Networkimg website rates professors

RateMyProfessors.com offers students a sounding board

J. STIPEK
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Students struggling with selecting classes for the upcoming spring semester may want to access a social networking website that can at least help determine which professors might be best.

RateMyProfessors.com allows students to post opinions on professors’ teaching styles and course difficulty.

The website, founded in 2001, includes more than 707 OCCC professors. It allows students to post an anonymous review of any professor on the website or with a registered account.

The website does not take into account whether the professor is currently employed by the college.

For a review to be posted, it must be 350 characters or less. A student must rate the professor’s course based on a scale of 1 to 5 based on “clarity,” “easiness,” “helpfulness,” and the user’s “interest” in the class prior to taking it. In addition, students may also

See RATE page 9

STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLISH CREATIVE WRITING AND ART

Editors seeking ‘Absolute’ submissions

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
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OCCC has many creative writers and one college publication offers students an opportunity to publish their work.

The “Absolute” is a journal of fiction, non-fiction, photography, and artwork published by OCCC every spring, said English Professor Marybeth McCauley.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit original works for publication by the deadline of Dec. 3, she said.

Submissions are then read by a panel of student editors who score the work and decide if it will be published.

“Absolute” Student Editor Chris Conklin said submissions are looked over carefully.

“It is a three editor process and we get people with different viewpoints so we get a wide perspective,” he said. “The ‘Absolute’ gives students a forum and allows us to show that OCCC has some great writers.”

Last year the “Absolute” included eight pieces of non-fiction, four pieces of fiction, 13 poems, and nine pieces of art, McCauley said.

“To be a good writer one should read good writing and that’s another benefit of the ‘Absolute,’” she said.

English professor Jon Inglett said the process of writing and submitting work is an uplifting experience for students.

Percy Shelley once said, “As poets we are the unacknowledged legislators of the world,” Inglett said.

“The ‘Absolute’ offers students an opportunity to legislate through their art.”

A reception for those who are published is held each year in the spring, McCauley said.

For more information or a submission form, go to www.occc.edu/hc/absolute.
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Students should be allowed to work more than 20 hours

Campus jobs limit hours available

In October’s President’s Advisory Council meeting, a question was submitted to President Paul Sechrist asking why OCCC’s student workers are limited to working only 20 hours a week when, in the past, they could work up to 30 hours a week.

The Pioneer — staffed by mostly student workers — posed the same question to Sechrist in an e-mail.

Sechrist responded by saying, in the last two years, OCCC has dramatically increased employment opportunities on campus with the amount of wages paid to students exceeding $1.1 million, which he cites as an increase.

In layman’s terms, this means more students are working on campus now, as a result, fewer hours can be given to each because of limited funding.

Also, he said, a study by “Inside Higher Education” found that working more than 20 hours a week has a negative impact on student grades, whether the employment is on campus or off.

While it’s commendable for the president to be concerned that OCCC students have an opportunity to be better students, it seems he should take other things into consideration as well.

OCCC is a commuter college where a majority of students are adults.

Some of these adults might be single parents or have families they provide for.

For some of those students, working a second job is not a choice, but a necessity to survive.

So, instead of working 30 hours a week on campus, some are working two jobs — one on campus and another off campus.

Or, in some cases, students are having to resort to getting public assistance, adding more stress.

There also are students on campus who have had to drop classes in the past because of the lack of income to keep their families afloat while trying to seek an education that would improve their standing in life.

OCCC should — at the very least — meet students halfway by allowing those with a GPA of 3.0 or higher to work on campus up to 30 hours a week.

By increasing work hours for those who are academically successful at OCCC, it is one less question Sechrist would have to answer for students.

—J. Stipek
staff writer

YOUR VOICE | Physical therapy association uses fun way to battle bulge

Zumbathon raises awareness in fight against obesity

To the editor:

The OCCC Student Physical Therapist Assistants celebrated National Physical Therapy Month by hosting a Zumba event, the Zumbathon, on Oct. 8.

The student PTAs made it a focus to market Zumba, a cardio workout to Latin rhythms or “exercise in disguise” to the community.

They also supported the American Physical Therapy Association’s mission by raising awareness in the fight against obesity.

This event was the first ever in Oklahoma to combine all forms of the Zumba workout in one convenient location.

Zumba programs utilize certified instructors to engage in dance moves and fitness variations and above all encourage everyone to have fun while exercising.

I would like to give a huge thank you to OCCC for allowing us to use the facilities, the Zumba community for the awesome workout, the Student Physical Therapist Assistant classes of 2011 and 2012 for all of their hard work and vision, and DJ Keilo for spinning the tunes.

The different types of specialty Zumba are: Aqua Zumba, an exercise performed in chest-high water in the pool; Zumba Toning, which uses light weights of 1 to 3 pounds along with the fitness movements, and Zumbatomic, which includes activities geared towards children ages 4 to 12 with dance moves and music appropriate for those ages, along with a traditional Zumba workout, were all included (in the Zumbathon).

