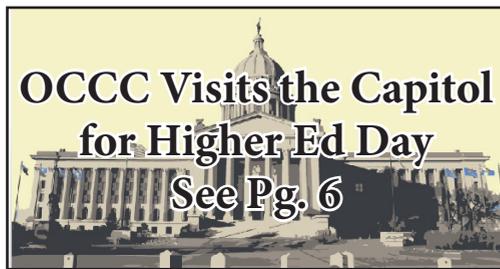


PIONEER

OCCC Visits the Capitol
for Higher Ed Day
See Pg. 6



FAFSA for grants, loans, scholarships

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Every year about 15,000 current and prospective OCCC students file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

This application is the gateway to federal and state grants, loans and also many scholarships.

Even though the FAFSA final deadline is still far off, students must file their 2016/2017 applications by March 1 to be considered for up to \$1000 in state grant funds, said Student Financial Aid Director Sonya Gore.

"The first time it was hard, just because of trying

to find all the information and getting a parent's signature and different things like that. But, after doing it once it was pretty much just a repeat.

"The only thing that I would have wished was to have like my mom around so that I could get all those papers right when I needed them and not have to wait ages," she said.

This application makes students eligible to receive aid for the fall 2016 and spring and summer 2017 semester.

Gore is also warning students that they will have a dependent status if they are under 24, unless they are married or have children, or meet other specific needs.

"If they are 21, self-supporting, have no children,

See FAFSA pg. 9



APPLYING: Kelsey Miller, liberal arts major, has already filled out her 2016/2017 FAFSA.

MELISSA SUE LOPEZ/PIONEER

Classes teach students through travel abroad

HUNG TRAN
Senior Writer
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OCCC is offering students six different international trips this year through study abroad trips.

Many of the students, faculty and staff involved view study abroad trips as an important element to helping them interpret the world with real experiences, said Arts Division Dean Ruth Charnay.

"We often talk about how, when you pick up a book, it allows you to travel in your mind to experience what is happening in other places, other times, other people, other cultures," she said, "and obviously nothing gives you that experience like being able to actually physically travel and interact with other people, other places and cultures."

Charnay said trips to foreign places brings students countless benefits. Not only do students improve their knowledge of the places they travel to, but they also benefit from meeting and learning to interact with different types of people, she said.

Charnay said the international trips will provide students a chance to combine things they've learned in books and in classrooms with live experiences.

"I think there are a lot of benefits that you get from stepping out of your normal world and your normal routine. There are also some things about joining groups of people that you never met before and experiencing just running for a train in a country where you don't know how to speak their language and you're all laughing together, sitting down at a table and eating dinner with folks," she said.

Charnay said OCCC tries to keep these trips as affordable as possible, while still assuring a high quality trip.

"We try to keep in mind that our students are thrifty," she said, "Therefore, we also try to look for trips that are an economically sound investment but they also have to be academically sound."

She said students need only to have a good, real and safe experience, not a luxury hotel or a fancy tour.

"Even though we are a community college, we want to offer students experiences worldwide," said

modern language Professor Ginnett Rollins, who is leading students to Italy this year.

"[Study abroad trips] provide students firsthand experiences... for example, in Italy, the artworks that they have studied in the Art Appreciation or the Art History classes," she said.

Rollins said students must enroll in the one credit World Language course to be able to take the trip.

"I try to keep it to just one credit in this case because often the students want the experience and they may need just one credit, but they have to take into account the trip's cost," she said.

Rollins said she hears mostly positive feedback from students who say they enjoy their trips.

"The negative comments make me laugh because they say 'you are not the only one whose feet get hurt walking.' We walked about eight miles a day."

Charnay said anyone can sign up for the trip, but they must enroll in the class. Those who are not currently enrolled as students may participate as well. Students, OCCC staff and faculty and students'

See ABROAD pg. 9

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer encourages students to enrich connections while in college

College network brings future chances



ERIKA FIERRO

Building a network while attending college is extremely important and every student should put it into practice if they haven't already started to.

New students might not have heard this advice before. I didn't until I entered my sophomore year at OCCC. But I wish someone would have told me the importance of building a network sooner.

Networking is about interacting with people, outside of a group of friends, and exchanging information and developing contacts.

Mass media communications Professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert and journalism and english Professor Sue Hinton remind their students to get names and phone numbers of everyone they meet.

I've had the pleasure of being a student to both professors and I couldn't be more grateful for their constant reminder.

It's easy to forget to ask someone's phone number or email when speaking to them because to me, it's not natural if you're not in a professional setting.

But remembering to ask the simple question may

be something one person will be thankful for in the future.

So why is this important?

The connections students build in college could possibly, and most likely will be used in the future. For example, when a student graduates with a college degree, the search for a job begins. Where does a graduate start? The relationships and contacts the student has built can be a start to finding the perfect position.

So networking doesn't necessarily mean building connections exclusively with other students, but taking the step to meet working professionals in the field.

I called two public relations professionals to get their advice on PR. They were extremely helpful by telling me what they would look for in a potential candidate for their company. I was able to take the advice and apply it.

Professionals are more inclined to give advice to a student because it's low stress for them, and a relationship can be built that way. It's also easier to get in touch with a professional as a student as opposed to a recent graduate.

This leads to possible internship opportunities as well. Building a network early on in one's college career will open doors in the future.

An article published on usnews.com encourages students to "get out of the bubble."

It's about building a relationship with others besides your inner circle. Get to know students and professors in other fields. You never know when you will need them. Finding resources outside of your field could be a gain both professionally and socially.

The article also encourages the use of Twitter and LinkedIn as other possible routes when building a network. Research top professionals in your field and follow them on Twitter. LinkedIn can help track the building of your network.

