

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

GUN CONTROL WON'T FIX EVERYTHING

Staff Writer Chris James says mental health issues, not gun ownership, are at the forefront of recent shootings. Read what he has to say.

OPINION, p. 2

CAMPUS LIFE

A DUI WILL COST OFFENDER

Getting a DUI is a life-changing event. It can cost thousands and even result in being locked up. Read about the ramifications on page 6.

NEWS, p. 7

SPORTS

OCCC B'BALL TEAM PLAYS IN REGIONAL

OCCC's intramural basketball team recently took part in the college regional basketball championship games at Oklahoma State University.

SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE

BULLYING ISSUES TO BE EXPLORED

Student Life will show the film "Bully," followed by a discussion at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in CU3.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

APRIL 12, 2013

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



Icy springtime

Icicles cling to the branches of a redbud tree on April 10 outside of the OCCC Main Building. Temperatures hovered around freezing for most of the day despite the fact that Oklahoma is well into the spring season. Steady rain froze on all surfaces.

Oklahoma City experienced record lows and about 1,200 Oklahomans lost power after ice collected on power lines, according to NewsOk.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Campus officials find ways to save money

OCCC is one of the least-funded colleges in the state

PARIS BURRIS
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In the past few years, OCCC has gone green in a number of ways, not only to save paper but because of limited funding. While OCCC is one of the largest community colleges in Oklahoma, it is one of the least funded per full-time equivalent (FTE), said Executive Vice President Jerry Steward.

Steward said several issues have provoked this. "There were funding formulas that were established many years ago and those funding formulas have tended to favor the schools that were established first and had a lower enrollment," he said. "Schools like [OCCC] that

have had rapid and significant increases in enrollment, (are) sometimes not funded as well as some of their peers based on FTE.

"In my opinion, it's not by design," Steward said. "It's not that there's somebody trying to do something wrong. It's just the way the situation is."

Over time, he said, the college has developed cost-saving initiatives that help make up for low funding.

Steward said the college has saved some money by reducing paper use and going electronic.

"In the past we had an employment process that was all pen and paper.

"This process required the documents supporting the hiring of the employee to go to different people throughout the college. It was very cumbersome . . . Now we do that with all electronic processes."

Leave requests for employees also are done online now, Steward said.

"I might be on a business trip for the college in Washington, D.C., and I can sit in my hotel room and approve a request

for leave from my hotel room," Steward said.

Payroll processes also are no longer on paper, Steward said. "We have modernized and

See **INITIATIVE** page 9

April 19 last day to drop classes with no refund

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The last day for students to withdraw from 16-week classes with no refund for the Spring 2013 semester is April 19.

Mary Turner, learning support specialist, said there's generally only one reason a student waits so late in the semester to drop a class. "They're not passing the class.

That's the bottom line," she said.

Receiving a 'W' or withdraw grade on a transcript will neither harm nor benefit a student's GPA. Turner said.

Many students drop a class to attempt to keep their GPA up but Student Financial Support Services Dean Harold Case said that may not be the best decision.

While a 'W' won't bring a stu-

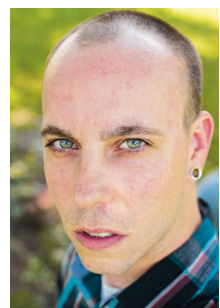
See **DROP** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Mental health issues should be at forefront of talks

Gun regulation not the answer

Gun violence — just mentioning it seems to evoke strong reactions from almost everyone after the recent rash of mass murders across America. But are



CHRIS JAMES

firearms simply scapegoats for a society afraid to address mental illness, and its obsession with death and violence?

First, let's examine the term gun violence. In the phrase, gun is used as an adjective to describe violence, the main noun. Despite grammatical emphasis, people still tend to fixate on the word gun rather than violence.

In fact, judging by rhetoric coming from most politicians and major media outlets, you'd think access to firearms alone is the cause of these tragedies. It seems as though violence is being used as a replacement word for control. Advocates for gun control have now become advocates against gun violence.

Now, before I get angry letters from misguided liberals, let me say that I'm not necessarily against gun regulation. I just don't think it will solve the problem.

The individuals committing these atrocious acts are killers first and gunmen second.

I'm a firm believer that if a homicidal individual wants to do others harm, they will do so with whatever weapon is available.

An excellent example would be Timothy McVeigh. He killed 168 people and injured at least 800 more on April 19, 1995, in the tragic Oklahoma City bombing. To this day, it's regarded as the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in the U.S.

McVeigh did this with a truck full of fertilizer, nitromethane and fuel — not guns.

Let's not forget serial killers like Jeffrey Dahmer who killed his first of at least 15 victims by bludgeoning him to death with a 10-pound dumbbell. At the height of his homicidal activities, Dahmer was said to have been claiming one victim per week. He never used a gun.

All of the gun regulation in the world will never stop determined individuals with murder on the mind. The only way to combat this problem is to first adequately address the mental health issues prevalent

in our society and second, find a way to tone down the hyper-violent nature of our culture.

We're a very image driven society, and many people develop their personalities based on the images seen on television, movies and video games. Not everyone can identify with a homicidal maniac like the Joker from Batman, but in rare cases, a mentally disturbed individual just might. Such was the case with Aurora, Colo., shooter James Holmes.

According to the Denver Post, Holmes told University of Colorado psychiatrist Lynne Fenton he fantasized about killing "a lot of people" six weeks before actually killing 12 and injuring about 58 others at a midnight screening of "The Dark Knight Rises."

Fenton notified campus police officers of the possible threat but rejected an offer from Officer Lynn Whitten to apprehend Holmes and hold him for 72 hours for a psychological evaluation, the Denver Post reported.

It becomes clear that if his mental state would have been taken more seriously, 12 families might not be mourning the loss of loved ones.

According to the Hartford Courant, Adam Lanza, responsible for the Sandy Hook Elementary school massacre, had a history of mental disorders. He was thought to have Asperger's and was very withdrawn with a tendency to become obsessed.

The Hartford Courant said Lanza was exposed to firearms at an early age and went to firing ranges with his mother. This sounds like a really bad idea for a child with psychological troubles.

When individuals express homicidal thoughts or have psychological problems that make them withdraw from society, people should take it seriously and for God's sake, do not give them access to weapons like guns, knives, swords and explosives.

