Almost 1,000 responses were given in 70 areas

KATIE THURMAN
Senior Writer
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OCCC recently compiled data from a school-wide student satisfaction survey.

The findings showed that OCCC ranked higher than the national average among comparable institutions on 70 out of 70 questions that were asked, said Stu Harvey, Planning and Research executive director.

Some 925 OCCC students of the 12,367 students enrolled during the spring of 2013 semester responded to the online survey.

Harvey said he considered the 925 responses to be a good sample number.

The survey polled students on a variety of services and opportunities afforded by OCCC, Harvey said.

They were asked to rank various topics on a scale of one to seven (one indicating low satisfaction and seven indicating high satisfaction.)

Among the topics, students were asked to rate campus safety and security, academic advising and learning tools such as Moodle, the platform used for online classes.

“We compare [student satisfaction results] to a national benchmark of community colleges,” Harvey said.

The comparison group that OCCC competes within is made up of about 190 community colleges around the country.

“It’s probably the single-most positive survey I’ve ever been associated with,” Harvey said.

“We’ve always had really high levels of student satisfaction … but when you have 70 out of 70 questions that were higher [than the national benchmark], it’s hard to do much better.”

Among the top-rated items on the survey were the adequacy and accessibility of computer labs with a 6.7 out of 7, a well-maintained campus with a 6.37.

Students can express themselves Oct. 15

ABBIE BANNISTER
News Writing Student

Creative expression is the goal of an open-microphone event to be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in CU3. The event is free and anyone can come, English Professor Marybeth McCauley said.

Only students are allowed to perform at the open mic. However, all faculty and staff are welcome to come to watch and see OPEN MIC page 9
Put thought into Halloween costume

Halloween is one of the great things about the fall season for many who celebrate it; candy, parties, fun, and dressing up. However, one of the unfortunate inclusions in the holiday is the seemingly common stereotypes that are represented through some costumes.

The other day, I came across a website that advertised an “Across the Border” themed couple’s costume. The outfits consisted of sombreros, maracas, shawls and a mustache for the man.

I’ve typically seen Native American-themed costumes that advertise headdresses, moccasins, cloth-like clothing made of just enough material to cover the key parts of the body on women and are worn by a dark-skinned individual with long, black hair.

The list goes on about costumes that are based off certain other races or nationalities.

Being Chickasaw, I’ve grown up in a very large family that is active and takes pride in the culture, but I can’t think of a single family member who currently dresses anything like that costume portrays.

Also, I don’t know of many Hispanic individuals who dress like the “Across the Border” costume portrays, either.

Yes, it is true that some items such as headdresses and sombreros are traditional clothing in some heritages, and that is nothing to be ashamed of. I am proud of my heritage, as are many others.

However, to create a costume that identifies a modern group of people with such stereotypical images is a form of racism.

America is a salad bowl of all different groups of people, from all over the world. Everyone has a unique style and form of expressing themselves.

To say that a Hispanic person wears a sombrero or that a Native American wears a headdress is not only inaccurate, but also is one of the very things that holds society back from achieving equality.

Individuals are constantly fighting against discrimination and costumes like these are still promoting the idea that certain groups of people look a certain way.

I have light brown hair, green eyes, pale skin and freckles, but the costume conveys the idea that since I’m Indian, I should have dark hair, dark skin and dress a certain way.

Costumes that try to portray other groups of people do the same thing.

If a costume is portraying a specific person, say, Pocahontas or Frida Kahlo, then the costume is more justified in the image that it portrays because that is how the image of that individual has been commonly known. However, that is not the case with many costumes.

I know that many people who choose these types of costumes don’t have these malicious intentions. But this is a reflection of the problem. People need to realize that it’s more than just a costume — it’s a modern form of racism and stereotyping.

If society wants to push toward equality, people need to realize how these costumes affect that.

If you’ve worn a costume similar to the ones I’ve mentioned and didn’t look at it as I’ve described, you’re in no way a bad person. I just encourage all people to reconsider the messages these costumes convey.

—Paris Burris

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Public health influenza vaccination clinics to begin Oct. 7

County Health Department offering free flu shots

To the editor:

Public health influenza vaccination clinics will begin at county health departments throughout the state on Monday, Oct. 7.

Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. In particular, pregnant women, children younger than 5 years of age, and people with asthma, diabetes, chronic heart and lung disease, or other chronic conditions are strongly encouraged to get the vaccine.

Parents and family members of babies younger than 6 months of age and people who live with or care for anyone at high risk for complications from the flu, including health care workers, should also get the vaccine.

