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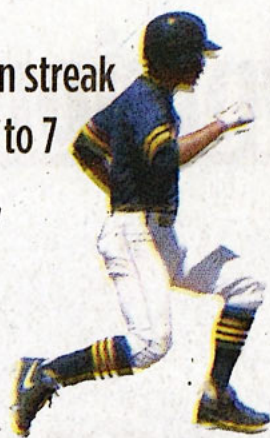
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

THE VISTA

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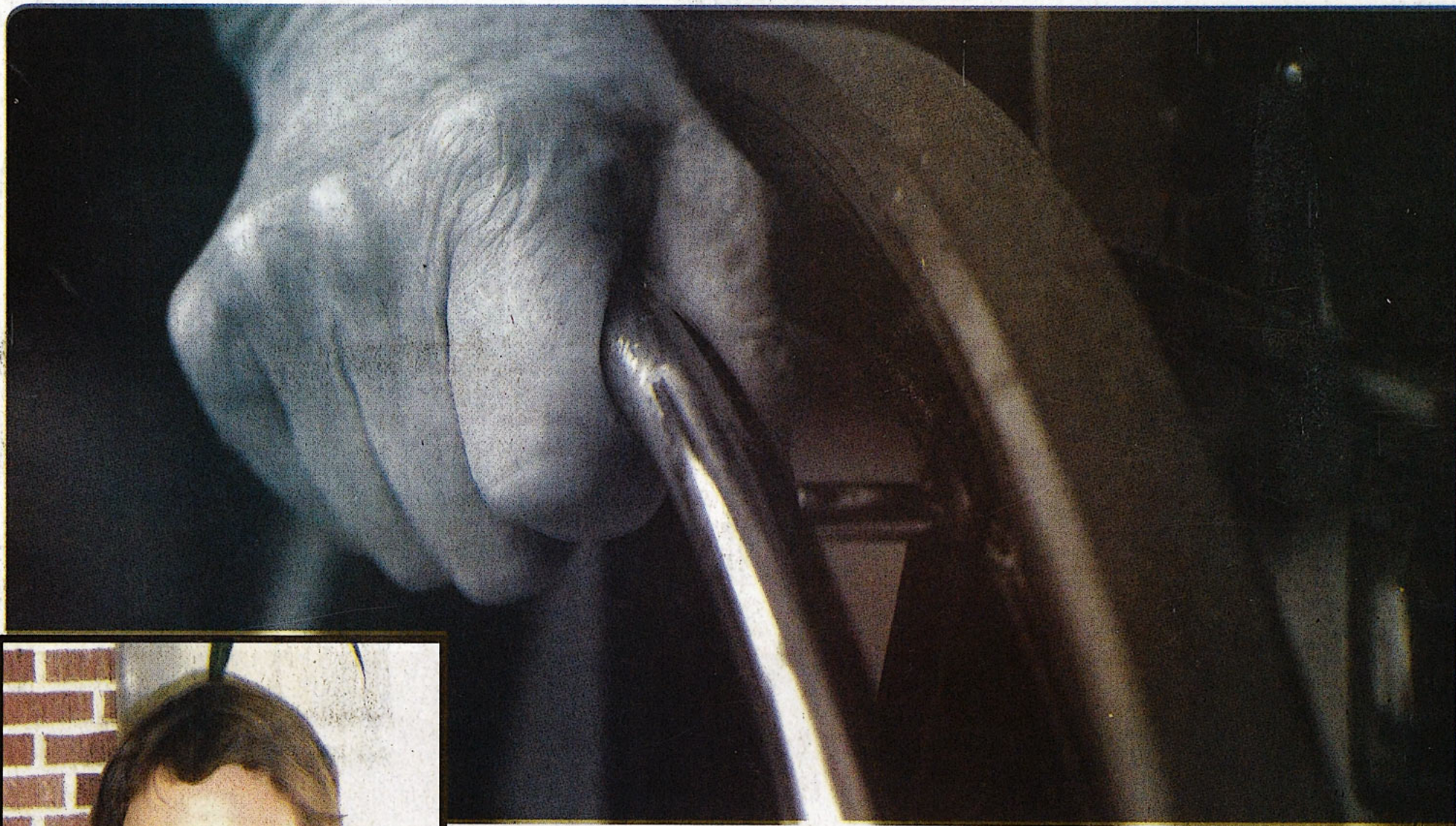
Bronchos' win streak grows to 7

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TUESDAY • April 23, 2013



Photos provided

The gift of mobility

UCO student uses opportunity to speak to members of Congress as a chance to share research on wheelchair maneuverability

Lindsey Rickards, Staff Writer

UCO senior computer science major, Travis White, will present research on wheelchair maneuverability at "Posters on the Hill" in Washington, D.C. on April 24.



"Posters on the Hill" is a Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) annual event that gives undergraduate students from throughout the country, an opportunity to share their research and discoveries.

"It's a good feeling to know that you're chosen as a top undergraduate researcher," White said.

White was chosen as one of 60 to participate in the event out of nearly 800 applicants.

Travis will present his research on wheelchair maneuverability to members of Congress and the national science community.

"I'm excited to speak to Congress and see the capital," White said.

White's research studies wheelchair driving patterns with the intent of developing intelligent and safe control modules to help people with disabilities who are unable to drive.

To overcome the high costs and

low availability of traditional sensors, White uses smart phones and cloud computing to provide an ideal solution, collect data and analyze wheelchair driving data in real time.

"I hope that this project yields something to help people who are in power wheelchairs," White said.

White is a research assistant under Jicheng Fu, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science and research advisor.

The two have been working together on this project for almost two years.

White said he became a research assistant after taking Fu's Data Structure class, which bridged him to taking senior level classes with Fu, where Fu often spoke about research.

Fu assigned White to the project. "The project dealt with artificial intelligence, and that seemed interesting to me," White said.

