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## All students to get financial aid debit cards

By Chris Lusk  
Staff Writer

This fall, all OCCC students who enrolled in a credit class in 2008 will get a debit card in the mail that will allow them to accept direct deposits from the college bursar office, said Bursar Brandi Henson.

The cards being sent out are essential for receiving any financial aid or refund, so students should be on the lookout for them, Henson said.

She said the debit cards are partnered with American Express and could appear to some as a credit card offer.

"I assure you, the college is not soliciting credit cards to our students," she said. "We don't want students to be confused and throw anything away."

"It is very important for all students to hold on to these cards."

She said the college will begin transferring financial aid and refunds electronically Oct. 1.

She said, in December 2006, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators performed a standards of excellence review and suggested the college implement direct deposit with electronic refunds.

"We have always been really interested in direct deposit," Henson said. "But we were not sure how to go about it."

Henson said some students do not have bank accounts and that posed a roadblock.

The college responded by sending out requests to various companies to provide student bank accounts, she said.

Higher One, a financial service company, responded.

According to their website — www.higherone.com — Higher One provides colleges across the country with an easier method of distributing funds.

Henson said Higher One offered the right solution.

Higher One will team up with a bank and offer an account to every student enrolled at the college — the first school in Oklahoma to do so, she said.

She said the bank accounts will be free to all students and will function like a regular checking account at any bank.

Higher One also will take over all responsibility for distribution of financial aid and refunds for the college, Henson said.

All students will be required to receive their funds through Higher One; however, they will not be required to do their banking through

**"It is important for students to understand that all refunds and financial aid will be processed through Higher One starting in October,"**

—Brandi Henson  
OCCC Bursar

## Shhhh. Study area.



Photo by Ryan Gaston

Psychology major Liz Doran finds a quiet place to do homework near the Student Life office. The college offers students numerous study area around the campus, complete with sofas and chairs.

## Summer numbers down

By Matt Bishop  
Editor

OCCC took a slight 0.8 percent hit in enrollment for the 2008 summer semester, according to the July 11 enrollment numbers from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

The headcount for students enrolled in the summer semester was 5,658 students. That is a 0.8 percent decrease from the 5,771 students enrolled in the summer of 2007, said Joyce Morgan-Dees, Research Support Analyst.

The total number of credit hours being taken is down slightly also. Students are taking a total of 26,905 credit hours this summer, a 0.6 percent decrease from last summer's total of 27,362, Morgan-Dees said.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist said he believes the decrease in summer enrollment is due to the increase in the percentage of students who are recent high school graduates.

"This provides for a longer summer

break, [allowing] students to work more in the summer, or only work during the summer to earn more money to go to college in the traditional fall and spring semesters," Sechrist said.

Although some numbers may be falling, the number of minority students has risen from last summer.

Minority students make up 1,652, or 29.2 percent, of the college's summer enrollment numbers, Morgan-Dees said.

This is a 1.8 percent increase from last summer.

"The make up of the student body is reflective of the changes in the diversity of the community OCCC serves," Sechrist said.

In 2007, minorities made up 32 percent of the enrollment, doubling the minority enrollment from 1992, which was 16 percent.

Morgan-Dees said, "We are continuing to work hard in increasing our minority population."

OCCC's highest eth- See "Enrollment," page 9

## Editorial and Opinion

### Editorial

# Censorship in America

America is censoring itself for the sake of political correctness, one that has been taken to its extreme. Instead of being a unified America, we are now divided by the sub-groups and demographics that politicians use to approach the public.

Political correctness does not solve society's problems but instead camouflages them.

We are so afraid to offend others that we, in our minds, separate ourselves from each other rather than working together. This cannot happen. We should not be so quick to be offended. We cannot be afraid to speak to one another just because we are different from one another.

Because of the political correct taboo, we are now fearful of conversation where we say something that can possibly be misconstrued as offensive. This could all result to the loss of respect from your peers and worst-case scenario, the loss of your employment.

An example of such an incident happened in 2006 when ABC's 'Grey's Anatomy' cast member Isaiah Washington was fired for the conflict that arose after his use of the word faggot that fellow cast member TR Knight said was directed at him.

Washington maintains that he did not direct his comment to Knight and that it was actually during a fight with Patrick Dempsey that he said the slur. Instead of working out any differences between them together, Washington and Knight divided the cast and crew to the point where one of them had to leave the set permanently.

While the original intention of being politically correct was to be beneficial in a time when our country was more harshly defined by race, sex or sexuality, now it has only masked the division between the demographics.

Hatred, racism and bigotry all come from the mind, not from the words.

Why should we be afraid of what we say to one another? Why should we be afraid of offending others? If we all try to not offend, how will we work past our differences and conflicts?

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, our future should "live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character" and that can not happen if people can not openly speak to one another without the possible scare of being politically incorrect.

In this time, political correctness has become outdated. It divides rather than unifies. It disguises the problems rather than solves them.

Our country is made up of many different groups and demographics. We have the opportunity to work together to make a more tolerant world.

But this cannot happen if we do not confront our problems and issues to each other.

We must not be afraid to voice our opinions to others who may take offense to them.

—Leigh Anne Manwarren  
Staff Writer

# Wheres the food been hiding?

### To the editor:

It was recently brought to my attention that the food service area has now started closing at 2:00 p.m. everyday.

I find it hard to understand why we have a service for students that is closed while there are students who are on campus and have no other choice but to eat here on campus.

If they are not willing to serve the students who are on campus, then why are they here?

And I understand that the cost of operating a business, but some of the price increases seem a little steep when a corndog, french fries and a bottle of soda cost almost five dollars, and most of the time the food is not that hot or fresh.

There needs to be stricter control of what they are serving for the price they are selling it for.

And I know that I am not alone in this way of feeling, so maybe it is time for them to shape up or be replaced.

—Tom Sholz  
OCCC Student

# Save now for OCCC faculty garage sale

### To the editor:

This is just a reminder to save your discarded treasures for the upcoming Faculty Association Garage Sale this fall.

I'm already accepting donations, so feel free to bring your items to me in the Library, and I'll store them until the sale.

If possible please bring clothes on hangers and use boxes with lids or flaps that can be closed and stacked.

Large items such as furniture and appliances are welcome, but you'll need to hold onto them until the sale in October due to a shortage of storage space.

Remember that all proceeds from the sale go towards Faculty Association Scholarships, and tax receipts for your donations are available.

—Linda Boatright  
Circulation/Reference Librarian

## off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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## PIONEER

Vol. 36 No. 40

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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. A phone number for verification must be included.

