



UCO TEACHER'S PROGRAM EARNS LOW RATING IN NATIONAL SURVEY

Tyler Talley

Contributing Writer

The quality of UCO's teacher education program has been called into question by a report from the National Council of Teacher Quality released on June 18.

According to a statistic taken in 2012, by the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, more than 30 percent of new educators quit teaching after three years, and almost half leave the profession altogether before hitting the five-year mark. Kelsey Sheehy, of usnews.com, points to factors such as poor working conditions and an influx of grossly unprepared new teachers.

"The result is an industry that hemorrhages new teachers nearly as fast as it can license them," Sheehy said.

The NCTQ is a program that is currently pushing for a complete reform of the country's standard for teacher education.

The 2013 NCTQ Teacher Prep Ratings is a 2.5-year effort to gauge the quality of the bachelor's and master's degree tracks required to enter the teaching profession. The report used course requirements, syllabi, employer surveys and detailed undergraduate and graduate programs from 1,200 teacher preparation programs at 608 schools across the country Sheehy said. The report

then assigned each overall program a rating on a scale of 0 to 4 stars.

Jim Machell, Dean of UCO's College of Education and Professional Studies, said that UCO's program was given two stars.

"That's basically the equivalent of a C," Machell said.

Machell said that he and the rest of the department are taking the report seriously but are also hesitant to agree with its overall findings in regards to the department's quality.

"We don't believe these ratings reflect the quality of our programs," Machell said.

Machell said that the teaching education program at UCO is always evolving to address concerns in the past and pointed to the high ratings the program has received in the past, as well as the standards the program expects of its students.

"We have the highest admission requirements of any teacher preparation program in the state, which is currently an area of great scrutiny," Machell said, in a letter addressed to members of the department.

Machell said the methods in which the NCTQ conducted their study have been called into question by numerous accredited organizations including the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

According to the Washington Post, the methodology the NCTQ used to compile its



UCO's teacher education program was given 2 stars out of 4 stars by the National Council of Teacher Quality. Photo by Brooks Nickell, The Vista.

research included an examination of course requirements and course syllabi against a checklist, but did not include the quality of instruction that the programs offer, evidence of what students learn or whether graduates can actually teach.

Machell said the report just doesn't paint an accurate picture of teacher education in Oklahoma, and only serves to promote a

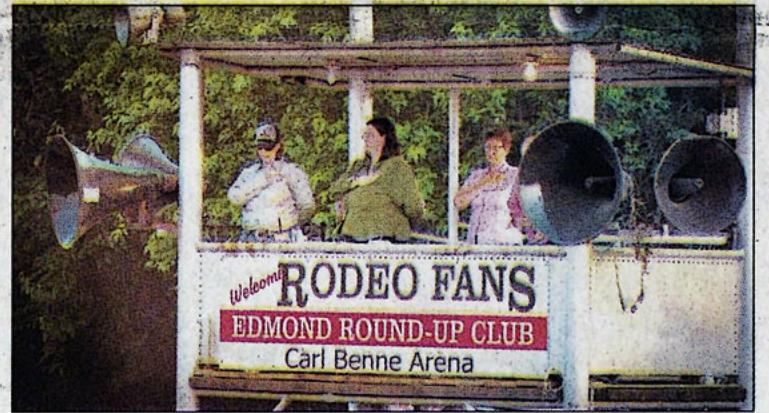
preexisting agenda for complete reform. He also urged all students and faculty to not be alarmed by the rating the report gave UCO.

"Like many teacher preparation programs in the area and throughout the nation, we have established a rich tradition and history of success in preparing future educators," Machell said.



LibertyFest starts off with a big kick

Left: Edmond's LibertyFest kicked off this past weekend with its annual rodeo. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista. Bottom: Three attendees salute the flag during Edmond's LibertyFest Rodeo. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



Expanding UCO's graduate program: UCO partners with university in U.K.

Josh Wallace

Staff Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma's doctorate program, Swansea@UCO, is expanding to allow for more flexibility in enrollment.

The program, which is a partnership between Swansea University in Wales, U.K. and UCO, allows students to earn their doctorate in a variety of fields by working on their dissertation over the course of three years, without attending classes. Previously, prospective students could only enroll in October, now the option to enroll in January has been added in addition to the fall enrollment date.

According to Dr. Richard M. Bernard, Dean of the Jackson College of Graduate Studies and Co-director of the Swansea@UCO Ph.D. Program, in the three years the program has been offered, the fields of study have increased, adding, "The program began in UCO's Liberal Arts fields, but it is gradually expanding to other areas. As students request new fields, we ask Swansea to consider opening those fields. In each case, Swansea must offer Ph.D. work in the area, so for example, except for History of Education, we cannot offer Education fields"

Bernard also mentioned that the Swansea program was part of the Brad Henry Scholars Program, which allowed for the partnership to send Oklahoma students to study at Swansea University. Currently, there are three UCO students in the program, with another two set to enroll in the fall.

The cost of tuition for the three year program is \$45,000, based off the current \$15,000 yearly rate, which Bernard considers a competitive rate with what is being offered in comparison to other graduate programs. He added, "There are several advantages, students receive a quality international degree with thesis guidance from two advisors, one of whom is very available at UCO. Convenience, costs and time savings are important too, because the only requirement is an excellent dissertation, students have no requirements for classes, minors, foreign languages, statistics, or anything else, unless they need those areas for their particular topics. The



UCO has partnered with the Swansea University in Wales to expand opportunities for graduate students. Photo provided.

one-price tuition is very competitive. Extra fees, books, commuting, child-care — all these costs are either eliminated or held to a minimum. Plus, trips to Wales at the start and finish of the program, help the students expand their world views."

Bernard went on to state that the three-year dissertation format Swansea offers is considered the standard for most of the world, with a degree earned from a British university considered as the equivalent to an American Ph.D. In addition, he also added that those who hold British degrees are better suited when competing for jobs.

