

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

GAME EXPO

Go online for video coverage of the third-annual Electronic Game Expo held April 10 at OCCC.

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER
Online
www.occc.edu/pioneer

INSIDE PACKAGE

EARTH DAY

OCCC is celebrating Earth Day April 20 through 22. Information, fun activities and a blood drive are all planned. Turn inside to see what all is in store and to read about the history of Earth Day.

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Staff Writer Jennifer Massey says OCCC's food provider should help students by posting nutritional information.

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PIONEER

APRIL 16, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Regents favor 7 percent tuition hike

Fee increase would take effect in the fall; add \$6 per credit hour for in-state students, reports show

BONNIE CAMPO and JENNIFER MASSEY
Staff Writers

The OCCC Board of Regents recommended a \$6 per-credit-hour tuition increase April 12 at its monthly meeting.

The hike would raise tuition from this year's \$84 per credit hour to \$90 per credit hour for in-state students. The increase for out-of-state and international students would be \$15 per credit hour, making the new amount \$239 per credit hour, up from \$224.

If approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the 7 percent increase would take effect in the fall.

Raising tuition by 7 percent would add about \$1.8 million to the college coffers, according to a report given to the regents.

The college strives to offer a tuition rate that students are able to afford, and this increase leaves tuition within that range, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist.

The average student at OCCC is enrolled in nine credit hours, and these students would pay just \$36 more per semester if the increase goes into effect, Sechrist said.

See **TUITION** page 9

Hands-on testing



LANDA McCLURE/PIONEER

Jonathan Martinez, automotive technology major, finishes the last part of his final exam. Automotive technology students diagnosed what problems vehicles had and decided how to fix the vehicles as part of their final test.

OCCC SENDS 3 REPRESENTATIVES TO EXAMINE SOLUTIONS FOR LOW SUCCESS RATES OF MINORITY MEN

Minority graduation rates focus of national summit

JASON FRY
News Writing Student

Three OCCC educators recently discussed how to improve low graduation rates for minority men at a national conference in Tampa, Fla.

"Black, Brown and College Bound" was held to raise awareness

and explore solutions to this national problem, said Mark Schneberger, English professor.

Mary Turner, learning support specialist; Carlotta Hill, learning skills professor, and Schneberger were among approximately 1,000 representatives from colleges across the country at the summit, which was

hosted by Hillsborough Community College.

While the fourth-annual conference touched on statistics of all minority students, there was a focus on men, Schneberger said.

The conference used the phrase "men of color" to refer to blacks and non-white Hispanics, Turner said.

Turner said next year, the event organizers hope to include an emphasis on American Indians as well.

The National Center for Education Statistics reports that only 28 percent of black students receive any degree within five years of starting school at a two-year institution. The number

for Hispanics is 34 percent.

By comparison, 41 percent of Caucasians receive a degree in the same time frame, according to the report.

"Sadly, Oklahoma City Community College is in line with this trend," Schneberger said. "Ex-

See **SUMMIT** page 12

OPINION

OUR VIEW | Campus food services should post nutrition facts

Be aware of what you consume

When the government campaigns for a healthier America, they are speaking to me. I am one of the statistics.

A happy, jovial person, I also am overweight and am trying with all the will power in me to get healthy.



JENNIFER MASSEY

With a Diet Pepsi in hand, I make my way down to Carson's Catering for my lunch on a daily basis. There, I find lots of choices from burgers and fries to salads and stir-fry.

What I won't find is a nutritional breakdown of what is in the food I eat every day.

Food companies are required to provide nutritional labels for their products and, with new legislation, chain restaurants will now be required to display the nutritional content of their menu for their patrons.

So, why wouldn't Carson's be willing to do the same?

Whether displaying calorie counts or fat content would deter someone from ordering chicken fried steak with extra gravy is irrelevant.

As someone who is trying to get healthy, if I knew that pizza with extra pepperoni was 1,000 calories, I might be more inclined to order a salad.

I understand that I am responsible for what I put in my mouth, but at a learning institution where a large percent of the student body is young and impressionable, I find it irresponsible not to inform people about what is being served and how it will affect their diet.

Jamie Oliver, star of Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution, agrees.

"I believe that every child in America has the right to fresh, nutritious school meals, and that every family deserves real, honest, wholesome food. Too many people are being affected by what they eat. It's time for a national revolution. America needs to stand up for better food!" Oliver said on his website.

A revolution starts with the smallest adjustment and then snowballs into effective change.

Carson's at OCCC can start by doing the necessary research to provide their patrons with vital information that will help them make smart choices.

After all, at a learning institution where Nutrition is a frequently chosen biology course for many degree programs, doesn't it make sense to educate people about what they eat?



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

YOUR VIEW | Free weight-loss courses offered

Health classes aim for diabetes prevention

To the editor:

Beginning April 22, the Oklahoma City-County Health Department and Metro Technology Centers will offer a series of weight loss classes at the Metro Career Academy. The classes are free and open to the public.

The six- and 10-week classes will guide participants through a weight loss plan that focuses on small changes in behavior that can lead to big improvements in health.

The goal for class participants will be to lose 5 percent of body weight. That translates into a 10 pound weight loss for someone who weighs 200 pounds. In previous OCCHD Diabetes Prevention and Outreach Program sessions, four out of five people who attended all of the classes met or surpassed their 5 percent goal.

Classes will meet for one hour per week. Additional classes may be scheduled if demand is high. Students do not need to pre-register.

For more information, visit OCCHD.org.

—VICKI MONKS

OKLAHOMA CITY-COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT SPOKESWOMAN

YOUR VOICE | Freedom to bear or freedom to scare

Aggressive tactic voiced by candidate

To the editor:

According to several news sources, the Oklahoma faction of the Tea Party has proposed raising a militia in order to stave off perceived threats to state sovereignty by the federal government.

Although this may sound like an outlandish plan contrived by fringe members of the radical right, the plan has the support of state legislators such as Rep. Charles

Key, R-Oklahoma City, who said he believes that the legislation could be introduced next year.

Additionally, Sen. Randy Brogdon (R-Owasso), a candidate for governor, supports the idea.

He said "[t]he Second Amendment deals directly with the right of an individual to keep and bear arms to protect themselves from an overreaching federal government."

Clearly these citizens and lawmakers are entertaining dangerous, possibly seditious, ideas. It is important for us to remember as citizens the social contract that binds us to our federal government.

By participating in federal elections, we are submitting to be ruled by the federal government.

In the case that laws passed by the federal government infringe on

our rights, our founding fathers established a justice system that allows us to contest these laws through a nonviolent, civil process.

A state militia is thus unnecessary and could pose a threat to our domestic tranquility, validating the radical views of the far right and encouraging them to resort to violence.

