Students prepare for graduation ceremony

SARAH HUSSAIN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC's 2012 commencement ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 11, in the Cox Convention Center, located near Reno and Robinson in downtown Oklahoma City.

According to a letter sent by the Records and Graduation office, graduates should arrive no later than 6:30 p.m. in the west hallway, Exhibit Room E, of the arena area to form the commencement procession.

Convention Center parking and surrounding area parking is available at a cost of approximately $6 and up.

Caps and gowns are required at commencement and are available in the student bookstore for $33 plus tax through 5 p.m. May 13, said Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke.

That is if we still have some in supply, and they come in different sizes,” Reinke said the bookstore also is selling tassels and frames for diplomas.

The letter, sent to all graduates, gives instructions for appropriate dress that suggests men wear dark slacks, a dress shirt and dress shoes while women are asked to wear a dress with dark shoes.

Graduation Services Director Barbara Gowdy said students have up until the day of graduation to apply for graduation but she would prefer they apply sooner.

She said name cards will be on tables outside the robing room. Name cards are vital as it is the card students will hand to the reader.

“(Those) students don’t need to wait until the end of semester,” Reinke said.

“Students may incur a $25 fee if a rented book is not returned on time.”

Textbook buyback will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, May 7; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, May 8 through 10; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 11; 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 12; and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, May 14.
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Editors have opposing viewpoints on posthumous awards

Awarding degrees to deceased wrong

Whitney Knight

Posthumous degree: a piece of paper announcing to the world that a student got within a single semester of graduation, and was stopped only by dying. They put in years of work to obtain this tool to make life better or to make a better life for their loved ones. After they die, their recognition comes in the form of a tool that can’t help anyone.

Adding insult to injury is an old phrase and one that aptly describes the posthumous degree. The injury, of course, is the loss of a loved one, but the degree is just flat insulting.

It’s insulting to the family and not just because the school will only award one after a lengthy process.

It’s insulting because this is a life tool, being awarded to a deceased person. And it’s not truly a degree, but a sort of “certificate” that shows the deceased almost made it.

It’s insulting to the deceased.

PhD degrees policy right, fair

Jeremy Cloud

On April 2, the President’s Cabinet adopted Policy No. 5078 — that is, the awarding of a posthumous degree to the family of a student who has died before completing an associate degree.

The policy declares such degrees are “unearned, non-academic degrees recognizing the meritorious but incomplete earned work of a deceased student.”

The adoption of such a policy shows that OCCC truly does care for its students beyond monthly payments made to the Bursar’s office.

When a student enters college, graduating from that institution becomes the final goal in a long, winding maze of trials and obstacles. You pull all-nighters to finish that term paper you forgot about, shell out pennies at the student store to buy a new binder and study textbooks until your eyes blur. College becomes your life. Sadly, sometimes that life gets taken away before you can reach the finish line.

Without such a policy in place, all the hard work a student put into his or her college career would be in vain. All the money spent, all the hours invested, would be for nothing.

However, now family members can commemorate their loved one’s hard work with the very degree they worked so hard to obtain.

Sure, to an outsider, the degree might seem pretty worthless. It won’t help anyone get a job anywhere, nor will it ever grace the papers of a résumé. The deceased will never get any use out of it.

But to the family who watched the departed pour his or her blood, sweat and tears into a degree they were never able to finish, the sentimental value is priceless.

—Whitney Knight

Online Editor

Posthumous degree policy right, fair

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—Jeremy Cloud

Editor

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!
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Easy-to-read menu, great variety makes restaurant a favorite

Dot Wo serves up ample plates

Dot Wo was established in 1989 serving Chinese cuisine at two metro locations.
I chose the one neatly tucked in the corner of Chatenay Square, at the corner of SW 104th and Penn, a short drive from campus with fast service.
I was warmly greeted and promptly seated. Across the room, on the large flat screen, I caught a breaking story on Fox. Apparently a 20-year-woman had attacked a Red Lobster waitress, yep, breaking news, at least for Fox.
The menu is an easy read with plenty of lunch options to fit nicely into a student’s budget. I decided to try the four season green bean with chicken. It consisted of stir fried chicken, whole green beans, mushrooms, noodles with soy sauce & an excellent blend of spices. The specials come with a choice of the ‘soup of the day’ which is either egg drop or hot-and-sour. I opted for a favorite of mine, hot-and-sour. I had just turned on my iPad when the waitress arrived, took my order and in a snap, returned with the soup and a package of saltine crackers. The soup was lacking the ‘hot’ I had anticipated. There was a small tidbit of chopped green onion hiding in the bowl. I was surprised by the amount of food on the platter. It was a generous portion full of seasoned green beans, stir fried chicken, an egg roll, steamed rice and two crab rangoon. The beans were crisp, with a good blend of seasonings. The chicken had a nice texture and the rice was spot on. There was enough left over for two to have a light dinner.
All in all, a great place to sit down and enjoy the quality of service. There’s a nice ambiance in the well decorated restaurant, great for meetings or lunch with friends.
There’s ample seating to accommodate more than 100 patrons. The service was fast and friendly.

