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Molly Mirll says her students love her classes because she makes them entertaining and exciting. Read more about her teaching methods inside.

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The Gamer Guild meets each week at a table in the general dining area to play the latest releases in video and card games, and discuss them. See more.

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CONCENTRATION

Students can still apply for spring graduation

Apply soon to be listed in graduation program

LAUREN DANIEL
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With the spring semester coming to a close, many students are looking forward to taking the next step in their academic journey. For some students, graduation is part of that process.

Graduation Services Director Barbara Gowdy said students are encouraged to fill out the graduation application as soon as possible.

She said applications are due on the third Friday at the beginning of each semester.

However, Gowdy said, students do not need to worry if they have not applied yet. The graduation office is flexible with the deadline.

“We don’t stick hard and true to those deadlines,” she said, “because we allow people to enroll through the last day of the semester.”

Gowdy said the graduation office will be taking graduation applications until the end of the semester, so students still have time to apply for spring 2014 graduation.

“We’re not going to punish somebody [who] forgot to apply,” she said.

The downside of applying late is that those students will not have their name in the commencement program.

“It’s really important if they want their name in the commencement program … that they have to apply by the deadline to guarantee that in the spring.

“Summer and fall, it’s not a big deal because we have plenty of time to get their name in there but the spring they have to apply.”

See APPLY page 9

INCOMPLETE GRADES MAY BE A THING OF THE PAST

SIALI SIAOSI
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Currently, OCCC students have the option to petition to receive an “incomplete” grade in a course, but Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Greg Gardner said this opportunity might not be around forever.

Gardner said the Enrollment
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Hobby Lobby has no right to dictate birth control for employees

Religion, healthcare a bad mix

The media spotlight is shining once again on the Sooner state after Hobby Lobby's attempt to force its religion on its employees. Hobby Lobby is an Oklahoma-based arts and crafts company that has 609 stores nationwide.

Now, before the Biblical jargon gets thrown at me, I'll acknowledge it's none of my business to care about what religious practices one performs in the privacy of one's home.

Likewise, it's not a corporation's business to dictate what kind of health benefits its employees receive simply because its "religious freedom" disagrees with a federally-regulated health care package.

Despite this, the company entered the U.S. Supreme Court on March 25 and the first oral arguments of Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. were heard. I love a good legal debate but in the battle of reproductive rights and religious freedom, there is bound to be bloodshed.

On one hand, Hobby Lobby seeks exemption from the Affordable Care Act while citing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 as well as the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution citing religious freedom, according to Lawrence Hurley of the Huffington Post.

Since it is a private company, Hobby Lobby wants to be granted the same recognition as churches or for-profit religious organizations.

Hobby Lobby's blatant neglect of its employees personal health insurance preferences has me furrowing my brow.

If a non-Christian woman wants to work for Hobby Lobby, the corporation won't discriminate against her. However, if that same woman wants to use her Hobby Lobby health benefits to procure certain forms of contraception, the company wants control over that decision. It makes no sense.

And to add more to the madness, religious leaders across America are in an upheaval, making absurd arguments along the lines of "What will the government take from us next?"

Because I am not a woman and lack religious obligations, I'll say there is no need to bring religion into the debate in the first place.

If Hobby Lobby doesn't restrict itself to hiring only Christian employees, it makes no sense to impose religious beliefs on their federal health benefits.

Both sides are fighting for important principles, but I'm not sure if Hobby Lobby advocates recognize the loopholes in the company's logic.

The Affordable Care Act doesn't promote abortion, promiscuity or hedonism. It merely provides access to all types of contraceptives.

Hobby Lobby's slippery slope argument lacks the empathy that Oklahomans need in our state to flourish.

Perhaps Jon Stewart from Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" said it best: "What would a biblically-based insurance plan even cover?"

Religious practices should remain private. Sex lives should remain private. Leave them both at home and the world would be a much better place.

—SIALI SIAOSI
STAFF WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | On April 8, the Oklahoma State Department of Health will offer several ways to 'Be a Superhero for a Child!'

Take part in Child Abuse Prevention month activities

To the Editor:

The focus for this year's annual Child Abuse Prevention Month activities in April is to highlight actions each of us can take to help raise safe, healthy, resilient children. Child advocates and the general public will be encouraged to step up and "Be a Superhero for a Child!" during CAP Day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8.

