

# OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER



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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

AUG. 21, 2015



Gifty Benson shows OCCC students around the new “History of African Wax Prints” art exhibit in the Visual and Performing Arts Center gallery. “This print is called ‘Large Bird,’” she said. “People name the prints exactly what they look like.” The exhibit is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, through Oct. 16. *Clayton Mitchell/Pioneer*

## Art gallery showcases African culture

**Collector Gifty Benson says her exhibit follows the history of wax print fabrics from Europe to Africa**

**DARLA KILHOFFER**  
Online Editor  
Onlineeditor@occc.edu

African culture greets visitors to the college’s Inasmuch Foundation Gallery in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Sixty-nine examples of African wax print fabrics, or kente cloths, are now on display thanks to the generosity of Collector Gifty Benson.

Benson said the prints give observers a peek into African culture. She said the “Happy Family” print — the most popular fabric — is a great example.

“The hen, the female, is right in the center with her brood and eggs around her,” Benson said. “It shows the importance of the woman in the African family.”

She said each pattern has a name, with the colors and motifs within the design also

carrying meaning.

Benson said the Dutch originally made the fabrics to sell in Indonesia, meaning to industrialize the prints the Indonesians favored. However, she said, the Indonesians were not interested in purchasing the patterns.

The Dutch then stopped in Africa and sold all the fabric they had made. At that time, the cloth patterns began to feature more African plants and birds, Benson said.

The exhibit follows the African prints along that journey.

Also on display are several dresses made from these prints, including Benson’s mother’s wedding dress, which is made from hand-woven fabric, she said.

Benson said the traditional African funeral colors are red and black, so many fabrics in the collection are designed for that occasion.

“The red is to show us the bloodshot eyes, to see the seriousness of the matter and the blood that is shed,” she said. “The black is the heart, our mourning spirit. Our hearts are heavy.”

Cultural Arts Assistant Scott Tigert said

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## Students can shop for clubs Aug. 25, 26

**SPENCER GRANT**  
Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC offers students many ways to be involved with extracurricular activities, including the option to join a student-run club.

OCCC’s Club and Organization Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 25 and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 26.

The fair takes place in the hallway just outside of the Communications Lab on the first floor of the Main Building, said Student Life Coordinator Kendra Fringer.

Fringer said club involvement is a great way to become active on the campus.

She said students who are more involved with activities outside of class are typically more successful academically.

There were 40 clubs last year on campus and all of them will have a chance to participate in the fair, Fringer said.

She said students will be staffing the tables.

“Our goal is to help the students have a positive experience by introducing them to new things and helping them fit in,” she said.

One campus club that welcomes all students into their fold is the Gamer’s Guild, said club member, and computer animation and design major John Kennedy.

Kennedy said the guild meets in the dining area at a table close to the entrance — and has been doing so for at least four years.

“We try to be as friendly and open as possible,” he said. “Our

See **EVENT** page 9

## ‘Get a job’ sessions scheduled for fall

**SPENCER GRANT**  
Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Students who need help finding employment and acquiring the skills they need for those jobs should attend upcoming “Get A Job” sessions, said Employment and Graduation Coordinator Christina Atencio.

The first session, from noon to 1 p.m. on Sept. 2, will cover “Social Media and Professionalism,” Atencio said. The session will be held in room CU2.

“We show pros and cons of social media and how people could get fired because of it,” she said.

Atencio said a second session “Meet an Employer: Secret Service” on Sept. 9 will be highlighted by a visit from the Secret Service regarding vacancies they have that students could potentially fill. That’s from noon to 1 p.m. in room CU2.

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# EDITORIAL/OPINION

**EDITORIAL |** While there is no quick fix, just 20 minutes a day of physical activity improves a person

## Exercise a free way to de-stress, get healthier

When it comes to fitness and exercise, many of us feel sort of inadequate. Much of what we hear and read in the media exhorting us to exercise seems intended to reinforce those feelings. It comes from people trying to sell us books to get fit in just four hours, or melt away 100 pounds of pure body fat in one month, or gain 30 pounds of pure muscle in just three weeks. It's garbage. Ignore it.



**AMAR MOLINAS**

It is important to acknowledge this situation because when it comes to exercise, the biggest barriers are mental, not physical.

We think we should be doing more exercise, but it seems too hard, too time consuming.

We think exercising is part of a healthy lifestyle that will force us to make unreasonable sacrifices. We feel self-conscious about the size and shape of our bodies. We feel intimidated by machines in the gym that seem more like medieval torture devices than exercise equipment.

We make excuses. We decide we don't have time

to exercise, or it is too difficult. It's more relaxing to play video games.

Students here at OCCC whose teen years are not yet a fading memory may feel none of these things, likewise those who play a sport or are among the 20 percent of Americans who already get the recommended amount of exercise. The rest of us, however, probably feel some trepidation at the thought of starting an exercise program.

Many of us consider exercise a chore like washing the dishes, something we have to do, but will never really enjoy.

This is the wrong perspective because it ignores so many of the benefits of exercise. Doing the dishes may lead to a cleaner kitchen, but won't really teach you a useful skill, or lead to interesting social interaction or any of the other good things that come with exercise.

The benefits of exercise are almost too numerous to list.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, there is almost nothing about our physical bodies that can not improve with exercise. Strength, endurance, flexibility and balance all improve. It reduces the risk of injury. Exercise reduces our risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and increases average life expectancy.

The best part is these benefits begin to accrue almost immediately and as little as 20 minutes of exercise per day can have a dramatic effect on health.

The mental benefits are just as significant.

Exercise reduces pain by increasing endorphins. It improves mood, intelligence and mental health in general.

Yes, these benefits are the result of putting in the time and effort, but this doesn't mean the process should not be fun.

We have to experiment and find the kind of exercise we like whether it is weightlifting or dancing, and we have to find the things that make it enjoyable by finding a workout partner, competing on a team, or trying to beat a personal record.

The Wellness Center gym has just been remodeled, and has more than doubled in size. This is a great opportunity that is free to those with a valid OCCC ID, but it is far from the only way to get the benefit of physical activity.

However you choose to do it, the benefits of exercise are almost guaranteed so long as you stand up and take the first step.

—AMAR MOLINAS  
WEBMASTER

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR |** With the seismology increase in Oklahoma, people need to be prepared

## American Red Cross offers earthquake safety tips

**To the Editor:**

The American Red Cross is working to educate people on how to prepare and stay safe during and after an earthquake.

"With all of the earthquakes taking place recently, we want to make sure that people are prepared," said Ken Garcia, spokesperson for the American Red Cross.

"Earthquakes can happen at any time and the best thing for families is to have plans in place now."

If you are inside a building when the shaking begins, drop to the ground, take cover, hold on to something sturdy and move as little as possible. If you do not have sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall, and cover your head and neck with your arms.

