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EDITORIAL

BOEHNER THE BULLY; OBAMA THE PUSHOVER

Staff Writer Christy Johnson has some advice for President Obama: Stand up for yourself. Read more inside.

OPINION, p. 2

CAMPUS LIFE

STEERING STUDENTS RIGHT

Learn how OCCC's Richard Steere is helping automotive students get ahead of the curve — and how it earned him Employee of the Year. More inside.

NEWS, p. 7

FITNESS, WELLNESS FOR ALL

Keeping in shape is tough during holiday foodfests. It can also be expensive. Luckily, OCCC has every budget type covered. Exercise your eyes, read on.

SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE

CAMPUS CLUBS SEEK MEMBERS

Campus clubs and organizations recently held a student fair, hoping to get your attention. Did it work? Find out inside.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

[WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer)

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

OCCC site set for redesign

Plan is to make college's online presence more 'welcoming'

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The digital presence of OCCC is getting a complete makeover, said John Richardson, online marketing coordinator.

The college's new website design has a tentative launch date of Nov. 15, and is intended to streamline the current site, making it more navigable to incoming students and current students, as well as faculty and staff.

Richardson said although the site was updated roughly seven years ago, the update didn't change any of the basic design or structural elements.

"When we built the site, it was one page, and we didn't expect to ever do anything with it," Richardson said.

But that's all changed, as the Internet has become one of the foremost portals for information. And as the website has grown in size, its increasing complexity has made it more difficult to use, Richardson said.

Behrang Allahyar, OCCC student, said he likes the current design, but acknowledges that it does have problems.

"It seems like it's all crunched, and it's not as simple as it could be. (And) I would think a better, more welcoming interface would be good," Allahyar said.

Richardson said obtaining a "better, more welcoming interface" is one of the major reasons behind the redesign.

But the team behind the redesign hasn't stopped at just updating the interface.

In order to update the technology, and solve multiple issues at once, the team decided to build the new website from the ground up.

"I think it would be fairly easy to use the new

See WEBSITE page 9

In good hands



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Design major Emily Cooper picks up her backpack from security student employee Megann Kroenert, at a security check-in station Aug. 31, outside the Bookstore. The security office offered this service free of charge for individuals who leave items outside of the Bookstore while they shopped inside.

DIRECTOR KEY IN BRINGING PROGRAM TO OCCC

Program exclusive to college

JOEY STIPEK

Contributing Writer

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Oklahoma's only Speech-Language Pathology Assistant program has now enrolled its first class of 25 students at OCCC. The program blends on-site clinical experience with predominantly online coursework.

One of the individuals instrumental in developing the program at OCCC, in partnership with the Oklahoma Speech and Hearing Association, is new Speech-Language Pathology Program Director Kathy J. Wheat, who began her tenure on campus in June.

Wheat has 18 years of experience working in the field of speech-language pathology services.

Wheat said right now there are severe and per-

“

There are students and patients that need services and there are a limited number of providers.”

—KATHY J. WHEAT
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

sistent shortages of speech pathologist assistants in the state and the nation.

"There are students and patients that need services and there are a limited number of providers," she said. "So job opportunities are abundant."

Wheat said speech-language pathology assistants work under the supervision and licensure of a speech-language pathologist. Together they work to treat adults and children with communicative impairment.

"The field is broad, with lots of opportunities," she said. Speech-language pathology assistants might

work with a patient who has had a stroke, might work with a patient who has had swallowing difficulties or issues, might work with students in public schools who have had difficulties listening, speaking, reading or writing.

Wheat said students in the program are participating in three speech language pathology assistant courses this fall, targeting their degree program.

"There are 61 credits with 18 of general education courses and 42 in speech-language content work. Of that, they will have two

See LANGUAGE page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Politicians should stop playing games and focus on the people

Political war of words doesn't benefit citizens

House Speaker John Boehner has dissed the President of the United States again.

For those who are unaware, President Barack Obama wanted to make a speech before the joint session of Congress to unveil his new economic plan in regards to creating more jobs.

Obama sent a message to House Speaker Boehner in regards to a speech Obama wanted to originally make Sept. 7, but was rescheduled for Sept. 8.

Boehner and his office were noted as saying the denial of the president's request to speak on Sept. 7 was because he did not want the speech to interfere with the GOP debate, which was

scheduled for the same day.

This type of "political dissing" is leading many to ponder a number of questions in regards to these types of issues.

Would Boehner have done this to any other president?

Former Presidents George Bush Jr. and George H.W. Bush would not have been told to "kick rocks" by Boehner.

According to an article from Fox News, Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY), the head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, declared Boehner's



Christy Johnson

"No matter where U.S. citizens stand on the issues ... the people who are put in office to represent the people of this country need to get their act together or give their jobs to some of us who are in need of employment."

—CHRISTY JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

move "disgraceful" and accused Republicans of "playing political games."

Many feel Boehner is going a bit too far with this and feel he is becoming part of the problem instead of the solution.

According to The Huffington Post, an Obama administration aide told the website, "The whole thing is silly.

"We are fine with Thursday [Sept. 8] and would have proposed that to begin with if Boehner had told us Wednesday [Sept. 7] didn't work ... Why he didn't is just a mystery."

People make up their own minds and in some cases, understandably, have to agree to disagree in order to keep the peace, but to tell the President of

the United States "no" to a speech on an economic plan that could impact an out-of-work country you claim to love may be going too far in the political grandstanding by Boehner.

Is Boehner blatantly being disrespectful by denying the President's request to speak, or is he playing hardball for a greater cause?

Boehner needs to stand firm with his beliefs if he feels he is right on an issue — but he needs to cut out 95 percent of his political bullying.

Also, many Obama supporters are wondering if the president is lying down for Boehner, or if he is simply taking the high road in this situation in order to keep the peace.

Some of those supporters have been saying, although they still like the president, they feel he needs to be more forceful.

He needs to stop asking permission to be president and just "be" the President of the United States.

Obama needs to realize he is the president and stop being "politically punked" by Boehner or the rest of Congress.

