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PIONEER ONLINE

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Staff Writer Erin Peden says people have forgotten how to talk to each other without a computer between them. Read her thoughts inside.

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Those interested in food, music, and lots of artwork will want to attend the annual Arts Festival Oklahoma being held Aug. 31 through Sept. 3 on the OCCC campus.

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OCCC's Aquatic Center hosts some of the most prestigious events in the U.S. and is where many champions have competed.

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Ready to join a club? Take your pick at the upcoming Student Organization Fair. Turn inside for more information.

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PIONEER

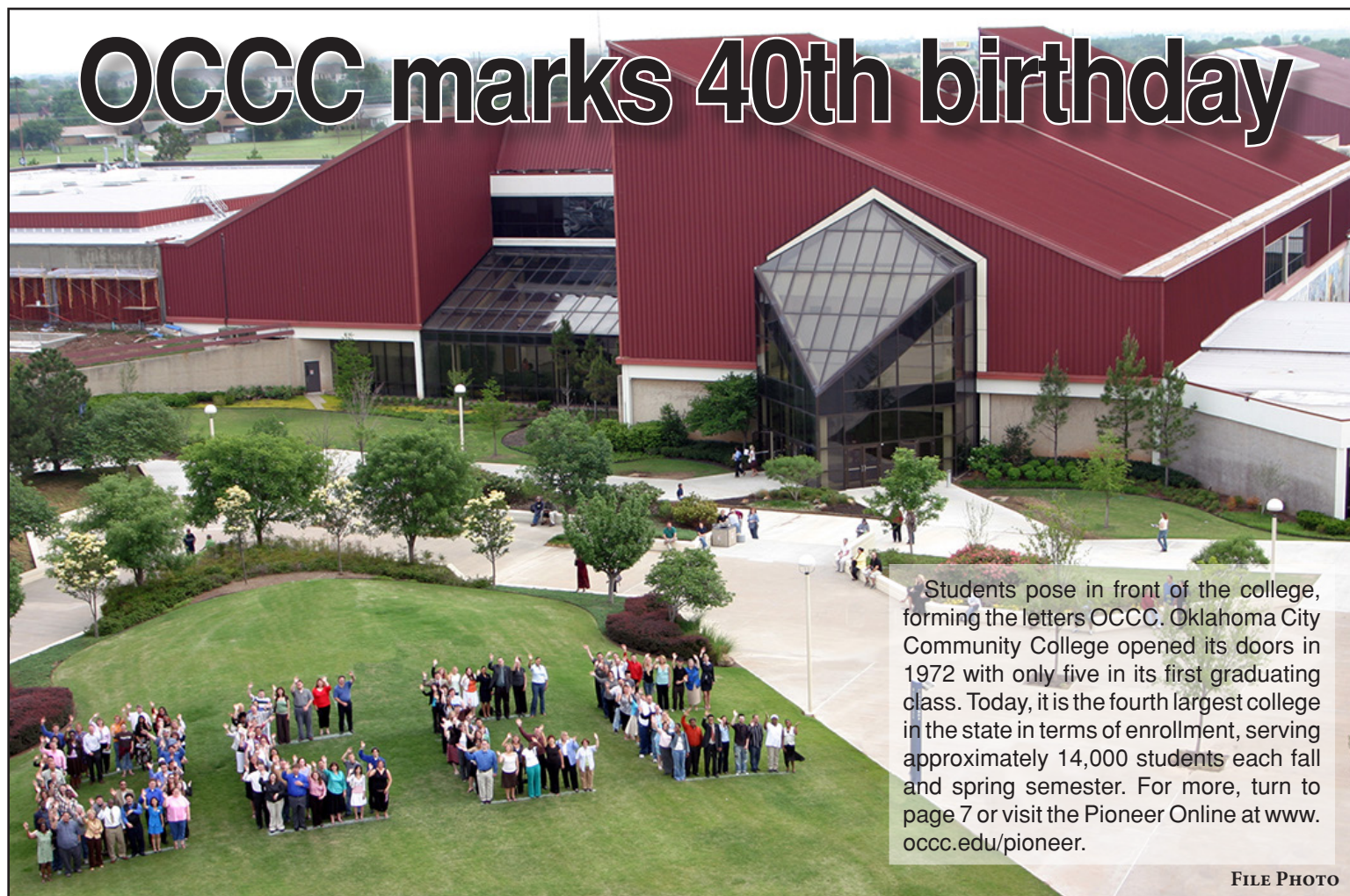
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AUGUST 24, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

OCCC marks 40th birthday



Students pose in front of the college, forming the letters OCCC. Oklahoma City Community College opened its doors in 1972 with only five in its first graduating class. Today, it is the fourth largest college in the state in terms of enrollment, serving approximately 14,000 students each fall and spring semester. For more, turn to page 7 or visit the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

FILE PHOTO

COLLEGE OPENED ITS DOORS IN 1972 WITH A FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF FIVE IN 1973

JEREMY CLOUD

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

From its start as a small junior college serving non-traditional students with night classes to being the fourth largest college in the state by annual enrollment numbers, OCCC has changed a lot in 40 years, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist.

Sechrist said he believes the biggest change over the last four decades is the increase in scale of the college.

"In 1972, the first year, the college had one building and a fall enrollment of just over 1,000 students," he said. "Today the campus is a campus of many buildings and this fall, the enrollment will be well over 14,000 students."

He said the large number of students enrolled annually is unusual for a community college "with only one campus."

"There are definitely community colleges with larger enrollment numbers," he said. "But their numbers are spread out over several campus facilities, with maybe 5,000 to 6,000 students per campus."

The president's Executive Administrative Assistant Janice Phillips offered another view of how the college has changed. She said she believes the biggest change is the level of recognition accorded OCCC.

"It used to be that we were just that school on the southside that looked like a barn," Phillips said. "Today, we've gained the respect of not only our local community but also a broader perspective [of recognition] of all of Oklahoma City, of the state of

Oklahoma, and even a perspective of national recognition for the quality education and institution that we have."

Phillips also said that while she enjoys the growth OCCC has experienced, she misses the small-school environment.

"I know it's impossible, but if I could wiggle my nose and bring something back from the college's past, it would be that intimacy of everyone knowing everyone."

