White House too restrictive, editorial, p. 2.

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Oklahoma City Community College

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Planning early for fall classes recommended

By Eric Nguyen Editor

he beginning of the fall semester is one of the busiest times of the year for college faculty and staff, Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner said, so students should start preparing for the fall semester now while lines are short, and faculty staff has more free time.

"It's a pretty hectic time, trying to get everybody situated and make sure [students] have what they need to get started," she said.

The first order of business is enrolling in classes.

Public Relations sophomore Kelsey Northcutt recommends students follow her lead and enroll right away to get classes they want.

"Definitely [enroll] early because you have a wider selection of choices to meet your need and your schedules," Northcutt said.

Students have several options when enrolling in classes.

Turner said students can get help scheduling classes by making an appointment with an Advising and Career Services adviser. The office is located on the first floor of the Main Building.

Students also can enroll online with MineOnline, located on the college website, www.occc.edu.

To access MineOnline, students will need a username, which is a student's first name, middle initial and last name, and a password, which is the last six digits of their social security number.

When choosing classes, Turner said, students should prioritize their schedules out-

"Definitely [enroll] early because you have a wider selection of choices to meet your need and your schedules."

-Kelsey Northcutt **OCCC Student**

side of school and plan well.

"[Students] need to be realistic about what they can do and when they can be [at OCCC]," she said.

"If you've got a 7:30 a.m. or 8 a.m. class and you can't get up that early, there's not a lot we can do about that except try to counsel you to plan better next semester."

After enrolling, Turner said, students should begin to look at supplies and textbooks needed for class.

"You can start doing those things now even though we're still in summer," she said.

"The bookstore may not have all of the books but they can give (students) a pretty good idea of what they will need for their classes."

Electrical engineering sophomore Elijah Gay agrees with Turner.

"I start looking for my textbooks early so I can find the cheapest price," Gay said.

For returning OCCC students, Turner said, preparing for graduation and beginning the transfer process to another college should be priori-

She said students can run a degree check through MineOnline to see if all required courses are scheduled. Turner said students ready to

See "Prepare," page 12

Nature's showers



Photo by Jay Rocamontes

Pharmacy freshman Jan Ban (left) and psychology freshman Candace Franks try to make it from the Library to the Main Building without getting soaked. Downpours during the months of June and July produced record-setting rainfall amounts throughout the state, reported the National Weather Service.

Security cameras are watching

By Charli New

News Writing Student

CCC campus parking lots are now under surveillance since 10 Sony RX550 security cameras were activated July 12.

The cameras are located on outside building walls across the campus, said Safety and Security Coordinator Keith

Campus Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas said the cameras capture seven frames per second and stores them to a hard drive. The FBI recommends security cameras capture a minimum of two frames per second for effective video surveillance, according to www.video-surveillance.us.

In April 2007, eight incidents were reported in campus parking lots, according to Safety and Security records. President Paul Sechrist said the cameras will help prevent such incidents.

"We recognize that surveillance cam-

eras provide a deterrent to car theft and those kinds of things on campus which we've had some issues with," he said.

"We see the surveillance cameras as providing an additional layer of safety to students, guests and employees who come to the campus."

The cameras, a wireless network, laptops, and a hard drive cost an estimated \$95,000, Sloas said.

Every parking lot is equipped with at least one camera, he said. Parking lot A, the largest, has three cameras.

Sloas said Campus Safety and Security personnel monitor images taken by the cameras.

In addition, he said, officers will continue to patrol the parking lots and monitor the cameras from screens in their vehicles.

'We are looking for anyone who looks out of place ... suspicious people."

Sloas said an officer would be dispatched immediately if cameras show any criminal activity.

Editorial and Opinion _____

Editorial

Government restricts vital info from public

Recently, three former U.S. Surgeon Generals appeared before Congress to testify in regard to political interference with their office.

Richard Carmona, former Surgeon General for the President George W. Bush Administration, testified members of the administration interfered in the release of reports covering topics such as stem cell research, sexual education and the immediate dangers from exposure to second-hand smoke.

When government offices serving the public are forced to report only information that supports politicians' agendas, the public's best interests are not being considered.

Leaders in those offices have a responsibility to speak out about such interference, just as Carmona did.

By doing so, they provide the people the opportunity to speak out and say such behavior is not acceptable from our elected government representatives.

One of the most important duties of the Surgeon General's office is to inform and educate the public about new developments concerning medical science and health issues.

By restricting the topics on which Carmona could report or discuss, the Bush Administration prevented the public from having access to information that could be pivotal to life decisions.

After appointing Carmona to the position in March 2002, Bush said, "Translating medical research into practical life-improving changes is a critical function of the Surgeon General," according to his March 26, 2002, speech as found on www.whitehouse.gov.

But the interference by the president's office prevented Carmona from doing exactly that.

The Declaration of Independence states, "when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism ... it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

Essentially, the Declaration of Independence states when government officials abuse their power in an oppressive manner, those with the ability to enact change have the responsibility to do so.

If we don't want politicians telling us only what suits their interests and not ours, then we must exercise our right to representation by writing to our congressmen and women.

We must let them know we will not tolerate them restricting and interfering with the release of information that directly concerns our lives.

We must remind them it is the people who possess the power to vote them out of office.

—Carrie Cronk Staff Writer

Library offers sources on traveling

To the Editor:

One of the major characteristics of modern times is the phenomenon of travel.

Most of the inventions in the world have, in some way, contributed to the increased ability of people to travel.

People talk of visiting states, capitals and exotic places around the world.

It is seldom one goes to a party or social function without hearing people talk about far away or glamorous places they have visited.

Those who want to travel should carefully plan their trip to help keep expenses down and save headaches.