—NAME WITHHELD
BY REQUEST

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

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Justin Combs.....Senior Writer
Whitney Knight.....Club Reporter
Landa McClure.....Sports Reporter
Ethan Hendricks.....Staff Writer
Bishal Malla.....Staff Writer
Adam Holt.....Staff Writer

Jennifer Massey.....Staff Writer
Cynthia Praefke.....Ad Manager
John Weis.....Webmaster
Chris Lusk.....Lab Assistant
Ronna Austin.....Lab Director
Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

7777 S. May
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

phone:
405-682-1611, ext. 7409

e-mail:
editor@occc.edu

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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 | Cast of comedic actors puts a humorous spin on a remake

'Death at a Funeral' a lively film

The word remake usually means a not-so-great try at putting a new face on an old movie.

The opposite is true in the case of the 2010 rendition of "Death at a Funeral."

When the head of a well-known family dies, his wife and sons plan a funeral to honor his passing.

As family and friends gather, one incident after another takes place and the wake turns into a laugh riot.

In some segments the audio was inaudible because of the laughter from the audience.

This should not come as a surprise given the fine lineup of comedic cast members.

Martin Lawrence and Chris Rock play the rival sons of the deceased.

Ryan (Lawrence) is a famous writer from New York who lives off his notoriety, but is cash poor.

Aaron (Rock) is a financially stable, married



PHOTO COURTESY SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

man who writes in secret.

Of course, everyone in the family makes a fuss over bad boy Ryan, and ignores the fact that Aaron is footing the bill for the funeral.

Derek (Luke Wilson) and Norman (Tracey Morgan) are friends of the family charged with the care of cranky, cussing, wheelchair-bound,

Uncle Russell (Danny Glover).

There is a great deal of humor in the interaction of these characters, but when a white, little person named Frank (Peter Dinklage) enters the picture the movie turns hilarious.

Frank reveals a secret that stuns the entire family, and brings out the

felonious side of a few.

The film is rated R for language, drugs and nudity, the big three.

They are all part of the humor of this movie.

If you need a good laugh that lasts 90 minutes, don't miss "Death at a Funeral."

Rating: A

—CYNTHIA PRAEFKE
STAFF WRITER

EVENT REVIEW | Entertainment abounds as the Globetrotters dance around the Generals

Globetrotters wow crowd with antics

The world-famous Harlem Globetrotters entertained spectators April 8 at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City.

Players showed off their skills for the large crowd consisting mainly of children 5 to 13 years old.

The Globetrotters' antics were amusing as they used tricks, jokes and pranks to disorient their opponents, the Washington Generals.

Using confusing and flashy patterns of passing and dunking, the Globetrotters danced circles around the Generals.

The final score was Globetrotters 75, Generals 58.

Although the game became a bit monotonous toward the end, the evening was a fun-filled event.

Before the game, Globie, the Globetrotters' mascot, played a game of charades with children.

Dressing up as different singers, Globie would make the children guess who he was before dancing to songs

by that singer.

Globie's repertoire included Kanye West, Taylor Swift, Micheal Jackson, Lady Gaga and Rihanna.

In between quarters, there were dances by the Teens of Tomorrow, a dance group from Oklahoma City.

Globie also performed some human bowling from a slingshot and the Globetrotters gave away prizes during halftime.

The crowd, although not filled to capacity, made plenty of noise and was enthusiastic. They never seemed bored or disinterested in the game.

Children were able to have their basketballs, T-shirts, pictures and jerseys autographed by players.

Overall, the Harlem Globetrotters were fun and entertaining to watch. **Rating: A-**

—ETHAN HENDRICKS
STAFF WRITER

ADVISER'S 411

Enroll now to avoid issues later

Open enrollment has already begun, and students are coming in now to enroll for both summer and fall coursework. Visiting with an adviser now to set up your schedule is really a smart move. If you are working, have a family, or other activities that you must plan your coursework around, this is the time to set your course schedule. When you enroll early, there is more class availability for you to choose from, the lines are shorter in advisement than they will be in August, and faculty are available on campus to help you select your faculty approved electives.

The longer you wait, the quicker classes at what may be more convenient times for you will fill up. If you are an international student traveling abroad this summer and you think you will not arrive back at OCCC for classes until August, it is wise to select your schedule before you travel. This will ensure that you get into the classes that you need for your degree program at times that are convenient for you without having to work around an awkward course schedule.

Enrolling early also allows you to ask important questions and get informed responses. Students often want to know: What classes do I have left to take? Can I take an intersession course? What is online coursework like, and is their online help if I have trouble? Can I enroll online? Do I need to test for course placement? When do I apply for graduation? These are all questions that the Office of Academic Advising can help you to get the answers to.

—MARY ANN BODINE
ACADEMIC ADVISING DIRECTOR

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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

it's a small world

World Languages and Cultures Center instructor touts multicultural environment at the college

BISHAL MALLA
Staff Writer

The woman with a ready smile is familiar to those who pass by the World Languages and Cultures Center on the second floor of the Main Building. A native of Japan, Chiaki Troutman supervises the activities in the center.

Troutman has served as the center's lab assistant since spring 2008, when it opened.

Japan is the second largest economy in the world with only 5.6 percent unemployment and zero percent of the population below the poverty line, according to the CIA World Factbook.

Troutman, the oldest child of her family, was born in Hokkaido, which is on the second largest island of Japan.

She said she moved to Tokyo when she was in junior high school. She earned her bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Otsuma Women's University.

Troutman came to the United States in May 2003 to get her master's degree in teaching English as a Foreign Language at Oklahoma City University.

Her beginning days in the U.S. were troubling, she said.

"I had great difficulty in understanding and communicating with American people," she said. "I was not able to understand how everything works in the U.S."

Troutman, who was born and raised in a family where cheating is regarded as a wrongdoing, said she found herself cheated by an American woman when she bought her first used car.

She said she trusted an American lady at OCU and bought a used car for \$2,000.



Chiaki Troutman

Later, she found the car was not equipped with an air conditioner.

When she rented an apartment near the campus, she discovered she was in a bad neighborhood.

"Every night somebody used to knock at my door and ask for some money or food," she said.

Things worked out for Troutman after she finally moved to a university-owned apartment, which, she said, was safe and sound.

After graduating from OCU in fall 2005, Troutman decided to get married and stay in the U.S.

However, it was not easy for Troutman to convince her parents to accept her decision.

"My father didn't even talk with me for a while because he didn't want me to get married to an American guy," she said.

"My father met my husband when we went to Japan after our marriage and things became normal in my family."

Teaching has always been a dream profession for Troutman, she said.

