

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER

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EDITORIAL

TEXTING IN CLASS A REAL NUISANCE

Community Writer Reyna Otero says students should put their phones away and pay attention to the professor. Read her thoughts inside.

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VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT IDEAS AND MORE

Wondering what to get your Valentine or where to eat out? Pioneer staff compiled information that will help with those decisions. See inside for more.

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WELLNESS CHALLENGE PUT FORTH

OCCC's Wellness Task Force has put together the "Healthy Now: 30-Day Wellness Challenge," a program to promote health. Find out how to join.

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CAMPUS LIFE

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 13, 14

Want to save lives? The Oklahoma Blood Institute will be on campus Wednesday, Feb. 13 and Thursday, Feb. 14.

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Helping hands



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

OCCC students Ella Smyth and Yesenia Adame volunteer Feb. 1 at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank. Student Life Coordinator Brittany Carradine said students are taken at least once a semester to the food bank for a service trip through Student Life. "It's something the students like and everybody can do," Carradine said. For more information about Service Learning trips, contact Carradine at bcarradine@occc.edu or visit the Student Life website at www.occc.edu/studentlife/serviceday.

Community outreach important to OCCC

Areas around the college are positively impacted by various programs

PARIS BURRIS
Editor
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In 2012, OCCC "put the community in community college" by serving more than 80,000 people through various community programs, said Executive Director of Planning and Research Stu Harvey in a report he gave during the Jan. 28 Regents meeting.

President Paul Sechrist said the ways in which OCCC impacts the community is im-

portant.

"All colleges have a community service mission," Sechrist said.

"Our community service mission is fulfilled through a number of programs ... whether it be Arts Festival Oklahoma, the Performing Arts Series, events in the Aquatics Center, College for Kids in the summer, our adult basic education, English as a Second Language, Career Transitions.

"All of these programs ... fulfill our community service obligations."

Harvey's report revealed a 133 percent increase in the Cultural Arts Series atten-

dance from 2009 to 2012.

He said other programs also have played a role in positively impacting the community.

"Our community is enriched economically and socially by our

See **COMMUNITY** page 9

Textbook frustration an issue for many

KATIE THURMAN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

With classes swinging into full gear, students know one thing for sure: they need textbooks.

However, textbooks cost money—sometimes a lot of money—

and college students don't always have it in their bank accounts.

This leaves some students wondering how often the books they buy will be used or if the bookstore will buy them back when the semester ends.

A typical new textbook costs

See **TEXTBOOKS** page 12

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Students who use phones during class less likely to be focused

Texting during class distracting

It seems as the semester advances, more students are texting during lectures. During the first week of classes almost all students had their phones put away and were ready to pay attention.



REYNA OTERO

However, now that we are entering the third week of the semester, more students are pulling out their phones during class. This is very distracting to both classmates and professors.

According to Academic Earth, a website that provides free online classes and online learning tools, 80 percent of students read texts or text during class and admit to sending up to 11 text messages in one class period.

Last week, as I tried to pay attention during a lecture, the classmate next to me was having a lengthy text conversation with someone.

When her phone would light up, it would catch my attention and I would turn around to see what was occurring beside me, distracting me from the lecture discussion. I was not the only student being distracted. I soon became aware the entire row was

paying attention to the texting student.

The professor didn't say anything for quite a while but would occasionally give the student looks. Eventually the professor seemed to become frustrated and said texting was causing that student to miss out on valuable lecture information.

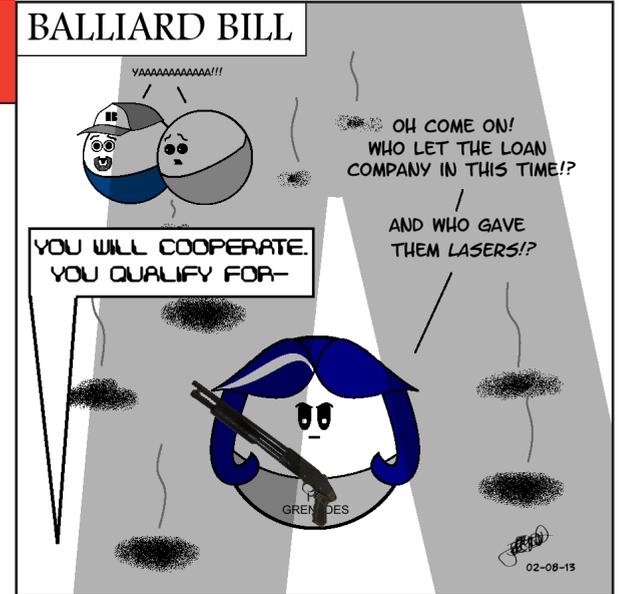
Most professors are tolerant when it comes to students receiving and answering phone calls during class. They typically just ask that the student leave the classroom first out of consideration and respect to others. It would be much appreciated if students were to do the same regarding texting.

It is understandable if a student has to pull out his or her phone to check the time or even quickly read a text message, as this is not as distracting.

Every student in the classroom is an adult and can understand it is sometimes necessary to check his or her phone, whether for an emergency or for awaited news.

However, students shouldn't have a cell phone out for long periods of time while texting a buddy. It not only affects those surrounding the person who is texting but others as well.

"... Studies show that when students send and read text messages during their classes, it can have serious consequences on the grades they receive — and



even their general ability to learn course material," Academic Earth reports.

Academic Earth is not the only website saying cell phone use during class affects a student's learning ability. The Science Daily, a source for the latest research news, stated college students texting during class have difficulty staying attentive to lectures and consequently risk having poor learning outcomes.

Let us all take a stand against texting in the classroom out of respect for ourselves, our classmates and our professors. The next time you feel the urge to text, treat it as you would a phone call and take it outside of the classroom.

Some of us are here to learn.

—REYNA OTERO
COMMUNITY WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Mabee-Gerrer Museum to showcase artist Suzanne C. Thomas

Community Art Day in Shawnee free, open to all ages

To the Editor:

The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Shawnee will host a free Community Art Day from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. All ages are invited to attend the come-and-go activity.

