

PIONEER ONLINE

To comment on stories or to access the latest news, features, multimedia, online exclusives and updates, visit occc.edu/pioneer.



EDITORIAL

BASKETBALL PREDICTIONS USELESS

Sports Writer Brandon Willis says experts who make NBA predictions don't take enough factors into consideration. Read more inside.

OPINION, p. 2

CAMPUS LIFE

EMPLOYEES AWARDED FOR SERVICE

Several OCCC employees made the grade when they won awards for standing out from the crowd. See who won awards by turning to pages 6 and 7.

NEWS, p. 6 & 7

SPORTS

PERSONAL TRAINER COURSES

OCCC's Recreation and Fitness department is offering a personal trainer certification course Oct. 6 through Dec. 8. For more, see inside.

SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE

FREE SPEECH ZONE STILL IN DISCUSSION

OCCC student Mary Newcome-Hatch is still working out the details of making a free speech zone on campus. See inside.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

OCT. 19, 2012

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

All that jazz



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC Jazz Band vocalists Nicole Pearce and Stefanie Cox sing Frank Sinatra's "The Lady is a Tramp" with a 2012 twist on Oct. 9 in the "Jazz of Gatsby Era" performance in the Bruce Owen Theater. Pearce and Cox were accompanied by Music Professor Michael Boyle on the keyboard, Zach Lebo on bass guitar, Professor Mark Giammarino on drums, Jared Bross on guitar, and Professor Miguel Correa on the saxophone.

OCCC scores well on 2011 graduate report

Former students grade the college on their overall satisfaction with degree programs

SARAH HUSSAIN
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Most OCCC graduates are satisfied with their college experience here according to a survey of 2011 graduates.

The annual "Report on the FY2011 Graduates" was recently released by OCCC's Institutional Effectiveness Office.

Effectiveness Director Janet Perry said the overall goal of the survey includes the following:

- to see where OCCC's graduates are six months after graduating from OCCC.

- find out if they have continued on to another institution.

- to see if they are working in their degree field.

The survey response rate was 51 percent which, Perry said, is good. She said most survey collectors would consider a 30 percent response as golden.

Perry said when OCCC first started sending out the surveys 10 years ago, the response rate was just 12 to 17 percent.

The survey, sent out to all OCCC graduates by mail six months after each graduating semester, consisted of 17 questions relating to educational and employment information and a summary of a graduate's overall experience at OCCC.

Of the 686 graduates who responded, 354 reported being enrolled at another institution

of higher education and most reported having no trouble transferring their OCCC credits to that institution.

Just 10 respondents reported having difficulties transferring some of their credit hours, according to the report.

A large group of graduates also reported they were working at the time of the survey.

That group includes 365 graduates employed full time, of which 225 graduated with

See **REPORT** page 9

Halloween carnival for students, children

JEREMY CLOUD
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

OCCC's annual Halloween Carnival will be a bit smaller and more focused on the campus community this year, said Student Life Coordinator

Brittany Carradine.

The carnival, which will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 26, had grown over previous years to the point of being almost unmanageable, she said.

"Last year there were over 2,000

See **HALLOWEEN** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | NBA experts need new crystal balls

Uh oh. Here come the predictions

With the NBA season about to start, the great and overused tradition of prediction games begin.

With many big moves this off season there is a lot of excitement going around the country. My only problem with that excitement is that some let that excitement cloud their judgment.



BRANDON WILLIS

Unfortunately in sports, people seem to believe you can throw five talented players together and just go out there and win from day one.

Yet, there is something to be said about a young group of players who over time began to build strong team chemistry

together.

The Los Angeles Lakers are the talk of the town in the NBA because of their additions of Steve Nash

and Dwight Howard. Many critics believe the rest of the league will just lie down and hand them the David O'Brien trophy. I believe these particular experts are wrong.

The NBA is as strong as it has been in 20 years and there are major contenders to be accounted for. The Heat still have the best player on the planet and the OKC Thunder have gained another year of experience which is scary.

The last time there was a consensus pick to win the NBA Championship easily was the Miami Heat in 2011 when they acquired LeBron James and Chris Bosh. That season the Heat struggled with chemistry problems all year and it came to the forefront in the NBA Finals when they were defeated by a veteran and cohesive unit in the Dallas Mavericks.

Of course we all know talent is a huge factor in sports — especially basketball.

However, what makes sports such a unifying arena is the belief in a team concept and the underdog quality.

BALLIARD BILL



JEREMY CLOUD

The Lakers have talent across the board and they should do well in the West.

All I'm saying is that the NBA is too great and too exciting of a sport to be seen as a one trick pony. The Lakers will be a huge contender in the West but for now and for many years to come the Western Conference Championship goes through OKC.

—BRANDON WILLIS
SPORTS WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Show respect to those who need handicapped services

American Red Cross using phone apps to inform

To the Editor:

The American Red Cross has launched its official Earthquake App, putting lifesaving information right in the hands of people who live in or who visit earthquake prone areas.

This free app — available in English or Spanish — is the third in a series created by the American Red Cross, the nation's leader in emergency preparedness, for use on both iPhone and Android platforms.

The Earthquake App comes on the heels of the highly successful First Aid and Hurricane apps, which have been downloaded more than a million times.

"This newest app gives in-

stant access to local and real time information on what to do before, during and after earthquakes," said Ken Garcia, Regional Communications Director, Central and Western Oklahoma Region of the Red Cross.

"Oklahoma residents will receive earthquake notifications and can monitor activity where other family and friends reside. People who do not live in earthquake-prone areas can have peace of mind knowing you'll have instant information about loved ones."

The release of the app comes nearly a year after an earthquake occurred about 30 miles east of Oklahoma City near

Prague causing widespread damage. The November 2011 magnitude 5.6 earthquake is the strongest ever in Oklahoma. At least two people were injured, 14 homes destroyed and many others damaged in the Shawnee-Sparks area. Parts of US Highway 62 between Meeker and Prague buckled by shaking along pre-existing cracks.

The App features 'Shock Zone Impact Maps' which gives users personalized local impact information to help them make crucial decisions.

