

# OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER



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OCT. 30, 2015



OCCC President Jerry Steward proudly surveys the crowd gathered for the Presidential Investiture Oct. 30. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would lead the finest community college in the United States," he said. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

## From humble beginnings to college president

**Jerry Steward invested as OCCC's 10th leader during ceremony**

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Jerry Steward's 41 years of involvement at OCCC reached its pinnacle Oct. 30.

He was recognized for his success and hard work during his investiture as OCCC's 10th president.

Steward said his years being part of the college have helped him step into the presidency and give him the ability to better establish its direction for the future.

"I know the college," he said. "I know the people, I know the budgets, I know the organizational structure, and most importantly, I know the community in which the college sits."

Steward said he is pleased to see how much attention has been focused on the college

during this time of transition.

"The most exciting part of the day for me is to have the college recognized by so many people," he said.

About 800 people attended the event, including Higher Education Chancellor Glen Johnson, other state leaders and college presidents.

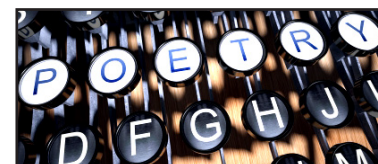
Steward said the investiture ceremony was a celebration of what OCCC means to Oklahoma City.

"This is a celebration of the continuity of the college much more than it is a celebration of my presidency."

See **EVENT** page 6

## Students unite for poetry recital

**HUNG TRAN**  
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Each fall semester since 2011, international students in Modern Languages Professor Abra Figueroa's class and American students in English Professor Carlotta Hill's class have had a chance to share their love of poetry with one another.

The annual poetry event, held in the World Languages and Cultures Center, builds up the connection between American students and international students through poems, Hill said.

The event is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Nov.

5. Not everyone will read in English.

"... My [American] students listen to poetry from international students," Hill said.

"... They really love the language of poetry and the rhythm even if they don't understand the words. They are able to understand the feeling."

Figueroa said each international student in her class is asked to prepare one poem from his or her native country and read it at the event in that country's language.

See **POETRY** page 9

## Student comment cards get attention

**LENORA LAVICTOIRE**  
Community Writer  
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Some OCCC students want rowing machines in the Wellness Center, or for FOX News not to be on campus televisions. Some students just want to tell school employees if they are doing a good or bad job.

The college receives feedback from students in a couple of ways: through MineOnline and in comment boxes located on campus, said Student Life Director Erin Logan.

She said each Friday Student Life staff members collect the cards from the seven campus collection boxes. Logan said after receiving the comment cards, she forwards them to the President's Cabinet member who represents the division to which the comment is related.

She said she asks for a copy of the response.

See **CARDS** page 9





# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**RESTAURANT REVIEW** | Reviewer says restaurant staff goes above expectations

## Golden Chick sways fast-food critic

I rarely eat fast food. I prefer waking up a little bit early each Monday to prepare food for the entire week instead of buying junk food — even if junk food is convenient, time-saving and American-style.

However, one restaurant, Golden Chick, located at 5800 S Pennsylvania Ave., has changed that.

I love this restaurant for three reasons: the delicious taste of the food, the friendliness of the staff and the comfortable environment.

I still remember the first time I went to Golden Chick. It was nearly 9 p.m. on a Friday and I was too tired to cook dinner.

So, I decided to Google nearby restaurants and found this store was about eight minutes driving time from the OCCC campus.

The staff was cleaning up when I came in. Of the food I wanted, none was prepared since it was at the end of the night.

One staff member asked me to wait for 15 to 20

minutes so they could cook my order fresh.

Then she gave me a large drink for free and told me that they would never let any customers wait that long and hoped I would not mind.

While I was waiting, all the staff kept communicating with me because, in my opinion, they might not want me to feel bored.

They also gave me extra food and kept apologizing for keeping me waiting.

That visit turned me into a faithful customer.

But back to the delicious food. The chicken is fresh and well-cooked. My nephew also has become addicted to Golden Chick. He now asks me to buy chicken there every Friday.

Everyone should visit once and enjoy the service at Golden Chick. I am sure it's an experience you will never forget.

**Rating: A**

—HUNG TRAN  
STAFF WRITER



**EVENT REVIEW** | Drake fan endures day-long heat, crowds to see headliner

## Musical festival much better on paper

As someone who religiously watches live streams of popular music festivals like Coachella, I've always wished that I could one day attend one.

They look like so much fun. All the different artists, all the people, and all the things going on make it seem like the typically high price of admission is well worth the experience you're going to get out of it.

So, when I had the chance to head down to Austin for its annual Austin City Limits Festival, I knew I had to take that chance. The lineup was great, and it was in one of my favorite places. We had to go.

The festival was exactly what I thought it would be, for the most part. The overall atmosphere in the park was electric. It was a sea of people, with stages everywhere.

My friends and I bounced around from stage to stage, trying to get the most out of our tickets.

Spending time trying to figure out what artists we were going to go see and what artists we had to forgo were seriously some of the toughest decisions of my young life.

But, the artists we did see were well worth the price

of admission.

I saw a diverse group of performers and all of them had great shows. I wasn't disappointed by any of them.

One thing about music festivals that you don't realize watching them on a laptop in your bed, like I used to do, is how grueling they are.

You spend the entire day walking with the sun beating down on you and, by the time you get to the end of the day, it's a relief it's over.

I had to muster up every bit of energy in my body so I was able to act like an absolute lunatic when Drake — the headliner and the main reason why we were there — came out.

For that reason, I think I prefer just going to normal concerts.

I don't want to be listening to an artist just waiting

for him to be finished so I can go home and sleep. That's no fun.

Overall though, the festival was a fun experience and I'm sure it won't be my last one.

**Rating: B+**

—IAN MANERA  
SPORTS WRITER



## Radarscope the ultimate weather app

Most of us have a weather app we swear by. Some stick with the standard weather app on their phones, some like the Weather Channel, some get really minimalist, and there are some who aren't satisfied with any of those.

Give me a moment to talk to you about Radarscope.

