

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

LET STUDENTS DETERMINE ATTENDANCE

Staff Writer Morgan Beard says adult students should be able to pass a class even with poor attendance — as long as they make the grade. Read his thoughts.

OPINION, p. 2

AROUND CAMPUS

FALL GRADS LISTED

As the semester nears an end, OCCC has named its candidates for fall graduation. Those students will walk the stage in May 2011. See the list inside.

CAMPUS, p. 7

RECREATION

SPRING BASKETBALL SCHEDULED

Sign-ups for spring semester basketball leagues will begin the first week of spring classes. See inside for dates and details.

SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE

BOOK BUYBACK ON THE CALENDAR

Students can sell their books and get extra holiday cash. See where you can do this and the dates inside.

COMMUNITY p. 10

PIONEER

DECEMBER 10, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

College student joins growing homeless list

One-half to 1 percent of all college students in the U.S. may be without a 'fixed, regular' residence

JOEY STIPEK

Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Business major Andrée Duckworth, 30, is different, although by all appearances she's just another OCCC student.

What separates Duckworth from most students on campus is she is homeless.

Unfortunately, Duckworth is not the only homeless student on campus or in the U.S., said Barbara Duffield, policy director for the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, in an e-mail interview with the Pioneer.

"There are not any statistics on the number of college students who experience homelessness," Duffield wrote. "The only number we can share is the number of students who indicate a homeless status when they fill out the FAFSA (the federal financial aid form)."

Based on statistics from a number of sources Duffield provided, it appears between one-half and 1 percent of all college students are homeless or near homeless in the U.S. At OCCC, that number would be 75 to 150 students.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines being homeless as lacking "a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes individuals who have a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised public or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations."

Duckworth, along with her two children, have lived in transitional housing for children in crisis for the past year and a half. She works 25 hours a week at a retail job while currently taking 16 hours at OCCC.

Although Duckworth said she is grateful to have a roof over her head, she pays a price for living in institutional housing.

"I have to account for where I am at all times," Duckworth said. "I have no privacy at all. I have to submit to random inspections of my apartment. The inspectors can come in and out whenever they want."

In addition, Duckworth is required to attend weekly Bible study and church on Sundays, as well as report all of her financial earnings and activities.

See **HOMELESS** page 13

Deck the halls



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Nursing major Kristen Shows gets into the Christmas spirit by putting an ornament on the school Christmas tree. The tree is located in the College Union for all students to enjoy. The last day of classes is Dec. 17. Spring semester starts Jan. 18. For more information, visit the college website at www.occc.edu.

CAMPUS SECURITY HEADED BY NEW LEADER

OCCC police chief named

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

"I've heard ... positive things about this institution. I'm excited to get started."

—JIM FITZPATRICK
OCCC POLICE CHIEF

OCCC has named its first-ever police chief.

Jim Fitzpatrick, with 38 years of police experience, will soon head OCCC's Safety and Security Department.

Fitzpatrick was hired earlier this month to replace former Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas, who resigned in September.

Fitzpatrick served as an Oklahoma City police officer for 35 years, as well as an additional three



Jim Fitzpatrick

years in various administrative positions.

He said he came across the position through a friend, who noticed the vacancy on OCCC's website.

"I have served in every branch of the police department," Fitzpatrick said. "But never a college campus."

However, he said, he looks forward to the bustling collegiate lifestyle.

"(College students) have such a positive outlook on life," Fitzpatrick said. "They keep things vibrant and alive."

He said he is looking forward to his time with OCCC.

"I've heard ... positive things about this institution," Fitzpatrick said. "I'm excited to get started."

Fitzpatrick is scheduled to begin his duties Dec. 13.

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

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Students should be able to use discretion when attending classes

Attendance policy too restrictive

If you can pass a course without going, should you be forced to attend?

That's a question many students here at OCCC and other colleges throughout the country ask themselves quite often.

Attendance policies are not set by the college but are up to the individual faculty or department chairs to determine instead.



Morgan Beard

This leads to various attendance regulations in multiple courses.

Usual policy contends that a student's grade can be dropped an entire letter or more upon exceeding the pre-determined number of absences allowed.

Some professors act on a case-by-case basis, while some only allow students to miss as few as two days over a 16-week semester before their grade will be affected.

Shouldn't students be graded on what they know, rather than how often they're in the classroom?

Of course, multiple studies show a negative influ-

ence on a student's grade the less they attend class. Common sense can even tell you that, but the main issue really comes down to a student's freedom of choice, specifically in the college years.

Chris Vaughn, a student at the college, said he thinks class attendance should be up to the individual and not the professors.

"If the student only attends class for exams and turns in all of the homework ... it shouldn't matter if he or she doesn't show up the rest of the time," Vyyres said.

Aside from the allotted absences allowed, many professors institute a policy that if a student misses an exam, anywhere from 10 to 15 percentage points can be taken off, simply for missing that day.

Again, the reasoning behind these regulations is regular attendance leads to student success, but sometimes it isn't as black and white as professors think.

Many OCCC students may have kids or a job and in some cases, both.

A parent dealing with a full-time job or a child at home shouldn't be forced to attend class for fear of dropping their grade. Why penalize them if their grade doesn't deserve it?

This isn't to say that students should never attend. They should be in class as much as possible.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

However, if a student can maintain a grade of their choosing while juggling other responsibilities that interfere with class time, let it be.

We're all adults. The decision should reside with each of us.

—MORGAN BEARD
STAFF WRITER

YOUR VOICE | Art not limited to traditional genres

Video game degree program needs recognition

To the editor:

I often find that many students looking for a non-traditional degree in Art are never told about the programs that our computer aided technology department has to offer.

More often than not when many individuals think of art, there are only a handful of disciplines that come to mind including film, literary arts, music, performing

arts and visual arts.

OCCC offers excellent degree programs in these traditional art disciplines, but now we also offer some non-traditional studies of art as well.

OCCC offers a computer aided technology (CAT) degree with an option in game design.

The video game industry is a fast growing industry and although it can be somewhat tech-

“...video games are finally getting credited as works of art...”

— AKRAM TAGHAVI-BURRIS
COMPUTER-AIDED TECHNOLOGY
PROFESSOR

nical, video games are finally getting credited as works of art.

In August, CNN reported that the video gaming industry is becoming its own genre of art.

Another combination of art and technology is the newest CAT degree program option, computer animation.

The computer animation degree option integrates traditional

arts with computers to produce both traditional (hand drawn) and computer 2D and 3D animations.

Both the game design and computer animation programs offer courses in the development of games and animation.

There are also classes that focus on the historical impact and critical evaluation of these works.

For individuals who

are looking to mix their love of both art and technology, the CAT degree in game design or computer animation may just be the perfect fit.

If interested, please contact Professor Akram Taghavi-Burriss at: ataghaviburriss@occc.edu

—AKRAM
TAGHAVI-BURRIS
COMPUTER-AIDED
TECHNOLOGY
PROFESSOR

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

Vol. 39 No. 16

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The PIONEER is a publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

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 at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

Color printing this semester is paid for, in part, from a grant from OPUBCO Communications Group.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MUSIC REVIEW | Oklahoma rock band's third release flops

Hinder album proves a 'Nightmare'

When Oklahoma-based rock quintet Hinder burst onto the scene with 2006's "Lips of an Angel," it was like a breath of fresh air.

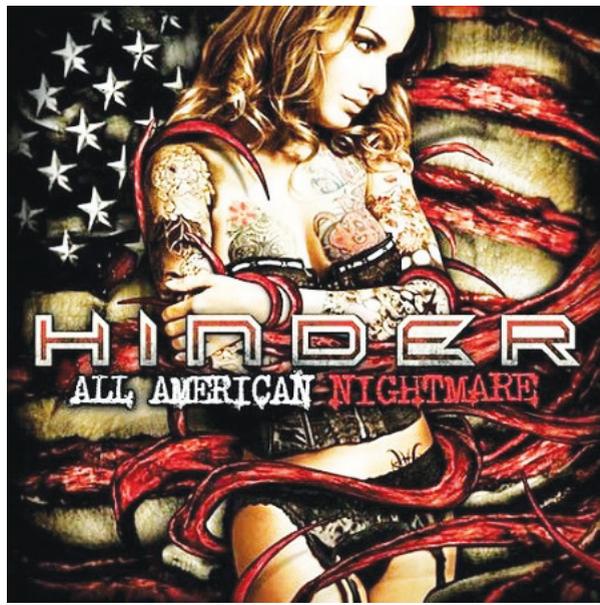
Now, with the release of the band's third studio album "All American Nightmare," it's time for an oxygen tank.

"All American Nightmare" was released in stores Dec. 7.

The album opens with "2 Sides of Me," a fast-paced rock anthem that sounds promising at first listen but fails to deliver on a lyrical level.

The instrumentals, particularly the guitar hooks, are fantastic, but not enough to distract from lead singer Austin Winkler's endless rant about liquor and sex.

Unfortunately, the track sets a familiar tone of mindless drivel that permeates the album with filth.



The next song, title track and first single "All American Nightmare," tries too hard to push the band's bad boy image.

In the lyrics, Winkler proclaims he "makes the good girls bad and the bad girls worse."

Sorry, buddy, but tattoo sleeves and a beer in your hand don't make you Tommy Lee.

Like always, Winkler

and the boys sneak a couple of ballads in here and there, but it's hard to fall for a semi-sweet love song like "Red Tail Lights" when it's followed by a song called "Strip Tease."

In the closing track "Put That Record On," Winkler croaks out a strangely familiar tune that heavily recalls Nickelback's summer single

"This Afternoon."

Both songs are a miserable attempt at pitting gravel-voiced rockers with an irritating country twang.

From beginning to finish, "All American Nightmare" is a 36-minute tribute to sex, drugs, alcohol and wild partying.

It would serve as the perfect soundtrack for pubescent teenage boys who think they're cool, but not much else.

