

FEATURES

EXPERIENCE
IN MEXICO

Read about one OCCC physics professor's time in a faculty exchange program this past fall.

NEWS, p. 5

PARKING

PARKING
LOTS

There are 3,363 parking spots available on campus. Parking lot maps will help students find the most convenient locations.

NEWS, p. 6

EDITORIAL

IS THIS OUR
REFORM?

What was thought to be historical reform to health care has turned into a predictable political battle.

OPINION, p. 2

STUDENT LIFE

THUNDER
TICKETS

One hundred OCCC students, faculty and staff can enjoy a night at a Thunder game on Jan. 27. Tickets go on sale next week. Find out where to get them.

CLUBS, p. 10

INTRAMURALS

OPEN HOUSE
A SUCCESS

Recreation and Fitness passed out information on spring activities last week at their open house. Learn what sports and fitness programs are available.

SPORTS, p. 8

PIONEER

JANUARY 15, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Gubernatorial candidate forum held on campus

MARK SMITH
Editor
editor@occc.edu

OCCC hosted one Republican and two Democratic candidates for governor as they outlined their goals for the state in a forum for community leaders and the general public Jan. 12.

The forum, sponsored by Leadership Oklahoma, took place in the Bruce Owen Theater.

The candidates laid out their plans on the state budget and how, or whether, to spend the state's Rainy Day Fund.

State Sen. Randy Brogdon, R-Owasso, said he doesn't have any desire to touch Oklahoma's Rainy Day Fund this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Furthermore, he said, he doesn't believe the state's current budget shortfalls can be called a crisis.

Instead of using emergency funds, Brogdon said, he would propose placing spending limits on the Legislature in order to reduce waste and fraud.

"This money is intended for true emergencies and not slothful overspending by the Legislature,"

See **FORUM** page 7

Getting prepared



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

LaShauna Wilson, Bookstore clerk, helps students purchase their supplies the week before classes begin. The bookstore offers a variety of items besides textbooks, such as college apparel, refreshments and classroom supplies.

TWO-WEEK GRACE PERIOD GIVEN FOR VIOLATIONS

Follow campus parking rules to prevent fines

JUSTIN COMBS
Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Students can expect parking rules to be enforced beginning the first week of classes, said Ike Sloas, Campus Safety and Security director.

However, Sloas said, Safety and Security officers will offer a two-week grace period for minor violations including failure to display a parking decal and improper parking.

Major violations such as parking in a fire lane, handicap space or faculty space will result in a ticket, he said.

Sloas said Oklahoma County Sheriff's deputies will be on hand the first week to help campus security officers with traffic control and parking issues.

He said the goal is to help students become aware of the ample parking available on campus and prevent any vehicles from parking on the

grounds and damaging landscape.

"We did a count last fall on the number of cars parked on the grass and they would have found space in the back on paved parking if they had just driven around there," Sloas said.

J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director, said there is plenty of parking available, but arriving early can increase a student's chances of finding a spot close to the buildings.

"People mostly try to find parking in parking lots A and C," Messer said.

"Parking spaces are often available on the west side of the college behind the Aquatic Center in parking lots D, E and F with easy access to the building."

Amy Reid, nursing sophomore, said she didn't experience much trouble parking last semester.

Reid said planning ahead is the most useful

suggestion.

"A lot of it is just knowing where your classes are, so you don't end up parking so far away," she said.

Violators who receive a ticket do have the opportunity to make an appeal, Sloas said.

He said students can appeal a parking ticket by filling out a form at the office Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services.

See **PARKING** page 6

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Political battle is altering the purpose

Health care reform bill mired

During the winter break, many people watched as our nation's lawmakers made landmark progress toward health care reform. However, some ask whether any progress was made at all.



MARK SMITH

Republicans accused Sen. Ben Nelson, (D-Neb.) of selling his vote for increased Medicaid funds for his state.

In addition, several attorney generals are now threatening litigation in the U.S. Supreme Court. They claim that the bill is unconstitutional.

Furthermore, the U.S. House of Representatives has conceded to taking out the public option.

Many citizens are concerned the government has lost sight of the original intentions of the bill and are now focusing on deal cutting and childish bickering.

ering.

Even President Barack Obama is not immune to the problems surrounding the bill.

During his election campaign, he promised health care reform with a public option.

Now he is telling the media that even though some crucial benefits were removed from the bill, it is better than having no reform at all. Is he now going back on his promise?

It is true that many Americans without insurance will receive subsidies to help them, and the new laws will require insurance companies to adhere to stricter guidelines, such as not denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions.

However, what about the millions of uninsured who will not receive benefits from the new law. Does the Senate not recognize the needs of these citizens?

The bill is a positive milestone in the nation's history but it has a long way to go before it can be considered true reform.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

Comments? Opinions? Let us Know!

E-mail Mark Smith at

editor@occc.edu

Let your voice be heard!

YOUR VOICE | Scientists are lying about data

Questioning global warming scientists a good idea

To the editor:

I might agree with your Op Ed on global warming except for one major flaw: The scientific studies purported to support global warming are, in a word, bogus.

There is substantial evidence now exposed which shows widespread collusion among some of the most notable scientists in the field.

Basically, these scientists agreed upon the conclusion before examining the data, then

data was 'scrubbed' or altered to support the desired conclusion.

As a practicing operations research analyst, I find that most reprehensible. Not only was their data falsified, others who had dissenting opinions were squelched by bullying tactics and by making it nearly impossible for dissenting papers to be published in appropriate journals.

Yes, Mr. Editor, it is a

hoax on a grand scale. If not for Sen. James Inhofe, and others like him, we most assuredly will succumb to cap and trade, a disaster waiting to happen.

Cap and trade is really tax and trade, with the brokers of greenhouse gases, mostly carbon dioxide, exercising complete and extreme control.

The few brokers become richer, the rest of the world will become poorer.

And what about carbon dioxide?

As a matter of historical evidence, when carbon dioxide levels have been up to five times the current level, there has been benefit to the biosphere. Plant life flourished, animal life reaped the harvest.

Yes, there may be a tipping point in the rise of carbon dioxide, but we are nowhere near that, and research provides too little data to make adequate predic-

tions on the historically cyclic climate of the earth. In the 1970s, some of the very same scientists who are now screaming "global warming" were the ones screaming "global cooling."

