Free speech zones unlikely at OCCC

One out of six of America’s top universities have free speech zones, according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education located at www.thefire.org. OCCC is not one of these campuses — yet.

The possibility that OCCC might consider a free speech zone on campus came about after an April 3 Pioneer interview with Police Chief James Fitzpatrick regarding two men from Trinity Holiness church in Norman speaking to students outside of the Main Building entrance about the day before.

During that interview, Fitzpatrick said, in part, “We currently do not have a free speech area.”

With so many campuses that do, would OCCC ever consider limiting free speech to one portion of campus?

Fitzpatrick said he couldn’t answer the question as he doesn’t have the authority to create such an area.

Plus, he said, it seems to be a declining trend across the nation.

“I think things are starting to pan out across the country to where the courts are looking very strongly at some of the locations campuses have selected for free speech areas,” he said.

“It’s a tricky issue for institutions when they create them [and] where they create them because it’s going to have to withstand [the possibility] of a court challenge,” Student Press Law Center attorney advocate Adam Goldstein weighed in on the matter of free speech zones on public college campuses.

He said it’s “transparently unconstitutional” to designate certain areas for public speaking.

“…There is no precedent in American law that would authorize that kind of distinction,” Goldstein said.

According to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, “Congress shall make no law… abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble….”

See SPEECH page 9

Mixing high school, college a smart thing

LAUREN DANIEL
Editor
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Ask the five high school students who are enrolled in an English Comp I class at OCCC why they chose concurrent enrollment and you’ll get a mixed bag of answers — to save money, get a jump-start on college credits and become more familiar with a college setting before high school graduation.

See ENROLL page 9
Can’t everyone just get along?

There are thousands of religions in the world. People can still get lazy and fall into the mindset that their religion is the only one, especially when everyone they know has the same faith.

And, when confronted with someone of a different religion, people do tend to respectfully acknowledge that the other person’s beliefs are valid. “Oh, you’re a Hindu? Uh, cool! Ganesh’s almost as awesome as Jesus!”

However, this rule of respect does not seem to apply to non-religious people.

Atheism and agnosticism, while they are different schools of thought, can be lumped into one category for the sake of brevity. Atheists, Deists, and Agnostics will henceforth be referred to as Uns. If one is not subscribed to any faith, that person is an Un.

Uns commonly fall into incredibly awkward social situations, especially in the American South. An Un will often meet a religious person and get along great. Sooner or later, though, the religious person will ask what church the Un attends.

When the Un says he or she does not attend any church, what does the religious person do? Invite the Un to their church. “Oh? You haven’t heard of Jesus? Dude, you are missing out.”

This is a message to all religious people from the Uns. Uns have all heard of Jesus and he is not their cup of tea. Many religious people do not seem to recognize that most non-religious people have spent days, even months, considering religion before they decided it wasn’t for them. In fact, most Uns began their lives in religion.

This situation never happens to Jewish people. Most Christians would never dream of telling Jewish people they need a better religion. Judaism has an air of respect around it among Christians, since it is, after all, a faith. The same goes for Islam and Buddhism and any of the religions.

For religious people, faith is obviously a huge part of their lives. The logical fallacy seems to be this: I would be lost without my faith, so people without faith are clearly lost. This is incorrect.

Faith is not something people are universally hungry for. Faith is more like guacamole. Some people, as crazy as it may seem, don't like guacamole. More people than you'd think, in fact.

In a 2012 Gallup Poll, 15.6 percent of Americans claimed to have no religious identity. People’s hearts are clearly in the right place when they invite Uns to church but their brains are not.

There’s an awful side effect of the “church invite” scenario. After the Un politely refuses the religious person’s offer and comes out of the closet as a confirmed Un, the religious person tends to treat the Un differently. Not with hostility necessarily but with a weird tension — almost like their feelings are hurt.

Nobody’s feelings need to be hurt. People just need some understanding. Religious people should treat their Un friends the same as their Jewish friends.

Atheists may not have faith but they still have beliefs and these beliefs still need to be as respected as anyone else’s. Agnostics, by the way, are not people who are teetering on the edge. They are firmly seated on it. And Deists are just weird.

—Jake McMAHON

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Tinder has teamed with Action on Smoking & Health to try and curb smoking trend

App experiment shows most people prefer non-smokers

To the editor:

Would you date a smoker? Action on Smoking & Health has partnered with two New York creatives, Angelle Juneau and Jeff Scardino, to create a Tinder experiment called Smoking Hot. The social experiment uses the number one dating app Tinder to see if smoking is attractive to potential dates.

