Plagiarism more likely in information age

Today’s generation of students has grown up in the Internet age. As a result, there seems to be a growing disconnect between students and professors over what constitutes academic integrity and plagiarism. Digital technology makes information instantly available at everyone’s fingertips. Extracting a few sentences or whole sections of an online article and inserting them into a written assignment has never been easier.

In surveys conducted from 2006 to 2010 and published in the Aug. 2 edition of the New York Times, Donald L. McCabe, co-founder of the Center for Academic Integrity, found about 40 percent of 14,000 undergraduate students polled admitted to copying a few sentences into written assignments. The study also found the number of students who believe copying and pasting from the Internet is cheating declined to 29 percent in the recent survey, down from 34 percent earlier in the decade.

Academic Affairs Vice President Felix Aquino

See CHEAT page 9
EDITORIAL | OCCC doesn’t provide enough variety to students

Campus needs more dining options

OCCC students have choices. They can forge their own career paths, taking classes when they want and as many, or as few, credit hours as they want at any given time. Classes are offered morning, noon and night — and even on Saturday.

It’s all about you at OCCC — except when it comes to food.

The college limits what options students are offered for breakfast, lunch and dinner while other academic institutions such as the University of Oklahoma or Oklahoma State University offer food courts and multiple dining outlets on their campuses.

While Carson’s Market Fresh Deli offers a variety of meals, Carson’s remains, to this day, the only option on campus, operating both the general dining area and the coffee shop.

Even though a variety of restaurants surround the campus, offering more choices here on campus would be wise business for OCCC for numerous reasons other than that of mere convenience.

It would also allow students who only have 15 minutes between classes a chance to grab a bite to eat instead of worrying about rushing off campus so they can make it back in time for class.

By allowing extra vendors on campus, OCCC could possibly increase revenues by partnering with additional providers in addition to Carson’s, if students choose to put their money where their mouth is by supporting these new vendors.

For a period during the 1990s, OCCC offered a Taco Bell on campus for students near where the coffee shop now is.

However, why limit the college to offering another greasy fast food option for the masses?

If it were economically feasible, OCCC should open its doors to a variety of different vendors that could offer vegan options or a variety of different cuisines from Thai food to Greek food such as Gyros.

If there is no room on campus for a few of these culinary options, might it be possible to allow vendor trucks to set up in campus parking lots?

OCCC allows vendor trucks during events such as the recent Arts Festival this past September.

Why not make that a more permanent fixture during the breakfast or lunchtime rush?

Author Robert Fritz once wrote, “If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is compromise."

By having only one dining option on campus, students are limiting their choices and compromising.

—J. Stipek

Staff Writer

YOUR VOICE | people of both political parties should respect campaign ads

Student appalled at defacement of political ad

To the editor:

On the Office of Student Life Election Information board, the Lt. Governor Jari Askins photograph was defaced.

The photograph was later removed and replaced with a new one.

Upon hearing about this, though, I have to ask myself if this is what the Republican Party has come to.

Disagreeing with someone about ideologies and ideas is one thing. But defacing their photograph because of those disagreements is something else entirely.

Lt. Governor Askins has given her life to service of the state of Oklahoma.

She served as a Judge, the first female leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. She was the first female [lieutenant governor] of Oklahoma.

I disagree with Congresswoman Fallin on most issues; however, I would never deface her photograph.

—KENNETH MEADOR

OCCC Student

Now, she has a real chance to be the first female governor of this state.

Defacing the photograph of any person, and especially one who has served Oklahoma well for many years, is a childish act and has no place in a college.

I disagree with Congresswoman Fallin on most issues; however, I would never deface her photograph.

I leave acts like that to elementary school students who don’t understand the concepts of respect that should drive our country and our political debates.

Remember, fear and hate are loud, but hope and love are quiet and infinitely more powerful.

—KENNETH

Meador

OCCC College Democrats

President
Sandra Bullock tackles her down home, Southern charm role and walks away with an Oscar for best actress in “The Blind Side,” released last year and based on a true story.

Bullock plays Leigh Anne Tuohy, the interior designer who takes a homeless, rejected boy called Big Mike (Quinton Aaron) into her home.

