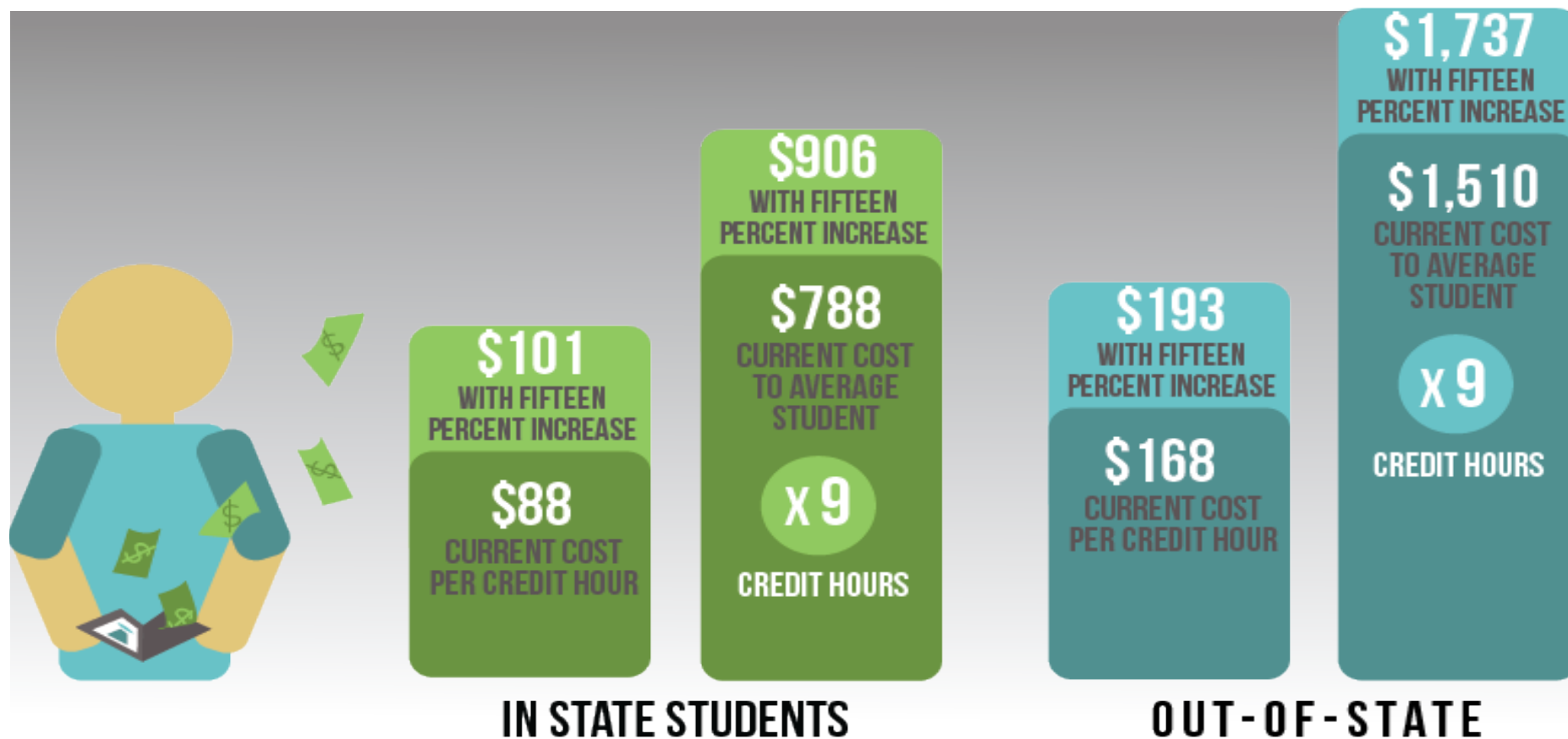


PIONEER

ARBOR DAY EVENT
PREVIEW
PAGE 10



Student leaders endorse tuition hike

LENORA LAVICTOIRE

Editor

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Tuition could rise as much as 15 percent this fall, an increase that has now been officially endorsed by The Leadership Council, a group of student representatives at OCCC.

The measure passed overwhelmingly with a council vote of 18 to 2, with 5 seats abstaining on April 7.

Tuition increases must be approved by both the OCCC Board of Regents

and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education before taking effect.

Raising tuition 15 percent would cost Oklahoma resident students an extra \$13.13 per credit hour, and out-of-state students (including international students), an extra \$25.17.

This cost excludes fees, which adds up to about \$25 per credit hour for residents and \$108 per credit hour for nonresident students.

At the TLC meeting, members were told that the average student course load is 9 credit hours per semester.

A 15 percent increase would cost the average in state student an extra \$118 per semester.

Student Life Director Erin Logan referenced the budget cuts the college has faced this year, and the ominous climate of higher cuts coming next year, as the reason for a tuition hike.

She said a 15 percent increase would earn the college an extra \$1 million each semester.

Derek Scarsella, TLC co-chair, voted in favor of the tuition increase.

"We all kind of have to pitch in and

help a little bit," Scarsella said.

She said that the tuition increase is a good way to make up for a portion of the cuts that OCCC is facing.

To prepare for the vote, Scarsella said, TLC members became involved in a budget discussion with Acting Executive Vice President Steven Bloomberg.

After being proposed the increase on March 24, the TLC representatives went back to their clubs to gather feedback from their organizations in deciding which way to vote, said Scarsella.

See **TUITION** on Page 9

Psych professor advises Congress on juvenile justice

HUNG TRAN

Senior Writer

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OCCC psychology Professor Greg Parks is currently one of 24 advisers of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice who were selected among approximately 1000 State Advisory Group members nationwide.

The main mission of each federal

adviser is to provide advice and recommendations to Congress and to the president on matters related to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

"We usually come together once a year to make our recommendation which will be put together as a report, and that would go to Congress and to the president about recommendation for legislation and policy," Parks said.

He said before teaching, he had been

working as a licensed psychologist and dealt mainly with juveniles.

"A lot of my work as a psychologist has been with at risk youth, troubled youth, kids who are in the child welfare system, foster care, abused and neglected and those who also break the law and go into the juvenile justice system," he said.

Parks said that those work experiences with juveniles gave him the experience he needed to be sought out

to advise the governor.

