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EDITORIAL

IS A DEGREE WORTH THE INVESTMENT?

Staff Writer Siali Siaoasi says many students are paying back student loans they can't afford because of low wages. Read more.

OPINION, p. 2

NEWS

STUDENT HAILS FROM GALATI, ROMANIA

Andreea Lucia Mirza, 20, is a nursing major and International student. Learn more about her home and how she feels about Oklahoma.

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SPORTS

EMPLOYEES WANTED FOR VOLLEYBALL

OCCC is seeking employees to sign up for a volleyball tournament that will be held Wednesday, May 7. Turn to page 8 for more.

SPORTS, p. 8

COMMUNITY

COMM LAB OFFERS EXTRA TUTORING HELP

OCCC students can use ECHO 2.0, an email and online-based tutoring system, to get help from home. For more information, turn inside.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER

APRIL 18, 2014

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Scientifically speaking



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Nursing majors Michaela Dunn and Sandra Zambrana study together in the Biological Sciences Center on April 7. The lab is located on the second floor of the SEM Center near Entry 2. "The BSC is an interdisciplinary area designed to accommodate the independent study needs of students in the biological sciences. Free tutoring is available and appointments are required for lab exercises," according to their website. For operating hours, visit www.okcc.edu/sm/biologylab.

Students can appeal final grades

College officials say several steps must be followed

SIALI SIAOSI

Staff Writer
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Transcripts are considered a permanent record — unless you're appealing for a grade to be changed.

At OCCC, if a student believes the final documented grade for a course was incorrectly administered, he or she has 90 days after the grade is posted to process an appeal, according to the OCCC

Student Handbook.

Depending on the circumstances, a student's grade can be changed after undergoing the appeal process.

The student must first meet with the instructor and decide what steps to take next, according to the Student Handbook.

If the student and instructor cannot reach a conclusion on their own, the student can then file an official "Student Appeal of a Grade" form and submit it to the dean of the academic division.

English Professor Bertha Wise said the student and

instructor must then present information regarding the grade before a Grade Appeal Committee to determine whether the grade will be upheld.

Wise said she's served on several Grade Appeal Committees over the years.

See **APPEAL** page 9

Student awards ceremony April 25

BRYCE MCELHANEY

Staff Writer
communitywriter@okcc.edu

A number of awards will be given to outstanding students during the Student Award

Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, in the OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater.

The ceremony will focus on students who have achieved

See **AWARDS** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Meet with a financial adviser before accepting student loans

Is a degree worth possible debt?

It's no secret that education isn't cheap — but at what cost do students earn degrees?

Unless your parents are over 40 and have collected a college fund on your behalf, chances are you're a student putting yourself through school.



SIALI SIAOSI

And while there are countless forms of federal aid and scholarships available, some students don't qualify for that funding.

In a world where escaping student debt post-graduation is slim to none, it's important to consider the significance of earning an education while retaining some financial stability.

Citing an economic mobility project conducted using data from the Current Population Survey from 2003 to 2011, Forbes.com said: "Sixty-nine percent of students with a bachelor's degree were employed before the recession, compared to 64 percent with an associate degree and 55 percent with a high school degree."

Forbes.com went on to say, "those with bachelor's degrees earned an average weekly wage of \$645 after the recession, compared to \$681 before the recession.

For those with associate degrees, wages dipped from \$512 weekly to \$452. And for high school graduates, weekly pay shrunk from \$438 to \$394."

Now, it's important to consider these numbers compared to the amount of student debt graduates are left with after earning a degree. According to ABC news, 1.8 million students earned a bachelor's degree in 2013, with 73 percent saying they owe more student debt than they could manage.

Yahoo Finance said the average student borrows around \$27,000 to earn an undergraduate degree. However, despite the amount being so much, Yahoo said the longer a student stays in school, the more accessibility he or she has to higher-paying jobs.

It's also important to consider the financial obligations tied to borrowing money before doing so.

While student loan repayment options are manageable for some, it's crucial to know about payment plans and the amount you still owe. I'd suggest meeting with a financial adviser before taking out any form of government or bank loan.

Students often think a plethora of employment opportunities await post-graduation; however, the American economy says otherwise. Students must remember that earning a multi-thousand-dollar degree doesn't always lead to a multi-thousand-dollar salary.

A person's education not only determines how in-



telligent he or she may be, but also the kind of work ethic and skill set he or she may possess. There's no denying that financial gain is an important aspect of earning an education, but sticking to what you're good at is pertinent as well.

A college degree reaps more benefits than faults, but students ought to be aware of the consequences of their financial investments.

While tuition and interest rates continue to increase, the ultimate question of whether earning an education is worth it remains up to the student — and although education shouldn't be viewed as a catch-22, it's the unfortunate reality students must face when considering a degree or financial security.

—SIALI SIAOSI
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Meeting being held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Public Health Association Conference

Public invited to attend health literacy summit May 8

To the editor:

Health literacy is one of the strongest determinants of health for individuals, communities and nations. To help increase awareness and action about health literacy in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign is hosting the 2nd Health Literacy Summit at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 8, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman.

During the summit, participants will discuss and develop practical ways to improve the health status of Oklahomans through the tool of health literacy. This year's keynote speaker is a researcher and internationally recognized expert in health literacy, Andrew Pleasant. Pleasant is Senior Director for

Health Literacy and Research at Canyon Ranch Institute, a 501(c) 3 non-profit public charity located in Tucson, Arizona. Pleasant leads research and evaluation activities at the institute, where he also is responsible for advancing the role of health literacy across all partnerships and programs. His interactive presentation will focus on "Health Literacy: A Powerful Tool for Prevention & Partnership."

The summit is being held in conjunction with the 75th Annual Oklahoma Public Health Association Conference. To register for the Oklahoma Health Literacy Summit/Oklahoma Public Health Association Conference, visit www.opha.net. When registering, please mark the box to indicate that you will attend

the Oklahoma Health Literacy Summit or call 405-271-9444, ext. 56410, for more information.

Research clearly links low levels of health literacy, as well as education and literacy skills, to poor health status, higher costs, delayed and unequal access to health care, and early death.

Community-based health literacy programs are proving to be successful in improving the health and well-being of participants and improving the health care system by removing disparities, lowering costs, and improving the quality of health care.

For national and state resources related to health literacy, visit www.okhealthequity.org.

—OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PIONEER

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The PIONEER is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts. 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 no more 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 <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Spielberg movie has good music score, theme

Movie examines optimism, fear

There's no denying it — Steven Spielberg is one of the most well known filmmakers of our time.

Ask anyone who doesn't watch movies to identify a director and they'll name Steven Spielberg.