No matter where U.S. citizens stand on the issues, it goes without saying pretty much all sides feel that the people who are put in office to represent the people of this country need to get their act together or give their jobs to some of us who are in need of employment.

—CHRISTY JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

YOUR VIEW | Professor Robertson recommends her own in-depth discussion

History prof corrects mistakes in 'The Help' review

To the editor:

Regarding Ms. Johnson's review of "The Help," I would like to make several corrections.

The character Skeeter was not raised by Aibileen. Constantine was the name of Skeeter's nanny.

Skeeter did not select her topic for a story in

the newspaper as your reviewer implies.

The newspaper job was a simple column on how to clean and cook. The book project was unrelated to Skeeter's day job as a columnist for the newspaper, and her topic for a book project was selected after witnessing

the poor treatment of the domestics by Skeeter's own peers.

There has been a great deal of interest in "The Help," (both positive and negative.)

In August, the (website) Oral History H-Net (www.h-net.org) published an official state-

ment by the Women's Association of Black Historians which condemned the movie for its negative portrayal of Black American maids

In response, Oral History H-Net published my alternative view.

If your readers are interested in an in-depth

discussion of the movie, they may send a request for my article to my OCCC email at claudette.robertson@email.occc.edu.

Regardless of some of the Hollywood liberties taken in "The Help," the story gives an excellent portrayal of the realities

of Jim Crow in 1960s Mississippi. I recommend the book and the movie.

As soon as it comes out on DVD, I'll be showing it to my #1493 U.S. History class.

—CLAUDETTE ROBERTSON
ADJUNCT HISTORY PROFESSOR

PIONEER

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's

name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

SALON REVIEW | Déjà Vu serves up enough style to make the Kardashians jealous

Salon visit anything but a repeat

A recent visit to Déjà Vu Salon & Spa located off Interstate-240 and Walker left me reminiscent of my past experiences in hair salons, and that feeling was anything but déjà vu.

Too often my experience with hair stylists has been a beauty disaster.

Either they cut too much off or have styled it into something that resembled a French poodle.

Never a good combination when you are a young woman aiming to have style that would make the Kardashians envious.

Déjà Vu is your stereotypical hair salon: stylists sporting the latest in hair trends, the aroma of top-of-the-line professional hair products, and the sound of blow dryers mixed with the useless chatter of salon gossip.

All of the things that

give you warm fuzzy feelings.

Beyond the common hair cuts and colors, this salon also offers products and services such as an infrared sauna, hair extensions, permanent makeup, massages, facials, hair straightening treatments and so on.

Déjà Vu showcases talented stylists who appear to be passionate and quite skilled in their craft.

The stylists at Déjà Vu all had clients in their chairs that appeared to be quite pleased with the work being done.

The stylist who worked on me, Tammy, gave me a brief consultation before she began her work. We discussed the haircut that I desired, and she gave me input on what she thought would work well with my facial shape and style preference.

Tammy, who also



PHOTO BY CASEY AKARD

Stacy McKinley, Déjà vu stylist, cuts a client's hair.

works for big hair companies such as Cricket and Bionic, has the best prices for the skills she performs.

With this in mind, my only complaint would be that I was undercharged.

Though I didn't participate in any of the spa treatments, my initial impression has won me over as a repeat client and walking advertisement.

With an increased

boost in confidence, I walked away loving my hair and feeling sexier than I had in awhile.

Alas, I could finally give the Kardashians a run for their money.

Though I can be cynical and critical with most places of business and products, Déjà Vu deserves an A rating.

Rating: A

—CASEY R. AKARD
VIDEOGRAPHER

VIDEO GAME REVIEW | 'Monster Tale' reminiscent of 'Megaman' games

DreamRift presents a monstrous 'Tale'

DreamRift's "Monster Tale" is a fairly new game with a message that's been around for thousands of years.

The message is that people set rules and tell you what to do for a reason.

Why is a morality tale in a video game though? Classically, morality tales were told to impart a lesson.

What I got from the game is that you should do your chores, don't play so rough with your toys, and that you aren't the center of the universe.

There is one more lesson, though, and

this is a big one: There are some things that you can't do, no matter how badly you want to do them. And, while it looks like you could do it, it's probably a bad idea to try it.

The concept of the morals in the game weren't lost on me. However, the moral of the story isn't what makes the game fun.

The game itself plays like "Super Metroid", and newer "Castlevania" games. There is a lot of backtracking involved, lots of upgrades and general item collection, as well as a pet.

The pet is Chomp,

and he's your own personal guard.

He gains experience for helping kill enemies while he's on the top screen and uses food, toys, and equipment.

You can improve the effectiveness of his fighting through leveling and giving him items.

He also evolves depending on if you feed him certain foods, though the maximum level for him is 30.

Some things are better for evolving than others though, so go to the evolution page with select frequently.

The graphics remind

me of some of the later "Megaman" games, especially as the protagonist's ranged attack involves shooting energy from an armband.

The action is entertaining, and the abilities Chomp picks up from his evolutions are fairly good, though once you get "Musashi somersault," you won't be using much else. It's that awesome.

There is even a percentage completed by the end of it, so you can set quirky challenges for yourself like with most "Metroid" games.

JOB & CAREER POWER

Students! Please put Wednesday, Oct. 5, on your calendars. The OCCC Job Fair & Health Job Fair will provide a great opportunity to talk with over one-hundred employers from across Oklahoma.

Traditionally, close to 4,000 job-seekers attend this largest employment event in the Oklahoma City metro area, and it is open to the public! No pre-registration is required.

Approximately seventy general employers will be located in the General Dining area of the Student Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and thirty health employers will be available in College Union Rooms 1 and 2 from noon until 6 p.m. I can't think of a better process for investigating future career fields than actually talking with potential employers. Many employers will be hiring on the spot and several are conducting interviews the day of the event.