The purveyors of doomsday have always been with us, and someday the earth will meet its doom, but there is insufficient justifiable evidence to support any major climate change in the foresee-

able future. Mr. Editor, choose your "experts" with care. There are many who claim the title, but only a few who merit that title. That is true in every field of endeavor, and the current crop of "global warming experts" have shown their hand, and that hand reveals they are not experts, but are liars on scale perhaps never seen within the scientific community before.

—ALAN JONES
MATH PROFESSOR

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has

the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, faxed to 405-682-7843, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed on the Internet at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | 'Avatar' delivers unoriginal plot but ground-breaking graphics

Visually-stunning movie a big hit

Despite a predictable storyline, "Avatar" is a breathtaking movie and has no problem keeping eyes glued to the screen throughout its entirety.

Jake Sully, played by Sam Worthington, is an ex-marine who has been in suspended animation for the six-year trip to the planet of Pandora.

Humans discovered the planet several years ago and have begun a mining operation to extract unobtainium, a precious metal which sells for \$20 million a kilogram back on Earth.

The only problem is the indigenous tribe of 10-foot tall, blue-skinned aliens — the Na'vi — don't appreciate the arrival of humans on their planet.

This already volatile situation is further com-

plicated by the trigger happy Col. Miles (Stephen Lang) who is all too ready, and happy, to counter the Na'vi's interference with violence.

The head of the mining operation, Parker Selfridge (Giovanni Ribisi) would rather avoid "killing off the indigenous tribe" because it looks bad for his bosses. However, he is starting to feel the heat from upstairs to get more of the precious metal.

Thus enters the Avatar Program run by Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver). Using human DNA, the science team has grown Na'vi bodies, which can be controlled by a human mind.

Their job is to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

It is easy to lose one-



self in the breathtaking world of Pandora, a realm full of floating mountains, grandiose waterfalls that hang in midair, and other fantastical imagery — all of which seem so real you may find yourself reaching out to touch them.

And while the movie clocks in around three hours, there is hardly a boring moment throughout the entire film.

For more than 14

years, writer and director James Cameron waited for the technology to produce "Avatar."

The wait was worth it as the movie grossed \$1.4 billion in the first three weeks.

While the storyline is a bit unoriginal, the stunning exoticness of Pandora and the amazing graphics more than make up for it.

Rating: A-

—ETHAN HENDRICKS
STAFF WRITER

FILM REVIEW | Heath Ledger's final role a success

'Doctor Parnassus' an exciting movie

Writer and director Terry Gilliam (Monte Python) displayed his talent in the movie "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus."

The story revolves around the traveling show of an immortal doctor, (Christopher Plummer) who makes several deals with the devil, Mr. Nick, played by Tom Waits.

Parnassus has the ability to influence the imagination of others, and leads them through a mirror to their dreams.

With his daughter, Valentina, (Lily Cole) and his assistants, he travels around England

trying to make money and stay one step ahead of the devil.

When the troupe finds Tony (Heath Ledger) hanging by his neck, under a bridge, they revive him and take him on as part of their act.

Normally, the death of the star of a movie would cause a production shutdown, but such was not the case with this film.

When Heath Ledger died, Gilliam found three actors to play the role of Tony.

The script was revised so each time Tony went through the mirror, he changed into actors

Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell. The transitions were done in such a way that the audience might not have noticed the change at first. It is a great concept and very well executed.

The costumes, caravan, and stage of the Imaginarium are old world Gypsy, and at times make the viewer forget the tale is set in a modern world.

The 122 minutes of fantasy moves along quickly from one subject to another and keeps the viewer constantly entertained with its story progression and its graphics.

For an exercise in imagination, and fun, "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus" is the right prescription.

Rated PG-13, the movie does contain some scenes of violence, drinking and smoking, but these scenes are in keeping with the characters' way of life.

A note of trivia: the actors that replaced Heath Ledger gave all their earnings to Matilda, Ledger's daughter, to help ensure her future.

The movie is dedicated to Ledger's memory.

Rating: B+

—CYNTHIA PRAEFKE
STAFF WRITER

YOU *asked* FOR IT

Q: *Where on campus do students go to find scholarships?*

A: "Students can come to Recruitment and Admissions to find various scholarships."

—LINDA SAPP
RECRUITMENT STUDENT
SERVICES ASSISTANT

Q: *Where on campus do I go to get a job?*

A: "Students looking for a job can come to Student Employment and Career Services. We are located in the Main Building, first floor, located next to Student Life."

—DEBRA VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER
SERVICES DIRECTOR

Q: *Will the OCCC Bookstore offer a book rental program in the future?*

A: "At this time, all types of options to save students as much money as possible are being looked at. A book rental program is something we are very strongly considering."

—BRENDA REINKE
BOOKSTORE DIRECTOR

Q: *What is the difference between the Financial Aid and Bursar's Offices?*

A: "The Financial Aid Office awards all types of student aid based on a student's eligibility. The Bursar's Office applies those funds to student accounts and disperses refunds."

—BRANDI HENSON
BURSAR

Q: *Why doesn't OCCC have a higher incentive for recycling?*

A: "The Green Task Force is in the process of initiating a recycling program on campus. Hopefully, we will have this implanted by the end of the semester. We are doing the green tips every week in the paper and then we have a column going up online very soon."

—BRANDON ISAAK
GREEN TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN

Pioneer Online. Your source for campus news.

www.occc.edu/pioneer

MATHEMATICS DIRECTOR URGES STUDENTS TO NOT PROCRASTINATE

Math Lab a useful tool for students, director says

DAVID WOLF
News Writing Student

The secret to success in math is start early, do math every day and stay at it, said Tamara Carter, Mathematics director.

Carter is a board member of the Oklahoma Council for Teachers of Mathematics. She

said she strives to find the best pathways for students to succeed mathematically.

As a faculty member for five years, Carter said, she understands the overwhelming frustration many people feel when crunching numbers, the method of the beast in mathematics.

This is why her overall goal as director is to help the department improve and to do so by helping students be successful in math, she said.

Unlike many people, Carter said, she loves the logic behind the numbers and the problem-solving patterns.

She said she recognizes not

everyone shares her passion, and advises those intimidated by numbers to not procrastinate in completing their math courses.

She said the faster the math prerequisites are achieved, the less stress there may be later in student's academic pursuits.

Using the math lab, which offers many computers and staff members to assist students, is key in achieving that numerical academic success, Carter said.

"The math lab is alright with me," said business major Don Harvey, who was enrolled in a calculus course last fall.

Harvey said he likes the fact that he can use the assistance available on campus outside class.

He said he enjoys knowing the assistants will be sure to help, and if they cannot be of assistance, they will be able to get someone who can.

