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PIONEER ONLINE

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Volunteer-minded folks should attend the Volunteer Fair Feb. 14. For details on the event, turn to page 10.

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FEBRUARY 10, 2012

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Eye of the beholder



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Rachael Privett, 20, graphics communications major, admires her favorite photo in the OCCC Art Gallery. The Art Gallery, located in the Visual and Performing Arts Center, is exhibiting work from the previous semester's Digital Photography students.

STRENGTHQUEST ASSESSMENT WILL HELP STUDENTS PLAN FUTURE

Workshops draw out strengths

WES CARTER

News Writing Student

There is a solution for students who find themselves in college's biggest quandary: What am I going to do with the rest of my life?

OCCC's Student Life is offering a free seminar that might help answer that question, said Amy Reynolds, first year experience and Student Life programs coordinator.

StrengthQuest, a series of three one-hour workshops, is scheduled at noon on three consecutive Mondays, Feb. 13, 20 and 27. The first meeting will be in room 2F2 in the Arts and Humanities Building, while the last two meetings will be in CU1.

The program is designed to reveal a student's strengths and explain how to maximize those strengths for a better life, Reynolds said. It requires students to take an online test to begin, which they will do at the first meeting.

Some OCCC students have already had an opportunity to take the assessment and discover their strengths.

"I really enjoyed it," said music major Candice Parker. "I didn't have to language to why I do what I do. StrengthQuest gave me that language."

“StrengthQuest is different from other similar programs because it never focuses on your weaknesses.”

—AMY REYNOLDS

STUDENT LIFE PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

StrengthQuest gives students a voice to describe their own personality by evaluating a test used to identify their strengths.

"To start the program, students will show up on day one and take an online assessment to determine their top five personal strengths," Reynolds said. "The assessment doesn't take very long because (with) each question they are trying to get your first response, so there is a timer."

The assessment is similar to personality tests, but it is unique in one important way.

"StrengthQuest is different from other similar programs because it never focuses on your weaknesses," Reynolds said. "It tells your five strengths, but you have no idea what your sixth strength is or what your last place strength is, so it stays positive."

See WORKSHOP page 9

Political groups meet in middle

College Democrats and Republicans find common ground, have like-minded goals

MARY MCATEE

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

With the state presidential primaries coming up in March, political groups are gathering on campus in the name of non-partisanship.

Both Zach Summer, College Republicans president, and Angela Gutierrez, College Democrats president, agree that now is a crucial time for people of different political affiliations to band together for a common cause.

"I think the important thing is we work together this semester," Gutierrez said.

"We live in a really amazing country, and the time for partisan politics is over," Summer said. "We need to work together for the common good."

A recent voter registration drive is not the only event the two groups will do together this semester, he said.

"We're planning a lot of collaboration with the College Democrats," Summer said.

Other activities scheduled for the two groups this semester are a charity fundraiser and laser tagging.

"We want to do a fun activity that doesn't necessarily include politics," Gutierrez said.

The Republicans and Democrats aren't the only political groups assembling on campus.

Brett Horton, Oklahoma City, has been on campus advocating Americans Elect, a non-partisan online nomination process designed to increase the number of candidate choices on the national ballot in November. He said that way, voters have more choices.

"It gives the country a third option for the presidential ballot — whether it's go-

See POLITICS page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says political action committees need regulated better

Free speech right abused by group

The impact of one of the more recent interpretations of the U. S. Constitution's First Amendment is currently being witnessed across the nation in the 2012 presidential primary elections.



CHRIS JAMES

The result of two U.S. Supreme Court rulings has created what have been termed Super PACs this election season.

PAC is an acronym for political action committee.

And, although PACs have existed for quite some time, the difference now is, Congress has lifted some of the regulations that limit the amount of campaign contributions PACs can give.

In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled on the case *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. They decided in favor of *Citizens United* with an opinion that took away the government's power to place limits on how much money a corporation could independently spend for political purposes.

Later in 2010, a federal court of appeals used the ruling in *Citizens United* in the case *Speechnow.org v. Federal Election Commission*.

It lifted limits on individual independent expen-

diture-only contributions. The result is Super PACs.

The Super PACs are still required to list their donors and are not allowed to directly coordinate with a candidate's campaign organization.

Despite that, they are still largely responsible for the barrage of campaign ads invading America's televisions and computers, according to *The Wall Street Journal* report titled, "How Much Are Super PACs Spending?"

It has a listing of Super PACs, which candidate they support or oppose, how much they paid, who it went to, and what it was spent on.

Both rulings extended the protection of the First Amendment to cover campaign contributions as free speech.

I'm of the mindset that free speech is always a good thing but I don't think free speech is the real issue in this situation.

Free speech is simply being used as a sacred American ideal by corporations attempting to have the government influenced through a flow of campaign contributions that the average citizen has no hope of matching.

