Moral support:
OKCCC Student
Vanessa Flynn calms fellow student Brandy Overstreet as Karla Phillips takes blood during the recent blood drive in the college union. (see story, page 4)

Photo by Trent Dugas

OKCCC top pick for Hispanic students

By Theresa M. Pitts
Staff Writer

Hispanic students in search of college opportunities may find what they need at OKCCC.

The college was named in November as a 1997 top pick for Hispanic students in “The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education,” a national publication.

Publisher Jose Lopez-Isla said the colleges and universities named are “offering solid opportunities” to Hispanic students.

One student and member of the Hispanic community, Enrique Perez, is taking advantage of what OKCCC has to offer. He said the size of the school and the cost are two benefits.

“Whatever you want to be, the community college is a good place to start,” said Perez, a business major, “especially for minorities or students who haven’t been in school for a while.”

Francisco Galaz has also found the college a good place to turn for his education needs. Galaz is an international student from Mexico.

“I came here to learn English,” Galaz said. “Because it’s a smaller school, the teachers give you more attention.”

Galaz has already earned a bachelor’s degree in international business from the Universidad La Salle in Mexico. He plans to pursue a master’s degree in that field at the University of Oklahoma, but he must first learn the English language.

“This is only my second semester of speaking English,” he said.

Galaz attends non-credit courses which help prepare him for the national TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam. He must pass the exam before he can enroll in credit courses at the University of Oklahoma.

Galaz and Perez pointed out that there is one drawback to studying English in a college like OKCCC.

“We hang out together and speak Spanish when we’re in groups,” Perez said. “It’s hard when you come out of English class — you want to practice what you learned, but then you see your friends and you start speaking Spanish again.”

They hope a large university like the University of Oklahoma will provide for more separation and open them up to other cultures.

Enrollment shows 4.8% increase

By Theresa M. Pitts
Staff Writer

An increase of 4.8 percent in spring semester enrollment may be due to the college’s efforts in recruitment, retention and marketing said Charlotte French, executive director of enrollment management.

Preliminary enrollment numbers show 9,307 students this semester compared to 8,881 in the spring of 1997, said John Barker, director of research. Adult students still comprise a heavy percentage of that population, with the average age of students being 27.

French said there are many new developments at the college which she thinks contributed to the rise in spring enrollment.

“Don’t think you could point to one thing as making the difference,” French said.

Recruitment is one area of the college where efforts are being increased.

“We’ve hired two full-time recruiters, and two part-time recruiters who are paid for by a [federal] grant,” French said.

The part-time recruiters target minorities and those individuals with disabilities.

Minority enrollment at OKCCC for the spring semester showed a slight increase over spring of 1997. Of those students reporting, Asian and Pacific Islanders comprised more than 7 percent of the population, African American 6.2, Native American and Alaskan Native 5.7 and Hispanic 3.8.

Retention is also a focus of the college. This semester’s numbers show 6,676 freshman enrolling while only 2,362 sophomores enrolled.

French said a retention coordinator has been hired who, among other duties, will handle College Fest, OKCCC’s orientation program.

“Our information indicates that those who attended College Fest increased their chances of staying in school.”

“We’re also improving advising and enrollment,” French said. “And we’re working on an early alert system to identify students who are having difficulties in classes.”

The alert system will hopefully provide college staff an opportunity to work with those students early enough in the semester so they can stay in school.

Regardless of all these programs, French said the increase is not just based on retention and recruit-
Editorial

Why are we behaving like rude surly brats?

Either it has happened to you or you have done it to someone else — the elevator stops on a floor and before the doors fully open people are pressing to get on.

Let's talk math here. If 10 students are on the elevator and another dozen press in, blocking the escape of the original 10, that is too many people in too small a space. Not to mention the original 10 still need to get out.

Add a student using a wheelchair, and the equation has become gross neglect of common sense and manners.

Do college students really need signs telling them to yield to people in wheelchairs or allowing people to vacate the elevator before crowding in themselves? At OKCCC they do. Of course, the signs do not cover all the finer points of getting along.

The behavior of students at this college is reprehensible. We do not have students urinating on cultural displays, but in the everyday minute details, we are no better than the ignorant and hateful brats at the Big School.

We are taught to walk around two people having a conversation. I have seen a student walk through two students conversing in American Sign Language as if they did not exist. It does not matter if the people converse vocally or in ASL, interrupting is disrespectful.

What will it take to ingrain the basic rules of conduct? Offering Emily Post 1113?

Having read the grammar skills of students who passed composition, I shudder to think how the few manners that survive would deteriorate after a required class.

Slow down by a step, and let other people go about their lives, too.

