new changes beginning this summer, carrying into the upcoming school year.

The FACE Center will now have five infant and toddler classrooms, Child Development professor



GRAPHIC COURTESY SMART

According to the SMART Facebook page, SMART is the result of collaborative funding in part of the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and GEAR UP.

Cecilia Pittman said.

“The FACE Center is expanding and adding more classes with more children,” Pittman said.

She said OCCC approved opening another infant/toddler classroom.

The infant/toddler age group is the most popular, she said.

For more information on the Families of Promise or SMART assistance or additional information on workshops, contact the FACE Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7561, or stop by their location at 6500 S Land Ave., between 7 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM GOES INTO EFFECT

Workers should be safe around construction sites

KIMM JOHNSON
News Writing Student

OCCC recently premiered its new Excavation, Trenching and Shoring Safety Awareness Program in order to assist the Facilities Management construction team in understanding new safety procedures.

The program was developed by Lisa Teel, Emergency Planning and Risk Management director, and made effective April 20.

With the construction of the new Visual and Performing Arts Center theater, Teel said she began to look for the safety plan regarding trenches. There were none to be found, she said.

So Teel said she decided to write the Trenching and Excavation Safety Program about procedures that should be adhered to around campus construction sites.

Teel said her experience as Emergency Planning and Risk Management director for the past five years has taught her that preventative measures are important.

“When it comes to trenching, almost

70 people a year are killed in avoidable accidents.

“If we can prepare our employees by making them more knowledgeable and aware of their surroundings, then that is a good thing,” Teel said.

Not only does this program protect employees, but there also are regulations in place to protect students, she said.

Teel said there are three types of protection that can be used when dealing with trenches.

Protection options, which include sloping, shoring or shielding, must be designed by a registered professional engineer, she said.

This is good news for math and science degree-seeking students, Teel said.

Not only has OCCC developed safety programs, but the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and many other colleges also have drawn up plans like these in the last few years, Teel said.

Consequently, more and more schools and companies, realizing the need for safety programs, can create jobs, she said.

“When it comes to trenching, almost 70 people a year are killed in avoidable accidents. If we can prepare our employees by making them more knowledgeable and aware of their surroundings, then that is a good thing.”

—LISA TEEL

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

For students who are interested in subjects like geology, construction, mathematics and environmental engineering this means there could be a greater demand for these professionals.

In an article entitled, “Top Ten Jobs for the Next Decade and Beyond,” WorldWideLearn.com ranks environmental engineering as a top field for future career expansion.

“With the rapid growth of previously small communities across the country, [many entities] must wrestle with the challenges of rising populations while avoiding damaging fines or even prosecution,” the website states.

This was exactly what Teel had to face when she was creating the safety program for OCCC, she said.

Teel explained that, as technology grows, so do the opportunities for more dangerous circumstances.

She said she hopes the hazardous aspects of their jobs will be only a small part of the construction workers' lives.

“This job is just a part of their life. I want them to be with their loved ones at the end of the day.

“It is better to be 100 times safe than once dead. I made this plan to ensure that safety is no accident,” Teel said.

For more information on the Trenching and Excavation Safety Program or other safety programs offered through the college, contact Emergency Planning and Risk Management at 405-682-1611, ext. 7148.

Upward Bound students rewarded for excellence

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

editor@occc.edu

"It was totally worth it. All that hard work paid off," student Selena Luna said about a recent trip to Tennessee taken by 20 Upward Bound students as a reward for excellence in the program.

TRiO Programs Director Karolyn Chowning said the trip was part of a six-week summer academy held every summer.

"It's one of the biggest parts of the Upward Bound program," Chowning said. "Students receive 20 hours a week of academic instruction. It really simulates a college experience. The courses aren't for credit in high school or college, so it's pure enrichment."

She said the trip was part of the program's offering of college visits.

"In the year-round program, we go on lots of college visits, especially when universities host campus preview days. We go to pretty much all of the campus preview days in the state of Oklahoma."

