



Features

News

Sports

the **VISTA**

August 26, 2014

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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

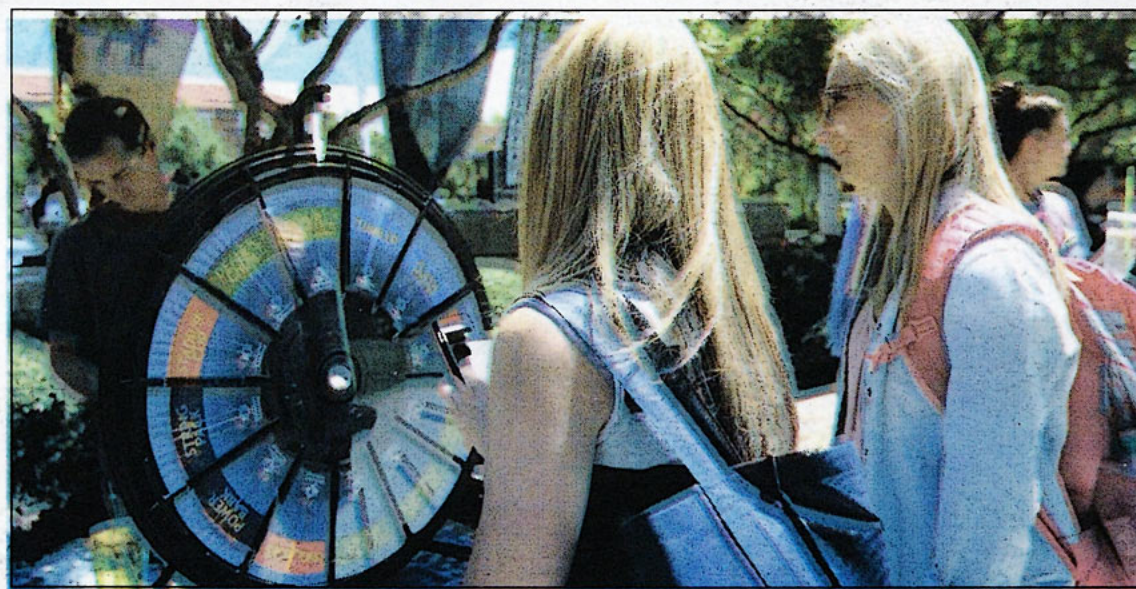
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LETTERS

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 131. Letters can be emailed to vistauco@gmail.com.



The Importance of Having Spanish Implemented at UCO



Queila Omena
@queilaomena

Staff Writer



Starting this semester, UCO plans to get more involved with the Hispanic community, beginning with tours offered in Spanish, to gain a better understanding of multilingual communication.

"The implementation of Spanish as the second language at UCO offers many benefits to our students. It confirms the importance of this language in our country and students will realize that it is a necessity. It is vital to welcome the twenty first century by knowing another language, particularly Spanish, if you are going to live in the United States," said Dr. Diana Pardo, a Spanish professor at UCO.

The Spanish tours offered at UCO welcome high school students, transfer students or any other prospective student. They are 90-minute walking tours of campus, including a view of dining halls, classrooms and several other buildings on campus.

"Learning Spanish will allow communication with the large Spanish speaking public in our country. If they travel to a Spanish speaking country they will be able to immerse in the culture and have a fulfilling experience," Dr. Pardo said. "Moreover, knowledge of the Spanish language will make students marketable as professionals in our country and in the international community. Even in our own country we have neighbors who speak another language with whom we should attempt to connect. It is

a treat to be able to communicate with one in another language."

The need for a Spanish tour grew, as more international students enrolled at UCO. The university immediately took a step to further multilingual communication.

UCO has students from Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, Peru, Guyana, Colombia and Ecuador.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the percentage of Hispanic or Latino residents in Oklahoma has grown immensely in the last few years. It has outgrown the percentage of African Americans residing in the same area.

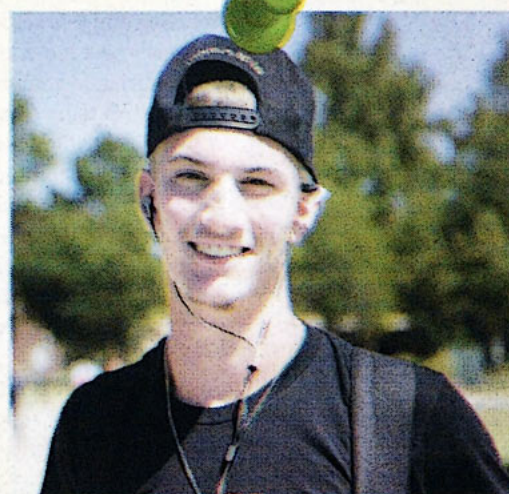
"UCO has a large international student population that is continually growing. This population gives our students the opportunity to welcome and share experiences with others from around the world," Dr. Pardo said. "Most classes at UCO have international students and our students should welcome them and help make their stay rewarding. The international student body at UCO is very important because of the global exposure it provides our students."

The tours are offered on Monday through Thursday at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. and Fridays at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m.

For more information about the tour, email onestep@uco.edu or call (405) 974-2727.

“Campus Quotes”

What is the craziest thing you saw on campus the first week of school?



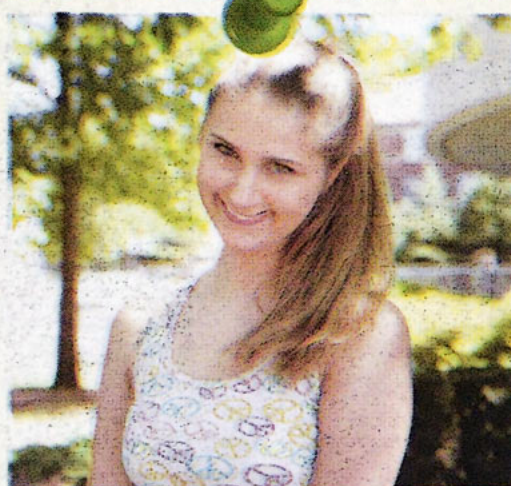
“I saw a dog on a skateboard.”

-Landon Peach
Freshman Nutrition



“Someone walking around campus in a fur costume when it was 110 degrees outside.”

