Lazy days

History major Hunter Smith reads while relaxing on March 23 in OCCC’s courtyard. “I’m just reading a book for my women’s history class,” he said. OCCC offers many different locations throughout campus for students to study or relax.

OCCC scores ‘excellent’ on audit

The college’s Board of Regents voted to accept the audit report at a March 9 meeting

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC landed an almost perfect score in a recent internal audit.

On Monday, March 9, the OCCC Board of Regents voted unanimously to accept the report generated from that audit which turned up positive results in five separate arenas of college functions, according to Dwayne Tate, who represented the auditing firm of Crawford and Associates.

Tate provided an overview of the auditing process and said the focus was first a claims audit, “which is statutorily required to be audited annually.”

Then purchasing processes were audited, followed by the Bursar Office Smartpay System, compliance with updates to the Clery Act and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, and finally, a follow up on the previous year’s findings and recommendations.

“This is an excellent report,” Tate said.

In performing the claims audit (reviewing insurance claims processes, documenting processes and record keeping), Tate said 50 separate claims were tested for 10 criteria each.

“It is rare that there’s not an exception when you’re looking at 50 claims and 10 criteria,” he said, “The college was absolutely perfect for all criteria for all of those 50 claims.”

Tate explained the process of reviewing OCCC’s purchasing

See TATE page 9

Testing Center closed on Thursday mornings

JOEL GWARTNEY
News Writing Student

The Testing Center is a busy place, said Director Linda Little, giving about 70,000 tests a year.

The center has begun closing every week from 8 to 10 a.m. on Thursdays to allow for routine maintenance and staff training.

Little said.

The Testing Center uses a total of 137 computers which require software updates and general maintenance, Little said.

See TEST page 9
EDITORIAL | Writer says more people should have the guts to step out of the herd

Be the one to just say no to apathy

Most people, when tested, will reveal themselves to be devoutly populist, meaning they form their values from what’s perceived to be a prevailing sentiment of the majority around them. This creates an interesting phenomenon — bystander apathy.

One sees something that seems entirely out of place, but seeing multiple people around who aren’t reacting to it, the individual refuses to react as well.

I think of it in terms of the 8th grade dance. Everyone wants to dance. The gymnasium is decorated and basketball courts are transformed to dance floors. Music is playing, everyone is dressed up and we’ve been secretly practicing our moves. The boys are all bunched up on one side, girls on the other and nobody is dancing.

If nobody else is doing it (though we certainly came to dance), we cannot bring ourselves to act differently than everyone else. Yet, if one person is so brazen as to walk to the middle of that dance floor and bust his or her respective move, a flood of participants will follow.

Unfortunately, apathy works similarly in even grave situations. It’s common in the workplace. An employee might witness exploitation and blatant disregard for safety. But if other workers have been conditioned to endure these conditions without dissent, it seems impossible for any one employee to raise concern.

When people are convinced that something just cannot be changed or that vying for change will be too awkward, uncomfortable or troublesome, it becomes exponentially more difficult for any one person to act.

Terrible things take place because of this. Entire communities become aware of abuse taking place within a single household but won’t confront it until they find themselves mourning the death of the victim.

In 1993, when two 10-year-old boys kidnapped and tortured 2-year-old James Bulger before murdering him, it was reported that people driving by saw the boy being assaulted but did nothing to interfere or even call authorities because nobody else seemed to be reacting to the terrifying spectacle.

Our herd mentality has proven deadly. We’re conditioned against confrontation. We’re told fighting is bad, speaking out of place is bad and interrupting is unforgivable. We blend into crowds. We don’t draw attention to ourselves and we don’t, under any circumstances, rock the proverbial boat.

We have to break ourselves of this. We have to be radical and we have to be bold. We have to be the brazen boy who busts a move when no one else is dancing. Even when we’re scared and we’re alone in our convictions, against all odds, we must dissent against injustice, and oppose abuse and intimidation.

When you know in your heart something isn’t right, even when 1,000 people around you are going by as if this thing is perfectly acceptable, it is up to you alone to do the terrifying thing of standing up and showing that whatever is going on has not gone unnoticed.

Your heart will never forgive you for failing to act. It’s a great and burdensome responsibility; a promise that we must keep for ourselves and for each other. It will be hard. It will be at times incredibly lonely. But you have got to stand your ground.

—Jorge Krzyzaniak
Senior Writer

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Windsor 10 Theater in Oklahoma City will be the unveiling site of digitally remastered classic movie

‘Last Unicorn’ author touring the state in April

To the Editor:

There are few films that continue to evoke the same sense of wonder and enchantment in me now as they did when I was a child.

However, when the vagabond Molly Grue in the 1982 classic, “The Last Unicorn,” beholds the titular creature for the first time and cries in despair, “Where have you been?” a chill never fails to run up my spine, nor an answering tightness to form in my throat. However, when the vagabond Molly Grue in the 1982 classic, “The Last Unicorn,” beholds the titular creature for the first time and cries in despair, “Where have you been?” a chill never fails to run up my spine, nor an answering tightness to form in my throat.