For the record, corporations are not people.

They are made up of people. No matter how broad a constitutional brush you want to paint with, these are not the same things.

Soon, we will see exactly how an unlimited amount

BALLIARD BILL



JEREMY CLOUD

of campaign support funding from corporations and individuals affects the structure of our political system.

The interests of those wealthy enough to contribute vast amounts to a candidate's campaign will take precedent in a winner-takes-all political system. It is foolish to assume otherwise.

In the end, I suppose it is not too far removed from the age-old practice of sending an army of lobbyists to bombard Capitol Hill into submission.

Instead of being killed quietly in the dark, it seems the American Dream is now being beaten to death in broad daylight.

—CHRIS JAMES
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | College Republicans disagree with recent ruling

Obama administration wrong to force birth control issue

To the Editor:

A recent ruling by the Obama administration would have faith-based organizations paying for birth control for their employees. This is seen as a landmark ruling, but ultimately [puts] the government in a dangerous position.

By forcing religious groups to partake in something they do not agree with — as this resolution most assuredly will — the question has to be asked: where will it end?

Where will the governments veritable

assault on the liberties of groups and people, brought on by both Republicans and Democrats alike, stop?

We will tell you where: when they can trample over any and all who disagree with them.

The actions people take now can set up future generations to make dangerous or immoral decisions, even if the intentions of the originators are good.

Is this the America you want to live in? There is phenomenal strength in diversity of thought.

We might not like people who hold

views and opinions and beliefs different from our own, and we might think of them as hippies, hillbillies, fools, or braggarts, but the fact is, their freedom of thought is what guarantees us ours.

We are not saying the current administration is purposefully doing this; it is most likely that they feel as if they are doing society a great favor, and trying to make a difference is commendable.

However, we feel there is a better way to do this.

The people who work for these religious institutions are under no

obligation to continue their employment, and if the employment numbers recently released by the administration are to be believed, there might not be a better time to find new employment, especially with an organization that doesn't stand opposed to something one might feel strongly about, like reproductive rights.

We applaud the Obama administration for trying to be fair, but this is a swing and a miss.

—OCCC
COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

PIONEER

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|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
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7777 S. May
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

phone:
405-682-1611, ext. 7307

email:
editor@occc.edu

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

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.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Latest 'Underworld' installment adult fare

'Awakening' delivers as urban film

Kicking off the year to a blazing good start, "Underworld: Awakening" continues the story of the vampiress Selene (Kate Beckinsale.)

Released January 20, the movie starts with the revelation of the vampire and lycan races to humans, and the subsequent war and attempted genocide.

Selene and her hybrid lover Michael (Scott Speedman) attempt escape, but the human authorities get the drop on them. Michael is apparently killed and Selene captured. Selene wakes up in a cold storage facility, where it seems she has been the subject of experimentation. She soon escapes, and goes on to prod buttock and wreak havoc on a world where lycans and vampires are endangered species.

Easily the equal of the other three Underworld movies, "Awakening" takes the storyline of the first two, which focused on the hybrid Michael, and the hybridized vampire elder Marcus, in a new direction with the introduction of Eve.

A fast-moving plot combines with stunning special effects to keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

And the effects are pure eye



candy. Whereas in the first three movies, much of the combat is between lycans and vampires and thus a relatively fair fight, "Awakening" allows Selene to open up on humans.

The difference is shocking, violent, and absolutely delicious. The blinding speed and incredible strength available to vampires is showcased and, for perhaps the first time, the audience sees Selene from a human perspective. It's a jolting reminder that oh, yes, Selene is a really dangerous woman.

But the special effects, though spectacular, are almost pushed to the background by the skill of the cast. Everyone in the cast turns in a star performance, from Stephen Rea's creepy, brooding Dr. Jacob Lane, to India Eisley's simultane-

ously heart-warming and spooky Eve.

If there is one bad thing to say about this movie, it's that Scott Speedman sat this one out. The Michael character is this author's personal favorite of the series, and his absence from "Awakening" drew a sigh of disappointment.

But overall, a brilliant cast, stunning effects, and clean plot make "Awakening" one of the best urban fantasy films out today, and definitely worth a look.

Fair warning though: the vampires don't sparkle, and the werewolves don't whine. These are the monsters in the dark, and not for children.

Rating: A

—JEREMY CLOUD
EDITOR

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Coffee chain now has something for everyone's taste

Starbucks' new blonde roast 'mellow'

Starbucks recently re-categorized the roasts of coffee: dark roast, medium roast, and introducing blonde roast.

The blonde roast is Starbucks' lightest coffee roast yet. There are two variations of the blonde roast, Veranda and Willow.

Both variations are light, but the tasting notes are completely different.