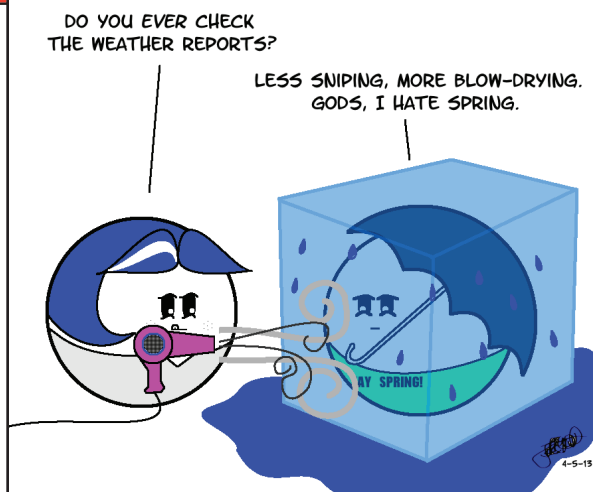
As a society, we need reach out and help others suffering from mental illness, and show them they have value as human beings. It could save lives and make a world of difference to them.

Also, as parents, we must always be mindful of the messages our children get from television, movies, books and video games.

We can't afford to keep mindlessly blaming firearms for the way we let people fall through the cracks.

—CHRIS JAMES
STAFF WRITER

BALLIARD BILL



LETTER TO THE EDITOR | From April 21 through 29, visitors can get into parks for free

National Park week upcoming

To the editor:

Celebrating the theme, "Picture Yourself in a National Park," National Park Week will run from Saturday, April 21, through Sunday, April 29. Throughout the country, visitors can enjoy the beauty and wonder of 84 million acres of the world's most spectacular scenery, historic places and cultural treasures for free.

With nearly 400 national parks, there are thousands of ways to enjoy this annual event. National Park Week is the perfect opportunity to introduce a young person to a national park because a park is the perfect place get active and stay fit.

There are great outdoor activities in national parks for visitors of all ages. By introducing kids to these majestic places, we give the gift of learning a healthy lifestyle and help guarantee the future of parks for generations to come.

National parks will mark the annual celebration with special events and activities including Volunteer Day on April 21, Earth Day on April 22, and Junior Ranger Day on April 28. From ranger-led hikes and kayak trips to camping and exploring, park visitors can plan their National Park Week at www.nationalparkweek.org. Discover information about events, special activities for visitors of all ages, how to share your park adventure with other travelers, and how to support the parks.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/features/nationalparkweek.

—CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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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

CONCERT REVIEW | Diamond Ballroom site of rockin' show

Circa Survive brings house down

Alternative rock band Circa Survive delivered a profound and powerful performance Saturday, March 30, at the Diamond Ballroom. Oklahoma City was the last stop on their Waves Overhead tour with bands Minus the Bear and Now Now.

After Now Now's performance, I, and most of the crowd, was expecting Minus the Bear to perform next. Much to my surprise, Circa Survive walked onto the stage.

The band pleasantly surprised the crowd by starting the show with an older song "The Great Golden Baby," enabling the majority of the crowd to begin the energy with singing along and rocking out to an old favorite.

The band followed with "Birth of the Economic Hit Man" off their new album, "Violent Waves."

The band's energy transmitted to the crowd that was belting lyrics at the top of their lungs and rocking out harder than I've seen at most concerts I've been to.

At one point, an audience member unexpectedly jumped off the stage from the back, unbeknownst to guitarists Colin Frangicetto and Brendan Ekstrom who looked at each other in shock, laughing.

The band provided opportunity for a one-on-one



experience with frontman Anthony Green when he came out to the floor, singing and dancing with the crowd.

The band pumped up the crowd with upbeat songs, including "The Glorious Nosebleed," "In Fear and Faith," "The Difference Between Medicine and Poison Is in the Dose," and many more.

They also slowed things down a bit with their performance of "Suitcase" from their new album.

From beginning to finish, the show consisted of jumping, head banging, crowd surfing and a lot of screaming on both sides — the band and the crowd, with hundreds in attendance.

The band couldn't have chosen a better song to close with other than "Get Out." By the end of their performance, the crowd was chanting "One more song." But with the late hour and Minus the Bear still needing to perform, there was no encore.

I've seen 30-plus artists in concert but Circa Survive's performance was, hands down, the best I've experienced.

Rating: A

—PARIS BURRIS
EDITOR

ALBUM REVIEW | "Shaking the Habitual" making waves one week into its release

The Knife cuts into societal norms

For the first time in seven years, Swedish duo The Knife are preparing to release a new 98-minute LP. "Shaking the Habitual," released the week of April 8, is already making waves.

Music news and review website www.pitchfork.com offered an exclusive stream of "Shaking the Habitual" this past week. Upon a first listen of the album, there's no doubt it's going to be one of the bands' most triumphant releases and has the possibility to be one of the most prolific music releases of 2013.

"Shaking the Habitual" doesn't just sound great on an aural level; it's a smart, inventive release that tackles inequality, patriarchy and social justice through the creative lens of two masterful musicians and writers.

If you're a fan of The Knife, then you probably know they don't go about things lightly. If you're not a fan, you may be in for a shock — the basis for "Shaking the Habitual" is far beyond simply making music that sounds good.

Olof Dreijer and his sister Karin Dreijer-Andersson set out to write an album that meant something and from the way they describe it, the contents of "Shaking the Habitual" sound more like a scholarly essay about the norms we put people into than it does an indie-rock album. The duo didn't want to make an album. They wanted to talk about social class, gender, race, and sexuality. They wanted to question the societal norms we know people by, the little boxes we tend to collapse entire identities into. Dreijer and Andersson wanted to stir all of that up. They want to change it;

hence the title, "Shaking the Habitual."

Andersson said in the past three years, while she and Dreijer had been wondering if they should even come back to the music scene at all, they submersed themselves in a world of gender studies and political theories. Their research, and the results that were funneled into the creativity and soul behind "Shaking the Habitual" are apparent with breathtaking honesty and a sharp sense of importance in the music.

"Rewrite history / to suit our needs / open my country / a tooth for an eye," Dreijer writes in one of the lead singles from the album.

"Shaking the Habitual" is, at its very simplistic but still insanely intricate core, a smart and careful critique of power structures, social hierarchy. It's not often that we're gifted with social commentary in the form of a rock album, but it makes me think that perhaps more artists should take a cue from Dreijer and Andersson. The themes and issues portrayed, explained and questioned on "Shaking the Habitual" are themes we need to be hearing about and discussing.

The Knife have produced a solid, well-written and well-planned album with meanings behind the songs that are universal and important. While the music sounds good, the lyrics (which have a way of flowing like the most carefully written prose poetry) sound even better.

