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EDITORIAL

LACK OF MONEY CAUSES HEARTACHE

Editor Jeremy Cloud and his husband recently made a tough decision regarding a family member. Read on to learn why.

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CAMPUS LIFE

'BEETHOVEN GEEK' GETS RECOGNIZED

An OCCC music professor recently received a national award for teaching excellent. Continue reading to learn who the professor was and why he won.

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SPORTS

OCCC TO HOST SWIM EVENT

The campus' Aquatic Center will play host for the first time ever to the NAIA National Swimming and Diving Championships. Learn more inside.

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CAMPUS LIFE

AUTHOR DISCUSSES RACISM

California Professor Roy Brooks spoke at OCCC about his latest book about race. Read on for more.

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

DECEMBER 2, 2011

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

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

SUSPICIOUS CHARGES MADE TO OFFICE CREDIT CARD

FBI investigating bursar's office

JEREMY CLOUD

Editor

editor@occc.edu

The college bursar, Brandi Henson, resigned her position on Sept. 30, said Cordell Jordan, media relations coordinator.

Jordan also confirmed that a federal investigation into the OCCC Bursar's Office has been in progress since the beginning of the semester.

He could not say if the two events are related. Henson was placed on administrative leave early in this semester.

Jordan said he could not comment on the reason for Henson's leave of absence, as it is against college policy to discuss personnel.

On Aug. 20, the FBI began looking into suspicious charges made with the Bursar's

See **BURSAR** page 9

The unveiling



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

(Left to Right) President Paul Sechrist, music student Lori Colbart, Gilliam Music owner Mike Gilliam, Steinway donor Ed Krei, Gilliam Music owner Wanda Gilliam, and Board of Regents Chairman Ben Brown unveil the endowed OCCC Steinway Concert Grand Piano on Nov. 30 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. The Steinway concert grand piano unveiling ceremony was followed by a reception during which adjunct Professor Tony Carrillo tickled the ivories for those in attendance.

TWO STUDENT GROUPS TO PERFORM

Free jazz concert to be held on campus

HALA ALJAZZAZI

News Writing Student

A jazzed up version of "Jingle Bell Rock" will be one of several holiday selections included in the free jazz performance on campus at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the Bruce Owen

Theater.

This will be the first time to incorporate Christmas music into the jazz concert, said music Professor Michael Boyle, who trains the musicians.

Boyle said the performance will involve two student jazz groups.

"Students will get many benefits from going to this concert," said Boyle. "Students will enjoy great music, support their fellow students, and it's a cheap date." He also mentioned that Music Appreciation students get extra credit in their music class.

The two jazz ensembles meet on different nights for practice, and they have different flavors.

The Tuesday night group incorporates the vocalists, while the Wednesday night is more of a blues-jazz group.

See **JAZZ** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Prevention is easier on your wallet and heart

Animals should get their shots

Since the housing crash of 2009, Americans have slowly gotten used to living in a bad economy. We've gotten used to making hard decisions with a shrug, or a sigh of frustration, or a rant about how tight money is.



Jeremy Cloud

But yesterday, this was all brought home to my husband and me, as we made such a decision with tears:

Earlier this semester, we adopted a bull shepherd puppy from my parents. As a raving Tolkien fan, I named the rambunctious puppy Balrog.

This past week, Balrog came down with canine parvovirus, an illness that simultaneously starves, poisons, and dehydrates a dog. Parvo is extremely contagious, and has a high mortality rate.

There is a vaccine. My husband and I had not yet taken Balrog for his shots, both because we thought he was too young, and because we were too broke.

The moment Balrog started showing symptoms, we rushed him to a vet, hoping it wasn't parvo, and hoping we could catch it in time.

The news was mixed; it was definitely parvo, but we'd caught it in time. If treated immediately, our puppy could have as high as a 90 percent chance of making a full recovery.

And then, the worst thing anyone ever wants to hear when a loved one's life is on the line, be he or she two or four-legged:

Will that be cash, check or charge to start treatment?

Ringing in to the tune of \$1100 for the first three days, the parvo treatment was far beyond anything my husband and I could afford.

We asked if they would take payments. They would not. We tried to qualify for financing. We were denied.

Sitting there in the office, we came to the sickening realization that this wonderful animal, with a treatable disease, and a good prognosis, was going to have to be put down.

Because we couldn't afford to pay for treatment.

Perhaps the final straw in all this was when, after tears and discussions, we asked them to put him down.

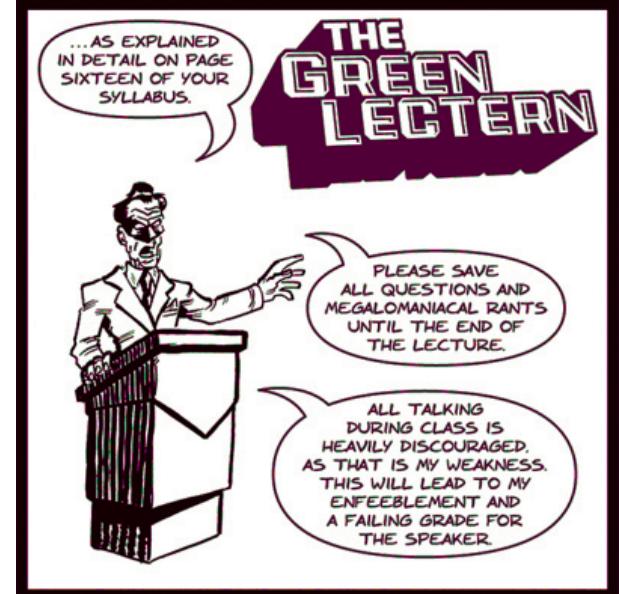
And we couldn't afford that either.

In the end, we had to hug our puppy good bye, sign him into the vet's care, and let them euthanize him in private. Without us.

There are hard decisions, and then there are simple

APOPHENIAC

GREG HOLKAN/GREGHOLKAN.COM



His superpower is tenure.

ones.

Get your animals their shots. Make the time and set the money aside. The economy is hard, but your pet is family.

And preventatives are infinitely easier, both on the wallet and the heart, than hospital visits.

