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# PIONEER

www.occc.edu/pioneer

## I'm so blue...



Photo by Amber McBride

Theater arts major Randy Beavers mimes in front of the OCCC Coffee Shop to the obvious delight of other students. Students who gather in the area often are treated to music and other performances. Hours are 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, and 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

## Students surprised by tax rebate news

### Those claimed by parents won't get a check

By Chris Lusk  
Editor

OCCC students eager to receive their tax rebate checks might be waiting in vain.

Students who are claimed as a dependent on someone else's return will not receive a rebate check, according to the Internal Revenue Service's website.

Most single filers will receive a \$600 rebate and married couples, \$1,200.

However, only taxpayers who claim themselves as dependents will receive the rebates.

Tax preparer Aaron Young said this is because the rebates are intended to boost household income rather than individual income.

"If your parents are able to claim you on their taxes, then they are probably still helping you out financially," Young said. "You are more than likely still dependent on them in some way."

And, although those students don't qualify for an individual rebate check, more money is returned overall, Young



said.

"When you are claimed under your parents," he said, "you aren't obligated to pay as much taxes as if you were filing on your own."

"Therefore, since you aren't paying in as much, you get a bigger return."

Young said filing this way provides a larger rebate amount for the entire family.

Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, more than 130 million American households will receive economic stimulus payments beginning in May, according to the IRS website.

Congress passed the act in See "Rebate," page 12

## Art graduates showcasing work April 25

By Jeffrey Chanchaleune  
News Writing Student

Art student graduates will showcase some of their best work in the Spring '08 Art Show April 25 through 30 in the OCCC Theater lobby.

Opening night is 6 to 8 p.m. April 25, said Mary Ann Moore, visual arts professor.

The student-planned event, hosted by the graduates themselves, has been going on for approximately eight years. The show will display only the graduates' works.

"This is their debut," Moore said. "This show benefits them because it is

their time to shine and show the people who they are."

Moore said the show gives the students the chance to display their art and skills they have acquired at OCCC.

"It's their final moment," she said.

Students are required to submit a minimum of 10 pieces for the show.

Those can range anywhere from paintings to drawings and ceramics (clay pots, dishes, vases and other objects), to serigraphy, also known as screen-printing.

Serigraphy is a technique in which an image is burned onto a mesh frame,

blocking off areas of the screen, leaving a stencil of the image to be created, then, finally, using a rubber blade to squeegee ink through the open areas of the mesh, Moore said. It's a medium made popular by the illustrious Andy Warhol.

One art student's story is out of the ordinary.

Heather Graff, a graduating visual arts major, originally was a business major, switching to the arts before just two years ago.

Graff said she decided to switch to visual arts after she took a drawing class to fulfill required elective credits.

As class progressed,

Graff said she realized art was her calling.

"Drawing is just amazing," she said. "The instructors here are great."

Sculpture was Graff's first preferred medium but her emphasis now is on painting, with abstract realism her style.

"I do not like to keep people guessing but I like to keep [art] exciting for people," she said.

Graff plans to continue her studies at the University of Oklahoma through the master's degree level.

She eventually hopes to teach art at the college level, preferably a community college.

"The atmosphere of the

community college is great," she said. "It's small and it's good to watch students grow."

Graff will showcase her work along with 12 other graduating artists: Aaron Bennett, Candise Chastka, Jessica Freeman, Eric Graham, Autumn Green, Anthony Maness, Tina Marsh, Kathryn Nichols, Don Rosencrans, Ben Safley, Jennifer Skiba and Dayna-Marie Lee Tomita.

Moore said there will be refreshments and plenty of art for all to enjoy at the free event.

For more information, contact Moore at 405-682-1611, ext. 7255, or e-mail mmoore@occc.edu.

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

# Calling the shots

Legislators say every letter they receive represents five citizens. Phone calls represent 10.

What's with the inflation?

State Sen. Jim Reynolds said it's due to the lack of people speaking up. "Many people misunderstand what we are designed to do. They think we sit around passing bills we want."

If that's not it, what do legislators do? They try to judge what their constituents want.

Citizens elect officials into office to represent them and their views. While people vote for candidates who have similar values as they do, no one agrees on everything.

Many times representatives will vote for a bill they personally do not agree with. Why?

Reynolds said their job is to do the will of their constituents.

This is the system America has as a result of the colonists' disgust with England for not providing them representation in Parliament.

Remember "no taxation without representation"?

The Boston Tea Party wasn't an actual tea party. It was a call for change, a call for a voice.

Today, nothing is done without representation.

Unfortunately, sometimes a fundamental piece to this concept is lacking — communication.

The link between the representatives and their citizens is failing in some instances.

"It's a tall task to vote how you think your community wants when they aren't telling you what they want," Reynolds said.

A tall task? How about virtually impossible.

After news of a bill that would allow college students to carry concealed weapons on campus was reported, students were arguing with each other about the need for such a bill.

How many of these students made their opinions known to their legislators?

Reynolds said while he took many calls over this issue, student voices were pretty much nonexistent.

One would think a bill that would directly affect students would cause them to speak up, whether for or against the bill.

Reynolds said there have been times he planned to vote a certain way on a bill, but then received a large number of calls and letters asking for him to vote a different way.

Typically people speak up on controversial bills. However, there are many other pieces of legislation just as important, regardless of how low-key they are.

"We try our best to give citizens a voice," he said, "but only if they let us know what their voice is."

Reynolds believes people have an opinion to voice, but many don't know how to speak out. It's not difficult to find your representatives.

Visit [www.capitolconnect.com/oklahoma](http://www.capitolconnect.com/oklahoma) and enter your address. The U.S. and state senators and representatives for your area will appear.

The site offers information like addresses, phone numbers, e-mails and websites of each official.

Our legislators encourage us to contact them however possible, and provide us with the necessary information to do so.

Boston had a tea party and America found her voice.

Now that we already have our voice, all we have to do is speak up.

—Chris Lusk  
Editor

# The Bloody Olympics

To the editor:

In August, China will host the Olympic Games. Millions of Chinese will march on the streets of Beijing, celebrating one of the world's most exciting events.