Continued Page 5

UCO keeping pace with online course trend



(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

In Jan. 2013, Babson Survey Research Group released a report detailing the growth of online college courses.

The report, Changing Course: Ten Years of Tracking Online Education in the United States, highlighted the changing trends of colleges offering online courses. In 2002, online courses counted as 9.6 percent of to-

tal enrollment at universities, while in 2011 the number was reported at 32 percent.

It was found that in 2002 the majority of universities, 71.7 percent, had a form of online offering available to their students. In 2012, 86.5 percent of higher education institutions offered a form of online education

JOSH WALLACE, Staff Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma has kept up with the trend, offering a variety of courses through the Center for eLearning and Continuing Education. Currently, there are over 200 courses certified to be taught online at UCO.

The report also outlined aspects of online learning versus traditional face-to-face lessons. In 2003, over 40 percent of chief academic officers considered online courses inferior to their traditional counterpart, while in 2012 the number had dropped to 23 percent.

It was also shown that when compared to traditional classes, more universities are agreeing that it takes more faculty time and effort to teach an online course. For public universities, the number that agreed in 2006 stood at 44.8 percent, while in 2012 the number has increased to 55.2 percent.

Faculty acceptance rates were also tracked, with faculty reporting in 2002 that 27.6 percent found the

courses acceptable, 65.1 percent neutral, and 7.4 percent disagreed with the acceptability of online courses. The numbers for 2012 came in at 30.2 percent acceptable, 57.2 percent neutral, and 12.6 percent disagreed.

The report found that while many colleges are implementing more online courses into their degree programs, administrators have some concerns regarding students' success in the courses. 88.8 percent responded to the survey prompt, "Students need more discipline to succeed in online courses," as very important.

Other concerns emphasized by administrators included lower retention rates and the perception of an online degree. There was a continuing trend of administrators concerned over retention rates in online courses becoming a barrier in the growth of online education, while around 40 percent were concerned with the lack of acceptance employers might have for a graduate holding an online degree.

THE VISTA

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EDITORIALS

Opinion columns, editorial cartoons, reviews and commentaries represent the views of the writer or artist and not necessarily the views of The Vista Editorial Board, the Department of Mass Communication, UCO or the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges. The Vista is not an official medium of expression for the Regents or UCO.

LETTERS

The Vista encourages letters to the editor. Letters should address issues and ideas, not personalities. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, with a maximum of 250 words, and must include the author's printed name, title, major, classification and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for libel, clarity and space, or to eliminate statements of questionable taste. The Vista reserves the right not to publish submitted letters.

Address letters to:

Editor, The Vista, 100 N. University Dr., Edmond, OK 73034-5209, or deliver in person to the editor in the Communications Building, Room 137. Letters can be emailed to vistauco@gmail.com.

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The Vista is published biweekly during the fall and spring semesters, and once weekly during the summer. In all issues, The Vista has opportunities for both classified, online and print ads.

Contact Aaron at 405-974-5913 or email your questions to vista-media@yahoo.com for rates.

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Editorial

A Few of My Favorite Things

It's been a long week.

This past week in April seems to be a recurring nightmare each year and this year was one for the history books.

Between the Boston Marathon bombings, the ricin letter scare, the fertilizer plant explosion in Texas, the manhunt for the Boston bombers, the death of the MIT campus officer, those killed from the Colorado avalanche, the earthquakes in Oklahoma, Iran, and China, the flooded Midwest, the shootout in Colorado, the remembrance of the Virginia Tech shooting and the remembrance of the Murrah Bombing, this week has been, to say the least, very draining.

With the accumulation of so many devastating events, it was easy to think that the whole world was crashing down on all of us.

But, when things like this happen, people tend to panic. I, too, tend to get a little more nervous in certain situations and scenarios after events like these.

However, this week, after each day brought a new tragic reality, I decided to honor the essence of the United States, not by dwelling on the aftermath of tragedy, but instead, thinking about what it really is that makes being an American such a wonderful experience.

Granted, I'm the first to admit that I'm not the most patriotic person. I enjoy living here, but I'd also love to travel the world and see the diversity in the world.

But when I sat down and really thought about why I loved America, I found my love for this country and my patriotism becoming more evident.

For me, it's the simple things that I love. Going to the farmer's market down the street to pick up a fresh, homemade pie. The unrelenting joy and pride that comes with the NBA playoffs. The flock of people eagerly waiting in the theaters to see the stream of summer blockbusters. The start of fall across the nation. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The

traditions surrounding Christmas every year.

Throughout the year, I'm so filled with joy at the sights and sounds of America.

When weeks like this past one plague the United States and seem to momentarily crush the spirits of people across the nation, I realize they are just momentary. Because when you look up and finally see the light at the end of the tunnel, fellow Americans will be standing in that light, representing what it means to be a part of the American way of life.

