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Data Center move will shut down all network systems

By David Miller
Editor

Faculty and students will temporarily be lost in cyberspace as the college's Data Center moves to new quarters and installs updated hardware. Most college computer services will be unavailable from noon, Friday, Dec. 22, until Jan. 2, when the Data Center completes its move into the Robert P. Todd Science, Engineering and Math Center, said James Riha, Information and Instructional Technology Services chief technology officer.

During that time, Riha said, the college e-mail system, Internet access, Datatel, MineOnline and WebCT will be out of service. Network services such as WI-FI, and the local and wide area networks, also will be unavailable.

"The only thing that will be working during this break period is voice mail," he said.

As of noon, Dec. 22, Riha said, college computers will be functional, but anything connected to a network device or to the wireless network — such as network printers — will no longer work because all network wiring connections will have been severed.

What this means, Riha said, is students will have a limited time period in which to check their grades online for the fall semester.

"Grades will be processed through the student information system, and then students will have access to their grades online from Thursday morning through noon on Friday, the 22nd," Riha said.

Riha explained the full effect the shutdown will have on students.

Most OCCC computer services will be unavailable Dec. 22 through Jan. 2:
college e-mail system • Internet access • Datatel • MineOnline • WebCT • Network services — local and wide area networks • WI-FI

See "Move," page 16

Integrated e-mail system crucial, says college bursar

By Drew Hampton
News Writing Student

While the college's new integrated e-mail and Mine Online service was intended primarily as a convenience to students, OCCC Bursar Brandi Henson anticipates it also will be highly useful

for her office to communicate critical financial information to students who might not otherwise be reachable.

"If we send you a statement (by regular mail) and it comes back to us as undeliverable, now we can look you up and find your student e-mail

account," she said.

Henson said her office can then send an e-mail to the student, saying the U.S. mail came back to the college and letting the student know the next payment is due.

Before the e-mail system was in place, Henson said, the Bursar's Office was forced

to hang on to undeliverable statements and financial aid checks in the hope that the student would come in and ask why it had never been delivered by the postal service.

"We need to get word out to students that they've got these e-

mail accounts and that they should be using them," Henson said. "They are receiving communications from the college in those accounts, no doubt."

Henson said that while the system behind these messages

is currently incapable of listing how much is due and when for each student, the Bursar's Office is working to convert their records into the system and hopefully change this in the future.

See "e-mail," page 16

Old Man Winter

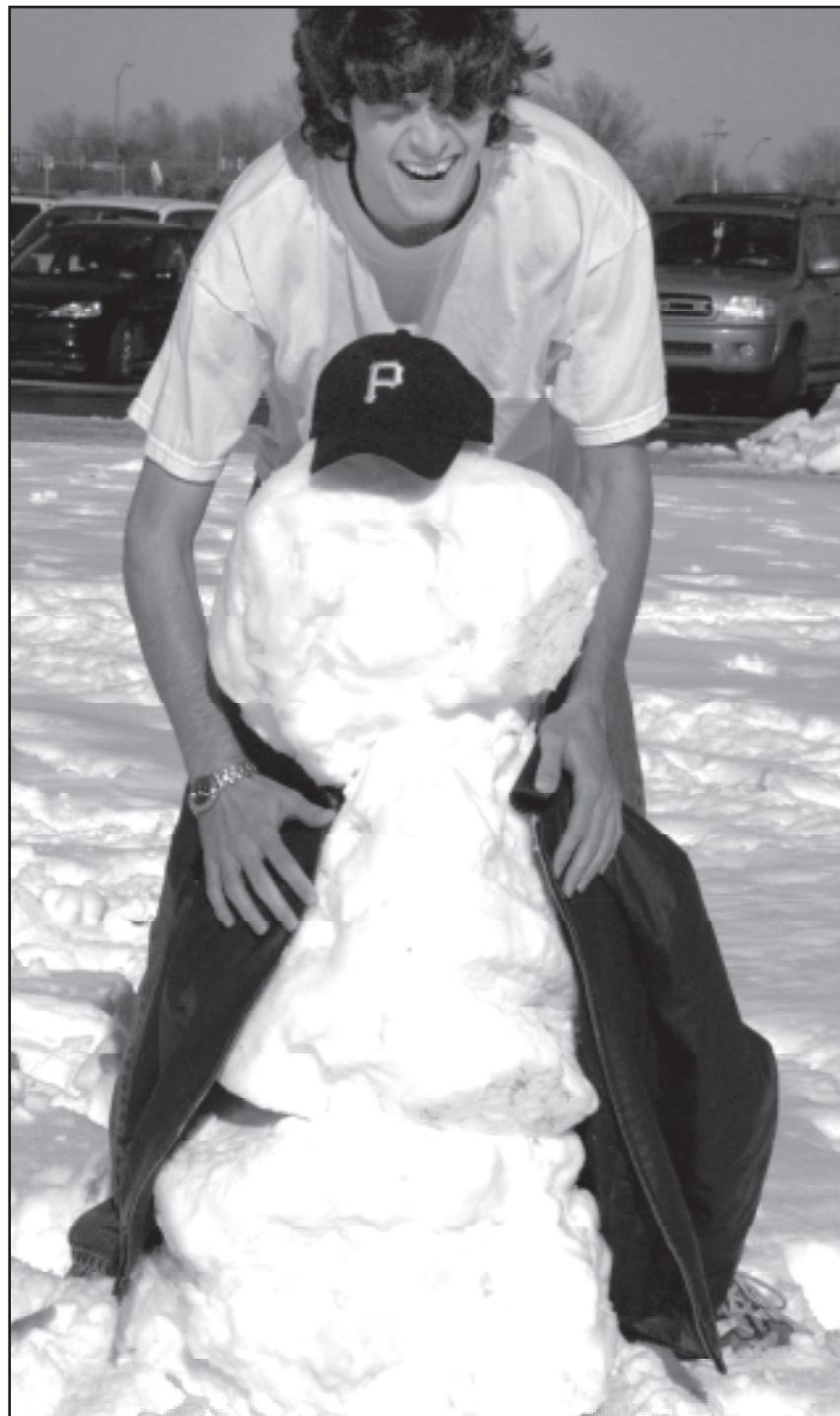


Photo by Carrie Cronk

Sophomore Graphic Communications major Phillip Grimes takes time before his afternoon class to build a snowman on campus Dec. 4. An arctic front the previous week brought several inches of ice and snow, causing the campus to close Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Christmas equals materialism

“There are some things money can’t buy. For Christmas, there’s MasterCard.”

Most Americans pay lip service to shunning materialism, but readily indulge in it in the name of the holiday spirit.

The aftermath of holiday spending binges leaves many consumers feeling guilty.

Should they have spent less on often unnecessary gifts and more on credit card bills, savings accounts or student loan payments?

According to the Credit Union National Association, many shoppers plan to spend less on gifts this holiday season.

However, notes CUNA, many people will spend more than they intended. The resulting “financial hangover” is one with which many are familiar.

The incidence of people spending beyond their means, especially between Thanksgiving and New Year’s, has increased in recent years.

Is it because credit cards make it so simple?

Is it because we really are so susceptible to the wiles of advertising executives (“A diamond is forever.” Translation: “If you really loved her, you’d be willing to finance this rock.”)?

Is it because we crave escape from reality so much we can’t resist a pile of presents?

Or is it harmless, all in good fun, and all part of the true “spirit of Christmas?”

It is important to analyze the reasons so many of us overspend. What satisfaction do the latest holiday toys really provide?

Lots, some would say. That Xbox 360 will provide hours of entertainment. That brand-new SUV will afford its owner invaluable driving pleasure. That new kitchen/office/workshop gadget will simplify life in ways one can’t yet even fathom.

Perhaps.

There’s nothing wrong with wanting to shower loved ones with tokens of appreciation, no harm in enjoying the holiday season’s opportunities to share with and surprise our fellow humans.

In the context of high debt levels, however, one has to question where to draw the proverbial line. This holiday season, people should consider what motivates them to buy what they buy.

Is it because they think gifts will be truly appreciated by the recipients, and because the gifts are within their budgets?

Or, are they simply getting caught up in the materialistic frenzy that tends to grip even the sanest men, women and children when the carols, sales and constant advertising reminders invade malls, superstores and media airwaves?

—Amanda Bittle
Staff Writer

College president sends holiday wish to students

To the Editor:

Holiday Greetings to OCCC Students:

As the fall semester nears its end, we look forward to the upcoming holidays and the break between semesters. I want to extend to each of you, our students, my best wishes for a wonderful, safe, and restful holiday season.

To those of you who have completed your immediate educational goals at OCCC and are moving on in your career or to another college, I wish you great success in your future.

And, I hope to see you back someday, perhaps as a returning student, certainly as an alumnus, or to simply drop by to keep in touch with your OCCC instructors, staff, and friends.

“The gift of learning is one we give to ourselves and one that no one can ever take away.”

—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President

To those who will be returning to OCCC in the new year ahead, I look forward to welcoming you back for the spring semester. I also wish you success as you continue your educational journey with us. The gift of learning is one we give to ourselves and one that no one can ever take away.