The Chinese government also has much to celebrate. It will celebrate inciting genocide in Darfur. Why would China support such an inhumane crime?

The answer is greed.

The genocide is happening in the western region of Sudan. In this tribal-dominated country, the Sudanese government has teamed up with one of the tribes and helped it to murder more than 400,000 people and drive some two million people from their homes.

The Sudanese government removed all foreign media from Darfur to eliminate publicity of its crimes. Millions of oppressed people have no voice and hope in Darfur.

Non-governmental organizations such as the Red Cross have very limited access to this "crisis zone." The force that is stopping the international community from en-

tering Darfur and saving thousands of lives is the evil union of China and Sudan.

China is diplomatically and financially supporting the Sudanese government. Using its veto power in the U.N. Security Council, it waters down any sanctions passed by the U.N. against Sudan. Because of that, the United Nations and its members, including the United States, have been humiliated and called inefficient.

Moreover, China has sold and is selling its criminal ally weapons, bomber aircraft and tanks. The Sudanese government is now well armored with Chinese weapons and is successfully slaughtering the innocent.

In return, Sudan exports nearly seven million tons of crude oil to China. China also has a major stake in Sudan's largest international oil exporting companies.

This August, China is expected to win a gold medal in oppressing human rights, supporting the Darfur genocide, and inhumanely treating the political prisoners.

The Chinese government will rise on the podium and smile to the world, holding its gold medal that drips the dark red blood of countless slaughtered people, the blood of those who have never been heard. They never had a voice. But you do!

—Murod Mamatov  
OCCC Student

## PIONEER

Vol. 36 No. 30

- Chris Lusk.....Editor
- Matthew Bishop.....Staff Writer
- Stephen Sossamon.....Staff Writer
- Yvonne Oberly.....Staff Writer
- Brian Schroeder.....Staff Writer
- Amanda McCutchen.....Staff Writer
- Cynthia Praefke.....Staff Writer
- Amber McBride.....Photographer
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- Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

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.

Letters to the editor can be delivered to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to 405-682-7843.

Letters may also be e-mailed to [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu). A phone number for verification must be included.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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## Comments and Reviews

# Cutting costs for health

### To the editor:

The price at the fresh salad bar is incredibly high.

Vegetables and fruits are crucial for a healthy body. However, high prices undoubtedly make us withdraw from choosing it.

I don't know if people eat french fries, burgers or chicken for lunch because of ignorance towards health or because they're cheaper. I don't want to put my health at risk, so I have to spend \$10 to eat.

The low turnover in the salad bar creates leftovers that go bad, which makes inventory cost high. In contrast, if many people buy it, Carson's Café will be able to keep fresher vegetables and fruits and make bulk purchases at wholesale prices.

Lowering the selling price of the salad bar is not so hard. The strategy is the more products sold, the more bargaining room with the food suppliers.

The solution to lowering

inventory cost is to find a good food supplier willing to work toward improving the health of the public and offer Carson's a wholesale price that is equal to the net price of the grocery stores.

Carson's can also create a slogan emphasizing a healthy diet and advertise it on campus. Once everybody understands the benefits of eating healthy, the health of the general public will im-

prove. Therefore, salad bar sales will increase.

The last and maybe most difficult thing for solving this problem is that Carson's Café should position itself as a provider of serving healthy food, not profitability, as its first priority. Then, the change at the price on the fresh salad bar would become possible.

—Yunwei Kuo  
OCCC Student

## Students asked to limit printer usage in labs

### To the editor:

After a two-week investigation, officials conclude that the HP 4050 printer was shot and dismembered by a fellow protesting Communication Lab printer.

The Printers Guild of America has been on strike now for 100 days. After the 4050 crossed the picket line because of increased printing demands from the stu-

dents, a riot erupted.

Law enforcement officials are holding the HP 4100 printer for questioning and believe they have enough evidence to convict.

Students are warned not to print more than 10 pages per day in the Comm Lab so as not to provoke another incident.

—Brandon Isaak  
Comm Lab Assistant

## Pacino races the clock in 'Minutes'

Could any movie starring Al Pacino be bad? Not so far, and if the audience applause at the end is a film barometer, this may have been one of his best efforts.

Pacino plays Jack Gramm, a college professor/forensic psychiatrist for the FBI who receives a death threat. He must discover whom the threat is coming from within 88 minutes if he expects to live.

Is it from the disgruntled student Mike (Benjamin McKenzie)? The ex-lover Carol (Deborah Kara Unger)? The criminal he helped put on death row Jon Forster (Neal McDonough)? Or maybe even his lesbian assistant Shelly (Amy Brenneman)?

In essence, he has to solve his own murder during the timeline he is given in the phone message, "Tic tock doc, you have 88 min-

utes to live."

The messages continue as the countdown brings Gramm closer to his death, or to solving the puzzle.

During the investigation period, much is discovered about Gramm and the people who are a part of his life.

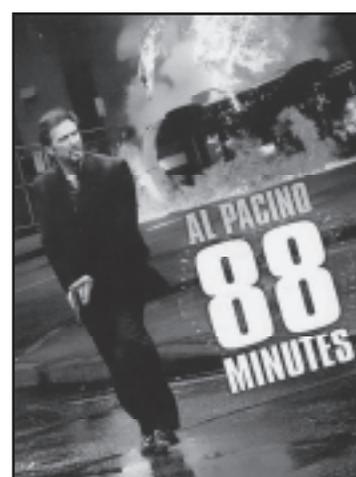
Also featured in the cast is Alicia Witt as Gramm's teaching assistant Kim, and LeeLee Sobieski as Gramm's student Lauren.

This is not just a story line about someone trying to commit murder and terrorize people, blah- blah- blah.

This movie touches on the dark side of a rapist/murderer, manipulating people while he sits on death row awaiting his execution.

The acting is superb. The realism is disturbing. The film kept audience members on the edge of their seats right to the end.

The ladies sitting behind



us remarked they needed to go to the bathroom but didn't want to miss a minute of the story. Now that is a good movie!

There is violence, nudity and some R-rated language

If you can only afford one film outing this month, spend your money on this one.