All of the above classes were presented in a concurrent format and a “come and go” atmosphere to allow participants to try multiple formats and enjoy their exercise.

For this inaugural Zumbathon, there were 75 participants, 29 volunteer Zumba instructors and 30 student PTA volunteers.

The money raised will support the student physical therapist assistant program.

A portion was also donated to support breast cancer research, as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure was the very next day in Oklahoma City.

Based on the feedback from the participants, instructors, and volunteers, it was a huge success and a fun time.

We hope to make it an annual event, so come and join us next year.


—Jennifer Ball
Physical Therapy Assistant Program Director

PIONEER
Kings return with royal smash

With one of the most anticipated albums of 2010, the rock quartet Kings of Leon is back and better than ever with their fifth studio release, "Come Around Sundown."

Following years of popularity in the United Kingdom, the Kings of Leon achieved their first mainstream success in the States a little more than two years ago with the release of "Only By the Night."

Since then, the Kings of Leon have blossomed into a world renowned musical powerhouse.

Amidst lofty expectations, the band from a small town in Tennessee has struck gold yet again. "Come Around Sundown" commences with arguably one of the best tracks on the album with the ironically titled "The End."

Lead singer Caleb Followill showcases his trademark vocals in this beautiful anthem over a memorable chorus that will never leave your head — which in this case, is a good thing.

Over the course of the album, one other aspect that must be noted is the band’s ability to paint pictures by way of music.

In "Back Down South," the Kings of Leon put the listener on a road trip in the heat of the south as we hear the twang of the guitar accompanied by a classic country fiddle.

This well-crafted, yet low-key gem, paves the way for the rest of an enticing album.

Following the intro, the album’s meat and potatoes is a four-song stretch with tracks three to six.

The last of this group, "The Immortals," is the transcendent work of "Come Around Sundown."

"Come Around Sundown" will join their preceding four albums as not only a musical treasure, but also as another display of the band’s growth since the garage band days of old.

The Kings of Leon haven’t missed a step.

Rating: B+
—MORGAN BEARD
STAFF WRITER

Deerhunter album shoots for the ears

Indie rock band Deerhunter returns with their third album, "Halcyon Digest," and manages to blend together elements of noise rock, shoegaze, post-punk and pop together seamlessly in quite possibly their most daring effort to date.

The Atlanta band teamed up with producer of Animal Collective’s "Merriweather Post Pavilion" Ben Allen to help create a haunting dream that reverberates through the ears of the listener.

The album starts off the song "Earthquake," which has an echoing drum machine reminding the listener of waves crashing against a beach on a snowy winter day that lingers for the first five minutes of the album.

And just like lead singer Bradford Cox’s other band, Atlas Sound, Cox returns to familiar topical ground with "Revival," the first single off the CD.

The two minute, 13-second sermon sounds like the band trying to match the passion of a Southern Baptist preacher with their instruments.

Deerhunter’s second radio single, "Helicopter," drowns the listener in a watery grave of acoustics and drum machines.

The finale of the album, "He Would Have Laughed," is a haunting, seven-and-a-half-minute tribute dedicated to Jay Reatard, a garage rock musician who died of a drug overdose at the age of 29.

Cox croons ever crisply about being "bored as I get older" while strumming an acoustic guitar as bits of percussion and keyboard are blended across the song.

It is my opinion that the listener will never get bored of listening to "Halcyon Digest," which is destined to become one of the classic independent albums of this decade.

"Halcyon Digest" is available now on iTunes, Amazon.com, and your local friendly neighborhood record store.

Rating: A
—JOEY STIPEK
STAFF WRITER

Transferring made simple

Some of you may want to transfer to a 4-year institution to complete a bachelor’s degree but not know how. Here is a suggested timeline to help you get started.

Semester 1:
• Meet with an adviser at OCCC to discuss transfer plans.
• Start thinking seriously about interests and career goals, especially if you haven’t chosen a major.
• Research universities you might be interested in attending.
• Attend Transfer Fairs to make contacts and get information about universities.

Semester 2:
• Continue research on universities. The more information you gather the better chance you have of choosing a university that is right for you!
• Develop a short list of schools you would like to visit.
• Contact the schools you are most interested in and determine which of your credits will transfer to their degree program.
• Visit the universities on your list.
• Collect applications from schools you plan to apply to. Start thinking about essay topics, recommendations, and other materials you will need to prepare.
• Keep track of all application material and scholarship deadlines.
• Look into financial aid!

Semester 3:
• Schedule an interview at schools from your list that you have not visited yet.
• Send applications to schools you are interested in attending.