Participants will work with artist Suzanne C. Thomas to create a mixed-media artwork inspired by the creative efforts of notable African-American artists, including Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence.

Participants will use paint and paper, and mixed-media techniques of collage

and masking to create individual works of art. All of the supplies necessary for the art project are provided.

Participants should dress accordingly. Community Art Day is free and open to the public.

Thomas, a mixed-media artist and painter, is a tenured art professor at Rose State College in Midwest City, as well as a roster artist for the Oklahoma City Arts Council Play in the Park summer program. She also is an artist mentor for the Arts After School program.

Thomas has exhibited her art in the

IAO Gallery, Owens Art Space, Living Arts Space in Tulsa and the African American Museum in Wichita.

She earned her bachelor's of Fine Arts from Oklahoma State University and her master's of Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Thomas said she has always been on an artistic path.

"I discovered at an early age that I liked to draw, paint and basically daydream."

Visitors will also have the opportunity to see "A Sense of Purpose: A Collector's

Life with Art, African-American Art from the Arthur Primas Collection."

This special exhibit will be on display until March 17.

The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art is located on the campus of St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur St. in Shawnee.

For questions and additional information about Community Art Day or the current exhibition, call 405-878-5300 or visit www.mgmoa.org.

—DONNA MERKT
MABEE-GERRER MUSEUM OF ART

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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

WEBSITE REVIEW | An annual \$79 well worth all the services Amazon offers

Online subscription great value

I recently signed up for a membership to Amazon Prime shipping for \$79 a year. The rewards that come with Amazon Prime are more than worth the cost.

Amazon Prime offers free two-day shipping on www.amazon.com, a site loaded with millions of consumer products.

And they don't stop there. They offer unlimited instant streaming video, popular television episodes and movies as well as

pay-per-view with Prime Instant Video services. According to their website, they also offer thousands of free books per month to Kindle and Android users.

I actually decided to try the service because they are the only online streaming service that has "The Walking Dead" season 3 available for only \$1.99 an episode. This is not a bad deal really.

One thing I enjoy is the fact that there are so many movies to choose from. A good majority of the movies

are available in High-Definition, some movies like "The Fountain" with Hugh Jackman and television shows like "Falling Skies."

One thing that also makes me happy is that I can use the services from my Roku, as well as my tablet, my phone, all modern

major games systems and hundreds of other devices including Apple prod-

ucts and Smart TVs.

I would say the fact that Amazon Prime has already saved me money on shipping and carries most "Star Trek" movies is a good enough reason to keep it. Since Amazon Prime is offered as a 30-day trial to all first-time subscribers, it will allow just about anyone to make up his or her own mind.

Rating: A

—SHAWN STAWICKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



MOVIE REVIEW | 'Mama' features great actors, follows perfect horror film recipe

Supernatural thriller a real scream

"Mama," Guillermo del Toro's newest horror/mystery film, opened Jan. 18 and, in just the opening weekend, grossed \$28 million, according to IMDb, a website containing information and reviews about various types of films.

According to www.google.com, "Mama is a supernatural thriller that tells the haunting tale of two little girls who disappeared

into the woods the day that their parents were killed. When they are rescued years later and begin a new life, they find that someone or something still wants to come tuck them in at night."

The movie, filmed in Hamilton, Ontario, stars Jessica Chastain, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Megan Charpentier, Isabelle Nelisse, Javier Botet and Jane Moffat, all great actors.

Their acting is projected through the screen as natural and relaxed. It seems all of these actors were well prepared for their roles — especially the younger actresses. This is a big plus for the film.

Some have criticized the film, saying certain scenes look familiar from other horror films. However, "Mama" is a film that promises a good time.

It has great scenes with great production quality. Of course, it has the typical thrilling effects most horror and mystery films have.

For example, there is a scene that starts innocently so the audience is unaware of what is happening



but deep down, knows something big is about to happen.

It's those types of expected scenes from typical horror/thriller films that make people interested in watching the film.

There is no gore in this film. Instead Del Toro dramatizes the scenes with screams and some great camera skills to get the desired reactions.

"Mama" will spike the hairs on anyone's back with its thrilling scenes.

As Mike Scott, a man who wrote an outstanding review over the film on www.nola.com said: "Mama isn't really a horror movie. [It is] a sit-around-the-campfire ghost story but in movie form."

I recently arrived an hour early at Harkins Movie Theater to see the movie and a line had already started to form. Luckily, I still got a good spot at the very front of the line — filled with all age groups — and scored the best seats in the cinema.

The film immediately started with thrilling scenes. What made the film even better were the younger spectators who screamed hysterically every time a thrilling scene happened.

This movie is rated PG-13. To see a trailer of the film, go to www.mamamovie.com.

Rating: A+

—REYNA OTERO
COMMUNITY WRITER

ADVISER'S 411

Academic Office offers advice for student success

The Transfer and Graduation Fair is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27. More than 25 colleges and universities will be available in the Main Building lobby to share information about their programs and the transfer process with students.

This is a great opportunity for students to connect with their next institution, learn about the many programs available and to plan for their future. Students can learn about scholarships, the application process, financial aid, multiple majors and how financial aid works in the transfer process.

If you are interested in getting ahead on that next step in your educational career, make sure you visit the Transfer and Graduation Fair.

Other upcoming Transfer Center events include the University of Central Oklahoma's On-The-Spot Admissions from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, and a Transfer Academy Brown Bag from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 26. There also are numerous tours scheduled to allow students to visit area universities.

We also want to encourage students to start meeting with an adviser in April for summer and fall enrollment. Visiting with an adviser early to pre-plan your next semester is a good idea. Students who set their goals early and have an action plan are often more successful in their academic careers.

January was a busy enrollment period for the Office of Academic Advising leading to long lines and closed classes. The fall enrollment period will be even busier. Students can avoid long lines during heavy enrollment by choosing classes early in the enrollment period.

Also, if you are working, have a family or are involved in other activities, meeting with an adviser in advance can make enrollment a much smoother process with a more compatible class schedule for you.

When you enroll early, there is more class availability for you to choose from, the lines are shorter and during the semester, faculty are available on campus to help you select your faculty-approved electives.