I don't even know how many contacts I've added since I started networking but I can say that I've already used a contact since I've been at OCCC. It's truly amazing how networking benefits students.

It's important to begin a network early on as a college student. Students should not wait until their sophomore year to practice this advice.

If you're a freshman, take the advice and apply it now. You'll be glad you did. You never know when you will need advice on what professor to take for a class in the future.

—ERIKA FIERRO
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | State Health Department to host conversation on early childhood development

Meeting to discuss childhood development in Oklahoma

To the Editor:

The Oklahoma State Health Department (OSDH) will host the next Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign (OHEC) Meeting from 2 - 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 24. OSDH is located at 1000 NE 10th St. Oklahoma City.

The focus will be on early childhood development and implications for Oklahoma.

"The RAISING of AMERICA: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation" is the first documentary series to

explore how a strong start for children can lead to a healthier more prosperous and more equitable America. The first one-hour segment will air on PBS in April.

Executive Director for Smart Start Oklahoma, Debra Andersen, will field questions concerning the documentary and will also inform attendees how they can assist and participate in future community screenings. Smart Start Oklahoma is dedicated to improving early childhood policies that support

all children being prepared when they enter school.

OHEC Members Sunshine Cowan, PhD, MPH, MCHES, associate professor at the University of Central Oklahoma and Marshan Marick, MPH, CHES, director, Public Health Program, Langston University will be reporting on a study highlighting faith-based organizations and their work with public health equity issues.

"OHEC is a statewide coalition seeking to maximize the health potential of

all Oklahomans through resources and opportunities available in our communities," said Richard Marshall, chair, Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign.

Anyone interested in attending in Oklahoma City, or participating via video-conference at one of our satellite locations should contact (405) 271-9444, ext. 56543

—OKLAHOMA STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

MOVIE REVIEW | Pioneer reviewer paints classic sci-fi epic as an American institution

'Star Wars' franchise will never die

I first learned about Star Wars around 10 years ago when the HBO channel first launched in Vietnam.

However, at this time, all foreign movies seemed to be hard for me to understand because of the language barrier.

All I can remember about "Star Wars" from that time was just a powerful green warrior, laser-light swords, and spaceships.

Then, when I came to the U.S., I discovered that so many people talk about "Star Wars" as if it's some universal and crucial component to the average American childhood.

I met an American friend in an interpersonal communication class last summer.

When he was asked to bring one thing that was representative of his past, he brought the series of Star Wars movies and told everyone that he grew up with them. He said right now, his son is doing the same thing.

When he asked me if I knew about Star Wars, my answer was "Yes, I watched the whole series a long time ago." But after a moment of serious reflection, I suddenly realized that I actually knew nothing about it.



This is why I decided recently that I absolutely must watch the whole series once again.

I love everything about these movies – even now. I love the characters, the content and the astounding special effects.

I now understand the reason why people, even as adults, find themselves obsessing about Darth Vader, even if he is on the dark side.

This whole Star Wars series is about his life but it's kind of about all our lives.

Vader used to be an innocent and talented kid, then he joined the Jedi and helped them win many battles. But his love for his family is exploited and corrupted by the leader of the dark side until only darkness is there for Darth Vader.

You may read my review and ask why I would write about Star Wars, a story we all already know.

My answer is, I also have movies in my country that I grew up with, and now I want to learn about yours.

Rating: A

—HUNG TRAN
SENIOR WRITER

MOVIE REVIEW | Writer holds out for a wave he hopes to be far better

Holding out hope for the better dystopian film



In the most recent years, the popular literary genre of "Young Adult Fiction" has taken a shift to an even more specific sub-genre, "Young Adult Dystopian Fiction," which involves a teenager or group of teenagers in some post-apocalyptic wasteland.

In January, the most recent addition to the genre, "The 5th Wave," was released to theaters.

Despite the film's poor box office numbers, I see potential and promise in the film.

"The 5th Wave" is a story revolving around a teenager named Cassie Sullivan and her journey surviving an extraterrestrial invasion.

The movie follows the events of the invasion conducted in "waves." The first one knocks out global power, the second wave brings a planet-wide earthquake, the third brings unstoppable disease, and the fourth wave brings the aliens to the surface, inhabiting human hosts.

Often in this genre, the main protagonist is engulfed in a love triangle. In this movie, it's hinted at, but it is not a main plot element. The love triangle is an element that critics often use to say "each one is the same," no matter how different the film actually is from

others. The approach "The 5th Wave" takes on the subject keeps the common theme of other movies in the genre, but allows the audience to discern it from other films.

The film is also partly successful in creating suspenseful and vivid action scenes. The ending sequence is the most powerful in the film, showing the true character and resolve of our protagonist.

"The 5th Wave" has done poorly in the box office, bringing in just under \$12 million domestically after four days of its release, compared to "The Hunger Games" racking in over \$152 million just in its opening weekend.

The most plausible reason it's doing so poorly is many may think the idea has been overdone. They think, "Oh, another Y.A. adaptation," when in fact it's much more. If all goes well, the sequel, "The Infinite Sea," will be produced into a movie. I, along with other fans of the franchise, hope Cassie Sullivan doesn't end up being another Percy Jackson.

Rating: B

—TREY BELL
STAFF WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MUSIC REVIEW | The sax you've heard in all the latest popular music is beyond worth further exploration

Kendrick's sax player is epic

Most likely you've already heard saxophonist Kamasi Washington.

His tenor saxophone is featured all over Kendrick Lamar's now infamous 2015 record, "To Pimp A Butterfly."

But jazz fans all over the world are intrigued by Washington's compositions now.

Two months after "To Pimp a Butterfly" came out, Kamasi dropped a three hour long record that is a compositional masterpiece.