Semester 4:
• Analyze your credit evaluation to determine the courses that will transfer.
• Review your financial aid package and compare the bottom line at each university.
• Double check the deadlines for deposits, registration forms, and other university materials.
• Take advantage of orientation programs and transfer fairs.
• Take advantage of orientation programs and other opportunities for transfer students at your new school. Meeting other transfer students and getting acquainted with campus life will help ease the transition to your new school.
• The Transfer Center, which is located in Academic Advising, can help you complete this timeline, answer your questions, and get you connected to 4-year universities. Contact me at smcelroy@occc.edu or 405-682-7567 with any questions.

—SARA McELROY
ACADEMIC ADVISING COORDINATOR

Staff Writer
—JOEY STIPEK
STAFF WRITER

Academic Advising Coordinator
—SARA McELROY
College board names Sechrist as chairman

JENNIFER MASSEY
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In a unanimous vote Oct. 29, OCCC President Paul Sechrist was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the College Board, a national education advocacy organization, said College Board President Gaston Caperton.

Caperton served as the 31st governor of West Virginia from 1989 to 1997.

“It is great to have a president from a community college with his reputation elected to the chairman position,” he said.

Sechrist said he believes the decision was made not about him, but about what OCCC represents.

“I think what we stand for at OCCC aligns with the College Board mission,” Sechrist said. “That is providing a pathway for more students to enter college and more students to be successful.”

He said he has dedicated his life to helping students attend college, which he believes is a life-changing event.

“Having a college education opens up doors that you never would have had,” Sechrist said. “It’s like giving you the master key to life.”

The College Board is best known for the SAT, a college entrance exam, the advance placement or AP program, and the College Level Examination Program, or CLEP, Sechrist said.

“The program that we use here is Accuplacer,” he said. “If you didn’t take the ACT and you had to take a placement test, you probably had to take Accuplacer, which is a College Board product.”

In addition to assessment tools, the College Board also has an accelerated program that allows high schools to improve curriculum, Sechrist said.

“They are advocating for ...
Accounting professor to visit Mexico on exchange trip

CHASADI FAILS-ORITZ
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OCCC will send Accounting professor Ron Summers to the Universidad Tecnológica de Hermosillo, in Sonora, Mexico, for 10 days in January as part of a faculty exchange program.

“The Faculty Exchange is when we swap a professor for another professor in Mexico,” Summers said.

Summers said when he goes to Mexico a few of the things he will share with UTH is the college’s grading system, and how OCCC teaches.

The professor from Mexico will visit OCCC in the spring of 2011.

The professors stay with one another as part of the exchange, Summers said.

The exchanges started last fall with physics professor Steve Kamm, who said the people of Mexico are very warm and generous.

“Wonderful” is how Kamm described his experience.

Kamm said he learned Mexico has a different way of accomplishing the same goals as the U.S. in their learning system. He said their school is a cross between a college and a tech school, with programs like computer science and business.

The difference is professors are paired with 20 to 30 students and stay together for two years in the same group, Kamm said.

“They way of teaching works just as [well] or better,” he said.

Also, Kamm said, tuition is much less than OCCC’s tuition and students usually don’t have to buy textbooks, because many of them come from impoverished backgrounds.

Summers said he is excited to improve his Spanish and learn what happens in another culture.

“I’m looking forward to it,” he said.

Summers said his wife is Columbian and speaks Spanish fluently, so she has been helping him improve his Spanish. He said they speak nothing but Spanish in their home so he can become a fluent speaker.

Undecided major Cameron Smith said he is happy to see two different cultures and countries embracing and learning from each other.
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CELEBRATES 35TH YEAR OF GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

Smokers encouraged to quit for one day

CHASADI C. FAILS-ORITZ  
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For student Elizabeth White, Nov. 18 could be a life-changing day. That’s the day she plans to stop smoking.

White, 19, is among many on campus and thousands nationwide who will participate in the American Cancer Society’s 35th Great American Smokeout.

That day, smokers are encouraged to put down their cigarettes for 24 hours and make a plan to quit smoking altogether, according to the ACS website.

White said she has stopped in the past for four months, but started again. This time, she said, she is stopping for good — for health reasons. “My grandpa and aunt died from smoking so I know what it can do to me.”

Michael McMillian, 27, said he also will attempt to stop smoking during the Great American Smokeout.

The photography major said smoking is his glass of wine at the end of the day, but he realizes his health is more important.

Nursing professor Linda Cowan said smoking is one of the most preventable cause of death. “All the factors that contribute to a person’s health from smoking are negative.”

Cowan said by stopping smoking, a person can expect to live 10 years longer than one who continues to smoke.

Smoking is responsible for nearly one in five deaths in the U.S., causing 30 percent of all cancer deaths and 87 percent of lung cancer deaths, according to the ACS.

