

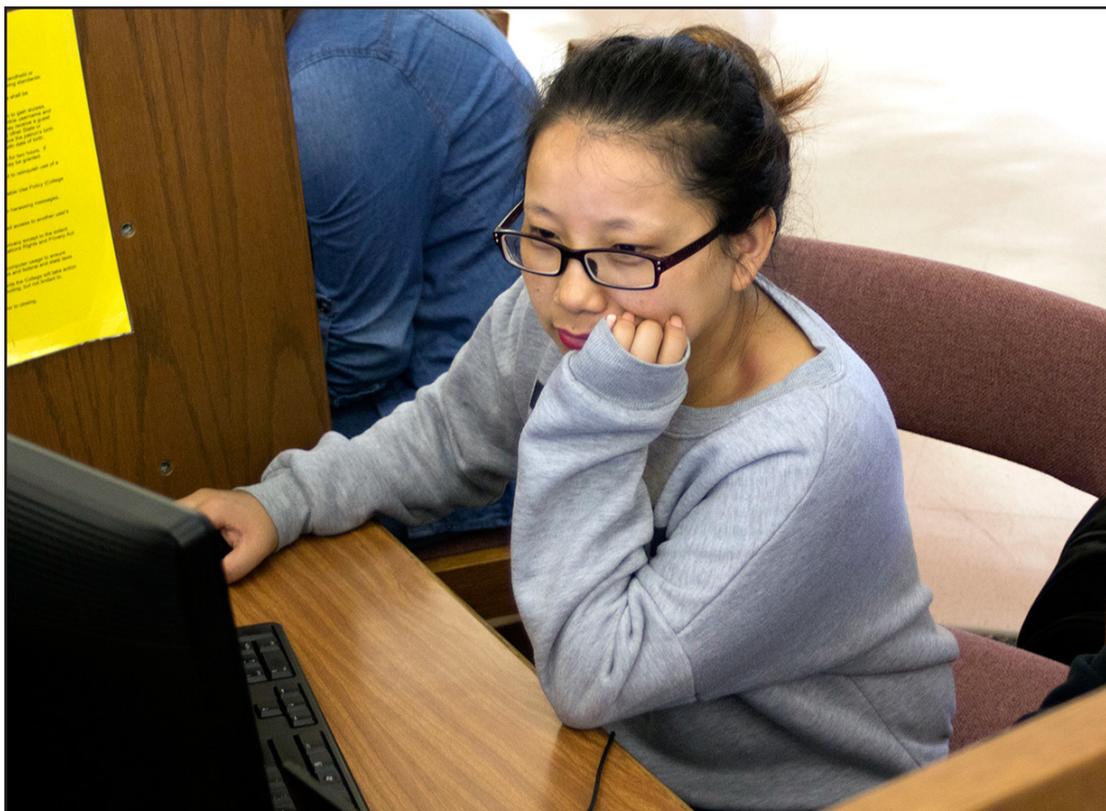
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER



PIONEER.OCCC.EDU

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

OCT. 16, 2015



Focus: Business major Muna Gurung takes advantage of the computer area on the first floor of the library to do homework. Library staff said both students and community members can use the computers, as long as their activities fall within the college's network policy found at www.dev.occc.edu/policy/pdf/3058.pdf. For more information about the library, call 405-682-7564 or visit www.occc.edu/library. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Feedback crucial to Starfish system

DARLA KILHOFFER
Online Editor
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E-Student Support Services
Director E.J. Warren.

Students may have noticed when they enter various labs on campus, they are asked to swipe their student ID cards through a machine.

What they may not know is that machine is offering feedback to OCCC administrators on such things as how many hours a student spends in the lab, how many times that lab has been visited and more, said

The college purchased Starfish Retention Solutions — a student support software and advising system intended to help with student retention — for approximately \$80,000 in May 2015, according to an earlier Pioneer story.

Since that time, she said, Student Support Services has been working to set up, test and turn on the various functions.

See ID page 9

Profs, students rate interactive classes

HUNG TRAN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

At the beginning of this semester, some English Composition students found that not all OCCC classrooms are created equal.

Three classrooms in the Arts and Humanities area were converted into interactive classrooms over the summer.

At the time of the switch-over, Audio Visual Specialist Jim Goldsbury said the classrooms would house a “multi-touch projection system and a multiple input-output videodisplay.” In other words, the three classrooms are filled with computers and an interactive 87-inch screen the professors refer to as a “genius board.”

The board's functions are like a big tablet.

English Professor Mark Zindelo said these boards have brought about positive changes, including improving how students behave in class.

He said, with the computers mounted on the perimeter of the classroom, with every screen visible, students are less likely to use class time and the computers to do non-class-related activities. He said it helps him be in



Expert says freedoms, rights the same on campus as off

Freedom for Individual Rights in Education spokesman explains colleges' obligations

KATIE AXTELL
Editor
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Most people, if asked the difference between student rights and civil rights, would need a moment to process the question.

That's because there are those who believe there are restrictions to their rights once they are on OCCC property, a state college funded by taxpayers.

That isn't correct, said Foundation for Individual Rights in Education's Legal and Public Advocacy Vice President Will Creeley.

Creeley said American college campuses have been identified as a “marketplace of ideas” by the U.S. Supreme Court, yet numerous lawsuits are filed yearly against colleges that try to restrict the rights of their students.

FIRE's mission is described on its website as “to defend and sustain individual rights at America's colleges and universities. These rights include freedom of speech, legal equality, due process, religious liberty, and sanctity of conscience — the essential qualities

of individual liberty and dignity.

“FIRE's core mission is to protect the unprotected and to educate the public and communities of concerned Americans about the threats to these rights on our campuses and about the means to preserve them.”

Creeley said one student right repeatedly being violated across the U.S. is the right to free speech. He said often, campuses wrongly believe they can establish free speech areas or zones.

“Free speech zones take a variety of forms, but what FIRE means when we say free speech zones are small, often out-of-

See **FREEDOM** page 5

See **BOARDS** page 12

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | Baseball commentators are too harsh on younger audience taking selfies

Older generation needs to embrace social media

Stop me if you've heard this one from any person over the age of 40: "Kids these days are so glued to their phones, they can't enjoy what's going on around them!" Or "back in my day, ice cream was only five cents and I didn't have any of those Apple phones!" If you haven't heard that before, I would be shocked.



SPENCER GRANT

Older human beings seem to have some sort of superiority complex when it comes to technology, among other things.

Recently, at a Diamondbacks Major League Baseball game, the announcers focused in on a group of girls in the stands who were all taking selfies, roasting

them by using terms like "glued to their phones" to describe a spectacle that, to their highly evolved and wise adult minds seems inconceivable, but to anyone younger than the age of 40, is more common than just about anything.

What the announcers fail to realize is that this makes them seem like bitter old douches.

The story was everywhere the next day, and the icing on the cake? The organization offered free tickets to the girls who the commentators were mocking, only to have them refused and instead re-routed to a charity organization in a completely classy move by the "selfie girls."

Baseball is not America's pastime anymore. It's football, with its over-the-top macho masculinity, or basketball, with brandable stars like Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook invading Oklahoman's living rooms every other commercial break.

Baseball hasn't been able to harness the power of the millennial generation — or social media — it would seem. How can you blame young women or, in this case, anyone, for looking at their phone during a sporting event where, the majority of the time, the players are standing still, there are multiple breaks in the action and nine total innings to boot?

There are plenty of routes to take in this situation. There's obviously some sort of male sexist idea about the proper way to act at a sporting event that these girls were somehow violating with their perceived "frivolity."

