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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

APRIL 26, 2013

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



Eat your veggies

Occupational Therapy Assistant majors Jessica Wolf and Nicole Witley help future OTA student Andy Spears make a parfait on April 18 in the OCCC Main Building. OTA students hosted a healthier version of a bake sale with fresh fruits and vegetables. Proceeds went toward developing occupational therapy equipment. For more on the OTA program, visit www.occc.edu/ota.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Community college default rates high

OCCC students fail to pay back loan money at double national rate

MELANIE HETHERINGTON
News Writing Student

The OCCC student loan default rate is almost twice as high as the average for students nationally, but is typical of two-year college students.

Nationally about 13.4 percent of students default on their student loans. By comparison, 24 percent of OCCC students default on their federal student loans, according to the College Scorecard.

The College Scorecard website www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/college-score-card notes that community college students are more likely to default than

university students. Statistics show that students who attend universities are more likely to succeed in jobs and are able to pay back their loans, while two-year college students are more likely to drop out before completing their degrees or job credentials.

OCCC Student Financial Support Services Dean Harold Case said the student loan debt is in the trillions today, which is more than the total debt of credit card holders. Case said default rates are rising for all colleges and universities.

Since this is becoming such a big issue, Case said, the college has started to act in order to help OCCC students before they default.

A big reason why students default is because a lot of first-year students withdraw due to different reasons, Case said.

OCCC plans on sending letters to "high risk" students to help remind them about their loans before they default.

Even though former students

may have good reasons for not making debt payments, the federal government will hold them

See **DEFAULT** page 9

Student awards to be presented May 3

KATIE THURMAN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Students who have gone above and beyond in the pursuit of academic excellence and integrity will be honored in an awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m. May 3, in the College Union.

This is OCCC's 37th year to hold the ceremony. A reception will follow, said Student Life As-

sistant Marcy Roll in an email.

The awards are presented to students from a number of areas at OCCC.

Roll said one student in each degree plan will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement while other students will receive the President's Award for Excellence for outstanding academic work during their time at OCCC.

See **AWARDS** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer said severe weather deaths could be reduced with planning

Okies underestimate tornadoes

It's a common joke in Oklahoma: "What do Oklahomans do when they hear tornado sirens? They run outside to look at the storm."



ERIN PEDEN

As a person who has lived in Oklahoma my entire life, I can say I know many people who do this. These people need a serious reality check.

With severe weather season quickly approaching, it is important people take necessary precautions if and when severe weather does hit.

Many people die in storms each year simply because they do not take shelter. While no shelter is 100 percent safe, anything is better than your front porch.

Meteorologist Damon Lane, who recently gave a presentation at OCCC, said the most common reasons people die in storms is they wait too long to take shelter or they simply choose to ignore the warnings.

It is not hard to turn on your television and check the weather when you know things will possibly get bad.

“Many people die in storms each year simply because they do not take shelter. —

ERIN PEDEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

No one should die in a tornado. If more people would pay attention, we could prevent most — if not all — storm-related deaths.

Another reason people take storms lightly is they do not think it will ever hit them. That's only something you see happen to people on television, right? I will be the first person to tell you it can happen to you.

As a person who has lost my house in a tornado, I know what it is like to lose everything unexpectedly.

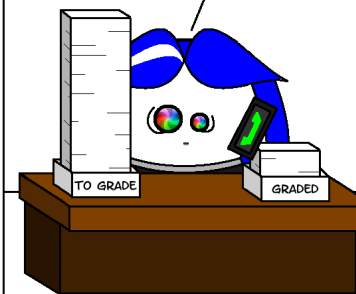
While you may not always be given a heads up, if you do know severe weather is approaching, 10 minutes of preparing could save you a lot of hassle.

Put an extra change of clothes, some snacks, a flashlight, radio, and anything else you might want to keep safe in a bag and be ready to head down into your safe place when the sirens go off.

If you have to stay in your house, make sure to cover yourself with blankets, pillows, or a mattress if possible.

BALLIARD BILL

LOOK, THE SYLLABUS...
I JUST DON'T TAKE LATE WORK.
WELL I KNOW FINALS ARE
HARD ON STUDENTS



4-26-13

If in fact a storm never hits, at least you only wasted a few minutes of your time. The way I see it, better safe than sorry.

Some people think simply because they have lived here for so long, they know everything about severe weather and can get around it.

I believe it is something that is often taken lightly and we need that to change. Weather can change in a second and it can change your life with it.

If you choose to live in Oklahoma, do yourself a favor and be smart about the decisions you make when the weather gets bad. If you aren't, it could be your life at stake.

—ERIN PEDEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | One in six people know someone who has committed suicide

Suicide a permanent solution to temporary problems

To the editor:

Suicide touches the lives of many people. Research says that 1 in 6 people know someone who has committed suicide. In the U.S. alone, there are about 82 suicides every day. That is like one jetliner crashing every other day. It's an epidemic in our society that hurts many.

Many people who commit or attempt suicide feel there is no way out of their situation. They feel hopeless and think suicide is a solution to the issues and pain in their life.

A suicidal crisis usually only lasts a few weeks but people in such a desperate state say that they did not think they would ever feel better.

But, there is hope. Most people will get through their

suicide crisis and will not feel suicidal like that again.

Suicidal thoughts are common with depression and most people who experience depression get better whether through therapy, medical treatment for chemical imbalances or medical conditions that contribute to depression, and through family and community support.

If you start having feelings of suicide or know someone who does, it's important to get help.

If you wonder if a friend or family member is thinking about suicide, it's good to ask them.

If you are thinking they may be considering suicide, they probably are and asking them does not put that thought in their mind (as some people have feared), connect them with resources and support them.

If you are thinking of suicide, I encourage you to ask for help, and to explore options to help you with whatever issues you are experiencing.

