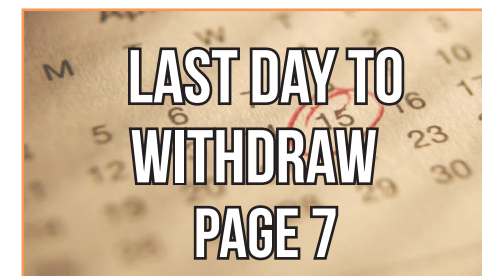


PIONEER

Employees face layoffs



Force reduction imminent and unavoidable, said OCCC President Jerry Steward.

LENORA LAVICTOIRE
Editor
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Steward and his cabinet have successfully avoided eliminating positions so far, even though they've to cut over \$3 million from this year's budget. They've done this by defunding positions that were not filled, scrutinizing travel and purchases, cutting costs throughout the college, and tapping into contingency funds.

"They're being eaten up quickly," said Steward of those emergency

funds, of which only a small amount—\$40,000—covered the \$3.2 million overall loss in funding this year.

"We are really going over the budgets with a fine tooth comb and trying to cut out everything we can," Steward said.

But with the legislature having \$1.3 billion less to spend next year, further, more dramatic cuts from state appropriations are almost guaranteed.

"We are going to have a reduction in force. We are going to reduce the number of positions at the college. It is something that I regret—deeply regret—but we are going to have to do it," Steward said.

The college receives about \$22 million in state tax dollars or 54 percent of the total education and general budget.

See LAYOFFS on Page 9



OCCC President Jerry Steward announced coming layoffs at a listening session for employees at the VPAC theater in March. *photo provided*

Safety measures considered, postponed

HUNG TRAN
Senior Writer
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Some of OCCC's staff and faculty may still remember an accident that took place at the front of the Main Building three years ago.

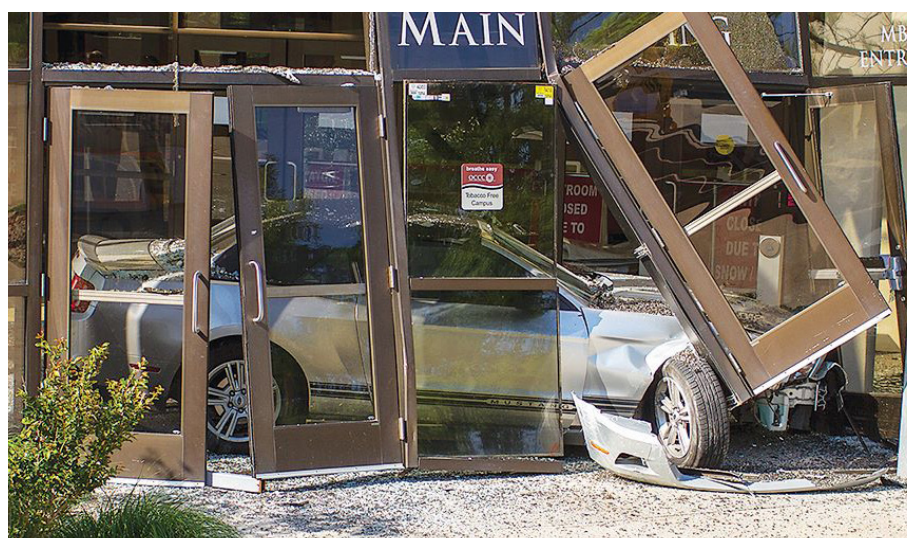
On June 20, 2013, a car smashed through the glass of the main entry. As reported in the Pioneer at the time, the driver, an OCCC student, said he'd blacked out at the wheel while approaching the school.

Nobody was hurt, but the entry was closed temporarily for repairs.

Facilities Management Director Chris Snow said landscaping elements near the entry make it unlikely another accident like this might take place.

"Every one of those planters is a barrier, every concrete bench is a barrier, every curve is a barrier," Snow said.

"In this particular situation when the Mustang drove into the main entry, I



In 2013, a Ford Mustang crashed into the main entrance when its driver lost consciousness at the wheel. *Chris James/Pioneer Archives*

think the video showed that [the driver] purposely diverted his vehicle around those barriers to be able to come to the Main Building. He was able to drive his car to the Main Building."

However, nothing specifically de-

signed to serve as a protective barrier capable of stopping cars has been added between the parking lot and the main entrance after the accident happened.

Acting Vice President for Administrative Service, Marlene Shugart, said

after the 2013 incident, a study was conducted immediately to determine whether installing bollards and additional barriers to improve safety in that area might be necessary or feasible.

"We had the study done shortly after we had the accident and it did come back with a \$2.6 million price tag for the campus," she said. "At that time, that was something that was still very expensive and the fund availability was in question then as well."

With the current funding outlook for OCCC, Shugart said, building any barriers would have to be something looked into again, after all recent and coming budget cuts are considered.

Campus Police Chief Daniel Piazza said there are other alternative and proactive solutions to ensure patrons' safety. Piazza said these are more applicable to campus "when spending a huge amount of money building brand

See BARRIERS on Page 9

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | Community service is as necessary as it is valuable

Tough times call for dedicated volunteers



ERIKA FIERRO

In the midst of budget crises, political tensions and a world divided, the act of serving in the community can go a long way. Many people are presented the opportunity to perform community service. So why do so few take the chance?

For example, high school and college students are bribed to do community service in exchange for class credit or a scholarship. I don't see anything wrong with that. However, I believe people should seek the opportunity to serve their community without receiving anything in return. Volunteering within your community is of tremendous value to everyone involved. When I volunteer at a nonprofit, time is golden and that is not to be taken for granted. Though organizations often receive donations to purchase goods and services, there's still many more that require hands and labor.