The modern world and current generations could

not care less about people telling them they look silly on their phones. Take a look around the Internet and you'll find evidence that history doesn't quite favor those who hearken to "back in my day" sentiments.

There are pictures of Nixon giving speeches with practically everyone in the crowd clutching a huge, gaudy flash camera. There are pictures of everyone on a public bus with their heads stubbornly buried in a newspaper.

Amateur chemist and photography enthusiast Robert Cornelius is actually widely regarded as the man who took the very first selfie in 1839.

On a question-and-answer thread on Reddit, there was a woman interviewing her grandmother, who was around during the advent of home electricity. She mentioned that electricity was so new and wild at the time, many people thought "I lived my entire life without this here eee-lectricity, and you can too!" We all know how that turned out.

Sure, people are skeptical and curious about iPhones and selfies, but just remember, at one point in time, people felt the same way about electricity.

—SPENCER GRANT
SENIOR WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Vaccinations recommended for flu season, especially children and pregnant women

County health departments flu clinics open to public

To the Editor:

With flu season just around the corner, the Oklahoma State Department of Health announced that county health departments began offering flu vaccines statewide Oct. 12.

Flu vaccination is recommended each year for everyone six months of age and older.

When more people are vaccinated against the flu, there is less opportunity for flu to spread in families, schools and communities.

"We are learning more and more about the benefits of influenza vaccination every year," said State Health Commissioner Dr. Terry Cline.

"One example is the benefit for pregnant women and newborn babies.

Flu vaccination not only protects pregnant women, but also protects their babies for up to six months.

Since influenza is more likely to cause severe illness in pregnant women and newborns

this protection is important. Flu vaccination is safe during pregnancy, after delivery, and for breastfeeding women."

In addition to getting a flu vaccination, persons 65 years of age and older, and those with chronic health conditions, should ask their health care provider about being vaccinated against pneumococcal pneumonia.

Pneumococcal pneumonia is a common and potentially serious complication of the flu.

Unlike the influenza vaccine, the pneumococcal vaccine does not need to be given every year.

This vaccine is also available at county health departments. County health departments

will accept SoonerCare, Medicare, all private health insurance, cash, checks, or credit cards as payment for flu vaccine.

—OKLAHOMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Pioneer welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The Pioneer will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing.

PIONEER

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

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author's name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Students must list a major. OCCC staff and faculty must list a work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included.

The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

BUSINESS REVIEW | Writer says Prototek is a good place for focussing and creating

Workshop for innovative minds

Prototek OKC is a much-needed source of creativity in a creative black hole, with spots of humanity struggling against the darkness.

When the oil money dries up, the state will likely be abandoned unless Oklahoma produces

enough innovators to keep the region habitable so establishments like Prototek are the only hope for the heartland of the planes.

For \$50 a month, anyone can join the local maker-space — located at 401 NW 10th St. in Oklahoma City — and have access to all the tools (robotic arms ranging from car sized to arm sized, CNC machines, laser cutter, woodworking tools, welding rig, presses, lathes, electronic workstation, 3d printers/screen printers, photo studio, RFID devices and server/networking practice hardware, lock picking tools) and classes for which they have the energy.

It would take me years to learn how to use every

PROTOTEK



Create Anything

gadget and device in their expansive workshop.

Sure there's also a lot of broken junk, but it is still fun to play with — just don't hurt yourself. (You signed a liability waiver when you joined.)

Twenty-four hour access is nice. I enjoy going late at night, when it's quiet and I can focus.

People need a spot. For some it is an art studio or a music space, or a park where they do yoga. My Zen spot is at a big table with a bunch of junk and diagrams lying around.

Prototek is one of the only places where my reflex to do homework or a project is stronger than my reflex to hop back on Reddit or Facebook. You can find out more at their website prototek.com, what you get for \$50 a month is ridiculous.

Rating: A-

—GRANT SWALLWELL
PODCASTER/BLOGGER

FOOD REVIEW | Whataburger should stick to what they know — burgers, not chicken

Whataburger's chicken a let-down

I am a man who loves a good burger. I've gotten to the point where I hardly will get a burger that comes from a fast-food restaurant.

Pretty much the only exception I have to this rule is Whataburger. I love some Whataburger.

However, what caught my eyes recently at Whataburger was not even a burger. It was the brand-new Buffalo Ranch Chicken Strip sandwich.

I used to purchase only burgers at Whataburger, but everything changed when I tried the Chicken Strip Monterey Melt a few months ago.

I now split my time evenly between a good burger and a succulent chicken strip sandwich from my beloved Whataburger.

After seeing the new creation on TV commercials and hearing commercials on the radio about it, I knew it was next on my list of things to try.

So on Friday, Oct. 2, I ditched my



tradition of a bowl from Chipotle to end the work week, and decided to replace it with a Buffalo Ranch Chicken Strip sandwich combo.

I arrived home with my meal still nice and hot.

I devoured my fries first, as they always seem to get cold faster than the sandwich.

I dipped them in some of Whataburger's signature spicy ketchup. This was a great primer for what I thought would be a delicious sandwich.

Upon first inspection, it seemed as if my Buffalo Ranch Chicken Strip sandwich was all ranch and no buffalo sauce.

As it turns out, I was right.

Now to be fair, the chicken strips were delicious and the bun actually not as crushed as normal after being wrapped up in paper for 30 minutes.

However, I expected my sandwich to have much more buffalo sauce and that led to it not really having the flavor I anticipated.

Barely having any of the tangy spice of the buffalo sauce, the sandwich was overpowered by ranch that was not so great.

Being stingy on the key factor of what could make this sandwich great gets it a pretty low grade. I'll probably go back to burgers for a while.

Rating: C-

—CLAYTON MITCHELL
VIDEOGRAPHER



App offers brain-eating entertainment

The best thing about smartphones is the nearly limitless number of games available to help alleviate boredom.

The downside is these games are so simple and absorbing that it is easy to forget what you are doing.

The player may find that boredom has been replaced with a single-minded desire to eat brains — I mean, play games.

"Plants vs. Zombie" from PopCap Games is that game. The concept is simple: defend your house from the zombie apocalypse by strategically planting killer plants in your yard to shoot, eat, mow down and blow up the onrushing zombie horde. Players collect sun rays that fall from the sky and use them to earn enough points to plant new plants.

The player can plant sunflowers or yellow mushrooms to generate more sun rays.

There are a multitude of different units to buy and the player gets a new option at each level. This keeps the game interesting because each level is an opportunity to try new combinations of plants and develop new strategies.

The game is mostly played in Adventure mode where players advance through levels sequentially. This also keeps the game interesting because new terrain or new types of zombies are frequently added, so the scenarios never get stale. If the player gets bored with Adventure mode there are lots of mini games, puzzles and short scenarios in the "Other Ways to Play" section. In addition, players unlock more game play options as they progress through the Adventure mode scenarios.

Every so often the player will get a visit from the neighbor, Crazy Dave. Dave is very knowledgeable about zombie killing and lawn care. Why is Crazy Dave so crazy? Nobody knows.

Maybe zombies ripping through his lawn drove him over the edge. Maybe going a little crazy is the only way to stay sane in a crazy world. Whatever the reason, Dave is funny and keeps the mood light. "Plants vs. Zombies" is fun and available on all major smartphone platforms. There is a free version with ads or a paid version and a free sequel, "Plants vs. Zombie's 2."

Rating: A

—AMAR MOLINAS
WEBMASTER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FOOD WEBSITE REVIEW | Reviewer says put down the Cheetos and dive into some lavender cheesecake

Vegan website tempts even non-vegans

Though I am neither a raw-foodie nor vegan, www.thisrawsomeveganlife.com has won my heart and soul.