Big Mike, real name Michael Oher, hails from the Hurt Village projects across town in Memphis, Tenn.

The story of Baltimore Ravens lineman Oher begins with a woman and her maternal instinct to love a child no matter his color, race or origins.

With the love and support of Tuohy and her family, Oher finally catches a break.

—Rachel Morrison
Staff Writer

College football coaches come clamoring when Oher’s natural ability to play football becomes evident in high school.

However, there is great concern that Oher won’t have the means to make the grade.

Tuohy has a great desire for Michael to play for her and her husband’s alma mater, Ole Miss. Her ethics are put to the test.

This movie is an inspirational story of how a little love can change a life.

If you didn’t see it coming, you will be moved by the big blocker’s heart-warming story.

Rating: A

—Rachel Morrison
Staff Writer

The Black Entertainment Television hip-hop music awards, aired Oct. 12, were — as usual — a sight to see.

This year’s award show was so good, it made you not give a damn that cable reruns made you not give a damn that cable reruns made you not give a damn.

The performances were very lively, but they were outshone by segments in the show called the “cypher.”

The cypher is not the same as a rap battle. A cypher is when several rappers congregate to spit freestyles.

The best cypher session of the evening was between hip-hop icons Ice Cube and Rev. Run, spit killa rhymes with their sons OMG, Doughboy, Diggy and Jo Jo.

It was good to see these fathers interact with their sons on the same level.

The best hip-hop video award went to “Empire State of Mind” by Jay-Z and Alicia Keys.

The DJ of the Year award went to DJ Khaled. Producer of the year went to Swizz Beatz. MVP — most valuable poet — went to rapper Drake.

Rookie of the Year deservedly went to Nicki Minaj. She can be a bit overbearing with her wigs and eye-bucking, but she is a beast on the microphone.

The Lyricist of the Year winner was the only big disappointment of the evening, with the win going to Eminem.

He went up against rappers Drake, Jay-Z, Lil Wayne and Nicki Minaj. Can we say highway robbery?

Eminem is a good rapper but when pitched against the greats like Jay-Z and Lil Wayne, there is no way that he should have won that award. I still haven’t recovered from that announcement.

CD of the Year went to Jay-Z with the Blueprint 3. Jay-Z also won Best Live Performer and racked up another win with Alicia Keys for Best Combo for “Empire State of Mind.”

Hip-hop honorees for 2010 went to ’80s female rap group Salt-n-Pepa featuring Spinderella.

These ladies are legends as well as pioneers of the rap game. They paved the way for female MCs such as Nicki Minaj, Lil Kim, Shawonna, and Eve.

Rating: A-

—Christy Johnson
Staff Writer

The upcoming election is a reminder that we, as individual citizens, have a voice in government through our votes.

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, we will be selecting new leadership at the state level, in addition to selecting those who will represent us in Washington, D.C.

This particular election has elements that make it especially noteworthy for the state of Oklahoma.

The offices of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and state superintendent of instruction will all change hands.

Some, such as current Governor Brad Henry, are term-limited and cannot seek another term.

Others have voluntarily decided not to run again.

This sweeping change in the top levels of state government in one election cycle is unusual.

We will also reach an important milestone in electing our first female as governor.

Our history books will be rewritten to say that the statewide election of 2010 broke the “glass ceiling” for all women in Oklahoma.

I am old enough to remember a time when gender and color were determining factors in whether or not an individual could serve in leadership positions, especially the highest-elected positions in state and national government.

Some will say we have not yet fully achieved the goal of providing equal opportunity in all areas. They are right.

However, this state election is one more validation that we have come a long way in my lifetime.

Regardless of whom you will vote for on Tuesday, join me in taking a few moments to be thankful for the right to vote for our leaders and to celebrate this historic election in Oklahoma.

—Paul Sechrist
OCCC President

Rating: A+

—Christy Johnson
Staff Writer
Computers top choice for OCCC gamers

ROBERT BOLTON
News Writing Student

Video games draw players into hours of fantasy and relaxation, a fact well known to OCCC students. A recent survey of 44 students in September showed that computers are the platform favored by most of the respondents.

