Testing Center helps students get ahead

MARIAH S. JOHNSON
News Writing Student

W hen Elija Gill first came to OCCC in fall 2010, he was faced with having to take several remedial classes — zero-level classes that catch a student up to college-level learning but offer no college credit.

“I graduated from an inner city school and I barely had to study to pass my classes,” Gill said.

“My ACT composite score was 15 … I retested in the Testing Center and I was able to get into English 1113 but I continued to struggle in the math.”

Gill is not alone.

Three out of four high school graduates aren’t fully prepared for college and likely need to take at least one remedial class, according to the latest annual survey from ACT, the non-profit testing organization that measures half of the nation’s high school seniors in English, math, reading and science proficiency, according to www.freepublic.com.

However, OCCC’s Testing and Assessment Center gives those students a chance to redeem themselves by offering placement testing, said Testing Center Assistant Samantha Olsen.

Olsen said the Testing Center offers both entry-level and academic testing.

She said the service is beneficial for students who initially tested into remedial courses and want the chance to test higher, as well as advanced students who would rather test out of, or CLEP, a course for a semester.

“Our Testing Center gives students [who] tested poorly on the ACT or SAT another chance to score higher in their subsections.”

—SAMANTHA OLSEN
TESTING CENTER ASSISTANT
West Nile virus report spurs officials to urge precaution

To the Editor:

Evidence of a resurgence of West Nile virus has state health officials warning Oklahomans to take precautions against the mosquito-borne illness. "The first WNV case in a Pittsburg County man and positive mosquito tests in Tulsa County are a reminder that WNV is here and precautions need to be taken to protect against the disease," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Kristy Bradley.

Although the past three years have been relatively quiet for WNV in the state, Bradley said early indicators may signal a dramatic rise in Oklahoma cases this year. "July typically marks the beginning of our high risk period for exposure to WNV in Oklahoma. It is also a time when Oklahomans are busy with yard work, participating in outdoor recreational activities or just relaxing on the patio," Bradley said. "All of these activities provide possible encounters with WNV-infected mosquitoes, so we want to remind everyone to use insect repellent when outdoors and mosquito-proof their home and yard."

West Nile virus is spread through the bite of the Culex mosquito, which feeds on infected birds and then transmits the virus when biting humans, horses and some other mammals. Symptoms of WNV include sudden onset of fever, headache, dizziness and muscle weakness. Long-lasting complications can include difficulty concentrating, migraines, headaches, extreme muscle weakness and tremors, and paralysis of a limb. If one or more of these symptoms develop, especially after suffering mosquito bites within the previous two weeks, a health care provider should be contacted. Persons over the age of 50 are at greatest risk of developing severe neurologic disease from WNV infection. Some may be permanent.

Among the precautions to take against mosquito bites are the following:

- Use an insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin and clothing when you go outdoors, particularly if you are outside between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are more likely to bite. (Insect repellent with permethrin should be used on clothing only.)
- Repair or install window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Prevent items such as buckets, cans, pool covers, flower pots and tires from holding standing water so mosquitoes don’t have a place to breed.
- Empty your pet’s outdoor water bowl and refill daily.
- Clean leaves and debris from rain gutters regularly to ensure they are not clogged.

For more information, visit the Oklahoma State Department of Health’s WNV website at http://go.usa.gov/wpz.

—Oklahoma State Health Department

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The PIONEER is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author’s name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author’s name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major, OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at www.occc.edu/pioneer.
Nail polish lives up to expectations

When somebody describes you as magnetic, they’re usually talking about your striking personality. Now, thanks to the latest in Sally Hansen’s ever-expanding line of revolutionary nail polishes, they might be talking about your fingertips instead.

The appropriately-named Magnetic nail polish is the successor of the brand’s Crackle Overcoat, a product that, sadly, did not live up to expectations. But fret not, fellow nail polish connoisseurs — Magnetic is everything it promises and more.

According to the shiny little label that wraps around the bottle, Magnetic’s formula is infused with tiny metal particles that move when exposed to a specially designed magnet — included in the bottle’s cap — to create a three-dimensional effect the company calls “extraordinary.”