Infants born to women who have received their flu vaccination while pregnant may be protected against the flu for the first six months of their lives.

A wide variety of flu vaccines are available this year. Some types, called quadrivalent vaccines, will provide protection against four strains of flu rather than three, so they have the potential to offer more protection.

County health departments will accept cash, checks or credit cards for payment and will provide flu vaccines according to the following fee schedule:
• No charge for children who have no health insurance or whose insurance does not cover vaccines, are on SoonerCare or are Native American or Alaska natives.
• No cost for anyone 6 months through 64 years of age with Health Choice Insurance. (Please bring your insurance information.)
• Children and adults with health insurance that covers vaccines and those with incomes above 185 percent of the federal poverty level will be charged a fee of $25 to cover the cost of the flu vaccine and the cost of administering the vaccine.

For more information, call your local county health department or visit the Oklahoma State Department of Health website at www.health.ok.gov.

—Oklahoma State Department of Health
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

BUSINESS REVIEW | Albums, clothes, knickknacks and more await customers

Granny’s Bazaar a vintage dream

If vintage suits your fancy, then Bad Granny’s Bazaar may be the shop for you. Located at 1739 NW 16th Street in the historic Plaza District, Bad Granny’s provides a wide selection of vintage and retro clothes as well as various other treasures.

Customers are greeted by a wall of clothing as they enter the store. Whether you are looking for a costume, your next tacky Christmas sweater or simply everyday wear, Bad Granny’s is sure to have it.

Old wedding dresses, baby clothes, hippie clothes, and a selection of bad ‘80s prom dresses are just a few of the things I saw. The store is split up into several vendors so it is easy to find what you are looking for, such as jewelry, clothes or random tchotchkes.

My favorite vendor is the music room in the back of the store which is filled with dozens of crates of vinyl records. If I would have had more time, I could have spent hours looking through that room.

Overall, the store had an old-timey vibe to it that made me feel as if I had taken a step back in time. While the store had a lot to choose from, the area in which it really excels is clothing.

I could easily spend a whole day looking at clothes and still not make it through everything. While I ended up leaving the store empty handed, I still had a great time going. My friend found a beautiful dress she is going to fix into a Halloween costume.

Nonetheless, it was fun sifting through fashion nightmares of the last few decades and finding things I never would have imagined existed. The staff was friendly and the store was fun. It was a well spent Saturday afternoon.

Rating: A-

—ERIN PEDEN
Online Editor

VIDEO GAME REVIEW | Instead of only one player, gamers can choose from three

Grand Theft Auto V adds layers

Everyone’s favorite car jacking, addictive missions, gun shooting game is back in a new version.

Grand Theft Auto V brings a new storyline to the game. The story takes place in a town called Los Santos (a reference to Los Angeles).

Instead of playing just one character you play three different characters: Franklin, a man just trying to make a decent living doing crimes but not being able to get his foot in the door; Michael, an ex-criminal who becomes Franklin’s mentor after catching his wife in bed with her tennis coach; and Trevor, the final character. He is the craziest but funniest character. It’s like the Joker has a brother.

Each character has a special ability that does not go overboard.

For instance, while driving, Franklin can slow down time and drive more precise. Michael can slow down time while shooting a gun and shoot more accurately. Trevor’s ability is that he just freaks out and goes into a rage-like frenzy that allows him to deal out extra damage.

The online portion of the game is a bit different from previous versions. What caught my attention first is character creation. When you make your character, you are forced to choose what your grandparents look like, giving you control of what you will look like.

Another creative control you get is to decide how many hours you spend doing different things in the game. For example, you control how many hours you spend doing legal and illegal work, hours spent with family, and hours spent playing sports.

The last part I enjoyed about the online is that you can make your own crew and invite friends to be in it which makes it just that much easier to play together. Even though the online took awhile to get going, I still enjoyed it.

Rating: A

—GRANT VANWINKLE
Sports Writer

JOB & CAREER POWER

OCCC’s nursing program offers various paths

Students, if you have considered the career field of nursing, OCCC is ready to assist that journey.

We offer three nursing programs: Traditional, Career Ladder Pathway and Baccalaureate to Associate Degree Nurse Accelerated Pathway.

Our nursing students consistently pass the National Council Licensure Examination or NCLEX-RN, at statewide high levels, recently exceeding the 96th percentile.

It is estimated that by the year 2020, a shortage of 800,000 nurses will exist, thus making this career path one of the most recruited and sought-after nationwide.

