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MUSIC SHOULD BE PART OF CORE STUDIES

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JUNE 28, 2013

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



Air time

Student Kyler Arvest ollies a set of stairs on June 14 in the courtyard between the Arts and Humanities Building and the VPAC. An ollie is performed by first popping the tail, or backside of the board, off the ground with your back foot and simultaneously sliding your front foot towards the nose, or frontside of the board.

CHRIS JAMES/
PIONEER

Program connects students, employers

Greater Grads brings students across the state together

KATIE HORTON
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Greater Grads, a program through the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce's education division, helps match students with employers in the Oklahoma City area, said Student Employment and Career Services Director Debra Vaughn.

"[The program] wants to help good strong college students here in Oklahoma City area in stay in Oklahoma," Vaughn said.

Vaughn said the Greater Grads offers help in a number of ways.

A website helps students get an idea of the employers who offer internships, she said.

"This is a resource all students in Oklahoma can look at," she said.

Vaughn said Greater Grads also has a career fair each March for college students.

"We work with [Greater Grads], and volunteer and help with that event, and they help us on our events, so it's a good partnership," she said.

Greater Grad luncheons also are held in June and July, Vaughn said, where area business leaders sit at each table and meet with students.

She said some of the attendees have been from the Thunder basketball organization, Chesapeake Energy and other notable companies.

"They assign you a different table so you can meet more people," Vaughn said.

"They want you to network and learn. We have had students get internships [at the luncheons]."

Vaughn said luncheon attendance is important.

"If [students] can commit to doing most of the luncheons, that's what we need," she said.

"They will truly benefit if they can go and listen to each of these sessions."

Vaughn said students also can watch videos showing what the Greater Grads program offers as well as student interviews so they know what to expect.

Jude Floyd, an OCCC student who takes part in Greater Grads, said the best part of the program is being able to meet students from different schools.

Floyd said he became part of the Greater

See **GREATER GRADS** page 9

College to close for holiday

OCCC will be closed Thursday, July 4, through Sunday, July 7, for the Fourth of July holiday, said President Paul Sechrist in an email. He said the extended break will allow everyone to enjoy a "long holiday weekend and a brief summer break," as well as reduce summer operational costs.

The college will reopen Monday, July 8.

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says cutting arts programs from schools has placed the U.S. behind in the world

Music also crucial to education

Interactive Whiteboard: \$3,495; Mac Pro with a 12-Core processor: \$4,999; the rewarding gift of music — priceless.

I never truly grasped the real message of that last statement until I realized my future as a choir director was in jeopardy. By the time I get my degree, my goal may not exist.

School music programs are shown to be beneficial and resourceful yet, since the initiation of the No Child Left Behind Act, research has surfaced showing student access to music and art programs has decreased dramatically.



LORI VALENTINE

Forty-four percent of schools cut time from art, music, physical education, social studies, lunch, and recess at the elementary school level.”

The article goes on to say “arts should be given equal status with all core subjects and not put on the chopping block.”

Although recent NCLB provisions stated that arts education should be included in the core of all educational learning in all schools and recognized as being fundamental to the learning process, that hasn’t been the case.

The Center for Educational Policy, reported that “as a result of NCLB, 62 percent of schools increased time for English by 46 percent and math by 37 percent.

Students around the world benefit immensely from exposure to music instruction in school.

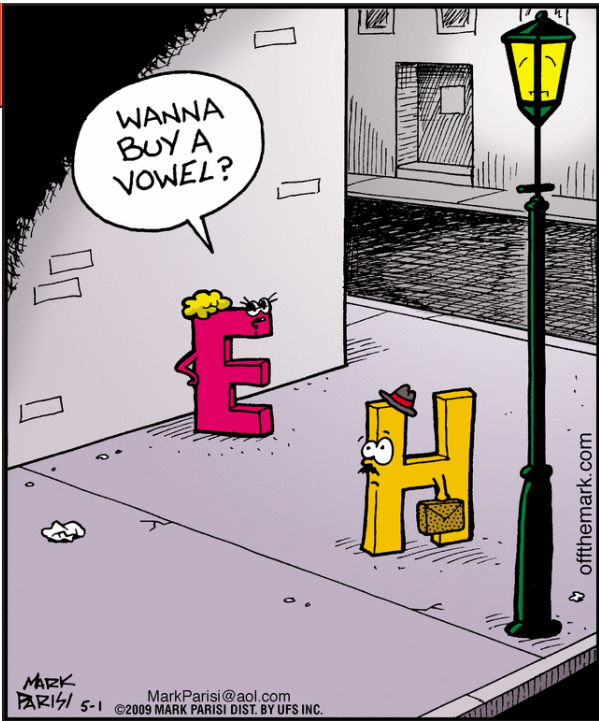
The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement Test indicates that Finland, Hungary, Netherlands and Japan stand high above the rest in global education achievement — all have a strong commitment to their music education programs. These countries require music training starting as early as kindergarten.

Our country’s central focus on math, science and technology seems to contradict the fundamental value of music programs in the top-ranked countries. Certain political leaders say education is a matter of national security, needed in order to maintain our “global competitiveness.”

Yet, we are spending more on science and math programs while simultaneously neglecting the art programs. The inevitable result of that has been international intellectual humiliation.

The standardized test required by NCLB evaluates only reading, writing, and math skills. These tests cannot evaluate problem-solving skills, spatial-temporal reasoning skills, critical thinking skills and certainly, not creativity — all of which exposure to music education has proven to stimulate.

“Studying music elevates children’s education, expands students’ horizons, and teaches them to appreciate the wonders of life,” said former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley.



The fact that our nation is cutting these classes for overall academic improvement is absurd. In America, music courses are considered as extracurricular classes.

This degrading perception of music’s significance is inconceivable.

Countries that integrate music in their school systems exceed the U.S. in effective education and accomplish academic achievements. This should convince anyone who doubts music education’s effectiveness to reevaluate their views.

