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## Students advised to prepare for fall semester now

Whether new or returning, getting ready sooner than later is encouraged

By Justin Combs  
Editor

With fall semester starting Aug. 24, both returning and new students need to be taking the necessary steps to make sure they are ready.

There are a few steps on the road to actually sitting in a classroom, ready to learn.

For returning students, steps can include filing for financial aid, enrolling, and purchasing books and supplies. New students need to be admitted and advised before following the other steps.

### Enrollment

All students will need to choose and enroll in classes.

Returning students can simply determine their own schedules and enroll online, said Alan Stringfellow, Records and Graduation Services Registrar, while new students would need to meet with an admissions officer first.

To enroll online, go to [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu). See "Fall," page 12

## Teamwork the future of OCCC classrooms

Ky Humble  
News Writing Student

Lecture less and have students work together more.

That was the advice given to more than 20 OCCC faculty members who took part in a workshop designed to change the way students are taught, May 20 through 22.

The professors participated in hands-on activities simulating how to get students to better work together, in turn, making OCCC more of a cooperative learning environment, said English professor Bertha Wise.

She said the seminar, led by renowned educa-

tors Roger T. and David W. Johnson of Minnesota, encouraged educators to lecture less and have students work in groups more to learn class material.

In a cooperative learning classroom, the men said, students must learn the materials mostly on their own, with the teachers acting as coaches.

The students also are responsible for helping each other earn grades in the classes, according to the Johnsons' book.

Wise joined professors from the English, math, social sciences and other divisions on campus at the conference.

President Paul Sechrist and Vice President of Aca-

## Student help

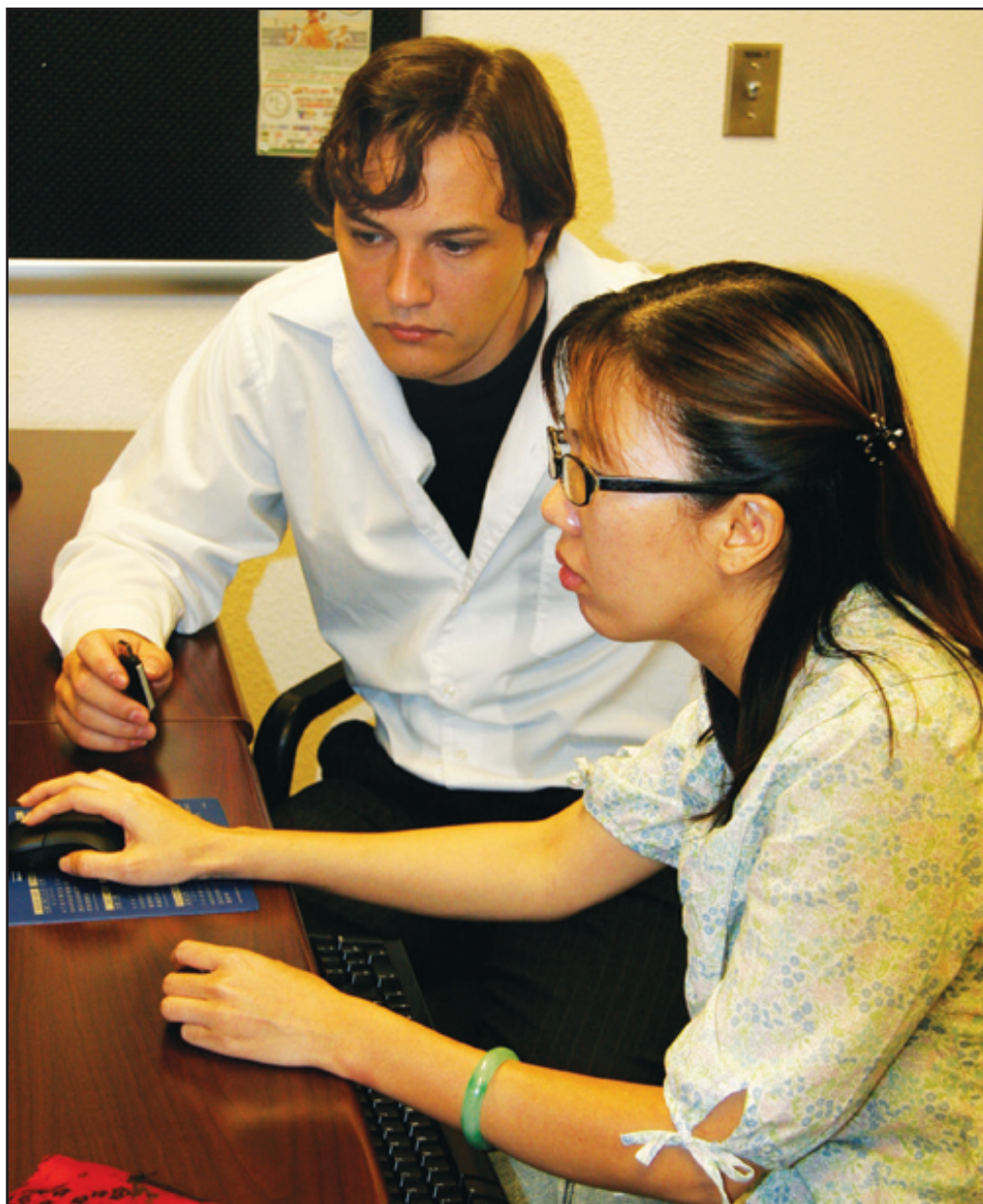


Photo by Jennifer Pearsall

Nick Lyon, student employment assistant, helps Wen-Ching Chen, nursing major, apply for an on-campus job. OCCC offers both work-study and student jobs. For more information, visit the college website at [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu).

ademic Affairs Felix Aquino also attended the workshop.

Learning Skills professor Lori Farr said the Johnson brothers shared research showing this method of teaching promotes greater achievement, higher self esteem, better communication skills and a positive group process.

Farr said she already has

**"Using this in a classroom helps students build skills needed."**

—Ray McCullar  
OCCC History Professor

implemented elements of cooperative learning into her classroom.

"Students are responding with great enthusiasm to this strategy and seem to be more involved with peers in a positive way," she said.

Wise said she finds it beneficial because it also builds a community within the classroom instead of a

sense of competition.

She said the learning style is necessary for in-class and out of class work.

"Many employers expect their workers to perform well in teams," Wise said.

"Using this in a classroom helps students build skills needed," she said.

History professor Ray McCullar also attended the workshop.

"Cooperative learning promotes success of all

See "Teaching," page 9

## Editorial and Opinion

### Editorial

# Turn off the TV and turn up reality

As most of us are well aware, the United States recently suffered a mass of celebrity deaths including Farah Fawcett, Ed McMahon, Billy Mays and the unforgettable musical icon Michael Jackson. While these celebrities had impact on many, we should be focusing on more important things.

A recent random survey uncovered a sad truth. Students are unaware of more important issues than whether or not a pop singer was going to be buried without his brain.

