

# OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER



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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

DEC. 4, 2015



**Practice makes perfect:** Andrew Edwards, music major, practices a song he composed in the Visual and Performing Arts Center practice room. “I ultimately want to get a master’s degree in music education,” Edwards said. “Writing and composing music is a big passion of mine and the music program here at OCCC is great.” For more information about the program, visit [www.occc.edu/catalog/2015-2016/degree-programs/arts/music.html](http://www.occc.edu/catalog/2015-2016/degree-programs/arts/music.html). *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

## Students, professors question humanities course cancellations

**Acting Vice President says she supports decision to discontinue some popular classes**

**LENORA LAVICTOIRE**  
Community Writer  
[communitywriter@occc.edu](mailto:communitywriter@occc.edu)

Students will have fewer humanities courses to choose from this spring semester, leaving many students disappointed that popular classes Advocates of Peace and Folklore will no longer be offered.

In addition, research conducted by Pioneer staff has found other English and Humanities courses listed in the OCCC Cata-

log have not been made available to students via a class schedule since spring 2013.

Those courses include ENGL 2353 Native American Literature, ENGL 2363 African-American Literature, and ENGL 2413 Women in Literature.

Acting Academic Affairs Vice President Anne DeClouette said that funding and increased enrollment are factors in why the courses were removed from the schedule. The college budget does not allow additional faculty to be hired in the English and Humanities Division.

“At some point we also have to consider that, with more students, we have a greater need for the basics (such as) English

“... Curriculum is a faculty-driven process. ... The assumption is that faculty know their business.”

—CATHERINE KINYON  
CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT  
DIRECTOR

Comp ... so we have to add more of those,” she said.

Two percent more, or 1,218 additional students, enrolled at the college this fall compared to last, according to a fall enrollment report.

See **CLASSES** page 9

## Campus crime lower than neighboring area

**KATIE AXTELL**  
Editor  
[editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu)

With almost 14,000 students and 700 employees on campus, OCCC is comparable and, in some cases, larger than some Oklahoma towns and cities in terms of population.

So it would make sense that campus crime is being reported on a regular basis.

Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said he is satisfied with the relatively low level

of crime that happens on campus.

“We’re looking for zero, but the amount of crime we have on campus and the response we’re getting from people and the numbers — I would say we are pleased that we don’t have a crime issue on campus, especially with safety,” he said.

In fact, crime statistics gathered from a one-mile radius north, east and south of the OCCC campus from October 2014 to October 2015 show campus crime is exceedingly lower.

See **OCCC** page 9

## Transferring with a degree preferable

**MICAYLA PAYNE**  
News Writing Student

Students who plan on earning a diploma from OCCC have to apply to graduate, said Amanda Williams-Mize, Graduation Services assistant director.

“Once they have enrolled in their final semester, we encourage students to apply for graduation then,” Williams-Mize said. “That way, if there are courses that you might need, you have time to get enrolled.”

Williams-Mize said students should be aware of the benefits of an associate degree when continuing to a four-year university.

“Once you get a transcript from OCCC, and your degree is shown on the transcript, most colleges will take that degree as a package. Your general-education core classes get wiped away because you have an associate degree. Your transcript will show those core requirements are complete.

“The benefit of that is it saves you some time and money,” Williams-Mize said.

“Certain university programs even waive additional courses you might need,” Williams-Mize said.

“It just depends on what you’re going into. Some degree programs will even waive a foreign language — but not

See **APPLY** page 9





# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**BOOK REVIEW** | Reviewer picks up book he first read in 2009 and finds it still entertains

## High school book still great

With my time at OCCC and the Pioneer coming to a close, I figured it would be a time to do a serious review, about something that is really meaningful to me. I'm reviewing a book. I don't read books often so that is a sign that this review is special.

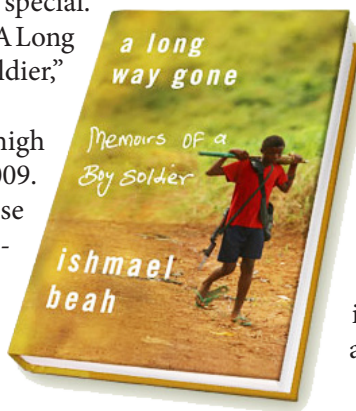
The book I'm reviewing is titled "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," and is written by Ishmael Beah.

I first read this book before high school, back in the summer of 2009. It was on a list of books to choose from for a required summer reading assignment for my freshman geography class. The list contained famous books, such as Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner," but I chose "A Long Way Gone" because I was not familiar with it at all.

I recently picked up the book again and remembered how much I loved it.

"A Long Way Gone" is a memoir of Beah's life growing up in Sierra Leone and his involvement in the Civil War in that country during the 1990s.

Beah details his time at the age of 11, running away



from his village with friends, as it is attacked by the Revolutionary United Front. He travels to many villages all of which, in turn, are attacked. He eventually arrives at a "safe village" where his family is located, before it too is attacked.

Assuming his family is dead, Beah is forced to enlist in the Sierra Leone Armed Forces.

There he executes prisoners of war, and is forced to take drugs, until eventually he is rescued by UNICEF.

He tells of his rehabilitation into normal society, speaking on behalf of child soldiers in front of the United Nations, and eventually having to flee into the U.S.

This book gives a close look at life during a terrible period in Sierra Leone, as well as the horrors of children soldiers.

"A Long Way Gone" is as impactful to me now as the day I first started reading it more than six years ago. It is a must-read.

**Rating:** A+

—CLAYTON MITCHELL  
VIDEOGRAPHER

**SERIES REVIEW** | Although network's storylines are not always believable, they are fun

## CW's 'Arrow' full of superhero drama

I'm a huge fan of superhero movies. Though I don't read any of the comics, I still love watching people with superhuman abilities blow things up and save innocent civilian lives. It's all so dramatic and ridiculously scripted. CW's "Arrow" series is no exception.

The show is based around Oliver Queen, the billionaire playboy-turned-vigilante after a tragic shipwreck took the life of his father. Queen also was in the shipwreck and spent "five years on a hellish island." Viewers will remember this tidbit because he mentions it at the beginning of every single episode — which is a bit redundant.

CW's ability to create characters that never stay dead and secrets that don't need to be kept secret make the show somewhat comical, though I'm not sure that was the goal.

In the first season, Queen has a hit list from his father and using only a bow and arrow, attacks high-profile criminals who are seemingly untouchable.

He gradually adds to "Team Arrow" throughout the series, establishing a crime-fighting unit based out of a nightclub's basement (not pun intended).

Soon, he's fighting Starling City villains who have more flair than brainpower. Nearly every episode is based on a villain who does no small deed — they each have larger-than-life plans. So if you're not into drama, this series is not for you.



The characters, however, are my favorite part of the show. There's Laurel Lance, a lawyer who spends her days following money trails she shouldn't follow and attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in between each case.

John Diggle is a loyal former special forces soldier whose last name I can't take seriously. Oliver's mother is deceptively clever and somewhat of a villain herself.

The best character in the series, however, is Felicity Smoak. She's an IT employee at Queen Industries who has a knack for hacking and for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time, which is the story of my life.

I'm pretty much hooked on "Arrow" and I'm not entirely sure why. But you should get hooked, too.

**Rating:** A

—DARLA KILHOFFER  
ONLINE EDITOR



## Politics made easy through free application

Political players are easy to confuse. Given their common traits — predominately white, male and old — they can look a lot alike.