Rating: A

—Cynthia Praefke  
Staff Writer

## Counselor's Corner

"There is a time for many words, and there is also a time for sleep." —Homer

Many of you are probably feeling a bit out of sorts. You may feel stressed or irritable. Perhaps you just don't feel well. These feelings may all be linked to inadequate sleep.

Over our lifetimes, we will spend roughly a third of our lives sleeping. Some people view this as wasted time. So much happens in our 24/7 society that you can't close your eyes lest you miss something. Others are so busy that giving up an hour or two or more of sleep feels like a fair trade at the time. It's not. Sleep isn't a time when nothing happens. Much happens and there are many benefits to getting adequate sleep on a regular basis. Let me count the ways:

- Adequate sleep is associated with lower blood pressure and reduced cholesterol. The heart doesn't have to work as hard when we rest as we should.
- The hormone that makes us want to sleep, melatonin, is associated with a lower risk for cancer.
- Getting quality sleep helps reduce stress by lowering blood pressure and by lowering the production of stress hormones.
- Sleep reduces those stress hormones which also keeps inflammation down.
- Sleep is rejuvenating. After a good night's sleep, you wake up feeling refreshed and energized. This means you can focus better and get more done.
- Memory consolidation, the process involved in placing what you've been studying into long-term storage, occurs while you sleep.
- Sleeping an appropriate amount of time can help keep your weight in check. During sleep, ghrelin (a hormone that makes you feel hungry) levels go down and leptin (a hormone that makes you feel full) levels go up. You may notice that the sleeper you get, the more you want to eat.
- Naps. When you can't get all of the recommended sleep at once, plan to take a power nap later in the day. You'll feel mentally sharper and more efficient.
- Sleep helps keep brain chemicals balanced. This promotes your mental health and helps offset depression.
- All of the abuse your cells take each day from pollutants, antioxidants, and the general stress of life is repaired, so you feel (and are) healthier.

So, now you know how important sleep is, but how do you get good quality sleep? First, only use your bedroom for sleeping. Let your mind and body associate your bed with sleep. Keep your room dark. Even a little light from your computer can shut down melatonin production and keep you awake. Don't eat a heavy meal or exercise strenuously before bedtime. Finally, go to bed when you feel drowsy. Don't let yourself catch a second wind. For more ideas on getting a good night's sleep, stop by and see us here in Student Support Services.

—Mary Turner  
Student Support Services

# Tours of nearby college campuses considered a success in first year

**By Andrew Coleman**  
News Writing Student

This year marked the first time that OCCC offered tours to nearby universities.

The schools visited include Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Science and Arts Oklahoma.

"No other community college in the state offers tours to other institutions," said Leslie Jones, head of the OCCC Transfer Center.

Roughly 10 community colleges around the country of-

fer a tour program, Jones said. The program has been considered a success by the transfer center and students.

"It makes me proud to know our school does this," said student Efren Afante.

Students praised the universities for being welcoming.

"It was extremely cold outside so UCO took pictures of the campus just in case we didn't want to take the walking tour. We elected to go anyway and their attitudes were great. They went above and beyond for us," said Octave Lindly, student.

The last tour of the year was April 4 to OSU.

"This program creates a stronger connection between OCCC and other universities as well as helps students have an easier transfer process," Jones said.

Students who attended the tours found them helpful in planning out their future college plans.

"I learned [on the trip] if I get my associate in science instead of applied science, it will be better because all the classes transfer," Lindly said.

Due to the success of the program, the transfer center will be offering more tours for students during the summer, Jones said.

**"This program creates a stronger connection between OCCC and other universities as well as helps students have an easier transfer process."**

—Leslie Jones

Transfer and Distance Advising Coordinator

On top of expanding the program into the summer, OCCC plans to expand the transfer guide the transfer center publishes for students.

Twenty slots were opened to students for each tour.

About half of the 14 tours filled all 20 of the slots.

At some schools students were able to get admitted to the college they visited that day. On the trip to UCO, five students were admitted on the spot, Jones said.

## Prof performs with Grammy artist

**By Brian Schroeder**  
Staff Writer

Few musicians will play with both a symphony orchestra and accompany a jazz banjo at the Banjo Hall of Fame. An OCCC instructor bounces between the genres because he said it keeps him fresh.

Michael Boyle, music professor, has played bass for 30 years. He says he evenly splits his playing style between classical and jazz, but does not favor one over the other.

"They really balance each other out," he said. "When I'm practicing classical, it's very regimented. But with jazz it's different because we expect it to be different night to night."

Boyle was recently invited to display his classical training at the University of Southern Illinois, where he completed his graduate work.

The Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra composer, Boyle's former mentor, invited him to play with the orchestra during a concert featuring Imanuel Ax, a classical pianist who has won seven Grammy Music Awards.

The orchestra played Beethoven's "8th Symphony." Boyle said the highlight of the evening was when



Photo provided by Michael Boyle

Michael Boyle, music professor, poses with Imanuel Ax. Boyle was invited by the Southern Illinois Orchestra to play with Ax.

the orchestra played Beethoven's fifth piano concerto, "The Emperor's Concerto."

Boyle said the orchestra rehearsed for eight hours over the course of three days.

"It was like a three-day master class working with one of the most talented musicians alive today," he said. "It was just stunning."

Playing bass has not always been Boyle's career choice. After spending 22 years as a chef, he said he no longer could fight back the desire to play music.

Boyle said he was listening to a reggae band when his

passion for music returned. The loud music vibrated a message inside him.

"I know that feeling and I missed that feeling," Boyle said.

Practicing your craft and finding something you love doing are two key elements in choosing a career, Boyd said.

"The mission of anyone in post-secondary education is to pass on to their students that this is a point of exploration," Boyle said. "Find what you cannot live without and go on from there."

Staff Writer Brian Schroeder can be reached at StaffWriter1@occc.edu.

## Pianist visits campus

**By Alexandra Ingram**  
News Writing Student

Gabriela Montero doesn't know how her improvisations happen when she plays the piano. She just sits down and lets anything happen.