Journalism and English professor Sue Hinton said she believes the

See **OCCC** page 9

Former bursar guilty of embezzling \$400K

SARAH HUSSAIN

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MITCHELL RICHARDS

Special Assignments Reporter
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Former OCCC Bursar Brandi Henson, 49, pled guilty Aug. 16 in a federal court to

wire fraud in connection with embezzling nearly \$400,000 from OCCC between 2004 and 2011, according to a court document filed July 10 with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. Henson resigned her position on Sept. 30, 2011. At that time, she was making \$60,000 a

See **EMBEZZLE** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | The Internet has taken away the ability to truly interact

Nothing beats face-to-face contact

With the growing use of social media, it's easy to say we are becoming a more socialized society. However, are we really being social? Yes, sites such as Facebook,



**ERIN
PEDEN**

Twitter and YouTube allow you to connect with people from all over the world but sometimes I think the virtual worlds we create for ourselves become more important than the one we actually live in.

Some advantages of social media are we can interact, share photos, videos, and opinions with both people we know in real life and people we meet online. Businesses use social media to promote their work and get users talking about

certain products but how does social media affect our personal lives?

A person posting videos on YouTube may have hundreds or even thousands of subscribers and not know a single one of them. Yes, their videos are reaching thousands of people but when you think about it, how is that being social? They are simply posting an opinion for the world to see. Yes, viewers have the option to comment on the video but if all the person ever does is post the video and does not react to comments, is that really being social?

So what about Facebook? Yes, Facebook is a little

more personal than other sites because you can add people you know in real life and keep up with what is going on but sometimes I think we take it a little far.

For example, you receive a friend request from a name that sounds familiar. Possibly you went to school with this person long ago. You accept the friend request and upon closer approach you realize this is indeed someone you went to school with and haven't heard from in more than a decade. After spending several minutes scanning that person's profile page, you feel you have a good grip on the kind of person he or she is, as well as what he or she is up to these days. In just a few minutes you have filled in the gaps of your missing 10-year relationship and now consider this person your friend.

Is this what our world has come to? Building relationships with random strangers and sharing every detail of our lives in hopes we will become popular on the Internet or get a bunch of "likes" on our status? What happened to real life interaction of going to get lunch or coffee and sharing a few laughs with the people we love most? Even if you know the people you are interacting with on the Internet, there are times you cannot even begin to compute the emotions and vibes people are sending you behind their words like you can in real life.

I am not saying it is bad to meet new people or use social media. I just feel sometimes it becomes a distraction to our everyday lives and before we know it, our virtual world is mixed with our physical one

BALLIARD BILL



JEREMY CLOUD

and we can no longer tell the difference. I believe social media is a great tool for many things but the bottom line is, that is all it is: a tool.

Nothing beats face-to-face interaction. Think before you snap, post, share or accept that friend request. Instead of writing on someone's wall, call or pay an actual visit. Instead of posting an opinion you may regret later, keep a journal.

The uses of social media can be both convenient and amazing but let's make sure we are utilizing it in a way that will be a positive experience for all parties involved.

—ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

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

West Nile virus numbers continue to rise across the state

To the Editor:

As the numbers of West Nile Virus cases in Oklahoma continue to climb, the Oklahoma City-County Health Department advises residents to take extra precautions against the mosquito-borne illness by avoiding mosquito bites and reducing habitat where mosquitoes live and breed.

To reduce mosquito habitat:

- Prevent items such as buckets, cans, pool covers, flower pots and tires from holding standing water
- Empty and refill birdbaths and your pet's outdoor water bowl daily.

Swimming pools and fishponds with circulating water generally are not a problem.

For standing water sources that can't be drained,

OCCHD recommends microbial larvicides that kill mosquito larvae. Microbial larvicides are non-toxic to humans and do not pose risks to wildlife or the environment when used according to label directions, and can be purchased from hardware or home improvement stores. In addition, be sure to protect your home from mosquitos by keeping screens in good repair. And, always remember the four Ds:

Dusk to dawn – Mosquitoes that carry WNV are most active during these hours, so if you must go outside always take precautions.

Dress – Wear long sleeves with cuffs and long pants wherever mosquitoes are likely to be biting. Tuck your pants into your socks.

DEET – Use an insect repellent containing DEET

on any exposed skin.

Drainage – Check regularly around your home for any water accumulation that could provide mosquito breeding grounds. For pools, hot tubs or water features, OCCHD recommends that residents "cover, drain or maintain" these water sources to eliminate mosquito habitat.

Residents of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma County may also report sources of stagnant water outside their own property at www.occhd.org/community/foodprotection/complaintform or call the OCCHD Consumer Protection division at 405-425-4347, 405-425-4348, or 405-425-4319.

—OCCHD
WWW.OCCHD.ORG

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PIONEER

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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 with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Jeremy Renner does a great job of picking up where Matt Damon left off

Newest “Bourne” installment rates

Jason Bourne and now Aaron Cross. As the “Bourne Legacy” trailers portray, there was never just one. “Bourne Legacy” director and screenplay writer Tony Gilroy made this evident in the newest “Bourne” movie.

Confused? You aren’t alone.

Turns out Matt Damon, the star of the earlier “Bourne” installments: “The Bourne Identity,” “The Bourne Supremacy” and “The Bourne Ultimatum,” is nowhere to be found this time out. He has been replaced with new agent assassin Cross, played by Oscar-nominee Jeremy Renner.

Not having ever seen the previous three “Bourne” movies fully, it was slightly difficult to understand all of the lingo being thrown around that “Bourne” fanatics probably easily pick up on but not so confusing that I couldn’t understand it.

So for people who may be in the same position, I suggest seeing this even if you have not had a “Bourne” movie marathon prior to heading to the theater.

It is a two hour, 15 minute film but with Renner playing Cross, it makes it easy to lose track of time and get thoroughly immersed in the action. Renner’s latest film was Marvel’s “The Avengers” in which he played Hawkeye.



In 2009 Renner was awarded the Breakthrough Actor Award for his role in “The Hurt Locker.” He also received nominations for Best Actor, Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role and many other awards for his work.

Renner is going to be someone to watch out for as the roles he has played have helped shape him to be a phenomenal actor. His co-star Rachel Weisz, who plays Dr. Marta Shearing, only adds to the greatness of “Bourne Legacy.”

