

# PIONEER

MARCH 4, 2011

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## EDITORIAL

## CONGRESS ALSO NEEDS TO MAKE SOME SACRIFICES

Find out why Staff Writer Erin Peden thinks all government employees should share pay cut pain equally.

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## AROUND CAMPUS

## MINISTERS DEBATE 1ST AMENDMENT

Debate on whether U.S. was founded as a Christian nation draws 150. See what the speakers and those in attendance had to say about the controversial topic.

CAMPUS, p. 7

## RECREATION

## COLLEGE HOSTS SWIM CONFERENCE

OCCC hosted the Mountain West Conference Feb. 24 through the 26. See who won awards.

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## CAMPUS LIFE

## CANNED FOOD DRIVE AIMS FOR 5,000 POUNDS

Students in Free Enterprise is collecting canned goods and monetary donations through April 18 for a Campbell's food drive. See how you can help.

COMMUNITY p. 10

## Shooter scare brought about many changes

**A little more than a year ago, OCCC had an incident that resulted in security upgrades**

**WHITNEY KNIGHT**  
Online Editor  
[onlineeditor@occc.edu](mailto:onlineeditor@occc.edu)

Some cowered under desks, while others stood outside in what could have been a deadly firing range.

Wherever you were on the morning of Feb. 26, 2010, the date remains an infamous one to countless OCCC students, faculty and staff members.

On that day, a series of communication errors sparked a chain of events that put OCCC on lockdown and would forever alter the college's safety procedures.

After OCCC received word of a potential campus threat via a general nationwide alert, news of the alleged danger was spread to select employees — including Jessica Martinez-Brooks,

Community Outreach and Education director.

Martinez-Brooks in turn relayed the information to fellow college workers, including a library work-study employee identified in Safety and Security reports as Mary Teter.

As Teter began to alert fellow staff and faculty of the possible threat, mathematics Professor Ernest Gobert misunderstood her use of the term “active shooter” and placed a call to the Safety and Security office.

In the phone call, Gobert said there was a man with a gun in room 402 of the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library.

As Safety and Security officers were dispatched to the Library, then-Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas attempted to send out an intruder alert

## Student makes impact with speech at Higher Ed day

**JOEY STIPEK**  
Editor  
[editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu)

An OCCC student chronicled his circuitous path to college before state legislators Feb. 22.

Kenneth Meador spoke before a few hundred ad-

ministrators and legislators for Higher Education Day at the State Capitol.

Meador, 30, a political science sophomore at OCCC, addressed the importance of higher education.

“My speech was basically my life story — working full-time as a

## Helping hand



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Sociology major and Communications Lab employee Kasey Kay Handley tutors pre-education major Jungham Lim. The Communications Lab offers help for writing assignments and is open to all students with a valid OCCC ID. Hours are available at [www.occc.edu/comlab](http://www.occc.edu/comlab).

through the college's IP phone system.

Because Sloas did not properly activate the alarm, the alert was not sent out.

Initially believing there was a mechanical error, he sent a second alert. This time, at about 10:14 a.m., a fire alarm was incorrectly issued to the Main Building.

While shelter-in-place procedures had already been put into motion in the Library, occupants of

the Main Building filed outside in response to what they believed to be a fire — placing many of them directly under the library's windows.

“My friend and I were standing outside the library for about five minutes,” said Jorie Hemphill, accounting major, after the incident.

“There were probably a couple hundred of us out there. We noticed there was something going on (in the library), but we

didn't know what.”

At 10:26 a.m., an all-clear message was sent out to the Main Building, as well as other divisions of the main OCCC campus.

Although the Library remained on lockdown, campus security officers ushered those who had filed outside in response to the fire alert back inside.

However, the terror

See **SHOOTER** page 9

chef, realizing it wasn't getting me anywhere in life, joining the Army, going to Iraq a couple times and then going to OCCC,” he said.

Higher Education Day was created to give college representatives an opportunity to meet with state lawmakers

about student needs. Student representatives get a first-hand glimpse into the workings of state government as well.

Glen Johnson, Oklahoma Higher Education chancellor, said Meador did a great job with his speech.

“This day is about

students,” Johnson said. “Kenneth certainly captured with his message the value of a college degree personally with his compelling story.”

Johnson stressed the importance of Higher

See **HIGHER ED** page 9



# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**YOUR VOICE |** Student says train security officers better rather than allowing armed citizens on campus

## Student against concealed carry

**To the Editor:**

There is a movement to allow concealed carry weapons in campuses. The reasoning behind it is well intentioned.

It really stems from the recent spate of school shootings; and the idea behind it can be typified as a 'sheepdog' or 'anti-body' defense.

With no one knowing who is armed and not, when a shooter does go onto campus, there might be someone armed to stop him before the time [of] the organized police response.

Okay, that's the steps and the theory, how does it work out?

It depends.

In a single one-on-one situation where it is starkly obvious who is doing what, 99.9 percent of the time, the system works.

Someone smashes in the front door, homeowner pulls trigger, in-

“...how about taking a serious and long look at the security in place for the campus to begin with.”

—JAMES MACDONALD  
STUDENT

truder down and injured, situation de-escalated.

In a crowd setting, however, like Tuscon, it is far harder to figure things out. When shots ring out, people freeze or run, if they even know what a discharged firearm sounds like in the first place.

This means, in the stampede and confusion, for the armed citizen to react, they have to pinpoint, identify, cogitate, draw, aim, fire, and hit the target, in the space of an instant or two.

It takes training. Long, hard hours in simulations to let most of that become muscle reflex, leaving more time for the

armed citizen to cogitate upon the situation to decide the shoot/no shoot decision.

There is an inherent problem with the perception of CCW by everyone.

It does not work like a sheepdog. They are not the police. CLEET certification is not the same as a CCW permit, which is not the same as military weapons training.

Armed citizens might not be as well trained as the police or drill as regularly.

