Freestyle traffic flow

Although the state of Oklahoma has done well coming out of the recession, some institutions have not been positively affected by that outcome — OCCC being one of them.

Planning and Research Executive Director Stu Harvey said as of Aug. 6, enrollment at OCCC was down from 11,685 in the fall 2011 semester to 10,986 this semester — a 6 percent difference.

“The nation’s community college enrollment is much more tied to unemployment and the economy than our major universities,” Sechrist said. “It’s just the way it always has been and probably will continue to be.”

Sechrist said he understands the choices community college students have to make.

“Our students are often making the decision between working or college, and when they have a good job that is paying well and (are) working full time, the need to go to college gets delayed,” Sechrist said.

Harvey said OCCC officials are anticipating even more of a drop in enrollment over the next couple years.

“If there’s another recession, for instance, in the next couple years enrollment will go back up.”

Both Sechrist and Harvey said enrollment spiked between 20 to 25 percent in the fall of 2009.

See ENROLLMENT page 9

Theater completion date set back by one month

I

n a recent Board of Regents meeting, a change order was approved that will delay the completion of the Visual and Performing Arts Center theater to Sept. 13, 2013, a little more than one month later than originally planned. The original completion date was Aug. 1, 2013, according to a June 14 Pioneer report.

Project Manager Larry Barnes said the delay is due to significant safety measures left out of the original building plan and misinterpretation from the architectural designers.

See THEATER page 9
OPINION

EDITORIAL | OCCC should stick with what already worked

Now is Power slogan a bad change

Over the past 40 years, many things have changed about OCCC: the buildings, the programs, the car-peting — even the college’s name.

As the school continues to grow and evolve, it ushers in one change after another. Even now, the skeleton of a behemoth theater looms behind the VPAC building. Baby trees encircle campus in what will one day become a circle of greenery.

OCCC is always changing, and for the most part, it’s a great thing.

But one not-so great thing is the college’s recent decision to ditch the slogan “In it for me at OCCC” for “Now is Power.”

The “In it for me at OCCC” motto fulfilled all of advertising’s cardinal rules. It made sense, it was catchy and most importantly, it was impossible to hear it and not know what institution the advertisement was for.

“Now is Power” shares no connection with OCCC, making it impossible to distinguish from any other slogan out there.

It sounds like the battle cry of a laundry detergent, a diet plan or even a supremacist group — not a respectable college.

It also could sound off-putting, even when applied in collegiate terms. Yes, college students are the poster children of procrastination.

Whether it’s doing our homework, filling out scholarships or enrolling in the first place, many of us have a knack for doing it at the last possible minute.

But never forget there are plenty of individuals out there who would like to的道理 to the “now” but simply cannot.

Not everyone can afford to go to college, even a more accessible one like OCCC and other community colleges. Others may have the money or other financial means, but personal problems may keep them from attending.

If “Now is Power,” where does that leave them?

“In it for me at OCCC” was a simple slogan with a resounding message.

It told prospective students they should go to OCCC to better themselves. It was empowering, and welcoming to students from all age groups and walks of life. It told us that yes, we could do this.

But now, from billboards erected in and around the metro area to posters dotting campus walls, we’re being told that “Now is Power.” It tells us that if we hit any bumps along the way, we’re just out of luck, because the power is now — not in the future.

Why fix something that wasn’t broken to begin with?

Most companies don’t change their slogan every few years. Nike has used “Just Do It” for more than 20 years and it still instantly recognizable. And anyone who has spent Christmas in Oklahoma has heard BC Clark’s unforgettable jingle, which was first produced in 1956 and continues to play every December.

Companies should find a slogan that works for them, and stick with it. That’s something OCCC had — but they didn’t do.

— Whitney Knight

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | With 72 cases, experts warn Oklahomans to not let guard down

Cooler temps may increase West Nile virus exposure

To the Editor:

Seven new cases of West Nile virus have been reported as of Aug. 23, bringing the state total of cases this year to 72. Mildertemperatures and rain in many parts of the state provide conditions that may cause increased risk of mosquito bites and the potential for WNV transmission.

“Now that our state’s extreme heat has lifted, more Oklahomans are likely to seek outdoor opportunities to enjoy the milder temperatures — attending school athletic events, working out in the yard, taking evening walks, or enjoying camping trips or excursions to the lake,” said State Health Commissioner Dr. Terry Cline.

“But with the … rain in many areas of the state, there are now more opportunities for standing water for mosquitoes to breed. I urge everyone to continue to use insect repellent when outdoors and keep a can in your car or travel bag for reaplication as necessary.”