She taught English as a Foreign Language to Japanese children for more than 10 years before she came to

Japan — (juh-PAN)

Capital: Tokyo

Population: 127,078,679

GDP: \$4,137,000,000,000 (USD)

Size: 145,925 sq. miles (slightly smaller than California)

National Languages: Japanese

Currency: Yen

Government: Parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy

Religions: Shintoism, Buddhism, Christianity

Details: In 1603, after decades of civil warfare, the Tokugawa shogunate (a military-led, dynastic government) ushered in a long period of relative political stability and isolation from foreign influence. For more than two centuries, this policy enabled Japan to enjoy a flowering of its indigenous culture. Japan opened its ports after signing the Treaty of Kanagawa with the U.S. in 1854 and began to intensively modernize and industrialize. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan became a regional power that was able to defeat the forces of both China and Russia. It occupied Korea, Formosa (Taiwan) and southern Sakhalin Island. In 1931 Japan occupied Manchuria, and in 1937 it launched a full-scale invasion of China. Japan attacked U.S. forces in 1941 — triggering America's entry into World War II — and soon occupied much of East and Southeast Asia. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become an economic power and an ally of the U.S. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, elected politicians hold actual decision-making power. Following three decades of unprecedented growth, Japan's economy experienced a major slowdown starting in the 1990s, but the country remains a major economic power. In January 2009, Japan assumed a nonpermanent seat on the U.N. Security Council for the 2009-2010 term.

*source: www.cia.gov



the U.S.

She resumed her position in education by working as an adviser for the Japanese Institute in Stillwater.

Hoping to get back to her career in languages, Troutman said she took the position at OCCC.

"The most enjoyable part of my job is to assist English as a Second Language students," she said.

She said she loves to work in a multicultural environment with the people from different parts of the world.

"The multicultural environment at OCCC inspires me with appreciation for other cultures."

Troutman thinks she was fortunate to get the job at OCCC.

"With the small piece of information that I saw in the newspaper, I applied for this job and luckily, I got hired," she said.

Troutman said she feels OCCC is the best place to work and study.

She believes the people at OCCC are open-minded to diversity.

"I have seen more people passing each other with smiles at OCCC than any other institution."

Troutman believes international students at OCCC don't seem reluctant to interact with American people.

Troutman, who coordinates the regular operation of the lab and supervises the center's tutors, is not only popular among international students

but American students, too.

Grant Dirienzo, 19-year-old psychology major, said Troutman is the most helpful person he has met at OCCC.

Troutman invited Dirienzo to the international cultural party last fall, which was very interesting, he said.

Azizakhon Mansuri, ESL student from Tajikistan, said Troutman is a great teacher.

Mansuri said she loves to read books and Troutman always brings English books for her to read.

Since starting to work at OCCC, Troutman said, she feels proud to be part of the institution.

"Only through hard work and perseverance have I been able to succeed as a foreigner in the American workplace."

HIDDEN HIGH SCHOOL LOCATED ON CAMPUS HELPS PREPARE STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE, PRINCIPAL SAYS

Pathways promotes active, hands-on learning

CASSANDRA KOLENDA
News Writing Student

Since opening its doors in 2001, Pathways Middle College High School has become a school of choice for adolescents in the Oklahoma City area who want to succeed in college, said Principal Carol Brogan.

Tucked away on the third floor of the Main Building, Pathways consists of five classrooms and about 80 students in grades 8 through 12.

This environment helps students take an active, hands-on role in their learning so they

can better succeed after entering college, Brogan said. This is something most of them do their junior or senior year of high school by taking college courses on campus.

"We've had students graduate with as many as 37 college credits," Brogan said.

She recalled one student who was able to earn 59 credit hours by the time she graduated Pathways.

Unlike credits received from Advanced Placement exams, students do not have to pay any test or administrative fees.

"The Oklahoma City School District pays for their college

tuition, fees and books so they basically have a bunch of free hours of college before they graduate high school," she said.

Brogan said her students are extremely bright, and have "set the curve" for tough college courses like astronomy and chemistry.

Pathways students receive the same workload that a typical college student does. Their high school teachers are encouraged to hand out a syllabus so students can learn how to manage their time wisely, in preparation for college work.

Brogan said since a lot is

expected from her students, those who attend are typically more mature than other kids their age.

Pathways graduates typically have an average 3.3 grade point average, one of the highest in the district, she said.

Brogan said students interested in attending Pathways must first submit an application. Each applicant will then be expected to attend a faculty interview with his or her parents.

"To be successful at Pathways, both parents and the student must be on the same page from the start," Brogan

said.

Pathways is part of the Oklahoma City School District and, therefore, priority is given to its applicants. However, applications from students residing outside the district are accepted based on space availability.

Pathways is currently accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year and applications for grades 8 through 12 are due April 30.

Brogan expects all interviews to be completed by the first few weeks of June.

For more information, contact Brogan at 405-682-7840.

Emergency alert message option now offered

WHITLEY ABLES
News Writing Student

Students who want to receive emergency messages about events on campus can learn how to get them on their mobile phones at First Responders Day from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, in parking lot A.

Members of the Public Relations department will provide information on how to program mobile phones to receive emergency texts concerning the campus, said Ike Sloas, Campus Safety and Security director.

Other organizations participating in the event include Oklahoma City Police and Fire, EMSA, American Red Cross and Red Dirt Ready.

Sloas said the event is held so students, faculty and staff can become acclimated to campus safety instructions.

"This way, in an emergency event, it wouldn't be something [faculty and students] had never participated in or seen or didn't know anything about," Sloas said.

Several hundred people attended First Responders Day in the last couple years and Sloas expects as many this year.

The duration was shortened to create a convenient time for those on lunch breaks to take advantage of the free hot dogs that will be served.

The event is open to the public, Sloas said.

"We always want people from the community to stop by and see what's going on," said Sloas.

This event takes months of planning, Sloas said. "I don't relax that day until the last helicopter leaves."

Sloas said preparation for the next year begins the day after the event.

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**OCCC Student
Job Board**

www.collegecentral.com/occc

1 drawing per-week in April

Visit "Student Employment & Career Services" for details!
Main Building, 1st Floor (Next to "Student Life")

Latin dance a great way to relieve stress

COURTNEY PHILLIPS
News Writing Student

“Just feel the rhythm” were the simple words from Latin dance instructor Keven Mendoza, as a group of students prepared to learn the Bachata, a Dominican dance.

Eight students came to learn the Bachata on April 7, an event sponsored by the college’s World Languages and Cultures Center where Mendoza works.

Originally from Northern Mexico, Mendoza said he loves to dance to relax and for enjoyment.

“School is stressful, so it is nice for students to come in and learn and de-stress,” he said.

Mendoza first placed two white strips on the floor to form lines within which the students could watch and dance along with the instructor and his assistant.

As the music played, students learned the basic steps, then added additional move-

ments until they all tied together to form a partner dance.

Maria Prada, a freshman from Venezuela, danced the Bachata with her friends.

“I love salsa and I love to dance,” Prada said.

Although the dance came easy to her, she talked about the importance of learning other cultures.

“It’s important to learn how they dance,” Prada said. “That way if you ever visit one you will know what kind of dance they are doing.”

The Bachata is just one of many dances familiar to natives of the Latin American culture, Mendoza said. He said the dance originates from the Dominican Republic and consists of a four-step beat, performed with up-tempo music.

While the workshop targeted beginners, some students already knew the basics.

Heather Arnett, Mendoza’s dance partner for the workshop, is a professional dancer and student at OCCC. She

loves learning and often helps lead Latin American dances.

“I love the movement of the body, shaking hips and the music,” she said.