Rating: A+

—KATIE THURMAN
STAFF WRITER

Financial Aid FACT\$

Already, current students can enroll for summer and fall. The following information will help those seeking financial assistance for summer classes in determining your eligibility for assistance with your expenses.

Register: Once you are registered for summer courses, the Financial Aid Office will assess your eligibility, providing you already have a 2012-2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid on file with the OCCC Financial Aid Office. You must have a 2012-2013 FASFA on file by June 30 if you plan to attend summer 2013. Students can file at www.fafsa.gov. Summer is considered a trailer to the academic year. You must always maintain eligibility for federal, state and college funds.

Enrollment Status: Summer enrollment is one of the variables that will determine your eligibility. For Federal Student Financial Assistance, summer enrollment is the same as the other semesters. Twelve or more credit hours equals full time. Nine to 11 equal three-quarter time. Six to eight equal half-time and one to five equal less than half time.

Loans: To be eligible for federal student loans for summer semester, you must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours). In addition, you must have remaining annual loan eligibility.

Pell Grant: Eligibility for summer Pell also is based on remaining eligibility for the academic year. If you have received a Pell Grant for full time enrollment in Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 you will not have any summer Pell available.

Progress: If you are applying for summer federal student financial assistance: grants, loans, work, you must meet financial aid satisfactory academic progress standards (SAP). You can view the SAP policy at the following link: www.occc.edu/financialaid/factsheets.

Transfer Students: If you have received your annual federal direct loan maximum, met Pell Grant limits or have not maintained satisfactory academic progress through spring semester 2013, you will not be eligible. Financial Aid Advisers will assess your eligibility for summer financial assistance. Be sure all transcripts are submitted.

Books/Supplies: Those awarded a Pell Grant for summer may be eligible to charge books and supplies if funds are available after covering tuition and fees. You will receive email notice of your eligibility. Books and supplies may be charged against a student loan if you have accepted the loan but the funds will not arrive prior to the start of classes. You may request a Loan Bookstore Charge at the Financial Aid front counter.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/financialaid.

—HAROLD CASE
STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT
SERVICES DEAN

Upcoming blood drive a great way to give back

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OCCC will host its second blood drive of the semester April 17. The blood drive, organized by the Student Life office and made possible by the Oklahoma Blood Institute, will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the College Union.

"We usually have two blood drives each semester and one in the summer," said Brittany Carradine, Student Life coordinator.

"We coordinate those dates with the Oklahoma Blood Institute."

The upcoming blood drive is the second to take place on the OCCC campus this semester.

"The last drive, we had 84 successful donations," Carradine said.

She said those 84 donations saved 252 lives.

Carradine said anyone — not just students — can give blood at OCCC

drives. Faculty and staff also are encouraged to participate.

"All of the blood that is given here at OCCC stays within the community," Carradine said.

She said the donations are used at south Oklahoma City area hospitals. "So (at the last drive) we saved 252 lives in this community."

All blood donors will receive a gift from the Oklahoma Blood Institute after their donation.

"They're always good about giving donors something for their contribution," Carradine said. "They've given out T-shirts, zoo tickets and other small rewards in the past."

But the real reward of donating, she said, is the knowledge of knowing you've helped someone in need.

"I think about it as service," she said. "When we think about service work, we think about giving money or giving our time but one of the highest forms of service is actually giving the blood out of your body to someone else."

"It's the ultimate service act."

Carradine said students who are wanting to get involved in community work should consider giving blood.

"For students who are interested in service but may not have the schedule

or don't necessarily have the time to go the Regional Food Bank or to go to Habitat for Humanity, this is a way that you can still be of service to your community ..."

Carradine hopes students and faculty will consider a donation in the name of good will.

"I would encourage people to give blood because, as I said before, the blood that is given at the blood drive stays within this community. So it's a great way to directly impact the community that you go to school in, in the simplest way possible."

Emotional intelligence topic of Brown Bag lunch

REYNA OTERO
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communitywriter@occc.edu

"Emotional intelligence is the capacity to blend thinking and feeling to make optimal decisions — which is key to having a successful relationship with yourself and others," said Janelle Hanson, Student Life program assistant.

Student Life Assistant Director Chris Shelley said "Emotional Intelligence" is the topic of OCCC's next Brown Bag lecture from noon to 1 p.m., April 17, in Room CU2.

Some aspects that will be discussed during the speech will involve the motivation cycle, self esteem, confidence, the circle of self awareness, empathy and change, and action, Shelley said.

"[Student Life] picked this to try and help students with some information outside of the academic setting, to help

them relate to other people and those team principles," he said.

The speech will be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation and a group activity, Shelley said.

He said it will be a fairly casual group activity, in a casual environment.

"We will definitely open up and we will try to have the entire session be casual enough to where students can interact during the lecture.

"Afterwards [there] will be a discussion but we want to try and keep it to where everybody feels comfortable just interacting throughout [the lecture]," Shelley said.

The lecture is open to all students, faculty and staff.

For more information, suggestions and questions, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523, email studentlife@occc.edu or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife.



Islamic principals, culture to be explored April 18

SKYLER FLEWELLEN
News Writing Student

An overview of Islamic principles and culture will be the focus of a presentation by the Muslim Student Association from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18, in CU3.

Sebhattullah Noori, club president, is the lead organizer of this event. He said other students will join him in the talk.

The point of the lecture is to show people information they may not know about Muslims.

The students will discuss the position of Muslim women in the Islamic world and how they are treated in their society, including their roles, customs and the values that they have, Noori said.

He said he's hoping to get some backup support from a guest speaker

at the event to help the students with their presentations. The speaker would discuss some common misconceptions about Islam.

For those interested in attending, there also will be food and refreshments. The Muslim students will bring certain dishes from their respective countries, including Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco. Some of the dishes will be bulani, palaw, couscous, tajine with bread, and Egyptian pasta.

All students are welcome to join this event. The Muslim Student Association hosts lectures and presentations such as this one to help raise awareness about their culture, Noori said.

For more information about the event, students should contact the Muslim Student Association at msa@my.occc.edu.

OCCC Professional Development and Student Support Services Present: *When Technology Takes over Your Life*

Noon to 12:50 p.m. April 15 in CU1
"Internet Gambling: How it Affects Families and Individuals." Presenter: Linda Moffatt, Certified Problem Gambling Counselor.

12:30- 1:20 p.m. April 16 in CU1
"What Everyone Should Know about Internet Pornography Addiction" Presenter: Dr. Vicki Wyatt, LPC, LADC, and Certified Sexual Addiction Counselor with more than 20 years of counseling experience.