I'm going to let you in on a little secret to help keep track of who your Oklahoma state and local representatives are.

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives sponsors the Oklahoma 55th legislature app. It is the only app I know of that offers a complete, up-to-date database with pictures, contact info, committees, districts, and party affiliation for both state and national members of Congress.

Think you just saw your legislator leave the bathroom without washing his hands? Check out the app's picture of him so you can remember the name and tweet at him.

Wondering if the crazy person holding a snowball on the Senate floor to prove global warming doesn't exist is your senator?

It probably is, so why don't you go ahead and write him a letter, or maybe, never vote for him again.

The app stores a notes section for each congressperson. That is where I like to keep links to my favorite articles about them.

Unfortunately the notes section has a limit, so for special cases — like everyone's favorite Gov. Mary Fallin — you may need to go ahead and upgrade to a file folder, or even cabinet, to store all the incorrect or disagreeable things she has said.

My favorite thing about the app is the map function.

You can drop a pin anywhere in the state and see your U.S. House district, Oklahoma House district, and state senate district.

I find this useful when you tell someone to write to his or her congressperson and that person replies with a half-hearted, non-committal response that he or she doesn't know who that is. I whip out the app like, ta-da!

Personal responsibility in your government!

The OAEC 55th legislature app is free and relevant until January 2017 so why not download?

It is available for Android and iPhone in the app store.

—LENORA LAVICTOIRE  
COMMUNITY WRITER



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**COMIC BOOK REVIEW** | In publication since 2003, story is already plotted out for several years to come

## ‘Walking Dead’ still very much alive

Most will be familiar with the basic premise of “The Walking Dead” from seeing the popular television series on AMC or through Netflix.

If you have only seen the show, it is easy to dismiss it as just another zombie story, part of a genre so thoroughly explored that the only thing left is zombie parodies of other genres like “Pride and Prejudice, and Zombies” or “The Zombie Survival Guide.”

But the graphic novel

the show is based on offers much more.

At its core “The Walking Dead” is a book about ideas. Writer Robert Kirkman makes the zombie genre fresh by stripping it down to one basic question: If you were to wake up tomorrow and modern world were gone with no explanation, how would you choose to live?

Structurally it is similar to other dystopian comics. “Y: The Last Man” uses a

similar device to ask what the world would be like if all the men died tomorrow leaving only women.

“The Walking Dead” has more universal appeal, tackling issues like what makes us human, and the role of trust between individuals in constructing civilization. These issues are rooted in a single basic fact: sooner or later everybody dies.

“The Walking Dead,” has been in continuous publication since 2003.

This is remarkable because after more than a decade of publication the new material is every bit as strong as the first page of the series.

Kirkman indicated in a Reddit Q&A that he has the story plotted out through at least issue 300, which means there is nearly as much story still to come as has already been published.

**Rating:** A

—AMAR MOLINAS  
WEBMASTER



**FOOTBALL REVIEW** | College football teams should play in their conference to be respected

## Sooners legit when it comes to rankings

Let me preface this by saying: I am a completely 100-percent biased University of Oklahoma football fan. I’m a native Normanite and love the phrase “Sooner born, Sooner bred. When I die I’ll be Sooner dead.”

That being said, this review is more about the illusion of dominance that teams like Baylor have in today’s college football world more than the actual Baylor vs. OU game.

Baylor was, at one point, ranked number 4 in the nation, thanks in part to its “high powered” offense, led by quarterback Seth Russell. Once he was injured for the rest of the season, not much was expected to change.

His replacement, Jarret Stidham, was supposedly him in a younger body, hailed by Baylor coach Art Briles as “the best quarterback I’ve seen in a long time.”

Baylor’s prowess seemingly grew throughout the season as they continued to demolish cupcake team after cupcake team, playing powerhouses such as SMU and Rice.

It should come as no surprise then, that when the Bears finally ran into a quality opponent in OU, they came up very short.

OU was able to beat Baylor at home, a feat which hasn’t been accomplished by anyone in the past 20 home games at McLane Stadium.

Teams like Baylor schedule very weak non-conference games. In other words, whenever they don’t play teams from their own conference, the Big 12, they’re playing teams



from schools about the size of OCCC.

It’s very easy for a team these days to reach critical acclaim by running the gauntlet on a weak schedule.

The difference between them and teams like OU, who already have one loss, is that OU has played tougher non-con games, such as playing Tennessee at Rocky Top in the second

game of the season.

Sure Baylor only had one loss before OU, but their schedule of beating up on weaker and smaller programs won’t do them any good when it comes to future rankings.

OU now prepares for the college football playoffs, where they are predicted to play Alabama.

**Rating:** B-

—SPENCER GRANT  
SENIOR WRITER

**Have you recently seen a movie, read a book or dined at an area restaurant?**

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[www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer](http://www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer)  
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### TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Nov. 27  
through Nov. 29

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

1. The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2
2. The Good Dinosaur
3. Creed
4. Spectre
5. The Peanuts Movie
6. The Night Before
7. Secret in Their Eyes
8. Spotlight
9. Brooklyn
10. The Martian
11. Love the Coopers
12. Victor Frankenstein
13. Trumbo
14. Bridge of Spies
15. Tamasha
16. Legend
17. Room A24
18. Our Times
19. La Guerre des tuques
20. Carol



# President talks campus business with student leaders

ALYSSA HOLMES  
News Writing

Student leaders heard college President Jerry Steward warn about the potential danger of guns on campus during The Leadership Council meeting Oct. 30.

Three weeks later TLC passed a resolution opposing legislation that would allow guns to be carried by anyone other than campus police.

TLC has passed the same resolution for five years in a row.

Steward noted that in the past year there have been 23 shootings on school campuses.

He alerted TLC members to the likelihood that legislation will be introduced once again to permit the carrying of weapons on college campuses in Oklahoma.

Letting people carry guns on campus would not make students safe, Steward said, reiterating his stand against any laws that would allow non-police officers to carry weapons.

**“If we do have these cuts, we should discuss what we should keep and what we should get rid of, and doing so will be a challenge.”**

—JERRY STEWARD  
OCCC PRESIDENT

“No one can guarantee absolute safety,” he said.

Steward also explained that next year, in Texas, legislation is going to allow people to carry guns on campus. The result, he argued, is that students will be “fundamentally less safe.”

“It’s a recipe for disaster,” he said.

Another issue Steward talked about is school funding. He said it is likely state funds to OCCC will be reduced.

“If we do have these cuts, we should discuss what we should keep and what we should get rid of, and doing so will be a challenge,” he said.

Steward said he wants the students to feel safe and wel-

come at the school.

The president told his own life story, saying he faced many of the same struggles OCCC students are going through.

He was born and raised in poverty and became a father at just 18 years old.

After he graduated from high school, he went to the University of Central Oklahoma and received his bachelor’s degree. Later he earned a law degree from the University of Oklahoma.

“Education was a ticket out of poverty,” Steward said. “It saved me.”

Steward said he began his career as a public school teacher before getting his law degree.

Before coming to OCCC full time, he was the senior partner in a law firm he established.

Later, while serving as the college’s attorney, Steward was a part of the political science faculty, teaching American Federal Government.

“The best part of my job is to work with the students. It is very important to me.”



