

## On the Move — Improving Oklahoma's Public Transportation

**BY BROOKS NICKELL**  
Staff Writer

According to a report released from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) public transportation in the U.S. saw the highest annual ridership in 2013, a number that hasn't been rivaled since 1956.

The APTA goes on to outline that in 2013 Americans took 10.7 billion trips on public transportation, which is the highest annual public transit ridership number in 57 years. This was the eighth year in a row that more than 10 billion trips were taken on public transportation systems nationwide. While vehicle miles traveled on roads went up 0.3 percent, public transportation use in 2013 increased by 1.1 percent.

Since 1995 public transit ridership is up 37.2 percent, outpacing population growth, which is up 20.3 percent, and vehicle miles traveled, which is up 22.7 percent.

APTA President and CEO Michael Melaniphy allowed that this increase stems from the citizens of these communities wanting more public transportation.

"There is a fundamental shift going on in the way we move about our communities," Melaniphy said. "People in record numbers are demanding more public transit services and communities are benefit-

"There is a fundamental shift going on in the way we move about our communities."

- Michael Melaniphy

President of the American Public Transportation Association

ing with strong economic growth."

James Wagner, Transportation Projects Coordinator for the Indian Nations Council of Government (INCOG) in the greater Tulsa area reinforced Melaniphy's statement and allowed that the millennial generation was seeking alternative modes of transportation.

"If you look back twenty years ago, about two thirds of eighteen-year-olds had driver licenses, today only about half do. I think we are seeing social media replace the need for transportation in some ways. The social aspect of transportation is becoming diminished. I think the millennial generation isn't really interested in driving," Wagner said.

He went on to illustrate that the decrease in vehicle miles driven supports the notion that more and more citizens are searching out alternative modes of transportation.

Public transit agencies reported record ridership system-wide or on specific lines in places like Ann Arbor, Mich.; Cleveland, Ohio; Denver, Colo.; Espanola, N.M.; Flagstaff, Ariz.; Fort Myers, Fla.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Los Angeles, Calif.; New Orleans, La.; Oakland, Calif.; Pompano Beach, Fla.; Riverside, Calif.; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Carlos, Calif.; Tampa, Fla.; Yuma, Ariz.; and New York, N.Y.

While Oklahoma was not among the list of states in the study to report record ridership in 2013, there is definitely a collective sense of working to improve the state's public transportation.

See **ON THE MOVE** on Page 5



Photo by Brooks Nickell, The Vista.

In 2013, the U.S. saw the highest annual ridership, a number that hasn't been rivaled since 1956.

Since 1995, public transit ridership is up 37.2 percent.

## Central Station serves students a healthy lunch and education



UCO Students serve at Central Station. Photo by Ailiki Dyer, The Vista.

Shaun Hail

Contributing Writer

If students wish to eat a healthy meal, but don't know how to cook one, the University of Central Oklahoma offers an alternative.

Central Station offers meals that are healthy and homemade, said Central Station General Manager Vanessa Anderson.

The menu changes each day and of-

fers food items include bagels, chicken, sandwiches, desserts and more.

Central Station is not just a place to order food. It's also a class.

The class started in 1999 as a two-part course called Quantity Foods and Institutional Management, said Anderson. It allows student employees to get their hours for their degree, while getting the experience of running a business, said Anderson.

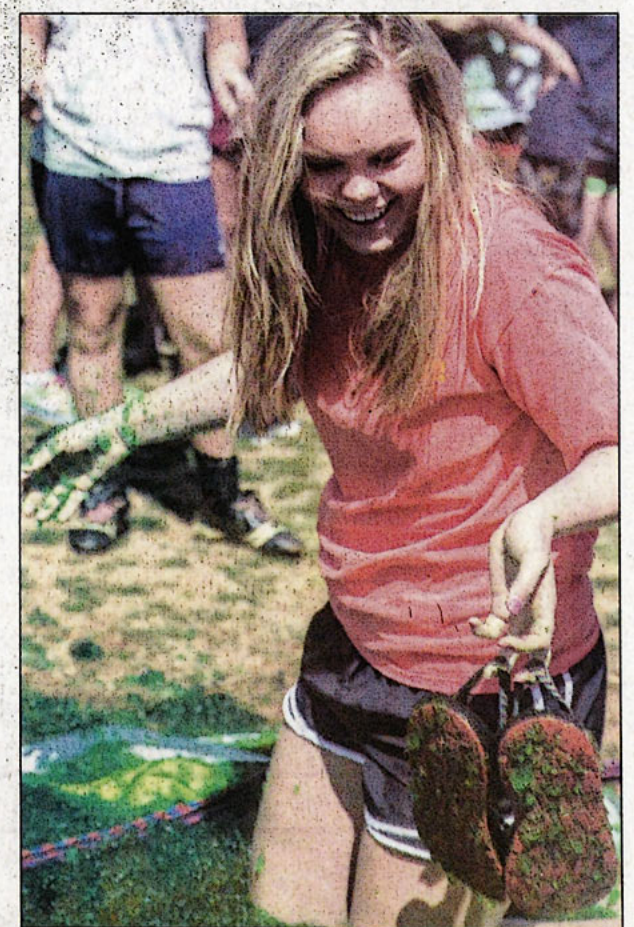
The first part of the course, Quantity Foods, has students learning how to run the restaurant, said Hope Russell, a

general manager of Central Station. In the second part, Institutional Management, the students learn how to be a general manager, said Russell.

All proceeds to Central Station go toward scholarships, said Russell.

Central Station is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday during the fall and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the spring. It is located inside the Human Environmental Studies building near Broncho Lake.

## UCO Turtle Tug



Danielle Morgan, a junior, participates in the first annual Turtle Tug. UCO's Delta Zeta chapter hosted the Turtle Tug to raise money for the Painted Turtle Camp. Photo by Ailiki Dyer, The Vista.

See **Turtle Tug** on Page 4

## THE VISTA

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The Vista is published as a newspaper and public forum by UCO students, semiweekly during the academic year except exam and holiday periods, and only on Wednesdays during the summer, at the University of Central Oklahoma. The issue price is free for the first copy and \$1 for each additional copy obtained.

### EDITORIALS

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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.

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Editor, The Vista, 100 N. University Dr., Edmond, OK 73034-5209, or deliver in person to the editor in the Communications Building, Room 131. Letters can be emailed to [vistauco@gmail.com](mailto:vistauco@gmail.com).

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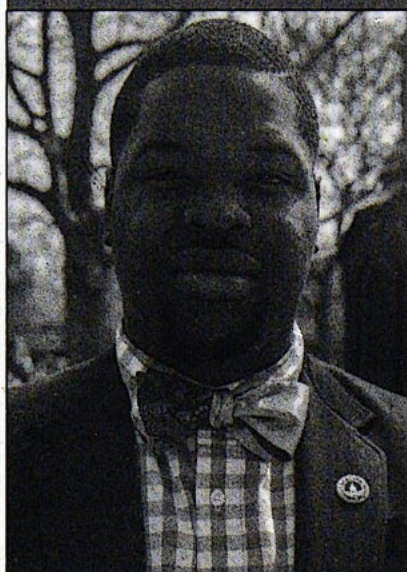
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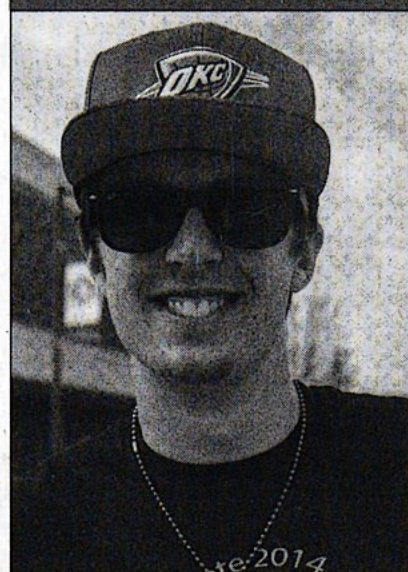
What class at UCO has stressed you out the most? Why?

VINCENT BURR  
Broadcasting - Senior



"Hands down. Media Law with Hanebutt. It's like, 'I understand you went to law school but I have not.'"