With an enormous list of enjoyable classics and remarkable dramas, it's easy to see why so many recognize him as one of the best filmmakers of all time.

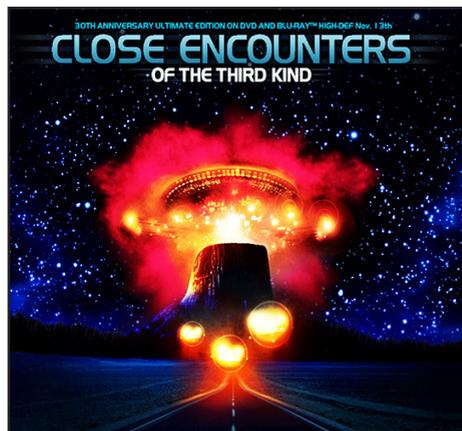
What better movie demonstrates his skill and imagination than the 1977 film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"?

Well, probably "Saving Private Ryan," but that movie isn't on Netflix.

In the movie, Richard Dreyfuss plays Roy Neary.

A caring husband and loving father, Roy experiences a close encounter with a UFO when it flies over his truck and lightly burns the side of his face with its bright lights.

After the encounter, Roy becomes obsessed with UFOs and



begins sculpting various models of a mysterious mountain.

Overwhelmed with his erratic behavior, his wife, Ronnie, takes their children and leaves.

Discovering the mountain he's envisioned is an actual location, Roy sets out to uncover its connection to the UFO he witnessed.

This film is overwhelmed with colorful music.

But unlike John Williams' other film scores, such as his work from "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones," this film actually intertwines his music into the story.

For instance, the extraterrestrials and humans correspond with each other by making music with their computers.

Particularly, with a simple five note sequence repeated throughout the film.

Altogether, this movie is excellent.

Unlike other science fiction films of its time, this movie is one of the first to embrace contact with extraterrestrial life with fascination and hopefulness.

While fear of the unknown is present throughout the film, it's dwarfed by the power of wonder and optimism.

The film is an exhilarating experience packed with powerful suspense and vivid images which express how communicating with unknown forces of the universe can be terrifying and remarkably sublime.

Rating: B+

—ETHAN COOPER
WEBMASTER

MOVIE REVIEW | "Winter Soldier" does Captain America justice

Marvel gets it right with sequel

Marvel once again outdoes itself with "Captain America: Winter Soldier."

This sequel to the 2011 "Captain America: The First Avenger" shows Marvel movies are only getting better as they go.

The movie starts off with Steve Rogers (Captain America), played by Chris Evans, still doing jobs for SHIELD, the secret agency that deals with protecting the people of Earth from whatever may come.

He wonders if working for them is the right thing for him to do.

Throughout the movie you start to see SHIELD may have some people inside it who are not who they say they are.

The movie brings you back to the previous Captain America movie when Steve's childhood friend, Bucky Barnes, returns and seems to have no idea who he is or what he is doing.



As well as him learning that the organization Hydra is not dissolved as they all believed.

The movie pulls you in all directions and at points you have no idea who to trust.

It will keep you interested and on your seat the entire two and

half hours of running time with twists and turns and lots of action.

Steve's relationship with Black Widow grows stronger and he finds a new partner in Falcon.

The fighting scenes are put together perfectly, with all the characters and their known fighting styles synced together at certain points in the movie.

The movie has a strong presence for me because of the message it sends to its viewers — that some things are not always as they seem and that friendship and love can last over everything else.

If you liked "Captain America: The First Avenger," you are guaranteed to love this.

I would highly recommend it to anyone who has any interest in Marvel films.

Rating: A+

—MYCALYN BLOMSTROM
STAFF WRITER

Financial Aid FACT\$ Student loans can be a good thing

Student loans can be a make it or break it for students to achieve the dream of a college education.

Many news reports are pointing to student loan debt woes that are crippling students and the economy.

Reports often fail to mention the student loan borrowers who successfully complete their degrees and repay their loans.

Parents and students can make good decisions with a clear understanding of the student loan process.

Remembering that every dollar borrowed must be repaid along with interest will help students curtail over-borrowing.

It is true delinquent and defaulted loans will negatively impact credit scores and create problems for students, as well as the economy.

On the flip side, student loans in good standing will positively impact credit scores.

Borrowing should be limited to only what is needed for school expenses.

Always focus on utilizing grants, tuition waivers and scholarships, which provide funds that do not have to be repaid.

Consider paying interest on Unsubsidized Loans as you go to avoid a hefty interest balance when you begin repayment.

Control living expenses with smart spending. Borrowing for living expenses will build high loan debt in a very short period.

Financial planners advise that monthly student loan payments not exceed 8 percent of your expected monthly salary.

Avoiding high loan debt requires staying informed on accumulated loan debt. Students can access all of their Federal Student Loan history in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) that provides a simple way for students to monitor loan debt, loan status, who their lenders are, and when repayment begins. Visit NSLDS at: nsls.ed.gov.

OCCC's Financial Aid office specializes in helping students understand the cost of attending school, identifying the best loan plan and managing loan debt.

For more information, visit the Financial Aid Office or the web page at www.occc.edu/financialaid/index.

—SONYA D. GORE
FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

GAME REVIEW | Classic MMORPG now has better combat, music

Updated 'RuneScape' way better than before

Fantasy-themed game "RuneScape" has been around so long that you've no doubt heard about it if you pay any attention to the gaming world.

For many of us, it was our first introduction to an MMORPG — massively multi-player online role playing game.

Being available in a browser, free and undemanding enough to play on something as slow as DSL, it was no wonder it took off like it did.

First introduced by developers Jagex in 2001, "RuneScape" was very much a "The Little Engine That Could" story.

Developing games in a browser had its severe limitations and it showed in the game's dated 2D graphics and boring, static combat.

It was then in mid-2004 that Jagex updated to an entirely 3D game world, although the MIDI (awful sounding "computer" instruments) soundtrack and combat were still boring as ever.

Truly, one of the only things going for "RuneScape" was its huge variety of 25+ skills, 190+ wonderfully written quests and weekly updates.

It was then in late 2004 that Jagex's worst enemy arrived — "World of Warcraft."

It was time for Jagex to play catch-up to the world's

most popular MMORPG, "World of Warcraft."

It was in 2013 when Jagex evolved "RuneScape" yet again, just as it had in 2004.

The graphics engine had switched from the aging Java to HTML5 which has the potential to boost the graphics tenfold.

Not only that, but gone is the dreadful sounding MIDI soundtrack and in place are beautiful CD quality recordings performed by the "The Slovak National Orchestra" and fully voice-acted quests.