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



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Comments and Reviews

# Murphy plays dual roles in new movie 'Meet Dave'

Eddie Murphy plays a dual role in his latest comedy effort, "Meet Dave."

Effort is an appropriate word for this film, 90 minutes of effort.

While the plot has potential, a crew of miniature aliens from the planet Nil, operating a spaceship in the form of a human, it never seems to take hold.

Murphy's physical comedy is well displayed as the ships' human form, Dave Ming Chan.

As the ship learns to walk and react as a human being, Murphy uses his facial expressions to their maximum.

Murphy over-grins and exaggerates the actions of the humans he contacts. Those moments are funny.

However, when Murphy is in his mini-character as the captain of the spaceship, the humor shrinks with him.

He uses a formal robotic voice when he is supposed

to be alive and his normal voice as the robot. This is annoying and confusing.

Will the real Eddie Murphy please show his talent?

As the other aliens begin to take on human characteristics (they have numbers instead of names) No.2, played by Ed Helms gets power hungry and No.3, played by Gabrielle Union falls in love with the Captain (Murphy).

Who could have predicted that?

Pat Kilbane plays No.4, the security officer. He is influenced by a Broadway musical and becomes over-the-top, flamboyantly gay. While his character is stereotypical, he at least has some funny lines, which is more than can be said for the rest of the cast.

While the rating is PG for suggestive humor, there is none to speak of, suggestive or otherwise.

Kids may actually enjoy

this more than adults because of the robot and the little people inside. As much as the actors seem to struggle to be amusing, the script doesn't allow them this opportunity.

There is not much focus on plot or character development.

The characters who are supposed to be earthlings never seem to unfold enough for the audience to decide if they are likable or not.

This mildly entertaining film is not a bad movie, just boring in some places and a bit confusing at times.

When the question is posed whether the aliens would save their own planet or save the earth, no one on or off the screen seemed to care.

The cast and the audience just wanted it over with.

**Rating: C**

—Cynthia Praefke  
Staff Writer

# 'Evil Urges' blends rich music

Music group, My Morning Jacket, did it again. Following their phenomenal 2005 release, "Z", "Evil Urges" is a stunning collaboration of dueling guitar harmonies and mystique vocalization accompanied by synthesizers and keyboards.

From Louisville, Ky., this five-piece band packs a suitcase full of eclectic melodies and rhythms that are simply mind blowing.

Set to release July 22, by ATO records, the title track "Evil Urges," showcases a more eccentric side of My Morning Jacket.

Joe Chiccarelli, who produced albums by The White Stripes and The Shins, produced "Evil Urges." On the title track, lead singer Jim James sings falsetto while a set of southern style guitars break into a culmina-

tion of short solos creating a fantastic melody.

Track two, "Touch Me I'm Going To Scream," begins with pouncing keyboards and then the drums come in with a solid backbeat. The build-up has Tremolo effects and eerie vocals that cater an enthusiastic break down.

My Morning Jacket touches uncharted territory with, "Highly Suspicious," which sounds something like a Prince song with robotic bass lines and crunchy guitar riffs.

The CD's highlight is the fifth track, "Thank You Too!" Its a climatic song with a smooth bass line and guitars set with delay. Lead singer Jim James sings a warm enriched full sounding chorus.

My Morning Jacket offers

a very blended and well-rounded melody in every song on.

Their rich sound is a consolidated mix of something reminiscent of The Flaming Lips meshed with a hint of southern rock.

Having such a unique sound, My Morning Jacket stands out from their Indie-rocking peers as one of the hottest bands among the group. "Evil Urges" is a must have.

**Rating: A-**

—Matt Montgomery  
Staff Writer

**YOUR IDEAS,  
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SUGGESTIONS!**

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EDITOR@OCCC.EDU  
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EXT. 7409  
OR DROP BY 2M6 MB**

## View from the PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Even though OCCC and Rose State College are by far the most affordable colleges in central Oklahoma and within the state of Oklahoma, people often ask, "Why does it cost so much to go to college?" With increases in tuition almost every year, this is a fair question.

The simple answer is that the costs to operate the college increase every year. This coming year, for example, the costs for insurance and utilities will dramatically increase. The funds necessary to cover these increases come primarily from two sources — the state of Oklahoma and the tuition and fees paid by students. For a variety of reasons, including income tax reductions and lower corporate tax revenue, the state of Oklahoma is not collecting sufficient funds to cover the rising costs at the state-supported colleges and universities. Therefore, the amount of funds made available to all colleges and universities is actually a little less than last year. Without an increase in state funds, the solution for colleges and universities to cover the rising costs are limited to about three options — raise tuition, limit or cut the growth in services provided, or find innovative ways to cut costs without limiting services. In many cases, colleges and universities, including OCCC, will do all three.

OCCC was approved for an increase in tuition and fees from \$78 per credit hour to \$84 per credit hour as a part of our plan to meet the rising costs to operate the college. The recommendation follows our guiding principles when it comes to tuition and fees — to remain (with Rose State) as the most affordable college in the central Oklahoma area, to remain one of the most affordable colleges in the state of Oklahoma, and remain well below the peer average as required by law. The law currently requires OCCC to price tuition and fees below the peer average of community colleges in surrounding states. OCCC is well below at only 70 percent of the average tuition at our peer community colleges.

To help students cope with rising costs, I urge all students to apply for grants and scholarships. Many students are eligible for federal Pell Grants and/or Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grants, the OKC Go! Scholarship Program, or the Oklahoma Promise Scholarship. There are numerous other scholarships available as well. Some students who have never used financial aid have been pleasantly surprised that they were eligible for grants and loans. Talk with the OCCC representatives in the office of Student Financial Support Services. They are more than willing to help you complete forms and help you find a way to pay for college.

Like what many of you are doing today, I paid my own way through college. I can relate to the enormous effort a student may go through to afford to go to college. Because I do understand, I will continue to work with everyone at OCCC to provide a high-quality collegiate experience while keeping tuition and fees as low as possible.

—Paul Sechrist  
OCCC President

## Comments and Reviews

# 'Hellboy' back to save the world

One of the most anticipated sequels of the summer is "Hellboy II: The Golden Army."

Taking place after the events of the first "Hellboy" film, the story involves a villain named Prince Nuada, who is attempting to raise an indestructible Golden Army to destroy mankind.

Nuada's father once controlled the army, but had made a truce with man that the mythical world would remain separate from that of humans.

When Prince Nuada decides to go against the agreement and wage war against mankind, the only hope is Hellboy, who is not a man at all.