The Math Lab is open from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information, contact Carter at 405-682-1611, ext. 7167, or contact the Math Lab at 405-682-1611, ext. 7291.

Lack of interest threatens to shelve emergency power training program

CHAVON MCMILLIAN
Staff Writer

Due to low enrollment, the Generator and Emergency Power training program has not opened. However, the college still hopes to offer the program, said John Claybon, Corporate Learning consultant.

The training program was expected to begin this month, but there were not enough people interested to create the class, Claybon said.

"The [program] is not in high demand from what we can see," he said. "But the industry has shown interest for workers to receive this type of training."

Claybon said the program is designed for students interested in learning how to provide technical support on backup power.

The course covers what should be done with backup generators during power outages, entry-level troubleshooting on the equipment, and general weekly and monthly maintenance of the generators, he said.

“The [program] is not in high demand from what we can see. But the industry has shown interest for workers to receive this type of training.”

—JOHN CLAYBON
CORPORATE LEARNING CONSULTANT

Cordell Jordan, Media Relations coordinator, said workers such as hospital maintenance specialists, city technician specialists, casino maintenance consultants, and many other facility maintenance positions can benefit from the program.

Claybon said the program would take anywhere from a year to 18 months to complete.

This is a non-credit program, he said, but students will receive a certificate upon completion.

Claybon said while many companies are becoming interested in alternative power sources, OCCC's program coincides with these forms of energy.

In addition, he said, there are usually no training programs for generator and emergency power techni-

cians, so receiving a certificate would be a benefit for those looking to find work in the field.

"Many people working as backup generator technicians are trained either in special schools or in the military, where the focus is not specific to generators," Claybon said.

Corporate Learning is not sure how long the program will be available, he said, but they are hoping to find enough interested students to fill a class.

"The training would be very beneficial to people," Claybon said.

For more information about the Generator and Emergency Power training program or to enroll for the course, contact Corporate Learning at 405-682-1611, ext. 7855.

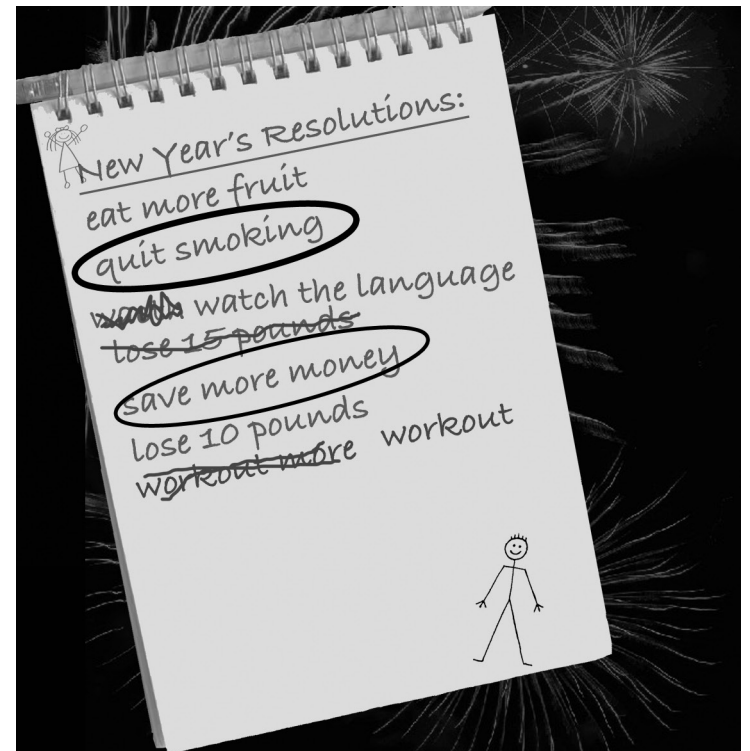
For more Green Tips from the Green Task Force, visit www.occc.edu/pioneer

Oklahoma City Community College
PIONEER
Online
www.occc.edu/pioneer

Green Tip of the Week:

"If every house in America changed one light bulb to a fluorescent light, we could power 3 million houses in America for one year."

—Courtesy of the OCCC Green Task Force



**Celebrate being a quitter
this New Year's Eve!**



STEVE KAMM TAKES ADVANTAGE OF TWO-WEEK TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Professor experiences college in Mexico

JENNIFER MASSEY
News Writing Student

In a shrinking world, educators should take advantage of opportunities to explore other cultures, and look at colleges and universities in other countries on behalf of OCCC.

This is the philosophy of Steve Kamm, physics professor, who recently returned from Mexico.

Earlier in the semester, Felix Aquino, vice president of Academic Affairs, invited the faculty to take part in an academic exchange.

The purpose of a teacher's exchange is to explore institutions of higher learning in other countries, Kamm said.

In this case, Kamm traveled to the Technical University of Hermocillo in the state of Sonora, Mexico, where, he said, he found a warm welcome from his host family.

"You live in the home of your exchange partner," Kamm said.

Kamm stayed with the fam-

ily of Gerardo Acosta, a faculty member at UTH. He and all seven members of Acosta's family became very close during his two-week stay, Kamm said.

"They opened their home and took in a stranger," he said.

"They treated me like one of their own."

Once settled, Kamm began his tour. The Universidad Tecnologica de Hermosillo is one of four college campuses where Kamm spent time.

Of the 4,000 students who attend the university, many were willing to stop what they were doing — whether it was studying or listening to a lecture — to answer his questions, Kamm said.

He admits he knew just enough Spanish to converse with someone who did not speak any English, although many did. At UTH, the students study English for the full two-year program, Kamm said.

"Everyone was very warm, very considerate, very hos-

pitable, and concerned that I had a pleasant and enjoyable experience," Kamm said.

What Kamm learned, he said, is the programs and degrees at UTH are not very different from those offered at OCCC. The two-year programs include business, graphic arts, computer science and emergency medical service.

There is less emphasis on theory and more emphasis on practical training to enter the work force, Kamm said.

"In every program, in the last semester, the students go into business or industry and work for four months of on-the-job training," Kamm said.

The similarities in the colleges didn't stop there.

After observing many classes, Kamm discovered that despite cultural differences, the people were the same.

He said he was particularly impressed with the teachers.

"They were very focused on the students," Kamm said.

Traveling to Mexico in a teacher's exchange is some-



PHOTO COURTESY STEVE KAMM

Steve Kamm, physics professor, stands with class of students from Technical University of Hermocillo in Mexico. Kamm visited the college in December as part of a two-week teacher exchange program.

thing Kamm said he would eagerly do again.