In 2013, Parks was appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin to the Postadjudication Review State Advisory Board and then to the Governor's State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 2014.

Parks said being a state and federal adviser has been of great educational benefit to him and his students.

See **JUSTICE** on Page 9

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MUSIC REVIEW | A look back on one of recently deceased Phife Dawg's greatest works

Phife Dawg remembered with Tribe tribute

It's very rare that deaths of famous people really affect me.

I'll be sad about it for a couple hours, and reminisce about all the great work that person accomplished in their life, and then I'll move on.

However, with the recent passing at age 45 of legendary rapper Malik "Phife Dawg" Taylor, co-founder of legendary hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest, that hasn't been the case.

Phife Dawg and A Tribe Called Quest are in a rare group for me in terms of the music I listen to.

Phife Dawg, along with artists like Kanye West, Stevie Wonder, Lauryn Hill and D'Angelo, is one of those artists that really shaped who I am as a person.

Tribe touched so many people, and their music is universally great no matter what your background is or how old you are.

I first heard the group's album "The Low End Theory" as a junior in high school, over two decades after its release in 1991. And even that many years after its release, "The Low End Theory" was something I could never take off repeat from the moment I put it on.

The album, which incorporates jazz elements with hip-hop, is very stripped down and bare bones. A lot



of the production is made up of simple drum patterns, bass and raps. That's it.

That link from jazz to hip-hop, two of the most important and genius black art forms, is what makes

Tribe so special. This album, both with its conscious lyrics and its jazzy production, opened the door for so many different hip-hop acts throughout history.

Phife Dawg, in addition to partner in crime Q-Tip, was continuously thought-provoking while also being super entertaining and charismatic. Q-Tip and Phife Dawg trading raps on "Check The Rhime," for example, is one of the greatest things I've ever heard.

This album is just that – so freaking cool.

The higher-pitched ruggedness of Phife's voice going back and forth with the smooth delivery of Q-Tip is just so effortless in its duality. That overall composure is something that really can't be overstated. They represented that it was cool to be different, that you could dress however you want and say whatever you want, regardless of what people around you are doing.

While Phife Dawg, the Five Foot Assassin, only measured in at 5 feet 3 inches tall, his impact, along with the rest of A Tribe Called Quest and this album, is gigantic.

Rating: A

—IAN MANERA
SPORTS WRITER

REVIEW | Oklahoma city's food truck plaza and beer garden offers a unique ambience

Beer garden combines food trucks and family fun

I was born and raised in Oklahoma City, so you would expect me to know the good hang out places around town, right?

Maybe I should, but I don't.

As I've met and hung out with new friends I've been exposed to the cool places the city has to offer though.

This week I went to Bleu Garten, located at 301 NW 10th St. for the very first time. As soon as I arrived, it instantly became one of my favorite places.

According to bleugar-ten.com, the name came from a combination of two ideas. In the kitchen, Le Cordon Bleu is translated to "Blue Ribbon," meaning excellence. In German, Bier garten (beer garden) is known as an outdoor area where

beer and good food are served.

Let me start off by saying the ambience was what I loved most about the night. The place was so chill.

The venue is an outdoor area filled with wooden tables, a bar located at the center, and on the west side, local food trucks set up for the friendly crowd.

I had been having a busy day, so when I first arrived, my friend treated me to a Dos Equis and we played a couple of rounds of jenga. And

I dominated.

The place wasn't overly crowded on the Tuesday night. It was nice to see families with toddlers enjoying a warm

evening out and young entrepreneurs relaxing after a long day's work.

The Bleu Garten is a place for the whole family.

So after crushing my opponent at jenga, we strolled over to the food trucks to grab a bite to eat.

The Hall's Pizza Kitchen, Pagoda Pizza, and Parking Lot Party were the food trucks present that night. After careful consideration, we opted for Hall's Pizza Kitchen.

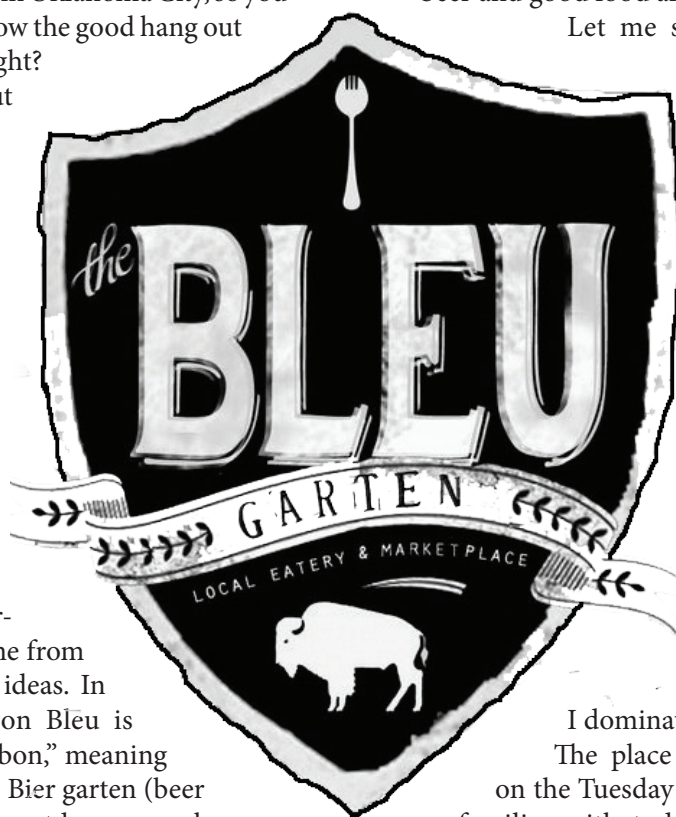
"The Roasted Goat," a pizza with pesto, roasted tomatoes, mozzarella, and goat cheese toppings was seriously delicious. You can never go wrong with pizza and beer for dinner. The staff of Hall's Pizza Kitchen was super friendly and made us laugh.

While my friend and I chatted the night away, we also caught some of the Thunder game on one of the televisions. And as the sun went down, the colored-lights came on and the fire pit located at one end of the venue was lit.

Enjoy a beer, support local chefs, and meet people. I highly recommend adding a visit to the Bleu Garten to your to-do list.

