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PIONEER

Large cast to perform college Christmas play

By Charli Weir
News Writing Student

A cast of dozens will ring in the holiday season at OKCCC by performing "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. each night Dec. 8 through 10.

Director Ruth Charnay said the cast of 25 includes elementary school children and OKCCC professors.

The play revolves around the story of the Herdsmen children — the nastiest, meanest kids around. They decide one Sunday to go to Sunday school because they think they will get to eat desserts.

When they get to Sunday school, they realize there is going to be a Christmas pageant, so they bully all the other children to get the main roles. The only problem is the Herdsmen children have never heard the Christmas story from the Bible. They put their own twists into it and make this Christmas pageant the best ever.

"It gets back to the heart of what Christmas is all about," said Charnay, who also is

See "Play," page 16

It's all in the details



Photo by Holly Jones

Michelle Alimoradi, Spanish and theater major, sculpts a knick knack in pottery class. Alimoradi said this her first semester of pottery with professor Mary Ann Moore. She said, not only has she had the opportunity to sculpt by hand in the class, but also has been able to create other items using the pottery wheel.

Regents name new president

Dr. Paul Sechrist 'a dynamic and innovative leader with a vision'

By Christiana Kostura
Editor

Dr. Paul Sechrist was hired to be OKCCC's ninth president during the Nov. 21 Board of Regents meeting.

"I am very honored," Sechrist said. "It's a very humbling experience to be appointed as the president.

"I'm excited to stand shoulder to shoulder with faculty and staff to take this institution and continue to

build on this legacy."

A loud round of applause followed Sechrist's agreement to be OKCCC's next president.

Sechrist's contract as president will run from March 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, said Helen Camey, OKCCC regent and chair of the Board. Sechrist said he plans to serve as president as long as he is needed and capable.

"As long as I believe I can effectively lead, and the



Dr. Paul Sechrist

"I am very honored. It's a very humbling experience..."

—Dr. Paul Sechrist
OKCCC
Acting President

board believes I can effectively lead, and I have the continuing support of the faculty and the staff... I will serve as president."

Camey said she believes the board made the right

decision.

"Dr. Sechrist is a dynamic and innovative leader with a vision that will build on the institution's legacy of success," she said. "The board believes, without a doubt, that Dr. Sechrist is the right person at the right time to lead Oklahoma City Community College as its next president."

Sechrist has been with the college for 10 years, serving in several roles.

Sechrist began his work at OKCCC as the Business and Computer Technology

dean. He followed that role by becoming the vice president for Academic Affairs, and later provost. Sechrist currently serves the college as the acting president.

As the president of the college, Sechrist has many tasks ahead of him.

"All vice presidents are eventually appointed by the president," Sechrist said.

Appointments will be made to replace vice presi-

See "Sechrist," page 16

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Wal-Mart's behavior
a disgrace

This holiday season, buyer beware. Keep your mace in one hand and brass knuckles in the other. Things could get hectic this year trying to purchase that special gift for yourself or loved ones.

The day after Thanksgiving has particularly become a scary time of the year.

In Orlando, Fla., masses lined up for the latest cheap items that were in scarce supply.

Hundreds of shoppers waited outside a Wal-Mart store in the early hours of Black Friday. What happened next looked like a scene out of Spain's annual Running of the Bulls.

Wal-Mart was promoting a \$378 Hewlett Packard laptop. Lines formed as early as 1 a.m.

When the doors opened at 5 a.m. at the Orlando location, there was no manager to come out and discuss a game plan or to enforce some restrictions on the crowd once it was clear the supply would not match the demand.

The doors slid open and the people frantically raced to the electronics department to purchase the limited number of laptops.

The phenomenon was repeated at Wal-Mart stores nationwide.

Chief executive of Retail Management in San Marcos, Calif., said, "All of this is designed to get people into the store."

Many Wal-Mart shoppers waited in lines for nothing because, by the time they got to the electronics department, store workers were tossing the computers into the air and letting shoppers fight over them.

A woman at a Grand Rapids, Mich., Wal-Mart was trampled to the ground trying to enter the store.

A report by National Public Radio stated a crowd of customers, in a Beaumont, Texas, Wal-Mart, were maced by an off-duty police officer when the masses became unruly in the electronics department.

One man, at an Orlando Wal-Mart, was caught on tape as he tried to grab one of the few laptops to purchase. A security officer and two plain-clothes security officers wrestled the man down to the ground because he had gotten out of the line.

The website www.cnnmoney.com reported one Wal-Mart worker seemed to enjoy the chaos. "They trampled each other for 'em," said one employee at a Maryland Wal-Mart. "It was great."

With the way Wal-Mart treats customers, why would anybody go through the abuse?

Wal-Mart should show customers more respect than treating them like wild animals. One way to fix the problem would be to let customers know how many special sale products they will have and raffle them off.

But of course then Wal-Mart wouldn't get those must-have sales they need to survive and crush more smaller stores where it's safe to buy items.

—**John Savage**
Staff Writer

Prof chats about dissertation

To the editor:

Thanks for the Oct. 24 article on my book, which represented me fairly well for most readers. I did have a few concerns, though.

First, the lowly hyphen. I tried to speak carefully about explaining Bukowski, apparently saying, "He wrote about the spirit-killing things well."

One can't hear a hyphen very well, though, so I'm quoted as suggesting that the spirit kills things. That's

an interesting concept in itself (although I have no idea what it might mean).

In general, it teaches me to refine my words to this effect: "He wrote well about things that kill the spirit."

Another point concerns the publishing world: The University of California Press and Southern Illinois University Press (not just "universities") are the ones who didn't find publishing the dissertation feasible, not me, because it shrank

down to too few pages to break even as a book.

Finally, the publication information of some of my other works didn't go too well either.

Overall, you all do fine work in a tough profession. Good luck.

—**David Charlson**
OKCCC English

Holiday decorating
theme extends reach

To the editor:

I just received word that one of our college offices is not only celebrating a Latino-themed Christmas, but also a Latino-themed Thanksgiving.

I don't have a problem celebrating Christmas in traditional Latino style, Feliz Navidad. Christmas is celebrated worldwide.

I do have a problem with Latino Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a holiday started by Native Americans and Pilgrims. It's a holiday celebrated only in

this country, so why on Earth would we have a Latino Thanksgiving?

I'm sure Latinos living in the U.S. celebrate Thanksgiving in some form, but Thanksgiving is a cultural holiday, not like Christmas which is celebrated around the world.

The culture we are celebrating is Native American and to have a Thanksgiving in any other "theme" is a slap in the face to my fellow Native Americans.

—**Name Withheld by Request**



PIONEER

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. However, the PIONEER will withhold the name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity.

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Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@okccc.edu. A phone number for verification must be included.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: www.okccc.edu/pioneer.



Comments and Reviews

Novel does Dark Lord justice

When people think of "Star Wars," they normally think of the films rather than the literature.

Author James Luceno is one leading man in changing the way people look at the "Star Wars" universe and his newest book, "Dark Lord: The Rise of Darth Vader," is giving Luceno's movement a definite push.

With past "Star Wars" best-selling books like "Cloak of Deception," "Labyrinth of Evil" and the "Agents of Chaos" duology, Luceno has, literally, captured the imagination of "Star Wars" nerds and newcomers alike.

In "Dark Lord: The Rise of Darth Vader" Luceno explores Anakin Skywalker in his final transition into the man in black as he searches for a handful of Jedi who survived the purge as seen in "Revenge of the Sith."

Luceno exposes the very fiber that made Skywalker fail his peers and fall to the dark side by diving into Vader's psyche.

Vader continuously questions why he's yet to grow more powerful, ponders why Emperor Palpatine has cocooned him in such a poorly constructed suit and suffers through the revelation that he's but a tool to the Emperor.

In true Darth Vader fashion, all these thoughts and emotions lead him to realize newfound strengths and come to the conclusion that one day he will take over the Emperor's place, even if it means destroying him.

On the wrong side of Vader's lightsaber is Jedi Master Shryne and Padawan Starstone — just two of the half dozen Jedi hoping to find others who survived the Jedi purge and, somehow, battle the evil Empire.

Throughout the novel, Shryne, Starstone and the other Jedi are confronted by Vader and his legion of stormtroopers, though their luck of evading the Dark Lord soon runs dry.

Luceno presents wonderfully the character of Darth Vader and the other Jedi, and also exhibits nicely the power the Empire has gained within just four weeks after the events in "Revenge of the Sith."

Every character in "Dark Lord: The Rise of Darth Vader" offers something to readers in the way of personality and individuality.

From Shryne to Vader and even to the various smugglers the Jedi befriend, every character demonstrates flaws and strengths, which makes them likable and eventually draws readers to care about them.

A great touch Luceno added to the novel is the chapters devoted solely to Emperor Palpatine.

Those chapters plunge deep into Palpatine's thoughts and uncover why he chooses to keep Vader on a leash, teasing him with the fruits of greatness.

