

PIONEER ONLINE

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



EDITORIAL

TATTOOS BECOMING ACCEPTABLE

Online Writer Mycalyn Blomstrom says it's time body ink is seen as mainstream, not shocking. Read more about her thoughts inside.

OPINION, p. 2

NEWS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM IVORY COAST

Computer Science major Ange Phillippe Bonny says he relocated to the U.S. for safety reasons after war began in the region back in 2012. See more.

NEWS, p. 7

SPORTS

SUMMER CAMPS REQUIRE LOTS OF PLANNING

From hiring the right coaches to planning what classes will be offered, OCCC's Sports and Recreation Specialist has it covered.

SPORTS, p. 8

COMMUNITY

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN USED BY MANY

CAD Professor John Helton said students who take his class go on to be architects, engineers, game designers and more. Read more inside.

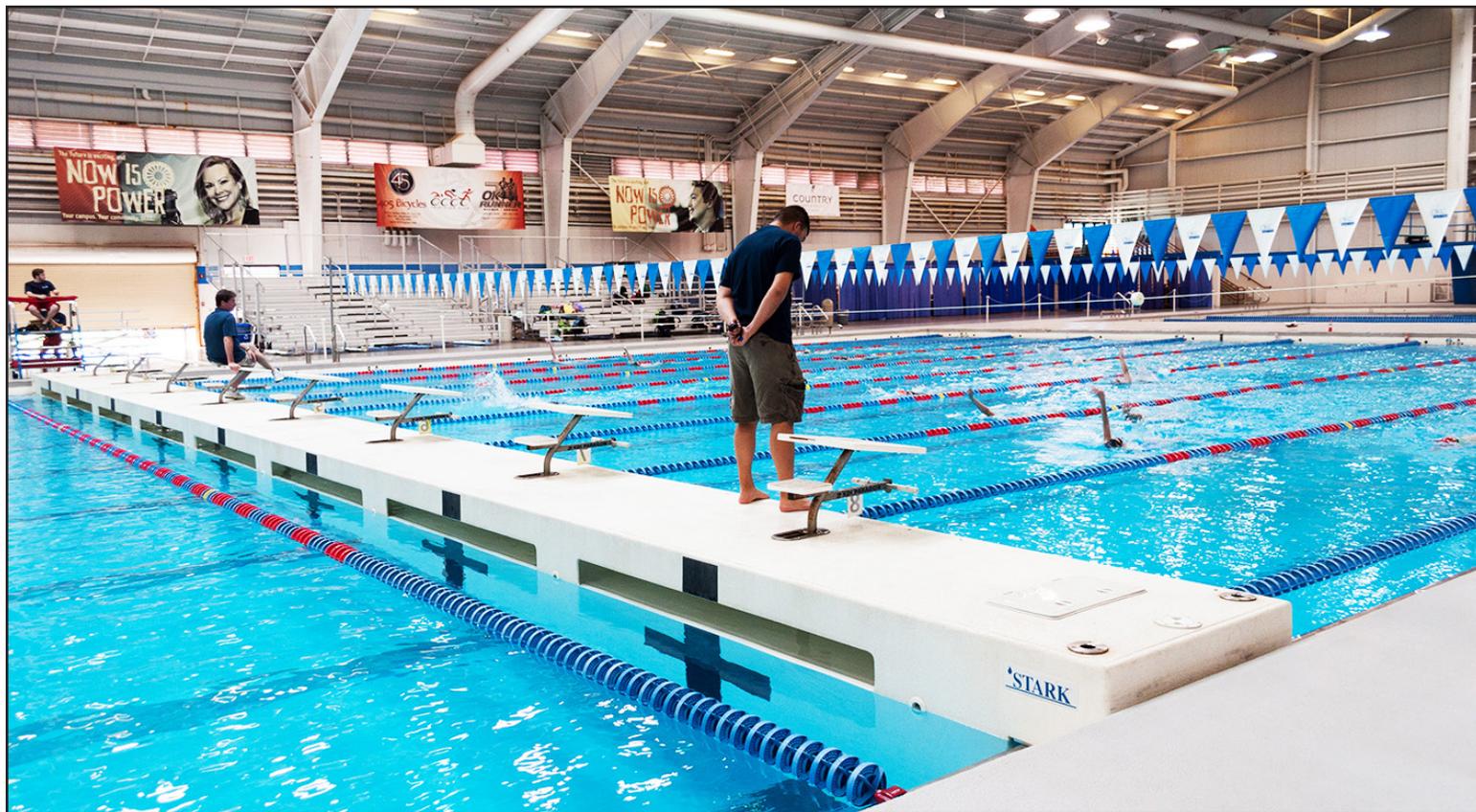
COMMUNITY, p. 10

PIONEER

JUNE 20, 2014

PIONEER.OCCC.EDU

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Lifeguards stand watch at the OCCC Aquatic Center. Most of the equipment, including the pool, is 15 to 25 years old and some is in need of repair or replacement, according to a 2013 report. College officials said those repairs are on hold until funding can be figured out. In the meantime, the pool is safe for use. "There are no safety issues," said Steven Bloomberg, vice president for Community Development. "Nothing in there right now poses an inherent risk to swimmers, patrons, [or] staff members."

Aquatic Center in need of upgrade

Almost \$1.4 million in updates needed according to 2013 feasibility study

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Editor
editor@occc.edu

It's an open question: how to fund needed upgrades to the college's Aquatic Center.

It would cost close to \$1.4 million to update the Center to meet current standards, according to a feasibility study presented to the college in February 2013.

Steven Bloomberg, vice president for Community Development, said none of the recommended upgrades have been made.

OCCC hired the local architecture firm, Crafton Tull, to look into what it would take to

upgrade the Center since the pool and much of its equipment is 25 years old.

In 2013, the college had been approached by Oklahoma City officials, asking that the Aquatic Center be a possible site for a Senior Center project, according to page one of the 28-page report titled, "Oklahoma City Community College Feasibility Study for Aquatic Center."

"This report is prepared at the request of Oklahoma City Community College to address whether or not the building could be used as a part of the response to the City of Oklahoma City's Request for Qualification for the Senior Center Projects."

That would have allowed OCCC to take part in Oklahoma City's MAPS 3 project. Bloomberg said that idea ended up being shelved for a

number of reasons.

"We at one time had considered submitting a request for a proposal to become one of the senior health and wellness centers that were associated with the MAPS projects," he said.

One of the reasons the college chose not to participate was the requirement that the city have a "controlling interest" in the facility, which is owned by OCCC, a state entity.

See **STUDY** page 9

Campus pool great place for students to unwind

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Editor
editor@occc.edu

The Aquatic Center is a great place to relax when students have a couple hours between classes — and it's free, said Carole Valentine, health and fitness specialist.

"It's a fabulous facility," Valen-

tine said. "The best time to use it is during the summer when we're open all the time. In the fall and spring, we have more limited hours so it's less available to them. It's a great way to get your exercise in."

Valentine said swim teams regularly use the Aquatic Center.

See **POOL** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Body ink normal

Tattoos now more acceptable

A subject in our society that has many points of view and that I personally have an interest in is tattoos.

I have tattoos. It is becoming the norm for people from all walks of life to have a tattoo, yet, society still tends to have a negative view toward them.

More than 40 percent of adult Americans have at least one tattoo — almost half of our adult population, according to statisticbrain.com. So, it seems odd that there is still such a stigma attached.



MYCALYN BLOMSTROM

When I was 18, I had the tattoo talk with my mother.

After I told her of my plan to get a tattoo, she gave the typical mom response of, “Really think before you do this. Some people will not hire you if you have tattoos. It will never come off your

body. Think what it will look like when you are older.” She also let me know that it was my choice and my body to do with what I wanted.

As soon as I knew my mother would be OK with me having a tattoo, I ran to the nearest tattoo parlor

and got my ink.

I was a good kid. I received good grades in school and I followed rules just fine as well.

Yet, I knew that when I got a tattoo, certain people would immediately tag me as an irresponsible, wild child — all because I have ink on my skin.

