Overall, graduation survey results positive

On a 10-point scale, OCCC scored an average of 8.77

PARIS BURRIS
Editor
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Of the 800 out of 1541 OCCC graduates who responded to the college’s 2012 annual graduate survey, most ranked their overall satisfaction at OCCC with an average of 8.77 on a 10-point scale, according to a document prepared by the Institutional Effectiveness office.

While overall satisfaction is high, other areas of the survey received less impressive results compared to the survey of 2011 graduates.

The survey shows 45.3 percent of the responding graduates are not working in a position related to the degree or certificate they completed at OCCC compared to 40.9 percent in 2011.

About 41.5 percent said their position is directly related compared to 47.2 percent in 2011.

The results were gathered from a survey sent out to all OCCC 2012 graduates by mail six months after their graduating semester, Institutional Effectiveness Director Janet Perry said.

The survey consisted of 17 education and employment-related questions and a summary of the graduates’ overall experiences at OCCC.

“The college takes the opportunity to survey our graduates through a variety of different methods to increase the response rate,” Perry said. “It’s over 50 percent which is our goal. The average for a survey such as this is about 30 percent and people are usually very pleased with getting a 30 percent response rate. So it’s an excellent response rate.”

Perry said the response rate of this survey was only 17 percent when she started working at OCCC.

Employment percentages stayed about the same as the 2011 results: 65.8 percent responded that they are employed.

See SURVEY page 9

OCCC cyber security program ranks high

LAUREN DANIEL
Staff Writer
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The college’s cyber security degree program received national recognition recently by being ranked one of the top 25 cyber and internet security degree programs.

Al Heitkamper, cyber security professor, said he received an email congratulating OCCC’s program from a website called

See CYBER page 9
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Students, professors need to act like the adults they are

Classroom respect important

Respect. It's something we all think we deserve and all hope to receive. We also give it to those we find worthy. The concept is simple, yet often overlooked.

This semester I started attending the University of Central Oklahoma while simultaneously finishing my degree at OCCC. The very first class I had at UCO was anything but pleasant.

The professor was rude from the start, threatening to lock a student out of the classroom the next time she came in late when the student had only been two minutes late. Considering it was the first day of class, the professor's response was completely uncalled for.

Turning textbook pages before being told to by the professor, asking classmates questions and not taking enough notes are just a few of the things my class has been called out for this semester.

The thing that unnerved me the most was one day while preparing for an upcoming test, a student raised her hand and asked a question. The professor's response was "I know you guys aren't children. You shouldn't need me to explain everything to you."

The student's question had been straightforward and honest, yet the professor used it as an opportunity to once again challenge the class.

I understand there are certain rules and regulations professors have to follow and it is important to keep a classroom under control; however, my professor is right—we are not children and shouldn't be treated as such. There is never an excuse to belittle an individual.

Educator and Professional Counselor Deborah Bauer promotes the idea of mutual respect between students and professors at www.educationspace360.com.

"Mutual respect grows out of a positive learning environment. By showing consideration for your students and a genuine desire for them to learn, you will help to create a culture in which you can offer respect. In return, you will receive appreciation and even admiration from your students."

I believe you get the same respect you show others. Why should I feel inclined to attend, pay attention and do well in a class where I know the professor will confront students virtually every class period?

College students sacrifice time, money and effort to better themselves, so when a professor tells them they are not up to standard, that is an insult.

If students didn't care, they wouldn't show up for class. If a professor cannot respect a student personally, the professor should at least respect the goal the student is trying to accomplish.

In return, students should be respectful toward professors. It is a two-way street that only works when both parties are on board.

I can honestly say the OCCC faculty does an excellent job of respecting its students. I have never felt like less of a person and very rarely have I had a disagreement with a professor here.

All of us should feel important. If we all put a little effort into how we treat others, we would all be happier people. Respect goes a long way and all it takes is a kind word, helpful gesture or a warm smile.

—ERIN PEDEN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | WNV letter

Place baby on back to help reduce infant death rate

To the editor:

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, the sudden death of an infant who is less than 1 year old and whose death is unexpected and cannot be explained after a thorough case investigation, is the leading cause of death in babies from 1 month to 1 year of age. Each year in Oklahoma about 35 babies die due to SIDS.

In an effort to reduce that number, the Oklahoma State Department of Health backs the national “Back to Sleep” campaign.