The longer you wait, the more classes will be closed, leading to fewer classes at convenient times for you so enroll early.

—LINDA LITTLE
TRANSFER AND ACADEMIC ADVISING
COORDINATOR

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Reviewer gives two thumbs up to area eatery

Freebirds burritos fulfills the heartiest appetite

If you're looking for some downright delicious Mexican food that will not only satisfy your stomach but also leave money in your wallet, bring your appetite to Freebirds at Belle Isle in Oklahoma City.

Mainly famous for their scrumptious and hefty burritos, Freebirds also offers tacos, quesadillas, nachos, salad bowls and desserts.

While most might not consider \$12 a good price for a burrito, when you consider that burrito is about seven pounds and enough to feed three or four people, it becomes a bargain. Now consider that you can virtually customize the burrito to perfection and you've got a winner.

The hefty 7-pounder would be the Super Monster burrito, the biggest of the four burrito sizes the restaurant offers: Hybird, Freebird, Monster and



Super Monster.

Although the Hybird is the smallest of the options, there is nothing small about it. It is still plenty to satisfy both hunger and taste buds at about \$6.

The restaurant is set up in a cafeteria style, similar to Subway or Qdoba. The

guest chooses from the four tortilla options: cayenne, spinach, flour or wheat.

From there, guests can choose the meat, veggies and various other condiments that will combine to make their burrito a mouth-watering combination of food bliss all wrapped in a tortilla.

Free rewards cards also are available.

Guests gather points each time they eat at Freebirds that can be redeemed for free food and various Freebird apparel.

Points vary for each food item but guests are virtually guaranteed one or

two points each visit. With the rewards starting at only five points, it takes no time at all to start earning free stuff.

The atmosphere is super casual, friendly and it's seat yourself.

As a bonus, it's refreshing for me to see tattoo, body piercing and exotic hair color acceptance in the workplace.

While the art isn't a requirement to work there, it's clear that Freebirds doesn't judge their employees for self expression.

Freebirds gets two big thumbs up for flavorful, affordable food in a friendly, casual atmosphere.

Rating: A+

—PARIS BURRIS
EDITOR

PRODUCT REVIEW | Canon product is priced right for the serious photographer

Camera lens focuses on quality

When shooting photos in tight indoor situations or photographing vast landscapes, nothing beats a good ultra wide-angle lens.

Indoors, it can squeeze an entire room into frame. Outdoors, a wide-angle lens captures the vastness of landscapes in a way that's otherwise impossible.

Canon's EF-S 10-22mm f/3.5-4.5 lens is a pretty sweet ultra wide-angle lens specially designed for use with Canon's smaller crop-sized sensor DSLR cameras like the Digital Rebel series.

I bought it when I had a Rebel T1i, and now use it on my 7D with great results.

The 10-22mm's ultra-wide 107-degree angle of view is noticeably wider than the average human eye is able to see. I've never had a problem fitting everything or everyone into frame.

The lens' auto focusing is fast and stealthy thanks to Canon's ring-type USM which stands for Ultrasonic motor. It also allows full-time manual focusing.

Its compact and lightweight design make it easy to carry around and use.

As a news photographer, I like how the 10-22mm

lets me get close to the subject.

This can add a little intimacy to an image and make it more interesting.

It also helps me be more creative with the framing of my shots. One of my favorite things to do with the ultra wide-angle is to stand on a chair to get a higher view. This is effective when photographing people around a table.

My only complaint about the lens is that the Super-UD element and three Aspherical lens elements — designed for image quality — don't produce the sharpest images.

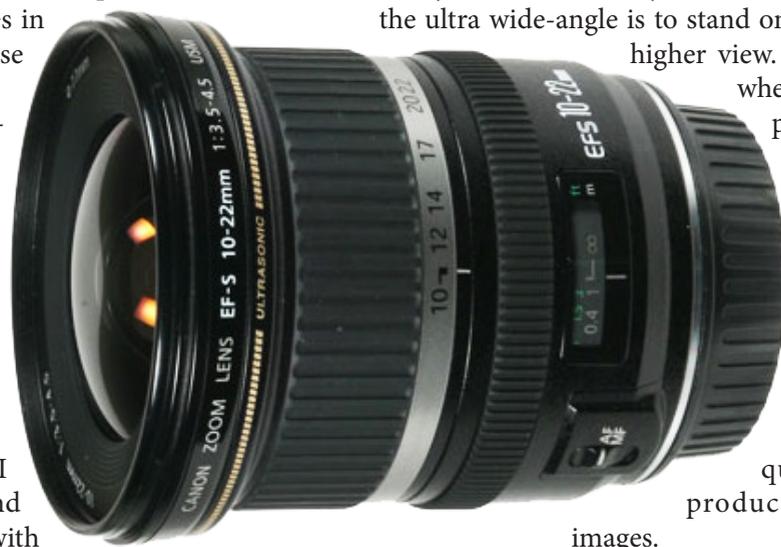
Photos taken with my EF 35mm f/1.4L are noticeably sharper, but it also retails for \$600 more.

I guess it makes sense for image quality to increase with price.

The Canon EF-S 10-22mm lens is priced at \$859.99 at www.shop.usa.canon.com. It's definitely worth the price. Since buying mine, I've never left it behind when packing my camera bag.

Rating: A

—CHRIS JAMES
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Jan. 23 through Jan. 25
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Warm Bodies*
2. *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters*
3. *Silver Linings Playbook*
4. *Mama*
5. *Zero Dark Thirty*
6. *Bullet to the Head*
7. *Parker*
8. *Django Unchained*
9. *Les Misérables*
10. *Lincoln*
11. *Argo*
12. *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*
13. *Life of Pi*
14. *Gangster Squad*
15. *Movie 43*
16. *A Haunted House*
17. *Stand Up Guys*
18. *Broken City*
19. *Parental Guidance*
20. *The Impossible*

Film screening to spark diversity discussion

REYNA OTERO

Community Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

A movie screening and discussion about fictional students from all walks of life who attend the fictional Columbus University will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, in CU3, said Student Life Director Erin Logan.

Logan said the event is open to all students, faculty and staff.

The movie being shown, "Higher Learning," was filmed in 1995.

