

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

LEGALIZE MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

Staff Writer Siali Siaoasi says Oklahoma should make pot legal as is being proposed by one lawmaker. Read more inside.

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NEWS

COMIC ART UNEXPECTEDLY TAKES OFF

A former OCCC student's humorous spin on existing art pieces finds a following after being posted online. Read more about Thriftfoot on page 7.

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SPORTS

NAIA MEET SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

About 350 top swimmers and divers will converge on the OCCC Aquatic Center March 5 through 8. Turn inside for more.

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COMMUNITY

CAMPUS CLUB HOPES TO UNIFY ALL STUDENTS

The Leading Individuals for Equality (LIFE) club welcomes all students. Their goal is to help members make personal connections.

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PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEB. 28, 2014

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Noontime focus



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Aeronautics major Brett Powell spends his time between classes in the Student Union which, he said, is nearly empty on Fridays. Students don't have to look very far to find places to study on campus.

Planning crucial for transfer students

OCCC's Transfer Center can offer assistance

LAUREN DANIEL
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OCCC students often plan to transfer to a four-year college. However, in order for that dream to become a reality, students need to know how to plan for that future, said Transfer and Academic Advising Coordinator Javier Puebla.

"I think the biggest mistake (students make) is not consider-

ing where they want to end up," Puebla said.

Those students, he said, are putting themselves at a disadvantage.

"If you never consider what you're going to end up doing, what type of career you want to do, if you haven't given it thought, if you haven't done research, what type of jobs are out there, what types of degrees are associated with those professional jobs, then you're really doing yourself a disservice, because you're going at it blind," he said.

Puebla recommends students meet with advisers as

soon as possible in order to get on the correct track for their chosen career.

"I always tell students the earlier they can meet with the

transfer counselor, the better, even if it's your first semester," he said.

See **TRANSFER** page 9

World religions database now available in library

SIALI SIAOSI
Staff Writer
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Students have long had access to thousands of scholarly articles through the OCCC Li-

brary database, said Reference Librarian Rachel Butler.

The library has added to that number with a subscription to World Religions Online, a col-

See **LIBRARY** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Oklahoma should legalize marijuana — for health purposes

It's time to trade med cabinet for pot

I often refer to my grandmother's purse as a portable pharmacy, namely because she has every over-the-counter remedy anyone would ever need tucked beneath her arm. Got a cough? She's got cough-drops. Headache? She's got Tylenol Tension and plenty of them.



**SIALI
SIAOSI**

Sometimes she'd slip me something prescribed if I complained loud enough.

Whether to alleviate pain or control chemical imbalances, both retail and prescription medications crowd our medicine cabinets as well as our daily lives.

Some of the ingredients we recognize, but others, not so much.

Moreover, each time a new medication is approved by the Food and Drug Administration, countless side effects accompany it.

However, as America becomes more open-minded, I'm confident that the overpopulation of pills in my grandmother's purse might be salvaged by a special brownie — a much more exciting way to ingest medication.

On Feb. 12, Oklahoma Sen. Connie Johnson was

slated to present testimony about the medicinal value of marijuana to a State Senate Committee. However, she was refused by the Chair of Public Safety Sen. Don Barrington.

Senate Bill 2116 by Johnson would "make it legal for individuals 21 and older to purchase, possess and consume up to one ounce of marijuana and establish basic rules for its cultivation and sale.

"By taxing and regulating marijuana we can take a lucrative market out of the hands of criminals and drug cartels and put in the hands of tax-paying, law-abiding businesses," Johnson said.

She said the current prohibition of marijuana prevents Oklahoma City police from frying bigger fish.

If it passes, she said, law officials "can stop arresting adults for simply using a substance less harmful than alcohol, and focus our law enforcement resources on violent crimes and real threats to public safety."

Johnson said the state currently spends millions in jailing and policing marijuana-related offenses. However, this would not be the case if the substance were legalized — even if only for medicinal purposes.

Though Johnson's bill wasn't considered, I personally feel that legalizing marijuana is a step in the right direction for Oklahoma.

Medical marijuana can be used as an appetite modulator, a muscle relaxant and relieves nausea associated

Dark.



Trained Thinking 039 © Nathan Scroggins 2013

with chemotherapy, according to the Mayo Clinic.

If my grandmother could smoke a joint rather than swallow a pill, she'd retain the same health benefits with half the side effects of any prescription or over-the-counter medication.

That said, she wouldn't have a problem straying from the substance if need be, as marijuana has less-addictive qualities than other forms of medicine.

I doubt Oklahoma will shed its conservative viewpoints any time soon, but tax revenues, job production, as well as population increase all await should marijuana be legalized.

I'd advise that anyone with an opposing viewpoint stop being so mean and start going green.

—SIALI SIAOSI
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Music professor encourages everyone to attend March 4 event

OCCC community invited to free concert in new theater

To the Editor:

OCCC's three choirs will perform for free at 7 p.m. the evening of Tuesday, March 4.

They include 34 members of the Concert Choir, 26 Chamber Singers and 75 members of the Symphonic Community Choir.

Each choir is made up of OCCC students and community members.

The varied program will consist of standard choral a cappella repertoire, such as Clausen's "Set Me As a Seal" and Christensen's "Light Everlasting."

Spiritual pieces such as "River in Judea" and "Praise His Holy Name" also will be performed as will jazz pieces including Meader's "The Swingle Song" and

"That Ever I Saw."

Powerful choral arrangements by the conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Mack Wilberg, accompanied by two Steinway concert grand pianos, will also be in store for the audience.

Another feature of the concert will be a piano quartet composed of myself, Lisa Barsaleau, Tony Carrillo and Lori Cobart playing an arrangement of "Stars and Stripes Forever" on the Steinway grand pianos.

Lisa Barsaleau and I will also play "Ode to Joy" and "Malagueña" as a duet.

In future years, many OCCC students reading this now will be performing in our beautiful, way-out-of-the-ordinary showplace, as will you and, possibly,

your families.

You will be hearing about it, so come see it, come early and get the open-seating of your choice.

We are proud to be Oklahoma City Community College, which includes you.