It’s credited for reducing SIDS deaths by 50 percent just by emphasizing that babies be placed on their backs, not tummies, to sleep. Doctors agree the safest place for a baby to sleep is in your room in a separate sleep area. The OSDH and the American Academy of Pediatrics offer the following infant safety recommendations:

• Always place your baby on his or her back to sleep, for naps and at night.
• Use a firm sleep surface, such as a mattress in a safety-approved crib, covered by a fitted sheet.
• Keep soft objects, toys, and loose bedding out of your baby’s sleep area.
• Make sure nothing covers baby’s head.
• Dress your baby in light sleep clothing, such as a one-piece sleeper, and do not use a blanket.
• Breastfeeding is recommended and is associated with a reduced risk of SIDS.
• Baby should be up-to-date on all immunizations.
• Baby should not sleep in an adult bed, on a couch, or on a chair alone, with you or with anyone else.
• Do not use pillows, blankets, sheepskins or crib bumpers anywhere in your baby’s sleep area.
• Do not smoke or allow smoke around your baby.
• Never place a crib near a window with mini-blind or curtain cords, or near baby monitor cords; babies can strangle on cords.
• Place baby on his or her stomach while awake and someone is watching. Tummy time helps baby’s head, neck and shoulder muscles develop.

To learn more about safe sleep or the Preparing for a Lifetime, It’s Everyone’s Responsibility initiative, visit http://iio.health.ok.gov, and talk with your baby’s health care provider.

For information on crib safety guidelines, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772 or www.cpsc.gov.

—OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUSINESS REVIEW | Reviewer says Super Center is friendly, affordable, fast

Fast Lane’s good for basic repairs

While on the way to class last week, my jeep made a clunking noise when I applied the brakes.

Since I live near Edmond, it seemed best to get my vehicle checked out by a mechanic before making the drive to OCCC.

Fast Lanes at 2025 N 142nd St. was nearby, so I went there.

Gary, the manager, greeted me outside the bay doors with a smile. I’ve been a customer there for a long time.

The clunk was audible outside of the SUV as it was from inside, so they put it up on the lift and removed the wheels. The pads were fine, but a brake caliper was broken. If I had driven to class instead of getting it checked, it could have caused an accident.

I like the fact that Fast Lanes has a clean waiting area with a television and playroom for the kids. They come in periodically to keep you updated on the progress of your vehicle and will never complete any work without first having you approve it.

They show you the bad parts so you can see the actual damage that was done.

Whenever they work on my vehicle, they also do a check on the fluids, lights, belts, and hoses. I feel safer knowing they are paying attention to details.

Safety for employees and customers is a priority, so they have numerous procedures in place. It shows me they take their work very seriously.

After the brake was repaired, I was given a ticket for a free car wash. This is something else that I’ve come to like about having them do my repairs.

I usually have them wash the outside, wipe down the dash and trim work inside, and vacuum the floorboards and mats.

My car is usually cleaner afterwards than it was before. After they apply a choice of scents, it smells wonderful, too.

The price is reasonable, especially considering what you get for what you pay. My only complaint is that they are limited on the types of repairs they do.

Even so, I’d recommend this garage if you are in need of basic repairs. I was out the door for less than $100.

Rating: A-

—Nancy Martinez
Staff Writer

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Burgers are just one item on extensive menu

Burger Shack fare affordable, yummy

Sometimes it’s nice to sit back and enjoy a big plate of hearty food and not worry about the calories.

Irm’a Burger Shack, located in Midtown at 1120 Classen Drive, has great food for a full meal without breaking the bank.

If you go with a big appetite, the “What U Lookin’ @” platter might be exactly what you need.

The plate overflows with a breakfast food lover’s dream: a sandwich piled with fried eggs, hot links, bacon, pepper jack, swiss, hot ham and Oklahoma’s own “No Name Beef” all in between buttery, toasted bread.

It’s definitely a mouthful, but at a price of $15.95, the full meal is well worth the money.

While it’s sure to fill the appetite of a mighty hungry eater, it’s also a great dish to split with others.

Now, if you’re just looking for a mouth-watering, tasty burger that isn’t so overwhelming, the restaurant’s simple “Irm’a Burger” is a yummy way to satisfy your cravings without going overboard.

At $4.95, this burger, paired with some fries or hand-breaded onion rings is the perfect way to grab a quick, tasty meal.

The best feature of the restaurant, I do have to say, is their buttermilk pie.

If you’ve never had buttermilk pie, you’re sort of missing out. If you’ve never had a buttermilk pie from Irm’a’s, you’re really missing out.

Every bite is just as delicious as the last, the crust is perfect, and while $3 for one slice is a little pricey, it is definitely worth your while.

Buying a whole buttermilk pie for $10 is definitely a better deal and you’ll get to enjoy it at home too.

If you’re looking for a pie to bring to Thanksgiving dinner, everyone will thank you for bringing them a yummy Irm’a’s buttermilk pie.

Along with these delicious treats, Irm’a’s also offers Frito chili pie, chicken fried steak, hot dogs, salads and more.

