It’s hammer time

Film and Video Production majors Zach Kley, Haden Tolbert, Tyler Frederickson and Jeffery Wade work together to build a set for their Production Design class on April 22 in OCCC’s VPAC Theater. “We are building a set of a 1920’s bar,” Kley said.

College degree paves road to success

Devery Youngblood recalls shaky educational start

DARLA KILHOFFER
News Writing Student

The college Board of Regents recognized Devery Youngblood on April 27 for his service as a regent and presented him with a framed proclamation, thanking him for his dedication to the board.

Then he was sworn in to serve a full seven-year term, after being reappointed by Gov. Mary Fallin.

Youngblood served the remaining four years of Dave Lopez’s term when Lopez was appointed as Secretary of Commerce.

Youngblood said he chose to be a regent, which is a volunteer position, because of the students.

“I’ve never enjoyed anything as much as this board and the reason is you guys: the students,” Youngblood said. Though his commitment to higher education is significant, Youngblood said it has not always been that way in his life.

He said he identifies with college students in many respects.

“The students here remind me of me,” Youngblood said. “I was a first-generation college student. I had no encouragement to go to school. The first time I tried it I bombed out, to be honest. “I went to a university, but I didn’t see any purpose behind it. My grades went down quickly because I didn’t care. “I didn’t have any real track record but that of a dropout. It was only later that I realized I wasn’t going to get to do anything I really wanted to do unless I had a degree.”

Youngblood first attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

See YOUNGBLOOD page 13

Testing Center sets hours for finals week

CHRISTY MONTENEGRO
News Writing Student

Finals week in the Testing Center starts out busy and gets busier, said Linda Little, director of Testing and Assessment at OCCC. On average, about 4,000 tests are administered during finals week, Little said.

To accommodate students, the Testing Center will be offering extended hours during finals week. Monday through Friday, May
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Editor says take advantage of resources and become useful to others

Network with peers, take initiative

I’ll start this thing off by apologizing, because this is going to be cheesy. Seeing this is my very last editorial for the Pioneer, I wanted to leave some words of advice to my peers at OCCC. I’ve attended OCCC since fall of 2012 and it’s been a ride, and it has been quick. Peers, this college is full of opportunities — not only for learning, but for networking. I cannot stress enough how important it is to network with fellow students and professors. These people can help you out in many ways, and will if you’re nice enough to them.

According to artofmanliness.com, here are a few tips on learning to network:

“Be cognizant of your image and reputation.” I have to say, dressing nicely and maintaining a perfectly groomed beard has gotten me places. Okay, not really, but people take you more seriously when you look professional. Showing up to an interview like you just woke up and mowed your lawn isn’t the way to go.

“Offer to work for free,” a concept many people disagree with, but I’ve offered to work for free on projects I wasn’t familiar with and learned something new in the process.

In fact, basically any Jake McMahon film you see from here out, I acted in for free — with the exception of a paid iHop dinner (thanks Jake). But that’s the exception — make sure you’re working for free on something that can offer you new insight. You may not get paid, but you’ll earn some knowledge.

Last, “adopt the right mindset,” which means learning how to become valuable to the people you meet. I’ve developed a motto recently, “be valuable to me, and I promise I will be valuable to you.” It’s important to let people know that you’re a valuable asset to their team or network. Everyone is in search for information, or somebody who knows things they do not, and in that way, information truly is power.

In the end, it’s all about who you know. If you play your cards right and talk to the right folks, you’ll find yourself in a group of talented and eccentric human beings like I have.

Also, take advantage of your resources. The college has many which are available to you all semester. But more than using the college resources, find your own resources. Create a project with your peers that can impact your community.

I’ve learned recently in economics, it’s all about marginal benefit above marginal cost. Ask yourself, are you benefiting from your life activities more than the cost? If not, do something about it.

As much as it pains me to say, keep an agenda. Staying organized is a crucial part of being successful. I’ve learned to utilize my iPhone calendar and alarms so much that it’s pretty much how I get most things done, because I’m a forgetful person.

Finally, don’t ever be afraid. Honestly, do not fear anything when it comes to becoming successful. Success isn’t something that just happens — it’s a practice, or a craft which anyone can master.

Forget every single insecurity or fear you have about meeting people or doing things, because the truth is, nobody has any idea what they’re doing to an extent.

There is an empowerment that comes with letting go of your doubts and I’m passing that secret on to you, because I want you to be successful, to be valuable, and to not be afraid to take control of your situation.

—BRYCE McELHANEY
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | ‘Brief Garland’ showing scheduled for May 12

To the Editor:

The Southwest Oklahoma City Public Library, located on 2201 SW 134th St., celebrates the life and works of author Harold Keith with a movie showing based upon his book “Brief Garland” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 12.

The book was remade in 2006 into a film by Robert Collector and is based on a true story from a 1960s Oklahoma town and the dreams of a local basketball coach.

Keith’s accomplishments are wide-ranging, from being the University of Oklahoma’s first Sports Information Director to publishing more than 20 books for children and adults.

He received the Newbery award for children’s literature in 1958 for his Civil War novel “Rifles for Watie.”

Keith was honored during a ceremony May 3 at Norman Public Library Central, in which the library was designated as a national Literary Landmark.

The designation is due to the display of the Newbery medal in the children’s department of the library, where it has resided since 1993.