Radarscope is not for the faint of heart — and it's not free. It's \$4.99 on the app store, and it's the best.

It features live, clear, high-definition resolution radar data from the national weather service's NEXRAD network of doppler radars.

This isn't your Facebook friend's weather app. This app features data straight from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.

You're able to view flash flood, tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings in real time, and preview incoming weather in real time anywhere in the U.S., updated every three to 10 minutes.

Something people probably don't realize is that NOAA is the government's weather service. NOAA provides the most accurate weather information in the world (rivaled only by maybe the Chinese). No other weather app is this accurate or official. None.

There is no weather app better than this one. There is so much data, updating, and care going into this app that nothing else even comes close.

Everyone at the National Weather Center in Norman uses this app.

While this sounds daunting, the app is not just for hardcore weather enthusiasts and meteorologists.

It's extremely easy to use for amateurs, or if you just want a clear picture of where the incoming severe weather is relative to your position.

Regardless of how you decide to use this app, you can rest easy knowing you are using the best possible.

Feel free to brag to your friends. Feel free to shoot down their puny, low-resolution weather apps.

They don't have radarscope.

—SPENCER GRANT  
STAFF WRITER

# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**MOVIE REVIEW** | Matt Damon delivers a performance full of laughs in otherwise OK film

## 'The Martian' funny to even non-rocket scientists

Matt Damon stars as botanist Mark Watney in "The Martian," which follows Watney's attempts to survive on Mars after his crew assumes his death and leaves him.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to enjoy Matt Damon's performance, so let's get that nonsense out of the way.

I can safely say I am illiterate when it comes to the scientific field, but I really liked watching Watney come up with creative solutions to his unique situation.

The film is built on the constant ups and downs of dread, then victory, defeat, then innovative success.

I'll admit, the scene of him removing debris from his abdomen was one of the most uncomfortable things I've ever sat through.

If you're expecting it to be similar to Interstellar, I'll stop you there. "The

Martian" leans much more toward humor but still moves the audience to compassion and sympathy during moments in which Watney feels defeated.

He has to work through scarce resources, only disco music to listen to and harsh weather.

The script made the movie clever and entertaining.

Watney's witty personality shines through seemingly impossible obstacles as he uses every resource he has to survive alone on an uninhabited planet. He becomes possibly the only man to ever farm potatoes in his own crap on Mars.

The other cast members, including Jessica Chastain, Kate Mara, Jeff Daniels, Sebastian Stan and Michael Peña, put on a terrific show.

A few characters seemed unnecessary, or lacking, to say the least.

Sean Bean's performance as the crew supervisor was not particularly attention-grabbing.

Kristen Wiig stars as NASA's spokesperson and I couldn't take her seriously. Her performance seemed extremely flat.

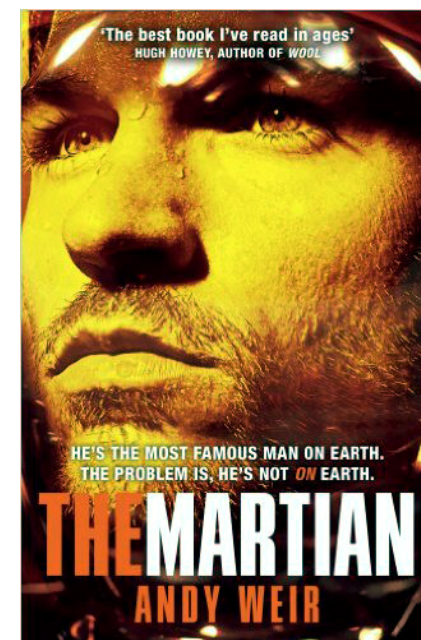
Once I suppressed memories from his "Dumb and Dumber" days, I think Jeff Daniels played a really convincing NASA director.

The film also includes a few "Lord of the Rings" references, which are well-placed and lightened up the gravity of the situation (pun intended).

A few of the plot points could have been planned better. Still, I would definitely watch it again, if only for a few laughs.

**RATING: B+**

—DARLA KILHOFFER  
ONLINE EDITOR



**POLITICAL REVIEW** | Reviewer predicts debates being combined with 'American Idol' in the future

## Democratic debate mild compared to GOP

Compared to the monster truck rally GOP debates so far, the first Democratic primary debate was somewhat civil and informative.

There was no blatant racism or sexism and CNN's Anderson Cooper kept some semblance of a system.

It resembled an actual debate as opposed to a WWE Extreme Cage Death Match where 15 clowns enter and one buffoon leaves.

The GOP debates required alcohol to endure the blind, destructive, plastic rhetoric.

The Dem debate could actually be considered thought-provoking, as opposed to thought suppressing.

(Satire alert.)

Jim Webb, while candid, is clearly insane, although I do trust him to destroy ISIS with his bare hands.

Sen. Lincoln Chafee demanded to be taken to McDonalds before going back to the nursing home.

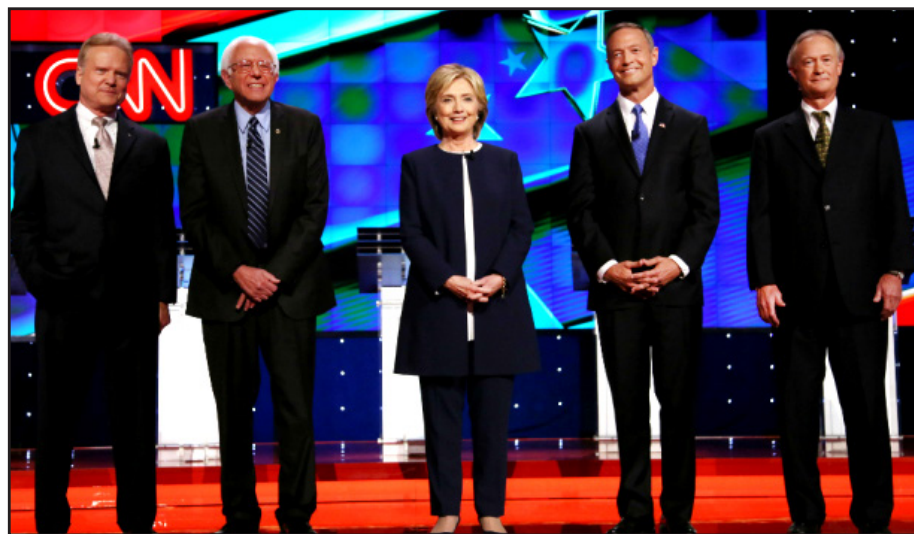
Hillary Clinton went backstage to shed her skin for a fresh one.

