Guitar Man

Senior Communications Lab Assistant Brandon Isaak plays his guitar outside of the Arts and Humanities division office during a break. Isaak has been playing for 15 years and currently sings with the local band The Night Cart. More information on the band can be found at www.thenightcart.com.

Editorial: Donating Blood Is Rewarding

Community Writer Robert Bolton says more people need to suck it up and donate blood. Read his thoughts and get the facts inside.

Opinion, p. 2

Sports

College Hosts Swim, Dive Meet

OCCC is hosting the Mountain West Swim and Dive Conference. The meet has been at OCCC for more than a decade. Turn inside for more.

Sports, p. 8

Campus Life

Students Put Icing on the Cake

Student Life held a Brown Bag meeting where students were able to learn about basic cake decorating. For pictures of the day, turn inside.

News, p. 6

Student Employment Fair Set for March 7

EMILY SCHORR
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

OCCC is opening its doors to the employment world from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, in the College Union when Student Employment and Career Services hosts a job fair open to students, alumni, and the general public.

Kevin Fink, Employment Services coordinator, said 70 employers will be on campus, including Apple Inc., Dell Inc., Halliburton Energy Services, Frito-Lay Inc., UPS, and many more.

Those employers will be set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the general dining area of the College Union.

Fink said 30 health employers, including Norman Regional Health System, Stillwater Medical Center, EMSA, and Integris Health will be on hand from noon to 6 p.m. in CU 1 and 2.

Students should dress professionally if they want to make a positive impression with on-campus recruiters.

—KEVIN FINK
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Dressing for success is the key to making a good impression on potential employers, Fink said.

"Attendees should dress professionally if they want to make a positive impression with on-campus recruiters," he said.

It’s not just about looking the part, Fink said. Potential employees should not arrive empty handed.

"A person should prepare as if they might be interviewed the day of the fair. [This] means they should dress professionally, bring multiple copies of their résumé, business cards if they have them, and a great attitude," Fink said.

Attendees should dress professionally if they want to make a positive impression with on-campus recruiters.

"Students often don’t realize that because at OCCC you can enroll clear up to the first week of classes," Little said.

Little said OU accepts admissions for fall up to March 1, and UCO up to April 1.

"Students looking to transfer to another college this fall need to get moving, said Linda Little, Transfer and Academic Advisement coordinator. In order to transfer, she said, students have to be enrolled at the college they will be transferring to. 

"[University of Oklahoma] and [the University of Central Oklahoma] have very early admissions deadlines," Little said.

She said OU accepts admissions for fall up to March 1, and UCO up to April 1. "Students often don’t realize that because at OCCC you can enroll clear up to the first week of classes," Little said.

Little said OU and UCO’s class enrollment cutoff is much earlier.

Little said another issue transfer students may run into is credit equivalency. While the credit hours may transfer, the classes they represent may not.

For instance, she said, while OCCC has articulation agreements — an understanding that nearly all general education classes will be accepted — with UCO and OU, those agreements only apply to general education classes.

"There’s a misconception sometimes that because we have agreements with OU and UCO that everything automatically transfers and not only transfer, but everything applies to the degree," Little said. "And there’s just no way we can guarantee that. Schools are much more complex than that in what they require."

She said major specific coursework could be completely different from one institution to another, leaving students stuck retaking classes at their new college.

"To prevent this, Little said, she recommends students meet with an adviser before they apply to any college or before they make a plan to attend a four-year college later this year."

See FAIR page 9

See TRANSFER page 9
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says healthy people over the age of 18 should consider donate blood, save three lives

Think of the most valuable thing you have. Money, a car or some other expensive item may come to mind. However, one of the most valuable things everyone has is blood.

Somebody could die from the lack of it or, if something gets into it, people get sick.

Thousands of people are in need of blood every day. Last year, St. Anthony Hospital alone used 10,150 units of blood.

Transfusion Service Supervisor Cathleen Blankenship said it’s important that people donate.