It is disappointing that a once-promising rock band — one of few in Oklahoma's vast array of sniveling country crooners — has dissolved into nothing more than a filth-ridden pack of drunk party boys.

Hinder's "All American Nightmare" is exactly that.

Rating: F

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

FILM REVIEW | 'Warrior's Way' a mixture of genres

Western meets kung fu in action film

I went into this movie thinking to myself, "There are going to be cowboys and ninjas, but no pirates. It's going to be mediocre at best."

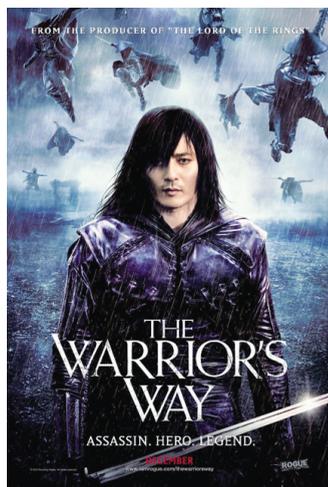
My hopes weren't that high, but I was pleasantly surprised.

It might have taken two years to make, but you can tell the detail they put into it.

The movie is one giant combination of a western, a kung-fu movie and Final Fantasy.

It's rather like Star Wars without space-ships.

It even has a prin-



cess, though she's a bit young.

The movie starts out with a bang, with ninjas running across the tops of bamboo stalks.

In a short and violent fight, it ends with one of the ninjas impaling himself on a bamboo stalk "Mortal Kombat" style.

As for the no pirate problem, it gets solved quickly.

Can anybody say ninja pirates? That's right, they went there.

I won't spoil the surprise, though. It was pretty cool.

The movie isn't all violence however.

There are many touching moments and

comedy as well.

The story spends a lot of time on the interaction of the unnamed hero, who is referred to as the Sad Flute and an unnamed baby, who is later named April.

The baby is cute and expressive.

She is usually hanging from one thing or another, ranging from a sword to a clothes line.

You can tell that Sad Flute really cares for April.

You can almost feel his affection.

All in all, this movie was worth seeing, and

COUNSELOR'S Corner

End the year with laughter

"At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities," said Jean Houston.

We've reached that point in the semester when just about everyone feels frazzled and stretched beyond his or her limits.

We wish simultaneously that the semester would end quickly, but that we had just a few more days in which to get everything done.

As a student, it's time to embrace the reality that you've done what you should have all through the semester or that you haven't.

There is never a way to undo the past, so the best strategy now is to find a way to let yourself relax just a wee bit so that you can finish as well as possible.

For those of you who have been chugging along, going to class, and keeping up with tasks, your challenge now is to plan these last few days so that you get the maximum result from your efforts.

Be realistic about what you can accomplish, and focus your time and attention on those activities that will give you the greatest return.

Sometimes, "good enough" has to be good enough. Take care of your health the best that you can so you can finish without making yourself sick.

For those of you who just recently remembered that you enrolled in classes this semester, make peace with the fact that probably none of your professors will let you "catch up" in the waning hours of the semester.

I encourage you to talk to me or to an academic adviser to figure out ways to change this behavior.

Your future success depends on figuring out what your personal barriers are and how to get around them.

We, in Student Support Services, hope that you'll take some time each day just to laugh about life and keep a positive perspective.

If you need some help, we'll make faces for you!

—MARY TURNER
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

will probably do very well.

My mother, who went with me and hates both westerns and kung-fu movies, actually liked the movie.

And by the way, don't

leave until the credits start rolling.

It's hilarious.

Rating: A-

—ROBERT BOLTON
NEWS WRITING
STUDENT

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | Disney's new animated film a huge success

Adventure awaits in 'Tangled'

"Tangled" is to 2010 what 'Little Mermaid' was to the '90s.

It is another job well done by Disney/Pixar, released Nov. 24.

The story, based on the Grimm brothers "Rapunzel," tells the story of the princess who was "kissed by the sun" and given the gift of hair that heals when she sings.

Rapunzel (Mandy Moore) is taken from her home — the castle — as an infant and is raised by her abductor, Mother Gothel (Donna Murphy) in a tower hidden by waterfalls and towering trees.

With 70 feet of flowing blonde hair in tow, Rapunzel spends her days painting, reading and wondering about life outside of the tower.

Just before her eighteenth birthday, Rapunzel asks Gothel to allow her to leave the tower but her mother reveals viciously she will never allow her to leave and uses scare tactics to keep her there.

When her mother leaves on one of her regular outings, Rapunzel is met by Flynn Rider (Zachary Levi) who, in mid escape from kingdom guards, has stumbled upon Rapunzel's tower.

Afraid for her life, Rapunzel holds Rider captive. In an act of defiance, Rapunzel requires Rider to take her to see the "lights" in the sky that magically appear every year on her birthday.

With the stage set for Rapunzel's grand entrance into the world, comedy and action ensue.



Moore was born to be the voice of a Disney princess. She brings her innocent, endearing voice to Rapunzel with the style and confidence she has earned from her career as an actor.

Levi's performance is captivating and at times seductive. He brings a clumsy, boyish charm to his character that adds comedic flare to his and Rapunzel's courtship.

The CGI graphics make the modern fairy tale as close to life as can be attained in an animated

film.

The facial expressions in 'Tangled' are hilarious and realistic, including a scene when Rider pulls out all the stops to charm Rapunzel with his usually successful smolder.

Several songs throughout the film move the show along seamlessly.

A favorite is Rapunzel's theme when she expresses her dream to explore the world on her own.

Disney has hit the mark again with 'Tangled'.

It is a film that all audiences will love.

Without a doubt, it is the best Disney animated princess film released in a long time.

Rating: A+
—JENNIFER MASSEY
EDITOR

QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?
CONTACT
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405-682-1611,
EXT. 7409.

Top 10 Holiday films for 2010



1. *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946)
2. *A Christmas Story* (1983)
3. *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)
4. *A Christmas Carol* (1951)
5. *White Christmas* (1954)
6. *Home Alone* (1990)
7. *The Polar Express* (2004)
8. *The Muppet Christmas Carol* (1992)
9. *The Santa Clause* (1994)
10. *Die Hard* (1988)



Other popular Christmas films that didn't make the cut

11. *Love Actually* (2003)
12. *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)
13. *Holiday Inn* (1942)
14. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)
15. *Babes in Toyland* (1934)
16. *Elf* (2003)
17. *Scrooged* (1988)
18. *Bad Santa* (2003)
19. *The Holiday* (2006)
20. *A Charlie Brown's Christmas* (1965)

8-WEEK COURSE BEING TAUGHT DOWNTOWN

Oklahoma authors inspire spring literature course

TINA NGUYEN
News Writing Student

A literature course built around living Oklahoma authors will be offered during the first half of the spring semester. Taught by OCCC English Professor Bertha Wise, Contemporary Oklahoma Writers is being offered through the Downtown College, said Gus Pekara, director of the OKC Downtown College.

This class will meet from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday evenings in the Ronald J. Norick Library at 300 Park

Ave. in downtown Oklahoma City.

The class will discuss a different book, or sometimes two short works, each night, Wise said.

The reading list includes:

- Clifton Taulbert's memoir "Once Upon A Time When We Are Colored."

- Tim Tingle's "Walking the Choctaw Road," a collection of Choctaw stories.

- Marcia Preston's family mystery story, "The Wind Comes Sweeping."

- Billie Lett's "Shoot the Moon," a novel filled with humor and pathos.

- Rilla Askew's "Harpsong," about the 1930s dustbowl.

- Joyce Carol Thomas's novel, "House of Light."

Also, the students will be studying contemporary Oklahoma poets, Wise said. The poets to be studied will include Diane Glancy, Linda Hogan, Carl Sennhenn, Carol Hamilton, Ken Hada, Jim Barnes, Dorothy Alexander, Nathan Brown, Sandra Soli, Richard Rouillard, Hannibal B. Johnson, and others.

Two separate panel discussions are scheduled.

The discussion on prose writers will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 10. Among the writers who have confirmed their attendance are Askew, Tingle and Preston, Wise said.

The poetry panel will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. March 3.

Among the poets who have committed to attend are Hamilton, Hada, Brown, and Soli, Wise said.

A prerequisite of English 1113 is needed for this course.

The class will satisfy a humanities requirement for students pursuing associate degrees, Pekara said.

COMMUNICATION IMPORTANT IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Parents need to be involved in educating children

MYSI JONES
News Writing Student

Kelly Ramsey, Parent Information and Resource Center, said she has focused her career on working with parents to help educate their children. She spoke on campus Nov. 18 to a small crowd about the need to be a partner with the schools to get the best results.

"It is important for a parent to be involved with their children from cradle to college," she said. There are several programs available to help children succeed in reading, writing and arithmetic, but without a parent's involvement, the success rate of children drops dramatically.

Ramsey has 25 years of experience in the child development field.

She cited expert Uri Bronfenbrenner, co-founder of the Headstart program, who states: "The family seems to be the most effective and economical system for fostering and sustaining a child's development.

"Without family involvement, intervention is likely to be unsuccessful, and what few effects are achieved are likely to disappear once the intervention is discontinued."

Without parents remaining involved in their children's development, they are less motivated and less likely to retain the knowledge they have learned.

Ramsey also tells parents, "Be involved with the children's school."

Ramsey said communicating with the children's school is critical in their

development. Given that parents today are stretched thin in spare time, Ramsey recommends conversing with the children's teacher in any method from e-mail to text messaging or even a spiral notebook sent back and forth with the child.

"Face to face is obviously the best method, but as long as you are communicating in some fashion that is what is most important," Ramsey said.

Divorced parents are also encouraged to be involved, including the noncustodial parent.

Ramsey said schools are required to have a parent contract, a document between parents, students and schools to ensure children reach their highest academic potential. The con-

tract became a state law with the "No child Left Behind" program.

"No one knows your child better than you," Ramsey said. "You must be the advocate for your children." Ramsey said a child doesn't just conform to a school, but the school needs to conform to the child.