—LORI VALENTINE
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | More women are incarcerated in Oklahoma than any other state

State senator says the solution is treatment, not prison

To the Editor:

Former Gov. Frank Keating started a dangerous trend when he allowed Oklahoma Department of Corrections’ inmates to be transferred to private prisons. Today, this trend continues and is being encouraged by the governor and legislative leaders who pass laws continually increasing punishments and sentences, which ensures a growing inmate population. This trend has allowed Oklahoma to become the top state for women incarceration and number four for men. Our prisons are overflowing and understaffed.

... I don’t blame DOC Director Justin Jones for resigning. He’s been fighting a losing battle for years. I agree with him that the premise behind private prisons is disturbing. He’s not alone in his belief that it’s ethically and morally wrong to profit from incarceration. Unfortunately, we’re in the minority, and current state leaders want to use these facilities even more.

Where is the incentive to help keep people out of prison or properly reintegrate them back into society so they don’t end up back behind bars? The legislature continues passing stricter laws causing more people to be locked up and to serve longer sentences. Therefore, it appears that lawmakers want our state-run prisons overflowing so they can send more people to private prisons — all at a high cost to taxpayers.

This isn’t surprising ... given the generous financial contributions the private prison operators give to political campaigns. The legislature has now even abandoned the recent efforts of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative Working Group that laid the foundation for legislation to improve the state’s criminal justice system. It defies logic that we would choose to rely on the more expensive private prisons rather than passing legislation to help lower the population within our own corrections system. For

instance, addressing the strict and excessive sentences for non-violent offenders most of which are drug addicts or alcoholics and need drug and alcohol counseling, not to be locked up the rest of their lives. They have an illness that’s treatable but Oklahoma isn’t providing them much help because then, legislative leaders would appear “weak” on crime.

Oklahoma’s policy makers need to get serious about corrections reform and address the issues that contribute to incarceration including high poverty, substance abuse and lack of education. By ... helping people before they get arrested, we could drastically lower Oklahoma’s incarceration rate. We wouldn’t need private prisons in Oklahoma but, unfortunately, I don’t see that happening in the near future.

—SEN. HARRY COATES
SENATE DISTRICT 28

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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

PRODUCT REVIEW | On Demand streaming service offers variety at a great price

Hulu Plus gets reviewer's vote

In a digital age where people want the power of entertainment exactly when they want it, on-demand streaming services have become extremely popular.



Netflix began offering streaming video for a variety of movies and television shows a couple of years ago. Since then, a lot of other companies have begun to offer on-demand movies and television programs streaming as well.

My streaming service of choice has become Hulu Plus. A Hulu Plus subscription offers unlimited streaming access to thousands of movies, television shows, and other programs. In fact, Hulu offers a great many movies and television shows for free.

A Hulu Plus subscription runs at about \$8 a month, and it can be canceled at any time as there is no contract to subscribe to the service.

The first week of Hulu Plus is free for the user who signs up for it, and it can be streamed through a variety of devices including most at-home gaming devices, Apple TV and Roku Streaming player.

It's also available on a variety of mobile devices. Hulu Plus offers limited advertising to subscribers and an unlimited amount of hours for streaming.

Aside from the cost (which I think is very reasonable

for a service that provides so many streaming options and always works well), the best thing about Hulu Plus is the selection, and

variety of programs and movies offered. Classic television series that have long been retired or canceled are available, as well as newer television shows that are currently airing.

The diversity doesn't stop there. There's a wide sweep of genres available — everything from cartoons to sports, music to comedy to anime. The music genre is especially neat. Not only does it offer music programs from all around the world, but it also offers a variety of live concerts.

The selection of films is also quite impressive. I've found many foreign films — hard to locate at video and entertainment stores — readily available on Hulu Plus. That has made me a very, very satisfied customer.

If television and film are things you enjoy and watch a lot of, Hulu Plus might be for you.

It's reasonably priced, well-stocked with gems — new and old — and from nearly every genre imaginable.

—KATIE THURMAN
STAFF WRITER

MUSIC REVIEW | '...Like Clockwork' is an album fans will want to add to their collection

Queens of the Stone Age — yes!

Queens of the Stone Age released their sixth studio album "...Like Clockwork" on June 4.

The California-based rock band entered their studio in 2012 to record the album that was six years in the making and self-produced by the band.

I was stoked to finally get my hands on a copy. It was well worth the wait.

Frontman Josh Homme had a near-death experience in 2010 from complications during a routine knee surgery. He said four months of bed rest after the experience sent him spiraling into depression and later, that became the fuel for the songwriting present throughout this album.

Key members participated in the making of this album. Dave Grohl on the drums brought back so much of their aggressive sound. The infectious melodies and harmonies mixed with Homme's darkly demented voice brought me back to the "Songs for the Deaf" era.



with each track.

This album brings something new to the table for all Queen of the Stone Age fans, it might take more than one listen to take it all in. It's very dark and dramatic. It's definitely a new direction for them and I dig it.

The track "My God is the Sun" has this incredible guitar intro that would draw anyone in.

"I Sat by the Ocean" highlights their amazing songwriting capabilities with harmonized guitars blending effortlessly with Homme's falsetto.

My all-time favorite track off this album is "Fair-weather Friends." This epic track includes Elton John on vocals and piano along with many other collabo-

The collective presence of all the members shone through on this record but I have to say the spotlight belonged to Homme. He brought so much raw energy and passion to this album. His vocals are almost hypnotizing, taking the listener to a new spiritual realm

COUNSELOR'S Corner

Troubled? Counselors can help

"The ground's a long way down, but I need more. Is the nightmare black or are the windows pained? Will they come again next week? Can my mind really take it?"

