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## EDITORIAL

NETWORKING  
CRUCIAL FOR  
FUTURE GRADS

Editor Bryce McElhaney says students need to do a great deal of networking during their college years. Read his thoughts inside.

**OPINION, p. 2**

## NEWS

GRADUATES  
WAVE GOODBYE  
TO OCCC

Turn to pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 for a special graduation section. Included is coverage of the May 8 graduation ceremony, photos and a complete graduate list.

**NEWS, p. 7, 8, 9, 10**

## SPORTS

SUMMER  
RECREATION  
CAMPS SET

Children ages 6 through 12 can attend one of the college's many summer camps. For more information about the camps, turn inside.

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## COMMUNITY

NEW STUDENT  
ORIENTATION  
SCHEDULED

Several New Student Orientation sessions are scheduled over the summer months. To find out more about those dates and what to expect at the sessions, turn to page 14.

**COMMUNITY, p. 14**



# OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER

MAY 8, 2015

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

## It's hammer time



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Film and Video Production majors Zach Kley, Haden Tolbert, Tyler Frederickson and Jeffery Wade work together to build a set for their Production Design class on April 22 in OCCC's VPAC Theater. "We are building a set of a 1920's bar," Kley said.

## College degree paves road to success

### Devery Youngblood recalls shaky educational start

**DARLA KILHOFFER**  
News Writing Student

The college Board of Regents recognized Devery Youngblood on April 27 for his service as a regent and presented him with a framed proclamation, thanking him for his dedication to the board.

Then he was sworn in to serve a full seven-year term, after being reappointed by Gov. Mary Fallin.

Youngblood served the remaining four years of Dave Lopez's term when Lopez was appointed as Secretary of

Commerce.

Youngblood said he chose to be a regent, which is a volunteer position, because of the students.

"I've never enjoyed anything as much as this board and the reason is you guys: the students," Youngblood said.

Though his commitment to higher education is significant, Youngblood said it has not always been that way in his life.

He said he identifies with college students in many respects.

"The students here remind me of me," Youngblood said.

"I was a first-generation college student. I had no encouragement to go to school.

"The first time I tried it I

bombed out, to be honest.

"I went to a university, but I didn't see any purpose behind it. My grades went down quickly because I didn't care.

"I didn't have any real track record but that of a dropout. It was only later that I realized I

wasn't going to get to do anything I really wanted to do unless I had a degree."

Youngblood first attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

See **YOUNGBLOOD** page 13

## Testing Center sets hours for finals week

**CHRISTY MONTENEGRO**  
News Writing Student

Finals week in the Testing Center starts out busy and gets busier, said Linda Little, director of Testing and Assessment at OCCC. On average, about

4,000 tests are administered during finals week, Little said.

To accommodate students, the Testing Center will be offering extended hours during finals week. Monday through Friday, May

See **FINALS** page 13



# OPINION

**EDITORIAL** | Editor says take advantage of resources and become useful to others

## Network with peers, take initiative

I'll start this thing off by apologizing, because this is going to be cheesy. Seeing this is my very last editorial for the Pioneer, I wanted to leave some words of advice to my peers at OCCC. I've attended OCCC since fall of 2012 and it's been a ride, and it has been quick. Peers, this college is full of opportunities — not only for learning, but for networking. I cannot stress



**BRYCE  
McELHANEY**

enough how important it is to network with fellow students and professors. These people can help you out in many ways, and will if you're nice enough to them.

According to artofmanliness.com, here are a few tips on learning to network:

"Be cognizant of your image and reputation." I have to say, dressing nicely and maintaining a perfectly groomed beard has

gotten me places. Okay, not really, but people take you more seriously when you look professional. Showing up to an interview like you just woke up and mowed your lawn isn't the way to go.

"Offer to work for free," a concept many people disagree with, but I've offered to work for free on projects I wasn't familiar with and learned something new in the process.

In fact, basically any Jake McMahon film you see

from here out, I acted in for free — with the exception of a paid iHop dinner (thanks Jake).

But that's the exception — make sure you're only working for free on something that can offer you new insight. You may not get paid, but you'll earn some knowledge.

Last, "adopt the right mindset," which means learning how to become valuable to the people you meet. I've developed a motto recently, "be valuable to me, and I promise I will be valuable to you."

It's important to let people know that you're a valuable asset to their team or network. Everyone is in search for information, or somebody who knows things they do not, and in that way, information truly is power.

In the end, it's all about who you know. If you play your cards right and talk to the right folks, you'll find yourself in a group of talented and eccentric human beings like I have.

Also, take advantage of your resources. The college has many which are available to you all semester.

But more than using the college resources, find your own resources. Create a project with your peers that can impact your community.

I've learned recently in economics, it's all about marginal benefit above marginal cost. Ask yourself, are you benefiting from your life activities more than the cost? If not, do something about it.

As much as it pains me to say, keep an agenda.



Staying organized is a crucial part of being successful. I've learned to utilize my iPhone calendar and alarms so much that it's pretty much how I get most things done, because I'm a forgetful person.

Finally, don't ever be afraid.

Honestly, do not fear anything when it comes to becoming successful. Success isn't something that just happens — it's a practice, or a craft which anyone can master.

Forget every single insecurity or fear you have about meeting people or doing things, because the truth is, nobody has any idea what they're doing to an extent.

There is an empowerment that comes with letting go of your doubts and I'm passing that secret on to you, because I want you to be successful, to be valuable, and to not be afraid to take control of your situation.

—**BRYCE McELHANEY**  
EDITOR

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR** | 'Brief Garland' showing scheduled for May 12

## OKC public library celebrates author's life with movie

**To the Editor:**

The Southwest Oklahoma City Public Library, located on 2201 SW 134th St., celebrates the life and works of author Harold Keith with a movie showing based upon his book "Brief Garland" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 12.

The book was remade in 2006 into a film by Robert Collector and is based on a true story from a 1960s Oklahoma town and the dreams of a local basketball coach.

Keith's accomplishments are wide-ranging, from

being the University of Oklahoma's first Sports Information Director to publishing more than 20 books for children and adults.

He received the Newbery award for children's literature in 1958 for his Civil War novel "Rifles for Watie."

Keith was honored during a ceremony May 3 at Norman Public Library Central, in which the library was designated as a national Literary Landmark.

The designation is due to the display of the Newbery medal in the children's department of the library, where it has resided since 1993.

Robert Collector, director and screenplay writer for the film, gave permission for the library and others in the Pioneer Library System to show the film.

The Harold Keith festivities are sponsored by the Pioneer Library System, Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma and the Friends of the Norman Public Library.

For more information on this or any of the programs and services of the library, call 979-2200 or go online to [www.pioneerlibrarysystem.org/sokc](http://www.pioneerlibrarysystem.org/sokc).

—**CHRISTIAN POTTS**  
PIONEER LIBRARY

**PIONEER**

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

name if the request is made in writing.

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

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to [editor@occc.edu](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

**PRODUCT REVIEW |** A quick breakfast on-the-go from the campus bookstore wows with deliciousness

## Bookstore nutbar proves KIND

Typically, I eat breakfast every day, or at least make an effort to eat something before lunch.

One Thursday morning, I had left my house in a rush and started running dangerously low on energy due to the fact that I ran out the door without my usual smoothie. So, I walked down to the college bookstore to find something to hold me over until lunch.

At first, I walked down the junk food aisle with the Pop Tarts, cookies and cereal. I was reaching for the chocolate peanut butter Pop Tarts when all of a sudden, my conscience told me to put them down and keep walking.

I went to the other side of the aisle where the healthier food is kept and made a decision to choose something. I looked through the choices feeling disappointed and knowing I wouldn't get the same satisfaction as a Pop Tart.

Then, I saw it — the KIND Peanut Butter Dark Chocolate + Protein Bar. I had heard the company name in the news recently because the FDA claims they aren't actually healthy due to the amount of saturated fat from the nuts in the bars.

This sounded like the perfect combination of

unhealthy and healthy to make me a happy person until lunch. I paid more than \$2 for the bar and went on my way.

I sat down to eat the bar, bracing myself for disappointment and mediocre taste, but when I took that first bite, all of my worries faded away. It was crunchy, chewy, nutty, chocolatey — everything a great bar should be.



It has peanuts, almonds, walnuts, cashews, peanut butter, brazil nuts, honey and other ingredients that you can actually recognize, unlike other regular granola bars. KIND bars are

also non-GMO, have natural ingredients and have seven grams of protein per bar.

I felt great eating something healthy even if the FDA disapproves. And stayed full until lunch time. I purposely forgot my breakfast the next day so I could eat one again. Be kind to yourself and eat a KIND bar.

To learn about more of their products and find where KIND Snacks are sold near you, visit [www.kindsnacks.com](http://www.kindsnacks.com).

**Rating: A**

—LAUREN DANIEL  
ONLINE EDITOR

**RESTAURANT REVIEW |** Reviewer critical of terminology concedes Edmond can put out a decent pizza

## Humble Pie too cocky about pizza

The greatest tragedy of our time is the phrase, “authentic Chicago style.”

It's thrown about willy-nilly by every crook with a hotdog or circle of dough.

I've put it to the test all over. Almost always, it's resulted in grave disappointment and frustration.

I order \$60 deep dish pizzas from Chicago's Giordano's or Lou Malnati's. They're shipped on dry ice to my doorstep. So, I've kept my pizza standards high but I keep an open mind too.

