PIONER



'WE'RE GOING TO TIGHTEN OUR BELTS'

President says higher ed cut by another 7 percent



LENORA LAVICTOIRE
Editor

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A second failure in expected state revenues will cut higher education by an additional seven percent—totaling higher ed cuts to 13.5 percent, said President Jerry Steward.

The third cut of the fiscal year would come on top of the nearly \$1.4 million reduction from last year's state funding to OCCC.

Chief Financial Officer John Boyd said the college has not calculated how much the cut would equal as of press time but college president Jerry Steward offered some estimation.

"I'm not too good at math in my head, but I'm good enough to know that that's over a million dollars," Steward said at a TLC meeting Thursday afternoon.

The cut comes in the form of a state revenue failure- where the state legislature did not make as much money as it projected, and budgeted, for.

Steward said there is even more bad budget news unrelated to state appropriated funds. He was notified in February that the college will be cut \$834,000 in funds that come from taxes

on oil production.

"Now, that's in addition to the 3.5 percent reduction to start the year, it's in addition to the 3 percent reduction effective January 1, and its in addition to any reduction that may be announced by March 1st or sometime in March—those are general revenue failures," Steward said.

difficult, there is no question about it."

-OCCC President Jerry Steward

And the college could face a second oil production tax cut.

"Because of the receipts from oil revenue I was told by a state regent official...that there is going to be another oil revenue failure announced probably in April."

"We don't know the amount of the second general revenue shortfall, and we don't know the amount of the second oil revenue shortfall yet, but we know they're both going to have a dramatic impact on our budget," Steward said.

Steward said the college will continue scrutinizing its expenditures.

"We're going to tighten our belt, we have been tightening our belts," Steward said.

Steward and his cabinet have avoided layoffs by identifying other areas in the budget where cuts can be made.

"What I'm trying to do is to avoid having any reduction in force—people losing their jobs this year—it's difficult, but it's doable."

Steward said he cannot promise personnel cuts won't happen.

"I simply can't guarantee it. But I believe that we're going to be able to avoid them."

He said the college remains committed to its purpose.

"We are still going to be Oklahoma City Community College. We're still going to meet the needs of our students. We're still going to meet the needs of our community. But it is more difficult, there is no question about it."

The outlook for the budget suggests that things could be even worse next year. On Feb 16, the State Board of Equalization, led by Governor Mary Fallin certified that the state will have \$1.1 billion less to appropriate for the fiscal year starting on July 1.

Library cuts hours in response to budget crises

HUNG TRAN

Senior Writer seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC's library will be changing its hours of operation after spring break this year. A total 15 hours per week will be cut from the normal operating hours.

As of March 21, the library's open hours will change from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., on Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The library will remain closed on Sundays.

This change comes in response to a combination of two primary elements according to Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Anne Declouette.

Declouette said OCCC's library is already one of only a few community college libraries that stay open as late as 11 p.m. on weekday nights. She said other community colleges in the imediate area don't commonly stay open so late. But use of the library was a deciding factor, she said.

"We also did an analysis before we proposed reducing library hours. And we saw that library's patrons drop off after 9 p.m.," Declouette said. "The expenses, personnel and non-personnel expenses after 9 p.m. for our library in this current environment is really just too much."

OCCC was actually planning to revise the library hours in the upcoming summer, she said. However, they decided, in light of cuts to the budet, to implement the plan sooner. She said one member of the library staff would soon be retiring and she didn't want to have to hire a replacement to fill in for only a few months before the library's hours and staffing plan changed.

"This is just really a perfect opportunity to do something that we actually were planning on doing," she said.

Declouette said the new hours will remain indefinitely.

"We anticipated that this is probably a permanent change unless something drastically happens with the budget," she said.

Some who use the library have expressed that the change may make things more difficult.

Shortening the library hours will negatively

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EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL I Pioneer editor asks the politically-fired-up masses, "I know you all care now but can you give a crap in February 2017?"

Are you only in it til November?



LENORA LAVICTOIRE

Every four years, around November, you know what's best to be well versed in at parties. It isn't sports. It's (finally) not OU football.

It's the presidential election.

And everyone has an opinion.

Your great aunt is willing to swear on the Bible that a Mormon will never be president.

Your friend testifies to an entire bar that so-and-so is talking about "what all the

other politicians aren't."

And for the next twelve to fourteen months—depending on if Beyonce will sing at the inauguration—you, and everyone you know, remember that we all live in a republic where we vote for our leaders, and care who they are.

And, just like trying to figure out if the dress is purple or blue or grey or whatever, you quickly stop giving a crap. The apathy glosses back over the eyes of the electorate, and they settle back into their comfy couches and friendly office place chatter about which Netflix show they're currently "episnorting".

Only to be roused from political hibernation again in four years—or eight, if it's a relatively popular president's second term.

Who are your state congresspeople anyways?

If you want to be politically active, the best way to get connected is with your community.

Reach out to the Oklahoma GOP or Oklahoma Democrats. Both parties' state conventions are coming up.

At these, delegates are chosen to go to their respective national conventions in the summer.

If party politics aren't your thing, become active in tracking what bills and votes your representatives are deciding on.

Send your representatives a letter to express your opinion, and be aware of how they actually vote. If you consistently don't agree with how they vote, then you know not to vote for them next election.

Too often, incumbents are left in their district's

seat because so few of their constituents know who they are, or what their issues are.

Before the invasion of Iraq in 2003, almost 60 percent of Americans believed that Iraq was behind the Sept. 11 attacks. There was no evidence supporting this claim, and one year later the bipartisan 9/11 Commision confirmed that.

However, 50 percent of Americans still believed that Saddam Hussein was connected to the terrorist attack.

This is a good example of the public not being informed and therefore not knowing what the truth was. And this shows just how dangerous it can be to lapse back into apathy the moment the inauguration speech is given.

While you're all fired up on voting, try to remember to care about what our elected officials are doing, or not doing, during their terms.

