Celebrate Students Week starts March 11

From coffee chats to lunchtime open mics — Student Life plans to show appreciation

REYNA OTERO
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Student Life wants to let students know OCCC likes them — really likes them. They plan to do that by hosting a Celebrate Students Week, said Student Life Program Assistant Janelle Hanson.

"Celebrate Students Week is a celebration of how amazing our students are," Hanson said. "We want to highlight their experiences at OCCC and the things they do that make their time here special."

Hanson said the celebration kicks off at 8 a.m. Monday, March 11, with morning coffee in the Welcome Center area, located on the first floor of the Main Building. The week will end the same way, with coffee and an open discussion from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 15.

She said the two events are an opportunity for any student who has concerns, issues, or just wants to let someone know he or she is doing a great job to express those feelings and enjoy a free brew of coffee.

On Tuesday, March 12, students can enjoy a noontime open microphone event in the General Dining Area.

Hanson said this is a time for students to share their work. That can consist of paintings, drawings, poems, short stories or any other talents, she said.

Hanson said the event offers students the opportunity to show some of their accomplishments.

Sign-up sheets for the lunch-time open mic event are located in the Student Life office and the Arts and Humanities office, located on the first floor of the AH area, just inside AH Entry 2. Hanson said students can sign up in either office or at the event. Sarah Slawinski, business major, said she is going to participate in the open mic event. "I am going to be singing for this event," Slawinski said. "My friends are encouraging me to do this so I can get more experience."

Celebrate Students Reception is being held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, in CU2 and 3, Hanson said. She said light hors d'oeuvre will be served.

See EVENT page 9

SMART Choice Diner Card now on the menu

REBEKA MORALES
News Writing Student

Carson's Cafeteria is now offering a chance for OCCC students to combine an active lifestyle with healthy eating habits — and save money at the same time. Carson's has paired up with the OCCC gym to promote the SMART Choice Diner Card, said Corrine Aguilar, Carson's manager.

Students can acquire the card at the gym or at the cafeteria checkout counter. The card can be used for free coffee for morning coffee classes, and for lunch in the Student Life program.
EDITORIAL | Lack of fresh-food markets in a sea of fast-food eateries creates health issues

City needs to address food deserts

Unless your ability to maintain a healthy diet has been impacted by poor access to grocery stores and fresh foods, it may come as a surprise that food deserts actually exist in Oklahoma City.

A food desert is an area lacking grocery stores or markets containing fresh meats, fruits, vegetables, grains and dairy products. Instead, food desert neighborhoods typically have an overcrowding of fast-food restaurants along with drug and convenience stores competing against each other.

How many times have you seen Walgreens open up shop right across the street from the new CVS? I’ve seen it more times than I can recall, and it always seems ridiculous.

This contributes to food deserts by taking up real estate better occupied by a grocery store. But hey, I’m sure Walgreens did their market research. Unfortunately, I guess the results said a Walgreens needed to be across from CVS instead of a place that sells actual food people can prepare meals with. The city obviously agrees enough to grant the building permits.

Above all, I think the major factor creating food deserts in Oklahoma City is an extremely inadequate public transportation system. Basically, if you don’t own a car, you’re pretty much out of luck trying to get around.

The people impacted most by Oklahoma City’s food deserts are those living under the poverty line — not able to afford a dependable vehicle. They have no safe way to get to a grocery store other than on foot. Of course, the trip could be made easier by a bicycle, but most of Oklahoma City also lacks sidewalks or bike lanes.

Aside from the help of a friend or relative, the best option for these people in a more evolved city would be to take a bus or subway. Unfortunately, Oklahoma City’s Metro Transit only runs from around 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and never on Sunday. It’s also a nightmare trying to navigate from point A to point B with the different bus routes.

Now, imagine the store is more than 10 miles away and having to walk that distance with an armful of groceries. Now, imagine having small children, a physical disability or an injury. It would be nearly impossible.

People living within food deserts are often malnourished because they’re not able to get enough of the nutrients their bodies need like fiber from fresh fruits and vegetables. Instead, options are usually limited to junk food containing saturated fat and high sodium along with carbonated soft drinks containing massive amounts of sugar. A diet consisting primarily of these foods can lead to diabetes, heart disease, obesity and a whole plethora of other health issues.

So, what can be done to fight food deserts? Some convenience stores have already taken action against the problem. I’ve noticed 7-11 has fresh fruit displays with apples, oranges and bananas placed by their checkout counters. That’s definitely a good start but more needs to be done.

As a consumer, always keep in mind that where and how your money is spent can make or break any business. Avoid loading up on junk and fast food when it’s possible to go grocery shopping and cook at home. In the end, it’s healthier, less expensive, and — with practice — better tasting.

—Chris James
Online Writer

SLOW DOWN, BE CAUTIOUS AND MAKE IT TO OCCC ALIVE

To the Editor:

Every morning I get in my van and dread my daily commute to OCCC. The trek I have to make from Norman is not a long one but it can be time consuming.

Most of all, it can be treacherous. As I am merging onto I-35, I generally have few problems — traffic is usually clear on the highway coming from the Newcastle area.

However, most of the time, the person driving is behind me as I make my way up the on-ramp wants to get in front of me. And if that person is successful, what comes next is what really annoys me. The person suddenly slows down. Forget that hurried quest that driver was just on.

People this day and age are so set on being first, they pay no attention to others to where they need to go safely?

When exiting onto May Avenue from I-44, most drivers observe heading to OCCC.

These drivers tend to know they are going to want to be in the right lane on May, but instead they get in the left and nearly run others off the road racing to get in front of the driver who was prepared in the right lane.

If students are running late, shouldn’t you think about getting yourself and others to where they need to go safely?

You’re not going to get an A in your history class if you’re dead. So slow down, and respect others.