Society needs to learn to see past tattoos and instead, look at the person.

My tattoos are a testimony to what I believe and put my faith in.

People often ask me if I regret getting tattoos and sometimes, my answer is yes although I honestly could not picture myself without them. My tattoos are a part of me and who I am. It’s a statement, no different than when I use language to verbalize things I hold dear and believe in.

And I’m not alone.

The number of people in the U.S. getting tattoos is continuing to grow, according to TheWeek.com. That tells me it’s time for society to accept them and stop looking at people with tattoos differently.

As I have gotten older, I do see more clearly now what my mother was telling me back when I first decided to get a tattoo — that it is permanent and



will never go away.

Fortunately, I have never been turned down for a job because of my tattoos or experienced anything that has made me regret getting them.

If anyone is in a dilemma about getting a tattoo just remember it will always be with you. Make sure you really like the art you have chosen and do the research to find a tattoo parlor that will provide a safe, clean, good experience.

Do not let what you think society thinks about tattoos make your decision for you.

—MYCALYN BLOMSTROM
ONLINE WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Participants will receive helpful texts through a child’s first birthday

Text4baby initiative created for parents, caregivers

To the editor:

A woman’s health before, during and between pregnancies can have a profound impact on the health of both mother and baby.

For this reason, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and more than 20 partners of the “Preparing for a Lifetime, It’s Everyone’s Responsibility” initiative are working to improve birth outcomes and prevent infant mortality in Oklahoma.

Text4baby is a free text messaging service providing information on a broad range of topics critical to maternal and child health, including vaccination, breastfeeding, smoking cessation, safe sleep, the importance of full-term delivery (at least 40 weeks) and more.

Text4baby has evolved to include interactive ap-

pointment and immunization reminders, educational videos, urgent health alerts on time-sensitive issues like product recalls and natural disasters, and links to Oklahoma-specific health-related services.

Since launching, Text4baby has enrolled more than 688,000 moms nationwide and nearly 14,000 Oklahoma moms.

To sign up for Text4baby, text the word “BABY” (“BEBE” for Spanish) to 511411 from a cell phone or register online at www.text4baby.org.

Participants will receive FREE text messages until the baby is 1 year old. There is no charge for text

messages through this program.

To learn more about Text4baby, visit www.text4baby.org.

For information about the “Preparing for a Lifetime, It’s Everyone’s Responsibility” initiative, visit <http://iio.health.ok.gov> or call 405-271-4480.

—OKLAHOMA STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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.

PIONEER

Vol. 42 No. 36

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Bryce McElhaney..... | Editor | Ethan Cooper..... | Webmaster |
| Lauren Daniel..... | Staff Writer | Jake McMahon..... | Videographer |
| Siali Siaoisi..... | Online Editor | Aaron Donohue..... | Circulation Manager |
| Mycalyn Blomstrom..... | Online Writer | Ronna Austin..... | Lab Director |
| John Huynh..... | Photographer | Sue Hinton..... | Faculty Adviser |

7777 S May
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

phone:
405-682-1611, ext. 7307

email:
editor@occc.edu

Pioneer Online:
www.occc.edu/pioneer

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer

Twitter:
www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer

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

FROM THE VAULT MOVIE REVIEW | 'Punch-Drunk Love' better than today's comedies

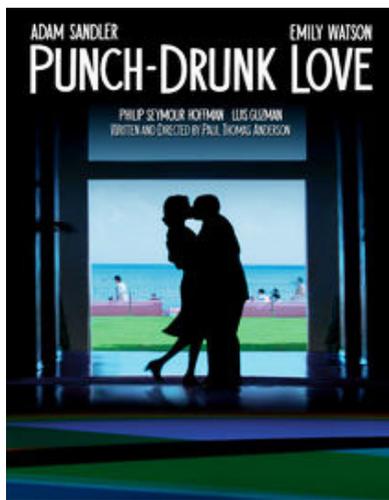
Decade-old film even better now

After "Magnolia," Director Paul Thomas Anderson decided to create a film barren of grief and overflowing with prismatic ecstasy. He went on to make "Punch-Drunk Love" — the 2002 romantic comedy starring Adam Sandler.

Like all of Anderson's protagonists, Barry Egan (Sandler) is complex, lonesome and riddled with family issues.

The only women in Barry's life are his seven overbearing sisters. Desperate for connection, Barry calls a sex hotline — not for sexual pleasure but to create a genuine conversation. Unfortunately, the girl Barry speaks to calls back demanding more money and threatens to blackmail Barry if he declines.

Barry's sister Elizabeth (Mary Lynn Rajskub) introduces Barry to Lena (Emily Watson). During a romantic date with Lena, Barry does well keeping his calm until Lena mentions a humiliating story involving Barry. The fear of



embarrassment begins to prevent Barry from enjoying the sensation of falling in love, a routine anyone can recognize when entering a new relationship.

Philip Seymour Hoffman plays "The Mattress Man," who manages the sex hotline Barry calls.

Upon discovering Barry's refusal to pay more money, The Mattress Man sends a few henchmen to Barry's home to collect payment.

This film submerges itself in

humor.

From Barry's blue suit, the harmonium and an endless supply of pudding, "Punch-Drunk Love" is alive with unconventional situations and crude wit.

A terrific thing about this movie is how Barry's relationship with Lena doesn't have any of the forced issues typically found in a romantic comedy. This is one of the very few romances where jealousy is completely absent.

Conflicts are widespread but the overall issue is the sex hotline scandal and having to admit that embarrassing situation to Lena.

"Punch-Drunk Love" doesn't follow anticipated ingredients set by today's standards. It has the colorful purity of "The Apartment" combined with the juvenile amusement of "Dr. Strangelove."

Dig in —preferably with a creamy dose of pudding.

Rating: A

—ETHAN COOPER
WEBMASTER

SERIES REVIEW | Four of five seasons also available on Netflix

'Fullmetal Alchemist' worth a watch

If you watched the original "Fullmetal Alchemist," you may have been disappointed with the ending. The animation studio produced episodes too quickly for the source material to catch up and an ending was fabricated.

Fast-forward six years later and a redone version, "Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood," is made. It is the definite version with the already beautiful animation completely redone in HD, a new orchestral soundtrack and a storyline that now closely matches the source material.

One of the central themes of this anime is that of Alchemy's First Law of Equivalent Exchange, which is exactly what it sounds like.

It is with this knowledge that the main characters, the Elric brothers, try to bring their dead mother back to life.

Their attempt fails and the transmutation circle drags the younger brother Alphonse's soul into a void. Edward, the elder brother, quickly amputates his right arm and binds his brother's soul to a suit of armor. Oh, and did I mention they're only 10 and 11 years old?

Three years later, Edward is now the youngest State



Alchemist in history which also makes him a 'dog' of the military. However, Edward also now has access to the military's extensive library and finds a clue to restoring his brother back to his body. That clue is the mythical Philosopher's Stone that allows the user to ignore the law of equivalent exchange.

In Edward's down time between missions, he journeys with his younger brother Alphonse, now in a hulking, empty suit of armor,

to follow any leads on the Philosopher's Stone. Unfortunately, he's not the only one looking for it, and conflicts like terrorism, revenge, power, and corruption all seem to follow in the stone's path.

Other themes also are explored such as dogma, love, family, childhoods, human experimentation, government and military controversies, mystery, forbidden knowledge and much more that makes this anime surpass the typical fare.

Every character also has a tragic backstory that makes each one feel indispensable.

"Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood" excels in so many categories including an excellent English dub-



'Flixster' app great for movie buffs

One of the only things to do in Oklahoma in terms of nightlife is go to the movies. Most of the time, this takes a careful amount of planning. You usually have to get tickets early and arrive with plenty of time to spare to get a decent seat.

An app I recently downloaded helped simplify this process. "Flixster" is a free app that has all movie times for theaters listed. By entering your zip code, you can see what's playing at a theater near you.

This is a convenient feature because instead of going to all the different websites, or searching for each theater's times separately, they are all listed in one app. You can search for times by specific theaters or by the movie.