There is a part within all of us, I believe, that will always be waiting for the magic that ran like an undercurrent through the most beloved stories of our childhood.

A tiny, hidden part of us, forever waiting for our Hogwarts letter, or for a wizard to appear at our doorstep, asking us to go on an adventure.

Now, the opportunity arises to reclaim the wonder and awe we felt as children, while at the same time experiencing a kind of magic that we can only truly appreciate as adults.

The man behind the unicorn, Peter S. Beagle, author of the novel “The Last Unicorn” and screenwriter of its movie, is touring the world with the digitally remastered film.

At each stop along the screening tour, he will be in Oklahoma City at the B&B Theatres Oklahoma City Windsor 10. Both events begin at 7 p.m. More information and ticket sales links can be found at www.lastunicorntour.com.

So this is the wizard knocking; this is the owl at the window. Join us and walk in magic once again, if only for one night.

—Andrea Morrison
OCCC Student
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

PRODUCT REVIEW | Search for new best friend is in the bag for one reviewer

School supply passes all tests

Backpacks are an essential part of a college student’s life. They help you carry all the stuff you need, are always with you and make your life easier. They’re basically your best friend.

I carried the same backpack for years. One day, I realized it was falling apart and began to panic. I then went on a quest to find a new best friend.

After much searching and careful research, I determined I did not want to just buy a backpack from just any store. Sure, the colorful, cheap backpacks are great for a semester, but they aren’t suitable for the long-haul.

I stumbled upon Herschel Supply Company’s website and instantly fell in love with their products. They have a vast number of backpacks to choose from in all different sizes and colors.

I debated for a few days, but I finally settled on the incredibly stylish, yet practical, navy Little America backpack. Instead of zippers, the Little America has a top cinch closure for the main compartment and a magnetic closure flap, making it a great choice for aspiring hipsters.

The backpack has a 15-inch padded laptop sleeve, a front pocket, comfortable shoulder straps and a spacious main pocket.

I have been using this bag for a few months now and it has turned out to be the perfect companion for every occasion. It is big enough for school and carries all my books, my laptop, my lunch and even has extra space. I also have taken it on multiple trips, and it has proven to be an excellent carry-on and day backpack.

The quality of the backpack is what made me decide to spend $89.99 and, so far, it has been worth every penny. Even after traveling to multiple states and a different country, my Little America still looks brand new.

In addition to backpacks, they also have duffels, wallets, laptop sleeves, messenger bags, totes and more. I won't be needing a new backpack anytime soon, but I just might find an excuse to buy one of their other bags. Find all Herschel products at www.herschelsupply.com.

Rating: A+

—Lauren Daniel
Online Editor

TRAVEL REVIEW | One underrated spring break option might raise your GPA

Traveling with O-trip is all good

Summer is fast approaching. Along with almost everything else in my life, my summer plans are exceptionally full of procrastination.

Should I get lost on a cruise? Get buried in the sand on some overly crowded beach? Become a rotten vegetable with unlimited Netflix?

No matter which I pick, none can be quite as par with my last summer. New foods, new places, new friends and new types of fun can make any summer top the lists.

A study-abroad trip with Oklahoma Study Abroad gives students a break from the crazy, normal type of schooling, as well as a chance to meet new people and try new things.

Being able to go to a different country and learn about the culture, history and lifestyle overshadows any beer-soaked beach or cozy, evil couch any day. And, you get class credit.

I went to Italy last summer on a study-abroad trip so I speak from experience.

Not only does the trip give you an amazing experience, everything is already planned, booked and taken care of before you actually get there. If you’re one of those people who is OK with the stress of all that planning, good for you. I’m not.

Having all the big things, besides packing — taken care of— makes the experience just that much greater.

To add on to the stress-free no-planning-required, the guides on my trip were young, fun, and kept things interesting and exciting.

Usually, when traveling, everything has to be paid upfront. With the study-abroad program, students can make payments in the months leading up to the trip.

For someone who is on such a tight budget that I count every chicken nugget in the box to make sure I get what I paid for, that is a huge plus.

The Oklahoma Study Abroad program gives students the opportunity to go on a once-in-a-lifetime trip and shore up summer plans.

The people I went on my trip with became like family. The memories I brought back with me are some of my best ones. The experience I had was beyond anything I could have imagined.

I definitely cannot wait to travel via Oklahoma Study Abroad again and would suggest it to others who want to go on a grand adventure.

OCCC has trips to Paris and Normandy available now. To learn more, visit oklahomastudyabroad.com or call 405-549-3329.

Rating: A

—Katie Axtell
Community Writer

Meow-sic to our ears

"Cat Piano" isn’t just an app — it’s a lifestyle. Haven’t you ever wanted a keyboard that emulates different cat noises on your iPhone? I sure have, and I’m here to tell you it’s free on the app store.