Not only is the food great, but I’ve received good service when I’ve been there as well.

Irm’a’s Burger Shack is a great, affordable place for yummy American food.

Rating: A

—Paris Burris
Editor
Ah, online shopping — a shopaholic’s best friend.

Until a couple of years ago, I wasn’t the biggest fan of online shopping. However, I’m a very specific kind of shopper so I typically don’t buy unless I go looking for one particular thing to add to my collection.

The handful of stores I do frequent are so familiar with me that I’m basically on a first-name basis with the employees who work there. Their knowing my clothing sizes and what I’m looking for really takes the guesswork out of shopping for me.

However, making constant trips to the mall for one shirt at a time became a bit tenuous and started to waste a great deal of my time which isn’t really an ideal thing for a college student to be wasting. So I discovered the beauty of online shopping.

Of all the online shopping experiences I’ve had, the ones I’m fairly pleased with are the ones I’ve had with Forever21.

While there are two Forever21 stores in Oklahoma City, taking the time to run to the mall doesn’t always fit into my schedule. That’s where www.Forever21.com comes in.

The strong point of the website is, of course the convenience. In addition, orders over $50 ship for free and you’re able to track your package the entire way. Shipping also is usually very fast, which is a major plus when you want new clothes now.

Then there are things that could be made a bit better. The webpage where you place the order itself is messy and hard to understand.

Once, it led me to purchasing the same sweater twice.

There’s also no way to opt out of annoying weekly emails from the online store which tend to clutter my inbox.

I also wouldn’t recommend ordering jewelry — especially earrings — from the online site. Twice, earrings arrived either missing components or falling apart.

On both occasions, the Forever21 store at Penn Square Mall was more than happy to let me trade the earrings in for pairs that were complete or unbroken, but I saved myself no time by ordering online in these cases.

In closing, I really feel the good points outweigh the bad.

A recent online shopping spree of four sweaters and a scarf was affordable, eligible for free shipping and arrived at my front door in about four business days.

Rating: B-

—Katie Thurman
Senior Writer

SongPop a great musical test game

Think you are a master song whiz? SongPop will test that knowledge.

A free app that can be downloaded for iPhone or Android or played on your desktop computer, SongPop is a fun way to challenge your friends on songs from all decades.

Users can find opponents by connecting to their Facebook account and challenging friends or they can choose a random opponent.

Once a game has been started, users have four categories of music to choose from in which to challenge their opponent. After a category has been selected, a three-second countdown will occur and the first song is played. The song is played at a random spot in the tune and users must pick the correct answer from four choices. The choices will be either artists’ names or song titles.

Users can take as much time as they need to pick a song. Once an answer has been clicked, the game will automatically let players know if they got it right or wrong.

Once they have gone through five songs, a list of songs that were played will pop up, allowing players to see what they missed or got right, as well as how long it took them to answer. The game will then be sent to the opponent who will guess the same songs.

The opponent will then choose a playlist, guess the players which opponents they beat and which opponents scored more points than they. Players are then given coins for each opponent they beat. The scoreboard is then reset for the upcoming week.

SongPop is a game that truly tests your song knowledge and speed. It is a fun way to kill a few minutes of free time, discover new songs and brag about your musical wisdom.

I like that while you can choose to spend money to buy new playlists, the coins you receive from playing the game also give you a chance to buy playlists without ever spending a dime.

There also are hundreds of playlists to choose from, some from categories I have never heard of.

I would highly recommend this game to anyone who loves music. There is definitely something for everybody with SongPop.

Rating: A

—Erin Peden
Online Editor

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Oct. 18 through Oct. 20
www.newyorktimes.com

1. Gravity
2. Captain Phillips
3. Carrie
4. Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs
5. Escape Plan
6. Prisoners
7. Enough Said
8. The Fifth Estate
9. Runner Runner
10. Insidious: Chapter 2
11. Rush
12. Machete Kills
13. Don Jon
14. Baggage Claim
15. I’m in Love With a Church
16. 12 Years a Slave
17. We’re the Millers
18. Pulling Strings
19. Instructions Not Included
20. Despicable Me 2
$10,000 scholarship for business majors

CARLTON THOMPSON
News Writing Student

Oklahoma City University is aiming to attract more business majors from OCCC to its campus on Northwest 23rd Street. To make the private school more affordable, business students at OCCC have an opportunity to obtain a Meinders $10,000-a-year transfer scholarship to OCU.

"We would be the natural next step for a business student interested in a four-year degree," said Steve Agee, dean of the Meinders School of Business at OCU.

A number of the transfer scholarships may be offered, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist.

"Any student who is a business major, who holds a 2.5 cumulative GPA and has completed at least 30 hours at OCCC, would be eligible for the scholarship," Sechrist said.