Students, who should have been aware that June was the bloodiest month in the U.S. war on terror since July 2008, were more aware that Sarah Palin had resigned from her position as Alaska governor.

Many students did not know that 156 students were killed in sponsored government actions during a protest in Tibet against Chinese authorities.

Were more people focused on the continuing coverage of the death and other developments of Michael Jackson.

And, students were more focused on who was singing at Jackson's memorial, than how North Korea broke three U.N. resolutions when they launched seven missiles on Independence Day.

Sure, some should blame the media for what people have pushed in their faces, but with so much technology at one's fingertips, how come people don't know more?

Have people purged the world and national issues that should be more important than a celebrity?

Can we really blame the media, or can we the people be partly to blame?

It is in the interest of the people to stay informed on these issues affecting our democracy.

If people are only interested in the Paris Hiltons and Michael Jacksons of the world, then that is all we are going to hear about.

People who actually find national and local issues important should pay attention to real news.

Turn off the Michael Jackson coverage and care about things like democracy.

Care about the nine British and seven U.S. troops who were killed in the month of June in Afghanistan fighting for our freedom.

Choose to demand what is important, and not let it be interpreted for us. The gift of choice is a freedom given to us by democracy and democracy should be defended.

—Shawn Stawicki  
Staff Writer

# Vehicles, heat bad news for kids

### To the editor:

Each summer, I read of numerous children's deaths that likely could have been prevented.

So, as we are full swing into Oklahoma's summer months, and the typical sweltering heat and numerous outdoor activities that go with that, I encourage you to please keep in mind the following child safety information from Kids In Cars National Safe Kids Campaign:

- Never leave a child unattended in a car, not even to run a quick errand. On an 85-degree day, the inside of a car can reach 100 degrees in seven minutes.

- Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can occur in a matter of minutes for young children and infants in enclosed vehicles. According to SAFE KIDS, an average of 25 children die in the United States each year as the result of being left in a car on a warm day.

- Cracking the windows enough to let in air but to keep others out is NOT an effective way to avoid the

heat risks involved with leaving a child alone in a car on a hot day.

- With heat stroke, children's skin becomes red and dry, and they are unable to produce sweat to reduce their core body temperature.

Children's heart rates then quicken, and they eventually become confused and lose consciousness before their organ systems begin to fail.

Even if temperatures inside of a car don't feel too hot for an adult, they may be fatal for young children.

- Don't overlook sleeping infants. Never let infants sleep unattended in the car.

- Make sure all children leave the vehicle when you reach your destination.

- Contact your auto dealership about getting your vehicle retrofitted with a trunk release mechanism.

- Keep car doors and trunks locked at all times, even in the garage or driveway.

- Keep the rear fold-down seats closed to help

prevent kids from getting into the trunk from inside the car.

- Seek emergency medical attention if you know or think that your child has been exposed to high temperatures by having been left in or accidentally trapped in a car.

—Ronna Austin  
OCCC Employee

## PIONEER

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

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



## Comments and Reviews

# Don't get hung up about sitcom

HBO has introduced a new sitcom, "Hung."

The show stars Thomas Jane (The Punisher) as Ray Drecker, a middle age Detroit high school basketball coach who's on a never ending streak of bad luck.

The show is well casted and the clever writing makes you want to sit through it to see the outcome of Ray's worst case scenario and how he gets himself out of it.

Ray's wife (Anne Heche) leaves him taking their two teenagers along with her. His kids have a change of heart and want to live with him. Then his house burns down.

Feeling at a dead end, Ray attends a motivational seminar where he runs into former one-night-stand Tanya Skagle (Jane Adams) and Ray comes up

with idea of becoming a male escort after a sarcastic comment Tanya makes about his large endowment.

So, Tanya finds out what Ray is trying to do for extra money and offers herself to be his adult coordinator.

Ray and Tanya make an unlikely pairing of business partners but Tanya is the kind of person he needs. She sees through him. Ray's used to women coming to him and there's some etiquette coaching he needs done.

Another funny thing about Ray and Tanya's new business venture is the catch phrase for his duties, "happiness consultant."

I thought that was a clever metaphor for the illicit services he offers, it also means Ray won't go to each appointment and cut

and run.

He's going to have to be a gentlemen and act interested in them, not just be a sex machine, like he had first thought.

The show is not illicit or distasteful and actually displays a lot of humanity beneath the flesh of the naughty theme.

Ray's a likeable character.

He's very nervous and boyish at his first full blown appointment and you can see he really cares about his kids and want them under his wing.

Kudo's to the writers for allowing clever wit to mold a risqué' story line as opposed to being mangled by someone that only thinks between his legs, all in good fun.

**Rating: A**

—Justin Combs  
Editor

# From limelight to dustbowl

Oklahoma film or history buffs who want the real story about how Oklahoma went from being the hot spot for film production to a cinematographic dustbowl should pick up "Sooner Cinema ... Oklahoma Goes to the Movies."

The 200-page book, which features essays about Oklahoma filmmaking by 18 authors including OCCC professor Dave Charlson, is a fun read about the state's role in American film.

The reader gets a wonderful visual from editor Larry Van Meter's introduction.

He writes: "In 1986 three of my Oklahoma Christian college classmates and I packed into an Audi 4000s and drove 28 straight hours to Poughkeepsie, New York, for a friend's wedding. The bride was from New York City, and one of her sisters approached me and said, 'So where are you from?' I said Oklahoma City. 'Okla-

homa?' she said, and then paused... 'do people actually live there?'"

Van Meter wrote "The purpose of this book is to ask, within the context of American cinema, what does Oklahoma mean?"

Also interesting is OCCC Artist in Residence Gray Frederickson's forward.

Fredrickson wrote that there are many people who are unaware of the major role Oklahoma has played in the making of films.

"It is certainly fitting that finally someone is assembling a book of essays that highlights the many wonderful contributions this state and its people have made to the motion picture industry," Frederickson writes.

Van Meter points out that while landmarks easily identify other states (Empire State Building, Smokey Mountains, Golden Gate Bridge), Oklahoma is not locked in to a physical identity.

For example, our official state movie "Oklahoma!"

was filmed in Arizona

In the book's first essay, "Shooting Silent: Early Oklahoma Westerns," W.M. Hagen writes about the filming taking place ... elsewhere, "which is where most movies about Oklahoma were filmed."

While that may have been true of some movies, Indian Territory was a great place to film documentaries.

Bill Moore points out in "Birth of a State: Newsreel Cameramen in Early Oklahoma" that Thomas Edison's early newsreel cameramen visited the 101 Ranch near Ponca City in 1904.

"This was most likely the very first time a motion picture camera was used in what would become the state of Oklahoma," Moore writes.

Oklahoma was seen as part of the tough old West, and easterners were curious about that lifestyle.

Katrina Boyd, film professor at the University of Oklahoma, writes about

# ADVISERS 11

The Academic Advising office is gearing up for a busy August. If you are a current student and have not already enrolled for fall classes, don't delay come see an academic adviser today.

