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Glitches in professor evaluations prompt fix

By Valerie Jobe
Editor

Weak links in the system used to evaluate professors' performances were exposed recently when SII — Student Input on Instruction — forms were many weeks late in being transformed into results faculty and administrators could use.

Each semester for the past 23 years, students in many classes have been asked to rate their professors using an SII form.

Institutional Effectiveness Director Janet Perry said the results are used to improve teaching.

"The purpose of the SII is to obtain feedback from students to determine if changes are needed in the curriculum," she said in an e-mail message.

SIIs also are used by division deans and department chairs in their springtime performance evaluations of faculty.

One of the issues exposed this time around was the inability to have those results available in time for them to be of the most use.

Former Arts and Humanities Dean Susan VanSchuyver said that affected her area.

"Results were late," VanSchuyver said.

"We typically get them back by, the latest, mid-January. This year, we got them back well into February."

Perry said two things caused the *See "SII," page 12*

Learning lines



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Theater Professor Brent Noel coaches sophomore nursing major Raquel Carranco during rehearsal for the OCCC production of "Lysistrata." The play is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. May 3 through 5 in the College Theater. Ticket prices are \$5 for students and \$7 for general admission. The May 3 performance is free to all OCCC students, staff and faculty. For more information, contact Noel at 405-682-1611, ext. 7246.

April 20 officially last day to drop classes

By Scott D'Amico
Staff Writer

With the semester nearing its close, students who aren't doing well in their classes may have only one option — withdrawing.

And, after April 20, students won't even have that option.

Students have many different reasons for with-

drawing from classes.

Premed sophomore Kari Glidewell said one reason she's had to withdraw from classes is because she just wasn't sure how she was doing in a class.

"It's kind of a headache," Glidewell said about the anxiety she's felt when deciding whether to withdraw from a class.

During the times she's had to drop a class,

Glidewell said, her professors failed to inform her of her grades until the week before the withdrawal deadline.

Glidewell said if that happens she suggests going to the professor and, if need be, further.

"E-mail the professor and if the professor doesn't respond, contact the dean to see what you can do," she said.

Occupational Therapy freshman Kristi French said although at times it might be necessary, dropping a class should be avoided.

"If I'm in that situation I try to avoid [withdrawing] at all costs," she said.

"I'd have to retake the class anyway."

French said she too has been in a situation when a professor has waited until

the week before the withdrawal deadline date to show students their grades.

She said she would support an institutional policy that would require professors to show students their grades in a class well before the final week to withdraw from classes.

"At a certain point they should tell students who

See "Drop," page 12

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Mental illness unprejudiced

Some of the most respected men and women in history are known to have suffered from a mental illness.

Abraham Lincoln experienced extreme bouts of depression. Winston Churchill and novelist Virginia Woolf suffered from bipolar disorder.

Sometimes it seems as though the brightest of people are the very ones struck with a psychological disorder.

Mental illness is a term used to describe psychological disorders ranging in severity from mild depression to schizophrenia.

In 2002, the National Mental Health Information Center reported approximately 5.4 percent of Oklahoma's adult population suffers from a serious mental illness.

There is nothing more difficult than knowing how to cope when a loved one is suffering from a mental illness. The issue becomes even more complicated when the person in question chooses not to seek treatment for their illness, either due to the absence of health insurance or the social stigma they feel will be put upon them if they admit to having a problem. For those who are suffering, it is imperative to seek treatment. Research has shown those who suffer from psychological disorders are at an increased risk of self-destructive behavior, including suicide.

Many mental illnesses are very treatable with the correct combination of drugs and counseling. For a person who must learn to cope with the interpersonal dynamic of loving someone with a mental illness, it is important to seek support from others who have experienced similar situations, and professional counselors who can give objective advice.

The Oklahoma Innovation Center is a state organization that works to find ways to help Oklahomans who have been affected by a mental health issue and need help finding support services. Their website is www.okinnovationcenter.org.

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse also has detailed listings of centers that are devoted to the care of individuals suffering from a mental illness that can be found at www.odmhsas.org.

College students can be vulnerable to mental disorders, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. The stress of balancing family, work and school is often very taxing. Because of this, taking the time to take care of one's self should take priority before mental exhaustion sets in.

Not one person is invulnerable to the pressures life invariably brings. We are all just breakable people, bound to hurt and bound to need help from those around us. There is no shame in seeking the support necessary to find the peace of mind each person deserves to have in life.

—Courtney Barrie
Staff Writer

Let voices be heard to state reps

To the Editor:

Where will this end? When will it stop? It is my peers and I whose future remains in limbo. It was neither our choice nor decision to migrate to this great nation.

The only wrongdoing we have committed was to follow the decisions our parents made.

While the hegemony of the anti-immigrant movement continues to inane scapegoat illegal immigration, we continue to lack a solution for the so-called problem.

The recent bill authored by Randy Terrill denies the opportunity for future high school graduates who are illegal immigrants to attend college.

With true angst, I feel helpless. What are my peers and I to do? What will our families do? Perhaps, some of you might say, go back? Go back, where? Where is back there?

We know nothing besides here. I challenge the belied statistics. Be a smart person and question yourself the so-called facts. For instance, question this "fact." "Illegal immigrants are tak-

ing American jobs." According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment rate is 4.5 percent.

Ask any economist what that means, and ask what would happen if 12 million people were to disappear.

Also take into consideration that these 12 million people also hold two to three jobs. Has this become a racial issue rather than just any issue that could've been addressed long ago?

These are the facts that you need to question. Since when did our government know this was an issue, and why did they not take action? Perhaps because of the principle of supply and demand?

Don't allow yourself to be entangled in belligerent and insane arguments that are cloaked with a false sense of knowledge. Amid this instance of lost hope, I will not fill myself with pride to not ask for sympathy.

We need the morally and factually righteous to prevail. I want to attack no one. It is useless to [argue] with those that won't admit to succinct evidence that proves them wrong.

If you sympathize with my [circumstances], I urge you to call your senators and the governor.

Let them know you disapprove of such measures. Feel free to contact me at guillermo.e.gonzalez@email.occc.edu.

—Guillermo Gonzalez
Undocumented OCCC Student

PIONEER

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Valerie Jobe.....Editor
Amanda Bittle.....Staff Writer
David Miller.....Staff Writer
John Savage.....Staff Writer
Courtney Barrie.....Staff Writer
Drew Hampton.....Staff Writer
Scott D'Amico.....Online Editor
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Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@occc.edu. A phone number for verification must be included.

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Comments and Reviews

'Core 4' battles onto system

Sega is known for some great titles like "Phantasy Star Universe," "Sonic The Hedgehog" and the "Virtua Fighter" series. So it's no surprise their mech game "Armored Core 4" delivers the same kind of excitement and playability.

"Armored Core 4" is the 11th installment from game developers FromSoftware and publisher Sega.

This game series has been on several platforms and will be on the next generation systems like PlayStation 3 and is currently on Xbox 360.

Most American mech games involve a slow moving tank like a walker loafing around a battlefield. This is not the case in the Japanese-styled "AC4."

Mechs in this series are capable of flying tactics and boosting to breakneck speeds. "AC4" mechs resemble flying Voltrons with swords and dual grenade launchers, which fly all around the screen like an angry nest of hornets.

Strategy is used when deciding kinds of weapons or armor to wear but that's about as far as it goes. When playing online, reflexes are more important than strategy due to the



speed of the battles.

The one-player campaign involves a story but by the time players dive into the third or fourth chapter, they probably won't care. The one-player mode in this game is uninteresting and sometimes confusing.

"AC4" comes with a huge customizing mode where players can choose weapons, body parts, radar, guns and boosters.

