A weakened economy that has prompted some lenders to drop out of the student loan market has resulted in the U.S. Senate considering a bill that would change some of the loan programs frequently used by students, said Financial Aid Client Services Specialist Linette McMurtrey.

An unstable economy and unreliable student loans market prompted Congress to pass the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (ECASLA) on April 30, 2008. The bill allowed the Department of Education to purchase student loans from lenders.

The theory was the purchases would relieve the pressure on the lenders. However, lenders were still dropping out of the market, according to reports from the U.S. Department of Education.

As a result, President Barack Obama's administration is supporting a bill called the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) which would ensure students can still receive loans to help fund their education through direct government lending.

Some of the benefits students could enjoy if the proposed bill is passed are: possible interest rate reductions, doing away with guarantee fees, better repayment plans, and payments based on the student's Aquatic Center

MARK SMITH
Senior Writer
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Students needing extra money can sell their textbooks back to the OCCC Bookstore beginning at 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14.

Brenda Reinke, bookstore director, said representatives will buy any book on their list of books they need, while OCCC will only purchase books being used by the college's professors next semester.

Students will be paid a higher amount for the books being purchased for use in the bookstore. However, Reinke said, the wholesaler representatives will make their own purchases based upon the age, condition and demand for the book.

She said some books may only be purchased for $5 while others could be sold for $20.

"It depends on how much they want your book," Reinke said.

The representatives will be purchasing for schools from across the nation. They may need the books even if OCCC doesn't, Reinke said.

However, books must be in good condition with no pages missing or water damage, she said, although books with writing and highlighting will be considered as well.

Reinke said workbooks and lab manuals will not be purchased from the students.

Students who cannot attend the buyback should not worry, Reinke said, as the bookstore will have another buyback Jan. 19 and 20.
OPINION

A debate with no end in sight

The debate over climate change is currently taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009.

As advocates and skeptics from around the globe come together to talk about global warming and to come up with an agreement to replace the Kyoto Treaty, the global deal regulating greenhouse gases that expires in 2012, our state is being represented by a true non-believer — Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe.

Inhofe has called global warming “the greatest hoax ever played on the American people,” and opposes any kind of agreement.

He refers to himself as the “one-man truth squad,” determined to squash any talk of global warming having been caused by man.

The decisions made at the conference and the debates that will erupt from those decisions will affect the way world leaders handle the issue of global warming, including our own state leaders.

Yet, it’s likely Inhofe is at the conference, choosing to ignore all of the scientific studies that have been conducted and the data that has been gathered from that and instead, vehemently opposing all of the facts.

Hopefully, his lack of expert knowledge in the area will be noted and his off-the-cuff remarks ignored.

And, even more importantly, perhaps he will come back a changed politician, with a different mindset. Adjustments need to be made in how we use energy and what we use for energy.

Solutions are available that will not destroy the way we live, commute and travel, and it’s time those solutions were implemented.

Changes will not occur overnight; to set a course for how to deal with global warming and modifying the way we live will be a daunting process but one that needs to start now.

YOUR VOICE | Take steps to avoid the stress

To the editor:

This time of year can be filled with stress if we let it.

During the holidays, the end of the semester, and the end of a calendar year, we all have added responsibilities and opportunities that have the potential to cause each of us to feel stressed.

Stress is neither good nor bad for us; it is the impact on our health, our job performance, and our relationships that causes the damage. Eustress is the good stress that helps us enjoy the upcoming holidays and time with family and friends.

It is distress over many of these same opportunities that can cause us physical and emotional trouble.

Four simple steps to a life after stress:

• Get specific about your anxieties.
  If you are feeling overwhelmed and stressed-out, make a list of those things contributing to your anxiety. Examine the list and identify the causes.
  If it is financial woes, look realistically at what is best for spending during the holidays. Make a budget and stick to it.
  If your anxiety is found in relationship issues, plan shorter visits with persons who pertain to that issue.
  If it is work related, develop a project management plan, set SMART goals and work your plan.

Focus on one thing at a time.

Make a checklist and gain confidence as you check things off the list.

• Accept imperfections.
  Be realistic, nothing is perfect. Accept that you or anyone else might not get everything right.
  Use the buddy system for checking reports and end-of-the year documents to ease the stress. Allow written documents to “take a break” and then review with a rested eye. Be kind and forgiving to yourself and to others. Let go of those things over which you have no control.