"Each time I go to a different place, particularly a different country, it enforces the idea that there is more than one way to accomplish a goal," he said.

When the visit came to an end, he was sad to leave.

"When I left, there were hugs, tears and a 'please-come-back,'" Kamm said.

In the spring, Kamm said, he will play the role of host when Acosta and another teacher from Hermocillo

come to Oklahoma City to spend two weeks at OCCC.

The same courtesy will be given to them as they tour the campus, sit in on classes and ask questions of the faculty and students.

"I encourage anyone, faculty or student, to take advantage of the international exchange," Kamm said.

"You may have to give up a little bit of personal security and privacy but you gain so much more in return."

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7546.

Film, video students build realistic sets in new scene shop

JENNIFER MASSEY
News Writing Student

The sounds of drills and hammers fill the air in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. The Film and Video Production department's new scene shop is abuzz as sets are being built for upcoming student films.

Power saws, drills, paint and wood line the walls of the shop while students come in and out to work on their various projects.

In years past, students in the film program shared a scene shop with the drama department but the need for a film-focused space became necessary.

"The idea is to create real-

istic sets for film as opposed to theatrical sets," said Sean Lynch, cinematography professor.

Lynch, who also is responsible for the shop's upkeep, said this is necessary because small details are important on camera.

Film and Video Production professor Greg Mellott believes it is critical for film students to have a place to build their sets.

"It would be irresponsible not to provide this resource to the students," Mellott said. "Hands-on learning is what this program is all about."

Lynch recalled the days when he was a student in the film department at OCCC.

"We built sets out of noth-

ing," he said.

A grant by the Kirkpatrick Foundation opened up money in the department's general fund that provided the tools and supplies to fill the shop.

"Now film students have the resources to build full sets," Mellott said.

One student, Patricia McDaniel, said she was thrilled with the range of materials available for her project.

McDaniel is directing "The Race," a short film set in a rickety old spaceship.

"It took one hour to put down the floor plan for the spaceship," she said. "Production design and cinematography students started building it that day."

The excitement in McDan-

iel's eyes was evident.

"I mean, how many people in their first year of film school get a spaceship?" McDaniel asked.

Celia Gunn, another film student, also was working in the scene shop.

"We've got pretty much everything we need to build a full set," Gunn said. "What we don't have already, they can get pretty quickly."

A budget is set aside for each class every semester that pays for materials for student films, Lynch said.

Gunn said this makes OCCC's film department unique.

"There are very few colleges in the state that offer the resources that this film school

does," Gunn said.

"This program is something I pay out-of-state tuition for," said Allison Brown, who is from Texas. "It's awesome."

The idea is to create more interest in the program, not only by prospective students but also by producers who are looking to use the film studio professionally, Mellott said.

Mellott said films made by OCCC students have won awards locally and regionally at film festivals such as Dead Center and Bare Bones.

As interest in the film and video program grows, he said, he hopes to continue to expand the scene shop to keep up with the demands of current technology and stay ahead of the competition.

Ample parking available say college officials



With 3,363 spaces on campus, parking should not be too difficult

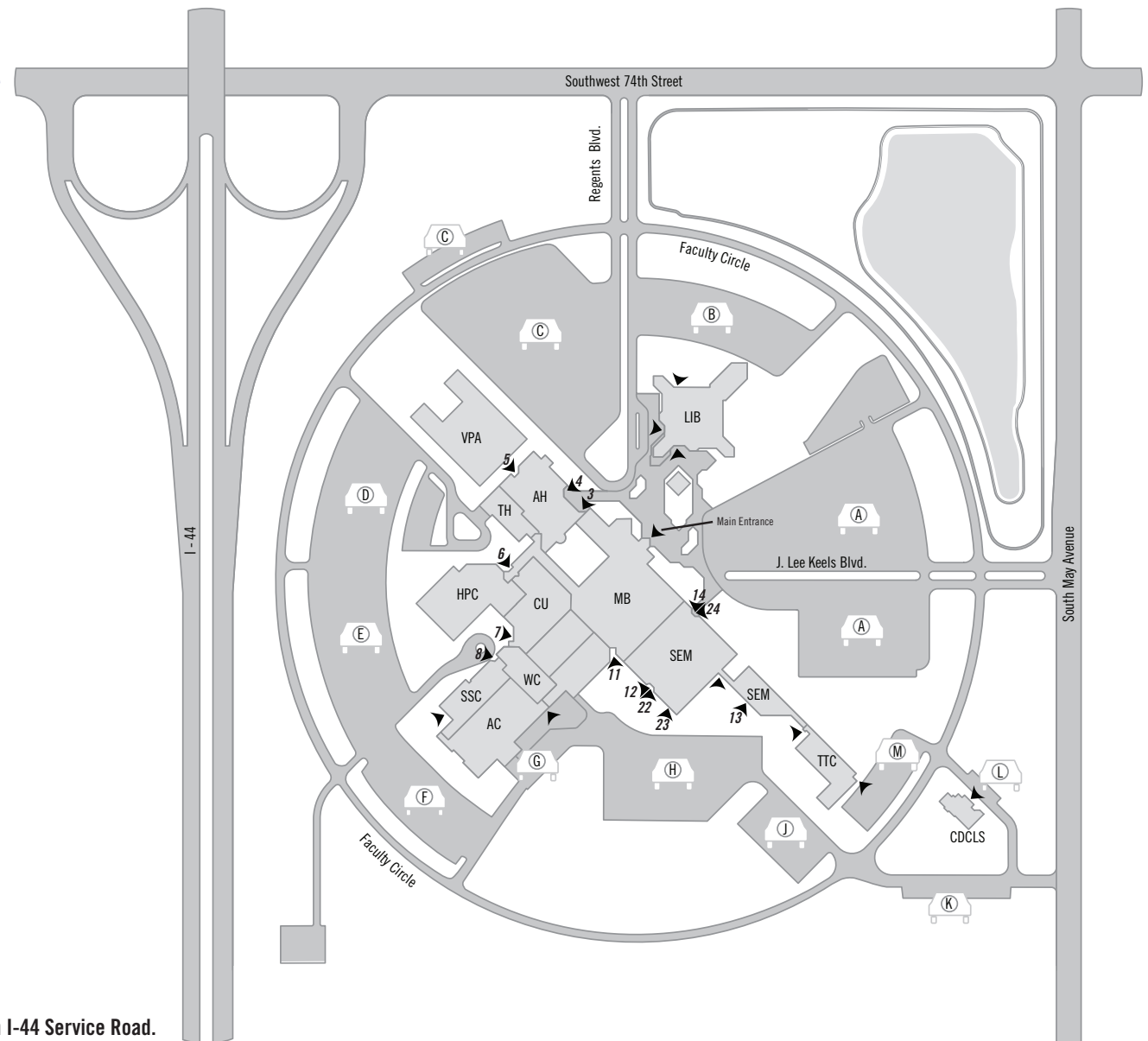
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