Weisz is known for portraying women of incredible spirit

and intelligence. She is only one small portion of the large governmental project that this film is about but with the way the story goes, her small portion turns into a very large and important one. These two, along with the rest of the cast, make it a film to go see.

Almost the whole last hour of the film involves a thrilling chase through the streets of the Philippines which falls into a very open ending for what seems like will be another trilogy of some sorts, so keep your eyes peeled.

RATING: B+

—**SARAH HUSSAIN**
EDITOR

SERVICES REVIEW | My Dentist has an office full of helpful, friendly employees

Hope for those who fear dentist visit

There comes a time once or twice a year where everyone must venture to a land full of cotton balls, latex gloves and shiny silver tools that vaguely resemble medieval torture devices. That’s right, kids. I’m talking about the dentist’s office.

According to www.webmd.com, up to 20 percent of Americans admit to suffering from some sort of dental-related phobia.

When you suffer from such fears, you’re less likely to go to the source of your fear: the dreaded “d-word.” Some might be able to brush off their fears and muster up the courage to sit through a cleaning but others avoid the dentist so desperately their dental health — and consequently, their general health — begins to decline. Until recently, I was one of the latter.

After paying my old enemy a visit last month, I was informed my wisdom teeth needed to be pulled before they damaged my other teeth. It was a procedure the dentist wouldn’t take on himself and the oral surgeon he referred me to only offered patients general anesthesia, a road I did not want to travel.

After hours of searching through the phone book and similar online resources, I finally found a dental office that offered patients other options — My Dentist branch located at 1144 SW 104th St. here in Oklahoma City.

I scheduled a consultation visit with Dr. Wendy Holder, who took one look at my mouth and told me she could take the wisdom teeth out “no problem” without using anything more than nitrous oxide.

Unlike the other dentists who did not even offer a consultation visit, Dr. Holder sat down with me and explained the procedure in its entirety, answering all of my questions and concerns with confidence.

A week later, I walked out of the My Dentist facility with a mouth full of cotton swabs, devoid of my wisdom teeth. The procedure was quick and painless, with all of my teeth coming out in less than an hour.

Although I had been warned of the immense pain to follow from getting all four teeth removed at once, the worst I had was a little tenderness. I didn’t even need the prescribed pain medicine, and within a day the sockets had already begun to close up. Four days later, Dr. Holder checked me again to ensure everything was healing up right.

Needless to say, I’ve since switched dentists. The employees at My Dentist are sweet enough to give you the same cavities they’re supposed to remove, and the facility is maintained flawlessly.

There’s even a little office betta fish who is more than happy to perform a little shimmy while you wait.

The folks at My Dentist are some of the friendli-



Community college ‘wise financial choice’

The fall semester signals the beginning of a new academic year. To those returning students — welcome back. To our new students — let me be one of the first to welcome you to OCCC.

Your choice to attend a community college and, in particular, OCCC, is a wise financial choice. As costs to attend private colleges and public universities rise, some have questioned whether going to college is worth it — especially if you have to borrow a large amount to attend.

With our combined tuition and fees of around \$1,500 a semester for a full-time student, attending OCCC can significantly reduce the costs of earning a college degree.

Earning a college degree is one of the most powerful and life-changing decisions you will ever make. A college degree has never been as important for your financial security as it is today.

The average income of a college graduate is now projected to be 84 percent higher than those without a college degree. Good jobs that require only a high school diploma are dwindling, while job opportunities that require an associate degree or higher continue to increase.

While future jobs and potential income are very important, there are other non-tangible benefits.

College is also about stimulating your mind, expanding your capacity to intelligently participate in our democracy, and learning more about yourself and the world. Simply put — college will make you a smarter, better informed and more successful in life.

Whether you are here to eventually transfer to another college, get the education to begin a new career or just to learn something new, the faculty and staff at OCCC are dedicated to provide you with the support and education necessary to see your dream of a college education come true.

On behalf of everyone here — welcome and have a great Fall Semester at OCCC.

—**PAUL SECHRIST**
OCCC PRESIDENT

est, most professional people you will ever meet — something I never thought I could say about anyone in the dental profession.

Whether you suffer from dental anxieties or you’re just looking for a new dentist, give the office a call at 405-759-4134 and ask for Dr. Holder.

You’ll leave smiling.

—**WHITNEY KNIGHT**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Movie, based on semi-autobiographical book, lives up to expectations

'Blue Like Jazz' takes Christian man on a journey

"Blue Like Jazz" takes a Bible-belt raised college student and sends him to the most godless campus in America.

The movie, recently released on DVD, follows Don Miller, played by Marshall Allman ("True Blood," "Prison Break"), as he leaves the Christian subculture of Houston to attend Reed College, a real college in Portland, known for its liberal ways, open drug use and parties. Reed also is known for being one of the most intellectual schools in the nation.

The movie has Christian and spiritual subject matter and undertones but earns its PG-13 rating and is not your stereotypical Christian film. By that, I mean it doesn't star Kirk Cameron.

"Blue Like Jazz" is about a young man's discovery of what his true beliefs are away from where he was raised.

Miller goes through the shock process of going from Houston's Sunday school



class to Portland's Reed College classes in hilarious and dramatic fashion. He meets Penny, played by Claire Holt ("Vampire Diaries") and is immediately attracted to her warmth and soft spirit.

Perhaps the most interesting character in the movie is Reed College's pope, played by Justin Welborn. The campus pope is a real position at Reed, elected by the students, and Welborn fits the

job perfectly. He's snarky and sarcastic, openly mocks God and religion, but is charming and accessible.

In one scene, the pope is raiding Don's personal library looking for Christian books to burn as propaganda. The Pope, however, befriends Don as he is trying to break his way into his new culture, far away from the pews of his Houston church.

At the insistence of his new lesbian friend Lauryn, played by Tania Raymonde ("Lost"), Don is busy trying to blend in and hide his Christian upbringing. Don soon learns Reed College is a place for diversity but not Christianity.

"Blue Like Jazz" is at times awkwardly funny and hilarious but isn't about being funny. The themes of the movie are

rooted in are the things people struggle with as individuals and spiritual people.

The movie often alludes to life being like jazz music in the way that it doesn't always resolve the way we think it will. The movie resolves in the same manner.

