OCCC website redesign team gives feedback

Consulting firm hired to evaluate college’s website reports preliminary findings

WHITNEY KNIGHT
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One month after announcing the OCCC website would receive an overhaul, the consulting firm contracted to help rebuild the site presented its preliminary findings Nov. 16.

Stephanie Geyer, Noel-Levitz Higher Education Consulting associate vice president, said 431 prospective students, community members and OCCC faculty and staff members responded to a web-based survey regarding the current website.

In addition, Geyer said, an additional survey targeting current students is available online now at www.occc.edu/survey.

An overwhelming percentage of prospective students said a college’s website plays an important role in their decision to enroll in the school. “Nearly all [prospective students] told us they go to the college’s website to learn how to enroll,” Geyer said.

Although most of those prospective students are accessing the college website from home, she said, a growing number of individuals — 20 percent — are accessing the site from their mobile phones.

“The has been an incredible increase in the use of smartphones in the past six months,” Geyer said.

Because of increased cell phone usage, she said, mobile compatibility is a driving factor in the website’s redesign.

Geyer said tuition costs, and program and degree details ranked as the most important information for prospective students to view online.

Geyer said tuition costs, and program and degree details ranked as the most important information for prospective students to view online.

Ninety-six percent of students said they visited the OCCC website for tuition details.

As a result of their findings, she said, the new website redesign team focused primarily on three areas: online class orientation, navigating ANGEL and ANGEL’s features — clear ideas of what they are, how to get into them and what they can do. See WEBSITE page 9

Chamber Singers (left to right) Rachel Tullis, Bethany Bush and Victoria Hazboun perform with the choir during the Capitol Hill Lions Club Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 18 at Draper Park. The choral group will perform a Christmas concert with other campus singers at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7 at the Wilmont Place Baptist Church, located at 6440 S. Santa Fe Ave. in Oklahoma City. Admission is free and the public is invited.

We began to notice a gap between online students and on campus students. This is the support they need to help them be more successful.”

—GLENE’. WHISENHUNT
CENTER FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING DIRECTOR

online editor@occc.edu

From top left, Rachel MoRRison/PioneeR

ANGEL HELP SITE GETS MORE THAN 35,000 HITS

Online class orientation well received by students

JANELLE STONE
News Writing Student

An orientation offered to help users navigate ANGEL — the college’s online learning management system — has met with initial success.

Glenne’ Whisenhunt, Center for Learning and Teaching director, said within 28 days of going live, the new ANGEL online orientation had received a total of 35,141 hits by OCCC students and faculty.

She said this number far exceeded the initial expectations for the opening few weeks.

Whisenhunt said the goal of the ANGEL orientation is to give students a clear idea of what they are getting into when they enroll for online classes.

Business Professor Anita Williams said the orientation also is designed to better acquaint students with computer technology.

Williams said students often sign up for an online class, then find they can’t adequately manipulate the computer.

“See ANGEL page 9

“
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Student Life should make more effort to promote events

It’s too easy to miss campus events

OCCC students are possibly missing out on participating in cultural events or hearing speakers because Student Life often fails to adequately promote the events it sponsors.

Recently, several students and employees were surprised to hear a lunchtime performance by a Hispanic band in the student union. When asked what type of promotion was done for the event, Service Learning and Student Life Programs Coordinator Katie Treadwell said it could be found on the Student Life calendar.

A check of the calendar Nov. 22 didn’t turn up anything about the event although the November calendar for the entire month is still visible.

But that isn’t the real problem.

Why would the event only be posted on the Student Life calendar? With a print and online student newspaper that offers free campus highlights and three Facebook accounts — one maintained by Student Life, one maintained by the Pioneer student newspaper and another maintained by the college — where free posts can be made, all college events should be heavily promoted from the time of their inception to the time of the event actually happening. Why should a student have to regularly jump through hoops to access the Student Life calendar? Isn’t Student Life supposed to be about helping students?

A check of the Student Life Facebook page on Nov. 22 showed it was last updated Oct. 14, more than a month. The same goes for its Twitter account.

Student Cinnamon Russell agrees that more promotion needs to be done. Russell said she missed out on the Hispanic band and a student singing in the union at the beginning of the semester.

It is remarkable that artists are invited to OCCC and are paid with college money — student fees — but Student Life often drops the ball in getting the word out. Then, on top of that, its employees refer people to a calendar online to find the events. How difficult would it be to spend a few minutes each day promoting upcoming events via all of the available free media outlets?

OCCC’s population is large enough to be a community of its own. We could have a great impact on the careers of various artists and speakers we bring in.

Plus, many people attending OCCC are strapped for extra cash or time, so being able to see a free performance or listen to a speaker might be a luxury.

Those amazing events that someone is taking the time to schedule deserve to be promoted with just as much thought.