Combat, one of the worst aspects of "RuneScape," also was revamped. Standing still and staring at an inventory screen for combat is a thing of the past. In its place is an ability bar which makes combat much more exciting by giving players a swath of dynamic skills. With more than 10 years of content under its belt, constant improvements and updates and easy accessibility, now is as good a time as ever to try "RuneScape."



Rating: B+

—JOHN HUYNH
PHOTOGRAPHER

BUSINESS REVIEW | Customers may be better off going somewhere else

Auto shop gives disappointing work

For some reason last month, I decided to go ahead and fix my car's oil leak.

I had gotten about 10 oil changes in six months, so it was obvious even to me that something was wrong.

After I got my oil changed at Shawnee Pittstop, a mechanic there recommended that I visit the "garage next door" to fix the leak.

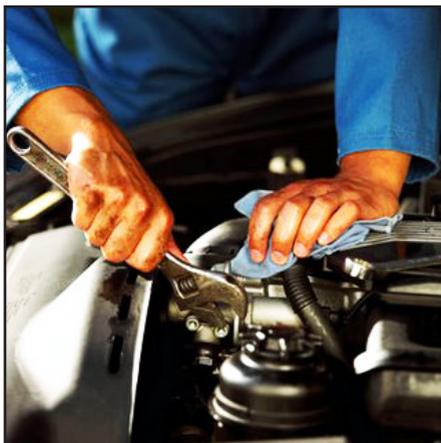
It wasn't the best advice. He sent me, a man with no knowledge of vehicles, into the jaws of a smelly, metal dragon known as Shawnee Auto Repair.

To understand this place, you have to understand its lobby — it doesn't have one.

In the middle of this big garage, with cars being lifted and tinkered, there sits a little desk with a computer on it.

I didn't turn around and leave as soon as I walked inside. I was really tired and I didn't feel like shopping around for another place.

This part was my fault. Have you



ever put in your two week notice at a job? In your last week, you get really lethargic and don't care if you allow the company to implode on your way out.

I feel like this every time my car dies. Unfortunately, I can't walk 40 miles to work. People like me allow Shawnee Auto Repair to exist.

And so I left my baby in the jackal cage. When I made the appointment, they wrote it down. In a book. In pen. But I didn't take that to be a bad sign. Internal combustion engines are easy. Microsoft

Word is hard.

Remember "The Dark Knight Rises" when Bruce Wayne is all bearded and gross when he's hiding in his house?

That's how every employee at Shawnee Auto Repair looked.

Naturally, I was fine trusting them with my only way to get to work.

Anyway, they wound up fixing my car's power steering. My power steering wasn't doing very well, but I wanted my oil leak to be fixed.

The fine men there claimed that they could not find an oil leak. Somehow, they found that my power steering problem was causing my oil leak. They claimed that since they fixed my power steering, the oil leak shouldn't come back.

Yesterday, my car broke down. My oil was completely gone.

Read next week's Pioneer for my review on Kim's Auto Clinic.

Rating: F

—JAKE MCMAHON
VIDEOGRAPHER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of April 11 through April 13
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Captain America: Winter Soldier*
2. *Rio 2*
3. *Oculus*
4. *Draft Day*
5. *Divergent*
6. *Noah*
7. *God's Not Dead*
8. *The Grand Budapest Hotel*
9. *Muppets Most Wanted*
10. *Mr. Peabody & Sherman*
11. *The Raid: Redemption*
12. *Non-Stop*
13. *Need for Speed*
14. *Bad Words*
15. *The Lego Movie*
16. *300: Rise of an Empire*
17. *Frozen*
18. *Sabotage*
19. *The Lunchbox*
20. *Son of God*

COLLEGE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PATHWAYS EARNS RECOGNITION

OCCC receives award for outstanding school impact

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Staff Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

OCCC has been awarded the Perfect Partnership Award for the outstanding relationship that Pathways High School and the college have maintained for 13 years.

The award, which is given annually to a selected business or organization that has positively impacted Oklahoma City Public Schools, was presented to OCCC President Paul Sechrist in a ceremony April 1 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

Pathways students and faculty occupied the seats in the theater as Pathways Middle College Principal Carol Brogan

spoke about the 13 year relationship between OCCC and Pathways.

"Back in late October, Dr. Klasek recommended OCCC for the Perfect Partnership Award based on our 13-year relationship with the community college," Brogan said.

"Our focus here is to get kids into college and to get them to become successful."

Brogan believes the dedication and synergy of both Pathways and OCCC have made it possible for the successful relationship and has brought privileges and success to the students.

"The support that we have from [OCCC] has made it possible for Oklahoma City Public School students to

be able to come to a college campus, to learn how to act on a college campus, to be successful enough in regular high school classes and to be successful in college classes," Brogan said.

As part of the award, she said, Pathways was given \$1,000.

Pathways' Catherine Huey Klasek nominated OCCC.

Sechrist thanked Pathways by addressing students about his hopes for

“This Perfect Partnership is really about trying to create a perfect pathway for students to achieve their dreams.”

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

their futures.

"Pathways is a college preparation curriculum and it's more important than ever that you do not stop after Pathways," Sechrist said.

"This Perfect Partnership is really about trying to create a perfect pathway for students to achieve their dreams.

"It's an honor for me to receive on behalf of the college, this recognition, today. Best wishes to each of you."

For more information, call Karen Weisman at 405-879-2007.

Power of quotes events to inspire students

TAYLOR BOWDISH
News Writing Student

Finals are just a few weeks away. Students who need an extra boost of encouragement can attend a workshop Tuesday, April 22, where they can contemplate times where they might have heard something that inspired them.

The Black Student Association will host the event, titled "Power of Quotes," at 12:30 p.m. in the Visual and Performing Arts Center, Room 127.

BSA officers and members will speak about how certain quotes have changed their lives, said Carlotta Hill, faculty

sponsor.

It will be an opportunity to share inspiration with fellow students, she said.

BSA members had the chance to attend the Big XII Leadership Conference at the end of February this year.

They traveled to Iowa State University in Ames for the event, Hill said.

The conference is hosted each year by different universities in

the Big XII.

This conference offered workshops presented by some world renowned motivational speakers, said Christabel Aryeequaye, a BSA member.

Aryeequaye was among those who attended this year.

"These workshops encourage leaders to be better leaders, to go back to their campuses and make change happen," she said.

These members will share

a few of the quotes they took away from the conference during the Power of Quotes event.

Students Ya'Tae Lewis and Ali Nixon will be among those presenting at the event.