May your holidays be filled with joy, and may the new year bring you peace and happiness.

—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President

The Pioneer staff wishes you a pleasant and meaningful holiday season and a spectacularly-festive New Year!



PIONEER

Vol. 35 No. 16

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. However, the PIONEER will withhold the name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity.

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The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: www.occc.edu/pioneer.



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Comments and Reviews

Library staff offers options for second floor assistance

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to Dobry Priboy's recent letter concerning staff on the second floor of the Library.

The librarians and I have had in-depth discussions about this in the past.

Because of staffing and inconsistent activity on the second floor, it did not seem feasible to place a staff member on the second floor permanently.

Also, with a librarian sta-

tioned on the second floor, it would disrupt the quiet study environment we try to maintain.

So, a call phone was placed on a column in the center of the second floor.

When the phone is picked up, it automatically calls down to the Library Assistance Desk.

A librarian will answer and provide help while on the phone, or will come to the second floor in person.

It's very common practice for the librarians to assist patrons in locating materials and they are always happy to do so.

If anyone has any difficulty locating materials or has any questions while on the second floor, please do not hesitate to pick up the phone and request assistance.

—**Barbara King**
Library Services
Director

Bacteria growing out of the petri dish in the science area

To the Editor:

I am a student here at OCCC and I feel that it is part of my duty as a student to work to improve our shared campus.

There is a specific idea that I feel I should share with your readers and the administration in order to better our campus.

You are probably aware of the flooding that occurs with the slightest bit of rain in the science adjunct area of the Main Building.

My math class is held in this part of the building, and I feel this leaking and flooding could become a large problem to myself and fellow students.

Not only does it look cheap and disgusting, but it is growing mold and other allergenic spores and bacteria.

There are several students, as well as myself, who suffer severe reactions to the things growing in the carpet. We suffer from painful, stopped up noses, watery, puffy, itchy eyes, and the inevitable sneezing and discomfort.

I do have an idea that will hopefully help rid this part of the school of the ongoing problem.

My idea is to install tile flooring into this part of the building.

The tile does not have to be anything fancy, just something that will enable the staff and the students to clean up the flooding in an easier and more sanitary fashion.

I do not doubt the students and administration at this school desire to

make the campus look better, and I am confident that this idea will better all parties it concerns.

Please take this into consideration, if not for the nicer look of the school, then for the students' and administration's health. Thank you very much for your time.

—**Lauren Adams**
OCCC Student

Campus security alienates students

To the Editor:

There is a problem with campus security.

They need to learn how to relate to the students more.

One thing I think the whole campus would agree with me on is the fact that campus security looks down on the students like we're criminals ...

It is unbelievable to me these men can look down on us when we are the ones going to school trying to better ourselves, and they are the ones who have chosen to be [security guards].

My solution is that campus security people should

have to go to class ... to help them better understand and relate to the students.

By them attending a class once a month it should open their eyes to the fact that we are not criminals, [that] we are just college students trying to eek by on what we've been given.

Between working two jobs, going to school and doing homework, the last thing I need on my mind is the campus security.

Something definitely needs to be done.

—**Chad Lamberth**
OCCC Student

YOU asked FOR IT

Q: When will the bookstore have the book buyback?

A: The book buyback will be Dec. 11 through Dec. 16. The hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

—**Brenda Reinke**
Bookstore Director

Q: Who makes the decision for the school to be closed, and what does it take to close the school?

A: Donna Nance, our vice president for Business and Finance, makes the decision based on what is happening, and that is because she has her sources from the Physical Plant and Safety and Security to inform her of any situation or event. She also has spotters on the roads checking the situation here with our parking lots.

—**Pat Berryhill**
Institutional Advancement Executive Director

Q: Why aren't there enough parking spaces in the main parking lot between the library and Child Development Center?

A: The school works on a 5- to 8-year strategic plan for its construction projects, and building a new parking lot would need to be an official part of that strategic plan. Also, parking spaces have been added to Lot A twice.

—**Gary Phillips**
Building and Campus Services Supervisor

Q: Why isn't there a smoking area within the school?

A: To build a smoking area inside would be of great cost to the school. The smoking area would have to be completely redesigned so it could be closed off from the rest of the school's offices, classrooms and public areas. It also would have to be well-ventilated.

—**Gary Phillips**
Building and Campus Services Supervisor

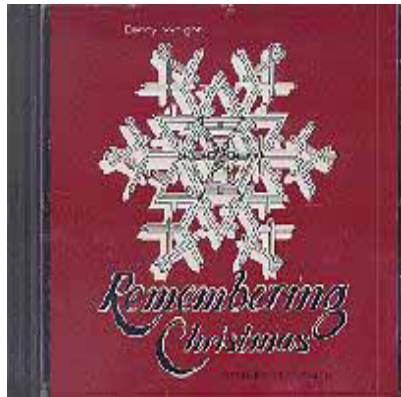
Q: Can a person in a position of authority at OCCC hire someone he or she is romantically involved with?

A: The college uses an employment process that involves several individuals in the hiring of any new staff member. The individuals involved in the process include, in many cases, an interview committee, the position supervisor, the dean or director over the area, the President Cabinet member, human resources, and the president of the college. These efforts are designed to help ensure we make good hiring decisions that are in the best interest of college.

—**Larry Robertson**
Senior Human Resources Specialist

Comments and Reviews

College leaders share holiday music

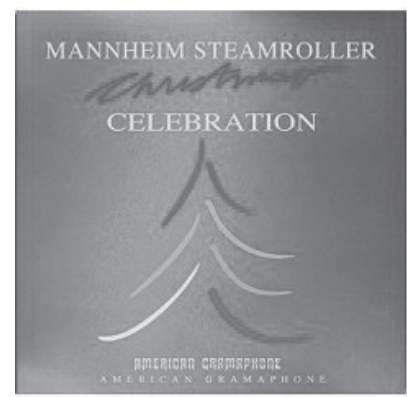


“Remembering Christmas’ by Danny Wright is my pick. Danny Wright is an exceptional pianist who adds his improvisations to classic Christmas music. This music works as background music for a party or for just relaxing with a cup of hot cider.”

—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President

“Mannheim Steamroller would be my favorite. It makes me feel good and gets me in the holiday spirit.”

—Brenda Harrison
Academic Affairs
Associate Vice President



“[The Ally McBeal Christmas album is] just a nice selection of Christmas songs. Some of them are non-traditional Christmas songs, and I like that.”

—Susan VanSchuyver
Arts and Humanities Dean

“[Bing Crosby’s Christmas music] sounds like Christmas ought to.”

—Max Simmons
Science and Mathematics
Dean



‘Wah-Wah’ DVD may make renters cry

A dysfunctional family is at the center of the British film “Wah-Wah,” which was recently released on DVD.

It’s 1969, and the British Compton family live in Swaziland, Africa.

When Lauren (Miranda Richardson, “Sleepy Hollow”) and Harry Compton (Gabriel Byrne, “Vanity Fair,” “The Usual Suspects”) get divorced, their 12-year-old son Ralph (Zac Fox) takes it upon himself to go to boarding school in order to avoid the chaos.

To make it apparent that a considerable amount of time has passed since he left for school, a new actor, Nicholas Hoult (“About a Boy”) is brought in to portray 14-year-old Ralph after he returns home.

When Ralph returns, things are no less chaotic than when he left. He now has a new American stepmother, Ruby (Emily Watson, “Tim Burton’s Corpse Bride”), who seems to be the only responsible adult present in Ralph’s life.



At first glance, the movie seems as though it might be a coming-of-age story

with heart. However, “Wah-Wah” is as boring as a movie can get. Although the movie is only an hour and 45 minutes, it feels much longer.

The story fails to progress because each scene contains the same content of the last: the drunken father apologizing, the selfish mother being intolerable, and the frustrated son torn between parents.

Unfortunately, the DVD content doesn’t fare much better in the entertainment

department. The disc has virtually no special features.

Of course, subtitles are offered, as are preview trailers for other movies, but that is all.

Neither the movie, nor the DVD, is worth the time or energy it would take to drive to the video store.

“Wah-Wah” is rated R for language and brief sexuality.

Rating: D+

—Rachel Carlton
Staff Writer

‘Nativity Story’ dark, yet still family friendly

Many Christians living in the Bible Belt just might be surprised by the new film, “The Nativity Story.”

The film, showing the birth of Jesus, follows a path similar to that of “The Passion of the Christ.”

The film is not directed by Mel Gibson, but rather by Catherine Hardwicke, known for her teenage films “Thirteen” and “Lords of Dogtown.”

“Nativity” shows a 13-year-old Mary who is forced

into marriage with an older Joseph, an image quite different from what Sunday school teachers relay.

Keisha Castle-Hughes (“Whale Rider”) portrays Mary, the woman chosen to give birth to Jesus.

Castle-Hughes gives a superb performance that is geared toward teenagers and young adults.

Starring opposite of Castle-Hughes as Joseph is relatively unknown actor Oscar Isaac.

The start of the film is actually the end of the story.

