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EDITORIAL

FACEBOOK INFO STORED FOREVER

Staff Writer Bryce McElhaney says those who haven't joined Facebook should think twice before signing up and losing privacy.

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NEWS

STUDENT TRAVELS FROM OCCC TO KFOR

Lacey Lett, a familiar face on local channel KFOR News 4, got her start in the halls of OCCC. Read about her journey from a community college to television.

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SPORTS

NAIA TOURNEY CHAMPIONS NAMED

From March 5 through 8, the NAIA swimming and diving competition took place on the OCCC campus Turn inside for the results.

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COMMUNITY

ADVOCATES OF PEACE GIVE OUT HUGS, MORE

Students who like to think differently and share ideas with others might want to join the Advocates of Peace club, said Sponsor Stephen Morrow.

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Focusing on success



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Premed major Jordan McCarthy works on his résumé for an assignment from Success in College and Life class in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. The college has a number of areas where students can use a computer or study. The library offers some private group study rooms as well.

Student council says no guns at OCCC

'Resolution Against Guns on Campus' easily passes

LAUREN DANIEL
Editor
editor@occ.edu

The Leadership Council on campus met recently to discuss the issue of allowing guns on the OCCC campus — something that has been the focus of discussion by Oklahoma lawmakers and college presidents for some time.

TLC is OCCC's student council, made up of leaders from the college's many clubs and

organizations.

Erin Logan, TLC sponsor and Student Life director, said the group took a vote at the Feb. 27 meeting and passed a "Resolution Against Guns on Campus," meaning the group stands by the existing policy of not allowing guns on the OCCC campus.

Of the 34 active clubs at OCCC, Logan said, 20 clubs were in attendance at the meeting.

"Seventeen clubs voted in favor of passing the resolution, zero clubs objected and three clubs abstained," she said.

Logan said the abstentions were made by clubs who were

not sure of their decision, but the votes ultimately go to the majority, which was in favor of passing the resolution.

"We gave the definition that

you want it to pass is yes, you don't want it to pass is no, and if you don't know how you feel

See **GUNS** page 9

Certain degrees more lucrative than others

SIALI SIAOSI
Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occ.edu

If you're like most college students, you're looking forward to the money to be made after earning a degree.

However, students seeking immediate employment post graduation might keep some specific OCCC degrees in mind, said Planning and Research Executive

See **DEGREES** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Deactivating an account does not make personal information disappear

Facebook biggest brother of all

Today's generation seems to love sharing their photos, ideas, personal beliefs and even their romance on social networking sites like Facebook, respectively for all of their friends, families, and future employers to see.



BRYCE
McELHANEY

People may want to reconsider the amount of information they share on the site once they do some research.

Facebook has been a great way to connect with people but has a history of gathering information from every single Facebook account and keeping it, even after a user deletes their account.

This has been a known problem since at least early 2008, when NYTimes.com first reported about it and has been a concern among many users since then.

Users who are concerned about their privacy have gone so far as to delete their accounts — a tedious task which does not matter in the end anyway because deleting a Facebook account completely is not possible.

Many users aren't even aware of the unclear and obscure policies that inform users their information will remain on the website even after deactivation.

Thus, the process of completely deleting a Facebook account may require many emails to Facebook's customer services and plenty of patience.

According to NYTimes.com, "While the Web site offers users the option to deactivate their accounts, Facebook servers keep copies of the information in those accounts indefinitely. Indeed, many users who have contacted Facebook to request that their accounts be deleted have not succeeded in erasing their records from the network."

In addition, it turns out Facebook also keeps a large amount of data from each user. Up to 800 pages of information per account may be stored on Facebook's servers, according to Geek.com.

"(In addition to) the information you'd expect (name, address, date of birth, friends), there's also unexpected data such as messages you have deleted, logging which events you decided not to attend as well as those you did, the last location you accessed Facebook from, a list of every single machine you ever logged into Facebook from."



Something just doesn't add up when thinking about how easily Facebook manages to track an individual's life and how troublesome it can be to attempt deleting an account.

People who are considering joining Facebook should ask themselves one question before doing so: Is the limitless connection with friends and family worth losing a significant amount of privacy forever?

With great Facebook obsession comes great responsibility, as your personal life may slip into the hands of the Internet abyss forever.

—BRYCE McELHANEY
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | The American Red Cross provides an app to help with unexpected disasters

Everyone should have an emergency preparedness plan

To the editor:

Severe weather season will be upon us before we know it and now is the time to prepare for what Mother Nature will send our way.

The American Red Cross is participating in National Severe Weather Preparedness Week by encouraging all households to be ready for the next emergency or disaster.

MAKE A PLAN: It is important that everyone in the household helps put the emergency plan together and knows what they should do if something occurs. During the day many people are at work and school so household members may not be together when a disaster happens. The plan should include ways to contact one another and two predetermined places to meet — one near the home in case of a sudden emergency like a fire and one outside the neighborhood in case circumstances prevent people from returning home. People also should identify an emergency

contact person from outside the area in case local telephone lines are overloaded or out of service.

Any emergency plan also should include decisions about where family members will go if ordered to evacuate and what route they will take to get there. It's a good idea to include alternate routes in case roads are closed. If pets are part of the household, make sure to include plans for them such as pet-friendly hotels and animal shelters along the evacuation route.

RED CROSS APPS: The Red Cross has free mobile apps that provide information on what to do before, during and after emergencies including developing an emergency plan. People can use the Make a Plan feature in the apps to create their plan and then share it with their loved ones. The preloaded content in the apps gives people access to vital information to use during emergencies even if they can't connect to the Internet. The apps can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for Android by

searching for American Red Cross.

DONATE BLOOD: Another way people can help ensure their community is ready for a disaster is to give blood. When an emergency occurs, it is the blood already on the shelves that is available to help patients who need it. Thousands of blood donations are needed every day. If someone would like to give blood, they must be at least 17 years of age, meet weight and height requirements and be in general good health. Donors should bring their Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID with them. Some states allow 16-year-olds to give with parental consent. To schedule a donation time or to get more information about giving blood, people can go to redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

To learn more go online to www.redcross.org/okc.

—KEN GARCIA
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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

PLAY REVIEW | Reviewer says student rendition of “Macbeth” pleasant experience

Students do Shakespeare justice

While I’ve never seen a Broadway show, I’ve attended more community theater productions and school plays than I’d like to admit.

However, after attending the premiere of OCCC’s production of “Macbeth,” I’m pleased to say I was part of the opening night audience.

If you attended high school in America, chances are your literature professor forced you to read Shakespeare’s woeful piece about blind ambition and the dreary fate resulting from greed and madness.