Robert Collector, director and screenplay writer for the film, gave permission for the library and others in the Pioneer Library System to show the film.

The Harold Keith festivities are sponsored by the Pioneer Library System, Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma and the Friends of the Norman Public Library.

For more information on this or any of the programs and services of the library, call 979-2200 or go online to www.pioneerlibrarysystem.org/sokc.

—CHRISTIAN POTTS
PIONEER LIBRARY
A quick breakfast on-the-go from the campus bookstore wows with deliciousness

**Bookstore nutbar proves KIND**

Typically, I eat breakfast every day, or at least make an effort to eat something before lunch.

One Thursday morning, I had left my house in a rush and started running dangerously low on energy due to the fact that I ran out the door without my usual smoothie. So, I walked down to the college bookstore to find something to hold me over until lunch.

At first, I walked down the junk food aisle with the Pop Tarts, cookies and cereal. I was reaching for the chocolate peanut butter Pop Tarts when all of a sudden, my conscience told me to put them down and keep walking.

I went to the other side of the aisle where the healthier food is kept and made a decision to choose something. I looked through the choices feeling disappointed and knowing I wouldn’t get the same satisfaction as a Pop Tart.

Then, I saw it — the KIND Peanut Butter Dark Chocolate + Protein Bar. I had heard the company name in the news recently because the FDA claims they aren’t actually healthy due to the amount of saturated fat from the nuts in the bars.

This sounded like the perfect combination of unhealthy and healthy to make me a happy person until lunch. I paid more than $2 for the bar and went on my way.

I sat down to eat the bar, bracing myself for disappointment and mediocre taste, but when I took that first bite, all of my worries faded away. It was crunchy, chewy, nutty, chocolatey — everything a great bar should be.

It has peanuts, almonds, walnuts, cashews, peanut butter, brazil nuts, honey and other ingredients that you can actually recognize, unlike other regular granola bars. KIND bars are also non-GMO, have natural ingredients and have seven grams of protein per bar.

I felt great eating something healthy even if the FDA disapproves. And stayed full until lunch time. I purposely forgot my breakfast the next day so I could eat one again. Be kind to yourself and eat a KIND bar.

To learn about more of their products and find where KIND Snacks are sold near you, visit www.kindsnacks.com. Rating: A

—Lauren Daniel
Online Editor

**Humble Pie too cocky about pizza**

The greatest tragedy of our time is the phrase, “authentic Chicago style.”

It’s thrown about willy-nilly by every crook with a hotdog or circle of dough.

I’ve put it to the test all over. Almost always, it’s resulted in grave disappointment and frustration.

I order $60 deep dish pizzas from Chicago’s Giordano’s or Lou Malnati’s. They’re shipped on dry ice to my doorstep. So, I’ve kept my pizza standards high but I keep an open mind too.

Humble Pie in Edmond was touted as the legit, Chicago-style pizza place of Oklahoma. I was skeptical.

There are two signs above the counter, “Authentic Chicago Style” and “Genuine New York Style.” These two things are sworn enemies. Any place claiming to have mastered both understands neither.

I ordered a “Chicago style” deep-dish pizza and paid roughly $25 for something just slightly larger than a traditional apple pie. It was carved into eight small slices about a third the size of a Giordanos’s slice.

I was disappointed not only by the area of the slices but more by their depth. The bulk of each slice ran about a half inch deep. This is about the size of the layer of sausage you’d find spanning the entire bottom portion of a deep dish in Chicago. Otherwise though, the actual makeup of the pizza looked right.

The sauce was above the cheese, the cheese was white and dense, and the crust was flaky and crisp — and the exact color I’d hoped for.

The flavors of Humble Pie’s deep dish were on point. The cheese blend was worthy in taste and texture. Their signature sauce was delicious authentic. The crust tasted like it should but was unnecessarily thick for only holding up the wimpy mass of ingredients above, thus overwhelming the other flavors a bit.

I support the local efforts nevertheless. Humble Pie puts out a good pizza. “Authentic Chicago style?” No.

And any place that tries to convince the rest of the country that dainty things of limited depth are the style in Chicago, should have to answer for it.

Rating: B

—Jorge Krzyzaniak
Senior Writer

**Urbanspoon app delivers**

I love food. Fast food, cooked food, food food food — I love it all.

And when I’m out of town visiting friends or family you can bet I’m looking to eat out at a local restaurant. McDonald’s and Subway are great and all but what could beat a local diner tucked behind an alley or a bar hidden in an underground cellar?

When I am searching for such places, I use the smartphone app Urbanspoon to help me find the location my stomach desires.

Urbanspoon is the smartphone restaurant information and recommendation service app intended for discovering well-rated restaurants in the nearby area.

If you’re out of town with friends and looking for a restaurant to eat a delicious meal, Urbanspoon is the app you could use to find that restaurant.

My favorite feature is the “restaurants nearby feature.” By clicking this, you are given numerous choices of nearby restaurants in order of distance to pick from — and a rating is shown beside each restaurant listed.

So, if a restaurant is rated 8 percent, it means that particular restaurant’s food and service will be extremely unpleasant.

Or you can simply use the search option by typing in the name of a restaurant and pressing submit.