—Name Withheld by Request
OCCC Employee

CHRIS JAMES
**THEATER REVIEW | A great menu coupled with great entertainment make for a fulfilling evening**

**Yellow Rose Theater a real treat**

The Yellow Rose Theater, Oklahoma’s only full-time dinner theater, offers entertainment that is one-of-a-kind and sure to leave guests having fun from start to finish. The theater features a three-course meal, theatrical performances with singing, acting and comedic bits as well as other features.

I attended the theater’s “Dean Martin: That’s Amore” show and was highly impressed.

The night started off with a yummy salad featuring the theater’s homemade dressing, followed by a generous loaf of delicious bread with the choice of either pineapple or cinnamon honey butter.

The second course was a choice between smoked brisket or smoked chicken. I chose the chicken, which was accompanied by green beans, buttered corn and potato casserole. The variety of foods complemented each other well.

There is no alcohol at the Yellow Rose Theater, so drink choices are limited to water, tea, mango tea, coffee and soft drinks.

During our meal, there was a pleasant pre-show that consisted of performers singing various songs to promote their upcoming 80s themed show. This aided in getting the audience comfortable with the charming interaction from the performers.

After the main course, the show began. The actors did such a great job at making their characters come to life that it didn’t feel as if they were acting. It really felt as if Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. — who were the main subjects of the show — were right in front of me.

The show was light-hearted and classic but also modernized so that the comedy appealed to the humor of 20-somethings, while not being vulgar or over-the-top.

Music varied, including classics from Dean Martin, The Temptations, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and many, many others.

One of the most impressive features of the theater is that the performers double as the wait staff. They are completely unpaid volunteers. They are simply aspiring artists who want to get their names out there. I was surprised by this because I would have never been able to guess, due to their talent in customer service and performance.

During intermission, dessert was served. Guests were given a choice between six different options, including chocolate cake stuffed with ice cream and covered with raspberry sauce, homemade apple pie, carrot cake, cheesecake and more. I chose the chocolate cake, which was scrumptious and enough to feed three people.

The Yellow Rose Theater is a great place for all ages to get together, eat great food and enjoy great performances from very talented actors.

**Rating:** A+

—Paris Burris Editor

**REVIEW | Diners are encouraged to take part in production**

**Whodunit Dining Room a fun mystery to be solved**

If you are looking for an entertaining dinner experience, check out a dinner theater show from the Whodunit Dining Room. The local theater company has been active in the Oklahoma City area since 1991 and holds shows at a rotating selection of venues monthly.

The company’s current show “Manor of Death” is a delightfully fun and interactive experience set during a family dinner party.

The party, hosted by Mercy Moldwood, is in honor of her sister Sybil Scribbles, a mystery novelist, who has just released her first — and final — children’s book.

Diners are given the opportunity to interact with the cast and get to know the characters as they mingle with the partygoers at the beginning of the show.

Guests of the party include the guest of honor Sybil, Dustin, Mercy’s spoiled son who has dropped out of college and has asked his very hyper aerobics instructor Zumba to marry him, Sybil’s date for the evening, retired detective Sherlock Spade, and Sybil’s publisher Nessie Locke.

Tending to the partygoers needs is the loyal, if slightly spacey, family butler Edsel.

As the evening progresses, conflicts arise and trouble brews until Sybil is found murdered. Each character has a potential motive for the murder. It is left up to diners to piece together the clues and reveal the murderer.

The dinner menu is limited and designed to ensure diners receive their dinner during the allotted time, without causing too much interruption to the show.

The scripts are written specifically for the theater company and are entertaining to follow, although perhaps a little bit predictable. The acting is, at times, over the top and includes the occasional forgotten or mispronounced line.

However, the group works well together, interacts with the audience and uses clever improvisation when the situation warrants to create a fun and unique dinner experience.

The show venue changes weekly. Local restaurants Spaghetti Warehouse, Ted’s Café Escondido and Cattlemen’s Steakhouse host the show monthly.

Additional shows are hosted by wineries in the area. March’s remaining shows include Friday evening shows at Cattlemen’s and Spaghetti Warehouse and Saturday evening shows at Ted’s and Woods and Waters Winery.

All shows start at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $40 per person. Seating begins 30 minutes prior to each show. Tickets are available from the Whodunit Dining Room’s website at www.whodunit.net.

**Rating:** A

—Allen Mitchell Sports Writer

**COMMENTS AND REVIEWS**

**THEATER REVIEW | Diners are encouraged to take part in production**

**YELLOW ROSE THEATER REVIEW | Diners are encouraged to take part in production**

**WHODUNIT DINING ROOM REVIEW | Diners are encouraged to take part in production**

**YOU ASKED FOR IT**

Q: When does the FAFSA application need to be completed for Fall 2013 semester?

A: “The earlier the better, but the preferred deadline is May 31.”

—MEAGHAN MORGAN
Financial Aid Assistant Director

Q: When is the last day to enroll in the second 8-week semester courses?

A: “The last day to enroll in the second eight-week semester courses is March 25. It is the first day of classes and the last day students can enroll. Students can withdraw from these courses up to March 29 with a refund and May 3 without a refund.”

—EUNICE LUNA
Student Ambassador

Q: When is the last day to withdraw from the spring 16-week semester?

A: “Feb. 1 was the last day for students to withdraw with a refund and April 19 is the last day they can withdraw without a refund.”

—EUNICE LUNA
Student Ambassador

Have a question about the OCCC campus? Send it to editor@occc.edu. We’ll get the answer for you.
Comments and Reviews

Restaurant Review | From the appetizers to the well-known dessert, eatery delivers

Cheesecake Factory yummy dining

Being a self-proclaimed foodie has led me to eat at a lot of restaurants around the metro in the three years since I’ve lived in Oklahoma. From family-owned hole-in-the-wall joints to larger chain restaurants, it’s safe to say that I’m fairly well versed in matters of all things dining-out in the city.