Luceno captures the essence of Darth Vader well and those familiar with "Star Wars" will recognize it from the start — Vader inspires fear and exalts power as he did in the original trilogy films and quickly becomes the face of the Empire.

However, this book isn't just for "Star Wars" fans — it's for anyone who likes a well-written novel, and for those who find interest in Vader or the events that occurred after "Revenge of the Sith."

The best thing about the novel is that Luceno balances out the attention the characters receive rather well.

Some readers may yearn for more Vader by the book's end, but overall, Luceno does the Dark Lord justice.

You don't have to be a "Star Wars" nut to enjoy "Dark Lord: The Rise of Darth Vader." But be warned: the book may convert you into one.

Rating: A

—**Richard Hall**
Staff Writer

Holiday theme debate continues

(Editor's Note: This is in response to a letter, discussing OKCCC's Latino holiday theme this year, in the Nov. 28 issue of the Pioneer.).

To the editor:

Please explain what was meant by the statement "The holiday season as us non-Christians are forced to call it to avoid persecution, is a minefield of political incorrectness!"

First off, who is forcing

anyone to do anything? Secondly, who would persecute somebody if they didn't?

Last, but not least, have you ever even been near a minefield? Or did it just look cool in print?

I think if any of this letter were true, the author wouldn't be here to voice his opinions as I did in this paper.

I merely felt free enough

to voice my opinion on how [the theme] offended me, not because I'm being forced to or fear being persecuted for doing so.

I am truly sorry some people feel this way. In this country we can express our feelings and opinions no matter what they are and not fear reprisals of any kind. I, sir, am living proof.

—**Name Withheld by request**



Q: How do they choose which students are used for publications, commercials, etc.?

A: We went around campus with a photographer who took several photos. The girl featured in our commercial was found through an audition with a talent agency. She was previously a student. We wanted to get a variety of students to reflect the campus population.

—**Jessica Martinez-Brooks**
Media Relations
Coordinator

Q: This is my fourth semester at OKCCC. During the entire time, the Arts and Humanities building has smelled like urine. Any idea why?

A: This is the first we've heard about it. We will investigate it and fix it if we can find it.

—**Gary Phillips**
Building and Campus
Services Supervisor

Q: Why do students need different accounts for WebCT, MineOnline and student e-mail?

A: We don't yet have the technology to utilize all the systems. There is a thing called L-Dap that would enable students to sign on once and be able to use all of the applications they have access to.

—**Jim Riha**
Chief Technology
Officer

Q: What will you do when the banana tree in the atrium grows too tall?

A: We will trim it. You can only trim it during certain times of the year. [The Physical Plant] will maintain [the tree] while [the college] grows.

—**Gary Phillips**
Building and Campus
Services Supervisor

Q: Why are the smoking areas so close to walk areas? I cannot stand the smoke as I walk through it to school.

A: There are no provisions in the state law that restrict the location of the smoker once outside the 25-foot distance from the entrance or exit (i.e. sidewalks).

—**Ike Sloas**
Safety and Security
Director

Comments and Reviews

Xbox 360 debuts, lives up to hype

One 16 oz. cappuccino: \$1.09. One Xbox 360 game: \$59.99. Waiting several hours just to be one of the first people to play the new Xbox 360: priceless.

There has been an incredible amount of hype surrounding the new Xbox system.

Is it the best gaming system out there? Will it take over the world? Only time will tell. The truth of the matter is the Xbox 360 system is a must for any hard-core gamer.

Noticed at first glance is that the system ditched the black and clunky look of its predecessor and went with a sleeker white casing.

Aside from the pleasing look of the system, gamers are given the option of choosing the core or premium systems.

The core system is a \$299 stripped down model of the \$399 premium system.

The premium system comes with many extras the core system doesn't, such as a wireless controller, a 20-gigabyte hard drive, a universal remote, a headset, High Definition video cable and a year-long Xbox Live! Gold subscription service.

The core system only comes with a wired controller and year-long Xbox Live! Silver service which allows gamers to go online with the system but doesn't allow them to participate in



any online gameplay.

It's understandable gamers are opting to spend the extra \$100 for the bundle of goodies the premium package comes with.

Despite the noticeable differences, both Xbox 360 packages offer the same on-line services and user-friendliness.

Xbox Live! now allows gamers to check friend lists and messages. Xbox 360s with hard drives also allow gamers to upload their favorite music onto the hard drive which is then available to listen to during gameplay.

The system is able to play the newest games, DVDs and audio CDs, and gamers also can connect various peripherals like an MP3 player and digital camera to the system. Screen savers also are available.

Despite the considerable price difference, the \$399

premium package is the best buy for serious video game enthusiasts.

If you enjoy playing online, the premium package is the way to go.

The hard drive allows gamers to keep everything from pictures, music, on-line information and game saves on the system rather than on expensive and less spacious memory cards.

One of the biggest perks about the Xbox 360 is the controller.

Not only can the controller perform the normal operations like shuffling

through menus, it can now turn the system on and off from across the room.

There also is an Xbox Live! button which, when pressed, takes players to the Xbox Live! Marketplace.

The Marketplace is where players can download the newest game demos, game and movie trailers, and music onto their hard drive.

When online, the system automatically updates friend lists of who's on and alerts gamers of any new messages.

Another neat addition to the Xbox 360 is the option of being able to talk to friends via the headset while watching movies, playing games, or listening to music.

Although the games are designed to be played on a HD-capable television, a standard television still delivers silky smooth graph-

ics and incredible detail.

Speaking of which, the graphics have been impressively upgraded from past generation systems to be as realistic as possible. Good thing is, Microsoft pulls it off.

For example, in "NBA Live '06," sweat rolls down athletes' faces, the hardwood looks like hardwood, and the audio quality of the commentary is crisp and clear.

In "Call of Duty II," the character detail is amazing, and the environmental detail throws gamers into an all-too-realistic warzone.

The sounds of gunfire, yells and grunted orders also are great additions to the ambiance of the game.

Of the 18 launch titles, all of them are capable of throwing players into a surreal world of colors, atmosphere and realism.

The playability is still strong and the load times seem shorter, thanks to the larger hard drive and faster and more powerful processors found at the heart of the Xbox 360.

With all its features and slick design, the Xbox 360 will have you spinning in circles.

This holiday, there is no question — this is the be-all, end-all gift for gaming enthusiasts.

Rating: 5/5

—John Savage
Staff Writer

System of A Down's 'Hypnotize' best of bunch

"Hypnotize," the fifth album by System of a Down, is more monumental than anything they've done.

"Hypnotize" is described by SOAD as the second part to their album "Mezmerize," and the two were marketed as a double disc album despite the later release date.

The album packaging even reflects the connection of the two albums and comes with instructions on

how to connect the two album jackets to form a dual disc package.

"Hypnotize" doesn't provide listeners with a clear meaning on lyrical content.

To understand the meaning or purpose of the lyrics, a little research must be done and, even then, the connotation or purpose isn't always entirely clear.

SOAD makes it very easy just to listen to the music

rather than the lyrics.

The drum beats, guitar riffs, background vocals and bass create the perfect head banging and melodic tunes that are very easy to listen to.

First political, then moral and, finally, a little bit of nonsense is the best way to describe the album.

"Hypnotize" is an excellent example of why you should leave rock to the

professional. Even with the nonsense included, SOAD creates music for the masses.

"Hypnotize" has something for everyone — politics, sex, drugs, morality and even silliness.

SOAD did an excellent thing when marketing the albums as a set; one wouldn't be complete without the other.

Rating: 5/5

—Lizzie Byrd
Staff Writer

**Something on your mind?
Send a letter to the editor at
editor@okccc.edu.**

Former student lives, sings Guthrie

By Richard Hall
Staff Writer

Dressed in a simple cotton button-up shirt, jeans and glasses, with a beige workman's hat that sits atop a head of strawberry curls, K.C. Mathey is the embodiment of an American music icon — Woody Guthrie.

Mathey is dressed to look like Guthrie, the Oklahoman-born folk singer whose "This Land Is Your Land" remains one of the best-known songs some 65 years after it was written.

Mathey, a former OKCCC student, now re-enacts the performances of Guthrie on stages in Oklahoma and the southwest.

Through his performances, Mathey hopes to open up the minds of his audiences by telling stories and reliving Guthrie's life through acting and song.

Guthrie was born in Okemah in 1912. He has been called one of America's famous songwriters.

He also was a labor union supporter and civil rights activist, and had a strong political conscience.

He was the first white man to record music with black musicians during the periods of segregation in the 1930s. Guthrie died in 1967.

Mathey, 51, said learning to be Guthrie has had its speed bumps.

"It took me about a year to learn Guthrie's voice, movements, how he looked and how he sang," Mathey said. "For a while there I thought I could never do it, but I finally did."

It all started in 1999 when Mathey met Guthrie's sister, Mary Jo Guthrie. Mathey said Mary Jo came to him with the idea and has mentored him ever since.

