

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER



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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

DEC. 4, 2015



Practice makes perfect: Andrew Edwards, music major, practices a song he composed in the Visual and Performing Arts Center practice room. "I ultimately want to get a master's degree in music education," Edwards said. "Writing and composing music is a big passion of mine and the music program here at OCCC is great." For more information about the program, visit www.occc.edu/catalog/2015-2016/degree-programs/arts/music.html. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Campus crime lower than neighboring area

KATIE AXTELL
Editor
editor@occc.edu

With almost 14,000 students and 700 employees on campus, OCCC is comparable and, in some cases, larger than some Oklahoma towns and cities in terms of population.

So it would make sense that campus crime is being reported on a regular basis.

Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said he is satisfied with the relatively low level

of crime that happens on campus.

"We're looking for zero, but the amount of crime we have on campus and the response we're getting from people and the numbers — I would say we are pleased that we don't have a crime issue on campus, especially with safety," he said.

In fact, crime statistics gathered from a one-mile radius north, east and south of the OCCC campus from October 2014 to October 2015 show campus crime is exceedingly lower.

See OCCC page 9

Transferring with a degree preferable

MICAYLA PAYNE
News Writing Student

Students who plan on earning a diploma from OCCC have to apply to graduate, said Amanda Williams-Mize, Graduation Services assistant director.

"Once they have enrolled in their final semester, we encourage students to apply for graduation then," Williams-Mize said. "That way, if there are courses that you might need, you have time to get enrolled."

Williams-Mize said students should be aware of the benefits of an associate degree when continuing to a four-year university.

"Once you get a transcript from OCCC, and your degree is shown on the transcript, most colleges will take that degree as a package. Your general-education core classes get wiped away because you have an associate degree. Your transcript will show those core requirements are complete."

"The benefit of that is it saves you some time and money," Williams-Mize said.

"Certain university programs even waive additional courses you might need," Williams-Mize said.

"It just depends on what you're going into. Some degree programs will even waive a foreign language — but not

See APPLY page 9

Students, professors question humanities course cancellations

Acting Vice President says she supports decision to discontinue some popular classes

LENORA LAVICTOIRE
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Students will have fewer humanities courses to choose from this spring semester, leaving many students disappointed that popular classes Advocates of Peace and Folklore will no longer be offered.

In addition, research conducted by Pioneer staff has found other English and Humanities courses listed in the OCCC Cata-

log have not been made available to students via a class schedule since spring 2013.

Those courses include ENGL 2353 Native American Literature, ENGL 2363 African-American Literature, and ENGL 2413 Women in Literature.

Acting Academic Affairs Vice President Anne DeClouette said that funding and increased enrollment are factors in why the courses were removed from the schedule. The college budget does not allow additional faculty to be hired in the English and Humanities Division.

"At some point we also have to consider that, with more students, we have a greater need for the basics (such as) English

... Curriculum is a faculty-driven process. ... The assumption is that faculty know their business."

—CATHERINE KINYON
CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR

Comp ... so we have to add more of those," she said.

Two percent more, or 1,218 additional students, enrolled at the college this fall compared to last, according to a fall enrollment report.

See CLASSES page 9



EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | History shows what happens when the U.S. allows fear to override compassion

America — the melting pot of only Americans

Almost 1 million foreign nationals became U.S. citizens in 2013, according to Migrationpolicy.org. In that same year, 173 million temporary admissions were given. Not that many people seemed to care



**KATIE
AXTELL**

about either of those numbers. But now, as hundreds of thousands of refugees seek shelter, food and a safe place from the slaughter happening in their own country, many U.S. citizens say we need to turn our backs to protect our own.

To those hypocrites, I ask you: What do you do to protect our own? To those who say no to the refugees because we have a homeless population I ask you:

What have you done to combat that issue?

If you're one of those who share and post on Facebook how we need to help our own first while you work on a big dose of diabetes by eating a triple bacon cheeseburger and drinking a Big Gulp, but don't do anything to actually help the homeless, then sit down and shut up.

Many Americans are so comfortable with our easy

lifestyles that include pumpkin spice everything, diet plans and having only to worry about whether the person you invited over will really just want to watch Netflix and chill, that we often forget how good we have it. We can't seem to fathom the thought of what it might be like to be running for our lives with nothing but blisters and blood as companions.

We are busy debating whether the lack of snowflakes on a red cup is offensive or if Glen from "The Walking Dead" is still alive while these refugees pray for no snow or harsh conditions in a place with no shelter from the storm.

After Pearl Harbor, more than 120,000 U.S. citizens were imprisoned in remote camps just for being Japanese, according to ushistory.org. Even those who were born in the U.S. were forced to sell all their belongings and be degraded because of our fear of their ethnicity. That reaction still remains a dark mark on the nation's record of respecting civil liberties and cultural differences.

The smithsonianmag.com documents the time the U.S. turned away Jews fleeing from the Nazis. According to the article, the St. Louis, a German transatlantic liner carrying around 900 Jewish refugees, was turned away from Miami forcing the ship to

return to Europe where almost half of those refugees died in the Holocaust.

Much like our current situation, the majority of the U.S. population had rejected the idea of bringing over Jewish refugees. Hundreds, if not thousands, of lives were lost in both situations because of fear, prejudice and stereotyping. Let us learn from history.

Yes, there are risks to letting the Syrian refugees in. And, there are risks to not letting them in.

There may be an infiltration in those we let in. There may be an infiltration of those already let in. There are too many variables and too many questions for anything to be definite. But, what gives us the right to say that our lives matter more than any other human beings?

Who are we to deny refuge and a safe haven when we came here and damn near committed genocide to possess this country? Oh, that isn't who we are today? Well, the Syrian refugees are not all part of ISIS and they might not get a tomorrow.

America is supposedly a melting pot, but the only thing I see melting is our sympathy, our compassion and our humanity.

—KATIE AXTELL
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | The public should welcome receiving information they might not seek out on their own

Journalists, community should work hand-in-hand

To the Editor:

Let's face it — journalists can be annoying. OK, we've gotten that settled.

Now let's face something else — journalists are a necessary component to a healthy functioning society.

I know words such as "transparent" and "objective" can be scary or unbelievable, but those are what truly make a good publication good.

Without a publication like,

say the New York Times, how would the public get information about their city such as the crime reports, upcoming events, social changes or, most importantly, articles about the latest baseball/football/basketball game?

OK, let's bring it back to the journalists.

They're not here to favor anyone and, in return, they do not ask anyone to favor them — though there is a

certain amount of respect that should be expected from the community, as well as from the journalists.

Journalists are only people doing their jobs — fulfilling the Constitution's obligation to report on what's happening (kudos First Amendment!).

It's what makes our country great, the ability to seek information and get it.

The job of the journalist is to help make that information

transparent and to make it more readily available for the public to view.

This does not empower journalists over others in their community.

In fact, absolutely every citizen has the same rights to the same information.

So what I'm getting at is this: let's end the stigma of and ill will toward good, solid journalists, and start thinking about how being able to get

information we are entitled to affects our daily lives.

Trust and respect — both ways — go a long way in this field.

The better we establish that trust and respect, the better journalists can report on what matters, which leads to a more informed public.

And remember, information is power.

—BRYCE MCELHANEY
OCCC EMPLOYEE

PIONEER

Vol. 44 No. 16

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The PIONEER is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature.

E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the

author's name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Students must list a major. OCCC staff and faculty must list a 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

BOOK REVIEW | Reviewer picks up book he first read in 2009 and finds it still entertains

High school book still great

With my time at OCCC and the Pioneer coming to a close, I figured it would be a time to do a serious review, about something that is really meaningful to me. I'm reviewing a book. I don't read books often so that is a sign that this review is special.

The book I'm reviewing is titled "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," and is written by Ishmael Beah.

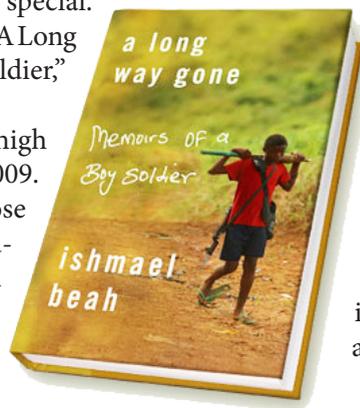
I first read this book before high school, back in the summer of 2009.