“Earlier today, we had to give a type A patient type O platelets, because we don’t have compatible platelets,” she said.

Anyone can receive type O negative blood, according to the Oklahoma Blood Institute website www.obi.com.

In addition, it’s very important that people donate whenever they can, as one unit of blood can save three or more people.

How is that possible? According to the Oklahoma Blood Institute, blood is separated into its base components to help several people at once. Blood is separated into platelets, plasma and red blood cells.

The problem is that blood is very time sensitive. Platelets must be used within five days, red blood cells must be used within 42 days, while plasma can be stored for up to a year.

Another problem that arises is that some people are afraid they might catch diseases from the equipment such as the needles or bags. All needles and bags used by the blood institute have never been used before.

All products are bought, removed from the package at the time of donation, then disposed of entirely through biohazard containment.

Anyone older than 16 can donate, but they have to weigh at least 125 pounds and be healthy, so you can’t be a stick if you want to save lives.

It’s all used, but blood banks still need more. This is where donation drives come in.

The campus does two donations per semester normally, and has one during the summer. It’s important to donate when able, so lives can be saved.

“It’s critical that young people donate because they are generally the healthiest and they recover the fastest,” Blankenship said.

There was a campus blood drive a week ago. If you missed it and you still want to donate to save lives, you can go to any Oklahoma Blood Institute donation center.

The next blood drive will be held April 18 in the greater dining area in the Main Building.

—ROBERT BOLTON
COMMUNITY WRITER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR | Letter writers ponder OCCC’s stance on tobacco and guns on campus laws

Are smoking laws enforced?

To the Editor:

Every single day I sit in class in the VPAC building, and out the window, I see students go behind the red metal displayboard behind the Arts and Humanities building to take a smoke break.

If it were one smoker, I would think nothing of a student being misinformed to OCCC’s new non-smoking policy on campus. However, Monday through Friday it’s student after student going behind the display to get their nicotine fix.

I am curious as to how much money OCCC has pumped into promoting the policy through advertisements, signs, and classes that the school is now “smoke free.” It’s simply mind boggling to have a policy with an on-campus police force only to have the policy never enforced in the first place.

Since the school is in the habit of wasting money, maybe they should give some of the money back to students, faculty, and staff instead of enacting or promoting policies onto students, faculty, and staff only so they can have a clear conscience about promoting healthy living to outside media and interests.

—NAME WITHHOLD BY REQUEST

Don’t allow guns on campus

This is a joint statement from the OCCC College Republicans and the OCCC College Democrats stating our opposition to any legislation that would allow firearms on Oklahoma’s campuses in the hands of people other than security professionals.

The College Democrats and the College Republicans have voted unanimously to oppose any and all carry on campus legislation brought before the Oklahoma State Legislature this legislative session.

These two campus clubs have joined together because any legislation that would allow firearms to be brought into an institution of higher learning, where

the free exchange of ideas should be safe and often, is dangerous and potentially deadly. We urge any and all legislators considering a vote on this measure to consider the safety and well being of all Oklahoma’s students and to consider the requests of a majority of security professionals and educational professionals for a no vote on these measure.

We also urge all students to contact their legislators, whether for or against these measures, and voice their opinions.

—COLLEGE DEMOCRATS
PRESIDENT ANGELA GUTIERREZ
AND COLLEGE REPUBLICANS
PRESIDENT ZACH SUMNER

BALLIARD BILL

Hey, kid... wanna buy a politician?

Talk to your kids about politics... before someone else does.

JEREMY CLOUD

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PIONEER

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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.

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Iran war would create U.S. setback

To the Editor:
The possibility of war with Iran has never been greater. Daily there are new provocations, and at each step, the threat of hostilities escalates.

