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# Pionee City Community College Www.occ.edu/pioneer

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Several OCCC graduates talked to the Pioneer about how the excitement of graduation is underscored by a sense of sadness about leaving a great college.

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# OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OKLAHOMA CITY COLLEGE

MAY 1, 2015 PIONEER.OCCC.EDU

**COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978** 

## For your listening pleasure



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Biology major and Student Library Circulation Assistant Morgan Smith sets up a display in the Audio Books section on the second floor of the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. For more information about the resources located in OCCC's library, visit www.occc.edu/library or call 405-682-7564.

# Sechrist to give graduates send-off

OCCC president will deliver the keynote address at the 2015 college commencement

JORGE KRZYZANIAK Senior Writer

senior writer seniorwriter@occc.edu

The traditional words of congratulations and best wishes for OCCC's graduating class may also be parting words for a man who has dedicated himself to leading the college in its mission for almost a decade.

However, OCCC's President Paul Sechrist, who in October 2014 announced he would retire this summer, said he doesn't see this speech as a goodbye. As keynote speaker, Sechrist will take the stage to give his last formal address to graduating students at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Cox Business Services Convention Center in Oklahoma City during the OCCC commencement.

"I consider this speech another opportunity — my last as president — to once again remind everyone of the mission of OCCC, to empower our students to achieve," he said.

Sechrist said he has always taken great pride in having the opportunity to address OCCC's graduates.

"Commencement is the primary celebration of students reaching an important and

life-changing milestone; having a college degree," he said.

Sechrist said things have come full circle for him as the ceremony's keynote speaker.

"When I was first appointed president, instead of a separate

investiture ceremony, it was decided to include a simple and brief installation ceremony as part of my first commencement as president," he said. "Following

See OCCC page 7

# OCCC Reads to focus on water conservation

**ABBY CLANIN**News Writing Student

The coming water shortage in the world — and in the U.S. — is one reason the college library chose "Water Matters: Why We Need to Act Now to Save

Our Most Precious Resource" as next academic year's selection for the OCCC Reads Program.

OCCC Reads is a community reading program, said Librarian Tricia Sweany. She said she and

See **BOOK** page 9

## **OPINION**

EDITORIAL I If you need a gun on your person during a daily outing, maybe you should just stay home

# Just leave the guns at home, OK

The Norman Music Festival is an event I look forward to every year. The diverse music and energetic atmosphere combine to create an entertaining experience for all to enjoy. But this year, I didn't feel as safe as I normally would have in the past.

Recently, the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association claimed the Norman Music Alliance

and City of Norman infringed on their Second Amendment rights by not allowing people to bring guns to the festival.

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution pertains



ETHAN COOPER

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution pertains to our rights as Americans to own and carry firearms, and reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms,

The OSAA decided to take

shall not be infringed."

the case to court.

A Cleveland County judge ruled in favor of the OSAA, who argued banning licensed gun carriers from bringing guns to the event was a violation of both state and federal law, and an infringement on people's constitutional rights.

Many people who attend the music festival every year were hesitant to show up this year. Who could blame them? The festival sells beer. I don't want to go to an event where some drunk idiot could accidentally shoot someone.

NMF organizers were only doing what they felt was necessary to keep the event safe.

The Norman Music Alliance rents four city blocks in downtown Norman, obtains a special events permit from the city to hold the festival and, "as a business operator," can request a ban on guns. However, since the festival wasn't able to ban guns they instead asked people to leave their firearms at home.

Bringing a gun to the festival is wrong-headed. Sure, I have the right to bring my loud dog to my grandma's funeral, but that doesn't mean I should.

Unless it's the event's purpose is to sell, trade, or shoot firearms, I wouldn't encourage people to bring a gun anywhere just because they have the right to do so.

And if they are going to an event they believe is dangerous and feel they need to have a gun to protect themselves, then they probably shouldn't go in the first place — especially if many people are drinking.

Just because a right exists doesn't mean you have to use it.

—ETHAN COOPER PHOTOGRAPHER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR I A major earthquake has left thousands homeless in Kathmandu

# Former student wants help for Nepal

To the Editor:

You might be already aware of the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal in the morning of April 25.

According to the Nepalese government officials, more than 4,600 people have been confirmed dead, and the casualty is expected to go up. Thousands of injured are in desperate need of medical attention. Countless have lost their lives, homes and are on the streets in need of food, warm clothes and medicines.

Organizations are on the ground with supplies and volunteers but it is no match to the devastation the earthquake has left behind. We may not share the victims' anguish but we can help to alleviate it.

Please make a tax-deductible contribution to these organizations who have opened up direct links to their Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund.

You also can reach out to your local Red Cross office who are sending the relief packages for free.

Facebook:

Below are a few websites you can use to donate.

- PayPal: www.paypal-donations.com.
- UNICEF: www.unicefusa.org.
- World Food Program: https://wfpusa.org/Nepal.
- Red Cross: www.redcross.org.
- CARE: Care.org.
- **Crowdrise:** www.crowdrise.com/earthquakerelief fund (Select Nepal).
- Global Outreach Doctors: www.globaloutreach doctors.org.

or

Twitter:

- TEXT 'Nepal' to 864233 for a \$10 donation toward UNICEF's efforts.
- TEXT **REDCROSS** to 90999 to give \$10 to American Red Cross Disaster Relief.

—BASHAL MALLA FORMER OCCC INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM NEPAL



**LETTER TO THE EDITOR I Save the Aquatic Center** 

# Swim club hopes pool can stay open

To the Editor:

We are saddened to hear that OCCC plans to close its pool at the end of the summer. For 25 years, this facility has given countless children water safety skills that save lives, aspiring competitive swimmers a place to build their dreams, and adult swimmers a lane to maintain a healthier lifestyle.

It has played host to multiple daily practices and hundreds of swim meets from local to national-level meets that bring in some of the fastest national, collegiate and amateur swimmers.