According to www.imdb.com, a website containing information and reviews about movies, the movie focuses on the students and how they encounter racial tension, rape, responsibility and discover the true meaning of an education on a university campus.

"[I would attend] to know more about the movie and what the message is, because there is always a message to a movie," said Sierra Talley, pre-allied health major.

Students will have the opportunity to watch the

film and have a panel discussion with special guests afterwards.

As of press time, Logan said she didn't know who the guests would be.

Popcorn, water, sweets and iced tea will be provided. Students can bring their own snacks or lunch.

Logan said the purpose of holding these types of events is to help educate students — through discussion — about people who are different than they are and to help them learn to embrace the things that make each person unique.

She said her objectives for hosting the event is to start conversations between students, help people open up some and "understand who they are sitting next to in class."

The movie screening and discussion are part of the Excellence and Cultural Education Leadership Series.

Logan said the ExCEL program was started in the fall semester by the Student Life office.

She said the Student Life office wanted to focus on diversity issues and cultural leadership within the campus, highlighting the differences between

“ We created a series of programs that specifically cater to culture and diversity.”

—ERIN LOGAN

STUDENT LIFE DIRECTOR

the students and what makes the college a strong diverse campus.

"We created a series of programs that specifically cater to culture and diversity," she said.

The screening is the first program being held in the spring semester from the ExCEL series Logan said.

"This is a great opportunity for students to take a break and watch something entertaining but start some conversation with their peers and get to know each other a little bit better," she said.

"We are very excited to start this series this semester."

For more information, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523, or stop by the office located on the first floor of the Main Building just south of the Coffee Shop.

Professor oversees OCCC's new business lab

KATIE THURMAN

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

A new lab to help business students recently opened on campus. The Business Lab is meant to assist business students with homework, test preparation and business math.

The lab is open to students taking any business class, whether it be statistics, business math, marketing management or economics, as well as other classes, said Business professor Donald Coates who operates the lab.

"The Accounting Lab has been so successful with helping accounting students that we wanted to try to

do the same thing with other business courses," Coates said.

"I recall when I was a student trying to do homework. I'd read a problem and be 95 percent sure that I had the right answer.

"But there was that 5 percent of doubt and I knew that if there was just someone there to help me — to say it's choice A or it's choice B, it would've made all the difference in the world."

Coates said his own experience as a college student is his motivation for working in the lab now that he is a professor.

"In a lab setting like this, you can come in and do your homework, and have some of your classmates there as well as a professor [who] can answer simple questions," he said.

"It can be a great opportunity to dramatically improve your grades."

Coates said when a student needs help understanding the material, the first step is getting that student to come to the realization he or she is struggling.

Coates said the second step is for the student to commit to learning and improving.

"That's what the business lab is for," he said.

"It's a place for people to come and do their homework where they can have questions answered."

Coates said not only is it beneficial to have help from an instructor but it's also very important to have collaboration with other students.

“ The Accounting Lab has been so successful with helping accounting students that we wanted to try to do the same thing with other business courses.”

—DONALD COATES

BUSINESS PROFESSOR

He said the lab facilitates students working with one another.

"One of the most essential skills in the business world is to be able to work with other people," Coates said.

"And right here at the junior college level is a great place to begin picking up those skills."

Coates said the lab isn't a place where he'll be teaching the material taught in class over again.

He also said it isn't meant to be used as a substitute for any class.

Instead, he said, students should think of it as an area where they can gain knowledge from a professor in a setting where they also can work alongside their classmates to learn fundamentals together.

Hours are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The lab is located across from the Accounting Lab in Room 2R0 on the second floor of the Main Building.

For more information, contact Coates at 405-604-7656, email dcoates@occc.edu or stop by the Business Lab, located on the second floor of the Main Building.

Correction

A story located on page 6 of the Feb. 1 issue of the Pioneer incorrectly identified the Biology Lab as being located on the first floor of the Main Building.

The lab is located on the second floor of the Main Building in the Science, Engineering and Math Center in area 2C2 or 2D2 near Entry 24.

The Biology Lab is open from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thurs-

day, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

To reach the center, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7269.

The Physical Science Center, a separate entity from the Biological Science Center, is located on the first floor of the Main Building, in Room 1C2 of the Science, Engineering and Math Center.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Valentine's Day a time for love, spending

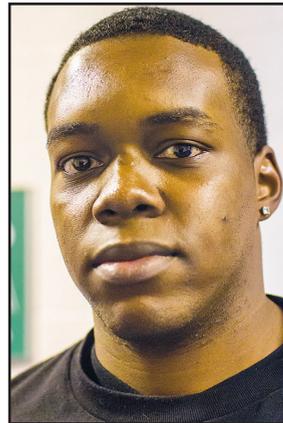
What are your Valentine's Day plans?



“ I’m just going to be with my boyfriend that day and give him presents.”
—ITZELLY DELGADO
OCCC STUDENT



Probably going out to eat somewhere. It is the worst holiday ever for men.”
—JOHN WILKINS
OCCC STUDENT



“ I am planning to go to watch the Thunder game.”
—TERRY KHAMMANIVONG
OCCC STUDENT

Affordable ways to show feelings

There's nothing like a holiday to make you realize just how tight your budget for the month might be.

For students money can be especially hard to come by this time of year. According to www.huffingtonpost.com, in 2012 Americans spent more than \$17 billion spoiling those they love on Valentine's Day.

Typically, college students don't have funds to buy a luxury Valentine's gift without breaking their bank account.

Here are some tips on how to stick to your budget while making your Valentine's Day memorable and special.

Bake something

From cookies to cakes, people really enjoy baked goods. Baked goods are cheap and simple to prepare, and a great way to demonstrate how you feel.

Buy or pick flowers in season

As everyone knows, flowers can be quite expensive on Valentine's Day – especially flowers like roses and tulips. Pick some flowers that are in season like pansies, amaryllis or witch hazel.

Quality time

Give the gift of time by taking your significant other on a hike or to a park and block out distractions.

Love notes and poems

Relive your gradeschool days with a love letter or a handwritten poem for your loved one or send a treasure map that leads to you.