Bernard went on to state how the program's unique structure allowed for working students to earn a quality degree,

adding, "Because of the early successes of UCO students in the program, Swansea now allows Oklahoma students to work full-time while finishing their Ph.D. degrees. Aided by UCO, Swansea does monitor students closely guiding and encouraging them. Because they do not let students fall behind, we anticipate higher completion rates, similar to those for other Swansea students and well above similar rates at U.S. universities. For students who are place-bound and unable to attend major research universities, this is an excellent opportunity for personal guidance leading to a strong degree at a competitive price."

THE VISTA

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Editorial

Departing Lives, Arriving Legacies

This past week has been full of departures.

Edward Snowden fled the country, arriving in Hong Kong, and then Russia, in an effort to escape the consequences of leaking confidential information about the National Security Agency. Paula Deen unexpectedly left Food Network, after executives at Food Network decided not to renew her contract following a legal deposition, in which she admitted to using racial slurs. Also, suddenly and tragically, James Gandolfini lost his life, due to cardiac arrest.

What do these three events possibly have in common?

Legacy.

Each of these people have led different lives, up until this point in time, yet, each of their lives has created a legacy for them, whether that be good or bad.

Edward Snowden, despite his previous life events, is now known for leaking information, possible espionage charges and most recently, being an international fugitive or refugee, depending on your personal opinion of his actions.

Some feel that Snowden's actions were necessary, revealing valuable

information to the American public. Others feel Snowden caused a national security threat for the United States. Either way, Snowden gained fame, at least temporarily.

His legacy, unless his behavior continues to escalate, will now be this incident. He will be remembered for leaking NSA information. Even when no one will remember his name, or what he has done, one simple Google search will assert his legacy once more.

As for Paula Deen, who knows whether her record is completely tarnished? Before her release from Food Network, Paula Deen's legacy most likely would have included her restaurant, her television program, her public confession of having diabetes and her overwhelming use of butter. Though those things will still be attached with her legacy, this latest incident might overshadow the majority of her other accomplishments.

Her release from Food Network likely marks the end of her television career and time in the "relevant" spotlight, unless of course, someone decides to offer her a time slot for her own talk show.

Because Deen confessed to using

racial slurs, she will likely carry the weight and consequences of her actions for many years.

And then, there is the legacy of James Gandolfini. Like many, I found myself teary-eyed and with a catch in my throat when I heard the news of Gandolfini's passing. His acting career will be remembered for decades to come, most notably for his performance as Tony Soprano in the HBO series "The Sopranos."

Aside from his acting career, Gandolfini will be remembered for his generosity and kindness. Some of his co-stars released statements about Gandolfini after news spread, sharing stories of his friendship and compassion.

Departures often lead to the question of what's left behind. In these cases, the legacies of lives lived, of successes and failures, and of wrongs and rights are left for lessons to be learned.

Legacies left behind often speak louder than departures themselves.

SARAH NEESE

editor-in-chief
copy editor



Cartoon by Evan Oldham

CAMPUS QUOTES

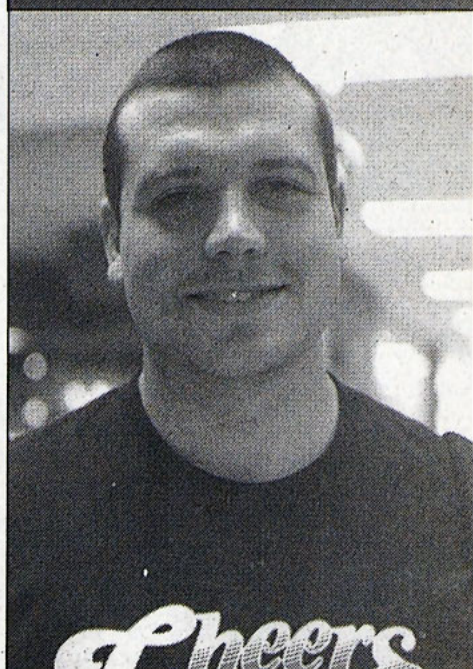
What upcoming movie are you looking forward to the most?

TYMESHA ADKINS
Nursing-Sophomore



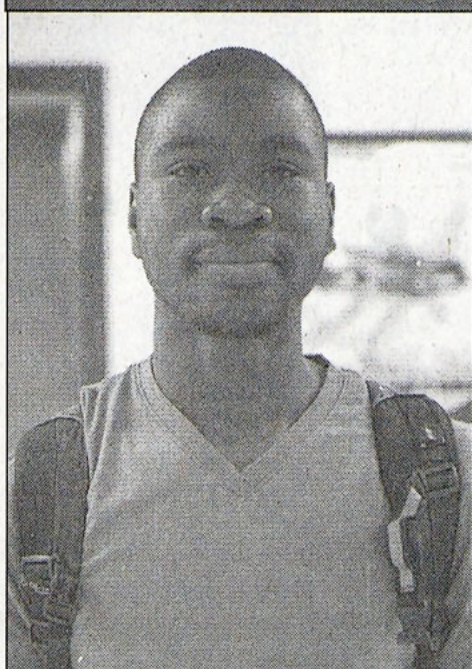
"The Kevin Hart movie. I love comedies."

NICK WALLER
Biomedical Engineering-Sophomore



"Red 2. I saw the first one, it was really good."

SAMSON OLA FERU
Management-Junior



"White House Down, I love Jamie Foxx."

CARLA VILLEGAS
Community Health-Junior



"Man of Steel, but I haven't seen it."

Opinion

Sincerely,



Stevie

Bologna Lifestyle

By Stevie Armstrong

Jail can't possibly be that bad. I heard if you're there long enough they throw you a gourmet bologna sandwich that works well as a pillow. But if you're not careful, your new friend sharing the concrete bench with you might snatch it.