From 8 a.m. till noon, booth displays and special activities will focus on building supportive community and family environments that help children grow and develop into productive citizens.

Among the activities offered will be a "Save a Baby's Bottom" diaper drive, directed by Infant Crisis Services. Diapers of all sizes may be dropped off from 8 a.m. till noon at the second floor rotunda.

Beginning at 1 p.m., the fourth annual CAP Day Mini Conference will be held at the Samis Education and Conference Center located at 1200 Children's Avenue in Oklahoma City. The afternoon sessions will include free workshops featuring a variety of topics and well-respected speakers with expertise in child abuse prevention. To reserve a space, contact the OSDH community-based child abuse prevention grant coordinator Sherie Trice at sheriet@health.ok.gov or call 405-271-7611.

The OSDH offers the following parenting tips:

• Help your children feel loved and secure, even when they do something wrong.

• Encourage your children by praising their effort in addition to their achievements and talents. Recognize the skills they are learning.

• Spend time with your children doing things you both enjoy. Listen to them.

• Learn how to use non-physical options for discipline that are appropriate for your child's age and development, and/or redirect your child's attention by offering positive choices, and/or helping them experience appropriate consequences related to their behavior when applicable.

• Seek help if you need it. Sometimes special circumstances like unemployment or a child with special needs can add stress to the family. Talk to a friend, health care provider, faith leader or counselor or join a support group for parents.

Finally, the OSDH encourages everyone to buy a "Start Right" license plate. Applications are available at your local tag agency. Money will go into the child abuse prevention fund to support prevention programs across the state.

—OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOOK REVIEW | Readers should be prepared to laugh out loud

Book gives readers good laugh

I’m an avid reader, so before spring break I bought quite a few new books. I will unashamedly admit that most of them were sappy novels about becoming a better person or falling in love. Upon impulse, I decided to go to the humor section for a change of pace. I ended up stumbling upon Mindy Kaling’s book, “Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns).”

I had high expectations for the book because Kaling is a star of my favorite television show, “The Office.” This book surpassed my expectations. If you read this book in public, you would undoubtedly laugh out loud and appear to be a crazy person. I did exactly that and I’m sure I was being judged, but I could care less because the book was worth it. The book is like having a personal chat with Kaling. She expresses all of her feelings about various pressing social issues, like diets, marriage and men with chest hair.

Kaling is so blunt that she makes you seriously reconsider your views while laughing about the harsh reality. She talks about her personal struggles, including being teased about her weight, being a nerd in college, and itching her “clique” to make comedy sketches just for fun. Her professional life is just as entertaining. From getting sent home by her boss at “The Office” to breakups before red carpet events, Kaling kept me smiling.

Although this is one of the funniest books I’ve ever read, it also has serious themes to which everyone can relate, such as being true to yourself, following your dreams, not caring what other people think and being carefree. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a hilarious, quick read. This book is relatable and hysterical, because Kaling

—Lauren Daniel
Editor

A+
"Scratch’ perfect for big city food, ambiance

 While the most gourmet meal I can often afford consists of boiling noodles over a hot stove and adding Ragu spaghetti sauce, papa always goes big when he's got play money.

 Recently, I donned a collared shirt and my sport coat and made my way to Main Street in Norman, where we sought out a red-brick restaurant called Scratch.

 Upon entering the restaurant's black glass doors, one might think they'd stepped out of honky-tonk Oklahoma and ascended into hipster heaven.

 Scratch, whose website insists it is “fanatical about flavor,” looks like the kind of big-city lofts seen in independent films, with wood floors and wide spacing surrounding small tables littered all about.

 Professional photographs of various people decorate the walls while soft rock plays in the background.

 The hostess, clad in a cocktail dress, led us to a small two-top right next to a pair of business women exchanging gossip over glasses of wine.

 While I generally prefer tables away from other people, the women's banter and work-related woes made Scratch's inner-city ambiance much more authentic.

 The server approached our table and informed us that Scratch lives up to its name — she said since the food is freshly prepared, some orders might take longer than expected.

 We ordered spinach dip and pita bread at the server’s suggestion and were pleased with its speedy preparation and splendid taste.

 I also ordered a Mulled Wine, a hot alcoholic beverage consisting of red wine, rum, maple syrup, cinnamon, cloves and allspice.