"I break the silence, the wall of the normal classical audience," Montero said at an informal seminar April 8 prior to an evening performance in the College Theater.

"My audience turns into a musical party," Montero said. She said she enjoys doing classical improvisations, that it comes naturally to her.

"When the audience gives me a theme, I play it and it just happens, almost without me."

Montero said she has played the piano all her life. She started playing melodies at the age of 3 in her home country of Venezuela but didn't learn to read music until the age of 9.

She said she never practiced much.

"I rejected the rigidity of music, it is suffocating to me. Music is about freedom, about truth."

"I read [music] slowly to decipher it and I just go from there," Montero said. "When I get into a piece...my whole body responds."

"Everything has to have meaning, everything has to have color."

Montero quit playing the piano for two-and-a-half years so she could figure out what she wanted to do.

"It took me a long time to find my own reasons to be a musician. I learned how to create my own music."

Montero teaches music through technique rather than a system.

"I think that the best gift a teacher can give is to inspire, to guide," she said. "You have to take off by yourself."

Montero said there are so many rules that limit music to the classical "box."

"Classical music is just as moving, as spiritual and as wild as other music. Classical music is about loss, love, joy — all of the emotions are there"

"I would like to see more air in the classical world," she said. "Approach music with a sense of discovery. It's all about that magical world of colors."

# Emergency workers converge on campus

**By Belen Rodriguez**  
News Writing Student

Major Keith Bourque, Campus Safety and Security coordinator, said he decided to put together the "Meet Your First Responder Day" with one goal in mind — making students and staff aware of what to expect in case of an emergency.

"Most people don't know what to expect when it comes to a natural disaster or emergency," Bourque said.

"When the May 3 tornado hit Moore in 1999, many people did not know who to contact or who was responding to help them."

His department hosted the event on campus April 16.

Some of the agencies present were the Oklahoma City Police Department, S.W.A.T. team, EMSA ambulance service and the

Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Jason Bass, Oklahoma County bomb squad division deputy, liked the idea.

"It's nice to see all of these different departments come out and let the people know about what all these different types of emergency crews do," Bass said.

He said his division covers all of Oklahoma County and is the only bomb squad that covers Tinker Air Force Base.

Elliott Jones, broadcast major, spoke to an Oklahoma County deputy, to gather information on what it takes to become a deputy, and also learn about the ups and downs of working for the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department.

"I really liked meeting everyone and learning about what to expect in case I have an emergency," Jones said.

"I think ... it was a good idea that the college de-



Photo by Amber McBride

Financial aid advisers Monic Johantoherns and Pat Hauck speak with Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper Jeff Stroud during "Meet Your First Responder Day." The Oklahoma City Police Department, S.W.A.T. team and EMSA ambulance service also attended. A major attraction was the city's medical helicopter, surprising the students when it arrived at the event.

cided to do this event."

A major attraction was the city's medical helicopter, surprising the students when it arrived at the event.

The helicopter crew

talked about what is expected of them when they are needed in an emergency.

The different departments also had basic infor-

mation about their departments available for the public.

Students and faculty also enjoyed free hotdogs, chips and soft drinks.

# Student newspaper brings home awards

**By Daniel Martin**  
News Writing Student

Student journalists from OCCC's Pioneer newspaper walked away with 13 awards, including eight first-place awards, from the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association competition in Stillwater April 10.

More than 98 students and representatives from 14 different Oklahoma colleges and universities attended the conference.

The Pioneer won top honors, an award of excellence, for overall newspaper.

"This is among the best I have seen in this whole competition," wrote one judge from the Kansas Associated Collegiate Press, referring to the Pioneer's General Excellence award.

Journalism Professor Sue Hinton commended the Pioneer staff.

"We work hard," Hinton said.

"Awards like these are what help distinguish our program from others.

"I am not going to take anything away from the other programs because they are excellent, but the awards we received reflect our pro-

**"It was definitely nice to win three of five individual news writing awards. We have become a recognizable program and that just keeps us reminded that hard work pays off."**

—Chris Lusk  
Pioneer Editor

gram," Hinton said, "and I could not have been happier."

OCCC cleaned up in the News Writing category for two-year colleges.

Former editor Valerie Jobe took first place, current editor Chris Lusk won second place, and former editor Carrie Cronk took honorable mention.

"It was definitely nice to win three of five individual News Writing awards," Lusk said. "We have become a recognizable program and that just keeps us reminded that hard work pays off."

Former staff writer Drew Hampton won first place in Editorial Writing while former staff writer Amanda Bittle won first place for Feature Writing.

OCCC had more first-place finishes for a two-year school than any other college at the competi-

tion.

Pioneer staff writer Matt Bishop secured a first-place award in Sports Writing, while former staff writer Scott D'Amico secured second place in the same category.

D'Amico also received an honorable mention in reviews while former staff writer David Miller took third in the same category.

Bishop said the wins prove hard work and team effort do pay.

"We have to thank Sue Hinton for all the help she gives us, along with Ronna Austin and Richard Hall for the great job they do in getting our paper put together," Bishop said.

"It's a team effort, and that goes for everybody who works on the staff. Without them, our success wouldn't be the same."

Former photographer Jay Rocamontes brought home two first-place awards, dominating the competition in the photography category with first-place finishes in both News Photography and Sports Photography categories.

Photography is an open competition with two-year and four-year colleges competing against one another.

In addition to the individual award winners, the Pioneer also claimed another award of excellence for Overall Online Newspaper, the only two-year school to do so in the open category.

For more information about the Pioneer student newspaper, contact Lusk at 405-682-1611, ext. 7409, or e-mail editor@occc.edu.

Place a personal classified ad  
It's FREE to OCCC students & employees!  
**ADMAN@occc.edu**

# Former student finds niche on campus



Photo by Amber McBride

Brady Brown, Child Development Center and Lab School teacher, spends time with a student at an art show. Brown began teaching at the center shortly after graduating from OCCC with a degree in early childhood education. Brown is the only male instructor at the center.

**By Kami Gallagher**  
News Writing Student

The only male instructor at OCCC's Child Development Center and Lab School will soon complete his third year of teaching young children.