Cline said late August and September are peak periods of WNV transmission in Oklahoma. The OSDH suggests using an EPA-registered insect repellent such as those containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Products with a higher percentage of DEET as an active ingredient generally give longer protection.

Permethrin sprayed on clothing provides protection through several washes, but the product should not be sprayed on skin. The OSDH offered these insect repellent recommendations:

• Products containing up to 30 percent DEET can be used on children.
• Use aerosols or pump sprays for skin and treating clothing because they provide even application. Use liquids, creams, lotions, towlettes or sticks for more precise application to exposed skin, e.g., face or neck.

• After your outdoor activity, wash repellent-treated skin with soap and water.
• Don’t overapply or saturate skin or clothing.
• Don’t apply to skin under clothing.
• Apply only as directed on the product label.
• Empty items in your yard that hold standing water so mosquitoes don’t have a place to breed, and double check your window and door screens to make sure they are in good shape and can keep mosquitoes out.

For more information, visit www.health.ok.gov, or call your local county health department.

— The Oklahoma City-County Health Department

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: To: The PIONEER, Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

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. Letters may be edited for the PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.
MOVIE REVIEW | Reviewer says movie is the ‘manliest’ film he’s ever seen

Has-beens give ‘Expendables’ life

“Chuck Norris and Mr. T once walked into a bar together. The building instantly exploded because that much raw awesome- ness cannot be con- tained in one build- ing.”

While The “Ex- pendables 2” lacks Mr. T, it has more than enough Chuck Norris to keep everybody sated and pinned to their seats.

I went to see “The Expendables 2” recently and found it to be one of the biggest, manliest movies I’ve ever seen, as well as having more explosions than a Michael Bay film.

The plot is basic: Pure action. It has revenge and detective work, explosions and shooting with a side of street fighting. The fun part is that it has all of the action stars you grew up with and some of the new ones who have recently come out.

My mother put it in a very good way. She claimed that it had “Every has-been that ever was.” This works extremely well in my opinion.

Chuck Norris to keep everybody sated and pinned to their seats.

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Pulitzer-prize winner uncovers U.S. flaws

“Death of the Liberal Class” by Pulitzer-Prize winner Chris Hedges delves into the failures of liberal institutions such as universities, labor unions, churches, the arts, and even the Democratic Party, to protect the core values of liberty, justice, and equal protection and treatment under the law that made the United States one of the greatest nations in the world against a corporate coup d'état.

Hedges, current columnist for Truthdig, has been a foreign correspondent in Central America, Africa, the Balkans and the Middle East. He also spent 15 years at the New York Times and is the author of nine other books.

Among them are “War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning,” “Empire of Illusions,” “The World as It Is,” and most recently, “Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt.”

“Death of the Liberal Class,” published in 2010, draws upon historical facts, published works from other authors, and interviews with American intellectuals and other individuals to provide some insight into the decline of liberalism and, in turn, the inevitable collapse of our country.

Hedges is uncompromising as he helps the reader sift through all of the details. He takes a step-by-step approach in which each chapter builds on the last to connect the dots and complete the picture.

He illuminates the issues of permanent war and its use as a unifying factor, how the liberal class was dismantled, the side-show attraction that our political system has become, what happens to those within liberal institutions that loudly voice dissent against our elite power structures, and what he sees as the only path left to enable us to maintain humanity and the ideals this nation was built upon.

This is an absolute must read for anyone concerned with the tragic direction in which our country has headed. Above all, it will make you angry enough to want to stand up and be counted.

Rating: A+

—Chris James
Staff Writer/Photographer

CONCERT REVIEW | 80s group still has all the right moves

Duran Duran fans show band the love

Duran Duran fans were hungry like the wolf Friday, Aug. 17, as the band performed as part of the Live at the Garden summer concert series at the Memphis Botanical Gardens. Duran Duran’s Tennessee stop was one of their last stops in the U.S. as the band wraps up its world tour which started in March 2011.

Arriving around 5 p.m., I waited in line with others until the gates opened at 6:30 p.m. Those who had season passes to the venue were seated toward the front in assigned seating. Since I’m not a Tennessee resident, general admission was all that was available to me, meaning I would have to fight for my seat.

I continued to make small talk with the people in line around me until it was time to go in. As 6:30 p.m. approached, the gates were opened and hundreds of fans pushed and shoved their way through to get their ticket scanned and into the venue. Being one of the first 15 people to arrive, I knew I had a good shot of getting to the front.

After my ticket was scanned, I ran toward the venue, following the lead of those ahead of me. I reached my destination and landed at the front of general admission, right where I had wanted. Within the next 30 minutes, the whole general admission seating was packed and I could not see where it ended.

