OCCC uses social sites to inform

Twitter, Facebook and more used all around campus to keep students in the know

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER
Editor
ditor@occc.edu

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

Students — new and returning — can find several campus departments on popular social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

The sites are designed to help keep students aware of upcoming events, breaking news and weather warnings, among other things.

Facebook is a valuable resource for keeping in touch with students who aren’t or can’t be on campus.

Some departments also have Twitter accounts. Twitter updates can be sent directly to students’ cell phones.

Online Marketing Coordinator John Richardson, who updates OCCC’s Facebook and Twitter accounts and manages the Campus Alerts Network system, said it is the immediacy of social networking that appeals to students.

Richardson said OCCC’s Facebook page, located at www.facebook.com/otriplec, has accumulated more than four thousand fans.

“We have a great variety of things that we are posting,” Richardson said. “A lot of it has to do with events that are upcoming, our news releases, and date-specific things that students need to be aware of.

He said the Facebook page also is used for emergency communication, and can be updated even when campus is shut down.

In addition to postings made by the college, Richardson said, posting on the Facebook page’s wall has become a popular outlet for students to ask questions.

“I’m actually really glad that that’s happened,” he said. “We want students to have the feeling that the Facebook page is an avenue for them to get quick answers to things.”

Film and video production majors Brian Jervay Evans (left) and Demilo Ray (right) set up production lighting on the set in the Visual and Performing Arts Film Studio Tuesday. Evans and Ray are part of the crew in production on the new OCCC film and video program’s promotional video directed by Shawn Barfield which will feature many aspects of the film department’s academic program as well as scenes shot in the studio.

See SOCIAL page 9

PARKING MADE EASY

A parking map and a list of possible parking fines are listed inside. Find out where you need to park to get where you need to be on campus and what you’ll pay for parking in a fire lane.

NEWS, p. 7

Jeremy Cloud
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC Police Chief Jim Fitzpatrick said parking — sometimes an issue in the fall and spring semesters — should pose no problems this summer.

He said the parking lots are well laid out with clearly defined areas where students can park.

“There’s not really a whole lot of restricted parking, other than what you would normally find anywhere.”

Chris Snow, Facilities Management assistant director, agrees. He said there’s plenty of parking available to students.

“On the main campus, there are 3,559 parking spaces that students can freely use,” Snow said. “There are also 100 dedicated handicapped spaces.”

The restricted parking on campus is pretty simple, Fitzpatrick said. Students can’t park in faculty spaces, in a handicapped space without displaying a handicapped placard, or in fire lanes.

“One of the things the students need to be aware of is that any branch of Oklahoma City law enforcement can come on this campus and does, to enforce the fire lanes and handicapped spaces,” Fitzpatrick said.

“And that is totally outside the administration of the college. To pay those tickets, you have to go to municipal court.”

See PARKING page 9

Drivers can choose from 3,559 spaces on campus

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JUNE 3, 2011
WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER
COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Lights, camera ...
EDITORIAL | Selling textbooks during finals can deprive students of precious study time

Buyback comes at bad time for students

During finals week, a lot is weighing on students' minds: homework, tests, and that forgotten library book checked out sometime around spring break.

With so much already on their plates, students worrying about whether they will receive money back for their used textbooks shouldn't have to be an added concern.

But every semester it is, as the OCCC bookstore holds book buyback smack dab in the middle of finals week.

Because the bookstore doesn't accept textbooks after they have purchased their quota of certain titles, students are presented a difficult choice: sell their books early, when they might still need them for studies, or wait until they are finished with them and potentially miss out on cash.

Although that extra $40 or $50 may not seem like much, it could mean the difference between a student returning to college the next semester or not.

Students pay good money — sometimes into the hundreds — for their textbooks, and usually aren't given much in return.

The very least the bookstore could do is either accept all textbooks, regardless of how many they have already received, or not begin book buyback until the week after finals.