—RONALD STATON
OCCC MUSIC PROFESSOR

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.

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 no more 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

APP REVIEW | Male Facebook users will want to watch what they post

Men scrutinized via Lulu app

With the growing advancement of technology, information is now so accessible that even our best-kept secrets are liable to be found somewhere online.

If you're a man with an active Facebook account, you might consider removing those old letterman jacket photos because the ladies of "Lulu" are out for blood — and they show no mercy.

Lulu is a free mobile app which allows female Facebook users to rate and compare men on their friends list using a number of rating systems.

The app is in full compliance of Facebook's terms and conditions regarding user data; however, a man's information remains on the app unless he petitions it to be removed.

Though the app has received some negative feedback, I personally find Lulu hilarious and appropriate for this day and age.

Because I have an inactive Facebook account, I am disqualified from Lulu's rating game, but other male Facebook users may not be so lucky.

Lulu, which describes itself as the "First-Ever App for Girls," features a man's photos as well as his age, marital status and college he currently attends or once attended.

Lulu also displays how many times a man's profile



has been viewed, his average score — ranging from 1 to 10 — and reviews left by female users that deem him worthy of friendship, a hook up, or a crush, among the many options.

Perhaps the best part about Lulu is its hashtag system, which is arguably the most reliable rating

feature of them all.

Hashtags are awarded to men after Lulu users answer multiple-choice questions about his humor, manners, ambition, commitment and appearance. The hashtags represent a man's "best" and "worst" qualities.

Some of the positive hashtags include "#TallDarkAndHandsome," "#DudeCanCook" and "#WillSeeRomComs." Hashtags featuring a man's worst qualities include: "#WanderingEye," "#GoneByMorning" and "#OnlyWearsFratTanks."

For feminists seeking to stray from double-standards and objectify men in the way men objectify women, I suggest you download Lulu as soon as you stop reading.

And as for the men disturbed by Lulu, just be wary of what you put on the Internet.

Rating: A-

—SIALI SIAOSI
STAFF WRITER

RESTAURANT REVIEW | With five locations, there's bound to be one near you

Swadley's BBQ best in metro

Finding a decent barbecue restaurant in Oklahoma City is not hard but finding a great barbecue restaurant in Oklahoma City is another story.

Swadley's BBQ, located at 824 SW 89th Street, is the place to go to satisfy your need for great barbecue.

Swadley's has a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere, quick service and quality food.

They also have an exceptional drive-through that is extremely speedy considering the freshness of the food. My family goes to Swadley's quite often and we are always impressed with the experience.

Swadley's has all of the standard barbecue joint items like pulled pork, brisket, sausage, smoked chicken, turkey and hot links.

They offer five different meat sandwiches, which come with at least one side and a drink ranging in price from \$8.99 to \$10.29.

They also have country dinners, which includes two sides and bread, ranging in price from \$8.99 to \$13.99.

Swadley's also has the best baked potatoes. The ginormous spuds are \$4.99 plain and \$7.99 loaded.

Although these prices sound expensive, the por-

tions are huge, so you definitely get your money's worth.

Ice cream is free if you purchase a meal.

They also have great sides to choose from including fresh cut fries, campfire taters, fried okra, sweet beans, spicy beans, sweet cream corn, smoked corn cobbette, green beans, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, potato salad, and mashed potatoes and gravy.

I always get the turkey sandwich with fresh cut fries. Their turkey has an amazing flavor and texture, and their fries are some of the best in the metro.

The thing that sets Swadley's apart the most, in my opinion, is their barbecue sauce. They have the freshest sauce I have ever tasted. They don't keep it in squirt bottles like some places. They keep it in crockpots and spoon it out fresh every time.

I strongly recommend you stop at one of their five restaurants and learn that "Real Barbeque is Back!"

Find a location near you at <http://swadleys.com>.

Rating: A

—LAUREN DANIEL
EDITOR

COUNSELOR'S Corner

Students should keep better track of status

Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence. —Abigail Adams

As time moves us closer and closer to the mid-point of the semester, Alta and I work with a fair number of students who don't know their status in their classes, or whose perceptions of their statuses differ greatly from that of their professors. This isn't a new phenomenon.

Every semester, we work with students who drop out of classes they could have passed. They thought they weren't doing well but they never tried to confirm that belief. Instead, they cost themselves time and money unnecessarily.

Other students just amble along, oblivious to the fact that it is mathematically impossible for them to pass. They seem not to know that they have missed 70 percent of class sessions or that their average grade hovers well below the necessary 60 percent. This is also a costly mistake.

To help all of you avoid as many of these mistakes as possible, we offer the following words of wisdom:

Read your syllabi. The syllabus is arguably the most important invention in the history of higher education. Within its pages lie most of the answers to life's great mysteries, such as when homework is due, if there are tests and whether you'll be penalized if you don't go to class. Read this document thoroughly and revisit it periodically throughout the semester. If you are strongly opposed to reading it yourself, buy a classmate lunch in exchange for him/her reading it to you.

Communicate with your professors. You can learn their names and how to reach them by reading your syllabi (or by texting someone who has). Faculty respond fairly well to most forms of communication, including texts, tweets and an occasional Facebook post. What your professors know that no one else on campus knows is how you're doing in the class. That's a really good piece of information to have if you're trying to decide if you should drop the class.

Seek help — the earlier the better. You have many more opportunities for success if you ask for help after the first poorly written paper or less-than-stellar test score. Don't be embarrassed by these things. We've all had those moments, too. Shake it off and find one of the many resources that the campus has to offer and get the help you need. Fifteen years from now when you're highly successful in your chosen career, you won't even remember that you had to ask.

On a much more serious note, we in Student Support Services are here to help you. It'll be worth the walk to our office, so come on by.

—MARY TURNER AND ALTA PRICE
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘Nobody Knows,’ a Japanese film about child abandonment, ‘heart wrenching’

Decade-old indie film hauntingly tragic

“Nobody Knows,” a 2004 independent Japanese film, is a heart-wrenching story (based on a real event) about child abandonment.