Personally, I've never experienced jail nor do I plan on it, but I don't think most of the visitors there planned on it either.

After a night of drinking mixed with poor decisions, an Australian man was given an ultimatum by the court. He could either spend three months in jail or two years without alcohol. Most people would see the easy choice of being a free man and sustaining from alcohol for the next

couple of years. Not Mr. Milo Wild. He would rather meet a few nice guys while enjoying his bologna sandwiches for three months. Does this really surprise you? The word "wild" is in his name!

Mr. Wild isn't the only man who chose jail over other options. A New Zealand man decided jail would be more entertaining than house arrest after running out of Xbox games.

When I read these news articles from Yahoo, I tried thinking of what it would take for me to choose jail over something else. I decided that I would rather rack up my jail time than be without chocolate. Although I doubt the sandwiches come with a side of Hershey's kisses, I would

rather handle three months in jail than be without chocolate for two years.

I survived living in a dorm, I can handle jail. White cement blocks and a cold floor. One nasty bathroom you have to share with strangers and a cellmate, I mean roommate, that may or may not attack you in your sleep. They compare well, if you ask me.

So if I ever decide to rob a chocolate factory or undividedly take a dive in Willy Wonka's chocolate river, I'll probably end up in some sort of court. I'll have to make sure all of the chocolate evidence has been washed out of my hair before they scold me and give me the verdict of either three months in jail or be

chocolate abstinent for two years.

Like I said before, I would have to take my chances in jail. I would probably get the shakes from the low percentage of chocolate running through my blood, but the first thing I would do once my three months were over is get chocolate wasted!

I thought these two guys were crazy for picking jail over another option until I thought about my weakness. What would you have to be without for you to choose the bologna lifestyle over freedom?

Sincerely, Stevie

UCO Wellness Walks Promote Healthy Living



UCO Wellness Walks Participants at Edmond Farmers Market. Photo by Emilee Bounds, Wellness Sports Coordinator. Edmond Farmers Market. Photo by Emilee Bounds, Wellness Sports Coordinator.

Emily Crowder

Contributing Writer

Every Wednesday through July 31, the Wellness Center Health and Fitness team is leading walks to the Edmond Farmers Market from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to promote physical activity.

The one-mile Wednesday Wellness Walks are geared towards UCO employees. According to Emilee Bounds, the UCO Employee Wellness Coordinator, the first week there were fifteen walkers and about ten walkers each week after that.

"We started the wellness walks because we were looking for creative ways to engage the campus community in physical activity," Bounds said.

The group meets and takes off from the West side of Old North and walks to the Farmers Market on 2nd and Broadway. They stay and shop around at the market and then walk back to campus. The walks take about an hour.

"Walkers buy items such as fresh asparagus, onion, tomatoes, cantaloupe, homemade salad dressing, herbs, local honey, and many other items," Bounds said. Not only are these wellness walks promot-

ing physical fitness, and getting people moving, but they are also supporting our local economy.

"The main goal of the walks was initially to give UCO Employees the opportunity to incorporate physical activity in their day in a non-traditional way. It has also been a great opportunity for employees to get to know one another and put faces to names that you may have seen. We are also supporting local farmers and businesses by walking to the market. Overall, it has really been a success so far," she said.

Bounds is an advocate for these walks because she wants to see everyone be more

physically active on campus and she wants to help people think of creative ways to incorporate physical activity into their days, even at work.

"Finding the type of exercise and physical activity that you enjoy is really the key. If you enjoy walking, but can't ever seem to find the motivation to go alone, then maybe our Wednesday Wellness Walks to the Farmers Market can give you that avenue to be active. I am also an advocate of supporting local business and eating local fruits and vegetables," she said.

U.S. Senate passes new immigration bill, makes changes to U.S. borders

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate passage of historic immigration legislation offering citizenship to millions looks near-certain after the bill cleared a key hurdle with votes to spare.

A final vote in the Senate on Thursday or Friday would send the issue to the House, where conservative Republicans in the majority oppose citizenship for anyone living in the country illegally.

Some GOP lawmakers have appealed to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, not to permit any immigration legislation to come to a vote for fear that whatever its contents, it would open the door to an unpalatable compromise with the Senate. At the same time, the House Judiciary Committee is in the midst of approving a handful of measures related to immigration, action that ordinarily is a prelude to votes in the full House.

Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Tuesday that the Senate's advancement of stronger border security measures makes it "even more likely" that immigration reform will pass the House and become law. He said that the House won't take up the Senate bill but will do its own legislation, and added, "the majority of Republicans support the border security" as the keystone of immigration reform. He spoke on CBS' "This Morning."

"Now is the time to do it," President Barack Obama said Monday at the White House before meeting with nine business executives who support a change in immigration laws. "I hope that we can get the strongest possible vote out of the Senate so that we can then move to the House and get this done before the summer break" beginning in early August.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Tuesday she thinks it's important for the House to have its own bill and said, "Let's be optimistic about it."

Pelosi told CNN she thinks it has an excellent chance of passing in the House because GOP lawmakers remember the party's poor showing with Hispanic voters in last year's presidential election. She said that election "sends an eloquent message" to them.

Obama's prodding came several hours before the Senate voted 67-27 to advance the measure over a procedural hurdle. The tally was seven more than the 60 needed, with 15 Republicans joining Democrats in voting yes.

"I think we're building momentum," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who worked with Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., on a \$38 billion package of security improvements that helped bring Republicans on board by doubling the number of border patrol agents and calling for hundreds of miles of new fencing along the border with Mexico. Those changes brought border security spending in the bill to \$46 billion.

"The bill has been improved dramatically tonight by this vote, there's no question," Corker said. "My sense is we're going to pass an immigration bill out of the United States Senate which will be no doubt historic and I think something that's very, very important to this nation."

Last-minute frustration was evident among opponents. In an unusual slap at members of his own party as well as Democrats, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said it appeared that lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle "very much want a fig leaf" on border security to justify a vote for immigration.