There is a desperate need for volunteers in the education system, in parks and at shelters. Oklahoma is facing a devastating budget crisis and it's going to take real work to shoulder the burden. In a news release on March 23, OKCPS announced upcoming statewide changes that will affect 208 teaching positions. This shows the need within our community and how this need will dramatically increase in the near future. Monitoring tests probably doesn't sound like a big task but to schools it's a big deal. Volunteers help alleviate problems and allow organizations to focus on bigger issues, like dealing with financial crises. Volunteering strengthens and creates a better environment for the community while changing the person doing the service. I'm not saying you're going to turn into someone new. But through service to others, one begins to learn about the issues others face on a daily basis.

I've been able to learn about the different resources my community offers and I've been able to direct people to them when life turns their world upside down. The important thing to remember when considering volunteering is commitment. One needs to make sure they're committed and stick to their word. Don't volunteer for anything you can't commit to. Also, find an area of real interest. I love working with kids, playing, and being a kid myself so I searched and ended up being a big sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma. Whether you're into art, education, politics, or even science, there's work to be done. A volunteer matters, whether it's one day of service or a year long commitment.

—ERIKA FIERRO
ONLINE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | An anonymous letter airs grievances surrounding the coffee shop

Reader steaming over campus coffee

To the Editor:

I have been spoiled enough to have a close friend who is a barista at an actual Starbucks. I stress the term "actual" here.

The imposter Starbucks that sits in the main floor and calls itself a Starbucks is a fraud.

The few times I decided to settle for the coffee shop here, it was a hard settle.

I got an iced coffee that was not only watered down but just kinda had a weird taste in general. I even stirred it around and thought to myself, "oh, it's probably just me" but sadly I was mistaken.

The next time I went, I ordered black tea instead and as I drank it I thought to myself, "Wow I literally could've made better at home".

Granted, both instances were during my first semester at OCCC which was long over a year ago now, so by now maybe they have made improvements.

Plus, as I stated it's not fair to the OCCC Starbucks because I've always had quality drinks from a barista who's a very close friend and literally lives for coffee and tea.

My experiences at the OCCC coffee shop, to put it lightly, have been the definition of mediocre.

I make it a priority if I need coffee or really have a craving for black tea with lemon, I'm driving a solid five miles, maybe less to get it not watered down and to be certain that I'm getting an authentic Starbucks drink.

—NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

Vol. 44 No. 26

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The PIONEER is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

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

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

E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Students must list 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>.

What you have to say is important and we want to put your thoughts and opinions in the Pioneer

Visit us in the Pioneer office in room AH 1f2

or send your letters to the editor to editor@occc.edu

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

TV REVIEW | Reviewer explores an interesting take on cooking shows that could be developed into something exceptional

Half baked cooking show

On a friend's recommendation I recently started watching the series "Cooked" that debuted on Netflix in February.

It's a documentary narrated by Michael Pollan based on his 2013 book also titled "Cooked".

Pollan made a name for himself as a food writer with previous books like "The Omnivore's Dilemma," and "In Defense of Food." These books grapple with questions of what modern humans should eat, and how it is produced. "Cooked" looks at the related subject of how our food is prepared.

Each episode is titled for one of the four elements, fire, water, air and earth, and is thematically based around a basic method of cooking food, boardly, grilling, boiling, baking, and fermentation.

Pollan follows the same recipe in this show that he used successfully for his books about food. Each episode is one part cooking history, one part food science, one part shocking food industry exposé, and one part idealized depiction of home cooking.

The series contains many interesting ideas, but in



trying to cover so many topics, it gives none of them the attention they deserves.

The ethics of industrial animal agriculture, the economic issues that incentivize the cheapest sources of calories over nutritious food, climate change threats to food production – any of these topics is worth covering in its own documentary, but instead they are only briefly mentioned.

Instead the series casts an uncritical light on more

traditional means of cooking and processing food. Pollan proposes that cooking and eating at home will solve many of our modern problems from obesity to social justice. It is a seductive idea, especially when presented in the soft light of an exotic location like India, or Pollan's own carefully curated upper middle class home.

Even as it tells us all we need is a home cooked meal it complicates or even contradicts that idea. In the "Water" episode we see the dabbawala system, a system to deliver meals from home to office workers in New Delhi, held up as a model to emulate in the Americas. But the same episode

shows how the Western diet is being exported at a rapid pace. The show interviews an Indian family that has an uncanny resemblance to the stereotype of the fat fast-food-eating American family complete with kids who would rather eat out than eat home cooking.

Rating: B+

—AMAR MOLINAS
WEBMASTER

REVIEW | Oklahoma's self-respecting coffee aficionados need to know about Slingers

Coffee shop for the discerning drinker

If you're interested in the kind of coffee house that has a beautiful view and serves quality drinks, I believe Coffee Slingers at 1015 N. Broadway in Oklahoma City would be your ideal place.

On the last Saturday of spring break, I spent nearly six hours relaxing by myself at this shop.

It might seem strange, but it has been my longtime habit since before I moved to this country from Vietnam.

I've always loved hanging out alone at a beautiful coffee store on the weekend to read my favorite book, listen to music and watch people walking on the street.

When I came to the U.S. to study, I almost abandoned this routine until a friend took me to Coffee Slingers.

I remember my first impression. When I walked into the shop that first time I was impressed by its design and its huge, open, naturally-lit, bright space.



One of my favorite things at Slingers is the gorgeous view offered by its glass walls. Slingers is located Downtown and, when you sit here, you can watch the joggers and walkers pass by.

Starbucks devotees may be disappointed by the Slingers menu because there are not many drink

choices. There are even fewer choices of snacks.

Each of the offerings does taste really special though and is most appropriate for picky coffee drinkers. In my opinion, the drinks here need to be sipped deliberately and slowly so that people are able to feel the unique taste of this coffee.

It's definitely not designed for people in a hurry. But the staff is extremely friendly, and orders are made quickly and precisely.

Be prepared for the parking situation before you come.

It is hard to find a parking space near Slingers. I usually have to drive around the shop three times looking for a space to park because the lots are

always filled. It helps if you know how to parallel park.
Rating: A

—HUNG TRAN
SENIOR WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

REVIEW | To Beat or not to Beat, that is the question weighed by on reviewer

PowerBeats benefits outweigh pitfalls

Six months ago one side of my Monster earbuds, which were three years old, stopped working completely.

