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# PIONEER

www.occc.edu/pioneer

## OCCC merit-based raises average 4.5 %

Percentage determined by gas prices, cost of living, available revenue

By **Eric Nguyen**  
Editor

OCCC employees who performed well during the last fiscal year are being compensated with up to a 3 percent salary increase.

All employees who received a raise also received a \$750 stipend, bringing the total average salary increase to 4.5 percent for fiscal year 2007-'08, according to this year's Staffing Plan.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist said the combination of a percentage raise combined with an across-the-board amount added, "... resulted in pay raises that we believe were equitable, fair, and resulted in an average increase that was affordable given the anticipated financial resources."

Employee raises are "merit-based," he said, "which means that the employee's performance is a factor in determining the amount of the increase for each employee."

Performance adjustments are based on employee performance appraisals by supervisors, Sechrist said, and range from no raise to a 3 percent pay raise.

Employees who "did not meet job requirements" or "partially met job requirements" did not get a pay raise, while employees who "met job requirements" saw a 2 percent increase.

Those who "exceeded job re- See "Salary," page 12

## College's salaries vary from two to six figures

By **Eric Nguyen**  
Editor

When merit-based raises were given this year, OCCC President Paul Sechrist received a 3.3 percent salary increase raising his salary from \$207,036 for fiscal year 2007-'08 to \$215,033.

Sechrist has earned salary increases on an average of \$8,457 since he accepted the position in May 2006.

Academic Affairs Vice President Felix Aquino, with OCCC since January, will make \$114,960 in fiscal year 2007-'08.

The average salary of a dean at See "Pay," page 12

## Student camaraderie



Photo by Jay Rocamontes

Chemical engineering major Chase Ainsworth enjoys time outside between rain showers with pre-pharmacy major Kenna Rogers and premed major Jessica Pugh. Local weathermen said Oklahoma received a statewide average of 9.15 inches of rain in June, shattering the usual average of 4.25 inches. Oklahoma is 10.5 inches above normal in precipitation for the year, and rain is expected to continue until the middle of next week.

## Sushi may be part of fall menu

By **Kelsey Northcutt**  
News Writing Student

Health-conscious students may have healthier eating options at the Student Union this fall.

Corrine Aguilar, general manager of Carson's Catering and Food Concepts, said with more people watching what they eat these days, the Student Union staff also decided to try a healthier approach.

"We're going to be testing [the menu additions] the second week in July," Aguilar said. "If it works, we'll start in the fall."

Some of the new choices on the menu will be stir-fry

veggies, Asian-themed items, and more baked and broiled foods, Aguilar said.

"[Other places are] doing a lot of Asian food, a lot of Sushi," she said. "We may incorporate some of that."

Aguilar said she will make healthier options menu based on student feedback, menu books, and surveys from various schools.

"We try to keep up with other universities and colleges and do what they do, see what they say," she said.

"We try to go with the trend in different locations."

Aguilar said the choices

will be additions to the healthy salads and pasta tosses already available.

Nursing Students Jenni Jimerson and Diana Busjra eat at the Student Union every day and said it is in desperate need of change.

"[The union] needs more healthier options," Jimerson said.

Busjra agrees.

"They need more cooked food, maybe an Asian or Mexican section."

It's not certain if the new menu could create higher prices.

"I don't know right now if the prices will go up," Aguilar said. "I can't really say."

## Editorial and Opinion

## Editorial

## State lottery still a bad idea

In 2005, lawmakers had pledged to use lottery funds to pay for construction projects at OCCC and other Oklahoma colleges and universities.

When the lottery generated lower-than-expected funds, State Regents cut \$6 million from its June payments to colleges and universities, including a \$185,000 reduction to OCCC.

Since its start-up nearly two years ago, the Oklahoma Lottery has been little more than a burdensome, underachieving program.

Depending on lottery funds to pay for education projects is unpredictable at best, and the dependence pushes colleges and universities into debt at worst.

Lobbied by Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry as a savior to state education, lawmakers projected education would receive \$300 million in lottery funds each year, or 30 percent of total revenue. That was a lofty goal, but one that seemed reasonable when tickets sold Oct. 12, 2005.

But one year after it started, revenue projections dwindled to \$86 million, more than 70 percent short of the original goal.

Since the Legislature already appropriated money to state education based on what the lottery was projected to generate, schools were asked to make large cuts to cover the shortfall.

This put schools and education programs in a bind and scrambling to readjust budgets.

In December 2006, lawmakers were told Oklahoma's Promise, a program that pays tuition for students who maintain good grades and stay out of trouble, was losing money for the spring '07 semester. Oklahoma's Promise also is funded by lottery revenue.

As a result, colleges across the state are raising tuition this summer by an average of 8.6 percent, partially to cover the lottery shortfall.

Clearly, a solution must be found to do away the woes caused by the idea of earmarking money from the Oklahoma lottery for state education.

Since lottery revenue is so unstable, lawmakers should wait until the end of the fiscal year to give money to colleges, instead of appropriating funds based on guesses. This is Rep. Joe Dorman's (D-Rush Springs) plan.

Oklahoma Lottery Commission Director James Scroggins advises the state to raise the percentage of total lottery revenue for prize earnings.

Scroggins said this would entice more people to play the lottery, driving up revenue.

But Scroggins' idea also is counterintuitive, since the lottery was supposed to help education, and increasing lottery funds for prize money means education funding would decrease.

Whatever the solution, the result must be a stable and reliable source if it is supposed to help education. Otherwise, just do away with the lottery.

—Eric Nguyen  
Editor

## Criticism of advisers unfair

### To the Editor:

The July 2 editorial titled "Financial Aid process frustrating" was rather unfair and unkind in its tone toward a lot of hard-working, caring advisers in the financial aid office (officially known as the Student Financial Support Services).

As a faculty member, I occasionally get questions from students about their financial aid, and I am not able to answer those questions; however, when I contact any of a number of advisers, I always get assistance even if it is no more than to tell me that the student will have to go to see the Financial Aid office.

I know it is frustrating and seems rather overwhelming when it comes to sorting through the bureaucracy of grants, loans, and other forms of assistance, and it is dealing with money which is always a sore spot for most people.

No one ever seems to have enough to cover all the requirements of daily living, but give the folks in the Financial Aid office a break — they do try to help students.

