

## 'Odessa Supports Haiti' campaign underway at OC

With estimates that as many as three million people may be affected by the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12, Odessa College believes strongly in supporting those needing aid.

Please join OC and American Red Cross of Southwest Texas by giving what you can to support those in need. Donations can be made at the OC Sports Center, Learning Resources Center or Resources Development Office now through Friday, Feb. 5.

Donations also can be made online at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or you can text "Haiti" to 90999 on your cell phone to send a \$10 donation to support the relief efforts. For more information about the "Odessa Supports Haiti" community campaign call 335-6648.



Odessa College and the American Red Cross of Southwest Texas announced the "Odessa Supports Haiti" relief campaign Jan. 20 at Odessa College.

## OC, Jackalopes work together to support programs

Odessa College athletics and the Odessa Jackalopes are teaming up to show their support of each other's programs and provide quality activities for the community by hosting game exchanges in February.

The Jacks will host OC at their game against the Corpus Christi Icerays at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 2 at the Ector County Coliseum.

During the event OC students and employees will participate in spotlight activities including the ceremonial puck drop and pre-game and intermission performances. OC student-athletes and athletic staff also will be introduced.

Vouchers are available for any OC student or staff member that wants to attend the Jacks game and may be picked up at the OC Wrangler Express Center or OC athletic department office in the Sports Center.

Odessa College then will host the Jackalopes ice hockey team during the OC Wranglers men's basketball game against New Mexico Military Institute at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8 at the OC Sports Center.

All Jacks fans, players and staff members are invited to attend the Wranglers game. Jackalope players will be introduced during halftime. Plus, Jacks fans can attend free of charge with a ticket stub from any 2009-2010 Jackalopes ice hockey game.

For more information contact Wayne Baker, OC athletic director, at 335-6574 or Tom Snoddy, Odessa Jackalopes corporate development director, at 552-7825.



Dr. Greg South, who joined the Odessa College family in October 2009, serves as the new dean of OC's career, technical and workforce education division. With his position comes the responsibility of overseeing the auto diesel technology, business professions, computer information systems, cosmetology, culinary arts, drafting and surveying, industrial technology, law enforcement/criminal justice, occupational safety and health technology and continuing education and workforce training departments.

## New dean knows first hand how education can make a difference

Odessa College's newest dean, Dr. Greg South, is no stranger to life struggles. Growing up in California, he picked tomatoes in the fields with his Mexican-American mother and worked four newspaper delivery routes before school to help his family pay the bills.

So, when South says he can empathize with the hardships students must overcome to get an education, he speaks from experience. However, as a product of a community college, he also knows first hand how a college education can make a difference in your life.

"Going to a community college gave me opportunities I didn't think I had," he said. "It got me out of undesirable circumstances and gave me a path for a better life for my family and me." The path led to a bachelor's degree in sociology, a master's degree in physical education and a doctorate in physical education/performance psychology and a career in positions of leadership for South.

When South, who was serving as the vice-president of performance and development at New Mexico Military Institute, learned Odessa College was looking for a dean of career, technical and workforce education, he applied with the hopes of serving students at a "progressive and innovative" community college.

"I saw first hand how progressive Odessa College's leadership was while in my position at NMMI. OC was a great place with a bright and upcoming president (Dr. Gregory Williams) who promotes innovation" he said.

South began as OC's dean of career, technical and workforce education in October and said he looks forward to creating more opportunities for students. "Career, technical and

workforce education is a dynamic and exciting area. It is poised for tremendous things in the future," he said, adding, "In many ways it is the heart and soul of a community college. It provides the community with innovative opportunities to have successful careers and lives in a relatively short time-period, not to mention the opportunities are open to everyone at a reasonable cost."

South believes that people tend to pursue what interests them most. While some students are looking to transfer, others have short-term goals to learn new career skills or update current skills. "Everybody has a valuable contribution to make whether it be in a leadership position or one of support," he said. In South's case, his strengths have taken him toward leadership positions.

"I have found in life there are situations that lead us to our areas of aptitude. I believe the only two true legacies you leave behind are your family and the difference you make in others' lives through service. Education for me is one of the best ways to serve others and make a difference," he said.

The poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling is a blueprint for personal integrity, behavior and self-development and one of South's favorites. The poem's line "If you can meet with triumph and disaster/And treat those two imposters just the same ..." is written on the wall of the centre court players' entrance at Wimbledon serving as reminder of its timeless and inspiring quality, which South remembers fondly from his days as a tennis professional.

"There is a line in the poem that reminds me of the mission of a community college," South said. "That line says, 'If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim ...' In community colleges we teach people to think. What a remarkable way to make a difference in someone's life."

## Student Success Center offers students MORE

It has only been a couple of weeks since the spring semester started at Odessa College; so now is the perfect time to become familiar with OC's newly renovated and relocated Student Success Center on the first floor of the Murry H. Fly Learning Resources Center.

The OC Student Success Center provides resources for students with disabilities, computer labs, study rooms, a place to do homework, study for a test, work with classmates, or receive tutoring in everything from ESL, reading and writing to math and science.

Plus, students can get help with study skills or enhance their learning by using the self-assessment resources.

OC Student Success Center director Chip Carlson said the center's mission is to continually find new ways to assist students in reaching their goals.



"It always will be evolving and growing to provide students with more help," he said. "We seek to build success by offering programs and services designed to maximize every student's learning potential, personal adjustment and academic performance."

"We have an outstanding team ready to support OC students with useful tools and strategies designed to help them be successful both academically and personally, Carlson said. "Your success is our success."