All students can receive free counseling services from Student Support Services by calling 405-682-7520, or coming by the office on the first floor of the Main Building. All OCCC employees can receive free counseling through our employee assistance program, CABA 405-840-0231. You can also call the national Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for help and guidance. If someone is in immediate danger of committing suicide, call 911 or take them to any hospital emergency room.

—JENNA HOWARD
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COUNSELOROKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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

WEBSITE REVIEW | Application offers all the bells and whistles without the high cost

Pixlr an affordable photo editor

Pixlr Express is a great on-the-go free photo editing application available for mobile use as well as computer use.

While it does not contain the same extensive amount of tools as Photoshop or similar software, Pixlr Express has more than 600 editing tools that are sure to satisfy simple photo editing needs without the cost.

The application is useful for various purposes. Simple, easy effects such as red-eye or blemish fixes are just one click away with this application. The user also is able to adjust color, focus, whiten teeth, add vibrance, crop, blur or sharpen and more.

The application also offers more creative effects for more artsy intentions. Users can add subtle color effects to their photos such as sepia, black and white, or vintage as well as others or they can go the less subtle route and add neon colors or unicolors along with other creative options.

Not only are quick fixes and effects available, but overlay options as well. Users can make their photos appear to be illuminated by city lights, fireworks, stars, bubbles, flames, and many other fun additions. Users can add effects that make the photo appear to be tie-dyed or retro, grunge, vignette, and more.



A large, diverse array of border options also are offered. Border options include simple ones such as round or square edges to more unique ones with patterns, film themed, ink themed, or nature theme.

After editing, users are able to share photos on Facebook, Twitter or other social networking websites.

Another feature that sets this application apart from others, is that users are able to adjust the size of their photos. Photo sizes range from small (180x320), original or custom.

Users also are able to add text in a variety of different fonts and colors.

Pixlr Express is available for most Android phones. By going to www.pixlr.com/express, users can upload files from their desktop or webcam as well as featuring a collage maker.

Pixlr Express is a great option for anyone looking for an easy-to-use, simple, diverse application that offers great photo editing options for all needs without the cost of other software.

Rating: A+

—PARIS BURRIS
EDITOR

PRODUCT REVIEW | Vogo charges eCigs and much more

Power bank a must-have for vapes

The Vogo Power Bank multi-purpose vaporizer from Vogue Electronics is a must-have for anyone who wants to be able to charge electronic cigarettes and other devices on the go.

For eCigs, it allows the user to attach one of the two included mini DCT tanks for vaporizing your vape juice. The Vogo will even detect and automatically control the amperage of your atomizing unit, but that is just the start.

Once you remove the electronic cigarette adapter, you now hold in your hand a 5000 mAh 18.5 volt backup battery. This means if a cell phone or other device dies, you can charge it wherever you are.

The Vogo also comes with a wall charger, a USB cable, six different sized adapters to charge anything from a cell phone to an iPhone and an instruction manual. And all this comes with a nice velvet carrying bag.

Not only does the Vogo Power Bank offer power, it also offers an extremely bright flashlight. This has already come in handy a few times since I received

the product.

Right out of the box, I was extremely excited.

I should mention the Vogo is easy to figure out except for the flashlight feature which I quickly figured out with help from the manual.

The feature I enjoy best is the LCD display which not only serves as a battery-strength meter but also holds a counter option.

Every time the button is pressed on the unit to ignite my e-cigarette atomizer, the counter goes up. This allows me to keep track of how often I am using my vaporizer.

My only complaint is that it is too large to wear on a neck strap and the carrying bag is too lightweight for me so I personally will be looking for a holster soon.

Most vapor shops are carrying this model for \$80 to \$150 depending on where you go. They currently come in pink and silver.

Rating: A+

—SHAWN STAWICKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

YOU asked FOR IT

Q: *If you sign up for summer classes, when is the tuition payment due?*

A: "June 3. If the payment has not been received by that date, the student will be automatically set up on the payment plan."

—Kay Woods

Student Account Representative

Q: *"How do I declare a major?"*

A: "There are two ways: come to Academic Advising and meet with an adviser to declare or go to Records and Graduation and declare there."

—Ammar Huraish

Academic Advising Assistant

Q: *Will the new sequestration federal budget cuts affect student financial aid?*

A: "The only reductions resulting from sequestration so far, have been to the funds they receive from the Department of Education for Work Study and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. Although there is a difference of a little more than \$49,000, it will not widely impact a lot of students."

—Meghan Morgan

Financial Aid Assistant Director

Q: *What do I need to start a student club or organization on campus?*

A: "Ten signatures with student I.D. numbers of currently enrolled students intending on actively participating in the club, along with a full-time faculty sponsor and an alternate faculty sponsor, are needed to start a club or organization."

—Student Life Club/Organization Manual

Q: *When will recorded grades for the spring semester be posted on transcripts?*

A: "The last day of the semester is May 18 and Instructors are supposed to turn grades in by May 21. We try to get grades out as soon as possible, which means that grades should be posted by May 23 or 24. We would recommend a student calling ahead to verify before they make the trip [to campus to pick up a transcript.]"

—Janet McNeill

Records & Graduation Services Assistant

Q: *How do you get a faculty adviser assigned?*

A: "Once a student has chosen a designated major they can come to Academic Advising to request an adviser. We will put that major in the system and it is sent to another department and an adviser is assigned in three to four weeks."

—Ed Williams

Personal and Academic Adviser

GED graduates ready to start next chapter

ASHLEY MORGAN
News Writing Student

For some, graduation day has been a long time coming. For others, the timing is off just a bit, but the struggle has been harder and longer than if the students had been able to stay in high school and graduate with their classmates.

Either way, about 80 students expect to walk across the stage June 7 and pick up their diplomas after completing the GED coursework at OCCC, said Program Director Jessica Martinez-Brooks.