If the bookstore is worried about students not being on campus the week after school ends, the buyback period could always start on the very last day of the semester, when most classes have either ended or are on their last day.

Then again, there is always Textbook Brokers across the street — but according to the posters displayed in the bookstore window, students shouldn't sell their books to strangers.

At least those strangers won't turn their paying customers away because their inventory is too full.

— Whitney Knight
Online Editor

YOUR VOICE | Event to raise money for Infant Crisis Services

SoonerCon returns to Oklahoma City for 20th year

SoonerCon raises money for Infant Crisis Services, offers armed services members free admission on opening day, provides a platform for promotion of local artists and creators and contributes over $500,000 to the OKC metro area economy.

“SoonerCon is and always has been the result of thousands of volunteer hours throughout the year,” said SoonerCon Chairman Jerry Wall.

“It’s a real labor of love — we all have day jobs, families, hobbies, responsibilities — but it’s an amazing way to enrich the community.”

Growth is key for SoonerCon’s future, and with the mainstream popularity of brands like Batman, Iron Man and Star Trek, it is more and more true that it is hip to be square (though decidedly un-hip to reference Huey Lewis and the News).

“Strategies like content-rich social media campaigns and online ticket sales have contributed to SoonerCon’s growth, but Executive Director Leonard Bishop says there’s something a little more mysterious to it.

“SoonerCon will keep growing because there’s a vivacity and diversity to what we can offer,” said Bishop.

“There’s no experience anywhere in Oklahoma; each year is a one-of-a-kind opportunity, whether you’re a regular or a first-timer.

“What more could possibly be worth the price of admission?”

SoonerCon 20 is Oklahoma City’s multi-genre, three-day annual convention featuring authors, comic creators, artists, performers, celebrities and musicians from Oklahoma and abroad, celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2011.

For more information, visit www.soonercon.com.

To purchase tickets, visit http://soonercosn20.eventbrite.com.

To like us on Facebook, visit http://www.facebook.com/soonercon.

— Jerry Wall
SoonerCon Chairman
— Leonard Bishop
SoonerCon Executive Director

Send letters to the editor to editor@occc.edu

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.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 172 on the first floor of the Arts and Humanities Building, located at 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.ed/pioneer.

Color printing this semester is paid for, in part, from a grant from OUPBCO Communications Group.
Beginning at the bottom and working to the top, these are web comics you’ll want to read during your lifetime:

1. The Oatmeal
http://theoatmeal.com
One does not simply read The Oatmeal—one must experience The Oatmeal. With intelligence that belies its often overtly profane subject matter, The Oatmeal has gathered a massive following in a short time. With comics that instruct web denizens on the proper use of commas and semicolons to the subtle levels of likability associated with the game “Angry Birds,” The Oatmeal will cause you to lose a small amount of faith in humanity but the laughs are completely worth it.
—SEAN TOLBERT
SPORTS WRITER

2. Cyanide & Happiness
http://explosm.net
Sick, Twisted. Hilarious. This site offers comic strips and animated shorts dealing with topics as diverse as an iPhone instantly repairing a rib cage that had been mauled by bears to the plight of the perpetually depressed “Sad Larry”: Cyanide & Happiness has developed a cult following for the better part of the six years the site has been in operation and has released everything from plush versions of its characters to two published collections of their best comics.

3. XKCD
http://xkcd.com
With an author who has a serious bend toward the physics and mathematics contained on this site, XKCD is a must. Sick humor, historical insight, and an odd sense of innocence set this comic apart.

4. Scandinavia and the World:
http://satwcomic.com
There comes a point where humor that treads outside the bounds of the American sphere of influence is a refreshing change of pace. Depending on your exposure to global events and history some of it may sail over your head like an errant hockey puck. However, the comic’s author, Hu-man, usually explains her references for the unfamiliar. If you have any inclination to look at things from a wholly different perspective from the norm, then this comic is a must. Sick humor, historical insight, and an added dash of sophomoric humor help this comic to retain a fresh perspective on the world and its inhabitants.

