

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE STRESSED

Editor Katie Thurman says when the holidays bring their own types of stressors, students can find help on campus. More inside.

OPINION, p. 2

NEWS

THANKSGIVING A TIME FOR MAKING PLANS

OCCC students and Child Development Center and Lab School students share their plans for the Thanksgiving holiday. Read about them on page 7.

NEWS, p. 7

SPORTS

DODGEBALL LEAGUE IS FORMING

Students who are looking for a way to relieve stress might want to join a college dodgeball team. Sign-ups are free. Turn to page 8 for dates.

SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE

STUDENT CLUB TAKES PART IN MENTORING

Members of the Hispanic Organization for Promoting Education are helping area students succeed. Read about the program inside.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

PIONEER

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WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



Rose-colored beer goggles

Film & Video Production major Quintin Mountain loses his balance while wearing goggles meant to simulate the effects of intoxication. The obstacle course, sponsored by Student Life, was part of an effort to make students aware of the dangers of drinking and driving.

KATIE THURMAN/
PIONEER

College releases financial aid report

Almost 6,200 OCCC students receive financial aid

KATIE THURMAN
Editor
editor@occc.edu

“Without the financial aid I receive, I doubt that I would be able to go to school,” said Jordain Williams, a biology major in his third semester at OCCC.

Williams is among the more than 52 percent of OCCC students who receive some sort of financial aid. This number was recently released in OCCC’s Student Financial Aid Incidental Report.

OCCC provides federal, state and institutional aid to students who qualify.

For the 2013 fiscal year, of the 21,600 students enrolled, 11,193 received some financial aid.

A total of 6,181 students received financial aid in the form of grants, such as PELL, SEOG, OTAG and BIA grants.

Some students, like Williams, receive more than one type of grant and others may choose to take out student loans for further assistance.

The amount disbursed in grants was more than \$19 million, the report shows. This accounts for 41 percent of the financial aid awarded at OCCC.

Federal loans accounted for 28 percent of the financial aid given to OCCC students, with the amount totaling more than \$13 million. More than 3,000 students receive this type of aid.

Aid for Veterans totaled more than \$7 million with 17 percent, or 867 students, receiving veterans’ benefits.

Scholarships account for 5 percent or 1,888 students receiving some aid. Scholarship aid totaled more than \$2 million.

Waivers and student work (such as federal work study) account for 6 percent (3,157) and 3 percent (504), respectively, of aid disbursement.

The mean disbursement for the 11,193 students receiving financial aid averaged around \$4,204. Financial aid disbursement is down in fiscal year 2013 at \$47,051,609 compared to the overall \$60,797,287 disbursed in fiscal year 2012.

According to the report, the Lifetime Limit on Pell grants that became effective in 2013 affected many students’ ability to receive aid.

The Lifetime Limit made many students ineligible to

receive further Pell grants due to a restriction that stopped allowing students — especially those who had been in and out of school over the years — to receive federal grants.

Students receiving federal aid have their academic progress monitored to determine whether they remain eligible for aid, based on their credit completion.

In FY2013, the academic

See **REPORT** page 9

Use caution when shopping online

LAUREN DANIEL
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

During this time of year, many students turn to buying gifts online to help complete their Christmas shopping list. Cyber

Security Professor Al Heitkamper suggests that students take all precautions so their information can be safe online.

“Make sure you’ve got all of your antivirus software up-to-

See **ONLINE** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | OCCC Student Support Services offers on- and off-campus counseling

Help is there for struggling students

With the holiday season approaching and the end of the semester coming to a close, many of us become absorbed in projects, tasks and plans that understandably have a way of occupying our full attention.



KATIE THURMAN

While many of us are extremely stressed and overwhelmed with all the things we have to do, it's easy to lose sight of what's going on around us.

It might not occur to us that with the change in season and with the added stressors this time of year brings, those around us might be having a hard time dealing with life.

Seasonal mood disorders affect 20 percent of the population of North America, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, while other mood disorders like major depression affect an estimated one in 10 adults in the U.S.

Stressors like finals at school and financial strain due to the holiday season are just a couple of the influences that can have a detrimental effect on a person who may already be struggling with some sort of mental

distress. As Thanksgiving and Christmas draw nearer, so do familial strains that may lay dormant for the rest of the year.

And there's no doubt that if someone is going through this, all of it may be lost on us even though the people we're closest to — our loved ones, friends and family — could be suffering quietly, unnoticed and unsure of how to tell someone that they need help.

There is no reason, however, that anyone experiencing seasonal or chronic depression has to be alone. It's our job to reach out to those people around us.

Be thoughtful and act intentionally over the next few months.

Take special care to tell the people in your life you're there for them if they need anything at all. It's easy to let ourselves become so busy and absorbed in our own affairs that we fail to notice what's happening to those who surround us. For that reason, there's a great deal of importance in remembering to remember the people around you.

And if you're someone who needs help, you're not alone. There are people who care and can help you. The first step in the healing process is realizing you're in need of something, whether it's just someone to listen to you or something more serious.



OCCC's Student Support Services office offers students somewhere to turn to if they're feeling a little blue, stressed, or something more serious.

Student Support Services affords students the opportunity to speak with licensed counselors who will help a student to determine what exactly is going on.

If the decision is made that a student might need to meet with someone outside of the college, Student Support Services can make appropriate referrals. The services offered by SSS are always free to OCCC students.

You aren't alone.

—KATIE THURMAN
EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Letter writer claims electronic cigarettes being used on campus

Reader says college needs to enforce tobacco ban, policy

To the editor:

The ban on tobacco products and their usage includes what is now known as vapors (E-Cigarettes).

These vapors are not safe alternatives for the user or for the bystander despite the promotion that they are.

In recent weeks, more and more people have blatantly (and at times with a disregard for others) started using vapors indoors on campus. That has gone unchallenged.

For example, I have observed usage in meetings, classrooms, the library and the College Union.

OCCC's Tobacco Use Policy reads:

"OCCC is committed to providing its students and employees a safe and healthy environment. Because of this commitment, on August 1, 2011, smoking

and the use of any tobacco products are prohibited on college property."

College policy outlines what products are prohibited on campus. It can be found at www.occc.edu/policy/pdf/1015.pdf. That policy reads: "2.1.2: Smokeless Tobacco Products: e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, dip, snuff, smokeless pouches, or any other form of loose leaf tobacco."