You may need to learn about regional food, culture, climate, package tours, auto clubs, rental cars, time zones, business etiquette, and holidays of a specific state, region or country that you intend to visit.

The OCCC library has a wide variety of materials such as books, magazines, maps and audio/visual materials that may help an-

swer your travel questions.

"Fodor's USA" by Fodor's publication is organized by regional, state, and city chapters.

The main idea is to be both more selective and complete.

It offers material on vacations in every stage and also gives useful details on the most popular destinations.

The beginning of the book features a United States map with states, capital cities, major highways, and Amtrak lines for your convenience.

"North America and Alaskan cruises" is written by experts in the field.

It provides practical advice and a general understanding about an area's history, culture and people.

It also covers natural and cultural history, worthy sights, and detailed information on dry land, hotels and restaurants.

"Fodor's Europe" is a fascinating book about people, places and routes of 31 countries.

All letters to the editor must include the author's name, address and phone number. However, the Pioneer will withhold the name if the request is made in writing.

Dear Tech Support,
When I type on my computer, the words do not show up on the screen.
Instead, they mysteriously appear over my head.



This book takes you along major routes, and helps you explore the towns, villages and beauty spots.

Special features include new and noteworthy tips, plus basic vocabulary words, numbers, days of the week, and some useful phrases.

Come to the library and make use of our sources.

—Jay Ramanjulu Library Public Services Coordinator

PIONEER

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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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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.



Comments and Reviews



Singing and dancing equates to not much

"Hairspray" is the latest musical film set to be released by New Line Cinema July 20. It is based on the 2002 Tony-award winning play, which was based on the 1988 comedy film.

Musical films have seen a subtle resurgence in the new millennium since "Moulin Rouge," and "Hairspray" arrives on the heels of recent mainstream hits such as "Chicago," "Rent" and "Dreamgirls."

Most musicals carry a clear, underlying message and "Hairspray" is no different, preaching the value of being different and presenting issues of inequality in the early '60s.

The story follows pudgy overachiever Tracy Turnblad (played by cinema newcomer Nikki Blonsky) and her dreams of getting on a Baltimore dance TV station, "The Corny Collins Show.'

Despite not fitting in at school and being misinformed by her mother Edna (played by a John Travolta who is strapped in fake weight, a dress and a wig), Tracy impresses Corny Collins himself (played by James Marsden) at a school

Tracy then earns a spot on the show, wows the audience and becomes a sensation, much to the disdain

of the show's leading starlet, Amber Von Tussle (Brittany Snow), who plans to bring Tracy down.

But Tracy has other troubles of her own as her childhood friend Penny Pingleton (Amanda Bynes) stirs up controversy by developing an interracial relationship with Seaweed

racial segregation, Tracy ends up on the local police's wanted list and has to go into hiding at Pingleton's

rivalry between her and Von Tussle continues and ends up being settled by a, you guessed it, singing dance-off between the two "Miss Teenage Hairspray" candidates.

The musical perforgarten teacher Motormouth

Stubbs (Elijah Kelley). During a protest against

Meanwhile, the heated

mances of "Hairspray" are comical and over-the-top, but feature some very good acts by Blonsky as Tracy Turnblad, and Queen Latifah, who plays Stubbs' mother and glossy kinder-



Everyone at OCCC is committed to helping each student succeed in college.

We believe that a college education is the most significant investment you can make to ensure a better life for yourself and your family.

This focus on student success is not just a slogan

We continually look at what we do inside and outside of the classroom that could help more students succeed.

We measure success not only by the number of students who successfully complete college courses; we also measure it by how deeply each student learns the materials in the class.

Recently, we have decided to organize our efforts to help more students succeed around an initiative called, "Achieving the Dream."

This comprehensive initiative provides a focus to the many projects designed to improve student preparation for college, presistence of our students from semester to semester, right through the accomplishment of a degree or certificate.

Why the increased focus on student success? Simply put, too many students in Oklahoma dream of going to college and finishing a college degree and never see their dreams fulfilled.

Less than half of the students who initially enroll in college will ever complete a degree.

Among the 50 states, Oklahoma ranks 42nd in the percentage of its residents (per capita) who hold a college degree.

Jobs that only required a high school diploma are declining, while jobs that require a college degree, are increasing.

A college education has never been more important.

OCCC is a place where everyone can have the opportunity to achieve the dream of earning a college education.

Doing all that we can to make sure that this opportunity is one that ends in success is at the heart of OCCC's "Achieving the Dream" initiative.

—Paul Sechrist **OCCC President**

Maybelle.

Despite a solid performance by Blonsky, who is backed by a strong cast that also includes Michelle Pfeiffer, Allison Janney, Zac Efron and Christopher Walken, "Hairspray" lacks heart and sincerity.

The actors aren't superficial, but their characters are. "Rent" has characters with more authentic struggles and "Dreamgirls" has more vibrant performan

"Hairspray," rated PG and running 117 minutes, is fun and colorful, but the story of hope and triumph is lost beneath a hollow spectacle of too much feel-good satisfaction.

Rating: C

—Eric Nguyen **Editor**



Questions, comments or concerns? Send them to editor@occc.edu.

Comments and Reviews_____

Special release should cater to all Foo fans

One of rock's best acts, the Foo Fighters, recently released a special edition of the album that made them stars by adding six extra songs.

The 1997 album known to us mere mortals as "The Colour and the Shape" remains a modern rock classic.

The extra songs are a mixed lot — a collection of B-sides and covers. Four of the six tracks are cover songs from artists such as Killing Joke and Gary

The Foo Fighters fall short on both their renditions of "Requiem," a Killing Joke track and the Vanity 6 song, "Drive Me Wild." Both songs sound flat with almost inaudible vocals and overdone, distorted guitars.