Similar to most college students, I enjoy listening to music as I walk from class to class and even from and to my car.

I was forced to purchase new earbuds. I already had over the ear Beats that were wireless and I loved them.

So I thought maybe I should invest in the new wireless earbuds.

I found a pair of wireless PowerBeats on sale at Target and didn't hesitate, for even one second, to purchase them.

The great part about them, other than being wireless, is the battery lasts for multiple days if not a week or week and a half at times. This is also helpful; each 10 percent of battery lasts about an hour, if not longer, in case you forget to charge them.

The main downfall so far has been the fact that I cannot put my phone in my right pocket if I'm listening to music. And being right handed, it's just a habit to put my phone in my right pocket.



If you decide to put your phone or music device in your right pocket, then you get to hear about every other word if you get to hear the music at all.

Every commercial I've seen for them, with people like LeBron James or Cam Newton, they're working out.

I like to go shoot some balls on the soccer field or shoot hoops, and if you were to lay your phone

what I know now, I don't know if I would've paid full price. But these are definitely a worthwhile snag if you can find some on sale.

down you could move about a foot away before they begin to cut out.

If I'm paying for wireless headphones, I would expect them to be able to withstand being a foot or two away from my phone and still be able to provide me my music.

To conclude, I love wireless headphones.

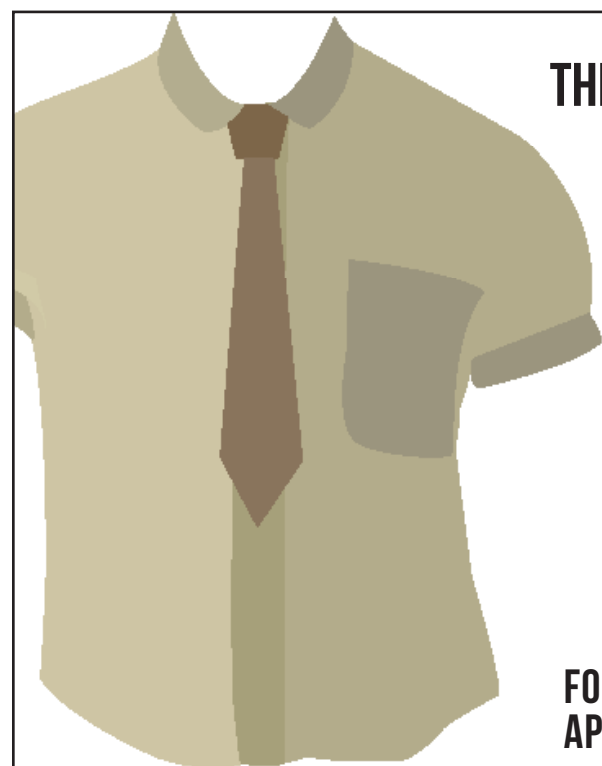
Honestly, everything wireless I own, I get great enjoyment out of.

There are a few downfalls to the PowerBeats wireless but I still get great sound quality. There's no cord getting stuck in my car door and I don't accidentally pull an earbud out of my ear because of a cord.

Overall, they're good.

Looking back and knowing what I know now, I don't know if I would've paid full price. But these are definitely a worthwhile snag if you can find some on sale.

—TYLER ADAMS
VIDEOGRAPHER



THE CITY OF EDMOND IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SUMMER JOBS:

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LAKE FEE COLLECTORS
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GOLF MAINT. HELPERS
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Email to the Pioneer editor at editor@occc.edu

Wreck caused by texting

HUNG TRAN

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The Campus Police Department was kept relatively busy lately with a string of reports of missing property and a car accident caused by driving while texting.

On March 29, a non-injury car wreck was reported to have taken place on Regents Boulevard, north of Faculty Circle.

According to the report, Jamie Jacquelyn Ritz said the Dodge Dart she was driving was damaged when struck by a Jeep.

Kellie Renee Vanhook, the Jeep's driver, admitted to police that she was looking at her phone and had not checked for oncoming cars before proceeding through a yield sign.

Campus Police Officer Ronald Ventresca reported that no one injured but both vehicles had to be towed from the scene.

On March 24, OCCC student Mitchell Kirby, reported a possible theft to Campus Police after a calculator he had leased from the college went missing.

Kirby told police the last time he had used the calculator was in his class, then he put it back into his backpack.

Kirby said he didn't leave his backpack

unattended at anytime except once, briefly, to visit the men's room in the library.

Kirby was still in the library when he later checked for the calculator and found it to be missing.

Police Officer Gordon Nelson reviewed surveillance footage and determined that no suspect came close to Kirby's seat during the time he was in the men's room.

Nelson said the missing calculator is a TI-84 Graphing Calculator, Serial #10551030173L-0315AA is valued \$125. Anyone with information about the missing calculator is encouraged to contact Campus Police.

On the same day, another possible theft was reported.

According to the police report, Abbie Jo Mcalister, said when she returned to her vehicle, which was parked in Parking Lot A, after class, she noticed that \$17 and some change was gone from the cup holder and her Garmin GPS was missing.

After reviewing surveillance camera

footage, officer Nelson reported that nobody had suspiciously approached Mcalister's vehicle in the period of time between her leaving her car and going back to it.

English Professor Tonya Ann Kymes told police on March 22 that a theft might have taken place over spring break.

Kymes told police that before the break, she brought two of her ivy plants outside the Visual and Performing Arts Center Entry five. She said when she came back to

work after the break, she was unable to find the plants in the location.

Officer Andrew Schmidt reported that while reviewing surveillance footage, he saw Kymes leaving Entry Five with her plants. However, he was unable to see on video the exact location the plants had been placed in. Schmidt also reported that he was unable to identify anyone who might have moved or taken the plants.

Schmidt also reported that he contacted workers in the VPAC and Tru

Green employees (who perform outdoor maintenance), but no one knew what happened to the plants.

Suspicious activity occurred at the Capitol Hill Center over spring break as well.