Don’t let the final school weeks lead to stressful holidays

Eat healthy, exercise, get enough rest and continue to find time to participate in activities that you enjoy.

The holidays can be a time to give back to your family or community in service and time. It is also a time to embrace who you are and enjoy the season.

Keep the happy in your holidays and you will have life after stress.

—Justin Combs
Editor

—Penny Hampton
Professional Development Director

Vol. 38 No. 16
‘Blindside’ a captivating movie

In a surprising twist, “Blindside” outpaced Summit Entertainment’s “New Moon” in ticket sales over the weekend. Overcoming initial bad raps of your typical rags-to-riches story, “Blindside” captivated viewers with its true story of how one person can change the people around them.

Micheal Oher is a large, quiet and gentle boy who has been abandoned by his mother and whose father ran off at his birth. He has one shirt, which he washes in a sink at a laundromat every night and he sleeps in the school gym. He oftentimes will pick up the leftover food after high school football games so that he has something to eat.

Michael gets into a Christian school upon the recommendation of the school’s football coach who sees the chance for a really good offensive lineman. Of course, he doesn’t use this approach but instead tells the school they should allow him to attend because it is their “Christian duty.” Micheal, having a grade point average of 0.6, struggles with school and has a hard time fitting in due to his large size and timidity.

Leigh Anne Touhy, a mother of two children in the school, sees Micheal — or Big Mike, as everyone calls him — walking down the street in the cold rain one night and invites him into her house.

At first, Mike is hesitant to stay, due to being unused to kindness, and the next morning tries to leave. Leigh Anne tells him he can stay as long as he likes, much to his surprise, and Mike stays.

What follows is a heartwarming tale of how Big Mike’s entrance to the family immediately changes their lives.

The family originally has some trepidations about

Mike’s staying with them but very quickly warm up to him, especially Leigh Anne’s son, S.J. He even saves the son’s life in a car accident and protects the family when burglars try to rob their house.

With the encouragement of the Touhy’s and the help of a personal tutor, Micheal begins earning better grades and soon, his grades are high enough to play football.

However, he struggles with the concept of protecting the quarterback. Leigh Anne, remembering he scored in the 98 percentile in “protective instincts” on the school aptitude test, tells him he has to protect the quarterback just like he protected S.J. in the car accident and the family from the burglars.

“Blindside” is a family-friendly movie that has a good balance of humor, love and the excitement of football. The message: a little bit of love can go a long way.

Rating: A-

—Ethan Hendricks
Staff Writer

Short delivers compelling performance in action flick

New writer, James V. Simpson, hit the B-movie bull’s-eye with his first screenplay, “Armored.”

The story begins when Mike Cochrone (Matt Dillon) gets his friend, Ty Hacket (Columbus Short) a job as an armored car guard.

Ty is grateful as he is raising his younger brother since the death of their parents.

Ty is facing foreclosure on his home, and he might lose custody of his brother unless he can make some positive changes in his life. What Ty doesn’t count on is the plans of his veteran co-workers to steal two trucks hauling $42 million. The men, including an intimidating character played by Laurence Fishburne, coerce Ty into joining them.

They promise no one will get hurt, and everyone will be rich if they stick together. Of course, nothing goes according to plan or there would be no movie.

There is a great deal of fight action, killing, and a wonderful chase scene between two armored trucks.

Much of the film was shot at the abandoned site of California Steel Industries, which tends to give an eerie background to the scenario as it unfolds.

The focus of the story seems to be the major personality changes that happen to men when faced with the loss of a fortune.

In 88 minutes, Mike goes from a nice guy to a cold-blooded killer for the lust of money. He makes the transition a realistic metamorphosis.

Palmer (Amaury Nolasco) is transformed from a devout Christian into a thief and murderer. All for the love of money.

Of course, there must be a hero in every film, and Short plays the part well.

His compelling portrayal of Ty had many audience members yelling out helpful instructions as he fought back at the bad guys.

One interesting fact is there is only one woman in the movie, and she appears briefly and is gone just as quickly.

This is not just a guy movie though. There is plenty going on to hold the attention of all viewers.