I am also a smoker but I respect and adhere to this policy on campus as it is beneficial and fair to

all. In fact, this policy has allowed me to cut back to half a cigarette or less a day. Please help promote a safe and fair policy for all.

—TEODORO LEON III
OCCC STUDENT

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.

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The PIONEER is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts. 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.

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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.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

GAME REVIEW | The more 'Call of Duty' games change, the more they stay the same

'Modern Warfare 4' redeemable

Infinity Ward has released their next installation of the "Call of Duty" franchise. "Call of Duty: Ghosts," might as well be "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4."

The graphics were slightly updated for the next generation consoles and the weapons were given a new paint job. But aside from that, the game plays exactly the same. The killstreaks and perks were renamed to give it a new feel but otherwise, are the exact same as before.

One thing I don't like about the game is the online portion. It feels like I am being cheated and can't play the game correctly.

I looked into the matter and it turns out before the game was released, it was leaked and someone hacked the game making it possible to cheat. This is why I have a problem with "Call of Duty" releasing a new game every year. It has the same problem every time.

On a lighter note, the online portion did release a new variety of game types. First, you have search and rescue. It combines the two game types — search and destroy with kill confirmed.



The objective of the game is to plant a bomb but if you are killed in the process you can still respawn if a teammate grabs your dog tags. However, if an enemy player grabs them, you are out until the next round. Blitz is a mixture of king of the hill

and capture the flag. Players need to reach a portal located at the enemy's spawn point while preventing the enemy from reaching theirs.

The last new game type is called cranked. Once a player kills an enemy, the player becomes cranked. The player who earned the kill has 30 seconds to earn another kill. If that player doesn't earn one within 30 seconds, he or she will die. For each kill, the player receives a power up.

The last type focuses on zombies. Infinity Ward brings a new game mode called extinction where players face wave after wave of aliens and completing different tasks along the way.

Rating: A

—GRANT VANWINKLE
SPORTS WRITER

MUSIC REVIEW | The return of former guitarist after 8-year absence brings life to the band

Korn's back from the dead with 'Shift'

Reunited and it feels so good. Korn's eleventh studio album "The Paradigm Shift" brings back many electronic and melodic elements of the band's earlier releases such as "Issues" and "Untouchables."

Korn guitarist Brian "Head" Welch's return after an eight-year absence brought new life to Korn. The rebirth led to a very creative and true return-to-form for the band.

I immediately noticed the guitars are back at the forefront in this album.

It's been so long since Korn has released a guitar driven album and the opener "Prey For Me" sets things off in a big way. It has a heavy hitting sound mixed with soaring vocals, one that I personally can't wait to see live down in the mosh pit.

After Korn's dubstep catastrophe and their last album, "The Path of Totality," I feared the band had strayed too far and lost themselves in the electronic sound with one too many bass drops and not enough guitar riffs.

I have been deeply saddened with each album after the "Untouchables" for I saw them going down the wrong path and thought they completely lost it when "Head" left the band.

Those who might be hesitant to buy "The Paradigm Shift" because they noticed the same things can rest assured.



They have been resurrected and are back in the game.

The electronic influence is still present but it doesn't dominate the sound. The guitars are well defined along with Reginald "Fieldy" Arvizu's thumping bass which is vital to their sound and identity.

The first single "Never Never" is a prime example of their how their new-found balance between industrial elements and their metal roots works.

YOU *asked* FOR IT

Q: Where can students print color pages on campus?

A: "There is not colored printing on campus. There is a colored printer in the Student Lab ... but it is only for students enrolled in certain graphic classes."

—MONICA CARLISLE
LEAD LIBRARY CIRCULATION
ASSISTANT

Q: Why can't concurrent students enroll online?

A: "It's a regent's policy. They have to [enroll on campus] because they have to have the permission letter from their high school."

—SEBDHATTULLAH NOORI
STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Q: Where is the psychology lab?

A: "It's in the Political Science building in room 1H6. This semester it is pretty much just open ... Monday through Friday."

—JENNIFER ALLEN
PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR

Q: When is the next job fair?

A: "Our next job fair ... will be the first Wednesday in March — March 5, 2014."

—CALEB SHULTZ
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CLERK

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE ANSWERED, EMAIL EDITOR@OCCC.EDU WITH YOU ASKED FOR IT IN THE SUBJECT LINE, OR DROP YOUR QUESTION BY 1F2AH.

Korn managed to incorporate it in their favor, rather than drown out the instrumentals.

This album is a combination of their earliest triumphs and the redeeming elements of their recent struggles.

Tracks like "Love & Meth" and "Spike In My Veins" highlights the classic Korn sound I have been longing for.

Korn was a huge part of my teenage angst and I have to admit those songs really bring back some memories.

Those who were disappointed with Korn's work in the past decade should enjoy this album. It's a breath of fresh air. One of the most important rock bands of this generation is back from dead.

Rating: B+

—LORI VALENTINE
COMMUNITY WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

CHOIRS HAVE BEEN PRACTICING FOR PERFORMANCE SINCE OCTOBER

Holiday tunes genre of choir concert Dec. 5

HANNAH HIGHTOWER
News Writing Student

“Joy to the World,” “Little Drummer Boy” and other Christmas classics will be among 21 songs on the list to be performed by vocalists in the college choirs at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, said music Professor Ron Staton.

The Annual Christmas Choral Concert will be staged at Wilmont Place Baptist Church, 6440 S. Santa Fe Ave.

The concert will feature three choirs: the Concert Choir, the Chamber Singers, and the Symphonic Community Choir, said Staton, who directs all three.

The choirs have been practicing for this performance since October, he said.

The 78-member Symphonic Community Choir includes students and community members.

“Not only can OCCC students take this course, the Symphonic Community Choir, for credit hours, but there are also people in the community who are involved that like to sing for fun,” Staton said.

The choir is made up of singers from all ages.

“In the community choir, the youngest is 15-years old and the oldest is 78-years old,” Staton said.

The Concert Choir is comprised of 38 voices, all OCCC students.

The Chamber Singers is the only choral group that requires an audition for

admission, Staton said.

This semester the group is comprised of 26 members.

The free concert is open to the public, he said.

OCCC student Katie Nelson said this will be her third year attending the Christmas concert.

“Each year it seems to get better,” she said.

“The singers are incredible and you can really tell how hard this group works to put on such a great performance.”

If you want to really get in the holiday



spirit, the Christmas Choral Concert is one that you won't want to miss, Nelson said.

For more information, call Staton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7249.

