OCCC starts conversion to Moodle

ANGEL being replaced after being bought out by Blackboard

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With the start of the new year and new semester also comes the introduction to a new learning management system — Moodle rooms.

Until now, ANGEL was the system used for online classes, said Greg Gardner, academic affairs associate vice president. “ANGEL got bought out by Blackboard and so we were forced to make some transition,” Gardner said.

He said there are about 70 sections of online classes that will be using the new format.

The reasoning behind having only a select few classes using Moodle rooms this semester is to test the new learning system. “We are a little cautious,” Gardner said. “We have been working for the last three to four months to migrate some of our main courses into Moodle rooms.

“When you click to log in, you will see a new page that is where you choose either Moodle rooms or ANGEL,” Gardner said.

Gardner said all students enrolled in an online class this semester were sent a pamphlet to their home address advising them how to log on.

Jonathan Akuma, petroleum engineering major, said he’s not pleased with the change.

“… Back then it was easier to log in without getting new pages popping up on the computer,” he said. “Even after the orientation, some people are not that good with computers and it could be confusing.”

Gardner said there is an online orientation to the Moodle rooms page.

Seddik Halabi, petroleum engineering major and ANGEL user, said that will be particularly helpful.

After initial hesitation about using ANGEL, some students like Halabi had

See SWITCH page 9

Welcome to OCCC

Student Amanda Shipley gets directions to her medical terminology class from Welcome Desk employee Kevin Hernandez on Jan. 17, the first day of classes for the spring semester.

APPlicants need to prepare a short musical sample

Play auditions set for Feb. 6 and 7

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OCCC’s Theater Department and Music Department are holding auditions for the musical, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.”

Auditions will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 and 7 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” is a comedic musical written by Stephen Sondheim, and is based off of Roman comedy, said Theater Professor Brent Noel.

“The plot involves a lot of intrigue and deception, and long-lost daughters … It’s a very complex plot.” — BRENT NOEL
OCCC THEATER PROFESSOR

The musical resembles “Fawlty Towers,” — a British sitcom involving a man who runs everything and tries to keep everything under control although it is falling apart around him, Noel said.

See AUDITIONS page 9
Smokers finally face the music

As if lung cancer and rotted teeth weren’t enough, smokers now face another risk from their nicotine addiction: it could cost them a potential job.

Across the U.S., many employers — primarily hospitals and health departments — have implemented not only a no-smoking ban, but also a no-smokers policy. They won’t hire applicants whose urine tests positive for nicotine use.

This writer only has one question: What took so long?

Banning smokers from the workplace would not only have a significant effect on the health of employees, but also on companies themselves.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cigarette smoking and the results of secondhand smoke cost companies $92 billion in productivity losses every year.

On average, smokers miss twice as much work as their non-smoking co-workers. When you factor in their frequent smoke breaks, that equals hours of lost work time every week.

Before OCCC banned smoking on campus, a group of my smoking co-workers would file out of the office for a 10-minute smoke break at the top of the hour every day.

In a typical workday, that would add up to more than an hour of inactivity.

Now, those same co-workers take an even larger chunk of time out of their day to pile into someone’s car and drive across the street.

It’s about the time the line gets drawn.

A regulation banning smoking employees went into effect at the Baylor Health Care System in Texas this month, and already smoking proponents have cried foul, citing discrimination.

Employers cannot consider things like race, gender, or ethnicity when hiring an employee, because these factors — unlike the decision to smoke — are not a choice.

They also cannot consider religion, which may be a choice — but not one that carries the risk of making co-workers ill the way smokers might.

According to www.cancer.org, non-smokers are exposed to secondhand smoke at work more than anywhere else. More than 50,000 people die every year due to diseases brought on by secondhand smoke.

Most companies wouldn’t hire a criminal who might pose a threat to those around them, so why should they hire a walking health hazard?

— Whiteny Knight

Illegally violating smokers’ rights always wrong

Recently, certain companies are using drug tests to determine whether prospective employees use nicotine products. Those who don’t hire.

Civil rights 101: regulating a legal behavior that a private individual engages in on his or her own time is discrimination.

But smokers aren’t a protected class, of course.

So discrimination is OK, because it’s for the better health of the public overall, and the health of the smoker in particular, right?

So let’s stop hiring overweight individuals. After all, being overweight carries just as many health risks as smoking.