In front of us was not what you would expect to find at a typical concert. There were round dinner tables set up for those who had season passes. Little by little they came straggling in wearing cocktail dresses, carrying their wine coolers, and greeting others at their tables with hugs and hellos. Some were even setting out placemats, candles, and flower vases on their tables. It was obvious they were here for a social event and not Duran Duran.

A few minutes after 8:30 p.m., the lights on the stage dimmed and silhouettes of the band were seen entering the stage. As the first notes were played, the lights illuminated lead singer Simon Le Bon and the crowd went wild.

Those at the tables remained silent and turned to look back on those of us in general admission, surprised at the amount of yelling and screaming we were producing. It became instantly clear to everyone, even the band, that this would not be a typical concert.

As the band heated things up with some upbeat dance tunes, Le Bon tried his best to get everyone participating. Those at the tables continued to eat and seemed unimpressed at his attempt to involve them. As Le Bon yelled “we see you guys in the back,” the general admission crowd produced its loudest roar ever. This same level of enthusiasm continued from both of the parties for most of the night.

In another attempt to get the crowd involved, Le Bon walked into the crowd about halfway through the setlist and found two men to sing the recognizable intro of their hit song “The Reflex.” The men’s whimsy “ta na na na” got many laughing.

As the band slowed it down with songs such as “Save a Prayer” and “Ordinary World,” the audience was asked to get out their cell phones. Hundreds of phones instantly came out, lighting up the night sky.

Despite the band’s attempt all night to get the audience involved, it wasn’t until they played “Hungry Like the Wolf” that some of the people at the tables realized they knew the song and finally stood up to join in. A mixture of “Wild Boys” and Frankie Goes to Hollywood’s “Relax” ended the night before the band returned to the stage for two encore songs.

During “Girls on Film,” Le Bon announced the band, accidentally forgetting keyboardist Nick Rhodes, then once again entered the audience where a very lucky girl got to introduce Le Bon into the mic.

Although the concert was very different from any Duran Duran concert I have been to before, it was obvious many weren’t there to see the band. Being in the back with true fans who love and enjoy them as much as I do made the entire concert worth it. The friendships I made were enough to keep me smiling for days.

The following day, Le Bon tweeted how great fans had been the night before, stating “Our fans were magnificent; they got the whole place on their feet. Even the supper club…”

Overall, the concert was a great way to end my summer vacation and will be a fun story to tell for years to come.

Rating: A

—Erin Peden
Staff Writer
Students find their way during first week back

ERIN PEDEN
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Attending a new school can sometimes be overwhelming and students may find they have a few issues when arriving on campus for their first week of classes. Despite these issues, students can rest assured they are not alone.

Nursing major Kasey Aufiero says she encountered problems upon first arriving on campus. “Parking was a big issue for me this week,” Aufiero said. “I got to school about 40 minutes before my first class and still had a hard time finding somewhere to park.”

To assist students in finding parking spots, members of campus police and security directed traffic throughout the first week of school to speed up the process of finding open lots.

In addition, both the college’s Twitter and Facebook posted updates throughout the day about which lots were full and which ones were still available.

Animal sciences major Alexys Kinney said her biggest issue was getting her time management in order. “One thing that frustrated me was how quickly we need to have our books,” Kinney said. “By the time I got my paycheck from work so I could buy my books, I already had papers due.”

While some students’ weeks may not have gotten off to a perfect start, others say recent campus modifications, such as the wayfinders, have made their transition a little smoother. Undecided major Hilary Johnson says she used a wayfinder to get to her class. “I knew my class was in the SEM building but didn’t know where to go from there,” Johnson said. “Since the wayfinders are posted all over the place, it was easy to find one and figure out where to go from there.”

For those who may not be as familiar with the campus layout, help was always available for those who ask for it.

Student Ambassador Kevin Hernandez, who works at the Welcome Center, said the first week of school is one of the busiest. “We get a lot of people asking where their class is, how to drop a class, what to do if their class has been moved, etc.” Hernandez said. “We usually send them to the division office or try to point them in the right direction.”

In addition to on-campus help, students who follow the college on Facebook may also be at an advantage. Within the first week of school, the college’s Facebook page was filled with students asking questions as well as posting books for sale. A link was even posted by the college itself showing students how to set up their students email and access it from their mobile phone.

With the many resources now available, new and returning students can rest assured OCCC is doing everything to make sure their semester is a successful one.

To follow the college’s posts on Facebook search Oklahoma City Community College and “like” the page or follow OTripleC on Twitter.

