

To comment on stories or to access the latest news, features, multimedia, online exclusives and updates, visit [pioneer.occc.edu](http://pioneer.occc.edu).

## EDITORIAL

## JUST SAY NO TO THE BIG GULP DRINKS

Community Writer Katie Axtell says America's obesity problem partly stems from an obsession with overly large soft drinks. Read her thoughts inside.

**OPINION, p. 2**

## NEWS

## GERMAN STUDENT LIKES BEING AT OCCC

Public Relations major Sarah Zuber says there are many similarities between the U.S. and her homeland country but also some big differences. Turn inside to learn more.

**NEWS, p. 7**

## SPORTS

## INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL HAS BEGUN

Intramural Basketball weekly tournaments are now being held in the OCCC gym. All students are welcome to sign up for the Wednesday evening games.

**SPORTS, p. 8**

## COMMUNITY

## OCCC POWWOW DRAWS CROWD OF ABOUT 700

Native American Student Association club Sponsor Taylor Fields said a March 28 powwow was a huge success. The event included dances and a drum circle. More inside.

**COMMUNITY, p. 10**



# OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER

APRIL 17, 2015

PIONEER.OCCC.EDU

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



## Hang time

Psychology major Alex Tirato and Women's Studies major Chris Blueeyes sit together at the fountain outside the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library.

"We're just waiting for the ducks," Blueeyes said.

ETHAN COOPER/  
PIONEER

## Regents name new OCCC president

### Executive Vice President Jerry Steward to start new role July 2

**BRYCE MCELHANEY**  
 Editor  
[editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu)

**J**erry Steward, Executive Vice President, was announced as the new OCCC president in a special Board of Regents meeting held Friday, April 10.

Steward will take over as president July 2.

All but one regent, Helen Camey, voted yes for Steward to become president.

During the search process, Camey maintained the college



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER  
**Jerry Steward**

should conduct an external search as well as an internal one. She said that is what prompted her "no" vote.

**“** Certainly, I've seen him in action. I think the college is in good hands for the future”

—PAUL SECHRIST  
 OCCC PRESIDENT

“The vote that I cast today was not against Dr. Steward in any way, shape, form or fashion,” she said. “It was against the process ...”

“I am very proud and glad that he is the new president.”

Regent James White said the process was tedious, but said he is confident the best person was

chosen.

“I believe it was the right decision,” he said.

“The time is right for [Steward] to be here, particularly in light of the funding we're going to have ...”

Business and Finance Vice President John Boyd said he also supports the regents decision on Steward.

“I'm very excited about it,” Boyd said.

“Dr. Steward and I have a great working relationship. I've been working for him for almost nine years, so I think he's going to be a great leader for the college.”

Current President Paul Se-

See **LEADER** page 9



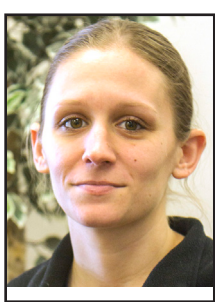
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says Big Gulps are causing big problems with obesity rates

# Obesity becoming a larger issue

Every day when I come into the college, I always see at least five individuals with the 44- to 64-ounce Big Gulp soda. Every day I see more and more reasons why we need to limit the amount of sugar-filled drinks that are consumed on a daily basis.

One-third of America is obese, according to cdc.gov. I'm not talking about an extra layer of warmth for the chilly nights. Obesity is a health hazard. It can kill you.



KATIE AXTELL

Of course there are many other things that can kill, but obesity can be controlled, and it starts with filling up the cup of death.

Those killer cups of liquid sugar are adding more numbers to the obesity rates, but hsp.h.harvard.edu has research posted on the effects just one can of soda a day can have.

Those risks include a 26 percent chance increase of type 2 diabetes, 20 percent higher chance of a heart attack or dying from a heart attack, and a 75 percent increase in gout.

All those diseases and health risks are from one

12-ounce can of soda a day. Think of how those chances increase with 44 to 64 ounces of soda per day.

I know this is Oklahoma, and we love our sweet tea, but the amount of sugar in fast food and convenience store tea is astonishing.

The increase of health hazards also increases medical expenses. Those Big Gulps can turn out to be some expensive drinks.

What's worse than putting yourself at risk is the example being set for your children.

Before I come into work in the morning, I walk my son to his class. For the short amount of time I am at his school, I see way too many children who are clearly overweight.

The CDC also stated that obesity rates in children have more than doubled — and more than quadrupled for adolescents — in the past 30 years.

We are setting up our children for failure in life and health by continuing the soda apocalypse.

Instead of pushing the sticky button to top off with the fizzy, unhealthy goodness, reach for a bottle of water or a no-sugar-added juice.

The occasional carbonated comfort is acceptable, but not every day. There is no health benefit from



soda. There is no need for it. There is coffee for the morning caffeine fix.

For those who are not fans of coffee, there are many other ways to find that kick of energy in the morning. You just have to want to be better than the gulp of gloom.

I care for my life. I care for my health. I care for my son's life and health.

Find someone you care about and help them — and yourself — by making a change that can save lives. Say no to the Big Gulp.

—KATIE AXTELL  
COMMUNITY WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Homeowners, renters and car insurance vital part of being ready

# Oklahomans encouraged to be prepared for storm season

To the Editor:

Storm season in Oklahoma is here, and now is the time to prepare for the worst.

First, make sure you have sufficient homeowners insurance. Standard homeowners insurance policies cover damage caused by tornadoes to the structure of the building and its contents. Your coverage limits should reflect the current cost of rebuilding your home and replacing your personal belongings. You should also check to see if your policy includes replacement cost or actual cash value. Replacement cost is preferred because it pays to replace the lost item with a brand new replacement. Actual cash value only pays what the item is worth now.

If you rent, renters insurance will cover the loss of personal possessions if your house or apartment is destroyed in a tornado. Most policies also reimburse

you the difference between additional living expenses and normal living costs if you are forced to live somewhere else because of the damage.

Second, check your car insurance coverage. Damage to cars from a tornado is covered under the optional comprehensive portion of a standard auto insurance policy. Minimum liability coverage will not cover the cost of replacing or repairing your car if it is destroyed or damaged in a storm.

Third, make a home inventory or update your current inventory. Include pictures or video if possible and write down as much detail as you can about each item including when it was purchased and how much it cost. For help making your home inventory, go to [www.ok.gov/oid/HomeInventory](http://www.ok.gov/oid/HomeInventory).

Fourth, make a family emergency plan. Decide where your family will take shelter if there is a disaster.

Determine how family members will contact one another and get back together after an emergency. Also, create an emergency supply kit that includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered radio, flashlights and batteries. And don't forget about your pets.

Finally, have copies of your insurance policies and contact information for your agent or insurance company. Keep these where you can access them after a disaster. Calling your insurance company or agent is the first step in filing a claim and getting you on the road to recovery.