Some players can get overwhelmed with stats and numbers, losing interest in the customization pieces; that's the problem with the steep learning curve.

The missions are short and sometimes don't give players enough information or direction.

Online multiplayer can give players an uneven balance of the haves and the

have-nots. Players who have completed the game on "hard" and "normal" will have every weapon at their disposal. Players who haven't beaten the game will have lesser mechs and items to choose from, which, in the end, hurts the online play.

Multiplayer matches include one-on-one battles, four-versus-four battles and eight-player battle royal matches.

There are times "AC4" looks amazing and at times the game just doesn't deliver enough eye candy.

Players who were fans of this series will have no problem with the learning curve, but for the majority of players out there, this game won't excite them.

Rating: 3/5

—**John Savage**
Staff Writer

Perfectly wasteful with 'Stranger'

During the showing of "Perfect Stranger," some scenes were inaudible because of a broken projector.

However, that's not the reason "Perfect Stranger" was such a bad moviegoing experience. That was the script's fault.

"Perfect Stranger" is the story of a New York investigative journalist, Rowena, played by Halle Berry ("Monster's Ball"), who writes under a male pen name.

After her newspaper rejects her story exposing a gay senator, Rowena quits her job.

Coincidentally, that same night, a childhood friend, Grace, played by Nicki Aycox ("Criminal Minds"), tells her about an affair she has had with powerful advertising agent Harrison Hill, played by Bruce Willis ("Armageddon").

Grace explains to Rowena that her affair began online, but was later played out in real life. However, the relationship ended when Hill decided not to leave his wife.

When Rowena's friend turns up dead, she enlists the aid of fellow journalist Miles, played by Giovanni Ribisi ("Flight of the Phoe-

nix"), to prove Hill was involved in Grace's murder.

Everybody in "Perfect Stranger" is seemingly guarding a dark secret except for Hill.

That makes Willis' character probably the most believable. As the womanizing and violent advertising tycoon, Willis shines.

However, Berry and Ribisi's characters suffer from a script that throws everything at the wall and hopes some of it sticks.

It just seems somewhat convenient that Rowena has underlying molestation issues from her childhood while Ribisi masks a sick



In just a few short weeks OCCC will conduct its annual commencement ceremony at the Cox Convention Center on Friday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m.

This celebratory event recognizes the approximately 1,200 students who have completed a degree or certificate in this academic year.

For everyone who will graduate, I want to be one of the first to offer my congratulations. I also look forward to seeing you at commencement, where I will have the opportunity to shake your hand as you walk across the stage to receive your diploma.

For some, this achievement meant overcoming many challenges in life. Your accomplishment inspires me and all of the faculty and staff at OCCC.

This 2007 commencement also has historical significance as this year marks the 100 anniversary of statehood for Oklahoma.

To give the commencement an Oklahoma Centennial flavor, Dr. Bob Blackburn, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, is slated to be the commencement speaker. All of our graduates will wear a special keepsake medallion to commemorate graduation from OCCC in this Oklahoma centennial year.

Finishing a college degree is so important. A college degree not only signifies that a student has successfully completed a program of study; it is the preparation for a better life. For most, completing a college degree is life changing, not only for the student who receives the degree, but also for the student's family; and in a collective sense, transformational for our community.

On May 18, we will all dress up in academic regalia and have a celebration in honor of our graduates. It will be an evening to remember. See you there!

—**Paul Sechrist**
OCCC President

fascination for Berry, complete with a shrine of her in a secret room in his apartment.

The movie was best summarized by a patron leav-

ing the theater.

"Dude, this just wasn't that good of a movie."

Rating: C-

—**Scott D'Amico**
Staff Writer

Got beef? Need to get something off your chest? Or, do you just have a concern?
Send your letters to the editor at editor@occc.edu.
Please include your name, contact information and a classification. Letters are considered for publication in the order in which they are received.

Guests shed light on Panhandle

By Kirk Helm
News Writing Student

"No man's land" and "neutral strip" are just a couple of the nicknames Sara Jane Richter used recently when describing the Oklahoma Panhandle to audience members in the College Union. "The Panhandle has been used more for a passageway than a residential area throughout history," she said.

Richter and Tom Lewis, professors at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, presented information on "upstate" Oklahoma on April 9. Richter also serves as Liberal Arts dean at OPSU.

The presentation was one of several events Student Life has planned for the Oklahoma Centennial.

The pair used colorful, historical slides and a comical narrative to show the Panhandle is more than just a desolate region in Oklahoma.

As Lewis flipped through the slides, Richter told the audience about the history of the Panhandle



Photo by Carrie Cronk

and its reputation as "no man's land." Before the Panhandle became part of Oklahoma, Richter said, it was referred to as "the geographic football that was kicked around with no one to claim it."

Its reputation has not improved much, said Lewis, but the area is rich with history as well as fun tourist sites. Lewis and Richter illustrated this with stories of dinosaur discoveries, outlaw hide-

Oklahoma Panhandle State University Liberal Arts Dean Sara Jane Richter answers questions following a presentation of The Panhandle as a Passageway. Richter and fellow OPSU professor Tom Lewis delivered the lecture to promote awareness of the Oklahoma Panhandle. The presentation was the first of many planned to celebrate Oklahoma's centennial.

outs and military camps dating back to the Civil War.

Richter and Lewis said those living in the Panhandle perceive time and distance differently than other Oklahomans. "We will drive three hours, no problem, to Amarillo just to eat dinner," Lewis said.

"Kenton, Okla. is not even on Central Standard time," Richter said. "It's on Mountain West time."

Though a vast number of people have come and gone through the Panhandle over the years, many young adults are traveling from all over the world to attend OPSU.

"We have students from Hawaii, Maryland, Poland and Argentina, to name a few," Richter said.

Apply for student jobs on the web

By David Miller
Staff Writer

Students looking for a job at OCCC as well as an education must apply for employment online.

Human Resources Specialist Karen Schmidt said she believes the online application process, which became available to students in June 2006, is easier because they no longer have to submit their application to Human Resources in person.

"The new system allows applicants to submit all material online by attaching the documents electronically," Schmidt said in an e-mail.

However, the process wasn't easy for some students.

For extra credit, six students out of a class of about 24 filled out the online application and provided feedback regarding the application process.

Two had difficulty filling out the application due to information such as a transcript, résumé and cover letter needing to be attached.

"[Human Resources] wanted you to download or attach a lot of information that they should have access to," student Jonell Schultz said in an e-mail.

Employment Services Assistant Nicholas Webb isn't surprised some students had difficulty. Students who ask him for help in filling out the application often have the same problem.

"I would say that the most common situation was submitting résumés, cover letters and transcripts," Webb said.

The problem lies with getting the information onto the computer being used so it can be attached.

"What Human Resources told me was that you are

to scan your transcript in, and if you don't have a scanner you can use the ones in the Computer Lab or Library," said Laurie Thornton, Records and Graduation Services Clerk.

Thornton said students need to save their scanned transcript to a disk or Zip drive, and then it can be attached to the application.

"When you go into your online application, there's a place where you can attach it as a file just like you would in an e-mail," Thornton said.

Cover letters and résumés can be saved and attached as a word document.

"Once I figured out how they wanted me to send everything to them, then it was pretty easy," Thornton said.

Webb thinks instructions on how to attach a transcript should be included in the application process.

"That might be something that they could improve on, because it's the most common technical issue with the site," Webb said.

Other students found the application process to be relatively simple.

"When I did the job application on the OCCC website, overall it was OK but the way it was organized made it kind of difficult to read," said student Lauren Landgraf.

Currently, 17 student positions are open.

To access the application, click on Employment Opportunities under the Jobs heading on the OCCC homepage.

For more information regarding the application process, contact Schmidt at 405-682-1611, ext. 7398.