Bernie Sanders left screaming and throwing his hands in the air, threatening to strangle Karl Rove with his bare hands.

So it was still pretty entertaining.

What is especially funny is I only just now remembered the existence of Martin O'Malley, who held his own, despite being carted in from a wax museum (the same one most GOP candidates come from).

While Web, O'Malley, and Chafe all fought valiantly to be taken seriously, they were clearly not pleased with being



on the stage exclusively because they aren't Hillary Clinton. But if Hillary Clinton should be president because she is a woman, then maybe they should be up there just because. Anything goes, apparently.

In the future our democratic system will be combined with "American Idol," the natural evolution of our society.

**Rating: B**

—GRANT SWALWELL  
BLOGGER/PODCATER

**Do you have an idea for a review? Send it to the Pioneer!**  
**Email the Pioneer editor at**  
**editor@occc.edu**

### TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Oct. 23  
through Oct. 24

[www.newyorktimes.com](http://www.newyorktimes.com)

1. The Martian
2. Goosebumps
3. Bridge of Spies
4. The Last Witch Hunter
5. Hotel Transylvania 2
6. Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension
7. Steve Jobs
8. Crimson Peak
9. The Intern
10. Sicario
11. Woodlawn
12. Pan
13. Rock the Kasbah
14. Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
15. Jem and the Holograms
16. Black Mass
17. Everest
18. The Visit
19. Shandaar
20. Kanche



# Class takes trip to Oklahoma County Jail

ERIKA CRISTINA FIERRO  
News Writing Student

A class assignment took a turn in the direction of real life earlier this semester when 18 students in Professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert's Public Relations course toured the Oklahoma County Jail.

The students had been divided into two teams: one assigned to design a campaign in support of a 1-cent county sales tax to build a new jail and the other to oppose the building of a new jail.

Faulconer-Lippert allowed the class to vote on whether to accept Sheriff John Whetsel's invitation to walk through the jail.

"This political campaign is part of a collaborative learning exercise for my PR students," Faulconer-Lippert said.

"In teams, the students learn about the intricacies of a political PR campaign and are able to discuss all aspects, sharing insights and ideas with team members."

Megan Pertiet, diversified studies major, was in the majority who voted to see the

24-year-old lock-up.

She said she wanted to tour the facility because she was curious. It was also a chance to get information for the political campaign project.

Public Relations major Juan Montoya said the jail tour was what he expected.

The jail currently houses more than 2,800 inmates, said Corporal Deputy Ivan Lomeli, one of four staff members that led the tour.

"Sometimes we have to assign three to four inmates to a cell because we do not have enough cells," he said.

According to the Oklahoma County website, the jail was originally built with 1,200 cells to house 2,400 inmates.

The students walked within reach of the inmates as the group passed through the hallways of the men's section of the jail.

Some students said it was a scary feeling.

The inmates were cat-calling and talking loudly to the visitors, which the students had been warned could happen.



COURTESY NEWSOK.COM

The jail itself is in bad condition.

Students noticed the windows made of strong plastic material inside the jail were cracked. Their thought was that the glass was cracked from inmates banging their heads on it.

The guards quickly corrected the students and explained that the cracks were from the foundation of the building settling.

Students learned that the jail frequently exceeds its occupancy limits.

Lomeli said, at some point, the jail has to start releasing

inmates who are eligible for early release.

"This is the worst county jail in Oklahoma!" yelled one man as the group first entered the area where inmates were being held.

Prisoners would bang on their doors as the class walked past. Some asked if the students were part of the Scared Straight program.

Danielle Grenier, diversified studies major, said she believes it's important for everyone to tour the jail because it's an eye-opener.

"We don't think about the

people in jail and their living conditions but it's real and it's happening," she said.

Guards took the students to the medical area, which had been converted from regular cells, said one of the guards.

The medical area wasn't included in the original building of the jail; therefore, the staff had to create their own. Cells are used as exam rooms and for the doctor's office.

Students learned that when an inmate cannot be taken care of at the jail, they are transported to a medical center for treatment.

Improved medical facilities would be included in plans for a new jail.

"At present, according to polling, it could be as many as two or three years" before the 1-cent county sales tax is seen on the ballot for Oklahoma County voters, Faulconer-Lippert said.

For more information, contact Whetsel at 405-713-1051 or johwhe@oklahomacounty.org.

# False fire alarm, injured employee reported to police

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A false fire alarm, a keyed car, and an injury to an employee were reported to campus police in recent weeks.

Student worker Karla Ruiz, 19, said when she pulled the clear plastic cover off a fire alarm in the FACE Center, she did not realize that would activate it.

Ruiz activated the alarm located in the northwest hallway of the center around 8:45 a.m. Oct. 15.

Ruiz said in an interview she didn't have a reason for removing the cover.

"I can't recall," she said. "It was one of those split-second decisions."

Reporting Officer Don Rowe notified the campus police that it was a false alarm.

A key issued for the TRIO office at 1V7 in the Main Building was reported as lost by employee Amanda Finch at

about 5 p.m. Oct. 14.

Finch told Officer William Hall she last saw the missing key on Oct. 7. Finch said she may have misplaced the key as she is in the process of moving.

Police received a report of an injury after FACE Center employee Fortunata Arzate, 62, tripped on some wires located near a stage in the FACE Center cafeteria.

Arzate reportedly injured her arm during the fall that occurred at 8:40 a.m. Oct. 15.

Community Outreach and Education Director Jessica Martinez-Brooks reported the injury.