The film is rated PG-13 for some intense violence, some disturbing images, and strong language.

The violence is understood in an action thriller.

There is blood from being shot, stabbed and having a broken bone sticking through the skin, which may be disturbing to some.

The language is no more offensive than is usual for a group of tough men.

No f-bombs though, so relax if you can, and enjoy a good action flick. “Armored” delivers.

Rating: B

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer
Demand for ‘dressing to impress’ prompts professor to create closet to aid students

DEANS LE
News Writing Student

A student’s closet filled with only jeans and T-shirts can be a barrier in the business world.

Students need to go into a job interview “dressed to impress,” said Lisa Adkins, Administrative Office Technology professor.

Unfortunately, Adkins said, some students lack the funds to purchase formal business attire.

Luckily, Adkins is working to aid students.

For that reason, Adkins is working to debut the Business Clothes Closet next semester for students who need, but can’t afford, business clothing, she said.

Adkins said she is accepting donations of lightly used or new clothes.

“Nothing is too small; nothing is too big,” she said.

Adkins said the donations can include shoes, jewelry, hosiery, long socks, ties, and about anything else appropriate for the business world.

She said she needs clothing for both men and women.

Whether it’s a job interview or showing up to a business gathering, Adkins said, looking professional is a key to making a good impression.

She said men should keep it simple with a dress shirt, tie, coat, slacks and dress shoes.

For women, the current style is slacks, blouse, business jacket, simple jewelry and shoes with about a one- or two-inch high heel.

The clothes will be reserved for business graduates in the beginning, Adkins said.

She said she is still looking for an appropriate room for the closet.

As of now, the storage room only has a few clothes hanging up with the others still in their boxes.

For students to receive clothes, they must be graduating and be nominated by a business professor.

Anita Williams, department chair of Banking, Finance and Insurance, said the business faculty fully supports the idea.

Business graduates needing attire after they graduate may soon be able to fill out an application and submit it to Adkins.

The distribution process is still in the works, Adkins said.

“It is just one more step that the business faculty is taking to help our students achieve their dreams — something beyond the educational side of what we do,” Adkins said.

Adkins said she also is looking for dry cleaning owners who are willing to help sponsor the Business Clothes Closet by drying cleaning the donated suits and dresses.

Donors can receive a tax receipt, which they may be able to use as a tax deduction when they file their taxes, Adkins said.

“It’s my goal to have it ready for spring graduates,” she said.

For more information, contact Adkins at 405-682-1611, ext. 7235, or e-mail ladkins@occc.edu.

Correct dress makes good impression, McGee says

Employment coordinator says dress conservative

BLAIR CHANEY
News Writing Student

What a person wears to a job interview can affect whether the person is hired or passed over, said Judi McGee, Employment Services coordinator, in a workshop on campus recently.

McGee offered several tips on how to make a good first impression in an interview:

• Wear classic clothing
• Wear well-fitting clothing
• Limit jewelry
• Wear comfortable shoes
• Shower before interview
• Fix hair and makeup

Classic, form-fitting clothing and personal grooming show respect and professionalism when going to an interview, McGee said. Too much jewelry makes an outfit gaudy and sometimes causes distraction.

The office of Student Employment and Career Services provides free advice and consulting for interviews to students and alumni at OCCC, McGee said.

“Sometimes your choice of clothing can go wrong, even when you follow the rules,” McGee said.

She told of an experience in which she had in a job interview for a teaching position.

McGee showed up to the interview in a Calvin Klein jacket with a tiny black-and-white houndstooth pattern, plain white silk shirt and black slacks.

She had just concluded a successful interview with the vice principal of the school who insisted on her meeting the principal.

“When I saw the principal, he had on the exact same outfit!” McGee said. The designer had made an ensemble for men in the same pattern and colors.

The principal went on and on about their matching outfits through the whole meeting, McGee said. “He was not amused.”

McGee tried to laugh it off and continue with the interview but the principal continued on about the outfits.

McGee did not get the job and the interview did not go well, McGee said.

She said she still laughs when she thinks about the look on the principal’s face when she was first introduced.

“The moral of the story, she said, is always dress to impress. Keep every outfit clean and wrinkle-free. Be comfortable. Keep all items of clothing conservative and always turn the cell phone off.