The survey handed to students gave them a choice between different systems, such as the Nintendo Wii, Sony’s PlayStation 3, and Microsoft’s Xbox 360.

Students also were given a choice between six different genres such as first-person shooter, role-playing, and sports games.

Of those questioned, 31, or 70 percent, said they play games on the computer, while 21, or 47 percent, chose the next most popular system, the Nintendo Wii.

Coming in third was the Xbox 360, which was named by 19, while the PlayStation 3 garnered 18 votes.

“Psychologists say that all video games bring out a competitive nature in the player,” said Akram Taghavi-Burris, game design professor. “It’s no different than an athlete.”

For some students, game design is more than a recreational activity — it is a career choice.

Jens Jentoft, Computer Aided Technology major, said he has a vested interest in knowing what kinds of games are most popular.

“Great games have unique features and great story lines,” Jentoft said. “A game will not be good if it’s missing both of these elements.”

Fellow CAT major Christina Neighbors said she enjoys many games for the plots involved.

“I like video games because of some of the storylines,” Neighbors said.

In the game design course, students learn how to capture these two elements out of many. These elements are used in many different genres of games.

Of the students surveyed, 28, or 63 percent, said their favorite genre was role-playing games, with “Final Fantasy” being the most popular series. “Final Fantasy” is Square Enix’s best-selling title with more than 97 million products sold worldwide since 1987, according to www.prnewswire.com.

The second most popular category, at 24 of 44 respondents, is first-person shooter games.

Epic Games, the company responsible for Unreal Tournament, has a program on its website that is free for anybody to use.

The Unreal Development Kit uses Unreal Engine 3, which made its debut in 1997 and has been in use by professional game developers since then.

Taghavi-Burris said OCCC game design students learn how to use the program in their classes.

According to Epic Games, The Unreal Development Kit gives its users access to the professional framework that is used by many of the world’s computer and video game developers.

The Unreal Engine has been used to create many different games, including "BioShock 2," "Borderlands," and "Batman: Arkham Asylum."

Out of the 44 students who took the survey, roughly 30 percent, or 13, were female, while 70 percent, or 31, were male.

“There are more female gamers over the age of 18 than there are male gamers under the age of 18 now,” Taghavi-Burris said.

“The number of female gamers has been steadily increasing for the past 15 years. Nintendo has been targeting [female gamers] with the commercials for the Nintendo Wii and Nintendo DS.”

Campus club to welcome newest regent at reception

CHRISTY JOHNSON
Community Reporter
communitywriter@occc.edu

This May, the OCCC Board of Regents welcomed its first African-American member, Leonora Burdine.

The Black Student Association is hosting a reception for Burdine from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, in CU 1 and 2, said BSA President Centerria Wright.

Wright said Burdine has a history in criminal and civil law.

She also is a member of the Oklahoma Association of Black Lawyers.

Burdine replaced Alice Musser, who retired in April 2010, she said.

“We feel this is a well-deserved welcome for her,” Wright said.

She said OCCC President Paul Sechrist and fellow regents will be present at the welcome reception.

Students and staff members also are welcome at the event, Wright said.

“This is very important for people young and old, and of any color,” she said.

“I feel that she will be an asset to the school, education and the community.”

For more information on the Board of Regents, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7248.

In addition, more information on the BSA welcome reception can be found by e-mailing Wright at centerria.n.wright@email.occc.edu, or by visiting occc.campusgroups.com/bsa.

Daylight Saving Time starts at 2 a.m. Nov. 7

Daylight time begins in the United States on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November.

On the second Sunday in March, clocks are set ahead one hour at 2 a.m. local standard time, which becomes 3 a.m. local daylight time. On the first Sunday in November, clocks are set back one hour at 2 a.m. local daylight time, which becomes 1 a.m. local standard time. These dates were established by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. no. 109-58, 119 Stat 594 (2005).

Not all places in the U.S. observe daylight time. In particular, Hawaii and most of Arizona do not use it. Indiana adopted its use beginning in 2006.