CHISHOLM HOLLAND  
Organizational Communication - Junior



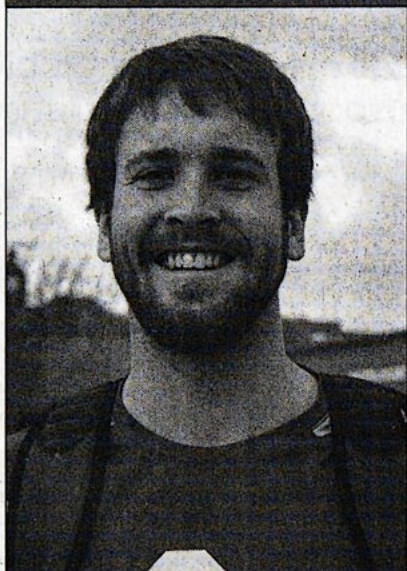
"By far, General Chemistry my freshman year because I am not a science major of any kind."

REBEKAH MURPHY  
Business Finance - Freshman



"That's a hard one, probably my Economics class just because I have no idea what's going on in there."

KENT SHELTON  
Undecided - Freshman



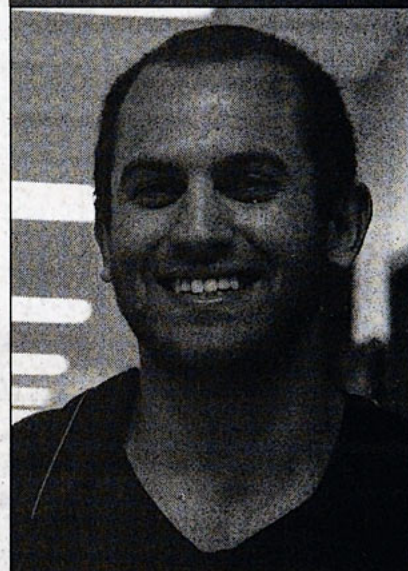
"Physical Science because I suck at physical science."

KHANYISA BALOYI  
Marketing - Senior



"It has to be Calculus because I'm not really good at math but I made it through."

ABE ALMATASEM  
Physical Education & Health - Sophomore



"Humanities. It is a lot of memorization and it was just really boring."

## Drop your force field and give or get a hug

I'm a fan of national holidays.

I love participating in traditions like Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day, and don't even get me started about the holiday season in the fall.

But, every once in a while, there will be one of those obscure holidays, the kind that happens on a daily basis, that really catch my eye.

Wednesday, April 2 is National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. Things like this make me smile and I wouldn't be opposed to biting into a classic PB&J in the spirit of a unique national holiday.

And then, I found it, a national holiday that should definitely be observed. National Hug a Newsperson Day is on April 4. Now, we're getting somewhere.

I love hugs. In fact, my love language is personal touch. If you don't know what a love language is, you might want to Google it. It's a good thing to know for any future relationships.

Basically, physical contact is important to me. Need a hug? I'm your girl. Wanna hold hands? Look no further.

However, living in this world as a physical contact-prone person is not a piece of cake.

People everywhere seem to cling to their concepts of personal space like it'll save their life.

Before I proceed, let me get one

thing straight. You can't just be touching any random person on the street. No means no, people.

But, for those people that you are close with, or friends with, or just kind of like, you should really just drop some of your personal force field and give or get a hug.

People today are living in a world of isolation. Friends talk to friends through their phones. Relationships build and break on the ever-changing FBO status.

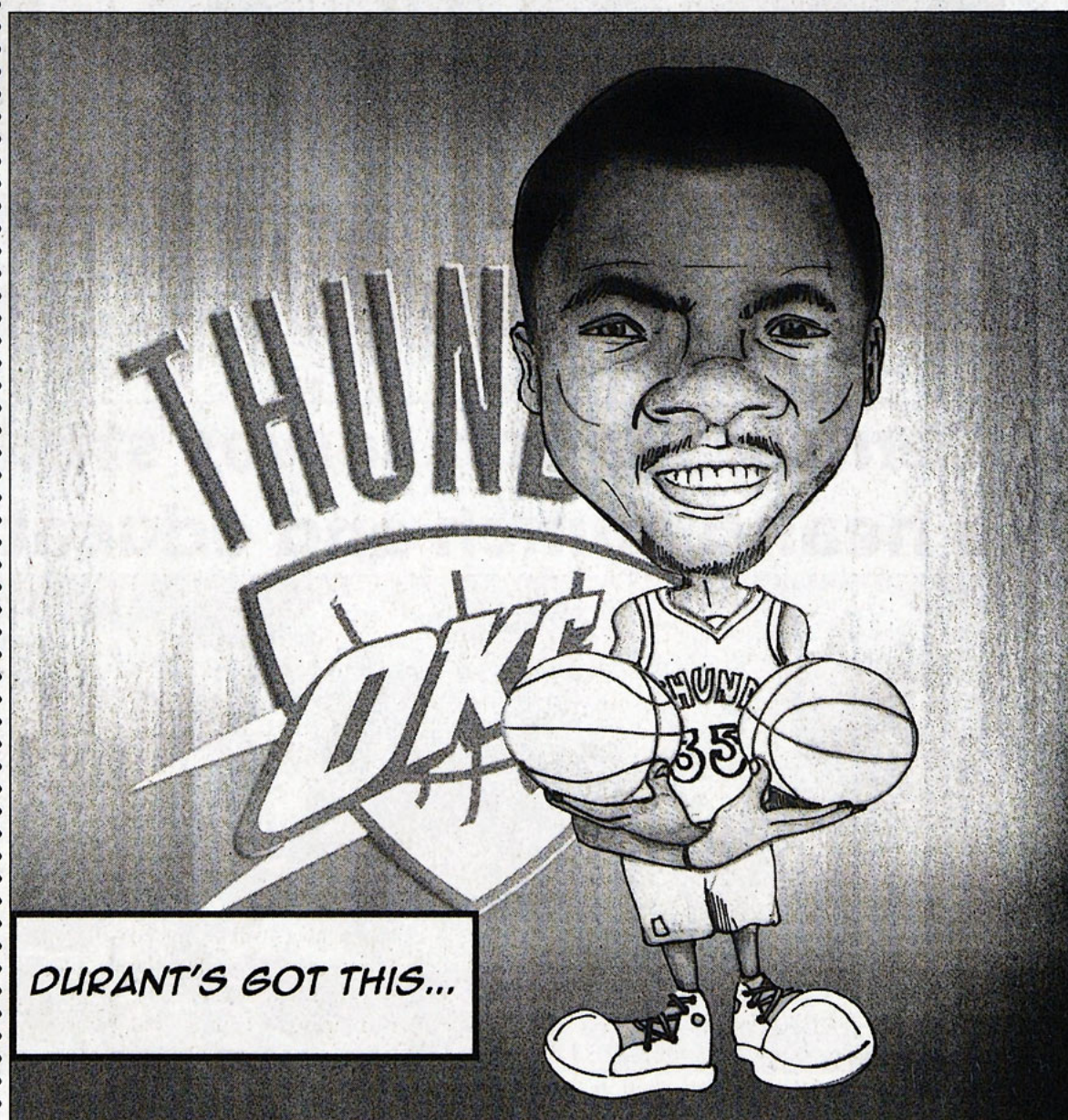
Let's break the cycle. Let's be the most non-millennial millennials the world has ever seen.

Let's make our friendships face-to-face, in-person and in-depth. Let's lower our shields of personal space and allow some physical contact once in a while. Offer a real shoulder to cry on instead of a virtual texting thread. Take the time to hug someone and really mean it, none of this side hug business.

Studies have shown that without physical contact, babies will die, and really if you think about it, we're just grown up babies. So, why does that mean that we still don't need physical contact like we did before?

Dare yourself to make a connection with someone, and don't forget to hug your local newsperson on April 4.

Editorial by: Sarah Neese



Cartoon by Brenda Chavez Quintero.