We have all seen the line grow as the first day of classes draws near.

Don't be stuck in that line. Come by now to get help with your fall schedule.

Don't forget, we have faculty advisers available in Academic Advising over the summer.

They are available by appointment and can assist you with academic planning and faculty approved electives.

Call or come by today to make an appointment.

For those of you who are new to OCCC and are required to take the CPT before enrolling in courses, the Academic Advising office will hold CPT workshops to help ease your mind about the placement test.

Once you have been admitted, you will be able to attend the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop is to help you understand the test, get you familiar with the subject matter on the test and give you some strategies so that you will do well on it.

Contact the Academic Advising office at 405-682-7535 with any questions or to schedule an appointment.

—Sarah McElroy  
Academic Advising Coordinator

the movie "Oklahoma Crude."

In her essay, subtitled "Wildcat Oil and the Strong-willed Woman," Boyd addresses the changing portrayal of women in this film.

"When I first saw 'Oklahoma Crude' in Norman at age 10, I knew that Lena was like nothing I had ever seen on film before," Boyd writes.

Charlson wrote "Oklahoma Values in One Hour or Less. Gary Rhodes wrote "Banned in Oklahoma" and Bradley Beesley contributed "Okie Noodling."

Both witty and ironic, Charlson's poem begins with a tongue-in-cheek poem about values, then evolves into the acceptability of lyrics written by Wayne Coyne of the "Flaming Lips."

"Believe me, the Sooner State really needs the arts to tell its full story, a more complex one than most people would ever guess," wrote Charlson.

Published locally by Forty-Sixth Star Press, copies of "Sooner Cinema: Oklahoma goes to The Movies" are available on line at [www.fortysixthstarpress.com](http://www.fortysixthstarpress.com), as well as at selected bookstores. The price is \$15.95.

A combination of historic fact and opinion is the journalistic glue that binds this book together.

Once grabbed, a copy of "Oklahoma Goes to the Movies" is hard to put down with its history to enrich the pride of living in this unique red dirt state.

**Rating: A+**

—Cynthia Praefke  
Staff Writer

# OCCC career fair helps students, community

By Kathryn Hodges  
News Writing Student

More than 35 students and community members gained career-building skills at Career Fair 2009 July 11.

The fair, held from noon to 4 p.m. in the College Union, featured seminars and booths with information to assist students with finding a job, career development, admissions and financial aid.

Recruitment and Admissions Director Jon Horinek said Career Fair 2009 had a two-fold objective.

"The first is to give adults the skills they need: résumé building, how to search for a job effectively, how to present yourself well," he said.

"The second is to show them how easy and accessible college really is, and how much of a difference it makes in your long-term earning potential."

Community members also were encouraged to



Photo by Jennifer Pearsall

Natasha Smith, new OCCC student, looks at pamphlets during Career Fair 2009. OCCC hosts various free events throughout the year for students and the community.

enroll in college during the fair. Seven did, Horinek said.

Horinek said this year's recession was partly the

reason for having Career Fair 2009.

"The only way to make yourself recession proof is to get some sort of training,

certificate or degree.

"We want to make sure people have the tools to do that successfully," Horinek said.

Attendees were given gift bags with materials about admissions, class schedules and other OCCC information.

The four-hour program offered financial aid workshops presented by Financial Aid Adviser Joan Sublett and career development presentations given by Student Employment and Career Services Director Debra Vaughn.

Sublett showed students how to apply for financial aid and answered students' financial questions, while Vaughn demonstrated how to use online career planning tools and gave individual career advice to attendees.

"It had a lot of good information," said Mike Wallace, computer forensics major.

"Résumés are important and [the workshops] certainly turned me in the

right direction."

A third session gave students time to browse the information booths and ask questions.

Joseph Wright said he is returning to school this fall to get a degree in nursing, more than 13 years after his first experience as a student.

"This has been so helpful," Wright said. "It's given me new ideas for careers that will offer me even more than I'd imagined."

Horinek said the Recruitment and Admissions office is considering combining the next Career Fair with one or both of the two job fairs that the college holds each school year.

"Pairing the information provided at this event with the actual jobs offered at the next job fair will hopefully help us reach a larger audience," said Admissions Adviser Alyson Stell.

Horinek said the next job fair is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 7 at OCCC.

## Blinds installed at urging of some students and faculty

By Kathryn Hodges  
News Writing Student

Responding to pressure from students and faculty who said the classrooms were unusable, this month contractors installed vertical blinds in the OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center classrooms, said Arts and Humanities Dean Susan VanSchuyver.

The blinds, installed at the request of some faculty and students, cover windows in six classrooms and two labs, she said.

"We're just thrilled with them," VanSchuyver said. "They really block out the sun and they're easy to operate."

When the building was constructed, some planners felt blinds were unnecessary in the classrooms that have multiple wall-length windows which face the morning sun.

"The architect didn't ini-

tially put in blinds because he thought it would obstruct the design," said Film and Video Production professor Greg Mellott.

Without blinds to block the sun — which shone directly in students' faces — the classrooms became unbearable for some students and unusable for some professors.

"It was horrible," said nursing student Suann Timberlake.

VanSchuyver said the blinds were needed.

"You couldn't see any of the (video) projections, and it was really hot."

VanSchuyver said professors and students began to voice their concerns seven months ago.

"We had an art class in January that we had to move over to the Main Building because every day [the professor] showed slides and they couldn't see any of them," she said.



Photo by Jennifer Pearsall

English professor Steve Morrow teaches an English Composition class in a Visual and Performing Arts Center classroom where new blinds were recently installed.

Mellott said some students even complained of headaches because it was so bright.

VanSchuyver said the bottom line was most teachers and faculty felt the building's functionality was more important than aesthetics.

Shady Lady Interiors of Oklahoma City won the

bid to install the vertical blinds, which cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000, VanSchuyver said.

The results have made some students happy.

"I love them," Timberlake said.

However, not all students are pleased with the new window treatments.

Sheridan Bowker, nursing

student, said she doesn't like the blinds because they make the rooms too cold.

"Super way to spend the tuition," she said. "Super." History major Alex Fars agrees.

"It's always 60 degrees in our room."

English professor Steve Morrow isn't a fan of the blinds either.

"I was one of the few faculty members who was happier without the blinds.

"I agreed with the architect," Morrow said.

"The face of the building was meant to be glass."

With the blinds in place, both VanSchuyver and Mellott said air conditioning costs are likely to go down, as well as repair costs.

"They're single slat, so if one is damaged you can just take it out and replace it," VanSchuyver said, citing the reason the college chose vertical instead of horizontal blinds.

# Testing Center schedules makeover to help improve efficiency, security

By **Griff Pippin**  
News Writing Student

The OCCC Testing Center will undergo remodeling by installing additional computers, desks and an enhanced security system to be completed June 2010, said Jim Ellis, Testing Center director.

The initial cost for the Testing Center changes are estimated at \$350,000, Ellis said.