Funds promote cyber security as career field

MITCHELL RICHARDS
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The OCCC Information Technology program recently received a $50,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation.

The Department of Homeland Security awarded the grant designating the college as a center for academic excellence in information assurance for a two-year institution.

Al Heitkamper, computer science professor, said that the IT Program was awarded this grant, along with six other schools, because it is teaching the information required for people to be hired in the IT field.

Heitkamper said they were currently using the funds to promote their IT and Cyber Security programs. One of the ways they are promoting the program is by hosting two-week-long camps as a part of OCCC’s College For Kids summer program.

Heitkamper said the camps were for students in fifth grade through eighth. “The idea is to promote the Cyber Security profession to try to get these students involved in our department at an early age,” Heitkamper said.

Heitkamper was impressed by some of the older students’ ability to quickly set up servers to play Minecraft, an online survival and creative game students would play with one another during breaks in the camp.

“I said to them if they use 50 percent of the effort they put into that game into their studies, they’ll be great students. They know that stuff forwards and backwards,” Heitkamper said.

Heitkamper said in the course students learned a variety of skills including crytography, robotics, cyber security awareness, safe surfing, Photoshop, and even learned to program an Apple iOS application.

Participants in the camp received a miniature robot to take home and build, a backpack, a flash drive, a T-shirt and other goodies, he said.

The IT program also is using the funds to purchase LEGO Mindstorm robots for their classes. Heitkamper said they will be used in the department’s programming classes to get students in class interested from day one and to create a general interest in the department.

James Bothwell, computer science professor in the IT department, said he will be teaching some classes involving the robots.

Bothwell said he will integrate the recently purchased robots into classes this semester, but says they will “definitely be ready next semester.”

He said students will build a robot and have it solve a maze. Bothwell said the robots have the ability to scan for changes in the maze.

“It is a definite hands-on experience. Most people, including me, learn better that way,” Bothwell said.

Bothwell said the robots can be built into many forms. The LEGO website shows examples of humanoid robots, rover-style robots and even an alligator style robot made from the same kits.

Heitkamper said he did not know if more money would be coming in after the funds from the grant were used, but he hoped there would be.

The grant was awarded to the college from the National Science Foundation and was part of a program called the Cyber Security Education Consortium. CSEC involves 72 community colleges in eight states and was started in 2004, Heitkamper said.
West Nile, pertussis spread through state

SARAH HUSSAIN
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With more than 80 percent of West Nile virus cases reported from six states (California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas), Oklahoma ranks as the second highest, reporting 1,118 cases as of Aug. 21, according to the Center for Disease Control.

The next most dangerous outbreak has been whooping cough, also known as pertussis, with more than 18,000 cases nationwide this year. In Oklahoma, there have been 28 reported cases as of Aug. 6, according to the CDC.

Kristen and Dustin Smith of Elk City lost their 7-week-old son Aiden to whooping cough July 16. All deaths caused by whooping cough this year have been infants.

Lisa Teel, Emergency Planning and Risk Management director, said in an email she was not aware of any cases being reported of either West Nile virus or whooping cough at OCCC.

According to Teel, OCCC has a procedure in place in case an outbreak of either of these or any other virus were to occur on campus.

This can be found on the employee webpage, www.employee.occc.edu, listed under policies and procedures.

Policy 5002, Communicable Disease, states that any “information concerning a student with a communicable disease should be referred or reported to the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services or designated personnel.”

Steven Sacket, a doctor at Deaconess Family Care, shed some light on the symptoms, treatment and prevention of both West Nile virus and whooping cough.

West Nile virus

“When it comes to West Nile virus, 80 percent of the infected individuals show no symptoms, which leaves the 20 percent who will have mild symptoms from a few days to a few weeks,” Sacket said.

“One out of 150 infected people can get severe illnesses. The virus can cause coma (and) neuroinvasive issues, and sometimes these conditions may remain permanent,”

Sacket said there is no actual treatment since it is a virus. “The best way to beat it is by drinking fluids and getting as much rest as possible.”

Sacket said West Nile virus starts and spreads when mosquitoes bite infected birds, then spread their blood to humans. The best way to avoid the virus, he said, is with prevention:

According the CDC website, everyone should remember the four Ds:

1. Dusk to dawn – Mosquitoes that carry WNV are most active during these hours, so if you must go outside always take precautions.
2. Dress – Wear long sleeves with cuffs and long pants whenever mosquitoes are likely to be biting. Tuck your pants into your socks.
3. DEET – Use an insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin.
4. Drainage – Check regularly around your home for any water accumulation that could provide mosquito breeding grounds. For pools, hot tubs or water features, OCCHD recommends that residents “cover, drain or maintain” these water sources to eliminate mosquito habitat.

