

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

EVERYONE CAN AGREE TO DISAGREE

Videographer Jake McMahon says those with faith need to tolerate those who choose alternate beliefs. Read what he has to say inside.

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NEWS

PART-TIME PROFESSORS SPEAK OUT

OCCC employs more adjunct professors than full-time. Turn inside to find out how part-time professors feel about their jobs and how students feel.

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INTRAMURAL SPORTS SIGN-UPS CHANGING

Sign-up process is about to undergo changes in an attempt to get more students interested in intramural sports. Read more inside.

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GERMAN COURSES TO BE OFFERED

German is being offered as a language course this fall. Elementary German I will be offered starting Aug. 19. Read more.

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PIONEER

APRIL 25, 2014

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Sharp turn



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

An OCCC student who declined to give his name took a wrong turn Monday, April 21 as he turned onto Regent's Blvd. from SW 74th Street a little too sharply and ended up with his car centered on a concrete curb. Officers on the scene refused comment and, as of press time, an open record request for the police report hadn't been filled.

Free speech zones unlikely at OCCC

Many public colleges across the nation decide where students can speak

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Staff Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

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 1 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 that 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 au-

thorize 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 en-

rollment 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

OPINION

EDITORIAL | People of faith need to stop feeling bad for those without

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.



**JAKE
McMAHON**

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! Ganesha'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.

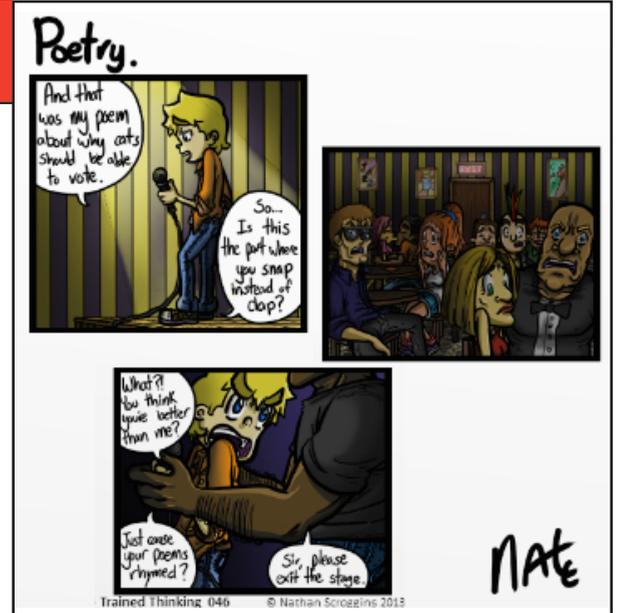
For religious people, faith is obviously a huge part of their lives. The logical fallacy seems to be this: I would be lost without my faith, so people without faith are clearly lost.

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
VIDEOGRAPHER

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 settings, likes, friends and almost exactly the same photos. The only difference is that one account features the girl smoking in every photo while the other does not. Over the course of one week, the non-smoking account received 54 percent of matches while the smoking account received 29 percent.

The project at ash.org/smokinghot, consists of targeted online and social ads, along with posters that will be hung outside of bars and on college campuses. There also is a live poll component where anyone can give their opinion by casting a vote in favor of dating a smoker, nonsmoker, or both.

—ACTION ON SMOKING & HEALTH

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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.

The **PIONEER** has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be no more 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

PRODUCT REVIEW | Website, app offers thousands of songs for free

Spotify easy-to-use music source

Imagine browsing on iTunes and suddenly every song and album's price tag changed to "FREE."

This is the premise of Spotify, which can be considered the Netflix of the music business.

Spotify has an impressive collection of 20 million plus songs and adds over 20,000 songs every day, which is not far behind iTunes' 26 million plus songs.

Songs, however, are streamed and require an Internet connection.

There are also advertisements, but the frequency at which they happen are far less than if you were listening to a traditional radio station.

Speaking of radio, Spotify also has a radio feature that functions much like Internet radio service, Pandora, except in Spotify you get unlimited song skips.

Like a song? Simply drag and drop it to your library to listen to later.

Spotify software can be installed on the desktop: TuneWiki, which



gives you live lyrics, or Blue Note, which allows you to experience jazz music from different eras.

Much of what I've described above is the desktop experience and, unfortunately, the free mobile experience is very much stunted.

The free mobile experience includes the radio feature, with which you can do six song skips per hour, and your playlists.