The opening scenes show the murdering of young male infants and toddlers, ordered by Herrod to eliminate future rivals for his throne.

Flash back a year earlier and the countdown begins.

To understand the opening scenes, audience members will have to watch the rest of the movie, which does explain the strange beginning.

The film doesn’t stray too much from the plot and will have viewers’ eyes glued to the screen with images of landscapes and a culture much different from ours today.

The film isn’t all serious, though.

The three wise men give a bit of comic relief that comes out of nowhere.

Although unexpected, it is a plus.

The score of the film is crafted into the movie so

perfectly it will go relatively unnoticed.

Finally, the filming is done so that moviegoers won’t have to strain their eyes or have harsh shadows and angles thrown at them.

Overall, the film is one that pleases and a perfect Christmas film for the family, once the beginning has passed.

Rating: A

—Phillip Hemphill
Staff Writer

Testing Center plans to toss out pens, paper

By Spencer Livingston-Gainey
News Writing Student

OCCC plans to replace pencil-and-paper tests in the Testing Center with electronic versions by 2009. The practice of taking tests electronically is known as e-testing.

Jim Ellis, Testing and Assessment director, is in charge of the process.

He informed the Faculty Association of the plans Nov. 28.

The transition from the current system to electronic testing would

cost somewhere around \$300,000, Ellis said.

The costs would include 80 new computers, along with chairs, desks and the re-wiring of the Testing Center.

The College is in the process of seeking a grant to secure the funding for the new equipment.

The growing number of students attending OCCC, as well as the efficiency of having the tests on computers, are factors in the decision to implement e-testing.

Students would know how well they scored on a test right after

taking it, Ellis said.

Also, the professor would have instant access to the test for their files.

Ellis said he wants the e-testing process to be as easily understood as possible, so people who are not technology-savvy will not feel alienated.

"I am not a technical person, so I need to understand each step as it goes along," Ellis said.

Students' reactions to the new testing process were positive, yet there were still some concerns.

"I think it is a good idea as long

as they have people to assist students if they need help" said Freshman Cheriecea Medina.

Victoria Murray, a senior at OU who is also enrolled at OCCC, was also interested, but skeptical.

"It's a good idea because it speeds up the process, but there is always a chance the computers will record things inaccurately," she said.

Ellis plans to visit universities that already employ e-testing to better understand the aspects that he needs to know about to have it successfully implemented at OCCC.

Diverse group of nursing students to graduate

By Tia Kishketon
News Writing Student

About 50 to 60 nursing students are expected to graduate this semester, said Connie Kuebeck, nursing professor.

A pinning ceremony for the graduates will take place at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15.

There will be a reception immediately following the ceremony to congratulate the students and give

them a chance to mingle with family, friends and fellow graduates.

Nursing graduates come from different life paths, Kuebeck said.

Some of the students came to the program straight out of high school and others have grandchildren.

"I even have a mother and daughter in the program this semester," Kuebeck said.

There are several international students in the program this semester, as well.

Kuebeck said students come from places such as Africa, Spain, India, Pakistan and Germany.

Kuebeck said she is proud of the students for their commitment to the program.

"For many students, this has been a struggle because the time and commitment of nursing school is extremely demanding," Kuebeck said.

"But even though many of them feel overwhelmed in the beginning,

they always feel that it is all worth it in the end."

Kuebeck said she is excited that the long, hard road is over and the nursing graduates can now go on to enjoy their new careers.

The majority of the graduates already have jobs lined up.

During the first year, many change their jobs as they try to figure out exactly what they like and don't like about the duties of nursing, Kuebeck said.

Children encourage U.S. troops overseas

By Amanda Bittle
Staff Writer

The holidays are a time for connecting with family and friends.

Members of the U.S. armed forces who are stationed overseas, however, often spend the season thousands of miles from their loved ones.

Three years ago, OCCC Student Spencer Cluff launched Operation Kids 4 Troops to show U.S. soldiers they are not forgotten back home.

In 2005, Operation Kids 4 Troops was a statewide endeavor, connecting approximately 40,000 letters to troops in the Middle East, Cluff said.

This year, the operation has handled 20,000 letters in the past two months alone.

The project helps provide morale-boosting letters and

drawings from U.S. children to troops serving in the Middle East, Cluff said.

Cluff has experience in both active duty and reserve military. He currently serves in the Air Force Reserve.

He also teaches Health Career Certification classes at Metro Tech's Springlake campus, and studies at both OCCC and the University of Central Oklahoma.

He said he was inspired to make American children more aware of the services U.S. troops perform for the country.

"I wanted to amalgamate my civilian life as a teacher with my life in the military and instill a sense of patriotism in Oklahoma youth," he said.



Though the program began with Oklahoma schoolchildren, since its inception, students from more than 10 states have sent letters through Kids 4 Troops.

Cluff receives soldiers' names through a partnership with www.anysoldier.com, he said. Soldiers add their names to a list on the website, requesting correspondence from home.

Cluff and his wife Carrie then collect, package and mail bundles of supportive letters to the troops.

Another route letters can take to the soldiers involves a partnership with Operation Gratitude.

Operation Gratitude sends care packages to deployed troops.

The program's organizers already send thousands of

parcels but were looking for more letters to send with them, Cluff said.

Letters collected by Operation Kids 4 Troops are sent to Operation Gratitude in bulk and attached to the packages.

The program has received attention from a number of Oklahoma politicians, Cluff said.

U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn and Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin are among the politicians who have praised Cluff's efforts.

Operation Kids 4 Troops also has attracted the attention of local media.

The Daily Oklahoman, The Norman Transcript, The Yukon Review and The Mustang Times all have featured Cluff's work numerous times, he said.

News channels 4, 5 and 9 also have provided the program with media attention.

The website www.kids4

troops.com has received 100,000 hits from 26 countries during the past 10 weeks.

With the increased business, Operation Kids 4 Troops could use more volunteers, Cluff said.

People are needed to read through letters and to help maintain the website.

Donations also are welcome and help to offset the cost of overseas postage, he said.

For more information on Operation Kids 4 Troops, or to send a letter or volunteer, visit www.kids4troops.com

Staff Writer Amanda Bittle can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

**Voice your opinion.
It's FREE
Write the editor at
editor@occc.edu**

Nursing Prof adds country flair to program

By **Laura Pittman**
News Writing Student

Nursing Professor Michaele Cole not only devotes her time to nursing, but also spends some of her time “chasing kids and cows,” she said.

Cole is one of two new nursing professors who will begin teaching at OCCC next semester.

She lives on a ranch with her husband, their

four children, two boys and twin girls, and a lot of cows, she said.

With her father being an agriculture teacher, Cole has lived on a farm her entire life. She would “practice” her skills of nursing on the cows on her farm while she was growing up. She said she comes from a long line of nurses, but her pas-



Michaele Cole

sion to become a nurse actually came from her mother, who also was a nurse.

Rosemary Klepper, the nursing program director at OCCC, said the program is very glad to have Cole’s experience to add to the success of their future.

“The hiring of the two new professors completes our cohort of faculty and we are very pleased,” she said. “From a nursing background, Michaele Cole has great experience, as well as a strong teaching background,” Klepper said.

Cole said she is very excited to be hired at OCCC and to be able to work for the nursing program.

“The faculty is very friendly, very helpful and very knowledgeable here.” Cole said.

“I feel very fortunate to be here and I am excited to continue the academic standard.”

Cole started her undergraduate work at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. She then went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in nursing as well as her master’s in human relations from the University of Oklahoma.

She taught at Mid America Technology Center in Oklahoma City from 1995 to 2006 where she taught high school students in the nursing program.

She said many of the students she taught at the technology center transferred to OCCC because of the outstanding nursing program.

Cole also works for many hospitals in the metro area, including Deaconess, Integris Baptist, Integris Mental Health and Southwest Medical where she is a medical surgical nurse as well as a psychiatric nurse.

Cole said her goal at OCCC is to help continue the excellence of the school as well as the nursing program.

Documentary teaches about ugliness of war

By **Ian Coe Smith**
News Writing Student

OCCC students attended a showing of “Why We Fight,” a popular documentary film by Eugene Jarecki. The OCCC Advocates of Peace Club and the College Democrats hosted the viewing to a small audience Nov. 29.

The film asks questions regarding the American military and how it is used by the government in present day warfare.

“Why We Fight” digs deep into World War II, the Vietnam War and the current war in Iraq, and appears to be against President Bush’s use of the military.

The film portrays America as a power-hungry country that intends to spread democracy all over the world.

The film uses the current

War in Iraq and other post-9/11 examples, such as issues in North Korea and Iran, to illustrate its views.

Students and faculty also expressed their own views in response.

Psychology major Yareni Alvarado said the film made her question the ethics of modern warfare.

“People don’t know the reality of warfare,” she said, in regard to the violent images the film showed.

Stephen Morrow, Advocates of Peace sponsor, said, “The film raises good questions about the U.S. being a strong military country.

“True education means having the opportunity to share and discuss ideas,” Morrow said. “Without [student] groups, OCCC wouldn’t have a real college.”