Rating: A+

—ERIKA FIERRO
ONLINE EDITOR



COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

TV REVIEW | Netflix takes viewers back into the Sunnyvale with brand new episodes

Trailer Park Boys bring all their friends

“Trailer Park Boys” is back on with a new season of failed “jobs,” money schemes, and more brilliant ideas by Ricky, Julian and Bubbles. Released on Netflix, this season features big time special guests such as rapper Snoop Dogg, comedian Doug Benson and actor Tom Arnold.

This season Sunnyvale is, as always, a cesspool where the gang of three—Ricky, Julian and Bubbles— can culture their latest schemes. That scheme is Munnyvale- an all inclusive booze and dope gambling resort run out of Ricky’s trailer.

Without spoiling too much, season 10 is really great. It’s level of humor and character development borders on the same level as the classic seasons one through seven.

Barb comes back with a vengeance in season 10, and brings her girlfriends from jail, including my favorite character Donna. They wreak havoc on the life of former trailer park supervisor and infamous drunk, Jim Lahey, who has been “moderating” his alcohol consumption by using a breathalyzer that keeps him “in the pocket”— somewhere around .08 ABV.

The writing and humor of this season is simply on point.

However, there is a downside: the guests.

More specifically, Tom Arnold. I was absolutely ecstatic when Snoop Dogg came on. He is a pretty good actor and really fits in and adds to the plot line of the show.



However, Arnold, who comes with him, does not. Arnold is supposed to be this superfan who wants to tour the Sunnyvale residents life. His character isn’t really developed, and he ends up just saying awful lines that one can only hope were ad-libbed and not ever written and proofread for comedy and disgusting creepiness.

If you haven’t watched this cult classic of Canadian comedy, you are seriously missing out.

Seasons one through 10 of Trailer Park Boys are available to stream on Netflix today.

Rating: A

—LENORA LAVICTOIRE
EDITOR

REVIEW | Mediterranean Deli and Import brings us delicious foods from afar

Celebrating life with a wide array of deli meats

Endorsements come hard from a shrewd consumer such as myself, but I continue to be charmed by the Mediterranean Deli and Import on NW May Ave.

When buying things by weight and bagging it yourself, or even having it bagged, one can save something like 25 percent depending on what you’re buying. If you start paying attention to the price to weight ratio you’ll notice this pattern around a lot.

The deli has a legit deli counter with unimaginable meats and cheeses from a variety of well cultured nations across the Atlantic ocean.

Given the wares and area, their prices are better than they should be. And being a poor college student, price comes first, but being a born and raised ‘foodie’ I do in fact live to eat.



Scientists say you will spend several years of your life eating, so it is important to do it well, for spiritual and purely metabolic reasons.

People who are obsessed with nutrition are usually trying to fill a void in their empty, gluten free lives. But with the sort of cooking you can do with products from the deli. There is no need to sacrifice your standing as a human being for small decreases in fat content.

I feel at peace as I guffaw, ooh and ahh at the delicious things found among the shelves.

While I enjoy all ethnic supermarkets, Super Cao-Nguyen, El-Mariachi, Sweiss, – the deli brings me back to my childhood and my father buying delicious hams at the deli. Ham was an important part of my childhood because of the deli, and it can be part of yours too.

Rating: A+

—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

No cost to update computers

TREY BELL

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OCCC is staying ahead of the game with Windows 10 updates coming to the school's computer system this summer.

Vice President for Information Technology David Anderson said the rollout won't cost the college any more than what it already pays for its computer services.

Amidst the current state budget crisis, OCCC is working to make sure every dime is used efficiently.

"Really the cost of Windows 10 is zero, because it's included with our campus agreement," Anderson said.

The three year campus agreement with Microsoft costs the college \$110,000 each time the agreement is renewed.

Anderson said the cost is split between student technology fees and administrative fees.

"That includes all of the servers, all the desktops, sequel servers, all the Microsoft products that were licensed

through that which includes Microsoft Office for the campus and the Macs," Anderson said.

All computers that meet system requirements will be updated to Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 2016 after the spring semester concludes.

This conversion is expected to be completed before most classes resume in the fall, said Tim Whisenhunt, director of technology support.

"We've been piloting the use of Windows 10 and Office 2016 in our area and with other people across campus," Whisenhunt said. "From the results of the pilot group, there doesn't seem to be any significant issues with Windows 10 with any of the programs the college does business with."

Whisenhunt said there are some programs in other departments that are incompatible with the new operating system, but they will work with the department to find a fix.

"In those instances we'll work a little closer with them to see if there is a solution," Whisenhunt said, "If not, we may be excluding those machines from the

deployment."

Whisenhunt said the upgrade is necessary because too many computers on campus are currently running outdated software.

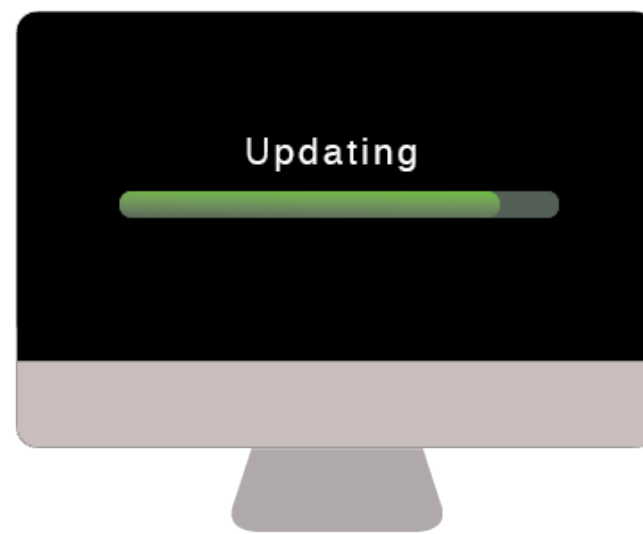
"Microsoft has actually ended development for Windows 7," Whisenhunt said.

Windows 7, released in 2009, only receives security patches from Microsoft, and that support will end January 2020.

"We will meet with the depart-

ments that are going to be affected and talk with them about the changes that are coming and steps they need to take to prepare for it," Whisenhunt said.