When asked how many scholarships were being offered, Sechrist said he was told, at this point, there is no limit. This scholarship is brand new.

This additional $5,000 per semester would help with tuition, which runs about $12,000 a semester at OCU.

Sechrist graduated from Southern Nazarene University, a private college in Bethany, and also has experienced academic life at a large public university, the University of Oklahoma.

Sechrist noted the benefits of attending a private school.

"Generally you may find smaller classes, more interaction with professors, perhaps opportunities for international travel," he said.

Agee said this offers a unique opportunity to grow as a business student.

"OCU provides an opportunity to work hands-on with projects and assignments that deal directly with students’ majors," he said.

"Dr. Herman Meinders gives the investment club $100,000 for the undergraduate team to make investment decisions each year," Agee said.

"Finance professors help work up a portfolio to invest into the market and get hands-on experience."

OCU alum Carlos Robinson works as Admissions and Outreach adviser at OCCC. He earned his bachelor’s degree at OCU after completing his associate degree at OCCC and lent his voice of support to transferring to the private university.

"They cater to looking to how students can use scholarships, financial aid and a good GPA to get through OCU reasonably," he said.

At OCCC Robinson served as president of the Black Student Association and chair of The (Student) Leadership Council.

Robinson explained how campus involvement is a key factor to getting admitted into OCU.

"You get more of an edge when you're active," he said. "Being involved helps create connections with higher-ups who really help with a good letter of recommendation to transfer to OCU."

Additional information about OCU scholarships is posted at www.okcu.edu.

Contact Lynette Martin for admissions information by email at lmartin@okcu.edu.

Learn how part-time service in the Air National Guard can help you pay for college. Talk to a recruiter today.

GoANG.com/OK ➤ 800-TO-GO-ANG
Hip-hop on holiday party dance card

ALICIA MENZ
News Writing Student

Students with an awesome Halloween costume and the need to dance will have the opportunity to show their moves and get a good workout at OCCC’s first ever Hip-Hop Halloween Dance Party at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the Wellness Center in room 1C4.

This Halloween-themed class is aimed at generating an interest in dance.

“This little event is basically part of our attempt to bring dance to OCCC,” said Elizabeth Hobi, fitness instructor with the office of Recreation and Fitness.

“We will have a fun dance class with jazz, funk, and hip-hop for all levels,” Hobi said.

“Students should attend to move and groove a little with others who love dance too,” Hobi said it’s important to offer a variety of musical genres so as to make it a comfortable atmosphere and workout session for everyone from beginners to seasoned dancers.

“No previous training is required,” Hobi said.

“It’s not going to be anything that is going to intimidate anybody that has never had a dance class,” Hobi said she would like the opportunity to offer more events like this one.

“I want to do whatever I can to offer as broad a variety of dance as possible here,” she said.

Emily Montgomery, a nursing major, said she saw the flyers around campus, and is excited to attend.

“I’m planning on dressing as a fairy,” Montgomery said.

“I’ve already invited some friends from school,” Montgomery also said that she would like to see more events like this one offered to students.

“No previous dance training is necessary,” Hobi said.

“It’s not going to be anything that is going to intimidate anybody that has never had a dance class.”

Hobi said that she saw the flyers around campus, and is excited to attend.

“I’m planning on dressing as a fairy,” Montgomery said.

“I’ve already invited some friends from school.”

Montgomery also said that she would like to see more events like this one offered to students.

“IT really gets the students involved and helps other students meet new people,” Montgomery said.

Though she’s not an experienced dancer, Montgomery said, she’s excited to just have a fun experience.

“All too often couples aren’t able to identify the signs of an abusive or unhealthy relationship, Coulson said.

“I will attempt to give listeners the tools to identify what a healthy relationship looks like,” she said.

Coulson said she has done this presentation on a number of occasions.

Additionally she has given many presentations on domestic violence and how to identify exactly what that is.

Howard said Student Support Services and Student Life are sponsoring this presentation in acknowledgment of October as domestic violence awareness month.

She encourages students to bring a brown bag lunch and come listen.

For more information, contact Howard at 405-682-1611 ext. 7621.
With Halloween just around the corner, lots of spooky fun is available in the metro and surrounding area.

- **Chester’s Party Barn and Farm**: An $8 admission includes a pony ride, a pumpkin patch, hayride, and a petting zoo. Call 405-793-5090 for more information.

- **The Haunted Barn/Trail of Terror**: Open from dark to 10:30 p.m. on Oct. 18, 19, 25, 26, and 31 in Edgemoor at 2701 W 10th St. A frightening night out in a barn settled in wide open country. Adults pay $10. Children 12 and under pay $8. Call 405-650-6651 for more information.