Rating: A
—Yvonne Alex
Staff Writer

GAME REVIEW | ‘Mists of Pandaria’ beta gets top rating

Once released, ‘Mists’ is sure to WoW

I recently got an invitation to the “World of Warcraft: Mists of Pandaria Beta,” and it wasn’t nearly as “kiddy” or “girly” as a lot of people were trying to make it out to be. There is far too much alcohol involved for this to be a Disney movie.
The starting area does feel like what people think ancient China looked like, and there is a fair amount of mysticism involved, as well as monks. Monks are everywhere in the starting zone. Not only are the monks players, but also they are the computer-controlled characters — the characters you had to fight. Almost everything involved in the starting area involves monks.
The quests involve food, thieves, weapons, fighting, training and four elemental spirits.
Getting anything done with the collection is painful, as there are about 500 people in any new area at any given time, or what feels like it. That causes a bit of a problem sometimes, as the more players there are in any given area, the higher the rate at which the server creates creatures.
Given that, the number of players now is quite a bit higher than it was say, three months into the new expansion once released. The rate will go down by what seems like three-fourths of current, and will seem like a crawl at times.
Generally, the quests aren’t too terribly difficult as long as they involve killing monsters for quest items, though one or two of them take a while per spawn, and a lot of people won’t quest up for you. I suggest embushing them with invites so they are either going to join up with you for the quest, or distracted by screens popping up.
I suggest asking for groups before slogging invites at them. Most of the quests aren’t that bad though.
The only problem I’ve come across so far are groups of reeds you need to collect. I could only find one that actually worked, and had to sit and wait for it to re-appear eight times. I’m not too concerned with the issues in gameplay, as beta testing is used for testing purposes. Everything will be better by the time the game is for sale.
Questing aside, the game is really fun from the start of the area, but I was unable to get much further than that due to various reasons.
Overall, if you were expecting the game to be more like “Kung Fu Panda,” you probably won’t be too disappointed, though I noticed more of “Mulan” in there — with less singing, of course.
I want them to hurry up and put in pet combat. “Pokemon” in my “World of Warcraft”? Hell yes.
Rating: A+
—Robert Bolton
Community Writer

YOU asked FOR IT

Q: What is the safest area on campus in case of a tornado emergency?
A: No location on OCCC’s campus is a designated shelter — but there are “safer areas” on the campus that are identified by a green sign. Of those, the safest area could be considered the Horseshoe Area.

—Lisa Teel
Director of Emergency Planning

Q: Do the Testing Center’s hours change during the summer semester?
A: The Testing Center is closed on Saturdays during the summer — which is every Saturday between May 19 and Aug. 11.

—Jim Ellis
Director of Testing and Assessment

Q: What is the last day for students to enroll in summer classes?
A: Students can enroll for the summer semester up to two days after the semester begins which would be June 5.

—Records Office

Q: When will the college be repairing the scrolling message sign on the billboard at SW 77th and May? What is the expected cost?
A: It will cost OCCC $20,000 to rebuild the sign with new LED segments. OCCC attempted to fix the sign, but the technology was outdated. It will be repaired in two to three months.

—Paula Gower
Marketing and Public Relations Director

Q: When will OCCC replace the restroom signs that are missing a required apostrophe? They read MENS RESTROOM and WOMENS RESTROOM. How much will it cost?
A: We developed a project for campus signage. The campus project signage had certain specifications and review processes. The review process of how the signs were to be developed, where they are to be placed, what they are to say — all of those things have been reviewed. The issue with the [apostrophes] on the restroom was not addressed in the printing of those inserts. So it was an oversight on the part of the contractor which they are making corrections to and they will change out those inserts when they are received from their provider at no cost.

—J.B Messer
Director of Facilities Management
**IMAGE THEATER COMES TO GENERAL DINING ROOM MAY 3**

**Acting students plan to make audience squirm**

**CAMERON RAMSEY**  
News Writing Student

Family squabbles. Knock-down drag-out fights. Even pillow talk in the bedroom. These are the types of images drama students will portray at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 3, when the Acting One class gives a live demonstration on the fundamentals of Image Theater in the general dining area of the College Union.

Acting students are going to create images for the audience to observe. Afterward the audience is encouraged to join the performers in discussing the images and how they make them feel and think.

Image Theater is a technique of using the body to give a visual representation of abstract ideas and situations, said Brent Noel, Acting One professor.

It’s a kind of street theater where the actors are working to make the audience squirm, as if they are witnessing a private scene of family discord or racial prejudice.

To a certain extent the images that the students are creating for the audience are planned out before the demonstration.

“We have the basic idea of what we’re doing,” said Blake Gonzalez, Acting One student.

