

NOV. 12, 2024

OCCC STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1978

PIONEER

Short-Form

MEDIA CONTEST

DAY OF THE
DEAD

In Memory of

Liam Payne

Why is **VOTING**
IMPORTANT?

OCCC student Gabriela Colorado paints a skull at one of the craft tables set up for the Day of the Dead celebration.

Photo by Ana Arias

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Oklahoma City Community College.

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. Email letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER reserves 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 Arts 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.

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CHROMAKOPIA
THUNDERDEBUT
ELECTIONDAY
SCHOLARSHIPS
CHILI
LIAMPAYNE
CIBOMATTO
PINK
SNOWQUEEN
OKCCOMETS
WORLD SERIES
NETFLIX
MEDIA
NOVEMBER
DAY OF THE DEAD

Cultural Parade

Photo by Trey Brite



Chiaki Troutman, coordinator of the World Languages & Cultures Center, displays her colorful costume during a special "cultural parade" held after one of the WLCC's recent Coffee and Conversations events.

Panel Discusses Opioid Addiction

Photos by Trey Brite



Panel members Jeff Hargrave (left) and Dr. Brian Couey (right) prepare to discuss opioid addiction ahead of the well-attended informational forum.



Panel members Dr. Jason Beaman (left) and Dr. Jennifer Allen (right) discuss solutions to the opioid crisis.



Jeff Hargrave (left), director of operations at the Whitten Newman Foundation, discusses the signs of opioid abuse while fellow panel member Dr. Brian Couey (right) listens on.



Dr. Brian Couey (center), executive director of an INTEGRIS-operated addiction recovery center, explains steps that can be taken to alleviate addiction as fellow panel members Jeff Hargrave (left) and Dr. Jennifer Allen (right) pay close attention to his advice.

CALLING

ALL CONTENT CREATORS

By Dr. David Zeoli

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VIRAL SHORTS: YOUTUBE & TIKTOK VIDEO WORKSHOP
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KICK-START ON YOUR CONTENT CREATION!

STUDENTS Invited
to Compete in
SHORT-FORM MEDIA CONTEST



Contact Info

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Office Location: AH 1F2

OCCC Journalism and Broadcasting (JB) has announced plans to launch the college's first-ever "Content Creator Search," a competition designed for students interested in creating short-form videos like those popularized on such blockbuster sites as YouTube and TikTok.

The search, set to begin on Nov. 15 and run through Jan. 31, will allow participants to compete in up to three different categories:

- **Information/Education/Advocacy**, such as tutorials, explainers, news, reviews and vlogs
- **Social Influencer – Entertainment & Humor**, such as reels, original shorts, reaction videos and skits
- **Influencer – Branding & Product Marketing**, such as product openings, product reviews or endorsements, advertorials and demonstrations

The videos should range in duration from a minimum of 30 seconds to a maximum of three minutes. All entries will be judged by both faculty and student evaluators, who will decide on the prize winners by Feb. 28. The winner of each category will receive a \$50 gift card, with the grand-prize winner entitled to a \$100 gift card for entering the best short-form video overall.

All students, regardless of skill level or media experience, are encouraged to participate. JB has partnered with the OCCC World Languages and Cultures Center to assist students who need support developing short-form production skills.

"We are excited to co-host the 'Viral Shorts: YouTube & TikTok Workshop' for students who want to learn to create contemporary media," said WLCC coordinator Chiaki Troutman.

The workshop will be held on Dec. 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the JB media lab (AEH 1F1).

JB introduced the search in response to the changing landscape of visual media as it adapts to the next generation of content creators. Content creation, introduced by the generation that comprises most of the OCCC student body, has changed the face of media in recent years. Consumers of media have so elevated short-form media, made popular by the likes of YouTube, TikTok and Twitch, that it has become the most utilized media available today.

"We are excited to introduce this event so students can utilize their creativity and engage in media that is relevant to their own experience," said OCCC Chair of Writing and Media Communications Jennifer Fike.

Khi Davis, editor-in-chief of the Pioneer newspaper, encouraged his fellow students to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

"I believe anyone has the potential to become a content creator," Davis said. "This contest can help students get their foot in the door."