Martinez-Brooks said she had re-

ceived a call from Arzate saying she went to an unspecified hospital and discovered she may have broken her arm.

Arzate was advised by Martinez-Brooks to report the injury to Human Resources. Rowe said he reviewed security footage from the area, but the camera was not recording at the time of the incident.

On Oct. 19, around 1:05 p.m., Officer P.T. Solinski was dispatched to parking lot E in response to a possible car having been scratched with keys.

Student Nicole Waddle, 23, reported scratches on her passenger side door that she did not recall having been

there before.

Solinski reviewed the security footage from the time Waddle arrived on campus at 9:07 a.m. until around 12:50 p.m., but said he found no conclusive evidence.

The case is listed as not having enough merit or substance to be considered further.

Some information was redacted from the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan, who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld."

To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

To contact Campus Police dial 405-682-1611 ext. 7747.

For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside the campus or call 405-682-7872.





# State leaders gather to honor OCCC



Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Glen D. Johnson shares a moment with his friend OCCC President Jerry Steward. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

## Event: President Steward commits to workforce training

*Continued from page 1*

He noted his five deceased siblings and his parents, Richard and Ruby Steward, who he said made him into the person he is today.

"They taught me ... by deed and by example the almost unbelievable power of perseverance and hard work."

Steward took the opportunity to speak of new developments at OCCC.

"Just yesterday we signed a contract with Honda," Steward said. "Oklahoma City Community College will be the only Honda Training Center in the state of Oklahoma, and one of only 24 in the country."

He said the program, starting in March, will be similar to the GM technician training program already at the college.

He said the Honda program will produce automotive technicians who will graduate with associate degrees to jobs that in

their first year start at \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year.

"Folks, that is workplace development," Steward said.

He said he and the college will have to be "nimble and quick" to determine what the jobs of the future are.

He also spoke of the adult mentoring program, Students Connecting with Mentors for Success, to be offered in the spring for the first time.

Steward said when he was a young boy he walked down the dirt road that ran in front of his house and made plans for his future.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I ever believe that I would have the opportunity to lead the finest community college faculty and staff in the United States," he said.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I believe that I would have the opportunity to lead a great college like this that has provided hope for so many

people."

During the investiture breakfast, Regent Christie Burgin said the day marked a significant point in OCCC's history with Steward being formally invested as OCCC's 10th president.

Regent Devery Youngblood said the investiture is somewhat like New Year's Day — it is a time to restart goals under new leadership. He said one of the reasons Steward was selected as OCCC's president is his longtime involvement with the college and his political background.

"I think we're headed toward some very challenging times with our budgets," he said.

"At the same time, we have more need to provide people with a pathway out of poverty and into the middle class that only education can provide.

"We're going to have to do more with less, and there is nobody more qualified to do

that than Jerry Steward."

Oklahoma Representative and OCCC alumnus Shane Stone (R-OKC) said he thought Steward was "the perfect person" to be college president due to his connection with state legislators and southside Oklahoma City constituents.

"He's on a first-name basis with all the right people who you would want him to be on a first-name basis with," Stone said.

Also in attendance was former Oklahoma Governor and former University of Central Oklahoma President George Nigh, who said he came to support his longtime friend.

"Being a former president, I know he is going to need all the help he can get," Nigh said.

After the ceremony, Steward said now is the time to focus on the future.

"I am pleased this event is past us and now we can just concentrate on the work ahead

of us," Steward said. "That's really what I'm focused on."

Academic Student Success Director Darby Johnsen said she thinks Steward is well-suited for the job.

While the investiture draws attention to the college's future, it acknowledges its past as well.

"I think that this is the right president at the right time in the college's history," she said.

"It will allow us to continue ... supporting the community and our students. So it's a celebration of the next era but with great ties to the past."

After the ceremony, Steward's wife, Tammy, said she is very excited about the future of the college.

"It's a wonderful day for OCCC," she said.

"It's a wonderful day for Dr. Steward and the community, faculty and everybody. I thought it went wonderful.

"We had a great turnout and the future is great for OCCC."



# Crowd braves heavy rain for ceremony

**Right:** OCCC President Jerry Steward holds an umbrella for first lady Tammy Steward before the investiture. “My wife Tammy is my biggest supporter,” Steward said. Steward, recently named the college’s 10th president, was officially invested at the Oct. 30 ceremony. About 800 people attended the event including a number of state dignitaries.



**Left:** McKinley Elementary first grader Thanos Mairé, 6, led the pledge of allegiance during the Presidential Investiture Oct. 30. He is accompanied by OCCC First Lady Tammy Steward.

In his opening remarks, Steward recognized the young man. “Thanos, I want to give a special thank you to you. I don’t think I’ve ever seen someone do the flag salute as good as you did,” he said.

PHOTOS BY  
MELISSA SUE LOPEZ/PIONEER

**Right:** A crowd gathers in the VPAC Theater Atrium after OCCC President Jerry Steward’s investiture ceremony Oct. 30. Steward said the most exciting part of the event was to have OCCC recognized by so many people. The day included a breakfast and lunch that preceded the afternoon event. Higher Education Chancellor Glen Johnson, other state leaders and college presidents attended. Steward said the Investiture ceremony was a celebration of what OCCC means to Oklahoma City.





## SPORTS



**Quarterback Drills:** KJ Johnson, music producer and CEO of Loyal Pain Studios LLC, does quarterback agility drills on the basketball court on campus. He said he is training himself to be part of the University of Central Oklahoma football team where he plans to transfer in the spring. After years of being absent from college, Johnson decided to come to OCCC to be part of the Film and Video program. "I want to learn how to score music for films and become a music video director," he said. For more information on the Film and Video program, visit [www.occ.edu/academics/programs/film-video-production.html](http://www.occ.edu/academics/programs/film-video-production.html). *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

## Dancers of all calibers invited to join class

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

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

Aspiring dancers of any caliber at OCCC can put on their dancing shoes and try out the Social Dance Club being offered on campus this semester, said Dance Instructor Elizabeth Hobi.