For more information or help with any insurance related questions, contact the Oklahoma Insurance Department's Consumer Assistance Division at 1-800-522-0071.

— OKLAHOMA INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

Bryce McElhaney.....Editor

Jorge Krzyzaniak.....Senior Writer

Ethan Cooper.....Photographer

Katie Axtell.....Staff Writer

Clayton Mitchell.....Staff Writer

Ronna Austin.....Lab Director

Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

Lauren Daniel.....Online Editor

Spencer Grant.....Online Writer

Jake McMahon.....Videographer

Amar Molinas.....Webmaster

Grant Swallow.....Podcaster

Ted Satterfield.....Lab Assistant

7777 S May  
OKC, OK 73159

phone:  
405-682-1611, ext. 7307

email:  
editor@occc.edu

Pioneer Online:  
pioneer.occc.edu

Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer

Twitter:  
@OCCCPioneer

The **PIONEER** is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

**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](mailto:editor@occc.edu) with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**REVIEW |** Writer weighs in on the overall effectiveness of world's abundance of reviews

## Reviewer's review reviews reviews

Usually reviews are done of movies, music and purchasable goods, and not so much about arbitrary things that may have no relevance to most readers. Today I will review another such thing: reviews themselves.

Now before you say, "Clayton, why are you reviewing reviews? That seems pointless." The answer is very simple. Reviews themselves are pointless, but also very fun.

I'll start with the latter. Why are they fun? Because being opinionated is fun.

Being able to express your opinion on something is always great.

That's basically why blogs exist, to be able to say opinionated things you wouldn't be able to say to some people in person. I despise this, and usually try to keep my political and social opinions away from Facebook, Twitter and the like.

However, as someone who is trying to pursue a career in sports broadcasting, analyzing things is my niche.

Being able to write reviews, and possibly give my opinions and insight on certain topics and things is great, if not addicting, to me.

If I have an opinion on something, I'd love to share

my findings with others who might value it.

On the other side, reviews also are completely pointless. And yes, I have a way of pointing this out without getting myself banned from writing more reviews.

Reviews are the most fun part of my job sometimes.

Not just writing them but also reading the ones written by my talented coworkers. That being said, I do not always trust them.

My reason for this is the reason I will give for anyone reading reviews anywhere. Do not take a review or opinion as a fact.

If someone writes that a horror movie sucked, and you read that, you may be inclined to believe them and not see the movie. But the person may fail to mention they hate horror movies and, if you love horror movies, it could be your favorite movie if you saw it.

In conclusion, reviews are awesome! But remember, they are opinions. Think for yourself and try new things.

**Rating:** A for fun, F because they're pointless.

—CLAYTON MITCHELL  
SPORTS WRITER



## Weather app now free

It's officially spring in Oklahoma, meaning the weather is more unpredictable than ever. Some people like to live on the edge and have no idea what the weather is supposed to do. Some people learn about the weather on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram, and some people monitor the weather at all times, attempting to stay as informed as possible.

While I don't hover over the television, the radio, or my phone to get news, I do like to be informed. Luckily for me, I don't have to worry about the weather because I get notifications from my News9 Weather App.

The app allows you to simply type in your location, or multiple locations, and select the type of weather warning notifications you'd like to receive. Options include tornado warnings, tornado watches, severe thunderstorm warnings, severe thunderstorm watches, severe weather statements, flash flood warnings, flash flood watches, flood warnings, flood watches, and more. Notifications also are available for winter, snow, ice, freezing, fog, fire, wind, hurricane and tropical, coastal, marine and even heat warnings.

The app will send you a notification any time one of the warnings, watches, or statements you selected is put into place for your location. It doesn't matter what you're doing on your phone — a notification will pop up that could potentially save your life. The only time you won't get a notification is if your phone is off.

In case that isn't enough for your weather needs, you also can sign up to receive text alerts through the app, view their social media, videos and blogs.

The News9 app also features an iMap Radar, SPC Outlooks and a seven-day forecast.

The app is normally \$9.99, but News9 is offering it for free for a limited time in the App Store and the Android store.

For more information, visit [www.news9.com/category/235432/weather-radio](http://www.news9.com/category/235432/weather-radio).

—LAUREN DANIEL  
ONLINE EDITOR

**MOVIE REVIEW |** M. Night Shyamalan's early work may be his best according to Pioneer film buff

## 'Unbreakable' stands the test of time

It's hard to believe M. Night Shyamalan was once considered one of the best filmmakers around.

His style of suspense convinced many that he could be the next Steven Spielberg or Alfred Hitchcock.

Unfortunately, as the quality of Shyamalan's films began to decrease, so did his reputation.

Today if you decide to watch a new Shyamalan film it will more than likely not be entertaining.

While his films have taken a turn for the worse, there once was a time when Shyamalan was generating well-made movies one after another.

And one of his best films is the 2000 superhero drama "Unbreakable."

The film is about average everyday man David Dunn (Bruce Willis), who discovers he may or may not have superhero powers.

When he becomes the sole survivor of an enormous train accident which also left him unharmed, David and his family begin to wonder why David survived.

Soon after the train accident David is approached by Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson), who believes David is a superhero.

"Unbreakable" is basically David's origin story of becoming a superhero.

And as far as I'm concerned it's one of the few superhero movies worth watching.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy superhero action movies like everyone else but "Unbreakable" is different from those films.

Heck, catch me on the right day and I'll

tell you it's the best superhero film ever made.

Every performance in this film felt real and every character felt honest.

David trying his best to take care of his son and rekindle the relationship with his wife Audrey (Robin Wright) are strong situations with a lot of authenticity.

Another thing I enjoy about this movie is the way it was shot.

Basically, Shyamalan would subtly incorporate window frames or doorways to make the image appear like a page from a comic book.

The way he communicated ideas through images wasn't out of the ordinary but definitely cool to watch.

I really hope this phase Shyamalan is going through



isn't permanent because as hard as it is to imagine, I'd love to see him create something just as good or better than his masterpiece "Unbreakable."

**Rating:** A+

—ETHAN COOPER  
PHOTOGRAPHER



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**FOOD REVIEW** | 'Peepcakes' were too good to be true

## Cupcakes with Peeps better than April Fool's prank

The day was April 1, also known as April Fool's day. It was in the middle of the week, on a Wednesday. Not only were everyone's spirits low on this fateful hump day, but we had to deal with dumb pranks all day.

The office was tense, silent, and filled with the uneasiness that comes on such high-strung days. We each scrolled through Facebook to look at everyone's fake relationship statuses, because that's how people prank nowadays.

Everyone began losing hope. I was on the verge of breaking my cool, when suddenly a girl named Amelia Dethloff walked into the Pioneer office. She brought with her 82 colorful cupcakes, topped with creamy icing and adorable marshmallow candies called Peeps — Peepcakes, if you will.