Or how about we regulate sexual behavior? Unprotected sex carries the risk of a number of diseases ranging from those curable with antibiotics to those that require a lifetime of ongoing therapy just to manage.

Why hire people who put themselves and others at risk of serious harm?

Better yet, let’s stop hiring the terminally ill. Is an individual who has a better than average chance of taking sick days, or who may die soon, worth the cost of training or insurance?

If the thought of denying jobs across the board based on terminal illness, physical fitness, or personal morality sounds sickening or frightening, that’s because it is.

Such behavior is prejudiced and discriminatory and would render unemployable a vast population of individuals.

So, discrimination is OK, as long as the group affected is minimal — just like the mindset that it’s OK to discriminate against homosexuals, African Americans, or Muslims?

Smoking may not be an unchangeable part of who a person is, as many minorities are.

But it is the protected right of an individual to engage in legal behavior on his or her own time.

At what point are the rights of the individual less important than the rights of a majority?

Or, simply put: are we, as individuals, willing to allow others to be discriminated against, and risk that we might be next?

— Jeremy Cloud

Editor
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Cliché plotline makes for boring theater experience

‘Devil Inside’ same ol’ story

The wave of paranormal mockumentaries continues with “The Devil Inside,” released on Jan. 6 of this year. And “Devil” isn’t all that bad. Unfortunately, it isn’t all that good either.

A somewhat unoriginal film, “Devil” follows Isabella Rossi (Fernanda Andrade) a young woman searching for answers about her mother Maria (Suzan Crowley), who committed three murders while undergoing an unauthorized exorcism.

While using such a cliché plot might be forgivable if “Devil” put a new spin on it, the writers chose instead to simply borrow ideas and techniques wholesale.

The story begins with Maria Rossi’s spectacular act of homicide. It then skips forward by over a decade, and we find Maria has been transferred to a Vatican sanatorium in Rome, with no explanation.

If that had ever become a plot point, a lot of holes could have been forgiven. But instead, the unexplained jump is just one of many holes created by sloppy writing as a way to advance the plot without actually writing any plot.

As with the “Blair Witch Project,” or the “Paranormal Activity” trilogy, the film used relative unknowns, striving to make the characters seem like normal individuals in unusual circumstances. But unlike the cast of “Paranormal Activity,” the cast of “Devil” acts anything but normal, swinging wildly from mood to mood, and portraying their characters so one-dimensionally that the three main characters come off as laughable cutouts of people.

Andrade gives every move and mood of her character a thick patina of angst.

Simon Quaterman’s portrayal of Father Ben Rawlings can be described in two words: righteous rebel.

And Evan Helmuth plays Father David Keane in one of the most spectacularly unbelievable reversals in movie history. For the first half of the film, Fr. Keane is a cautious, forward thinking exorcist with medical training. For the last half, he’s a simpering child that fears the retribution of his superiors. No stops, no transitions, minimal explanation.

Worst bit? The Fr. Keane character was the voice of reason, literally. The writers seem to have given him a nervous break for no reason other than to avoid having him save the day by calling the others attention to events.

While the effects were on par with the best of this genre released in the last few years, they just can’t save “Devil” from the mediocrity of the writers and actors.

Bottom line: Unless you like high-class B-horror flicks, give this one a pass.

Rating: B–

JEREMY CLOUD
STAFF WRITER

Q.: Are there any fish in the ponds around campus?

A.: Yes. Often, people go fishing in the ponds. However, eating the fish from them is not recommended.

—Larry Barnes
Project Manager

Q.: What is OCCC doing to help retention?

A.: Student Life tries to do their part to help student retention by strongly encouraging social connections.

—Marcy Roll
Student Life Assistant

Q.: Where can I dispose of a large amount of recycling materials?

A.: There is a large recycling dumpster, located behind the College Union, that is collected and recycled often.

—Larry Barnes
Project Manager

Do you have a question you’d like answered about the OCCC campus? Send your question to Editor Jeremy Cloud at editor@occc.edu

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Satisfactory Academic Progress explained further

Financial Aid dean says story misrepresented facts

To the Editor:

The two articles in [the Jan. 13] Pioneer have misinformation.

1. Financial Aid Title IV Regulations, pertaining to Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), went into effect July 1, 2011, for SAP evaluations beginning with fall semester. The Financial Aid Office has made numerous attempts to inform students and our campus colleagues of these changes.