-Jessie Roark
Junior Theater Performance



“It wasn’t this year, but last year I saw someone in a gorilla costume walking around campus.”

-Sarah Stephens
Junior English Education



“The weirdest thing I saw on campus was a dude riding his bike around campus backwards.”

-Bradon Jones
Freshman Undecided

UCO Jazz Lab hosts Kelley Hunt



**Lauren
Capraro**

@laurencapraro

Contributing Writer

The UCO Jazz Lab hosted Kelley Hunt on Saturday. Kelley is an international singer-songwriter from Kansas City, Mo. Not only does she sing, she also plays guitar and piano.

She has six solo albums and has been actively producing music since 1995. Her albums have sold over 150,000 copies. Her current tour began in May, and her final show will be in her hometown in February.

Hunt's show started at 8 p.m. and featured many original songs from her newest album "The Beautiful Bones." She had a merchandise table set up at the entrance selling her albums and t-shirts.

The music hall was full during the entire concert. The venue has a laid back feel and is connected to Edmond's Hideaway Pizza. Audience members were seen grabbing a slice of pizza and enjoying a drink.

"I have performed at the Jazz Lab several times and it's always really fun," Hunt said.

During the concert, she alternated between playing piano and guitar.

Hunt grew up with a musical background that has shaped the way she writes songs.

"My family has had a huge impact on my music. My grandmother was a New Orleans-style gospel singer, and you can definitely tell that her influence comes out in many of my songs," Hunt said.

Although Hunt does not identify with a specific genre, some of her influences include R&B, blues, and gospel artists.

"I have always been a huge fan of Ray Charles and Johnny Johnson. All styles of music move me,

and if it moves me, I'm in," Hunt said.

She was very interactive with the audience. During upbeat songs, many members of the crowd would get up and dance. She received a standing ovation after every song.

Hunt was willing to speak with reporters directly preceding the show and plans to perform in Edmond again soon.

"I love coming back to Edmond. The people actually care about the music here, and that's not always the case," Hunt said.

Additional information about Hunt's albums and future tour dates can be found on her website. <http://www.kelleyhunt.com>

For a list of upcoming events at the UCO Jazz Lab, visit <http://www.ucojazzlab.com/events/>



Kelley Hunt alternated between playing piano and guitar at her performance at the UCO Jazz Lab on Saturday, Aug. 23. Photo by Lauren Capraro, The Vista.



Kelley Hunt plays a song called "Golden Hour" from her new album, "The Beautiful Bones" at the UCO Jazz Lab. Photo by Lauren Capraro, The Vista.



The UCO Jazz Lab was full, as Kelley Hunt performed songs from her new album "The Beautiful Bones." Photo by Lauren Capraro, The Vista.



Josh Wallace
@JoshCWallace

Staff Writer

Edmond teen faces federal charges

The latest developments surrounding an Edmond teen accused of sexually abusing children earlier this year are centered on his mental state.

Matthew Durham, 19, was charged in July for allegedly abusing children from April to June, while serving on a mission trip to Kenya. On Aug. 15, U.S. Attorney Sanford Coats petitioned to have Durham undergo a mental evaluation, citing statements Durham made in a written confession, as well as messages he had sent prior to leaving Kenya in June.

Court documents revealed selections from a conversation Durham had on June 15 in which he said, "I an {sic} sure I have a demon in me... How can I not hate this thing inside of me? It takes me at night and I am powerless over what luke wants."

"Yes I named him I know how crazy that is. He whispers in my ear all day and hes {sic} so hard to resist... I've prayed so

much, but every night luke gets what luke wants."

With his next court date set for September, prosecutors say the exam is necessary to determine if Durham would be fit to stand trial. Durham's attorney, Stephen Jones, filed court papers Aug. 20 seeking to dismiss the request for the exam.

"The government is using its motion as a pre-emptive device to stigmatize the defendant," he wrote. Jones went on to say that there was no justification for the exam and that he had not filed notice for an insanity defense.

Jones added that he believed the reason for the mental examination request was because "the government wants Matthew sent to a federal medical correctional facility ... where he would be subjected to questioning about the alleged offenses"

Durham was formally indicted by a federal grand jury on Aug. 5 on three counts,

including "engaging in illicit sexual conduct with several minor persons less than 16 years of age."

In the initial criminal complaint, FBI Special Agent Scott D. Lobb outlined key points of the investigation. His statement said that Durham had first volunteered in 2012 with the organization Upendo, who "specializes in assisting neglected Kenyan children by providing them with food, housing, clothes, school and religion."

During all of his previous trips, Durham stayed with sponsor families, but he had specifically requested to stay with the children in the last trip. The affidavit goes on to say that in early June, a caretaker said Durham's behavior with the children had been strange.

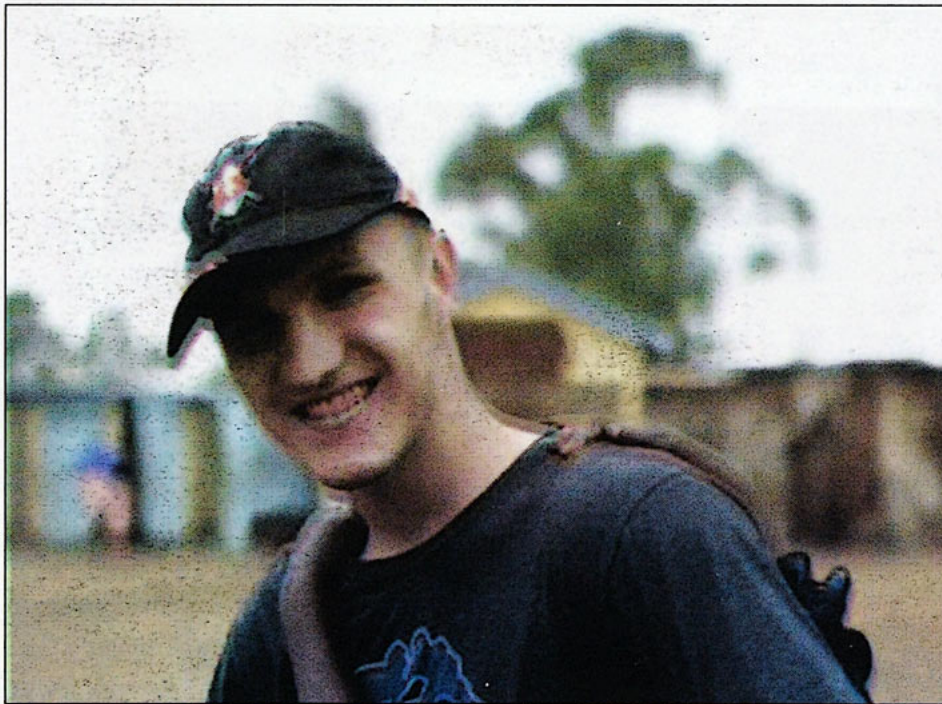
After questioning the children, they had reported being touched inappropriately, and Durham was confronted. On June 17, Durham confessed in a handwritten state-

ment and was videotaped by the organization's founder.