I happened upon the site when I was looking on Pinterest for healthier desserts and I saw one of the webmaster's divine chocolate dessert photos.

When I followed the link, I was led to a treasure trove of delectable dessert recipes and Emily von Euw's dry humor.

She posts lots of easy recipes, from sauces and puddings to cakes and ice creams. She also has lots of delicious entree, salad and snack bar recipes.

I've made more of her recipes than I can count, but my favorites have been fudgy brownies, vanilla coffee creme pie and carrot cake with cream cheese frosting.

I also love her sea salt caramel recipe.

I've dipped fruit in it, slathered it on bananas and eaten it straight out of the bowl with a spoon.

She has a knack for making delicious desserts out of avocados — don't knock it until you try it. I made her chocolate pudding recipe and it was incredible. I ate it for breakfast.

Also, Emily's photography is stunning. Sometimes I get on her blog just to drool over pictures of cakes dripping in frosting, chocolate sauce and coconut shreds.

One visit to her site and you'll know what I mean. Emily uses ingredients like almonds, cashews, dates, honey, pumpkin seeds and coconut oil to make her recipes.

Everything that comes from her kitchen is loaded with nutrients.



The only downside to that is even a simple cake is pretty expensive to make.

Still, it's fun to browse her site. I got one of her cookbooks as a Christmas present and my life hasn't been the same since.

She is so creative and has lots of recipes — some more outlandish than others.

Lavender cheesecake with lemon and honey, mango coconut tarts and

funky monkeys are a few foods on the weirder side, but I would totally give them a shot.

You, munching on the Cheetos. Do yourself a favor. Check out thisrawsomeveganlife.com right now.

Rating: A+

—DARLA KILHOFFER
ONLINE EDITOR

POLITICAL REVIEW | Community college shooting turned into a chance to spew propaganda

Politicians should stay quiet on tragedies

I've never been a fan of politicians, no matter who they are, what the political party is, or the reasoning behind their purpose.

The lies and persona hardly ever fail to disappoint.

But this review is not about those issues per se. I am reviewing the political speeches stemming from a horrendous act. I'm here to chain up the ass and point out the elephant in the room.

The recent shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon was tragic, just like all the other shootings and deaths caused by the increasing violence in the country. As an Oregonian, this hit hard for me. My home was shot up. My people were killed. My community is suffering from the loss, pain and disbelief.

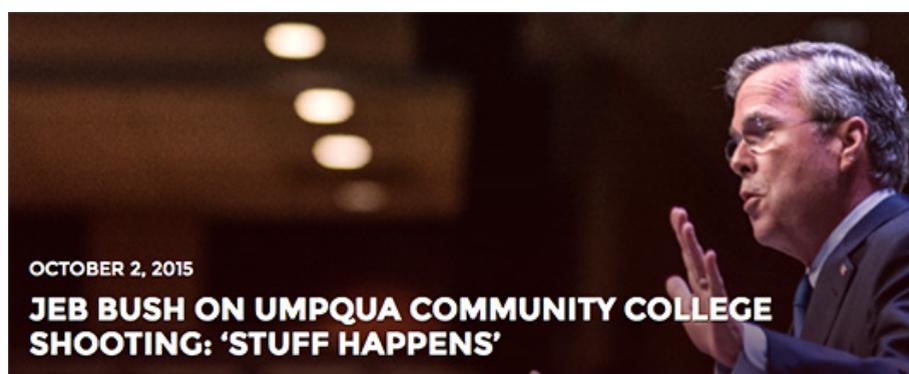
While listening to the news to get updates and see what progress was being made, I saw the speeches and heard the quotes coming from presidential candidates, other politicians and even the president on gun violence and the Second Amendment.

One presidential hopeful, Jeb Bush, said, when referring to the incident, "look, stuff happens."

Every speech, every quote, every word regarding the horrific tragedy was trash. Every podium-poised suit may have spoken with a purpose, but that purpose was insulting.

The speeches, opinions and answers were trash because of how politicians use tragedy for strategy.

We don't want to hear how you will prevent this in the future, how now is the time to act, or how this could have been prevented. We don't want to hear how you feel our pain, that you will do something to help, or what you think



about the subject.

We don't want you.

Lucero Alcaraz, Treven Anspach, Rebecka Carnes, Quinn Cooper, Kim Dietz, Lucas Eibel, Jason Johnson, Lawrence Levine and Sarena Moore are the ones we want. Those are the ones who matter — the ones who lost their lives.

Poor speeches, in-the-moment anger, and political plans and agendas fail when it comes to what we want, what we want to hear and what we care about.

My heart is breaking for my home and my tears are real for UCC, unlike the political propaganda spoken and spewed.

Rating: F-

—KATIE AXTELL
EDITOR

**Do you have an idea for a review? Send it to the Pioneer!
Email the Pioneer editor at
editor@occc.edu**

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Oct. 9
through Oct. 11

www.newyorktimes.com

1. The Martian
2. Hotel Transylvania 2
3. Pan
4. The Intern
5. Sicario
6. Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
7. The Walk
8. Black Mass
9. Everest
10. The Visit
11. War Room
12. The Perfect Guy
13. Ladrões
14. He Named Me Malala
15. Rudhramedevi
16. Homes
17. Steve Jobs
18. Inside Out
19. The Green Inferno
20. Goodbye Mr. Loser

Freedom: Everyone should be able to share thoughts freely

Continued from page 1

the-way areas designated by administrators as the places where students can speak their minds.”

He said FIRE believes such zones to be unconstitutional because they restrict the right to free speech.

Any open area, where citizens can pass freely at any time, should be able to be used by any citizen at any time, without permission, Creeley said. Areas that may not fall in this category might be a classroom or a boardroom, for instance.

Student Life Assistant Director Kendra Fringer said OCCC doesn't have a free speech zone.

“I am aware a lot of four-year institutions and other places have specified zones,” she said.

“We do not have that here as far as specific areas you need to stand to express yourself. We support free speech here on campus.”

In fact, Fringer said, any student can have a table or space to practice their freedom of speech whether they are with a designated club or department.

However, Fringer added, those not affiliated with the college would need to clear it through college officials first.

“Individuals do have the opportunity to ask for space on campus,” she said. “It would be the same way an outside company would have to ask because they're not affiliated with a club or department.

“If they know they want to do something we ask for two weeks to facilitate that because it helps us better assist them in finding space.”

Fringer said Student Life asks for two weeks notice to

help them get materials that are requested and to make sure the space is available.

“If they have an idea today and they want to do it tomorrow, we can try our best but there's no guarantee they would have the space they would like [or] they would have the materials they wanted.

“The two weeks just helps us facilitate and get them what they're wanting,” she said.

“If we put in the request and find out that space is not available, it gives us time to find alternatives. That two-week time period helps us make sure we have leeway if something was to occur or space wasn't available.”

Fringer said Student Life is just the facilitating point who can help fill any requests submitted.

“The office of Student Life does not control all the spaces on campus,” she said.

“We are not the guardians of the space, so depending on if it's a location that we have the availability to request would determine whether or not the person could have the space.

“That goes for all the places on campus. We're just the facilitating point that starts to help to ask for those requests.”

However, Creeley said, having to register to use an open area on a public campus is yet another way administrators act unconstitutionally when dealing with free speech.

“We've seen registration periods as far as 10 or 15 days in advance,” he said.

“If you have to register to speak your mind 10 days out, you won't be able to act spontaneously to the news of the day, and that's a problem as far as the First Amendment is concerned.