You can't listen to any song at will in your playlists; however, if your playlist has at least 20 songs and three albums, you'll be able to

shuffle through songs.

Don't meet the requirements? Songs will automatically be filled in that are of similar style.

If you want to experience the same desktop experience on your mobile and listen to any song at will, the solution is Spotify Premium which costs \$9.99 a month.

In addition to mobile access, Spotify Premium will disable all ads, give you higher audio quality and allow you to listen to songs offline without the need of an Internet connection.

If you're a hardcore music aficionado, this deal will be very enticing.

For the price of an album, you get access to millions of songs without all the annoyances a free user gets.

With access on all major mobile platforms (iOS, Android, WP), a great desktop experience and a low starting price, there's no reason not to give Spotify a listen.

Rating: A

—JOHN HUYNH
PHOTOGRAPHER

COUNSELOR'S Corner

Students get what they give

"The price of greatness is responsibility."
—Sir Winston Churchill

In spite of the negative commentary and rhetoric that dominate the media, America still is a land of opportunity. Although none of us can predict the future or control all the events in life, we do have control of our attitudes about and choices for handling those events.

Within the world of higher education, community colleges stand out as the champions for providing educational opportunities for those who might otherwise not have them. Even here, however, the determining factor in whether you will succeed or fail is you.

Go to class or log on from the first day to the last day. This is how you will access the information you need to learn and it's how you will impress the professor tasked with providing that information. If your apartment floods or your tires go flat at some point in the semester, the professor who has identified you as a solid, serious student is more likely to work with you.

Take responsibility for your learning. The professor's job is to make information available to you and to help guide you when you have questions. The responsibility for learning is yours. Nobody can teach you anything that you don't want to learn. Nobody can keep you from learning anything if learning is your goal.

Going to college is like having a job. It's hard work. You will be expected to read, to discuss, to write and to think. Sometimes those things are uncomfortable but they are always necessary. The point of this is less about having you agree with everything that is put forth. Sometimes, it's important to understand why you do not.

Finally, recognize that if you already knew everything there is to know that there wouldn't be a need to come to college.

This should be a time of exploration and awakening and seeing the world through new lenses. Ask questions. Ask for help when you need it. We don't know what we don't know, so we can't always articulate questions well. However, spending time with faculty and staff, and using the many resources available at OCCC, can help you navigate the system and achieve your goals.

If you have questions or need help with that navigation, we in Student Support Services are here to help.

—MARY TURNER
LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

PRODUCT REVIEW | Stallone, De Niro movie doesn't lose meaning with comedy

Movie comedic but still relevant

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

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

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



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

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

—ETHAN COOPER

WEBMASTER

TOP 20 MOVIES

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

1. *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*
2. *Heaven is for Real*
3. *Rio 2*
4. *Transcendence*
5. *A Haunted House*
6. *Draft Day*
7. *Divergent*
8. *Oculus*
9. *Noah*
10. *Bears*
11. *God's Not Dead*
12. *The Grand Budapest Hotel*
13. *Muppets Most Wanted*
14. *Mr. Peabody & Sherman*
15. *Under the Skin*
16. *The Lego Movie*
17. *The Raid: Redemption*
18. *The Lunchbox*
19. *Need for Speed*
20. *Son of God*

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.

N.E.W. Leadership is a free residential program designed for undergraduate women to acquire effective leadership and public service skills, Singleton said.

From May 16 through 20, the women will stay at the Alpha Phi House near the University of Oklahoma campus, attending workshops, listening to inspirational speakers, seeing panel presentations and participating in leadership exercises.

During the fall semester, the mother of five also was accepted into OCCC President Paul Sechrist's leadership class and received a free iPad.

While in the class, she did 10 hours of community service, including the Festival of Lights in her hometown of Chickasha.

"I got all of my kids to go with me to the Festival of Lights because there was free hot chocolate," Singleton said.

When Singleton heard about the program, she asked Sechrist and political science Professor Sharon Vaughan to write her letters of recommendation.

Sechrist said he was happy to do so.

"She is an excellent student and an excellent person, and I thought she would represent the class very well," he said.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity for her."

Vaughan too wrote a letter.

"Virginia is a wonderful student and she appreciates her education," Vaughan said. "I think she will use her education to be in a leadership role."

"She is a student that professors dream of having."

Singleton sees this as a chance to improve her prospects after graduation from her bachelor's program.