Hellboy, played by Ron Perlman, is the most lovable demon you will ever see on film. He may have been born in Hell, but he carries on as a hopeless romantic who smokes cigars, loves kittens and candy, and sings along to Barry Manilow.



Where the sequel surpasses the original is in its visuals. Writer and Director Guillermo del Toro is one of the most imaginative, visionary filmmakers and this movie is the perfect setting for him to show off his skills.

The variety of strange-looking characters, creatures, and monsters is nothing short of amazing.

The shortage of com-

puter-generated effects of noticeable. Even though the movie is filled with abstract imagery and spectacles, animatronics and extravagant makeup are used wherever possible — and flawlessly at that.

This brings a very real element to the story and makes both good and evil forces look that much more effective.

Even when digital effects

are used, the animation is so good that the viewer doesn't even notice the difference.

The sole, glaring weakness in this movie is the dialogue, which was corny throughout and sometimes laughable.

But unlike most action movies, which try to hide their cheesiness, "Hellboy II" embraces it, and the end result is like watching a moving comic book on film.

During some of the interactions, you could almost imagine comic speech bubbles coming from the characters' mouths. To some, that's a good thing. To others, it's awkward and unbearable.

What really makes this film unique is its story. It's not an average superhero movie. Hellboy is conflicted between his current lifestyle on Earth and the life he left behind in the other world.

He fights for mankind, most of which doesn't even

like him, but he constantly feels drawn to his destiny, which is ultimately to bring about the apocalypse.

This tension creates one of the deepest, most sincere superheroes. His ironic innocence and his love for Liz Sherman (Selma Blair) are what drive him to be a genuine, heart-felt hero.

The movie boasts an unpredictable, but terrific soundtrack that ranges from Al Green to Rammstein and even Tom Waits.

There is no song more befitting of Hellboy himself than the Eels' "Beautiful Freak."

Overall, "Hellboy II: The Golden Army" is a very enjoyable movie, a few flaws short of a masterpiece.

For those who enjoyed the first film and can get past the often-corny writing, this is definitely a movie worth seeing.

**Rating: A**

—Dillon Hart  
Staff Writer

## Comedy Central's Jim Gaffigan brings act to Oklahoma with two solid shows

It's not often that the Oklahoma City area gets to see a good, nationally renowned comedian. We simply aren't a big enough market for most club or theater comics to come here.

But comic Jim Gaffigan made an exception last weekend when he did not one, but two shows in Midwest City.

Both the early and late shows at the Rose State College Performing Arts Center were completely sold out.

Gaffigan is touring to prepare for another Comedy Central special, so

most of the material performed was brand new.

Even though the material was new, it seemed somewhat familiar. Most of it covered the same topics that Gaffigan has been riffing on for years, namely food and laziness.

A good chunk of Gaffigan's set was simply about bacon. He seems to have completely exhausted any possible joke about the pork product.

These bits were funny, but one can't help but want more from the comedian. He's been going over the same ground for quite some time.



It was actually when Gaffigan strayed from his typical food and laziness jokes that he really shined. He had one bit about Ticketmaster that was particularly hilarious.

Gaffigan closed the show out with his famed "Hot Pocket" bit, which garnered a huge crowd reaction.

It seemed strange for a comedian to pull out his old bits much like a band would their greatest hits, but the audience ate it up.

Jim Gaffigan is one of the few current comedians who has achieved mainstream success while still appealing to the hardcore, alternative comedy fans.

He currently stars on the TBS hit "My Boys" and recently appeared in the Mike Myers vehicle "The Love Guru."

Gaffigan's "Beyond the Pale" Comedy Central special is one of the most popular in the channel's history.

That special brought viewers his "Hot Pocket" bit that he has become known for.

Perhaps Gaffigan's two sold out Oklahoma shows will show promoters that comedy can be a draw here and we'll begin to see more and more comedians come through. But Gaffigan's performance should tide fans over for quite some time before that happens.

—Cameron Buchholtz  
Staff Writer

# Pressure, smoke cause fire evacuations

By **Travis Orcutt**  
News Writing Student  
and **Stephen Sossamon**  
Staff Writer

Two fire alarms within one week caused the evacuation of the Main Building, and Science, Engineering and Math Center.

At 3:20 p.m. July 9, a fire alarm sounded from the SEM Center.

According to an incident report filed by Safety and Security officer Larry Lundy, the alarm was triggered in room 2E1 of the SEM Center by a drop in water pressure.

Lundy said he checked the riser closet as the building was evacuated, and the pressure meter read 53 pounds, according to the incident report.

"A normal reading is about 50 pounds," said Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque.



Photo by Ryan Gaston

Students, faculty and staff wait outside Entries 11 and 12 after a fire alarm sounded.

"The water pressure from the city dropped."

"Therefore, the sprinkler system thought there was a fire," Bourque said.

Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas said the alarm sounded because the sprinkler system activated.

"The alarm goes off when

the sprinkler system comes on," Sloas said.

Bourque put out a message on the college's IT phone system to evacuate the building, according to the incident report, sending everyone in the buildings out into a rainstorm.

"It was a timing issue,"

Sloas said. "Unfortunately, we had to evacuate everyone out into the rain."

Lundy said, once the issue was resolved, the system was put into reset and the alarm silenced.

Bourque also put out the all-clear message on the phone system and all personnel were allowed back into the building, according to the incident report.

A second fire alarm went off Tuesday, July 15, in one of the science labs, causing an evacuation of the Main Building.

Sloas said the alarm sounded when a beaker in a science lab released smoke.

"When a beaker on a hot plate runs out of liquid,"

Sloas said, "it creates smoke. That's what set off the alarm."

Sloas said there's no such thing as a false alarm when it comes to OCCC's system.

"It's very sensitive," Sloas said. "Any amount of smoke will trigger the alarm."

The sensitive system gives OCCC staff and students a good early warning advantage, Sloas said.

Sloas said there is always potential for a fire whenever there is smoke, even if it is from something as small as a beaker.

"When there's smoke, there's fire," Sloas said.

"There's always potential for a serious issue."

## New hire for Enrollment, Student Services office

By **Sabrina DuFran**  
News Writing Student

Former OCCC student, Janelle Hanson, has been hired as the new Secretary to the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services. Hanson answers the telephones, handles the mail and filing and does the general secretary work.

Native to Oklahoma, Hanson decided to return to the state from Macon, Ga., where she held an office position at the police department, she said. Her previous office skills learned assisted her in her new position at OCCC, she said.

Born in Mustang, she said traveling to OCCC was a short trip. She began attending in 2000 and received her associate's degree majoring in liberal

studies from OCCC in 2002.