Urbanspoon will then search for the nearest location of the restaurant you have just typed in. “Shake” is another fun feature on the app. “Shake” is a lot like a slot machine, meaning you have no idea what results you’ll get.

Just click on the shake option and once you’re in the “shake” page, shake your phone. The app will generate random restaurants for you to choose from.

You can narrow your search by using the filter option.

This allows you to find a restaurant nearby, whereas “shake” could give you a location several miles away.

Overall, Urbanspoon is a terrific phone app with reliable reviews and satisfying results.

Urbanspoon is free to download. I highly recommend all food enthusiasts to add the app to their phone before their next trip out of town.

—Ethan Cooper
Photographer
PRODUCT REVIEW | Console is better than Xbox 360

Xbox One brings impressive new features to gaming

Previously I took to our review columns to express my love and also hatred for my Xbox 360. On my birthday in April, with my loving family members’ help, we retired said Xbox 360 and replaced it with a brand new Xbox One.

I was beyond excited, as bringing in this new console meant I would be replacing my barely working, loudly whirring pile of junk with a potentially quiet, properly running machine.

As I unboxed my $350 purchase, I became giddy. Finally I would be able to watch Netflix properly, have access to any game owned for that system and enjoy my down time once again. I've had the Xbox One for about three weeks now, and while some slight technical issues have arisen, overall, I am impressed.

One great new feature is the console will save your place in games and apps unless you completely shut it down. Your games also will not close if you open another app and will pick up right where you left off before. Another great new feature is called snapping, which allows you to run two apps at one time. One app is primary, and the other app runs in a small window to the side. This way, you can play music on YouTube while playing a game, and your screen would only slightly be reduced in size.

When it comes down to the nitty-gritty, the console is just better than its predecessor. Games run smoother and look nicer, even on the same TV. And the hardware is able to support all these new features, which require lots of power and consistency, with relative ease.

With the console basically being akin to a computer with a Microsoft Windows operating system, I would also think the hardware is built to support the system it’s running.

The great new features and properly working hardware mean I once again have a console I am happy with. The only downside is that I have around 35 Xbox 360 games, which cannot be played on the Xbox One.

Rating: A

—CLAYTON MITCHELL
SPORTS WRITER

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Chili’s gains customer from competitor’s failure

Applebee’s not ‘the bees knees’

I don't get to see my parents very often, but when I do, I like to treat them to lunch. Just recently they came to visit and while we were out, we decided to stop by Applebee’s located at 4825 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City for some lunch.

Now, before I go about my review, let me just say that I normally pick Chili's over Applebee’s even though they are almost the same, but Applebee’s was closer.

When we first walked in, it took two hostesses to try and seat us. That should have been our first sign to leave, but we gave them the benefit of the doubt.

After being seated and waiting longer than what we expected, our waitress sulked over to take our drink order. I wanted to tell her to smile, but was afraid of what would end up in my food from her and the rest of the staff walking around like they hated their jobs.

Finally, after about 30 minutes of waiting, our food was brought to us, or at least we thought it was our food.

The steaks were nothing but gristle, the salads had no dressing and the potatoes were cold.

Since we were paying for our food, we had it taken back so we could get something a little more acceptable. I mean my goodness, it seemed as though they left the food sitting out for the 30 minutes we were waiting.

After we had more edible food given to us, it seemed as though the staff left us to fend for ourselves.

Our waitress, probably happy to be rid of us, swiftly walked by and dropped the check on our table. No ‘how is it going?’ or ‘need anything else?’ Just a walk and drop. How rude.

With all the things that went wrong, I am scratching Applebee’s off my list of places to go eat. Usually, I give them the benefit of the doubt and give a second chance. But this was Applebee’s fifth chance from me. Although as previously stated, Chili’s is the same as Applebee’s, but their customer service is way above the quality of their sister restaurant.

Chili’s, you have another customer now coming to you, no matter which is closer.

Applebee’s, you disappoint. You failed far past the limit of no return.

Rating: F-

—KATIE AXTELL
COMMUNITY WRITER
Talk to legislators, incoming president says

OLIVIA GUERRA
News Writing Student

A class of journalism students learned their age group votes less often than any other age group in America.

Jerry Steward, OCCC’s executive vice president, said in a speech April 23 that most people between the ages of 18 and 25 believe their state representatives don’t listen to what they have to say.

“Therefore, they figure why bother to vote,” he said. “You should bother because you live in a free country and if you don’t bother, you’re going to lose your free country.”

He pointed out that politicians listen more to the people who can help them or hurt them at the polls, rather than those who don’t “bother” to vote.

Steward recently was named the college’s next president. He will take over after the retirement of President Paul Sechrist this summer.

Steward discussed the power of political engagement.

He encouraged students to voice their opinions concerning controversial issues, saying people should be contacting their state representatives and letting them know how they feel about these issues.

“That is where the problem lies,” Steward said, referring to a college meeting he spoke at recently. When he asked how many opposed concealed weapons on college campuses, more than 100 people raised their hands.

When asked how many of them had contacted their state representative or senator to inform them about their opinion, only three or four raised their hands.

Steward believes the best way to influence elected representatives is through a personal visit to their office.

“In order to be successful when reaching out to a representative, it is critical to let them know you are their constituent,” said Steward, who served in the state Legislature several years ago.

“This is vital, he said.