Parents should work with teachers to help a child achieve better success in the classroom. If a teacher is having trouble with your child, discuss with the teacher how to best work with your child.

Ramsey also reminded parents they still need to be involved during middle school and high school. Ramsey recommends meeting with your children's teachers to let them know you,

as a parent, want to be involved.

"Most parents stop being involved as much with their children when they reach middle school but this is the time they need you the most because they are experiencing so many things emotionally and physically," Ramsey said.

"Without being overbearing, let the school and the teachers know you are still there.

For more information on parent involvement or activity ideas, visit www.okpirc.org. If parents would like help with getting involved with schools or a consultation to help in discussions with your children's school, contact Ramsey through the center at 405-478-4078 or 877-7OK-PIRC.

Students prepare for pinning ceremony

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
Senior Writer

Dec. 17 will be a momentous day for 62 OCCC nursing students when the students will receive their nursing pin in a pinning ceremony held in the College Union. The students have worked long and hard to get this point said Assistant Nursing Program Director Terri Walker.

"The pinning ceremony represents them being welcomed as a peer into our profession," Walker said.

The students will be Registered Nurses and have completed the two-year Associate Degree in Nursing program, Walker said.

"We've had between 54 and 80 graduating nursing students in recent years, so our current class of 62 is a good number," she said.

Many of the students go on to get their bachelor's in nursing.

"I myself graduated from OCCC and went on to get my bachelor's in nursing as did several members of our faculty here," Walker said.

The students have come into a very intense program, she said. "Aside from six hours of class time a week the students have had to do eight to 12 clinical hours a week. That is a lot of time and hard work.

"Throughout this program students have learned to use critical thinking

and clinical judgment skills to care for patients in a clinical setting," Walker said.

Nursing student Shonda Ayers is one who will be receiving her pin that night. She said she thinks the pinning ceremony is a very important process.

"The pinning ceremony means a lot to me because it is a long tradition for nurses everywhere and it's a more personal ceremony," Ayers said.

Nursing student Brian Jones agrees. "The pinning ceremony is the culmination of two years of hard work," said nursing student Brian Jones.

For more information contact the Division of Health Professionals at 405-682-7507.

STUDENTS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE OWN APPLICATIONS

iPhone app classes launch in fall

ROBERT BOLTON
News Writing Student

An iPhone and iPad applications class is in the process of being created in the Computer Science division, said computer science professor Haining Chen, who will teach the course.

It will be offered in the fall of 2011 at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"A lot of students have iPhones, so when we ask them if they want to code their own programs for the iPhone, many students say yes," Chen said.

"I think people do programming for a variety of reasons. We want to emphasize that programming is fun."

An application, or app, is a program that is used by computers and phones that can be used for a specific purpose. They range from games and entertainment to being able to control your computer from afar.

Chen said his goal for the class is to increase the awareness of programming for Macintosh products.

"OCCC has classes for Windows and Linux programming, but not many for the Mac," Chen said.

"The department is trying to get students aware of Macintosh programming."

Students do not actually need to own an iPhone, iPad, or even a Macintosh computer

to enroll in the class, Chen said.

The college's computer laboratories will be the medium of creation.

The only requirement for the class is to have a basic knowledge of programming, either taught from a class at OCCC, or from another source.

"The computer science department is always trying to catch up with the latest trend in the industry, and I think that the mobile phone application has a wide application area, so this may suit the needs of the

“A lot of students have iPhones, so when we ask them if they want to code their own programs for the iPhone, many students say yes,”

—HAINING CHEN
COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR

industry," Chen said.

"An advantage of this course is that at the end of the class, the student may submit an application to Apple as a product if it passes the screening that Apple has in place," Chen said.

Chen said the college may branch out into other application classes for devices such as the Android, another type of mobile phone.

INCREASE IN STUDENTS TESTING CREATES LATER HOURS

Testing center extends hours for finals

ALEX VERITY
News Writing Student

The Testing Center will offer extended hours during finals week, Dec. 12 through 17, said Jim Ellis, Testing and Assessment Services director. That week the center will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturday, Dec. 18, the hours will be the normal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Finals week testing always increases the number of people who use the Testing Center, Ellis said. During finals week for the last four semesters, he said, an average of 3,500 students took tests in the center.

In 2007 when the ice storm hit on the Monday of finals week, by Thursday, more than 1,000 students tested on that one day.

Ellis said the Testing Center can usually keep up with the rush.

OCCC has enough testing space to accommodate a large number of people at one time, he said. The college uses all

three of its testing rooms during finals week, although they typically use only two during the rest of the semester. Each room has 45 testing stations, which allows nearly 140 students to test at once.

"Before the current testing area was built, there were 20 testing stations and 20 computers — which doubled as paper-pencil testing stations when a rush hit," Ellis said. "There was usually a long line and a long wait during finals when I first stepped into the director's job."

The situation is much better now, he said.

If things are running smoothly, students should only experience a short wait for sign in and receiving their tests. The longest line is the one for the lockers, Ellis said.

He said students could help with this wait by leaving their belongings in their cars. Then they would not have to wait for a locker to open up.

"It's a no muss, no fuss thing," Ellis said. Personal belongings do include cell phones, which are not allowed into the Testing

Center.

Ellis said there are three difficult problems the center's staff faces every finals week.

The first and most difficult issue is the photo ID. To take an academic exam, students must have a current OCCC identification card. There are no exceptions.

"No ID means no test," Ellis said.

The college records counter will be open to make student ID during normal hours of operation, he said.

The second issue is when students show up after closing time. Ellis said the staff does not have the authority to open up the center if a person comes in later than one hour before closing time.

The center will not give exams past one hour before closing. All exams will be picked up at closing time, no exceptions.

Ellis asks all students to please cooperate by turning in their exams when asked.

“No ID means no test.”

—JIM ELLIS
TESTING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

To guarantee enough time for testing, professors require students to be inside the center at least one hour before closing to start the exam.

"It always amazes me that people who come late get so angry," Ellis said. "If they were late for their job, they'd be fired."

The final problem is when students come to take a test and do not know the instructor's name, the class identification information, or the test number. The Testing Center does not have this information.

This information is located in the faculty member's class syllabus, and a student is required to have this information before the staff can administer the test.

The same testing rules apply as always: personal items are not allowed inside the testing room.

Lockers are available for no

Christmas Break Closings

Dec. 20 to Jan. 14

Accounting Lab
Dec. 24 to Jan. 14 -closed

Aquatic / Wellness Center
Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 -closed

Bio Sciences Lab
Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dec. 20 to Dec. 22
Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 -closed

CDCLS
Dec. 20 to Jan. 5 -closed

Communications Lab
Open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 to Dec. 22
Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 -closed

Engineering Lab
Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 -closed

Computer Lab
Open 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Dec. 20 to Dec. 22
Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 -closed

Math Lab
Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 20
Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 21 and 22
Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 -closed

Physical Science
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dec. 20 to Dec. 22
Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 -closed

World Languages Center
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 to Dec. 22
Dec. 23 to Jan. 4 -closed

charge to hold your belongings. Electronic devices are prohibited.

A test will be terminated if a student is seen with an electronic device during the test, Ellis said.

For more information about student use guidelines visit www.occc.edu/ACS.

Want to know what is going on around campus?
Follow us for instant news and updates!
www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer

December graduates await May commencement

The following students have applied for December graduation. Diplomas will be granted after credentials are completed and degree requirements are met. Students who fulfill degree requirements can participate in the May 13 commencement ceremony.

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

Philip Aken, Kathryn Alarcon, Sarah Amin, Jessica Arnds, Auzawdeh Asgari.

Amy Bailey, Sunni Bailey, Andrea Ballestero, Taylor Barnett, Andrew Beard, Richard Beavers, Christy Bell.

Candace Belton, Mark Benton, Sarah Bishop, Ryan Blackburn, Bonny Blackmon, Christine Brakefield, Shadnee Breeden, Joel Bryan, Sabrina Burghardt, Dayshawn Burns.

Ashlyn Carroll, Bailey Carter, Robin Castro, Stephanie Chanthalangsy, Patrick Chism, Lila Church, Christina Clark, Michael Crook.

Shaunda Dahlem, Talisa Davis, Tammy Davis, Angela Devous, Megan Dinan, Jeffery Dittenber, David Merrill Dou-thitt.

Betty Epley, Audrey Estell, Joshua Followwill, Yelitza Font-Hernandez, Amanda Freeman.

Paul Gilmore, Ambika Golden, Christopher Gordon, Casey Green, Marriah Gresham.

Jerrad Hacker, Jamie Hall, Chandler Harvey, Samantha Hayes, Ashley Helm, Steven Hendricks, Shara Hendricks.

Vercora Herbert, Mary Hollar, Abigail Holliday, Adam Holt, Jennifer Housley, Yvonne Hughes, Teresa Hunt.

Pablo Illanes, Patricia Ingram, Ashlee Jackson, Adrian James, Priscilla Jaramillo, Shanedra Jones, Stephanie Joshi.

Andrea Kihega, Heidi Kitchen, Christian Kosted, Candice Kostka, Jessika Kulhanek.

Rosita Labrador, Bethany Lang, Ashley Langdale, Billi Leiter, Nikia Lewis, Summer Lewis.

Courtney Lindauer-Rogers, Mary Longan, Chevonne Lovelace, Tyersa Lowery.

Bibi Mabry, Christina Malcom, Annalisa Manning, Tiara Manning, Rakeia McNeill, Sarah Miller.

Amanda Milleson, Meredith Mills, Suzanne Mills, Yasamine Mohi, Sunny Moore-Davies, Betty Mulhausen.

Dejuan Naff, Eliamar Ness, Dustin Nickel, Glenn Nunn, Brandi Oliver, Christy Olson.

Krystal Payne, Sarah Penrod, Joshua Perry, Kelsey Peters, James Peterson, Lindsay Pickelsimer, Nathan Price.

Amanda Reich, Kaci Rosales, Juan Ruiz, Spenser Sakurai, Janice Sampson, Tara Samuels.