Veranda is created from Latin American coffee beans. It is described as soft and mellow, but many flavors are expressed on the palate.

When I tasted the Veranda I got a rush of nutty cocoa flavors. After the rush I tasted a small amount of blossom or a slightly sweet flavor with a touch of a toasted flavor.

I am more surprised at how light the coffee is but possesses such flavor.

Willow, the other blonde roasted coffee, is on the other end of the spectrum by my tastes.

Willow is a multi-region coffee, created from Latin American and East African beans. Willow is described as bright and clean, which I found to be accurate.

As I smelled the Willow I could detect the citrus notes and a bit of sweetness in the coffee. I took the first slurp and the coffee sparkled on my tongue. I tasted lemon and hints of sweetness. The body of the



coffee is a medium acidity.

The Willow has far more character than the Veranda.

The blonde roast coffees are tasty and delicious and can please anyone looking for a light roast coffee.

I enjoy the complexity of the Willow, especially the notes of lemon tangled with a hint of sweetness.

Overall, the introduction of the Blonde Roast coffees by Starbucks is wonderful.

Now there is something for everyone and every mood.

Rating: A+

—EMILY SCHORR
STAFF WRITER

YOU *asked* FOR IT

Q.: How do I get a grade substitution on my transcript

A.: Go to Records (and Admissions), ask for a substitution form, fill it out and you should receive an email informing you if it will go through or not.

—ALYSON STELL
ACADEMIC ADVISER

Q.: Why do the Internet browsers open new windows instead of new tabs?

A.: "If you right click on a link and select 'open as a new tab,' it will open as a new tab... by default, if it doesn't want to replace the Web page, the normal operation is to create a new window. At the time [Internet Explorer] was developed, none of the browsers had tabs."

—JONATHAN OVERHOLT
SQL SERVER ADMINISTRATOR

Q.: [Is there] a mobile app that will allow me to navigate OCCC campus and use a pinpoint, much like Google maps?

A.: An app has been in use for a little over a year that functions much like the Google app most are familiar with. You can find a link to the free OCCC mobile app, available for Android and iPhone, on OCCC home page. It can be used on any 'T' device.

—JOHN RICHARDSON
ONLINE MARKETING COORDINATOR

Q.: [Will the college] get more outlets for ... laptop[s] and other electronics?

A.: If a student is associated with a division, they can ask the dean for the additional outlets. Each division has a dean that is responsible for that area. If they aren't associated with a division they could go to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

—CHRIS SNOW
FACILITIES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Do you have a question you'd like answered about the OCCC campus? Send your question to Editor Jeremy Cloud at editor@occc.edu.

Does your club have an exciting event or meeting coming up? If so, call Robert Bolton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410, or email him at communitywriter@occc.edu.

MOVIE REVIEW | Based on a true story, film portrays lives of photojournalists

'Bang Bang' an intensely political movie

The last years of Apartheid in South Africa was not only amazingly trying on the natives of the land, but also on the photographers as shown in Steven Silver's 2010 true story film, "The Bang Bang Club."

The film focuses on mainly the characters and the drama that comes between them, but the overall point is how they go about capturing phenomenal photos during this extremely dangerous time period from

1948 to 1993 when a system of legal racial separation existed in South Africa.

Neels VanJaarsveld (Joao Silva), Taylor Kitsch (Kevin Carter) and Frank Rautenbach (Ken Oosterbroek) are three young combat photographers who eventually meet up with Greg Marinovich (Ryan Phillippe), and are all bonded by friendship and their sense of purpose to tell the truth.

If you are in the mood for

a suspenseful, risk-taking movie, this one shows how four photographers jeopardized their lives to tell the world of the brutality and violence during this time.

The intensity of the political period brought out their best work which won two of them Pulitzer prizes.

Based on the book of the same name, written by two of the photographers, the film also stars Robin Comley (Ma-

lin Akerman). It explores the thrill, danger and moral questions associated with exposing the truth.

For any journalist, especially photojournalists, this movie is a must see.

It explains that nothing is impossible — no matter what it takes to get the shot, the story, it is all worth it.

Rating: A

—SARAH HUSSAIN
SENIOR WRITER



APP REVIEW | Mac application good but could use improvement

iBooks 2 allows users to create textbooks — with limits

On Thursday, Jan. 9, Apple released iBooks Author, an application to create books for the iBooks 2 app, iTunes U and the iBooks Bookstore. The application is for Mac OS X and is available for free in the Mac App Store.

According to the Apple website, "iBooks Author is an amazing new app that allows anyone to create beautiful Multi-Touch textbooks — and just about any other kind of book — for iPad."

It would appear the target audience for the application would then be educators and self-publishers.