The U.S. Department of Labor shares salary estimations for the state of Oklahoma in the median range of $55,690 yearly which represents an hourly salary of $26.78 per hour.

Registered Nursing salaries in the 90th percentile command $73,970 yearly and $35.56 per hour.

The OCCC Nursing Program accepts 288 students per academic year into three nursing pathways.

Students are encouraged to visit the nursing online website, www.occc.edu/academics/programs/nursing, for additional details and application deadlines.

The OCCC Nursing Program has full accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc., and the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

Visit the Advising office or Student Employment & Career Services for more information about OCCC’s program.

Also recommended is the Campaign For Nursing’s Future sponsored by Johnson & Johnson. That can be found at www.discover-nursing.com.

The Discover Nursing website offers excellent career resources, salary information and more than 300 nursing scholarships.

Student Employment & Career Services office hours are from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Fridays. No appointment is necessary.

The office is located in Room 1G7 on the first floor of the Main Building.

—DEBRA VAUGHN
Student Employment & Career Services Director
For a person with dry skin and a dislike for heavy perfume, I want to wear a lotion that will moisturize my dry skin without being oily and will smell nice at the same time.

Bath and Body Works offers ideal moisturizers for everyday use. With their year-round sales, they are the best products for the price.

Their lotions offer hydration without being greasy and their long-lasting scents are to die for. With nearly 100 scented lotions to choose from, it's easy to be intimidated but rest assured: the store offers scents for all types of preferences. Some of my personal favorite scents are "Be Enchanted," "Pink Chiffon," "Carried Away" and "Secret Wonderland" which all offer light, sweet smells. These are all part of the Signature Collection, which are included in the store's buy-three, get-three-free sale. Depending on a bottle's size, prices vary but a 12 oz. bottle costs about $12.50. So with the sale, one can get six 12 oz. bottles of lotion for less than $40 — a steal considering that six bottles of lotion go a long way even for people like myself who use them every day.

The store has some other amazing scents to offer as well. For people who like musky smells, "Twilight Woods" and "Moonlight Path" are excellent products. "Coconut Lime Breeze" and "Capri Seaside Citrus" are yummy, fruity scents. Delicate, flowery smells are offered by "Japanese Cherry Blossom," "Forever Sunshine" and "Sweet Pea."

Clean, simple scents can be achieved from "Sea Island Cotton," "Cucumber Melon" and "Dancing Waters."

The store also offers other great products including soaps, body washes, body sprays, candles and other products I have been exceptionally satisfied with. The store also sells many men's products: lotion, body wash, etc. which all smell equally as good as the women's line.

Bath and Body Works is my go-to place for moisturizer. I have never been disappointed. I highly suggest this store for anyone looking for good products at affordable prices.

To find the location nearest you, visit www.bathandbodyworks.com.

Rating: A

—Paris Burris
Senior Editor

For every good, promising new musician who bursts onto the scene with something fresh and new, it seems that there are at least a dozen run-of-the-mill debut artists who come along about the same time. 2013 has been a relative exciting year for the pop music industry. There's no doubt that if you turn on the radio right now, you're bound to hear a popular song by Lorde, the stage name of 16-year-old Elle Yelich-O’Connor. Lorde seems to have had some amount of unexpected overnight success with her single "Royals."

Yelich-O’Connor recently released her first full-length album "Pure Heroine."

While most critics are lauding Yelich-O’Connor for her "striking" vocals and "thought-provoking" lyrics, one listen of "Pure Heroine" had me feeling far less than impressed. The only thing I felt after one play of the LP was the need to take a nap. It was that boring.

There is a tired, predictable ennui that weighs down all 10 tracks on the album. There is something especially wheedling and whiny, however, when you consider the fact that all of the disenchantment present in the lyrics on "Pure Heroine" are coming from a 16-year-old.

The album is exhausting, in all honesty. There is nothing unique or new about the music Lorde is making. Listening to her drone on and on, endlessly and listlessly over sparse electro-dance beats is a test of patience. The best part of the album was the part where it ended and I didn't have to listen to it anymore.

Bypass "Pure Heroine." Listen to Lana Del Rey instead if you're looking for some dark mood pieces. After all, it appears that Yelich-O’Connor has decided to hijack Del Rey's smoky, seductive vocalization and longing lyrical content, but to no avail — Yelich-O’Connor's attempts failed, and now she just looks like a hack.

Rating: D-

—Katie Thurman
Senior Writer
Police chief guest speaker at student meeting

SPENCER GRANT
News Writing Student

Campus Police Chief James Fitzpatrick gave a rundown of the services provided by campus police at The Leadership Council meeting Oct. 4 in the College Union. Thirty-three student leaders and club representatives attended.