CCW is an emergency lethal response to imminent lethal danger. In a dynamic shooting situation, like a campus

shooting or any other shooter in a populated public place, it is too dynamic for one CCW user to use the weapon proactively, and in an imminent lethal situation, the shooter probably already has the drop on you.

Instead of letting armed civilians into campus, how about taking a serious and long look at the security in place for the campus to begin with.

And then convert the oft overused “mall security” joke of the campus police to an actual police force, with an adequate response time, with the proper weapons, equipment, and training for the jobs at hand.

But letting armed civilians is cheaper, and less controversial – and therefore more politically expedient.

—JAMES MACDONALD  
OCCC STUDENT

## ADVISER'S 411

### Academic Advising welcomes students

The Office of Academic Advising has been busy this semester with more than 4,000 student visits within the first few weeks prior to and after the semester started.

Now that the spring 2011 semester is in full swing, it is a good time to come in and visit with an Academic Advisor.

Students who are unsure of their major, who would like to work on academic planning for the upcoming summer and fall semesters, and who need guidance in their academic endeavors can meet with an Academic Advisor by appointment 405-682-7535 or as a walk-in.

Likewise, the Academic Advising Office just hosted the spring Transfer Fair.

We had approximately 30 transfer institutions in representation.

If you would like to learn more about transferring to a four year institution after graduation, drop by our office and we will be more than happy to assist you in the transfer process.

It is important that students start early in the transfer process, because some four year institutions do have deadlines to apply and require specific documentation be submitted with their applications.

March 28 is the first day of open enrollment for summer and fall classes.

Do not be the one waiting in line the week before classes start, trying to get enrolled.

The sooner you enroll, the more opportunity you have to get into classes that work around your schedule, your degree program, and with the professors that you prefer.

Early enrollment also allows you the opportunity to learn more about your degree program and gather important information that you may need to know in order to be successful.

—MARY ANN BODINE  
ACADEMIC ADVISING  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**YOUR VOICE |** Social networking something for free time

## Facebook should be banned in class

**To the Editor:**

So, there I was sitting in class, trying to get an education, when the girl who had been sitting in front of me asks if she can use my notes to study for a test.

Why, you say, did she not have notes of her own? Was she not in the same class as I? Did she not hear the same lecture? The answer is... NO!!!

While I was busily attempting to inhale every bit of knowledge in order to learn something and

to get a decent grade, she was reading her Facebook and answering e-mail.

The guy sitting next to me was texting to my left, and another girl was blogging off to my right.

Perhaps that doesn't seem bad to some people, but those are most likely the same ones who feel it's their right to do social networking during class.

Are you so afraid of missing a thing that you would jeopardize your education, and mine?

I find it distracting when so much is going on around me while I am trying to concentrate on the subject at hand.

Maybe you don't need the lecture, but I do!

I think it is extremely rude to be networking while a professor is speaking, and some of the professors will ask you to leave class, or even deduct a grade for doing so. I don't blame them.

Why should they waste their time if you don't want to listen to them? Why should I give you

my notes if you don't care to take your own?

Technology is everywhere these days, and it is a wonderful way to keep in touch, but not while driving or in class. Nothing is that important.

You're paying for an education so pay attention, lest you be disappointed when you are told you can't text while you ask the important question: “Do you want fries with that?”

—NAME WITHHELD  
BY REQUEST

### WANTED: STUDENT VOICES

Do you have news to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC student worthy of a mention or have an opinion about something you've read. If so, contact Joey Stipek at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675.

[www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer)

## COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

# 'Number Four' is a number one movie

Combining elements of humor and romance with powerful action sequences, "I Am Number Four," is easily the best science fiction movie of this year so far.

Released Feb. 18, the movie centers around the eponymous Number Four, John Smith, (Alex Pettyfer) who has spent his entire life running from an implacable enemy determined to kill him. He and the six others like him possess immense power as a result of their heritage.

Accompanied by his protector, Henri, (Timothy Olyphant) John

moves to a small town in Ohio. There, his life rapidly becomes complicated as he begins to come into his powers, and falls in love with a local girl, Sarah (Dianna Agron.)

The entire cast puts their best foot forward, portraying their characters with such depth that one can't help but identify with them, for good or ill.

Performances by Pettyfer and Agron are especially strong, displaying a casual chemistry that looks natural.

Although the effects are heavy enough to steal

the show, the director keeps the focus on the actors, blending the effects into the flow of the narrative without a wrinkle.

The plot, although not especially complex, maintains a variable pace.

A slow build to the climax of the movie is punctuated with sudden bursts of action.

The movie does have two downsides — one major, and one minor.

The minor downside is the somewhat abrupt ending. It leaves lots of room for a sequel, but also makes one want to

say, "Wait, that's it?"

The major problem is the pacing, which varies from moment to moment and can leave movie-goers feeling drained from trying to change mental gears so often and so quickly.

"I Am Number Four" is an excellent movie, and top of the must-see list for 2011.

"I Am Number Four" is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and for language.

**Rating: A**

— JEREMY CLOUD  
SENIOR WRITER



**REVIEW | 311 delivers amazing performance**

## Nineties band still rocking audiences

Despite a chilly night in the middle of winter, the heat was turned up in a packed house for a show to remember at the Diamond Ballroom in Oklahoma City on Feb. 25.

With close to 20 years under their collective belts, the Nebraska-bred boys known as 311

rocked the house as if it were the '90s all over again.

Following an admirable performance from the opening band, The Pretty Black Chains, the crowd's anticipation built as chants of "Three-eleven, three-eleven" blared over the aptly-named opener, "Welcome."

311, a band known for their energetic live performances, kept the crowd jumping all night to classic hits such as "Beautiful Disaster," "Come Original," "All Mixed Up," and "Down."

In what has become a concert tradition, during the song "Applied Science," its five-mem-

ber drum solo awed the crowd.