Other Daylight Saving Time websites:

www.webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/nodes.html

www.worldtimezone.com/daylight.html
Lunchtime speakers to focus on fitness

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Fitness is a vital issue that affects every student at OCCC.
A Brown Bag lunch event that addresses the topics of fitness and wellness will be held at noon Wednesday, Nov 3, in CU1.
“Part of being successful in college is being healthy,” said Katie Treadwell, Student Life programs coordinator.
“Topics to be discussed in the lunchtime talk will include general wellness, nutrition, and the importance of exercise, Treadwell said.
Speakers will be Lisa Vaughan, Roxy Butler, and Khari Huff.
“We are going into flu season and it’s important to stay healthy,” Treadwell said.
“Students really take advantage of our fitness and wellness facilities also.”
The Wellness Center has added fitness and aerobics classes to keep up with increased enrollment, she said.
Students are encouraged, but not required, to bring a lunch to this event.
For more information about Brown Bag events, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523 or visit www.occc.edu/studentlife.

FITNESS FACTS
- Percentage of adults who engage in regular leisure-time physical activity: 35 percent
- Percent of adults who engage in no leisure-time physical activity: 33 percent
—Source: Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2009, table 29

OCCC third in veteran count

GARRETT GRAHAM
News Writing Student

OCCC ranks third in the state for educating veterans, said Janis Armstrong, Veteran Services coordinator.
Last year OCCC enrolled more than 800 veterans and the number has increased this year, even though Armstrong said she doesn’t have an exact count yet.
She said the enrollment of military service members has grown significantly as veterans return to Oklahoma to take advantage of the G.I. Bill.
The office employs several veterans who provide a sounding board for those who are reintegrating themselves into everyday activities.
“We help them transition from military life back to civilian life,” said John Mansera, a Marine from the Vietnam era.
Armstrong said this is one of the important services veterans need.
“A lot of them come in looking to talk to others with experiences like them,” she said.
For more information, contact Armstrong at 405-682-7527 or e-mail jarmstrong@occc.edu.
Child development center expanding

MYSI JONES
News Writing Student

More children could enroll in the college’s Child Development Center and Lab School next semester after the center moves into larger quarters over the holiday break, said center Director Mary McCoy.

In a speech to journalism students in October, McCoy said enrollment could go from 75 children to more than 100 when the center relocates to OCCC’s Family and Community Education Center just a mile north of campus in what used to be the John Glen Elementary School.

Enrollment is now open for the day and evening child care programs, McCoy said. Students who need to schedule day or evening care for their children will find many more openings at the reduced student rate of $5 for each three-hour slot.

There are five student-scheduled slots each day: 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.; and 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Student-parents pay an additional $3 during the noon and evening mealtime, to provide lunch or supper for the children.

After months of delay, McCoy said, the center plans to open its new doors Jan. 6.

The new facility will offer a large advancement for the Child Development Center’s well-developed curriculum, benefiting both children as well as students, McCoy said.

It will include an art room that will offer children a better space designated for arts and crafts.

The FACE Center also will be equipped with security measures for the children’s safety, including a security office within the building, McCoy said.

The children’s playground area will be spacious, McCoy said.

“We would also like to implement an herb garden in the future as well.”

At its current location, the Child Development Center and Lab School has a garden area where the children help grow the flowers, fruits and vegetables, McCoy said. There are also seating areas within the garden for the children.

She believes the new location will provide the same kind of space.

Child Development majors will find improvements in the new location, McCoy said. Several additional classrooms will be available as well as a lab room for college students’ special projects and a model classroom that will be used as a learning environment for child development students.

The students are not the only ones preparing for the big move.

The Child Development teachers and staff also are preparing.

“They are excited and nervous,” McCoy said.

“Being in such a small facility, we have always been able to walk out into the hall and see everything.

With all the new space we will have, it will be different to walk down a long hall to see everything.”

But they are making every effort to be ready for all the changes, including reading “Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change” together as a staff.

The book covers the psychological planning for change in organizational structure, job design, systems and processes. McCoy said this will give them the base needed not only to make the change to the new facility for themselves, but also to have a foundation to help the children make the transition as well.

The nationally accredited Child Development Center and Lab School has been open since the mid ’70s.