Throughout this time, King Marlin Swim Club has enjoyed working with OCCC to meet the swimming community's needs and make a positive impact. The benefits are far-reaching and our community is the greatest benefactor.

Today, when interest in swimming is at an all-time high with the growth of competitive swimming in the state more than doubling across the nation over the last five years, we hope that all possible solutions can be explored.

KMSC is a competitive USA Swimming team serving more than 250 novice through elite-level atheletes with locations at OCCC in south Oklahoma City, The Lighthouse in northwest Oklahoma City and Mitch Park YMCA in Edmond.

The team was created in spring 2014 by longtime Oklahoma City area coaches John Brown, Kathy Mendez, and Josh Everett.

—John Brown KMSC Co-Head Coach

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## PIONEER

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**Opinions** expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's

name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at http://pioneer.occc.edu.

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# **COMMENTS AND REVIEWS**

MUSIC REVIEW | Reviewer always glad to inform about under-considered music of bygone eras

# A white rapper that time forgot

Everything old is new again. Pop music melodies are like flashbacks from my pre-teen years at the roller rink. Young people are exploring the roots of these saccharine beats that make their butts shake.

So, young people, let me tell you, there was a time before this onset of nostalgia. Not everything from the '80s and '90s is actually cool. For every Whitney Houston and Paula Abdul dance hit that trickled through the cracks and morphed into a Meghan Trainor or Ariana Grande jam, there are a thousand 3rd Bass, Snap or Technotronic songs that were left behind to fade into obscurity.

When Caucasian hip-hop artists began to emerge, it was so rare that they were novelties as rich as astronaut ice cream. Before Macklemore, Riff Raff and Iggy Azalea and even before Eminem, there were others. Some you know, like the Beastie Boys or Vanilla Ice.

But there's one white rapper that time forgot.

He came to us when we needed him most. We'd watched too much Cops and Boyz N' the Hood. The white rappers we had were suddenly too punk or too often in Ninja Turtle movies to suit our aggressive tastes. It was 1992 and suburbanites were eager to

feel oppressed by an overbearing police state. But you better believe they desperately wanted to dance too.

Then came the sound; sirens and horns — and then a voice,

"I'm sick and tired of 5-0 running up on the block. Yo Snow, they came around here looking for you the other day."

Then came the coolest three minutes of words we'd ever heard and we could barely understand a single one. What we knew though is that we had just been loved like a tornado by this amazing artist who called himself "Snow." We loved him back, immensely, for like eight months and then we forgot all about him.

When I want to dance though, while still making it perfectly clear that I am tough, I blare Snow's "Informer."

And if you listen close, you can hear a whole generation sing along, "Informer! Ya' know da stiga stuggety bookah blam! An' licky boom-boom down."

These lyrics have earned their grade.

Rating: A+

—Jorge Krzyzaniak Senior Writer

MUSIC REVIEW I Unconventional DJ rocks the chill beats to study by when all else is a distraction

# Nujabes plays the homework hits

Doing homework can be stressful and, if you're anything like me, being stressed can distract you from doing homework.

It's a vicious cycle of procrastination and stress, both of which are distracting. That's why I have to

turn to listening to music when doing homework.

But not just any music. It must be lyricless and as ambient as possible — almost like day dreaming music, except with the opposite effect.

That's why I turn to hip hop instrumentals.

Normally I would be praising the works of J Dilla, but I've recently found something arguably just as good — Nujabes.

Ironically, Nujabes was a music producer and DJ just like J Dilla, and was born on the exact same day as him. The difference, of course, is Nujabes was born in Tokyo, Japan, and Dilla was born in Detroit, Michigan. Just throwing out some fun facts. The weird part is they both died in their 30s.

Just like Dilla, Nujabes was a record store "crate digger," meaning he sampled various old jazz hooks and even introduced some cultural Japanese music



into his beats.

This resulted in some calming, chill beats with swaying jazzy loops.

I have to admit, even the tracks with lyrics are incredible.

To start things off, I recommend listening to

his second studio album "Modal Soul."

Listening to every track allows the listener to understand what kind of impression Nujabes was leaving in his music.

As cheesy as it sounds, Nujabes wasn't just making music — he was expressing pure emotion by reviving old forgotten tracks into his beats. As one YouTube commenter said, "Nujabes isn't dead. You just have to press play."

My homework sessions have become a breeze since listening to Nujabes. His music allows me to think critically and clearly, and block out most distracting thoughts.

I would definitely recommend this practice if you're needing to spend hours studying, writing, or working on any tedious projects.

And luckily, there are several playlists on YouTube



# Clickbait-free reading app

I hate social media sometimes. The thing that makes it so terrible is the mass amounts of articles I can't stop clicking on — Buzzfeed being one of the most well-known producers of these types of articles.

Buzzfeed, along with its competitors, have many annoying advertisements and interruptions within the individual pages to make navigating these pages a complete hellscape. The webpages turn into a cluster of useless junk that does not relate to the articles at all.

One beautiful, beautiful app has made my article browsing so much easier.

Pocket allows you to save articles you want to read, whether now or later, and presents them to you in a cleaned-up fashion. By this I mean it eliminates the junk on each page and gives you a simple viewing of exactly what you are looking for.

At first, I was skeptical that the app would make much of an impact on my article viewing ways, but I was sorely mistaken.

Apparently Twitter's mobile app allows you to connect to what is referred to as a "Read Later" service, which is what Pocket is. When you log in to Pocket within Twitter, you are allowing Pocket to become available as a saving option for articles.

Once you are connected with Pocket, find an article you want to save and hold the link. The option to "Send to Pocket" arrives. These are the magic words.

You can save as many articles as you please on your Pocket list. So if you are simply browsing Twitter or Google on your phone, and want to save articles for your reading pleasure before bed, it is now a simple click away. This way you won't have to worry about refreshing apps which will lose your place after you click on a link.