"All of this leadership training will help me get a good job," Singleton said. "I don't have a lot of work experience."

When Singleton was a young girl, she said, she used to dream of a life in New York city.

She imagined working for a big company in a board room full of artists bouncing ideas off one another.

Now a bit older and wiser, 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.

She sees herself surrounded by other artists, collaborating in a more relaxed environment.

Singleton has met a number of challenges along her path to earning an associate degree.

On March 4, Singleton's truck was stolen from an OCCC parking lot and has yet to be found. With it, the thieves also acquired her new iPad and \$5,000 in camera equipment.

"We had to wipe out our savings to get a new truck," Singleton said. "We were saving for our move to Little Rock this summer."

"Luckily we got a great deal on a camper. It has little bunk beds in the back, it has the little dining area and a couch."

"We have our TV and our Wii out there so we can watch



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHELLE WITT

Virginia 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.

Netflix."

Now her family plans to live in that once they get to Arkansas, where Singleton will continue her education to earn a bachelor's degree in fine arts at the University of Arkansas.

She said along with the support of the college, she gets support from her husband, William Kaiser, while she pursues her dreams.

She said they have been married for 11 years.

With five children ranging

in age from 11 to 17, she said money gets tight, but she is happy with her life.

"I feel seriously lucky, because my husband is amazing," Singleton said. "Allowing me to go to school full-time and finish my degree while he watches my kids and doing all of that — he is just amazing."

Singleton also is the artist who painted the windows of the Arts Division office on the second floor of the Arts and Humanities building.

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.

Still, it was a wake-up call about the future of nursing education, which will require more emphasis on leadership and community nursing.

The percentage of OCCC nursing students who passed the state boards the first time they took the test went from 96 percent in 2012 to 87 percent in 2013, Myers said.

That 9 percent drop was not far from her expectations,

she said.

In 2013, OCCC had 192 graduates take the test.

Not only was the rigor of the test accelerated, but the passing standard was increased.

Every three years, a new licensure test is implemented and there is usually a 3 to 5 percent drop in the pass rate.

New material and innovations in the medical field always leave a few students behind, Myers said.

The 2013 test was more challenging than others before it.

"The National Council of State Boards of Nursing told us that it was going to be much more difficult of a re-write than the years in the past," Myers said.

"I think they are trying to prepare everybody for the way our healthcare system is going and the expanded role of the registered nurse."

"Recommendations are for nurses to continue their education and have advanced degrees because we will be playing a larger part in the healthcare system than before."

The state and national data show the passing rate at 83 percent for the newest test, so OCCC is still well above that.

Myers said this is an indication of what is to come.

OCCC nursing graduates take the same test that is given to all registered nursing graduates across the country, whether they attend two-year

or four-year colleges.

The University of Oklahoma's passing rate went down from 95 to 89 percent with 36 fewer students taking the exam, Myers said.

OU had 156 nursing graduates testing in 2013.

OCCC's nursing faculty is faced with the challenge of incorporating the same amount of information within half the time as four-year programs.

The state boards are focusing more on areas that have not been tested in depth in the past.

"Our focus has always been on establishing very good bedside nurses that have a very good grasp on patient care," Myers said.

"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."

"We can't teach them everything they need to know within the time that we have," she said.

"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.

Part-time professors outnumber full-time

LAUREN DANIEL
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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 Westmoore 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," she said.

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 for 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 [and] 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.