2. The Financial Aid Office staff made numerous presentations to students in the Success in College and Life courses [during] the fall semester, during which changes in the SAP policy were explained.

3. Financial aid students at risk after the close of the 2010-2011 financial aid year were notified by email Aug. 7 that changes had occurred that would specifically impact their financial aid at the close of fall semester. They were encouraged to seek help from Student Support Services during fall to try to meet standards.

The Financial Aid Office forwarded the list of at-risk students to Student Support Services [and] the week of fall grades were posted all financial aid recipients were sent a postcard (because they may not be checking email) that Satisfactory Academic Progress notices would be emailed that week and students should check their email. Students were encouraged to take necessary action online, over the break, to help expedite appeals. Those email notices went out to all students evaluated on Dec. 23.

4. Each year when students are awarded Title IV Federal Financial Assistance, email notifications are sent informing students to view their awards on their MineOnline account. In the text of that email are links to several important and required online documents that address important information students need to understand pertaining to financial aid. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is one of those and the latest policy changes have been out there since last spring on the Financial Aid Webpage prior to the start of the 2011-2012 award cycle.

5. The Financial Aid Office evaluated 6,142 students last fall and 6,237 students this fall. Last fall 745 students went to an unsatisfactory status and this fall 1259 students went to an unsatisfactory status. The increase of 514 from last fall to this fall is likely the result of the changes in federal regulations. 477 appeals have been approved since Jan. 3. These students are enrolled for spring.

6. Withdrawals have always been considered unsuccessful under Federal Title IV regulations. This has always been in the SAP policy available to students as hard copy, online and even mailed. It is now a link on their award notification email as well.

7. Evaluating cumulative academic history has always been a requirement of Federal Title IV regulations pertaining to SAP policy. That is the purpose of the appeal process which has always been available.

8. Federal Title IV requirements for appeals stipulate each appeal must be handled on a case-by-case basis. Many appeals are not approved because the cumulative impact of academic performance will make it impossible for a given student to reach GPA (1.7 or 2.0) or completion rate requirements (67 percent) of attempted credit hours before they hit a third standard and that is completing a certificate within 45 credit hours or a degree within 90 credit hours attempted. Bottom line, dropping courses to maintain a GPA doesn’t enable a student to maintain eligibility for Federal Title IV Student Financial Assistance. It’s all in the SAP policy. The Financial Aid Office, per Federal Title IV Regulations, is not allowed to use academic forgiveness/reprieve when evaluating academic progress.

9. It was not mentioned that the College (Financial Aid) chose to implement the Financial Aid Academic Plan (FAAP) to help provide an opportunity for students to seek assistance from Student Support Services and extend financial aid eligibility for students who may meet standards in a couple of semesters if given the opportunity to be on a FAAP.

This was not a requirement of Federal Title IV regulations but an option for Financial Aid Offices and the FAO at OCCC worked with Student Support Services to put the plan in place. Of the 477 appeals mentioned above that have been approved, 53 are approved for a FAAP.

—Harold L. Case
Student Financial Support Services
Dean
**MOVIE REVIEW** | Second installment of Sherlock Holmes just as intriguing as first

**Robert Downey Jr. brings back grandeur in ‘Sherlock’**

In “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows,” Robert Downey Jr. reprises his role as Sherlock Holmes, bringing all of his grandeur to the screen as the famous investigator with immense talent and layers of mystery.

“Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows” opened nationwide on Dec. 16, bringing back an all-star cast for yet another delightful romp through author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s world.

Jude Law returns as Holmes’ friend and colleague Dr. Watson along with Rachel McAdams, played by Irene Adler, as Holmes’ love interest/rival. Law is charming as Watson, adding the flair his fans have long come to expect. His romance with Kelly Reilly is moved to the next level, as she becomes Mrs. Watson.

Guy Ritchie’s adaptation of this classic tale and much-anticipated sequel is masterfully delivered and chock full of action once again. The cinematography is brilliant and leaves the viewer wanting more.

There are headlines breaking around the world with a series of coincidental events — or so it seems — until Holmes follows the string of unusual events that leads him right back to the sinister Professor Moriarty, played by Jared Harris. On the eve of Watson’s wedding, Holmes convinces him to take one last investigation with him.