Job Fair Success Tips:

- Dress professionally
- Turn off your cell phone
- Never text while talking with a recruiter
- Cover tattoos and remove decorative body piercings
- Bring extra resumes printed on resume paper
- Plan your strategy and time to talk with as many employers as possible
- Prepare your 15-second "Who I am" introduction
- Smile and exhibit a positive "Can do" attitude
- Utilize a firm, not crushing handshake
- Research the employers that will attend the job fair
- Be courteous and don't over-stay your visit with the recruiter
- Pick-up the business card of the recruiter
- Thank the recruiter for talking with you
- Step away from the recruiter's table and make a note of the visit
- If interested in employment, send a thank-you email to the recruiter
- Remove non-professional phone messages from your cell and home phone

Please visit the office of Student Employment and Career Services, Main Building, first floor, Room 1G7 for additional information and remember, students may print up to ten resumes per day on free resume paper. You may also pick up a current list of participating employers. Good luck!

—DEBRA VAUGHN
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES
DIRECTOR

Overall, I really liked the game. It has a classic feel to it, even if it does look a lot like a "Megaman" copy. I would suggest playing the game.

Rating: A
—ROBERT BOLTON
ONLINE WRITER

MUSIC REVIEW | The Deli offers the legendary ‘Red Cup’ and local music for a five dollar cover

Music venue adds color to college town

As the weekend is coming to an end and Sunday night approaches, people are winding down and getting ready for the week ahead. But not the people in Norman — for them, it's just another night at The Deli, 309 White St.

It is not a rule that a person has to be a student to partake in what The Deli offers. There are many locals that are at The Deli every Sunday night. It is not even a rule that you have to be an OU student to be allowed in: There are often students from many metro-area colleges at The Deli.

Don't be discouraged with the occasional long line at The Deli, because it will move quickly and there is a view to everything going on in the inside.

The cost is \$5 at the door and it is 21 to enter, but those who are underage have been known to watch from outside through the window.

Once inside, the popular drink The Deli offers is the legendary “Red Cup,” essentially three drafts worth of beer in a single cup, for a reasonably low price.

Mike Hosty is a staple at The Deli



Courtesy Mike Hosty

Mike Hosty plays at 10 p.m. every Sunday at The Deli, located at 309 White St. in Norman.

every Sunday night “until the end of time,” so says Big Bill Mulligan, The Deli’s bartender.

Hosty’s music is fun and funny, and

lets the mind wonder. Titles like “Eat Yer Mac and Cheese” and “Fraidy Hole” bring out the laughter and the dancing of the crowd. While titles

FILM REVIEW | ‘Prom’ is a movie with a lot of heart and isn’t all rainbows and butterflies

Movie offers family-friendly fun

Disney has always been synonymous with family-friendly fun.

In recent years, however, that family-friendly fun is no where to be found in flicks like “High School Musical” and “Hannah Montana,” which amuse the tween crowd but leave the rest of us cringing.

And then, there was “Prom,” released on DVD and Blu-ray Aug. 30.

As simple as that title might seem, don’t let it fool you — for a movie revolving around a high school dance, this one sure has a lot of heart.

After a fire destroys the prom decorations she poured her heart into creating, overachieving senior Nova Prescott (Aimee Teegarden) is saddled with an unsympathetic bad boy to help her rebuild.

That bad boy is Jesse Richter (Thomas McDonell), whose character goes much deeper than his leather-wearing, motorcycle-riding persona first lets on.

Anyone who has ever seen a romantic movie or heard the story of Romeo and Juliet can probably guess how Nova and Jesse’s story will end, but it’s a sweet, enjoyable ride.

Even if you’re not a sappy romantic at heart, don’t worry: “Prom” isn’t all rainbows and butterflies.

While the movie may focus on Nova and Jesse’s budding relationship, “Prom” also includes a handful of side stories about other characters.

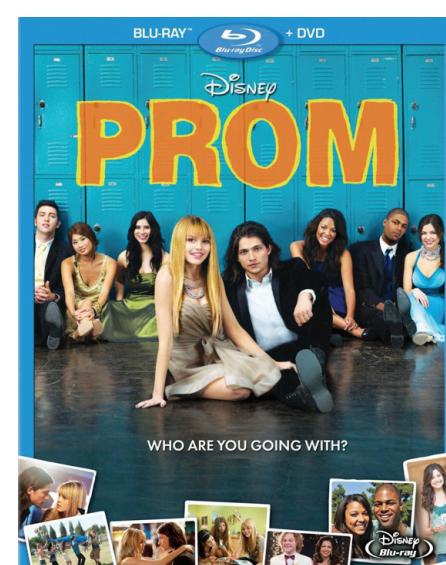
These b-stories range from the silly, such as blissfully clueless Rolo (Joe Adler) preparing for a date with a supermodel, to the serious, like presumptive prom queen Jordan (Kylie Bunbury) struggling with her longtime boyfriend’s infidelity.

Such topics aren’t the norm for Disney — and that’s what makes “Prom” stand out.

It’s great for parents seeking healthy alternatives to shows like “Gossip Girl” and “Pretty Little Liars” — shows that are marketed towards teenagers but contain sex-soaked, booze-laden storylines that might as well belong in an R-rated horror flick.

But even though “Prom” is suitable for teens and tweens, it is perfectly enjoyable for adults, too.

Especially if you’re sick of how every movie nowadays is full of smut that



producers try to pass off as a work of art.

So save the date — or at least an hour-and-a-half of it — and grab a copy of “Prom” at your local Blockbuster or Redbox.

Don’t worry: Nobody breaks out into a musical once the credits roll.

Rating: A

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

TOP 20 MOVIES
weekend of Sept. 2 through 4
www.yahoo.com

1. *The Help*
2. *The Debt*
3. *Apollo 18*
4. *Shark Night 3D*
5. *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*
6. *Colombiana*
7. *Our Idiot Brother*
8. *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark*
9. *Spy kids: All the Time in the World*
10. *The Smurfs*
11. *Crazy, Stupid, Love*
12. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Pt. 2*
13. *Captain America*
14. *Cowboys & Aliens*
15. *30 Minutes or Less*
16. *Final Destination 5*
17. *One Day*
18. *Fright Night*
19. *Cars 2*
20. *Bodyguard*

ACCOUNTING LAB TUTORIAL ASSISTANT HONORED AT THE COLLEGE'S OPENING YEAR CONVOCATION

Julie Young voted OCCC Employee of the Year

SARAH HUSSAIN

Staff Writer

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Julie Young, OCCC's accounting lab tutorial assistant, received the Employee of the Year Award for hourly workers at the school's opening year convocation.