 It was the perfect drink to pair with my dinner entree, the pancetta-wrapped chicken breast, which was stuffed with sundried tomatoes and wrapped with what our server described as “organic” bacon.

 At the suggestion of our server, we also split a hearty side of Scratch's signature mac and cheese.

 I don’t think I’ll ever eat Easy Mac again after seeing what Scratch can do with pasta and cheese.

 Though the order time wasn't as speedy as some dine-in eateries, Scratch made up for it with phenomenal food, helpful service and an exquisite atmosphere. It’s the perfect place for a first date or dinner party. I suggest anyone seeking to expand his or her food options make their way to Scratch at 132 W Main St. Main Street in Norman for an experience they’re sure to enjoy.

 Rating: A+

 —Siali Siaosi
 Staff Writer

 ‘The Last of Us’ challenging yet fun

 An ant is seen with a fungus wrapped around its body. A colony of ants ignore it as it stumbles in the opposite direction.

 It climbs up high and explodes, spreading spores everywhere.

 Every insect nearby is infected.

 This real life fungus, the cordyceps, is the premise of last year’s hit Playstation 3 exclusive “The Last of Us,” where it infects the human species.

 Players play as Joel, a grizzled, grey-haired man who has survived over 20 years since this outbreak started.

 Joel lives in a quarantine zone which is absolutely miserable. A turn of events happens when Joel is tasked with a smuggling job — a 14-year-old girl named Ellie.

 Throughout this journey you'll traverse beautiful scenes overtaken by nature, and in contrast, dark interiors filled with things you wish you weren’t able see.

 The graphics and audio are some of the best I’ve experienced in any kind of media which is impressive — considering it's running on a 7-year-old system.

 Survival is everything. Although a linear adventure, numerous open areas are provided with precious supplies to scavenge and enemies to either confront or sneak by.

 Combat is unbelievably tense as the A.I. is very perceptive (bandits and the infected).

 Numerous solutions exist to these encounters, although it is going out guns blazing seldom works.

 This game is challenging. When your character dies, which may be often, it never feels unfair. It feels justified.

 An unreliable A.I. partner can break the experience and occasionally they will be out in open sight when you're sneaking, which breaks the immersion.

 The developers have, thankfully, made your partners unable to alert enemies due to their faults.

 In the story you'll meet several well-crafted characters, though undeniably, Ellie is the star.

 There is also a great multiplayer mode; however, the single player is the definite magnum opus.

 There are flaws; however, they don’t put a dent in this masterpiece. “The Last of Us” is an absolute thrill ride that keeps on outdoing itself until the end.

 Rating: A

 —John Huynh
 Photographer
Campus police arrest a man for outstanding warrants

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An arrest and the discovery of lost items are among reports received this week.

Campus police arrested Kerry Matthews, 25, after a check revealed he had outstanding warrants.

At approximately 1:21 p.m. March 27, campus police were called to the library after three solicitors were reported to be contacting students about a raffle.

All three were brought to the campus police station for questioning by Officer David Madden.

Two of the men were released after they were checked for warrants.

The report shows Matthews lied about his name, date of birth and social security number when questioned by Madden. After checking the bag Matthews had, Madden was able to identify him and discover he had two Oklahoma County warrants and two Oklahoma City warrants.

Matthews was taken to the Oklahoma County jail. In addition to his warrants, he was also charged with obstructing a police officer.

A green leafy substance was among items discovered in a bag that was found at the FACE Center March 27.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., Officer Jeffrey McIntyre went to the FACE Center, located at 6500 S Land Ave. to pick up a bag that was found near a computer in the FACE Center office.

The clear plastic bag contained a black wallet with an Oklahoma I.D. card inside and a house key with a pink ribbon attached.

Also inside the bag was a smaller plastic bag that contained a leafy green substance. McIntyre brought all the items back to the campus police station.

He filled out a form for the leafy green substance to be destroyed and turned in the other property.

The name of the person who was identified as the owner of the bag was redacted on the report under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted "according to OCCC PD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld."

LAUREN DANIEL
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To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

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.
Free income tax filing through April 15

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Volunteers are available through April 15 to help low-income citizens prepare their income tax returns. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is set up just across from Student Life on the first floor in the Main Building, courtesy of Community Action Agency, said Student Life assistant Marcy Roll.