“If you impose these kind of restrictions on people's access to that marketplace, you impoverish the ability of folks to learn from each other via dialogue which is what universities are supposed to facilitate.”

Creeley said public cam-

pus such as OCCC should be treated as public forums where students should be able to speak to each other all over campus about the issues that they care about.

“Too often we see very bureaucratic barriers to students expressing their minds in a timely fashion — whether that's being relegated or, should I say, quarantined, to the free speech zone or having to notify an administrator two weeks in advance or having to fill out special permission forms just to be able to hand out literature to your fellow students,” he said.

“Those kinds of restrictions are really overkill and we don't think those are the kind of reasonable time, place and manner restrictions that universities may impose to regulate speech on a public college campus.”

Creeley said at times administrators can impose reasonable viewpoint and content-neutral time, place and manner restrictions on student speech as long as they give ample alternative means of communication and they're narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest.

“For instance, it would violate the First Amendment if the college said only students who are wishing to discuss a certain viewpoint or express certain viewpoints can use the area.

“But there's no significant government interest being served by requiring students (to wait) two weeks before they speak their minds,” he said.

“There's no significant government interest being served by restricting speech on campus to just one tiny area out of a big block of public property. That's not narrowly tailored.

“That doesn't leave students with ample alternative means of communication. So that's why we think those kinds of policies are unconstitutional and so far courts have agreed.”

Creeley said there is a distinction between free speech and disruptive speech.

“To be clear, when you're in class you have agreed to be graded. You don't have the First Amendment right to stand up in class and disrupt class,” he said. “That is clear. But when you are on campus you have the First Amendment right to speak your mind. Any kind of restriction on that would be suspect.”

Creeley said FIRE also is aware of some colleges telling their students they are not allowed to partake in certain activities such as campaign activity on campus. He said that that is the college misreading the law.

“As long as the students don't claim to be speaking on behalf of the universities and the university gives equal opportunity to both parties, then students can show public support of their candidate of choice or their party,” he said.

Fringer said students can go to Student Life for help if they feel their rights have been violated.

“I personally haven't seen a big issue with it, but the only way we know is if students tell us. If it's occurring and nobody is telling us, then we can't help,” she said.

“A lot of the time, from my understanding and my experience, it's just that people don't always understand the process.

“It's not the fact that [the college doesn't] want the students to participate or be active, they just don't understand the process, or what is OK and what is not OK. They are just misinformed.”

Creeley said the majority of FIRE's cases involve free speech but Creeley said they also help students with other basic civil liberties and equality rights such as right to due process, freedom of conscience, religious liberty and freedom of the press.

He gave a few more examples of rights everyone has.

“Your school cannot make you promise to vote a certain way,” he said. “They cannot

“If you have to register to speak your mind 10 days out, you won't be able to act spontaneously to the news of the day”

—WILL CREELEY

FIRE LEGAL AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY VICE PRESIDENT

make you salute the flag if you don't want to.

“Your mind is your own and you have the right to determine for yourself how you feel about those issues and many others.

“If you are accused of violating the student code of conduct and you are in line for potential punishment, you have the right at the very least to (receive) notice of what you've done, what rule you've allegedly violated and the right to a hearing of some kind to be able to make your case, to explain your side of the story. That's at the bare minimum.”

Creeley said FIRE is there for students who feel their rights have been violated.

“FIRE is a proudly non-partisan, non-profit organization and we mainly work on free speech issues,” he said.

“We've been around since 1999 and defeated hundreds of unconstitutional or illiberal restrictions on student's and faculty speech at campuses nationwide.

“We are always standing by. We are there to help defend those rights on campus. We are always happy to talk to students who feel their rights have been violated.

“Public university students do not lose any First Amendment rights. You don't check your First Amendment rights at the door when you come onto a public campus. You have the same rights as when you're a student when you are not a student.”

For more information, contact FIRE at thefire.org or Student Life at studentlife@occc.edu.

“The office of Student Life does not control all the space on campus. We are not the guardians of the space”

—KENDRA FRINGER
STUDENT LIFE ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR

Professor-mentor to reflect on his life Oct. 21

VICTORIA WEISS
News Writing Student

The teenage orphan struggled for survival in southeastern Oklahoma during World War II, his fight worsened by the color of his skin. Then along came a good Samaritan to help him find his way.

Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr. will reflect on the importance of the mentorship that defined the rest of his life. Kirkland, 84, will look back on the time of his youth and discuss themes from the book "Rainbow in the Dark" when he speaks on campus at noon Wednesday, Oct. 21, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

Written by two of Kirkland's students, the book depicts the true account of his own story of receiving guidance from F.K. "Skeet" Carney, an older white pharmacist, who employed the young black teenager in the town of Atoka, Oklahoma, at a time when Jim Crow Laws governed the land.

A member of the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Kirkland will talk about the power of mentoring, said Travis Ruddle, coordinator of Student Life.

Kirkland served as professor of zoology and biology at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford for 25 years.

Dr. Wade McCoy, one of the authors of "Rainbow in the Dark," also will discuss the novel and his experience of being mentored by Kirkland.

Biology Professor Julian Hilliard, who has taught at OCCC since 2002, will be joining the conversation as well.

Hilliard said he took Kirkland's Introduction to Zoology class his freshman year at Southwestern.

During the class, Hilliard said,

Kirkland asked if anyone would be interested in doing paleontology research with him.

"My hand just shot up as fast as I could raise it," Hilliard said. "I was amazed that no one else in the lab raised their hand. I thought it was going to be a race.

"My response was, 'I would love to, Dr. K!' Everyone called him Dr. K."

The research consisted of four or five ongoing projects on fossils that either Kirkland himself had found or a student had brought him from around Oklahoma.

The biggest find included a fossil from Roger Mills County which, after much investigation and research, was determined to be the skull of a camel native to the area 11 million years ago. The research was published in the Texas Academy of Science journal.

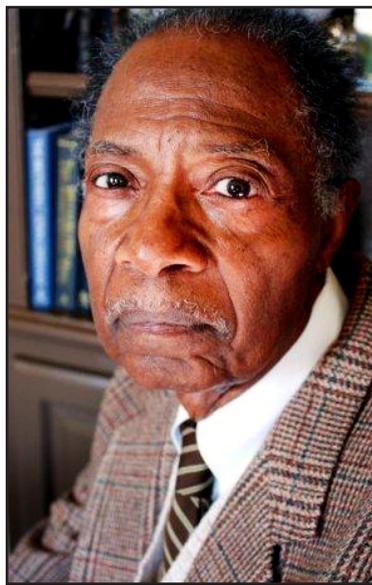
Hilliard noted that Kirkland put Hilliard's name as a co-author on the project rather than in the acknowledgments section of the paper.

"He and I really collaborated, which was a huge honor for me given that I was a 19-year-old kid at the time.

He showed me a huge amount of respect and kindness in including me. He had decades of teaching and research experience, yet he asked my opinion about things.

"He was an uber-mentor," Hilliard said.

"He was the best kind of mentor because he treated you like a peer at the time when it's clear that he's not a peer.



Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr.

You know, he's a PhD level professor."

Kirkland also was honored by David and Molly Boren with the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence as Mentor of the Year in 2013, Ruddle said.

Hilliard and Kirkland have kept in touch over the last 20 years.

When Kirkland called Hilliard because he was hoping to have a presentation about "Rainbow in the Dark," Hilliard said he was very excited to be able to see his mentor and friend again.

Ruddle said he hopes OCCC students can see themselves in this story.

"We hope the discussion will highlight the dynamic between the mentor and the mentee," Ruddle said.