Both students attended the Big XII conference and said this conference and the information they received, has been life changing.

"When I applied these quotes

to my life, I was able to release a lot of bitterness that I had, from what my family and I experienced when I was a child," Nixon said.

BSA will open the floor to students who might like to share some of their favorite quotes that inspire them.

For more information, contact Hill at 405-682-1611, ext. 7243, or by email at chill@occc.edu

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COMMENTS?
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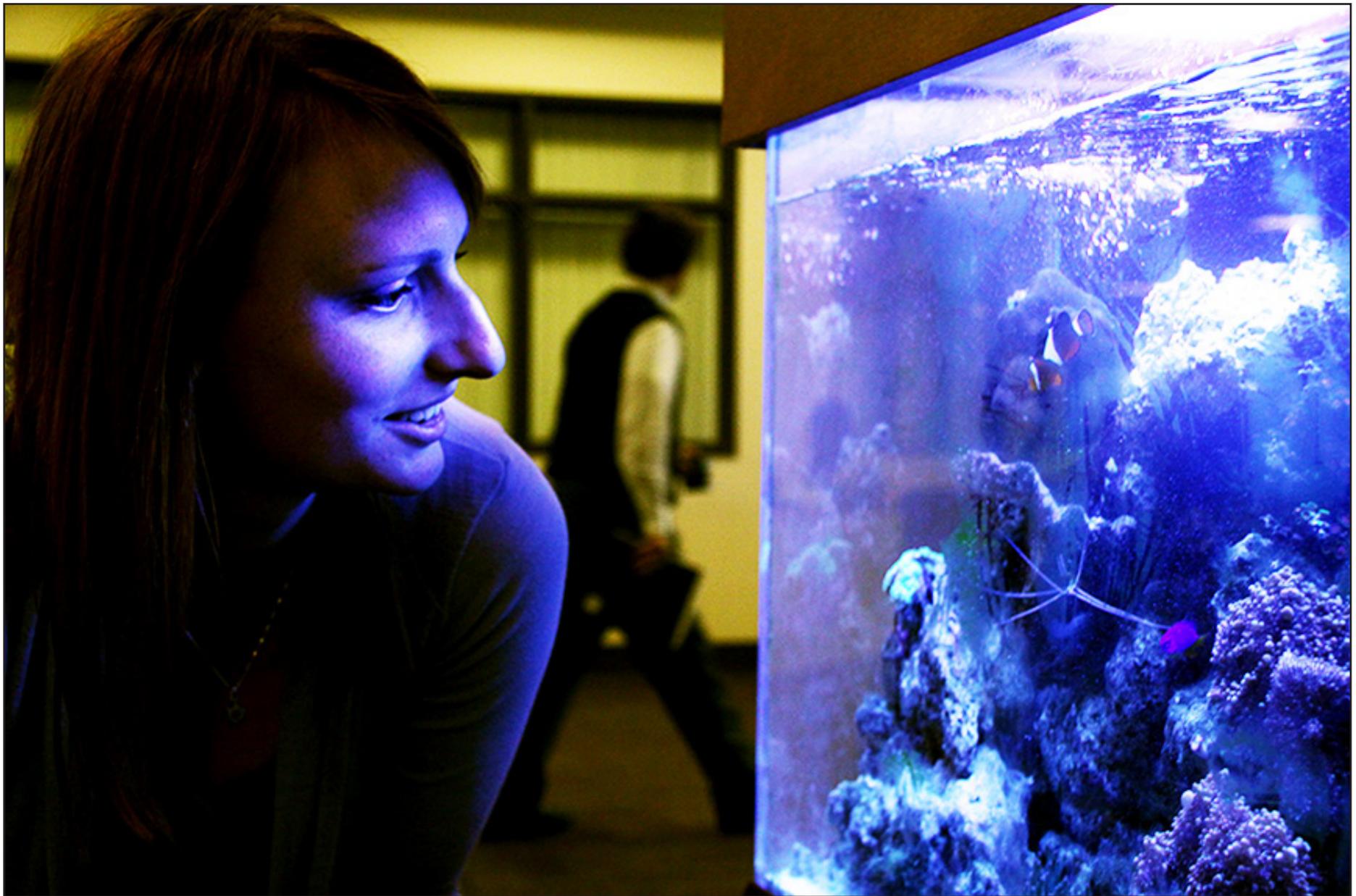
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ER

Campus aquariums home to saltwater fish



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Physics major Heather Showecker checks out the fish in one of three saltwater aquariums on campus. All three tanks are located on the second floor of the SEM Center. Coral and a variety of fish are kept in the aquariums.

SARA BABB

News Writing Student

Fans of the Walt Disney movie “Finding Nemo” may be unaware that Nemo and his friend Dory can be found in saltwater aquariums in the science area on campus.

The aquarium species include clown fish such as Nemo and blue tang such as Dory.

“I like the non-rare species because they are easy to take care of,” said Kim Kyker, biology and chemistry professor. “I feed the fish twice a week.”

The tanks house live coral as well, she said. The coral is cultivated and bought from local fish stores.

Kyker said OCCC’s three saltwater aquariums contain descendants of endangered coral reefs.

“The aquariums were here before I was,” she said. “When the person taking care of them retired, I took over.”

When it is time to change out the tanks, Kyker said, she will put in fresh water and simply add a packet of salt that is provided by the fish store.

She does not pay out of pocket for the supplies because there is a budget set by OCCC to help pay for all three aquariums.



“I believe the difference between freshwater and saltwater aquariums is color,” said Kyker. A saltwater aquarium can bring out the vividness in the fish’s color.

Kyker said she has observed many adults standing by the aquariums and watching the fish while they’re on the phone.

Also, she said, students will bring their children to the campus to show them the aquariums.

Engineering major Tonie Suarez said she’s a fan of the saltwater fish tanks.

“Every time I come here, I look at it and I think it’s really nice to have here at OCCC,” she said.

Student Sheeba George said the aquariums are beautiful. Her favorite fish is Nemo, the clown fish.

The three saltwater aquariums are located on the second floor of the Science, Engineering and Math Center.

One is across from the Math Lab, another is in the biological sciences lab and the third is in Kyker’s office.

For more information, contact Kyker at 405-682-1611 or kkyker@occc.edu.

it's a small world

Nursing student recalls home country

BRYCE MCELHANEY

Staff Writer

communitywriter@occc.edu

Andreea Lucia Mirza, 20-year-old nursing major from Galați, Romania, loves everything about Oklahoma — except tornadoes.

“Here, the weather changes really fast,” Mirza said. “In my country, we had a lot of snow. I like it here better, but not [the] tornadoes.”