—JEREMY CLOUD
EDITOR

Americans should work to contain cost of college

To the editor:

Over the last decade, the net price of college has risen nearly 6 percent a year, after inflation. Yet in the last three years--thanks largely to a dramatic expansion in federal aid and tax credits--net tuition and fees paid by students at two-year institutions and non-profit four-year institutions have actually declined in real terms.

That progress is an encouraging sign. But I believe that we can do much more to help contain the price tag of college and reduce individual student debt. Postsecondary institutions and states also have yet to truly tackle the cost containment challenge in a comprehensive and sustainable fashion.

The difficulty of reducing the price of college and student debt cannot become a discussion-ending excuse for inaction.

Containing the cost of college and student debt

will always be some of the most controversial and thankless work in all of higher education.

Now, there are some who will tell you that controlling college prices and student debt is higher education's Mission Impossible. They point to the so-called Iron Triangle of Higher Education. Nearly every college president and governing board seeks to simultaneously improve quality, increase access, and yet constrain costs.

It's true that these three sides of the iron triangle--quality, access, and cost--sometimes seem like mutually conflicting choices. Yet I don't believe that this challenge is higher education's Mission Impossible.

I want to encourage you to take back to your campuses the idea that productivity and accountability are reform tools that can help postsecondary institutions break out of the trap of the iron triangle.

Dozens of colleges and universities have either cut or frozen tuition, or provide a four-year graduation guarantee. Even more ambitious are efforts to boost productivity and learning by redesigning courses and remaining the use of technology in the classroom.

That kind of innovation requires looking beyond traditional institutional silos--and the ability to anticipate the educational needs of the future.

Our students deserve no less.

Working together is the department, states, and institutions across the country--can help achieve the President's goal, that by 2020, America will once again lead the world in college attainment.

—ARNE DUNCAN
U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Read the full version online at www.occc.edu/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

CONCERT OVERVIEW | Anvil concert rocks Oklahoma City club

Local bands open rock concert

**GINNIE P.
ESCOBEDO**
Guest Writer

How many local bands have the privilege to open up for one of the legendary bands in metal history??? On Nov. 2, One Gun Solution, Left to Die and Lock17 opened up for none other Anvil at the Roxy.

"I am not a big heavy metal/rock listen and I rarely go to concert, but I enjoyed being there," said concertgoer John Kennedy.

"I really enjoyed One Gun Solution and the cover song that Left to Die did Crimson and Clover originally sung by the 1968 American rock band, Tommy James and the Shondells."

Some fans stayed until 11 p.m. just to see Anvil perform.

"No offense to the other bands that were there but really, all I wanted to see was Anvil!" said fan Sean Rustle.

"I have been a fan of Anvil's music since I was a boy and seeing Anvil live is just an opportunity that I would have never passed up!"

Anvil is a Canadian heavy metal band composed of Steve "Lips" Kudlow (lead vocals and lead guitar), Robb Reiner (drummer) and Glenn Five (bass guitar and backing vocals).

To date, the band has released 14 studio albums, and has been cited as having influenced many notable heavy metal groups, including Megadeth,



COURTESY GINNIE P. ESCOBEDO

Lock 17 performs Nov. 2, opening for legendary rock band Anvil. The concert located at The Roxy in Oklahoma City brought fans from around the state. Other local bands included Left to Die and One Gun Solution.

Slayer, Anthrax, and Metallica.

Anvil has been playing since 1973 according to the 2008 documentary film *Anvil!* The documentary, "The Story of Anvil," was directed by the screenwriter and former Anvil roadie Sacha Gervasi.

"Those guys put on a great show and we are very grateful to have been on the same stage with them," said Rusty Wigham, rhythm guitarist for Lock17 and an OCCC alumna.

"We will be bragging about it for a long time to come," Wigham said.

"Anvil was great. We watched them as we grew up so it was an honor."

Jeremy Waller, the lead vocal and rhythm guitarist for Left To Die felt the same regardless of the number of fans at the show.

"The crowd was a little thin but it was wednesday in OKC plus there was some other big shows that night but that didn't matter to us,"

"We had a blast and got to meet some of metals

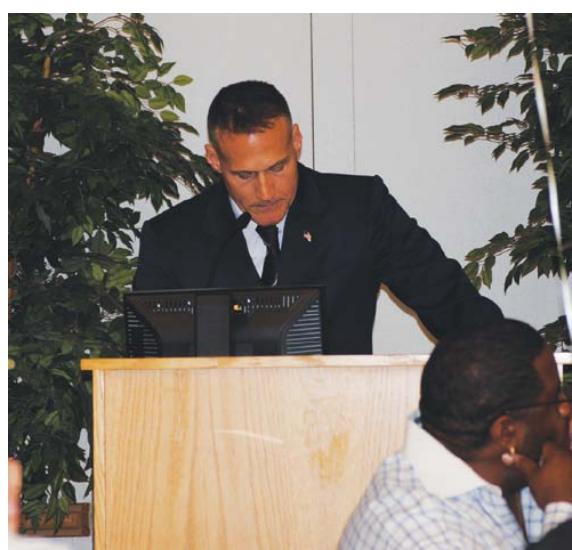
originators. They were one of the nicest bands we have ever had the privilege of opening for.

"That's the stuff we live for!"

Dave Washburn, the lead singer of One Gun Solution continued the praises.

"Opening up for a band that helped shape the way metal sounds today was definitely a sobering experience!"

"It was nice to sit back and watch the guys set-



Retraction: The Nov. 18 issue of the Pioneer incorrectly identified John Adams, OCCC nursing student and 20 year military veteran, as he speaks to a crowd for the OCCC Veterans Day celebration in the College Union.

COURTESY FRANCESCA BANKS

JOB & CAREER POWER

The OCCC Financial Aid office has a variety of student work study employment opportunities currently available. Please visit their office to confirm your workstudy status and to request the federal workstudy award letter. Then, bring this letter to the office of Student Employment & Career Services. We will forward the letter to the OCCC Human Resource Department and assist your online job application process. Students applying for on-campus or off-campus workstudy positions should complete the online application; attach a resume; cover letter; and college transcripts. Individual campus departments, in addition to the office of Financial Aid, may then preview the student applications for hiring consideration.

Specifically, the office of Financial Aid has work study positions for students with good customer service skills that enjoy a fast-paced work environment serving fellow-students.