- **Lake Thunderbird Halloween Festival**: Have fun with pumpkin bowling, fishing game, and a bean bag toss on Saturday, Oct. 26. The Cleveland County Sheriff also will be on hand to fingerprint little ghouls. This 12-and-under event is held in an area off of Highway 9 at the Clear Bay entrance. (Look for signs.) Call 405-360-3572 for directions.

- **Oklahoma City Zoo**: From 6:30 and 8 p.m. Oct. 26 through Oct. 31, children can visit zoo animals, meet mascot characters, visit Halloween booths and get a treat bag. Adults get in free with each paid child's admission of $7. Save $1 on admission by purchasing early. Call 405-424-3344 or visit www.okc zoo.com for more information.

- **Oklahoma Gazette’s Halloween parade “Ghouls Gone Wild”**: Join 60,000 other spectators at one of the largest Halloween events in the state. The parade starts at 7 p.m. Oct. 26 in downtown Oklahoma City through Midtown and Automobile Alley (NW 16th and Hudson to NW 6th and Broadway). Live bands, floats and zombies will flood the downtown area for a howlingly good time. Parade watchers are urged to dress in costume. Call 405-528-6000 or visit http://okgazet teparade.com/ghosts for more information.

- **Pumpkinville**: From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 31, visitors can see a pumpkin village at 301 West Reno. More than 3,000 pumpkins went into creating this small village with displays, games and activities such as bobbing for apples, storytimes in the candy corn fort, a hay bale maze and crafts. Myriad Gardens members enter free, but others pay $3 for adults and $5 for children. Call 405-445-7080 for more information.

- **The Sanctuary Haunted House**: Four full stories of terrifying ghouls and ghosts set in movie set style. This haunted house, open from 8 p.m. to midnight Oct. 25 and 26 and Oct. 30 through Nov. 2, is extremely realistic and frightening. General tickets are $18, VIP tickets are $28 and the group rate is $14 per person plus small fees. Located at 530 S Broadway behind the Chesapeake Arena. Call 405-602-8700 or visit www.thesanctuaryokc.com for more information.

- **Spookville**: Have a safe and fun-filled night complete with a haunted house, costume contest, carnival, face painting, games and more starting at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 26 at the Yukon Community Center, 2200 S Holly. A costume contest, open to everyone, starts at 2 p.m. Enter your pet in the Halloween masquerade costume contest. $3 per person. Call 405-354-8442 for more information.

- **TG Farms Pumpkin Patch**: Locations in Norman and Newcastle will have a corn maze, petting zoo, giant slide, tricycle race track and hayrides plus a general store full of fresh produce and decorations for sale from 3 p.m. until dark, Monday through Friday through Nov. 1. Admission is $8 plus tax per person (walking age and above). Admission is $10 plus tax after 3 p.m. and weekends. Entry fee includes your choice of a pumpkin. Season passes are $19.95. Call 405-387-3276 or visit emailreservations@tgfarms.com for more information.

- **Ghouls Gone Wild**: A Halloween fantasy land, full of carnival games for the kids to play and several moon bounces, will take place from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 29, at Joe Barnes Regional Park, 8700 E Reno in Midwest City. There will be all types of hot carnival food including hamburgers, hot dogs and cotton candy. No age limit and costumes are welcome. Admission is free, but game tickets are 4 for $1. Call 405-739-1293 for more information.

- **Trick or Treat City**: A Halloween fantasy land, full of carnival games for the kids to play and several moon bounces, will take place from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 29, at Joe Barnes Regional Park, 8700 E Reno in Midwest City. There will be all types of hot carnival food including hamburgers, hot dogs and cotton candy. No age limit and costumes are welcome. Admission is free, but game tickets are 4 for $1. Call 405-739-1293 for more information.

- **Trick-Or-Treating and Costume Contest**: Ride the train, carousel or hay ride and more from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 26 at Orr Family Farm located at 14400 S Western. Costumes are welcome and candy will be given out to the little ones. Admission is $12.50 for adults and children 2 and up. A pumpkin is included in the cost. The corn maze and costume contest are $5. The zip line is $10 per ride. Call 405-799-3276 or visit www.orrfamilyfarm.com for more information.

- **Trick or Treat on the Street**: From 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 31, children can trick or treat downtown Edmond merchants dressed in costume. Free admission. Call 405-249-9391 for more information.
OCCC’s Nitro ball season is starting soon. Registration is already open and is free to all students with a valid OCCC student ID, said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

"Students can join all the way until the halfway point in the season," Wright said. "They will have to play in at least one game to be eligible for the playoff games."

The Nitro ball season begins Nov. 11 and goes until Dec. 9, he said.

Wright said teams can have a minimum of four players and a maximum of six.