She said the summer program offers the opportunity for students to see campuses outside Oklahoma.

"This year we took the whole group, everyone in the summer program, and went to Dallas and visited Southern Methodist University."

Chowning said this trip was limited to the top-20 students in the program with the highest number of merits, and the lowest number of demerits, good behavior, good attendance, and the highest grades she said.

"And they went to the Great Smoky Mountains in Gatlinburg, Tenn. They visited the University of Central Arkansas on the way there, and visited the University of Tennessee on the way back," she said.

Luna said while she enjoyed everything about the trip, she especially liked the chance to get closer to her peers.

"I like how we all get together and we bond because I got more comfortable with everyone there," she said. "You're just having a lot of fun and then you share things that you never expected to share with anyone."

"We shared embarrassing moments. Of course, not everyone wanted to share everything, but we did and it was really fun."

Johana Rodriguez, a student in the program, said she enjoyed discovering all the things that are different from Oklahoma.

"There's a lot of things that aren't in Oklahoma," Rodriguez said. "They had gift shops everywhere, and anything to do. There was skydiving inside, arcades, upside-down buildings, dinner shows. You wouldn't get bored there, that's for sure."

Upward Bound student Max Nguyen said he enjoyed the experience of being away from home.

"For most people, like me, it's the furthest away from home that we've been. Having a different environment and different region, experiencing contact with different social groups, really helps our communication skills."

"It helps us see more options for college, instead of just seeing The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University," he said.

Luna said she'd like to see more students in the Upward Bound program, adding that students who do join should get more involved in the program.

"I wish students wouldn't think of it as boring, which is what a lot of students assume when they look at it. You have to be involved more to have fun," she said.

Nguyen agreed, saying the program is all about its students.

"It's a student benefit program, all on you. You get out what you put in," he said. "The thing about Upward Bound is that it doesn't just test your academics, it tests your [ability to] respect, and the traits of a leader. It's different from [high] school, where they look mostly at the grade."

Rodriguez said she feels the program has given her a head start.

"It's very much a learning experience," she said. "You learn all this stuff before you go into your current grade in high school, and then you already know it. So I'll be prepared."

Nguyen said he also recommends the program for the expanded view of the world it offers.

"You just get so secluded in your region. If you're from Moore, you might only



TRiO Upward Bound students, from left to right: (front) William, Luan, Selena, Johana, Triet, Evelin, (middle) Nikki, Ivan, Danny, Maxell, Daniel, Maricela, Jackie, (back) Marget, Layla, Sulita, David, Samuel and Quan pose for a picture at Dollywood, a popular theme park owned by country legend Dolly Parton located in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

PHOTOS COURTESY UPWARD BOUND



TRiO Upward Bound students pose at the Gatlinburg Space Needle in Tennessee. According to www.gatlinburgspaceneedle.com, the Space Needle towers more than 400 feet, allowing viewers to witness a 360-degree view of the Great Smoky Mountains. Upward Bound serves high school students who will be first-generation college students, meet federal income guidelines and attend one of several high schools in south Oklahoma City and Moore.

know people from Moore. But once you get into the program you know people from all over," he said.

Rodriguez agreed and said she's made a lot of new friends.

"And they might even be your friends for a lifetime, instead of just friends for high school."

Kids summer camps offer variety for all ages

CHRIS JAMES

Pioneer Staff

pioneerphotog@occc.edu

The Family and Community Education Center is helping keep young minds sharp over the summer with a variety of camps targeted at children in first through eighth grades.

Some of the camps offered focus on geography, science, computer skills, sewing, music, art, math, college prep and even personal finance.

The teachers keep the children interested and learning with activities like educational games, videos and practical application.

Each class is one hour, 45 minutes, and costs \$39 per child with a \$99 discount students enrolled in all-day classes.

Lunch is provided by John Glenn Elementary.

For more information, or to enroll a child in one of the camps, call 405-686-6222.