Martinez-Brooks said the average age of the students is about 32 and they have had to overcome all types of hurdles to pursue their GED, the equivalent of a high school diploma.

"There have been child care issues, immigration issues, transportation issues, learning disabilities," she said. "Sometimes the students are court mandated to be here."

OCCC's Family and Community Education Center is devoted to helping those who have fallen behind educationally get back on track and take the lead, Martinez-Brooks said.

Kyla Cox received her GED in January at the age of 17. Cox, the winner of one of two college scholarships given to GED graduates for their continued journey at OCCC, said she plans to get her associate degree at OCCC before transferring to the University of Oklahoma to pursue a degree in geology.

Cox also was a big influence in the decision of her stepmother, Rachel Molet, to go through the GED

“There have been childcare issues, immigration issues, transportation issues, learning disabilities. Sometimes the students are court mandated to be here.”

—JESSICA MARTINEZ-BROOKS
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

program at the FACE Center. Molet completed her program in the second week of March and is awaiting scores. She is expected to walk across the stage in the upcoming June graduation.

Cox said she and her step-mom would do their homework in front of her stepsister, Brittany Curry, in hopes of passing on the contagious inspiration to get a GED.

Their strategy must have worked because Curry will now be taking the GED test in April. If she passes, she will get to walk in June with her mom.

Another scholarship recipient, Madison Daniels said she passed her GED test in October and plans on attending OCCC in the fall.

She will be getting her degree in Media Design and is looking forward to the way OCCC will be able to refine her skills.

After she gets her certificate, Daniels plans to team up with the branch of her Jehovah's Witness Church in New York City to do animations for children's movies. She currently attends the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Watchtower and Bible Tract Society branch in Oklahoma City, whose headquarters are in New York.

The Watchtower and Bible Tract Society produce all

their DVDs at headquarters she said. Combining her connections in the church with her degree from OCCC, Daniels believes she will be set up for success.

With 3,200 students enrolled at FACE last academic year, it is the largest adult education center serving Oklahoma City, Martinez-Brooks said. It is also the largest GED testing center.

The FACE Center opened its doors in 2008 after OCCC received a \$600,000 grant to operate an adult learning center, Martinez-Brooks said.

Its purpose is to "...provide adult basic education services such as helping students to learn the English language and civics, preparing students for the GED test and ensuring students have reading and writing skills that would assist them in transitioning to higher education."

The staff at the FACE Center realize adult students have many responsibilities and usually little time, Martinez-Brooks said. Therefore they offer convenient class times at 20 different locations around the city, as well as Saturday and online classes. Many of the classes are taught at the center, 6500 S Land Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla., 73159, about one mile north of the main campus.

The GED class is taught not only in English but also in Spanish. Their largest program is the English as a Second Language program which almost always has a waiting list for students to be admitted, Martinez-Brooks said.

For more information contact the Director of Community Outreach & Education, Jessica Martinez-Brooks, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7426.

'What does not kill you' author speaks on campus

KIANA MORIDI
News Writing Student

“The meaning of life isn't as complicated as psychologists think.”

—LAURA KING
AUTHOR AND PSYCHOLOGIST

Psychologist Laura King remembers when she re-ordered the priorities in her life. It was about 20 years ago, when her mother died, just as King was beginning her career as an assistant professor.

"So many things that I saw as important at one point, no longer were," King told an audience of about 50 people. They had assembled on campus April 11 to listen to her speak via Skype.

The author gave her thoughts on the meaning of life, which she entitled, "What Does Not Kill Me Makes Me ... More Interesting."

She said the death of her mother led her to study those who had had difficult experiences which ultimately challenged them to rethink what was important in their lives.

King studied how her psychology patients took the negativity in their

lives and turned them into positives.

Her study showed patients who have experienced more difficulties and tragedy throughout their lifetime rate their life and its purpose much higher than she had expected. She also studied how critically ill hospital patients measured the value of their lives.

"On a 10-point scale of how meaningful their lives were, 25 critically ill people rated their meaning in life at 5.6."

King said 5.6 is a relatively high score. She explained how religious faith and a person's social life contribute greatly to how people measure the meaning of life. A person's worldview and rules on how life should go play a large role into the way they may feel about their life.

For some patients, King said, the

meaning of life is simply based off their moods for that particular day.

"Maybe the meaning of life is something that's very common," she said.

"Meaninglessness happens when senseless things happen in our lives. We are wired for a world that makes sense," King said.

Many psychologists struggle to come to a common agreement about the real meaning of life.

"The meaning of life isn't as complicated as psychologists think," she said. "A person's meaning comes from their experience."

Although people may never know exactly what the meaning of life is, one thing is certain: Meaning is around us every day of our lives, King said. How we measure our lives, however, is completely up to us.



Psychologist and author Laura King shared her thoughts on the meaning of life, "What Does Not Kill Me Makes Me ... More Interesting," through Skype to an audience of about 50 people on the OCCC campus April 11.

TWO YEARS AFTER LAW GOES INTO EFFECT, MANY STILL LIGHTING UP

No-smoking policy often ignored on campus

PARIS BURRIS

Editor

editor@occc.edu

ALLEN MITCHELL

News Writing Student

Almost two years after a no-smoking policy went into effect, individuals are still butting heads over the matter.

"I think it's bullshit," said an OCCC staff member who wished to remain anonymous. "I'm not a smoker but I think it's too much government involvement."

Student Jacoby Bond, a nursing student and former smoker, said smoking is a right.

"...But [on campus] it's a privilege."

Since Aug. 1, 2011, the entire OCCC campus has been tobacco free, with a policy forbidding the use of all tobacco products anywhere on campus.

The policy is in compliance of an executive order signed by Gov. Mary Fallin, prohibiting the use of all tobacco products in certain public locations, including college campuses.

The policy prohibits the use of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco such as e-cigarettes, cigars, hookah, snuff and all other forms of tobacco.