Other vintage gems, most notably "Hydroponic" and "What Was I Thinking," were showcased for the old-school fans in attendance.

After a fantastic 19 songs played, 311 finished the main set with perhaps the biggest bang

with the song, "Creatures (For a While)."

Leaving the crowd wanting more and aided by applause, the band topped the show off with a ceremonial two-song encore.

With a loyal fan base and an established reputation, there is no end in sight for the always

entertaining 311.

Upon the completion of their spring tour, the band is expected to release their 10<sup>th</sup> studio album later this year.

One can only hope for another visit to Oklahoma on the next 311 tour.

**Rating: A+**

—MORGAN BEARD  
STAFF WRITER

**REVIEW | Oldie is still a worthwhile goodie**

## Sexy ninja kicks booty in 2009 release

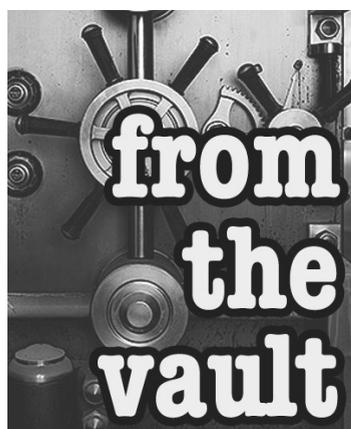
Kidnapped as a child and told he was abandoned by his family, Raizo — played by Korean pop music star Rain — is being raised by the Ozunu clan, a powerful and deadly Ninja family in "Ninja Assassin."

"Ninja Assassin" is a martial arts film which debuted in theaters November 2009, and was released on DVD March

2010.

Raised in a cult-like environment to be a blood-thirsty killer, Raizo is considered a prodigy by Lord Ozunu, (Sho Kosugi,) Ninja clan leader.

When his childhood love Kiriko escapes the family and is labeled a traitor, she is then captured and killed in front of him by their brother Tikeshi.



Raizo escapes and decides to seek revenge on

Lord Orzuno and the Ninja clan.

Mika Coretti (Naomi Harris) is a Europol Investigator who realizes the clan is kidnapping children and training them to be assassins.

Her inability to let things go makes her a new target for the clan.

Raizo is after Lord Orzuno, and Orzuno is

after Raizo and Mika

Raizo and Mika meet when he saves her life, and they embark on an action-filled journey, resulting in several broken body parts.

"Ninja Assassin" is a fast-paced, high-powered action film. The great acting skills of all the characters makes this a not-so-typical martial arts film.

Major swagger, dap-

per and debonair, Rain brings Asian sex appeal and serious ass kicking to the big screen. He won the MTV Biggest Badass Award in 2010 for this movie.

Rain is a talented actor and is so fine that he will leave you shouting "Lord, please Rain on me!!!"

**Rating: A+**

—CHRISTY JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

STUDENT LEADERS TO VOTE ON BIODEGRADABLE BOXES

# Students to vote on eco-friendly resolution

**YVONNE ALEX**  
News Writing Student

A proposal to bring environmentally friendly “to go” containers to OCCC’s cafeteria will be voted on by The Leadership Council at the meeting at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in College Union Room 1.

TLC is made up of student representatives from each

student club plus several at-large members.

The resolution was authored by Lawrence Cagle with Phi Beta Kappa honor society, Kenneth Meador with College Democrats, and Jorge Krzyzaniak with Advocates of Peace.

TLC members accepted the resolution Feb. 24, in their second meeting of the semester where they had a

full agenda and a full meeting room with more than 60 percent of campus clubs being represented.

They set the initiative in place with a vision of a more environmentally friendly cafeteria that they hope will be a trendsetter for campuses across the state.

At a meeting earlier in the semester, TLC heard a report that using biodegradable

containers could raise costs by 10 percent for food items prepared in the cafeteria and served in those containers.

In the meantime, some TLC members said they want to do what they can now to reduce the amount of Styrofoam the college sends to landfills.

“There’s something we can do right now,” Meador said. “Ask for a plate if you’re dining in.”

Chris Camacho, Engineering Club vice president, said he believes the real change will take place when customers ask for a plate. As consumers, most people don’t think about asking for an alternative, Camacho said. Instead they accept whatever is provided.

Erin Logan, TLC sponsor, said the vote March 10 will put the issue to rest, at least for the time being.

“We have been discussing this proposal in The Leadership Council meetings over several months and I have the cost analysis reports in my office for you to review,” she said. “Today we are simply asking you to take the proposal back to your club and discuss it.”

“It will be the vote only,” Logan said. “There will be a motion to approve, then one member, and one member only, from each club will be able to cast their vote.”

Even if the resolution passes, it would not be the final step to having biodegradable takeaway boxes in the food service area, Meador said.

Before becoming final, the measure would have to be approved by college President Paul Sechrist, the president’s cabinet and perhaps others in the college administration.

## OCCC Career Day with Dell

Learn about job & career opportunities with Dell!

**Wednesday, March 9, 2011**  
**Noon-1:00 P.M.**  
**College Union 2 & 3**

**More Information:**  
 Student Employment & Career Services  
 Main Building,  
 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 1G7  
 (405) 682-7619  
 or (405) 682-1611 x7362






OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**DRAFT**  
**2011 Eco-Friendly Dining Services Resolution**

**WHEREAS,** Oklahoma City Community College aspires to be one of the most significant community colleges in the nation; and,

**WHEREAS,** the President and the administration are committed to forward thinking, being fiscally responsible and effectively utilizing the college’s resources; and,

**WHEREAS,** the students represented by The Leadership Council have expressed an understanding and a need for the utilization of more environmentally friendly materials in the campus dining facilities; and,

**WHEREAS,** other avenues of sustainability in the daily operating practices of the campus dining facility will be explored; and,

**WHEREAS,** the dining services personnel will make every attempt to use the more environmentally friendly products first, for example, plates opposed to boxes; and,

**WHEREAS,** the students of The Leadership Council are confident that the College’s President and the administration will continue to act in the best interest of the students and the community; and,

**WHEREAS,** Oklahoma City Community College will continue in its commitment to remain fiscally responsible regarding the financial impact of costs to the students when compared to peer institutions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that The Leadership Council of Oklahoma City Community College will support the President and the administration in transitioning to more eco-friendly packaging in the Dining Center as they see fit in order to become a more environmentally conscious campus.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the President and the administration of Oklahoma City Community College will explore and pursue alternative financial assistance opportunities to support eco-friendly initiatives, such as grants, corporate partnerships, etc...