“There’s not a written script that we follow, but we do have an idea.”

Students will create their own scenes about real life occurrences that often are hidden in everyday life.

The class has been working on many images to prepare for the upcoming performance. Students have already created their own scenes of how they see the typical American family in the home.

One student creates the scene, then the class goes on to discuss which person is a certain member of the family. Each class member gives his or her thoughts on what the family is doing.

The class is hoping to get this same kind of participation from the audience during their live demonstration.

“We’re trying to make the audience uncomfortable,” Gonzalez said.

Students want to make the audience members feel awkward and out of place by creating unexpected images.

“It’s to try and show the people that these situations are happening in real life,” said Devin Oku, Acting One student.

There is no set number of images that will be created and discussed by the class.

“It depends on audience participation. If there is a lot of participation, which is our goal, we may only be able to get a few images done,” Noel said.

The demonstration is free to the public and participation is greatly encouraged.

The class wants spectators to not only watch, but also actively respond and question the images portrayed.

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**FUNDING SHORTAGE PROMPTS DISCUSSION**

**Tuition increase on the horizon, OCCC regents say**

**EMILY MAYES**  
News Writing Student

A decline in enrollment combined with no increase in state funding may result in a tuition increase for OCCC students during the upcoming school year, according to the budget plan outlined during the OCCC Board of Regents meeting April 16.

John Boyd, vice president of Business and Finance, said a tuition increase of $2 to $4 per credit hour could help meet budget needs. The current cost of tuition and fees is $95 per credit hour for resident students.

A modest tuition increase would help offset the loss in tuition due to an expected decrease in enrollment, Boyd said. He told regents the decline in enrollment could be anywhere from 3 to 5 percent during the next year.

A possible decrease in state funding, or a stand-still budget, is also a consideration in the possible tuition increase.

“As we move forward in fiscal year 2013, we probably will not receive additional funding from the state and other funding will likely remain flat,” Boyd said.

Paul Sechrist, OCCC president, said the need for a tuition increase also is influenced by the cost increases of the services the college provides for students and staff.

Sechrist said to maintain services such as wireless internet for students, health care for employees and other basic services, unfortunately a tuition increase may be necessary.

Sechrist said OCCC has had to increase tuition the past few years to help maintain the budget and meet rising costs with the exception of one year when tuition remained flat.

“We’ve had a pretty stable budget the last few years,” Sechrist said. “As a result, we’ve been able to have minimal tuition increases.”

Sechrist said that one third of OCCC funding comes from student tuition and fees while about half comes from state funding.

“However, we cannot maintain that level of funding and still maintain the quality of education for the students of OCCC,” Sechrist said. The Leadership Council, a representative student body comprised of members from each student club, has recognized the need to maintain the college’s funding by supporting a 5 percent increase in tuition, if necessary.

Regent Chair Ben Brown said the Board of Regents will do what’s necessary to maintain the level and quality of education for the students of OCCC.

In addition to the tuition increase, students may also see an increase in the student activity fee.

The current activity fee of $5.15 per credit has not been increased since 2004.

An increase would be seen during the next school year, making the fee $6.15 per credit hour.

Should the college regents approve a tuition increase, it would still require approval from the State Regents for Higher Education before going into effect.

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**OCCC STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES**

**JOB BOARD**

[www.collegecentral.com/occc](http://www.collegecentral.com/occc)

Students register with their 7-digit student ID number  
Alumni enter AL-+last 5 digits of Social Security number

Find Jobs · Post Your Resume · Apply for Positions
STUDENTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FROM COLLEGE

124 awards given at annual student ceremony

ALEXIS FILIPPO
News Writing Student

Proud family members, hardworking faculty and deserving students filled the general dining area for the 36th Annual Student Awards Ceremony on April 20.

Nearly every seat was taken as guests gathered to honor more than a hundred students for their academic and community achievements.

Awards were given out in seven categories including Student Organization Awards, Civic Honors, Student English Essay, Academic Awards, Certificates of Achievement, and the President’s Award for Excellence.

The students were recognized for their achievements as they walked across the stage to accept their certificates and other acknowledgments.

Marion Paden, one of the night’s emcees, began by offering a round of applause to thank friends, families and teachers for their support of the students.

“It really is a family event isn’t it?” Paden said.

“Being able to spend time and be successful in class and in the college community really relies on a lot of support. It also relies a lot on encouragement by the faculty and staff.”

Award winners Maria Torres and Li Yang both agreed that it was their family and instructors that had been their biggest inspirations.

Torres won the Outstanding Accounting Student Award given by the Oklahoma Society of CPAs.

“My father always encouraged us to stay in school,” Torres said.

“He grew up in Mexico and didn’t graduate so inspiring us to stay in school was very important to him.”

During her time at OCCC Torres juggled work, school and taking care of her 2-year-old son. This fall she plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to pursue her bachelor’s degree in accounting. After that she hopes to earn a master’s degree.