The document states that "Durham admitted to performing sexual acts on several of the children to include having sexual intercourse with them. The number of victims range between four and ten and are believed to be both boys and girls between the ages of four and nine, at least one of whom is HIV positive."

Also within the complaint were direct statements from the written confession, where Durham explained in graphic detail the abuses he had committed including rape and molestation.

Jones says that his client's confessions were coerced by the organization. He has plead not guilty to the charges and is currently being held without bail; if convicted, he could face a sentence of life in prison.



Matthew Durham, a 19-year-old from Edmond, Okla., has been accused of sexually abusing children while on a mission trip in Kenya. Photo provided.



Stephen Jones, attorney for Matthew Durham, talks with the media outside the Federal Courthouse in Oklahoma City, following a detention hearing for Durham, Monday, Aug. 4, 2014. Matthew Durham is accused of molesting children in Kenya. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



Youngsun Yun

@YoungsunYun91

Contributing Writer

UCO Jazz professor named outstanding educator

The Oklahoma Jazz Educators Association named UCO Assistant Professor of Trumpet Ryan Sharp, D.M.A., "Outstanding University Jazz Educator." Sharp will be honored for this accolade at the Oklahoma Music Educators Association Convention in January 2015.

Sharp, a UCO School of Music faculty member since 2012, teaches applied trumpet, chamber music, and summer jazz camps for UCO's Oklahoma Center for Arts Education.

"I absolutely love to teach students at UCO School of Music. I like every person that I work with and everybody works together. The students that I teach they are incredible. They work so hard and they're passionate. It just inspires me to try to do more for them," Sharp said.

He is also a director of UCO Jazz Ensemble III, founded by Dr. Kent Kidwell. It has been a vibrant part of the UCO School of Music curriculum since 1974. UCO Jazz Ensemble III will have its first concert of the semester Sept. 29.

"One of the benefits teaching in the School of Music is the size. It's not too big. But it's big enough that we are able to have the Jazz band, the orchestra, and the chamber music. It's like a total education for the students. In this school, students are able to do pretty much everything that could possibly do in a professional world," Sharp said.

Sharp shared the stage with the Kansas City Symphony, Bobby Watson and the 18th Vine Big Band, the Count Basie Orchestra, and other regional orchestras. From January 2003 to July 2005, Ryan was the lead trumpeter of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus, per-

forming across the United States and Mexico for over 15 million people. He has participated in concerts, festivals and master classes in Greece, Canada, England, Scotland, France, Belgium, Holland and Japan.

"We have all known for quite some time that Dr. Sharp has a rare gift and unique abilities as a lead trumpet player and jazz performer," said Brian Lamb, D.M.A., chair of the UCO School of Music. "He also has an exceptional ability to relate to and communicate with students in a way that produces lasting results and musical improvement."

As the Soprano Cornetist for Fountain City, Sharp has performed in many national and international competitions throughout the United Kingdom, the U.S. and other European countries. The Fountain City Brass Band includes a variety of professors and professional performers from Kansas City, Arkansas and the Indianapolis area.

Sharp was an undergraduate student of UCO. He came back as an assistant professor in 2012, after finishing his doctorate at the University of Missouri.

"I have a repertoire with my students that's grounded on the idea that we are working towards the same goal, to give an inspiring performance," Sharp said. "With this common goal, I strive to treat my students as they would be treated in a professional setting, and I remind them that while they ultimately have to experience the musical inspiration for themselves, I'm here to guide them through the process."

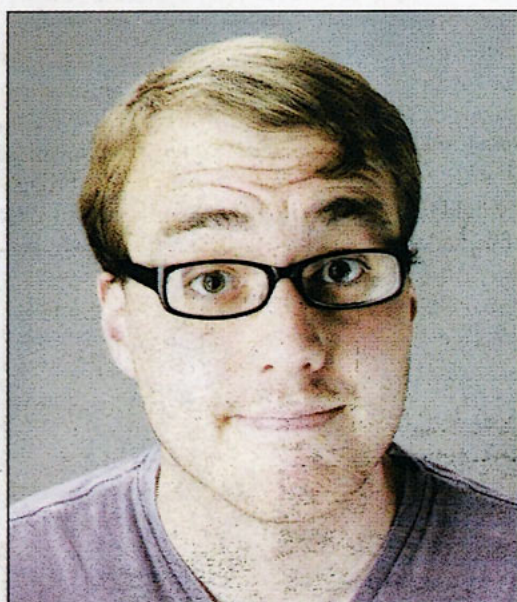
Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



WALKING THE TIGHT ROPE

By Tyler Talley

TALLEY



MARKS

Let's talk about depression and suicide. Morbid topics to be sure, but with the recent death of Robin Williams, both topics have become prevalent talking points in the media.

I am not a therapist, nor have I studied psychology. I have been diagnosed with clinical depression and believe that at least qualifies me to relate my experiences to anyone out there who feels the same way. I wish to stress that my experience is not universal, meaning that it is not true to everybody else's.

Despite what you may have been told, depression is not just a constant state of sadness. A common misconception is that depression is any one feeling at all. At times, it is an overflow of feelings, as if you are a robot that has gone haywire and your emotions flipping from extreme to the next.

Other times, it is the complete lack of feeling. The point in just about anything diminishes. Everything you would normally consider fun loses its luster, and you begin to question if it was even fun to begin with.

It's when either of these two hit their extreme when the suicidal thoughts roll around. The best comparison I can put forth is the scene in "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" when Gollum has a conversation with himself with his personalities split in two.