But if you were unaware of the play’s events prior to opening night, the OCCC Theater Department did a splendid job portraying Shakespeare’s classic tale.

While there was little to be said about costume design (most of the players wore street clothing), I’d argue that the acting was some of the best I’ve seen in such a small production.

Audiences often think it’s an easy job memorizing a script, but Shakespeare is no joke — either he’s recited right or he’s recited wrong.

The players of “Macbeth” seemed to have seriously studied their scenes.

That said, although the play is centered around the demise of Macbeth’s character, I must admit that Lady Macbeth stole the show.

While Macbeth’s descent into madness was portrayed superbly by University of Central Oklahoma

graduate Tyler Waits, audiences shouldn’t discredit the passion necessary to play his female counterpart.

Portrayed by OCCC student Alexis Ward, Lady Macbeth contributes to Macbeth’s madness as she encourages him to murder King Duncan and inherit his riches (at one point she recites that if the king hadn’t resembled her father while sleeping, she’d have murdered him herself).

Throughout the play, Lady Macbeth begins going mad as well and I personally felt that Ward’s acting aesthetic was perfect for the part.

Because I’ve only read Shakespeare’s play without seeing it performed, I’ve never witnessed the characters’ emotions firsthand.

However, I was pleased with how impassioned Ward appeared while reciting Lady Macbeth’s monologues as her character developed throughout the production.

Along with Lady Macbeth, Banquo, Macduff, Duncan’s heirs, and the three witches were all characters I enjoyed seeing on stage.

Overall, the play was an exciting experience and I look forward to future productions put on by the OCCC Theater Department.

Rating: A

—SIALI SIAOSI
STAFF WRITER

ALBUM REVIEW | Bieber’s music more inappropriate but still good

‘Journals’ displays JB’s talent

I know I’m going to be judged for this next statement, but I am a fan of Justin Bieber.

While I don’t agree with many of his life choices, I would like to discuss something everyone else seems to forget about — his music.

One of the things I loved most about his first album was that he seemed innocent.

The boy with the most popular hairstyle in 2009 has grown into a man-child who attempts to grow facial hair.

As a result, his music has changed quite a bit.

In October, Justin released his first single, “Heartbreaker,” which features a strong beat and bass along with an R&B feel.

In the bridge, he still manages to belt out his famous Bieber range that is still just as impressive as when he released “Baby.”

Justin released nine singles in addition to “Heartbreaker” each Monday for 10 weeks on what he called “Music Mondays.”

His newest album, “Journals,” was released in December and included all of the singles and five



new songs.

For the most part, I enjoy listening to the album, but his music is definitely different than what I expected.

He does more rapping, more cursing and more singing about suggestive themes.

Of course, I guess this was expected because he is “growing up,” but I would rather listen to the once innocent Bieber.

My three favorite songs on the album are “Recovery,” “All That Matters” and “Bad Day.”

Honestly, some of the songs are a bit offensive.

The song “PYD (feat. R. Kelly),” which stands for “Put You Down” (I’m sure you can imply what this means) is inappropriate in my opinion.

A few other songs, “Confident,” “Backpack (feat. Lil Wayne)” and “Memphis (feat. Big Sean)” include curse words.

“Journals” is still one of my favorite albums.

No one can deny that the Biebs is one talented punk.

Rating: B

—LAUREN DANIEL
EDITOR

JOB & CAREER POWER

Job sources available for all students

The Student Employment & Career Services office is ready to assist students with their job search and career guidance needs. Hundreds of online job search sites can be found on the Student Employment & Career Services homepage.

• **GreaterGrads:** www.greatergrads.com — Find OKC internships, jobs and local employment resources.

• **OKC.GOV:** www.okc.gov/jobs — Find and apply for jobs with Oklahoma City.

• **Oklahoma Job Match:** okjobmatch.com — Find help building a résumé.

• **AfterCollege.com:** www.aftercollege.com/career-networks/oklahoma-city-community-college/school-of-nursing/OCCChealthprofessionscareerresourcecenter.

The Internet provides numerous sites where you can take career assessments, search for jobs, find job market trends, apply for positions, create and store résumés and cover letters. Below are few recommendations of places to start.

Career exploration and job search sites:

• **Career One Stop:** www.careeronestop.org — Learn about careers and search job openings all across the nation.

• **MY NEXT MOVE:** www.mynextmove.org.

• **MY NEXT MOVE for VETERANS:** www.mynextmove.org/vets.

Oklahoma state and local job search sites with hundreds of job postings.

• **JOBSOK:** newsok.com/marketplace/jobsok.

• **Oklahoma Joblink:** servicelink.oesc.state.ok.us/ada.

Online job search sites that contain millions of job listings and resources to help you with your job hunt

• **Indeed:** www.indeed.com.

• **Job Center USA:** <http://jobcenter.usa.gov>

• **Veterans Employment Center and Job Bank:** www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits.

The following are job search sites to find jobs in Nursing and Health Professions jobs.

• **HealtheCareers Net:** www.healthcareers.com.

• **Nurse.com:** www.nurse.com/jobs.

Those looking for a job in business, technology, computers or Engineering can try the following sites:

• **Dice:** www.dice.com Dice is the leading career site for information technology and engineering professionals, connecting tech pros with top employers.

• **Careers in Business:** www.careers-in-business.com.

• **Engineeringjobs.com:** <http://www.engineerjobs.com>.

Visit the Student Employment & Career Services office to learn more about job searching and additional resources to help you find the right job.

Stop by our office to find new job postings and opportunities. Come by the first floor of the Main Building in room 1G7 or call 405-682-7519.

—KIM BAYS
ACADEMIC ADVISING

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

BUSINESS REVIEW | Open bar, odd music among features of bowling alley

Bowling bearable at AMF Boulevard Lanes

Once in a lifetime, a bowling alley comes along that functions as a bowling alley. That bowling alley is AMF Boulevard Lanes located at 3501 S Boulevard in Edmond.

One can wear orange shoes, sit on a slippery plastic seat and watch their fattest friend beat them at a sport.

I like to think of bowling as the sport that everyone can play except yourself.

The good news about AMF is that when one is scrabbling against their girlfriend in the ninth frame for second-to-last place, a waitress brings some yummy alcohol.

Bowling just got bearable, kids. AMF Boulevard Lanes has a bar.

There are two strategies that one can take when it comes to the bar: one is to get so hammered that one cheers when they roll a gutter ball, thinking it is a touchdown.

The other strategy is to casually slip cosmopolitans to “Fatty” until his spin ball bounces into the concession stand.

Sure, this is the best day of his life. But he needs to remember his place in the world. Let’s not forget the big screen above the lane that holds the scores.