"I felt very honored and grateful [to win the award]," Young said. "Some of this award belongs to the great part-time student tutors that help me every day in here. Their hard work and dedication make me 'look good.'"

Fellow faculty and staff members nominate employees. There are forms available online for nominating an individual.

Young said, though accounting classes do not require lab time, many students use the facility.

"We help students understand the concepts that they're learning in their accounting class," Young said. "We help them with their homework, create practice tests, we just help them do well in their accounting classes."

Young has helped many students who have come into the lab. She said she runs into them years later and they remember her.

"I am always pleased when a former student recognizes me and says 'hello' and 'how are you?' I feel like we must have made a good impression on them."

OCCC student Erick Almaguer is currently enrolled in accounting and said he has used the lab a handful of times. Almaguer said Young is always helpful.

"She checks on you every two or three minutes, she walks around, you don't have to get up to ask her anything," he said.

"In accounting there are a lot of steps and she's basically there every step to check on you."

Young has worked at OCCC for seven years.

Prior to OCCC, Young worked for several certified public accounting firms and corporations.

"When we moved here I left yet another job. ... Accounting moves better than my husband's job. When he retired

“

"I try to do more than what is required of me, a lot of the things I do is not listed in my job description."

—JULIE YOUNG
ACCOUNTING LAB TUTORIAL ASSISTANT

I decided I wanted to go back to work so here I am," Young said.

Young said she encourages students to become proficient at accounting.

"[In the lab] we are very professional, we teach them this is a very good skill to have. It's very related to a business degree."

"I try to do more than what is required of me. A lot of the things I do are not listed in my job description."

"I try my best. Just checking homework is not going to teach you what you're supposed to know," she said.

Myra Decker, accounting and business professor and faculty adviser to the accounting lab, has worked closely with Young since Young arrived at OCCC.

Decker said students have liked their



Julie Young

experiences with Young.

"I know that a number of students do take advantage of the accounting lab, [and] they typically offer very high praise to Julie for her assistance," Decker said.

"Julie is very professional, very knowledgeable and very student-oriented, so she has done a very fine job in helping students."

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/Business/AccountingLab.html.

EDUCATOR JULIE CORFF GOES THE EXTRA MILE

Speech Communications professor wins award

PRISCILLA COLLEY

Staff Writer

Staffwriter1@occc.email.edu

Speech and communications professor Julie Corff said she is surprised and delighted to receive the Elven Gray Award.

"As I read about what type of man Elven Gray was, I am humbled anyone would perceive that I emulate his character traits," Corff said.

Those eligible to receive the award must have served at least five years at OCCC and be nominated by a peer.

Human Resources Representative Elaine Svec said an Elven Gray recipient must embody the devotion and spirit that gained him recognition.

All who met him recognized Gray's total devotion to the institution. The criteria says:

"The recipient has displayed the spirit of Elven Gray by: Consistently going the extra mile; Displaying a friendly, positive attitude; Exhibiting devotion to the College; Becoming an inspiration to others."

Corff is OCCC alumna. She gradu-

ated with an associate degree in broadcasting and later received a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Central Oklahoma. She continued her education at Oklahoma State University where she earned a master's degree in Speech Communication Consulting.

Corff got her start as an educator at UCO when someone she worked with suggested she look into teaching.

"I immediately researched the different universities and programs offered, and applied at OSU," Corff said. "I was offered the speech teaching assistant job for two years while I was in the program. I fell in love with teaching and being with my students."

One thing Corff said she loves is her communication classes. Recently, she designed a new technology using her iPad, and she's using that technology in her public speaking courses.

"The Interpersonal Communication class is near and dear to me because it changes lives for the better," Corff said.

Later this year, Corff will share her ideas and technology at the NISOD Conference, The National Institute

for Staff and Organizational Development, an organization with a membership of more than 700 community colleges around the world.

Attending classes here, and meeting her husband of 22 years in an OCCC summer theater production inspired her to teach here.

"I have always desired to teach at

OCCC so that I could give back what so many professors poured into my life," Corff said, "Especially Dr. Linda Thornton, Professor Gwin Faulconer-Lip-

pert, and Professor Sue Hinton."

The veteran educator has taught for more than 22 years. She taught as an adjunct professor for 14 of those years, and is going on her sixth year as full-time faculty.

"[Winning this award means] that my motto in life proves true: 'If it is in your power to do good to someone, always choose to be good. People are important and we should treat them as such.'



Julie Corff



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

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Arts Festival Oklahoma another success

Festivalgoers pack OCCC campus Labor Day Weekend

MIKE WORMLEY

Community Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

This Labor Day weekend approximately 23,700 people and over 320 vendors gathered on OCCC's grounds for the 33rd Annual Arts Festival Oklahoma. Spirits were high, the displays were vibrant, and the food was reminiscent of old-time county fairs.

The crowd's kinetic energy mellowed into an aura of relaxation as temperatures leveled off on the second day and welled up again for the performance by the Oklahoma Philharmonic and the multi-media experience that was the fireworks extravaganza.

Many of the artists said they were positive about the impact of their works and some of them would comment on individual pieces.

"That's White Rock Lake," said Clark Crenshaw, photographer from Garland, Texas, about the piece of his that won a purchase award.

"I went out there on a real foggy day, which I like to do because it makes everything look so different."

Crenshaw said he has been showing at the festival for the last 10 years because "usually by the time all the smoke clears sales have been good."

Brad W. Foster said his work is "doodling to the extreme."

"I'm a cartoonist with illusions of being an artist," said Foster, pen and ink artist from Jabberwocky Graphix.

He noted that being a black and white artist allowed him to stick out of the crowd with festivalgoers.

Something that also stood out with festivalgoers was the food. In the food court were vendors preparing an assortment of dishes including gyros, pulled pork, Indian tacos, gelato, cinnamon rolls, fajitas, and much more.

