Quiet time

Microbiology major Monica Terrana and premed major Phuong Le study together on May 15 on the first floor of the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. For more information about the resources located in OCCC’s library, visit www.occc.edu/library or call 405-682-7564.

Online learning to take a step forward

One OCCC professor has created a hybrid class combining online, classroom learning

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Editor
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The college first started offering online classes in 1999 with just a few class offerings. As of this year, OCCC offers more than 100 online classes.

And, 16 years later, Professor Stephen Morrow is convinced the ideal course combines the best of the classroom and online worlds.

"In the English and Humanities division we're working hard on this idea of a hybrid class that could bridge the gulf between online and in-class," he said.

Morrow said he's eager to experiment with his classes to find a medium between the traditional classroom and the online one. He said his critical thinking class will be part of the experiment.

Half of the learning will be done online and half will be done during regularly scheduled, on-campus class times, Morrow said.

"That’s always been my dream, to put this course together that teaches self-reflection and professionalism together," he said.

Morrow said roughly 600 students have taken the critical thinking class he’s developed and, with each semester, more students are succeeding in the online version of the course.

ONLINE CHALLENGES

Currently, Morrow teaches online courses as well as the more traditional, on-campus courses. He said online classes, in accordance with the mission of OCCC, are a way to offer expansive access to education.

While online education offers its challenges — and an additional $12 per-credit-hour fee — Morrow said, the school is dedicated to improving the success rates of online students.

"Last year I was on a committee where we looked at online learning at Oklahoma City Community College," he said.

"There were professors and administrators and experts on this committee, and we made suggestions thinking, 'what do we really need for this college to be a high-quality online college?'

"One thing that’s being funded is mandatory training in best practice online for all faculty and all adjuncts. It’s a very positive response for the college putting their money where their mouth is."

Morrow said the trend since the inception of online classes, here and elsewhere, is a higher rate of failure among online students than those taking the

Mannequins helping EMS students learn

JARON SPOR
News Writing Student

OCCC has some of the most up-to-date training equipment for students in Emergency Medical Sciences, said Director Ron Feller. The department has mannequins that act like humans in many ways.

"Students work with different kinds of mannequins," he said. "The high-fidelity mannequins can vomit and the tongue can
Social changes are necessary

In the realm of politics, education is always up for debate. Some say there are benefits to critical thinking, social skills and a wealth of knowledge while others say these things aren’t important to a free and just society.

In February, the Oklahoma House of Representatives Education Committee voted to ban Advanced Placement U.S. History courses. It’s not the first or last attack on education from the Capitol.

Consider why leaders want a populace to be ignorant of its history or want to repress exploration of history. The results are pathetically demonstrated across our culture.

When protests occurred in Baltimore and Ferguson, arm-chair social critics fixated on people breaking windows and casually dismissed the systemic abuse of authority that has left citizens murdered at the hands of those sworn to protect them. They asserted destruction only hurts a cause and it can’t change anything.

This is what happens when you don’t consider American history. For those who say destruction of property is an unsuitable form of protest and changes nothing, I have three words for you — Boston Tea Party. Maybe you’ve heard of it.

When I hear media’s famous talking heads assert that America’s laws are absolutely sacred — and see those words regurgitated all over social media — I ask if there was a single point in our history in which law was not ridiculously lopsided toward persecuting the vulnerable and benefitting the powerful.

Our history is replete with faux pas such as land grabs, wholesale murder and people-ownership, all carried out under the protection of law.

We’ve been wise to admit these were mistakes and abandon these practices. So it worries me to hear sentiments like, “take our country back,” or “restore this nation to its former glory.” People saying such things either have no understanding of history or they aren’t concerned with the equal rights and equal protections our Constitution offers.

Do people feel the same about current events as they do about historical events or does rhetoric keep them from thinking about history at all?

Are there people who say that Crispus Attucks was a “thug” who would have had no problem if he would just obey the law? Do people look back through time and shout at Paul Revere to cut his hair, get a job and stop antagonizing or disrupting the work of the authorities?

People who ask what the world is coming to or say “the world is falling apart” might want to consider what the world has been like before. If you want real freedom and justice, you’ve got to understand there will be profound social change from time to time. Sometimes, it’s going to make the comfortable pretty uncomfortable. This is how it’s always been; the evidence is all over our history.

You can’t celebrate historical events and shame social change in your own time — unless of course, you’ve got a vested interest in keeping constituents frightened of current social change and ignorant of their history.

Don’t trust anyone who seeks to control your history. Learn it and determine what side of it you want to be on.

— JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Editor

Health department encourages healthy swimming behavior

To the Editor:

As Oklahomans gear up for a summer of fun in the water, the Oklahoma State Department of Health encourages following healthy swimming behaviors to prevent spreading diseases and becoming sick.

May 18 through 24 has been designated nationally to be Recreational Water Illness and Injury Prevention Week. Healthy swimming behaviors can prevent recreational water illnesses such as Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Shigella, norovirus and E. coli. RWIs are caused by swallowing or having contact with organisms in contaminated water in swimming pools, hot tubs, water parks, water play areas, fountains, lakes or rivers. RWIs also can be caused by inhaling mists or aerosols from contaminated water. RWIs can be prevented by taking simple precautions.