## 2015-2016 RESOLUTION AGAINST GUNS ON CAMPUS

**WHEREAS**, there have been numerous instances of gun violence on college campuses across the country, which students, faculty and staff have been injured and killed; and

**WHEREAS**, the possibility of legislation allowing open or concealed carry of firearms by non-law enforcement personnel on college and university campuses emerges each year in the Oklahoma Legislative Session, and

**WHEREAS**, a civil, safe and open environment is fundamental to the educational process; and

**WHEREAS**, no credible research has indicated that allowing guns on campus by non-law enforcement personnel creates a safer environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Oklahoma City Community College and the Oklahoma Legislature have an obligation to the safety of students, faculty and staff, then

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that The Leadership Council urges all students to become educated with regards to weapon safety rules in order to avoid firearm related accidents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The Leadership Council of Oklahoma City Community College, on behalf of the student body of Oklahoma City Community College strongly opposes any legislation, regulations, or policies that would allow guns on campus by non-law enforcement personnel.

*Simone Mathenia, Chair*  
The Leadership Council

*11-19-2015*  
Date

Affirmed: April 12, 2012  
Reaffirmed: January 31, 2013  
Reaffirmed: February 27, 2014  
Reaffirmed: January 29, 2015

Christopher Hanna, Chair  
Angela Gutierrez, Chair  
Samir Elneser, Chair  
Lisa Lasater, Chair

The Leadership Council, OCCC’s student council, passed a resolution Nov. 19 opposing legislation that would allow guns to be carried on campus by anyone other than campus police. TLC has passed the same resolution for five years in a row.

President Jerry Steward also is against guns on campus. “It’s a recipe for disaster,” he said.

# Man caught driving illegally, campus police car struck

SPENCER GRANT  
Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A student caught driving illegally and a campus police car being struck were reported to campus police in recent weeks.

At around 8:10 p.m., Nov. 11, Officer Patrick Martino stopped an OCCC student, 20, for a burned-out headlight as he was leaving the campus.

It was then discovered the man, whose name was redacted from the report, only had a learner’s permit and no insurance verification.

Officer Zachary Andrews completed an inventory of the vehicle and had it impounded.

Officer Jerry VanWinkle was escorting student Nicole Poindexter, 32, to her car at 12:35 p.m. Nov. 9, when the campus police car he was driving was struck by a car driven by student Jamie Biggerstaff, 18.

The report shows Biggerstaff was

backing her car out of a parking spot when the accident happened.

When VanWinkle saw the other car backing out, he stopped and honked his horn. Biggerstaff hit the passenger side of the patrol car.

VanWinkle said minimal damage was done to both cars.

Officer Jeremy Bohannon responded to an animal cruelty call at 3:51 p.m. on Nov. 11, regarding two dogs that had reportedly been left in a car for around seven hours.

The driver of the car, 41, whose name

has been redacted from reports, called the report “ridiculous.”

The woman had a cup of water but no food in the car for the animals.

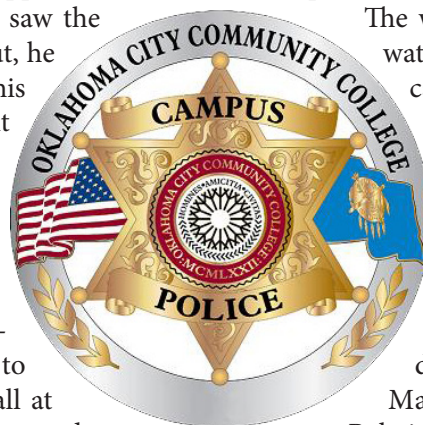
The driver left the scene after Bohannon checked on the dogs’ well-being.

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 OCCC PD Standard Operating Procedures involving in-

formation released and information withheld.”

To obtain a copy of the procedure, email [cjordan@occc.edu](mailto:cjordan@occc.edu).



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## CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported on page 5 of the Nov. 20 issue that campus police responded to a call on the first floor of the library about a student who had been warned about excessive printing.

The incident actually occurred in the Computer Lab which is housed on the third floor of the library but is not staffed by library workers and is not a part of the library other than being within its walls.

We apologize for the mistake.

**Comments? Opinions?  
Let us know!  
E-mail the editor at  
[editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu)  
Let your voice be heard!**

# Summer, fall OCCC graduates named

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

## Summer 2015 Graduates

Emily Adams, Grant Adams, Brandy Allen, Melanny Alpizar-Cordova, Stephanie Alvarado, Mahazatou Amadou Amani, Clara Arelano, Sabuj Aryal, Jensen Atkinson, Kasey Aufiero, Stephanie Baker, Chris Bales, Robin Banell, Marcee Barker, Charles Barnaby, Jo Ann Baughman, Taylor Beard, Craig Beavers, Michael Becker, Gary Beebe, Enrique Benitez, Michael Birnie, Kyle Bishop, Tona'i Black, Kasie Blake, Aquelle Bowen.

Jared Brashears, Victoria Broadway, Maresa Broom, Diana Brumley, Paige Buchanan, Brittany Burnside, Kendall Burnside, Ana Carrion, Durell Carter, Kasey Carter, Doraliza Carvo, Dania Centeno, Andrew Chang, Melissa Chapman, Brenda Chavira, Candy Cifuentes, Rachael Colbart, Iesha Colbert, Brittany Combs, Brenton Conrad, Jonathan Conway.

Jonathan Conway, Zackery Cooksey, Sharon Couture, Catherine Currier, Cory Dauphin, Alma De Ome, Siera Dillman, Quyen Dinh, Royal Do, Patrick Dobry, Steven Dodd, Nicholas Duncan, Jennafer Duvall, Taylor Edgin, Carissa Egan, Sherry Eggleston, Jason Elkin, Tatiana Elonge, Andrew Emerson, Varun Ennamuri, Tiffany Feese, Daniel Frank Feze, Kristi Fields, Kari Fisher, Talesa Flenniken, Shantaybia Fordham.

Ashley France, Garrett Gadke, Joshua Gallegos, Franklin Garcia Jerez, Jeffrey Garrison, Michael Gasper, Beau Gastineau, Nicholas Gatmen, Nathaniel Gauwitz, Dennis Gitau, Kevin Goree, Duncan Grant, Jesse Grant, Joseph Green, Morgan Greene, Sarah Grots, Louis Guerrant, Charles Guthrie, Aaliyah Hackshaw, Logan Hackworth, Amanda Hall.

Madeline Hall, Nathan Hamlet, Kaylee Hamman, Shauna Harding, Lindsey Harris, Debbie Hartsell, Chelsea Henderson, Chelsea Henderson, Whitney Henderson, Isai Hernandez, Samuel Herrera, Nicole Hibshman, Peter Hodgden, Brianna Hogan, Kallie Hollowell, Christopher Horton, Sheila Howard, Bryan Huddleston, Heather Huey, Adam Hughes, Tiffany Hughes, Connor Hunter, Sara Hutchins, Nathan Ice, Germain Ilunga, Angela James, Andria Johnson, Shemeka Johnson.

Sherman Johnson, Benjamin Johnston, Ryan Johnston, Elbert Jones, Elbert Jones, Kevin Jones, Paul Jones, Victoria Jones, Travis Kaiser, Christina Kalabic, Justin Kameni, Njoroge Karanja, Wendell Karr Ake, Christ Kaya, Jaclyn Keith, Kaitlin Ketner, Amanda Kilgore, Randall Killingworth, Tiffany Killman, Gwangmin Kim, Hyunwoo Kim, Minjung Kim, Allira Kimrey, Brian Koehn, Katherine Kordsiemon, Andrews Kwei,

Roxanne Lamothe, David Landes, Ashlyn Lane, Richard Leckie, Bobbie Ledford, Peter Lee.