On that, Brian Chen of the New York Times has noted the end-user license agreement reads, in part:

"If you charge a fee for any book or other work you generate using this software (a "Work"), you may only sell or distribute such Work through Apple (e.g., through the iBookstore) and such distribution will be subject to a separate agreement with Apple."

While that bit seems prohibitive, the program has many redeeming features.

To begin, the application has a number of professional-looking templates that allow for a quick start.

These templates mostly look like textbooks, but are highly adaptable and adjustable.

The interface is easily rec-

ognizable for those that have worked with Apple's iWork suite, and the program allows for cross program integration with both Pages and Keynote.

The user experience is much like using word processors in a What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get environment that supports drag-and-drop for images, sound, video and 3D objects.

Those multimedia items are part of a class of document options the program calls widgets.

Other widgets include charts, interactive images, photo galleries, and a method of setting up review material that tests the reader.

Beyond that, the application automatically generates a table of contents for the user. The user may set up glossary terms with definitions and include a brief introductory video to the book.

Publishing the book is just as easy as putting it together. It provides a way of previewing the book on the user's own iPad.

Clicking on the button labeled "publish" brings the user to a save dialogue that will allow one to upload to the iBookstore using iTunes Producer.

The book also can be exported in iBooks format or as a PDF to be distributed personally without charge.

Overall — docking points for



the restrictive license and the fact that to be useful the user must be both a Mac and iPad owner — this is still a phenomenal little program that could

easily be utilized on campus and beyond.

Rating: B-

—MIKE WORMLEY
ONLINE WRITER

**Comments?
Opinions?
Let us know!**
email Jeremy Cloud at
editor@occc.edu,
call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675,
or drop by 1F2 AH

Let your voice be heard!

TOP 20 MOVIES

weekend of Feb. 4 through 6
www.yahoo.com

1. *Chronicles*
2. *The Woman In Black*
3. *The Grey*
4. *Big Miracles*
5. *Underworld: Awakenings*
6. *One for the Money*
7. *Red Tails*
8. *The Descendants*
9. *Man on a Ledge*
10. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*
11. *Contraband*
12. *The Artist*
13. *Beauty and the Beast*
14. *Hugo*
15. *The Iron Lady*
16. *Mission: Impossible: Ghost Protocol*
17. *Joyful Noise*
18. *Haywire*
19. *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked*
20. *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*

Writing workshop to help students excel

Students receive assistance with more than grammar and punctuation

Morgan Beard
Staff Writer
pioneermedia@occc.edu

The Communications Lab will be holding a writing workshop for OCCC students Feb. 27 in room College Union 2.

“Beyond Proofreading” will help students examine issues in writing that delve deeper than just grammar and punctuation, said Rachel Olsen, Communications Lab supervisor.

“We want to help students identify writing needs that are not just about editing,” Olsen said.

“This workshop will help students talk with tutors about writing concerns such as development, organization, rhetorical situations, and research.”

In addition, Olsen said, the workshop will give students a better understanding of the Communications Lab’s methods of tutoring.

“Beyond Proofreading” will consist of a mock tutoring session to display what students will go through when they use the Communications Lab.

Students will also do collaborative work in teams as they go over the various areas of discussion regarding writing improvement.

Jordan Fost, literature major, is one of many students planning on attending the workshop.

“You can never get enough advice on how to become a better writer,” Fost said.

“This workshop sounds like it will be an amazing way for a lot of students to improve in multiple areas, so I’m looking forward to it.”

Olsen said the workshop is the first of its kind on the campus, but is excited for a possible turnout of approximately 20-50 people.

Students will be given the opportunity to learn something new in a fresh way.

“Students who attend will likely understand their own writing needs in a different way,” Olsen said.

“But above all, the workshop will be fun.”

For more information regarding this workshop and any others, contact Communications Lab assistant Nick Webb at 405-682-1611, ext. 7678 or by e-mail at nwebb@occc.edu.



COURTESY KSBITV.COM

Students get chance at redemption

Ryan Hickey
News Writing Student

The college’s Mind Games team will face off against Redlands Community College on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Redlands in OCCC’s first participation since the National Academic Quiz Tournament on Jan. 21.

Mind Games is an academic contest that pits colleges state-wide against one another in a battle of wits.

The game on Tuesday will be a shot at redemption for the OCCC team, who lost in the final rounds to Redlands in the tournament. The OCCC team consists of Alina Lorant, Matthew Leveredge, Richard Lee, Neil White and Mike Wormley.

The winner will be moving on to the next round, said History Professor Jeff Carlisle, who coaches the college’s Mind Games team.

The team that loses will not get another attempt until next semester.

Mind Games can be seen on KSBI television on Wednesday nights, according to KSBI’s website. A game consists of two halves, each lasting 10 minutes. Each side will get an opportunity to answer each question, according to KSBI.