To participate in the search, students should create their own content, post it to Vimeo or YouTube and then copy a link for their media into the search's online entry form. Students will receive a link to the entry forms through their OCCC student emails by mid-November.

BREAST CANCER Awareness

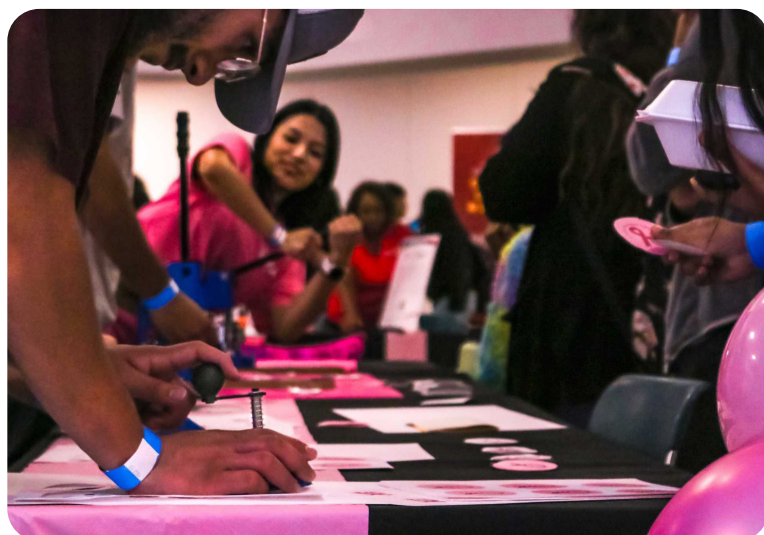
Photos by Trey Brite



Booths offer colorful merchandise designed to help spread the word about breast cancer awareness.



Members of the OCCC community write reaffirming messages to be shared with patients suffering from breast cancer.



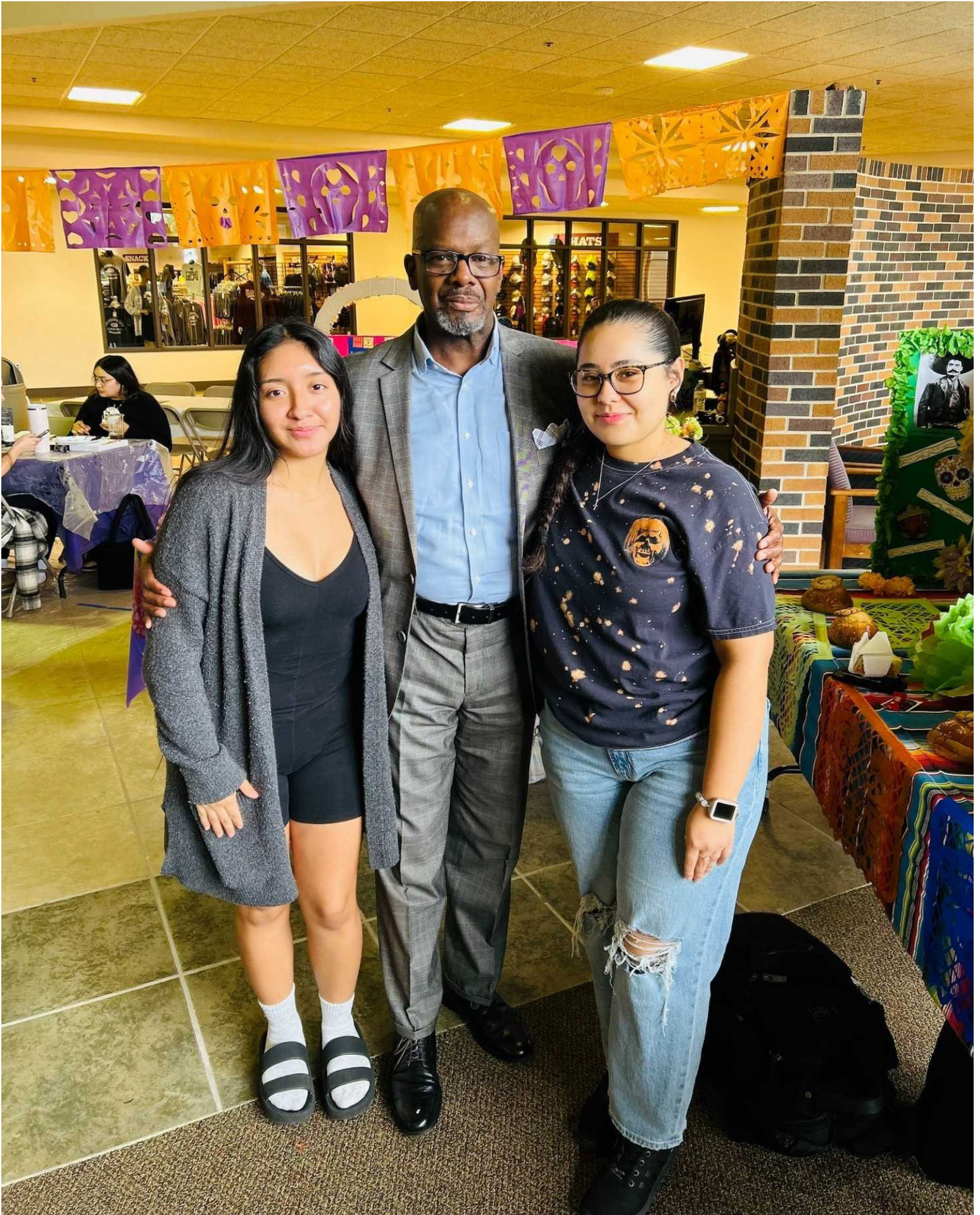
Workers at the Breast Cancer Awareness event design and press badges for attendees to wear.