He said the remodeling will be paid for by revenue from testing registration.

By next June, all of the tables in the east side of the center will be replaced with computers and computer desks, Ellis said.

He said this will allow for staff and student convenience.

Ellis said the new computer desks and 42 additional computers are needed.

"Most the things we do today are computerized and all exams will be computerized," he said.

When a student takes a computerized test, the

score will be e-mailed from the computer to the professor for faster and easier access, Ellis said.

He said the installation of the computers began a few months ago.

Ellis said he felt the changes will allow for a more convenient testing system for the students.

However, he said, the number of students who will be able to take tests at one time will remain at 50.

OCCC student Joe Nixon said he thought the chang-

es would help him take tests for his classes.

"[They] didn't have enough computers before and I had to wait, so definitely," Nixon said.

He also said the update is a good idea because it will make testing quicker.

Along with new computers, the center will install a new card security swipe system for test takers, Ellis said.

He said students will use their student IDs to check into the center instead of writing their names on a

sign-in sheet.

With the new security system, students must have their current student ID with them or they can't take a test, Ellis said.

Brian Nguyen, GED and Testing coordinator, said the new login system will be helpful to Testing Center staff as well.

"(The system) will show all the information we need to give students the right test," Nguyen said.

For more information, contact Ellis at 405-682-1611, ext. 7368.

# Museum Studies, OKC Arts Alive classes offered in fall through Downtown College

Classes will give students the opportunity to study art up close, says director

By **Nicole Warren**  
News Writing Student

OCCC is pairing up with the Oklahoma City Downtown College Consortium to offer Museum Studies and OKC Arts Alive classes, said Gus Pekara, OKC Downtown College director.

"The classes will give students a unique opportunity for hands-on type learning outside of the classroom," Pekara said.

He said students who complete either of the eight-week classes will receive three credit hours that will count for a humanities class from OCCC.

Pekara said students will be required to pay for performances or museum entry fees for both classes at a specially reduced rate for students.

"There are no text books

required for the classes so students will be able to handle paying to attend the museums and performances required," he said.

Pekara said the classroom for both classes will be mostly in downtown Oklahoma City.

The Museum Studies class will travel to different local museums and the OKC Arts Alive class will meet at the Civic Center to attend live performances, he said.

Pekara said the Museum Studies class begins Aug. 27 and will give students a behind-the-scenes look at how museums operate.

Richard Rouillard, an adjunct professor of humanities at OCCC, will teach the Museum Studies class.

Rouillard said the class will be a different type of

learning environment.

"The class really teaches itself," he said. "People are typically unaware that they are learning."

Rouillard said the class will give students the opportunity to see a number of different exhibits and hear from a diverse selection of guest speakers.

"The students will get a chance to see things in museums that are rarely seen," he said.

Cari Foster, a former OCCC student, said she took the Museum Studies class in 2008.

Foster said the class gave her a new perspective on history and museums.

"[Rouillard] was so informative," she said. "He is a great guy and a fantastic teacher."

The OKC Arts Alive class, begins Oct. 23, said Ruth Charnay, department director for Communications and the Arts.

Charnay said she will teach the class.

"Students will have the opportunity to meet with

**"It is one thing to learn from a classroom, but it is so much better to learn from experience."**

—Gus Pekara

Oklahoma City Downtown College  
Consortium Director

artistic directors, local artist and arts business people along with a variety of guest speakers throughout the course," she said.

Charnay said the class will meet Friday nights and will attend live events at the Oklahoma City Civic Center.

Some of the events will include plays, concerts and ballet performances, she said.

Charnay said the class will meet prior to the evening performances to discuss what students should expect and watch for during the performances.

Students will have the opportunity to meet after the performances so they can discuss what they saw and the parts of the performances they enjoyed, Charnay said.

She said the class is a great way for students to meet other people who enjoy the arts.

"Many times I have seen students make friends that continue beyond the class," Charnay said.

Pekara said both classes will provide strong exposure to the arts.

"It is one thing to learn from a classroom, but it is so much better to learn from experience," he said.

Pekara said students interested in the Museum Studies or OKC Arts Alive classes can register through the enrollment offices.

For more information about the Oklahoma City Downtown College Consortium, call 405-232-3328 or visit their website — [www.downtowncollege.com](http://www.downtowncollege.com).

Follow the Pioneer at



[www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer](http://www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer)

# Plenty of resources available to help ease high cost of food for students

By Nicole Warren  
News Writing Student

While the OCCC cafeteria bustles with hungry students every day, some students remain hungry for days because they can't afford to eat.

Those students come to the college without eating anything, and they leave just as hungry.

Amy Wilson, Learning Skills professor, said she had at least one starving student in her class last year.

Wilson said the student often went for two days without food and rode his bicycle to the college on an empty stomach.

"This is a really hidden issue," she said.

Wilson said she believes most students simply do not know help is available or they are embarrassed about their situation.

"These students need to know there is no reason to feel embarrassed," she said. "They need to know they are not alone."

"We need to just create some kind of awareness for our students to know that there is help available to them and their families."

Wilson said she helped her hungry student by taking him to the campus cafeteria and buying him a meal.

She said she also helped coordinate an education activity for teachers and students alike in the college's freshman orientation class, Success in College in Life.

All professors who teach the course and students

**"These students need to know there is no reason to feel embarrassed. They need to know they are not alone. We need to just create some kind of awareness for our students to know that there is help available to them and their families."**

—Amy Wilson  
OCCC Professor

who take it will receive literature about the different food relief programs in the city, Wilson said.

There are many city and state hunger relief programs students and their families can utilize.

According to their website, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma offers free assistance to families and individuals in need through food pantries located throughout the Oklahoma City metro area and surrounding cities.

Love Link Ministries houses one of the local food pantries hosted by the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank.

Tanieka Brown, an employee of the Love Link Ministries, said individuals in need can receive three free bags of food and free bread.

"The only thing they have to show is a valid identification card and proof of residency," Brown said.

Another important resource for students to familiarize themselves with is the Angel Food Ministries.

Jim Eddy, host site director of the OKC First Friends Church in Oklahoma City, said the program is designed to be a practical way to provide relief from the escalating

price of groceries.

According to the Angel Food Ministry website, the cost for an Angel Food Signature Box is \$30.

The menu changes each month and consists of fresh, frozen and packaged food worth approximately \$65, according to the site.

Angel Food Ministries also offers specialty boxes of steak, chicken, pork and fresh fruits and vegetables, all of which are sold at heavily discounted prices.

According to the site, the program is open to everyone. There are no restrictions, conditions or forms to fill out to purchase Angel Food. Anyone may purchase an unlimited number of boxes of Angel Food by placing an order with a local Angel Food host site.

Angel Food host sites can be found on their website — [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com).

"This is not a handout, it's a hand up," Eddy said. "Today's economy is tough but relief is here for those who need it."

Eddy said many of the volunteers who help with the host site all purchase food through the Angel Ministry, including himself.