"Flixster" also allows you to buy tickets directly from the app. This allows you to save time and avoid the possible disappointment of finding that a movie is sold out only after you arrive at the theater.

The app also provides critic and user reviews from Rotten Tomatoes. You can view trailers, read a plot summary, look at pictures, view the actors and their profiles, and more.

"Flixster" also has many upcoming movies and trailers available for users to preview. Most of the time they have trailers pretty far in advance, so you can figure out which movies you want to see far in advance.

Another favorite feature is that "Flixster" allows users to make a list of movies they want to see. By selecting "Want To See," the app arranges movies into an easy-to-keep-track-of list.

The app also shows which movies have been recently released on DVD and allows you to watch trailers for those.

"Flixster" is a useful app for anyone who loves movies.

—LAUREN DANIEL
SENIOR WRITER

bing that is typically sub par in most other animes.

There are five seasons, four of which can be viewed on Netflix. The ending will leave you satisfied and will hopefully stay with you as it has with me.

Do yourself a favor and give it a watch.

Rating: A-

—JOHN HUYNH
PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Reviewer says everyone needs to experience this book brought to life

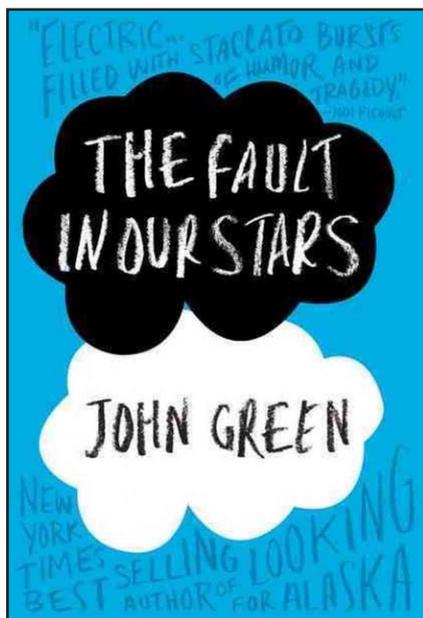
'The Fault in Our Stars' translates well to big screen

My favorite book is "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green, so a little over a year ago, when I heard they were turning the story into a movie, I made plans with one of my friends to go see it when it came out.

The movie finally came out. So, naturally, we bought tickets for two different showtimes two weeks in advance, because we're hardcore fangirls.

We showed up for the movie more than an hour early with our shirts that had quotes from the book on them and packs of Kleenex, in great anticipation of crying our eyes out during the movie. I recommend that all who plan to see it be prepared to do the same.

The movie is about Hazel Grace Lancaster, played by Shailene Woodley, who has stage four thyroid cancer and colonies in her lungs, which require her to be on oxygen at all times.



She meets Augustus Waters (Gus,) played by Ansel Elgort, at a cancer support group. He has osteosarcoma, which has resulted in him having to get part of his leg amputated.

Gus wins Hazel (and the audience) over with his charm, and they begin to spend more and more time together.

Despite their many medical ups and downs, Hazel and Gus travel to Amsterdam on Gus' "cancer wish" to meet an author they both like. While on the trip, they both have to accept heart-breaking and life altering news.

I went to see this movie twice and it got better each time. Al-

though they did change many things from the book, they also stayed incredibly true to Green's original work. I have never experienced a better book-to-movie conversion in my lifetime.

Both Woodley and Elgort did an outstanding job in

portraying the characters, and captivating the hearts of everyone in the theater — especially during the emotional scenes. They were undoubtedly the perfect cast to tell this perfect story.

I will warn you that this movie will reduce your heart to a puddle of tears.

If you didn't read the book, I recommend you go watch the movie anyway. If you did read the book, I guarantee you will love this movie.

"The Fault in Our Stars" is one of the most moving love stories ever told.

Everyone should experience Green's book brought to life in the most spectacular, devastating, emotional, humorous, heart wrenching, and beautiful way possible.

Rating: A+

—LAUREN DANIEL
SENIOR WRITER

FOOD REVIEW | A louder crunch, better flavor win over white flour recipe

Wheat Ritz even better than original

A Ritz goes with everything. One can enjoy a Ritz on a Christmas morning or on the Fourth of July. They taste good on sad days and they taste good on really sad days.

I'm a crackers and cheese kind of guy. From the fanciest, smelliest spread-with-a-knife cheese to the imitation cheese I sprinkle over my nachos, I am fascinated with the feats a little mold can accomplish.

My favorite way to mix my bread and dairy groups is to splurch a hearty orange dollop of spray cheese onto a Ritz cracker.

The original Ritz cracker, while it is made to be topped, cannot be topped. It is light, yet full. It is hard, yet will crumble at the slightest amount of pressure.

The adorable subtlety of the salt works well with the blandness of the bread. It was just like how my girlfriend and I used to be.

In my latest depression relapse, I visited my local dollar store. After all, a woman can leave you, but spray cheese will always be there.

As I wandered the store with a can of what I like to call "fun salty frosting" in my hand, I absentmindedly reached for my good ol' box of Ritz.

It wasn't until I left the store that I realized the



crackers I had were whole grain.

Rather than burn down the Nabisco headquarters for putting diet crackers in a box just as red as the non-diet crackers, I decided to sit and eat my heart-friendly dinner as if it were the real thing.

When I took my first bite of this heavier version of my favorite food, I felt something strange. I felt hope for the world.

The crackers were delightful.

In fact, they rival the real ones. The crunch is louder than regular Ritz, and the whole grain flavor adds an interesting "grainy" flavor that seems made to complement aerosol cheese.

I thought that perhaps the gods do not hate me. Perhaps if a food can be delicious and healthy, anything is possible.

It would seem that I have a new favorite food. I don't have to hold on to the past. Whole grain Ritz crackers cracked the whip on my mind.

Rating: A

—JAKE MCMAHON
VIDEOGRAPHER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of June 13 through June 15
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *22 Jump Street*
2. *How to Train Your Dragon 2*
3. *Maleficent*
4. *Edge of Tomorrow*
5. *The Fault in Our Stars*
6. *X-Men: Days of Future Past*
7. *Godzilla*
8. *A Million Ways to Die in the West*
9. *Neighbors*
10. *Chef*
11. *Blended*
12. *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*
13. *Million Dollar Arm*
14. *Alone Yet Not Alone*
15. *Belle*
16. *Rio 2*
17. *Words and Pictures*
18. *The Grand Seduction*
19. *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*
20. *Ida*

Understanding Dance added to fall class lineup

MYCALYN BLOMSTROM

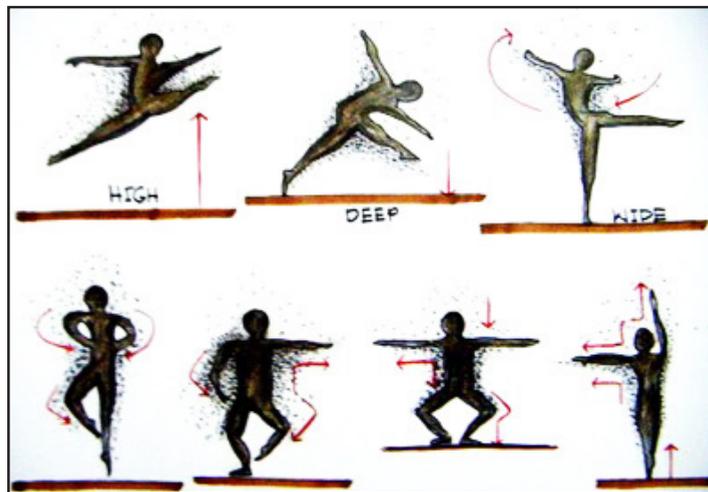
Online Writer
onlinewriter@occc.edu

OCCC continues to expand its commitment to the arts by adding "Understanding Dance," a general education humanities class for fall 2014, said Elizabeth Hobi with Dance Theatre OKC.

Hobi said Understanding Dance (TA1003) is an academic three-credit-hour course designed to give students a good understanding and appreciation of dance.