A large crowd digs into the tasty food offered at the well-attended Breast Cancer Awareness event.

Day Of **THE DEAD** Event Full of **LIFE**

Photos by Ana Arias



Event participants (from left to right) Gabriela Colorado, Bob Davis and Ana Arias pose together in front of the festivities.



A colorful entryway, complete with catchy banners and flyers, invites OCCC community members to participate in a special Día De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) event.



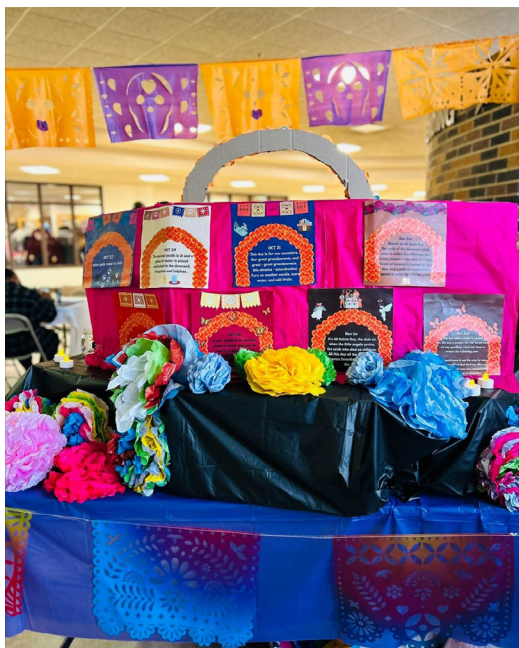
Attendees (from left to right) Tim Wolieu, Gabriela Colorado, Bob Davis and David Hernandez take a break for a group photo during the Day of the Dead event.



Professors Edwin Florez Palacios (left) and Ginnett Rollins (middle) take a breather with Emilee Denison just beyond all of the bustling activity.