The evil half is what having the experience of having suicidal thoughts is like. It seems much more powerful, and it comes off as troublingly persuasive.

A common statement that I hear about suicide is that it is selfish. That people who commit suicide or have suicidal thoughts are not considering the wake of what will happen to their friends and family that continue after them.

Perhaps, there is a validity to be found there, but I argue the opposite. Whenever I think about it, one of the

only things running through my mind are my loved ones and how I am hurting them. The evil Gollum side of me is screaming, "Everyone you love hates you because of the way you are. The world would be better without you."

It is these thoughts that fuel the thoughts even more. Not only is the depression hurting you, it is somehow hurting everyone who is trying to help.

At this point one of two things happens. Life finds a way to interrupt these problems with an external problem - such as school or work - that requires my immediate attention or I break and seek help from a friend.

Neither of these are perfect solutions as enviably I will be left alone with my depression again at some point.

I wish there was some sort of bright and hopeful way to end this, but the truth is that depression is an ongoing problem for all that suffer from it. While many healthy outlets exist to all that seek them, such as medication and therapy, it is a disease that does not have one exact cure.

This may be bleak, but the one beautiful thing that can be pulled out of this is hope. I personally long for the day when I reach a point in my life in which I can look back at this time and say with all sincerity that all of this bullshit was worth it. That all the depression I suffered through made me a better person and the good times all the better. It is in this hope that I find clarity whenever I am at my most depressed.

The best advice I can give to those that may be dealing with depression is to remember that there can be no happiness without suffering. It is in our suffering that we derive the joy that comes when the bright days roll around. In the meantime, look to a healthy outlet and keep your mind busy and I'll try to do the same.



Innocent Until Proven Guilty



J. Preston Drake

@jpdrake94

Editorial Writer

Anyone who has not been living under a rock for the last couple of weeks has seen the dramatic story unfolding in Ferguson, Mo., after the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown at the hands of a local police officer. Since then, there has been an outpouring of support to both Brown's family and Officer Darren Wilson. Brown's sympathizers are shocked that a police officer would shoot an unarmed man and Wilson's supporters have somehow found a way to justify the excessive use

of force.

The fact remains that, no matter how it is sliced, there was absolutely no reason for Brown to die. He may have robbed a convenience store, and maybe Wilson was threatened by someone his size, but a police officer has non-lethal means at his disposal to neutralize a suspect.

Almost everyone has seen a law enforcement officer's utility belt before. There is a pistol, a nightstick, a radio, handcuffs and a stun gun.

The stun gun and nightstick are almost always non-fatal in their use and most Tasers have a range of up to 35 feet. Most sources seem to think that Brown was not a threat to Wilson, but the officer's

supporters insist that the young man acted aggressively.

Even if Brown had "bum-rushed" Wilson, as Wilson's partner claims, a jolt from a Taser would send even the toughest steroid junkie tumbling to the ground.

But pretend for a moment that Wilson didn't have this option available and absolutely had to use his pistol. A shot to the leg would have stopped Brown in his tracks and left the officer free to call paramedics to treat the injury.

With all these options available, why did Wilson have to shoot Brown four times in the arm and twice in the head?

Even more befuddling are some of the comments left on various

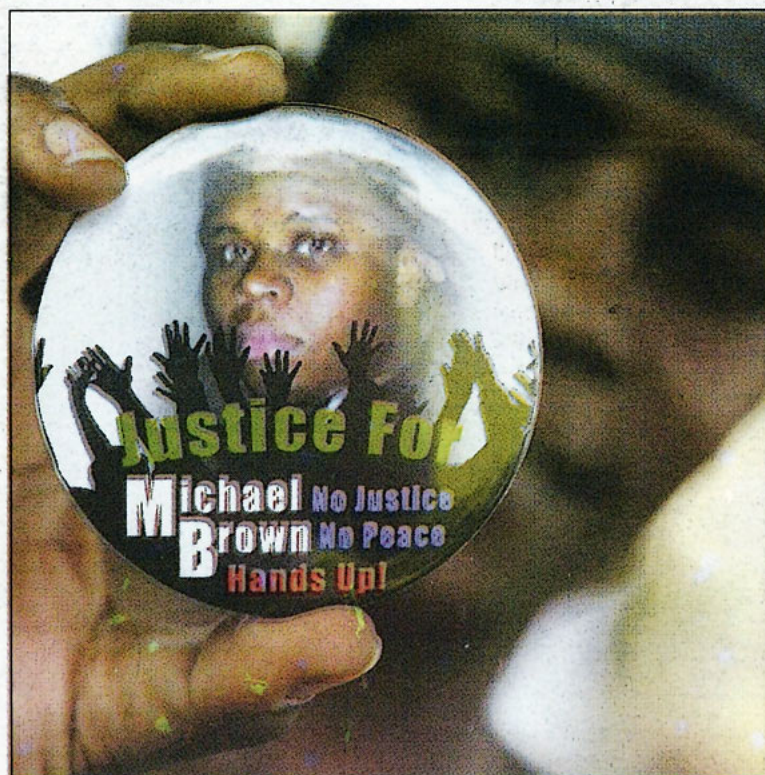
news articles by Wilson's supporters. A ridiculously large group of people seems to think that Brown "deserved it" or "had this coming." One commenter said, "Michael was a thug, plain and simple. He chose to rob that store and he chose to be confrontational with a police officer who was just doing his job. Thug life leads to two places: jail or death."

This is just callous. Brown was, at worst, a petty criminal and now he is dead. Meanwhile, serial murderer Charles Manson is alive and well in prison. Jeffrey Dahmer would have served life in prison, if he had not been killed by another inmate. But, it is okay that Brown died because he is a "thug?" What ever happened to

innocent until proven guilty?

Brown deserved better than to be shot like a dog in the middle of the street. There was not any reason for this young man to die. The issue has become racially charged, but when it comes down to brass tacks, a police officer shot a young man to death, and instead of holding him accountable, the department is now using excessive force to counter protesters.

Law enforcement is supposed to enforce laws, not dole out punishment. Unless Brown was rampaging through the streets of Ferguson with a submachine gun, he should have been detained and given a fair trial. An unarmed man was killed and his family deserves justice.