I picked up a bottle of “graphite gravity,” a deep silver shade reminiscent of gunmetal, on a recent Target trip. Per the nail polish’s directions, I first applied a layer of the polish to each nail. Even without the magnetic effects, the shade itself was bold and beautiful — but we didn’t pay $8.99 for just a pretty color, now did we?

I then applied a second layer of color to my left thumb nail and held the magnet over it for the 10 seconds the bottle requested. After waiting that time period, I eagerly pulled the magnet away from my nail, only to see no real difference. Frustrated, I globbed on a bit more polish and tried the magnet again, this time holding it over the nail for closer to 20 seconds before I pulled it away. Recalling my prior failures with Sally’s Crackle Overcoat line, I didn’t hold my breath — which is why I was pleasantly surprised when the nail I saw looked like something out of one of James Cameron’s 3D flicks.

The magnet had indeed created a series of waves in the wet polish, creating an incredible effect. For once, my nail looked exactly like the in-store display did. After some tests and trials, I determined the instructions included with the product are definitely a bit off. For optimal results, it’s best to hold the magnet over the nail between 20 to 30 seconds — not the recommended 10 — to really get the wave effect rocking.

In addition, you need to make sure that after the initial polish application to each nail, you go one nail at a time to keep the second layer of polish from drying before you can create the magnetic waves.

If you follow these rules, the end result is eye-popping. In addition to the deep silver I sampled, Magnetic is also available in gold, copper, purple, fuchsia, blue and green.

At $8.99, the price is a bit steep for nail polish, but if you want to have some fun with your nails, it’s definitely worth the splurge.

---Whitney Knight

Online Editor

---Jeremy Cloud

Editor
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

BAR & GRILL REVIEW | Norman establishment lives up to Esquire magazine rating

Library serves up great food and cheap spirits

Libraries often are filled with books and students cramming for finals. However, the Library Bar & Grill, located at 607 W Boyd in Norman, keeps students from worrying about the rigors and pressures of college life with its selection of 35 beers on tap, spirits, food and an amazing patio.

It’s easy to understand why Esquire magazine recently rated the Library Bar & Grill one of the top 10 college bars in North America. The Library earns high marks due to its selection of liquor and value due to their dual happy hours from 3 to 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. The Library’s happy hour features pints of the Brewhouse’s selection of beers for $2, as well as half price on their selection of nachos and pizzas. In addition to specials, other beer, and food, $3 well drinks make drinking at the Library an even more affordable option for those thirsty students on a small budget.

There are one or two areas where the Library doesn’t make the grade however. Despite being on a relatively busy street, the Library is difficult to get to since it is secluded, thanks in part to a large number of trees and shrubs in front of the building. The other problem with the Library is it sometimes can take upwards from 20 to 30 minutes for your server to get your order during really busy periods of business. Minor complaints aside, the Library Bar & Grill lives up to its reputation as one of the best college bars in North America.

Rating: B+

—Joey Stipek
Staff Writer

TOP 20 MOVIES
Weekend of July 13 through July 15
www.yahoo.com

1. Ice Age: Continental Drift
2. The Amazing Spider-Man
3. Ted
4. Brave
5. Magic Mike
6. Savages
7. Tyler Perry’s Madea’s Witness Protection
8. Katy Perry: Part of Me
9. Moonrise Kingdom
10. Madagascar 3: Europe’s Most Wanted
11. To Rome With Love
12. Marvel’s The Avengers
13. Snow White and the Huntsman
14. Prometheus
15. Men in Black 3
16. Beasts of Southern Wild
17. People Like Us
18. Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter
19. The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
20. Intouchables

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Pizzeria has the right idea

Patrons go nuts over wood-fired pie

The Wedge Pizzeria was one of the first places in Oklahoma City to create delicious thin crust pizza the way it was meant to be: cooked in a wood fire oven. For many, The Wedge has become an OKC favorite. Located at 4709 N Western Avenue, The Wedge serves appetizers, salads, gelato and of course, pizza. The Wedge offers a variety of fresh toppings, as well as coffee, beer, mineral water, tea, wine, Coke products and Italian sodas to drink.

Last Saturday, July 14, I had a pizza topped with locally raised roasted chicken, fresh mozzarella and basil leaves, with a roasted garlic sauce. I went back the next day for a pepperoni, fresh mozzarella and marinara pizza. Both were excellent.