"Mary Jo once told a room full of people, 'K.C. Mathey as Woody Guthrie is the closest you're ever going to

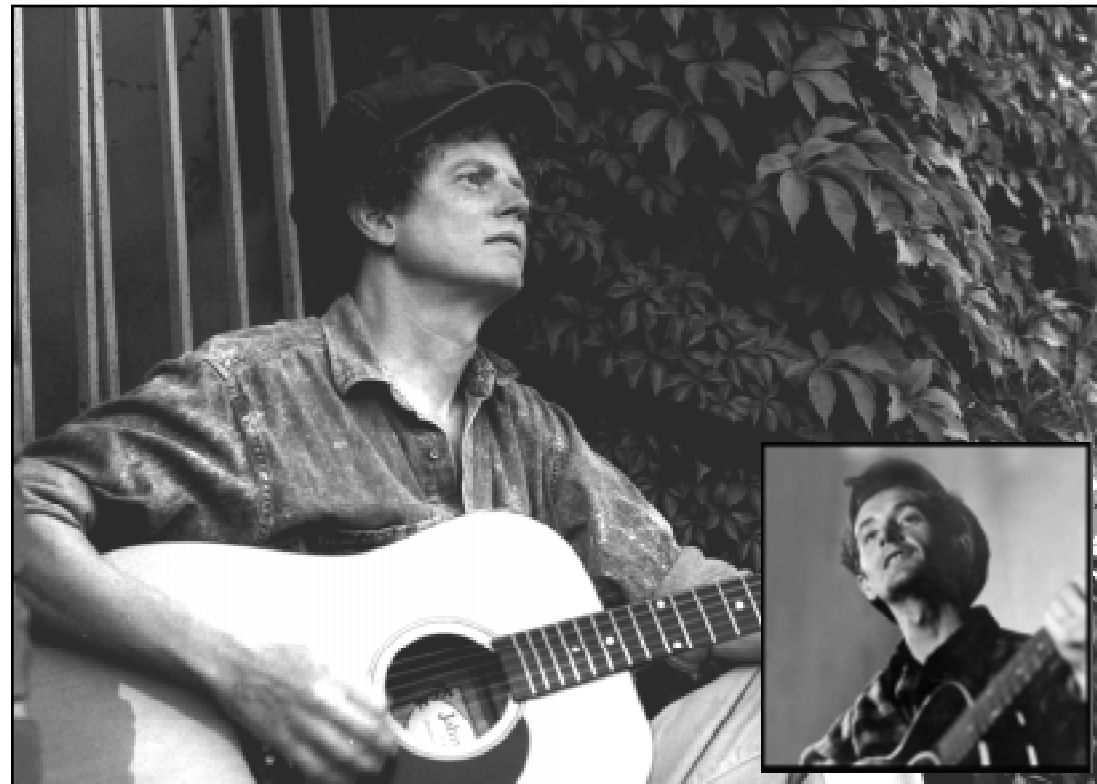


Photo courtesy of K.C. Mathey, inset courtesy of www.stanford.edu

K.C. Mathey as Woody Guthrie; Guthrie in the inset.

get hearing Woody Guthrie live.' I thought that was cool," Mathey said.

Since 2001, Mathey has been performing Chautauqua style gigs as Guthrie.

A Chautauqua style performance is when a performer dresses up and assumes the personality of a certain individual. The person then tells stories and answers questions as if he is that individual.

Before becoming Guthrie, Mathey said, he had always been interested in music, especially folk, which helped him along.

"Woody had a unique style of [guitar] playing," Mathey said. "It took a while to learn how to play that way."

The Oklahoma City native said he was always involved in school plays while attending U.S. Grant High School. He later took his acting skills further and worked for Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park.

Not only has his history in acting helped his storytelling, Mathey said, but it also helped him grow closer to his future wife.

For seven years Mathey has been married to Sandi

"Mary Jo once told a room full of people, 'K.C. Mathey as Woody Guthrie is the closest you're ever going to get hearing Woody Guthrie live.' I thought that was cool."

—K.C. Mathey

Chautauqua Woody Guthrie Performer

Davis, entertainment writer for The Oklahoman.

Along with Chautauqua storytelling, Mathey said, Davis is his life.

"Sandi and I were always the lead couple in plays," Mathey said. "She was very much the Mary Tyler Moore and I was Dick Van Dyke."

Mathey said Davis never let him give her a real kiss on stage but he remedied that when they got married.

"We got married on our high school stage so I could finally kiss her there," he said.

Mathey said his performing as Guthrie started with gigs at local Borders bookstores and libraries.

In 2004 Mathey became a member of the History Alive! program, an entertainment-centered learning tool for students in Oklahoma public schools.

Mathey said some of his

most memorable times portraying Guthrie are when he would perform at elder-care facilities.

"They loved listening to me as Guthrie because it allowed them to reminisce."

Mathey said many of the people in the facilities grew up listening to Guthrie and were able to connect with what Mathey had to say about both world wars, the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, the fall of Adolf Hitler and early NASA.

The most pleasurable thing to Mathey about performing as Guthrie is doing the research.

"I'm a big fan of the History and Discovery channels," Mathey said. "So it's always great to learn about Guthrie's time by turning on the television."

Mathey said he gathers inspiration and stories from talking with some of Guth-

rie's family members.

He has spent time hearing stories about Guthrie from Arlo, Guthrie's son, and Mary Jo.

Arlo has followed in his father's footsteps and has established himself as a voice of protest in American folk culture.

After composing the satirical anti-Vietnam draft song "Alice's Restaurant," Arlo became close to fellow poets and musicians like Adrian Mitchell and Victor Jara who collaborated with him on future pieces.

To this day Arlo still performs songs of protest around the nation.

One story about Guthrie in particular sticks in Mathey's mind.

"Mary Jo once told me about a hilarious incident where Woody wrote lyrics to a song on a linoleum table she had," Mathey said. "Woody finished a song but left the room. He came back to find Mary Jo had scrubbed the table and his lyrics were gone."

Of Guthrie's 3,000 songs, Mathey has learned about 60 but said he never stops learning. He said Guthrie's music has affected American culture ever since he started writing.

OKCCC English Professor Richard Rouillard couldn't agree more. Rouillard recently had Mathey perform as Guthrie at a Phi Theta Kappa honor society retreat where the topic focused on how Guthrie's music has affected pop culture.

"[Mathey] was able to convince the audience that he was Woody Guthrie," Rouillard said.

Even his acoustic guitar bears marks of Guthrie with a sticker plastered on it that reads "This Machine Kills Fascists."

"Guthrie had this written on one of his guitars," Mathey said. "And he was a firm believer in what it said and stood for."

Staff Writer Richard Hall can be reached at Senior Writer@okccc.edu.

Prof dead after heart attack

By Lizzie Byrd
Staff Writer

John Nazemi, OKCCC political science adjunct professor, died Nov. 25 from a heart attack.

"Professor Nazemi was committed to bringing out the best in students and giving the best of himself," said Cecelia Yoder, acting dean of Social Sciences.

"He brightened our days with his friendly courteous



John Nazemi

manner. He will be greatly missed by colleagues as well as his students."

Nazemi began his teaching career at OKCCC in 2000 after receiving a master's degree in political science from the University of Central Oklahoma.

He worked as a social studies teacher at the elementary, middle and high school levels in the Putnam City school district.

Nazemi also was a political science professor at Rose State College and OSU-OKC.

"Mr. Nazemi will be remembered as a very dedi-

cated instructor who set high standards for himself. We will miss his smile and unfailing politeness," said Acting President Paul Sechrist in an e-mail.

Funeral services were held at Baggerly Funeral

Home located in Oklahoma City Dec. 2.

Nazemi is survived by one son residing in the Oklahoma City area.

Staff Writer Lizzie Byrd can be reached at Staff Writer3@okccc.edu.

Follow clues to new class

By Morgan Byram
News Writing Student

A new course, Detective Fiction, will be offered starting in the spring of 2006.

This course can be counted as a humanities or literature credit. The course concentrates on crime investigation.

The 3-credit course is being taught by Mary PUNCHES, English professor.

Detective Fiction is popular fiction, but has not always been considered to be serious literature, she said.

Now, the subject has become common everywhere.

"I developed this course because I have long loved detective fiction, and I read everything of that genre, or sub-genre, that I can get my hands on," PUNCHES said.

This course gives students a wider variety of courses to choose from to fulfill a humanities or literature requirement.

"I expect the students and I will learn a great deal and have a lot of fun in this course," PUNCHES said.

"Detecting is critical thinking and we all can better develop our critical thinking skills."

In this course, there will be a focus on detective fiction from its beginning to the present day, she said.

Students will study short stories and novels as literature, and will place them within their historical, social, and cultural contexts.

There also will be many other topics discussed, such as: the "Golden Age," the hardboiled detective story, police procedurals and contemporary detective fiction with the emphasis on forensic sci-

"I expect the students and I will learn a great deal and have a lot of fun in this course."