—Elton John "Madman Across the Water"

It's been a few weeks now since Oklahoma was ravaged by some of the worst weather activity ever recorded. Many of you were impacted to varying degrees by these events, yet you are here at school trying to move forward with your studies as you rebuild your lives.

As the shock of these events wears off, some of you may find yourselves not doing well emotionally.

We in Student Support Services want you to understand that this is completely normal.

How people are affected by and react to traumatic events is very individual.

Some of you may have experienced those events, and any personal losses and processed through them quickly. Some of you may now be feeling those effects. Still others might not consciously think about and experience these feelings for a while.

If you are trying to identify resources related to your academic pursuits, those related to the aftermath of the tornados and flooding, or if you just want to talk to someone in a safe and confidential environment, we are here to support you.

All of the services we provide are free and confidential. Your academic success and overall well-being are very important to us, and we look forward to working with you.

—MARY TURNER AND ALTA PRICE
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

—SARAH FRENCH
SERVICES TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
—JENNA HOWARD,
COUNSELOR
LCSW

rators. This song even replaces "No One Knows" as my favorite song.

This album has it all. Even Trent Reznor from Nine Inch Nails is featured on this album. I have no complaints. It is a must have.

Rating: A

—LORI VALENTINE
STAFF WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

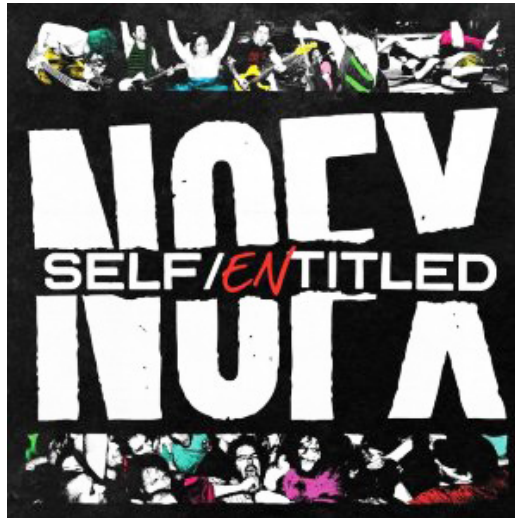
FROM THE VAULT ALBUM REVIEW | 'Self Entitled' a good attempt but could be better

NOFX keeps it punk — mostly — on 2012 album

NOFX has been around the punk scene for about 30 years now. In late 2012 the band released a new album called "Self Entitled" under vocalist/bassist Fat Mike's record label Fat Wreck Chords.

The album starts off pretty well with the track "72 Hookers." It's a funny song about bringing about world peace by sending prostitutes instead of soldiers to hostile countries. The song's premise, as Fat Mike sings, is that "Terrorists are 16-year-old kids who are promised Jihad sex." Musically, the song has the essential NOFX sound with a nice building intro I really like.

The next two songs are decent, but the next memorable track on the album is "She Didn't Lose Her Baby." It tells the sad tale of a drug-addicted mother. It



puts on display NOFX's talent for capturing the melancholy of situations that most people overlook or refuse to think about.

The following track, "Secret Society" doesn't really sound like a NOFX song. Lyrically and musically, it sounds like classic Bad Religion. Despite the fact that Bad Religion might do it a little better, the song's not bad — just

not memorable.

After that, the next five tracks — "I, Fatty," "Cell Out," "Down with the Ship," "My Sycophant Others" and "This Machine is 4" — make a pretty good run.

They maintain the classic NOFX sound long-time fans are familiar with, while tackling some good subject matter.

"I've Got One Jealous Again, Again" is a punk version of a breakup song. What makes this breakup song stand out is how it focuses on the splitting up of their record collection and is a follow up to "We've Got Two Jealous Agains." Both songs are based on Fat Mike's marriage.

Overall, "Self Entitled" is a good attempt by NOFX to churn out a meaningful album, but Fat Mike predicted the album's problem best on "So Long and Thanks for all the Shoes," when he sang, "The notes and chords sound similar — the forbidden beat but the desperation's gone."

Rating: B+

—CHRIS JAMES
PIONEER EDITOR

CONCERT REVIEW | Long-time rocker makes two stops in Oklahoma

Idol showers fans with hits, merch

Billy Idol made his first of two stops in Oklahoma Monday, June 24, at Lucky Star Casino in Concho.

As the lights went down nearly 10 minutes after 8 p.m., Idol entered the stage, yelling with a fist pumped into the air towards the audience.

First on the setlist was "Ready Steady Go," followed by "Dancing With Myself" which instantaneously had the crowd dancing along.

Idol next received many woos and hollers as he stripped off his upper layers of clothing in time with the drumbeat during "Flesh for Fantasy," revealing a toned, bare chest.

Idol then played a new song titled "Love and Glory."

"I know we've been spending over a year recording this album," Idol said. "I promise, it's coming."

Following a brief break in which Idol's band kept the music going, Idol entered the stage for "Cradle of Love," wearing his own tour shirt, and occasionally turning around and displaying the backside of it for the camera. Following the conclusion of the song, Idol took off the shirt, once again revealing his bare chest, and threw it into the audience.

After putting on a leather vest, Idol slowed down the pace of the show with an acoustic version of "Sweet Sixteen," a song he said was based on a true story about a man he knew who built a castle for a girl he thought he would marry.

Before "Eyes Without a Face," Idol made a statement to the audience: "I know a lot of you here in Oklahoma were first responders when all the storms hit," he said. "I think that's pretty fantastic and I want you guys to thank yourselves right now."

Following a Door's cover of "LA Woman," Idol took a few minutes to break, in which he let touring mem-

ber and lead guitarist Steve Stevens perform a solo.

Idol emerged wearing a black and purple argyle suit which was off by the time he got to "Rebel Yell" a few songs later. The entire audience was alive with energy and pumped their fists in the air to the words "more, more, more" during the chorus of "Rebel Yell."