The pope steals the show when he is onscreen with his antics and high-jinks, and also during the film's climax that places Don and the pope in a confession booth. His performance is raw and real, much like everyone else's in the film.

"Blue Like Jazz" is loosely based on a semi-autobiographical book of the same name released in 2003 by Donald Miller with the subtitle of "Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality." The movie lives up to that subtitle.

Rating: B-

—MITCHELL RICHARDS
POLICE REPORTER

RESTAURANT REVIEW | After a lengthy wait, eatery redeems itself with great food, fun waitstaff

Olive Garden a bit pricey but worth it

Many places have an Olive Garden near them or at least within a few miles. Olive Garden is an Italian restaurant with the same propensity for unneeded Italian thrown in the menu as Starbucks.

On the day I ate there, the Olive Garden at 1844 NW Expressway had excel-

lent service, though the time spent waiting for a seat was outrageous. My party and I waited for about an hour for a seat and most of it was outside as there was standing room only in the lobby of the restaurant.

I admit waiting outdoors also was partly due to all of us being smokers and the restaurant is non-smoking.

The pager we were given was the wrong one but we only found that out when my party was called and another customer had a buzzing pager in her hand instead of my party.

I find it odd that a classy restaurant like that would give the wrong placeholder. However they redeemed themselves by having our name on hand and by serving delicious food.

I had the Stuffed Chicken Marsala which came with mashed potatoes, and endless salad and bread sticks. The food was wonderful.

The waiter ended up bringing two rounds of salad and bread before our food finally arrived. The garlic bread was soft and really warm, and the salad was covered with parmesan cheese. The first round did not last long at all.

When the food finally arrived, we weren't very hungry anymore, but we ate anyway.



The food looked delicious and the taste matched. The chicken was moist and the sauce was great as well.

I didn't even mind eating the tomatoes that came with the meal although I normally despise them.

Aside from the food being wonderful, the server had a sense of humor and apparently watched Monty Python.

When asked if we needed anything, my younger brother and I started reenacting the closing scene from "Monty Python's Meaning of Life," much to my mother's chagrin.

What ensued is what gave me such a high opinion of the restaurant: this one in particular.

The waiter proceeded to bring us a small paper bucket full of dinner mints — a reference to the movie — which we took home as a trophy.

The service leading to that point, as well as afterwards, was stellar and deserves praise as well.

My suggestion is to make reservations if the restaurant has that option. As if you go hungry you will more than likely have to wait awhile to be seated.

Hopefully you get a fun waiter as well.

To find an Olive Garden near you, visit www.olivegarden.com/location.

Rating: A-

—ROBERT BOLTON
ONLINE WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Aug. 10 through Aug. 12
www.yahoo.com

1. *The Expendables*
2. *The Bourne Legacy*
3. *ParaNorman*
4. *The Campaign*
5. *Sparkle*
6. *The Dark Knight Rises*
7. *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*
8. *Hope Springs*
9. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*
10. *Total Recall*
11. *Ice Age: Continental Drift*
12. *Ted*
13. *2016 Obama's America*
14. *Ek Tha Tiger*
15. *Step up Revolution*
16. *Brave*
17. *The Amazing Spiderman*
18. *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*
19. *Beasts of the Southern Wild*
20. *Moonrise Kingdom*

A look back over 40 years of OCCC Presidents

STAFF REPORTS

Back in March 1969, a South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce committee petitioned for a junior college to be established.

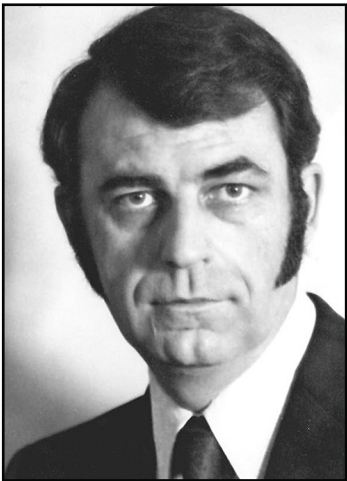
In 1970, J.C. Nichols was named president of what later became named South Oklahoma City Junior College (SOCJC), which we now know as OCCC.

Nichols helped begin the process of groundbreaking and organizing faculty and staff in 1971. Nichols remained president until late in 1971, when John E. Cleek took over.

Cleek helped open the college's doors in 1972. Over the four decades since that fateful day in 1969, the college has had a total of nine presidents that have graced the halls of OCCC.



An SOCJC sign advertises the school opening in 1972.



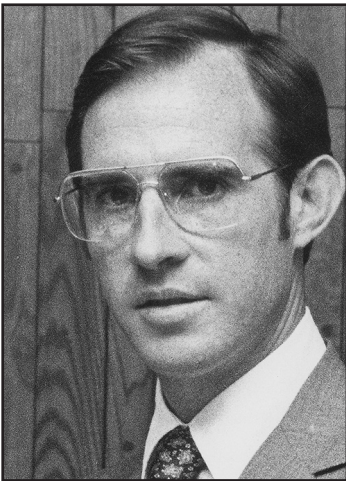
John E. Cleek
1971-1974



Hugh Turner
1974



Dale L. Gibson
1974-1982



Donald L. Newport
1982-1987



Kenneth P. Walker
1988-1991



Bobby D. Gaines
1991-1995



Robert P. Todd
1995-2005



Paul Sechrist
2005-Present

STUDENTS RECEIVE INSTRUCTION ON STUDY SKILLS AND MORE

Brown Bag series set to occur on weekly basis

BRANDON WILLIS
Sports Writer

The Student Life office will begin hosting the Brown Bag series for the fall semester. The first meeting will take place at 12:30 p.m., Aug. 28, in room CU1.

The meetings will occur on a weekly basis throughout the fall semester on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. or at noon on Wednesdays, according to Student Life.

According to Student Life, the Brown Bag series is a co-curricular program which hosts on-and-off campus speakers who address certain topics such as study skills, time management, transferring and much more.

According to Student Life Coordinator Brittany Carradine, the Brown Bag series was created several years ago as supplemental learning to what was going on in the classroom.

"It is a lunchtime program to help students become better both in and out of the classroom," Carradine said.

Do not be surprised to walk into a Brown Bag and see guest speakers. Guest speakers will attend the Brown Bag sessions specifically tied to the topic, Carradine said.