Hanson continued her education at the University of Oklahoma and received her bachelor's degree also in liberal studies, she said.

Hanson said she is excited about her new start at OCCC.

"The college has gone above and beyond what it was. It's all about the students and that is such a great thing," Hanson said.

"I hope I help make things better while I'm here."

She also said that the atmosphere working with the students will be more enjoyable.

"I will be able to relate, since I was once a student on the campus," she said.

Kim Velleca, Hanson's supervisor, said, "We are lucky to have her and excited that she is here."

Since Hanson is not only a former OCCC student, but also worked in the bookstore here, she is a welcome addition to the office team, Velleca said.

Activities play a major role in Hanson's life. She began playing tennis in middle school, "and that's been more than a decade," she said.

She also enjoys friends and her wine club, she said.

She recently began a book club with her friends.

"Members pick books themselves and give recommendations. This makes it more intriguing to read," she said.

Hanson and her husband have been married for two years. She said they have traveled from Oklahoma to Georgia and returned, because of her husband's job as a government contractor.

By **Jason A. Johnson**  
News Writing Student

Two plays will be debuting in the fall in OCCCs theater. The plays are "In the Blood" by Suzan Lori Parks and "You Can't take it With You" by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman.

Rochelle Mosby, Arts & Humanities assistant, said auditions will be open to OCCC students, faculty, staff members and the community.

Rochelle Mosby said there is a play in September, and in October or November. Specific dates have not been set.

Ruth Charnay, Communications and the Arts department chair, said all who are interested in auditioning or participating in the plays can check the call-board in the Arts & Humanities department under Society of Performing Artists for audition times and dates.

Charnay said audition times and dates will be posted outside of the theater.

"We need students to pick up script books in the Arts & Humanities office, so they can read over and get familiar with the material," Mosby said.

Charnay said script books for the plays are located in two different boxes in the Arts & Humanities department office on the center table.

Charnay said "In the Blood" is a social critique while "You Can't Take it With You" is a classic comedy.

"They are two very diverse plays, and that is very exciting," she said.

Brent Noel, full time theater instructor will be directing "In the Blood" and Jacque Hocking adjunct professor will be directing "You Can't take it With You," she said.

"The plays are both wonderful and different and will draw the audience in," she said.

Robyn Roberts, nursing student, said, "With it being open to everyone, it could bring the community in, and will be good exposure for everyone."

## Plays set for fall semester debut

# Student Life hires new staff member

**By Lindsey Burleson**  
News Writing Student

Katie Treadwell has recently been hired this summer as the new Service Learning and Student Life Programs Coordinator at the Student Life center at OCCC.

Among the jobs her title entails, Treadwell will direct the new civic honors program, coordinate the lecture series, cultural awareness programs, volunteering opportunities.

She will also focus on developing new and different ways to use service learning inside and outside of the classroom.

"Katie Treadwell is an excellent professional and we are happy to have her on our team," said Service Learning and Student Life coordinator Jon Horinek.

Treadwell grew up in Oklahoma City, attended Putnam City North High

School, and graduated in May with an educational affairs degree from Baylor University.

Treadwell said she has decided to come back to her roots to pursue her career. "This is home," said Treadwell of Oklahoma City, who has lived in Texas, New York, and Florence, Italy.

The uniqueness of Oklahoma City Community College and the student life program intrigued Treadwell and drew her here, she said.

"The OCCC students are more non-traditional, and the student life program, meets them where they are," she said.

In New York, Treadwell participated in Teach For America, a non-profit organization that recruits graduates, mostly non-educational majors, to teach in inner-city schools. "It opened my eyes, I saw

the big picture," she said.

One opportunity Treadwell organizes is Service Saturdays, when all students are given the opportunity to volunteer with local agencies, such as Habitat for Humanity and the regional food bank, on Saturdays, "which is a great way to get involved if you haven't done anything," she said.

"Service learning is very much about the experience," Treadwell said.

Student Zach Kanaa said, "It's kind of hard to put yourself out there and find those opportunities on your own, so I'm glad OCCC has someone that kind of does it for you."

Treadwell said, "Whatever their academic program relates to, we can find a service for that."

Anyone interested in any kind of service, or wants to volunteer, can call Treadwell at 405-682-7523.



Katie Treadwell

## Upward Bound students host own Olympic games

**By Megan Mowrey**  
News Writing Student

June 27 and 28, OCCC Upward Bound students participated in the Upward Bound Olympics and received second place overall.

Upward Bound is a U.S. Department of Education funded program that assists students still attending high school to acquire skills and motivation in education.

The Upward Bound Olympics were held in Stillwater, at Oklahoma State University, said Carmela Pyle, Upward Bound director.

"Other UB programs had held such events but we were never a part of it so we got together with Eastern Central University and started our own," Pyle said.

This year's UB Olympics consisted of four schools including OCCC. Those were Eastern Central University, OSU-OKC, and OSU-Stillwater.

Events that took place were kickball, softball, basketball, swimming, ultimate football, soccer and many more.

With team effort OCCC participants took first place in events such as, men's volleyball, men's and women's tennis, soc-

cer, kickball, water balloon volleyball, pop trivia and quiz bowl, Pyle said.

Each competitor had to participate in a minimum of two events, such as water balloon volleyball or tennis, but could participate in more, said John Tran, one of the Upward Bound coaches.

On the first day the students were not working well together and were in last place. But, by the second day, they started coming together. This motivation is what brought them from last to second place, Pyle said.

"Competing isn't everything, but having teamwork and a lot of heart put into the activity itself helps the students come together as a family and bond together," Tran said.

With the other schools bringing about 60 participants, OCCC UB students had a challenge with only 39 competitors.

The Olympics had events taking place at the same time so it was difficult getting students to an event on time if they had just finished in the other, Tran said.

Through the experience, students learn to come together and that is a wonder of its own especially just knowing each other for a few months, Tran said.

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# Campus career services helps students

By **Amanda Allen**  
NewsWriting Student

OCCC Career and Employment Services department makes it a goal to find students jobs. The optimal resume website, <http://occc.optimalresume.com>, which was started in 2003, is a milestone, placing students in good jobs. There are over 1 million styling options to make sure students find the correct type of resume for them.

The website offers a system to configure interviews, choose the type of interview to use, and even choose an interviewer to practice with.

"We are here to help students find jobs, and by doing that we help them create resumes," Debra Vaughn, Career and Employment Services director said.

All of the tools listed on the website are great to use to prepare for a real life interview. One of the things students can do on the website is interview online through a webcam. This is a great way for students to know what they are doing wrong in interviews, Vaughn said.

During the online interview, students are given a question and then given up to two minutes to respond.