The crust was thin and tastier than most, but was less than crisp under toppings. This is understandable considering the thinness of the crust and the actual quality of toppings. It is definitely a fair trade, but make sure to use the spatula when lifting a slice.

Their toppings are great, but what I think puts The Wedge a slice above competitors is actually how the pizza is cooked.

A man employees call The Jesus has been responsible for producing pizzas, pecan wood-fired to perfection, for the past three years. The Wedge takes pride in preparing food from scratch every day with the freshest ingredients available.

When I visited Sunday, General Manager Elena Farrar was preparing a couple of plates of skillet potatoes, prosciutto, eggs and toast. I asked if that was on the menu. Farrar said that it wasn’t, but a customer had ordered it.

The meal was apparently prepared from ingredients they already had available in the restaurant.

“If it can be done, I’ll do it,” Farrar simply said. Overall, the Wedge seems to be about serving high quality food with pride and care. You can stop by for a terrific dining experience inside, outside on a patio or order carry out.

Operating hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday for lunch, and 5 to 10 p.m. for dinner, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday for lunch and 5 to 11 p.m. for dinner, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Rating: A+

—Chris James
Pioneer Staff
CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM GOES INTO EFFECT

Workers should be safe around construction sites

KIMM JOHNSON
News Writing Student

OCCCC recently premiered its new Excavation, Trenching and Shoring Safety Awareness Program in order to assist the Facilities Management construction team in understanding new safety procedures.

The program was developed by Lisa Teel, Emergency Planning and Risk Management director, and made effective April 20.

With the construction of the new Visual and Performing Arts Center theater, Teel said she began to look for the safety plan regarding trenches. There were none to be found, she said.

So Teel said she decided to write the Trenching and Excavation Safety Program about procedures that should be adhered to around campus construction sites.

Teel said her experience as Emergency Planning and Risk Management director for the past five years has taught her that preventative measures are important.

"When it comes to trenching, almost 70 people a year are killed in avoidable accidents. "If we can prepare our employees by making them more knowledgeable and aware of their surroundings, then that is a good thing," Teel said.

Not only does this program protect employees, but there also are regulations in place to protect students, she said.

Teel said there are three types of protection that can be used when dealing with trenches.

Protection options, which include sloping, shoring or shielding, must be designed by a registered professional engineer, she said.

This is good news for math and science degree-seeking students, Teel said.

Not only has OCCC developed safety programs, but the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and many other colleges also have drawn up plans like these in the last few years, Teel said.

Consequently, more and more schools and companies, realizing the need for safety programs, can create jobs, she said.

For students who are interested in subjects like geology, construction, mathematics and environmental engineering, this means there could be a greater demand for these professionals.

In an article entitled, "Top Ten Jobs for the Next Decade and Beyond," WorldWideLearn.com ranks environmental engineering as a top field for future career expansion.

"With the rapid growth of previously small communities across the country, [many entities] must wrestle with the challenges of rising populations while avoiding damaging fines or even prosecution," the website states.

This was exactly what Teel had to face when she was creating the safety program for OCCC, she said.

Teel explained that, as technology grows, so do the opportunities for more dangerous circumstances.

She said she hopes the hazardous aspects of their jobs will be only a small part of the construction workers’ lives.

"This job is just a part of their life. I want them to be with their loved ones at the end of the day. "It is better to be 100 times safe than once dead. I made this plan to ensure that safety is no accident," Teel said.

For more information on the Trenching and Excavation Safety Program or other safety programs offered through the college, contact Emergency Planning and Risk Management at 405-682-1611, ext. 7148.
Upward Bound students rewarded for excellence

JEREMY CLOUD
Editor
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“It was totally worth it. All that hard work paid off,” student Selena Luna said about a recent trip to Tennessee taken by 20 Upward Bound students as a reward for excellence in the program.

TRiO Programs Director Karolyn Chowning said the trip was part of a six-week summer academy held every summer.

“It’s one of the biggest parts of the Upward Bound program,” Chowning said. “Students receive 20 hours a week of academic instruction. It really simulates a college experience. The courses aren’t for credit in high school or college, so it’s pure enrichment.”