She will teach the course which will meet once a week from 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Course objectives will include understanding the role and importance of dance in culture and society,



the development of dance as theatre art, aspects of various theatrical dance styles, dance as a way to create and communicate meaning, and the art of making dance, Hobi said.

She said throughout the course of the class, students will see videos and live dance performances at OCCC.

"This is not a dance technique class and students will not be expected to dance," Hobi said.

"There will be no text for this class, only in-class videos, lectures, and some live demonstrations from the OCCC dance company," Hobi said.

"Students will be graded on two papers, the midterm exam, the final exam, and class attendance."

Hobi said the semester grade will be an average of four elements of equal weight, each worth 25 percent of the final grade.

She said she looks forward to the class.

"Together we will explore theatrical dance and have a lot of fun doing it."

Hobi said the course is not listed in the fall print schedule for fall, only online.

For more information about the course contact Hobi at elizabeth.a.hobi@occc.edu.

Harassment and theft reported to college police

SIALI SIAOSI

Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

A harassment report, petty larceny and a suspicious person report were all filed June 2 through 6.

A complaint of unwarranted contact by an ex-boyfriend was filed by a female student on June 2.

The report, taken by Officer Ronald Ventresca, shows the student and her ex-boyfriend had broken up in February 2014. Since that time, she had received a number of unwanted text messages which included veiled threats.

On June 2, Ventresca said, the student was in class when she received a text message from the ex-boyfriend that read, "I see you."

The student told campus police she thought her ex-boyfriend had transferred to the University of Oklahoma and was unaware he was still enrolled at OCCC.

The student said she was walking to her vehicle in Parking Lot A around 4 p.m. when she heard her ex-boyfriend shout her name from between two parked cars. She said she became frightened, ran to her car and drove out of the area.

Once she had evaded the suspect, the student returned to campus to file a report with police.

That same day, a report was filed regarding petty larceny of an Adderall prescription occurring between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. May 28.

Officer Daniel Piazza said the victim was in class from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and remained on campus until 3:30 p.m. May 28. She last checked the contents of her purse at 9 a.m. when she reached campus and said her prescription was present. When the woman returned home, Piazza said, she realized her prescription was missing. She said the prescription was contained in two separate bottles — the first containing 24

25mg extended-release Adderall pills and the other containing 24 15mg immediate-release Adderall pills.

Piazza said he reviewed security footage from the victim's location on May 28 but could not confirm the larceny occurred on campus.

In another report on June 6, around 6 p.m., Officer Zachary Andrews was dispatched to the Aquatic Center on a suspicious person complaint.

Andrews said he searched the locker rooms in the Aquatic Center with the lifeguards and could not locate the suspect. Three of the lifeguards who witnessed the suspicious person identified him as a male wearing black jeans, a tan shirt with dark hair and facial hair. Each provided a witness statement

following the incident. Andrews said he reviewed the Aquatic Center security footage and could not confirm seeing the suspect on camera.

Names not listed in this story were redacted on the police 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.

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.

Before last weekend, the only thing he'd ever burned was a CD.

Although fire fighters do everything they can to prevent burns, more than 2.5 million burn injuries occur in North America each year. Most could be prevented. To learn more about our "Don't Get Burned" campaign, please visit www.IAFFBurnFund.org.

This message is brought to you by the International Association of Fire Fighters. **Harold A. Schaitberger**, General President

FIRE FIGHTERS BURN FOUNDATION

Tree farm leaves campus in the green



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Fourteen varieties of trees are grown at the OCCC tree farm. Those are: bald cypress, pine, hackberry, redbud, weeping mulberry, sawtooth, walnut, American elm, weeping lebanon, elm, shumard oak, water oak, maple and leyland cypress.

LAUREN DANIEL

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC does many things to make the campus as self-sufficient as possible. One way that's accomplished is having a tree farm, said John Boyd, Business and Finance vice president.

The farm is located on the southwest corner of the campus. "It's not too far from the Facilities Management warehouse," Boyd said. "... You can see it as you go around Faculty Circle.

The tree farm was started in 1996, Boyd said, after OCCC administrators saw the need to save money when trees on campus died and needed replaced.

The tree farm allows OCCC to have an inventory of different types of trees to use when needed, he said.

"Rather than going out and buying a fully mature tree, we can simply move a tree from the tree farm into the place where that tree was."

Boyd said OCCC gets saplings for the tree farm from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. The college also has received trees from a grant, he said.

"I am not aware that we've ever gone out and purchased any trees that go on the tree farm."

The maintenance and upkeep of the tree farm is just like any other area of campus, Boyd said.

He said OCCC does whatever is needed to keep the trees healthy and ready for use.

"The tree farm is irrigated to keep the trees alive," he said.

"The trees require pruning and tending and ... they are inspected for any kind of disease."

Boyd said the tree farm is home to 219 trees and 14 different species.

Those range from bald cypress to maple trees, he said.

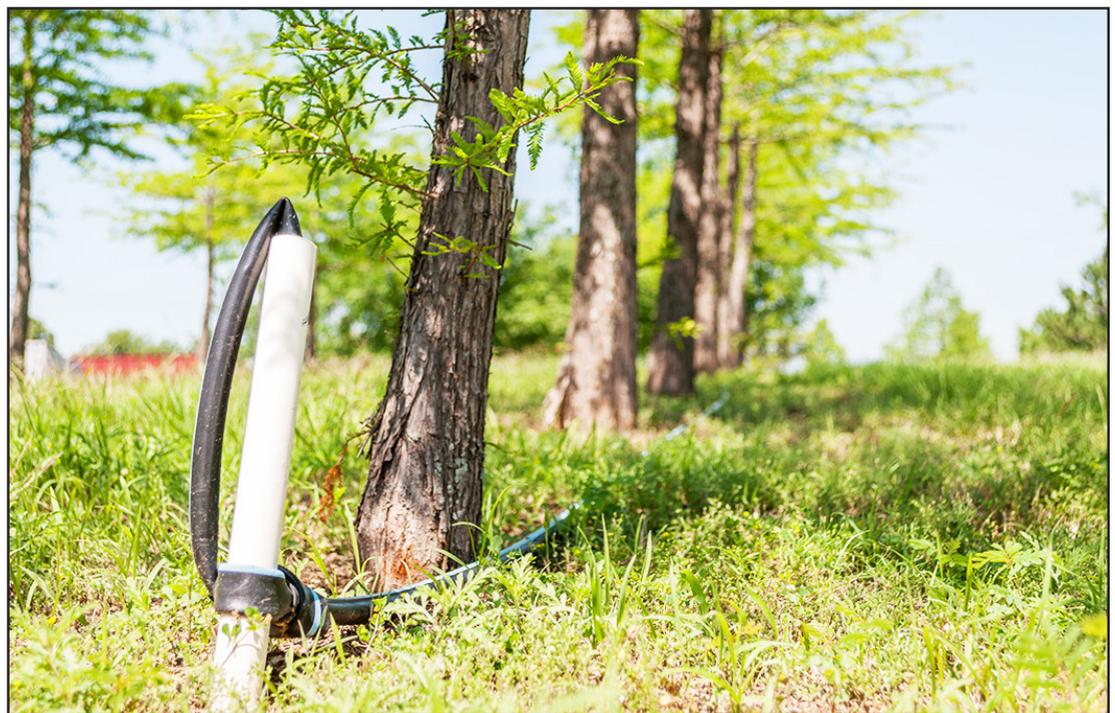
Not all trees on campus are from the tree farm.

Boyd said the trees outlining the campus and on both sides of Faculty Circle are different types than those grown at the tree farm — for a reason.

"Those were all planted as part of our Master Campus Plan," Boyd said.

"None of those trees are from the tree farm. They're a more uniform planting."

Because of the difference in tree species, Boyd said, the trees lost when the campus took storm damage in May of 2013 could not be replaced by those



An irrigation system runs down each row of OCCC's tree farm, located on the southwest corner of the campus. The farm was started in 1996 to save the college money.

grown at the farm.

"We simply wouldn't do it," he said. "It'd be like wearing two different color of socks."