Staff Writer David Miller can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

Placement test updated

By Kathleen Kenney
News Writing Student

The college is using a different test to measure student skills in reading, writing and math these days, said Jim Ellis, Testing and Assessment Services director.

Accuplacer has replaced the COMPASS test, which the college used for many years to determine class placement.

"Incoming students are required to take the test to determine which level of each class they should take," Ellis said.

He said several deans and faculty members recommended the change.

Accuplacer will benefit students so they won't be placed in a class that is too difficult or not difficult enough for their skill levels, Ellis said.

He said it has numerous benefits.

For instance, Ellis said, Accuplacer is Internet based, allowing the Test Center to access the programs better.

Also, students who need to leave before the Accuplacer test has been completed can return later and resume at the spot in the test where they left off rather than starting from the beginning, Ellis said.

Approximately 15,000 students take math, reading and writing tests each year.

"Each test has about 5,000 students taking it every year," Ellis said.

The number of students who take the test is correlated to the number of students who enroll each semester.

The reading, writing and algebra tests have 20 questions each. The arithmetic test has 17 questions.

The student is allowed to take the test only two times, Ellis said, with a \$4 fee charged to students who take the test a second time.

For more information, contact Ellis at 405-682-1611, ext. 7368, or visit the Test Center on the first floor of the Main Building.

New degree proposed to state regents

Cooperative sonography degree would link OCCC, technology center

By Brandi Pilzner
News Writing Student

Diagnostic Medical Sonography may soon be a new degree option.

The OCCC Board of Regents authorized a request for approval of the Associate in Applied Science degree from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in March, according to the Board of Regents recap.

If approved, the sonography program would be offered in conjunction with the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program offered at Moore-Norman Technology Center, said Alexa Mashlan, Cooperative Alliance Program coordinator.

Mashlan explained that

the program has been approved by the college. However, she said, "we are still waiting on approval from the state."

Students in the program would co-enroll at OCCC and MNTC. Credits from both schools would appear on an OCCC transcript, according to the Cooperative Alliance website.

"I think everyone in our class plans to co-enroll," said Sarah Gladhill, a sonography student at MNTC. "[Co-enrollment] gives you an advantage over other students when looking for a job."

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at MNTC consists of 15 months of training. Students prepare to take the American Registry Diag-

nostic Medical Sonography Exam, according to the MNTC website.

Entrance into the program is competitive.

"About 80 students are expected to apply this year, but only 10 will be accepted," said Meleah Meadows, sonography program director at MNTC.

In addition to training at the technology center, students will be required to complete 43 credit hours of coursework at OCCC.

Many of these credit hours actually are completed in prerequisite coursework before students are accepted to the sonography program at MNTC.

"Three additional classes after completion of the sonography program here will get students an asso-

"[Co-enrollment] gives you an advantage over other students when looking for a job."

—Sarah Gladhill
Sonography Student
Moore-Norman Technology Center

ciate's from OCCC," Meadows said.

This does not necessarily mean bigger bucks, but it does make students more competitive in the job market, Meadows said.

"We were told we can ex-

pect to make anywhere from \$23,000 to \$25,000 in starting pay," Gladhill said.

Students who are interested in this program should contact the OCCC Cooperative Alliance Program at 405-682-7822.

Accidents leave no injuries

By Amanda Bittle
Staff Writer

Recent Safety and Security incidents at OCCC included automobile accidents, missing property and unauthorized use of the school swimming pool.

In one incident, student Brandi Mach's vehicle was struck by another vehicle on April 3, reported Safety and Security Officer Larry Lundy.

The incident occurred in parking lot A.

The other driver stopped his vehicle and gave Mach his name and phone number. He identified himself as Jude Owens.

Mach entered Owens' phone number in her cell phone, but failed to save the number, Lundy said.

She attempted to locate information on Owens through the school records division. A records search turned up no records for that name, Lundy said.

Another auto accident involved two students in parking lot A.

On April 6, student Jennifer Tuckey's vehicle struck student Jarred Thompson's vehicle, reported Hughes.

No one was injured in the accident.

As of press time, damages on Thompson's vehicle had not been estimated, Thompson said.

Tuckey could not be reached for comment.

There also was a hit-and-run accident.

On April 2, student Laura Chu returned to her vehicle in parking lot A to find it had been damaged, reported Safety and

Security Officer John Hughes.

The damage occurred between 10:30 a.m. and 12:25 p.m., according to the report.

An April 4 missing property incident had a happy ending.

Student Chael Parnell reported his laptop computer missing from the Arts and Humanities building, reported Lundy.

Parnell said the laptop was later recovered in the bookstore.

In an incident on April 5, unauthorized swimmers were discovered making use of the campus pool.

While passing by the pool area, lifeguard James Hensley noticed two individuals swimming with no lifeguard on duty, reported Safety and Security Officer Kevin Tipton. The swimmers were identified as a college contractor and one of his employees.

The men had been instructed not to enter the pool, according to the report. The contractor reportedly said that he thought it was OK to use the pool, since the workers already were in the area.

Tipton told the men to get out of the pool and leave the campus, according to the report.

The contractor was told the crew could not return to work until arrangements were made with either Building Maintenance and Operations Supervisor Gary Belcher or Physical Plant Assistant Director Chris Snow, Tipton reported.

Staff Writer Amanda Bittle can be reached at SeniorWriter@occc.edu.

College honors student leaders

By Courtney Barrie
Staff Writer

Student Life will host the 31st Annual Student Award Ceremony at 6 p.m. Friday, April 20, in the College Union.

Students who have shown both outstanding academic achievement and leadership in their field were nominated by faculty to receive the President's Award for Excellence.

According to information obtained from Student Life, the President's Award for Excellence is the highest honor given out at the annual Student Awards Ceremony.

Felix Aquino, Academic Affairs Vice President, will present the award to 13 of the most deserving nominees.

Forty-two students who have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher and have demonstrated active leadership in their department will receive an Award of Achievement from the dean of their department.

Student organization officers had the opportunity to nominate students who went above and beyond the call of duty within their organizations.

Student Organization Awards will be given to 20 students, each to be presented by a sponsor of the student club.

Recognition of honors graduates will be presented by History Professor Melinda Barr, honors program director.

English Professor Kim Jameson will present four Student English Essay Awards.

News Writing Instructional Assistant Ronna Austin is set to present the Pioneer Award.

A reception will be held for recipients and faculty members after the ceremony.

For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-1611, ext. 7792.

Staff Writer Courtney Barrie can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

Former student dies in Iraq

By John Savage
Staff Writer

One of OCCC's former students has died in the line of duty. Ryan Scott Michael Dallam, 24, died April 6 in Iraq. He attended OCCC in 2004.

Dallam's father, Scott, received word of his son's death April 6, after an Army chaplain and another soldier arrived at his Norman home, according to The Norman Transcript.

Scott Dallam told the Pioneer he was saddened by the news of his son's death but remains very proud of his service.

"When he enlisted in the Army, he was like a lot of kids, trying to find his way," Scott Dallam said.

Scott Dallam said his son was extremely dedicated to the Army and made corporal in less than two years, which is an accomplishment for the short amount of time.

"It really makes you proud as a parent," the elder Dallam said.

"He just wanted to serve his country."

He said Ryan enjoyed the service and became close with his unit.

Phone calls and sometimes e-mails were exchanged regularly between father and son.



Ryan Dallam

"We talked about every other week," Scott Dallam said.

He said his son was supportive of his peers and his commanding officers.

"He had very good things to say about his commanders and the other guys in his platoon."

Ryan Dallam was scheduled to come home on leave the week following his death.

"We hadn't made a whole lot of plans," Scott Dallam said. "The first thing he said he wanted to do was get some sleep."