"We usually have guest speakers for Brown Bags. For example we are very excited about the Brown Bag on Oct. 23. The topic will be healthy relationships and the speaker will be Jenna Howard, who is a licensed professional counselor in Student Support Services," Carradine said.

The topic for the first meeting on Aug. 28 is student involvement at the college said Carradine. She said she believes the meeting will bring light to the opportunities students have here at OCCC.

"There are so many opportunities for students to get involved here at OCCC so we are taking the first Brown Bag to inform them of those things," Carradine said.

Student Life invites all students to attend the Brown Bag series. With a consistent

turnout the eventual goal has a better chance to be reached.

"Brown Bags provide students with information, skills, and knowledge that truly supplements and often complements the learning done in class to help develop students with a more holistic approach. They go out into the community not just as better students but better people," Carradine said.

OCCC

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

OPTIMAL RESUME

www.occc.optimalresume.com

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

Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills

Arts Festival Oklahoma to visit campus

PIONEER STAFF REPORTS

As part of the OCCC cultural programs, Art Festival Oklahoma will feature approximately 150 artists from throughout the country with original work such as drawings, crafts, jewelry, photography, pottery, sculpture and wood art.

Visitors to the festival will have the opportunity to purchase from the booths as well as talk to some of the artists. Various local performing artists will also be in attendance throughout the weekend.

First launched in 1978, AFO's main purpose is to provide the citizens of Oklahoma with a cultural experience focusing on Oklahoma's fine artists and craft persons as well as Oklahoma performing artists.

The festival is made possible by the support of about 400 volunteers, various sponsors, and about 25,000 guests each year.

No pets, alcohol, or unauthorized solicitation will be allowed.

For more information, call 405-682-7576, or visit the Arts Festival Oklahoma website at www.occc.edu/afo

2012 Arts Festival Oklahoma

When :

10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sept. 1 & 2
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 3

Where :

OCCC Campus
7777 South May Ave.
Oklahoma City

Admission: Free

Parking: \$5

Food and drink vendors

From B & G Indian Tacos to corndogs on a stick, the Arts Festival will bring many vendors to campus. The following concessions stands have submitted applications for a booth at the 2012 Arts Festival of Oklahoma:

B & G CONCESSIONS
BACK YARD BURGERS
CIRCLE J CONCESSION
GOODE SNACKS
JR'S CONCESSIONS, LLC
KONA ICE
LADY B'S
MAUI WOWI HAWAIIAN
QUALITY CONCESSION
S & L CONCESSIONS, LLC
S & S CONCESSIONS
SILVER DOLLAR BAKERY
SWEET CORN EXPRESS
SWEIS'S RESTAURANT
TASTE OF SOUL EGG ROLL

Entertainment:

Saturday, Sept. 1

11 a.m. - Student Jazz Ensemble
noon - Merry Miller
1 p.m. - John the Franklin
2 p.m. Oklahoma Traditional Music
3 p.m. - Burlap Tuxedo
4 p.m. - Symoleons
5 p.m. - Jack Rowdy
6 p.m. - Full Circle
7 p.m. - Rave On! The Buddy Holly Experience

Sunday, Sept. 2

Noon - Terry Frazier Flutes
12:30 p.m. - Flashback
1 p.m. - Rosh Pinah
2 p.m. - John Taylor & The Rooftop Duo
3 p.m. - Acoustic Oklahoma
5 p.m. - Local Honey
6 p.m. - Michael Boyle Quartet
8 p.m. - Oklahoma City Philharmonic
9:30 p.m. - Fireworks

Monday, Sept. 3

11 a.m. - Velocity Dance Center
Noon - Yumare Mexican Folkloric Dancers
1 p.m. - Edgar Cruz
2 p.m. - Pamela Rise
3 p.m. - The Notes
4 p.m. - A Touch of Sax

Artist creates name for self

SARAH HUSSAIN
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Neil Cluck has been named the 2012 Arts Festival of Oklahoma poster contest winner, according to a spokesperson from the Cultural Programs Office.

"I use a wash and swirl kind of thing. I call it the 'Forrest Gump School of Painting' - you never know what you're gonna get," Cluck said.

Cluck said art has been his passion since he was a young boy, but said he feels he has moved away from the ordinary into his new pieces.

"Each piece is a brush stroke pulled off the wall, into the real world. No more painting illusions, all of the shadows are real.

"During the day, the sun moves across the room and the shadows change within the piece," Cluck said.

This will be Cluck's second consecutive year showing his creations at AFO, although he has been at these shows on and off for the past 10 years he said.

The price of Cluck's art ranges from \$140 for small pieces, to \$2000 to \$3000 for larger commission pieces which can be around eight feet by four feet in size.



2012 ARTS FESTIVAL OKLAHOMA

Held on the campus of Oklahoma City Community College
Labor Day Weekend, September 1-3, 2012
SW 74th and May Avenue • www.occc.edu/afo

Cluck said his average sale is around \$300 to \$400.

"My favorite part of the show is talking with the people that come into my booth. My work is, well, different and usually draws comments of surprise from most.

"My favorite first comment is 'wow,'" Cluck said.

OCCC celebrates 40 years of learning



OCCC campus as viewed from the roof of the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. Campus currently serves over 28,000 students a year.



Construction of the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library.

OCCC timeline

- In March 1969, an South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce committee petitioned for a junior college to be established.
- Planning and groundbreaking for the college took place in 1971 and construction began in 1972.
- The college opened for classes Sept. 25, 1972, under the name South Oklahoma City Junior College with 1,049 students.
- March 1975, Children's Center is opened to serve as a daycare as well as a lab for students enrolled in the Child Development Program.
- January 1976, first talk-back class was broadcast from college studio. The class was broadcast in color along with special effects.
- July 1976, SOCJC offered non-credit short courses lasting 2 to 10 weeks. These classes included belly dancing, bass fishing, sewing, watercolor and much more.
- July 1977, nursing program received full accreditation.
- September 1977, college increased work study wages.
- January 1978, Communications Lab opened to replace and expand the reading and writing lab.
- March 1979, SOCJC offered hang gliding class to students who want to learn information and flying techniques of the sport.
- August 1979, SOCJC served as the site of Satellite Private Terminal Seminar and is featured on NBC's Primetime Sunday.
- In 1983, the name of the College was changed to Oklahoma City Community College and adopted the acronym OKCCC.
- OKCCC offered telecourses in which students completed their courses by watching the class on television.
- January 1988, OKCCC's first intersession class was offered.
- 1989, the Aquatic Center is built and served initially as the outdoor venue for all aquatic competitions during the 1989 U.S. Olympic Festival.
- May 1999, OKCCC allowed Westmoore High School students to finish out the semester on campus after the high school received damage during the May 3 tornado.
- 2006 OKCCC changes its acronym from OKCCC to OCCC.
- Today OCCC serves over 28,000 students a year and offers a wide range of community and continuing education courses.