"The student's video response can be viewed in the top corner of

<http://occc.optimalresume.com>

the screen," Vaughn said.

This program is a great tool for students and shows them the progress they're making in their interviewing skills, Vaughn said.

Students are encouraged to take

advantage of this free website and can register for this site with their OCCC e-mail address and their seven-digit student ID number.

Registration for this site can be done at home or in any computer

lab at OCCC.

If students have any questions about how to access this site, they can call the OCCC Career and Employment Services department at 405-682-7519.

# Top-10 jobs an associate degree will get you

By **Stephen Sossamon**  
Staff Writer

An associate degree can suffice for a career beyond college if the student doesn't desire to get a bachelor's degree, according to CareerBuilder.com.

The following jobs, as ranked by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, are the top 10 highest-paid jobs, which can be held by those with an associate degree.

1 - Computer specialist; \$59,480 per year. Hiring managers usually prefer graduates with an associate degree in a computer-related field.

2 - Nuclear technician; \$59,200 per year. An associate degree in applied sci-

ence or specific technology should provide good training.

3 - Dental hygienist; \$58,350 per year. Candidates must graduate from an accredited dental hygiene school and pass a written and clinical exam.

4 - Radiation therapist; \$57,700 per year. Employers generally require an associate degree from a radiation therapy program.

5 - Nuclear medicine technologist; \$55,840 per year. An associate degree in nuclear medicine technology is standard and many employers also require licensure.

6 - Fashion designer; \$55,840 per year. Designers often hold associate de-

grees in fashion design or fine arts.

7 - Aerospace engineering and operations technician; \$52,500 per year. An associate degree in engineering technology is standard, and certification can be a competitive edge for job-seekers.

8 - Diagnostic medical sonographer; \$52,490 per year. An associate degree in diagnostic medical sonography should work, but some employers prefer candidates registered through the American industry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

9 - Registered nurse; \$52,330 per year. Registered nurses must have at least an associate degree in

nursing and pass a national licensing examination.

10 - Engineering technician; \$49,440 per year. Employers prefer associate degrees in engineering tech-

nology.

List and degree information provided by Career Builder.com.

Staff Writer Stephen Sossamon can be reached at [onlineeditor@occc.edu](mailto:onlineeditor@occc.edu).

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# Sports

## UPCOMING

### OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

**July 21-25:** OCCC will host co-ed basketball camps at the Wellness Center gym. The youth camp for ages 9 to 11 will be from 8 a.m. to noon and the teen camp for ages 12 to 14 will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. The cost for the camps is \$65. For more information, call Recreation and Sports Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

**July 21-25, July 28-Aug. 1:** OCCC will host Afternoon Fun and Fit camps Monday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. The camp is for ages 6 to 12 and the cost is \$40. For more information call Recreation and Sports Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

**July 28-Aug. 1:** OCCC will host cheer camp at the Wellness Center gym. The youth camp for ages 8 to 11 will be from 8 a.m. to noon. The teen camp for ages 12 to 14 will be from 1 to 4 p.m. The cost for the camp is \$65. For more information, call Recreation and Sports Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

**July 28:** OCCC will host the All State High School Swim Meet in the OCCC Aquatic Center Pool. For more information, call Recreation and Fitness Coordinator Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

**Do you have a great sports story you would like to share over the summer? Contact Daniel Martin at 405-682-1611, ext. 7440, or e-mail StaffWriter2@occc.edu**



Fun and Fit camper's break a sweat July 15 during a game of volleyball. For their afternoon workouts, participants of OCCC's physical fitness program have fun and stay active by playing all sorts of games and activities that include swimming, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball and nature walks.

Photo by Ryan Gaston

## OCCC's Fun and Fit energizes youth

**By Daniel Martin**  
Staff Writer

A recent National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey states that the proportion of overweight 12- to 19-year-old children has tripled from 5 percent in the early '60s to 15 percent in 2000.

OCCC's Afternoon Fun and Fit program has taken a stand to help tame the epidemic of obesity in children. It is a problem that most may not be familiar with but that is slowly moving its to the forefront of today's news.

The camp for boys and girls ages 6 to 12, is from 1 to 5 p.m. and consists of fun Physical Education activities in the gym, swim time, and adventurous outdoor activities that promote health, wellness and physical fitness.

Fun and Fit coach Ty Porter said, "It's great for the kids, they need to be active, sweating, having fun and out playing, instead of on the couch all day."

"We play basketball, dogdeball, volleyball, and all sorts of "tag your out" games that get the kids up and moving. Children seem to love all the activities," Porter said.

They love all the games especially dodge ball he said, "That's why we use it as the last game. The kids work hard all day, run laps and break a sweat, but they love it because they get dodge ball at the end of the day."

Overweight children are at a greater risk for many serious health problems and there are statistics to prove it.

Porter said that is exactly why the camp leaders are trying to help.

"We want to keep them enthused, active, and running around all over the place instead of sitting in front of a computer or television screen" he said, "Overall it is exactly what they need at their age."

The Afternoon Fun and Fit camp is continuing through the end of July and the cost is \$40. For more information, call Recreation and Sports Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Staff Writer Daniel Martin can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

## OCCC runs out of luck at Annual Lifeguard Games

**By Sabrina Bosquez-Aviles**  
News Writing Student

An indispensable female lifeguard caused the rest of the OCCC lifeguards to pull out of the Southwest Regional Lifeguard Games competition July 11 at White Water Bay OCCC.

Aquatic and Safety Training Specialist James Hensley said, "This is the first time in many years that OCCC lifeguards have not participated in the 23-year-old event."

There must be one lifeguard of each gender in every competition. "We couldn't compete because one of our female lifeguards is off for the month," Hensley said.

"The objective of the event is to provide an opportunity for the educational promotion of lifeguards as skilled professionals," he said.

There were seven different events including speed, first aid and knowledge of general aquatics.

Hensley said some of the lifeguards were upset that they weren't able to compete this year.

OCCC did, however, contribute to the games by supplying two new and improved events.

One consisted of a chemical simulation where the goal was to get as many people out of the water as possible, and the other was a lifeguard test scanning where attention to potential victims is key.

Lifeguard Games Director Roxanna Butler said the event sponsors were OCCC, White Water Bay, City Bites, Rose State College, OU and the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the American Red Cross.

All groups were instrumental in the helping the event be a success Butler said.

"We just need to get out there and compete next year."

For more information call Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

# Physical Plant looking to hire students

**By Lance Morales**  
News Writing Student

The Physical Plant is looking for students to fill assistant spots.