Arnett has experience with Latin American dances. She said she has taken private lessons for the Flamenco, which originates from Spain, and the Folklorico which is a regional dance from Mexico. Last semester she learned the salsa and meringue through the Latin Dance Club at the University of Oklahoma.

Since learning Latin American dances, Arnett said, she now has an appreciation for the culture.

“It is important to preserve culture and to become aware of other cultures within our community,” she said.

When the workshop ended, students were handed bags of popcorn as a thank you from World Languages and Cultures Center assistant Chiaki Troutman. She said the activity was successful.

“I was worried about the

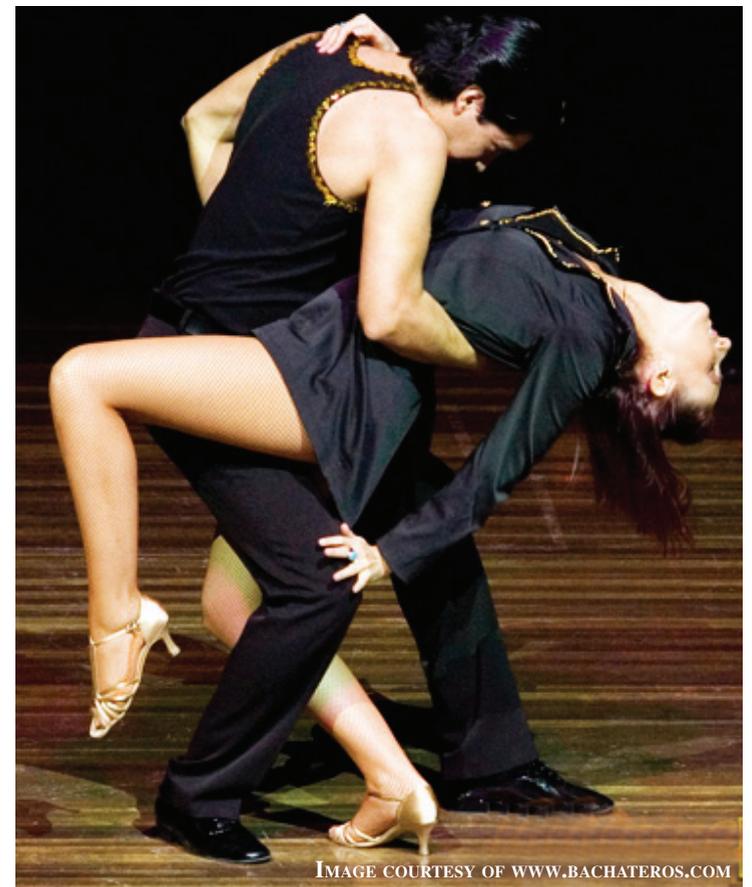


IMAGE COURTESY OF WWW.BACHATEROS.COM

turnout of students, but they came. I’m happy.”

Troutman encourages all students to take full advantage of the free workshops hosted by the Center.

Those interested in learning more about the Bachata or any other Latin American dance can contact Chiaki Troutman at wlcc@occc.edu or 405-682-7560.

Pioneer breaks record with 20 wins at OCPA

ETHAN HENDRICKS
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

The Pioneer newspaper took home 20 awards at the annual Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association conference in Stillwater April 8.

Held every year in April on the Oklahoma State University campus, the OCPA conference draws many of Oklahoma’s two-year and four-year college newspaper staff members for a day of workshops, topped by an awards luncheon ceremony.

The Pioneer won four overall awards of excellence, or first place, in four categories, three of those in the two-year school category and one in an open category that includes 2- and 4-year schools.

For the eighth consecutive year, the paper won overall

newspaper for a two-year college, and awards of excellence in front page design and interior page design, both in the two-year college category.

In the open category, the paper won first place for its online newspaper.

The award of excellence for the Pioneer Online delighted John Weis, Pioneer webmaster.

“When I was told we won a mark of excellence, I was surprised. I think what we do at the paper is worthwhile whether we get an award or not,” he said. “But it is nice to be recognized for the work we do.”

Whitney Knight won first place in the editorial category and third place in the news-writing in the two-year college division.

“I honestly felt really shocked,” Knight said. “There are so many amazing editorial

writers both here at the Pioneer and at other schools, and to win first place was a complete and total surprise.”

Landa McClure won first place in the sports writing among two-year colleges and second place in the sports photography, an open category that include two- and four-year colleges.

McClure said while she was happy about winning first place in sports writing, most of her excitement came from the photography award.

“Photography is my biggest passion and I love to attend sporting events,” McClure said.

“Sports photography gives me the best of the two. It’s fun to be able to get lost in a game while making art at the same time.

Mark Smith, former Pioneer editor and journalism major,

was awarded second place in the news writing category and honorable mention in editorial writing, both in the two-year college division.

“I feel honored that the OCPA felt my articles were deserving of such awards,” Smith said.

Jennifer Pearsall, former Pioneer photographer, was awarded honorable mention in the feature-writing category and honorable mention in the feature photography section.

In addition, staff member Chris Lusk won honorable mention in the reviews category.

2010 AWARDS

Award of Excellence: Overall Newspaper, Online Newspapers, Interior Page Design, Front Page Design.

Whitney Knight: First Place, Editorial Writing and Third

Place for News Writing; Landa McClure: First Place, Sports Writing and Second Place, Sports Photography;

Joseph A. Moore: First Place, Feature Photography and Third Place, Sports Photography.

Mark Smith: Second Place, News Writing and Honorable Mention, Editorial Writing;

Bishal Malla: Third Place, Feature Writing.

Stephen Sossaman: Third Place, News Writing.

W. Hoyle: Third Place, Sports Writing.

Jennifer Pearsall: Honorable Mention, Feature Photography and Honorable Mention, Feature Writing;

Chris Lusk: Honorable Mention, Reviews.

Justin Combs: Second Place, Sports Writing and Honorable Mention, News Writing.

STUDENT LIFE AND THE GREEN TASK FORCE ARE JOINING HANDS TO EDUCATE ABOUT THE PLANET

Student activities planned for Earth Day

ETHAN HENDRICKS
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

OCCC's Student Life and Green Task Force have joined together to better educate the college about the Earth's environment and how to keep it clean.

"Student Life has been doing this for several years now," said Brandon Isaak, chairperson for the Green Task Force. "This year we told them we wanted to help and asked to be involved."

Isaak said the two groups have several activities planned for April 20 through 23 in conjunction with Earth Day which is April 22.

"On Tuesday, the 20th, the Force will be showing a documentary in the cafeteria," Isaak said. "The documentary is about conspicuous consumption, and it will detail how humans use their resources and then simply trash the leftovers."

Stephanie Baird, first year and Student Life program

Earth Day plans

WHEN: April 20 through 23

WHERE: OCCC Student Union

WHAT: Various educational and fun activities

coordinator, said that same day students can take part in a Chapstick Creation booth, which will be set up near the College Union.

"Hog Wild is the company that usually does our novelty booths," Baird said. "From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. they will be creating personalized chapstick for students."