Wasting no time, Idol then exited stage after the song, only to return minutes later for a two-song encore. "Show them what a hit song sounds like," Idol said to Stevens, acknowledging him to play the recognizable opening lines on "White Wedding." The room was filled with cheering, followed by nearly every person in the room singing along.

"Mony Mony" was the last song of the night, which had everyone dancing once again. Idol made his way across the stage, and at one point, climbed stage equipment to better see the audience.

While Idol's set and lighting were minimal, it was perfect for his show.

Since this was my first time seeing Idol, I didn't know what to expect but was pleasantly surprised at his outstanding performance and his interaction with the audience.

On top of the multitude of items he threw into the audience throughout the show, Idol also took time to sign autographs for fans while continuing to perform.

Perhaps the best thing about Idol is while the man can obviously rock, it's clear he doesn't take himself too seriously.

Fist raised in the air, Idol's parting words were "And I'm Billy fucking Idol!"

Rating: A+

—ERIN PEDEN
ONLINE EDITOR

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of June 21 through June 23
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Monsters University*
2. *World War Z*
3. *Man of Steel*
4. *This Is the End*
5. *Now You See Me*
6. *Fast & Furious 6*
7. *The Internship*
8. *The Purge*
9. *Star Trek Into Darkness*
10. *Iron Man 3*
11. *The Bling Ring*
12. *Epic*
13. *Before Midnight*
14. *After Earth*
15. *The Hangover Part III*
16. *The Great Gatsby*
17. *The Croods*
18. *The East*
19. *Mud*
20. 42

English professor follows dream to ministry

ALLEN MITCHELL
Contributing Writer

OCCC English Professor Chris Verschage's eight-year journey to become an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God was finally completed April 30.

Verschage said he, along with 36 other men and women, were ordained to be ministers in a ceremony at The Assembly church in Broken Arrow, near Tulsa.

He said he completed his studies through Global University in Springfield, Mo., taking online courses in the Berean School of the Bible program. The course consisted of three levels and a total of 32 classes, Verschage said.

Assemblies of God, like the Church of God, is a protestant Pentecostal denomination of faith. Assemblies of God is far less conservative than the Church of God, Verschage said.

For instance, he said, the Assemblies of God are more relaxed when it comes to the way their female members are allowed to dress or wear makeup.

Growing up in Lansing Mich., Verschage's family had been members of the Church of God before switching to the Assemblies of God when he was 12.

Verschage said he believes the entire text of the Bible is as relevant for today as it was when it was written. Having also studied Judaism in his early 20s, Verschage refers to himself as "a Pentecostal with Messianic leanings."

Verschage said he was motivated to pursue ordination because "Christ has always been a central part of my life."

He credits his parents as well as his grandmother, great-grandmother and



Chris Verschage

“Teaching college, we are expected to keep our faith out of the classroom.”

—CHRIS VERSCHAGE

ENGLISH PROFESSOR AND ORDAINED MINISTER

several pastors he has studied under, as being strong influences.

Verschage said, while some people may find the Bible to be boring, for him, it is exhilarating and interesting.

Starting in the fall semester, Verschage will teach a comparative religions class. He said he enjoys the history and culture that goes with the subject.

Being a teacher is sometimes at odds with his role as a preacher, Verschage said.

“Teaching college, we are expected to keep our faith out [of the classroom].”

He said he doesn't say what he would like to say when faced with an opposing view from his students, either in the classroom or in a paper they have written for him to grade.

“I can't base grading on what I think and I believe,” Verschage said. “It's strictly based on how well the students do the work.”

Verschage said his future plans may include going into the ministry full time and cutting his teaching duties back to a part time basis.

GED graduates ready to move into 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.

About 80 students walked across the stage June 21 to 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 step-mother, Rachel Molet, to go through the GED program at the FACE Center. Molet completed her program in the second week of March and walked across the

stage in the 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.

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

Scholarship winners for the spring semester are Crystal Fulks and Misty Thompson.

With 3,700 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 ensur-

ing 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 about classes, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7873.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC's new Performing Arts Theater and the surrounding area construction are scheduled to be completed by October 2013. Established in 1972, OCCC has come a long way from the single building called South Oklahoma City Junior College. President Paul Sechrist said OCCC now is one of the largest single-campus community colleges in the nation.

President's office reflects on OCCC changes

CHRIS JAMES
Pioneer Editor
editor@occc.edu

Established in 1972, OCCC has come a long way from the single building called South Oklahoma City Junior College to one of the largest single-campus community colleges in the nation.

With ongoing construction as a new theater is added to the campus, OCCC has undergone a number of changes over the years.

President Paul Sechrist said enrollment is the largest change he has seen.

"At the top of [the] list of what has changed at OCCC is the significant increase in the number of students," he said.

Sechrist said OCCC enrolls more than 20,000 students each year.

"This number places OCCC's annual enrollment as the fourth highest of colleges and universities in the state," he said.

One thing that has remained the same, he said, is the education OCCC students receive.

"While we are proud that so many choose OCCC," Sechrist said, "we are also pleased that the quality

of education received is also very high," said Sechrist.

"Our pass rates on national exams is generally one of the highest in the state."

As enrollment increased over the years, the campus has had to physically grow to accommodate OCCC's growing student population.

Executive Administrative Assistant to the President Janice Phillips said she has watched as the college went from being an open space with movable walls to having permanent walls.

"[Originally] there were no walls. We used temporary moveable shag-carpeted panels."

Phillips began her career with OCCC in 1975 as the Natural and Applied Sciences division secretary.

"The first day I came into the campus to apply for a job, I walked right through a biology class and I didn't even know it," she said.

"It went from basically an open space concept with temporary spaces defined by panels to what we are today, which is an incredibly wonderful facility with a more traditional concept of space usage."

Phillips said the open spaces made for lots of interaction.

"Even with the open space, the people had respect

“Originally, there were no walls. We used temporary movable shag carpeted panels.”