"We're really pushing the mentoring program."

Ruddle said the science component

is important too.

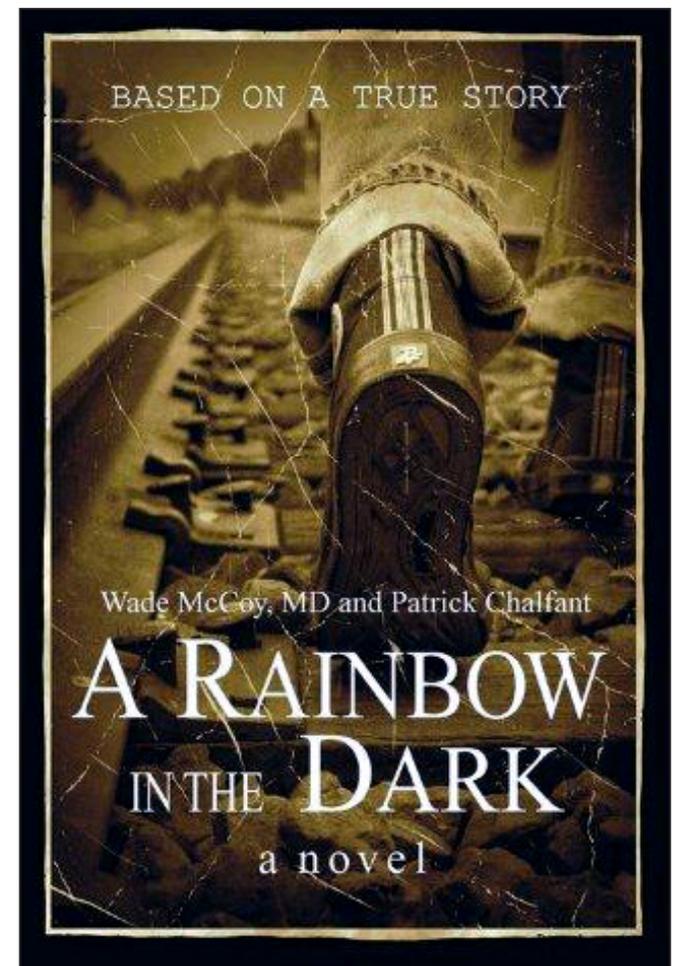
"It also ties into the chemistry and biological sciences," Ruddle said. All three people, Kirkland, McCoy and Hilliard are in a science field.

"His web has gone out very far," Ruddle said of Kirkland.

"That shows you when you mentor others and are able to make a difference in someone's life how far it can reach. It's a very positive domino effect."

The event is free and open to the public.

For questions or information, call Ruddle at 405-682-1611, ext. 7683, or email travis.b.ruddle@occc.edu.



International students learning to speak better English

JACKSON SMITH
News Writing Student

Many of OCCC's international students don't speak English fluently, said Tonja Nelson, Communication Lab assistant. This can cause them some problems interacting with other students.

"The international students often keep to themselves, even in the classroom," Nelson said.

This is where English as a Second Language conversation group comes

in. Better known around the school as ESL, the conversation group allows students who do not speak English well to practice speaking English together.

There are two conversation groups a week, from 10 to 10:50 a.m. on Mondays and from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursdays.

There are about 500 international students currently enrolled at OCCC, according to the international admissions department.

Nelson said the ESL conversation group has helped hundreds of international students who have made their

way through OCCC.

Thuong Ngo, who is from Vietnam, said she attended the conversation groups for two years.

"I think I have improved a lot," she said. "Lydia Rucker and the other leaders helped me improve my pronunciation. We have fun times with the games and activities. It helps perfect my English."

ESL conversation group is a free program; however, students wishing to attend must enroll, Nelson said. Classes are set at the student's pace and there

is plenty of one-on-one work from instructors.

"We have many students who have gone through the program, who return to help teach and connect with the new students," Nelson said. "They are a big help to the program."

If you are interested in becoming involved with the ESL conversation group, contact Nelson in the Communications Lab located near the OCCC Bookstore. She can be reached by phone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7150, and by email at tnelson@occc.edu.

it's a small world

African student plans career in gas and oil

SPENCER GRANT
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Rumor has it that people from Gabon are showoffs. At least, that's what native Joyce Ella, 20, said about the perception of her home country in west central Africa.

The international student said if academics weren't so important to her, her dream career would be as a model, since she's from a country with such a dramatic reputation.

While she was in Gabon, Ella said, she was able to travel abroad some, visiting Paris and a few states in America.

"New York City was fantastic," Ella said.

She said she visited the city last summer.

While Oklahoma may not be the most fashionable location in the U.S., Ella has decided it's not that bad.

"It's a good quiet place to study," she said.

On the down side, she said, it's harder to make friends and meet people here.

"At my other school (in Gabon), you would make 20

“ In Gabon, there are not many universities, not many choices.”

—JOYCE ELLA
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
FROM AFRICA

friends on the first day of school,” she said. “Everyone was very social. Here, not so much.”

Her hometown is Libreville, the capital of Gabon and home to almost 800,000 people. She said everyone knows one another there.

“Someone I meet is already my friend's friend's friend,” she said.

“I really like [that] though. Everyone is very friendly to each other.”

Ella said she came to the U.S. a year ago. Prior to that she had attended English prep school in Gabon after graduating from high school.

She said she didn't want to be stuck in Africa, and had some friends in Oklahoma — both motivating factors in her decision to come to the U.S.



MELISSA SUE LOPEZ/PIONEER

Joyce Ella

Ella said she is impressed with the number of choices American students have when it comes to which university they want to attend.

“In Gabon, there are not many universities, not many choices,” she said.

Ella said she plans to get a two-year degree at OCCC,

then transfer to the University of Oklahoma.

She said her academic plan is to get a business degree, and then use that to work in the energy sector in Oklahoma.

“After I get my [associate degree], I want to get a (bachelor's) degree in oil and gas, and work as an adviser

for an oil company, or maybe go to work in Austin, Texas,” she said.

Ella said she plans to visit home soon, but since the airfare is so expensive, her parents only want her to visit sparingly.

“I'll probably visit them some time next year.”



Gabon

Capital: Libreville

Population: 1.672 million (2013)

GDP: 19.3 billion USD (2013)

Size: 103,347 sq. miles

Official Language: French

Currency: Central African CFA franc

Government: The President of Gabon is head of state and in effect, also the head of government, since he appoints the prime minister and his cabinet.

Religion: Christianity, Islam, and traditional indigenous religious beliefs.

Details: Gabon, a country at the Equator in West-Central Africa, borders the Atlantic Ocean, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo. The country is slightly smaller than Colorado. Because of its oil and mineral reserves and a relatively small population, Gabon is one of Africa's wealthier nations.



—Google.com

SPORTS



Staying in shape: Brenda Moreno, Advanced English student, works out in the Wellness Center weight area. She said she works out five days a week now that her five kids are all grown and she has the time. “It’s never too late to be in your best shape,” she said. For more information about the area and hours of operation, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860, or visit www.occc.edu/RF. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Pilates, yoga get students in shape

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

The Pilates and Yoga combination class at OCCC is a great, laid-back way for students to get their bodies relaxed and in shape, said Pilates and Yoga instructor Alisha Jackson.

Jackson said OCCC’s PiYo class is designed to help students who don’t have a ton of experience with fitness, by combining elements of both yoga and pilates.

“It’s a mixture of pilates and yoga with flow movement,” she said. “So, we don’t do really long holds like traditional yoga. It’s all body weight. It’s very modifiable to your specific fitness level. If you’re a beginner, you can take it easy and we can modify the moves.”