Cowan said smoking impairs circulation in the body, makes healing more difficult and skin more fragile in the healing process. Some of the health problems caused from smoking are hypertension, influenza and lung cancer, she said.

Chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco or snuff are just as bad as cigarettes, Cowan said, because all forms of tobacco are harmful.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the harmful effects of smoking do not only affect smokers, but secondhand smoke exposure can cause serious disease and death in non smoking adults and children.

Like any other vice such as overeating, smoking has to be overcome by a lifestyle and habit change, Cowan said.

“Smoking is like putting trash in your lungs.” — LINDA COWAN  
OCCC NURSING PROFESSOR

Nursing major Robert Richardson agrees. He said he stopped smoking because he did not want to pass down the lifestyle of smoking to his kids. His habit, he said, came from his parents.

However, he said, he does not see a need for the nationally-known day. “If smokers want to stop smoking, they will stop on their own, not just because of a recognized day,” he said. “I think it’s futile.”

The 35-year-old said he smoked for 10 years and quit 10 years ago.

Richardson said smoking is unhealthy and a dirty habit he wants to spare his children from. Cowan agrees that there are no positive results from smoking. “Smoking is like putting trash into your lungs,” she said. “The benefits of not smoking are positive to one’s health.”

Accounting professor Ron Summers agrees. He said he plans to take advantage of the Great American Smokeout to help him gradually quit smoking before the campus smoking ban goes into effect next fall.

Cowan said smoking is usually related to something a person is doing. “For example, ‘when I start my car, I have to smoke my cigarette,’” she said. “The hardest part is breaking the habitual routine,” Cowan said.

She said to try chewing gum or using a stress ball until the immediate craving passes. According to the CDC, the nicotine is what smokers are addicted to. It can be just as addictive as heroin or cocaine, which makes smokers can become dependent on it and suffer unpleasant symptoms when trying to stop.

One of the primary health care costs of this country is smoking-related problems, Cowan said. Diseases caused by cigarette smoking result in $96 billion in health care costs, where much is paid by taxpayers through publicly-funded health programs, according to the CDC. The American Cancer Society reports that more than 440,000 people die in the U.S. each year as a direct result of tobacco usage.

The ACS website, www.cancer.org, has helpful links for smokers to quit for the day during the Great American Smokeout, the ACS got nearly one million of the state’s five million money to a local high school, according to ACS.

20 minutes after quitting: Your heart rate and blood pressure drop.
12 hours after quitting: The carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal.
2 weeks to 3 months after quitting: Your circulation improves and your lung function increases.
1 to 9 months after quitting: Coughing and shortness of breath decrease; cilia (tiny hair-like structures that move mucus out of the lungs) regain normal function in the lungs, increasing the ability to handle mucus, clean the lungs, and reduce the risk of infection.
1 year after quitting: The excess risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker’s.
5 years after quitting: Your stroke risk is reduced to that of a non-smoker 5 to 15 years after quitting.
10 years after quitting: The lung cancer death rate is about half that of a person who continues smoking. The risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, cervix, and pancreas decreases, too.
15 years after quitting: The risk of coronary heart disease is the same as a non-smoker’s.

— www.cancer.org.com

Great American Smokeout

HISTORY

The idea came from a Massachusetts resident Arthur P. Mullaney in 1971. He encouraged people to not buy cigarettes for one day and give the unspent money to a local high school, according to ACS.

The movement spread to California in 1976, where the ACS got nearly one million of the state’s five million smokers to quit for the day during the Great American Smokeout.

The Great American Smokeout has become nationally known and is recognized the third Thursday of November since 1977.

— www.suite101.com
### Muslim student happy to be in Oklahoma

**Bishal Malla**  
Staff Writer  
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Thousands of international students come to the U.S. every year in search of a college degree. Among those is a motivated young man who traveled from the Middle Eastern country of Oman to fulfill his dream of becoming a successful businessman.

Twenty-one-year-old freshman Ahmed Omer, business management major, is a full-time international student at OCCC.

Omer’s first name was one of the names of the Prophet Muhammad in the Islamic religion. He was born and raised in Oman but is a citizen of Pakistan.

Pakistan is a South Asian country, bordering the Arabian Sea, between India on the east, Iran and Afghanistan on the west, and China in the north, according to The World Factbook.

It’s an Islamic country where 95 percent of the population is Muslim and the rest Christian and Hindu.

Omer said he is a national of Pakistan because it’s very difficult to obtain citizenship in Oman. “[The] government of Oman does not issue the citizenship easily,” he said.

Oman is a Middle Eastern country that borders the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, and Persian Gulf, between Yemen and UAE.

Born in Muscat, the capital of Oman, Omer is the youngest child in his family of seven.

He said he comes from a well-respected family. His parents sent him as well as his two brothers and sisters to study abroad, Omer said.

Omer came to the States in spring 2010 as a freshman at OCCC.