5. Sinfest
http://sinfest.net
An homage to anime artistically speaking and an homage to secularism content-wise, Sinfest is home for those who take the “golden calves” of religion and theology with a monumental grain of salt. Two parts satire, one part criticism, and an added dash of sophomoric humor help this comic to retain a fresh perspective on the world and its inhabitants.

REVIEWS

Top web comics to check out

Yet another Marvel classic Leap onto the big screen this past month, “Thor” hit theaters May 6, and the comic’s version of the god of thunder is taking the world by storm.

The epic flick, directed by Kenneth Branagh and starring Chris Hems-worth as the titular god, tells the story of the arrogant Norse thunder god Thor’s fall from grace when he goes against his father’s wishes.

His subsequent redemption and return to his place in Asgard, the Norse god’s home, forms the bulk of the movie.

The special effects in this film are incredible. The renderings of Asgard are breathtaking, sweeping panoramic views of a golden city in the clouds.

And the fight scenes are believable, with effects used judiciously enough that the audience never loses the suspension of disbelief.

The cast gives their all, every single member turning in deep, powerful performances that stay true to the characters while showcasing the actor’s skills.

Special mention needs to be made for two of the cast. First, Anthony Hopkins’ performance as Odin is deliciously mysterious. Viewers have no trouble believing that the veteran actor really does know and see all, and the presence Hopkins brings to the screen makes him perfect for the role.

Second, Clark Gregg as the imperturbable S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Coulson. Although the role only requires Gregg to play a faceless and unflappable man in black, Gregg’s timing and humor shine through, giving the character a variety and depth that make the character anything but forgettable.

“Thor” is laced with humor, which may throw off fans expecting the Asgard to be portrayed with pomp and majesty.

But the humor often carries the story, more than making up for the movie’s only downside: there really isn’t enough plot.

At times, the movie feels like the pilot episode for a cable show, with lots of little story arcs running through it, hiding the fact that the main storyline could probably be covered in half an hour.

But the other elements skillfully cover that fact without boring the audience or making use of overt filler.

With a rating of PG-13, “Thor” is not really a children’s movie, due largely to violence. But for the rest of the family, it’s definitely a must see. Because the greatest thing about this film is that it offers a mix of innocence and worldliness that will appeal to all ages.

Rating: A
—JEREMY CLOUD
SENIOR WRITER

“You can’t build a reputation on what you are going to do.” -Henry Ford
"Borderlands” might have come out in 2009, but like older women, older games have a certain appeal to them. "Borderlands” is a sci-fi shooter that has taken several things from “World of Warcraft.”

The list is quite expansive, actually. One of the borrowed concepts is the talent sheet, which modifies your abilities and gives you new ones.

Another is the actual use of quests in a shooter, which is quite novel.

But I'm not here to talk about the original version of the game.

Notice how I made a simile between older games and older women.

The concept holds true. This old girl got a boob job with the latest expansion, “Claptrap’s New Robot Revolution.”

Claptraps, or their industrial name CL4P-TP, have started taking over the planet of Pandora.

Their illustrious leader, the Interplanetary Ninja Assassin (the first claptrap you saw in the original game) started re-programming all of the claptraps that he saw. Now, they are one of your newest enemies.

Some of them explode (kamikaze claptraps), while some of them will melee exclusively (stabby Claptraps).

There are a lot of various claptrap related monsters as well. They have apparently taken a page from the borg and have started to revive old enemies and convert them to the cause by force.

Implanted chips and cybernetics make the monsters a bit more challenging, though the boss fights are hilarious.

General Knoxx keeps egging you on while you kill him — again.

You fight all the old big bosses, save for the destroyer of the original and crawmarax from the third downloadable content pack.

Although you have to kill them twice in this pack, for a grand total of three times, the commentary from the bosses themselves is very amusing.

I found the pack to be worth the money even if I got them all from the game of the year edition.