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the President and the administration of Oklahoma City Community College will keep with the current standard of fiscal responsibility and ensure the increase to Dining Services prices, with regards to eco-friendly products, will not exceed 10% of the annual unit price.

## MARCH CELEBRATION FOCUSES ON INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

# Women's History Month to emphasize awareness

MORGAN BEARD/  
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With the closing of Black History Month, comes the celebration of another group crucial to American history.

As the calendar turns, so does the awareness of Women's History Month, which is celebrated throughout the month of March.

Lyndsie StremLOW, Arts and Humanities Division secretary,

said Women's History Month is an important event.

"There are many groups of people that juxtapose in America," she said.

"I think it's important to recognize all of them equally so nobody is objectified."

"Our History is Our Strength" is the 2011 theme for Women's History Month.

The event, which traces back its beginnings in 1911, was passed by Congress as an official week in 1981, and later expanded to the whole month in 1987, according to [www.](http://www.firstladies.org)

[firstladies.org](http://firstladies.org).

Over the years, thousands of schools have joined in celebrating this significant event.

Tonya Kymes, English professor, said she does her best to bring women's awareness to OCCC.

She said she incorporates the study of influential women throughout history in her classes.

"In my English classes, I often highlight women authors that complement the curriculum," Kymes said.

Among the many contribu-

tions provided, Kymes said she specifically highlights the impact of women on the American Indian movement.

"Since I'm a Native American woman, I believe it's important to know that women fueled the American Indian movement with their literature in the '70s."

Although this is an officially celebrated month, some said they did not know it existed.

"I didn't know about it, but I'm glad we have it," said undecided major Pedro Rodriguez.

"Women have contributed many ideas that are crucial to

our history, so they deserve to be recognized."

Kymes said there should be more done to acknowledge the event.

"I definitely think it should be promoted more," she said.

"When we look at history, I think we typically have an image of a male.

"I think we forget the woman's perspective on history and our historical contributions to events that have happened."

For more information, visit [www.womenshistorymonth.gov](http://www.womenshistorymonth.gov).

## MORE THAN 150 GUESTS ATTEND MEETING

# Opponents spar whether U.S. is a Christian nation

SEAN TOLBERT  
News Writing Student

Two Baptist ministers squared off to debate the resolution "The U.S. Constitution neither establishes nor advocates for a Christian nation," on campus late last month.

The Rev. Steve Kern, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, argued that the U.S. Constitution intended to establish a Christian nation while Rev. Bruce Prescott, executive director of Mainstream Oklahoma Baptists and the opposition speaker, said the Constitution is neutral on religion.

Kern is the husband to Oklahoma State Rep. Sally Kern (R-Oklahoma City).

The debate drew an audience of more than 150 guests in the College Union Feb. 24.

Speaking before a predominantly older audience, both speakers had a small contingent of supporters that followed each of them to the debate.

Kern said the U.S. Constitution was founded on principles that helped the founding fathers frame the rights of Americans around Christian morals and beliefs. He went on to say that, historically, the

U.S. has always attempted to draft its national documents with the notion that the overall inspirations were the tenets of Christianity.

Prescott argued that the architects of the Constitution deliberately avoided making Christianity the preferred religious faith. He said the pro-Christianity community has deluded themselves that the Constitution favors them.

"There has been reliance on the part of many Christians on the teachings of a generation of televangelists who want the United States to be a Christian nation so badly that they are willing to distort history to believe it," Prescott said.

On occasion there were digressions away from the Constitution, including exchanges regarding the cultural identity of the U.S.

"The United States was designed to be a Christian nation because it would allow Christians to flourish within it," Kern said.

"If the United States is not a Christian nation," he continued, "why is it that elected officials swear an oath upon the Holy Bible?"

Prescott said using a Bible is incidental and unrelated to the

Constitution.

"Nowhere in the United States is it mandatory that you use a Christian Bible," Prescott responded

"We've had officials use a Qur'an. The authority of the oath lies in the oath taker's personal beliefs — it isn't a universal requirement that an oath be taken specifically either — the official may make an affirmation as to their duties if they so choose."

Moore resident Patrick Hartley, 24, said he thought Prescott presented a stronger argument, but that conclusion may have been colored by his personal beliefs.

"As an atheist, this issue is important to me for many different reasons," Hartley said.

"Before I came here tonight, I was unsure of how I felt about two Baptist ministers arguing the topic.

"But Rev. Prescott impressed me with his knowledge of American history and his ability to effectively convey his beliefs in a non-discriminating way."

The debate was rapidly paced and precisely timed, giving little leeway for digression and audience interruption.

The Rev. Jim Shields, of the

Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma, moderated the debate and provided a detached but controlling hand over the proceedings as he ensured that neither of the speakers infringed too greatly upon his respective time limits.

"I believe we've lost sight of who we are and where we came from," Kern said.

"I don't believe our schools are teaching students a correct view of history but rather a 'revisionist' view of history and it overlooks the founding fathers' original intent."

Prescott said this topic is doubly important on college campuses where religious tolerance is important.

"It's an important issue because, particularly on a college campus, you have people from all different faiths," Prescott said.