To be clear, it’s called "Cat Piano Jr for iPad," and it gives you the taste of the full version with three cat noises. The noises are Furball, House Cat and, of course, Angelic Meow.

Furball really exemplifies the true essence of a whiny cat that is hungry or is stuck underneath the sofa again. It reminds me of my childhood.

Next is House Cat, which I believe to be a more philosophical noise. It’s tone is slightly deeper, giving it a hint of skepticism, as if the cat is stating “I meow, therefore I am.” It’s thought provoking and nonetheless stimulating to the enlightened consciousness.

The “Cat Piano Jr for iPad” trial ends with its last noise, Angelic Meow. This noise in particular stuck out to me for its very foreign tone, like a cat who accidentally got sent to space and learned to send a vocal transmission to Earth singing, “I miss the Earth so much, I miss my wife. It’s lonely out in space on such a timeless flight … I’m a rocket cat, a rocket cat, giving myself a bath up here alone.”

With that being said, I think it’s going to be a long, long time before we find such a great app that can live up to “Cat Piano Jr for iPads” standards. It’s great for kids, cats, dogs, boredom and loneliness.

The full app, “Cat Piano Concerto,” is there for even more cat noises for only 99 cents. As it states in the details of the app, “it’s like having a sack of angry cats – in your pocket.”

From the lowest note to the highest, it’s thought provoking and nonetheless stimulating to the enlightened consciousness.

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The full app, “Cat Piano Concerto,” is there for even more cat noises for only 99 cents. As it states in the details of the app, “it’s like having a sack of angry cats – in your pocket.”

From the lowest note to the highest, it’s guaranteed to make you giggle and have people questioning why your phone is making cat noises in public.

—Bryce McElhaney
Editor

—在线编辑
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

PROGRAM REVIEW | Fan disappointed in quality of most popular sports network

ESPN gives viewers skewed, superficial sports news

Personally, I am a sports junkie. I love almost all sports equally, from the NFL to the annual cheese rolling competition in Gloucester, England. As it is the biggest sports news provider, I keep up with my sports primarily through ESPN.

Most of ESPN’s popularity comes from its sports news and analysis, which is displayed through shows such as Sportscenter and other sport-specific shows. ESPN prides itself in being the premier sports news provider, spreading their brand through the Internet, mobile apps, radio and eight television channels in addition to the original.

 Unfortunately, ESPN’s sports news is why I am reviewing them. Whether it be on television or on the Internet, ESPN’s coverage is sometimes skewed for popularity — and superficial.

For those who remember Tim Tebow aka, God’s gift to the planet Earth, as he is still viewed by many at ESPN, he is a prime example.

Tebow, an NFL quarterback who was average at best, was a good person (which I will not argue), as well as a decent athlete, coverage of his every move was front-page news.

From his touchdown pass to his sandwich of choice, I know way too much about such an average player.

The same is true with other players, such as Johnny Manziel, Lebron James (or the entire team he plays for), as well as overly popular organizations.

Realistically, I should be mad at the viewers. ESPN feeds its viewers, giving them what they ask for and, for some reason, they asked for more Tim Tebow.

I can understand ESPN catering to viewers, I just wish the viewers were not so dumb.

I suppose what I am asking for is that ESPN give me more real news and less junk. Legitimate sports news does come from ESPN, but sometimes it is just buried under mind-numbing journalism diarrhea — not to the extent of a TMZ or E! News, but it’s headed there.

Rating: C

—CLAYTON MITCHELL
Sports Writer

BOOK REVIEW | ‘Seconds’ has compelling lead character and gorgeous illustrations

Graphic novel creative and funny

Over spring break I finally had time to sit down and read the graphic novel “Seconds.”

I would have read it much sooner had I known how enjoyable the book was going to be and how quickly I would complete it.

“Seconds” tells the story of an ambitious young girl named Katie.

She’s the talented head chef of a successful restaurant named Seconds with plans to open an even better restaurant in the near future.

But, suddenly, things start to fall apart in Katie’s life.

The progress of her new restaurant begins to stall, she runs into her ex-boyfriend, her fling with a co-worker goes bad and one of her waitresses gets badly burned.

Within a day, Katie’s pretty terrific life becomes not so terrific.

Luckily for Katie, a mysterious girl appears in the middle of the night with simple instructions for a do-it-yourself do-over.

All Katie needs to do is write down her mistakes in a notebook, consume a magic mushroom and fall asleep.

And, just like that, all the bad stuff never happened. Katie is given another chance to get things right.

But Katie eventually begins to abuse her new god-like ability by trying to make her life perfect, which ends up causing more problems than she could have possibly imagined.

“Seconds” is the most recent graphic novel created by Bryan Lee O’Malley.

O’Malley’s previous graphic novels include “Lost at Sea” and the comic series “Scott Pilgrim,” which was adapted into the film “Scott Pilgrim Vs. the World” in 2010.