I paid $35 for a used copy, but I think getting it new would be worth it, especially since you gain access to the “Duke Nukem Forever” early access club.

Overall, I give the entire series an A+, but the Robolution is great by itself.

If you like shooters and/or "World of Warcraft," I would suggest you buy this game.

This game is rated M for blood and gore, intense violence, mature humor, and strong language by the ESRB.

However, I would give it a rating of K for kick-ass.

Rating: A+

—Robert Bolton
Online Writer

Latest ‘Vampire’ book packs a weak bite

Sookie Stackhouse returns in the 11th installment of Charlaine Harris’s “Southern Vampire Chronicles” in “Dead Reckoning.”

This is the book series HBO’s hit television show, “True Blood,” is based on.

In “Dead Reckoning,” Sookie finds her life threatened at every turn, just like in every other book so far.

Sookie spends much of the book alternating between being a quick-thinking, resourceful woman and a whiny, naive girl.

It’s amazing how some realizations creep up on her like they do, while she somehow manages to work out problems with solutions that even centuries-old vampires can’t grasp.

This book doesn’t seem as believable as earlier books in the series.

It’s a mad dash from crisis to crisis. The moments in the book that are intended to paint Sookie as a ‘normal’ person are disjointed.

Between the various fairy plots cropping up and the vampire posuring Sookie is in the middle of, there is just really too much in this book for a reader to follow and enjoy as in Harris’s older writing.

Especially disappointing is the fact that once you’ve read it, you may not remember much about the book an hour after you’re done.

The plotlines have potential, but they seem rushed, not fully developed at times.

If you’re a devoted Sookie Stackhouse fan, then you should at least borrow the book. Otherwise, it may not be worth your time.

Rating: C

—Holly Davis Walker
Editor
CNG vehicles power automotive program

ELYSAEBTH CASIANO
News Writing Student

For drivers looking for a way around $4 per gallon gasoline, an alternative is vehicles that run on Compressed Natural Gas, or CNG.

OCCC now has two CNG vehicles.

“Compressed natural gas is the same gas that’s in your water heater or your stove,” said Richard Steere, automotive professor.

“The only difference is that it’s compressed on a vehicle.”

CNG has become a low-cost alternative to gasoline.

The highest current price of CNG in Oklahoma City is $1.39 per gallon, while regular gas is priced on average at $3.79 per gallon.

“The big problem (with CNG) is storage,” he said. “It takes up so much space to store that we compress it.”

OCCC owns one donated CNG vehicle, which is a General Motors car.

Steere said they needed this vehicle for classes in the Automotive Technology program.

OCCC later purchased another CNG vehicle, a 2010 three-quarter ton Chevrolet Silverado pickup.

He said they occasionally use this vehicle in class, but its main purpose is for promotion.

They drive the CNG Silverado in and out of state to advertise OCCC’s CNG program.

On the back of the truck it has a picture of the campus, Steere said.

“Close to 42 gas stations in the state sell CNG,” he said.

CNG is methane that is piped throughout the U.S. at a low pressure. It’s the same substance that is piped into most homes to heat water and furnaces.

“At the station they have a compressor that compresses (the gas) and puts (the gas) into large cylinders,” Steere explained.

OCCC offers two programs for CNG.

One is a state certification program for auto mechanics that teaches all the safety information and general information.

In Oklahoma, mechanics are required to be certified to be able to work on CNG vehicles.

The second program is an installer program that teaches technicians how to put a CNG system on a vehicle that was built to run on gasoline.

To learn more about these programs and CNG vehicles visit the automotive department website at www.occ.edu/automotive.

In addition, you can also e-mail Steere at rsteere@occc.edu.

‘GATEWAYS TO DEMOCRACY’ TO BE USED IN CLASSROOMS THIS FALL

LISA GILCREASE
News Writing Student

Bridging the gap between dry fact and epic story is a challenge faced by every textbook writer, including Professor Dana Glencross.

The OCCC professor has co-authored a political science textbook that will be used at more than 25 college campuses across the U.S., including this one.