Boyd said a few trees lost in the storms were covered under warranty while the others were paid for out of pocket since the college's insurance did not cover tree replacement costs.

Boyd said he hopes OCCC students notice and appreciate the effort OCCC officials have made to make the campus beautiful. He said the tree farm plays a large part in what OCCC students see daily on campus.

"We want the students to come to this campus because it's where they want to be, not because it's where they have to be," he said.

"We want the campus to be safe — that's our number one priority

"And number two, when [students] tell people they attend Oklahoma City Community College, that they say it with a degree of pride.

"I hope the campus is appealing to students as they come in."

For more information about the tree farm, contact Boyd at jboyd@occc.edu or call 405-682-7501.

it's a small world

Student leaves Ivory Coast for safety of U.S.

SIALI SIAOSI

Online Editor

onlineeditor@occc.edu

International student and computer science major Ange Philippe Bonny said he's used to hot weather because where he's from — West Africa's Ivory Coast — it's always sunny.

"It's always summer [in the Ivory Coast]," Bonny said. "No winter, no fall, no spring — just summer."

Bonny said the Ivory Coast is a country of around 20 million people bordering the Atlantic Ocean. He said he's lived all over the Ivory Coast.

Bonny moved to Edmond from his hometown in Grand-Bassam, where, he said, he attended school at the University of Grand-Bassam.

Originally, his plans were to attend the University of Central Oklahoma.

"I went to UCO first and that was kind of expensive," Bonny said. "... So I came [to OCCC] to take some prerequisite classes."

Bonny said he left the Ivory

Coast in 2012 after war struck the country.

"At first it was civil," he said.

"And after that, other countries got involved [because] they wanted to make it right ..."

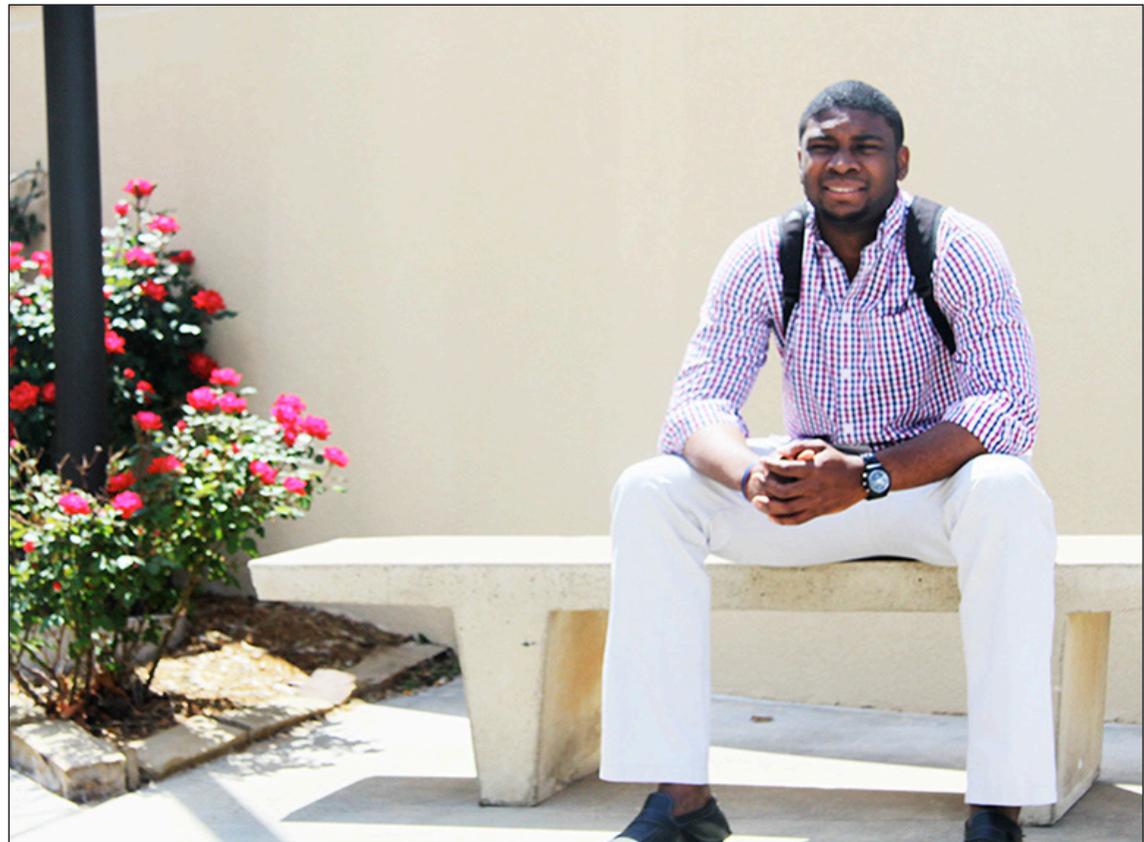
Bonny said he sought safety and better education opportunities in the U.S. He said the education standards in the U.S. are far higher than in the Ivory Coast.

"Back in my country, they don't really take care of education," Bonny said. "They're more [focused] on taking care of politics and stuff like that."

"So it's like you go to school for nothing ... and after you get your degree and start looking for a job, you can't get it unless you have a [wealthy] family," he said. "You have to know people well — you have to have connections — to get a job."

Bonny said he enjoys most things about the U.S. — especially Chinese food.

And, compared to the other



BRYCE MCELHANEY/PIONEER

Ange Philippe Bonny

places he's lived, Bonny said, he finds Oklahoma nice and quiet.

"Oklahoma — compared to other states — it's calm, no noise, not too many events like other places ...," he said.

"It's a good place — it's a

really good place."

Bonny said he hopes to enter the field of Information Technology and become a web developer. He currently works at Walmart and Jasco Products in Edmond.

Along with his native dialect, Bonny said, he also speaks English and French.

He said he plans to spend his summer relaxing and hopes to visit the Ivory Coast again soon.



Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

Capital: Yamoussoukro

Population: 19.84 million (2012)

GDP: 1,243.99 billion USD (2012)

Size: 122,780 sq. miles of land miles, 1,720 sq. miles of water

Official Language: French

Currency: West African CFA Franc

Government: Presidential system, Republic

Religion: Predominately Muslim with one-third of the population being Christian.

Details: Ivory Coast — officially the Republic of Ivory Coast — is a country in West Africa. It borders Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana, It's southern boundary is along the Gulf of Guinea. Its coastline extends 322 miles.



—google.com

SPORTS

Rep time



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Mechanical engineering major Andres Perilla works out on June 11 using the modular lat pulldown machine in the weight room. The Wellness Center provides many fitness areas free to students with a valid OCCC ID. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness.html.

SPORTS | A certificate and physical education background are required for some classes

Fit camp coaches must meet criteria

JAKE MCMAHON
Videographer
pioneervideo@occc.edu

Summer sports camps at OCCC take some planning, said OCCC's Sport and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson.

And, Watson said, in his 10 years at OCCC, he has always been involved in that planning.

"My responsibility," he said, "is to plan the summer camp schedule ... which consists of the sport camps, the recreational camps, and ... the occasional all-day camp."

He said he also personally finds and hires the coaches who take part in the sports camps.

"I go through the schools," he said. "I have a good rapport with a lot of schools, a lot of coaches around the school system, and that's what I go for."

Watson said he hires certain coaches for the different camps.

"There are two positions I hire for," he said. "One is Sport Camp Instructor and the other is a Recreational Camp Instructor."

"The sport camp instructor [is] just one title under which I hire a variety of coaches to teach the sport camps according to their skill."

“I go through the schools. I have a good rapport with a lot of schools, a lot of coaches around the school system, and that's what I go for.”

—ERIC WATSON
SPORT AND RECREATION
SPECIALIST

"The Recreational Camp instructors are the ones that are required to have a teacher's certificate and a physical education background."

Watson said, within the sports camps, there are two multi-sports camps that take place in July.

"That's a camp where we offer two different sports in the same week in order for kids to get exposure to two different elements," he said.