“People are required to bring all income statements (W-2 forms, etc), the previous year’s filed tax return, their driver’s license and the Social Security cards of everyone included on the return. The tax booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday every week until April 15 for one-on-one tax filing assistance. The service is first-come-first-served.”

Child Development program sees enrollment increase

KARINA STEPHENS
News Writing Student

An increase in enrollment in the college’s Child Development program is the exception to recent statistics showing an overall decrease in student numbers at OCCC.

Dawn Ladiski, Child Development professor, said she believes one reason is due to the help from a new coordinator to help students meet all of the requirements for a scholarship program called “Scholars for Excellence.”

“Scholars Program awards scholarships to eligible child care professionals and should expect to receive a salary increase,” Ladiski said.

During Spinner’s first year, seven scholars earned either a certificate or degree. She expects 20 to earn a certificate or degree for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Upon earning a certificate in child development, the scholars become child care master teachers and should expect to receive a salary increase, Spinner said.

Additionally, they then become eligible for Reward Oklahoma, a salary supplement program which is designed to retain qualified child care teachers in order to provide continuity for the children and families they serve, Spinner said.

“We struggle to be seen as a profession and we struggled for a long time, but we are getting better and are being seen more as professionals and not just babysitters.”

When Spinner joined OCCC, there were only 11 child care workers enrolled in the scholars program and she has increased that number to about 90.

“She has really taken off with it,” Ladiski said.

According to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education website, “The Scholars Program awards scholarships to eligible child care professionals to complete coursework in the area of child development or early childhood education.”

Ladiski is optimistic.

“I hope to see the department grow, or at least stay at this increased level,” she said.

Ladiski encourages more providers to consider the program.

“They see OCCC as a place to come be successful and we help them with resources, and help them be all they can be,” Ladiski said.

The scholarship pays 70 percent of tuition and fees and 100 percent of textbooks.

“The scholarship enables child care providers in Oklahoma to improve their skills through education and continue the availability of quality care in local communities,” Spinner said.

For more information on Scholars for Excellence, visit www.okhighered.org/scholars or contact Bonita Spinner at bonita.d.spinner@occc.edu.
Professor makes history fun, exciting

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Professor Molly Mirrll is starting to get a reputation at OCCC — for loving her job. Mirrll has been teaching pre-Civil War American History at OCCC since the spring of 2012. After three years, Mirrll is starting to be known around campus for her enthusiastic teaching style.

Mirrll said teaching is a wonderful experience that offers her a chance to see her students learn and enjoy learning. She said she has found success not only for herself but also for her students with her interactive teaching style.

Mirrll includes class interactions like “wartime” to help students study for their exams.

Wartime is a group activity where students are split into two groups, each having a general to lead the group and answer questions that will be on the upcoming exam.

The goal of the class interactions, like “wartime,” she said, is to get the students more involved in what they’re learning. It’s a successful method, according to Mirrll and the students.

Student Gary Bebe is a fan. “[Mirrll] is probably the most enthusiastic teacher I’ve ever had,” Bebe said. “The interactions that take place in class is mostly how I learn the material that we study.

“I wasn’t good at history, but she’s made it easier to where it makes sense and I learn a lot.”

Mirrll recently offered extra points to students who came to class dressed in period clothing that represented the timeframe in history they were studying.

“I feel that I’m an eclectic teacher.”

Student Isai Hernandez agrees.

“I actually look forward to coming to it because of the amount of energy and the way she can put it into different perspectives instead of it being boring and reading off of a piece of paper.

“It’s something that’s actually real, and the way she teaches is just different.”

Because of Mirrll’s success in teaching history, students may be expecting to see more classes available from Mirrll in the fall.

Mandala coloring contest will earn winners free pizzas

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The Psychology Lab began a weekly Mandala coloring contest on March 27 to generate more student interest in the lab, said Psychology Lab Tutor Bobbi Hill.

Hill said she hopes the Mandala Coloring Contest will prompt students to use the Psychology Lab and its resources.

A Mandala is a Hindu symbol representing wholeness and can be seen as a model for the organizational structure of life itself, Hill said.

She said the deadline to submit a colored Mandala will be every Thursday. A first- and a second-place winner will be announced the following Monday.