Glencross said she worked with fellow writers John G. Geer from Vanderbilt University, Wendy J. Schiller from Brown University, and Jeffrey A. Segal from Stony Brook University, to create the new political science textbook called “Gateways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government: The Essentials.”

“Gateways to Democracy” is a political science textbook that Glencross hopes reads more like a book rather than a textbook.

Each chapter begins with a real political dilemma faced by a college student that leads into the theme of the chapter.

These are stories of students who have taken action to make changes in society.

The Wadsworth Cengage Learning website, www.cengagesites.com, says the idea for this format is to get students to engage positively in discussion about government topics that affect their own lives.

One example is S.R. Sidarth, a 20-year-old computer engineering and American government major at the University of Virginia.

The book states that he was following and filming U.S. Sen. George Allen on his “Listening Tour.”

One of the recordings, according to the text, caught Allen calling Sidarth a name that had racial overtones. Sidarth placed the video on YouTube causing Allen’s campaign to plummet.

“Gateways to Democracy” also gives past and present examples of Supreme Court cases.

“This book takes first-hand stories from college students in the beginning of every chapter,” Glencross said. “The students I’ve had look at the book or look at a chapter say they can’t put it down.

“That’s not the typical reaction for most government textbooks. I think it makes this one unique.”

Glencross said the theme of the book is about how to interact with government and how to get into government which was something that attracted her to write her portion of the book.

She said that she was approached by Sally Denney-Madoux, a local sales representative for Cengage Publishing, to help write and edit the book. Glencross said she was reluctant to accept the job at first, but is happy that she did.

“One of my two main goals was to see what’s not in the chapter that needs to be, make suggestions for changes, and then reduce their book by 20 percent,” she said.

Glencross said she was a little intimidated when she saw the universities the other authors were coming from. However, once she finished the project, she was very pleased with the outcome.

“When I heard who the other authors were and where they were from, Vanderbilt, Brown, Stony Brook, I’m like how does a community college professor fit into this?” Glencross said with a chuckle.

Geer, the co-author and professor at Vanderbilt University, said in an e-mail message that he too enjoyed the project.

“Writing ‘Gateways to Democracy: The Essentials’ was a labor of love in many ways. Each of us enjoys teaching and wanted to use this book as another way to communicate with our students.”

Professor Glencross was a key part of our team and helped to make this book not only possible, but also, in my view, a success. Oklahoma City Community College is lucky to have such a wonderful professor on our fine faculty.”

“Gateways to Democracy” will be used in all American Federal Government sections at OCCC starting this fall.

“That is a huge honor, huge honor,” Glencross said.

She said she hopes her students enjoy her book and won’t be nervous about using her textbook in class.

“I’m a little bit worried that maybe some students are going to be intimidated and think, ‘I don’t want to take that class because she wrote the freakin’ book. How hard is that going to be?’” she said.

She said she welcomes feedback and interaction from her students and hopes they will still enjoy attending her classes.

Glencross said her contributions throughout the book took about two years to write. She said she never really thought about what it would be like to publish a textbook author.

“It is a very labor-intensive process,” Glencross said.

“I really never thought about what it’s going to mean when you’re done.”

“This is going to have my name on it,” she said.

The publisher’s website, www.cengagesites.com, has already been receiving reviews from many university and community college professors who have reviewed the book or will be using the book in their classrooms in the future.

Glencross has been teaching for 25 years.

She has a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s in political science. She has been teaching at OCCC since 1989 and has received numerous awards including the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Improper parking could lead to unwanted fines

IN IT FOR ME AT O-TRIPLE-C

Fine Amounts (Per Ticket)

- Failure to stop at a “Stop” sign: $25
- Going the wrong way on a one-way street: $25
- Reckless driving, unsafe driving: $25
- Parking in a fire lane: $100
- Improper Parking in a handicapped space: $100
- Parking in a faculty/staff area without a decal: $15
- Double parking: $5
- Improper parking: $3
- All other parking violations: $5
- Failure to display parking decal or permit: $5
- Improperly affixed parking decal or permit: $3

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

PAYING FINES

- For students, notification will be sent advising the student that a citation that was received on the vehicle has not been paid. Resulting in a Safety and Security Hold being placed on the student's records until such time that a copy of the receipt of payment of the citation is presented to Campus Safety and Security.
- For employees, notification will be sent to Human Resources.
- For vendors, individuals will be restricted from doing business with the College.