It was on a list of books to choose from for a required summer reading assignment for my freshman geography class. The list contained famous books, such as Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner," but I chose "A Long Way Gone" because I was not familiar with it at all.

I recently picked up the book again and remembered how much I loved it.

"A Long Way Gone" is a memoir of Beah's life growing up in Sierra Leone and his involvement in the Civil War in that country during the 1990s.

Beah details his time at the age of 11, running away



from his village with friends, as it is attacked by the Revolutionary United Front. He travels to many villages all of which, in turn, are attacked. He eventually arrives at a "safe village" where his family is located, before it too is attacked.

Assuming his family is dead, Beah is forced to enlist in the Sierra Leone Armed Forces.

There he executes prisoners of war, and is forced to take drugs, until eventually he is rescued by UNICEF.

He tells of his rehabilitation into normal society, speaking on behalf of child soldiers in front of the United Nations, and eventually having to flee into the U.S.

This book gives a close look at life during a terrible period in Sierra Leone, as well as the horrors of children soldiers.

"A Long Way Gone" is as impactful to me now as the day I first started reading it more than six years ago. It is a must-read.

Rating: A+

—CLAYTON MITCHELL
VIDEOGRAPHER

SERIES REVIEW | Although network's storylines are not always believable, they are fun

CW's 'Arrow' full of superhero drama

I'm a huge fan of superhero movies. Though I don't read any of the comics, I still love watching people with superhuman abilities blow things up and save innocent civilian lives. It's all so dramatic and ridiculously scripted. CW's "Arrow" series is no exception.

The show is based around Oliver Queen, the billionaire playboy-turned-vigilante after a tragic shipwreck took the life of his father. Queen also was in the shipwreck and spent "five years on a hellish island."

Viewers will remember this tidbit because he mentions it at the beginning of every single episode — which is a bit redundant.

CW's ability to create characters that never stay dead and secrets that don't need to be kept secret make the show somewhat comical, though I'm not sure that was the goal.

In the first season, Queen has a hit list from his father and using only a bow and arrow, attacks high-profile criminals who are seemingly untouchable.

He gradually adds to "Team Arrow" throughout the series, establishing a crime-fighting unit based out of a nightclub's basement (not pun intended).

Soon, he's fighting Starling City villains who have more flair than brainpower. Nearly every episode is based on a villain who does no small deed — they each have larger-than-life plans. So if you're not into drama, this series is not for you.



The characters, however, are my favorite part of the show. There's Laurel Lance, a lawyer who spends her days following money trails she shouldn't follow and attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in between each case.

John Diggle is a loyal former special forces soldier whose last name I can't take seriously. Oliver's mother is deceptively clever and somewhat of a villain herself.

The best character in the series, however, is Felicity Smoak. She's an IT employee at Queen Industries who has a knack for hacking and for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time, which is the story of my life.

I'm pretty much hooked on "Arrow" and I'm not entirely sure why. But you should get hooked, too.

Rating: A

—DARLA KILHOFFER
ONLINE EDITOR



Politics made easy through free application

Political players are easy to confuse. Given their common traits — predominately white, male and old — they can look a lot alike.

I'm going to let you in on a little secret to help keep track of who your Oklahoma state and local representatives are.

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives sponsors the Oklahoma 55th legislature app. It is the only app I know of that offers a complete, up-to-date database with pictures, contact info, committees, districts, and party affiliation for both state and national members of Congress.

Think you just saw your legislator leave the bathroom without washing his hands? Check out the app's picture of him so you can remember the name and tweet at him.

Wondering if the crazy person holding a snowball on the Senate floor to prove global warming doesn't exist is your senator?

It probably is, so why don't you go ahead and write him a letter, or maybe, never vote for him again.

The app stores a notes section for each congressperson. That is where I like to keep links to my favorite articles about them.

Unfortunately the notes section has a limit, so for special cases — like everyone's favorite Gov. Mary Fallin — you may need to go ahead and upgrade to a file folder, or even cabinet, to store all the incorrect or disagreeable things she has said.

My favorite thing about the app is the map function.

You can drop a pin anywhere in the state and see your U.S. House district, Oklahoma House district, and state senate district.

I find this useful when you tell someone to write to his or her congressperson and that person replies with a half-hearted, non-committal response that he or she doesn't know who that is. I whip out the app like, ta-da!

Personal responsibility in your government!

The OAEC 55th legislature app is free and relevant until January 2017 so why not download?

It is available for Android and iPhone in the app store.

—LENORA LAVICTOIRE
COMMUNITY WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

COMIC BOOK REVIEW | In publication since 2003, story is already plotted out for several years to come

'Walking Dead' still very much alive

Most will be familiar with the basic premise of "The Walking Dead" from seeing the popular television series on AMC or through Netflix.

If you have only seen the show, it is easy to dismiss it as just another zombie story, part of a genre so thoroughly explored that the only thing left is zombie parodies of other genres like "Pride and Prejudice, and Zombies" or "The Zombie Survival Guide."

But the graphic novel

the show is based on offers much more.

At its core "The Walking Dead" is a book about ideas. Writer Robert Kirkman makes the zombie genre fresh by stripping it down to one basic question: If you were to wake up tomorrow and modern world were gone with no explanation, how would you choose to live?

Structurally it is similar to other dystopian comics. "Y: The Last Man" uses a

similar device to ask what the world would be like if all the men died tomorrow leaving only women.

"The Walking Dead" has more universal appeal, tackling issues like what makes us human, and the role of trust between individuals in constructing civilization. These issues are rooted in a single basic fact: sooner or later everybody dies.

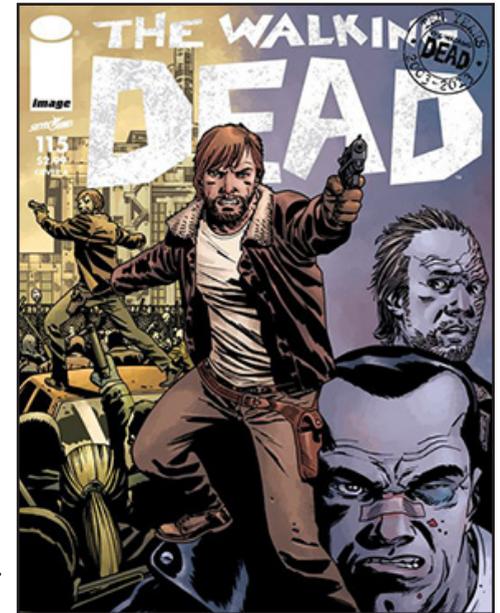
"The Walking Dead" has been in continuous publication since 2003.

This is remarkable because after more than a decade of publication the new material is every bit as strong as the first page of the series.

Kirkman indicated in a Reddit Q&A that he has the story plotted out through at least issue 300, which means there is nearly as much story still to come as has already been published.

Rating: A

—AMAR MOLINAS
WEBMASTER



FOOTBALL REVIEW | College football teams should play in their conference to be respected

Sooners legit when it comes to rankings

Let me preface this by saying: I am a completely 100-percent biased University of Oklahoma football fan. I'm a native Normanite and love the phrase "Sooner born, Sooner bred. When I die I'll be Sooner dead."

That being said, this review is more about the illusion of dominance that teams like Baylor have in today's college football world more than the actual Baylor vs. OU game.

Baylor was, at one point, ranked number 4 in the nation, thanks in part to its "high powered" offense, led by quarterback Seth Russell. Once he was injured for the rest of the season, not much was expected to change.

His replacement, Jarret Stidham, was supposedly him in a younger body, hailed by Baylor coach Art Briles as "the best quarterback I've seen in a long time."

Baylor's prowess seemingly grew throughout the season as they continued to demolish cupcake team after cupcake team, playing powerhouses such as SMU and Rice.

It should come as no surprise then, that when the Bears finally ran into a quality opponent in OU, they came up very short.

OU was able to beat Baylor at home, a feat which hasn't been accomplished by anyone in the past 20 home games at McLane Stadium.