I've seen students who show up behaving in all sorts of ways too. Some shout. Some cry. Some

threaten. And some just do not listen to anything that the advisor may be trying to tell them.

They just know they did not get a check issued and where are they going to get the money to pay their electric bill. I know how it is to struggle and worry about where enough money is going to come from, but things do get better. One learns how to be more frugal in handling what money there is so that the necessities are taken care of and the extras wait.

The advisors in the Student Financial Support Services office are human. They do care about student success.

Their job is a tough one sometimes because the bureaucracy of financial aid is complex and demanding.

The federal government dictates what can and cannot be done, what is required to be submitted in a certain form, and what a student does and does not qualify for.

Perhaps, if enough students wrote to their representatives in Congress and to the white house, something might be done to change the system.

It's similar to the tax code, which everyone complains

about but does nothing about though.

Also, keep in mind that except for those who are receiving benefits through the G.I. Bill, the government is assisting students in getting an education, not giving away money which would make it an entitlement. Entitlement is an overrated assumption that one should get something for nothing.

—Bertha Wise  
English Professor

## PIONEER

Vol. 35 No. 38

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

All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. 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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Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@occc.edu. A phone number for verification must be included.

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



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Comments and Reviews



# Roll out and see this

Just in time for the July 4th holiday, "Transformers" was revitalized from the 80s and brought into movie theaters across the country.

Director Michael Bay ("Pearl Harbor" and "Armageddon") stays true to the memories of many Generation-Xers who were fans of the toys and cartoon.

The movie reacquaints fans with the transforming alien robot races, the Autobots and the Decepticons.

The Decepticons have traveled to Earth in search of the All Spark, a cube which possesses the creative energy from their planet Cybertron, and will stop at nothing to find it.

The Autobots have come to Earth to stop the Decepticons from finding the All Spark and using it to turn human technology against humans.

While on Earth, the robotic aliens have disguised themselves as new and concept model vehicles we commonly see today.

Minor changes Bay made include Bumblebee being a Camaro rather than a Volkswagen Beetle, and he uses the first names of Ron "Sparkplug" (father) and Sam "Spike" (son) Witwicky.

Other than the minor differences, the movie does remain authentic to the cartoon.

One of the character voiceovers helps to maintain that authenticity.

The voice of the Autobot leader Optimus Prime is Peter Cullen, the same actor who performed the voices of Ironhide and Optimus Prime, as well as many other characters in the cartoon series.

The sound effects for the

robots when they transform also is very similar to the sounds used in the cartoon, if not more realistic.

The special effects team has designed exceptional graphics that are highly accurate to how the Transformers moved, fought, spoke and so on.

The movie is not all action and special effects, though. Throughout the film are many philosophical issues that arise for the characters.

Predominantly through the film is the issue of the cost of freedom. The message of life and freedom require sacrifice is abundant throughout the film, which makes the timing of the release more than appropriate.

The end of the movie leaves the audience with the sense of a pending sequel, which Bay has recently announced that a second "Transformers" is in talks, and is intended to be released in 2009.

Generation-Xers who grew up as hardcore "Transformers" fans will be pleased with this movie. It has been made with great care and attention to detail, and has maintained the qualities so many fans loved about cartoon series.

**Rating: A+**

—Carrie Cronk  
Staff Writer



**Questions? Comments? Send it to editor@occc.edu or drop it off at the Pioneer office on the second floor of the Main Building. A phone number must be included for verification.**

## Counselor's Corner

*"He had come like a thief in the night. And one by one dropped the revellers in the blood-bedewed halls of their revel, and died each in the despairing posture of his fall."*

—From "Masque of the Red Death"  
by Edgar Allan Poe

I used to hurry home at the end of the day so that I could watch the news.

It felt good to relax in front of the TV while I caught up on the events of the day. I don't do that any more. Instead of making me feel like a good citizen, informed and capable of discussing the world with my peers, it now just makes me feel scared.

Today's news stories seem to have become what the B-grade horror movies of yesterday were: tales of the macabre.

Whether we're trying to make sense of the annihilation of millions by a madman bent on world domination, of the forced suicides of hundreds of loyal followers by a man who would be god, or of dozens of innocent students by a tragically disturbed classmate, the conclusion is always the same: Senseless acts are senseless.

Exercising caution and prudence in our daily endeavors is always advisable, but it won't eliminate the bad things that happen in the world.

When we are bombarded by news of bad things happening, our emotional circuitry can get overloaded and make us feel stressed. Stress and anxiety can overwhelm us.

When we feel out of control, it's much easier to develop habits and engage in behaviors that actually work against us as we grapple with the fear that bad things might happen.

We don't sleep as well, we eat the wrong things, we drink, we smoke, and we put ourselves at greater risk.

As anxiety tightens its hold on us, we may find that our relationships suffer. So, too, will our studies.

Thankfully, there are healthy ways of coping with anxiety. If you're sensitive and reactive to all the bad news, turn it off, literally.

It's easy to become mesmerized by the sights and sounds of ugliness that fly across the air waves and cyberspace. Know how much you can tolerate, and then use your power button to shut the rest off.

If you still feel uneasy, look for ways to adjust your lifestyle and practice stress relief activities. Several websites offer self-help strategies. One especially good one is [www.helpguide.org](http://www.helpguide.org).

Our counselor can also work with you if you feel as though you need to talk about events in your life or how you're feeling, or if you think you need more than you can do for yourself. We in Student Support Services want you to live a happy and productive life. Stop by if you need us.

—Mary Turner  
Learning Support Specialist

## Comments and Reviews

### 'Ratatouille' cooks up fine theatrical feast

While anyone can cook, only the creative can become great.

Such is the mantra of a rat named Remy (Patton Oswalt) who enjoys the finer aspects of food.

However, this view isn't shared by his father, Django (Brian Dennehy).

Through a series of events, Remy winds up at an upscale restaurant in Paris.

Eventually, he joins forces with the restaurant's garbage boy and wannabe cook, Linguini (Lou Romano) to become a great chef.

The pair goes through a number of adventures in their quest including a chase through the kitchen and other food-related hijinks.

This serves as the basis for a story about friendship, family and loyalty.

Both of the leading characters have realistic and necessary obstacles to overcome in this tale of two rats who just want to fit in.