Unfortunately, I don't think Facebook supports "read later" apps, so Pocket does not work there. Until then, it works perfectly fine on Twitter and countless other social media apps.

—CLAYTON MITCHELL SPORTS WRITER

titled "(Homework Edit)" designed just for that purpose.

Enjoy.

Rating: A

—BRYCE McElhaney Editor 4 · MAY 1, 2015 PIONEER I PIONEER.OCCC.EDU

# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

PRODUCT REVIEW I Houston, there is a problem with LED headlights

# Bright headlights hazardous, not helpful

Let's be honest and agree that headlights are a necessity. It's dangerous to drive in the dark. They also are there to let other drivers know you are there, sharing the road with them.

But super sonic, black hole defying, blinding headlights? I am most definitely questioning the safety in those high-definition, cataract-causing lights.

The new LED and SilverStar headlights border on

I understand the desire to want to be more aware of surroundings and to see better, but blatantly blinding all those who pass seems a tad bit extreme.

I am getting headlight stunned more and more, and I'm not sure how much longer my eyes can take it.

It feels like I am the deer with the wide eyes watching that light at the end of the tunnel getting closer and closer. And, just like the deer, I'm met with the sounds of horns to get me back on my side of road after being blinded by blistering, brilliant lights. My goodness.

And those aren't even on bright. If they are, then

there are a lot of mean drivers out there, or it could just be they are the ones with cataracts and want to make evervone else suffer.

These lights are not just nocturnal either. Even driving around at high noon I am suffering from those lights.

If your headlights are bright enough to

outshine the sun, then NASA, we have a problem.

There are ways to see at night and be courteous to other drivers. Smoke them, haze them, or just get ones that aren't going to make others see spots after passing each other on the road.

Headlights are a safety feature for everybody on the road, but how safe are they if they're too bright

for other drivers to see the road they are driving on? Be nice, be kind and don't blind.

Rating: D

-KATIE AXTELL **COMMUNITY WRITER** 

**RESTAURANT REVIEW I OK donuts and bad tacos are a waste of money** 

# onut Taco serves disappointment

Donut Taco, the newest restaurant within a five- I was determined to make the best of my expensive mile radius from campus, opened about two months ago. It's conveniently located at 2209 SW 104 St. next

to Qdoba, which seems like a mistake. Let me assure you, it was.

Donut Taco sells tacos and doughnuts, not some glorious combination of the two, so before you get your hopes up, don't expect much.

I went to Donut Taco for lunch, the prime time to consume a taco or a doughnut, but the place was empty. I thought this might be a red flag, that maybe

everyone was too caught up in Qdoba to realize the hidden gem 50 feet away.

After browsing the relatively simple menu while smelling the scent of fresh doughnuts, I decided to order the Taco Lunch Special. This included two tacos with the option of chicken, steak or pulled pork, and two sides with the options of rice, beans, guacamole or sour cream and a fountain drink for \$7.49. I chose the chicken tacos with guac and sour cream.

At first, I was a little confused because sour cream and guacamole are not sides at most Mexican restaurants — they're toppings. Much to my dismay, I didn't even get chips with this so-called "lunch special," but

lunch from a donut shop.

That is, until I tasted the tacos. I was excited at

first, because they actually looked halfway decent, but once I took a bite, I knew why all the smart people went to Odoba.

The chicken wasn't flavorful and left a bad aftertaste. All of the other toppings like the tomatoes, onions and cheese were decent, but didn't taste very fresh.

However, they were much better than the chicken.

I ended up scooping all the chicken off and piling

it high with guac, sour cream and leaving the other mediocre toppings.

With every bite I took, I thought about Qdoba's wonderful tacos, their chips, queso, and free guac and sour cream.

Qdoba, I promise I will never choose any other fast Mexican restaurant but you. And Daylight Donuts, you are still my favorite for doughnuts.

Donut Taco has OK doughnuts and bad tacos. Don't waste your money.

Rating: D-

-Lauren Daniel ONLINE EDITOR

# **TOP 20 MOVIES**

Weekend of April 24 through April 26 www.newyorktimes.com

- 1. Furious 7
- 2. Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 3. The Age of Adeline
- 4. Home
- 5. Unfriended
- 6. Ex Machina
- 7. The Longest Ride
- 8. Get Hard
- 9. Monkey Kingdom
- 10. Woman in Gold
- 11. The Divergent Series:

Insurgent \_

- 12. Cinderella
- 13. Little Boy
- 14. The Water Diviner
- 15. True Story
- 16. While We're Young
- 17. Kingsman: The Secret

Service

- 18. Danny Collins
- 19. American Sniper
- 20. It Follows

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# Former Gov. Nigh discusses state song and more

TIMOTHY SMITH
News Writing Student

"Oklahoma!" was not always the official state song, although it's the only one most OCCC students have ever heard.

In his speech on campus April 16, former Gov. George Nigh outlined his strategy in the Legislature to replace an earlier tune with the Rodgers and Hammerstein version so widely known today.

He thought the song "Oklahoma!" portrayed the beauty of the state.

"I was very concerned with what people saw when they heard the word — what was their image — when they heard 'Oklahoma."

This was said during his Public Affairs Forum speech in the Visual Performing Arts Center atrium. Nigh, at age 87, was the second in a series of former Oklahoma governors slated to share their experiences in office with students on campus.

Nigh described a time when he was listening to the number one hits on the radio in 1943.

"Wow! The number one song they were singing was about — our state," Nigh said.

"The number one in America, the number one in Broadway production, the number one worldwide production on the stage was 'Oklahoma!"

Immediately he thought

When you run for office, you have to ask 'what do people see?' In politics and life, remember there's reality. Don't let the voters be too surprised when they see the real thing. ."

-GEORGE NIGH FORMER STATE GOVERNOR

that should be Oklahoma's state song.