Earthquake Preparedness Tips:

- Pick a safe place in each room.
- Find a place under a piece

of sturdy furniture.

- Find a place away from windows, bookcases or tall furniture that could potentially fall on you.

- Bolt and brace water heaters and gas appliances to wall studs.

- Hang heavy items, like pictures and mirrors, away from beds, couches and anywhere people sleep or sit.

- During an earthquake, stay indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure that it

is safe to exit. If you must leave the building after the shaking stops, use stairs with caution in case there are aftershocks.

Do not use elevators. If you are away from your home when an earthquake hits, do not return to your home until authorities say it is safe to do so. When entering, use extreme caution and be sure to inspect walls, floors, doors, staircases and windows to check for damage.

The Red Cross Emergency

App offers information related to earthquake preparedness as well as other natural disasters and emergencies.

The free Emergency App is available in app stores for smartphones and tablets by searching for the American Red Cross or by going to redcross.org/apps.

For more information, visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

—KEN GARCIA  
AMERICAN RED CROSS

Katie Aztell.....	<b>Editor</b>	Darla Kilhoffer.....	<b>Online Editor</b>
Spencer Grant.....	<b>Senior Writer</b>	Grant Swallowell.....	<b>Podcaster</b>
Hung Tran.....	<b>Staff Writer</b>	Clayton Mitchell.....	<b>Videographer</b>
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Ian Manera.....	<b>Staff Writer</b>	Ted Satterfield.....	<b>Lab Assistant</b>
Clayton Mitchell.....	<b>Photographer</b>	Sue Hinton.....	<b>Faculty Adviser</b>

7777 S May OKC, OK 73159	<b>phone:</b> 405-682-1611, ext. 7307	<b>email:</b> editor@occc.edu
<b>Pioneer Online:</b> pioneer.occc.edu	<b>Facebook:</b> www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer	<b>Twitter:</b> @OCCCPioneer

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**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

ONLINE BUSINESS REVIEW | From scholarship to job searches, website great for students

## Chegg has cheapest book rentals

I still remember how confused I was my first semester in college because of not knowing where to find a trustworthy and, more importantly, affordable place to rent textbooks for my classes.

After spending hours looking and asking for help from friends on social networks, nearly 70 percent recommended the Chegg website.

The first thing I did was to search for all the required textbooks, then I made a comparison of prices with others places.

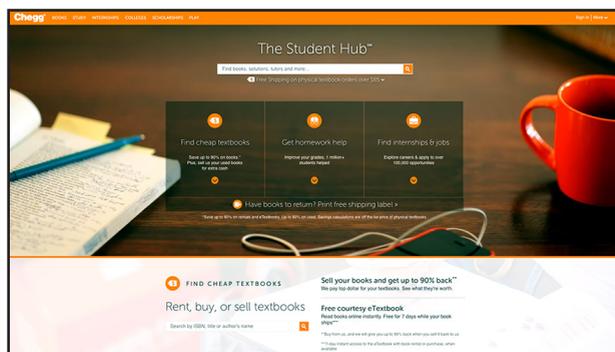
Surprisingly, there was a really huge difference between Chegg and places such as Amazon, Ebay or even at some bookstores in and outside of the college.

Thanks to Chegg, I saved a huge amount of money on my textbook rental expense.

Chegg.com offers a variety of new and used textbooks for every major from the earlier to latest editions — and all in very good condition.

Speedy delivery and an easy-to-return system satisfied me a lot as well.

Chegg automatically sends a reminder email 15 days ahead of the due date for your rented textbooks. There also is a return label attached to the returning email. It is so convenient.



In addition, Chegg helps users with scholarship information.

After creating an account and filling in all of your personal profile information on the website, Chegg will email you whenever there are any available online scholarships matching

your provided information such as age, hobbies, GPA, resident status, major, etc.

Graduate students who are looking for internship positions or a job also are able to use Chegg as a useful searching tool.

Jobs and internships can be easily searched based on the user's expectations such as location, major, and full-time or part-time preferences.

Applicants are able to use their résumé which is uploaded — or created — in their current Chegg account.

The website design is simple and easy to use from searching to check out.

There also is a Chegg app which makes it convenient to track to your delivery status and conduct searches from anywhere at any time.

**Rating: A**

—HUNG TRAN  
STAFF WRITER

BOOK REVIEW | One character's small story could be a novel in and of itself

## 'Goldfinch' drags way too much

A few years ago, a friend recommended a book to me called "The Secret History," by Donna Tartt.

It was one of the most thrilling and interesting books I'd ever read.

Imagine my excitement last fall when it was announced that Tartt was releasing a sprawling new book of 700+ pages.

I bought "The Goldfinch" the day it was available in bookstores and eagerly descended upon it — only to be utterly disappointed.

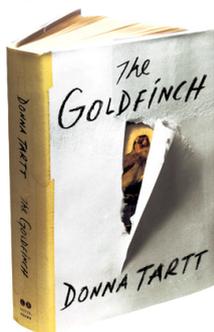
The story dragged. The devil is in the details. In literary novels like this, you can only describe your favorite place in New York City where you have that one memory of your mother doing that one thing in that certain way and eating that certain meal after a certain event so many times.

While roadtripping to Colorado last month, I was picking out a book to take with me and decided to finish the novel, which I had disregarded for almost a year. Luckily for me, the story picks up a load of steam after the protagonist Theo's mother dies.

He is soon whisked off to Vegas to live with his alcoholic, sports gambling dad and his new waitress

girlfriend.

It is here, in an almost abandoned mansion-filled neighborhood that Theo meets life-long friend Boris, a Russian teenager who's already been around the world and back, and who is consequently already an alcoholic.



The adventures of Theo and Boris could easily have been their own novel, and are the most exciting and fulfilling part of the book.

Tartt abruptly skips forward in Theo's life to his own adulthood, and Theo's day-to-day life is described in excruciatingly minute detail.

Things drag again at the end which ultimately left me feeling unsatisfied with the way things turn out for Theo, and the way the ending of the novel dragged unnecessarily after the final denouement.

Tartt is still a wordsmith, but her novel could have easily also been an idea by James Patterson, just better written.

**Rating: C+**

—SPENCER GRANT  
SENIOR WRITER



## 'Spending Tracker' app free, useful

You guessed it — I'm going to talk about money. It's not that I'm obsessed with money. I just like to know where all mine is going. That's why I downloaded the free "Spending Tracker" app.

Most money apps are designed to digitally keep all your credit cards and bank accounts in one place, but I wasn't interested in that. I wanted something to track my spending because I kept wondering where all my dollars were going.

I'll first say that I have a Windows Lumia 520 phone and I love it. This app works really well on it and overall, I've been very impressed with the Windows system on a cell phone. Now on to the app.

