Enrollment up from last summer

Students over the age of 25 make up the biggest portion of the increase, official says

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Summer enrollment is up for at least the third summer in a row, said Stu Harvey, Planning and Research executive director.

The number of students increased since last summer by 353 to 7,177 enrolled for the summer semester. Total credit hours have increased by 6.3 percent to 36,331.

“It looks like where we are experiencing the biggest increase is older students, over 25,” Harvey said.

Harvey speculates that increase can be attributed in part to the economy.

“People go to summer classes for a variety of reasons,” he said.

“Maybe they want to fill in a class or take something to speed their way through school. Maybe it has something to do with the economy, people going back to improve their job skills or improve their prospects. Maybe they don’t have a job and are trying to find one.”

OCCC has experienced strong enrollments throughout the school year since the recession hit, Harvey said, with total enrollment increasing more than 25 percent since 2008.

Greg Gardner, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, said for many classes, such as English Composition I and II, and other general education core classes, students can generally find an open seat.

“We actively manage enrollment at OCCC and we do that every semester,” Gardner said. “We begin the scheduling process with looking at where we finished the same semester a year ago.

“We started by using the same number of sections for this summer as we finished last summer with.”

See ENROLLMENT page 9

Tight budget means tuition increase, no raises

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Students can expect a $6.40 per-credit-hour increase in tuition for Fall 2011, bringing the total cost to $95 per credit hour.

Mandatory fees — such as student technology, student facility use and library fees — will remain the same, though an increase of those also may be considered in the future, said John Boyd, vice president for Business and Finance, in the OCCC Board of Regents meeting on Monday, June 13.

Boyd said the tuition increase is one way OCCC plans to reduce the impact felt by a 5.8 percent reduction in state allocated funds. A decrease in National Guard and concurrent enrollment tuition waivers paid by Oklahoma also is reducing state funds to OCCC, he said during the meeting.

The reduction in tuition waivers paid by the state for National Guard members is felt in two ways.

One is that enrollment is down because of deployments. The other is the legislature has not increased funding for the waivers since the program was started, Boyd said.

The same is true for concurrently enrolled students. High school seniors can have up to six hours of tuition waived each semester.

While funding has not been increased for the waivers, OCCC has not turned away either National Guard members or

See BUDGET page 9
E-textbooks cost-effective alternative

Every semester kicks off with a mad scramble to get to the bookstore, hunt down the right textbooks, and pay a small fortune for them. The rest of the semester is then spent hauling these expensive and weighty tomes all over the campus, causing back pain and frustration for those who do.

An alternative to this process sounds like a really good idea right about now. And researchers at Abilene Christian University in Texas have been giving it some thought.

For the past year, researchers at ACU have looked into the question of whether students would be willing to pay for an iPad, tablet PC, or other eBook-compatible device in order to buy their textbooks as eBooks.

The answer was yes. The majority of students who participated in the studies said while standard texts are easier to read and browse, eBook texts are more convenient. This is by far the best idea to hit the college publishing circuit in years.

Switching to e-textbooks would save money, not only for the students, but for the college as well.

The books will be less expensive because they won’t have to add the costs of printing, shipping and storing the books onto the cover cost.

Additionally, the use of eBooks will make distribution simpler, faster, and prevent those moments of horror when a students hears those awful words, “We seem to be out of that one.”

Finally, the books will be portable, and easy to carry and access. Students could go from carrying a backpack that could double as a cartoon anvil to carrying a single eReader or tablet.

And there’s the rub. For this to work, students would have to be willing to make a one-time payment ranging from a little more than $100 for a low-end eReader, to more than $1,000 for the high-end tablet PCs.

But there are ways to simplify the matter. The bookstore could begin providing the devices so that students could purchase them with Pell grants and Federal Aid.

And the college could partner with an eReader manufacturer to provide a model that’s both inexpensive and compatible.

Of course, for students who want that extra interactivity, there’s always the route of buying a tablet PC, though those tend to run a little pricier.

But the bottom line is: Using eBooks would be tremendously helpful to students.

After all, why strain students’ backs and wallets when there’s an easier, cost-effective solution available?

—Jeremy Cloud
Senior Writer

Free immunization clinic supplies Tdap vaccinations

To the Editor:

Parents will have an opportunity to get their adolescent children vaccinated free of charge at a Tdap immunization clinic scheduled for Thursday, June 23.

Tdap provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). The Oklahoma County Immunization Coalition is sponsoring the free clinic.

Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, all students entering the 7th grade will be required to have a Tdap vaccination.

There is no grace period, so all students will need to get the Tdap booster shot before the school year starts.