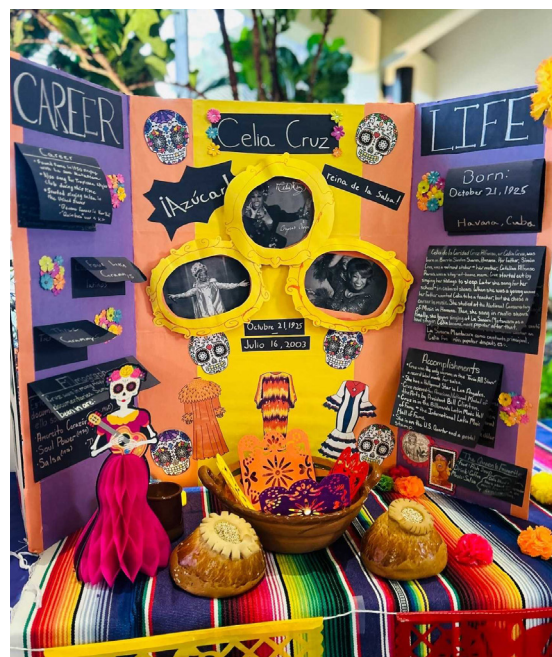
OCCC student Blanca Alvarado presides over a table filled with pan dulce (sweet bread) prepared by the Oaxaca Bakery.



A colorful display offers a detailed chronology explaining the significance behind each day in the Day of the Dead.



A display of finished artwork, crafted by Gabriela Colorado and Ana Arias, hangs proudly with the help of a Día de Los Muertos sticker handed out by members of the Hispanic Student Association.



A colorful display showcases details about the life and career of Afro-Latina Celia Cruz, a legendary Cuban singer.



An elaborate presentation pays tribute to Vicente Fernández, a Mexican mariachi singer and actor.



An informative display offers details about the life of Mexican singer-songwriter "Chalino" Sánchez Félix.

CHILI Cook-Off

Raises Funds for SCHOLARSHIPS

Photos by Khi Davis

Chili Cook-Off Winners

First place

Leslie Jones, chair of the history/geography department

Second place

Julie Rice-Collins, professor of geography

Third place

Tom Routson, professor of emergency medical sciences



A sign beckons OCCC community members to buy some delicious chili while raising money for scholarships in the process.



OCCC students Chia Hsien Lin and Travis Rieger help out with the fundraiser by serving chili.



Professors Kim Park and Charles Myrick smile happily while assisting with the Chili Cook-Off.



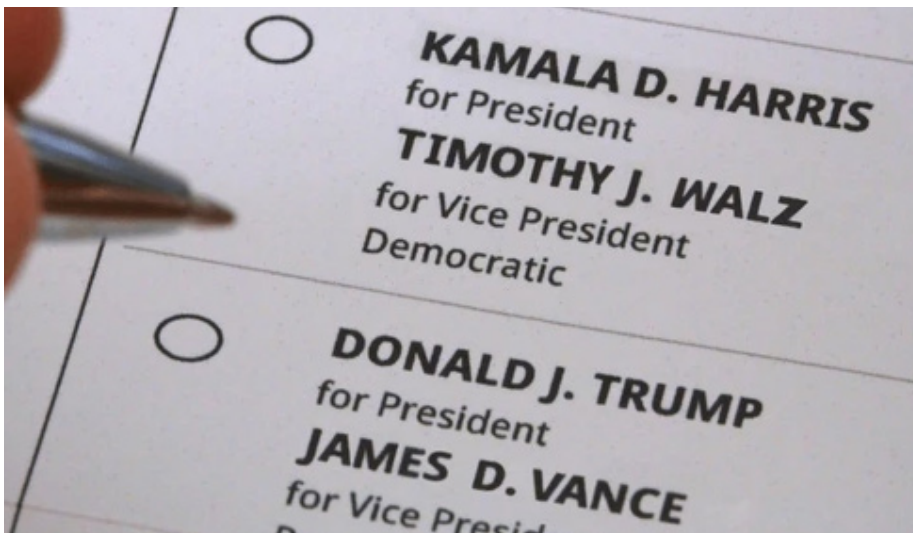
OCCC faculty members Sarah Baker (left), Courtney Oliphant (middle) and Leslie Jones (right) take a quick break from overseeing the Chili Cook-Off and making sure that everything is going according to plan.



Professors Deborah Morgan (left) and Beth Rawlins (right) handle the transactions before providing donors with serving utensils.

Why Is **VOTING** Important?