Two other covers, Gary Numan's "Down in the Park" and Gerry Rafferty's "Baker Street" exemplify the Foos at their more melodic moments.

Adding smiles to fans' faces are the band's two originals, "Dear Lover" and "The Colour and the Shape.

"Dear Lover" is the father to "Next Year" and "MIA" on the band's third album, "There Is Nothing Left to Lose" while "The Colour and the Shape" is reminiscent of the Nirvana track "Scentless Apprentice."

Overall, the additions are nice, but really just remind listeners of a great band's origins.

Every track is part of a great emotional roller coaster ride where the music



While the album is well known for singles such as "Everlong" and "My Hero," the entire record paints a picture of heartache, happiness and everything in between.

The album is an essential for rock fans new and old alike.

It stands out for its heart and great sound which was captured by veteran producer Gil Norton (Jimmy Eat World

The special edition's added tracks don't all live up to the album's legacy, but they are a good pick up for the Foo

Rating: A-

-Matt Caban **Staff Writer**

TV series mixes humor and drama

Lifetime's pilot episode for her than what is immeditheir new series "Side Order of Life" captures viewers well with its combination of light humor and unavoidable drama.

The series is set to air 7 p.m. Sunday evenings on the Lifetime cable network.

The series focuses on the life of Jenny McIntyre, played by Marisa Coughlan ("Boston Legal," "Super Troopers"), who is a magazine photographer suffering from a severe case of the jitters.

In the pilot, Coughlan's situation causes her to obsess over every little detail of her upcoming wedding, as well as relationship with her fiancée, Ian, played by Jason Priestley ("Beverly Hills 90210").

That is until her best friend Vivy, played by Diana-Maria Riva ("Studio 60"), shows up for lunch wearing one of the worst bridesmaid dresses of recent history, and proceeds to inform Jenny that she

After the shock of Vivy's news, Jenny's jitters grow into doubts, and her photos begin to reveal more to

ately apparent.

While Jenny struggles with the choices she is faced with in her personal life, her career flourishes as her increased emotional sensitivity spreads to her work, and she moves from an average photographer, to a photojournalist capable of capturing the feel of the moment in both pictures and words.

Comic relief is provided by Vivy's panicky reaction to her abbreviated lifespan, and from Jenny's reactions to events and conversations with a total stranger over the cell phone.

The show captures the essence behind the saying "Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans," and Coughlan's performance captures the emotional roller coaster created by life's dilemmas.

This is a show many people will be able to relate to, as it brings comedy, drama and a sense of the universally mysterious to the audience.

Rating: A

-Carrie Cronk **Staff Writer**

Classic Crichton novel about intrigue and action

Action, intrigue and the credibly heavy devices usstrange world of Victorianera Britain collide in Michael Crichton's 1975 novel "The Great Train Robbery."

Set in Victorian London between 1854 and 1857, the novel tells the story of Edward Pierce, an ambitious well-to-do criminal mastermind.

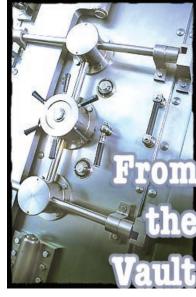
Pierce, after much planning, decides to steal a huge shipment of gold from two virtually impenetrable safes on board a train bound for Europe — something that had never been done before.

Because dynamite had not yet been invented and safes of the period were ining key-based locks, Pierce and his accomplices are forced to seek out copies of the safes'

In the process of finding them, Pierce and his accomplices pull off several elaborate confidence games and burglaries as intricate as the final heist

On the eve of the robbery, however, unexpected complications force Pierce and his accomplices to improvise a brilliant and inadvertently hilarious backup

A number of things make



"The Great Train Robbery" one of Crichton's best nov-

The most notable of which is the fact the book's plot, characters and dialogue are heavily based on historical records of the 1885 Great Gold Robbery.

While embellished slight-ly for the story's sake, Crichton seems to take pains in following the actual events fairly closely.

In "The Great Train Robbery," Crichton also explains several oddities of Victorian England at relevant points of the book.

This helps readers understand otherwise nonsensical events without noticeably interrupting the

These characters are an-

other of the book's major strengths. While many of them are described sparingly because of limited historical records, they still come to life in a very believable way.

The result is a collection of characters and settings that feel very much alive, in a story reminiscent of "Oceans 11" or "The Italian

At 329 pages, "The Great Train Robbery" isn't a short book but is compelling enough to keep casual, as well as dedicated readers, interested in the story right up to the epilogue.

> —Drew Hampton **Staff Writer**

Library provides Visual Thesaurus

By Julissa Niles and **Emily Jacobson**News Writing Students

Are you a person of few words? The college library has a new tool that can help you build your repertoire

The library added a trial subscription of Thinkmap's Visual Thesaurus to their online resources this summer.

According to www.visual thesaurus.com, the resource "is an interactive dictionary and thesaurus which creates word maps that blossom with the meanings and branch to related words."

Library Circulation Assistant Supervisor Jessica Viner said students can access the website through a link located at the top of the library's homepage, www. occc.edu/library.

To use the thesaurus, the user enters a word to activate the animated visual map.

The map provides information about the word including the word's definition, alternate and

svnonvms.

Users can click on one of the word's synonyms to access the map for that word as well.

Circulation and Reference Librarian Linda Boatright said the online thesaurus is a good tool for students and professors alike.

The program is designed to help spark interest in reading, writing and building vocabulary, she said.

"It was the library's intention to have this program as a tool for writers and to expand people's reading and vocabulary."