If someone rolls a strike, an animation appears

of a cute little character climbing a mountain or flying. Explosions and fireworks accentuate “Fatty”’s triumph.

Of course, if one rolls a gutter ball, an equally dramatic animation occurs, blasting that failure across the screen in case the sense of manhood has still held on by a thread.

I speak for males because if you’re a woman, nobody cares if you’re bad at bowling.

Perhaps one day, women will be ridiculed as equally as men, but we still have a long way to go.

Aside from my problems with the actual sport, AMF Boulevard Lanes is not a bad place.

It is clean. Even the bathrooms are nice.

The place is as stylish as a bowling alley can be, which is not very, but hey — it’s a bowling alley.

The only odd thing about AMF is the music they play.

The second I stood up to take my first roll, Alicia Keys began to sing, “This girl is on fiiiiiiiiire”.

The worst part — that was when I made my only



strike of the night.

Rating: B+

—JAKE MCMAHON
VIDEOGRAPHER

PRODUCT REVIEW | Refreshing 13” display fine for editing

Retina Macbook Pro worth splurge

As a photographer, I was absolutely mesmerized by Apple’s announcement of the Retina Macbook Pro in 2012.

It had an unmatched 2880x1800 15” display with 227 pixels per inch, which is about three million more pixels than a standard HD TV, but it started out at \$2,200.

Fast forward only two years later and Apple has released a more affordable, 13” model for \$1,299.

The display is absolutely refreshing. There are no discernible pixels — hence the ‘Retina’ moniker.

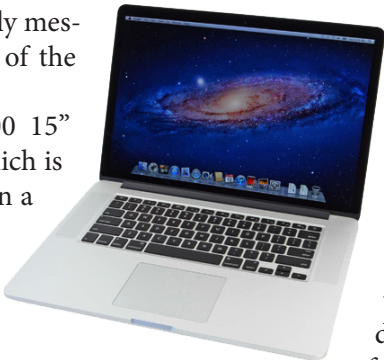
Powering this display and computer is a mere 4GB of RAM and Intel’s newest Intel i5 with Iris discrete graphics.

You can expect to run photography and video editing software just fine; however, with video games you can expect to only run current games with low to medium settings.

The Retina MacBook Pro is also built with an all flash architecture, which lets this computer be almost as thin as a MacBook Air and blazing fast.

The value comes with the operating system, OS X.

Apple has always been known for melding their hardware and software together, and even with underwhelming hardware specs you can bet OS X is super efficient, especially with their newest iteration, OS X Mavericks.



If you don’t like OS X you can even use the included software, Bootcamp, to install Windows. However, your performance and battery life may decrease.

Also included is the software suite which is free.

Included are the equivalents of the entire Microsoft Office suite developed by Apple, such as Pages for word processing and Numbers for spreadsheets.

Even better is that you can import Microsoft Office documents and work on them in Apple’s software suite, and when you’re done even export them as Microsoft Office documents so your Windows colleagues can work with them.

Recently Apple has decided to make all future operating system upgrades free.

Although you may find a Windows laptop for \$500 with roughly the same hardware specs as this Retina MacBook Pro, you may be paying more than you thought with Microsoft Office costing as much as \$200 for each yearly upgrade, and the same goes for upgrading the operating system which can also cost up to \$200 every couple of years.

Rating: C+

—JOHN HUYNH
PHOTOGRAPHER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of March 7 through March 9
www.newyorktimes.com

1. 300: Rise of an Empire
2. Mr. Peabody & Sherman
3. Non-Stop
4. The Lego Movie
5. Son of God
6. The Monuments Men
7. 3 Days to Kill
8. Frozen
9. 12 Years a Slave
10. Ride Along
11. RoboCop
12. About Last Night
13. Pompeii
14. American Hustle
15. Gravity
16. The Wind Rises
17. The Grand Budapest Hotel
18. Philomena
19. The Wolf of Wall Street
20. Dallas Buyers Club

Student success, literacy goals of new face at OCCC

ERIC PARIS
News Writing Student

Selling students on the value of coming to the Communications Lab is one goal of Lynette Leidner, lab supervisor, who assumed the position in January of this year.

Leidner has only been the supervisor for a short time, but she said she has already made a few alterations.

She said the Communications Lab has been rearranged.

Leidner said she is determined to get more students to use the lab's resources.

Prior to supervising in the Communications Lab, Leidner said, she worked as an English Composition teacher for the University of Oklahoma and OCCC.

She also ran a restaurant, where she met a customer who offered her a job at a car dealership.

She began as a car salesman, before she worked her way up to finance manager of the dealership and then eventu-

ally business office manager.

She said she applied for the Comm Lab job because it combined two of her favorite things — running a business and helping students with English.

She also went to a community college, but she received her master's degree in creative writing from the University of Oklahoma.

Leidner is going back to school where she is working on another master's degree, this time for administrative leadership, she said.

She would like to establish a few programs in the future at OCCC.

"I hope to help introduce more literacy programs both at OCCC and in the surrounding communities," she said.

One program she would like to introduce is a speed reading program.

Speed reading focuses on

"Sometimes it may take a little while for everything to click into place ... Once it does, however, the rewards are endless."

—LYNETTE LEIDNER
COMM LAB SUPERVISOR

eye tracking and being able to read and comprehend faster, she said.

As a result from her speed reading, she said, she now can read up to 800 words per minute.

Leidner said her response to anyone who criticizes speed reading is speed reading is like anything else.

"It requires practice and commitment."

She said the concept of speed reading is conditioning the brain so one could read and comprehend at a deeper level and faster rate.



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Communications Lab supervisor Lynette Leidner, who took the position in January of this year, said she hopes to introduce more literacy programs at OCCC and in the community. She said she has made a few alterations to the Communications Lab and wants to help students succeed.

"Sometimes it may take a little while for everything to click into place," she said.

"Once it does, however, the rewards are endless.

"My life-long passion is reading," she said.

Her ultimate goal for the

Communications Lab is to help students become more successful.

"I believe that Literacy is empowerment," she said. "Being able to read unlocks and opens doors that could otherwise remain closed."

New policy allows for some alcohol on college campus

TEMPLIN HAMMACK
News Writing Student

Since its inception in 1972, OCCC has had a zero-alcohol policy on campus.

But that has changed since the start of this year, said Lealon Taylor, executive director of Institutional Advancement.

A new policy allows the possession, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in designated areas of the Visual and Performing Arts Center during certain activities, Taylor said.

Wines, beers and champagne can now be catered through a third-party vendor.

But the college cannot spend any of its funds to purchase the alcohol.

"State law does not allow the college to buy, sell or to serve it," Taylor said.

He said private funders help

fund the alcohol.