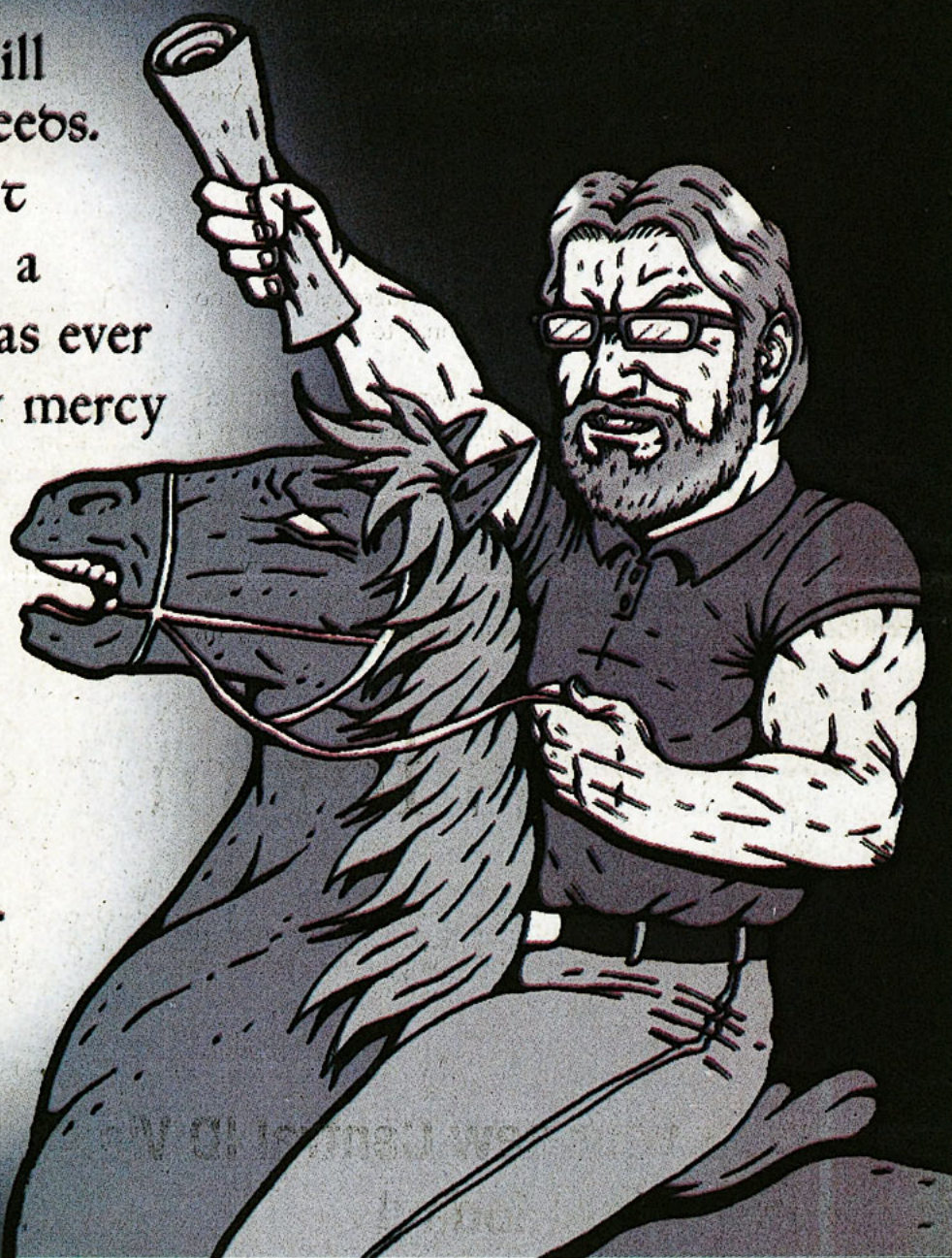
Many times it seems that the United States is in disarray, but then you remember your favorite American things, and then it doesn't seem so bad.

SARAH NEESE
copy editor
sneese@uco.edu

Legends will tell of his deeds.
The greatest Vista editor a university has ever known. May mercy be shown to whomever crosses his path.

The man.
The myth.

Joshua Hutton



Cartoon by Evan Oldham

CAMPUS QUOTES

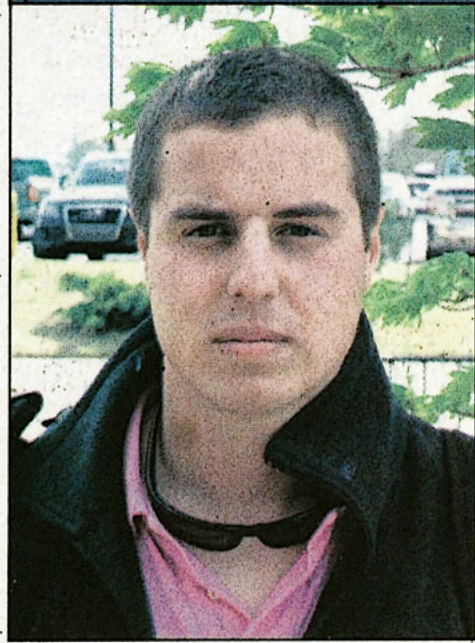
What class are you ready to be done with?

CHERYL DAVIS
Freshman



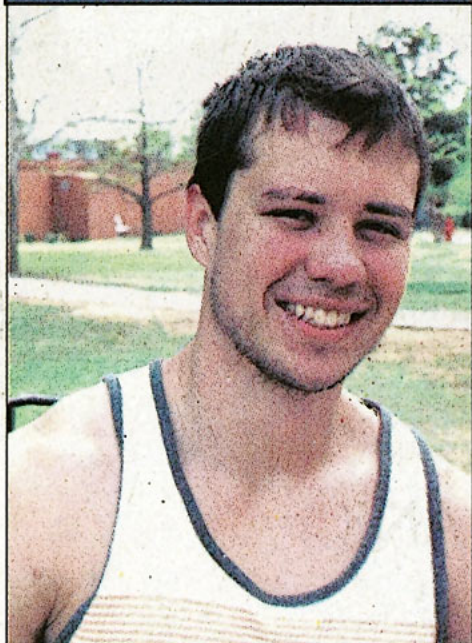
"Logic and Critical Thinking. It's simple once you understand, but it's hard to learn."