For more information about how to dress and perform appropriately in an interview, contact McGee at the Employment and Career Services office on campus or at 405-682-1611 ext. 7369.

Top 5 highest-earning Jobs attainable with an associate degree:

1. Computer specialist — $59,480: Depending on the employer, computer specialists perform a variety of functions, ranging from technical support to coordinating network security. Hiring managers prefer graduates with an associate degree in a computer-related field.

2. Nuclear technician — $59,200: Nuclear technicians monitor radiation and operate nuclear test and research equipment. They may also assist nuclear engineers and nuclear physicists with their research projects. An associate degree program in an applied science or specific technology should provide good training.

3. Dental hygienist — $58,350: One of the fastest-growing occupations in the nation, dental hygienists provide routine dental services including cleaning teeth, taking X-rays and preventative care. Candidates must graduate from an accredited dental hygiene school and pass a written and clinical exam.

4. Radiation therapist — $57,700: Radiation therapists administer radiation therapy to patients afflicted with tumors or cancer. Employers generally require an associate degree from a radiation therapy program.

5. Nuclear medicine technologist — $55,840: Nuclear medicine technologists administer diagnostic tests that involve using radioactive materials to monitor organ functions. An associate degree in nuclear medicine technology is standard, and many employers also require licensure.

*List courtesy of and ranked by the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Science, accounting professors earn recognition from professional groups

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
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Two OCCC professors recently were recognized for their efforts.

The 2009 Oklahoma Science Teachers Association College Faculty Award was recently presented to Fabiola Janiak-Spens, biotechnology professor, for her contributions to kindergarten through 12th grade science education.

OSTA is the statewide professional association that addresses the interests and concerns of science teachers throughout the state of Oklahoma.

Each year, the association honors a college faculty member for his or her support and contributions to K-12 science in Oklahoma.

Janiak-Spens said winning the award was a humbling experience.

“I just like what I’m doing,” she said. “I feel it’s my responsibility. To be recognized for it is nice.”

She said her own children, as well as others of their television- and video game-dependent generation, fuel her desire to educate them.

“Science is such an important field,” Janiak-Spens said. “It’s very, very important to not just educate college students, but younger students as well.”

DeAnn Campbell, Biotechnology/Bioinformatics Discovery Project coordinator, said she nominated Janiak-Spens for the award because she is “a true science educator.”

In addition to working full-time at OCCC, Campbell said Janiak-Spens is a coordinator for the Sooner Elementary Engineering and Science after-school program, works with high school teachers through summer workshops, and is a part of OCCC’s Biotechnology/Bioinformatics Discovery Program.

“He is present, there are no barriers as far as age and location go,” Campbell said.

“Decker has worked for OCCC for 28 years, she said. She said she has no plans to leave OCCC any time soon.

“I really enjoy teaching here,” Decker said. “I love everything about the college. I love the community college environment. It is a wonderful place to be.”

—Myra Decker
Accounting Professor

ATTENTION:
The Pioneer blog is the place to share your feedback on the issues and to let your voice be heard
occcpioneer.wordpress.com
Check it out today!

Myra Decker
Fabiola Janiak-Spens

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2009 DECEMBER 14, 2009 • 5
Fall graduates receive diploma for holidays

The following students have applied for December graduation. Diplomas will be granted after credentials are completed and degree requirements are met. Students who have fulfilled degree requirements can participate in the May 8 commencement ceremony.

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**Associate in Arts**

Hazem Abdalla, Robert Abboh, Jerry Albright, Rachael Allen, Eliezer Argot, Charles Barclay, Susan Battershell, Tyler Baxter, Wesley Bell.

Jennifer Berg, Tracie Billings, Terri Black, Tiffany Briggs, Maria Buksh, Randi Burris, Kristie Bussing.

Jessica Carabajal, Shimena Carter-Brashers, Damaris Burris, Kristie Bussing.

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**Associate in Science**


Lindsay Bird, Shanta Bista, April Blair, Calvin Bohanen, Sharmeeka Bowen, Ryan Brummett, David Buchanan.

James Carter, Timothy Chircosake, Sandra Chrisman, Nancy Cougley, Brandi Coleman, Mariel Columbus, Bradley Cottrell.