"If alcohol is deemed to be wanted at an event, the OCCC Foundation can sponsor the alcohol," Taylor said.

Liquor-based drinks are forbidden and will not be available during any events on campus.

The responsibility of serving alcohol and to ensure it is served properly falls solely on the vendor that has the liquor license, Taylor said.

Nevertheless, the college will make sure the hired vendors are extremely conservative in their operations while on campus.

The college also requires vendors to ask anyone that appears remotely close to the age of 21 to supply an ID.

"We do not want to have any infractions," Taylor said.

"We intend this to be something that does not cause the

college any harm."

Sophomore construction science major Grant Walker said he agrees with the new policy.

"I think that addition of the new policy is definitely another step in the right direction that the college has taken," he said.

Taylor said the new policy

is expected to only add to the enjoyment of future events.

For more information contact Taylor at 405-682-7548 or email at ltaylor@occc.edu.

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Blues band members ready for March 27 gig

KODEY PREWITT
News Writing Student

Two original songs by vocalist Jesse Sappington will be included in the 16-song set on tap at the Blues Band concert on campus at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

Sappington said his songs are inspired by life. “Dying’ is a song I wrote after a heartbreak,” Sappington said. “It’s kind of a slow bluesy jam about how you give everything and it’s not enough. And you finally say OK and you leave.”

The second song is entitled “Runnin’.”

“It’s a really loud and intense tune,” Sappington said. “It’s about how you can try and run from yourself but, at the end of the day, you are left alone to face up to your shortcomings.”

Sappington is a music major who also plays guitar and bass. He said Eric Clapton is his musical inspiration.

Guitar Professor Terry Isaacs directs the Blues Band, which has been practicing on Tuesday afternoons since the beginning of the spring semester. Most of the musicians are music majors.

“They’ve been working very hard every week for this first concert,” Isaacs said. “I am very proud of them.”

Isaacs went on to say that the Blues Band has worked up a list that also includes songs by several classic blues artists such as Howlin’ Wolf, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and B.B. King.

Band members cited an eclectic group of musicians they admire.

“I’d have to say that Josh Homme (Queens of the Stone Age) is my favorite guitar player,” said Jared



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Members of OCCC’s blues band (l-r) Stanley Hall (music major); Jesse Sappington, (music and history music major); and John Magelssen (music and photography major) rehearse for an upcoming show.

Bross, 21, lead guitarist of the band.

Bassist Stanley Hall said Victor Wooten is his favorite bass player, “without a doubt.”

Vocalist Kelli Smid, 23, said she finds all types of music inspiring.

Drummer John Magelssen, 21, said his favorite drummer is Tony Royster Jr. (Jay Z). “He’s awesome.”

Isaacs said two special guests will be performing at the concert. They are vocalist Richard Rouillard,

72, who is a retired professor and friend of Isaacs, and adjunct Professor Mark Giammaro, who will be playing keys.

Isaacs wanted all Music Appreciation students to know this free concert counts as a concert credit.

Magelssen said he wanted everyone to know this will be the “most bodacious concert of all time!”

For more information on the blues band, email terry.l.isaacs@occc.edu.

Women need to keep pushing for representation

SIALI SIAOSI
Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

March is the month Americans are reminded that women also played a big role in U.S. history, said political science professor Sharon Vaughan.

“The reason [Women’s History month] came about is because we’re reading about dead white males,” Vaughan said.

“Women are left out of history books, textbooks and, to this day ... women are often not part of the story.

“Women constitute more than 50 percent of our population,” Vaughan said. “And any time you’re leaving out that many people, we’ve got a problem.”

Vaughan said President Jimmy Carter was the first president to issue a proclamation declaring Women’s History Month, though she said the

first instances of feminism existed long before then.

She said Abigail Adams, wife of founding father John Adams, was one of the first feminists in American history.

On March 31, 1776, Vaughan said, Abigail wrote to her husband and said:

“... In the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make ... I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors ... If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”

“So she’s telling John Adams ... don’t forget the women. We’re a part of this too,” Vaughan said.

“I think few people realize that, for many years of our history, women were simply chattel, or property.”

Vaughan said she often cites Betty Friedan’s “The Feminine Mystique” when teaching feminist theory. She said Friedan’s work explores the idea of being unable to exercise one’s true potential as a woman because of societal oppression. Along with Adams and Friedan, Vaughan said, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were two feminist leaders who also fought for women’s suffrage.

“Women had very few rights politically,” she said.

Vaughan said Women’s History Month is still important today as it reminds people of the countless women around the world who are still underrepresented.

“Our sisters all over the world have very little chance of getting an education or fulfilling their dreams,” she said.

“In America, women are doing really well as far as obtaining college degrees,”

Vaughan said. “We know in 2014, more women will graduate from law schools ... than men. “But the problem is, if we look (at) who’s CEOs of the Fortune 500 companies ... the Senate, the House of Representatives ... women are still so underrepresented.

“And we know that women still don’t make as much money ...”

Vaughan said it’s important that young women remember how far the feminist movement has progressed. Although they’ve made great strides, she said, women are still faced with challenges today.

“I think that young women today are still not cognizant of how hard it was for their grandmothers.”

For more information, visit www.womenshistorymonth.gov. To contact Vaughan, email sharon.k.vaughan@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7302.

Graduate credits OCCC for her many successes



OCCC Graduate Lacey Lett (third from left) poses with co-anchors Lucas Ross, Ashley Kringen and weather forecaster Emily Sutton on the set of KAUT Freedom 43's Rise and Shine show, a local news entertainment show. Lett also is a reporter for KFOR's 4 a.m. broadcast.

The former Pioneer reporter has held a variety of positions both in and out of state since graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 2006, where she transferred after getting her degree in 2004 at OCCC.

Those included stints with MTV and VH1 in New York City.

More recently, Lett was inducted into the OCCC Alumni Hall of Fame.

Lett said her advice to students is that no goal is unattainable.

"If you think you can, you will," Lett said. "It's all about a mindset — not a background."

Catch Lett weekday mornings on KFOR and then, on KAUT.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LACEY LETT

SIALI SIAOSI

Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

For students concerned about their dreams being too big, OCCC graduate and KFOR news anchor Lacey Lett said no goal is unattainable.

"You can ... do whatever you want to do," Lett said. "... Use the challenges as benefits ..."

Lett said she earned an associate degree in broadcasting at OCCC in 2004 before graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 2006.

Since then, Lett has become a local celebrity as a television and radio host, news reporter and magazine columnist.

In 2008, Lett said she left Oklahoma for New York, where she worked for MTV and VH1.

She said she did production work for a VH1 show called "That Metal Show" and also helped develop a short documentary to accompany the Beatles edition of the "Rock Band" video game.