—Mary PUNCHES
English Professor

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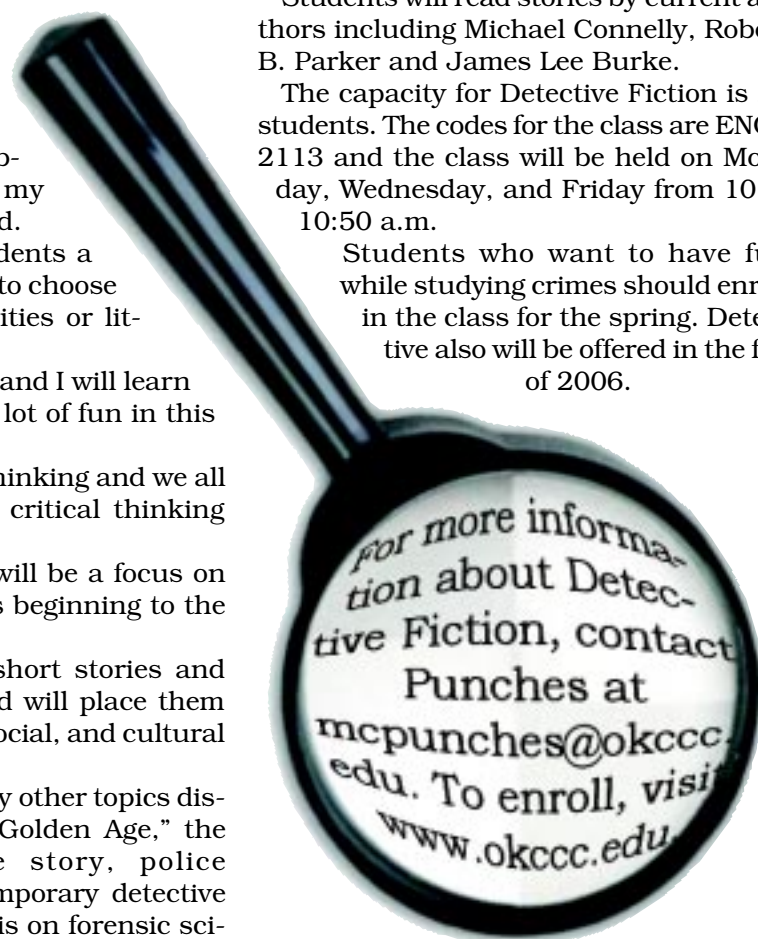
"If students like CSI and programs of that ilk, they would most likely enjoy this class," PUNCHES said.

The investigation of the crime will usually deal with a murder, by either a professional or an amateur.

Students will read stories by current authors including Michael Connelly, Robert B. Parker and James Lee Burke.

The capacity for Detective Fiction is 25 students. The codes for the class are ENGL 2113 and the class will be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 to 10:50 a.m.

Students who want to have fun while studying crimes should enroll in the class for the spring. Detective also will be offered in the fall of 2006.



Longer hours at the Test Center

By Traci Reiserer
News Writing Student

Due to hectic schedules during finals week, the Test Center is extending its hours for the week of Dec. 12 to 16, said Jim Ellis, Testing and Assessment Services director.

The Test Center will open at 8 a.m. and close at 11 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturday, the center's hours will remain the same: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center is closed on Sundays.

"I feel almost relieved that the Test Center is extending its hours during finals week," said Ashley Elkin, OKCCC business sophomore.

"Now, I will have more time to study instead of feeling crammed to take my test by a certain time."

Students are encouraged to bring their Student ID cards when taking a test, Ellis said. If students have lost their ID cards, a picture ID and their Social Security number will be necessary to be admitted into the Test Center, he said.

One rule in the Test Center is that students are allowed only the materials that are faculty-authorized for the exam, Ellis said.

The test form, the answer sheet and scratch paper will be provided by the Test Center, and a calculator is available only if authorized, he said.

Students are encouraged to leave cell phones in their cars and women are allowed to have their purse under the table for theft reasons.

Another rule allows absolutely no food or drinks in the Test Center, Ellis said.

The amount of time allowed to take the exam is set by the instructor, Ellis said.

There are approximately 140 separate test stations. Therefore, students should not have a problem finding a spot to take their exam, Ellis said. Appointments are not necessary, but students need to make sure to arrive at the Test Center at least one hour prior to closing time in order to take a test, Ellis said.

Taryn Thompkins, OKCCC public relations sophomore, said she is glad the hours for the Test Center have been extended.

"I live in Norman and have many exams that week," Thompkins said.

"It's nice to know I'm not going to be rushed to drive to Oklahoma City to take my exam."

"Celebration of Diversity

Students, faculty and staff were invited to take part in festivities such as international tea tasting, an Irish dance performance and a cultural talent show when the Office of Student Life hosted International Education Week in November. Ten events scheduled that week promoted cultural diversity. The week culminated in an International Flag Ceremony.

Dancers fire up college union

Applause broke out as Desert Fire dancers struck their final poses. Their performance in the College Union on Wednesday Nov. 16 was part of International Education Week at OKCCC.

The five dancers performed a form of Middle Eastern dance that most would think of as belly dancing. Their elaborate costumes seemed to dance with them as they moved their hips.

The music, composed simply of energetic drums and wind instruments, resounded throughout the College Union.

The dancers, Ayperi Al Jawahir, Nashita Amar, Sahara Amar, and Audeva Amar performed for about an hour in the student union. Student reaction was mixed.

"It was fascinating," said OKCCC sophomore Kola Famuagun. "It is a spiritual experience."

"You can tell by the way they move their hips to the songs, they have real determination."

Others were not impressed by the performance.

Ashley Elkin, OKCCC sophomore, compared the performance with some she has seen in the past.

"I've watched other belly dancing performances before and I didn't think this one was all that great. I think some of the dancers are a little too old to be doing this."

"I think they should wear more clothing, too," Elkin said.

Desert Fire is from the Aalim Dance Studio. More information can be found at www.aalimdanceworld.com.

—By Michaela Webb
News Writing Student

Photo by Holly Jones
Inset by LaWanda
LaVarnway

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION week

Irish dancers wow crowd with talent



Photo by Holly Jones

Dancers from the Irish Arts Oklahoma program perform during International Education Week. The performance featured a number of dances including jigs and traditional set dances.

Drum group makes beats during International Education Week

Thunderous echoes radiating from six Taiko drums filled the college union as Okii Taiko, a 13-member Japanese drum group, performed Nov. 15 as part of OKCCC's International Education Week.

The hour-long performance consisted of six songs, involving the playing of six handmade buckskin-covered Taiko drums.

Three men and three women, clad in colorful mid-thigh coats, played the drums, which measured as much as 30 inches in diameter. The group, based out of Oklahoma City, came up with their name by combining Okii, short for Oklahoma, and Taiko, meaning "big drum."

During many of the songs one member remained primarily stationary while hitting cymbals together while another member danced in traditional Japanese style.

Sensei Tom Warm said wrist strength is necessary when playing Taiko drums.

"I've played the drums for 14 years. I play loud metal and very much of this music was metal. There was a lot more of a connection than I thought."

**—Ian Ayres
OKCCC Student**

"Wrist strength is critical because in order to be quick, you have to beat with your wrist and not your whole arm," he said.

Student Ian Ayres said he was impressed by the performance.

"I've played the drums for 14 years," Ayres said. "I play loud metal and very much of this music was metal. There was a lot more of a connection than I thought."

Warm started the group after seeing a Taiko drumming performance at the

Epcot Center at Disney World with his wife, Kimie, a Japan native.

Of the eight members who performed, six are originally from Japan. The others in the group are either friends of members or University of Central Oklahoma students.

"All the music performed by Okii Taiko can be traced back to Seichi Tanaka, the father of North American Taiko," Warm said.

He said he believes Taiko drumming differs from other drumming.

"Taiko is anti-rhythmic. You can't tap your toe to this. When you feel you have the rhythm down, it changes."

Warm said Okii Taiko is always looking for new members. He said no special talent is needed, just an interest in Taiko drumming. For more information, contact Warm at tomwarm@keytech.com.

**—By Lark Rayburn
News Writing Student**

Curls were bouncing and the wooden floor of the college union was clattering as the young boys and girls danced during International Education Week Nov. 17.

The dance group is part of Irish Arts Oklahoma, led by Instructor Jean Hill, who teaches in the Oklahoma City area.

The dancers, between ages 8 and 14, performed several types of dances, such as the jig, the reel and the traditional set dance.

The Irish dances are characterized by fast footwork and high stepping. Set dances consist of couples dancing within a square. Set dancing is the solo form that was popularized by the Lord of the Dance's Michael Flatley.

"Set dancing is a very wholesome kind of dance," Hill said.

Irish Arts has enjoyed a considerable amount of success. Irish Arts performers place high in their events and some have gone to their district's championship. Those who place in the top three go on to the world championship in Belfast, Ireland.

The dancers mostly are siblings who are home schooled in the Oklahoma City area. Hill said, despite their age, the dancers placed seventh at the world championship in 2004.

Hill said all the practicing and competitions build dancing skill. "The students that go on to jazz dancing or ballet find it much easier to do," Hill said. "The quick steps and footwork of Irish dances really help to prepare them."