Features of the app include:

- Earthquake notifications showing the epicenter, magnitude and intensity maps;

- One touch "I'm safe" messaging that allows users to broadcast reassurance to family and friends via social media outlets that they are out of harm's way;

- Options to view the app in English or Spanish based on user handset settings;

- Locations of open Red Cross shelters;

- Simple steps and checklists people can use to create a family emergency plan;

- Preloaded content that gives users instant access to critical action steps, even without mobile connectivity;

- Information on events that may happen after earthquakes such as fires and tsunamis;

- Toolkit with flashlight, strobe light and audible alarm; and

- Badges users can earn through interactive quizzes and share on social networks.

Over the past three months, the Red Cross has made great strides in putting vital information in the hands of people who need it during emergencies. More than one million people have downloaded the First Aid and Hurricane Apps.

People have used the content in our First Aid App to control bleeding, care for broken bones and help people having seizures.

—AMERICAN RED CROSS
OKLAHOMA CITY

Sarah Hussain.....	Editor	Paris Burris.....	Online Editor
Erin Peden.....	Staff Writer	Robert Bolton.....	Online Writer
Jeremy Cloud.....	Community Writer	Whitney Knight.....	Ad Manager
Brandon Willis.....	Sports Writer	Aaron Donahue.....	Circulation Manager
Chris James.....	Photographer	Ronna Austin.....	Lab Director
Mitchell Richards.....	Special Projects	Shawn Stawicki.....	Lab Assistant
Sue Hinton.....		Faculty Adviser	

The **PIONEER** is a student publication of 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 with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER ONLINE** also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

EVENT REVIEW | Fright fans have until Oct. 27 to visit spooky attraction

Haunted Trail fun for mild scares

Those looking for some ghostly fun may want to check out the Newcastle Nightmare Haunted Trail, located at 900 N. Portland. For just \$10, visitors can make their way through the spooky maze where they will encounter many creepy obstacles. The trail is open from 7 p.m. to midnight every Friday and Saturday through Oct. 27.

Upon arriving, my friends and I heard a chainsaw in the distance followed by screams which surely was an indication of what we would be facing later.

When it was our turn to go in, we were led onto a dark path and told “good luck.”

The only lumination was dim lights barely giving an outline of the path. We walked slowly, anticipating the danger that was to come at any moment’s notice.

The trail was set up in different parts, the first being a jungle of sorts in which we encountered snakes hanging from trees and even dead babies (dolls) scattered on the ground. In the distance we heard a man saying “follow my voice.” Many creepy characters continued to pop out at us as we made our way through the rest of the trail which contained a field,

campsite, graveyard and construction site.

Overall, the trail was very well set up. Although it was not the scariest one I have ever been to and the price was a little high, it was fun nonetheless. Being late at night made it hard to see where we were walking, heightening our senses and adding to the suspense of the journey.

If you are looking to be scared out of your mind, this is not the trail for you. However, if you are looking for a night of family fun with a mildly scary attraction or you are simply a chicken when it comes to anything haunted, this is definitely a must.

The thing I loved most is how the actors on the trail interacted with us if we talked to them. My friends and I probably spent more time laughing at their responses than screaming. Overall, it was a fun way to spend a Saturday night and the perfect weather for a bonfire and s’mores afterwards.

Rating: B+

—ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

MOVIE REVIEW | Movie worth two viewings for reviewer

Sci-fi flick ‘Looper’ gets perfect score

If there is one phrase to accurately describe director Rian Johnson’s new action-packed, futuristically based film “Looper,” that phrase is mind-blowing.

The movie is so good that not only did I see it the very day it was released in theaters, I saw it for a second time only three days later.

When I first discovered the movie I was somewhat nervous about how it would be executed. However, I was highly impressed by how well it turned out.

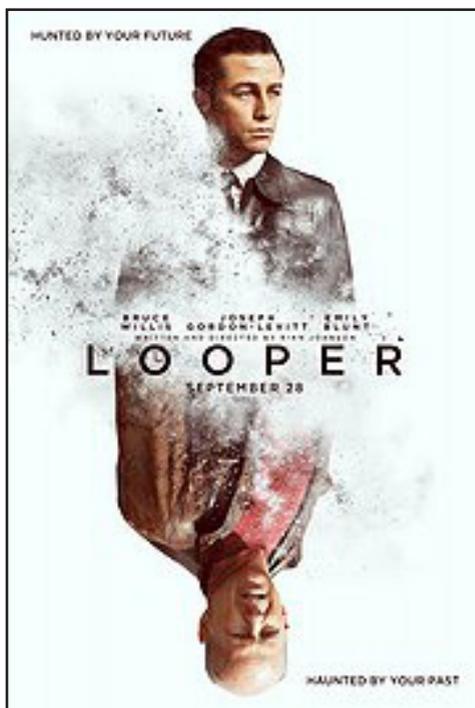
The plot examines using time travel invented in the future, which has been outlawed, in order to allow hitmen to eliminate their

targets in exchange for highly valuable silver. But when the main character is faced with eliminating his future self, everything turns chaotic.

The stars of the movie, Bruce Willis and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, put on some of their best performances in the movie.

Willis and Gordon-Levitt play the same character — Willis as the future Joe and Gordon-Levitt as young Joe.

Gordon-Levitt’s appearance was manipulated in order to resemble Willis, and it was done so in a very



accurate way. In some scenes of the movie, it is almost freaky to see how much the two looked alike. This was not only done through makeup, but Gordon-Levitt’s talent to impersonate Willis’s facial expressions and personality.

While the older actors did incredibly well with their performances, the breakthrough performance of the movie was hands down Pierce Gagnon’s performance as Cid. The actor appears to be around the age of 6, but he puts on the acting performance of a pro. His ability to cry on command and express sheer anger in certain scenes is jaw-dropping. It’s hard to take such a youngster seriously, but in all honesty, this kid’s got some seri-

ous talent. I definitely hope to see him in more roles.

This movie ranks high on my list of great action/sci-fi movies, and can almost be considered a modern day “Matrix.”