 Parking Areas

 Entrances



AC	Aquatic Center
AH	Arts and Humanities Center
CDCLS	Child Development Center & Lab School
CU	College Union
HPC	Health Professions Center
LIB	Library
MB	Main Building
SEM	Science, Engineering, and Math Center
SSC	Social Sciences Center
TH	Bruce B. Owen Theater
TTC	Transportation Technologies Center
VPA	Visual and Performing Arts Center
WC	Wellness Center



The OCCC John Massey Center is located at 11919 South I-44 Service Road.

Parking: Arrive early to beat the crowds

Continued from page 1

An unpaid fine will result in a hold on a student's registration at the college, Sloas said, preventing the student from enrolling or receiving an official transcript until the ticket is resolved.

To receive a parking decal, students must visit the Records desk in the Main Building and fill out an application.

For more information about registering

vehicles and parking decal placement, contact Records and Graduation Services at 405-682-7512.

For more information about parking rules and fines, contact Safety and Security at 405-682-1611, ext. 7691.

Visit us online for a list of parking fines
www.okcc.edu/pioneer

Oklahoma City Community College
PIONEER
 Online
www.okcc.edu/pioneer

What happens if you get a fine?

"Fines may be paid in the Bursar's Office. When a fine is paid, a receipt will be issued and the Safety and Security Department notified. Once all fines have been paid, all restrictions on the person will be removed.

Failure to pay or appeal any fine within 15 calendar days will result in the following action:

- For students, a letter will be sent advising the student that a citation that was received on the vehicle has not been paid, resulting in a Safety and Security hold being placed on the student's records until such time that a copy of the receipt of payment of the citation is presented to Campus Safety and Security.
- For employees, notifications will be sent to Human Resources."

—According to the "Campus Traffic and Parking Regulations" brochure, available in the Safety and Security office on the first floor of the Main Building.

Forum: Candidates discuss education, health care, Rainy Day Fund

Continued from page 1

he said.

Attorney General Drew Edmondson, Democratic candidate, said as governor he would push for more detailed appropriation bills so waste and fraud could be eliminated.

Even though he said he doesn't advocate being wasteful with the Rainy Day Fund, he believes that it should be used as a "tourniquet on agencies which are bleeding and cannot be revived with stimulus monies."

Edmondson said he also would place a priority on education, health, mental health care and corrections.

He said the current shortfall in state appropriations was not purposeful and resulted from the Legislature passing overly optimistic budgets.

Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, also a Democrat, said she would definitely use the Rainy Day Fund to save state programs that are suffering.

Among the programs she mentioned were health care and mental health programs. She said only three-eighths of the Rainy Day Fund can be used in a given year.

As governor, Askins said, she would advocate that the Legislature schedule special budget sessions in which the

legislators would discuss the budget, and only the budget, in more detail.

Another question posed to the candidates was about the Helping Oklahoma Education Act, State Question 744, and how it would affect the budget, if passed.

This act is scheduled to appear on the November ballot and, if passed, would require the Oklahoma Legislature to fund public education at least to the level of the per-pupil average of neighboring states.

All three candidates said they opposed the proposed constitutional amendment because, if it passed, it would require the Legislature to take money away from other state agencies and use it to fund education.

Edmondson said he doesn't believe the act could be enforced. He voiced his support for funding education but said he doesn't believe SQ 744 is the way to do it.

"I am in favor of building jobs, building the economy, putting the money in, and bringing us out of the cellar on education expenditures but not with a constitutional amendment that takes the money from other state agencies," Edmondson said.

Askins said education also would be one of the top priorities of her administration.

"Education is the key to building a workforce," she said.

However, she said, she opposes the proposed amendment because it could usurp power from the governor and cause difficulties in developing a state budget.

Brogdon said the proposed act would have a terrible impact on the budget and spending.

"It is extremely unreasonable to mandate increased spending [on education] especially in a downturn budget like we are experiencing today," he said.

Brogdon said the bill would require the state government to meet or exceed the level of funding of neighboring states, whether it was possible or not.

The candidates also expressed their views on the Federal Health Care Reform Bill that is being considered by the U.S. Congress.

Brogdon said the bill is unconstitutional and does not fall within the scope of the Congress's power or authority. He said the state Legislature would be considering a bill to opt out of parts of the final bill.



Jari Askins

Edmondson said it is too early to draw conclusions about federal health care reform because the bills that came out of each chamber of the U.S. Congress are different. He said no one knows what the final bill will look like.

Still, he said, the situation in Nebraska, where Republican Sen. Ben Nelson accepted increased money for his state's Medicaid programs in return for voting favorably for the bill, is unconstitutional.

Edmondson said he has filed lawsuits in the U.S. Supreme Court jointly with other attorneys general to oppose the bill.

Askins said although no one is exactly sure what the reform will be like at the end, she expressed the hope that the bill would allow a continuation of Insure Oklahoma and other needed programs.

"I want to continue the ability to grow our own programs instead of having to just implement whatever is mandated from D.C.," Askins said.

The candidates answered questions posed by Leadership Oklahoma members and the audience.

Mary Mèlon, Journal Re-

cord newspaper publisher, served as moderator of the event.

The other Oklahoma gubernatorial candidate, Republican Mary Fallin, was unable to attend the forum.

Fallin, a congresswoman from Oklahoma City, was in Washington D.C. fulfilling her duties, said Alex Weintz, communications director for Fallin's election campaign.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist opened the forum by stressing the importance of education. He talked about the services OCCC provides

to the community and its students.

Even though Sechrist reported a large growth in enrollment with even higher rates expected this semester, he said that is only part of the story.

"We can no longer measure our success by just increasing enroll-

ments," he said. "It is not about getting into college ... getting through and getting an education is what really transforms a life and transforms a state."

Gubernatorial primaries will be held July 27, and the election will be Nov. 3.

For information on registering to vote, visit the Oklahoma State Election Board's Web site at www.state.ok.us/~elections.