Antonesha Lewis, Melissa Littlefield, Kenzi Lockwood, Louran Lowder, Christopher Luckert, Stratton Lujan, Amber Madden, Laura Maggard, Aslan Maleki, Lyndi Mann, Chase Marley, Isaac Marrone, Lee Marrs, Katherine Marshall, Aundrea Martin, Timi Marzean, Beena Mathew, Dustin Mauk, Michael Mayfield, Lauren Mayhew, Elizabeth Mbarga, Lailani McBryde, Shawn McCarther, Chris McElroy, Patrick McEntire, Maci McGregor, Parker Melendez, Keith Mhlanga.

Robert Mitchell, Laurie Moglia-Lahood, Jocelyn Mojica-Arrieta, Daniel Moody, Paul Mungiria, Mayra Munoz, Leila Nazarali, Alexandria Neely, Kaylen Newbury, Thanh Ngo, Duy Nguyen, Julie Nguyen, Kendra Nicholson, Kathy Nix, Joshua Ou, Baker Ousley, Alan Parker, Sadee Parker, James Parkman, Dolly Patel, Sheritha Patton, Walter Pennington, Veronica Peoples, Jennifer Pham, Jessica Porter, Sierra Price, Melissa Putman, Melissa Putman, Shelby Rackley, Brooke Reed, Elizabeth Reed, Haley Reed, Anthony Reid, Ginger Riccardi, Spencer Rice.

Courtenay Rinehart, Sanjuana Rios, Ninoshka Rivera Roldan, Melissa Rodarte, Madison Rodgers, Emi Sam, Teddi Samples, Kathy Sawyer, Brian Shafer, Richard Shaw, Jermell Sherman, Jack Shuler, Jill Shumway, Neely Simms, Hardeep Singh, Carly Smith, Douglas Smith, Benjamin Southard, Hunter Southwell, Amanda Spears, Abram Spillman, Kayla Spinks, Michael Stedman, Marissa Steinhof, Rebecca Sterkel.

Christopher Stevenson, Cathy Stoecker, Catlin Stuart, Alisa Tarasova, Jasmine Thavisack, Jeffrey Thom, James Thomas, Vincent Thomas, Hunter Thompson, Mario Thompson, Zachary Thompson, Joshua Tims, Lindsay Todd, Jennifer Torres, Laura Torres, Cliff Tracy, Lynn Tran, Cooper Treadaway, Ashley Trent, Katie Troser, Julie Trump, Julie Uhles, Lorena Uribe, Karina Valero, Kristina Vanderlinde, Gabriela Velazquez, Melissa Venegas, Bruce Vernon, Gloria Villalva.

Sophia Vo, Jason Volk, Kaitlyn Votaw, Nicole Waddle, Sarah Walker, Shelly Wall, Rachel Ward, Alexis Watkins, Heather Watson, Summer Webb, Brett Weeks, Shaylee Wellendorf, Ryan West, Brittney Wheeler, Brooklyn Wheeler, Tawanna Winery, Brian White, Tyler White, Ryne Whitehead, Lauren Whiteley, Jenna Williams, Quincy Williams, Whitney Williams, Bobbie Wilson, Dana Witmer, Desiree Wolf, Christopher Woody, Jamie Worcester, Chara Word, Russell Wortham, James Yarbrough, Carine Yem, Wendlyn Young.

## Fall 2015 Graduates

Rita Chinyelu Akubueze, Ruby Asantewaah Akuffo, Mohammed Abdul Aleem, Sydney Allbritton, Alia Nasr Alsaif, Ana Alvarado, Yareni Alvarado, Anna Alvey, Matthew

Alvey, Trevor Armitage, William Arnett, Samantha Asbill, LaTusha Ba, Troy Baker, Mickey Banks Jr., Blake Barajas, Kevin Barnes, Lynell Barnes, Alexis Barnett, Shilo Barrett, Sheree Beauclair, Morgan Beavers, Jordan Beene, Nour El Yakine Bel Bekri, Shannon Bell, John Beller.

Sharon Benigar, Jonathan Bentley, Madeline Bentley, Jayvun Berry, Beth Bishop, Bruce Blackwood, Paula XXX, Brandi Bradley, Shelbey Brady, Elizabeth Bragan, Joseph Branco, Jennie Brandon, Cindy Brenneis, Lindsey Brewer, Tiffany Broadus, Tanner Brogden, Victoria Broadway, Bailey Brooks, Alec Brown, Shanci Brown, Monica Brownfield, Amanda Bryant, Stephanie Bryce, Preston Caldwell, Scott Campbell, Christian Carey,



Dustin Carlton, Katherine Carra.

Anna Hughes Carter, Jeremy Castle, Christian Castro, Annette Cavener, Matthew Chalender, Cyndi Christopher, Trina Clark, McKayla Clary, Brandi Cloninger, Whitney Collins, Angela Colvard, Vanessa Contreras, Casey Cook Jr., Cynthia Cook, Taylor Corbin, Carla Corley, Zachariah Covington, Preston Craig, Lindsey Crawford, Kimberly Creek, Katie Crosley, Kailey Crossley, Braden Crumly, Lisa Cummings.

Jeremy Dalton, Winnifred Davenport, Joni Dean, Nicholas Dean, Rachel Deer, Emilie Defatta, Mark Degraffenreid, Mayra Delossantos, Ethan Dettlaff, Jessica Dillard, Jessica Dinh, Huong Doan, Sarah Dombrowski, Conor Dooling, Leah Dorman, Cheri Drinkard, Stacy Dunn, Jessica Ellerd, Jordan Elliott, Ana Ellis, James Chase Ellis, Kellie Elmegreen, Perla Esparza, Francisco Esqueda, Adrian Fallwell, Angela Farley, Shelah Farley, Kasie Fischer.

Natalie Flaming, Kristen Fleming, Kelsea Flewellen, Joselyn Fowler, Justin Fowler, Joshua Frick, Katie Fritzler, John Gaines, Daniel Garcia, Jose Garcia, Tommie Garcia, Jennifer Gately, Jeffrey Gelm, Julie Gentry, Shannon Gibson, Brandi Giles, Johnnie Gilpen Jr., Benjamin Girod, Rita Glickstein, Taylor Goldsby, Elpidio Gomez, Samuel Gonzalez, Mary Gooch, Lauren Goodwin, Mark Goyette, Trevor Graham.

Tyler Grantham, Brady Green, Kendra Green, Milanda Grisham, Christina Groh, Jose Guerrero, Klariza Gutierrez, Jason Haddad, Jennifer Haddock, Amanda Hamilton, Mason R.D. Harvell, MyRanda Haskell, Natalie Hatcher, Lisa Heikes, Hollee Helm, Brittany Hernandez,

Victor Hernandez Jr., Miranda Hickman, Emily Hise, Phuong Ho, Ladye Hobson, Wendy Hoffman, Jesse Hogan, Joshua Holland, Ryan Hollingsworth, Marshae Holloway, Angela Holmes.