She said the trip was part of the program’s offering of college visits.

“In the year-round program, we go on lots of college visits, especially when universities host campus preview days. We go to pretty much all of the campus preview days in the state of Oklahoma.”

She said the summer program offers the opportunity for students to see campuses outside Oklahoma.

“This year we took the whole group, everyone in the summer program, and went to Dallas and visited Southern Methodist University.”

Chowning said this trip was limited to the top-20 students in the program with the highest number of merits, the lowest number of demerits, good behavior, good attendance, and the highest grades she said.

“And they went to the Great Smoky Mountains in Gatlinburg, Tenn. They visited the University of Central Arkansas on the way there, and visited the University of Tennessee on the way back,” she said.

Luna said while she enjoyed everything about the trip, she especially liked the chance to get closer to her peers.

“I like how we all get together and we bond because I got more comfortable with everyone there,” she said. “You’re just having a lot of fun and then you share things that you never expected to share with anyone.

“We shared embarrassing moments. Of course, not everyone wanted to share everything, but we did and it was really fun.”

Johana Rodriguez, a student in the program, said she enjoyed discovering all the things that are different from Oklahoma.

“There’s a lot of things that aren’t in Oklahoma,” Rodriguez said. “They had gift shops everywhere, and anything to do. There was skydiving inside, arcades, upside-down buildings, dinner shows. You wouldn’t get bored there, that’s for sure.”

Upward Bound student Max Nguyen said he enjoyed the experience of being away from home.

“For most people, like me, it’s the furthest away from home that we’ve been. Having a different environment and different region, experiencing contact with different social groups, really helps our communication skills.

“It helps us see more options for college, instead of just seeing The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University,” he said.

Luna said she’d like to see more students in the Upward Bound program, adding that students who do join should get more involved in the program.

“I wish students wouldn’t think of it as boring, which is what a lot of students assume when they look at it. You have to be involved more to have fun,” she said.

Nguyen agreed, saying the program is all about its students.

“It’s a student benefit program, all on you. You get out what you put in,” he said. “The thing about Upward Bound is that it doesn’t just test your academics, it tests your [ability to] respect, and the traits of a leader. It’s different from [high] school, where they look mostly at the grade.”

Rodriguez said she feels the program has given her a head start.

“It’s very much a learning experience,” she said. “You learn all this stuff before you go into your current grade in high school, and then you already know it. So I’ll be prepared.”

Nguyen said he also recommends the program for the expanded view of the world it offers.

“You just get so secluded in your region. If you’re from Moore, you might only know people from Moore. But once you get into the program you know people from all over,” he said.

Rodriguez agreed and said she’s made a lot of new friends.

“And they might even be your friends for a lifetime, instead of just friends for high school.”
Kids summer camps offer variety for all ages

CHRIS JAMES
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The Family and Community Education Center is helping keep young minds sharp over the summer with a variety of camps targeted at children in first through eighth grades.

Some of the camps offered focus on geography, science, computer skills, sewing, music, art, math, college prep and even personal finance.

The teachers keep the children interested and learning with activities like educational games, videos and practical application.

Each class is one hour, 45 minutes, and costs $39 per child with a $99 discount for students enrolled in all-day classes.

Lunch is provided by John Glenn Elementary.

For more information, or to enroll a child in one of the camps, call 405-686-6222.

(Above) Teacher Julia Gatlion begins circle time in Got Grammar Summer Camp with an exercise to get the children's attention focused on listening. The class of first and second graders has been learning proper usage of nouns, verbs and adjectives. The students were learning how to apply the words through playing games and taking turns in small groups with letter blocks that connect to form words. After making a word with blocks, each child identified what part of speech it was.

(Left) Teacher Chelsea Dudek helps 10-year-old Jeanette with creating a screen print in the Printing by Hand Camp. The kids were perfecting their technique on paper before moving on to printing T-shirts. Dudek said the children had already finished wood block printing and texture printing, and carving and printing erasers were next on the agenda for this class of seventh and eighth graders. “It’s a fun way of making art that they probably haven’t tried before,” Dudek said.

Olivia, 9, Mitchell, 7, Lance, 9, and Noah, 8, use water colors to paint depictions of planet Earth July 12 in Outer Space Camp.