Be aware of how much physical space you take up. A person carrying a backpack takes up a lot of space. It seems like more space on the stairwells and elevators.

The details of dress code are not enforced on students and the college dress code is rather simple. Baseball caps are allowed indoors. I do not see why a student needs a sunshade on his, or occasionally her, head in a classroom, but if a student wishes to hold his body heat in with such, that is okay. It is not okay if that same student complains that a classroom is too hot.

Little stuff aside, no one, and I mean no one, has the right to insult a person's dignity or character without basis.

In the newspaper world that is called libel. At best it would be slander. Back up your statements with provable truth. Better yet, check your attitude at the door, attend your classes and allow others to do the same.

Manners are little more than taking a moment to think about a situation from another's point of view.

— Robyn Lydick
Student Editor

College community thanked

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, not only to the Pioneer staff, but also to the greater OKCCC community as a whole for the wonderful support given by all.

The production of the musical “Once Upon a Mattress” was a great success due to this support, from the articles written, to the assistance of numerous departments throughout the college.

There was a great deal of flexibility demonstrated by many areas of the college, as they allowed their staff members and work-study students the time to make rehearsals and performances. Also several different areas gave direct assistance making this production possible.

The drama department has experienced a lot of growth in the last year. However, the changes in the production schedule for this season have generated some criticism. But as demonstrated by the marvelous attendance of the shows so far, the least of which was the two sold-out performances, complete with standing ovation both Friday and Saturday nights during “Once Upon a Mattress,” it appears that the vast majority of our college community enjoys the direction and performances we have provided this year.

I hope that we, as a group, live up to your expectations and anticipation in the future.

In our next production we will be doing a series of short one-act original works. These original works will be performed by the OKCCC drama department at the Individual Artists of Oklahoma Gallery downtown at 1 North Hudson.

The postponement of the production “Little Foxes” not only allows us to do original works called “Open Plains Voices,” it also allows nearly twice the number of students to have performance time.

We as a department are excited by this opportunity and are hopeful that we will be able to count on the fantastic support we have enjoyed up to now.

Again I would like to say THANK YOU very much for all your help and attendance.

— Tom Johnson
Drama Club President
New club serves business students

By Ronda Williams
Newswriting I Student

Members of one of the newest student organizations on campus, Students In Free Enterprise, believe club membership raises their chances for job benefits and opportunities.

The average starting salary for SIFE members is $10,000 more than other new hires.

SIFE was founded by Sam Walton. Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart, wanted students throughout the country to be able to learn the importance of promoting free enterprise. SIFE is an international organization.

AT&T, Payless Cashways, Kinko's and American Greeting Cards are just a few of the donor companies. Donor companies are identified by the amount of donations received by the SIFE organizations. Donor companies host a job fair each year at the international convention. Each year SIFE members have the opportunity to attend the convention.

The average starting salary for SIFE members is $10,000 more than other new hires. The reason behind this is that SIFE members are required to contribute 50 hours in project skills. This, members say, helps them to have better leadership and communication skills.

Business Professor Vijay Ramachandran, is SIFE Student Adviser. Ramachandran said students who show interest in applying book knowledge to practical activities learn practical skills in the process such as leadership and teamwork. Those skills, he said, eventually expose students to job opportunities with major companies in America.

A club recruitment drive dubbed, “Promoting Free Enterprise” is now underway. A table with club information and sign-up opportunities will be located on the first floor of the main building from 12:30 to 1 p.m. March 5. For more information, call 682-1611, ext. 7220.

Enrollment up at OKCCC, while other two-year schools see decline

“Enrollment.” Cont. from page 1

Enrollment numbers at other two-year colleges in the metro area do not reflect the increase experienced at OKCCC.

At Rose State College in Midwest City, spring enrollment is up 1 percent, said Evelyn Hutchings, registrar and director of admissions and records.

Redlands Community College in El Reno has seen a drop in their spring enrollment of 8 percent, said Donna Spain, director of public information. Though the reason for the decrease has many variables, Spain said most of the students contacted who did not return for the spring semester had taken jobs.

“That means we have to do a better job, like offering more evening classes,” Spain said.

An increase in Oklahoma college students going to work is consistent with the state’s unemployment rate, which decreased in 1997. A spokesperson for the state Employment Security Commission said the Dec. 31 unemployment rate was 3.4 percent, compared to 3.8 percent the prior year.

French said it is true that the job market impacts colleges.

“The economy always has some effect on enrollment,” French said, “but another factor is telling people who we are and what we can do to help them.”

French pointed out that although spring enrollment is up, the annual enrollment figures may not show an increase.

“The current projection is that we will be just about even with last year.”