"... I worked the Video Music Awards for two different

years," Lett said.

"I was right next to Lady Gaga's meat dress," she said. "I had no idea it was a meat dress ... it looked different in person. "It was a really cool experience."

While attending OU, Lett said, she interned at Clear Channel Communications before being hired for an on-air radio job.

She said she owes her former OCCCMass Communications Professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert for the opportunities she was given at Clear Channel.

"Without Gwin, I wouldn't have had my internships that turned into jobs," Lett said. "I had seven internships and I got five of them with the help of Gwin."

Faulconer-Lippert said she is proud of Lett.

"Lacey Lett is one of our most outstanding graduates," she said.

"Everyone could learn from her because she makes her own opportunities, she has all the talent, and she says, 'yes I can' — and she does."

English Professor Sue Hinton taught Lett in News Writ-

ing at OCCC and watched her grow as a Pioneer staff writer.

"I believe that [Lett] knew when she came to OCCC that she wanted to do something in the mass media field," Hinton said. "I think her interest was always in broadcasting."

"... She's a student who learned as much as she could as fast as she could. She has put in the work to be where she is [today]."

"[Lacey] has a good work ethic ... and used it the best she could to get where she wanted to go."

Lett said she hosted a lifestyle show in Tulsa before becoming a morning anchor and reporter for Oklahoma City news channel KFOR.

She said she also writes for the Oklahoman as a columnist for "Look at OKC Magazine" and hosts a show called "Rise and Shine" on KAUT.

Lett said she grew up in south Oklahoma City and graduated from Southeast High School, which qualified her for OCCC's OKC-GO program.

The OKC-GO program is



exclusive to OCCC and is designed to remove some of the financial barriers that might limit a student's ability to succeed in college. The program allows graduates from Oklahoma City public schools to attend OCCC for up to three years for free.

"My parents saw this as an opportunity to send me to college for free," Lett said.

"It was a great transition, honestly," she said.

"Anyone I've met that's gone to a community college and then transferred to a university thinks that's the best decision."

She said she also was honored to have recently been

“ Anyone I’ve met that’s gone to a community college and then transferred to a university thinks that’s the best decision.”

—LACEY LETT
OCCC GRADUATE AND
KFOR NEWS ANCHOR

inducted into the 2013 OCCC Alumni Hall of Fame.

"... I credit everything to OCCC," she said. "At least at OCCC, I got more hands-on experience."

Lett said despite not having the same opportunities as others, she worked hard and achieved her dreams.

"If you think you can, you will," Lett said.

"It's all about a mindset — not a background."

Lett can be seen on KFOR starting at 4 a.m. weekdays.

For more about Lett, visit <http://kfor.com/author/lacey-lettfor>.

Also, follow her on Twitter @laceylett.

SPORTS

Head first



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Swimmers compete in the men's 400-meter medley relay preliminary during the NAIA National Championship March 7 in OCCC's Aquatic Center. Oklahoma Baptist University went on to win first place. The competition took place March 5 through 8.

SPORTS | Oklahoma Baptist University wins 13 of 20 first-places prizes

OBU athletes come out on top at NAIA

COURTNEY LYNN BOGGS

News Writing Student

Oklahoma Baptist University dominated its opponents, winning both the men's and women's swimming and diving national team titles for the second year in a row during the NAIA swimming and diving competition.

The competition took place March 5 through 8 in the OCCC Aquatic Center.

This marks the third consecutive team championship for the Bison men since their inaugural 2011-2012 season.

OBU Head Coach Sam Freas said he is more than proud of what his athletes have accomplished.

"These kids work hard," Freas said. "[Winning another title] is a real honor, it's a really big honor."

The Bison men and women won 13 of 20 individual events to elevate their point totals far above the second-place teams.

The men finished with 794 points, followed by Illinois's Olivet Nazarene at 485.

The women accumulated 849 total points, for a big lead over second place Savannah College of Art and Design with 492.

Daniel Ramirez from OBU was named NAIA Swimmer of the Year after winning three individual titles and breaking the previous record in all three of those events (100-yard Freestyle, 100-yard Backstroke, 100-yard Breaststroke).

"I knew this was a new year and it's exciting," Ramirez said.

“These kids work hard ... [Winning another title] is a real honor, it's a really big honor.”

—SAM FREAS

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
HEAD COACH

"It's been a new adventure for me."

Freas is also happy about Ramirez's achievements.

"He's an unbelievable story of a kid who, during freshman year, wasn't very good," Freas said.

"He's gotten better and better each year. He's an ultimate fighter."

Olivet Nazarene's head coach Scott Teeters was named the NAIA Men's Swimming and Diving Coach of the

Year.

He also shared NAIA Women's Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year honors with Blair Bachman of Georgia's Brenau.

Over the four-day competition, 14 of the NAIA National Records were broken, 11 by Oklahoma Baptist.

Christine Tixier of Biola University was named 2014 Female Swimmer of the Year.

She broke her own record in the 100-yard butterfly, flying to a 54.35 final time.

Biola is a Christian university in La Mirada, Calif.

SCAD's Joel Ax broke the record in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:36.71.

SCAD also made it into the books in the 800-yard freestyle relay with an time of 6:34.98, beating the previous record set by OBU in 2012.

For more information, visit their website at www.naia.org.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• March 17 - 23:

Spring Break. OCCC will be closed. Earlywine Park YMCA will allow OCCC students with a valid ID to use their facilities during this time. Call 405-378-0420 for more information.

• March 24 - April 21:

Intramural Kickball. Team Registration deadline is March 23. Individual registration deadline is April 7. Call 405-682-7860 for more information.

• March 26 - April 23:

Intramural 4v4 Football. Team Registration deadline is March 24. Individual registration deadline is April 9. Call 405-682-7860 for more information.

• March 28 - May 2:

Intramural 7v7 Soccer. Team Registration deadline is March 26. Individual registration deadline is April 11. Call 405-682-7860 for more information.

• 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.

Stolen pickup reported to campus police March 4

LAUREN DANIEL
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Crime reports received this week include a stolen vehicle and a report dated more than a month ago of an altercation.

OCCC student Virginia Singleton, 37, reported her truck missing from parking lot D at approximately 10:20 a.m. March 4. Singleton asked for Officer Daniel Piazza and Officer Jeffrey McIntire's help in finding the truck, described as a blue 1994 Chevy extended cab truck with silver on the lower part and a toolbox in the bed.

Singleton said she had

parked the truck in Parking Lot D between 8 and 8:15 a.m. that morning. Singleton said none of her family members would have taken the truck and it would not have been repossessed.