The Social Dance club class is a fitness class that teaches students how to properly dance with a partner, Hobi said. She said she teaches her students a variety of dances in the class.

"Right now, we're working all waltz, but it rotates," she said.

"We could be doing waltz, or cha-cha, or rumba. We also do West Coast swing, which is very popular amongst young people now. It's a lot of fun."

While the dance class is dependant on having a partner, Hobi said, students don't have to bring a partner to partake in the class.



"... People think that if you show up without a partner you don't have anyone to dance with. We rotate partners."

Hobi said people may be intimidated by dance classes because they have little experience, but this class is

for beginners.

"Most people are afraid to take a dance class because they're afraid they're going to be the only person in the class that doesn't know anything," she said.

"You don't have to know anything at all. Absolutely nothing at all. All you have to do is be able to walk."

The accessibility of the class makes it great for students who want to pick up a new skill, Hobi said.

"It's a great way to broaden your horizons," she said.

"Take a little bit of West Coast swing, you can start going out to clubs, and

feel confident and be able to dance with people."

Hobi said the only things required for the class are shoes with slick soles at the bottom.

She said students shouldn't wear athletic shoes that are normally meant for running.

The class, like all of the other fitness classes offered on campus, is free for students with a valid OCCC ID.

"This is a great opportunity for students to have dance instruction for free," she said. "Social dance classes for partner dancing are usually very expensive."

The Social Dance Club meets from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesday evenings in the Wellness Center group fitness room on the first floor of the Main Building.

For more information about any of the fitness classes being offered at OCCC this semester, visit [www.occ.edu/rf/wellness-classes.html](http://www.occ.edu/rf/wellness-classes.html) or contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.

### GETTING TO KNOW:

JOHN  
HOOPS  
SPORTS  
ATTENDANT  
SINCE 2015



**Q: What is your job description?**

A: "We check people in, make sure they're wearing proper clothes for the gym and instruct people on how to use the new machines. We say hi and goodbye to people too."

**Q: What's your favorite part about working at OCCC?**

A: "It's an easy job. My favorite part is the people and my co-workers. What I love about OCCC is that it's just fun. Being able to play basketball with the guys, it's just fun."

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

A: "I go to OCCC and I major in mechanical engineering. I just like hang out with my friends. That's about it."

**Q: What sports have you played throughout your life?**

A: "I've only played soccer throughout my life. My high school, Dove Science Academy, only offered soccer. I love basketball too."

**Q: What are your favorite sports teams?**

A: "Not really that much, honestly. Mostly just the University of Oklahoma sports teams. The Oklahoma City Thunder too."

**Q: What's your favorite thing about sports and fitness?**

A: "They go together. Sports are really fun and you get healthy doing it."

**Q: Do you think it's important to be fit? Why?**

A: "Yes, I think it's very important for yourself. Being healthy helps with being happy with yourself."

### HAVE SPORTS NEWS?

Email [sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu) or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676, to get your sports news in the Pioneer



# International students get a taste of cowboy culture

**HAO HUA**  
News Writing Student

Oklahoma's cowboy culture was at the center of a field trip for international students on Sept. 22, led by Professor Abra Figueroa.

Figueroa teaches the Academic Bridge Programs for students learning English as a Second Language.

The group of about 20 students went to the Oklahoma National Stockyards and the Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, both in Oklahoma City.

The historic stockyards are a very large livestock market, founded in 1910.

It is located at 2501 Exchange Ave. in southwest Oklahoma City.

The students could see some

cowboys who were busy handling cattle.

When the students got there, the first sight they saw was the horsemen and cattlemen feeding the cows.

They were wearing high boots and black denim clothes.

Next, the students watched ranchers buying and selling cattle at auction, although most students said they did not understand what the ranchers were saying.

Although the students had never seen this kind of auction before, they said they still found it interesting.

"This is so fun," said Lee P. Dung, from Vietnam, a student studying modern language.

She saw different kinds of cows at the stockyards.

She said the cattle are stronger than she had seen before,

but still she thought they were quiet and meek.

"This is the place that local and original Oklahoma looks like," she said. "Everything here belongs to Oklahoma culture."

Abric J. Dadeq, from Iran, was more concerned about the price of the cattle. He said he was familiar with cattle in his home country.

"The price of cows is not cheap," he said. "I like it here. This is a cool place."

The second destination was Oklahoma City's world class museum of Western art and artifacts.

A tour guide not only took the group around the museum, but also gave detailed commentary.

The museum features a large collection of paintings and sculpture. The painting

"Learnin' the Ropes" is a masterpiece of Jason Rich, showing cowboys riding horses. The scene was similar to the one the students had seen earlier in the day at the stockyards.

Part of the tour included a typical Old West town of the 19th century. The town is like an antique, not like a modern city.

It showed how people lived before electricity and advanced equipment. The town included some small houses, stores and an old bank.

Lamia Moss, from Azerbaijan, who is studying music, said the trip was a great experience.

"It is not just interesting here, but most importantly we learned something here," she said. "We saw a lot of historical arts and architecture here. It's all about cowboys and

Western American history."

The professor will take students on a future field trip to give them more knowledge of Oklahoma culture.

Other students on the trip were: Amir Asadpour, Iran; Aya Charif, Syria; Vanessa J. Essis, Venezuela; Magna Y. Joao, Angola; Omaira V. Jones, Colombia; Ines M. Kindelan, Cuba; Corneille C. Mbougou Koumba, Gabon; Lamia Moss, Azerbaijan; Lidia Rivera, Mexico; Sasithorn Ruangpichit, Thailand; Mahmood F. Sadeq, Iraq; Sahamin O. Zando, Ivory Coast.

Several more students were from Vietnam. There were Thao T. Ho, Diem T. Nguyen, Dung T. Nguyen, Linh T. Nguyen, Tram V. Quynh, Linh P. Tran, Phung N. Trinh and Bao H. Vo.

## Poetry: Students plan to share culture through poetry event

*Continued from page 1*

"We don't necessarily understand every word of the poem, but before they read they will tell us what the basic idea of the poem is," she said.