APPEALING A CITATION
Students who are issued citations shall either pay the fine imposed or file a written appeal within 15 calendar days. Appeal forms are available in the Office of the Vice President for Student Services. Employees who receive citations shall either pay the fine or file a written appeal under the Employee Grievance Procedure within 15 days. No appeal will be considered after 15 calendar days from the date the citation was issued.
Commencement ceremony honors graduates

May 13 marked the date OCCC graduates walked across the stage at the Cox Convention Center to receive their diplomas. The night included more than just students. Fut faculty, regents, staff, and other members of the community also came to honor the class of 2011.

Following the pre-commencement concert, performed by the OCCC Jazz Band, English professor and Faculty Association Chair Chris Verschage greeted the faculty and graduates.

Ben Brown, OCCC Board of Regents chair, welcomed graduates and then introduced each member of the Board.

After a performance by the Symphonic Community Choir during a musical interlude, Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce Dave Lopez gave the commencement address.

After much suspense, President Paul Sechrist announced the faculty winner of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching which he presented to physics professor Tad Thurston.

Regents Ben Brown, Lenora Burdine, Teresa Moisant, Tony J. Tyler, Mike Voorhees, James R. White and Devry R. Youngblood presented diplomas following the President's award.

In conclusion, Regent Lenora Burdine gave the Benediction.
College for Kids enlivens summer

SEAN M. TOLBERT
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC provides an affordable, educational, and entertaining way for kids from first through eighth grade to spend their summer vacation in a constructive environment that helps them build knowledge as well as friendships, said Community Outreach and Education Director Jessica Martinez-Brooks.

The College for Kids program runs from June 6 through the end of July, with most classes being offered at the Family and Community Education Center at 6500 S. Land Ave., she said.

“We have several classes and activities that will allow kids the chance to learn about many different areas.”
—Jessica Martinez-Brooks
Director of Community Outreach and Education

For adults who may be interested in pursuing some education for themselves along with their children, the FACE Center also offers a wide array of summer courses ranging from prices as low as $20 that include Beginning Guitar, Country and Western Dance, Ballroom and Salsa dancing, as well as an AARP sponsored driver’s safety course.

Enrollment is currently under way. For more information, visit the Community Outreach and Education website at www.occc.edu/com
Social: Students encouraged to use OCCC’s social newtworks

Continued from page 1

questions or problems they have. If we can get answers, we will post them there for others to see as well.”

However, Richardson said, that doesn’t mean a student should worry if their question involves sensitive information like passwords or transcripts.

“Depending on the confidentiality of the information, we will take the conversation offline and do it through e-mails or phone calls,” he said.

Richardson said the number of postings made daily to the OCCC Facebook varies based on the time of year.

“Since the end of the spring semester, we don’t post as frequently. There might even be a day or two where we don’t post anything at all,” he said. “But some days, we’ll post as many as four or five different items.”

Although the college Facebook sees the most traffic, Richardson said OCCC also utilizes a Twitter account, located at www.twitter.com/otriplec, which went live in March 2009.

In addition to linking to many items posted on the Facebook page, he said, the Twitter account is frequently updated with information regarding the academic calendar, such as the last days to drop classes and other important dates.

Richardson said updates to the Twitter account can also be directed sent to a cell phone by texting “follow otri triplec” to the number 40404.

He said students also can receive phone alerts by signing up for OCCC’s Campus Alerts Network, which was implemented last fall.