"The Epic" is a declaration, a bright banner that states what Washington and other L.A. jazz artists have been saying—jazz is alive, exciting, and relevant in today's world.

The record features Kamasi and his 10 piece band, a full choir, and a string orchestra.

Washington said in an interview with Tavis Smiley that he recorded the entire album in 30 days in a studio he rented with three of his friends, all jazz players and friends since childhood.

Not only did they record "The Epic" in its entirety,



they recorded eight other projects that the musicians were working on.

Nothing about "The Epic" feels like a jazz standard. Every line and lick is a tantalizingly fresh thought.

The song that just can't get out of my head is "Henrietta Our Hero," which is a tribute to Washington's grandmother.

The song opens to vocalist Patrice Quinn, whose warm voice brings to light the eternal matriarch she

sings of. "Henrietta Our Hero" is the stunning anthem to a woman with "a power so deep inside/ brings life to us all."

The song builds into a full choir, band, and orchestra incantation of the power Washington's grandmother, and jazz itself, holds.

Washington is no new face to jazz. He has played and recorded with multi-genre greats such as Gerald Wilson, McCoy Tyner, Freddie Hubbard, Kenny Burrell, George Duke, Lauryn Hill, Jeffrey Osborne, Mos Def, Quincy Jones, Stanley Clark, Harvey Mason, Flying Lotus, and Chaka Khan.

A powerful live performance of "The Epic" performed at Regent Theater in Downtown Los Angeles was filmed for "Jazz Night in America" and can be found at <https://youtu.be/0YbPSIXQ4q4>.

RATING: A

**LENORA LAVICTOIRE
EDITOR**

DEBATE REVIEW | The GOP debates have reached an unprecedented fever pitch and at last remind us just how sick we've become

The battle for modern America astounds

The last GOP debate in South Carolina was hotter than the local barbecue. It was a massacre, and as usual Teflon Don was still standing.

The gore and fecal matter flew in every direction at high velocities, the establishment caught fire and began to crumble – an omen for Trump's plans for the remaining GOP establishment.

Highlights include Marco Rubio accusing Ted Cruz of not speaking Spanish, and Ted Cruz replying in Spanish. Jeb made a statement that he was sick and tired of his family being picked on. Trump interrupted him to continue picking on his family.

In a surreal moment, Donald Trump stated that the Iraq war was a massive failure, that he had a lot of friends die in 9/11, and that 9/11 happened while Jeb's brother was president, all met with heavy booing.

Insanity! People are still justifying the least efficient use of total military superiority ever.

In a foreign policy squabble, Jeb outlined how he would

dismantle Obama's policy, and replace it with what sounded exactly like what we are already doing.

Trump was by far the most in tune with reality on the stage. This is the time in which we live.

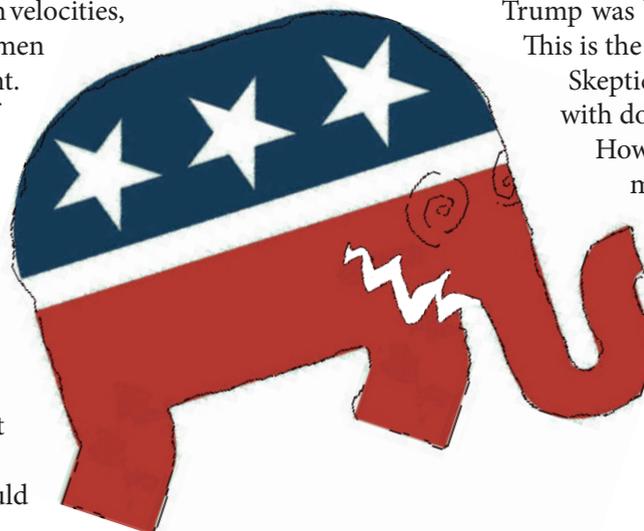
Skeptical of the accusations that the audience was filled with donors, I did a little research, and it was!

However, the rhetoric I see online is entirely in agreement with Trump. Moderates, conservatives, and even liberals are defending his slaughter of the retaliating GOP.

This election season is better than "House of Cards." Best debate so far.

RATING: A

**GRANT SWALWELL
MULTIMEDIA WRITER**



**Do you have an idea for a review? Send it to the Pioneer!
Email to the Pioneer editor at editor@occc.edu**

Space camp for OCCC grad

GRANT SWALWELL

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Former Engineering Club President and OCCC graduate Anthony Norton attended the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars program in the summer of 2015 and October of that year.

"This sounds a little cheesy, but my favorite part was probably the human element of it," Norton said. "Everybody there was genuinely excited about their jobs and what they were doing. Not just the engineers but everyone involved."

The program involves a five-week online learning course over the summer for students passionate about space and aerospace.

Norton was referred to the NASA program by Engineering Professor Greg Holland.

"Tony is very interested in the space industry," Holland said. "And we've had more applicants this semester."

Holland said more OCCC students

have become involved in the online portion, and have been accepted for the trip to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

Select participants were invited to workshops at NASA facilities around the nation.

Topics for the summer course included Mars missions past, present, and future, as well as discussion of the geology of Mars.

Norton attended webinar streams concerning the Mars Rover taught by Dr. Ashwin Vasavada, project scientist for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech.

Another instructor, Stu McClung, manufacturing and assembly integration lead at Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, discussed the Orion program, a spacecraft in development.

Aaron Herridge, an intern at Johnson Space Center from University of Houston Clear Lake discussed the geology of Mars.