—Chasadi Fails-Ortiz
Staff Writer

YOUR VOICE | Website offers students ways to raise money for charity

Tough times call for innovative fundraising measures

To the editor:

According to The American Association of Fundraising Council, charitable donations decreased by $11.4 billion last year alone.

Now more than ever, non-profits are threatened by the direct impact of the economic recession. Their young supporters are forced to find new, innovative ways to raise money.

For instance, thousands of half-naked students from UCLA to the coast of Florida, strip to participate in an “undie run” where they collect clothing for charities.

Also, North Dakota students build igloos where they collect money from passersby, and a school in Iowa holds an annual “knobby knee” contest.

Tough times call for more than just a creative breakthrough, especially when supporting the non-profits.

The Sage Mentorship Project (SMP) at OCCC, a group of more than 450 Berkeley students recently joined a fresh fundraising program, hosted by MyEdu.

The organization makes mentoring elementary school kids possible in the Berkeley and Oakland area.

“We plan on using the money we raise to purchase school supplies for all the elementary schools we work with,” said Joel Gerson, SMP president.

“The mentoring program was created to address the major disconnect between tutoring and mentoring projects and building real relationships between college-aged individuals and our youth in the community.”

“Working with MyEdu seemed like a natural fit since they too are dedicated to improving education,” he said.

Other organizations are catching on to SMP’s approach to raising money. Within four days of MyEdu announcing their “Share The Love” campaign, more than 200 student groups nationwide flocked to the site, the majority dedicated to raising money for a charitable cause.

Before the opportunity ends on Dec. 15, any student group can start raising money to support their mission through “Share The Love” at www.myedu.com/giving/back/student-organizations.

For more information about myedu.com fundraisers visit myedu.com or contact April Bennet at 512-469-9777.

—Kathryn Walker
Public relations coordinator
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

SHE SAID | Latest installment in J.K. Rowling critically acclaimed series a success

Dark themes propel ‘Potter’ film

It’s the beginning of the end.

Part one of “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,” the final installment of J.K. Rowling’s mega-popular series about the eponymous boy wizard, was released into theaters Nov. 19.

The significantly darker aura of “Hallows” is set early when newly appointed Minister of Magic Rufus Scrimgeour (Bill Nighy) laments: “These are dark times. There is no denying.”

Scrimgeour’s mournful words quickly set the tone of the film as Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and his friends Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson) sever ties with their families and embark on a dangerous quest to track down mystical items known as horcruxes.

Horcruxes are dark objects in which a sliver of an evil wizard or witch’s soul is kept, granting the individual immortality.

In “Hallows,” the seven horcruxes Harry and his friends seek contain pieces of the spirit of Lord Voldemort (a very creepy Ralph Fiennes), an unfathomably evil villain whose Hitler-esque views on blood purity led him to slaughter thousands of people, including Harry’s parents.

In order to destroy Voldemort, Harry and his friends must find and destroy all seven horcruxes, an act which will in turn render him mortal.

Doubtlessly, “Hallows” is the scariest “Potter” film so far.

Characters are tortured both on and off-screen, and the mere sight of Voldemort’s pet snake Nagini is enough to make ophiophobics faint.

Director David Yates manages to suffuse this movie with a sense of dread that never dissipates. And although “Hallows” is Harry’s darkest adventure, it is also the most magical.

From that opening first minute to the spine-chilling last moment, the film literally casts a spell on your eyes that won’t allow you to take them off the screen.

Old friends return, romance buds, and above all, good always prevails over evil.

There are few laughs to be had, although an early scene of a bare-chested Harry sporting a lacy shirt is absurdly set to a Nick Finnes.

Character and minute details from the book are experienced in an IMAX theater.

There are a few plus-es in the film. Severus Snape (Alan Rickman) chews up any scene he is in but the rest of the cast leave something to be desired.

The film is a visual feast for the eyes when experienced in an IMAX theater.

Hardcore Harry Potter fanatics will be pleased with the back story and minute details. The casual viewer, however, will have wished the filmmakers condensed all of the book into one single film.

For all of the series’ magic and wizardry, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part I” ultimately fails to cast a spell on the viewer.

Rating: C-
—Joey Stipek
Staff Writer

You asked for it

Q: How does a student get a work study related job?

A: “We have around 230 jobs. Sometimes getting a work study job requires a good résumé, good cover letter, (and) attaching the proper files when applying. It certainly does not hurt to go in and talk to the person employing. You will need a letter from financial aid to apply for a work study job. Applying to a job in your field of study or you having prior experience with helps. To apply for a work study job go to occc.edu and use the jobs tab. Click on employment opportunities and use the search postings for student employment.”
—Judi McGee
Employment Services Coordinator

Q: How long can a library book be checked out?