Three contestants from each

side will be competing, while having two backups. Backups come in when one team member may be struggling or at the coach’s choice, Carlisle said.

Questions will consist of collegiate knowledge. Most of the questions will come from topics such as science, history, literature, and current events. There will also be a bonus OG&E energy question at halftime.

In preparation for the competition, the OCCC team participated in the academic quiz tournament at Redlands, placing second out of four colleges.

Tulsa Community College and Connors State also competed in the tournament.

The Feb. 14 matchup will be aired on KSBI television at 8 p.m. Feb. 29.

Regardless of the outcome,

the coach already is looking to the future.

“We will be having tryouts for next year’s team, and a backup team, in a few weeks,” Carlisle said.

He said he will be adding an additional five players to serve as backups in case of late substitution, and to have the two teams practice against one another.

To try out students must be enrolled in six credit hours. Students who participate will get a \$500 tuition waiver, Carlisle said.

The tryout schedule for next semester will be announced in a few weeks, he said. He will be getting word out through other professors and fliers.

For more information, contact Carlisle at jcarlisle@occc.edu.

**Comments? Opinions? Let us
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Cloud**

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**It’s YOUR paper! Tell us what
you want to see**

OCCC 

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ORGANIZATION IS KEY TO BALANCING SCHOOL, PARENTING AND WORK

Parents can attend college and have a job

CASEY R. AKARD

Staff Writer

pioneervideo@occc.edu

Time management has always been a constant pressure that students face while attending college. Research papers, midterms, and homework are the typical scenarios for students.

Add on parenting, full-time work, or a social life to these academic pressures and you have created quite the challenge for what some might consider a “nontraditional student.”

Millions of adults return to college to earn a degree, and the added responsibilities of adulthood compromise any extra social or personal time needed outside of work and school.

Single parent and OCCC nursing student Britney Morrow understands this all too well.

“Last semester I took two online classes. With kids, you have to incorporate your entire schedule around them, so it made it easy to work it all out.”

Morrow says the key to balancing a busy lifestyle is prioritization.

“My family comes first and foremost. So if a kid is sick, homework has to wait. And I can’t neglect my job because that puts food on the table.”

Online classes and on campus daycare have certainly eased the burden on those attending college who have a busy schedule, but a broader set of options are also available to students.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Nursing major, Britney Morrow, 26, studies in the Arts and Humanities lobby on Feb. 2. Morrow is a single mother who juggles work and parenting while attending class at OCCC.

“

“With kids, you have to incorporate your entire schedule around them, so it made it easy to work it all out.”

—BRITNEY MORROW
PARENT AND NURSING STUDENT

Morrow said she appreciates the late hours the professors and learning labs offer.

“Extended office hours help because once I get off work and get the kids, I can still make it up to the campus in time to take care of what I need to,” Mor-

row said. by March 15, 2012 in order to get the best chance at receiving funds.

For more information regarding Student Support Services, the number is 405-682-7520.

row said.

Often students find that there is a sacrifice to be made with their social and personal needs outside of school.

Kylee Jones, a 2011 graduate of OCCC, found that reducing certain luxury expenses required fewer hours she needed to work.

Freed up time meant more opportunities to take classes, study, and learn. And with careful time management, a social life existed as well.

“I’m also very driven, so by prioritizing efficiently it made it possible for me to still work full-time, take college courses, and keep a fun social life.”

She believes that anyone can go to college if they really want to, regardless of circumstances.

“Figure out a good schedule that works for you, and stick to it,” Jones said.

“Being organized and managing stress helps even if your schedule is not very flexible.”

Not everyone is fortunate enough to have the financial resources to attend college.

Even those who rely on financial aid are still seeking a college education with a full-time or part-time job.

Those interested in applying for Financial Aid can apply anytime, but students should complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

National facts about parents in college

- 27 percent of students in college in 2010 had dependents of their own.
- Almost half (12 million) attended two-year community colleges rather than four-year schools.
- Nearly 40 percent of female undergraduates are married and/or have children.
- Only 14 percent of female undergraduates younger than 25 are married and/or have children.
- 73 percent of female undergraduates aged 25 or older are married and/or have children.

www.nces.ed.gov



OCCC CHILD DEVELOPMENT LAB EXPLORES INTERESTS

Children learn from real life experiences

CHRIS JAMES

Pioneer Staff

pioneerphotog@occc.edu

The OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School bases its curriculum around projects that are incorporated into daily classroom activities and lessons.

The projects are inspired by questions the children have about the world around them. For example, when construction began next door on a new parking lot, the kids began asking questions about the construction vehicles.

The questions prompted their teacher, Sandy Pogue, to use their curiosity for teaching various things about construction.

Pogue said the theme carries throughout daily activities like art, science, math, language, literacy, books and music.