"Spending Tracker" has preset categories you can upload spending amounts into, such as clothes, fuel, entertainment and travel. You also can make your own categories (I added school supplies and auto care).

From there, every time you make a purchase, you simply select a spending category and enter the dollar amount.

You also can add your income amounts so you know exactly what your cash flow looks like. "Spending Tracker" also creates a pie chart and bar chart so you can check your spending at a glance.

When I'm considering if I want to go to the movies, I just take a look at how much I've spent on entertainment (too much!) before making that decision.

The free version offers lots of ways to personalize your tracker. You can search through categories, reorder them, or change the colors of the labels themselves. It also allows you to set a budget mode and carry the remaining balance over to the next month.

The Pro version, which costs \$3.99, allows users to export expenses to a CSV file. It also automatically syncs purchases in a Dropbox and creates a backup of your history.

The free version provides plenty of features, but I wish it could create monthly budgets for each category. It isn't meant to be a budget app though. It's meant to track spending, which is precisely what it does.

—DARLA KILHOFFER  
ONLINE EDITOR

# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**BUSINESS REVIEW** | This is not your typical driving range

## Topgolf visit fun but somewhat costly

I love almost all sports and when an opportunity comes to play sports, I try to participate.

So when my friends invited me to go with them to Topgolf, there was no way I could resist.

Topgolf is a driving range, but not your typical driving range.

Instead of simply hitting balls forward, you can aim for targets that will garner points, which allows you to compete in games with your friends.

I played golf around the time I was in the seventh and eighth grades, but haven't played much since. As it turns out, I am not very good at golf anymore (or I may never have been).

My friends would tell me how good the form of my golf swing was, as I would slice every shot to the right. However, I determined that I would not let my forgotten golf skills hinder my experience.

Topgolf is multi-story complex, with dozens of pods, if you will, from where golfers hit their balls.

Each pod comes with a television, table and chairs, and a monitor where everyone can enter their names and keep score, similar to bowling.

But Topgolf is not simply about the golf. It also has a restaurant and bar.

After you begin golfing, a server will come by your pod and ask if you need anything, and they will periodically check on you. Water is nice and free; however, a lot of the food options are fairly expensive.

This brings me to my primary gripe about my experience at Topgolf.

To play, you must sign up for a membership card, which is only \$5 one time.

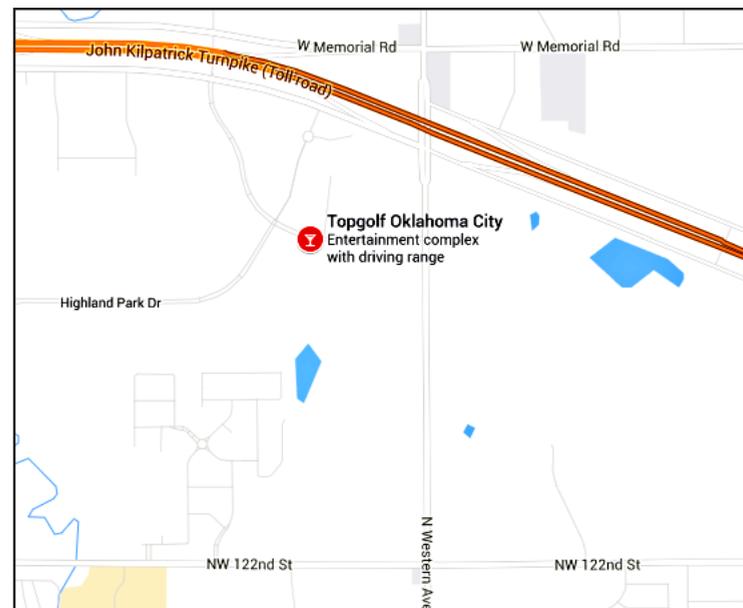
Then you have to pay either \$20 or \$40 an hour for your pod, depending on what time of what day you are there.

You can split that up between however many people are playing, but it still begins to add up.

Once you have gotten food and played a while, you may have had a great time, but your wallet is empty. Still, it's worth trying. Topgolf is located at 13313 Pawnee Dr. in far north Oklahoma City.

**Rating:** B

—CLAYTON MITCHELL  
PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER



### TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Aug. 14  
through Aug. 16  
[www.newyorktimes.com](http://www.newyorktimes.com)

1. Straight Outta Compton
2. Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation
3. The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
4. Fantastic Four
5. The Gift
6. Ant-Man
7. Vacation
8. Minions
9. Ricki and the Flash
10. Trainwreck
11. Pixels
12. Shaun the Sheep Movie
13. Southpaw
14. Inside Out
15. Jurassic World
16. Mr. Holmes
17. Paper Towns
18. Irrational Man
19. The End of the Tour
20. Le Mirage

**MOVIE REVIEW** | Reviewer recommends seeing this movie before it is gone from the theater

## ‘The Gift’ a psychological must-see sleeper

If you enjoy movies that remain in your thoughts for days and leave you with that strange feeling in your gut, you will want to see “The Gift” before it leaves theaters.

At first, I expected the film to be another clichéd “creepy stalker guy” film, so I forgot about it until last weekend.

After seeing the film last Sunday, I was pleasantly surprised.

At first, it seems like “The Gift” is just another throwaway movie, but as it progresses, you begin to realize how deep it actually is.

“The Gift” marks the directorial debut of Joel Edgerton, who also wrote, produced and starred in the film. It stars Jason Bateman and Rebecca Hall as Simon and Robyn Callen, respectively.

The film begins with the young married couple moving from Chicago to California after a new job opportunity opens up for Simon. At this point, it seems like everything is in their favor.

While purchasing items for their new house, they run into one of Simon's former high school classmates, Gordon “Gordo” Moseley, played by Joel Edgerton.

However, Simon claims to have forgotten about Gordo. After the somewhat awkward encounter at the store, Gordo



starts randomly visiting their home and sending a variety of gifts.

At first, Gordo is very kind to Simon and Robyn, but after some events transpire, their friendship breaks apart.

It quickly becomes apparent that things are not as they seem and Robyn discovers this.

Eventually, she realizes

that she doesn't know the truth behind Simon and Gordo's past. After doing some research, she discovers a very dark, but important, secret.

In short, the movie is an expert example of what a thriller should be. It takes a slower approach, but is all the more satisfying.

The movie is very psychological, has an incredibly dark tone, is full of beautiful shots and suspenseful scenes, and raises many moral and ethical questions.

“The Gift” is my favorite thriller of the year, so far. I absolutely loved the film, all the way down to the incredible finale, and would recommend it to fans of the genre and moviegoers in general.

**Rating:** A+

—HARRISON LANGSTON  
STAFF WRITER

# Hall of fame nomination deadline Aug. 25

To submit a name, visit [www.occc.edu/foundation/alumni.html](http://www.occc.edu/foundation/alumni.html)

HUNG TRAN

Staff Writer  
staffwriter2@occc.edu

The deadline for OCCC alumni to be considered for selection into the college's Alumni Hall of Fame 2015 is Tuesday, Aug. 25, said Randy Cassimus, Alumni Relations and Community Development Associate Director.