• Avoid swimming in a pool or lake when you have diarrhea. Germs can spread in the water and make other people sick.
• Avoid swallowing pool or lake water or getting water in the mouth in order to prevent ingesting germs.
• Practice good hygiene. Shower before swimming and wash hands after using the toilet or changing diapers.
• Diapered children:
  • Children who are not yet toilet-trained should wear swim diapers in the pool and lake.
  • Swim diapers and swim pants are not a substitute for frequent diaper changing and bathroom breaks.
• Change swim diapers and swim pants frequently, and change them away from the poolside.
• Wash your child thoroughly with soap and water before swimming, especially the diapered area.
• Swimming in a well-maintained swimming pool will reduce the likelihood of developing an RWI as many of the germs are killed by chlorine.
• Avoid swimming in a pool that has cloudy or off-colored water. If the main bottom drain cannot be seen, stay out of the pool.
• Harmful algae blooms may continue to occur in some Oklahoma lakes. HABs can produce toxins that result in illness in humans and animals.
• Direct contact with water that has a HAB can result in a skin rash; eye, ear and throat irritation; asthma-like symptoms; and diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal cramps.
• Do not swim or participate in other recreational water activities where murkiness or mats due to blue, bright green, red, or brown algae appear in or on the water, or if the water has an unpleasant odor.

— OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Classic movies made average

A film critic talked about recently seeing “2001: A Space Odyssey” in an actual theater. He got to see the 1968 sci-fi masterpiece on the big screen, just like the astonished audiences did when it first came out.

My mouth watered for that experience. I immediately looked online for local theaters that showed old movies.

Sure enough, I found that the Harkins Theatre in Bricktown has been constantly showing old movies right under my nose. They are called “Tuesday Night Classics” because they are classic movies that play on Tuesdays after the sun goes down. The meaning is hidden in the name.

I looked through their list of upcoming showings, and most of them weren’t anything that interested me. Then I saw Sergio Leone’s 1966 film “The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly.” It’s a juggernaut of a Western that I’d somehow made it my whole life without seeing. What a service it would be to myself to see this movie how it was intended.

Then I noticed that a week before “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly,” “Austin Powers” was playing. I practically memorized that movie as a kid. Such a bad, and the Ugly, “ “ Austin Powers” was playing. I decided to see this movie how it was intended.

I paid $5 to watch a DVD on a big screen like I was in middle school with a substitute teacher. The Mr. Fribb was good enough.

My only consolation is, I just ruined “Austin Powers.”

As for “Ugly,” I’m still looking for a haven where I can watch it in the way it deserves.

Rating: F

—JAKE McMAHON
Videographer

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘Edge of Tomorrow’ trying too hard to be clever says frustrated film buff

The movie “Groundhog Day” is a classic comedy. In it, Bill Murray plays a reporter trapped in a purgatory where he must live the same day over and over again.

Frustrated by the absurdity of the situation, Murray begins to take ever more extreme actions in an attempt to escape his horrible fate.

You’re probably thinking, “Isn’t this supposed to be a review of ‘Edge of Tomorrow’?” Well, yes it is. What does that have to do with “Groundhog Day”? Space aliens. Yes, I said space aliens. No, not little green men from Mars, alien colonies that sci-fi fans will recognize from movies or books like “Ender’s Game” and “Starship Troopers,” or the “StarCraft” video game franchise.

Whether you call them “formics,” “arachnids” or “zerglings,” it amounts to the same thing: bugs. Big terrible bugs and that’s what “Edge of Tomorrow” is — “Groundhog Day” with bugs. This could be great or terrible depending on your tastes. It should be no surprise that it stars Tom Cruise.

The movie is visually fairly impressive, but for this reviewer the story was kind of disappointing.

On the surface the movie seems to be a serious exercise in the tradition of the best science fiction, but it quickly devolves as the filmmakers put the protagonist through an absurd series of tortures.

It would be fine except that they seem completely unaware of how absurd the film really is.

The film winks and nods at the audience in self-conscious acknowledgment of the time travel device, but seems completely unaware that the alien invasion trope is equally absurd.

It forces the audience to break the suspension of disbelief, which makes it difficult to care about the characters. This would be OK if the film presented itself as a parody like the film adaptation “Starship Troopers.” Instead, it seems to want us to take it seriously like the book.

“Edge of Tomorrow” is fairly entertaining to watch, but in the end, though it may not be a comedy, it is kind of a joke.

Rating: B-

—AMAR MOLINAS
Webmaster

Old game still dazzles

Let’s be honest. There are many useful apps out there, but some of the best are games.

Some very intricate games leave very little impression on you, but very simple and straightforward games will keep you playing for hours on end.

This is the case with the mobile version of one beloved computer game: Bejeweled.

Bejeweled on mobile devices is not new and, at this point, everyone should know it is there. It has been around on iOS devices since 2007 and on the Google Play store since 2011.

Even if you haven’t played Bejeweled, if you have played newer games such as Candy Crush Saga, you have been directly affected by Bejeweled (the games are extremely similar).

If you want to play original, simple Bejeweled, look no further than this free app.

However, there are more game modes than just old school, classic Bejeweled.

Newer games such as Candy Crush add a level of complexity by introducing alternative challenges, such as certain blocks that must be destroyed by matching candies together near them and time limits.

These have become parts of Bejeweled as well. There are many game modes now within Bejeweled.

Among others, this includes Butterflies, where you match the butterflies with the same color jewels to prevent them from reaching the top, Diamond Mine, where you match jewels to destroy dirt blocks, some of which contain gold and other minerals that are worth more points, and the famous Blitz game mode, where there is a one-minute time limit to reach the highest score.

Blitz has become so popular it was released as its own separate game, Bejeweled Blitz, with some added features not included with Blitz in the normal Bejeweled game. And I love it as well.

Ultimately however, I appreciate the original Bejeweled game and its many game modes, slightly more.

If you possess some desire to be completely taken over, for hours on end, by a mind-numbingly simple game, there is no reason not to download this game.

They say never to sleep on a classic, and it’s definitely a classic.

—CLAYTON MITCHELL
Senior Writer
Shaved ice stand offers best of both worlds

I will stand for hours in 120 degree temperatures for the chance to eat a Silver Fox with cream. Gummy worms? I’m totally in. Cream? Where do I sign? That’s why when I completed my last final, I waltzed off campus with the dream of consuming a shaved ice that dripped with sugary glory.