Humble Pie in Edmond was touted as the legit, Chicago-style pizza place of Oklahoma. I was skeptical.

There are two signs above the counter, “Authentic Chicago Style” and “Genuine New York Style.” These two things are sworn enemies. Any place claiming to have mastered both understands neither.

I ordered a “Chicago style” deep-dish pizza and paid roughly \$25 for something just slightly larger than a traditional apple pie. It was carved into eight small slices about a third the size of a Giordano's slice.

I was disappointed not only by the area of the slices but more by their depth. The bulk of each slice ran



about a half inch deep. This is about the size of the layer of sausage you'd find spanning the entire bottom portion of a deep dish in Chicago. Otherwise though, the actual makeup of the pizza looked right.

The sauce was above the cheese, the cheese was white and dense, and the crust was flaky and crisp — and the exact color I'd hoped for.

The flavors of Humble Pie's deep dish were on point. The cheese blend was worthy in taste and texture. Their signature sauce was delicious authentic. The crust tasted like it should but was unnecessarily thick for only holding up the wimpy mass of ingredients above, thus overwhelming the other flavors a bit.

I support the local efforts nevertheless. Humble Pie puts out a good pizza. “Authentic Chicago style?” No.

And any place that tries to convince the rest of the country that dainty things of limited depth are the style in Chicago, should have to answer for it.

**Rating: B**

—JORGE KRZYZANIAK  
SENIOR WRITER



## Urbanspoon app delivers

I love food. Fast food, cooked food, food food food — I love it all.

And when I'm out of town visiting friends or family you can bet I'm looking to eat out at a local restaurant.

McDonald's and Subway are great and all but what could beat a local diner tucked behind an alley or a bar hidden in an underground cellar?

When I am searching for such places, I use the smartphone app Urbanspoon to help me find the location my stomach desires.

Urbanspoon is the smartphone restaurant information and recommendation service app intended for discovering well-rated restaurants in the nearby area.

If you're out of town with friends and looking for a restaurant to eat a delicious meal, Urbanspoon is the app you could use to find that restaurant.

My favorite feature is the “restaurants nearby feature.” By clicking this, you are given numerous choices of nearby restaurants in order of distance to pick from — and a rating is shown beside each restaurant listed.

So, if a restaurant is rated 8 percent, it means that particular restaurant's food and service will be extremely unpleasant.

Or you can simply use the search option by typing in the name of a restaurant and pressing submit.

Urbanspoon will then search for the nearest location of the restaurant you have just typed in.

“Shake” is another fun feature on the app.

“Shake” is a lot like a slot machine, meaning you have no idea what results you'll get.

Just click on the shake option and once you're in the “shake” page, shake your phone.

The app will generate random restaurants for you to choose from.

You can narrow your search by using the filter option.

This allows you to find a restaurant nearby, whereas “shake” could give you a location several miles away.

Overall, Urbanspoon is a terrific phone app with reliable reviews and satisfying results.

Urbanspoon is free to download. I highly recommend all food enthusiasts to add the app to their phone before their next trip out of town.

—ETHAN COOPER  
PHOTOGRAPHER



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

PRODUCT REVIEW | Console is better than Xbox 360

## Xbox One brings impressive new features to gaming

Previously I took to our review columns to express my love and also hatred for my Xbox 360. On my birthday in April, with my loving family members' help, we retired said Xbox 360 and replaced it with a brand new Xbox One.

I was beyond excited, as bringing in this new console meant I would be replacing my barely working, loudly whirring pile of junk with a potentially quiet, properly running machine.

As I unboxed my \$350 purchase, I became giddy. Finally I would be able to watch Netflix properly, have access to any game owned for that system and enjoy my down time once again. I've had the Xbox One for about three weeks now, and while some slight technical issues have arisen, overall, I am impressed.

One great new feature is the console will save your place in games and apps unless you completely shut it down. Your games also will not close if you open another app and will pick up right where you left off before.

Another great new feature is called snapping, which allows you to run two apps at one time. One app is primary, and the other app runs in a small window to the side. This way, you can play music on YouTube while playing a game, and your screen would only slightly be reduced in size.

When it comes down to the nitty-gritty, the console is just better than its predecessor. Games run smoother and look nicer, even on the same TV. And the hardware is able to support all these new features, which require lots of power and consistency, with relative ease.

With the console basically being akin to a computer with a Microsoft Windows operating system, I would also think the hardware is built to support the system it's running.



The great new features and properly working hardware mean I once again have a console I am happy with. The only downside is that I have around 35 Xbox 360 games, which cannot be played on the Xbox One.

Rating: A

—CLAYTON MITCHELL  
SPORTS WRITER

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Chili's gains customer from competitor's failure

## Applebee's not 'the bees knees'

I don't get to see my parents very often, but when I do, I like to treat them to lunch.

Just recently they came to visit and while we were out, we decided to stop by Applebee's located at 4825 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City for some lunch.

Now, before I go about my review, let me just say that I normally pick Chili's over Applebee's even though they are almost the same, but Applebee's was closer.

When we first walked in, it took two hostesses to try and seat us. That should have been our first sign to leave, but we gave them the benefit of the doubt.

After being seated and waiting longer than what we expected, our waitress sulked over to take our drink order.

I wanted to tell her to smile, but was afraid of what would end up in my food from her and the rest of the staff walking around like they hated their jobs.

Finally, after about 30 minutes of waiting, our food was brought to us, or at least we thought it was our food.

The steaks were nothing but gristle, the salads had no dressing and the potatoes were cold.

Since we were paying for our food, we had it taken back so we could get something a little more acceptable. I mean my goodness, it seemed as though they left the food sitting out for the 30 minutes we were waiting.

After we had more edible food given to us, it seemed



as though the staff left us to fend for ourselves.

Our waitress, probably happy to be rid of us, swiftly walked by and dropped the check on our table. No 'how is it going?' or 'need anything else?'. Just a walk and drop. How rude.

With all the things that went wrong, I am scratching Applebee's off my list of places to go eat. Usually, I give them the benefit of the doubt and give a second chance. But this was Applebee's fifth chance from me.

Although as previously stated, Chili's is the same as Applebee's, but their customer service is way above the quality of their sister restaurant.

Chili's, you have another customer now coming to you, no matter which is closer.

Applebee's, you disappoint. You failed far past the limit of no return.

Rating: F-

—KATIE AXTELL  
COMMUNITY WRITER

## TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of May 1 through May 3  
[www.newyorktimes.com](http://www.newyorktimes.com)

1. *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
2. *The Age of Adeline*
3. *Furious 7*
4. *Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2*
5. *Home*
6. *Cinderella*
7. *Ex Machina*
8. *Unfriended*
9. *The Longest Ride*
10. *Woman in Gold*
11. *Monkey Kingdom*
12. *Get Hard*
13. *The Divergent Series: Insurgent*
14. *Little Boy*
15. *The Water Diviner*
16. *Uttama Villian*
17. *American Sniper*
18. *While We're Young*
19. *Clouds of Sils Maria*
20. *Gabbar is Back*



# Talk to legislators, incoming president says

OLIVIA GUERRA  
News Writing Student

A class of journalism students learned their age group votes less often than any other age group in America.

Jerry Steward, OCCC's executive vice president, said in a speech April 23 that most people between the ages of 18 and 25 believe their state representatives don't listen to what they have to say.

"Therefore, they figure why bother to vote," he said. "You should bother because you live in a free country and if you don't bother, you're going to lose your free country."

He pointed out that politicians listen more to the people who can help them or hurt them at the polls, rather than those who don't "bother" to vote.

Steward recently was named the college's next president. He will take over after the retirement of President Paul Sechrist this summer.

Steward discussed the power of political engagement.

He encouraged students to voice their opinions concerning controversial issues, saying people should be contacting their state representatives and letting them know how they feel about these issues.

"That is where the problem lies," Steward said, referring to a college meeting he spoke at recently. When he asked how many opposed con-

cealed weapons on college campuses, more than 100 people raised their hands.

When asked how many of them had contacted their state representative or senator to inform them about their opinion, only three or four raised their hands.

Steward believes the best way to influence elected representatives is through a personal visit to their office.

"In order to be successful when reaching out to a representative, it is critical to let them know you are their constituent," said Steward, who served in the state Legislature several years ago.

This is vital, he said.

"Politicians care about people who can vote for them or against them," he emphasized, saying the same was true for him when he was in office.

"They can beat you at the next election or vote for you."

Steward said the world of politics has changed a lot, primarily because of computers and the Internet.

While it used to take days or weeks to send out messages, now it can be done with just the click of a mouse.

"The way your generation does messaging has changed but the fundamentals haven't really changed that much."

He said face-to-face communication is best, but a personal phone call or hand written letter also has influ-

**"The way your generation does messaging has changed but the fundamentals haven't really changed all that much."**

—JERRY STEWARD  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

ence.

He said to make sure the elected official knows you live in his or her district.

Steward said he came from parents who didn't finish high school and a family that wasn't politically involved.

He, on the other hand, has loved the political game from the time he was in grade school.

Steward stressed the importance of being politically involved for the benefit of one's future and career.

He suggested the easiest way to get engaged is to volunteer for a political campaign.

By doing so, it is an opportunity to gain instant access and instant credibility with the official one has campaigned for.

"Politics is show business for ugly people," said Steward jokingly.

While there aren't any smart phone applications for voting currently, Steward suspects that, with technology, voting online will emerge someday.