So get out there and be active. Vote with your feet, not just your ballot.

-LENORA LAVICOIRE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR I Empower Oklahoma will be visiting campus to help prepare students for the emotional stress of storm season

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma seeks volunteers

To the Editor:

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is seeking individuals to help grow the nonprofit's Pillar Volunteer program.

Pillar Volunteers are skills-based volunteers who donate their time in a specialized field to further the mission of the Regional Food Bank in "Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope."

"With the help of our volunteers, the Regional Food Bank is able to provide enough food to feed 116,000 Oklahomans each week," said Rodney Bivens, executive director of the Regional Food Bank. "Having a pool of volunteers with skills that can be applied to targeted needs is simply the next step in volunteer recruitment."

Available Pillar Volunteer positions include Volunteer Center Team Leaders. Team Leaders are trained volunteers that are able to independently lead groups of up to 40 other volunteers in completing a food sorting or packing project in our Volunteer Center. Direct communication, safety and organization are essential for this position.

"Volunteering can be a powerful, life-changing experience," said Amanda Cummings, a past Pillar Volunteer. "I encourage anyone to commit to an organization that they're passionate about. Personally, I enjoy volunteering for the Regional Food Bank every chance that I can in order to help make a positive impact. They are incredible people that are passionate about 'Fighting Hunger... Feeding Hope."

For more information about the Pillar Volunteer program, or the Regional Food Bank, contact Vinita Newman at

405 600-3143 or vnewman@regional-foodbank.org.

Together, we can solve hunger. Through April 30, the Charles and Cassandra Bowen Charitable Foundation and two anonymous families are offering to match every dollar given toward senior hunger relief, up to \$120,000. To make a donation, visit feedokseniors. org or call 405 600-3136.

—ANGIE GAINES DOSS
REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF OKLAHOMA

PIONEER

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature.

E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the

author's name if the request is made in writing

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

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

The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at http://pioneer.occc.edu.

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW I Pioneer writer Trey Bell explores the ups and downs of 'Zoolander 2'

Comedy sequel raises eyebrows

Great comedy movies are certainly not in short supply, and the list continues to grow. With "Zoolander 2"having hit theaters on Feb.12, this notion is solidified. .

The movie stars Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, and Penelope Cruz, and is studded with other celebrities playing themselves, including Justin Bieber, Kiefer Sutherland, and Ariana Grande, among others.

"Zoolander 2" is full of moments that left me rolling with laughter, whether it was from a character's outfit, the way they talked, or the joke they told, there was never a dull moment.

At one time, however, the humor felt forced, but the error was redeemed soon after with another shot of laughter from the audience.

The movie is a sequel, yet even being viewed independently, the story can still be understood. The plot follows Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller) reemerging into the modeling and fashion world, after retreating into exile after the events of the previous movie. After entering the world spotlight again, he and his friend Hansel (Owen Wilson) are pulled into helping special agent Valentina Valencia (Penelope Cruz) put an end to the systematic killing of famous pop stars.

Our two main protagonists soon become involved in stopping a plot created by their nemesis from the first film, Mugatu (Will Ferrell), to destroy all of the



world's major fashion icons, including Marc Jacobs, Valentino Garavani, and Tommy Hilfiger.

The movie introduces a slew of characters, each one important in furthering the comedic appeal of the film.

The inclusion of celebrities also creates a feeling of familiarity, and as if the events in the film were actually happening, because we see these people on the internet everyday.

The film also includes tons of comedic action, keeping the audience on the edge of their seat, wondering what crazy event will happen next. There is also an emotional appeal, with Derek struggling to accept his long lost son who, lets

just say, didn't meet his expectations. The soundtrack is also quite lively, from EDM with heavy bass to old-school rock.

Overall, the movie is very enjoyable, full of great laughs and plot points. There are great characters played by phenomenal actors, however there is a time when the acting seems forced, as if the vibe from the character is missing, along with a miscellaneous error involving an eyebrow. You'll catch it when you see it.

Rating: B

—TREY BELL STAFF WRITER

RESTAURANT REVIEW I Getting sauced while being covered in actual sauce can make for a surprisingly enjoyable experience

Buffalo Wild Wings not as bad as anticipated

My last trip to Buffalo Wild Wings is shrouded in the distant fog of my youth, some vague recollection of eating wings at one with my dad.

So I haven't set foot in one for over a decade, and didn't know what to expect when invited to one. Normally I reject invitations to see people or things but in this situation I had less choice.

Setting foot in Buffalo Wild Wings, I experienced immediate sensory overload. In danger of losing what little attention span I maintain, I escaped from my party and went to the bar. Thanking god I sat at the alcohol dispensary. The bartender, a nice man with a scraggly beard poured me a pint of Farmhouse Tank 7 when I ordered a small. I didn't think I needed a pint of nine point beer but I've been wrong before. The pricing for my beverage was extremely reasonable, I did not feel taken ad-

vantage of. It would take some sick and diabolical capitalism to create an establishment where its survival depends more on intoxication than gouging your customers on the goods. While the fries were weak

good. Maybe I was just sauced by the time the food got there but I enjoyed getting covered in chicken grease, bits, and sauce. I thought no way I'll eat like all 16 of these wings, but it turns out even I can underestimate myself. Buffalo Wild Wings did a pretty good job, for being a Buffalo Wild Wings. The service was good, the staff probably figured us as not the usual crowd based on our manners and dignity. I probably won't ever go to another Buffalo Wild Wings but wouldn't be that upset if I had to, unless I had to drive. Rating C+

the 'small' order of honey bourbon wings were actually pretty

—GRANT SWALWELL MULTIMEDIA WRITER

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

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

Enjoy outdoor attractions near OKC metro

With southern Oklahoma winds starting to blow in, the sun is setting later and my thoughts are outdoors.

Oklahoma has beautiful outdoor spaces, and the Oklahoma City metro area is conveniently located near many of them.

Here's some of my favorite places to get outdoors near the city.

- Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge, nestled in northwest Oklahoma City, is 1,000 acres of bliss. Winding through the large refuge is the North Canadian river, where nature lovers can observe beavers and other wildlife. The area is surrounded with lush trees, marshes, grasslands, and animals. The best part of all is that you don't even have to leave the city to feel like you're in the woods.
- If you have a bit more time consider visiting the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. To me, it is possibly the most beautiful place in Oklahoma. There is so much to do. Bike (or drive) three miles up to the peak of Mount



Scott- at nearly 2500 ft elevation. From the top of the mountain you can see incredible views of the entire refuge. Take a hike through a dozen trails, or see some of the American bison herds in their natural habitat. The refuge is a drive though- about an hour and 45 minutes south on the H.E. Bailey Turnpike.

- Martin Nature Park is a great place to take a walk, especially if you have children. The trails aren't very long so it is good for those who are short on time or energy. Dusk is my favorite time to take a walk through the park. It is located off W. Memorial Road and N. Meridian Avenue.
- On Oklahoma's random cold days, (ie: snowing after one week of 70 degree weather) take a walk in the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory in the downtown Oklahoma CIty Myriad Botanical Gardens. The Crystal Bridge is a huge greenhouse full of plants from all over the world. With a valid college ID, students can get in for \$7.

Oklahoma has so much to offer outdoors, so what are you waiting for?

> -Lenora Lavictoire **EDITOR**

MUSIC REVIEW I The open jam, while perhaps going the way of the buffalo, remains a crucial element of the local music scene

Support local musicians by taking in jam sessions

There haven't ever been a lot of places in our state where unknown artists are or who you could meet in our state. able to share their talents. But bars and nightclubs have always been the musician's friend, the kickstarter of careers that could lead to fame, another bar or back to the garage.

Bars are finding it harder these days to pay musicians to play. Amateur musicians are feeling the pinch from the rise in popularity of karaoke and reliable one man DJs.

However, there are still a few stragglers out there keeping that dream alive for starving musicians by offering a venue where their talents can be showcased.

Last week, I visited six places in the area that host jam sessions.

Jam sessions are, just that... where musicians get together to jam.

Some don't play together as well as others, of course. There will always be those that just can't share and they do more to detract from the experience than it's worth.

At one stop the guitar player was a no-show, must've broken up with his girlfriend and not had a ride. (What do you call a musician who breaks up with his girlfriend? Answer - homeless.)

Musicians stick together. His fellow jammers stuck around and covered him, because the old saying stands true 'The show must go on.'

Some jam sessions can be intimidating, especially if you don't know anyone. But once you find a place you're comfortable, there's no telling what you can do

Many of the locals are known for playing with famous artists. They usually enjoy playing so much they sit in with friends when they are on the road or supplement their income at home.

You can occasionally spot Johnny Lee's band members out partaking, (Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places.) Toby Keith's past and present band members, Reba's, Garth's and if you're really lucky even George Strait's guitar player can be found picking in a local venue. Even Vince Gill himself has been seen at jams here.

My favorite reoccurring jams going on right now are on Sundays if you're down south at Little Dicks Halfway Inn. Those guys can and will play anything. I've read about this place as being one of the scariest bars in our area. I've been to a lot of bars and the bartenders are not always sober. This bartender is aware and watchful of his patrons. I always feel safe there.

If you're up north Friends Bar and Grill at Portland and Memorial Road is the place to be. The players there are experts and good teachers too. They will make you feel right at home. They serve good food but unfortunately you must be 21 to enter either establishment. They both start at 9 p.m. and play till they decide to quit which is usually around closing time.

Rating A+

-Georgia Wood **COMMUNITY WRITER**



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Civil rights march remembered

CHARLES BROADWAY

News Writing Student

The Selma march for civil rights in 1965 attracted about 3200 people who set out on foot from Selma, Alabama, on March 21, according to CNN. On arrival at the state capitol four days later, the number had swelled to 32,000.

Nora Pugh-Seemster, president and CEO of Nurturing Positive Solutions Inc., talked about this historic event on Feb. 18, to an audience of 20 people on the OCCC campus. Her presentation was part of Black History Month.

Among the supporters were Caucasians and other ethnicities who had joined African-Americans in their pursuit of the right to vote, Pugh-Seemster said, pointing out different faces in historic video footage. The marchers walked 50 miles to the capitol in Montgomery.

Among the Selma marchers was OCCC President Jerry Steward, who joined Pugh-Seemster toward the end of her speech.

Steward confirmed the marchers were treated harshly by hostile crowds along the route.

From his firsthand account he described the way the marchers were abused.

"They had whole glass bottles filled with human urine that were being hurled at us as we marched,"

The marchers had been asked by Dr. Martin Luther





MARCHERS: Dr. Nora Pugh-Seemster (Left) and OCCC president Jerry Stewart (Right) discussed what it was like participating in the civil rights march of 1965. Photos provided

King Jr. 'to not react violently or respond to the tormentors,' Steward said. As one of the leaders of the Civil Rights movement, King endorsed nonviolence as the means to achieve political ends.

Pugh-Seemster asked people in the audience if they could have shown such self-restraint.

"Could you suffer name-calling and other protests to pass the Voting Rights Act?" Pugh-Seemster asked, near the beginning of the speech.

Other events led up to the Selma march, Pugh-Seemster said, such as the U.S. Supreme Court ruling known as Brown v. Board of Education in 1954,

which deemed segregated schools to be unconstitutional.

Afterwards in Arkansas, nine students attended Central High School in Little Rock. These nine students were dubbed the "Little Rock Nine" in their time.

Even in Oklahoma there was struggle for

Pugh-Seemster said even after she decided to attend the University of Oklahoma, she felt some anxiety because one of the streets in Norman was named De Barr, in memory of an OU professor who had been a leader of the Ku Klux Klan.

Before the Supreme Court's ruling on Brown v. Board of Education's "separate but equal doctrine" being unconstitutional, Oklahoma's segregated schools were anything but equal, Pugh-Seemster said.