There is an art to creating the perfect shaved ice. You cannot have too much syrup or it becomes a slush. Too little syrup and you’re eating a cup of dry ice. If the ice has melted much before shaving, the shaved result is too crunchy. There is hope, though.

Summer Snow Entertainment in Moore lives up to its name. This place serves each shaved ice with a sour straw and a tiny umbrella on top. It was so pretty, I hardly wanted to dig in (I got over that feeling pretty quickly).

While the stand serves up more flavors than any other stand I’ve seen, I chose my traditional Silver Fox. This stand offers something special, though: the F1 shaved ice. Not shaved ice, not ice cream, but shaved ice with ice cream. You really can get the best of both worlds. In one bite, my life became complete.

With vanilla soft serve in the middle and on top, it’s nearly impossible to get a mediocre bite. I felt like I was eating homemade vanilla ice cream on a tropical island.

Each spoonful was a party in my mouth, yet a reminder that I was one bite closer to emptying my cup. It needed just a little more syrup, but once it began to melt a little, the flavors melded together in a beautiful, holy matrimony. If only the service had been better.

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of May 22 through May 24
www.newyorktimes.com

1. Tomorrowland
2. Pitch Perfect 2
3. Mad Max: Fury Road
4. Avengers: Age of Ultron
5. Poltergeist
6. Hot Pursuit
7. Far From the Madding Crowd
8. Furious 7
9. Home
10. Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
11. The Age of Adaline
12. Ex Machina
13. Tanu Weds Manu
14. Woman in Gold
15. Piku
16. I’ll See You In My Dreams
17. The Longest Ride
18. Get Hard
19. The Divergent Series: Insurgent
20. Where Hope Grows

Is there a restaurant, movie or book you’d like reviewed?
Submit your idea to the Pioneer editor at
EDITOR@OCCC.EDU
OCCC’s business program nationally recognized

BRANDON CHOATE
News Writing Student

The business program at OCCC has won reaffirmation from a national organization, said Dean Anne DeClouette, although she won’t receive the official notification until June. The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs recently approved OCCC’s proposal for reaccreditation. DeClouette said this process was “very complex.” The week prior to spring break, three ACBSP personnel visited campus in accordance with the site visit portion of the reaffirmation process.

DeClouette said she and her staff made all the arrangements to ensure the time spent here was efficiently used.

While on campus, the ACBSP site visitors were thoroughly impressed with the department, DeClouette said. In the exit interview, she recalled that they were “impressed by the caliber of our faculty.” The business department’s faculty consists of many well-qualified and ethnically diverse professors, she said. Receiving accreditation through ACBSP makes OCCC’s business division the only two-year college in the metropolitan area that meets such a standard.

DeClouette said this accreditation is “the good housekeeping seal of approval.” Schools seeking continued accreditation must go through the reaffirmation process every 10 years. Accreditation is not obligatory. DeClouette said she and her staff chose to undergo this strenuous process.

“Students can continue to trust and believe that the classes … here are of the highest quality,” she said.

“I am thrilled to work with such professionals that are willing to go the extra step and be accredited.”

One of these staff members was Dr. Germain Pichop, professor of business and economics. Pichop serves as a site visitor for ACBSP. DeClouette called him “a very good resource.”

Pichop’s prior involvement proved to be helpful in the successful site visit, as well as the preparation leading up to it, DeClouette said. She said the business department is proud of the successful reaccreditation. The staff plans to use this reaffirmation as a tool for recruiting in the upcoming fall semester when the college reaches out to the business community in the metropolitan area.

“Our success shouldn’t be a secret,” she said.

DeClouette was informed via telephone that the business program has been reaffirmed. The reaffirmation will be officially announced to a larger audience at the annual ACBSP conference on June 12 in Philadelphia, which she will attend.

Possible stalking investigated

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Editor
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Campus police are investigating a possible stalking incident after taking a report on Wednesday, April 29, from a 19-year-old female student that a man who identified himself to her only as Carlos may want to bring harm to her.

The student, whose name was redacted from the report, said the man went to her apartment at around 11 a.m. Monday, April 27, saying he’d seen her on campus. Reportedly, he said he “wanted to talk to her, but because he was unable to catch her in the parking lot,” followed her to her apartment.

The report shows the initial conversation was “consensual.” The two exchanged phone numbers and texted throughout the day.

Around 8:30 p.m. the man returned to the woman’s apartment uninvited. They conversed and continued texting, and, at some point, that conversation turned sexual.

On Tuesday, April 28, the student reportedly told Carlos via text message that she did not wish to be intimate with him and told him to “stop trying to become intimate.” The texts from him continued.

The woman reported seeing the man’s car near her apartment around 9:30 p.m. that night. He then texted her, asking to speak with her.

The texting from him continued into Wednesday morning, April 29, when the woman contacted police. No arrests have been made but this case is still active.

Additional information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided. Another OCCC student may face drug paraphernalia charges after asking campus police to unlock his car on Tuesday, April 28.

Officer David Madden reported finding a glass pipe, a lighter and a clear plastic bag in the cupholder of a 2003 Honda Element after being dispatched to assist the owner who had locked his keys inside.

The student, whose name was redacted from the report, told Madden he used the pipe only for tobacco and allowed campus police to search his vehicle.

Two partial e-cigarettes were found in the car, both containing “a green leafy substance” and “a brown sticky substance,” according to the report.

A broken glass pipe with “burnt residue” also was found in the car’s glove compartment as well as a plastic bag containing a green, leafy substance and smelling of marijuana.

These items and a bottle of e-cigarette liquid were seized and sent to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for analysis. The student was released pending the results.