"... We just enjoy the music of the language."

Figueroa said this year, she will read her poem in Spanish.

"The purpose of the event is just to

appreciate different languages, for us to appreciate the richness of cultures and artistic richness of the languages," she said. "We will not have any discussion about poems."

Hill said the students enjoy the experience.

"... [American students] are a little bit shy with international students," she said. "They don't know much about the different countries.

"They don't know how to approach [the international students] or talk to them. By coming to the event, they understand that international students are just like they are and they try to get into the conversation."

Figueroa said everyone interested in poetry and different cultures is welcome at the event.

Chiaki Troutman, World Languages and Cultures Center coordinator, said

this is the fifth poetry event held in the lab, on the second floor of the Main Building.

"It is about learning different cultures through poetry," she said. "The event usually creates a warm atmosphere."

"We have funding so we offer some refreshments — drinks and cookies for participants."

For more information, email [afigueroa@occc.edu](mailto:afigueroa@occc.edu) or [chill@occc.edu](mailto:chill@occc.edu).

## Cards: Student comments get responses from college staff

*Continued from page 1*

A recent comment card, from a batch collected on Oct. 9, said several of the handicap access doors on campus have been broken for weeks.

Student Services and Enrollment Acting Vice President Marlene Shugart said after Facilities Management was notified, they checked all handicap door operators on campus.

She said that only one handicap door operator, was found to be broken and is now fixed. It was located at the Science Engineering and Math Entry 2.

Another comment card

submitted during the fall 2015 semester requested a rowing machine in the Wellness Center.

"Of all the equipment that I've ordered, that was probably the only thing that I had ... a few people requesting," said Recreation and Fitness Director Mike Shugart.

He said he has since ordered a water rower for the Wellness Center. "It's probably going to be here within the next two weeks."

One comment card complains about the high cost of food and low level of service at OCCC's cafeteria. Marlene

Shugart said Consolidated Management, a private company that has a contract with the college, oversees the cafeteria.

She said that company, not the college, manages prices and employees, so that card could not be addressed.

Not all the comment and suggestions cards are negative.

One card submitted July 29 simply said,

"So wish OCCC was a four-year college."

Another card congratulates Academic Adviser Poa Lee for her hard work.

Acting Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services

Lisa Fisher said she enjoys receiving positive feedback about employees in her division.

She said she forwards the feedback directly to her staff members.

Another comment card recommended the college start a community garden.

Both Fisher and Marlene Shugart said there are no current plans to create an OCCC garden.

Logan said a link to the electronic Comment Card can be found on MineOnline under the help and feedback tab.

She said students have the option to be anonymous, and

that most students choose not to be responded to.

Acting Executive Vice President Steven Bloomberg said feedback from students is very important to him and the college.

"Let's have a better campus tomorrow then we did today," he said. "Let's have a better campus next week then we did this past week."

Bloomberg said OCCC benefits from the process of continual improvement.

To submit an online comment or suggestion, visit [www.occc.edu/studentlife/comment.html](http://www.occc.edu/studentlife/comment.html).



# CAMPUS COMMUNITY



**Water Matters:** Students work through real-life water shortage scenarios with the guidance of English Professor Angela Cotner as part of her presentation for the Water Matters OCCC Reads program on Oct. 21. Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

## Transgenders shed light on life

LENORA LAVICTOIRE

Community Writer  
communitywriter@occc.edu

Police officer, dad, veteran, former Oklahoma State House of Representatives candidate and transgender woman Paula Sophia Schonauer, 49, of Oklahoma City, spoke to students, faculty and staff as a participant in this semester's Transgender Panel.

The panel is organized as part of OCCC's Human Sexuality course taught by psychology Professor Greg Parks. It took place from Wednesday, Oct. 21 in CU3.

Michael Quayle, 43, of Oklahoma City also spoke of his life as a transgender man.

Quayle was born with the body of a woman in 1972. He said as a child he would wrestle and not act like other girls.

When he was 7 years old, he asked his mother, "What if God made a mistake?"

He said his mother told him "God does not make mistakes."

From then on, Quayle said, he learned to be invisible.

He said he joined the Marines shortly after graduating from high school. He met his husband during his four years of service. After giving birth to his son in 1994, Quayle said his emotions could no longer be repressed.

After previously deciding to wait till his son was 18 to tell him, Quayle said when his son was 4, he thought about how his son would never trust him again once he found out he had lied to him his

entire life.

"For my health," Quayle said he realized, "I have to focus on me." Quayle said that is when he started living as a man.

Schoener spoke about how even after she transitioned to living as a woman, gender roles were still harmful to her.

"Some of these gender roles, and expectations and stuff like that oppress us all.

"If you're a big woman you are criticized for not being feminine enough. If you're a little woman, no one takes you seriously because people think 'Oh, you're just so cute,'" Schoener said.

"I didn't transition so that I could trap myself in another role," she said.

"I transitioned to be me, and if I'm going to ride a motorcycle, then I'm gonna do it."

Parenting, health care, and politics also were discussed at the forum.

Schoener said after her transition, her two children struggled with the right word to call her. "They already have a mom," Schoener said.

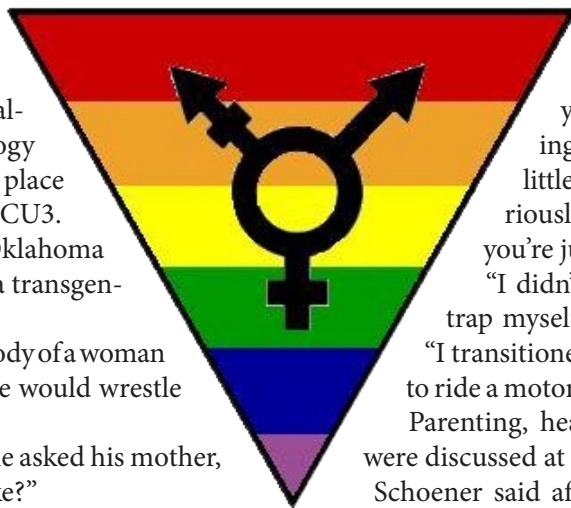
Eventually, she said, her son asked if he could just call her dad.