In her first English-speaking role, we meet Swedish actress Noomi Rapace, who gained international attention in the movie “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” as a mysterious gypsy Sim, who befriends Holmes and Watson.

Many moviegoers may already anticipate the honeymoon is anything but typical as the sinister Moriarty is a menace to that getaway. Moriarty is clever but crazy and sure-footed without an ounce of conscience, proving to be a worthy opponent for Holmes. Moriarty is the type of character we love to hate. He’s a mastermind, always staying one step ahead of Holmes.

As the plot thickens, we are taken on a grandiose journey through France, Switzerland and Germany, filled with incredible gunfights that bring you to the edge of your seat as Holmes and his friends elude a crazed attack from Moriarty. The closer Holmes gets to the mastermind, the more his friends suffer.

In true Ritchie fashion, the plot is revealed in the latter part of the movie keeping the audience engaged along the way.

Ritchie, along with husband-and-wife writing team Kieran and Michele Mulroney, devise clever under tones of power, lust and intellect, making this movie a must see for those who enjoy a little humor amidst the intrigue. It didn’t disappoint this fan.

**Rating:** A+

— **Yvonne Alex**

**Staff Writer**

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**RESTAURANT REVIEW** | North Oklahoma City eatery serves up slices of Italian delicacies and more

**Falcone’s Pizzaria and Deli food delizioso**

Falcone’s Pizzeria and Deli is a great little place to grab a slice of pie, calzone or deli sandwich whenever you are on the northwest side of Oklahoma City. It is located at 6705 N May Avenue.

I ate at Falcone’s on Thursday, Jan. 12. The food was great, and the service was fast and friendly.

When you first enter the restaurant and the Italian food aroma hits your nose, you know you are at the right place.

The entry area has shelving filled with imported dry pastas, sauces, olive oil and other Italian delicacies that customers can purchase and take home to cook. They also have a good variety of imported deli meats and cheeses.

The dining area of the restaurant has both tables and booths available for seating. The walls are decorated with movie posters from movies like “The Godfather” and “Scarface” that are signed by the actors and directors. There also is a more secluded part of the dining area that has all sorts of signed baseball memorabilia.

Falcone’s has great New York style pizza sold by the big slice. The crust is thin, crisp and tasty perfection. The sauce is not too tangy and not too sweet. The toppings and cheese are good and they put plenty on each slice.

While the pizza is awesome, it isn’t the only star on the menu. Falcone’s has the best fried mozzarella in Oklahoma City. The mozzarella is imported and not frozen.

Falcone’s has cold dishes, like antipasto salad and insalata di polipo (octopus salad) and desserts like Italian ice, tiramisu and, of course, cannoli.

My personal favorite at Falcone’s is the chicken parmesan sandwich. It is, as the name suggests, a sandwich filled with a breaded chicken cutlet, marinara, and topped with mozzarella cheese. If you like chicken parmesan on a plate, you’ll fall in love with it on a sandwich.

The location on north May Avenue was the first location opened by the owner Danny Falcone. At one time there were locations in Bricktown, Bethany, Midwest City and Edmond, but with the recent economic downturn, the Falcone’s on May Avenue is the only one left. It also will be easier to maintain quality with only one location.

Recently, a new partnership was struck between Danny Falcone and Philip Custino. Custino was the owner of three successful Italian restaurants in the early 1990’s called Custino’s. In fact, a slice of Custino’s famous lasagna is served with garlic bread at Falcone’s now for only $5.

I got to talk briefly with Custino after my meal. He had been retired, but seemed obviously happy to be back in his element.

Overall, Falcone’s is an awesome little restaurant, and has been one of my favorites ever since I first ate there. With the Custino partnership, it will only get better.

**Rating:** A+

— **Chris James**

**Staff Writer**

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Student Life calendar out

Students can look forward to a variety of activities from hockey night to skills seminars

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Student Life is hosting many of their traditional programs in addition to plenty of new ones this spring semester, said Amy Reynolds, First Year Experience and Student Life Programs coordinator.

Recently, a handful of New Student Orientation sessions were held and a set of activities were planned for Welcome Week.

Currently, discounted tickets are on sale for the OCCC Night at the Barons, a chance to attend an ice hockey game taking place later this month at a discount. The Oklahoma City Barons will play the Houston Aeros at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. Tickets are on sale in the Student Life office, located on the first floor of the Main Building.