Fitzpatrick said campus police should be able to arrive at the scene of any incident reported on campus in “less than two minutes.”

Police officers will always be on duty, he said.

Fitzpatrick also mentioned that his department is now hiring for full-time for positions on campus. Student Life Assistant Director Chris Shelley concluded the meeting with details about an upcoming event.

Shelley told anyone with questions about the upcoming Halloween Carnival to contact the Student Life office by calling 405-682-7523 or emailing studentlife@occc.edu.

Any other questions about TLC can be answered by TLC Chair Megan Selby. She can be reached at megan.l.selby@my.occc.edu.

Fitzpatrick also mentioned the emergency function that is built into phones all across campus that allows campus police to locate the caller immediately, once the emergency button is pressed.

“These phones are placed in every classroom and office,” he said. “There are over 1,000 of them.”

At least 70 thefts are reported at OCCC a year, he said, but many of them are just lost items.

Fitzpatrick reminded students to check for missing items in the lost-and-found department in the Campus Police office on the first floor of the Main building, near the Coffee Shop.

He told students to check for things that they’ve lost right away, before they’re donated to Goodwill.

Fitzpatrick also detailed emergency procedures and how there are some parts of the building that would be safer than others in the event of an emergency.

He said more “shelter in place drills” — to be used in the case of an armed assailant — would take place in the future.

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TRiO students tour through downtown

SHELAGH LEWIS
News Writing Student

Balmy 85-degree weather on Oct. 4 provided the perfect opportunity for a bike ride in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City. Six students enrolled in TRiO Student Support Services, as well as two staff members, rented wheels and got some exercise.

TRiO Director Karolyn Chowning said the outing was part of the TRiO Healthy Living Workshop.

TRiO Assistant Director Jessica Nelson was one of the riders.

“The workshop is designed to encourage students to live a healthier lifestyle,” she said.

Healthy living also encompasses social skills, said TRiO Adviser Jermaine Peterson, who also accompanied the group.

“We want to help students to have a social connection within the program,” he said.

Chowning said the students planned to be downtown for at least four hours. They rented their bicycles from a Spokies kiosk for $5.

“The only issue we had with the bikes is you had to keep checking them out every 30 minutes to avoid being charged any additional fees for the day,” Nelson said. “Spokies has numerous kiosks located in various parts of downtown, making checking in and out pretty convenient.”

“It was a gorgeous day to ride,” she said.

TRiO students started their journey at the Myriad Botanical Gardens, then worked their way around the downtown library before finishing at the Bricktown Ballpark.

TRiO has hosted other events as well for its students.

Music lovers invited to hear stylings of Roz Brown

SHELBY DUVALL
News Writing Student

Music lovers who like the sound of Tina Turner and Natalie Cole, with a little bit of soul and jazz mixed in, are really going to enjoy vocalist Roz Brown, said Lemuel Bardeguez, the director of Cultural Arts at OCCC.

She is the second performer in the OCCC Performing Arts Series who will take the stage at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

Brown is originally from Ardmore and has been singing since the age of 3 in her local church, according to the Oklahoma Art Council’s website, www.arts.ok.gov.

“I have known Brown for many years …,” said Bardeguez. “She is a great woman and an amazing entertainer.”

Even though she lives in New York, he said, she was more than happy to fly out and perform at OCCC.

He described Brown’s performance as exciting. He said that it’s very soulful, with jazz and rock ‘n’ roll.

She also sings classic songs and show tunes. Brown sings songs that people of every age will enjoy, Bardeguez said.

He said many people do not know that Brown used to own a recording studio in Ardmore with her husband and another friend of theirs. What they would do is fly artists from New York, Los Angeles, or from wherever they were in the country, to Ardmore so they could record their album in private.

This made the recording studio have more of a family feel and not be all business all the time, Bardeguez said.

“Last year TRiO took their students rock climbing,” Nelson said.

For students interested in applying for the TRiO program, it is not too late.

“We are still looking to fill a few spots for the fall semester, as long as you have your application in before fall break,” Nelson said. “TRiO never stops accepting applications. Those received after the fall deadline will be kept on file for following semesters.”

Students also can stop by the office which is located right next to the Bursar’s office.

TRiO is a student support service program with a focus on helping students at OCCC go on to achieve their bachelor’s degree. TRiO plans trips to tour different colleges to help students make the best choices possible in transferring.

TRiO also helps students with tutoring and computer use.