"The Alumni Hall of Fame first began in 2006," Cassimus said.

"The purpose is to honor alumni who, from their time at OCCC, have gone on to accomplish significant things in their career field and community.

Cassimus said anyone can nominate someone, including students.

Those who are nominated must have attended OCCC, but do not have to hold an OCCC certificate or degree.

The person nominating also must answer certain

**"The purpose is to honor alumni who, from their time at OCCC, have gone on to accomplish significant things in their career field and community."**

—RANDY CASSIMUS  
ALUMNI RELATIONS AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

5 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center," Cassimus said.

"We honor them, and their family and friends get to come. We would play a video about them, their lives and their careers.

"Then, they get to go up and receive their award from the president."

He said those honorees' names and pictures will be placed on the Alumni Hall of Fame Wall of Honor near the president's office in the Main Building.

questions such as "Why does this person deserve this honor?" and "How has this person improved the community?"

The nominating committee is made up of a small group of people, Cassimus said, including members of the alumni association board, OCCC staff and some past inductees.

He said once the selections are made, winners will be notified.

"The ones that are selected get honored at a banquet held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov.

"All the previous inductees from 2006 through 2015 are also on the wall," he said.

Cassimus said there are usually between six to 10 nominations made each year.

"My office encourages everyone to think of anyone they think should be honored for their service to the community, college or their success in their career. We love to know about them."

Admissions and Policy Compliance Coordinator Brandee Morgan was a 2012 inductee.

She said it's a "great honor and an amazing process."

"They have a very nice celebration," she said. "All the inductees write their own biography, send pictures, and they make a very professional video about us.

"We have a big dinner, and we can invite family and friends to come."

A former inductee from 2013, Sean Lynch, works as the Film and Video Production Equipment Coordination at OCCC.

He said he didn't know about the event until he was nominated.

"It is a great honor and amazing," he said.

Cassimus said to nominate someone, go to [www.occc.edu/foundation/alumni.html](http://www.occc.edu/foundation/alumni.html) and fill out the form.

## Campus police discover man attempting an ATM theft

SPENCER GRANT

Senior Writer  
seniorwriter@occc.edu

An attempted ATM theft, a purse containing 5.2 grams of marijuana, an injury to a former vice president and a stolen iPhone were highlights of campus crime in recent weeks.

On Aug. 8, Officer Bruce Fun-derburk said as he and Sgt. David Shriver patrolled the coffee shop area around 7 p.m., they observed a person wearing all black clothing and a garment over his face.

Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said the man was attempting to break into the ATM just outside the bookstore. He said his officers reported the man had set a hammer from his backpack on top of the machine just as they approached him.

According to the report, when the man saw the officers, he ran and the officers lost sight of him after a pursuit. The person was only able to be identified as a Caucasian male with a backpack.

Fitzpatrick said the man had gained entrance to the building through a door that was previously locked, but had been left open by custodial staff. He said the incident is under investigation.

On Aug. 6, Officer Zachary Andrews was sent to the campus police office and informed by Officer David Madden that a purse brought to lost-and-found had been found to contain marijuana.

The report shows 5.2 grams of marijuana was lo-



cated inside a tin in the purse along with a grinder. The owner of the purse whose name was redacted in the report, was located in Student Advising services.

She agreed to speak with Andrews and Sgt. Daniel Piazza. The woman claimed the marijuana was used medically. She was not arrested.

After she signed a written statement, the marijuana was sent to Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to be destroyed.

An OSBI spokesperson said she could not provide any additional information.

On Aug. 6, Risk Management Director Marlene Shugart was notified by Lynn Nunn, administrative assistant to Academic Affairs, that former Vice President for Academic Affairs Felix Aquino suffered an injury Aug. 2 while in Mexico on a faculty development trip.

Nunn said Aquino fell and was hospitalized for a few days in Mexico. He returned to Oklahoma on Aug. 16.

On Aug. 7, OCCC lifeguard Blake Savage came to the college police department to report a missing iPhone 5S.

He said he left it on a table inside the lifeguard's room at 1H11 while he worked and returned 30 minutes later to find the phone missing.

The report was initially given to Mike Shugart, Recreation and Fitness director. Both men came to

the police department to report the theft to acting Sgt. Jeremy Bohannon.

Bohannon reviewed college security camera footage and discovered two people who had been in the OCCC library earlier in the day, where they walked through all four floors without using any computers.

Later, in the Social Sciences Center, one of the persons went into and out of room 1H11, while the second person waited in the area nearby.

After the first person walked out of the room, he sat down briefly in some seats in the hallway, then left the building, followed by the second person.

They were spotted afterwards walking around the VPAC with a white object, which police presume was the stolen phone.

Savage was able to use his Macbook to track his phone to an area around NE 25th and Eastern Avenue.

Bohannon advised him to file a report with Oklahoma City police and to contact his carrier AT&T. An investigation is pending.

For more information, call campus police at 405-682-7872.

Most 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](mailto: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.

# New full-time profs eager to get started

DARLA KILHOFFER

Online Editor

Onlineeditor@occc.edu

This fall, OCCC has added 11 new faculty members to its roster. That includes an accounting professor, math professor, three nursing professors, two English professors, an art professor, biology professor, Spanish professor and an EMS professor.

Accounting professor **Mary Ahonsi** moved to Oklahoma from Lagos, Nigeria, in 2008 and received a master's in accounting from the University of Oklahoma. She said she minored in economics and finance, and also has her CPA license.

Ahonsi said she came to OCCC because it is a great learning ground for people of all ages.

"The fact that it's smaller — about 25 students per professor — you get to know the students on a deeper level and make sure they truly understand the concept."

Ahonsi said she feels OCCC professors are personally invested in their students' success and she looks forward to teaching this fall.

Math professor **Brandon Tomson** previously taught at the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and as an adjunct at OCCC.

Tomson said he loves teaching because he considers it a challenge to get people to enjoy math.

"To do math correctly, you have to block everything out," he said. "And so, there's so much that goes on in the world — there's so many distractions. It's nice to sit in a box and just think. It's not that much different [from] painting a picture. It's a similar mindset."

Tomson received a bachelor's in mathematics from OSU and a master's in mathematics from OU.

Prior to being hired full-time this fall, **Deanne Branch** worked at OCCC as an adjunct nursing professor in 2011. She also worked at Mercy Hospital for 13 years and said, as a nurse, she worked with clinical students from OCCC.

"I really liked having OCCC nursing students as staffers in the hospital and so when I decided I wanted to [teach], this was one of the places I looked at," she said.

"It's a very good program. It has a great reputation. People come out of here ready for work."