On March 15, campus police officer David Madden received a report related to a possible burglary attempt at the Capitol Hill Center.

Gloria Torres, Capitol Hill Center director said a burglar alarm was activated when a white male, wearing a black shirt and blue jeans was seen entering the building from a fire exit on the west end.

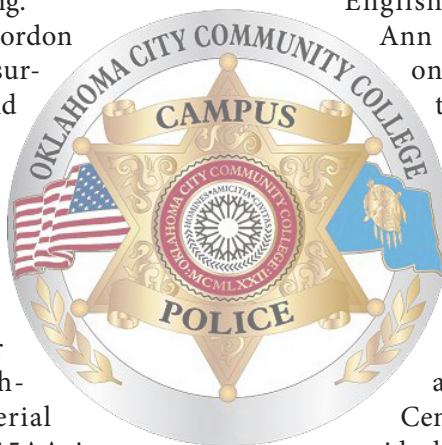
Madden contacted the cleaning crew who reported that they'd heard the alarm before seeing the man leave through the same fire exit.

Madden checked the area but was unable to spot anyone suspicious. The officer secured the west fire door and reset the alarm.

Some information was redacted from the reports under the direction of the Marketing and Public Relations office.

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.



Students, former faculty 'feelin' the blues'

BYRON PIERCE

News Writing Student

The OCCC blues band will return to the stage at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, in the Bruce Owen Theater on campus for the second concert of the semester. Admission is free.

Four students and retired Professor Richard Rouillard combine to complete the band.

The list of songs to be performed will provide an even wider variety of styles than the first concert, from traditional blues to a more rock-infused style.

Marta Seitz, who plays lead guitar, contributes to the diversity with her choice of blues music from the '80s like Eric Clapton's "Blues Before Sunrise."

Tiffane Shorter plays bass and provides vocals. She said she enjoys blues from the '50s and '60s, such as "Oh Darling" by the Beatles.

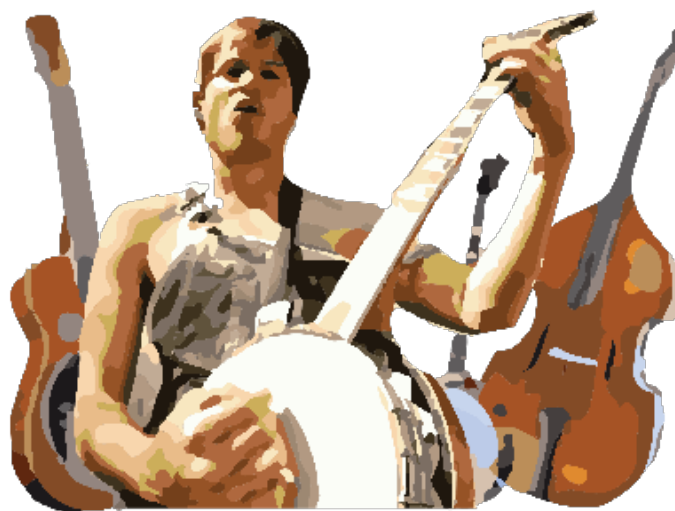
Her twin sister, Kia Shorter, offers her

own original songs with a more modern rock-blues style. Kia Shorter plays piano and rhythm guitar, while also adding vocals.

Rouillard spoke with enthusiasm about his upcoming vocal performance of the song "These Lonely, Lonely Nights," made famous by Earl King.

"I am actually going to be doing lyrics in English and in French," Rouillard said.

Rouillard explained how he would first perform the song in the manner in which it was made famous by King and then rearrange the selection and sing a "swamp-blues Cajun version" with the stylistics of Belton Richard.



Rouillard said he specializes in the traditional genre of blues that include Robert Johnson, the Mississippi Sheiks, and Slim Harpo.

There will also be a disco inspired blues number performed along with original songs written by band member K. Shorter.

The fourth student member is Benja-

min Matyjasek, percussion. The blues band director is Terry Isaacs, who is the adjunct professor for the class.

This will be the fourth concert to include the two Shorter sisters along with Seitz. The three student band members worked together in two blues band concerts last semester, another this past February, and now this upcoming April 12 event.

Matyjasek and Rouillard are new to the current ensemble this semester, Tiffane Shorter said. It took time to get to know each other's performance style.

"This show, we all really trust one another's abilities," she said.

Students enrolled in the Music Appreciation class can attend the blues concert and receive credit for their attendance, Isaacs said.

For more information, contact the Division of Arts at 405-686-6278, that's 686-6ART, or Terry Isaacs at Terry.L.Isaacs@occc.edu.



OCCC Audio Visual Support Technician, Benjamin Rodriguez, plays his guitar in the college courtyard. The guitar is just one of the four instruments Rodriguez plays. *Tyler Adams/Pioneer*

Musician finds inspiration in all sounds

ERIKA FIERRO

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Benjamin Rodriguez has a passion for music. He said his commitment to audio production has grown as he works on his own music album, scheduled to be released this summer.

"The greatest gift my mom has ever given me was a keyboard," Rodriguez said.

Born and raised in Oklahoma City, Rodriguez said, he taught himself to play by listening to music, buying his own music books, and disciplining himself to practice.

Hours upon hours were spent practicing his guitar and keyboard, although he never had a professional music teacher. Rodriguez said God was his instructor.

Rodriguez said he wrote his first song, "Tree Top," when he ran away from home at age 13. He said his family was dealing with personal problems and songwriting was his way of talking with God.

Rodriguez said the four instruments he's mastered are guitar, piano, drums and the bass.

"Just as a painter can paint masterpieces with brushes, I think that as a musician, I like to paint with music," Rodriguez said. "And I've yet to show the world."

He said the album is a self reflective work, Rodriguez said.

Music is a big part of Rodriguez's life. He said he works with local bands and musicians on their music

production as well as his own.

Rodriguez said he's also the music director at Crossings Comunidad Cristiana, the south campus of Crossings Community Church, where he leads a group of 14 during church services and rehearsals. He said he constantly researches web based programs to communicate with the team effectively.