(Above) Teacher Julia Gatlion begins circle time in Got Grammar Summer Camp with an exercise to get the children's attention focused on listening. The class of first and second graders has been learning proper usage of nouns, verbs and adjectives. The students were learning how to apply the words through playing games and taking turns in small groups with letter blocks that connect to form words. After making a word with blocks, each child identified what part of speech it was.



(Left) Teacher Chelsea Dudek helps 10-year-old Jeanette with creating a screen print in the Printing by Hand Camp. The kids were perfecting their technique on paper before moving on to printing T-shirts. Dudek said the children had already finished wood block printing and texture printing, and carving and printing erasers were next on the agenda for this class of seventh and eighth graders. "It's a fun way of making art that they probably haven't tried before," Dudek said.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER



Olivia, 9, Mitchell, 7, Lance, 9, and Noah, 8, use water colors to paint depictions of planet Earth July 12 in Outer Space Camp.

Teacher Janice Boyd said she also teaches Computer Masters which familiarizes third and fourth graders with programs like Microsoft Word and navigating search engines. Boyd said the kids learned about planets, constellations and the moon in Outer Space Camp.



Instructor Deborah Goodhead wraps up a lesson on arpeggios, or playing each individual note of a chord in sequence rather than strumming it, July 12, in Beginning Guitar Camp. Goodhead said she focuses on teaching this group of fifth and sixth graders about music theory and variety, as well as how to read chord charts and tablature. In the class, kids watch videos on YouTube on how guitars are made and performances of original artists performing some of the songs they are currently learning. "It's a great way to find out if they can do it before more expensive lessons," Goodhead said.

SPORTS

SPORTS | Sports camp successful with children

Kids camp comes to an end



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Aaliyah Carter, 13, shoots free throws at Kids Sports Camp July 11 in the OCCC gym. Camp Coach Rone Tempest said Carter attended every sports camp over the summer, but competitive swimming was Carter's favorite. Tempest said he is glad the sports camps exist, because it introduces kids to sports they wouldn't normally be introduced to.

MITCHELL RICHARDS

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

The OCCC Recreation and Fitness Center hosted Kids Sports Camp throughout the summer. As summer session is coming to end, so are the highly successful camps.

One story that demonstrates the success of Kids Sports Camp is that of Aaliyah Carter, 13, Coach Rone Tempest said.

Tempest said Carter has been coming to the camps for the last six summers. When Carter first started attending the camps, she could barely tie her shoes and couldn't do anything athletic, he said.

"She's the real success story of this whole thing," Tempest said. "When she first started, she could barely run."

Carter said she attended all of the sports camps this summer and singled out competitive swimming as her favorite.

"When I first started swimming here I was scared

“

When I first started swimming here I was scared because I didn't know how. But coach thinks I can swim professionally if I keep working."

—AALIYAH CARTER

KIDS SPORTS CAMP ATTENDEE

because I didn't know how. But coach thinks I can swim professionally if I keep working," Carter said.

Carter said she is looking forward to seeing Michael Phelps swim in the upcoming London Olympics.

Carter, an upcoming eighth grader at Brink Junior High, said her favorite part of the camps, other than the sports, is making new friends.

As Carter was talking, her friend Taylor, 8, gave her a hug and told Carter she was nice.

Tempest said he has been coaching these camps for seven years and hasn't seen anyone like Carter come through.

He said he is glad sports camps like this exist because it introduces young kids to sports they wouldn't

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

July 21 - 22: Oklahoma Swimming Division II Meet at the OCCC Aquatic Center. For more information, visit www.oks.org.

July 23 - 27: Youth Cheer and Dance Camp. For more information, call the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.

July 23 - 27: Youth Flag Football 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.

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**Have sports news you want to share?
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sportswriter@occc.edu, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676**

normally get introduced to, like swimming and soccer.

Tempest said it was good to familiarize kids with multiple sports instead of just a few.

He said he believes allowing kids to play sports other than the ones they are good at makes them better.