African American schools used old textbooks that were worn out after having been used by the "equal" white schools, she said.

"At one time Oklahoma had more Black towns in our state than any other in the union," Pugh-Seemster said. After Jim Crow laws were introduced to make segregation legal shortly after statehood, other laws were added later in an effort to keep African Americans from voting.

Pugh-Seemster is retired from OCCC after serving for many years as the director of the Career Transitions program.

Theft of toilet paper and harassment

HUNG TRAN

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Recent reports from OCCC's campus police department demonstrate responses to suspected thefts and menacing solicitations.

On Feb.18, Building and Campus Services Manager Kevin Brannan reported a possible theft.

According the report, Brannan stated at 5:15 p.m. Feb.17, he witnessed a WFF Facilities Services employee carrying a large plastic bag out of the main building.

After reviewing surveillance camera footage, Brannan determined that the suspect had removed rolls of toilet paper from the building and took them to her vehicle.

Brannan reported that he contacted WFF Supervisor Tony Hunter and showed him the footage.

Hunter confirmed that the suspect

was one of WFF's employees. According vide his identification and repeatedly to the report, Hunter stated the suspect was terminated from employment but refused to provide the suspect's name.

On the same day, campus police officer Andrew Schmidt was dispatched to the foyer of the Main Building after receiving a report that a solicitor was on campus causing a disturbance.

The report states that solicitation of any kind is a violation of college policies.

Based on the police report, Chris Lamont, a visitor to OCCC, was loud and disruptive to students and faculty members while attempting to solicit signatures from students.

Lamont reportedly refused to pro-

raised his voice disturbing more people nearby.

Because of the aggressive action and disturbance, Schmidt placed Lamont under arrest and transported him to the

> Oklahoma County Detention Center on complaints of Disturbing a State Business and Obstructing a Police Officer.

On Feb.19, obscene, harassing and threatening phone calls were reported.

Officer Zachary Andrews reported that two full time staff had received a series of phone calls from a suspect, who insisted his calls should be connected to the president.

Based on the report, the suspect commonly attempted to promote business ideas or projects to OCCC.

When the suspect was informed that his request to speak to President Jerry Steward had been declined, he reportedly became agitated and used foul and demeaning language.

According to the report campus police received copies of emails dating back to 2012 that document similar calls from this individual.

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

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

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

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

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RADIO: Students (left to right) David McEntire, Rachel Coffman, Jeremy Smith, Dylan Sanchez, Aaron Davis, Darla Kilhoffer, Tyler Adams and Brooklin Hoss visited a recording studio where Randy Kemp, RK-1 Studios founder and owner, shared his expertise. *Erika Fierro/Pioneer*

Students welcomed at studio

ERIKA FIERROStaff Writer

staffwriter4@occc.edu

Before beginning their next class project, 12 students in Professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert's Audio Production class received advice from sound recording professionals when they visited RK-1 Studios in Edmond this semester.

Audio Production students are assigned to record two radio spots, said Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, mass media communications professor.

As part of the tour, Randy Kemp invited the group into his workroom and played a number of radio spots, some old, some new, and most still played on air today. Kemp is RK-1 Studios founder and owner.

He said he wanted students to listen to the do's and dont's of radio commercials. He also went on to explain a concept, "theater of the mind."

"If you can put the listener in a place, and let them paint the picture in their head with the sounds, and the words, and the music that you choose, then they get to participate in the creative process with you," Randy Kemp said. "If you complicate the message, with a whole lot of stuff, it just goes downhill."

Faulconer-Lippert said she instructed students to watch Kemp's face and body movement as he stepped into the booth to record a commercial, so when they returned to class, they could apply his techniques when they recorded.

"I really liked how we got to see him do a commercial and realize it's OK to mess up and go back and redo it," said Ashley Guyer, broadcast journalism major.

RK-1 Studios is in the business of recording commercial, film, video, and much more.

"There's nothing more engaging and real, than to see an outstanding professional doing his work in his work place," Faulconer-Lippert said. "The reward is when the teacher and the students learn something, and every time it's a highlight of the semester."

When this reporter tagged along, students witnessed a commercial in the making in the "green room" while Kempled the group through a two-hour tour of the studio.

Kemp has 45 years of experience and recognitions including the American Advertising Federation Silver Medal and Sterling Service Awards.

Abigail Connell, public speaking major, said the experience enabled her to connect the concepts taught in class to real world application.

Faulconer-Lippert said the relationship between OCCC students, Randy Kemp, and RK-1 Studios began 15 years ago, when she asked the well-known on-air personality if she could bring students to his studio. Faulconer-Lippert said she and Randy Kemp had previously recorded together.

Randy Kemp agreed and the rest is history.

Although he has no official ties with OCCC, Kemp was inducted into OCCC's Alumni Hall of Fame in 2014. Faulconer-Lippert said she nominated Kemp in recognition for his continuing participation with OCCC students through studio tours.

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Nursing director rises from faculty ranks

ISREAL RAGLE-TULLIS

News Writing Student

Leaving the classroom behind, Professor Shelley Miller assumed directorship of the nursing program at OCCC on Jan. 4.

"In my heart, I still am that bedside nurse that takes care of the patients," Miller said. "I have always loved being there."

Miller will be leading one of the largest nursing schools in Oklahoma with 18 full-time faculty, plus 36 adjunct faculty. OCCC graduated approximately 180 students in the registered nursing program last year, she said.

Miller has taught at OCCC since 2003 when she began as an adjunct instructor. She joined the faculty full-time in 2012.

Most recently she worked as team leader for the nursing career ladder pathway program. The career ladder program is designed for students who currently are paramedics or licensed practical nurses. The program builds on their knowledge and prepares them to test for their registered nursing license.

Miller said she will miss connecting with students and seeing their creativity through class presentations.

"I teach in a different way now," Miller said. Through her new position she will be working with faculty to help implement new and varied ways of teaching the curriculum.