Teacher Janice Boyd said she also teaches Computer Masters which familiarizes third and fourth graders with programs like Microsoft Word and navigating search engines. Boyd said the kids learned about planets, constellations and the moon in Outer Space Camp.

Instructor Deborah Goodhead wraps up a lesson on arpeggios, or playing each individual note of a chord in sequence rather than strumming it, July 12, in Beginning Guitar Camp. Goodhead said she focuses on teaching this group of fifth and sixth graders about music theory and variety, as well as how to read chord charts and tablature. In the class, kids watch videos on YouTube on how guitars are made and performances of original artists performing some of the songs they are currently learning. “It’s a great way to find out if they can do it before more expensive lessons,” Goodhead said.
Kids camp comes to an end

Aaliyah Carter, 13, shoots free throws at Kids Sports Camp July 11 in the OCCC gym. Camp Coach Rone Tempest said Carter attended every sports camp over the summer, but competitive swimming was Carter’s favorite. Tempest said he is glad the sports camps exist, because it introduces kids to sports they wouldn’t normally be introduced to.

MITCHELL RICHARDS
Sports Writer
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The OCCC Recreation and Fitness Center hosted Kids Sports Camp throughout the summer. As summer session is coming to end, so are the highly successful camps.

One story that demonstrates the success of Kids Sports Camp is that of Aaliyah Carter, 13, Coach Rone Tempest said.

Tempest said Carter has been coming to the camps for the last six summers. When Carter first started attending the camps, she could barely tie her shoes and couldn’t do anything athletic, he said.

“She’s the real success story of this whole thing,” Tempest said. “When she first started, she could barely run.”

Carter said she attended all of the sports camps this summer and singled out competitive swimming as her favorite.

“When I first started swimming here I was scared because I didn’t know how. But coach thinks I can swim professionally if I keep working,” Carter said. Carter said she is looking forward to seeing Michael Phelps swim in the upcoming London Olympics.

Carter, an upcoming eighth grader at Brink Junior High, said her favorite part of the camps, other than the sports, is making new friends.

As Carter was talking, her friend Taylor, 8, gave her a hug and told Carter she was nice.

Tempest said he has been coaching these camps for seven years and hasn’t seen anyone like Carter come through.

He said he is glad sports camps like this exist because it introduces young kids to sports they wouldn’t normally get introduced to, like swimming and soccer.

Tempest said it was good to familiarize kids with multiple sports instead of just a few.

He said he believes allowing kids to play sports other than the ones they are good at makes them better.

The other kids in the camp seemed to be having a great time and some, like Cassie, 8, have participated in other camps the school offers, Tempest said.

Cassie said she was recently in the Musical Theatre Camp and performed in their recent production of “Squirm.”

Another successful camp athlete was Andrea, 11, who plays soccer competitively for South Lakes, Tempest said. Andrea said she has been practicing her soccer juggling skills.

For more information on the remaining sports camps, visit the Recreation and Fitness Center’s website at www.occc.edu/rf.

When I first started swimming here I was scared because I didn’t know how. But coach thinks I can swim professionally if I keep working.”

—AALIYAH CARTER
Kids Sports Camp Attendee

July 21 - 22: Oklahoma Swimming Division II Meet at the OCCC Aquatic Center. For more information, visit www.oks.org.

July 23 - 27: Youth Cheer and Dance Camp. For more information, call the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.

July 23 - 27: Youth Flag Football Camp. For more information, call the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue.

e-mail sportswriter@occc.edu.

Don’t be left in the dark. Follow us for instant news and updates!

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Have sports news you want to share? Email Mitchell at:
sportswriter@occc.edu, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676
Testing: OCCC students can test out of some classes

Continued from page 1

GED.

GED testing is a seven-hour exam that measures high-school level fulfillment in five areas: writing, social studies, science, language arts/reading and mathematics.

Passing the GED test shows a student has met the required skills needed to receive a high school diploma. To pass the GED test, a student must score an average of 450 on each section.

The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) is a sequence of tests which permits students to earn college credit for a subject they know regardless of where they learned the materials. All (CLEP) exams are 90 minutes long, and cost $77 dollars per exam. Students will receive instant results after completing an exam.