Students can find a TRiO application online by visiting www.occc.edu and typing in TRiO application in the search bar.

“TRiO is full of fun, and cool stuff, not just academics,” Peterson said.

For more information, email Chowning at kchowning@occc.edu or at 405-682-1611 ext. 7620.
Roller derby helps student through hard times

PARIS BURRIS
Editor
editor@occc.edu

As the store bells ring on the doors of Oklahoma's only roller derby skate shop, a bright, genuine smile blossoms across 27-year-old Emily Schorr’s face. She's earned this smile. Her life has rapidly changed — through bad times and good — and through her passion for an ever-growing and changing way of life, her smile represents the happy lifestyle she has made for herself.

Schorr, or E-Bomb as she is known as in the roller derby world, said roller derby served as an outlet for her when her mother died of colon cancer in March of this year.

“It was a really hard time in my life,” Schorr said, her green eyes swelling with emotion.

Schorr said when her mother was diagnosed, “I kind of just avoided life for a year. I just did what I had to do to get by and that was it. I checked out for a year mentally.”

Things completely changed, Schorr said.

“Before [her death] had happened, I had a path that I was going down. Obviously life is life and nothing goes as planned all the time.”

She said roller derby was her saving grace.

“Playing roller derby helped me through a lot of the things I was dealing with,” she said.

“That is just what Schorr has done.

“[Roller derby] has genuinely made me a happier person,” she said.

“I feel like I’ve found a place in the world where I belong.

“Not that when somebody dies you just get better from it, but there was a point that happened when I was like ‘OK, you have to get your life back together. You have to continue living and moving on.’”

That is what Schorr has done.

“[Roller derby] has genuinely made me a happier person,” she said.

“I feel like I’ve found a place in the world where I belong.

“Not that I felt lost before, but I just feel like, ‘Man, this is what I was meant to do.’

Schorr said she had always been a fan of the sport and finally got the courage to try it out.

She started the new recruit process with the Oklahoma City Roller Derby league in August 2011 and made it onto her first team in March 2012. OKCRD is one of three women’s roller derby leagues in the state.

Schorr made the OKCRD’s B team, the Lightning Broads. She now plays for the all-star team.

“I’ve had a connection with roller derby that I never had with basketball or baseball,” Schorr said.

“If I could do roller derby for the rest of my life and get paid to do it, that would be my career,” Schorr said.

Schorr’s husband, Aaron Anderson, said he has seen first-hand how roller derby has affected her. Anderson is a member of the OKC Wolf Pack, the only men’s roller derby league in Oklahoma.

“Shere’s really passionate about everything she does,” he said. “It’s given her that drive and obedience to push herself.”

That push is just the thing that led to Schorr’s decision to take over Switchblade Skate Co., located at 2132 S I-240 Service Road, in her efforts to keep the roller derby scene alive.

“Just the community, in general, is so accepting,” she said. “I just feel good about all of roller derby.

“It’s definitely changed every aspect of my life.”

Schorr works full time at Starbucks, part-time at Switchblade Skate Co., and is a part-time student at OCCC on top of her dedication to her team.

Despite her busy schedule, Schorr said buying the store has been a rewarding decision.

“I get to interact with a lot of different skaters from all over,” she said.

“It’s nice to have that community and get to meet new people all of the time.”

Schorr, public relations major, said her focus right now is to graduate from OCCC in December of this year. From there, she plans to make a decision about whether or not she’d like to expand her business from a hobby to a career.

For more information about the store, email emily@ switchbladeskate.com or visit http://switchbladeskate.com. To follow Schorr’s skating career, visit her Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ebtotheomb.
Students who are looking for an affordable way to get healthy and have fun may want to purchase a Group Fitness pass, said Carole Valentine, health and fitness specialist.

Valentine said the $35 pass is an easy way for students to try out classes they enjoy and that fit their schedules without spending hundreds of dollars. “The students can take whatever (classes) we offer,” she said. “It’s a perfect opportunity to find what classes you like.”

Valentine said there is no limit to the number of classes that can be taken. “The classes are on monthly basis and begin of the first of each month,” she said. “[Students] will go in with their student ID and it will show … they have purchased the pass and will get a wristband to attend the class.”

Valentine said students can purchase a pass at the Wellness Center on the first floor of the Main Building. The pass will be added onto the student’s OCCC ID and will show when swiped. The pass will not cover a locker Valentine said. “Students will have to provide their own lock or buy a lock.”