I recommend this movie to anyone who likes lots of action, a great storyline and great acting. Careful, though: If you don’t handle goriness very well or scare easily, you will want to watch with extreme caution.

Rating: A+

—PARIS BURRIS
ONLINE EDITOR

JOB & CAREER POWER

Tinker offers internships

Business majors or students considering a business degree should mark Wednesday, Nov. 7, on their calendars as the day to attend a workshop presented by the Tinker Air Force Base Internship Program (T.I.P). Recruiters from Tinker will present program information from noon to 1 p.m. and then answer questions from 1 to 1:30 p.m., in CU2. All students are invited to attend but business majors are the target student group of this campus visit.

Listed below are a few of the program details:

Student Benefits:

- Flexible hours based on school schedule
- Promotion to GS-05 or GS-07 based on GPA at graduation
- Promotion potential to GS-11
- Conversion to a full-time career conditional position upon completion of the Tinker Track degree
- Earn annual and sick leave based on the number of hours worked

Federal Benefits:

- 10 paid federal holidays a year
- Federal health and life insurance options
- Paid time for on-base physical fitness activities
- Tuition Assistance
- Performance-based bonuses and Time Off Awards

T.I.P has the following partnerships with Oklahoma business colleges. For example, when you transfer to the University of Central Oklahoma to enter the T.I.P program you must be a business major in Operation and Supply Chain Management:

UCO = Operations and Supply Chain Management

OU = Supply Chain Management

Langston = Management/Supply Chain

OSU = General Business

Additional intern requirements include:

- U.S. Citizen
 - Completed at least 60 college credit hours
 - Enrolled in Tinker Track plan of study or willing to switch
 - Must be pursuing first baccalaureate degree
- Please contact the Student Employment & Career Services office for more information. Location: Main Building, First Floor, Room 1G7, next to Student Life. 405-682-7519 or employmentservices@occc.edu

—DEBRA VAUGHN

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SERVICES DIRECTOR

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

PROGRAM REVIEW | Reviewer gives top rating to scientific show

Everyone can relate to ‘Radiolab’ broadcasts

WNYC’s “Radiolab” is a podcast/radio program distributed by National Public Radio and hosted by Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich. “Radiolab” is geared toward the world around us, but tries to get us to think differently about it.

Although it discusses heavy issues such as physics, animal behavior, space, and genetics to name a few topics, it communicates the complexity in a way non scientific types can understand — not just understand, but make interesting.

For example, in an episode entitled “Cities,” “Radiolab” talks about how certain cities have certain rhythms set to them set by the pace of the city itself.

RADIO LAB

The entire episode relates cities like New York City to living things, with energy coming in and energy going out.

They explore the central nervous system of a city deep underground in the water systems and the city’s heart-beat set by the pace of people walking. They also investigate what happens when a city begins to die, and visits Centralia, Penn., to visit what is left of a city destroyed by mine fires, betrayal, murder and tells what happens when a populace simply leaves town.

But if I just told you there was an hour-long podcast about how cities

work, you wouldn’t be as interested as “Radiolab” makes it. “Radiolab” is educational, interesting and stimulating to the listener’s ears and imagination.

Other topics have included what happens when you raise a chimpanzee as a human (“Lucy”), symmetry and the importance of the direction of your hair part (“Desperately Seeking Symmetry”), and more recently the physics involved in a Slinky (“What A Slinky Knows”).

Abumrad and Krulwich host the show with special guests and specialists for each topic. They often-

times have the curiosity of a child and seem to ask the questions I get to thinking while listening. They also sometimes handle controversial topics and present them in a fair light, but not without discussing their individual — and often different — stances.

“Radiolab” can be listened to in podcast form for free on www.Radiolab.com and iTunes, but also can be heard locally at 9 a.m. on KGOU 106.3 FM Saturday. The entire “Radiolab” catalog also is available on their website.

Rating: A+

—MITCHELL RICHARDS
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS REPORTER

DVD REVIEW | Only Blu-ray owners get the extras in new release

Disney fails with ‘Avengers’ DVD release

Marvel’s “Avengers” swept into theaters across the nation in a glorious blaze of comic book goodness last May, delighting diehard fans and casual moviegoers alike.

The flick itself was nearly perfect with a brilliant script, mind-blowing effects and a host of incredible actors who really brought their characters to life.

Like a lot of nerds out there, I saw the movie several times — OK, four — on the big screen. When my wallet simply couldn’t take anymore torture, I forced myself to sit back and wait for the home release.

As the Sept. 25 DVD release date drew closer, my excitement grew larger. Promotional websites promised a smorgasbord of bonus goodies like an alternate opening and closing, deleted scenes, a gag reel and more.

Unfortunately, the buffet turned out to be closed to anyone without a Blu-ray player.

I picked up my copy of the “Avengers” on DVD at Walmart for \$19.99. The price seemed a little steep, but I figured that was the price to pay for lots of extra content.

My rage rivaled the Hulk’s when I found out the DVD’s “extra content” was limited to one behind-the-scenes snippet, a director’s audio commentary and commercials for ABC TV shows.

As it turns out, only Blu-ray owners get all of the extras included on their discs, while those without basically get



the movie with a couple tarnished bells and whistles.

It is frustrating that Disney — who produced the DVD — would keep a good portion of their buying audience from getting to experience all the movie’s extras.

Even with prices of Blu-ray players coming down, it still isn’t feasible for everyone to own one. Not only is it not a necessity, but Blu-ray movies themselves tend to go for \$25 to \$30, significantly higher than the average DVD.

Although the “Avengers” is a fantastic flick worthy of anyone’s movie collection, if you don’t have a Blu-ray player, you might want to wait a few weeks and grab the movie from Amazon.com for cheaper. The \$19.99 price tag is simply too much to pay for not much in return.