The Irish Arts Oklahoma dance group will perform at Jigfest, which features Irish and Scottish music and dancing, at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 17, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, located at 222 N.W. 15th Street in Oklahoma City.

**—By Isaac Cochran
News Writing Student**



Photo by LaWanda Lavarney

Drummers from the Okii Taiko drum group beat on Taiko drums while one of the group's dancers perform for OKCCC students, faculty and staff Nov. 15.

Talent show highlights other cultures

Students Ashfia Salemin and Erfana Enam performed an energetic dance dressed in gold and orange silk fabric with bells and chimes attached which jangled harmonically to their movements.

The fast tempo dance from Bangladesh was carried out in front of 65 guests Nov. 17.

The women wore their traditional dresses called saris.

Salemin and Enam performed at the 2005 Multicultural Explosion, the third such production by the International Student Association.

ISA conducted a cultural night of dances, songs, piano solos, and martial arts.

As the show began, members of ISA handed out origami paper boats as a tribute to the Asian culture.

The boats represented the theme of the show — A Travel Around the World.

ISA President and Elementary Education major Yu Da Kim welcomed the crowd.

"This year's theme is open minds about cultures of the world and all they entail," Kim said.

Masters of Ceremonies, Travis Meadows and Tiffani Dilworth, introduced the acts.

It was a busy night for Kim as he opened the show with a magic show full of card tricks and light illusions.

Kim later performed a martial arts segment from his native Korea. ISA Vice President Debbie Kim, dressed in her Vietnamese attire, introduced her husband Yu Da Kim.

Debbie Kim said her husband trains under one of the "only 50 Tuk Kong Moo Sul black belts in the world."

Other acts included a jazz number "Life of a Fool," an Indian folk song, a traditional Indian dance, a guitarist who sang "Layla" by Eric Clapton, and an African-American dance troupe.

ISA produced a show with 10 performances, a number that has continued to grow in size since their first event.

"The first show was held in the college union," said ISA sponsor, Professor Haifeng Ji. "We have since moved to the college theater. Our students devoted a lot of time to make this happen [and] they deserve all the credit."

Third-year performer Ashfia Salemin, said she has noticed a growth of the audience.

"We have become more organized and we now use better equipment," said Salemin.

For more information about joining ISA contact Ji at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7381 or hiji@okccc.edu.

—By Rocky Chavez
News Writing Student

Top, clockwise: Debbie Kim, in Vietnamese attire, addresses a crowd of students and faculty at the OKCCC 2005 Multicultural Explosion;

A fast-tempo dance from Bangladesh is performed; and the group of Dorothy, Millicent and Ethel entertain the crowd with a traditional African song.

Photos by
LaWanda LaVarnway



Tea tasters also learn Japanese origami art

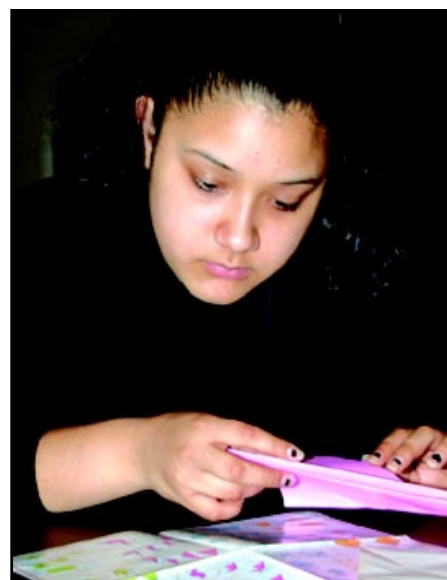


Photo by Holly Jones

Students and faculty sampled teas and learned to fold origami on Nov. 16 when Student Life hosted a global tea and cultural craft event for International Education week at OKCCC.

International Education Week celebrates the vast number of cultures within the student body.

Pearla Donato, Pathways Middle College student, works on her origami skills. "I'm trying to make a penguin but it's kind of confusing," she said. She added, of the tea-tasting, "The mango tea was pretty good."



Students sampled various teas, including mango, representing parts of Africa; green tea, representing Japan; and black or chai tea, representing the India culture.

Lucas Johnson, Pathways Middle College student, sampled the chai-influenced black tea.

"I thought it was good," he said. "It kind of had a cinnamon taste to it."

Johnson's classmates agreed, adding that the black tea was their overall favorite.

The event also included a Japanese origami session, which students and faculty participated in.

"We wanted an informal crafty type activity," said Jon Horinek, Student Life Community Engagement coordinator.

Horinek said he thought the event was an overall success and looks forward to having a larger selection of teas and more craft demonstrations available next year.

—By Quincy Robinson
News Writing Student

Flag ceremony ends week-long celebration

A flag ceremony held in the main building atrium concluded the second annual International Education Week at OKCCC.

Flags were placed on the second floor balcony representing the 62 countries of international students at OKCCC.

Marion Paden, Student Services vice president, opened the ceremony by commending international students for their courage.

Paden praised the students for their drive and determination in obtaining visas, traveling far from

family and friends, and establishing a new life in a different place, often with a different language.

"[These students] take a leap of faith and land with us," Paden said.

Acting President Paul Sechrist described how far OKCCC has come in attracting students from other cultures.

"The community [at OKCCC] has expanded from all over the state, to all over the country, to all over the world," Sechrist said. "Having international students helps us under-

stand the world in which we live."

Jon Horinek, Community Engagement coordinator, concluded the ceremony with an introduction of students from other countries.

Present at the ceremony were: Debbie Kim, Finland; Tae Hee Cho and Yu Da Kim, South Korea; Khusroo Iqbal and Mobisher Rabbani, Pakistan; Ashfia Salemin, Bangladesh; Jon Samuel, India; and Carlos Obando, Colombia.

Staff Writer Lizzie Byrd can be reached at Staff Writer@okccc.edu.

—By Lizzie Byrd
Staff Writer



Photo by John Savage

International students display their flags at a ceremony honoring them. Acting President Paul Sechrist joined the group. "Having international students helps us understand the world in which we live," he said.



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Nursing students promote AIDS awareness

By Megan Myers
News Writing Student

South Africa's campaign to change the public attitude toward HIV and AIDS is helping those who are affected by the disease become accepted by others, said Joyce McCall, OKCCC nursing major.

McCall sees this as one of the most helpful developments in the country's consciousness about a widespread disease.

McCall and Dorothy Akon-Mensal, also an OKCCC nursing major, spoke to students on Nov. 16 in a lecture titled "Discover South Africa" as part of the International Education Week at OKCCC.

The HIV and AIDS campaign features posters and ads of prestigious people of the community, such as judges or public officials, admitting they have the disease, McCall said.

The objective of the campaign is to convince members of the community it is okay to admit having the disease and seek treatment.

"Most of those who have contracted the disease do not tell anyone else," McCall said.

"Being diagnosed with HIV and AIDS is more of a social and economic issue than it is a medical issue," she said.

Thirteen percent of the world's population living with HIV can be found in South Africa, according to



Joyce McCall

Avert.org, a website for an international AIDS charity.

Poverty, multiple wives and prostitution are all common in South Africa. This could be the reason why the disease is so rampant there, McCall said.

The World Health Organization names malnutrition as the number-one killer and poverty as the main factor for AIDS.

McCall cautions those who may visit South Africa to remember that being different does not necessarily mean deficient.

McCall and Akon-Mensal visited South Africa for more than two weeks as part of the International Scholar Laureate Program.

This program is designed for exceptional university

students to develop their career and leadership skills through a culturally enriching experience, according to the International Scholar Laureate Program website.

Programs are offered in the areas of anthropology and archaeology, business, diplomacy, engineering, medicine, music, nursing and technology.

Interested students can find more information on this program at www.scholarlaureate.org.

Meditation helps relieve stress

By Amanda Jones
News Writing Student

Students and staff gathered on campus Nov. 15 to learn about meditation.

Lisa Connery, Richard Connery and Jim Smith led the discussion called "Running the Energy: a Beginning Meditation Practice from India."

Lisa, a physician from Norman, defined meditation as a "spiritual practice," but noted that it does not belong to any particular religion.

She said meditation also has physical benefits.

"It lowers blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension and stress levels."

Meditation is one of the ways Smith, an OKCCC student, deals with stress.

Smith said people obtain peace through meditation.

He said it's a way of discerning one's self and one's direction in life.

"Finding peace will bring good health: emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually," Smith said.

He said the peace found also increases energy.

"Everyone has a divine energy or light that is always there to energize us," Lisa said.

Connery said while in the practice of meditation, the brain system changes and becomes more focused.

Attendees were encouraged to participate.

With the lights of the room dimmed, Lisa led a group of 10 people through the relaxation technique as they sat in a circle of chairs, with their ankles crossed.

She told the participants to touch their middle fingers with their thumbs and lay them on their thighs with their eyes closed.

She then led the group through the steps of meditation: tensing up each muscle for a few seconds and relaxing, deep breaths and exhaling.

Then, the participants were told to focus on the light at the top of their heads and move it to different parts of the body.