Adriane Scherer, Betty Schwartz, Alicia Scott, Sarah Sharp, Jeanine Shay, Luke Sills, Alexandra Sitzman.

Katrina Smedley, Cara Smith, Jamie Smith, Sarah Smith, Mikki Stump, Thomas Surratt.

Lea Taylor, Troy Taylor II, Sean Thomson, Grace Trick, Lauren Turner.

Karla Ude, Teresa Valliere, Brandt Warner, Nidia Warner Reyes, Braylon Warr.

Jade Webb, Jason Weger, Janus Wilkinson-Roth, James Williams, Katie Williams, Berket Yosef.

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Ihsan Ahmad, Chase Ainsworth, Carlos Akins, Christopher Al-Abdala, Melissa Anderson, Lindsay Austin.

Qaiser Bashir, Nitesh Basnet, Brandon Beck, Lisa Bell, Stuart Benefield, Shannon Benson.

Lindsey Bird, Cassidy Bivens, Adrian Brakebill, Devin Brown, Jessica Busby, Bethany Bush.

Jon Cantrell, Shailendrasinh Chauhan, Ricky Chik, Minh Chung, Kristy Church, Amber Clark, Tiffany Clark.

Kenna Copeland, Ryan Copeland, Theresa Cottrell, Matthew Crist, Andrea Cusack.

Christian Djipsu, Tran Doan, Dixie Ehlenfeldt, Ciara Elgin, Christopher Ellis, Selena Espinoza.

Cynthia Farmer, Ayodeji Folami, Joseph Font, Frank Foshee, Miranda French, Katelynn Fry.

Suraj Gauchan, Anisha Ghimire, Lloyd Gideon, Kari Glidewell, Chris Goines, Ambika Golden, Kady Groh, Justyn Guthier.

Julianne Halliday, Michelle Hanley, Rachel Hanohano, Terry Hardaway, Dana Harris, Teresa

Harris, Erin Hart.

Tiffany Hawkins, Jake Henkes, Betsey Henson, Chelsea Hinkle, Kelsey Huber, Tien Thanh Huynhm.

Jacqueline Iglesias, Jennifer Ille, Keith Immatty, A. Scott Jackson Jr., Cathryn Jackson.

Adrian James, Shelley Johnson, Mallory Johnson, Meaghan Johnson, Destiny Jones, Julie Jones, Junior Jones.

Michael Karner, Lana Ketcher, Devraj Khadka, Melinda Kingery, Nathan Koller-Ingram, Gloria Kryslar, Sachin Kunwar.

Chase Langley, Diem Le, Phuoc Le, Phuong Le, Nancy Lopez Velez, Jenny Luong.

Kayla Markham, Michael Marshall, Marcos Martinez, Jimmy McAnally, Roy McCall, Jes Mellenthin.

Scott Mikesell, Ashley Milam, JD Miller, Norman Miller, Marissa Mollman, Clelia Montes, Zohaib Muhammad.

Moriam Na-Allah, Sharon Nelson, Edith Newman, Camille Njeugoue, Kimberly Orear, Jonathan Owens.

Celina Pang, Karen Parra, Bhumil Patel, Kenny Patterson, Loren Piccalo, Casey Pierson, Jarrod Powers, Laxmi Prajapati, Felix Pratts, Prabesh Pudasaini.

Brendan Ramos, O. Denise Reid, Christian Retter, Lizette Reyes, Lindsay Roland, Nirmitt Rungta, Amanda Russell, Ian Russell.

Jency Sam, Prajesh Sanjel, Cory Scrivner, David Sewell, Kristen Shows, Chanda Shrestha, Eden Simon, Cyndi Smith, Kevin Smith, Margaret Smith, Ashlee Sowell, Lindsey Stacy, Lauren Swearingen.

Kinu Tanaka, Amber Tate, Shane Terrel, David Thornton, Michael Torzilli, Toussaint Towa, Kristina Traxler, Alicia Triana.

Daniel Vargas, Trevor Varner, Hai Nguyen Vu, Amber Watts, Feruza Weed, Laura Weeks, Brittany White, Mary White.

Rebecca Whitson, Mary Williams, Mindy Wilson, Bethany Wright, Jennifer Wright, Dallas Wynne, Roxanne Zardo, Boutaina Zerouali.

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

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

John Adkison, Angela Albertson, Farkhanda Ali, Ingrid Anderson, James Apollonio, Chika Atoyosoeye.

Anthony Bass, Sr., Thomas Beall, Jesse Benson, Brendon Bergman, Monica Brock, Hilary Brumley, William Burnett Jr. Ka Chan, So Cheong, Robert Cleveland, Jennifer Clouse, Camille Cory, Jerrod Crawford.

Leslie Doshier, David Duden, Teresa Easley, Angel Elkins, Katherine Elrod.

Mandy Farmer, Ashley Fetterman, Helen Freese, Jennifer Frizell, Annie Gallegos, John Gilstrap, Brandon Gray.

Christopher Hampton, Tina Harjo, Jessica Harris, Melissa Hensley, Alicia Hibbard, Patricia Hill, Jeffery Howell, Josephine Hsu.

Aldo Jenkins, Matthew Jenkins, Brian Jones, Jeffery Jones, Laura Kamal, Muna KC, Jo Kelly, Mohammad Kilmer, James King.

Erik Leon-Lara, Gene Locke, Stephanie Lovett, Jessica Lowery.

William Ma, Kyle Madden, Sara Mahoney, Brandon McBryde, Regina McCoin, Coralie McFarland.

Rita Meeks, Jeremy Mellegaard, Cristopher Mitchell, James Mobley, Kalani Moniz-Bray, Brian Moore.

John Nguyen, Tyler Nikkel, Joseph O'Brien, Willella Pauley, Leah Payne, Nicholas Pierce, Charley Posada Jr., Brandi Price.

Kabiru Raimi, Melia V Roane, Jill Robertson, Martha Selzer, Christopher Smith, Eunice Song, Audrianna Sparks, Curtis

Stapleton, Loyd Steele, Lacye Stewart, Jennifer Stramski.

Reza Tavasoli, Timothy Thomas, Sarina Thompson, Chinh Tran, Emily Trent, Suzanne Trimble, Todd VanBebber.

Michael Wallace, Colby Wardwell, Michelle Whinery, Amanda White, Neil White, Pamela Wilbur, Michelle Wilson, Nicholas Wilson.

CERTIFICATE OF MASTERY

Kelsey Abla, Kimberly Allen, Rhonda Audette, Jason Bates, Thomas Beall, Aaron Bennett, Brett Bergstrom, Jamie Bolling.

Jessica Campbell, Aaron Charnay, Ian Christensen-Gibbons, James Colby, Mitchell Conant, Evangelyn Crow, David Cryer, Geneva Cunningham.

Angela Ferguson, Brenda Garcia, Ryan Gevaza, Jacob Gower, Cody Grace, Robert Groom.

Tina Harjo, Taylor Hendrix, April Hipschen, Earnest Hixon II, Jeneika Jessie, Matthew Johnson, Amanda Kelm.

Kevan Kiser, Joshua Lacy, Jesula Laub, Amanda Martin, Stephanie McDavid, Jessica Miller, Courtney Mitchell, Lonathan Morgan.

Sara Ohrt, David Pike, Jacob Price, Jacob Purton, Cory Ransbottom, Mary Christine Ravago, Mitchell Reiff, Dior Ross.

Samantha Savage-Badayos, Levi Schneberger, Darlene Scott, Jesse Slone, Timothy Thomas.

Todd VanBebber, Kelley Weedn, Joshua Wend, Bryan Willett, Tyler Wilmoth, Nicholas Wilson.

“I want to personally congratulate all of our students who have reached this important milestone-completion of a degree or certificate. I am proud of your accomplishment”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT



ONLINE HOLIDAY SALES ARE EXPECTED TO EXCEED LAST YEAR'S TOTALS

Online shoppers should follow safety tips

As the holiday season draws closer, many consumers will turn to online stores to shop, entering credit card numbers and other personal information in the process.

According to Forrester Research, Inc., online retail sales in the U.S. will reach nearly \$52 billion this holiday season, a 16 percent increase over last year's weak numbers.

Identity Theft 911 (<http://identitytheft911.org>) cautions online shoppers to keep security in mind when surfing for that perfect gift.

They offer a vast array of information plus the following tips:

- **Shop on secure sites.** They'll have "https" in the address bar and a yellow padlock logo to the right of the Web browser address bar. Double-click on the lock to see a digital certificate of the website. Review these certificates on unfamiliar sites.

- **Enter correct URLs.** Hackers often buy misspelled domains to trick people into entering personal information.

- **Never enter your Social Security number or passwords** to e-mail and bank accounts as part of the buying process with online retailers.

- **Leave suspicious websites immediately.** Don't click on any of the site's buttons, run content or download software.

- **Create "strong" passwords for online retailers and personal e-mail accounts** that have numbers, upper- and lower-case letters and symbols. For example, "3Dogz\$\$!" is better than "1006."

- **Use different passwords** for online retailers, personal e-mail and bank accounts. If a hacker cracks one password, he won't have access to others.

- **Read site reviews before making any purchases.** Pricegrabber.com compares prices and users' comments on retail websites. Google Product Search, slickdeals.net and dealnews.com monitor retail-

ers, site performance, possible issues and deals.

- **Never save personal information on an online retail website.** Retailers will offer convenience and better deals, but many customer databases are breached by identity thieves. It's not worth the risk.

- **Read website return and privacy policies** before making purchases. If there's any doubt about fairness, find another site.

- **Be aware of phishing e-mail scams** that include website links advertising incredible deals. Don't click on them. Type the link directly into your browser.

- **Use credit cards, not debit cards.** Try to use credit cards with low limits to minimize the damage if a thief takes over the account. Or, use a "one-time" credit card number from payment processors such as PayPal.