The student-scheduled evening child services began in 2008 with one child. The program grew rapidly to the point of having a waiting list, McCoy said. This semester 47 three-hour slots are scheduled in the evening, although one child may stay for two slots, or more.

“This is not a daycare,” she said, pointing to their curriculum for the children.

Taking a lead from the early childhood development theorists, a lot of the center’s programs are based on ideas from Piaget, Vygotsky and Dewey, McCoy said.

The staff works to provide a positive atmosphere for children, she said.

Topics are teacher guided but child directed, McCoy said, meaning activities are built around a child’s interest in a particular topic, from dinosaurs to mittens. Each project is explored in depth with the children.

For more information and enrollment, contact the Child Development Center and Lab School at 405-682-7561.
Art exhibit showcases all U.S. states

SAVANNAH SHADES
News Writing Student

Displayed in the Art Gallery at OCCC are 100 very small paintings that make up the landscape of this country, as seen through the eyes of one painter. Artist Liz Roth described her artwork at a reception on campus Oct. 26.

The collection, entitled "America 101," will be on exhibit in room 124 of the Visual and Performing Arts Center Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Nov. 12.

Roth is a New York native who now is professor of painting, drawing, and professional practices at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where she has been teaching for six years.

When preparing for her project, Roth said, she crisscrossed America. She would take pictures of the country’s beautiful landscape with a borrowed digital camera and then continue to paint the tiny boxes that are her finished product. The boxes were mass produced and designed by a carpenter in order to show conformity among her paintings.

The paintings differ not only in subject, but also in how Roth painted. She began her project in 2006 and ended in 2008.

Roth traveled both by car and airplane, and said her trips would last from five days to months. The paintings took on more detail later on in Roth’s travels, though Roth said she was not quite sure why.

At the reception for "America 101," Chris Dillon, film major, said he was impressed with Roth’s resourcefulness.

“I liked the personal stories of how she did it. She made it across the states with so little money.”

Roth said her inspiration for her exhibit came from the question of why she was not a better environmentalist.

She said she decided one factor was that nature is so big and hard to conceive, yet the country’s most disposable commodities are so small and meaningless.

Roth had the idea of scale, which was taking such a big concept as nature and making it small. At the same time, she said, she used a large billboard of a water bottle as a symbol to explain how throw-away products need to be recognized as a big problem that endangers that natural environment in which people live.

The "America 101" exhibit is sponsored by OCCC’s Cultural Arts program. For more information, contact Cultural Programs Director Lemuel Bardeguez at 405-682-1611, ext. 7295.

Photography club focuses on the future

Monthly photo walks and more planned

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER
News Writing Student

The Oct. 12 Photography Club meeting was all fun and games as members planned its booth for OCCC’s annual Halloween Carnival Oct. 29, in the College Union.

Vice President Megan Riggs said the club is reorganizing after nearly a year without any officers, including Julie Bragg as president.

Students Rachel Privett, Jodi Jackson, Gayle McKinney and Michael McMillan also were elected to official positions.

Riggs spoke of some of the ideas she has in store for the club.

“Since there hasn’t been a club in almost a year, we really just want to try new things and ideas,” she said. “We really want to open things up for hobbyists as well as people looking to make this their career.”

Riggs said she hopes to host monthly photo walks around the college, as well as have monthly themes for club pictures and offer feedback with other members on personal photography projects.

Riggs said she also hopes to start community service activities sponsored by the club.

“We will be at least one community service activity per semester, Riggs said. “It’s really brand new for us,” she said.

About 15 people have joined up so far, Riggs said, but said the club is looking for more members.

"New members don’t have to be photography or graphic communications majors,” she said.

"The club is open to any interested student and there are no dues.”

Riggs said the club might also try to host some photo displays of pictures taken by members.

The Photography Club meets at 4 p.m. every other Tuesday. For more information, visit the Student Life page at www.occc.edu/StudentLife or call 405-682-7523.
**Training ground**

Film and video production major Mark Johns trains for the Oklahoma City SuperSprint Triathlon. Johns said he trains in the college’s fitness center five days a week to prepare for the Super Sprint triathlon scheduled for June in OCCC’s Aquatics Center.