The other kids in the camp seemed to be having a great time and some, like Cassie, 8, have participated in other camps the school offers, Tempest said.

Cassie said she was recently in the Musical Theatre Camp and performed in their recent production of "Squirm."

Another successful camp athlete was Andrea, 11, who plays soccer competitively for South Lakes, Tempest said. Andrea said she has been practicing her soccer juggling skills.

For more information on the remaining sports camps, visit the Recreation and Fitness Center's website at www.occc.edu/rf.

Testing: OCCC students can test out of some classes

Continued from page 1

GED.

GED testing is a seven-hour exam that measures high-school level fulfillment in five areas: writing, social studies, science, language arts/reading and mathematics.

Passing the GED test shows a student has met the required skills needed to receive a high

school diploma. To pass the GED test, a student must score an average of 450 on each section.

The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) is a sequence of tests which permits students to earn college credit for a subject they know regardless of where they learned the materials. All (CLEP) exams are 90 minutes long, and cost

\$77 dollars per exam. Students will receive instant results after completing an exam.

Assessment Services hosts the following tests:

- Entrance Testing: for students who haven't taken either the ACT or SAT tests.

- The TOEFL: evaluates the potential of non-native speakers of English to utilize and comprehend English as it

is used in a university setting.

- The Test of Essential Academic Skills: evaluates a student's skill content in reading, mathematics, science, and English and language usage, which is required for nursing students.

- ACT: a national test that lasts two and a half hours including breaks, and tests reading, mathematics, science, and

English and language usage.

- ACCUPLACER: assists in placing students into appropriate college-level or ESL courses.

The Testing Center is open from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Saturday. Testing and Assessment Services is located on the first floor of the Main Building.

Rate: Popular website can help when choosing professors

Continued from page 1

students to post an anonymous review after creating a registered account.

Founded in 2001, RateMyProfessors.com includes 821 OCCC professors from various departments.

The average professor rating is a 3.48 on a scale of 5.00. Also, students can rate the campus, which only has a combined total of 52 anonymous posts, a 3.9 overall school rating and a 4.7 student happiness rating.

Students will rate a professor's course based on a scale of 1 to 5. Clarity, easiness, helpfulness and "hot or not" are all required categories. The comment box allows up to 350 characters.

A professor who rates above a 4 is given a yellow smiley face icon. A green straight-faced icon is given to professors who rate between a 3 and 4. Professors who rate below a 3 receive a blue frown-faced icon.

To rate professors' hotness, students have a choice of clicking on a chili pepper icon to say a professor is hot or avoid clicking the icon to say the professor is not. The chili pepper icon turns red in case of a hot rating.

Many OCCC professors are familiar with the website.

Professors take RateMyProfessors.com with "a grain of salt," said history professor Alan Ball.

Ball rates an overall 2.3 on the website. When asked if the rather low rating bothered him, he responded, "The good students will say good things and the bad students will say bad things. Overall, it is the effort put forth by the student."

Many of Ball's classes are taught online although he said, he prefers to teach in the classroom.

He said he occasionally reads the posts from students but chooses to not post rebuttals.

When speaking of the usefulness of RateMyProfessors.com, English professor Jon Inglett said it's useful.

"When I was a student, I wish I had known some background information for the class or the professor," Inglett said. "Some students may need an extroverted or introverted teacher; other students may need a structured or organic-thinking professor. These kind of psychological observations will only benefit a student beyond a website."

Students disagree about using the website.

Nursing major Alex Seabrook, 20, said the site is "very useful."

"RateMyProfessors.com is something I use to research my professors," he said. "Being a student

that takes classes at OCCC and The University of Oklahoma, I am at a disadvantage of not knowing a lot of professors on each campus. This website is a good way to know the opinions of other students."

Advertising major Kelly Stone, 21, said she thinks the website is "biased."

"Read the reviews and also visit with the professor," Stone said. "If you are truly looking to find good professors, you should talk to them personally and find out how they teach their class."