Recent studies have indicated that although smoking is down among high school students, the age group with the highest rate is the 18- to 26-year-old crowd. Both cigar smoking and social smoking have contributed to the high rate.

The trouble with getting this age group to stop smoking is they don’t think about their own mortality. They don’t believe smoking will kill them. When asked, almost all of them will tell you that they plan to quit in the future. So threats of death do not work.

A different approach was needed to hit home and make quitting relevant in their current lives. So, we set out to show them that their dating life could be affected by smoking.

Matches created on Tinder are based solely on looks. So it was the perfect platform to test if people think smoking is attractive.

Smoking Hot takes one beautiful girl and creates two separate Tinder accounts. Both accounts have the same photos. The only difference is that one account is a smoker, nonsmoker, or both.

When the experiment began, the smoking account received 29 percent of matches while the non-smoking account received 54 percent of matches. With the different accounts, people have a live poll where anyone can give their opinion by casting a vote in favor of dating a smoker, nonsmoker, or both.

—Action on Smoking & Health
The 2013 movie "Grudge Match" is surprisingly heartfelt and funny. A pair of aging boxers played by Sylvester Stallone and Robert De Niro are talked out of retirement to fight one final time 30 years after their last match. Boxing opponents Razor and the Kid become rivals after just two fights, with Razor beating Kid in one and Kid beating Razor in the other. Before they can have a rematch, Razor announces that he is going into retirement, seemingly ruining both of their careers.

The boxers tangle with each other in ridiculous situations throughout the entire movie, including them ruining a studio fight, to Kid throwing rocks through Razor's windows. Comedy is really brought to the movie with Kevin Hart, who plays the agent who is setting up “The Grudge Match” for the two boxers and is in desperate need of the money he expects to acquire from the fight.

The movie has some interesting surprises that test the relationships between loved ones and the two boxers that bring to life the meaning of the movie. The Kid deals with a relationship with his son that really has not been a relationship throughout previous years and Razor rekindles a love with his childhood girlfriend.

With many surprises in the movie, it is bound to keep anyone interested and laughing. The movie had its cheesy moments that you get with any comedy, but they end up fitting in the plot perfectly. The "why" question is answered when certain events unfold and makes the movie whole and understandable.

The movie deals with themes of letting go and growing up. I would recommend this funny, light-hearted film to anyone who wants a good laugh and an entertaining storyline with meaning. Rating: A+ —MYCALYN BLOMSTROM Staff Writer
PRODUCT REVIEW | Remedy offers quick fix to alleviate symptoms

Neti Pot works wonders for nasal congestion

The symptoms are universal: your nostrils are clogged, your chest is heavy and it feels as if there are tiny gnomes wildly pounding hammers against your temples. A sinus infection can cause serious mayhem — especially if you're already balancing a hectic school schedule.

Recently, Oklahoma's volatile weather conditions got the best of me, so I had to choose whether to be quarantined to my living quarters or do my damndest to get better — which led me to my first experience with the Neti Pot.

Since Tylenol Sinus isn't my first choice, I opted for remedies my Mexican mother might have suggested — some hot tea to ease my throat, Vicks Vapor Rub to break up the mucus and a few Hail Mary's to restore my spiritual health.

However, once I realized moping around wasn't going to help much and the saints weren't marching in on my side, I sought asylum in the aisles of the local CVS Pharmacy.

I loaded up on the largest amount of cough and sinus medicine one can legally purchase in the state of Oklahoma without looking like an assistant to Walter White.

Afterwards, I spent a week gargling cough syrup and doing my best to refrain from coughing between each heartbeat while attending work and school.

When I realized I wasn't getting any better, I cried.

I refused to visit a doctor but I did not refuse to cry. And while it felt good to let my emotions run amuck, I was depressed to realize my tears only made the situation stickier.

Post my manic episode, a friend of mine came to my rescue and offered me some help.

He offered me a quick-fix — something that would temporarily alleviate my woes, though he made no promises for an instant full recovery.

I was hesitant at first — I'd never done anything quite like this before, I'd just heard about it in the movies.

It all sounded very strange and foreign, but at this point, I was willing to try anything.

He revealed the weapon — an odd-shaped, blue thing — and filled it with water while carefully instructing me how to position myself.

I tilted my head to the side as he emptied an arbitrary powdered substance into the object after the water filled it halfway.

I felt sweat escape my skin as my anxiety increased.

I closed my eyes before he performed the deed — it was cowardly, I'll admit, and I just couldn't face it head on — and soon my nostrils were filled with the strangest sensation of relief and discomfort combined.

Blinking my eyes open, I was immediately handed a napkin and told to blow.

When I pulled away, the white cloth was decorated with my multicolored mucus.