FILE - In a Thursday, Aug. 21, 2014 file photo, Nikki Jones, of Spanish Lake, Mo., holds a button in support of Michael Brown while visiting the community in the apartment development near where he was fatally shot by police in Ferguson, Mo. (AP Photo/Atlanta Journal Constitution, Curtis Compton, File)



UCO students hold up signs in support of Micheal Brown on the campus of UCO during the Ferguson Rally held last Friday. Brown was a black teenager shot by a white policeman in Ferguson, MO that has resulted in the civil unrest in that town and around the nation for the last few weeks. The rally was put together by UCO's office for Diversity and Inclusion. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.

Local thrift stores offer savings for students



Kchris Griffin

@kchriswitha_k

Staff Writer

Students seeking a cheaper option for clothing should take a deeper look at their local thrift stores.

Elite Thrift Store offers students and the Edmond community a number of items, such as vintage clothing, electronics and other miscellaneous items. The store provides clothing with many trends of today and gives customers a nostalgic atmosphere.

Building relationships with my customers is my favorite part about working here, said Erica LaCour, an Elite Thrift Store clerk.

"This job allows me to be myself," LaCour said. "I've only been here eight months and it's been awesome. I love it."

Thrift shopping saw an increase after

artists Macklemore and Ryan Lewis's song "Thrift Shop" became popular.

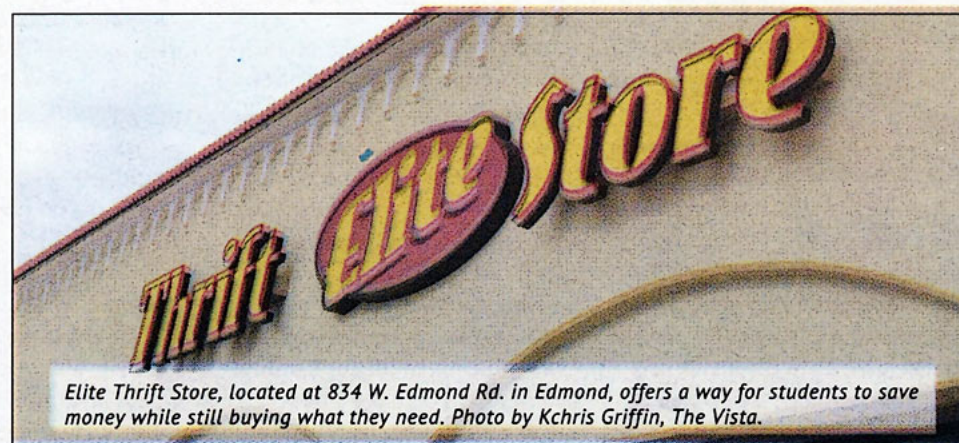
"Students can come get a lot vintage stuff here," LaCour said. "They can come get Ataris, clothes, platforms and wigs. Just vintage stuff that's old that you don't find in a regular store."

Elite Thrift Store offers customers different selections such as furniture, toys, shoes, kitchenware and household appliances.

Lacour said it's important for students to save money, because it's hard enough for students to pay for their books and student fees.

"No matter where you go, you are always trying to save pennies," LaCour said. "I can wear the same stuff at a thrift store that people buy for \$500. I can come get it here for 99 cents. You can't beat it. I'm going to go with the bargain. This store is friendly, clean and a place where you find something that may not mean a lot to you."

The store opened in 2006 and, though not corporately owned, donates some proceeds



Elite Thrift Store, located at 834 W. Edmond Rd. in Edmond, offers a way for students to save money while still buying what they need. Photo by Kchris Griffin, The Vista.

to charities.

Jessica Wynn, an Elite Thrift Store manager, said the large variety makes the store unique.

"In the evening we usually get a lot of college students in here," Wynn said. "When girls come in, they come in groups of 10. They're in here for a couple of hours usually, and they're trying on everything."

The business resides in two cities, which are Edmond and Tulsa.

"We're not as big as other thrift stores but we do the best we can," Wynn said. "We have had a lot of the same employees for a long time, a lot of the same donors that help out and we know our customers by their first name."

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HOROSCOPES

August 2014 — Week 5



CAPRICORN
December 22–
January 19

Anticipation grows at the office. Join in the fun, Capricorn. A judgment proves puzzling. It is not your place to question what went down.



ARIES
March 21–
April 19

You can ponder a situation all you want, but at the end of day, the results will still be the same. You know what needs to be done, so do it, Aries.



CANCER
June 22–
July 22

A decision is made on the spur of the moment. Go with it, Cancer. A letter is a step in the right direction, but it is not enough. Push on.



LIBRA
September 23–
October 22

Romance burns bright, Libra. Take that special someone to someplace new. A truce at work ends, and the debate gets heated. Steer clear of it.



AQUARIUS
January 20–
February 18

History has a habit of repeating itself, Aquarius. Bear that in mind when a friend asks you for a favor. Fitness and nutrition go hand in hand.



TAURUS
April 20–
May 20

The scale tips in your favor. Move, Taurus, move! There have been crazier notions. Listen up. A dinner disaster turns out to be a blessing in disguise.



LEO
July 23–
August 22

You have needs too. Put them first this week, Leo. A lengthy discussion at work brings about quick results. A test is passed.



SCORPIO
October 23–
November 21

Pushy you are not, Scorpio, but pushy you must be to meet a deadline. Tact is advised. A wardrobe snafu starts a trend. Way to go!



PISCES
February 19–
March 20

Fate deals a loved one a bad blow. Don't worry, Pisces. You'll have the right words when the time comes. A request is made. Honor it if you can.



GEMINI
May 21–
June 21

You might not feel like a hero, but a youngster thinks you are. Your chance to live up to that image will come this week, Gemini. Do not disappoint.



VIRGO
August 23–
September 22

Attention, Virgo. You are veering off course. Time to refocus or alter your plans. A financial matter is resolved and your bank account benefits.



SAGITTARIUS
November 22–
December 21

No more fudging, Sagittarius. Time to let the cat out of the bag. Gentle reminders keep you on track. A token of appreciation is in order.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

Classifieds

BFF Performance Shoe store (NW OKC) is now accepting applications from College students for part-time employment. 15-20 hrs. per week. Evenings and Saturdays. No retail experience needed. Call 608-0404.