A: “You can keep the book for up to two weeks. You can renew it twice. There are no late fees as long as the book is returned in a reasonable amount of time.”
—Monica Carlyle
Lead Library Circulation assistant

First ‘Deathly Hallows’ doesn’t live up to the hype

“The angst ridden teenage brooding from Harry over his headmaster Dumbledore’s death in the last installment is an insipid love story that at one point is absurdly set to a Nick Cave song.

The plodding, mindless battles are all set up for Part II coming out in June in 3D.

There are a few pluses in the film. Severus Snape (Alan Rickman) chews up any scene he is in but the rest of the cast leave something to be desired.

The film is a visual feast for the eyes when experienced in an IMAX theater.

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Rating: C-
—Joey Stipek
Staff Writer

Have a movie CD or book you’d like to see reviewed? Tell Pioneer Editor Jennifer Massey at editor@occc.edu
Adjunct professor explores minority historical influence

MORGAN BEARD
Staff Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Often times we wonder what our professors are like outside the classroom. What exactly do they do in their time off from teaching hundreds of students every day? One OCCC professor uses his time outside of the classroom just as he does in it, spreading knowledge.

Charles Jaronek, science and math adjunct professor at the college, is in the process of adding the final touches on his book “The Giving Trees.”

Jaronek’s book covers the contributions to society made by the many different minority groups within America.

The book delves into the history of each minority group.

African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Native-Americans are the main subjects of the book as he covers an extensive history of their influence in our society today.

“The Giving Trees” has been in the works for approximately two years, Jaronek said. However, the idea came to him about 20 years ago when he completed his dissertation over the perceptions of minority contributions.

Jaronek cites these misconceptions as the driving force that made him want to inform others about what he said, is a commonly overlooked topic.

“Most people just don’t realize the contributions that these groups have given to us over time,” he said. “I want my book to clear up some of these questions.”

Jaronek notes the importance of these minority groups in his book, highlighting how crucial they are to bringing America where it is today.

“The Giving Trees” is not yet on shelves or even entirely finished, but Jaronek said he anticipates completing it in time for a release date sometime next year.

He said the book is being added to each and every day.

“It’s a process,” he said. “It could be one of those things that is never truly completed because of all of the information out there,” Jaronek said. “But final pieces are being put together and it could be on shelves within a year.”

In addition to writing the book, Jaronek is offering students another chance to learn about minority contributions. In collaboration with science professor Ron Scribner, a scholarship opportunity is now available to OCCC students.

“The Jaronek-Scribner Scholarship requires students to write a 500-word paper about any one minority group or individual and their contribution to American society.

Along with the essay, students are required to have at least a 2.0 GPA and be committed to completing an associate degree program at OCCC, Jaronek said.

Jaronek and Scribner worked together to offer $1,000 to the scholarship’s recipient. The deadline to apply is Dec. 9.

FILM BASED ON BOOK ABOUT NATURAL GAS PIONEER ROBERT A. HEFNER

Students ready to shoot documentary in spring

MEREDITH ELLINGER
News Writing Student

The next documentary project for Professor Greg Mellott and his students in the film and video program will begin shooting in the spring.

It will be based on the book “The Grand Energy Transition” by Robert A. Hefner III.

Hefner is a lifetime natural gas explorer, and the documentary will be about his life and his book.

Hefner is sometimes referred to as the “father of natural gas” and this story will depict how he fostered that story to the screen.

“I want to capture the essence of being a man who is not afraid to try something that is not necessarily what people would think he would try,” Mellott said.

Mellott and Frederickson saw it as a great idea for the students in the program and also a way to bring Hefner’s story to the screen.

Recording, editing, and set productions are just a few of the components necessary in making a successful documentary, such as “Dream No Little Dream” and “The Grand Energy Transition,” Mellott said.

OCCC film students are capable of doing all of these, he said.

OCCC’s film program has grown enormously since its birth from the Oklahoma Film Institute, Mellott said.

He said he hopes it will continue to grow through films such as this upcoming documentary.

For more information about the OFI, contact Mellott by e-mail at gmellott@occc.edu or by phone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7793.

Christmas concert planned for Dec. 7

ERIN PEDEN
News Writing Student

OCCC choirs will help bring in the holiday spirit as they take the stage at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Wilmont Place Baptist Church located at 6440 S Santa Fe Ave. The concert is free and open to the public, said music Professor Ron Staton.

The symphonic, concert, and chamber choirs will each have their own performance at the concert and the entire program will last between 60 and 90 minutes.

Songs will include Christmas tunes such as, “White Christmas,” arranged by Anita Kerr; “Carol of the Bells” by Peter Wilhousky; “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” by Anita Kerr; and “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” by Howard Helvey.

Staton said the choirs have put a lot of effort into their programs.