But better than my new artistic napkin piece was the oxygen flowing through my nostrils and my chest. It was like magic.

I've witnessed the power of the almighty Neti Pot firsthand.

Some might disagree with its witchcraft, but I'm definitely pro-nasal irrigation.

Rating: A

—Siali Siaosi
Staff Writer

SERIES REVIEW | Other shows don't compare to canceled series

‘Freaks and Geeks’ ahead of its time

If a television show is satisfying or critically acclaimed, more than likely it will be given multiple seasons.

"Seinfeld" had nine, "Breaking Bad" had five and "The Simpsons" is still on air after 25 years.

In some rare cases, terrible shows can last a long time too.

Unfortunately for NBC's "Freaks and Geeks," the monument was a few short years ahead of its time and inevitably canceled after its first season.

Set in 1980, the high school comedy/drama series revolves around two groups of teenagers, the "freaks" and the "geeks," who all face numerous conflicts in their day-to-day lives.

Mainly focused on Lindsay Weir and her younger brother Sam, the pilot opens when Lindsay decides to start hanging out with burnouts and Sam becoming infatuated with a cute girl.

As the series continued, the diverse characters united with one another and overcame wild obstacles, which still reside in the lives of most teenagers today.

The embarrassment of family members, peer pressure and the confusion of identity are just some of the hardships these characters face in every episode.

Created by Paul Feig and Judd Apatow, their story combines humor with drama so well it hasn't been replicated since.

From Lindsay and Nick's awkward first relationship and Bill discovering his mom dating his cruel gym coach, every relationship in this show is bundled with conflict and bound tightly with refined laughs.

Most of the cast went on to perform in several more projects after the series ended.

Actors Jason Segel, James Franco, Seth Rogen, Linda Cardellini, John Francis Daley, Busy Phillips and many other talented performers started out on "Freaks and Geeks."

Overall, the feeling this series leaves viewers with is disappointment.

Not disappointment in the characters or stories but disappointment of there being only 18 episodes and no satisfying conclusion.

"Freaks and Geeks" is an appetizer while it could have been a Thanksgiving feast.

However, that appetizer was better than most meals I'll ever have.

Rating: A

—Ethan Cooper
Webmaster
Student one of 35 chosen for OU leadership program

MICHELLE WITT
News Writing Student

Art major Virginia Singleton has won a place in the N.E.W. Women’s Leadership Institute at the University of Oklahoma. She is one of only 35 women from the state who have been given this opportunity.

Singleton says she pursues a dream of being one of many artists in a small studio, not limiting their creativity by the money they make.

Singleton stands in front of a mural she painted on the second floor of the Arts and Humanities building. She is one of 35 women chosen who will participate in the N.E.W. Women’s Leadership Institute May 16 through 20 at the University of Oklahoma.

Lower pass rates result of new nursing licensure test

MICHELLE WITT
News Writing Student

It wasn’t a surprise that OCCC nursing graduates had a lower pass rate on their licensure exam in 2013, compared to 2012, said Nursing School Director Debbie Myers.

Singleton stands in front of a mural she painted on the second floor of the Arts and Humanities building. She is one of 35 women chosen who will participate in the N.E.W. Women’s Leadership Institute May 16 through 20 at the University of Oklahoma.

“Now we know, in order to be competitive and to pass boards, we need to focus more on leadership, management, community nursing and research because they’re what is needed in our healthcare system.”

“Students have to be very, very committed and more so now than ever of reading broadly, of taking the initiative to do more than is what is on their assignments, and to make sure they understand the content with the depth that they are going to need to know.”

For more information, call Myers at 405-682-1611, ext. 7138.
Most OCCC students have had an adjunct or part-time, professor.

OCCC has 369 adjunct professors as of March 2014, in comparison to 143 full-time professors.

Ten years ago, OCCC employed 117 full-time professors and 326 part-time.

Felix Aquino, Academic Affairs vice president, said OCCC hires more adjuncts because the funding just isn’t there to employ more full-time professors.

“An adjunct doesn’t cost as much as a full-timer,” he said.

Larry Robertson, compensation and Human Resources systems director, said OCCC pays its adjuncts $680 for each credit hour they teach. Full-time professors receive an average salary of $50,100, he said.

Aquino said hiring more adjuncts also helps keep tuition down.

“Adjuncts … are hired strictly to teach. The standard that we hold them to in terms of teaching is the same as anybody else … .” he said.

Why Teach Part-Time?

Some adjunct professors teach part-time purely out of choice or even for fun.

Biology professor Jan Clanton has been an adjunct at OCCC for 13 years. She said she has no desire to teach full-time.