YOUR OFFICIAL TEXTBOOK BUYBACK

“Why should I sell to my Bookstore”

Should You Sell to Your Bookstore or an Online Buyer?

Selling your used textbooks online may sound like a good deal, but have you weighed the costs and benefits?

	Buyback at Bookstore	Selling Books Online
Cash payment	✓	
On-the-spot payment	✓	
Guaranteed funds	✓	
Buyer takes books immediately	✓	
Used books stay on your campus	✓	
Packing and mailing hassle		✓
Shipping charges & hidden fees		✓

YOUR OFFICIAL TEXTBOOK BUYBACK

O.C.C.C. BOOKSTORE

MON., DEC. 11,	8:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
TUES. - THURS., DEC. 12 - 14,	8:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
FRI., DEC. 15,	8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 16,	9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

Four-sided pole delivers peaceful message

By **Cheriecea Medina**
News Writing Student

OCCC's Advocates of Peace club will plant a Peace Pole on campus Jan. 25 to help promote the idea of spreading peace across the world.

"It has been a special dream of mine to have a Peace Pole for students, faculty, all of us," said Stephen Morrow, Learning Skills professor and club sponsor. "We can work a little bit harder for peace."

"It will be a reminder for all of us that we all can help make the world better," he said.

Morrow said he was interested in the peace poles and began researching them. He found where a man named Dennis Watson had donated one and where the pole was being planted.

"I met Dennis at the Joy Mennonite church and began talking to him," Morrow said. "Dennis also donated the pole that will be planted here as well."

The pole is made of red cedar and will be six-and-a-half feet tall after

installation, Watson said.

Morrow said the pole, which has four sides and is pointed at the top, has "May Peace Prevail on Earth" written in four languages, one on each side.

"There's English, Arabic, Spanish and Cheyenne (an American Indian language)," Morrow said.

"We hope to build a flower bed around the pole," Morrow said. "We are looking for symbolic colors for the flowers."

The Advocates of Peace club represented OCCC at the Oklahoma Peace Festival, an annual event that promotes peace.

"Our table was successful," Morrow said. "We had a couple hundred visitors, sold cookies and peace buttons."

In 1955, the first Peace Pole was planted in Hiroshima.

"It was planted by a survivor of Hiroshima," Watson said. "There are over 250,000 around the world in over 180 countries."

For more information, visit www.worldpeace.org/wpps.html or call Morrow at 405-682-1611, ext. 7350.



Stephen Morrow, Learning Skills Professor and Advocates of Peace club sponsor, displays the Peace Pole which was donated to the club and the college by Dennis Watson, a member of Veterans for Peace. Watson constructed the pole and fashioned the design after 250,000 poles displayed globally. The pole displays the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages: English, Arabic, Spanish and Cheyenne. The club has set a tentative date for the dedication of the Peace Pole as April 4.

Photo by Carrie Cronk



Brookwood Village Apartments

9401 South Shartel
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73139
405-691-2661

and

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Seasonal blues manageable

By **Scott D'Amico**
Staff Writer

The holiday season can bring end-of-the-semester elation and holiday cheer, but it also can bring feelings of sadness and loneliness.

Those feelings during the holiday season may be seen as depression, but one OCCC psychology professor doesn't think that's entirely true.

"I think people around this time of year are probably talking about sadness," said Yuthika Kim.

"So they could have a sense of probably loneliness but that wouldn't be depression within itself."

Kim said one ailment that might affect people at this

time of the year is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

According to the Mayo Clinic's website, SAD is a form of depression that can affect people in either the summer or winter. However, the site reports SAD is more prevalent during the winter than the summer.

According to the National Mental Health Disorders Association, the average onset age for SAD is 23. They also report that approximately 10 to 20 percent of the population suffers from some degree of SAD during the winter.

"You might see [SAD] more often during the wintertime here than at any other time of the year," Kim said.

He said this disorder is seen more in the north, but that it is something seen in this region of the country, as well.

Kim said the loss of daylight during this time of the year is one factor that can cause SAD.

"The person isn't exposed to as much sunlight as he or she may need, and that's actually one of the theories to it," Kim said when asked what caused the disorder.

"And there's less outside engagement [than] there is during the summertime or spring."

Kim said it's important to stay vigilant about symptoms that can occur when a person is feeling sad or lonely at this time of year, especially when that person

could be experiencing some form of depression.

Some of those symptoms include: a depressed mood, problems concentrating, changes in sleeping habits, preoccupation with thoughts of death or suicide, or feelings of guilt and hopelessness.

"It's actually a paradox," Kim said.

"One of the things that a person who is clinically depressed will [do is] push away. But what they actually need the most is social connections and a social network."

Kim said people who are depressed will commonly avoid people they are close to.

"They generally put up a wall and they wear a façade, a mask, and pretend everything is OK and things aren't," he said.

That paradox can be a hard wall to push down, but, Kim said, if you truly

care about that person, it's important to keep trying to break that wall down.

"If you truly love this person, it's important to be persistent," he said. "This person is only going to help themselves, but when they are ready you need to be there."

Mary Turner, Student Development Counselor, said the school itself doesn't provide therapy for students.

However, she said, they do refer students for help dependent upon factors such as the student's location and whether or not they have health insurance.

She said the counselors have referral guides to help them point students in the right direction for help if counselors believe students are exhibiting signs of a depressive disorder.

Staff Writer Scott D'Amico can be reached at onlineeditor@occc.edu.

Lend a hand this December

'Tis the season to give and there are many different places in Oklahoma looking for volunteers to help.

•**Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma** is accepting volunteers. Volunteers are needed for sorting, weighing, bagging and boxing groceries, and helping with food drives and special events.

Volunteers of all ages are accepted and schedules are flexible. For more information, call a Volunteer Coordinator at 405-604-7110.

•**Love Link Ministries** provides people with volunteer opportunities that fit their interests. The organization helps the poor and homeless.

It offers volunteer positions for recovery program mentors, food pantry directors, clothes sorters and donation pick-up managers. For more information, call 405-239-6219.

•**Regional AIDS Intercommunity Network (RAIN OK)** is looking for volunteers. According to its website, oklahomacity.org.

backpage.com, "volunteers drive clients living with HIV/AIDS to and from doctor's appointments and other social services appointments in Oklahoma City."

For more information, call Sarah Blaney, volunteer coordinator, at 405-232-2437, ext. 110.

•**Operation Santa Paws for Abused/Abandoned Dogs and Cats** is looking for help. The goal of the organization is to collect toys and treats for abandoned dogs and cats in the care of animal shelters and rescues. For more information, contact Organizer Justin Rudd at JustinRudd@aol.com.

•**The Christmas Store of Cleveland County** is looking for volunteers to stock shelves and prepare the store for shoppers.

According to the store's website, www.ou.edu/oupd, it is set up to help low-income families shop for what they need for Christmas. For more information, contact Ruth Boyd or Mary Belden at 405-301-7900.

Battle seasonal downs with helpful contacts

•**www.depression.com** offers advice on understanding depression, treating depression, and living with it.

•**www.ifred.org** is a site dedicated to researching causes of depression as well as giving support to people who are dealing with depression.

•**http://depression.about.org** offers information concerning depression as well as other helpful links for people trying to understand depression.

•**The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health Crisis and Information Line**, open 24 hours/ 7 days a week. Call 1-800-522-9054.

•**National suicide hotlines:** Call 1-800-SUICIDE or 1-800-273-TALK.



Happy holidays from
the Pioneer staff!
Visit www.occc.edu/pioneer
over the break for news
exclusives.

Staff gift picks aim to please

The Pioneer staff made a list of what they would like to find under their Christmas trees, and what they wouldn't mind wrapping for someone else. Take a peek at the goodies:

One staff writer, Amanda Bittle, recommends house-plants.

"They add life to a room and many varieties require limited care and no expertise," she said. "Plants, pots and soil can be purchased for less than \$10 total at greenhouses or the gar-



den section of places like Target and Wal-Mart."

Staff Writer Phillip Hemphill prefers a hot cup of java with Starbucks' Coffee and Tea Break gift basket. At \$40, the basket includes several packages of Starbucks brand coffee, biscotti, hot cocoa, teas and more. If interested, visit www.starbucks.store.com.



Video games are always at the top of the list for

many people during Christmastime. Staff Writer John Savage recommends the Xbox 360.

"The Xbox 360 plays movies, music, television shows, has downloadable games, and has a range of Xbox-only titles," Savage said.

Savage recommends picking up the Premium package which includes a hard drive, Ethernet cable, HDTV component cables, a wireless system controller and more. The price tag? A cool \$399.

"You won't even have to wait out in the cold to get one. Several stores have it on hand, including Best Buy and Target."

Tim Cronk, the Pioneer's advertising manager, said he just wants to be able to play video games. And to do that, Cronk said a new computer would be the thing to help him do it.

New gaming computers start as low as \$1,400, but can get near the \$3,000 ballpark. Shop around and compare prices to find the best holi-

day deal.

Online Editor Scott D'Amico has sports on his mind when it comes to this year's perfect gift.