Brady Brown made one parent uneasy at first, but quickly won her over.

Lori Lowe's 3-year-old daughter has been in Brown's class since he began working at the center.

"At first I was a little leery of [my daughter] having a male teacher, but he has since changed my mind," she said.

Although the idea of a male teacher was not appealing at first, Lowe said she thinks having a male teacher teaches children diversity, and also shows them teachers can be both male and female.

Brown, 23, said he first became interested in teaching when he worked for

Child Time at the age of 18.

After Brown graduated from Putnam City West High School, he continued his education at OCCC and graduated with a degree in early childhood development in 2007.

Mary McCoy, the center's director, hired Brown in August 2006.

Since the center is project-based, Brown's students, who range from 3 to 5 years old, are learning about recycling and the environment and how they can help keep it clean. The projects consist of gathering paper and plastics to be recycled.

Brown said the center uses "stations" to further the children's education and teach them about different areas of interest.

The various areas all have dedicated spots for learning about subjects in the classroom. The children move from station to station throughout the day

and learn about English, math, science and more.

Children also are involved in storytime, which includes songs, books and questions after the story.

"I believe we are helping the children prepare for kindergarten," Brown said.

Monthly newsletters go home to the parents to keep them updated on what is happening with their child's class and the school, Brown said.

He said he can see the wheels turning when children start to draw and doodle.

"When they start writing numbers and letters, this is the precursor to writing words, especially words like their name," Brown said.

As far as Brown's future is concerned, it too has more education involved. He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma for his bachelor's in either child development or early childhood development.

## Bake sale wins patrons, nets more than \$2,700

**By John Spencer**  
News Writing Student

The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee raised \$2,776 during the spring Make It, Bake It sale on April 8.

Librarian Linda Boatright and nursing professor Susan Mann, committee co-chairwoman, organized the event.

Boatright said all proceeds will go toward student scholarships.

Several nursing students helped with the sale as a way to complete their eight hours of service learning. They included Sabrina Hill, Brett Cudd, Cynthia Bothwell, Paula Gillion, Darla Smith, Jeanine Shands, Stella West, Katie Taylor, Terri Shover and Kaleigh Sidwell.

Sidwell said she was happy to help.

"We helped set up and manned the tables and had a lot of fun," Sidwell said. "The eight hours flew by."

In her first year of college, Sidwell was awarded one of the Faculty Association scholarships. She said she was glad to lend her services to further the scholarship program.

"I think the scholarships are great be-

cause it really helps students who need help," she said.

The scholarships are available to all OCCC students and can be used as the student sees fit, Boatright said.

"We believe the student can be trusted to put the money to good use," she said.

To receive a scholarship, a student must first be nominated by a faculty member. Once nominated, students must fill out an application form, write a short essay and submit their transcript to the Faculty Association Scholarship Committee. The committee then will choose the best candidates to receive a scholarship.

The number of scholarships given, as well as the amount of money, varies depending on the money the committee has at their disposal.

The Make It, Bake It sale is not the only way the Faculty Association raises money for the scholarship fund. The committee also holds a garage sale in the fall.

Boatright said students willing to donate items or lend their services during one of these sales is more than welcome.

"We love to see students helping students," Boatright said.

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# Get close to nature and earn credit, too

**By Daniel Martin**  
News Writing Student

Just about any classical music professor will say students can't study Bach or Mozart without listening to some of their music.

Biology Professor Anthony Stancampiano said the same goes for nature, the environment and the beauty in and around it.

"There is nothing like getting out in nature and experiencing life with the wild," Stancampiano said.

This is why he will teach a biology class in the Rocky Mountains in May.

Stancampiano will offer the annual outdoor Biology Special Topics Course 2004 again this summer.

The class of 10 to 12 students will travel to the Grand Teton mountain range and visit a number of states such as Utah, Colorado, Idaho and Montana.

Biology 2004 is intended for any student with an interest in Mother Nature. It originally was created to help apply classroom knowledge to the real thing, Stancampiano said.

Students may use the class to fulfill their general education requirement for a biological science requirement, if their academic ad-



Left: A bear roams its habitat during a trip students took last year for Biology Special Topics 2004.

Below: Students and professors gather around while on a trip to the Grand Teton National Park. The visit to the Tetons is just one of the sites students will experience during this year's Biology Rocky Mountain Ecosystems 2004 class trip beginning May 24.

Photos provided by Tony Stancampiano



viser approves it. There are no pre-requisites.

"We want to open the eyes of our students and engage their minds to nature, to simply reveal the art of nature and combine all facets of art, history and science," he said.

The May intersession course is worth four credit hours and costs about \$380 plus the cost of tuition for a four-credit-hour lab science class.

The \$380 pays the cost of food and lodging at the national parks.

Students may opt to bring along additional spending money.

The group will leave by college van May 24 and

make an overnight stop in Bayfield, Colo., and then continue on to Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Teton Mountain Range.

The professor said students will have a chance to see such sights as black bears, bison, elk, red squirrels, yellow-bellied marmots, a wide array of birds including bald eagles and the Lone Star Geyser located in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

"Students just seem to get inspired by the beauty," Stancampiano said.

He stressed the importance of studying animals where they live. "Animals are not just containers of

DNA."

There are no tests but students will be expected to take field notes, complete a field journal, keep a running species list and have a positive attitude in participation.

"You're not stuck in a classroom," Stancampiano said. "Instead, you get a big slice of North America with

all the toppings: desert, mountains, high plains and all sorts of wildlife. Where else would you rather be?"

For more information on the Biology 2004 Rocky Mountain Ecosystems, call the Biological Sciences office at 405-682-1611, ext. 7269, or e-mail Stancampiano at [astancampiano@occc.edu](mailto:astancampiano@occc.edu).

## Student chosen as Young Democrat of the Year

**By Chris Abdoo**  
News Writing Student

This year's recipient for the Young Democrat of the Year for Oklahoma County was Jed Green, OCCC student and former president of the OCCC Young Democrats.

The past 15 years the award for Young Democrat of the Year has been given out annually in March, Green said.

He said Oklahoma County Democrats recently approached him about the award.