Steven Horin, Jessica Horner, Charles Hornuvo, Angela Houser, Daniel Howard, Taylor Hudson, Sheila Humphrey, Sabrina Humphries, Kiley Hunter, Michelle Hurst-Inglett, David Indelicato, Kylie Hunter Ingram, Lynette Irwin, David Iten, Emily Jackson, Tessa Jacob, Gincy Jacob, Tywon James II, Esau Jangha, Maria Jasso, Lizanne Jennings, Thomas Jensen, Emily Jewell, Misty Jobe, Misty Jobe, Aaron Michael Arik John, Tory Johnson Jr., Marian Johnson, Ricky Johnson, Taryn Johnson, Jorge Johnston Jr., Jaqueline Jones, Christian Jump, Christian Jump.

Nalineee Junkaew, Laban Kimwaki Kamau, Alex Karanja, Kristen Keeton, Kobie Keller, Adrien Kemery, Lance Kersey, Zulfiya Kholbekova, Phung Khong, Lucas Kirkham, Chelsea Knight, Destrey Knueppel, Michael Koehler, Brian Koehn, Angela Kolander, John Kuhn Jr., Royce Kunjappy, Kyle Ladner, Courtney Lairson, Devlin Lamb, David Landes, Cameron Langkamp, Chelsea Lawson, Haley Layman, Angela Le, Alexander Leach.

Donna Leachman, Tania Lebron, Ashley Lee, Scott Lee, Stephen Leeper, Samantha Lenz, Brittany Lewelling, Kevin Lindert, Katie Liotine, Lirong Liu, Yang Liu, Cody Logston, Nikolas Long, Linda Thanh Ly, Vanessa Lyles, Victor Macias, Matthew Mairet, Melissa Maisano, Whitney Mallett, Casey Malone, Krista Mansfield, Maureen Marrs, Candyce Marsh, Laura Martens.

Laura Martens, Jami Martin, Lavana Martin, Madison Martin, Sayra Martinez, Kathy Mason, Jake Massey, Sarah Mathews, Amanda May, Jenna McAlister, Lisa McCathern, Wendy McCaughey, Megan McCord, Megan McDonald, Terry McDonald, Nicole McKiel, Jeremy McKinley, Tanny McNamara, Courtne Meikle, John Mellendorf, Adam Melton, Renee Melton, Jaclyn Menchaca, Jonathan Mesta, Jordan Meyer, Angelina Meyers, Tessa Millsap, Amanda Milstead.

Preston Minnich, Jon Minyen, Clayton Mitchell, Theodore Mofle, Laurie Moglia-Lahood, Kate Mohr, Kathryn Monroe, Zackary Moore, Katherine Morrison, Jazzmine Mosley-Visdrine, Katrina Lashonne Mucker, Katrina Mucker, Elva Munoz, Daniel Murphy, Brandy Murray, Amy Du Nguyen, Phu Nguyen, Sydney Hong Anh Nguyen, Thai Ngan Thi Nguyen, Ashley Nichols, Ihdeun Noh, Rylee Cortez Norman, Blake Nuncio, Silvia Xiomara Goicochea Olanio, Jodi Oldham.

Matilde Olivera, Marie Ortiz, Isaiah Otoo, Dalysa Overton, Oyewale Oyerinde, Dylan Painter, Adrian Palacios, Brian Palmer, Keegan Parrish, Elijah Partain, Ian Pass, Marissa Patterson, Amy Pavelka, Whitney Peach, Bethany Pelton, Cristina Peralta, Gabriela Mendoza Perez,

Savanna Petricek, Jean Petroff, Ngan Hoang Thuy Pham, Viet Quoc Pham, Jenna Phillips, Melissa Phillips-Villanueva, Andrew Pierce, Noah Pipkins, Thomas Pitts Jr., Allison Presgrove, Summer Prickett, Mary Pugh, Christopher Quezada.

Scott Rains, Hannah Rames, Ashley Ramsey, Billy Renfro, Jermaine LaJuan Rice Jr., Tiandrea Rice, Sydney Richardson, Tiffany Richardson, Steve Rideout, Cole Riggall, Pravesh Rijal, Kerren Ritchey, Austin Ritzer, Thomas Rivas, Victor Rivera, Brit-tany Roberts, Miranda Robertson, Parker Robertson, Anna Robinson, Hannah Robinson, Juan Rodriguez, Kalon Rodriguez, Trent Rogers, Eden Rollins, Lauren Romero, Randi Rose, Jessica Ruiz, Danica Runyon.

Luqman Salaudeen, Maryam Salus, Cynthia Sanchez, Felicia Sanders, Karla Moguel Santos, Adeisha Sawyer, Megan Scafe, Sarah Sehhati, Marta Seitz, Kelly Self, Pema Tenzen Sherpa, Brian Shultzabarger, Carene Ndong Sima, Brittany Simpson, Ashley Siska, Steven Slack, Ashley Sloan, Kristen Smallwood, Abigail Smith, Cathryn Smith, Erica Smith, Makenna Smith, Megan Smith, Parthenia Smith, Terrance Sneed, Yang Song, Stacia Sorrels, Grisel Soto, Lucas Stanfield, Austin Starks, Michael Stayton.

Casey Stephens, Darci Stephens, Jennifer Story, Gavin Stuckey, Jessica Suske, Ashley Tackett, Billie Tanner, Frank Kormla Tatagah, John Taylor, Richard Taylor, Cherise Thomas, Susamma Thomas, Courtney Thompson, Miki Thompson, Aire Thorne, Isabella Thornton, Marcus Thurman, Lance Tibbits, Justin Tiger, Landon Timmons, Christopher Tinsley, Relindis Kotkingah Tita-Gwenjeng, Vinh Tong, Robin Toomey, Noe Torres, Kelly Toumbs, Tamara Toussaint.

Hung Trang, Jaime Trevino, Aubrie Turner, Hartley Tyler, Obinna Umeh, Cj M. Unsell, Brittany Vann, Jermaine Vaughn, Mason Vaught, Amanda Veach, Alondra Velasco, Brandi Vidal, Ashley Villarreal, Megan Vinson, Ai Vo, Denny Ngo Vu, Minh Vu, Nicole Waddle, Tiffany Wakefield, Casey Walker, Matthew Waller, Yan Wang, Donald Ware, Annette Waters, Danielle Waters, Lindsey Wells, Christopher West, Cody Westphal, Carlee Wheeler.

Nathan White, Shelby White, Tyler White, Jason Whitman, Tiffany-Zarah Carmel Whittington, Amanda Wilkerson, Alexis Williams, Perry Williams Jr., Marty Williams, Ashley Willmon, Irene Wilson, Georgina Wolfe, Cody Womack, Daniel Woodruff, Erin Wrede, Ashton Wright, Bethany Wright, Richard Wright, Micah Wronowski, Krystal Yandle, Brandon David Young, Isaac Young, Wendlyn Young, Ana Zambrana, Yi Zheng, Sarah Zimmer.

*(Don't see your name and think it should be on this list? Call the Graduation, Employment and Transfer office at 405-682-7589 or email GET Director Jill Lindblad at jllindblad@occc.edu.)*



# Christmas a time for giving, festivities

HUNG TRAN

Staff Writer

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**D**ecember is a month in which many celebrate charity, gift giving and kindness. This year, there are multiple opportunities to give back to the community and feel the true holiday spirit.

Several non-profit organizations in Oklahoma City such as the Hugs Project, Oklahoma Regional Food Bank, the Salvation Army and Christmas Connection are in need of volunteers.

## THE HUGS PROJECT

The Hugs Project mission is to make sure each active American service member knows they are loved and appreciated, according to their website [www.thehugsproject.com](http://www.thehugsproject.com).