Make a mix CD

Let your beloved know what moves you by making a mix of all your favorite love songs.

—www.huffingtonpost.com

Places to take your sweetheart

With Valentine's Day approaching, it's time to start thinking about making plans for a special evening with your significant other. If you're at a loss as to what to do to celebrate, many local places are offering events that will leave any Valentine happy.

Enjoy Valentine's with the OKC Ballet on campus

Celebrate Valentine's Day with members of the Oklahoma City Ballet. The Civic Center's resident dance company will be producing a chamber dance work for the Cultural Arts Series. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Ticket prices are \$10 for students and those under 17, \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors. For more information, contact Lemuel Bardeguez at lbardeguez@occc.edu.

River Cruise on Oklahoma River

Oklahoma River Cruises are offering a Valentine's Day special 90-minute romantic cruise from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Valentine's Day. The cost is \$30 per person and includes live music, hors d'oeuvres, beverages and a limited cash bar with champagne. For more information or reservations, call 405-702-7755.

Oklahoma City Chorus singing Valentines

Deliver your sweetie a singing Valentine from an acclaimed four-part harmony group. The Oklahoma City Chorus is offering special deliveries to homes, businesses, schools or restaurants from Yukon to Midwest City and Edmond to Norman. The cost is \$50 for live delivery, \$10 for phone delivery and \$5 for an e-Valentine. In addition to the beautiful music, singing valentines from the Oklahoma City Chorus include chocolate roses, a personalized card and a digital photograph. For more information, contact 405-720-7464 or order online at www.okcity.org.

Sooner Legends Inn & Suites getaway

The Sooner Legends Inn & Suites in Norman has a special getaway for Valentine's Day. There are two packages available:

- The "Sweetheart" package includes a standard room along with a \$40 gift certificate for the restaurant or bar, hot breakfast buffet for two, special sweetheart treat and a late check-out of 2 p.m. The cost is \$125 per couple.
- The "Honeymoon" package has everything detailed above but is \$20 more for a suite.

For more information, visit www.soonerlegends.com or call 405-701-8100.

Valentine's Day Dinner at the Skirvin

Park Avenue Grill, the restaurant inside the downtown Skirvin Hotel, will celebrate Valentine's Day with a special dinner available Feb. 14 through Feb. 16. The cost of dinner is \$75 per person and includes a five-course dinner menu featuring an entree choice of Roasted Monkfish, Bourbon-glazed Pork Loin, Braised Boneless Beef Short Ribs with Grilled Prawns or Wild Mushroom and Asparagus Risotto. For reservations, call 405-702-8444.

After your meal, try one of the many places in Oklahoma City that offer entertainment. Also consider places of culture or education like the Museum of Art, Science Museum Oklahoma, the OKC Zoo or the History Center. These can be inexpensive and create a beautiful backdrop for simple romantic picnics or walks.

—<http://okc.about.com/od/holidayevents/a/okcvdayspecials.htm>

SIX STUDENTS BAND TOGETHER TO MAKE MUSIC

It's all part of our rock 'n' roll fantasy

BUFFIE BROWN

Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Loud guitars, drums and bass can be heard blaring from the VPAC center. But don't be worried. It's just OCCC's new rock band practicing.

Why a rock band in a college?

Music professor Michael Boyle said it's a pop trend that was started by a university in England called School of Rock.

Vocal performance major Stefanie Cox, one of the band's two vocalists, said the rock band will give the campus an edgy look.

"We are trying to expand our horizons as far as the music department goes," Cox said.

Boyle said he will be the program director but Music professor José Gabaldon will direct the band.

"For the first time I have a talented adjunct professor who is appropriate to lead a rock ensemble," Boyle said.

He said the band will have two guitarists, a bassist, a drummer, two vocalists and special appearances by a "really talented keyboardist."

Gabaldon said he wants the students to gain experience playing in a band, being onstage in front of a crowd and increased stage presence.

Cox, already in the jazz band, jazz ensemble and taking private instruction at OCCC, also plays piano and is learning guitar. She said she hopes to gain a stage presence by being in the group.

"I would like to be a musical performer so I involve myself in as many groups and different styles of music as I can," Cox said.

"I want to figure out what type of music I am best at."

Music major Seth Burchett plays guitar and sometimes bass in the band.

Burchett said he auditioned for the rock band because he has always liked rock music.

He said he is hoping to gain good experience for the future.

"I want to find any lucrative work in show business that I can."

The other vocalist is music and history major Jessie Sappington. He also is in the local band 1970. Sappington also plays guitar and piano.

"I am a huge fan of rock and roll," he said.

"It is what I play in my free time and I have always wanted to sing it myself. I really just hope to have a great time and give a great performance.

"I would like to have my own music studio and my own label."



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Derek Naylor (drums), Nicolai Bell (bass) and Tyler Allen (guitar) practice on Jan. 31 in the VPAC Choir Room. They are all part of OCCC's rock band, a new addition to the OCCC music department lineup of live-performing student bands.

The drummer for the band, mathematics and computer science major Derek Naylor said he graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2010. He plays guitar, trumpet, didgeridoo, synthesizers and piano.

Naylor said he is currently in three local bands and has previously been in two others.

He said one reason for wanting to be in the band is to possibly discover a singer and a bass player for his personal projects.

"I'm no soothsayer," Naylor said, "but I would submit my future includes playing drums and drinking wine."

Student Tyler Allen plays electric guitar for the rock band.

Allen said he auditioned for the band because he has always dreamed of playing in a band and making music.

"I hope to make great music and have lots of fun in this band," he said.

Music performance major Nicolai Bell is the bass player and said he has played in several other bands.

"I think it is cool that we are going to have a conductor for a rock band," Bell said.

"Classic rock is what I have always loved, and rock 'n' roll is my number-one passion."

Bell said he was in music appreciation class an

“ I would like to be a musical performer so I involve myself in as many groups and different styles of music as I can.”

—STEFANIE COX

VOCAL PERFORMANCE MAJOR

hour before the rock band auditions were held so he decided to try out.

"I didn't think I would get in," he said.

"I just wanted to meet some other musicians and get into the music scene at OCCC."