Romania is a country that is south of Ukraine and is bordered by Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and the Black Sea. Galați is a city located on the eastern side of Romania; about 60 miles away from the Black Sea.

Mirza has been at OCCC for nearly two years working on a nursing degree. She lives with her aunt and uncle in Yukon.

Mirza said she initially chose OCCC because of its cheaper tuition.

“International students probably have to pay twice the amount of regular students but I’m glad we made this choice. It’s amazing.”

Mirza said she initially hadn’t planned to travel to America.

“I had a great opportunity to come here, so I said ‘this is for me,’” she said.

She said she found opportunities as soon as she came to OCCC, landing a job at the OCCC Coffee Shop — her first job in the U.S. She said she enjoyed the job where she made a lot of friends but decided to focus more on school.

Mirza said there are many differences between Oklahoma and her home in Romania.

“[Here], people are different, the places are different, and the weather is different. The people here are nicer.

“Romania is a beautiful country with a beautiful history — castles, monasteries [and] churches. It’s a really good place to live but the people who live there don’t know how to appreciate that.”

Mirza said she is still astonished to be in the U.S.



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Andreea Lucia Mirza

“The thought that I’m in America, is just — for people from Europe — it’s something big,” she said.

“I love everything about America, to be honest. [It’s] the land of big opportunities. America is America, and [it’s] a big part of my life.”

Mirza said OCCC has helped her become a successful student.

“[The] professors are excellent. They work with you, they work around your schedule, they help you. They try to do the best for you,” she said.

Mirza said she has long-term plans in America. “I’ll do my best to be able to stay here,” she said.

Mirza said it took courage to leave her home. “You leave everything behind ... and you start a new life and you try to make your own way towards reaching your goal.

She offered a bit of advice for all students.

“Just try your best and don’t let [anything] get in your way. Be yourself. ... You know what you want, so go get it.”



Romania

Capital: Bucharest

Population: 21.33 million (2012)

GDP: 7,942.83 USD (2012)

Size: 92,043 sq. miles (238,391 million km²)

Official Language: Romanian

Currency: Leu

Government: Unitary state, semi-presidential system, republic

Religion: Orthodox Christian, Roman Catholic

Details: Romania is a country located at the crossroads of Southeastern and Central Europe, on the Lower Danube, north of the Balkan Peninsula and the western shore of the Black Sea.



—www.google.com

SPORTS

Offense



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Pre-dentistry major Chris Varva tries to get past broadcasting major Marcus Bryan on April 9 in the OCCC Wellness Center basketball court. Spontaneous games have taken place since basketball season is over in the Wellness Center's gym. The Wellness Center gym and basketball court are free to currently enrolled students.

SPORTS | Deadline to register for free tournament May 5

Employee volleyball tournament May 7

SIALI SIAOSI

Staff Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Whether it's an OCCC employee tired of hearing his or her co-workers crack jokes at the water cooler or a student seeking to see professors embarrass themselves, sweet redemption awaits at the third annual Spring Employee Volleyball Tournament from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, in the Wellness Center gym.

Teams will play 6v6 in a minimum of five games, said Director of Recreation and Fitness Roxy Butler in an email.

The tournament is open to any OCCC employee, Butler said.

She said the winners of the tournament will receive OCCC Campus Recreation T-shirts.

Butler said only six teams can register for the tournament, so speedy sign-ups are encouraged.

Practice courts are available from

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, and 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, May 5, in the Wellness Center gym.

The registration deadline is May 5 by 5 p.m.

Registration forms can be returned to the Campus Recreation office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or to the Wellness Center desk from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Butler said.

Some OCCC employees have already expressed interest in competing in the tournament.

Sierra Biagas, a student who works in the Employment Services office, said she played volleyball in high school and was excited to hear about the tournament.

"I didn't even know about [the tournament]," Biagas said.

"... I love to play."

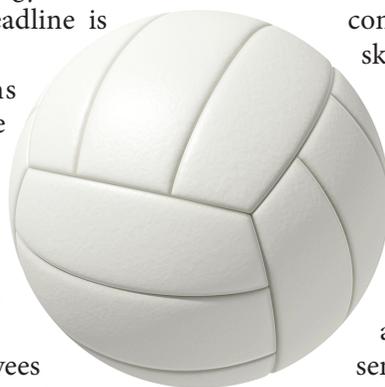
Communications Lab Tutor Rachel Schutte said while she's no stranger to volleyball, she isn't exactly confident in honing her skills for the employee tournament.

"I've played volleyball before ... That's how I know I suck at it," Schutte said.

Because the tournament is at the end of the semester, sociology major and Campus Recreation employee Jazmine Robinson said she might be too busy to make it to the games.

"It's a busy month for me," Robinson said.

The free event is open to the public. For more information, call 405-682-7860 or visit www.occc.edu/news/communicator/springvolleyballtourn14.



UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

- **April 19:**

The 2014 Hershey's Youth Track and Field local meet and competition is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Westmoore High School. To register, visit www.occc.edu/news/2014/Hersheyslocalmeet14. To volunteer, email Eric Watson at ewatson@occc.edu.

- **May 5 - May 7:**

The Recreation and Fitness Third Annual Spring Employee Volleyball Tournament will take place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, in the Recreation and Fitness Gym. Registration forms are due by 5 p.m. Monday, May 5. For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7684.

- **June 28:**

Row-Triple-C, OCCC's Dragon Boat Team, will compete at the Stars and Stripes River Festival Saturday, June 28. For more information, call 405-682-7552.

- **Spring semester:**

Visit www.occc.edu/rf/swimming-diving to enroll in a number of events held in the college's Aquatic Center.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to be directed to a list of OCCC Intramural events, complete with the most current updates.

(Free QR code reader apps can be found online or in app stores on smart phones. Follow the directions for the app you download.)

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Email your news to sportswriter@occc.edu.

Thefts, inappropriate touching reported to police

LAUREN DANIEL
Editor
editor@occc.edu

This week's crime report includes stolen property and inappropriate touching.

At approximately 6:31 p.m. on April 7, Kenny Wietelman, 56, left his Harley Davidson leather jacket on his motorcycle in Parking Lot G.

Wietelman reported the jacket missing to Campus

Police on April 8.

Officer Patrick Martino reviewed video surveillance footage of the area. It shows a student driving a white Ford Taurus had stopped and picked up the jacket after leaving her Principle of Microeconomics class at 7:45 p.m. April 7.

Martino said he was able to narrow down the suspects from matching student ID photos with the students from the class. The suspect was to be

contacted by Martino. The case is still active.

A student reported being inappropriately touched by another student at around 12:45 p.m. April 8.