Despite the policy and an estimated total of \$933.35 spent on tobacco-free

signs that were paid for by the City-County Health Department, individuals continue to violate the policy by using tobacco products on campus.

Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said several hundred verbal warnings have been issued, but no citations.

"It's not the number-one priority," Fitzpatrick said.

"If we're doing something else, we're not going to stop that to go over there."

"Warnings are verbal," he said. "Currently we don't have a process. I'm looking at that because I want to get a better record system of people that have been warned."

"I want to solidify that to where we can, very quickly, determine whether or not we have contacted that person previously regarding their use of tobacco on campus."

Tobacco users who have been caught have not given the police department any problems, Fitzpatrick said.

"Nobody has ever given us any grief over it," Fitzpatrick said.

"They put the cigarette out, no questions asked."

Fitzpatrick said if someone is reported smoking on campus, an officer will be dispatched to the location within 10 to 15 minutes of the call.

We'll try to send somebody by there," he said. "Once in awhile, by the time

we get there, they're still there.

"Most of the time there's not anyone there any longer. Our response time is pretty quick."

Smoking classes designed to help students, faculty and staff quit smoking were offered prior to the law going into effect, said Mary Turner, learning support specialist. She said no one attended the classes.

Turner said she, Professional Development Director Penny Hampton, and Student Life Director Erin Logan underwent training to become certified cessation coaches.

"A few spoke individually with me or with Erin but they did not want to be identified as smokers," Turner said.

"Erin and I have mainly provided print information about Oklahoma's 1-800-QUITNOW program or services through area agencies. That has seemed to be more comfortable for students."

The closest location that allows public smoking is Dollar General Store located at 4515 S May Ave, across the street from the college.

Fitzpatrick said individuals who witness a person violating the tobacco free policy on campus are encouraged to avoid confrontation.

"It's not the number-one priority. If we're doing something else, we're not going to stop that to go over there."

—JAMES FITZPATRICK
OCCC POLICE CHIEF

Fitzpatrick said students, faculty and staff attempting to enforce the policy is a bad idea.

"It's just not a good thing for them to try to enforce," he said.

"I'd much rather that person be in uniform where they can readily identify themselves as an officer."

"We also caution them not to get confrontational. Make the statement that it's a smoke-free campus and just keep on going."

"We appreciate any efforts people make to enforce it," he said. "I don't want someone to wind up in a confrontation with an individual because not everyone here is a student."

Fitzpatrick said the policy isn't easy for everyone to abide by.

"It might be tough to get used to but it's happening nationwide," he said.

"It's something that if they haven't prepped for by now, they certainly need to adjust their behaviors to be prepared for."

Pioneer staff brings home prestigious SPJ awards

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN

Staff Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

The Pioneer staff won a total of five awards at the annual Society of Professional Journalists awards banquet Saturday, April 20.

Former students Sarah Hussain, Joey Stipek and Mike Wormley won second place in investigative reporting for the article "Police records can be hard to get at OCCC," a two-part series about obtaining open records at the college.

Current and former students Jeremy Cloud, Sarah Hussain and Mitchell Richards won third place in Criminal Justice Reporting for the article "Bursar office investigation continues," a story about former bursar Brandi Henson embezzling money from OCCC.

Pioneer Photographer Chris James attended. He said he is pleased with the awards.

"I feel that we did pretty well, considering we are a two-year college paper up against small circulation



professional news organizations," James said.

James won two of the five awards: third place in best photographic portfolio and third in the general photography category for his photo "Aquatic Center hosts Mountain West championship."

The Pioneer took third place in page one layout and design for the front page titled "Play time."

Pioneer adviser Professor Sue Hinton said the students did well.

She said the wins against professionals in the field is an indicator the Pioneer staff is performing at a commendable level.

"What makes any award from SPJ seem special to us is that we are competing against other professional journalists," Hinton said.

"It is our goal at the community college to train our student journalists to perform at the level of professionals."

Instructional News Writing Assistant Ronna Austin said she's impressed with the number of awards.

"I know it may seem like a small number, but we were only able to

submit 12 entries so it's a huge win for us.

"We compete with state newspapers as well as four-year colleges in this competition."

"I'm very proud of the Pioneer staff for being so professional in their work, and proud that their professionalism is recognized by others in the field."

For more information or to view all of the awards, visit the Oklahoma Pro chapter website at www.okspj.com.

**Read the Pioneer Online
at www.occc.edu/pioneer**

OCCC'S FIRST ROCK BAND SET TO PERFORM IN CONCERT MAY 2

I know it's only rock 'n' roll but I like it



Student Tyler Allen plays guitar during an OCCC Rock Band practice session on April 18 in the Choir Room located in the VPAC. The band is working on songs by Ozzy Osborne, Sublime, The Ramones and Evanescence.



Music major Jesse Sappington sings Sublime's "Santeria" in an OCCC Rock Band practice session in the VPAC Choir Room. Rock Band is the newest addition to OCCC's live-performing student bands.

LORI VALENTINE
News Writing Student

The pressure is on for OCCC's first rock 'n' roll ensemble.

Their mission is to set the stage on fire and ignite flames of interest in students that share the same burning passion for rock music in order for this class to continue at OCCC.

The band will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 2, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free.

These students will be covering a wide variety of songs, including some from as far back as classic rock legends AC/DC, to the beginning of the Punk revolution with some Ramones, and even on to teenage anthems of the early '90s grunge movement with a taste of Nirvana.

José L. Gabaldon, Rock Ensemble #1 professor, said the class is an experiment.

"This is a completely new class," he said. "We tried to find songs that everyone will know and my students would be comfortable performing."

For some of the members in the ensemble, it will be their first time performing in front of a live audience.

Band members said they are influenced by artists like frontman Robert Plant from Led Zeppelin and David Lee Roth from Van Halen.