Although this is a film right out of the Pixar mold, it does have some unique attributes.

To start with, many of its laughs come from physical comedy between Linguini and Remy.

After all, the duo can only work in the kitchen with Remy the rat as the master and Linguini his sidekick.

Filmmakers Brad Bird and Jan Pinkava use the physical comedy aspect well.

The film also differs from its Pixar brethren with an advanced look in ani-



mated sets and props.

Paris seems to pop off the screen in vivid and imaginative colors.

Plus, the food at Remy's restaurant looks deliciously real.

It serves as the perfect contrast to the disgustingly, realistic garbage enjoyed by Remy's family.

"Ratatouille" is the latest of Pixar's triumphs that should have both kids and adults feeling satisfied.

"Ratatouille" runs 110 minutes and is rated G. It opened in theaters June 29.

**Rating: A**

—Matt Caban  
Staff Writer



### License to dread

Director Ken Kwapis' new romantic comedy, "License to Wed," starring Mandy Moore, Robin Williams and John Krasinski falls short of anything close to enjoyable.

Robin Williams plays a cleverly intrusive Reverend Frank, who is willing to take extreme measures to ensure longevity of marriage for every couple he weds.

Every couple that plans their wedding in Reverend Frank's church has to go through his intensive marriage preparation course designed to challenge the strength of their commitment.

Constant criticism, marital homework and strict rules add to the unbearable nature of this out of the ordinary program.

The potential is there for a decent romantic comedy, but the production com-

pany's exploitation of every enjoyable scene for use in the trailer gives the audience an eerie feeling of déjà vu.

The overplayed television trailers essentially showcase each and every comical event in the entire movie.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of each scene is dramatically diminished because the trailers give it all away.

It's disappointing to watch a new movie that loses its enjoyment because it feels like one you've already seen.

Overall, the movie is predictable and dull. The most enjoyable part is seeing Moore out of her element and looking goofy in a pair of oversized-reading glasses.

**Rating: D**

—Jay Rocamontes  
Staff Writer

## Serial killer mockumentary caters to horror buffs

"Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon" had an extremely limited theatrical release last year, but that shouldn't scare away horror film junkies from the DVD released June 26.

In "Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon," a man who goes by the moniker Leslie Vernon gives a trio of documentary film students admittance to his life as he attempts to become the next great serial killer.

The film has an enticing story that pays homage to

the horror films of past with a hint of Wes Craven-inspired flavor. It's funny, well thoughtout and, sometimes, a psychological creeper.

Think of it as "The Blair Witch Project" meets "Scream." A plain, yet funny, guy methodically chooses his victims, studies them and then choreographers their deaths.

The acting is well done, especially by Nathan Basel ("The District"), who played Vernon, and Angela Goethals ("24"), who plays Tay-

lor Gentry, one of the filmmakers.

Basel is believable as a somewhat sadistic yet completely charming and funny psycho. Basel also can turn on his serious side in an instant and, likewise, has a knack for turning serious situations into hilarious ones.

The screenplay warrants serious recognition. The writing is funny, smart and is reminiscent of Craven's "The People Under the Stairs" and "The Last House on the Left."

"Behind the Mask" is a decent watch on the small screen. The image quality is crisp, the sound is vibrant and the extras are modest.

The extras include a making-of, some clips from the casting call, and deleted and extended scenes.

The best extra feature is the making-of. It puts a fresh perspective on the film from the viewpoint of its director as well as the cast members. It's lengthy, too, so there's a lot of information to be enjoyed.

The deleted scenes aren't anything to die for and, unless viewers are interested in the art of horror film acting, the casting call extra flies under the radar.

With the advent of the \$1-per-night Red Box, it isn't a bad idea to make "Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon" part of dinner-and-a-movie night. And, snatch it up if you ever find it in a \$10 bargain bin at a local store.

**Rating: B**

—Richard Hall  
Contributing Writer

# Egged car, stolen gun highlight crime

By **Matt Caban**  
Staff Writer

Two cases of car vandalism were among the crimes reported on campus from June 14 through July 1.

Two vehicles were vandalized June 25, according to Safety and Security Officer Jacob Roby.

Roby said the first vehicle, a Geo Tracker, owned by Brittany Black, was surrounded by eggshells and covered in egg.

According to the report, witness Carol Williamson said she saw three white females exit a white four-door sedan and throw eggs at the Tracker. She said they left heading east.

Recent OCCC graduate Jill Macon-Escalera said four eggs hit her vehicle, a Chevrolet Avalanche that was parked two parking spaces away.

The incident was turned over to the Oklahoma City Police Department.

A second car vandalism case involving a Scion xA from parking lot E was reported by Officer John Hughes Jr. June 18.

According to Hughes, the vehicle's owner, Information Technology Adjunct Professor Akram Taghavi, was notified.



Photo by Jay Rocamontes

During the evening hours on June 25, Campus Safety and Security Officer Jacob Roby speaks with students after their car was vandalized earlier that evening in parking lot A.

"They smashed the window, but they didn't actually get into the car," Taghavi said.

"Supposedly, [Hughes] didn't see anybody, but if [whoever broke the window] saw anybody they probably ran off," she said.

Taghavi said the window replacement cost about \$200.

A different kind of vandalism was reported by Sergeant Larry Lundy June 26 near Entry 6.

Lundy said a witness told him Brendan Walker, the 12-year-old grandson of Nursing Professor Terri Walker, had broken a window in the area.

He said Brendan told him he was on campus with his grandmother, got bored and threw rocks at a tree.

Lundy said he gave instructions to Terri to have Brendan's mother, Shelby Walker, contact the college to settle the matter.

He said the window re-

placement cost is \$650.

Another crime was reported by former security officer Shane Palmer June 14 in Newcastle.

Palmer reported the theft of his OCCC duty weapon, a .40 caliber Glock pistol, while on his way to OCCC.

Palmer left the weapon, its carrying case and three clips between the seats of his Newcastle Police Department patrol car.

He had stopped at a Love's store, according to

the report.

Palmer returned to the vehicle and the weapon was missing.

According to the report, Palmer's seatbelt hung in the door and did not allow it to close all the way.

Palmer then reported the incident to Newcastle Police.

Additionally, the gun case and magazines were entered into the National Crime Information Center database.