DEET is the most widely used active ingredient in repellants worldwide and is unequaled when it comes to keeping mosquitoes, ticks, and other bugs away, according to www.deet.com.

Pertussis/Whooping Cough

Sacket said it’s important to avoid coming into contact with anyone who has pertussis, better known as whooping cough, so termed by the sound made after the end of a coughing fit.

And, if you do find you’ve contracted the illness, “get treated as early as possible,” Sackett said.

“Many people think it is just another common cold or flu, but if treated early on with antibiotics it will not be as severe.”

Sackett said, within the first two weeks, someone who has the bacteria is highly contagious. “After the first two weeks the virus or bacteria has left the body and it’s just the symptoms that are left.”

If pertussis is not treated correctly, between the second and sixth weeks the symptoms turn more into flu-like ones with vomiting and fatigue, Sackett said.

“Aafter that stage, the cough lessens and your body starts going back to normal,” he said.

“It is more dangerous for babies because their immune systems cannot fight off the bacteria as well as adults can.”

Whooping cough vaccinations offered

For preteens and teens: Vaccine protection for pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria can decrease with time. Preteens going to the doctor for their regular check-up at age 11 or 12 years should get a booster vaccine, called Tdap. Those who didn’t get a booster of Tdap as a preteen should get one dose when they visit their health care provider.

For infants and children: In the U.S. the recommended pertussis vaccine for children is called DTaP. This is a combination vaccine that protects children against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. For maximum protection against pertussis, children need five DTAp shots. The first three shots are given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The fourth shot is given around 15 months of age, and a fifth shot is given when a child enters school.

If a 7 to 10 year old is not up to date with DTaP vaccines, a dose of Tdap should be given before the 11 to 12 year old check up.

For pregnant women: Pregnant women who have not been previously vaccinated with Tdap should get one dose during the third trimester or late second trimester or immediately postpartum. By getting Tdap during pregnancy, maternal pertussis antibodies transfer to the newborn, providing protection in early life, before the baby starts getting vaccines. Tdap will also protect the mother at time of delivery, making her less likely to transmit pertussis to her infant.

For adults: Adults 19 years of age and older who didn’t get Tdap as a preteen or teen should get one dose of Tdap. Getting vaccinated with Tdap at least two weeks before coming into close contact with an infant is especially important.

Adults may get Tdap instead of their next regular tetanus booster—the Td shot that is recommended for adults every 10 years. The dose of Tdap can be given earlier than the 10-year mark.

Local vaccination locations:

OCCHD Main
921 N.E. 23rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK, 73105

OCCHD North WIC
36 W Memorial, Suite B8
Norman, OK, 73072-3628

Inside CVS/pharmacy #6165
3651 W Robinson St
Edmond, OK, 73013-6028

Inside CVS/pharmacy #6225
1520 S Bryant Ave
Mustang, OK, 73064

Inside CVS/pharmacy #8314
36 W Memorial, Suite B8
Norman, OK, 73072-3628

- www.cdc.gov

CDC reports West Nile virus spreading

Thus far in 2012, 43 states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds or mosquitoes. A total of 693 cases of West Nile virus disease in people, including 26 deaths, have been reported to the CDC. This is the highest number of West Nile virus disease cases reported to the CDC through the second week in August since West Nile virus was first detected in the U.S. in 1999. Of these, 406 (59 percent) were classified as neuroinvasive disease (such as meningitis or encephalitis) and 287 (41 percent) were classified as non-neuroinvasive disease.

- www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile
College hires new professors for fall

Human Anatomy and Physiology I, as well as Microbiology classes, will be taught by a new face in the Science Department, Texas native Robyn Senter.

“I came from Lamar State College-Orange in Texas. I had been there since 2003. I came up here to Oklahoma and adventure! It was time for a change,” Senter said.

“I had put out several applications and when I noticed that OCCC was hiring, as I checked out the website and kept looking at the information, I kept thinking ‘Wow, this is awesome.’

“This place seems to really care about their students,” Senter said.

“They seem to be really gung-ho and they’ve got lots of great ideas and programs. You kind of look at the economy and you say, ‘Yeah, I think I could live there!’ I was very fortunate,” she said.

“Teaching in the summer is nothing like teaching a fall semester. I’m excited to see the real backbone of the student society here.”

There is a new face in the Library this fall, and that new face is 28-year-old small-towner Ann Raia.