“It’s a lot of administrative hassle,” Clanton said.

After working various jobs in research technology and law, she decided teaching was the job for her. She said she taught part-time at several colleges for many years but eventually decided OCCC was where she wanted to be.

“This has been nothing but good for me,” she said.

Some adjunct professors work multiple jobs to help supplement their income.

Jennifer Beard, English professor, teaches full-time at Westminster High School and teaches two classes — English Comp I and II — at OCCC.

“My first semester in college teaching, I was teaching at three schools and then I started to kind of worry about that … .” she said.

“I don’t have guaranteed employment … so that’s actually why I teach high school full time.”

Beard, like many part-time professors across the country, said she began teaching as an adjunct because she couldn’t find a full-time position after receiving her degree.

“I would honestly say that’s why I started doing it,” she said.

“When I finished my master’s degree, I hadn’t found a full-time position yet. I got hired at three schools and, when I first started, I was having to work part-time at a makeup counter. So, I [kind of] had four jobs in one.”

Although part-time teaching helps pay the bills, Beard said, she still wishes she could have a full-time position at a college.

“I enjoy doing it to supplement my income and I just enjoy college teaching. I think all of us who are adjuncts … would kill to have a full-time position … .” she said.

Beard said she does not recommend what she is doing to anyone.

“… Just doing adjunct teaching only and driving around to a whole bunch of different schools … [is] a difficult thing to do and to me, it’s a little risky.”

The Risks

Adjunct professors do not have a guarantee if OCCC decides to cut jobs, enrollment drops, or students do not sign up for the time they are teaching a class, Beard said.

She said she has never had that problem but it is still something she has to be mindful of.

“I’ve never had a problem getting classes, so if me it’s been pretty consistent. However, there is the threat of, if enrollment goes down, or if not enough people enroll in your class, you know, you won’t have a job,” she said.

Adjuncts also must consider benefits, Beard said, as they don’t receive all of the healthcare options full-time professors are offered.

Part-time benefits include an employee assistance program for the professor and their immediate family, a retirement plan option and limited health benefits.

Beard said she feels the compensation is fair.

“I feel like what we’re paid per hour is really, really good,” she said. “We don’t get a lot of benefits … .”

Professor Concerns

Although adjunct professors are required to be on campus one hour for each three hour class they teach, that doesn’t mean they will be available to students when needed.

Beard said adjunct professors have limited office hours so students have to make a greater effort to reach out for help.

“I think the quality of instruction is still really good but definitely there’s more limited office hours,” she said.

“Email is the biggest thing that helps my students and [me] stay in touch because they know I’m not going to be on campus as much as [a full-time] professor will be.”

Clanton said she works around that by giving her students various ways to contact her.

She said she gives her students her cell phone number and even encourages them to call at 2 a.m. if they are desperate.

She encourages all students to do whatever it takes to meet with their professors if they are struggling.

“Don’t hesitate to try to contact your professor,” Clanton said. “They have to give you some kind of method of contact.

“I think most of us … the good ones give [students] a way to contact them and respect them for doing it, and they’re disappointed when they don’t.

“It hurts me like crazy when a student is suffering out there … .”

Students Speak Out

It’s true that OCCC students are more likely to have a part-time professor than full-time, but does it make a difference? José Sagredo, physics major, said he has had a few part-time professors and has had good experiences.

“I honestly couldn’t tell the difference,” Sagredo said.

Blair Reynolds, secondary education major, agreed, saying he wasn’t even certain which were part-time and which were full-time.

Other students said it’s more about the individual professor, not the hours worked.

“I’ve had some full-time professors who were better (than part-time) … [and] some who were worse, said Sophomore Ryan Strawhun.

Riley Saunders, in his second semester at OCCC, said he has already seen the good and bad.

“One (part-time professor) is actually like the worst teacher I ever had in my life,” Saunders said. “I just think it has to do with teachers’ attitudes. You can tell which [professors] have a passion for their jobs.”

A few students feel part-time professors’ performance is affected by the jobs they hold outside of OCCC.

Ryan Saunders, who just completed his third semester, said he thinks having outside jobs helps adjuncts do their jobs better. He said he has a part-time math professor who also works at Chesapeake “crunching numbers”.

“I think doing it in real life and then coming back and teaching … makes her more sharp.”

Nathan Ice, Film and Video Production major, agreed that it’s a mixed bag.

“Some part-time teachers are extremely dedicated and some full-time teachers aren’t … vice versa … .”

“Really, there are only a couple of isolated incidents where a part-time teacher … wasn’t that great because [of] teaching at another college.”

Aviation Mechanics major Jackson Blundell said there are a number of factors to consider.