He said, at first, he was reluctant to be considered because he had doubts about the benefit of pointing out one person from a group of many.

"I didn't see the sense in it, pointing someone out," Green said.

Green described the award as not an opportunity for him, but as a way to unite the Young Democrats of Oklahoma by accepting it on their behalf.

"I'm not in it for personal recognition or personal gain, but I'm in for the young people and to get them involved," Green said. "I'm just an out-and-out supporter of this generation."

OCCC Young Democrat Heather Creekmore rallied behind her fellow Democrat's achievement.

"We are really happy Jed got it," Creekmore said.

"Because he supports us so we fully support him."

Green described his enthusiasm

for young voters.

"Everyone's vote counts," Green said.

"You'd be amazed how close several races actually are. Involvement is crucial."

Creekmore echoed these sentiments and said participation is important.

"Every vote really does count. The more participation will help combat the apathy that built up in past generations," Creekmore said.

Green is the vice president of Young Democrats of Oklahoma and is responsible for building and supporting chapters in high schools, colleges, universities and in areas of young professionals, he said.

He helps support people who no

longer are in school but in the workforce, ranging from doctors and lawyers, to blue-collar workers and skilled tradesmen.

Green said the focus of Young Democrats of Oklahoma is community driven.

"While in election years, the focus is campaigning for Democrats, but especially during the off election years, our focus is community service," Green said, "to make a difference in a community."

For students wanting to get involved, Green recommends keeping an eye on the organization boards around campus, searching for OCCC Young Democrats on Facebook, sending him an e-mail at [jed.r.green@email.occc.edu](mailto:jed.r.green@email.occc.edu), or giving him call at 405-833-7262.

# Sports

## UPCOMING

### OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

•**April 26:** Oklahoma Collegiate Club Soccer Playoffs. Location and times will be determined after regular season is played.

•**May 2-4:** The Aquatic Center will host the EAT Early Bird Meet. For more information about this event, call Coordinator of Aquatics and Safety Training Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

•**June 14:** OCCC will host the 13th annual Oklahoma City Super Sprint Triathlon on Saturday, June 14. The triathlon will hold a 500-meter swim, 12-mile bike and a 5K run. Costs are \$40 for individuals, \$30 for juniors and \$75 for relays. Add \$10 after May 16 deadline. No race day registration. For more information or to register, visit [www.occ.edu/rt/triathlon](http://www.occ.edu/rt/triathlon) or e-mail Triathlon Race Director James Hensley at [jhensley@occ.edu](mailto:jhensley@occ.edu).



Photo by Matt Bishop

OCCC's Erik Medina launches a cross that was sent in to Dennis Cardona for OCCC's lone goal of the match April 12, in Norman. OCCC struggled to get more chances in the 2-1 loss to the University of Oklahoma.

## Fatigue costs club soccer consecutive loss

By Matt Bishop  
Staff Writer

Defending champion, the University of Oklahoma, handed OCCC its second loss of the soccer season on April 12 in Norman.

OCCC fell 2-1, despite having ball possession throughout most of the game.

OCCC attackers were in good position to score, but didn't get many good shots at the goal.

"I guess we all got tired," said OCCC defender Erik Medina. "We couldn't get good position on the ball for a shot."

With two games left in the season, coach K. B. Yeboah said the team will need to work on conditioning to be able to win the next two games and make the playoffs.

Many of the players agreed with what Yeboah said after the game. They just simply need to be in better shape to compete.

Going into half time down 1-0, Yeboah told the players they should be up by two or three goals if they would have taken the opportunities given to them.

"To be honest, we are playing better than [OU]," he said. "But we aren't taking our chances. Their goalie hasn't made one save yet."

OCCC defended Javier Careon added, "We seriously need to win this game, guys."

After that Yeboah said, "Just shoot the ball, guys."

The players once again responded to Yeboah's half time speech.

Dennis Cardona scored a goal sent in by Medina's cross at the 5-minute mark of the second half.

With the score 1-1, OCCC kept attacking with the wind behind their back.

Shots by Yemy Bolly, Roberto Hernandez and Cardona sailed over the crossbar.

Eventually the OCCC defense would allow an OU attacker past the offsides trap to score from a one-on-one fast break against goalkeeper Santana Diaz.

Although the wind may have affected some of OCCC's passes, Cardona said only the team is to blame.

"I think we get nervous when we get inside the box and don't always make the best passes," Cardona said.

The team will practice extra prior to the final weekend of play.

OCCC plays the University of Central Oklahoma at 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, in Stillwater.

They will travel to Arkansas the day after for a 3 p.m. game against the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

OCCC can't afford to lose either game and will need to win at least one of the two to keep their playoff hopes alive.

OCCC currently is in fifth place in the OCCSL standings with five points, trailing OU for fourth place. OU is a win ahead of OCCC with eight points.

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

### OCCSL Soccer Standings

1. UCO	4-0-1	13 pts
2. Okla. St.	4-1-0	12 pts
3. East Central	2-1-3	9 pts
4. Oklahoma	2-1-2	8 pts
<b>5. OCCC</b>	<b>1-2-2</b>	<b>5 pts</b>
6. Arkansas	1-3-1	4 pts
7. OU-Colsa	0-3-1	1 pts
8. Rose St.	0-3-0	0 pts

Wins = 3 points and Draws = 1

### OCCC Remaining Games

April 18 vs. UCO (in Stillwater)  
April 19 vs. Arkansas

# Students learn to speak via teleprompter

By **Cathy Murray**  
News Writing Student

OCCC speech professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert teaches a public speaking class in which students learn how to read a teleprompter as well as speak on-camera and on-microphone.

Her class focuses on informative speeches and visual aids to help students learn the proper way to make speeches before a camera.

"Students don't have to be public relation or broadcast majors to take this class," Faulconer-Lippert said.

She said the class is open to all students who would like to learn these communication skills in their public speaking class.

"It seems to be very popular with students from all disciplines," she said. "They really enjoy it. No additional skills are needed but many extra ones are learned."

"This public speaking class, and this approach, is unique."