While most children are vaccinated against those diseases as preschoolers, that protection begins to wear off after five to 10 years.

The State Board of Health adopted the new requirement for 7th grade Tdap booster shots to help fight the spread of whooping cough in Oklahoma schools and communities.

Whooping cough has been increasing in the U.S. in recent years. In 2010, Texas reported more than 2,000 cases, California reported more than 9,000 cases, and 10 infants died nationwide.

Infants need four doses of vaccine before they develop immunity to whooping cough. Even though they can begin vaccinations at 2 months old, they aren’t fully protected until they have received the recommended doses at ages 2, 4, 6 and 12 months.

That leaves young babies vulnerable to infections transmitted by unvaccinated older children or adults.

To participate in the free clinic, [you must] bring immunization records, and the parent or legal guardian must be present with the child. Adoptive or foster parents should also bring their adoption or placement papers.

For specific questions about children’s immunizations and information on this program and others, call 405-425-4404 or 405-425-4450. Information is also available online at the OCIC website at www.ocic.info.

Free Tdap Immunization Clinic: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 23, at Homeland Grocery Store, 5857 NW Expressway.

—Vicki Monks
Community Relations Coordinator
Oklahoma City-County Health Department
**COMMENTS AND REVIEWS**

**MOVIE REVIEW** | Swashbuckling saga is far from over

**Jack is back with new ‘Pirates’**

Yet again, Johnny Depp succeeds in stealing the hearts of women of all ages as Captain Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides."

Captain Sparrow continues the "Pirates" saga on his quest to find the Fountain of Youth. Instead of co-stars Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley from the first three films, Penelope Cruz steps in as Angelica, who happens to be searching for the same treasure.

Many thought the third movie, "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," was going to be the last. However, at the very end the crew of the infamous Black Pearl agrees to search for and bring Captain Jack back.

From capturing a mermaid to trekking through the jungle, the film provides the usual sense of humorous suspense.

Jack starts off in London rescuing his former first mate, Mr. Gibbs, out of prison but they soon find themselves back in King George II's hold. Here they reunite with the newly appointed Privateer Barbossa who is also seeking the fountain under the king's order.

It takes time for the film to get into the actual search for the fountain, but once it does, there are thrilling surprises around every corner.

If one is looking for a nice way to spend an afternoon, catching the film in either 2- or 3-D will leave one feeling almost slightly dangerous in a pirate, trust-no-one kind of way.

With the all too familiar cliffhanger end to the more than two-hour movie, there is no end in sight for this beyond-brilliant saga.

**Rating:** B+

Sarah Hussain

**STAFF WRITER**

**MUSIC REVIEW** | Odd Future has wide fan base

**Budding hip-hop group has potential**

Sex, drugs and hip-hop beats mixed in with jail time and murder raps are an unfortunate side to the realism of music.

Viral hip-hop group Odd Future may indeed end up going down in the history books alongside such groups as N.W.A. and The Wu-Tang Clan.

Although not nearly as polished as the above-mentioned groups, Odd Future has such a wide fan base that this premonition may actually become reality.

The song "Yonkers" by Odd Future creator Tyler has a cool and slightly angry lyrical flow. It is a good song that flows well, if one can get over the blasphemy against Jesus. Whether it is just over-the-top lyrics or misunderstood poetry, Odd Future is more like an unorganized mess of young fools who have a major following.

They are getting a lot of notice from many top-named people. Esquire magazine profiled Odd Future in February.

The songs "Swag Me Out" and "Sandwiches" have good beats but are filled with lyrical silliness. This group is young so maybe they will learn.

They have the ability to become one of the greatest hip-hop groups of all time but their work is far from over.

Their effort in musical and lyrical expression is applaudable, but this group sounds like a bunch of kids with nothing to do but sit around and think of silliness to talk about.

Still don't understand Odd Future?

Try to imagine 10 Brotha Lynch Hungs at the age of 9, all on one stage talking about murder and rape. Then you've got it.

Personal PSA: Odd Future is not for everyone.

**Rating:** D

Christy Johnson

**STAFF WRITER**

**JOB & CAREER POWER**

**Students have chance at paid internships**

Internships are a great way to explore a potential career field.

The office of Student Employment and Career Services can assist your search for internships both locally and on a national scale.

And, internships are offered in a variety of fields with both paid and unpaid criteria. Many also offer college credit.