"The teams can also be coed," he said. Wright said it’s up to each team to decide when and where they want to practice.

"All they have to do is contact me to make sure I am on campus and I can set up the court for them.”

Games will be played Monday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m.

Wright said this is the first year Nitro ball has been offered on campus as an intramural sport.

“During the summer at the (kids) camps … we tried it out and it went really well,” he said.

"Even the counselors got into playing Nitro ball."

“We will be having a demo soon to show anyone [who] is interested, how to play the game.”

Wright said there are three major rules of the game.

"The first rule is the ball must be served underhanded behind the back line of the court.

"Second rule is you have to let the ball hit the ground once before hitting it, like in tennis.

“The third rule is there can only be three hits per side just like in volleyball.”

Peter Boucher is the creator of Nitro ball, once known as inverted volleyball, according to www.peuniverse.com.

Boucher came up with the idea when he was conducting a summer PE class with more than 100 students.

"You can play this game on any tennis court or any gymnasium around the world," Boucher told the Canton Citizen.

"All you need is a ball and four-plus boys or girls. The propensity for the sport to multiply quickly is limitless.”

For more information about Nitro ball registration, call 405-682-7860.
Auto accident, suspicious fax reported

KATIE THURMAN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A non-injury accident and a suspicious fax kept campus police busy Oct. 14 and 15.

On Oct. 14, Officer Gordon Nelson responded to a non-injury accident on eastbound Keels Blvd. in south parking lot A. When Nelson arrived on the scene, he was met by drivers Logan Hackworth and Ashlei Wilson, as well as a witness, Amanda Woods. All three are students at OCCC. Woods told Nelson she struck Wilson’s car, a Volkswagen Jetta, because she turned in front of him to pull into a space and he couldn’t stop in time. Woods, the witness, confirmed what Hackworth said. Woods was taken to the campus police department to fill out a witness statement form.

Nelson reviewed security camera footage of the incident and confirmed that Wilson, had turned in front of Hackworth and that is when Hackworth, driving a Ford Explorer, struck her vehicle. According to Nelson, it did appear that Hackworth tried to stop but couldn’t.

On Oct. 15, Officer Patrick Martino responded to a call about a suspicious fax that was received by staff member Janet McNell in the Records and Graduation.

According to Martino, the fax was seven pages in length and was both hand-written and typed. Martino said the text was “approximately 95 percent unreadable.” Martino attempted to contact the sender via the phone number it was sent from but he was unable to do so. Martino left a message for the sender.

Martino said that he used a search engine to find the number and discovered that it was from Alberta, Canada, and that there were multiple complaints from people who had received similar faxes from the sender.

The complaints said that typically, receivers of the fax had encountered an older male making “random and outrageous” claims, such as identifying himself as the Canadian Prime Minister and saying John F. Kennedy was being held hostage.

There did not appear to be anything threatening in the fax received by McNell, according to Martino’s report.

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.

Survey: Graduate survey results viewed as mostly positive

Continued from page 1

When asked to rate how well their degree or certificate prepared them to continue their education, most responded it had prepared them well with an average of 8.6 on a 10-point scale.

The University of Central Oklahoma is the top institution graduates reported transferring to after graduation with 162 students reported in attendance there, according to the document.

University of Oklahoma came second with about 142 reported in attendance and 20 at Oklahoma State University.

Continued from page 1

Gadget Gnome.

Other colleges and universities on the list, including the University of Maryland, the University of Dallas, and the Stevens Institute of Technology, made it an honor to be mentioned in such company.

This is not the first honor the program has received and Heitkamper believes it will not be the last.

“We were one of the first six two-year institutions identified as a National Center of Excellence in Information Assurance in Education. That’s known as a ‘CAE2E’,” Heitkamper said.

The cyber security program was awarded the CAE2E in 2010, but it will expire this year, so Heitkamper and his colleagues plan to reapply.

“We started out working in 2004 doing this, and I went to the University of Tulsa to get a second master’s degree, so I could come back and run this program and teach it,” Heitkamper said.

He said the program has been around about eight years, which is a long time for this type of program. Heitkamper said the program is successful because of the methods being used.

“We give students a touch of a lot of different things, so when they go out to the field, they have a lot of tools to take out with them,” Students are pleased with the program.

Austin Gossmeyer, cyber security major, is one of them.

“I have always been impressed with the courses I have gone through,” he said.

Gossmeyer and his peer, Kris Hall, another cyber security major, are currently working in the information technology industry.

“To students who are just getting started, it is actually very beneficial,” Hall said.

The program currently offers two different degrees — an associate in applied science degree and a certificate of mastery. Both are designed to lead directly into the job market.

Heitkamper said although students can get jobs in the IT industry with a two-year degree, many choose to transfer.