The report shows additional information is available in a supplemental report which was requested April 14 through an Open Records request. The additional report had not been received by press time. The case is still active.

At approximately 8:23 a.m. April 8, Campus Police were notified of a theft of state property. The items were returned to the campus at 3:18 p.m. the same day. No additional information was given in the report.

Names not reported were redacted on the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD Standard Operating

Procedures involving information released and information withheld." To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

Reports are available to the public under the Oklahoma Open Records law.

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

Appeal: Although rare, students can get grades changed

Continued from page 1

"Basically, they convene a committee which is made of faculty and students," Wise said.

"And someone has already been identified to chair that committee."

Wise said the committee chair varies.

She said those decisions are

made in the Division of Academic Affairs.

While not every appeal is approved, Wise said, there are some cases where the students succeed when seeking a different grade.

Sometimes even college professors can overlook information or write something down incorrectly, she said.

"Sometimes we make mis-

takes."

Academic Affairs Associate Vice President Greg Gardner said there were two grade appeals in 2013 that made it to a Grade Appeal Committee.

He said both of those grades were upheld.

"Appeals are rare," Gardner said.

He said the Academic Affairs Division is in the process of

adding another division member to the current Grade Appeal Committee since OCCC now has eight academic divisions.

Gardner said students shouldn't submit an appeal just because they aren't happy with a grade they earned.

"If your grade is incorrect as outlined on how to calculate that in the [course] syllabus,

you should appeal your grade," he said. "... but because you don't like your grade is really not grounds [to submit an appeal]."

To read about the process of appealing a grade at OCCC, visit www.occc.edu/policy/pdf/4030.

To contact Gardner, email ggardner@occc.edu or call 405-682-7534.

Awards: Students to be acknowledged for achievements

Continued from page 1

excellence in their academic division of the school.

Marcy Roll, Student Life assistant, offered some background information on the ceremony.

"It's been going on for 38 years," Roll said.

"It acknowledges the academic honors and grades and aptitudes of our students.

"Students are nominated by

the professors and the deans and that's how they get into the student awards. It's not their peers, it's the faculty."

The Student Award Ceremony ranges from student organizations, like campus clubs, to academic areas.

"Civic Honors award, the English essay award, Certificates of Achievement and the President's Award for Excellence (will be awarded)," Roll said.

The academic divisions have programs and, within those programs, they can have one student [award] per program.

Roll said the President's Award of Excellence is limited to one student per academic division.

Students will be selected from OCCC's eight academic divisions.

About 109 students will be recognized.

Roll said that number varies

from year to year.

The awards reflect on the students' progress at OCCC, she said.

"It's an acknowledgement of how you have done as a stu-

dent here, how well they have achieved academically ... or as a human being," Roll said.

For more information, email Roll at mroll@occc.edu or call 405-682-7523.








Assessments 10 & 24 Hour ADSAC "DUI SCHOOL"

For DUI, DWI, APC or Drug Arrest
-Court & Drivers License Requirements-

10-Hour Class-
April 25, 26 & 27: F 5:30-8:45p, S/S 8:30a-12
OR April 28, 29 & 30: M/T/W 5:30-8:45pm
24-Hour Class- Start anytime, call for times
Assessments- Call for appointment
NW OKC, 3160 N. Portland
Call: 94-DRIVE (943-7483)
AT&E, INC.: check us out at www.okduischool.com






CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Creative eye



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Alison Rostron-Thompson, an art student who moved to Oklahoma from England, sketches for her Drawing I class April 3 in front of the Main Building while Adjunct Professor Pherapha Jaidee observes and assists with questions. For more information, email Jaidee at pherapha.jaidee@occc.edu.

COMMUNITY | ECHO 2.0 has email and video chat features

Students can use tutors from home

NICOLE CHERRY
News Writing Student

Many students may know they could improve their essay grades by getting tutoring help in the Communications Lab, but not everyone can find the time to drive back to campus.

Savvy students may know the same advice is available online, provided by the tutors they work with on campus.

"I like to use online tutoring because it's really helpful when I can't come to the lab," said Linus Morgan, a work-study employee.

"They help with the flow of your paper and make suggestions."

ECHO 2.0 is an email and online video-based tutoring system that is free to all OCCC students.

Nicholas Webb and other tutors from the Communications Lab run ECHO 2.0.

One way to use ECHO 2.0 is to fill out a form with specific information about a paper, including any questions you have.

After the form is filled out, a student then emails

a draft paper to the Communications Lab.

A tutor will respond usually within 24 hours with any recommendations they have.

A student can email their paper at any time of day, but tutors will only be able to respond within the hours the lab is open.

Another option of using ECHO 2.0 is to reserve an appointment for a video tutoring session.

"The goal is to try to make it as much like a face-to-face session as we can," Webb said.

"What I've tried to do is take the focus off of the actual essay."

Webb said he wants to put more emphasis on the process, not just the product.

"With the previous version of ECHO, there would be this emphasis of marking up the essay with comments," he said.

"We still do that to some extent, but we also try to focus on the discussion of the paper itself.

"It encourages the student to respond so that it's not just a one-sided communication, it's actually a dialogue."

The video portion simulates a live tutoring session

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Learn about the power of quotes

Students will experience quotes from some of the greatest motivational speakers, leaders and innovators from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, in VPAC 127. For more information, contact the Black Student Association at bsa@my.occc.edu.

Authors share literary works at reception

Authors featured in the OCCC Absolute Journal will share their literary works with students at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in the College Union. The Absolute features student poetry, short stories, photography and art. For more information, call Lyndsie Stremlow at 682-7558, or email at lstromlow@occc.edu.

Students to showcase classical guitar skills

Students will perform classical guitar music at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in room 132 in the VPAC. Performances will consist of guitar trios and solo performances. Music will range from traditional classical guitar to modern contemporary music. The free concert is open to the public. For more information, call Michael Boyle at 405-682-1611, ext. 7245.

Students learn how to prepare for interviews

Students will learn to dress professionally for interviewing at 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., on April 24, in room 1G7 (next to Student Life) on the first floor in the Main Building. For more information, contact 405-682-7519, or email employmentservices@occc.edu.

Students applying for summer jobs

Student services will help students look for summer jobs from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 1, in room 1G7 on the first floor in the Main Building. For more information, contact 405-682-7519.

Service Trip Peace Walk

Student volunteers needed during Oklahoma's Autism Peace Walk for families affected by autism from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Students who register will receive an email with specific instructions on where and when to meet. For more information, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523 or email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

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

so that nonverbal cues and body language can be interpreted.

Using Skype for video tutoring is encouraged but not necessary.