Drew Edmondson



Randy Brogdon

Entrepreneurship class encourages students to explore

LANDA MCCLURE
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Business students looking for a class to express ideas for a new product or their own business should consider enrolling in entrepreneurship, said Jack Kraettli, business professor.

Kraettli said the class is being offered to students who are interested in develop-

ing their own business or a product or to work for themselves.

Students who take the class will learn how and where to look for money to start their business, how to write a business plan that would be accepted by lenders and how to develop an idea for a product, he said.

"Entrepreneurship is a good class for everyone to take because it allows stu-

dents to learn about themselves," he said.

Kraettli said the class teaches students to express their own ideas, accept other ideas and receive criticism without being offended.

Students will partake in a small group project where they must develop a business plan that must meet the five qualifications lenders need to approve, he said.

Once they have complet-

ed that part, the group will then present their plan to the class, Kraettli said.

"Entrepreneurship has had seven businesses come out of the class," he said.

Kraettli said students will take what they learn from the class and apply it to the real world.

Past instructors have been some of the best in the state and have had real world experience, he said.

Kraettli said the class will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays starting Jan. 20.

"This is the third time I will be teaching the class and I enjoy teaching the course because it's good to see the students grow and share ideas," he said.

"I'm impressed with their innovations."

For more information contact Kraettli at 405-682-1611, ext. 7147.

SPORTS

Take it to the net

Rashad Carrethres, physical therapy major, practices his layups in the Wellness Center gymnasium. The gymnasium can hold up to three volleyball or basketball courts simultaneously.

The Wellness Center is open to from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

RECREATION AND FITNESS | OCCC to offer a variety of health and wellness activities this semester

Fitness Center open house draws a crowd

LANDA MCCLURE
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

A total of 40 people attended the first open house offered by the Recreation and Fitness Center on Jan. 11, said Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist.

Watson said they were looking for a way to inform students, faculty and the community about the different programs the center has to offer.

“We had booths set up with information over spring recreation such as the youth and adult sports, fitness and aquatic classes and memberships to the center,” he said.

Watson said adult sports will include volleyball and basketball leagues, while basketball, soccer and

t-ball will be offered for youth leagues.

He said intramural basketball is open to all students and the first meeting will be Jan. 27.

Fitness classes being offered include Zumba, Pilates and combo aerobics, among others.

Watson said Recreation and Fitness staff hope to see a high enrollment in the classes and programs being offered this semester.

“This is the first open house we’ve had and we hope to continue having them so everyone will know what programs are available,” he said. “We want students to get involved.”

Sports attendant Carlos Garza said he enjoyed giving tours and was pleased with the number of people who showed up.

Garza said the tours let people see

the different weights and machines available in the cardio and weight room, the pool and the aerobics room.

“We informed the visitors about the different classes being offered, facility hours, the different types of memberships we offer and answered any questions they had,” he said.

Community and K12 Outreach Coordinator for Clinical Research Program Frank Rexach said he found the open house to be very informative and helpful.

“I have been interested in taking a fitness class and the information I learned was helpful for me to decide on a class,” Rexach said.

For more information about fitness or aquatic classes, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-681-1611, ext. 7786, or visit www.occc.edu/rf.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Jan. 16:** Aquatic Center hosts the Casady Invitational swim meet. The pool will close at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15 and reopen at 6 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18.

• **Jan. 4-27:** Boot camp classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Classes are in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 4-27:** Pilates classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Classes also will be held from noon to 12:55 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 4-27:** Spinning classes will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6 to 6:45 a.m. and from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 4-29:** Combo aerobics class will be held from noon to 12:55 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Classes are in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 4-29:** Deep water exercise classes will be held from 10 to 10:55 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 4:30 to 5:25 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are in the Aquatic Center.

• **Jan. 5-28:** Zumba classes will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:25 a.m. and 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Fridays. Classes are in the Wellness Center.

• **Jan. 7-28:** Total body workout classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. Thursdays in the Wellness Center.

For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness specialist, Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

twitter.com/OCCCPioneer

Two caught viewing pornography in library

Both men were issued a Notice to Leave by security

Justin Combs

Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Computer misuse in the library drew the attention of Safety and Security Officers twice on Jan. 7.

The first incident occurred at 10:45 a.m. when Officers Tanya Vroenen and Jacob Roby were dispatched to the library where they approached Phillip Jecty, who was iden-

tified as a person viewing pornography on a library computer.

According to a report, when officers approached Jecty and asked him to go to the lobby with Roby, Jecty “frantically attempted to do a hard shut down on the computer.”

Vroenen said she told Jecty to go to the lobby with Roby as she gathered his belongings.

Vroenen then reviewed the material on the computer and confirmed that Jecty had been viewing pornographic material.

According to the report,

the man was in the process of downloading one of the videos to the computer, and had a flash drive plugged into the computer’s USB port.

Jecty was issued a Notice to Leave campus and was informed he could not return for six months.

At 1:30 p.m. Jan. 7, Officer Tim Densmore and Vroenen responded to another call from the library concerning computer misuse, according to a report.

The officer spoke with the suspect, Tyliq Brazille. Densmore escorted him to the

south lobby of the library while Vroenen reviewed the history of the computer Brazille had been using.

Densmore said in the report he asked Brazille if he had any identification, which he did not.

Brazille claimed he had been looking at MySpace and YouTube, and had not been viewing pornography-related material.

Vroenen finished checking the computer’s history and did see that Brazille had been viewing inappropriate material.

Brazille was issued a Notice to Leave Campus, which he did.

In other campus news, Officer Don Rowe responded to a fire alarm at 3:08 a.m. on Jan. 5 in the cadaver room. According to the report, Rowe did not find any smoke or fire.

He then checked the smoke detectors in the area, finally locating the sounding alarm in the electrical room next to the cadaver room.

Rowe then removed and cleaned the head of the smoke detector as Sgt. David Shriver reset the alarm successfully.

STUDENTS CAN FIND EXTRA HELP JAN. 19 THROUGH 23

Campus tours set for Welcome Week

Adam Holt

Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Daily campus tours will be offered during spring semester’s Welcome Week, said Stephanie Baird, First Year and Student Life programs coordinator.

Welcome Week, Jan. 19 through 23, kick-starts another semester at OCCC, Baird said.

The activities scheduled for the first days of the semester offer an opportunity for new and returning students to socialize and become introduced to the campus, she said.

The daily tours will direct students to where all the main offices are throughout the Main Building.

“For students who need to follow up on student aid, or have a disability and don’t know the location of Student Support Services, the tours will be a great way to learn where the offices are,” Baird said.