“Every professor is different no matter if they’re part-time or full-time, in my honest opinion,” Blundell said.

“Some of them are a little bit more focused on their structure of learning and others are more focused on finding your structure of learning. But it kind of differs from subject, in my opinion, rather than full-time status as teaching.”

The Administrative Side

OCCC relies heavily on its adjuncts, Aquino said. He said they allow the college to serve more students than would otherwise be possible.

“We value our adjuncts very much,” he said.

“We couldn’t serve half as many students if we didn’t have adjuncts.”

Aquino said many adjunct professors also work for the college in areas other than teaching.

“We have many adjuncts who are full-time professional employees at the college,” he said. “I’m one of them.”

Aquino said one downside to hiring adjuncts from the college’s standpoint...
is they are not required to be involved in the governance of the institution.

“... They don’t do anything about curriculum ... . They don’t have to serve on any committees,” he said.

“Because of that, adjuncts are not paid as much as full-time faculty members because they don’t have those outside classroom responsibilities.”

In the end, Clanton and Beard agree on one thing — OCCC is a great place to work and they enjoy getting to teach.

“I just really enjoy teaching there and I’m glad I do it,” Beard said.

“I can honestly say it has been a good experience for me. I love it ... . I plan to continue doing it as long as I’m given the opportunity to do so.”

For more information, contact Aquino at 405-682-7546, or by email at faquino@occc.edu.

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**Professors:** OCCC employs 363 adjuncts, 149 full-time

Continued from page 1

OCCC has 369 adjunct professors as of March 2014, in comparison to 143 full-time professors.

Ten years ago, OCCC employed 117 full-time professors and 326 part-time.

Felix Aquino, Academic Affairs vice president, said OCCC hires more adjuncts because the funding just isn’t there to employ more full-time professors.

**THE NATIONAL PICTURE**

**Increased Reliance on Part-Time College Faculty**

*Full-time versus part-time faculty and instructors, 1990-2012*

Note: Part-time faculty includes graduate instructors/assistants

*Source: Labor Intensive or Labor Expensive? Changing Staffing and Compensation Patterns in Higher Education, 2013*

Delta Cost Project at American Institutes for Research

American Institutes for Research | www.air.org
SPORTS

Leg work

Spinning and yoga instructor Kathleen Hibbs directs her spinning class April 17 in the OCCC Recreation and Fitness Center gym. The spinning class costs $25 for a month and is offered to the public. With the $35 purchase of a campus recreation group fitness pass, students can use the spin facilities for the rest of the semester. Hibbs' classes are available from noon to 12:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays or from 4 to 4:45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays from now throughout August. Hibbs said spinning is a high-intensity cardio workout but students shouldn’t be intimidated by that. She said classes are only 40 minutes and fit for beginners. Hibbs said class sizes tend to be small with about three or four people attending her spin classes at noon. She said afternoon classes typically have four to seven people in attendance.

For more information, call 405-682-7860, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness-classes, or stop by the Recreation and Fitness office on the first floor of the Main building.

Sports continue despite low enrollment

SIALI SIAOSI
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While OCCC students often express interest in intramural sports, they often don't put on their game faces when it comes time to play. OCCC intramural sports haven't had the best turnout this semester, said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

While he's unsure if it was due to the intramural online registration forms on IMleagues.com, he said, he thinks he'll implement an easier sign-up process in upcoming semesters.

Wright said while he initially considered online registration more convenient, he said he received negative feedback regarding IMleagues.com: “I think some people just don’t want to get on the computer,” he said.

Wright said he had to cancel the intramural flag football leagues because of lack of student interest. “Football I had to cancel [because] there were only nine people signed up on IMleagues.com,” Wright said. “I had a lot of people talk to me about soccer but they never signed up,” he said. “I had like 10 people signed up … It’s enough for one team, but it’s 7v7. Obviously we’re not going to do anything with just two teams, either — we’d have to have at least three,” he said. “Maybe next semester, I might try a system where maybe people can sign up … via paper.”

While intramural soccer and flag football were a flop this semester, Wright said he has hopes for an end-of-the-year dodgeball event May 8 and 9. “The only other thing I have listed right now … is a dodgeball tournament in May,” he said.

Wright said the deadline to register won't be until the day of the tournament or a few days before, but he said he hasn't set an official deadline just yet. “I’ll have flyers and stuff on the televisions and whatnot,” he said.

Wright said intramural dodgeball has generated student interest in the past. “There was one [instance] where the first two weeks we had a lot of people out here playing and then they just stopped,” Wright said.

Wright said he hopes more students might consider joining intramural sports and sticking to them in future semesters.