Senate officials said some changes were still possible to the bill before it leaves the Senate — alterations that would swell the number of votes in favor.

At the same time, Sen. Roger Wicker, R-

UCO Student Awarded with the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Kandice McClain

Contributing Writer

University of Central Oklahoma's Taylor Egger has been awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

The national scholarship, worth \$5,000, will send sophomore Egger on a study abroad trip to South Korea. Egger will be allowed to immerse herself in the culture of South Korea, while studying international business at Hanyang University.

"Being an international business major, there is something to be said for having a travel abroad experience. I want to immerse myself into different cultures and meet new people," Egger said.

The Guthrie native will be going out of the country for the first time, leaving in August and staying for most of the semester with the program.

"I feel so fortunate to have been given this amazing opportunity. I am interested to see how the people of South Korea live and what the country has to offer," Egger said.

Egger is involved in the Delta Zeta sorority, the suicide prevention organization "To Write Love on Her Arms," and UCO's Broncho Buddies, which is an intercultural



UCO student Taylor Egger earns National Scholarship to study in South Korea for the 2013-14 academic year. Photo Provided.

program that UCO offers to domestic and international students as a fun way to learn about other cultures.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship was established through the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000 and is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

Miss. who voted to advance the measure during the day, said he may yet end up opposing it unless he wins changes he is seeking.

Senate Democrats were unified on the vote.

Republicans were anything but on a bill that some party leaders say offers the GOP a chance to show a more welcoming face to Hispanic voters, but which tea party-aligned lawmakers assail as amnesty for those who have violated the law.

At its core, the Senate bill would create a 13-year pathway to citizenship for an estimated 11 million immigrants living illegally

in the United States.

The measure also would create a new program for temporary farm laborers to come into the country, and another for lower-skilled workers to emigrate permanently. At the same time, it calls for an expansion of an existing visa program for highly-skilled workers, a gesture to high-tech companies that rely heavily on foreigners.

In addition to border security, the measure phases in a mandatory program for employers to verify the legal status of potential workers, and calls for a separate program to track the comings and goings of foreigners at the nation's seaports and airports.

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RANDOM FACTS

In 1759, St. James's Gate Brewery (where they brew Guinness) was leased for to Arthur Guinness for 9,000 years for 45 pounds per year.

The Vatican Bank is the world's only bank that allows ATM users to perform transactions in Latin.

RANDOM QUOTE

The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You don't blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the President. You realize that you control your own destiny.

- Albert Ellis

RIDDLE

An Arab sheikh tells his two sons to race their camels to a distant city to see who will inherit his fortune. The one whose camel is slower will win. Reluctantly, the brothers started out on this unconventional "race". After wandering aimlessly for days, they came across a wise man and asked him for advice. After hearing the advice of the wise man, the brothers jump on the camels and race as fast as they can to the city. What advice did the wise man offer?

- Answer in the next issue.

RIDDLE ANSWER

Answer from the previous week's riddle.

The letter "E" is not used once in the paragraph.

SUDOKU

4					1	3		
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6	7		1					
1	9			5			6	
		5	8					3

CROSSWORD

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				42					43					
44	45	46							47		48	49	50	51
52							53	54						
55							56							
57							58							

Across

1. Radio wave with a wavelength less than 100 meters

10. Rows

15. Fee paid for a nominally free service

16. "South Pacific" hero

17. Person from a foreign country

18. Breathing problem

19. Amino acid found in many proteins

20. Spectacles

21. Tubular attachment used to keep stray light out of a camera

24. Someone who skates

28. Bear in mind

32. Observant one

33. Made for purchase and immediate use

34. "Iliad" warrior

35. Romance, e.g.

36. 20-20, e.g.

37. Took on again

39. Japanese cartoon art

40. Flat and thin

41. Large two-handed saw

42. 2000, for one

44. Prosthesis that replaces a missing leg

47. Beat

52. Deep-six

53. Wind-driven device

55. Young, weaned pig

56. Lays out again

57. Tall Building

58. Exaggerate

Down

1. Boutique

2. 2:00 or 3:00

3. "I'm ___ you!"

4. "Let's ___"

5. Kind of park

6. Paler

7. "As You Like It" setting

8. Compete

9. Attention

10. Padded cloth to keep a teapot warm

11. Structure that makes progress difficult

12. Certain Scandinavian

13. Beat it

14. Caribbean and others

20. Probe that sends information about its environment

22. Set back?

23. Squirrel away

24. Tangle

25. "M*A*S*H" setting

26. First-stringers

27. Fit together exactly, of identical shapes

29. U.S. film actress

30. Tomato blight

31. Extend, in a way

33. Chart anew

35. Russian prison camp for political prisoners

38. One out?

39. Close

41. Very poor person

43. Lyric poem

44. "Check this out!"

45. Bounce back, in a way

46. Cultivate

48. Buttonhole, e.g.

49. Aquatic plant

50. Camping gear

51. European language

53. Ace

54. Gun, as an engine

WORD SEARCH

CLOUDY	E	I	M	H	X	Z	W	Z	X	T	P	X	E	Y	L
COLD	C	D	Y	P	L	F	Q	J	K	I	D	I	H	F	P
COOL	G	N	L	G	O	U	Y	W	I	Y	P	M	D	P	L
FOGGY	R	X	Y	S	C	K	G	F	O	C	Y	M	M	V	J
HOT	H	Y	A	W	G	L	G	Y	K	N	R	Z	L	E	G
RAINY	K	D	U	R	O	H	O	T	N	A	X	K	Y	C	T
SNOWY	W	S	Y	L	N	N	F	U	W	I	N	D	Y	U	B
SUNNY	O	X	F	H	I	Q	S	J	D	L	A	L	S	U	H
WARM	R	R	Q	X	X	C	N	N	V	Y	W	R	S	I	W
WINDY	C	M	T	H	C	R	U	Q	P	I	R	B	M	M	Q
	V	P	W	L	D	Y	Z	K	Z	J	R	I	J	V	T
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	U	Z	I	U	D	K	E	J	U	L	Z	U	L	S	W

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Opinion

The Rounds: Baseball's first half heats up



Sam Philbeck

Sports Columnist

Finally, the playoffs are over!