- **Never link a bank account** to an online pay service such as PayPal. Hackers could break into the PayPal account and drain money from the linked bank account.

- **Never send payment information via regular e-mail.** It's not secure. Make sure all personal information transactions are done on a secure site.

- **Uncheck boxes advertising "additional offers."** These services are sometimes offered for a low initial fee that later increases to a high, recurring

charge on your credit card. Also, they'll issue your contact information to spammers.

- **Save records** of all purchases either in an electronic document or on paper. Save records digitally with the free Adobe PDF print driver or PDFCreator.

- **Secure mobile phones used for shopping.** Back them up regularly and enable security features such as power on password and inactivity time lock. Learn how to clear browser caches and, if available, enable data encryption and antivirus applications.

- **As always, install and update antivirus, anti-malware and firewall software on your computer.** Update its operating system and Internet browser with the latest security patches.

- **Power off your computer** completely when you are finished using it.

Computer Systems Director John Richardson said he shops online and feels comfortable doing so.

"I have not once had a bad experience (from buying online)," Richardson said.

He said he believes the Internet market is a safe place to purchase items — if used with common sense.

"For the holiday season I buy about 95 percent off of the Internet," Richardson said.

He said another way to online shop safely is to pay indirectly for added protection.

"If you pay through PayPal then they are the ones transferring your money out of an account and it gives you that

added security," Richardson said.

—Online Writer Bonnie Campo contributed to this report.

Help offered to those in need during holidays

If you or someone you know is facing financial difficulty or homelessness this holiday season, the following local organizations will provide various seasonal services, including shelter, dinners, and discount Christmas shopping.

- **Christmas Connection**

5728 S May
Oklahoma City
405-634-2006
www.christmasconnection.org

- **Jesus House**

1335 W Sheridan
Oklahoma City
405-232-7164
www.jesushouseokc.org

- **Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma**

3355 S. Purdue
Oklahoma City
405-972-1111
www.regionalfoodbank.org

- **City Rescue Mission**

Free Christmas Celebration at 11 a.m. Dec. 25
800 W California Ave.
Oklahoma City, Ok 73106
405-232-2709
www.cityrescue.org

- **Marine Toys for Tots Foundation**

Toy request online
Oklahoma City OK
405-370-7618
okc.toysfortots.org

- **YWCA Oklahoma City**

Toys, clothes, giftcards, and Christmas decorations
2460 W. I-44 Service Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405-948-1770
www.ywca.org
contact: rwilliams@ywcaokc.org

- **Heartline 2-1-1**

Help with food, clothing, and shelter
Call 211
www.heartlineoklahoma.org



Affordable gifts that won't break a wallet



Make your own scarves and give them to your friends as gifts! Apart from supplies, they're free to make! Get free patterns at: www.straw.com/cpy/patterns/scarves/sequoia-cable-scarf.



\$17.99 — Passport billfold shields you from RFID readers. The leather billfold also holds cards, ID and cash. www.thinkgeek.com.



\$12 — Matryoshka Measuring Cups - The cooking enthusiast in your crowd will love these 6 dry-measure cups. amazon.com.



An iTunes Gift Card lets you shop at the iTunes Store 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Shop for music, movies, TV shows, apps, audiobooks, and more. iTunes Gift Cards come in various amounts, and themes. <http://store.apple.com>.



\$15.50 — Impress every chocolate lover with this sleek chocolate fondue set. Candle holder base, two fondue bowls, two fondue forks, and a recipe card. www.maxbrenner.com.



\$8 — Trick Camera Lenses - Attach one of these colorful lenses to an iPhone camera to create some awesome special effects. www.urbanoutfitters.com.



\$9 — Wood Handle Wax Seal - An elegant touch to add to letters and gift cards. The kit includes a stick of flexible sealing wax and a wood-handled seal stamp. www.amazon.com.

Look online at www.occc.edu/pioneer for an even larger list of affordable gifts. Happy Holiday shopping!



Pioneer staff shares favorite holiday music

Jennifer Massey Editor
"Glee: The Music, The Christmas Album"
Glee cast

Chasadi Fails-Ortiz Staff Writer
"Merry Christmas II"
Mariah Carey

Morgan Beard Sports Writer
"The Holiday Album"
Kenny G

Bonnie Campo Online Writer
"White Christmas"
Bing Crosby

Rachel Morrison Photographer
"Merry Christmas"
Mariah Carey

Whitney Knight Online Editor
"A Charlie Brown Christmas"
Vince Guaraldi Trio

Yasmin Shirali Photographer
"The Christmas Album"
Frank Sinatra

Joey Stipek Staff Writer
"Punk Rock Xmas"
Various Artists

Azizakhon Mansuri Graphic Design
"Whenever You Are"
Sami Yusuf

Christian Kosted Senior Writer
"Songs for Christmas"
Sufjan Stevens

Bishal Malla Advertising Manager
"You Make it Feel Like Christmas"
Neil Diamond

Caleb Barrette Videographer
"A Charlie Brown Christmas"
Vince Guaraldi Trio

Shawn Stawicki Lab Assistant
"Christmas on Mars"
Flaming Lips

Ronna Austin Lab Director
"The 12 Plays of Alternative-Indie Christmas Songs"
Various Artists

Christmas Lights

Bricktown Lights

What better way to see the magical holiday lights than aboard a water taxi on the Bricktown canal? Bring a coat and stare in awe as the lights twinkle off the water.

Ride free from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays until Dec. 30 thanks to The Oklahoman.

For more information, visit www.welcometobricktown.com or call 405-236-8666.

Yukon's Christmas in the Park

Since 1995, Yukon's Christmas in the Park has only continued to get better and better. Drive over three miles through 100 acres along Jim Watson Drive and see more than 300 incredible light displays from your car. Get more information, and see a gallery of images from Yukon's event, so you can get just a taste of what's there.

Admission is free, but donations are accepted at the end of the drive-through. Event runs from 6 to 11 p.m. through Dec. 31 in Yukon City Park.

Christmas in the Park is held in Yukon's City Park, located at 2200 S. Holly.

For more information, visit www.yukoncc.com or call 405-350-8937.

Midwest City's Holiday Lights Spectacular

The Joe B. Barnes Regional Park becomes an extravaganza with a 118-foot Christmas tree, a tunnel of lights, 80 lighting displays, waterfall and animated displays. Horse-drawn carriages available for the mile drive-through.

Event open 6 to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 6 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 30.

The Joe B. Barnes Regional Park is located at S.E. 15 and Century Blvd in Midwest City.

For more information, visit www.midwestcityok.org.

Chickasha's Festival of Light

Now in its 17th year, the Chickasha Festival of Light attracts visitors from all over the nation and includes an animated, musically-choreographed show.

This free event runs to Dec. 31. Bus tours, carriage rides and photos with Santa available for a charge.

The Festival of Light is held at Shannon Park, located at 2400 South 9th St in Chickasha.

For more information, visit www.chickashafestivaloflight.com or call 405-224-9627.

FOUR-PHASE PROJECT AWAITS FUNDING

Regents approve design to plant 1,000 trees

ALISHA WALKER
News Writing Student

A plan to plant about 1,000 on campus over the next few years was approved by the OCCC Board of Regents during the Nov. 15 meeting.

Howard-Fairbairn Site Design developed the plans to plant the trees, subject to the availability of funds. Cody Klein, Howard-Fairbairn associate, made the presentation to the board.

In an e-mail, OCCC President Paul Sechrist said the project will cost more than \$400,000.

Funds are expected to come from a variety of sources, including private funds and donations, as well as Section 13 Offset money, which is state funding designated for capital improvement projects.

Sechrist said the college also hopes to offset some of the cost by using some trees already planted in the campus

tree nursery.

Student reactions about the project were mixed.

Kayla Snyder, pre-pharmacy major, expressed concern about funding the improvements and construction.

"I hope that if they do anything, they do it (over the summer)," Snyder said, because recent construction projects have made getting around campus difficult.

However, Snyder said, she believes the improvements would make campus more appealing and attractive to both current and prospective students.

Keegan Parrish, film and video major, said the trees would "keep students spirits up when times are stressful" on campus.

According to the design plans, trees would be planted in four phases.

Recommended trees include Chinese pistache, bald cypress, shumard oak, cedar

elm, deodar cedar, loblolly pine, Nellie R. Stevens holly and Leyland cypress.

Klein said these trees are low maintenance and "well-suited for Oklahoma."

The use of evergreens will provide year-round greenery during the fall and winter seasons.

The first phase will outline the north and east boundaries of campus, which are the frontages to SW 74th St. and South May Avenue, he said.

Trees would help "mask the unsightly southern boundary" of campus, to be completed in the second phase of the project, Klein said.

The third phase will be focused to the interior of the campus along Faculty Circle.

The fourth and final planting phase was designed specifically for the new John Massey Center, which has yet to be built, and the secondary campus entry off of South May Avenue.



Majestic loblolly pine trees, which can reach a height of 115 feet, will be included in the thousand-tree planting project. For more images, including a map of the proposed plan, visit the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

Experts rally for domestic violence awareness

AUBREY AGUIRRE
News Writing Student

Domestic violence plagues the homes, lives, and families of many Americans.

"As a nation, state, community, family and couple, we hide this dirty little secret, telling ourselves that it's not that bad or it's really no one else's business," said Leona Chapman, Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency case manager.

Chapman has counseled women facing unplanned pregnancy, answered rape crisis phone lines, worked in a shelter for abused women, and offered family support services to homeless and low income households.

She also is the case manager for residents who live in a transitional housing program. These jobs have

shown her the ugliest side of the "skeleton of domestic violence buried in the closet," Chapman said.

In her work, she said, she constantly hears about family and relationship violence.

"I believe it is time that we research the statistics, hear the stories, and take action to stop this tragedy happening in our neighborhoods," Chapman said.

In October, about 45 people attended a campus presentation on relationship violence.

Erin Walker, YWCA Outreach and Volunteer Services director, guided students on how to leave a violent relationship — or how to help someone else make the decision to leave.