Yang took home a President’s Award for Excellence, one of the top honors.

The pre-engineering major credited her husband and teachers.

“My husband gave me support to learn anything I liked,” she said. “All three instructors in the engineering department were very helpful.”

Yang said the encouragement allowed her to pursue her academic dreams.

She said at the age of 16, she taught herself how to speak English while living in China. After meeting her husband, who was teaching English there, she eventually came to the U.S.

Yang said she grew up in a poor and corrupt part of China.

“Learning was my way out of there,” she said. “That’s why I love learning; it’s a way of survival.”

Yang will be transferring to OU this summer. She too plans on attending graduate school after completing her bachelor’s degree. Her goal is to earn a doctorate.

The event concluded with a reception after the ceremony, complete with a photographer to take pictures of the award-winners with their families and professors.

Award winners

President’s Award for Excellence

Arts and Humanities: Elizabeth Blackledge, Lori Colbath, Emily Schorr.


Health Professions: Ashley Milam.

Information Technology: Robert Chandler.

Science and Mathematics: Ethan Burchett, Li Yang, Cae Nguyen.

Social Sciences: Samantha Layton, Kenneth Meador.

Certificates of Achievement

Arts and Humanities: Casey R. Akard, Kaitlyn Burton, Jodi Butler, Sara Caldwell, Benjamin Canizales, Elaine Cleveland, Jeremy Cloud, Cybele Hsu, Cheryl McGuire, Scott Michael, Akash Patel, Megan Riggs.

Business: Autumn Bui, Pamela Fields, Jennifer Kirk, Daniel Pemberton, Young Sin, Angela Smith, Brenda Warren, Eric Williams.

Health Professions: Kaci Ford, Tre Kramer, Sarah Okeh, Michael Strauss.

Information Technology: Elham Aghillou, Barry Bosnyak, Kevin Dixon, Eric Espinoza, Amber Hayes, Ami Hicks, Kristopher Higgins, Jens-Karl Jenhoff, Edward Michael, Thai Nguyen, Teena Richardson, Justin Rodgers, Joyce Stiehler, Matthew Sullivan.


Student Organization Awards

Advocates of Peace: Jorge Krzyzaniak.

Black Student Association: LaNeisha Smith.

College Democrats: Angela Gutierrez.

College Republicans: Zachary Sumner.

Engineering Club: Heather Abushehada.

The Gamer Guild: Michael Wormley.

Gay Straight Alliance: Nicole McKiel.


International Student Association: Hakan Olasmis.

Kappa Beta Delta: Mary Newcome-Hatch.

Multicultural Student Business Club: Elsa Tehouambou.

Native American Student Association: Nicole McKiel.

Psychology Club: John Gutierrez.

Student Emergency Medical Technology: James Pearson.

Students in Free Enterprise: Christabel Areyeequaye.

Civic Honors Awards:


Academic Awards

Recognition of Honors: Elizabeth Blackledge, Elisee Jionang Dapen, Alina Lorant, Erin Peden, Emily Schorr, Kimberly Taylor, Elsa Tehouambou, Jaden Walker.

Outstanding Accounting Student: Maria G. Torres.

Certificate of Appreciation

Pioneer Award: Sarah Hussain.
Oklahoma Senator Tom Cole to speak at graduation

JEREMY CLOUD
Editor
editor@occc.edu

A good commencement speaker is an important part of graduation, said Paul Sechrist, OCCC president.

Oklahoma State Sen. Tom Cole, will be the keynote commencement speaker at the May 11 graduation this year.

Sechrist said, among other reasons, Cole was chosen because of his academic background.

Cole holds a doctorate in history from the University of Oklahoma with a master's from Yale, Sechrist said.

In addition, he said, Cole also has the distinction of being the only Native American currently serving in Congress.

“[He] works very hard for this area, and has been very helpful to the college on a number of issues,” Sechrist said.

“We always pick ... a speaker who has ties to the college and the state of Oklahoma,” he said.

“We are a state-supported community college and so it’s always nice to have speakers who have an interest in the college, either as part of our state or part of our community.”

Sechrist said he takes the choice of commencement speaker very seriously — and not only because he wants to give graduating students the best experience possible.

“It’s one of the decisions I actually get to make.

“The president chooses the commencement speaker.

“Now certainly, I consult with the board (and) I consult with the President’s cabinet but in the end, it’s a decision I get to make on my own. I extend the invitation to our commencement speaker.”

Sechrist said commencement speakers are always chosen from outside the college.

“... In some ways, having an outside speaker gives our students the chance to interact with someone other than faculty,” he said.

Sechrist said it’s also a chance for the faculty to enjoy different speakers.

“For our students, this is their only commencement, but faculty will have several. So it’s nice to have a little variety.”

When choosing a speaker, Sechrist said, he first thinks about those who have a reputation for being a good commencement speaker if possible, and someone who has ties to the college so it’s always nice to have speakers who have an interest in the college ...