Teams like Baylor schedule very weak non-conference games. In other words, whenever they don't play teams from their own conference, the Big 12, they're playing teams



game of the season.

Sure Baylor only had one loss before OU, but their schedule of beating up on weaker and smaller programs won't do them any good when it comes to future rankings.

OU now prepares for the college football playoffs, where they are predicted to play Alabama.

Rating: B-

—SPENCER GRANT
SENIOR WRITER

Have you recently seen a movie, read a book or dined at an area restaurant?

Head over to our Facebook or Twitter page and tell us about it.

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www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer



TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Nov. 27
through Nov. 29
www.newyorktimes.com

1. The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2
2. The Good Dinosaur
3. Creed
4. Spectre
5. The Peanuts Movie
6. The Night Before
7. Secret in Their Eyes
8. Spotlight
9. Brooklyn
10. The Martian
11. Love the Coopers
12. Victor Frankenstein
13. Trumbo
14. Bridge of Spies
15. Tamasha
16. Legend
17. Room A24
18. Our Times
19. La Guerre des tuques
20. Carol

President talks campus business with student leaders

ALYSSA HOLMES
News Writing

Student leaders heard college President Jerry Steward warn about the potential danger of guns on campus during The Leadership Council meeting Oct. 30.

Three weeks later TLC passed a resolution opposing legislation that would allow guns to be carried by anyone other than campus police.

TLC has passed the same resolution for five years in a row.

Steward noted that in the past year there have been 23 shootings on school campuses.

He alerted TLC members to the likelihood that legislation will be introduced once again to permit the carrying of weapons on college campuses in Oklahoma.

Letting people carry guns on campus would not make students safe, Steward said, reiterating his stand against any laws that would allow non-police officers to carry weapons.

“If we do have these cuts, we should discuss what we should keep and what we should get rid of, and doing so will be a challenge.”

—JERRY STEWARD
OCCC PRESIDENT

“No one can guarantee absolute safety,” he said.

Steward also explained that next year, in Texas, legislation is going to allow people to carry guns on campus. The result, he argued, is that students will be “fundamentally less safe.”

“It’s a recipe for disaster,” he said.

Another issue Steward talked about is school funding. He said it is likely state funds to OCCC will be reduced.

“If we do have these cuts, we should discuss what we should keep and what we should get rid of, and doing so will be a challenge,” he said.

Steward said he wants the students to feel safe and wel-

come at the school.

The president told his own life story, saying he faced many of the same struggles OCCC students are going through.

He was born and raised in poverty and became a father at just 18 years old.

After he graduated from high school, he went to the University of Central Oklahoma and received his bachelor’s degree. Later he earned a law degree from the University of Oklahoma.

“Education was a ticket out of poverty,” Steward said. “It saved me.”

Steward said he began his career as a public school teacher before getting his law degree.

Before coming to OCCC full time, he was the senior partner in a law firm he established.

Later, while serving as the college’s attorney, Steward was a part of the political science faculty, teaching American Federal Government.

“The best part of my job is to work with the students. It is very important to me.”



2015-2016 RESOLUTION AGAINST GUNS ON CAMPUS

WHEREAS, there have been numerous instances of gun violence on college campuses across the country, which students, faculty and staff have been injured and killed; and

WHEREAS, the possibility of legislation allowing open or concealed carry of firearms by non-law enforcement personnel on college and university campuses emerges each year in the Oklahoma Legislative Session, and

WHEREAS, a civil, safe and open environment is fundamental to the educational process; and

WHEREAS, no credible research has indicated that allowing guns on campus by non-law enforcement personnel creates a safer environment; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma City Community College and the Oklahoma Legislature have an obligation to the safety of students, faculty and staff, then

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that The Leadership Council urges all students to become educated with regards to weapon safety rules in order to avoid firearm related accidents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Leadership Council of Oklahoma City Community College, on behalf of the student body of Oklahoma City Community College strongly opposes any legislation, regulations, or policies that would allow guns on campus by non-law enforcement personnel.


Simone Mathenib, Chair
The Leadership Council


Date

Affirmed: April 12, 2012
Reaffirmed: January 31, 2013
Reaffirmed: February 27, 2014
Reaffirmed: January 29, 2015

Christopher Hanna, Chair
Angela Gutierrez, Chair
Samir Elneser, Chair
Lisa Lasater, Chair

The Leadership Council, OCCC’s student council, passed a resolution Nov. 19 opposing legislation that would allow guns to be carried on campus by anyone other than campus police. TLC has passed the same resolution for five years in a row.

President Jerry Steward also is against guns on campus. “It’s a recipe for disaster,” he said.

Man caught driving illegally, campus police car struck

SPENCER GRANT
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A student caught driving illegally and a campus police car being struck were reported to campus police in recent weeks.

At around 8:10 p.m., Nov. 11, Officer Patrick Martino stopped an OCCC student, 20, for a burned-out headlight as he was leaving the campus.

It was then discovered the man, whose name was redacted from the report, only had a learner’s permit and no insurance verification.

Officer Zachary Andrews completed an inventory of the vehicle and had it impounded.

Officer Jerry VanWinkle was escorting student Nicole Poindexter, 32, to her car at 12:35 p.m. Nov. 9, when the campus police car he was driving was struck by a car driven by student Jamie Biggerstaff, 18.

The report shows Biggerstaff was

backing her car out of a parking spot when the accident happened.

When VanWinkle saw the other car backing out, he stopped and honked his horn. Biggerstaff hit the passenger side of the patrol car.

VanWinkle said minimal damage was done to both cars.

Officer Jeremy Bohannon responded to an animal cruelty call at 3:51 p.m. on Nov. 11, regarding two dogs that had reportedly been left in a car for around seven hours.

The driver of the car, 41, whose name

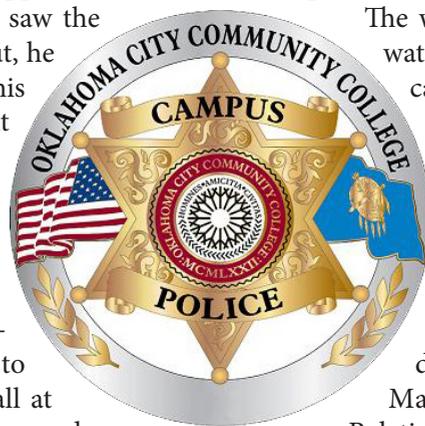
has been redacted from reports, called the report “ridiculous.”

The woman had a cup of water but no food in the car for the animals.

The driver left the scene after Bohannon checked on the dogs’ well-being.

Some information was redacted from the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell

Jordan, who said names are redacted “according to OCCC PD Standard Operating Procedures involving in-



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formation released and information withheld.”

To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported on page 5 of the Nov. 20 issue that campus police responded to a call on the first floor of the library about a student who had been warned about excessive printing.

The incident actually occurred in the Computer Lab which is housed on the third floor of the library but is not staffed by library workers and is not a part of the library other than being within its walls.

We apologize for the mistake.

**Comments? Opinions?
Let us know!
E-mail the editor at
editor@occc.edu
Let your voice be heard!**

Summer, fall OCCC graduates named

The following students have applied for December graduation. Diplomas will be granted after credentials are completed and degree requirements are met. Students who fulfill degree requirements may participate in the May commencement ceremony.

Summer 2015 Graduates

Emily Adams, Grant Adams, Brandy Allen, Melanny Alpizar-Cordova, Stephanie Alvarado, Mahazatou Amadou Amani, Clara Arelano, Sabuj Aryal, Jensen Atkinson, Kasey Aufero, Stephanie Baker, Chris Bales, Robin Banell, Marcee Barker, Charles Barnaby, Jo Ann Baughman, Taylor Beard, Craig Beavers, Michael Becker, Gary Beebe, Enrique Benitez, Michael Birnie, Kyle Bishop, Tona'i Black, Kasie Blake, Aquelle Bowen.