"Going to the website alone is not good enough."

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Ad Council AICPA

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Book it



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student employee Ashly Allen stocks copies of American Federal Government textbooks in the OCCC Bookstore in preparation for the influx of fall semester students. Students receiving a Pell Grant or loan are allowed to purchase textbooks before disbursement dates with a valid student ID.

COMMUNITY | OCCC offers classes in English and Spanish

Oil and gas safety taught

NADIA J. ENCHASSI

Community Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

Safety awareness classes for the oil and gas industry are hard to find but are now accessible at OCCC.

"We are primarily answering a demand with these classes," said Corporate Learning Consultant John Claybon.

"Employees are often working around wellsites, oil rigs and exploratory surfaces that they have to utilize in the field," Claybon said. "So, safety awareness is something the industry is very concerned with."

There are more than 25 class topics, including Incident Reporting and Investigation, Accident Prevention, Material Handling and Hazard Communications.

This fairly new curriculum, approved by Safe-

Land USA and the Energy Training Council (ETC) of Oklahoma, has been in effect since May. Sponsored by several large energy companies such as Devon, Chesapeake Energy and ConocoPhillips, the program is standard yet quicker than the norm.

Designed specifically for the oil and gas industry, the awareness non-credit classes are also consistent with Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S), recognized by multiple organizations. Provided class information will help increase employee competency, reducing employer liability costs.

Classes are offered twice a month, once in English and once in Spanish, by certified instructors. Upcoming dates include Wednesday, July 25 in English, Wednesday, Aug. 8 in Spanish, Wednesday, Aug. 22 in English and more throughout the fall.

Classes take place from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in a single-day format on the fourth floor of the OCCC Library.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Loan and Pell disbursement

Loan disbursement dates for the summer semester include July 20, 25 and 27. Pell disbursement dates for the summer semester include July 27. For further information, contact the Financial Aid office at 405-682-7525.

Oil and gas safety

Enroll now for SafeLand USA awareness classes held throughout the summer to provide oil and gas industry professionals with specific safety awareness. Classes are scheduled for July 25. For more information, call 405-682-7855.

New student orientation

Student Life will host a New Student Orientation session for the summer semester from 9:30 a.m. to noon July 25, and from 2:30 to 5 p.m. July 26, in CU3. For further information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Career Guidance Presentation

Student Employment and Career Services will host a 30-minute DISCOVER and ACT Career Guidance presentation at 12:30 p.m. July 26, in 1G7. For further information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519.

End of summer semester

The end of the summer semester and the summer graduation date is July 27.

August intersession begins

The August intersession will run from July 30 through Aug. 10. For enrollment information, contact 405-682-1611, ext. 7784.

All Highlights are due Friday by 5 p.m. 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.

"Upon successful completion, a certified card is awarded, which also enters names and pictures into a national database," Claybon said. "So, as employees go out to actual drilling sites, the cards verify the safety awareness experience which is becoming more and more a requirement."

Open to the public, classes are \$150 each. There also are group discounts available.

Two forms of IDs are required. And, because of the rapid pace, seating is limited to only about 15 vacant spots per class.

"Classes fill up fast," Claybon said. "In fact, a lot of times there are waiting lists because of how big of a big deal this is," Claybon said. "So far, the awareness classes are being received extremely well."

For enrollment, specific pricing and other information, contact Claybon at 405-682-7855, or email jclaybon@occc.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

MISCELLANEOUS

BABY ITEMS FOR SALE: Fisher Price infant to toddler blue baby rocker w/ activity bar, barely used: \$20. Slightly used clean Jumperoo with accessories: \$50. Bright Starts baby activity gym, new: \$15. wickitiwack@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged: \$100; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, \$100. 405-818-0083.

MUST SELL: 1995 Vulcan 750 motorcycle. (needs carb repair and more) \$1,000. (Includes parts bikes.) Text 405-532-6262 for more information.