Although the rock band does not yet have a name, Boyle said it will in the near future.

"We have some ideas," he said.

Gabaldon said he is eager to start auditions.

"Auditions will be held each semester," he said.

"It is a great way to give other students the opportunity and to keep the students in the band working at it."

The first performance will be May 2 in the Bruce Owen Theater, time to be announced.

For more information on the OCCC rock band, contact Gabaldon at 405-248-7715 or Boyle at 405-682-1611, ext. 7245.

SPORTS

SPORTS | Students, faculty and staff have options to stay fit

Health challenge kicks off Feb. 11

ALLEN MITCHELL

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

The OCCC Wellness Task Force will be kicking off the Healthy Now 30-Day Wellness Challenge starting Monday, Feb. 11, and continuing through Sunday, March 10. The event is free and open to all students, faculty and staff, said OCCC Health and Fitness Specialist Carole Valentine.

Throughout the 30-day run of the program, participants will be able to earn points for different healthy living activities such as not eating fried food, drinking six to eight glasses of water each day, not drinking carbonated beverages, and doing any activity that would keep a person active.

Participants also will earn points for things that relieve stress such as yoga or meditating.

"It's really a personal journey," Valentine said.

Healthy Now is a self-paced program designed to allow participants who are self-motivated to make simple changes in their everyday habits to live healthier lives.

"We're not asking you to go run a marathon," Valentine said.

This not the first wellness challenge at OCCC, said Khari Huff, OCCC Recreation and Fitness coordinator.

"Every year the challenge is different," she said.

Last year's challenge was dubbed the Healthier Me challenge. The concept of healthier living, however, stays the same, Huff said.

Valentine said last year, 278 students, faculty and staff participated in the challenge. She said they hope to beat that number this year.

Valentine said there are many benefits to participating in the challenge. The benefit for students, she said, is that they are able to learn healthier behaviors.

Valentine said students are not the only ones who can benefit. She said the benefit for faculty and staff falls in line with the OCCC Wellness Initiative, wherein they are able to save money on health insurance through healthier living.

At the end of the 30-day challenge,

Expired air time



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Business major Curtis Treadaway scores against Wellness Center staff member Pierre Davis on Feb. 4 in the OCCC Wellness Center gymnasium. The gymnasium is a 15,000 square foot facility and can accommodate up to three basketball or volleyball courts simultaneously.

participants will receive a Healthy Now T-shirt, Valentine said.

She said there also will be other prize incentives throughout the course of the challenge to keep people motivated.

For more information on the Healthy Now 30-Day Wellness Chal-

“We’re not asking you to go run a marathon,”

—CAROLE VALENTINE

HEALTH AND FITNESS SPECIALIST

lenge, contact Valentine at 405-682-7860, or stop by the office just south of the Student Union in the Main Building.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

Feb. 8: Edmond/Putnam City Last Chance Swim Meet. The pool will be open to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 9: Native American Cultural Meet. The event will be open but the pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 11 to 16: Recreation and Fitness Open House Week. For more information, call 405-682-7860.

Feb. 8 to March 8: 5-on-5 coed basketball. Registration will last until 5 p.m. Feb. 21. For more information, login to www.im-leagues.com.

Feb. 14: 3-point challenge basketball. Registration will last until noon through Feb. 14. For more information, login to www.im-leagues.com.

Feb. 21: Basketball golf tournament. Registration will last until noon through Feb. 21. For more information login to www.im-leagues.com.

Feb. 23 to 24: EAT Division II Championship Meet. The event will be open but the pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Feb. 25 to March 3: NAIA Swimming and Diving Championship. The event will be open but the pool will be closed to the public. For more information, call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

March 9: YMCA Winter Swim Meet. The event will be open but the pool will be closed 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.

Missing wallet, fender bender, arrest top crime reports

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Police Reporter
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A lost or stolen wallet, an auto accident involving college staff and a driver with outstanding arrest warrants kept campus police busy in the middle of the week.

At 12:41 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, Security Officer Jimmie Watts was called to a non-injury auto accident in the south area of parking lot A. Watts made contact with Ali Alli, a faculty member at OCCC and the driver of an Infiniti M45. Alli said when he began backing out from a parking space, a vehicle came around the corner and struck his vehicle.

Watts then talked with the driver in the other

vehicle, an Acura ATL. The driver of that car was student Kristie Ton-That. Ton-That said she turned the corner to go down the row of parking spaces when a vehicle backed into her as she was driving by.

A witness to the accident, Ton-That's friend Tina Le was driving ahead of her and said she saw the collision through her rearview mirror. Le said she saw Alli back out and Ton-That strike his vehicle. Footage from the parking lot camera was inconclusive as to who was at fault due to the distance of the camera from the site of the accident.

Also on that same day, Officer Patrick Martino stopped a 2005 Land Rover at 4:33 p.m. east of the campus construction zone. Dispatch confirmed that the driver, Lorena Uribe, 29, had two outstanding warrants from Oklahoma City. Martino arrested

Uribe and kept her in custody until Oklahoma City police arrived. Reports show this was Uribe's third offense for driving under suspension.

A wallet was reported missing at 1:35 p.m. Jan. 24 from the Math Lab. Caleb Pool, 22, told Officer Gordon Nelson his wallet was in his backpack. Pool said he arrived at 2F8 in the Math Lab around 8 a.m. to do some work, then at 8:30 a.m., he went to the restroom. At 1:30 p.m. he went to the Financial Aid Office and while there, he discovered his wallet was missing from his backpack. There are no video cameras in room 2F8 so Nelson was unable to check camera footage for suspects.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-7872. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

Community: OCCC reaches out through public events

Continued from page 1

educational and cultural programs," Harvey said in his report.

Sechrist said community outreach is important to the college.

"It's something we believe in," he said. "We believe it helps the community. It actually helps with recruitment; it helps with marketing; it creates great good will in the community."

Sechrist said it also is important in terms of fundraising efforts and in the

way OCCC is perceived by elected officials "in terms of knowing we are giving back to the community in a significant way, and helping more students and more citizens receive basic education (and) higher education, and be more productive citizens."