—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President

“We are a state-supported college so it’s always nice to have speakers who have an interest in the college ... .”

“But we’ve had no trouble getting leading individuals like Senator Cole to speak at commencement.”

Sechrist said he also looks for speakers students can relate to and will find interesting.

“Certainly, when you get to the nuts and bolts of it, we look for someone who has a reputation for being a good speaker, for being a good commencement speaker if possible, and someone we think can deliver a message students definitely relate to,” he said.

Sechrist said there are many advantages in having an outside speaker but one is foremost in his mind.

“We think, ‘What’s one last lesson we can offer our students?’”

The 2012 Commencement will be held at 7:30 p.m. May 11 at Cox Convention Center. Those attending can find ample parking at the venue or nearby. Convention Center parking and surrounding area parking is available at a cost of approximately $6 and up. The Cox Convention Center website at www.coxconventioncenter.com/default.asp?cox=23 has directions to the center, shows available parking in the area and helpful other information.

CONGRATULATIONS
OCCC GRADS!

Grads: Commencement ceremony set for May 11

Continued from page 1

before they walk across the stage to receive their diploma.

Candid Color Photography will be the official photographer for the 2011 Commencement Ceremony, she said.

Those wanting to view and order graduation photos can go online to www.okcparty pics.com. There is no obligation to purchase a photograph.

Students who have graduation-related questions or who need accommodations due to a disability, including sign language interpretation, can contact Silvia Younghblood at 682-1611, ext. 7470, in the Graduation Services office.

Cox Convention Center is located at 1 Myriad Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City, near Reno and Robinson.

For more information, contact Gowdy at 405-682-7528, or bgowdy@occc.edu or visit the college’s website at www.occc.edu.
ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

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Akamui, Casey Akard, Kelsey Akin, 

Melan Alpizar-Cordova, Ana Al- 

varz, Jennifer Armstrong, Mariah 

Asbachner, Cailyn Atkinson, Elona 

Autuabo, Gabriela Baezi, Randi 

Barringer, Jason Bass, Bryttani 

Bea, Ashley Bayne, Morgan Beard, 

Layce Beavers, Susanna Berryma, 

Trisha Bizier, Elizabeth Blackledge, 

Demetria Bobo, Chelsea Bowman, 

Natalia Bradstreet, Channing Bray, 

Mary Brennfoeder, Alycia Brown, 

Shayla Brown, Shaunte Bryant, Ethan 

Bryant, Ty McDowell, Randi Burrus 

and Summer Byram.

Divina Caddell, Scott Cash, Etoi 

Caruso, Cassie Casillas, Jacob Cham-

bers, Cheyenne Chew, Steven 

Chilewitz, Cleveland, Bette Cline, Lori 

Collier, Stefanie Collins, Bryan Compton, 

Stephen Conklin, Devante Copponk, 

Devan Coppel, Dan Cox, Brandon 

Cromer, Roy Curry, Annie Dang, 

Tahia Darcy, Kristin Day, Terestia De La Cruz, 

David De Leon, Jose DeLoera, Trista 

Dempster, Karra Dhungel, Victoria 

Dix, Kristi Dixon, Matt Egan. 

LaDonna Ellison, Emery, Nadia 

Encina, Nancy Estrada, Courtney Evans, 

Saleta Ezell, Jeffrey Farnen, Summer Farnen, 

Emily Finley, Gary Finley and Andrew 

Frederick.

Eric Gamino, Cecilia Garcia, Heath-

er Garrison, David Gatti, Emily Ger-

many, Lauren Geurin, Cori Goyet, 

Granger, Christopher Graver, John 

Gutierrez, Sara Hogan, Miles Hamper, 

Taylor Hancock, Christopher Hanna, Jona-

th Harkess, Jeremy Harris, Gregory 

Harrison, McKinsey Hastings, Joshua 

Henderson, Kathleen Hernandez, Steven 

Hernandez, Flora Hicks, Kyle Hill, 

Sara Holm, Kevin Moore, Shanna 

Morey, Jonathan Morgan, Tim 

Morris, Gregory Morgan, Summer 

Moore, Nghi Nguyen, Nguyen 

Pham, Thu Phan, Jacob Pickle, Tracey 

Pigg, Khristina Pihulac, Ansley 

Pollard, Colten Potts, Karlie 

Price, Amber Ramsey, Michael 

Ratcliff, David Ramsey, Michael 

Ratcliff, Stephanie Ramsey, 

Donna Reeder, Nykea Rennon, 

Sarah Rieger, Allie Rieger, 

Matt Ritter, Brandy Rodgers, 

Quinn Ross, Whitney Rowe, 

Anna Sayers, Maria Sanchez, 

Julia Samad, Alex Schaffert, 

Caine Schmidt, Erica Sherrill, 

Drew Shively, Grant Smith, 

Julia Smiley, Jamar Smith, 

Jermiah Smith, Dorothy Smith, 

Katie Smith, Randy Smith, 

Taylor Smith, Michael Snider, 

Dominick Soto, Michael South, 

Ryan Selman, Katy Selzer, Sabina 

Setho, Shikha Shankar, Manisha 

Shrestha, Manisha Shrestha, Kayla 

Snider, Karen Soto, Michael South-

erland, Tyler Sotelo, Tera Stanley, 

Joyce Stither, Kelly Stone, Michael 

Strauss, Larry Streitmatter and 

Michael Brown.