“All the ensembles have been working very hard all semester. We have really great choirs this year.”

This will be the last performance of the choirs for the semester but they will resume work after the holidays, preparing two new programs for the next semester. Staton said he welcomes other vocalists who would like to join any of the choirs. Only the Chamber Singers must audition to join the group.

For more information about OCCC’s choirs, contact Staton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7249 or by e-mail at rstaton@occc.edu.
“IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE” SHOWCASES TWO PERFORMERS DOING IT ALL

Radio play comes to campus

KATELYN ANDERSON
News Writing Student

Two actors will produce all the sound effects, an abundance of characters and more as they perform a live radio show of “It’s A Wonderful Life” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

The radio play is just like the nostalgic performances of the 1940s, said Lemuel Bardeguez, Cultural Programs director.

Bardeguez said the play is not a traditional performance with many costumes and actors. The main attraction, he said, is two people portraying over 40 different characters.

He said he discovered the talented group, the Odeum Theatre Company, after attending one of their performances.

Bardeguez said he asked the Tulsa-based company to put on a lighthearted family show for OCCC, something apart from their regular “edgy” programs. The company accepted.

“[The play] is a great break for finals and a great way to get into the holiday spirit,” he said.

This is a unique way for people to experience how things were done 50 to 60 years ago, Bardeguez said.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.occc.edu/cas or visit the Cultural Arts Series ticket office, which is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in room 1G1A of the Main Building.

Student tickets and tickets for those 17 and under cost $12.50. Seniors 55 and older and OCCC faculty, staff, and Alumni Association members pay $19.50. General admission tickets are $24.50.

Tickets are available for pre-sale and at the door.

For more information, contact the Cultural Arts Series ticket office at 405-682-7579.

A Kappa Beta Delta Christmas

An Angel tree is located by the Business Division office on the second floor of the Main Building. There are request forms for gifts for those who wish to help the children of an OCCC student or staff that are in need.

Contact Germain Pichop at 405-682-1611, ext. 7285, or Michael Southerland at michael.d.southerland@email.occc.edu or by phone at 405-626-1452 for more information.
DREAM JOB COMES FROM SKILLS LEARNED ON CAMPUS

OCCC graduate in scoring position with OKC Thunder

MORGAN BEARD
Staff Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

There was more than one winner when the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trailblazers 110-108 Nov 12.

OCCC graduate and Thunder employee Matt Bishop provided a behind-the-scenes experience for two Pioneer reporters sent to cover the game that also was attended by about 100 students as part of OCCC Night.

While the collaboration between the Thunder and the college gave many students an opportunity to witness their first NBA game in person, things are different for Bishop, since he's a part of the team.

Working as the Thunder's websites and publications coordinator, Bishop used OCCC as the impetus for his current dream job.

He said he jumped on the opportunity to be involved with the team while working for the Pioneer as a sports writer.

The broadcasting major was told of an opening with KSBI, an affiliate with the Thunder, by mass communications professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert.

“Gwin heard that KSBI needed help filming some things over Christmas break, so she told me to give them a call,” Bishop said.

He said the position had already been filled, but a persistent attitude and a series of phone calls landed Bishop a job for the Thunder following his time at OCCC.

Bishop went on to the University of Oklahoma to work on his bachelor’s degree and plans to conclude his studies at the University of Central Oklahoma. But, he said, he credits OCCC for the progress he has made thus far.

“OCCC is a great place to get an education,” Bishop said. “I feel I've learned more at OCCC than at OU, because it's more hands on.

“Professors seem to care about the students and getting them educated in the best way possible.”

Bishop noted that one professor in particular was the key in getting him started on his career. Faulconer-Lippert was the link between Bishop and the Thunder in 2009.

“Gwin always brought the best out in me,” Bishop said.

“When I had her for audio production, she brought out this confidence in me that I could do anything.”

Faulconer-Lippert said Bishop paved his own path.

“Matt Bishop’s tenacity is what set him apart from others,” she said.

Bishop is now responsible for various tasks related to the official team website. From constructing photo galleries, interviewing coaches and players, and writing headlines for the website, Bishop can do it all.

“Whatever they've wanted me to do, I just stepped up and went with it,” Bishop said.

Although it's coined as a job, working with the Thunder has been a lot of fun, he said.

Since joining the Thunder, Bishop has traveled all over the country, courtesy of the organization.

“They've sent me out to Dallas for the All-Star weekend, to Vegas and New York for USA basketball, Orlando for the summer league, and L.A. for the playoff series against the Lakers,” he said.

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Although traveling and mingling with NBA stars may sometime blur the line between work and play, Bishop said work is still work, citing 16 hour days during his trip for the All-Star weekend.

Regardless of the workload, lifelong sports fan Bishop said he couldn't be any happier with his current occupation.