Nigh was a member of the Legislature in 1953. He described the great lengths he went to in order to convince other legislators to pass the bill for the state song, knowing that he would be displacing an existing song written by a pioneer that was a sentimental favorite with traditionalists.

Nigh brought in Ridge Bond from Tulsa, who had starred in the Broadway production of "Oklahoma!," to sing the tune to the lawmakers after the Oklahoma College for Women's choir sang other pieces from the musical. It had the effect he had hoped for.

"And that's how I passed the bill," Nigh said.

He said he believes the state song has enhanced Oklahoma's image around the nation and the world.

"Image is important," he said. Nigh served as lieutenant governor for 16 years and as governor four times. He said he had served twice as interim governor, for a total of 14 days, before he was elected in 1978 and served two terms, a total of eight years.

Nigh told how former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Carl Albert, once recommended him.

"I endorse George Nigh for governor of Oklahoma," Albert said.

"Now you must remember, he won't be the most intelligent governor we've ever had, but he'll be the smartest."

OCCC Vice President Jerry Steward said Nigh was loved by the people during his time as governor. During Nigh's election, he carried all 77 Oklahoma counties.

"He is the only governor in our history that has carried all 77 counties in an election," Steward said.

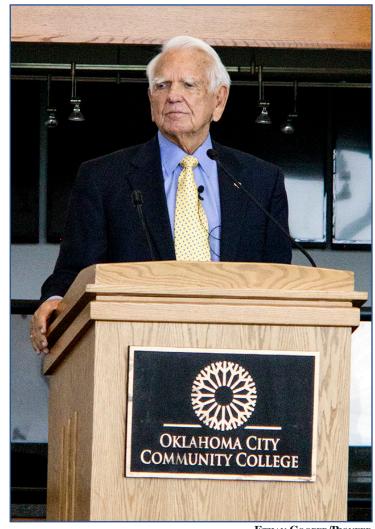
Nigh's concern for "image" and "reality" was a theme he came back to.

"I'm a professional politician," said Nigh. "When you run for office, you have to ask 'what do people see?'

"In politics and in life, remember there's reality. Don't let the voters be too surprised when they see the real thing."

Steward added, "I've known Nigh for decades; the private George Nigh is just like the public George Nigh."

The audience showed their appreciation to Nigh by standing and singing the song



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

In his speech on campus April 16, former Gov. George Nigh outlined his strategy in the Legislature to replace an earlier tune with the Rodgers and Hammerstein version of "Oklahoma" so widely known today.

"Oklahoma!"

OCCC will have another Public Affairs Forum in the fall semester featuring former Gov. Frank Keating.

For more information go to occc.edu/paforum or call 405-682-7590.

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# Bookstore plans buyback May 11 through 16

JORDAN JENKINS News Writing Student

With the end of the semester coming, students are calculating how to get the best price for their used textbooks.

The average student spends \$1,200 a year on books and supplies in the U.S., the College Board estimates. That's \$600 a semester which can set back a college student's budget by quite a bit.

Typically, students will receive no more than 50 percent of a book's original value when the buyback season begins, said Brenda Reinke, OCCC Bookstore director.

Reinke said not all books will be bought back. She

said there are a few deciding factors.

One is if the textbook has been discontinued, she said. If a book is not going to be used again, the bookstore will not be buying the book back from students.

Reinke said the bookstore receives a list of books from all of the departments, listing what books will be used again to help them make that determination.

Also, the bookstore has a target number of used books it will purchase, she said. If the quota for the book has been met, the bookstore won't buy any more.

Public Relations major Tyler Block said he will be selling his books.

"I try and sell my textbooks back to the bookstore

at the end of the year," he said. "If they aren't bought back, they usually collect dust in my closet."

Those who rented textbooks are in a different situation because they will not receive money for the books they return.

Sociology major Blessing Ikpa said she rents her books because she likes the end of the semester to be hassle free.

"Renting is the cheaper option for me and I don't have to worry about whether or not I'll get money back," she said.

"All I have to do is return the book to the bookstore and be on my way."

The OCCC Bookstore will have their buyback program during the last week of classes, May 11 through 16.

For more information, call 405-682-7510.

# Students have numerous options for selling textbooks

**CLAYTON MITCHELL** Sports Writer

sports writer sportswriter@occc.edu

While OCCC's bookstore is a great option for textbook buyback, there are other options available for students as well.

One of the most readily available options besides the bookstore is actually nearby, also on the first floor of the Main Building.

The OCCC Buy and Sell book board is next to the Main Building's first floor elevator.

The board has folders containing "for sale" and "wanted" cards for students to fill out and pin to the board.

Information includes the book title, authors, course and section numbers, date of posting, and student emails.

There also are many options available outside of OCCC.

One of OCCC's closest neighbors is Textbook Brokers at 7445 S. May Ave.

This store is one location of a chain, but this location works specifically with OCCC students to give them the best buyback for their books, said Manager Brice Varbel.

While books must be in good condition to be received, a larger variety of books are accepted by the store, including instructor and annotated instructor editions, international editions, and even the loose-leaf textbooks.

While the loose-leaf books will only garner up to 20 percent buyback of the original price, they still are an option and an item the OCCC bookstore does not buy back.

"We're trying to give the students money for something that usually wouldn't be worth anything," Varbel said.

"We take a lot of risk on it, but it's something that you would just have to throw out once you leave a class."

One option offered by the store that OCCC's bookstore does not is the ability to receive price quotes for buybacks by email.

All that is needed for a quote by email is the book's title and ISBN code, and within 24 hours a response will come for what the book is worth in buyback amount.

"You would (want to) email us as much information as you can on the book," Varbel said.

"If you have the ISBN number directly off the book, that's the easiest way to do it, because that'll pull up all the information we need.

"But if you can't find the ISBN number you can just email us the title and author and edition.

"If someone emails us, we give them mostly an estimate. It's just a way for people to get an idea before they come in, like if they live far away, and they just want to get some information beforehand.