Becky Ta, Kayla Taggart, Elizabeth 

Taylor, Kimberly Taylor, Steven Tay-

lor, Ela Tchoumoubo, Duong Thuan, 

Milan Thapa, Amber Theriault, Alisa 

Thompson, Zachary Thompson, Amber 

Tillman, Maria Torres, Allisa Trammell, 

Deon Tran, Sherry Tran, Ty Tran, 

Yanet Tran, Prince Tsagai, Anshul 

Vakharia, Karolyn Vanaken, Mary 

Vance, Jimmy Varughese, Min Vu 

and Vu Vuong.

Brian Walker, Jonathan Wallace, 

Kenny Watson, John Weir, Kasia 

Wetherill, Rebecka Welker, Kelly 

Whalen, Scott White, Whitney White, 

Bethany Whitener, Jordan Wilkowski, 

Bobbi Williams, Eric Williams, Janise 

Williams, Josette Williams, Diver 

Williams, Cody Womack, April Wood, 

Preston Wood, April Woodland, 

Jennifer Wood, Josh Wood, Tyler 

Wooten, Dallas Worth, Brian Wright, 

Ruth West, Holly Yanda, Jeong Yang 

Yu, Crystal Young, Pamela Young, 

Sheila Zawisza, Kim Zimmermann 

and Guadalupe Zulker.

CERTIFICATE OF MASTERY

Elham Aghiliou, Tywei Akins, Jen-

sen Atkinson, Denisa Aurety, Carmen 

Baeza, Andrew Bailey, Jon Barns, 

Heather Baysinger, Kenyana Beard, 

Jamie Benefield, Matthew Bevy, Paula 

Bosserman, Dontrion Bostick, Jonathan 

Boswell, Lauren Bower, Brandon 

Boykin, Michael Braddy, Morgan Bridge, 

Kacy Brooks, Robert Brock, Michelle 

Brown, Johannah Brown, Asha 

Brown, Zara Bryant, Kevin Bruce, 

Shiloh Buchanan, Ethan Burchett, Randy 

Butler, Sanju Byanjankar.

Burghart, Brittney Butler and Sanju 

Buchanan, Ethan Burchett, Randy 

Butler, Sanju Byanjankar.

Buchanan, Ethan Burchett, Randy 

Butler, Sanju Byanjankar.

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Season closer ends with surprise tie game

NATHAN HARKINS
News Writing Student

Determination and teamwork helped the OCCC soccer team snag a 5-5 tie despite being shorthanded against the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Bulldogs on April 22 in Oklahoma City.

OCCC’s team was put at a disadvantage to start the game, playing with only eight players who showed up for the game.

Player-coach K.B. Yeboah said the team’s strategy had to change because of being shorthanded.

“When you are down players, everybody plays everywhere,” Yeboah said. “Everybody plays spaces, not positions.”

After holding up strong early in the game, the OCCC defense eventually cracked, giving up two goals to the Bulldogs. As the game looked to be getting out of hand, a ninth player for OCCC showed up and jolted life into the team.

Lambe Modeba got a chance on an attack, getting the goalie one-on-one, and easily knocked the ball past the goalie to make the score 1-2. After he released the ball, Modeba ripped off his shirt and ran around in celebration.

“I was so pumped and I knew it was going in right as I got him one-on-one,” Modeba said.

Goalie and Team Captain David Dykes made multiple saves in the final minutes of the first half to keep the score the same going into halftime.

At halftime, the fatigue of the team showed, but OCCC still had hopes of getting a tie or a win.

OCCC started the second half with a quick chance at a goal, but couldn’t capitalize. Then after a foul was called on OCCC in the box, the Bulldogs were awarded a free kick.

A SWOSU player easily knocked the ball in, and pushed the score to 1-3. The Bulldogs then scored another goal quickly after, making the score 1-4.

All the momentum seemed to be on the side of the Bulldogs, and things didn’t look good for OCCC.

Just as the game looked lost, the team got another quick chance at a goal, and Roberto Parado scored, pulling OCCC within two points.

That one goal ignited OCCC and Yeboah quickly scored two goals to tie the score at 4-4.

The momentum was swapped to OCCC’s side, and with a few minutes left, the team looked as if they would at least capture a tie. But then after Dykes again made multiple saves, he eventually had one get past him, and SWOSU led 5-4.