"I find that students that use online tutoring are just as invested in wanting to seek help as students who come to the lab for face-to-face tutoring," Webb said.

The Communications Lab is located on the first floor of the Main building between the OCCC coffee shop and the cafeteria.

The lab is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

The lab has informational brochures available.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/comlab/echo or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

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.

FEMALE ROMMATE WANTED: with bathroom. Washer/dryer, Internet, cable. Close to OCCC. Big room. All amenities. Nice neighborhood. \$450 a month, all bills included. Honest person, no drugs, no alcohol. Call 405-317-4002.

ROOM FOR RENT: Only female. Includes all services. Near OCCC. Call or text Norma at 405-317-4002.

WANT TO RENT A ROOM: 21-year-old male Looking for a room to rent. Call or text Roman at 770-301-2791 with information and price.

FOR SALE: Bed liner for standard long bed pickup w/ tailgate liner. \$75. GC. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures or more information.

FOR SALE: Neiman Marcus Robert Rodriguez collection size 14 strapless cocktail dress. Never worn. Still has store tags. \$50. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: New size 26 jeans — never been worn. Brands include Vans, Levi's and Zumiez. \$10 per pair. Retail for \$40 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1994 White Saturn model SC1. Body type CP, 169,000miles. Asking \$800.00. Call 212.6027 for more information.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: 40" CRT television in excellent condition. The big screen makes it great for a gaming TV in the kids' room. \$30. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

MISCELLANEOUS

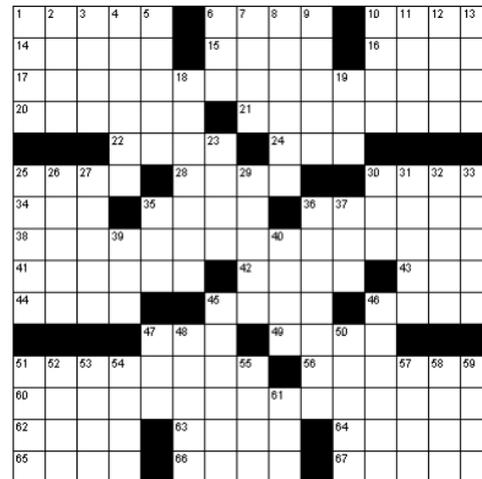
LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT: Male, 23, full-time student looking to rent a room close to campus for no more than \$250-\$300 a month from May 17 to the end of the fall semester. Email john.white336@occc.edu.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Pop Culture Shake-up by Dave Fisher (Copyright © dave fisher)

- Across**
- Philip ___ (US ambassador to UK 1997-2001)
 - Keen
 - Joseph Alois Ratzinger
 - Conscious
 - ___ skirt
 - Not up
 - We cautioned monk?
 - Even though
 - ___ wheeler
 - ___ precedent
 - Sticky stuff
 - Adjacent to, as land
 - Come again?
 - Just open
 - Streak
 - Rounds
 - Highly ornamented style
 - Preserved pup pen?
 - Breakfast order, maybe
 - It puts the 'pop' in pop
 - Had a bite
 - Like a smelly cigar
 - Burn slightly
 - Garden ___
 - Behave
 - Sea weed
 - Setting for Shakespeare's Hamlet
 - Man on the Main
 - Copperplate Isis?
 - ___ Denisovich (Solzhenitsyn character)
 - Occupant of 13 down
 - Like some sheets
 - Play people
 - Told where to go
 - Choose

- Down**
- Dalai ___
 - Missing roll call?
 - Apply crudely



- Part of E.M.H.
- Lace again
- "___ Blue", Ethel Waters' classic
- Grape holder
- ___ Girls (Ray & Saliers)
- San ___
- Warsaw ___
- Instrument once known as the 'hautbois'
- Cute dog
- First nudist colony?
- Try
- Dr. ___ (British TV series)
- Company name in many Roadrunner cartoons
- Passion
- Present day Myanmar, once
- Let loose
- Charley ___
- King beater
- He had a whale of a time
- Severe
- ___ off (secured)
- A close relative
- Make amends
- Eggs
- They bugle
- Lie in the tub
- Walked briskly
- Like some staircases
- Wheel of Fortune purchase, perhaps
- S.A. shrubs targeted by the DEA
- Let slip
- Kind of poem
- A buck in Bulgaria
- Evian and Eeds
- ___ She Lovely (Stevie Wonder hit)
- Panache
- Word on a Miller label
- Pertaining to hearing
- Monthly payment, perhaps
- Quantity, abbrev.

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save lives, and **get free wi-fi**
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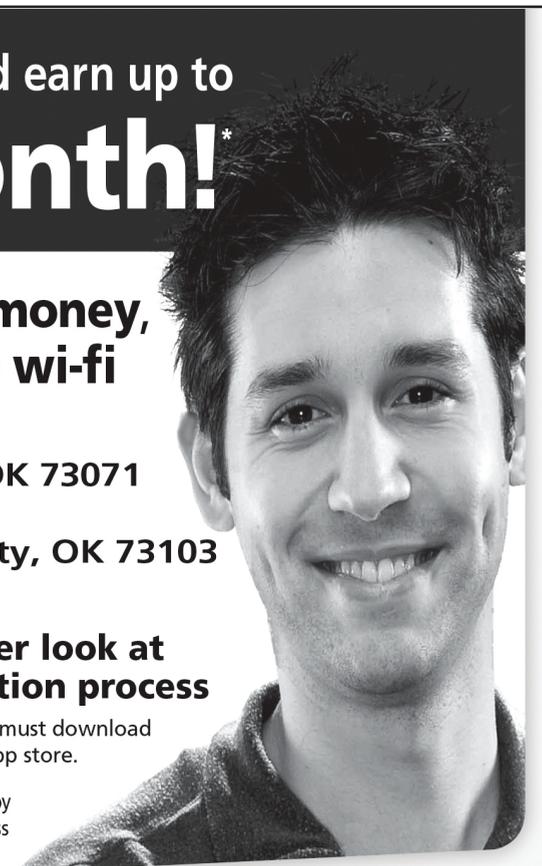
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405-521-9204



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editor@occc.edu

PERFORMANCE DATES APRIL 30 THROUGH MAY 3

Thespians take on 37 Shakespeare works in play

JANET JIMÉNEZ
News Writing Student

It's Shakespeare for today's attention-challenged theatergoers.

Portions of all 37 of the bard's plays will be performed in less than two hours when drama students enact the parody "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" Wednesday, April 30, through Saturday, May 3 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

Curtain time is 7:30 p.m.