Participants responded to essay prompts and had to propose a mission

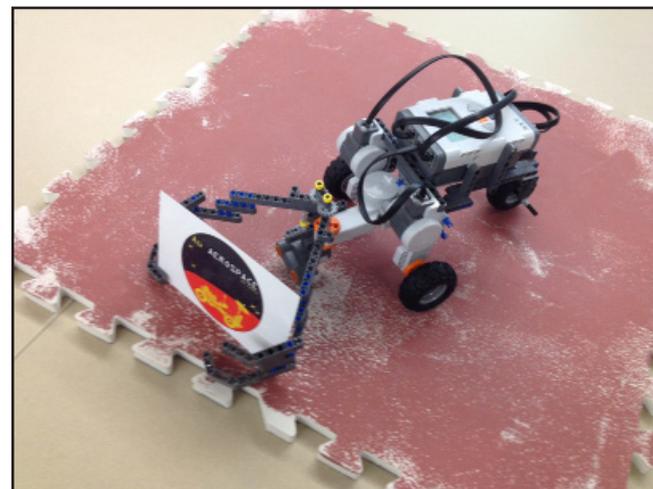
of their own design, with some selected for the additional program in the fall.

"Being kind of a space buff, I had some knowledge going in," Norton said. "However, what was interesting with the online portion is the top-down view of a space mission. I hadn't considered the sheer logistics."

Norton attended a workshop in late October at the Johnson Space Center in Houston where, with actual NASA employees, he designed and built a rover prototype out of Legos, named Goldilox.

The selected students were taken on special access tours of the space center.

Norton and the group were taken poolside to the neutral buoyancy lab,



ROVER: Goldilox, Norton's rover prototype
photo provided

which simulates a weightless environment for astronauts to train in.

They were even taken to a backup control room to watch a mission in progress.

Now attending Oklahoma State University College of Engineering in Stillwater, Norton is one year away from completing his bachelor's degree.

Local musician and activist Buffalo Rogers

GEORGIA WOOD

Community Writer
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Buffalo Rogers is a local musician and an OCCC student taking classes toward a pre-law bachelor's degree in anticipation of going to law school at the University of Oklahoma. He said his interest is in intellectual property.

"I want to protect ideas," Rogers said. "And I want the ability to write nasty letters for my friends."

Rogers won the award for raising the most money in the 2015 talent show at OCCC.

"I play Alternative Country, Americana kind of music," he said. "I play in Texas, Colorado and this region. Sometimes I have a band but generally I play solo."

He knows what it's like to lose the rights to his own creation because he didn't seek legal protection for it.

"The music industry is changing because of the Internet," Rogers said. "I lost rights to a song I wrote (because it wasn't copyrighted)."

"I would like to go to work for a per-



ROGERS: OCCC student and musician Buffalo Rogers

Georgia Wood/Pioneer

formance rights organization such as ASCAP or BMI. They protect copyright laws for performers

"If 'Space Cowboy' is played 300 times, BMI counts it and makes sure the money is appropriated to the right places."

He said the Internet has taken place of the established music industry, which

has brought problems and benefits.

"It's becoming easier to book your own shows (through the Internet)," he said.

Rogers said the most important thing in his life is his family.

"I will have been married to my wife, Kelly, for five years in November. We have a two-and-a-half-year-old son

named Leroy.

"He's my man cub. He's hell turned loose in a new store shirt," Rogers said.

It was through his wife Rogers became involved in community work for the homeless.

Rogers volunteers with a program called A Place In Time, he helps maintain a census of the non-sheltered homeless people in Oklahoma City.

"There is what's called a shelter camp and a field camp. Field camp is where we go out and find the ones who can't stay in the shelter for whatever reason, usually substance abuse."

Rogers is a burly man who stands 6 feet 5 inches. He said he has no concerns for his personal safety going out to work with people living on the fringes of society.

He believes the work is worthwhile and quite rewarding.

Rogers said his next local show will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 9 at the Blue Door, 2805 North McKinley Ave. For more information you can follow him at <https://www.facebook.com/buffalo.rogers>

Students visit state capitol

LENORA LAVICTOIRE

Editor
editor@occc.edu

OCCC students, faculty and staff lobbied at the State Capitol Tuesday to encourage legislators to support higher education.

On the same day, the State Equalization Board certified that those legislators will have \$1.3 billion less to spend next fiscal year.

“We know that there are cuts coming but the point is let’s see what we can do to create the best case scenario for Oklahoma City Community College and higher ed,” said Acting Executive Vice President Stephen Bloomberg.

Some believe funding higher education is not a legislative priority in times of economic crisis.

“It’s their utmost responsibility to protect education and part of the way to do that is to fund it properly, and to make it a priority in spending,” said Joe Goma, a political science associate professor, “and right now I don’t believe it is”

The budget cuts are one of the most important issues facing higher education, said broadcast journalism major Aaron Cardenas.

Cardenas said the cuts were the reason he took the time to go to the capitol Tuesday.

“I want to know exactly what they are doing with the money,” the first generation college student said.

At a program dedicated to higher education in the House of Representatives chambers, Governor Mary Fallin stressed that cuts happen because the state must balance their budget.

“We can’t just print money like the federal government does and we can’t just overspend like the federal government does,” she said.

Fallin also stressed the importance of higher education.

“There is nothing more important to Oklahoma than to have a highly skilled, educated workforce in our state.”

Fallin said that 75 percent of Oklahoma and national jobs will require more than a high school education.

“The best thing you can do to secure a successful future is to complete your education,” she said.

Professor Gorma said he would be calling on legislators to remember their own education on the lobby day.



CAPITOL: OCCC’s Brendan Hill, Linda Robinett, Carlotta Hill and Charles Myrick gather with others in the state House of Representatives gallery to hear Governor Fallin and other distinguishes speakers address the state budget crisis. *LENORA LAVICTOIRE/PIONEER*

“Many of these very same people who work here at the Legislature are higher educated themselves. They too can understand that most of them would not be here without higher education,” he said.