The college promotes fitness for all students and employees by offering various discounts for fitness classes and through special programs such as the current Poker Run walk where students and college employees can walk their way toward fun prize baskets.

For more information about any of the classes and programs, visit the RCS page at www.occc.edu/rcs.

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**Wellness Center | Group pass offers unlimited access to fitness classes**

**Fitness pass good for unlimited classes**

**Chasadi C. Fails-Ortiz**

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

A group fitness pass, which offers 12 different fitness class options, is now available to students, staff and members of the Recreation and Fitness Center for $50 a semester, Sport and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson said.

The group fitness pass offers more than $100 in savings depending on the classes you participate in, according to the OCCC Fall Fitness and Enrichment Programs guide.

The pass offers unlimited use of different fitness classes for one rate, Watson said. Group fitness passes can be purchased at the front desk in the Recreation and Fitness Center, with a valid student ID or Recreation and Fitness Membership, Wellness Center Attendant Kadi Crenshaw said.

Pass holder Beulaha Woods said she used hers to take a water class.

“... I really enjoyed it,” Woods said.

The Water Exercise class is a low-impact, shallow water exercise that combines a variety of water exercises, with and without water exercise equipment, Watson said.

Classes are from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

“I love these classes,” said Student Computer Center Supervisor Mike Reeves. “For employees and students these classes are good ways to keep us healthy and offer good benefits.” Reeves said he enjoys the Combo Aerobics, BOSU Blast and Body Sculpting.

He said the schedule of the classes helps him stay accountable to his workouts.

Combo Aerobics gives a combination of aerobics and interval training, BOSU Blast helps improve overall strength, balance, and coordination, and Body Sculpting keeps participants toned and fit, according to the OCCC Fall Fitness and Enrichment Programs guide.

Recreation and Fitness Secretary Jenny Kellbach said one of their most popular classes is Zumba, a fun cardio dance class.

All class schedules and class times are listed in the OCCC Fall Fitness and Enrichment Programs guide located at the front desk of the Recreation Center and posted on the wall.

For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.

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**Do you have sports news you’d like to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC athlete worthy of a mention. If so, contact Morgan at sportswriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7440.**
**Cheat:** Professors say they can spot plagiarism

*Continued from page 1*

said plagiarism is an indication the student has not mastered writing. "You’re cheating yourself," Aquino said. "The single most important job-related skill today is to write and that goes across all ... professions.”

Professors have thoughts on plagiarism in academics on campus.

Ray McCullar, history, political science and geography department chair, offered a candid assessment on plagiarism — commonly defined as taking someone else’s words and phrasing without attribution, then passing them off as one’s own.

He said most of the time it's obvious when plagiarism occurs. "It isn’t that hard to figure out when someone is using simple language then suddenly is writing like Mark Twain," he said. "I’d much rather have someone’s mediocrity work than someone else’s stolen work.”

Plagiarism is a big problem, said political science Professor Nate Vanden Brook. "It’s stealing and cheating," Vanden Brook said. "I don’t think students take it seriously enough because they do not understand it. [OCCC needs] more clarification on this issue to students.”

Vanden Brook said there should be an added emphasis on academic integrity at the high school and college levels.

"Technology is a problem because people view the information as free, that they do not have to cite where they got it from," he said. "That is a definite problem.”

Vanden Brook said he has two pages dedicated to academic integrity in his syllabus and recommends his students use the website www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php which contains a test on plagiarism.

"Technology can be helpful and not all bad," he said. "The reference tab in MS Word, easybib.com, can make technology a great tool if people are made aware of it. It can help alleviate plagiarism.”

Vanden Brook said he also strongly encourages his students to use the Communications Lab, a writing center that helps students improve their writing skills.

"The Communications Lab provides an outstanding service and resource to students.”

He said he currently requires students to use the Communications Lab twice a semester for two different papers.

Vanden Brook said he finds the papers he receives back from students after using the Communications Lab have hardly any mistakes in them.

He plans to make the Communications Lab a required part of his curriculum in future semesters, he said.

Communications Lab tutor Beau Lewis said he has seen instances of plagiarism on campus — some that are especially obvious.

"The students who copy and paste without changing the font are clearly plagiarizing,” Lewis said. "There is an element of laziness to plagiarism, but that is most egregious.”