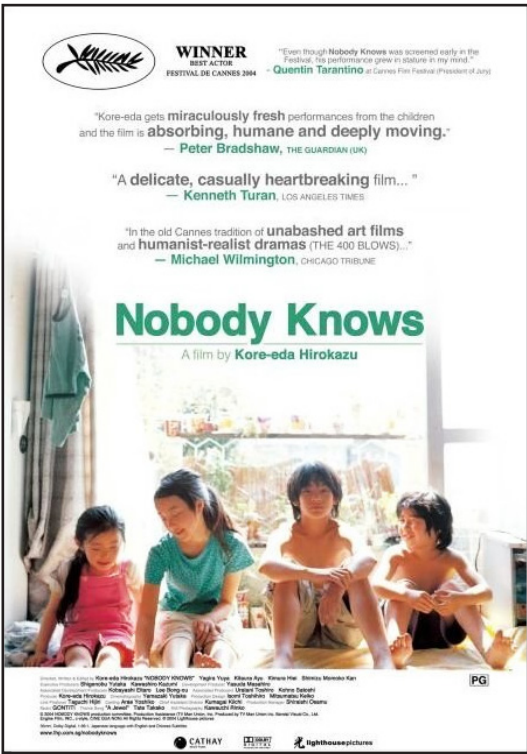
This film is best seen without any knowledge about it beforehand so reviewing this movie is almost an injustice that somewhat spoils the film.

However, it is necessary, as a beautiful film like this deserves to be experienced.

“Nobody Knows” has a grimy, grainy visual aesthetic throughout the entire film that serves to contrast with the quiet, orderly Japanese locations featured in this film, which effectively enhances the feelings of abandonment, dread and solitude even more.

The film begins with 12-year-old Akira moving into a new apartment with his mom, Keiko.

It all begins innocuous enough, until Akira and



which is almost equivalent to a stripper.

In charge during her long absences is Akira, the only one permitted outside.

his mom hurriedly bring their surprisingly heavy suitcases inside from the moving truck and open them.

Inside are Akira’s half-siblings, Shigeru, the youngest son, who is about 7, and Yuki, a 5-year-old sister. Later, Ayu, 11, comes by train bringing the total number of people crammed into a small apartment to five —four kids and a mom.

At dinner, the mother reiterates the rules. No loud voices or screaming and most of all — no going outside.

The mother, Keiko, is implied to be a hostess,

Eventually Keiko stops coming home entirely, leaving Akira to take care of his three half-siblings.

This immense pressure is shown in Akira’s actions. At one point he wastes his money on an expensive game console.

Eventually, the power gets cut. Then, the water. There are even more tragedies but revealing them will ruin the weight of the moments.

“Nobody Knows” is not another [insert genre] Hollywood movie.

This is a hauntingly tragic film that will stay with you as it has stayed with me for the past eight years.

I hope after watching this, viewers will understand the plight of the people that nobody knows.

Rating: A+

—JOHN HUYNH
PHOTOGRAPHER

PRODUCT REVIEW | Reviewer says he will stick with TP he knows and loves

Charmin wipes up Scott for usability

When I can only afford one luxury, toilet paper is always the one I choose. I’ve always been a Charmin man. Charmin is tough and responsible, yet gentle and soft. Charmin even offers a clog-free, money-back guarantee at its website www.charmin.com/cf-money-back.

I recently made the mistake of letting the household supply of Charmin run dry. By the time I discovered this, it was too late. My mother had already brought home a heaping pile of Scott.

Once in a generation, a product comes along that puts the word “paper” back in toilet paper. The product is Scott brand bath tissue.

I should have taken Scott outside and burned it. I should have thrown it from a mountain for trying to usurp my Charmin. I am ashamed to admit that I did not.

Not only do I live 15 minutes from any store, but I had just finished eating my favorite meal: Deep fried ice cream nachos.

I swallowed my pride and took Scott into the bathroom. My heart pounded with guilt with every step. “Don’t worry,” I heard Scott whisper.



“Charmin will never find out.”

As I took care of business on the throne, I stared at the fat white roll. I peeled the end of the thin ribbon. I almost expected it to loudly crinkle in my grasp.

I held the translucent length of paper in front of my face. I wrapped it around my hand one, two, twelve times. I stared at my mummified hand.

I wrapped it twelve more times. I exhaled and proceeded with the deed.

I can’t go any further.

This so-called bath tissue will clean you off in the same way that a scouring brush will clean a baby. Scott just isn’t the man for the job.

After using this product, the only thing that brought me relief was using the Dollar General sales receipt to finish the job.

Charmin and I have recently reunited and I have not wiped with anyone else since.

Rating: D

—JAKE MCMAHON
PHOTOGRAPHER

TOP 20 MOVIES

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

1. *The Lego Movie*
2. *3 Days to Kill*
3. *Pompeii*
4. *RoboCop*
5. *The Monuments Men*
6. *About Last Night*
7. *Ride Along*
8. *Frozen*
9. *Endless Love*
10. *Winter’s Tale*
11. *Lone Survivor*
12. *American Hustle*
13. *That Awkward Moment*
14. *The Wolf of Wall Street*
15. *Philomena*
16. *The Nut Job*
17. *Gravity*
18. *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*
19. *12 Years a Slave*
20. *Nebraska*

Two hit-and-run accidents reported to cops

LAUREN DANIEL

Editor

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Crime reports received this week include two reports of hit-and-run accidents where the driver reported having been followed or chased on campus prior to hitting a parked car.

At approximately 4:37 p.m. Feb. 17, OCCC Police Officer Ronald Ventresca was called to a gas station located off campus at SW 74th Street and May.

Luis Calderon, 36, told the officer he called OCCC Police Department from the gas station because while on campus earlier, he felt he was being followed by another vehicle. Calderon said he was afraid to return to campus.

According to the report, Calderon had been on campus to enroll his daughter in soccer when, he said, a dark blue truck began following his car through parking lots and accelerating at the same time he did. Calderon said the driver didn't display any threatening behaviors and the drivers never spoke to one another.

However, during his attempt to get away from the other vehicle, Calderon said he "hid" in Parking Lot A and while doing so, he backed into a parked vehicle.