This reporter hadn't expected to be able to meditate, but found herself com-

pletely relaxed.

OKCCC student Min Luo said she came to the lecture eager to learn how to practice meditation and truly enjoyed the experience.

"I just don't know what happened," Luo said. "In the last part, I didn't know where I was, but I felt really relaxed."

Brooke Matthews, also an OKCCC student, attended the lecture for extra credit. She disagreed with Luo.

"I didn't like it," she said. "I thought it was weird to do that in front of strangers."

English Professor Michael Punches compared meditation to the restfulness of a nap.

"It's as good a nap, but shorter," he said.

Meditation takes only 10 minutes while a regular nap can take up to two hours.

Those interested in learning more about this practice, can attend a free one-hour class offered at 6 p.m. Sunday nights at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church on 1801 West Brooks Street, in Norman.

SEM Center construction on time

By Keith Mooney
News Writing Student

Construction on the \$9 million Science, Engineering and Mathematics Center is on schedule, said Project Manager Eddie Cox. The center, being constructed above the existing math and science wing, will add 64,000 square-feet of space to the college.

While construction has caused inconveniences, most agree the pain will be worth it in the end.

One problem the college has had were the heavy rains in October, Cox said.

"[The last] rains caused a lot of leaks," he said. "But by next spring, we should have the exterior perimeters up and the roof on the building. That should help with the leaks."

The construction project also has caused other inconveniences, like the temporary relocation of some offices and classrooms.

"It's inconvenient," said Physics Professor Steve Kamm. "But in the end, I think we'll have a very nice facility."

Physics Professor Tad Thurston agreed.

"Enrollment keeps going up, and we'll need more faculty and we'll need more offices for them," he said. "It's going to be a good thing."

Construction crews have worked on the project mostly during the day, cut sometimes, at night. The decision to do some work at night was made by OKCCC officials who feared the construction noise would interfere with busy daytime classes.

"We're doing very little work at night," said Physical Plant Director J.B. Messer. "What we're doing at night has to do with noisy type demolition."

Completion of the project is set for the summer 2007. The center, designed by Triad Design of Oklahoma City, will include a greenhouse, new science labs, classrooms, offices and a new Math Learning Center. W.L. McNatt of Oklahoma City is the company constructing the building.

Sports

UPCOMING

OKCCC INTRAMURALS SCHEDULE

•**Dec. 8:** The second round of the Women's Hot Shot Contest begins at 2 p.m. Participants will include those who advanced from round one on Dec. 1. The contestants will participate in three different shooting contests: a free-throw contest, three-point contest and a Hot Shot contest. For more information, contact Community Health and Education specialist Eric Watson at (405) 682-1161, ext. 7786.

•**Dec. 15-18:** The annual Kerr-McGee Pro-Am Meet returns to OKCCC. Athletes must have certain times to enter the competition. Professional, amateur and Olympic athletes compete in this event. Swimmers will compete for cash prizes and Speedo merchandise. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Aquatics and Safety Training Specialist Stephanie Scott at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7662.

Practice makes perfect



Photo by Holly Jones

John Wiewel, sophomore varsity swimmer at Putnam City North High School, practices his starting position. Wiewel and his teammates competed in the John Stocker Invitational held at the OKCCC Aquatic Center Dec. 3. It would be his second time to compete in the event, said PC North Coach Aaron Jourdan. Jourdan said he has coached teams in the meet at OKCCC for the past eight years. "I like coming here because it is a big invitational and is a good picture of what we will see at state," he said.

Olympic swimmers, top amateurs to compete at OKCCC

By **Matthew Caban**
Staff Writer

Past, present and future Olympians will invade the OKCCC pool for the Kerr-McGee Pro-Am Elite swim meet Dec. 15 through 18.

This year's Pro-Am swim meet features some of the best swimmers in the country including 12 former and current Olympians.

These include Gold Medal winner Megan Jendrick, former World Record holder Jason Lezak and 2004 U.S. Women's swim team member Rachel Komizars.

The meet is a timed standard, said Victoria Woodward, past president of the Kerr-McGee Swim Club.

"You need to meet a certain time to qualify," she said.

Woodward said the athletes compete for prizes.

Athletes who are considered professional receive cash prizes, while

amateurs compete for credits that go toward Speedo merchandise, she said.

Professional athletes are those who have either completed their college eligibility or relinquished it, Woodward said.

Another reason the event is important is the competition it provides younger swimmers.

"From our kids' perspective, it is the only chance they get to compete against Olympic athletes," Woodward said.

"They also get to hang out with Olympic swimmers like they are friends," she said.

Woodward said one thing she will always remember is a story her daughter Samantha told her after the 2004 competition.

"Last year Samantha was in the ready room with [Olympian] Dana Vollmer and they were talking like they were friends," she said.

A regular day at the meet begins with younger swimmers competing

"Last year, Samantha [my daughter] was in the ready room with [Olympian] Dana Vollmer and they were talking like they were friends."

—Victoria Woodward
Past President, Kerr-McGee Swim Club

for a spot in the finals.

"They compete against each other between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.," Woodward said.

"Then the top 24 come back for the finals in the evening."

There will be a total of 537 swimmers, including 20 professionals, entered in a variety of individual and relay events.

Teams from various states including Arkansas, California, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming, will be represented according to the Kerr-McGee Swim Club website.

In addition to multiple states

being represented at the Kerr-McGee meet, two other countries also will be represented.

Former Olympians from Japan and Poland are scheduled to compete, Woodward said.

Woodward said she hopes Oklahomans take the time to see some of the country's best swimmers in action. The event is free and open to the public, she said.

For more information, contact Aquatics & Safety Training Specialist Stephanie Scott at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7662.

Staff Writer Matthew Caban can be reached at StaffWriter2@okccc.edu.

Killer's discovery leads to birth of agency

By Keri DeKinder
News Writing Student

The ghosts of a serial killer and her victims, which number somewhere near 11, still haunt doctors in Oklahoma today.

Known as the "Giggling Granny" or the "Lonely Hearts Killer," Nannie Doss's murder spree ended in her arrest in Tulsa in 1955.

The killing rampage that cost so many lives also has saved lives in the form of establishing a Medical Examiner's Office in Oklahoma, said Dr. Jeffery Gofton, the chief medical examiner.

Gofton talked to a journalism class at OKCCC Nov. 17, explaining the history of his agency.

The fact that Giggling Granny escaped detection for so long caused Oklahomans to see the need to investigate sudden deaths by undetermined causes, Gofton said.

Today, the medical company's office does 1,500 to 1,900 autopsies a year, Gofton said.

"We usually do two to six autopsies a day, depending on the complexity of the autopsies," Gofton said.

The office performs autopsies for violent deaths, suspicious and mysterious deaths, deaths that could possibly affect a lot of people, deaths in jail, and deaths of people who didn't have a regular physician.

From 1927 through 1955, it is believed that Nannie Doss killed four of her five husbands, two of her four children, two of her grandchildren, her mother, the mother of one of her dead husbands, and her sister, according to author Joseph Geringer on www.crimelibrary.com.

Most of Doss's victims were poisoned by arsenic. Those who weren't poisoned died of asphyxia, probably smothered in their sleep.



Photo by Holly Jones

Dr. Jeffery Gofton

After poisoning her mother and her fourth husband, Richard Morton, Giggling Granny used her insurance money to catch a bus to Tulsa.

There, Giggling Granny met up with Samuel Doss, who had been one of her pen pal romances before she killed Morton.

Samuel was a very conservative man who was tight with his money. Marrying him meant that Nannie had to change her lifestyle consider-

ably.

When Nannie would run off, Samuel would follow her, giving her whatever she wanted just so she would come home.

The last time this happened, Samuel took out two life insurance policies. Shortly thereafter, he was hospitalized with severe stomach pains.

After spending 23 days in the hospital, it appeared Samuel was doing better and was sent home.

He died later that night.

Dr. Schwelbein, Samuel's physician, was curious about his patient's sudden death. He called for an autopsy, which revealed enough arsenic to kill a team of horses.

The inquisitive doctor who discovered the crime also provided the impetus to establish the State Medical Examiner's Office, Gofton said.

Two years later, Oklahoma funded a medical examiner's program.

Nannie was arrested in 1955 and died in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in 1965 of ovarian cancer.

Gofton said most of his cases are natural deaths. The Medical Examiner's Office not only helps solve mysterious cases, but also provides families with important medical history information.

"The most rewarding part of my career is the intellectual challenge and helping people," Gofton said.

In the future, it may be possible to see the Oklahoma Medical Examiner's Office at work on cable television.

A reality television show, based on the agency, is in the works right now.

The show will first air in England. If the television program is successful, Gofton said, it may air in the United States.

OKCCC film crew working toward the big screen

By Ally Marie
News Writing Student

OKCCC students and professors are working together to film what they hope will become a major movie.

On the evening of Nov. 17, a screen test for a potential feature film was filmed at the OKCCC Student Life center, said film major and movie extra Kyle Cox.