Not only has Rodriguez been able to serve at his church but has traveled throughout the state of Oklahoma and Texas, and internationally to Mexico, playing at different churches.

Rodriguez said those experiences have taught him how to work better with people, have given him the opportunity to connect with others, and teach others what he knows about music.

The love of music doesn't stop at songwriting and composing music but reaches to the soundtracks in film.

Rodriguez said he became the first in his family to pursue an education outside of Oklahoma when he decided to move to California, where he was accepted to the Los Angeles Recording School for a year-long audio engineering program.

The program provided Rodriguez and fellow classmates the unique opportunity to work alongside some of the best of the best audio engineers on state-of-the-art equipment.

Instructors of the program included the professional audio engineers at Disney, Pixar and Paramount Pictures, Rodriguez said. Students worked on post production audio and made custom sound effects.

After a year of the program, Rodriguez was a certified sound engineer, he said.

To this day, Rodriguez said, he continues to record his own sound effects and has built his own personal sound effects library.

"A couple of weeks ago I was working with a musician and I was picturing some sounds floating in my head, and I had to stop and record what I was thinking," Rodriguez said.

Prior to moving to California, Rodriguez took some courses at OCCC. As an OCCC student, Rodriguez said he was challenged to write his own screenplays, direct his work and compose music as part of class assignments.

A trailer for the short film "The Donor" was written, directed, and produced by Rodriguez, he said. The trailer is available on YouTube.

During his courses, Rodriguez said he also worked as a foley artist, a person who perfects sound effects post-production for a film and was a boom operator, the person who holds the microphones above actors.

Rodriguez said he enjoys making things sound realistic. "You can do whatever you want with film, depending on what your vision is."

He's currently three credits shy of an associate's degree in film, Rodriguez said. "I've planned to come back in the fall 2016 to finish up my degree."

To check out Benjamin Rodriguez's film projects and guitar solos, search Benji Rodriguez on Facebook and YouTube.

Cybersecurity transfer degree canceled

TREY BELL

Staff Writer
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Starting this summer, the Associate in Science degree option in the cybersecurity program will be coming to an end. However, the associate in applied science degree remains in place.

Computer Science Professor Al Heitkamper said the main reason for cutting the AS degree option is there are too few four-year institutions the degree will transfer to. The change in no way reduces the need for cybersecurity experts.

Heitkamper said he started at OCCC in 1999 and became chair of the Computer Science Department the following year. In 2005, he became director of the cybersecurity program after returning from the University of Tulsa, where he obtained his second master's degree.

Heitkamper said the need for cybersecurity professionals is rapidly increasing.

"The need for cybersecurity jobs has also increased," said Heitkamper. "As new things come online, like smart watches and fitbits and all the things, those things have security risks involved with them as well."

Heitkamper discussed how the internet and its risks are all around everyday.

"You've got social media, you've got gaming, you now have connected devices in your home," Heitkamper said. "Your TV is connected to the internet. They can look at you through the cameras on some televisions, they can look at you through cameras on gaming systems, and through your computers. They call it the 'Internet of Things.'"

According to Heitkamper, it is estimated the cybersecurity field will require over 1 million new professionals in the next four years.

At OCCC, the number of students entering the program has gradually increased.

In the 2013-2014 school year, 301 OCCC students had a declared cybersecurity major, and the following school year saw a rise to 336 cybersecurity students.



"Basically, a community college can provide you with three types of credentials," Heitkamper said.

He said the first is an Associate in Science (AS), the option being cut at OCCC. This degree option is designed to provide students with general education courses, and a few major courses in order to transfer to a four-year university.

The second option is an Associate in Applied Science (AAS), which allows students to get two years of education then go to work in their field. It's similar to a technical occupation degree.

The final option is a Certificate of Mastery, which provides students with a subset of courses to act as a credential to begin work but remain in school.

Only the University of Tulsa and OSU-IT in Okmulgee offer a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity. Heitkamper said it is unusual for OCCC students to transfer to either institution.

Out of 36 OCCC cybersecurity graduates in 2015,

only one student graduated with an Associate in Science degree.

"It came to a point where it became confusing for students," Heitkamper said. "They see it in the book, they say 'Oh, AS degree goes to four-year college, I'm gonna take this.' We decided to suspend it and take it out of the catalog, but it's still an active program to students enrolled."

OCCC will no longer enter students into the program starting summer 2016.

Despite the degree program ending, it's unlikely the college will save money amidst the current budget crisis. Many of the classes that were available in the program will still be offered.

To learn more about the Certificate of Mastery or the AAS degree in cybersecurity, contact Heitkamper at ahaitkamper@occc.edu.

Last chance to withdraw

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu



The last opportunity for students to withdraw from 16-week classes without receiving a final grade will be on Friday, April 15, according to Academic Advising Assistant Director Kimberly Bays.

"They can withdraw online on mineonline.occc.edu using their student account or they can go to registration here [at OCCC] and withdraw that way," Bays said.

"If students aren't doing well, that would be the reason to drop. If they don't feel like they can continue

in the class, that's another reason," Bays said.

Bays said students planning to drop a course may save themselves a failing grade but should also consider possible repercussions elsewhere.

"Before they drop anything, students should check with the Financial Aid Office to see how it could impact their financial aid. They could lose their financial aid or they could have to pay the money back [from the class they dropped]."

"This isn't for everyone, so they should check with financial aid just to make sure," Bays said.

For more information about the upcoming drop dates, students can contact the Academic Advising Office at 405-682-7535.

SPORTS



KILLING TIME: Ryan Jacob, undeclared major, practices his basketball skills after his class was cancelled. Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the basketball courts at the Wellness Center. For more information, call 405 682-7860, or visit www.occc.edu/rf/index.html *Melissa Sue Lopez/pioneer*

SPORTS
HIGHLIGHTS

Los Angeles Lakers @ Oklahoma City Thunder

7 p.m. April 11

Fox Sports Oklahoma

Player to watch: The only reason why this game is relevant is because it's the last away game that Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant will ever play in his storied NBA career. Bryant, 37 years old, has been on a farewell tour throughout this entire season, and his final stop on that tour is at Chesapeake Arena. The Black Mamba probably won't play very many minutes, considering most of the games he's playing at this point end up with him wrapped in a full body cast made of ice packs for the remainder of the game, but he'll probably end up taking plenty of shots in that small amount of time he's on the floor.