"My students are learning these on-camera skills because they are skills that will be part of everyone's future," Faulconer-Lippert said.

She said there are two ways she teaches her students to speak into a teleprompter.

One is how any news anchor reads a teleprompter — by reading words that appear inside the camera.

The second way is through an engineer prompter that shows the speaker as they are talking so they can see for themselves how they look while they speak.

"Students learn the art of appearing 'eye-to-eye' with the viewer by learning the on-camera presence," Faulconer-Lippert said.

"The skills are exactly opposite of regular public speaking so the challenge can be fun."

"One thing that students tend to do is look at the

monitor instead of the camera so you don't end up seeing their faces," she said. "You see the top of their head instead."

"News anchors are taught to avoid doing this and it's very important for students to stay away from it as well."

Faulconer-Lippert said she has turned the teleprompter into a mirror in which the students have to memorize an on-camera speech so they can watch themselves. She assigns them a topic to write about, then, they use that behind the camera.

She said students speak into a microphone when giving their speeches. The on-mic portion involves the speaking delivery style while being on-camera.

Students learn to have proper enunciation of on-camera announcing and teleprompter reading so that those watching feel like they are talking one-on-one with the on-camera person.

Faulconer-Lippert said after she films her students, she puts video copies of their speeches on WebCT with a certain password so only her students can watch themselves.

She said this technique was Speech Communications professor Julie Corff's idea and appears to be quite effective.

"In class, I have the students do an exercise where they do the speech for their peers and again for the camera so that they are learning two different skills," Faulconer-Lippert said.

"Looking at yourself on camera can be shocking and looking at your peers can be intimidating," she said.

"You have to make friends with the person on the camera because it's such a shock at first."

Even though students have fun with it, some agree it is very intimidating.

"It's kind of scary, but it's really fun," said Chelsea Chandler, who currently is



Photo by Tim Whisenhunt

OCCC broadcast student Amanda McCutchen uses a teleprompter used in professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert's public speaking class. As students look into the teleprompter, they will see themselves inside, appearing the way they do on camera.

enrolled in the class. "I get really nervous speaking in front of my peers, but the experience is very helpful."

Student Rosalina Johnson said she feels the same.

"When you watch someone else do it, it seems so easy but then you get up there and completely lose focus because your nerves take over you," Johnson said.

"As one of the oldest in the class, I feel like the younger crowd is so much more confident with this."

Even though student Claudia Burton presents speeches at work, she said she is nervous every time.

"I make speeches at work all of the time and it's scarier for me to get up in front of a class and speak," Burton said. "I guess it's because I feel the pressure of my peers watching."

Faulconer-Lippert said she thinks the course helps students in the long run.

"Initially, I developed this class so that OCCC public relations and broadcast students would have added skills that would help them and make them even more

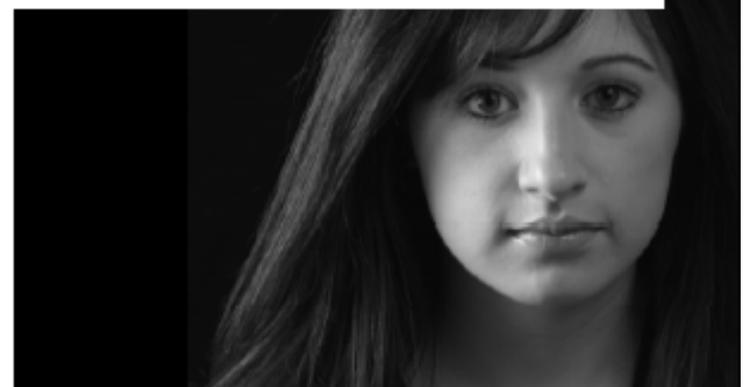
competitive when they transfer," she said.

"We are all going to be communicating through cameras and mics online,

as well as broadband, so learning how to look good talking to others through these means is important."

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# Highlights

## Business bake sale April 22

The Business Division will host its annual Business Bake Sale all day Tuesday, April 22, in the Main Building. Also for sale will be a cookbook with recipes from students and faculty. For more information, contact business professor Myra Decker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7332.

## DNA Day at OCCC

National DNA Day will be celebrated all day Friday, April 25, on campus. Biotechnology/Bioinformatics Discovery Project is hosting the event. The event will include various speakers talking about numerous hot topics in science today. Also, 300 students from area high schools and vocational schools will take part in the event. For more information, contact Don Bell at dbell@occc.edu.

## Day of Peace and Justice

The Advocates of Peace Club will host the Day of Peace and Justice at noon Friday, April 25, in the College Union. The club hopes the event will raise awareness and allow the community to speak out about various topics, including the Iraq war. Guest speaker retired Army Col. Ann Wright will discuss the topic and her book, "Dissent: Voices of Conscience." For more information, contact professor Stephen Marrow at 405-682-1611, ext. 7350.

## Foreign language workshop

From 2 to 2:40 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, the World Languages and Cultures Center will host a foreign language workshop called "Let's Speak!" The topic is "Greetings in Japanese." For more information, e-mail wlcc@occc.edu.

## Meteorologist Gary England to speak on campus

News 9 meteorologist Gary England will be on campus 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 1 to discuss severe weather in Oklahoma. The event is taking place in the College Union and is open to students, faculty and staff. The event is free.

## Commencement name cards to be available

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, May 1, the Graduation Department will have a table set up for graduates to pick up their name cards for commencement. The table will be located in the Main Building across from the main staircase.

## OCCC offers medical billing and coding classes

In an effort to meet the demands of the growing medical and health care industry, OCCC now offers classes in medical billing and coding. For more information, visit [www.occc.edu/corporatelearning.com](http://www.occc.edu/corporatelearning.com).

## Science club seeking help

OCCC's Science Club is looking to bring more speakers from the science world, but needs help from students. Club members hope the project, called Neo-Scientia, brings more attention to the scientific community. For more information, contact club member Quillet Aurelien at spartyan-117@hotmail.com.