"It is a loving tribute to Shakespeare but it's also a very modern parody," said theater Professor Brent Noel, who is directing the play.

"The theme behind it is that they're trying to update Shakespeare to make it accessible to a modern audience."

Two different casts will take on this show, an all-male cast and an all-female cast. There are three people in each.

The men will perform Wednesday, April 30, and Friday, May 2. The women will perform Thursday, May 1, and Saturday, May 3.

Freshmen theater arts major Drake Mason said this is his first play on the OCCC stage.

"Probably the biggest challenge for me is going to be dialect as far as using different accents," he said.

"We have to use an Italian accent, Jewish accent and Scottish accent."

Grateful for having the opportunity to work with Brent Noel, Mason speaks highly of Noel's directing talent.

"He pulls some stuff out of us that we feel like we never had within ourselves," Mason said.

He said there will be a few surprises with costumes.

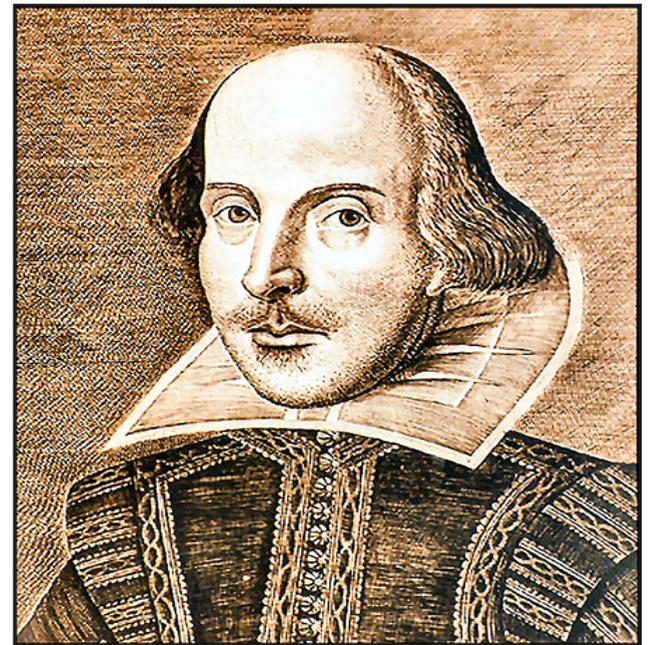
"I'm not going to discuss too much about the costumes," Mason said. "You've got to come and see it."

No stranger to the OCCC stage is sophomore diversified studies major Tia Lasiter.

Lasiter said Shakespeare is generally difficult because of the old English; however, with this production, it's even more challenging.

"Not only do you have to be good at delivering Shakespeare, but also you have to be able to switch from modern text to old English text — and you have to be funny the whole time."

Also in this production are Dani Stephenson, Hannah Leggett, Dillon Griffiths, and Taylor Reich.



Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students. Wednesday's and Thursday's performances are free for OCCC students and staff.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 6278.

Students learn about life-saving drug during event

ASHLEY GUYER
News Writing Student

More than half the people in the audience raised their hands when the speaker asked if they had known someone who had problems with drugs.

About 45 individuals had come to hear Young Onuorah, Senior Prevent Program manager from the Oklahoma Department of Health, speak on "Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse."

He spoke on campus April 8.

"Over 23 million people in the United States are addicted to drugs," Onuorah said.

"From 1999 to recent years, Oklahoma has seen a 400 percent increase."

Onuorah paused to adjust his rimless eyeglasses after making this statement.

Silence in the room followed the information.

He is originally from Nigeria but said he has been in Oklahoma for quite awhile.

Onuorah said, in 2010, enough prescription medications were abused in the U.S. to medicate every single American for more than a month. Unfortunately, that year 16,651 people died from overdose.

"There is an idea that these people are typically criminals," Onuorah said. "Most of the time, however, they are not."

Oklahoma rates among the top five states in the U.S. for high prescription medication abuse and misuse.

Lack of education is a problem concerning misuse of prescription drugs, Onuorah said.

Certain combinations of medications can cause accidental deaths, he said.

In fact, 78 percent of the deaths that occur are accidental.

This ranges from improper mixtures of medications, to people simply becoming immune to the strength of the dosage and taking more than recommended.

Fifty-eight percent of these accidental deaths occurred from pain killers, Onuorah said. In recent years opioid-related deaths outnumbered those from alcohol, even when drunk driving was included.

Those who tend to abuse prescription drugs usually have an underlying condition, Onuorah said.

"At least 50 percent of the people had a mental disorder and that is why they become a user," he said.

"They are trying to fix the problem."

During the speech, many in the audience stayed attentive, taking notes and soaking in the details. Others simply shook their heads.

"There is hope though," Onuorah continued. "Naloxone is an antidote that can save someone's life by simply spraying two pumps into the nasal cavity of someone who has just overdosed. This can prevent death."

He said that bills have passed in the Legislature.

As of Nov. 1, 2013, a law took effect, allowing family members of someone who may be at risk to get it as a prescription and carry it up to four years.

Naloxone was originally a syringe injection medication but has been created to use risk-free as a nasal spray.

The introduction of this drug happened in Oklahoma after Austin Box, a former University of Oklahoma student, overdosed his senior year in 2011 from prescription medication which he had been given for pain.

“Naloxone is an antidote that can save someone's life by simply spraying two pumps into the nasal cavity of someone who has just overdosed. This can prevent death.”

—YOUNG ONUORAH
SENIOR PREVENT PROGRAM
MANAGER, OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

He would have been the starting middle linebacker that year. He was 22.

His mother, Gail Box, started publicly speaking about the misuse of prescription medications and how people should protect their loved ones by saying something as soon as they have an intuition that something is wrong.

Naloxone works by blocking the effects opiates have on the nervous system. It reverses shallow breathing, low blood pressure and even death.

It can be used on any opiate ranging from Oxycodone to heroin.

When asked by Onuorah, no one in the room had heard of Naloxone before.

"This is why you need to be advocates and spread awareness," he said.

Onuorah encouraged the knowledge of the drug be spread to the masses so that people can request a prescription from a medical professional if they feel it may be needed.

There are 18 states that have passed the Naloxone access law.

One member of the audience, Madeline Lewelling, is a legal assistant who said she is married to a drug and alcohol counselor.

"Even I did not know how much we had to do ourselves and as a state," Lewelling said.

Dana Culton, OCCC Professional Development coordinator, said she just became aware of Naloxone.

"It is sad to know that no one knew you could have help right on hand for these people," she said, voicing her thought that Naloxone should become available to everyone.

The presentation ended in applause.

For more information, email Onuorah at yonuorah@odmhsas.org.