JOSH LONG
Finance- Junior



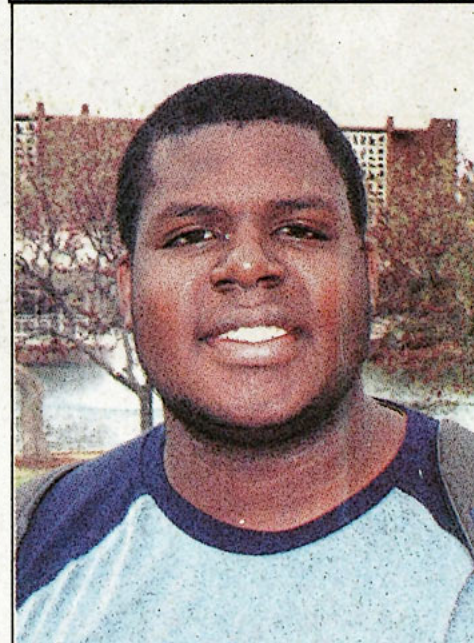
"Personal Finance because it constantly reminds me of the Federal Government's constant fiscal/budget irresponsibility."

BEN HERONEME
HR Management



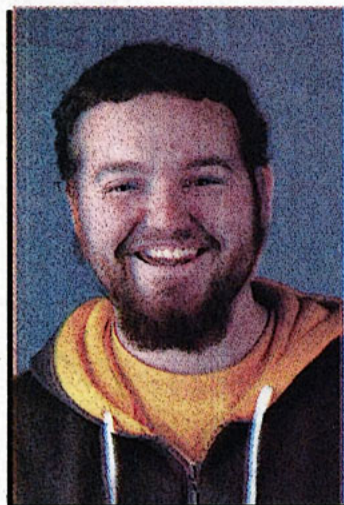
"Logic and Critical Thinking because I don't understand it."

KANGWA MUNDEDE
Music Performance- Junior



"I like all of my classes."

Opinion



BEEN JAMMIN

Rooney Rules, Vol. III

by Ben Luschen

Follow me @okluschen
...seriously

Google doodle, my brutal scruple

Admit it. You're tired of pretending you like the ever-changing Google-doodles.

You want to look cultured. You want people to think you really knew it was Sylvan Goldman's birthday. You want to let people know that you can tell that crooked cattail is totally the letter 'L'.

Google has been displaying custom, commemorative logos on their homepage now for over a decade. They do it mostly to celebrate a certain holiday or to bring attention to the anniversary of some event, which usually seems pretty inconsequential to me and everyone I know.

A lot of people I know drink Google's bathwater. Not me. I use a lot of their products, though. Google Drive has pretty much supplanted Microsoft Office in my life. Chrome is my browser of choice.

But that's it. They're just another company to me. At the end of the day, they just want me to use their product.

Why does Google not allow me to simply opt-out of doodles? I like the regular logo. It's a solid graphic. B-plus.

There was a time in my life I nearly considered switching to

Bing just because I was tired of these lame doodles. Even the word doodle kills me. These are alternative logos. Not doodles. Doodle sounds like something my dog does on the lawn.

Then again, maybe doodle is the perfect word for it.

The Mystery of Sandboxin'

In the first grade, when everyone else was practicing writing the alphabet at their desks, I had to sit in a corner alone, tracing the capital letter 'A' in the sand. Some teacher said the tactile stimulation would help me learn how to properly form my letters. I don't know if it worked. I do know that while the rest of the class learned in unison, it was alone in my private sandbox that I taught myself how to write my own way.

The result is a handwriting problem was only compounded upon when I advanced in school and started learning cursive. The good news this time is that I was not alone. The whole class shared in my agony. We would write in cursive all day until our palms cramped up

and the sides of our hands were stained with gray led, and when we got home we'd have to do it all over again on our homework assignments. We all became better people for it.

Which is exactly why I'm concerned about this generation. Cursive simply isn't taught that much in public schools anymore. Think about it, when do you use this form of the language in the real world? You sign your name in cursive, sure, but other than that? It's just something that's not worth teaching.

But now I ask where the children of today are going to learn this sense of working out of fear of failing in an ever-advancing society? Where are they going to learn that a lot of sweat and physical pain went into each stroke of the Declaration of Independence? Where will they learn to feel bad for their grandmother who still pays for her tin of butter cookies with an excruciatingly slow-written check?

In some ways I feel like a relic, the last of a generation to ever learn a secret, archaic language. Years from now Indiana Jones III will ask me to translate Candace Cameron's personal diary.

But in every other way, I'm pretty much just glad I no longer have to write in the sand.

Recipe

CAMPUS COOK

Thai Glass Noodle Salad

by Jessica Vanroo

Ingredients

- 1 2 oz bundle clear noodles
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion, soaked in water, or shallots
- 1/3 cup toasted peanuts, chopped
- 1/4 cup cilantro leaves and stems, chopped
- 1/4 cup Thai basil leaves, chopped
- 1/4 cup mint leaves, packed, chopped
- 1/2 cup sliced Chinese celery, or regular celery
- 1/3 cup shredded carrots
- 4 oz baby spinach
- 1 tbsp fish sauce, vegetarian fish sauce, or 2 parts soy sauce and 1 part lime juice
- 1 tsp grape seed oil
- 1 tsp sugar or honey
- 1/3 cup fresh lime juice
- 1 tsp unroasted/roasted chili powder
- 2 tsp roasted jasmine rice powder (optional)
- 1-3 Thai chili pepper, optional (chopped larger for less heat)
- 1 tbsp fried garlic or shallots

Directions

1. Bring 4-6 cups of water to a rolling boil. Place noodles in a heat proof bowl and pour boiling water over the noodles. Set a timer for 6 minutes and immediately drain the noodles when the timer goes off. Place noodles in a large mixing bowl and cut with a pair of scissors into 1"-2" sections.
2. Drain red onions or shallots and add to noodles. Add peanuts, cilantro, basil, mint, celery, carrots and spinach into bowl with noodles, toss gently.
3. In a small bowl whisk together the fish sauce, oil, sugar, and lime juice, mix until sugar dissolves. You can also whisk the chili and rice powder in at this time if you are using it. Add chilies into fish sauce mix.
4. Drizzle sauce over noodles and vegetables, toss well. Adjust with more fish sauce, sugar, and/or lime juice.