"But we have to see what we're buying. It's not something you would know without our computer system telling us what a book has with it. And that helps on quoting a price."

For the tech savvy, the Internet also has many options.

At the local level, Facebook offers a viable option.

A Facebook page called "UCO/ROSE/OSUOKC/OU/OCCC etc text books and materials" is available for students to discuss selling or purchasing textbooks.

Despite the title, the discussion is primarily between OCCC students.

On a wider scale, students can use big websites such as Amazon and eBay.

On Amazon, students can get up to 80 percent buyback on textbooks in their database.

The drawback is, all buyback money is given back to the seller in the form of Amazon credits on a gift card.

Students also can sell the book with a seller's account and be paid outright. This includes books not listed in Amazon's buyback database.

EBay even has a specific website for selling physical media, including text-

books, called Half.com, which allows users to list a textbook instantly by entering its ISBN number.

Much like Textbook Brokers, students can compare prices to get the best return on textbooks at www. bookfinder.com.

The website boasts that a person can find books with just one search.

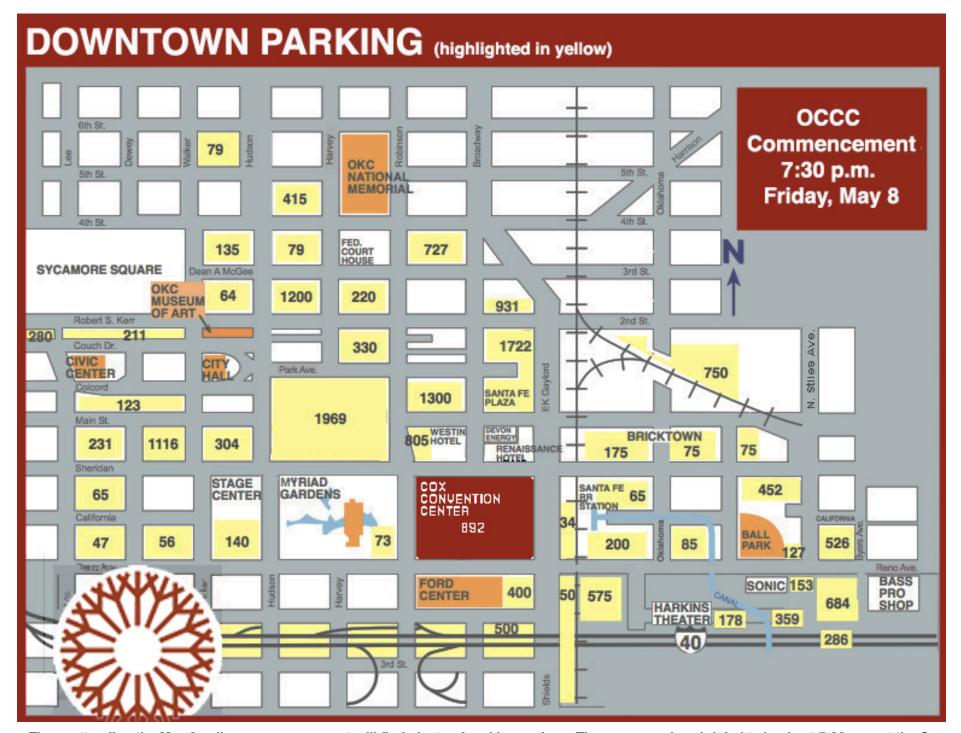
"Since 1997, BookFinder has made it easy to find any book at the best price. Whether you want the cheapest reading copy or a specific collectible edition, with BookFinder, you'll find just the right book," the site reads.

"BookFinder.com searches the inventories of over 100,000 booksellers worldwide, accessing millions of books in just one simple step."

Users can search by ISBN or by author, title and publication year.



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Those attending the May 8 college commencement will find plenty of parking options. The ceremony is schduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Cox Convention Center at 1 Myriad Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/graduation.

# OCCC: President Sechrist ready to send grads into the future

Continued from page 1

the installation ceremony, I was asked to give the commencement address.

"So with this year's commencement being my last as president, having me give the keynote address means a great deal to me personally. I am deeply honored by the opportunity.

"Like the speech given in my first year as president, it will focus on the graduates and their moment of celebration," Sechrist said of the speech.

"I plan to offer comments of congratulations, commend them for their hard work and accomplishments, and offer some advice based on my own experience that may help them continue to be successful and happy in life."

And although the night's ceremony will be Sechrist's final formal address to OCCC's grads, he said he wants the focus to remain on the students, their achievement and their futures.

"I want to make sure that the evening is not about a president who is retiring," he said, "but about the OCCC students who are graduating." For more information about I consider this speech another opportunity — my last as president — to once again remind everyone of the mission of OCCC to empower our students to achieve."

—Paul Sechrist OCCC President

the Commencement ceremony or to watch the ceremony live, visit www.occc.edu/graduation.



**OCCC President Paul Sechrist** 

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# **SPORTS**

## A quick workout



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Sociology major Damon Taylor exercises on April 22 in the fitness area located in OCCC's Wellness Center. "I'm just trying to get a quick workout in," Taylor said. The center provides numerous fitness areas free to students with a valid OCCC ID. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness. html.

SPORTS I Students can choose classes in a variety of styles from ballet to West Coast Swing

# Dance classes open for all experience levels

**CLAYTON MITCHELL** 

Sports Writer sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC's Recreation and Fitness department wants to make dance instruction — from beginning to advanced available to more students, said dance and fitness instructor

Hobi said this has being accomplished by adding a variety of dance classes to the group fitness classes already offered by the college.

"The message I would like to get out is that anyone who is interested in dance — we have a place for them to dance," she said. "The problem is 99 percent of people think they're not plearned in the Social Dance Class. Instructor permission is good enough, and they're going to the be worst one there. It's just really hard to get people over that idea."

Classes being offered include Ballet I, Theatrical Dance, Power Dance, Social Dance and West Coast Swing.