"This class helps people break out of their shells," said vocalist Stefanie Cox.

"I am looking forward to the audience most of all. I can't wait to see their reaction."

Bassist Nicolai Bell said he hopes to see the crowd "dancing and up out of their seats."

Gabaldon said audience interest is important to

the program.

"The more people that come to the show, the bigger the chance that this class is going to repeat next semester," he said.

Gabaldon, who has been teaching various guitar classes at OCCC, said he always wanted to create a class like this.

"If we really want students to be interested and involved in music, why shouldn't we give them the opportunity to learn it through whichever style they love the most?" he said.

"Lots of other schools are trying this like The Academy of Contemporary Music.

"ACM@UCO is doing great, so why not try it here?"

Guitarist Seth Burchett likes that OCCC is gravitating toward this style of music.

"I think this class is important," Burchett said. "Academically, rock 'n' roll should be recognized as an art form in music just like classical always has been and even jazz is finally being accepted.

"I think it's time for rock 'n' roll to be recognized and taken seriously as well."

Together, Gabaldon and music Professor Michael Boyle have generated opportunities for OCCC students to be able to experience music in various outlets.

Most community colleges don't offer classes like this, which can leave many students who have a passion for music sitting on the sidelines.

"We have a great jazz program directed by one of the top musicians in town (Professor Michael Boyle) and now, we are also opening the doors to rock," Gabaldon said.

If these students are successful in spreading the word and enough people audition in the fall, Gabaldon plans to create two classes next semester.

"My plan is to offer two styles: rock and metal," he said.

The students in the band all plan on continuing to make music. Each member writes music and hopes to perform it someday.

Guitarist Tyler Allen voiced his dream: "I would love to open up for bands like Slipknot and Avenged Sevenfold one day."

For more information, email Gabaldon at jgabaldon@occc.edu.

OCCC Rock Band drummer Derek Naylor plays "Blitzkrieg Bop" by The Ramones. Rock Band's first performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. May 2 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER



Students show off early talents at art show

Child Development Center and Lab School celebrates 'The Week of the Young Child'

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN

Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

The Child Development Center and Lab School displayed children's art the week of April 15, said CDCLS Supervisor Lee Ann Townsend.

The art show is done every year during the Week of the Young Child, an annual event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"The reason we do it every year is to celebrate children's creativity," Townsend said.

On April 15, the CDCLS had a reception with refreshments to open the week of art displays. The art was displayed through Friday, April 19, at the center.

Test Center Assistant Wendy Wilson and her 3-year-old daughter Londyn attended the reception. As Wilson walked through the displayed art talking about the pieces with her daughter, she said they had dropped by to get some inspiration for new art ideas to do at home.

"I want to do all of them," Londyn shyly said while leaning into Wilson.

Nine pieces, for the nine classrooms, were framed and entered in a silent auction that closed on the final day. Townsend said the pieces for the auction were chosen randomly.

She said the children were excited to see their artwork and their friends' artwork. Center teachers took children as young as six months on a mini field trip to see the older children's art, Townsend said. She said the children look forward to this event every year.

Cici Simon, a teacher at the center, said those who know the kids could tell who did what piece because their art matches their personalities.

"The fact that they can be so creative at that age is awesome," Simon said.

The art is now displayed throughout the center in classrooms and hallways.

For more information on the CDCLS, call 405-682-7561, ext. 7423. For more information, on Week of the Young Child, visit www.naeyc.org.

Vanessa, 3, shows her art titled "Shell Collage." The work was displayed in a recent art show at the FACE Center.



Above: Londyn, 3, points out a piece of art to her mother, Test Center Assistant Wendy Wilson, at the 2013 Children's Art Show held April 15 at the OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School. The show featured paintings, sculptures and other works created by children at the CDCLS.



Trey, 5, shows off his painting that will be displayed at the OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School's 15th Annual Art Show.

SPORTS

Parking lot workout

Theater major E.S. Koskie glides around on his longboard skateboard on April 19 outside the College Union entrance.

Koskie said he just started skateboarding three weeks ago when he decided it was time for a lifestyle change. "It's really freeing," he said. "Nothing like the wind in your hair while exercising."

The elevation changes around campus is the allure for skating at OCCC, Koskie said.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

SPORTS | Sports activities available for ages 6 to 14

Kids summer camps planned

CHRIS JAMES

Photographer
pioneerphotog@occc.edu

With summer fast approaching, OCCC's Recreation and Fitness Department is beginning enrollment for Sports and Recreation Summer Camps for kids.

Sports and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson said children between the ages of 6 and 14 can be signed up for sports camps that focus on the fundamentals of various sports.

According to an online schedule, the camps are divided between the months of June and July with different camps being offered during one month or the other.

Basketball, baseball, T-ball and soccer are offered in June. Karate, dance techniques, competitive swimming, cheer and dance, volleyball, flag football, multisport with basketball and soccer, and a new addition — wrestling, are all offered in July.

Watson said Rec and Half Day Fit Kids Camps that aren't sports specific also are offered.

He said they are more like physical education and group activity camps. Full Day Fit Kids Camp is offered during short weeks containing holidays like July 4, and the last week of the OCCC summer camp season.

Watson said full-day camps also are offered for teenagers ages 12 to 14 that

“ [The camps] provide [the kids] with activities to do during the summertime while their parents are at work.”

—ERIC WATSON

SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL SPECIALIST

will have an emphasis on career exploration, character development and community service.

Participating teens will receive volunteer/community hours and letters and take a few field trips to places like the Oklahoma City Zoo.

“[The camps] provide [the kids] with activities to do during the summertime while their parents are at work,” Watson said.

“This makes sure we have a good structure and a lesson plan so when they come, kids know what to expect. Plus, they can just enjoy the traditional stuff like swimming and summer games and things like that.”