“Politicians care about people who can vote for them or against them,” he emphasized, saying the same was true for him when he was in office.

“They can beat you at the next election or vote for you.”

Steward said the world of politics has changed a lot, primarily because of computers and the Internet.

While it used to take days or weeks to send out messages, now it can be done with just the click of a mouse.

“The way your generation does messaging has changed but the fundamentals haven’t really changed all that much.”

—JERRY STEWART
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

He said to make sure the elected official knows you live in his or her district.

Steward said he came from parents who didn’t finish high school and a family that wasn’t politically involved.

He, on the other hand, has loved the political game from the time he was in grade school.

Steward stressed the importance of being politically involved for the benefit of one’s future and career.

He suggested the easiest way to get engaged is to volunteer for a political campaign.

By doing so, it is an opportunity to gain instant access and instant credibility with the official one has campaigned for.

“Politics is show business for ugly people,” said Steward jokingly.

While there aren’t any smart phone applications for voting currently, Steward suspects that, with technology, voting online will emerge someday.

Voting “apps” bring the possibility for increased political involvement as well as an increased number of voters.

Steward’s concern is that potential voting applications could make a difference but they won’t make people vote.

After a 41-year relationship with the college, Steward believes that everything he has done and learned will benefit OCCC when he officially becomes president on July 2.

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Students prepare to say goodbye to class, cadavers

The following story is the final part of a three-part series on OCCC’s Human Anatomy course where students are working with human cadavers. Part one of the series ran in the Jan. 30 issue of the Pioneer. Part two ran in the March 13 issue. Both also can be found online at http://pioneer.occc.edu.

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

With only nine days left in the semester, Jordan Garner said she still doesn’t know if she will pass BIO 2255.

“I won’t know until after the final,” she said.

Garner said the course, where students work with human cadavers to explore anatomy, is known for being difficult. She often felt a great deal of stress, she said.

And once or twice she briefly entertained the notion of dropping the class. But, she said, her classmates provided a valuable and necessary support system to keep her going.

“It’s just a really tough class, but it’s nice to have people in there and we all try to help each other out,” Garner said.

“You know you’re not alone so it’s OK.”

Johnny Wong, who has taken the course once before, said it was his only class this semester and it was familiar territory so he didn’t feel overburdened.

Wong said he did notice the tension among his peers and hopes he helped them in some way.

The best part of the class was his classmates, Wong said. He said he hopes to have made some lasting connections with those he worked alongside this semester.

In spite of the stress and hard work, Garner said, she enjoyed the class immensely and is glad to have taken it. And, if she has to repeat the course, she said that’s OK.

Garner said she relished the teaching style of Biology Professor Nathaniel Abraham whose use of a refrain from a Backstreet Boys song and some profound artwork kept things interesting and enjoyable even when the work was difficult.

“He is super funny,” she said. “But he really tries to teach you how everything is connected and how not just to apply things to class but how everything relates in the outside world.”

Wong agreed.

“He’s a pretty cool guy,” he said. “He definitely knows a lot. He wants you to learn more than you need to learn so that instead of just knowing what something is, you get to learn how it works.

“If you take Abraham before physiology it’s a good thing because he pretty much gets you ready to get into the physiology course.”

The most astonishing moment of the course, Garner said, was a demonstration where air was pumped into the cadaver’s lungs, inflating them to their full size and showing how they function.

“I’m more knowledgeable about the body, big picture wise,” she said. “I guess I’ve learned a lot more about myself.”

Garner said she’s gained a new understanding of the permanent effects of one’s everyday choices upon their body.

“It was really cool to see that even though a person’s dead, their organs can still be made to work,” she said.

“It made me really think about whether I’d donate my body. I’m really thankful to whoever the person is because it helps me learn more . . . .”

She said she wouldn’t have considered donating her body before but now might.

“So yeah, I guess it’s kind of weird — it feels like saying goodbye to the cadaver,” Garner said.

Wong said he was able to stay detached.

“It feels different from looking at a living person;” he said. “It doesn’t feel like an actual person.”

Wong said he still isn’t sure if he’s prepared to work on live patients but he hopes that’s in his future.

“It’s too soon to say,” he said. “That depends on what happens once I get into the nursing program.”

His hope, he said, is that he will be working in hospitals in a few years, using the knowledge he’s gleaned from the cadavers at OCCC to improve the lives of the people around him.

Garner’s hopes are similar.

“Hopefully in five years,” she said, “I’ll see myself as a registered nurse in a psychiatric hospital.”

She said she hopes to enter the nursing program this summer.

Wong said he will be happy to begin his path through the nursing program in the fall.

Biology Professor Nathaniel Abraham said throughout the semester, about 50 percent of his BIO 2255 students have dropped the class, which is the normal rate.

Abraham said the students who remain are dedicated.

“They spend a lot of time after class,” he said.

“The students who really want to do well in the class will keep asking questions.”

Abraham said the students who ask questions tend to do better. He said it’s also helpful to pique their interest by asking them analytical questions and by using hand-drawn illustrations.

“I think it does something to you when your professor is putting a lot of work into it too,” he said.

Abraham said his anatomy drawings are a part of his effort to make the class more interesting. He also likes to keep things lighthearted.

“It’s fast rolling, and I make sure it’s not boring and we have lots of jokes,” he said.