Attn: child development majors
Edmond Child Development Center is accepting applications for part time teacher positions
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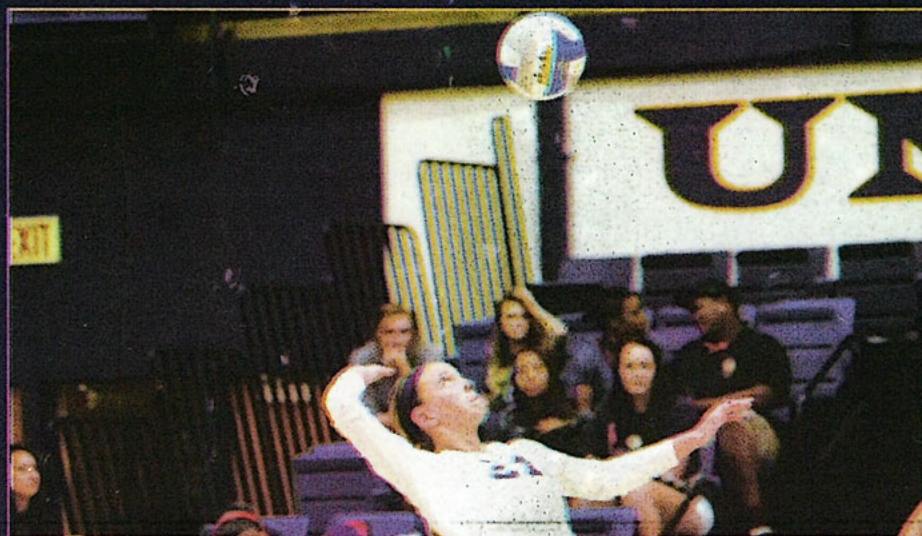
VISTA SPORTS



THE HISTORY BEHIND THE ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

The ALS ice bucket challenge has swept the nation in the past few weeks and has caused a huge spike in the amount of money given to a worthy foundation. But do you really know what ALS actually stands for or that it's linked with one of the most legendary baseball players of all time?

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LOOKING AHEAD TO BRONCHOS VOLLEYBALL

UCO '13 Senior Tate Hardaker serves the ball across to the other side in this archived photo from last season. UCO Volleyball has been picked fourth in the pre-season coaches' MIAA poll. But with the 'Chos losing many of last year's top performers new players will have to step up to match the success that UCO has had in recent memory. Vista Sports writer Emily Hahn reports on the Lady Bronchos pre-season training as they get ready to another exciting season. Photo by Cyn Sheng, The Vista.

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The History behind the Ice Bucket Challenge



Austin Litterell

@AustinLitterell

Sports Writer

The Ice Bucket Challenge has become a phenomenon over the past few weeks. The challenge has helped raise millions of dollars for ALS. It's important for everyone to know what it's raising awareness for and the history behind the disease.

ALS was discovered in 1869, and according to the ALS Association, an average of 5,600 people per year are diagnosed with ALS. The life expectancy averages two to five years, but some can live past it. Stephen Hawking was diagnosed back in 1963, and hall-of-fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter, had ALS.

ALS has had a strong connection with sports for over 70 years.

It has been connected with Yankees great Lou Gehrig since 1941. Lou Gehrig played with the Yankees from 1923 all the way until 1939, playing 2,130 consecutive games, a record that would last for 56 years. He became one of the first iron men in sports. However, in 1938, he started to feel different, physically. Despite putting up solid numbers, he wasn't an iron man anymore. In 1939, he was diagnosed with ALS and eventually passed away in 1941 at 37.

Gehrig became known for his famous speech at Yankees Stadium. He set a standard to live by for everyone, no matter the circumstances.

"I might have been given a bad break, but I've got an awful lot to live for," said Gehrig, in his speech.

Pete Frates is doing just that. Frates is now paralyzed, has trouble swallowing and is unable to talk, but like Gehrig, he believes he still has an awful lot to live

for. He was once a baseball star at Boston College before being diagnosed in 2012. Frates will become a father in September and, according to the Boston Globe, wants to be connected to a ventilator when he is no longer able to breathe so he can be around his child.

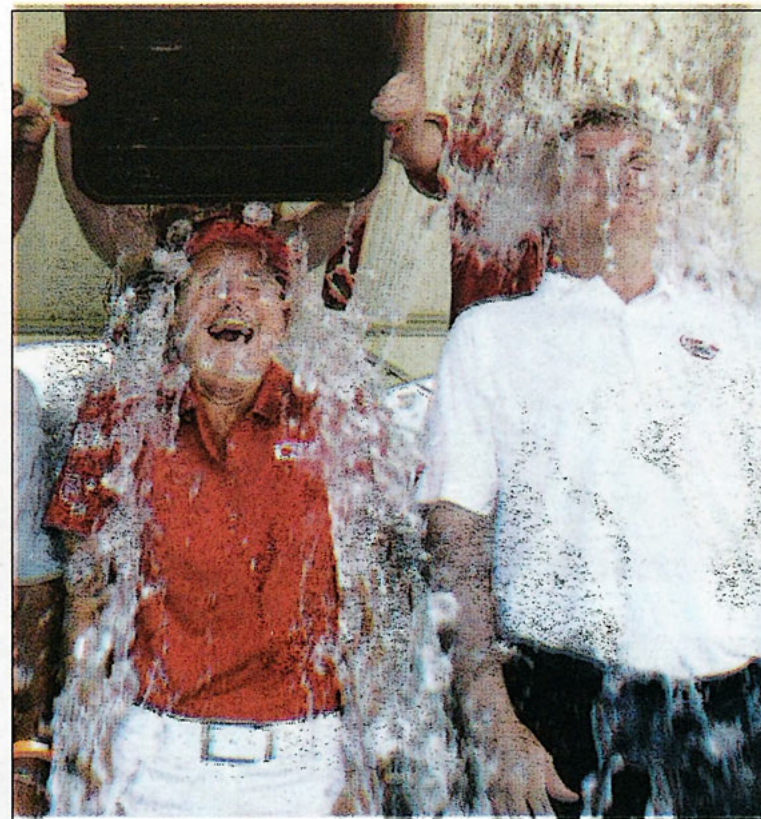
Steve Gleason and O.J. Brigrance are other sports figures that have ALS and are making the most out of life.