The following two days, April 21 and 22, Isaak said, the Oklahoma Blood Institute will hold blood drives from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in CU3.

At noon Wednesday, April 21, Student Life will host a Going Green Brown Bag luncheon in CU1.

Isaak said Thursday, April 22, will be one of the busier days that week.

"Student Life will be having a demonstration and workshop on biking in the cafeteria," he said. "They

will go over bicycle maintenance and biking tips.

"While that is going, the Force will have educational booths around the workshop dealing with recycling, organic farming and alternative fuels."

Isaak said students are encouraged to ride their bikes to the college on Thursday.

And, for those who want to continue contributing to a better planet after the festivities have ended, Baird said, on Friday, April 23, students can volunteer to take part in the OKC Litter Blitz funded by Oklahoma City Beautiful. Volunteers will pick up litter and debris along a section of South May Ave. and SW 74th Street, she said. Volunteers will be provided gloves, bags and trash pickup prongs from OKC Beautiful, she said.

Sign up online at campus groups on the OCCC Web site www.occc.edu, she said.

For more information about any of these activities, call Baird at 405-682-1611, ext. 7697 or e-mail sbaird@occc.edu, or Isaak at 405-682-7588 or e-mail bisaak@occc.edu.

Environmental *timeline*

1963: Sen. Gaylord Nelson accompanies President John F. Kennedy on a speaking tour around the U.S. to raise awareness about environmental issues; however, protecting the environment remains a low priority for most politicians and citizens.

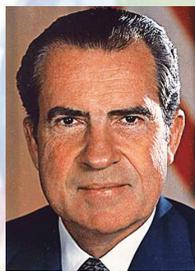
1969: Chemical waste released into Cleveland's Cuyahoga River causes it to catch fire. The event becomes symbolic of how industrial pollution is damaging America's natural resources.

1969: Inspired by the "teach-ins" held by Vietnam War protestors on U.S. college campuses, Sen. Gaylord Nelson announces the idea for Earth Day, a large-scale, grassroots demonstration against the degradation of America's natural resources.

April 22, 1970: 20 million people participate in inaugural Earth Day activities around the U.S.

1970: Environmental advocacy group Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) founded. Today, the group has over 1 million members, a staff of over 300 scientists, lawyers and other specialists and offices in New York City, Beijing, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

December 1970: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established by President Richard Nixon in order to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment — air, water and land. Before the agency was founded, "the federal government was not structured to make a coordinated attack on the pollutants that harm human health and degrade the environment," according to EPA.gov. Today, the organization, which is based in Washington, D.C., has over 17,000 employees, 10 regional offices and more than 12 labs.



President Richard Nixon

1971: Environmental activist organization Greenpeace founded. Today, the group, which has campaigned against nuclear power, whaling and global warming, among other issues, has offices in 40 countries around the world.



1972: Congress passes the Clean Water Act, which limits pollutants in rivers, lakes and streams.

1973: Congress passes the Endangered Species Act to protect animals and their ecosystems.

1980: After 18 years in the U.S. Senate, during which time he advocated for numerous environmental causes, Gaylord Nelson loses his race for a fourth-term in office. After leaving the Senate, Nelson becomes a counselor for The Wilderness Society, an environmental group.

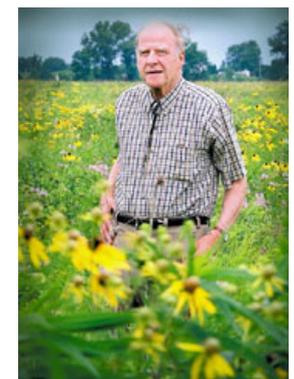
1990: The 20th anniversary Earth Day celebrations go global, with participants in over 140 countries.

1995: Gaylord Nelson receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award given to a civilian, in honor of his environmental work. President Bill Clinton says of Nelson: "As the father of Earth Day, he is the grandfather of all that grew out of that event."

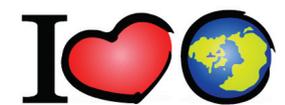
2000: Hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries celebrate the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, with a focus on "clean energy."

July 3, 2005: Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson dies at age 89. His New York Times obituary notes that in addition to his Earth Day work, Nelson "was a principal sponsor of laws that preserved the 2,000-mile Appalachian Trail, established fuel efficiency standards in automobiles, sought to control damage from strip mining and led to a ban on the insecticide DDT."

April 2007: Capacity crowds attend Green Apple Festival Earth Day events in New York City, San Francisco and Chicago. More than 40,000 people show up for Earth Day festivities at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, setting a single-day attendance record. Earth Day Network members host 10,000 Earth Day events around the world.



Sen. Gaylord Nelson



SPORTS

INTRAMURALS | Student relishes role as only woman in basketball league

Robinson's skills shine alongside the men

LANDA MCCLURE
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Psychology major Jaleesa Robinson has become a familiar name in intramural sports and she plans to continue playing on the court with the men.

Robinson was the only female to compete in intramural basketball this season as a member of Ballaholics.

She won the female division in both sections of the Hot Shots Challenge.

Robinson said during the free throw part of the challenge, she was the only woman competing, but was glad to see three other women participate in the three-point section.

"Being out there on the court is one of the best feelings," she said. "I love the game of basketball and I enjoy playing."

Robinson said there's no pressure to compete against the male athletes, but she does have to work harder to gain respect.

"It's a lot of hard work to keep up with the guys, but I enjoy the competition," she said.

Robinson said she started playing intramurals mainly to get back into shape when she started attending OCCC.

"The best part of getting involved in intramurals is getting to meet new people and make new friends," she said.

"Everyone should take a chance and participate in at least one intramural activity."

Robinson said she strongly encourages more women to get involved in intramural activities.

Charlie Tarver, Recreation and Fitness sports assistant, said Robinson is a smart, energetic and competitive athlete.

"No matter what, she's always willing to volunteer and help others" Tarver said. "She gives her best at all times."

He said Robinson is a certified referee so she knows the game very well and plays it very well.

Tarver said, every year there is always at least one woman who participates regularly in intramural activities.

He said Robinson tries to get other women involved and she maintains her cool.

Tarver said during the women's three-on-three basketball tournament,



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

Jaleesa Robinson, psychology major, concentrates on one of her winning shots in the first round of the free throw section of the Hot Shots Challenge. Robinson won the free throw and three point competitions.

Robinson's team struggled, but she was able to keep the team together while never showing any frustration.

Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness sports specialist, said Robinson has carried on the female athlete role in intramural activities.

Watson said she has shown determination and the will to compete no matter the gender.

"Robinson gets out there and gives it her all," he said. "She has gained the guys' respect and it's a positive thing to see."

Watson said she has participated in everything she could or had the time to.

Robinson attended Putnam City High School.

There, she was a member of the varsity basketball team for two years and the junior varsity tennis team for one year.

Robinson has attended OCCC for three semesters and is working toward becoming licensed to start her own psychiatry practice.

Her hobbies include watching action

movies and reading to her son.