—JANICE PHILLIPS

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

enough for other's privacy, but in its own way it allowed you a friendliness to your neighbor," Phillips said. "You became part of peoples' lives.

Phillips said, back in the day, the college was small enough that everyone knew one another.

"Of course, again, it was a small group, but you became more of a family than the size and number of employees allows you to do now.

"So, that's a significant change," she said.

"For someone like me who loves to get to know people, I miss that part, but I also understand that with the size and growth you can't do that anymore."

Phillips said one of the things that hasn't changed at OCCC over the years are the students and faculty commitment.

"They come here for a reason and we are still here to meet their needs as far as giving them an education, changing their lives and trying to be whatever we need to be for them from day one to now.

Fourth of July a time to celebrate, reflect

Variously known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83).

In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

—www.history.com

Use caution with fireworks

Major Mark Lewis from Oklahoma City Fire Station No. 9 has the following tips for firework safety:

- Never point fireworks at another person.
- Be careful when lighting fireworks. Even a sparkler can cause a third degree burn.
- Be aware of your surroundings before lighting a firework. Check for flammable objects such as dead grass and wood shingles.
- In case of fire or a medical emergency, immediately call 911.

The state also has restrictions:

- Bottle Rockets, stick rock-



ets, cherry bombs and M-80s are prohibited in Oklahoma.

- Do not set fireworks off within 500 feet of any church, hospital, public school, unharvested agricultural crop or fireworks store.
- Do not set them off from vehicles or near groups of people.

For more information on

firework laws and safety tips go to <http://okc.about.com/od/citygovernment/a/okcfireworks.htm>

- The following cities do not allow firework lighting within their limits:

Yukon, Norman, Oklahoma City, Midwest City, Edmond, Moore and Del City.

- The following cities allow firework lighting:

—Mustang from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, June 27 through Wednesday, July 3, and 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday, July 4.

—Choctaw from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday, July 1, through Thursday, July 4.

—Okarche from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, through Friday, July 5.

DID YOU KNOW?

— John Adams believed that July 2 was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826 — the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

—www.history.com

— Three U.S. presidents actually died on July 4. Two of them passed away within hours of each other on July 4, 1826: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. The two had been political rivals and then friends later in life. The other to share the distinction was James Monroe, who died July 4, 1831.

— In 1776, about 2.5 million people lived in the newly independent United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2011, 311.7 million Americans celebrated Independence Day.

—www.livescience.com

- **Red, White and Boom** offers a free concert from the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, concessions, and a firework show after dark. The event will have free parking and all ages are encouraged to attend. Starts at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, at the State Fair Park. Bring lawn chairs.

For more information, visit www.okstatefair.com.

- **Bricktown 4th Fest** in downtown Oklahoma City will play host to a free celebration that begins at 4 p.m. and goes until midnight July 4 with a fireworks display after dark. Live music will be one of the many highlights of 4th Fest. Attendees can bring lawn chairs and blankets.

For more information, visit www.welcometobricktown.com/events.

- **Bethany Freedom Festival** happens July 4. The all-day celebration, held at Eldon Lyon Park, 7400 NW 36th St., includes a parade, carnival rides, a car show, pony rides, live music and fireworks.

- **Celebration In the Heartland** starts at 10 a.m. and runs until 10 p.m. at Buck Thomas Park in Moore. The all-day celebration will offer food, arts and crafts vendors, children's activities and a huge fireworks show after dark. In addition, there will be a car, bike and truck show from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A volleyball tournament starts at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact www.cityofmoore.com.

- **LibertyFest** will take place in Edmond on July 4. A parade in downtown Edmond starts at 9 a.m. LibertyFest features a car show and live music, among many other events, and fireworks after dark.

For more information, go to www.libertyfest.org.

- **Yukon Freedom Fest** happens at City and Chisolm Trail Parks starting at 4:30 p.m. July 3 and at 8 a.m. July 4. Free events include a parade, volleyball tournament, barbeque cook-off, a Cherry Bomb Triathlon, free watermelon and ice cream. After dark there will be a firework show.

For more information, visit www.cityofyukonok.com.

- **Tribute to Liberty** features live music and fireworks at the Joe B. Barnes Regional Park located near Reno Avenue and Midwest Boulevard in Midwest City. The music begins at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Bring lawn chairs. Alcohol is not allowed.

For more event information call 405-455-1818.

- **The City of Mustang** will allow personal fireworks from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. now through Wednesday, July 3. On July 4, fireworks will be allowed from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.. There are rules in place for where and when you can do fireworks.

Visit www.CityofMustang.com for more information.

- **Blackberry Festival** in McCloud. McCloud is the Blackberry capital of the world. This event is on Friday, July 5, and Saturday, July 6. Starting July 5, there will be a carnival and vendors, among other events. A parade will take place on the morning of July 6 with fireworks that night.

For more information, visit www.McCloudchamber.com.

SPORTS



PHOTO PROVIDED

A undated photo provided by Aquatic Center personnel shows the diversity of the area. Blue Water Divers employee Allen Aboujeb watches as Santa prepares to plunge into the OCCC pool.

SPORTS | Originally built for the 1989 Olympics, OCCC pool continues to impact lives

Aquatic Center has rich history

LORI VALENTINE

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC's Aquatic Center's \$2.2 million pool has hosted a number of events in the last 24 years. Archived documents show the Aquatic Center was originally constructed mainly for use as the outdoor venue for all aquatic competitions during the 1989 U.S. Olympic Festival.

The college completed construction on the five-story-tall Aquatic Center cover in 1991 which cost the college an additional \$2.5 million. Swimfest '91 was the first competition held in the newly covered pool with more than 850 attendees.

The Aquatic Center has hosted many swimming and diving championships since including the U.S. Master's Swimming Zone Meet, Kerr McGee Elite Pro-Am, Western Athletic Conference Swimming and Diving Championships and the NAIA National Swimming and Diving Conference Championships.