Reasons to watch: As we reach the end of the regular season, a lot of the games the Thunder are going to play aren't going to matter too much. After the Los Angeles Clippers had a relatively bad run of games, OKC has sealed the third seed in the playoffs. While other teams in the Western Conference may have a lot to play for, the Thunder do not. That's the reason why I'm picking this game against the Lakers. Bryant's retirement is the most high-profile end of a basketball career since Michael Jordan in the early 2000s, and as a basketball fan from Oklahoma, it's very cool to see his farewell tour come to an end here.

He will have one more game in Los Angeles, but this being his final away game makes it one of the more important Thunder games of the season. Bryant, himself, has had plenty of great matchups with the Thunder. In fact, the Lakers were the first ever playoff opponent for the young Thunder in 2010, beating them in six games by way of a Pau Gasol buzzer beater. Two years later, the Thunder again matched up with the Lakers in the playoffs, only this time the Thunder easily disposed of Bryant's side, beating them in five games. I was actually at one of those games, and that was one of the only times I ever got to see Bryant in person, despite being a lifelong fan. As his career finally comes to a halt, going to this game in OKC might be something I have to splash the cash for. There's a chance most of OKC's starters hardly play, but seeing one of the greatest players to ever touch the hardwood in his last away game makes it a must watch.

Yoga class a challenging workout

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

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OCCC students who are looking for a yoga class that is more than just relaxing may want to try out the yoga class being offered on campus for free, said instructor Elizabeth Hobi.

Hobi, who also teaches the dance fitness classes has been teaching yoga at the school since the summer of 2014.

"I make it worth the drive," Hobi said. "I've been to yoga classes and when you get out of there and it feels like you were relaxing all class. When people get out of my class, I hope they feel like they got a workout. I make challenging enough that it should feel like a workout."

Hobi thinks that longer pose holds are one of the examples where her yoga class is different compared to others.

"For example, we hold things a lot longer than other classes. We do a full minute [of holding poses in comparison to other classes that may just do 30 seconds of holding poses.]

have people that are increasing their flexibility and seeing differences by just coming once a week, believe it or not," she said.

While Hobi says the class is more challenging compared to some yoga classes, she believes anyone can take her class.

"I don't want to make it sound like it's a super-human class or anything. I've been to yoga classes at places like 10Gym and they do very small movements for a very short amount of time. They don't do a lot of the advanced postures that can really work your back and really work things. Everything is really small and it's very beginner."

"You can tell the difference when you're in there. It's basically a place for people to relax after work," said Hobi.

While Hobi has no problem with relaxation, she thinks yoga should be more than that.

"I think yoga should help the body because it's designed to. It uses isometrics, I mean there's no way around it. If you want to stand here and just relax for a bit, that's way different than really using your muscles and digging in."

Hobi thinks the class is great for students to try out, due to both mental and physical benefits.

"It will help people with flexibility, strength, relaxation and balance. And, because students have a lot of homework and tests and it will really help relieve all of that stress."

The yoga classes are offered at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Recreation and Fitness Center.

For more information about the yoga classes or any of the other fitness classes, go to www.occc.edu/rf/wellness-classes.html or call Rec and Fit at 405-682-7860.



Barriers: safety assured by alternatives

Continued from Page 1

new barriers is kind of impossible.”

He said if OCCC’s patrons follow the instructions of stop signs and directions of travel, the traffic dangers on campus could be mitigated tremendously.

“During the New Student Orientation, we try to educate new students coming on campus about the flow of traffic, what’s expected of them, and about how safety on campus is the priority,” he said.

Piazza also said there are usually police officers overseeing the outside of the Main Building and they can quickly respond to any dangerous situations.

“It is very common for our officers to park there right along that curve so they are visible and they can be seen by everybody,” he said.

“I am not happy that people feel unsafe on campus but you are taking just as big of a risk when you are walking through the parking lot, or you’re crossing Faculty Circle, or Regents Boulevard or anything else like that. As soon as you exit your vehicle and you walk into the road and cross the street, you are vulnerable to getting struck by a vehicle,” he said.

Piazza advised that everyone keep aware of their surroundings.

“You watch a lot of people on this campus, they have their earphones in, they are listening to music, and they have absolutely no idea what is going on around them when they are walking into the building and walking out of the building,” he said.



Parking Lot A can be seen from the Main Building entrance. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Shugart said OCCC’s campus is still a very safe environment for everyone and that she always places the safety of students on campus at the top of her primary concerns.

“[Equipping more firm barricades] is something that we definitely consider and look at [when the

budget recovers] because, as Chief Piazza said and Director Snow said, safety is the main concern.

“I assure you, as President Steward has said many times, that the chief concern is the safety of our students, faculty and staff and visitors on campus,” Snow said.

Layoffs: reduction in force said to be unavoidable

Continued from Page 1

The second largest source of the college’s funds comes from tuition and fees.

Unlike other colleges in the state, OCCC has been able to avoid layoffs throughout the many cuts to higher education spending from the state legislature.

“Over the past few years there have been multiple colleges in Oklahoma that have had reductions of force and layoffs. We have been able to avoid that. This year it has been very very challenging to not have a reduction in force or to lay people off,” Steward said.

OCCC employees who are to be laid off will be notified now later than June 1.

“We care about you and your job.”

Steward said the college will do everything it can to lessen the amount of layoffs, help those who are laid off, and minimize the impact on the employees.

“But at the same time I don’t want to mislead people into trying to make them believe there won’t be reductions, because there will,” Steward said.

“I mean I want to make that clear that I’m not trying to imply that there won’t be reductions because

that’s not honest- there will be.”

Other measures to make up for the cuts in funding continue to be assessed.