Pathways instructor Cady Murphy reported a missing wallet on Wednesday, April 15.

In a report, Murphy said she had left the classroom open and unattended for about 15 minutes that day.

When she returned, she noticed some items on the floor that hadn’t been there when she left. She did not notice her wallet missing until later when she stopped to make a purchase.

Video surveillance was reviewed but no suspect could be seen. Additional information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

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, email cjordan@occc.edu.

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

PLS DNT TXT + DRIVE

A Public Service Announcement brought to you by your school + other drivers.

I am thrilled to be working with such professionals that are willing to go the extra step and be accredited.”

—Anne DeClouette
Business Dean
VP leaving OCCC after 32 years

LAUREN DANIEL
Contributing Writer

Marion Paden, Enrollment and Student Services Vice President, remembers when OCCC was called South Oklahoma City Junior College, when there was no library, when there was no College Union and when the Aquatic Center was outdoors.

Paden said she walks around campus every day and observes the evolution of the campus, knowing she has contributed to the change in scenery and the culture in her 32 years of employment.

On June 30, the longest-serving Chief Student Affairs Officer in the state and recent Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame inductee, will look out of the windows of her office for the last time.

On July 1, Paden begins her position as the CEO of Leadership Oklahoma.

She said she is excited to start her new adventure with the organization she has been involved with for nine years.

Leadership Oklahoma has a selective admittance process, much like the President’s Leadership class, she said.

Members must go through an application process, exhibit commitment to their community and state, be recognized either privately or professionally, attend a two-day class, and join the alumni association, she said.

The 30-year-old organization strives to bring leaders together and allows them to form committees and defeat issues that restrict the state.

Leadership Oklahoma’s mission is: Oklahoma leaders making Oklahoma the Leader.

Paden has exhibited the required commitment through involvement with organizations such as Christmas Connection, the Red Cross and Arts Festival Oklahoma, as well her leadership roles with the Oklahoma City Rotary Club, the Rotary Club International, the Oklahoma Sports Association and more.

She said giving back to the state made her want to join the organization she has been involved with for nine years.

Leadership Oklahoma’s mission is: Oklahoma leaders making Oklahoma the Leader.

Leadership Oklahoma.

“I’m really proud of the state of Oklahoma. I really think that Oklahoma is a great state, but I don’t think it’s achieved its potential yet.”

“I think there are issues that need to be addressed and need to be resolved that range from women’s issues to children’s issues to economic issues to education issues … .

“I want to be a part of the solution. I think the only way to be a part of the solution is to be part of the team and people who have a shared commitment.”

While Paden wants to help change the face of the state, the college will always be in her heart and in her mind, she said.

“I would not want to leave the college unless I had something that I was going to that I think will actually benefit the college and … strengthen our state.

“After being here for an extended period of time, I think I can even advocate on behalf of the college and even about higher education and affordability and access — and all of those kinds of things on a statewide level that I can actually speak with a voice that’s not just one institution focused.”

President Paul Sechrist said in an email that Paden “left a legacy of outstanding service to the students of OCCC.

“In addition, she is known nationally for implementing cutting-edge technology and wrap-around services to better meet the needs of students. “OCCC will miss her leadership.”

OCCC student leaders chosen

JAELEN BROCK
News Writing Student

Next year’s officers for The Leadership Council were sworn in at the last meeting of the school year, April 23.

The Leadership Council is OCCC’s student representative for the student body.

Simone Mathenia will serve as chair. Tom Watkins was chosen as co-chair, and Aaron Kimberlin was selected as communications and public relations director.

The final position, director of research, drew two candidates, Derek Scarsella and Ginnifer Fenwick, with Scarsella winning the vote.

Mathenia spoke of her goals for TLC in the upcoming year.

“My goal for TLC is for more students to get involved,” she said. “Since 2011, I have seen that student involvement has lowered a little. I want more students to be involved, to know what OCCC has to offer.”

This year’s TLC Chair Lisa Lasater offered some advice to Mathenia for the upcoming year.

“Just continue being a great leader and supportive, and just continue to listen to the students,” Lasater said. “Make sure you listen. That is the most important part about being a leader, to learn from those around you.

“Don’t expect to do it all,” she added. “Make sure you include everybody, delegate if you need to, but work together as a team.”

TLC invited President Paul Sechrist to speak at their officer election.

Sechrist spoke to the council about his time at OCCC and their purpose on this campus.

“I just want you to know you are at a great institution,” Sechrist said.

For information about The Leadership Council and how to get involved, students can contact Student Life Director Erin Logan at elogan@occc.edu or Student Life at slstaffdl@occc.edu.

Winning team

Three OCCC students pose for a picture after they each received a $100 check for participating in the Student Satisfaction Survey. Left to right: Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of Planning and Research and the Director of Institutional Effectiveness Elaine Svec, Student Satisfaction Inventory Survey drawing winners Kelliegh Pfeil, Morgan Greene, Timothy Williams and Institutional Effectiveness Director Janet Perry. Students Ana “Estefani” Martinez and Sarah Fogg (not pictured) also were among the winners.

Ethan Cooper/Pioneer
Be proactive, aware to prevent most fraud

CLAYTON MITCHELL
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With most people using credit or debit cards nowadays, it makes sense the occurrences of theft also is on the increase. And, the constant strides being made in technology isn’t helping, said Information Technology Dean Tom Ashby.

Psychology and Sociology major Kayla Taylor said she has been a victim. She said her Higher One debit card, issued from OCCC, was once used for a fraudulent charge.

“It was a small purchase, like $2.30, but I didn’t authorize it,” she said. “I check my account pretty regularly, so I caught it within two days of it happening. I contacted Higher One, and they shut down my card and mailed me a new one.”

Taylor said that changed the way she handles her account.