By Trey Brite



Civic duties can sometimes be forgotten by the people of the United States, but voting is on the minds of every American once four years comes to pass. When this time comes, it is imperative to recall the importance of the shared right to cast a ballot and how it affects the day-to-day lives of each and every citizen under the Star-Spangled Banner.

There is a common fallacy that college students keep out of politics and steer clear of voting seasons. This couldn't be further from the truth, and OCCC students serve as evidence of this fact. Organizations such as the social sciences department have worked towards strengthening U.S. democracy by handing out brochures featuring the U.S. Constitution and helping students register to vote before the presidential election rounds the corner.

Across the entire country, 66% of college-age citizens voted in the 2020 primary election – 14% more than the number who voted in the 2016 primaries—and those figures are only expected to keep on climbing going forward, according to The Equation. While young people nationwide may have flocked to the primaries, however, only 15.3% of Oklahoma voters under the age of 30 participated in the 2022 midterm election.

Still, with the help of initiatives like those undertaken by the social sciences department, some hope to see the number of voters here on campus steadily expand. As Election Day approached just ahead of press time, we encouraged members of the OCCC community to share their thoughts on the importance of casting a ballot and their appreciation for the right to vote.

"I think voting is imperative to our society as Americans," said Willa Marlowe, a pre-law major at OCCC. "We have a duty and obligation to vote for the people who can best represent us – state and national. I think people should not withhold their vote, especially during local elections," she added.

The foundation of our republic rests upon citizens expressing a genuine belief in how the government should be run. Elected officials serve as the cornerstone of forward-moving politics, a situation that cannot be taken for granted in times of turmoil. Issues that have arisen over the past few presidencies face the potential of being successfully addressed or wreaking havoc if they go unnoticed.

Even so, some OCCC students clearly feel disillusioned by the current environment. When asked what he would need to see in order to start voting again, John Ross Taylor responded with the following: "Better candidates. Ones that state what they want without the mudslinging. Someone who I don't feel embarrassed to say is my president."

Others see room for improvement in the election process itself. "Unfortunately, our voting and political system is quite complex, (which) makes it less accessible to people who don't have a background in political science or to the people who just don't have the time to learn on their own," Marlowe said. "I would absolutely encourage people to make time to learn, especially when our lives and civil liberties depend on it.

"Get involved, people!" she urged in conclusion. "The time is now!"

Photos by Trey Brite

Coffee And Conversations: **GREECE**



Professor Nathan Kelly scans over previous trips taken by OCCC students studying abroad.



Professor Julie Rice-Rollins presents a future study abroad trip to Greece that students and faculty will be going on next semester.



Tasty snacks and informative reading material about previous trips entice students to participate in the recent Coffee and Conversations event.

The Life and Legacy of Pop **Superstar** **LIAM PAYNE**



Members of One Direction, (L-R) Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Liam Payne, Zayn Malik, and Louis Tomlinson, stand together during their performance on ABC's Good Morning America inside Central Park in New York, November 2013. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson



Cast member Liam Payne arrives at the world premiere of "Ron's Gone Wrong" during the BFI Film Festival in London, October 2021. REUTERS/Tom Nicholson



Liam Payne of the British-Irish band 'One Direction' appears on NBC's 'Today' show in New York, March 2012. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

By Ana Arias

Liam Payne was best known for his time as a member of the wildly popular boy band One Direction. Now, unfortunate circumstances have made him the first one to go. He was born on Aug. 29, 1993, in Wolverhampton, England, and passed away at the CasaSur Palermo Hotel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Oct. 16 of this year.

Growing Up

Payne was born to Karen and Geoff Payne and had two older sisters, Nicola and Ruth. His background involved growing up in a working-class family and attending local schools. He showed an interest in music at a young age, participating in school performances and learning to play the guitar and the piano.

Where It All Started

Payne's love for music was proven when he decided to audition for "The X Factor UK" in 2008 at the age of 14. Judges felt he needed time and practice to continue to develop his stage presence and confidence, so he was eliminated. He waited for two years to pass and returned to the show in 2010. This time around, he impressed the judges but not enough to advance as a solo artist. The judges did however feel that he displayed enough talent to stop well short of letting him go. Payne was put into a group with four other contestants who were in similar positions. Together with Payne himself, Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson and Zayn Malik made up the group One Direction.