The Peepcakes were blue, green and purple. Blue to represent the peace and stability the Peepcakes brought the office, green to represent life and growth of new friendships, and purple to represent the Peepcake's luxurious richness.

This had to be a prank of some kind. It was just too

good to be true. It's not often I get free food on this campus, and I wasn't sure why I would on April Fool's day. But hang on, the plot thickens.

She made the cupcakes for her classmates who barely touched any of them. Perhaps they thought it was a joke — but as I took my first bite into the scrumptious cake, I knew there was no joking involved. There was even a chocolate candy surprise hiding in the middle.

I gladly took two and dove into them almost instantly. They were wondrously explosive with flavor. Lives were fulfilled and hope was restored on that day. Friendships bloomed and memories were made. We laughed, we ate, and we cried.

It was the best April Fool's day ever.



Rating: A+

—BRYCE McELHANEY  
EDITOR

**CLOTHING REVIEW** | Hawaiian shirts make men sexy, professional and tough

## Step up your style and go tropical

You haven't realized it yet, but that stiff, white dress shirt (forever creased from being folded up in some plastic sack and sold with a cheaply made tie), doesn't exactly make you look like Don Draper. Think more along the lines of deranged, old-timey ice cream man or stressed-out cubicle jockey.

And pastel colored polo shirts, collars popped or unpopped, are a symbol of slavery to the whims of mall-window mannequins. It doesn't matter how many you wear on top of one another. You're being tricked into clearing out warehouses of stuff dudes on yachts grew tired of in the early '80s. Polo shirts make you look like the bad guys in the "Revenge of the Nerds" movies.

And your T-shirts are comfy but unless they're brand new, they're sloppy. Are you really going to try to conduct yourself seriously with some wrinkled, faded sweatshop product draped over you? It's got the Captain America shield on it for Pete's sake.

Get a job, you hippie. It's time you got yourself some appropriate upper body wear.

You're a grown man. You need to look professional but cool — tough but approachable — sexy and super sexy. What you need is a good, old-fashioned

Hawaiian shirt.

Hawaiian shirts, though they certainly appear quite exotic, are available all over the U.S. They are made of a magical, lightweight material that caresses one's skin like an island breeze and sweetly wisps the sweatiness off of even the fattest of shirt aficionados. You are literally going to look cool — super cool.

Their bright-colored motifs let the world know you're a born rebel, unaffected by social conventions like matching or being inoffensive to the eyes.

Flowers, trees, tiki idols, hula girls, drinks, and even flowers; these wild design elements are sure to make you the talk of the town — a boring, terrible,

mundane, little town but you don't care. You're going native.

These magnificent juggernauts of the fashion world can be had at retailers from Nordstrom to Goodwill but mostly Goodwill.

You're a man and you're here to party. Wear that oddly shaped shirt with pride and watch the wahinis come running.

Rating: A+

—JORGE KRZYZANIAK  
SENIOR WRITER



## TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of April 10 through April 12  
[www.newyorktimes.com](http://www.newyorktimes.com)

1. *Furious 7*
2. *Home*
3. *The Longest Ride*
4. *Get Hard*
5. *Cinderella*
6. *The Divergent Series: Insurgent*
7. *Woman in Gold*
8. *It Follows*
9. *Danny Collins*
10. *While We're Young*
11. *Kingsman: The Secret Service*
12. *Do You Believe?*
13. *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*
14. *American Sniper*
15. *McFarland, USA*
16. *Focus*
17. *Run All Night*
18. *The Gunman*
19. *Ex Machina*
20. *The Spongebob Movie: Sponge Out of Water*



# Drug bust, wreck details, disturbance reported

**JORGE KRZYZANIAK**

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Marijuana and drug paraphernalia were discovered by campus police who were investigating reports of a dog in distress in parking lot B Monday, March 30.

According to the report, Officer Gordon Nelson was dispatched “in regard to a dog, possibly in distress, inside a blue Ford Taurus,” that day.

Nelson reported all four windows of the car were partially open and the dog did not appear to be in distress. It was ascertained that the vehicle did not belong to an OCCC student.

While trying to identify the car’s owner, Nelson reportedly observed some items on the front passenger seat, including a ziplock bag containing what appeared to be marijuana.

When the driver of the vehicle returned, she allowed Nelson to examine the contents of the bag, which tested positive for THC.

Further examination of the vehicle’s contents turned up a metal pipe containing a residue that also tested positive for THC.

Nelson filed “charges out of custody” with the district attorney’s office for possession of a controlled dangerous substance within 1,000 feet of a college and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The driver was allowed to leave campus after it was determined she had no outstanding warrants.

Chief James Fitzpatrick said it is now up to the DA to determine the final charge, if any. He explained why it was handled this way.

“For a small amount of marijuana like this, the city police can write you a

ticket, (but) we don’t have that option,” Fitzpatrick said.

“We can take you to jail right then and be away from campus maybe for four hours — and there’s the dog in the car and there was some other things — or we can do it this way and file out of custody and you don’t go to jail right then.

“This person didn’t skate by any means.”

Details have now emerged about the student who drove her car into a retaining wall near the VPAC Theater entrance on March 31.

The Pioneer Online reported the mishap that same day, but an official report was not yet ready.

That report, since compiled by Officer Zachary Andrews, shows that an unnamed OCCC student was injured around 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31, when her Chevy Malibu collided with a brick wall near the VPAC.

Andrews states the vehicle was significantly damaged and the wall was “heavily impacted.”

A second driver who witnessed the accident said the Malibu was driving on Keels Boulevard, closely following a slow-moving Buick.

The witness said it looked as if the Malibu’s driver attempted to pass the Buick by speeding through parking lot C. Upon exiting the parking lot, the Malibu’s driver reportedly lost control of her car, then sideswiped the witness’s vehicle.

The Malibu then became “completely airborne [at the curb] with four of the vehicle’s tires losing contact with the

ground, according to the report.

The car is reported to have landed more than 16 feet beyond the curb, then traveled another almost 66 feet before striking the retaining wall. The driver’s side airbag did deploy.

The student was conscious when police arrived but needed medical attention, the report shows. She was transported by EMSA to Baptist Integris.

She was issued citations for Failure to Comply with Compulsory Insurance Law, Failure to Keep Right on Road and Excessive Speed.

The driver of the sideswiped vehicle was not injured but did sustain some cosmetic damage to her car.

A student was arrested on campus later that same day for disturbing the peace after a confrontation with Police Chief James Fitzpatrick and Sgt. Kevin Hammond on Tuesday, March 31.

A police report filed by Officer Patrick Martino shows he was dispatched to Student Support Services around 5:40 p.m. for a disturbance.

Martino was told an unnamed student was receiving counseling when student Bryce David Chandler arrived at the Student Support Services office, demanding to know the other student’s whereabouts.