“I’ve definitely been taking a lot more interest in making sure sites are certified before I enter my card information,” she said.

“I go through reputable sites like PayPal and check to see if they have certification.”

Former OCCC student and current Communications Lab employee Gabriel Wiseman said he takes extra precautions as well.

He said he never enters his Personal Identification Number (PIN) when using his debit card for purchases.

“I … run it as credit. And that’s just so someone can’t go to an ATM and withdraw everything with my PIN. I keep my PIN very safe.”

Lifehacker.com recommends running a debit card as a credit card when possible.

“If you detect fraud … you can dispute a charge and get it reversed quickly, thanks to credit card issuers’ ‘zero liability’ policies.

“You’re never liable for unauthorized charges, unlike debit transactions ….”

Ashby said there are a number of ways thieves steal money and information.

One is Internet theft, he said, when people use credit or debit cards to make online purchases.

“Once [information] leaves your computer, it literally bounces around the world to get to where it’s going. You don’t want your information out there in text format, where anyone can take a look at it as it goes by and say, ‘Ah, there’s some credit card information.’”

Ashby said while technology is responsible for some information theft, it’s primarily just a gateway for thieves to use more direct and personal methods to obtain the information they want.

“A good portion of identity theft and credit card theft is not computer hacking,” he said. “It’s social engineering.

“People calling you, talking to you, seeing you and basically, conning you out of your information.”

Ashby said this type of fraud is likely common because it’s easier to rob people of information than it is to rob them in person.

“The thief is] less likely to be caught, even if it doesn’t work,” he said.

“If you walk up to someone in Walmart and try to rob them, you’re likely to be caught. If you bungle some kind of theft on the Internet, it doesn’t work, but you’re not caught.

“You just keep doing it until you succeed. You can do thousands of them an hour versus going to Walmart with your gun and being stupid.

“It’s always a bigger threat when there’s less risk to the criminal.”

Ashby said while the loss in revenue is usually somewhat small for companies, the process of cleaning up the fraudulent charges costs everyone.

“[The companies] are not eating that cost,” he said. “They’re just changing the fee system so that everybody is paying for it instead of one person.”

Once the information is stolen, Ashby said, it’s sold on some of the scariest websites in existence.

“I know there are places on the dark web where you can go and just buy thousands of credit card numbers and Social Security numbers,” he said.

“You can create an identity, and charge things and run up bills, and then disappear.”

Those websites are called “carding forums.”

Ashby said carding forums provide an avenue for people to purchase credit and debit card numbers, sometimes in bulk, and even purchase items bought by stolen credit cards.

He said visiting secure sites is one of the safest ways to keep your information safe.

“Stay off websites that are questionable,” he said.

“The further you get away from mainstream, the more likely there’s going to be malware and other things that are trying to get through the Internet and corrupt your system, or doing things in the background to track your computer.”

The Better Business Bureau website says a secure website will contain https in the URL. The “s” at the end of http means secure — that that site “encrypts or scrambles your personal financial information.”

Ashby said another way thieves target people is by modifying an ATM or credit card reader. However, he said, that typically carries more risk than many criminals want to take.

“To put a skimmer on an ATM or a gas pump, you have to physically go there and, at some point, come back and take it out. There’s a risk there.”

About.com says the following about credit card skimmers:

“… Credit card skimming devices are often placed on ATMs or even held in the hands of waiters and store employees. When a credit card is run through a skimmer, the device stores the credit card information.

“Thieves use the stolen data to make fraudulent charges either online or with a counterfeit credit card. In the case of ATMs and debit cards, thieves withdraw cash from the linked checking account. Credit card skimmers are even popping up on Redbox movie rental kiosks.”

Psychology major Christian Castro said he learned the red flags of a modified ATM through the magazine 2600.

“If you feel it’s hollow, then don’t use it,” Castro said.

“It’s usually just an added-on thing, where the card goes. Some people tend to put sand in it, just so it makes it feel solid, but even then, that has a certain feel to it.”

Ashby said most thieves will stick to hiding behind the web.

“The Internet is bigger and it’s easier, and it’s less risky for the criminal,” he said. “There’s no physical point where they have to be somewhere and might get caught.”

Even when taking precautions, Ashby said, preventing information theft may not always work.

He said the most important thing is to realize when a theft occurs and quickly put an end to it.

Regularly checking credit and debit card statements for fraudulent charges can help as well, he said.

Despite taking every precaution, Ashby said, thieves will still find a way to steal. Consumers just have to try and stay one step ahead.

Taylor agrees.

“… I think you can protect yourself to a certain extent, but criminals put a lot of effort into being scam artists,” she said.

“I don’t think it’ll ever really be safe.”

For more information about ways to protect yourself, visit the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.com.
SPORTS

Pumping iron

Engineering major Steven Viney lifts weights on May 13 in OCCC’s Recreation and Fitness Center, located on the first floor of the Main Building. “I’m focusing on arms,” he said. “I’m just trying to get my arms better definition.” The Wellness Center provides many fitness areas free to students with a valid OCCC ID. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness.html.

SPORTS | Rowing provides an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to meet and promote the college

Dragon Boat team prepares for river festival

CLAYTON MITCHELL
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC’s Rowing and Dragon Boat teams are preparing for their spring season’s conclusion, said John Richardson, Web Development and Social Media Supervisor and team contact.

Richardson, who himself participates with the Dragon Boat team, said the team is preparing for the Sandridge Energy Stars and Stripes River Festival on June 27, which culminates its spring season.

“Typically the seasons consist of a whole lot of practicing, and one event that concludes the season,” Richardson said. “There’s spring and then there’s fall, so fall has a regatta at the end of its season as well.”

When the Dragon Boat team was started in spring 2014, the plan was always to include normal rowing in the equation at some point — which started this spring, Richardson said.