Listed below are three local internships that have salaries plus college credit:

**Federal Aviation Administration/ Department of Transportation**

**Category:** Information Technology

**Job Title:** Student Trainee-Computer Specialist

**Contact Phone:** 405-954-4825

**Vacancy Announcement Number:** ESC-2009

**Qualifications (Partial Listing):** Thirty college credit hours earned

**Salary:** $25,800 to $38,700

**Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma**

**Category:** Nonprofit

**Job Title:** GO Rock! Intern

**Contact Phone:** 405-528-GIRL

**Salary:** Paid

**Gardner Tanenbaum Holdings**

**Category:** Marketing

**Job Title:** Social Media Internship

**Contact Phone:** 405-524-8484, ext. 111

**Salary:** Paid

For a listing of 40 to 60 local internships, please visit the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce website of Greater Grads at www.greatergrads.com.

Or, please visit the Student Employment and Career Services office in the Main Building, Room 1G7.

—Debra Vaughn

**STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES DIRECTOR**
MUSIC REVIEW | New Lady Gaga album features a hodgepodge of electronic and country music

Super-chantuese mixes it up

The Lady Gaga album “Born This Way” is pretty out there. It doesn’t stick to any one style which in some ways is a disappointment. There are some songs on the list that are electronica, some that sound like really bad techno, and some that sound like country.

I normally don’t like country, though “You and I” was actually decent. Having listened to the country version of “Born This Way” was actually pretty cool too.

My main complaint about her is that she has an absolutely beautiful singing voice — when she uses it. Much of the time she does the song just talking to the music, which is fine — if you’re a rapper or doing deadpan metal. That doesn’t work for pop. You need to sing to the music. Some of the songs that spring to mind with her great voice was “Highway Unicorn (Road to Love),” “You and I,” “Electric Chapel,” and “The Edge of Glory.” Almost all of them were at the end of the album.

If your tastes run the same as mine, you might just skip the first half entirely.

All in all, the album has the general feeling of a mix tape rather than a professional CD.

I’m going to have to give this one a D for the most part with a few scattered B’s — mainly for the actual romantic songs.

Rating: D

—Robert Bolton
Online Writer

PRODUCT REVIEW | Drink additive adds flavor to the average glass of water

MiO water enhancer gives users more choices

During the dog days of summer, hydration is vital — but that Aquafina bottle can start tasting well, tasteless, after a few sips.

Powdered water flavorings have become the next vogue thing, with companies like Crystal Light and even Kool-Aid capitalizing on the billion-dollar trend.

But just when you thought there were no new ways left to enhance water, Kraft jumped on the bandwagon with MiO, a zero-calorie, zero-sugar, liquefied water enhancer.

The six different flavors of MiO are sold in sleek, palm-sized plastic bottles that look like silver water droplets. Each container retails for about $3.49 at stores like Walmart and, according to the label packaging, contains enough liquid to flavor 24 glasses of water.

That number is really dependent on how much flavoring you use, which is one advantage MiO has over its competitors.

Unlike those single-use Crystal Light packets that may pack too little — or too much — punch, you can use MiO to flavor your water exactly to your liking.

Each squeeze of the bottle results in a small spurt of flavor, which then dissipates evenly throughout the water without having to stir or shake the bottle or glass.

You can use as little or as much as you like, depending on how strong you like your flavoring.

This leads to another of MiO’s best selling points: Whether you’re playing in the sun or sitting in class, it’s much more convenient to squeeze a container than it is to tear the top off a box. Pour powder into a bottle, then stir or shake until the substance is thoroughly mixed.

The product is available in six flavors: berry pomegranate, fruit punch, mango peach, peach tea, sweet tea, and strawberry watermelon — and they are all delicious.

Fruit punch is a little reminiscent of the childhood favorite Hawaiian Punch, though without all of the unhealthy additives. Berry pomegranate seems to be the all-around favorite among consumers — always the first to sell out in stores — but sweet tea is the real winner.

It has all the flavor of southern iced tea without a drop of sugar, just like all of the other MiO flavors, and is truly refreshing on a hot summer day.

It’s fruity counterpart, peach tea, is probably the weakest link MiO has to offer, as the peach flavor is a bit overpowering by that of the tea.

Although the nearly $4 price tag might seem off-putting at first, it’s worth noting that competitors’ powdered products retail for about $2 for boxes of 10 packets.

With MiO, you get more than double the dosage for not even half as much. So if you’re searching for a way to keep yourself cool and your wallet properly stuffed this summer, look no further than the shelves of your nearest grocery store.

MiO will keep your body and your taste buds happy all summer long.

Rating: A+

—Whitney Knight
Online Editor
WATER, AN ELEMENT EXPLORED IN CAMPUS ART SHOW

Water art exhibit goes with the ‘Flow’

PRISCILLA COLLEY
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

An element with the power to both create and destroy, that is necessary to life yet is slowly disappearing, is water.

That also is the theme of an upcoming art show.