Following Michael Jordan’s Chicago Bulls in the ’90s, Bishop was a season-ticket holder for the Thunder preceding his employment by the team.

“It’s just cool to be here and have the kind of job that you love to do,” he said. “I’ve always loved sports, especially basketball, so this opportunity was a no-brainer.”

Angela Gutierrez, current OCCC student, said stories like Bishop’s are inspirational.

“That reassures students here at the college,” Gutierrez said. “It’s proof that people can pursue their dreams and succeed regardless if they attend a major university or a community college like OCCC.”

Oklahoma City Thunder star forward Kevin Durant puts up a shot over Portland Trailblazers defender Brandon Roy. The Thunder would go on to win the game, 110-108.
The Oklahoma Victory Dolls range in age from 19 to 45. They are equally diverse in background and ethnicity. Ford-Atkins said this is frequently misunderstood. “So many girls I have talked to think because they don’t have tattoos or are on the PTA, they don’t have what it takes,” Ford-Atkins said.

“This is absolutely not true. In our league alone we have a hair dresser, a social worker, homemakers and nurses.”

Dress and hair styles vary as each member of the group showcases her own personal tastes and interests.

“Roller derby allows women to bond together in a fashion they haven’t been able to before,” said Danielle Wilkerson, aka Lucy Lockdown, a student at OCCC and retired veteran of the Oklahoma Victory Dolls.

“When you are helping and also learning from each other, it’s very easy to form a sisterly bond,” Wilkerson said.

“Roller derby is all about pushing yourself to limits that you never thought you could meet, let alone surpass. Not just physical limits but mental and emotional ones as well.”

For more information, visit their website at www.oklahomaaviictorydolls.com or e-mail them at contactus@okvd.net.

Roller Derby History

Roller derby developed as a sport in 1935, according to Catherine Mabe’s book on roller derby. In the beginning it was designed as a marathon style competition of average people interested in roller skating.

Soon a 47-year-old woman named Josephine “Ma” Bogash joined the derby. Bogash’s skill and strength attracted an all new audience of housewives. Because of Bogash’s influence, women flocked to watch their peers in a female sport, something that was lacking at the time, Mabe wrote.

The first breath of modern roller derby sprang out of Austin, TX, in 2001. A group of skaters banded together and formed Bad Girl Good Woman Productions. BGGW decided to do things differently. According to Mabe, the first change was no men, although derby had been coed to this point.

The second change was that management of the teams would be done by skaters, which coined the phrase: “For the skaters, by the skaters.”

Eventually management disputes led to the break up of BGGW and the teams split in 2003.

One group left to form the flat track league, Texas Rollergirls. The other formed a banked track league named Texas Roller Derby Lonestar Rollergirls, now the infamous TXRD as featured on A&E’s Rollergirls. They are both still going strong today.

The banked track is a throwback to the old days with a massive oval shaped track. The banked track has an inward slope on the curves that allows for skaters to gain momentum while jamming.

A flat track is much more portable than a bank track. With a flat track league, one is capable of setting up a bout virtually anywhere with a flat surface and some tape or rope lights.

Before you knew it, derby teams were popping up in every city.

Oklahoma City was no exception. Oklahoma City is home to the Oklahoma Victory Dolls, founded in 2007. They play on a flat track.

There are currently two teams in the Oklahoma City area, with additional teams in Lawton and Tulsa.

Each team is coached by the players. There is generally a veteran of the league who oversees training new girls, but all the girls pitch in on techniques and improving which increases the bonding between team players.

In forefront is OCCC pre-nursing student Camille Ford-Atkins as the Oklahoma Victory Doll’s alter the ego Camie-Kazee, in jammer position. She breaks through the pack during roller derby practice Nov. 15 at Star Skate in Norman. Atkins has completed her “rookie” year with the Victory Dolls, who compete nationally.
Dec. 6: Abs Express class from 5:05 to 5:25 p.m. in the OCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Dec. 6: Cardio Kickboxing class from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. in the OCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Dec. 8: Combo Aerobics class from noon to 12:55 p.m. in the OCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Dec. 8: Pilates class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the OCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Dec. 9: Hatha Yoga class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the OCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Dec. 9: Zumba class from noon to 12:55 p.m. and again from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. in the OCC Wellness Center. Additional classes offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Dec. 10: Water exercise class from 7:45 to 8:40 a.m. and again from 9 to 9:55 a.m. in the OCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

OCCC offers fitness classes

RYAN PULS
News Writing Student

As students return to OCCC after the Thanksgiving holiday, many may be looking for ways to lose the holiday weight they put on from helpings of turkey, stuffing, and pie.

OCCC offers a variety of fitness classes at times that are convenient for everyone. Classes start as early as 7:45 a.m. and end as late as 8:15 p.m.