An automotive hit and run was reported June 27 in parking lot B.

According to a crime report filed by Officer Brian Gilbert, student Brock Billings returned from class to find damage to the driver's side taillight of his Chevrolet Camaro.

Billings refused to file a report with police, Gilbert said.

On July 1, ABM Contractor Jerri Lewis reported an employee losing control of a carpet machine and damaging a window at the transportation technology building.

Replacing the window will cost \$450, according to the report.

Staff Writer Matt Caban can be reached at Senior Writer@occc.edu.

# Library adds international web resource

By **Drew Hampton**  
Staff Writer

On July 1, another resource was added to the Library's collection of online research databases.

The service, called CountryWatch, is a subscription-based database that provides students, faculty and staff with detailed information and news from nations around the globe, Library Services Director Barbara King said.

Unlike the library's other databases, which give students and faculty access to newspaper, magazine and journal articles online, King

said, CountryWatch has a different focus.

"[The service] has some current events and articles," she said, "but then it has statistical data, environmental information, economic information ... just any kind of information that you would want about every country in the world."

The site's most notable feature, "Country Review," allows users to select a nation from a list to display information about.

The site then displays a map of the nation, its current time, vital statistics, and a currency converter,

as well as links to recent news articles about the country, King said.

Another feature is CountryWatch Data, which provides tools for comparing a wide range of statistical data from one or more nations.

For example, one could compare the coal consumption and population density of Andorra and Sri Lanka over the past 10 years.

While students may find these features useful in researching topics for class, professors have access to another set of resources including country-specific lesson plans and quizzes

from the site.

"It's everything you'd ever want (to know about a country)," King said, "down to (statistics on) zinc mining production."

King said CountryWatch is relatively inexpensive to subscribe to. The college will pay less than \$2,000 per year for the service, as opposed to other databases that scale their subscription cost with the size of the college, she said.

"It's very, very reasonable," she said. "As we've grown, [some of our subscriptions] have gotten more expensive."

King said she was skept-

tical at first about paying for the service since much of the information it provided could be easily found in various other sources offered at the Library, but changed her mind after an inter-office trial.

"I don't know that I've seen anything that puts it all together in one place where you can access it [this easily]," she said.

To access CountryWatch, visit the Library's website at [www.occc.edu/library](http://www.occc.edu/library) and click on the featured resource link.

Staff Writer Drew Hampton can be reached at Staff Writer3@occc.edu.

# Safe room planned for child lab school

By **Matt Caban**  
Staff Writer

The Child Development Center and Lab School will receive a \$100,000 tornado safe room during the 2008 fiscal year, which began July 1. The room measures nearly 29 feet wide and 17 feet deep.

CDCLS Director Mary McCoy said the addition of a permanent safe room will be better for everyone's safety.

"It'd be safer than being in the bathrooms in the center of the building," she said.

McCoy said the safe room will be on the south side of the building in part of the playground. The safe room will have two bathrooms.

Currently those at the center have to evacuate to the Main Building during severe weather, said Art Bode, retired vice president for Business and Finance.

"So by providing a safe room out there, it allows two things," he said.

"If we don't have enough warning, they have a place right there where they can go.

"Secondly, anytime you take children ... to a different location then it gets very hard to keep those kids

**"The other times when [the storm] is not immediate we get in the two bathrooms in the center of the building. That's a lot of people in two bathrooms."**

—Mary McCoy  
Child Development Center  
and Lab School

together and moving in the same direction."

McCoy said there are up to 48 children, 15 employees and six lab students in the building during an average day.

She said they practice tornado drills monthly.

"The other times when [the storm] is not immediate we get in the two bathrooms in the center of the building," she said. "That's a lot of people in two bathrooms."

McCoy said she has tried to get a safe room built before in her four years at OCCC.

Bode said the funding will come from Section 13 Offset Budget of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

He said this fund is used for construction, maintenance and im-



Photo by Jay Rocamontes

The Child Development Center and Lab School could be the new home for an underground safe room in the future. The room is planned to shelter up to 48 students, 15 employees and six lab students in the event of a tornado warning. The safe room is set to be installed on the south side of the building, near the playground.

provements and is funded by state allocations and carry over from the previous fiscal year. He said the project was approved at the Board of Regents meeting June 18.

Physical Plant Director J.B. Messer said Triad Design Group has already drawn plans.

He said it will be built during the next school year, but no start date has yet been set.

"We will open it to bid [for contractors] once we have the money," Messer said.

Staff Writer Matt Caban can be reached at SeniorWriter@occc.edu.

# Film and video students getting new tools of trade

By **Yvonne Oberly**  
News Writing Student

The college's Film and Video Production program will get \$105,000 worth of additional equipment for the fall thanks to work done by two faculty members.

Journalism Professor Sue Hinton and Adjunct Professor Rick Lippert submitted a proposal for a grant that was recently approved by The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation.

This grant will provide five high definition video camera packages which include a video camera, tripod, microphone and audio support for the Video Production class. The equipment will be used by students in the Broadcast News lab to be taught by Lippert this fall.

Hinton wrote the grant to help prepare students for the changing industry, which is shifting toward high definition video. She said she

couldn't have written the grant without help from Lippert.

Lippert said he is proud of the work he and Hinton did and the benefit it will have for the college.

"The broadcast world is in expansion mode," she said. "The industry itself is involved by being more technology, Internet and computer based.

"Ink on paper is leaving and we are seeing a shift in the industry that our video [journalism] students need to adjust to."

Lippert and Hinton want the students to be able to become skilled in using the equipment before it becomes industry standard.

Three years ago, the same Foundation provided OCCC a grant that paid for approximately \$100,000 in computers, monitors and everything needed to create a high-class editing suite.

The college since has purchased 10 editing suites, Hinton said.

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## Where you work...