"We are packing 1,000 Christmas care packages," said Executive Director Karen Stark. "Every year, we send special Christmas boxes to those who remain in harm's way."

Stark said volunteers can come between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. each Wednesday and Thursday to 720 W. Wilshire, Suite 105, in Oklahoma City to help out.

Stark said packages will be mailed out on Friday, Dec. 11, to those who were nominated to receive the gift boxes.

For more information about how to volunteer to assemble the Christmas Care Packages for The Hugs Project, call 405-653-8359.

## THE REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Regional Food Bank feeds more than 116,000 hungry Oklahomans each week, according to [regionalfoodbank.org](http://regionalfoodbank.org). Their slogan is "Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope."

"Last year we had over 34,000 volunteers," said Oklahoma Regional Food Bank Volunteerism Associate Director Denise Hurlbut.

Hurlbut said the Food and Resource Center located at 2635 N Shields in Moore is always in need of volunteer help.

"It's like a large food pantry," she said. "Volunteers there can help with stocking the shelves and helping clients choose good items in the pantry and sorting food donations. They still need a lot of help in December."

She said the center also has mobile pantries that serve neighborhoods and senior citizen centers.

Volunteers are needed to help pass out food to residents and seniors, Hurlbut said.

Hurlbut said all the volunteer opportunities, including location, time and how many volunteers are needed can be found at their website [www.regionalfoodbank.org/fight-hunger/volunteer](http://www.regionalfoodbank.org/fight-hunger/volunteer).

She said people who sign up do not need to apply, interview or go through a background check. Those

who wish to help within a group also can fill out a volunteer group request on their website.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at The Regional Food Bank, call 405-600-3160.

## CHRISTMAS CONNECTION

The Christmas Connection mainly targets supporting Oklahoma's low-income residents by providing necessities to children, adults and seniors, according to [christmasconnection.org](http://christmasconnection.org).

Christmas Connection Program

Director Donna Robison said they need

volunteers for the 2015 Christmas Shopping Days.

Robison said the event provides clothes for parents and new toys for children under 14 years old. Recipients shop for items themselves during the event, she said.

Volunteers are needed to help families shop Tuesday, Dec. 8 through Saturday, Dec. 12, at 5728 S May Ave. in Oklahoma City.

Volunteers will greet the shopper at the door, help them to find books and Christmas decorations, pack items, load cars and restock the floor.

"Our Christmas program is our biggest program," Robison said. "We serve 1,000 families."

"At Christmas Shopping Days, it takes about 50 to 75 volunteers a day to make it go well and smoothly," Robison said.

To volunteer for the Christmas Shopping Days event, contact Robison at 405-634-2006, ext. 102, or email her at [drobison@christmasconnection.org](mailto:drobison@christmasconnection.org).

OCCC students can receive a registration form by going by the Student Life office on the first floor of the Main Building in person or calling 405-682-7523.

"I have OCCC students come to volunteers all the time and I love [those] students because I know if [they] come, everything is going to run smoothly," Robison said.

"They are efficient, they're always on time, they stay the whole time and they are willing to do whatever we need."

## THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army's mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs without discrimination, according to [salvationarmyokcac.org](http://salvationarmyokcac.org).

Liz Banks, volunteer coordinator at the Salvation Army, said the organization has several events in December in need of helping hands.

The charity's Christmas Distribution Center needs volunteers to prepare gifts for their Angel Tree Program.

Volunteers will sort bags of Christmas toys to make sure each child receives an accurate gift, Banks said.

People can volunteer between 8:30 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. every day through Monday, Dec. 14.

Banks said 12 to 15 volunteers will be needed for each morning and afternoon shift.

To register, contact Banks at 405-246-1107 or at [liz.banks@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:liz.banks@uss.salvationarmy.org).

For more information about volunteering at the Christmas Distribution Center and other Salvation Army philanthropic opportunities, visit <http://salvationarmyokcac.org/volunteer/>.

## Holiday displays to light the metro area

Oklahoma City and surrounding areas will host an impressive array of holiday lights, some of which are the best in the nation.

• **Holiday Lights Spectacular** is one of the most popular destinations in the metro area, and has been for the past 20 years, according to their website [www.midwestcityok.org](http://www.midwestcityok.org).

The display features more than one million lights, and both traditional and secular religious displays.

The display is open from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 6 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The event runs from Nov. 20 through Dec. 30, at Joe B. Barnes Park at 2516 N Towry Dr., Midwest City.

• **Chickasha Festival of Light** offers car rides and carriage rides through their 3.5 million plus lights extravaganza from 6 to 11 p.m. each Sunday through Saturday, Dec. 21 through 31, at Shannon Springs Park, 2400 N 9th St., in Chickasha. Visitors are invited to experience the classic OK tradition.

• **Automobile Alley** will be brightly lit from dusk to dawn, Nov. 26 through Jan. 1. The area, located at NW 4th to 10th St. on Broadway Ave, will be bedecked with lights to create a winter wonderland.

• **Holiday Water Taxi rides** on the Bricktown Canal is one event that's been gaining in popularity. Rides will be available on select days from 6 to 9:30 p.m., Nov 27 through Dec 24, at the main dock below Mickey Mantle's.

Each trip is estimated to take around 30 minutes and will be a full loop of their water taxi route. Bricktown decorations will be visible on this route, DeLozier said.





## SPORTS



**Getting stronger:** Rylee Legg, undecided major, works out in the fitness area on the first floor of the Main Building. “I love exercising,” she said. “It’s a lot of fun for me. I like running, sweating and I just want to be healthier and stronger.” All fitness machines, classes and the gym are free for OCCC students with a valid ID.  
Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer

## Yoga relieves stress from studying

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

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Students who are struggling with the difficult grind of the end of the semester may want to try yoga as a way to relieve some of that stress, said Yoga Instructor Kathie Hibbs.

Hibbs said yoga is one of the more well-known fitness exercises around the world and also one of the most popular fitness classes on campus.

While some people think yoga is only stretching, Hibbs stresses that her class is a lot more than that.

“Yoga is a mind-body exercise,” she said. “So many people come in and think that they’re just going to stretch, and it’s not just stretching. If you aren’t really focused on your breathing, then you aren’t really doing yoga correctly.”

“I try to teach them how to breathe correctly using the prompts we have. It’s very physical. It’s a lot harder than most people think it is. You have to use your muscles and you have to use your body weight.”

The class runs through a diverse routine of exercises, Hibbs said.

“We start with seated stretches,” she said. “We do sun salutations, which is just warming up. Then we’ll go through a series of poses. We may do some balancing exercises after that, and then we cool down doing some more seated

stretches.”

Hibbs said the class is perfect for newcomers.

“That’s what the prompts are for,” she said.

“So many people come in and think they might not be flexible enough, but they don’t understand that’s the whole point of yoga. It’s to get flexible.”

With finals on the horizon, Hibbs said yoga would be a perfect thing for students to

try out as a relief from the books.

“I’m sure they’re stressed from studying or a test or a paper they have to do,” she said. “I have nursing students that really need this class. They need some relaxation, they need to get away from the books.”

“With yoga, we call it monkey mind. You just need to leave everything outside the door and just clear your mind, and come in and focus on your body. Once you really listen to your breathing, it will really relax you.”

Hibbs said all that’s required for the classes is comfortable clothes that participants can move in. And, she said, while the school does offer mats, it’s preferred if students bring their own.