Jared Brashears, Victoria Broadway, Maresa Broom, Diana Brumley, Paige Buchanan, Brittany Burnside, Kendall Burnside, Ana Carrion, Durell Carter, Kasey Carter, Doraliza Carvo, Dania Centeno, Andrew Chang, Melissa Chapman, Brenda Chavira, Candy Cifuentes, Rachael Colbert, Iesha Colbert, Brittany Combs, Brenton Conrad, Jonathan Conway.

Jonathan Conway, Zackery Cooksey, Sharon Couture, Catherine Currier, Cory Dauphin, Alma De Ome, Siera Dillman, Quyen Dinh, Royal Do, Patrick Dobry, Steven Dodd, Nicholas Duncan, Jennafer Duvall, Taylor Edgin, Carissa Egan, Sherry Eggleston, Jason Elkin, Tatiana Elonge, Andrew Emerson, Varun Ennamuri, Tiffany Feese, Daniel Frank Feze, Kristi Fields, Kari Fisher, Talesa Flenniken, Shantaybia Fordham.

Ashley France, Garrett Gadke, Joshua Gallegos, Franklin Garcia Jerez, Jeffrey Garrison, Michael Gasper, Beau Gastineau, Nicholas Gatmen, Nathaniel Gauwitz, Dennis Gitau, Kevin Goree, Duncan Grant, Jesse Grant, Joseph Green, Morgan Greene, Sarah Grots, Louis Guerrant, Charles Guthrie, Aaliyah Hackshaw, Logan Hackworth, Amanda Hall.

Madeline Hall, Nathan Hamlet, Kaylee Hamman, Shauna Harding, Lindsey Harris, Debbie Hartsell, Chelsea Henderson, Chelsea Henderson, Whitney Henderson, Isai Hernandez, Samuel Herrera, Nicole Hibshman, Peter Hodgden, Brianna Hogan, Kallie Hollowell, Christopher Horton, Sheila Howard, Bryan Huddleston, Heather Huey, Adam Hughes, Tiffany Hughes, Connor Hunter, Sara Hutchins, Nathan Ice, Germain Ilunga, Angela James, Andria Johnson, Shemeka Johnson.

Sherman Johnson, Benjamin Johnston, Ryan Johnston, Elbert Jones, Elbert Jones, Kevin Jones, Paul Jones, Victoria Jones, Travis Kaiser, Christina Kalabic, Justin Kameni, Njoroge Karanja, Wendell Karr Ake, Christ Kaya, Jaclyn Keith, Kaitlin Ketner, Amanda Kilgore, Randall Killingsworth, Tiffany Killman, Gwangmin Kim, Hyunwoo Kim, Minjung Kim, Allira Kimrey, Brian Koehn, Katherine Kordsiemon, Andrews Kwei,

Roxanne Lamothe, David Landes, Ashlyn Lane, Richard Leckie, Bobbie Ledford, Peter Lee.

Antonesha Lewis, Melissa Littlefield, Kenzi Lockwood, Louran Lowder, Christopher Luckert, Stratton Lujan, Amber Madden, Laura Maggard, Aslan Maleki, Lyndi Mann, Chase Marley, Isaac Marrone, Lee Marrs, Katherine Marshall, Aundra Martin, Timi Marzean, Beena Mathew, Dustin Mauk, Michael Mayfield, Lauren Mayhew, Elizabeth Mbarga, Lailani McBryde, Shawn McCarther, Chris McElroy, Patrick McEntire, Maci McGregor, Parker Melendez, Keith Mhlanga.

Robert Mitchell, Laurie Moglia-Lahood, Jocelyn Mojica-Arrieta, Daniel Moody, Paul Mungiria, Mayra Munoz, Leila Nazarali, Alexandria Neely, Kaylen Newbury, Thanh Ngo, Duy Nguyen, Julie Nguyen, Kendra Nicholson, Kathy Nix, Joshua Ou, Baker Ousley, Alan Parker, Sadee Parker, James Parkman, Dolly Patel, Sheritha Patton, Walter Pennington, Veronica Peoples, Jennifer Pham, Jessica Porter, Sierra Price, Melissa Putman, Melissa Putman, Shelby Rackley, Brooke Reed, Elizabeth Reed, Haley Reed, Anthony Reid, Ginger Riccardi, Spencer Rice.

Courtenay Rinehart, Sanjuana Rios, Ninoshka Rivera Roldan, Melissa Rodarte, Madison Rodgers, Emi Sam, Teddi Samples, Kathy Sawyer, Brian Shafer, Richard Shaw, Jermell Sherman, Jack Shuler, Jill Shumway, Neely Simms, Hardeep Singh, Carly Smith, Douglas Smith, Benjamin Southard, Hunter Southwell, Amanda Spears, Abram Spillman, Kayla Spinks, Michael Stedman, Marissa Steinhof, Rebecca Sterkel.

Christopher Stevenson, Cathy Stoecker, Catlin Stuart, Alisa Tarasova, Jasmine Thavisack, Jeffrey Thom, James Thomas, Vincent Thomas, Hunter Thompson, Mario Thompson, Zachary Thompson, Joshua Tims, Lindsay Todd, Jennifer Torres, Laura Torres, Cliff Tracy, Lynn Tran, Cooper Treadaway, Ashley Trent, Katie Trospier, Julie Trump, Julie Uhles, Lorena Uribe, Karina Valero, Kristina Vanderlinde, Gabriela Velazquez, Melissa Venegas, Bruce Vernon, Gloria Villalva.

Sophia Vo, Jason Volk, Kaitlyn Votaw, Nicole Waddle, Sarah Walker, Shelly Wall, Rachel Ward, Alexis Watkins, Heather Watson, Summer Webb, Brett Weeks, Shaylee Wellendorf, Ryan West, Brittney Wheeler, Brooklyn Wheeler, Tawanna Whinery, Brian White, Tyler White, Ryne Whitehead, Lauren Whiteley, Jenna Williams, Quincy Williams, Whitney Williams, Bobbie Wilson, Dana Witmer, Desiree Wolf, Christopher Woody, Jamie Worcester, Chara Word, Russell Wortham, James Yarbrough, Carine Yem, Wendlyn Young.

Fall 2015 Graduates

Rita Chinyelu Akubueze, Ruby Asantewaah Akuffo, Mohammed Abdul Aleem, Sydney Allbritton, Alia Nasr Alsaif, Ana Alvarado, Yareni Alvarado, Anna Alvey, Matthew

Alvey, Trevor Armitage, William Arnett, Samantha Asbill, LaTusha Ba, Troy Baker, Mickey Banks Jr., Blake Barajas, Kevin Barnes, Lynell Barnes, Alexis Barnett, Shilo Barrett, Sheree Beauclair, Morgan Beavers, Jordan Beene, Nour El Yakine Bel Bekri, Shannon Bell, John Beller.

Sharon Benigar, Jonathan Bentley, Madeline Bentley, Jayvun Berry, Beth Bishop, Bruce Blackwood, Paula XXX, Brandi Bradley, Shelbey Brady, Elizabeth Bragan, Joseph Branco, Jennie Brandon, Cindy Brenneis, Lindsey Brewer, Tiffany Broadus, Tanner Brogden, Victoria Broadway, Bailey Brooks, Alec Brown, Shanci Brown, Monica Brownfield, Amanda Bryant, Stephanie Bryce, Preston Caldwell, Scott Campbell, Christian Carey,



Dustin Carlton, Katherine Carra.

Anna Hughes Carter, Jeremy Castle, Christian Castro, Annette Cavener, Matthew Chalender, Cyndi Christopher, Trina Clark, McKayla Clary, Brandi Cloninger, Whitney Collins, Angela Colvard, Vanessa Contreras, Casey Cook Jr., Cynthia Cook, Taylor Corbin, Carla Corley, Zachariah Covington, Preston Craig, Lindsey Crawford, Kimberly Creek, Katie Crosley, Kailey Crossley, Braden Crumly, Lisa Cummings.

Jeremy Dalton, Winnifred Davenport, Joni Dean, Nicholas Dean, Rachel Deer, Emilie Defatta, Mark Degraffenreid, Mayra Delossantos, Ethan Dettlaff, Jessica Dillard, Jessica Dinh, Huong Doan, Sarah Dombrowski, Conor Dooling, Leah Dorman, Cheri Drinkard, Stacy Dunn, Jessica Ellerd, Jordan Elliott, Ana Ellis, James Chase Ellis, Kellie Elmgreen, Perla Esparza, Francisco Esqueda, Adrian Fallwell, Angela Farley, Shelah Farley, Kasie Fischer.