At that point, Calderon said, the truck stopped following him, allowing Calderon to leave campus and call 911. The 911 operator referred him back to campus police who escorted Calderon back on

campus to tend to the accident with the parked vehicle.

Just a short time later, at 4:50 p.m., a True Green employee identified only as Sara in the report, called campus police to report a hit and run in parking lot A.

Officer Jeffrey McIntire said a car with a Florida tag hit a parked car, then left the scene. He said Sara was able to identify the struck car from the police station via a surveillance camera showing the parking lot.

As McIntire was looking at the camera, a call came in to the office from Ventresca of a road rage incident. It was determined the suspect in that incident also was the suspect in the hit-and-run.

The driver, whose name was redacted from the police report, was brought into the police department and questioned. He admitted to hitting the parked car. He told officers he had been followed by a blue vehicle and when he attempted to hide, he had backed into the parked car.

The man said he had been scared that the driver of the blue car said he was going to hurt him and his wife.

The owner of the damaged car, Micah Pilkenton, 20, was contacted and given the man's driver's license and insurance information.

Later that same day, around 7:36 p.m., OCCC student Conner Ottis, 20, reported that someone had switched his sunglasses with another pair.

Ottis said he had his grandfather's sunglasses with black frames and purple lenses, located in the right side of his backpack. He said he placed the sunglasses

in the backpack when he walked in the doors of the Main Building and noticed the sunglasses had been switched some time after he had set his backpack down in one of the science rooms in the Main Building.

Officer Jeffrey McIntire watched surveillance video but said he wasn't able to see anyone switch the sunglasses.

Earlier in the week, at 7:40 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, a wallet was found in the VPAC containing \$43.17, two debit cards and a credit card. It was turned into the campus police. A call to the police department to find out if the wallet had been recovered by its owner resulted in the reporter being referred to Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan.

At 1:37 p.m. on Feb. 18, Officer Gordon Nelson was called to a women's restroom on the first floor of the Main Building on a graffiti complaint. Nelson reported something appeared to be scratched on a wall with a sharp object. Nelson took pictures of the vandalism and the case was closed.

Some names were redacted from reports under the direction of Jordan who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld." To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

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

Women in Communications scholarship deadline March 14

LAUREN DANIEL

Editor

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The Association for Women in Communications (AWC) is offering a scholarship for women who are pursuing a degree in a communications-related field. The deadline for applying is March 14, said Mandi Briggs, AWC Chair.

"The scholarship is available to women pursuing a degree in a communications-related field at any Oklahoma college or university," Briggs said.

Communications fields the AWC considers are public relations, journalism, advertising, photography and speech.

Last year, Briggs said, the recipient was a sign language major.

"Our organization recognizes that the communication field has expanded so it's not necessarily just speech or just written communications ...,"



she said.

In addition to majoring in a communications-related field, the student also must be a full-time sophomore, junior or senior at a four-year college or must be beginning postgraduate work.

An exception is the student also can be a sophomore at a two-year college, Briggs said.

To apply, students must submit their most recent college transcript and two letters of recommendation with the application.

"The applicants would need to present a transcript, two letters of recommendation, probably from a professor ... so that we can know what their professional experience

has been."

Students also must include a work sample, list of community activities, list of school and internship activities, and a financial statement.

"[The] work sample ... could be a news release, a design layout or ad copy ...," she said.

"And then we just want to know a little bit about them — where they're going to school, their internship activities, any awards they have received, how they're involved in their community, and then just a little bit about their finances to show that they have need for this."

Briggs said the AWC realizes some students have more of a financial need than others, which is why a financial state-

ment is required.

A statement about why the student is applying for the scholarship, and a recent, high-color photo must be submitted, as well.

Briggs said the committee takes things like community service and community involvement into account.

"The selection will really be based on aptitude, their interest in a communications-related career, their performance academically, their financial need and ... their demonstration of community service.

"Those are all really important values to our organization and we hope that they're important to the applicant as well," Briggs said.

She said the application is available online at www.awcokc.org, and can be emailed or sent through U.S. Mail.

"The earlier they submit it, the better, so that I can make sure they have the whole complete package for the scholarship committee to look at," she said.

Briggs said the winner will be chosen at the end of March. The scholarship will be awarded in May at a luncheon in Bricktown.

Briggs encourages students to take advantage of the scholarship opportunity.

"This is directly related to their field and helps put their name in front of communications professionals that will be making hiring decisions once they graduate or will be looking for interns," Briggs said.

For more information about the AWC scholarship, visit www.awcokc.org or call Briggs at 405-608-8641.

Diverse student cast takes on dark Shakespeare play

JANET JIMÉNEZ

News Writing Student

A 21st Century take on William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" will be performed on campus at 7:30 p.m. March 6 through 8 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

"We're trying to do a very modern Macbeth," Director Rachel Irick said. "Shakespeare is the kind of material that you can sort of create your own time and place for in a lot of ways, and that's sort of what we're doing."

"Macbeth" is the story of a man enthralled with ambition who embarks on a murderous journey to become king of Scotland.

Actor Tyler Waits, University of Central Oklahoma graduate, is starring as Macbeth.

He compared the character to the protagonist in the popular AMC show "Breaking Bad."

"(Macbeth starts off) mild mannered, doing his part in the world, and then suddenly he sees this thing, you know, that sparks this ... dark desire," Waits said.

"Ambition kind of overtakes him and turns him into something he never imagined he would be."

OCCC theater major Alexis Ward, 19, is starring as Lady Macbeth. A returning actor to the OCCC stage, she said she felt excited when she learned she got the role.

"It's something that I've been told is a very big deal for any girl who is in the drama department to get," Ward said. "It's a big, big role. I've always played someone nice."

"I've never played someone that has as much ambition, who's willing to do anything possible to get what she wants."

"I've never played someone that has as much ambition, who's willing to do anything possible to get what she wants."

—ALEXIS WARD
OCCC STUDENT
CAST AS LADY MACBETH

Theater Professor Brent Noel praised Ward's talent.