“I know that with the cuts we are going to be losing a lot of professors and certain classes are going to be taken out,”

—AARON CARDENAS
OCCC BROADCAST JOURNALISM MAJOR

Some students said that they had come to the capitol to voice their personal concerns about what these budget cuts are doing to their school.

“I know that with the cuts we are going to be losing a lot of professors and certain classes are going to be taken out,” Cardenas said.

Last Fall, Cardenas was a student in

Professor Stephen Morrow’s popular Advocates of Peace class when it was cancelled. He and other students petitioned for it to be reinstated.

Acting Academic Affairs Vice President Ann DeClouette later said that funding and increased enrollment are factors in why Advocates of Peace, and other courses, were removed from the schedule.

The college budget does not allow additional faculty to be hired in the English and Humanities Division.

A 6.5 percent cut to statewide higher ed for this fiscal year translated to nearly \$1 million less for OCCC.

Then, in January of this year, the statewide shortfall caused an additional reduction in the college’s state funding by \$503,825.

“You see that there’s classes that are being taken out of the schools and you see that there are teachers with jobs and they’re already not getting paid enough,” Cardenas said.

He said as a college student he is now more aware of how poorly the state is funding higher education.

“Now, as a college student, since my money is going towards that, and I’m going to have to pay back all those student loans, I feel that I should be getting the best quality education for the money that I owe.”

Over 80 OCCC students, faculty and staff attended the lobbying day.

Political Science Professor Nate Vanden Brook said that his senator, Ralph Shortey, has introduced several bills in the recent years that would allow guns on campus—something Vanden Brook and the state Board of Regents oppose.

He said he is not sure lobbying will change the senator’s mind, but he thinks that attempting to in numbers may.

“I’m still of the belief that putting a personal face, putting a name, a story, giving them a narrative is beneficial to citizen lobbying and so because of that I think it’s worthwhile to at least attempt to have a conversation with people,” Vanden Brook said.

“Will it change his position? I don’t know, but I think if enough people, of his constituents, speak to him, maybe it will.”



LATINO FOCUSED ART: Left: Nathanael Taylor, diversified studies, checks out the VPA gallery for the first time. Below: featured serigraphs from Latino artists including the work by Jose Rodriguez.

Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer

Gallery showing Latino art now

ANTONI MATEU
News Writing Student

Forty serigraphs by Latino artists will remain on display until Friday, March 4, in the Inasmuch Foundation Gallery in the Visual and Performing Arts Center on campus.

The exhibition has the main purpose of showing the beauty and the originality of the art pieces, said Lemuel Bardeguez, OCCC’s acting vice president for Community Development.

The exhibit is entitled “Estamos Aqui,” which translates as “We are here.”

Serigraphs are prints made by using a silkscreen process.

In addition to its artistic value, the art show has another purpose: interested students can improve their Spanish language fluency thanks to the labels that go with the paintings, Bardeguez said. They include information about the artists’ lives and their art pieces.

“In OCCC there are a great number of Spanish language students and lot of people who usually speak Spanish,” Bardeguez said. “One of our goals is to create synergies between different interests. The mixture of art and Spanish language is an example.”

All of the art pieces were made by artists with Latin American backgrounds, Bardeguez said. Many of the serigraphs talk about identity and sense

of place, and encourage audiences to ask questions about the nature of cross-cultural exchange.

“One of my favorite works is ‘Sun Raid,’ by Ester Hernandez.” Bardeguez said. “In this serigraph we can see the popular California raisins box, with a different design that can be related to some political thoughts currently important in the United States.”

In this painting, the famous raisin



girl is portrayed as a skeleton with a “guaranteed deportation” bracelet.

Among the 39 artists there is one related to the state of Oklahoma.



Jose Rodriguez, whose exhibited serigraph is called ‘Verbo y carita,’ was born in Venezuela in 1959, and studied at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Bardeguez said.

Nowadays Rodriguez lives in Oklahoma City. His piece of art portrays a Mexican idiom that means that people who are not good-looking (carita) need to attract other people who are good talk-

ers (verbo). The image depicts two men seated side by side representing the two concepts. Patches of color accent the

characters. The show is an Exhibits USA presentation, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance, with the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, according to its promotional material.

All of the serigraphs were made by artists during their residency in the studio of Latino artist Jose Coronado, a program that started in 1993.

All of the “Estamos Aqui” serigraphs belong to a larger portfolio housed at University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Bardeguez said.

The exhibition on campus can be visited from Monday to Thursday between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. On Fridays the gallery is open by appointment.

For more information, contact Bardeguez by email is lbardeguez@occc.edu.

SPORTS

TRXing: Chris Hellwege, sociology major, taking the TRX (Total Body Resistance Exercise) class after his academic classes.

"I have noticed I have been doing better in homework and test taking after this class," Hellwege said.

For more information about the TRX or any of the other classes available at the Wellness Center call 405-682-7860 or visit www.occc.edu/rf/index.html.

Melissa Sue Lopez/
Pioneer



GETTING TO KNOW:

JULIE SLATE
CARDIO KICKBOXING INSTRUCTOR
SINCE 2015



Q: What is your job description?
A: "I teach cardio kickboxing and cross training. Cardio kickboxing is a 30 minute high impact aerobics class. Cross training involves dealing with weights and body weights. It's high impact, too."

Q: How long have you been teaching fitness classes?
A: "I've been involved with the fitness industry throughout my life and I've taught classes, in general, since 1996."

Q: What's your favorite part about working at OCCC?
A: "Seeing new faces and getting different age groups. It's pretty neat to see how many different age groups I get in here."

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: "I do personal training, and I have two boys. We do a lot of baseball, as well as travelling when we get to."

Q: What's your favorite thing about sports and fitness?
A: "They go together. Sports are really fun and you get healthy doing it."