When approaching a victim of domestic violence, Walker said, it is important to initiate the conversation

without forcing the victim to stay somewhere or by telling her what she must do.

Walker said to encourage the victim to make her own decisions while stressing the facts and promoting the realization that you, and others, fear for her safety.

Even as a friend or peer, you can help the victim out of her harmful situation.

"We need to recognize domestic violence as a community issue," she said.

Both Chapman and Walker reach out to the community to educate victims, informing them they have professionals to talk with, places to go, and ways to stay safe as they escape the grasp of domestic violence.

Both women reiterated the importance of getting help before violent incidents increase, escalate, or spread into

all aspects of their lives.

Abuse victims never have to feel like they are isolated in their situation, Walker said.

Domestic violence doesn't always end in death, she said. But it always leave emotional scars that become deeper and darker the longer the abuse continues.

Walker said domestic violence isn't just in the physical marks it leaves.

It also is present in emotional abuse, isolation, denial, blaming, intimidation, and threats, made by one person deliberately taking away another person's power and control.

One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, Walker said.

Chapman stressed the idea that domestic violence is multifaceted.

"If I had one thing to share

with others, it would be that domestic violence is behind many social problems including substance abuse and mental illness," Chapman said.

"It is often the root that is fueling many social issues. This epidemic is hurting every human being."

Domestic Abuse Hotlines

Oklahoma Safeline
1-800-522-7233

National Domestic
Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233

Rape, Abuse and Incest
National Network Hotline
1-800-656-4673

Oklahoma Coalition
Against Domestic
Violence and Sexual
Assault
405-524-0700

SHARING HERITAGE CAN TRANSLATE TO AN OPEN FUTURE

Social diversity encouraged

KERAYA HASSAN
News Writing Student

“ You get past stereotypes and throw them aside. Form your own opinion.”

—ALEXANDRA TESSIER
OCCC STUDENT

It's OK for people from different backgrounds and cultures to be open and learn from one another, said Penny Hampton, OCCC Professional Development Director, in a Nov. 16 luncheon speech that focused on diversity.

About 20 students attended the event.

Before going into her speech, Hampton asked, “what is diversity?”

“We are all aware that differences exist,” she said.

“Government and social standards have helped to motivate acceptance around the country.”

Hampton said she believes comfort gets in the way of interacting with others who are different.

People have to give up isolation, comfort levels, and pre-held notions to effectively work with others who are different, she said.

Hampton recommended a number of ways to make breaking the ice easier, such as compliments, finding common ground, and treating everyone with dignity and respect.

Having a difference in cultures also could affect who a person decides to talk to, she said.

“A culture is more than where you are from, ethnicity, or age. It is everything you take in and

learn from your surroundings and how you behave.”

She offered examples of cultural influences that can be a communication barrier if they are not respected.

In some cultures it can be considered rude to stand too closely to a person or shake their hand too softly, Hampton said.

She recommends, to avoid conflict, to be conscious of appropriate and inappropriate topics for discussion.

If students do find themselves in an argument, knowing “how to say no and deal with conflict” can determine the outcome, Hampton said.

Students will miss out on different ideas, learning experiences, and most importantly friendships if they choose to work only with people similar to them, Hampton said.

OCCC student Alexandra Tessier, 23, said she learned to appreciate diversity by working with different people.

“You get past stereotypes and throw them aside,” she said. “Form your own opinion.”

For more on cultural diversity visit www.un.org/rights/dpi1627e.

Winning team



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Health and Fitness center's Fall Into Fitness Grand Drawing winners Telecommunications Specialist Tammy Duncan and student Ricky Sanchez show off \$50 Wal-Mart gift cards they each recently won. Duncan and Sanchez were eligible for a grand drawing by initially winning one of the monthly drawings. Both regularly work out in the Fitness Center.

Suspect in thefts arrested

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Several thefts took place on campus recently including the Wellness Center and the bookstore.

One string of thefts that began earlier this year has been attributed to former OCCC student Craig P. Ralls, 21.

On Nov. 18 Brenda Reinke informed campus security that a book, valued at \$172.67, had been stolen from the bookstore.

Bookstore video footage shows a suspect identified as Ralls placing the book under his jacket, then leaving the bookstore and campus.

An incident report shows campus security were unable to respond in time to apprehend Ralls.

Ralls also is a suspect in previous bookstore thefts, according to earlier reports.

Reinke said she isn't authorized to comment about the situation.

Ralls is believed to have struck again Nov. 19 when campus security took a report of a stolen backpack in the Wellness Center.

Sergio Lopez reported he placed his backpack in a cubby across from the Wellness Center cage.

He said he returned from his workout to find his backpack missing.

Video footage shows a suspect identified by OCCC security as Ralls taking the backpack and leaving the area.

A few days later on Nov. 22 Ralls was seen by an OCCC security officer entering the library.

Oklahoma City police were called and told a suspect in several OCCC thefts was on campus.

According to the report, when officers arrived, Ralls was confronted and a foot chase ensued. Ralls was eventually apprehended by OCPD and charged with grand larceny.

Oklahoma State Courts Network (www.oscn.net) shows Ralls has several charges for thefts and drug possession pending in both Cleveland and Oklahoma counties.

Ralls is a former OCCC student who, on his personal Facebook page, describes his occupation as “gettin money.”

Readers can follow updates on the story at the Pioneer Online www.occc.edu/pioneer.

In an unrelated incident, a theft was reported around 8:30 a.m. Dec. 1 at OCCC's Family and Community Education Center off campus.

Jennifer Cheney said she left her purse containing her wallet in her backpack in a classroom while she went outdoors to smoke. She said a while later, when she retrieved her wallet to buy something from a vending machine, she noticed \$50 was missing.



Craig Ralls

It's a connected world.
Do your share.

For 30 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share,
3400 International Drive, NW, Suite 2K (AD4),
Washington, DC 20038.



Earth Share

SPORTS



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Freshman Robert Nicholson goes for a run around OCCC's jogging trail. The mile-long trail is located around the college. OCCC offers a variety of ways to keep in shape, including free access for students with a valid ID to the campus Wellness and Aquatic Centers. See www.occc.edu/rcs for more information.

INTRAMURALS | STARTING IN THE SPRING, OCCC INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL OPENS FOR PLAY

Basketball season on the horizon

MORGAN BEARD

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

As the semester comes to a close, so does the fall intramural sports season. After the conclusion of OCCC flag football, students turn their attention to the 5-on-5-basketball season next semester.

Eric Watson, sports and recreation specialist, said intramural basketball garners a lot of attention.

"It's really popular among the students at the college," Watson said. "We usually get a lot of people to participate and this year shouldn't be any different."

The basketball season will begin in February. Watson said registration for the league is available on the opening day of the spring semester.

Students looking to join may sign up as a team or an individual. Individuals will be assigned to other teams before the season begins, Watson said.

Applications can be found in the

OCCC Wellness Center all season long. No deadline has been set yet.

Watson expects 10 to 15 teams to play through a four week regular season.

Top teams throughout the regular season will advance to playoffs in hopes of taking home the league championship.

With sign-ups open and the NBA season in full-swing, students like Joseph Ostas get the itch to play a little basketball.

"When basketball season comes around, it makes you want to play," Ostas said. "I'm excited for the season to start up soon."

Watson said students will not only be scored on the court, but also off the court. Sportsmanship points will be tallied over the course of the regular season, and the playoffs, to encourage a pleasant experience for all.

Teams or players with low sports-

“ We usually get a lot of people to participate and this year shouldn't be any different...”

—ERIC WATSON

SPORTS AND RECREATION SPECIALIST

manship grades will not be eligible for postseason play, Watson said.

For students on the fence about intramural basketball, Watson encourages new faces to come out and play.

"Intramural basketball is a great way to meet other students," Watson said. "You can get in shape, have fun, and know what's going on down here in the Wellness Center, too."

In preparation for the season, students can use the cardio room to get in shape by using the various workout equipment.

After hard-fought basketball games, students can take a dip in the Olympic-sized pool next to the gym to cool off.

For more information, contact Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Dec. 13:** Abs Express class from 5:05 to 5:25 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 13:** Cardio Kickboxing class from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 15:** Combo Aerobics class from noon to 12:55 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 15:** Pilates class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 16:** Hatha Yoga class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 16:** Zumba class from noon to 12:55 p.m. and again from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. Additional classes offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 17:** Water exercise class from 7:45 to 8:40 a.m. and again from 9 to 9:55 a.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

**Have sports news?
E-mail Morgan Beard
sportswriter@occc.edu**

Homeless: Help is available

Continued from page 1

Duckworth describes her situation as unstable. A year and a half ago, she was engaged and was a stay-at-home mother after the birth of her second child. At one point, she realized that her living situation was unhealthy.

"My fiancé, while he never struck me, was never around," Duckworth said. "He wouldn't let me work because he was so controlling and I had no savings. Utilities were being shut off and I was alone with two children and we had no water or electricity."

Duckworth dialed *211, a crisis phone number which provides free and confidential information for food, housing, employment, health care and counseling. She explained her situation to the counselor who answered the phone.

A few phone calls to other assistance agencies led Duckworth and her children to their current living situation with transition housing for children in crisis.

She decided going back to school was the only way to get off welfare and break the cycle of poverty.

Duckworth said she also has received support from her professors and from Student Support Services.

Duffield's organization, NAEHCY, has advocated for



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

policy changes in the FAFSA which would make it easier for homeless individuals to receive funding, she said.

In 2009, rules were changed on the form in part to allow students who have experienced homelessness in high school to be able to be verified as homeless by a HUD adviser, homeless shelter director or financial aid officer without having to go through additional steps to qualify for financial aid, Duffield said.

Most students and staff may not realize just how close they are to becoming homeless themselves.

"We are one accident away from being in a similar situation," said OCCC Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner.

"Unless students have someone who can take them in, they would be on the street or in a shelter," Turner said. "When you have kids, it's especially hard this time of year. With the weather getting colder and colder, shelters are full."