"Right now it's looking somewhere in the neighborhood of about 1,500 computers across campus," Whisenhunt said, "so it's a pretty big task." The rollout will begin on May 13, and will continue through the summer.



Police recover lost wedding ring

HUNG TRAN

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Recent reports from campus police center around missing personal property. In one case, a diamond ring was recovered, while in another, an investigation continues.

Officer Jeremy Bohannon was dispatched to the SEM Center on March 31 to assist a college worker who'd lost her wedding ring.

According to the report, Enterprise and Resource Planning Director Connie Drummond said she had lost her diamond wedding ring after visiting the lady's room on the SEM Center's second floor.

She said she discovered the ring was missing when she walked out of SEM Entry 2 shortly after.

After searching all the places she had been prior to realizing her ring was gone, Drummond came to the police department for help.

Bohannon reported that he accompa-

nied Drummond to the lady's room, the last place she could remember having the ring.

After making certain nobody else was in there, Bohannon reportedly entered and performed a careful search and soon found Drummond's ring in the trash can.

On March 30, OCCC's Campus Police Department received another report related to missing personal property by Emergency Planning and Risk Management Director Erin Logan.

Based on the report, Logan said at 4:55 p.m. Bryon Dickens, network for student success director, brought his silver laptop which is protected in a black bag with him to his office. At 4:45 p.m., when he was on the way to a prior

engagement, he realized that he forgot to bring his laptop with him. Therefore, he immediately returned to pick it up. The whole action from leaving and quickly coming back just took him a few minutes. However,

Dickens was unable to locate his laptop when he went back. Because of the important engagement, Logan said she would help him to report about the incident to the Campus Police Department.

Dickens said "I was actually not sure when it went missing. I arrived that morning with my laptop placed in my bag. At some point during the day, the entire bag has been removed from my office."

He said the campus police officers told him that they were unable to identify any suspects who walked out from the

hallway, which is close to his office, carrying a bag.

"They assumed that whoever took it placed that in another bag," Dickens said. "It was pretty devastating because I have a lot of information in it and I really need it," he said. "I would love to have it back."

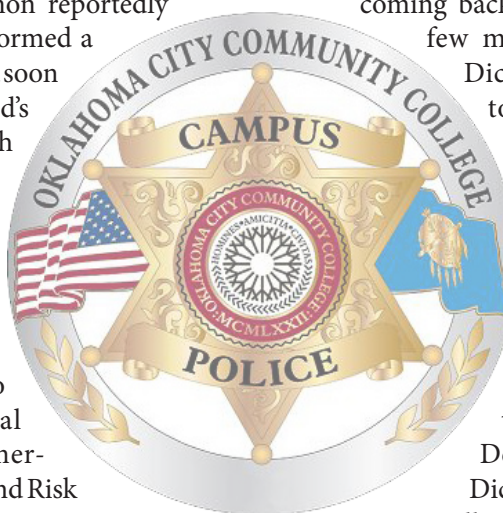
Campus Police Officer Jeremy Bohannon said they are still investigating this case and hope that they could find out the answer soon.

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

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

To contact campus police, 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.





CALE STUMPF
News Writing Student

Reducing the number of veteran suicides is a goal for Gregorio Kishketon, a senior case manager of the Memorial Programs Services sector of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Kishketon has become an advocate for addressing the problem with action and expanded services, particularly through more resources for the Veterans Suicide Hotline.

Kishketon, 50, also is advocating for more research and experimental programs for treating PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder.

He knows what other veterans are going through because he's been there himself, reporting that his medications are down to two daily, instead of 11.

In late August of 1990, at a house on SW 86 Street in Oklahoma City, Kishketon was preparing for his first semester at OCCC.

Later, after graduating from OCCC, he transferred to the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

The Memorial Program where he works is directly responsible for all the benefits of the nation's military veterans. The program awards benefits to former service members, or their dependents,

A retired Marine infantry specialist, Kishketon said he was aided by the OCCC Veterans Affairs Program on campus in the 1990s. At the time he was also working a full-time job for the U.S. Postal Service.

Despite the grueling work of the postal service, Kishketon said he completed an associate of science degree and an associate of applied sciences degree.

With two two-year degrees in hand, Kishketon made his way to the University of Oklahoma in Norman, continuing to study in the sciences.

Born in 1966, Kishketon grew up in a large family of seven sisters and four brothers. During his childhood, Kishketon said, he lived in a comfortable middle-class neighborhood, attended Southeast High School, and worked for Grider Grocery.

"It was quite different from today," Kishketon said.

After finishing his bachelor's degree at the University of Oklahoma in 1995, Kishketon later was informed of a job opening at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dallas.

In 2000 he moved to Dallas for his new career, leaving the U.S. Postal Service behind.

While working in the medical facility in Dallas, Kishketon realized that helping people was his niche. Two elderly patients dying of cancer became closer to him than he ever could have imagined.

One, a woman, came to know him as Son, Kishketon said. The other, a man who was "mad at the world," was another personality that he eventually he came to care for.

Both taught him about the little moments in life and the harsh reality of death, Kishketon said.

Gregoria Kishketon works for Veterans Affairs in Washington D.C. Above, Kishketon's OCCC student ID 1989-1990. *photos provided*

OCCC alumnus advocating for fellow veterans

Although he was not a full-time student, Kishketon said, he did study one.

Later, Kishketon found his way out of the VA Medical sector of Dallas in 2005 and into the private sector for about five years. Then he applied for a new job, back in the VA but this time for the Memorial Program in Washington, D.C.

From Oklahoma to Dallas, and now the nation's capital, Kishketon said he has worked hard to keep to going up the ladder, to help even more people.

"They have a lot of people (to work with), if you think about it," Kishketon said. Also, he said, what needs the most focus is the Veterans Suicide Hotline.

"The hotline does a good job," he said. "But they are understaffed, they need more money."

Kishketon added that he used to be able to see his counselor every month, but now there is only enough funding to see the counselor every two or three months.

"Three months isn't good enough for high-risk veterans," Kishketon said.

He aspires for a director's position, the next step towards his goal of helping more people.

"The more I move up (in rank), the more people I can help," Kishketon said.

For more information about veterans services on campus, contact Janis Armstrong at vaworkstudy@occc.edu and/or 405 682-1611 ext. 7694/7695.