A third U.S. aircraft carrier has passed the Straits of Hormuz and entered the Persian Gulf. There have been attempts on the lives of Israeli diplomats. Iran nuclear scientists have been the victims of what could be covert operations on the part of the Israelis.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said the Israelis might attack Iran’s nuclear facilities between April and June. A conflict with Iran would be disastrous for the world. Deprived of a significant source of oil and shocked by the sudden surge in energy costs, the still-teetering economies of the world would be dragged back into the sullen twilight of a new Great Recession. All the work and wealth that has been poured into reviving depressed markets would be negated.

From its stronghold in Lebanon, Hezbollah would rain fire on the Middle East. U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan and the diplomatic corps in Iraq would be threatened or engaged directly. Our ostensible allies, the Gulf States, could come under fire from Iranian missiles.

Worst of all, Iranians citizens who wish us no harm would find themselves in the terrifying gaze of the world’s only superpower. How many thousands of innocents would die?

We must fight for peace because the alternative is too terrible to contemplate. A war with Iran is one we cannot afford, nor one we should wage.

—Jesse Dean
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Writer says Republican views ‘flawed’

To the Editor:
I must strongly disagree with the College Republicans for slamming Obama for enforcing the right of Americans to have access to medical care, including birth control.

The arguments in their letter are flawed and demeaning. Let me count the ways.

Obama “forced” the faith-based organizations to follow the law of the land. Any organization on our soil with the legal limit of employees must provide benefits, including health care. What is considered an “assault” is ludicrous.

Would it be an assault to enforce pollution controls? Traffic codes? What about labor laws?

I’m sure no one wants to go back to those good old days of the overpriced company store or unpaid mandatory overtime or disbANDING OSHA.

To be fair, the organizations in question are merely being held to provide a freedom of choice.

Insurance claimants should have the right to make that choice, especially if they pay for it. It is an individual’s right to accept or decline a service or procedure, including birth control — not a church or organization, as hard as that may be to swallow.

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POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Healthcare access just another right Americans should have

To the Editor:
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—Jesse Dean
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Test-taking fear can be overcome with correct steps

“Mistakes are the portals of discovery.” James Joyce (1882-1941)

Part of what helps us grow and become the most that we can be is the ability to make choices and take risks, even though some of those choices may turn out to be mistakes.

Fear can be an important emotion in that it keeps us safe, but too much fear, especially in situations where the outcome will not be fatal, shuts us down and stunts our growth.

In the classroom, this fear of making a mistake often forces us to take the path of least resistance. We might sit in class wishing that we could ask a question or challenge assumptions and let our thinking soar to new heights, but we don’t. We can’t. We’re afraid of being wrong. We’re afraid of making a mistake.

The same is true when it comes to taking tests. Even though life itself is a test, and every day we call upon all that we know and all that we are in order to competently make it through our daily tasks, the idea of “taking a test” for academic purposes unnerves some people.

A test is simply an opportunity to demonstrate what you know and can do at a given time. While tests can be important, their outcomes are not so much that we should shut down at the prospect of taking one.

Test-taking is a skill, and as with all skills, can be improved upon. Going to class, doing homework, actively participating, and practicing answering test questions are all activities that can help improve test performance. Another activity that is often neglected is to review the items that were missed and figure out why they were missed. Not having a clue about the information indicates that there may be a study and/or time management issue that must be addressed.

Knowing the answer, but not allowing one’s self to choose it indicates a test-taking or confidence issue. All of these can be corrected, but only if you are aware and take steps to do something about them.

We all make mistakes. The trick is to make them work for you. If you need help learning how, come down the back hallway and visit with one of us in Student Support Services.

—Mary Turner
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST
Nintendo scores with latest game ‘Rhythm Heaven Fever’

What do baby seals, colorful birds, monkeys, and golf clubs have in common? Normally, nothing. However, Nintendo's newest U.S. game release, “Rhythm Heaven Fever,” brings all of these rather odd things together in a big way.

The game is largely centered around music or rather, the beat of the music. The game name suddenly makes sense, no?

The game itself is bright and cheerful and really makes you concentrate on your rhythm.