“We had a slight decrease in fall enrollment, which is our biggest semester. It takes a lot to offset a decrease there.”

The last year the college had an annual increase in enrollment was 1992-1993.
Bloodletting a great success

By Rica Mitchusson
Staff Writer

Because of the caring people at OKCCC, Oklahoma has been treated to an additional 85 units of blood during the recent Oklahoma Blood Institute blood drive.

Donors lay on tables in the college union last Wednesday and Thursday as they voluntarily gave life. In return they got a T-shirt, cookies and juice.

It wasn’t only the perks that prompted students to donate.

Tawanna Tudor, special education student, said she gives blood partly because she thinks she may be helping a newborn baby.

“I have O-negative blood. They (OBI) told me that’s preemie blood, what they give to premature babies. “This is my fourth time to donate. I always give blood at school because it’s convenient.”

Other students were frequent donors as well.

“I donate because it helps others. After I donate today I’ll have given a gallon,” said nursing student Kimberly Wheeler.

Those who make the gallon mark are given an OBI lapel pin in recognition of their generosity.

Student Stephen Harned sat patiently awaiting his turn.

“I’m just doing my civic duty,” he said. “It’s a job every American should take on.”

“I give blood every time I can.”

Unfortunately OBI couldn’t take Harned’s donation Wednesday because he had given blood fairly recently.

It takes the body 54 days to reproduce a unit of blood. Mike Jones, coordinator of student activities said.

Someone is in need of blood every day, so the OBI is set up to take donations somewhere every day, said OBI staff member Ammie West.

Retired volunteer Herb Kahl has been with the OBI for eight years because he enjoys meeting people.

“I try to be friendly and put people at ease,” Kahl said.

“It makes me feel younger to do something to pay back for how the world has treated me.”

A grateful thanks go out to all OKCCC students, staff and faculty from Suzanne McCombs, Oklahoma Blood Institute director of communications and donor recruitment.

“Your generosity helps us maintain a safe and adequate blood supply for patients in need,” said McCombs.

Adjuncts receive voice of their own

By Michelle Humphrey
News I Student

Adjunct faculty members are now a lot easier to get in touch with out of class. They now have voice mail.

Prior to January if a student needed to speak with an adjunct professor out of class, they would have to leave a message with that professor’s division office. The message would then be put into professor’s mailbox.

Eartly last year the voice mail was approved by the administration and the money was set aside for it.

The voice mail was installed in October by Southwestern Bell, but was implemented in January. The installation only took two days.

A small number of adjunct professors had voice mail in the fall for a trial run.

Since everything ran smoothly, the rest of the adjunct faculty had it in time for the spring semester.

OKCCC adjunct computer professor Elwyn Hastings, was the one who was responsible for this. He explained that the voice mail system was ready last October, but it began in January.

Now, adjunct faculty members can check their messages anytime or anywhere. As Hastings explained, “it speeds up communication and makes life better for the students”.

INTEGRIS Health

Looking for a job in healthcare?

Then we’re looking for you! INTEGRIS Health will be at your career fair, March 11th, in the morning and evening hours. Please come by and speak with us, and get exciting information about our opportunities at Integris Baptist and Southwest Medical Centers, and Jim Thorpe Rehab Hospital. Nursing students be sure to ask about our:

* Externship program for Junior Nursing Students and
* Internship for Senior Nursing Students and
* PTA and COTA Openings

PTAs and COTAs be sure to ask about our 23 bed unit, an extension of Jim Thorpe, that will be opening in July at Integris Baptist Medical Center. We look forward to seeing you and answering any questions you might have! Additional information about any of our job opportunities is available by calling Dayla Morris at 951-2145.
Composer set to perform classics

Max Lifchitz says he has been striving to give exposure to North and South America classical music

By Trent Dugas
Staff writer

Max Lifchitz, composer, pianist and conductor since 1980, said he has been striving to give exposure to North and South American classical music.

He said most text books and concert programs emphasize music by European composers while American and Latin American composers remain unknown.

“People do not pay much attention to music because sound is all around them. People need to clear their ears and listen to sounds and music like it was the very first time.” explained Lifchitz.

At 9 a.m. March 5 in College Union Room 3 Lifchitz will be conducting a lecture and workshop where he will be discussing and answering questions about Latin American music, and its variety and importance in world culture. At 7 p.m. that night, Lifchitz will perform Music of the Americas in the OKCCC theater.

Born in Mexico in 1948, Lifchitz moved to the United States when he was 17.

He earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in music composition from Juilliard School of Music in New York in 1971 and a master’s degree in music from Harvard University in Massachusetts in 1974. He has also attended the Aspen Music School in Colorado and the University of Michigan.