Since my family moved to Oklahoma City, we’ve spent nearly every special occasion dinner at The Cheesecake Factory, located at 5600 N Pennsylvania Ave., right in front of Penn Square Mall. The atmosphere has always been warm and relaxing. The service has been excellent and the food has been consistently delicious. My last experience in particular was extremely pleasant.

When my mom’s birthday came along recently, we knew the Cheesecake Factory was where we wanted to go. Neither of us had eaten that day so we set out a bit early and got to the restaurant at about 4:45 p.m. The parking lot wasn’t crowded and while there were other diners, the restaurant was far from full. We were seated promptly and our drink orders were taken right away.

We ordered an appetizer (fried macaroni and cheese, a Cheesecake Factory staple) and ended up ordering the same entree of pasta with meat sauce.

While we waited for our appetizer, we were offered complimentary bread as always. When they brought us a basket full of wheat bread, it was fresh out of the oven and still very warm. Our fried macaroni and cheese followed soon after and it certainly wasn’t disappointing — the breading was crispy to perfection and the decadent cheese inside was amazing.

The pasta with meat sauce is a favorite in our family for a reason. The angel hair pasta is always cooked very well, not too well done but not too raw — instead, it’s a satisfying al dente. And the meat bolognese is rich and marinara infused without overpowering the rest of the dish with a tomato or garlic flavor like most pasta sauces tend to do.

Our waitress was friendly and helpful, and checked back with us frequently to make sure our drinks were topped off and we still had bread to go with our meal. During the course of our entree alone, she probably visited the table at least four times. I never ran out of sweet tea and my mom never ran out of soda.

Of course, you can’t go to The Cheesecake Factory without ordering one thing — the world-famous cheesecake.

As Mom and I were both extremely full from our dinner, we decided to take dessert to go. I had the Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup Chocolate Cake Cheesecake, which is worth the mouthful it takes to order because it’s honestly the best dessert I’ve ever had. Layers of chocolate cake, smooth cheesecake and peanut butter are topped off with fresh whipped cream. The result is something that tastes heavenly.

Dining at The Cheesecake Factory isn’t necessarily cheap. For an appetizer, two entrees and two pieces of cheesecake, our bill added up to around $60 and that’s not including the tip. We also ate at a discounted price as we ordered from the lunch menu, which is a slightly smaller portion offered for a slightly lower price compared to the full portion and full price. The lunch menu is available until 5 p.m. every day and can save you some money, but it’s not tremendously cheaper than ordering from the regular menu and paying full price.

But if it’s a special occasion like a birthday, anniversary or first date, or if you’ve just got some spare money and a big appetite, making a trip to The Cheesecake Factory is definitely worth every dollar.

Rating: A+

—Katie Thurman
Staff Writer

Game Review | ‘Far Cry 3’ offers an abundance of options

First-person shooter game worth wasting time over

Kidnapped by pirates and taken to a lush island paradise filled with vicious predators, ancient ruins, shipwrecks, caves, and abandoned Japanese bunkers from World War II — Ubisoft’s “Far Cry 3” is an addictive first-person shooter with a massive map and hours worth of unique story-mode gameplay.

I was admittedly worried about a third installment to the franchise. Sequels usually have about a 50/50 chance of being as good as their predecessors, but “Far Cry 3” is the best yet. It definitely still feels like “Far Cry” with the same attention to detail, but it’s just more — more to explore, more challenges to complete and more things wanting you dead.

The official website www.far-cry.ubi.com said, “The island is filled with [more than] 20 species of majestic and untamed animals, including komodo dragons, sharks, stingrays, tigers and beautiful birds of paradise.” These animals can be hunted and skinned. The hides are needed to upgrade your character’s carrying capacity of weapons, money, ammunition and other loot.

In addition to ambient wildlife, the most noticeable improvements in “Far Cry 3” is the introduction of weapon customizations like sound suppressors, reflex sights, extended magazines and camouflage. Familiar vehicles can be found in the game. You can drive a couple different boats, jet skis, hang gliders, ATVs, dune buggies, and few different cars and jeeps. A few different vehicles would have been nice.

As I explored the huge sandbox of a map, I was amazed at the environment’s realism. Vegetation swayed in the breeze; fires can start and burn up large patches of land, catching enemies aflame; and even swamp waters are eerily placid while waves crash onto sandy beaches. It was like one big living game world.

So far, I’ve only been talking about the game’s single-player story mode, but it also has co-op and multi-player. Co-op features four playable characters and six separate campaign chapters. Multi-player has four modes of gameplay: team deathmatch, firestorm, domination and transmission.

“Far Cry 3” is a great game. I’ve lost hours of valuable sleep and study time playing it and I recommend you do the same. Forget midterms. Play “Far Cry 3.”

Rating: A+

—Chris James
Online Writer

Top 20 Movies
Weekend of Feb. 25 through March 1 www.newyorktimes.com

1. Jack the Giant Slayer
2. Identity Thief
3. 21 and Over
4. Snitch
5. The Last Exorcism 2
6. Escape from Planet Earth
7. Safe Haven
8. Silver Linings Playbook
9. A Good Day to Die Hard
10. Dark Skies
11. Warm Bodies
12. Life of Pi
13. Argo
14. Quartet
15. Side Effects
16. Zero Dark Thirty
17. Lincoln
18. Django Unchained
19. Beautiful Creatures
20. Wreck-It Ralph
March 16 deadline for 30 scholarships

SKYLER FLEWELLEN
News Writing Student

Students who need a little extra money to pay for college are in luck. OCCC has listed more than 30 scholarships with an application deadline of March 16.