"This is a great program," he said. "People all

**"This is not a handout, it's a hand up. Today's economy is tough but relief is here for those who need it."**

—Jim Eddy  
Angel Food Ministries Host Site Director

over the United States are taking advantage of it."

Assistance programs also are offered through the Catholic Charities Organization.

Nancy Largent, Catholic Charities Organization Administrations director, said they are always happy to assist college students in any way they can.

Largent said the Catholic Charities Organization offers many different programs that can assist students who are in need of food.

"We even have a program that can assist students with rent and utilities payments, as well as financial

planning for the future," she said.

"Our goal is to help people maintain stable housing."

For more information about the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, visit [www.regionalfoodbank.org](http://www.regionalfoodbank.org) or call 405-972-1111.

For more information about Angel Food Ministries, visit [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) or call 405-632-8210.

For information regarding the Catholic Charities Organization, visit [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org) or contact the Family Support Services Department at 405-532-3028.


## Local food assistance

- **Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma** — 405-972-1111 — [www.regionalfoodbank.org](http://www.regionalfoodbank.org)
- **Angel Food Ministries** — 405-632-8210 — [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com)
- **Catholic Charities Organization** — 405-532-3028 — [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org)

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 Planned Parenthood  
1-800-230-PLAN

# OCCC employee opens her home for international student's wedding



David and Feruza Pemberton

By Scott Goodman  
News Writing Student

Last month, OCCC faculty and staff members rallied around an international student and her fiancé who could not afford a wedding and helped make their dream a reality, said Linda Boatright, Circulation/Reference librarian.

Faculty and staff members helped accounting sophomore Feruza Pemberton, 31, marry her long time boyfriend, David, when they discovered the couple wanted to get married and but didn't have enough money to rent a venue, Boatright said.

Boatright said she and her husband Daniel opened their home to host the wedding and the reception which were held June 6.

Boatright, who also helped find the wedding coordinator, the minister and arrange the florist, said this was not her first time assisting with a wedding.

"I helped plan the weddings of our three children," she said. "Experience is a great teacher for this kind of occasion."

Boatright said she did not act alone in making the wedding a day to remember.

Akram Taghavi-Burris, Computer-Aided Technology professor, made the wedding cake, she said.

Pemberton said she appreciated the Boatrights' act of kindness, as well as everyone else who helped

**"A grateful thanks to all the people who helped us and were with us that day ... The wedding was so perfect and special."**

—Feruza Pemberton  
OCCC Student

make the wedding and reception possible.

"A grateful thanks to all the people who helped us and were with us that day," Pemberton said.

She said the ceremony was in the Boatrights' backyard, in front of a beautiful pond and waterfall.

"The wedding was so perfect and special," Pemberton said.

Pemberton said her brother, OCCC graduate Murod Momatov, played a crucial role in organizing the wedding.

"From the wedding's concept to the details afterward, he was involved in every step," she said.

Boatright said Momatov arranged the food through OCCC's Carson Catering.

She said the role of emcee, disc jockey and photographer were filled by family friends.

Pemberton said she and her new husband were lucky to know the Boatrights.

"These are all very nice and kind people," Pemberton said.

"We are happy to have them in our lives."

# Human Resources receives excellence award for college retirement plan improvements

By Griff Pippin  
News Writing Student

The OCCC Human Resources office was recognized this summer with the 2009 Excellence in Human Resources Award, according to a press release.

Cordell Jordan, Media Relations coordinator, said OCCC received the award due to improvements made in 2008 in retirement plans for staff members.

Jordan said the key play-

ers in achieving the award were, the College Investment Committee; Carolyn Rouillard, Senior Human Resources specialist; and Gary Lombard, Executive director.

Lombard said the new retirement system will allow for more security and oversight in member's retirement options.

Jordan said the department not only won recognition but also created a model for non-profit retire-

ment plans, which other colleges may follow.

Jerry Steward, Executive vice president, said the award was good news.

"The prestigious award was richly deserved," Steward said.

Human Resources staff members said they were honored and excited by the news of the award.

Rhonda Simpson, Human Resources specialist, said she didn't expect it.

"I was shocked, but I

think we deserved it," Simpson said.

Only one college in the Southern Region is selected for this award every year, according to the press release.

The Southern Region includes: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, according to the release.

In winning the award, the Human Resources department will be attending the national convention hosted by the College and University Professionals Association in Las Vegas, Nev., Jordan said.

Simpson said she believes OCCC will have a good showing at the national convention.

"We have a good chance at winning the national award" in October," she said.

# Sports

## UPCOMING

### OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Currently Active:** Summer Sports Camps featuring T-ball at OCCC and baseball at Santa Fe South have begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Currently Active:** Soccer camp and girls basketball have begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Currently Active:** Tennis, golf, and Fitkids camps have begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Currently Active:** Boys basketball and swimming camps have begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Currently Active:** Co-ed basketball has begun. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Currently Active:** Next session of Fitkids and swimming start. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 20-24:** Volleyball and indoor soccer starts. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **July 27-31:** Summer camps for cheer and dance as well as flag football start for ages 6-11 and 12-14. For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

**All camps are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Mondays through Fridays.**



Photo courtesy Carmela Pyle

(L-R) Students Cheyenne Oliver, Kathy Vo, Carlos Sierra, Chris Nguyen, Lisa Ly, Austin Valdez, Raul Zanabria and Jacqueline Rodriguez enjoy their time during the Upward Bound Olympics at Oklahoma State University June 26 and June 27. The participants scored enough points to finish second place at the event.

## Students place second overall at Olympics

By Jay Lulla  
News Writing Student

Nearly 40 OCCC Upward Bound students competed in the Upward Bound Olympics, June 26 and 27, at Oklahoma State University and received second place overall, said Carmela Pyle, Upward Bound director.

The Upward Bound Olympics are a two-day event consisting of girls and boys volleyball, dodge ball, kickball, swimming, and many other events, Pyle said.

She said non-athletic events such as pop trivia, quiz bowl, name that tune and dominoes were also included.

OCCC competed against Upward Bound programs from East Central University in Ada, OSU-Oklahoma City and OSU-Stillwater, Pyle said.

She said OSU-OKC edged OCCC out for the overall victory by just a

few points.

Nesthor Carranco, 17, from Oklahoma City said competing in the Upward Bound Olympics was very important to him.

"We are representing OCCC at these games," he said.

The Upward Bound Olympics also are about having fun, said Cheyenne Oliver, 17.

"Meeting new people there was pretty fun," Oliver said. "We want to show them how fun we can be."

Pyle said the event is about more than competition, however.

"To me, the Upward Bound Olympics are a time for the students to come together as a team and work on teamwork and team spirit," she said.

Thai Phan, 17, said he participated in volleyball and dodge ball. OCCC placed first in both of these events.

"I also participated in basket-

ball, softball, football, and quiz bowl," Phan said. "I had the most fun on the first day of events."

Pyle said she was happy with second place, but knows the opportunity to win was within reach.