April Cribbs, Mary Daniels, Kasey Delgado, Adelina Delira, Christopher Denton, Tayeb Diouri, Amy Duangvilay, Pammella DuBose.

Christi Hinkle, Ashley Hovda, Brandon Hunt, Sarah Jackson, Phillip James, Priscilla Jaramillo, Laura Lee Jennings, Andy Jensen, Mary Johnston-Melott.

Krystal Jones, Jothamng King, Tina Kinsey, Charity Kinyua, Brandon Koonce, Christina Leake, Thomas Looper, Tyersa Lowery.

Aleasha Mack, Benjamin Malone, Rogina Mathes, Suzanne Mayeux, Joshua McDonald, Shanna McLenan, Tyler Mellinger-Holland.

David Mendoza, David Milford, Jr., Tyler Miller, Deidre Moore, Maggie Mullins, Chase Myers, Shandell Nash.

Binh Nguyen, Darren Nichols, Emily Niehues, Nichole Ochoa, Omonigho Okohomion, Alicia Oulett, Spencer Parker, Payton Patterson.

Brandon Pearson, Zachary Peavler, Lawson Petty, Lindsey Pickelsimer, Kristi Robertson, Samuel Rosko, Spencer Sakurai, Tanner Simmons.

Erica Slover, Miguel Soto, Le’Teicia Starks, Michael Stephens, Brittney Taylor, Daniel Thompson, Chrystal Torres-Caro, Shawnacie Tresler.

Amy Turner, Kari Vasquez, Valerie Wallin, Philip Ward, Aaron Whitewolf, Janus Wilkinson-Roth, Tanner Wilson, Haiyet Yosef, Johnnie Young.

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**Associate in Applied Science**


Todd Bullock, Christi Butler, Christopher Carmon, Travis Cherry, Laura Chu, Joseph Cole, Michael Dancer.

Richard Dickens II, James Dodson, Jessica Dodson, Faye Dooty, Robert Douglas, Karie Dove, John Duong, David Eccles, Chelsea Ferrrell.


Courtney Hailey, Evan Hardesty, Brady Harris, Trent Hartman, Lisa Haskin, Joseph Haymon, Katherine Hodges, Keven Horton.

Rachael Hutchens, Victor Johnson, Jr., Michael Just, Milka Kamau, Lucy Kamau, Cindy Karaffa, Gina Kilpatrick, Peter Kimani.

Wynesha Kirk, Yunwei Kuo, Angel Lopez, Christina Marston, Sabrina Martin, Tamaray Martinez, Sherry Minzey.

Desiree Mosley, Evalyne Muckenhoff, Jideraph Murigi, Patricia Nettles, Tien Ngo, Patricia Nicoll, Elizabeth Njoku, Gabriela Nunez.

Steven Orr, Maria Patterson, Kelley Patzke, Samuel Pettigrew, Hao Phan, Suzanne Randall, Jorge Reyes, Jennifer Ribelin, Jessica Rivana.

Jamie Roberts, Carrie Rohr, Cynthia Rowe, Kim Sands, Apyral Satterlee, Robert Satterlee, Jr., Suzanne Smeltzer.


Don't see your name here? If you believe you should be graduating but your name is not listed, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7512, to check your graduation status.

---

Certificate of Mastery

Anthony Aponte, Stormy Archer, Brandon Arneson, Amanda Barker, Amanda Bigelow, Elrich Bost, Justin Clark, Chad Clingman.

Joseph Cole, Ryan Cooper, Fatima Danna, Tracy Davis, Amie Dunn, Matthew Evans, Amy Fox, Casey Gerbers.

Lori Gifford, Jason Godwin, Christeina Gray, Billy Grayson, Kevin Hatch, Stephen Hix, Tara Holderbee, Lucas Kirkham, Patrick McGinnis.

Stephen Mills, Candace Morris, Wesley Morrison, Nick Naifeh, Gabriela Nunez, Randall Old Crow, Travis Pace, Christopher Pankau.


Johnny Smith, David Snoddgrass, James Sperry, Lynsey Taylor, Piravadee Thiensingchay, Joy Tolleson.

Ryan Van, David Walker, Michael Wallace, Matthew Walker, Robert Walling II, Eric Ward, Adrian Warrior, Lori Williams, Nathan Wright.