FILE PHOTO/PIONEER

Jerry Steward

Voting "apps" bring the possibility for increased political involvement as well as an increased number of voters. Steward's concern is that potential voting applications could make a difference but

they won't make people vote.

After a 41-year relationship with the college, Steward believes that everything he has done and learned will benefit OCCC when he officially becomes president on July 2.

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# Students prepare to say goodbye to class, cadavers

*The following story is the final part of a three-part series on OCCC's Human Anatomy course where students are working with human cadavers. Part one of the series ran in the Jan. 30 issue of the Pioneer. Part two ran in the March 13 issue. Both also can be found online at <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.*

**JORGE KRZYZANIAK**

Senior Writer

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

With only nine days left in the semester, Jordan Garner said she still doesn't know if she will pass BIO 2255.

"I won't know until after the final," she said.

Garner said the course, where students work with human cadavers to explore anatomy, is known for being difficult. She often felt a great deal of stress, she said.

And once or twice she briefly entertained the notion of dropping the class. But, she said, her classmates provided a valuable and necessary support system to keep her going.

"It's just a really tough class, but it's nice to have people in there and we all try to help each other out," Garner said.

"You know you're not alone so it's OK."

Johnny Wong, who has taken the course once before, said it was his only class this semester and it was familiar territory so he didn't feel overburdened.

Wong said he did notice the tension among his peers and hopes he helped them in some way.

The best part of the class was his classmates, Wong said. He said he hopes to have made some lasting connections with those he worked alongside this semester.

In spite of the stress and hard work, Garner said, she enjoyed the class immensely and is glad to have taken it. And, if she has to repeat the course, she said that's OK.

Garner said she relished the teaching style of Biology Professor Nathaniel Abraham whose use of a refrain from a Backstreet Boys song and some profound artwork kept things interesting and enjoyable even when the work was difficult.

"He is super funny," she said. "But he really tries to teach you how everything is connected and how not just to apply things to class but how everything relates in the

outside world."

Wong agreed.

"He's a pretty cool guy," he said. "He definitely knows a lot. He wants you to learn more than you need to learn so that instead of just knowing what something is, you get to learn how it works."

"If you take Abraham before physiology it's a good thing because he pretty much gets you ready to get into the physiology course."

The most astonishing moment of the course, Garner said, was a demonstration where air was pumped into the cadaver's lungs, inflating them to their full size and showing how they function.

"I'm more knowledgeable about the body, big picture wise," she said. "I guess I've learned a lot more about myself."

Garner said she's gained a new understanding of the permanent effects of one's everyday choices upon their body.

"It was really cool to see that even though a person's dead, their organs can still be made to work," she said.

"It made me really think about whether I'd donate my body. I'm really thankful to whoever the person is because it helps me learn more ..."

She said she wouldn't have considered donating her body before but now might.

"So yeah, I guess it's kind of weird — it feels like saying goodbye to the cadaver," Garner said.

Wong said he was able to stay detached.

"It feels different from looking at a living person," he said. "It doesn't feel like an actual person."

Wong said he still isn't sure if he's prepared to work on live patients but he hopes that's in his future.

"It's too soon to say," he said. "That depends on what happens once I get into the nursing program."

His hope, he said, is that he will be working in hospitals in a few years, using the knowledge he's gleaned from the cadavers at OCCC to improve the lives of the people around him.

Garner's hopes are similar.

"Hopefully in five years," she said, "I'll see myself as a registered nurse in a psychiatric hospital."

She said she hopes to enter the nursing program this summer.

Wong said he will be happy to begin his path through the nursing program in the fall.



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Biology professor Nathaniel Abraham uses anatomically correct drawings to illustrate human anatomy during lectures in his BIO 2255 Human Anatomy class.

## Human anatomy professor encourages independence

**BRYCE MCELHANEY**

Editor

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

Biology Professor Nathaniel Abraham said throughout the semester, about 50 percent of his BIO 2255 students have dropped the class, which is the normal rate.

Abraham said the students who remain are dedicated.

"They spend a lot of time after class," he said.

"The students who really want to do well in the class will keep asking questions."

Abraham said the students who ask questions tend to do better. He said it's also helpful to pique their interest by asking them analytical questions and by using hand-drawn illustrations.

"I think it does something to you when your professor is putting a lot of work into it too," he said.

Abraham said his anatomy drawings are a part of his effort to make the class more interesting. He also likes to keep things lighthearted.

"It's fast rolling, and I make sure it's not boring and we have lots of jokes," he said.

"It's always with the view of furthering their knowledge about anatomy."

"Yes, it's fun, but every time I'm joking, I'm also putting very deep questions into them and making them think, and taking them to the next step."

Abraham said teaching assistants Kiamars Golmoradi and Paul Kernen, along with Biology Adjunct Professor Rosemary Harkins, have been a great help to the class.

"They are sort of the dream team."

Golmoradi said he likes that Abraham inspires curiosity in the students, but doesn't spoon feed them.

"He tries to make sure they understand the concepts, and he really emphasizes that," he said.

"He teaches a lot of the scientific concepts and tries to tie it all back together, and it definitely does give a better picture of the body."

Kernen said Abraham makes the students want to learn and look things up for themselves.

"He inspires [students] to think outside of the box."

Harkins calls herself the special dissectionist — she comes in when needed to perform specific dissections.

Abraham said he teaches the material and the teaching assistants help students apply the knowledge in the lab.

He said though the students have many resources, it's difficult because of the high standard for the course.

"You could take this class and go anywhere and be able to make this grade or better," he said.

For more information, contact Abraham at [nathaniel.abraham@occc.edu](mailto:nathaniel.abraham@occc.edu). For more information on BIO 2255, visit [www.occc.edu/biology/courses.html](http://www.occc.edu/biology/courses.html).



# PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE


**SPECIAL  
GRADUATION  
EDITION**

MAY 8, 2015

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



TED SATTERFIELD/PIONEER

President Paul Sechrist speaks to OCCC's graduating class of 2015. He told the grads he was honored to be able to speak to them. "What a profound privilege it has been for me in the last decade to be the president of Oklahoma City Community College," Sechrist said. "Tonight represents why there is even a president. To the graduates, you are why there is an OCCC. Your degree is a ticket to a better life. For our state to become better, we need more people like you."

## President Sechrist sends grads off with advice

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

Rain drummed down upon the Cox Convention Center as OCCC President Paul Sechrist delivered his final formal address to graduates during the 2015 Commencement Ceremony.

Not only rain dampened the cheeks of some graduates, their friends and families, or of Sechrist himself when he gave the keynote speech to OCCC's 42nd graduating class on May 8.

"What a profound privilege it has been for me in the last decade to be the president of Oklahoma City Community College," Sechrist said.

"Tonight represents why there is even a president. To

the graduates, you are why there is an OCCC.

"Your degree is a ticket to a better life. For our state to become better, we need more people like you."

Then Sechrist took a moment in his speech to question what he could tell this graduating class that hadn't already been said.

"What can I say to inspire you?" he asked.

As he addressed graduates to tell them, "It's all about you," his voice cracked and his eyes visibly moistened.

Much of the crowd responded similarly.

"I thought about your journey to this milestone tonight," Sechrist said, enumerating the array of challenges that he's known OCCC students to have overcome.

Elize Hopkins, graduating

with a science degree, said Sechrist's speech moved her.

"It made me cry," she said. "I'm the first one out of my family to have any sort of degree."

Sechrist then addressed friends and families in the crowd, urging them to take lessons from the graduates, lessons he said he had learned from OCCC's students.

"Don't give up," he said. "These students didn't."

"They didn't give up because it got difficult. They know that life is difficult and they work through the difficult."

Sechrist told the crowd to do as the graduates had done and disregard words of those who discourage them.

"They chose to listen to those who said they can," he said.

His third lesson for the audience was about courage.

"Don't let fear stop you," Sechrist said.

He addressed the graduates once more, offering parting advice.

"Stay curious. If you stay curious, you will continue learning forever," he said. "Be kind to one another."

"If I had to name one positive outcome of the tragedies we've experienced in Oklahoma, it's embodying the Oklahoma standard."

Toyo Shogbamimu, who got his degree in management information systems, said this phrase touched him.

"As somebody who worked at the Oklahoma City Memorial Museum, it really spoke out to me about the kind of community that we should build in our world."

Sechrist congratulated students for their rejection of fear and negativity, and encouraged them on their way forward.

"Here you are tonight and all of us are gathered here with you to watch you fly," he said.

Miranda Carlisle graduated with a humanities degree.

"It was very emotional," she said. "It's sad to see him leave but I'm glad he was the last speaker."

Sechrist ended the ceremony with an Irish blessing:

"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. And may the hand of a friend always be near you."

"And until we meet again, may God hold you safe in the palm of his hand."



# Class of 2015 steps into the future



TED SATTERFIELD/PIONEER

OCCC graduates wave to their family and friends during the 2015 graduation ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on May 8. Hundreds of students braved thunderstorms to receive their diplomas. President Paul Sechrist was the keynote speaker.



OCCC President Paul Sechrist congratulates Professor of the Year recipient Kathy Wheat during the 2015 graduation ceremony. Wheat is the program director and professor for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant program.



OCCC graduates wait before lining up at the 2015 graduation ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on May 8. OCCC President Paul Sechrist encouraged the grads with his final speech before he retires July 1. "Stay curious. If you stay curious, you will continue learning forever," he said. "Be kind to one another."