Miller said she was inspired to teach through encouragement from her peers while practicing nursing at the Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City. During her 10 years as a critical care nurse, she said she found herself sharing her knowledge with students on rotations at the hospital.

"I always had faculty say, 'You should really consider teaching," she said. "I loved to have the students... and pull them in and say, 'You've got to come see this!"

Miller explained that the education gained from a classroom is the root of providing excellent patient care.

"It's not all about the textbook," Miller said. "It's about compassion and touching lives of individuals.

"It's a blend of art and science," she said, explaining how a clinical classroom provides the arena to hone skills and to extend compassion while understanding the direct connection between the two—something she believes the



SHELLEY MILLER: The newly appointed nursing director proudly displays her grandmother's painting in her office. "Grandma was also a nurse and she gave it to me as a wedding present," Miller said.

Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer

OCCC program excels at.

Miller is prepared to make the necessary changes to combat the challenges of the ever-changing healthcare industry.

She said the U.S. as a whole has shifted from acute patient care inside large hospitals to community based care in smaller clinics. Patients are seeing fewer hospital rooms and undergoing outpatient surgeries with fewer post-surgery overnight stays.

"We have a very solid program and the changes that we make really align with the changes that are occurring in our community," Miller said.

Committed to excellence for the nursing students, Miller said, she is working alongside partners from clinics and hospitals in the metro area and with the program's advisory board to get feedback about practical challenges and trends nurses are facing in the healthcare field.

The most recent official results from the Oklahoma Board of Nursing place OCCC at an 89.4 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. Pass rates are calculated on the first time nursing graduates who take the test.

The college's program had 217 candidates taking the test in 2014, the most of any nursing school in the state, Miller said.

The second most candidates belonged to the University of Oklahoma with 149. More than half of the state schools represented had candidates in double digits. OCCC's pass rate in 2014 exceeded the state average of 83.55 percent, and the national rate of 81.79 percent, for the same year.

Miller already has insight into OCCC's NCLEX scores from 2015. She believes the OCCC pass rate will be even better than the year before.

Miller replaces the previous nursing school director, Deborah Myers, who was promoted to dean of the Health Professions Division. Myers moved to her new position last August. She said she is pleased to see Miller promoted.

"She's a fabulous fit for nursing program director," Myers said. Miller is highly qualified to lead the program with a master's degree in nursing, her years of clinical experience and educational experiences as well.

"The size of the program on a daily basis was the biggest issue that I dealt with," Myers said. "It's like having a large family... there are always going to be issues... because of the sheer number of individuals that you are working with."

Myers said the large program at OCCC encompasses as many as 450 students, three different nursing programs and the busy full-time and part-time staff.

She believes that Miller has the necessary skills to keep all the moving parts of the program in place.

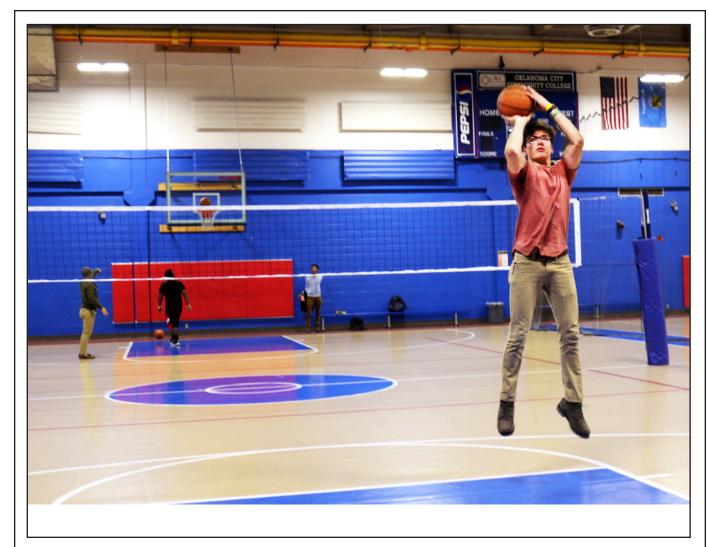
"Her communication is probably her best asset," said Myers of Miller. "She's able to de-escalate situations if they should arise."

Miller will have her hands full overseeing the daily operations of the program as well as satisfying regulations with both the Oklahoma Board of Nursing and the Accreditation Commision for Education in Nursing.

For more information, visit the OCCC Nursing Program website at www.occc.edu/health/nursing or call the Division of Health Proffesions office at (405) 682-7507.

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SPORTS



IN THE PAINT: Glenn Cerny, business major, intensely focuses on sinking his jump shot while taking a break between classes in the gym. Erika Fierro/Pioneer

Classes offer quick cardio workouts

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC's spring semester is in full swing. Students who have had their free time constricted by classes can still find time for a great cardio workout, said Fitness Instructor Julie Slate.

Slate said group fitness classes can be a great way for students to get their hearts pumping. She said this is especially true with the kickboxing and cross training classes that are being offered from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each class is 30 minutes long, she said.

Slate, a personal trainer who has been teaching kickboxing since 1997, said the kickboxing class will improve the strength and balance of those who take it.

"The kickboxing class has a lot of shadowboxing, which is doing boxing moves without using a punching bag, as well as things that get your body moving in ways that a simple cardio exercise like running could not do," she said.

"The cross training class is a lot different than the kickboxing class in that the students in the cross training use the weights that we have. Students go at their own speed."



RECREATION & FITNESS body moving.

COMMU

Slate said she plans to start using the new Hoist equipment in the Wellness Center for the cross training class.

"It's only the second week, but once students start getting settled in, I'm going to start getting the class to use the new equipment," she said. "It's new to me too, and it's great."

Of the two classes, Slate said, the cross training class is more popular, and she knows why. "It's because of the weights," she said. "The guys come in here and they love getting a chance to use the equipment." Slate said both classes are designed to keep the heart

rate high and the

She said the classes are great for students because they're so short.