Natalie Flaming, Kristen Fleming, Kelsea Flewellen, Joselyn Fowler, Justin Fowler, Joshua Frick, Katie Fritzler, John Gaines, Daniel Garcia, Jose Garcia, Tommie Garcia, Jennifer Gately, Jeffrey Gelm, Julie Gentry, Shannon Gibson, Brandi Giles, Johnnie Gilpen Jr., Benjamin Girod, Rita Glickstein, Taylor Goldsby, Elpidio Gomez, Samuel Gonzalez, Mary Gooch, Lauren Goodwin, Mark Goyette, Trevor Graham.

Tyler Grantham, Brady Green, Kendra Green, Milanda Grisham, Christina Groh, Jose Guerrero, Klariza Gutierrez, Jason Haddad, Jennifer Haddock, Amanda Hamilton, Mason R.D. Harvell, MyRanda Haskell, Natalie Hatcher, Lisa Heikes, Hollee Helm, Brittany Hernandez,

Victor Hernandez Jr., Miranda Hickman, Emily Hise, Phuong Ho, Ladye Hobson, Wendy Hoffman, Jesse Hogan, Joshua Holland, Ryan Hollingsworth, Marsha Holloway, Angela Holmes.

Steven Horin, Jessica Horner, Charles Hornuvo, Angela Houser, Daniel Howard, Taylor Hudson, Shelia Humphrey, Sabrina Humphries, Kiley Hunter, Michelle Hurst-Inglett, David Indelicato, Kylie Hunter Ingram, Lynette Irwin, David Iten, Emily Jackson, Tessa Jaco, Gincy Jacob, Tywon James II, Esau Jangha, Maria Jasso, Lizanne Jennings, Thomas Jensen, Emily Jewell, Misty Jobe, Misty Jobe, Aaron Michael Arik John, Tory Johnson Jr., Marian Johnson, Ricky Johnson, Taryn Johnson, Jorge Johnston Jr., Jaqueline Jones, Christian Jump, Christian Jump.

Nalinee Junkaew, Laban Kimwaki Kamau, Alex Karanja, Kristen Keeton, Kobie Keller, Adrien Kemery, Lance Kersey, Zulfiya Kholbekova, Phung Khong, Lucas Kirkham, Chelsea Knight, Destrey Knueppel, Michael Koehler, Brian Koehn, Angela Kolander, John Kuhn Jr., Royce Kunjappy, Kyle Ladner, Courtney Lairson, Devlin Lamb, David Landes, Cameron Langkamp, Chelsea Lawson, Haley Layman, Angela Le, Alexander Leach.

Donna Leachman, Tania Lebron, Ashley Lee, Scott Lee, Stephen Leeper, Samantha Lenz, Brittany Lewelling, Kevin Lindert, Katie Liotine, Lirong Liu, Yang Liu, Cody Logston, Nikolas Long, Linda Thanh Ly, Vanessa Lyles, Victor Macias, Matthew Mairet, Melissa Maisano, Whitney Mallett, Casey Malone, Krista Mansfield, Maureen Marrs, Candyce Marsh, Laura Martens.

Laura Martens, Jami Martin, Lavana Martin, Madison Martin, Sayra Martinez, Kathy Mason, Jake Massey, Sarah Mathews, Amanda May, Jenna McAlister, Lisa McCathern, Wendy McCaughey, Megan McCord, Megan McDonald, Terry McDonald, Nicole McKiel, Jeremy McKinley, Tanny McNamara, Courtney Meikle, John Mellendorf, Adam Melton, Renee Melton, Jaclyn Menchaca, Jonathan Mesta, Jordan Meyer, Angelina Meyers, Tessa Millsap, Amanda Milstead.

Preston Minnich, Jon Minyen, Clayton Mitchell, Theodore Mofle, Laurie Moglia-Lahood, Kate Mohr, Katheryn Monroe, Zackary Moore, Katheryn Morrison, Jazzmine Mosley-VIDRINE, Katrina Lashonne Mucker, Katrina Mucker, Elva Munoz, Daniel Murphy, Brandy Murray, Amy Du Nguyen, Phu Nguyen, Sydney Hong Anh Nguyen, Thai Ngan Thi Nguyen, Ashley Nichols, Ihdeun Noh, Rylee Cortez Norman, Blake Nuncio, Silvia Xiomara Goicochea Olano, Jodi Oldham.

Matilde Olivera, Marie Ortiz, Isayah Otoo, Dalysa Overton, Oyewale Oyerinde, Dylan Painter, Adrian Palacios, Brian Palmer, Keegan Parrish, Elijah Partain, Ian Pass, Marissa Patterson, Amy Pavelka, Whitney Peach, Bethany Pelton, Cristina Peralta, Gabriela Mendoza Perez,

Savanna Petricek, Jean Petroff, Ngan Hoang Thuy Pham, Viet Quoc Pham, Jenna Phillips, Melissa Phillips-Villanueva, Andrew Pierce, Noah Pipkins, Thomas Pitts Jr., Allison Presgrove, Summer Prickett, Mary Pugh, Christopher Quezada.

Scott Rains, Hannah Rames, Ashley Ramsey, Billy Renfro, Jermaine LaJuan Rice Jr., Tiandrea Rice, Sydney Richardson, Tiffany Richardson, Steve Rideout, Cole Riggall, Pravesh Rijal, Kerren Ritchey, Austin Ritzer, Thomas Rivas, Victor Rivera, Brittaney Roberts, Miranda Robertson, Parker Robertson, Anna Robinson, Hannah Robinson, Juan Rodriguez, Kalon Rodriguez, Trent Rogers, Eden Rollins, Lauren Romero, Randi Rose, Jessica Ruiz, Danica Runyon.

Luqman Salaudeen, Maryam Salus, Cynthia Sanchez, Felicia Sanders, Karla Moguel Santos, Adeisha Sawyer, Megan Scafe, Sarah Sehhati, Marta Seitz, Kelly Self, Pema Tenzen Sherpa, Brian Shultzabarger, Carene Ndong Sima, Brittany Simpson, Ashley Siska, Steven Slack, Ashley Sloan, Kristen Smallwood, Abigail Smith, Cathryn Smith, Erica Smith, Makenna Smith, Megan Smith, Parthenia Smith, Terrance Sneed, Yang Song, Stacia Sorrels, Grisel Soto, Lucas Stanfield, Austin Starks, Michael Stayton.

Casey Stephens, Darci Stephens, Jennifer Story, Gavin Stuckey, Jessica Suske, Ashley Tackett, Billie Tanner, Frank Kormla Tatagah, John Taylor, Richard Taylor, Cherise Thomas, Susamma Thomas, Courtney Thompson, Miki Thompson, Aire Thorne, Isabella Thornton, Marcus Thurman, Lance Tibbits, Justin Tiger, Landon Timmons, Christopher Tinsley, Relindis Kotkingah Tita-Gwenjeng, Vinh Tong, Robin Toomey, Noe Torres, Kelly Toumbs, Tamara Toussaint.

Hung Trang, Jaime Trevino, Aubrie Turner, Hartley Tyler, Obinna Umeh, Cj M. Unsell, Brittany Vann, Jermaine Vaughn, Mason Vaught, Amanda Veach, Alondra Velasco, Brandi Vidal, Ashley Villarreal, Megan Vinson, Ai Vo, Denny Ngo Vu, Minh Vu, Nicole Waddle, Tiffany Wakefield, Casey Walker, Matthew Waller, Yan Wang, Donald Ware, Annette Waters, Danielle Waters, Lindsey Wells, Christopher West, Cody Westphal, Carlee Wheeler.