“We wanted to start with the Dragon Boat team, then in the second season, last fall, went to two Dragon Boat teams,” he said.

“And then, this season, we went to one dragon boat team and one rowing team.

“The challenge is money, quite honestly. So we wanted to build up to it. But we would probably have no more than two teams at any given time.”

Richardson said he believes the school benefits in many ways from having the teams and participating in events, such as promoting cooperation between students and faculty, as well as giving the college a good representation within the local community.

“I think it’s an excellent opportunity for faculty and staff to work with and get to know students, because the teams have both students and employees on them,” he said.

“It’s also a good wellness activity, and I think it’s important that our college have some sort of involvement in an area of recreation and competition in Oklahoma City that is really, really growing fast. So from a PR standpoint, it is a positive thing to have our name listed and involved in the stuff down on the river.”

Teams involved will come from all around the area, and includes teams from other schools and even organized teams from corporations, Richardson said.

The event, along with the races, hosts a family festival with food and live music during the action, and is accepting volunteers.

For more information about the team or the event, contact John Richardson by phone at 405-682-1611 ext. 7552, or by email at jrichardson@occc.edu.
Internet: Some online courses set to undergo a few changes

Continued from page 1

The Online Professor’s Role

Morrow said OCCC is training professors to be accountable for online success and he’s studied the pitfalls. “The number one reason for failing online is lack of discipline or time management,” he said. “The number two is lack of connection, whether student-to-student or teacher-to-student.”

However, Morrow said, OCCC professors work to mitigate these issues. “There’s a lot of support just to help students succeed,” he said. Morrow said OCCC invests in training faculty to produce a collaborative environment with online courses. He cites orientation and tech support in OCCC’s online courses as efforts to improve students’ experiences. Morrow said the Success in College and Life Class helps students improve self-discipline and time-management skills. OCCC also offers a resource guide designed specifically for online students at www.occc.edu/onlineresources.

The Student’s Role

Gill said students have to hold themselves accountable as well and should know some important things about online learning before enrolling. “Not every teacher gives feedback,” she said, “but if you know you can’t succeed without regular feedback, maybe an online class isn’t good for you.”

Gill said online students need to be self-disciplined and hardworking, often more than they’d be for on-campus courses. “Because obviously you need more help and some attention (in person) or you’re going to fail again,” she said. “I really think you shouldn’t even take online classes in your first year.”

“Online classes are like any other class,” he said. “Students get out of it what they put in. Just like in a traditional classroom, being proactive with assignments and discussions is half of a decent grade.”

Human Connection vs. Computers

Morrow said his personal focus is on creating connections. “I want our kids to be better human beings, and part of that is that we’re on computers a lot so let’s do that but let’s keep some connection going too.”

He said he has enjoyed watching ideas about online classes develop in spite of occasional egos suggesting students can’t succeed without their teacher’s physical presence. “It’s really nothing new.”

Morrow said he remembers correspondence courses that were available before the Internet was available.

Students were sent materials and tests by mail and would earn degrees by mailing those items back to the college.

He said online learning is an extension of this idea, giving access to students who might otherwise be unable to pursue higher education.

Meador said OCCC used an entirely different online learning platform called Blackboard until he graduated in 2012 and the school switched to Moodle. He said online learning has undeniably developed greatly in just a short period of time.

Morrow said there is no turning back. “This online stuff is out of its infancy,” he said. “It’s getting pretty sophisticated at this point and soon, it’s going to be taking strides into its adulthood.”

As students must, he said he’s had to regiment himself so that even while far away he can facilitate that valuable exchange between teacher and student.

“I never want to not have feedback to a student,” he said. “I want feedback every week and I want to give feedback every week. And to do that you have to put in the time.”

Morrow said the physical proximity of students to himself or to one another doesn’t concern him. Some students, he said, are going to find themselves more comfortable interacting from afar.

“T’m not really worried about people with technology disconnecting from each other,” he said. “It’s not a big fear or worry for me because I think human nature will go where it needs to go and that’s with human connection.”

EMS: EMS students receive real-life training from dummies

Continued from page 1

swell.”

Students can hook up the mannequin to an IV and give it medicine. A computer screen shows what kind of effects the meds would have on a person. “The instructor can hook up a microphone and talk to the student as if the mannequin were a patient,” Feller said.

In another setting, the Sweet Extrication Training System is designed to help emergency responders learn how to remove a person from a car accident.

With this device, the students put a mannequin in a car-like container. “They then turn the car upside down and have to get the mannequin out,” Feller said. “It resembles a car being flipped over and the student having to safely extricate the accident victim.”

EMS students have the benefit of having a decommissioned ambulance to use for training. Feller said. The training is set up exactly like a real ambulance. The student will have to pick up a patient, assess and load the patient, and work on the patient while the instructor watches. He said the students have to work on the patient until the teacher says they have arrived at the hospital.

“Depending on what scenario is used will determine whether a student volunteer or a mannequin will be used.”

The students also train on how to get a baby out of a car seat after a wreck — by sliding a foam-like structure underneath the baby to make sure it would not be further injured.

The students went through a simulation where they had to check a mannequin-patient to see if the patient was breathing.

“EMS students also have regular mannequins that they have to lift and put on a gurney,” Feller said. “They have all different types of gurneys. They soon will be getting an electrical powered gurney because that is what emergency workers are using now.”

The training is designed to replicate the crisis mode of a real emergency.

“I like all of the training because it is so physical and sometimes it is so fast-paced, it gets your adrenaline going,” said first year EMS student Sallieecce Hightower.

“I walked into a hospital one time and was reading the monitors, and was able to understand all of it.”