“It’s always with the view of furthering their knowledge about anatomy.

“Yes, it’s fun, but every time I’m joking, I’m also putting very deep questions into them and making them think and taking them to the next step.”

Abraham said teaching assistants Kiamars Golmoradi and Paul Kernen, along with Biology Adjunct Professor Rosemary Harkins, have been a great help to the class.

“They are sort of the dream team.”

Golmoradi said he likes that Abraham inspires curiosity in the students, but doesn’t spoon feed them.

“He tries to make sure they understand the concepts, and he really emphasizes that,” he said.

“he teaches a lot of the scientific concepts and tries to tie it all back together, and it definitely does give a better picture of the body.”

Kernen said Abraham makes the students want to learn and look things up for themselves.

“He inspires [students] to think outside of the box.”

Harkins calls herself the special dissectionist — she comes in when needed to perform specific dissections.

Abraham said he teaches the material and the teaching assistants help students apply the knowledge in the lab.

He said though the students have many resources, it’s difficult because of the high standard for the course.

“You could take this class and go anywhere and be able to make this grade or better,” he said.

For more information, contact Abraham at nathaniel.abraham@occc.edu. For more information on BIO 2255, visit www.occc.edu/biology/courses.html.
President Paul Sechrist speaks to OCCC’s graduating class of 2015. He told the grads he was honored to be able to speak to them. “What a profound privilege it has been for me in the last decade to be the president of Oklahoma City Community College,” Sechrist said. “Tonight represents why there is even a president. To the graduates, you are why there is an OCCC. Your degree is a ticket to a better life. For our state to become better, we need more people like you.”

Rain drummed down upon the Cox Convention Center as OCCC President Paul Sechrist delivered his final formal address to graduates during the 2015 Commencement Ceremony.

Not only rain dampened the cheeks of some graduates, their friends and families, or of Sechrist himself when he gave the keynote speech to OCCC’s 42nd graduating class on May 8.

“What a profound privilege it has been for me in the last decade to be the president of Oklahoma City Community College,” Sechrist said.

“Tonight represents why there is even a president. To the graduates, you are why there is an OCCC. Your degree is a ticket to a better life. For our state to become better, we need more people like you.”

Then Sechrist took a moment in his speech to question what he could tell this graduating class that hadn’t already been said.

“What can I say to inspire you?” he asked.

As he addressed graduates to tell them, “It’s all about you,” his voice cracked and his eyes visibly moistened. Much of the crowd responded similarly.

“I thought about your journey to this milestone tonight,” Sechrist said, enumerating the array of challenges that he’s known OCCC students to have overcome.

Elize Hopkins, graduating with a science degree, said Sechrist’s speech moved her. “It made me cry,” she said. “I’m the first one out of my family to have any sort of degree.”

Sechrist then addressed friends and families in the crowd, urging them to take lessons from the graduates, lessons he said he had learned from OCCC’s students.

“Don’t give up,” he said. “These students didn’t.”

“They didn’t give up because it got difficult. They know that life is difficult and they work through the difficult.”

Sechrist told the crowd to do as the graduates had done and disregard words of those who discourage them.

His third lesson for the audience was about courage. “Don’t let fear stop you,” Sechrist said.

He addressed the graduates once more, offering parting advice.

“Stay curious. If you stay curious, you will continue learning forever,” he said. “Be kind to one another.”

Sechrist congratulated students for their rejection of fear and negativity, and encouraged them on their way forward.

“Here you are tonight and all of us are gathered here with you to watch you fly,” he said.

Miranda Carlisle graduated with a humanities degree. “It was very emotional,” she said. “It’s sad to see him leave but I’m glad he was the last speaker.”

Sechrist ended the ceremony with an Irish blessing: “May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. And may the hand of a friend always be near you.”

“Until we meet again, may God hold you safe in the palm of his hand.”
Class of 2015 steps into the future

OCCC graduates wave to their family and friends during the 2015 graduation ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on May 8. Hundreds of students braved thunderstorms to receive their diplomas. President Paul Sechrist was the keynote speaker.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist congratulates Professor of the Year recipient Kathy Wheat during the 2015 graduation ceremony. Wheat is the program director and professor for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant program.

OCCC graduates wait before lining up at the 2015 graduation ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on May 8. OCCC President Paul Sechrist encouraged the grads with his final speech before he retires July 1. “Stay curious. If you stay curious, you will continue learning forever,” he said. “Be kind to one another.”
Grads find ways to express themselves

Several OCCC graduates personalized their graduation caps with various sayings and decorations at the 2015 commencement. It was one way to stand out to family members looking down on a sea of black-robed students.

Graduate Jorge Krzyzaniak holds a lifesize cutout of his friend and fellow graduate Ethan Cooper who was unable to attend the commencement.

History major Jenna Duvall waits to enter the graduation ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on May 8. Duvall personalized her scooter for the evening’s festivities.

Psychology major Tanya Richard gets ready to line up before the 2015 graduation ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on May 8.
Spring graduates about to walk the walk

"My congratulations to the graduates. You are to be commended for reaching this significant milestone."

PIONEER | OCCCD.EDU/PIONEER
Students acknowledged at awards ceremony

KATIE AXTELL
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

More than 130 students received awards at the 39th Annual Student Awards Ceremony held April 24 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Certificates of appreciation and achievement, along with volunteer and honor awards, were presented by various professors and sponsors.