Nathan White, Shelby White, Tyler White, Jason Whitman, Tiffany-Zarah Carmel Whittington, Amanda Wilkerson, Alexus Williams, Perry Williams Jr., Marty Williams, Ashley Willmon, Irene Wilson, Georgina Wolfe, Cody Womack, Daniel Woodruff, Erin Wrede, Ashton Wright, Bethany Wright, Richard Wright, Micah Wronowski, Krystal Yandle, Brandon David Young, Isaac Young, Wendlyn Young, Ana Zambrana, Yi Zheng, Sarah Zimmer.

(Don't see your name and think it should be on this list? Call the Graduation, Employment and Transfer office at 405-682-7589 or email GET Director Jill Lindblad at jllindblad@occc.edu.)

Christmas a time for giving, festivities

HUNG TRAN

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

December is a month in which many celebrate charity, gift giving and kindness. This year, there are multiple opportunities to give back to the community and feel the true holiday spirit.

Several non-profit organizations in Oklahoma City such as the Hugs Project, Oklahoma Regional Food Bank, the Salvation Army and Christmas Connection are in need of volunteers.

THE HUGS PROJECT

The Hugs Project mission is to make sure each active American service member knows they are loved and appreciated, according to their website www.thehugsproject.com.

"We are packing 1,000 Christmas care packages," said Executive Director Karen Stark. "Every year, we send special Christmas boxes to those who remain in harm's way."

Stark said volunteers can come between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. each Wednesday and Thursday to 720 W. Wilshire, Suite 105, in Oklahoma City to help out.

Stark said packages will be mailed out on Friday, Dec. 11, to those who were nominated to receive the gift boxes.

For more information about how to volunteer to assemble the Christmas Care Packages for The Hugs Project, call 405-653-8359.

THE REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Regional Food Bank feeds more than 116,000 hungry Oklahomans each week, according to regionalfoodbank.org. Their slogan is "Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope."

"Last year we had over 34,000 volunteers," said Oklahoma Regional Food Bank Volunteerism Associate Director Denice Hurlbut.

Hurlbut said the Food and Resource Center located at 2635 N Shields in Moore is always in need of volunteer help.

"It's like a large food pantry," she said. "Volunteers there can help with stocking the shelves and helping clients choose good items in the pantry and sorting food donations. They still need a lot of help in December."

She said the center also has mobile pantries that serve neighborhoods and senior citizen centers.

Volunteers are needed to help pass out food to residents and seniors, Hurlbut said.

Hurlbut said all the volunteer opportunities, including location, time and how many volunteers are needed can be found at their website www.regionalfoodbank.org/fight-hunger/volunteer.

She said people who sign up do not need to apply, interview or go through a background check. Those

who wish to help within a group also can fill out a volunteer group request on their website.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at The Regional Food Bank, call 405-600-3160.

CHRISTMAS CONNECTION

The Christmas Connection mainly targets supporting Oklahoma's low-income residents by providing necessities to children, adults and seniors, according to christmasconnection.org.

Christmas Connection Program

Director Donna Robison said they need

volunteers for the 2015 Christmas Shopping Days.

Robison said the event provides clothes for parents and new toys for children under 14 years old. Recipients shop for items themselves during the event, she said.

Volunteers are needed to help families shop Tuesday, Dec. 8 through Saturday, Dec. 12, at 5728 S May Ave. in Oklahoma City.

Volunteers will greet the shopper at the door, help them to find books and Christmas decorations, pack items, load cars and restock the floor.

"Our Christmas program is our biggest program," Robison said. "We serve 1,000 families."

"At Christmas Shopping Days, it takes about 50 to 75 volunteers a day to make it go well and smoothly," Robison said.

To volunteer for the Christmas Shopping Days event, contact Robison at 405-634-2006, ext. 102, or email her at drobison@christmasconnection.org.

OCCC students can receive a registration form by going by the Student Life office on the first floor of the Main Building in person or calling 405-682-7523.

"I have OCCC students come to volunteers all the time and I love [those] students because I know if [they] come, everything is going to run smoothly," Robison said.

"They are efficient, they're always on time, they stay the whole time and they are willing to do whatever we need."

THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army's mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs without discrimination, according to salvationarmyokcac.org.

Liz Banks, volunteer coordinator at the Salvation Army, said the organization has several events in December in need of helping hands.

The charity's Christmas Distribution Center needs volunteers to prepare gifts for their Angel Tree Program.

Volunteers will sort bags of Christmas toys to make sure each child receives an accurate gift, Banks said.

People can volunteer between 8:30 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. every day through Monday, Dec. 14.



Banks said 12 to 15 volunteers will be needed for each morning and afternoon shift.

To register, contact Banks at 405-246-1107 or at liz.banks@uss.salvationarmy.org.

For more information about volunteering at the Christmas Distribution Center and other Salvation Army philanthropic opportunities, visit <http://salvationarmyokcac.org/volunteer/>.

Holiday displays to light the metro area

Oklahoma City and surrounding areas will host an impressive array of holiday lights, some of which are the best in the nation.

- **Holiday Lights Spectacular** is one of the most popular destinations in the metro area, and has been for the past 20 years, according to their website www.midwestcityok.org.

The display features more than one million lights, and both traditional and secular religious displays.

The display is open from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 6 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The event runs from Nov. 20 through Dec. 30, at Joe B. Barnes Park at 2516 N Towry Dr., Midwest City.

- **Chickasha Festival of Light** offers car rides and carriage rides through their 3.5 million plus lights extravaganza from 6 to 11 p.m. each Sunday through Saturday, Dec. 21 through 31, at Shannon Springs Park, 2400 N 9th St., in Chickasha. Visitors are invited to experience the classic OK tradition.

- **Automobile Alley** will be brightly lit from dusk to dawn, Nov. 26 through Jan. 1. The area, located at NW 4th to 10th St. on Broadway Ave, will be bedecked with lights to create a winter wonderland.

- **Holiday Water Taxi rides** on the Bricktown Canal is one event that's been gaining in popularity. Rides will be available on select days from 6 to 9:30 p.m., Nov 27 through Dec 24, at the main dock below Mickey Mantle's.

Each trip is estimated to take around 30 minutes and will be a full loop of their water taxi route. Bricktown decorations will be visible on this route, DeLozier said.



SPORTS



Getting stronger: Rylee Legg, undecided major, works out in the fitness area on the first floor of the Main Building. “I love exercising,” she said. “It’s a lot of fun for me. I like running, sweating and I just want to be healthier and stronger.” All fitness machines, classes and the gym are free for OCCC students with a valid ID.
Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer

Yoga relieves stress from studying

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

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Students who are struggling with the difficult grind of the end of the semester may want to try yoga as a way to relieve some of that stress, said Yoga Instructor Kathie Hibbs.

Hibbs said yoga is one of the more well-known fitness exercises around the world and also one of the most popular fitness classes on campus.

While some people think yoga is only stretching, Hibbs stresses that her class is a lot more than that.

“Yoga is a mind-body exercise,” she said. “So many people come in and think that they’re just going to stretch, and it’s not just stretching. If you aren’t really focused on your breathing, then you aren’t really doing yoga correctly.”

“I try to teach them how to breathe correctly using the prompts we have. It’s very physical. It’s a lot harder than most people think it is. You have to use your muscles and you have to use your body weight.”

The class runs through a diverse routine of exercises, Hibbs said.

“We start with seated stretches,” she said. “We do sun salutations, which is just warming up. Then we’ll go through a series of poses. We may do some balancing exercises after that, and then we cool down doing some more seated

stretches.”

Hibbs said the class is perfect for newcomers.

“That’s what the prompts are for,” she said.

“So many people come in and think they might not be flexible enough, but they don’t understand that’s the whole point of yoga. It’s to get flexible.”

With finals on the horizon, Hibbs said yoga would be a perfect thing for students to

try out as a relief from the books.

“I’m sure they’re stressed from studying or a test or

a paper they have to do,” she said. “I have nursing students that really need this class. They need some relaxation, they need to get away from the books.”

“With yoga, we call it monkey mind. You just need to leave everything outside the door and just clear your mind, and come in and focus on your body. Once you really listen to your breathing, it will really relax you.”

Hibbs said all that’s required for the classes is comfortable clothes that participants can move in. And, she said, while the school does offer mats, it’s preferred if students bring their own.