Plan ahead for Testing Center finals week rush

ABBIE BANNISTER
News Writing Student

Finals week is a busy time for everyone, but especially for the OCCC Testing Center.

The Testing Center has more than 100 computers available for students to use, but during finals week students still may find themselves waiting, said Linda Little, director of Testing and Assessment.

During the week of Dec. 9 through 14, about 4,000 students are projected to take an exam in the center, based on last year's recorded visits.

Extended hours during finals week will be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 9 through 13.

Little said about 75 percent of professors at the college use the Testing Center.

Professors may give their finals to the Testing Center and allow their students to take tests during specified dates, where they will be monitored while testing, Little said.

Her advice? Come early and avoid the rush.

It is important for students to come in before their professor's deadline because the Testing Center will not give out a test after the deadline has passed.

She said in order to prepare for finals week, the Testing Center offers extended hours, brings in additional

“The seats are filled first-come, first-serve. It is strictly walk in.”

—LINDA LITTLE
TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR

staff, and opens up rooms that usually are not used to offer additional seats.

The center has about 125 seats available during finals week but not all have computers, Little said.

Although extra measures are taken to provide seating, there sometimes is still a wait to take a test.

“It does back up,” Little said.

“Students do have to wait sometimes because literally every seat will be taken.”

In order to take a test, students must have their student ID and know the name of their professor and class, as well as the test number they will take, Little said.

Without a student ID, a student cannot get in to take a test—no exceptions.

Samantha Olson, Testing Center assistant, said the best time for students to come is in the morning.

“It seems to be less busy right when we open,” Olson said.

Little said the earlier a student comes, the better, because it is always slower



in the mornings.

By contrast, lunch time from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is one of the busiest times for the center.

For students wanting to wait as little as possible, Olson suggests leaving personal belongings, such as a cell phone, in the car or with a friend.

That way the student would not have to go through the process of locking up property or waiting on a locker to open.

Students who have belongings may store them for free in lockers at the Testing Center.

However, there are only about 80 available so students sometimes have to wait until a locker is free before they can enter the Testing Center and take

their final exam.

Students do not need to reserve a spot. “The seats are filled first-come, first-serve. It is strictly walk in,” Little said.

She explained that this year the Testing Center is working to set up desks with partitions between them for students in need of accommodations for reduced distraction while testing.

Students must already be approved for reduced-distraction testing in order to be placed in this type of seating.

Students who require reduced-distraction testing must contact the Student Support Services Office at 405-682-7520.

For more information, call Little at 405-682-7531.

TIPS ON HOW TO MANAGE FINALS PRESSURE OFFERED DEC. 3

Learn to overcome finals week stress Dec. 3

SAMANTHA WOODRING
News Writing Student

For most students, finals are synonymous with stress, so Student Support Services is offering a Brown Bag lunch event designed to help students overcome their anxieties.

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner will discuss strategies for finals from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, in CU1, located near the general dining area.

Turner said when a student feels overwhelmed or helpless, making the decision to take control can be difficult, but taking this step is essential.

Taking an active role in managing the pressures in our lives can drastically reduce ongoing stress, she said.

Whether a student is on the edge of passing a class or just feeling panicky over finals, Turner said, stress can worsen the situation.

Stress can shut people down and keep them from doing their best, she said.

“The key to managing stress and being successful in the world is control,” Turner said.

“Whatever you can identify in your life that you can control for that period of time is going to eliminate the stress related to that area.”

Turner will go through different ways to survive the end of the semester, such as taking care of one’s health, identifying and avoiding stressors, and taking advantage of available resources on campus.

She also will discuss methods to prevent future stressful situations.

The Brown Bag sessions can be valuable in unexpected ways, Turner said.

Advice students have heard again and again can have an impact for the first time because it’s relevant to their lives in that moment, she said.

“We don’t know what we don’t know until someone shows us,” Turner said.

For more information, call Turner at 405-682-7544 or by email at mturner@occc.edu.

Absolute journal accepting entries until Dec. 1

SIALI SIAOSI
News Writing Student

Students, faculty and anyone with a knack for creativity have until Sunday, Dec. 1, to submit their writing or artwork to Absolute 2014, the literary and artistic journal published annually by OCCC.

English professor and Absolute adviser Marybeth McCauley said Absolute accepts non-fiction, fiction, poetry, art and photography.

Participants are able to enter their submissions online, she said.

She said submission forms are posted around the Arts and Humanities Department.

Anyone with artwork to submit should contact her office for it to be scanned.

McCauley encourages those interested in submitting to consider entering submissions in multiple genres.

“There’s no set length or number of submissions you may send in,” she said.

“Generally, when people are good writers, they’re good writers in multiple genres.

“So, if you’re really interested in submitting and you can’t decide between fiction and nonfiction, I’d say submit [something] to each genre.”

There were more submissions than pages to hold them in Absolute 2013, McCauley said.

She said she received submissions for Absolute 2014 a week after Absolute 2013 was published.

McCauley said before being picked for publication, each submission is scored individually by five student editors.

She said scores are then compared at a later meeting. Student editors are selected after being approached by an Absolute faculty adviser or expressing interest in the position.

Student editor Tiffane Shorter said she submitted four pieces for Absolute 2013 and had one piece published.

“The only time we do a process of elimination is usually when an author submits more than one piece,” Shorter said.

“We want to give as many people the opportunity



“Dorothy’s House” by Brenda Breeding published in Absolute 2013.

to be published as possible.”

Shorter said most submissions are from college students.

She said her favorite part about the editing process is seeing all the editors’ different opinions.

Shorter said when submitting a piece, it is important the author includes as much contact information as possible so that it is easy to get in touch with them.

She said to submit pieces that are strong and to make sure that written pieces are proofread.

Shorter said Absolute 2013 was her first time having her writing published.

She said she can now list her publication and current job as student editor on future employment resumes.

“That’s a perk in itself... being rewarded for things you like to do anyway,” Shorter

said.

Student editor Allen Mitchell said his favorite part about being an editor is reading all the pieces of creative writing.

“I like [seeing] the creativity of the people around us,” Mitchell said. “I love the stories.”

Shorter and Mitchell said the student editors begin viewing the submissions at the beginning of the semester and work through the winter.

Shorter and Mitchell both said this is their first year working as student editors and editor panels vary each year.

They said they are trying to implement another genre for Absolute so dramatic pieces can be submitted for future editions, such as duet scenes, dialogues and monologues.

McCauley said being published benefits a person both academically and professionally. She said anyone who is hesitant about submitting a piece will feel more accomplished if they do.