"All I want for Christmas is a ticket to the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl to see OU smack around Idaho's version of the UCO Broncos," D'Amico said.

Price of admission: \$180.

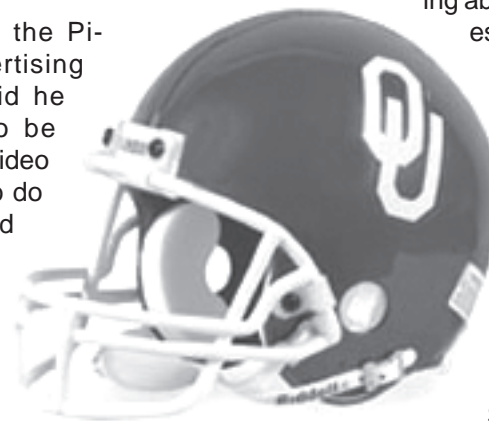
And, finally, Editor David Miller recommends, and wants, something "hauntingly beautiful and disturbing with lush, gothic images." Miller's talking about "Immune," the latest coffee table photog-

raphy book by Floria Sigismondi.

The book costs about \$44 with free shipping from Amazon.com.

Miller said Sigismondi forces viewers to question what is considered normal.

She has photographed the likes of famous personalities David Bowie, Tricky, Marilyn Manson, Erikah Badu and Leonard Cohen.



Oklahoma lights up for the holidays

Oklahoma is getting in the holiday spirit by offering many professional light displays around the metro area:

•**Yukon's Christmas in the Park** features a 100-acre drive through various light displays. The park is open from 6 to 11 p.m. through Dec. 31. It is located along Jim Watson Drive, Freedom Trail Playground and Chisholm Trail Park. Admission is free.

•**Midwest City's Holiday Lights Spectacular** includes a 118-foot Christmas tree, a tunnel of lights, and 80 lighted, waterfall and animated displays.

Horse-drawn carriage rides can be taken through the mile-long display. It is open from 6 to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 6 to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday.

It is open nightly through Dec. 30 and takes place in Joe B. Barnes Regional Park. Admission is free.

•**OG&E Garden Lights at Myriad Botanical Gardens and Crystal Bridge:** The display, located downtown at Reno and Robinson, offers a walking tour through 17 acres of lights. The display is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. It is open until Jan. 1 and admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids, and \$5 for students and seniors.

•**Kerr-McGee Holidays on the Canal:** Located downtown, this display features a ride through lighted Bricktown on the canal in a Bricktown Water Taxi. Admission is free and the display is open nightly from 6 to 9:30 p.m. until Dec. 31. It will be closed Christmas Eve.

•**Bethany Children's Center Christmas Wonderland:** Drive through this lighted display and experience holiday music, live costumed characters and photos with Santa.

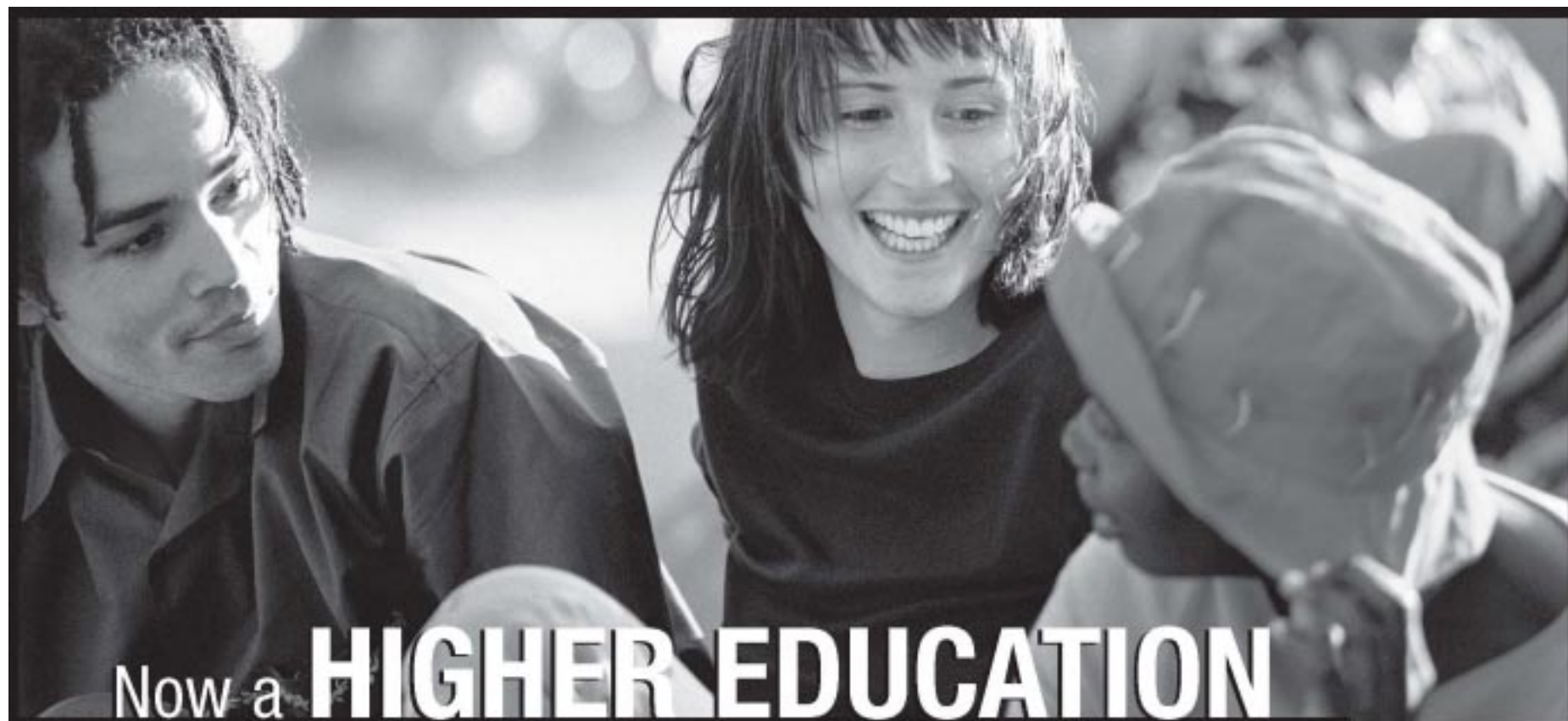
The display is open nightly 6 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 25 at The Children's Center located on 6800 N.W. 39th Expressway. Admission is free but donations are welcome.



Decorate your mind with these holiday facts

- The use of a Christmas wreath symbolizes welcome and long life to all who enter.
- Real Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states.
- For every real Christmas tree harvested, two to three seedlings are planted in its place.
- In 1836, Alabama was the first state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.
- The biggest-selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's "White Christmas."
- Due to the time zones, Santa has 31 hours to deliver gifts. This means he has to visit 832 homes a second..
- Three years after Thomas Edison invented the electric light bulb, Edward H. Johnson, who worked for Edison, had Christmas tree bulbs made for himself.
- The first postage stamp to commemorate Christmas was issued in Austria in 1937.

—Source: www.20ishparents.com



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Fall graduates make the list

The following are fall 2006 graduates. Spring 2006 graduates were listed in the May 1, 2006 issue of the Pioneer.

It can be found in our archives section at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

Valerie Adair, Sharmila Ahmad, Odianosen Akhigbe, Jonathan Albarran, Michael Albert, Ayn Alder, Allison Alexander, John Alexander.

Mikal Alexander, Ramin Alghojeh, Sherie Allison, Meagan Andrews, Jenna Arens, Debbi Armstrong, Drew Ary, Danielle Ashe, Sarah Atkinson.

David Ayadpoor, Fakhrul Azim, Zomi Bai, Carlana Bailey, Donita Baker, Heidi Baker, Jamie Baker, John Baker, Stephany Baker, Tosha Barber.

Jennifer Barbour, Kimberly Barnett, Karen Bartelme, Tyler Barton, Phillip Batdorf, Kelli Bates, Tiffany Beasley, Gavin Beck, Erica Belluci, Kasey Bené.

Wilma Benson, Tracey Berrios, Rosa Bigham, Linda Blackburne, Shad Blackburne, Shirley Blakley, Larita Blandon, Rochelle Bohanon.

Christopher Bojarski, Lauren Bond, Richard Bonge, Joshua Booth, Stephanie Borders, Dana Bost, Kristen Bowen, Benny Boyles, Terry Brady.

Gary Bramlett, Connie Branch, Heather Brand, Eric Braun, Dustin Brewer, Sara Brickley, Amber Broadbooks, Dwayne Brown, Heather Brown.

James Brown, Jeffery Brown, Phoebe Brown, David Buchanan, Brian Buettner, Lacey Buettner, Carina Bullock, Archie Burch, John Burcher.

Lyndsie Burnell, Jessica Burt, Krista Butler, Sarah Butler, Micah Campbell, Anthony Campe, Emily Cannon, Cesar Cano, Robert Cantu, Paul Carabajal.