Students who were awarded with certificates of appreciation and achievement, along with the president’s award for excellence were nominated by faculty for academic achievement and being an outstanding student.

Awards and recipients are as follows:

**President’s Award for Excellence:**
- Arts Division: Journalism and Broadcasting: Journalism Emphasis: Lauren Daniel.

**Business Division:**
- Business: Roman Alcantara.
- Automotive Technology: Gary Beebe.

**Chemistry and Biological Sciences Division:**
- Biology: Dawn Brown.
- Chemistry: Suifen Dong.

**English and Humanities Division:**
- Literature: Iesha Cobert.
- Literature: Kimberly Ray.

**Health Professions Division:**
- Speech-Language Pathology Assistant: Diana Harrison.
- Physical Therapy Assistant: Deborah Williams.

**Information Technology Division:**
- Computer Science transferring to UCO: Garrett Clement.
- Division of Social Sciences: Political Science: Lisa Shaw.

**Certificates of Appreciation:**
- Advocates of Peace: Derek Scarsella
- Black Student Association: Victoria Washington
- Cyber Club: Ginger Ellis
- Future Alumni Network: Lisa Lasater
- Health Professions Club: Kiziah Winn
- Hispanic Organization to Promote Education: Andres Perilla
- International Student Association: Linus Morgan
- Kappa Beta Delta: Miles Chaney
- Leading Individuals for Equality: Lisa Shaw
- Military Student Association: LaDonna Wieland
- Nursing Student Association: April Brooks
- Oklahoma Biotechnology Association: David Rochat
- Phi Theta Kappa: Natalie Flaming
- Pioneers: Bryce McElhaney
- Psi Beta: Jessica Stevens
- Psychology Club: Karli Smith
- Student Emergency Medical Science Association: David Bingham
- Speech Language Pathology Assistant Student Organization: Raquel Rosa
- Student Physical Therapist Assistant Organization: Sarah Ellison.

**Certificates of Achievement:**
- Arts Division:
  - Graphic Communications/Multimedia: Hannah Blackford
  - Film and Video Production: Aaron Chenoweth
  - Public Speaking: Abigail Connell
  - Journalism and Broadcasting/Broadcasting: Brianna Hogan
- English and Humanities Division: Humanities: Miranda Carlisle.
- Diversified Studies: Philosophy: Joseph Hughes.
- Math, Engineering and Physical Science Division: Physics: Fnu Roshan
- Mathematics: Dragon Tran.
- Engineering: Christopher Walker.

**Business Division:**
- Certificate of Mastery/General Office Support: Susan M. Atwell
- Business: Miles Chaney
- Business: Kristi Fields
- Administrative Office Technology/Office Specialist: Shavna V. Roesenfelt

**Chemistry and Biological Sciences Division:**
- Pre-Allehd Health: Jessica Gaddis
- Pre-Baccalaureate Nursing: Alison Lanphere.
- Pre-Medication: Phuong Lee.
- Chemistry: Mary Katherine Maraschick Randolph
- Biology: Alyssa Stewart
- Pre-Pharmacy: Cong Vu.
- Pre-Dentistry: Dat T. Vu.
- English and Humanities Division: Humanities: Miranda Carlisle.
- Diversified Studies: Philosophy: Joseph Hughes.

**Diversified Studies:**
- English and Humanities Division: Humanities: Miranda Carlisle.
- Diversified Studies: Philosophy: Joseph Hughes.
- Math, Engineering and Physical Science Division: Physics: Fnu Roshan
- Mathematics: Dragon Tran.
- Engineering: Christopher Walker.

**Information Technology Division:**
- Computer Science Transferring to OU: Richard Barnes.
- Computer Science Transferring to UCO: Brandon Cobb
- Certificate of Mastery/Geographic Information System: Andrew Crowell
- Certificate of Mastery: Robert Johnson
- Computer Science: Allira Kimren.
- Computer Science: Computer Programming: Allira Kimren.

**Social Sciences Division:**
- Political Science: Monica Piros.

**Honors Graduates:**

**Civic Honors:**

**Campus Impact:**
- Andrews Kwei

The President’s Volunteer Service Award is awarded to individuals who complete a number of volunteer hours within a 12-month time frame.

**President’s Volunteer Service Award:**
- Bronze Award: Theron Blunc, Iris Killough, Sarah Landon, Bobbie Wilson.
- Silver Award: Dominique Hall.
- Gold Award: Robert Helton.

**Student English Essay Awards:**
- 1st place: Sarah Wigham.
- 2nd place: Monica Wood.
- 3rd place: Kaylee Smith.
- Honorable Mention: Priscilla Esquivel.
Kids can spend summer at recreation camps

CLAYTON MITCHELL
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Many parents work all day during the week and, in the summer, need a place to take their children while they are at work.

Children ages 6 through 12 can attend one of OCCC’s summer recreation camps, hosted by the Recreation and Fitness department, said Sports Assistant Matthew Wright, who oversees the camps.

Wright said children can attend either a morning, afternoon or all-day camp, where they will participate in many physical and recreational activities, such as swimming and playing sports.

“They’ll play different games, they may go outside and play some games, they’ll play games in the gym, like a lot of the games they normally play in P.E.,” Wright said.