“The act of submitting is an accomplishment,” McCauley said. “Having the confidence to send your work in is good for you... regardless if you’re published or not.

There is a link to Absolute 2014 on the OCCC website homepage where users can find the submission form and past editions of the publication.

McCauley said Absolute 2014 will be released at a reception on the last Thursday of April and will be available for purchase in the OCCC bookstore.

For more information, call McCauley at 405-682-1611 ext. 7405.

SE&S

Student Employment & Career Services

OPTIMAL RESUME

<https://occc.optimalresume.com>

Students' access ID is their OCCC email address; example > john.t.doe@my.occc.edu

Resumes • Cover Letters • Interview Skills

Thanksgiving plans being made by all ages

Preschoolers from the Child Development Center and Lab School answer:
WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?



"I'm thankful for turkey."
—RUBY, 5



"I get thankful when people give me candy."
—CARSON, 3



"I'm thankful for my mom and thankful that she cooks the turkey."
—ANGELICA, 4



"I'm thankful most for mom and dad."
—JACOB, 4



"I'm thankful for presents — like toys!"
ARIZ, 5



"I'm only thankful for pizza!"
—MALACHAI, 4

Holiday lab hours

Thanksgiving Break is Wednesday, Nov. 27, through Sunday, Dec. 1. There are no classes but labs and the bookstore will be open the following times and dates during the break:

• **Accounting Lab:** Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26. Closed Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-1611, ext. 7286.

• **Biology Science Center:** Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 26 and 27. 405-682-1611, ext. 7269.

• **Biotechnology Lab:** Open during classroom time on Tuesday, Nov. 26. Closed Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-1611, ext. 7685.

• **Chemistry/Physics Science Center:** Open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 26 and 27. 405-682-7711

• **Communications Lab:** Open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26. Open 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

• **EMT Lab:** Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 26 and 27. 405-682-1611, ext. 7343.

• **Library:** Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 26 and 27. 405-682-7564.

• **Math Lab:** Open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26 and from

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-1611, ext. 7291.

• **Nursing Campus Clinical Lab:** Open on Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-1611, ext. 7663

• **Student Computer Center:** Open 7:30 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26 and from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-1611, ext. 7397

• **Student Support Services:** Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 26 and 27. 405-682-7520.

• **Testing and Assessment Services:** Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26. Closed

Students share holiday plans

"I'm going to eat food and watch football — normal American things."
—IAN MANERA
JOURNALISM MAJOR



"I'll probably be working at Applebee's or I might go to my cousin's house."
—TAYLOR WHITE
UNDECIDED MAJOR

"I'm going to be at a punk show with local bands."
—JOSÉ PANTOJA
UNDECIDED MAJOR



Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-7531.

• **Trio Student Support Services:** Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 26 and 27. 405-682-7865

• **World Languages and Cultural Center:** Open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26. Closed

Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-7560.

• **Bookstore:** Open 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26 and from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. 405-682-7510.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu.

OCCC STUDENTS CAN TRAVEL TO SPAIN, EUROPE IN THE SPRING

Study abroad packages affordable, life-changing

BROOKE GUDGEL
News Writing Student

Education, authenticity and affordability are the main focus of Oklahoma Study Abroad courses, said Christian Alyea, trip director.

Sporting a bright orange tie and an enthusiastic attitude, Alyea gave a presentation over study abroad programs offered through OCCC to a journalism class Oct. 24.

His passion for the educational value of travel was apparent with every word that he spoke. Alyea said he gained this passion for international travel when he decided to finish high school in Slovakia.

"I built a connection with that country," he said.

Only 1 percent of students in higher education across the nation take advan-

tage of study abroad programs, Alyea said, and he hopes to change that. OCCC students are being offered two different study abroad trips through Oklahoma Study Abroad in 2014. One is to Andalucía, Spain, and another is to Central Europe.

The trip to Spain will begin May 17 and will run through June 1. Trips to museums, cathedrals and beaches in the south of the country are a few of the excursions happening on this trip.

Study abroad in Central Europe begins on June 2 and will end June 18. Students on this trip will visit Berlin, Prague, Krakow, the Tatra Mountains, and Budapest.

Tentative schedules of both trips are available on the Oklahoma Study

Abroad website.

Each of these programs provides students with a meaningful study abroad experience, Alyea said.

"The program has to be authentic in my opinion or it's not worth doing it," Alyea said. "I don't want to take students over and

put them in a tour bus the entire time, and have them seeing everything from the tour bus windows. You can do that in a book."

On these trips, students will live as close to the local lifestyle as possible.

Alyea stressed that students will eat at local food places, take local transportation, and stay in youth hostels or in some cases, with host families to ensure this authenticity.

Another thing Alyea said about the

study abroad program is the affordability of the trips. The projected cost for each two-week trip is around \$2,800, including airfare, transportation, lodging and some meals.

Currently, Oklahoma Study Abroad offers the most affordable programs on the market, Alyea said.

"What we are trying to do is put programs in reach of more students so more students can have that opportunity to study abroad," he said. "It is a life-changing experience."

The programs allow students to gain college credit while being submerged in another culture. The trips are open to anyone, but everyone must register and pay the course tuition, either for credit or audit.

For more information, go to the Oklahoma Study Abroad website or contact Alyea at 405-549-3329 or at christian@studyabroadoklahoma.com.



Students have chance to learn in Spain next spring

BRITTANY ZINK
News Writing Student

Students learning Spanish can improve their language skills while visiting Andalucía, the southern region of Spain for the last two weeks of May.

Students will get to explore cities such as Cadiz, Madrid, Seville and more from May 17 until June 1.

Oklahoma Study Abroad Program Director Christian Alyea will accompany Professor Gina Villamizar and her students to Spain.

Alyea said this part of Spain has a unique history because it is one of the only places where Christians, Jews and Muslims lived together in one place, mostly peacefully, for about 600 years.

The total estimated program price is \$2,800 per person, according to the itinerary. This includes round trip airfare, hotel accommodations, local transportation, tours, a number of meals, special attractions and activities, and more according to the itinerary at www.oklahomastudyabroad.com/Spain2014OCCC.

Students should have some background in Spanish and should have taken at least one class of Spanish in college or some in high school, Villamizar said.

If students have not taken any Spanish classes in college or high school, Villamizar said, they should contact her so she can evaluate each individual's experience with Spanish to determine their fluency and if it is appropriate for them to attend the trip.