Bobbie Card, Christopher Cardinal, Rachel Carlton, Margaret Carney, Maquetta Carolina, Everett Carr, Michael Carrington, Nicholas Casey, Jeremy Caudle.

Elizabeth Celayo, Juan Cervantez, Scott Charlton, Rocky Chavez, Tiffany Cluck, Rebekah Cochran, Donald Cochran III, Kay Collett, Kimberly Collins.

Gina Coogle, Kristen Cox, Tyler Cox, Donald Craft, James Craft, Helen Craig, Brittany Crawford, Franklin Cromack, Terrance Dailey, Nathan D'Andrea.

A. T. Dang, Michael Dang, David Daniluk, Malikata Dano, Matthew Danuser, Taffi

Davenport, Delores Davila, Kyle Davis, Silvia de Loera.

Natalie Deitz, Ariel Derrick, DeAnna DeVore, Kasandra Dewbré, Liza DeWitt, Kevin DeYoung, Ahmadou Diallo, Tiffany Dilworth, To Oanh Doan.

Mark Donnelson, Crystal Doty, Robert Doty, Jessica Douglas, Philip Douglas, David Droscher, Matthew Drummond, Cindy Duckworth, Cody Dunbar.

Lucia Duncan, Laura Easter, Adam Edmonds, Brittany Edwards, Jacqueline Edwards, Saad El Bakkouri, Gena Elmore, Christopher Fairbanks.

Santana Falkenstein, Adekolapo Famuagun, Julie Farley, Robert Feezor, Marius Fegaing, Sean Fenton, Paul Ferguson, Philip Feuerborn.

Nubia Fiesel, Tammie Fifer, Lacy Files, Richard Fink, S. Finley, LeShawn Fisher, Sherry Fisk, Jeremy Flaum, Evert Ford, Renina Forshee.

Dawn Foster, Cynthia Franklin, Katharine Franklin, Brodie Frazier, Mikel Frazier, Frances Fretz, Jennifer Frye, Hanslovan, Nkapol Gajajiva, Jordan Garner, David Garrett.

Kristi Geary, Holly Gehrke, Cheryl George, Argyrios Gerakis, Catherine Gilligan, Kelli Gilliland, Tina Glatzer, Kayla Glenn, Cynthia Goad, Joseph Godwin.

Shana Goldstein, Andrew Gonzales, Stephanie Gonzales Adcock, Elsa Gonzalez, Cassie Goodwin, Jessica Goolsby, Daniel Graham, Logann Grasteit.

David Greene, Joey Griffith, Christine Guerra, Joseph Guerrero, Azfar Gul, Mitchell Hack, Nicole Haddad, George Hailey, Brittney Hallford.

Trina Hallmark, Clayton Haltom, Christopher Hamblin, Jeremy Hancock, Joshua Hanna, Saud Haq, Kensi Hargraves, Shatanya Harris, Julie Hatleli.

LaDonna Haycraft, Adrill Hayes, Joseph Haymon, Benjamin Hearne, Brandon Hedrick, Abigail Heilaman, Katia Heistand, Christie Henderson.

Michael Henson, Katie Hewett, DeWayne Hill, Susan Hill, Teresa Hill, Joshua Hinkle, Zac Hixson, Brandy Hodges, Brittney Hodges.

Christopher Holland, Brian Holsey, Justin Holt, Carolyn Honeywell, Jennie Hope, Weiching How, Chris Howell, Tony Hua, Jeremy Hudson, Brittany Huff.

Artoya Huggins, Samantha Hughes, Jacob Hunt, Keith Hurdelbrink II, Karena Hurst, Tamara Hurt, Susie Hyman, Joyce Ibeagha, Jerrod Idle-

man.

Andres Isaac, Jenny Isokrari, Randi Ivie, Muhammad Javed, Ray Jeffrey, Hayley Jenkins, Sagi John, Amy Johns, Dylan Johnson, Kimberley Johnson.

Madison Johnson, Connie Jones, Jacquelyn Jones, Mary Jones, Paul Jones, Fatu Kamara, Leslie Kanakembizi, James Kariuki, Kristina Kay.

Yusef Kazemi, Michael Kee, Marguerite Keely, Yesenia Keester, Christopher Kerr, Farzad Khalili, Rita Khouri, Christy Kinslow, Jarrett Kitch.

Novah Klein, Jessica Koppacka, Daniel Kovic, Christopher Kozloski, Kile Kuykendall, Kari Kuzniar, William Landreth, Lisa Lasiter, Amy Laverty, Loan Le.

Nga Le, Christian Leclercq, Michael Lee, Krystle Leonard, Eric Leung, Felecia Lewis, Frederick Lieu, Rebecca Linger, David Littlejohn, Amber Louch.

Summer Loveless, Elizabeth Lovett, Cesley Loyd, Omar Lozano, Agnieszka Lucka, Jenessa Lyons, Jennifer Maertzweiler, Rosa Magee, Jesse Mak.

Abigail Mallonee, Shelly Manovskyy, Brenda Marby, Mayra Marin, Darren Markwardt, Jacqueline Marquez, Sherry Mars, Monica Marshall.

Terry Martin, Kelly Martinez Ray, Summer Marty, Asal Massahi, Julie Maxwell, Trisha Maze, Tiffany McClung, Christopher McCorkle, Bradley McCoy.

Amber McDonald, Joyce McDonald, Sheryl McDonald, Linda McGahan, Debbie McKaughan, Vanessa McLaughlin, Kristi McMasters.

Travis Meadows, Mussie Mebrahtu, Shanese Medina, Aaron Mell, Jacob Melton, Jacob Merrill, Tanya Messner Black, Zyanna Meyers, Donna Miller.

Albani Milton, Lee Montano, Alexandria Montgomery, Matt Montgomery, Kristin Mooter, Bernini Morota, Ashley Morris, Kathryn Morris.

Elijah Muhammad, Uzair Muhammad, Jessica Mullins, Cintia Murillo, Marilyn Murphy, Mary Murphy, Theodore Murphy Jr., Jane Musau, Amanda Myers.

Leila Ndomche Kondo, Tiffany Newman, William Newman III, Ashley Newton, Tammy Ngo, Pat Nguyen, Joseph Nida, Ty North, Chase Nottingham.

Mwanga Nsa, Lola Odom, Rodolfo Oledan, Rosa Olivo, Lorrie O'Neal, Jason Orr, Sean Osborn, David Osborne, Leslie Outland, Lori Pace, Beatrice

Padilla.

Mike Palmer, Jennifer Parsons, Robert Parsons Jr., Brandi Paschal, Jack Patchell, Marcin Pawelski, Shawn Peek, Sally Pelfrey, Jacob Pennington.

James Penno, Heather Perry, Misty Perry, Thanh Pham, Trang Pham, Uyen Pham, Valerie Pham, Shaila Pharis, Rachel Picott, Staci Pinkerton, Johnathan Pitt.

Dennis Plavilapadinjattethil, Ashley Plemons, Matthew Pogue, Jessica Pope, Kelly Porter, Lois Potter, Christopher Price, Christie Ramirez.

Lauretta Ramirez, Taniessa Ramsey, Kari Reed, Dacia Richardson, Erin Richardson, Corey Rider, Ramona Rider, Ronald Riggs, Reinaldo Rivera Jr.

Jeremy Ro, Keyadia Roberson, Miranda Roberson, Diana Roberts, Eyan Roberts, Leah Roberts, Kristi Robinett, Carlos Robinson, Tracey Robinson.

Jason Robletto, Adrian Rosado, Karolena Rosson, Susan Rowe, Jason Ruhl, Ashley Ryan, Tammera Saavedra, Ashfia Salemin, Jeffrey Samuel.

Kiana Sanders, Stephanie Sanders, Marta Sanjuan, Chanel Scheele, Celeste Scheihing, Wesley Schultz, Kenneth Scoggins, Michael Scott.

Parvana Scott, Michael Searle, Rebecca Seaton, Ashley Segura, Selena Seraj, Robert Seward, Travis Shatley, Bryan Sherman, Anthony Shuler.

Brian Shultzabarger, Danielle Shuman, Christopher Simon, Colette Simpkins, Brandy Simpson, Cassidy Sims, Keri Skaggs, Peggy Slavin.

William Smiley III, Bianca Smith, Cody Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Kamber Smith, Robert Smith, Jessica Snellen, Ernest

Sorrell, Mary Southard, Timothy Spaulding.

George Sports Sr., Lindsey Stacy, Joel Steele, Erin Stelter, Tamara Stewart, Gary Stokes, Kyle Stowers, Robert Stroud, Carlos Suarez, James Sullivan.

Jason Summerfield, Alyson Summers, Chris Swanson, Joseph Swink III, Elizabeth Swisher, Randal Switzer, Diana Swyden, Danell Taeibi Rahni.

Rajani Tammareddy, Kok Tan, Nam Tang, Shawn Tatyrek, Angeline Taylor, Edward Taylor, Jim Thavisay, Carol Thomas, Virginia Thomas.

Catherine Thompson, Christina Thompson, Lila Thompson, Diem Tong, Nancy Torres, Billy Towler, Rosa Trejo, Steven Tucker, Jill Turner.