Feller can be contacted at 405-682-1611, ext. 7343.
Focus and learn

COMMUNITY | Students can use computers in the area for most college work

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Comm lab offers tutoring, editing, more

MICAH BEDSOLE
News Writing Student

The Communications Lab is not just for help with English essays and papers. It’s for help with any writing assignment, said Student Receptionist Rachael Colbart.

“Students can come in to use computers and get help with any form of communication including psychology, history, and sociology, among others,” she said.

Colbart said it’s a lab with friendly instructors and assistants who find various ways to lend a helping hand.

One-on-one tutor sessions are available for free after checking in at the front desk, she said.

Colbart said assignment guidelines, outlines and brainstorming sessions are used to help get students on the right track.

She said online tutoring is available for students who can submit their essays and have them reviewed through Echo 2.0 service. Echo 2.0 helps students through video chat sessions as an alternative to visiting the Communications Lab.

Students can receive this access by contacting tutors during the lab’s operating hours. Students can submit papers anytime using Echo.

“The lab is available to students as well as community members,” Colbart said.

Business major Joseph Dunn said he likes using the lab.

“If you need any sort of help, the tutors are great at making students feel comfortable and can help make writing seem less complex,” Dunn added.

Colbart said before she started working in the Communication Lab, she was a student at OCCC who had a difficult time with writing and came to the lab regularly for assistance.

She referred to the Communications Lab as a “haven” that was there to guide her in her class work as well as provide uplifting emotional support.

“Working here in the lab means everything to me because of the personal connections made with students through the assistance provided,” Colbart said.

“The lab is available to students as well as community members,” Colbart added.

Students can also receive this access by contacting tutors during the lab’s operating hours. Students can submit papers anytime using Echo.

Here at the lab we do not edit papers,” Colbart said. “As tutors we point out what needs to be revised and help bring clarity to students through our teaching methods.”

The tutors are well skilled in dealing with the different methods for writing as well as test preparation, Colbart said. To accommodate a wider range of students, more tutors have been hired recently, she added.

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“If you need any sort of help, the tutors are great at making students feel comfortable and can help make writing seem less complex,” Dunn added. The increased amount of feedback through proofreading also helped him in the lab.

Lab hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; closed Saturday.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/comlab, or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7379.

New Student Orientation summer dates set

The next New Student Orientation session is from 9 a.m. to noon Monday, June 1, in CU2 and 3. Additional sessions are being held on various dates and times throughout June, July and August. Orientation is free and open to all new and returning students. To see all the dates and times, go to occc.edu/studentlife/schedule. For more information, contact Student Life at studentlife@occc.edu or 405-682-7523.

Students can get fit for free all summer

Group Fitness Classes will continue during the summer and are free to all OCCC students with a valid OCCC ID. The Wellness Center summer hours are effective May 29 through Aug. 21. The weight and cardio rooms are open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; and closed Saturday and Sunday. The gym is open 6 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. Monday through Friday; 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; closed from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekly for summer camps. For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center office at 405-682-7860.

College for Kids offering variety of classes

OCCC’s Community Outreach and Education program offers a variety of weekly children’s camps and classes throughout the summer. The College for Kids program includes classes such as math and information tech, humanities, science and musical theater camps. Classes are held in weekly periods between from June 1 through July 29. For more information, contact Community Outreach and Education at 405-686-6222 or visit occc.edu/summercamp.

Christians on Campus to meet each Monday

Christians on Campus host Bible studies at noon on Mondays in room AH1C5. All students are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Christians on Campus at christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu or club president Kaie Huizar at kaie.huizar@gmail.com.

Give blood in Yukon; get two free Zoo passes

The Oklahoma Blood Institute will give two free Oklahoma City Zoo admission tickets and a T-shirt to each blood donor on Wednesday, June 3. The Bloodmobile will be at Lowe’s in Yukon from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, call OBI at 877-340-8777 or visit obi.org.

‘Cat on a Hot Tin Roof’ coming to OCCC

Reduxion Theatre Company presents Tennessee William’s famed drama, “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, in the VPAC Theater. Tickets are available at the OCCC Box Office, by calling 405-682-7579 or at www.occ.edu/studentlife/schedule. For more information, contact Student Life at studentlife@occc.edu or 405-682-7523.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to editor@occc.edu or drop by the Pioneer office located in AH 1F2.
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.

**FURNITURE**

**FOR SALE:** 19" CRT television in fair condition. Great for a gaming TV or in a child's room. $25. Text 405-818-0083 for more details.

**AUTOMOTIVE**

**FOR SALE:** 1997 Isuzu 4x4 Trooper; 5-sp. Runs great. Body in GC. Leather seats, CD player, premium speakers, Draw Tight hitch system can pull 5k pounds. Power windows need repair. High miles. One owner. $1,900. 405-812-4082.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**FREE:** Your ad here. Students can place non-business classified ads for free. No more than 7 lines. Submit your ad to adman@occc.edu with your name, student ID and valid phone number.

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**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE for ONLY $32 a week!**

—get your advertisement message to 5,000 prospective customers with a business-card size ad—

Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7307, or e-mail: adman@occc.edu

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**WEEKLY CROSSWORD**

**Across**
1. Walked upon
5. Decrease
10. Peer type
14. Tortoise’s opponent
15. Zodiac sign
16. October birthstone
17. Face shape
18. Ancient Peruvians
19. Depend
20. Narrate
22. Spoke
24. Kidnapper’s request
27. Remove
28. Recommend
31. Not fancy
33. Flit
34. Heel
35. Spanish title
40. Atom part
42. Came in
43. Decree
44. Rested
45. Heredity unit
46. Cozy retreats
48. Mails
49. Informal speech
53. Shoelace hole
55. Baring
57. Beginning
61. Shakespeare’s river
62. The Devil
65. Staff member
66. Richard ____ of “Pretty Woman”
67. Overact
68. Horse’s gait
69. Gimpes
70. Underground drain
71. Building extensions