I know basketball fans and hockey fans have been salivating over these past few weeks of Finals and Stanley Cup action and I admit a lot of it was great including last night's insane Game six against the Bruins and Blackhawks, but I checked out after game four of the Finals and was ready for it to be done.

Now since that is done boys and girls, we can shift our focus onto America's past and current pastimes, baseball and football.

While football is still a few months away, this week we're making the rounds to the baseball diamond and talking about everything first half of the baseball season.

Being a few weeks away from the Midsummer Classic being played in good ol' New York at Citi Field,

where the National League looks to continue its recent win streak against the American League, we'll start right there looking at both leagues and the division races and teams that have caught our eye in the first half.

Best Division - AL East.

This was a tough one to choose as the NL Central made a strong case for best division, but with Toronto's recent run winning eleven straight before last night's loss to the Rays, the division is now separated from first to fifth by a grand total of 5.5 games and could change before the All-Star break.

Best Division Race - NL Central (St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati)

When your top three teams are one, two, three in baseball in terms of their records, it's going to make for an interesting race. The Cards (47-29) and Reds (45-32) have hit the skids of late, while the Pirates (46-30) have won four straight and seven of their last ten. It remains to be seen if this will hold up, but if it does, boy is the Central the division to watch come September.

Surprising Teams - Cleveland and Arizona

The team I would've expected to be sitting in second in the AL Central 3.5 back wouldn't be the Indians, but they have exceeded early expectations with the help of an offense that ranks in the top ten

in runs and home runs.

The Diamondbacks didn't reach 41 wins last season till July 7 and are well ahead last year's first half finish as they lead the NL West with a 41-34 record with a solid combination of pitching and hitting.

Disappointing Teams - Washington and Toronto

The Nationals were my pick to win it all this year and look nothing like the team that jumped out to the 41-29 record at this point last year. Now, injuries have plagued the team, with Bryce Harper being the most notable injury. The pitching has been solid, ranking sixth in baseball in team ERA at 3.60; the team batting average is a dismal .233. That's going to have to get much better if they want to make a run at the division let alone wild card.

I mention Toronto with some trepidation as they did just come off an eleven-game win streak and look to have finally hit their stride, but for most of the first half they have been sitting in the cellar of what has been a terrific AL East. If they can stay hot, they'll definitely be more of what everyone thought they would be, than just a replica of the 2012 Miami Marlins. It helps Jose Reyes is getting ready to return.

1st Half MVP's -

AL - Miguel Cabrera and Chris Davis - Tie

This is way too close to call. The reigning MVP is at it again, leading the league in average and RBI, but Davis is hot on his heels sitting in second in both categories and leading the league in home runs with 26. This will come down to whose team does better and if both can keep it up. My money is on Cabrera though.

NL - Carlos Gonzalez, Colorado

Coming off a disappointing 2012 campaign (which for many is a terrific year), CarGo has bounced back to his 2010 triple crown-esque form to help lead the Rockies right into the thick of things in the NL West, sitting three games back of the Diamondbacks all while co-star Troy Tulowitzki has been out and currently leads the league in home runs and sitting fourth in RBIs.

1st Half Cy Young -

AL - Mariano Rivera, New York
Even the biggest Yankee hater can't help but root for Rivera in his swan song season. Okay maybe they can, but they can't deny his greatness, and this season has been no different as the 43-year old has been terrific tying for the league lead in saves (26) and leading all closers in ERA (1.61).

NL - Adam Wainwright, St. Louis

One of the biggest reasons for the Cardinals success this season has been the right arm of their star pitcher. The 6-7 ace has been terrific this season tying for the

lead in wins (10) and leading in complete games with three, while sitting in fourth in strikeouts and sixth in ERA.

Most Exciting Player - Yasiel Puig, Los Angeles.

I don't think you can talk about the first half of baseball and not mention the new star in Dodger blue. The 22-year-old Cuban defector has lit the baseball world on fire in his first three weeks, hitting .442 and smashing seven home runs, while also showing off his all-around skills in the outfield. When Matt Kemp comes back to the lineup, they look to enforce a pretty potent one-two punch and help the Dodgers get back into the division race.

Now that the circus that is the Miami Heat is done for the season, I think we can all sit back and enjoy the game that is baseball and all the great things the second half of the season has to offer.

Give me that any day over the King and his court.



Follow Sam on Twitter
@SamPhilbeck25

Durant signs with Jay-Z

The Associated Press

Kevin Durant has become the first NBA star to sign with Jay-Z's Roc Nation agency.

Durant posted a photo on social media Monday of himself and the rap mogul with the paperwork. Jay-Z became certified as a representative by the NBA players' association last week.