Noon to 12:50 p.m. April 17 in CU1
"Balancing Gaming, Social Media and Real Life" Presenter: Dr. Peter Messiah from Oklahoma City University, Addiction Prevention Studies

CHANGE IN FORMAT LEAVES MORE THAN PROFESSORS IN THE DARK

Next TEDx talk takes aim at surprising students

REYNA OTERO

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The last TEDx talk of the spring semester will take place from noon to 12:50 p.m., April 24, in Room CU3.

The big difference between past TEDx talks and the upcoming one will be a surprise to both students and hosts, said Physics professor Tad Thurston.

The discussion, given by Thurston and English professor Stephen Morrow, is not being planned as the first two were, Morrow said.

"Before, [Thurston and I] would each present a separate talk and then have questions.

"This [one] will be different because we will be together at the same time, responding to questions about science and philosophy," Morrow said.

Thurston said students also will be the ones asking the questions.

"This time [Morrow] is going to ask his philosophy students what they would like to ask a physicist and I am

going to ask my physics students what they would like to ask a philosopher," Thurston said.

However, neither professor will know until the day of the talk what those questions are.

Thurston said each professor will pick the best three questions in their group at the TEDx talk and then let the other person talk about it.

Thurston said he is hoping to wrap up the talk a bit early to allow more time for audience questions and discussion time.

"There are lots of things to talk about but the best things that [Morrow and I] can talk about is something that people are actually interested in, so [the audience] questions are a good place to start," he said.

Thurston said he hopes students take some appreciation from the world [people] live in with the TEDx talks.

"It is one more thing that tells students that the world is a wonderful and beautiful place and that [students] should just always be walking around

in a sense of wonder," he said.

Morrow, on the other hand, said he hopes students take away the spirit of learning and curiosity.

"Learning can take place outside of books, and curiosity is a human trait that can bring us all together," he said.

There are big plans for the upcoming fall semester TEDx talks, Morrow said.

"Student Life is going to be a big supporter, and we hope many faculty members and administrators will volunteer to present talks.

"The idea [for doing this] is simple: to give members in our college community 12 minutes to tell us about something they love.

"The purpose [of TEDx talks] is simple: to build community and to stimulate intellectual curiosity.

"We hope they are an interesting time that can bring together students, faculty and administration — the whole

“ Learning can take place outside of books, and curiosity is a human trait that can bring us all together.”

—STEPHEN MORROW
ENGLISH PROFESSOR

college community — because learning is a life-long activity," Morrow said.

TEDx talks are independently organized talks, planned and coordinated on a community-by-community basis, according to www.ted.com, the official website of TED talks.

"TEDx talks are created in the spirit of TED's mission, 'ideas worth spreading.' The TEDx program is designed to give communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like experiences at the local level," according to www.ted.com.

For more information, suggestions, questions or concerns, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523, or email studentlife@occc.edu.

SPEAKER ENCOURAGES CLUB MEMBERS TO CHOOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Engineering program prepares students to transfer

KRISTIN KENNEY

News Writing Student

OCCC's engineering program prepares students well for continuing their education at a university, said Theresa Marks, advising director for the College of Engineering at the University of Oklahoma.

Marks spoke to the Engineering Club earlier this semester, encouraging them to consider OU as their transfer institution.

Of the 2,350 undergraduate students in OU's College of Engineering, about 25 percent are transfer students, with the majority coming from OCCC, Marks said.

Marks said she enjoys working with OCCC's Engineering Department and thinks highly of its program.

"I am always amazed how much the OCCC's Engineering program does with so little," Marks said. "It's an amazing program.

"Students who are enrolled and involved in the engineering program at OCCC transition very well into the OU College of Engineering programs," she said.

"[OCCC's program] provides a stimulating and inviting environment that ... gives students an opportunity to establish firm footing in the courses that are foundational to engineering."

Marks said Professor Greg Holland, program director, and Gary Houlette, physical sciences professor, keep the students active and interested in engineering by exposing them to the different aspects of the field.

She said the two professors teach students the skills that are needed for success in continuing their education in engineering and in their careers after graduating.

Holland said they teach their students procedural skills, organizational skills, group work skills, and even hands-on skills in special topics, like welding.

Marks said OCCC professors teach students that "engineering is only limited by their own imagination."

Along with the skills OCCC Engineering students learn, the assignments given to them also help prepare them for future success.

"We make them learn to think instead of just memorizing answers," Holland said.

The students are required to document their work by showing all the steps they took to solve a problem.

Holland said this gives them an advantage when they get to OU because many homework assignments in OU classes are online and multiple choice, which doesn't allow for students to learn how to document their work.

Holland said some OU engineering students come to OCCC engineering professors for homework help.

Since OU faculty started going to transfer schools like OCCC to recruit, Marks said, she has noticed far less stress and anxiety among students about transferring.

Marks said OU's College of Engineering and OCCC's Engineering Department have a good

“ Students who are enrolled and involved in the Engineering program at OCCC transition very well into the OU College of Engineering programs.”

—THERESA MARKS

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING ADVISING DIRECTOR

working relationship that is especially beneficial for the students.

Holland and Houlette encourage students to stay in touch with OU's College of Engineering prior to their transfer, she said.

"Most of these students contact us long before they make the transfer, which helps tremendously with the transition."

OCCC's and OU's engineering programs are similar in that they are both student-centered and encouraging, Marks said.

She said they both work closely with individual students to make sure each student understands the material completely.

"Both our programs graduate students one at a time."

For more information on the OU engineering program, contact Marks at 405-325-4096 or by email at tmarks@ou.edu.

MODERN LANGUAGES PROFESSOR ASSIGNS REFLECTION ON LIFE

Aztec masks symbolize student goals

KATIE THURMAN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Students in one of OCCC's Spanish I classes were recently given an opportunity to create a thoughtful, reflective project while bettering their understanding and knowledge of the language they're studying.

Modern Languages professor Sandra Herron assigned what seemed like a sensible mid-term project: students were asked to design traditional Aztec masks and write about the history of the practice as well as the creation's relevance to their lives.

"The third part of the project was about critical thinking," Herron said.

"Where were you before you began taking classes at OCCC? Why did you take this Spanish class, and what is your goal — where are you going now?"

The third part, the mask, symbolizes a student's goals in life," Herron said.

One by one, she said, as students began to present their masks to the class, they also began to share their stories of struggle, triumph and everything in between.

Herron said one mask reflected a student's battle with cancer and her new take on loving life.