Branch received a bachelor's in nursing from the the University of Central Oklahoma and a master's in nursing education from Oklahoma Baptist University.

**Makenna Green**, English composition professor, said she has always loved reading and her professors at OCCC taught her critical approaches to literature.

"I like that literature discusses social issues, discusses people, and problems and solutions," she

said. "I think literature teaches us something about ourselves when we read what other people have written about their time period."

Green said when reading things our ancestors wrote, it's fascinating to see that they had many of the same problems we have.

"I think that should teach us something about what we're doing right — or not right — as people."

Green received her bachelor's in English from OU and a master's in 20th and 21st century literature from UCO. She will teach English Composition I and II.

**Lynette Bloomberg** began teaching as an English Composition I and II adjunct professor in fall 2013. Bloomberg said she was drawn to work at OCCC because of her personal experiences.

"Having been a community college student myself, I fell in love with OCCC instantly," she said. "The demographic of students here — that's who I was. That's who I still am in some respects."

"It's small enough where you can know a lot of people but big enough that we can do a lot of good for the students and for the community."

Bloomberg served as the Communications Lab Supervisor at OCCC and will now teach English Composition I and II full-time. She received a master's in literary and cultural studies from OU and

is currently working on a master's in administrative leadership from OU.

Visual Arts Professor **Jeremy Fineman** began teaching at OCCC in January. He said all of his students — adult, concurrent and traditional — have been equally engaged in class.

"Anyone can see art and gravitate toward different aspects of it," he said. "However, to really understand its content and have a real understanding of what the meaning is, you kind of have to delve a little deeper into the history of where it's coming from and what the parameters are — what the politics are behind it."

Fineman will teach mosaics, 2-dimensional design, ceramics and online art appreciation.

While he has explored drawing, jewelry, welding and glass, he said his main focus is ceramics.

Fineman received a bachelor's degree in photography from the University of Hartford in Connecticut and received a master's in ceramics from East Carolina University, in North Carolina.

**Michelle Cole**, biology professor, has been adjuncting at OCCC since 2009. She said she appreciates OCCC's atmosphere for teamwork and learning.

"The energy, the collegiality, the way everyone

works together as a team," she said. "We have a very clear purpose, which is driving for student success, and everyone here is on board with that. It's a very positive environment."

Cole graduated from OSU with a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences and a doctorate in veterinary medicine.

Spanish professor **Hilde Votaw** said she enjoys helping students understand languages and become passionate about them.

"I like to dance. I like Zumba," she said. "In my classes my students get to learn how to dance salsa. Sometimes we go to a local restaurant."

"That's what I like about here — we're very close to the Hispanic community and you can take field trips if needed."

Votaw moved from Peru to Oklahoma almost 30 years ago. She said she enjoyed the family atmosphere in Peru and it was a beautiful place to live.

"Growing up, I was a very active child so I loved the outdoors and lived close to the ocean."

Votaw said she has been working for OCCC on-and-off for 15 years. She received a bachelor's and master's degree in Spanish from OU.

**Jason Weger**, Emergency Medical Services professor, said he has known he wanted to be a paramedic since he was 5-years-old.

He said at first he was interested in dealing with the blood and emergencies.

"You quickly realize that most of it is not the rush," he said. "Not everyone is shot and stabbed, and not everyone is in a car crash," Weger said. "Most of it is just talking to people who want someone to talk to, who are lonely."

Weger said what originally drew him to OCCC was its reputation within medical services.

"I worked in Oklahoma City for EMS 911 service and we would have OCCC students who were always more prepared than all the other schools," he said. "They always had their act together so I wanted to teach here."

Weger has a master's in adult education from OU, a master's in public education from Kansas State University, and received his EMS certification from OSU.

He began teaching at OCCC last year and recently moved to working as a full-time EMS professor.

Nursing professor **Betty Fisher** was unavailable for an interview.

The Pioneer did a story about Nursing Professor **Jennifer Brumley** in September 2014. She has now been hired as a full-time professor. For more information about Brumley, visit the Pioneer's article at <http://pioneer.occc.edu/new-nursing-professor-happy-to-be-back-at-occc/>.



Mary Ahonsi



Lynette Bloomberg



Brandon Tomson



Deanne Branch



Makenna Green



Hilde Votaw



Jeremy Fineman



Michelle Cole



Jason Weger

# Employees honored at convocation

**DARLA KILHOFFER**

Online Editor

onlineeditor@occc.edu

**F**ive OCCC employees were recognized at this year's Convocation and Employee Recognition Ceremony Aug. 11.

Each year, the following awards are given out: The Robert P. Todd Leadership Award, The Elven Gray award, and the Classified, Professional and Faculty Employee of the Year awards.

Student Life Director **Erin Logan** received this year's Robert P. Todd Leadership award. Established in 2006, the award recognizes employees who demonstrate outstanding leadership in their work.

The award is named after former OCCC President Robert P. Todd, who died in December 2005.

In her acceptance speech, Logan thanked her team for their dedication to students.

"I don't do this alone — everybody knows that," she said.

"This is one of the best teams to work with and one of the best schools in the world.

"We are so fortunate to have the students we have, the faculty that we have, the staff that we have here, helping us change the lives of our students."

**Josh Wade**, Student Services Specialist, was awarded the Elven Gray Award.

In 1991, OCCC created the Elven Gray award to recognize employees who exhibit the characteristics of Gray, who was described as a "one of the college's most dedicated and inspiring employees," and "a gentleman who always, no matter what his circumstances, went above and beyond to serve others."

Wade said the award has a special place at the front of his desk.

"I'm really appreciative of it," he said. "I know [I was] nominated by staff members so it makes me feel really good to know that somebody thinks that about me."

Wade said there is no average day in his position, which he enjoys. He said his department is project-driven, so his job varies — from answering calls about programs to assisting people on campus.

"I deal with a lot of different types of programs so getting to teach people stuff when they don't have any back-

ground in it, it keeps you on your toes," he said.

Three OCCC staff received Employee of the Year awards.

Student Engagement and Moodle End User Administrator **Morgan Felty**, was named Classified Employee of the Year.

"If I knew I was going to get an award, I would have fixed my hair today," Felty said when he accepted the award.

In a phone interview, he said he wanted to thank the staff at the Center for Learning and Teaching. Felty said whenever something new comes along in his line of work, figuring out a support system for that technology is challenging, but added that's OK because he loves a good challenge.

"I like being challenged with anything, really. Number one, it makes it interesting," he said.

"Number two, you feel more reward after you figure it out and you feel like you've accomplished something."

Professional Employee of the Year went to IT Infrastructure Director **Rob Greggs**. He said student success matters to each faculty and staff member, which makes OCCC such a great college.

"The success of the institution, to me, is important as well as the success of each of you in your departments, in the areas you serve, the students you serve," Greggs said. "What it really comes down to is the success of the students."