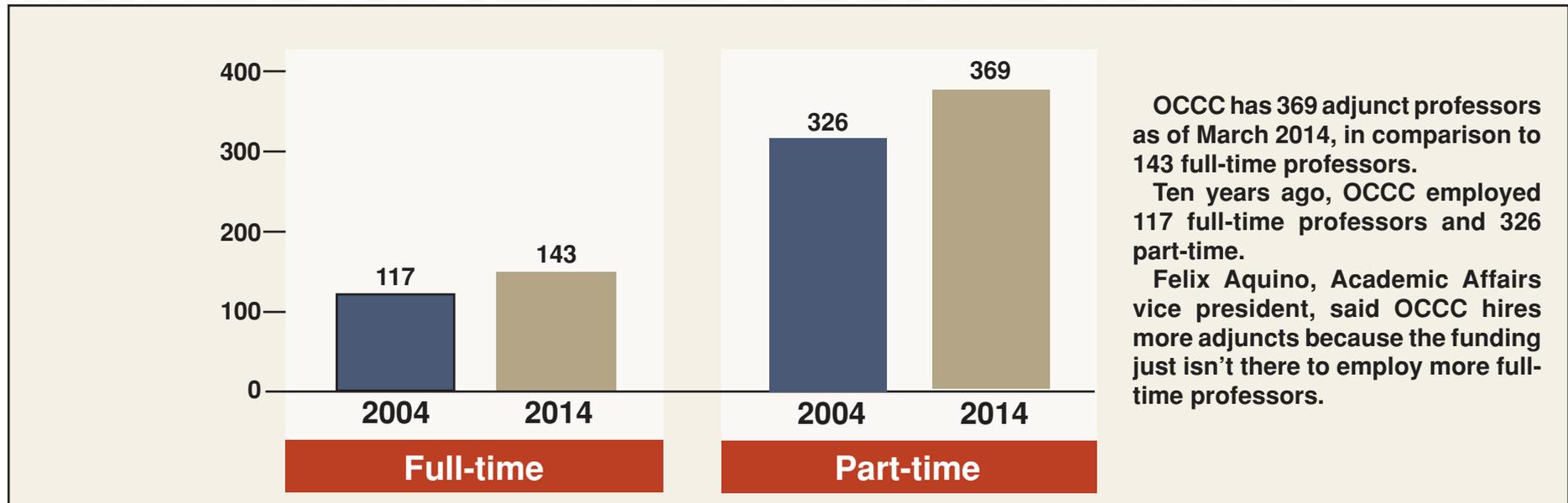
"We couldn't serve half as many students if we didn't have adjuncts."

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

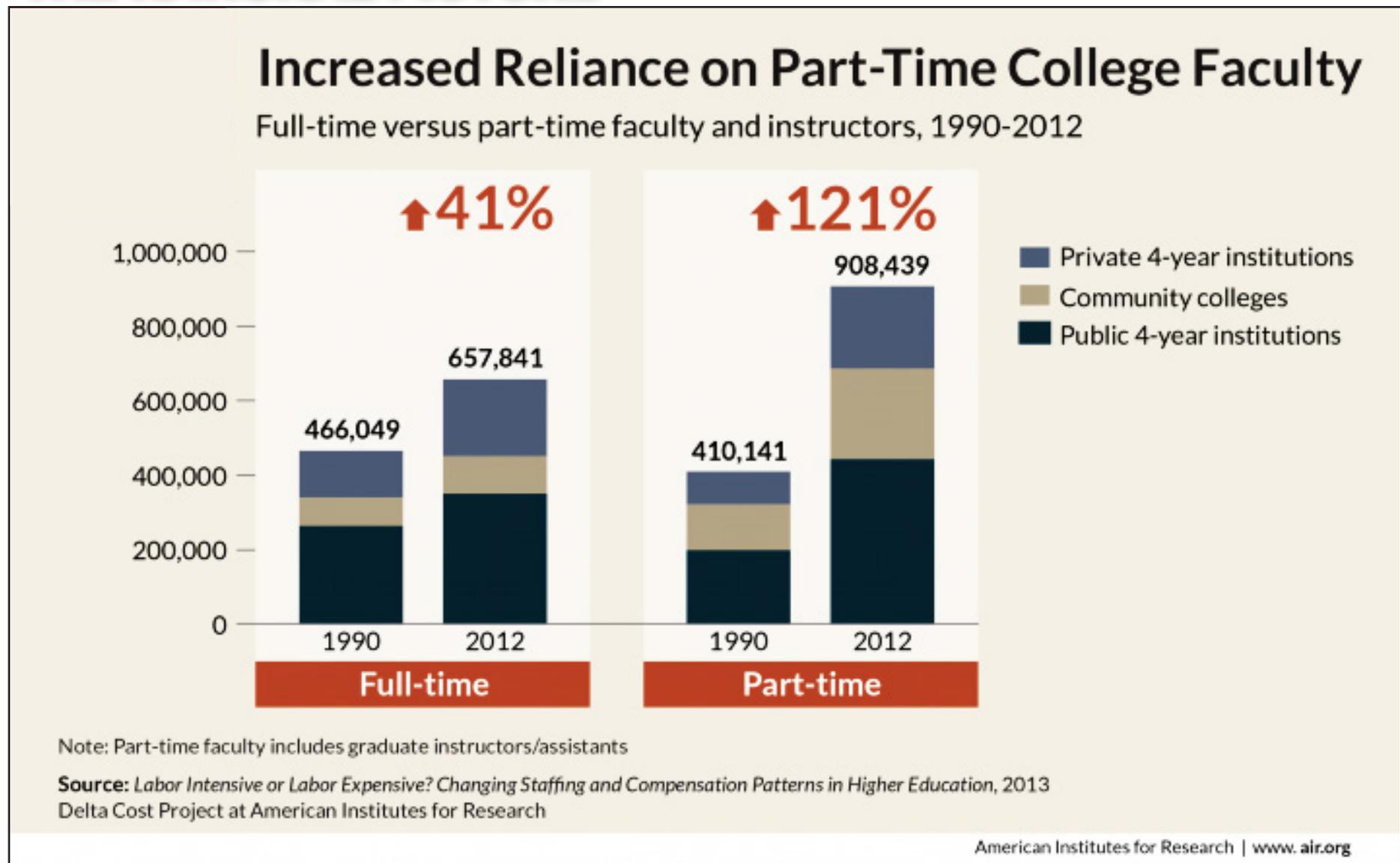
"We have many adjuncts who are full-time professional employees at the college," he said. "I'm one of them."