She said there were a couple of factors that kept the team from winning the whole thing.

"The heat was our number one obstacle," Pyle said.

She said the 100-degree heat affected the competitors more the second day.

On top of the heat, lack of practice time was another factor that kept the team from victory, Pyle said.

"We did not have much practice time leading up to the event," she said.

She said the team started practicing at the beginning of June.

"Next year, we will start practicing a lot sooner," Pyle said.



# Nursing exam changes to take effect in October

By Shawn Stawicki  
Staff Writer

Nursing students required to take an entrance test assessing their academic skills, will switch to a new test in October, said Jim Ellis, Testing and Assessment Services director.

An online test, called Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), will replace the current Nursing Entrance Test (NET), Ellis said.

The change came about after the company that provided the NET test was bought out.

He said students who take the NET test by Sept. 9 — the last day it will be offered — can use those scores to fulfill testing requirements until October

2010.

After that date, students will have to take the TEAS test, Ellis said.

He said there are some differences between the two tests.

The TEAS test will have science, and English and language usage as well as the math and reading portions contained in the former test.

He said the time allotted for the new test also will increase to allow for the added assessments.

The cost to test will increase as well, he said.

Students will pay \$35 plus a \$15 administration fee for the TEAS test.

For now, the TEAS minimum acceptable score is around 74, an increase in two points from the former

test, Ellis said.

He said that number could go up or down based on how well students do.

Ellis said testing dates and times will remain the same, which are 12:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and 9 a.m. on Saturdays.

Students who need study materials can purchase a study book from the bookstore, he said.

A practice test can be found online at [www.testpreview.com/teaspractice.htm](http://www.testpreview.com/teaspractice.htm).

For information on the TEAS test, contact Testing and Assessment Services across from Student Life in the Main Building or call 405-682-7531.

Staff Writer Shawn Stawicki can be reached at [StaffWriter1@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter1@occc.edu).

# College chooses modern language professor

By Jay Lulla  
News Writing Student

Jorge Romero, former University of Tennessee-Martin professor, was recently hired as OCCC's Professor of Modern Language, said Modern Languages professor Dianne Broyles.

Broyles, who was involved in the interview process, said Romero, who will teach mostly Spanish classes, was more than qualified.

"He will bring energy and new ideas to our program."

Romero received his master's degree from Michigan State University, Broyles said. She said he previously taught at Louis and Clark University in Portland, Ore. and at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Because of his previous university teaching experience, he is a great hire, Broyles said. Also, she said, it's a plus that Spanish is

his native tongue.

Broyles said Romero was hired to replace Modern Language professor Patricia Jimenez Brooks who retired in the spring.

Ruth Charnay, Communication and the Arts department director, said she also is excited about the hire.

## Learning technique taught

"Teaching,"

Cont. from page 1

members of the class, because each member of the class accepts responsibility of being there, for other members of the class."

McCullar said he will start using the techniques with his students in all of his American History classes in the fall 2009 semester. He said he is certain many other instructors will do the same.

"Cooperative learning is active so that members of

"Romero is wonderful and very qualified, and I am very thrilled to have him join us this fall," she said.

Broyles said OCCC students have much to gain from Romero's presence.

"He can offer his future students the proper experience in language and culture."

a class are constantly shifting and doing [activities] rather than simply listening," McCullar said.

"Cooperative learning insists on critical thinking by putting individuals in groups that may challenge their opinions and beliefs" he said.

This learning also helps promote a development in social skills as well as enhanced knowledge McCullar said.

For more information on Cooperative Learning, go to [www.co-operation.org](http://www.co-operation.org).

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**JULY 24**

**Tuesday, July 21, 7 p.m.**  
**Harkins Bricktown 16**

\*Supplies are limited. Complimentary passes are available in the Pioneer office 2M6 MB on a first-come, first-serve basis. One admit-two pass per person with a valid OCCC ID and proof of age.

COLUMBIA  
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Oklahoma City Community College  
**PIONEER**

**OPENS NATIONWIDE FRIDAY, JULY 24**

# Highlights

## New Student Orientation

Student Life will present New Student Orientation at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, and at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22 and Thursday, July 23 in room CU3. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

## TRiO Student Support Services summer events

Upcoming events for current TRiO students include:

- July 21: Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the Ropes Course
- July 22: TRiO SSS Day of Service

Students can pre-register in room 1X7 in the Main Building or contact TRiO SSS at 405-682-1611, ext. 7723.

## H.O.P.E. to attend conference

The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education will attend the National Council of La Raza conference Saturday, July 25 through Tuesday, July 28 in Chicago, Ill. The NCLR is a Hispanic civil rights organization.

## Tuition Fee Waiver Information

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the fall semester are available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Monday, July 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525, ext. 7188.

## Child Care spots open

Several full-time child care spaces will be available for 3 and 4-year-olds beginning in August at the Child Development Center and Lab School. The CDCLS is open from 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Mondays through Fridays for parents who are students, employees and members of the community, and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. for parents who are students. For more information, contact CDCLS Lab Supervisor Lee Ann Townsend at 405-682-1611, ext. 7423.

## Small business development series

There will be a Small Business Development Seminar Series held at the OCCC John Massey Center, 11919 S. I-44 Service Road.

Each seminar session will run from 10:45 a.m. until noon starting Tuesday, July 21 and continuing July 28, Aug. 4, Aug. 11 and Aug. 18. The cost to attend the seminar series is \$39 which includes materials.

The following topics will be featured:

- Understanding why businesses succeed or fail
- Finding your company's niche
- Discovering the value of product integrity and commitment to service and relationships
- Motivating employees to buy into your company's culture
- Lowering your marketing cost while increasing your effectiveness with social media marketing

For information or enrollment, call Corporate Learning at 405-682-7562 or visit [www.occc.edu/corporatelearning](http://www.occc.edu/corporatelearning).

## William P. Willis scholarship

Applications for the William P. Willis scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 are now available in the Recruitment and Admissions office. Criteria for the scholarship include:

- Students must be an Oklahoma resident
- Full-time student
- Plan to be enrolled full time for fall and spring
- Low income — \$32,000 or less per year

The deadline for applications is Aug. 7. For information or applications, call Recruitment and Admissions at 405-682-1611, ext. 7654.

## Faculty Association garage sale

The Faculty Association garage sale will take place Oct. 28 and Oct. 29 in CU1, CU2 and CU3 in the College Union. Contributions will be taken throughout the summer. New health department rules will prohibit the sale of toys or jewelry that might contain lead. For more information, contact Linda Boatright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7468.