Few would think that plagiarism could creep into a college-level Spanish class, but Modern Languages professor Dianne Broyles said she has seen instances where students are receiving too much help from online resources.

Broyles discourages the use of online translators with her students.

"It does not help generate a good result and does not help the student learn language,” Broyles said.

English professor Michael Snyder said he has not yet had to deal with plagiarism on campus, but had experience with it earlier in his teaching career. The issue greatly concerns him, he said.

"I’m glad we have these initial academic assessments because it lets us know what the students are like as writers,” he said.

Snyder said he can tell plagiarism when "the style and tone do not match earlier assessments.”

The Communications Lab has pamphlets for those having trouble with documentation formats, such as MLA, citing sources and maintaining academic integrity.

Tutors in the lab are always on hand to offer assistance either in person or online, to help students with correct documentation, Communications Lab Tutor Nick Webb said.

The Communications Lab, located on the first floor of the main campus near the Coffee Shop, is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday and 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

The Communications Lab also can be found on Facebook at facebook.com/commlab.

**Fraud:** Shred all documents, even junk mail, expert says

*Continued from page 1*

12 seconds.”

Several students in the group said they knew people who had been affected by fraud issues, and wanted some tips to keep their belongings and identities safe.

Brandon said to keep up to 10 years’ worth of documents organized and in folders, so if information goes missing you will be aware.

"Also, another way to be safe is to keep documents, even your Social Security card, in a safe," she said. "[Safes] cost between $30 to $50 at Walmart.”

In addition, Brandon said, students should use caution when dealing with items such as junk mail, as they can contain personal information.

"Everyone should cross-shred these documents, (as) opposed to just throwing them away,” Brandon said.

"Also, to stop the junk mail, people may call 888-567-8688. They will [then] be asked to complete a two-step process.”

She said students can go as far as to set their Facebook profiles to private, but still should not include critical pieces of information.

"People should still check their credit report to catch any unusual activity, so they can stop the problem before it progresses,” Brandon said.

For more information on identity theft, visit www.idtheftcenter.org.

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- **Guard your financial information.** Only provide your credit card or bank account number when you are actually paying for something with it.
- **Keep your Social Security number confidential.** It’s the key that unlocks your identity. Don’t give it to anyone unless you’re sure who it is and why it’s necessary to provide it.
- **Beware of imposters.** Crooks pretending to be from companies you do business with may call or send an e-mail, claiming they need to verify your personal information. Be especially suspicious if someone contacts you and asks you to provide information they should already have. Before responding, contact the company directly to confirm the call or e-mail is from them.
- **Keep your mail safe.** Collect mail promptly from your mailbox and ask the post office to hold it if you’re going away. Send bill payments from the post office or a public mailbox, not from home.
- **Get off credit marketing lists.** Credit bureaus compile marketing lists for preapproved offers of credit. These mailings are a gold mine for identity thieves, who may steal them and apply for credit in your name. Get off these mailing lists by calling 888-567-8688.
- **Memorize your passwords and PINs.** Don’t leave them in your wallet or on your desk where someone else could find them.
- **Lock it up.** Keep your personal information locked up at home, at work, at school, in your car, and other places where you might keep it so others won’t have easy access to it.
- **Stay safe online.** Don’t send sensitive information such as credit card numbers by e-mail, since it’s not secure. Look for clues about security on websites. At the point where you are asked to provide your financial or other sensitive information, the letters at the beginning of the address bar at the top of the screen should change from “http” to “https” or “shttp.”
- **If you are on active duty in the military, put an active duty alert on your credit files.** The alert will stay in your files for at least 12 months. Contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place the active duty alert; it will be shared automatically with the other two: Equifax, 800-525-6285, www.equifax.com; Experian, 888-397-3742, www.experian.com; TransUnion, 800-680-7289, www.transunion.com.
- **Check your credit reports regularly.** If you find accounts that don’t belong to you or other incorrect information, follow the instructions for disputing those items.