**"[Old Navy] is an all right place to work for college students because you can work a variety [of schedules] tailored to your schedule. It's a relatively simple job, in a relaxed environment with pretty good pay."**

—Michael Cooper  
Chemical Engineering Junior  
at the University of Oklahoma

**"Working at [Orr Family Farms in Oklahoma City] involves a lot of hard work. The people you work with are fun and friendly; the owners always have on a smile."**

—Alison Moruska  
Small Business Management  
Sophomore



**"It's OK making minimum wage as a cashier [at Chili's] because they are very flexible with your schedule. It's really easy for young people to get a job there. They are always hiring."**

—Sheba Thomas  
Pharmacy Sophomore



**"Working at UPS is very hard work that takes time to get used to, but the pay, benefits and tuition reimbursement more than make up for the demanding physical aspects of the job. It's great for college students who need to work during the evenings or late at night."**

—Ryan Winter  
Sophomore



**"It's pretty easy to get a job [at Harry's American Sports Grill in Mustang]. I enjoy it because it's upbeat and the money is good. It's just a typical waitress job in a small town."**

—Linda Williams  
Sophomore



## Summer jobs can still be found around metro area

By Carrie Cronk  
Staff Writer

With the cost of many summer activities and the increase in prices at the pump, many students have obtained summer employment.

For those still searching, many metro area employers still have summer positions available.

Many restaurants have a variety of spots for students during the summer.

Cody Bratcher, General Manager of the Sonic Drive-in located at S.W. 89th Street and May Avenue said he often hires OCCC students.

"We have quite a few [OCCC students] at a time ... we have three or four [employed] at the moment," he said.

Bratcher said his restaurant has a position open for a cook, with up to 40 hours available per week at a pay rate of \$6 per hour.

He said anyone interested in applying for the position should come by the restaurant to fill out an application.

Zio's Italian Kitchen, located at 2035 S. Meridian, is another local restaurant with job openings.

Sabrina Moeller, assistant manager, said many restaurant employees are college students. They have positions available for wait staff, hosts and bussers, she said.

Moeller said the wages at Zio's are comparable to other restaurants, with wait staff earning \$2.13 per hour plus tips, and hosts and bussers also earning a set wage and being tipped out.

Moeller said waitstaff employees have the opportunity to earn \$300 to \$400 per week, if not more.

Those interested in any position at Zio's may apply in person from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and should come prepared to be interviewed immediately.

For those looking for a change of scenery in food service, the Oklahoma City Zoo has positions in their food and beverage department.

Candice Rennels, public relations associate, said the wages for those positions start at minimum wage. Interested parties can apply 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. any day of the week at the front entrance of the park.

For those more interested in

**"We have quite a few [OCCC students] at a time ... we have three or four [employed] at the moment."**

—Cody Bratcher  
Sonic Drive-in General  
Manager

summertime fun, White Water Bay still has a variety of positions available.

David Riddles, operations manager, said the park has openings ranging from 20 to 45 hours per week.

Most the park's positions have a starting wage of \$5.75 per hour, and the wages for lifeguards start at \$6 to \$6.50 per hour.

Anyone interested in a summer position at White Water Bay can get more information by calling 405-943-0392.

For those students looking for a position located closer to campus, the OCCC Aquatics Center is hiring lifeguards, swimming instructors and a part-time secretary.

Roxanna Butler, Aquatics and Safety Training coordinator, said lifeguard and swimming instructor positions are 10 to 15 hours per week, and the secretary position is 10 hours per week.

She said starting wages for lifeguards are \$7 per hour, with the wages for the other positions starting at \$7.50 per hour.

Butler said lifeguards must be certified.

Stephanie Scott, Aquatics and Safety Training specialist, said the Aquatic Center is offering the American Red Cross event Operation Life Saving to persons who applied for lifeguard positions.

She said the program offers lifeguard training "at a greatly reduced cost."

Butler said individuals interested can apply for the positions at [www.occcjobs.edu](http://www.occcjobs.edu).

Part-time jobs also can be searched for by visiting [www.groovejobs.com](http://www.groovejobs.com) and searching by city and state.

Students also can check the employment section of the Pioneer classified ads for other area summer employment opportunities.

Staff Writer Carrie Cronk can be reached at [StaffWriter2@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter2@occc.edu).

# Sports

## UPCOMING

### OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **July 16-20:** Hoops are happening at the Recreation and Community Services coed basketball summer sports camp. The 6-to 9-year-old camp runs 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday at the Wellness Center gym.

Camp costs \$65 and includes a T-shirt. Payment and registration are due Thursday, July 12 to the RCS office. For more information, contact the RCS office at 405-682-7860.

• **July 16-20:** Children ages 10 to 11 can learn the basics of golf at the RCS golf camp. Camp registration and a \$65 camp payment are due Thursday, July 12 to the RCS office.

Cost includes a camp T-shirt. For more information, contact the RCS office at 405-682-7860.

• **July 16-20:** Tennis summer sports camp is held Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. The camp is for girls ages 12 to 14. Cost is \$65 and includes a camp T-shirt.

Registration and payment is due Thursday, July 12 at the RCS office. For more information, contact RCS Director Traci Wheeler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7280.

• **July 23-27:** After a summer chock full of outdoor, the final RCS summer sports camp is chess. The camp is held 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. It is geared toward the specific skill level of each camper.

It costs \$65 and includes a camp T-shirt. Payment and registration is due Thursday, July 19 at the RCS office. For more information, contact the RCS office at 405-682-7860.

**Stay updated! Visit the Pioneer Online often for news from your college community. Visit [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer) today.**

## Last-second dive



Photo by Jay Rocamontes

With the U.S. Youth Soccer Southern Region III Championships in town visiting team from Birmingham, Ala. United Soccer Association used the OCCC soccer fields to practice before the opening ceremonies held in the Ford Center. Teams from 12 states came to Oklahoma City to play in the week-long tournament held at South Lakes Soccer Complex for a chance to advance to the National Championship held in July.

## Heavy rains disrupt camps

**By Matt Caban**  
Staff Writer

The state's recent string of wet weather has forced parts of two recent OCCC summer sports camps to be held indoors.

Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson said parts of both the June 18 through June 22 football and June 25 through June 29 soccer camps were moved into the Wellness Center gym.

"Anytime it sprinkles we'll bring everyone in," Watson said.

"The gym is set up for the camps just in case we need it," he said.

Watson said the gym is closed each day during the time the camps are in session.

"Our morning people come in and use the gym for about two hours," he said.

"Then, we close it down until 5 p.m."

Watson said the gym closure for summer camps does not affect OCCC students.

"They know the gym is shut down

[at those times] anyway," he said.

Watson said Wellness Center attendants tell the students when they come to the area.