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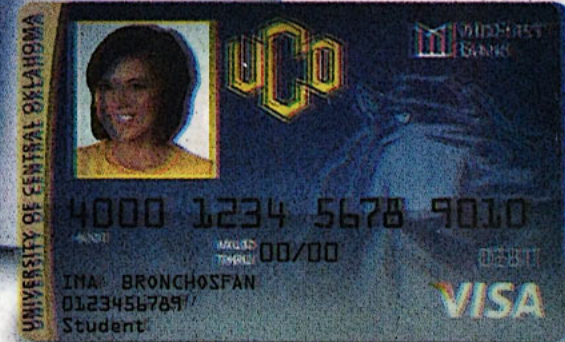
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Green U

For the third consecutive year, the University of Central Oklahoma has been named the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) College and University Green Power Challenge champion.

BROOKS NICKELL, staff writer

The Individual Conference Champion award recognizes the school that has made the largest individual purchase of green power within a qualifying conference.

The 2012-13 challenge saw 76 schools and thirty collegiate conferences in competition. A total of almost 2.2 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power was purchased between the competitors.

UCO won the competition by purchasing 26 million kWh of wind energy through Edmond Electric.

Currently, UCO is the only university in the state that is 100 percent wind powered.

Tim Tillman, UCO's sustainability coordinator, said that while winning this award for a third year in a row feels great, he wouldn't mind handing the title over.

"Hopefully some day there will be enough universities in the state that get on board and go 100 percent wind that we may have some competition. I would love to lose one year to another Oklahoma university," Tillman said.

Aside from using wind energy, Tillman allows that UCO works very hard in several other ways to assure a reduction in the environmental impacts associated with the cam-

pus's day-to-day activities.

"We work very hard on water conservation," Tillman said. "Our irrigation system is in the process of being completely overhauled and automated so that we can keep a nice green campus environment and use about half the water we were using before."

UCO currently has a consultant on campus wrapping up and preparing a report on what can be done, as far as behavior modification, to help reduce energy use.

"For example," Tillman said, "In the business building on Saturdays, there is a computer lab open. Every computer and monitor is turned on and one person sits there all day. They may only see one or two people."

But, behavior modification for energy conservation doesn't stop there for UCO. Tillman explained that reducing the amount of energy used is as simple as consolidating late night classes or classes held on the weekend into one location.

"We're looking at cooperation between departments and colleges to put different classes in the same building. If you're going to open a building at night or on the weekend, why not put 5 or 6 or 10 different classes in

the same building? Behavior modifications are things we can all do to conserve energy."

Tillman said that what really gave UCO its edge in green initiative was the constant search for ways to be more efficient by the whole university staff.

"We have an incredibly talented group of people," Tillman said. "University employees that are out there everyday. The water bottle fillers being put in buildings on campus, our plumbing supervisor Tom Barrmann found those in a catalogue thought they were cool and bought some. No one knew if they would take off or not but they have taken off, to the tune of around 1 million bottles."

UCO also has a performance contract with Johnson Controls, a company that provides services and solutions to optimize energy and operational efficiencies.

"They are experts at energy management and conservation. They have a guy that monitors via computer every single building and room on campus and manages all the air flow."

This provides, according to Tillman, for a more energy efficient heating and air system. He said that it eliminated the need for

big ramp-ups in energy use to heat and cool rooms.

Tillman said that UCO was in a transitory phase at the moment and that the work and initiative to get UCO's campus green has been done to a great effect.

"We're moving into the behavior piece of the equation. You can have the most efficient systems but if people are using them improperly then your negating some of the positive benefit," Tillman said.

Tillman said there was a secret group of academics and administrators that meet regularly for lunch, what they called "Lunch with smart people." He said the group was currently working on some formal curriculum development and finding ways to measure the success of those programs.

"Everybody thinks of sustainability as this big complex thing but it's really not," Tillman said. "Go to your grandma and grandpa's house. On the stove there is probably a coffee can of bacon fat and in the shop jars of nuts and bolts, that's sustainability. It's my generations job to make sure that the younger kids have the tools, knowledge and understanding to go out and make a change."

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Health

87 diagnosed with new strain of flu



Xu Jianguang, director-general and deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China Committee of Shanghai Municipal Health Bureau, left, Keiji Fukuda, Assistant Director-General for Health Security and Environment of World Health Organization (WHO), second from left, and other health officials attend the press conference in Shanghai, China Monday, April 22, 2013. There's no evidence a new bird flu strain is spreading easily among people in China even though there may be sporadic cases of the virus spreading to people who have close contacts with patients, the World Health Organization said. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

ADAM HOLT, staff writer

Infections due to a newly mutated strain of bird flu continue to rise in China.

Eighty-seven people have been diagnosed with the H7N9 strain of the virus. Seventeen have died due to the infection. Poultry is the lead suspect of origin for the recent outbreak.

Scientists are currently investigating how the virus is passed.

"They have found out that this avian virus has the ability to spread to human beings," Dr. Hari Kotturi, assistant professor of biology, said. Human-to-human infection is still unknown.

The danger of the flu is in the ease of mutations in its genetic code. The flu is an RNA-based virus as opposed to the DNA-based common cold viruses. DNA-based organisms are more stable due to a proofreading mechanism that RNA-based organisms lack.

"In the replication of a DNA-based organism, the mechanism corrects any mistakes that occurs in the DNA," Kotturi said. "An RNA-based organism has no mechanism to proofread it, which makes

it more mutation prone." Scientists create a new flu vaccine every year for this reason.

Why bird flu is more worrisome compared to the common human flu is the body's unfamiliarity with the virus. Bird flus depend on a respiratory tract that provides warm temperatures and a low acidic environment. The human body does not support these conditions.

"Since the human body has a more acidic environment and the temperature is low, usually bird viruses cannot replicate inside the cells," Kotturi said.