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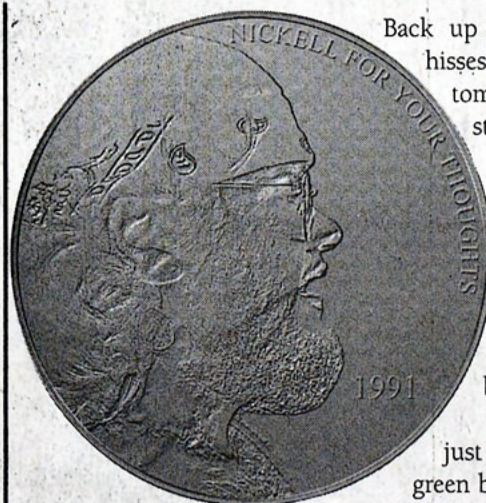


Check out *Sincerely, Stevie* every Tuesday on [UCentralmedia.com](http://UCentralmedia.com)!

Opinion

AT THE BUS STOP

By Brooks Nickell



Back up sirens and piston hisses meld with the automobile action of the streets.

The chaos briefly drowning out the conversing group of would-be-riders littered around the Oklahoma City Metro bus station.

Rolling to stop just feet away, a bright green bus lets out a heavy sigh... Kapoosh...and opens its doors.

The waiting parties step back, as citizens start to file off the machine. A few make it down the steps and onto the sunlit sidewalk, before a large native American man steps out, throws up his hands and greets all at the bus stop with a bright and echoing "Yah-ah-tee."

As he steps off the bus and jokes with the driver momentarily, the people surrounding him all seem to greet the man with a "Hello Chief," or a "What's happening Chief," before going on up the steps.

Chief has been riding the bus with his wife for some time and many of the people waiting on busses exclaim he is the funniest rider around.

As the bus pulls out into the chaotic city streets, Chief starts to tell me about why his family rides the bus.

He talks about how easy it is for them to get place to place.

Chief and his wife are retired. They ride the bus to go shopping, or to make their doctors appointments.

Chief smiles constantly. He talks about how he loves interacting with all the people at the bus stop and how people really are genuinely good and decent.

Chief wants to continue talking, but his wife hauls him away to catch the next bus.

And, when he's gone, there seems to be a completely different group waiting to catch a ride.

There's a gentle smile from a Hispanic lady in her mid-40s. She dons a pressed McDonald's uniform. She is on her way to work.

A couple of kids, the traditional college age, wait patiently with backpacks. Just feet away from them, sits a teenage girl with a saxophone case.

I can overhear a conversation between a security guard and a young woman. She is telling him how good her AA classes are going and he replies with words of joy and encouragement.

There's an older black gentleman standing next to me. He wears a pair of dark orange shades and stands with a large grey bag made to hold canvases or sketch pads slung around his shoulder. On the outside in black sharpie is scrawled, The Artist.

Steve Brown is the artist attached to the bag. He draws people waiting at the bus stop. And, his sketches are wonderful.

Steve is easy to talk with. He starts to converse as his fingers flitter between sketches of locals and celebrities.

As Steve begins to tell a story about a sketch of Jimmie Hendrix, my mind starts stumbling over the amount of uniqueness at this place, the beautiful wonder and diversity at the bus stop.

Here, is a collection of Oklahoma City residents that frequent the stop. They know each other's names, nicknames and stories. They brighten each other's days. All of these people melt into a mosaic of culture and community that just warms your soul.

The wind shifts and catches a handful of Steve's sketches. They're strewn about the immediate area and as Steve holds on to his remaining work, I go to pick up the pieces stranded on the concrete. Another rider kneels down and helps me gather Steve's art.

As we walk back to Steve, he starts to talk about how he is working to get a car. He says that these people really make up a wonderful community. He helps pass the time and they provide him with an avenue to sell his art, how it's harmony.

And, as Steve is taking the sketches from my hands and tucking them safely back into his bag, I'm examining them intently. Jimmie is safe and sound next to Prince, Paul Walker, one of the bus station security guards, Hannah Montana and many more.

Another bus pulls up. It's Steve's. I'm left with one last sketch and before his hands beckon for it. I take a good and long last look. Chief is staring right back at me and he's smiling from ear to ear.

Follow me on Twitter @JbrooksNickell

Kaleidoscope Dance Concert becomes interactive with audience

Revealing the colleges with the most drug & alcohol arrests

Olanrewaju Suleiman

Staff Writer

A recent study conducted by rehabs.com shows which colleges and universities in the United States have the most drug and alcohol arrests.

Their "Drugs on Campus" report includes both public and private schools and showed arrests from various studies. The categories are drugs, alcohol, weapons possession, sexual assault, vehicle theft, burglary, physical assault and arson.

Only schools with at least 5,000 enrolled students were included on their list. The schools also had to have resident halls on their campus.

The University of Wisconsin-La Cross ranked number one for alcohol arrests, and The State University of New York at Oneonta was number one for drug based arrests.

UCO was not on the list. There were also no universities from Oklahoma.

According to rehabs.com, colleges with a stricter alcohol and drug policy will lead to fewer arrests. This is because students will know that they will be punished.

UCO Housing and Dining holds the Central drug and alcohol policy. The policy prohibits the use or possession of alcoholic

beverages while on campus. It also prohibits drug use of any kind, as well as the possession of any illegal substance.

The policy includes all areas of the campus, as well as all campus housing.

The annual report released by the UCO Police Department showed the statistics for drug and alcohol usage among students. It revealed Central has fewer arrests than the average university.

The "Drugs on Campus" showed that the location of the college and the law enforcement in the surrounding area played a part in the number of arrests. The availability of drugs and alcohol was a factor, as well.

Universities with college police departments were less likely to appear on the list. The study showed that when the police were readily available, the students felt that they were more likely to get caught with drugs and alcohol. This discouraged them from possessing or using them while on school grounds.

Central has many resources on the prevention of alcohol abuse on campus. The full list can be found at [www.uco.edu/student-affairs/adap](http://www.uco.edu/student-affairs/adap).

The full list of schools in the "Drugs on Campus" study can be found at [www.rehabs.com](http://www.rehabs.com).



Ashley Untrauer, senior dance student at the University of Central Oklahoma, will perform in the UCO Kaleidoscope Dance Company Spring Concert this week at Mitchell Hall Theater. Photo provided.

Youngsun Yun

Contributing Writer

The Department of Dance of the University of Central Oklahoma will present the Kaleidoscope Dance Company Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday through Saturday at Mitchell Hall Theater with an interactive encore Friday.

The 20 students of the Kaleidoscope Dance Company will perform an eclectic lineup of pieces choreographed by UCO faculty Jill Priest, Hui Cha Poos, Robyn Pasternack, Tina Kambour and Emily South. The guest choreographers James Gregg, Masayo Yamaguchi and Will Johnston will perform with the dance company.

The performance at the theater will be with the backdrop-video installation, titled "Contrast and Catalyst," produced and edited by Jeffrey Palmer, an assistant professor of the Department of Mass Communication at UCO.

"The audience will see the dancers on the stage and the video behind them on the screen," said Palmer. "The video will highlight the communication between the dancers."

The dance company will invite attendees to participate in the interactive encore after the performance Friday. The encore will be the across-campus performances at UCO Labyrinth and Plunkett Park and the grand

finale, titled "Godai," at the Broncho Lake.

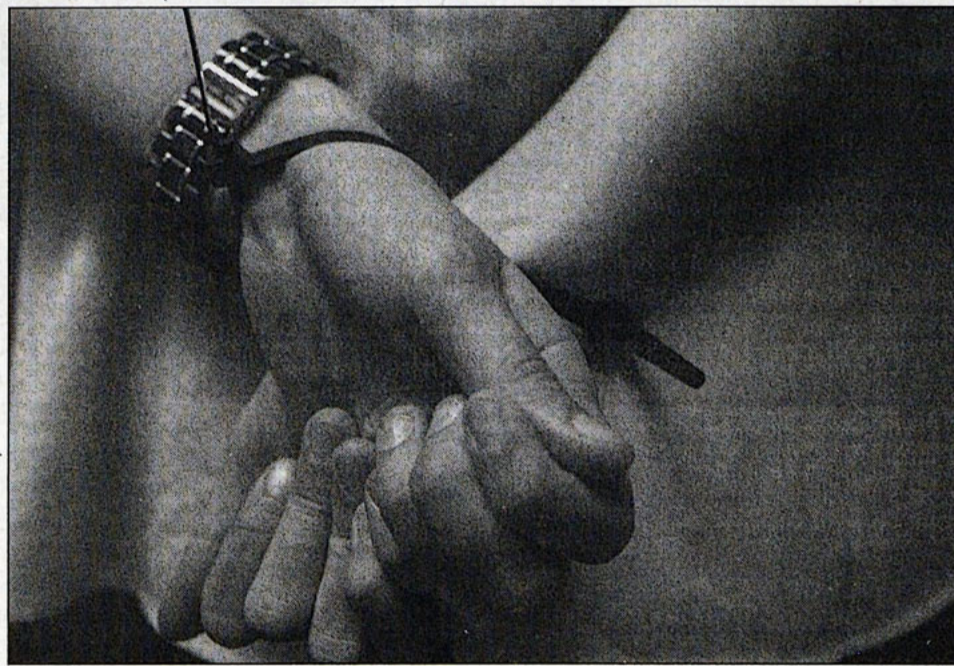
"Godai," translated from Japanese, means "Five Great," referring to the five elements of the spiritual world: earth, water, fire, wind and void.