"Alexis is one of our up-and-coming students," he said. "She's really good at being able to play character."

Irick said she enjoys working with the students at OCCC.

"When I'm here, I have the most diverse casts," she said.

She said she casts men and women, and gets to provide sex-blind and color-blind casting.

Matt Canann, playing the character Malcolm, said this is his third or fourth time working with Irick.

"She is always really great about having a clear vision ..."

Irick said Shakespeare is universal.

"That's another reason why I'm trying to modernize it," she said.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students. The Thursday night performance is free for students and staff of OCCC. For more information, contact the Arts Division at 405-682-1611, ext. 6278.



Macbeth (UCO grad Tyler Waits) and Macduff (student Ian Clinton) prepare for a battle to the death as they rehearse for the upcoming play, "Macbeth." The play opens at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, in the Bruce Owen Theater.



JAKE MCMAHON/PIONEER

Rehearsals are under way for the upcoming play "Macbeth" being put on by the theater department. Macbeth (UCO grad Tyler Waits) and the three witches (students Kayla Snyder, Hannah Youngblood and Dominique Samuel) go over their lines. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students. The Thursday night performance is free for students and staff of OCCC.

Former student creates art from existing paintings

SIALI SIAOSI

Staff Writer

seniorwrite@occc.edu

A former OCCC student has made quite the footprint on the local artistic community.

“Thriftfoot,” an art collection by Mitchell Richards, opened on Feb. 14 at the Mainsite Contemporary Art Gallery in Norman and is on display until March 7.

The collection consists of old paintings salvaged from thrift-shops featuring Bigfoot caricatures drawn in by Richards.

Richards, who refers to his Thriftfoot paintings as comedy art, said he began his artistic career as a joke.

“I think it’s funny — it started off as a joke,” Richards said. “It kind of just turned into something a little more serious.”

“Painting and stuff is still kind of a new thing for me ... I haven’t taken an art class since 7th grade,” Richards said.

“I don’t really know what I’m doing ... I can’t paint a bunch of landscapes and pretty things,” he said. “I can just paint this one goofy thing.”

“[But] the more I started doing [the pieces], the better they got.”

Richards said he gained recognition in 2013 when his girlfriend, Chelsea Miller, submitted his paintings to “Live on the Plaza,” a monthly artwalk in Oklahoma City’s Plaza District featuring art shows, live music and shopping.

“When he first started ... he didn’t think that other people would find the humor in it,” Miller said.

Miller said she felt Richards’ recycled art would do well in Oklahoma City’s Plaza District, which is why she submitted the Thriftfoot pieces without him knowing.

“I thought the Plaza District would be a really good supporter of what Mitchell does and the humor that he’s going for,” she said.

After a year of exposure, Miller said, Richards has received a lot of positive feedback. She said Richards was invited to show his Thriftfoot collection at an art venue when Mumford and Sons performed their “Gentleman of the Road” concert in Guthrie in August 2013.

Richards said he has also been hired to generate Thriftfoot paintings for local businesses.

“You can tell that he really enjoys it,” Miller said. “He enjoys seeing other people look at [his art] and laugh.”

Richards said his pieces don’t require much inspiration other than a good sense of humor. He said most of his pieces add comic relief to an otherwise serious setting, such as Bigfoot eating a cheeseburger alongside Jesus at The Last Supper.

“That’s the funniest place to put a Bigfoot — next to Jesus,” Richards said.

“I usually try to have a little story in the paintings,” he said. “I just want people to come and laugh at [Thriftfoot] — I don’t want people to take it too seriously ... ”

Richards said his paintings sell between \$60 and \$120, depending on its size and cost of materials.

Richards said he studied journalism when attending OCCC. For more information about Richards’ work, visit www.thriftfoot.com or follow him on Instagram or Twitter at @thriftfoot.

Top: Mitchell Richards stands by his “Thriftfoot” art exhibit which debuted on Feb. 14 at the Mainsite Contemporary Art Gallery in Norman. Richards creates “comedy art” by adding caricatures to classic paintings.

Bottom: “Fresh Catch” and a few other pieces hang in the exhibit.

PHOTO BY MITCHELL RICHARDS



PHOTO BY CHELSEA MILLER



SPORTS

Jump shot



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Michael Pham, an Allied Health major, takes a leap during Friday's intramural basketball game between OSU-OKC and the Thirsty Camels. Pham said he was just shooting baskets in the gym when he was picked up for the game.

SPORTS | About 350 top NAIA athletes scheduled to compete in Aquatic Center

Swimming, diving championships slated

COURTNEY LYNN BOGGS
News Writing Student

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Swimming and Diving National Championships will return to the OCCC Aquatic Center for the third straight year, said Roxy Butler, Recreation and Fitness director.

Approximately 350 of the top NAIA swimmers and divers will return to Oklahoma City March 5 through 8 to compete against athletes from more than 30 colleges for the 2014 national title.

"Hosting these competitions is one way we can support swimming in our community," Butler said.

"We also help the state of Oklahoma by bringing people into our state as tourists and shoppers.

"The college placed a bid on the NAIA Championships and then asked for a three-year renewal due to the

benefit the event has on OCCC, our community, and the state."

Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee is the only swimming and diving program in Oklahoma.

Though it is a young program with only three years of existence, it has proven to be a standout school in the NAIA, winning both the men's and women's titles in 2013.

OBU Head Coach Sam Freas said he is pleased to return to OCCC for the championships and looks forward to what his athletes have to offer.

"I had heard good things about OCCC before coming to OBU," Freas said.

"The venue is wonderful for both me and for OBU."

The 2013 NAIA Athlete of the Year Laura Galarza is an OBU swimmer from Colombia, South America, who will be returning to compete at the championships this year.

OBU athletes and NAIA titleholders, Kristen Brimage and Daniel Ramirez, also will be returning this season.

"The NAIA has improved greatly since I've been here," Freas said. "The coaches are better, the swimmers are better. We hope we will prevail but it's going to be close."

Apart from Oklahoma's homegrown college program, many other talented teams will be making their way to Oklahoma City for the championships.