The children also have dramatic playtime, which has the children enacting some real life situations like going to the grocery store. Don't forget, these are preschoolers. Additional class projects are based on other interests.

Lisa Jones said her class has been interested in learning about light and shadow since coming back from Christmas break.

They've been working with transparent and opaque objects, light boards, and a shadow room where the children can play with flashlights and look at glow in the dark stars.

Heather Pierce said her class is doing



PHOTOS BY CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

(clockwise) Reagan, 2, Cade, 2, Emmanuel, 2, Jackson, 2, and Jonah, 1, are learning as they play with the water table in Kendra Miller's class on Feb. 3. Miller said her class is learning everything they can about water.

things like painting snowflakes and learning about warm clothes, because they took an interest in winter.

The kids are fascinated with water and its cycles in Kendra Miller's class. She said they have access to a water table and are making things with water bottles.

Constance Pidgeon said the children are learning about bread in her class. The children are baking breads based on recipes brought from home and doing dramatic playtime to enact running a bakery.

In Adrien Wright's OCCC student-

scheduled classroom, the children had questions about what mom and dad were doing at college.

Wright said they are currently learning all about OCCC while looking at campus maps and pictures.

One of the other student-scheduled classes is taught by Julie Wray. She said that in her class, the kids had an interest in rocks. They are doing activities like examining rocks with a magnifying glass and also painting with them.

Once the kids take an interest in

something, Lisa Jones said that the first step in developing a program is finding out what the children already know about the subject of interest.

The second step should be asking the kids what they would like to find out. From there, she said it goes deeper into investigating the subject and learning about it until the children become interested in something else. Then they move on to another project.

Lee Ann Townsend, Child Development Lab supervisor, said the idea of projects being incorporated into all of the daily activities started back in the 1980s. She said the children learn best in this way.

"The research shows if children are learning about things they are interested in and what they already know something about, then the knowledge that they are building is meaningful learning," Townsend said.

"All of our projects are about things the children have already had real life experiences with. Because the infants and toddlers have not had many real life experiences yet, their projects are subjects like water."

OCCC students interested in enrolling their children in student-scheduled classes should contact Barbara Carter at 405-682-1611, ext. 7450.

Spots for children age 6 weeks to age 8 are filled on a first-come, first served basis, and enrollment for a semester opens at the same time as OCCC college courses.



Kate, 4, uses a light board to trace her name Feb. 3. CDCLS instructor Lisa Jones is teaching Kate and her class about light and shadows. Lee Ann Townsend, Child Development Lab supervisor said, "The project approach is the preferred approach to teaching our curriculum, because it focuses on what the children already know."



Bronson, 2, is looking at a map of OCCC with his instructor Adrien Wright, while Emma, 1, looks at a book. Wright's class is learning all about where mom and dad are when they go to school.

SPORTS

SPORTS | OCCC Intramural Season gets under way.

War Child, Lightning dominate court

BRANDON WILLIS

SportsWriter

sportswriter@occc.edu

War Child and Sinagang came out on top in the first week of 5-on-5 Intramural Basketball. War Child defeated You Know 92-69 and the OKC Lightning defeated Sinigang 66-43.

It was evident that it was the first week because you saw a lot of walking and sloppy play due to players being out of shape.

The quality of basketball should improve as the teams gain chemistry and fatigue.

In the first game, Sinigang really struggled on defense.

OKC Lightning was not much better as they only scored 34 points going into the half.

"It was our first time out there playing together," said OKC Lightning power forward Marsean Longmire.

OKC Lightning team captain Brendan Walker dominated the first half scoring 18 points.

After leading 34-15 at half, OKC Lightning never let up in the second half due to a great combo of Walker and Longmire.

"We just went out there and played really hard," Longmire said.

Longmire contributed to the cause by adding 12 points.

Sinagang seemed to gain some chemistry scoring 28 points in the second half but it just wasn't enough as OKC Lightning won 66-43.

In game two, War Child againsts team You Know, the first half was intense as both teams matched each other point for point.

War Child's Antoine Newson really put on a show as he scored with ease throughout the ball game.

War Child's guard Jacques Murray got whatever shot he wanted as he scored 15 points in the first half, and ended with 19.

You Know's guard Marcus Robinson kept it interesting, though, by scoring 12 points in the first half.

You Know's Saajan Patel chimed in with 12 points also as he hit four consecutive three pointers.

Despite You Know's great shooting, War Child took a 49-41 lead going into halftime.



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Brendan Walker from OKC Lightning scores two points against Sinigang in the OCCC intramural 5-on-5 basketball games Feb. 3 in the OCCC gym located in the recreation and fitness center. Feb. 10 is the last day for teams to register for the league.

The second half could not have been worse for You Know as War Child went on an offensive explosion.

The second half belonged to War Child's Antoine Newson.