"Godai," a site-specific choreographed piece, will not only utilize aspects of the water features and architectural structures around the lake, but also include Japanese-student musicians of UCO performing on Kodo drums.

"Choreographers have been creating site-specific dances for decades," said Kambour, Kaleidoscope's artistic director. "This year's Kaleidoscope theme is to interact with the audience. Audience members will be invited to participate in a fun and easy way with the opening and closing works of the evening. All participation is voluntary, of course," said Kambour.

Guests can also attend a fundraising reception following the piece, at the balcony terrace located on the north side of the second floor of the Nigh University Center. The reception will be \$25 per person and include a champagne toast and sweets. Proceeds will benefit a new dance rehearsal space.

Tickets for the Kaleidoscope Dance Company concert are \$14 for adults, \$10 for non-UCO students and Central faculty and staff with a valid I.D., and free for UCO students with a valid I.D. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Mitchell Hall Box Office at 405-974-3375 or visiting [www.click4tix.com/uco](http://www.click4tix.com/uco).



The "Drugs on Campus" report includes both public and private schools and showed arrests from various studies. The categories are drugs, alcohol, weapons possession, sexual assault, vehicle theft, burglary, physical assault and arson. Above photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista. Bottom photo provided by The Vista archives.



# You Had Me At Jell-O:

Sorority raises money for children with serious medical conditions

Michael J. Moore

Contributing Writer

Delta Zeta held their first ever tug-of-war philanthropy Turtle Tug Sunday at Plunkett Park to benefit the Painted Turtle Camp in Southern California.

Delta Zeta raised \$700 on team sign-ups for Turtle Tug, while also making \$120 worth of sales at their concession. T-shirt sales were not fully accounted for, but are believed to be over \$700.

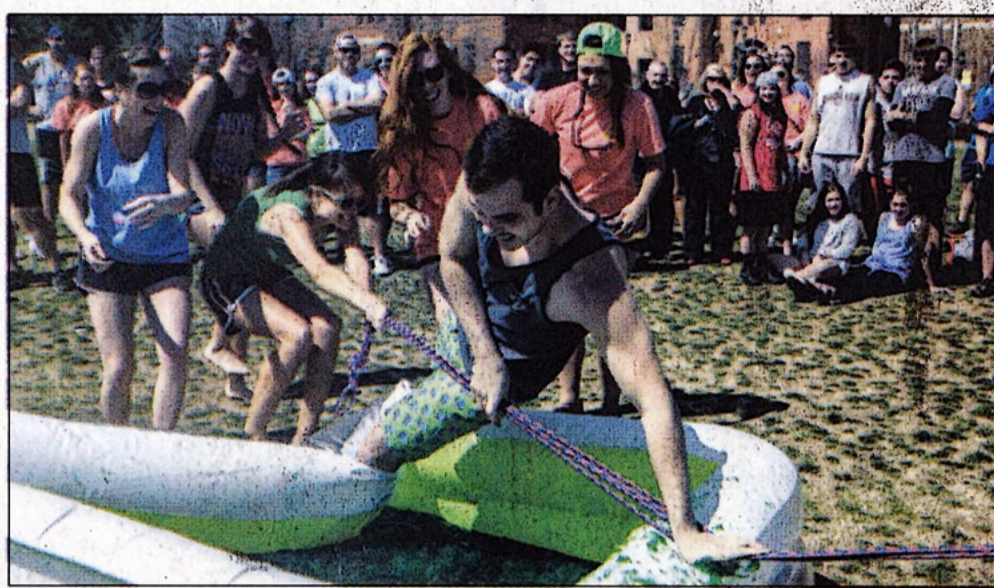
All proceeds benefitted the Painted Turtle camp, a camp designed for children with over 30 serious medical conditions to have fun, while remaining in a safe environment.

The sorority got the idea from other chapters doing the event and thought it would be a good idea to bring back tug-of-war to campus, said Philanthropy Chair Katie Kastl.

"The event had never been done before at UCO and it was easy chapter involvement, no overhead and more of a fun thing to do," said Kastl. "We added a pool full of Jell-O in the middle of the two teams competing to make things more interesting."

Turtle Tug had 29 teams sign-up with Greek and non-Greek students competing. The event was open registration for anyone wanting to sign-up.

The Painted Turtle Camp is Delta Zeta's national philanthropy and plans to hold Turtle Tug as an annual philanthropy at UCO.



(Top right) UCO student gets pulled into a green Jell-O pool, while playing tug-of-war. (Left) Women from the Delta Zeta sorority participate in their fundraiser. (Right) Cody Edwards-Johnson fights with his friends to win tug-of-war. Photos by Aliki Dyer, The Vista.



## UCO Assistant Biology Professor finds joy in the scales of reptiles

Rachel Brockelhurst

Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered why someone would want to research reptiles with snakes?

These creatures just happen to be the bees' knees for Assistant Biology Professor Allyson Fenwick.

As well as teaching genetics, she also teaches Biology 1 for Majors. She grew up in Milwaukee, Wis.

"That wasn't my original plan," Fenwick said, as the dark purple flowers on her blouse under her black over-shirt snarled their teeth. "I did my undergrad at Michigan State University, and I wanted to be a zookeeper."

It was what she thought she wanted to do since she was a kid, and at that time, she knew she wanted to work with reptiles and amphibians.

She thought she'd go work in a reptile house and her junior year of undergrad she had an internship at the Detroit Zoo. This is when she realized that that wasn't what she wanted to do as a career.

"So, I thought to myself, I want to run a reptile house. And I graduated undergrad and didn't know what I wanted to do as far as whether I wanted to go straight into work, or go to graduate school," Fenwick said, her bright whites smiling.

After about a semester, she realized she wanted to go to graduate school.

"Mostly, so I could be management and run a zoo," Fenwick said.

She applied and got masters admission at the University of Texas at Tyler.

"When I was there, I figured out I love do-

ing the research and I really do like teaching," Fenwick said, as though remembering a first love.

She had that experience and decided what she really wanted to do was to get her Ph. D. and become a professor.

"My parents always encouraged me to do whatever I want," Fenwick said with deep passion.

"I went to Florida and did my Ph. D. and applied for lots and lots of jobs and got lucky enough to be here.

She's one of three sisters, and they each do different things:

"They always encouraged me to find what I wanted to do and go for it," Fenwick said. "In terms of being a snake researcher, I had one very good influence in my undergrad."

Her undergraduate advisor mentioned how she needed to look into systematics, which are evolutionary relationships.

"That was something I didn't really know much about at that time, but when I was interviewing for my masters position, I was interviewing for something very different and

met with someone who did systematics and thought, well, maybe I could do this," Fenwick said. "That was actually who I worked with, and I loved it."

Fenwick said Dr. Snider at Michigan State was a really good influence that way.

"I enjoy the students," Fenwick said, as much passion as a fat kid eyeing chocolate for the first time.

"They bring interesting points of view to the class. I love it when you get those ah ha moments when they really understand it, but I also love when they bring up things you never thought about before," Fenwick said. "The students are the best part of teaching."

Fenwick continued by saying how you also do research and service,

which is part of being on a committee, and doing things to benefit the university, but balancing all parts of the job can be difficult.

"I am much more confident since the semester started," Fenwick said. "When you know the university better, and you know more about everything that goes around,

then not only can I be more confident in my teaching, but I can answer students' questions better."