To reach the Memorial Programs Services sector of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., call 1-202-565-4964 or email pmc@mail.va.gov.

Contact information for Kishketon is through email, at gregorio.kishketon@va.gov.

it's a small world

International student strives to help others

HUNG TRAN

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Azara Assane Baraze, an international student from Niger, said the way she interprets English might be a little bit different compared to other international students.

While many international students put a lot of focus into listening and pronunciation in American English, Baraze said she found herself having no problems with those skills.

"I used to watch a lot of TV shows before coming to America. When I started doing that, I did not understand what people are saying. My friends were making fun of me. They said 'you do not understand a word, why are doing that?' I believe that is how we learn," she said. "However, I don't like writing essays, so it is really hard for me to write an essay in English. They ask you to write six pages and when I finished one page, I was like 'Oh, I have to do five more pages.'"

Baraze is majoring in pre-engineering environmental science. She said she wants to use the knowledge of the major to help the people in her country, who are being affected everyday by the radioactivity of the mass uranium exploitation. Niger is currently one of the biggest producers of uranium in the world.

She said her father's work with those affected by radiation from their work

in the uranium industry has inspired her to want to help others.

"He is a doctor and his job is making sure that people there are healthy and nothing affects their health. I have seen [skin disease] because of the radioactivity of Uranium and pollution. I want to do something for my country," she said.

Baraze said her family is living in the capital of Niger, called Niamey. Before moving there, they lived in the north part of the country, called Arlit.

"It's hot there. [Niger] is a big desert. I have never seen snow, before coming here."

There are many reasons she decided to travel to America, especially choosing Oklahoma for education.

"My cousins and uncle are already here. So it is easier for me to come to somewhere where I already knew somebody," she said. "My parents also decided that Oklahoma is a good choice because they know my uncle is working at OU so anytime I want to transfer to OU, he will help me and it would be more easier."

Baraze said a person who has a degree from America can gain many advantages for a career.

She said after almost two years living here, she saw many other sides of America which were never shown on world wide media.

"If you asked that question to a lot of international students, it will be like 'Wow, when I see America on TV, it's pretty, like big cities ... but it is not

the same. What media wants us to believe is not the real America.

"Like on TV, it is only about rich people, you never see the poverty. There is poverty here also but you will never get to see that on TV," she said. "I have been in Los Angeles. It is pretty much the same [like what I saw on TV] but we have been in some parts of LA that they do not show us on TV. I was like 'Is it really LA?' Because the LA I saw on TV is really glamorous, paparazzi, celebrities."

Baraze said OCCC is a good preparation for any foreign students at the beginning before transferring to big universities. The tuition is really cheap and the size of each classroom is small so that students can have more chances to discuss and communicate with their professor during the class period.

Currently, Baraze is working at Graduation, Employment, and Transfer Services on campus. She said being a working student brings her many benefits.

"My parents help me a lot in finance and I really want to do something for



Azara Assane Baraze

them. I told them that 'you don't have to send me money for this, I will pay for my own things.' They were really proud of me. It is also about gaining experience. It looks good on your resume when you said you worked before. It is also about making connections on campus," she said.

She is currently the president of the International Student Association at OCCC for the spring semester.

Niger

Capital: Niamey

Population: 17.83 million (2013)

GDP: 415.42 USD (2013)

Size: 489,200 mi²

Official Language: French

Currency: West African CFA franc

Government: Semi-Presidential Republic

Religion: Islam

Details: Niger, officially the Republic of Niger, is a landlocked country in Western Africa, named after the Niger River.



SPORTS



ON THE COURT: Oga-enyong Nkiri, pre-engineering, practices basketball in the Wellness Center gym on Mondays and Wednesdays mornings before his classes start. For more information call the Recreation and Fitness office at 405-682-7860. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

SPORTS
HIGHLIGHTS

NBA Playoffs

Begin on Saturday, April 16

Players to watch: Steph Curry, soon-to-be back-to-back MVP of the league, has led his Golden State Warriors to the best regular season record in the history of professional basketball. That record, previously held by the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls in 1995-1996, was considered this mythical, impossible feat. Curry and the Warriors haven't just entered that same level of greatness, they've technically surpassed it. To describe how he's played as incredible would be a ridiculous understatement. Obviously, as the most entertaining player in the league, Curry is the man to watch once the postseason kicks off on Saturday. In the Eastern Conference, all eyes will be on LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Cavs have played well enough to earn the #1 seed in the East, and they're considered the default pick to make it to the NBA Finals, but James and his squad have a lot of improvements to make if they want to pose a serious threat to any team that comes out of the west.

Reasons to watch: The drawn-out NBA season has finally come to close, making way for the main event in professional hoops: The NBA Playoffs. It's been a pretty boring season in the NBA, in all honesty. With the exception of the world-beating Warriors, most of the teams have played to the level that everyone thought they would. There weren't any big shake-ups or trades, and there haven't been any injuries that have severely altered the landscape of the postseason. Boring isn't necessarily a bad thing though. The lack of big time injuries will give us a chance to see what a lot of teams can bring to the table, including the Oklahoma City Thunder. The Thunder have had crippling injury after crippling injury since their 2012 Finals Appearance, and the third seed Thunder finally have a healthy roster. The aforementioned historically good Warriors and clinical San Antonio Spurs are far and away the favorites to win the West, but the Thunder's performance in this postseason is monumental in terms of the future of the team with Kevin Durant's free agency looming in 2016. A good showing in the playoffs could make or break KD's decision about where he'll play basketball next season, and that in itself makes it crucial to our city to get some results, even if it doesn't end in a championship. The fact that there's a small chance that this could be the last postseason Durant plays in a Thunder uniform makes this postseason the most important Thunder history.

Intramural basketball competitive

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer
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Students are getting really competitive in a weekly basketball tournament that is held every Wednesday, said Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

Wright said the open-run basketball tournament is perfect for students who want to get involved with intramurals but might not have the time to make it every week.

"It's a one-day tournament that we'll have every Wednesday night that started on March 23. It runs all the way through until May 4.

"It's a one-night tournament, so people sign up the week before the tournament," he said. "You can sign up as a team or an individual. We play a one-night double-elimination tournament."