Other students told stories of elation, success and pride.

They revealed intimate, harrowing, and intensely personal parts of themselves to their classmates and to Herron, who was pleasantly surprised and touched by the effort her students had taken with the project.

"I couldn't believe what they did," she said.

Students had to present their masks and reports in front of the class in Spanish and in English. Herron said the student response was overwhelmingly positive.

"It was silent. Everybody was respecting everybody," she said.

Herron said this is the first time she has shared a project of this nature with her classes and the outcome was not what she expected.

She said not only did students work to make the masks interesting and intricate, but also they seemed to write the three-paragraph essay that accompanied it, using the Spanish they've learned, with ease and understanding.

"The papers were wonderful," she said.

Herron said she thinks having the personal reference and relation with their mask creation helped students write.

"I think that if I had just told them to write to me in Spanish about the Aztec mask, without adding the part about the symbolism for them, it would've been very boring," she said.

Amanda Perry, a pre-education major, brandished a paper mask covered with scrapbooking paper in her favorite color and covered with Aztec symbols.

She said there was a symbol to represent knowledge, a symbol to represent adaptability and another to represent the power of love.

"Because I'm going to school right now and I want to teach," Perry said.

Perry also revealed she is engaged.

"And that's going to be a big change in my life, definitely worthy of representation."

Perry said she enjoyed the project,



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Student-created Aztec masks adorn a table in Modern Languages Professor Sandra Herron's office. Herron had her Spanish class make Aztec masks that were representative of some aspect of their lives.

and thinks she learned more about the ancient Aztec culture from doing research. She said she was able to make a personal connection to the assignment.

Herron said each mask presented in her class told stories that reflected individuality as well as care and dedication students took making their creations. She said she was deeply touched. "[With the masks created by students] you can see how different they all are. The masks all symbolize different things, just like the different people."

“Even though we’re halfway through the semester, I think it was the first time that we can say that we have known one another and we engaged as a class.”

—SANDRA HERRON

MODERN LANGUAGES PROFESSOR

Herron said seeing the ways that students chose to represent themselves on their masks was, in one word, amazing.

"Everybody had a story," she said. "Even though we're halfway through the semester, I think it was the first time that we can say that we have known one another and we engaged as a class."

Accomplished opera singer makes music her mission

GRACE ANNE MARCUM
News Writing Student

Bringing music to life is a singer's mission, said Oklahoma native Leona Mitchell, who has performed with the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York City.

"They are just notes on a page."

"It has to become personal to you," Mitchell said in a presentation on campus recently.

The intimate audience enjoyed performances from vocal

music students while Mitchell critiqued their pieces and shared personal insights on how to engage the audience as an opera singer.

Students anxiously approached the grand piano in the center of the choir room to perform their prepared song for Mitchell.

After a quick nod to the accompanist, and a deep breath, students one after another produced glorious sounds that bounced off the walls and danced about the room.

Each operatic melody had a different story to tell with its dramatic tones and powerful dynamics.

Mitchell stopped each student throughout the piece and challenged the singer to connect with the music and to act out the song.

One student in particular, performing a difficult piece sung entirely in French, knew she was not making the connection Mitchell wanted from her and began to apologize.

Mitchell then laughed and

said, "Don't apologize. You're a singer!"

She enthusiastically complimented each student's individual strengths while challenging him or her to make little improvements. If a student were uncomfortable or nervous at first, Mitchell knew exactly how to help them perform and be confident.

"That's so sexy!" she exclaimed after listening to one student's piece.

It was not hard for Mitchell to keep the room laughing.

It was inspiring to watch Mitchell work and have fun with the students. Her charismatic character filled the room as she connected with each student.

"I liked how knowledgeable and relatable she was," said vocal music student Cici Simon.

By making a stop at OCCC, Mitchell was able to help students not only improve their performance skills as opera singers, but also give them the confidence to back up their skilled vocal cords.

MORE THAN 3 MILLION STUDENTS REPORTED TO HAVE DRIVEN WHILE IMPAIRED

Receiving a DUI ticket can be expensive

CLAIRE CUMMINS
News Writing Student

Young people often fail to realize the expense of receiving a "Driving Under the Influence" ticket, which can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000, even if no accident occurs.

The numbers are sobering.

More than three million students have driven vehicles while their blood-alcohol-content was above the legal limit, according to the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

The Annual Review of Public Health reports that from 1998 to 2006, "1,825 college students died from alcohol-related injuries, including car accidents."

The Review also reports that "599,000 students were injured due to alcohol-related accidents."

Capt. Tom Easley of the Norman Police Department, is familiar with these worrisome statistics — and he knows no one ever has to drive drunk.

OCCC student Trent Daniels said the total cost of his DUI was around \$9,000.

"Court costs alone were \$3,500 while lawyer fees were another \$2,000," Daniels said.

Not only did he suffer immediate repercussions but Daniels also was required to take five alcohol courses which cost \$100 per course.

After Daniels got his license back (after three months) he was on probation for 18 months and had to install a breathalyzer on his vehicle for 15 months in order to start it.

This device cost \$75 a month which totaled around \$1,200, including his probation fee.

"This is not something I am proud of or ever want to go through again," Daniels said. "I have definitely learned the hard way that this is not something you want to mess with."

Being pulled over for driving under the influence is the beginning of a long journey that can last upward of two years, Easley said.

The cost can be shocking, especially by comparison to the cost of a taxi ride home — which would be less than \$100 in most cases.

"Generally speaking, if you are pulled over for a first-offense DUI, you will be thrown in jail, your car will be impounded, and you will spend four hours in detox before you can make a phone call or anything," Easley said.

"Then you will have to post a \$1,000 bond in order to get out of jail."



COURTESY WWW.TAMPAFLDUILAWYER.COM

A car is totaled as a result of DUI in Tampa, FL. More than three million students have reported driving a vehicle while their blood-alcohol-content was above the legal limit, according to the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

From 1996 to 2006, 1,825 college students died from alcohol-related injuries including car accidents, according to The Annual Review of Public Health.

“Generally speaking, if you are pulled over for a first offense DUI, you will be thrown in jail, your car will be impounded, and you will spend four hours in detox before you can make a phone call or anything.”

—TOM EASLEY

NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN

After getting out of jail, you will have your license taken away and be given a temporary license. To get your car back, you are then going to need to pay the police department \$25 and the towing company for storage, somewhere around \$250.

The district attorney's office will require you to have an attorney which can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$2000. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you if you can prove to the court you are indigent.