"Some kids probably don't regularly try some of those sports, so that's why we ended up having a week that combined it and gave those kids an opportunity to experience a different sport that they might not have experience in."

"Multi-sports 1 takes place the week of July 7, and Multi-sports 2 takes place the week of July 21," he said.

Watson said Multi-Sports 1 teaches basketball and soccer while Multi-Sports 2 teaches volleyball and kickball.

"We usually have a lot of fun with it as far as the activities and stuff," he said. "It is still based on basic beginning skills of a particular sport."

The deadline to enroll in any of the camps is the Thursday before the camp starts. To enroll, call 405-686-6222.

For more information, visit occc.edu/coe/college4kids.html. To reach Watson, email ewatson@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Comments? Opinions? Let us know!
editor@occc.edu

UPCOMING INTRAMURAL EVENTS

• Through Aug. 1:

A variety of Summer Sport Camps will be held for girls and boys ages 6 to 12.

Campers enrolled in morning and afternoon camps will have a supervised lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Campers may bring their own lunch or purchase a lunch ticket from the cafeteria for \$5.25/day.

Before Care is offered for parents to allow early drop-offs prior to the 7:45 a.m. camp drop-off time for \$10 per week. Campers must be registered for Before Care services on the Friday prior to the Monday start date of camp.

Sport camp and Before Care registration and payment must be made by 5 p.m. the Friday prior to the start date of camp. The Sport Camp Fee is \$65 per week.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rf/sport-camp-schedule.html#sthash.GCkc7E-BQ.dpuf.

• 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.



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.

Study: OCCC may seek outside funding for repairs

Continued from page 1

“We decided not to do so for several reasons, but one of the primary reasons was that if the city funded that project ... then you have a city who would have a controlling interest in a building owned by the state ...

“That was one of the circumstances that led us to say, ‘That doesn’t make a lot of sense for us to pursue because there’s a lot of legal ramifications from a state entity having a city interest, or city funds being put into a state entity.’

Bloomberg said, for the study, Crafton Tull subcontracted with the aquatic firm Counsilman Hunsaker. He said Crafton Tull was chosen specifically because of their working relationship with Counsilman Hunsaker, a “pre-eminent authority on pools.”

“They built the pool at Georgia Tech that was used in the ‘96 Olympics,” he said. “The last summer Olympics in London — Counsilman Hunsaker did the consulting on the pool there.”

OCCC paid Crafton Tull \$10,800 for the analysis, Bloomberg said.

“[We] brought them in to ask the question, ‘What does it take to fix some of these systems?’

and they’ve come up with the figure [of \$1,381,276].”

A number of upgrades and repairs were suggested, Bloomberg said, including repairing the pool shell and applying a Diamond Brite finish at a cost of \$305,275. The report also recommended providing a pump, motor, starter, strainer, regenerative filter, flow meter, valves, piping and gauges at a cost of \$120,000.

Bloomberg said OCCC has not yet taken any action toward making Counsilman Hunsaker’s recommended repairs because the college does not have the funding.

“At this point it’s cost,” he said. “Right now, we’re at a point where we’re saying ‘if these improvements are to be made, what’s the plan in order to get those done?’

“We have not chosen that plan of action and right now, from a funding perspective, the institution doesn’t have the funds presently to be able to do that.”

Bloomberg said a plan of action will have to be made before going further. He said he sees this as being a project that could take several years and may require finding funding sources outside of the college.

“As we move forward and

as we look at what we’re going to do with the Aquatic Center with regard to this report, we’re going to [need] a plan of action that says ‘here’s how things could be funded.’ Clearly, I don’t think the best choice is trying to accomplish it all in a year.”

In the meantime, Bloomberg said, no one is at risk when using the Aquatic Center.

“There are no safety issues,” he said. “Nothing in there right now poses an inherent risk to swimmers, patrons, [or] staff members. The issue is that we just have a lot of equipment that operates in the Aquatic Center that is either at, or has exceeded, its useful lifespan.”

And, Bloomberg said, although Counsilman Hunsaker’s repair recommendations have not been made, OCCC officials have put money into the facility for other repairs and advancements.

“From a maintenance and repair standpoint, there have been things that we’ve done,” he said. “In about the last seven to eight years, we have put about \$750,000 into the Aquatic Center.

“About five years ago, we replaced the central part of the roof in the Aquatic Center [along with] new skylights.

That was about a half a million-dollar project.”

In addition, Bloomberg said, the college added large air circulating fans and worked on upgrading the filtration system about seven years ago.

Some \$563,852 was spent on the pool bulkhead, the skylight and roof replacement, PVC lane markers, circulation fans in the natatorium, and the athlete bleacher replacement, according to information provided by Bloomberg.

Bloomberg said part of that money came from Section 13 Offset funds — money the college receives from the State Legislature for campus maintenance and construction that is set aside specifically for campuswide renovations and improvements.

The remainder came from “contingency requests to the institution from funds that are not necessarily allocated,” he said.

Bloomberg said the Aquatic Center also has several different sources of revenue that help offset the costs of routine maintenance.

“In the summertime, we have a very large recreation fitness program for kids so we run hundreds of children through our summer camps and recre-

ation and fitness,” he said.

Some of the programs include Learn to Swim, Advanced Swimming, and OCCC’s Mako Shark Swim Team, Bloomberg said. Swim meets also bring in revenue, he said.

“We host numerous swim meets throughout the year. We host an event every December called the Elite Meet that brings in about 700 to 800 athletes from around the country. We host high school regional meets here. We’re the home swim facility for seven different high schools, [and] those high schools pay for lane rentals.”

Bloomberg said these are ways money is brought in to fund the facility.

He said OCCC students with a valid ID can use the pool at no charge.

“When you enroll here, our students have access to the Wellness Center. I want to make sure that our students are aware that [being] an OCCC student includes use of the gymnasium, the weight room, the Cardio Center [and] the Aquatic Center.”

For more information about the Aquatic Center, visit www.occc.edu/rf/aquatic.html.

The OCCC Aquatic Center feasibility study can be viewed at pioneer.occc.edu.

Pool: Students encouraged to take advantage of freebies

Continued from page 1

“During the summer, it’s mostly community members,” she said. “We have three swim teams that swim here. We have Bluewater Divers that use the facility for classes.”

Bluewater Divers is an Oklahoma City scuba diving shop that offers scuba classes, according to their website at <http://bluewaterokc.com>.

The regular swim clubs that use the Aquatic Center are the Mako Shark Swim Team, King Marlin Swim Club, and American Energy Swim Club, Valentine said.

“They pay for lane rentals

and then they pay to host swim meets here, as well.”

The Mako Shark Swim Team is an OCCC program, Valentine said.

“They’re kids that pretty much graduate up from swim lessons on to the next level of swim team so [it’s] before they’re super competitive, but they’re still learning,” Valentine said.

Valentine encourages students and faculty to use the facility.

“Faculty, staff and students are allowed to use the aquatic center free of charge with either their employee ID or their student ID,” Valentine said.

Valentine said she would like to see more students use the Aquatic Center.

“I don’t know that a lot of the students know that it’s available to them,” she said.

“When we have our Success in College and Life classes, we let them know that one of the perks of being a student here is that they can use the Aquatic Center and the Wellness Center with their student ID free of charge.”

Brandon Boland, business major and OCCC employee, said many students don’t know about the Aquatic Center.

“Most people don’t know that it’s there because it’s near

the back of the school and unless they have a class over in that area, they don’t see it,” Boland said.

Monica Gordon, public relations major and OCCC employee, said she is aware of the pool but feels the facility is usually too busy.

“Even though it’s open to students, I don’t feel as if it’s as open [compared] to the gym and Fitness Center, where you go in and you always have space,” she said.

“I feel like I’m intruding [because] maybe they’re having a meet or a class.”

Thomas Jackson, Computer Aided Drafted Design, said it’s

good to have free access to the facility.

“I’m not really big on swimming but it’s nice to know that,” Jackson said.