**Down**
1. Norse god
2. Talk irrationally
3. Spoken
4. Designer Oscar ____ (3 wds.)
5. E.T., e.g.
6. Storage box
7. CBS Neil
8. Serious injury
9. Toward the sunrise
10. Termites, e.g.
11. “Phantom of the ___
12. Shoppers’ delights
21. Paving material
23. Principle
25. Reach across
26. Aged
28. Casino city
29. Always
30. “Family ____”
32. Contradictive contraction
34. Pine
36. Bargain
37. Metallic odds
38. Landlord’s income
39. Summer cooler
41. Beatle bootkeeper
42. Lighten
44. Pyl’s home
47. Flavorful seed
48. Miles ____ hour
49. Pawn’s fathers
50. Embarrassment
51. Idealize
52. Dressed to the ___
53. Harlot
56. Employs
58. Female
59. Golden calf, e.g.
60. New Jersey team
63. Pull behind
64. Chowed down

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**KIDS AND CARS.ORG**

Love Them, Protect Them

Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail the editor at editor@occc.edu
Earn college credit while exploring Ireland

MESA SHARP
News Writing Student

OCCC is offering the opportunity to travel to the country of Ireland for two weeks this summer. From July 16 to 29 students, accompanied by journalism Professor Sue Hinton, will be traveling from Dublin to Shannon along the southern coast of Ireland.

Hinton said she has previously been to Ireland, but not as a study-abroad leader. She has led groups to Italy and London in the past.

“The students are wonderful to travel with,” she said. “They form a little community that stays together after they get home.”

She spoke highly of the country, talking about its beauty and history.

Although part of the trip will focus on the urban area of Dublin, another portion will involve hiking and walking in the countryside, she said.

On this trip students will have the opportunity to experience Irish life including: village life, traditional Irish music and singing, lush countryside, Irish food and language, and lastly living in hostels for two weeks.

Hinton will be teaching a three-credit-hour travel writing course in conjunction with the trip.

For degree-seeking journalism majors, the course can be substituted for Magazine Feature Writing, she said. For non-journalism majors, the course may count as an elective, or possibly be substituted for a degree requirement with academic adviser approval, Hinton said.

The writing course is considered an independent study class, which requires students to complete two written assignments and a travel journal.

The first assignment is written and due before the trip begins, Hinton said. The second assignment is written by the students, based on observations during the trip in combination with research before and after. The students will have the freedom to pick the topics they want to focus on, she said.

About 10 students are signed up to travel to Ireland, but there is room for more to join. The cost is under $3,000, airfare included.

To register for the trip, go to the Oklahoma Study Abroad website at oklahomastudyabroad.com.

Enrollment in the Travel Writing class is open now. The course number for this Journalism and Broadcasting class is JB 1003 Travel Writing — Ireland.

For more information, contact Hinton at shinhton@occc.edu or at 405-682-1611, ext. 7331.

KATIE AXTELL
Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

Studying abroad offers a bigger education experience by meeting people from different cultures and expanding horizons, said Arts Division Dean Ruth Charnay.

“You get to feel like you’re a citizen of the world,” she said. “That’s one of the biggest parts of travel is being a citizen of the world.”

Charnay will be going on the Central Europe study abroad trip this summer with a group of students.

“We're spending two or three days in several locations, but it's primarily in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic,” she said.

“It really is a variety of some historical context. We are going to Terezin and Auschwitz, incredibly important sites of the Holocaust and World War II. We're also going to hike in the Tatras Mountains and take a cruise on the Danube [River] so there's going to be some relaxation and just enjoying the beauty.”

Charnay said the trip will count as one hour toward a communication class. She said since it counts for just one hour, there won’t be an extreme amount of work.

“During the trip we'll have opportunities, whether it's sitting over a Coke on the train or the train going from one place to another, to talk about different [communications across cultures]. When they come back, they'll prepare a paper or presentation.

“It's not like we're having daily classes on the trip.”

Charnay said there are numerous benefits to traveling abroad. One of the benefits is learning firsthand rather than while sitting in a class.

“If you sit in history classes and talk about Europe and what happened, whether it's World War II or during the days of the Soviet Union, it's going to make a whole lot more sense if you're actually able to get an idea of what those communities are and how they look today.”

She said the different cultural experiences are a benefit as well.

“You're going to learn specific things about history and culture that are different than your own and that can be an amazing experience. We're going to see and hear things that aren't a part of our daily culture.”

Charnay said she has been on study abroad trips to Costa Rica, a few times to London, and Greece and Italy.

She said her favorite part of traveling is the memories she makes.

“I have memories that are so clear of amazing places that I’ve visited, of moments of time when I was just able to sit at a little cafe and, even if it was an incredibly short conversation with one of the locals, those are just as clear to me as any other experience in my life.

“Sometimes I think the world comes into focus in the quiet moments when you're someplace else. I’ve seen all the tourists sights. I've been to the Roman Colosseum, stood under the Eiffel Tower, and those are great — I remember those, too — but truly some of my best memories are the quiet moments when the world comes into focus.”

Charnay said younger people can derive a lot through traveling.

“A lot of people assume it would be better (to travel) later when you have more money,” she said.

“I would say if you could possibly afford it when you’re young, it’s actually a better experience to do it while you’re young, and you’re able to really take advantage of feeling free when you go places.

“Go in your blue jeans with a backpack and eat a hot dog from the guy on the corner and then stand there and talk to him for 10 minutes about his life. That’s a great travel-abroad experience.”

Oklahoma Study Abroad offers several trips throughout the year.

For more information, visit oklahomastudyabroad.com.

Trip Director Christian Alyea can be contacted at christian@oklahomastudyabroad.com.