“Flow” opens June 16 and continues through Aug. 11 in the OCCC Art Gallery located in Room 124 of the VPAC building, said Lemuel Bardeguez, Cultural Programs director.

Admission is free and the gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

According to an information guide about the exhibit, “Flow” explores the many meanings of water, highlighting the different uses and personas water has embodied in culture and in a physical sense.

The exhibit will be displayed in three parts.

The first will explore the power of water — its ability to swiftly destroy and, in the same breath, be used to create.

The second will look at water’s pivotal role to existence, reminding us of the substance that comprises 60 percent of the human body as well as its use as a fun pastime.

The third and final component is the conservation of water, showing its depletion and the abuse the human race has imposed upon the planet, as well as the dire need for and lack of water in many places throughout the world.

“It’s really exciting that OCCC has this exhibit,” said student Pauline Ha. “[Water is] the number one resource we should be concerned about.”

OCCC is the launching point for the national tour.

“Flow” is typically housed in the Sheldon Museum of Art at the University of Nebraska.

The exhibit holds 29 works and incorporates many different forms of media and artists, including artists from the 1920s to 1990 with art forms varying from abstract expressionism to print photographs.

“It’s great from a purely aesthetic point of view for students to experience and is a very relevant topic” Bardeguez said. “Entire classes are encouraged to come and use the gallery academically.”

For more information, contact the Cultural Programs office at 405-682-7576, or visit the National Program of Mid-America Arts Alliance website at www.eusa.org.

New ANGEL streaming service to save students time

SARAH HUSSAIN
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

Starting this fall, the library will offer professors who use ANGEL to teach the ability to stream major motion pictures and television shows to their students online.

ANGEL, which is located online at angel.occc.edu, is the virtual hub through which professors teach online courses.

Now, Swank Digital Campus is providing students in these classes the flexibility to view required course films and TV shows outside of the classroom legally.

Library Services Director Barbara King said the system will be available for instructors to use in the fall.

“Only if the instructor is using it in the course and they have incorporated it into the learning management system will students have access to this on their own,” King said. “They must be in the course.”

This is not OCCC’s first time using Swank. King said Student Life has used this production company in the past when showing movies to students in the College Union.

The library also has used this service in the past and decided it would be beneficial for instructors to have the ability to use it as well for their courses.

Students who have access to this new service will use it just like any other ANGEL service, King said.

However, they will need to download Microsoft Silverlight to view the streaming shows on their personal computers.

Student Mariana Sarur said she is excited about the change.

“I use ANGEL a lot in my courses and I hope my future instructors will offer this service for us,” Sarur said.

“It’s hard to juggle classwork, work and home life. To add having to go to the library to view something for a class adds stress,” she said.

“Hopefully, this will cut back on that.”

With the new licensing the library has agreed to with Swank, OCCC is limited to 25 titles a semester, King said.

Those titles will be determined depending on instructors’ preferences, she said.

For more information, call King at 405-682-1611, ext. 7315, or visit www.occc.edu/library.
Protection from the summer sun necessary

SARAH HUSSAIN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Although the sun is an extremely important part of every day life, it also brings substantial dangers. Sun exposure is necessary for everyone — in limited amounts. It's the primary source of vitamin D for bodies, which helps to absorb calcium.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology website, there are six different skin types. Those run the gamut from type one, which is the extremely sun-sensitive skin which burns easily, through type six, which is sun-insensitive skin that never burns. Depending on which skin type you are determines the type of sunscreen you want to apply regularly.

Excessive amounts of both rays can lead to melanoma, the most common type of cancer of the skin. "I see skin cancer patients year 'round, not just during the summer," Sutter said. "The sun damage has been cumulative over the years; most of my skin cancer patients are between 60 and 80 years old."

"My older patients usually had a couple extremely bad sunburns when they were teens and in their 20s and just like bad karma, it comes back to haunt them when they're older," he said.

Dr. Steve Sutter, a dermatologist from Midwest Dermatology Inc., suggests looking for either 40 or 50 SPF sunscreens. Broad-spectrum sunscreens will block both UVA and UVB rays and have that written right on the bottle, he said.

Sunlight gives off two types of harmful rays: ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB). UVA rays are the type that cause aging. UVB rays are the type that cause burning.

Insalata Caprese

Ingredients:
- 1 c. fresh mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 c. balsamic vinegar
- 2 large tomatoes
- 1/2 bunch basil
- 1/2 red onion finely diced
- 1/4 c. good olive oil
- 1 loaf French bread
- 1 T. dried, crushed oregano
- Freshly ground black pepper

Directions:
- Bake French bread as desired. Dice the mozzarella, tomatoes and onion then douse with vinegar. Add the pepper and oregano and mix well. Remove the basil and chop. Spoon the mixture on the bread and top with basil and drizzle with olive oil.
- Chill and serve. Enjoy!