# Grads find ways to express themselves



Several OCCC graduates personalized their graduation caps with various sayings and decorations at the 2015 commencement. It was one way to stand out to family members looking down on a sea of black-robed students.

TED SATTERFIELD/PIONEER



Graduate Jorge Krzyzaniak holds a lifesize cutout of his friend and fellow graduate Ethan Cooper who was unable to attend the commencement.



History major Jenna Duvall waits to enter the graduation ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on May 8. Duvall personalized her scooter for the evening's festivities.



Psychology major Tanya Richard gets ready to line up before the 2015 graduation ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on May 8.

**CLASS OF 2015**



# Spring graduates about to walk the walk

*The following students have applied for May graduation. Diplomas will be granted after credentials are completed and degree requirements are met. Students who fulfill degree requirements may participate in the May 8 commencement ceremony.*

Aaron Abke, Laura Ables, Ellah Abuta, Autumn Ackerman, Joseph Addo, Ademayowa Adeoba, Chris Adkins, Edward Aguirre, Katy Alcorn, Aaron Alfonso, Sarah Ali, Brandy Allen, Kenneth Allen, Alia Alsaif, Gabriela Alvarado, Veronica Alvarado, Anna Alvey, Uchechi Am-aeze, Devin Anderson, Elizabeth Anderson, Melinda Anderson, Crystal Andrews, Kyle Andrews, Clara Arellano, Erica Armstrong, Paula Armstrong-Fugett, Sandy Arnold, Ekaette Atakpo, Taylor Atherton, Will Atouchwi, Katie Axtell, Dennis Ayitiah, Tia Bailey, Daniel Baker.

Randi Baker, Steven Baker, La-Trenda Balderas, Ashley Barnhart, Jessica Barrington, Alejandro Barron, Shekinah Barry, Alanna Barton, Taylor Beard, Mariah Becker, Angela Beery, Amanda Belcher, David Belk, Shannon Bell, Enrique Benitez, Bill Berry, Diana Bertram, Angela Beson, Adam Bilby, Nicholas Binder, Beth Bishop, Hayley Bishop, Jeff Bishop, Kyle Bishop, April Bitner, Hannah Blackford, Russell Blackmon, Ashley Blake, Jeremy Blake, Lauren Blatzheim, Theron Blunck, Nicole Boggs, Katayoun Bohlooly, Gregory Bond, Samuel Bond, Kenyon Bonds, Austin Borjas.

Katherine Bornholdt Smith, Kelli Borrell, Mathew Borum, Eraka Bowens, Sherrell Bowen, Tiffany Bowler, Bailee Boyd, Angela Brand, Brittney Brassfield, Blake Brennan, Crysti Brierton, Victoria Brittan, Hayley Brock, April Brooks, Paula Broome, Amanda Brown, Jessica Brownfield, James Brown, Karen Brown, Kristopher Brown, Marty Brown, Afefa Bruner, Russell Bruner, Mark Bryant, Matthew Bui, Olivia Bunn, Shayla Bunyan, Rodney Burges, Kevin Burke, Jennifer Burkhardt, Shelby Burnett, Kendall Burnside, Leslie Bush, Stacy Butler, Matthew Butzer, Molly Byrom, Marisela Cadena, Eric Caillouette, Chandler Campbell.

Hayley Campbell, Kelci Campbell, Tristan Campbell, Misty Canary Vawter, Angel Carattini, Miranda Carlisle, Brian Carrethers, Brian Carrigan, Norma Carrillo, Tabitha Carroll, Anna Carter, Krystal Carter, Doraliza Carvo, Courtney Casey, Nicolette Casula, Christine Cataldo, Alyssa Caver, Odalis Celaya, Dezaree Chambers, Miles Chaney, Chao-Yang Chang, Sarai Chavez, Yun Chen, Branson Chic, Nichole Childress, Tiffany Chiu, Caressa Choat, Mahbuba Chowdhury, Vivian Chu, Trina Clark, Amanda Clutter, Kate Cobabe, Brandon Cobb, Tanzy Colasanti, Rachael Colbart.

Jessica Collier, Brittany Combs, Deartrous Conerly, Jonathan Conway, Cameron Conyers, Darci Cook, Anahi Cortes, Lindsey Couch, Colton Craft, Brittany Cramton, Kimberly Creek, Sterling Crews, Angela Crissinger, Jorge Crooks-Becerra, Kailey Crossley, Courtney Crouse, Mayra Cruz, Aaron Culwell, Philip Cummings, Nicole Cunningham,

Brian Cushman, Lauren Daniel, Thu Dao, Ashley Dartez, Chris Davis, Bethani Day, Rachel Deer, Kasey De la Cruz, Itzelly Delgado, Cody Delk.

Mayra Delossantos, Amanda Dely, Sheena Dennis, Julie Denton, Dalia Diaz, Bracinya Dixon, Amanda Dobbs, Jorge Dominguez-Manjarrez, Suifen Dong, Trung Do, Joseph Douglas, Andrea Doyle, Megan Dressler, Stephen Drews, Madison Dreyfuss, Todd Droscher, Nicholas Duncan, Michaela Dunn, Robert Durham, Erika Eaton, Douglas Eckert, Megan Edison, Imani Edmond, Arielle Edwards, Sherry Eggleston, Tory Eldridge, Lisa Ellis, Sarah Elison, Tabitha English, Andrea Espinosa, Yuli Evans, Blake Fabian, Jeremy Falk, Sandra Fast.

Taylor Faulkenberry, Matthew Feisal, Joseph Fellin, Austin Felts, Breana Ferguson, Abra Figueroa, Michael File, Kari Fisher, Jason Fixico, Kelsea Flewellen, Holly Ford, Justin Fowler, Shane Fowler, Tyler Franklin, Abbie Freeman, Abigail Fritz, Natalie Fryar, Shereda Fuentes, Maureen Fuller, Chelsie Gabel, Jessica Gaddis, John Gaines, Sherrion Gaines, Jayme Gaiser, Dianna Gallardo, Mariana Gallardo, Amanda Gann, Daniel Garcia, Jessica Gard, Karen Garlitz, Samantha Garner, Nathaniel Gauwitz, Joseph Geffre, Katrina Gellhaus, Kortni Gentry, Thomson George, Gretchen Gerlich.

Sheree Germany, Johnnie Gilpen, Brittney Gimlin, Christopher Gimel, Lauren Girard, Robert Glendenning, Courtney Goff, Bailey Goldsby, Jorge Gomez, Chen Gong, Blanca Gonzalez, Edgar Gonzalez, Karen Gonzalez, Lizette Gonzalez, Jessica Goodin, Stephanie Gordon, John Gorman, Leigha Gorton, Deidre Graham, Shane Graham, Lluvia Granados, Alaina Grant, Kristen Graves, Chris Green, Kendra Green, Kacey Greenlee, Edwin Grimes, Monica Grove, Vanessa Gulley, Roberto Guzman, Seddik Halabi, Emily Hale, Stephanie Hale, Kira Hall, Michelle Hall, Mallory Hamblin, Lauren Hammer, Brittany Hardin, Rachelle Harjo.

David Harkey, Lori Harless, Davidetta Harmon, Elizabeth Harmony, Angela Harper, Dillon Harper, Katie Harrell, Victoria Harrell, Daryn Harris, Diana Harrison, Diana Hartig, Christopher Hatcher, Alisha Hauch, Eliza Hawkins, Sarah Hays, Heather Haywood, Joshua Heath, Sarah Heath, Taylor Heckart, Wendell Hedrick, Jessica Heiderstadt, Dustin Helms, DeAnna Hempel, Rochelle Henagar, Kendall Hendricks, Anne Hendrickson, Crystal Hendrix, Michael Henry, Bonnie Herman, Desiree Hernandez, Isai Hernandez, Julio Hernandez, Sandra Hernandez, Rachel Herrera, Tyler Hernan.

Jessie Hicks, Brenton Higgins, Kristina Hightower, Saltreese Hightower, Tracy Hightower, Rikki Hileman, Ashli Hill, Chelsi Hill, Irving Hill, Jason Hill, Tammie Hise, Huy Hoang, Vu Hoang, Jerika Hobza, Valerie Hodges, Devin Hoggan, Alex Holder, Jared Hollandsworth, Jason Holt, Elise Hopkins, Kimberley Horne, Edward Horton, Jennifer Howell, Seth Howell, Emily Hubble, Taylor Hudson-Mahaffey, Christian Hughes, Holley Hughes, Shelia Humphrey, Kiley Hunter.

Beverly Hurley, Jessica Hutchin-

son, Sarah Hutson, Peter Huynh, Tyler Iago, Raul Ibanez, Rachel Interwicz, Lynette Irwin, Taslima Islam, Valencia Islas, Brianna Jacobsen, Tessa Jacob, Amie Jacques, Khurshid Jahan, Kendra James, Morgan James, MacKenzie Jennings, Michelle Jezioro, Ashley Jiron, Angela Johnson, Camille Johnson, Essie Johnson, Gina Johnson, Jay Johnson, Lori Johnson, Nikko Johnson, Ramona Johnson, Robert Johnson, Sherman Johnson, William Johnson, Brooklyn Johnston, Rachel Joiner, Amanda Jones, Carroll Jones.

“My congratulations to the graduates. You are to be commended for reaching this significant milestone.”