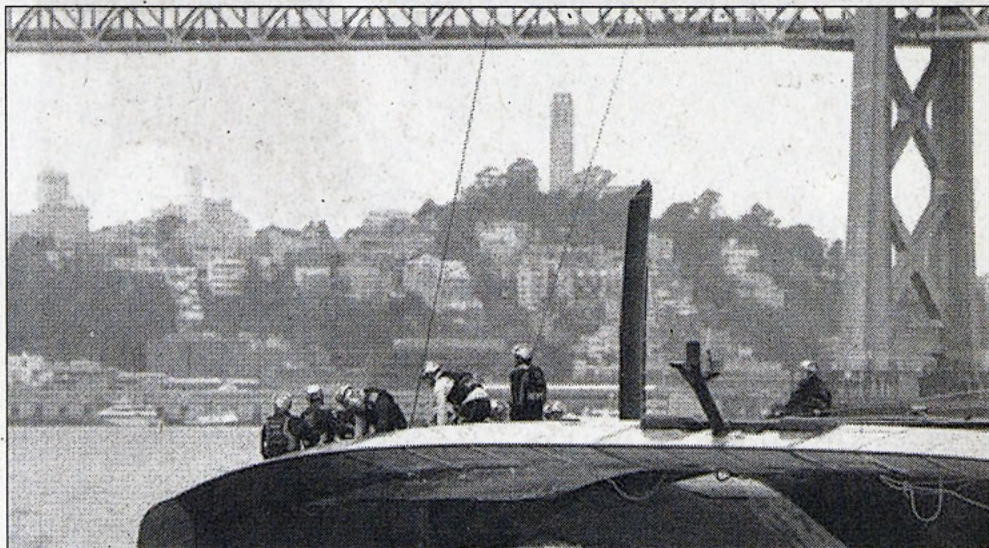
A quote attributed to Durant above the picture says he's "grateful for this opportunity with Roc Nation Sports. It's go time."

The Oklahoma City star and Olympic

gold medalist — who had a field goal percentage over 50, a 3-point percentage over 40 and a free-throw percentage over 90 — leaves agent Rob Pelinka to sign with Roc Nation.

"He has a 90.5 free throw shooting rate, the youngest player in NBA history to join the 50-40-90 club, a giving individual and a legend in the making. What more can I say?" reads the quote attributed to Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter.

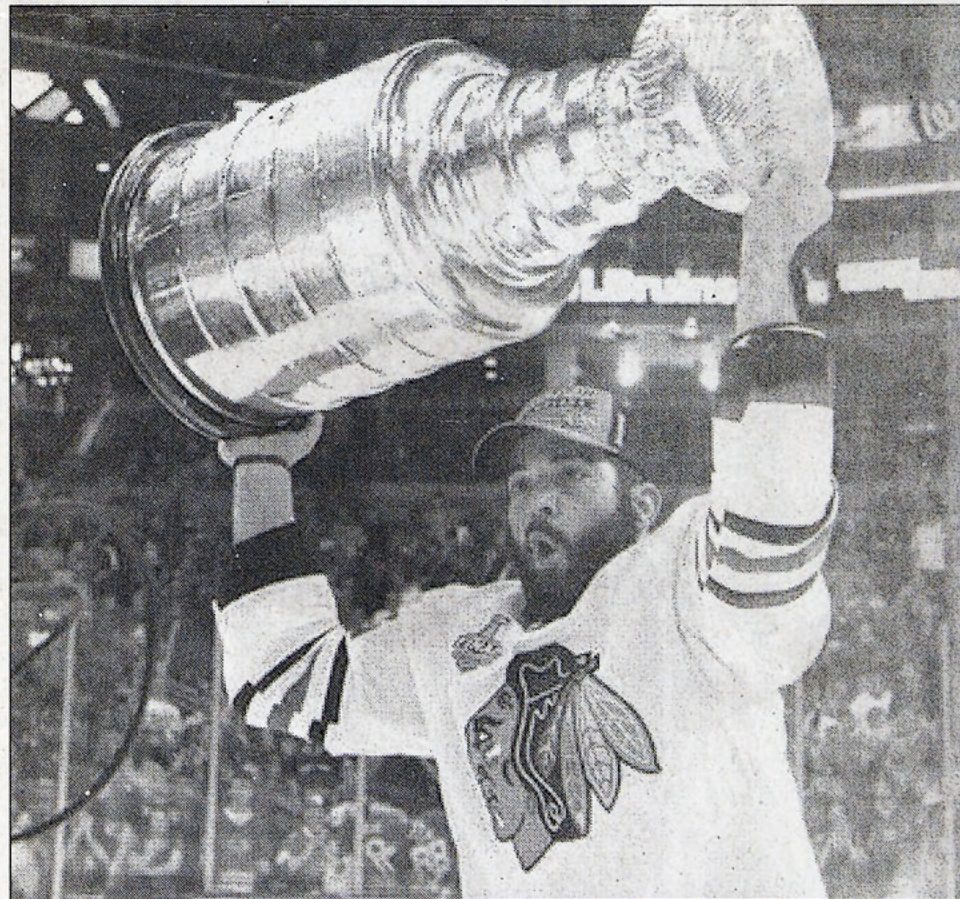
SAN FRANCISCO



Crew members aboard Oracle Team USA's first AC72 catamaran prepare for training with the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and Coit Tower in the background Tuesday, June 25, 2013 in San Francisco. The America's Cup champion began two-day testing on San Francisco Bay. Oracle will spend the next two months testing its newest 72-foot catamaran against its first cat, which capsized on the bay in mid-October, in preparation for the 34th America's Cup beginning Sept. 7. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