The college offers a variety of classes including:
- Spinning class — an inspirational group training program with expert coaching, limited to nine people.
- Cardio kickboxing teaches students to use their hands and feet for self defense while increasing coordination, speed, and stamina.
- Water aerobics offers a shallow water exercise class that combines a variety of water workouts with exercises with and without water exercise equipment.
- Zumba classes have been discontinued, Valentine said. “The class was taken out but we are looking for a replacement, which we are considering putting in an Insanity (cardio) class,” she said.
- Non-students can purchase an all-access membership. “The all-access membership pass costs $270 for an individual,” she said. A $50 membership fee also is charged, she said.

For more information about the Group Fitness pass or memberships, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.
**Accident, iPhone theft reported to police**

**KATIE THURMAN**
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

An automobile accident and a stolen iPhone were recently reported to campus police.

On Sept. 23, student Jennifer Morton reported to Officer Ronald Ventresca that her car had been struck by another vehicle.

Morton said she parked her car in Lot A and when she returned later, she noticed damage to her back bumper and a handwritten note on her windshield.

According to Ventresca, the note was written by Dylan Lepak, the driver of the second vehicle. It included his name, phone number, vehicle description and an offer to provide insurance information.

Ventresca later told Morton that Lepak had upheld his obligation in the incident and she was sent on her way.

On Sept. 24, student Jordan Bernharady reported his iPhone 5 had been stolen in parking lot A. Bernharady said a female in a red SUV approached him in Lot A.

The woman asked if she could use Bernharady’s phone to call her aunt. Bernharady gave her his phone. No one answered, according to Bernharady, and his phone was returned to him.

However, according to officer David Madden, Bernharady asked the female if there was anyone he could text to help her out.

She then asked for the phone a second time. Bernharady complied and a male suspect driving the SUV drove away.

Madden said the SUV immediately exited campus.

After reviewing area surveillance video, Madden said the vehicle stopped multiple people in the parking lot before making contact with Bernharady in lot A.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872.

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**Survey: Student poll results viewed as ‘extremely positive’**

*Continued from page 1*

out of 7, and a safe campus with a 6.30 out of 7.

Lower rated items were the child care facilities (5.2 out of 7), the helpfulness of academic advisers (5.30 out of 7) and financial aid counselors (5.30 out of 7).

The lowest rated items on the survey showed a margin that was higher than the national average in schools where students were given a similar survey.

Harvey said the survey will be administered again, probably in the spring of 2015.

He described the survey results as “extremely positive.”

“I think the reason that any organization asks the people who use their services [about their satisfaction] is because we want to know areas where we can improve,” Harvey said.

“For years, our mission was to provide access in terms of affordability,” Harvey said. But he said that OCCC has other responsibilities and duties to carry out, and on the forefront is the goal of making students more successful.

Harvey said student satisfaction is one thing, but student success in the form of graduation rates is another.

“One of the things that we’re not satisfied with is the number of students who graduate,” Harvey said. What this (survey) tells us is that students have a really high opinion of the college - they’re satisfied with their experience here.

“Now the big challenge is to use that positive experience and build on that using a variety of interventions to help students be successful.”

Harvey said that when students who took the survey were asked if they would re-enroll at OCCC again, between 87 percent and 89 percent said yes. The national number, Harvey said, was 70 percent.

“My takeaway is that we have very satisfied students and we can build on that to make students successful. This satisfaction is great [because] it could definitely be a problem if [students] weren’t.”

Harvey said that student surveys go a long way back.

“It’s been something that we’ve done since before I started here,” said Harvey, who has worked at OCCC for nearly 10 years.

Although it wasn’t the first time that OCCC administered a student survey, it was the first time using a new model, Harvey said.

The Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction inventory was used this time, after the college’s previous student opinion survey vendor, ACT, discontinued their survey.

For more information, contact Harvey at sharvey@occc.edu.

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**Open mic: Students invited to perform during free event**

*Continued from page 1*

support the students who are participating. McCauley said she worked with Student Life to create the event.

“We would love to have a big audience for anyone that wants to come,” she said.

McCauley said there are no guidelines on what can and cannot be said, allowing students to be creative.

“This is an opportunity for students to share their talents,” she said.

OCCC held an open mic last spring that went really well, which is why they decided to have another one this fall, McCauley said.

Some students who participated in the last open mic read poetry and short stories, sang, and played guitar. McCauley said students who performed in last spring’s open mic really enjoyed it and some are planning to perform again.

Twins Tiffane and Kia Short both participated in last spring’s open mic and are already working on what they will perform this year because they enjoyed it so much. At the last event, they both read poetry they had written.