His brother, who graduated from University of Central Oklahoma, was the one who recommended he attend college in Oklahoma, he said.

Omer said, when he first arrived in the States, things were not too difficult for him because he lived with his brother in Edmond.

“My brother used to cover all my expenses due to which I never experienced any trouble,” he said.

Although Omer said he didn’t experience much cultural shock in the early days, he said he did feel strange when people he didn’t know would smile at him.

“That was something that I’ve never seen in my country,” he said.

Later when he learned it was a common gesture of kindness, he said he felt more at ease.

Communicating in English was also not too difficult for him because he had learned English in elementary school.

However, Omer said, since English is not an official language in Oman, he used to have hard time understanding Americans.

“Especially when I was in a group, I had a hard time speaking and understanding people,” he said.

He said his brother told him communicating with more people is the only way to become more fluent, so these days, he said, he is trying to speak with as many people as he can, trying to overcome his natural shyness.

He said he has been shy his entire life.

“Though I had many friends, most of them were guys,” he said. “I used to get nervous talking to girls.”

Omer said OCCC has been like a temporary home for him these days because he is taking 18 credit hours this semester.

“I will be at the school all day long from Monday to Saturday,” he said.

He said he is fascinated by the infrastructures available at OCCC. The college’s lab, swimming pool, gymnasium, basketball and badminton courts are a few things he likes to use in his free time.

Omer said he also likes to play cricket, soccer, badminton, table tennis, and basketball. He said he plays badminton on a regular basis.

“I play badminton with business Professor Vijayan Ramachandran and economics Professor Charles Myrick,” he said.

Another thing Omer likes about OCCC is its labs.

“I like the fact that they have labs with tutors which is amazing,” he said. “It’s something that we normally don’t see in schools and colleges back home.”

He said he also likes how faculty and staff are “helpful and nice” at OCCC.

“Some of my professors are very nice, they even help me when it’s not their office hours.”

However he said, he has bitter experiences too.

For those people, he said, “Don’t judge people at the first look. After meeting once or twice, you can decide about them.”

Omer, has visited more than half dozen of states in the U.S. since arriving, including Georgia, Florida, Texas, California and Arkansas.

He said Oklahoma is the place he wants to live in the future.

However, he said with sadness, he will leave Oklahoma next semester to transfer to Broome Community College in Binghamton, NY, where his brother is working on a master’s degree.

He said he is moving to New York to be with his brother to make it easier for him financially.

Omer said it can be difficult for international students to live and study in the U.S.

Being a full-time student and working only part-time on campus can be stressful for most international students, he said.

But Omer said he believes Allah will take care of everything.

His message for the international students at OCCC is: “Try to make as many friends as you can and that will overcome the homesickness.

“Take part in the college activities and also use the facilities that are available inside the campus.

Since all of us are here to study, study hard and make your parents and country proud,” he said.

Omer, who said he is thankful for what he has right now, ended with, “Alhumdulilah,” which means praise to a God.

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**Pakistan**

*Pakistan — (pak • istan)*

| Capital: Islamabad  
| Population: 184,404,791  
| Country comparison to the world: 6  
| GDP: $433,00,000,000 (USD)  
| National Languages: Urdu  
| Currency: Rupee  
| Government: Federal Republic  
| Size: 494670 sq. miles (slightly less than twice the size of California)  
| Religions: Muslims 95% (Sunni 75%, Shia 20%), other 5%  
| Details: Pakistan also known as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is a South Asian country bordering the Arabian Sea, between India on the east, Iran and Afghanistan on the west, and China in the north. The Indus Valley civilization, one of the oldest in the world and dating back at least 5,000 years, spread over much of what is presently Pakistan. During the second millennium B.C., remnants of this culture fused with the migrating Indo-Aryan peoples. The separation in 1947 of British India into the Muslim state of Pakistan (with West and East sections) and largely Hindu India was never satisfactorily resolved, and India and Pakistan fought two wars - in 1947-48 and 1965 - over the disputed Kashmir territory. A third war between these countries in 1971 - in which India capitalized on Islamabad’s marginalization of Bengalis in Pakistani politics - resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. In response to Indian nuclear weapons testing, Pakistan conducted its own tests in 1998. The dispute over the state of Kashmir is ongoing, but discussions and confidence-building measures have helped the two countries begin to work through their issues. In February 2008, Pakistan held parliamentary elections and in September 2008, after the resignation of former President Musharraf, elected Asif Ali Zardari to the presidency. India-Pakistan relations have been rocky since the November 2008 Mumbai attacks, but both countries are taking small steps to put relations back on track.  
| *source: www.cia.gov*
Dream Team defender Cody Stallings watches as You Know receiver Matt Basinger goes for the catch. You Know dropped their first and only loss in the championship game to crown the OCCC Dream Team 2010 champions.