While some fitness classes are very specific in exercises, Jackson said, the PiYo class is very diverse in the types of exercises the students perform.

“We do a series of lunges, as well as different variations of lunges and body squats,” she said.

“We do some salutations that you would do in yoga, as well as warrior poses.

“We also do push-ups and sit-ups, and shoulder work and core work,” she said.

When combining the two elements of the class, Jackson said, she focuses on beginners.

“Combining is like a routine,” she said. “...More people of all fitness levels are able to do it. Stretching is good for flexibility. The body weight is good for strength without impact.”

While the class is a very good introduction to the fitness world, Jackson said the class also can help accomplished athletes.

“This class is great for anyone in any different sport, too,” she said. “It’s so good for strength and for flexibility.

“If you’re flexible, you’re going to perform better in whatever sport you’re doing — whether it’s running or dance, even weightlifting and powerlifting.”

The PiYo classes are from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Jackson said the class can work as a 30-minute class and some students even use it to warm up for other activities.

“You can make it an hour class or a 30-minute class,” she said. “I have students that do both. I have one gentleman that uses this class as his warm-up class and then he’ll go do the TRX class right after.”

For more information about any of the classes offered on campus, contact Recreation and Fitness at 405-682-7860 or visit www.occc.edu/rf/index.html.

GETTING TO KNOW:

**BILLY
McCOY**
WELLNESS
ATTENDANT
SINCE 2005



Q: What is your job description?

A: “Wellness Attendant. I check people into exercise, as well as do towels and do laundry. I’ve worked here for 10 years.”

Q: What do you like most about working at OCCC?

A: “The fact that I can get to work early in the morning at 5:30 a.m. and then I can get off at 11:30 a.m. and I have the rest of the day to do what I want.”

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: “Golf. I used to play softball and baseball, but now it’s just golf.”

Q: Are you currently involved in any sports or have you ever been?

A: “I play golf now. In high school, I played baseball. Then, I went to softball. Then I went to slow pitch right after that.”

Q: What are your favorite teams?

A: “I follow the University of Oklahoma as well as the Dallas Cowboys.”

Q: What’s your favorite thing about sports/fitness?

A: “I love sports and I love to see people get fit — losing weight, eating right and exercising, things like that.”

Q: Do you believe that people should keep up a healthy lifestyle?

A: “You’ll live longer, you’ll be healthy, and you won’t have to go to the doctor as much.”

**HAVE SPORTS
NEWS?**

Email
**sportswriter@
occc.edu** or call
**405-682-1611, ext.
7676, to get your
sports news in
the Pioneer**

Hit-and-runs, phone harassment reported to police

SPENCER GRANT
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A hit-and-run and a case of phone stalking were among the reports given to police in recent weeks.

OCCC student Victoria Mediouni, 19, reported a hit-and-run to campus police at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 30. She said the incident had occurred around 3 p.m.

Mediouni said she was driving north on Regents Boulevard and crossed the intersection on Faculty Circle Drive when a 2008 Jeep turning left onto Regents Boulevard hit her 2013 Volkswagen Beetle.

The car sped off and did not stop, Mediouni said.

After reviewing video footage, Officer

Patrick Martino identified and contacted the woman who sped off, whose name has been redacted from reports. She said she was unaware she had struck Mediouni's car.

Mediouni confirmed that the car in the video "looks identical to the one that hit me." The case is currently active.

On Oct. 1, student Breanna Cline, 19, reported receiving harassing phone calls and texts.

Cline said she received a text from an unknown number saying the texter had "done some research and asking around" to get her number.

After blocking the number, Cline said, she received additional texts from six other numbers in a span of 50 minutes, including Snapchat requests.

Cline said even after changing her cell number on Sept. 22, she received another message on Sept. 25.

Cline blocked the number and has not received any more texts. The case is still active.

Student Jenna Kerlick, 21, came to campus police on Oct. 1 at 5 p.m. to report damage to her car's bumper.

Kerlick said she was on campus from around noon to 6 p.m. that day.

Officer Jeremy Bohannon reviewed security footage, but determined the damage did not happen on campus because no cars were parked in front of her.

Some names were redacted on the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld."

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

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872.



ID: Starfish software helps both administration and students

Continued from page 1

Warren said the software is able to not only help keep track of certain student information but also helps college officials determine student needs.

An Early Alert system, which lets faculty know when a student may be struggling academically, is one important function of the software, she said.

Another is Kudos, positive feedback messages sent from faculty letting students know when they are doing well.

In fact, Warren said, Kudos is the next phase of Starfish that will be activated. She said, using a student test group, that function will be tested in November and December.

During that time, Warren said, faculty members will send Kudos messages to the test group. Those students will then give feedback on how well that particular function works, she said.

More recently, she said, they uploaded student ID photos into the software and equipped 10 labs with TutorTrac, a function that records a student's time in the lab when they swipe their ID upon arrival.

Warren said it will be helpful for students who need a num-

“From the time you walk in, to the time you actually leave campus, we can show what the resources were and what you needed while you were here.”

—E.J. WARREN

E-SERVICES SUPPORT
SERVICES DIRECTOR

ber of clocked hours in the labs.

"Most of time, if you're in a specific study program, you need certain clinical hours, computer hours or skills hours," she said.

"So it's intended to help you track your hours in various labs and hours spent with tutors."

Warren said, of the 42 labs in this project, some labs will have more capabilities than others, depending on how the lab is set up.

She said the next phase of Starfish is training various department staff members in operating the software, which will be followed by turning TutorTrac on in about 20 additional labs.

Warren said employees from various OCCC labs that are already using Starfish are pleased so far and are looking forward

to more features going live.

The Accounting Lab has been using the TutorTrac system since Aug. 24.

Accounting Lab Assistant Julie Young said students who use that lab swipe their card and select whether they are there to see a tutor or to use a computer.

She said she looks forward to using Starfish to track the lab's busiest weeks of the semester.

"The reason I want that is I can figure out when our heavy load is so I can schedule the part-time help," Young said.

"We have a limited number of part-time people and you want to use them to your best advantage, so you figure out when people are coming in."

The Recreation and Fitness Center has been using TutorTrac since Aug. 17.

Wellness Center Attendant Sierra Bailey said, although students might be interested in tracking how many fitness hours they are clocking in, TutorTrac primarily makes desk attendants' jobs easier.

Before, she said, she kept track of visitors on paper and separated them into paid member, student or faculty categories. Now, Bailey said, everyone is in the system, so

signing in is as easy as the swipe of an ID card.

"It's a lot easier," Bailey said. "Everyone is on here. Before, we had to do paperwork for all of our members."

Warren said the Starfish vendor hosted an online webinar Oct. 15 to unveil the release date for a functionality called Prospect. It's a functionality that allows OCCC to create an account for prospective students who walk in the door, then for that account to be merged with their student account when they enroll as an official student.

"It's the ability to make sure your (visitor) account merges with your student account,"

Additional student testing will begin in late spring 2016 where the test group will have full access to their Starfish accounts, Warren said. Currently, she said, only administrators can see the compiled information.

Warren said she hopes to complete the testing and provide all students complete access to their Starfish accounts by the summer semester.

Students will be able to schedule appointments with offices and several labs, see how much time they spend at different labs, and which advis-

ers they spoke to. They will also be able to "Raise a Hand" — or submit an online request for assistance in a specific area, such as College Prep Math. Then a faculty member or tutor will follow-up with them, Warren said.

"I don't think it's beneficial if we just step back and set up a system and we don't involve students, when it's a system for the students," she said.

"We're pretty excited to look at the holistic approach.