(Left) Construction of the underground portion of the Main Building, which now houses the SEM Center at OCCC.



(Below) The first Board of Trustees, later to be renamed the Board of Regents included (from left to right) E.M. Lookabaugh, Al Snipes, Jack Turner, Carlton Myhro, Robert Moser, Wes Weldon and Leon Nance.



The first graduating class of OCCC assembles in the Main Building during commencement in 1973.

Find more historical and current pictures of OCCC on our website at www.occc.edu/pioneer

SPORTS

Walk the dog



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Larry Little walks his dog, Otis, Aug. 17, around the pond located on the northeast corner of campus. The pond provides a safe, scenic place for walking, running and other activities.

UPCOMING
INTRAMURALS
EVENTS

Aug. 25: Wellness Center Opens. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Sept. 4: Beginning Golf begins. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Sept. 4: Fall Swimming Lessons begin. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Sept. 5: The Fitness Classes offered in the Wellness Center begin. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

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

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

SPORTS | Facility still considered state of the art

Aquatic Center hosts Olympic-caliber events

BRANDON WILLIS

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Olympic Medalist Ryan Lochte, along with several big name Olympic Medalists, have been a part of OCCC Aquatic Center history.

The Aquatic Center, which has hosted prestigious events such as the Mountain West Conference Swim Meet for over a decade, has brought with it a range of Olympic talent said Recreation and Fitness Director Roxanna Butler.

"Each year coaches, athletes and spectators comment about the wonderful hospitality they receive in Oklahoma," Butler said.

Butler said the Aquatic Center has hosted outstanding talent from multiple events since its construc-

tion for the 1989 Olympic Festival Games. She said the OCCC Aquatic Center has had the rare privilege to host Olympic gold-medal winning caliber swimmers, such as Ryan Lochte, Cullen Jones, Summer Sanders and more.

Lochte quickly became one of the most famous swimmers in history, after defeating Michael Phelps on more than one occasion at the 2012 Olympics in London. Lochte, an eleven-time Olympic medalist, has had the honor of racking up seven individual medals, making him the second most decorated individual in swimming history, according to usaswimming.org. Lochte earned five medals this past Olympics in London.

Butler said Lochte was not the only decorated swimmer to grace the OCCC facility.

Jones also competed at the Aquatic Center years

back, Butler said. Jones is an Olympic gold-medalist who presently holds the world record for the 4x100 freestyle relay, according to espn.com.

Sanders is one of the earliest swimming greats to step foot in the Aquatic Center, and in 1995 set the pool record for the 200 meter and 400 individual medley, according to OCCC pool records.

Sanders has won two gold medals, one silver medal and one bronze medal according to sports-reference.com. Sanders biography lists her as a host for the Olympic games, a reporter on Fox and a celebrity apprentice on the hit TV show with the same name.

Butler said she believes having stars compete at the Aquatic Center can bring more notoriety to the center respect for the department as a whole.

"Our facility is over twenty years old and in many ways it is still considered state of the art," Butler said.

OCCC: College reaches 40-year milestone in September

Continued from page 1

growth has also necessitated a cooling of the idealism the college started with.

"When we began, we were out to change the world. We're still doing that, but it's less by that one-on-one, relaxed environment and more by process," she said. "I can't say the processes always work perfectly, but we help a lot more students today. To keep going, to help more and more people, we had to grow up as an institution."

Sechrist said he believes that while the idealism may not be as strong as it once was, the spirit of dedication and commitment it gave rise to continues to

be the driving force behind the college's mission. He said he sees that commitment most strongly in the reactions of students.

"A student that has a good GPA, good grades, and studies well can come into OCCC and succeed. And that's great," he said. "But what really motivates me, what gets me out of bed in the morning, every morning, is the students who come here and haven't been academically successful before."

"The students who don't know they can do this, who don't know they can succeed. And our faculty and staff work with them, and encourage them and show them talents they never knew

they had."

Hinton said if she could bring anything back, it would be a program she feels was a hallmark of the old idealism.

"We used to have an outreach program to inmates in prison. We wanted to make the world a better place, and we felt ... that if we could educate these inmates, they'd be able to get good jobs. We felt it could lower recidivism."

She said the program was cut after federal financial aid stopped being available to inmates in the 1990s. While she understands the lack of funding makes it impossible, "that's what I wish we could bring back."

But, Hinton said, it's too easy to fall

into the trap of "thinking the golden days are behind us."

"Yes, we've had to change to using more systems and processes, and we've lost that sense of intimacy."

"These days, I don't think any of us know everyone who works here and it's getting to the point where it can be hard to know everyone in your own department. But we help more students. I look around and we've never had facilities this good. We've never had equipment of this quality."

"We've lost some and gained some, but the golden days are still here."

For a slideshow of days past and present, visit www.occc.edu/pioneer.

Embezzle: Former bursar pleads guilty to taking money

Continued from page 1

year, according to the college's Staffing Plan.

The Yukon resident, hired at OCCC in 1990, was promoted to the position of bursar in 2003 where, according to the court document, she had access to the school's PayPal account, "a company that allowed users to create and maintain financial accounts for the purpose of transferring money over the Internet." Henson has admitted to using that account to post refunds and credits to her personal credit cards over a seven-year period, according to court papers.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist explained in an email to the Pioneer how Henson was able to take the money.

He said Henson would randomly select an actual refund due a student through his or her HigherOne account and, after refunding the student, would then duplicate the refund to herself using OCCC's accounting system. Then, Henson would direct that refund to her personal credit card. Henson managed the college's PayPal account.

According to the college's website, all student refunds from dropping a class, financial aid overages, or tuition overpayment go through their HigherOne account. Every student is given a debit card upon enrolling at the college.