I found the game to be incredibly fun. My girlfriend was even interested in watching me play.

The game itself is deceptively easy. Press a button—maybe two buttons if you’re lucky.

But it’s a lot harder than the button layout suggests.

The games get more and more challenging the farther you go, to the point that if you make three mistakes, you fail the challenge entirely.

That being said, even with the greater difficulty, the reward is much more satisfying just because of the little scenes telling you how well you’ve done. Overall, there are 50 games that you can earn medals on and those are just the main ones.

Medals are like currency in the game, and having more unlocks the chance to do perfect challenges, as well as other games such as endless games and rhythm toys.

After a certain point, you unlock two-player mode, which while it doesn’t involve all 50 games, it does have a lot of them.

Overall, the game is an absolute blast and is worth the money spent. You should take your time to enjoy the game, as it’s one of those games that if you go through it in one sitting, it will only last a day.

On the brighter side, that one day could be stretched out to weeks depending on if you manage to nail the games in one go each time, which I doubt is possible, save for those who have an extremely good sense of timing.

Rhythm Heaven Fever costs $29.99, and is worth every red cent.

You don’t even need to be playing to be entertained by the game. It’s just as fun to watch as it is to play, and the box even says that.

Rating: A+
—ROBERT BOLTON
COMMUNITY WRITER

Strong plot makes ‘Chronicle’ great adult fare


The movie starts off by introducing the audience to Andrew Detmer (Dane DeHaan) a quiet teenager who appears to suffer from depression who has decided to record his day-to-day life on a professional camera.

It’s rapidly shown that Andrew is one of those kids who gets bullied or ignored in equal measure every day. His only connection to kids his age is his cousin Matt Garetty (Alex Russell.)

In an effort to draw his cousin out, Matt invites Andrew to a party in an abandoned barn in the woods. When Andrew wanders away after being bullied, things get weird. Matt’s has found a sinkhole in the woods and wants Andrew to document it with his camera.

Accompanying Matt and the young man, Steve Montgomery (Michael B. Jordan,) Andrew’s camera records scattered footage of some alien thing interacting with the boys, before failing.

Two weeks and a new camera purchase later, Andrew demonstrates his newfound telekinesis for the camera, a trait it seems all three have gained.

From there, the movie goes on to explore how three normal teens would react and interact while possessing superpowers.

The plot, though strong, is a bit slow. But the powerful performances by the entire cast more than make up for it.

Aside from the camera-goes-fuzzy effects used when the boys gain their abilities, the special effects are excellent. At no point does it seem unreasonable for the boys to have or use their powers and, in many cases, the most astounding thing is made to seem natural.

Fans of found footage films will revel in the rich variety of cameras styles, angles and qualities used to show the boys’ actions.

Everything from cell-phones to security cameras gets into the film at some point. One of the recurring characters is actually a vlogger and her recorded interactions with Matt add another dimension to his character.

On the other hand, fans of superhero movies will find much to enjoy as the boys develop and strengthen their abilities, and find new ways to use them.

Overall, “Chronicle” is a stylish found-footage film, with a strong plot and a heart-wrenching end. A definite must see, with a caveat: take your children at your own risk. The violence isn’t cartoonish and lacks the stylized flair of most superhero films. It looks real.

Rating: A+
—JEREMY CLOUD
EDITOR
Those worried about making a fashion faux-pas at their job interview have the chance to attend a lecture that will cover the do's and don'ts of dressing up.

The Brown Bag Series will host a "Professional Dress" event at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 in CU1, said Amy Reynolds, assistant director of Student Life.

"It's very important for students to attend, especially students going into the job market," Reynolds said.

The purpose of the event is for students "to learn what's appropriate for interview attire" and what fashions are appropriate in the workplace, Reynolds said.

Reynolds said students will have the opportunity to get practical advice from people who have recently been in a similar situation.

"We're going to have one male and one female presenter," Reynolds said. "They'll be faculty or staff members who have recently gone through the interview process."