Robinson said she plans to attend a university in the future.

If the university has intramural sports and she has the time, she plans to participate in their intramurals, too.

Watson said he encourages more women and men to participate.

"It's not about how good you are," he said. "It's about getting out there and having a fun time with other students."

Watson said a second women's tournament is in the works, depending on the number of participants.

He said Recreation and Fitness also is looking into forming a women's soccer club and softball club.

"Those are some ideas we are looking into," Watson said. "We have to sort out all the details such as location and how many women athletes are interested in playing."

For more information on intramural sports, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860 or Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

UPCOMING
INTRAMURALS
EVENTS

• **April 19:** Adult volleyball: Brookwood – 1 vs. Garder 7 p.m. Court 1. Can You Dig It vs. Skippy's Mistake 7 p.m. Court 2. Can You Dig It vs. Brookwood – 1 8 p.m. Court 1. Brookwood – 2 vs. All Sets Are Off 8 p.m. Court 2. Serendipitty Slammers vs. Brookwood – 2 9 p.m. Court 1. All Sets Are Off vs. The Bow-Legged Pirates 9 p.m. Court 2 in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 22:** Coed intramural volleyball: Tournament to be held at noon in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 22:** Men's basketball: Express vs. Dream Team 6 p.m. Court 2. Head Bustas vs. Ballaholics 7 p.m. Court 2. Ballerz vs. N UR Window 7 p.m. Court 3. Rock Solid vs. OKC Chiefs 8 p.m. Court 2. Fam Bam vs. BBDC 8 p.m. Court 3 in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 24:** OCCC Summer Camp Expo held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wellness Center gym. Youth and Teen camp and Before and After Camp Care information available at expo.

• **April 26:** Adult volleyball: Games start at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Games are held on Courts 1 and 2 in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 29:** Men's basketball: Ballerz vs. Rock Solid 6 p.m. Court 2. Express vs. Fam Bam 7 p.m. Court 2. Dream Team vs. OKC Chiefs 7 p.m. Court 3. BBDC vs. Head Bustas 8 p.m. Court 2. Ballaholics vs. N UR Window 8 p.m. Court 3 in the Wellness Center gym.

• **April 30-May 2:** Aquatic Center to host EAT Early Bird Swim Meet.

• **May 6:** Men's basketball: BBDC vs. Express 6 p.m. Court 2. Fam Bam vs. OKC Chiefs 7 p.m. Court 2. Rock Solid vs. Ballaholics 7 p.m. Court 3. Dream Team vs. BBDC 8 p.m. Court 2. Head Bustas vs. N UR Window 8 p.m. Court 3 in the Wellness Center gym.

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

Kappa Beta Delta inducts 20 OCCC students

CHRISTY JOHNSON
News Writing Student

Twenty business students were inducted into OCCC's Beta Epsilon chapter of the Kappa Beta Delta international business honor society April 2.

Alisha O'Lague, Kappa Beta Delta co-vice president, welcomed honorees and guests.

She also made a special presentation to the Students of Free Enterprise members.

SIFE recently went to Dallas for an annual conference where they gave an oral report and presentation. Of about 50 SIFE organizations there, OCCC's team came in fourth, O'Lague said.

Germain Pichop, a Kappa Beta Delta faculty sponsor,

said he is very proud of this group of students and their many accomplishments.

Introduction of honorary members was led by Charles Wayne Myrick, business and economics professor. Honorary inductees included OCCC President Paul W. Sechrist, Executive Vice President Jerry L. Steward, and Vice President of Enrollment and Student

Services Marion Paden.

Sechrist offered words of encouragement to the students as he accepted his award. He said he was proud to receive such an honor.

Faustino "Tino" Ceballos Jr., acting president of Kappa Beta Delta, made the official induction of members.

Inducted were Andrea L. Adams, Anitrice S. Anthony,

Lavanda M. Aponte, Matthew W. Crofford, David A. Gil, Pauline L. Giordano, Sarah R. Haggard, Morgan L. Hedrick, Ryan H. Henderson, Sandra E. Lima, Michelle D. Osburn, Iva D. Rau, Mia M. Rogers, Lindsay M. Sherwood, Mark A. Smith, Norma I. Sutter, Trevor J. Varner, Karen L. Woodring, Michael D. Southerland, and Pramesh Basnet.

Tuition: Leadership Council to support an increase if deemed necessary

Continued from page 1

Even with the tuition hike, OCCC has made the decision not to raise salaries for its employees for the second year in a row, Sechrist said.

He said that while it is unfortunate for the deserving staff, it is necessary because the budget for fiscal year 2012 is projected to be even worse than this year or next.

Sechrist said the college hopes to set aside money now to cushion the school in the future.

OCCC is facing a financial struggle because state revenues for fiscal year 2011 are projected to be at least 15 percent below the original funding for this year, FY 2010. That would be a \$3.8 million reduction in state appropriations.

Yet some costs are certain to increase, Sechrist said.

These include contracts for maintenance, software technology and other fees that have an annual raise built in, Sechrist said.

Sechrist said he met with The Leadership Council, made up of student officers of campus clubs and organizations, to understand students' feelings about the tuition hike.

He said most of the students were supportive of this idea.

The issue of whether to support an increase was put to a vote April 8 during The Leadership Council's bimonthly meeting.

Marion Paden, vice president for Enrollment and Student Services, urged the council to vote in favor of the resolution.

"We are not asking for your approval, we are asking for your support," Paden said.

With a unanimous vote, the council made it clear it would support Sechrist if he deemed it necessary to increase tuition.

However, the council stipulated that it supported the measure only if the college maintained its faculty and the quality of education it now has.

Council members would have opposed the resolution if their conditions had not been met, said Alex Wilkes, council chairwoman.

"I trust the administration to make wise decisions," Wilkes said.

"Not every school can say that."

OCCC is keeping up with the times, which is important in an education setting, Wilkes said.

Erin Logan, student relations director, said the resolution supports an increase if it is absolutely necessary.

"If there is an increase, we

trust that it is justified," Logan said.

Annalyn Gill, the council's research director, said she believes it is important to support the decision.

Gill said if the school sees a decrease in its annual budget,

“I trust the administration to make wise decisions.”

—ALEX WILKES
THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN

the money would have to be made up elsewhere.

Paden said the decision to in-

crease tuition would not be final until after the spring semester.

It would affect fall 2010 tuition.



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The impact of an increase

What a 7-percent tuition hike would change if the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approves the plan:

- In-state students would pay \$6 more per credit hour
- Out-of-state and international students would pay \$15 more per credit hour
- An estimated \$1.8 million would be added to the college budget

**NOTE: Any decision to raise tuition will not be final until after the spring semester.*

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Peace is the word



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

Advocates of Peace member Shana McLaughlin describes the image an illuminated tealight will make when it shines through a can's perforated design. Her customer is Fang Ye, nursing major. The club sold candle votives made from recycled aluminium cans, as well as peace poles and flower pots Wednesday to raise money for future club activities.