Newson scored 24 of his eventual 48 points in the second half.

"We played as a team and just made runs," Newson said.

You Know just did not have enough to hang around as they were barraged with three pointers from Newson.

"They were really fast on the break and we just couldn't keep up," You Know's Patel said.

The intramural basketball season,

“ They were really fast on the break and we couldn't keep up”

—SAAJAN PATEL
YOU KNOW GUARD

started Feb. 3 and runs through Feb. 24, said Recreation and Sports specialist Eric Watson.

For more information on the OCCC Intramural 5-on-5 Basketball League, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

To enroll your team in the OCCC Intramural 5-on-5 Basketball League, visit <http://imleagues.com> by the end of the day Feb. 10.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Feb. 10: High School Last Chance Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 15: OCCC Club Basketball Season begins. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 17: OSSAA State Champion Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 25: OCCC Club Soccer Season begins. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Mar. 2: CoRec Intramural Volleyball. 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.



THE PIONEER SPORTS PODCAST
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MORGAN BEARD
AND
BRANDON WILLIS
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WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

Have sports news you wish to share?

Email Brandon at sportswriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676

Politics: Student clubs come together on political issues

Continued from page 1

ing to be an independent, a Republican or a Democrat," Horton said. "It's just a different way of doing things."

The petition needs 90,000 signatures for an American's Elect candidate to get on the general election ballot, he said. As of last week, Horton said, the petition had more than half

the signatures needed. He said American's Elect is trying to counterbalance the weight of the votes cast by early primary states.

"We're trying to get an on-line convention so the entire country can elect a candidate at the exact same time," he said.

Horton, Summer and Gutierrez each has a reason for being involved in politics.

Horton said his is to expand the political field.

"Without this [petition]," Horton said, "the only people guaranteed on the ballot are Republicans and Democrats. This is the only way for an independent to get on the ballot right now."

Summer said he wants to see more voters.

"You can't complain about

what's happening to the country unless you're actively trying to make a difference," he said. "Complaining doesn't solve anything. Getting up and getting your hands dirty does."

Gutierrez agrees.

"It's important for everyone because it effects everyone," she said. "There's always something in politics that affects you, whether you think so or

not. Your vote will count."

For more information on the College Republicans or College Democrats, visit <https://occc-campusgroups.com/>, or their Facebook pages: The College Republicans of Oklahoma City Community College or OCCC College Democrats.

For more information on Americans Elect, visit www.americansselect.org.

Workshop: Students will have chance to learn strengths

Continued from page 1

Once students are aware of their strengths, they return to the seminar a week later to discuss how to explore their strengths.

"The seminar gives personal insight

on why you do what you do," Reynolds said. "It's great for people who don't know what they want to do in life or are asking themselves, 'how do I fit in?'"

The last meeting of the seminar is to discuss how to use personal strengths in business and student life.


During the final day, students learn how their strengths interact with other strengths, and how they can be used to succeed when working with other people, Reynolds said.

For students unable to attend the February meetings, another three-day


StrengthQuest seminar is scheduled for April.

For more information, contact Reynolds at areynolds@occc.edu or by phone at 405-682-1611 ext. 7523.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Democracy at work



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Jan Smallwood, from the Americans Elect organization, answers questions for sociology major Cari Knight about petitions for better ballot access on Jan. 31. Smallwood said for a nominee to run for president out of Oklahoma, a petition of 53,000 signatures is required.

COMMUNITY | Volunteering is a way to show love of the community

Opportunities to volunteer open

ROBERT BOLTON

Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Building a house for the homeless or providing food for the hungry are just two of the community

services students can sign up for at the volunteer fair.

The volunteer fair will run from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm on Feb. 14 in the General Dining Area and will have 25 organizations available to choose from.

Students will be given the opportunity to help different organizations around the Oklahoma City area such as The Salvation Army, the United Way, the March of Dimes, and the City Rescue Mission.

Both mechanical engineering major Rodolfo Monsivais and music major Lorrie Cobart are in the Civic Honors program and said they enjoy performing community service.

"I think it's something that everybody should participate in, because we're all helping each other in some capacity anyway," Cobart said.

"It only takes a small amount of your time," he said.

Monsivais said he likes to think of the people who he is helping by donating his time.

"I feel that I am contributing and having a part,

“

We want to use this as an opportunity for people to express their love of the community,”

—ERIN LOGAN

STUDENT LIFE DIRECTOR

and somehow blessing their lives with my service,” he said.

Student Life said they wish for people to get involved in the community, and hope the fair will inspire people.

"We want to use this as an opportunity for people to express their love of the community," said Student Life Director Erin Logan.

"We really excited about it and I'm hoping we can connect a lot of students with resources that they may need or they may want to help with," she said.