He said, other than down time, Ryan wanted to enjoy some cold beers. "I told him, 'we can handle that,'" Scott Dallam said.

Scott Dallam retired from the Army in 2003 after 23 years of service. He said, although he was in the service when Ryan was growing up, he never pushed his son in that direction.

"He was around it his whole life and he saw me involved with it, and I think he liked what it meant and he was just ready to serve his country," the father said.

As proud as he is of his son's self-sacrifice, Scott Dallam said he is proud of all the young men and women risking their lives for the United States.

"We are really proud of his service and also the other servicemen serving, and all the other soldiers," Scott Dallam said.

"If anything, it's certainly nice to have all the compliments about Ryan, but there are still a lot more people over there we need to think of and we want to bring them back alive as well."

At least 3,281 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq War in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count as of April 9.

Scott Dallam was told an improvised explosive device harmed his son's Humvee.

The device detonated near the Humvee in which the soldiers were riding during combat operations, according to the Department of Defense.

Two other soldiers in Dallam's squad were killed in the attack. Pvt. Damian Lopez Rodriguez and Capt. Anthony Palermo also suffered fatal injuries in the roadside bombing.

Before coming to Oklahoma, Ryan Dallam lived in Arizona for a short time with his mother, Laura. He graduated from Show Low High School in Arizona in 2002.

A memorial service for the soldier was planned April 12 at First Christian Church in Norman. A Catholic Mass was planned later at Fort Sill National Cemetery, near Lawton.

Ryan Dallam is survived by his father and stepmother; his mother of Show Low, Arizona; sister Tayler, brother Jason, grandfather Retired Col. Harold Dallam and aunt Carla Waugh of Norman and grandmother Jamie Dunmire of Henryetta.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Two employees invent, patent measuring tool

By John Savage
Staff Writer

Coming up with an idea could be simple — coming up with a working patent is difficult. That's what OCCC Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Maintenance Mechanics Terry Kilpatrick and Dan Gurka have accomplished.

They have a patent on a tape measure that shows angles. The tool eliminates the need for other tools. It's cost efficient compared to other tools needed to perform the same functions and easy to use whether the person is using it on the ground or on a ladder, Gurka said.

This tool replaces the tape measure, framing square, speed square, adjustable square, straight edge and, in certain situations, the level.

Gurka and Kilpatrick have created a website showing their product with a video presentation under the name Midway Progression. Kilpatrick said his idea for the tool came about after working on a home project.

"One summer, I was building my gazebo and I was working with angles a lot," Kilpatrick said. "I thought, 'how neat it would be to be able to simplify it and make one tool, instead of using multiple tools.'"

He said he talked to Gurka about the idea and it progressed from there. Gurka and Kilpatrick will not sell the tools themselves. They are trying to pitch the idea to several tool companies. Several of the big tool companies have been sent information on their patent.

"It's a longer process than

we realized," Kilpatrick said.

Kilpatrick said the manufacturing of the prototype took a year to complete.

"It's not an easy deal because it has to be so precise because it measures angles," Gurka said.

Kilpatrick believes, once it gets put into production, the tool won't be hard to manufacture. He hopes two of the selling points are: it's easy to make and cost friendly.

Kilpatrick said it doesn't take away any of the functions of the tape measure. This could be a tool that framers and people who build houses could use on a daily basis.

He said, after you have used some of the more traditional tools, the angle tape is faster than the angle tools being sold.

The patent was the long-

"I thought, 'how neat it would be to be able to simplify it and make one tool, instead of using multiple tools.'"

—Terry Kilpatrick

Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning
Maintenance Mechanic

est part of the process.

Gurka said the U.S. Patent and Trademark office is about a year and a half behind.

They said, toward the end, they fired their attorney and took on the challenge themselves. They saved time and money, and got it done correctly.

"Now we know the entire patent process," Kilpatrick said. "We can do all of it ourselves now and we have other ideas that we're working on."

Gurka said the patent is the strongest available because the tool is so original

and there is nothing like it on the market.

"If there was, you would have to settle for a weak design patent," Gurka said. "We took the rights away from anybody to pivot the end of a tape measure for 20 years."

Gurka said the entire process, from creating the prototype to obtaining a patent, cost about \$5,000.

An informational video showing the tool can be found at <http://midwayprogression.tripod.com/>.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

It isn't spring without a carnival



On April 7, the Student Union echoed with the din of children's laughter and the pulse of family friendly music as OCCC held its Spring Family Carnival.

Surrounding the perimeter of the dining area were activity booths headed by volunteers and sponsored by various student groups such as the Psychology/Sociology Club, the Black Student Association and Chi Alpha Christian Club.

Some booths offered simple games like a beanbag toss and bowling, while others provided sweet treats like cotton candy and snow cones. All shared the same basic goal: to provide fun and safe activity for kids while simultaneously building interest for the school within the community.

The main event of the fair was the Easter egg hunt held in the yard in front of the school mural.

To accommodate every child, the hunt was split into three separate age groups, each of whom had their own section of the courtyard to search within a loose time limit.

No one was left out of the fun as children and adults alike flooded the center stage to dance and sing along to the veritable cornucopia of contemporary and classic kid-friendly songs.

Ranging from '50s hits like "Johnny B. Goode" to '70s sock-hop tunes like "Crocodile Rock," everyone could find a song to rock to.

The fair struck a chord with community members, building bridges and breaking down walls.

Erin Salsman, mother of a 3-year-old daughter, said the carnival was a "really great family time."

With approximately 700 people in attendance, the fair was deemed a success by Student Life coordinators and attendees alike. Given the positive reaction, the carnival will "certainly make a return appearance next year," said Sara McElroy, Student Life programs coordinator.

"[This fair is a] great idea for children and grown-ups too," said Evangelina Bell.

Her grandson, Riley, summed up the overall response to the event by saying, "I'll definitely come back next year."



Top: A young boy enthusiastically dashes toward a group of Easter eggs during the last of the carnival's egg hunts. Large numbers of children rushed into OCCC's courtyard in a race to collect as many of the brightly colored eggs as possible.

Left: Three-year-old Schley Lemser proudly displays his Easter basket full of eggs and candy which he collected at the carnival.

Right: Children race to gather eggs during an Easter egg hunt at the Spring Family Carnival.



Text by Locke Grant
Photos by LaWanda LaVarnway

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

•**April 18:** Intramural 5k run members will have a third meeting at 1 p.m. April 18, in the gymnasium. Registration for this event is any time at the Recreation Services Office. This event is free for students and faculty. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**April 16:** Intramural Home Run Derby players will have a third meeting at 1 p.m. April 16, in the gymnasium. There will be a total of three meetings before this event takes place. Registration for this event is any time at the Recreation Services Office. The Home Run Derby challenge will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 3. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**April 21:** OCCC Recreation and Community Services will host the Jr. Olympic Skills Competition 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Basketball will have participants score as many points as possible from the floor and free-throw line. Soccer will involve testing participants ability to dribble, shoot and score in a timed run. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**May 31:** The Mighty Mites T-Ball League registration starts April 2, and ends May 4. The league is for boys and girls ages four and five and ages six and seven. Cost for the league is \$65 and includes hat, jersey, and trophy. Game days are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. League play starts May 31 and runs through June 26. For more information, contact Recreation and Community Services Director Traci Wheeler at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7280.