Villamizar said students need to contact her to enroll for the trip to Spain.

The deadline to sign up is March 14 but students can get the cheapest airfare by registering and making their first payment in December, Alyea said.



Villamizar said students who participate in the study abroad trip will enroll in three college credits of Spanish.

Alyea said travelers also have the option to audit the class.

Villamizar is originally from Colombia, in South America. She said she has never been to Andalucía. "I have been to Europe many times but I have not been to Spain," she said. Villamizar said she also has traveled to Canada and Brazil.

"It has been one of my goals to be able to take students on a study-abroad program," she said. This will be her first study-abroad trip.

Villamizar teaches Spanish online and on the OCCC campus.

There will be a lot of things to do in Spain, Villamizar said. Students will visit museums, walk historical streets and view different architectures styles.

Villamizar said the main thing she hopes students take away from this trip is being able to learn and appreciate a different culture. Her goal is to help students

see the similarities and differences in traditions, and try to embrace them, Villamizar said.

For more information, call Villamizar at 405-682-1611, ext. 7655, or email gina.villamizar@occc.edu.

Alyea can be reached at 405-549-3329, or email christian@oklahomastudyabroad.com.

Trip pricing

Central Europe:

On-ground program price: \$1,500

Roundtrip airfare estimated at \$1,300*

(see *Central Europe story* at www.occc.edu/pioneer)

Andalucia, Spain:

On-ground program price: \$1,600

Roundtrip airfare estimated at \$1,200*

*Airfare is an estimate until ticketing is finalized.

Program price does not include mandatory tuition.

Payment dates*:

Dec. 13: \$500

Feb. 14: \$750

March 14: \$750

April 18: \$800

(*Students who have missed a payment date will be able to catch up on the next scheduled payment date.)

Program payments need to be made out to Oklahoma Study Abroad and sent by certified check, money order or personal check to:

Oklahoma Study Abroad
P.O. Box 75060
Oklahoma City, OK 73147

An electronic receipt will be sent when each payment is processed.

SPORTS

Aim high

Wellness Attendant Chad McKee warms up for the upcoming 2013 dodgeball tournament.

The first place team will win an intramural champ shirt like the one McKee is wearing. The tournament will take place Dec 4 and Dec 6 in the afternoon.

said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright. the event is free to all students and faculty.

Players can join on www.imleagues.com until Dec. 3 at midnight.

Wright said the minimum amount of players needed is four. The maximum is eight.

The games will take place no later 2 p.m. Dec. 4 and 6 in the gym.

“There will be a players meeting Dec 2 at noon in the gym to go over all the rules and get everything organized.”



GRANT VANWINKLE/PIONEER

SPORTS | Players can join at www.imleagues.com

Students invited to join dodgeball league

GRANT VANWINKLE
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Students who are looking for a way to relieve stress from studying for finals might want to join the dodgeball league, said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

“This event is free to all students and faculty,” he said. “Players can join on www.imleagues.com until Dec. 3 at midnight.

Wright said the minimum amount of players needed is four. The maximum is eight.

The games will take place no later than 2 p.m. Dec. 4 and 6 in the gym, he said.

“There will only be an open spot for eight teams to join.

“There will be a players meeting Dec. 2 at noon in the gym to go over all the rules and get everything organized.”

Foam balls will be used as the dodgeballs, Wright said.

“... Foam balls are easier to grip and also easier to throw than the kickballs,” he said.

Wright said the first-place team will win an intramural championship T-shirt.

According to the OCCC intramural dodgeball rules, players can't wear any type of jewelry. No hats or bandanas will be allowed. The only type of headwear allowed is a headband. Athletic shoes

and athletic attire are required for participation in the games. Players also may wear soft, pliable pads or braces to protect an injury.

Wright said the object of the game is to eliminate all opposing players by getting them out.

This may be done by hitting an opposing player with a live thrown ball below the shoulders or catching a live ball thrown by your opponent before it touches the ground.

A live ball is considered to be a ball that has been thrown and has not touched anything, including the ground, another ball, an official or other item outside of the playing field.

Opposing players who cross the

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

- Dec. 4 and 6

Dodgeball Tournament. The dodgeball tournament will take place in the afternoon on Dec. 4 and 6. The players meeting will be at noon on Dec 2 in the gym.

- Dec. 7

Joe Stocker Invitational. Pool closed to the public.

- Dec. 19 through 22

Chesapeake Pro-Am. Pool closed to the public.

- Fall semester:

Visit the Recreation and Fitness website at www.occc.edu/rf/swimming-diving to enroll in a number of events held in the college's Aquatic Center or call 405-682-7860 to find out about Aquatic Center events.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to be directed to a list of OCCC Intramural events, complete with the most current updates.

(Free QR code reader apps can be found online or in app stores on smart phones. Follow the directions for the app you download.)

All event news is due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue. Email your news to sportswriter@occc.edu.

center line will be called out.

For more information contact Wright at 405-682-7860 or visit www.imleagues.com.

Don't be left in the dark.
Follow us for instant news and updates!
www.twitter.com/OCCCPioneer

Thieves break into one car, attempt to steal another

KATIE THURMAN
Editor
editor@occc.edu

A vehicle burglary and an attempted stolen vehicle kept campus police busy the week of Nov. 4.

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, Officer David Madden responded to a call from student Samuel Vargas about a vehicle that had been broken into in parking lot A.

Madden arrived to find Vargas standing by his Chevrolet Silverado.

Vargas said he had already gone through the vehicle and

determined the only thing missing was his radio, an aftermarket Alpine radio.

Vargas had no serial number for the radio and didn't know the model but told Madden he suspected the price was between \$100 and \$150.

Madden reviewed camera footage of the parking lot, and reported seeing the suspect's vehicle — a maroon sedan — enter campus from Regents Boulevard.

There were two people in the car, according to Madden's report.

He said both got out of the car and one of them broke the

passenger side window on Vargas's truck.

In another incident on Nov. 8, Madden noticed a vehicle in parking lot A parked in a lane, blocking the entrance to the lot.

Madden said the vehicle was unoccupied.

He discovered the passenger side window had been tampered with and the vehicle's radio had been removed from the dash.

He said the steering column and ignition also had been tampered with.

Madden said he then put on gloves to preserve any evidence, phoned dispatch to

report a possible attempted car theft and tried to contact the owner of the vehicle, who was in class at the time.

Officer Tim Harris also responded and dusted for fingerprints. He was able to lift three prints from the passenger side door.