INTRAMURALS | UNDEFEATED YOU KNOW STUMBLES IN CHAMPIONSHIP

Dream Team claims championship

MORGAN BEARD
Staff Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

After an exciting season of intramural flag football, a new champion has been crowned. The OCCC Dream Team defeated team You Know 48-34 to become league champions of the 2010 flag football season.

Coming into the title game, You Know held a league best 6-0 record as the OCCC Dream Team was a close second at 5-1, with the only loss being to You Know earlier in the season.

The Dream Team began the game with a quick drive down field ending in a Nick Pinkerton scramble for the opening score of the game.

You Know answered right back on their first possession with a quarterback scramble of their own from Collin Gentry to tie it up.

The Dream Team's Andrew Self put pressure on You Know yet again after a quick 40-yard touchdown reception. You Know failed to gather an equalizer as a turnover on downs led to another Dream Team touchdown shortly after.

Down 20-7 and in need of a score before halftime, You Know's receiver-turned-quarterback Josh Vanover threw a bomb to Gentry to put the game at 20-14 heading in to the second half.

With momentum edging in You Know's favor to begin the half, Gentry led his team down the field with an impressive touchdown to receiver Matt Basinger in the corner of the end zone.

Scoring on all three of their first half possessions, the Dream Team failed to move the ball for the first time all game with a turnover on downs, giving You Know a chance to take their first lead of the game.

Avenging their only loss earlier in the season, the Dream Team gave You Know their first loss when it mattered most.

"It's a very disappointing loss ... we tried our best but we weren't able to pull out the victory," You Know's Josh Vanover said. His teammate Collin Gentry agreed.

"There aren't any excuses for this one. They played a great game," Gentry said. However, the Dream Team's Nick Pinkerton was glad to get a little revenge and win the championship.

"It feels good to get this one after a sour, three-overtime defeat earlier in the season," Pinkerton said.
Librarian assumes role of acting director

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER
News Writing Student

Reference Librarian Rachel Butler assumed the position of acting director of Library Services earlier this month.

Butler is filling in for Director Barbara King while she takes an open-ended leave of absence.

Butler has been at OCCC for 21 years, having taken the position as reference librarian in 1989, right out of library school, she said.

Butler has two master’s degrees, one in geography, and another in library and information studies from the University of Oklahoma.

“The role of the director is to keep things moving along so we can effectively keep doing what we need to do and, as things come up, make decisions,” Butler said.

“There’s always something unexpected that comes up. Now there’s somebody to deal with them.”

Meanwhile, the library’s long-time secretary is leaving.

“Our library secretary is retiring in the middle of all this, so I get to learn some new things,” Butler said. “All the budget things and Datatel are new to me. I’m getting more into the inner workings of budget and finance that I didn’t have before.”

Butler said she will have to delegate some of her other duties.

“I’m still trying to figure out how to farm out some of what I did as a reference librarian. I don’t want to give up everything.”

“Routinely on Wednesday nights, I have worked the library information desk. I decided I want to keep that.

“I don’t want to give up contact with students. If there’s a class scheduled to learn about doing research, I also will teach that.”

While the position will mean more work, Butler said, she is interested in learning more. She won’t be alone in her transition as she learns the duties of her newly-expanded role.

There are four full-time librarians and one part-time librarian to share some of her old duties.

Managing the library won’t be Butler’s only responsibility, either. As acting director, she will sit on certain college committees, including the Student Newspaper Advisory Board and the Curriculum Committee.

Butler also serves on the Norman City Council.

At this point in the learning process, Butler said, she doesn’t plan to start any new projects for the library. Ongoing projects will continue as expected and the staff may toy with variations of ideas previously used within the library. Plans for the rest of this semester and next include a speaker related to the Big Read program in the spring, possible updates and adjustments to the library’s website, and more library instructional classes.

“I like it because our goal is to help people find good resources and know where they are,” Butler said. “But it also adds more pressure during this transition.”

Rate: Students and professors sound off about RateMyProfessors.com

Continued from page 1

Rate the professor’s appearance as “hot” or “not.”

The professor’s overall quality rating is determined by a smiley emoticon which is given next to his or her name.

A yellow smiley emoticon is given for professors who rate above a 4.

A green blank expression emoticon is given to professors receiving a ranking between 3 and 4, and a blue sad expression emoticon represents any rating that falls below a 3.

A professor’s name is accompanied by a chili pepper icon if his or her appearance rating is “hot.”

OCCC rated 3.48 overall for professors compared to sister commuter colleges Rose State College which rated 3.43 overall and a 3.27 overall average posted by OSU-OKC.

Students have mixed opinions about using the website.

Shara Reasor, 28, nursing major, said the site is “kind of silly.”

“Because it is subjective, if a student has a bad experience, the student is not going to enjoy the class or professor. The same with a good experience.”