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Comedy Movies 1

Find and circle all of the comedy movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional comedy movie.

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

ALL OF ME	FLETCH	OH, GOD!
ANNIE HALL	GHOSTBUSTERS	PLAZA SUITE
BABE	HAPPY GILMORE	REPO MAN
BEING THERE	HARVEY	RUSHMORE
BIG	HOLIDAY	SHREK
BOB ROBERTS	HOTSHOTS	SLACKER
BULL DURHAM	LEGALLY BLONDE	SLAP SHOT
CARS	LIAR LIAR	SLEEPER
CAT BALLOU	LOCAL HERO	THE RUTLES
CITY SLICKERS	MALLRATS	TOOTSIE
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ENGLISH COMP, GOVERNMENT JUST SOME OF THE CLASSES OFFERED

Intercession classes great for quick credits

ERIN PEDEN

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

While summer classes may be drawing near the end, some students are gearing up for fall classes, particularly intercession.

Starting July 30, intercession classes give students the opportunity to complete a class in just two weeks.

Intercession classes are a great way to knock out credits in a short time frame.

History professor Jeff Carlisle said students taking intercession must be prepared for a quick-paced, heavy load of work since the same amount of material being covered in a normal 16-week semester is being condensed into two weeks.

"For students who can absorb information quickly,

intercession classes are great," Carlisle said.

"For those who need time to mull over information and reflect upon it, a long session class might be more to their taste."

Some of the classes being offered as intercession this semester include English Comp II, History since the Civil War and American Federal Government.

Classes are usually held Monday through Friday for the entire two-week period and last around four and a half hours per day.

Diet and exercise major Ashley Ho, who took history during an intercession, said taking the class helped her get ahead.

If you are dreading taking a subject or just want to get it out of the way fast, this is definitely the way to do it," Ho said. "It's a lot of hard work and time consuming but at the end of it, you will feel accomplished."

According to OCCC's student success reports published for the Fall 2011 semester, intercession classes at both the 1000- and 2000-level were highest in success rates out of all the lengths of classes offered. Fast-Track classes followed close behind.

Business major Corey Johnson said taking intercession helped him get his last credit before transferring.

"I got my last basic credit out of the way through intercession so I wouldn't have to spend an extra semester here," Johnson said. "It's an intense two weeks but totally worth it and definitely doable."

For a complete list of intercession classes being offered for fall, view the college's class schedule at www.occc.edu/schedule/index or for more information, contact Recruitment and Admissions at 405-682-7580. To enroll, log in to MineOnline or visit Academic Advising.

COMPUTER LAB WILL HOUSE 16 COMPUTERS, BE COMPLETED SPRING 2013

Social Sciences department anticipates lab add on

MICHAEL SCHMIDT

News Writing Student

The new school year is just around the corner and with it brings a new and impressive feature to the Social Sciences department.

Social Sciences Dean Susan Tabor said OCCC's Social Sciences department is filled with excitement in anticipation of a new computer lab, scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2013.

The lab will feature 16 computers designed to benefit all students, especially those enrolled in psychology courses, Tabor said.

She said the purpose of the new addition is to allow students who are enrolled in online classes to take their online class on-campus rather than at home.

This online-in-class arrangement offers students

more help from tutors, student instructors and other social science professors who will be encouraged to spend their office hours in the lab.

The goal of the computer lab is to make "more options available for students in the Social Sciences department," Tabor said.

Although the computers will contain programs specifically designed for psychology students and students enrolled in Statistics 2133, other departments will benefit from this newest addition such as the political science department and the history department.

Although the future computer lab will only house 16 computers, the lab also will sport new furniture to accompany the computers, as well as a number of work tables provided to give students a "laptop

option," Tabor said.

She said construction on the new computer lab has already begun.

By the end of its completion, Tabor said, the Social Sciences department hopes to install an additional four computers, bringing the total number to an even 20.

Tabor said this is a big step for the department and will hopefully give it a new face.


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