Assessment Services hosts the following tests:
- Entrance Testing: for students who haven’t taken either the ACT or SAT tests.
- The TOEFL: evaluates the potential of non-native speakers of English to utilize and comprehend English as it is used in a university setting.
- The Test of Essential Academic Skills: evaluates a student’s skill content in reading, mathematics, science, and English and language usage.
- ACT: a national test that lasts two and a half hours including breaks, and tests reading, mathematics, science, and English.
- ACCUPLACER: assists in placing students into appropriate college-level or ESL courses.

The Testing Center is open from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Saturday. Testing and Assessment Services is located on the first floor of the Main Building.

Rate: Popular website can help when choosing professors

Continued from page 1

students to post an anonymous review after creating a registered account.

Founded in 2001, RateMyProfessors.com includes 821 OCCC professors from various departments.

The average professor rating is a 3.48 on a scale of 5.00. Also, students can rate the campus, which only has a combined total of 52 anonymous posts, a 3.9 overall school rating and a 4.7 student happiness rating.

Students will rate a professor’s course based on a scale of 1 to 5. Clarity, easiness, helpfulness and “hot or not” are all required categories. The comment box allows up to 350 characters.

A professor who rates above a 4 is given a yellow smiley face icon. A green straight-faced icon is given to professors who rate between a 3 and 4. Professors who rate below a 3 receive a blue frown-faced icon.

To rate professors’ hotness, students have a choice of clicking on a chili pepper icon to say a professor is hot or avoid clicking the icon to say the professor is not. The chili pepper icon turns red in case of a hot rating.

Many OCCC professors are familiar with the website.

Professors take RateMyProfessors.com with “a grain of salt,” said history professor Alan Ball.

Ball rates an overall 2.3 on the website. When asked if the rather low rating bothered him, he responded, “The good students will say good things and the bad students will say bad things. Overall, it is the effort put forth by the student.”

Many of Ball’s classes are taught online although he said, he prefers to teach in the classroom.

He said he occasionally reads the posts from students but chooses not to post rebuttals.

When speaking of the usefulness of RateMyProfessors.com, English professor Jon Inglett said it’s useful.

“When I was a student, I wish I had known some background information for the class or the professor,” Inglett said. “Some students may need an extroverted or introverted teacher; other students may need a structured or organic-thinking professor. These kind of psychological observations will only benefit a student beyond a website.”

Students disagree about using the website.

Nursing major Alex Seabrook, 20, said the site is “very useful.”

“RateMyProfessors.com is something I use to research my professors,” he said. “Being a student that takes classes at OCCC and The University of Oklahoma, I am at a disadvantage of not knowing a lot of professors on each campus. This website is a good way to know the opinions of other students.”

Advertising major Kelly Stone, 21, said she thinks the website is “biased.”

“Read the reviews and also visit with the professor,” Stone said. “If you are truly looking to find good professors, you should talk to them personally and find out how they teach their class.

“Going to the website alone is not good enough.”

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For 32 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share;
3402 International Drive, NW, Suite 3k (ADM);
Washington, DC 20008.
Oil and gas safety taught

NADIA J. ENCHASSI
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Safety awareness classes for the oil and gas industry are hard to find but are now accessible at OCCC. “We are primarily answering a demand with these classes,” said Corporate Learning Consultant John Claybon.

“Employees are often working around wellsites, oil rigs and exploratory surfaces that they have to utilize in the field,” Claybon said. “So, safety awareness is something the industry is very concerned with.”

There are more than 25 class topics, including Incident Reporting and Investigation, Accident Prevention, Material Handling and Hazard Communications.

This fairly new curriculum, approved by Safe-Land USA and the Energy Training Council (ETC) of Oklahoma, has been in effect since May. Sponsored by several large energy companies such as Devon, Chesapeake Energy and ConocoPhillips, the program is standard yet quicker than the norm.

Designed specifically for the oil and gas industry, the awareness non-credit classes are also consistent with Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S), recognized by multiple organizations. Provided class information will help increase employee competency, reducing employer liability costs.

Classes are offered twice a month, once in English and once in Spanish, by certified instructors. Upcoming dates include Wednesday, July 25 in English, Wednesday, Aug. 8 in Spanish, Wednesday, Aug. 22 in English and more throughout the fall.