Students can access the system by visiting www.twitter.com/otri triplec, which went live in March 2009.

To begin with, he said, the system is linked to a student’s OCCC e-mail account. After logging in, however, students can add additional e-mail addresses or cell phone numbers to receive e-mail and text alerts regarding emergencies on campus.

Richardson said the system is used “whenever there is an emergency type situation on campus that we think the college community needs to know about.”

“When OCCC recently closed because of storms, we stayed and sent those messages so that everyone knew the college was closing at 4 oclock,” he said. “Nothing but emergency and alert type information will be sent using the Campus Alerts system.”

From important dates to hours of operations, OCCC’s Bursar’s Office also posts a variety of items on their Facebook page to keep students informed, said Bursar Brandi Henson.

Henson said the Bursar’s Office Facebook page, located at www.facebook.com/occcbursar, was started last year and has since garnered more than 5,000 hits per month.

Regular postings include due date reminders, upcoming activities, holiday messages, extended hours announcements, and more.

“A lot of students find this to be useful,” said Henson. “They get phone alerts by signing up for OCCC’s Campus Alerts System.”

Richardson said OCCC also utilizes a Twitter account, OCCCStudLife, to remind students of upcoming events, said Jill Lindblad, Service Learning and Student Life Programs coordinator. The OCCC Student Life page also updates on weather warnings.

“We also try to post extra information that is helpful to students,” Lindblad said. “We get student questions every now and then.

“It’s really easy for me to answer them because I’m at my computer all day. It’s a really useful tool for people who aren’t on campus and can’t get here.”

“We would love more questions,” Lindblad said. “We love our Facebook.”

Student Life also has a Twitter account, OCCCStudentLife.

The Keith Leftwich Memorial Library updates their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/occclibrary, with hours, reading suggestions, polls and tips, and more.

Amanda Lemon, electronic services/reference librarian, uses the Facebook page to share the library’s blog.

Lemon said blog topics have included finals tips, new items in the library and tips on where to find certain books or study rooms.

The blogs are written by members of the library staff.
Investing in the future

Psychology major April Hale fills out fall registration paperwork in the Registration office. Students are now enrolling and preparing for summer and fall classes. The semester begins on June 6 and ends on July 29. Tuition and fees are due on June 6. The last day to withdraw without a refund is July 15. For more information on enrollment or class schedules, visit the college’s website at www.occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7784.

COMMUNITY | Many options available for the public to offer assistance

EMILY SCHORR
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Tornadoes ripped through the state May 24, leaving 10 people dead, more than 100 people injured, and destroying numerous homes and lives.

"This is devastating," said Nhan Ha, premed major. "A lot of people lost their homes. It was really close to my home."

Heather Pemberton, Phi Theta Kappa president, said her group is ready to help.

"We are just waiting for sign off from (Student Clubs and Organizations Assistant) Karlen Grayson," Pemberton said. "We’re hoping to get that sign off from (Student Clubs and Organizations Assistant) Karlen Grayson."

As soon as that approval comes through, the group plans to have a donation drive that will last two weeks, she said. Donations of any kind are needed. Pemberton said. That includes cash, household items and food.

For more information and updates, visit www.occc.edu/ptk or follow the story at the Pioneer Online at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

Those looking for a way to help have several off-campus options to choose from as well.

• The Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief Team is accepting monetary donations for tornado victims. Send donations to: Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief, 3800 N May, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. To make a donation online, go to www.bgco.org.

• The Canadian County Salvation Army Service Center in El Reno is accepting donations for its mobile canteen unit. Snack foods and beverages are needed. Donations can be taken to 201 S Bickford. For more information, call Leslie Johnson at 405-295-2343.

• Bible Baptist Church in Chickasha is accepting donations of items for tornado victims. Clothing and household items are needed. Donations are being accepted at the church at 226 S 29th St.

For more information, call 224-1569.

• Farmers Insurance Special Mobile Command Center is providing assistance to those in need at Piedmont First United Methodist Church, 2525 Piedmont Road North. Call Jerry Davies at 213-400-4439.