Students who are taking place in the civics honors program may find this particularly interesting, as time spent in donation to the organizations present will count towards the required hours for the civic honors program.

The program requires 50 hours of service through the school's sources, which will be available to speak with during the volunteer fair.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Black History Month buttons

The Black Student Association is handing out buttons for Black History Month in the Main Building outside of the Communications Lab in the month of February. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Personal Strengths to be explored.

OCCC will host Strengths Quest seminars at noon during the last three Mondays in February. The Strength Finder Assessment is on Feb. 13 in Room 2F2 of the Arts and Humanities Building, and is required to attend the other two seminars. "Exploring Your Strengths" is on Feb. 20 in CU1, and "Implementing Your Strengths" is on Feb. 27 in CU1.

Christians on Campus Bible study

Christians on Campus is hosting Bible study at noon on Monday, Feb. 13, in room 2R7 in the Main Building. For more information, send a text to James Kennedy at 405-314-7739.

Volunteer Fair: Show your love for people

Student Life is hosting a volunteer fair from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in the General Dining area. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Brown Bag: Cake Decorating

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15 in CU1. The discussion is "Cake Decorating." Bring your own lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Blood Drive on campus

The Oklahoma Blood Institute is hosting a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 15 and 16 in the General Dining area.

Service Day: Christmas Connection

Student Life is holding a service day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18. The event will be in the offices of Student Life located on the first floor of the Main Building. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Brown Bag: Eating Disorders

Student Life is hosting a workshop at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 22 in CU1. The discussion is "Eating Disorders." Bring your lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue.

**Email your event to
communitywriter@occc.edu.**

For more information about the Volunteer fair, the Civic Honors program, or where to go to volunteer, call Student Life at 682-7523, or visit the civic honors website at www.occc.edu/studentLife/CivicHonors.html.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1993 GMC Conversion Van. Explorer Phantom Hightop. V8, television, DVD, new tires. Clean. \$2995. Call: 405-818-5827 or e-mail lori.a.colbart@occc.edu.

FOR SALE: 2008 Dodge Avenger. Black. Fully-automatic. \$8000. Call: 405-512-3540 for more information.

ELECTRONICS

STUDENT LOOKING FOR A LAPTOP TO PURCHASE: Need a good, used, and reasonably priced MacBook Pro. Please contact me at: whiticu21@aol.com.

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

Trees

Find and circle all of the Trees that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Greek Proverb.

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I I D T T E E T S C Y T G L U R O P H
W S R O G U R R A P U E E A T T I H S
W H B C O E N T T L R Z N L T N O E A
P L A I H W A L I R A U O D E M N M Y
O E L R N L X P E H E N C H R P A L R
P L D P P H T O H Z D B C E N A C O R
L N C A T R I C B O A E B T U T E C E
A C Y A E N T C N R E H E U T R P K H
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O D R P W B L D O O W N O T T O C F R
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| APPLE | CEDAR | LINDEN | POPLAR |
| APRICOT | CHERRY | LONDON PLANE | REDBUD |
| ASH | CHESTNUT | MAPLE | RUBBER TREE |
| ASPEN | COTTONWOOD | NECTARINE | SEQUOIA |
| ARBORVITAE | ELM | OAK | SPRUCE |
| BALD CYPRESS | FIR | PALM | SYCAMORE |
| BEECH | GINKGO | PEACH | TULIPTREE |
| BIRCH | GOLDENRAIN | PEAR | WALNUT |
| BOXWOOD | HAZELNUT | PECAN | WITCHHAZEL |
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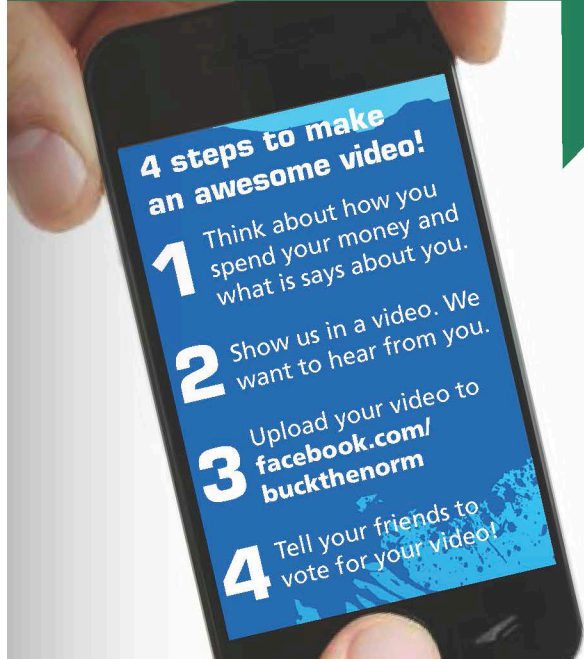
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