Questions answered

Baptist club director steps down

CASEY R. AKARD
News Writing Student

After working with OCCC’s Baptist Collegiate Ministries on and off for the past 32 years, director Mike Barnett will be stepping down. Taking his place will be Denny Freeman, another leader who has worked with the BCM in Oklahoma for more than 20 years.

Since classes have resumed this semester, Barnett and Freeman have led the BCM meetings together as a team, but Freeman will soon be on his own.

“We’re just transitioning right now so Denny kind of knows how this works,” Barnett explained. But what approach will Freeman be taking as he steps in to his position OCCC’s new director?


The history of BCM goes back to the 1940s, and only grows bigger each year. The statewide ministry program has spread to 37 campuses across Oklahoma, Freeman said.

BCM President Sierra Biagas says attendance on campus has risen steadily this year. She said she looks forward to working with Freeman this semester and believes he can make these numbers rise even higher.

She smiles with excitement when talking about the future of OCCC’s BCM and the work with its new director.

“I think he will be a really good contribution to BCM and I’m looking forward to having him as the director,” Biagas said.

Biagas said she hopes that, with the new director, the group can do more activities besides their noonday meetings. She said she would like to see events such as bowling or retreats, things to bring everyone closer together.

At Barnett’s recommendation, Freeman’s work will be focused entirely on OCCC’s BCM.

“This is where my ministry is at,” Freeman said. The BCM meets Mondays from noon to 12:50 p.m. in the lobby of the Bruce Owen Theater and also between 12:30 and 1:20 p.m. Thursdays in room 3N0 of the Main Building.

The BCM provides a free lunch with Christian fellowship on these days and is open to everyone on campus.
Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

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**FOR SALE:** 2001 Ford Focus ZX3, S2 special edition with hatch back, new water pump, battery and low profile tires. Drives great. 80,500 miles. $3,000. OBO. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625.

**FOR SALE:** Brown leather couch with 1 hole, Pub style kitchen table and antique makeup table for $20.00 each. Contact Arga Reagan at 405-288-0408 or e-mail mccrack-enlois@yahoo.com.

**FOR RENT**

**Roommate Wanted:** Nice room to share near OCCC, two-bedroom apartment, no pets, smoking or alcohol, $400 per month. Call Jaime at 405-520-1262 or e-mail jaimecom@lycos.com.

**FOR RENT**

**Job Offer:** Looking for part-time employee to work with a special needs child. Interested person will be trained for CPR and first aid. E-mail tek-fishing@yahoo.com. Put “Cree” in the subject line.

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**TODAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Correctly answer four Treasure Hunt Questions and be entered in our final drawing of the semester:
1: How many former students were inducted into the OCCC Hall of Fame on Oct.14?
2: What is the name of the professor who teaches Arabic language at OCCC?
3: Who won the flag football game between Spartans and The Crew on Oct. 15?
4: When is the construction of the new theater set to begin at OCCC?

Correct Answer for last week:
1: Dec. 18, 2010. 2: Michael Boyle. 3: 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 29. 4: 13 students.

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Stolen money and phone reported

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
Senior Writer
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Two thefts were reported on campus recently.
On the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 19, Sports and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson reported that $25 in start up cash had been stolen from the cage area of the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Watson said the cash had likely been stolen the night before.

Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Bourque reviewed video from the Recreation and Fitness Center lobby camera and saw a suspect in that area at that time acting suspiciously, according to Bourque’s report.

Although there was no video of the crime being committed, the suspect was seen on several cameras in that area.

Bourque declined to comment on whether the suspect has been identified or apprehended. He offered no further information on the disposition of the case.

On Tuesday evening, Oct. 19, student Kevin Ton reported his cell phone had been stolen.

He said the theft also took place in the Recreation and Fitness Center. Ton said his phone was stolen from a pocket of his bag while it was lying on the gym floor.

Online nursing reps to visit Nov. 3

J. STIPEK
Staff Writer
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Nursing advisers from the University of Central Oklahoma, Northeastern University, Southwestern University, East Central University and OU Health Sciences Center will be available to speak to nursing students about online bachelor’s programs at their schools from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 3 in CU3, said Claire Echols, Academic Advising Coordinator for Health Professions. The advisers will discuss program requirements for program completion in the 100 percent online completion possibility, she said.