If a mutation in the genetic code of the bird flu allows the virus to survive in the human respiratory system, the human body does not recognize the virus and cannot react appropriately, thus allowing the flu to live unopposed.

Other differences in the flu virus compared to a common cold virus are symptoms. Both can cause coughing and congestion, though they are more severe with the flu. Strong muscle aches and fatigue accompany the flu, but not a cold. The flu may also lead to infection.

The illnesses also differ in treatment. There is no vaccine for the common cold virus, but due to its mild symptoms, it poses no danger and usually passes in two to three days.

There are treatments to prevent and fight the flu. By introducing a dead or weakened virus into the body, flu shots and flu virus allow the body to build antibodies to prevent sickness. Health professionals often take amantadine or remantadine, drugs known as ion channel blockers, to keep from being infected.

Tamiflu or Relenza may be used to treat those sickened by the flu if caught within 48 hours of infection.

Kotturi said the flu is treated with anti-virals, not antibiotics as sometimes thought.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers tips to prevent the spread of the flu virus. Avoid contact with your eyes, nose, and mouth, cover your nose and mouth when sneezing, and wash your hands often with soap and water to help keep the virus at bay.

continued from Page 1

Wheelchair

"It has been a pleasure for me to work with Travis," Fu said in a press release. "He is a very intelligent and industrious young man. More importantly, he respects and listens to other's advice. When I suggested that he submit an abstract to CUR 'Posters on the Hill', he took it seriously."

White also presented his research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in La Crosse, Wis., as well as at Oklahoma Research Day at the UCO Wellness Center.

"Knowing that it'll eventually affect people's lives positively," White said, about the importance of his research.

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Across

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- "Your majesty"
- Lived
- Officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer
- Bit
- Avid
- Backstage room in a theatre for visitors
- Desire
- Bronx Bomber
- Day for outdoor athletic competition
- Bad look
- "Die Meistersinger" heroine
- Durable synthetic resin widely used in adhesives and paints
- Experts who watch and comment on something
- Bubkes
- Bar order
- Set in motion
- Cheap, showy jewelry on clothing
- Small skullcap
- Opportune
- Call for
- Brass component
- Oolong, for one
- Lazy person
- Earthy pigment
- Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
- Romantic interlude
- Make of bottled butane and propane

Down

- Cochise, for one
- Bacteria discovered by Theodor Escherich
- Feeling great rapture or delight
- White infusible substance constituting about 1% of the common incandescent mantle
- Customarily occupied or served by another
- Castle part
- Annex
- Original matter that existed before the formation of the chemical elements
- Christian Science founder
- Shrewd
- 100 kuras
- "Our Time in ___" (10,000 Maniacs album)
- Occurring every seven days
- Eastern wrap
- "Am ___ believe ...?"
- Good vantage point
- Annual awards from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for outstanding achievements in television
- Announce
- Charge
- "Good grief!"
- Basic unit of money in Bulgaria
- Deuce topper
- Demands
- ___, fifth hurricane of the 1977 Atlantic hurricane season
- Dissolute man in fashionable society
- A rival
- Jungle vine
- (Yiddish) a clumsy dolt
- Solder together by using hard solder with a high melting point
- Alt. spelling
- Writer Wharton
- Indian coin
- Asparagus unit
- Deviating from a circle
- Calendar square
- Not yet final, at law
- Basque, e.g.
- Aquatic South American rodent resembling a small beaver
- Almost
- Bobby __, Canadian ice hockey player
- Item of factual information derived from research
- Cavity in which large intestine begins and into which the ileum opens
- Breezed through
- "___ of the Flies"
- Hodgepodge
- Attack, with "into"
- Like The Citadel, now
- Colored
- Catch a glimpse of
- ___ Dee River

RANDOM QUOTE

Speak properly, and in as few words as you can, but always plainly; for the end of speech is not ostentation, but to be understood.

- William Penn

RANDOM FACTS

After coffee beans are decaffeinated, coffee manufacturers sell the caffeine to soft drink makers and

Chewing gum does burn off calories, but it would take two weeks of continuous chewing to burn off the equivalent of one pound of fat.

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RIDDLE ANSWER

Habit!
Remove h - a bit remains.
Remove a - bit remains.
Remove b - it remains.

SUDOKU

			8		3			4
	8	3	7	6			1	
		9		1			7	
	3	1			2			
		4				5		
			1			3	4	
		8		3		1		
	6			5	1	8	7	
7			6		8			

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Baseball

Central Oklahoma on seven-game win streak

Chris Brannick

Sports Editor

The UCO Baseball team stretched its winning streak to seven games for the second time this season over the weekend, with two victories on Saturday against Washburn and one more on Sunday, moving the Bronchos into fifth place in the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association standings.

The top four teams in the standings at seasons end, on May 2, will host teams five through eight in the first round of the conference tournament before action shifts to Kansas City for the remainder of the Championships.

"Anytime you head into the last weekend with a chance at hosting, you got to be happy with that," Dax Leone said. The third year head coach applauded his team's effort over the last three weeks.

"We've been playing really well the last few weeks. We've been hitting really well," Leone said.

Senior right-hander Edgar Lopez took the mound in game one on Saturday and put together his best outing of the season. Despite throwing 141 pitches, Lopez went the distance in an 8-4 victory to improve to 6-3 on the season. The senior earned 11 strikeouts and only walked three batters while giving up eight hits.

Washburn took a 4-1 lead in the top of the fifth inning of game one but the Broncho bats responded in the bottom half to even the score, then in the bottom of the sixth UCO scored five runs to seal the victory. Matt Malloy went 3-3 with four runs batted in and Ross Rose went 2-3 with three RBIs.