“A lot of people in my program go on to OSU-IT to get that bachelor’s degree, because they realize that is really what employers are looking for,” Hall also plans to transfer to OSU-IT. He said OCCC’s program has room for improvement and needs more accreditation.

“I’m actually really surprised that the program is doing as well as it is,” Hall said. However, he said, the program is pretty good compared to other schools he has attended.

“My favorite class would have been the forensics class. We actually stalked each other,” Jobs are in abundance right now.

The website where OCCC’s program was recognized estimates there are about 30,000 jobs available, and not nearly enough people to fill those positions.

“There are so many different facets to it, which makes it in high demand,” Heitkamper said. “It is everywhere, so if you have security knowledge, you can leverage that into basically any industry.”

For more information contact Al Heitkamper at aheitkamper@occc.edu.

Questions? Comments?
Contact Paris Burris at editor@occc.edu

Contact Paris Burris at editor@occc.edu
Choices, choices

Administrative office technology assistant Armetha Hall browses through baked goods Oct. 15 at the Student Emergency Medical Sciences Association bake sale. While EMS paramedic major Emmacrow waits to collect her donation. The money raised at the bake sale went towards supplies for their labs as well as SEMSA activities and scholarships.

Club’s goal is community service

LAUREN DANIEL
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

A vast assortment of baked goods filled tables as the Student Emergency Medical Sciences Association held a bake sale Oct. 15. SEMSA holds bake sales to raise money for various causes, said Leaugey Barnes, club sponsor.

“I think they are most known at the college for their bake sales,” Barnes said. “… What sets them apart, I think, is that it is donation only. Nothing is priced.”

Conner Thompson, EMS major and SEMSA member, said the bake sales are a great way to interact with different people within the school.

“It’s a good way to raise money for causes in our community,” Thompson said.

For the past four summers, Barnes said, club members have traveled to Colorado to participate in a 180-mile bike ride that serves as a tribute to EMS heroes who have died, visit the national EMS memorial and to provide supporting gear for the riders.

“It teaches them about the EMS community and makes them part of the EMS community,” she said.

Barnes said SEMSA also raises money locally.

The club also has begun to host CPR classes and plans to train 500 people in the community this year. Forty people have already been trained. The classes help raise funds for the club, and gives students experience.

Barnes said, in the past, SEMSA has given classes on Boy Scout and Girl Scout first aid, sent teams for the OKC Memorial Run, participated in a golf tournament to raise money for scholarships, and held a conference at OCCC for EMS professionals at a drastically reduced cost. The club also allows students to build interpersonal relationships, have organizational structure, and help one another grow, she said.

“We really try to get them to value contributing to their community, contributing to their profession, and helping each other.”

Barnes said in recent years, students have started providing more leadership and have become more involved.

“I think the leaders of SEMSA now in the last couple of years have really stepped it up, too … We have a couple that have made it into the President’s Leadership Class. EMS has never been part of that before.”

Barnes said the EMS program is about helping students succeed.

“The bar is set pretty high here. I mean, we are the best EMS program in the state.”

SEMSA captures what EMS is all about — helping others. “Students are always asking ‘What’s in it for me?’ Well, you don’t get what’s in it for you until you get involved,” Barnes said.

For more information or to join the club, visit the website www.occc.edu/studentlife/clubs.html or email semsa@my.occc.edu.

Community writer@occc.edu or visit the Pioneer office located in 1F2 AH.

Eliminate MLA difficulties on Documentation Day

Explore common difficulties with MLA documentation, style and formatting with presenter Nick Webb from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28, in CU1. Refreshments will be provided from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Communications Lab. For more information, call 405-682-7379 or visit www.occc.edu/comlab.

Blood drive scheduled for Oct. 29 and 30

The Oklahoma Blood Institute blood drive will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, and Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the General Dining Area. Students are advised to eat a good meal and drink a lot of water before donating. For more information, contact Janelle Hanson at jhanson@occc.edu.

Different cultures to be celebrated Oct. 29

The 5th Modern Languages Festival begins at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, in the World Languages and Cultures Center, located on the second floor of the Main Building. The event features international poetry, and language and culture activities. Sponsored by Division of Arts and Student Life, refreshments will be provided and all are invited. For more information, call 405-682-7560.

Hip-hop Halloween party planned for Oct. 30

Dance the night away from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the Wellness Center, Room 1C4. No previous dance training is necessary for attendance. Costumes are welcome but not required. For more information, contact Elizabeth Hobi at elizabeth.hobi@gmail.com.