Office staff told Chandler they could not confirm the student’s location.

Chandler then reportedly became “angry and disruptive with the staff,” and “gestured with his middle finger” before leaving.

While Martino was still at Student Support Services, he said he heard

yelling from outside the office. He found Chandler in a confrontation with Fitzpatrick and Hammond.

Chandler was arrested at around 6:20 p.m. for disturbing the peace and was transported to the Oklahoma County Detention Center.

The report shows Chandler was contacted at his residence by Oklahoma City police the day before on Monday, March 30, “in regards to domestic violence and/or suicidal suspect.”

Chandler told the Pioneer he could not comment while Student Services considers his case.

Additional information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

Some information was redacted from the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell 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](mailto:cjordan@occc.edu).

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.



**Don't be left in the dark.  
Follow us for instant news  
and updates!**

[www.twitter.com/  
OCCCPioneer](http://www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer)  
[www.facebook.com/  
OCCCPioneer](http://www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer)  
<http://pioneer.occc.edu>

## STEP UP. OPPORTUNITY AWAITS AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Southwestern College Professional Studies specializes in educating busy working adults, members of the military and individuals looking for a flexible way to earn a degree.

Reasons to choose Southwestern College:

- Transfer all your credits from OCCC
- Six-week Online Classes
- Non-profit, regionally accredited



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
COLLEGE  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

**CONTACT US TODAY**  
[ps.sckans.edu](http://ps.sckans.edu) | 888.684.5335



# Wrong alarm creates 'fear, confusion' for students

**KATIE AXTELL**  
Community Writer  
communitywriter@occc.edu

**LAUREN DANIEL**  
Online Editor  
onlineeditor@occc.edu

**“I was a little bit scared, but mostly confused.”**  
—SARAH POWELL  
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

Fear and confusion. That's how two students described their feelings on March 25 when a shooter-on-campus alarm was erroneously issued instead of a tornado warning alarm that should have gone out in all buildings.

Students in Professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert's advertising class hunkered down in room 1D4 in the Arts and Humanities area and took cover after the alarm came across digital feeds across the campus, including one located right outside the classroom door.

Public Relations major Lisa Lasater was one of those students.

"It was confusing because we were under a severe weather watch and then the alarm for shooter on campus, but then I'm like, 'well shooters on campus don't really have a

particular time' so we followed what the screens told us to do."

In the event of an armed intruder, people are advised to shelter where they are. For tornadoes, they are asked to move to safer areas.

Psychology major Sarah Powell said she also was confused.

"I was a little bit scared, but mostly confused," she said. "Was it really going on? We were just trying to stay as safe as possible."

Lasater gave credit to Faulconer-Lippert for staying professional and calm during the alarm.

"She went to the door and there were students out there, so she grabbed them and pulled them in, shut the door, turned off the lights, and we all got to the other side of the room. All our phones were turned off

and silent.

"She pulled at least 10 students in," she said. "She was very professional about it and how she handled it, and everyone remained calm during the whole thing."

Powell said, after about five minutes, the professor tried calling security and couldn't get through.

"... So she called and got through to the operator. She was asking 'is there really a shooter on campus because we were under the impression there was a tornado.'"

Powell said it was then people in the class started to look at their phones and see there actually was a tornado warning so they opened the classroom door.

"There was an officer walking around with a megaphone, saying there was a tornado and no shooter on campus, and rounding everyone up to get to shelter," she said.

"It could have been the shooter, so [Faulconer-Lippert] clarified that there was no shooter before opening the door."

Lasater she she received a text from a friend who works in Recreation and Fitness, saying that area also received the wrong warning.

"He said they went into some closet for safety."

Lasater said she blames no one for the confusion.

"They're both tragic events. It's just human error."

The shelter in place alarm also went off in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library.

A library employee who requested her name not be used, said she was aware of the potential for severe weather that evening so when the shelter in place alarm went off, she made the "executive decision" to instruct people to follow the procedures for severe weather instead.

"... I just made a personal judgement that it made more sense that it was a severe weather situation than an active shooter one."

However, she said, some people still were trying to follow the shelter in place procedures so the situation was somewhat confusing.

She said outside sirens started sounding before the Library received any notifications from the college about the weather.

Shortly after the shelter in place alarm went off, the employee said, the campus tornado alert then went off, which confirmed her first instinct.

Although the multiple alarms did cause confusion, the employee said, everyone remained calm.

"People actually were moving steadily and not crazy or anything. ...

"Everybody was calm and quiet, and just waiting it out until the all-clear."

Although getting the wrong message was disconcerting and made the employee a bit wound-up, she said she believes everything worked out.

She said OCCC typically does a good job with drills and alarms.

"... When you think about how many people there are here and the turnover — every year, there's so many new students again — you could say that, in general, we do pretty well with all the drills ..."

## Campus experts explain how mix-up happened

**JORGE KRZYZANIAK**  
Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

At around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, the school's notification system was activated indicating a possible tornado near OCCC.

Many people headed toward safer areas in the college.

However, some hid quietly in classrooms after the wrong notification was sent to some areas of the college, indicating a gunman on campus.

Such alarms originate at the campus police department.

A police report of the incident shows "technical difficulties were encountered with the notification message" but does not provide details.

In an April 9 email, campus Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said an "improper message for the particular threat posed that day" was mistakenly activated.

"The transmission of the shelter-in-place alert was

determined to be a human error," he said. "There was a confluence of issues with the phones and message menu which confused the initiator of the alert message that unfortunately caused the Shelter in Place alert."

Fitzpatrick chose not to name the person responsible for sending out the incorrect alert. Instead, he said, as police chief, he takes full responsibility.

He said the mistake was quickly realized and campus police acted immediately to convey verbal instructions via the public announcement system. Officers also went around campus with bullhorns to ensure those who could not hear the PA would head to the college's safer areas, he said.

At 7:21 p.m., an all-clear was given, according to the police report.

Information Technology Vice President David Anderson explained how the error

might have taken place.

"It's a menu," he said. "From the menu you select and then, you have to enter a code to activate the system."

"But there's all kinds of different options because we have different buildings. There's lots of options to choose from. I think that's where some of the confusion might have been."

"Really, once you start it, it's difficult to stop."

Anderson said the current system was implemented in response to another breakdown in emergency communications.

On Feb. 26, 2010, after a report of a gunman in the college library, Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas mistakenly activated a fire alarm instead of a shelter-in-place alarm for the Main Building, causing many on campus to evacuate. Sloas resigned soon after and a campus police department replaced the Safety and Security department.

Anderson explained how that mix-up occurred and what has changed since.

"There used to be a four-digit code and a pin number," he said. "In order for somebody not to dial a wrong number, we moved to a system that was more menu-based ..."

Up to now, he said, he'd had good results from the change.

Since the most recent incident, Fitzpatrick and Anderson have worked together to ... ensure such a miscommunication will not take place again.