Off-campus workstudy positions include:

Putnam City School District, Tutoring Positions at the following elementary schools – Apollo, Arbor Grove, Central, Hilldale, Lake Park, Overholser, Rollingwood, Tulakes, Western Oaks, Wiley Post and Windsor.

Oklahoma City School District, Bi-lingual Tutors at Columbus Elementary.

Moore Public School District, Tutoring positions at Southgate-Rippetoe Elementary.

Please contact Mia Rojo at 405-682-7524 for details.

The office of Student Employment & Career Services will also share additional job opportunities both on-campus and off-campus through the online student job board at:

www.collegecentral.com/occcc and, through bulletin board and job table postings. Please visit our office located in the Main Building, first floor, Room 1G7 for assistance.

— DEBRA D. VAUGHN, DIRECTOR
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES

up their gear and sound check thinking about the days when they were where we are at today. Definitely a one of a kind experience playing with metal masters Anvil," Washburn said

Meeting Anvil was a definite experience that is not soon forgotten.

Lock17, Left To Die and Munkie Gunn can be seen again opening for Texas Hippie Coalition on Dec. 9 at the Samurai, in Club Raw, which is located at 3034 N. Portland across from Don Quixote's.

Tickets will be \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the show.

HAIFENG JI WILL RECEIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN AUSTIN NEXT YEAR

Prof recognized for ‘outstanding work’

KATELYN HARDCASTLE
News Writing Student

A man who wears multiple hats as a professor of computer science will go to Austin, Texas, next spring to collect an award given in recognition of his contributions to OCCC.

Haifeng Ji has been chosen by the college to receive an Award of Excellence, given by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).

Dean of Information Technology Tom Ashby said he nominated Ji for the award because of his “outstanding work” and the “excellence of his teaching.”

Ashby said Ji specializes in database administration, but he is also crossing into cyber security, a different area of



Haifeng Ji

computer technology.

“He educated himself and worked with faculty to pick up some of the load,” he said.

Ashby also said that Ji is using the knowledge he is learning as he pursues a doctorate in Computer Science at the University of Oklahoma to educate his students at OCCC.

In addition to his teaching at OCCC and his studies at OU, Ji also serves as the sponsor of the International Student Association on campus.

“I was an international student, too, when I first came to the U.S.,” Ji said. “I know how difficult it can be.”

Ji attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an international student and has been in the U.S. ever since. He is from Nanjing, China. He said he visits his home country one or twice a year.

When Ji learned that he had been nominated for the NISOD award, he said he was honored.

“I think it’s recognition for my service,” he said.

NISOD, according to its website, emphasizes “the importance of teaching and

“We’re very proud of him ... we’re very lucky to have him here at the college.”

—TOM ASHBY
DEAN OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

leadership excellence in institutions of higher education.” Ji understands the importance of excellent teaching.

“I think being enthusiastic about teaching will make students feel engaged,” he said.

OCCC has been nominating faculty members for NISOD Awards of Excellence since the early ‘90s, Ashby said.

Each college division selects one nominee, except for the two biggest divisions, Arts and Humanities and Math and Science, which select two.

Ji is the representative of the Information Technology division.

Recipients of the award will attend a three-day conference in Austin in May.

The conference will offer presentations on subjects relevant to faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education and will offer networking opportunities in addition to celebrating and recognizing the winners of the awards, according to the NISOD website.

Ji will also be honored at a faculty recognition luncheon at OCCC at the end of the spring semester.

“We’re very proud of him,” Ashby said. “We’re very lucky to have him here at the college.”

STUDENTS MUST APPLY BY FEB. 10 DEADLINE TO BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM

Students should apply for graduation now

MADISON MARQUARDT
News Writing Student

Students planning to graduate in May need to apply for graduation now, said Liz Largent, dean of Student Development.

Like many students, Justin Noel, an OCCC sophomore, said he was not aware that he would have to apply for graduation. He thought the process was a given, and happened for everyone.

Even if a student has completed all the coursework for a degree, the degree will only be granted if the student applies to graduate, Largent said.

She said the best advice she could give to students is to apply early for graduation.

Applying for graduation once you have 35 to 40 hours, Largent said, or a full semester and a half before you need to graduate, is the best way to ensure that you are on the right track to graduate when you intend to.

“The most common task of an academic adviser, for the purposes of graduation, is to guide students through the right courses that they need to take in order to be on the right track to graduate in what-

ever degree they are looking to obtain,” Largent said.

Graduation Services Director Barbara Gowdy said the official deadline for graduation applications to be turned in is the third week of the semester students are wanting to graduate in. For graduation in May, this would be Feb. 10.

“Although the deadline for graduation applications is the third week of the semester the students plan to graduate in, the graduation office never turns people away,” Gowdy said.

However, if students wait

too long to apply, they may not see their names in the graduation program for the May ceremony.

Miguel Garcia, a student

“College is a lot different than high school and I know there are certain classes that are required for your major in order to graduate on time,” Garcia said. “Academic advisers make the process of graduation make more sense.”

There are three graduations a year — summer, fall and spring — but only one commencement ceremony is held, in May. If students want to be sure their name will be in the program, they have to

apply by the deadline.

Both Largent and Gowdy urge students to have all their transcripts turned in if they are taking classes at other schools.

For more information, contact Gowdy at 405-682-1611, ext. 7528, or email bgowdy@occc.edu. Largent can be reached at 405-682-1611, ext. 7834, or by emailing llargent@occc.edu.

In addition, a graduation application can be filled out online by visiting www.occc.edu/records and selecting “graduation application” from the left side of the screen.



at OCCC, said that he is on schedule to graduate.

Garcia said he always goes to academic advisement before enrolling and they always give him more insight on the steps he is supposed to take.

“I do not know that much about the graduation process,” he said.

OCCC

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

OPTIMAL RESUME

WWW.OCCC.OPTIMALRESUME.COM

Students' access ID is their OCCC email address
example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu

Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills

Production tells classic story of love

ALEXANDRA HAWTHORN
News Writing Student

OCCC's production of "Romeo and Juliet" was an opening night success with almost every seat in the Bruce Owen Theater filled on Nov. 17.

"The show is where I want it to be," said Rachel Irick, guest director of the play, after the performance. With flowers in her hand, a gift from the cast, she said she expected each night's performance to get better.