"Understanding that we don't live in a specifically Christian nation helps to promote tolerance in regard to the plurality of religions this country contains. It's important that we allow every religion to feel as though they have a part in the identity of this country."

However, at one point the debate seemed to degrade into a personal indictment of the

growing "secularization" of America itself.

"Your eternal soul is dependent on Christ," Kern vehemently declared as he began to hold up what appeared to be several different graphs showing statistics.

"Since prayer was removed from schools in 1963, we have seen an alarming rise in teenage pregnancy, unwed mothers, and a catastrophic drop in ACT scores."

This was short lived however.

"This is not a debate about the religiosity of the American people," Prescott responded, "but a debate as to whether the Constitution openly promotes a Christian nation — which it does not."

The event was sponsored by Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

A pre-debate poll was taken of the audience, asking whether they supported, opposed, or were undecided on the issue. It resulted in an almost 50-50 split between supporters and opponents with very few undecided.

After the debate concluded, a final poll was taken of the audience and the results remained almost exactly the same.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS TAKE TRIP TO MOUNT SCOTT

# Students visit Oklahoma’s tallest mountain peak

**SARAH HUSSAIN**  
News Writing Student

“Excuse me, the mountain, is it far from here?” asked Yolande Kombou, an international student from Cameroon, in west Africa.

At the time Kombou was sitting with a group of students on top of Mount Scott, Oklahoma’s highest peak which reaches 2,464 feet.

The mountains in Cameroon are a mas-

sive chain known as the Cameroon Volcanic Line which at its highest point is over 13,255 feet, making it Africa’s largest volcano.

The students are enrolled in OCCC’s Academic Bridge Program, which consists of students in the English as a Second Language program who are transitioning into college coursework. They took their first cultural field trip of the semester Feb. 23.

Abbie Figueroa, English as a Second Language professor, organized the trip to the Wichita Mountain National Wildlife Refuge near Lawton, with a side trip to historic Fort Sill.

The ESL students seemed pleased to explore the Lawton area in place of their Wednesday class. They found it amusing that these geological formations were called mountains and not just big hills.

At the Wildlife Refuge visitor’s center, the group watched a video on the history of the local buffalo, elk and longhorn

cattle.

“They say about 150 years ago all of Oklahoma was a lot like this,” said Panya Zhao, from China, while looking out of the observation window in the visitor’s center to the grassland where buffalo and long-horns roam free.

The main objective of this trip was to allow these students from other countries to experience part of what makes Oklahoma the state it is.

Lydia Rucker, Communications Lab assistant and ESL conversation group coordinator, and Marijah Adams, Communications Lab tutor and ESL group leader, joined the students on their trip.

Figueroa said she has taken ESL students to the Lawton area roughly 30 times and will continue to do so. She will be organizing a field trip to another location before the end of the semester.

For more information, contact Figueroa at 405-682-1611, ext. 7326, or by e-mail at [afigueroa@occc.edu](mailto:afigueroa@occc.edu).

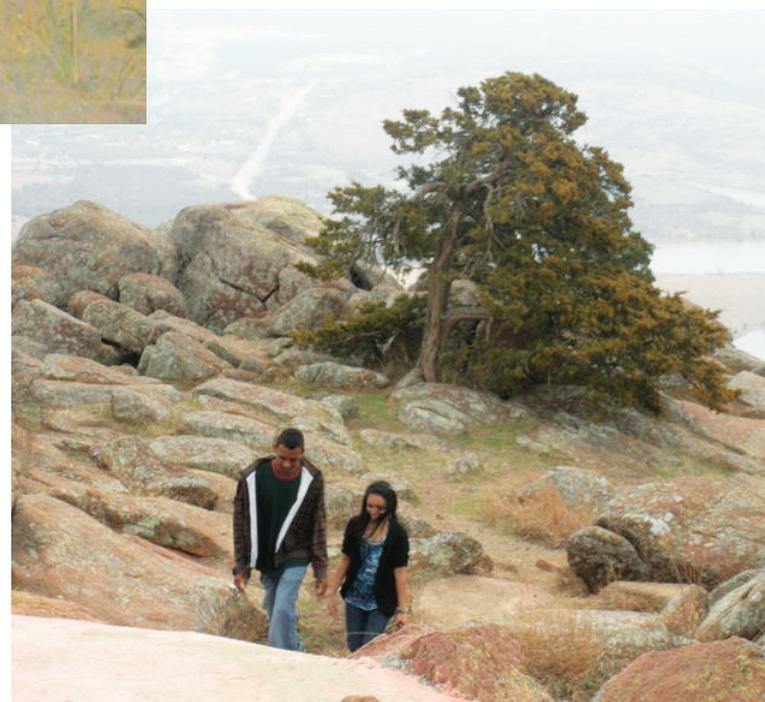


PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SARAH HUSSAIN

Above: Professor Abra Figueroa poses with ESL students at the top of Mount Scott on their first cultural field trip of the semester Feb. 23.

Right: Yolande Kombou, a student from Cameroon, has fun in the museum during the trip. The Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge is home to many activities including a visitor center and museum, camping, hiking, fishing, and rock climbing.

Below: Mahjabin Khondoker and Ramzan Dawood take in the scenery of Mount Scott. Located near the town of Medicine Park, it’s a great place to enjoy the scenic views of local hills and lakes. The peak attracts thousands of climbers and visitors each year.



## SPORTS

## Resting between sets



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Business major Graciela Cardenas does sit ups on an exercise ball at OCCC's Wellness Center. The Wellness Center is available to all students and community members with a valid ID. Hours are available at [www.occc.edu/RF/wellness](http://www.occc.edu/RF/wellness).

## SPORTS | OCCC'S AQUATIC CENTER HOSTS MEET

## Mountain West Conference swim championships held at OCCC

**JOSH RAY**

News Writing Student

San Diego State University Women's Swim and Dive team won their first Mountain West Championship ever in school history at OCCC during the last weekend in February.