Anderson, responsible for setting up and maintaining the college's communication systems, said he is confident the issue has been resolved.

"We did some renaming to help the system so that shouldn't happen again."

"Human error happens. The system does what it's told. It's unfortunate but I think everything is resolved so it won't happen again."

Anderson, who has worked

to integrate the campus emergency notification system since its inception, said it's a system that's continually evolving and improving. He said he's confident in its capability to communicate widely and effectively.

Anderson said, during an internal alert, notifications are sent to all campus phones, PCs and speakers.

"... It will go to almost 2,000 devices at one time."

He said he wants OCCC students to know he's doing everything possible to be sure they are notified of campus emergencies quickly and effectively.

"We can't notify you if we don't know how to contact you," Anderson added, recommending that students enroll for text message notifications at [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu).

To contact campus police, call 405 682-7872 or dial ext. 7747 from any campus phone for emergencies.



# it's a small world

## German student finds similarities, differences in U.S.

KATIE AXTELL

Community Writer  
communitywriter@occc.edu

**P**ublic Relations major Sarah Zuber said she enjoys how life in America is more relaxed than in her home city of Gondsheim, Germany.

"There it's more rushed, but here it's more relaxed and I can take a couple-hour break," she said.

Since arriving at OCCC in January 2014, Zuber said, she has discovered she really likes the professors and overall environment on campus.

"The teachers and all the offices really care about you," she said. "It's not like that in Germany."

"There they just kind of leave you alone."

"I feel like the classes here are easy and it's really fun to go to class."

Before she started attending OCCC, Zuber spent a semester at the University of Oklahoma.

While there, she took an English as a Second Language course to help with her English

**“Here, there are some race issues, but I never really saw that too much in Germany.”**

—SARAH ZUBER

OCCC INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

communication.

"English is mandatory to learn in school [in Germany], — there's no way around it — but we learn more British English," she said.

"To graduate from high school there, you have to know another language."

Zuber said coming to America wasn't a culture shock to her at all because of the similar cultures between Germany and here, and her past travels to the U.S.

"Most of the things are really the same," she said. "I feel like the culture is very similar."

"In Germany a lot of things changed [to] how they are in America, so America is seen as good and a lot of people want to come here to travel and study."

"They make it seem very

nice."

Zuber said there is one big difference though — restaurants.

"German restaurants, you go in and sit where you want and stay as long as you want," she said.

"Here, they try to finish you off really quick. There you can sit for five hours. You don't have to hurry and leave."

She said there are many more fast food places in Oklahoma.

Another difference, she said, is the race issues that are present in America.

"Here, there are some race issues, but I never really saw that too much in Germany."

"Maybe it's just not that common, but I have never really seen it like I do here."

After graduation, Zuber plans to transfer to a 4-year university. She said she hopes to remain in the States afterwards.

"I really miss my family, but if I can, I would like to stay and work here in America."



Sarah Zuber

ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER



## Germany

**Capital:** Berlin

**Population:** 80.62 million (2013)

**GDP:** 3.73 trillion USD (2013)

**Size:** 137,903 sq. miles<sup>2</sup> (357,168 million km<sup>2</sup>)

**Official Language:** German

**Currency:** Euro

**Government:** Federal republic, Constitutional republic, Representative democracy, Parliamentary republic. Chancellor is Angela Merkel.

**Religion:** About 65 to 70 percent of the population follow the Christian religion. They are more or less evenly split between the mainstream denominations of Lutheran-Protestantism and Calvinism united in the EKD (Evangelical Church in Germany) and the Roman Catholic Church.

**Details:** Germany, officially the Federal Republic of Germany, is a federal parliamentary republic in western-central Europe.

—www.google.com





## SPORTS

EVENT  
NEWS

## Becoming an Iron Man



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Community member Shandy Sells swims laps in OCCC's Aquatic Center on April 8. "I'm here training for an upcoming Iron Man event," Sells said. "It's a long-course triathlon. I like to come here to this pool because it's not crowded. It's quiet, it has nice calm water and it's just an easy place to come get a swim workout in." The Olympic-size pool and diving well are free for student use with a valid OCCC ID, and to the community for a small fee. For more information, visit [www.occc.edu/rf/wellness](http://www.occc.edu/rf/wellness).

SPORTS | Stormy weather did not stop 15 OCCC students from playing in a tournament April 8

## Spring intramural basketball off to good start

CLAYTON MITCHELL

Sports Writer

[sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu)

April 8 marked the start of weekly intramural basketball tournaments, held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Wellness Center gym.

The first edition of weekly tournaments gathered 15 participants, which Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright said is fewer than normal. He said it may be attributed to the fact that some students did not want to be at school during possible severe weather.

"I like playing against all of these guys," said business major Randell Fixico, who played in the tournament on April 8, and played intramural basketball in 2014.

"Some of these people are new and I don't even know them. And that's fun, because you get to learn how they play."

Unlike most other intramural sports where advanced registration is required, students must sign up to play in the tournaments each Wednesday before start time. Wright said this will make it easier for students who have work or other scheduling conflicts.



"I know in the past, with our intramural leagues, you might have eight guys on a team," he said. "One week, all eight show up. The next week there's three and they can't play."

"Now, people can join new teams every week, people can sign up as a free agent every week and be placed on a different team."

"That way, you don't have to worry about signing up or leaving your team shorthanded because you won't have a team that week."

Emergency Medical Science major Renzo Filomeno said he thinks the weekly tournament format adds a new and interesting element to intramurals at OCCC.

"I like the weekly [format] better, because that way it's a different team every week," he said.

"You'll see the same faces, but the teams will be different every week."

Fixico agrees. "The weekly tournaments are pretty cool," he said. "It's definitely refreshing to be able to play on a different team each week. It's a different experience each time we play."

For more information, contact Wright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7684, or at [matthew.j.wright@occc.edu](mailto:matthew.j.wright@occc.edu). Or, contact the Recreation and Fitness department office at 405-682-7860.

## SPRING 2015:

- Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the Aquatic Center free of charge. The Aquatic Center features two pools, and an 18½-ft. deep diving well with 1- and 3-meter spring boards and 5-, 7- and 10-meter platforms. For more information, visit [www.occc.edu/rf](http://www.occc.edu/rf).

- OCCC Group Fitness classes are offered at a variety of fitness levels and are spaced conveniently throughout the afternoon and late evening hours. Classes are free to OCCC students with a valid ID. See more at [www.occc.edu/rf/cr-group-fitness](http://www.occc.edu/rf/cr-group-fitness).

- The Recreation & Fitness Center is open to students, faculty, staff and community members. The center features a 15,000-square-foot gym with two basketball courts and one recreational volleyball court, a cardio room with three treadmills, two cross trainers and two recumbent bikes as well as a weight room featuring a complete circuit of Cybex equipment and free weights. Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the facilities free of charge. For more information, visit [www.occc.edu/rf](http://www.occc.edu/rf) or call 405-682-7860.