"Roasted corn, anywhere there is roasted corn I show up," said Doug Swope from Edmond.

Among those attending were OCCC students.

"This is one of the good ones in Oklahoma," said Jacob Niles, festivalgoer and diversified studies major who frequently attends art shows.



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Stephanie Jackson plays the guitar and entertains a jovial crowd of fairgoers on Sept. 3. Jackson announced that she also enjoys performing for weddings.

Jaime Rodriguez, visual arts major, said Arts Festival Oklahoma was important to him.

"I tend to get a lot of inspiration when I'm around other artists. So seeing their work gives me ideas for my own work," Rodriguez said.

Overall the event was a major hit with artists, visitors, and volunteers alike.

For more information on Arts Festival Oklahoma, contact the Arts Festival Oklahoma Office at 405-682-7576 or at artsfestivaloklahoma@

occc.edu. For video coverage visit the Pioneer online at www.occc.edu/pioneer.



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

A panda-faced Lacy paints her small pot at the Paseo Pottery booth Sept. 3 during the Arts Festival. Individuals paid a small fee to paint their pottery and have it fired in an onsite kiln.



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Regina (left) and Rebecca Samual of Oklahoma City admire the hand-carved, southwestern art showcased by artist Ron Martin. Many of Martins pieces included Native American depictions. Over 23,700 people gathered on OCCC campus to enjoy art, food, and entertainment.

ARTS FESTIVAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

FINE ART 1 – CAROLYN MEJSTRICK

FINE ART 2 – RUSSEL COOPER

FINE ART 3 – KIM NORTON

FINE ART 4 – C. J. BRADFORD

FINE CRAFT 1 – DALE ROBBINS

ROBERT P. TODD AWARD GOES TO MARY MCCOY

SHELLEY BRANUM
News Writing Student

This year's recipient of the college's annual leadership award directed a multi-year project to move the Child Development Center and Lab School to its current location about one mile north of campus.

Dr. Mary McCoy, director of the CDCLS, was recognized with the Robert P. Todd Leadership Award at the 2011 Convocation and Employee Awards Ceremony on campus in August.

The CDCLS was formerly housed on campus but relocated to larger quarters at the Family and Community Education Center in January

after Western Heights school district donated an old elementary school through the City of Oklahoma City.

McCoy said she was involved in every inch of the planning and designed the best use of the new facility.

"I was very surprised and pleased to receive this award," McCoy said.

"I have a tremendous staff and they do an amazing job of making me look good."

The process of moving took several years and approximately 20 staff members to plan and coordinate, McCoy said.

Originated in 2006, this award is named for the late Robert P. Todd, who served as OCCC's eighth president, said Marion Paden, vice president



Dr. Mary McCoy

of Enrollment and Student Services.

This award is given to employees who display outstanding leadership in their work.

Candidates for this award are nominated by their peers and selected based on leadership

qualities including excellence, respect, honesty and integrity.

Paden spoke to some of the qualities that she believes made McCoy perfect for this recognition.

"Dr. McCoy made this a smooth transition to the new facility and provided leadership for the families, staff and supporters of the CDCLS," Paden said.

But the move was not the only accomplishment McCoy deserves credit for, Paden said.

"Dr. McCoy accepted the challenge of finding a way to provide high-quality, low-cost child care to the students of

OCCC.

She developed what we now refer to as Student Scheduled Child Care."

As a result of McCoy's development of the Student Scheduled Child Care program, students at OCCC may enroll their child in time blocks of three hours for \$5 to \$8, depending on whether meals are served during their session.

This program has created new opportunities for students with children to be able to attend school, Paden said.

McCoy is in her ninth year serving as director of the CDCLS school.



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RICHARD STEERE RECEIVES AWARD

Prof recognized for teaching tech

DREW HART
News Writing Student

The most recent recipient of OCCC's Faculty Employee of the Year award, Richard Steere, has helped hundreds of students get off and running on a new technological frontier.

Steere, Automotive Technology coordinator/professor, is teaching his students how to convert automobiles from gas-guzzling combustion-powered machines, to cost-efficient natural gas-powered wonders of the road.

Compressed natural gas (CNG) conversion may be relatively new, but Steere brings with him a lifetime of experience.

Armed with nearly 40 years of technical expertise, 16 years of teaching experience, and a classroom brimming with cutting edge technology, it becomes easy to see why such an honor was bestowed upon Steere. Though Steere was acknowledged for his teaching, he remains humble.

"If you do something long enough, you are probably going to get recognized for it," Steere said. "Not to downplay it, but I don't feel like I do more than

anybody else in the college. I was just very pleased to be recognized."

Though Steere may feel as though he's done little more than his coworkers, his friend and colleague Brad Walker would disagree.

"I think it's much deserved," Walker said.

As a former student of Steere's 16 years ago, Walker was able to see firsthand what makes Steere employee-of-the-year material.

"Anytime I had a question, Rich was right there for me," Walker said. "Coming into the first year of the program is hard, but Rich was always there to give words of encouragement."

The accolades are nice, but it's what's taking place in the classroom that has Steere and Walker really excited. The CNG conversion course they teach has gained nationwide support and reach, attracting students from nearly every state in the U.S. These classes are in high demand, filling up as quickly as two months in advance.

So what is it that makes natural gas-powered vehicles the next big thing on the road? Steere said natural gas is the future,

because it could quite possibly be an answer to the growing concerns about dwindling fossil fuels. Steere said natural gas is going to stick around because "it's plentiful and cheap."

How cheap is it? So cheap that Steere can fill up his own converted '59 Ford pickup truck for a mere 78 cents per gallon. His tank is 10 gallons, so it costs him less than \$8 to fill up. Though it cost Steere roughly \$2,000 to convert his vehicle, it quickly paid for itself and then some, saving Steere \$22 every time he fills up.

While combustion engines belch out tons of pollutants into the atmosphere, natural gas has a cleaner burn with fewer harmful emissions. Not only could natural gas vehicles provide an answer to a worldwide fuel shortage, the implications for a greener tomorrow are staggering.