**Highlight submissions have a 5 p.m. deadline every Tuesday for inclusion in the next issue. Highlight forms can be picked up in the Pioneer office, located in 2M6 of the Main Building.**

# Violence and relationships don't make good bedfellows

By Yvonne Oberly  
Staff Writer

Violence has no place in relationships, according to a philosophy endorsed by OCCC's Psychology and Sociology Club.

Last semester, club members attended the Attorney Generals Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Partnership Conference, where they heard many speakers, said Heather Creekmore, Psychology and Sociology Club vice president.

The speakers and presentations from the conference encouraged club president Jennifer Deemer and Creekmore to bring awareness of stopping violence and abuse to OCCC, Creekmore said.

This is what brought the "Until the Violence Stops" campaign to OCCC in mid-April.

Domestic violence involving adults and children is a serious problem, and the club wants to do what they can to solve it.

The club sponsored a week-long series about domestic violence and abuse.

"If even one person gets the information they need to prevent a violent relationship or get out of a violent relationship, then we feel like we've accomplished our goal," Deemer said.

Creekmore hopes the club efforts will reach people who are unable to speak up and fight for themselves.

During the series, the club provided tables full of information on domestic violence and abuse, Creekmore said.

Information about shelters and organizations that help women too scared to leave on their own, or had no place to stay, also was provided at the event.

And if a person suspects someone is being abused, information about signs to look for and ways to help was provided.

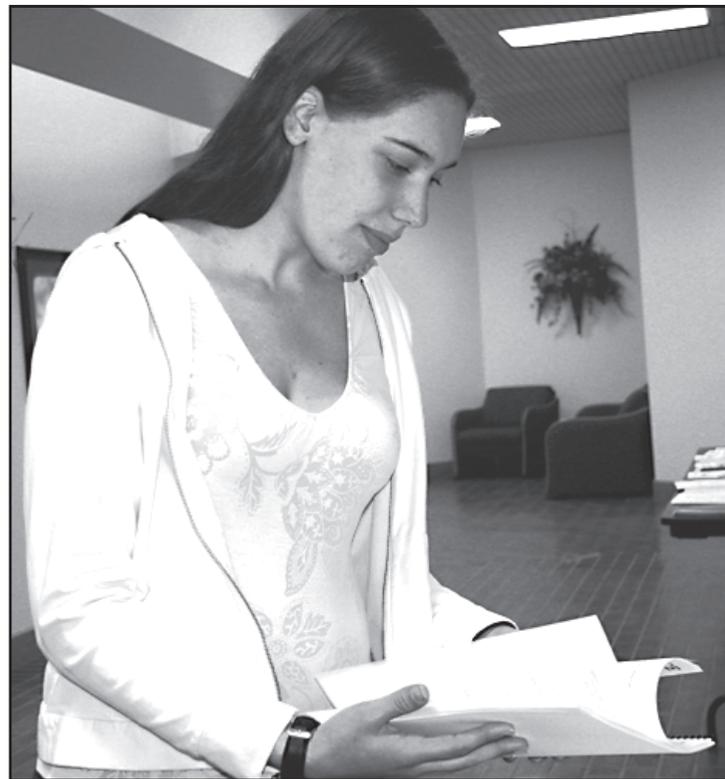


Photo by Amber McBride

Secondary education major Hollie Clear reads through some of the material used in the Until the Violence Stops Campaign sponsored by the Psychology Sociology Club April 14. The Psychology Sociology Club meets at 12:30 p.m. Thursdays, in room 3L2.

"We just want to put everything out there, so that no one else slips through the cracks," Creekmore said.

During the series, Deemer was able to persuade Ben Atherton-Zeman, national speaker against domestic violence and abuse, to speak on campus. He agreed to come for a fraction of the cost he normally charges.

Atherton-Zeman was scheduled to speak at 7 p.m. April 16. (Read the Pioneer Online for coverage of his speech at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).)

The Until the Violence Stops campaign is intended to continue every semester at OCCC, Creekmore said.

Club sponsor Stephanie Hayes is glad for what the club has done with getting the word out to stop domestic violence and abuse.

"I am very impressed and amazed by our club officers and members, in their efforts," said Hayes, psychology professor.

Another club sponsor, Yuthika Kim, psychology professor, said domestic violence is a very big problem in Oklahoma.

The incidence of violence is disproportionately high compared to other states in the U.S., Kim said.

"Domestic violence is definitely something that needs to be addressed," Kim said.

A person could be sitting next to a victim and not even know it, because a victim could be anybody, Deemer said.

Deemer said she has hopes people will be open and receptive when hearing people share their stories about domestic violence.

"A person could be a figure of hope and not even know it.

"They may come through in the end and say, 'it was you smiling at me every day that helped me through this'," Deemer said.

Staff Writer Yvonne Oberly can be reached at Staff Writer3@occc.edu.



## Not all students qualify for tax rebate checks

*"Rebate,"*  
Cont. from page 1

an attempt to boost the economy with rebate checks in addition to normal tax returns, according to the website.

While being claimed as a dependent provided a larger rebate for an entire household, many students were surprised and unhappy upon learning this information.

Sophomore Andrea Schmidt wasn't aware she didn't qualify for a rebate.

"I work full-time and make payments on my own house, car, insurance and everything else," she said.

"The only reason my parents claimed me is because they paid for half of my tuition. I am independent. Why shouldn't I be eligible? I need that money."

English major Nathan Rikes had a similar reaction to the news.

"Are you serious?" Rikes said. "I need that \$600. I take care of myself."

"Is it too late to talk my parents into changing their taxes?"

Not everyone was in this position. Biology major Stevie Crowe knew about the rule prior to filing her taxes.

"A friend of mine told me if my parents claimed me that I would miss out [on the rebate]," Crowe said. "So when my parents had an appointment with their tax guy, I asked them to leave me off theirs."

"I'm just lucky they agreed and went along with it."

Not all students were aware of the rule before the tax deadline, and many are now stuck without a rebate check of their own.

One offered a solution to the problem.

Freshman Mark Fulton said he would be pleading with his parents to give him \$600 out of their tax return.

"It's simple really," Fulton said. "They're only getting as much money back because they claimed me."

"Since I'm personally losing money, I'll just beg them for the share I should have received."

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

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