"Many students were involved both in front of and behind the camera," Cox said.

"[Sam] finds out that when he comes home, everyone is exactly the same, but he is a completely different person now. [The film] is about self discovery."

—Mike "Sarge" Tate

Film major and lead character for "Victor"

The film crew shot a scene from the movie the director will take to review on the big screen. From the scene the director and producers will decide if any cast or crew changes need to be made, said film major Mike "Sarge" Tate.

Dave Rosefield, movie director and OKCCC profes-

sor, has cast Tate as "Sam," the lead character.

"The movie is titled, 'Victor,' which is the name of a small town in Colorado, and is where the film takes place," Tate said.

"Rick (Allen) Lippert played my boss," Tate said, while shooting the scene at the Student Life center.

Lippert is the acting director of the film and video program at OKCCC.

The movie is about a young war veteran who has recently returned home from war, Tate said.

"[Sam] finds out that when he comes home, everyone is exactly the same, but he is a completely different person now."

"[The film] is about self discovery," Tate said.

"I was Sam," Tate said of the reason Rosefield chose him as the lead character in the film. Tate said he also is a veteran and has recently faced a few of Sam's difficulties in terms of fit-

ting back in with civilian life.

"My real life mirrors Sam's," Tate said.

The crew has started filming the movie in Colorado.

"We just spent a weekend in Victor, (Colo.) filming. It was a lot of fun," Tate said.

The crew will continue shooting in March and April. "From there, it will be submitted to festivals worldwide to get it distributed," Tate said.

Tate, who has only participated in student films and theater acting, said he is absolutely thrilled to be a part of the film.

Opinions are valuable. Write us a letter! e-mail your letter to editor@okccc.edu

Highlights

Student Life to host campus food drive

Student Life is hosting a campus food drive through Dec. 9. Food drive boxes have been placed around the campus. For more information, contact Community Engagement Coordinator Jon Horinek at (405) 682-7523.

Environmental Club to host bake sale

The Environmental Club will be having a bake sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 12, in the main building. All proceeds will go to the Jesus House. For more information, contact Public Relations Officer Holly Jones at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7676.

Student Life to serve pancakes

Student Life will serve a pancake breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m., Dec. 12 in the college union. Get your finals week started on a full stomach. Free pancakes will be served while supplies last. For more information, contact Community Engagement Coordinator Jon Horinek at (405) 682-7523.

Social Sciences to raffle off prizes

Social Sciences faculty will hand out free tickets for a chance to win prizes. The tickets will be given to students in the faculty's classes. Students can deposit the tickets in a box in the Social Sciences office. Everyone can enter and come to the office to pick up a ticket. The drawing will be held at 1:30 p.m., Dec. 12. For more information, contact Acting Dean of Social Sciences Cecilia Yoder at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7359.

Child Development Club to host meeting

The Child Development Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Dec., 14 in room 1H10. Social Sciences will make posters to advertise their first "Reading Night" in January. Membership dues are \$5 and will be collected at the meeting. For more information, contact Child Development Professor Cecilia Pittman at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7259, or e-mail cmpittman@okccc.edu.

Reading Club shares passions at meeting

The Reading Club welcomes and encourages students who share the joy of reading and discussion to join the club. The next meeting is noon on Dec. 19. Students are welcome to bring a book and share it with the club. For more information, contact Club Member Jenny Bryan at 74jenny@sbcglobal.net.

\$1000 scholarships available to students

Each year, the Oklahoma Association Of Community Colleges awards scholarships to students from its member institutions to continue their education. The Scholarship awards students with \$1,000 to be used during the 2006-2007 academic year. Winners will be awarded and expected to attend the organization's annual conference March 2. Applicant qualifications may be found on the scholarship application at www.oaccwebsite.org. For more information on the scholarships, contact past President Rick Woodard at (405) 733-7999 and Prospective Student Services Assistant Linda Sapp at (405) 682-7580 or e-mail rwoodard@rose.edu. Students can also check the Scholarship display located in Enrollment Management, located near the main entrance of the main building for applications.



Photo by Holly Jones

Environmental Club member Debra Guess gathers cigarette butts that littered the campus. "I don't get it. The ashtray is right over there. Is it too far for them to walk?" Guess said. One cigarette butt can take more than 10 years to decompose. The club averaged two bags every 45 minutes for a total of 12 bags. If you would like to volunteer to pick up cigarette butts, contact Club Sponsor Ronna Austin at (405) 682-1611, ext. 7307.

Environmental Club cleans the campus of unwanted trash

By Kasi Kennedy
News Writing Student

The OKCCC Environmental Club spent a total of nine hours picking up cigarette butts on campus. Twelve plastic bags filled with cigarette butts provided a helpful visual aid for an environmental display on campus Nov. 15.

The butts were packaged and displayed on a table in the center of the main building.

Environmental Club President Jessica Austin said about 10 students and faculty volunteered to pick up the cigarette butts. She said the club members and volunteers barely put a dent in the problem of cigarette litter on campus.

Facts and posters on display explained the damaging effect cigarettes have on the environment.

"I think it is really gross



and people should dispose of them properly," said student Shawna Finley. "It is sad people throw them on the ground instead of in an ashtray."

It can take up to 10 years for a single cigarette butt to completely disintegrate, according to one of the many facts on the display. The display also included information on the harmful toxins and materials in cigarettes.

The display was an attempt to get the students and faculty to throw their cigarettes in ashtrays.

Student Miranda Noakes said the information was

helpful.

"A lot of people blame ignorance," Noakes said. "I think this display is a good idea because it makes people aware of what a cigarette butt does to the environment."

Another student agreed. "We should know better," student Batiste Jones said.

"Young kids are still keeping this habit alive and people who don't smoke get sick involuntary because people don't dispose of their cigarettes properly."

People on campus were asked to write their opinions on the cigarette display, explaining their thoughts about the matter.

Most of the reactions were summed up in one word — "Disgusting."

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ADVERTISE IN THE
PIONEER •

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OKCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. For more information, call (405) 682-1611, ext. 7674.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '99 Jeep Wrangler. 4 cylinder, 4 x 4, maroon with tan soft top, 5 speed. 77k miles. \$8,500. Call 823-2287.

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FOR SALE: '91 Honda Civic DX, Lt blue, 183k miles, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, CD player, runs good. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call Scott at 314-4935.

FOR SALE: '91 Lexus LS400, V8, loaded, \$2,995. 326-5495.

FOR SALE: '89 F150 XL Ford Truck, 5 speed, 4 WD. \$2,500. 376-3550.

FOR SALE: '88 Fleetwood Cadillac. As is, \$500. 605-7728.

FOR SALE: '88 GMC 4 X 4. Runs great, \$2,250. 922-1284.

ANIMALS

FOR SALE: 6-month-old rabbit, \$20. Includes the rabbit, cage, water bottle, food bowl, 1st month supply of food, 1st month supply of cedar, and shampoo. The rabbit is mostly white with a few gray spots. Likes to be petted and loved. If you are interested, please call Rachel Johnson at 639-9574.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: My newborn son is allergic to our long-time family cat and the doctor says she has to go! Lovable and spoiled rotten. De-clawed. Spayed. 10 years old. Female. She is not an outdoor cat! If interested, please call April at 682-1611, ext. 7462, or e-mail at ajackson@okccc.edu.

FOR SALE: Pure bred red nose pit bull puppies. \$125. One dark brown beauty. The others are mostly white with great markings. I have 2 females/2 males. If interested, please call 301-0822.

FOR SALE: Pure bred American Big Head Pit Bull dogs. Born 09-22-05. Have several pure white. All are adorable with excellent markings. \$100 each. If interested, call 409-8871.

ELECTRONICS

FOR SALE: 17" computer monitor, \$50. Canon laser printer, \$30.

Canon ink jet printer, \$20. Call 605-7728.

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FOR RENT: Original owner looking for responsible renters for lovely townhouse duplex at SE 24th & Hwy 9 in Norman. This 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath has an extended one-car garage, fenced in big backyard, fireplace, w/d hook-ups, refrigerator, ceiling fans. In a quiet family/college student neighborhood. Pets okay with deposit. Immediately available. Easy access to Hwy 9. Call 682-1611, ext. 7305, for more information or to see your new home.

FEMALE ROOMMATES NEEDED: To share large home 3 miles from OKCCC, 20 minutes from OU. Nice neighborhood, 3 car garage, 2 1/2 bath. Fully furnished except bedrooms. \$340/month plus 1/3 bills. Call 615-2396, leave message, or e-mail im_luv@yahoo.com. Pictures available.

RESPONSIBLE ROOMMATE WANTED: I have a room to rent in Norman. Must rent soon. Very nice. Very reasonable. High speed DSL. Satellite w/ all channels. Security alarm. Pool. Basketball. Close to the interstate. Call Cara at 701-5958. \$265/mo. plus 1/2 bills.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Very nice blue, twin-size racecar bed with mattress, \$175. Excellent condition. Must sell!! mrstoops@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Full size bookcase headboard and matching chest, \$75 OBO. Call 364-6051 or 682-7544.