The victim, James Kyle Vanek, a student and owner of the Honda Civic, valued the radio at approximately \$208. Also missing, according to Vanek, were two toolboxes worth approximately \$200.

Camera footage of the area showed the suspect vehicle was a maroon sedan, possi-

bly a Toyota Celica with two occupants who entered the victim's car using the passenger window.

The report shows the suspects attempted to steal the Honda Civic by tampering with the ignition and pushing the car with their own vehicle.

The suspects were unable to steal the car due to a hidden kill switch which made the theft impossible.

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.

Report: OCCC wants to help students avoid loan debt

Continued from page 1

progress of 10,970 students was evaluated with 81.2 percent or 8,911 students making satisfactory progress. About 18.8 percent or 2,059 students, were found to have unsatisfactory academic progress.

OCCC also released findings on FY2013 graduate loan debt. Of 1,410 students graduating with associate degrees, those who had loan debt had an average of \$9,291.

OCCC reported on its three-year default rates compared to other colleges and universities in the state.

Between fiscal year 2009 and 2010, OCCC saw a 2 percent rate increase in the amount of students with debt who have officially been declared as being in default. To be delinquent on a debt means a person has missed one payment. To be declared as being in default, a person must have missed 270 payments.

Of 1,860 OCCC borrowers in fiscal year 2010, 488 have been declared as being in repayment on their student loans.

Student Financial Support Services Dean Harold Case said OCCC closely monitors

the financial aid the school awards in an attempt to keep student debt at a minimum.

"We try not to load too much student loan debt on our students," Case said.

"On a national level, most students come out of a community college with \$8,000 or \$9,000 of student debt and here, I think we must be getting the message across because ... most of our students who finish school don't have that much debt."

Case said it's important not to put too much loan pressure on a student from semester to semester because some stu-

dents will struggle, drop out and not complete school.

"But we do know that our students who have a default problem are not the students who graduate... It's the student who comes in, borrows and leaves. So now they're disconnected from us, from the college and they have student loan debt."

Case said the careful monitoring of student progress and accumulation of debt has been effective in keeping OCCC students in fairly good shape at a time when loan debt has become a national issue.

He said OCCC is partnering

with the Oklahoma College Assistance Program to prevent future student loan debt issues.

OCCC is in the process of setting up a system with OCAP that will allow students who leave school for any reason to remain in contact with OCAP, he said.

"During the time that students are in payment, [OCAP] will communicate with students and make sure they're finding the best way to cope with loan debt."

Case said the OCAP program will be helping not only OCCC students, but Oklahoma students statewide.

Online: Use caution when shopping on the Internet

Continued from page 1

date ... That should be the first thing," Heitkamper said.

"Good shopping is going to start with good security."

Making sure your computer is up-to-date before you start purchasing online also is important, Heitkamper said, "because you're just leaving yourself open to vulnerabilities if you don't."

He said security makes it more difficult for hackers to get access to your private information such as credit card numbers and passwords.

Heitkamper said strong passwords are crucial. Passwords that are considered strong have more than 14

characters with a mixture of numbers, capital letters and lowercase letters, he said.

A few key ways to tell if a website is secure is to look in the address. Heitkamper said there should be an 's' after the http, which stands for 'secure.' Secure websites will have a closed padlock next to the address box or at the bottom right corner of the window.

There also will be third-party seals of approval such as the Better Business Bureau Online seal and the Truste seal. However, Heitkamper cautions students that clicking on the seals could cause them to get a virus.

"Anybody can put those on their webpage ...," he said.

Sociology major Elizabeth Anderson said she she can usually tell if a website is secure.

"I just look at what other people say about it," she said. "Trust your instincts. If it sounds too good to be true, obviously, think about it."

Heitkamper said students should be cautious of better deals from other countries.

"That's how I got my identity stolen," he said. "I purchased something from China."

Heitkamper said students should use a credit card for online purchases.

"If a person uses their debit card, what they're basically doing is opening up their entire checking account and people can take the money out."

Heitkamper said one secure way to make purchases is through PayPal.

He said using PayPal for transactions doesn't give the business you're buying from access to your payment information. Instead, the information is given to PayPal and then Paypal pays the business.

When websites ask for information during checkout, don't give them access to everything. Only enter the things that are absolutely necessary.

"If it doesn't ask for information, or isn't required, don't give it," he advised.

Heitkamper said students also should be careful about clicking on emails. Phishing emails — emails that look le-

gitimate but aren't — are used to get access to information as well.

Doing things as simple as deleting cookies and printing order receipts also are smart things to do.

Kristen Huebner, psychology major, saves her online receipts, and said she often prints them off when she has purchased an item online.

"I also like it when they give you ... a confirmation email," she said.

Heitkamper said online shopping is a great way to save gas money and find the best deal without shopping around.

"I don't think it's much of a risk if you follow these simple rules."

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Steady hand



LORI VALENTINE/PIONEER

Art Major Michael May applies finishing touches to one of his projects for Foundations I. Students enrolled in Foundations 1 learn to recognize, analyze and apply the elements and principles of 2D design and color in the pictorial arts by studying design and color theory.

COMMUNITY | Hispanic Organization to Promote Education works with area middle-schoolers

Club members help students succeed

LAUREN DANIEL
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

The Hispanic Organization Promoting Education (HOPE) is a club that participates in the usual activities Student Life hosts such as the Halloween carnival and fundraisers.

However, what sets this club apart is their involvement within inner city schools in the community, said Paul Burkhardt, HOPE sponsor and community outreach coordinator at OCCC.

A group of 12 students volunteer weekly for the mentorship program, he said.

"It's a program where the students commit at least an hour a week. They commit to being there, and their position is pretty much just to listen, care, share, encourage ..."

The students travel to Santa Fe South Middle School, Arbor Grove Elementary School, and some even go to high schools in the metro, Burkhardt said.

He said the students truly make a difference.

"A lot of first-generation students in the south side benefit by having actually a college student [who] can point them in the direction of how to get there."

Burkhardt said he hears story after story from teachers and principals, giving positive reports of the students that once had negative reports.

Jhonnatan Gonzalez, HOPE member and management information systems major, is a mentor who has seen success.

"... I actually got an email from the professor thank-

ing me, because [the student I mentor] was going to fail out. He was going to have to repeat. I've just been keeping up with him and he's not going to have to repeat sixth grade now," Gonzalez said.

Burkhardt said the schools allow the OCCC students to attend class with their mentees, which can produce a large difference in the mentee.