Vanessa Salas, 18, liberal studies major, said she has used the website to find easier classes and professors. However, Salas said, she thinks the website should do away with less relevant professors that are not currently employed by OCCC.

Chelsye Bacon, 20, digital photography major, said she will use the website more in the future because of a negative experience she is currently experiencing in an online class.

Bacon said she believes if she had done more research, she might have avoided the class altogether.

Will Cribbet, 27, political science major, said he hasn’t used the website, but thinks he should have when selecting past courses.

Cribbet said he has had positive experiences with professors at OCCC citing a College Writing II professor who offered to take him into his home when Cribbet was going through a difficult time in his life.

Cribbet said that particular professor’s score on RateMyProfessors.com should have been higher.

Students are not the only one with mixed opinions about the website.

Biology and Zoology professor Anthony Stancampiano considers the website “qualitative non-sampling.

“Mostly, it is a beacon for bitching,” he said.

Stancampino currently has a rating of 2.7.

Stancampiano said he believes the website mainly consists of students logging in and commenting when they have not performed well in a particular class.

“If it were truly a quantitative source, before you would have entered anything you would have to say how long were you in the course, how often you studied, if you missed class, what is your background … ,” he said. “So to make it a valid form you would have to lay down your background to truly rate things.”

Political science professor Dana Glencross said she mentions RateMyProfessors.com in her class to alert her students about what they are getting into. She currently has a user rating of 3.1.

Glencross said although her rating is a 3.1, she feels it is a fairly accurate assessment of who she is.

“I know a lot of professors think it is a bogus popularity contest, even the bad comments,” she said. “While I do not review it a lot, I do look at the negative comments to see if I could be doing what I am doing in a better way.

“It’s not necessarily constructive criticism whatever they are saying, but if I could do something better it might give me a hint as to what it might be.”

One professor encourages students to use discretion when reading about a professor listed on RateMyProfessors.com.

English professor Jon Inglett, who has a rating of 4.4, encourages students to review multiple data points before they select a course.

“RateMyProfessors.com is one useful data point, but if used exclusively to make a decision, a student may miss out on a great professor,” Inglett said.

Psychology professor Stephanie Hayes offers this simple assessment: “You do not have to like a professor to learn from a professor.”

Emergency Drill Nov. 16

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010, OCCC will hold its third annual emergency drill for 2010. There will be a morning and evening activation. This drill will simulate a shelter in place or exit the building for all OCCC Main campus buildings, the John Massey Center, and the Family and Community Education Center.

The morning drill will start at 9:10 a.m. and end at 9:20 a.m. with an all clear message. The evening drill will start at 7:50 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. with an all clear message. The drill will be activated via the IP phone system and outdoor warning system.

Requirements:

a. Once the notification system has been activated please take action to secure yourself in your area or classroom.

b. Lock and/or shut doors, close blinds, turn off lights and stay out of sight.

c. Individuals in common areas will be asked to exit the building during the drill.

There will be 7 OCCC observers throughout the campus during the drill checking for secured doors and overall participation.

The all clear will be given approximately after 10 min.

—Major Keith Bourque
OCCC Safety and Security
Native American heritage and pride

CHRISTY JOHNSON
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

In 1990, then President George H.W. Bush designated the month of November as Native American Heritage month, according to nps.gov.

Candice Parker, of the Comanche Nation and President of the Native American Student Association, said she and club members want to honor this month by bringing awareness to the Native American heritage through events on campus.

Parker said Student Life is showing their support by sponsoring the Native American dance troop, "Oklahoma Fancy Dancers," to perform from noon to 1 p.m. Monday on Nov. 15, in the general dining area.

John Christopher Moon, a Seminole Indian student, said there are activities going on here on campus as well many places in the world celebrating Native American heritage and traditions.

Moon said his family came to Oklahoma in the 1800s as prisoners of war.

"My people are originally from Florida. I am a direct descendent of Chief Wild Cat, the guy who kicked Andrew Jackson’s ass in the Great Seminole War," he said.

"Not many written records were kept until the Dawes Rolls," he said.

Moon said many people think Indian tacos are a signature dish among Native Americans but in reality Indian tacos were a survival food.

"My people were only given the food that was spoiled, or old so they had to make do with what they had," he said.

Moon said he is not sure if he will be attending the festivities here at school due to his schedule but he is glad to see Native American Heritage month being celebrated.

"I celebrate my heritage everyday, because I am proud of my people, the things they have accomplished and the legacy they leave," he said.

For more information on Native American Heritage month, visit www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov.

For more information on the Dawes Rolls, visit www.archives/genealogy/tutorial/dawes.

If you have community news and you would like it to be heard, contact Christy Johnson at staffwriter1@occe.edu or call 405 682-1611 ext. 7676.
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.