Q: Why should students keep up with their physical fitness?
A: "It just improves their quality of life. They feel better, and more confident. Physically, mentally, emotionally, all the way around. It's great to be tied into a group with people around, too. That's why I like the group fitness."

Ping pong has arrived in college gym

IAN MANERA
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC's Recreation and Fitness department has students and faculty excited about a new ping pong table, and with that, comes a new intramural tournament, said Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

Ping pong, or table tennis, is explained in the name. Players hit a lightweight ball back and forth on a table until one fails to hit the ball back to the opponent.

The sport is well-known enough to be an olympic sport, and is extremely popular in places like Eastern Asia, as well as places in Europe like Sweden.

The table, which was purchased back in December, has been a popular addition to the Wellness Center, with many of the Recreation and Fit employees using it when they can.

"On my lunch breaks, I've been go-

ing in there quite a bit and playing," said Wright.

"A lot of the wellness center staff plays in there on their lunch breaks when they're not working or not in class."

Wright said students have also taken advantage of the new addition.

"We've had a group of students, like 7 or 8 of them, coming in and playing as well," said Wright.

This popularity from students has prompted Wright to try out a single day ping pong tournament.

"It's going to be one day, and we'll do single elimination or double elimination depending on how many people show up," said Wright.

The tournament will take place on

Friday, Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. and Wright expects it to last for a few hours at least.

The space is located in 1C1A, which is just past the locker rooms in the Wellness Center, near the rooms where yoga takes place.

Wright said any student interested in practicing their ping pong skills prior to the tournament just need to head to the Wellness Center and check in.

"You have to check into the wellness center and get a wristband, and we'll give you the equipment," he said.

For more information on the new table or any of the other new equipment offered at the Recreation and Fitness department, students can call them at 405-682-7860.



SPORTS NEWS?
Email sportswriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676, to get your sports news in the Pioneer

FAFSA: understanding student aid

Continued from page 1

are not married, living on their own—they're still considered dependent in regard to the FAFSA rules. That's one of the things that trips up a lot of our students," Gore said.

Dependent status means that students' parents are required to enter their tax information, in addition to the students'.

She said that students commonly complain about being assigned a dependent status because they feel that it unjustly disqualifies them for grants.

Gore said that those students should remember how colleges and universities began. Typically, she said, parents would send their kids to school, and students would graduate by the age of 24. Gore said that is no longer the case.

"This is a whole new generation and

Federal Student Aid has not found a way to address that across the board."

She also said that students who were actually self-supporting would have a similar expected family contribution to what their parents are expected to contribute already under their dependent status.

"Typically those rules don't impact students as greatly as they think that it does.

"The confusion therein lies that because they are having to count their parents' information, they think are not allowed to get grants—instead they are just offered loans. But the true picture of that is if they are truly self-supporting then...they would very likely have a high enough EFC that they wouldn't be eligible for grants either."

Gore said there is also a lot of misinformation being thrown around

that students can use their parents tax information from less recent years.

She said that will not be allowed until the 2017/2018 FAFSA.

Instead she advises students to enter their parents old tax info just to create an estimate, in case their parents wait until or after the April 15 deadline.

"They can go ahead and complete their FAFSA with last year's information and if a lot hasn't changed they'll get an accurate reading. But then they have to go back in and correct it and add the reported information," Gore said.

Diversified studies major Jose Lopez said he thought that filing last year's FAFSA was pretty straightforward. He said he is halfway through the 2016-2017 FAFSA. "I am waiting for my boss to get me the papers, but I will," said Lopez.

He offers advice to students who are

nervous about filing.

"Just read all the information they give you on the side. It always tells you if you're missing something so just follow what they are telling you to do and it will be easy."

Gore said that her office is advising students that they must create a FAFSA user ID before accessing their application. This user ID does away with the old four-digit pin login students have been using for years.

"It's a little bit of a lengthy process, and it slows you down," Gore said.

She said that students must create the user ID to submit or review the application electronically.

"The paper form is always available but it's always the slowest just like all paper is now," Gore said.

ABROAD: learning from interactions in new environments

Continued from page 1

friends or family members can register for the classes and go on the trips.

"I suggest, if you want to know details about what is going to be in the class, what the trip is going to be like," she said, "you should contact whatever professor is associated with the trip."

Oklahoma Study Abroad program director Christian Alyea said international students may participate also, depending on where their passport is from.

"Some Visas can be more complicated than others," Alyea said.

"We're here to help international students travel. Typically, they need to contact their embassy, explain where they want to go and for what purpose and then follow the necessary steps."

Charnay said she's taken numerous trips with students before.

"Last summer, we did an Eastern European trip... It was very interesting experiencing a lot of World War II history in Eastern European countries and how East and West are beginning to meet now," she said.

"I'm also a theater teacher, so I have taken students to London to see plays and talked about Shakespeare. I also had the opportunity to take students to Rome to talk about ancient theater history."

There are usually around 15 to 30 students in a traveling group, she said.

"It is enough people to make you feel like you are meeting some new folks and having new experiences, but it is not so many people that you feel like you are sort of lost in a group."

Charnay said none of the countries they are traveling to this summer are experiencing instability or have demonstrated any danger to travellers.

"OCCC's Police Department and the Oklahoma City Study Abroad company have done an excellent job to keep all trips safe," she said.

"When we say that we are going to take the trips, our risk management office and our police do some research to make sure there are no warnings," she said.

"In the world climate, you never know when something might happen. But we feel very secure that the places we chose and the trips we are doing are going to be very safe and our students will be good."

Alyea said safety is his first priority as well.

Students may be able to lower the trip fees by applying for The Sechrist Travel Scholarship at <https://occc.academicworks.com/> and depending on the program, financial aid or grants may also be applicable to the cost.