"Students can get a full body workout in a very short time period, which is very handy. The time just flies by."

For information about kickboxing, cross training, or any of the other classes offered at the Wellness Center call 682-7860 or visit http://www.occc. edu/rf/wellness-classes.html

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Big 12 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament: March 9 to 12 on ESPN/ESPN2/ESPNU Player to watch: Oklahoma University's Buddy Hield is playing better than anyone else in college basketball. The favorite for the John R Wooden Award, given annually to the best college basketball player in the country, looks to lead the Sooners to their first Big 12 title since 2003. **Reason to watch:** The University of Oklahoma men's basketball team is coming off it's best regular season in years, and the Big 12 tournament is important in terms of seeding for the Big Dance later this month.

The Sooners face competition from conference powerhouse Kansas, who have beaten the Sooners twice this season. Baylor and West Virginia, two schools ranked in the AP Top

25, will also be in the mix for the

postseason championship.

Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Los Angeles Clippers: March 6 at 9:30 p.m. on ESPN Player to watch: Clippers shooting guard JJ Reddick, who is shooting a career-best .482 percent from 3-point land, is quickly becoming a matchup nightmare for opposing defenders. His talents, which have led him to the second best 3-point percentage in the league, should be on full display against a struggling Thunder perimeter defense.

Reason to watch: While the Clippers lost star forward Blake Griffin to a broken hand, they've played considerably better without him. The team sports a 20-6 record with a firm grip on the fourth seed in the Western Conference, and this game could have huge implications on the playoff seeding for the Thunder, who are the third seed.

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Library: woes over schedule change

New **Library Hours**

Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m to 9 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Saturday** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Closed Sundays**

Continued from page 1

affect working students, said Political Science major Madison Robin.

'The new policy for cutting back the hours is extremely detrimental to the education of the students at OCCC because for a lot of students work," she said. "I utilize the library until 11p.m. every single night. I'm very concerned about my studying. I guess I have to prepare unless someone stands up and changes this."

"I utilize the computers here and the printers, so I guess I am going to find other facilities and places to print out things and submit my paperwork," she said, "So, I guess I have to go to the OU library."

Robin said tuition costs should be cut back if students are allowed less use of campus resources.

Pre-medicine major Leslie Franco

"I think it is very ridiculous because we spend so much on tuition. My question is 'If our tuition will be lowered if we're not going to have, like, the same facility opportunities as we did before?" Franco said.

She said even when the library is open until 11p.m. each weekday, that isn't always enough.

"When we go home, there's plenty of homework to do," Franco said.

She said she thinks OCCC's administration should consider the costs of denying students resources and experiences on campus.

Declouette said she certainly understands that many students, some of whom regularly stay at the campus late to study, might be upset about the new change.

"I really support our students who have so many different things going on — children, work, school and many of those types of things," she said.

"I hope they can do that studying at home. We are talking about from 9 to 11 p.m., we are not talking about a lot of time.

'We are hoping that they can find somewhere else, maybe a nice and peaceful place at home at that time."

Panel discussion on faith slated for OCCC

ISRAEL RAGLE-TULLIS

News Writing Student

Advocating tolerance rather than animosity will be the message when a panel of religious scholars talk from noon to 2 p.m. Monday, March 7, in the Bruce Owen Theater on campus.

The event is free and open to the public.

The scholars will speak on interreligious relationships and they will answer questions from the audience during the discussion.

Dr. Imad S. Enchassi, one of the guest speakers, is the president, founder and spiritual leader of the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City.

The other scholars attending Monday are Dr. Charles Kimball, a professor of religious studies at the University of Oklahoma, and Dr. William Tabbernee, director of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches.

Kimball and Tabbernee are well Enchassi said on the program. $known\,published\,scholars\,and\,experts$ in their religious fields, said Student Life Coordinator Travis Ruddle, who planned this event.

'It's a very timely and important event that we can give to the students," Ruddle said of the Interfaith panel.

Tabbernae is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), according to the website of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches.

Kimball is an ordained Baptist minister who earned his doctorate in theology at Harvard University, according to his biography on the OU website.

Enchassi was interviewed on a podcast hosted by OCCC Professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert on Feb. 28 on KTOK news radio. He discussed the importance of such interfaith talks during this particular political climate.

"It seems like a lot of our politicians, as we gear up to an election, are using the politics of fear to divide people,"

"We're the people (who) are refusing to be divided," said Enchassi of himself, and fellow scholars comprising the panel.

The reality of religious intolerance needs to be acknowledged and addressed, Ruddle said.

"I think people in the back of their minds...believe that religious intolerance is not an issue anymore in the 21st century, that (intolerance) is something (seen) in the 1800s and 1900s," he said. "But it's still very prevalent today."

All are invited to ask questions during the forum and are welcome to stay after the event to talk with the speakers personally, Ruddle said.

For more information about this event, call Ruddle in the Student Life office at (405) 682-1611 ext. 7683 or listen to Faulconer-Lippert's podcast online at ktok.com.

Interfaith Panel

from Noon to 2 p.m.

Monday, March 7

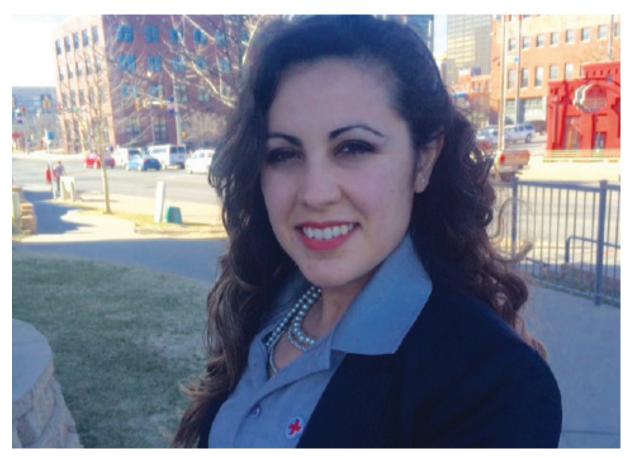
at the **Bruce Owen Theater**

Speakers:

Dr. Imad S. Enchassi, Dr. Charles Kimball, Dr. William Tabbernee



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HIBA JAMEEL: Jameel, who has dedicated her life in the United States to helping people in need, poses for a photo in her Red Cross shirt *Georgia Wood/Pioneer*

A life of service in a new land

GEORGIA WOOD

Community Writer communitywriter@occc.edu

Student Hiba Jameel said she came to the U.S. from Baghdad in 2011 because she wanted a college education. But she said she was also drawn in by a prevailing open-mindedness.