The University of Nevada-Las Vegas Men's Swim and Dive team won their seventh in a row Mountain West Conference Championship.

OCCC hosted the Mountain West Conference Championship Swim and Dive Meet from Feb. 24 through 26.

Teams from across the Mountain West found their way to Oklahoma City to compete, as they have for the past 12 years.

The Mountain West conference includes Brigham Young University, San

Diego State, UNLV, Colorado State, New Mexico, Utah, Air Force, Wyoming and Texas Christian University.

Nicole Pryzbyla, a BYU diver, said she worked for months preparing for the event.

"We had to physically, mentally and emotionally prepare by going to two practices a day," Pryzbyla said.

Pryzbyla is a part of a prestigious program that has won nine Mountain West Conference Championships in the past 11 years.

BYU finished the season with a 9-1 record.

Pryzbyla said she was impressed with how OCCC's staff handled the event.

"People are really nice here and everyone has been great," she said.

The swim meet also brought many new responsibilities to OCCC's life-

guard Kimmie Reneau.

"We definitely had to do a lot of deep cleaning," she said.

Reneau, a swimmer at Westmoore High School, competed at the OSSAA High School State Championship earlier in the month at OCCC where, she said, she placed second.

"It's a honor to work for the swimmers," Reneau said.

"I want to be a swimmer in college so it's a good experience for me."

Former Recreation and Fitness employer, Stephanie Stewart, volunteered to help time the races.

Stewart said her love and passion for this swim meet led her to her decision to volunteer.

For more information about OCCC's Aquatic Center or future swim meets, visit [www.occc.edu/rcs](http://www.occc.edu/rcs).

### UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **March 3-6:** Speedo Region VIII Sectional Championship Series to be held in the OCCC Aquatic Center. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **March 7-27:** Lane markers in the OCCC Aquatic Center will be replaced, and the facility will be closed. For more information contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **March 23:** Softball CoRec team meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Games will be held at the Oklahoma City University starting April 9. Register online at [www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration](http://www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration). For more information contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **March 26:** World Instructor Training School. Six-week personal trainer course starting on March 26 and running through May 7 in the OCCC Wellness Center Room 002. Course fee \$499 and a \$79.97 text book fee. For more information contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **March 30:** Circuit Training Level 3 meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays starting April 5 through April 28. Register online at [www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration](http://www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration). For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

• **April 7:** American Red Cross Lifeguard Training in the OCCC Aquatic Center room. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Have sports news?  
E-mail [sportswriter@occc.edu](mailto:sportswriter@occc.edu)**

# Student Jazz Ensemble to perform March 10

JEREMY CLOUD

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

The OCCC Student Jazz Ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. March 10 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

The concert will include music from John Coltrane, the Adderley Brothers, Wes Montgomery, and a couple of original pieces written by band members, said Michael Boyle, music professor.

“Every semester the Student Jazz Ensembles pres-

ent two concerts,” he said.

“This is the first of our Spring 2011 concert series.”

The two ensembles, one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday, are open to everyone by auditions, including students from other colleges and community members, Boyle said.

“We’ve got a student from Mid-American Christian University and a student from the University of Central Oklahoma playing in the bands right now.

“And, although the majority of the students in the ensembles are music majors, it’s not a requirement.

“We have a computer science major playing with us right now.”

Boyle said the band has had some difficulty caused by lost rehearsals during recent snow days.

“But the students have worked hard on this and it’s really coming together nicely.”

Boyle said the concert is free to everyone and is planned to last approximately an hour and 15 minutes.

For more information about the concert or the band, contact Boyle at mboyle@occc.edu.

## Shooter: Recommendations made, put in place after event

*Continued from page 1*

wasn’t over yet.

At 10:35 a.m., a shot was fired on the fourth floor of the Library toward the Main Building, sending a wave of panicked people running through the hallways.

It was later learned that Campus Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque accidentally fired the gunshot as he and other officers performed a sweep of the area.

For the next 30 minutes, OCCC remained in a state of lockdown. Dozens of students and college employees hid in the Safety and Security office, while others searched for safety in other areas of campus.

Finally, at 11:07 a.m., all campus buildings were given the all clear.

College officials reported there was never an armed intruder on campus.

OCCC was closed down for the remainder of the day, and all students, faculty and staff members were instructed to vacate all buildings.

“Our teacher advised us to walk out to our cars in groups,” Hemphill later said.

“They still didn’t know what was going on or if it was safe.”

Now, a year later, President Paul Sechrist said in an e-mail interview that numerous changes and additions have been made to OCCC’s safety procedures.

Among the changes: a police force, complete with sworn armed officers, will supplement OCCC’s Safety and Security officers.

Although the change was not prompted by the shooting incident, Sechrist said, it helped speed the process along.

“The plan to move to a police department ... was already in the works prior to

the incident last year,” he said. “But it did emphasize the need and urgency to move in this direction.”

Sechrist said other improvements include enhanced communication systems, increased training for security officer staff, and the hiring of Police Chief James Fitzpatrick.

In addition, Sechrist said, OCCC is now compliant with the requirements of the National Incident Management System, which mainly focuses on the training of a wide range of employees.

On March 26, 2010, one month after the incident occurred, Sechrist introduced a task force comprised of 26 faculty and staff members and six students.

For the next two months, the task force met every Friday to determine the best methods to communicate with faculty, staff, students and visitors on

campus before, during and after an emergency.

Their findings were presented to Sechrist on May 7. Top recommendations included:

- Thorough college emergency procedure training of evening and weekend staff members
- The installation of software to give students, faculty and staff the option to choose how to receive emergency alerts.
- An emergency-situation section added to class syllabuses
- Periodic equipment checks to find phones that are not working properly.

Today, Sechrist said, all four of those suggestions are actively practiced on campus.

“OCCC was a safe campus before and remains a safe campus,” he said.