For questions about travel paper work or payment methods and plans, contact christian@oklahomastudyabroad.com

Trips available

Spring Break London March 11 - 20 \$2,700 Including Airfare	Professor Brent Noel bnoel@occc.edu 405.682.1611 x7246
Italy - Rome and Florence May 16 - 26 \$2,900 Including Airfare	Dr. Ginnett Rollins grollins@occc.edu 405.682.1611 x7704
Paris, France May 16 - 25 \$2,700 Including Airfare	Professor Sue Hinton shinton@occc.edu 405.682.1611 x7331
Costa Rica Spanish Immersion May 16 - 29 \$1,900 Including Airfare	Professor Hilde Votaw hilde.m.votaw@occc.edu 405.682.1611 x7655
Ireland May 16 - 29 \$2,900 Including Airfare	Professor Julie Rice-Rollins jrollins@occc.edu 405.682.1611 x7382
Costa Rica and Panama Biology Focus July 30 - August 10 \$1,900 Including Airfare	Professor Sheri Arthur sherri.j.arthur@occc.edu 405.682.1611 x7168

CAMPUS COMMUNITY



DONOR: Daisy Ruiz, nursing major, learns about how to become an organ donor from nursing mayor Wendy Ibanez, who is representing LifeShare. LifeShare Transplant Donor Service of Oklahoma was on the OCCC campus on Feb. 3 to encourage students to sign up to be organ donors, and gave them information on why it is so important. "I'm really going to think about being an organ donor and I'm probably going to sign up," Ruiz said. "I'd like to help someone else to live if I died." *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

G.E.T. a job Tuesday, Feb. 23

Employers from around the Oklahoma City metro will discuss employability skills and career opportunities within their companies from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23 in College Union room 2. For more information contact the OCCC Graduation Employment and Transfer Office at 405-682-7519.

Spend a day with the FAA Friday, Feb. 26

Students can shadow employees of the Federal Aviation Administration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. Students who are US citizens are welcome to join in for shadow day at the FAA headquarters in Oklahoma City. Shadowing students can be any major, but must be U.S. citizens. The registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 19. For more information contact employment services at 405-682-7519.

Ping pong tournament Friday, Feb. 26

Anyone is welcome to participate in the ping pong tournament from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in the Recreation and Fitness Center. For more information email Matthew Wright at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu.

Alternative Fuel program to be at OKC Auto Show

The college's Professional Development Institute will have a booth at the International OKC Auto Show from March 4 to 6 to showcase their Alternative Fuel program. Discounted entry fee is offered with a OCCC ID. Enter a drawing to win a drone. For more information email Director John Claybon at jclaybon@occc.edu.

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.

Campus talent show seeks diverse performers

GEORGIA WOOD

Community Writer

Communitywriter@occc.edu

You don't have to sing to show off your talents.

Randy Cassimus, associate director of Alumni Relations and Community Development at OCCC, said the third annual talent show is open to dancers, rappers, jugglers or any talent you want to show off.

"Last year we packed to the house," Cassimus said, so the program is moving to the larger theater on campus.

"We are actually moving to the VPAC this year, which is scary, but a good opportunity to show off the talent we have here at our school.

"The main thing right now" he said, "is getting people to apply."

The talent show will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14, but the deadline to enter is Tuesday, March 1.

"There are three ways to win prizes," Cassimus said. "There's a winner chosen by celebrity judges, one for whoever raises the most money for the cause, and a People's Choice award."

OCCC's Got Talent is produced by the Future Alumni Network and is a fundraising effort for the OCCC Foundation's student scholarship fund.

"Audition is a jury process," he said. "We get about 50 entries every year and we narrow them down to 20 to 25."

Contestants raise money by ticket sales, Cassimus said. "We encourage them to use the web page for support."

Contestants have a box with their name on it and the People's Choice award is given to whoever raises the

most money. Each dollar collected in their box during the show is worth one vote.

Participants must be available for a rehearsal on the day of the show, but they will know an approximate time to be there in advance, Cassimus said.

The winner of the Judge's Choice Award is not eligible to enter again but the other winners may.

The People's Choice Award is given to whoever raises the most money in house, and gives the award for raising the most money is achieved from ticket sales and donations.

Buffalo Rogers won the prize for raising the most money last year.

"The show was a great experience," Rogers said, "You get the experience of performing in front of a large audience and a judge.

"I got to meet a lot of people here at the school that I didn't know played. It gave me an opportunity to network, which is very important."

The biggest problem, he said, was that there wasn't a strong enough media presence for it. "Everyone should use their Facebook page (or whatever social media they already have) and also utilize OCCC's website," he said.

Business major, Stephen Salewon, was the judges' pick last year.

"Have fun with it," Salewon said. "Connect with new people. It can be a really great experience if you let it."

Salewon did one of his original songs entitled "Symphony."

To apply go to www.occc.edu/talent.

For more information on the Talent Show, contact Randy Cassimus at rcassimus@occc.edu.

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.