For students looking for an intense workout, OCCC offers a Cardio Kickboxing class that started Dec. 1.

Cardio Kickboxing meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. Recreation and fitness sports assistant Charlie Tarver said he has been told the kickboxing class is the most intense class the college offers.

Tarver said those looking for something a little less intense and more on the fun side, Zumba is the way to go.

“Zumba is the most popular class because of the music and the beat people can dance to,” Tarver said.

Classes are offered from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, noon to 12:55 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Fridays.

The cost for Zumba classes is $25, except the Friday class which costs $20.

The Monday and Wednesday classes run from Dec. 1 until Dec. 22, Tuesday and Thursday classes run from Dec. 2 through Dec. 23, and Friday classes run from Dec. 3 through Dec. 17.

“I think a lot of people want to look for a way to lose some of the turkey weight,” Cory Thacker, art major, said.

“Cardio kickboxing would probably benefit those who are looking for an intense workout although Zumba is starting to become more and more popular.”

Tarver said students can enroll in three ways: by phone, online or in person.

To enroll online, go to www.occc.edu/rf, then select the Online Enrollment tab on the left side.

To enroll by phone, call 405-682-7860. Enroll in person at the Recreation and Fitness office. Payment can be in the form of cash, check, or credit card.

Office hours are from 6 a.m. through 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. Friday and on from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. Saturday.

Do you have sports news 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. 7676.
Thieves make off with backpack, iPhones

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Recently, several thefts have taken place across the OCCC campus. The epicenter was the Fitness and Wellness Center.

On Monday, Nov. 15, student Darrio Moss reported his backpack had been stolen while he was working out. Moss said he placed his things in a locker but did not lock his locker. The contents of the backpack included a textbook and a T-shirt.

Also on Nov. 15, Elyssa Daur reported her iPhone had been stolen while she used the ladies room across the hall from the Safety and Security office. She had set her phone down and forgotten about it. Daur said she returned to retrieve her phone 10 minutes later to find it had been taken. Security cameras in the area show several possible suspects but nothing conclusive.

On Nov. 18 OCCC student Jacques Trenton reported his iPhone and several credit cards had been stolen from his clothes and backpack while he showered following his workout. Trenton said he had placed his belongings in an unsecured locker and returned to find several items missing. The phone is valued at $200.

Website: www.occc.edu survey shows where changes are needed

Continued from page 1

will feature a tuition calculator for students to use.

Another feature highly sought after by students is a private social networking site accessible only by OCCC students. Geyer said that was an unexpected finding.

“IT’s normally something we only see in four-year and private institutions,” she said.

“But because students here have expressed the desire for this kind of connection, we will see what we can do.”

In addition to the tuition calculator and social media site, she said, prospective students surveyed also suggested features like customized website personalization and online forms to request campus visits and information such as course catalogs.

Three-quarters of the 190 faculty and staff members who participated in the study said they not only regularly access the website from work, but also from home and mobile phones.

Many employees cited MineOnline and the employee e-mail system as their favorite website tools, Gower said, although nearly half reported struggling with managing the multiple passwords needed to use the different web applications.

In addition, 85 percent of surveyed employees said they would appreciate a comprehensive portal featuring a single password to log into all programs.

Nearly half of 152 surveyed community members said they use the OCCC website to research upcoming community events and programs, such as Arts Festival Oklahoma and the Cultural Arts Series.

Geyer said these individuals turn to the website in search of facility details, schedules and offers.

In addition, she said, almost 90 percent of surveyed citizens said they would appreciate an online system that would allow them to register and pay for recreational classes online.

Other frequently requested items included an easy-to-find calendar, virtual tours, and an e-mail inquiry form, Geyer said.

She said the website’s preliminary framework testing should begin soon.

No launch date has been announced for the website’s debut, Geyer said.

ANGEL: Orientation part of Achieving the Dream initiative

Continued from page 1

a classroom setting, Whisenhunt said.

“You still have to do homework, log into the course, and take tests,” she said. “You must know how to use a mouse, save and retrieve a document as well as have the proper settings and programs on your computer.”

The second section looks at where things are located within ANGEL, Whisenhunt said.

She compared this part of the orientation to a map. It is similar to finding classes — only instead of classrooms, it looks at the tabs where the course content is located, she said.

“The third part is set up to allow you to learn how the features of ANGEL work,” Whisenhunt said.

In this section the goal is learning how to take quizzes, use a drop box and operate the course mail.

Whisenhunt said the orientation is part of the Achieving the Dream online student success program.

She said students in online classes are statistically less likely to complete the semester, compared to traditional classes.

“We began to notice a gap between online students and on-campus students. This is the support they need to help them be more successful.”