Business Professor **Ramachandran Vijiyan** won the Faculty Employee of the Year Award.

Vijiyan said when he nominates professors for the award, he always has a difficult time choosing who to nominate because he works with people who do their job very well.

So, he said he is honored to have been nominated and chosen.

"Everybody in this division deserves it [the award]," he said. "I'm just lucky someone nominated [me]."

"It's not that I am better than any one of them. They all are incredibly good professors."

Those are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Performance of regular duties has



**Erin Logan**  
Robert P. Todd Award



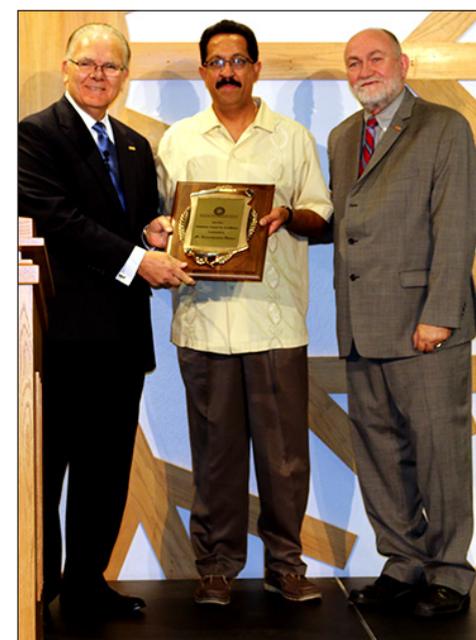
**Josh Wade**  
Elven Gray Award



**Morgan Felty**  
Classified Employee of the Year



**Rob Greggs**  
Professional Employee of the Year



**Ramachandran Vijiyan**  
Faculty Employee of the Year

Photos by Clayton Mitchell

significantly enhanced the student-centered image of the College or demonstrated overall excellence.

- Nominee has significantly affected the quality, efficiency, and cost effectiveness of a program, course, office or activity.

- Nominee has been involved in an activity, or activities, that have significantly increased the presence of the College in the community.

- Nominee has been involved in an activity, or activities, that have brought state or national recognition to the College.

For more information about the awards or how to nominate an OCCC employee or faculty member for 2016, visit [www.dev.occc.edu/hr/EmployeeRecognitionAwards.html](http://www.dev.occc.edu/hr/EmployeeRecognitionAwards.html).

## SPORTS



Bryan Balenseifen of Treadmill Heroes puts together new equipment in the Wellness Center. “This is a shoulder press,” Balenseifen said. Treadmill Heroes is an exercise equipment repair and delivery company, hired by OCCC to help with the new equipment the college recently added. For more information about the new workout equipment or the Wellness Center, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860. Clayton Mitchell/Pioneer

## OCCC gets new workout equipment

**DARLA KILHOFFER**  
Online Editor  
Onlineeditor@occc.edu

Community Development Vice President Lemuel Bardquez said OCCC has expanded the weight room to more than twice its previous size, spilling into the one of the bays that used to be a volleyball court.

“Brand new gear, brand new equipment, brand new aerobics — anything from treadmills to elliptical machines,” he said.

“We have an entire Hoist system that’s weight-assisted and it comes with the QR codes that you can take a picture of with your phone [to show] you exactly how to use it.”

The total cost to OCCC was \$119,838 Bardquez reported in an Aug. 17 Regent’s meeting.

Fitness and Recreation Director Michael Shugart said he was sure to try out the strength equipment before they made any purchases.

“When we purchased this equipment, the sales guy came here and I told him, ‘I’m not going to buy anything until I

“We have an entire Hoist system that’s weight-assisted and it comes with the QR codes that you can take a picture of with your phone [to show] you exactly how to use it.”

—MICHAEL SHUGART  
FITNESS AND RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

put my hands on it,” Shugart said. “So he took me to another facility that he had sold this equipment to and I actually used all of it.”

Shugart said the new equipment is easier to use than what was once in that area.

“For the people that are going to come down here and try it, this new equipment that we’ve brought in — this Hoist brand — it’s state-of-the-art. It’s brand new. It’s ergonomically designed to isolate muscles and make sure that it’s not putting strains on anyone’s lower back,” he said.

Computer Animation major James Daggs said the new equipment makes the gym feel more modern.

“It definitely looks updated compared to the stuff they had last semester,” he said.

Mail Services Clerk Tim Zurishaddai said he has worked out in the Wellness Center for the past 11 years, and was happy with the former equipment.

“Some of it’s to an advantage and some of the old stuff is better,” he said. “I’d say it’s about a 95 percent improvement.”

He said he is happy with the upgrades, especially the expansion into the former volleyball court.

“They definitely needed more room,” he said. “I used to run out of room all the time.”

For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860, or visit [www.occc.edu/rf](http://www.occc.edu/rf).

### GETTING TO KNOW:

**BROOKE  
DRESEL**  
WELLNESS  
CENTER  
MANAGER  
SINCE 2012



**Q: What is your job description?**

A: “I will be working with the Wellness Center attendants and the fitness instructors to incorporate schedules and activities for students, faculty, and staff.”

**Q: What do you like most about working at OCCC?**

A: “... The camaraderie that we have built [and] the way that we help one another and work together. Working with the students too, I would definitely say. Being able to help affect them in a positive way.”

**Q: What are some of your hobbies?**

A: “Working out. I would say probably just being with my kid, watching him play sports, being with my family, going to church activities.”

**Q: Are you involved in any sports/have you ever been?**

A: “I played softball growing up, but for the most, it’s just been pretty much after school. I did softball, I did basketball. I like to run. That’s kind of my hobby now.”

**Q: What are your favorite teams?**

A: “University of Oklahoma football. We like [the] Thunder, we like OU basketball.”

**Q: What is your favorite thing about sports/fitness?**

A: “I would say that it’s more about the intrinsic benefits that a person would get from exercising... the way that it makes you feel about yourself, not necessarily how it will change you physically or appearance-wise, but just being able to come in and relieve a little bit of tension and become stronger and healthier. That, to me, is the most important aspect that you can gain from working out.”

**Q: Do you believe that people should keep up a healthy lifestyle?**

A: Oh, of course. Especially when you are a student and you have all these other stresses and factors that play into how you’re going to perform as a whole.

# Event: Club, organization fair a do-not-miss student event

Continued from page 1

policy is ‘do you like to have fun, and do you like games?’ If so, you’re in.

“We’re not even exclusively about video games. We like all nerdy things equally, whether it’s anime, Dungeons and Dragons, or something else.”

He said the club is active in the community, helping organize events and meeting at local gaming store Game HQ.

Fringer said OCCC is host to

a wide array of clubs to match its large student body, from the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, to the Agnostics, Atheists, and Freethinkers clubs.