OCCC Director of Development Jennifer Hardt said she wants to spread the word of the availability of the scholarships and how easy they are to apply for.

By filling out one application, students will automatically be included in the pool of applicants for every scholarship they qualify for, Hardt said.

The dollar amount ranges from $100 to $1,000, although one scholarship for Latino students, the Alejandro Rendon Sanchez Memorial Scholarship, is worth $2,500.

A student who has received several scholarships from the OCCC Foundation, Nursing major Taylor Aldridge, said she would not have been able to attend college without the scholarships that she received.

Some of the scholarships she received were the OCCC Association of Alumni & Friends Scholarship and the Derek Calhoun Nursing Scholarship.

The scholarships are funded by the OCCC Foundation, said Hardt. Students simply need to access the website at https://occc.academicworks.com to start applying.

To apply, students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher and write a 500- to 1,000-word essay describing how the scholarship will help them achieve their goals.

Any student can apply for these scholarships, Hardt said. She said the easiest part is that there are no paper applications as everything is done online.

Hardt said many of the scholarships are in honor of staff members or noteworthy people such as the Marion Paden Distinguished Leadership Award in honor of Student Services Vice President Marion Paden.

The scholarship is worth $500.

The donor, three-time State Regent John Massey, has given $15,000 to fund this scholarship.

“All scholarships are provided by private donors, including many of the faculty and staff at OCCC,” Hardt said.

Scholarships offered by amount

- $250 Alejandro Rendon Sanchez Memorial Scholarship
- $500 Bartlett Memorial Scholarship
- $500 Bill and Carol Sechrist Endowed Scholarship (amount varies)
- $250 Black Student Association Scholarship
- $300 Bobby D. Gaines Memorial Scholarship
- $500 Cody Watkins Memorial Scholarship
- $500 Connie Nieser Memorial Scholarship: $1250 to student account; $350 to student
- $750 Derek Calhoun Nursing Scholarship
- $1000 Engineers for Tomorrow Scholarship
- $250 International Student Association Scholarship
- $500 Jack Cain Memorial Scholarship
- $300 Kay Edwards Memorial Scholarship
- $500 Kayla Fessler Business Scholarship
- $300 Larry D. Golden Memorial Scholarship
- $400 Lea Ann Hall Memorial Scholarship
- $500 Linda Thornton Memorial Scholarship
- $300 Mary Ann Merz Memorial Scholarship
- $2000 Mary Neil Scruggs Holton Scholarship
- $500 Matt Skvarla Journalism Scholarship
- $500 Moore Service League Scholarship
- $500 OCCC Association of Alumni and Friends Scholarship
- $250 Peter Wright History Scholarship
- $500 Robert P. Todd Leadership Scholarship
- $300 Rutledge Memorial Scholarship
- $150 Sharon Robinson Memorial Scholarship
- $500 Southeast High School Alumni Scholarship
- $300 Susan Clowers Memorial Scholarship
- $500 Dr. Marion Paden Distinguished Leadership Award

Visit https://occc.academicworks.com for a complete list of requirements.

All applications have a March 16 deadline.

Faculty and staff gave nearly $30,000 to the OCCC Foundation in 2012 for scholarships, academic programs, the Performing Arts Theater and Best Seat Campaign,” according to an article from the OCCC Foundation newsletter.

The scholarship winners will be announced during the first week of April.

Students will receive their scholarships at the Scholarship Luncheon on April 26.

For more information about the scholarship program at the OCCC Foundation, visit www.occc.edu/foundation or contact Hardt at jhardt@occc.edu.

TEDx talks attract students, administrators

REYNA OTERO
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

The idea that throughout history the best philosophers were also good scientists who looked out to the stars became the theme as 20 students gathered in room CU3 of the Student Union.

“Faculty and staff have created this kind of program to give students a chance to hear some of the best speakers around,” said Reyna Otero, a student attending the event.

Morrow said there was a good number of students in the room.

He said the students seemed to be very interested in the speeches and had interesting questions during the discussion, after the speeches were given.

Morrow said there were a few good student insights.

An example he gave is the following: Morrow displayed images to go along with his speech. One of these was “the hunter of a good heart.” Morrow said a student asked if seeker would be a better word than hunter when he was talking about the universe.

“Of course, we could use both,” he said.

In his speech, Morrow said, “One of the things about TED is there is some kind of visual going on to help people make connections between the ideas,” he said.

Morrow said there was a good number of students in the TEDx talk but he always hopes for more students, professors and administrators to attend.

However, overall he said, the TEDx talk went “really, really well.”

There are more TEDx talks taking place throughout the semester; however, Morrow said he hopes students gain more interest in the talks.

He said it is very interesting to be able to hear different voices from around the campus and compare the speeches to the individual’s perception.

Technology, entertainment and design or TED is a nonprofit organization begun in 1984. TED is devoted to “ideas worth spreading,” according to www.ted.com. The X marks an independently organized event.

The next TEDx talk is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m., March 27, in Room CU3 of the Student Union.

Visit https://occc.academicworks.com for a complete list of requirements.

All applications have a March 16 deadline.
Broadcasting students break record

KAREN HERNANDEZ
News Writing Student

A record-setting number of OCCC students claimed prizes when the Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association announced the 2012 student competition winners, said Rick Allen Lippert, Video Production professor.

“I got a lot of pleasure seeing our students win awards in a competition with students from universities,” Lippert said.

The Outstanding Achievement in Broadcasting Awards Program is an annual competition.

“The purpose of the OBEA competition is to acknowledge and reward the best student video and audio productions from colleges across the state,” Lippert said.

The competition encourages the highest standards of work in television, radio and interactive media by Oklahoma college students, he said.

Public Relations major Scott Michael was among the winners.