You will then be fined based off the number of offenses you have had, your blood alcohol content, and the level of severity of your ticket.

"In Oklahoma, a driver is guilty of driving under the influence if the blood alcohol level is .08 or greater. Anyone under the age of 21 can be given a DUI, even if the BAC is below .08," Easley said. "Not only is receiving a DUI extremely expensive but it is also a pain in the neck to deal with."

"Young people need to know how to make better decisions about drinking and driving. It is important to eat while drinking and be careful of who you are drinking with."

"You want to do anything you can to avoid getting a DUI because that is something no one will want to deal with."

SafeKey can prevent DUI

CLAIRE CUMMINS
News Writing Student

The worst time to learn you've had too much alcohol to drive safely is after you've been pulled over by police and given a breathalyzer test.

Working from that perspective, one company has developed a device that will alert drivers they are too impaired to drive — before they start their car.

The device is called the SafeKey, produced by the SafeKey Corporation in Minneapolis, Minn.

This "new and improved ignition interlock" is a completely voluntary system that tests the hand-eye coordination of the driver before the driver can start the car.

"This device can be installed in any vehicle by one of our 5,012 installers around the country," said Jim Rennie, president and CEO of SafeKey who was interviewed by phone.

"It is a lot like playing a three-second video game in order to start your car," he said.

Currently the company is trying to reach into Oklahoma although they do not yet have installers in the area.

This keyfob acts as a "check module" that lights up certain buttons and requires the driver to push the corresponding buttons in response to the lights.

Rennie said this "Simon Says" type of test has been proven by SafeKey researchers to be nearly impossible to complete by those who have had too much to drink.

Not only does the SafeKey prevent drunk drivers but also, unlike a breathalyzer, can prevent drivers from driving while impaired from medications such as sleeping pills that can impair motor skills.

Rennie said another important feature is the locator function.

"The GPS that is located within the SafeKey will report a pass or fail to a parent or family member and also give the location," he said.

"This helpful GPS alerts loved ones so that those who are unable to drive themselves can be picked up and taken care of by someone they know."

The key also keeps a history of the whereabouts of the vehicle as well as a record of past results.

One of the users of the SafeKey is Richard Galbraith who chose to install the SafeKey after a DUI offense.

"I purchased and have had the SafeKey installed in my 2008 Buick Enclave since March 25, 2010," he said.

Galbraith said the SafeKey is simple to use.

"I have found it very easy to use the SafeKey module each time I get into the car, complete the testing and be able to start my car within 10 seconds."

"I hope that I never fail the check-module test, but it is satisfying to know that it would prevent me from driving if impaired. I would highly recommend this for all people who operate vehicles."

The cost for a SafeKey is \$299.95, with an additional \$22 per month monitoring fee. The SafeKey can be ordered directly from their website. The fee includes the price of installation.

For information about this product, go to www.safekey-corporation.com.

SPORTS



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC student and basketball player Dalton Newsome poses in the gym with a plaque he received for making the All-Tournament team at a Regional Basketball Championship on April 4 at Oklahoma State University. OCCC lost to the winner of the tournament. "It was special for the tournament we were in," Newsome said. "It was an honor,"

SPORTS | OCCC invited to 2013 Campus Regional Basketball tournament in Stillwater

B-ball team holds its own

CHRIS JAMES
Pioneer Photographer
pioneerphotog@occc.edu

A group of OCCC intramural student athletes were invited to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., for the 2013 National Campus Championship Series Regional Basketball Tournament where one OCCC student player was recognized for achievements on the court.

"They did pretty well — a lot better than I expected," Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright said. "There were quite a few good teams there, and they held their own."

"The two games we lost, we just couldn't match up height wise."

Wright, said they played a total of five games — three in pool play and

two in the single elimination tournament.

"In the very first game, I think they won something like 74 to 30 something," Wright said.

The team played two more pool play games that brought their record to 2 and 1, earning them the fourth seed in the tournament.

From there it was single elimination. They won the first game but lost the second to the eighth seeded team that upset the number one seed.

"The team they got eliminated by ended up winning the whole thing," Wright said.

“ If we would have won the whole thing, which we got two games away from doing, we would have got sent out to North Carolina.”

—MATTHEW WRIGHT
INTRAMURAL SPORTS ASSISTANT

"Whatever team wins gets sent to the national tournament. This year it was at North Carolina State.

"If we would have won the whole thing, which we got two games away from doing, we would have got sent out to North Carolina," he said.

OCCC student Dalton Newsome was recognized as doing exceptionally well and won a place on the All-Tournament team.

Officials chose the best players after the tournament, and Newsome, being

chosen, was honored with a plaque.

"I feel like I could've done better, but I'm not one to brag about or critique my own playing.

"My friends said I played a good game, so I was pleased with they way I played," Newsome said.

Newsome, like Wright, said they lost because the other team had a height advantage.

"If we'd had a couple more players with a little bit more inches, we would have won that thing," Newsome said. "We played our hearts out, but in the end, we just couldn't come up with the 'W.' We were all too tired."

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

April 5 through April 18: Co-ed Intramural volleyball. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

April 12, 13: Disc golf tournament. Registration will last until 5 p.m. April 11. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

April 13, 14: SwimTulsa and Sooner Swim Club will hold a Jump Start Meet starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13, and Sunday, April 14, in the OCCC Aquatic Center. The event is open to the public, but the pool will be closed.

April 20: Hershey's Track and Field Meet. The Hershey's Youth Track and Field local meet and competition is a national track meet program for boys and girls ages 9 to 14. The local event will be at 9 a.m. April 20, at the Westmoore High School Track and Field facility, 12613 S Western. Volunteers are needed for the local meet. To volunteer, please email ewatson@occc.edu.

April 5 through 24: Flag Football Tournaments. 4v4 and Powderpuff flag football are being offered. Registration will last until 5 p.m. April 16. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue.

Email your news to sportswriter@occc.edu.

False alarms and fender bender reported

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Police Reporter
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A repeated false alarm and a non-injury auto accident kept campus police on the go over a two-day period.

From 2:32 until 3:43 p.m. Sunday, March 24, FACE Center had campus police busy.

At 2:33 p.m., Officer Jeremy Bohannon said he received a call from Simplex-Grinnell, the college's alarm

monitoring service, notifying campus police that a burglar alarm at the center had been tripped.

Bohannon reportedly dispatched security officers Don Rowe and Eric Edwards to investigate. Bohannon then checked FACE Center security cameras for signs of an intruder, finding none.

Rowe and Edwards searched the building, also finding nothing wrong. Rowe said the alarm was not sounding when they arrived and there were no signs of forced entry or intruders.