"We always have positions available, and we make sure we put the students classes and education first" said Larry Barnes, Physical Plant project manager.

Steve Duncan, materials control supervisor said several areas around campus need student workers.

"We are constantly look-

ing for students to hire"

Students seeking on-campus jobs that start at \$8 per hour need to visit the OCCC employment page at [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu).

Karen Schmidt, Human Resources Specialist, said students wanting to work on campus must be enrolled in 6 credit hours to be eligible

Schmidt advised students looking for jobs to check the website regularly and apply for as many positions as possible.

Individual departments

will contact students for interviews once they have reviewed the applications, Schmidt said.

Students are not allowed to work more than thirty hours a week, she said.

Duncan said student jobs give students a chance for a full-time job at OCCC.

"Many times we hire the students later on as full-time employees," he said.

Tristan Smith Material Central Assistant, and business sophomore, said working at OCCC "gives me the chance to work flexible

hours around my classes."

Smith is one of three students this summer in charge of picking up mail throughout OCCC and making sure all packages that are sent to the campus are dropped off.

Smith said he found the job when he was looking at the OCCC job website.

"I am really lucky that I came across this job," Smith said.

"It's really convenient for me. I have been doing this for about 11 months now. I have my own system set up

that saves me a lot of time" Smith said. "I generally drop off around 180 to 200 packages every day I work.

"Whenever I have a test coming up, I am always able to take time off to study if I need to."

Smith said he also enjoys the interaction with the OCCC faculty.

"We are always scanning the packages and collecting signatures from people," Smith said, after discussing the weather with the human resources receptionist.

# Clinical research program funded by \$1.7 million grant

**By Evan J. Noble**  
News Writing Student

Through a \$1.7 million grant, OCCC will offer a new program over the next three years to train Clinical Research Coordinators.

The program, "Building a Clinical Track in the Health Careers Ladder," will offer scholarships to pay for 90 percent of a student's education and a possible \$3,000 stipend summer internship.

Sonya J. Williams, Department of Science director, said the Science and Mathematics division received the grant from the Department of Labor.

"This new program would be a huge scholarship opportunity for students," Williams said.

"The new program is currently in the planning and recruitment stage of the program."

She said the scholarships would pay for tuition and books, and a possible internship with one of OCCC's partner companies.

Some of the these partner companies are Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and Saint Anthony's Bone and Joint Hospital.

Science and Mathematics Dean Max Simmons said

the Clinical Research Coordinator program teaches about work that occurs in hospitals and doctor's offices.

He said the program involves actual human trials dealing with new drugs and new surgical procedures.

The job will require students to know some biology and about the medical profession, Simmons said.

He said students would need to be knowledgeable about the laws and regulations relating to studying human beings.

Williams said student recruitment will start this month, and will be an ongoing process.

She said this program would train students for an entry-level position in a career of clinical research, and clinical trials.

"We'll have a combination of online courses and campus courses," she said.

"This is all still in the works. Actual courses are planned to start spring semester," Williams said.

She said this is in line with the state's Economic Development Generating Excellence to help bring in new jobs, and bring out already existing jobs in clinical research of Oklahoma.

EDGE was created to help increase Oklahoma's economy by creating more high-paying jobs according to [okedge.org](http://okedge.org).

Williams said there also is an outreach component to the grant that will help bring news and information to students of K-12 to make them aware of OCCC's program.

The program would fund on-campus classes for kindergarten through 12 teachers to learn about the program as well as a summer program for kindergarten through 12 students to

learn about clinical research and how to get involved in the program.

Williams said the department recently hired two new faculty members to be K-12 Outreach Coordinator and Faculty/ Academic Coordinator.

This program will not just be for current students, but for students who are already in the workforce and looking for something new.

Williams said the average salary for a clinical research coordinator is between \$30,000 and \$62,000.

Students interested in this program need to contact Williams at 405-682-1611, ext. 7182, e-mail [sciencemath@occc.edu](mailto:sciencemath@occc.edu), or write to the Division of Science and Mathematics at 7777 S. May Ave. Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159.

## Fall enrollment increase expected

*"Enrollment,"*  
*Cont. from page 1*

nic increase was among Asians at 9.8 percent, at a total of 480.

Native American enrollment increased to 277, making up 4.9 percent of the enrollment, a 5.3 percent increase from last summer and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander makes up .4 percent of the enrollment with 23 students, Morgan-Dees said.

However, the Hispanic/Latino enrollment number took a significant 12.4 percent decrease, dropping enrollment to 338, making up 6 percent of the colleges population, Morgan-Dees said.

African-American enrollment was at 534, 9.4 percent of the OCCC enrollment, which is 3.9 percent from last summer, Morgan-

Dees said.

Also, females make up 60 percent of OCCC enrollment, while males make up 40 percent, Sechrist said.

"The trend for many years was an increasing female student population," Sechrist said.

"It does seem to be leveling off at this point."

This number is reflective with most colleges in the United States, Sechrist

said.

Twenty-seven percent of students attending classes at OCCC this summer are planning to seek degrees elsewhere.

Sechrist said although the tracking process is early, fall enrollment is expected to rise slightly based on current enrollment numbers.

*Editor Matt Bishop can be reached at [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu).*

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**First Floor, Main Building**  
**405-682-7519**  
**[Employmentservices@occc.edu](mailto:Employmentservices@occc.edu)**



## Find that funding

Psychology major Phoenix Mathew researches student loans online in the library.

Students looking for information on student loans can visit the National Student Load Data System at [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) or Saillie Mae at [www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com).

Students may also want to look into a Federal Stafford loan. According to their website, Federal Stafford loans offer students lower interest rates, deferred payments until after graduation and more repayment options. For more information visit [www.staffordload.com](http://www.staffordload.com).

Photo by Cameron Buchholtz

# Highlights

### CDCLS Reservation Room

OCCC's Child Development Center and Lab School has spots available for the Reservation Room. The Reservation Room provides child care from 5:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., with evenings available depending on children's needs. Cost for the summer semester is \$10 per evening per child, plus a \$15 activity fee for each child. For more information, call the CDCLS at 405-682-7561.

### Classes offered in summer

Community Outreach and Education will offer a variety of summer non-credit classes. Classes include: Computer Basics, Microsoft Office, dance classes, sign language, Spanish, ESL and voice overs. For more information, call 405-682-7859.

**Highlights have a 5 p.m. deadline every Tuesday.**

# Student clubs preparing for upcoming semester

**By Cameron Buchholtz**  
Staff Writer

With the fall semester fast approaching, student clubs and organizations are making plans and preparing for the upcoming school year.