If you’re a fan of O’Malley’s previous work than you will most certainly enjoy this one as well.

Yeah, it’s not nearly as big as “Scott Pilgrim” but the story and characters are just as creative and enjoyable.

Overall, “Seconds” is a humorous and delightful story with a compelling lead character and gorgeous illustrations so good you’ll never once be tempted to look away.

Rating: B+

—ETHAN COOPER
Photographer

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of March 27 through March 29
www.newyorktimes.com

1. Home
2. Get Hard
3. The Divergent Series: Insurgent
4. Cinderella
5. It Follows
7. Do You Believe?
8. Run All Night
9. The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
10. The Gunman
11. Focus
12. McFarland, USA
13. American Sniper
14. Chappie
15. The Spongebob Movie: Sponge out of Water
16. Fifty Shades of Grey
17. The Lazarus Effect
18. The DUFF
19. Still Alice
20. Wild Tales
Library encourages Peeps contest entries

OLIVIA GUERRA
News Writing Student

Students and faculty found the Peeps contest so Peep-tastic last year the library is bringing it back for a second time.

Librarian Dana Tuley-Williams said the Peeps Contest is a way to show off what your favorite book means to you or simply how artistically creative you can get with candy.

Whether you are determined to win or just having fun expressing your love for books, there is something for everyone in the Peeps contest.

The second annual OCCC Library Peeps Diorama Contest will take place on April 9, with an entry deadline of April 8.

Based off the annual Washington Post Peeps Contest, OCCC’s library gives students and faculty an opportunity to put a literary twist on their Peepsonality.

Each entrant must select a book that has been published in print and portray their love for books, coming to life through these dioramas and each has a different feel, she said.

The contest encourages students and faculty to bring out their Peepsonality.

The dioramas will be judged according to four criteria: creativity, execution of book theme, originality and craftsmanship.

Four prizes will be awarded. First place in the student category will be awarded a Kindle Fire.

First place in the OCCC employee and the Pathways student categories will be awarded gift cards.

All entrants in all categories, except for the first place winner in the OCCC student category, will have a chance to post their picture on Facebook for the Peep’s Choice award, which will be based off the most “likes.” The award for this also will be a Kindle Fire.

Tuley-Williams recommends entrants pick a book that everyone will recognize. “If you pick an obscure book, you really have to sell it, which people did last year.”

A favorite example of execution was last year’s third-place winner, Debbie Hartsell, with “Soul Peeper” based off the book “Soul Surfer.” Hartsell actually took a bite of the Peep’s arm to portray the character’s arm that was bitten off by a shark.

The Peeps contest is all about originality and showing off your creative side, but most of all it’s about having fun sharing the love of books, Tuley-Williams said.

Rules for the contest can be found at www.occc.edu/library/peeps.html.

Man arrested on drug charges

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

An arrest and a stolen phone top recent reports.

One man was arrested and another man questioned after campus police smelled the odor of marijuana coming from a truck the two were sitting in.

Ryan Lynn Messel, 22, was arrested for possession of a controlled dangerous substance and drug paraphernalia. The report from Tuesday, March 10, shows Officer David Madden saw the men sitting in a truck parked at the back of Parking Lot A. Madden said he smelled marijuana as he approached the vehicle. The men said they were waiting for a girlfriend but were not OCCC students.

According to the report, a small bag of marijuana and a pipe were found in the car. Messel claimed ownership of both items and the two men were detained.

At this time, the second man, unnamed in the report, divulged having an unloaded pistol in his nearby vehicle. A search turned up a 9mm hand-gun, two loaded magazines and a 12-inch fixed blade knife.

The firearm violates Unlawful Carry on School Property statutes. The man was “released from investigative detention pending charges.” The gun and marijuana were sent to the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation for testing. Messel was taken to the Oklahoma County Detention Center.

An OCCC student reported that on Tuesday, March 3, she was inappropriately touched while filling a water bottle near CU 7. The report shows, after the incident, the woman turned and saw a male student standing nearby, looking at her. She said she recognized him from a class but did not know him well or know his name.

According to the report, she asked the man, “Are you serious?” He then turned and walked away.

Police were able to identify the male student. An investigation is underway. Additional information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

In another incident, a Pathways student was reportedly tricked into buying a stolen phone through Craigslist for $200.

When the student attempted to activate the phone, it displayed a message saying it had been stolen and that its owner should be reached.

The student returned to the breezeway where the exchange had taken place but the other party was gone.

The victim called the phone’s rightful owner, then Oklahoma City Police, who told him to contact campus police.

OCCC police collected surveillance footage of the suspect running from the breezeway to a waiting car, then leaving campus.

Some information was redacted from the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted “according to OCCC PD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld.” 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.

STEP UP. OPPORTUNITY AWAITS AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

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World-renowned dance troupe to appear at OCCC

MADELIN GIFFIN
News Writing Student

Pilobolus Dance Theater will present the capstone performance of the semester when the group takes the stage at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, in the VPAC Theater.