“I was quite surprised when I learned that our podcast had won,” he said.

“I was completely unaware that we were in the running, to be honest.”

Michael graduated in May and is now attending the University of Oklahoma.

Another winner, public relations major Amy Herrington, is still taking classes here.

“I am very excited and surprised to win an award,” she said.

“Professor Lippert had a lot of confidence in my video but I never thought he believed him until he called to tell me I placed.”

Herrington’s video essay features her father in the process of finding scrap wood and turning it into unique birdhouses.

“They are so artistic, you wouldn’t want a bird to get near them,” Lippert said.

“The judges loved her use of natural sound and the sequencing of shots from closeup to extreme closeup.”

Lippert said OCCC students showed their competence by winning several awards from across the state competition.

“The general assumption is that just students from universities win these awards, so when students from community colleges win, it’s extra special for me,” Lippert said.

Herrington and Michael, along with Trevor McCoy, Lauren Tubbs, Wendy Viezcas, Kellye Tallent, Laurence Greene and Nichole Shadid, will be recognized March 13 during the OBEA award luncheon at the Will Rogers Theater in Oklahoma City.

“I feel honored to be able to go to the OBEA awards,” said Viezcas, who also is majoring in public relations.

“It’s great having gone from knowing nothing about how to make a radio spot to winning third place for one. Seriously, it’s pretty great.”

Tallent, a broadcasting graduate, has advanced from an audio production student to working full time in radio.

“I feel accomplished receiving this award. I am humbled, honored, and grateful,” she said.

“I am very satisfied,” she said.

“I learned from my students that even though OCCC does not have sports, our students can win in the category of sports podcast.”

Lippert and Faulconer-Lippert said they are sure these awards will help students in the future.

$45K sculpture designed for new theater

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Senior Writer
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Paseo District Artist Colin Rosebrook is designing a sculpture for OCCC’s new theater.

The sculpture, named “Crescendo,” will be a modern art representation depicting the letters OCCC. Fifteen feet tall and made of stainless steel, the “Crescendo” was purchased through donations from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Stone City, Development Director Jennifer Hardt said.

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Stone City have donated nearly $41,000 to build this sculpture, which has a $45,000 price tag.

The musical group donated $1 from each ticket sold from their last three concerts in Oklahoma City to the Chesapeake Arena Hardt said.

Stone City is the San Antonio-based promotions company that brings the orchestra to cities across the globe, according to a press release on OCCC webpage.

“Some interested citizens wanted to help put a sculpture outside the new theater and Rosebrook came up with the concept,” Institutional Advancement Executive Director Lealon Taylor said.

One student thinks the sculpture will add to OCCC.

“I am very excited and surprised to win an award.”

—AMY HERRINGTON
PUBLIC RELATIONS MAJOR

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Lippert and Faulconer-Lippert said they are sure these awards will help students in the future.

“This is a big project for the group and so they specifically asked that they be invited.

“Of course, we want them here to thank them for donating the sculpture.”

Taylor said each year the Trans-Siberian Orchestra travels from town to town and donate to a local charity or foundation that promotes the arts.

The group is a progressive rock band according to their website www.trans-siberian.com

“We are pretty fortunate to have been chosen to receive the donations from TSO three years in a row,” Hardt said.
Spring break can be affordable and fun

KATIE THURMAN
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Spending for a school holiday can be especially stressful for students looking to get out of the house and away from routine day-to-day life. Students shouldn't altogether discount the idea of traveling this spring break. There are affordable ways to take a relaxing break without emptying your bank account.

www.studentuniverse.com, a student-friendly online travel guide, has some ideas that provide entertainment, relaxation and adventure all on a budget.

Take a road trip
The only thing needed is a car, a map or GPS, a good group of friends and lots of music for the road. Split the costs for hotel rooms, gas and food with buddies, and remember to take the backroads for the most beautiful views.

And remember, a road trip doesn’t have to take you out of state. Adventure is waiting here in Oklahoma.

Go camping
The most costly thing about camping is still affordable for most. A lot of camping grounds are free but some need to be rented and reserved. Spending a few days in the grand outdoors with some friends makes for a relaxing and fun time.

Visit a big city
In metropolitan areas, there tends to be a ton of history and a wide array of free things to do. Maybe consider spending a few days in Tulsa or Dallas, or exploring an unfamiliar city center. There’s no telling what kind of surprises you might find in a city where you’ve never been.

Volunteer
While volunteering may not be very relaxing, you’ll be dedicating your spare time to a good cause and deciding to give back to the community could take you to a lot of cities across the country. You’ll meet new people, see new things, and hopefully leave a positive mark on whatever place you visit or people you help.

What are your spring break plans?

“I’ll be practicing my piano and guitar, and getting ready for the Eric Clapton concert that week.” —JESSE SAPPINGTON
MUSIC AND HISTORY MAJOR

“I’m going to North Dakota to see my parents so my daughter can visit her grandparents.” —JEANNA DODD
OCCC STUDENT

“W e’re visiting my friend Emily’s grandparents. I’m going to meet them.” —BIANCA PONCEDELEON
OCCC STUDENT

Local destinations

Spring break is approaching and many students are making plans for this year’s vacation. Listed below are many options for spring break activities in Oklahoma:

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum- OKC
Native American objects, paintings, firearms, cowboy gear, shopping and dining are all options at this museum. Admission is $12.50 for adults, $9.75 for seniors and students, and $5.75 for children under four.

Oklahoma City Zoo- OKC
Boasting animals great and small the OKC Zoo also offers rides, concessions, and shopping for a exciting day.

Sam Noble Museum of Natural History- Norman
Skeletons in the Hall of Ancient Life, mounted animals in the Hall of Natural Wonders, art, shopping at the Excavations Museum Store, and dining at the RedBud Cafe.