Rating: D

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Sept. 21 through 23
www.newyorktimes.com

1. Taken 2
2. Argo
3. Sinister
4. Hotel Transylvania
5. Here Comes the Boom
6. Pitch Perfect
7. Frankenweenie
8. Looper
9. Seven Psychopaths
10. The Perks of Being a Wallflower
11. End of Watch
12. Atlas Shrugged Part 2
13. Trouble with the Curve
14. House at the End of the Street
15. The Master
16. The Dark Knight Rises
17. Brave
18. Finding Nemo
19. Arbitrage
20. Searching for Sugar Man

'STRING GARAGE BAND' TO PERFORM IN BRUCE OWEN THEATER

Students invited to make Time for Three

JARED BILLS

News Writing Student

The classical string music group Time for Three is returning to OCCC at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, and will be performing in the Bruce Owen Theater.

The members of Time for Three are Zachary DePue and Nicolas Kendall on violin and Ranaan Meyer, double bass.

The trio brings a unique sound that has a mix of country-western, gypsy, jazz, and even hip-hop in a classical music form, said Lemuel Bardeguez, OCCC director of Cultural Arts.

Bardeguez said the group likes to describe themselves as a "string garage band."

"They are hard to describe because they consist of three highly skilled, very virtuosic performers," said Bardeguez.

Time for Three created an adaptation to the song "Stronger" by Kanye West. The song includes an anti-bullying music video that can be viewed on the group's website at www.tf3.com. This video gained the group much popularity and they were later interviewed on

CNN, Bardeguez said.

The website traces the group's origins to a stormy night in July of 2003. Meyer and DePue were performing as members of the Philadelphia Orchestra at Philadelphia's Mann Center. There was a lightning-induced power failure that caused all the lights to go out.

In the darkness, Meyer and DePue performed an impromptu jam session. The crowd went wild and the ensemble gained instant attention.

Kendall has worked with internationally renowned violinist Victor Danchenko and maintains a strong interest in other musical instruments and genres including hip-hop.

Kendall is a member of

the East Coast Chamber Orchestra and the Dryden String Quartet, all while being a member of Time for Three.

Last year was the first for the music trio to perform at OCCC.

Bardeguez said they received a standing ovation at the end of their concert.

"We are really excited to have them

“

They are hard to describe because they consist of three highly skilled, very virtuosic performers.”

—LEMUEL BARDEGUEZ

OCCC CULTURAL ARTS DIRECTOR

back," Bardeguez said. "They have wonderful adaptations of music."

The group has performed at many different locations including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Club Yoshi's in San Francisco, the Kennedy Cen-

ter, and even the Schleswig-Holstein Festival in Germany.

In their 2011-2012 tour, Time for Three performed at Carnegie Hall, Princeton University, and had their first tour in South America, according to the group's website.

The performers also work with children and while on tour like to go to nearby high schools to give inspirational speeches.

The group tries to give children a positive influence to look up to. The group plans to stop by some high schools in the Oklahoma City area, Bardeguez said.

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$17 for senior citizens and \$10 for students.

This year will be the 14th year of the OCCC Cultural Arts program, Bardeguez said.

Time for Three

An OCCC Cultural Art Series event

7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23

in the Bruce Owen Theater

\$20 adults \$17 seniors \$10 students

STUDENTS SAY EDUCATORS GIVE THEM 'HIGH HOPES'

High school on campus serves eager kids

JORDAN HUFF

News Writing Student

Pathways Middle College High School is a small school of 100 students tucked away on the third floor of the Main building at OCCC.

Because Pathways is so hidden, many people have never heard about it.

"I heard about it from my middle school counselor," junior Ivan Flores said. "She said that she sees high hopes in me of graduating from high school and going to college. She referred me to this school."

Principal Carol Brogan has been at Pathways for about 12 years. She said she started working at Pathways when it had been open only a few months.

Pathways School opened in January 2001, and Brogan became the principal in August of 2001.

"It is a small enough environment to know each student, but

it's large enough to offer them the things that they need for graduation and to help them get into college," she said.

Not only do the students at Pathways take difficult high school classes, but many of them even take college classes when they are done with all the requirements Pathways has set for them to graduate high school.

Pathways senior Jennifer Argueta said she is challenged by high expectations.

"I like it better here than my last school, because the teachers are more driven."

Brogan noted that of 34 juniors and seniors last spring, 23 were taking college courses. Out of those 23 students taking college courses, 10 were taking 12 or more college hours.

In fact, access to college coursework is one of the reasons students apply to Pathways.

Because Pathways is noticeably smaller than most schools, the teachers are able to help their

“

It is a small enough environment to know each student, but it's large enough to offer them the things that they need for graduation and to help them get into college.”

—CAROL BROGAN

PATHWAYS MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

students on an individual basis.

Pathways senior Dalia Diaz appreciates that.

"If I need one-on-one, they're willing to help me," she said.

There are a few disadvantages to attending Pathways instead of a larger traditional high school, Brogan said. Because they have to cap at 100 students, this limits the number of classes they can offer.

Because they are not able to offer separate humanities classes, humanities is combined with the English classes.

Also, they don't offer physical education classes or competitive sports.

college per semester for each senior. Then, Oklahoma City Public Schools paid the difference.

Brogan was proud to note that Pathways graduate Brianna Dick won the Gates Millennium Scholarship last spring. This is a huge honor, Brogan said, since there are only 1,000 of these scholarships given out in the U.S.

Brogan stressed that Pathways is a program that is here to serve kids who are eager to learn and be successful.

OCCC 

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

OPTIMAL RESUME

www.occc.optimalresume.com

Students' access ID is their OCCC email address

example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu

Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills

GARY BELCHER RECEIVES THE PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Employee awarded for dedication to work

ANDREW BAKER
News Writing Student

For 16 years Gary Belcher has been working at OCCC, serving now as Building Maintenance and Operations supervisor.

“For 16 years, it’s been good,” he said.

Earlier this semester he was named Professional Employee of the Year at OCCC. All past winners of the annual award vote on who is the next winner, and Belcher came out on top.

Belcher said he was honored to receive the award.

In his job Belcher said he makes sure all the maintenance around the college is done properly, and that everything is working smoothly.

Among other things, he makes sure all the soap dispensers have soap and all the lights are working properly.

Belcher also works with the building contractors that come to OCCC for specific jobs that his team can’t do on their own.