Raia was raised in Canute, a small town in western Oklahoma. She went on to receive her undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Oklahoma, where she spent years working in the library.

Raia said the position was a great opportunity.

“This position seemed like a good fit. I’d done something similar at OU, so it was kind of right up my alley,” Raia said.

“I actually had kind of a break from academics,” Raia said. “I had been at OU for eight and a half years with the library there and was looking for a job.”

She said being back in a college environment is what excites her most.

“It was kind of hard to find a job, so I went to public libraries. I liked my job but I really missed being around students and teaching so I’m just excited to be getting back into that.”

A new addition to the Nursing department Shelley Miller will be teaching classes this semester.

“I’d been an adjunct at OCCC since 2003 off and on. So I really enjoy the culture, the student population, and the diversity,” she said.

Miller said even though she has been an adjunct in the past, there is still plenty to be excited about.

“This semester, of course, I’m new. So I’m most excited to get to know the students and learn the culture.

Miller said she is excited to be able to teach professionalism, compassion, caring, and kindness. She said she hopes to teach students to “have high expectations with themselves.”

Even though she is originally from Texas, after moving to Oklahoma to start college, Joyce Cole considers herself an Okie, she said.

Not only is Cole going to be teaching students this fall, but she is also a student herself, she said.

“I have a degree in education from UCO and I went to Rose State for a nursing degree,” Cole said.

“My master’s is from OU and I am currently enrolled in their PhD program,” she said.

Cole said she chose OCCC for a reason.

“I love teaching in the community college setting,” Cole said. “I have friends who teach here and they invited me to teach as an adjunct. After teaching as an adjunct, I decided I liked it enough that I wanted a full-time position.”

Cole said there is a lot to look forward to.

“I’m teaching in Nursing Process III,” Cole said. “I’m excited about getting to engage more frequently with the students. I’ll really get to know the students and be more of a resource for them on a regular basis.”

Justin Shaw grew up in Oklahoma City. He is currently getting his master’s degree through the Academy of Arts in San Francisco’s online degree program where his professors include the creator of the famous Disney character Jasmine, and the developer of Star Wars’ Jar Jar Binks. He will be teaching computer graphics and mobile graphics at OCCC.

“I’m from Oklahoma Christian,” Shaw said. “I’m a professor there right now. I came over here because they wanted full-time. I’m an adjunct at Oklahoma Christian and I … teach two classes there and I teach five classes here.”

Shaw said he is looking forward to getting to work.

“I’m most excited about 3D mobile design,” Shaw said. “Those people have the best chance of actually getting jobs because 3D is such a huge field. At this college they’re going to be taking 3D every single semester. Tinker Air Force Base has hired two of my students. I sent one to Pixar and she had an internship over the summer. I’m really hyped about seeing what students will do next semester.”

Spanish classes, both on campus and online, will be taught this semester by Chile native, Sandra Herron.

“I started teaching Spanish at a private Catholic school about 20 years ago and then another private high school, and then college,” Herron said.

“My favorite thing about teaching is the love for the language — to teach the students that although it’s a foreign language, it can be fun. If they can get the love for the language, they might decide they want to go visit Mexico or somewhere.

“I saw there was an opening and the school was close to my home in Texas, so I told my husband we could try it,” Herron said. “I taught at a college in Plano, Texas, before this.

“I’m most excited about everything because ever-
Students do have healthier options

BRANDON WILLIS
Sports Writer
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Staying healthy in college has become more and more difficult. With Burger King, Braums and many more fattening fast food restaurants at students’ disposal, it makes decision for lunch or even dinner that much more difficult.

“It's tough selecting a healthy snack over a nice juicy burger to be honest,” said OCCC student and business major Austin Conway.

Conway said he believes the OCCC Cafe is too expensive to go every day during the week.

“I could easily end up spending around $75 a week and I only take classes three days a week,” Conway said.

Healthy alternatives and a loyal workout buddy will help you stay healthy during the school year, according to CollegeTips.com.

Bringing food to school with you can be a beneficial alternative.

“Instead of eating a burger or pizza, you could bring a healthy sandwich and fruit with you, the website suggests.

Conway says he lives by this advice.

“Even when eating, work out together, and motivate each other to eat great and work out,” Conway said.

“This can keep your spirits up and you focused and on track,” he said.

Conway said he doesn't have a consistent workout partner yet but he just goes with different friends and they usually can be found in the Wellness Center.

After acquiring a workout partner, Conway says you may even purchase a Group Fitness Pass at the OCCC Wellness Center for $50, which will allow you and your partner to not only workout but attend specific classes that fit your interests.