OCCC seemed determined not to let this effort go to waste though.

Modeba received a pass from Yeboah who shot the ball into the back of the net, tying the game with minutes left. The game ended shortly after, with a score of 5-5.

Dykes attributed the good effort to everyone keeping focus through the whole game despite being down two players.

Dykes ended the game with double digit saves, helping his team get the tie.

“I was able to keep us in the game, until our offense was able to get on the board.”

—DAVID DYKES
OCCC SOCCER TEAM CAPTAIN

The game was the last of OCCC’s season, and the team finished the year with a record of 1-1-1.
Purse theft, Aquatic Center injuries reported on campus

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A theft and injuries topped incident reports the week of April 9.
At 3:34 p.m. April 13, student Amanda Nelson reported to the OCCC police department that her purse had been stolen out of her vehicle.

According to a report filed by campus Police Officer Gordon Nelson, the victim informed him that the passenger door window of her 2004 Chevrolet pickup had been broken out.

The responding officer advised Nelson to contact the Oklahoma City Police Department to file a report with them. Attempts to contact her were unsuccessful.

A number of pool deck accidents occurred recently as well.
At 6:50 p.m. April 11, Aquatic Center lifeguards reported a possible fractured arm.

According to a report filed by Sgt. Kevin Tipton, a minor whose name was not released, was exiting the locker room when he slipped on the pool deck and lost his balance.
The child’s father Darwin Matthew transported him to Baptist Integris Hospital before college officials arrived on the scene.

According to the report, Tipton contacted Matthew and was told the child suffered compound fractures in both bones of his left wrist.

At 12:25 p.m. on April 13, security officer Tim Densmore responded to a call of a head injury at the pool deck.

The person injured, a minor whose name was not released, had been jumping near the dive well when he slipped and fell. The report shows EMSA was called to the scene; however, the child was not transported to a hospital and later returned to the swim meet he was attending.

PROFESSIONAL DANCERS ENTERTAIN AUDIENCE THROUGH FOUR PIECES

Tulsa Ballet II troupe performs at OCCC theater

MEREDITH HUDSON
News Writing Student

From the thrilling performance of “Don Quixote” to a subtle, graceful “Romeo and Juliet,” the Tulsa Ballet II had it all as they performed in the Bruce Owen Theater on April 17.
The Tuesday night’s performance was upbeat yet peaceful at the same time.

The ballet company brought 14 young professional dancers who performed four different pieces, “Don Quixote Suite,” “Blue Velvet,” “Romeo and Juliet,” and “Folia.” Each offered something different to the audience.
The twirling skirts of the ladies and strong, bull fighting men were intriguing to watch in “Don Quixote” as the costumes attracted the audience’s eye.
Women attired in red and orange patterned skirts and men dressed in tight knee breeches and black cape-like blazers created quite a spectacle.

In contrast to the high energy of “Don Quixote,” “Romeo and Juliet” provided a softer touch to the program.
The young girl and boy, who meet and fall passionately in love, end the performance with a romantic kiss.

“Blue Velvet” was performed by a quartet of female dancers who incorporated neo-classical choreography into a modern piece.
It was a light-hearted dance that flowed with their elaborate black-and-white dresses.

Finally, Tulsa Ballet II ended with a piece called “Folia” that was actually choreographed to be used to celebrate Tulsa Ballet’s 50th Anniversary.
The complicated performance required five couples.

The music started out very slowly with a Renaissance sound. Throughout the piece it picked up with a more vibrant feel that turned into a modern dance.
The whole performance made great use of leaps, turns, pirouettes and more.
Tulsa Ballet II is essentially a link between the Tulsa Ballet of professional dancers and those aspiring young dancers who are making their way to the professional level, according to the Tulsa Ballet II Dance Diversified program.

The Tulsa Ballet School is a professional company that teaches young men and women technique and skills to make them more talented dancers, according to the informational biography in the pamphlet.

They are a professional program, which means they pay the dancers and offer them different performances to participate in throughout their time there.

Carlton Thompson, a freshman at OCCC, said he enjoyed the show.

“I appreciated the uniqueness of Blue Velvet and the elegance of all the colors and the art form.”

Dance company hosts educational workshop

LEBO SEJAKE
News Writing Student

The Tulsa Ballet II dancers had the audience in pin-drop silence as viewers feasted their eyes to the graceful yet complex dance moves that the performers illustrated during their 50-minute workshop on Tuesday, April 17, in OCCC’s Bruce Owen Theater.

The pre-professional division of the Tulsa Ballet, called Tulsa Ballet II, provided an education program about the evolution of ballet, as well as the goals and mission of the company.

The group performed on campus that evening.

About 30 people attended the workshop, mostly aspiring dancers and dance teachers.

The dance company boasts a number of talented and extensively trained dancers in its pre-professional division, said Stacey Jenkins, director of education and outreach for the Tulsa Ballet II Company.