The presenters will have an opportunity to share their experience on dressing for an interview.

Reynolds felt it was important for students to have the opportunity to speak to people, instead of having to rely solely on media to make a wardrobe decision.

"Instead of looking through a catalog, or looking up an article on what's appropriate and what's not appropriate, they can have someone there to ask questions," Reynolds said.

For more information about the Professional Dress event, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523, or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife.
Student helps make some sweet treats

CHRIS JAMES
Photographer
pioneerphotog@occc.edu

Student Life student programs leader, Diana Rivera demonstrated various cake decorating techniques at a Student Life sponsored Brown Bag lunch event held on campus Feb. 15. “Wow. I didn’t expect this many people,” Rivera said of the event turnout which included more than a dozen students, faculty, and staff members.

GED teacher Suzanne Moore was among them. “We come to most of the Brown Bags,” Moore said.

“Fun, hands-on, and sugar. Makes life good.” Rivera used cupcakes to show fellow students how to use a pastry bag filled with icing to make star and flower decorations.

At the end of the hour-long event, some students got cupcakes to practice on.

“I wanted to learn how to decorate cupcakes,” said Mary Kerbo, GED student.

Rivera said Student Life asked her to host the event after she took cake decorating courses at Michael’s Arts and Crafts store last year.

She said she had taken a total of three cake decorating courses before hosting the Brown Bag.

The courses she took consisted of four two-hour classes called Decorating Basics, Flowers and Cake Design, and Fun with Gum Paste and Fondant.

“It’s good to have something fun to try out,” Rivera said.

In addition to equipment and technique demonstrations, Rivera also shared baking advice and a recipe for buttercream icing.

“I learned quite a bit,” said Magdalena Morales, premed major.

For more information about attending or planning a Brown Bag Lunch events or for a complete schedule of upcoming Brown Bag events, contact the office of Student Life at 405-682-7523 or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife.

Mary Kerbo, GED student, and Diana Rivera, Student Life student programs leader, critique Kerbo’s cupcake at the cake decorating Brown Bag, Wednesday, Feb. 15.

To view more photos of this Brown Bag event, visit www.facebook.com/Pioneer.
From Morocco to Oklahoma: Student leaves home in search of education

SARAH HUSSAIN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Seddik Halabi, 33, moved from his home in Morocco to Oklahoma in 2001.

“I chose Oklahoma after doing extensive research on the cost of living and schooling,” Halabi said. Halabi first majored in management information studies at the University of Central Oklahoma.

“I didn’t like dealing with the cost and classes there [at UCO],” Halabi said. So he transferred to OCCC.

“People care about you as an individual here,” he said. Once Halabi transferred to OCCC, he did research on the major that would provide him a decent salary and good job security after graduation.

“I became a petroleum engineering major,” Halabi said. According to Halabi, OCCC’s Engineering Club and Student Life have scheduled speakers in the past who have spoken on campus about his field of study.

“They help out because I know what I’m fixing to face [when I transfer],” Halabi said.

Halabi plans on graduating from OCCC in December.

He said he will continue his education at the University of Oklahoma. Halabi said the one thing he misses from back home in Morocco is his family.

“In Morocco, love is a day to day thing. People are genuine about others,” Halabi said.

He said he has hopes to eventually move back to Morocco, but is unsure if it will happen. “I have an American wife and her family here,” Halabi said.

“You can always find people who respect you for you.”

Morocco —

Capital: Rabat
Population: 32,309,239
GDP: $163,000,000,000 (USD)
Size: 277,473 sq. miles
National Languages: Arabic and French
Currency: Dirhams
Government: Constitutional Monarchy
Religions: Christian, Muslim, Jewish
Festivals: Marathon des Sables (The Sand Marathon)

The Sand Marathon covers 151 miles and is run over 6 days. Set in the Moroccan desert, around 600 competitors from 30 countries take part every year.