FOR SALE: Glass dining table w/ 4 chairs, excellent condition. \$150 firm. Call Candi at 573-4829.

FOR SALE: Pulaski glass/mirror hutch. Gorgeous, 46" X 79." \$500 OBO. Call 627-1435.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Tanning membership to At the Beach. Why pay the initial membership start up fees, when you can purchase an existing membership for \$25. Please call Lesa at 414-4158.

FOR SALE: Boys bike in great condition, \$40. mrstoops@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Two new 10" Alpine Competition Type R subwoofers in box w/ a 920-wt. self-cooling Kenwood amp, also new, \$700 OBO. Please call 606-9114.

FOR SALE: Electric wheel chair, good condition, \$1,500 OBO. Call 527-4448, M-F, 9-5.

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HELP WANTED: Female student looking for a job as a nanny. Responsible, experienced, own transportation, afternoons and weekends. 314-9017.

FOR SALE: Maytag washer, Gas hook-up, late '90s model, good condition. \$60. Call Jared 488-5330.

FOR SALE: Frigidaire washer & dryer set. \$450. Less than 1 year old. Warranty with Best Buy until October 2007. Call Rachel at 408-5327.

FOR SALE: Brand new Netgear wireless router MR814-11 mbps. \$20. Please call 640-8183.

FOR SALE: Wedding dress

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Norway's capital
- 5 Anchor
- 9 Daisy Mae's creator
- 13 Jungle charger
- 15 Act like a wolf
- 16 Flu symptom
- 17 Buffalo
- 18 Witnessed
- 19 Nothing more than
- 20 Mineral spring
- 21 Capri, for one
- 23 First game of the season
- 25 Pepsi's rival
- 26 Slim
- 27 Word with the opposite meaning
- 30 Paving substance
- 31 Impends
- 32 Toss overboard
- 37 Melody
- 38 Yawning
- 40 Singer McEntire
- 41 — but: by no means
- 43 Coral or poppy
- 44 Pie — mode
- 45 Filmmaker
- 47 Soft fabric
- 50 Scurries
- 51 Thin coat

DOWN

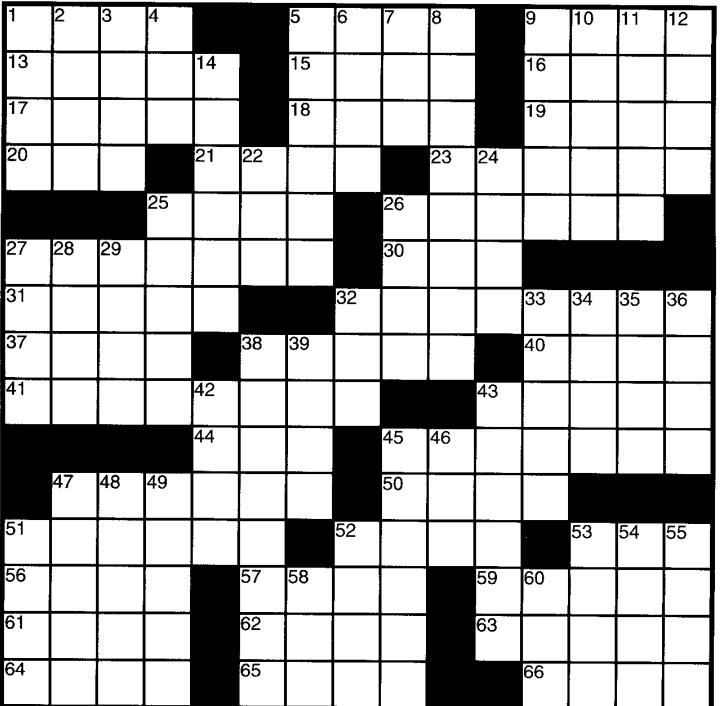
- 1 Spheres
- 2 Freight
- 3 Mona —
- 4 Lennon's love
- 5 Islam follower
- 6 S-shaped molding
- 7 Bullfight cheer
- 8 Restore to an earlier condition
- 9 Desert animal
- 10 Representative
- 11 Fruit pulp
- 12 Look closely
- 14 Liver and —
- 22 Shade of blue
- 24 Sassy
- 25 Hale-Bopp, e.g.
- 26 Pace
- 27 Can. province
- 28 It could be

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

LOGO	SKATE	INNS
OMIT	UNLIT	COOP
PERT	BELLE	IOTA
ENDORSE	TRACKER	
MOO	NIL	
TITANIC	TALENTS	
ANON	LABEL	SORE
MAN	RIP	BOA
ENID	PONES	PLUM
DECIBEL	EYELETS	
OAR	MOA	
HATRACK	OBSCURE	
OSHA	HIPPO	ARIA
AHEM	ETHEL	TABS
XENA	SHINS	ELSE

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proper!	character
29 Actor Perkins	47 Ground-cover plant
32 Notch	48 Boredom
33 Golf clubs	49 Main roles
34 Peddle	51 Suit part
35 Woodwind	52 Carnival
36 — a: not any	53 Extinct bird
38 Wing parts	54 Throat-clearing sound
39 Tiny fly	55 Empty
42 "Only Angels — Wings"	58 Architect
43 Kind of salad	I.M. —
45 Turtles' homes	60 Cover
46 — Man, "Oz"	



size 12/14. Lace and beads. Heart-shaped neckline. Train and slip. Asking \$150. Call 632-6259.

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BOOK FOR SALE: Modern Radio Production book for sale,

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BOOK FOR SALE: HIST 2103, \$15. Call 793-2774.

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Newly-named college president plans to build on legacy

"Sechrist,"
Cont. from page 1

dents who are retiring, he said.

Sechrist also has many goals as the next president of the college.

He said his main goal is to build on the legacy of success by continuing to implement the Vision of the Future, which he helped create.

The Vision of the Future is a set of eight initiatives designed to enhance the college's ability to serve the community during the next

10 years.

"I believe we will continue to move forward with the initiatives identified in the Vision of the Future," Sechrist said. "I believe it is the right vision and I look forward to just continuing making that vision a reality."

Sechrist's appointment comes after a series of medical events leading to the retirement of OKCCC's current president Dr. Bob Todd, who underwent a single arterial bypass and had the mitral valve in his heart replaced Jan. 10.

On June 5, Todd returned to the hospital due

to complications. He had a pacemaker inserted on June 10.

In September, Todd announced he would be retiring. The decision came after a stroke, which left him without the ability to speak.

Todd's health has improved as he continues to work with therapists, Sechrist said.

However, Todd was admitted to the hospital on Nov. 28 to have his medications adjusted.

"President Bob Todd, who is retiring following a distinguished career at Oklahoma City Community College, led the college to be-

"I hope everything stays as good as it is now."

—Rebecca Wheat
OKCCC freshman

come one of the premier community colleges in the nation," Sechrist said.

"I am deeply honored to accept the appointment by the Board of Regents as the ninth president of Oklahoma City Community College."

Upon learning the college has a new president, some students commented.

Alyssa Devore, freshman, said she hopes Sechrist continues to improve the

college.

"I already have seen a lot of improvements in the college union," she said. "It's my first semester here and [the college] continues to look better."

Rebecca Wheat, also a freshman, agrees.

"I hope everything stays as good as it is now," she said.

Editor Christiana Kostura can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

Prof says 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever' for all to enjoy

"Play,"
Cont. from page 1

OKCCC's theater professor.

She said, in her four years at OKCCC, this is her first time to work with younger children in a performance. She said the children are easy to work with because they memorize their lines so quickly.

"The children have been

fabulous to work with."

Charnay said the play was chosen because it has a large cast so other people, not just students in the theater arts program, could join in.

People of all ages are encouraged to attend. "Bring the kids and everyone else," Charnay said.

Admission is \$4 for students and \$5 for adults.

The cast includes: Jacob Wells as the father; Jean

Windham as the mother; Tyersa Lowery in the role of Beth; Gehrig Thurston as Charlie; Travis Meadows plays Ralph; Emily Lemons as Imogene; Carl Evans in the role of Leroy; Sam Lemonsas Claude; Travis Lee Meadows II as Ollie.

Cate Lemons plays Gladys; Tiffani Turner as Alice; Amber Countryman as Mrs. Armstrong; Kristen

Garrett as Mrs. Slocum; Heather Sharee Patchen plays Mrs. Clark; Melissa Sharee Smith as Mrs. Claus; Gracie Lemons as Mrs. McCarthy; Lauren Haynes in the role of Maxine; Yousef Kazemi as Elmer Hopkins; Ellie Thurston as Beverly; Anthony McCawley as the fireman; Sarah Lane plays Juanita; Savanna Cottom in the role

of Doris; and Tad Thurston as Reverend Hopkins.

The Angel Choir consists of Veneza Ceballos, Ellie Thurston, Sarah Lane, Savannah Cottom and Kira Redshaw.

The understudies are Kira Redshaw and Lauren Haynes. The running crew consists of Anthony McCawley, Ryann Fical, and Patrick Williams.



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