From kickboxing to theatrical dance, the fitness pass offers you the chance to change things up week to week.

College can bring several temptations which can cause you to get off track but Conway believes you can control what goes in your body.

“You just have to be disciplined and stay focused and if you are not one of those people than you should probably look into getting into the Wellness Center as much as possible,” Conway said.

For more information on a fitness pass, contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

EMT student Ethan Woodard gets in some cardio on the exercise bike after class in the Wellness Center, Aug. 21. The Wellness Center has exercise equipment, free weights and weight machines for students to stay in shape. The equipment is free to students with proper ID.

I started bringing food with me which was healthier and saved me money in the long run.”

—Austin Conway
OCCC Business Major

Have sports news you want to share? Email Brandon at: sportswriter@occc.edu, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676

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Counterfeit $100 bill gets through Bursar’s office

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A counterfeit $100 bill was found Aug. 24 in the Bursar’s office while employees were processing a deposit, according to a campus police department report.

According to the report, no one in the office was able to determine who the money came from.

The report states that the Bursar’s office uses counterfeit detection pens, but reported that it is unknown why the bill went undetected.

The bill in question, as well as the police report, will be sent to the U.S. Secret Service for storage and investigation.

The reporting officer said if there is an investigative agency willing to look at the case — listed in the reports as larceny because there is not a category for fraud — video surveillance from Aug. 8 through 24 of the Bursar’s office will be made available to that agency.

The first week of the fall semester saw a couple of auto accidents that were reported to campus police.

Both were non-injury.

In one accident, campus Police Officer Patrick Martin used surveillance camera footage to solve a dispute between the two people involved.

Danielle Tucker, 28, told Martin her car was parked when she was struck by Aurash Zarkeshan, 18, in parking lot A.

Zarkeshan disputed Tucker’s statement, saying Tucker was backing out of a parking spot when she struck Zarkeshan’s red Nissan.

Video showed Tucker backing her black Lexus from a parking spot, striking Zarkeshan’s vehicle.

Another reported accident was a hit-and-run in parking lot F. William Waldrop, 17, reported damage on his red Chevrolet Silverado truck.

Waldrop said the damage to the back bumper on the passenger side was “probably” not present when he parked his car, according to police reports.

To reach campus police, use the blue call boxes located in the parking areas or on campus, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

Enrollment: OCCC numbers indicate strong economy

Continued from page 1

when the recession hit.

Enrollment and Student Services Vice President Marion Padin told college regents the college is not particularly surprised by the decrease.

“For our fall enrollment we have about 12,887 students enrolled right now,” she said.

Harvey said that number is likely to change since the numbers are preliminary.

He said the exact enrollment number for a specific semester changes during the first couple weeks because of the number of people still enrolling and dropping classes.

“You can’t really get a good feel for what enrollment is going to be until two weeks after classes begin,” he said.

Harvey said a surprising fact that has not been tested, but has been seen across the nation at community colleges, is that students who enroll between April and June for the fall semester tend to do better than students who wait until right before the semester begins.

“Maybe it’s the people who haven’t made their mind up — maybe it’s people who procrastinate,” he said. “So that’s why we’re here, to encourage students to enroll earlier.“

For more information on enrollment, visit www.occc.edu/ie and choose “incidental reports” at the left.

To enroll at OCCC, visit www.occc.edu.

VPAC: Theater construction set back about one month

Continued from page 1

“In order to accommodate safety regulations for smoke evacuation, things such as doors and fire suppression pumps are being added as well as an additional generator,” Barnes said.

“When the original building plan was made, there were certain measures we were told were not needed but have since changed.”

Other changes include relocation of duct work, provision of access doors, and required electrical and mechanical modifications to the area housing the relocated duct work, Barnes said. He said all modifications will ensure the system is safe and in accordance with the Oklahoma Fire Marshal’s office.

The Board also approved an additional $357,000 to complete the project.

Vice President of Business and Finance John Boyd said the additional funds would come from Section 13 offset funds — funds set aside specifically to be used for campus construction or remodeling projects.

The delay has left some students disappointed.

English major Cassidy Taylor said she is sad she most likely will not get to see the completed project.

“I only plan on being here a year before transferring so I’m a little sad I won’t get to see the finished product,” Taylor said.

“I was looking forward to seeing what kind of performances would be offered,” Barnes said.

The current Visual and Performing Arts Center was planned and built in such a way that the new theater fits perfectly into the design.

“When the VPAC was built, it was designed to make room for an addition if there was ever a need for one,” Barnes said.

“The new theater is technically an addition to the building.”