References:
- "Skin Cancer Patients Year 'Round, Not Just During the Summer. The Sun Damage Has Been Cumulative Over the Years." Dr. Steve Sutter, Midwest Dermatology Inc.

Leonardo's Discovery Warehouse & Adventure Quest
200 E Maple Ave, Enid
580-233-2787

A hands-on art and science museum offering experiences for children of all ages in the areas of art and science, Leonardo's also features a three-story castle.

Robbers Cave State Park
Highway 2, Wilburton
918-465-2565

A former hideout for notorious outlaws Jesse James and Belle Star, this state park offers fishing, hiking and equestrian trails, and cliff climbing with cabins and campgrounds.

The Toy and Action Figure Museum
111 S Chickasaw, Pauls Valley
405-238-6300

For children of any age, this museum depicts how many of today's past figures were created, from concept through manufacturing.

Philbrook Museum of Art
2727 S Rockford Road, Tulsa
918-749-7941

Offers a unique combination of history, gardens and collections.
SuperSprint 2011 draws out 150 athletes

MICHAEL RUNYAN
News Writing Student

They came. They saw. They persevered.

This is the story of SuperSprint 2011: 500-meter swim, 14-mile bike ride, 5-kilometer run. The event took place on campus June 11.

This story is about the athletes, and also about the volunteers, some of whom had to report at 4 a.m. in the morning, and who were still cleaning up after all the competitors had gone.

Their legs must have hurt as much as those they enabled to participate.

The winner among the men was Eric McCready, first overall with a time of 58:34.

Taking second was Talbut Cox, who came in with a time of 1:02:06 and a smile on his face.

The top two women were Belynda Tidwell and Laura Holt with times of 1:12:39 and 1:18:25 respectively.

Both Cox and McCready said they liked running at OCCC because, as McCready put it, “you don’t have to dodge traffic.”

This sentiment seemed to prevail among the racers.

Almost all athletes said they liked how organized everything was.

“The staff is great,” said John Shelton who came in 25th.

“They keep me coming back. The people make this sport great,” Shelton, who lost the lower half of his leg in a motorcycle hit-and-run accident years ago, ran the 5K race on a springy metal prosthetic, painted in green flames.

“This is one of my favorite venues,” he said.

The person responsible for this lack of chaos was event director Marlene Shugart, head of the OCCC Triathlon Club.

“It keeps growing every year,” she said.

About 150 people participated in this event, aided by some 50 volunteers.

It started at 7:30 a.m. in the Aquatic Center and ended around 10:22 a.m. with the 5K run.

At least another 100 people came out to support loved ones and friends.

With mostly sunny 80-degree weather and pleasant people, it resembled a large family reunion.

Practically everyone seemed to know one another.

The athletes started out the day by swimming 500 meters; then they biked 14 miles, and finished off with a leisurely 5K run.

When the athletes finished the race, there was food and drink available for them, plus a massage table, which attracted quite a long line.

For complete results, including age group, visit www.onlineraceresults.com/event/view_event.php?event_id=6735.

Above: Triathlon participant John Shelton grabs a bottle of water after the running portion of the race. Shelton placed 25th overall.

Right: Lee Mahan races down Portland Ave. to finish the second leg of the triathlon. Mahan finished 31st overall.

Melissa Kohout runs the last leg of the triathlon. Kohout finished 19th in the women’s division and 75th overall.

Cale Lorenzen cheers for his dad triathlon competitor Chris Lorenzen who finished 38th overall.

Photos by Rachel Morrison
Swim kids get their feet wet

SEAN M. TOLBERT
Sports Writer
Sportswriter@occc.edu

The OCCC Wellness Center is currently holding its summer-long Snoopy Squad and Peanuts Gang swimming program at the OCCC Aquatic Center.

OCCC Sports and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson said the program is now entering its sixth summer of operation. It is geared toward age groups ranging from 3 to 9 years old and presents children with a change to what may be an all-too-routine summer schedule.

"Most kids between these ages are usually in daycare more than half of summer," Watson said.

"So we developed a camp somewhat similar to the daycare experience but only they get a chance to learn to swim as well."

Snoopy Squad activity instructors Lindsey Baker and Aime Edwards said students have been enthusiastic about the program. "We've had a really positive response from the kids in every aspect of the program and they seem to really enjoy themselves," Baker said.

"The parents that have been able to stay and watch their kids have told us that they like what they are seeing," she said.