For more information on all sport classes and schedules visit www.occc.edu/rcs

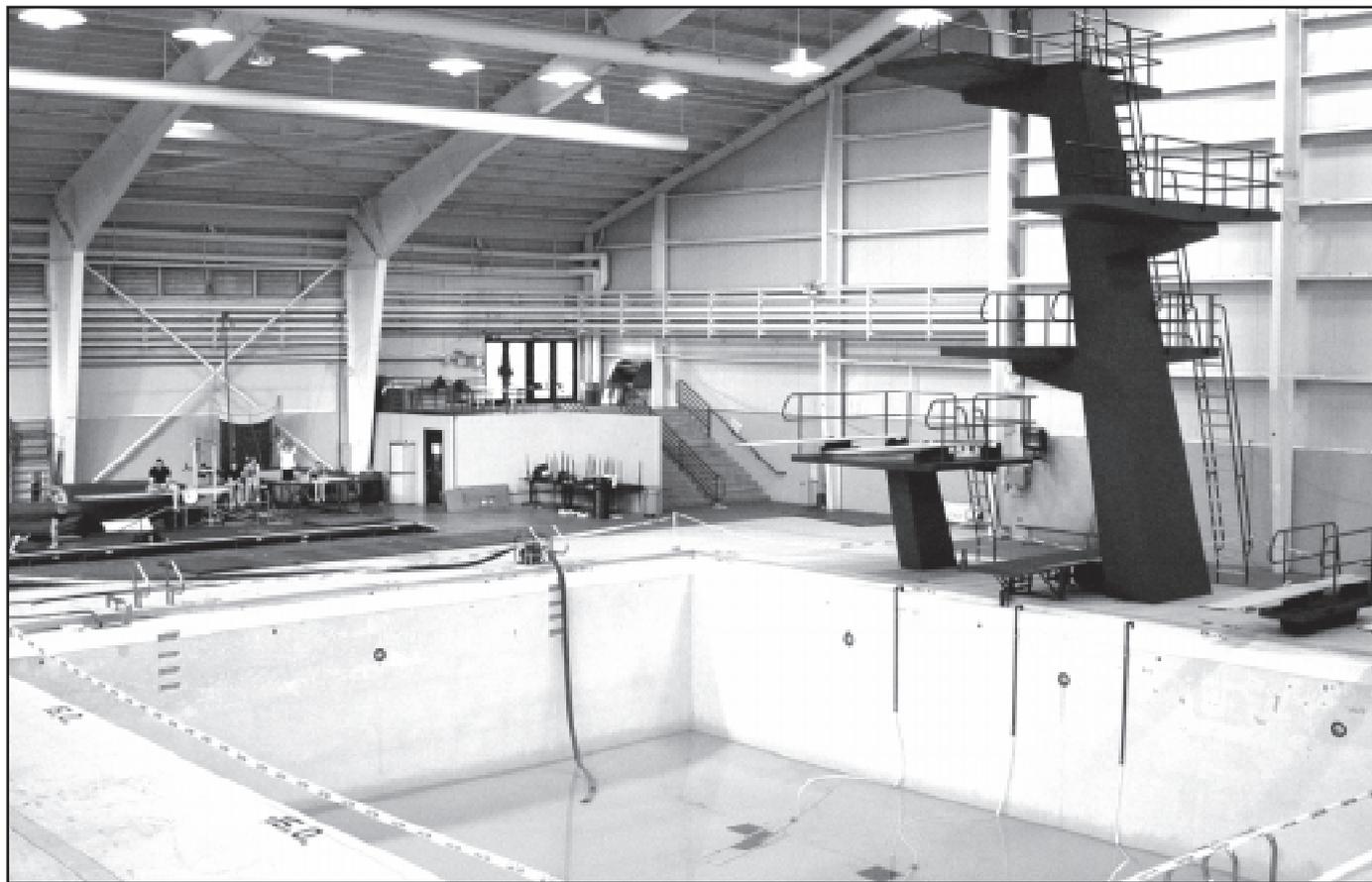


Photo by Carrie Cronk

Diving practice for the Dive Oklahoma team dried up earlier this month as the OCCC Aquatic Center diving well was being drained to allow for resurfacing and painting. The entire Aquatic Center will close to the public April 23 for locker room renovations. The center, including the diving well, is expected to reopen June 1, but the date is subject to change, said Aquatic Center Secretary Courtney Barrie.

College diving well closed for repairs

By John Savage
Staff Writer

Divers on deck will have to wait a few weeks before they can enter the pool area. The Aquatic Center diving well is closed for renovations.

Recreation and Community Services Director Traci Wheeler said the project is something she had planned a couple years back.

The diving pool had to be drained, which usually takes anywhere from two to three-and-a-half days.

Wheeler said the swimming pool and the diving well float in a water table beneath the college and it takes time for the pools to drain properly. Draining the pools too quickly can cause damage to the area.

"If you drain the well too fast, it can pop it right out of the ground and it actually could destroy it," Wheeler said.

Cost of the diving well upgrades totaled about \$37,000, she said.

"This is the first renovation [the diving well] had since it opened in 1989," Wheeler said.

"So it was just due for a re-plas-

ter, re-seal and cleaning. We are getting a new gutter system put in too."

The gutters were replaced two years ago when the Aquatic Center replaced the pool liner but Wheeler said it was not adequate and had to be replaced.

"It was a safety issue," Wheeler said.

She said the re-plastering of the pool was more of a cosmetic makeover that needed to be done and won't have to be redone for another 25 years.

"It really isn't in that bad of shape but we knew we needed to have it [repaired]," Wheeler said. "It was put on a five-year plan and we were granted the funds."

Wheeler said the diving well is not leaking at this point but it needed to be addressed.

"You can see where the seams are starting to pull away just a little," she said.

Also the plaster in some areas of the diving well needed to be reapplied due to wear and tear from divers and swimmers along with the scuba tanks, which can sometimes bang against the pool.

"It's normal stuff, wear and tear,"

"If you drain the well too fast, it can pop it right out of the ground and it actually could destroy it."

—Traci Wheeler

Recreation and Community Services Director

Wheeler said.

"The whole well got a nice, needed facelift," she said. "It's going to be really nice."

The project's anticipated completion timeline is two to three weeks, she said.

However, the diving well will not reopen to the public right away.

The locker rooms are scheduled for their own renovation beginning April 23.

When construction begins on that project, the entire Aquatic Center will close to the public until sometime this summer, said Aquatic Center Secretary Courtney Barrie.

The center is scheduled to reopen June 1; however, that date is subject to change, Barrie said.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Former adjunct professor, 61, dies

By **Scott D'Amico**
Staff Writer

Former OCCC Political Science Professor Emily Jane Buchanan died on April 9 at the age of 61.

Buchanan was an adjunct professor at OCCC for eight years.

Social Science division assistant Wanda

Ropke said Buchanan left OCCC after discovering she had cancer.

Ropke said she enjoyed the time she spent with Buchanan.

"She was a very friendly person, and very interesting," she said. "I enjoyed working with her."

Buchanan's son-in-law, Michael Ray, said

she took great joy in being at at OCCC.

"She loved teaching," Ray said. "That was her passion."

Buchanan earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree in political science from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Ropke said Buchanan enjoyed traveling with her husband Bill while he served in the military.

"They went to the Philippines, Taiwan, all across the U.S," Ray said. "She was glad she got to see the world."

Buchanan also loved cooking. "She

would be constantly looking up new recipes," Ray said.

Along with her husband, two sons, two daughters and six grandchildren also survive Buchanan.

Ray said Buchanan cherished her family and that she kept pictures of her children and grandchildren

near.

"Even when she was very ill, she always kept her family close to her," Ray said.

Graveside services for Buchanan were April 13, at Resthaven Memory Gardens.

Online Editor *Scott D'Amico can be reached at onlineeditor@occc.edu.*

Shawnee mayor pays a visit to campus

By **Avery M. Cannon**
News Writing Student

Being mayor of Shawnee and running a business go hand in hand for Chuck Mills.