The Olympic-sized pool makes OCCC's Aquatic

Center an ideal place for a wide variety of aquatic activities, said Recreation and Fitness Director Roxy Butler.

"The pool sets us apart from other colleges because there is no college with a pool that can compare to ours."

Butler said most Oklahoma colleges don't have 50-meter pools or deck space for spectators.

"We are still the only pool in the state with diving towers and an 18.5 foot deep diving well."

She said OCCC also is one of the region's largest providers of Red Cross Water Safety Instructor and Lifeguard Training classes.

OCCC graduate Tracy Lister, certified lifeguard since May 2006, said having an Olympic-sized pool has really boosted the local economy.

Lister said the competitions bring in quite a crowd and the surrounding area definitely benefits from it.

"The pool is an asset to the community," he said.

Butler agrees.

"With our competitions alone, we have close to 20,000 in attendance and some of these guests are here for multiple days during a meet which would equal

over 1.3 million guests to our campus."

Butler said the pool is used in many ways: recreation for open swim, lap swim, birthday parties, SCUBA classes, for fitness by lap swimmers, triathletes, water walkers, water exercise classes, swim teams and dive teams.

"I believe in 2001 we had the Olympic dive team on tour and they did multiple performances at the Aquatic Center."

Although regional and national records have been set in the pool, she said, it's the smaller things that count to her — a child learning to swim, an adult overcoming a life-long fear of water, a teenager showing responsibility and leadership by training as a lifeguard, or an adult who has been able to avoid surgery or hospitalization because of water exercises.

"While we like to talk about those glamorous things and big events that happen at our facility, what means the most to me are the everyday occurrences," Butler said.

"The Aquatic Center has had an impact on many people and changed their lives forever."

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Through Aug. 2: OCCC Summer Camps:** Campers enrolled in morning and afternoon camps will have a supervised lunch from noon to 1 p.m. They may bring their own lunch or purchase a lunch ticket from the cafeteria for \$5.25 per day. Camps offered are:

• **Children's Sports Camps:**

Campers, age 6 through 12, meet from 8 a.m. to noon weekly on the OCCC campus. Sport camps focus on teaching basic fundamentals, and building the skills and confidence of young athletes in a fun and safe environment.

• **Recreational Children's Camp:**

Meets from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekly. Campers, age 6 through 11, will participate in health and wellness activities such as indoor/outdoor group games, swim time and field trips that promote an active lifestyle.

All-Day Fit Kids Camps:

Campers age 6 through 14 will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a fun-packed week of swimming, indoor/outdoor games, and major field trips.

Teen Camp:

For ages 12 through 14, teens will explore careers and focus on character development such as leadership and responsibility as they interact with people and services within their community. Participants will receive volunteer/community hours and letters.

For more information about any of the camps, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.

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

Student reported as suspicious referred to experts

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Campus police say a student was suffering from “delusions” when he reportedly told another student there were terrorists on the city bus wanting to kill her and others at the school. The student, Israel Abraham, has been referred to the OCCC CARE team, a group of campus experts who consult about students who may pose a threat to themselves or others, said team member Mary Turner, Learning Support specialist.

A police report shows that at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, Abraham, 44, reportedly approached OCCC student Elizabeth Martin, 28, as she was headed to the library to return a book.

Along the way, Martin said, she noticed a public bus that was letting passengers off. She said one of the passengers was walking toward her and staring at her.

Martin said Abraham kept staring at her so Martin asked if she could help him.

She said the man then looked at her, pointed at the bus and said there were a lot of terrorists on the bus. The student said Abraham then pointed in the general direction of the Main Building ... and said “and they want to kill you.”

The student said the man, later identified as Abraham, did not follow her when she walked away from the encounter.

“He looked really like he was out of place ... like he wasn’t all there,” she said.

Martin contacted campus police about the incident and identified Abraham from security surveillance footage.

According to the incident report, Officers Ronald Ventresca and Gordon Nelson located Abraham in the library. He became loud and agitated when the officers approached, according to the report.

Abraham told the officers very powerful people were out to kill him because he was working with “important people,” including President Bush, to defend America from terrorists, according to the report.

Abraham also said there was a conspiracy by his English Comp professor to keep him out of the ministry because he had been given a C in the class when he had wanted an A.

Police said Abraham at first denied talking to anyone on his way to the library but finally said he may have mentioned something to a woman including the term “unexplained hatred,” according to the report.



Israel Abraham

Ventresca said he advised the man to be more careful in how he spoke to people, especially those he does not know. The man was then photographed “for future reference” and the CARE team referral made.

The CARE team is comprised of Learning Support specialist Mary Turner, Student Support Services Counselor Jenna Howard, Student Life Director Erin Logan, Police Chief James

Fitzpatrick and a currently unfilled position. The team’s actions and reports are not made public.

The team also is the repository for storing information about students who have been referred to them so a more complete history is maintained.

Abraham spoke to reporters but said he didn’t want to go on the record.

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.

Greater Grads: Students encouraged to join program

Continued from page 1

Grads program after meeting with Vaughn for a class and was then recommended to participate in the program.

“Greater Grads is a good way to network ...,” Floyd said.

Vaughn said a total of about 425 students participate in the Greater Grads program.

“[Students] come from the University of Oklahoma, [Oklahoma State

University], University of Central Oklahoma — there’s even some from out of state.”

Students who are interested in joining the Greater Grads program for summer 2014 should contact Vaughn at 405-682-1611, ext. 7362, or go to the Student Employment and Career Services office.

Vaughn said the deadline to get into the Greater Grads program is the beginning of May.



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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Giving a pint



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Speech pathology major Erin Kowal signs up to donate blood on June 19 in the OCCC College Union. According to their website, the Oklahoma Blood Institute handles donations from more than 140,000 people each year.