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"I want to be one of the first to offer congratulations to our students who will be graduating at the end of this semester. Your hard work and determination are to be commended."

—Paul Sechrist

OCCC President
NINE STUDENTS CHOSEN AS RECIPIENTS OF $250 SCHOLARSHIPS

Faculty Association scholarships awarded

ETHAN HENDRICKS
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The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee recently awarded $250 scholarships to nine students for the spring semester, said Linda Boatright, scholarship committee co-chair.

The winners are Andrea Adams, Kandice Edwards, Melissa Ethridge, Kelly Lail, Alisha O’Lague, Jennifer Pearsall, Aurelien Quillet, Amber Sims and Renee Thomas.

“I was surprised to be nominated,” said Sims, a physical therapy assistant major and sports assistant.

“And I was even more surprised to be chosen as a recipient of the award. Being awarded the scholarship makes me feel what I’m doing isn’t going unnoticed.”

Thomas, also a PTA major, said she appreciated being chosen. “I mean, any little bit helps in regard to paying tuition in college.”

Lail, a nursing major, said she was shocked to have been selected. “I live in Chickasha so I will probably use the money for transportation.”

Edwards, also a nursing major, said she is grateful for the scholarship. “I buy a lot of study books so I will probably use the money to buy books.”

Adams, a business administration major, said, “I was very, very happy. But at the same time I was like, ‘They picked me?’”

Quillet, a biology major, is an international student from Normandy, France. “I will probably use the money to help pay for my tuition next semester.”

Ethridge, another PTA major, said she is excited to win. “I mean, I called my mom, my mother-in-law, and my husband. I’ll probably use the money to buy Christmas presents!”

Boatright, circulation and reference librarian, said the committee had 23 applicants.

She said the selection process wasn’t easy. “All of the recommended students were the cream of the crop at OCCC,” Boatright said.

If applicants are really close, the committee considers the students’ level of campus involvement. “Then we examine their participation in clubs, volunteer work and their level of activity in campus life,” Boatright said.

The Faculty Association raised the money for the scholarships through several methods including selling beverages at the fall arts festival and holding a garage sale.

In the spring the group will host a craft and bake sale.

Mini medical School a big hit with participants

Students have the opportunity to learn by experience

ETHAN HENDRICKS
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Fifty-six OCCC students participated in the University of Oklahoma’s Mini Medical School sponsored by the Health Sciences Center Nov. 10, said Kimberly Kyker, OCCC academic coordinator of Clinical Research.

Kyker said the Mini Medical School is offered once a year at the University of Oklahoma to undergraduate and high school students. The students listened to lectures given by various OU professors on neurology and the brain, then were given quizzes on the material.

Kyker said the students enjoyed the program.

“I spent 18 years with the Health Sciences Center doing research on cancer,” Kyker said, “so for me, this was everyday stuff, but for the students it was exciting.”

“I mean, how many times do community college students get to sit in the seat of a medical student?”

Kyker said medical and grad students fielded questions asked by the visiting students and gave a guided tour of the medical school.

There also were human brains for the students to examine along with some of the salamanders used by the researchers.

Gordon Holaday, an OCCC nursing major, said the school was fun and interesting. “The professors didn’t field a lot of questions during their lectures but they made up for it afterwards,” he said.

“The professors and the medical students at OU answered a lot of questions in the little labs they had after the lectures and in the tour.”

Holaday said he was reminded of OCCC’s labs as they took the tour.

“If the labs there] were very much like the excellent labs here at OCCC. “I would highly recommend the Mini Medical School to any nursing majors or anyone interested in medical research.”

Kyker said OCCC faculty and sponsors were sent an e-mail from the coordinators of the Mini Medical School containing the information about the school.

“We advertised the information to students in the Health Professions Club,” Kyker said.

“Two of the sponsors — Steve Cash and Carl Hirtzel — teach physiology sections and they announced the school to the students in their class.”

Kyker said the purpose of OCCC’s Clinical Research Program is to train people to go into an entry-level position working with nurses and doctors on human subject research.

“The program prepares you for a broad base of research fields, whether it’s pharmaceuticals, social science interactions or behavioral studies,” she said.