Both involve leadership and responsibility as well as the ability to work well with others, he said.

Mills talked to a group of 30 students and faculty on campus April 4 about his experience in the business of exporting drilling equipment.

Being president of Mills Machine Drilling Supplies has prepared him for the day-to-day challenges of being mayor, he said.

He compared his relationship with the many Indian tribes in Shawnee to his foreign business partners.

"I'll be in good with one leader and another

leader moves in and you're finished," Mills said.

Mills said his perseverance has helped him to become a successful businessman.



Chuck Mills

He said he was glad to share his knowledge of foreign trade with the group.

Industrial machinery is Oklahoma's number-one export, he said.

Mills Machine Company sells earth-drilling products all over the world.

"English is the number-one language in business, but any other language you speak will give you that much more of an edge in the business world,"

Mills said.

"Building relationships is key. Once you have established trust, you're in," Mills said.

Oklahoma ranks 34th out of 50 states in total exports, Mill said.

Mills encourages students to keep in mind

that exporting is the future of Oklahoma trade.

The United States' three biggest trading partners are Canada, Mexico and Japan.

"There is a lot of opportunity in exporting with these countries," he said.

"Money is quicker in international trade," he said.

Mills can easily check to see when the money is wired.

If the relationship is strong enough with the partner, Mills said, he will ship the product before the money actually reaches his bank accounts.

All the international deals have helped Mills in his attempt to be the best mayor he can be for Shawnee citizens.

"Being the mayor is an interesting challenge, along with juggling a global business, a family, and the demands of a city; but I really enjoy it," Mills said.

Fire the result of electrical issue

By **John Savage**
Staff Writer

A fire in the chemistry lab, located in room 1C1 of the Main Building, emptied the college about 3 p.m. Thursday, April 12.

Campus Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas said the fire originated from the older science area.

"It was in 1C1 in the science area," Sloas said.

He said the fire department told him it was a low voltage electrical fire.

"It was extinguished with a fire extinguisher," Sloas said.

"The schools' fire

alarm went off and then we went ahead and turned on all of the remaining fire alarms.

"Within seconds we had all alarms going off along with an Internet Protocol message over the phones."

Sloas said the fire station number 25 was summoned right when the alarms sounded.

"Twenty Five is our primary official [fire station]."

"We get very good response time [from the station]," Sloas said.

When fires happen and smoke is present, the fire doors will automatically seal off the

affected area.

Sloas and Campus Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque said fire doors in the hallway next to Student Life closed and isolated the lab where the fire occurred.

Students and staff were allowed to return to their classrooms within 20 minutes after the fire alarm were originally sounded, Bourque said.

At press time Physical Plant workers who also responded to the area could not be reached to relay the cost of the damage and if the lab would need repairs.

Staff Writer *John Savage can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.*

Safety and Security Officer John Hughes Jr. and an Oklahoma City

Fire Department firefighter discuss an electrical fire that occurred in room 1C1 April 12.

The entire college was evacuated for a short time.

Once the smoke was cleared, everyone was allowed to return inside, said Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque.

Photo by Carrie Cronk



Highlights

Math Lab moving

The Math Lab will begin operating in its new location Saturday, April 14, on the second floor of the Robert P. Todd Center for Science, Engineering and Math. For more information, contact the Math Lab at 405-682-1611, ext. 7291.

OCCC Day of Peace and Justice

The OCCC Advocates of Peace club is holding a series of events Tuesday, April 17, to promote world peace. Events include speeches on Palestine and Iraq at 1 p.m. in room 2F3 of the Arts and Humanities building, a peace rally at 1:45 p.m. in front of the Library, community speakers making presentations at 2:15 p.m., a silent walk around the pond at 2:45 p.m., and a dedication ceremony for the campus peace pole at 3:15 p.m. For more information, contact Learning Skills Professor Stephen Morrow at 405-681-1811, ext. 7350.

Blood drive coming to OCCC

The Oklahoma Blood Institute is holding a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 19, in room CU3 of the College Union. For more information, visit the Oklahoma Blood Institute's website at www.obl.org.

Future Teachers meeting

The Future Teachers Organization will meet at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, in room 2N3 of the Main Building. Free pizza and drinks will be provided. For more information, contact Maria Acevedo at 405-642-4538.

Life in early Oklahoma

Historian John Dwyer will deliver a presentation discussing the lives of individuals important to the state during the Great Depression at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, in rooms CU1 and CU2 of the College Union. For more information, contact Gary Davidson at 405-232-3382.

Summer Tuition Fee Waiver applications available

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the summer semester are now available in the Student Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Friday, April 20. For more information, contact Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7542.

Business Book and Bake Sale

The Division of Business will hold its Second Annual Business and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, in the Main Building foyer. Used books, baked goods and faculty cookbooks will be available for sale. All proceeds will go toward the Connie Nieser Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact Business Professor Myra Decker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7332.

Sechrist Endowed Scholarship applications available

Applications for the Bill and Carol Sechrist Endowed Scholarship are now available in the Arts and Humanities division office and the Institutional Advancement office. The scholarship, established by OCCC President Paul Sechrist, is intended to support low-income students participating in international travel-enhanced classes. To be eligible, students must have completed at least 24 credit hours, have a 3.0 or better GPA, and submit a one-page essay about how a travel-enhanced course would benefit them. For more information, contact Professor of Modern Language Dianne Broyles at 405-682-1611, ext. 7657.

Racing to class

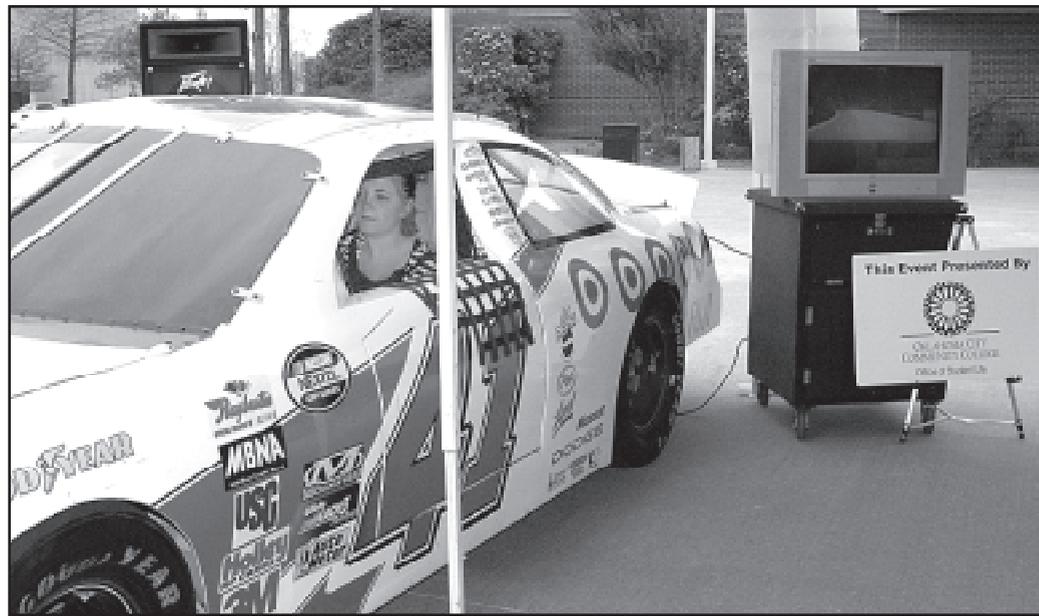


Photo by Carrie Cronk

Freshman nursing major Nikole Nakvinda takes a turn behind the wheel of a NASCAR simulator in the courtyard outside the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. The simulator event was hosted by Student Life April 9 and was free to students, staff and faculty.