While the college's core mission is to serve college students, Sechrist said citizens outside of that realm are equally important.

"We're happy to do it," Sechrist said. "We're impacting a lot of people ...

80,000 people were impacted by coming to the college.

"These are not college students, which is our core mission, but these are some of the other things that we do to serve the community."

For more information on community outreach, call Harvey at 405-682-7849. For more about programs and

“... We are giving back to the community in a significant way, and helping more students and more citizens receive basic education (and) higher education, and be more productive citizens.”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

events, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7295, or email lbardeguet@occc.edu.



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www.occc.optimalresume.com

Students' access ID is their OCCC email address
example > john.t.doe@email.occc.edu

Resumes Cover Letters Interview Skills

www.occc.edu/pioneer

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Fair play



CHRIS JAMES/PIONEER

Black Student Association members Sarah Sehhati and Simone Mathenia help political science major Stephan Smith sign up for BSA at the Organization Fair on Jan. 31 in the Main Building. College clubs like BSA hold meetings, fundraisers and other events around campus. For more information on student clubs, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

COMMUNITY | Oklahoma Blood Institute to take donations on campus

Donors needed for blood drive

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Students can give blood to at the OCCC Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 13 and 14.

“Once a semester we work with the Oklahoma Blood Institute to have a blood drive,” said Student Life Coordinator Brittany Carradine.

She said information about the blood drive will be posted around the campus.

Students thoughts on donating differed.

“I don’t know if I would,” said physical therapy assistant major Haley Dunn said.

Dunn said she has a fear of needles.

Nursing and premed major Brittany Murillow said she “would definitely be interested.”

To donate, students need to fill out paperwork to determine if they are eligible.

“It is a very easy process,” Carradine said.

OCCC students have done very well in the past drives, she said. In 2002, 298 students were projected to donate, while 311 actually did.

“For 2013, we expect 280 donations. We are hoping to once again exceed the projected expectations,” Carradine said.

She said blood donated through OCCC will stay

“

For 2013, we expect 280 donations. We are hoping to once again exceed the projected expectations.”

—BRITTANY CARRADINE

STUDENT LIFE COORDINATOR

in the community. In previous years, OBI has given students who donate T-shirts or zoo tickets.

“They always give the students something for being willing to donate,” Carradine said.

Student Laura Hulls said she appreciates the gifts donors receive.

“I have gotten a T-shirt for donating blood before,” the human relations major said.

Murillow said she thinks giveaways are a great way to draw donors.

“I think it is cool they are giving them an opportunity to be a part of things and to contribute,” she said.

For students who are unable to give blood but want to help, contact Carradine to work the blood drive as a volunteer.

The volunteer work is a good option for students who can’t donate, she said.

For more information, contact Carradine at brittany.f.carradine@occc.edu or call the Student Life office at 405-682-7523.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Christians on Campus bible study

Christians on Campus will host a bible study on the topic “Unveiling the all-inclusive Christ in Scriptures,” from noon to 12:45 p.m. Mondays in Room 3K3 and from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays in Room 1C3. For more information, email christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu.

Snapshots! Cell phone Photography Show

A juried exhibition of cell phone photographs taken by OCCC students, faculty and staff will be on display from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 4 through March 15 in the Visual Performing Arts Center, Room 124.

Language Center anniversary event

The World Languages and Cultures Center will be having a fifth anniversary celebration at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, and again at noon Wednesday, Feb. 13, in the WLCC on the second floor of the Main Building. In addition to regular lab activities, language board games will be available and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Chiaki Troutman at 405-682-1611, ext. 7104.

Brown Bag: Where do I fit in?

There will be a Brown Bag Luncheon from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, in Room CU2. Students will have a safe environment to converse about college life and experiences. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Volunteer Fair

Student Life will host a volunteer fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Feb. 13, in the lobby of the Main Building. The fair is an opportunity for agencies partnered with OCCC to be showcased and seek volunteers. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Enjoy Valentine’s with the OKC Ballet

Celebrate Valentine’s Day with members of the Oklahoma City Ballet. The Civic Center’s resident dance company will be producing a chamber dance work for the Cultural Arts Series. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Ticket prices are \$10 for students and those under 17, \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors. For more information, contact Lemuel Bardeguéz at lbardeguéz@occc.edu.

Black History Month luncheon

There will be a Black History Month luncheon from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in CU2 and 3. The luncheon is a joint project with the Black Student Association and Student Life. Science professor Sonya Williams will be the luncheon speaker. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1965 Chevy truck. \$4,000 OBO. Rebuilt motor. Runs. Needs painting. 1962 Chevy car. \$2,000 OBO. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

FOR SALE: 2001 Dodge Durango SLT 4x4, pearl white. \$2,500. Engine overheated, needs some work. 164,000 miles. Would be great hunting vehicle. Call Cheryl: 405-912-7401.

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

LOOKING FOR A ROOM/HOME TO RENT: Will share all bills. Call Quinton at 443-812-0917 or email qmmountain@yahoo.com.

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 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.

FREE: This classified space is free to OCCC students and employees. Call for details. 405-682-1611, ext. 7674.

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

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: English Comp, \$35; TI-83 Plus, \$30. Call 405-209-0308.

Personal classified ads are free to students and employees. adman@occc.edu.

Share your thoughts with us: editor@occc.edu

Advertising rates start at \$8/week. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or email adman@occc.edu for details and to request an ad rate booklet.

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THIS WEEK'S PIONEER PUZZLE

USA State Capitals

Find and circle all of the USA State Capitals that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Bill Vaughan quotation.

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N R O F A M R E B O I S E N N E Y E H C R R A I
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Choices exist when it comes to textbooks

PARIS BURRIS

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KATIE THURMAN

Staff Writer
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Students can save time and money in their search for books by buying used, shopping around and even renting textbooks.

Some students may opt for a used book which can be at least \$20 cheaper than their new counterparts. Professors will often recommend buying an older edition of a book if it still covers the same material as the new one.

Textbooks also can be purchased online — many times at a cheaper price — through websites like www.amazon.com or eBay's popular www.half.ebay.com.