Lemuel Bardeguez, Cultural Programs director, said the audience can expect a unique performance of strong, beautiful bodies expressing great emotion through dance.

Pilobolus dancers are known for their keen ability to contort their bodies into various shapes and movements, he said. Bardeguez said the group didn’t originate as dancers; instead they focused merely on body movements.

This movement has since transformed into the “collaborative choreographed” modern dances that the world now knows and loves.

There also will be a free workshop with the dance group the day before the show for OCCC dance students, Bardeguez said.

Pilobolus Dance Theater has been touring since 1978, Bardeguez said. They have traveled all over the world in the last few decades. Pilobolus has a camp where dancers can work with the group in their home of Connecticut, he said.

The company has been featured at the Academy Awards, on “Sesame Street,” “Oprah,” “60 Minutes” and “Late Night with Conan O’Brien,” according to their website.

They also have received many awards over the years including a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Programming and a TED Fellowship for presenting at the TED conference in 2005.

Students can get free tickets to Pilobolus at the box office in the VPAC atrium with a valid OCCC student ID. Bardeguez said.

General admission ticket prices range from $25 to $45. To purchase tickets, call the box office at 405-682-7579.

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Students can get free tickets at the VPAC box office with a valid OCCC student ID.

Science prof recounts trip to Panama Canal

GRANT SWALWELL
News Writing Student

The Panama Canal is being rebuilt on a grand scale, one that civil engineers are eager to see for themselves, said OCCC physical science Professor Gary Houlette in a speech on campus in February.

Houlette talked about his recent trip with fellow engineers to the construction site.

He said part of the challenge involves moving giant ships through different water levels as they sail through the waterway that links the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

A lock-and-dam system is used to accommodate the 60-foot difference in height that ships encounter when traversing the canal.

The new locks will be 1,400 feet long, and 180 feet wide, and a new lane is to be added, Houlette said.

The system works with a series of gates, he said. One gate closes, a reservoir fills, the ship is raised, and another gate opens. A ship may be raised or lowered, using the locks. A reservoir may be drained to lower a ship or filled to raise it.

Houlette said the cost of the project is estimated at $5.25 billion. He showed pictures from his trip to illustrate the extreme scale of its expansion.

“We were like kids in a candy store,” he said, referring to himself and his engineering partners who made the trip.

He devoted 30 minutes to the history of the Panama Canal and the engineering challenges that went with it, from the initial failures of the French to the grand-standing of President Theodore Roosevelt when the project was finally completed in 1914.

When building the first rendition of the Panama Canal, one of the most difficult challenges came from yellow fever.

Houlette said thousands died from yellow fever before they engineered a solution: spraying every puddle of water for miles around with a thin layer of oil, preventing the mosquitoes which carry it from breeding.

Houlette explained that the French failed to devise a lock-and-dam system, aiming for a straight channel across the country, resulting in failure before the site was bought out by Americans.

Panama “liberated” itself from Columbia with American help, and innovations in steam shovel technology made the necessary excavations possible.

Houlette said he was delighted to announce this is his 30th year teaching at OCCC. He kicked off the presentation by bragging on his students and the engineering program he’s helped establish.

He said he has taught calculus, physics, statics, thermodynamics, electrical circuits, dynamics and materials, along with classes in his dedicated fabrication area.

Houlette thanked the Engineering Club for providing refreshments, and the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers for attending his presentation.

For more information, contact Houlette at 405-682-1611, ext. 7272, or ghoullette@occc.edu.
Wellness, Aquatic center activities free to students

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Editor
director@occc.edu

Students can get fit for free at OCCC. In fact, all students, faculty and staff can use any of the facilities in the Wellness Center, located at the southwest side of campus on the first floor, said Recreation and Fitness Director Mike Shugart.

“They’re welcome to use the Aquatic Center, all of the aerobics classes, the weight room and the basketball gym — all of it’s free,” he said.

The Wellness Center features a 15,000-square-foot gym with two basketball courts and one recreational volleyball court, a cardio room with three treadmills, two cross trainers and two recumbent bikes as well as a weight room featuring a complete circuit of Cybex equipment and free weights, according to www.occc.edu/rf.

Shugart said the weight room is the busiest during the day.

However, he said, regardless of how busy any area is, all students who show up will be accommodated.

Shugart said his personal favorite is the weight room, where, he said, he works out every day.

The Wellness Center is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The Aquatic Center, built in 1989 for the Olympic Festival games, features two 25-yard pools available for lap swimming and water walking, and a diving well with 1- and 3-meter spring boards, and 5-, 7- and 10-meter platforms, the website shows.

Aquatic Center hours vary and are listed at www.occc.edu/rf/aquatic-hours.html.

The area also is open to the public. A variety of passes, including a family or day pass, is available. For a complete list of pricing, visit www.occc.edu/rf/memberships.html.