College blood drive helps save lives with little effort

By Drew Hampton
Staff Writer

This week, students willing to brave the needle will have the chance to save lives.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 19, Student Life will host a blood drive for students and faculty in room CU3 of the College Union, said Student Life Programs Coordinator Jon Horinek.

"All of our blood drives on campus are sponsored by the Oklahoma Blood Institute," said Horinek, who explained that the college hosts five blood drives each year. Two of these drives are held in the spring, with another taking place during the summer and two more occurring in the fall.

This is the college's second blood drive of the year, he said.

According to the Oklahoma Blood Institute website at www.obl.org, nearly any healthy person over the age of 17 and weighing 105 pounds or more may con-

"It's an easy way to really make a difference ... Giving blood is an easy way to save a life, which is something that's pretty rare to do these days."

—Jon Horinek

Student Life Programs Coordinator

tribute to the drive.

Because healthy blood is critically important to the patients who will use the donated fluid, OBI does not allow individuals who are seen as being at risk for disease, having serious health problems, or are taking antibiotics or certain other medications to donate.

Further, all needles, bags, tubing, and related materials are sterile and used only once by blood drive workers before being disposed of.

"There actually are very few dangers," said Horinek. "They screen you to make sure that you're healthy enough to give blood."

The entire process, which includes registration, answering questions, completing a questionnaire, donating the blood, and un-

dergoing a brief recovery period for safety, is often completed in well under an hour.

"It's pretty easy," said Horinek. "It usually takes about 45 minutes or so."

"It's an easy way to really make a difference," he said. "Giving blood is an easy way to save a life, which is something that's pretty rare to do these days."

For more information on the Oklahoma Blood Institute's donation policy, visit their website at www.obl.org/donating/canidonate.

Staff Writer Drew Hampton can be reached at StaffWriter1@occc.edu.

**Club news?
Let us know!
StaffWriter1@occc.edu**

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 PM Tuesday prior to the publication date. For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or fax 405-682-7843.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '05 Ford Explorer. Black, 50,000 miles, good condition, DVD player, 8 seater, semi-new tires. Asking \$18,000. For more information please call 405-274-2330 and leave a message.

FOR SALE: '01 Nissan XTerra 4x4. Silver, 85,000 miles, excellent condition. 6-CD, radio. Asking \$8,850. For more information please call 405-589-0022.

FOR SALE: '97 Pontiac Sunfire. Two door, white, automatic, good condition. \$2,100. Call 405-824-6428.

FOR SALE: '88 Honda Prelude. Black 2-door, manual trans., tinted power windows, anti-lock. Neat and clean interior. New tires and valves. New engine and alternator/battery. Work done at Eskridge Honda. 200k miles. Great condition with car alarm w/ remote. Needs clutch work. Asking \$700. Call 405-821-5675. For pics or more info: e-mail nneka.c.gadzama@email.occc.edu.

ELECTRONICS

FOR SALE: 27" Color Console TV. Stereo, cable, and game ready. Excellent condition. \$100. Call 476-2460.

FOR RENT

ROOM FOR RENT: Homestay for Korean student. 20-25 minutes west of OCCC. All utilities, groceries, and house expenses paid. Delicious Korean & American food served. \$800 per month. Contact Sun: 824-5430.

ROOMMATE WANTED: I-240

& Walker. Furnished living, dining, & kitchen. High-speed Internet & cable, washer & dryer. Rent is \$350 + utilities (approx. \$150-\$200). Includes 2 bedrooms 10'x10' & 1 bathroom. Bedroom can be furnished if needed. Inquiries call 405-615-9603.

ROOMMATE NEEDED: (IMMEDIATELY) To share \$320 rent per month, nice habits. Contact: Hsn4you@yahoo.com

ROOMMATE WANTED: 23rd and Rockwell, Bethany. High-speed Internet and cable. Rent is \$175 and 1/2 the utilities (approx. \$75 a month). Includes 1 bedroom. No drugs, nice habits. Contact 802-7946.

ROOMMATE NEEDED: (IMMEDIATELY!) Female only. To share \$300 rent + half utilities, approx. \$100-\$125/month. 2 bed/2bath apt. in NW OKC. No drugs, clean living habits. No kids, no pets please. Serious inquiries only, call Rebecca 405-227-2194.

EMPLOYMENT

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY AT NEW STORE! Fast Lanes Supercenters are looking for individuals with leadership skills. We have a new store opening by Quail Springs Mall, and are looking for good people to help us grow. Good pay & health benefits available to those who qualify. Come by Fast Lanes, 2025 N.W. 142nd Street to apply, or call 608-0570.

FAST LANES NEW STORE! Now hiring Carwash Attendants, Detail and Lube Technicians. No experience necessary. Advancement opportunities. Come by 2025 N.W. 142nd Street or call 608-0570 to apply.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FAST-PACED AND EXCITING? Trappers Fish Camp is now hiring experienced waitstaff. We have one of the largest per person guest check averages on Reno ranging from \$17-\$24 per person. Apply in person @ 4300 West Reno in OKC from either 9-11 AM or 2-4 PM, 7 days a week.

CITY OF EDMOND

Summer positions @ Pelican Bay Aquatic Center: Lifeguard, Cafe & Cashier Staff, Water Safety Instructors. Golf Course, Arcadia Lake, Parks & Recreation jobs also open. Job info line 359-4648 www.edmondok.com Apply at 100 E First, Room 106

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Apply in person Monday thru Thursday 1 PM-4 PM

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or call 405-794-7728

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: 5-piece vintage cherry colored bed suite. Includes full-size bed frame, end table, desk /vanity, dresser, and armoire! Fun refurbishing project! \$175 OBO. Contact Laura at 397-5272.

FOR SALE: White 3-piece bedroom suite. Great for a young girl. Includes desk, dresser, 2 hutches, & full-size bed frame! \$150 OBO. Contact Laura at 397-5272.

FOR SALE: Light Blue cloth couch/sofa bed, recliner chair & love seat that reclines! \$200 OBO. Great condition! Contact Laura at 397-5272.

FOR SALE: Black leather sleeper sofa & chaise: \$800. Glass coffee table: \$50, end table: \$25. Entertainment center: \$200. Glass office desk: \$100. Refrigerator: \$300. Call 210-5388.

FOR SALE: 4 POD Computer Table. Just like the ones in the Computer Center. Great for gaming! Asking \$200 OBO. E-mail at ataghavi@occc.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

TRADE WANTED: Yamaha 12 string guitar FG-410-12. Will trade for 6-string OBO. Call 670-9060.

FOR SALE: Four 16" wheels. Black with a chrome lip. I only had them on my car for a month, then decided I wanted to go bigger. They still look brand new. Call Tiffany at 476-7318 for price or e-mail at tiffmneal@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: Miscellaneous baby items. White changing table with pad: \$35. Evenflo playpen with bassinet: \$40. Evenflo rear-facing carseat: \$30. Snugli infant carrier: \$10. High chair seat cover:

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Jump into the water
- 5 Buddies
- 9 He's no gentleman!
- 12 Idyllic spot
- 13 West Indies sorcery
- 15 South African warrior
- 16 Novelist Waugh
- 17 Foul-up
- 18 Vend
- 19 Plentifully supplied
- 21 Ambassador's residence
- 23 Finished
- 24 Bakery meas.
- 25 Pursued
- 28 Scrape
- 33 Burdened
- 34 Gourmet cheese
- 35 Jason's craft
- 36 Have the flu
- 37 Light bender
- 38 Set of tools
- 39 Takes to the slopes
- 41 "You — seen nothin' yet"
- 42 Annoy
- 44 Douse
- 46 Led