For genetics, they do stuff towards the end of the semester, such as talking about genetic biology and gnomes.

They also talk about the use of genetic techniques right now to benefit humans and learn more about genetics in general.

"I always like to meet new students and try out different techniques," Fenwick said.

"Probably what I'm most excited about is I'm starting my research this summer. I've got a couple of interested students, and we're going to go catch geckos on campus."

The little ones on the buildings got introduced to Howell Hall about 20 years ago and have been spreading very slowly.

Not only are they catching them, they're also going to look at their genetics.

That will start this spring and continue on into August.

"One of the things that I think is really important is learning how to work in teams. It's something that I push in both of my classes," Fenwick said.

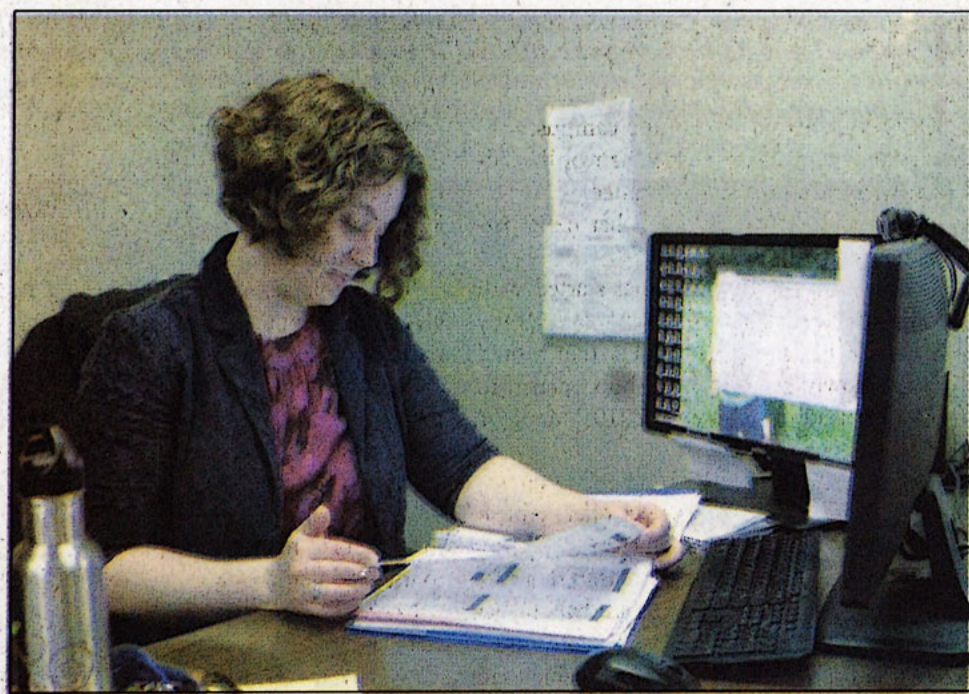
"I know that setting up group work is not always ideal," Fenwick said. "You don't always have group members that are going to be participating equally, but everyone I know has those exact same challenges out in the real world."

Learning how to work as a team and learning how to get everyone to work together, is important, according to Fenwick.

"I want the students to learn," Fenwick said. "I want them to learn how to write and how to think scientifically."



Central Assistant Biology Professor Allyson Fenwick holds a snake. Photo provided.

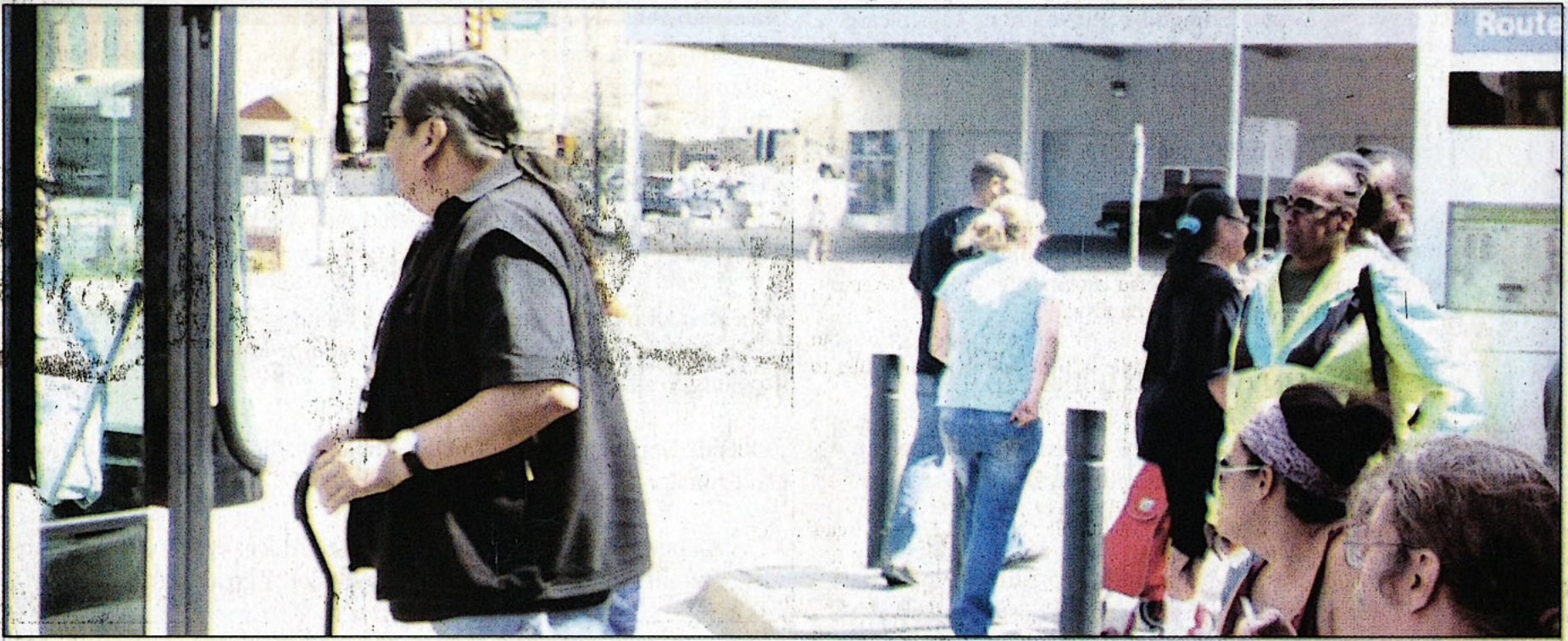


(Left) The photo features Central Assistant Biology Professor Allyson Fenwick. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista. (Right) Fenwick uses a snake hook to pick up and handle a snake. Photo provided.



ON THE MOVE

# Improving Oklahoma's Public Transportation



Regular patrons of the Oklahoma City transit system gather at the central bus station in downtown Oklahoma City. "The Chief," as labeled by his fellow patrons, joins bus riders while waiting for the bus. These residents make up the regular ridership of the transit system, which could see an increase in participation in the coming years, with the development of new routes and a new streetcar. Photo by Brooks Nickell, The Vista.

"Right now we provide a mode of last resort," Wagner said. "Most people in Oklahoma think of transit as a social safety net; you're only going to use that if you absolutely have no other option."

Wagner stated that at INCOG they were trying to rethink that. He went on to explain the importance of changing the outlook on public transportation and illustrated the many benefits it brings, especially to citizens' pocket books.

"The average amount of money that people spend on housing plus transportation is about fifty percent of their income," Wagner said. "About half of that is spent on just transportation."

Wagner said that while most people find that shocking, they fail to realize all the costs that go into owning a car and how that totals up to a pretty large sum.

"A lot of people don't think about the money that is spent on transportation because it is spent in so many ways. It's spent in insurance and tires, repairs and gasoline. Most of those expenses are actually leaving the local economy," Wagner said. "If you can shift that to where people can use public transportation more, you can dramatically reduce people's transportation expense and allow them to reinvest that in the local economy. We're thinking about it beyond the point of just being a social safety net and actually being something that can lead to economic

development." Wagner went on to explain that INCOG was immediately focused on improving bus rapid transit along major transit corridors, starting on Peoria and focusing on improving the look and quality of bus stops as well as the speed and frequency of stops.

In the report released by the APTA, Melaniphy reinforced Wagner's idea of public transit improving local economies.