The student government, The Leadership Council, on Thursday April 7 voted to endorse a 15 percent increase to tuition. The increase would add about \$13 total to each credit hour per student.

But desperate times call for desperate measures.

“The cuts that have occurred this year and contemplated for next year are unprecedented in the history of the college,” Steward said.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

OCCC stars prepare for talent show fundraiser

DAVID MCINTOSH

Ad Manager

adman@occc.edu

Choreographed hip-hop and pop-and-lock dance moves are on the agenda for Thursday, April 14, as students and staff alike perform in the third annual OCCC's Got Talent show from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Future Alumni Network, also referred to as the FAN club, is sponsoring the third annual talent show in the Visual Performing Arts Center Theater, said Randy Cassimus, Alumni Relations coordinator and adviser to the club.

"The show has been moved to the VPAC Theater after the crowd overflowed the smaller Bruce Owen Theater last year," Cassimus said.

Tickets are on sale now, and will be until the night of the show, Cassimus said. Tickets can be purchased for \$8 before the show and \$10 at the door. Tickets may also be purchased online for \$11. All proceeds from ticket sales go towards the OCCC Alumni and Friends scholarship.

The celebrity judging panel for this year's show is comprised of: John Humphrey, drummer from the rock band Seether and member of the OCCC Alumni Hall of Fame; Michelle Swink, owner and operator of the MAGNA Talent Agency in Oklahoma City; Alex Cameron, anchor and reporter for KWTW News 9; and Amanda Cunningham, singer-songwriter who performs regularly throughout the Midwest.

The show consists of 21 contestants, all students

and faculty, Cassimus said. They range from Elena Figueroa, on classical piano, to Fab2Era (Lionel and Lionard Fombe) performing Choreographed Hip-hop Dance.

Broadcast journalism major Grace Babb said she will be performing in the show with her group, Annie Oakley. Babb has been a singer and songwriter for the last four years, although she is still in high school and takes concurrent classes at OCCC.

"I am really excited," she said about being selected for the talent show. "My entire band goes to OCCC as well."

Annie Oakley consists of herself, her twin sister, Sophia Babb, playing the guitar, and Nia Personette on violin. The group has become well known for their iconic Americana sound over the last few years. She is hopeful of winning the \$300 grand prize.

"But just performing is fun all the same," Babb said. "It's cool to be able to do this, and be involved with OCCC."

For all performers that need the extra push to put themselves forward, Babb has some advice.

"Take a chance," she said. "You never know what will happen."

Besides the grand-prize winner, Cassimus said, there will be second and third place prizes. The winner of the fundraiser portion wins \$300, and the People's Choice Award winner takes home \$150.

Last year's talent show winner Stephen Salewon will be making a guest appearance at the show by request. He will be playing some fast and bluesy



songs accompanied by a bassist.

Cassimus said previous grand prize winners are no longer eligible to enter the competition.

Salewon said the talent show was a positive experience for him.

"I got to meet very talented musicians and build some connections," he said.

He suggests for all first-time performers "have fun with it, and learn from it."

"It's a building block for new events," Salewon said. For more information about OCCC's Got Talent, contact Cassimus at 405-682-1611, ext. 7478, or john.r.cassimus@occc.edu

In addition to Annie Oakley, Fab2Era and Elena Figueroa, the audience will see performances from Yovan Brindou, Ryan Caster, Cassidy Evans, , Miranda Garretson, Sir1Bee & T.A., Darla Kaye, Alisa King, Maryam Knowles, Trenton Larkin, Melissa Sue Lopez, M.O.B.S., Andrew May, Ahmed Rashid, Buffalo Rogers, Daisy Swift, John Taylor, Andria Wallen, and Georgia Wood.

For more information about OCCC's Got Talent, contact Cassimus at 405-682-1611, ext. 7478, or john.r.cassimus@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Put your thumb down to fight child abuse

The OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School has set out to raise awareness during national child abuse prevention month. Support the cause by placing your thumbprint on the canvas located in front of Academic Advising or at the Family and Community Education Center, located at 6500 S. Land Ave. For more information contact Christian Timmons, child development teacher, at christian.timmons@occc.edu

Learn about your water footprint April 12

Students, staff, and employees are invited to attend and listen to Business and Economics Professor Charles Wayne Myrick as he leads a discussion, "Economics and Your Water Footprint." The discussion is from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, in College Union 3. Myrick will also discuss the vitality of water in the economy. For more information on the series contact the OCCC Library at 405-682-7564.

Champion Fulton Quartet April 12

World class pianist and Oklahoma native Champion Fulton will captivate the audience as she delivers a charismatic performance at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. Fulton's piano and vocal talents have been heard all around the world. To purchase tickets for an unforgettable night of music, contact the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579 or visit www.occc.edu/tickets.

Graduating and unsure of what's next?

Are you a student graduating in May and still unsure of what your next step is after OCCC? Or are you a student who will be graduating in the next year? Then the Futures Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Wednesday, April 13, in the College Union, is the event for you. Students will be able to ask last minute transfer questions and speak with the different offices at OCCC to make sure they're on track

for graduation. For soon to be graduates, over 30 employers will be present. The event is hosted by the Graduation, Employment and Transfer Services office. For more questions contact the GET office at 405-682-7519.