Coach Christopher Conlon from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) said he is happy to be returning to the Oklahoma City area.

"The people and city of Oklahoma City have been gracious hosts for the past two NAIA championships," Conlon said.

"The pool and facilities at OCCC are first class and we feel that all of our swimmers have the opportunity to race as fast as possible."

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• March 1

Final day for Spring Coed Volleyball registration with payment. League starts March 10 and runs through April 21. Games are at 6:30 p.m. each Monday. Each team will play 12 games plus tournament using USVBA rules with some modifications. League fees: \$230 per team. Roster limit is 12. For more information, call 405-682-7861 or visit www.occc.edu/rf/adultsports.

• Spring semester:

Visit www.occc.edu/rf/swimming-diving to enroll in a number of events held in the college's Aquatic Center.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to be directed to a list of OCCC Intramural events, complete with the most current updates.

(Free QR code reader apps can be found online or in app stores on smart phones. Follow the directions for the app you download.)

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

OCCC students will have many opportunities to get involved with the championships, Butler said. Volunteers for hospitality, timing, ticket sales and runners will be needed.

"Both morning and evening times are available on March 6, 7 and 8," she said.

"The service hours will count for Civic Honors students. It is a fun and exciting atmosphere."

For more information about volunteering contact Butler at rebutler@occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

For more information about the NAIA, visit www.naia.org.

Transfer: Students need to start transfer process early

Continued from page 1

Students also should be aware of the classes they are taking now, Puebla said.

While the hours taken at OCCC might transfer to a university, they might not apply toward a particular program.

By checking into that first, he said, students can prevent losing money, time and even motivation.

Puebla said students also need to consider which school they plan to transfer to long before they are finished at OCCC in order to make certain it meets every need and requirement.

"It's important to find out ... whether they meet (the requirements of the) program you're looking to get your

bachelor's in, and their cost, how far they are from home," he said.

"There's a lot of things to consider, so you want to definitely give it a lot of thought."

Students will be required to fill out an application — typically online — for every school they apply to, Puebla said.

Students also will need to include an official transcript for all the institutions already attended.

And, Puebla said, depending on the program, a student may also have to apply to a separate school within that institution.

"[At] some programs at other institutions it's not enough for you to be able to be accepted to the university," he said. "...

“OCCC makes sure that your credits line up, so anytime that I went to advising, they made sure that I was on track.”

—COURTNEY BAKER
OCCC GRADUATE

They have a separate, ... additional acceptance process that you have to go through.

"For instance, if you're wanting to go to a particular engineering program, say at the University of Oklahoma ... you could transfer to OU and take classes at OU, but wouldn't necessarily be accepted into the program ...," he said.

Courtney Baker, social work major and OCCC graduate, experienced the process firsthand when she transferred to the school of social work at OU.

She said she had always wanted to go to OU, so she met with advisers early.

"OCCC makes sure that your credits line up, so anytime that I went to advising, they made sure that I was on the track," she said.

Overall, Baker said, her transfer experience was great.

"... There are a lot of different programs at OU that you have to apply for in advance so be sure that you're looking at the due dates and cut off dates for scholarships, the cutoff dates for whenever your program deadline is, because you don't just apply to OU, you

apply for your specific major, depending what that major is," Baker said.

Puebla said the Transfer Center offers many resources for students that can assist with transferring.

"Here at the Transfer Center, we ... help you establish that relationship ... so that you can do an unofficial transcript evaluation because (at) most universities, their academic advisers do not meet with non-admitted students," he said.

"So your only option would be to meet with a transfer counselor at their institution that could do an unofficial transcript evaluation," said Puebla.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/transfercenter or call Puebla at 405-682-7567.

Library: Numerous online databases available for students

Continued from page 1

lection of articles, essays, films and images students can use for class assignments, Butler said.

With most online article databases, material from several authors is organized into one space but, she said, World Religions Online is its own publication.

To access World Religions Online, Butler said, students can select the "More" link under the "More Resources" tab on the OCCC Library homepage at www.occc.edu/library.

"You can get to [World Religions Online] from wherever you're working," Butler said.

"It's an excellent example of some scholarly information.

"It's got scholarly articles, it's got videos ... all the stuff that keeps your professor happy."

Butler said any information accessed from World Religions Online can be cited for classroom use.

"OCCC has a lot of classes that could conceivably use this for an assignment ...," she said.

She cited mythology, philosophy and comparative religion classes as examples.

Butler said World Religions Online is user-friendly and easy to navigate since it is an Internet publication.

She said typically, when printed material is converted to an online article, some information is lost, but said World Religions Online is extremely reliable in that manner.

The website organizes information in big categories so as to have more accessibility to students, Butler said.

"You can click on these things and be nose-to-nose with some really good information," she said.

In addition, the OCCC Library has access to the Online Encyclopedia of Religion, an online article database, Butler said.

To access the Online Encyclopedia of Religion, Butler said, students can search the title through the OCCC Library Catalog.

Students can access scholarly articles by searching specific topics when using the Online Encyclopedia of Religion, Butler said.



She said it is just as beneficial for class assignments; however, it is not as interesting to look at as World Religions Online.

Butler said if students need help accessing the online databases, the OCCC Library staff is available to help.

For more information about the databases, call 405-682-7564, or visit the library website at www.occc.edu/library.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Making a connection



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Student Support Services Administrative Assistant Sunshine Garcia, Student Support Services Office Assistant Armetha Hall and Advocates of Peace volunteer Alisha Tasetano stand watch at Student Life's "Free Hugs" stand. The stand promoted suicide prevention and allowed students to write inspiring messages on cards or write an inspiring story on a provided "Story Board."

COMMUNITY | Making personal connections helps students

Club strives for equality for all

LAUREN DANIEL
Editor
editor@occc.edu

One campus club is striving for equality for all, said Leading Individuals for Equality President Chris Reece.

"Leading Individuals for Equality's goal is to lead students in the pursuit of equality so that they may play a vital role within the LGBTQ community," Reece said. "This will be obtained by reaching out to outside educational sources and making personal connections."