Clubs for different ethnicities such as the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education and the Black Student Association help promote diversity on campus, she said.

Fringer said each club table will have specific handouts and representatives from the club available to talk to students and

help them join.

“We hold the fair in the middle of the Main Building in hopes that we can get as much foot traffic as possible from people passing through,” she said.

“There are several bulletin boards located around campus where clubs post information, like the one in the Arts and Humanities building hallway.”

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

## OCCC CLUB AND ORGANIZATION FAIR

**10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 25**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 26**

**General Dining Area Lobby**  
**First floor, Main Building**

# OCCC: ‘Get a Job’ series designed to help enlighten students

Continued from page 1

Representatives will mainly be doing a presentation about how to create a résumé specifically for a government job, she said.

“Job Search Strategies” will run from noon to 1 p.m. on Oct. 13, in room CU2, and is

pretty straightforward, Atencio said, focusing on looking for employment.

“Résumé 101” is from noon to 1 p.m. on Oct. 28, also in room CU2.

It will focus on how to create an outstanding résumé for any sort of job that isn’t in the private sector.

“Interviewing 101” is the last session. It starts at noon Nov. 10, in CU1, Atencio said.

In the past, for that session, a guest speaker has been featured to talk about the do’s and don’ts of interviewing, she said.

Atencio said the guest speaker in the past has dressed in character to give students an

idea of how not to dress, or how not to act.

Last semester was the first semester for the “Get A Job” sessions and, Atencio said, the turnout for each has increased, a trend she hopes to continue.

She said each session usually lasts about anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes, so it’s not a

major time investment for busy students.

Free pizza will be provided for all who attend as an extra incentive, Atencio said.

For more information, contact Graduation, Employment and Transfer services at 405-682-7519, or contact Atencio at 405-682-7813.

## GET A JOB series

<p><b>Sept. 2:</b> “Social Media and Professionalism” in CU2</p> <p><b>Sept. 9:</b> “Meet an Employer: Secret Service” in CU2</p>	<p><b>Oct. 13:</b> “Job Search Strategies” in CU2</p> <p><b>Oct. 28:</b> “Résumé 101” in CU2</p> <p><b>Nov. 10:</b> “Interviewing 101” *in CU1</p> <p>All events are from noon to 1 p.m.</p>
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# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

## Finding the way:

Special Education major Zachary Lehman signs up for a campus tour on Opening Day, Aug. 15. "I am doing the tour just so I can get a feel for the campus," he said. "This is the first time I've gotten a chance to come up to campus."

Clayton Mitchell/  
Pioneer



## Alzheimer walk volunteers needed

**DARLA KILHOFFER**  
Online Editor  
onlineeditor@occc.edu

The OCCC Power Walkers team is looking for walkers and volunteers to participate in the 2015 Walk to End Alzheimer's being held Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.

Erin Logan, Student Life Director and chair of the walk, said OCCC supplied about 175 volunteers last year to help run the Oklahoma City walk. Walkers will follow a 2-mile route around the ballpark, she said.

"Our volunteers from OCCC are just absolutely fantastic and so they kept asking us if we could get more involved with the walk," Logan said.

"So we were able to build a partnership where we would supply volunteers for the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

"Together we help create an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to get involved either as volunteers, as walkers."

Last year, the OCCC team raised \$2,700 for the walk. Logan said that is the goal again this year.

Kendra Fringer, Assistant Student Life Director and volunteer coordinator, said those who want to help but can't make the walk can volunteer in other ways.

She said volunteers are needed to help check people

“It's a wonderful experience. Our students, faculty and staff really do help make the day of the event run.”

—KENDRA FRINGER  
STUDENT LIFE ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR

in and set up the memorial garden, as well as run water stations and photo booths.

Those who are unable to help on the day of the walk can contact Student Life for volunteer information on pre- and post-event opportunities as well, Fringer said.

"If someone is unable to help the day of, we have lots of opportunities before and after: calling people and encouraging teams, checking in on people,

making sure they have everything they need after the walk ...," she said.

"So there are wonderful opportunities for people to get involved in all sorts of areas."

Fringer said, if not for OCCC volunteers, the event wouldn't run as smoothly.

"It's a wonderful experience," she said. "Our students, faculty and staff really do help make the day of the event run."

"So if somebody would like to be involved, they can register through the Walk to End Alzheimer's site and then they will be asked to put in their OCCC affiliation. Or, they can also register through Student Life."

Those who are interested in joining the team can contact Logan at [elogan@occc.edu](mailto:elogan@occc.edu) or visit [www.act.alz.org](http://www.act.alz.org). For more information about volunteer opportunities for this event, contact Fringer at [kendra.a.fringer@occc.edu](mailto:kendra.a.fringer@occc.edu) or contact Student Life at 405-682-7596.

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Student clubs, organizations fair Aug. 25 and 26

Students who are interested in joining a club or organization can get more information during the Club and Organization Fair being held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, in the General Dining Area lobby on the first floor of the Main Building.

### Christmas Connection seeks volunteers

Christmas Connection is actively seeking students to volunteer during their August and September School Uniform Shopping Days. Christmas Connection serves local, low-income families by providing an environment in which they can shop for basic necessities, household items and clothing. Volunteers will help organize clothing, coordinate client clipboards and prepare receipts. To register for a 2- or 3-hour shift, contact Donna Robison at [drobison@christmasconnection.org](mailto:drobison@christmasconnection.org) or call 405-634-2006, ext. 102.

### Walk to End Alzheimer's: walkers needed

The OCCC Power Walkers team needs team members to walk and help raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's. They also need volunteers to help run various booths. The Walk to End Alzheimer's ceremony begins at 9 a.m. The 2-mile route begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark downtown. For more information, visit [www.act.alz.org](http://www.act.alz.org). To join the OCCC team, contact Student Life Director Erin Logan at [elogan@occc.edu](mailto:elogan@occc.edu) or call 405-682-7523. For information on volunteering, contact Kendra Fringer at [kendra.a.fringer@occc.edu](mailto:kendra.a.fringer@occc.edu).

### Agnostics, Atheists and Freethinkers to meet

The Agnostics, Atheists and Freethinkers club will host a Disbelief Discourse at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, in room 1C5 of the Main Building. All students are welcome to attend. For more information, email [aaf@my.occc.edu](mailto:aaf@my.occc.edu) or [kgrayson@occc.edu](mailto:kgrayson@occc.edu).

### Students can get fit for free during fall semester

Group Fitness Classes are free to all OCCC students with a valid OCCC ID. The Wellness Center fall hours are: the weight and cardio rooms, and gym are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and closed on Sunday. For more information about any of these areas, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center office at 405-682-7860.