Lifchitz has completed nearly 100 orchestral pieces and solo piano works. Recording labels such as Phillips RCA, New World Opus One, Victor Vienna Modern Masters and Finnander have recorded his music.

In 1980 Lifchitz started an organization called the North-South Consonance Incorporated that devotes itself to the promotion and performance of music by composers from the Americas.

The organization sponsors several events a year and has now produced more than 14 recordings and premiered more than 500 new pieces.

“I founded the organization because I felt that several years ago mainstream concert presenters did not pay much attention to the music by composers from Latin America,” said Lifchitz. “Also, there was little attention paid to certain American composers who were not trendy or popular with certain groups.”

The New York Arts Council funds the organization along with private donors including the Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

Other support for his compositional and performance activities comes from the Ford and Guggenheim Foundations, the National Endowment for the Arts, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust and the U.S. Fund for Artists at International Festivals.

Lifchitz has been working at the University at Albany since 1986 as head of both the music and Latin America.

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In the concert at OKCCC, Lifchitz will perform music by 11 different composers including Alexandre Levy, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Richard Castro, and Louis Moreau-Gottschalk.

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Lifchitz has nearly 100 orchestral pieces and solo piano works completed.

Since Lifchitz has never been to Oklahoma City he said he is looking forward to the visit and the OKCCC concert.

He hopes the audience will become acquainted with some of the music and composers from south of the border.

“The best thing about performing is making people happy. There is nothing like seeing a composer truly satisfied with a performance of his or her work.”

—Max Lifchitz

“Villancicos Rebeldes”

The OKCCC Concert Choir and Chamber Singers will perform the choral sections of the song. "Villancicos Rebeldes" tries to capture and communicate the feelings of frustration and exasperation so apparent throughout Latin America.” Lifchitz said.

“The texts employed are by poets from three different countries: Mexico, Panama and New Zealand. Their words are set in a simple and direct manner.” He said the listener will find the musical language both contemporary and folk-like.

In concert, Lifchitz said, he only concentrates on the music being performed because performing takes an enormous amount of concentration and seeing the appreciation of his audience is what he enjoys most.

“The best thing about performing is making people happy. There is nothing like seeing a composer truly satisfied with a performance of his or her work.”

OKCCC and the Oklahoma City Arts Council are sponsoring the concert.

It is part of the Oklahoma City Community College Culture Awareness Series.

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Highlights

Fee extension agreement demands attention now
If you signed a fee extension agreement for spring 1998 classes, 50 percent of the total charges are due by 5 p.m. March 13. Failure to pay will result in being dropped from classes and a financial hold will be placed on your account. If you receive financial aid and it does not cover total charges, you will be dropped from classes unless you pay 50 percent of the balance. If financial paperwork is not completed you will be dropped from classes. If you are dropped from classes you must pay 100 percent of your charges.

Quick money in time for spring break
A fast, free and easy tax refund may be as near as your telephone. If you received a special TeleFile tax package in the mail, a refund could be in your mailbox within two to three weeks. Those students who are single or married with no dependents, with W-2 income under $50,000, who’ve not moved and have received the special TeleFile tax booklet in the mail can file by touch-tone phone. For more information call the IRS Arkansas-Oklahoma district at 1-800-TAX-1044.

More scholarship dollars available to students
Scholarship applications for summer and fall semesters are available for the Matt Skvarla Journalism Scholarship, the Bobby D. Gaines Scholarship, the Jack Cain Memorial Scholarship and the Kay Edwards Memorial Scholarship. Each scholarship is approximately $250 and is to be used for tuition, fees and books. Applications are available in the Institutional Advancement Office and the High School and Community Relations Office. Deadline is March 25. For more information call 682-1611 ext. 7580.

Automotive service education program wins big
OKCCC students claimed the top five spots in the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America region VII competition at Canadian Valley Vo-Tech in El Reno Feb. 13. OKCCC has one of 54 ASEP programs nationwide coordinated by General Motors. All five OKCCC winners will compete in the VICA state competition April 20.

Departmental name change to take effect next month
The Business and Industrial Development Department will be renamed The Training Center at OKCCC effective March 1.

Teen pompon camp coming to OKCCC
The Putnam City West High School pompon squad and OKCCC recreation and community services department will hold a one-day "try-out preparation" camp from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 7 at the college. Cost is $25 per student. Students ages 11 to 16 are asked to bring a sack lunch and their pompons. Early enrollment is recommended. For more information call 682-7560.

Future teachers organization announces meeting
The future teachers will hold their next meeting at noon, March 11 in the library, room 206.