Aquino said one downside to hiring adjuncts from the college's standpoint

PART-TIME VS. FULL-TIME: THE LOCAL PICTURE



THE NATIONAL PICTURE



Professors: OCCC employs 363 adjuncts, 149 full-time

Continued from page 1

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.

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.

JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER



UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• May 2 - 4:

The Aquatic Center will close for the EAT Early Bird Swim Meet. For more information, call Khari Huff at 405-682-1611 ext. 7481.

• May 5 - May 7:

The Third Annual Employee Volleyball Tournament will take place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, in the Recreation and Fitness Gym. Registration forms are due by 5 p.m. Monday, May 5. For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7684.

• June 2:

Scuba practice begins from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Aquatic Center. Cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call 405-682-1611 ext. 7310

• June 28:

Row-Triple-C, OCCC's Dragon Boat Team, will compete at the Stars and Stripes River Festival Saturday, June 28. For more information, call 405-682-7552.

• Spring semester:

Visit www.occc.edu/rf/swimming-diving to enroll in a number of events held in the college's Aquatic Center.

SPORTS | Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright plans for an easier sign-up process

Sports continue despite low enrollment

SIALI SIAOSI

Staff Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

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.



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.

Reports include a missing iPad, mysterious substances

LAUREN DANIEL
Editor
editor@occc.edu

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 a fine 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 and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872.

Most names were redacted on the reports under the direction of Marketing and

Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted “according to OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld.” 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.

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.

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

He said there would be a number of steps that would need to take place should that proposal ever come about.

“A proposal that includes the need, rationale, suggested location and rules would need to be developed and forwarded to the President's Cabinet.”

For more information on individual rights on college campuses, visit the Student Press Law Center at www.splc.org.

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, Westmoore 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.

“There's 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 college classroom experi-

ence to sort of equate this as just an extensions 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 con-

current 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.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Monster hunters



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

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.

COMMUNITY | 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."

During past years, OCCC students wishing to study German were sent across town to Rose State College, where the full curriculum is offered.

With many high schools in the area, teachers are excited that their own students can have

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

—GINNETT ROLLINS
MODERN LANGUAGES PROFESSOR

the opportunity to take concurrent classes such as German before starting their college careers, Rollins said.

She said students wanting to enroll in this course will find it listed online but not in the paper schedule.

Students can register for the course at mineonline.occc.edu. It is listed as GRMN 1115 — Elementary German I.

Rollins said French and Spanish are OCCC's most popular language classes.

"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.

Make sure you don't leave baby behind in a hot car.



where's baby?
Look before you lock.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Students show off their happy dance for video

Students are invited to participate in a video for "OCCC is Happy" at 9 a.m. Monday, April 28, on the second floor of the Main Building. Students are asked to dance happily in the video. For more information, contact the Student Life office at 405-682-7523 or email SLStaffDL@occc.edu.

Students, employees learn about severe weather

Students will learn about severe weather from Oklahoma Homeland Security's Wendi Marcy from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, April 28, in college union rooms 1, 2 and 3. Attendance at the seminar will count as fourth quarter health and safety training for students and employees. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Marlene Shugart at marlene.l.shugart@occc.edu.