• FEMA disaster assistance: 800-621-FEMA (3362)

• United Way of Central Oklahoma: 405-236-8441 or visit www.unitedwayokc.org

• Tri City Hope Center: 405-392-5090, 201 S Main. Opens at 9 a.m. Thursday for donations and assistance. Clothing, food, and household items needed.

• Piedmont Service Center, 415 Piedmont Road North, 405-373-4022, is accepting gift cards for household items, clothing, and food.

• Keep it Local is donating 100 percent of its profit to the relief efforts. Send donations to 3800 N May, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. To make a donation online, go to www.keepitlocalok.com.

Do you have news you’d like to share? If so, contact Holly at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7409.

COMMUNITY | Many options available for the public to offer assistance

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

OCCC Foundation Scholarship
The Chesapeake scholarship is available for the Fall semester. The scholarship is for $500/semester, with applications due June 30. Applications are available from the OCCC Foundation office in 1A4 in the Arts & Humanities building. For more information, contact Jennifer Harrison at jharrison@occc.edu or 405-682-7591.

Job Search Workshop
Student Employment and Career Services will be hosting a workshop from 12:30 to 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, in the Main Building, Room 1G7. The workshop will cover Job Search Strategies, with a focus on online techniques. For more information, call 405-682-7519, or e-mail employment@occc.edu.

All Highlights are due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Highlight forms can be picked up in the Pioneer office, located in 1F2 of the Arts and Humanities building, just inside Entry 2.
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.

TEXTBOOK FOR SALE:

WHOEVER SAYS LIGHTNING DOESN’T STRIKE TWICE IN THE SAME PLACE, HASN’T LIVED IN OKLAHOMA!
A young, single mom from Piedmont is starting life over again since she lost all her belongings in the violent tornado that struck last Tuesday. Cortney had rebuilt her life after a fire took all she owned two years ago. This time she, along with her 9-month old son, escaped the storm with only the clothes on their backs, and are once more in need of anything and everything.
Mom is a size 2 and small, and her child is a 12-month size. If you have clothes, kitchen supplies, bath towels, sheets, etc., that you can contribute to this family, please call: Casey R. Akard at 405-514-0485.
Thank you for your help!
Student takes part in weekend NASA program

CYNTHIA PRAEFKE
Staff Writer
adman@occc.edu

Many little boys dream of growing up to become an astronaut, but few get the opportunity recently afforded to OCCC student worker, Rodolfo “Ivan” Monsivais.

Monsivais, a second-year engineering student, was one of 80 students in the U.S. selected to spend a weekend at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, as a result of his participation in an online aerospace project.

“It was an experience I never thought I would have,” Monsivais said.

“I am studying pre-mechanical/electrical engineering because I want to be an astronaut.

“I learned about this study from another student. I applied and was accepted to the program.”

The space program, National Community College Aerospace Scholars, requires a six-month commitment from applicants to work together with NASA engineers via interactive web-based activities.

Among the undertakings: planning a space mission beginning with the challenge of funding it.

NASA supports the program designed for students interested in all aspects of space exploration.

Monsivais took the lead in Houston and volunteered for his team’s top position.

“Of 280 people who applied, only 80 were chosen, so we were divided into four groups of 20 each,” Monsivais said.

“No one spoke up when the adviser asked for a project manager.

“That is the engineer’s job, I thought — my job — and I said I wanted to do it.”

Monsivais said he is undecided as to whether he will continue his studies at the University of Oklahoma or join the military and continue there.

“There are benefits to both,” Mansavais said.

“In the meantime, I will consider applying for a summer internship at NASA.”

If he is accepted, Student Life will miss their student worker.

“He is an amazing young man, and we are proud of his accomplishments,” said Marcy Roll, Student Life Assistant.

For more information on the NCAS program check the website at education.nasa.gov, or email jsc-ncas@mail.nasa.gov.