Watson said all teachers are Oklahoma certified teachers.

A full schedule of classes, along with pricing and descriptions, can be accessed online at www.occc.edu/rf/pdf/Summer-13.pdf.

For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness office at 405-682-1611, ext. 7860.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

April 26 through 27: Disc golf tournament. Registration is until 5 p.m. April 25. For more information, log in to www.imleagues.com.

Now through April 30: Sign up for the 3v3 Basketball Tourney. Registration will last until 5 p.m. April 30. Play is May 1 through 3. 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.

GOT SPORTS?
Know of an upcoming event or outstanding athlete?
Let us know what's going on. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676, or email sportswriter@occc.edu

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Police respond to medical, larceny reports

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Several cases of larceny, a first responder medical call, a fire alarm and a suspicious person kept the campus police busy the first week of April.

Campus Police were notified Monday, April 1, of several items missing from Professor Susan VanSchuyver's office refrigerator in 2F2 AH.

Officer Gordon Nelson said when VanSchuyver left her office Thursday, March 28, she had five diet cokes and two Slimfast drinks in her refrigerator. Upon returning to work April 1, she noticed all of the items missing.

Around 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, Child Development Center and Lab School Teacher Lisa Young-Jones reported she had been head butted by a 5-year-old boy at the center at 11 a.m. that morning.

Her right eye was visibly swollen at the time of the report.

Young-Jones said "I sat a child whose behavior was unsafe in a chair to speak with him. I squatted down to his level to talk to him and he immediately head butted my face, hitting me on the right cheekbone very hard.

"The force of the impact knocked a temporary crown off one of my teeth."

The child was not injured.

Young-Jones was given an icepack and urged by campus police to seek expert medical advice if the pain persisted.

At 2:57 p.m. Saturday, April 6, a smoke detector in Student Life triggered a fire alarm notifying the Oklahoma City Fire Department. Officer Jimmie Watts went to Student Life while the Main Building was evacuated.

Watts checked all rooms in the area for signs of fire or smoke. He said when he entered Student Life Coordinator Brittany Caradine's office, located in

1H8A, the odor was strongest. He said it was then that he saw two flat irons and various hair care products on a table almost directly under the smoke alarm.

The fire alarm was reset and the Oklahoma Fire Department was given the all clear.

Watts said he made contact with Caradine and student worker Crystabel Aryeequaye who said they were using the flat irons and products at the time the fire alarm was activated.

A stolen cellphone was reported at 6:50 p.m. Monday, April 8. Officer Kevin Hammond took a report from Brandy Lynn Huff who said she sat her Samsung Galaxy S3 on a table near the coffee shop, forgetting it when she left.

Security camera footage showed an unidentified man picking up the phone and walking away with it a few minutes after Huff walked away from the table.

The man had light brown skin and appeared to be in his early 20s.

The stolen phone has a blue case with a picture of a man with sunglasses on.

That same day at 7:50 p.m. Officer Tim Harris was dispatched to the Wellness Center to investigate a report of a suspicious-acting female. Harris made contact with Tamara Lynn Nelson, 28, and determined she was intoxicated.

Nelson was placed under arrest and transported to the Oklahoma County Jail.

During booking, jail personnel searched Nelson and found a small plastic bundle containing a green leafy substance.

The substance tested positive for marijuana. Nelson was charged with public intoxication and possession of marijuana.

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.

Default: Official says federal loan debt never goes away

Continued from page 1

in default anyway.

Case said confronting the problem and talking to Financial Aid about the situation might give students some leeway during a crisis.

The worst thing is to do nothing, Case said.

The story of one former OCCC student illustrates the problem. (She asked that her real name not be used.)

Lucy was a full-time student at OCCC for four semesters before transferring in 2010 to the University of Oklahoma to

complete her bachelor's degree.

She explained why she is not able to pay back the \$2,500 she owes in student loans.

Lucy said she was one year shy of getting her bachelor's degree in political science and psychology when her mother was diagnosed with cancer.

Being the only child old enough to help her mother, she felt bound to take on the responsibility.

Her mother's cancer took over quickly, leaving Lucy the only able adult in the house.

As the motherly figure, she had to take care of her

sick mother and her younger brother all while keeping a part-time job.

With this burden upon her, she said that school and student loans were the last thing on her mind.

She thought that when her family situation improved, she would return to OU and finish her degree, so she was not worrying about trying to make loan payments.

Although her mother has died, Lucy is still in limbo about whether she wants to return to school.

Lucy said she plans on talk-

ing to Financial Aid about her situation and taking charge of the debt she owes.

Case said Lucy has made a big mistake that may make it impossible for her to get federal financial assistance in the future.

Once a student defaults, the loans will have a more negative impact on their lives, Case said.

In Lucy's situation, Case said, the best thing for her to do now is to contact the U.S. Department of Education to find out who holds her loan and figure out what steps she might take to get out of default.

Had she contacted Financial Aid before going into default, Case said, Lucy might have been able to take advantage of the hardship deferment or forbearance that would have helped her avoid default.

Case said OCCC plans on contracting with a third party in order to help borrowers avoid default.

Not even bankruptcy will discharge federal student loan debt, Case said. So it won't ever go away.

For more information, contact Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

Awards: Student ceremony set

Continued from page 1

To be nominated for the awards and certificates, students had to meet a number of criteria.

To be considered for the

President's Award, a student had to have completed 30 hours by January 2013 and had to have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Departments each decided other criteria or values they

required award recipients to possess.

For more information on the student awards ceremony, contact the Student Life office at 405-685-7523 or www.occc.edu/studentlife.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Life savers



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC student Guilford Dalton Kraus looks away as Oklahoma Blood Institute Phlebotomist Jennifer Smith begins drawing his blood on April 16 in the OCCC College Union. Kraus said, "The worst part is when they prick your finger."