COMMUNITY | Students often leave college with a great amount of debt

Students can get help with loan debt

KATIE THURMAN

Staff Writer

onlinewriter@occc.edu

Student loan debt is something many OCCC students are familiar with.

That money will have to be paid back, whether the student graduated or dropped out of college, said Financial Aid Assistant Director Meghan Morgan. Only under special circumstances will student loans be forgiven.

However, she said, students may have more options than they realize when it comes to paying back money they've borrowed for their education.

Morgan said there are several types of student loan forgiveness programs. She said each has different circumstances and different standards for eligibility.

"There are deferments and forbearances," she said.

"If students are having trouble paying, then they should file a deferment or a forbearance which means that the servicer, the loan company ... can decide to put off the student's payments for a period of time."

Often, she said, economic hardships and similar circumstances are qualifying reasons for being able to put off paying back the money.

"Some students have their loans discharged for disability. If they're 100 percent disabled, they can

get their loans discharged."

Complete forgiveness or discharging loans is sometimes allowed in cases of death, bankruptcy, or if the school a student studied at closes, Morgan said.

There also are special cases of loan forgiveness for some teachers and public workers.

"If you're employed in certain public service jobs, you can have your loans forgiven," Morgan said.

She said the website www.studentloans.gov specifies the criteria an individual must meet for their loans to be forgiven.

"There are different kinds of criteria that a student has to meet to be eligible for any kind of loan forgiveness," Morgan said. "When students borrow student loans, they're all required to do student loan entrance counseling and then exit counseling."

"The entrance counseling is kind of all the rights and responsibilities of borrowing the loan," she said.

"The exit counseling goes through ... how to repay your student loans, what the obligations would be ... and preparing the students."

"So when they're doing the exit counseling, [the loan forgiveness criteria] will be covered."

Morgan said deciding who is eligible for a student loan deferment or student loan forgiveness isn't up to OCCC's Financial Aid personnel.

"They can come to financial aid and what we would

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Kids Camps offered at OCCC

OCCC Recreation and Fitness offers camps for children ages 6 to 15 for half-day or whole-day fun. Children can participate in sports camps including basketball, baseball, flag football, multi-sports, cheer, dance, tennis and more. All enrollments are due by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the Monday start date of that class. To enroll a child or for more information, stop by the OCCC Recreation and Fitness office or call 405-682-7860.

Summer College for Kids

OCCC Community Outreach and Education will offer a wide variety of classes this summer at the FACE Center through the College for Kids program. College for Kids is designed for students entering first through eighth grades. For more information, call Brannon Dresel at 405-682-1611, ext. 7205.

Setuen Loan Disbursement date set

The next summer student loan disbursement is July 3. For more information, contact the Financial Aid office at 406-682-7525.

Aquatic Center Closings

The Aquatic Center remains under limited use. While summer camps, swimming lessons and lifeguard classes are still being held, the area will remain limited until approximately July 1, depending on the speed of repairs. There will be no public or membership swim times until limited use is lifted. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.

Summer payment plan due date

Summer tuition and fees are due Monday, July 8. For more information, contact the Bursar's office at 405-682-7825.

OCCC closes for Fourth of July

The college will be closed Thursday, July 4, and Friday, July 5, for the Fourth of July holiday.

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

do is we could — look them up on the national database, let them know who the servicer of their loan is, the phone number and who they need to contact.

"Then we would also give them [the website] as a resource," Morgan said. "We just really would be more of a resource for them. The lender of the loan actually would be the people that they ... need to contact."

"They make that decision on whether that student would qualify to have their loans discharged or not," she said.

For more information about student loan deferment or forgiveness, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7188, or visit the Financial Aid office located on the first floor of the Main Building. Morgan said the website www.studentloans.gov also offers details about different types of loan deferment and forgiveness.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED: Must be at least 21, willing to rent and share 2-bedroom, 2-bath apartment, preferably in the NW OKC area. Call or text 405-474-8454 or 405-512-9482.

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

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

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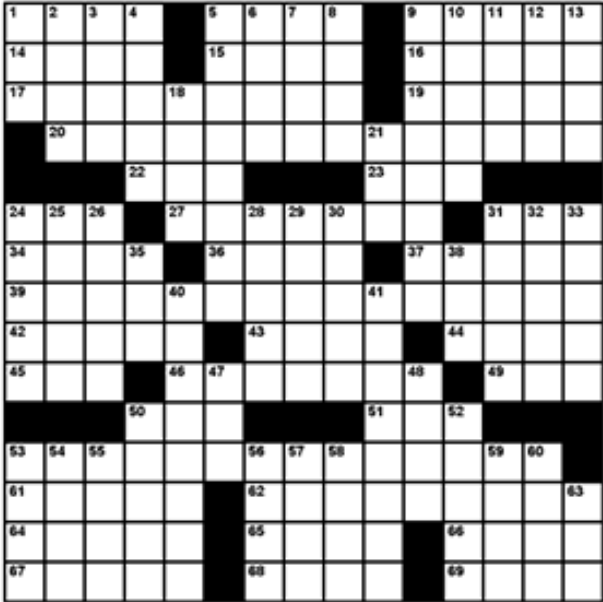
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THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

'Literary Alchemist' Crossword by Dave Fisher

- Across**
1. Sock
5. Yiddish 'trash'
9. Less
14. ___ wolf
15. Van Morrison's homeland
16. Make the innocent look guilty
17. Like poultry allowed to forage
19. Most populous English-speaking country
20. Alchemist rewrites Charles Dickens classic
22. Wane
23. Nice summer
24. Snake
27. City in the Evergreen State
31. School grp.
34. Decorated
36. 4,840 square yards
37. Art supporter?
39. Alchemist rewrites Alexandre Dumas classic (with 'The')
42. Mission San Antonio de Valero
43. Merit
44. Friend
45. Abbreviation in an ad
46. Withhold
49. Humor magazine
50. ___ -mo
51. Me in Montreal
53. Alchemist rewrites Ian Fleming classic
61. Seventh month for Moslems
62. Fine china
64. Saudi's neighbor
65. Draft status
66. SAS is based here
67. Parking spot and corner office, perhaps
68. Season to be jolly
69. Enthusiastic exclamation