"Other trans people have criticized me because they feel like my children are being disrespectful."

She said she tells those critics that they do not understand her relationship with her children.

"Mom and dad are not pronouns," Schonauer said. "They are relationships."

For more information on the Transgender Panel or the Human Sexuality course, contact Parks at gparks@occc.edu.



## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Celebrate Veterans Day Nov. 11

Active service people, veterans and civilians are encouraged to participate in this year's Veterans Day Program from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in CU 1, 2 and 3. Participants will hear from a student and staff veteran speaker about their lives after the military. For more information on the Veterans Day Program, contact Travis Ruddle or Kristi Fields by calling the Student Life office at 405-682-7523.

### GET2Know University of Oklahoma Nov. 12

Students can meet with Sooner faculty members and advisers, learn about degrees and scholarships, and discuss admission and financial aid from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, College Union 3. For additional information, contact the Graduation, Employment and Transfer Office at 405-682-7519, or by email at transfer@occc.edu.

### Study Abroad trips open for registration

Students interested in travel can go to London, Italy, France, Ireland, Costa Rica or Panama in spring or summer 2016. The affordable trips are open for students to enroll or audit. For more information, contact the Arts Division office at 405-682-6278 or visit oklahomastudyabroad.com.

### Royal National Theatre to be aired at OCCC

OCCC is premiering London's Royal National Theatre performance of "Hamlet" via National Theatre Live video at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. Student tickets are free with all other tickets costing \$15. Tickets may be purchased at tickets.occc.edu or by calling 405-682-7579.

### Tuition Waiver applications due Friday, Nov. 20.

Tuition Waiver applications for the spring 2016 semester are available until 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in the Financial Aid Office. Students need to attach an Academic Transcript and be enrolled for at least six hours in the spring semester before submitting their Tuition Waiver application to the Financial Aid Office. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

### Bus passes offered in the bookstore

Students or employees can travel to OCCC more economically by taking a bus. Bus passes are available for purchase in the OCCC Bookstore. Students or employees must use their valid OCCC IDs to purchase the pass. Unlimited rides for 30 days can be purchased for \$35, a deal which pays for itself with only 20 rides. For more information on routes to your area, visit embarkok.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.**



CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail [adman@occc.edu](mailto:adman@occc.edu).

AUTOMOTIVE

**FOR SALE:** Bed liner and camper shell that will fit a full-size truck. Good condition. \$100 for both. Text 405-818-0083 for more information or photos.

FURNITURE

**FOR SALE:** 19" CRT television in fair condition. Great

for a gaming TV or in a child's room. \$25. Text 405-818-0083 for more details.

MISCELLANEOUS

**LOOKING FOR A NEW ROOMMATE?** Look no further. Call Tony 405-822-2496.

**FREE:** Your ad here. Students can place non-business classified ads for free. No more than 7 lines. Submit your ad to [adman@occc.edu](mailto:adman@occc.edu) with your name, student ID and valid phone number.

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

**Nothing Will Ever Be the Same.**

Smoking gave me throat cancer at 39. Now I breathe through a hole in my throat and need this machine to speak.

—Rosaldo Martinez

**QUIT SMOKING TODAY**

FOR HELP CALL 311

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor. Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner.

NYC Health

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

**Across**

1. Rodeo rope  
6. Advertising emblem  
10. Not nearby  
14. Director Woody \_\_\_\_  
15. Primates  
16. Alley  
17. Hangar occupant  
18. For each person (2 wds.)  
20. Open shoe  
22. Raise  
23. Directed  
24. Manchester's country (abbr.)  
25. Volcanic rock  
27. Disintegrate  
29. Roasting rod  
30. Certain leathers  
34. Approach  
38. Eve's home  
40. Rattler, e.g.  
41. Agreeable  
43. Summer drink (2 wds.)  
45. Type of bean  
46. Bread topping  
49. Brashness  
49. Show up  
51. Beige  
53. Compass reading (abbr.)  
54. Penn or Connery  
55. Roberto's "two"  
58. Certain dashes  
61. Pub brews  
63. Bemoan  
65. Hunting dog  
68. Hobby wood  
69. Diva's solo  
70. Very little  
71. Metric measure  
72. Categorize  
73. Besides that  
74. Overjoy

**Down**

1. Slip-up  
2. Edgar \_\_\_\_ Poe  
3. Street talk  
4. Forward  
5. Shaquille and Tatum  
6. Drink like a dog  
7. Perform surgery  
8. Richard \_\_\_\_ of "Pretty Woman"  
9. Movie awards  
10. Swiss peak  
11. Flunk  
12. Poker word  
13. Enjoy a book  
19. Stir up  
21. Jacket part  
26. MTV feature  
28. Looks after  
31. Computer fodder  
32. Squeaks by  
33. Oceans  
34. California valley  
35. Discharge  
36. Slangy negative  
37. Evaluates  
39. Sister's daughter  
42. Dwarfed shrub  
44. Reef material  
47. Reduces  
50. Remove  
52. Incapable  
55. River mouth  
56. Beginning  
57. Fixed gaze  
58. Distinct times  
59. Fiddling emperor  
60. Recipe verb  
62. Like a villain  
64. Send a letter  
66. Squeal  
67. Seeded bread

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**Don't Text And Drive**

Drivers who use cellphones are 4 times more likely to get into crashes that could be fatal

Using a cellphone while driving delays a drivers reactions as much as having a B.A.C. level of 0.08

**"Don't Drive while inTEXTicated. Driving while inTEXTicated kills."**



# Six alumni to be inducted into OCCC Hall of Fame

A professor, award-winning journalist, rock star, elementary teacher, mechanical engineer and a founding father of OCCC will all be inducted into OCCC's Alumni Hall of Fame at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, in the OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center atrium theater.

Business, professional, community achievements, service to the community, and/or past or present service to OCCC are the criteria to be nominated, said Alumni Relations and Community Development Associate Director Randy Cassimus.