“With the recommendations now in place throughout the college, we are better prepared

for an emergency incident, can better respond to an incident, and can communicate more effectively with students, faculty, and staff during and following an incident.”

In the end, Sechrist said, he believes the shooter incident had an ultimately positive impact on OCCC.

“OCCC used the incident to make positive changes,” he said. “There was not a shooter on campus last spring and even with the mistakes that took place following the false reports of a shooter, thankfully no one was hurt.

“We did take the incident seriously, and used the incident to learn and become better.”

To read the initial reports that followed the incident, visit the Pioneer Online archives at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer) and select the following dates: March 5, 2010, March 12, 2010, May 7, 2010.

## Higher Ed: Student speaks to legislators at Capitol

*Continued from page 1*

Education Day to legislators during meetings held earlier in the day and with Gov. Mary Fallin.

Johnson said the purpose of the event was to comment legislators for their past support for education and encourage them to continue that support.

He said with college enrollment increasing 27 percent, college costs going up and budgets going down, receiving a quality education should

remain a top priority.

“[I] think everyone knows more students means our costs go up. We need additional classroom space, additional faculty to teach students,” he said.

“We need to make sure, even in this budget downturn, we’re not in a situation where those needs are not addressed.”

OCCC President Paul Sechrist agreed that funding education should be a top priority.

“Having access to high quality college programs provides

the state with (a) highly skilled and educated workforce, and citizens [who] can intelligently participate in our democracy,” Sechrist said.

“Simply, having higher levels of education for more Oklahomans is the key to future growth of our state and is the key to a better quality of life for everyone.”

Sechrist said he was moved by Meador’s speech.

“As a husband, father, and veteran, his commitment to excel in college is commend-

able,” Sechrist said.

“Meador’s speech was moving and inspirational. Everyone from OCCC in the audience felt a great sense in pride as Kenneth told his story.”

Antwan Leon, 32, political science and music double major, was there with a small contingent of students from Student Life.

Leon said, as the father of three children, his education is important to him.

“My education is going to reflect my future,” he said.

“The more education I get, the better my job is and the more money I make.”

Meador said a friend from his hometown in Massachusetts commented on his speech after Meador posted it to his Facebook account.

“I think a lot of the people I was around when I was younger wouldn’t have assumed I would attempt to get my law degree or run for public office,” Meador said.

“I think I have come a long way and OCCC helped.”

# CAMPUS COMMUNITY



Business major and Students in Free Enterprises Vice President Manuela Nkwinkwa organizes donations during SIFE's canned food drive on Thursday, Feb. 24, just outside the Student Union.

RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

**COMMUNITY** | SIFE collects canned goods to help Oklahomans in need

## Food drive collects donations

**HOLLY DAVIS WALKER**

Community Writer  
communitywriter@occc.edu

Students in Free Enterprise is collecting canned goods and monetary donations through April 18 for the Let's Can Hunger challenge sponsored by Campbell Soup Company, said Kody Payne, Students in Free Enterprise president.

"SIFE is partnering with Campbell Soup Company in order to fight hunger across the nation," Payne said.

"With this challenge, we've pledged to raise 5,000 pounds."

The first food drive to benefit local food banks in Oklahoma City was held Feb. 22 and 23 in the Main Building across from the Communications Lab.

Students who wanted to donate were able leave their canned goods at a table set up there.

Students who missed the first drive and still want to contribute can bring their canned goods to the Business division office in 2N2 in the Main Building.

Payne said monetary donations also are being accepted. Those can be dropped off with Kristi Fields in the business division office or turned into any SIFE officer.

"One dollar equals one pound of food," she said.

Payne said SIFE also is working on a clothes closet for low-income students who need business attire to

“SIFE is partnering with Campbell Soup Company in order to fight hunger across the nation. With this challenge, we’ve pledged to raise 5,000 pounds.”

—KODY PAYNE

STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE PRESIDENT

wear to job interviews.

"We do have clothes right now," Payne said. "They're in storage. We're working on a location."

Matthew Crofford, vice president of recruitment with SIFE, said the clothes closet and food drive are coordinated to maximize the help given.

"[The clothes closet] goes with our Campbell's food drive," he said.

"It helps people get jobs so they can better take care of themselves and feed themselves,"

Payne said SIFE will hold another food drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, and Wednesday, March 9, in the Main Building near the Student Union.

For more information about the Let's Can Hunger Challenge, visit [www.letsanhunger.com](http://www.letsanhunger.com). For more information about SIFE, visit the Student Life homepage at [www.occc.edu/studentlife](http://www.occc.edu/studentlife).

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Game Night

The Psychology Club and Psi Beta will host a game night at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 4, in room 1H6 of the Main Building. There will be Wii games, board games and refreshments. All students are invited to attend.

### Money Matters-Financial Aid

Students can attend a workshop that will show how to apply and understand the financial aid process. The Financial Aid workshop will take place at noon on Monday, March 7, in CU1 in the college union. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Brown Bag series-Alcohol Awareness

Attendees will learn about alcohol awareness in this workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, in CU1 of the College Union. Participants should bring their own lunch. Drinks are provided. Attendees can register to win a Nintendo Wii and an LCD TV. Contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by their office in the Main Building for more information.

### Career Power workshop

Interviewing tips and skills for the optimal interview will be discussed during the next workshop at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9. Employment and Career Power workshops take place in room 1G7 of the Main Building. Contact Student Employment & Career Services for more information at 405-682-7519 or [employmentservices@occc.edu](mailto:employmentservices@occc.edu).

### Making Relationships Matter

David Coleman will lecture on campus from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, in rooms CU2 and CU3 of the College Union. Coleman will speak about the five stages of a relationship, differences between men and women, and more. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

### Business scholarship deadlines

The Division of Business has five scholarships available to OCCC students: Cody Watkins Memorial, Connie Nieser Memorial, Bartlett Memorial, Lea Ann Hall Memorial and Kayla Fessler Business scholarships. The deadline for all applications is 5 p.m. Friday, March 11. For more information or to receive an application, call the Division of Business office at 405-682-7550 or stop by their office on the second floor in the Main Building.