The yoga classes are offered at 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Recreation and Fitness Center on the first floor of the Main Building.

For more information about the yoga classes or any of the other fitness classes, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness-classes.html or call Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860.



GETTING TO KNOW:

GARY
LOMBARD
WELLNESS
CENTER
TRAINER
SINCE 2013



Q: What is your job description here at OCCC?

A: “I’m a personal trainer and I teach the TRX classes that are offered on campus. TRX builds functional strength as well as rotational strength, as well as balance.”

Q: What’s your favorite part about teaching the classes here at OCCC?

A: “Seeing the changes that people go through. People get stronger, they’ll lose fat, and they’ll gain muscle.”

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: “I’ve been involved with music my whole life. I sing ensemble in my church choir. My wife and I love to travel, as well. I’m involved with lots and lots of stuff.”

Q: What kind of sports have you been involved with throughout your life?

A: “I was a cyclist and I have 86,000 miles on my road bike. I’ve always been involved with some sport, whether it’s tennis, soccer or swimming.”

Q: Favorite sports to watch/teams?

A: “Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma are two schools I root for. I root for both of them, and I want them both to do well. The Oklahoma City Thunder is my favorite basketball team.”

Q: What’s your favorite thing about fitness?

A: “People can be healthy and strong no matter what their age. No matter what challenges they have, we can modify and make adaptations to help people with their challenges. Nine years ago, my wife and I were in a bad car accident, and when I began recovering from that, I realized I had a passion for helping others get fit. I love being able to do that.”

Q: Why do you think it’s important for people to maintain a healthy lifestyle?

A: “People can enjoy a better quality of life. They’ll be able to keep moving throughout their lives. They’ll be able to be healthier and be stronger.”

OCCC: Campus police chief is pleased with low crime stats

Continued from page 1

The numbers were provided by MSgt. Gary Knight of the Oklahoma City Police Department.

The two crime areas on campus that had higher numbers than off-campus were petit larceny with 15 on-campus cases and four off-campus, and grand larceny, having seven on-campus and five off-campus reports.

OCCC President Jerry Steward said he feels good about the

on-campus numbers.

"I feel really good about the safety of our campus," Steward said. "I talk to Chief Fitzpatrick about the surrounding area and he says compared to most neighborhoods this is a pretty safe area," Steward said.

"The crime rate isn't super high and so I feel like OCCC is probably safer than just about any comparable area in Oklahoma City with as many people as we have here."

Fitzpatrick said campus police calls range from petit

larceny to non-injury vehicle accidents and drug charges while off-campus has a wider range with domestic violence, robbery by force and assault. He said there are many reasons why campus crime is lower than the surrounding areas.

"You have commercial properties," he said. "They themselves generate calls for service from the police [from] larcenies, to issues in and around them," he said.

"You have multi-family housing and apartments across

the street. And as you move away from here — especially a mile — you've got considerable amounts of multi-family housing. Then there's residential. So you're going to have burglaries, domestic disturbances, fight calls [and] things like that, the typical things officers respond to routinely."

Steward said although he's happy with the low occurrence of crime, he said that doesn't mean he isn't watchful.

"I think last year we didn't have any (serious crime)," he

said. "But I also have to say that doesn't mean that in the next 30 minutes we're not going to have a serious event on our campus. Nobody can accurately predict when that would happen."

"So I'm happy about where we are but I'm not unrealistic [because] the danger [of] a serious incident is always there."

To see the Oklahoma City report, visit the Pioneer Online at <http://pioneer.occ.edu>.

To see campus crime statistics, visit www.occ.edu/police/crimesafetystats.html.

Apply: Transferring with a degree helps at four-year college

Continued from page 1

always. It depends on your specific major and the college you decide to go to."

Williams-Mize said students don't have to wait to check on their degree status. Any time students are curious about their standing, they are encour-

aged to visit Graduation Services on the first floor of the Main Building to get a degree check.

OCCC recently celebrated a historic year with a record number of graduates. In 2014, more than 2,000 students completed their degree or certificate, according to the 2015 graduation report

given to college regents Nov. 16.

Nursing major Michelle Rogers said she knows she has to apply for graduation but admits she's not quite sure how to do it.

Williams-Mize said there are two ways of applying: online or in person.

To apply online, go to www.occ.edu.

Students can submit the form online. Students also can stop by the Graduation Services office on the first floor of the Main Building and apply in person.

For more information, contact Williams-Mize at amanda.williams-mize@occ.edu.

Classes: Advocates of Peace, Folklore no longer offered

Continued from page 1

On a larger scale, enrollment from fiscal year 2007 to the present year has increased 10 percent while overall state appropriation to the college is down \$93,000 over the same period, said Chief Financial Officer John Boyd in an August OCCC Regents meeting. The college relies heavily on funding from the state Legislature.

More students mean more classes. Sixty-one humanities sections will be offered this spring compared to 56 sections last spring.

However, under the HUM prefix, almost two-thirds of those sections will be concentrated into two courses with 14 Music Appreciation and 24 Mythology sections.

The proliferation of Mythology courses may be due to the fact that they could be taught by adjuncts or full-time faculty, said English Professor Pamela Stout.

"The online section [of Mythology] is easy to teach," Stout said. "I designed it. It's very or-

ganized and a person wouldn't have to know anything about mythology, necessarily, to be able to teach it."

DeClouette said the college's mission supports this streamlining of course offerings.

"Our mission is those core classes," she said. "That's the mission of a community college, to have those classes that transfer, so we really need to focus on that."

Stout, like Advocates of Peace Professor Stephen Morrow, said she was not consulted before being told on Oct. 8 that her Folklore course would not be offered in the spring. Students began enrolling in classes Oct. 12.

Stout said she has been teaching one section of the course every fall and spring since 2006 and that the course has been in the catalog for more than five years. She said the course fills, or nearly fills, each semester.

One student upset about the loss of Advocates of Peace is OCCC alumni Mary Newcome-Hatch. She said her Advocates of Peace class

transferred with her to the University of Science and Arts Oklahoma, where she is currently a senior.

Newcome-Hatch said the course empowered her and changed her world, making her an active member in student government on campus.

That is why she and her daughter, OCCC diversified studies major Mary Hatch, are leading a petition drive to reinstate Advocates of Peace and Folklore in the class schedule.

The petition currently has about 120 signatures. Additionally, a Facebook group they started in October has 73 members, many of whom are OCCC alumni, Hatch said.

Although the courses have been removed from the spring schedule, they have not been taken from the college catalog offerings at this point, DeClouette said.

Curriculum and Assessment Director Catherine Kinyon said the process to add or delete a course in the catalog is initiated by a faculty member who consults his or her dean

before filling out a form that requests their action.

Most of the division's faculty have to sign off before the form is brought to the division dean to sign. If signed, the motion goes to the OCCC Curriculum Committee for inspection and review. If passed, the change would have to be approved by Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Greg Gardner and DeClouette.

Kinyon said, as far as she knows, the process to change curriculum is always initiated by faculty.

"Curriculum is a faculty driven process," she said. "... The assumption is that faculty know their business."

Kinyon said the curriculum committee does not decide whether classes are offered or not. She said that decision is left to the faculty and their respective deans.

An Oct. 9 open records request for the forms submitted to the committee has not yet been filled by Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan.

Additionally, requests for previous OCCC class schedules and emails concerning the class have not been filled.

A status update request for all unfilled open records requests was sent to Jordan on Nov. 20. As of press time, Jordan had not responded.

DeClouette said she supports English and Humanities Dean Kim Jameson's decision to not offer Advocates of Peace and Folklore.

"At the end of the day the dean has a charge to offer what's most needed ...," she said.

DeClouette said she is hopeful a resolution can be reached between the parties.

"My hope is that ... there's some type of collaboration between the dean and the faculty ... that [they] kind of understand each other's needs and that they can come up with some type of schedule."