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](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu).



# Nursing program pass rate exceeds U.S. average

**HICHAM SALIM**  
News Writing Student

In 2014, OCCC added 217 newly graduated registered nurses to the workforce, said Deborah Myers, nursing program director. The students passed the national NCLEX-RN licensure exam at a rate of 89.40 percent, compared to the national average pass rate of 81.79 percent, and a state average of 83.55 percent.

"We are a very large program, and we do very well," Myers said. "We always aspire to be above the state and the national passing rate."

Myers said the statistics are based on the first time students take the test.

"In December, we graduated 63 students of whom 53 took the NCLEX-RN test, and we have 100 percent passing

rate so far," Myers said. "They will count in the 2015 nursing board report."

Myers said nursing schools can't graduate enough registered nurses to match the rate that hospitals are hiring.

OCCC nursing graduate Nadia Moudkiri is among those just entering into her professional life, being one of the 53 who passed the RN licensure exam in 2015. She recommends the program.

"If you are at a loss for a career path, and if you know deep in your heart that you have what it takes to truly care for others, a career in nursing is the best option and fit for you," she said.

She had set her sights on the University of Oklahoma Medical Center all along, she admitted.

"I enjoyed a well deserved six weeks break after my pinning

ceremony," Moudkiri said. Immediately after her mini-vacation, OU Medical Center came calling, and she is now part of their newly acquired nursing team.

Another student, Shandi Kidd, is just getting started in the program. She is now taking Nursing Process 1, the first of four semester-long nursing process courses.

A wife and mother to three super-active kids, Kidd said, she had to take all the prerequisite classes that qualified her to get into the nursing program so she could accumulate the necessary points for admission.

"The nursing program is not an easy program by any means," Kidd said. "But with a lot of hard work, dedication and study time, it is do-able."

The school's benchmark completion rate for those

entering a nursing program is set at 70 percent, Myers said.

"Typically our completion rate is pretty high," Myers said. "It is usually between 80 percent to 90 percent."

The college's nursing student body was 64 percent Caucasian, 300 out of 466, in 2014, Myers wrote in her report to the nursing board.

It also was dominated by women, who made up 83 percent of the total. Only 78 men were among the 466 nursing students.

"We would like to have more Hispanic students simply because of our area that we serve," Myers said. Of the total, 33 nursing students were Hispanic.

Of the remainder, 42 were African-American, 16 American Indians or Alaskans, 31 Asians, and lastly 36 were

classified as "other."

Myers said the biggest challenge she is facing is the sheer size of her program. If she had unlimited resources, she said, the first thing she would do would be to expand the capacity of the school.

"I would either add on to this building or build another wing so that all of my faculty, staff, and students are all in one place instead of here and there," Myers said. "I would also pay the faculty more."

Her staff consists of 21 full-time faculty and 50 adjunct faculty. Myers said OCCC has one of the largest registered nursing programs in the state.

For more information, contact Myers at 405-682-1611, ext. 7138, [dkmyers@occc.edu](mailto:dkmyers@occc.edu), or visit the nursing program website at [www.occc.edu/health/nursing](http://www.occc.edu/health/nursing).

## Leader: President Paul Sechrist will leave position on July 1

*Continued from page 1*

Sechrist said Steward has served as executive vice president for most of his presidency.

He said he believes Steward understands the college, supports the students and believes in the mission.

"Certainly, I've seen him in action," Sechrist said. "I think the college is in good hands for the future."

Steward said he is pleased with the outcome.

"I'm very pleased that [the Board of Regents] had the confidence to name me the next president and I will do everything in my power to

justify their trust," he said.

"My goal in the next few months is to serve President Sechrist as he completes his term here," he said.

Steward has been an OCCC employee for 20 years, but said he has been closely associated with the college for 40 years.

Steward began his employment at the college on July 1, 1995, where he assumed his longest held position as General Council and as a political science professor for 10 years.

"Then, over the years, I have moved from that to a series of administrative positions and have been the executive vice president since 2008," he said.

Before that, Steward said, he was a member of the Board of Regents from 1974 to 1976.

In 1976, he said, he ran for a seat in the state legislature, and won.

Steward said he remained in the House of Representatives until 1980, the same year he became involved on the Board of Directors of the OCCC foundation — the precursor to the current foundation.

"I was just a general supporter of the community."

For now, he said, he cannot discuss any details on his plans as president, but said he does plan to continue the focus on students, through such pro-

grams as college readiness, student success, graduate success and community development.

"... Roadmap 2018 — it's really the plan for this institution."

Sechrist's last day as OCCC president is July 1. He announced his retirement plans in an email Oct. 13. He has been president for almost a decade.

Steward made one last statement to the board in his acceptance speech before the meeting adjourned.

"You have my word and my commitment that I will serve you with honor, integrity and



**You have my word and my commitment that I will serve you with honor, integrity and total commitment to our students, faculty, staff, and our community and to the Board of Regents."**

—JERRY STEWARD  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

total commitment to our students, faculty, staff, and our community and to the Board of Regents."

Take time to  
be a dad today.

877-4DAD411  
[www.fatherhood.gov](http://www.fatherhood.gov)





# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Studiously relaxing



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Political Science major Constance Ella works on a class assignment near OCCC's courtyard. "I'm writing a paper," Ella said. "It's about technologies." OCCC offers many areas throughout campus for students to study or relax.

**COMMUNITY** | NASA event turnout exceeded expectations

## Club thanks powwow supporters

**KATIE AXTELL**  
Community Writer  
communitywriter@occc.edu

The attendance at the Native American Student Association's powwow on March 28 was estimated to be around 700 people, said club Sponsor Taylor Fields.

"We had a lot of comments on how personable it was and family friendly," he said. "It was a huge success."

Fields said the powwow was held the same day as the University of Oklahoma's American Indian Alumni Society's spring powwow.

"We had several people, vendors and dancers that went to OU's powwow and then came to ours ... They said ours was excellent."

The powwow had a Gourd Dance and drum circle. It also offered straight, fancy, and traditional/grass contests for the men and cloth, buckskin, and jingle/fancy shawl for the women. A variety of different tribes participated and attended the event.

Club member Janelle Lawson said she spoke with many of the people in attendance.

"I went around and talked to many of [the vendors] and a lot of them were not even from anywhere close to here. ... They had the choice to go to OU's and they chose ours."

NASA member Whitney Williams said some of

her family members traveled from Watonga to attend the OCCC powwow.

"All these people had a choice of where to spend their time and they came here," she said. "They're not even enrolled in OCCC, but they came."

Fields said the turnout was surprising.

"(Director of E-Student Services) E.J. Warren put a spread on the TVs all through the campus and the Pioneer put out the information for it," he said. "It was just that and word of mouth."