Recovering from an injury, Irick watched the performance from her wheelchair in the back of the theater.

Michael Cowan Jr., who played Romeo, said he was nervous before the performance started but that he was also very excited.

"I thought it went amazing," Cowan said regarding the opening night performance.

Emily Germany, who portrayed Juliet, said she was satisfied with her performance on the first night. She said that she was proud of the energy she was able to use when her character learned about Tybalt's death.

Emily's mother, Pat Germany, said Irick did an outstanding job directing the play. She also mentioned that all of the actors did very well.

"I wouldn't change a thing," Pat Germany said. "Rachel should be proud."

Before the performance started, theater program director Brent Noel said he thought the actors were ready to perform at their best. He also drew laughter from the audience when his phone rang during his speech about

audience members turning off their cell phones.

After the performance, Noel said the actors really were able to blossom during the performance. He said he was happy with their efforts.

Beforehand, audience members seemed excited about the performance. Emily Vice, a 19-year-old psychology major, said she was looking forward to seeing OCCC's rendition of William Shakespeare's tragic love story.

The actors wore colorful, elaborate costumes designed by Andy Wallach. Many of the characters carried swords in every scene and some used them in fights.

Tybalt, played by Gabriel Pranter, died in a sword-fighting scene. This was one of the saddest scenes in the play, with characters wailing and crying over the death.

The set was versatile with big pieces, like Juliet's bed, rolled on and off the stage throughout the performance. The show itself was funny, tragic, romantic, violent, and everything "Romeo and Juliet" should be.

The audience members laughed intermittently throughout the performance, especially during scenes with the loud and animated Mercutio, played by Rick



COURTESY JOEY STIPEK

Michael Cowan Jr. (Romeo), and Emily Germany (Juliet) exchange a moment during the play "Romeo and Juliet" in the Bruce Owen Theater Nov. 17. Theater program director Brent Noel said the actors really were able to blossom during the performance.

Foresee. Irick brought the humor of the story to the surface.

Children in the front row of the audience snickered during the love scene between Romeo and Juliet, which entailed the two stripping down to their long under garments and rolling around in Juliet's bed.

The tragedy of the two young lovers was portrayed strongly during the play. Germany and Cowan were able to show the love their characters shared in life and in death.

Textbooks can be sold to make money

SARAH HUSSAIN
Staff Writer
Staffwriter3@occc.edu

Tis the season to sell back your textbooks. With the end of the semester and the holidays near, the cash received by selling back books can lift the spirits.

Students have a few options when selling back books.

The OCCC Bookstore and Textbook Brokers, located at 7445 South May Ave., will be open for extended hours during the last weeks of the semester.

And as many students are aware, selling books online is becoming a popular, fast and easy way to get rid of those unwanted books.

Jessica Pursell, pre-education major, comments on buying and selling books.

"Usually online books are cheaper, I use the bookstore as the last resort," Pursell said.

"Textbook Brokers, from what I've experienced are not a lot cheaper, but they are a bit."

"Depending on the subject, I'll generally sell them back, but in case I have to use it again or if it's a subject that interests me I'll keep the book," she said.

OCCC Bookstore director, Brenda Reinke, has other opinions of online book buying and selling.

"I've looked at the prices online and we're pretty competitive to what people buy them back online for."

"I strongly suggest students sell their books here because they're helping out students locally. It helps

out the students and 100 percent of the revenue goes right to this campus," she said.

"In order to get the full value normally of what buy back would be worth, we do it Dec. 12-19 which is the last week of classes," Reinke said.

Throughout the semester students can sell books back, but sometimes they will only receive the wholesale value back, according to Reinke.

"Usually during regular book buy back, you can get up to 50 percent of your money back, but if its not regular time we got by whatever the national value is," Reinke said.

Reinke does not know why textbooks lose so much of their value.

"We take a risk, we buy the books back and we sell them back to the students, sometimes we sell all of our books and sometimes we don't and the ones we don't sell we lose money on them."

"That's probably just a fair margin to where if we have any losses it's not such a huge loss," she said.

Logan Taylor, an OCCC student and Textbook Brokers employee, said they buy back books all year.

"But it would probably be more beneficial to wait until the end of the semesters to receive a substantial amount back," Taylor said because books have a higher value at different times.

Textbook Brokers displays they have cheaper books than OCCC's bookstore.

Logan said Textbook Brokers also buys back more

books than OCCC.

"It varies on if they are custom books, but a student will normally walk out of here with more money because we accept more books."

By buying back books at either OCCC's Bookstore or Textbook Brokers, students are guaranteed cash back.

"We give cash back for books because it wouldn't be beneficial if we gave out vouchers," Logan said.

Reinke said the same, "We've considered doing gift cards and loyalty cards, but we have not moved to that."

"We've found that most students like to have the cash that way their options are open. But it wouldn't make the students happy, they should have the option as to where they want to buy and sell their books."

OCCC BOOKSTORE HOURS

Mondays from 7:45 a.m. – 8 p.m., Tuesdays – Thursdays from 7:45 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Fridays 7:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 12 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Tuesday – Thursday, Dec. 13-15 from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. – noon and Monday, Dec. 19 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

TEXTBOOK BROKER'S HOURS

Mondays – Thursdays 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. During the last week of the semester they will extend their hours Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTER EDUCATES STUDENTS THOROUGH EXHIBITS, FILM, AND DANCE

Students visit Chickasaw museum

MARK L. SIMPSON
News Writing Student

Overcast skies and the threat of rain failed to dampen the spirits of a group of international students on a field trip to learn more about Oklahoma and its people on Nov. 8.

Twelve students from OCCC's English as a Second Language Bridge program traveled to the Chickasaw Cultural Center outside of Sulphur to experience early Native American culture.

"The Bridge class has recently done some reading on Indian removal and Chickasaw history," Professor Abra Figueroa said. Figueroa is director of the English as a Second Language program at OCCC.

"Seeing these things in person really helps them learn better and backs up the things we learned in the classroom," Figueroa said.

The students and five staff members braved the dismal weather as they toured the 96,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that opened in July 2010.

"This is not just a museum, but a living building," said tour guide Jasmine Hatton.