Oklahoma City Museum of Art- OKC
This museum has current exhibition: Photorealism Revisited, and Illuminations Rediscovering the Art of Dale Chihuly. Collections of American art, European art, and photography. Films, a museum Café, and OKCMOA the museum store. Admission is $12 for adults, $10 for seniors, college students and children ages 6 to 17, and free to OU students and children 5 and under.

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum-Clinton
This museum offers special changing exhibits focusing on Route 66, a ’50s diner and a gift shop. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for children ages 6 to 18 and $5 for military.

Jenks Aquarium- Jenks
Feed and touch small sharks and stingrays, see thousands of freshwater and saltwater fish, eat lunch at Corkie’s Deli, and browse the Aquarium Gift Shop. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for students (ages 6 to 18) and free to children under 6.

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum- OKC

Sod House Museum- Aline
Built in 1984 by Marshall McCully it is the only sod house remaining from the thousands that were once on the prairies of Oklahoma. Admission is $4 for adults, $3 for seniors, $2 for children ages 6 to 18 and free for children under 6.

G. W. Exotic Animal Park-Wynnewood
A sanctuary for unwanted and abused exotic animals, this park is a memorial to human loved ones. Visitors can see over 500 animals of over 100 different species, visit the G. W. gift shop, and camp at the G. W. Lake resort. Admission prices vary. For more information, visit www.gwzoo.org.

ZAK WHITE
News Writing Student

Oklahoma Baptist University took charge in the 2013 NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships at OCCC’s Aquatic Center the first weekend in March.

OBU won in both the men’s and women’s division.

This is their second year of fielding men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams and they have set a high standard for themselves.

The Bison men captured their second title in as many years and the women followed up last year’s second place finish with a victory this year.

OBU, located in Shawnee, dominated the men’s side behind the record-breaking performances of sophomore Daniel Ramirez, junior Nick Schuttinger and their relay teams.

Ramirez broke national records in both the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke.

Schuttinger recorded new national bests in the 50-yard freestyle, the 200-yard freestyle, and the 50-yard butterfly, while their relay teams posted record times in the 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle relays, according to the NAIA website.

The Bison finished with 881 points, nearly doubling the output of second place Concordia University of Irvine, Calif., who finished with 448.5.

Not to be outdone, the OBU women had a couple of record-breaking performances of their own, en route to a total score of 845.

The Bison women had record relay times in both the 200- and 400-yard freestyles.

After building an early lead, they had little trouble staying ahead of second place Savannah College of Art and Design, located in Savannah, Ga., who finished with 600 points.

Hundreds of fans attended each day of the four-day event.

While Oklahoma Baptist had the majority of support from fans in attendance, there were fans from all over the U.S. who came to OCCC to cheer for their school of choice.

Numerous OCCC students also attended championship meet.

OCCC sophomore Trevin Ray, of Norman, was among them.

“IT’s a chance to see some great athletes from all across the country,” Ray said.

“I feel like OBU could compete with major universities.”

OCCC sophomore C.J. Thompson, also of Norman, is a former high school swimmer.

“I wasn’t going to pass up a chance to see a swimming and diving national championship right in my own back yard,” he said.

For full meet results, visit the website at www.NAIA.org.

According to the NAIA website, the 2014 NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships will be held March 5 through 8 but the host site has yet to be announced.

OCCC is among those seeking to hold the 2014 event, said Roxanna Butler, Recreation and Fitness director.
False alarm, stolen phone reported to cops

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Staff Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A false alarm in the Wellness Center and a phone taken from the Testing Center keep the campus police engaged the weekend of Feb. 15.

On Friday, Feb. 15, the pull station alarm was activated in the Wellness Center near Entry 1, according to a report. Immediately after, the report shows, Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson called the Campus Police to inform them it was a false alarm.

Watson said a patron had pulled the fire alarm because she thought it was there to activate the power door for disabled persons. Campus police arrived on the scene and confirmed there was not a fire. A call to the Oklahoma City Fire Department was canceled and the alarm was reset.

At 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, Officer Patrick Martino responded to a report of a phone taken from the Testing Center.

Student Leah Maeder said her Verizon Wireless iPhone 5 was taken from the OCCC Testing Center lockers. Maeder said she had placed her phone in a locker prior to taking her test at 3:15 p.m. and when she returned the phone was missing.

Martino reviewed area surveillance camera footage and determined there is enough information to continue the investigation. He said campus police have a possible suspect.

An open records request has been filled for further information on this crime.

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.

Event: Student Life looking for students to show off

Continued from page 1

Hanson said there will be several students at the reception to talk about their experiences at OCCC and what has made it special for them.

There also will be a slideshow of photos and videos of things students have done and accomplished during their time at OCCC, she said.

Students will be treated to a luncheon concert from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, Hanson said.

“We are having one of our alumni from last spring come in and play the piano for the students,” she said.

Hanson said the mission of the Student Life office is to empower students to become community assets.

“I hope that students take with them that the sky’s the limit,” she said.

“We can accomplish anything, and we are amazing and talented individuals who are wanted.”

Participation is valued on this campus, Hanson said.

“We want to support our students any way we can and support their lives outside the classroom. [We want] to help show them we are here to help enrich their lives.”

Hanson said now is “a really great time for our students to celebrate being a student here at OCCC.

“We do all this for them because that is our mission, to help our students,” she said.

Hanson is working alongside Student Life Assistant Director Christopher Shelley on the week-long event.

For more information, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523.

Card: SMART card offered by Carson’s food service

Continued from page 1

be used at both the cafeteria and coffee shop.

How does it work?

In order to receive a SMART Choice Diner Card, customers must show the Carson’s workers their gym card or be a member of the gym. It functions as a punch card.

Each time the cardholder visits the cafeteria and purchases a healthy food item, a cashier will punch the card.