For more information, call Wright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7684, or email matthew.j.wright1422@occc.edu.
Reports include a missing iPad, mysterious substances

LAUREN DANIEL
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A missing iPad, classroom disruption and suspicious substances found by a cleaning crew member top police reports received this week. Employment Services Coordinator Misti Foster reported a missing iPad at approximately 1:23 p.m. April 11. Officer Jeffrey McIntyre took the report which shows additional information is available in a supplemental report that was not provided.

A disruptive student was reported by Professor Lori Farr at approximately 11:24 a.m. April 14 in AH 1D1. By the time officer Daniel Piazza arrived, the student had left. Farr decided not to identify the student. The case ended without further incident.

At 5:39 a.m. on April 18, Frank McIntosh, cleaning crew supervisor, approached OCCC Police Officer Tim Harris to give him two small plastic bags that had been found in a hallway near Student Support Services. Harris reported one bag contained a leafy green substance “resembling grass and weed clippings. The other bag contained unknown white powder.”

According to the report, Harris took the bags to the police station and completed destruction paperwork. Additional information and pictures are available in a supplemental report that was not provided.

An open records request has been made for the supplemental reports.

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

Speech: OCCC has no plans to create Free Speech zone

Continued from page 1

Goldstein said something being unconstitutional doesn’t necessarily translate to it being illegal.

However, when the Constitutionality of a policy is challenged, it can lead to changes, as the state of Virginia recently found out.

Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, Va., is rewriting its policy after a student there filed a lawsuit when he was denied what he said was his right to speak freely on campus, according to townhall.com, a web-based magazine.

A bill was passed in the Virginia Legislature on April 7 forbidding Virginia public colleges from designating free speech zones.

Because of this, public university students are now free to express themselves without having to speak in certain areas with time limitations.

OCCC students have their own thoughts on the matter.

“I think you should have free speech anywhere on campus,” said Amanda Stevens, Early Childhood Education major. “It should not be designated to certain zones.”

Premed major Ted Walls agreed.

“I’m pretty much a proponent of the First Amendment,” Walls said.

“I think free speech should be exercised and given to everybody in any place, as long as you’re not provoking anger with hate speech or violence.”

For now, it seems OCCC is avoiding free speech zones. President Paul Sechrist said he knows of no plans to designate an area for free speech.

“1 am unaware of any request for a free speech zone and I am unaware of any proposal to create one,” Sechrist said.

Enroll: Official says concurrent enrollment a real savings

Continued from page 1

Jon Horinek, Admissions and Recruitment director, said all of those answers are valid.

Concurrent classes allow high school juniors and seniors to also earn college credit prior to graduation — and OCCC or the state pick up most of the tab.

Between 500 and 600 high school students take classes on the OCCC campus each semester, Horinek said. He said he knows of students who have graduated from high school with as many as 15 to 18 hours of college credit already completed.

“… [That] can really add up to some cost savings once they get to a four-year or two-year institution “… ”

Horinek said OCCC will waive tuition for up to six credit hours a semester beginning the summer before a student’s junior year.

“That’s waiving 18 credit hours a year…” he said. “You can do that for two years, so you really could save a lot of money by taking … general education requirements through concurrent enrollment.”

Cole Pancoast, Mustang High School senior, said he decided to take concurrent classes to help him complete his basic general education courses faster.

“I figured [I] might as well get it out of the way,” Pancoast said.

Horinek said concurrent students also are more likely to complete a degree.

“… The earlier students can have a college-level experience, the more likely they are to continue and the more successful they will be,” he said.

Holly Salem, Westmore High School senior, will have taken four concurrent classes by the end of this semester. She said it’s one of the best decisions she has made.

“I recommend it to anybody who is wanting to go to college because I know … I feel better about transitioning from high school to college by taking the classes that I took,”

Norman North High School senior Alexandria Bailey said she enjoys the different atmosphere.

“People mind their own business here,” Bailey said.

“Theres people trying to focus and you’re not having to ignore a ton of noise to try and focus”

Horinek said it’s not without it’s hardships such as the possibility of a bigger course load.

Pancoast said he has found that to be true.

“I think it’s about the same [level of difficulty as high school classes.]”,

“I think it’s just a little more work,” he said.

Horinek said concurrently enrolled students need to keep in mind that the grades on their college transcript follows them throughout their academic career so it’s important to attend classes and do the work.

“… It’s very easy for a high school student who has never had a classroom experience to sort of equate this as just an extension of high school,” he said. “It’s not.”

Bailey said she learned that lesson the hard way. She is having to retake a class.

“I didn’t go last semester that often so I didn’t get a very good grade,” she said.