**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.**

# CLASSIFIEDS TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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](mailto:adman@occc.edu).

## ELECTRONICS

**FOR SALE:** 19" Samsung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. \$40. Call: 405-501-8777.

**FOR SALE:** TI 84 & TI Inspire keyboards, operating systems. Used for one semester. Manual, software. \$50. Call: 405-682-7804 or e-mail [jatkinson@occc.edu](mailto:jatkinson@occc.edu).

## FOR RENT

**ROOM FOR RENT:** Large room with access to entire house; all utilities included. Large yard and parking. No pets. No smokers. \$450 per month. \$100 deposit. Contact: [sharon.richard@ymail.com](mailto:sharon.richard@ymail.com) or call 405-795-0163.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**DIVING SUIT FOR SALE:** Red on black, Oneill brand; wet/dry #291; XXL; height 6'3"; 3mil thick; style 9073. Also have one pair of XXL "Slippery When Wet" ski trunks. Neither used. \$600 for both. Contact; [masmith405@gmail.com](mailto:masmith405@gmail.com) or call 405-532-6991.

**GOLF CLUBS FOR SALE:** Complete set of men's Ram golf clubs with bag. Good condition. \$65. Call: 405-470-3446.

**FOR SALE:** Gently used power wheelchair in good condition. Works well and has a zero turn radius. Only \$500. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7544, or 405-364-6051.



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## SERVICES

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**TUTORING OFFERED:** Are you struggling in Chemistry or Math? Take a tutoring class with Nguyen. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625 or e-mail [nguyen.h.truong@email.occc.edu](mailto:nguyen.h.truong@email.occc.edu)

## TEXTBOOKS

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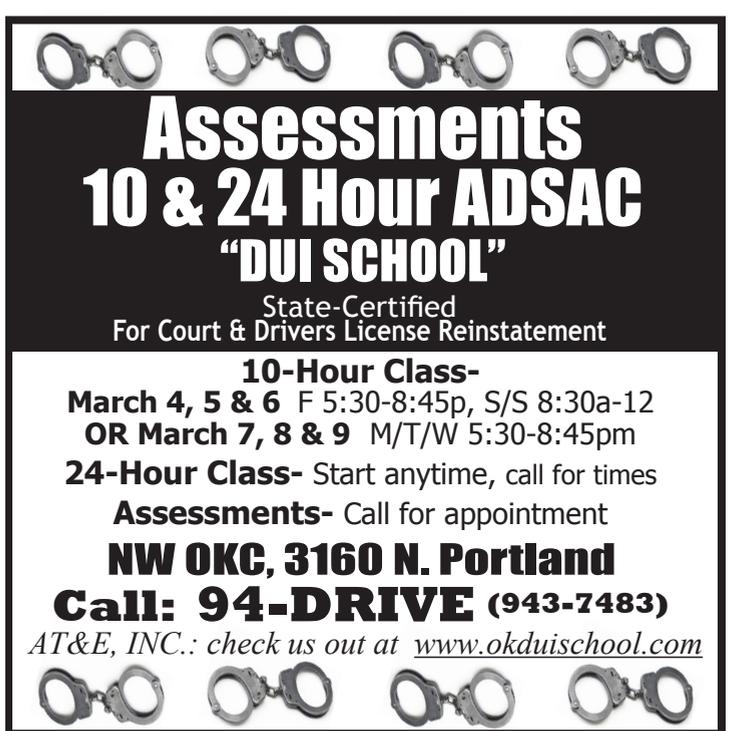
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JORDAN NATIVE THABET SWAISS SAYS CHANGE IS NEEDED IN THE MIDDLE EAST

# Professor comments on political unrest in the world

YVONNE ALEX  
News Writing Student

Arabic Professor Thabet Swaiss said he is watching the unrest in Egypt and other parts of the Middle East and North Africa with mixed emotions. He said it will be a very long time before things calm down.

Swaiss, a native of Jordan, was a television reporter, writer and editor for the only English-language nightly television newscast for Jordan and surrounding countries during the mid '80s.

He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and his master's degree in mass communications at the University of Minnesota. He has been teaching Arabic at OCCC and Francis Tuttle for the past four years.

"Egypt is ready for a change," Swaiss said. "Many families want a healthy democracy

and a place for their children to enjoy freedom without fear of the government. They are ready to have wealth, shelter and peace.

"(But) there isn't a replacement ready to step in to confront the corruption and dictatorship that has plagued the land for over 60 years.

"Government leaders, such as Hosni Mubarak, stay in office without opposition until they die.

"The few people that tried to oppose them were threatened or eliminated."

Along the Persian Gulf there are many wealthy people who enjoy the social benefits that derive from their government, but at a price, Swaiss said. They must keep quiet.

Swaiss said the ordinary citizens of these countries have long endured pain and suffering under the regimes.

The increasing violence has many concerned.

"Students at OCCC from North Africa and Morocco have a feeling of unease but there is also a feeling of hope," Swaiss said. "Because people know that one day they may see a democracy."

Syria and other countries in that region have been oppressing people through assault, torture or murder, he said.

"Old regimes crushed all competition," Swaiss said.

"It's going to take a long, long time (for the political culture to change).

"We can expect more bloodshed and our gas prices to go up. Going forward, it will be tough."

Swaiss emphasized the importance of a democratic change in the Middle East which has more than 22 Arabic speaking countries and more than 350 million people.

He said that would improve business and educational exchanges between the U.S. and

the Middle East, impacting the future.

"I hope that recent events are just the beginning of a good

thing," Swaiss said.

"There is a glimmer of hope for a democratic and a modern Middle East."

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