This whole ordeal has led to a tremendous amount of donations to the ALS Association, with over \$42 million donated. All this awareness really started over 70 years ago with a slugger in New York. Frates and his friend Pat Quinn have carried that on as well as others. The new awareness about this disease has allowed us to expand our horizons and not only recognize this as Lou Gehrig's disease, but as a disease that affects a large number of people, and they are continuing to fight it.

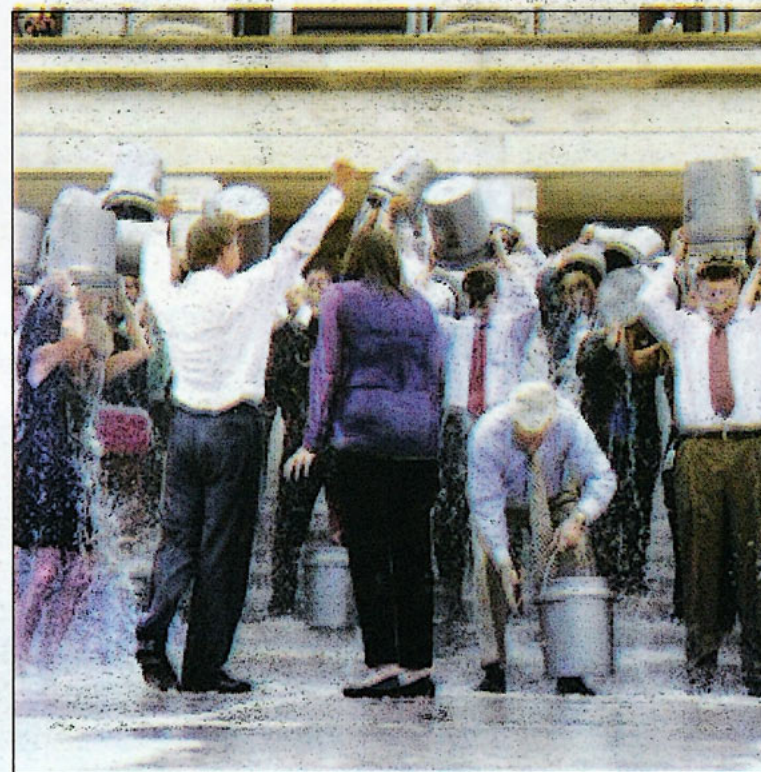


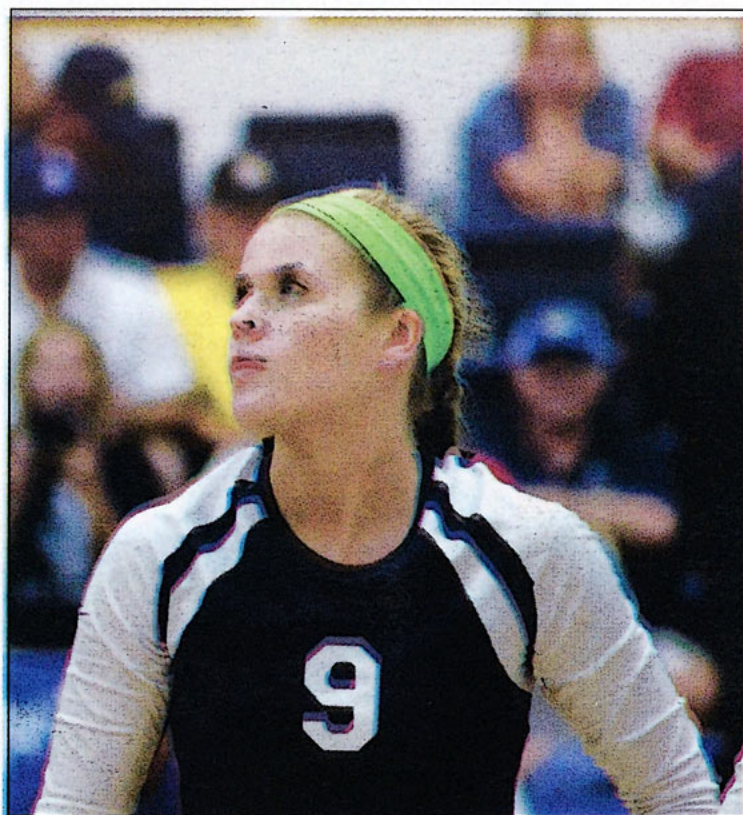
Left: In this photo taken Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014, former NBA star Yao Ming, center right, takes the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge at a school in Beijing, China. The challenge asks those willing to douse themselves with ice water to challenge others to do the same, or donate money to The ALS Association, which raises money for Lou Gehrig's disease research and assistance. (AP Photo)

Right: Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and his wife, Crissy, cheer on staffers as they douse themselves with cold water on the steps of the state Capitol in Nashville, Tenn., Friday, Aug. 22, 2014. The Haslams were participating in the ice bucket challenge to support research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. (AP Photo/Erik Schelzig)

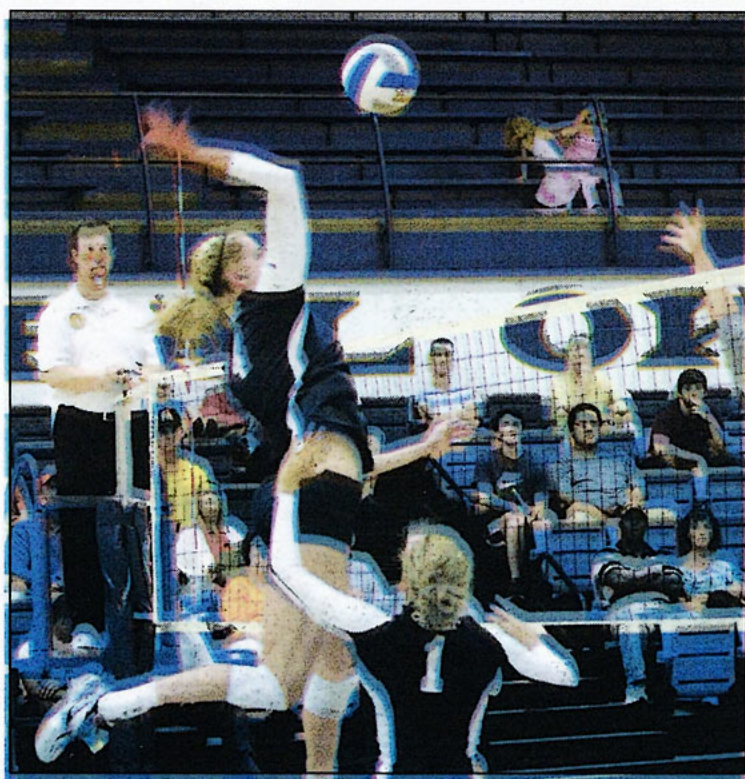


Above: Canadian golfer Lori Kane, left, and Mark Wallace, vice president for corporate affairs at Canadian Pacific Railway, participate in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge at the third round of the Canadian Women's Open golf tournament in London, Ontario, on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014. (AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Dave Chidley)