Sechrist said no student lost money in the scheme.

"With regards to student

accounts, all students received the full amount of their refunds," Sechrist said.

Even so, he said, the college has been adversely affected.

"Any loss is regretful, but the amount of this loss is particularly grievous," Sechrist said. "As president, a taxpayer and a citizen that cares about our community, the loss is not trivial; it is a significant loss."

"I am, however, grateful that the losses through these improper transactions were discovered and stopped," he said.

Sechrist also praised the current personnel in the Bursar's Office for their performance during the challenging circumstances.

"Other than the sentencing of Ms. Henson...this plea provides a measure of closure to this issue for OCCC," Sechrist said in his email.

After the incident last year, Cynthia Gary was named interim bursar and received the full title last September.

Henson faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Court documents show Henson also will have to pay restitution to OCCC in the full amount of \$398,315.12.

Bob Troester, Western District of Oklahoma U.S. Attorney's Office spokesman, said the court will now proceed with figuring out a way for Henson to pay back the money she embezzled.

"As is every federal case, during the sentencing, it is turned

back to the FBI and a payment plan is put into place after reviewing all of the perpetrator's assets," Troester said.

He said there are collection methods put into place and each case is given a certain method which best suits the individual's situation.

"Sometimes they can pay the full restitution prior to the sentencing and the judge takes that into account," Troester said. "There are prison jobs each prisoner receives and that money can be collected by the FBI."

The FBI also has full access to take any tax refunds given back to the perpetrator by the IRS.

"We continue to collect what is ordered by the court as restitution to pay back the victim until the perpetrator has no more means of assets for any reason," he said.

Troester said Henson was released on a \$5,000 court issued bond from the U.S. Marshal's Office the same day she entered her guilty plea.

Formal sentencing will be set in about 90 days, he said.

"There has been no sentencing date set as of yet because of the processes the Federal Probation Office must go through."

Troester said the Federal Probation Office must review every aspect involved in the case and organize a Presentence Report. Then everyone involved — such as the prosecutor, defense attorney, judge — must review that report.

"This is why it can take up to 90 days for the sentencing date

to be set," Troester said.

Troester said the U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI, ... want to make sure [OCCC] gets their money back."

In the meantime, OCCC employees are wondering if the embezzlement will affect college operations or budgets. Sechrist said that won't happen.

"Questions have been raised as to whether the loss will require cutbacks in budgets

— and that answer is no," Sechrist said. "The losses occurred in previous years and have already been realized in previous budgets."

"But let me say again, from the beginning as the total amount of the loss was revealed, I found the total amount staggering and grievous."

Follow updates of this story and see related documents at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

Bursar incident first discovered a year ago

The Pioneer reported on Sept. 2, 2011, that Henson had been placed on "indefinite administrative leave." At that time Media Relations Coordinator Cordell Jordan told the Pioneer he didn't know the reason. "We haven't been told why Ms. Henson is on leave or for how long but we do know she is still an employee of the college."

In late November the Pioneer is told Henson was placed on leave after the discovery of the unauthorized transactions and subsequently resigned.

In December 2011, Jordan told the Pioneer that on Aug. 20, 2011, the FBI began looking into the suspicious charges made with the Bursar's Office credit card after college authorities alerted them.

A financial audit was performed by Hinkle & Co. with a report issued on Nov. 21, 2011.

A Pioneer story, dated Dec. 2, 2011, shows the audit came back "clean." At that time, President Paul Sechrist said a clean audit did not mean there is no wrongdoing.

The audit, presented to college regents on Nov. 21, 2011, stated the college did not have a procedure for balancing the Bursar's Office credit card on a monthly basis nor were balance reports reviewed by anyone outside the Bursar's Office.

Although the audit recommended implementing policies on both counts, it did not include specific suggestions for improving internal controls.

In March of this year Sechrist told the Pioneer that a system had been implemented to prevent future occurrences of this type. "The credit card accounts are reconciled more frequently and by additional staff outside the Bursar's office," he said.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

“— 2, 3, GO!”



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student Miguel Mandujano asks Science Department Director Sonya Williams for information about OCCC's pre-med program at the Opening Day event held on August 18. Each department had tables set up to answer questions and students were able to take individual tours to locate classes.

COMMUNITY | Participation in clubs helps students in other areas

Fair planned to show off student organizations

JEREMY CLOUD
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Students looking to increase activity on campus and in their education should swing by the Student Organization Fair, Student Clubs and Organizations assistant Karlen Grayson said.

The fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug 29, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug 30, will be held in the Coffee Shop lobby in the Main Building, Grayson said.

“[The location] seems to work well for the student body. Before, the clubs that were on the main walk were the ones that were pretty active, and those that were on the walls or around the back were easily overlooked. This way a student can go through and see all of them. It seems to be a better location,” she said.

Grayson said the event runs two days in hopes of catching the maximum amount of students.

“We try to catch as many students as possible,” she said. “We go to six in the evening, trying to give

the students that come in for the 5:30 evening classes a chance to swing by on their way into class. We pretty much get the whole population, those who are in the vicinity.”

Nearly all the clubs and organizations participate, though it isn't mandatory, she said.

“It isn't mandatory, because there are a few of our health clubs that don't make it, because they have clinicals. We're a school, they're a school organization, and their education comes first. But most of the clubs do [participate],” Grayson said.

Grayson said the purpose of the fair is to let students meet with clubs and see opportunities available for on campus participation, that can help students both here in college and as they move into their careers, she said.

“Most students who are in a club or organization do well in class,” she said. “They have a great network there, and when they run into problems or situations, they have others they can talk to.”

Grayson said four types of student organization exist on campus: major specific, honor society, religious organizations and special interest, and with

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteer Fair

Student Life will host a volunteer fair to allow students to see and speak to representatives local service agencies and check out volunteer opportunities available in the OKC metro area. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 5, in the Union foyer.

Brown Bag for student involvement

Students interested in the various ways they can get involved on campus can bring their lunch to a Brown Bag offered by Student Life on the topic at 12:30 p.m. Aug 28, in the College Union.

Open Bible Study

Christians on Campus will be hosting an open Bible Study from noon to 12:45 p.m. in 1X3 in the Main Building, and from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Aug 28 in 1C3 in the Main Building. For more information, contact James Kennedy at christiansoncampus.occc@gmail.com.