With the help of guides and cultural center employees, Hatton took the group on an educational trip



MARK SIMPSON/NEWS WRITING STUDENT

Students from OCCC's English as a Second Language Bridge Program visited the Chickasaw Cultural Center outside of Sulphur. Front row (from left to right): Jules Stephan Nkolo Balla (Cameroon), Laura Celis (Colombia), Thi-Thanh Le (Vietnam).

Back row (from left to right): Cultural Center Guide Jasmine Hatton (Ada), Areej Yacoub (Palestine), Yanming Brown (China), Sharada Dahal Bhattacharai (Nepal), Abbie Figueroa (Oklahoma), Tracy Phan (Vietnam), Sangita Shrestha (Nepal), Elena Collins (Mexico), Brandi Ball (Oklahoma), Tram Le (Vietnam), Naomi Septier (Argentina), Jungmi Oh (Korea).

through the facility, which included viewing a film in the Anoli' Theater, which boasts a 2,700 square-foot wraparound screen. The 44-foot-by-62-foot movie screen is the second largest of its kind in the state.

Hatton led the group into the Chickasha Poya Exhibit Center, where sensors triggered short films and audio clips about the history of the Chickasaw Nation. The exhibit hall also featured several dozen artifacts and replicas that helped the ESL students fully appreciate the culture of the Chickasaw people.

The Chickasaws originally lived in the southeastern U.S., near Tupelo, Miss., Hatten said. The U.S. government forced them to leave their homes and relocate to Oklahoma in the 1840s so their land could be occupied by white farmers.

The Chickasaw Nation now numbers over 38,000 people, making it the third largest Indian nation in Oklahoma and the 13th largest in the U.S., according to cultural center employee Keela Davis, 26.

The international students observed a "stomp dance" and listened to a flute song performed by native Chickasaw cultural center employees.

Chickasaw tribal member Jeremy Wallace, 26, said he has been performing the stomp dance for center visitors since the facility opened a year and a half ago.

"The stomp dance is used to greet new friends and make them welcome," Wallace said.

Some of ESL students took advantage of an invitation from Wallace and joined in the dance, which wove around the theater stage in a snake-like fashion. The dance was accompanied by the beat of traditional rattles made from turtle-shells and the sound of moccasins, worn by the women.

"The main goal of the cultural center is to pass our culture on to other generations," Wallace said.

One student said she found familiar strains in the Chickasaw story.

"Mongolian culture in China is very similar," said Yanming Brown, an ESL student from China.

The group ventured through puddles of water and mud to tour a replica of a traditional Chickasaw village and learn what the various structures were used for.

"This is a good place to learn," said Sangita Shrestha, a 23-year-old student from Nepal, as she posed for pictures with a friend in a large corn crib.

This is the second field trip taken by the ESL Bridge program this year.

In late September Figueroa took the group to the Wichita Mountains to learn about early Oklahoman history.

A statement in a film viewed by the ESL students summed up the cultural center and the philosophy of the modern-day Chickasaw Nation: "We believe that we have something special to share with the world."



MARK SIMPSON/NEWS WRITING STUDENT

Sangita Shrestha (Nepal); and Tracy Phan (Vietnam) pose in a raised corn crib, which stands four feet off the ground to protect stores of grain from moisture and intruders. The crib was part of a traditional Chikasha Inchokka' Village located at the Chickasaw Cultural Center. The village features a number of traditional Chickasaw houses, as well as special grounds for stomp dancing and stickball.

MUSIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR A 'TERRIFIC ASSET'

'Beethoven geek' Boyle wins national award

MACKENZIE MANN
News Writing Student

A music professor who describes himself as a "Beethoven geek of the highest degree" will receive a national award this spring.

Michael Boyle has taught at OCCC for six years. He will be recognized by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).

Boyle is an avid double bass player as well as a jazz enthusiast.

He is the program director for the music program.

"This semester the music department is producing 12 concerts in 16 weeks, which is really aggressive," Boyle said.

These include student concerts, faculty concerts, and recitals produced by the music department.

Boyle also oversees all aspects of the music appreciation



Michael Boyle

curriculum, which is a multi-section general education course.

"I have really upped, what I would say, the intensity of the music appreciation curriculum," he said.

The course now includes units on world music, as well as a unit on the musical "Oklahoma." It also includes a segment on popular musician

Michael Jackson.

"That is kind of a stretch but it shows the traditions of choreographed dance," Boyle said.

"We still do the same dances [today] that Agnes de Mille choreographed for Oklahoma in the 1940s."

Boyle stresses intensive writing in his Music Appreciation classes.

"Writing is the most important skill that you take away from OCCC," he said.

"If you can't write a good paper, you'll never write a good resume and if you can't write a good resume, you'll never get a good job."

Boyle added that no matter what profession you go into, you will have to write.

"If you go into nursing you'll have to write reports. In my previous career [as a chef] I wrote budgets and menus."

In 2009, Boyle started working on a project to get a recording studio on campus.

"I think it is important for students to have hands-on experience with the practical tools that they're going to use in their profession," Boyle said.

Today OCCC has two recording studios.

"They were built from scratch with no room and no budget and now we have two full-blown professional level recording studios," Boyle said. "They are the same recording platforms that they use in all the top studios in New York and Los Angeles."

The project was funded by a generous grant for the OCCC foundation, as well as money from the music and film budgets, and equipment on loan from institutional video services, Boyle said.

Since 1978, "the NISOD has emphasized the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education," according to the NISOD website.

The NISOD excellence award selection criteria are left for each school to decide.

"NISOD is [about] what are they doing in the classroom. Are they going above and beyond; are they illustrating the finest in what teaching and leadership can be? That is part of the standard we use in choosing a NISOD recipient," Ruth Charnay, Department Director of Communications and the Arts said.

Charnay added, "[Boyle's] a terrific asset to OCCC and Arts and Humanities so we wanted him to be recognized."

Boyle and the other NISOD Excellence Award winners will be attending the NISOD national conference in Austin, Texas, in May 2012 to receive their awards.

For more information, contact Boyle at mboyle@occc.edu or visit his office in room 149 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Comm Lab sees 30 percent increase in sessions

MACKENZIE MANN
News Writing Student

More tutors have joined the Communications Lab staff to help students with their reading and writing skills this semester.