Turner often encounters

students who are homeless and need assistance. She said she encourages students facing similar adversity to use the community resources page in the Student Support Services section on the OCCC website.

"I know it is embarrassing to have those kinds of needs, but if people do not know how to get those resources, we encourage them to talk to us to see what we can help them with," Turner said.

Turner and fellow staff members at Student Support Services, as well as OCCC faculty, have been known to make sure students are fed, have a place to go or even given bus fare for transportation to a shelter.

"OCCC has a big heart," Turner said.

Duckworth is currently looking for an apartment for her and her children. She said she's not asking for pity, but she does want to clear up the stereotypes surrounding being homeless.

"I got myself in a bad pinch and did what was necessary," Duckworth said. "I have learned a lot from it."

"I think that if people walk out in the world, they need to realize homeless people are not beggars who live on the streets. I go to school, work and take care of my kids. I don't have a criminal record or a drug and

alcohol problem.

"I am working every day to better myself," Duckworth said. "I think if I could survive this I could do anything."

Students in need of assistance with homelessness or other education issues can contact Student Support Ser-

vices online at www.occc.edu/support/community.html or by phone at 405-682-7520.

To contact the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, call the helpline toll-free at 1-800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org.

A look at the Homeless in Oklahoma City

"Each year, Oklahoma City takes one day to count and survey every homeless person in the city. The most recent "Point-in-Time" count of the homeless was conducted Jan. 27, 2010. (see full transcript of the study at www.homelessalliance.org/docs/2010PIT.pdf).

The intention of this count was to provide a snapshot picture of homelessness in Oklahoma City, of both the number of homeless people and their characteristics. A large team of community volunteers from more than 14 organizations surveyed homeless persons in emergency homeless shelters, transitional housing facilities, hot meal sites, crisis facilities such as hospitals and the jail, encampments, and various street locations.

Results showed that Oklahoma City had a high rate of chronic homelessness. A chronically homeless person is, according to HUD's definition, an individual with a disabling condition who has been continually homeless for one year or more or has had four or more episodes of homelessness within the last three years. On Jan. 27, 294 people counted in emergency shelters, in crisis facilities, and on the streets met this definition.

In the last five years, families with children have been the fastest growing demographic of the Oklahoma City homeless population.

As a consequence, the community has focused its efforts on reversing that trend and the 2010 count showed the number of homeless families with children decreased about 20 percent. Given the economic conditions at the time of the count, this reduction is especially good news.

The count also showed Oklahoma City's homeless problem is a homegrown one. While some argue that the homeless come here from across the country to access services, the data does not support that assertion.

In the 2010 count, only 19 percent reported being housed outside the Oklahoma City limits prior to becoming homeless. This ratio has been fairly consistent over the past five years.

Of adults responding to special needs questions:

27 percent were chronically homeless by HUD's definition

22 percent report mental illness

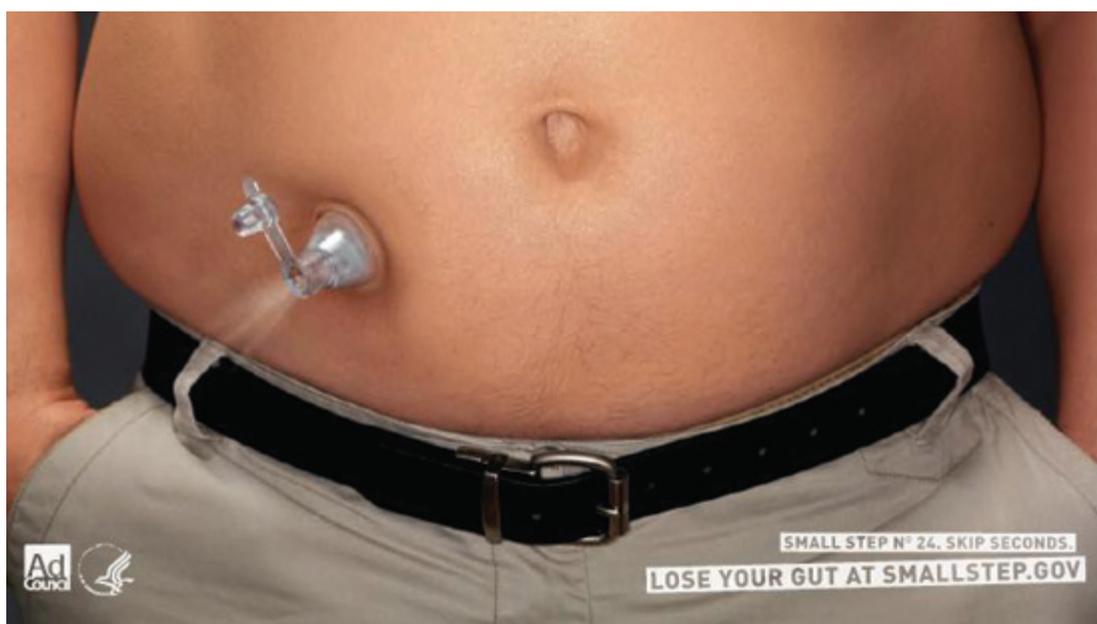
27 percent report substance abuse

15 percent claimed to be veterans

Current results show a total of 1,081 homeless people counted on the night of Jan. 27, 2010.

The Point-in-Time count was a joint project of the City of Oklahoma City, the Coalition for the Needy, and the Homeless Alliance."

—www.homelessalliance.org



CAMPUS COMMUNITY



PIONEER/RACHEL MORRISON

English professor Stephen Morrow, along with several members of the Advocates of Peace club, initiate a silent peace walk around campus Dec 1. The “Day of Peace and Justice” which was sponsored by the Advocates of Peace, began with a luncheon that included several guest speakers to promote a more peaceful world.

BOOK BUYBACK | Students can get money for textbooks

Sell unwanted books for cash

CHASADIC FAILS-ORTIZ
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

“You can get up to 50 percent of your money back, at book buyback.”

—BRENDA REINKE
OCCC BOOKSTORE DIRECTOR

Many students on campus are saving the date for book buyback at the OCCC Bookstore which begins at 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

The OCCC Bookstore will buyback books through Dec. 18 as well as on Dec. 20, said Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke.

“You can get up to 50 percent of your money back, at book buyback,” Reinke said.

She said approximately 30 percent of students take advantage of book buyback.

The Bookstore sells the used books to other students for a cheaper price, Reinke said.

Students get the most money back on books that will be used in upcoming semesters, she said. A book has a lesser value if it won't be used in future classes.

The opportunity to get back some cash on their earlier investments is appealing to students.

“I am looking forward to book buyback,” said Spanish major Amberly Burgard. The first-year college student said she will use the money she gets from her books to help pay for books she will need next semester.

If students miss out on book buyback at OCCC or want to shop around to get the best price, they also can check out book buyback prices at Textbook Brokers, located north of OCCC at 7445 S. May Ave.

Store manager Brice Varbel said Textbook Bro-

kers has “the lowest prices, with year-long buybacks.” He said Textbook Brokers is sometimes able to offer more than half of retail value.

Varbel said when students take intersession or Fast Track courses, they don't have to wait until the end of the year to sell their books back. He said they can sell them when the course is over.

Reinke said she encourages students to sell their books at OCCC because it not only helps other students purchase used books at a cheaper price but also the campus bookstore's profits contribute to upgrades and various projects on the OCCC campus.

Business Professor Jack Kraettli said selling unwanted books is a service to other students.

He said it gives other students a chance to get cheaper books by being able to buy used instead of new books.

“If you're not going to use your book, give another student an opportunity to use it,” he said.

Kraettli said students also may want to consider keeping select books to refer to for information down the road.

Broadcasting major Jack Chin agrees.

“[The textbooks] are going to be more use to me than the cash value,” he said.

Does your club have an upcoming event or meeting?
If so, call Christy Johnson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410,
or e-mail communitywriter@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Finals week breakfast Dec. 13

Don't take a test on an empty stomach. Student Life is hosting a free Finals Breakfast from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 13 in CU3.

SIFE Christmas Benefit Concert

Students in Free Enterprise club will hold its 4th annual Christmas Benefit Concert at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is a new toy or article of clothing for a child — ages newborn to 17. Performances by Native Praise, Albert Gray Eagle and Tonemah. Get your picture made with Santa. For more information, call Loren Tonemah at 405-735-7078 or tonemahmusic@yahoo.com.

Play auditions Dec. 13 and 14

Auditions for Euripides' “The Trojan Woman” will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, and Tuesday, Dec. 14, in Room 1F5 AH. No experience is necessary and all students are invited to audition. Bring a photo and be prepared to move. For more information, contact Theater professor Brent Noel at bnoel@occc.edu.

Campus holiday caroling planned

The Communications Lab invites everyone to join together from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, for holiday caroling. Treats and popcorn also will be sold to raise money for Communications Lab sponsored projects. For more information, contact the Communications Lab at 405-682-1611, ext. 7142 or Lab Supervisor Rachel Olsen at rolsen@occc.edu.

SCOPE to host debate

Professor Markus Smith's political science class SCOPE will host its Great Debate from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, in the College Union. Students are asked to bring canned goods to donate to the end-of-the-year food drive on campus. Food boxes are located outside of the College Union entrance. The Regional Food Bank will collect all donations.

Spring Classes offered downtown

Three OCCC courses are being offered on Thursdays this spring through the OKC Downtown College Consortium. The classes are Contemporary Oklahoma Writers (ENG 2113), Understanding Art in OKC (HUM 2003), and Accounting I/Financial Acct (ACCT 2113). For more information, visit www.downtowncollege.com or call 405-232-3382.

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 in 1F2 of the Arts and Humanities Building, just inside Entry 2.

Do you have news you'd like to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC student worthy of a mention. If so, contact Jennifer at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675.

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.

APPLIANCES

FOR SALE: Hoover bagless vaccum cleaner. Good condition and works good. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609.