Black Community Conference, April 23

The OCCC Black Student Association will sponsor the first Black Community Conference from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday, April 23, in the College Union. Students and community members will engage in presentations, workshops, and entertainment as they discuss concerns affecting the black community. Registration is required and a \$10 donation fee will be collected upon arrival at the conference. Registration deadline is April 14. To register visit www.occc.edu/bsa or contact the club via email at bsa@my.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.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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—Rosaldo Martinez

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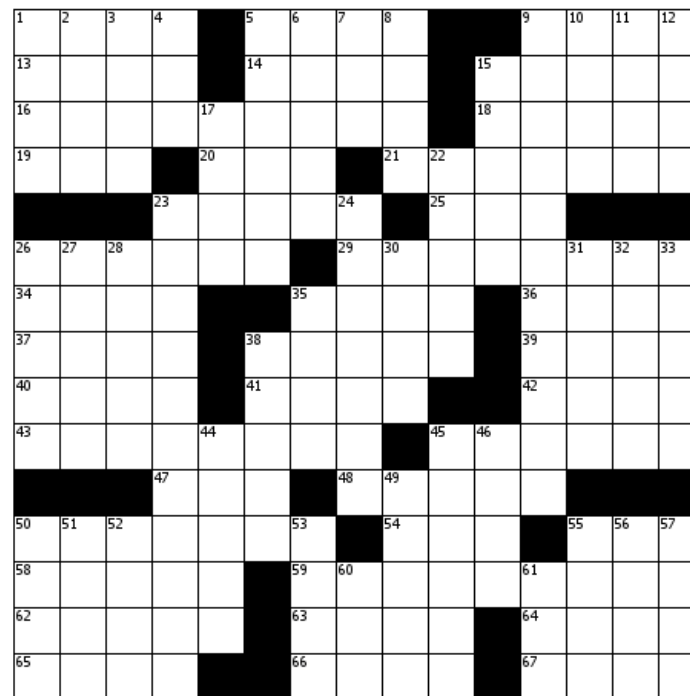
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

1. Style of gold chain
5. Growth period
9. Get one's teeth into
13. Gardner and namesakes
14. Goddess of the moon
15. Born yesterday
16. Where Alice toiled
18. It's sometimes final
19. Debate position
20. Ltd., in the U.S.
21. Painkiller choice
23. Yale, Brown, etc.
25. Head for Vegas?
26. Horseless carriage pioneer Elwood
29. Particles in suspension
34. Ever and ____
35. Spelling of "Beverly Hills, 90210"
36. "Peter Pan" character
37. Kettle covers
38. "... attired in ____ of white" (Shakespeare)
39. "____ Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel hit)
40. Toast spread
41. Butter units
42. Harrow rival
43. Identical
45. Certify
47. Mercury or Saturn, but not Mars
48. Make good on a loan
50. Jake of boxing
54. Printer resolution abbreviation
55. A real Stogie
58. Endow, as with a quality
59. Automobile feature
62. Low dams
63. Hearts do it sometimes
64. Modern pentathlon event
65. She was Major Houlihan



Down

1. Water-skier's apparatus
2. Page-bottom direction
3. ____ Alto
4. Squiggly shape
5. Russian pancakes
6. Gold weight measure
7. Part of a countdown
8. Winepress residue
9. Nightclub regulars
10. '50s audiophile's purchase
11. With neither side ahead
12. No longer are
15. Knobby
17. Market plunge
22. Kukla's puppet pal
23. English legal societies
24. Kid's vehicle
26. Angelic circles
27. Old-womanish
28. Song of the Alps
30. Planetarium sights
31. Livid
32. Major-____ (chief stewards)
33. Hardly any
35. Sussex streetcar
38. Here and there?
44. Appeases hunger
45. Granny Smiths
46. Kite stabilizer
49. King's proclamation
50. Alcindor and Wallace
51. From the top
52. Year of Columbus's fourth voyage
53. Taj Mahal's site
55. Engage in self-pity
56. Rock group?
57. Just makes out
60. Published
61. Type of paint



<http://pioneer.occc.edu>



Byron Pierce, public relations major, and Kendra Fringer, assistant director of Student Life, volunteer at the Sharing Tree. They are painting shelves for the organization during a service learning trip with OCCC. The Sharing Tree was formerly known as Christmas Connections. *Erika Fierro/Pioneer*

Service Learning benefits students and community

ERIKA FIERRO

Online Editor
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Last school year, 31 of OCCC's graduating students collectively completed the service learning program. In total, these student volunteers served 2,179 hours to the community, said Kendra Fringer, assistant director of Student Life.

The cost of 2,179 service hours can be translated into \$48,933.50 worth of labor, Fringer said.

The Service Learning program at OCCC was implemented through Student Life.

Fringer said the service learning program emphasizes the importance of understanding the impact of service on the individuals receiving services and the student providing it.

For many organizations, the commitment of service learning students can be a big factor whether an organization keeps their doors open, Fringer said.

"Organizations can't hire a full-time person to do everything service learning students do," she said.

Hospitals, hospice centers and clinics seek OCCC students enrolled in health-based majors because they need students with a special skill set and because they know those students require service hours for their class, Fringer said.

At OCCC, students have two separate service learning opportunities; Civic Honors and Campus Impact.

CIVIC HONORS

Civic Honors is a co-curricular connection to service learning. The service for this program must be activities completed outside the walls of OCCC, for a non-profit or not-for-profit organization, Fringer said.

Receiving Civic Honors requirements include completing 50 hours of service, attending two mentor sessions with Student Life staff, completing a reflective project of the experience, a

portfolio, and attending a committee review at the end of the program.

Good academic standing is also a requirement of the program, Fringer said.

The reflective project provides the student the time to make the connection between their experience in serving and the classroom, she said.

After completing the 50 hours, reflection, and portfolio, students will attend a committee review with two Student Life mentors and an objective third party, Fringer said. The student will be given the opportunity to answer questions, receive constructive feedback, and defend their work in a safe environment.

In the 2015 school year, the program had 741 active participants and the number of participants and students completing the program continues to increase every year, Fringer said.

CAMPUS IMPACT

The second program is Campus Impact which has the same structure

as Civic Honors but only requires 30 hours of service.

Campus Impact service must be activities that give back to the college directly to support it and its students. Some activities include Opening Day, giving campus tours, and participating in Adopt-a-Street events.

Not only do students begin to make deep connections to the service but benefit in many other ways, Fringer said.

"Students may find potential career fields, discover new passions and get job offers for after graduation," Fringer said.

To get involved in Civic Honors or Campus Impact, students can stop by the Student Life office or contact them at 405-682-7523.

Currently, there are 800 students enrolled in the service learning program, Fringer said.

"Everyone's experience is going to be a little bit different, and that's the cool part."