That's why Steere enjoys what he does so much. It's not about the money or the acclaim for him, but rather his love of technology, his love of teaching and a 45-year-old love of cars.

"I still get to do what I love to do, and that's work on the cars."

SPORTS

Improving motor fitness



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Political science major Christine Phung uses the elliptical machine in the college gym Aug. 31. The facility is available to students with valid ID and community members with a valid membership card.

SPORTS | Wellness Center offering multiple classes with a single pass

Stay fit on a budget with group passes

EMILY SCHORR

Senior Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

The holidays are just a few months away and that usually means good home-cooked meals with the family. And with that comes the difficulty of staying in shape.

Good thing OCCC's Wellness Center is around to help.

For a nominal fee, there are many different types of fitness classes offered in a range of time slots designed to work with student schedules.

The facility offers a group fitness pass for \$50. Jessica Hughes, occupational therapy assistant major, said the pass is good for the entire semester and allows students to take any aerobics class OCCC offers.

The group fitness pass allows a student to participate in as many classes as desired while avoiding additional fee.

All of the classes are available for the group fitness pass. Classes range from \$20 to \$30 each, so the pass allows students to get more for their

money.

"It's a better option instead of paying individually," Hughes said.

"The group pass pays for itself after just two classes."

Kaitlyn Rider, physical therapy assistant major, said the best aspect of the Wellness Center is it's already paid for. The fees at OCCC support the facilities.

"I think [the facilities have] good equipment," Rider said, about the equipment in the Wellness Center.

The center offers different ways to stay healthy at a variety of times.

The Wellness Center is open 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

The center offers a cardio area with three treadmills, two elliptical cross trainers, and recumbent bikes. The weight room has a variety of machine and free weights. The center also features a gymnasium and aerobics room.

The classes offered in the center range from the new aqua Zumba and silver cardio to body sculpting, cardio kickboxing, and Pilates.

In addition to the classes and services offered, OCCC also operates an Aquatic Center, which features an Olympic-sized swimming pool, which is available for recreational use.

The Aquatic Center offers recreational swim hours from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The Aquatic Center also offers water fitness classes.

For a full list and schedule visit the OCCC recreation and fitness website.

Megan Woody, occupational therapy assistant major, said she enjoys the fact that the Wellness Center is open most of the year, only closing when the school does.

"The center's accessibility during wintertime is key to its involvement in students' health," she said.

"I think it's great that everything is inside. Winter is not too far away and it's nice to have a place to swim and work out during the winter."

For further information about events, hours and class schedules, visit www.occc.edu/RF/, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7860.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Aug. 23 - Oct. 19: Registration for O-Trip 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament takes place Oct. 28. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Sept. 17: Pepsi Punt, Pass, and Kick Competition — girls and boys age groups from 8 to 15. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Sept. 17: OCCC Youth Soccer. Ages 6 to 8 and 9 to 10. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Oct. 15: OCCC will be sponsoring a Zumbathon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Oct. 18: OCCC will be sponsoring the Senior State Games. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Email sportswriter@occc.edu.

Have sports news you want to share? e-mail Sean at: sportswriter@occc.edu, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676, or drop by 1F2 in the Arts and Humanities building.

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WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

Website: Ease of use, mobile friendliness issues addressed for website redesign

Continued from page 1

designed site," said Jessica Hughes, occupational therapy assistant major.

Hughes said while she's never had an issue with the site, she's looking forward to the new one.

Among the issues addressed by the new site is the increasing need for web content to be mobile friendly, Richardson said.

"Every day, you see more and more people using their phones or tablets instead of desktops, or Macs. We need the site to reflect those changes."

The new site will have a fresh look, making it a clean break from the old.

"We want that visual cue," Richardson said.

"We don't want people who've used the old site to come in, see what looks like the same site, and not realize that there have been changes."

“

Every day, you see more and more people using their phones or tablets ...
We need the site to reflect those changes.”

—JOHN RICHARDSON
OCCC ONLINE MARKETING COORDINATOR

For that reason, Richardson has been working closely with design consultants from Noel-Levitz Higher Education Consulting.

For a look at the new design, visit www.occc.edu/redev/.

Language: Program mostly online, contains hands-on clinical component

Continued from page 1

semesters where they will complete a clinical experience," Wheat said.

"The program is all online, except for two semesters of clinical experience."

This entails 50 hours of clinical experience with a speech-language pathologist either in a public school or a healthcare setting.

Wheat has her bachelor's degree from the University of Sciences and Arts of Oklahoma, her master's degree from the University of Oklahoma's Health Sciences Center and her doctorate from OU.

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Greg Gardner said the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program was developed at the request of the Oklahoma Speech-Language Hearing Association after OCCC had

been looking to develop the program for several years.

"The Oklahoma Speech-Language Hearing Association came to us with a need in this state for speech pathology assistants," Gardner said.

Gardner said the clinical component OCCC provides is set up wherever the students are located across the state.

"If you look at all of our healthcare programs," Gardner said.

"All of them have a practical experience in that clinical setting. It's just really important in creating a well-rounded person who knows what they are doing in a work environment.

"Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapy Assistant, and now SLPA have that clinical experience."

According to potential employers in healthcare, anticipated salaries in SLPA vary greatly. Reports indicate salaries ranging upward from \$25 per hour.

Commensurate with degree level, those who work in public schools can expect salaries in line with teacher pay and benefits.

Gardner said he has potential employers contacting OCCC to ask when graduates are going to be ready.

"If we could graduate 25 students tomorrow, we could put them all to work."

Wheat said in education settings, an SLPA can be a teacher of record, they are considered certified staff.

"SLPAs are not considered support staff like Occupational Therapy Assistant or Physical Therapist. They qualify for teacher retirement, insurance ben-

efits, and certified teacher's pay."

Wheat said her passion is teaching and teaching others to do what speech pathologists do.

"If we do that we can impact the communications needs for students and patients across the state of Oklahoma," Wheat said. "It's a phenomenal opportunity to impact someone's life."