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 sharvey@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.

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.

FEMALE ROMMATE WANTED: with bathroom. Washer/dryer, Internet, cable. Close to OCCC. Big room. All amenities. Nice neighborhood. \$450 a month, all bills included. Honest person, no drugs, no alcohol. Call 405-317-4002.

ROOM FOR RENT: Only female. Includes all services. Near OCCC. Call or text Norma 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. GC. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures or more information.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1994 White Saturn model SC1. Body type CP, 169,000miles. Asking \$800.00. Call 212.6027 for more information.

FURNITURE

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.

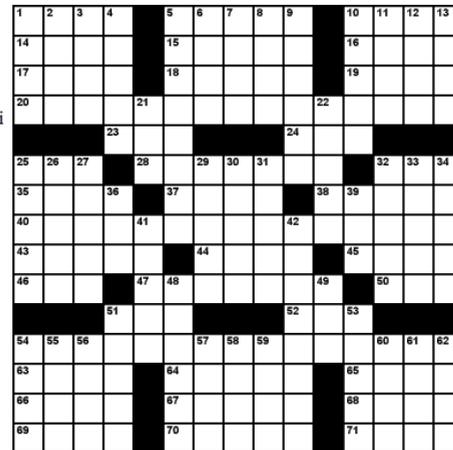
MISCELLANEOUS

LOOKING FOR 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.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

'Ignorance Is This' Crossword by Dave Fisher

- Across**
- Volume with a lot of volume
 - Up to snuff
 - Student's org.
 - Designer Cassini
 - Followers of Muhammad ibn Ismail ad-Darazi
 - Kinks hit
 - Columbus caravel
 - Strauss material
 - Sign
 - Does this mean I'm ignorant or...
 - Reagan's 'Star Wars' project, for short
 - Relative of 17 across
 - No spring chicken
 - Marches
 - Tie a knot
 - What the 'fat lady' sings
 - Susan on "Coupling"
 - La Sorbonne, e.g.
 - ... that I don't read this guy's books or...
 - ... voice (conscience)
 - Just a drop
 - Knows what's up
 - Make lace
 - Takes in
 - Spiegel
 - Collection
 - Shaq's shoe width
 - ...that I don't buy this guy's booze?
 - Sound of displeasure
 - Shocking
 - Having the resources
 - Eric of Monty Python fame
 - In reserve
 - Lawsuit
 - Word with swap or track
 - Leveled
 - Sherpa's specialty
- Down**
- 'Flakey' tiger



- Hodgepodge
- Dish list
- Euphemistic expletives
- How to make glycerin explosive
- Weight allowance
- Type of rock
- B ___ Baby
- Item oft lost in the couch
- Onetime sprint record-holder, for short
- Luigi's capital city
- Guinness
- It has a turret
- Takes too much LSD
- More prudent
- Smoking, e.g.
- Place for spectacles
- A well-known one is green
- Ditch plants
- Emcee's concern
- Capital of Senegal
- It needs dressing
- Lift up
- Furnishings
- Downed
- Pigeon patter
- Caper
- Firmly inserted
- Waco campus
- Last word in "America the Beautiful"
- Not a liability
- Pass a bill
- Notion
- Make like Waldo
- ... of Man
- Poet and feminist of the Americas (1895-1965), Lee
- Calif. neighbor
- Courteous
- Girder
- Ultimatum word
- Vichyssoise ingredient

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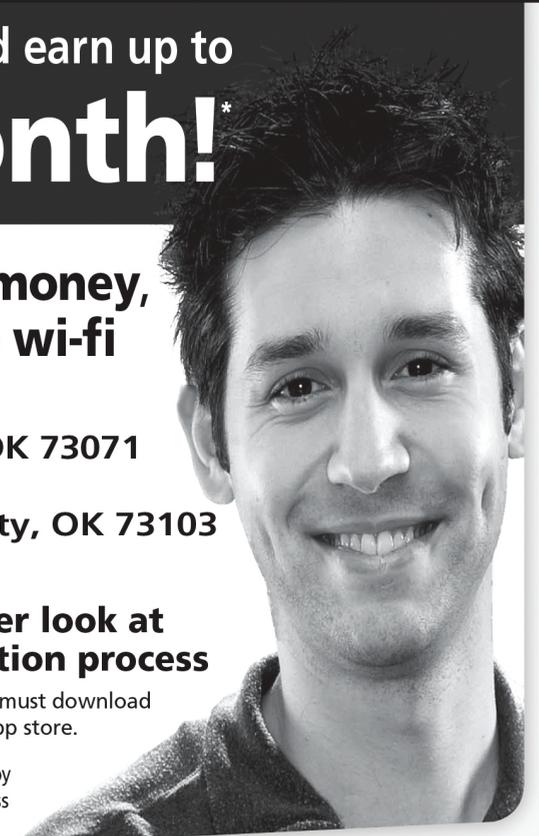
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405-521-9204



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Washington, DC 20008.