—PAUL SECHRIST  
OCCC PRESIDENT



Kathryn Jones, Kristofer Jones, Michael Jones, Tadra Jones, Ciel Jordan, Jamie Jordan, Kenneth Jordan, Krista Jordan, Stanley Joseph, Bishal Joshi, Dillon Juby, Seunghun Jun, Keith Kalinich, Lesley Kassube, Christ Kaya, Brooke Keasler, Stephen Keel, Manuela Keithley, Kobie Keller, Tommy Keller, Eric Kelley, Sarah Kellum, Christina Kelly, Ricky Kendrick, Leslie Kennedy, Shaina Kennedy, Tyler Kennemer, Erik Kenrick, Tsega Kidane, Victoria Kilgore, Tanya Killman, Iris Killough, Tae Kim, Melanie King, Lawrence Kirkendoll, Theodore Kleinholz.

Justin Knight, Amanda Knowles, Kaylin Kovelda, Jorge Krzyzaniak, Aaron Kwei, Brandi Laib, Taylor Lamb, Roxanne Lamothe, Diana Langham, Nicholas Lang, Barbara Lanier, Rebecca Laranang, Kacoria Lassien, Julia Laugerman, Melissa Lavallee, Jennifer Lawrence, Mary Lawrence, Bradley Lawson, Sarah Lawson, Yessenia Lazos, Catherine Le, Bobbie Ledford, Rachel Lee, Juana Leija, Kathy Le, Paule Lendoye, Jennifer Lesiter, Savannah Lester, Tho Le, Nora Le'Ve, Penny Lewis, Taryn Libby, Zhiqiang Lin, Emilee Littlejohn, Jennyfer Livingston, Shaun Loeffler, Laura Lofftus, Angela London, Dillon Long, Thomas Looney, Angelica Lopez.

Margarita Lopez-Luera, Meredith Lowber, Louran Lowder, Jacinda Lowry, John Lowry, Oscar Loza Hoyos, Samantha Lucas, Daniel Lukinbill, Kristina Luna, Lesley Luna, Kayla Lunsford, Mylinh Luu, Tiffani Lynch, Krista Lynn, Victor Macias, David Madden, Jenna Maennena, Hayden Magar, John Magelssen, Lucy Maina, Rebecca Major, Lyric Mallow, Sharon Manley, Ramona Manzanares, Morgan Marlow, Jody Marshall, Aundrea Martin, Daniel Martinez, David Martinez, Jacob Martinez, James Martin, Kathryn Martin, Van Martin, Victoria Massey, Nairi Matevosyan, Sarah Mathews.

David Matlick, Taylor Maxwell, Amanda May, Michael Mayfield, Callie Mazzagatti, Michael McAdams, Kathy McCall, Shawn McCarther, Leslie McClure, Kathryn McCrack-

en, Ryan McCracken, Alexandra McDougal, Bryce McElhaney, Jonathan McFerran, Yvonna McGuire, Patricia McHargue, Jeremy McKinley, Garrett Medell, Natalie Melancon, Adam Melton, Felisha Mendez, Kathryn Merritt, Jason Meyer, Matthew Meyer, Nicholas Meysing, Nathan Milam, Ronald Miller.

Amanda Million, Amanda Minzey, Courtney Mitchell, Penny Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell, Ryan Mobley, Chelsea Moon, Mary Moon, Hannah Moore, Jerit Moore, Mary Moore, Misty Moore, Nakesha Moore, Jaren

Sabatino, Josh Sadler, Christopher Saenz, Adebawale Salako, Paulina Saldana, Marcos Saldana Rojo, Kerina Salzwedel, Jeanis Sananikone, Kristen Sanford, Kathy Sawyer.

Ashleigh Schaffer, Scott Schatzer, Scott Schlesinger, Kieran Schmult, Mariah Schrader, MacKenzie Sconce, Heyle Scott, Jacob Scrivner, Jake Scroggie, David Scroggins, Nathan Scroggins, Sarah Sehhati, Luke Selby, Brittany Sexton, Brooke Shackleford, Nichole Shadid, Alisha Shafer, Joseph Shatswell, Lisa Shaw, Sara Shaw, Lindsey Shed, Caitlyn Shelley, Jacie Shelton, Staci Shepherd, Pema Sherpa, April Shirazi, Kristopher Shoemaker, Mary Shoemaker.

Olaoluwatoyosi Shogbamimu, Morgan Shoop, Heather Short, Frank Shover, Desiree Shroyer, Jack Shuler, Sydney Silvey, Bryson Simer, Shristi Singh, Christopher Smith, Erin Smith, Hunter Smith, Karli Smith, Kiel Smith, Lacie Smith, Pamula Smith, Heather Smoot, Sallie Snipes, Anna Soh, Mariah Soliz, Joel Soria, Karina Sosa, Vanessa Sosa, Grisel Soto, Stephanie Southard, Andrea Spears, James Spears, Trenton Stamps, Amanda Standefer, Erica Staton, Janelle Staton, Jesse Staton, Samantha Stevenson.

Trinni Stevens, Ivory Stewart, Katelyn Stimpson, Tillie Stracener, Michael Stuckert, Saeeda Sultana, Grant Swayze, Tyrel Tachibana, Erica Talley, Tara Tate, John Taylor, Michael Taylor, Shawn Templin, Luke Thein, Melissa Thomas, Vincent Thomas, Corey Thompson, Dallas Thompson, Cody Thornton, Rodney Thornton, Virginia Thornton, Erin Tilley, Lisa Tippet, Amber Tobin, Emily Tomberlin, Ricardo Torres, Hung Trang, Hoang Tran, Cooper Treadaway, Whitney Tresler, Sarah Trosper, Victoria Tucker, Dawn Turpin, Adam Tuttle, Jesse Uffen.

Christopher Valencia, Karina Valero, Megan Van Lew, Benjamin Vanness, Richard Van, Jorge Vasquez, Brooklyn Venegas, Jeannia Vickrey, Wendy Viezcas, Steven Viney, Tan Vo, Robert Vrtis, Minh Vu, Jessica Wade, Mu Wah, Sarah Walker, Ryan Wall, Michelle Walton, Celeste Warden, Christine Washington, Morgan Weaver, Cynthia Wedel, Jordan Wehling, Gerald Welch, Diana Wells, Angela West, Elizabeth West, Kim West, Jana Whatley, Latoya Wheeler, Amos Whitebird, Gina White, John White.

Michael White, Robin Whiteneck, Rochelle White, London Whitlaw, Kori Whitsitt, Regan Wickwire, Christopher Wilbur, John Wilkins-Kirk, Paxton Willard, Ashley Williams, Bronson Williams, Curtis Williams, Darby Williams, Deborah Williams, Jamal Williams, Jennifer Williams, Kristy Williams, Krystal Williams, Rochelle Williams.

Shannon Williams, Tia Williams, Zachary Williams, Bobbie Wilson, Lesa Wilson, Kiziah Winn, Desiree Wolf, Meagan Wolfe, Andrew Womack, Lesley Wood, Alicia Woodring, Brittan Woods, Jacob Woods, Chara Word, Angela Wright, Bonnie Wright, Jeremy Wright, Maria Wright, Micah Wronowski, Julie Yang, Carine Yem, Kyndle Young, Angela Younkens, Ana Zambrana, Barbara Zavala Renteria, Sarah Zimmer.



# Students acknowledged at awards ceremony

KATIE AXTELL

Community Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

**M**ore than 130 students received awards at the 39th Annual Student Awards Ceremony held April 24 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Certificates of appreciation and achievement, along with volunteer and honor awards, were presented by various professors and sponsors.

Students who were awarded with certificates of appreciation and achievement, along with the president's award for excellence were nominated by faculty for academic achievement and being an outstanding student.

Awards and recipients are as follows:

## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE:**

### • Arts Division:

**Journalism and Broadcasting: Journalism Emphasis:** Lauren Daniel.

### • Business Division:

**Business:** Roman Alcantara.  
**Automotive Technology:** Gary Beebe.

### • Chemistry and Biological Sciences Division:

**Biology:** Dawn Brown.  
**Chemistry:** Suifen Dong.

### • English and Humanities Division:

**Literature:** Iesha Cobert.  
**Literature:** Kimberly Ray.

### • Health Professions Division:

**Speech-Language Pathology Assistant:** Diana Harrison.  
**Physical Therapy Assistant:** Deborah Williams.

### • Information Technology Division:

**Computer Science transferring to UCO:** Garrett Clement.  
**Computer-Aided Technology/Design:** Makyla Tipken.

• **Math, Engineering and Physical Science Division:**  
**Engineering:** Anthony Norton.

• **Division of Social Sciences**  
**Political Science:** Lisa Shaw.

## **CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:**

### **Advocates of Peace:**

Derek Scarsella

### **Black Student Association:**

Victoria Washington

### **Cyber Club:** Ginger Ellis

**Future Alumni Network:** Lisa Lasater

**Health Professions Club:** Kiziah Winn

### **Hispanic Organization to Promote Education:**

Andres Perilla

### **International Student Association:** Linus Morgan

### **Kappa Beta Delta:**

Miles Chaney

### **Leading Individuals for Equality:** Lisa Shaw

### **Military Student Association:** LaDonna Wieland

### **Nursing Student Association:** April Brooks

### **Oklahoma Biotechnology Association:** David Rochat

### **Phi Theta Kappa:**

Natalie Flaming

### **Pioneer:** Bryce McElhaney

### **Psi Beta:** Jessica Stevens

### **Psychology Club:**

Karli Smith

### **Student Emergency Medical Science Association:**

David Bingham

### **Speech Language Pathology Assistant Student**

### **Organization:** Raquel Rosa

### **Student Physical Therapist Assistant Organization:**

Sarah Ellison.