According to his co-workers, Belcher

is a down-to-earth kind of guy.

They said Belcher does not say a whole lot, but they notice all the hard work he does.

Royce Liston, who works in Facilities Management as a material control clerk, gave Belcher a nod of respect.

“He has a great work ethic and Gary is an awesome supervisor,” Liston said.

“Having to deal with building contractors all the time is no easy task.”

Liston said it’s Belcher’s responsibility to make sure the contractors are doing their job and not wasting the college’s money.

For instance, a chiller went out during the heat of summer, and Belcher had to make sure the college got a new one and that it was working properly. Liston said the job took about two weeks.

Belcher said working in Facilities Management is not all glamour.

He works in a warehouse. During

“There is no place I would rather be than Oklahoma City Community College.”

—GARY BELCHER

BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

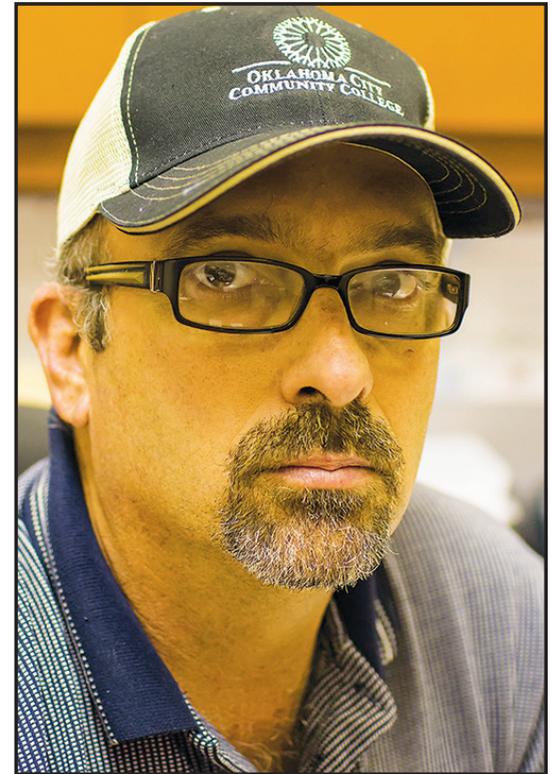
summers the temperature gets extremely hot and sometimes very uncomfortable.

Even during the winter time it stays warm in there, but it’s nice when the freezing temperatures roll through, he said.

It is not the ideal working conditions, but Belcher said he makes it work for him and the rest of the maintenance workers.

At 5-feet-9-inches, Belcher is not the tallest person in his department, but he has a big heart for OCCC.

“There is no place I would rather be than Oklahoma City Community College,” Belcher said.



Gary Belcher

PHOTOS ON PAGES 6 AND 7

BY PIONEER PHOTOGRAPHER CHRIS JAMES

ROBERT P. TODD LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER SAYS STUDENTS COUNT

Chemistry professor wins leadership award

BRAX BALL
News Writing Student

Chemistry Professor Steven Shore is the recipient of this year’s Robert P. Todd Leadership Award.

After growing up near Tulsa, Shore attended the University of Oklahoma to study – with several career options in mind. Teaching wasn’t on the list.

“I was on a premed track until my junior year and even took the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test),” Shore said.

Shore even thought of switching to zoology due to his interest in birds, but ultimately decided to stick to chemistry. After receiving his bachelor’s degree, he attended graduate school where he studied protein synthesis.

As an undergraduate, Shore had always thought that teaching “looked fun,” but it wasn’t until graduate school that he realized how much he enjoyed it.

“I think a lot of teachers learn that they really enjoy seeing students have those ‘ah-ha!’ moments.

“It’s certainly not the paper grading that attracts us.”

After his doctorate, Shore’s desire to be a teacher led him to OCCC, where he now teaches both General and Organic Chemistry.

Shore was nominated for the award by Science Director Sonya Williams. He said he is fully aware of the great honor this award signifies.

“It’s a huge deal,” Shore said. “[Todd] was president



Steven Shore

of the college for a number of years. When I first started here I interviewed with him. He was vice president of Academic Affairs at the time and I have

“I think a lot of teachers learn that they really enjoy seeing students have those ‘ah-ha!’ moments. It’s certainly not the paper grading that attracts us.”

—STEVEN SHORE

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR

a lot of respect for him.”

Shore gave credit with his fellow science teachers.

“I think that what set me apart from the other nominees was really a reflection of how awesome and committed my colleagues are.

“They inspire me and frequently remind me that it’s students that count and that all our efforts should be focused on producing students that will be the best pharmacists, doctors, nurses, engineers, and scientists that they can possibly be.”

The Robert P. Todd Leadership award was created in 2006 in honor of OCCC’s eighth president. Todd took over as president of the college in 1995 after being with OCCC since its opening in 1972.

The award was created in 2006 to recognize a faculty member at OCCC who has “demonstrated outstanding leadership in his or her work.

“The award honors someone who shows “excellence, respect, honesty, integrity, accountability, empowerment, loyalty, diversity and sharing.”

MARSHA AUSTIN WINS FACULTY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Math professor receives rave reviews

BRITTANY HECKARD
News Writing Student

“Best math teacher I’ve ever had. I wish I could have her for all my math classes. She even makes the hard stuff seem do-able.”

“I have had several great profs at this school and she has been my favorite all around. And she teaches math, not a favorite subject. I will take my upper level classes with her if I can.

“There is nothing negative I can say about this professor. She is smart, always willing to help, and very encouraging. She maintains her office hours, so no need to wonder if she will be there.”

“Her lectures are crystal clear (she does like interaction with students during lecture).

She is kind and patient and I highly recommend her to anyone.”

These are just a few of the

dozens of comments posted about math Professor Marsha Austin on the Rate My Professors website.

It’s no wonder Austin was awarded the Faculty Employee of the Year award this year.

Austin said she has taught at OCCC for 21 years.

Math and Science Dean Max Simmons said Austin is sometimes regarded as the backbone of the mathematics department.

“She is a hard worker,” Simmons said.

Although he was not involved in the awarding process, Simmons said he agrees

Austin should have won the award because she makes math so enjoyable.