"From the time you walk in, to the time you actually leave the campus, we can show what the resources were and what you needed while you were here."

She said it will take about a year to turn on all the functionalities they are looking to use.

She said the main goal of Starfish is to introduce students to all of the resources on campus.

"Starfish is the place we can keep all the information from all the labs, all your visits, all the resources and basically travel with you through your journey here at OCCC," she said.

For more information, visit www.starfishsolutions.com. For questions about Starfish on campus, contact Warren at ejwarren@occc.edu.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY



Inspiration offered: Kathleen McElroy, former New York Times Editor and current assistant professor at Oklahoma State University, speaks to the evening News Writing class. “She was very inspiring,” said journalism major Lenora LaVictoire. “She made a point that it is important.” *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Popular class no longer offered

LENORA LAVICTOIRE
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Advocates of Peace, a humanities course taught by Professor Stephen Morrow since 2004, will not be offered next semester to OCCC students.

Kina Bazrbashi, political science major and student in the fall 2015 class of Advocates of Peace said Morrow told the class he had learned of the cancellation when they met on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

“He was shaken up,” said Sarah Wighan, business finance major who also is enrolled in the Advocates of Peace class.

Morrow said he is respectful of the decision.

“Administrators have to make tough decisions and look at things globally,” he said. “I understand that and respect that. I really believe our administrators always have the best for our students at heart.”

Morrow said he believes positive things will come out of the announcement. He said he looks forward to bringing the Advocates of Peace message to a larger audience, including possibly speaking to administrators and the cur-



riculum committee about the courses sometime in the future.

Morrow said the class is centered on teaching students non-violent communication skills.

Aaron Cardenas, broadcast major and current Advocates of Peace student, said such skills are critical for life and the workforce in general. Cardenas said he grew up in a gang neighborhood and used to be a person who dealt with a lot of anger.

Through the non-violent communication workshops in the class, Cardenas said he is learning to handle situations in a calmer manner.

The students are currently studying the speeches and writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cardenas, Wighan and history major, Josie Sned said the Advocates of Peace class is the only class at OCCC where they have read the works of the famous civil rights leader. This is the section of the course that looks at historical uses of non-violent communication.

Morrow said this section involves looking at the mechanisms that make for social progress.

Only six of the 28 humanities courses this semester have a lower availability than Advocates of Peace, which has only one seat out of 30 available.

Cardenas said the class feels like a family, and that they talk about their emotions with each other in a uniquely safe atmosphere.

Wighan agrees.

“[This class] makes you feel like you could conquer the world,” she said.

Morrow said the students’ feelings are important to him.

“I appreciate my students who feel this is important and are willing to say something about it,” he said.

Morrow said he will find a new way to help students hone their relationship skills and accomplish their goals.

English and Humanities Dean Kim Jameson declined requests to interview and offer her administrative perspective, instead referring all questions to Morrow.

For more information about the class, contact Morrow at smorrow@occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7350.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Native American speaker to share stories

Osage and Cherokee speaker, actor, composer, author and musician J.C. High Eagle will speak from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, in the Al Snipes Boardroom as part of the Brown Bag Lecture Series. For more information, contact Student Life at studentlife@occc.edu or 405-682-7523.

Halloween Carnival Friday, Oct. 23, canceled

The OCCC Halloween carnival has been canceled this year. For more information on alternative family friendly events in the area, contact Student Life at studentlife@occc.edu or 405-682-7523.

Single parent resource fair on Oct. 21

A resource fair for single parents will be held on campus from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, in the College Union lobby. Several community organizations will be available to answer questions regarding the resources they provide for single mothers, said Keisha Williams, statewide SMART coordinator. Some of the organizations participating will include Infant Crisis Services, WIC (Women, Infants and Children supplemental food program), YWCA Women’s Resource Center, Variety Care healthcare and Rainbow Fleet child care assistance. For more information, contact Williams at keisha.l.williams@occc.edu or 405-682-1611, ext. 7117.

Doc Severinsen to perform at OCCC

The talented and fashionable Doc Severinsen will perform at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26, in the VPAC Theater. Severinsen served as Tonight Show Host Johnny Carson’s bandleader for several decades, and is noted for his comedic use of music and reformation of jazz classics. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579.

Tuition Waiver Applications due Friday, Nov. 20.

Tuition Waiver applications for the spring 2016 semester will be available from Monday, Oct. 19, until 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in the Financial Aid Office. Students need to attach an Academic Transcript and be enrolled for at least six hours in the spring semester before submitting their tuition waiver application to the Financial Aid Office. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

Blood drive Oct. 27 and 28

OCCC students, faculty and staff can donate blood at the Oklahoma Blood Institute Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Wednesday, Oct. 28, in the General Dining Area. For more information on donor requirements, visit obi.org or call 1-877-340-8777.

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

for a gaming TV or in a child's room. \$25. Text 405-818-0083 for more details.

MISCELLANEOUS

LOOKING FOR A NEW ROOMMATE? Look no further. Call Tony 405-822-2496.

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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AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: Bed liner and camper shell that will fit a full-size truck. Good condition. \$100 for both. Text 405-818-0083 for more information or photos.

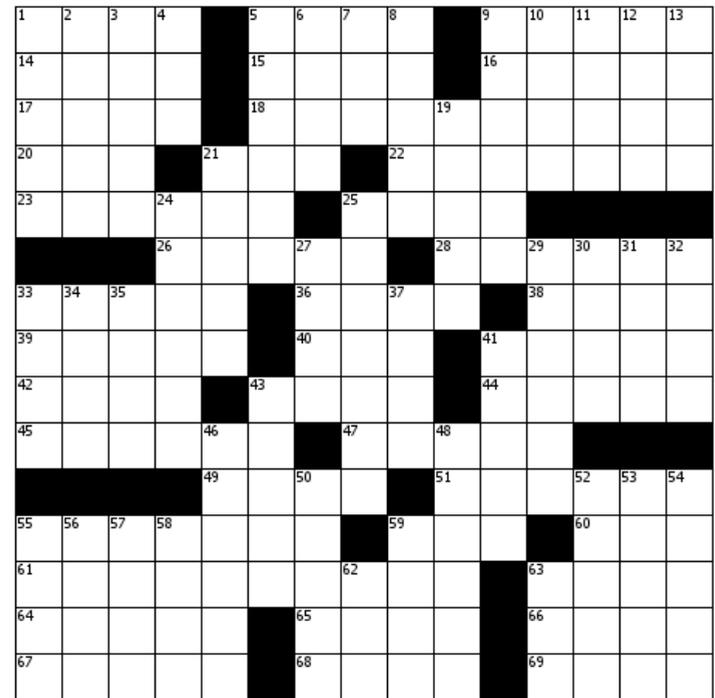
FURNITURE

FOR SALE: 19" CRT television in fair condition. Great

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Served perfectly
- 5. Sch. groups
- 9. Receded
- 14. Hand gesture
- 15. Curve
- 16. Pass along
- 17. Over again
- 18. Printed material
- 20. ____ Howard of "Happy Days"
- 21. Brief sleep
- 22. Reduces
- 23. Dictator
- 25. Besides
- 26. Highly skilled
- 28. Camera support
- 33. Pebble
- 36. Table parts
- 38. Perform alone
- 39. Mamas' mates
- 40. Mess up
- 41. Item of value
- 42. Quiz
- 43. Path
- 44. Detroit products
- 45. Expand
- 47. In the know
- 49. Greet
- 51. Early car (2 wds.)
- 55. Point winners
- 59. Come in first place
- 60. Pub
- 61. Slept through winter
- 63. Completed
- 64. Make up for
- 65. Shoemaker's tools
- 66. Machu Picchu native
- 67. Track events
- 68. Foal
- 69. Viewed