For more information, contact 405-682-7860 for Recreation and Fitness.
Reach for it

Cooperative Alliance Specialist Travis Ruddle and Student Computer Center Supervisor Michael Reeves stretch their arms during a yoga exercise on March 20 in OCCC’s Wellness Center. To learn more about the yoga course as well as other group fitness classes and programs offered at OCCC visit www.occc.edu/rt/wellness-classes.html.

SPORTS
Intramural basketball games start April 8

CLAYTON MITCHELL
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Bypassing online registration is one way OCCC’s Recreation and Fitness department is fulfilling the promise of more intramural sports after spring break, said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright. Starting Wednesday, April 8, basketball tournaments will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday night in the Wellness Center gym, Wright said.

"Basically, what we’ll do is have kind of a double elimination tournament," he said.

Wright said the plan is to have registration each Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wellness Center desk. "We’ll have it so people can sign up either as a free agent or they can sign a team up," he said. "It won’t be online.

A table may be set up in the Main Building as well, he said. No online registration will take place as it has in the past. The games will be fast-paced, Wright said.

"We’ll have eight teams max, but the games are only going to be about 12 minutes long, so we can get through an entire tournament each and every night," he said.

Wright said he hopes that will make the process easier for all involved. "I know in the past, with our intramural leagues, you might have eight guys on a team," he said. "One week, all eight show up, the next week there's three and they can’t play.

"Now, people can join new teams every week. People can sign up as a free agent every week and be placed on a different team.

"That way you don’t have to worry about whose team you’re on, and if you start not liking to play with someone or you want to join a new team or you know you’re not going to be able to play one week, you don’t have to worry about signing up or leaving your team short-handed because you won’t have a team that week.”

Wright said the weekly tournaments will take place each Wednesday through the rest of the spring 2015 semester.

For more information, contact Wright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7684, at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu, or call the Recreation and Fitness department office at 405-682-7860.

EVENT NEWS
SPRING 2015:

• Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the Aquatic Center free of charge. The Aquatic Center features two pools, and an 18½-ft. deep diving well with 1- and 3-meter spring boards and 5-, 7- and 10-meter platforms. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/RF.

• OCCC Group Fitness classes are offered at a variety of fitness levels and are spaced conveniently throughout the afternoon and late evening hours. Classes are free to OCCC students with a valid ID. See more at www.occc.edu/RF/cr-group-fitness.

• The Recreation & Fitness Center is open to students, faculty, staff and community members. The center features a 15,000-square-foot gym with two basketball courts and one recreational volleyball court, a cardio room with three treadmills, two cross trainers and two recumbent bikes as well as a weight room featuring a complete circuit of Cybex equipment and free weights. Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the facilities free of charge. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/RF or call 405-682-7860.
Tate: College receives high marks on recent internal audit

Continued from page 1

Tate said his firm also obtained and reviewed school policies and procedures surrounding the new Higher One Smartpay System used by the Bursar Office in collecting tuition and fees. The system was implemented in December 2014.

It was requested by the college that Crawford and Associates review the controls and evaluate their effectiveness within the Bursar's office, Tate said.

On Aug. 20, 2011, the FBI, at the request of college administrators, began looking into suspicious charges on the Bursar's office credit card. Brandi Henson, who was bursar at the time, resigned from her position with the college Sept. 30, 2011, and on Aug. 16, 2012, pled guilty in federal court to charges of wire fraud after embezzling nearly $400,000 from OCCC between 2004 and 2011.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist said in a Pioneer interview at the time, an audit of the Bursar's office had come back clean. The report from the Hinkle and Co. auditing firm did note, however, that at that time OCCC had no procedure in place to balance the Bursar's office credit card monthly, and balance reports were not reviewed by anyone outside the Bursar's office.

Sechrist said in recent years, the college has worked to implement additional safeguards with the Bursar's office. He said the Bursar office may or may not be audited each year.

"Regular audits of this office and the transactions are to review compliance with the additional safeguards and to test the system for any possible areas that need further review. Areas to audit each year are based on a risk assessment compiled in conjunction with the audit firm, the administration, and the Board of Regents," Sechrist said.

Tate said, his firm conducted interviews and walk-throughs with staff to best understand office procedure.

"The Smartpay system has additional levels of security to safeguard the data of the cardholder," he said.

"The Bursar office has developed a working spreadsheet to track the total amount of each cashier's daily deposit activity to effectively reconcile back to the Smartpay system total daily reported activity. So there is an effective reconciliation process that has been implemented. And it's working...." Tate said.

"We have no recommendations in this area either," Tate said.

In reference to The Clery Act and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA), the firm reviewed OCCC's annual security report to ensure required elements were reported as required by the updated law implemented in October 2014.

The firm identified some disclosure statements to add to the school's annual security report.

Business and Finance Vice President John Boyd said the changes are already underway and will be in place before the 2015 report is due. He discussed the nature of the statements to be added.

"There were four different recommendations that the internal auditor offered OCCC," Boyd said.