“If you are qualified for the 10th purchase from the SMART choice menu, you may receive a free item from the SMART Choice Menu (Redemption Value $3.00),” according to the instructions on the back of the card.

There is a minimal purchase of $1.50 in order to receive the card hole punch. Within the cafeteria, items will be marked with a “healthy choice” label.

Student Lauren Tubbs said the program might prompt students to eat better if the “healthy choice” foods appeal to students.

“It sounds like an interesting program and it will just take time to see how the students react to it,” said Tubbs when asked about the SMART Choice Diner Card program. “I think there have to be healthy foods that people want to eat available in order for it to work.”

The cafeteria offers many healthy options that are great for a meal or an on-the-go snack, said Aguilar. Some of the new healthy meal options on the Carson’s menu are the turkey dog with wheat bun, turkey or veggie burgers, salad bar, hot soups, and tofu or Italian chicken sausage on pasta.

For breakfast, the cafeteria has yogurt parfaits with fresh fruit and granola, and eggs with turkey sausage as an alternative to the less healthy options.

“A love the homemade breakfast omelettes and I think the salad station is a great choice for students looking to shave a few calories,” said OCCC graduate Kenneth Meador.

Carson’s cafeteria initiated this program in order to help the students live a healthier lifestyle, said Aguilar.

“According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 31.3 percent of Oklahoma adults are obese and 50 Oklahoma counties received the grade of “F” in fruit and vegetable consumption.

A few semesters ago the cafeteria posted new menus that listed the calories and other nutrition information for each menu item in an attempt to help diners make wise choices, Aguilar said. The Diner Card program is their next healthy initiative.

The cafeteria also caters to any gluten-free specific diets. Everyday at least one soup at the soup bar is a gluten-free option, as well as one vegetarian option. However, this soup usually runs out quickly and is in high demand, Aguilar said. They also provide gluten-free dressings, muffins, cookies and pizza.

Quick on-the-go options are abundant in Carson’s cafeteria. Naked juice is a healthy snack packed with essential nutrients and perfect for after a workout at the gym, Aguilar said.

There are many different types of protein bars, such as Luna Bars or Cliff Bars.

Fresh fruit and dairy products are also available. Greek yogurt is another healthy trend that helps a person feel full on-the-go and is low calorie from the cafeteria, Aguilar said.

Carson’s cafeteria wants to encourage OCCC students to eat healthy and live healthy, Aguilar said. A cafeteria representative will be passing out SMART Choice Diner Cards outside the cafeteria throughout the semester.
Transferring made easy at fair

More than 200 students attended the OCCC Transfer and Graduation Fair on campus Feb. 27. About 28 colleges and universities staffed tables providing helpful information to students interested in transferring before and after graduation, according to Transfer and Academic Advising Coordinator Linda Little.

Psychology major Jacob White said he received a free 32-inch LCD flat screen TV from the transfer fair’s giveaway.

White was randomly picked out of 88 names that were entered into the drawing, Little said. To be entered, students had to visit at least two tables and be a currently enrolled OCCC student.

“It was too hard to pass that opportunity up,” White said. “It really helped influence me to visit more tables.”

White said this is the second year he has attended the transfer fair. He said his favorite thing about the fair is how interactive the tables are and how workers care about helping students get information they need.

“I was planning on going to UCO but I am looking at other options as well.”

— JACOB WHITE
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

Central Oklahoma but I am looking at other options as well,” White said.

The transfer fair provides students with means to gain information about other colleges and universities, Little said.

Some of the participating colleges included the University of Oklahoma and UCO, both of which attracted the highest number of students, Little said.

According to the program evaluation, 25 attendees who responded were satisfied or very satisfied with the fair, recording zero unsatisfied comments.

The transfer fair is scheduled once every semester, Little said. Students, however, who might have missed the transfer fair will still have the opportunity to attend free tours to OU, Oklahoma State University or UCO.

OCCC will tour UCO from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14 and tour OU from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 15. To sign up, visit Academic Advising located in the Main Building.

March loan and Pell disbursement dates

Loan dates for March include: Friday, March 8; Friday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 27. The scheduled March Pell disbursement date will be Friday, March 15.

Faculty recital features jazz

Adjunct Music Professor Miguel Correa presents his first faculty recital at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 14, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Correa’s recital features a working band playing jazz favorites. This is a free event. For more information, email Michael Boyle at mboyle@occc.edu.

OCCC Choir concert

Three OCCC choirs will be performing from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Wilmont Place Baptist Church, 6440 S Santa Fe in Oklahoma City. Admission is free. For more information, contact Ronald Staton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7249 or email ronald.g.staton@occc.edu.

Spring break from March 18 to 24

The OCCC campus will be closed Monday, March 18, through Saturday, March 23 for spring break.

“Side-by-Side” jazz concert

Jazz musicians from Western Heights High School are performing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, in the Bruce Owen Theater. The Western Heights High School band will be featured with jazz musicians from OCCC. This event is free. For more information, email Michael Boyle at mboyle@occc.edu.

Brown Bag: Transfer Programs

A Brown Bag Luncheon from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 in Room CU1, the topic will be Transfer programs. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Snapshots! Cellphone Photography Show

A juried exhibition of cellphone photographs taken by OCCC students, faculty and staff are on display from Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., through March 15 in the VPAC Room 124.

Foundation offers 30 Spring scholarships

Thirty scholarship opportunities ranging from $100 to $1,000, which require a GPA of at least 2.5, are available to students now. Student applications are available online at www.occc.academicworks.com. The deadline to apply is March 16. For more information, contact Jennifer Hardt at jhardt@occc.edu.
Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. 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.