Brown Bag seminars are also back and will be held once a week this semester. Sessions include study skills, online learning, financial planning, healthy relationships and more.

And, in March, Celebrate Students Week is taking place.

“We’re going to be focusing a lot on awareness,” Reynolds said.

Included are a Beer Goggles Obstacle Maze and a lecture by date doctor David Coleman.

Reynolds said a car care session is also on the agenda this spring.

During the month of April, students will get detailed tips on exactly how to manage and take care of their vehicle.

“One of the new programs that we have going on this spring that we’re really looking forward to is our Strengths Quest Seminar series,” Reynolds said.

“It’s something we’ve never done before, so we are really excited to give students that opportunity.”

The seminar will be occurring on Mondays in February and on Tuesdays in April. During that time students will be taking online assessments to try and figure out what their personal strengths are.

“What we’re going to do is teach students how to use those strengths in their everyday life,” Reynolds said.

“There’s really a lot going on,” she concluded.

For more information, or to view a calendar of Student Life events, stop by the Student Life office located in the Main Building or visit their page online at https://occc.campusgroups.com/calendar. Student Life can also be reached at 405-682-7523.

Leadership scholarship created

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A new scholarship is available through OCCC for students. The Dr. Marion Paden Distinguished Leadership Award has been established for students who have given back to the community.

According to the description on the OCCC employee website: “A percentage of the $15,000 endowed scholarship from Regent [John] Massey will be awarded annually to a deserving student on a case by case basis.”

The scholarship was created in the name of Paden, vice president of enrollment and student services.

“We want to recognize people who balance educational experience with some civic experience and service learning,” Paden said. “We want to reward people who balance scholastic endeavors with a service heart.”

Paden described a service heart as having the mindset where “you do it because it’s in your heart to do it. It is very centered on the other person.”

Co-workers said Paden speaks from experience.

Student Life Director Erin Logan said Paden is the “textbook definition of a servant leader.”

“This award is given [in her name] to recognize her for her leadership because of her hard work, her service to OCCC and to the community,” she said.

Kim Velleca, Paden’s administrative assistant, agrees. “There is a certain level of admiration for what she does,” Velleca said.

“She’s a very busy person with her commitment to the college and her commitment outside of the college. “She does a lot of things. Her involvement in volunteer work is something to be admired. For instance she’s possibly getting ready to do polio vaccinations in India.”

For more information on the scholarship, contact the office of the Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services at 405-682-7879.

Requirements for the Distinguished Leadership Award

Applicants must:

• be enrolled in Spring 2012
• hold an OCCC institutional GPA of 3.0 or higher.
• have completed the OCCC Civic Honors Program.

In addition to the application, applicants must submit a copy of the reflection paper from the Civic Honors portfolio, a completed personal statement, and two letters of recommendation.

Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, March 16.
**Expert advises seeing a doctor at the first sign of flu**

**JEREMY CLOUD**
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Contrary to the common belief that the best way to handle the flu is to stay home and suffer through, a person who believes they are coming down with the flu should seek treatment, said Lisa Teel, emergency planning and risk management director.

"If you believe you have the flu, then as quickly as you can, go to your medical care provider," Teel said.

"There are antiviral medications that can be administered within the first 24 to 48 hours that can lessen the severity of your symptoms so it doesn't knock you flat on your back."

However, Teel said, the best way to avoid getting or spreading the flu is to practice common courtesy and common sense.

"If you sneeze or cough, do it into a tissue, throw it away and immediately wash your hands," Teel said.

"If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not your hand, to avoid passing it on."

Flu can be spread through coughing, sneezing or indirect contact, Teel said.

"If someone has the germs on their hands and they touch a telephone or a keyboard (or) a doorknob, then those germs can be picked up by someone else touching that object," she said.

"If that person then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth, then they can contract it. So it is highly communicable that way."

And while alcohol sanitizers can kill germs if they have a 60 percent or more alcohol base, as the sanitizer around the college does, it's no substitute for hand washing, Teel said.

"But in the event that you don't have the opportunity to wash your hands, it can be used as a back up, and it can kill some germs."

However, the best way for an infected person to prevent the spread of flu at work or school is to stay home, Teel said.

And the reason for that level of caution isn't based solely on how contagious the disease is, she said, but also on how long it's contagious.