The Leadership Council Representative for the club Lisa Shaw said LIFE — formerly the Gay Straight Alliance — aims to be an organization that anyone feels comfortable joining.

"It's a place where individuals can feel inclusive . . .," she said. "Really, the mission statement for the group is equality for all, no one should feel left behind, no one should feel uninvited."

Shaw said the club wants to help balance out equality not only within the community, but also in the state. She said that's why members are excited about an upcoming event they have planned — the LGBTQQA Summit on March 1.

"That is an opportunity not just for OCCC, but for every college and university in Oklahoma to address issues of equality that we are facing as students... and

to talk about upcoming equality issues."

Shaw said the summit will be from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the College Union.

"It's a very good opportunity for our school to show that we provide a safe place for inclusiveness," she said.

Reece said the club also hosts other events such as movie nights, and car wash fundraisers. Also, they visit similar clubs on other college campuses.

"(On) April 8, we will have Dr. Greg Parks, a psychology professor here," he said. "He is going to be talking about his human sexuality course that he offers."

Shaw said club members encourage students to get involved, to meet new people and to broaden their social circle.

"If for whatever reason you have an issue fitting in with any other group, our group focuses on inclusiveness," she said. "We have ally friends, we have gay and lesbian students, we have straight students. It is a place where equality is the focus, but inclusiveness is what makes it work."

Shaw said all students should strive for equality.

"I think going forward, equality is going to be one of our biggest struggles and it's the fight that we're going to have to fight, not just for gay and lesbian students," she said.

For more information, visit the LIFE website at www.occc.edu/studentlife/clubs or contact Reece at gsa@my.occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Critical Thinking writing workshop March 3

Join presenter Josh Shultz from 11 a.m. to noon on Monday, March 3, in CU1 in the General Dining Area as he explores the essence of critical thinking. Attendees will apply critical thinking to their own and others' ideas in order to become better critical thinkers and writers. For more information, contact the Communications Lab at 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

Choral concert March 4 in the VPAC Theater

The OCCC choral program will host its first performance in the new Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4. Three choirs will perform including the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Symphonic Community Choir. The concert is free to the public. For more information, contact Ronald Staton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7249, or rstaton@occc.edu.

Cyber Crime Investigation Presentation March 11

Preston Ackerman will present "An Overview of FBI Cyber Crime Investigations" from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on March 11 in CU1 in the General Dining Area. Ackerman is currently assigned to the FBI's Oklahoma City Division Cyber Squad where he is the program coordinator for computer intrusion matters. For more information, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7519.

Apply now for leadership institute at OU

Students have until Friday, March 14, to apply for the N.E.W. Leadership, a program of the Women's Leadership Initiative to be held May 16 through 20 at the University of Oklahoma. Undergraduate women enrolled in any Oklahoma college are eligible. The program is free. It is designed to teach women how to become effective leaders in public service and elective office. Apply at www.ou.edu/wli. For more information, contact Assistant Director Lauren Schueler at 405-325-6372 or lschueler@ou.edu.

Writing workshop offered April 14

"Writing Basics" engages students in hands-on activities that will help improve their essay writing. The workshop will be offered from 11 a.m. until noon on Monday, April 14, in CU1 and again the next day from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, in the VPAC building, room 146. For more information, contact the Communications Lab at 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

Women of the South Scholarship deadline

Women of the South Primary Provider Scholarships are available to women who are the sole or primary providers of their household. Recipients will receive funding toward obtaining an associate degree from OCCC. The scholarship includes tuition, fees and books. A recipient must be a primary provider with a high school diploma or equivalent who resides in the south Oklahoma City metropolitan area and meets income requirements. Visit www.womenofthesouth.org to print an application, or call Linda Carr at 405-270-1669. Deadline is April 15.

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

advertise your business here. For more rate information, email adman@occc.edu.

FOR SALE: Neiman Marcus Robert Rodriguez collection size 14 strapless cocktail dress. Never worn. Still has store tags. \$50. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: New size 26 jeans — never been worn. Brands include Vans, Levi's and Zumiez. \$10 per pair. Retail for \$40 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: Collector's Item! "Star Wars" Hayden Christensen autographed photo in plastic protector & Certificate of Authenticity. \$60. Text 405-818-0083 for more information.

FOR SALE: HP office jet all-in-one printer. New color and B&W cartridges. Power cord. Works great. \$50. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

TUTOR WANTED: Part-time tutor wanted for Accounting I and Macroeconomics. Pay is negotiable. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to make extra money. Text 405-443-8448.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1994 White Saturn model SC1. Body type CP, 169,000 miles. Asking \$800.00. Call 212.6027 for more information.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Two 40" CRT televisions. Both are in excellent condition. Great for a gaming TV in the kids' room. \$30 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Bed liner for standard long bed pickup w/ tailgate liner. \$75. GC. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures or more information.

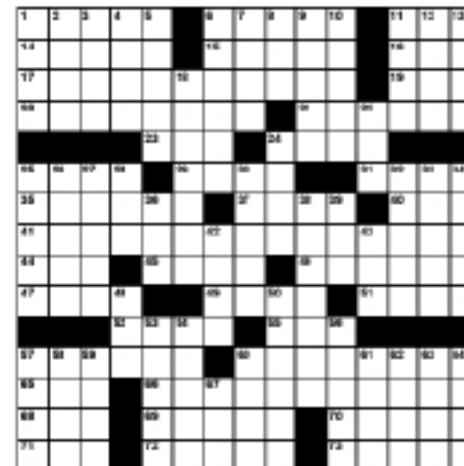
FOR SALE: This space. For just \$8 per week, you could