Down

- 1. Prize
- 2. Narrow boat
- 3. Makes level
- 4. Morning dampness
- 5. Roof of the mouth
- 6. Journey
- 7. Deed
- 8. Seashore find
- 9. Blackboard cleaner
- 10. Wagers
- 11. Melancholy
- 12. Deserve
- 13. Coloring agents
- 19. Takes a break
- 21. Lymph ____
- 24. Canal country
- 25. Unending
- 27. Urgent request
- 29. Published
- 30. Mail
- 31. Butter alternative
- 32. Connect the ____
- 33. Rushed
- 34. City transportation
- 35. October birthstone
- 37. Flourished
- 41. Baseball great Hank ____
- 43. Acquire knowledge
- 46. "____ Something About Mary"
- 48. Among
- 50. Singer ____ Hayes
- 52. Keyboard wood
- 53. Jousting weapon
- 54. Staircase part
- 55. Counterfeit
- 56. Quote
- 57. Band instrument
- 58. Housing payment
- 59. Wishing ____
- 62. Pair
- 63. Spotted cube

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Smoking gave me throat cancer at 39. Now I breathe through a hole in my throat and need this machine to speak.

— Rosaldo Martinez

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Don't Text
And Drive

Drivers who use cellphones are 4 times more likely to get into crashes that could be fatal

Using a cellphone while driving delays a drivers reactions as much as having a B.A.C. level of 0.08

“Don't Drive while inTEXTicated.
Driving while inTEXTicated kills.”

Oct. 21 interactive workshop to focus on water

ABBEY CONNELL
News Writing Student

Finding workable solutions to bringing safe drinking water to the millions of people who don't have it will be the focus of English Professor Angela Cotner's speech on water and ethics at noon Wednesday, Oct. 21, in room CU3. Her presentation is part of the OCCC Reads program.

"There are 1.2 billion people without access to clean water," Cotner said.

Cotner said she plans to speak about ethical theories and have the audience look at a scenario and come up with a solution to the problem.

"So it is going to be more like an interactive workshop than a lecture," she said.

Cotner said she will discuss one water issue in the U.S. and one in a developing country.

"What I hope students take away is, we can't keep doing what we're doing and get a different result," Cotner said.

"We need to think through different ways of solving problems."

Reference Librarian Tricia Sweany said libraries across the U.S. participate in this reading program designed to bring the community together to discuss a particular book.

Sweany said OCCC has been participating in this program for seven years and this year's book, "Water Matters: Why We Need to Act Now to Save Our Most Critical Resource" was picked with a purpose in mind.

"We wanted a book where

the college and individuals could take action to help the planet," Sweany said.

Cotner said different chapters of "Water Matters" have been assigned to different professors to speak on, and since she teaches an ethics class, the topic is a natural fit for her.

She has a particular interest in water issues because her husband worked as executive director for an organization called Water4 that trains people on how to drill hand-dug water wells in developing countries in Africa and South America.

Cotner said she traveled with her husband to Uganda, Africa, and personally saw where one community got its water.

"It was a hole in the ground with water that we would not

even step through because it was so gross," she said.

Cotner believes the water issue is well known, yet not much is happening to fix the problem.

"I think we all know what the problems are, but we don't agree on the solutions," she said.

The solution must be thoroughly thought out, because there are ethical factors that go into providing clean water for communities, Cotner said.

For example, in developing countries, people gather water every day at a central meeting place.

Finding a solution that keeps that community fellowship time is important.

"Of course, it is a good idea to give people access to clean water, but you could destroy

the community."

Cotner said she has been at OCCC full time since 2010, but started here as an adjunct professor in 2003.

She said helping students to think critically is one of her favorite things about teaching.

Memorizing definitions is not important, but learning how to solve problems, ask the right questions and think critically is, Cotner said.

"Critical thinking skills can be applied to anything, but content cannot," she said.

Sweany said students can pick up a free copy of "Water Matters" at the front desk of the library.

For more information, contact Cotner at acotner@occc.edu and Sweany tricia.l.sweany@occc.edu.

Boards: Professors, students enjoying interactive classrooms

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more control.

"... Used to be when students had their own computers in front of them, they would get online, go to Facebook," Zindelo said. "But it is different now, students don't try to get on the computers. They don't feel they need to check their Facebook."

With the genius boards, students also can learn lessons in new and fun ways, such as playing the Grammar Ninja game, Zindelo said.

He said students are happy with the changes as well.

"I know when the students came in the class this semester, [and] saw all the technology, their eyes were really wide and they were really surprised," Zindelo said.

"Students always want to play and work with the genius board."

He said because of the changes, he feels students and professors now interact and engage in discussion more.

English Professor Linda Robinett agrees. She said while she likes the interactive board, she really is excited about the monitors mounted around the room.

"... Four students can work in a group and they can be working on documents which are on the monitor," she said.

She said she likes the new way of

teaching better than how things were done in the past.

"I like students to have computers because in the writing class, they can type the paper in front of me and I can watch it," she said.

"... Students can collaborate and I can see their work on the monitors."

English Professor Makenna Green also teaches in one of the updated classrooms.

Green said she believes technology in the classroom can help make students feel more comfortable about learning because it's similar to what they are doing outside classes.

"... Technology is constantly changing and we have students who are using Moodle on their smartphone, or on tablet or on iPad," she said.

"So, I want to mimic that same technology in the classroom so that what they are doing outside of class matches what we are doing in the class."

Green said often, her students end up teaching her things about the classroom technology.

"... They are really good at using genius boards and they are also really good at using the side monitors that match the genius boards," she said.

"They use technology even better than I do."

Green said the interactive board saves her a lot of time in class.

"I also like that the genius board is touch sensitive so I can scroll it, and I can do all that on the boards. I don't have to move over to the podium to do that."

However, a couple of the professors said there are still some slight issues in the classrooms.

Zindelo said they are too bright which causes students to have problems in viewing the board.

"... The board is like a projector ... so if it has a lot of light, then they can't see it."

Also, the classroom was designed with movable tables so the room can be customized to each professor's needs.

Robinett said that can be bothersome at times.

"We do have to move the furniture a lot," she said. "... If we want to use the computers [we] have to move the tables [around the edge]."

"Then, when you want the class look at [the board], we move them all back."

Not all professors have elected to use the updated classrooms.

Zindelo said some professors still prefer to teach in a more traditional way.

"It is about comfort," he said.

"It is their way and they feel the best that way. They feel the most confident that way."

"As for me, I think if the students change, I should change to do what

students need," he said. "I like the old way but the new way is more fun and it is working out better."

Green said some professors don't like feeling much anxiety in class, so they do not want to change their way in teaching.

"Sometimes, you have to be prepared for situations like the power goes down, genius boards blacks out," she said.

"Sometimes, professors don't like feeling that anxiety — when something goes wrong and not knowing what to do."

"Sometimes, it can be hard to make a change when you have been doing something for one way for so long."

Jamarst Scott, business management major, said the genius board is great.

He said he has been in a class where a Smart board was used but this is his first time to be taught using a genius board.

He said the genius board is sturdier.

"[The smart board] does always scratch. The genius board is pretty solid and doesn't scratch."

Psychology major Cristo Silva said he likes the genius board — especially for his English composition class.

He said he likes everything in the new classroom, except the movable tables.

"... Some teachers move the tables to put the folks under the genius board, then we've got to put them back," he said.

"... It takes more time just to move the table then put them back."