He said since the first class in 2006, five to 10 individuals have been inducted each year.

This year's inductees are:

**Jackie Burns**, professor and chair of Sociology and Anthropology/Women's Studies at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. Burns said OCCC classes shaped the way she teaches.

"All the support and openness in the classrooms for discussion and the respect that the teachers gave to me as a student — that really influences how I manage my classes today as a professor," she said.

Burns praised the sociology, psychology and history departments at OCCC. She said the professors were excellent, challenging her to continue her education.

"All of the faculty were super nice and the courses were challenging," she said. "It really inspired me to go on to get my Ph.D in sociology."

Burns encourages students to use the resources on campus.

"They had an excellent tutoring center and I was in there all the time," she said. "That helped me throughout my academic career."

"Early on, Oklahoma City Community College instilled in me a very strong work ethic," she said. "So it feels a little awkward being called out for doing what I'm supposed to be doing all along."

**Antonio Maria Delgado**, journalist, said OCCC gave him the education to help him get a job "almost immediately."

Delgado, an award-winning journalist who specializes in financial and political news, and investigative journalism, currently is a Latin American correspondent for the Miami Herald

in Florida.

"[OCCC] gave me all I needed to know to get started in the profession, from writing ... as a (Pioneer) reporter and then, as editor, to being able to know the different steps it takes to put out the news and putting out a newspaper ..."

Delgado said being inducted is an honor.

"Having the opportunity to go back to the college and participate in an event like this is real exciting."

He encourages students to never give up.

"Keep at it. And if you have doubts, seek help. If you have difficulties with different problems, seek out help."

"You can come across wonderful tutors and [professors] that might be able to help you out and it's crucial. It's part of the development of a human being."

Since he grew up in Moore, attending OCCC was always an option for Seether drummer **John Humphrey**.

"[OCCC] was a landmark building, a modern building that was seen every time you drove on the highway going from north Oklahoma City to the south side where I lived."

Though his time at the college was brief, Humphrey said, the professors were great.

"I wasn't there for music so I can't say there was anyone who inspired me in the direction that I ultimately

went, [but] I had a history teacher ... who was very gracious and understood my aspirations, whether I was going to continue school or pursue music."

Just a couple of semesters in, Humphrey said, his music career took off when his band at that time, the Nixons, were signed to a major record label.

"[That] required a lot of traveling so, unfortunately, I didn't complete my [degree]."

Humphrey said being nominated to the Hall of Fame is unexpected. He said he is "humbled, honored and appreciative."

"I don't know if I'm in the same ilk of some of the other nominees past and present that have gone on to become professors, mechanical engineers, or continued their education, but ... who knows, maybe I'll re-enter the doors and continue my education at some point."

Humphrey said he has

worked hard to get where he is today and encourages students to stay the course.

"I've been able to play music and make a living out of it for over 20 years, and I think that comes from hard work and sacrifice," he said.

"I think you have to do that whether you do what I do or if you're going to school."

"Anything that's worth having, it takes a lot of work and sacrifice. Nothing comes easy."

Pre-K teacher **Lisa Todd Lawson** is the daughter of the late former OCCC president Robert Todd. She currently teaches at Parmelee Elementary School.

Lawson said because her family has been a part of the college since its beginning, she thinks of OCCC as the fabric of her being.

"Being able to go (to OCCC) concurrently in high school helped mold the decisions I made later in choosing a major," she said.

Lawson said when college students are struggling, they should keep in mind that college is but a short period in their life and, at a place like OCCC, there's always someone willing to help.

"With every challenge you have, you have to remember that there will be a reward with it if you see things through," she said.

Lawson said she is humbled to receive the award and truly has a heart for Oklahoma City.

"It's pretty humbling," she said. "I can't imagine my life without OCCC. My life would have been a lot different, all-around."

**Madison Schultz** works as a mechanical engineer at Guernsey Engineering in Oklahoma City. Schultz said OCCC gave her a start in engineering.

"I ... entered the engineering industry with just an associate (degree)," she said.

"While I worked, I finished up my bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma. It really got me my start."

She said, while at OCCC, she was motivated and inspired by Engineering Professor Gregory Holland.

"He always had time for us, to make sure that we understood what we

were learning, and made time to help us when we had problems or needed more explanation," she said. "He was always there for students and he made learning fun."

Schultz's advice for college students is to work toward a long-term goal by accomplishing short-term goals. She said creating goals each week and semester makes it easier to achieve those goals.

"You will get there," she said. "You just have to be strong and stick with it."

Schultz said she is excited to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

"When I saw the list of people who had been inducted in the past, and knew that I was being nominated, I kind of laughed because I thought, 'There's no way I'm going to make it because these people are so cool,'" she said. "I'm very excited and so very honored to be included with the cool kids."

In addition to the attending inductees, Honorary Inductee **Kenneth R. Nance**, who died in 2013, also will be an addition to the Hall of Fame.

Nance was an attorney and lobbyist at the Oklahoma State capitol for almost 50 years. He is also known as one of the "founding fathers" of OCCC who

helped bring the college into existence during his time in the legislature.

OCCC's Kenneth R. Nance Memorial Scholarship, in memory of Nance, is designated to help students majoring in science, technology,

engineering and math.

Nance's wife Barbara and son Brian will accept his award.

Anyone can nominate individuals for the hall of fame.

"(Nominations) come from faculty, staff, the community, students, or alumni," he said. "They can come from anywhere."

"You don't have to come from OCCC to nominate someone."

Cassimus said nominee names are sent to a committee to be assessed and chosen.

"The committee is made up of people from the Alumni Association board, people who themselves, have been inducted into the hall of fame, [and] staff. The committee rotates so it's not the same people every year."

For more information, contact Cassimus at 405-682-1611, ext. 7478, or at rcassimus@occc.edu.



**Jackie Burns**



**John Humphrey**



**Lisa Todd Lawson**



**Kenneth R. Nance**



**Madison Schultz**



**Antonio Maria Delgado**