Earth Share

EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS SW OKC IS HIRING

Customer service and fruit basket designer positions, part-time and seasonal. 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.

Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail the editor at

editor@occc.edu

Let your voice be heard!

Thunder web coordinator says OCCC helped him

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.”

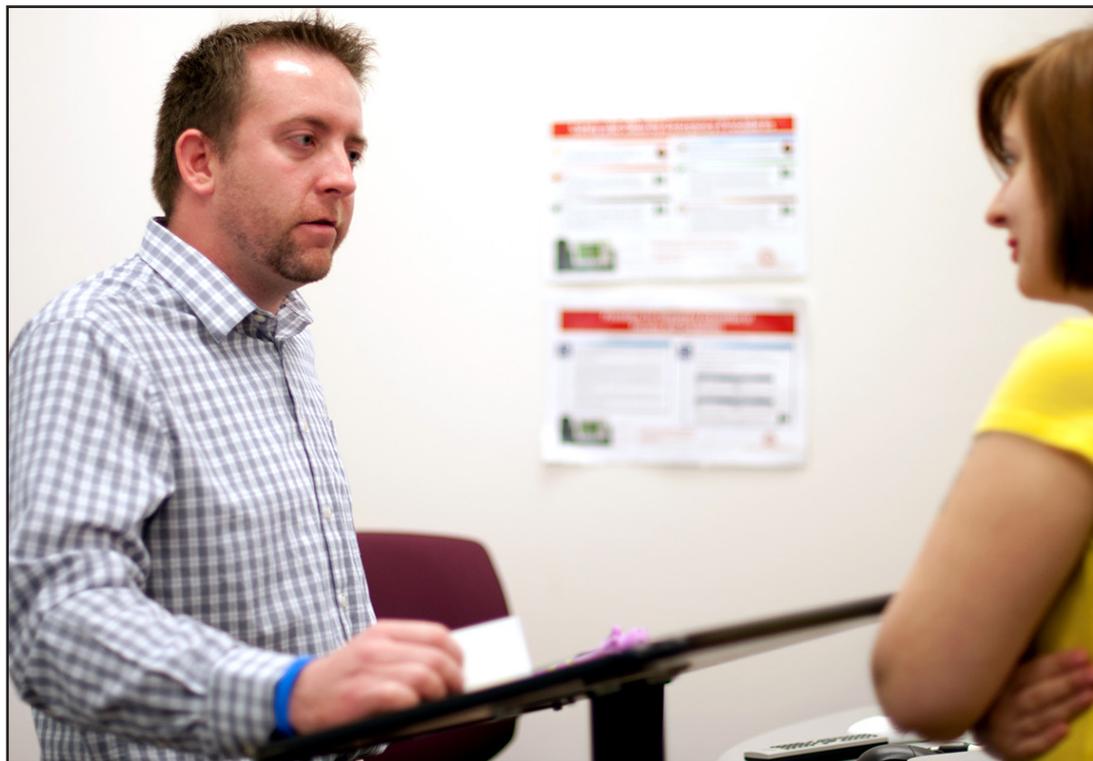
Thunder is gaining international recognition with a Facebook page with 3.7 million likes, a Twitter with the popular use of #WeAreThunder and Instagram.

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



JOHN HUYNH/PIONEER

Matt Bishop, website publications coordinator for the Oklahoma City Thunder, spoke to a group of journalism students about his career, where he runs the Thunder website and social media. He graduated from OCCC in 2008 and is now pursuing a bachelor’s degree from OU.

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 Pioneer 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 Matthews, Interactive Media and Publications website director, in 2008.

“I was only working five to 10 hours a week with the Thunder 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.

Motivational author to teach mind over matter May 6

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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 Cul-

tural 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.

“To be safe, [students] 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.