During the Board of Regents regular meeting Nov. 15, Felix Aquino, vice president of academic affairs, briefly spoke about the improvement in online success.

From the year 2007 to the year 2010, success rates in online courses have shown a steady 4 percent increase in 1000-level courses and a 1.2 percent increase within the last year in 2000-level courses.

“The online course completion was one of the priorities of Achieving the Dream and our efforts appear to be very good,” Aquino said.

“The orientation was created in response to information gathered from OCCC students about issues that many faced when they begin using ANGEL,” Whisenhunt said.

“For the year 2010, 20.9 percent of all enrollments were delivered in an online format.”

Student Courtney Bull said the orientation might have helped her if she had taken it before jumping into online learning.

“This is my first online class and it was challenging learning how to use the online program,” Bull said.

“It was very confusing and it got my roommate and me off to a rocky start.”

The idea is that students should work through the orientation before enrolling in an online course to decrease difficulty when they begin.

For someone who is not familiar with ANGEL, or is taking an online class for the first time, the orientation will probably be of some assistance, Bull said.

Whisenhunt said the numbers are encouraging.

“The first day it was available, people accessed the orientation 4,284 times. Four hundred fifty-four students have completed the first assessment and 271 students have successfully completed the orientation.”

Whisenhunt said it takes about an hour to work through the entire orientation.

“We realize the orientation is long, but all the content in it is necessary to help students be successful in the use of ANGEL,” Whisenhunt said.

For more information about ANGEL orientation, visit www.occc.edu and click on the information banner at the top of the page.
Health Profession club members and sponsor physics professor Steve Kamm, (front, kneeling), gather in the lobby of the Oklahoma Heart Hospital prior to beginning a tour. Kamm and biology professor Kim Kyker, along with 22 students, took a two-hour tour of the hospital led by COO of Oklahoma Heart Hospital staff John Austin and chief nursing officer Janet Fundaro. “They have a philosophy that it should be like going to a five-star hotel and not to a hospital,” Kamm said. “You’re greeted by concierges. You can order full meals at any hour of the day, no restricted visiting hours and family members can stay in their own room.”

JOEY STIPEK
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

OCCC’s Health Professions club took an educational tour of the brand new Oklahoma Heart Hospital south campus located at 5200 E. 1-240 Service Road in Oklahoma City on Nov. 12. The hospital opened this past January.

Health Professions sponsor and physics professor Steven Kamm and biology professor Kim Kyker, along with 22 students, took a two-hour tour of the hospital led by Chief Operating Officer of Oklahoma Heart Hospital staff John Austin and chief nursing officer Janet Fundaro.

Kamm said a letter he received about a heart check-up over the summer prompted him to send the hospital a query about a possible student tour. “I was surprised when I heard back from them about scheduling a student visit,” he said.

Kamm, who has taken students on four or five hospital visits during his tenure at OCCC, said it’s difficult to get into a hospital with all the restrictions related to patient privacy.

He said the students thought the Oklahoma Heart Hospital facilities were amazing. “They have a philosophy that it should be like going to a five-star hotel and not to a hospital,” Kamm said. “You’re greeted by concierges. You can order full meals at any hour of the day, no restricted visiting hours and family members can stay in their own room.”

Our hospital is a new model for staff and the way we deliver care.

—Janet Fundaro
Oklahoma Heart Hospital Chief Nursing Officer

“Y ou’re greeted by concierges. Y ou can order full meals at any hour of the day, no restricted visiting hours and family members can stay in their own room.”

Calling all clubs
Does your club have an upcoming event or meeting? If so, call Christy Johnson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410, or e-mail communitywriter@occc.edu.
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.

ROOMMATE WANTED:
Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom, pets allowed, no smoking or alcohol inside the apartment, $250 per month. Call Jaime at 405-520-1262 or e-mail jaimecom@lycos.com.

FOR SALE: TI-84 & TI Inspire keyboards, operating systems. Looks new, used for one semester. Manual, software, $50.00. Call: 405-682-7804 or e-mail jatkinson@occc.edu.


FOR RENT:
Roommate Wanted: Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom, pets allowed, no smoking or alcohol inside the apartment, $250 per month. Call A.J. at 405-549-3398 or e-mail olalekanjl@yahoo.com.

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

FOR SALE:
2005 Dodge Neon, four door, four cylinder, manual transmission, 35 mpg, 144K miles, runs great and good condition. $2,950. OBO. Call: Mike at 405-702-0562.

FOR SALE:
Used Galanz microwave oven for only $25. Works good and looks great. Call Ahmed at 405-996-0609.

FOR SALE:
2005 Dodge Neon, four door, four cylinder, manual transmission, 35 mpg, 144K miles, runs great and good condition. $2,950. OBO. Call: Mike at 405-702-0562.