Officers found a gold Honda Accord in the parking spot. The officers then drove Singleton around the parking lot to search for the truck but it was not found.

After reviewing video surveillance, the vehicle was determined to have been taken at approximately 8:22 a.m. from Parking Lot D by an unknown subject and a white female who arrived driving a small white box car. The sus-

pects drove both cars off of the OCCC campus and got onto I-44 northbound at around 8:31 a.m.

Singleton said an iPad worth approximately \$500 and her husband's tools, worth approximately \$1,200 were in the truck.

An officer with the Oklahoma City Police Department took a stolen vehicle report and was given the case number, video surveillance and the serial number for the iPad. Pickel advised that he would enter the email surveillance into the records at the Police Department.

Back on Feb. 5, WFF facilities worker Robert Enge, 50, was

asked to leave the campus after he became "threatening and hostile" toward WFF supervisor, Sam Geyer, 36, and "threw a radio in (the) supervisor's general direction," according to a report filed.

Officer Jimmie Watts said Enge left the campus without incident. Both men refused comment.

At approximately 4:49 p.m. on March 5, a vandalism was reported at the SEM Center, Entry 8.

According to the report filed by Officer Jeremy Bohannon, as two OCCC students approached the entrance, one used a can of Silly String to spray the other. The student

continued to spray the other student after they had come through the door, making a mess on the carpet between SEM Entry 8 and SEM Entry 6. Housekeeping was called to clean up the mess.

Officer Jeremy Bohannon said the students—not named in the report—told him the incident was a prank and not intended to harm anyone. A conduct code violation report was forwarded to Student Life for review.

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

Guns: Student council votes to not allow guns on campus

Continued from page 1

about it because you haven't discussed it with your club or you're not really sure, you can abstain, allowing the vote to go to the majority vote ...," Logan said.

She said TLC discussed aspects of student safety.

"There isn't any proven research that says allowing open or concealed carry on college campuses or educational campuses makes it safer by people who are not police officers.

"We look at everything when we look at these topics, not just our opinion, but we try to find actual research that would sup-

port it both ways, and we can't find anything that would support allowing guns on campus."

OCCC Police Chief James Fitzpatrick also was in attendance to help answer students' questions and concerns.

Samir Elneser, TLC chair and Muslim Student Association president said Fitzpatrick's presence was informative.

"[Fitzpatrick] particularly noted that just because you may be licensed to carry a firearm doesn't necessarily mean you know how to use it the proper way," Elneser said.

Elneser said many TLC members were concerned about someone who may be

angry having a gun on campus.

"A real big issue was would we feel intimidated with someone carrying a gun onto campus," he said.

The resolution passed overwhelmingly, which made Elneser happy.

"My vote is 100 percent for the resolution, because I'm dead set opposed to having guns on campus by anyone except for uniformed law enforcement officers," he said.

Logan said passing the resolution does not mean it automatically goes into effect. TLC can only make recommendations for college leadership, she said.

"...It's just a recommendation to the President's Cabinet and to the administration of the college," Logan said.

"We do it in a formal resolution ... because we want everybody on campus to support and agree with it.

"That's why Faculty Association does something with it, the students do something and the President's Cabinet does something."

Two faculty members also attended the meeting. They reported the Faculty Association had recently passed a similar resolution.

The TLC resolution states, "Be it further resolved that The

Leadership Council of Oklahoma City Community College, on Behalf of the student body of Oklahoma City Community College strongly opposes any legislation, regulations, or policies that would allow guns on campus by law-enforcement personnel."

Logan said the same resolution has passed for three years.

"We just really appreciate the support of the students from the administrator standpoint," she said. "The support of the students is really important on something like this ..."

For more information, contact Logan at 405-682-7596 or at elogan@occc.edu.

Degrees: Nursing degree pays off more in the long run

Continued from page 1

Director Stu Harvey.

Among the many associate degrees OCCC offers, Harvey said, the nursing program had the most graduates last year, according to a report presented at an OCCC Board of Regents meeting in September 2013.

"They're two year ... immediate job entry [degrees]," Harvey said. "You graduate and you go into the job."

Nursing students specifically must pass a state-administered exam before going into field

work, he said.

"They all have to be licensed ... which means they have to pass a licensure exam.

"We have some of the highest pass rates — we measure ourselves on that.

"We compare our pass rate to the average national pass rate and we report that to our board," he said.

"It's typically higher than the national average.

"I'll put it this way — our pass rates for the national licensure exams are as high as the University of Oklahoma's," he said.

Registered nurses make an estimated \$28 an hour, according to a Highest Ranked Occupations Report for the Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, McClain and Oklahoma county service area.

"More than 90 percent of our students are from [these counties]," Harvey said.

According to the Highest Ranked Occupations Report, emergency medical technicians and paramedics earn about \$17 an hour, physical therapy assistants earn about \$20 an hour, and diagnostic

medical sonographers earn about \$30 an hour.

Harvey said earning an associate degree can greatly contribute to post-graduation employment opportunities for OCCC students.

Harvey said following the nursing program, computer science, respiratory care therapy, aviation maintenance technology and graphic communications were cited on the OCCC Board of Regents report on the list of highest-paying associate degrees awarded in 2013.

Harvey said it's important to remember that earning a degree at OCCC is only the first step in the employment process.

Some specific occupations might require more schooling, he said.

For more information about OCCC's degree programs, contact the Academic Advising Office at 405-682-7535.

To contact Harvey, call 405-682-7849, or email him at sharvey@occc.edu.

To see a list of available degrees, visit www.occc.edu.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Spreading the word



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Psychology major Elenoa Paysnoe and her club mate Katie Peterson get the word out about the Christians on Campus club. They meet every Monday from noon to 12:45 p.m. in room 1X5 and on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in Room 1C3.

COMMUNITY | Advocates of Peace club wants to influence different ways of thinking

Protests, shared ideas club focus

BRYCE MCELHANEY

Staff Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

If you've seen small groups of people holding up signs that read "Free hugs" around campus, they're the Advocates of Peace club members — giving one hug at a time to students in need of reassurance, hope, or, well, a hug.

Club Sponsor Professor Stephen Morrow said the Advocates of Peace club strives to get students involved with different ways of thinking and learning to share ideas with others.

Morrow, who teaches English and philosophy, said the club uses peaceful methods and ideas from all around the world, like the free hugs, which is a global idea that originated in Sydney, Australia.

The club also introduces documentaries of non-violent revolutions and other examples of how peace can change the world, he said.

Morrow kick-started the club in the spirit of teaching students to let their voices be heard through protests, as well as helping the community, he said.

The importance behind teaching students to protest is to allow students to gain some perspective on addressing an issue and also to know how it feels to stand apart by helping a cause, he said.