## **CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT:**

### • Arts Division:

### **Graphic Communications/Multimedia:** Hannah Blackford.

### **Film and Video Production:**

Aaron Chenoweth.

### **Public Speaking:**

Abigail Connell.

### **Journalism and Broadcasting/Broadcasting:**

Brianna Hogan.

**Journalism and Broadcasting: Journalism Emphasis:** Jorge Krzyzaniak.

### **Theater Arts:**

Anthony Landers.

### **Graphic Communications/Print Media:**

Margarita Lopez-Luera.

**Spanish:** Sarah Moore.

**Visual Arts:** Lauren Romero.

**French:** Benjamin Smith.

### **Journalism and Broadcasting/Public Relations:**

Carlton Thompson.

### **Graphic Communications/Photography:** Amber Tobin.

### • Business Division:

### **Certificate of Mastery/General Office Support:**

Susan M. Atwell.

**Business:** Miles Chaney

**Business:** Kristi Fields.

### **Administrative Office**

### **Technology/Office Specialist:**

Shawna V. Rosenfelt.

### **Certificate of Mastery/Legal**

### **Office Procedures:**

Shawna V. Rosenfelt.

### **Certificate of Mastery/Medical Office Administration:**

Pamula J. Smith.

### **GM Automotive Service**

### **Educational Program:**

Colton Ramsey.

### **Automotive Technician**

### **Internship Program:**

Marty Williams.

### • Chemistry and Biological Sciences Division:

**Pre-Allied Health:** Jessica Gaddis.

### **Pre-Baccalaureate Nursing:**

Alison Lanphere.

### **Pre-Medicine:** Phuong Lee.

**Chemistry:** Mary Katherine Maraschick Randolph.

**Biology:** Alyssa Stewart.

### **Pre-Pharmacy:** Cong Vu.

### **Pre-Dentistry:** Dat T. Vu.

### • English and Humanities

### **Division:**

### **Humanities:**

Miranda Carlisle.

### **Diversified Studies:**

Rachael Colbart.

### **Diversified Studies:**

Sena Golden.

### **Philosophy:** Joseph Hughes.

### **Liberal Studies:**

Hanna Odum.

### **Diversified Studies:**

Annette Waters.

### **Pre-Education:**

Tawanna Whinnery.

### • Health Professions

### **Division:**

### **Speech Language Pathology**

**Assistant:** Sandy Arnold.

**Nursing:** April Brooks.

### **Occupational Therapy**

**Assistant:** Jessica Gard.

### **Physical Therapist Assistant:**

Brittany Sexton.

### **Emergency Medical Sciences:**

Ricardo Torres.

### • Information Technology

### **Division:**

### **Computer Science Transferring to OU:** Richard Barnes.

### **Computer Science Transferring to UCO:** Brandan Cobb.

### **Computer-Aided Technology/Geographic Information**

### **System:** Andrew Crowell.

### **Computer-Aided Technology/Digital Media Design:**

Heather Haywood.

### **Computer Science - Management Information Systems:**

Robert Johnson.

### **Certificate of Mastery;**

### **Computer Network Support:**

Stephen Keel.

### **Computer-Aided**

### **Technology/Game Design:**

Joseph Keller.

### **Computer-Aided**

### **Technology/Computer-Aided**

### **Design:** Gwangmin Kim.

### **Computer Science;**

### **Computer Programming:**

Allira Kimren.

### **Computer Science -**

### **Computer System Support:**

Patrick Money.

### **Computer-Aided Technology/Computer Animation:**

Nathan Scroggins.

### **Computer Science - Cyber**

### **Information Security:**

Cody Thornton.

### **Certificate of Mastery -**

### **Computer System Support:**

Jaime Trevino

### **Math, Engineering and**

### **Physical Science Division:**

**Physics:** Fnu Roshan

Mathews.

### **Mathematics:** Dragon Tran.

### **Engineering:** Christopher

Walker.

### • Social Sciences Division:

**Political Science:** Monica Piros.

### **HONORS GRADUATES:**

Jennafer Duvall, Samuel Herrera, Sarah Landon, Morgan Massey, Kimberly Ray, Lisa Shaw.

Campus Impact and Civic Honors are given to students who fulfill a certain number of volunteer hours either through the school or outside organizations.

### **CIVIC HONORS:**

Armando Arellano, Damaris Argueta, Carrie Arter, Katie Axtell, Shannon Bell, Theron Blunck, Kenyon Bonds, Paula Broome, Abiebatou Chatman, Katherine Chavez, Terra Corley, Jennafer Duvall, Stephanie Gordon, Robert Helton.

Brianna Hogan, Iris Killough, Andrews Kwei, Sarah Landon, Jennyfer Livingston, Lesley Luna, Andres Perilla, Mariah Rivera, Jennifer Rorex, Brittany Sexton, Lisa Shaw, April Shirzai, Pamula Smith, Jessica Walker, Deborah Williams, Regan Wickwire-Sapp, Bobbie Wilson.

### **CAMPUS IMPACT:**

Andrews Kwei

The President's Volunteer Service Award is awarded to individuals who complete a number of volunteer hours within a 12-month time frame.

### **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD:**

#### **Bronze Award:** Theron

Blunck, Iris Killough, Sarah Landon, Bobbie Wilson.

#### **Silver Award:** Dominique

Hall.

#### **Gold Award:** Robert Helton.

### **STUDENT ENGLISH ESSAY AWARDS:**

**1st place:** Sarah Wigham.

**2nd place:** Monica Wood.

**3rd place:** Kaylee Smith.

### **Honorable Mention:**

Priscila Esquivel.



## SPORTS

## Working the legs



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Zoology major Raymond Rogers exercises in OCCC's Recreation and Fitness on Center April 29. The center is located on the first floor of the Main Building. Rogers said he was using this piece of equipment to do squats. The Wellness Center provides many fitness areas free to students with a valid OCCC ID. For more information, visit [www.occc.edu/rf/wellness.html](http://www.occc.edu/rf/wellness.html).

**SPORTS** | Children, ages 6 to 12, can attend morning afternoon or all-day camp May 26 through Aug. 3

## Kids can spend summer at recreation camps

CLAYTON MITCHELL

Sports Writer

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

Many parents work all day during the week and, in the summer, need a place to take their children while they are at work.

Children ages 6 through 12 can attend one of OCCC's summer recreation camps, hosted by the Recreation and Fitness department, said Sports Assistant Matthew Wright, who oversees the camps.

Wright said children can attend either a morning, afternoon or all-day camp, where they will participate in many physical and recreational activities, such as swimming and playing sports.

"They'll play different games, they may go outside and play some games, they'll play games in the gym, like a lot of the games they normally play in P.E.," Wright said.

"They might learn a little bit about sports, like an hour for basketball, and then spend an hour playing a fun P.E. game. It's just a lot of activity."

Children who attend a half-day session will be able to go either in the morning from 8 a.m. to noon, or in the

afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m.

Wright said participants in the afternoon sessions, including all-day attendees, will be able to participate in swimming lessons for an extra \$25 a week. The lessons are limited to 18 participants.

The goal of the camps is to give children an avenue to stay active during the summer, while having fun at the same time, Wright said.

"It's something so that they don't stay home all day watching TV or playing video games by themselves," he said. "They can come make new friends, have fun, be active, maybe learn a couple things sports-wise."

The camps start Tuesday, May 26, after Memorial Day. The last week of camp is Monday, Aug. 3, through Thursday, Aug. 6.

The cost is \$110 per week for all-day campers, and \$65 per week for half-day campers. Half-day campers will not be provided with lunch, and all-day campers can bring lunch or purchase a lunch ticket from the OCCC cafeteria.

Participation is limited to 10 half-day campers in either the morning or afternoon, and 40 all-day campers.

To enroll for the camp or learn more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness department at 405-682-7860.

## 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 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).



# Youngblood: Regent sworn in by Gov. Fallin for new term

*Continued from page 1*

When he returned to college, he received his bachelor's degree from Southern Nazarene University.

"I am also a student now — for two more weeks," Youngblood said. "I am about to finish my master's."

He is completing a master's degree at the University of Central Oklahoma in public administration.

As a regent, Youngblood said, he was honored to be a part of selecting the new president of OCCC.

"The biggest thing, obviously, that we've done in the last year is we've selected a new president.

"That was a lot of time and a lot of effort and a lot of meetings, and needed to be.

"It's the most important thing that we'll ever do because we put great trust in the

presidential position.

"We want to make sure they are doing the right things by those who are here who are teaching, who are called to that incredible position to teach and to help, and to prepare that next generation, as well as our students."

The Board of Regents elected to search for a presidential candidate internally before considering external candidates.

Youngblood said he was pleased with this decision.

It resulted in the appointment of Jerry Steward, the college's executive vice president.

"We felt like that was a testimony to what was going on here at the school.

"This school is very well run," he said.

Youngblood works for the Chickasaw Nation, managing community affairs and economic development.



Devery Youngblood

## Finals: Testing Center extends hours for OCCC finals week

*Continued from page 1*

11 through 15, the Testing Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. The doors will lock at 10 p.m.