The alarm went off again around 3:37. Bohannon said at that time, he notified Sgt. Kevin Hammond by phone of the alarm tripping repeatedly.

Officers were dispatched several more times to the center to check for intruders and found none. As of press time, it had not been determined what was causing the false alarms.

Around 1:45 p.m. March 25, Dylan Nguyen, 20, reported to the campus police he had been in a car accident.

Nguyen said the accident occurred in

the south area of lot A involving his 2014 Honda Accord and a 2013 Chevrolet Impala driven by Angella McNutt, 19.

Campus police helped both drivers exchange information and took a report. Both vehicles were operable after the accident and able to be driven from the scene.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-7872. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

Initiative: OCCC uses electronic forms, saves paper

Continued from page 1

made much more efficient the way we do our payroll for our employees," he said.

Steward said he isn't sure how much money the changes have

saved the college but said he is fairly certain had the changes not been made, additional Human Resources employees would have been needed.

The college manages lower spending better than other

two-year colleges, he said.

"If you look at the total expenses per FTE for all two-year colleges in the state of Oklahoma, you'll see that all of the two-year colleges spend an average of \$8,123 per FTE,"

Steward said.

"OCCC spends \$7,732, so we are significantly below the state average ..."

He said OCCC's efforts to save money serve many useful purposes.

"The cost-saving initiatives probably would've begun regardless of what our funding level is just because it's good management practice," he said.

For more information, email Steward at jsteward@occc.edu.

Drop: Students told to seek advisement before dropping

Continued from page 1

dent's GPA down, withdrawing from a course could mean a student who receives financial aid may be jeopardizing the aid they will be awarded in semesters to come.

"We have students who wind up losing their aid not because of (their) GPA but because of their completion rate," Case said.

He said students receiving financial aid from the state or federal government are held to the standards of the Satisfactory Academic Progress

which takes into account two factors: a student's GPA and the timeframe in which students complete classes.

Case said by federal regulations, students are required to have a completion rate of 67 percent of credit hours per semester.

For example, he said, a student who is enrolled in 15 credit hours can drop three of those hours — or one course — and not affect their SAP.

However, if a student is taking nine to 12 credit hours and drops two courses, that might not satisfy the completion rate.

Case said receiving a 'W' is not considered equivalent to receiving a satisfactory grade. "A student could still turn [a failing grade] around," he said.

Case said he would encourage students who are receiving financial aid to consult with a professor and their financial aid adviser before withdrawing from a course.

Turner offered the same advice.

"If it's a student who is receiving financial aid, [dropping the class] may still be necessary but we encourage them to talk to a professor or talk to

their financial aid adviser, or come see one of the learning specialists so we can see how that might impact future aid," she said.

Students can drop a class through the "Add/Drop Cours-

es" feature on MineOnline or they can go to Registration where a clerk will drop the class for them.

For more information, email Case at hcase@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7783.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Crane technique



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Alex Perez (Kenji) gives Lydia Ferry (Sadako) a folded paper crane in a scene from the Eckerd Theater Company production of "A Thousand Cranes," Wednesday, April 4, in the Bruce Owen Theater. There were two showings of the production, one at 10:30 a.m. and the other at 1 p.m.

COMMUNITY | ExCEL series explores bullying on campus

Film to focus on hurtful words

REYNA OTERO

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

The film "Bully" is a documentary about peer-to-peer bullying in schools across America. The film will be presented from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in CU3 followed by a discussion as part of the ExCEL (Excellence in Cultural Education and Leadership) series.

Student Life Director Erin Logan said the main purpose for showing the film is to help students feel safe on the OCCC campus.

"One of the key players in the movie — the boy followed in the documentary who was involved in the making of it — was from Oklahoma.

So, it happens here. It is not something just in the news and out there," Logan said. "He was a student at a school in Edmond. It is real and it happens to all of us. Bullying happens in every environment.

"[The Student Life Office] wants people to recognize some of those things that may not be thought of as bullying but that really do hurt somebody by using simple words.

"People have conversations all the time in line at the coffee shop or in front of people and may say something that in slang is OK when they are with their friends but it might hurt somebody else," Logan said.

Logan said people need to recognize bullying be-

cause a person can be hurt by simple words.

"We want to help people really open those lines of communication with one another, be open and positive and figure out how as [students] they can help their peers," Logan said.

She said there are a couple of different places on campus students can go whenever they witness bullying, are a victim or have any questions or concerns about the topic.

These are the Student Support Services office, mental health counselors and learning support specialists. All are experts in dealing with classroom environments.

Logan said part of her role is to be an advocate for students.

Logan said if students are the victim of bullying, if they are being bullied in their classes, if they are being bullied in the hallways, they can talk to her about getting help resolving the situation.

"[They can then] be an advocate for themselves and for the other people in the class," Logan said.

Logan said the vision behind the ExCEL series is to start conversations and create a culture where people are comfortable talking about differences.

Two other films were shown prior to this one.

"This semester we've highlighted everything from race to gender to sexual identity to just basic differences within religions. [The Student Life Office] is really just trying to make a more intentional focus on

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Loan disbursements for April

Loan disbursement dates for April are Wednesday, April 17, Friday, April 19, and Wednesday, April 24.

Tuition Fee waiver applications available

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the Summer 2013 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. April 20. Students should attach a transcript and be enrolled in at least six hours. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

Hooked on technology series

There will be a series of speeches on technology addiction April 15, 16 and 17. "Internet Gambling" will be presented by Linda Moffatt from noon to 12:50 p.m. Monday, April 15, in CU1. "Internet Pornography Addiction" will be presented by Vicki Wyatt from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in CU1. "Balancing Gaming, Social Media and Real Life" will be presented by Peter Messiah from noon to 12:50 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, in CU1. For more information, contact Student Support Services at 405-682-7520.

Brown Bag: Emotional Intelligence

A Brown Bag luncheon presentation on emotional intelligence will take place from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, in CU2. The event will explore the motivation cycle, self-esteem and confidence, the circle of self-awareness, empathy and change. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Student Life 405-682-7523.

Blood drive on campus

There will be a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, in the College Union. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Workshop: Optimal Interview

Learn the correct approach and response types in a job interview that will make you a stronger interviewee. The event is from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 18, on the first floor, Room 1G7, Main Building. For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu

the great diversity that we have on campus and how people can start appreciating those different ways that they can work better with people," Logan said.

Popcorn will be provided for the students during the movie, Logan said, and they also can bring their own food, snacks and drinks.