Arts Festival Oklahoma

Students looking for a fun weekend event featuring original fine arts and crafts can come out to Arts Festival Oklahoma 2012 on Sept. 1 and 2, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sept. 3 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parking is \$5, admission is free. For more information, go to www.occc.edu/afo.

College Closed Labor Day

OCCC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3 in observance of Labor Day. No classes will meet and no services will be available.

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.**

exception to honor societies which have GPA and credit hour stipulations, and some of the majors clubs, such as the Nursing club, nearly all the clubs are open to everyone.

Aside from the fair, students can locate and contact clubs through the website, Grayson said.

“We have an organizations brochure that outlines the various clubs and organizations we have here on campus. We have a place on our homepage where they can join a club, under the ‘Join a Club’ link,” she said.

And if a student can't find what he or she is looking for at the fair, she said, the option is always there to start a club. Starting a club requires at least ten interested students and two faculty sponsors, Grayson said.

For more information, go by the Student Life office in the main building or visit Student Life on the web at www.occc.edu/studentlife.

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

FOR SALE: Single piece of Delsey expandable lightweight luggage in eggplant, new. Comes from pet friendly home, \$100. Email 4allmypets@gmail.com for more information and pictures.

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.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Would split rent. Looking to rent in OKC area. Must be at least 21. Call: 405-474-8454.

LOOKING FOR RIDE: Need ride from Norman to OCCC. Legally blind student. Will pay for gasoline. Call: 405-598-5052 or 405-395-2779.

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Happy birthday, OCCC!

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JULIE YANG SAYS HER ART IS OPEN TO INTERPRETATION

OCCC student inspired by music, album art

CHRIS JAMES

Staff Writer

pioneerphotog@occc.edu

Emerging artist and OCCC art major Julie Yang had her first art show at the Velvet Monkey Salon on Aug. 10. The exhibit of Yang's colorful paintings, drawings and screen prints was unveiled during the Live on the Plaza event that occurs the second Friday of every month.

Yang, 19, said she gets a lot of inspiration from music and the album art of some of her favorite bands and musicians like the Flaming Lips and Man Man.

She said she likes it when a musician combines music with visual elements to create a whole new experience like Chad VanGalen does in his videos.

Yang said she believes art is all about what the viewer gets out of it. "I'm always very interested in people's interpretation of my art," she said.

She said she made up her mind to major in art during her senior year of high school but said she had an interest in the subject well before then.

Yang's parents have encouraged her along the way, she said. Her father is a doctor and initially wanted his daughter to follow a similar path but Yang said he has been very supportive of her ambitions and the artist lifestyle.

The most difficult medium Yang has experimented with has been screen printing. "It is really technical," she said. "Precision around the edges is very important for an image to turn out right but it can be put on anything and is very marketable."

Yang said she has also tried pottery, and has ambitions to experiment further with the medium.

Yang's art will be on display for about one month. Those who are curious to see what she has to offer can stop by the Velvet Monkey Salon at 1701 NW 16th in the Plaza District of Oklahoma City.



FILE PHOTO

OCCC art major Julie Yang stands next to one of her favorite works "Narwhale Apocalypse" in the Velvet Monkey Salon at 1701 NW 16th in the Plaza District of Oklahoma City on Aug. 10. Her art, on display for a month, was unveiled during the Live on the Plaza event held every second Friday of the month. Yang, 19, said she gets a lot of inspiration from music and the album art of some of her favorite bands and musicians like the Flaming Lips and Man Man.

WORKSHOPS, BOWLING AND A TRIP ON THE CANAL PART OF TRIP

TRiO takes students on fall retreat to downtown area

CHRIS JAMES

Staff Writer

pioneerphotog@occc.edu

This year's TRiO Student Support Services fall retreat took place Aug. 13 and 14 in downtown Oklahoma City. About a dozen students were invited to stay overnight at the Colcord Hotel, one of the first high rise buildings downtown, and attend workshops on academic planning, transfer schools, budgeting, career planning, StrengthQuest and healthy living.

TRiO Director Carolyn Chowning said the retreat allowed participants to have the time needed to truly be involved in the workshops.

"The fall retreat allows us to spend more than just a hour in a workshop or meeting, more than just a day at a transfer trip," Chowning said. "The group of students who attend the retreat are starting their fall semester off with additional preparation and goal setting. Plus, students are able to spend a night away from family responsibilities to take a little time for themselves and meet other TRiO students and staff," she said.

"Knowing other students in the program helps

encourage students to utilize what TRiO Student Support Services has to offer. TRiO students who participate regularly are more likely to enroll the following semester, so the retreat also serves a retention purpose."

In addition to workshops, mingling and preparation, the retreat also gave students a chance to become better acquainted with Oklahoma City's downtown area and culture. They visited The Red Earth Museum, bowled at RedPin Restaurant and Bowling Lounge, and took the water taxi on a fact-filled tour of the Bricktown Canal.

The retreat got off to a bumpy start with a bomb threat at the IRS building near the hotel. Police blocked access to the evacuated hotel. The schedule-building and healthy-living workshops were dashed as a result.

After the area was declared safe, plans resumed with a quick stop by the hotel to drop off luggage and lunch at the Mexican restaurant, La Luna.

TRiO covered the expense of all meals and the hotel stay for those in attendance and provided transportation from OCCC on both days of the event.

Dinner on the first night was at Earl's Rib Palace. Students staying overnight woke up to breakfast

at the Colcord's restaurant, Flint, which featured among other menu items, fresh squeezed orange juice, pancakes, french toast, and steak and eggs. Students attending the second day of activities ate at Pearl's Crabtown.

Overall, the Fall Retreat was an event filled with helpful information, good food, comfortable accommodations, and fellowship between college students and staff in the TRiO Student Support Services program. It also provided an opportunity for students to set goals and get focused on the fall semester, while learning more about themselves and how to apply their personal strengths.

Mary Newcome Hatch said she enjoyed the retreat. "The StrengthQuest workshop was the most exciting part, as I learned my top five strengths and how to use them to benefit my future career," Hatch said. "The TRiO team is well informed and very enthused to help each student. They are very encouraging. Additionally, I enjoyed The U Zoo personality study as it too, had great insights into my personality and leadership style."

For more information on TRiO, visit www.occc.edu/TRiO.