At this coming open mic, Tiffane plans on reading a poem or short story and Kia is performing a monologue she has composed.

This event is part of Humanities Month and Diversity Month.

There will be a signup sheet for the students who want to participate.

In order to speak at the open mic, students need to come early to claim a spot.

For more information about the Student Showcase Open Mic, contact McCauley at mmccauley@occc.edu or at 405-682-1611, ext. 7405.
Students urged to join honor society

Students who have completed two or more business classes and have at least a 3.5 GPA are encouraged to join Kappa Beta Delta.

As stated on KBD’s website, the purpose of the organization is to “encourage and recognize scholarship and accomplishment among students of business pursuing associate degrees, and to encourage and promote personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honorable service to humankind.”

Co-sponsor Charles Myrick said eligible students will receive an invitation letter via school email. Around 200 invitations are sent out each semester.

“There’s a list we go through in the business division office and we identify the top 20 percent of students who meet criteria,” he said.

Myrick said students pay a one-time fee of $50, giving them a lifetime membership.

President Crystal Springsteen said the organization participates in many activities that benefit others.

The Angel Tree, a Christmas tree that contains ornaments with names of children on it, is one of those activities.

Members of the organization may choose a name off the tree and buy a gift for that child.

“The Angel Tree is my favorite because when I first started school, I [was a recipient] and it really helped,” Springsteen said.

Business major Traci Long said she got involved in the organization because of all the benefits it provides.

“I know it’s going to look really good on my transcript and it’s definitely going to be beneficial going on to a university to finish my degree as well as look good on a resume,” Long said.

Springsteen agrees. She said she has been involved with the organization for three years now.

“When I came [to OCCC], I wanted to be a part of an organization and I got an invitation to this one,” she said. “I did a little bit of research and liked the scholarship opportunities and benefits KBD offered.”

Co-sponsor Germain Pichop said Kappa Beta Delta is an exclusive group you cannot find everywhere.

“With KBD, the school has to be accredited through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools to have a chapter,” he said.

“When you get a chapter, it’s a statement that your program is a quality program,” Pichop said.

Pichop said all first-time students who join receive a one-year subscription to Business Week magazine.

The club meets twice a month in room 2R0 in the Main Building. For more information on Kappa Beta Delta, contact Pichop at germain.n.pichop@occc.edu or at 405-682-1611, ext. 7285.
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. 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.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Two 40” CRT televisions. EC. $20 each. 405-818-0083.

FOR SALE: ProFormXP 550S treadmill, iFit compatible, heart-rate sensors. LCD display shows calories burned and more. Like new. $400. For more details and pictures, text 405-818-0083.

FOR SALE: Queen-size black heavy headboard and footboard bed frame. Good condition. $75. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Women’s professional clothing, sizes 18W to 22W. The lot includes 3 dresses, 2 2-piece dresses, and 9 skirt suits. All 23 pieces for $100. Text 405-245-7319 for pics or more info.


FOR SALE: New size 26 jeans — never been worn. Brands include Vans, Levi’s and Zumiez. $10 per pair. Retail for $40 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: “Star Wars” Hayden Christensen autographed photo in plastic protector & Certificate of Authenticity. $60. Text 405-818-0083 for more information.


FOR SALE: Golden oak corner TV cabinet. Gold trim, glass door on power storage section. Gently used. $75. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

FOR SALE: Netgear N300 wireless router. Great for setting up home worksites. Used for only one month. Comes with power cord and ethernet card. $35. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

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Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail Paris Burris
editor@occc.edu
Cooler weather brings out harmless creatures

J.J. VIGIL
News Writing Student

Those at OCCC may have noticed an increase in cricket activity when fall rolled around. For crickets, fall marks the beginning of a new generation. They spend most of the year hidden underground and only come out in the fall, said Biology Professor Dennis Anderson.

“This is when they mate and have thousands of offspring in a short period of time before going back underground when it gets cold again,” Anderson said.

“Larger animals, with fewer offspring, (teach their young) how to hunt and survive, but smaller animals and insects that have many offspring, just reproduce and leave them to survive on their own,” Anderson said.

“That’s why you see so many crickets this time of year. “Crickets are harmless,” he said. “They don’t carry any diseases or poison like other insects.”

The dark-brown insects are not a big problem on campus, said J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director. Only a few find their way inside.

“Some crickets are inevitable,” he said. “Our campus has many handicap-accessible doors that run on a timer, which would allow crickets time to enter our buildings.” College employees take a minimalist approach toward the insects.