“They might learn a little bit about sports, like an hour for basketball, and then spend an hour playing a fun P.E. game. It’s just a lot of activity.’’

Children who attend a half-day session will be able to go either in the morning from 8 a.m. to noon, or in the afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m.

Wright said participants in the afternoon sessions, including all-day attendees, will be able to participate in swimming lessons for an extra $25 a week. The lessons are limited to 18 participants.

The goal of the camps is to give children an avenue to stay active during the summer, while having fun at the same time, Wright said.

“It’s something so that they don’t stay home all day watching TV or playing video games by themselves,” he said. “They can come make new friends, have fun, be active, maybe learn a couple things sports-wise.”

The camps start Tuesday, May 26, after Memorial Day. The last week of camp is Monday, Aug. 3, through Thursday, Aug. 6.

The cost is $110 per week for all-day campers, and $65 per week for half-day campers. Half-day campers will not be provided with lunch, and all-day campers can bring lunch or purchase a lunch ticket from the OCCC cafeteria.

Participation is limited to 10 half-day campers in either the morning or afternoon, and 40 all-day campers.

To enroll for the camp or learn more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness department at 405-682-7860.
**Youngblood: Regent sworn in by Gov. Fallin for new term**

*Continued from page 1*

When he returned to college, he received his bachelor’s degree from Southern Nazarene University.

“I am also a student now — for two more weeks,” Youngblood said. “I am about to finish my master’s.”

He is completing a master’s degree at the University of Central Oklahoma in public administration.

As a regent, Youngblood said, he was honored to be a part of selecting the new president of OCCC.

“The biggest thing, obviously, that we’ve done in the last year is we’ve selected a new president.

“That was a lot of time and a lot of effort and a lot of meetings, and needed to be.

“It’s the most important thing that we’ll ever do because we put great trust in the presidential position.

“We want to make sure they are doing the right things by those who are here who are teaching, who are called to that incredible position to teach and to help, and to prepare that next generation, as well as our students.”

The Board of Regents elected to search for a presidential candidate internally before considering external candidates.

Youngblood said he was pleased with this decision. It resulted in the appointment of Jerry Steward, the college’s executive vice president.

“We felt like that was a testimony to what was going on here at the school.

“This school is very well run,” he said.

Youngblood works for the Chickasaw Nation, managing community affairs and economic development.

**Finals: Testing Center extends hours for OCCC finals week**

*Continued from page 1*

11 through 15, the Testing Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. The doors will lock at 10 p.m.

On Saturday, May 16, the hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and doors lock at 4 p.m.

For students who have some flexibility about when they take final exams, Little had some advice on how to make the best of a hectic period.

She said Tuesday and Wednesday are less busy in the Testing Center but Thursday, Friday and Saturday can get very crowded because a lot of people will wait until the last minute.

“When they do that, there will be more people trying to get in to test at the same time,” she said.

When the room gets crowded, it can become hot and stuffy, Little said. She suggests that students dress comfortably, and consider wearing light layers, since it can get pretty warm. Early morning hours and later in the evening tend to be less crowded.

“If students want to come when we’re less busy, they need to come in the morning before 10 or 11 or in the evening between 7 and 10,” she said.

Testing Center activity picks up around 11 a.m. and stays busy until at least 7 in the evening. Little said. They’re busy all day but some hours not as busy.

As a student ID, or they show up after the doors are locked, because we lock the doors an hour before we close,” Little said.

“Other important things for students to know are their professor’s name and their course prefix and number.”

She said it’s also important for students to know what test they’re going to take.

“During finals week it isn’t as much of a problem because 95 percent of the people coming in are taking finals, but sometimes there are people that still need to take an exam they missed,” she said.

“And students should be sure to write their name on the test,” said Little, of another common mistake. “I’m amazed at how many students forget to write their names on them.”

She said the staff tries to catch that before the student walks out but can’t always, especially if they’re really busy in the Testing Center.

“A lot of students will have more than one test during finals week so they’ve got to manage their time to try and balance that out.”

—LINDA LITTLE
TESTING AND ASSESSMENT DIRECTOR

Taking tests early in the day is better for some students.

“I like to go to the Testing Center in the morning,” said student Jing Long. “I don’t like the evening or afternoon because in the morning your brain will be much smarter and remember all the things you have to remember.”

Others prefer different hours.

“From my experience here, I always prefer to come around 1 o’clock to have a lot of time before they close,” said student Nariman Obias. “I like to spend maybe two hours and a half working on my test.”

Obias said she plans to start studying a week before her test and work hard to be prepared.

Little said a few students arrive with incomplete information, which can add to an already stressful situation. And sometimes they arrive too late to take the test.

“The most common thing all the time is that they either show up without their student ID, because they have to have the Testing Center.

“Students should make sure if they use a locker, to lock the locker,” Little said. If students don’t know how to use the lockers, there are instructions on the inside.

During peak hours the lockers can get full so students might want to leave their belongings locked in their car.

Little said they will be posting signs with the Testing Center during finals week and students can also pick up a card at the front counter of the Testing Center with those hours.

“I know finals can be really stressful for everybody,” she said.

For more information, email linda.k.little@occc.edu or call 405-682-7531.
Orientation open to everyone

KATIE AXTELL
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

New Student Orientation is one of the big focuses of Student Life as far as activities go, said Student Life Coordinator Kendra Fringer.