Wright said the program is great for students because they can meet

new people each week.

"There's no commitment with the open run basketball."

The rules are standard like most basketball games, Wright said, he makes sure everyone has a chance to play. "The only difference is the time length and (that) depends on how many teams we have," he said.

"If we have five or six teams, we can play a little bit longer. If we have eight, the games will be shorter. It will be somewhere between 10- to 15 minute games," he said in a previous interview.

While the games are short, Wright said, he makes sure that all students will play. "That's why we have double-elimination, so everyone will have a chance to play two games," he said.

The tournaments will be held in the OCCC gym beginning at 5:30 p.m. and will last until around 10 p.m.,

Wright said. While interested students can show up the day of the tournament, Wright said, he prefers that students sign up online at www.imleagues.com/OCCC.

"While I'd like people to sign up online, we will accept walk-ins if there are open spots for that day," he said.

"It'd be best to sign up online to reserve your spot."

For more information on intramural sports on campus, contact Wright at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu, or by calling the Recreation and Fitness office at 405-682-7860.



Tuition: TLC reps explain their votes

Continued from Page 1

Marylin Segura, TLC representative for the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education, said that she thought the 15 percent increase in tuition was an appropriate amount but she took consideration in her vote.

In general, Segura said, members of H.O.P.E. would probably oppose the measure.

“At first, I was kind of going to the ‘no’ side just because there are single-parent students, there are students who are maybe not legal and they have to pay out-of-state tuition, so I feel like that was going to be a big increase on them. But yet again I feel like eventually in the future it’s going to affect everyone and there will eventually be an increase— so why not get it started now?”

Agnostics, Atheists, and Freethinkers President and TLC Representative Trey Gourley voted for the tuition increase as well.

“I think it was the best thing that we could do in a bad situation,” Gourley said. “We are dealing with the state legislators’ bad decisions.”

He said he voted for the increase hoping to set some limit on the rising costs of tuition for the future.

“I’m not saying that I support them raising it that much but at least if this year follows the trend of the history of them raising [tuition], it will be less than that as opposed to being more. Fingers crossed but

yeah, I feel confident in my vote.”

Gourley said he discussed the proposed increase in tuition with 10 to 15 AAF members before voting.

“Mixed bag of feelings, but I think that most people recognize it as a necessary evil—something that we have to do whether we want to do it or not.”

Tuition increases are not new to OCCC. Tuition has been raised three times in the last nine years.

Tuition was raised \$5 per credit hour for all students in fall 2014. Similar increases were made in 2010 and 2008.

Gourley said that if another tuition increase is proposed next year, fees or other revenue streams could be looked at instead of tuition.

As a comparison, at the March 24 TLC meeting Scarsella presented representatives with the cost to attend Rose State College in Midwest City. At Rose State, Oklahoma residents paid \$91.50 per credit hour last fall, and out-of-state students paid about \$325.

Resident tuition at Tulsa Community College, the largest community college in the state, is about \$91. Out of state tuition at TCC is about \$297.

“If each student is paying an extra \$113 per semester I think that is doable,” Scarsella said. “Now if we start looking at \$200 plus a semester per student I think we are getting into some troublesome territory.”

“But we’ve got to do something. We can’t just let the school close. At this point, we would have to cut back to just the bare bone minimum services.”

Christian Castro, TLC representative for Psi Beta, the campus psychology club, said that he voted against the tuition increase though he knew it would pass.

He said that increasing tuition is fundamentally not a good decision down the line.

“[A 15 percent increase] may not be so much per hour to the student but like adding that on to student loan debt, that can effectively double student loan debt.”

He said that the cost to adding to that debt is simply too much.

“That’s like literally another semester of classes that somebody could take. That is literally like going into another minor in order to specialize into a field that the student wants to take. Now that’s going to bar certain students from taking that minor.”

He said state politics factored into why he could not vote for the increase.

“I also thought that Mary Fallin’s decision to cut education is really a significant one. It’s like really? That’s literally what is getting us in this mess in the first place,” Castro said.

Petroleum excise taxes depend on how much the average barrel of oil fetches on the market.

Castro said that not voting for an increase in tuition is an act against state officials.

“Really I thought that that was the best decision to basically like protest Mary Fallin,” he said.

Justice: advisory role benefits education

Continued from Page 1

“I do have an opportunity to interact with a lot of really impressive people and a lot of people who are serving the community. Also, we get to hear presentations and to have discussion with a lot of really prominent researchers,” Parks said. “It benefits students because I will have more direct contact with people that they are reading about in the textbooks. I am able to meet them and talk to them and can hear from them directly, so when I am talking about those things in class, it is even more meaningful.”

Parks first started working at OCCC as an adjunct psychology professor in 2004. He said he worked at the University of North Florida for a few years before coming back to Oklahoma and has been working as a full time professor at OCCC since 2008.

“I had really been impressed with the institution during the time I was an adjunct here,” he said.

Parks said he also likes teaching at OCCC because of the diversity of students. He said he appreciates the kinds of challenges students at OCCC take on.

“In Florida, it is a four-year institution where students live on campus so that was a little dif-

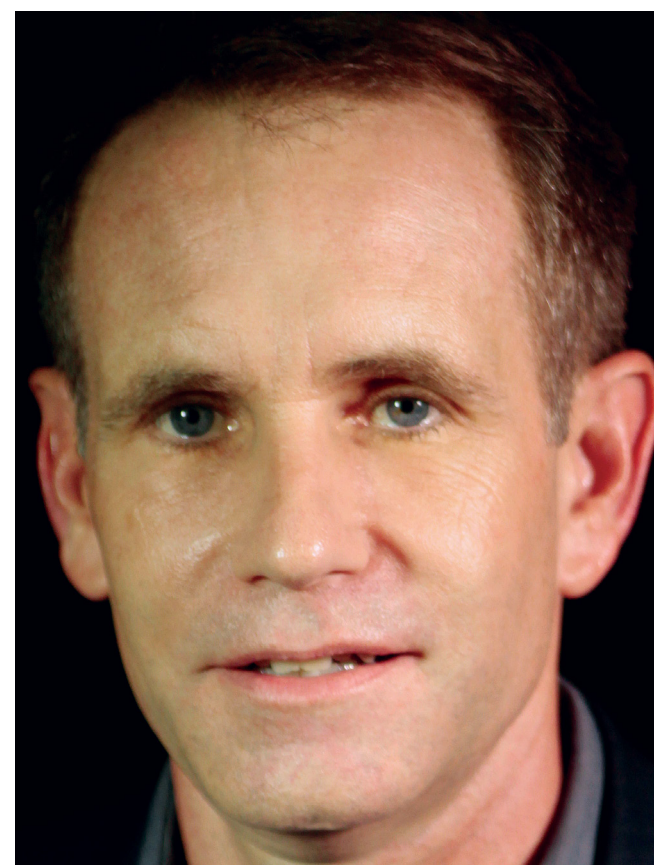
ferent. OCCC students are not here as long, they are all commuting.