National Weather Service Forecaster Daryl Williams said rainfall is measured for Oklahoma City at the Will Rogers World Airport.

He said there was rainfall for 17 consecutive days from June 13 to 29 in the area of Will Rogers World Airport.

Williams said Oklahoma City received about 9.34 inches of rain in that time.

"We've had more rainy days than non-rainy days this month," he said.

Williams said the amount of rainfall may vary from one part of the city to another.

"It could be more and it could be less," he said. "It varies especially with thunderstorms."

Williams said the rainwater does affect playing fields in time.

"Basically [the ground] gets saturated at some point and [the water] won't get absorbed anymore, and you get all run off in outlying

areas," he said.

Williams said at this point things get worse.

"Once [the ground] gets saturated it takes just a little more to make it a quagmire."

Watson said Recreation and Community Services does not have a plan to combat playing fields flooding.

Watson said when there is more than an inch of rain on the fields, they need at least one day to dry.

"When you get over an inch of rain, it's flooded," he said.

"Usually they clear themselves out, but when you get a rain like you did last week there's nothing you can do."

Staff Writer Matt Caban can be reached at [SeniorWriter@occc.edu](mailto:SeniorWriter@occc.edu).

**Have a great sports story for the Pioneer? Call Staff Writer Matt Caban at 405-682-1611, ext. 7675 or e-mail [SeniorWriter@occc.edu](mailto:SeniorWriter@occc.edu).**

# Rain delays landscaping around sign

By **Brittany Legako**  
News Writing Student

Despite the non-stop rain, the college is completing a new landscaping project to beautify the campus at the corner of May Avenue and S.W. 74th Street.

Building and Campus Supervisor Gary Phillips said the new project consists of a concrete footing around the lighted electronic scrolling OCCC sign.

The footing will surround a flowerbed filled with green shrubbery and ground cover plants.

The project will cost \$12,000 to complete, with the money coming from the college's budget for landscaping and grounds, Phillips said.

The project was planned to take a week but has become a three-week project because of the rain, and will be completed once the



Photo by Jay Rocamontes

On July 2, the landscaping around the OCCC electronic sign on the corner of S.W. 74th Street and May Avenue remains unfinished. Rain delayed the completion of the \$12,000 project, which will consist of a concrete flowerbed and professional landscaping.

rain subsides and the area dries, said Phillips.

OCCC nursing student

Becca Oberfield, who also attends Palm Beach Atlantic in Florida said, "This is

OCCC nursing student

my first time to attend O-trip so almost everything caught my eye.

"However the landscaping got my attention, which is good not only for potential students, but to give pride to current students as well," she said.

Phillips said some of the concrete for the footing of the flowerbed was laid last Wednesday during a break from the rain, but the following day black plastic had to be put on top to keep the footing dry.

Even though the rain set the project back, Phillips said he remains positive about the project.

"Nothing has been frustrating," he said, "but it is exciting the campus is becoming more eye-appealing."

R&R Construction is laying the concrete footing for the flowerbed, and Tru-Green LandCare, the same company that maintains the grounds, is responsible for the landscaping, Phillips said.

## College adviser leaves job, stays with college

By **Elliot Jones**  
News Writing Student

Sue Oates, a longtime adviser and part-time professor at the college, has left her advising position to take a job as a tutoring consultant for three companies in Oklahoma City and Texas.

Oates said she has been with the OCCC staff off and on for 13 years, seven of which were spent working in the college's advisement office.

Oates also spent many years teaching developmental Math and Study Skills at the college.

"I love it here ... I believe in the students here," she said. "I believe college makes an everlasting difference in their lives."

Although Oates will be leaving the advising office,

**"I saw her several times go above and beyond to help students."**

—Liz Largent

Dean of Student Development



Sue Oates

she said she would remain at the college to teach classes part-time.

"I am very excited for [Oates] and her new opportunities," Liz Largent, Dean of Student Development said.

"She cared very deeply for many students, I saw her several times go above and beyond to help students," Largent said.

Oates has been married for 37 years and has one daughter, Carri Beck. Both husband Charles and Carri teach at OCCC.

Oates said she will miss students coming to the advising office to see her. She said she enjoyed helping students to get on track in their college career.

## Nursing program becomes popular

By **Amy Crosthwait**  
News Writing Student

OCCC offers three programs for nursing students, each with its own entrance requirements and application deadlines.

Claire D. Echols, Academic Advising coordinator for Health Professions, recommends students interested in nursing begin by "starting with a strategy for getting into the program."

Echols also suggested keeping grade point averages at their highest.

"Students must learn good critical thinking skills," she said.

The number of students accepted into the program has increased to 230 to 250 students each year due to a heightened interest, Assistant Director and Nursing professor Debbie Myers said.

Myers said the college still can not accept all of the students qualified for the programs because of the limited available space for classes.

Myers said the college is collaborating with the University of Oklahoma in a program to allow nursing students to stay an extra year at OCCC.

Juniors will be allowed to take classes at OCCC and study the OU nursing curriculum before transferring their senior year to the OU Health and Sciences Center, she said.

# Highlights

## Fall tuition waivers available

Department tuition waivers for the 2007 fall semester are available to students in the Financial Aid office. Waivers and academic histories must be submitted to Financial Aid no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1. For more information, contact the Financial Aid office at 405-682-7527.

## Engineering scholarship offered

Kelly Engineering Resources is accepting entries for its fifth annual Future Engineers Scholarship Program. Sophomore and junior-level college students can apply by submitting an essay on a designated engineering topic for a chance at the \$5,000 scholarship. Applications are due Oct. 1. For more information, contact Amy Grundman at 248-224-5630, or visit the organization's website at [www.kellyengineering.com](http://www.kellyengineering.com).

## Frontier City and White Water Bay tickets available

Consignment tickets to Frontier City and White Water Bay are now available for purchase in the OCCC Bookstore. Tickets are \$19 for a one-day pass and \$65.01 for a season pass. Also available are one-day passes to Six Flags at \$28 each. For more information, contact Brenda Reinke, bookstore director, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7242.