“The goal is to have students who, upon graduation, will be prepared to enter a field of research.”

For more information about Mini Medical School, call Kyker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7120, or e-mail kkyker@occc.edu.
CAMPUS cheerleading squad members practice at OCCC. Christina Hobbs, premed major; Jennifer Myers, pre-education major; and Rodney Wright, theater arts major, practice cheers in front of the mirrors in the aerobics room. The cheerleading squad began this semester after Sierra Brajas, psychology major, organized the group.

LANDA MCCCLURE
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Between 400 and 500 professional and amateur swimmers will participate in the Chesapeake Swim Club’s 18th Annual Chesapeake Elite Pro-Am Swim Meet on campus Thursday, Dec. 17, through Sunday, Dec. 20, said Aquatic and Safety Training Specialist James Hensley.

“Some of the amateur swimmers will be competing to qualify for the 2012 Olympics,” Hensley said. “The professional swimmers have already competed in previous Olympics.”

He said swimmers will come from across the U.S. and some competitors are from the Oklahoma City area.

Hensley said some of the swimmers will compete in groups and some will compete individually.

Paul Thompson, swim meet director, said the Chesapeake swim meet is one of the biggest meets around.

“It is one of very few USA swim meets where professional athletes swim with amateur swimmers,” Thompson said.

He said the first swim races will be Thursday night and preliminary rounds will be held Friday through Sunday morning.

“The top 24 swimmers in each category will compete in the evenings, Friday through Sunday for finals,” Thompson said.

Hensley said the professional athletes will be awarded cash prizes.

“First-place winners will receive $600, second-place winners will receive $300 and third-place winners will receive $100,” Hensley said.

Awards will be given to the fastest amateur individuals and groups.

“Many of the swimmers are also trying to receive a high point so they can move up a level and qualify for another meet,” he said.

Hensley said a few of the races include the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle and 1000-meter freestyle.

Hensley said one reason the college is chosen to host the Chesapeake meet is because its swimming pool is known to produce good speeds for the swimmers.

“The pool is a fast pool because of the gutters,” Hensley said. “When a swimmer turns, the water will go into the gutters instead of splashing back into the pool.”

Oklahoma hospitality also may factor in, he said.

“Oklahoma hospitality also may factor in, he said.

“The staff works well with the host club and I’d like to think the good hospitality from the city is why OCCC hosts the swim meet,” he said.

The Aquatic Center will close for the event at 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 16 and reopen at 6 a.m., Monday, Dec. 21.

For more information, contact the Aquatic Center at 405-682-7860.
LOANS: Financial Aid office ready to implement possible changes

Continued from page 1

1 percent of borrowers meet the requirements for interest reduction under the current plan. Under SAFRA, that number would increase.

In addition, students would only have to conduct business with one lender under this proposed system rather than having to sign a new promissory note each time a new lender must be used as with the current program, McMurtrey said.

SAFRA has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is being considered by the U.S. Senate. In the meantime, ECASLA still offers much-needed benefits to students, McMurtrey said.

For instance, students who meet enrollment and financial need requirements could receive a second Pell Grant for the summer semester. McMurtrey said OCCC's Financial Aid office is ready to implement the changes if SAFRA is approved.

“We have attended (training) conferences and we are constantly researching the status of the bill,” she said.

For a transcript of SAFRA and more information, visit www.occc.edu/pioneer. For information about financial aid, contact McMurtrey at 405-682-1611, ext. 7781.

Non-injury accident, computer misuse headline crime report

MARK SMITH
Senior Writer
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A non-injury traffic accident occurred in the parking lot Thursday, Dec. 3.

Debra Callicoat told Safety and Security Officer Chad Clingman that as she pulled out of her parking space, she stopped to look for a coupon in the passenger side seat. While looking for the coupon, she told Clingman, another vehicle struck her car.

The driver of the other vehicle provided her name and insurance documentation to the officer.

However, the report stated, she refused to give her drivers license to the officers. Later that same day, OCCC visitor Raymond East was reported misusing a computer in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library.

Library staff told Clingman that East was viewing inappropriate Web sites on the computer.

Clingman questioned East and checked for warrants against him.