Supervisor Rachel Olsen said she has been obligated to hire more tutors because of the high demand for tutoring sessions, bumping the tutoring pool from eight to 12.

"We see about 190 students for tutoring sessions a week on average," Olsen said.

The lab has seen a 30 percent increase in the number of tutoring sessions they have had so far this year compared to last year's numbers.

The Communications Lab does not allow students to schedule appointments for tutoring. The lab offers the sessions on a first-come, first-serve, or "walk-in" basis.

Olsen said she thinks it's better that students don't have to worry about how to schedule an appointment. They can just walk into the lab and ask for help.

"I never have to wait that long to get help from a tutor at the lab," said OCCC student Miguel Garcia.

"Sometimes when it's around midterms or just really busy, I might have to come back later in the day," Garcia said. "But I usually never have to wait more than five minutes."

Olsen said the lab is open from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, and from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

She said she has even seen an increase this year in the number of students who show up on Saturdays to get help.

The Communications Lab staff now includes 12 tutors,



MICHAEL WORMLEY/PIONEER

Mai Nguyen, child development major, receives assistance writing a paper from Senior Communications Lab Assistant Brandon Isaak. Four new tutors recently joined the Communications Lab staff to accommodate students' high demand for tutoring sessions.

two work-study student employees who manage the front desk, and three full-time lab assistants.

Even though the number of students using the lab is up, the space in the lab is the same, resulting in somewhat

of a tight squeeze.

"We are busting at the seams at certain times in the lab," Olsen said.

"In a semester we have about 20,000 visits from students. So there are times where all the computers are full and

the tables are packed with students."

Olsen said she dreams of the day when the lab has more space.

"As far as my vision for the lab's future, eventually I would like the lab to move to a larger space that not only provides tutoring areas and computers for student use, but also a computer-assisted classroom that could be used to present workshops, facilitate group tutoring, and conduct special classes."

She said she would also like the Communications Lab to have a space that students could use to prepare and practice group presentations and projects.

"Overall, I see the Communications Lab functioning as a multiliteracy center that can provide even more of the services and events that we already offer to students."

SPORTS

Boxer's Shuffle



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

English Professor Stephen Morrow (right) and community member Berry Field (middle) throw some punches during Cheryl Dentley's (left) kickboxing class November 30.

SPORTS | NAIA Swimming and Diving Championships to be held at college for first time

Aquatic center to host championship

MATT WISSON
News Writing Student

For the first time ever, the NAIA National Swimming and Diving Championships will be held at the Aquatic Center.

The event will take place Feb. 29 through March 2, said Roxanna Butler, OCCC's director of recreation and fitness.

The National Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics announced the decision earlier this year.

"The NAIA approached us looking for a facility to host this event, which we had never hosted before," Butler said.

About 30 schools participate in the tournament bringing about 450 athletes and 600 parents.

In a phone interview with the NAIA's Manager of Championship Sports, Jamie Adams, explained why the college won the bid.

"OCCC had put in a bid to host the tournament so I went down there to check out their Aquatic Center," she said.

"Their facility is just so great and they have hosted so many large tournaments in the past, it was not a difficult decision."

It will be the 56th annual Swim-

ming and Diving Championships for men, and the 32nd for women.

"Oklahoma Baptist University will be the only Oklahoma school competing for the NAIA championship this year," Butler said.

This is Oklahoma Baptist's first year with swimming and diving team.

According to the NAIA website's record books, the closest an Oklahoman college has come to victory at the swimming and diving championships was back in 1991 when Oral Roberts University came in second, behind a Missouri school.

California teams, such as Fresno Pacific and California Baptist, have dominated the tournament the past three years.

A full list of the competing school can be found on the NAIA website.

The location of the NAIA championship is selected every two years, Butler said, making OCCC host through 2013.

The NAIA is not as big as the NCAA when it comes to talent and numbers, but the organization contends it pays more attention to the student athlete.

"The NAIA also deals with the Champions of Character program, which focuses on a student's qualities besides athletic achievement," Butler said.

"We hope to add an event with water safety or swim coaching to the program."

Adams said the Champions of Character program recognizes five attributes: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and student leadership.

"It helps make a good balance between life, school, and athletics," Adams said.

The Aquatic Center has hosted large national swimming and diving events in the past, such as the Mountain West and WAC conference finals. Butler said this is just another tournament to add to the Aquatic Center's resume.

For more information visit: www.NAIA.cstv.com or visit the Aquatic Center for a schedule or contact.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Dec. 2: Edmond/Altus Dual Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Dec. 3: Joe Stocker Invitational Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Dec. 9: Edmond/Norman Dual Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Dec. 12 - 14: Chesapeake Swim Club Elite Pro-Am Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 29 - Mar. 2: NAIA National Swimming and Diving Championships. 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 wish to share?
e-mail Sean at
**sportswriter@
occc.edu**
or call 405-682-
1611, ext. 7676**



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THE PIONEER SPORTS PODCAST



with Sean Tolbert
Morgan Beard
Patrick Hartley

Bursar: Office staff interviewed by investigators

Continued from page 1

Office credit card, after college authorities alerted them, Jordan said.

The investigation had been kept quiet up until now to avoid misinformation, said President Paul Sechrist.

"The nature of the investigation required the college to be cautious and not offer speculation early on during an ongoing investigation," Sechrist said.

"It would have been reckless to offer partial or unconfirmed information before the conclusion of the financial audit," he said.

The financial audit, conducted by Hinkle & Co., came back clean. Sechrist said that he wanted to be clear, however, that a clean audit does not mean there was no wrongdoing.

"A clean audit simply means that the paper work we have, and the documen-

tation we have of the financial holdings and transactions made by the college is an accurate view of the college's actual financial state."

Hinkle's audit, which was presented to the Board of Regents on Nov. 21, did include suggestions for improving internal controls.

According to the audit report, the college did not have a procedure for balancing the Bursar's Office credit card on a monthly basis, nor were balance reports reviewed by anyone outside the bursar's office.

The audit report recommends implementing policies on both counts.

Sechrist said no student accounts or funds were involved in the transactions the FBI is investigating.

The college is doing everything pos-

“

I am confident that the College took all of the steps necessary to inform all of the appropriate individuals and agencies as soon as we confirmed the unauthorized transactions."

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

sible to aid the FBI's investigation, he said.