Marsha Austin

Simmons said Austin offers extensive help during her office hours.

With an easily approachable

“

There is nothing negative I can say about this professor. She is smart, always willing to help, and very encouraging.”

—STUDENT COMMENT ON AUSTIN ON
WWW.RATEMYPROFESSOR.COM

attitude, it is easy to see why she won the award earlier this semester.

Austin graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in mathematics.

In Austin’s spare time, she said, she takes the time to check up on how her Oklahoma State University Cowboys are playing.

Simmons said Austin’s entire family is deeply rooted in the math community. Her son is a Math Lab instructor at OCCC.



Classified Employee of the Year Senior Student Accounts Representative Debbie Dutton. Dutton declined to be interviewed.

ELVEN GRAY AWARD GIVEN TO DEDICATED EMPLOYEE

Rochelle Mosby has gone the extra mile

RACHEL SCOGGINS
News Writing Student

When she heard her name called for the Elven Gray award, Rochelle Mosby said at first she was in shock.

Then she teared up.

“It was a Sally Fields moment when I thought: ‘They like me. They really like me,’” she said. Mosby is the division assistant for Arts and Humanities. She won the award earlier this semester.

The Elven Gray Award is given annually to a college employee who goes above and beyond the requirements of his or her job. Mosby explained her theory about a job well done.

“You don’t just set a goal. You set a standard,” she said.

She said her work ethic comes from her grandparents and other family members. She said she is motivated by her children, as well.

Mosby began working for OCCC part-time in 1997. She said she is working on a bachelor’s degree from Rogers State University.

The award recognizes those individuals who embody the spirit of Elven Gray. He was the recipient of the college’s first Employee-of-the-Year award.

Mosby said helping students is by far her favorite part of her job.

“Education is for everyone,” she said.

Lyndsie StremLOW, Arts and Humanities department secretary, commended her co-worker.

“Rochelle always goes above and beyond,” StremLOW said. “She makes it a point to know not only her job but also everyone else’s.”

As division assistant Mosby enters all class changes and names of all the professors into the computer each semester, prepares all the contracts for 100 adjunct and full-time professors, does the paperwork for all department hires, keeps the supply closet stocked with every type of printer cartridge for office and classroom printers, and completes an endless list of tasks that

“

Rochelle always goes above and beyond.”

—LYNDSIE STREMLOW
ARTS AND HUMANITIES SECRETARY

require extreme attention to every detail.

Despite all her responsibilities, Mosby has time to take care of other people.

“She has never said ‘no’ to helping anyone,” StremLOW said.

Alumni Relations and Community Development Coordinator Randy Cassimus said he remembers Mosby receiving the award. It was only his second day with the college and he could recall how impressive the description of the award was.

Although he didn’t know her at the time, it was later that week that he needed help enrolling in a course and was advised to see Mosby.



Rochelle Mosby

“Within five minutes I could tell they had made a great choice,” Cassimus said. “She was everything the description for the award entailed and more.”

SPORTS

Run for a life



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Colton Pearson (261) and Tim McCoy (256) lead the way finishing the first of two laps in the 5K Lifesaver Run around OCCC campus on Oct. 6. McCoy went on to finish in first place with a time of 17 minutes and 56 seconds. Pearson, 14, finished second with a time of 17 minutes and 58 seconds.

SPORTS | Program offers only major certification in U.S.

Personal trainer certification taught

BRANDON WILLIS
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Are you fit and wanting to help others change their lifestyle and also gain a career?

The OCCC Recreation and Fitness department offers a Personal Trainer Certification Course as part of the World Instructor Training School.

W.I.T.S. President and CEO Jay Del Vecchio said the Personal Trainer Certification Course is a six-week course which helps students to learn and practice personal training, which prepares them to execute operational essentials to help their clients change their lifestyles.

“Our hands-on practical labs and skill competency tests with the field internship enable our grads to succeed,” he said. “The definitions of this profession come to life so they can relate and safely work with clients in the field.”

Del Vecchio said the W.I.T.S. program is the only major certification program in the country providing training and internship components. He added that OCCC and W.I.T.S. have been in partnership together for about eight years.

The certification course will cost \$549, not including the required text-

“Our hands-on practical labs and skill competency tests with the field internship enable our grads to succeed.”

—JAY DEL VECCHIO

WORLD INSTRUCTOR TRAINING SCHOOL PRESIDENT

book, which costs \$93.97. The course already started in the fall but will also be offered in the spring semester. The course will take place on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 9 through 16 and April 6 through 11 on campus, Del Vecchio said.

He said the goal of the program is to assist program graduates in gaining placement opportunities by providing employable grads that can work

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Oct. 26 through Oct. 28: Chesapeake Halloween Invitational Swim Meet. The pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Nov. 2: OCCC Intramural Basketball is back. For more information or to register, visit www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Nov. 3 through Nov. 5: Oklahoma Baptist University Swim Meet. The pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Nov. 10: Jaguar Invitational Swim Meet. The pool will be open to the public. 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 your news to sportswriter@occc.edu.

Have sports news you want to share?

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

with peoples loved ones in a safe and effective way. To register for the class, students must enroll through the Recreation and Fitness department and must pay the Recreation and Fitness department, not the Bursar's office, he said.

For more information on the Personal Trainer Certification Course, contact W.I.T.S. at 888-330-9487, or online at www.witsheducation.com.

To contact the OCCC Recreation and Fitness department, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7860 or stop by room 1C5 in the Wellness Center, near the General Dining area.

Report: Most graduates happy with college experience

Continued from page 1

either an Associate in Applied Science or a certificate.

Many graduates are employed by health-care providers such as OU Medical Center, Norman Regional Hospital and Integris Hospitals.

The number of graduates whose present occupation is directly related to their degree or certificate completed at OCCC is 233 of the 365 or, 63.8 percent.

Graduates also were asked to rate the preparation they

received at OCCC in relation to its usefulness in performing their jobs. Most responded that their training had been very good with a mean of 8.56 out of a 10 possible points.

Many who completed the survey are first-generation college graduates.