“We do not use pesticides as a form of addressing them [crickets],” Messer said. “We either sweep them up or vacuum them and dispose of them that way.”

Anderson perceives crickets as doing more good than harm.

“Crickets are actually good for our environment. They are a protein source for other insects as well as some animals,” Anderson said. “In some countries people eat them as well.”

Both Anderson and Messer agree that crickets are usually drawn to lighted, damp areas like parking lots.

“Crickets are cold-blooded insects,” Anderson said. “They depend on the weather to keep their bodies warm.”

Some steps can be taken to minimize their presence.

“Keep your porch lights off at your house,” Anderson said. “This will lessen the chance that crickets will get into your house.”

He doesn’t recommend poison either.

“Pesticides are not to be used unless they [crickets] are killing your crops,” he said. “Even if you spray a pesticide this year to kill them, they will still come back next year. Crickets are a very resilient insect.”

Anderson said, interestingly enough, a person can tell the temperature by these annoying little creatures.

“Count how many chirps there are in 14 seconds and add that to 40 and that’s the temperature outside,” he said. “It’s not exact but it’s close.”

Anderson said humans only have to live with these insects for a short period of time, until cold weather sets in.

CRICKET FACTS

Latin Name: —Order Orthoptera
—Families include but not limited to: Gryllacrididae, Gryllidae, Gryllotalpidae, Rhaphidophoridae and Stenopelmatidae

Behavior, Diet & Habits: —Most crickets prefer damp moist conditions. Many are active at night, and some are attracted to lights.
—Crickets are omnivorous, meaning that they will eat plant- and animal-based materials.

Reproduction: —Crickets complete a gradual metamorphosis from egg to nymph to adult.

Cricket Facts
—House crickets measure 16 to 22 mm in length. They are light yellowish-brown in color and exhibit three dark bands atop their heads. Field crickets are brown or black in color and can grow to measure more than 2.5 cm in length. Ground crickets are brown and much smaller than other common cricket species.

—Crickets often dwell beneath rocks and logs and are nocturnal in nature. They are omnivorous scavengers and renew soil minerals by breaking down plant materials. Crickets also provide food for other animals, including birds, rodents and lizards. However, they are a destructive presence in agricultural communities, as they feed on crops and seedlings. When attracting a mate, male crickets create sound by rubbing their forewings against each other. Their songs can identify cricket species. These sounds can prove troublesome at night, when they often are loud enough to interrupt sleep.

—http://mrwhatis.net/house-cricket

Oct. 17 through 20 marks fall break for students

NANCY MARTINEZ
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

OCCC’s fall break starts Thursday, Oct. 17 and runs through Sunday, Oct. 20. While the Main Building will remain open, there will be no classes.

However, some areas of the college will be open and keep normal hours while others will keep alternate hours and a few areas will close.

OPEN REGULAR HOURS:

• Child Development Center and Lab School: 405-682-7561

• Nursing Campus Clinical Lab: 405-682-1611, ext. 7663.

• Student Life: 405-682-7523

• Student Support Services: 405-682-7520

• Testing and Assessment Services: 405-682-7531

• TRiO Upward Bound: 405-682-7865

OPEN WITH ALTERNATE HOURS:

• Bookstore:
—Thursday, Oct. 17: Regular hours.
—Friday, Oct. 18: Closed

• Library:
—Thursday, Oct. 17, and Friday, Oct. 18: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
—Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• Biology Science Center: —Thursday, Oct. 17: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
—Friday, Oct. 18, and Saturday, Oct. 19: Regular hours.

• Chemistry/Physics Science Center: —Thursday, Oct. 17: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
—Friday, Oct. 18, and Saturday, Oct. 19: Regular hours.

• Communications Lab: —Thursday, Oct. 17, and Friday, Oct. 18: 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
—Saturday, Oct. 19: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

• Engineering Science Lab: —Thursday, Oct. 17, and Friday, Oct. 18: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

• Mathematics Lab: —Thursday, Oct. 17, and Friday, Oct. 18: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
—Saturday, Oct. 19: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• Student Computer Center: —Thursday, Oct. 17, and Friday, Oct. 18: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
—Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CLOSED:

• Accounting Lab 405-682-1611, ext. 7286

• Biotechnology Lab 405-682-1611, ext. 7685

• Cadaver Lab 405-682-1611, ext. 7406

• EMT Lab 405-682-1611, ext. 7641

• World Languages and Cultural Center 405-682-1611, ext. 7641

For more information, call the number listed for each area, call the college’s main number 405-682-1611 or visit the OCCC website at www.occc.edu.