The Ballet I class follows a traditional ballet format, Hobi said, and can provide physical conditioning to the core and lower body. The class meets at 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

She said the Theatrical Dance class centralizes all dance techniques used in theater. It is grounded in ballet and contemporary dance techniques. Hobi said it is the only class in which previous dance training (in ballet, jazz and/ or modern dance) is suggested. Classes are held 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

The Power Dance class consists of contemporary jazz as well as strong dance moves and dance conditioning, including foundational gymnastics for acrobatic dance, Hobi said.

No prior training is necessary for the class, but space for the class is becoming limited. The class meets from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. on Tuesdays.

The Social Dance class, originally teaching Latin and country dance, will start a new series in two-step and West Coast Swing April 28. The class meets from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Tuesdays.

The West Coast Swing class advances upon the foundations required before starting this class. It meets on from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays.

Performance groups stemming from the Power Dance class (OKC Dance Crew) and Theatrical Dance class (Dance Theatre OKC) also have been formed, and require no additional performance fees, Hobi said.

Classes are \$15 for every five class periods. For more information on these classes, contact Hobi at elizabeth.hobi@ gmail.com, or for all group fitness classes, contact Health and Fitness Specialist Carole Valentine at carole.m.valentine@ occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7662.

## **EVENT NEWS**

**SPRING 2015:** 

- Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the Aquatic Center free of charge. The Aquatic Center features two pools, and an 181/2ft. 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.
- 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.
- The Recreation & Fitness Center is open to students, faculty, staff and community members. The center features a 15,000-squarefoot 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 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.

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# Harassment, lost college property reported to police CAMPUS CAMPUS

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

Recent incident reports show an incident where one student harassed another, and another student reported missing college equipment.

On April 17, a student who works in the Communications Lab asked campus police to investigate several incidents where she has felt harassed and threatened by another student.

According to the report, the unnamed student has made several unwanted advances throughout the semester toward the student worker whose name also was redacted from the report.

The student worker said she refused the advances and told the man his behavior was making her uncomfortable. Witnesses reported that created a change in the student's tone and demeanor at these times.

"He used a more direct and demanding tone of voice" and "his facial expression appeared angry," witnesses reported. The victim reported she felt "weakened, demeaned and threatened" by one particular exchange, according to the report. Another witness reported feeling threatened and said she had been called "bitch" by the man.

Multiple student workers and witnesses were interviewed by police on April 17 and further interviews were scheduled to take place at a later date, according to the report. Comm Lab Supervisor Lynnette Bloomberg said she witnessed her employee crying and has been interviewed by police but, because of an ongoing investigation, could not comment.

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

Another case is still active after Whitson Israel Lee Crynes, 20, reported losing two pieces of college property from the bed of his pickup.

According to the report, the student checked out several pieces of equipment from the Film and Video Production department on April 8. After attempting to fit all of the equipment into the cab of his truck and reportedly finding that it would not fit, a tripod and a light kit were placed in the truck bed.

Area surveillance video showed the equipment was in the bed of the truck as the student left campus.

The student told police when he arrived home he discovered his tailgate had come open and the equipment was gone.

The student reported he drove back to campus along the same route but was unable to locate the equipment.

The student did file a claim with his automobile insurance company for the malfunctioning tailgate.

The lost light kit is a Mole-Richardson Betweenie 4 light Combo Pro Kit with an estimated value of \$5,354.

Anyone with any information about these missing items is encouraged to contact the campus police department at 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

Names were redacted on 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.

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.

# Book: OCCC Reads to focus on water waste, conservation

Continued from page 1

other librarians reach out to faculty and encourage them to use the book in their classes.

"We're trying non-fiction because we believe in water and want people to know that when they waste water, it is gone and there is no way to get it back," she said.

"It is a supply that is running low and a lot of places around the world don't have it, so we are hoping to raise awareness and have people get involved and be aware of the issue."

Sweany said anyone can participate in the OCCC Reads program and more people are expected to participate this

Instead of having events only in October about the book "Water Matters," Sweany said, they will be having two or three events per month throughout the academic year. These events may include special guests and members of the faculty.

Sweany said they also have

reached out to OCCC's Facilities Management Department to do a program or event about water and water sustainability at OCCC — what the college's water usage is and what the college is doing to conserve water.

"Everyone, so far, we have asked to do programs is very excited," Sweany said.

"They very much believe in water as the topic and raising awareness to faculty, staff, and students who may not realize we have a water crisis coming.

"We have one faculty member talking about water ethics and one who might be talking about where water comes

Librarians also have talked to people from the city and from state agencies who deal with water every day, asking them to talk to people about water.

"The great thing about this book is it's an anthology," she said. "It has pictures and short chapters on different topics.

"Water Matters' is just a really good book."

This program is suggested to all students, faculty, and staff.

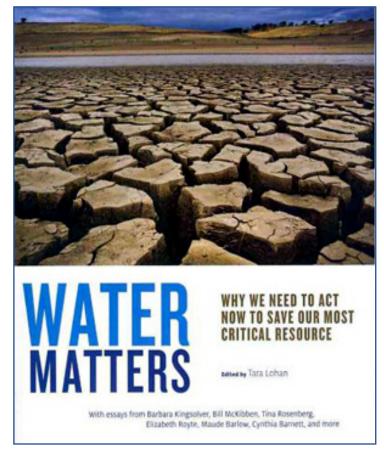
"It's a really great program," Sweany said.

"The Community Read is (designed) to bring everyone together and read this one book on one topic."

Copies of the book for the 2015-2016 OCCC Reads program will be available in the OCCC library in the fall.

Faculty members who want books for their classroom can email Sweany at tricia.l.sweany@occc.edu, and she will send a classroom set.

The college library has chosen "Water Matters: Why We Need to Act Now to Save Our Most Precious Resource" as next academic year's selection for the OCCC Reads Program, said Librarian Tricia Sweany.



Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail the editor at

editor@occc.edu

Let your voice be heard!

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# **CAMPUS COMMUNITY**

## **Sweet Money**



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Bake sale customer Brandy Huff donates some change to Student EMS Association members Rowdy Nagle, Tom Watkins and Ryan Costiloe on April 15. "We are hosting a bake sale today and we are trying to raise funds so our club can do more activities," Watkins said.

**COMMUNITY I** Students both happy and sad with upcoming commencement

# **Graduates leave with excitement**

KATIE AXTELL

Community Writer communitywriter@occc.edu

With OCCC graduation just a few weeks away, a sense of accomplishment is what diversified studies graduate Chris Green said he is feeling.

"Being able to graduate next month is pretty exciting," he said. "It's like another stepping stone to help with my career.

"I'm sad to leave OCCC, but I feel good about transferring out and being ready for a larger university."

Green said he isn't yet sure which university he will attend, but is confident the education he's received at OCCC will help him succeed in whichever one he chooses.

Business major Ashley Campbell said while she also is sad to leave OCCC, she is ready.

"I've been coming here for almost three years, so finally being able to graduate is a relief," she said. "Even though it's still just the start of my college education, I feel like now that I've finished



the first hurdle I can finish what I hope to get.

"I really love this school, and graduating is going to be bittersweet, but I know the professors here have given me as much as they could to prepare me for what the future holds."

Green and Campbell are just two of the 844 graduation candidates hoping to walk at the commencement ceremony.

Campbell said she was glad she attended OCCC.

"When I first started here, I wasn't sure how much it could do for me, but I am really pleased with my experience," she said.

"This school is definitely a great place ... and I would recommend it to anyone."

Green said he agrees with Campbell.

"If I had to do it all over again I would pick OCCC without a doubt," he said. "The professors are great, and the different labs to get help with homework are friendly and extremely helpful."

Graduates can still purchase their caps and gowns in the campus bookstore for \$35 until 5 p.m. May 8

OCCC will host graduation ceremonies at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8 at the Cox Convention Center at 1 Myriad Garden, downtown.

For family and friends unable to make it to graduation, the ceremony will be available via a live stream on the OCCC website at www.occc.edu.

For more information about graduation, contact the Graduation Office at 405-682-7519 or Graduation Assistant Silvia Youngblood at silvia.c.youngblood@occc.edu or 405-682-7470.

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

## Paul Gruber to give pronounciation workshop

Speech Language Pathologist Paul Gruber is conducting a pronunciation workshop from 9 a.m. to noon and from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 5 and Wednesday, May 6, in CU1, 2 and 3. Admission is free for all students, educators and professionals. Registration is required. For more information, contact ESL Coordinator Anthony Tyrrell at atyrrell@occc.edu or 405-682-7873.

#### 'The Cherry Orchard' on stage at May 1 and 2

"The Cherry Orchard" by Anton Checkhov is showing at 7:30 p.m. from April 30 through May 2 in the Bruce Owen Theater. Student tickets are \$5 and \$10 for general admission. For more information, contact Arts Division Secretary Jessica De Arman at jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu or 405-686-6278.

#### **OCCC Jazz Band performing in theater**

The OCCC Jazz Band will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free. For more information, contact Arts Division Secretary Jessica De Arman at jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu or 405-686-6278.

#### Women's scholarship taking applications

The Women of the South Primary Provider Scholarship is now taking applications for women who are the primary financial provider for their household. Recipients of the scholarship will receive funding to help them obtain an associate degree from OCCC. For more information, contact Joyce Mauldin at 405-691-4770 or Linda Carr at 405-919-1146.

#### Graduation Ceremony at Cox Convention Center

This year's graduation ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8, at at the Cox Convention Center at 1 Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. For more information, contact the Graduate Service Office at 405-682-1611 ext. 7470 or or Graduation Assistant Silvia Youngblood at silvia.c.youngblood@occc.edu or 405-682-7470.

#### 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 or 405-682-1611.

#### **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 or club president Kaie Huizar at kaie. huizar@gmail.com.

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

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# CLASSIFIEI

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.

## UTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1997 Isuzu 4x4 Trooper; 5-sp. Runs great. Body in GC. Leather seats, CD player, premium speakers, Draw Tight hitch system can pull 5k pounds. Power

windows need repair. High miles. One owner. \$1,900. 405-812-4082.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: 19" CRT television in working condition. \$25. Text 405-818-0083.

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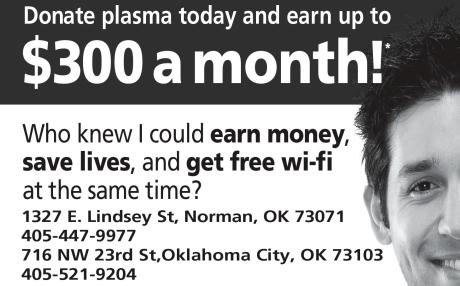
## WEEKLY CROSSWORD

- 1. Anklebone
- 6. Highest point
- 10. Midmonth date
- 14. Warning signal 15. Cat-o'-nine-tails
- Whimper
- 17. Light teasing
- 19. Urgent request
- 20. Unruffled
- 21. Fury
- 22. Acquire deservedly
- 23. Doglike nocturnal mammal
- 26. Sneaker or pump 30. Anagram of "Russet"
- 32. Designate
- 35. An apparition 39. Mysterious
- 40. Give 41. A breed of dog
- 43. Baked clay 44. Not awake
- 46. Deficiency
- 47. Critical
- Assumed name
- 53. Hindu princess
- 54. Calypso offshoot 55. Spin
- 60. Savvy about 61. Water-soluble pigment
- 63. Principal
- 64. How old we are 65. Australian "bear"
- 66. Beers
- 67. What we sleep on
- 68. Sleighs