COMMUNITY | Students hold babies, feed toddlers during service learning trip

Special care facility focus of trip

NIKI LACKEY
Newswriting Student

The work wasn't glamorous but it had value to the children being held and cared for. The afternoon of April 12, a dozen OCCC volunteers went on a service trip to the Special Care Center in Oklahoma City.

On this trip students donated their time in helping faculty members at the center clean toys and help with the children.

The Special Care Center serves both mentally challenged children and typically developing children. Operations Director Pam Newby said the center is licensed for 185 children, and is at full capacity.

Marketing Director Michael Collins said the main focus of the Special Care facility is early childhood development.

"This center is unique because two-thirds of the children have special needs and one-third are typically developing kids," Collins said. "There are three teachers in the classrooms at all times and at least one has a certified degree."

OCCC student Tawanna Whinery had a specific reason for choosing this service learning experience.

"This is the field of education I will be going into,

so I was very interested in getting some hands-on interaction," she said.

Students helped clean buckets of toys with bleach water so the children would have a bacteria-free environment. The students also aided in the care of the children from ages 3 months all the way to age 18.

Holding babies, feeding toddlers, and playing video games were involved. Students engaged in conversations about life and planning for the future with some of the older challenged youngsters. One of the children said she dreams of attending college some day.

"I love kids and I especially love interacting with special needs kids," said OCCC student Mackenzie Rappe.

Many of the volunteers participated in the service trip due to requirements by their professors or for Civic Honors.

However many of them seemed to enjoy the experience and the joy it gave them just by being there and seeing what their presence accomplished.

Service learning events are organized by Student Life. For more information, call Director of Student Life Erin Logan at 405-682-7596 or email at elogan@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Christmas Connection service trip

Students will organize donations for children and families in the Oklahoma City area from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27. To attend the service event students can register at www.occc.edu/studentlife/serviceday.html. For more information, contact Student Life 405-682-7523.

Arts Festival Oklahoma call for entries

Applications for the 35th annual 2013 Arts Festival Oklahoma are now being accepted. The festival will be held Aug. 31 through Sept. 2 at OCCC. Artists must apply online at www.zapplication.org. Application deadline is Monday, May 20. For more information, contact the Cultural Programs office 405-682-7576.

Fast-track withdrawal date set

Wednesday, May 1, is the last day to withdraw from Fast-Track session 3 classes with no refund. Withdraw at the Registration office or online through MineOnline. For more information, contact Academic Advising at 405-682-7535.

May loan disbursement dates listed

Student loan disbursements will be credited to student accounts after noon on the following dates: Wednesday, May 1; Friday, May 3; Wednesday, May 8; Friday, May 10; Wednesday, May 29. For more information, contact the Financial Aid office at 405-682-7525.

Pell money available May 3

Pell grant disbursements will be credited to student accounts after noon on Friday, May 3. For more information, call 405-682-7525.

Kuder Journey career guidance workshop

Students looking for a reliable source to help decide a college major can attend the Kuder Journey career guidance workshop from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 2, in room 1G7 MB. The Kuder Journey career guidance online program contains more than 550 career specific videos and statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor. For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services 405-682-7519.

Last day to withdraw from 8-week classes

Friday, May 3, is the last day to withdraw from second 8-week classes with no refund. Withdraw at the Registration office or online through MineOnline. For more information, contact Academic Advising at 405-682-7535.

OCCC Choir Concert scheduled

The OCCC Choir will perform from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at Wilmont Place Baptist Church, 6440 S Santa Fe in Oklahoma City. For more information, contact music professor Ronald Staton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7249, or email ronald.g.staton@occc.edu.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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.

Personal classified ads are free to students and employees. adman@occc.edu.

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

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE


Songs From the Year 2000

Find and circle all of the songs from the year 2000 that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 29 letters spell an additional song title from 2000.

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

AMAZED	CALIFORNICATION	INCOMPLETE	PINCH ME
AMERICAN PIE	DESERT ROSE	JUMPIN' JUMPIN'	SAY MY NAME
BACK AT ONE	FADED	KRYPTONITE	SEPARATED
BACK HERE	GIRL ON TV	LUCKY	SHE BANGS
BAG LADY	HIGHER	MARIA MARIA	SMOOTH
BE WITH YOU	HOT BOYZ	MEET VIRGINIA	STAN
BEAUTIFUL DAY	I LIKE IT	MINORITY	STRONGER
BENT	I NEED YOU	MOST GIRLS	THERE YOU GO
BREATHE	I TRY	MUSIC	TRY AGAIN
BROADWAY	I WANNA KNOW	NO MORE	WIFEY
BYE BYE BYE	I WISH	OTHERSIDE	WONDERFUL

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Available at Planned Parenthood.
www.ppfa.org/ppfa

Planned Parenthood
1-800-230-PLAN

'In the Time of the Butterflies' chosen as Big Read

ANDREA DEKKER
News Writing Student

An historical novel about four sisters fighting against political oppression in the Dominican Republic in the 1960s has been chosen for The Big Read at OCCC in the fall.

Julia Alvarez wrote "In the Time of the Butterflies" in 1994.

Library Director Barbara King said she and a group of professors and other librarians worked together to choose the book "In the Time of the Butterflies."

It was chosen off the selected book list of the National Endowment for the Arts, which has funded the project for OCCC in past years.

"In the Time of the Butterflies" covers many themes: coming of age, courage, crime and justice, identity, integrity, loss and love," King said.

Librarian Rachel Butler said when deciding which book to pick, the group "thought about OCCC's audience and what the students and faculty would like."

Butler said it's a book for the masses.

"It has a global aspect to it," she said. "There are so many themes about issues in life that can appeal to all people."

Butler said any student can participate and receive a free paperback copy of "In the Time of the Butter-

flies," through their classes or through the library.

King said many campuswide activities are being planned for the fall semester that will be based on The Big Read, and the chosen book.