Edwards, a program instructor for the past four years, has noticed the number of children enrolling has steadily increased each summer. "There are more and more kids each year and I think the overall experience is the reason for that," she said.

Katie Philpot, a 2004 OCCC nursing graduate, whose children Joe, 6, and Emma Grace, 3, enrolled in the program, said she was impressed with the level of instruction they received. "The staff are phenomenal and are excellent with the kids," Philpot said. "Joe has gotten used to being in the water now and, with the level of attention that he and the other kids are getting, he is really doing well."

"The out-of-water activities have been an additional bonus, Philpot said. "With the story times, the learning activities and everything that is included with [the lessons,] it makes it a really great deal," she said.

The program runs in two-week sessions until Aug. 4 and enrollment is still open for the coming weeks. Parents interested in enrolling their children may either enroll at the Recreation and Fitness Center Office, located just inside entrance WC1 near Parking Lot E, online at www.occc.edu/rf, or by calling 405-682-7860.

"The staff are phenomenal and are excellent with the kids."  
—KATIE PHILPOT  
2004 OCCC GRADUATE AND PARENT

Brandon Collins gets a cardio workout in OCCC’s Olympic-sized pool, located in the Aquatic Center. Collins said he lives in Moore but attends college in New York, and enjoys using the pool when he’s home on break. The pool and Wellness Center facilities are free to OCCC students with a valid ID.
OCCC president explains his job, duties

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER  
Editor  
editor@occc.edu

The college president holds the highest-paid and most important position at OCCC, but few know what the position truly entails.

In many ways, the college president is like the head of a corporation, said Paul Sechrist, OCCC’s president.

His pay reflects that stature. Sechrist will make $227,429 for 2011-12, according to the current staffing plan.

That’s somewhat less than what some other Oklahoma two-year college presidents make but is still within the top 10 of the highest-paid presidents at Oklahoma’s public colleges and universities, according to www.newsok.com.

Sechrist’s salary ranks 7th, with Tulsa Community College being the only two-year college that pays its president more at $248,441.

Close to home, Rose State College’s president makes $211,500 and is 10th on the list.

As OCCC employees look at a third consecutive year without raises, Sechrist said, he too, will forgo a raise next year — as he has for the past two years — because, his position, at its core, is really like any other full-time college employee.

“I have the same position benefits as every other full-time employee of the college,” he said. “Those include sick leave, vacation leave, health insurance and retirement.”

Sechrist said he also pays for things many other college presidents get in addition to their salary.

… You’ll see [a lot of college presidents] have allowances — housing allowance, car allowance, cell phone allowance, entertainment allowance.

“I don’t have any of those,” he said. “It’s just the general practice here at the college that the president takes those things out of his own salary like everybody else.”

So, what does Sechrist do to earn his salary?

“The main duty of the president is that the president serves as the chief executive officer,” he said, “which means that I am the manager of all the senior administrators, all the vice presidents and all of the people who are in senior leadership positions.

“I have responsibilities to oversee them. Really, it is about making sure the mission is achieved.”

Sechrist said the regents fill the position.

“The president is the person the Board (of Regents) hires to make sure that the mission of the public college is achieved.”

While the president handles some of the major day-to-day matters that come up, Sechrist also serves as a community leader.

“In addition to leading the administration, I serve as the primary spokesperson for [OCCC], advocating for the college with the community, legislature and potential donors.”

Sechrist said he supports OCCC in many ways, for instance, by donating a portion of his salary through payroll deductions to the OCCC Foundation, like many other employees, he said.

OCCC Foundation primarily supports scholarships for students, but also supports other projects at OCCC, Sechrist said. One of those things is the new performing arts theater, which was partly funded through the OCCC Foundation.

Enrollment: Student numbers are up across the board, official says

Continued from page 1

As classes completely fill and more are needed, sections are added, Gardner said.

“We actively manage our enrollment to try to provide as much access as possible as [students] come to us.

“We don’t like to turn away students. Sometimes we have to.

“When we come up with a course where we can’t find anyone else to teach that section, it limits us.”

Capacity isn’t as much an issue during the summer semester as during spring or fall, Harvey said. Summer enrollment is typically only about half that of fall or spring.

“Right now we have 23,000 unduplicated (students) at OCCC (over a year’s time),” Harvey said.

“That’s a fair size city here in Oklahoma.”

Online enrollment continues to grow, as well, he said.

The number of students has increased nearly 12 percent, keeping with the trend.

Online enrollment averaged a 10 to 15 percent increase over the last several semesters, Harvey said.

Official numbers for summer enrollment won’t be compiled for several weeks, Harvey said.

“There are a lot of adjustments to be made before we submit them to the Board of Regents.”