Classes take place from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in a single-day format on the fourth floor of the OCCC Library.

“Upon successful completion, a certified card is awarded, which also enters names and pictures into a national database,” Claybon said. “So, as employees go out to actual drilling sites, the cards verify the safety awareness experience which is becoming more and more a requirement.”

Open to the public, classes are $150 each. There also are group discounts available.

Two forms of IDs are required. And, because of the rapid pace, seating is limited to only about 15 vacant spots per class.

“Classes fill up fast,” Claybon said. “In fact, a lot of times there are waiting lists because of how big of a big deal this is,” Claybon said. “So far, the awareness classes are being received extremely well.”

For enrollment, specific pricing and other information, contact Claybon at 405-682-7855, or email jclaybon@occc.edu.
Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

BABY ITEMS FOR SALE:
Fisher Price infant to toddler blue baby rocker w/activity bar, barely used: $20. Slightly used clean Jumperoo with accessories: $50. Bright Starts baby activity gym, new: $15. wicki1wack@yahoo.com.

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Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged: $100; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, $100. 405-818-0083.

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Intersession classes great for quick credits

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While summer classes may be drawing near the end, some students are gearing up for fall classes, particularly intersession.

Starting July 30, intersession classes give students the opportunity to complete a class in just two weeks. Intersession classes are a great way to knock out credits in a short time frame.

History professor Jeff Carlisle said students taking intersession must be prepared for a quick-paced, heavy load of work since the same amount of material being covered in a normal 16-week semester is being condensed into two weeks.

“Students who can absorb information quickly, intersession classes are great,” Carlisle said.

“For those who need time to mull over information and reflect upon it, a long session class might be more to their taste.”

Some of the classes being offered as intersession this semester include English Comp II, History since the Civil War and American Federal Government.

Classes are usually held Monday through Friday for the entire two-week period and last around four and a half hours per day.

Diet and exercise major Ashley Ho, who took history during an intersession, said taking the class helped her get ahead.

“If you are dreading taking a subject or just want to get it out of the way fast, this is definitely the way to do it,” Ho said. “It’s a lot of hard work and time consuming but at the end of it, you will feel accomplished.”

According to OCCC’s student success reports published for the Fall 2011 semester, intersession classes at both the 1000- and 2000-level were highest in success rates out of all the lengths of classes offered.

Fast-Track classes followed close behind.

Business major Corey Johnson said taking intersession helped him get his last credit before transferring.

“I got my last basic credit out of the way through intersession so I wouldn’t have to spend an extra semester here,” Johnson said. “It’s an intense two weeks but totally worth it and definitely doable.”

For a complete list of intersession classes being offered for fall, view the college’s class schedule at www.occc.edu/schedule/index or for more information, contact Recruitment and Admissions at 405-682-7580. To enroll, log in to MineOnline or visit Academic Advising.

Social Sciences department anticipates lab add on

MICHAEL SCHMIDT
News Writing Student

The new school year is just around the corner and with it brings a new and impressive feature to the Social Sciences department.

Social Sciences Dean Susan Tabor said OCCC’s Social Sciences department is filled with excitement in anticipation of a new computer lab, scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2013.

The lab will feature 16 computers designed to benefit all students, especially those enrolled in psychology courses, Tabor said.

She said the purpose of the new addition is to allow students who are enrolled in online classes to take their online class on-campus rather than at home.

This online-in-class arrangement offers students more help from tutors, student instructors and other social science professors who will be encouraged to spend their office hours in the lab.

The goal of the computer lab is to make “more options available for students in the Social Sciences department,” Tabor said.

Although the computers will contain programs specifically designed for psychology students and students enrolled in Statistics 2133, other departments will benefit from this newest addition such as the political science department and the history department.

Although the future computer lab will only house 16 computers, the lab also will sport new furniture to accompany the computers, as well as a number of work tables provided to give students a “laptop option,” Tabor said.

She said construction on the new computer lab has already begun.

By the end of its completion, Tabor said, the Social Sciences department hopes to install an additional four computers, bringing the total number to an even 20.

Tabor said this is a big step for the department and will hopefully give it a new face.