The Group's Successes

One Direction seemingly became a global sensation instantaneously. As a key member, Payne contributed to the band's image and music, assisting in the successful release of albums that topped the charts worldwide. The band's UK number-one debut single, "What Makes You Beautiful," and its debut studio album, "Up All Night," were released in 2011. The album, which contained three songs co-written by Payne, debuted at number one in the United States. All four of the studio albums that followed – "Take Me Home" (2012), "Midnight Memories" (2013), "Four" (2014) and "Made in the A.M." (2015) – debuted at number one in the UK. "Midnight Memories" was the world's best-selling album of 2013, and its accompanying "Where We Are" tour was the highest-grossing tour of 2014.

After the release of "Four," One Direction became the only group in the 58-year history of the Billboard 200 albums chart to have its first four albums debut at number one. The albums spawned a string of successful singles, including "Live While We're Young," "Little Things," "Best Song Ever," "Story of My Life," "Drag Me Down" and "History."

Following the departure of Malik in March 2015, Payne was tasked with taking over the bulk of Malik's vocals. One Direction went on to take an indefinite hiatus in 2016 after completing promotional activities related to "Made in the A.M." Since the band's debut, One Direction has sold 70 million records worldwide, including 7.6 million albums and

26 million singles in the US, becoming one of the best-selling boy bands of all time.

Transitioning to Being Solo Again

The band's impressive run of success and fame did not necessarily carry over into each member's personal life, happiness or solo career. Following the announcement of One Direction's indefinite hiatus, members were allowed to explore individual projects. Payne faced the challenge of establishing his identity outside of the boy band framework. His debut single "Strip That Down" highlighted a shift towards a more mature, dance-oriented sound. Nevertheless, his solo efforts often struggled to maintain the cultural relevance and commercial success that marked his time in One Direction. Despite achieving some chart success, Payne struggled to find the best sound for him as an individual.

Personal Life

Beyond his music, Payne's personal life also garnered attention. He was open about his relationships, including his notable romance with singer Cheryl Cole, with whom he shared a son named Bear, born in 2017. Payne's journey into fatherhood influenced his perspective on life and art, bringing new depth to his music. He used his platform to advocate for mental health awareness, speaking publicly about his own struggles and the importance of seeking help and support. By sharing his story, he aimed to destigmatize mental health issues and encourage others to prioritize their well-being.

In addition to advocating for mental health, Payne was involved in various charitable initiatives. He supported organizations focused on children's health and education, reflecting his commitment to giving back to the community. His involvement in charity work aligned with his belief in using his influence for positive change.

Payne often shared personal insights and experiences with his fans. He used those platforms to connect with his audience, promote awareness of important issues and foster a sense of community among his supporters. Overall, Payne's personal life was characterized by his journey through the challenges of fame and his dedication to advocating for mental health and charitable causes. His willingness to speak openly about his experiences resonated with many, cementing his connection with fans as an impactful figure.

His Death

On Oct. 2 of this year, Payne and his girlfriend of two years, Kate Cassidy, traveled to Argentina in order to renew his United States visa as well as to attend fellow bandmate Horan's concert. Cassidy left to return back to her Florida home on Oct. 14. Two days later, Payne died after falling from a third-floor balcony at the CasaSur Hotel in the Palermo neighborhood of Buenos Aires.

According to the BBC, police went to the hotel following an emergency call from the hotel manager, who reported "an aggressive

man who could be under the effects of drugs and alcohol." The manager indicated in the call that "when he is conscious, he is destroying the entire room, and we need you to send someone," noting that the man's life was at risk due to the room having a balcony. Payne fell from the balcony shortly after emergency services arrived. His death was confirmed at 5:11 p.m. Argentina Time.