**All Highlights are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday in room 2M6 on the second floor of the Main Building.**

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Office of National Drug Control Policy

Visit [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer)

## Pump it up



Psychology major and peer mentor Phillip Aken donates blood during the "Dive in to Give" blood drive held June 27 in the College Union. Those who participated in the Oklahoma Blood Institute drive were given T-shirts, visors and sunshades for their contribution to the state's dwindling blood supply.

Jennifer Beattie, Oklahoma Blood Institute blood programs consultant, said this summer's drive is comparable to past summer drives. A total of 22 people donated, which resulted in 22 pints being drawn.

"We appreciate [the students] coming in to the blood drive," Beattie said. "They helped us get through the Fourth of July."

Photo by Jay Rocamontes

## Gay Straight Alliance celebrates

**By Morgan Ray**  
News Writing Student

On June 16 and 17, OCCC's Gay Straight Alliance club participated in the Gay Pride Festival of Oklahoma for the first time.

Neill Spurgin, club president, said the parade was a way of celebrating a generation that came out of oppression, one that is "more open."

He said the parade, celebrating its 20th year, involved participants from businesses and school organization to families and friends. Spurgin said his son, who is 20, marched at the parade with his girlfriend.

Spurgin said 145 booths were set up during the parade and includes groups such as Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oklahoma Gay Rodeo Associa-

**"I want to try and create a summit that brings the information and truth out."**

—Neill Spurgeon

OCCC Gay Straight Alliance Club President

tion, Planned Parenthood and the Gay Alliance for Tolerance and Equality.

OKC Pride Inc., who put on the parade, includes 10 board members, including Co-Chairman Paul Thompson and Co-Chairwoman Gloria Moore.

Spurgin said the Gay Straight Alliance meets at 4:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. The group also has T-shirts and fliers informing others about the group.

The club has more community involvement plans for the fall semester.

"I want to try and create a summit that brings the information and truth out," Spurgin said.

He said the club, which is less than a year old, is about equality and understanding.

"The main goal for me is that I want people to be who they truly are."

For more information about the Gay Straight Alliance club, e-mail Spurgin at [neillspurgin@cox.net](mailto:neillspurgin@cox.net).

**Have club news?  
Share it with the Pioneer!  
Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7410  
or e-mail StaffWriter2@occc.edu.**

# Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC 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 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or fax 405-682-7843.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

**TRADE WANTED:** Yamaha 12 string guitar FG-410-12. Will trade for 6-string OBO. Call 670-9060.

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- 13 Helicopter blade
- 14 Pitcher
- 15 Site of the Colosseum
- 16 "The Singing Cowboy"
- 17 Grow bored
- 18 Makes livestock food
- 19 Ship's jail
- 20 Majestic
- 22 Short in supply
- 24 Loose robe
- 28 Doesn't have to
- 31 Danger
- 32 Ascended
- 34 "As — Like It"
- 36 Cut into cubes
- 37 Jewelry item
- 38 Piece
- 41 Expression of surprise
- 42 Burden
- 44 Dip in liquid
- 45 Greene of "Bonanza"
- 47 Willow
- 49 Regal chair
- 51 D or E
- 53 Saluted
- 56 Made noises
- 59 Sorrowful
- 61 Striped antelope
- 64 Honey makers
- 65 Extra
- 66 PDQ relative
- 67 In — of: replacing
- 68 Flower
- 69 Desire
- 70 Shade trees
- 71 Silly ones

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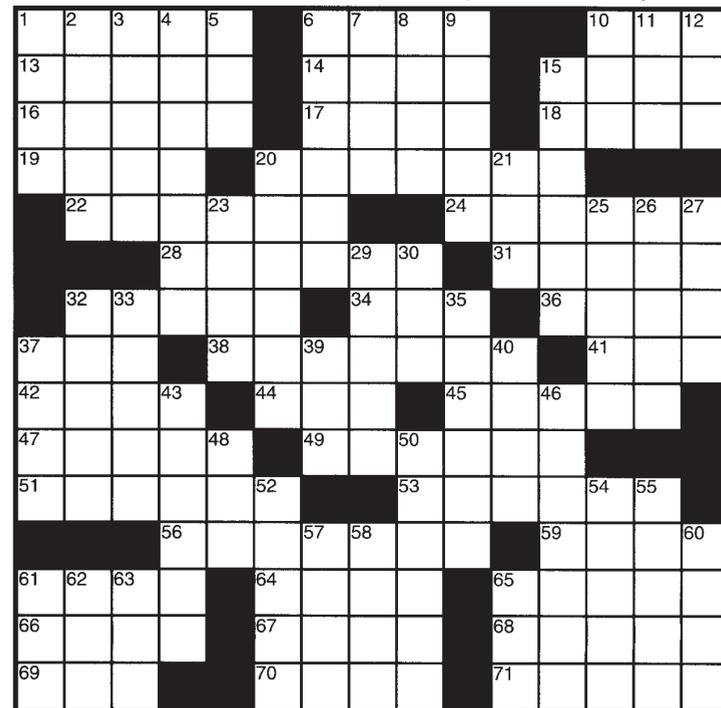
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- 3 Storage place
- 4 Saddle horses
- 5 Snoop
- 6 Scribbled quickly
- 7 Soprano's solo
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- 9 Smooth and lustrous
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# OCCC employees receive raises based on performance appraisals

*"Salary,"*  
Cont. from page 1

quirements" or had a "significant accomplishment" received a 2.5 percent increase.

A 3 percent increase in pay went to those who "exceeded job requirements" and had a "significant accomplishment."

The equation used to determine how large salary increases can be is based on several factors, Sechrist said.

"Cost of living increases are one factor in determining raises," he said in an e-mail. Gas prices, housing

and how much money OCCC receives from the state also are factors.

"Available revenue increases each year are a significant factor in determining if raises can be given at all," Sechrist said.

He said state appropriations are the largest source of that revenue.

The 4.5 percent increase is consistent with the average rate for the past five years.

Records show salary increases from fiscal years 2001-'02 to 2006-'07 were around 4.5 to 4.9 percent.

There were no pay raises in 2002-'03 and 2003-'04

because of low state allocations, according to Staffing Plans from those years.

Career Transitions Employment Specialist Craig Hitchcock said while the salary adjustment could be better, "it's not bad considering the economy in Oklahoma right now. Any increase is better than none."

Math Professor Charles Nunley said he would have liked a larger raise.