### History of African prints exhibit at VPAC

An exhibit showcasing African fabric prints runs 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 17 through Oct. 16, in the Inasmuch Foundation Gallery in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

**All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu) or drop by the Pioneer office located in AH 1F2.**

# 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](mailto:adman@occc.edu).

for a gaming TV or in a child's room. \$25. Text 405-818-0083 for more details.

### FOR SALE

**FOR SALE:** "The Complete Film Production Handbook - Fourth Edition: \$28.99. "For All Practical Purposes Mathematical Literacy in Today's World- Ninth Edition": \$58.99. Call 443-812-0917.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**FREE:** Your ad here. Students can place non-business classified ads for free. No more than 7 lines. Submit your ad to [adman@occc.edu](mailto:adman@occc.edu) with your name, student ID and valid phone number.

### AUTOMOTIVE

**FOR SALE:** Bed liner and camper shell that will fit a full-size truck. Good condition. \$100 for both. Text 405-818-0083 for more information or photos.

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— Rosaldo Martinez

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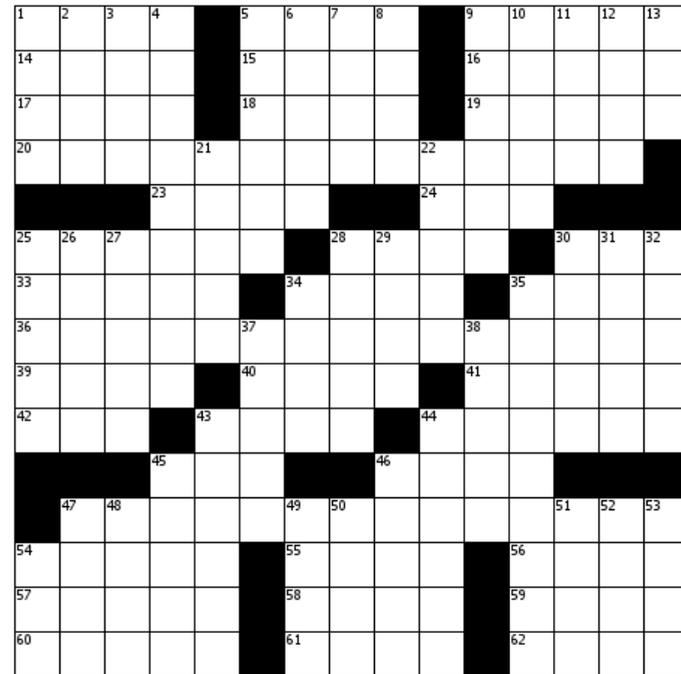
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## WEEKLY CROSSWORD

### Across

1. Discharge
5. Looped cross
9. Front for frost
14. Discover relative
15. Copenhagen native
16. Supply
17. Teen favorite
18. More than
19. Fluid pint part
20. HOME
23. Potting need
24. Indisposed
25. One of "The Three B's"
28. Whole note, e.g.
30. Speller's agon
33. "The Bundle of Sticks" author
34. Parking lot souvenir
35. Be rude, in a way
36. HOME
39. Pack contents?
40. "Das Kapital" author
41. Company dodger
42. Film crew's locale
43. Fades away
44. If all goes well
45. Firefighter's need
46. Lot, perhaps
47. HOME
54. Cracks under pressure
55. Ma with a bow
56. Lasso
57. One not seen in "Peanuts"
58. Starting place?
59. Hasn't ponied up
60. Ends of the earth?
61. Prom pursuit
62. Delicate use of words



### Down

- |                                   |                                 |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Dark forces                    | 21. Pizzazz                     | 38. Sound start?                |
| 2. Dress length                   | 22. Numbers game                | 43. Are                         |
| 3. Has the stage                  | 25. Cowardly flees the scene    | 44. Stage opening               |
| 4. Oprah and Dr. Phil's offerings | 26. Even the score again        | 45. Doctor repellent?           |
| 5. Handsome lad of myth           | 27. Cash or real estate, e.g.   | 46. So far                      |
| 6. Kind of battle                 | 28. Stadium levels              | 47. Bring to ruin               |
| 7. Was familiar with              | 29. Cameo stone                 | 48. Heavy hammer                |
| 8. "Try this"                     | 30. Pickler's need              | 49. Word with googly            |
| 9. Oprah and Dr. Phil, e.g.       | 31. A-frame overhangs           | 50. Word with water or fountain |
| 10. The same                      | 32. Critic of Chicago           | 51. 29th of 50                  |
| 11. Hierarchy level               | 34. Lacking brightness or color | 52. Crude bunch?                |
| 12. Cursor controllers            | 35. Travel the world            | 53. Home tweet home?            |
| 13. Copy                          | 37. Fireplace item              | 54. Patsy                       |

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Gifty Benson shows OCCC students around the new “History of African Wax Prints” art exhibit, located in the Inasmuch Foundation Gallery, VPA 168, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. Benson owns the collection, most of which she received from her mother, and said she will donate it to a museum some day. The exhibit runs from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, through Oct. 16.. Clayton Mitchell/Pioneer

## Art: African wax prints on display

*Continued from page 1*

through this exhibit, students can gain insight into the cultural tradition of communicating through clothing. He said Benson emphasized the importance of these colorful patterns to her culture.

“She shared with us that this is a vital part of the African culture she’s from,” he said. “Some of the prints are still being made. They’ve been in print, so to speak, for over a hundred years.”

Tigert was fascinated that young people wear the super wax prints as a way of branding themselves.

“Isn’t that interesting that in a culture where I don’t know how extensive Internet, technology, devices are and such — you’ve got a group of people who are moving into the future and that’s how they want to move into the future.

“If you go look at those su-

per prints, they’re sharp, real sharp edges. The colors are just a little bit harder or brighter than the others. It’s interesting how they’re identifying themselves.”

Benson said several of the print styles are named after President Barack Obama and the first lady, including “Michelle Obama’s Shoes.”

Benson said the pattern “Angelina” was very popular worldwide, especially during the ’60s.

“It’s an international cloth — one of the most iconic prints. It trended with the hippies. Every hippie wore this one.”

Benson said there are three types of fabric: the wax block, java print and super wax. The prints are cut and purchased in 6-yard segments. The super wax prints are made of finer cotton.

She said men wrap the kente cloth around themselves and drape it over their shoulder,

while the women wear dresses.

Two yards are used for the skirt, two for the peplum blouse and two are used to hang as a sling.

She said only the very wealthy can afford to pay the \$200 to \$300 price tag for a prepared (not handmade) dress with this fabric.

“They wear them with a Rolex watch, Louis Vuitton bag and Christian Louboutin shoes,” Benson said. “This really tells you their social standing in the society.

“Every three or four times they have a new batch, everyone wants the new clothes.”

Benson said she will eventually donate the entire collection to a museum for permanent display.

The exhibit is open 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, through Oct. 16. The Inasmuch Foundation Gallery is in Room 168 of the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