Jameson was originally contacted about an interview on Oct. 27. She has yet to arrange a time. For more information, contact Jameson at kjameson@occ.edu.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Winner: Melissa Sue Lopez, Film and Theater major, shows the award she won for Best Oklahoma Film at the 2nd Annual Oklahoma Cine Latino Film Festival for her short film "Deviants." Lopez said when she started at OCCC 15 years ago, she was the only Latino enrolled in the college's film program. "Now we have so many talented local Latino filmmakers who have graduated from this college, who also participated in the festival. I'm very happy that we have grown as a community and very surprised that my film won." *Photo by Amber Neely*



Division offices to assign advisers

KATIE AXTELL
Editor
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Students are now able to change majors and have faculty advisers assigned through the division offices without going through Academic Advising.

Academic Advising and Testing Services Director Tammy Madden said the decision to give the department offices the ability to change students' degrees came from an advising task force from last year.

"One of the recommendations was that the division office would have the capability of doing that," Madden said. "That was vetted through the enrollment management committee and all the deans agreed this was a good thing so we went ahead and we coordinated it so that the division offices could do that."

Madden said the motivation came from the change to using student planning software that allows faculty and academic advisers to see the same information the student sees on their degree program evaluation.

English Professor Nina Smith said faculty advisers are there not only to help students stay on track but also to assist them in furthering their education when it comes to choosing majors and applying to the different schools.

Madden said students can request a specific professor to be their adviser.

"...if a student has an instructor in a classroom ...and they go and talk to this professor and they're

convinced they want to change their major, the professor can sit down with student and do advising right there and really start planning out what classes they would have to take if they changed the degree.

"The faculty can walk the student over to the division office and say 'let's change your major' rather than making the student run around. It gets the student connected with the division office."

Smith said advisers also can let their students know what to look for in their transfer school and advise them on taking tours of other campuses.

"We also tell our students to make sure they know to apply early when transferring."

Smith said the faculty advisers at OCCC are there to help students stay on their degree track.

"My role is to help students successfully complete their degree plan. Including looking at what is left for them to complete such as which social sciences and double checking for a variety of things."

Madden said diversified studies majors will still have to go through the main academic advising office unless the student requests a particular faculty advisor.

"We just thought it was a really good thing for students and faculty advisers and really an improvement in customer service for the students," Madden said. "It's a way that we can strengthen advising across campus."

For more information on faculty advisers, contact one of the eight division offices. Academic Advising can also be contacted at 405-682-7535.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

OCCC's Home for the Holidays will be Dec. 5

OCCC's annual Home for the Holidays event will take place at 10 a.m. Dec. 5, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater. Family-friendly festivities will start with pony rides, a petting zoo and balloon artists. Disney characters from Frozen will be there for free pictures, as well as an appearance from Santa Claus. There will be performances by Edgar Cruz and Jaminalz. Attendees will receive a special gift on the way out. For more information, contact Arts Division Secretary Jessica De Arman at jessica.r.dearman@occc.edu.

OCCC Christmas concert Dec. 7

OCCC will present the this year's Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Arts Division at 405-686-6278.

'American Idol' star to perform at OCCC on Dec. 8

"American Idol" season 6 star Melinda Doolittle will delight audiences at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater. Doolittle has performed for audiences at the White House, Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Her celebrated voice will bring alive classic holiday songs while catching your ear with hit originals. For tickets, go to the OCCC Box Office in the VPAC Theater or visit tickets.occc.edu.

OCCC collecting stuffed animals for non-profit

OCCC is partnering with non-profit organization Citizens Caring for Children to collect donated stuffed animals through Friday, Dec. 11. Each year in Oklahoma, 4,000 children will be taken into foster care. Many of those children leave their homes with nothing. Citizens Caring for Children provides the children with the stuffed animals and more. Donations can be taken to the Student Life Office, Recreation and Fitness Wellness Center, or the Family and Community Education Center. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Ragtime performance will be at OCCC

Ragtime will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, and Monday, Dec. 14, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. The uplifting musical, set to a Tony Award-winning score, is a timeless celebration of life. For more information or tickets, contact the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579.

Intersession courses available

Students are reminded that they can earn credit hours in two-week courses by taking intersession classes from Monday, Jan. 4, through Friday, Jan. 15. To search for sections on Mine Online, visit www.datatelwa.occc.edu. For more information, contact Academic Advising at 405-682-7535.

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

LOOKING FOR A NEW ROOMMATE? Look no further. Call Tony 405-822-2496.

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 with your name, student ID and valid phone number.

CLASSIFIED BUSINESS AD: \$8 per 7 lines. Find out how to advertise affordably. 405-682-1611, ext. 7674.

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.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: 19" CRT television in fair condition. Great

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

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

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

Nothing Will Ever Be the Same.

Smoking gave me throat cancer at 39. Now I breathe through a hole in my throat and need this machine to speak.

—Rosaldo Martinez

QUIT SMOKING TODAY
FOR HELP CALL 311

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner

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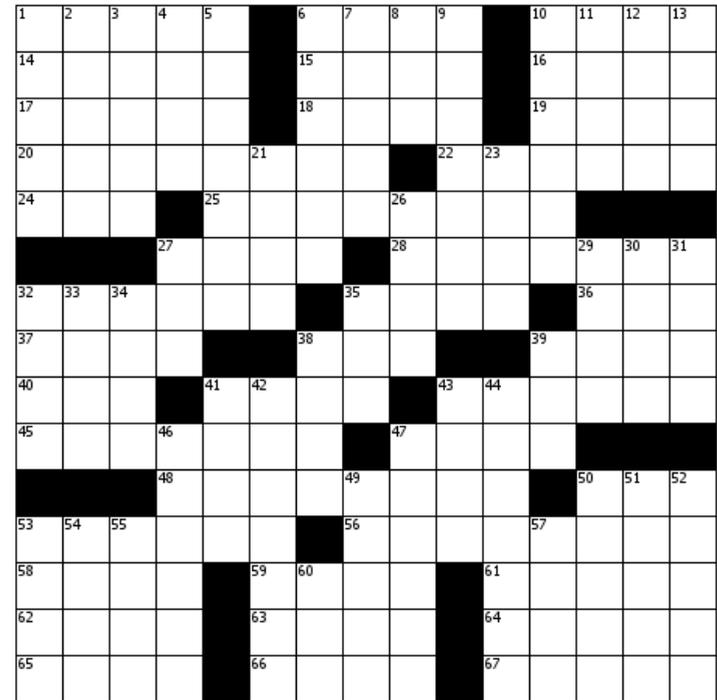
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

1. Fertile desert spot
6. Concluded
10. Messy fellow
14. Razor _____
15. Ascend
16. Roman garment
17. Comic _____ DeGeneres
18. Christmas carol
19. Bakery item
20. Not year-round
22. Showed feelings
24. Finale
25. Kept
27. Flower container
28. More sharply inclined
32. Most skillful
35. Pause
36. Legendary boxer
37. Sulk
38. Maiden name indicator
39. Grinding machine
40. Pitcher's stat
41. Bottomless
43. Raspy
45. Get together again
47. Wish
48. All people
50. Bustle
53. Make attractive
56. Jeweler's helper
58. Placed
59. Smelling organ
61. Make right
62. Window ledge
63. Pub potables
64. Succinct
65. Fashion magazine
66. "_____ we forget"
67. Computer key



Down

1. Overweight
2. Woody or Tim
3. Mixed greens
4. "Beware the _____ of March"
5. Spanish women
6. Elaborate
7. Fiddle's kin
8. Compass point (abbr.)
9. Eases up
10. Took long steps
11. Burglar's booty
12. Stare
13. Hairless
21. Bird's home
23. Track event
26. Words of comprehension (2 wds.)
27. Animal doc
29. Couple
30. House additions
31. Agitate
32. One who mimics
33. Tedious one
34. Hawaiian feast
35. GOP member
38. Not ever, poetically
39. _____ West of Hollywood
41. Opera star
42. Unending
43. _____ Kong
44. Perform surgery
46. Sewing item
47. Not lying
49. Positive answers
50. Turn aside
51. Compact
52. Command
53. Ultimatum word
54. Brad
55. Pickle seasoning
57. Prayer close
60. Bullring cheer



Drivers who use cellphones are 4 times more likely to get into crashes that could be fatal

Using a cellphone while driving delays a drivers reactions as much as having a B.A.C. level of 0.08

<http://pioneer.occc.edu>