Hiroko Umematsu, Jennifer VanWassenhove, Michelle Vaughn, Alberto Velazquez, Leonor Viesca, Lindsay Volino, Deborah Walker, Rebecca Walker.

Teri Walker, Nikki Waller, Jeanne Ward, Micah Ward, Kennetta Washington, Matthew Watkins, Jennifer Watson, Jorge Wbreth Avila, Brett Weaver.

Meghann Weaver, Krystal Webb, Stacy Webb, Marya Welker, Kasandra West, John White, Elijah Wichryk, Christina Williams, Denise Williams.

Michelle Williams, Dustin Willoughby, Amanda Wilson, Ashley Wilson, Bethany Wilson, Jared Wilson, Michael Wilson, Traci Winlock, James Wolfe.

Tracy Wolfe, Nancy Wong, Brooke Wood, Roger Wood, Tyler Wood, Chad Woods, Kevin Woody, Pamela Workman, Tonya Yahola, Johnnie Young, Sarah Young, Naoufal Younsi, Saminaq Zafar, Joseph Zais, Tara Zindel, Saoussen Ziouani, Hassan Zouga.

“Graduates, you are to be commended for your achievement. A college degree is something you will have forever and will return benefits to you for the rest of your life. Congratulations and best wishes!”
—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President



Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

•**Dec. 4 - Feb. 17:** OCCC youth basketball season tips off. The cost for the event is \$60. It will be held in the OCCC gymnasium. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**Jan. 8 - Feb. 9:** Adult volleyball league registration dates are available for team sign-ups. League play starts Feb. 19 and runs through April 30. The cost for the team is \$200. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**Jan. 10 - 17:** Sign up for the Intramural league table tennis tournament. Sign-up forms for the Intramural games can be found at the Recreation and Community Services counter. All intramural games are free to OCCC students. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**Jan. 11 - 18:** Sign up for the Intramural league dominoes tournament. Sign-up forms for the Intramural games can be found at the Recreation and Community Services counter. All Intramural games are free to OCCC students. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext 7786.

•**Feb. 7 - 10:** Sign up for the Intramural PlayStation 2 "NCAA 07" basketball tournament which will be held in the College Union. This event is free to all students. Sign-up sheets can be found in the Wellness Center. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext 7786.

Visit online for the latest news www.rcs.occc.edu.

Olympic swimmers coming soon

By John Savage
Staff Writer

Olympic greats like Gabe Woodward, Brendan Hansen, Rachel Komisarz and more than 20 other professionals can be seen swimming in OCCC's Aquatic Center.

The swimmers will gather for the 15th annual Kerr-McGee Elite Pro-Am meet Dec. 14 through 17.

The event will feature 630 athletes and will include swimming events including distance, mile, sprint and relays.

Aquatics and Safety Training Specialist Stephanie Scott said the event has taken place every year in the seven years she has worked here.

She said this is not the only meet involving Olympians, but it is one where they are highlighted.

"It's the only meet that has professional swimmers competing," Scott said. "It's one of our favorite events to work."

Along with the Olympic gold medalists, national record holders also will participate.

Scott said some of the swimmers have won gold medals in the past and others will participate in the 2008 Olympics. Other swimmers also will be in attendance to compete in the meet.

"In addition to [pro swimmers competing], there are local groups competing too. It's a qualifying meet and it's elite, meaning they have to be exceptionally fast to qualify," Scott said.

She said high school swimmers who have been competing year 'round would be able to swim against some of the professional swimmers.

"It's pretty exciting ... to watch 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds compete right next to an Olympian. In any sport that's going to be cool. The whole goal in swimming is to get your times faster," Scott said.

Kerr-McGee runs the event, while OCCC hosts it. College and staff members do a lot of work setting up the event but it is mainly Kerr-McGee's swim meet, Scott said.

This event also awards cash prizes, but only to the professional athletes. The college and high school athletes are not allowed to accept cash prizes due to NCAA rules and regulations.

"Only the professionals can compete for cash prizes," Scott said.

Scott said this type of event is one where college scouts can be found watching some of the high school swimmers, so this is an important meet that attracts a lot of attention.

The top eight finishers receive awards. For more information, contact Scott at 405-682-1611 ext., 7662 or visit www.rcs.occc.edu.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Minimal splash

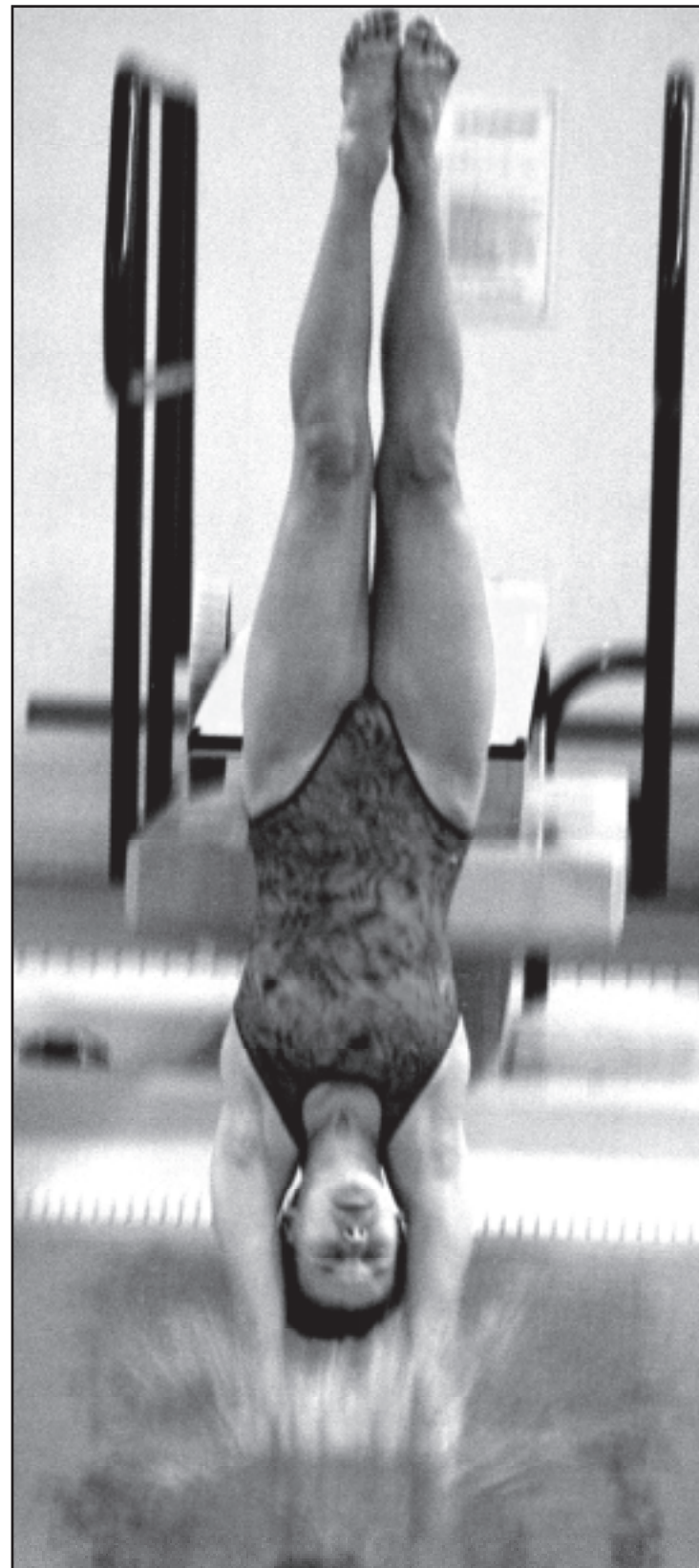


Photo by Carrie Cronk

Ann Malherbe, 14, of Dive Oklahoma, works on her dive off the 1-meter spring board during evening practice in the Aquatic Center. The team practices from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday in the Aquatic Center, their host pool. At least six other swim teams use the Aquatic Center as their host pool. Mark Butcher is the head coach of Dive Oklahoma. Butcher was formerly a head Satellite coach and 2004 Coach of the Year with the Starz Diving Club in Indianapolis.

Former student graduates to director job

By Noetta Harjo
News Writing Student

From student to college administrator, Jessica Martinez-Brooks has come a long way in a short time.

Martinez-Brooks, 29, was appointed to Director of Community Outreach on Nov. 13. She said the position would give her the opportunity to increase the college's role in Oklahoma City communities.

"The position has a lot to do with non-profit community organizations," said Martinez-Brooks. "I like to work with the community and I think the college has a wonderful relationship with organizations in the area.

"I really want to see how we can play a bigger role and how we can help."

Martinez-Brooks currently is involved in senior citizens outreach activities, such as putting computers in housing units and teaching seniors to use those computers. Community Outreach also works with English as a Second Language programs.

In May, Martinez-Brooks was recognized as one of Oklahoma City's Achievers Under 40.

"It's so nice to be recognized," she said. "I think OCCC is a wonderful place. I'm lucky to be here.