**FOR SALE:** 1965 Chevy truck. $3,000 OBO. Rebuilt motor. Runs. Needs painting. 1962 Chevy cor. $1,500 OBO. Call/text: 405-517-4117 for more info.

**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.

**TELEVISIONS FOR SALE:** Both are 40" CRT. One is a Sony and the other is a Magnavox. They both were recently repaired and are in excellent condition. $35 each. Call or text 405-667-0101.

**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.

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

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

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**R I T H O T E N H E N T S L E A**

**I S H G O N D M R U E F I R N**

**Z U G N H Y S C P M N A S Z M R**

**Z I U I P E A H O E H D C Z O O**

**L S O N Y S I R U R R I E A M T**

**E L R T T R A E E M M A L R E P**

**I E D H S B U N N A I L T D T F**

**E C O G R O H O N A A D I U E R**

**N O O I A E R U P U C M I A R E**

**D L L I T S F Q N T I R T H E**

**L D F T N A T S H O W E R O Y Z**

**C Y T I L I B I S I V O E R T E**

**Y T I M O N S O O N O N D L U S**

**C C L O U D D E I R R U L F S H**

**BAROMETER**

**FLOOD**

**ICE**

**LIGHTNING**

**STORM**

**SNOW**

**SUNNY**

**TEMPERATURE**

**THUNDER**

**WIND**

**BLOIZZARD**

**FLURRIES**

**FOG**

**MIST**

**RAIN**

**TSUNAMI**

**C E L S I U S**

**CLOUDS**

**COLD**

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OCCC VOCALISTS JOIN FORCES FOR UPCOMING SHOW

Spring choral concert to feature all three choirs

CHELSEY OLIVER
News Writing Student

The theme song from “Phantom of the Opera” and “Memory” from the musical “Cats” will be on the program for the choral music spring concert at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 14, at the Wilmont Place Baptist Church, 6440 S Santa Fe Ave.

OCCC’s three choruses will perform “The Music of Broadway.” The show will feature medleys of about 40 of Broadway’s most popular hits throughout the years, said music Professor Ron Staton, who directs all three choirs.

Freshman CiCi Simon, currently in the Concert Choir, said she found the Concert Choir requires an audition for membership, Staton said.

The Concert Choir is made up of any OCCC students who want to sing, while the Chamber Choir requires an audition for membership, Staton said.

The third choir, the Oklahoma City Symphonic Community Choir, is comprised of anyone who wants to join. It’s the largest of the three groups with 70 members.

Due to the high demand for seating, the concert will be held off campus to accommodate a crowd of more than 500 people.

Next year the concerts should be held on campus when the new performing arts theater is completed, Staton said.

Staton said he is excited about directing the upcoming show.

“They’re all great songs from great musicals,” he said.

His teaching career has spanned more than four decades.

“I taught for 35 years at Del City, and eight years here at OCCC, and I love it,” he said. “I have really good classes this semester, with people who are really interested and people who like to work hard; which makes teaching a lot of fun.”

Simon said she feels passionate about singing in choir at OCCC.

“You definitely meet people in choir which I like a lot. It’s different from just learning about music.

“Professor Staton doesn’t make it just a choir class. He teaches you about a lot of different things.”

For more information about the concert or auditions for next semester, visit the Music Lab at VPA 147, or contact Staton at rstaton@occc.edu.

Real-life art brought to downtown humanities course

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Students can enroll each spring semester in an art appreciation humanities class where they will actually meet Oklahoma City artists. The spring class is full now but OKC Downtown College Director Gus Pekara said students can check online every day to see if an opening may be available.

The “Understanding Art in Oklahoma City” course is part of HUM 2003 The Arts in OKC series and is offered as an eight-week class from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each Thursday beginning March 28, according to the Downtown College website www.downtowncollege.com. The course is listed under humanities electives.

“It is one thing to take an art appreciation course in a classroom and another to take it in a museum,” Pekara said.

He said students can sign up for the course through the OCCC course schedule. The course is listed under humanities electives. Pekara said students need to sign up as early as possible to get a place in the class.

Students expressed an interest in the hands-on approach to art appreciation.

“I think it is a better way of learning — actually seeing the art instead of just sitting in a class,” said psychology major June Gitau.

Visual Arts major Mariah Rivar said it’s a good idea for students to see art in person.

“There are things you can’t take in through a picture on Google,” she said. “You can see it more in person and being right there, in the right setting, sets the ... mood,” Rivar said.

Narciso Arguelles is the instructor for the course which is open to all students, according to the press release.

“The course is very fun and enlightening for art and non-art lovers,” Arguelles said. “By taking this class, students gain an understanding of art and the art scene in Oklahoma City.”

Liberal studies major Ashley Wyatt said the class would be good for those majoring in art.

“For people who are interested in something like that as a major, it would probably be very beneficial to them,” she said.

For students who missed enrolling in “Understanding Art in OKC,” other courses offered by OKC Downtown College in the series include OKC Arts Alive and Museum Studies. Both classes are offered in the fall and also fill early, Pekara said.

The Museum Studies course, HUM 2123, will be offered at the OKC Museum of Art during the early fall eight-week term Aug. 22 through Oct. 10, and the OKC Arts Alive! course, HUM 2003, will be offered at the Civic Center Music Hall during the late fall 8-week term Oct 24 through Dec 12, Pekara said.

Classes will be held in the OKC Museum of Art and also other downtown areas: the Festival of Arts, Artspace Untitled, First Friday Paseo Artwalk, Second Friday 16th Street Plaza District and City Arts Center, according to a press release.

OCCC also is offering a one credit hour Storytelling two-week class at the Downtown Library during the first two weeks of the fall semester.

Students in this course will participate in the OKC Storytelling Festival, Pekara said.

For more information, contact the OKC Downtown College at 405-232-3382 or their website at www.downtowncollege.com.