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

'90th Birthday' Crossword by Dave Fisher

Across

1. Covered walkways
 6. Plastered
 11. Short story?
 14. Work together
 15. He set up the Golden Calf
 16. Certain club member
 17. He created the first 41 across
 19. Foreman's deflator
 20. Seen-to-be American Realties
 21. Part of a contract
 23. Laugh-in's successor, for short
 24. What makes 10 down
 25. Tossle
 29. Letter opener?
 31. They may be inflated
 35. Entirely
 37. Old Oldsmobiles
 40. Poetic anger
 41. What 17 across created
 44. Brazil tourist attraction, familiarly
 45. Do ___ others...
 46. Captivate
 47. Girl watch
 49. Ramulas, e.g.
 51. Slapely suffixes
 52. Choir member
 55. Rams & Eagles org.
 57. Skin picture
 60. Inhabitant of Jamaica, Cuba, etc.
 65. Friend in France
 66. December day, 1913, that first 41 across appeared
 68. Whale group
 69. ~
 70. Make one's day
 71. Get by (with 'out')
 72. "Hop" * Seuss title
 73. Utah lilies
- Down**
1. "The Lion King" villain



2. Matador's foe
3. Dobbie's tooth
4. Suffer
5. Hurts a toe, perhaps
6. Lollygag
7. Tanner's quest
8. Ash can?
9. The time being
10. Sad sound
11. ___ gets it
12. Troubles
13. Tom load, for one
18. Seedy
22. Hops to it?
24. Produced
25. ___ soft
26. Dismantle (a ship)
27. Bar furniture
28. Distress call
30. Hoodie weapon
32. Gadget
33. DuPont's acrylic fiber
34. They have great foresight
36. Lao-___
38. It's embarrassing for a guy
39. Tanner's quest
42. Last of the Hapsburgs
43. Change direction again
48. Stop fast
50. Having a similar policy
53. Numbers game
54. "Play ___", book by self-help maven, Larry Wilson
56. Bistros
57. Scotch, for example
58. Benseck
59. Name on a soapbox
60. Prefix for Gandhi's land
61. Luthor's river
62. Type of rice
63. This, to Pablo
64. Itinerary abbreviations
67. Cookery's cry for assistance?

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editor@occc.edu

EIGHT-MEMBER ENSEMBLE WILL PERFORM BOTH OLD AND NEW STANDARDS

Jazz Band prepares for upcoming March 11 show

CANDICE ANASTASIA SCHAFER
News Writing Student

Just walking into a rehearsal for the jazz band, one can feel the pulsating musical notes in the air.

The eight-member ensemble was already deep into practicing warm-ups, rehearsing for their upcoming concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

The band practices in room 132 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center four hours each week — two on Mondays and two on Wednesdays.

The group consists of trombonist Josh West, alto saxophonist Stanley Hall, bassist Zach Lebo, guitarist Jared Bross, drums played by adjunct music professor Mark Giammarino and three jazz singers. The vocalists are Nicole Pearce and Stefanie Cox, both altos, and Chris Davis, tenor.

Music Professor Mike Boyle conducts the band during rehearsal as well as plays the piano.

He said those who attend the performance will find music they know and like, even if they aren't jazz fans.

"This show actually has some pop-rock influences, which is kind of unusual for jazz," Boyle said. "It's songs the students may have heard before, like John Lennon, Jackson 5 and Stevie Wonder."

"The theme of this concert is 'The New Standard' but we are playing old standards and new standards."

Some examples of the music that will be played are "Superstitious" by Stevie



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

OCCC jazz band members Josh West, trombone; Stanley Hall, saxophone; Zach Lebo, bass; and Jared Bross, guitar, rehearse for their upcoming concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, in the Bruce Owen Theater. The event is free to the public.

Wonder, "Don't Give Up" by Peter Dinklage and "Imagine" by John Lennon.

As musicians know, with practice comes perfection.

After a shared laugh, the members of the group admitted they could practice more. Boyle said the college jazz performers have to balance a slew of responsibilities.

"Student practice time varies depending upon how much music theory

and music history homework they have, along with other bands and work schedules, and other musical commitments.

"On a good week as an educator, I practice eight hours in one week, but that was the week we had snow days," Boyle said. "So instead of going to school, I'd practice the bass."

"Student musicians will practice between two hours and four hours a day."

Not everyone in the group started by

playing jazz music.

"I started in a symphonic concert band in middle school," sax player Hall said. "I started on the clarinet."

This group has been working hard for a number of weeks. Lebo said they are always excited to play shows. This concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Boyle at 405-682-1611, ext. 7245, or email mboyle@occc.edu.

College's three choirs to combine for music concert

KEEGAN PARRISH
News Writing Student

For the first time in more than 10 years, the choirs of OCCC will be performing on campus.

The free concert is at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, in the new Visual and Performing Arts Theater, said music Professor Ronald Staton. The theater can seat 1,049.

"March 4 will be the first concert we've had in our new theater," Staton said. "We're looking forward to that."

Due to lack of space and seating, concerts have been held off campus in past years.

"We have not had concerts here because the Bruce Owen (Theater) only holds 280-plus and our crowds are a lot larger than that," Staton said.

Previous venues have included church buildings, such as Graceway Baptist, Wilmont Place Baptist and Mid-America Christian University.

Three choirs will perform at the concert: the Concert Choir, which is open enrollment for all interested students; the

Chamber Singers, an audition-only group of 26 vocalists; and the Symphonic Community Choir, consisting of students and community members.

Vocal music and music education major Harrison Shaw described why he joined choir.

"I love to sing," he said. "Music has always been my passion and singing has always been the best part of that passion."

Shaw, in his first semester at OCCC, is a member of both the Concert Choir and the Chamber Singers. He voiced his eagerness to perform in the

new VPA theater.

"I'm just really excited for people in this school to have something that they can enjoy and that we can bring people in to see it as well," he said. "I hear the music hall is pretty awesome."

Music selections will include "Set Me a Seal" by Rene Clausen and Olaf Christiansen's "Light Everlasting," as well as spiritual and jazz pieces.

Staton, who instructs all three choirs, has been teaching at OCCC for nearly 10 years.

"I love it," he said, "It's a good

place to work."

Two Steinway grand pianos will be on stage for the performance. Staton and accompanist Lisa Barsaleau will perform "Ode to Joy" and "Malagueña" as a duet.

Then, Staton and Barsaleau will be joined by Tony Carrillo and Lori Cobart to perform a quartet of "Stars and Stripes Forever" on piano. The concert is open to the public.

For more information, contact Staton at ronald.g.staton@occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7249.