"We started [the club] about nine years ago, which originated from a course I teach, also called Advocates

of Peace," Morrow said.

"We focus on others who try to make a better world and learn about what kind of knowledge and character it takes to fulfill that."

In addition to forming a few protests, the club plans to focus on the "Charter for Compassion," which Morrow said is the biggest project for this spring semester.

"The Charter for Compassion" began from the famous theologian Karen Armstrong in her scholarly understanding of world religions, he said.

"The Charter of Compassion" shows how all religions have one thing in common, which is compassion, or the golden rule — do unto others as you would have them do unto you," he said.

Morrow said he would like to have "The Charter of Compassion" introduced to students through meetings and have it put up around the campus via fliers.

The club should be an interesting learning experience for all students and is accepting new club members all of the time, he said.

Morrow said the club meets twice a month, usually on Thursdays, in his classroom, room 126 in the VPAC.

Students can join the club by attending the next meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, in Morrow's classroom, or by visiting www.occc.edu/studentlife/clubs and clicking "Join a Club," or by calling Morrow at 405-682-1611 ext. 7350.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Luncheon to feature Oklahoma poet

Poet Karen Kay Knauss will give students a chance to talk with her about her book "77 Pieces of Poetry About Oklahoma" at a Brown Bag Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, in CU3. Students can ask Knauss questions about the poetry and will experience a brief lesson in poetry and Oklahoma history. For more information, call the Student Life office at 405-682-7523.

Students hit stage for blues concert March 27

The OCCC Blues Band will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27, in the Bruce Owen Theater. The concert will feature bluesy country music along with new and old styles of blues music. The free concert is open to the public. For more information, call Michael Boyle at 405-682-1611 ext. 7245.

Soweto Gospel Choir to take stage April 1

OCCC's Grammy and Emmy award-winning choir will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, in the VPAC. Tickets range from \$10-\$45. To purchase tickets, visit the Cultural Programs Office in room 161 in the VPAC. For more information, call the Cultural Arts Series Box Office at 405-682-7579.

Service Trip to Mustang Middle School

Volunteers will serve as test monitors and will be in the spirit of National Volunteer Week from 8 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 10, at Mustang School's mandated testing. To volunteer or for more information, call the Student Life office at 405-682-7523 or email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

Women of the South Scholarship deadline

The Women of the South Primary Provider Scholarships application deadline is Tuesday, April 15. The 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. 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.

Authors to share literary works at reception

Authors featured in the OCCC Absolute Journal will share their literary works with students at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in the College Union. The Absolute features poetry, short stories, photography and art. For more information, call Lyndsie StremLOW at 682-7558, or email at lstromlow@occc.edu.

Students showcase classical guitar skills

Students will perform classical guitar music at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in room 132 in the VPAC. Performances will consist of guitar trios and solo performances. Music will include traditional classical guitar to modern contemporary music. The free concert is open to the public. For more information, call Michael Boyle at 405-682-1611, ext. 7245.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: Aluminum camper shell for a long-bed pickup. In great condition. \$100.00. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures or more info.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: 40" CRT television in excellent condition. The big screen makes it great for a gaming TV in the kids' room. \$30. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

MISCELLANEOUS

WANT TO RENT A ROOM: 21-year-old male Looking for a room to rent. Call or text Roman at 770-301-2791 with information and price.

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: 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: 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.

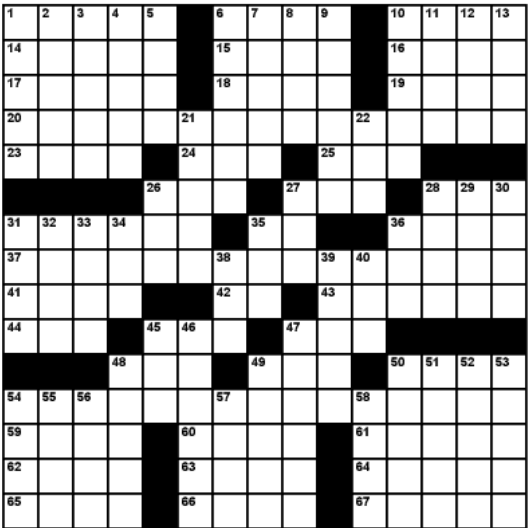
FOR SALE: This advertising space. For just \$8 per week, you could advertise your business here. For more rate information, email adman@occc.edu, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

'A As In...' Crossword by Dave Fisher

- Across**
- 1. Evaluate
 - 6. Theatrical piece
 - 10. Fix a leak
 - 14. Capital of East Pakistan
 - 15. B ___ Railroad
 - 16. Money in Milan
 - 17. Make use of
 - 18. Gas sign?
 - 19. Mayberry man
 - 20. Variety for 37 across
 - 23. Looks at
 - 24. Places where scrubs are worn
 - 25. Cell user?
 - 26. Actress Lupino
 - 27. Wear and tear
 - 28. Granola grain
 - 31. Be there
 - 35. Hesitator's word
 - 36. A convex shape
 - 37. Pioneer, Chapman
 - 41. Chills
 - 42. Exists
 - 43. Basic shelter
 - 44. Reel holder
 - 45. Synonym for 38 down
 - 47. ___-de-mer (seasickness)
 - 48. King Kong, e.g.
 - 49. Entertaining
 - 50. It's played by an "angelo"
 - 54. Baker's option for 20 across
 - 59. Hot zone
 - 60. Pupil's colorful place
 - 61. Zones
 - 62. Go over
 - 63. Shower material
 - 64. ___prosequi (court-record entry)
 - 65. Facile
 - 66. Shout
 - 67. Map in a map

- Down**
- 1. Wise saying



- 2. ___ Truffle (Beatles song)
- 3. Bathroom item, maybe
- 4. Sulphuric and hydrochloric
- 5. Harvard rival
- 6. Bullock of "Speed"
- 7. Supports for proposers, perhaps
- 8. TV's "American ___"
- 9. Restorative drinks
- 10. Flat area
- 11. Type of type
- 12. Language of Pakistan
- 13. Talese and others
- 21. Simpleton
- 22. Miler Sebastian
- 26. Lodge
- 27. Guy at the plate
- 28. Sign
- 29. Help a hustler
- 30. Kind of list
- 31. Opened a crack
- 32. Like some orders
- 33. Fall follower?
- 34. Newark to Cape Cod (dir.)
- 35. FedEx rival
- 36. Second-largest English-speaking country
- 38. Synonym for 45 across
- 39. 10 down to a gaucho
- 40. Slippery one
- 45. Wall St. debut
- 46. Funny business
- 47. Clam's relative
- 48. Irk
- 49. Perk
- 50. Cook's cover
- 51. Cambodian dollars
- 52. Norman Vincent ___
- 53. Something in the plus column
- 54. Went fast
- 55. Place for 60 across
- 56. Commies
- 57. Shallowest Great Lake
- 58. Indian princess