For instance, the history textbook used by OCCC, "American Realities," costs \$61.80 used and \$82.40 new at the college bookstore. It costs \$40.49 used, \$71.99 new at www.chegg.com. www.amazon.com rents the book for

\$21, according to those websites.

Some students prefer to rent textbooks when that option is available.

Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke said the OCCC Bookstore has a new rental program with more than 275 to 300 titles available for students who are looking for a less permanent solution to their textbook situation.

"The decision to rent could save a student anywhere from 10 to 55 percent," Reinke said. "You can rent anytime during the semester.

"Price varies from title to title ... We are all about giving students options."

In order to secure the rental, Reinke said, students must bring a credit or debit card.

She said online renting is not yet available.

Textbook stores such as Textbook Brokers, located across the street from the college at 7445 S May Ave., offers a large selection of books for sale and also allow students to rent books.

Jamila Hamidi, a fashion marketing major, is renting her books this semester. She said there are benefits to renting. "Obviously, I'm saving money,"

Hamidi said. "And I don't have to worry about being left with a stack of textbooks at the end of the semester that I'll never use again."

Online sites that offer textbook rentals are www.bookrenter.com and www.textbookrentals.com, www.chegg.com, Amazon and eBay.

Chegg also sells and buys both new and used textbooks.

While buying or renting used books from online websites may serve as a cheaper, more convenient option, not all students prefer it.

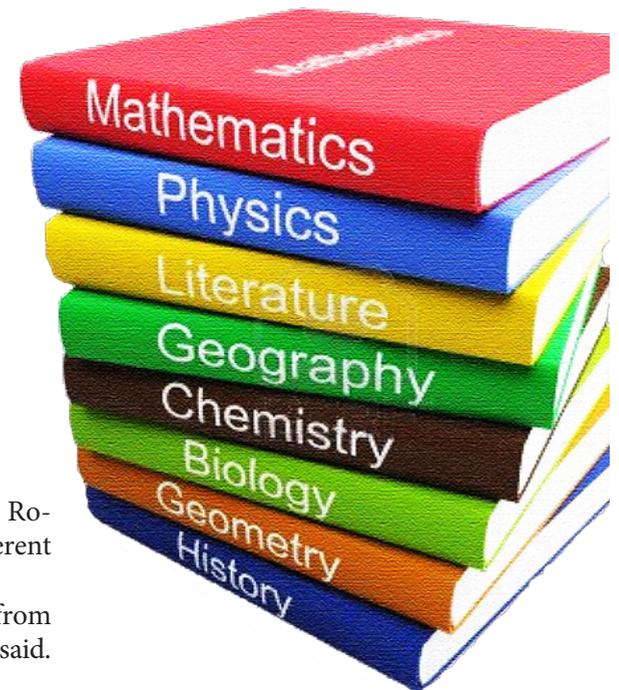
"I buy my textbooks here at the OCCC Bookstore because they are new," special education major Gabriela Trigueros said. "They don't have any writing in them."

Public Relations major Rochelle Sollars shares a different opinion.

"I would buy my books from Craigslist if I could," Sollars said.

"It's super cheap that way. I've noticed that (by) buying books from the bookstore and selling them back at the end of the semester you lose a lot of money. It's not worth it."

For more information about the OCCC Bookstore rental program, contact Reinke at 405-682-1611, ext. 7242.



Textbooks: Relevancy priority when choosing books

Continued from page 1

about \$100 and some go for more than \$200, based on a quick survey of OCCC Bookstore prices.

Some question: Who chooses the books?

Mathematics Director Tamara Carter said, in most cases, textbooks are chosen by a committee made up of OCCC faculty.

She said a group of professors from each department meets solely for the purpose of choosing what books they'll use for the upcoming semester.

Carter said there are three main criteria considered in the decision.

First, the committee looks for which book will best cover the material the students need to learn. Then, she said, the group decides which book has the most expansive and helpful electronic package of supplemental learning material. Lastly, they look to see which book is the most affordable for the student.

"It's definitely a factor," Carter said about the pricing. "It's not the most important factor because our first priority is what we think will help the students most with learning, but we understand that [affordability is] important."

However, some professors elect to go it alone and choose a specific book for their class.

Sociology Professor Jerry Ludlow said he has been stepping outside of the faculty-prescribed textbook choice for a few years now. He said his decision was

made, in large part, because of the savings he found in going with an older book, which also offered free online supplemental tools.

"Of course, I did so with respect to the division office's choice," he said.

Ludlow said the book he uses covers the same material as the one the committee in his area chose. He said, like Carter, he mainly chooses books based on the quality of the book and what the students will learn from it.

However, even when the price is right, students are sometimes left frustrated anyway when a book can't be sold back after it's served its purpose.

That happens when textbooks are replaced with a new edition or a different book.

Emily Nelson, occupational therapy assistant major, said she once bought an expensive textbook only to find she couldn't sell it back to OCCC's bookstore because there was a new edition of the book. She said the new version was different from her book by only one page. She was eventually able to sell the book to Textbook Brokers, a private textbook store located at 7445 S May Ave.

Textbook Brokers employee Kristie Alkire said, because of supply and demand, they often buy books the college won't buy.

"We have 90 stores [nationally] that provide books for other schools," Alkire said.

Some students question why they aren't told the

book is being discontinued until they go to sell it back.

Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke said generally the bookstore staff and even the faculty members teaching courses don't know at the time students buy the books whether they will be able to sell the books back at the end of the semester.

Reinke said sometimes the publishers will tell the bookstore when a new edition is going to be available and sometimes the faculty informs the bookstore employees of a change in the text.

Ultimately, she said, the bookstore leaves it up to the faculty to counsel students about buying new or used books — or renting.

Typically, Reinke said, the bookstore is updated on the relevancy of a book every 45 days through promotion fliers but other times, there is no news until the beginning of the new semester.

Carter said sometimes, when a new edition of a book comes out, publishers will try to change the book as little as possible so that older editions may still be relevant and useful.

"Often these companies who publish the books will try to work with us when it comes time for an update to a new edition."

Carter said choosing textbooks is no hasty decision for the faculty who select them. She said students also will want to ask questions and weigh carefully as to whether they should buy new, or used books, or rent them.