On Saturday, May 16, the hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and doors lock at 4 p.m.

For students who have some flexibility about when they take final exams, Little had some advice on how to make the best of a hectic period.

She said Tuesday and Wednesday are less busy in the Testing Center but Thursday, Friday and Saturday can get very crowded because a lot of people will wait until the last minute.

"When they do that, there will be more people trying to get in to test at the same time," she said.

When the room gets crowded, it can become hot and stuffy, Little said. She suggests that students dress comfortably, and consider wearing light layers, since it can get pretty warm. Early morning hours and later in the evening tend to be less crowded.

"If students want to come when we're less busy, they need to come in the morning before 10 or 11 or in the evening between 7 and 10," she said.

Testing Center activity picks up around 11 a.m. and stays busy until at least 7 in the evening, Little said. They're busy all day but some hours not as busy.

**"A lot of students will have more than one test during finals week so they've got to manage their time to try and balance that out."**

—LINDA LITTLE  
TESTING AND ASSESSMENT  
DIRECTOR

Taking tests early in the day is better for some students.

"I like to go to the Testing Center in the morning," said student Jing Long. "I don't like the evening or afternoon because in the morning your brain will be much smarter and remember all the things you have to remember."

Others prefer different hours.

"From my experience here, I always prefer to come around 1 o'clock to have a lot of time before they close," said student Nariman Obias. "I like to spend maybe two hours and a half working on my test."

Obias said she plans to start studying a week before her test and work hard to be prepared.

Little said a few students arrive with incomplete information, which can add to an already stressful situation. And sometimes they arrive too late to take the test.

"The most common thing all the time is that they either show up without their student ID, because they have to have

a student ID, or they show up after the doors are locked, because we lock the doors an hour before we close," Little said.

"Other important things for students to know are their professor's name and their course prefix and number." She said it's also important for students to know what test they're going to take.

"During finals week it isn't as much of a problem because 95 percent of the people coming in are taking finals, but sometimes there are people that still need to take an exam they missed," she said.

"And students should be sure to write their name on the test," said Little, of another common mistake. "I'm amazed at how many students forget to write their names on them."

She said the staff tries to catch that before the student walks out but can't always, especially if they're really busy in the Testing Center.

"A lot of students will have more than one test during finals week so they've got to manage their time to try and balance that out," she said.

She suggests students start studying at least one week in advance.

"They can't bring anything into the Testing Center other than what they might need to take the test," Little said. All personal belongings, including cell phones, should be placed inside the lockers outside of

the Testing Center.

"Students should make sure if they use a locker, to lock the locker," Little said. If students don't know how to use the lockers, there are instructions on the inside.

During peak hours the lockers can get full so students might want to leave their belongings locked in their car.

Little said they will be post-

ing signs with the Testing Center hours during finals week and students can also pick up a card at the front counter of the Testing Center with those hours.

"I know finals can be really stressful for everybody," she said.

For more information, email [linda.k.little@occc.edu](mailto:linda.k.little@occc.edu) or call 405-682-7531.

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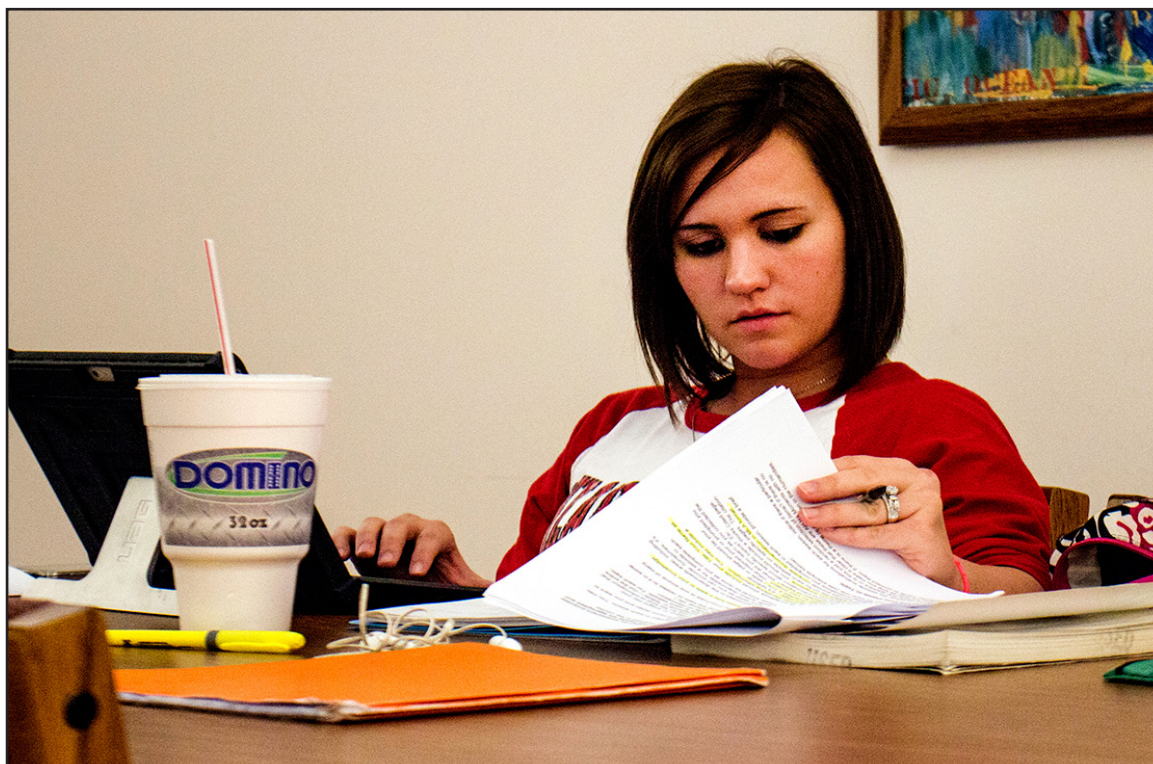
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# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

## Seriously studious



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Nursing major Desiree Beard works on a scrapbook project for her humanities class on April 29 on the second floor of OCCC's Keith Leftwich Library. OCCC offers numerous locations throughout the campus for students to study or relax.

**COMMUNITY |** Resource fair available to new and returning students

## Orientation open to everyone

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

New Student Orientation is one of the big focuses of Student Life as far as activities go, said Student Life Coordinator Kendra Fringer.

"Orientation here is a little different than a traditional institution because we really want to connect students with our college and how things work here," she said. "We want them to get more oriented with OCCC, not just college life."

New Student Orientation is not just for new students, Fringer said.

"It's for anyone who would like to get more acquainted with campus and get a stronger foothold on what it means to be a student here.

"We have students all the time who have been here a semester but only come at night or who only have online classes so don't know what the campus is like. Anyone is invited to come."

Fringer said orientation helps give students a better idea of how things work on campus and information on the different offices.

"We have groups from around campus and offices to come speak to students," she said.

"There's a resource fair where [students] can pick up privy materials and get the opportunity to have



one-on-one conversations with representatives from the offices."

Students also can get a better understanding about financial aid and the bursar's office work, she said.

"We have financial aid come to speak so they can have a good idea and understanding (of) how

their financial aid will work and ask any questions about the process."

Senior Student Account Representative Debbie Dutton will be speaking at orientation for the Bursar's office.

"Students will learn how the bursar works with the new online billing system because it's a little different than the past."

Fringer said the campus police department will speak about campus safety.

"Then, at the end, [students] have the opportunity to get a tour of campus so they can see again the offices and locations."

Fringer said students should not be nervous about attending orientation or asking for help. She said they can invite friends and family along for support.

"We'll help you, answer any questions we can and get you to where you need to go."

6 to 9 p.m. Monday, June 1

9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 9

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 17

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Women's scholarship taking applications

The Women of the South Primary Provider Scholarship is now taking applications from 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 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 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 host ministry series

Christians on Campus will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays in room AH1C3 for a "Solid Ground" ministry series. All students and faculty 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.

### 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.

### New Student Orientation starting this summer

New Student Orientation is starting this summer with the first session at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 1, in CU2 and CU3. Sessions are on various dates and times throughout June, July, and August. Orientation is free and open to all new and returning students. To see all the dates and times, go to [occc.edu/studentlife/schedule](http://occc.edu/studentlife/schedule). For more information, contact Student Life at studentlife@occc.edu or 405-682-7523.

**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.**

More dates and times are scheduled in July and August. To see all the dates and times, go to [occc.edu/studentlife/schedule](http://occc.edu/studentlife/schedule).

For more dates and information, contact Student Life at studentlife@occc.edu or 405-682-7523.



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.