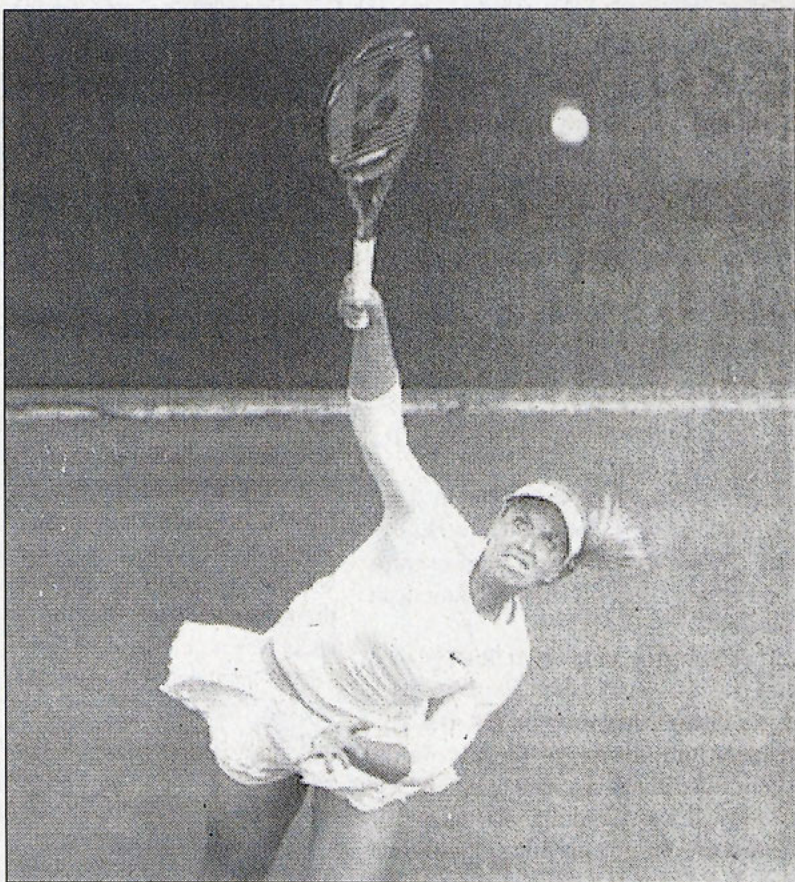
SPORTS AROUND THE WORLD:

CHICAGO



Chicago Blackhawks left wing Brandon Bollig hoists the Stanley Cup after the Blackhawks beat the Boston Bruins 3-2 in Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals Monday, June 24, 2013, in Boston. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

LONDON



Sabine Lisicki of Germany serves Francesca Schiavone of Italy during their Women's first round singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Tuesday, June 25, 2013. (AP Photo/Sang Tan)

TURKEY



Greece's Dimitrios Kourmpelis, left, and Mali's Adama Niane, right, challenge for the ball during the Under-20 World Cup Group D soccer match between Mali and Greece in Gaziantep, Turkey, Tuesday, June 25, 2013. (AP Photo/Gero Breloer)

Baseball

Bronchos head back to the diamond

UCO Broncho Baseball looks to stay on pace after two consecutive 30-win seasons



UCO junior Tyler Crabtree at the plate during the Bronchos 3-1 season ender against Pittsburg State, Kan. Photo provided by Bronchosports.com

Thomas Jones

Contributing Writer

Expect the Bronchos baseball program to take the mound this season with a much stronger perspective of its competition in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

This year is all about keeping the program on pace after recording its second consecutive 30-win season. The Bronchos competed in 2012 as an independent before joining the MIAA. They finished that season 30-17 and finished this season with an overall 30-19 record.

"Last year was our first year in the MIAA and we didn't know exactly what we were stepping into, but we had a good season," explained Associate Head Coach Jeff Steele.

The Bronchos finished tied for 3rd out of 15 teams in its first complete season in the MIAA conference with a stout 23-16 record. The team tied with Missouri Southern and placed behind Central Missouri (28-8) and Missouri Western (28-5).

"We're excited going into the 2013-14 season," Steele said. "We've got a good number of guys returning."

A strong point for Central baseball last year was certainly its bullpen and not a lot has changed.

"Probably our most significant arms that we have returning are Mason Justice, Landon Hallam, and Ethan Sharp," Steele said. "These guys are going to play significant roles filling innings for us this upcoming season."

Justice, a junior out of Tulsa, started in the bullpen last year and, as the season progressed, moved into a starting role for the team. Coach Steele pointed out that he was exceptionally good for the team in his last three or four starts of the season. Justice recorded a complete-game win in the first round of the MIAA conference tournament, leading to a 9-2 victory and the sweep over Emporia State.

"He was extremely on-point for us," Steele said, as he referred to Justice.

Hallam, a junior from Edmond, filled the same starting role as Justice for most of the season. He got the start for the last game of the year and threw well in a no-decision loss to Pittsburg State, sitting down 8 batters and giving up 5 hits and a run in 6 1/3 innings.

"He gave us significant innings and kind of fell victim to not a lot of run support," Steele said, "but he did well for us."

Sharp, a junior out of Eufaula, was the closer for most of last year. He made some starts late in the season as well, but he was noteworthy in closing out some of the bigger conference wins of the season.

"He (Sharp) was a stabilizer at the back end of the game and we're hoping that we can turn him into a starter this next year," Steele said.

The Bronchos will also return a large number of seniors and are recruiting many promising players to this year's team.

"Hopefully, we can solidify a few more of these recruits that we are trying to get in place, because they can definitely be difference makers and help us toward

getting a regional bid for next year," Steele said.

The Bronchos know who they are facing this year. The team was familiar with some of the soon-to-be opponents in its 2012 independent season, but this year the blindfold is off and the MIAA better be ready. The bats are already in full swing as Coach Steele and the Central coaching staff prepares to move further into this year's post season.

"Missouri Western and Central Missouri are always tough opponents," Steele said. "They are something for us to strive to reach if we want to accomplish the goal of winning a conference championship."

Coach Steele was adamant to point out there was a learning curve associated with last year, but it's gone now and, both the Bronchos coaching staff and the team are feeling pumped about this upcoming season. As a team, there was satisfaction in last year's accomplishments, on and off the field. At the same time, though, there was a little bit of disappointment because the team fell short of some goals that they all set together.