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

—Rosaldo Martinez

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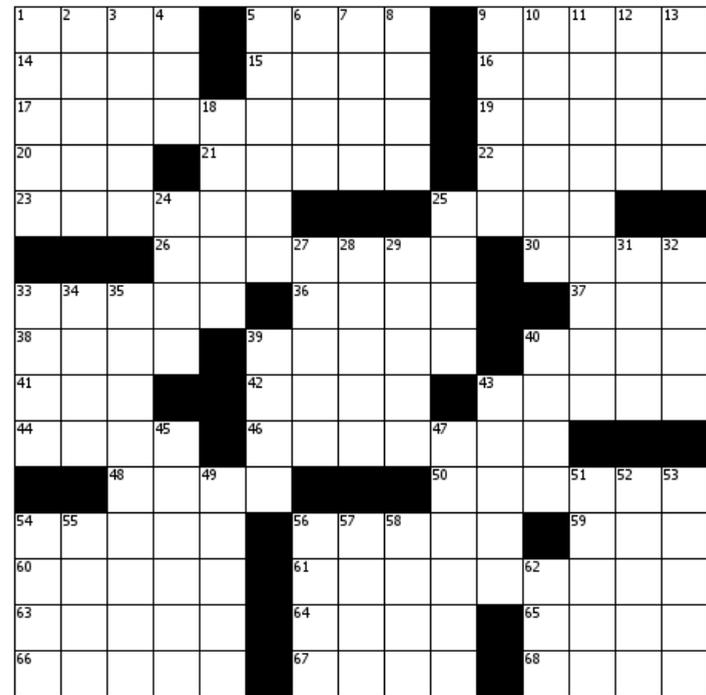
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

1. Pillow cover
5. Transmit
9. Potato state
14. Roman emperor
15. Locality
16. Modernize
17. Liveliness
19. Frequently
20. Drink cooler
21. Property claims
22. Armstrong and Diamond
23. Inferior
25. Urgent abbr.
26. Made
30. Bath powder
33. Shoe spike
36. Songstress ____ Turner
37. Briny deep
38. "____ we forget"
39. Lady's title
40. "A ____ Is Born"
41. Naval officer (abbr.)
42. Actor ____ Baldwin
43. Gleamed
44. Enemies
46. Tell again
48. Moniker
50. Halts
54. Wood spinner
56. Midwest airport
59. Key near Ctrl
60. Assumed name
61. Noteworthy
63. Lions' sounds
64. Purple flower
65. Whole bunch
66. Hold up
67. Turner and Williams course
68. Animal enclosures



Down

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Slow mover | 18. Vigilant | 43. Guide |
| 2. Therefore | 24. Scram! | 45. Largest desert |
| 3. Zodiac sign | 25. Eden resident | 47. Crossword direction |
| 4. Dad's spouse | 27. "____ of Two Cities" (2 wds.) | 49. Untidy |
| 5. Sarcastic writing | 28. Ocean currents | 51. Costly fur |
| 6. Ohio lake | 29. Put into effect | 52. Actress ____ Barkin |
| 7. City light | 31. Slender | 53. Hearty soups |
| 8. Aykroyd and Rather | 32. Show concern | 54. Fat for frying |
| 9. Shackles | 33. Musical sign | 55. Burn-soothing plant |
| 10. Vanquish | 34. Letterman's rival | 56. Exclude |
| 11. Italian appetizer course | 35. Most important | 57. Not there |
| 12. Foot part | 39. Foal's mom | 58. Among |
| 13. Has | 40. Mets' bygone home | 62. Egyptian cobra |



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A funny thing happened in the theater

ERIKA FIERRO

Staff Writer

staffwriter4@occc.edu

Some readers probably remember seeing Theater Arts major Daraja Rae Stewart if they watched “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” a light hearted musical, presented by The Oklahoma City Repertory Theater last fall in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Stewart played the role of a fierce, athletic, strong headed woman named Gymnasia. Gymnasia was one of the courtesans in the play set in the time of Ancient Rome.

“I worked out a lot leading up to the performance,” Stewart said. “I wore a costume bra and costume panties with over-the-knee, thigh high boots with six inch heels, a very amazonian look.”

Stewart said getting on stage and being herself was empowering even though she was shaking with nervousness about her wardrobe.

She was able to apply techniques she learned from her OCCC professors and dove right into the character, Stewart said.

OCCC is known for providing students with hands on experience, Stewart said.

“Working with professional actors

from New York is an experience I will never forget,” Stewart said. The star of the performance was Robert Picardo, who played the role of the medical doctor in the Star Trek Voyager television series.

Stewart said she plans on transferring to the University of Central Oklahoma after graduating from OCCC in May.

The aspiring actor said her career goals are to be a film performer in dramas, comedies, or maybe even romantic comedies.

Stewart, 19, said she began putting on skits and fashion shows for her family at the age of 3. And she first acted in a play when she was 7 and a half years old. Stewart grew up in Oklahoma City where she currently resides.

Attending OCCC was a no-brainer for Stewart.

“I wanted some time to develop my art at a collegiate level before getting thrown into a university type setting, so OCCC was the perfect fit for me.”

Stewart said there are many reasons OCCC is a great college but the diversity at OCCC is her favorite thing about the college.

Stewart said her favorite class was Advocates of Peace with English Professor Stephen Morrow.

“It taught me how to understand my emotions and feelings, and express them peacefully,”

she said.

Morrow gave Stewart praise for maturing during her time at OCCC.

“I’ve seen a really wonderful growth in her overall confidence and feeling more grounded in that she belongs,” Morrow said.

Like many other students, Stewart spends a lot of her time at the college between classes and working on campus as a tutor in the Communications Lab.

“I really liked my English Comp I class with English professor Michael Snyder; he’s the reason I have this job,” Stewart said. “I visited the Comm Lab so many times during his class because he challenged us in a way that made us want to do better.”

During her time at OCCC, Stewart performed in two other productions as a freshmen including “Little Murders” directed by OCCC Theater Professor Brent Noel and “Rocky Horror Show” directed by Jon Haque, business manager of CityRep.

Stewart said her attention has shifted to her YouTube channel, R for Rae, which she launched a week ago. Her videos are humorous and carefree, Stewart said.

She currently has 72 subscribers.

To watch her videos search Stewart’s YouTube channel “R for Rae.”



THEATER: Daraja Rae Stewart, theater arts major, recites a few lines from a script in the Bruce Owen Theater. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer.*