"Lysol's a good thing to have around," Teel said.

"If that person then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth, then they can contract it. So it is highly communicable that way."

In the event that a co-worker or fellow student comes in with flu-like symptoms, Teel said, try to avoid using the equipment they use. If the equipment is shared, however, sanitizing is the best bet.

"Lyso's a good thing to have around," Teel said.

"We keep it in my office, and if anybody calls and says they're sick, we immediately go and spray down their keyboard and telephone, and any equipment they may have used."

Teel said to also keep a bit of distance from a sick individual, if they're not feeling well, to go home, Teel said.

"So if you're not feeling well, definitely let your supervisor know."

Flu shots also are a definite must for flu season, Teel said.

"You should have them, regardless of your age. A lot of people have the misconception that it's a live virus in the shots and that they'll get a touch of the flu when they get the shot. That is not true. They use a dead virus in the shots."

Teel said the shots take about two weeks to work, and that anyone exposed to the flu within that time frame after receiving the shots may still get sick, which may give rise to the misconception.

Teel said the shots are only good for six months.

"So you absolutely should have a shot twice a year, to keep your immunity up."
Boeing moving more than 800 jobs to Oklahoma City

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Boeing, the world's leading aerospace company and the largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners, will be closing its decades-old Defense, Space and Security plant in Wichita, Kansas, by the end of 2013. This closure will bring more than 800 jobs to the metro area for aerospace engineers with the remaining jobs going to San Antonio.

This announcement could more than double Boeing's workforce in the coming months.

In addition to building commercial jetliners and military aircraft, they design and manufacture satellites, launch vehicles, rotorcraft, electronic and defense systems, advanced information and communication systems.

Roy Williams, CEO and President of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, said this move will open the door for many.

"There will definitely be positions at the top," Williams said, "but Boeing will have a multitude of positions and wants to tap into the talent market in Oklahoma City. They have had a good experience so far.

Williams said the hiring process hasn't yet started.

"Maybe within the next six months we should see something," he said.

"I would say the best way to get the latest updates would be (for students) to go to Boeing.com."

Williams said early last year Boeing closed a production facility in Long Beach, Calif., and moved it to Oklahoma City, producing more than 550 software engineering positions.

"Approximately 200 of those were filled with employees that relocated and more were hired from different areas," he said.

This project is still in the works, Williams said.

"The office space is not yet completed," he said.

The company is building a six-story building next to its current location at SE 59th and Air Depot Blvd.

Boeing is headquartered in Chicago and boasts a workforce of more than 165,000 people in the U.S. and in more than 70 other countries. The employees are a diverse group of talented, well-educated and innovative individuals, according to www.boeing.com.

More than 123,000 hold a college degree and of those, approximately 32,000 have advanced degrees in virtually every technical and business field. Boeing is a major service provider for NASA operating the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. They are one of the largest U.S. exporters in terms of sales.

The company is expected to apply for the state's Quality Jobs program and for grants from Oklahoma City's General Obligation Limited Tax fund, according to an article published on Jan. 5 in The Oklahoman.

Boeing was awarded a $1.5 million grant from the city late last year as it moved forward with the first phase of the two-part relocation plan of 550 jobs from California, according to a article published on Jan. 5 in The Oklahoman.

OCCC's aviation program can be completed in 18 months

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The news that Boeing is closing its Wichita plant and moving to Oklahoma City presents the possibility of job openings in the aviation industry for Oklahoma City residents.

Students interested in getting into the aviation industry can enroll in aviation programs at OCCC.

OCCC has a cooperative alliance program in aviation maintenance with Metro Tech and Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Alexa Mashlan, cooperative alliance programs director, said students apply through Metro Tech and finish their associate degree at OCCC. The 18-month program is designed to cover courses required to complete an AMT license and general basic courses, she said.

Mashlan said the classes are full time, last all day and meet four or five times a week.

Students can earn an associate in Science in Maintenance Technology, which allows a student to transfer into a 4-year program.

The associate in science program is partnered with Southeastern's bachelor's program in Aviation Management.

Melissa Watson, a coordinator through Southeastern Oklahoma State University, said Southeastern also offers aviation maintenance classes on the fourth floor of OCCC's library, as well as aviation management degrees.

"We encourage students to get their associate degree through OCCC," Watson said.