“Orientation here is a little different than a traditional institution because we really want to connect students with our college and how things work here,” she said. “We want them to get more oriented with OCCC, not just college life.”

New Student Orientation is not just for new students, Fringer said.

“It’s for anyone who would like to get more acquainted with campus and get a stronger foothold on what it means to be a student here.

“We have students all the time who have been here a semester but only come at night or who only have online classes so don’t know what the campus is like. Anyone is invited to come,” Fringer said.

Fringer said orientation helps give students a better idea of how things work on campus and information on the different offices.

“We have groups from around campus and offices to come speak to students,” she said.

“There’s a resource fair where [students] can pick up privy materials and get the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with representatives from the offices.”

Students also can get a better understanding about financial aid and the bursar’s office work, she said.

“We have financial aid come to speak so they can have a good idea and understanding (of) how their financial aid will work and ask any questions about the process.”

Senior Student Account Representative Debbie Dutton will be speaking at orientation for the Bursar’s office.

“Students will learn how the bursar works with the new online billing system because it’s a little different than the past.”

Fringer said the campus police department will speak about campus safety.

“Then, at the end, [students] have the opportunity to get a tour of campus so they can see again the offices and locations.”

Fringer said students should not be nervous about attending orientation or asking for help. She said they can invite friends and family along for support.

“We’ll help you, answer any questions we can and get you to where you need to go.”

6 to 9 p.m. Monday, June 1
9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 9
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 17
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.

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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.
Former Pioneer editor continues the good fight

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Editor
ditor@occc.edu

This year has been a big one for Joey Stipek — from being awarded a $2,000 grant from FOI to fight a lawsuit against the University of Oklahoma concerning public records on parking tickets, to more recently being published in the New York Times for his story on Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity video of members using the N-word.

The former Pioneer editor who now writes for the OU Daily, said, of these milestones in his journalism career, his biggest accomplishment has been not getting kicked out of school.

News Writing Professor Sue Hinton had Stipek in her class at OCCC in 2010. She said he is a classic journalist — he tends to focus more on the newspaper than on his studies.

Stipek attributes his passion for journalism to his peers and overseers at the Pioneer newspaper.

He said he recalls looking through the Pioneer archives and reading stories written by Matt Skvarla, Chris Lusk and Richard Hall — all former editors — and aspiring to follow in their footsteps.

"I sat down and looked through copies of the Pioneer, and there were two names that really stood out — Richard Hall and Chris Lusk," he said.

Stipek said they were both journalists who seemed to do everything right. He said he took an Intro to Programming course because they also took the course.

Hinton said, since Stipek took her class, he has grown as a journalist.

She said she attributes that to the coaching she, Pioneer News Writing Instructional Assistant Ronna Austin and OU Adviser Judy Gibbs Robinson have given him.

She said the three of them have offered Stipek numerous professional tips while he has been in college and he has put them to good use. Hinton said simplicity and clarity are crucial journalism skills which Stipek absorbed over time.

Hinton said the fact that Stipek thought the OU parking ticket story worth pursuing reflects on him as a good journalist. "The thing about news writing, is it's harder than it looks, because it has to be so clear and thorough, yet so simple," she said. "It's a big deal that he worked to get clarity on parking tickets at OU … ."

"He went after those records believing that the law was clear [about the open records on parking tickets]."

Hinton said Stipek is the first journalist from the Pioneer to be published in the New York Times, which, she said, is a very big deal.

"I think he left here as a better writer and a better reporter, and I think he has just continued to mature and grow," she said.

"We were proud of the work he did here. He won a number of awards for us here."

Hinton said she is certain the Pioneer will continue to produce these types of journalists.

"I will credit Ronna for trying to adhere to a standard [for our journalists] — for working on basic skills, getting information, seeking open records and writing the hard stories."

Hinton said that training has been a part of the Pioneer culture for many years.

She said the Pioneer has given a lot of students a good foundation in journalism and Stipek is one of them.

Stipek can be followed on Twitter @JoeyStipek.

VPO violation, two fire alarms keep police busy

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Police responded to reports of a violated protective order and two fire alarms in the most recent incident reports received by the Pioneer.

Officer Tim Harris was dispatched to OCCC’s Capitol Hill Learning Center on Thursday, April 9, in reference to a violation of a Victim’s Protective Order.

The names of the suspect and the victim were redacted from the report. It also is unknown if either party is a student. More information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

Burned microwave popcorn is to blame for a fire alarm that activated at about 8:10 p.m. Monday, April 13, in a SEM Center lab.

According to the reports from campus police, an unnamed college staff member inadvertently activated the alarm.

"The cause of the activation was food that was burned in the microwave by a lab assistant," said Officer Kevin Hammond.

A vent hood in the lab helped to dissipate the smoke and police reset the alarm. An "all clear" notification was sent across campus at 8:15 p.m. and "all activities returned to normal."

Campus police responded to a second fire alarm in the SEM Center on Friday, April 24. After hearing the alarm, Harris contacted police dispatch and was informed that a smoke detector was activated on the second floor of the center.

It was ascertained that a smoke detector had malfunctioned, the report said. The alarm was reset and the smoke detector replaced.

Names 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.

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.