"Written communication is a vital skill and is often neglected."

The thesaurus provides many articles to help prepare students to write papers for their classes, she said

The articles cover topics from proofreading and interviewing techniques, to web writing, plagiarism and how to use quotes.

The section "Bad Language," addresses common writing mistakes students make, while the Educators section contains lesson plans and other helpful tips for teachers.

The second or community of interests

CONTINUENTLY 4:

Teacher of the continuent of

The Visual Thesaurus is an animated map that displays the word users enter, and illustrates other synonyms of the word through interactive branches.

Yousef Kazemi, a student tutor in the Communications Lab, said although he had not yet learned about the Visual Thesaurus, he would begin recommending it to students, as the Comm Lab tries to make all students aware of any and all resources available to them.

OCCC and University of Oklahoma student Gretchen Biagi said

the thesaurus could be helpful.

"It would be really nice to use when you're writing papers," she said.

Students and faculty are encouraged to use the resource before the end of the trial period on Oct. 31, as the library will consider purchasing a full subscription if the program is widely used.

False alarm, theft highlight crime

By Matt Caban Staff Writer

A false fire alarm and larceny from a motor vehicle were reported on campus July 9 and 13.

The fire alarm sounded at 1:29 p.m. July 9, on the second level of the Science, Engineering and Math Center, according to a report filed by Safety and Security Sergeant Larry Lundy.

According to the report, after fire alarms sounded in the Main Building, it was evacuated along with the SEM Center while classes were in session.

Lundy went to the SEM Center and checked for smoke or signs of a fire but found none according to the report.

A call made to the Oklahoma City Fire Department was canceled at 1:34 p.m. and everyone was allowed back into the building at 1:38 p.m., according to the report.

On July 13, Student Tyler Stephens reported the theft of his wallet and 60-gigabyte video iPod from his 2005 Ford F-150 to Officer Dennis Shelton.

Stephens said the iPod's car adapter was visible inside the vehicle but he doesn't know how someone got to them.

"There weren't any signs of a break in and I know I locked it," he said.

Stephens, a senior biomedical/zoology student at the University of Oklahoma, said he was at OCCC earlier that day for a Spanish II class.

"On my break from class, I put my wallet and iPod into the center console," he said.

Stephens said he noticed his wallet and iPod missing when he returned to his car after class.

Stephens said his wallet contained his Oklahoma driver's license, a lifetime fishing license and a MasterCard.

Stephens said purchases totaling more than \$2,000 were made at several local

stores.

He said two of the stores had surveillance video but would not release it to him.

However, an employee at one of the stores gave him the description of a 1997-98 maroon Ford F-150, Stephens said.

He said the driver was a 5'11" or 6' skinny and scruffy white male wearing a ball cap in his late 20's.

Stephens said he filed a report with the Oklahoma City Police Department.

Shelton said Stephens was unsure if the items were stolen when he was at home or on campus.

"He came back to campus after he found they were missing," he said.

Officer Shelton said he looked for the incident on Safety and Security's new video camera system.

"On camera there was no one near the vehicle at [the time Stephens was in class]," he said.

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

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Former student gracing televisions near you

By Carrie Cronk Staff Writer

One of OCCC's graduates has become a familiar face to many members of Oklahoma City's Spanishspeaking community.

Rony Medrano can be seen most nights on the Telemundo T30 news at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Channel 30 and Cox Cable Channel 5,

Medrano graduated from OCCC in November 2002, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2005.

Medrano has worked for the station as a general assignment reporter since March 2006.

He said he covers the segment "T30 On Your Side."

Medrano said the segment helps the Hispanic community in the same manner as consumer watch segments on the larger news broadcasts.

"We do a lot of situations where we go on their side and we investigate," he said. For instance, a lot of employers don't pay them for weeks of work that they've done, or somebody at a car dealer tries to rip them off."

He said many undocumented residents are taken advantage of because many of them do not speak English well, and many are also here illegally and less likely to take action.

Medrano said he understands the issues facing the Hispanic community.

"I was in their shoes at one point in my life," he said. "I didn't speak any English when I first came to this country, so I kinda feel that connection with them."

In 1991, Medrano and his



Rony Medrano

family moved to the United States from Guatemala, where they lived in a neighborhood with only three houses, no running water and no electricity, he said.

"There's a huge ... culture shock."

Medrano said the two things he enjoys most about his job are giving back to the community, and the constantly changing nature.

"It's not like any other job where you're stuck behind a desk all day ... staring at the clock ... wondering when your shift's going to end," he said.

"Time flies by."

Medrano said his job offers a continuous learning experience. He said journalists meet new people every day and often have to do research for the stories they are assigned to cover.

Medrano said his experience at OCCC helps him a great deal in his career.

He said while the larger media markets have much more specialized positions, at T30, "you do everything from start to end on your own."

"You have to shoot your own [video], edit your own [work], and write your own [copy]." He said his OCCC classes and professors helped to prepare him.

"When I first walked in [Rick Lippert's class], I didn't even know how to turn on the camera," he said. "Now it's ... second nature."

"I feel like everything he taught us from lighting to editing to shooting. It has helped me a lot," he said.

Medrano said students should learn as much as possible about the various aspects of journalism because they may be required to do more than just report on the story.

"I feel like the education at OCCC was just as good or maybe even better than [at] UCO," Medrano said. I feel like I had amazing professors and I learned ... a lot."

Staff Writer Carrie Cronk can be reached at Staff Writer2@occc.edu.

New foreign language courses scheduled for fall

By Brian Hodges News Writing Student

OCCC will offer two new foreign language courses in the fall 2007 semester.

Intro to Vietnamese, a three-credit hour course, will be offered at 5:30 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning Aug. 20.