The Computer Arts and Technology Society will be doing a lot to prepare students for the new semester.

"We'd like to have some of our club members around at the Saturday orientation before the fall semester, to help students find their classes and to encourage new members to sign up," CATS sponsor Akram Taghavi-Burris said.

CATS has a lot planned for the semester as well, including a digital art show, electronic job fair, and the second annual Oklahoma Electronic Game Expo, said Taghavi-Burris.

"Our 2008 Expo is the ultimate gaming destination in Oklahoma- where gamers and industry insiders can come together to celebrate video-games," Taghavi-Burris said.

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society will also be busy this year. The club has had a banner year for recruiting new members, said sponsor Marty Ludlum.

**"Being in a club takes dedication, but it shouldn't take up all your free time."**

— Akram Taghavi-Burris  
Computer Arts and Technology Society sponsor

"We will again be participating in our hallmarks of scholarship and service to the college community," Ludlum said.

Things start early for the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, as they will be traveling to Glorieta, N.M. for a retreat Aug. 2 - 8.

"Over a 1,000 students from around the U.S. will attend this event for Spiritual encouragement and Mission opportunities," BCM sponsor Mike Barnett said.

Students interested in joining a club should contact the Office of Student Life for more information.

"Being a part of a club takes dedication, but it shouldn't take up all your free time," Taghavi-Burris said. "Interested members need only be available during club meetings and an hour or more at our fundraising events."

Staff Writer Cameron Buchholtz can be reached at [staffwriter1@occc.edu](mailto:staffwriter1@occc.edu).

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# 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.

## AUTOMOBILES

**FOR SALE:** 1997, Honda Accord, V6, Black, four door. Asking \$4,000, O.B.O. Contact: 918-361-8277.

## CHILD CARE

**CHILD CARE:** Certified, DHS approved. Trustworthy with OSBI background check and excellent references. Available for college student hours. Day/evening. Call 405-703-2147.

## ELECTRONICS

**FOR SALE;** Red Samsung Digital Camera (like new), includes 32MB SD card \$80; Sony 5-disc CD player \$50; Sony VCR/DVD player \$25; TV cabinet \$30; 19-inch, white TV/VCR player \$15. Call 405-550-3371.

**XBOX FOR SALE:** Includes three controllers. Also a memory chip, DVD playback kit, and six games including The Godfather, Rise of Soldier, Need for Speed Underground 2, Grand Theft Auto III, San Andreas and Tony Hawk's American Wasteland. All for \$75. Call: 405-681-6589.

## EMPLOYMENT

**FREE GIFTS AND DISCOUNTS**  
on merchandise for hosting a Pampered Chef party. Student working p/t to bring you America's favorite kitchen items. Call for details on becoming a hostess or making some extra money selling part time. Call Jody 757-295-1517.

**HELP WANTED**  
JR's Family BBQ is now accepting applications for servers and bartenders. Apply in person at:  
1601 W I-35 Service Rd.

**HELP WANTED**  
Tuxedo Junction at Crossroads Mall needs part time sales person. 15+ hours per week. Will train with some sales or customer service experience. Work around school hours. Call Beth @ 405-631-6714 for appointment.

## FURNITURE

**FOR SALE:** Roll-Top Desk, 52 x 43 x 22 inches. \$100. Call 405-603-6690.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**ALGEBRA TUTOR**  
with experience. \$20 per hour. Call Bryan at 405-203-8220.

## FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** 3-bedroom, furnished house only three minutes from OCCC. Washer, dryer and high speed internet. \$350 per month. If interested please call 405-822-5651.

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**FEMALE ROOMMATE:** To share house only 4 minutes from OCCC. \$0 per month in exchange for weekday childcare duties for 8 and 10 year old children. Call: 405-830-3838.

## TEXTBOOKS

**FOR SALE:** Pre-Calculus 8th edition, bought new, \$100. Living Democracy (National Edition) bought used, \$50. Both in great condition. Call 405-740-8527.

**FOR SALE:** New UCO Intermediate Accounting I and II books. Retail for \$250. Save money and buy mine for \$130. Will deliver if you are centrally located. Call 405-684-1003.

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Pleased
- 5 Second mo.
- 8 Urge
- 12 Fable writer
- 14 Jai —
- 15 Fishing boat
- 16 Cowhand's rope
- 17 Small shelters
- 18 Oklahoma city
- 19 Aerials
- 21 Moon feature
- 23 Sailor: slang
- 24 Yes, in France
- 25 Harem room
- 26 Less sincere
- 30 Film genre
- 32 Dumbfounded
- 33 Trash leaver
- 37 Not courteous
- 38 Divulges
- 39 "Quo Vadis?" star
- 40 V.I.P. treatment
- 42 Stop
- 43 Author
- 44 Noon
- 45 Surfer's spot
- 48 W. Hemisphere alliance
- 49 Relatives
- 50 Sum
- 52 Smooth hairdos
- 57 Entrance
- 58 Songwriters

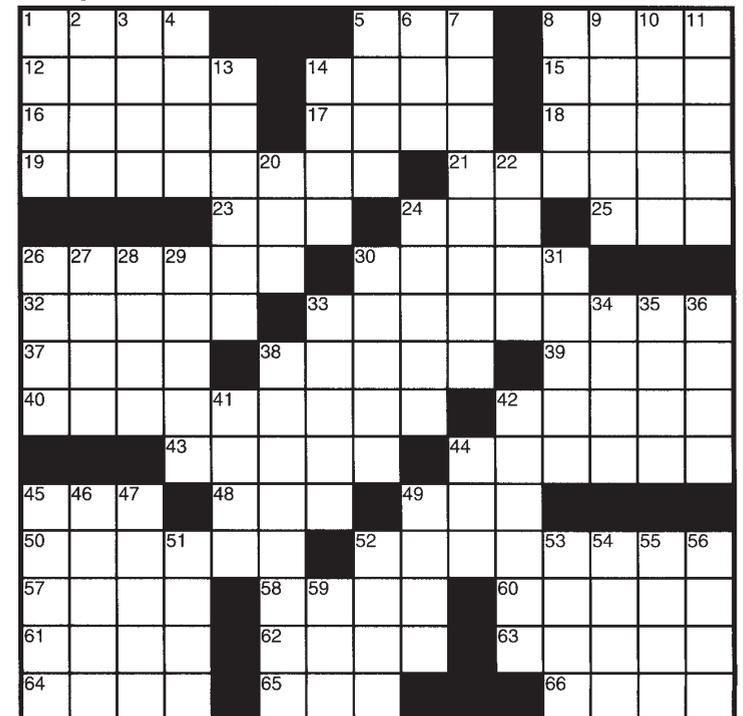
### DOWN

- 1 Festive
- 2 Thin
- 3 Helper: abbr.
- 4 Doctor's spoonful
- 5 Chimney part
- 6 Consume
- 7 Doggie treats
- 8 Brainstorm
- 9 Lone Ranger's sidekick
- 10 Wept
- 11 Mythical serpent
- 13 Thin soft fabric
- 14 Melville captain
- 20 Postal Creed word
- 22 Teeming
- 24 Eight voices
- 26 Actor Jamie —
- 27 Flu symptom
- 28 Cheryl or Alan
- 29 Eyeglasses
- 30 Fire alarm
- 31 Annoyed