Sometimes, while on the tour, new students discover facilities and services they did not expect, said Centerria Wright, Student Program

leader.

Among other things, she said, “new students are often surprised about the gym and swimming pool,” Wright said.

“And also that they can find information about affordable insurance in Student Support Services.”

Tours are scheduled at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, with three tours starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Students wanting to participate need to meet in front of the Student Life offices at 1H8, just inside Entry 11.

Old favorites will be back during Welcome Week.

The Welcome Breakfast, a continental style breakfast that it free to all, will be Tuesday from 8 to 10 a.m.

The popular wax hands, an activity that involves molding your hand in colored wax, will be available Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the foyer of the Main Building.

Free popcorn will be given away from noon to 2 p.m. on Friday.

For more information about student-related activities, visit www.occc.edu, or call Baird at 405-682-1611, ext. 7697.



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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Getting oriented



JENNIFER PEARSALL/PIONEER

Temitope Olaniwun, physical therapy assistant major, reads through his New Student Guide during a break at New Student Orientation. Student Life presents information about OCCC, the first year experience and a tour of campus during this event, held several times a semester.

STUDENT LIFE | Tickets go on sale Jan. 25

Thunder tickets to be sold for \$5

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Cheers and applause from a group of about 100 OCCC students, faculty and staff members are in the forecast for the Oklahoma City Thunder Wednesday, Jan. 27, when Student Life hosts OCCC Night at the OKC Thunder.

Tickets will go on sale Jan. 25 for students wishing to cheer the Thunder on to another victory against the Chicago Bulls, said Katie Treadwell, programs coordinator.

Treadwell said the cost

is \$5 and students can purchase up to five tickets in the Student Life office.

She said faculty and staff members may purchase tickets beginning Jan. 26 for \$10.

"We will have a total of 100 tickets available," Treadwell said. "All of the seats are together."

The event, she said, has been held three times in the past and is "always a huge success."

"We have always sold out," she said.

Treadwell said proceeds earned from ticket sales will go toward funding future Student Life projects.

“ We will have a total of 100 tickets available. All of the seats are together.”

—KATIE TREADWELL
PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

However, she said, the college's focus is supporting the community.

"We aren't in this to make money," she said.

"We want to support not only the Oklahoma City community, but also provide students the opportunity to create a community all to themselves."

In addition, Treadwell said, she hopes the event will provide some much-needed downtime for

both new and returning students.

"The beginning of the semester can be a stressful time," she said. "We hope this provides some stress relief"

Tipoff is at 7 p.m.

During their last meeting, the Thunder defeated the Bulls 98-85 in Chicago, according to ESPN.com.

For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7532.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome festivities planned

Join Student Life in celebrating the beginning of a new semester Jan. 19 through 22 in the College Union. Participate in free events and activities throughout the week, such as creating wax hands, a 'Deal or No Deal' competition, and free popcorn. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.

Buyback opportunity offered

Students can sell their used books back for cash from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, and Wednesday, Jan. 20, in the OCCC Bookstore. For more information, contact the bookstore at 405-682-7510.

Thunder tickets for sale

Beginning Monday, Jan. 25, Student Life will have 100 tickets for the Jan. 27 Oklahoma City Thunder game available for purchase. Tickets cost \$5 and are limited to five per student. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.

Club fair scheduled

Are you interested in joining a club? Here's your chance! The annual Student Clubs and Organizations Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, and Thursday, Jan. 28, in the College Union. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.

CPR training offered

The Student Emergency Medical Technician Association will offer basic life support training from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29 in Room 110 of the Health Professions Building. Training costs \$25. For more information, contact Debby Martinez at 405-682-1611, ext. 7432, or Jennifer Dodson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7507.

Job seminar held

Interested in working on campus? Learn how with the OCCC Student Jobs Orientation. Two sessions will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, in CU3. For more information, contact Judy McGee at 682-1611, ext. 7369.

Coping with Alzheimer's

OCCC will host an informative Lunch 'N' Learn session entitled "Coping with Alzheimer's" from noon to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, in CU1. If you would like to attend the session and learn more about coping with Alzheimer's disease, register online through MineOnline WOW! classes. The course number is ENHS-1027-001. Seating is limited. For more information, contact Lisa Vaughan at 405-682-1611, ext. 7148.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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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PHI THETA KAPPA
The National Honor Society will be resuming meetings on Thursday, Feb 4. The meetings will be held in Room 2C8 of the Science and Math area of the college. There will be two opportunities to attend; 12:30 p.m. and 8:10 p.m.

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it's not a cat's fault
by TheShelterPetProject.org

1. A person and a cat are standing next to a sign that says "FARAWAY LAND".
2. The person is holding a sign that says "MOVE" and the cat is sitting next to it.
3. A sign that says "SHELTER" is hanging from the top of a cage. A handprint is on the cage door. A cat is sitting inside the cage. The word "adopt" is written below the cage.

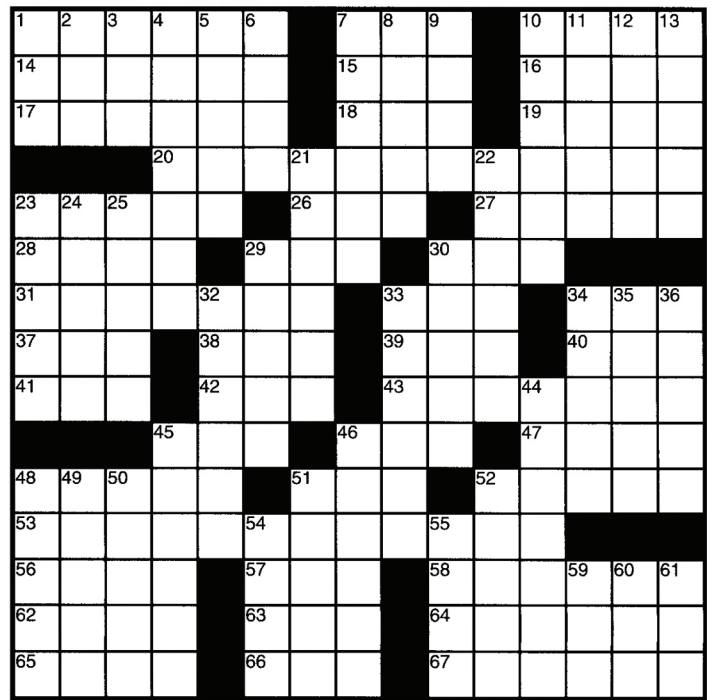
TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
1 Desert sight
7 Pod ingredient
10 Makes a choice
14 Actress Sanford
15 Al Sharpton's title: abbr.
16 Arrested person's need
17 Lusters
18 Before, poetic
19 "I'm — your tricks!"
20 Road signal
23 Dish
26 Actor Majors
27 Curvy letters
28 Several
29 Rower's need
30 Took a break
31 Famous magician
33 Gab
34 Yank
37 Ques. comeback
38 Male title
39 Ajar, to a poet
40 1932 film "Three — Match"
41 Zee's predecessor
42 Mayday!
43 Glider's need
45 Phoenix player
46 Tampa — Buccaneers
- DOWN**
1 "Chance" lead-in
2 Suffix meaning "sort of"
3 "Norma —"
4 Helped (felons)
5 Type
6 Movie lioness
7 Like better
8 Creepy
9 "With," to Henri
10 Orchestra member
11 Twinges
12 Church tax
13 Casino machines
21 Talents
22 Disclosed secrets
23 "Bah!"
- 47 "Garfield" dog
48 Bert's friend
51 Have a cold
52 Stops eating
53 Storm sight
56 Conceal
57 Grow old
58 Type of control
62 Once more
63 Dine
64 Scratched
65 Inquisitive
66 "Certainly!"
67 Quaking trees