"Access to public transportation matters. Community leaders know that public transportation investment drives community growth and economic revitalization," Melaniphy said.

Melaniphy and Wagner aren't the only ones coming to the realization that citizens are calling for improvement to existing avenues of public transportation.

Michael Scroggins, public information officer for Embark, which is the new name for Oklahoma City's existing public transit bus service, said, "There is a growing demand for public transportation in areas that we don't currently serve, and we have a demand for more frequent service."

He went on to say that a national consulting firm examined the existing bus system and targeted cost efficient area and approaches to improvement.

"They came back with a realignment of

our system," Scroggins said. "It will take us out of neighborhood streets where you have a lot more stops and a lot more traffic and put us on major thoroughfares that allow us to maintain a more frequent schedule."

in your car driving you can catch up on blogs, news or maybe the work you had to leave early for."

According to Scroggins, Oklahoma City will also have a modern streetcar coming online in a few years.

**"Most people in Oklahoma think of transit as a social safety net; you're only going to use that if you absolutely have no other option."**

Scroggins also said that the future central multi-mobile hub in Oklahoma City would allow for any future high-speed or commuter rail from surrounding communities to come into OKC. Once in the city, Scroggins says that the modern streetcar would allow for downtown transit.

"It's your entry into the rail world," Scroggins said. "We are a very large metropolitan area. We are kind of the center of it all. We felt like we needed to establish a transportation mode so that once people come here we can get them around the downtown area."

This idea is something Scroggins said

Scroggins said that the new system would change the variety of frequencies from roughly sixty minutes to around thirty minutes.

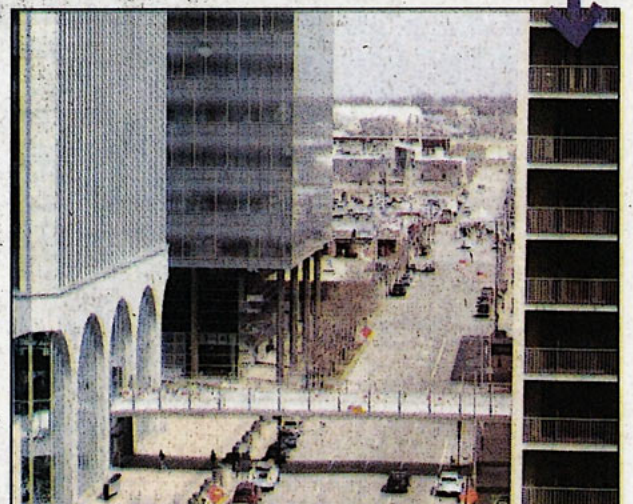
Another new improvement coming to Oklahoma City's buses is the addition of WiFi, something Scroggins feels will draw more people to public transportation.

"We hope to communicate that you can gain time back. Instead of losing that time

he hoped would inspire surrounding communities to help invest in bringing newer transit modes into play.

"It's not something that can just lay in the back of the city of Oklahoma City," Scroggins said. "It is a community regional effort."

**"It is a community regional effort."**



Left: The central bus station, located in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City, transports programs all across the city as part of the transit program. Photo by Brooks Nickell, The Vista. Above: Along with Oklahoma City, the Tulsa downtown area and the surrounding areas are also seeing an increase in public transportation as are many cities across the nation. Photo by Brooks Nickell, The Vista.

## Bronchos Share a Ride: Public Transportation at UCO

Xavier Jackson

Contributing Writer

Transportation and Parking Services provides a variety of ways for students to get around. Ride-sharing is becoming a topic of debate, said Director of TPS Raul Martinez.

Martinez believes ride-sharing is a great practice, both economically and for the environment.

Students, staff and faculty that choose to ride-share on campus are allowed to park in the visitor parking lot, free of charge. Carpooling, Martinez feels, has many benefits for all.

"I think carpooling is a great option. It helps decrease the number of vehicles on campus and allows more opportunities for those that do choose to drive," said Martinez. "They're helping the entire UCO campus."

Martinez said it's a great deal. "Their getting prime parking and it's almost guaranteed parking," said Martinez.

Martinez came to UCO after serving in the military for around 23 years. He believes his time with the military prepared him for his work with TPS.

"It was very versatile. A lot of it involved a lot of communication and training and collaboration," said Martinez.

When his career with the military was over, Martinez looked for a place to begin his second career. Then he found Central. He has been the director for the last few years now.

TPS offers many services to students, the primary one being parking permits. It is self-funded through parking permits, parking tickets, the visitor pay lot and parking meters.

Also, the university has partnered with the City of Edmond to provide the free Citylink transit system, which has a specific route for

UCO students staying around campus.

Martinez is also the vice chair of the Edmond Transportation Committee.

Cycology is one program that he is particularly proud of.

"It's a full service shop that started with bikes donated from Flatire Burgers. Many students got their own bikes that would break down, so the repair shop opened to fill that need in summer of 2010," Martinez said.

Martinez said that Cycology serves another purpose, as well. The shop offers education on different parts of bikes.

Another option for students is to rent cars with Hertz. Martinez urges student to get memberships as the program is a convenient alternative to bringing their own vehicles to campus.

"They can set appointments online and the car will recognize it," Martinez said.

He has had some experience with the Getaround OK service.

"We started something similar here with commuter service and then Oklahoma City took that over for the whole metro," said Martinez. "I think it's a great program."

He continued. "I think it serves a valuable need that gives folks another option to commute," said Martinez.

Even with so many services already being offered, Martinez said that TPS is always looking for ways to improve and promote existing services.

"We're exploring changing out the parking meters to multi-pay meters to allow you to use credit and debit cards," Martinez said.

Lastly, Martinez encourages students to visit TPS.

"We want to help people with their needs, and if someone is unsure of how to get themselves to and from campus, they should come see us," said Martinez.



APR 3, 2014

University of Central Oklahoma

# VISTA SPORTS

The Student Voice Since 1903

Editorial

## Superbowl champ on campus for Ally Week



Former Superbowl Champion Brendon Ayanbadejo will be visiting campus to talk as a part of Ally Week. Ally Week is put on every year by the Student Alliance for Equality (Safe) to support LGBT rights on Campus. Ayanbadejo has been an outspoken proponent of LGBT rights for years. Photo provided.

Cody Johnson

Managing Editor

Super Bowl champion Brendon Ayanbadejo is coming to the University of Central Oklahoma to speak at 6 p.m. on April 3 in the Nigh University Center Ballrooms B and C. This is the last event of Ally Week, put on by the Student Alliance for Equality (SAFE), a student organization at UCO.

Known as an outspoken supporter of marriage equality, Ayanbadejo will speak on the topics of diversity and inclusion. He will discuss how those two topics relate in both sports and daily life.

"Brendon Ayanbadejo was invited to be the keynote speaker of Ally Week because SAFE wanted to highlight that many individuals

from a variety of backgrounds support LGBTQ equality, including professional football players and Super Bowl champions," said Kory Atcusion, president of SAFE.

Ayanbadejo is a 13-year veteran of the National Football League and was on the Baltimore Ravens' championship team at Super Bowl XLVII as a linebacker and on special teams. He is a two-time All-Pro award winner and three-time Pro-Bowler.

Ayanbadejo was a Miami Dolphin from 2003 to 2004, a Chicago Bear from 2005 to 2007, a Baltimore Raven from 2008 to 2012, and currently is an unsigned free agent in the NFL.

Ayanbadejo has openly been a supporter since 2008, but gained attention in 2012 when Emmert C. Burns Jr., democratic Maryland legislator, wrote a letter to the Baltimore Ravens owner Steve Biscotti

condemning Ayanbadejo's support of gay marriage.

"I am requesting that you take the necessary action, as a National Football League Owner, to inhibit such expressions from your employees and that he be ordered to cease and desist such injurious actions. I know of no other NFL player who has done what Mr. Ayanbadejo is doing," Burns wrote in his letter to Biscotti.

"Ally Week is a time on campus where the Student Alliance for Equality of University thanks the allies of LGBTQ equality through events, information and conversations," said Atcusion.

All Ally Week events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact SAFE faculty adviser David Macey, Ph.D., at dmacey@uco.edu.