Whether the client is a student or an adult, the speech therapist starts opening a world for them or re-opens a world for them, Wheat said.

Wheat said in the spring, OCCC will be looking for 25 to 30 new candidates to the program. "We're targeting a possible June 1 date for those applications."

For more information, contact Wheat at 405-682-1611, ext. 7395, or e-mail kathy.j.wheat@email.occc.edu.



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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY | Students gather in General Dining area to discuss Organization membership.

Fair draws many students

MIKE WORMLEY

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Representatives from OCCC's student clubs and organizations gathered for their semiannual Student Organizations Fair at the end of August. The back wall of the general dining area was lined with booths allowing each club to promote itself and attract new members.

According to many in attendance, the event was quite successful.

"It's been a block buster," said Zack Sumner, business major and representative for the College Republicans and Christ Campus Fellowship.

He said that he was surprised at the turnout, which echoed the sentiment of many other club representatives.

"I would definitely say it's a success," said Candice Parker, music major and representative from the Native American Student Association.

"It's always a success when you get anybody interested in what your club is wanting to accomplish this semester."

Some clubs were only present the final day, such as the Gamer Guild of OCCC, but that did not seem to hurt interest.

"I'm actually very happy with the attention we've attracted," said Mathew Caldwell, game design major and Guild Master for TGG.

"Just only having the one day to get it out there so far, besides the Pioneer advertisement ... it's a wonderful turnout right now."

Support services on campus such as Student Life and Trio Student Support Services were also represented and drew attention.

"We have actually given out several applications," said Laura Newton, advisor for Trio. "We also have requested and gotten a lot of information from students so that we can send them more information after the fair is over."



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Kappa Beta Delta President Michael Southerland encourages economics major Carolina Daza to join the business honors club during the Student Organization Fair Aug. 31. Twenty-three clubs participated in the Student Organization Fair Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

“

I would definitely say it's a success. It's always a success when you get anybody interested in what your club is wanting to accomplish this semester.”

—ZACK SUMNER

THE COLLEGE REPUBLICANS/CHRIST CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

"We are really excited for the opportunity to be at this fair, this year."

Ben King, business major and representative for Baptist Collegiate Ministries, said his club is open to anyone, an acceptance that everyone stewarding a table carried.

Some representatives commented positively about the event as a whole, not just their own experiences.

"It gives the people who are here and representing the organizations to have exposure to the student body and to ask questions," said Heather Pemberton, psychology major, of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, who was assisting the other honors societies.

Chase Parsons, community sponsor for Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, said the energy of the people signing up mirrored the energy of the club members present.

"Most of the representatives that are excited about their organizations, they put out excitement so they get others

excited and being a part," he said.

"If it goes in line with what they are doing in college or a need that they have, then excitement breeds excitement."

"It depends, you kind of throw your net out there and you try to catch people and some people kind of warm up to you."

For more information, contact the Student Life Office at 405-682-7523, or visit www.occc.edu/StudentLife and select the Join-a-Club option from the menu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

MLA Style: A Royal Pain

The Communications Lab is holding a documentation workshop over the frustrations many writers have with MLA style. The workshop will be at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12, in College Union 2. For more information, please call 405-682-1611, ext. 7678, or go to www.occc.edu/comlab.

GSA Popcorn Sale

The Gay Straight Alliance will be raising funds for various events the club will be hosting. This will be from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Sept. 12, in the Union Foyer. For more information visit their webpage at occc.campusgroups.com/gsa or their Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/OCCC.GSA.

Brown Bag: Part-time Jobs & Internships

Student Life is hosting a workshop on employment for students at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 13, in College Union 1. For more information contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or www.occc.edu/StudentLife.

Club raising funds for Somalia people

The Multicultural Business Club is raising funds to support the people of Somalia. The fundraising event will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 15 near the Communications Lab and the General Dining area.

Hispanic Heritage Day

Mariachi Orgullo will be performing at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15 in the General Dining Area. Contact Student Life for more information at 405-682-7523.

OCCC planning garage sale

The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee will hold its annual garage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6 and Friday, Oct. 7, in CU 1, 2 and 3. All proceeds will go toward student scholarships. Those who would like to make a donation should contact Librarian Linda Boatright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7468.

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 AH building, just inside Entry 2.

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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.

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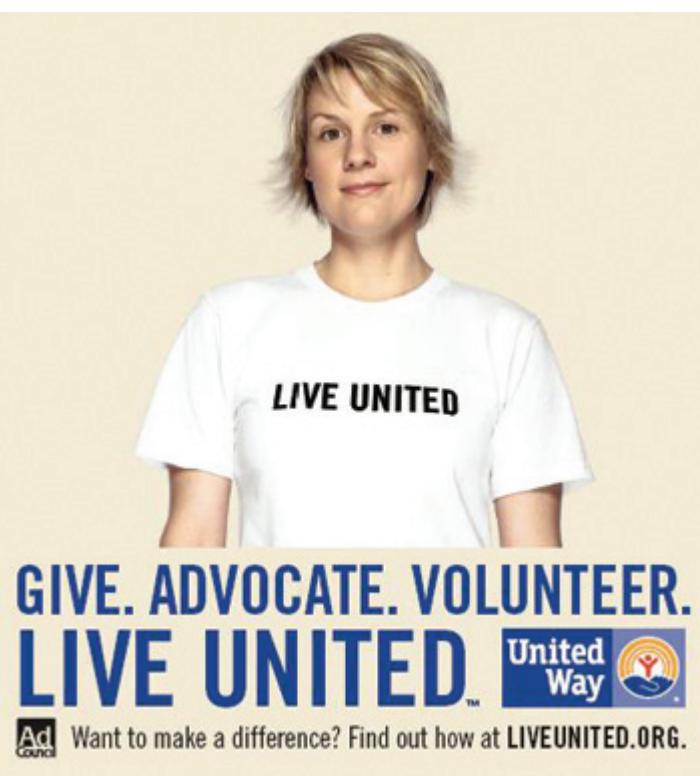
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RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Researchers at OU Health Science Center need healthy volunteers ages 18 to 30, who have a parent with, or without a history of an alcohol or drug problem. Qualified participants will be compensated for their time.