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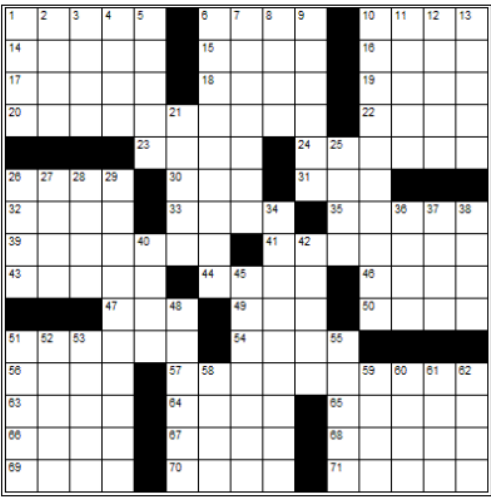


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[www.ppfa.org/ppfa](http://www.ppfa.org/ppfa)

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

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1. Rubbernecked
  - 6. Flat float
  - 10. Have the nerve
  - 14. Excuse
  - 15. Beige
  - 16. Pitcher
  - 17. Lascivious looks
  - 18. Dregs
  - 19. Twosome
  - 20. Affiliates
  - 22. Sea eagle
  - 23. Savvy about
  - 24. Arrived
  - 26. Smack
  - 30. Family
  - 31. A late time of life
  - 32. Barbershop emblem
  - 33. Nights before
  - 35. Flower part
  - 39. Improvement
  - 41. Frugality
  - 43. Respond
  - 44. Fly high
  - 46. Algonquian Indian
  - 47. Dawn goddess
  - 49. Utilize
  - 50. Cravings
  - 51. Treeless plain
  - 54. You (archaic)
  - 56. Lean
  - 57. Fancy designs in wood
  - 63. Decorative case
  - 64. Winglike
  - 65. Creepy
  - 66. Countertenor
  - 67. A magician
  - 68. Coarse-grained
  - 69. Avid
  - 70. Female sheep (plural)
  - 71. Runs in neutral

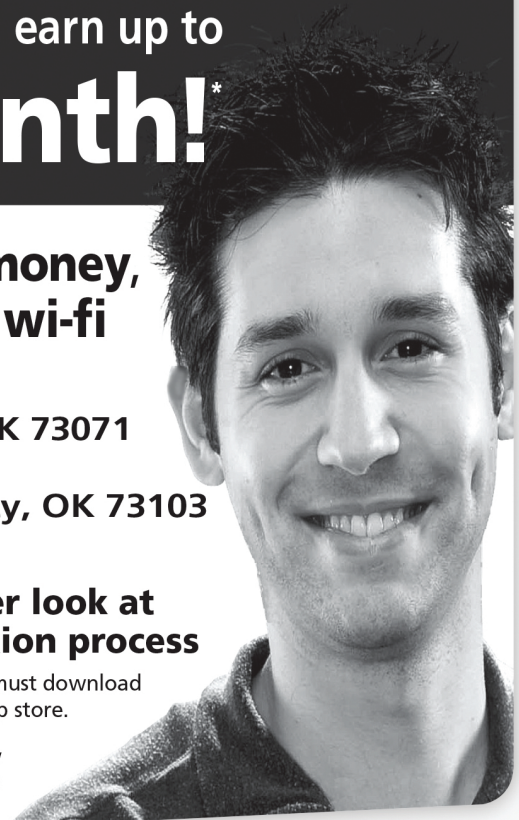


- DOWN**
- 1. Big party
  - 2. Beers
  - 3. Desserts
  - 4. River of Spain
  - 5. Popular dance music
  - 6. Family members
  - 7. Polish remover
  - 8. No charge
  - 9. Scuffle
  - 10. Drug addiction
  - 11. Honor
  - 12. French for "Queen"
  - 13. Made a mistake
  - 21. Signed
  - 25. As well
  - 26. Prod
  - 27. Easy gait
  - 28. Aquatic plant
  - 29. Discernment
  - 34. Coasts
  - 36. Minute opening
  - 37. Ends a prayer
  - 38. Caustics
  - 40. At the peak of
  - 42. Angler's basket
  - 45. Indignation
  - 48. Benni
  - 51. Cut of meat
  - 52. Name of a book
  - 53. Wash out with a solvent
  - 55. Lacquer ingredient
  - 58. Talon
  - 59. Noxious plant
  - 60. By mouth
  - 61. Anger
  - 62. Lock openers

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# Former Pioneer editor continues the good fight

BRYCE MCELHANEY

Editor  
editor@occc.edu

This year has been a big one for Joey Stipek – from being awarded a \$2,000 grant from FOI to fight a lawsuit against the University of Oklahoma concerning public records on parking tickets, to more recently being published in the New York Times for his story on Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity video of members using the N-word.

The former Pioneer editor who now writes for the OU Daily, said, of these milestones in his journalism career, his biggest accomplishment has been not getting kicked out of school.

News Writing Professor Sue Hinton had Stipek in her class at OCCC in 2010. She said he is a classic journalist — he tends to focus more on the newspaper than on his studies.

Stipek attributes his passion for journalism to his peers and overseers at the Pioneer newspaper.

He said he recalls looking through the Pioneer archives and reading stories written by Matt Skvarla, Chris Lusk and Richard Hall — all former editors — and aspiring to follow in their footsteps.

“I sat down and looked through copies of the Pioneer, and there were two names that really stood out — Richard Hall and Chris Lusk,” he said.

Stipek said they were both journalists who seemed to do everything right. He said he took an Intro to Programming course because they also took the course.

Hinton said, since Stipek took her class, he has

“I think he left here as a better writer and a better reporter, and I think he has just continued to mature and grow.”

—SUE HINTON  
NEWS WRITING PROFESSOR

grown as a journalist.

She said she attributes that to the coaching she, Pioneer News Writing Instructional Assistant Ronna Austin and OU Adviser Judy Gibbs Robinson have given him.

She said the three of them have offered Stipek numerous professional tips while he has been in college and he has put them to good use. Hinton said simplicity and clarity are crucial journalism skills which Stipek absorbed over time.

Hinton said the fact that Stipek thought the OU parking ticket story worth pursuing reflects on him as a good journalist.

“The thing about news writing, is it’s harder than it looks, because it has to be so clear and thorough, yet so simple,” she said. “It’s a big deal that he worked to get clarity on parking tickets at OU ... .

“He went after those records believing that the law was clear [about the open records on parking tickets].”

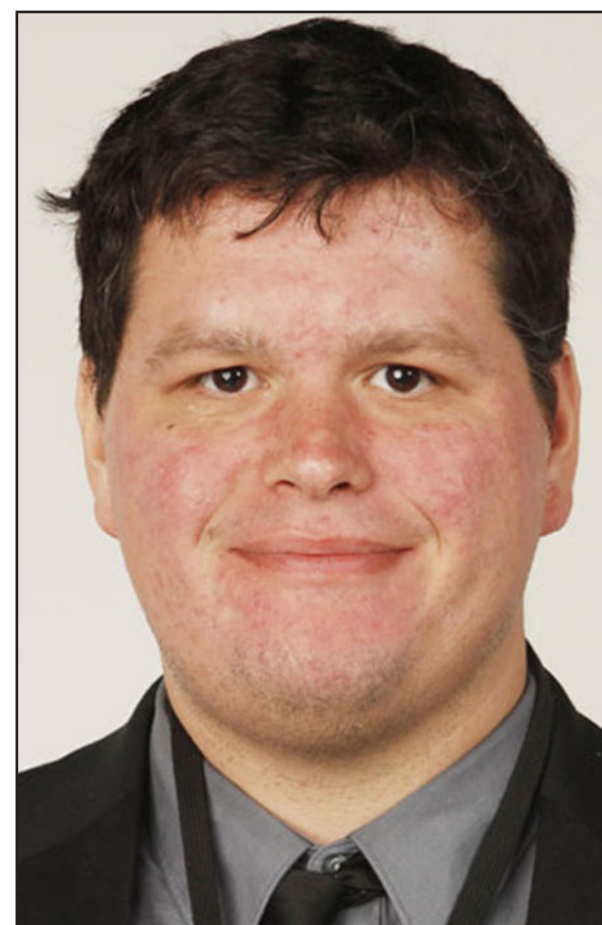
Hinton said Stipek is the first journalist from the Pioneer to be published in the New York Times, which, she said, is a very big deal.

“I think he left here as a better writer and a better reporter, and I think he has just continued to mature and grow,” she said.

“We were proud of the work he did here. He won a number of awards for us here.”

Hinton said she is certain the Pioneer will continue to produce these types of journalists.

“I will credit Ronna for trying to adhere to a standard [for our journalists] — for working on basic skills, getting information, seeking open records



Joey Stipek

and writing the hard stories.”

Hinton said that training has been a part of the Pioneer culture for many years.

She said the Pioneer has given a lot of students a good foundation in journalism and Stipek is one of them.

Stipek can be followed on Twitter @JoeyStipek.

## VPO violation, two fire alarms keep police busy

JORGE KRZYZANIAK

Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Police responded to reports of a violated protective order and two fire alarms in the most recent incident reports received by the Pioneer.

Officer Tim Harris was dispatched to OCCC’s Capitol Hill Learning Center on Thursday, April 9, in reference to a violation of a Victim’s Protective Order.

The names of the suspect and the victim were redacted from the report. It also is unknown if either party is a student. More information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

Burned microwave popcorn is to blame for a fire alarm that activated at about 8:10 p.m. Monday, April 13, in a SEM Center lab.

According to the reports from campus police, an unnamed college staff member inadvertently activated the alarm.

“The cause of the activation was food that was burned in the microwave by a lab assistant,” said Officer Kevin Hammond.

A vent hood in the lab helped to dissipate the smoke and police reset the alarm. An “all clear” notification was sent across campus at 8:15 p.m. and “all activities returned to normal.”

Campus police responded to a second fire alarm in the SEM Center on Friday, April 24.

After hearing the alarm, Harris contacted police dispatch and was informed that a smoke detector was activated on the second floor of the center.

It was ascertained that a smoke detector had malfunctioned, the report said. The alarm was reset and the smoke detector replaced.

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.



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?