## College athletes take labor cause to Captiol Hill

Kimberly Hefling and Tom Raum

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of a group trying to unionize college athletes sought out potential congressional allies Wednesday as they braced for an appeal of a ruling that said full scholarship athletes at Northwestern University are employees who have the right to form a union.

Former Northwestern quarterback Kain Colter, the face of a movement to give college

athletes the right to unionize, and Ramogi Huma, the founder and president of the National College Players Association, had meetings scheduled with lawmakers over a two-day period.

"The goal is to make athletes have a seat at the table. Health and safety of athletes is the concern, especially to reduce the risk of brain trauma," Huma said outside the Capitol before heading to a meeting with Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio.

Among the others they expected to meet with top Rep. George Miller of California, the top Democrat on the House Education and Labor Committee; Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., whose district includes Northwestern; Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.; and Rep. Tony Cardenas, D-Calif.

They intended to make clear one of their chief concerns, providing for athletes' medi-

cal needs. Huma said the group also was concerned that the NCAA would lobby Congress to prohibit unionizing by college athletes.

"We want to make sure they have an opportunity to hear from us directly," Huma said.

Stacey Osburn, director of public and media relations for the NCAA, said in a statement that Huma's concern was "unwarranted." A Northwestern official has said that the students were not employees and that unionization and collective bargaining were not the appropriate methods to address their concerns.

"The law is fairly clear and consistent with Northwestern's position, so the NCAA has made no contacts with anyone in Congress attempting to ban the unionization of student-athletes," Osburn said.

Colter, however, called the decision a "strong ruling" and predicted it "will be hard to overturn."

Last week's ruling by a regional National Labor Relations Board director in Chicago said Northwestern football players on full

scholarships are employees of the university and have the right to form a union and bargain collectively.

While the athletes' effort has generated some support among Democrats, Education Secretary Arne Duncan and the White House have declined to comment on the ruling. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Rep. John Kline, R-Minn. — two lawmakers influential on education and labor issues — came out against it.

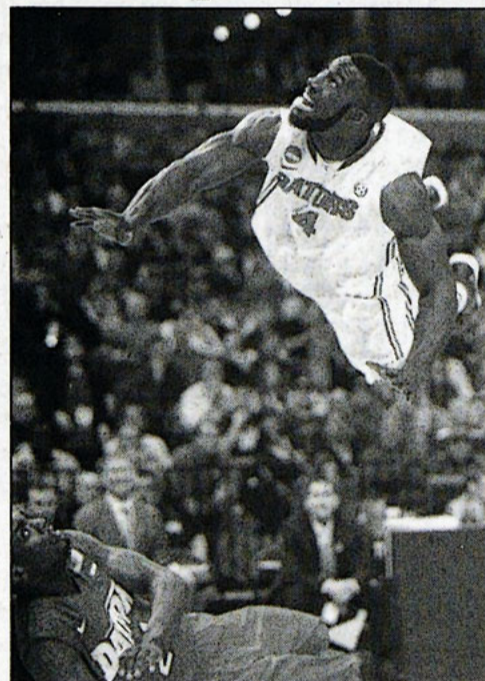
The university has said it would file a request for the full board in Washington to review the decision. It has until April 9 to do so.

The federal agency does not have jurisdiction over public universities, so the push to unionize athletes has been primarily targeted toward private schools such as Northwestern.

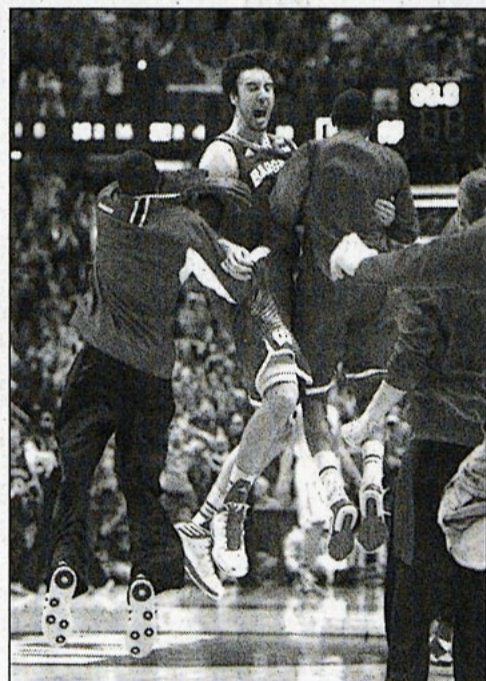
Opponents say giving college athletes employee status and allowing them to unionize could hurt college sports and higher education in numerous ways.

Final Four

## Best photos from the NCAA Tournament: Final Four



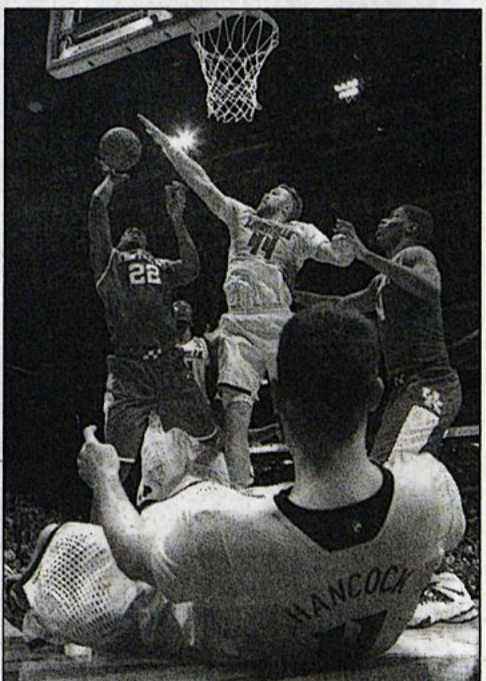
Florida center Patric Young (4) watches his shot as Dayton forward Dyshawn Pierre falls to the floor during the second half in a regional final game at the NCAA college basketball tournament, Saturday, March 29, 2014, in Memphis, Tenn. (AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)



Wisconsin's Frank Kaminsky celebrates with teammates after overtime in a regional final NCAA college basketball tournament game against Arizona, Saturday, March 29, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif. Wisconsin won 64-63 in overtime. (AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)



Connecticut's Ryan Boatright (11) celebrates during the second half of a regional final against Michigan State in the NCAA college basketball tournament Sunday, March 30, 2014, in New York. Connecticut won the game 60-54. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)



Kentucky's Alex Poythress (22) tries to shoot past Louisville's Stephan Van Treese (44) as Luke Hancock lays on the ground during the second half of an NCAA Midwest Regional semifinal college basketball tournament game Saturday, March 29, 2014, in Indianapolis. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

### Upcoming Broncho Games

Thursday

Baseball vs. Fort Hays State University 3:00 p.m.

Friday

Softball vs. Northeastern State University 1:00 p.m.

Baseball vs. Fort Hays State University 1:30 p.m.

Softball vs. Northeastern State University 3:00 p.m.

Baseball vs. Fort Hays State University 3:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis vs. Fort Hays State University 3:30 p.m.

Saturday

Track and Field at The North Texas Classic (Hosted by the University of North Texas) (All Day)

Women's Rowing at The San Diego Crew Classic (All Day)

Women's Rowing at Oklahoma City University Duel (All Day)

Women's Tennis vs. University of Nebraska-Kearny 11:00 a.m.

Baseball vs. Fort Hays State University 1:00 p.m.

Softball vs. Northeastern State University 1:00 p.m.

Softball vs. Northeastern State University 3:00p.m.

Sunday

Women's Rowing at The San Diego Crew Classic (All Day)

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Rick Lemon

@treycdog\_2

Trey Winfrey

Opinion

## Northwestern football becoming a threat?



Northwestern quarterback Matt Alviti hands off to wide receiver Miles Shuler, right, as the football team participates in an NCAA college spring football practice Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in Evanston, Ill. After spring break, Northwestern resumed spring football practices with a huge issue that could change the college sports landscape hanging over their heads. A regional director of the National Labor Relations Board ruled last week that the team can bargain with the school as employees. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

Austin Litterell

Sports Reporter

The Northwestern football team is setting a brand new precedent for other teams around the country.

Being able to become a union is a huge step to the possibility of athletes getting the treatment that they deserve. The time may finally arrive when the National Collegiate Athletic Association has to face the facts that the way they treat the athletes is wrong, a time of reckoning to own up to their mistakes.