"We provided the FBI access to our credit card transactions related to the Bursar's Office. It is my understanding that the FBI also interviewed staff in the Bursar's Office," Sechrist said.

"I am confident that the College took all of the steps necessary to inform all of the appropriate individuals and agencies as soon as we confirmed the unauthorized transactions."

When asked for information regarding the investigation, Cynthia Gary, acting bursar, directed all questions to Jordan's office.

The college Bursar's Office acts as a treasury, or business office, and the bursar manages many of the financial transactions of the college.

For further information, contact Cordell Jordan at 405-682-1611, ext. 7248, or by email at cjordan@occc.edu.

Jazz: Program now has 2 bands

Continued from page 1

"We've got three great jazz singers," Boyle said. He also said that Blues have a really strong tradition in jazz.

The Tuesday players are: Steve Silver playing the guitar, Zack Lebo as the bass, and Daniel Sneed playing the drums.

The Wednesday group includes Scott Whitehead, Nicole Pearce, and Victoria Hazboun, all three of the students who will sing in the concert.

Lebo will be playing the bass, and Charlie Williams will be playing the drums.

Silver said this is his first Christmas concert with the

jazz band. He'll be playing guitar.

"I'm looking forward to joining my band mates for the concert," he said. "We hope everyone comes to see us."

Musicians audition for the ensembles at the beginning of the semester, Boyle said.

Lebo and Charlie Williams played last year, but the rest of the musicians are new this year.

In the concert reviews he gets from his Music Appreciation students, Boyle said, one of the most common comments is "wow, I didn't realize that we have so many talented people here at OCCC."

"It's important to know that we have a lot of talent and a great facility," Boyle added.

When Boyle started teaching at OCCC in 2006, there was only one jazz band, but for the last five years they have had two bands every semester because they have many students auditioning.

The jazz program has developed a following among certain students.

"I have been a student at OCCC for two years now, and I go to these concerts every time they have one because both bands are extremely talented," said Mariam Ahmed, an undecided major.



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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY | Professor Roy Brooks of San Diego State discusses the content of his latest book on race.

Race in the age of Obama

HALA ALJAZZAZI
Newswriting Student

Racism in the age of the America's first black president finds the country at a crossroads, said Professor Roy Brooks of San Diego State University in a speech on campus Nov. 3.

Brooks said the U.S. is in a post Civil Rights period that is marked by contrasting racial dynamics. On the one hand, we have racial success; on the other hand, we have racial despair.

"Conservatives argue that the best way is not to define it at all," Brooks said. "As we have seen the success of many African Americans, many people believe that we do not have a race problem anymore."

Brooks said this is incorrect.

"The problem lies in cases like teenage pregnancy, the linkage of blacks and crimes, hypersensitivity to racial issues, and the lack of educational ambitions," Brooks said.

He believes that some of the statistics are misleading, explaining that they do not give a complete picture to the case.

Liberals, on the other hand, insist that Americans still have a race problem. They define the problem less in terms of individual racism as in terms of institutional and societal racism and racial stereotyping.

In Brook's book, entitled "Racial Justice in the Age of Obama," he argues that the conception of both



MIKE WORMLEY/PIONEER

Professor Roy Brooks of San Diego State University lectures about race on Nov. 3. Brooks said the U.S. is in a post Civil Rights period.

liberals and conservatives is wrong.

Conservatives are wrong if they believe there is a level playing field on which members of every race can compete equally.

Brooks supports his point of view with figures that show the income disparity among whites, blacks and Hispanics. The figure proves that whites get paid more than blacks and Hispanics.

As for liberals, Brooks said, they need to recognize that racism has declined since the end of the Civil Rights movement. He cited the fact that 43 percent of whites voted for a black president in 2008

whereas in the 1970s no one even thought that a black president could be elected.

However, Brooks explained, despite the decline of racism, the racial differentials and resources between blacks and whites remain constant.

"The American race problem is caused by resource disparity between whites and blacks," Brooks said.

This involves financial capital deficiencies such as income, human capital deficiencies such as education and skills, and social capital deficiencies; such as the ability to get things done in society.

One student said Brooks opened her eyes to some new ideas.

"I have read many books that Brooks wrote and this book is my favorite," said Rand Alzubi, a sophomore accounting major.

"I knew we had a hidden racial issue, but I never thought about it the way Brooks explains it."

Alzubi said she started reading Brooks' books about two years ago because a friend gave her his book as a gift and she liked it.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Degree Check it Out

Graduation advisors will be available for graduation status checks and application from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6 and Wednesday, Dec. 7 in the main building atrium. For more information contact Kyron Smoot, graduation advisor at 405-682-7547.

Communication Across Cultures

TRiO Student Support Services will be conducting a workshop about communication across cultures from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, in CU 1. For more information contact the TRiO programs office at 405-682-7865.

Christmas for Children

Kappa Beta Delta is facilitating a gift exchange for underprivileged children who are tied in some way to students, faculty and staff members of OCCC. Registration forms can be located on the second floor of the main building or at the office for the business division in 2R2. The last day to submit a request will be Monday, Dec. 12. For more information contact the Division of Business office at 405-682-7501.

OKC Downtown College Holiday Preview

OKC Downtown College will host a holiday themed preview of upcoming events from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Downtown Norick Library at 300 Park Avenue. R.S.V.P. by noon on Monday, Dec. 12 if you plan to attend by calling 405-232-3382. For more information please contact Jimmie Sue Baker at jbaker@downtowncollege.com.

Electronic IRS Form 1098-T

Help OCCC's effort to go green by opting-in for the electronic 1098-T. Students can opt-in to receiving this statement electronically by logging in to MineOnline and clicking the link "1098 Electronic Consent" under the financial information heading. The deadline to enroll is Saturday, Dec. 17. For more information contact the Bursar's Office at 405-682-7825.

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.

OCCC

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CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

FOR RENT

SMALL AND QUIET: Nice apartment for computer tech or student. \$385 per month. \$100 deposit. N.W. 21st and Villa area. Call 405-609-9806 or 405-512-9440.

SEVERAL STUDENTS SOLD AUTOS AND OTHER ITEMS THIS SEMESTER BY POSTING IN THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS. ADS ARE FREE TO STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF OCCC. CONTACT CYNTHIA AT: adman@occc.edu.