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Larousse student dictionary English-French for only $5. Useful for students. Few other books for Business major are also available. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@gmail.com.

FOR RENT:
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. $87,500. Call 405-364-8555, 405-820-3630 or e-mail cshutt1@cox.net.

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TODAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Bushy hairdo
5. Desert plant
10. Is welcome to
14. Writer Harto
15. British sailor
16. Walk or gallop
17. Gravy dish
18. Sleep sound
19. Nothing but
20. Taj Mahal site
21. Persists in an
19. Annoying action
23. Clever one
25. Summer mo.
26. Certain
31. South American animal
36. Chaney of film
37. Part of a jacket
38. Black
39. Recognized
40. Some portraits
44. Golden Fleece
45. Wild shrub
47. Larist
49. “Bllard” ending
50. Alpine region
52. Bedspread material
54. Practical joke
56. Band ammity:
57. Swift air current
62. Speck

DOWWN
1. Swedish rock group
2. Prince in disguise?
3. Back
4. City in Ontario
5. Four-footed shepherd
6. Liquors
7. One way to run?
8. Ice...
9. Good look
10. Inventor
11. Ragen’s wife
12. Highlander’s attire
13. Farm home
14. Act like a wolf?
15. Ws. neighbor
16. Kinds
17. Baskery item
18. Adversary

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Follow us at www.occc.edu/pioneer

Musicians Needed
The Cross, an established southside church, but under new direction with a passion for Christ and His people, is seeking one or more musicians with keyboard or guitar performance experience who would love to serve their Lord and Savior in a small but growing work.

Interested can call Pastor Mike at 405-641-8194 or Natalie at 405-641-0611.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

1. Vapor
2. Eggs
3. Hail
4. Race
5. Norse
6. Tiger
7. Russia
8. Texas
9. Amazing
10. Woman
11. Men
12. Ten
13. Tenzin
14. ford
15. Chess
16. cats
17. row
18. Face
19. Food
20. Cat
21. Kicks
22. Free
23. Head
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CLASSIFIEDS
Norman rock band Scissor members left to right: Jacob Reynolds, Jon Smith, Tommy Grotts and Eric Welch recently won The Wire student radio’s Battle of the Bands at the University of Oklahoma. Reynolds and Welch are OCCC students.

GETTING THE WORD OUT FIRST ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

Students have hopes for band

SCOTT MICHAEL
News Writing Student

Norman rock band Scissor has but one goal, “Keep good music alive.”

For more than three years, singer Eric Welch and drummer Jacob Reynolds have been doing just that.

The two OCCC students, along with bandmates Tommy Grotts and Jon Smith, have already seen success in their quest for music’s immortality, winning The Wire student radio’s Battle of the Bands Nov. 12 at the University of Oklahoma.

Scissor’s definition of success, however, differs from the majority.

“I feel like 90 percent of the music out there today is focused on the money aspect of the business,” Reynolds said.

“We’re just trying to create good music that we think people will enjoy. Honestly, we’re just having fun.”

The band’s music-first approach doesn’t mean they wouldn’t appreciate business.

With three songs already recorded and scheduled studio time in its future, Scissor plans to produce a full-length album when time and money permit.

Although the band is classified as rock ’n roll, Scissor members consider their band as somewhat of a hybrid, with influences ranging from Stevie Ray Vaughn and Jimi Hendrix to Blink 182 and Nirvana.

“We’re not widely known yet so we’re just trying to get our music out there at this point.”

—Jacob Reynolds
OCCC Student and Scissor Frontman

“"The funny thing is, we all have different influences,” Welch said.

“Jon and Jacob are more greatly influenced by ’90s rock; whereas, my influences are spontaneous and all over the place.”

While Scissor has been playing together for more than three years, the band’s recent success has them looking to the future more than ever before.

“I’d like to be touring the country and release an album,” Welch said of his band’s career.

“That would be the ideal situation.”

Reynolds added to his singer’s aspirations, saying, “We’re not widely known yet so we’re just trying to get our music out there at this point.”

While that may be true, Scissor has already made believers out of their growing fan base.

Sara Weaver said she first saw Scissor play in March and has been a fan ever since.

“I really liked the song ‘Octopus,’” Weaver said of her first impression of Scissor. “It’s really upbeat and the drummer goes crazy on the drums.”

While the band continues to grow, Scissor remains grounded, putting the music first.

“I just hope people like our music enough to keep supporting us,” Reynolds said about the growth of his band.

“I just want to have fun with it while I can.”

That may not seem to be asking much, but as for Scissor’s fans, they see the potential.

“They have the potential to go as far as they want,” Weaver said of the band’s talent.

“They’re music is really good and could take them many places.”

Scissor can be heard at www.myspace.com/scissoringeric, with an album forthcoming.