“Our students are much busier, they have many things competing with class and academics, so there are additional challenges,” he said. “I think students in Florida, being a residential campus where they lived on campus, most of them are more focused full-time as students. There weren’t as many that were working, that have family and other responsibilities.”

Parks said his job at OCCC is not only about helping psychology majors, but also contributing to an education for a variety of different career interests.

“Anyone who wants to go to a healthcare profession has to know how to work with people and how people develop over the lifespan from infant to the end of life and what their unique needs are,” he said. “I really enjoy being able to help communicate that importance and help prepare all those students for their career. Because at some points, I might find myself needing some healthcare from one of those students so I want to make sure that they are well-prepared for their job.

“I may hear from them when they are in graduate school or have finally started the career they always dreamed about,” Parks said.



Psychology professor Greg Parks serves on the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. *Photo provided*

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Learn, recycle, celebrate trees and get rewarded



TYLER ADAMS

Videographer
videographer@occc.edu

Oklahoma City Community College wants to give back this coming Arbor Day with an event that organizers say gives back to the trees.

This year's Arbor Day event will take place in the college union foyer from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 28.

Student Life President and Chair member of the Arbor Day Committee, Erin Logan said that, while the event is about celebrating trees, there will also be some giving back to the students, faculty and staff of OCCC.

At the event there will be giveaways and if students, faculty or staff bring a minimum of 20 empty plastic grocery bags to be recycled, they will receive a free gift at the event.

There is also a carbon footprint analysis with suggestions to help attendees of the event reduce their own carbon footprint, Logan said.

"It's our way to recognize and celebrate all of the benefits we get from trees," Logan said.

"Our dynamic is a big supporter of Arbor Day and has been for years," Logan said.

She said this has been demonstrated by OCCC being a Tree Campus USA certified school.

Tree Campus USA is a program that recognizes college and university campuses that effectively manage their campus trees, develops

a correspondence beyond campus boundaries to foster healthy and urban forests, and strives to engage their student population into utilizing service learning opportunities centered on campus, and community, forestry efforts.

The requirements of being a certified Tree Campus USA campus or university are substantial and can be found at www.arborday.org/ programs under "Learn about Tree Campus USA" tab at the Tree Campus USA section.

Co-chair of the Arbor Day Committee, Facilities Management Director Chris Snow said the Arbor Day event would place only the slightest strain on the college's budget.

"The money for this event was allocated already in the budget, which was minimal, and most of it is coming from outside businesses and vendors," Snow said.

Snow said this year's event will be unlike Arbor Day events at OCCC in the past.

"We have a combination of students, faculty, staff, and community who participate," Snow said, "knowing that you get a wide range of influence involving this particular celebration."

More information about this coming Arbor Day event can be found at www.occc.edu/arbor-day/.

Information for all activities, booths, tweets, photos, and a map of where the tree planting ceremony will take place are available through this link.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

UCO's Prospective Teacher Academy, April 20

Wondering what it takes to be a teacher? UCO's Prospective Teacher Academy will discuss academic requirements, requirements for state certifications, and scholarship opportunities from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 20, in College Union 3. Two separate sessions are available. To register for a session email transfer@occc.edu. For more information contact Javier Puebla, coordinator of transfer and graduation services, at 405-682-7567 or by email at javier.puebla@occc.edu.

Meals on Wheels of Norman, Inc, April 22 - 23

Looking for an opportunity to give back to the community or a civic honors opportunity? Meals on Wheels of Norman, Inc. is in need of students to work two hour shifts between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., on Friday, April 22, at the Sam's Club of Nor-

man, located at 3400 W. Main Street, Norman, OK. Students will provide incoming customers a list of foods that would benefit the organization and collect any items donated. The organization will also need volunteers on Saturday, April 23. To sign up or for questions, contact Deana Nelson at 405-321-7272.

NASA brings Indian Clinic speaker, April 21

Oklahoma City Indian Clinic's Wes Wilson will visit and speak with the Native American Student Association from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, in 1X5. Oklahoma City Indian Clinic is a non-profit corporation that strives to increase access to quality health care and wellness services and produce positive health care outcomes for urban American Indians living in central Oklahoma. For more information contact Royce Liston, admissions adviser, at 405-682-7580 ext. 7516.

Student Guitar Concert, April 28

Are you a music lover? Then come out and support fellow OCCC students as OCCC Music presents the Student Guitar Concert, at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 28, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center, room 132. Admission is free. For more information contact the Arts Division office at 405-686-6278.

Pioneer Hiring April 15 - 29

The Pioneer newspaper needs writers, editors and a webmaster for Summer and Fall. Editors and writers must have completed or be currently enrolled in OCCC's News Writing course. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Pioneer team please visit us in the Pioneer Office in room 1F2 of the Arts and Humanities building or email labassistant@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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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across
1. Aromatic herb
6. Nest eggs (abbr.)
10. Actor ____ Dillon
14. Additional
15. Regulation
16. Farm measure
17. Pulls apart
18. Johann ____ Bach
20. Help
22. Grammatical unit
23. Frog's kin
25. Igloo material
26. Obtain
27. Minnesota's neighbor
30. Method
32. Thick piece
33. Twice five
34. Two of a kind
38. Astronaut ____ Armstrong
39. Put up
42. Go by bus
43. Carry
44. Distinctive time
45. Some poems
46. Biblical mountain
49. Pork or beef
50. Edge
53. Roofing goo
54. Nothing more than
56. Captivated
59. Extends (a subscription)
63. Atmospheric pressure guage
65. "West Side Story" character
66. Ceases
67. Citi Field predecessor
68. Graven images
69. Oahu wreaths
70. Canvas cover
71. Quizzes