Game two saw Lopez pulling through



UCO senior Cameron Mavroulis catches a ground ball on Saturday, April 20, 2013 against Washburn. Photo by Alikei Dyer, The Vista

for his team again. In another back and forth affair, the Bronchos found themselves down 5-3 in the bottom of the eighth inning. Cesar Wong's RBI double in the eighth was followed by Ryan Stoup's RBI single to pull UCO to an even 5-5.

In the top of the ninth, the Bronchos held Washburn scoreless and the game was left in the hands of the home team. Insert Lopez, who nailed a lead-off double. Tyler Crabtree got hit by a pitch and Matt Johnson intentionally walked before Robbie Hoffman put the ball in play to score Daniel Thompson, who pinch-ran for Lopez, and score the Bronchos game-winning run.

Ethan Sharp earned the win for UCO in his 2.2 innings pitched after giving up three hits and striking out one batter. Sunday afternoon's contest provided

less dramatics but even more fireworks. The Ichabods got on the board in the top of the first inning with two runs. But in the bottom of the second inning, UCO knocked in six runs to open things up. The Bronchos followed that with four more in the third as well as four in the fourth to extend their lead to 14-4.

Washburn scored in every inning from the fourth through the ninth but 13 runs wasn't enough to keep up with UCO's 20.

"Anytime you get 20 runs, you hope that can win it," Leone said adding he knew Washburn had that run in them and his guys were going to have to put some runs up.

Rose led the Bronchos with six RBIs on a 2-5 day and Johnson totaled five RBIs himself with going 3-5. Landon Hallam earned the win going four in-

nings and giving up four earned runs while striking out seven.

"Guys are taking better at-bats," Leone said. "We are facing some good arms and the guys are doing good."

The Bronchos are now 21-15 in conference play, 25-16 overall, and are looking to move into the fourth seed in hopes of securing home field advantage for the playoffs. UCO is only one half-game behind Missouri Southern for that fourth seed. Central is 1-1 against the Lions this season, a three-game series against them was cancelled last week due to weather.

The Bronchos finish their season on Sunday, April 28, 2013, against conference foe Truman University. The teams will play a doubleheader this Saturday followed by the finale on Sunday.

Opinion

Whitt-ness This: No beard needed



Whitt Carter

Staff Writer

will only help going forward.

Because this series is over.

It has been since the Rockets beat the Lakers on the final day of the regular season. Houston doesn't play a lick of defense, they are sloppy, with the basketball aside from Harden- and sure, they can run and shoot, but not with Oklahoma City.

Playoff basketball is just different. The Rockets will figure it out eventually, but it probably won't be this year. They won't figure it out in four games (see, my prediction can fit into a sentence.)

This will most definitely be a short series, because this Thunder club looks focused. Maybe more focused in this series than they will be in the next one, or even two.

They want to prove that they don't need Harden to be elite, but more importantly, they want to prove that Harden wasn't what got them to the Finals last June, a belief that many people still stand by.

Well, they did that on Sunday night, as Harden went 6-of-19 shooting and scored 20 points. On the year, he's 9-of-35 inside Chesapeake while wearing a red jersey.

For a guy who was the poster-boy for efficiency, he sure hasn't displayed it against his old group of friends. Think the guys in orange and blue have something to do with that?

They do, and they will continue to do so for the rest of this series.

This Thunder team is motivated. They want to win. They want to win big. And they have something to prove.

Step one was Sunday night. No beard needed.

James Harden still doesn't look right in red and silver.

He doesn't look like the sneaky, charismatic, "bearded one" that we knew him as for years.

Sunday night, he sure didn't play like it either.

All doubt was removed in Game 1, as the Thunder rolled to a 29-point victory and welcomed the young and inexperienced Houston Rockets to a different level of professional basketball.

The Rockets looked lost from the opening tip and although the Thunder cruised to victory, they really didn't dominate the way in the way that you would imagine.

The Thunder's victory was the most easy-going, non-impressive blowout that I've ever witnessed.

But you see, that's the thing. The Thunder win games like that. They wear you down and make you play their style, while putting you in foul trouble during the process.

This team has really developed an identity late in the year and I think it

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Tennis

Lady Bronchos defeat Hornets in playoffs



UCO senior Antonella Rossini hits a serve March 2, 2013 against Southern Nazarene. Photo by Alikki Dyer, The Vista

Chris Brannick

Sports Editor

The Bronchos began their inaugural postseason in the MIAA with a first round match up with Emporia State University on Friday afternoon. UCO defeated the Hornets 8-1 in Edmond on Friday, March 8, 2013.

Seventh-year head coach Natalya Nikitina-Helvey said the matches were moved inside at the Cooper Tennis Complex in Springfield, Mo. but the team responded really well. The number one doubles match featured seniors Antonelli Rossini and Rose Cabato versus Emporia State's Nicole Jara and Taylor Smith. The Bronchos took the match 8-6.

In the number two doubles match, the Bronchos Petra Pesic and Alina Gorina won 8-3 over Kayla Fraley and Alex Crowe. Laura Klingert and Kristin Richardson needed extra time but prevailed in a 9-8 (7-3) win to push Central's lead to 3-0 heading into singles play.

"We had to go indoors because wind was too strong and cold and we responded really well by playing confident and getting all three doubles and then Alina and Petra delivered two more victories to get us to 5-0," Nikitina-Helvey said.

Gorina and Pesic won their singles matches 6-1, 6-0 and 6-1, 6-1 respectively to give the Bronchos a spot in the MIAA Championship's semifinals.

The Bronchos will face in-state rival Northeastern State on Saturday afternoon. The two-seeded Riverhawks from

Tahlequah defeated Washburn in the first round 5-0.

"We are looking forward to our match against NSU, hopefully a good rematch. We'll play outdoors so it will be also about who handles outside conditions well," Nikitina-Helvey said.

The match with Northeastern provided the Bronchos an opportunity for redemption, after one of Central's two conference losses came at the expense of the Riverhawks on Tuesday, March 7, 2013 in Tahlequah, Okla.