"The Americans in Iraq set such a good example of the American people by the way they treated me," she said. "They made me want to come be a part of that community."

Jameel said she was impressed by the respect Americans soldiers showed her.

"Americans treated me like a human versus like a woman," she said. "A captain treated me like a human and didn't stereotype me."

Jameel said the respect shown toward women in America, a contrast to the more constrained lives of women in Iraq, attracted her.

"A woman's life is ran by other people. Marriage is run by family. It is very rare that you would date. You have no social life except family and neighbors. Women can legally drive, but it is not accepted morally."

Jameel received her bachelor's degree in Baghdad, then came to the U.S.

She came to Oklahoma on a full ride scholarship and earned her masters degree in international relations at the University of Central Oklahoma. She is also studying Spanish at OCCC.

Jameel works for the Red Cross in a paid position as a volunteer service specialist.

As a volunteer for the Red Cross before, she said she heard not just from people asking for help. "I took calls from people who needed assistance after the tornado in Woodward in 2012," Jameel said. "Other people would call in offering assistance, which was very foreign to me."

She said the idea of strangers helping strangers appealed to her and was something she decided to take part in more permanently.

"Service is a very important part of my life now," Jameel said. "I went to work for the Red Cross because of the way they helped back home right after the war."

Jameel said during the war her family lived in a neighborhood surrounded by government buildings. Her family moved because they were afraid the building they lived in would be destroyed and eventually it was.

Her family was forced to move to a home between American forces and the militia in southwest Baghdad.

"I lost an uncle to a roadside bomb but my family was lucky," she said.

"Most families lost one to five family members at a time. There were sheets on the entrances to the neighborhoods with hundreds of names on them each week of the people who had lost their lives."

Jameel said her worst fear during the Iraq war was that the schools would close. It made her scared about her future, she said, worst of all though was the uncertainty of not knowing.

She said now her heart aches for the refugees from Syria and other war zones.

"When I hear of the refugees being turned away, I understand the hardship from both sides," Jameel said. "The American government has a duty to protect the (American) people but also to take the (displaced) people in."

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Interfaith Panel and Discussion Monday, March 7

Join the discussion of religious tolerance and interfaith relationships, starting at noon to 2 p.m., on Monday, March 7, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Discuss and ask questions with brilliant scholars, Dr. Imad S. Enchassi, with the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City, Reverend Dr. Charles Kimball, Presidential Professor and Director of Religious studies at OU, Reverend Dr. William Tabbernee, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches. The event is free to attend. For more information contact Travis Ruddle, coordinator of student life at 405-682-1611 ext. 7683.

"Jim Brickman: The Platinum Tour" Tuesday, March 8

Instrumental pop pianist Jim Brickman will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, in the Visual and Performing Arts Theater. Two-time Grammy nominee and recipient of four gold albums, this talented performer is sure to bring entertainment to all music lovers with intimacy, elegance, and audience interaction. For tickets call the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579 or visit www.occc.edu/tickets.

Student Jazz Ensemble, March 8

OCCC students, staff, and employees are invited to a night filled with harmonies and melodies created by OCCC Student Jazz Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free. For more information contact the Arts Division office at 405-686-6278.

OU Transfer Counselor Visit, March 9

University of Oklahoma representative will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, in the Transfer Center located outside of Academic Advising to speak with any students interested in transferring to OU. Students may bring their transcripts. For those not available to get to campus but need information about OU, chat online with a rep through OCCC's Transfer Chat at http://www.occc.edu/get/Chat.html. For more information contact Javier Puebla, coordinator of transfer and graduation services at 405-682-7567 or by email at jpuebla@occc.edu.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue of the Pioneer. Please email your upcoming event details to editor@occc.edu or stop in to the Pioneer office located in AH 1F2.

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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.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Ikea TV stand/ coffee table, approximate dimensions: 18" x 24" x 68", very good condition \$20, brown woodgrain, Text 405-301-1820 for more details.

JOBS

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.

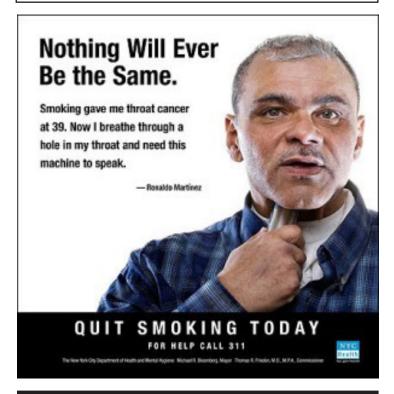
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

- 1. Took a dip
- 5. Guitarist's aid
- 9. Baldwin and Guinness
- 14. Columbus's state
- 15. Eve's guy
- 16. Viola's kin
- 17. Family rooms
- 18. Ice cream holder 19. Angelic symbols
- 20. Affix
- 22. Second self (2 wds.)
- 24. Great wrath
- 25. Mediocre grades
- 26. For this reason
- 29. Baseball's _
- 30. Sail support
- 34. Heavyweight great
- 35. On a ship 37. Tooth deposit
- 39. Cottage cheese's kin
- 41. E-mail item
- 42. Sound system
- 43. Rowing needs 44. Vegas
- 45. Seasoning plant
- 46. Solid ground
- 48. Makes level
- 50. Cheeky
- **51**. For
- 52. Large handkerchief
- 56. Makes amends
- 60. Climbing plants
- 61. Not written 63. Mete (out)
- 64. Hues
- 65. In person
- 67. Stockholm resident
- 68. Go-getter
- 69. Washington bills