Students will show off poetry skills Oct. 30

Students enrolled in College Prep English I will display their poetry writing skills and give listeners a peek into their individual values in life as a part of Humanities & Diversity Month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the VPAC Art Gallery. For more information, email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

OCCC offers career-focused instructional videos

“Career Spots Videos” are available to OCCC students and alums from noon to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, in Room 1G7. For more information, call 405-682-7519.

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All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to communitywriter@occc.edu or visit the Pioneer office located in 1F2 AH.
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.


**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:** HP office jet all-in-one printer. New color and B&W cartridges. Power cord. Works great. $50. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.

**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:** 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:** 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.

**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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**FURNITURE**

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Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail Paris Burris
editor@occc.edu
Newest additions to campus police settle in

NATALIE DAVIS
News Writing Student

One grew up on a farm in Arkansas while the other spent his childhood in Pennsylvania’s second-largest city, but both of OCCC’s newest police officers have called Oklahoma home for a number of years.

Daniel Piazza and Ronald Ventresca both said they chose a career in law enforcement early in life.

Piazza, 41, grew up on a farm near Fayetteville.

“Basically, if I wasn’t in school, I was back at the farm working,” Piazza said. “I did play sports, but I was mostly dedicated to working on the farm.”

After graduating from Lincoln High School in Fayetteville, Piazza came to Oklahoma to attend Redlands Community College in El Reno, majoring in criminal justice.

“I knew in fifth grade that I wanted to be a police officer,” he said. “As a child … I always looked up to them — how they carried themselves, the respect people gave them, the interaction I had with them.

“They were always very professional and they seemed to really enjoy what they were doing.”

Piazza went on to be a police officer in Hood County, Texas, and then transferred to the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office where he had been working as major of operations for the past 12 years before coming to OCCC.

One motivation was to have more family time.

“My job at Cleveland County) was extremely time consuming,” Piazza said.

“I’m married and have three kids, a boy and two girls. And I would say the majority of my time was devoted to work and not to them.”

When Piazza saw an opening in the OCCC Police Department, he said he came to campus and looked around. Once he got inside, he said he noticed everyone, the students, faculty and staff, were all positive and that attracted him.

“I liked the atmosphere here, so that’s when I knew it was time for a change,” Piazza said.

Ventresca, 57, grew up in Pittsburg.

“I wanted to be a police officer because I wasn’t interested in working in an office, being confined like that,” Ventresca said. “I didn’t want to do the same thing every day.”

After graduating high school, he went to California for college and decided to stay awhile.

“That’s where I started my law enforcement career,” Ventresca said.

Then I got married, left there and came to Oklahoma in 1989.”

When Ventresca heard that his deputy chief was leaving the Luther Police Department, he said he decided it was time for him to make a change.

“OCCC has better pay, better working conditions and it’s a better opportunity,” Ventresca said.

One thing that is evident to both police officers is that the department is oriented toward serving the campus community.

“We’re here to help,” Piazza said. “I mean obviously we do things people may not like, but we’re here to give you a safe environment.

“Truly, 100 percent of our focus is to take care of the students, visitors and the staff here.”

To contact the police department, call 405-682-7872.

Everyone invited to three-day Faculty Association garage sale

MELODY KORNMAIER
News Writing Student

Adult and children’s clothing, furniture, books, china, household items and at least one large television will be among the items offered at the Faculty Association garage sale from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 30 and 31, and from 8 a.m. to noon Friday, Nov. 1, in CU 1, 2 and 3.

There have been lots of donations so far, but there is room for more, said history Professor Jeff Carlisle, a member of the group’s scholarship committee.

Faculty Association Chair Rachel Butler said one of the group’s older professors spent fall break cleaning out her storage shed to provide some of her large collection of china and crystal for the sale. The professor donated about 15 boxes of items.

“The china comes from some of the best antique porcelain makers,” Butler said. She named Haviland, Lenox, Syracuse, Wedgwood and Johnson Brothers. Butler said the professor also donated a 1970s Lladro figurine of a Japanese geisha that measures 12 inches tall.

Carlisle said donations will be accepted until Tuesday morning, Oct. 29. The garage sale, held every other year at OCCC, helps raise money for student scholarships.

This year the Faculty Association is hoping to raise $2,000 to $3,000, Carlisle said.

Volunteers are still needed to help set up, monitor the sale, answer questions, help people take their items to their cars and close down the sale, Carlisle said.

Any items left over on Friday will go on mark-down sale. Any remaining items will be donated to Mustang High School Project Graduation or Habitat for Humanity.

For more information, contact Professor Michael Machiorlatti at 405-682-1611, ext. 7454, or Carlisle at 405-682-1611, ext. 7391.

wanna be seen ridin’ in debt?

Bucky’s Tip: Keep Your Hands on the Wheel

When buying a car, stick to a plan so you don’t get sold “the most you can afford.”