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

COTS	HUMID	TYRO
ALOT	OMANI	ROOK
RITA	SPUDS	AGUA
GOALIE	VICINITY	
OSLER	YEASTS	
	SAFE	EIDER
YURT	ATT	ARTERY
OFA	TILES	AGA
HOMBRE	CAT	ANON
OSSIE	RITE	
	GECKOS	ARGON
BOUFFANT	TROUPE	
ARLO	RATIO	SATE
LENO	EVENIS	OVID
MOAT	TERNS	LACY

- 7-31-98 © 1998, United Feature Syndicate
- 24 Crazy
25 Entertain
29 Leek's cousin
30 Excessively sentimental
32 Handed out
33 Southern pronoun
34 Warty critters
35 Out of shape
36 Fence parts
44 Traveler's item
45 Tough and wiry
46 Arm muscle
- 48 Vermont patriot
49 Allen
49 Horned animal
50 Some portraits
51 Bicker
52 Energy sources
54 Like pie?
55 1977 whale movie
59 Have debts
60 Decade number
61 Asner and Koch



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STUDENTS CAN USE NEW DEGREE IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS RANGING FROM VIDEO GAME DEVELOPMENT TO TV ANIMATION

CAT program adds animation emphasis

DREW STONE
News Writing Student

For decades, animation has been enjoyed through Saturday morning cartoons, video games, Web sites and feature films such as those from Disney and Pixar.

Within the past few years, animation technology has changed in such a way that nearly all types of animation can be easily created by those who want to see art in motion, said Akram Taghavi-Burris, Computer-Aided Technologies professor and CAT Multimedia Options program director.

The CAT program is now offering Animation as an emphasis in addition to Computer-Aided Design, Multimedia and Game Design.

Students enrolled in the program can expect to find work in a variety of fields such as Web site development, video game development, television graphics or even dedicated animation studios, Taghavi-Burris said.

Whether it is traditional hand-drawn, stop motion, or two-dimensional and three-dimensional computer animation, she said, the degree program offered on campus covers it all.

"Students will learn traditional animation before moving on to 2D digital animation and eventually 3D," Taghavi-Burris said.

The animation sequence is taught in a series of five three-credit hour courses, she said, each of which builds on the one before it.

Students begin with Principles of Animation, a class that teaches a brief history of animation before jumping into traditional hand-drawn animation, Taghavi-Burris said.

Each frame is painstakingly drawn out and scanned into a computer where it is then stitched together.

It takes 24 frames to make one second of fluid movement, Taghavi-Burris said.

Deann Stone, double-major in both art and animation, said the effort is worth the work it entails.

"It's a challenge tracking all the details on a frame-by-frame basis, but is quite rewarding once you see the finished product," Stone said.

Not everything is done with hand-drawn animation in the class.

Some projects require students to get physical with props to create drawings in the unique stop-motion style seen in features such as "Gumby," Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas," and the 1964 classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

"I've really enjoyed the stop motion portion of the class," said Robert Shackelford, animation major. "It integrates many traditional physical film aspects such as props and lighting with a unique animation style."

Students are encouraged to take a creative writing class to aid in story development and are required to produce storyboards as part of the course.

As a supplement to hand-drawn traditional animation and stop motion, the later courses will delve into new computer tools used across the industry, Taghavi-Burris said.

Principles of Animation is followed by 2D Animation, she said. This class uses Adobe Flash, which has become one of the standard tools for 2D animation.

Adobe Flash has been used to produce animated television series such as Nickelodeon's "Making Fiends" and Cartoon Network's "Metalocalypse" and "Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends."

Three other classes follow 2D Animation that teach students 3D basics, character design and animation, and

special effects using 3DStudio MAX.

"All the skills you learn in traditional 2D animation apply to 3D animation," said Gary Dominguez, Student Computer Center supervisor and adjunct professor for 3D Computer Graphics.

"3D is just another artist tool for visually presenting the story."

To aid in content creation, the CAT program has recently received a grant for purchasing a variety of specialty equipment, said Tom Ashby, acting dean of the Department of Information Technology

"We hope to buy equipment that will benefit all the courses in the program, such as light boxes — used to overlay new frames with old frames to better judge movements, maquettes — used for visualizing poses and movements, and so on for helping students develop their characters," Taghavi-Burris said.

Also being purchased are traditional animation tools such as cell paper, which will allow frames to be overlaid on backgrounds instead of drawing a new background for each frame, and peg bars, which hold and align the cell paper, along with digital drawing tablets to ease the transition between paper and the computer.

"Digital drawing tablets will help with character sketching to get the basic outlines which help modeling tremendously," said Evan Hardesty, Game Design major and former 3D Character Animation student.

"The tablets will help the students get their ideas out as if it were on paper, only in digital format."

Principles of Animation also will be offered in the fall semester, Taghavi-Burris said.

For more information about the program or classes, contact Taghavi-Burris at 405-682-1611, ext. 7498.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DREW STONE

Deann Stone, double-major in art and animation, works on a stop-motion animation in Animation class. "It's a challenge tracking all the details on a frame-by-frame basis, but is quite rewarding once you see the finished product," Stone said.

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