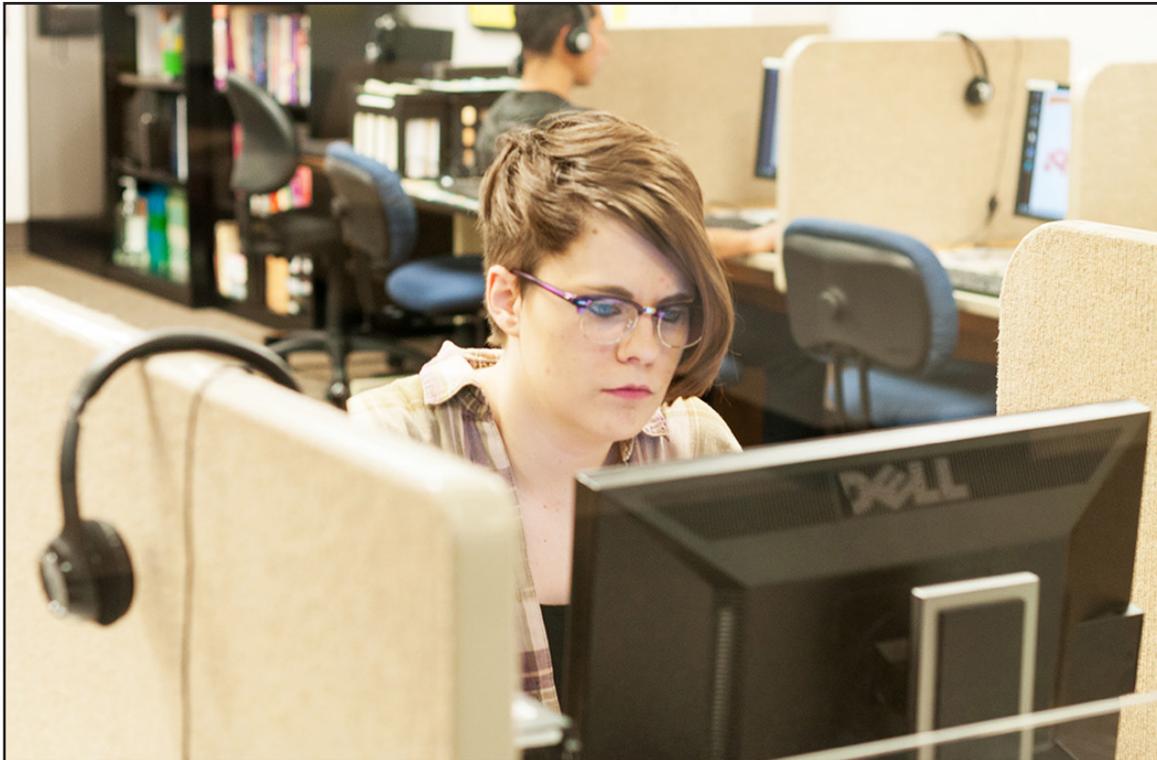
Valentine said the Aquatic Center will be open Monday through Friday throughout the summer. The hours are:

- From 6 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Open recreational swim from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Open swim from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday

For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Concentration



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Psychology major Ruth Mayo does Spanish homework on June 6 on one of the many available computers in the World Languages and Cultures Center, located on the second floor of the Main Building. To find out more about the WLCC, including operating hours, visit www.occc.edu/world.

COMMUNITY | CAD professor said he gets students ready for four-year university classes

Computer-aided design everywhere

JAKE MCMAHON
Videographer
pioneervideo@occc.edu

Computer-Aided Design, or CAD, is a field that applies to a variety of different occupations, said Computer-Aided Technology professor John Helton.

Helton said Computer Aided Design can be used in architecture, engineering and video game design.

Although a typical college student would not know what Computer-Aided Design is, Helton said, it is all around.

"If you've got a book for like a washing machine or a dryer and you've got that electronic schematic that shows how the whole system is wired up, someone had to create that drawing.

"If you've got a lawnmower and you've got this assembly drawing showing you how to put it together, that was drawn in CAD software.

"If someone is in the machine shop and needs to build something," Helton said, "they need working drawings."

In CAD class, Helton said, students use software called AutoCAD.

"It's a trademark name," he said. "AutoCAD has been around since 1982 and I've been using it since 1986.

"The software has developed into what we call parametric modeling, where we design three-dimensional buildings and mechanical parts, and it does all the drafting for us," Helton said.

"So instead of a drafter spending hours and hours drawing the front of a building, they basically design the building and the software creates that 2D drawing.

Helton said many of his students are from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and University of Central Oklahoma.

"Because when you get into the College of Architecture or the College of Engineering, they don't teach you the CAD software.

"They just assume that you know it or that you will pick it up.

"It's kind of like a math class that expects you to use a calculator but

they won't teach you how to use a calculator."

Helton said his students are ready for university work.

"[When] they leave [the CAD] class, they should be able to draw anything that is presented in front of them," he said.

"So if it's a floor plan, if it's a mechanical drawing, if it's a site map, they should be able to draw it (with AutoCAD)."

Helton briefly described life before professionals had the benefit of Computer-Aided Design software.

"On the drafting board, users would spend hours just drawing those by hand," he said. "Well, now we can actually do it all on the computer."

Helton said before CAD software, blueprints were actually blue because they had to be printed with chemically treated ammonia.

"The field's the same," Helton said. "It's just that the technology we use is a lot different."

For more information, visit occc.edu and choose "Computer-Aided Design" under "Browse our Programs."

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Oklahoma Film Institute summer cinema clinics

The OCCC Oklahoma Film Institute will present Summer cinema clinics through Saturday, July 12. The series of five, three-day clinics will be held in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Thursday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Individual sessions will involve production, script writing, directing, cinematography and editing. Tuition for each session is \$300. Space is limited. For more information or to enroll, call Studio Coordinator Gray Frederickson 405-682-7847.

Rec and Fit camps offered for ages 6 to 18

The month of June is packed with basketball, soccer, karate and T-ball, while July is set aside for volleyball, multi-sports, competitive swimming, indoor track and field, flag football, intro to dance techniques, and intro to cheer and dance. See more about Rec and Fit Camps at www.occc.edu/news/2014/summercamps14.html#sthash.KMuu-VqxC.dpuf.

Counselors in Training

Teens, ages 13 through 17, can volunteer to work during summer sports camps at OCCC. Counselors in Training is a new program for teens to volunteer while earning community service hours. Each student must attend mandatory trainings that cover topics including character development, leadership skills, team building, supervision of children and basic first aid. After successfully completing training, students will be scheduled to volunteer in one of four summer camp programs. All enrollment for sports camps and College for Kids classes is due by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the Monday start date of that class. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/news/2014/summercamps14.html#sthash.tpYonUSA.dpuf.

Row Triple-C Race

OCCC's own rowboat team will compete at the 2014 SandRidge Energy Stars and Stripes River Festival. The festival is free and will be held at Oklahoma City Boathouse District on Saturday, June 28. All students are welcome to attend.

For more information, visit <http://boathousedistrict.org/festivals-races/stars-stripes-river-festival/>. To see photos of Row Triple-C, visit <http://imgur.com/a/J5r5E#0>. For more information about Row Triple-C, visit www.occc.edu/dragon or contact Web Development and Social Media Supervisor John Richardson at 405-682-7552.

Coffee Shop, OCCC Cafe summer hours set

The summer hours of the OCCC Cafe and Coffee Shop are: from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7:30 a.m. to noon Friday; closed weekends. OCCC Cafe hours are: from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday; Closed weekends. For more information, call 405-682-1611.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to editor@occc.edu or drop by the Pioneer office located in 1F1 AH.

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.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

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

APPLIANCES

FOR SALE: White gas digital stove. Less than six months old. Super clean. No visible scratches. Call 405-922-0022 for prices and pictures.

FURNITURE

APARTMENT SALE: Mathis Brothers king-sized comforter set; dark brown toddler sleigh bed; bathroom decor. Many other items are being offered as well. Call 405-922-0022 for prices and pictures.

FOR SALE: Dark brown sofa and love seat sofa recliner. Both microfiber. Call 405-922-0022 for prices and pictures.