Intro to Vietnamese will introduce students to the Vietnamese alphabet and related symbols in order for them to develop basic skills for communicating in every day situations, Diane Broyles, Communication and the Arts acting chairwoman, said.

Italian for Travelers, a three-

credit hour course, will be offered 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays beginning Nov. 10. It will be a Fast Track web-enhanced class.

"We're very excited to offer these classes," Broyles said.

Students enrolling in either course should have sufficient knowledge in their first language and little or no knowledge in the language they want to learn, Broyles said.

Professors have yet to be chosen for the classes.

Special Initiatives Dean Susan VanSchuyver said the Intro to Vietnamese class is the first OCCC class to be offered in Vietnamese, and there is an opportunity to exnand

Broyles said the class is especially for beginners and people who want a refresher course in the subjects.

She said Intro to Vietnamese is being offered because there was interest in the Vietnamese community for a class, and the Communication and Arts department wanted to expand the number of

Italian for Travelers will be conducted along the same lines.

The course will teach students conversational Italian and offer basics for reading and writing Italian, Broyles said.

"I will actually be taking the Ital-

ian for Travelers course," Broyles said. "I was in Italy a few years ago and I was embarrassed by my lack of knowledge in Italian."

The Italian for Travelers course is being offered in preparation for a trip to Italy over winter break that some students and faculty are going on, Broyles said.

The trip can be used as a Humanities credit, Broyles said.

Students taking the course are not required to go on the trip.

Both class capacities are 25.

The classes are integrated with the World Languages and Cultural Center, where students can share and learn about different cultures, Broyles said.

College's nanotech program aims to be one of best in state

By Robert Matejka News Writing Student

Students who would like to earn a degree in Nanotechnology will soon have the chance at OCCC. Gregory Holland, engineering professor, will coordinate a new program in the fall 2007.

He has been lobbying for the program since his hire in January 2005. It will require 63 credit hours, according to the degree sheet.

Nanotechnology is all sciences on a very small scale, Holland said. It allows science students

to see their work at the level of molecules.

"We are going to provide experience for future technicians in the field of nanotechnology," Holland said.

The field is increasing in Oklahoma and OCCC wants to provide it with knowledgable workers, he said.

The Nanotechnology degree can be the end road for students who can then work in the field or they can move to a four-year college and specialize in a specific field of study, he said. The classes can hold up to 25 students but will probably start small and grow as interest grows in the courses and field. Holland said several students already have shown interest in earning the degree.

Holland said OCCC's access to certain equipment is what helps the college stand out.

"OCCC might be the only two-year college that has access to certain equipment such as an atomic force microscope (AFM) and a scanning tunneling microscope (STM) to practice Nanotechnology."

Summer of sports reigns supreme at OCCC

The chess camp wraps up OCCC's summer sports camps July 23 through 27.

Rita Manning, Recreation and Community Services assistant, said the sport of kings rounds out the 10 youth camps held this summer.

She said 190 children participated in sports camps such as basketball, baseball, chess, football, golf, soccer and tennis.

There also were two camps for some sports such as basketball, golf and tennis, she said.

Manning said this year's camps had a comparable number of campers to last summer's camps.

This year's largest camp was soccer with 39 campers, Manning said. She said it also was last year's biggest camp with 45 campers

Manning said the second largest camp was tennis with 34 campers and the third biggest camp was boys' basketball with 28 participants.

The fourth and fifth largest camps were baseball with 23 campers and golf with 22 participants.

Although the numbers for most camps were comparable to last year's camps, there was an exception, she said.

Manning said the girls' basketball camp did not have enough participants to go on as scheduled June 18 to 22. She said last summer's version of the camp had 20 campers.

Half of the camps took place on campus, Manning said.

The off-campus camps were baseball at the USA Softball Complex on Shields Avenue, golf at Earlywine Golf Course and tennis at Fairmoore Park in Moore.

Text by Matt Caban Photos by Jay Rocamontes



Junior Yellowfish, 10, charges the basket during a scrimmage in the OCCC Wellness Center. Children from the community participated in an OCCC youth fitness for life basketball camp hosted by Recreation Community Services.



Above: Thirteen-year-old Park Hyunsung practices his newly acquired putting technique in the OCCC youth golf camp held July 9 to 13. OCCC Golf instructor Gary Martin has been teaching children discipline and form for the last seven years.

Left: Concurrent enrollment student and U.S. Grant High School junior Shawna Bieger uses the Wellness Center gymnasium to practice volleyball serves. The size of the gym accommodates a variety of sports from basketball and tennis to golf and volleyball.

Sports_

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

•July 27-29: The Oklahoma Long Course Age Group Championship starts at the OCCC Aquatic Center. It is an event for all registered USA Swimming athletes ages 19 and under within Oklahoma. Competition begins at 10:30 a.m. July 27 to 28 and at 10:45 a.m. July 29.

Entry fee and deadline information is available from Meet Director Eileen Hatfield. All entries are due by noon Friday, July 20. For more information, contact Hatfield at 405-834-2892.

•July 30: The Wellness Center gymnasium will be open during the day. It was closed daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for summer sports camp usage.

Beginning July 30, gymnasium hours are 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. Friday. The hours will change after Friday, Aug. 24. For more information, call the Wellness Center Cage attendants at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Have a great sports story you want to share? Know an athlete the Pioneer should talk to? Contact Matt at 405-682-1611, ext. 7675 or by e-mail at seniorwriter@ occc.edu.

Stay updated! Visit the Pioneer Online often for news from your college community. Visit www.occc.edu/ pioneer today.