BLOOD DRIVE | Oklahoma Blood Institute plans campus visit

Campus blood drive April 21, 22

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Saving lives will be as easy as the prick of a needle from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, April 21 and 22, when the Oklahoma Blood Institute hosts a blood drive in the College Union.

Katie Treadwell, Student Life programs coordinator, said this is the second blood drive of the semester.

The event is open to everyone, she said.

Before giving blood,

Treadwell said, potential donors must fill out a questionnaire as well as complete a physical exam.

"During the exam, they will ask you a few basic health questions, and take things like your temperature and your blood pressure," she said.

To give blood, donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh more than 110 pounds, said Karen Fabian, OBI representative.

In addition, Fabian said she encourages donors to eat a substantial meal — preferably one

filled with iron and protein — before giving blood.

"It can leave you feeling weak and dizzy," she said. "Eating a good, healthy meal beforehand will help with that."

Free cookies and OBI T-shirts will be given to those who give blood, Treadwell said.

She said even if a hopeful donor does not pass the physical exam, they will still receive a shirt and snacks.

"We want to reward people for at least trying," she said.

Kelsea Burton, film and

video production major, said she is always one of the first in line when it comes to giving blood.

Burton said she has given blood every semester since she first came to OCCC in 2008.

"It always makes me feel great," she said.

"It's the easiest thing anyone can do to save lives.

"And you get free cookies when you're done," Burton said, laughing.

For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523, or visit the OBI website at www.obi.org.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Tuition fee waiver applications available

Tuition fee waiver applications for the summer 2010 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 20. For more information, contact Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525, ext. 7188.

First Responder Day to be held

The third annual First Responder Day will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, in the south end of parking lot A. Members from 16 emergency response teams across the state will be on hand to give tours of fire trucks and ambulances, as well as provide safety tips. Free hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided. For more information, contact Ike Sloas at 405-682-7891.

Eco-friendly Brown Bag scheduled

Learn simple and easy ways to make your life and habits more eco-friendly with the Going Green Brown Bag, held from noon to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 21. Drinks will be provided. Proof of attendance will be given to students who participate in the lecture. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Van to offer free child immunizations

The Oklahoma Caring Foundation and Blue Cross and Blue Shield "Caring Van" will provide free immunizations to children from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, April 26, in the Child Development Center and Lab School parking lot. The van is open to the public. Parents and guardians must be present to complete required paperwork. A copy of the child's current shot record also is required. For more information, contact Lee Ann Townsend at 405-682-1611, ext. 7423.

Therapy association to host bake sale

The Student Occupational Therapy Association will host a bake sale from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, in the College Union. Proceeds will go toward funding future club activities. For more information, contact Reeca Young at 405-682-7506.

Club hosts donation drive for dogs

The Psychology Sociology Club has placed donation boxes around campus to collect supplies for Tulsa Boxer Rescue. Items such as canned dog food, bleach, paper towels, trash bags, disinfectant wipes and cough syrup are needed. For more information or a complete list of needed items, contact Laurie Thornton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7359, or e-mail lthornton@occc.edu.

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

Highlight forms can be picked up in the Pioneer office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator.

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.

ANIMALS

FREE TO A GOOD, LOVING HOME: 2 adorable ferrets with a 4-story wire cage. Sweet and fun. They play well with other non-aggressive pets. Call for information: 405-996-0552.

ADOPT A PAL: OKC Animal Shelter. 405-297-3100

APPLIANCES

FOR SALE: Maytag Atlantis washer and dryer. Matching set. Fully working. \$450 OBO. Call: 405-921-0837.

NOT PRETTY, JUST HARD WORKING: Front loading HE washer. \$200. Call: 405-882-3731.

FOR RENT

ROOMMATE WANTED: To share SW OKC home. Looking for a female. Must have references. Pets ok. No smoking or drugs. Would have own room and room around the house. Contact Kelli at 405-205-0740 after 6 pm or email poohbear73084@hotmail.com.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Kitchen table and four matching chairs. \$125. All in good condition. Call: 405-921-0837.

READY TO SHAPE UP FOR SUMMER? Body shaping "Step and Flex" machine. \$40. Call 405-682-1611 ext 7765.

FOR SALE: New car seat. Still has tags on it. \$40. Call 405-882-3731.

TEXTBOOKS

WANT TO BUY: Used copy of "Casegrader" Microsoft Excel 2007. For class CS 1343. Call: 405-682-1611 ext. 7397.

"THE RED BACKPACK": OCCC Nursing Program Kit. \$99. Call: 405-701-5931. Leave a message. We will call you back.



Correctly answer 4 **Treasure Hunt** Questions and be entered in our final drawing of the semester.

- 1: Which nail spa is offering a 10% student discount?
- 2: What is the rating for "Death at a Funeral"?
- 3: Who is the Faculty Adviser of the OCCC Pioneer?
- 4: Which department is having a drawing for a OCCC college sweat-shirt?

Send entries to: adman@occc.edu.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Did the crawl
- 5 Tops of cars
- 10 Toy on a string
- 14 Actress
- 15 Capshaw
- 16 Comic Murphy
- 17 Branding —
- 17 Whirlybird inventor
- 18 Sikorsky
- 18 Juice from
- 22-Across
- 19 Lima's place
- 20 Pittsburgh players
- 22 Orchard fruits
- 24 Newt
- 25 "The African Queen" scriptwriter
- 26 Marilyn —
- 29 Customers
- 33 Gather
- 34 Indian garment
- 36 Affirmative vote
- 37 Sedan or coupe
- 38 Old-fashioned brooch
- 39 Science room
- 40 Mandela's org.
- 41 Singer Redding
- 42 Ordinary speech
- 44 Smart aleck
- 47 Frankfurter
- 48 Cat's murmur
- 49 One, no matter

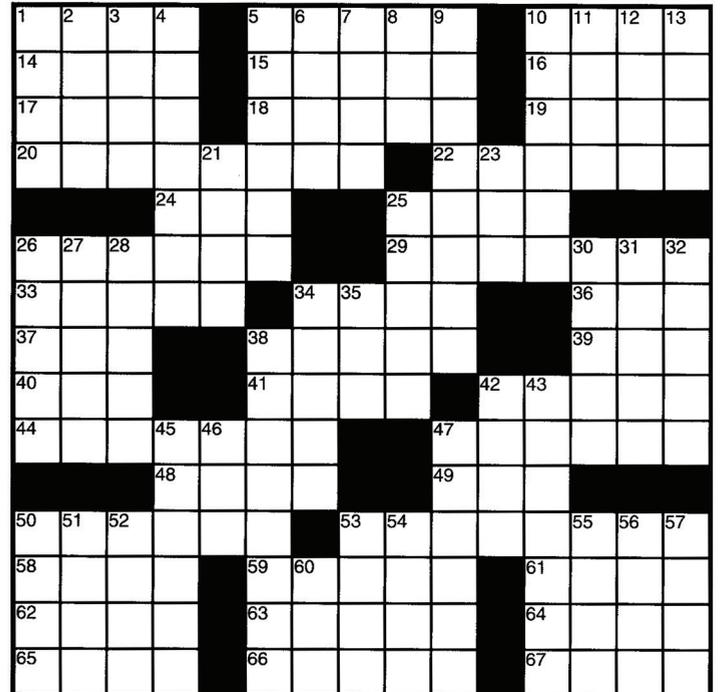
DOWN

- 1 Omit
- 2 Word following "minimum"
- 3 Like — of bricks
- 4 Business deals
- 5 Enumerate
- 6 Norse god
- 7 Chances
- 8 "For shame!"
- 9 Harem
- 10 Shout of glee
- 11 Pitcher
- 12 Days of —: long ago
- 13 Blame
- 21 Sci-fi craft
- 23 Can. province
- 25 Land measures