"The college is my home away from home."

Martinez-Brooks was a journalism student and former Pioneer editor at OCCC, graduating with an associate degree in 1997. She later graduated from the University of Oklahoma with

a bachelor's degree in journalism.

Martinez-Brooks worked at Oklahoma City University as an editorial services assistant for one year before accepting the position of OCCC public relations staff writer in 2001. She later became Media Relations Coordinator.

Martinez-Brooks has worked with numerous people at OCCC, from students to the president. She said her favorite part about the Media Relations Coordinator po-



Photo by Carrie Cronk
Jessica
Martinez-Brooks

sition was working with the different departments on campus. "It amazes me how

much the college is involved in the community," she said.

Martinez-Brooks also serves as the sponsor for the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education, assisting students with club activities.

"Jessica definitely deserves the promotion," said Rocky Chavez, HOPE member and public relations major.

"She has always been an inspiration in everything she does and everything that she is involved in. I

really don't see how she does it all."

Martinez-Brooks is currently working on a project that involves recording Oklahoma's history through the eyes of its senior citizens. She said she hopes to use the material in a project for Oklahoma's centennial celebration.

She also recently took on the role of professor, filling in for Mass Media Communications professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, who was diagnosed with breast can-

cer earlier this semester.

Martinez-Brooks stepped in to teach Faulconer-Lippert's Introduction to Public Relations class. She said it's a good opportunity to see if teaching is something she might want to do in the future.

"There's a special place in heaven for teachers," she said.

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Highlights

Auditions for Vagina Monologues

Auditions for "The Vagina Monologues" are at 7 p.m., Dec. 11 and 12 in room 2E2 in the Arts and Humanities building. No experience is required. The readings are cold. For more information, e-mail Liz Shultz at bibba@po.occc.edu.

Student Leadership Retreat

The deadline for forms for the Student Leadership Retreat on Jan. 27 is Friday, Dec. 15. The theme for this retreat is the Art of Leadership. Clubs must have at least one representative attend the workshop. For more information, e-mail Jon Horinek at jhorinek@occc.edu.

Pinning committee food drive

The graduating class of Nursing Process IV is holding a food drive for Other Options through Dec. 15. Other Options is a non-profit organization that deals with HIV clients. Boxes for donations are located near the elevator in the Main Building and in the Health Sciences area. Other items that can be donated are: clothing, lightly-used books, toys and toiletries.

Annual Essay Contest deadline

The Department of Language Arts Annual Essay Contest is accepting essays from students who have been enrolled in either ENGL 1113 or ENGL 1213 between Jan. 1 and Dec. 16. The maximum length of the essay is 2,000 words with no minimum. The essay is open topic and must be typed or computer printed on white, 8.5 by 11-inch paper, double-spaced with standard margins, presented in MLA format and unstapled. Entry forms can be picked up at the table outside the Arts and Humanities Division Office. The deadline for the essay is Dec. 16. Entries should be mailed or delivered to OCCC Arts and Humanities Division, 7777 South May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla., 73159, Attn: Kim Jameson, 2F2-B AH Bldg.

Twelve days of Christmas

The college bookstore will have 12 days of Christmas activities between Dec. 1 and Dec. 18. During the 12 days, the bookstore will have special sales and activities. Prizes ranging from a bike, grilling machine, smoothie maker and MP3 player will be given away each day. To win the prizes, contestants will compete in games and a winner will be chosen each day.

Date change for graduation ceremony

The date for the 2007 Commencement Program has changed from May 11 to May 18.

Highlights are due by 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Drop off highlight forms at the Pioneer, located on the second floor of the Main Building, in front of the elevator.

**Got interesting club news?
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Play brings holiday spirit



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Yousef Kazemi, Alissa Westbrook, Erin McMurry and Jean Windham rehearse a scene from the play "Children's Letters to God" in the College Theater. The play was held Dec. 7 through Dec. 9.

Republicans absent on campus

By Michelle Morrow
News Writing Student

OCCC's College Republican Club has waned this semester.

Sponsor Ralph deCardenas, coordinator of Student Accounts, said student participation is nonexistent.

"Although one or two students have expressed an interest, it will require a dedicated few to get everything in the club up and running," deCardenas said.

Sarah Anderson, student, said she had not noticed the lack of Republican voices on campus. At the same time, she expressed how little interest she has in politics.

Student Dora Rojas said she also did not really stop to consider the College Republicans were absent on campus.

Whether students have a lack of interest, are too busy, or too tied up in extracurricular activities, something prevents them

from participating, deCardenas said.

Their counterparts, the College Democrats, have had a busy semester.

As the College Democrats put on bake sales and brought in speakers, the College Republicans were looking for a few good men and women to take up the mantle of leadership.

David Wiggins, physics professor, said he would recommend both the College Republicans and the College Democrats to students, saying it would be damaging to hear only one side of political viewpoints all the time.

"We would forget where others are coming from," Wiggins said.

"Neither club expresses opinions on issues well, but I've seen the Democrats be

"... It will require a dedicated few to get everything in the club up and running."

—Ralph deCardenas
College Republicans

more visible," he said.

Student Tim Way expressed a desire to see the Independent Party represented on campus equally with the Republicans and Democrats. He said then, he'd participate.

With the ending of the fall semester and the spring semester coming soon, deCardenas said he would like to give students another opportunity to participate.

"I would like to see [College Republicans] get together with the College Democrats, hold debates and bring representatives from both parties to campus for a meet-and-greet," deCardenas said.

For more information, contact deCardenas at rdecardenas@occc.edu or (405) 682-7862.

IT to move into new area, temporarily shutting down network system

"Move,"

Cont. from page 1

In addition to not having access to grades, students won't be able to pay their bills or register for classes.

Riha said, although there may be some inconveniences, the timing is the best anyone could hope for.

"Because of the significance of this move, this is the only time it really makes sense," he said.

OCCC student Jennifer Dobry said she'll be ready for the transition.

"I don't really think it will affect me," Dobry said. "I already know that it's going to be down, so I'll just plan ahead of time for anything I need to access [Mine Online] for."

Although most students will be gone for break, the Recruitment and Admissions Office will remain open until 8 p.m., Dec. 22,

said Admissions Services Assistant Lyndsie Strem-low. She said the office will be adversely affected by the inability to access Mine Online and the college e-mail system.

"I won't be able to look up course availability for students and I won't be able to e-mail my co-workers in order to get some pretty important messages across," Strem-low said.

"Students may call and we won't be able to give them answers to their questions because the college's Internet is down. It's very inconvenient."

Riha said anyone who uses OCCC e-mail is cautioned to use an auto-reply message in advance to inform senders of the planned shutdown.

For directions on how to set up the auto-reply message, users can visit <http://itnews.occc.edu/email>

down.html.

Riha said, during the transition, e-mails can't be sent or received and won't be stored, even when the system is backed up.

"Since the connections will have actually physically been cut, people are just going to get some sort of response from the e-mail sender saying that the e-mail is undeliverable. It literally can't find the machine on the other end."

In addition to the auto-reply, Riha said, students and adjunct faculty who may still be using their former e-mail accounts should forward any important e-mails from those accounts to their new college e-mail account, as the old accounts will no longer be accessible after the transition is made.

Riha said the college plans to use the down time to kill two birds with one

stone.

New hardware also has been purchased to update the college's information technology system and will be simultaneously installed in order to create as little inconvenience as possible.

"A lot of the servers that we're running are older servers," Riha said.

"It's time to replace them all."

Release 17, the current version of Datatel, will be replaced with Release 18 because, in July, the vendor will no longer support the current version, said Riha.

"We'll start doing our testing and then, during spring break, we will actually make the conversion to everyone using the Release 18 version of Datatel."

After the move is made

and all systems restored, it will be business as usual, Riha said.

He said students and faculty will likely not notice a change has been made.

"It's really a big, technical re-write that gives us the potential to add additional capabilities and features to the student information system," Riha said.

Editor David Miller can be reached at editor@occc.edu.

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E-mail system keeps students up to speed

"e-mail,"

Cont. from page 1

Henson said she also anticipates communication to students will eventually switch entirely from paper to electronic form. Making the switch to paperless communication would save the college a great deal of money in both postage and printing costs, she said.

Henson also noted the improved security of the college's e-mail accounts versus traditional mail. If a letter from the college is delivered to the wrong address, she said, there is the potential for identity theft to occur.

In contrast, Henson said, "that e-mail is only going into your account... and you control that account."

A brief survey of students, however, suggests that four out of five have not checked their e-mail accounts since the switch to the new system.

"I checked the old e-mail," said Cleoretta Cochran. "With the new e-mail, though, I couldn't figure

out how to get in. It's confusing."

Students can access their e-mail by visiting the college website at www.occc.edu and clicking on the "Student and Adjunct E-mail" tab.

The new system uses a student's first name, middle initial, and last name separated by periods as the

username. The default password is set as the last six digits of the user's Social Security number.

If a student doesn't have access to a computer at home, many areas on campus — most notably, the library and the area by the main entrance — have been set up for student Internet use.

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