Hill said Eagle One Pizza is awarding vouchers for a large pizza with unlimited toppings to the two contest winners each week.

At least five colored mandala entries must be submitted before a winner can be selected, Hill said, so the Psychology Lab encourages all students to take part.

“Hopefully [the contest will] get some awareness about the lab and let people know that it’s here.”

Hill said the lab is a recent addition to the Social Sciences Department.

“The lab has about 20 computers so that students can come down and work on homework,” she said.

“Students can get help [here] if they need help with their psychology homework.”

Hill said students don’t need an ID but are required to sign in each time.

“If [students] have any questions or anything, there’s always someone here to help,” she said.

“We’ve even sponsored a couple of unit reviews for the Intro to Psychology [courses].”

Hill said she is the only tutor available at this time.

“There are always professors available,” she said.

“If there’s something that [students] need that I can’t help them with, the professors are only a phone call away.”

The Psychology Lab is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays. The lab is located in Room 1H6 of the Social Sciences Center. For more information, call the Psychology Lab at 405-682-1611, ext 2379, or call the Social Sciences Division office at 405-682-7573.
OCCC gets first-ever dragon boat team

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As Oklahoma City has gained national recognition as an ideal venue for rowing sports, Supervisor of Web Development and Social Media John Richardson said he hopes OCCC’s new dragon boat team will gain some recognition as well.

Richardson said a dragon boat is a canoe with a dragon head and tail containing 10 rowers paddling to the beat of one drummer.

After attending the Oklahoma Regatta Festival last fall, Richardson said, he was inspired by the local rowing teams to get OCCC to participate.

“’I thought it was really pretty cool,’’ he said.

“I figured it would be kind of nice if our college could get involved in that at some level.

“We don’t have the resources to sponsor a real rowing team — a crew … . So I thought, maybe there’s a way we could get funding to have a dragon boat team.

“A little less expensive and certainly a lot [of] fun, in my opinion,” Richardson said the OCCC dragon boat team, called Row-Triple-C, is sponsored by Student Life and the OCCC College Foundation.

“I’ve got this vision … that, if we’re successful this season … then maybe in the fall, we’ll have two dragon boat teams,” Richardson said.

Enough people expressed interest that would’ve allowed for two teams this spring.

However, Richardson said, it’s important to gauge the success of Row-Triple-C before implementing a second team.

He said if this season is successful, he’ll make a few phone calls to fund another dragon boat team for fall 2014.

Richardson said he’d eventually like to see OCCC have its own competitive rowing team.

“I think that would make a whole lot of sense,” Richardson said.

“[The Oklahoma] river is a very important part of Oklahoma City now,” he said.

“Instead of people going to the lakes, some of them go to the river and row.

“Since we are the community college of Oklahoma City, I think we need to be involved in things like that.”

Richardson said Row-Triple-C will host rowing practice from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Mondays.

He said the roster is currently full, but the team can always use supporters.

Row-Triple-C will compete at the Stars and Stripes River Festival Saturday, June 28.

For more information, call 405-682-1611 ext. 7552 or email jrichardson@occc.edu.

For Oklahoma River events, visit http://boathousedistrict.org.
Caps and gowns available in bookstore through May 16

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The time has come for students to prepare for the spring graduation ceremony on May 16, said Kim White, bookstore finances and student accounts coordinator.

White said the bookstore has a section where students can purchase all of the items they need to be ready for graduation.

The package includes a cap, gown and tassel for $35 plus tax.

White said the store also has announcements students can purchase. A package of five announcements is $6 plus tax.

“Not everyone buys them, but we do have those also,” said White.

White said the first step for students — before they even enter the bookstore — is to make sure they are on the list of students who are eligible to graduate this semester.

An OCCC ID or valid state driver’s license is needed to start the verification check.

Students whose names are on a list created by the graduation office are cleared to buy a cap and gown, White said.

If a student’s name does not appear on the list, the bookstore will call the graduation office and, in some cases, send the student there.

“The graduation office provides us with a list of eligible graduates,” White said.

“We check that list for [the student’s] name, and if [it isn’t] on the list, we send them to the grad office to check their progress … .

“Sometimes they just haven’t caught up the list from the people who have newly applied.”