"They can help them grow in their classroom behavior ... and sometimes just their presence changes that behavior," he said.

HOPE members also sometimes become a major part of the students' family life because of the weekly visit with the student.

"I've had students [who] have gotten so involved with the kids that they've been invited to their birthday parties and to other family get-togethers. They're just considered one of the family."

Chemistry major Amy Dominguez said she likes being able to help the students out with issues prominent in school today such as bullying.

"Personally, I've been through that and ... the little girl I'm mentoring is going through a lot of that. I'm just there to support ..." she said.

Oswaldo Orozco, physical therapy major, said one of his goals is to make students realize what they can do with an education.

"I want to make sure they realize they have a big opportunity here and to take advantage of it," Orozco said.

Burkhardt said the students make a big difference.

"These students here at OCCC just come alongside, and we put them together with people. I trust them,

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Students can learn study skills Dec. 3

Mary Turner, Learning Support Specialist, will present on valuable study skills and tips for finals from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 3 in CU1. For more information, email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

Attend OCCC's annual Christmas concert

Join the OCCC choirs as they perform their annual Christmas concert from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Wilmont Place Baptist Church, 6440 S Santa Fe.

Attend the next Leadership Council meeting

All students are welcome to attend the next bi-weekly meeting of OCCC's The Leadership Council (TLC) for student clubs and organizations. The meeting will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, in CU3. For more information, email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

Help fight against hunger

Students can take a service learning trip to the Regional Food Bank from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Register through the Student Life website, using the Service Day Registration tab. The registration deadline for this event is 11:59 p.m. Dec. 6. Those who sign up will receive further instructions by email. For more information, call 405-682-7523.

Advocates of Peace spread Christmas cheer

Students can participate in a Christmas bake sale from noon to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the lobby of the Main Building. For more information, email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

College Poets & Writers club meeting

OCCC's only writing club meets each week from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m. on Wednesdays in room AH 2E1. The group helps writers grow and express themselves. For more information, contact club President Maria F. Rivera at CPW@my.occc.edu.

Join Christians on Campus for weekly Bible study

Christians on Campus hosts a Bible study Mondays from noon to 12:45 p.m. in room 2N7 and Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in 1C3AH. For more information, email christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu.

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.

and they trust where we're taking them and what we're doing with them," he said.

"Some of the students have come away and said 'Man, if I could be paid to do this all the time, I'd do it for the rest of my life,'" Burkhardt said.

Students are exposed to so many things they wouldn't be exposed to otherwise. "If you get involved in it and fall in love with it, then you're probably right where you need to be," he said.

"So do I think kids should get involved in the lives of other kids? Yeah, just a whole lot.

"It can change lives"

For more information, email hope@occc.edu or visit their website at www.occc.edu/studentlife/clubs.

CLASSIFIEDS

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: Neiman Marcus Robert Rodriguez collection size 14 strapless cocktail dress. Never worn. Still has store tags. \$50. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

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. \$50. 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.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Two 40" CRT televisions. Both just came from a TV repair shop so are in excellent condition. Great for a gaming TV in the kids' room. \$30 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

FOR SALE: This space. For just \$8 per week, you could advertise your business here. For more rate information, email adman@occc.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Bed liner for standard long bed pickup w/ tailgate liner. \$75. GC. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

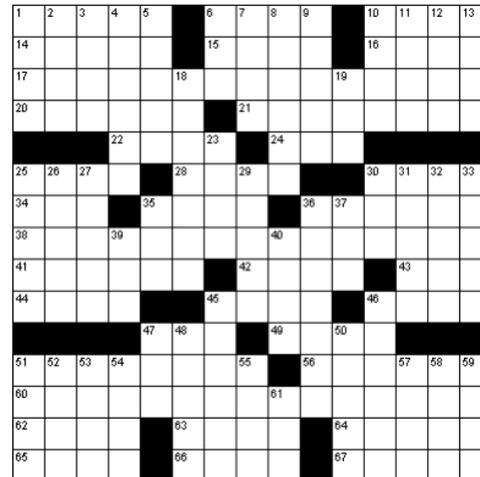
FOR SALE: Women's professional clothing, sizes 18W, to 22W. The lot includes 3 dresses, 2 2-piece dresses, and 9 skirt suits. All 23 pieces for \$100. Text 405-245-7319 for pics or more info.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Pop Culture Shake-up by Dave Fisher (Copyright © dave fisher)

- Across**
- Philip __ (US ambassador to UK 1997-2001)
 - Keen
 - Joseph Alois Ratzinger
 - Conscious
 - __ skirt
 - Not up
 - We cautioned monk?
 - Even though
 - __-wheeler
 - __ precedent
 - Sticky stuff
 - Adjacent to, as land
 - Come again?
 - Just open
 - Streak
 - Rounds
 - Highly ornamented style
 - Preserved pup pen?
 - Breakfast order, maybe
 - It puts the 'pop' in pop
 - Had a bite
 - Like a smelly cigar
 - Burn slightly
 - Garden __
 - Behave
 - Sea weed
 - Setting for Shakespeare's Hamlet
 - Man on the Main
 - Copperplate Isis?
 - __ Denisovich (Solzhenitsyn character)
 - Occupant of 13 down
 - Like some sheets
 - Play people
 - Told where to go
 - Choose

- Down**
- Dalai __
 - Missing roll call?
 - Apply crudely



- Part of E.M.H.
- Lace again
- "__ Blue", Ethel Waters' classic
- Grape holder
- __ Girls (Ray & Saliers)
- San __
- Warsaw __
- Instrument once known as the 'hautbois'
- Cute dog
- First nudist colony?
- Try
- Dr. __ (British TV series)
- Company name in many Roadrunner cartoons
- Passion
- Present day Myanmar, once
- Let loose
- Charley __
- King beater
- He had a whale of a time
- Severe
- __ off (secured)
- A close relative
- Make amends
- Eggs
- They bugle
- Lie in the tub
- Walked briskly
- Like some staircases
- Wheel of Fortune purchase, perhaps
- S.A. shrubs targeted by the DEA
- Let slip
- Kind of poem
- A buck in Bulgaria
- Evian and Eeds
- __ She Lovely (Stevie Wonder hit)
- Panache
- Word on a Miller label
- Pertaining to hearing
- Monthly payment, perhaps
- Quantity, abbrev.