Club President Samantha Harris said there will be a future powwow, but not right away.

Fields said it takes a lot of work and money to make the powwow happen so they're going to aim toward having it every other year.

NASA club members said without the OCCC community, the powwow wouldn't have had as many in attendance.

"We would like to just thank everyone [who] came out and attended because really if nobody came out from OCCC, it wouldn't have been such a big success."

Lawson said she hoped those who attended were able to leave with a better sense of the culture.

"I hope the impact people left with is a solidarity with other tribes," she said. "We are here to support and encourage cultural education."

NASA members can be contacted at [nasa@my.occc.edu](mailto:nasa@my.occc.edu).



## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### 'The Cherry Orchard' showing at OCCC

"The Cherry Orchard" by Anton Chekhov is showing at 7:30 p.m. from April 30 until May 2 in the Bruce Owen Theater. Student tickets are \$5 and \$10 for general admission. For more information, contact Jessica DeArman at [jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu](mailto:jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu) or 405-686-6278.

### Mentoring tips available for students

A stress-free hour will take place at noon on Wednesday, April 22, in CU2. The Brown Bag is an opportunity for all students to join in on relaxing and carefree activities. For more information, contact Student Life at [studentlife@occc.edu](mailto:studentlife@occc.edu) or 405-682-7523.

### Leadership Series meeting planned

A Leader Series meeting is at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in CU3. All students are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Student Life at [studentlife@occc.edu](mailto:studentlife@occc.edu) or 405-682-7523.

### Open discussion over coffee and privilege

A Coffee and Privilege ExCEL meeting will take place at noon Monday, April 20, in CU3. All students are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Student Life at [studentlife@occc.edu](mailto:studentlife@occc.edu) or 405-682-7523.

### VPAC hosting Pilobolus Dance Theater

The Pilobolus Dance Theater is performing at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, in the VPAC. Students can pick up two free tickets starting April 14 at the OCCC box office with a student ID. Ticket prices for non-students range from \$25 to \$45. For more information, contact the Cultural Programs office at [culturalprograms@occc.edu](mailto:culturalprograms@occc.edu) or 405-682-7576.

### ESL group to help with communication skills

The ESL Conversation Club meets at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room VPAC146. The ESL group is there to help international students improve their English communication skills. For more information, contact James Sellers at [james.f.sellers@occc.edu](mailto:james.f.sellers@occc.edu) or 405-682-1611.

### Ministries series on Monday nights

Christians on Campus meet at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays in room MB1X5 for a ministry series. All students are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Christians on Campus at [christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu](mailto:christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu) or club president Kaie Huizar at [kaie.huizar@gmail.com](mailto:kaie.huizar@gmail.com).

### Christians on Campus to meet each Monday

Christians on Campus host Bible studies at noon on Mondays in room AH1C3. All students are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Christians on Campus at [christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu](mailto:christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu) or club president Kaie Huizar at [kaie.huizar@gmail.com](mailto:kaie.huizar@gmail.com).

**All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu) or drop by the Pioneer office located in AH 1F2.**



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](mailto:adman@occc.edu).

FURNITURE

**FOR SALE:** 19" CRT television in working condition. Great for a gaming TV or in a child's room. \$25. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures or more details.

MISCELLANEOUS

**MATH TUTOR:** I have experience working with struggling students. Call 405-476-7498.

**FOR SALE:** This space for \$8 per week. Place your business classified today and reach thousands of potential customers. Up to seven lines. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or email [adman@occc.edu](mailto:adman@occc.edu).


**IT PAYS to ADVERTISE**  
Call or email today to get affordable pricing for your advertisement. Discounts available. 405-682-1611, ext. 7674 or [adman@occc.edu](mailto:adman@occc.edu).

**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE  
for ONLY \$32 a week!**


**—get your advertisement message  
to 5,000 prospective customers  
with a business-card size ad—**

**Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7307,  
or e-mail: [adman@occc.edu](mailto:adman@occc.edu)**

**Virus Protection  
For Your  
Hard Drive.**



**Available at Planned Parenthood.**  
[www.ppfa.org/ppfa](http://www.ppfa.org/ppfa)

 **Planned Parenthood**  
1-800-230-PLAN

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1. Roll a ball
- 5. To the rear
- 10. Bristle
- 14. Dull pain
- 15. Steam
- 16. Visual organs
- 17. Unnecessarily
- 19. Harvest
- 20. Glass container
- 21. Signed
- 22. Anagram of "Stabs"
- 23. Burdensome
- 25. Country of the Nile
- 27. Half of a pair
- 28. Standards
- 31. One who is excessively proper
- 34. Wild Asian dog
- 35. Arrive (abbrev.)
- 36. Breezy
- 37. Brandish
- 38. Perishes
- 39. Neither \_\_\_\_
- 40. Roof overhangs
- 41. Feel
- 42. Disciplinarian
- 44. Calypso offshoot
- 45. Nerds
- 46. Inauspicious
- 50. Tribes
- 52. Implied
- 54. Ribonucleic acid
- 55. Horse feed
- 56. Billy club
- 58. Place
- 59. Habituate
- 60. Competent
- 61. Contributes
- 62. S-shaped moldings
- 63. Fastens

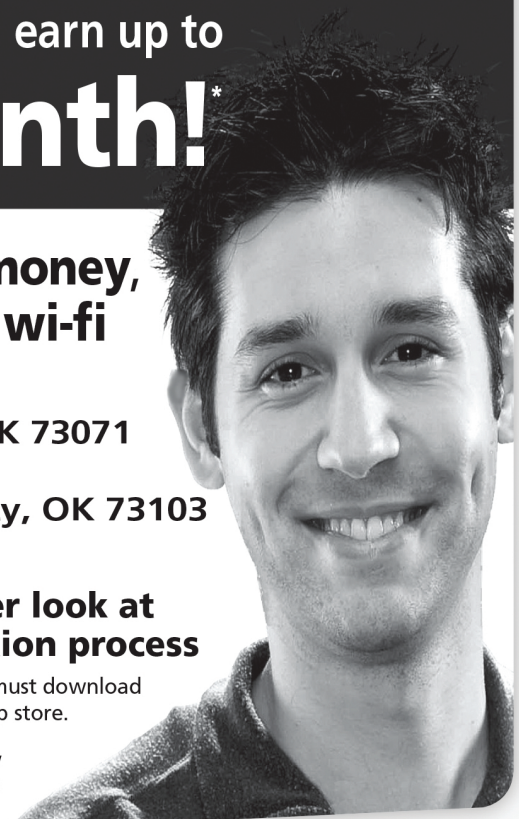
**DOWN**


- 1. Stringed instrument
- 2. Sea
- 3. What place?
- 4. Directed
- 5. Boulevard
- 6. Savors
- 7. Church alcove
- 8. Drivels
- 9. Attempt
- 10. Colorful wrap
- 11. Asthenopia
- 12. Nipple
- 13. Vipers
- 18. Kings of the jungle
- 22. 8 bits of data
- 24. Optimistic
- 26. Decorate with gold leaf
- 28. Inspire
- 29. Angers
- 30. Backside
- 31. Shallow metal containers
- 32. Violent disturbance
- 33. Watered
- 34. Disinvesting
- 37. Travel on foot
- 38. University administrator
- 40. Anagram of "Seek"
- 41. Sketches
- 43. Nose count
- 44. Hits
- 46. Fall color
- 47. Small African antelope
- 48. Parental brother
- 49. Purposes
- 50. Soft drink
- 51. Placed
- 53. Chills and fever
- 56. Prefix meaning "Modern"
- 57. Make lace

**Donate plasma today and earn up to  
\$300 a month!\***

Who knew I could **earn money,**  
**save lives,** and **get free wi-fi**  
at the same time?