"We all feel [the pay raise] could be better. We all want as much as we can get, but I think overall, it's a reasonable amount."

Employee salaries and college budget plans from

all years are available to the public through OCCC's Marketing and Public Relations Department under

the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

Editor Eric Nguyen can be reached at [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu).

*After employees are evaluated by their supervisors, those evaluations are used to determine pay raises. The merit-based raises are given using the following criteria.*

**Did not meet job requirements: 0% increase**

**Partially met job requirements: 0% increase**

**Met job requirements: 2% increase + \$750**

**Exceeded job requirements or significant accomplishment: 2.5% increase + \$750**

**Exceeded job requirements and significant accomplishment: 3% increase + \$750**

# Student worker salaries increase less than \$3 an hour in 10-year period

*"Pay,"*  
Cont. from page 1

OCCC was \$54,152 in 1997 and \$64,362 in 2002.

OCCC deans will see an

average pay raises from \$74,048 to \$75,810 this fiscal year.

The dean to see the highest total increase is Special Initiatives Dean Susan

VanSchuyver. She will receive a salary increase from \$79,878 to \$92,295, making her the college's highest paid dean.

VanSchuyver has been

employed at OCCC since 1990.

Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas, hired in January 2005, will see a pay raise from \$68,543 to \$74,749 in fiscal year 2007-'08.

Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque's salary will increase from \$40,803 to \$44,838. Bourque was hired in October 1992 as a Safety and Security officer.

OCCC Campus Safety and Security armed officers made an average of \$21,533 in fiscal year 2006-'07. This year, they will earn an average of \$23,511.

Part-time professors, whose salaries will increase from \$590 to \$615 per credit hour this fiscal year, have experienced a 27 percent pay raise since 1997.

Student employees are

seeing pay raises as well. Students making \$7 per hour will increase to \$7.25, and those making \$7.50 per hour will make \$7.75 providing they've been employed at OCCC for 12 months.

In 2002, student employees at the college earned \$6.50 and \$7, compared to 1997, when students earned \$5 and \$5.25.

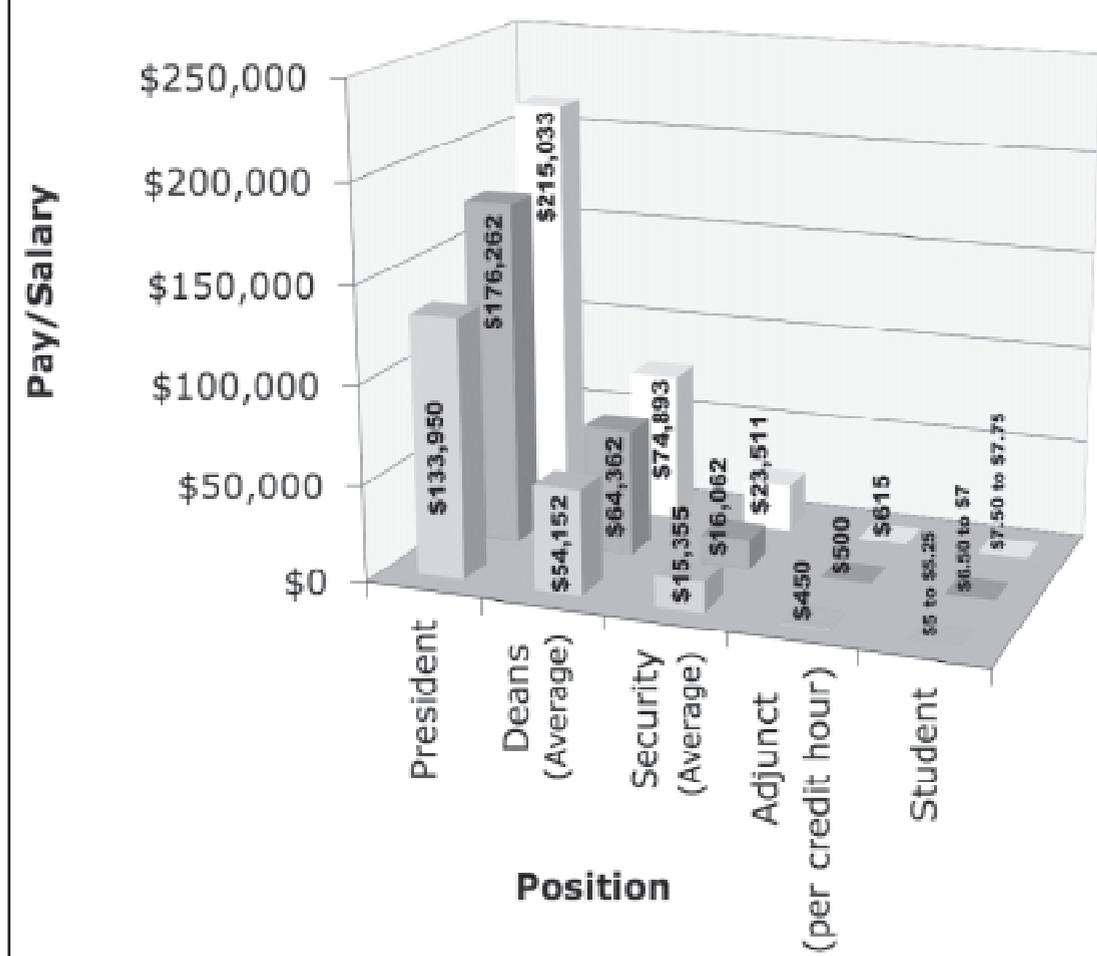
In fiscal year 2007-'08, \$35,891,800 of OCCC's total budget of \$48,064,462 is directed toward salaries, wages and benefits.

Employee salaries from the annual Staffing Plan and an overview of the college budget is public information that can be obtained by an Open Records request, available in OCCC's Public Relations office.

Editor Eric Nguyen can be reached at [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu).

## OCCC Salaries from 1997 to 2008

■ 1996/1997 ■ 2001/2002 □ 2007/2008



## Correction

In the June 25 issue of the Pioneer, in the story, "OCCC President to see \$7,900 pay raise," a word omission indicated incorrect information regarding Paul Sechrist's salary. Sechrist does not receive additional allowances for entertainment, housing or a car. All of his business expenses are paid by him from his salary. We regret the omission.