King said the event brings people from all areas of the campus together.

"People have a chance to meet other people. It's a real learning experience and students become really engaged."

King said some professors have already tested the choice in their classes.

"Faculty have come back that have used it in their class and have raved about how engaged the students have become," she said.

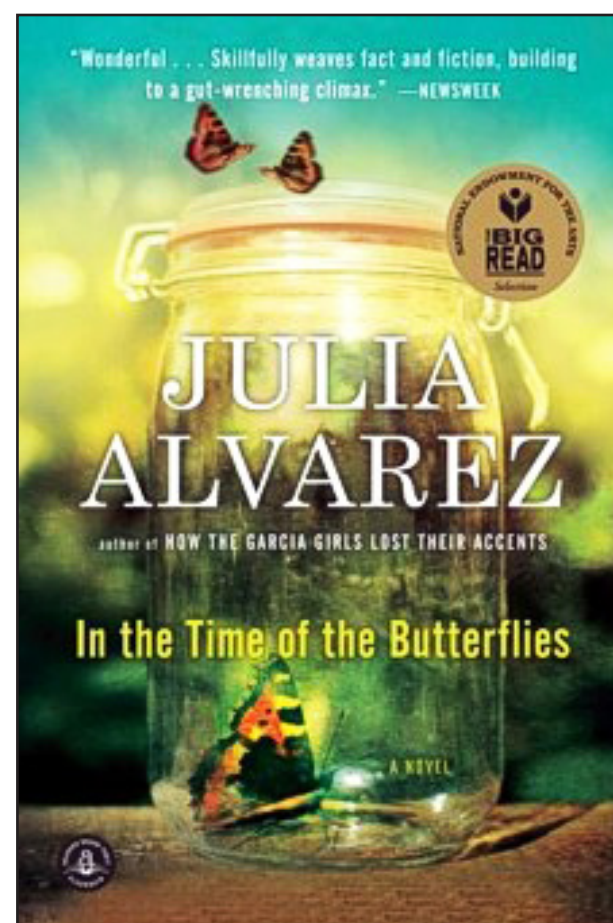
Butler said since the chosen book has "parallels that are going on in today's world, readers can relate."

"This is a program ... intended to pull the students in and get them involved and to encourage reading."

The Big Read is a nationwide program which encourages people to read and discuss a single book within their communities, according to the NEA website.

OCCC faculty can choose to participate and incorporate The Big Read program into their curriculum, King said.

For more information, visit the library website at www.occc.edu/library.



'Dogs of Lexington' film makes impact on entire state

KRISTIN KENNEY
News Writing Student

Several audience members were brought to tears at a screening of the film "Dogs of Lexington" shown Friday, April 12, in the Bruce Owen Theater at OCCC.

The film tells the story of a program at a Lexington prison in which shelter dogs move in with inmates who train them to become service dogs. Those involved with the program now hope to expand it to as many prisons as they can.

Now, for the first time in 22 years, the program is being instituted at a new prison — Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in McCloud — said Film and Video Professor Greg Mellott who served as director and co-producer of the 45-minute film.

Student filmmaker Stacy Mize said plans to get the program started at Mabel Bassett did not come about until after the first screening of the film in March, which gained money and attention for the program.

"That speaks volumes to what our artwork has been able to do to bring awareness for the program," Mize said.

The filmmakers joined Dr. John Otto, co-producer of the film and the veterinarian who works closely with the program, at Mabel Bassett on the morning of April 12 for the first meeting and discussion of plans for the new program.

Mize said not only were they there for the first meeting, but also plan to be there to cover it throughout the process.

"It's amazing to be able to be part of that and to see

your art moving people in the moment," she said.

The dogs and inmates are not the only beneficiaries. The students benefited greatly from their experience filming the documentary.

Student filmmaker Jon Shahan said he typically prefers to work alone rather than with large crews, but he enjoyed his experience working with a group on this film.

"I learned that it can be rewarding to collaborate with other people," he said. "I think if I work with a huge group again, I'll find it rewarding as well."

Though Mize was nervous and intimidated going into a men's prison for the first time, she said she relaxed after her first day of filming there.

"All of that melted away because I got to see real people doing important things, and it was special and it touched me."

Mize said she was no longer nervous when she went back to the prison and wasn't nervous when she went to Mabel Bassett.

The student filmmakers seemed to have great respect for the prison's program and what the program is able to accomplish.

"Give these guys weights, they build their body, but they don't build their mind. Give them a dog and they become a better person," said student filmmaker Steven Patchin during a question-and-answer session after the screening.

Mize called it a "tremendous honor" to have been able to film at the prison and meet the men who train the dogs.

"[They] are essentially helping give a second chance

not only to the dogs, but to themselves and hopefully to other inmates as well," Mize said.

Student filmmaker Jason Gwynn said the students are proud to be a part of the project.

"We all want to be storytellers and be part of something that's such a great story," he said.

"It was just a big honor to work on this."

Mellott and Sean Lynch, film and video production coordinator and co-producer of the film, were both pleased with what their students accomplished with the film.

"As a professor here, I am so, so proud of our students," Lynch said.

"They are so amazing and they give so much of themselves in these films and that's what makes it great."

Otto spoke at the screening and gave thanks to OCCC, and the Film and Video Department for their efforts in putting the film together.

"I know in my heart that this is probably going to go across the country and you all can be very proud of what you've done," he said.

Gwynn, Mize, Patchin, Shahan, Mellott, Lynch, as well as students Demylo Ray, Jonathan Decker and Aaron Cheoweth were all honored at the screening for their contributions to what OCCC President Dr. Paul Sechrist called "a powerful and life-changing documentary film."

Funding for the project came from a grant from the Kirkpatrick Foundation.

For more about OCCC's Film and Video program, visit www.occc.edu/fvp.