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We all love puzzles in one form or another. The Pioneer would like to know what the readers prefer, so we are taking a poll. Let your voice be heard by logging on to Pioneer Facebook and casting your vote.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra

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HELP AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WITH SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER

Campus offices to host stress relief seminars

CRYSTAL RODRIGUEZ

News Writing Student

People who feel down during the colder, darker days of winter may be part of a sizable group who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder.

One of them is an elementary education major who asked to remain anonymous.

"Being away from my family and the gloomy weather during the holidays causes me to be depressed," he said.

Seasonal Affective Disorder is a depression that occurs each year, usually starting in fall or winter and ending in spring or early summer, according to www.webmd.com.

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner describes SAD as sunshine deprivation. The less sunshine SAD sufferers receive, the more depressed they become. These are individuals who do not do well in the winter.

For SAD sufferers and others who may need a

boost this time of year, Student Support Services, Trio and Student Life are sponsoring an activity called Student Stress Free from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 6, and Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the College Union. Students will experience different ways to relieve stress.

It will also include free chair massages, said Jenna Howard, mental health counselor in Student Support Services.

Another student who experiences the winter blues said she does not consider it to be depression. She rates it along the line of semester stress.

"When the sun is out, I feel good but when it is gloomy, I get sad," she said. "Also being single plays a part in being gloomy."

Turner said students who suffer from SAD should try to get as much sun as possible or invest in ultra violet lights. Ultra violet lights start as little as \$30 to \$40 a lamp. It is one way to replace sunlight, she said.

Turner said people who experience seasonal de-

pression should try to stay busy and interact with people. It's a good time to do volunteer work, she said.

Fathi Hanoon, engineering major and native of Israel, said he feels lonely during the holidays because he does not get to spend it with all of his relatives.

"I know the feeling of having everyone as part of the holiday," said Hanoon. He misses that now.

Turner said many people who experience mental health problems are afraid to ask for help because of social stigma. Individuals think if they are depressed, they automatically think they're crazy and people will look at them funny.

But students who come to Student Support Services for help are promised confidentiality, Turner said.

"If I ever needed help for seasonal depression, I probably would get it," Hanoon said.

For more information or to talk to someone about mental health problems at Student Support Services, contact Mary Turner at 405-682-7544 or e-mail mturner@occc.edu.

SUMMERTIME TRAVEL-AND-LEARN EXCURSIONS OFFERED

Study abroad opportunities available to students

NADIA J. ENCHASSI

News Writing Student

More than 30 people, including students and faculty, learned about summer travel-and-learn opportunities in cities such as London, England; Cahuita, Costa Rica; and Prague, Czech Republic, on Nov. 16 after attending the Study Abroad information session in the World Languages and Cultures Center.

Host Abra Figueroa, the ESL Academic Bridge Program coordinator and a professor of modern languages, explained the basics.

"You don't have to be a full-time OCCC student to go to

any of the trips," Figueroa said. Participants simply have to take one required preparatory course.

The first of the three trips will take place in Costa Rica from May 22 through June 3, visiting cities such as Cahuita, Puerto Viejo, San Jose and more. Christian Alyea, an Oklahoma Study Abroad organization representative, said the total estimated price is \$1,500 per person, including round-trip airfare.

"It was wonderful," said Rebekah Davis, a business management major who traveled on a similar OCCC-sponsored Costa Rica trip last summer. "I'd love to go back."

The second trip entitled "Brit-

ish Theater and Literature" will take place from June 9 through June 19 visiting cities such as London and Paris. Ruth Charnay, an EF College Study Tours representative and the Communications and the Arts department director, said the total estimated price is \$3,500 per person, including round-trip airfare.

"It is truly an amazing experience," Charnay said, speaking from experience as a leader of the group.

And, the final trip entitled "Eastern Treasures" is a new program that will take place from July 9 through July 24 visiting eastern European cities

such as Prague, Krakow, Vienna, Budapest and more. Alyea said the total estimated price is \$2,500 per person.

"I am superexcited," Alyea said also speaking from experience as a leader of the group.

In addition to round-trip airfare, total estimated prices include hotel accommodations, local transportation, tours, a number of meals, special attractions and activities, and more. Alyea said other fees may apply and schedules are subject to change, however.

"It's a lot of travel for a very low cost," Figueroa said.

Charnay agreed.

"If you'd be able to go on all

three, what a summer you would have," Charnay said to those considering going on more than one of the trips.

Chiaki Troutman, the WLCC coordinator, said she enjoyed seeing pictures and hearing stories about previous Study Abroad trips.

For more information, call the WLCC at 405-682-1611 ext. 7560, email them at wllcc@occc.edu, and check out their website at <http://www.occc.edu/world> and their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/OCCCWLCC>. Also, visit <http://oklahomastudyabroad.com/index.php> and www.efcollegestudytours.com/.

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

Ralph Gamel Scholarship deadline set for Dec. 9

MICHAEL DENTON

News Writing Student

The deadline for the Jean and Ralph Gamel Scholarship for spring is Dec. 9. It is exclusively for OCCC students.

In May 2006 Jean Gamel died and her husband, Ralph, established a scholarship as a tribute to his wife. To date, the Gamel family has given more than \$100,000 to students, said speech Professor Julie Corff.

"This scholarship changes lives," said Corff, who has been a family friend of Ralph Gamel since she was 8 years old.

The Jean and Ralph Gamel scholarship is \$1,000, which can be put toward tuition, fees, and books.

To be eligible for the scholarship students must meet the following requirements: have a need for financial assistance to attend OCCC, have a minimum grade point average of 2.0, be committed to

completing an associate degree at OCCC, and complete the essay requirement.

The essay is required to be at least 500 words in length, and in it students should cover their educational goals, future career and employment goals, how an education at OCCC will help achieve those goals, any acquired skills, and how the scholarship would help achieve those goals.

To apply, students must return the completed scholarship application with

a copy of their college transcript and the completed essay to the OCCC Foundation Office. Any student who is working toward an associate degree at OCCC is eligible to apply.

A copy of the scholarship application can be found at the OCCC Foundation Office. The application deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9. For more information on the scholarship, contact Jennifer Harrison at 405-682-1611, ext. 7771.