Now, the ability to unionize for Northwestern is not directly about being paid, at least in the short term. They just want insurance in case they get hurt, but overall, this lawsuit does bring up a huge threat to the NCAA.

Also, Northwestern is a private university, so that helps them, but

this is still one small step for a team; one potentially big step for the rest of student athletes.

Other players and teams are going to see the ruling of the case and feel as if they should get the same thing, which they should. The NCAA is already facing numerous lawsuits and that number will only go up from here.

It is time for the NCAA to realize something they refuse to realize; student athletes are in a way employees of the university. They cannot work jobs, they barely have time to focus on much outside of athletics, and the much criticized organization does not seem to care.

Since when is it right to be able to make millions of dollars off somebody and give nothing in return? Coaches and athletic directors get bonuses when players win a national championship. All the player gets is a ring (which they are

not allowed to sell).

I am not talking about a huge amount of money now, just a little to help survive. For example, money to be used on groceries, a meal, some money to go out on a weekend, stuff like that. Working three jobs has barely helped me get by. Not being able to work any just seems cruel.

I have been a harsh critic of the organization and strongly behind that opinion. Nothing they do makes much sense. Why is it so hard to help people who have brought in so much revenue to you and the universities?

Back to the Northwestern union, this is a ruling of change and a good change too. In five to six years, the way athletes are treated will be completely different than today. Hopefully, the NCAA realizes change is necessary sooner rather than later.

Softball

## Softball meets crosstown rival, split games

Austin Litterell

Sports Reporter

UCO softball was home on Tuesday to take on their crosstown rival Oklahoma Christian. The first game turned out to be a struggle for the Bronchos, losing 3-1, but they bounced back in the second. The bats finally woke up in an 8-3 victory to improve to 27-9 on the year.

The first game was a pitcher's duel for the first three innings, with both pitchers handling the opposing team on the mound.

The Eagles managed to get separation in a rally that started with a base hit and continued because of two costly errors that allowed two runs to score. Those three runs are all that OC

needed in the victory because of the pitching performance from Shea Coats, who gave up only three hits.

Kalynn Schrock was also strong on the mound, giving up only one earned run and striking out 10. Brooke Zukerman was UCO's only offense, with a solo shot in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The second game turned out to be a different story for UCO.

The Bronchos got off to an early lead, as Schrock showed her power with the bat crushing a two-run blast over the left field fence.

OC would manage to tie it up before the Bronchos opened up the game with a six-run outburst.

The explosion started with a three-run blast from Hannah Justus, hitting

a three-run home run in the sixth inning. Devyn Fraizer followed with an RBI triple to put the Bronchos on top 6-2. Ally Dziadula would follow that triple with an RBI triple of her own and later scored the last run on a wild pitch.

The season so far, has been solid after getting off to a slow start and Broright fielder Brooke Zukerman talked about the Bronchos' season after their first game loss.

"We've been doing pretty good. I feel pretty good. We've done solid so far, we just had little mistakes this past game, but we'll get back to it," Zukerman said.

The Bronchos will play Northeastern State at home on Friday for Senior Day and will travel for another doubleheader on Saturday to Tahlequah.



UCO Sophomore Nicole Brady throwing a fastball. Taken by The Vista's Quang Pho.

OKC Thunder

## Looking at the Thunder's upcoming games

Thunder Upcoming Schedule with opponents seeding:

4/3-	vs. Spurs	(1-seed)	
4/6-	@ Rockets	(4-seed)	(8.5 games back)
4/8-	@ Kings	(13-seed)	(32 games back)
4/9-	@ Clippers	(3-seed)	(5.5 games back)
4/11-	vs. Pelicans	(11-seed)	(26 games back)
4/13-	@ Pacers	(2-seed)	(Eastern Conference)
4/16-	vs. Pistons	(11-seed)	(Eastern Conference)

## Spurs rolling before big game with OKC Thursday



Above: Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots in front of Utah Jazz forward Derrick Favors (15) and teammate Serge Ibaka (9) in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, March 30, 2014. Oklahoma City won 116-96. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, right, of Argentina, shoots against New Orleans Pelicans forward Tyreke Evans (1) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 29, 2014, in San Antonio. San Antonio won 96-80. (AP Photo/Darren Abate)

Michael Marot

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Gregg Popovich may be the only guy who can stop San Antonio right now.

If the Spurs coach had his way, this franchise-record winning streak would probably already be over. His players don't see it quite the same way.

Tony Parker scored 22 points, Boris Diaw added 14 and the surging Spurs earned their franchise-record 18th consecutive win by handing the Indiana Pacers their worst home loss of the season, 103-77, Monday night.

"We just wanted to continue to do what we've been doing, which is push the ball and play at a high pace and share the ball," Parker said. "It's nice to have the record in San Antonio, but it still doesn't mean anything if you don't win it all."

A year ago, the Spurs fell short in Game 7 of the NBA Finals at Miami.

This year, San Antonio (58-16) seems to be surging at just the right time. The Spurs haven't lost since Feb. 21 at Phoenix and broke the franchise's previous mark on the 18th anniversary of their only other 17-game winning streak by beating the NBA's best home team on its own court.

If Popovich had his way, this talk would likely be over.

His players don't believe their coach will allow the streak to continue much longer, especially if the Spurs can clinch the NBA's best record with games to spare. They lead Oklahoma City by 3½ games in the Western Conference and have six more wins than the Pacers and seven more than the Heat with eight to play.

"I think he'll be happy if we lose anytime soon," Parker said, laughing before explaining that Popovich might end it himself. "I'm pretty sure because he's going to rest like half of the team."

On Monday, Tim Duncan went 3 of 10 from the field and Manu Ginobili managed only six points and two assists in 16 minutes. The Spurs still routed a team that had been No. 1 in the East all season. Indiana now trails two-time defending champion Miami by percentage points for the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

"We'll worry about a couple of things, staying healthy, finishing the season strong and hopefully going into the playoffs with the confidence we're playing with now," Duncan said.

The loss was a devastating blow to the Pacers, who have made no secret of their desire to get home-court advantage in the East and had a seemingly safe three-game lead after beating Miami at home on Wednesday. But

Indiana has lost three straight, finished March with an 8-9 record and the lowest scoring average of any team in the league.

They have lost five of six overall and seem to be in full panic mode with seven games to go.

"It's awful, we've been in a downward spiral and we've been splintering a little bit," Roy Hibbert said. "We've had plenty of players-only meetings and plenty of sit-downs as a team with coaches and we've had some upper management in here, so I don't know. Maybe we should all go to group therapy or something, sit down with Dr. (Chris) Carr and figure out some of our grievances."

Carr is the team's performance psychologist.

Whatever the problem, even the Spurs could tell these were not the same Pacers who posted a double-digit win on San Antonio's home court in December.

Indiana fans, who have seen their team go an NBA-best 33-5 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse this season, let them know they didn't like it by booing at points during the game, most extensively when coach Frank Vogel conceded the loss by sitting his starters for the final 3:37.

Paul George scored 16 points, while Hibbert and Lance Stephenson each finished with 15, but the Pacers were outrebounded 15-7 on the offensive glass and outscored 42-28 on second-chance points.

"Their toughness really showed, that's where they beat us," George said. "That was a team that's all together playing as one, the team that we were to start the year."

The Spurs put Indiana in a 13-15 hole, then used a 15-0 run to take a 32-15 lead early in the second quarter, forcing Indiana to play catch-up. The Pacers never got closer than seven.

Indiana did have a few bursts. Stephenson provided some playoff action in a 39-second span of the second quarter to get the Pacers within 37-26. But Parker hit a 20-footer, Ginobili made 1 of 2 free throws and Parker drove in for a layup to rebuild the lead to 48-35 at halftime.

When George scored four in a row to finally get the Pacers within single digits at 59-50, Parker's layup during a 5-0 spurt helped San Antonio make it 64-50. And when Indiana got as close as seven early in the fourth, the Spurs ran away.

So how much will Popovich let the streak continue?

"We've never set any numerical goals," the Spurs coach said. "We just talk about being the best team we can, come playoff time."

NOTES: The 26-point margin also matched Indiana's worst loss of the season, at Houston on March 7. ... Indiana has lost six straight home games to San Antonio.