Mashlan said some of the students in the program were already in the work force and earning their degree to get ahead. "A lot of them are working at Tinker and they're finishing up to move into different positions or earning their degree to get a bump in pay," Mashlan said.

"Some students, right after they finish the program, do get a job at Tinker."

Watson said a bachelor's in Aviation Management opens the door to several jobs.

"They don't have to stick with aviation. But it's a really big industry, and it's growing," Watson said.

Although there's no word yet on whether Boeing will be hiring for maintenance positions yet, Watson has a positive outlook for those graduating with Aviation Maintenance degrees.

"That's going to open up a lot of jobs for people who don't work at Tinker or the FAA," Watson said. "The degrees our students obtain will fit right into Boeing's requirements."

For more information on the program, call 405-682-7822 or visit www.occc.edu/coop-ed/MT.

For information on Southeastern's bachelor's program, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7195, or visit aviation.se.edu.
Hoop dreams

In black, Michael McKay (undecided major), shoots against environmental science major Benjamin Zimmer in the OCCC gymnasium the first week of spring classes.

McKay said he and Zimmer have been at the gym every day since the spring semester began.

The Wellness Center houses an Olympic-size pool, gymnasium, weight room and various classes that students can use for free with a current ID.

In addition, the college offers a variety of fitness classes for a fee. This semester, group fitness passes are being made available for $50. That covers all classes and is available in the Wellness Center on the first floor of the Main Building.

For more information about the various areas and classes offered, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

Fitness pass saves students money

BRANDON WILLIS
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OCCC’s Recreation and Fitness department has introduced a new Group Fitness Pass that will cost $50 and allow the pass holder access to all fitness classes offered for the semester.

Students and community members will be able to purchase the pass.

To purchase this pass, you must have a valid student ID or a Recreation and Fitness membership, said Marlene Shugart, Health and Fitness Specialist.

Shugart said the change was made to make taking fitness classes less costly.

“It is much more affordable for everyone, not only the students,” Shugart said.

She said it’s a savings of more than $100 per semester.

Before, students and community members had to pay $20 a month per class.

Most of the classes only meet twice a week and range from 20 to 55 minutes long.

To take the same class for the entire semester would have cost $80 for four months of just one class.

“There has been plenty of positive feedback from the student body,” Shugart said.

“The student feedback has been great,” she said.

“They love it.”

Members are excited about the new price and class options.

“Wow, that’s a great way to make it more convenient for the students,” said Paisley Mitchell, a frequent guest of the Wellness Center.

Mitchell said she plans to take advantage of the Group Fitness Pass because she is interested in the Zumba class.

“I enjoy dancing so it would feel like I’m not even working out,” Mitchell said.

OCCC offers a variety of fitness classes that will fill different needs. There are approximately 16 different classes, Shugart said.

“I think it’s different for everybody,” Shugart said. “It all matters what your goal is.”
Switch: Moodle to take the place of ANGEL soon

Continued from page 1

finally gotten accustomed to it just as
the change took place.

English professor Mark Schneberger
is teaching an Introduction to Literature
class using Moodlerooms this semester.
“Any time you learn new technolo-
gies, my thought is always ‘how are
students going to be able to follow
and use this?’

“The system looks like it will be
fairly easy to follow for new students,”
Schneberger said.

Schneberger said the people who
trained the faculty really encouraged
them to make everything look the same.

“The way that it’s looking does make
it seem a lot easier for students to fol-
low,” Schneberger said.

He said faculty using Moodlerooms
this semester were given the training
in the middle of November.

“The training took place during the
development of the classes online.

“They did a great job with the train-
ing at breaking it down into achievable
tasks to make sure we can get this done,”
Schneberger said. “A lot of us are a little
hesitant still, but so far it seems to be
working.”

Gardner said the school set up a com-
mittee that looked at several vendors
and ended up choosing Moodlerooms.

“One of the big reasons they chose
Moodlerooms is it integrates with our
administrative system which is Datatel,”
he said.

“When we get fully incorporated with
Moodlerooms and faculty post grades,
those two systems will
talk to each other.

“This will make it
easier not to have
any errors in grades
being officially put
on transcripts by it
being done manually,”
Gardner said.

Gardner said AN-
GEL cost the college
$79,000 a year to pro-
vide to students and
faculty. The same cost
is associated with Moodlerooms.