History: In 788, a series of Moroccan Muslim dynasties began to rule in Morocco. In the 16th century, the Sa’adi monarchy repelled foreign invaders and inaugurated a golden age. The Alaouite dynasty, to which the current Moroccan royal family belongs, dates from the 17th century.

In 1860, Spain occupied northern Morocco and ushered in a half century of trade that saw Morocco’s sovereignty steadily erode; in 1912, the French imposed a protectorate over the country. An independence struggle with France ended successfully in 1956. Sultan MOHAMMED V, organized the new state as a constitutional monarchy and in 1957 assumed the title of king.

Gradual political reforms in the 1990s resulted in the establishment of a bicameral legislature, which first met in 1997. Under King MOHAMMED VI - who succeeded his father to the throne - human rights have improved. Morocco enjoys a moderately free press, but the government has taken action against journalists who they perceive to be challenging the monarchy, Islam, and the status of Western Sahara.

A commission set up in March 2011 presented a draft constitution that was passed by popular referendum in July 2011. Under the new constitution, some new powers were extended to parliament and the prime minister, but ultimate authority remained in the hands of the monarch.

*source: www.cia.gov
**SPORTS**

**UPCOMING INTRAMURAL EVENTS**

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

**Feb 29:** Intramural Volleyball Meeting at noon. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**March 1:** NAIA National Championship Swim Meet. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**March 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.

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**SPORTS | Mountain West Conference swimming and diving meet to take place at OCCC Aquatic Center**

*BRANDON WILLIS*

SportsWriter
sportswriter@occc.edu

The Mountain West Conference Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships will take place Feb. 22 through 25 at the OCCC Aquatic Center. The first event will begin at 12:30 p.m.

For more than a decade now, OCCC has hosted the Mountain West Conference Swimming and Diving Championships. The Aquatic Center takes a lot of pride in being involved in the event, OCCC Director of Recreation and Fitness Roxanna Butler said.

“It is an honor to bring such a prestigious event to Oklahoma City,” she said. “One more opportunity to showcase our amazing natatorium,” she said.

Each year the MWC staff, coaches, athletes and spectators comment about the wonderful hospitality they receive in Oklahoma. Everyone is friendly, and goes out of the way to make them feel at home.

The number one ranked team in the conference is San Diego State with a 16-0 overall record. Not far behind is the Air Force, at 15-2 overall. Other teams still fighting for the number two slot are Boise State, 9-2 and also Wyoming 11-4.

“The Conference has always been pleased with the facility improvement we have made over the previous years,” Butler said.

“They are always looking for the latest technology and want the best for their athletes.”

The Mountain West Swimming and Diving meet in Oklahoma City also creates a homecoming for two local swimmers. Boise State freshmen Megan Myers hails from Broken Arrow, and graduated from Tulsa Union High School. Myers, a business major, had a prestigious career at Tulsa Union as a threetime state champion in the 500 freestyle and a five-time OSSAA 6A state champion, according to broncosports.com.

Texas Christian University junior Parris Schoppa is one of the more decorated swimmers in Oklahoma history. While at Putnam City North High School, Schoppa broke the Metro Conference record for 50-meter freestyle, according to gofrogs.com. In 2009, Schoppa won the Oklahoma State Championship and was voted Oklahoma High School Swimmer of the Year. Schoppa is a fashion merchandising major who has helped her TCU team to a 13-6 overall record, according to gofrogs.com.

The Mountain West Conference could have chosen other locations in the country to host their swim meet but they specifically chose OCCC, and Roxanna Butler said she believes she knows why.

“The Conference likes the facility,” she said. “But the positive attitude, dedication and commitment of the OCCC staff to see that all their needs are met help them feel confident that each meet will be successful. “It is these relationships that make the conference staff and coaches want to return to see their old friends.”
Leadership Council recruits for President’s class

WES CARTER
News Writing Student

The Leadership Council, OCCC’s representative student body organization, heard a recruiting speech for President Paul Sechrist’s fall leadership class at its first meeting of the semester in January.