The emergency medical team that arrived at the hotel reported a "cranial fracture and extremely serious injuries" that led to Payne's immediate death, the BBC noted. Alberto Crescenti, the director of Buenos Aires' public emergency medical service, announced Payne's death on the Argentine news channel TN, saying that the fall was from a height of approximately 43 to 46 feet and that Payne sustained "very serious injuries incompatible with life," leaving "no possibility of resuscitation." A number of factors left a mystery surrounding his death and preventing a clear-cut conclusion of whether or not it was accidental, a suicide or a murder planned by another party.

His Legacy

As a fan of One Direction since the age of 7, I feel heartbroken by his death. Payne was always my favorite member of the band, so it seemed surreal to witness my childhood crush and one of my favorite people pass away a week after I turned 20 years old. Together with his fellow band members, Payne redefined pop music and captured the hearts of millions of people around the world – including my own. I found this story difficult to write as I conducted research and traveled down memory lane. I could have included so many more details, but I tried my best to provide a thorough and balanced account of his life, his death and his legacy.

From his humble beginnings and health challenges to his rise as a global music star, Payne did his best to navigate the complexities of fame while remaining true to himself. His dream job was to become a successful solo artist and songwriter, and he did just that and more. His journey serves as an inspiration to many. His commitment to authenticity, as well as the connections that he made through music, help ensure that his influence will endure for years to come. His passing can remind us of the importance of mental health awareness and the need to support those who might be struggling. It also highlights the impact that public figures can have on their fans and the ways that their lives can influence many people. It presents us with a moment to reflect on the pressures of fame and the importance of seeking help when it is needed.

In closing, I wish to say: Rest in peace, Liam Payne. You will be missed by so many – not only as one-fifth of One Direction but also as a son, a brother and a father. May this message contribute to your legacy and help it live on forever.

ALBUM REVIEW



by Khi Davis

“Shhh” (7.3/10)

“Bye My Neverland” (8.4/10)

“Sugarcoat (NATTY Solo)” (9.1/10)

“Countdown (BELLE Solo)” (7.3/10)

“Kitty Cat (JULIE Solo)” (6.5/10)

“Play Love Games (HANEUL Solo)” (7.7/10)

Suggested by OCCC student Sun Nguyen, “Kiss of Life” is the debut EP/mini album from the South Korean girl group with the same name. Released in July of 2023, the project features six songs with a run time of about 18 minutes. It includes two songs with members Natty, Belle, Julie and Haneul singing together in addition to four solos, one from each member.

All of the songs have a diverse sound that meshes well together. Each one has its own mix of EDM (electronic dance music) elements with hip-hop and R&B influences as well as the rhythm of pop music. The fusion of the genres makes this project progressive, energetic and tuneful.

A deeper dive into the lyrics reveals a message in each song that a lot of audiences can relate to. The themes vary from track to track, ranging from knowing self-worth to maturing into adulthood to being yourself. Through the lyrics in both the group songs and the solos, the members relate to one another while also highlighting their individual feelings.

While there isn't that much cohesion in this project, I feel like the main idea behind the debut is to present the talent within the group and give listeners a taste of the kind of music they should expect to hear on future albums. These girls are not meant to be underestimated.

Some of my favorite moments on the album include the melodies and the instrumentals. For instance, I like how the song “Shhh” uses the clicking sound from Snoop Dogg’s “Drop It Like It’s Hot.” In a similar fashion, I also enjoy the ‘90s hip-hop/R&B vibe I get from “Sugarcoat” with its record-scratching sound effects and gangsta funk-like samples. In addition, songs like “Bye My Neverland” and “Play Love Games” have this mythical, bubbly vibe that gives off a performative essence. The magical yet true-to-life tunes heard in these tracks are nice.

K-pop music has these upbeat components that always make the tracks vibrant and rhythmic. While the genre is not my niche or a sound I frequent with, it features elements – such as the pop influences found throughout this EP – that I still appreciate. While it’s not an album that I would turn to often, I did enjoy listening to it. Overall, this is a GREAT EP, and I give it a 7.7/10. I suggest this project to anyone who is a fan of NewJeans or anyone who wants to take a deeper dive into K-pop groups.

Got an album you want me to review? Send your suggestions to khi.t.davis@my.occc.edu.