"The first one is about written notification to students and employees as it relates to the existing counseling that we have; the mental health counseling, the victim advocacy and legal assistance," he said. "Our current college policy 1012 already contains this information. We are going to include this same information in the annual security report."

"The second recommendation was preserving evidence necessary to prove criminal domestic violence," Boyd said.

"That involves sexual assault and stalking, and obtaining a protection order. Section seven of our annual security report deals with this. We will be expanding that section."

Boyd said another recommendation involved provision of written notification to victims.

"It's about the options that they have as it relates to assistance, to changing academic environment that they perhaps go through, transportation and working situations," he said.

"Policy 1012 deals with all of this disclosure information. We are adding that same disclosure information to our annual security report for 2014 and we will update that security report," he said.

Boyd said the last recommendation was a statement that hearings be conducted by officials who receive annual training on how to conduct a hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability.

He said currently the president's cabinet handles such hearings.

"We are going to deal with the recommendation made by the internal audit and this is a policy that will be made by the cabinet of OCCC but one of two things needs to occur," Boyd said.

"We either need to put a committee together for a hearing process, a committee of trained individuals, or we need to insure that the cabinet, who are listening to these processes are trained and under appropriate instruction under Title 9." Boyd assured the board this would be discussed, a decision would be reached promptly and a change would be implemented. He said all of the auditor's recommendations had been accepted and applied where necessary.

"By doing that, you'll have done you'll have to do next year which is follow up on the prior years internal audit findings and recommendations," said Tate.

"As a matter of fact, I actually looked at an amendment of our security report this morning and we've already taken measures to incorporate all these recommendations into our report," he said.

Tate said he compliments the school for implementing everything they had set out to do.

"I think you ought to be proud of the college's leadership and management team, and Dr. (Paul) Sechrist, Dr. (Jerry) Steward and Dr. Boyd for their efforts in establishing the culture and maintaining the culture at the institution for which you should be very proud," he said.

Regent Christie Burgin said before voting to accept the report, "This report is thorough, positive and reflects a high level of compliance of the college's financial policies, and that of the state of Oklahoma.

"I would like to commend the administration and the college financial staff for their commitment to OCCC," Burgin said.

"Their preparation, I know, took long hours and cooperation with Crawford and Associates, and I know they appreciate that as well."

There was no hesitation or discussion to pass the vote.

Regent Helen Caley said she was "thrilled with the results. Thanks to everyone."

Test: Center closed on Thursday mornings

Continued from page 1

With students taking tests throughout the day, they try not to do any maintenance because it could cause problems for test-takers.

"We couldn't even change a light bulb," she said.

Thursday was chosen because all the other student services are closed that morning.

Little said being closed from 8 until 10 a.m. Thursdays also gives the opportunity to do staff development and training.

Students who want to take tests with the fewest distractions might want to know the peak hours when they see the most people are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m., Little said. The busiest days are Wednesdays and Fridays.

Cameras in the Testing Center allow the staff to monitor test-takers for cheating. On average, Little said, the Testing Center catches three people a month cheating.

Students must have a current student ID to take a test. This allows the Testing Center to track students and keep up-to-date information on testing statistics.

The Testing Center is open from 8 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 10 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. Thursdays; and 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Some students believe closing in the early morning is not such a good idea.

"I have a tight schedule and sometimes when the Testing Center is closed, it places me in a time bind because 8 a.m. is sometimes the only time I'm free," said Dani Goodrich.

Goodrich said lunch time would be a better time to shut down.

For more information, contact Little at linda.k.little@occc.edu or by phone at 405-682-7531.
Meetings to offer student insight

KATIE AXTELL
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Each semester, students and faculty come together a few times for coffee and religious discussion.

Then next ExCEL meeting is “Coffee and Privilege” at noon on Monday, April 20, in CU3.

Those who attend the Coffee and Religion ExCEL meetings have open discussions on various religious matters and issues from sins to moral compasses to non-religious personnel, said Faculty Liaison for Service and Engagement Stephen Morrow.

“ExCEL Series events are interactive presentations and activities focused on promoting diversity, inclusion, and cultural awareness,” according to a Facebook page set up for the event.

Morrow said the get-togethers allow students to take time out of their busy days to be with other students and share thoughts.

“[The students] get to talk about something they wouldn’t otherwise get to,” he said.

English Professor Jon Inglet said the discussions can also help students find peace.

“It’s good for students to talk and to have a voice to be heard,” he said.

ExCEL Series events are interactive presentations and activities focused on promoting diversity, inclusion, and cultural awareness.”

~Coffee and Religion Facebook Page

Discussions are held once a month during each semester of school.

The ExCEL Series offer meetings that cover privilege, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

For more information, contact Student Life at studentlife@occc.edu or at 405-682-7523.