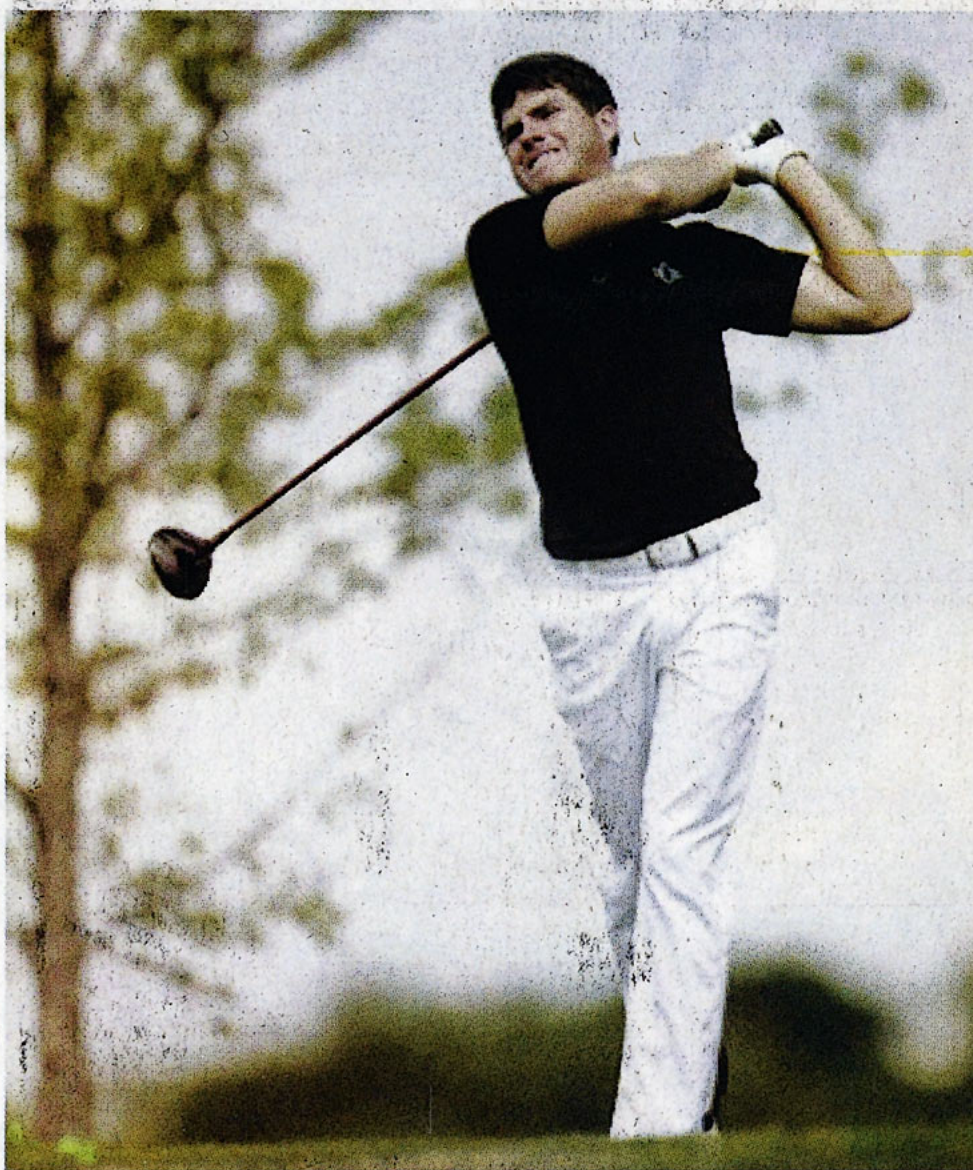
"We had a good year, overall," Steele said. "Going into the full-fledged conference schedule last year was a bit of a learning process, but we found ways to win. We can use this last season to help better educate us going forward on what we need to do to try and crack a 40-win mark or push to take the next step in the post season."

UCO baseball will begin in September with the schedule yet to be posted. Go Bronchos!

Golf

Broncho golfer named All-American

UCO graduate Dillon Rust talks about what it took and where he plans to go next



UCO 4-year golfer Dillon Rust finished out his career with the Bronchos earning honors on the NCAA Division II PING All-American team. Photo provided by Bronchosports.com

Austin Litterell

Contributing Writer

Edmond Santa Fe product, Dillon Rust, started all four years for the University of Central Oklahoma's golf team and eventually, he became a second team All-American in Division II.

Golf was not the only sport Rust played growing up. An avid baseball player as a child, he didn't participate in his first golf tournament until the age of 12. Afterwards, Rust continued to hold baseball as his primary focus. It wasn't until a year later that he decided to continue playing golf full-time. "I was just better at it" Rust explained, on why he chose golf.

Rust explained that as a child athlete, it is common to pick your favorites in a sport and to be influenced by them. However, he was not as influenced so much as to say he just admired. Rust still had his favorites, including the late Payne Stewart and Ernie Els.

Rust feels that college for any student, whether an athlete or not, is a great time in their lives and feels that the golf program at UCO was no different.

"So far they have been the best times of my life," he said.

Rust used his freshman year to become more mature as a person and expressed how it led to him becoming a better golfer.

"The first year I used to become older and more mature. As I became more mature the performance started to take over," Rust said. "I steadily got better."

Over the course of those next three years, he showed just that, steady improvement. Rust was chosen as honorable mention in 2012 and second team All-American this season. He finished this year with an average score of 72.76 and nine top 10 finishes including two first place finishes and a seventh place finish at the NCAA Championships. His nine top 10 finishes increased from five his junior year and three the season before that.

"It's fun," Rust said. "I came into college not highly recruited. Finishing my career as an All-American is cool."

Rust's college career may be over, but now he is following his dream, already turning pro and completing his first professional tournament. Rust managed to make the cut and already got his first check from the tour-

nament. Rust also made the cut in his second tournament as well. It is a solid start to the beginning of a promising future for Rust.

"It is my dream to play on the PGA tour."

Constantly improving, Rust believes he has the potential to accomplish his lofty goals. He definitely has the attitude that is needed to succeed.

Rust is not leaving the Bronchos empty-handed however. The program still has its share of good players under Coach Pat Bates including Freshman Eric Kline. Rust had some kind words about the program's future.

"I see it continuing to get better and I see it moving forward," Rust said.