#### DOWN

- 1. Faucets
- 2. Away from the wind
- Piecrust ingredient
- 4. Constellation bear
- 5. Metalworker
- 6. Hole-making tool
- Metal shackles 8. Change places
- 9. Type of sword
- 10. Emotionless
- 12. Decorative jugs
- 13. Tilt 18. Effeminate
- 24. Startled cry 25. House style
- 26. Oceans
- 27. Stringed instrument 28. Killer whale
- 29. Emissions 31. Go on horseback
- 33. Licoricelike flavor
- 34. Bobbin
- 36. Tibetan monk
- 37. Ear-related
- 38. Between the head and
- shoulders

- Consumer Price Index
  - 45. Jubilant
  - 47. Fragrance
  - 48. Artificial waterway
  - 49. Loosen, as laces
  - 51. Arrive (abbrev.) 52. Hosiery
  - 54. Q-Tip
  - 56. Anagram of "Loot" 57. Wings
  - 58. Informed
  - 59. Historical periods
  - 62. S





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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.

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# English professor bids adieu to OCCC

BRYCE MCELHANEY Editor editor@occc.edu

nglish professor Bertha Wise will retire in May after 25 years

Wise said she sees life as an adventure, finding new and interesting things all the time — "as cliché as that sounds."

"I'm off on a trip in early June to go to Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria with a friend, and later in the summer, I'll be up in New York to visit family for a couple weeks," she said.

Though Wise will no longer be a regular faculty member, she will still be teaching a couple of online courses at OCCC as an adjunct.

Wise has been teaching a list of courses at OCCC since 1991, but has primarily taught English. She said through her 25-year career, she was acting dean twice, English and Humanities department chair and taught many courses.

Wise taught English Comp I and II, Introduction to Literature, World Literature, English Literature, Poetry and Short Story Writing, Philosophy and Ethics.

"Any of the literature classes are very interesting to teach.

You get to reread things you want to know more about or have read before, because they're really significant works ... It's interesting to help students find those new ideas that maybe they have never encountered before."

Wise began her path to teaching English after she attained her master's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, she said.

From there, she started adjuncting around local colleges, like OSU-OKC, Rose State College, UCO, and finally at OCCC, which led her to becoming a full-time staff member.

"I've been very lucky to get a full-time job here, and I've been here ever since," she said.

"Compared to other places, this institution is probably the most supportive of faculty and students — that's the primary goal, to provide the best courses and experience."

Teaching English isn't the only thing she undertook as a professor, she said.

"I've taught Classical and Medieval Humanities, Modern Humanities — those two primarily, although I've [also] taught Mythology.

"Teaching English and Humanities was always the main



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

English professor Bertha Wise will retire after 25 years at OCCC. Wise said she plans to do some traveling. "I'm off on a trip in early June to go to Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria with a friend, and later in the summer, I'll be up in New York to visit family for a couple weeks," she said.

component of what I was doing," Wise said.

Students who want to go into teaching English should remember it's not just being able to read and write, she said, but also to be able to convey the excitement.

"They should be able to ... convey that enthusiasm for that

particular discipline, whether it's for writing, or they're teaching literature," she said.

When asked about her words to live by, Wise pointed to a sticker on her desk, which said "Keep Calm and Ask a Librarian."

"I think there's something to be said about keeping calm and to think [things] through," she said.

"If you're faced with difficulty or a challenge, you think it through to figure out some solution to whatever the challenge or problem is.

"I've always been someone who seems to have an ease with finding solutions to problems."

# Student newspaper brings home 28 awards

KATIE AXTELL

Community Writer communitywriter@occc.edu

Pioneer staff received more than 28 awards during the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association 2015 Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon at the Oklahoma State University April 3.

Pioneer Senior Writer Jorge Krzyzaniak said he was not surprised at the number of awards.

"We work really hard to put out a good product and it was reflected at the ceremony," he said.

Online Editor Lauren Daniel was awarded Journalist of the Year for a 2-year college.

"I was really excited and very humbled," she said. "Out of [the many] who entered, I won. I have been working here for about five semesters so just

to see all my hard work and time be rewarded is awesome."

Pioneer Videographer Jake McMahon won his first award ever.

"Winning felt amazing," he said. "I've never won an award before, but even if I had, this would still feel good."

#### Awards and recipients are: Bryce McElhaney Pioneer Editor:

- 1st Place, Reporting Portfolio
- 3rd Place, Feature Writing
- 3rd Place, General News Writing

#### Jorge Krzyzaniak Pioneer Senior Writer:

- 1st Place, Sports Reporting
- 2nd Place, Sports Reporting
- 1st Place, Feature Writing
- 1st Place, Column Writing
- 1st Place, Reviews

#### Lauren Daniel Pioneer Online Editor:

- Journalist of the Year, 2-year schools
- 1st Place, Investigative Reporting
- —2nd Place, Feature Writing
- 2nd Place, General News Writing
- 3rd Place, Reviews

3rd Place, Feature Photography

Honorable Mention, Column Writing

### Ethan Cooper Pioneer Photographer:

- 1st Place, Feature Photography
- 2nd Place, Feature Photography
- 1st Place, News Photography
- 1st Place, Photography Portfolio
- 1st Place, Sports Photography
  Hangrable Mention Sports Pho
- Honorable, Mention Sports Photography

#### Jake McMahon

### Pioneer Videographer:

- 2nd Place, Column Writing
- Honorable Mention, Reviews

## Nathan Scroggins Pioneer Cartoonist:

- 1st Place, Cartoons
- 2nd Place, Cartoons

#### Candice Shafer

## Former Pioneer Community Writer:

— 1st place, General News Writing Along with the individual awards, the Pioneer won second place for overall paper in the two-year schools category and first place for online paper in the open category.

OCMA awards are given to student media colleges and universities in Oklahoma. This year, 15 colleges attended from across the state.

According to the website, ocms.okstate.edu, its purpose is to promote and improve student media at Oklahoma's colleges and universities.

For more information about OCMA, visit http://ocma.okstate.edu.