Once the bookstore confirms a student is eligible, White said, bookstore staff will help the student find the right sized gown.

“We have them … tell us their height, [then] try on a gown and see what size works best for them,” she said.

Caps, gowns, tassels and announcements will be available in the OCCC Bookstore through May 16, graduation day.

Buying caps and gowns sooner rather than later is a good idea, White said.

Although the bookstore keeps a good stock of caps and gowns, she said, running out of a student’s size is a possibility.

“We generally do not sell out completely.

“The only thing [is] if you wait until the last minute, like the last few days before graduation, it is possible that we may run out a size so it’s best to come before then.”

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7688, or email kwhite@occc.edu.

Apply: Spring graduates can apply online or in person

Continued from page 1

Gowdy said students who apply late run the risk of finding out too late they haven’t completed all the classes they need to be eligible to graduate.

“We encourage students to fill out that application a semester prior to when they think they will finish, so that if they’ve missed a step, they have time to enroll in a class they might need,” she said.

Gowdy said students should meet with advisers periodically to stay on course.

“If there’s any approved electives in your degree plan, make sure you talk to your faculty adviser to get the paperwork done,” said Gowdy.

When students apply, they will receive an email from the graduation office which also will be sent to their faculty adviser.

“... Their faculty adviser might know then if they need something approved, because we’ll say that in the email,” she said.

Students also are advised to run a degree check on MineOnline so they can make sure the courses they have taken match their degree plan, Gowdy said.

In addition to filling out the application, students will need to attach all official transcripts from any other institutions they have attended, she said.

The free application is available both online and in the Graduation Office located on the first floor of the Main Building.

Gowdy said students can either apply online or bring the application to the office on the first floor of the Main Building.

The application can be found on the Records and Graduation Services website at www.occc.edu/records.

For more information about applying for graduation, contact Gowdy at 405-682-7528 or email bgowdy@occc.edu.

Grades: Any student can ask for an incomplete grade

Continued from page 1

Management Committee is seeking feedback from OCCC faculty regarding whether incompletions should still be issued to students.

“We have asked for input from faculty about removing an I as an option,” he said.

Gardner said the Enrollment Management Committee proposed the idea at a faculty meeting March 4.

“The Enrollment Management Committee looks at things that affect students,” he said. “There are actually reasons to look at that and see how [incompletes] affect students … .

“That’s why we’re asking ‘if we did away with this, how would it affect [them]?’

“... We have to go through a process before we do anything. We’ve asked for input from faculty — that’s all we’ve done.”

Gardner said he expects to hear back from faculty members when the next meeting is held in April.

As of Monday, March 24, Gardner said he hadn’t received any feedback yet.

Citing the 2013-2014 OCCC Course Catalog, Gardner said, an instructor can issue a student an I as a grade when extenuating circumstances occur.

Then, the instructor prepares a contract specifying the work which the student must complete along with a date by which it should be completed, he said.

Gardner said, in most cases, I, or Incomplete, grades are a neutral mark and students must work with the instructor to meet the requirements needed to convert them to a recordable grade.

Associate Registrar Jill Linblad said appealing for an incomplete grade is specific to the instructor.

“The faculty is who decide whether or not an incomplete can be granted,” Linblad said.

“All departments have the option of [assigning an incomplete grade],” she said. “... [but] the agreement has to be made prior to the class ending.”

Linblad said an incomplete will remain on a student’s transcript until the remaining coursework has been completed and graded by the instructor.

“The normal contract period … will extend through the late registration period for the next enrollment period,” she said.

“Depending on the circumstance, it can be extended for a year.”

For more information about appealing for an incomplete grade, contact your instructor or the Records Office at 405-682-1000.

FEEDBACK

Continued from page 1

The Records and Graduation Services Office also will be surveyed regarding whether an I can be granted at the end of a semester.

“Students can’t just wait and then ask for an I,” Linblad said.

“The faculty is who decide whether or not a student can receive an I,” she said.

“A student needs to come before then.”

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7688, or email kwhite@occc.edu.
Food for fuel

J. D. White, computer aided design major, Ashlee Standridge, marketing major, and Amanda Martinez, engineering major, prepare and sell Indian tacos for the Native American Student Association Indian taco sale March 24. The sale raised $346.94 for a two-day powwow scheduled for April of next year.