The dancers included Jaimi Cullen from Rochester, N.Y., who started dancing when she was only 4 years old. Cullen said it is hard to break into the dancing industry because the field is highly competitive.

Her friend and colleague, Andrew Silks from New Mexico, added that it all depends on what the director wants.

“Sometimes the director wants a certain look, height or color of hair, which makes auditioning even more challenging,” Silks said.

The two friends were in high spirits that day, saying they both had received contracts to dance with the Tulsa Ballet’s professional dancers.
Cullen said that is a great leap in their career.

Tulsa Ballet II has dancers from all over the U.S. such as Kyota Nomura and Tony Lee, who both hail from Los Angeles.
They are currently residing in Tulsa because of their love for dance, said Lee, who has been a dancer since he was a young boy.

They have both been with the company since 2010. They got their big break when they were handpicked out of hundreds of other talented dancers who auditioned for those spots.

“Two hundred fifty people auditioned last year and only five spaces were open,” Jenkins said. “That is how stiff the competition is.”
The program called “Journey through Dance” offered a narrative about the evolution of dance that incorporated illustrations performed by the dancers.

“I think the dancers did such a great job,” said one audience member Sarah Gray.

The Tulsa Ballet was founded by husband and wife Roman Jasinski and Moscelyne Larkin, along with musician Rosalie Talbott, in 1956.

It is a first-rate dance company that tours all over the world. Its offspring, Tulsa Ballet II, is currently doing its regional spring tour, which is the first tour outside of Tulsa.

Education program coordinator Colleen Lahti said the company also offers dance classes to schools in Tulsa and would love to expand beyond those borders.

For further information on tours and booking inquiries, please contact Colleen Lahti at colleen.lahti@tulsaballet.org, or at 918-749-6030, ext. 278.
Blood drive on campus

Deanna Davis, pre-dental major and student ambassador, rehydrates while donating blood April 19, at the “Take Me to Your Bleeder” blood drive, an event sponsored by the Gamer Guild to raise donor awareness and help promote the Gamer Guild.

How to handle finals and stress

Mary McAtee
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The end of the semester is just around the corner, and the end of the academic year comes hand-in-hand with final tests, and test-related stress.

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner said taking control of study habits and learning how to manage time helps students lower their stress levels.

“I would encourage students to sit down and look at what they need to accomplish between now and May 11,” Turner said. “Work backward over those three weeks, so students have a clear expectation of where their time is going to go.”

Turner said the anxiety of meeting deadlines can be due to a fear of failure.

“Sometimes what holds people back is the fear of facing that deadline, either the fear of not being perfect or not being as good as they like,” Turner said. However, Turner said, it’s sometimes necessary to settle for less-than-perfect.

“We’re at the point in the semester where good enough is good enough,” Turner said.

“You just have to take on that realistic attitude.”

—Mary Turner
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

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Child center showcases its young artists

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Online Editor
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A smiling pink face with wide blue eyes, bushy green eyebrows and a wide, yellow-toothed grin greeted visitors to the Family and Community Education Center as they arrived for the annual children’s art show April 23.

The show, which featured art from almost 100 children currently enrolled in the FACE center’s child development program, is held every year for National Week of the Young Child, said Lab Supervisor Lee Ann Townsend.

Townsend said the center’s children, who range in age from 9 months to 5 years, each created at least two pieces specifically for the art show.

Some used glitter and pompons to make their masterpieces, while others preferred more traditional mediums of paint and crayons.

“The kids love it,” Townsend said. “We always have a pretty good turnout.”

The show also featured a silent auction, allowing parents and community members to bid on their favorite works of art while raising money for school activity funds.

However, one artist felt her piece should have been offered for a flat price instead.

“I drew a picture with paint,” said Alex, 5. “It should sell for $10.”

Alex said she also enjoyed looking at the drawings her classmates created.

“I saw Kate’s,” she said, raising her fingers in excitement. “It was pretty like flowers.”

Chris, 4, said he was proud of the blue pickup truck he drew. “I’m an artist,” he said. “Artists paint and draw. I liked the art show.”

Lisa Hurtt, mother of Trey, 5, was first in line to see her son’s art.

“He loves art,” she said. “He was very excited to have his art featured here.”

She said she didn’t know if her son would grow up to be a professional artist, but she hopes he won’t lose his appreciation for art as he grows older.

Trey’s grandmother Linda Hurtt also arrived early to see her grandson’s work on display.

“I think it’s fabulous that they do things like this,” Hurtt said. “It’s interesting to see what the kids do.”

Jerry Steward, executive vice president said he enjoyed viewing the children’s art.

“It is delightful to see the creativity in people so young,” Steward said. “It’s a testament not only to the creativity of the young people, but the quality of the staff here.”

For more information about the Child Development Center and Lab School, contact Lee Ann Townsend at 405-682-1611, ext. 7423, or email ltownsend@occc.edu.