The council, under the student leadership of Chairman Chris Hanna, met to introduce members, discuss an executive board opening, and inform people about applying for the President’s Leadership Class.

In a quest to develop more polished student leaders, OCCC is offering the President’s Leadership Class once again, after a successful run last fall, said Erin Logan, director of student relations.

The leadership-focused one-credit-hour class offers students a chance to learn about different styles of leadership, enhance their critical thinking skills and get an iPad without paying $500.

“Do the class,” said Hanna, one of last year’s participants. “You meet leaders from the school and community, and you learn how other people think and how to communicate based off that information.”

To be clear, it takes more than a trip to registration to take the class. Students interested in the class must have completed 15 credit hours at OCCC in 1000 level courses or higher and English 1113 by May 11. Also, students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average from the application date through the first day of the fall semester, according to the President’s Leadership Class flyer.

Class requirements don’t end once a student has been accepted.

If a student is selected, he or she must be enrolled in a minimum of eight credit hours during the fall 2012 semester and plan on graduating from OCCC.

However, the student doesn’t have to graduate in December, said Marion Paden, Enrollment and Student Services vice president.

Although the class may have some rigorous requirements, there are perks.

Outside of learning about leadership and networking with many local leaders, the class will allow participants full in-state tuition and fees for up to eight credit hours at OCCC next fall, a $200 book stipend for the fall semester and an iPad that will contain the class textbook.

After successfully completing the course, students will receive full in-state tuition and fees for up to six credit hours in the spring semester and another $200 book stipend in the spring, according to the flyer.

TLC is comprised of a representative from each OCCC student organization, two at-large student representatives, an executive board of students and two staff positions, which are filled by Paden and Logan.

TLC was formed to cultivate the open line of communication between administration and students, Logan said. The council brings student leaders together to discuss upcoming events and current issues that students are facing.

For more information on TLC, students can go to the Student Life offices.

To apply for the President’s Leadership Class, students must complete the process and email the paperwork to Logan at elogan@occc.edu by 5 p.m. March 9.

Transfer: Transferring to a four-year college starts now

Continued from page 1

from his or her chosen school to make sure the classes taken will help transfer. “Students are too passive. This is your education, your degree. You need to be asking questions, not just with OCCC, but with the school you’re transferring to,” Little said.

Little said students also should begin checking into colleges to transfer to as soon as they choose a major.

For more information about transferring to another institution, go to www.occc.edu/transfercenter or contact Little at llittle@occc.edu.

Fair: OCCC commits to helping students find jobs

Continued from page 1

they have them, a pad of paper for notes, and a pen.”

Fink said some recruiters will likely have laptops set up for students to apply online at the time of the fair.

The idea behind the job fair is to maintain positive relationships with employers in the metro and surrounding areas, he said.

Carol Jones, nursing major, said she said she likes that OCCC hosts the event.

“I went to a previous job fair and enjoyed walking around and talking to everyone.”

Fink said Employment Services helps students year-round, not just at the annual job fair.

OCCC can continue to assist students and alumni in finding employment opportunities during their school years and beyond, he said.

“It is important to our department that we help each student prepare for their job search, whether that be résumé-development, helping a student prepare for an interview, or connecting students with resources to find employers,” Fink said.

For more information, contact Student Employment and Career Services at 405-682-7519.
Bleeding for the cause

Business major Ruben Garcia, 19, donates two units of red blood cells at the OCCC Blood Drive on Feb. 15. The machine removes red cells specifically, and puts back the plasma and platelets. Every donation of blood can save up to three lives, and is mostly separated into parts: red cells, platelets, and plasma.

COMMUNITY | Student Life schedules opportunities to work with others

Service learning days offered

EMILY SCHORR
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

Whether it's helping the homeless, the hungry or the helpless, OCCC is not a stranger to serving the community. The college is proud to have the ability to give back to the public, especially by getting students involved.