Dive in



Photo by Jay Rocamonte

Swimmers go head first into the men's 100-meter freestyle race July 18 at the Aquatic Center. OCCC played host to the Speedo Champions Series Central Section Region VIII meet July 18 to 21. The meet brought 598 swimmers and 53 swim teams from neighboring states to compete in 34 Olympic-grade long course events. Preliminary heats were held each morning of the event . The four fastest swimmers from each heat moved on to the finals, which were held the same evening.

First-time coach leads camp

Western Heights teacher shares tennis with children

By Matt Bishop

News Writing Student

Tennis camp is in full swing at OCCC.

Coach Alice Ratway led the way for the boys and girls for two weeks of camp from July 9 to 13 and July 16 to 20.

Many of the participants, ages 10 to 14, and many of them were trying tennis for the first time.

The boys and girls were taught the basics of serving and hitting the ball.

They watched videos on how to serve and hit the tennis ball, then went into the gym to learn with hands-on experience.

Racquets also were provided so that all participants were able to play, Ratway said.

It was Ratway's first year teaching the camp at the college and said she will be looking forward to coming back.

"I love the program and love the facilities," she said.

Ratway has been a teacher at

"I love watching the kids find out that they can do something that they have never done before."

—Alice RatwayTennis Camp Coach

Western Heights High School in Oklahoma City for seven years and worked at a racquet club for 26 years.

Those years of experience are what the kids need for starting a new sport, she said.

Several parents and grandparents were glad to see their children and grandchildren participate in the tennis camp.

Jerry Jackson, of Oklahoma City, said his granddaughter Karen was playing tennis for the first time.

"This is Karen's first week to play," Jackson said.

"She loves it and is learning a lot." he said.

Jackson said that he and his granddaughter would be back next year for the camp.

Coach Ratway said participants learned a lot and improved throughout the course of the camp.

"I love watching the kids find out that they can do something that they have never done before," Ratway said.

Her favorite part of the camp was seeing Paula Tran, a smaller-sized girl who could barely hold a racquet on the first day, accomplish her first overhead serve, Ratway said.

"I am blessed to have this opportunity to be teaching tennis here,"

Ratway said she gave out awards to all camp participants.

The awards included ones for hustle, most improved and stroke form, she said.



Jerry Steward, vice president of Government Relations and Community Development, speaks at the open house dedication of the OCCC computer lab July 10 at the Hillcrest Senior Center, 2325 S.W. 59th St. Steward recognized Barbara Baker, Oklahoma City Senior Citizen Housing supervisor (left) and Jessica Martinez-Brooks, Community Outreach director (right) for their work in planning the computer labs located at senior centers across south Oklahoma City.

OCCC offers classes, computers for seniors

By Drew Hampton Staff Writer

In a small cafeteria covered in patriotic decorations, dignitaries from OCCC and the Oklahoma City Housing Authority helped dedicate new computer labs at senior centers across south Oklahoma at the college to teach the City Tuesday, July 10.

The ceremony, an open house held at the Hillcrest Senior Center on S.W. 59th Street, began with an introduction by Jerry Steward, vice-president for Government Relations and Community Development.

Steward said the labs, installed with the help of OCCC's Information Technology department, are intended to give seniors and members of the community new ways to educate themselves and keep in touch with family.

"In the future, if you want to send or receive photographs of relatives and friends, you're going to be able to do that," he said.

Each lab consists of two modern Internet-capable desktop computers and a printer, available to both residents and those living in the immediate area.

The computers were set up at Hillcrest and other locations, including Redding Senior Center on S.W. 28th Street, Andrews Square on S. Harvey Avenue, and Shartel Towers on S. Shartel Avenue.

Steward said OCCC would provide free classes centers' residents how to use the new systems. He said the Housing Authority would provide transportation to and from the college.

"We thought about how great it would be if you ... could not only have access to computers and the internet, but someone to teach you how to use them," he said.

Board of Regents member Alice Musser also spoke at the ceremony.

"We are walking into the 21st century today," she

"We are here to celebrate a partnership that promotes education, quality of life and computer literacy."

Mark Gillet of the Oklahoma City Housing Authority, spoke briefly, thanking the regents for making the computer access possible.

"Residents on fixed income can't (afford to) do this on their own," he said.

Joyce Boyd, a resident at Hillcrest and grandmother of five, told the audience she loved the freedom computers had given her and encouraged them to learn how to use the new technology.

"I hope you enjoy it as much as I have," she said.

A number of OCCC employees were recognized at the open house, including James Riha, chief technology officer, Mark Davis, vice-president of Business and Finance, and Jessica Martinez-Brooks, director of Community Outreach.

State Senator Debbie Leftwich attended the ceremony, as did representatives from congresswoman Mary Fallin's office.

One resident, Bessie Davis, said she likely would not use the new computers.

"I don't think so, not at my age," she said. "It wouldn't do much good."

Other residents, including Larry Snow, were more positive.

"I think it's a great deal," Snow said. "It's a good

Staff Writer Drew Hampton can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

New nursing program holds open house

By Drew Hampton Staff Writer

On July 11, OCCC hosted an open house for the first students of the new OU/OCCC Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program.

Nursing Professor Debbie Myers and representatives from OU distributed information about the program and helped answer students' questions during the open house.

"[The program consists of] junior-level nursing courses that will be taught here at OCCC, at [our] tuition and [fee rates], by our nursing faculty," said OCCC Director of Nursing Rosemary Klepper.

Klepper said these students will also be enrolled as full-fledged bachelor degree students at the University of Oklahoma while taking classes at OCCC.

In addition to the cost of tuition, books and fees, students enrolled in the program are required to purchase laptops, health insurance and liability insurance, and pay for random drug screenings.