The yoga classes are offered at 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Recreation and Fitness Center on the first floor of the Main Building.

For more information about the yoga classes or any of the other fitness classes, visit [www.occc.edu/rf/wellness-classes.html](http://www.occc.edu/rf/wellness-classes.html) or call Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.



### GETTING TO KNOW:

GARY  
LOMBARD  
WELLNESS  
CENTER  
TRAINER  
SINCE 2013



**Q: What is your job description here at OCCC?**

A: “I’m a personal trainer and I teach the TRX classes that are offered on campus. TRX builds functional strength as well as rotational strength, as well as balance.”

**Q: What’s your favorite part about teaching the classes here at OCCC?**

A: “Seeing the changes that people go through. People get stronger, they’ll lose fat, and they’ll gain muscle.”

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

A: “I’ve been involved with music my whole life. I sing ensemble in my church choir. My wife and I love to travel, as well. I’m involved with lots and lots of stuff.”

**Q: What kind of sports have you been involved with throughout your life?**

A: “I was a cyclist and I have 86,000 miles on my road bike. I’ve always been involved with some sport, whether it’s tennis, soccer or swimming.”

**Q: Favorite sports to watch/teams?**

A: “Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma are two schools I root for. I root for both of them, and I want them both to do well. The Oklahoma City Thunder is my favorite basketball team.”

**Q: What’s your favorite thing about fitness?**

A: “People can be healthy and strong no matter what their age. No matter what challenges they have, we can modify and make adaptations to help people with their challenges. Nine years ago, my wife and I were in a bad car accident, and when I began recovering from that, I realized I had a passion for helping others get fit. I love being able to do that.”

**Q: Why do you think it’s important for people to maintain a healthy lifestyle?**

A: “People can enjoy a better quality of life. They’ll be able to keep moving throughout their lives. They’ll be able to be healthier and be stronger.”



# OCCC: Campus police chief is pleased with low crime stats

*Continued from page 1*

The numbers were provided by MSgt. Gary Knight of the Oklahoma City Police Department.

The two crime areas on campus that had higher numbers than off-campus were petit larceny with 15 on-campus cases and four off-campus, and grand larceny, having seven on-campus and five off-campus reports.

OCCC President Jerry Steward said he feels good about the

on-campus numbers.

"I feel really good about the safety of our campus," Steward said. "I talk to Chief Fitzpatrick about the surrounding area and he says compared to most neighborhoods this is a pretty safe area," Steward said.

"The crime rate isn't super high and so I feel like OCCC is probably safer than just about any comparable area in Oklahoma City with as many people as we have here."

Fitzpatrick said campus police calls range from petit

larceny to non-injury vehicle accidents and drug charges while off-campus has a wider range with domestic violence, robbery by force and assault. He said there are many reasons why campus crime is lower than the surrounding areas.

"You have commercial properties," he said. "They themselves generate calls for service from the police [from] larcenies, to issues in and around them," he said.

"You have multi-family housing and apartments across

the street. And as you move away from here — especially a mile — you've got considerable amounts of multi-family housing. Then there's residential. So you're going to have burglaries, domestic disturbances, fight calls [and] things like that, the typical things officers respond to routinely."

Steward said although he's happy with the low occurrence of crime, he said that doesn't mean he isn't watchful.

"I think last year we didn't have any (serious crime)," he

said. "But I also have to say that doesn't mean that in the next 30 minutes we're not going to have a serious event on our campus. Nobody can accurately predict when that would happen."

"So I'm happy about where we are but I'm not unrealistic [because] the danger [of] a serious incident is always there."

To see the Oklahoma City report, visit the Pioneer Online at <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

To see campus crime statistics, visit [www.occc.edu/police/crimesafetystats.html](http://www.occc.edu/police/crimesafetystats.html).

## Apply: Transferring with a degree helps at four-year college

*Continued from page 1*

always. It depends on your specific major and the college you decide to go to."

Williams-Mize said students don't have to wait to check on their degree status. Any time students are curious about their standing, they are encour-

aged to visit Graduation Services on the first floor of the Main Building to get a degree check.

OCCC recently celebrated a historic year with a record number of graduates. In 2014, more than 2,000 students completed their degree or certificate, according to the 2015 graduation report

given to college regents Nov. 16.

Nursing major Michelle Rogers said she knows she has to apply for graduation but admits she's not quite sure how to do it.

Williams-Mize said there are two ways of applying: online or in person.

To apply online, go to [www.occc.edu/get](http://www.occc.edu/get).

Students can submit the form online. Students also can stop by the Graduation Services office on the first floor of the Main Building and apply in person.

For more information, contact Williams-Mize at [amanda.williams-mize@occc.edu](mailto:amanda.williams-mize@occc.edu).

## Classes: Advocates of Peace, Folklore no longer offered

*Continued from page 1*

On a larger scale, enrollment from fiscal year 2007 to the present year has increased 10 percent while overall state appropriation to the college is down \$93,000 over the same period, said Chief Financial Officer John Boyd in an August OCCC Regents meeting. The college relies heavily on funding from the state Legislature.

More students mean more classes. Sixty-one humanities sections will be offered this spring compared to 56 sections last spring.

However, under the HUM prefix, almost two-thirds of those sections will be concentrated into two courses with 14 Music Appreciation and 24 Mythology sections.

The proliferation of Mythology courses may be due to the fact that they could be taught by adjuncts or full-time faculty, said English Professor Pamela Stout.

"The online section [of Mythology] is easy to teach," Stout said. "I designed it. It's very or-

ganized and a person wouldn't have to know anything about mythology, necessarily, to be able to teach it."

DeClouette said the college's mission supports this streamlining of course offerings.

"Our mission is those core classes," she said. "That's the mission of a community college, to have those classes that transfer, so we really need to focus on that."

Stout, like Advocates of Peace Professor Stephen Morrow, said she was not consulted before being told on Oct. 8 that her Folklore course would not be offered in the spring. Students began enrolling in classes Oct. 12.

Stout said she has been teaching one section of the course every fall and spring since 2006 and that the course has been in the catalog for more than five years. She said the course fills, or nearly fills, each semester.

One student upset about the loss of Advocates of Peace is OCCC alumni Mary Newcome-Hatch. She said her Advocates of Peace class

transferred with her to the University of Science and Arts Oklahoma, where she is currently a senior.

Newcome-Hatch said the course empowered her and changed her world, making her an active member in student government on campus.

That is why she and her daughter, OCCC diversified studies major Mary Hatch, are leading a petition drive to reinstate Advocates of Peace and Folklore in the class schedule.

The petition currently has about 120 signatures. Additionally, a Facebook group they started in October has 73 members, many of whom are OCCC alumni, Hatch said.

Although the courses have been removed from the spring schedule, they have not been taken from the college catalog offerings at this point, DeClouette said.

Curriculum and Assessment Director Catherine Kinyon said the process to add or delete a course in the catalog is initiated by a faculty member who consults his or her dean

before filling out a form that requests their action.

Most of the division's faculty have to sign off before the form is brought to the division dean to sign. If signed, the motion goes to the OCCC Curriculum Committee for inspection and review. If passed, the change would have to be approved by Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Greg Gardner and DeClouette.

Kinyon said, as far as she knows, the process to change curriculum is always initiated by faculty.

"Curriculum is a faculty driven process," she said. "... The assumption is that faculty know their business."