Down
1. Greek consonant
2. Woodsman's tools
3. Depots (abbr.)
4. Cranky
5. Lariat
6. Taxing agcy.
7. Regrets
8. Although
9. Spiritualist meeting
10. Spouse
11. Serving perfectly
12. Small amount
13. Principle
19. Mushroom part
21. Sample food
24. Tinter
27. Fails to exist
28. Butter alternative
29. Tarry
31. Look of contempt
34. Square dance figure
35. Staff officer
36. Bright thought
37. Repose
40. Pack tightly
41. Starchy tuber (sl.)
46. Potent particle
47. Most unusual
48. R&B singer ____ Franklin
50. Revolt
51. Foolish
52. ____ Gras (Fat Tuesday)
55. Send payment
57. Velvety growth
58. Forest creature
60. Greek mythology figure
61. Droop
62. Fresh talk
64. Musical genre



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International students share view of Oklahoma

BROOKLIN HOSS
News Writing Student

International students said they are enjoying their time spent in Oklahoma, including their time at the Oklahoma City Stockyards and the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center. They took a trip to these locations earlier in the semester.

The ESL students of OCCC have learned about Oklahoma's culture in Professor Abra Figueroa's class for students transitioning into regular college classes after studying English as a Second Language.

Ben Aichate Soumahoro, from Ivory Coast in Africa, has lived here eight months.

"I have learned that Oklahoma is very quiet and a good place to study," she said. "There are not a lot of distractions."

Oklahoma and Ivory Coast are very different from each other.

She explained how her hometown is comparable to New York, always busy, and very populated.

Another difference is the weather, she said.

"We do not have winter where I live," Soumahoro said. "It is always summer, so here it has been very different for me, weather-wise."

"I have really enjoyed my time here in Oklahoma, because I have got to meet many different people from other countries" Soumahoro noted. "The people in Oklahoma are very kind and I feel comfortable here."

She is glad she came to OCCC for school.

Other international students expressed similar thoughts.

Sara Thalba is from Yemen, a country in the Middle East. She has lived in Oklahoma for nine months now.

"I chose to study in Oklahoma because there are less crimes here," Thalba said.

"The big difference between Oklahoma and Yemen is the weather," she said. "One day it is like winter and the next it is hot in Oklahoma."

"In my country it is always warm, I do not have two sets of clothes for winter and summer back at home," she asserted.

She explained that the people in Oklahoma and in Yemen are very similar, both have very kind people, they help each other out, and are hard workers. Thalba said. "Oklahoma City is a very calm, and nice city."

Min Kim, from South Korea in east Asia, is majoring in nursing at OCCC.

She explained how the education system is different here, because students have the freedom to choose what major they want.

"In South Korea you do not get the choice of what you want to major in," she said.

"It was kind of easy coming here and adapting to Oklahoma, but the English was hard to learn," Kim said. At home she lived in Seoul, the capital of her country. Things there are very fast paced and busy.

"In Oklahoma it is very slow paced," Kim said.

Kim also explained how Oklahomans are welcoming.

"The people here are very friendly and are always asking 'Where are you from?' 'Nice to meet you.'" Kim said.



An Nguyen (from Vietnam), Syed Ahmed (from Pakistan), Trang Le (from Vietnam) and Kabore Sidpawalmède (from Burkina Faso) visit the stockyards on a rainy day. *Brooklin Hoss*

She really liked learning about Oklahoma's cowboy history, she said.

Min Kim's sister, Sae Kim, also is majoring in nursing.

Even though she has family living here, this is Sae Kim's first time coming to Oklahoma.

"My aunt lives in Moore, so that is why I chose to come to Oklahoma for school," she said.

Sae Kim likes Oklahoma for many of reasons, many that have affected her in a positive way.

"The difference between Oklahoma and my country is, my country is very busy and everyone just works then goes home," she said.

"The faces back at home are very serious and the faces here in Oklahoma are very smiley and relaxed," Sae Kim said. "Everyone is very helpful here."

Oklahoma has a specific trait that almost every international student commented on and Sae Kim noticed it also.

"Even if an Oklahoma person has never seen you before, or doesn't know you, they are still very nice and kind to you," Sae Kim said.

Several students said their experience at the stockyards was not as good as the Cowboy Hall of Fame, because they did not like how the cows were getting treated by the stock handlers.

The students enjoyed learning Oklahoma history and cowboy culture at the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Student Trang Le is from Vietnam but has lived here seven to eight years.

She is going to college but is undecided about her major.

Le is currently working at Newcastle Casino.

She handles money all the time, which is one way she sees Oklahoma and the U.S.

"The people in Vietnam are different, they have a lot of farmers" she said. "Vietnam is a poor country,

unlike the U.S.

"You can earn a lot of money in the U.S.," she said.

Classmate Yen Pham is from Vietnam also. She is majoring in nursing, and has lived in Oklahoma for almost eight months.

"Something that I have learned about Oklahoma is, the culture, the people here in Oklahoma are friendlier than other people in other states," she said.

"Since I have been in Oklahoma, I have noticed my English has developed really well with the teacher's help," Pham said.

She can understand what people say better, and answer questions more fluently.

"I enjoyed learning about Oklahoma's cowboys and their past," Pham said.

"I am enjoying Oklahoma a lot, even though the weather can get kind of crazy," she said.

Tu Tran, also from Vietnam, is majoring in business. She has lived here for one year and three months.

Coming to Oklahoma at first was very hard for her, but as time went on it got easier.

"Back at home I drive a motorcycle because it is so busy, but here I drive a car," Tran said. "It has been very hard for me to get used to driving."

Tran has made a lot of fun memories in Oklahoma, but one memory stuck out to her the most.

"One of my favorite things about Oklahoma is when I went to Lawton to hike the mountains," Tran said.

After finishing school at OCCC, Tran hopes to transfer to New York.

For more information about the Bridge program for international students, contact Professor Abra Figueroa by email at afigueroa@occc.edu.

More photos accompany this story in its online version at the Pioneer website (pioneer.occc.edu).