Student Life offers a program called Service Learning. The program schedules at least eight service days in a semester, said Amy Reynolds, assistant director of Student Life. During a Service Learning trip, transportation, snacks, meals and beverages are provided by OCCC.

Erin Peden, journalism major, said, she enjoys giving back to the community. Peden said she volunteers for the Regional Food Bank, Birthdays Made With Love and Meals On Wheels.

Up and coming are three service days for the spring semester. From 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on March 9, brings opportunity for students to help homeless individuals at the City Rescue Mission. Students will assist with various projects benefiting the homeless. Candice Parker, music major, said, "The food bank is my favorite place to volunteer."

Parker said she has friends and family who have benefitted from the food bank. "Some of my friends and family members literally would not be able to eat if it wasn't for the Regional Food Bank," Parker said. "That's why I believe in what they do."

Students are encouraged to register and participate in as many functions offered during the semester as possible.

To register for any of these service days along with others visit www.occc.edu/studentlife/serviceday.html. For all Service Learning adventures students will meet in Student Life office in the Main Building.

"The food bank is my favorite place to volunteer" — Candice Parker

Service Learning Volunteer

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 continue to host the Strengths Quest seminar at noon during the last Monday in February. "Implementing Your Strengths" is on Feb. 27 in CU1.

Christians on Campus bible study

Christians on Campus is hosting a Bible study session on Monday, Feb. 27 from noon to 12:45 p.m., and on Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in room 2P7. The topic for study is the book of Romans. For more information, contact James Kennedy at 405-314-7739.

Brown Bag: Professional Dress

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28, in CU1. The discussion is "Professional Dress." Bring your lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Student Org Leadership Series

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on March 1, in CU3. The series provides help to clubs in strengthening their organization. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Service days offered

Student Life will be hosting several service opportunity days in the month of March. March 2 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. will be Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children. March 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will be the Regional Food Bank, and March 9 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. will be the City Rescue Mission. All meet in the offices of Student Life. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Brown Bag: Smart Credit

Student Life is hosting a workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, in CU1. The discussion topic is "Smart Credit." Bring your lunch. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Beer Goggles Obstacle Maze

Student Life is hosting an obstacle course from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, March 12, in CU1. The maze will simulate the impairment effects of alcohol on vision. 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.
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 SALE:** 1993 GMC Conversion Van. Explorer Phantom High-top. V8, television, DVD, new tires. Clean. $2995. Call: 405-818-5827 or e-mail lori.a.colbart@occc.edu.


**FOR RENT:** 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.

**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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www.occc.edu/pioneer
THE MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE TO TAKE THE STAGE FEB. 28 IN BRUCE OWEN THEATER

Tickets now on sale for college play ‘Doubt’

HAYLEY STEVENS AND MEREDITH HUDSON
News Writing Students

Alleged sexual misconduct between a parish priest and a Catholic school student forms the central conflict in a play to be performed on campus at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

John Patrick Shanley’s “Doubt: A Parable” will be presented by the award-winning Montana Repertory Theatre. OCCC’s Cultural Arts Series has presented Montana Repertory Theatre before and is welcoming them back because of their high quality performance, said Lemuel Bardeguez, director of Cultural Programs at OCCC, in an email message.

“Doubt” is a winner of the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize. It is a serious play that captivates the audience emotionally, intellectually and psychologically, Bardeguez said.

“Those with a love for staged intellectual dramas and those who have been following recent events in the media will be most interested in experiencing this wonderful, serious and important play,” Bardeguez said.

The performance will appeal to those who “appreciate great writing and those who have seen the movie version of this play,” Bardeguez said.

The Montana Repertory Theatre stated on its website that suspense is a strong component of the production.

“This performance will bring the audience to the edge of their seat and keep them on their toes even after the final curtain drops,” Artistic Director Greg Johnson said on the website.

The tickets can be purchased online or at the box office. The prices are $10 for OCCC students and children 17 and under, $17 for OCCC staff, $17 for seniors, and $22 for general admission.