**AUTOMOTIVE**

**FOR SALE:** 2004 Nissan Sentra 1.8, silver color, new tires, rebuilt, 55k miles, good condition and drives great. $3,900. OBO. Call: Tan at 405-524-4425 or e-mail chongtan_okc@yahoo.com.

**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.

**ELECTRONICS**

**For Sale:** T-84 & TI-Inspire keyboards, operating systems. Looks new, used for one semester. Manual, software. $50. Call: 405-682-7804 or e-mail jatkinson@occc.edu.

**FURNITURE**

**For Sale:** Brown leather couch with one hole, Pub style kitchen table and antique makeup table for $20 each. Contact Arga Reagan at 405-288-0408 or e-mail mccrackenlois@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.

**REAL ESTATE**

**For Sale:** No down payment, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 2 car, CH&A. Move in ready, spotless, close to OU and OCCC, 227 S Bristow. Moore, OK. $87,500. Call: 405-364-8555, 405-820-3630 or e-mail cshutt1@cox.net.

**SERVICES**

**Tutoring Offered:** Are you struggling in any subject? Take a tutoring class with Nguyen. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625 or e-mail nguyen.h.truong@email.occc.edu

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**TODAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

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**Correctly answer four Treasure Hunt Questions and be entered in our final drawing of the semester:**

1: What percent of Oklahomans are obese or overweight, according to the booklet “A Guide to a Strong & Healthy Oklahoma.”?
2: How many people participated on the Halloween Carnival held on campus Oct. 29?
3: Who won the final week of the intra-mural flag football between You Know and Spartans?
4: When is the deadline for tuition fee waiver applications for spring 2011?

Correct Answer for last week:
1: Hawaii and most of Arizona. 2: Liz Roth. 3: Nov. 9, rooms 215 A and B, Health Professions building. 4: Mike Barnett.

**TODAY’S TREASURE HUNT QUESTIONS**

**Find a complete list of ad rates, call Bishal Malla at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674 or e-mail: adman@occc.edu**

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For a complete list of ad rates, call Bishal Malla at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674 or e-mail: adman@occc.edu

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Follow the Pioneer for answers to our weekly treasure hunt questions.

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Photography students Rachel Privett (left) and Jodi Jackson look through pictures they’ve just taken at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Photography professor Randy Anderson took his class on a trip to the refuge for photography opportunities.

Class studies video game designer

ROBERT BOLTON
News Writing Student

Many famous video game designers do not have college degrees, but instead started their careers in other ways, such as being a computer program debugger. Hironobu Sakaguchi is one such designer.

Professor Akram Taghavi-Burris’s aspiring game design students explained by way of a slide show why they like their favorite video game producer.

Students each gave a brief overview of their favorite game designer, such as when and where they were born, where they went to college, and what company they were affiliated with in the past and present.

“One of the reasons that they do it,” Taghavi-Burris said, “is because the video game industry is so new. Since the class focuses on the history of video games, there’s only so much that we can pull from the textbooks because there is only about 40 years of information. “History is being made every day in this industry. So by them going out and doing some research on their own and looking at present day game designers, they are actually writing what will someday be in a history book for video games.”

The aforementioned Sakaguchi was an aspiring electrical engineer who dropped out of college in the early ’80s, said Amber Frantz in her presentation.

Sakaguchi went on to co-found Square with Masafumi Miyamoto as an off-shoot of Denyusha Electric Company.

After several failed video games, Sakaguchi pooled the rest of Square’s money to create one last game, “Final Fantasy.” To his surprise, the game was a massive hit in Japan, and went on to become a fan favorite all over the world.

Tetsuya Nomura, another designer that is associated with the “Final Fantasy” franchise, was studied by game design student Jessie Shores. Nomura helped create “Final Fantasy 4,” and has worked with Nintendo for the last 15 years, Shores said.

Shores said Nomura’s games are as unique as they are innovative. “The only thing that he carries from character to character is spiky hair,” Shores said.

Hideki Kamiya was another subject of student scrutiny during the presentation. He was one of the few college graduates, and actually studied game design. He is credited with the creation of “Viewtiful Joe” and “Okami.”

Rob Pardo, game designer and current vice president of Blizzard entertainment, was the presentation choice of Cody Fox, game design student. Pardo was the lead designer for “Starcraft,” “Starcraft: Brood War,” “World of Warcraft,” its expansion “The Burning Crusade,” and many other games.

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According to Fox, in an interview with Time magazine, a reporter asked if the success of “World of Warcraft” would hinder other Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game designer’s success. To this, Pardo replied it would help them. “World of Warcraft” is many people’s first MMORPG and even their first game.

They try it, and they like it, and then they give other MMORPGs a chance, he said. “Pardo did not create the genre,” Fox said. “He merely perfected it. He’s a smart, critical thinker that keeps appealing to the masses and keeps everybody coming back for more which is why he is so successful.”