“We’ve increased some costs on the
administrative system,” Gardner said,
“but that is to integrate everything
together.”

He said the goal to make the full
transition to Moodlerooms is the sum-
mer semester.

“This is due to the large amount of
faculty needing to be trained and leav-
ing time to work out any problems that
might occur with the new system.”

Schneberger said it may take some
time but he is sure everyone will ad-
just well.

“I do know that any time there’s a
change, students and faculty are used
to seeing things in a certain place,” he
said. “They’re going to have a struggle.

“So, as instructors, we need to be extra
careful. I think we need to contact our
students during the first week to see
what troubles they might be having
(and) if we can help with anything. I
think after the second week, everything
will be golden.”

Auditions: Open call
to students, public

Continued from page 1

There are numerous char-
acters in the musical with a
large variety of personalities.

The main character Pseu-
dolus is a Roman slave who
is trying to earn his freedom
by any means. By getting his
master married to the girl
next door, he will achieve his
freedom, though everything
has to happen in a certain way.

Hero is the young master of
Pseudolus, and has fallen in
love with Philia, a courtesan
who lives next door.

Philia is a courtesan belong-
ing to Marcus Lycus, who
has been promised to Miles
Gloriosus, though she falls
in love with Hero.

Noel said that he is looking
for high-energy people for the
production.

For more information,
email Noel at bnoel@occc.
edu.
Students learn from robotic family

ERIN BRINKWORTH
News Writing Student

Nurses have to be able to insert chest tubes, administer fluids and anesthesia, even measure urine output.

Before they perform these procedures on patients, OCCC’s student nurses practice on Dan the Human Patient Simulator, and other simulators in the health professions labs, said Monica Holland, nursing lab coordinator. These include Gabby and Hal, Fred and Noelle.

For just under $200,000, OCCC’s first human patient simulator was purchased in 2004. Dan is a high-fidelity, or life-like, robot that comes with technology-advanced features such as pupil dilation, voice response, and a pulse.

This robot, from Medical Education Technologies, Inc., or METI, has proven to be an invaluable resource for the nursing and EMS programs, Holland said.

She discussed the additions to OCCC’s robotic family since receiving Dan.

“We have two birthing simulators, one of which is computer run. There’s Gabby, she’s brand new, and baby Hal. Gabby is from Gaumard.”

Gabby, so named for the room in which she resides, offers students valuable experience in labor and delivery.

Nursing Professor Heather Campbell-Williams explained how robots help in the teaching process.

“The students like simulations because it puts them in real life situations without the fear of messing up,” she said.

Holland said they are worth the expense. “At $38,000, Gabby is more than worth her cost,” she said. “She is great for students.”

The high-tech HPS models like Dan aren’t always hassle-free, however. Dan’s greatest feature, his computer-monitored simulations, keeps him tethered to the wall, Campbell-Williams said.

“Sometimes Dan and Fred run out of gases, and that’s why I prefer Noelle,” she said. “She doesn’t have as many glitches because she isn’t as complex.”

Holland said Dan was converted from gases to a compressor in 2010.

“Moving to a compressor was a massive improvement,” Holland said, and it saved money.

The Health Professions Program also purchased a handful of mannequins, each costing about $1,800, who serve to hone more basic skills, such as CPR and intravenous line insertion.

“You see the development of patient care as the students interact with these dolls,” Holland said. “I once saw a student try to brush the hair out of a doll’s eyes to comfort it.”

Almost every student respects the value of the simulator, Holland said. The environment is designed to be serious but fun, and is one of the highlights of the OCCC Nursing Program.

“We are a very competitive program,” Holland said, “in that our program offers a lot of clinical experiences and exposure to complex situations.”

Funding for simulators comes from grants, namely the Carl Perkins Grant, which is currently being used to purchase new Vital Simulation Dolls from the Laerdal company.
Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

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www.occc.edu/pioneer
Beginning January 2012, OCCC will begin offering a limited number of online and on-campus classes in Moodle. The number of courses in Moodle will continue to increase with the beginning of each new term.

Is my course in Moodle? Go to online.occc.edu to see a course listing.

How will I learn to use Moodle? An orientation course is in Moodle to help.

Will I have tech support? Yes. You will be able to turn in any issues 24/7/365.

Questions? Additional information can be found at online.occc.edu.