Unfortunately for UCO, the outcome in Springfield ended the same as their previous match with NSU. The match began with doubles play and the Bronchos found themselves down three early, a near impossible spot to come back from.

"It's hard to come back after losing all three doubles matches and we just weren't able to do that today against a very good team," Nikitina-Helvey said.

The Bronchos needed to win five of six singles matches to advance to the MIAA Championship game against Southwest Baptist, who handed UCO their only other conference loss on the season. The Riverhawks only needed two wins. Rossini was able to score a victory in the number one singles match with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Ivana Belajova.

However, Kristina Savchenkov defeated Pesic 6-4, 6-3 at number two singles and Houda Bellamine defeated Rose Cabato at number four singles to seal the match win for Northeastern State.

"We just need to put this match behind us and come out strong tomorrow," Nikitina-Helvey said.

row," Nikitina-Helvey said.

On Sunday, UCO battled Northwest Missouri State in the third place game. The Bearcats from the Maryville, Mo. were the number four seed in the tournament.

The number one doubles match between the pair of Rossini and Cabato took on Camila Quesada and Alexis Bartek and it was Northwest's Quesada and Bartek that came away with the victory, 8-4. The Bronchos recovered by getting two points from their other two doubles matches. Pesic and Gorina won 8-2 and Klingert and Richardson won 9-8 (12-10).

Heading into the singles matchups, needing three wins, Rossini responded after losing her doubles match with a victory in the number one singles contest against Quesada 6-1, 6-2. Pesic defeated NWMSU's Natalya Galindo 6-1, 6-1. Finally, before the number three, four or five's singles matches could finish, Richardson defeated Emily Hoffman 6-2, 6-2 to seal the win for the Bronchos.

"I feel very proud that in our first year in MIAA conference with twelve member teams we were able to take third place [in the tournament] and finish ranked third in the whole Central Region," Coach Nikitina-Helvey said.

UCO improved to 17-3 on the season with an announcement expected today about whether they will receive an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, a place they've been for four out of the last five years.

Softball

Softball splits doubleheaders in Missouri

Sam Philbeck

Contributing Writer

Seventh-ranked Central Oklahoma split doubleheaders on the road against Lindenwood and Truman State over the weekend and held a half game lead in the MIAA standings.

UCO (35-9) came into the weekend riding a season high 13-game winning streak including winning six straight at home and taking over the top spot from Fort Hays State last weekend.

The Bronchos hit the road for their final road trip of the season and were in Missouri over the weekend taking on conference opponents Lindenwood and Truman State for the first time this season.

The two Missouri-based teams are a combined 23-25 this season in the MIAA conference, which looked to be a breather for the Bronchos compared to last weekend's opponents in Emporia State and Northeastern State, who are a combined 29-15 in conference play this season.

Friday, the Lady Bronchos were in St. Charles to take on Lindenwood in frigid temperatures.

The Lions (19-25) took game one and snapped the Bronchos 13-game win streak with a 4-3 victory.

Junior pitcher Kalynn Schrock went the distance for the Bronchos, going six innings and giving up four runs on seven hits, while striking out nine.

The offense was stagnant for most of the game, while getting down 4-0 until the sixth inning, when junior Hayley Hudson doubled and knocking two and then scoring on an error later in the inning, cutting the lead to 4-3.

That was all the offense they could manage in the game, as Lindenwood closed them out in the seventh, handing them their eighth loss of the season and Schrock's fourth loss this year. The offense finished with four hits in the game and left nine runners on base in the game.

UCO junior pitcher Amanda McClelland got revenge in game two winning 6-1 to split the day with the Lions.

McClelland was terrific picking up her ninth win of the season as she went all seven innings, giving up one run on five hits and striking out three.

Junior Hannah Justus and sophomore Kaylee Brunson led the way for the offense as they combined for five of the team's ten hits and had the only multi-hit games on the day. Freshman Tori Collet also knocked in two of UCO's six runs in the game.

Saturday, the Bronchos headed to Kirksville, Mo. for their final out-of-state match of the regular season to take on Truman State.

The Bulldogs (25-15) had lost three of four coming into the matchup against UCO and sat in the seventh spot in the MIAA standings.

The Bronchos cruised to a game one 11-1 victory behind the arm and bat of Schrock.

Schrock was a one woman wrecking crew, dominating the circle as she has done all season and picked up her twentieth win of the season, going all seven giving up one run on four hits and striking out twelve Bulldog batters. She then went 3-4 in the game knocking in three runs and hitting her first career home run.

"I didn't realize it was a home run until I got to second," Schrock said of her big blast.

"I was just happy to be able to hit again," Schrock said.

Schrock wasn't the only one hitting bombs on the day, as senior Kacie Edwards got in on the action hitting her 13th home run on the season, a three-run shot to left field, as part of the big Bronchos two innings onslaught that saw the Bronchos score eleven in the sixth and seventh innings against Truman State.

Sophomore Nicole Workman and Hudson each added multi-RBI games in the rout as the Bronchos had a weekend high eleven hits in the game.

Game two was all Bulldogs in a 9-0, five-inning run rule to give the Bronchos the ninth loss of the season.

McClelland picked up her second loss of the season going four innings giving up three runs on four hits before being relieved by freshman Nicole Brady, who gave up the final six runs of the game in the fifth.

The offense was a polar opposite of game one, only getting three hits in the game.

The Bronchos, with the splits doubleheaders, are now 19-3 in MIAA and are

a game up on Fort Hays State for the conference title with four games left to go in conference play.

The Bronchos are on the road in Bethany, Okla. on Tuesday against Southern Nazarene but return home this week-

end to close out their regular and home season against two top eight MIAA conference opponents in Missouri Southern and Northwest Missouri State.

UCO and SNU start things in Bethany at 2 p.m. on Tuesday.




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