Deadline for indoor soccer fast approaching
Sign-up sheets are available for teams or individuals who want to play indoor soccer. The winning team receives T-shirts. Sign up at the wellness center before the March 4 deadline. For more information call 682-1611 ext. 7310.

Secretaries mean business

By Rica Mitchusson
Staff Writer

The title Office Administrator defines and describes what today’s secretary does.

Collegiate Secretaries International is a campus club whose goal is to educate its members about the demanding, yet rewarding, career field of office administration.

Kelly Burns, CSI president, poses the question, “Why go to college to become a secretary?”

She said the answer rests in today’s job description of a secretary.

“Secretaries are trained to run and maintain entire offices.”

—Kelly Burns
CSI President

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“Secretaries are trained to run and maintain entire offices.”

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CSI President

The conference furthers the many skills CSI members have been honing throughout the year.

Students interested in CSI are encouraged to contact Anita Williams, faculty adviser, at 682-1611 ext. 7364 for more information.

“Office professionals aren’t just secretaries,” Burns said.

“We are the image of the company we represent.”

Sanctify Them in the Truth

17219
Southern Hills
Baptist Church
College Ministry
8601 S. Penn.
682-1636

A Place For YOU!

Sunday Morning 9:00 AM Bible study.
Worship Services 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM.
Tues. Bible Study (New York Bagels) 7:00 PM.
Wed. CROSSOVER 8:00 PM, Red Auditorium
(relevant message for our generation)
Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OKC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 4 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611 ext. 7674 for more information.

Positions


HELP WANTED: Teletouch, a leader in the paging industry, is accepting applications for the following summer positions: Personnel Department

- Pool Maintenance Workers
- Cashiers
- Laborers
- Elites

For additional information, please call the City of Norman 24-Hour Job Information Line: 366-5321.

City of Norman

Parks & Recreation

The City of Norman is accepting applications for the following summer positions:

- Lifeguards
- Instructor/Lifeguards
- Laborers
- Cashiers
- Little League Umpires
- Pool Maintenance Workers

For additional information, please call the City of Norman 24-Hour Job Information Line: 366-5321.

City of Norman

Personnel Department

201 C West Gray

EOE/AA

Automobiles

For Sale:

- '78 Mercedes Benz 450 SE, 5.0L, light blue. Bosch fuel inj, ac, runs and looks great, 110K miles. $3050. Call Greg: 631-0917 or 672-2867.
- Dark-stained wood and hunter green tile top dining table and 4 chairs, less than 2 years old, excellent condition; $200. Call: 631-9925, leave message.
- Intel 166mhz, 24 meg memory, complete w/ CD-ROM, Sound card. $28. Bpis, modem, speakers, keyboard, and mouse, 14" SVGA monitor. Includes Windows 95 with the CD. Internet ready! Fully upgradable; Includes Windows 95 with the CD. Internet ready! Upgrades included; $200. Call: 631-9925, leave message.
- Epson laser printer/copier, many extra features+. 2/yr old, like new. $150 O.B.O. Call: 447-3647 after 6 p.m.
- New and used car audio equipment - Clarion, Pioneer, Infinity and more. Leave message: 794-7030 or pager 539-447-3647 after 6 p.m.
- '93 Honda Accord FOR SALE: New and used car audio equipment - Clarion, Pioneer, Infinity and more. Leave message: 794-7030 or pager 539-447-3647 after 6 p.m.
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College recruits high school students

“Hispanics,”
Cont. from page 1

and ethnic groups.

Besides the college’s environment and course offerings, both Perez and Galaz agree that the student organization HOPE (Hispanic Organization to Promote Education) is one of the school’s main benefits for Hispanic students. Perez is in his second term as president of the organization. Galaz is the public relations officer.

“Because of HOPE, I’ve met a lot of other Hispanics. I found out I wasn’t by myself,” said student Vanessa Mendoza. Mendoza, now herself an officer in the organization, said HOPE brings a sense of community to the college.

The student-run organization promotes education through social and educational activities, said Perez. The group also devotes time to the community and recruits students for higher education from area high schools.

“Many Hispanics think there’s nothing after high school,” he said. “They think college is not for them. Since they are minorities, they think they can’t do it.”

Perez said many students are intimidated by the big university concept. Maybe they don’t have the money or maybe they can’t handle classrooms filled with 200 students. Whatever their fears, he believes OKCCC can help.

“The Hispanic Outlook’s” pick list is in its third year of publication. Colleges and universities are chosen based on surveys, college literature, and feedback the publisher receives from students, parents, and professionals in the education field. This is the first year OKCCC has appeared on the list.

DELIVERY DRIVERS

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