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www.collegecentral.com/occc

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 Alumni enter AL+last 5 digits of Social Security number
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CSLPlasma.com

Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail Paris Burris
editor@occc.edu

Professor asked to publish ghost book

ERIN PEDEN

Online Editor

onlineeditor@occc.edu

Jeff Provine will tell you he believes in ghosts.

"I think ceasing to exist when you die is one of the scariest things," he said.

Since 2009, the OCCC English professor has been leading ghost tours on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman.

Provine said the idea to participate in the tours formed while backpacking with some friends in England.

"I went with some friends on their hometown ghost tour and they had all these awesome stories," Provine said. "I knew one story about OU and my friend told me I should do an OU ghost tour.

"I thought 'nah, there's not enough stories' but it turns out there's more than enough."

After doing some research, Provine was ready to share his stories with eager visitors. Provine said the stories he tells range from spooky to simply fun.

"Depending on the tour, I tell different stories or at least tell them in different ways," he said. "Some tours want them really scary and some want them more historical."

Provine said his favorite story is the one he originally knew about a young boy who was roller skating in the 1930s.

"Some versions say he got hit by a car and others say he had an asthma attack but they rushed him into the old infirmary which is now all offices in Arts and Sciences and he died up there," Provine said.

"Apparently he is up there still roller-skating on the third floor or at least messing with stuff."

Provine's love of telling ghost stories was taken to a new level when the History Press publishing company asked

him to contribute to their "Haunted America" book series.

"They sent me an email and asked if I wanted to do a ghost story book collection," he said. "So I put a proposal together, they liked it, and five months later we had the book."

Provine, who has had some fiction pieces published in the past, said this is his first non-fiction work. His book is titled "Campus Ghosts of Norman Oklahoma."

"It's really connects with people; it's not just a cool story but it's a cool story about a building in which you took classes," Provine said. "People seem to click on that really nicely."

Since Provine already had stories from his tours, most of the research for his book came from talking to people in the community.

"I did two or three months of investigations, walking door-to-door, asking if anybody had any spooky stories, which is a really weird thing to do," he said. "But it's crazy because every once in awhile, you bump into somebody who has an unbelievable story."

Café Plaid was among the places he visited.

"At Café Plaid, two employees came forward and said they had a story and told me to come back the next morning so I could talk to the baker.

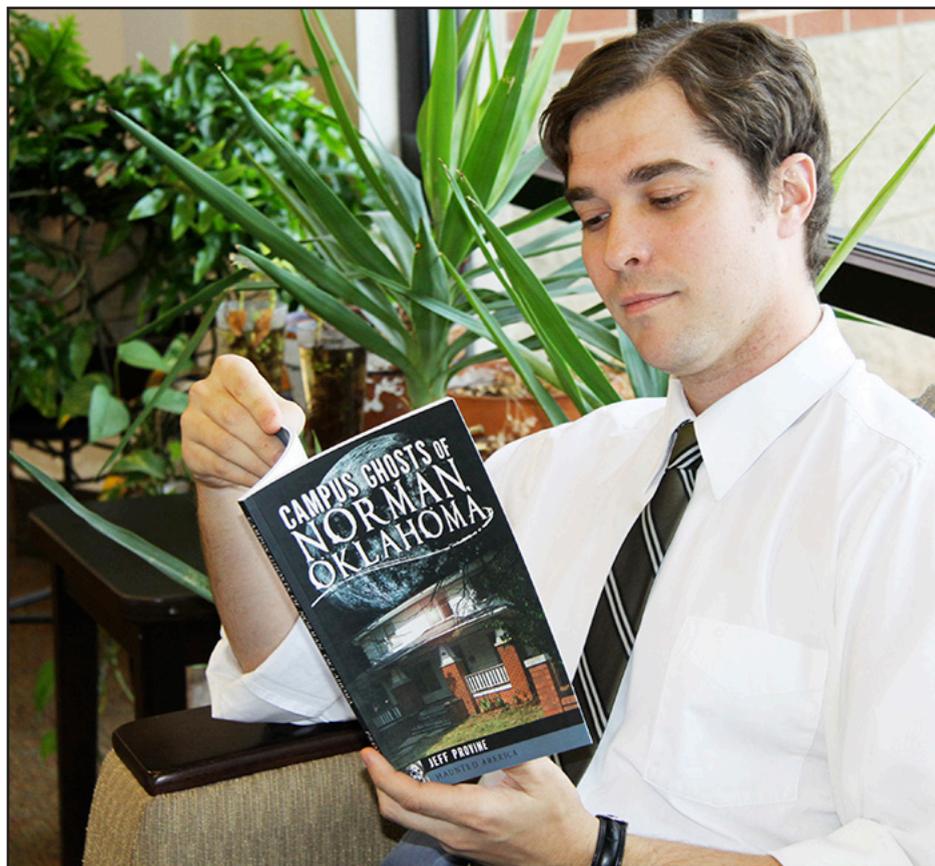
"It's the stuff you don't really talk about but once you get the ball rolling, people get really interested."

So far, Provine has done a few signings with his book and is looking into doing readings in the next few months.

"[The company] is already asking me for a sequel," he said.

Provine said he plans to continue leading ghost tours for as long as he remains in the area. He said he enjoys the reactions people have to them.

The [biggest] reaction I've heard is 'I



ERIN PEDEN/PIONEER

OCCC English professor Jeff Provine peruses his book "Campus Ghosts of Norman, Oklahoma." Provine was asked to write the book after word got out about ghost tours he leads on the OU campus.

had no idea," he said. "People walk by these buildings every day or went to school [at OU] and they come and hear all these crazy stories and had no idea."

Provine said the most rewarding part about giving tours is seeing people learn something new about the world around them.

"The campus becomes a little more magical," he said. "That's one of the cool things about life: you can stumble around and do the same things over and over but then if you look really deep, it's really an amazing place."

The free OU ghost tours run monthly from March to November and are open

to the public.

All donations go to the Children's Advocacy Centers in Oklahoma, a non-profit organization that provides training, prevention, and treatment services to fight child abuse and neglect.

Provine said those interested in touring can go to visit.ou.edu to schedule a time online. Private tours, birthday parties and club meetings also are available for booking.

Provine's book "Campus Ghosts of Norman, Oklahoma" can be purchased at Barnes and Noble, Hastings, Walmart, Amazon and most major book retailers.

double check
for typos

Get more tips on nailing the interview at
BucktheNorm.com/empowerment

**Bucky's Tip: Hand
in Your Writing
(To a Human)**

Spellcheck is just the start! Get a real person to proofread your cover letter and resumé.



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