**All Highlights are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday for inclusion in the next issue.**

## Career assistance

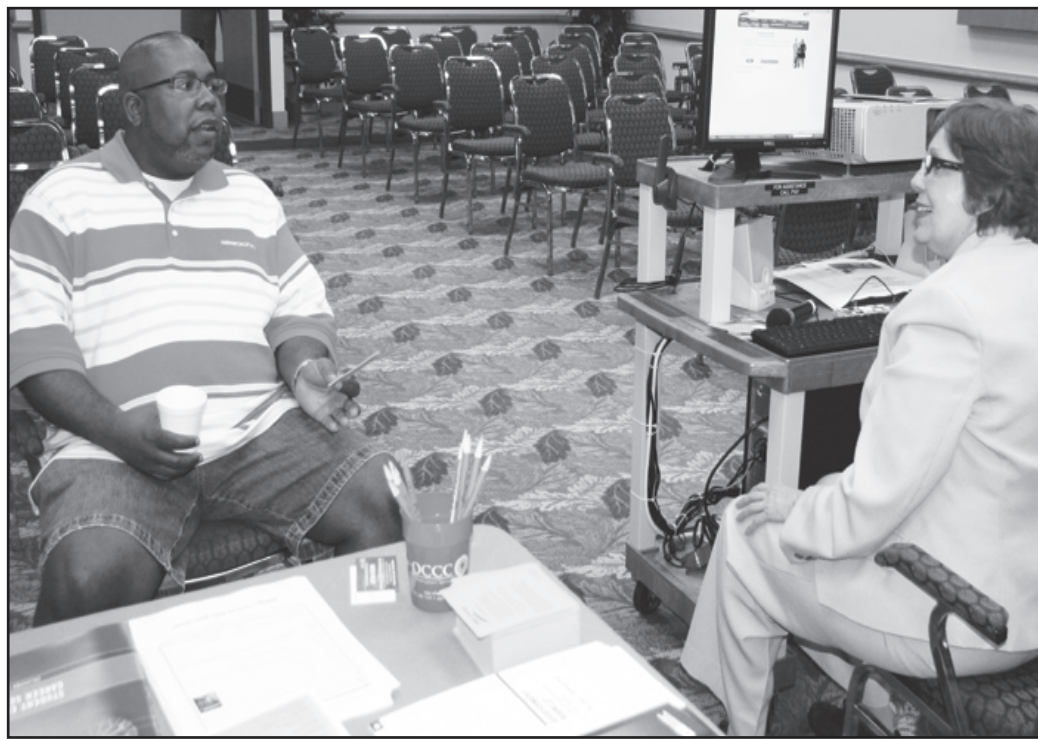


Photo by Jennifer Pearsall

Debra Vaughn, Student Employment and Career Services director, shows Patrick Nelson how to register for the Discover program at the Career Fair Saturday, July 11. Discover is an online career exploration program.

## Club Fair to offer benefits

By Devin S. Davis  
News Writing Student

OCCC will have its fall Organizational Fair 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 2 and Sept. 3, in the College Union, said Darin Behara, Student Life director.

Every fall and spring, a fair is held to show students the many clubs the campus offers. Over 20 different clubs are expected to participate in the fair, Behara said.

He said he wants all students to know the many benefits of joining a club, or getting involved on campus.

It has been shown that other than branching out in your community, joining a group can improve your grade point average, Behara said.

"Statistically, students who get involved at OCCC have higher GPAs and tend to graduate and be more successful than students who just 'come-and-go' to class," he said.

Behara also said that with the new wave of technology, many people

**"Statistically, students who get involved at OCCC have higher GPAs and tend to graduate and be more successful,"**

—Darin Behara  
Student Life Director

could be members and not attend a single meeting.

The Student Life website has various tools that allows students to chat with other students in their groups about future plans or even just issues that concern them, he said.

Student Life's website can be found at [www.occc.edu/StudenLife](http://www.occc.edu/StudenLife).

Tammy Bouk, a member of the Gay Straight Alliance student organization, said she doesn't see what would stop any student from joining a club.

"Because membership to most clubs is totally free, there is really no reason not to join," Bouk said.

Some students may not find a club appealing enough to be involved with, Behara said.

"If you cannot find a club that interests you feel

free to put in a request to start a new one," he said. "That's how so many of the great clubs started here."

Other than joining a club, there are many other ways to get involved on campus, Behara said.

These activities include, getting a part-time job or internship at the college, doing volunteer work, helping in a lab, or anything else that will look great on a résumé, he said.

Behara said he was speaking for all the campus groups, and he hoped to see everyone at the organization fair.

"Come see what we have to offer," he said. "You won't be disappointed. I promise."

For information on the Organization Fair, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

# 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 adman@occc.edu.

## AUTOMOBILES

**FOR SALE:**  
2004 HARLEY DAVIDSON DYNA  
SUPER GLIDE FXD  
1450cc/88 cubic inches.  
5-speed w/fwd controls.  
Vivid Black.  
18,000 miles  
Comes with owner's manual and 3 keys.  
\$9,500  
Call for more details:  
405-210-8530

## CHILD CARE

**Looking for a part time nanny**  
for 2 boys, ages 4 and 1 year.  
Approx. 30 hours per week.  
Schedule is M/F 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
T/W/Th 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.  
and 2:30 p.m.- 5 p.m.. Start July 30.  
Will follow Moore Public School calendar  
with paid Thanksgiving, Christmas,  
and Spring Break.  
Must have reliable transportation,  
valid driver license, great references,  
and child care experience. Pay is negotiable.  
Contact Melissa at:  
m\_geiger78@yahoo.com

## ELECTRONICS

**FOR SALE:** Wii with lots of extras! For more information contact Joy at: joy.s.schulz@gmail.com

## EMPLOYMENT

### RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Researchers at OU Health Sciences Center need healthy volunteers, ages 18 to 30 who have a parent with or without a history of an alcohol or drug problem. Qualified participants will be compensated for their time. Call 405-456-4303 to learn more about the study and to see if you qualify.

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### HOUSE PAINTING EXTERIOR SPECIAL

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(Materials not included) All work guaranteed. Higgins Painting and Construction Since 1985. Call Ed at 405-209-9261 or contact us by e-mail at hpandc@yahoo.com.

### RICK'S PARTY HOUSE

227 SW 25TH STREET  
Hip-Hop parties every Friday night.  
10 p.m. until 2 a.m.  
**Must be 17 to enter.**  
For information call:  
405-228-2599.

### CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST.

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### "Pay It Forward"

### GARAGE SALE

**SATURDAY, JULY 25**

**7 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

Life Church,  
South OKC Campus Parking lot  
7800 South Walker  
(Next to Academy Sports)

We want to bless people right here in OKC by providing them access to items at a discounted price that they might not be able to otherwise afford.

All proceeds will go to charity.  
(For information on charity, go to:  
charitywater.org)

We are also accepting donations of good usable stuff.

Saturday, July 18, 3p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday, July 19, 9a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 22, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**It pays to advertise in the Pioneer. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, for details**

Do you have news you'd like to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC student worthy of a mention. If so, contact Justin at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409.