About one-third of the respondents — 136 of 383 — reported they were the first in their family to earn a degree.

When asked if they would recommend OCCC to a friend, almost all of the graduates — 671 of 676 — said they would.

“OCCC graduates were satisfied with their educational experience and preparation for careers and transfer institutions,” according to the report.

One respondent gave high marks to the college.

“I think that OCCC is a wonderful place to begin an education.”

Perry said the college tries to persuade every graduate to respond to the survey.

The first mailed survey is sent with a postage-paid return envelope.

If OCCC does not receive

a response from that survey, Perry said, the Institutional Effectiveness staff then sends out a second survey.

On those, the staff applies actual stamps to the return envelopes to give them a more personal feel in hopes that graduates will feel more inclined to respond.

The process to receive responses does not end there.

If the first two attempts do not work, postcards are sent signed by faculty who taught the graduate, reminding them to respond, Perry said.

Finally if all attempts made by OCCC do not prove successful, Perry turns it over to a survey company who calls, emails and mails the graduate.

“This process does not end,” she said.

Perry said she can’t stress enough to all graduating students how important the surveys are. She said she encourages everyone who receives one to fill it out and return it.

“Graduate Survey results are used to improve programs, so be sure to fill out the survey when you receive one,” she said.

Halloween: Holiday carnival being scaled back this year

Continued from page 1

people on campus for Halloween Carnival. It was getting to the point that we were having a hard time accommodating everyone. So we just want to scale it back,” Carradine said.

“We’re a community college, we do so much for our surrounding community. And we’re going to continue to do those kinds of things. But we want faculty, staff, and students to bring their families and have a great, fun evening of candy and games and all types of stuff for the OCCC family.”

Carradine said this doesn’t mean the college will prevent those in the community from joining in the festivities.

“In the past, we’ve advertised at dozens of elementary schools, dozens of teachers, principals, going out to schools. And this year we haven’t done that. I [still] expect to have a

good amount of students from the surrounding community come in looking for the carnival because they’re used to coming here for it. They’re used to it being around this time.

“And we won’t turn them away,” Carradine said. “We’re just not advertising it anymore.”

The line up of events won’t change with the plans to bring the event back down to a manageable size, she said. It will include miniature golf, ping-pong, musical chairs and candy giveaways.

“There’ll just be more breathing room. Last year, we had to ration out the candy, and we weren’t able to give away as much as we would have liked

because we had so many people.”

Carradine said in addition to the fun and games, the carnival also will serve as a canned food drive for local food pantries.



“We’re asking that each person that comes to the carnival bring one non-perishable

canned good,” she said. “We’re going to donate those goods to the regional food pantries OCCC partners with for service learning.”

She said anyone who wants to donate but can’t attend the carnival can bring the goods by Student Life on or around the day of the carnival and they’ll be sure to get the items to

the food pantries.

While she doesn’t celebrate Halloween personally, student Vanessa Contreias said she probably would attend the carnival for the candy and the companionship.

“It’s going to be with people our age group, friends and so on. It would be fun.”

Pre-law major Michael Blunk said he’d only learned about the carnival recently.

“I’m a first-year student and when I started here I was really surprised at how many things the campus actually had planned out,” Blunk said.

“It makes it a fun and vibrant place.”

For more information about the Halloween Carnival or to inquire about donating canned goods, contact the office of Student Life at 405-682-7523, or visit their office located on the first floor of the Main Building.

**LET'S GET
ICE CREAM AFTER
YOU PARALYZE US.**

IF YOUR FRIENDS DRIVE RECKLESSLY, SAY SOMETHING.
SpeakUpOrElse.com

Ad Council

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Good golly, Great Gatsby



Engineering major Mark Walsh reads from F. Scott Fitzgerald's masterpiece, "The Great Gatsby," on Oct. 8 in OCCC's General Dining area. The reading was part of a nationwide event called The Big Read.

Relationship Violence Awareness

Student Support Services will be hosting the Silent Witness program in conjunction with Relationship Violence Awareness Week Oct. 22. Silhouettes representing victims of relationship violence will be on display throughout Student Services. For more information, contact brittany.f.carradine@occc.edu.

Tuition Fee Waiver

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the Spring 2013 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. on Nov. 20. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 682-7525

Bible Study

Christians on Campus will be holding a Monday Bible Study from noon until 12:50 p.m. Monday Oct. 22, in room 1x3. For more information contact kgrayson@occc.edu.

Theater production auditions

The OCCC Theater Department will be holding auditions for the upcoming production "Improv-ing Your Life," an interactive theater experience that will deal with social and interpersonal relationships in an improvisational form. Auditions will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 22, and Tuesday, Oct. 23, in AH room 1C5. No experience is necessary. Come prepared to be creative. Production dates are Nov. 29 through Dec. 1.

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

Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu

COMMUNITY | Student seeks forum for exchange of ideas

Free Speech Zone sought on campus

JEREMY CLOUD
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

The issue of free speech and open debate among students is at the forefront of political science major Mary Newcome-Hatch's mind. Newcome-Hatch's solution is to implement a designated Free Speech Zone on campus, she said.

Her concern isn't, however, that the college will censor students or open discussion of issues.

"When we set this up, we need to look at this wisely. We

need to set up a place where we won't be disruptive to students, or classes. We can't stand in the middle of someplace and be a nuisance, or disruptive to traffic."

Hatch said she believes the free speech zone is necessary to facilitate discussion of the issues that affect the various individuals on campus.

"With all the issues going on these days, we have a need to have a place to be able to speak out freely. The exchange of ideas helps the mind expand and ward off the darkness of being narrow if we can speak freely, if we

can voice opinions, be they political, religious, or personal," she said.

Newcome-Hatch said the idea is still in the beginning stages, though she's begun gathering information and support.

"We're thinking that between the VPAC and the Main Building, that semi-circular speaking area, that would be a great place for outside.

"Inside the building, I don't know. But we'd definitely have to have a place [inside the building.] It's no fun giving a speech in a tornado."

Newcome-Hatch said a free speech zone would function as an open forum for the exchange of ideas, it would also need to be a civil exchange.