Klepper said the program was inspired by a similar effort at Tulsa Community College, both of which share the goal of expanding the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in the state.

"The baccalaureate nurse is an important component of the nursing community," she said. "They are the people who go on and get their master's and teach or [enter] management.'

She said these nurses are in high demand in large part because of a shortage of nursing faculty across the nation.

Without new nursing teachers, Klepper said, the shortage of both baccalaureate-equipped and tradtional nurses will become more severe.

"This in no way replaces our associate degree program," she said. "It will continue to be the heart of nursing education at OCCC."

Of the 24 students expected at the open house held in room 1N2 of Health Professions, 13 attended, most of whom were female.

"I'm really looking forward to [the program]," said Angie Collins, who is enrolling in the program after 11 years of operating Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft (AWACS) as a Technical Sergeant in the Air Force.

"[The Air Force] can be rewarding, but nursing is as well ... we'll see what it brings.'

Brandee Keele, a student who attended courses with Collins, also is enrolled in the program and said she hopes to work in obstetrics.

"We're excited about it," she said.

Heather Madron, an OU student, said she decided to enroll in the program after taking accounting courses last semester and hating them.

"I wanted to do something to make a difference, and nursing can do that," she said.

Orientation for the program is scheduled for August 8, and classes begin on August 20.

Staff Writer Drew Hampton can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

Highlights

Chesapeake scholarship offered

Chesapeake Energy Corporation is offering 10 \$1,000 scholarships to Chesapeake Scholars for the 2007-2008 academic year. The scholarship provides assistance to Oklahoma natives and students who attended high school in the state. Students eligible to apply must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at OCCC with a minimum grade point average of 3.0. The student must also be involved in an OCCC club or a community organization. Students should apply no later than July 31. Those needing an application should contact the Oklahoma City Community College Foundation office at 405-682-7591.

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.kelly engineering.com.

Frontier City and White Water Bay tickets available

Consignment tickets to Frontier City and White Water Bay are 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 Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke at 405-682-1611, ext. 7242.

All Highlights must be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday.



Visit the Pioneer online at www.occc.edu.

New blood

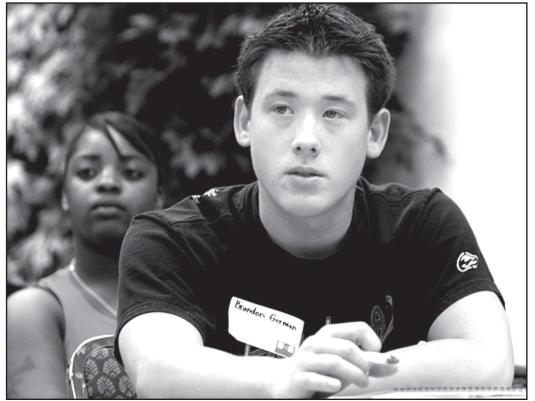


Photo by Jay Rocamontes

OCCC freshman Brandon Gorman attends a Student Life-sponsored new student orientation July 17. New freshmen are encouraged to attend the orientation to acquire general knowledge about the campus, learn to find and identify the various campus labs, and learn valuable skills to help them succeed in the upcoming semester.

Retreat offers students help in running clubs efficiently

By Drew Hampton Staff Writer

The start of the 2007 Student Leadership Retreat for club officers and sponsors is fast approaching, Student Life Assistant Marcy Roll said.

Held Aug. 10 to 12 at Roman Nose State Park in Watonga, the retreat will be an event to help student officers and sponsors learn to efficiently manage their role in campus clubs.

"It's training," Roll said.
"They're learning to be better leaders. Probably half [of the students] are new leaders of their clubs," she said.

"A few (student leaders are) returning, but most are probably new."

According to materials provided by Student Life, all student clubs are required to have at least one member attend the retreat "It's training ... they're learning to be better leaders. Probably half [of the students] are new leaders of their clubs."

—Marcy Roll Student Life Assistant

to retain the club's status on campus.

Roll said those who miss the material may attend make-up sessions, which have yet to be scheduled.

"It's important material," she said.

The retreat costs each student who attends \$25, which helps to pay for transportation, lodging, meals, a T-shirt, and entertainment.

"Most of [this] is covered by student fees from the college," Roll said.

In addition to training sessions and time spent reviewing the Student Organizations Manual, Roll said, participants would also have plenty of opportunity for recreation while at the retreat.

"There will be a special speaker and then there will be free time the students will have," she said.

Roll said the resort offers horseback riding, miniature golf and a swimming pool, as well as Student Life's leadership activities.

Roll said another retreat is being planned for the spring semester, likely to be held locally in January.

For more information on the retreat, call the Student Life office at 405-682-7523.

Staff Writer Drew Hampton can be reached at StaffWriter3@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.

NIMALS

FREE KITTENS: Free to a good home. Eight-week-old kittens. Please call 405-812-1112.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: Fullblood black Labrador Retriever. Male, 2 years old. Very gentle with children, loves to play, very intelligent. Needs a family that will give him the attention he needs and deserves. Please call 405-324-4056 after 6 p.m. or e-mail redfred1964@aol.com.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '07 Ford Mustang. Leather, loaded. Need to sell for what I currently owe or find someone to take over payments. Less than 9,000 miles! I am moving overseas. Contact 405-408-3051.

CHILD CARE

NANNY NEEDED: Seeking trustworthy, dependable nanny service or live-in nanny to care for and love my 2-year-old-son. Credentials, references and background check a must. Call Chris at 405-473-1267.