- Down**
1. Grp. with panda logo
2. Cowboy's concern
3. ___ code
4. Irritate
5. Like some dads
6. Peel
7. Hence
8. Sailboat stabilizer
9. "Desert Storm" aircraft
10. Bert's buddy
11. ___ vs. Roe
12. Author Ludwig
13. Scan
18. BBQ favorite
21. ___ Shannon
24. Draw a bead on
25. Climb
26. ___ colony
28. Pains' partner
29. Doctor
30. Four: prefix
31. Sacred song
32. Inventor Nikola



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21. ___ Shannon
24. Draw a bead on
25. Climb
26. ___ colony
28. Pains' partner
29. Doctor
30. Four: prefix
31. Sacred song
32. Inventor Nikola
33. Synthetic resin used in paint
35. Like a night light
38. Doctors org.
40. Lacking certain defences
41. Unfriendly
47. ___ voyage
48. Zilch
50. Was offensive, in a way
52. Nome dome
53. Something on stage
54. Feeble
55. Not open, not closed
56. Stratford-Avon connector
57. California lake or park
58. Priceless?
59. ___ does it
60. Stir up
63. Negatives



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?

Arts and more come to life at downtown college

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OKC Downtown College is offering four credit courses this fall that will give students a chance to become storytellers, visit museums and study art.

OKC Arts Alive!, Museum Studies and Art Appreciation are all three-credit hour courses while Storytelling is a one-credit-hour course.

These courses will satisfy a three-credit-hour humanities course requirement for OCCC.

Some of the venues for these classes include the Oklahoma City Civic Center, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, the Downtown Library and other museums, according to a press release.

MUSEUM STUDIES AND STORYTELLING

Adjunct Professor Richard Rouillard will teach both Museum Studies, (HUM 2123) — an eight-week course — and Storytelling, (HUM 2001) — a two-week course.

Museum Studies will meet from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

Rouillard said the students in this course will go to several museums including the National Cowboy and Western Heritage museum.

The whole idea, he said, is to explore the five major functions of most museums: restoration, education, collection, preservation and exhibition.

“People who are interested in museums are, to me, people who are interested in expanding their worldview,” Rouillard said.

This class gives students an opportunity to do that, he said.

Storytelling is from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, Aug. 19 through the 26.

Students enrolled in this class will participate in the Storytelling Festival hosted by the Oklahoma Arts Council. The event will be at the Oklahoma History Center this year, Rouillard said.

“I think the best part of the class is the development of self esteem,” he said. “By the time the students have finished the class, they know that they have something to say.

“It’s mainly building self esteem — knowing that you have a story to tell and that people want to hear it.

“Storytelling is the boldest form of mass communication. It is not a dying art. It just needs to be maintained and developed.”

OKC ARTS ALIVE!

Communication and the Arts Department Director Ruth Charnay will be teaching *OKC Arts Alive!* from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays Oct. 25 through Dec. 13.

Charnay said the most interesting part of this class is the variety.

Over the eight weeks students get the opportunity to see at least one ballet, a symphony or pops concert, watch a variety of plays and dramas, comedies or even a musical, and then discuss them. She said it helps students learn about the arts in Oklahoma City.

Students will see art from every level: professional, regional and community, Charnay said.

At the beginning of the class, Charnay will lecture and speak with the students about her expectations and how to approach the experience.

Then the class attend performances together and they discuss it afterwards, Charnay said.

“People come to this class with so many different experiences,” she said.

“So, sometimes maybe you will have someone who has taken years of dance classes so when we go to the ballet they can offer some of their insights.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

The OKC Downtown College is located in the Ronald J. Norick Library/Learning Center at 300 Park Avenue in the Downtown OKC Business District. OCCC is offering several courses there this fall. For more information, visit www.downtowncollege.com.

“People who are interested in museums are, to me, people who are interested in expanding their worldview.”

—RICHARD ROUILLARD
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

“You don’t have to have any experience to be able to get a lot out of the class,” Charnay said.

“And hopefully once you’re finished, you will have a desire to go again.

“I think it makes better citizens to understand what the cultural experience is with the community and it expands your appreciation of the arts.”

HUMANITIES COURSES

Adjunct Professor Narciso Arguelles will teach the

Art Appreciation course from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays from Aug. 20 through Dec. 3 at the Oklahoma Museum of Art.

Arguelles said one of the best parts of this course is the location.

He said some of the students have never have gone into the museum but because of the partnership with the OKC Art Museum, the Downtown College and OCCC, now, they get to.

Arguelles said he will be there with them to answer questions, give history on the pieces and hopefully, give them a better understanding of art.

“A lot of times, these classes are filled with non-art majors,” Arguelles said. “I find that the non-art majors don’t come in with any preconceptions.”

Arguelles said the class is divided into two parts: the first is deconstructing and the second, history.

In the first part, students will formally deconstruct and analyze the art. In the second, he said, they will learn context for the art, the history of the piece and the time period it was from.

Arguelles said he has received positive feedback from former students.

“I teach different from other professors,” Arguelles said.

He said he wants to make the class interesting for the students.

Arguelles said he also is an artist who has been exhibiting all over the world for more than 20 years. He said he knows many of the artists in the textbook personally.

OKC Downtown College Secretary Jimmie Sue Baker said they have gotten good feedback on all three professors and their classes.

She said all of the the courses have a large enrollment and participation.

For more information, contact the OKC Downtown College at 405-232-3382, or visit www.downtowncollege.com.