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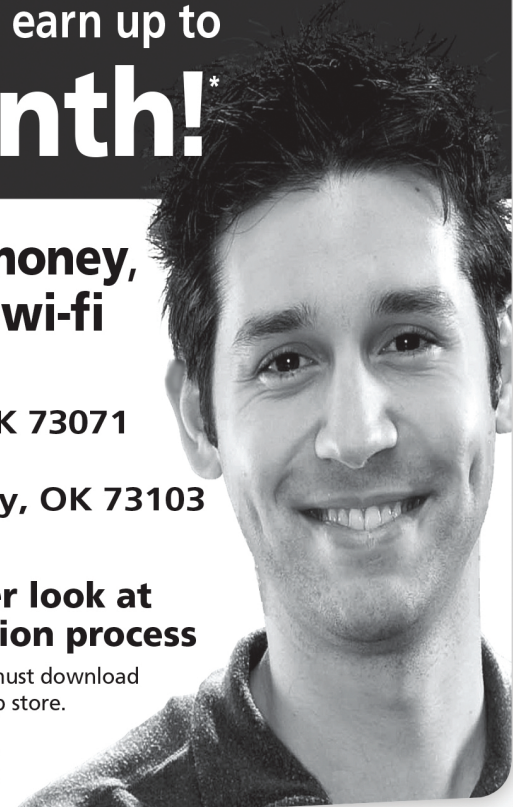
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ESL students get authentic Oklahoma experience



ESL students got a first-hand look at Ft. Sill during a Feb. 20 trip there.

Front row: (L to R) Trinh Pham, Hoa Chu, Iaan Hernandez.

Middle row: (L to R) Abdoulaye Sylla, Hieu Nguyen, Nguyen Khong, Sue Jeong Lee, Buket Celik, Sherah Hefner, Jing Long, Van Nguyen, Lesly Bernal, Abbie Figueroa.

Back row: (L to R) Qiumei Lin, Chon Tran, Nora York, Hoda Abdollahi.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY
HAYDEN HEFNER

HAYDEN HEFNER
News Writing Student

International students at OCCC experienced an authentic taste of the state during their recent field trip to southwestern Oklahoma.

On Feb. 20 the group of 13 left campus and headed south on Interstate-44 to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

Their first stop upon reaching the park was Mount Scott, the tallest of the refuge's mountains.

Here the students, who hail from countries ranging from Senegal to Guatemala, encountered the day's first sample of genuine, undiluted Oklahoma.

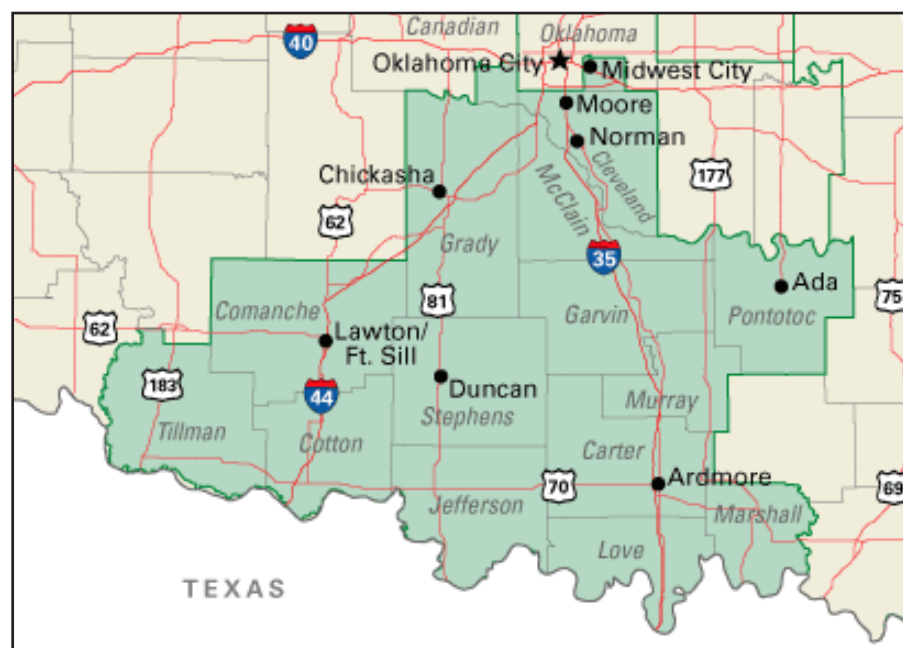
The gusting 60-mph winds that met them as they reached the summit dramatically illustrated the lyrics, "Oklahoma, where the wind comes sweeping down the plains...."

The vans rocked and shuddered with every violent throb of the unforgiving wind.

The few brave students who were courageous enough to venture out of the vans were treated to blown-off eyeglasses, wind-thrown baseball caps, and sweatshirt hoods that looked more like flags popping in the wind.

Retreating back to the vans after a short time taking pictures and admiring the view, the students laughed and spoke in awed tones at how strong the wind was in Oklahoma with one of the volunteer van drivers.

"I'd never had an experience like this before," said Jing Long, from China, of the wind.



"It's a very new thing to me."

After a brief visit to the refuge's visitor center, the group traveled southeast to Lawton.

Over lunch, the students laughed as they recounted stories from their childhoods back home and talked about shared experiences here in the U.S.

The Bridge Program allows international students to improve their English writing, grammar, and speaking skills.

Professor Abbie Figueroa, the program's director, could not speak highly enough of the quality and character of the students.

After finishing lunch, the students jumped back in the vans and

made their way to Fort Sill, a National Historic Landmark and active Army artillery base.

The students were treated to a tour of the base's museum and historic buildings from Mark Megehee, the museum's collection specialist.

Megehee captivated his audience by walking the students through 19th-century period barracks and by demonstrating the use of antique cooking tools.

He recounted vivid tales about Geronimo, an Apache warrior imprisoned at Fort Sill.

Following the tour, the group loaded up in the vans, and headed back north towards OCCC. Tired after a day full of adventure and learning, most of the students caught up on one of a college student's most precious resources, sleep.

Other students on the trip were Hoda Abdollahi, Iran; Lesly Bernal, Guatemala; Buket Celik, Turkey; Iaan Hernandez, Mexico; Abdoulaye Sylla, Senegal; Qiumei Lin and Jing Long, China; Hoa Chu, Nguyen Khong, Hieu Nguyen, Van Nguyen, Trinh Pham and Chon Tran, all from Vietnam.

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