- 47 Santa's helper
- 48 Crooner Crosby
- 49 Varnish ingredient
- 53 Foams
- 57 Slope
- 58 Des Moines resident
- 60 Snare
- 61 Spring flower
- 62 Secret meeting
- 63 Busy place
- 64 Pod item
- 65 Makes after taxes
- 66 Distort

DOWN

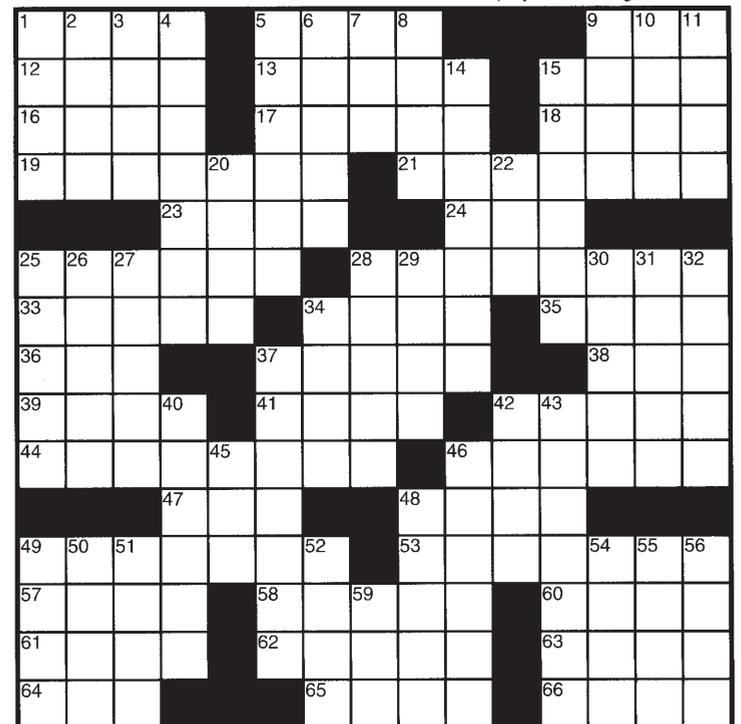
- 1 Precious
- 2 Inactive
- 3 Prexy's asst.
- 4 Surround
- 5 Stationed
- 6 Mr. Doubleday
- 7 Meadow
- 8 Secure
- 9 Prompts
- 10 — fair in love . . .
- 11 Properly
- 14 So-so
- 15 Actress Gabor
- 20 Neck and neck
- 22 Powerful snake
- 25 Seminar

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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- 26 Japanese poem
- 27 Wing it
- 28 Skirt style
- 29 Tops
- 30 Vexed
- 31 Pointed arch
- 32 Observed
- 34 Ship's jail
- 37 Frozen dessert
- 40 Sniffs
- 42 Football play
- 43 Fractions
- 45 House addition
- 46 Huge beings
- 48 Explosion
- 49 Liner
- 50 Charter
- 51 Director Kazan
- 52 — Belt
- 54 Estrada of films
- 55 Great review
- 56 Gush
- 59 English river



\$5. Call 436-9509.

TEXTBOOK NEEDED: I have need of the "Human Relations" text book "Becoming Aware". Please help me! Contact 703-2147 or e-mail Messiah1@cox.net.

FOR SALE: Three-year-old Ludwig Doetsch violin with soft-side case. In excellent condition. Kid graduated. A real buy at \$1500. Contact 306-3290 or 306-1396.

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Fax: (405) 686-5537
Toll Free: (800) 528-2231
DSN: 720-5215

Professor evaluation results meet with problems, delays

"SII,"

Cont. from page 1

delay — packets not being returned to Institutional Effectiveness in a timely manner and the forms not being completely filled out.

Perry said instructors, by protocol, leave students in charge of distributing and collecting the surveys.

The students are then supposed to drop the packets into designated drop boxes around campus.

Often times, Perry said, this isn't done.

She said there have even been times when SIIs from the previous semester have shown up unexpectedly in drop boxes.

Perry said, once the forms are completed and collected, they then are reviewed for errors or omissions.

A common omission, she said, is the student failing to fill in the course synonym, a computer preset number that identifies each class, which must be filled in for the form to be valid.

Perry said approximately 50 percent of the forms are missing the synonym.

This fall, Perry said, her office received nearly 14,000 SIIs and, of those, about 7,000 weren't completed correctly — most were missing the course synonyms.

"People don't understand

the importance of the synonyms; it's our only way to track [the SIIs]."

Perry said two work-study students were brought in to fill in the missing information, and toward the tail end of the month, five other Institutional Effectiveness employees pitched in to help.

"Correcting the SII packets took roughly a month," Perry said.

That created a situation in which many of the results weren't ready in time to be used in some faculty performance evaluations.

VanSchuyver said receiving the SII results late makes it more difficult for deans and department heads to assess instructor performance.

Perry said every campus department was affected by the delay this semester.

She said her office typically is timelier with the results.

"Ideally, the forms would be returned to the dean prior to the beginning of the [next] semester, so faculty could make the needed changes in their curriculum and syllabi," she said.

Administrative Office Technology Professor Lisa Adkins said that isn't usually the case.

"When [full-time faculty] actually give them in the fall, we do not get [the results] before the spring se-

mester starts," she said.

Adkins said she would prefer to get results before the start of the spring semester so she could address legitimate issues.

"When I am addressing issues, I can't address them for the current semester," Adkins said. "I have to wait until next fall."

One professor questions the significance of the forms at all.

Math Professor Jay Malmstrom thinks the results may not be meaningful.

"The student evaluations of teaching are not a good measure of the quality of teaching," Malmstrom said.

He said he feels this way because students may not like a course and have a predisposed attitude about what they think they should learn.

However, he concedes, the written comments on the back may be more useful. "That is what is referred to as qualitative data, and that is the most useful information."

Many students don't spend much time thinking about adding a written comment on an SII form while others pencil them in, in hopes of sending a message to a professor.

Philosophy major Amin Zadah said he does not fill in the surveys at all.

He said he feels most of

the time students don't provide the correct information needed by the administration.

Student Nicholas Bentin said he fills out his forms completely and hopes his efforts help OCCC professors.

Theater major Jon Allen said he always has bubbled in his responses but has never taken the time to fill in the written comments.

"In three semesters I have never filled in comments on the back," Allen said.

He said he plans to write down his individual comments from now on so his teacher will be aware of exactly how he feels about a course and its content.

Perry said now, SII packets will reach students with course synonyms already precoded on them, so students will no longer have to fill in the synonyms.

"This will cut down significantly on the turnaround time," Perry said.

Editor Valerie Jobe can be reached at editor@occc.edu.

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OPENS NATIONWIDE APRIL 20

Class withdrawal a serious decision

"Drop,"

Cont. from page 1

aren't doing well they have the option of dropping out at that time."

Business professor Marty Ludlum said more than grades can be at stake for some students.

He said if an international student withdraws from a class it could negatively impact that student's immigration status.

According to Director of Recruitment and Admissions Susie Braun, the ability to maintain an international student's visa could

be affected by the amount of the student takes.

For other students, Ludlum said, withdrawing from a class also can have negative impacts on some students regarding scholarships.

Braun said it's important for students who are thinking about withdrawing from a class to check with the source of their scholarship to see if they would still qualify for the award.

"And, if you're on financial aid, it wouldn't hurt to talk to them too," she said.

Ludlum said the best course of action for a stu-

dent thinking about withdrawing from a course is to talk to the professor before doing anything.

However, he said, for some students, that's easier said than done.

"International students don't do it because it's considered confrontational," Ludlum said. "Some students are just intimidated or embarrassed."

But, Ludlum said, that's one of the reasons professors have office hours — to help students.

Online Editor Scott D'Amico can be reached at OnlineEditor@occc.edu.