Call (405) 456-4303 to learn more about the study and to see if you qualify.



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MISCELLANEOUS

INTERESTED IN VIDEO GAMES, pen and paper games, trading card games, board games or just gaming in general? Check out the OCCC Gaming Guild. Contact: Mathew.J.Caldwell@email.occc.edu.

FOR SALE: Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged: \$200; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, \$150. 405-818-0083.

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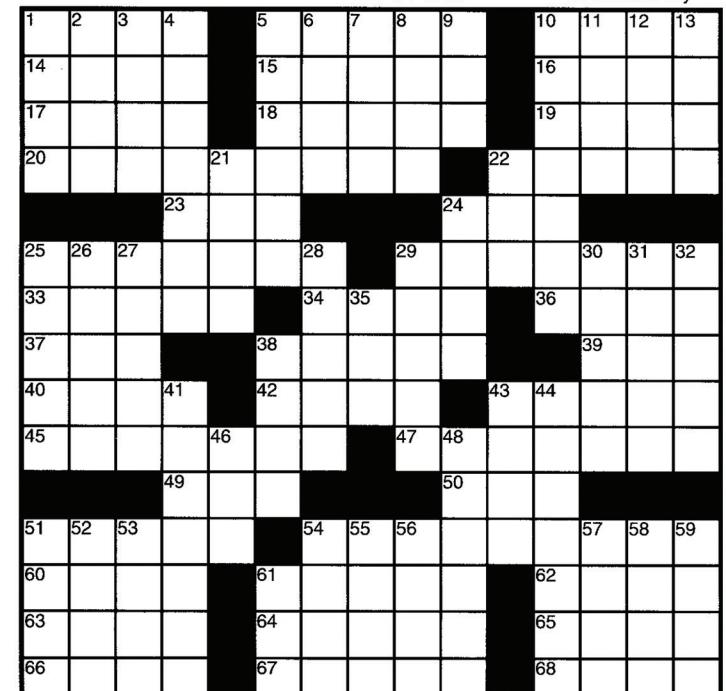
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MATT	RANGE	ROVE
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document	60 Pour	61 Tropical fruit	62 Popular cookie	63 Comedian	64 "Catch-22" star	65 Average grades	66 Pleased	67 Sword fights	68 Leafy vegetable
1 Timber wolf	5 Chelsea's cat	10 Movie dog	14 Baseball family name	15 Approximately	16 Go very fast	17 After-dinner candy	18 Truck, in London	19 Choir voice	20 Ken, to Barbie
22 Sheen	23 Writer Fleming	24 "Ciao!"	25 Type of duster	29 Mexican foods	33 Faulty	34 Roman road	36 Captain Kirk's navigator	37 Young goat	38 Empty, as a page
39 Head cover	40 Quebec's Sept. —	42 —Lease Act	43 Malice	45 Saved	47 Fast driver	49 Midwestern sch.	50 Motorist's org.	51 Baseball's Yogi	52 Gentle creature
51 Crow	54 Pigpen	55 Briny	56 Woodwind	57 Iowa crop	58 Certain Asian	59 Pigpen	60 Brilliant shrubs	61 Takes care of	62 Spicy stew
63 Johnson	64 "Catch-22" star	65 Ensembles	66 Woodwind	67 Iowa crop	68 Leafy vegetable	69 Pigpen	70 Children	71 Cheers	72 Workout place
70 "Rime	71 "Rime"	72 —Lease Act	73 "Great!"	74 "Great!"	75 "Great!"	76 "Great!"	77 Oz	78 "Great!"	79 "Great!"
78 "Rime"	79 "Rime"	80 —Lease Act	81 "Great!"	82 "Great!"	83 "Great!"	84 "Great!"	85 "Great!"	86 "Great!"	87 "Great!"
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FACULTY TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE PROVIDES UNIQUE ACCESS TO COLLEGE TECH EXPERTS

Convergence event comes together nicely

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

Editor@occc.edu

Faculty and staff gathered recently for a showcase of the technologies, both new and current, that are the college's lifeblood.

Named "Convergence," the showcase featured a convention-style setup, with those responsible for the technologies being demonstrated and presented sitting at tables around the room.

Convergence is the brain-child of Robin Ying, Information and Instructional Technology Services vice president, and Tim Whisenhunt, instructional video services

coordinator.

"I wanted to do an open house, to give people a chance to learn more about what Information and Instructional Technology Services can do," Ying said.

"But when Tim (Whisenhunt) got ahold of the idea, he just ran with it. And it became Convergence, which was really better than what we'd planned to do initially."

Whisenhunt said he feels the name Convergence is a good explanation of the event.

"Convergence is everything coming together at one point," he said.

"And that's what this event

To get that kind of expertise, I'd normally have to schedule a dozen or so meetings."

—TAMARA CARTER
MATH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

does. It brings all the new technologies and services, and many of the current ones, together in one place so faculty and staff can learn about what tools are available to them."

Convergence was a success for a number of reasons, said Tamara Carter, mathematics department director, who attended the event.

"It allowed me to just walk from table to table, talking directly to the people who handle

these technologies every day.

"To get that kind of expertise, I'd normally have to schedule a dozen or so meetings,"

Carter said.

Ying said in light of Convergence's success, he plans to make it a recurring event.

"We're hoping to do this again at least once a year. But if the budget allows, we may even be able to do it once a semester."

Carter said she's pleased it will recur, and looks forward to future Convergence events.

"It's just incredible to be able to walk around the room,

picking up ideas from experts, and bouncing ideas off them. I came away with a great many new thoughts on how to use these technologies in my classes, and my division."

Whisenhunt said the he was pleased with the turnout, both of presenters and attendees, a sentiment Carter echoed.

"I'd just like to say thanks to all the people that showcased," Carter said. "I think it sparked a lot of ideas among the faculty and staff, and I heard positive reports from people even before I made it back to my division."

For more information about Convergence, email Whisenhunt at twhisenhunt@occc.edu.

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