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



- 26 Parrot
- 27 Muscat citizen
- 28 Some cops
- 30 Drip-dry fabric
- 31 Fluff, as hair
- 32 Cavalry sword
- 34 Mythical creature
- 35 French friend
- 38 Traversing
- 42 Cone producer
- 43 "— the Fox"
- 45 Noteworthy periods
- 46 Six-shooter
- 47 Worked in a restaurant
- 50 Hearty's partner
- 51 Always
- 52 Raise
- 53 Mayberry kid
- 54 Ploy
- 55 Helen of —
- 56 Flu symptom
- 57 House sites
- 60 Neither fish — fowl



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FREE SESSION TO BE HELD TO DISCUSS SOLUTIONS TO 'EPIDEMIC'

Childhood obesity target of workshop

DARREN COOK

News Writing Student

First lady Michelle Obama's campaign to end childhood obesity in one generation is being endorsed by OCCC's Child Development Center and Lab School. The center will host a free workshop to discuss what parents can do to help stop what many are calling an "obesity epidemic."

Toni Viles, the community dietitian for Norman Regional Hospital, will lead the program from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 22, in room 3N0, Main Building.

Obesity in the U.S. is on the rise, according to a 2006 report from the National Center for Health Statistics. More than one-third of adults are either overweight or obese. Even worse, childhood and teen obesity has increased by four times in the last 40 years, sta-

tistics show.

The first lady, in her efforts to end this epidemic, is calling for focus on four main areas: educating parents about nutrition, improving the quality of food in schools, making healthy foods more affordable and promoting more physical education, according to abc-news.com.

President Barack Obama supported her efforts by signing a presidential memorandum Feb. 9 to create the first-ever federal task force to address the problem of childhood obesity in the U.S.

Viles said she would be focusing on some of the same subjects as the first lady.

"We will be talking about what the problem areas are and what we can do to change them," Viles said. "We will also be discussing the different health risks that come if your child is overweight or

obese, and techniques mom and dad can do to incorporate more activity in their normal home life."

According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 70 percent of overweight or obese children will grow up to be overweight or obese adults.

Viles will talk about aspects of childhood obesity, going through some of the statistics for Oklahoma youth, which, she said, are pretty alarming.

"Oklahoma is definitely one of the worst states," she said. "A lot of parents feel their children aren't able to get a healthy meal at school."

The availability of food at public schools will be another focus of the workshop.

"Some schools are better than others, but most of the kids that come in are eating pizza, shakes or something similar to that at school every

day," Viles said.

Viles said eating at restaurants, which many families do, can contribute to the problem.

"There is a kid's meal at the Cheesecake Factory restaurant that has 1,800 calories," Viles said.

That number of calories equates to the daily needs of boys age 9 to 13 — served all in one meal.

"Portion sizes in restaurants have gone up dramatically," Viles said. She said she would talk about dining out at traditional and fast food restaurants.

Large amounts of time in front of video games, television screens and computers, combined with a general lack of physical activity, even in school, also can be blamed as a big part of the problem, Viles said.

Two-thirds of children from kindergarten through eighth

grade don't participate in any type of physical activity at home or school, she said.

"This is the first generation in years where they are thinking kids are going to have a shorter life expectancy than the generation before," Viles said.

Researchers at the National Institute for Early Education Research have proposed that preschools might be an appropriate place for preventive health measures, particularly programs that increase young children's physical activity.

Mary McCoy, Child Development Center and Lab School director, said playtime has changed for many American children.

"Children don't go outside and play like they use to," McCoy said. "A long time ago you could let your child go outside and play and not be worried about their safety, but things have changed a lot."

Child literacy expert gives instruction about reading skills

MORGAN BEARD

News Writing Student

Ruth Ann Ball, early childhood consultant, outlined strategies for helping children develop better literacy skills March 25 when she visited OCCC.

The session was for parents and teachers looking for tips to develop better reading skills in young children.

Ball was welcomed by a classroom of 25 to 30 women.

Along with her lecture, Ball also used hands-on techniques to illustrate how to teach children the alphabet, how to read more effectively and how to capture a child's interest when reading to them.

Among the activities was using homemade playdough to shape letters of the alphabet,

for use at home with young children.

"Making anything interesting for a child is key ... their attention is hard to keep, so we need to learn how to get their attention and keep it locked in," Ball said.

Ball discussed the importance of parenting as a key to early literacy in children.

Achieving satisfactory literacy levels can be done in a lot of ways, she said as she demonstrated proper ways to read to a child.

Ball said reading to children every day is the main step in this process.

Making stories interesting and lively allows for the child to get engaged in the stories being told as well, she said.

Another tip Ball gave was to connect stories to events

in the child's life, allowing the child another level of understanding.

As literacy begins with childhood stories, reading to a child from an early age is proven to be a major contributor to the development of children, she said.

Ball showed PowerPoint slides with statistics showing the more children are read to on a daily basis, the higher their standardized test scores will be.

A mentor and teacher in child literacy, Ball has worked at the University of Oklahoma for 24 years, as well as spent time in Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota.

Ball said she still spends her time mentoring and teaching those in need as well as giving parenting sessions like the one given at OCCC.

Summit: Raising awareness first step, professor says

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cept for Hispanics."

Hispanics still face challenges graduating, he said, but the Hispanic students at OCCC are above the national graduation statistics.

Schneberger said while he knew a low graduation rate has been a national issue for some time, he didn't know how bad the statistics were prior to the conference.

The summit suggested steps the college could take to improve these numbers: Student mentors and success courses geared specifically to these students, Schneberger said.

"They really promoted the idea that we need mentors," he said. "We need men of color to help male students of color."

The other recommended action was to develop a success course that would specifically guide minority students

toward success, similar to the Success in College and Life course already offered.

However, Schneberger said, the first step to solving this issue is to raise awareness that minority men aren't doing well in college, and everyone has to help.

Lahne Douglas, sophomore, said providing more financial support could help boost graduation numbers for minorities.

"The numbers could be even higher if they had better opportunities to succeed, such as more scholarships or grants," Douglas said.

Schneberger said he believes OCCC is working toward a solution, or else the college wouldn't have funded the trip.

The college is putting money and attention toward the issue because it wants everyone to succeed, Schneberger said.