Horinek recommends students start by taking one concurrent class to see if they like it.

“We want the college to complement your high school experience …. ” he said. “Really, it should be part of the high school experience, not a substitution.”

Horinek said there are steps to becoming a concurrent student.

“… (First) you have to get permission from your parents and from the high school counselor to participate in concurrent enrollment even if you qualify,” he said.

Miranda Baumgardner, Bridge Creek High School senior, said she sought her parents’ input on taking concurrent classes.

“My parents kind of encouraged me but it was mostly my decision,” she said.

Horinek said the next step is to take the ACT.

He said although students are able to use their GPA for admission, ACT scores are used for course readiness requirements.

Horinek said anyone who plans to go to college should consider concurrent enrollment.

“We have data that shows the earlier that students have a college-level experience, the better off they’re going to be. Additionally with the rising cost of tuition, you can get some transfer credits from good quality instructors … that will transfer anywhere,” he said.

“That’s an advantage for you and your family.”

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/admissions/concurrent, call Horinek at 405-682-1611, ext. 7743, or email jhorinek@occc.edu.
Students interested in German no longer have to drive to Rose State. Elementary German offered in fall

KELSEY ABRAHAM
News Writing Student

For the first time in years, German will be offered as a language course option on campus this fall.

Modern languages Professor Ginnett Rollins has high hopes for the future of this class.

“I am hoping to create a situation where students can take the courses right here on campus,” she said.

“If things go well with this course, OCCC will be offering the higher level of German, German 1225.”

—GINNETT ROLLINS
MODERN LANGUAGES PROFESSOR

OCCC Gamer Guild club members John Kennedy and Riley Flynn play Monster Hunter 3 Ultimate together April 15 in the general dining area. The club meets Monday through Thursday in the dining area to play card games and video games. For more information, contact thegamerguild@occc.edu.

If things go well with this course, OCCC will be offering the higher level of German, German 1225.”

—GINNETT ROLLINS
MODERN LANGUAGES PROFESSOR

“German can be very competitive with French and Spanish,” she said.

Rollins said with German only offered at Rose State, it became difficult for OCCC students to commute between there and this campus just to be taking one class there.

This course is a way to give students the choice of another language to learn and to explore something different, she said.

Elementary German I is offered from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, beginning Tuesday, Aug. 19.

For more information, contact Rollins at grollins@occc.edu or at 405-682-1611, ext. 7704.

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Students learn ways to manage stress

Light snacks and free stuff will be provided to students from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, in college union room 2. All students are invited to relax, stay stress-free and learn about stress management. For more information, contact Student Support Services at 405-682-7520.

OCCC Innovation Grants deadline April 30

The deadline for the FY 2014 Complete College OCCC Innovation Grants is Wednesday, April 30. These grants fund several promising interventions to improve student success at the college. For more information on applications, contact Elaine Svec at esvec@occc.edu or Stu Harvey at shavvey@occc.edu.

Students applying for summer jobs

Student services will help students look for summer jobs from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 1, in room 1G7 on the first floor in the Main Building. For more information, contact 405-682-7519.

Service Trip Peace Walk May 3

Student volunteers needed during Oklahoma’s Autism Peace Walk for families affected by autism from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Students who register will receive an email with specific instructions on where and when to meet. For more information, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523 or email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

Gamel scholarship deadline May 9

Applications for the Ralph and Connie Gamel scholarship will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, May 9, at the OCCC Foundation, room 1A4 in the Arts and Humanities building. The scholarship is open to all currently enrolled OCCC students who have a GPA of 2.0 and are committed to obtaining a degree from OCCC. Students can get applications in the Foundation office and must hand deliver the application. Students will also need to submit a 500-word essay. For more information, contact Jennifer Harrison at jharrison@occc.edu.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to editor@occc.edu.
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.


ROOM FOR RENT: Only female. Includes all services. Near OCCC. Call or text Norman at 405-317-4002.

WANT TO RENT A ROOM: 21-year-old male. Looking for a room to rent. Call or text Roman at 770-301-2791 with information and price.

FOR SALE: Bed liner for standard long bed pickup w/tailgate liner. $75. QC. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures or more information.


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.

Female roommate wanted: with bathroom. Washer/dryer, Internet, cable. Close to OCCC campus. Email your résumé to ok1486@dofruit.com, stop by 11611 S Western, OKC, OK 73170 to fill out an application or send a text to 405-822-2408.

For sale: 40” CRT television in excellent condition. The big screen makes it great for a gaming TV in the kids’ room. $30. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

Looking for a room to rent: Male, 23, full-time student looking to rent a room close to campus for no more than $250-$300 a month from May 17 to the end of the fall semester. Email john.white336@occc.edu.

Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail the editor at editor@occc.edu Let your voice be heard!
Motivational author to teach mind over matter May 6

ASHLEY GUYER
News Writing Student

His job requires running a news operation in a digital format, said Matt Bishop, website publications coordinator for the Oklahoma City Thunder basketball team.

He has to meet deadlines and race to get the story online before the competition.

He said his experience in journalism and broadcasting has been key.

“We like to provide the latest, most up-to-date information on the Thunder and really bring in the fans,” Bishop said. “We are basically a newspaper online.”

The website www.nba.com/thunder includes stories of games, interviews, community appearances and programs the Thunder players take part in — complete with videos and photographs.

“We use a conservative approach on basketball,” Bishop said. “We do not trash talk other teams. We have respect.”

He then presented the website and navigated through different areas of interest.

One story showed three children who are up for adoption.

The Thunder players had met them and the youngsters got to hang out and watch the Thunder play.

Bishop mentioned different community involvements of the players.

“There is a lot of emphasis on health and education with children,” Bishop said. “They hold workout clinics at schools and hand out books once a week.”

He said his work group will be revamping the website this summer to look more like the National Basketball Association’s template, with six windows appearing on the homepage with headlines.

This will give an option for more sponsors.

“We have really grown with social media,” Bishop said. “We now have a nationwide fan base and interactions when traveling to other cities.”

Thunder is gaining international recognition with a Facebook page with 3.7 million likes, a Twitter with the popular use of #WeAreThunder and Instagram.

He said when the team’s rookie Steven Adams was drafted, the website and team support skyrocketed in New Zealand.

“We also have a Thunder Girl, Kei Hiarta, who has her own blog in Japanese with a big following,” Bishop said.

He shared experiences of traveling with the Thunder throughout the country, visiting cities such as Los Angeles, New York and Orlando.

“There is always something new,” Bishop said. “It never gets boring.”

He also recited the time Christopher Mintz-Plasse, best known as McLovin’ in the hit movie “Superbad,” wanted to meet Kevin Durant.

“He asked if he could just get a few words with him and my boss thought this was great,” Bishop said.

Bishop worked for the Thunder in 2007. He received notice for an internship for KSBI during the winter break that year.

He recalls that he missed the opportunity by not checking his email over the holidays.

He said that he did not give up, on the advice of mass media professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert.

He made several phone calls until he finally was awarded a part-time job to work for Ron Steeger, International Media and Publications website director, in 2008.

“I was only working five hours a week but hard work paid off,” Bishop said.

“I learned computer coding in the field, like HTML and CSS and became full time in 2010.”

Bishop, 28, a graduate of Newcastle High School, has accomplished all of this with an associate degree.

Graduating from OCCC in 2008, he now attends the University of Oklahoma where he is pursuing a bachelor’s degree.

“You have to be driven and love what you do to succeed,” Bishop said. “That is your main skill.”

For more information, email m.bishop@thunder-nba.com.

### Thunder web coordinator says OCCC helped him

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Staff Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Jim Stovall, an award-winning author and motivational speaker, will share his optimistic presentation titled “Yes You Can!” at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater.

Doralicia Sandoval, Professional Development Institute account executive, gave some background information on Stovall and what he will discuss.

“[It’s] a motivational speech about an individual’s ultimate potential,” she said.

“In the past his presentations have given insights into his own life and his struggle with losing his vision and how he went on to achieve all these different things”

“Essentially giving [students] the idea that it’s the mind itself and the possibilities are endless,” Sandoval said.

Sandoval said the event will be beneficial for students who attend and she encourages students to experience Stovall’s inspiring presentation.

“[Students] already being where they are at OCCC, they’re doing everything they can to increase their potential and reach their goals and their desires,” Sandoval said.

“This is just one other way to see someone who can give them that message as well.”

Sandoval said this isn’t the first time Stovall has spoken to OCCC students.

“Jim has done presentations in our area before [and] he decided to meet with Steeger and they settled on a date to give a presentation,” she said.

Ticket prices range from $20 to $25, depending on the seating and all tickets are for advance purchase only, Sandoval said.

Tickets can be purchased at the Cultural Programs office in room 161 in the VPAC, or at www.occc.edu/tickets.

Tickets will not be available at the door, Sandoval said.

She said students should buy their tickets as early as possible.

“Those are really want to get [the tickets] as early as possible on May 5, or before,” she said.

Stovall is the author of The Ultimate Gift, now a major motion picture, according to the college website.

Tickets are $20–$25 and are available through the Cultural Programs office.

For more information, call 405-682-7858.