ELECTRONICS

For Sale: TI 84 & TI Inspire keyboards, operating systems. Looks new, used for one semester. Manual, software. \$50.00. Call: 405-682-7804 or e-mail jatkinson@occc.edu.

FOR RENT

Roommate Wanted: Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom, pets allowed, no smoking or alcohol inside the apartment, \$250 per month. Call A.J. at 405-549-3398 or e-mail olalekanijl@yahoo.com.

Roommate Wanted: Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom apartment, no pets, no smoking or alcohol, \$400 per month. Call Jaime at 405-520-1262 or e-mail jaimecom@lycos.com.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: No down payment, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 2 car, CH&A, Move in ready, spotless, close to OU and OCCC, 227 S Bristow, Moore, OK. \$87,500. Call: 405-364-8555, 405-820-3630 or e-mail cshutt1@cox.net.

SERVICES

Need a Ride: Looking for a ride from Norman to OCCC for the remain-



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Students register with their 7-digit student ID number
Alumni enter AL+last 5 digits of Social Security number
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OCCC
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES
OPTIMAL RESUME
www.occc.optimalresume.com
Students' access ID is their OCCC email address
example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu
Resumes • Cover Letters • Interview Skills

Musicians Needed

The Cross, an established southside church, but under new direction with a passion for Christ and His people, is seeking one or more musicians with keyboard or guitar performance experience who would love to serve their Lord and Savior in a small but growing work.
Interested can call Pastor Mike at 405-641-8194 or Natalie at 405-641-0611.

der of the semester. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Willing to share the gas money. Call Evan at 702-875-1505.

NEED A RIDE: Looking for a ride from Norman to OCCC for Spring 2011. Willing to pay or make an arrangement if anybody is interested. Call: Fatoumata at 405-474-1332 or e-mail fatoumatacisse@email.occc.edu.

Tutoring Offered: Are you struggling in any subject? Take a tutoring class with Nguyen. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625 or e-mail nguyen.h.truong@email.occc.edu

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: Freshman books for Business & Management major. Used but in good shape and affordable price. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: Larousse student dictionary English-French for only \$5. Useful for students. Few other books for Business major are also available. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@gmail.com.

Follow us at
www.occc.edu/pioneer

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cod's relative
 - 5 Salad-dressing cheese
 - 9 "I'm glad that's over!"
 - 13 Outdoor area
 - 14 UFO pilot?
 - 15 Roof part
 - 16 Son of Aphrodite
 - 17 Destructive beetle
 - 19 Henri's negative
 - 20 Soldier's shoe
 - 21 "1984" author
 - 22 Art for tar, e.g.
 - 24 Old Norse inscription
 - 25 Rower's need
 - 26 Clemency
 - 30 Warsaw's place
 - 33 Helper
 - 34 Electrical unit
 - 35 October gem
 - 36 Weapon
 - 37 Garden soil
 - 38 Soak (flax)
 - 39 Beseeched
 - 41 Actress
 - 43 Plummer
 - 44 Pew adjuncts
 - 45 Prune (branches)
 - 46 Fancy trim
 - 47 Traded
 - 51 Quantity
 - 54 Actor Connery
 - 55 An Asian
- DOWN**
- 1 Laughing mammal
 - 2 Tori's dad
 - 3 Swedish money unit
 - 4 Sullivan and Asner
 - 5 Flower
 - 6 Happy tune
 - 7 Long fish
 - 8 Relaxed
 - 9 Baseball's Reese
 - 10 Possess
 - 11 Harmful
 - 12 Water source
 - 14 On the train
 - 18 Tennessee — Ford
 - 20 Kind of muffin
 - 23 Hockey score
 - 24 Harness part
 - 26 Extols
 - 27 Midday
 - 28 Sudan's
- 56 One way to quit smoking
- 58 Contented sound
- 59 Tennis pro
- 60 Nastase
- 61 Forays
- 62 Atlanta arena
- 63 Bears' shelters
- 64 Stops
- 64 Hardy heroine

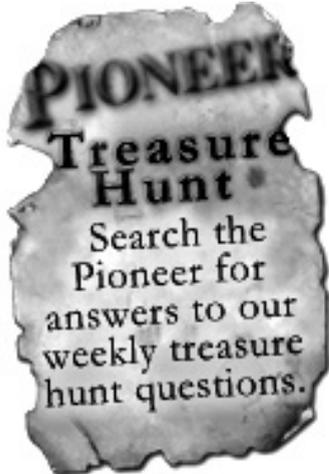
PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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- neighbor
- 29 Jane Austen novel
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- 32 Behind time
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- 37 Reindeer herder
- 39 Act like a farmer
- 40 Act like a professor
- 41 Forever
- 42 Haunted-house noise
- 44 Avoids adroitly
- 47 Flower starters
- 48 Feather
- 49 Takes in, as salary
- 50 Singer Day
- 51 Vinegar, e.g.
- 52 Double agent
- 53 Ken or Lena
- 54 Slip and slide
- 57 Was up for election
- 58 Cook's vessel

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The Pioneer would like to thank everyone who has played the Treasure Hunt and successfully answered all the questions. We have done a drawing and three people who answered all the questions correctly through the semester have been selected as winners. The lucky winners are:
1: Bernadean Woods
2: Samantha Nelson
3: Stephanie Matthews-Short
Congratulations to all the winners.

Come to the Pioneer office to collect the prizes.
Correct Answer for last week:
1: 6 to 8 p.m., Dec. 3 to 16, OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center gallery. 2: Four teams, Triper Pen. 3: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. 4: More than 36 million.

Read the Pioneer issue to play the Treasure Hunt. Send your answers to:
adman@occc.edu.

A SHATTERED SYMPHONY SETTING BIG GOALS

Students have sights set on music career

SCOTT MICHAEL
News Writing Student

For drummer Michael Harris, school is merely a means to an end — to make it big in the music world.

Like many students on campus, Harris, along with fellow students Josh Tassinari and Zach Wright, has a number of passions branching in and out of the realm of what college can offer. For these three students, the overwhelming passion is music.

The three have been in a local band called A Shattered Symphony, along with Jeremy Teel and Adam Pierce, for more than two years.

With influences ranging from Dave Matthews to Attack! Attack!, from The All-American Rejects to The Devil Wears Prada, Harris's rock band has a rather mixed genre that it brings to the table.

With the addition of lead singer Teel in August, the band feels confident in its future.

Citing future plans such as being on the radio, and even a strong desire to play in the Super Bowl Halftime Show, Harris isn't short of expectations for his band.

For A Shattered Symphony though, expectations are only a small component of the band's definition of success.

"[A Shattered Symphony is] here to show that sometimes doing what you love is worth all the struggles," Harris said.

"We're here to do what we love and to touch as

many people as possible."

The band has seen some amount of success in the classical sense. A Shattered Symphony made headway while being a part of Kattfest Band Beatdown presented by Rock 100.5.

"We played with amazing local bands," Harris said of his experience there. "It really got us good connections with a bunch of local promoters."

On a personal level, Harris has no shortage of career goals either. The Film and Video Production major plans to open his own music venue one day.

"Something like the Diamond Ballroom with weekly concerts where local Oklahoma City bands get to open and play with the big bands," Harris said. "Something just to give them a boost to help start their careers."

The Diamond Ballroom, located at 8001 South Eastern Ave. in Southeast Oklahoma City, is a music venue that has hosted many national acts for more than two decades.

With a record on the horizon and a tour to boot, Harris plans on drumming to the tune of a successful band one day.

Harris said of his plans for his future, "My goal is to be playing out of state and generating a good



PHOTO COURTESY OF A SHATTERED SYMPHONY

Student Michael Harris sets the beats for local band A Shattered Symphony. With a record on the horizon and a tour to boot, Harris said he plans on drumming to the tune of a successful band one day. Harris said of his plans for his future, "My goal is to be playing out of state and generating a good profit for ourselves."

profit for ourselves."

Prior to the release of their album, Harris and A Shattered Symphony can be heard online at www.myspace.com/ShatteredOKC, www.shatteredokc.com, and www.youtube.com/ShatteredOKC.

Resurfacing almost completed at Entry 2

TAYLOR STAAB
News Writing Student

A bright red addition to the concrete can be found directly outside of the Arts and Humanities west building entrance.

Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer said OCCC facilities workers have added a surface coating of Belzona, a substance used to alleviate any slipping hazard that might be created by the smooth cement and winter weather.

Messer said the base concrete at Entry 2 was some of the oldest on campus. Having been worn down, it created a slippery surface.

The renovation took place over Thanksgiving break.

The west entrance is used to go to and from the AH building and the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

"We just tried to keep the closure of the entrance to a minimum," Messer said. "When we can avoid closing areas of campus, we do."

Messer said there were two options to fix the problem: completely remove and replace the concrete, or coat the current cement with Belzona coating. He said choosing the coating alternative saved the college thousands of dollars that other departments will be able to use.

The Belzona coating is a smart alternative for the college to use to eliminate a hazard while saving money, he said.

This new coating is only in its first stage of application. The cement is in the "prep coating" stage and therefore has a bright red color, Messer said. However, the red will not be around for long, because the next step will take place over

the coming holiday break.

"I don't do the contrasting stuff," Messer said. "Everything is going to match."

Color matching is the next step where contractors will make sure the entrance blends with the rest of the campus concrete.

Although this substance may sound new, students have seen it before. Belzona coating is located on multiple steps on stairwells, across metal grates, and on many of the heating and cooling systems, Messer said.

The first location of the Belzona coating was on the evaporator and condenser head chiller systems, Messer said. This coating prepped the metal and kept it from corroding while the machines were in use.

For updates on this story and others, read the Pioneer Online www.occc.edu/pioneer.



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Facilities Management Director J.B. Messer said OCCC facilities workers added a surface coating of Belzona over the holiday break at Entry 2. A substance used to alleviate any slipping hazard that might be created by the smooth cement and winter weather.

Read the Pioneer online
www.occc.edu/pioneer