FOR REN

FOR RENT: Big home, nice neighborhood. 5 minutes from OCCC, 20 minutes from OU on SW 102nd street. You only pay \$300 for everything: furnished living, dining & kitchen, high-speed internet & cable, washer & dryer. It's best for an international student or someone with a part-time job. Call: 405-822-5651.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Mature female part-time student and full-time educator wants to share apartment near OCCC during school week. Non-smoker, nondrinker. Please call 405-255-7752 and leave message or e-mail Battershell@aol.com.

ROOMMATE WANTED: For the Fall/07 and if possible Spring/ 08. To share a 3 bedroom, 1 bath house with a male friend and I. Two minutes away from OCCC. Quiet and clean environment for studies. \$220 a month for rent. Bills shared among 3 of us, about \$150 for internet, light, water,

trash, and gas. We are both students at OCCC. Room is available August 13th. If interested contact Ethel at 405-361-0251.

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Fax your ads to 405-682-7843 or e-mail ads to adman@occc.edu.

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learn to speak and write Chinese? Have you ever wanted to travel to the Great Wall? Have you ever considered working in China?

OCCC is offering Intro. to Chinese this Fall on Tues. & Thur. from 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about this fun and interesting course, check out www.occc.edu/acoakley.

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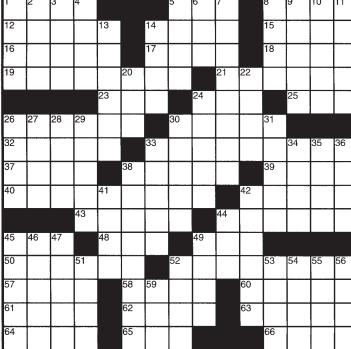
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\$\$\$\$ MONEY FOR COLLEGE \$\$\$\$

TECHNICAL TRAINING

Attempted car theft results in stabbing

By Carrie Cronk Staff Writer

Engineering student Chase Key was stabbed in the back, on his left shoulder July 17 in parking lot G after he encountered a man who had broken into his Chevrolet Tahoe.

At approximately 5:13 p.m., Key returned to his vehicle to find it being broken into by a suspect he described as being white, nearly 6-feet tall, about 185 pounds, with light-colored hair and a receding hair-line.

Key said his dashboard was pulled apart and his navigational system removed.

"When I came down, I heard my alarm going off and I thought I hit the keyless entry," Key said.

"When I got about [to the end of the actual lot], I saw somebody in my car."

Key said he then ran to the driver's side of his vehicle where he and the suspect got into an "alterca-

tion.

That's when the suspect stabbed Key with a screwdriver, then fled in a 2007 or 2008 Ford F-150 truck, which was found abandoned late July 17 by OCCC security at the intersection of 89th Street and May Avenue, within a block from the college.

Key said one of OCCC's Safety and Security officers told him they had seen the vehicle in which the suspect fled on campus the day before the break-in.

Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas issued a campus-wide statement via e-mail within hours of the incident describing the suspect and vehicle.

Sloas said people should immediately notify the campus security office at 405-682-1611, ext. 7477, or the Oklahoma City police at 911 if they see anyone fitting the suspect's description.

"It can be assumed that conditions continue to exist that may pose a threat



Photo by Andrea Jarman

OCCC engineering student Chase Keys talks to an Oklahoma City police officer July 17 after being stabbed in the shoulder with a screwdriver by a man he caught breaking into his vehicle in parking lot G. Following the confrontation the man fled in a late-model Ford F-150 truck, which was found by OCCC security late July 17 at the corner of 89th Street and May Avenue.

to members and guests of the OCCC community," Sloas said.

"It is the duty of the institution to warn of possible dangerous conditions on or near campus.

"Please do not confront this suspect or other suspects while on campus."

A Safety and Security dispatcher said Key was given first aid treatment but it was unclear when and where it was given.

The Pioneer will update the story as more information is available.

Staff Writer Carrie Cronk can be reached at Staff Writer2@occc.edu.

Students need to be aware of requirements

"Prepare,"
Cont. from page 1

graduate also can doublecheck course requirements with Records and Graduation Services.

"That way, there are no surprises at the last minute and they've got all of their requirements and they've got all the hours they need."

She said OCCC students wanting to transfer should pay close attention to what classes transfer to the other college, she said. Students can do this by attaining a degree checklist from the

other college.

Some students don't realize some classes they took at OCCC may not be compatible with degree requirements of the other college, Turner said, therefore, maintaining contact with advisers from both colleges is a must.

"There is a lot of confusion about [transferring]," she said. "They just need to be talking with people at both campuses to make sure they have everything they need."

Editor Eric Nguyen can be reached at editor@occc.edu.

Student checklist

New students:

- √ Get admitted
- √ Take placement tests if necessary
- √ Enroll in class, including Success in College and Life course (required for incoming students with fewer than nine college credit hours of a C grade or better)
- $\sqrt{\text{Get student ID card and/or parking sticker from Records and Graduation Services}}$ front desk
- $\sqrt{\text{Buy textbooks and supplies}}$
- √ Attend class

Returning students:

- √ Check degree requirements at Records and Graduation Services or MineOnline at the www.occc.edu to see which courses to take
- √ Enroll in class
- √ Validate student ID card for fall semester
- $\sqrt{\text{Buy textbooks and supplies}}$
- √Attend class

Students planning to transfer from OCCC:

- √ Schedule appointment with OCCC adviser at Advising and Career Services to check if credit hours are in order and to ask questions about transfer process
- V Check degree requirements to see if all required OCCC courses have been taken
- √ Contact transfer institution(s) and send all documents required to be transferred, including final transcript
- √ Get admitted
- $\sqrt{\text{Meet with advisers at transfer institution and plan degree checklist}}$
- √ Enroll in class

Have a story idea? Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409 or editor@occc.edu