After finding no warrants, Clingman issued a no-trespass warning and told East to leave the property, which he did.
Paramedics revive dead club

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
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Teaching paramedic majors the value of teamwork and instilling within them a sense of community are some of the reasons a group of students revived the defunct Student Emergency Medical Technology Association, said Melissa Vice, club president.

“I hope this club will bring paramedic students together,” Vice said.

“This career is all about teamwork. We want to promote that.”

Vice said being involved in the club will provide members an opportunity not only to sharpen their communication skills, but also give them a taste of what the profession is all about: helping others.

“We really want to help the community,” she said.

“That’s the entire reason I wanted to become a paramedic.

“I want to help people. I want my life to have mattered.”

In addition, Vice said, club members will be given the opportunity to improve the profession itself.

“There are a lot of important changes that need to be made in the paramedical field,” she said. “It’s up to the next generation to make them.”

Vice said the club also is for students who aren’t sure if the paramedical field is right for them.

“This is a great chance for students to see where this career can take them,” she said.

Because the club got off to a late start, Vice said, she hopes to make the spring semester a “good one.”

“We were thrown into this right in the middle of the semester,” Vice said. “Next year, we plan to be a lot more organized. We have a lot of activities lined up.”

Among those activities, she said, will be visiting fire stations and nursing homes during the holiday season.

Club Treasurer Danny Bull said, “We are dedicated to making a difference.”

SEMTA club meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month in Room 109 of the Health Professions Center.

For more information, visit the SEMTA Web site through Student Life at www.occc.edu/studentlife or contact Vice at melissa.m.vice@email.occc.edu or e-mail occc.edu.

Students hope to change profession, lives

Paramedics revive dead club
PIONEER classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

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BOREN BRINGS PAST NURSING EXPERIENCE TO OCCC

Central America shapes nursing prof

ANDREA KIHEGA
News Writing Student

Working in Honduras and Costa Rica as a medic for the National Guard gave nursing professor Traci Boren a broader perspective on health care in different countries.

“I did learn how important primary care is to the health of society,” she said of her work in Central America.

“I support legislation that promotes that idea here in the U.S.”

Boren joined the OCCC nursing faculty full-time this semester.

She said she served in the National Guard as a medic through dissection of cadavers.

Students learn anatomy firsthand through dissection of cadavers

MARK SMITH
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OCCC’s cadaver-based anatomy class houses six human bodies. Two students from the course told of the secrets that have unfolded this semester.

In this last part of the cadaver-based anatomy class series, Daniella Peters, pre-allied health major, and Matt Merrill, premed major, tell of their experiences dissecting human cadavers.

Julian Hilliard, biology professor, covered the human body in intimate detail during this 16-week course, Merrill said.

The class started with the lower extremities of the body and worked its way to the heart and lungs.

“What stands out the most is the fact we got to dissect a human cadaver,” Merrill said.

Her experience in the National Guard allowed her to visit many places. She said both Honduras and Costa Rica set up remote clinics to take care of the general population.

“I got a whole different perspective of health care in different countries,” she said.

Boren said her initial attraction to OCCC’s nursing program was that she knew it was a good program.

She said she has enjoyed the clinical and lecturing experience that she has done so far.

Boren is teaching in the Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program that is offered in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma’s nursing program.

Boren received her master’s degree in nursing education from the University of Oklahoma in 2008, where she also received her bachelor’s degree in nursing in 1998.

In addition to the master’s and bachelor’s degrees, she has two associate degrees from Rose State College in pre-nursing and liberal studies.

She is certified as an operating room nurse and still practices part time.

“I love being an [Operating Room] nurse because it gives you a chance to advocate for a patient when they are most vulnerable,” Boren said.

“It tests your critical thinking skills all the time because you are responsible for the room and all that takes place during a surgery.”

Boren said “you can find an area you enjoy and make a great impact on others.”

Boren has been married for seven years and has a 4-year-old son. She enjoys camping, reading, hiking, and traveling.

For more information, Boren can be reached at tboren@occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7211.

You and a guest are invited to an advance screening

Hugh GRANT
Sarah Jessica PARKER

We’re not in Manhattan anymore.

Did You Hear About The MORGANS?

Thursday, December 17, 7:30 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.

occc.edu/pioneer

OPENS IN THEATERS DECEMBER 18