For example, since some students are concurrently enrolled at OCCC and Rose State College, it changes the numbers a bit, Harvey said.

“Some of those would be treated as our students and some of those would be treated as theirs,” Harvey said.

Budget: No employee raises for third straight year

Continued from page 1

concurrently enrolled high school students.

OCCC has been absorbing the costs for those students, said President Paul Sechrist.

Employees of the college will not see raises either, for the third year in a row, in another attempt to keep costs down.


“We have a merit-based system …

“When you work hard and you get a rating and you don’t get anything for it, it sort of makes that merit system not work.

“Our hard-working faculty and staff deserve a raise, and I think that if we didn’t have this cut, we would be looking at raises.

“This is not a surprise,” Sechrist said of the state budget cuts.

“We anticipated this would be the year where there would be a significant cut to state appropriations.

“For the last two years, higher education has been fortunate enough to receive stimulus funds and rainy day funds that made up for the shortfall.”

The stimulus and rainy day funds played a large part in making sure the last two years were not as severe as they could have been, Sechrist said.

“We really have to be very grateful that there was a federal stimulus program.

“Otherwise, we would have had to raise tuition a whole lot more.

“We would have to lay off people, we would have fewer sections where we’d actually be turning students away.”

OCCC has been anticipating a further reduction in funds and planned for it, though, Sechrist said, since the state rainy day funds have dried up and the federal stimulus program was only meant to last two years.

“We’ve been trying to manage expenses as much as possible these last two years,” Sechrist said, “and created our own rainy day fund so that even though state appropriations went down this year, we were able to manage our way through without … draconian cuts.”

Despite the budget shortfall, the new theater will progress as planned.

While $2 million is being held within the auxiliary budget for the theater, it is a contingency fund that earns interest and will only be used toward the construction of the theater if it costs more than the estimated cost of $16 million.

Sechrist said that portion was raised and can only be used for the theater.

“If not used for the theater, that money would be redirect ed to the Capitol Hill Center, Boyd said.”
College gets recognition, top grade for community service

EMILY SCHORR  
Staff Writer  
staffwriter1@occc.edu

OCCC has been recognized for its community service contribution by being named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

More than 1,200 OCCC students participated in service learning hours in 2010.

OCCC students alone contributed to more than 8,000 hours, averaging to about $160,000 in labor.

There are many ways to get involved with service learning, said Service Learning and Student Life Programs Coordinator Jill Lindblad.

Campus Groups and the Civics Honor Program are one way to be involved, she said.

There are 90 different organizations to choose from, Lindblad said, so there is bound to be one of interest to the diverse group of students on campus.

“We’re pretty proud,” she said. “We are one of 25 community colleges that received the award, and there are 1,800 community colleges in the country.”

In total, 641 colleges — both two- and four-year — received recognition for their impact.

Of that total, 511 were named to the honor roll, 114 received recognition of honor roll with distinction, and only six colleges received the Presidential award. OCCC was one of the six.

President Paul Sechrist said he is proud of the accomplishment.

“The recognition is nice and very much appreciated,” he said.

“However, the recognition is not the motivation. Helping others in need is the reason for supporting this initiative.”

Sechrist said he also took part in service learning alongside students at the Regional Food Bank service learning project.

Sechrist said OCCC does not have a specific goal for service learning.

“As long as there is a need in the community, I hope we can all pitch in to make life a little easier for those who may be experiencing a tough time,” he said.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) website notes that the selection process is more in depth than simply calculating the number of hours a college gives.

According to the CNCS, which awards the recognition, it takes many factors into consideration: innovation, how service learning is presented in the curriculum, measurable outcome, and the school’s long-term commitment to long-term partnerships with the community.

OCCC is no stranger to this award, Lindblad said. The college as been recognized three times in the past: 2007, 2009 and 2010.

“It’s not only giving back to the community,” Lindblad said.

“It’s a real world sense of leadership skills.”

Students can stop by Student Life on the first floor of the Main Building near the main entrance, for more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519 or e-mail employmentservices@occc.edu.

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.

Employment and Career Workshops

Student Employment and Career Services are having power workshops located on the first floor of the Main Building in room 1G7. June 23: Cover/application letter creation. June 30: Career Exploration (Discover). For more information contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519 or e-mail employmentservices@occc.edu.

Deadline For Summer Graduation

Graduation applications for summer 2011 are due no later than June 24. Applications can be found at student records on the first floor of the Main Building near the main entrance. For more information, contact Graduation Services at 405-682-1611, ext. 7537.

Flow Art Exhibit

The Flow exhibit will be on display from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 17 to Aug. 11. Admission is free. The exhibit is located in the Visual and Performing Arts Center in The Gallery. For more information, contact the OCCC Cultural Programs office at 405-682-7576.