- 1. Carbonated drink
- 2. Sharpen
- 3. Isn't, incorrectly
- 4. Tiled artwork
- 5. Hidden supply
- 6. Tumult 7. Cure-all
- 8. Brunch dish
- Pains
- 10. Shakespearean King ____ Macpherson
- 12. Drain obstruction
- 13. Fair (hyph.)
- 21. Invent

- 23. Wobble 26. Severe
- 27. Select group
- 28. More congenial
- 29. Round vegetable
- 30. "____ Doubtfire" 31. Start of a Dickens
- title (2 wds.)
- 32. Astronomer Carl
- 33. Curl
- 36. Taken illegally
- 38. Declare
- 40. Ball
- 41. Peeved
- 43. Toronto's province

- 47. Mr. Schwarzenegger
- 49. Caribbean religion
- 50. Old hat
- 51. More wan
- 52. Small pieces
- 53. Declare openly
- 54. IX
- 55. Exploit 57. Part of speech
- 58. Other than
- 59. Groups
- 62. Address abbr.



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Student filmmaker tells her own immigration story

ERIKA FIERRO Staff Writer staffwriter4@occc.edu

Editors Note: Melissa Sue Lopez is a photographer at the Pioneer

After waiting nearly 20 years for her legal status, now U.S. resident and OCCC film and theater major, Melissa Sue Lopez, is working on the biggest project of her career, "9 Digits to Freedom."

"Anybody that's struggling to make a dream come true will connect with me and my story," Lopez said.

The documentary, "9 Digits to Freedom" will take the audience through her journey as an immigrant, Lopez said.

She said she has experience directing feature films, short films and music videos but this project would be her first documentary.

The accessibility to equipment, feedback from peers, and most importantly the guidance and support of OCCC professors has contributed greatly to the film so far, Lopez said.

Lopez has developed a group of colleagues who help out when needed.

Arts Division Dean Ruth Charnay counts herself among Lopez's sup-

"I think I've tried to continue to be supportive, that if she was struggling, or had times when things weren't working right, I was always able to reassure her that she was on the right track," Charnay said.

"You could say my crew is made up of some of our professors," Lopez said.

Greg Mellott, film and video professor, Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, mass media communications professor, Julie Corff, speech communications professor, and Rick Lippert, journalism and broadcasting professor are among those giving feedback on the project, Lopez said. Corff believes professors at OCCC truly care about students and are willing to help them but students need to be active.

"Be intentional about deciding who would be the best professor to help you, but you've got to go, you've got to put forth the effort, you've got to be the one to make the phone call," Corff said.

Entering legally into the U.S. in 1994 with her parents, the 15-yearold immigrant from Mexico City did not foresee the struggles she would be forced to overcome. Once Lopez's



INCLUDED: Local fimmaker and student Melissa Sue Lopez receives the Jurist award from Nathan Lee, director of InColor Film Festival for her film "Shutter Mind." Erika Fierro/Pioneer

parents received their residency cards in 1997, they filed to seek status for their daughter, Lopez said.

Time passed by and still nothing. In 2003, Lopez's parents became U.S. citizens, Lopez said.

"I did not come into the United States illegally," Lopez said. "We entered by following the rules, paid money, filled out the paperwork; so why had six years passed and I still didn't have any updates."

Lopez believes the system is broken in regards to the policies concerning immigration, which makes it extremely difficult for those awaiting legal status, and who want to follow the law.

Because of the age requirement, Lopez was ineligible to benefit from the Dream Act which states persons must be between ages 15 and 30, according to immigration policy.org.

"But I come from a family that never gives up," Lopez said.

Lopez said she worked without pay, similar to an internship, with important professionals because she was still awaiting official status and legally she could not work. Things became worse when producers would claim her ideas as their own Lopez said.

"A few of my projects were stolen," Lopez said. Without the struggles and the fight she was forced to find within herself, Lopez said she wouldn't be the attention of Telemundo reportwhere she is today.

Finally in 2015, Lopez received her nine digit number, her social security card. Even though now she can work legally, Lopez still lacked another very component to launch her career - a college degree.

Lopez said she returned to OCCC for her associate's degree. Throughout her life, Lopez filmed herself capturing the most raw moments of her life, many featured in her documentary, Lopez said.

Lopez said she works on the 70 minute documentary every day, making cuts and edits, after receiving constructive criticism from her professors.

Every change is difficult Lopez said. "I constantly bump heads with Greg Mellott, film and video production professor, because I see things one way, and he sees them another when it comes to what the audience will be impacted by.

"But he had a point, the story is about me, my story, and the difficulties I conquered," Lopez said.

She said trusting her professors is key to learning and producing valu-

"Trust them, they know what you need in order to succeed," Lopez said. Lopez said her work has also caught

ers and she couldn't be more excited about it.

Cecilia Hernandez-Cromwell, news producer and weekend reporter with Tyler Media said she knew of Lopez from a former reporter and recognized her at the Latino Film Festival in 2015, where Lopez won Best Oklahoma Film. In 2013, Lopez said she won the Jurist Award and People's Choice Award at the In Color Film Festival in Oklahoma City, Lopez said.

"She's a motivator to everybody, people who are interested in communications, to Hispanics, to females wanting to direct, it's a very hard field to get into if you're a female and I think it will help people," Hernandez-Cromwell said.

The Telemundo segment featuring Lopez can be found on Cecilia Hernandez-Cromwell Telemundo Oklahoma's Facebook page.

Lopez said she wants to show her story all over the world and has began a campaign to raise funds.

"People can go to kickstarter.com and search "9 Digits to Freedom," Lopez said.

Melissa Sue Lopez can be contacted via her Facebook page, 9 Digits to