Kinyon said the curriculum committee does not decide whether classes are offered or not. She said that decision is left to the faculty and their respective deans.

An Oct. 9 open records request for the forms submitted to the committee has not yet been filled by Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan.

Additionally, requests for previous OCCC class schedules and emails concerning the class have not been filled.

A status update request for all unfilled open records requests was sent to Jordan on Nov. 20. As of press time, Jordan had not responded.

DeClouette said she supports English and Humanities Dean Kim Jameson's decision to not offer Advocates of Peace and Folklore.

"At the end of the day the dean has a charge to offer what's most needed ...," she said.

DeClouette said she is hopeful a resolution can be reached between the parties.

"My hope is that ... there's some type of collaboration between the dean and the faculty ... that [they] kind of understand each other's needs and that they can come up with some type of schedule."

Jameson was originally contacted about an interview on Oct. 27. She has yet to arrange a time. For more information, contact Jameson at [kjameson@occc.edu](mailto:kjameson@occc.edu).



# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

**Winner:** Melissa Sue Lopez, Film and Theater major, shows the award she won for Best Oklahoma Film at the 2nd Annual Oklahoma Cine Latino Film Festival for her short film "Deviants." Lopez said when she started at OCCC 15 years ago, she was the only Latino enrolled in the college's film program. "Now we have so many talented local Latino filmmakers who have graduated from this college, who also participated in the festival. I'm very happy that we have grown as a community and very surprised that my film won." Photo by Amber Neely



## Division offices to assign advisers

**KATIE AXTELL**  
Editor  
editor@occc.edu

Students are now able to change majors and have faculty advisers assigned through the division offices without going through Academic Advising.

Academic Advising and Testing Services Director Tammy Madden said the decision to give the department offices the ability to change students' degrees came from an advising task force from last year.

"One of the recommendations was that the division office would have the capability of doing that," Madden said. "That was vetted through the enrollment management committee and all the deans agreed this was a good thing so we went ahead and we coordinated it so that the division offices could do that."

Madden said the motivation came from the change to using student planning software that allows faculty and academic advisers to see the same information the student sees on their degree program evaluation.

English Professor Nina Smith said faculty advisers are there not only to help students stay on track but also to assist them in furthering their education when it comes to choosing majors and applying to the different schools.

Madden said students can request a specific professor to be their adviser.

"...if a student has an instructor in a classroom ...and they go and talk to this professor and they're

convinced they want to change their major, the professor can sit down with student and do advising right there and really start planning out what classes they would have to take if they changed the degree.

"The faculty can walk the student over to the division office and say 'let's change your major' rather than making the student run around. It gets the student connected with the division office."

Smith said advisers also can let their students know what to look for in their transfer school and advise them on taking tours of other campuses.

"We also tell our students to make sure they know to apply early when transferring."

Smith said the faculty advisers at OCCC are there to help students stay on their degree track.

"My role is to help students successfully complete their degree plan. Including looking at what is left for them to complete such as which social sciences and double checking for a variety of things."

Madden said diversified studies majors will still have to go through the main academic advising office unless the student requests a particular faculty advisor.

"We just thought it was a really good thing for students and faculty advisers and really an improvement in customer service for the students," Madden said. "It's a way that we can strengthen advising across campus."

For more information on faculty advisers, contact one of the eight division offices. Academic Advising can also be contacted at 405-682-7535.

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### OCCC's Home for the Holidays will be Dec. 5

OCCC's annual Home for the Holidays event will take place at 10 a.m. Dec. 5, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater. Family-friendly festivities will start with pony rides, a petting zoo and balloon artists. Disney characters from Frozen will be there for free pictures, as well as an appearance from Santa Claus. There will be performances by Edgar Cruz and Jaminalz. Attendees will receive a special gift on the way out. For more information, contact Arts Division Secretary Jessica De Arman at [jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu](mailto:jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu).

### OCCC Christmas concert Dec. 7

OCCC will present the this year's Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Arts Division at 405-686-6278.

### 'American Idol' star to perform at OCCC on Dec. 8

"American Idol" season 6 star Melinda Doolittle will delight audiences at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater. Doolittle has performed for audiences at the White House, Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Her celebrated voice will bring alive classic holiday songs while catching your ear with hit originals. For tickets, go to the OCCC Box Office in the VPAC Theater or visit [tickets.occc.edu](http://tickets.occc.edu).

### OCCC collecting stuffed animals for non-profit

OCCC is partnering with non-profit organization Citizens Caring for Children to collect donated stuffed animals through Friday, Dec. 11. Each year in Oklahoma, 4,000 children will be taken into foster care. Many of those children leave their homes with nothing. Citizens Caring for Children provides the children with the stuffed animals and more. Donations can be taken to the Student Life Office, Recreation and Fitness Wellness Center, or the Family and Community Education Center. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Ragtime performance will be at OCCC

Ragtime will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, and Monday, Dec. 14, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. The uplifting musical, set to a Tony Award-winning score, is a timeless celebration of life. For more information or tickets, contact the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579.

### Intersession courses available

Students are reminded that they can earn credit hours in two-week courses by taking intersession classes from Monday, Jan. 4, through Friday, Jan. 15. To search for sections on Mine Online, visit [www.datatelwa.occc.edu](http://www.datatelwa.occc.edu). For more information, contact Academic Advising at 405-682-7535.

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



CLASSIFIEDS

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

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 with your name, student ID and valid phone number.

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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. Fertile desert spot  
6. Concluded  
10. Messy fellow  
14. Razor \_\_\_\_\_  
15. Ascend  
16. Roman garment  
17. Comic \_\_\_\_\_ DeGeneres  
18. Christmas carol  
19. Bakery item  
20. Not year-round  
22. Showed feelings  
24. Finale  
25. Kept  
27. Flower container  
28. More sharply inclined  
32. Most skillful  
35. Pause  
36. Legendary boxer  
37. Sulk  
38. Maiden name indicator  
39. Grinding machine  
40. Pitcher's stat  
41. Bottomless  
43. Raspy  
45. Get together again  
47. Wish  
48. All people  
50. Bustle  
53. Make attractive  
56. Jeweler's helper  
58. Placed  
59. Smelling organ  
61. Make right  
62. Window ledge  
63. Pub potables  
64. Succinct  
65. Fashion magazine  
66. "\_\_\_\_\_ we forget"  
67. Computer key

**Down**

1. Overweight  
2. Woody or Tim  
3. Mixed greens  
4. "Beware the \_\_\_\_\_ of March"  
5. Spanish women  
6. Elaborate  
7. Fiddle's kin  
8. Compass point (abbr.)  
9. Eases up  
10. Took long steps  
11. Burglar's booty  
12. Stare  
13. Hairless  
21. Bird's home  
23. Track event  
26. Words of comprehension (2 wds.)  
27. Animal doc  
29. Couple  
30. House additions  
31. Agitate  
32. One who mimics  
33. Tedious one  
34. Hawaiian feast  
35. GOP member  
38. Not ever, poetically  
39. \_\_\_\_\_ West of Hollywood  
41. Opera star  
42. Unending  
43. \_\_\_\_\_ Kong  
44. Perform surgery  
46. Sewing item  
47. Not lying  
49. Positive answers  
50. Turn aside  
51. Compact  
52. Command  
53. Ultimatum word  
54. Brad  
55. Pickle seasoning  
57. Prayer close  
60. Bullring cheer

**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."**