Tuition Fee Waiver

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the fall 2011 semester are now available in the Financial Aid office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. July 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

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 Main Building near the main entrance, for further information about service learning projects.

OCC Foundation office in 1A4 in the Arts & 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 May 24. 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!

PLS DNT TXT + DRIVE

A Public Service Announcement brought to you by your school + other drivers.

TODAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Desert's sight
2. Pod ingredient
10. Make's choice
14. Acosta's Stanton
16. Arrested person's need
17. Lusters
18. Before, poetic
19. "I'm -- your trucker"
20. Road signal
23. Dish
26. Actor Majors
27. Curly letters
28. Several
29. Power's need
30. Took a break
31. Famous magician
33. Gab
34. Yank
37. Quay comeback
38. Male title
39. Ayar, in a poet
40. 1982 film "Three -- Match"
41. Zoe's predecessor
42. Meyraiy!
43. Glider's need
45. Phoenix player
46. Tampa -- Buccaneers
47. "Garfield" dog
48. Bert's friend
49. Have a cold
52. Stop's eating
53. Storm sight
56. Conceal
57. Grow old
58. Type of control
62. Once more
63. Dine
64. Snatched
65. Inquisitive
66. "Certainly"
67. Quaking trees

DOWN
1. "Charley" lead-in
2. Suffix meaning "sort of"
3. "Hotma"
4. Halped felons
5. Type
6. Movie lions
7. Like better
8. Creepy
9. "With", in Heni
10. Orchestra member
11. Twinges
12. Church tax
13. Casino machines
21. Twelves
22. Disclosed secrets
23. "Bali"
24. Crazy
25. Entertain
26. Rear's cousin
29. Excessively sentimental
30. Handed out
33. Southern pronoun
34. Warry critters
35. Out of shape
36. Fence parts
39. Traveler's item
40. "Tough and easy"
43. "Tough and easy"
44. "Tough and easy"
45. Tough and way
46. Arm muscle

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Special rates for business card size ads. $25 per week will buy a 2 col. by 2” space, getting your advertisement message to 5,000 prospective customers. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674 or e-mail: adman@occc.edu

CLASSIFIED ads are free to ALL OCCC students and employees. Call Cynthia at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, for details.
The Oklahoma City Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Festival will be held from June 24 through 26 at NW 39th and Pennsylvania Ave., said Joshua Sauer, OCCC alumni and OKCPride volunteer.

“This is going to be the biggest parade in the history of OKCPride,” Sauer said. “More sponsors, more partnerships, and more man hours went into this parade than any previous one.”

Sauer said the festival and parade are an important part of the Oklahoma City’s LGBT community.

“It’s important so we can celebrate diversity and show our pride in a way that’s respectful. And at the same time, it promotes our goal of having awareness, health, and education within the Oklahoma City LGBT community.”

Mary Turner, learning support specialist and one of the sponsors for OCCC’s Gay Straight Alliance, said she agrees.

“There’s a lot individuals can learn by going to this event, regardless of sexual orientation. We tend to stereotype individuals and put them into very tiny, rigid little boxes (based on) what we think a particular group is; and certainly that stereotype is an aspect of who these individuals are, but it’s not everything about them.”

Sauer said the larger parade this year is due in no small part to the celebrity guests who will perform.

“We’ve got the Pointer Sisters, a hip-hop/R&B group, who will be preforming on Friday the 24th,” Sauer said. “And LGBT comedian ANT is performing on Saturday the 25th.”

In addition to the big stars, the festival will feature a variety of local and regional bands, and performers throughout the weekend, he said.

But the main difference this year will be that the festival also is a fundraiser, Sauer said.

“He said those who attend the festivities will have the option to make a suggested donation of $10 toward the building of a LGBT-oriented health center.

“It’s basically phase one of it all. We haven’t even purchased the land. The land is going to cost approximately $150,000, and all the proceeds from the event will hopefully be enough to buy the land and get this project started.”

In addition to helping a good cause, Sauer said, those who make the suggested donation would receive discounts at the food and beverage concessions.

Turner said she believes the idea of an LGBT health center has merit.

“Certainly there are a lot of social and emotional issues that may not be as well understood and addressed in a traditional health setting.”

Turner said those who attend should do so with an open mind and be social.

“Talk to them, interact with them,” she said. “There’s no way to tell by looking who anybody is or what they do, or what their beliefs or lifestyles are.

“If we could somehow step away from that idea that you can look at a person and know that person, I think that would be great on a lot of fronts, not just this one.”

For more information, visit www.okcpride.org.