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Healed
6. Coconuts
10. Rani
14. A kind of macaw
15. Bush plant
16. Twin sister of Ares
17. Noteworthy
19. Aureate
20. Hymn
21. "... the season to be jolly"
22. Small island
23. Billiards bounce
25. Beach turf
26. Resorts
30. American songbird
32. Consume
35. A surveying instrument
39. Give in
40. Inveigle
41. Answer
43. Demeans
44. Athletics
46. "... we forget"
47. Extent
50. Coming up
53. Oceans
54. Reverence
55. Comparison
60. Sodium chloride
61. Insignor
63. If not
64. Ancient Peruvian
65. Tall woody plants
66. Russian empress
67. Matured
68. Begin

DOWN
1. Credit or playing
2. Component of urine
3. Adult male sheep
4. Historical periods
5. A gold coin of ancient Persia
6. Historic period
7. Someone who owes
8. Delinquent
9. Poems
10. Belonging to a regiment
11. Come up
12. Country house
13. A chemical compound
18. New Zealand parrot
24. Cuvier
25. Till
26. Box
27. Rate
28. Circle fragments
29. Daughter of a step-parent
31. Mining finds
33. Take as one’s own
34. Gambling game
36. Location
37. Frosts
38. Exam
39. Give in
40. Inveigle
42. Illustration
43. East southeast
45. Therefrom
47. Something of value
48. Breakfast and supper
49. Light wood
51. American Sign Language
52. Weight loss plans
54. Diva’s solo
56. Shopping place
57. Bright thought
58. Lascivious look
59. At one time (archaic)
62. Wander aimlessly

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Ceramics professor finds magic in clay

CHRISTY MONTENEGRO
News Writing Student

From the mountains of Greenville, North Carolina, to the plains of Oklahoma, ceramics professor Jeremy Fineman has brought a love of art — especially pottery or ceramics.

"With ceramics, you're always learning something new," he said. "I don't think I will ever know everything about it. That's what makes it so magical."

Fineman moved to Oklahoma in January for a full-time position in the OCCC Arts Department. Fineman teaches Ceramics I and II, Mosaics I and II, and Drawing I.

"It's great, a very warm community," he said. "It's an umbrella of faculty that cares and students that are motivated."

Fineman completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Hartford in Connecticut. He earned his master's degree at East Carolina University in North Carolina.

He said he studied photography for his undergrad program but became interested in ceramics his junior year. He said he took as many ceramics classes as he could and became fascinated by it.

"I got addicted to the medium, the malleable material," he said. "You can make anything that you want. Anything that's in your head you can put into a three-dimensional surface. The texture, everything about the medium is really neat."

Exercising, biking, motorcycling, cooking, hiking, and swimming in OCCC's pool are some of the things Fineman enjoys, aside from creating art out of clay.

He specializes in dinnerware. Many of his plates, bowls and pitchers feature pastel blues and goldenrod with dark accents on the rims and feet.

"They're all functional pots with the emphasis on funk," Fineman said of his pieces which can take up to 40 hours each.

He said he also enjoys photographing his own work which he displays on his website bullfrogceramics.com.

"He's easy to work with and very knowledgeable of everything," she said.

"He's there to help and easy to follow and understand. I enjoy the hands-on work using the clay and all the tools," Mora said. "It feels like therapy to me and relieves stress. Time flies when you're having fun."

Fineman said his goals at OCCC are to have a larger enrollment for the classes and to bring more attention to art. He wants his students to gain confidence in the medium but, most importantly, to have fun and enjoy the process, he said.

"Without the challenges and frustration of ceramics, it is not very gratifying in the end. You have to get through the challenges and frustration and it becomes something magical."

Automotive professor retiring after 21 years

CHELSI HILL
News Writing Student

After 21 years of teaching and eight years as automotive department chair, Richard Steere has decided it's time to hang up his wrench when the semester ends May 15.

Over the course of Steere's career at OCCC, Steere believes he has some things to be proud of.

"One of them would be the partnership with General Motors," he said.

"That was here when I got here, but maintaining that. That's really important for the school and for the students."

Steere said General Motors donates two to four newer model vehicles a year to OCCC through this partnership.

"So what that does for our students is they get to work on the latest technology," he said.

"When I started, everything had a carburetor and point ignition, and now, some of the vehicles have as many as 27 computers that integrate and talk to one another."

Steere said the thing that drives CNG is affordability. CNG is better for the environment too, he said.

"But they've gotten so good with emissions on gasoline that CNG is not a whole lot better but it still is a cleaner fuel."

"OCCC is one of only three places in the state that license people to be able to convert vehicles from gasoline to CNG."

Steere also talked about the changes he's seen in automobiles throughout his career at the college.

"When I started, everything had a carburetor and point ignition, and now, some of the vehicles have as many as 27 computers that integrate and talk to one another," he said.

Steere said the next big thing will be active brake intervention.

"This means when you're driving, the vehicle will actually put the brake on before you know anything is there," he said.

"They are even now in the process of testing cars that can completely drive themselves." Steere said he has more than enjoyed his career at OCCC.