## 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 Gertrude —
- 44 Noon
- 45 Surfer's spot
- 48 W. Hemisphere alliance
- 49 Relatives
- 50 Sum
- 52 Smooth hairdos
- 57 Entrance
- 58 Songwriters

### RODGERS AND —

- 60 Brawl
- 61 Sicilian volcano
- 62 Actress Adams
- 63 Fish
- 64 Movie unit
- 65 Beaver's feat
- 66 Discussion

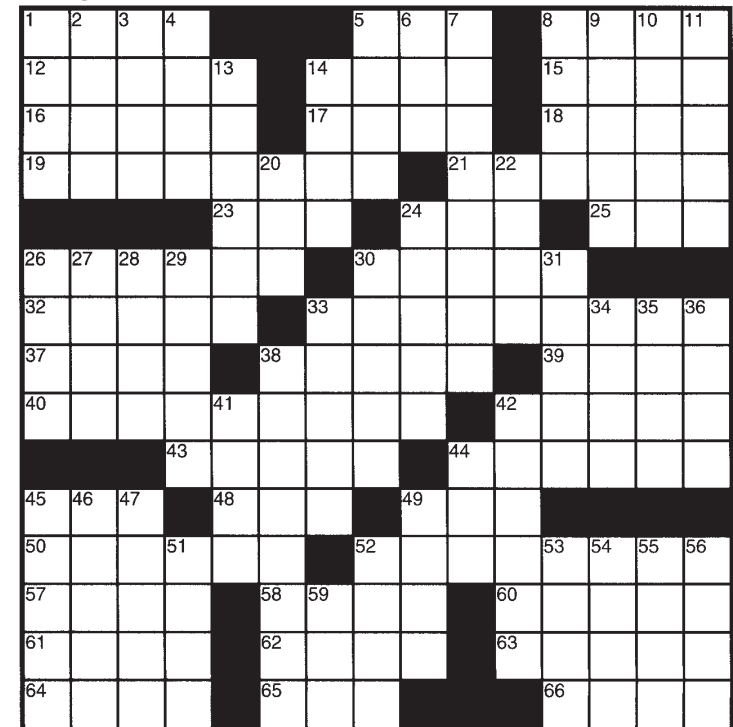
### DOWN

- 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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We put the fun in fundamental news coverage.

# Students should be preparing for fall classes early to avoid long lines, waits

**"Fall,"**

Cont. from page 1

edu. The Enrollment office is located on the first floor of the Main Building and can be reached at 405-682-1611, ext. 7784.

## **Financial Aid**

Financial aid is an important stop that qualifying students will want to make as soon as they can, said Harold Case, Student Financial Support Services dean.

"The key is for students to fill out a FAFSA application online at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)," Case said.

He said federal financial aid resources are there for just about everyone but said students won't be able to access those without first filling out the FAFSA application.

Case said a hard copy worksheet is available at the financial aid office so when students fill out the FAFSA application online "they already have the information they will be asked for ..."

A Power Point presentation called Success in College also is available on the Financial Aid link on the college's website, that demonstrates and explains the questions students will encounter on the FAFSA website, Case said.

Financial Aid is located on the first floor of the Main Building. For more information, call 405-682-7525.

## **Buying Books**

Once students are enrolled, the final step is getting books and supplies.

This can be done in a few ways: the college bookstore, other textbook stores or online.

OCCC Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke said, as with other areas of the college, the best time for students to get books is before classes start.

"That's the time we have plenty of used books available and they usually go first," Reinke said. "After the first week of class, most of the used books are gone

by then."

Students also can purchase books from the college bookstore online, Reinke said.

"If you go the college homepage, there's a link that says students, and under that it says bookstore and that link will lead you to course material," she said.

Reinke said the course material section has all the titles, authors and prices of books that are in stock.

"All the books that the professors of the college have adopted can be purchased at the bookstore," she said. "If we don't have a book in stock we will still be able to get it for the student."

Students who want to shop around might visit the nearby Text Book Brokers, located just south of the college.

In-stock books also can be reserved online at [www.textbookbrokers.com](http://www.textbookbrokers.com).

Online resources such as eBay is a useful tool for students looking for new and used books, as well.

In addition, sites such as [www.wholesaletextbooks.com](http://www.wholesaletextbooks.com), [www.HalfPriceBooks.com](http://www.HalfPriceBooks.com) and [www.valorebooks.com](http://www.valorebooks.com) offer an alternative.

## **Recruitment and Admissions**

Recruitment and Admissions is the first stop for new students, said Jon Horinek, Recruitment and Admissions director.

"Our job is to determine admission and residency status and to evaluate transcripts to set students up for the advisement process."

Horinek said it's a good idea to bring transcripts from former colleges.

Students under 21 will need to bring a copy of their high school transcript, he said.

"If you have access to transcripts or any educational documents, we recommend that students bring them," Horinek said.

"It will save so much time and a trip if a student needs that information."

Horinek said visiting the Recruitment and Admissions office early will help avoid a long wait.

"The closer we get to the fall semester, the busier we tend to become."

Horinek said students need to allow at least three hours to complete the admission process.

For more information, visit Recruitment and Admissions, located on the first floor of the Main Building, or call 405-682-7580.

## **Academic Advisement**

All new students must meet with an adviser.

Students who haven't taken the ACT or didn't meet the minimum ACT score will first be required to take the college's placement test to determine what, if any, zero-level courses need to be taken, said Adviser Mary Anne Bodine.

"After we get the results of their placement tests we can determine what classes the student needs to enroll in for the semester."

All other new students will skip the testing and choose their classes with the help of an academic adviser.

Advising and Career Services is located on the first floor of that Main Building and can be reached by calling 405-682-7535.

## **Mental Preparation**

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner said students need to take a minute to determine what their college experiences will be.

She suggests new students be ready for the difference between high school and college.

"New students are usually caught off guard because high schools don't necessarily expect them to do a whole lot all the time," Turner said.

Turner advises new students to anticipate at least 9 to 12 hours of out-of-class work every week.

"Students need to know they need to put in time outside of the class to do well in the class," she

said.

Study habits are an important component to academic success as well, Turner said.

"A lot of times, students don't know how to study so they think if they read, they're studying," Turner said. "That isn't always necessarily the case."

Turner encourages students to visit with her, an adviser or a professor to discuss ways they can prepare for their classes.

"Students need to have balance between their academics and life outside the classroom," she said.

"They need to give themselves time to spend with friends so they're not burned out and keep going."

She said students can get so focused on wanting to do well or become so serious about academics that they don't give themselves

breaks, Turner said.

Bodine, who advises students daily, suggests they get plenty of rest.

"It's important that students get enough rest so their minds are prepared for the workload that will be set upon them," Bodine said.

She also suggests students take advantage of the many learning labs available at the college.

"It's important for students to utilize the college's lab facilities," Bodine said.

"The Math and Communications lab can make all the difference in the outcome of a student's academic success."

For more information about OCCC and its student services, visit the college's website at [www.occc.edu](http://www.occc.edu).

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Does your club have an exciting event or meeting coming up? If so, call Shawn Stawicki at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410, or e-mail Shawn at [StaffWriter1@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter1@occc.edu).