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

A	P	S	O	C	A	S	T	E	O	O	N	A	
R	O	A	R	O	N	T	A	P	B	R	O	W	
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# College's intruder procedure stepped up

By **Stephen Sossamon**  
Staff Writer

The college is one step closer to being ready if an armed intruder enters the building, said Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas.

The Shelter In Place procedure will be the new standard for the college's safety plan in case of such an event, Sloas said.

He said it's not a new procedure but is new to OCCC.

"[The procedure] has been in place," Sloas said. "I've been teaching it since the fall of 2007."

Sloas said the Shelter In Place procedure is a continuation of the procedure already used by the college.

According to the Shelter In Place procedure, if students or staff members are

caught in open areas, such as hallways or lounges, they should move quickly to a secured area, such as a classroom or lab.

In this way, the college's faculty and student body would be away from harm, and Oklahoma City police officers could enter and secure the college, Sloas said.

Safety and Security officers will conduct the training for the new procedure, Sloas said.

Training will be from 10 to 11 a.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m., July 21 and 23 in Main Building room 2N3.

Also, at 2 p.m. July 25, Safety and Security will perform a Shelter In Place drill, with observers checking to make sure everyone is participating correctly, Sloas said.

The drill will announce the Shelter In Place procedure being active, then the simulation of people moving to a safe place will occur, Sloas said.

"An Oklahoma City Police Department Santa Fe Division Administrative supervisor will be here to observe and leave feedback, also."

He said the college will have a simulated live drill with a live armed intruder in the future.

The college's IP phones, which are the phones located in the classrooms and offices, will play a big part in the procedure.

"It is the delivery device," said Safety and Security coordinator Keith Bourque.

"[The IP phone] will audibly tell you when the Shelter In Place procedure is

going on, and will give you the all-clear."

Sloas said he hopes the phones will be able to reach at least 75 percent of the people on campus.

"The [most difficult] people to [notify] are the ones in the open," he said.

However, Sloas said, those out in the open would most likely be the first to notice the threat and take cover.

Sloas said he also urges the various college divisions to develop their own plans, within the Shelter In Place procedure, to ensure their safety.

"The bookstore has its own procedures, as does the Child Development Center," Sloas said. "You have to adapt to where you are in the college."

Sloas said he's confident everyone will be comfortable with the procedure.

"We want to make the faculty and students more comfortable with the procedures," Sloas said.

"That is why we will be having the drills more often — to make it a routine."

Sloas said these procedures are not lock-downs.

A lock-down is aimed at keeping the intruder out, while the Shelter In Place procedure is aimed toward getting the intruder out.

Sloas said students and faculty can get more information either by attending a training session or calling Safety and Security at 405-682-1611, ext. 7691.

Staff Writer Stephen Sossamon can be reached at [onlineeditor@occc.edu](mailto:onlineeditor@occc.edu).

## Students will get financial aid funds electronically beginning this fall

"Money,"  
Cont. from page 1

Higher One's services, she said.

The company will transfer funds through three methods:

- immediate deposit into a student's Higher One account,
- direct deposit into a student's existing bank account or,
- by processing and mailing out a paper check.

Henson said regardless of which method students choose to receive their money, going through Higher One would allow students to receive their money faster than the current system of going through the state.

Currently, refunds and financial aid are only given through paper checks, which can take up to four days to process.

With Higher One, paper checks will take one day to process, she said.

Students choosing to have Higher One deposit their funds into their pre-existing bank accounts can expect to receive their

money in 24 to 48 hours.

All Higher One account users will have immediate access to their funds.

Henson said the college is indifferent about which method students choose to receive their money.

"We have no vested interest in which method they use," she said.

"Whatever your preference — paper check, pre-existing bank account or a Higher One account — it will be quicker for both the student and for us.

"The students just need to set up their preferences with Higher One."

Whether students choose to bank directly through Higher One or not, all students will need to set up their preferences through the Higher One website in order to receive funds, she said.

That's where the debit cards come into play, she said.

"These cards will allow students to log in to the OCCC Higher One website and select their preference for how they want to get their money.

Henson said students should expect the cards at

the end of September.

"We will have more information at the beginning of the fall semester, letting everyone know what steps they need to take to set their preferences or sign up for an account," she said.

"It is important for students to understand that all refunds and financial aid will be processed through Higher One starting in October," Henson said.

"Get your money however you'd like, but make sure to set up your preferences."

Henson said the debit card will work like any other debit card.

"You can check your balance, make a withdraw or transfer funds for no fee at the Higher One ATMs.

Henson said two Higher One ATMs would be installed on campus for students' use.

"The cards will work at any other ATM, but you will be charged a convenience fee."

She said the ATMs would be placed in high traffic areas: one in the Main Building by the Welcome Desk and the other in the foyer of the Library.

Henson is working with Campus Security to have cameras installed to allow monitoring of the machines.

Students who take advantage of Higher One's accounts will be able to use their account indefinitely, she said.

"There's no expiration, regardless of student's enrollment status."

Henson said she hopes students without bank accounts will take advantage of this program.

"Higher One will give many students the opportunity to build a banking history," she said.

"That's an opportunity that might not have been available to them before."

When informed of the coming changes, students across campus expressed positive thoughts.

Freshman Kim Hahn is one student without a bank account who is excited to learn more about Higher One.

"A company offering free banking to all students? That's awesome," Hahn said. "I'm sure many other students will be taking advantage of that."

Biology major Braden Wallace said although he already has an account elsewhere, being able to receive his financial aid more quickly would be convenient.

"Last year, I had so many issues getting my financial aid check that it took five months longer than expected," Wallace said. "This will definitely save time."

Henson said she is excited about the new partnership with Higher One and hopes students will be, too.

"In one way or another, students have been asking for this for years," she said.

"This is what they've been asking for, plus a little more."

"This will be a big savings of time and money for everyone involved."

For more information about the coming changes, call Henson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7457.

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