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

FEMALE ROOMMATE

WANTED: Room 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.

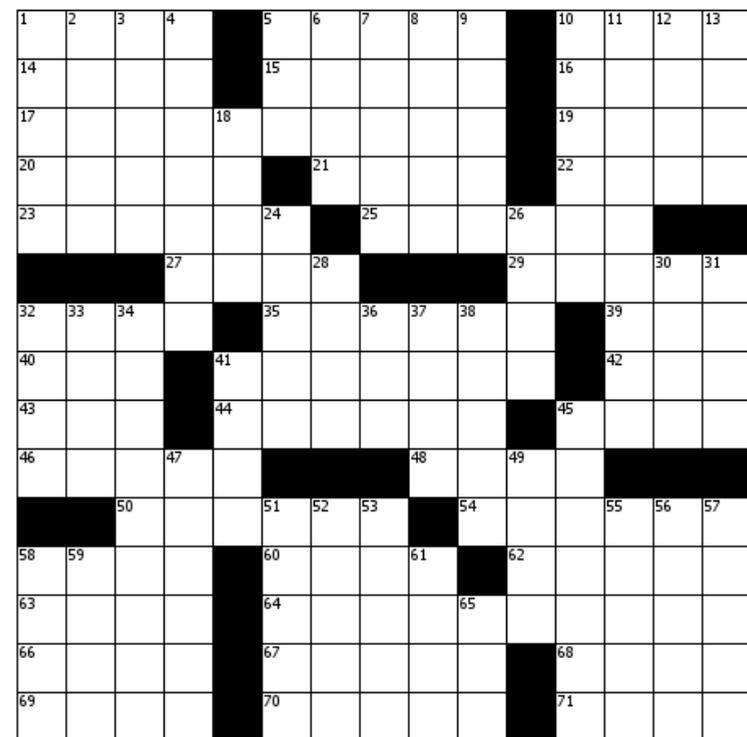
FOR SALE: Neiman Marcus Robert Rodriguez collection size 14 strapless cocktail dress. Never worn. Still has store tags. \$50. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

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.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Made broadcloth
- 5. Capital in the Himalayas
- 10. John Candy comedy series
- 14. Ladd of film
- 15. Pale hues
- 16. "America" pronoun
- 17. Spicy cookie
- 19. "Newsweek" cover number
- 20. "___ little bit helps"
- 21. Tokyo serving
- 22. Irish stew ingredient
- 23. Dude ranch, e.g.
- 25. Satirization
- 27. Lord's servant
- 29. Poise, e.g.
- 32. Klutzy types
- 35. Far from genteel
- 39. That woman's
- 40. 61, to Cicero
- 41. Items involved in this puzzle's theme
- 42. Score on an aced hole
- 43. Cub Scout group
- 44. Dined at a diner
- 45. Mythological river
- 46. Perfect places
- 48. Word form for "outer"
- 50. Long-winged seabird
- 54. Gave (to)
- 58. Potpourri containers
- 60. Cupid alias
- 62. T-shirt size
- 63. Did a dismount
- 64. Overall perspective
- 66. Area
- 67. More wintry
- 68. Left in the wine cellar
- 69. Catherine ___-Jones
- 70. Fandango, for one
- 71. Former Atl. crossers



Down

- 1. Reno transaction
- 2. Pimiento surrounder
- 3. Wind-direction signalers
- 4. Occupy the attention of
- 5. Env. enclosure
- 6. Cat's "Back off!"
- 7. Paquin and Moffo
- 8. Vampire vanquisher
- 9. Poplar tree
- 10. Phonograph needle
- 11. Mean-spirited remark
- 12. Locker-room group
- 13. Predicate part
- 18. Brontë character
- 24. 10/31 option
- 26. Fortnight's 14
- 28. Starlet's goal
- 30. Counting-rhyme starter
- 31. Cretaceous predator, briefly
- 32. Shoppe preceder on signs
- 33. Hewn
- 34. Contractual details
- 36. '20s car
- 37. "I can't deny that"
- 38. Concoct, as a plot
- 41. Assign roles
- 45. Some Mozart music
- 47. Lipton alternative
- 49. Soft mineral
- 51. Up one's offer at an auction
- 52. "All My Children" role
- 53. Get online via password
- 55. Pharmacy inventory
- 56. Marsh bird
- 57. Actions
- 58. Mardi Gras music
- 59. Baby-wipes additive
- 61. Blueprint detail
- 65. Indignation

Buzzed driving is drunk driving.

U.S. Department of Transportation

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE for ONLY \$32 a week!

—get your advertisement message to 5,000 prospective customers with a business-card size ad—

Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7307, or e-mail: adman@occc.edu

<http://pioneer.occc.edu>

Take time to be a dad today.

877-4DAD411
www.fatherhood.gov

AG CARE

Campus life



JOHN HUYNH//PIONEER

Nursing majors and recent high school graduates Diana Delao and Eunice Perez sit in the shade June 11 as they wait for their ride outside of Entry 1 of the Main Building. Many outdoor seating areas are provided throughout the campus.

FREELANCER HAS TRAVELED THE WORLD, COVERING DISASTER NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Photojournalist takes students on visual journey

CHANDLER PETTY
News Writing Student

Heading to work in the morning, most people are likely to grab their keys, wallet, phone and briefcase. But what about a waterproof camera, satellite phone, mylar blanket, solar-powered battery and bullet-proof vest?

This survival equipment is on the daily checklist of freelance photojournalist Alekz Londos, whose career has taken him around the world, far beyond the walls of any typical nine-to-five office job.

On Tuesday, June 10, Londos took time out of his schedule to stop in at OCCC and speak to a News Writing class filled with aspiring journalism, advertising and public relations majors.

Londos, 33, sat multiple backpacks filled with his gear on the floor and began the lecture by telling the class why he was in Oklahoma — he was

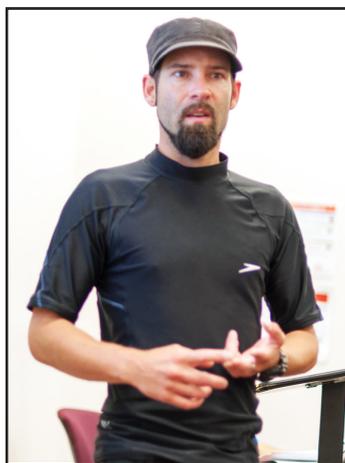
on a storm-chasing mission.

He spoke with great passion and animation, sharing exciting stories of the ride-alongs he had taken part in with different storm chasers. He displayed captivating images and short clips of lightning storms he had covered.

Then, Londos spoke about what he loves best — working as a freelance journalist.

“I prefer working freelance because I can cover stories which I feel will be helpful to the most people,” he said. “... I also don’t like waking up early, or shaving.”

Londos said he is willing to go to enormous lengths to get the



Alekz Londos

best images, video and stories possible, making him no stranger to dangerous situations.

He said he has covered 30 to 40 forest fires since 2003, and has sent countless pictures and video clips to news stations across the nation, prompting a reporter on CNN’s Headline News to describe him as a “renegade

photographer,” after he came dangerously close to a fire.

“With so many people trying to get the same story I think, ‘what can I do to be better than the next guy?’”

Not only is Londos willing to play with fire to get the best story possible, he said he is willing to drop himself into

the middle of any situation regardless of the level of danger.

Whether it’s driving 2,500 miles in his Ford Bronco from his home in Santa Cruz, California, into the eye of a storm in New Orleans to cover and provide relief to victims of Hurricane Katrina, or withdrawing from his college classes at Cabrillo College to fly to the Philippines and provide disaster relief in the aftermath of super typhoon Haiyan, it is clear Londos is willing to go above and beyond in order to get the best possible stories.

After speaking nearly an hour and a half, Londos drew his lecture to a close, leaving the captivated students with one last piece of advice.

“Tripods make a difference so always carry one. People will take you seriously and give you a better story.”

To learn more about Londos, visit his website at www.AdvancedDisasterRelief.com.