For more information, suggestions, questions or concerns, contact the Student Life Office at 405-682-7523, or email studentlife@occc.edu.

For more information regarding the film, visit www.thebullyproject.com.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1965 Chevy truck. \$3,000 OBO. Rebuilt motor. Runs. Needs painting. 1962 Chevy car. \$1,500 OBO. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

FOR RENT

ROOM FOR RENT: \$450/mo. Bills included. 3-bedroom located near OCCC. Males only. One friendly dog already, no more pets. No smoking preferred. Call/text Reginald at 405-249-4550.

MISCELLANEOUS

TELEVISIONS FOR SALE: Both are 40" CRT. One is a Sony and the other is a Magnavox. They both were recently repaired and are in excellent condition. \$35 each. Call or text 405-667-0101.

LOOKING FOR A ROOM/HOME TO RENT: Will share all bills. Call Quinton at 443-812-0917 or email qmmountain@yahoo.com.

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.

LOOKING FOR RIDE: Need ride from Norman to OCCC. Legally blind student. Will pay for gasoline. Classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call: 405-598-5052 or 405-395-2779.

COLLEGE ALGEBRA TUTOR WANTED: Will pay up to \$10 an hour. Anyone interested PLEASE message or text 405-496-1920.

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

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: English Comp, \$35; TI-83 Plus, \$30. Call 405-209-0308.

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Share your thoughts with us: Email Paris at editor@occc.edu

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Basketball

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 39 letters spell a piece of Basketball trivia.

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

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|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| ASSIST | FOUL | PASSING | SHOOTING GUARD |
| BACKBOARD | FREE THROW | PLAYER | SHOT |
| BALL | GAME | POINT GUARD | SLAM DUNK |
| BASKET | HALF-TIME | POINTS | SMALL FORWARD |
| BENCH | HOOP | POWER FORWARD | SNEAKERS |
| BLOCK | JERSEY | QUARTER | SUBSTITUTIONS |
| CENTER | LAY-UP | REBOUND | TEAM |
| CLOCK | NET | REFEREE | THREE POINTER |
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J.B. MESSER NAMED 2013 FACILITY MANAGER BY MAGAZINE

Facilities Management Director gets 15 minutes

KATIE THURMAN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

One of OCCC's long-time staff members, Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer has been named Today's Facility Manager of the Year for 2013.

Today's Facility Manager is a magazine source that provides information on "quality operation, design, and maintenance of facilities."

The publication is written and edited by experts and executives in the field of facility management.

Anne Vazquez, a writer for TFM, introduced Messer's win in a Letter to the Editor.

"Messer has applied his planning nature to the task of supporting OCCC's higher education mission," Vasquez wrote. "Messer created an energy systems master plan that served to control energy costs during a decade of significant growth for the campus."

"And while the cost of electricity increased by about 40 percent over the past 10 years, OCCC realized only a 6 percent increase."

In his interview with TFM, Messer shared his key to success.

"Be a strategic planner," he said. "Prepare, prepare, prepare. All the while, look for opportunities to excel. And don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great."

As TFM reported, Messer's ground-

breaking energy systems master plan spans the better part of a decade and one million square feet across OCCC's expanding campus.

Messer began working at OCCC in 1998. At that time, it was his job to oversee the management of all operations on campus.

However, Messer said, he didn't just look over the campus operations from day to day — he also began to look into the future of one of Oklahoma's most rapidly growing public institutions of higher education.

Messer said it became apparent that in order to be prepared for an ever-changing future, he would need to rally his facilities management team and start making plans — big plans — plans that would all but revolutionize OCCC's energy systems.

The magazine summed it up.

"Implemented in 2000, the ongoing [energy systems] plan focused on two critical needs: the cost of expected campus expansion as well as the additional cost of electricity; and the need for OCCC to provide state-of-the-art facilities and programs to students and faculty."

Messer's planning paid off.

In 2008, when the campus was expanded by 180,000 square feet, no additional budgeting for utility spending was needed due to the effectiveness of Messer's energy systems plan.

Prior to serving as the facilities management director at OCCC, Messer



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer works at his desk on April 2 in his office in Facilities Management.

spent 21 years in the U.S. Navy.

He said his experiences there shaped him greatly and helped him become the person he is today.

"My previous education and military background enable me to be proficient in areas that include research, attention to detail, quality assurance, and leading by example," Messer told TFM.

"Since I've been working in facilities management, I have attempted to focus

on each task as an individual entity. What are our end goals? What is our timeline for completion?"

Facilities Management Assistant Director Chris Snow said it makes sense that Messer won the award.

"...Facilities Management employees are very proud ... in relation to this accomplishment. We look toward continuing to move forward in support of OCCC's vision, mission, and goals."

WHAT USED TO BE MAINLY A RETESTING CENTER IS NOW PRIMARILY USED FOR MOST CLASS TESTS

Professors use Test Center with regularity now

ARIANNA DERR
News Writing Student

The Test Center has evolved over the years to become the place where the majority of tests are given, said Director Jim Ellis. He said he can recall when the center was a place where students mostly would take retests.

However, professors have found that using the Test Center gives them three to five hours of extra time to lecture, Ellis said. This benefits the students because the professor has more time to go over all the

material the students need to know. Students benefit in other ways as well.

"Testing in the ... center allows students to come when they are focused," Ellis said.

Freshman Josh Tromley said he likes using the center.

"The Test Center is a nice alternative to taking a test in class and allows me to get the test out of the way when I choose," he said.

The Test Center is more crowded at some times than others. Students who don't like taking tests around a lot of people should avoid com-

ing in around noon or 3 p.m., Ellis said.

"That is when we get the most people in, probably because they take the test before their night classes or when they get out of their morning classes."

"The main goal for the Test Center is to provide really good service without any mistakes," Ellis said.

Although Ellis and the staff want to be accommodating, he said students are not allowed to take tests without a student I.D.

Ellis said nothing is allowed in the Test Center while students are taking a test. This

“Testing in the ... center allows students to come when they are focused.”

—JIM ELLIS

TEST CENTER DIRECTOR

means no mobile phones, no purses, no backpacks.

This prevents cheating and distractions, Ellis said. The Test Center provides lockers for students to store their belongings while they take a test.

Sophomore Kayla Hightower said she likes the Test Center. "It allows me to plan my schedule," she said.

Although she likes the Test Center, Hightower said she does wish it was open later on Fridays.

Test Center hours are from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

For more information, contact Ellis at jellis@occc.edu or at 405.682.1611, ext. 7368.