1327 E. Lindsey St, Norman, OK 73071  
405-447-9977  
716 NW 23rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
405-521-9204



 **Scan for an insider look at  
the plasma donation process**

To scan and view content, you must download  
a QR code reader from your App store.

\*Applicable for eligible, qualified new donors. Fees vary by  
weight. New donors must bring photo ID, proof of address  
and Social Security number.

[CSLPlasma.com](http://CSLPlasma.com)

**CSL Plasma**  
Good for You. Great for Life.

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.



# ESL conversational group expands meeting times

**HUNG TRAN**

News Writing Student

International students who want to upgrade their English-speaking skills can now attend the ESL Conversation Club from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room 146 of the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

James Sellers, full-time assistant in the Communications Lab, leads the group. He said students can attend the meetings either or both days.

"We decided to open the group on Tuesday ... because there are five to six new students who want to join," he said. "This club is absolutely free for everyone, and easy to attend. All people have to do is show up."

ESL Conversation Club started about two years ago, Sellers said.

"The important purpose of this group is providing students a place to relax, with no pressure, and to practice English and conversation," he said.

Those in the group learn about verbal conversation, body language and pronunciation.

They also share different cultures. About 10 to 12 people are participating this semester from many different countries: Vietnam, South Korea, France, Iran, China, Sellers said.

"The important point to help new students in the club is to be non-judgmental," he said.

"We do not judge anyone here. Everyone in class is equal and no one will laugh at you when you speak."

"The idea is have fun when you learn. That is the best way to learn — when you have fun."

Sellers said more students would be welcome so the group could expand to even more days in a week.

"The best thing people can learn from this group is confidence in speaking," he said.

"There are many levels in the class. Some students maybe speak pretty well, some at medium level, and in this club we can learn from each other."

The atmosphere is casual.

"I have to say we always make jokes," Sellers said. "This is a group, not a class, so no attendance requirement and flexible time. People can come late or leave early. That is no problem."

Vietnamese student Quan Le, who is studying in Computer Animation, said he has benefited from the club.

"I've lived in United States for almost five years, but I still am not satisfied with my communication skills in English," he said. "So the ESL group has come to be a great place for me to learn and have an opportunity to meet students that come from different nations."

"I've improved my confidence when communicating in English and learned a lot of interesting things from various cultures."

Le said he likes the small-group setting.

"We just talk about any topic without worry of being judged for your communication skills," he said. "There are no rules in the group, and you can even have your lunch during group meeting."



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

ESL Conversational participants, left to right: volunteer Jose Pablo, lab tech Jim Sellers, public relations major Hung Tran, ESL student Farshid Ghorbani, computer animation major Quan Le, nursing major Tsai-chen Sung and nursing major Kathy Bohloly.

Kathy Bohloly, an OCCC graduate from Iran, said she too has improved her ability to speak English.

"My purpose of joining to this club was to improve my communication skill and common English conversation," she

said. "My advice for students who do not know about this club is to try one time and see how helpful it will be for them."

For more information about the group, email [james.f.sellers@occc.edu](mailto:james.f.sellers@occc.edu) or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7127.

## Students can earn credit on European study-abroad trip

**LAUREN CARTER**

News Writing Student

Seventy years ago, in 1945, the Auschwitz concentration camp near Krakow, Poland, was liberated at the end of World War II.

The site of that dark period of European history is on the itinerary of an Oklahoma Study Abroad program being offered from June 27 to July 11.

This trip to Central Europe will include Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, and Budapest.

Christian Alyea is director of the Oklahoma Study Abroad Program. He has been on many different trips with this program as a trip guide.

Alyea said this will not be his first time to visit Central Europe or the concentration camps. During this specific trip, the travelers are going to visit two different concentration camps, Terazine in the Czech Republic and Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. Each has a different feeling and story.

Terazine located in the Czech Republic was a propaganda camp, not an extermination camp like Auschwitz was, Alyea said.

Terazine was a labor camp, but at the same time it



was a camp where the Nazis would send the upper class Jews, Alyea said. The Nazis filmed the prisoners to make it seem like they were happy to the outside world.

Auschwitz concentration camp was part of a network of Nazi concentration and extermination camps built during World War II.

Over the course of four years around 1.1 million people died there.

"When visiting Auschwitz you walk into the gas chambers and you just feel it," Alyea said. "It's incredible."

Alyea described the experience as heart-wrenching and said this feeling continues to come back to him, even after visiting the concentration camp for the third time.

"The experience is definitely eye opening," Alyea said. "I think it's essential people visit these places."

This is the third time Oklahoma Study Abroad has offered the Central Europe trip, Alyea said.

They make sure during each trip to visit the camps.

"This trip isn't a depressing trip," Alyea said.

"These are some of Europe's most beautiful cities, but a lot of these cities have some of the darkest pasts."

A historian of the Holocaust will be the instructor on this trip.

Although there will not be a class offered on this trip, there will be many different tours and lectures at all the historical sites.

Ruth Charnay, dean of the Arts division at OCCC, will be the instructor.

For the past 25 years Charnay has been working with the Jewish community in Oklahoma City on Holocaust education. She tries to help mostly in high schools to produce films, programs and bring in guest speakers.

"It's important to remember what happened in the Holocaust and make sure it's never repeated," Charnay said.

She said she has never been to these sites and is eager to see these places firsthand. This means a lot to her, she said, because she has studied and read so much about them.

This study abroad program is open to all ages and anyone is welcome to attend.

Registration for the Central Europe trip is still open. The cost is \$2,915 including airfare, accommodations, ground transportation, entry fees, and some meals.

For more information, visit the Oklahoma Study Abroad website, under short-term programs or contact Alyea at [christian@oklahomastudyabroad.com](mailto:christian@oklahomastudyabroad.com).

Charnay can be reached at 405-682-1611, ext. 7143, or by email at [rcharnay@occc.edu](mailto:rcharnay@occc.edu).