"When we set up these areas, the people that are speaking have to have knowledge of what's allowed, [and what isn't.] Unprotected speech is if it's a threat, an incitement to imminent lawless action, racial and sexual harassment, what they call 'fighting words,' obscenity, or defamation.

"At OCCC we need to balance those negative aspects with the positive ideals of speaking freely."

She said when it comes to staying within the boundaries of protected speech, her concern is that the college not be forced to pay for security.

"Other universities in our state have some radical speakers come in, and they have to hire security for those speakers because they're so radical.

"OCCC's budget is tight enough, and I believe that most students respect OCCC enough that we wouldn't want to cost the campus any more funding."

For more information, contact Newcome-Hatch at collegedemocrats@my.occc.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. 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.

ANIMALS

FOR SALE: Three young husky/German Shepherd mixes. Two males, one female. Already vaccinated. Nine months old. Call/text: 405-517-4117.

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.

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

FOR SALE: 1965 Chevy truck. \$4,000 OBO. Rebuilt motor. Runs. Needs painting. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

FOR SALE: 1962 Chevy car. \$2,000 OBO. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

FOR RENT

ROOM FOR RENT: \$450/mo. Bills included. 3-bedroom located near OCCC. Males only. One friendly dog already, no more pets. No smoking preferred. Call/text Reginald at 405-249-4550.

MISCELLANEOUS

BABY ITEMS FOR SALE: Fisher Price infant to toddler blue baby rocker w/ activity bar, barely used: \$20. Slightly used clean Jumperoo with accessories: \$50. Bright Starts baby activity gym, new: \$15. wickitiwack@yahoo.com.

LOOKING FOR motivated, energetic people to join the #1 fastest growing home-based business in North America. Achieve your Health and Fitness goals while building a residual income. Work full or part time and be your own boss. Call Shannon 405-503-8809 or Troy 405-819-8523.

LEXINGTON ZOMBIE FARM
HAUNTED BARN AND FOREST OPEN EVERY FRI. AND SAT. IN OCT. FROM 8 TO 11 P.M. LOCATED AT 10101 144TH ST. LEXINGTON, OK 73051. CALL 405-651-5268 FOR INFO. ADULTS \$12, \$6 10 AND UNDER.

LOOKING FOR RIDE: Need ride from Norman to OCCC. Legally blind student. Will pay for gasoline. Classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call: 405-598-5052 or 405-395-2779.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Would split rent. Looking to rent in OKC area. Must be at least 21. Call: 405-474-8454.

FOR SALE: Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged: \$100; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, \$100. 405-818-0083.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Would split rent/utilities. Looking to rent apartment in SW OKC. Either gender, pets and smokers welcome. Call: 405-651-3421.

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: American Realities Vol. 1 history textbook. Slightly used. \$50. Text or call Robert at 405-248-8849 for more information.

ROOMMATES WANTED: Looking for 2 to 3 students to rent in SW OKC. Would share rent/other bills. Call: 405-651-3421.

**PAID CLASSIFIEDS
START AT \$8/WEEK**
Call: 405-682-1611, ext. 7674
Email: adman@occc.edu

**BUY RECYCLED.
AND SAVE.™**



Thanks to you, all sorts of everyday products are being made from recycled materials. But to keep recycling working, you need to buy those products. For a free brochure, call 1-800-CALL-EDF.





THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

In the News

R F C P S L P R U H O T F N H
 E E G O C Y E Z A C T H R O R
 S W N I N K A U R B A E E I E
 C W M I N V N W A P E U E T P
 O V I I A T O S H R O B S A O
 N D T M E R K C H T A W P C O
 C N A D M E T T A L A M E I L
 E M N E T E R L O T O P E F A
 R M L B R O E I A E I G C I V
 T R A I F G D T M N T O H T I
 J L R E E A I Q T T O U N R T
 L T M C R C W B F S H S F E S
 L I F E S A V E R R U N R C E
 T S E T A U D A R G V B S E F
 A V E N G E R S V S U Y I X P

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| AVENGERS | BASKETBALL | BIGREAD |
| CERTIFICATION | CONCERT | CONVOCATION |
| FESTIVAL | FREESPEECH | GRADUATES |
| HAUNTED | LIFESAVERRUN | LOOPER |
| PATHWAYS | PERSONALTRAINER | RADIOLAB |
| SWIMMEET | TIMEFORTHREE | TINKER |

EXTRA! EXTRA!
 Do you have news you'd like to share?
 Maybe you know of an OCCC student
 worthy of a mention.
 If so, contact Sarah at
editor@occc.edu
 or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675.

OCCC 

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

JOB BOARD

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

Numbers game



PHOTO COURTESY KENNY TAPP

Students of Professor Kenny Tapp's Earth Science lab take a moment to observe a unique alignment of time and date. "Students were collecting data to explore how climate has changed over time," Tapp said.

The advertisement shows the front of a dark-colored Ford SUV. A young child with blonde hair is standing next to the vehicle, looking towards the camera. Below the image, the text reads: "Everybody thinks they can see everything in front of their vehicle...not me." At the bottom, there is a yellow banner with the logo "KIDS AND CARS.ORG" and the slogan "Love Them, Protect Them".

 The advertisement features a close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a baby's feet. The text "Take time to be a dad today." is written in white on a yellow background. Below this, the phone number "877-4DAD411" and the website "www.fatherhood.gov" are listed. There are also small icons for "Ag Council" and other organizations. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text "Read the Pioneer at www.occc.edu/pioneer".

 This large advertisement has a blue background. On the left, it asks "wanna be seen ridin' in debt?" in large white font. Below this, it says "financial empowerment for all POWERED BY TFCU Tinker Federal Credit Union" and "BUCK the norm .com". On the right, a white speech bubble contains "Bucky's Tip: Keep Your Hands on the Wheel" and "When buying a car, stick to a plan so you don't get sold 'the most you can afford.'" A hand with a cartoon face on the index finger is pointing towards the tip. At the bottom right, it says "Find out what you should never tell a car salesman at BucktheNorm.com/empowerment".