COMMUNITY | Club plans for League of Legends tournament this semester

Fun, games focus of Gamer Guild

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Staff Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

There is a group of students who sit at a specific table Monday through Thursday in the cafeteria called The Gamer Guild.

The Gamer Guild is a club made up of students who represent themselves as people who love to play games — gamers.

The games may vary, but most of the group members have a laptop or a Nintendo DS, which could allow a wide variety of games.

Other games include Magic: The Gathering, which is a popular card game.

Math major Jeremy McKinley, a gaming enthusiast, is the club’s president.

McKinley has been president for two semesters and is also the TLC representative for the club.

McKinley said he aims for the club to focus on being active in student life and just simply have fun playing games together.

“I try to make sure that they obey the school rules and that we stay active within student life,” he said.

“I like the club to do whatever the club wants to do, which right now is to just hang out and have fun.”

Though the club is not sure of how many members it has, the Gamer Guild is always open to new members.

The number of members varies from semester to semester, McKinley said.

“…It’s easy to join the club,” he said.

“Just come sit at our table and enjoy some games with us. It’s just that easy.”

The club plans to host a tournament.

Though the date has not been determined, it will be toward the end of the semester, McKinley said.

The tournament will be a League of Legends tournament, which is a popular online multiplayer free-to-play computer video game.

The tournament will have an entry fee of $5 per person, which is $25 per team.

“All entry fee money will be donated to United Way charity and we’re planning on occupying one of the College Union rooms for the tournament, which is where we plan on having other events as well,” he said.

“The other events we’re planning on having aren’t yet confirmed, so we have to decide on an event before we announce them.”

For more information, contact thegamerguild@occc.edu, or find the group in the corner of the cafeteria, right next to the exit toward the Main Building area Monday through Thursday.
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.

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- Drug Abuse in Oklahoma, from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in CU 2; Mark Woodward, Speaker, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics.
- Recognizing the Signs of Addiction: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at in CU 2; Dr. Peter Messiah, Addiction Prevention Studies Director, Oklahoma City University.

Proof of participation will be available for students who will be receiving extra credit from their professors to attend. Fourth quarter health and safety training credit will be given to all employees, who participate. Refreshments will be provided.

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Students get tour of The Oklahoman on class trip

NICHOLAS CONTE
News Writing Student

Nineteen journalism and broadcasting students in the Introduction to Mass Communications class experienced first-hand what they might find in the workplace during their recent field trip to The Oklahoman newspaper in Oklahoma City.

OCCC graduate Clytie Bunyan, a 25-year employee of The Oklahoman, led the tour through the immense building.

She is director of Business and Lifestyles.

"We are always excited to welcome OCCC students into the building," Bunyan said.

"It gives them a chance to see how things really work around here.

The group was walked through many areas of the building beginning with the enormous print shop where papers are printed at the rate of hundreds of copies per minute.

The monstrous printing factory was filled with massive pieces of machinery that left some students in awe.

"It was unlike anything I have ever experienced," said diversified studies major Leah Sweet. "I couldn't believe how powerful it all felt."

The tour then continued upward through a winding maze of staircases and hallways to different departments of the newspaper.

Students were allowed to speak with writers and ask questions.

"I found it interesting that many of the writers had their AP stylebooks on their desks," said broadcasting major Keegan Parrish.

"It was a shock to me that they still reference their grammatical books at this level."

After a few questions with the writers, Bunyan took the students into a conference room where the front page stories of the newspaper are selected by discussion and negotiations among the editors.

"We find it important to hold each other highly accountable," Bunyan said, "as you can see in front of you."

She gestured toward the table occupied by several old newspapers with red markings scattered across them.

The newspapers contained comments and amendments from other writers, some of which were not so delicately expressed.

On one of the newspapers, a headline had been circled with bold red letters, stating "Lack of creativity and boring!"

This emphasized Bunyan's point with the students about accountability.

"The value of the field trip is that students actually get to visit where they might end up working," said professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert.

"That way they aren't shocked when arriving in the work environment and realize it's a lot of work and not all fun like it seems on the air."

Sweet said the experience was worthwhile.

"It was the most learning I have done outside the classroom in a long time," Sweet said. "I couldn't have hoped for a better experience!"

For more information, contact Faulconer-Lippert at gfaulconer@occc.edu.