When completed, the theater will house more than 1,000 seats complete with handicap capabilities.

Other features will include elevators, catwalks, a pit for an orchestra, as well as dressing and makeup rooms for those involved in the productions.
Students needed for blood drive

JEREMY CLOUD
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Student Life is partnering with the Oklahoma Blood Institute for the first blood drive of the fall semester, said Student Life Coordinator Brittany Carradine.

The drive will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 4 and 5 in the General Dining area.

Carradine said OBI’s goal for donors at OCCC for the year is just shy of 300.

That number is based on past drives, she said.

That number of donors is needed to maintain the blood supply, said OBI Blood Program Consultant Lindsay Cobb.

“Just to keep up with current demand, we need 700 units of blood to maintain current use at the area hospitals,” she said.

Cobb said a unit of blood is roughly equal to a U.S. pint, and converting the numbers yields a requirement of about 90 gallons of blood every day.

“One of the great things about Oklahoma Blood Institute is that all of the blood you give ... here on this campus, it stays in this community. They don't take the blood and go to southern Oklahoma or the Panhandle, it stays here,” Carradine said.

“It’s a really great way to literally give of yourself, and give back to the people in your community,” Carradine said. OBI set a yearly goal of 298 donors from OCCC. So far, 164 have donated. She said she is hoping to see the goal reached.

“We’re expecting about 40 donors, based on past experience but we'd be happy to see more,” she said.

Cobb said the restrictions on who can and cannot donate are often less strict than individuals think.

“For instance, it’s possible to donate after getting a tattoo or piercing, as long as you got it at a regulated shop that we have on our list,” she said.

“It’s also possible to donate if you’ve been out of country, but stayed at a resort. Misconceptions like this are partly because the rules change a little bit almost every day to keep up with medication and so on, and partly that people just hear these things and get it stuck in their heads.”

Cobb said those with questions should visit the OBI website. For specific medication questions that the website doesn’t answer, they can call the OBI contact center.

“Or just come by a drive. We’d rather you find out for sure one way or the other, rather than assuming you can’t and not coming by because of it,” Cobb said.

While OBI has its own personnel to work the drive, it’s possible for students to volunteer their time to help the drive by working the check-in or snack tables, Carradine said.

She also said students can help the drive by publicizing it within their classes and organizations.

For more information about publicizing or volunteering with the blood drive, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523, or contact Carradine at brittany.f.carradine@occc.edu.

For more information about donation restrictions, go to obi.org/blood-donation/can-i-donate, or call 877-340-8777.
PIONEER | OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

Classifieds

Classified ads are free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

Automotive

For Sale: 2010 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup. 14,000 miles, city miles only. Silver color. Tinted rear window. Clean. Like new. Tags current. Email claudette-robertson@occc.edu.

Textbooks


Miscellaneous


Must Sell: 1995 Vulcan 750 motorcycle. (needs carb repair and more) $1,000. (Includes parts bikes.) Text 405-532-6262 for more information.


Looking for Ride: Need ride from Norman to OCCC. Legally blind student. Will pay for gasoline. Call: 405-598-5052 or 405-395-2779.

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Pepsi truck, car collide at campus intersection

SARAH HUSSAIN
Editor
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A traffic accident involving a Pepsi truck sent an OCCC student to the emergency room and held up traffic on Regents Boulevard for about an hour on Wednesday morning, Aug. 29.

Richard Hobby, the truck driver, and Sarah Kerbs, an OCCC student, were the two involved in the accident.

“He was going southbound on Regents Boulevard and she was stopped at the stop sign (on Faculty Circle),” said Sgt. Kevin Johnson from the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office. “She thought that he was supposed to stop too, but he had the right of way.

“She pulled into his path and when he couldn’t stop, he hit her — which pushed her into the street pole which is evident from the skid marks on the road.”

For about 30 minutes, another officer from the sheriff’s office and OCCC’s Police Chief James Fitzpatrick directed traffic while Johnson investigated.

OCCC security officer Cliff Evans said Kerbs was taken by EMSA to Moore Medical Center.

“She said she was OK, but she was shaken up, probably in shock,” he said.

Johnson said Hobby seemed unhurt by the accident and drove the Pepsi truck from the scene after Johnson finished the investigation.

The question was raised if streets around campus have adequate signage to warn drivers of who has the right of way and who does not.

“It’s adequate signage,” Johnson said. “The problem is that at peak times of students driving around campus, there is a risk of having more accidents.

“Students just have to be mindful. Even if you come to a stop sign, when you proceed you still have to do so safely. Be constantly looking for other traffic.”

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