Above: In this photo from The Vista archives UCo '13 sophomore Tyler Gromann checks the score of the game between sets. Photo by Cyn Sheng, The Vista.



UCO Volleyball Ready to Continue Recent Success



Emily Hahn
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The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) Volleyball Team has been ranked fourth in pre-season polls for the 2014 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

Central Missouri, Washburn, and Nebraska-Kearney rank first, second, and third, after votes from every coach in the conference were submitted and announced on Aug. 20.

Coach Edgar Miraku spoke with excitement about the Broncos' 10 returning players from last year's team that notched the most wins since 2007 with a record of 24-10.

"I think we had a good season overall again, being our second season in the MIAA conference, we are optimistic and had some pretty good appearances," Miraku said.

UCO finished last season with a loss in the conference tournament semi-finals against Central Missouri, in which Allison Bar, then a freshman, had four kills and a service ace.

"Finishing in the top half of the teams making it to the playoffs is

definitely a good sign but I think we need to continue build on that," Miraku said.

The Broncos started pre-season drills Aug. 13 in preparation for the quickly approaching season. Miraku spoke with optimism about the upcoming season and chance of bringing a conference championship to UCO.

"Well we tried everything we can do," Miraku said. "I think the girls have been working pretty hard in the weight room. Obviously with the limited days on the court we took full advantage of what we could based on our rules and compliance."

After team captain Tate Hardaker, ranked second in UCO's all time digs list, graduated, Coach Miraku named Sabetha Young as the team captain for the 2014 season.

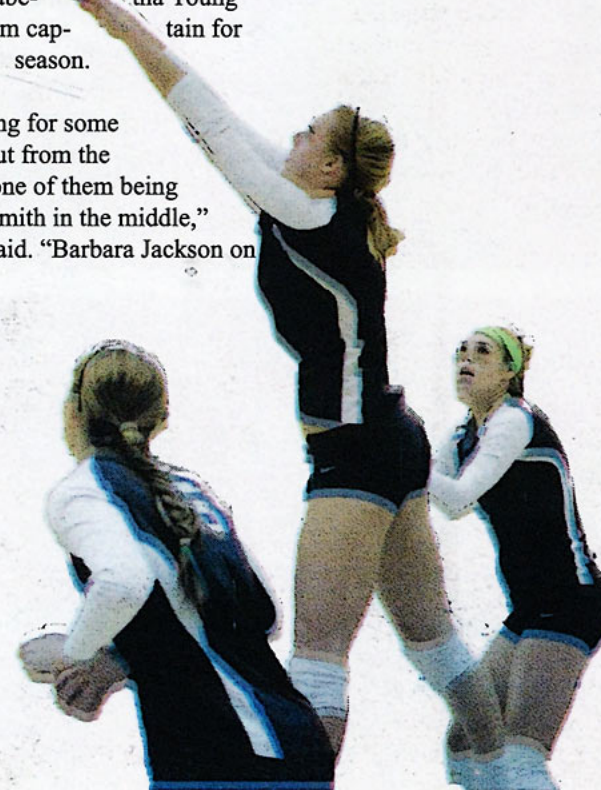
"We are looking for some good input from the seniors, one of them being Juliette Smith in the middle," Miraku said. "Barbara Jackson on

the outside has had a very good freshman and sophomore year. Not to leave out our freshman of the year last year Allison Bar out of the middle position."

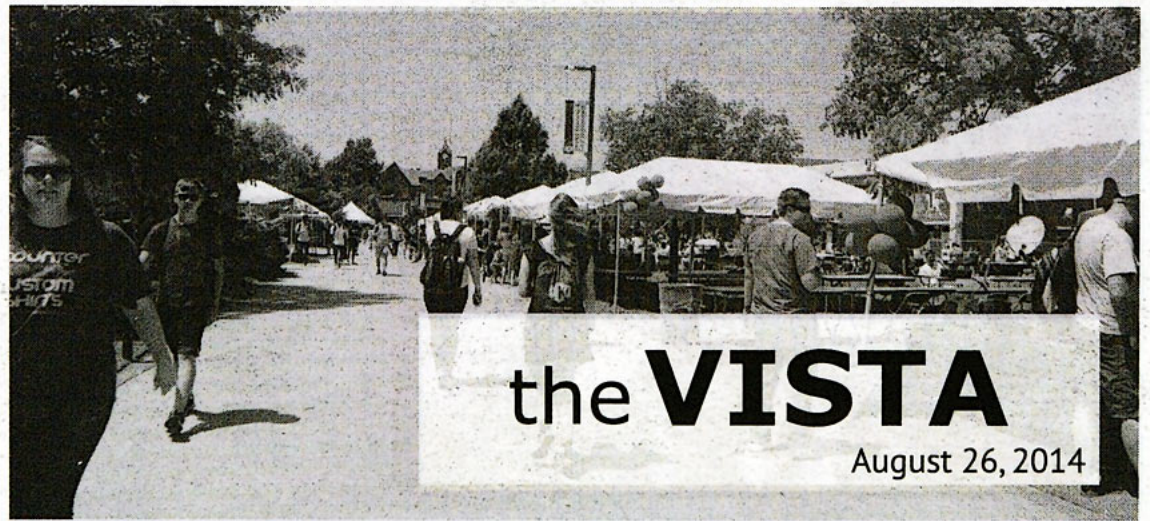
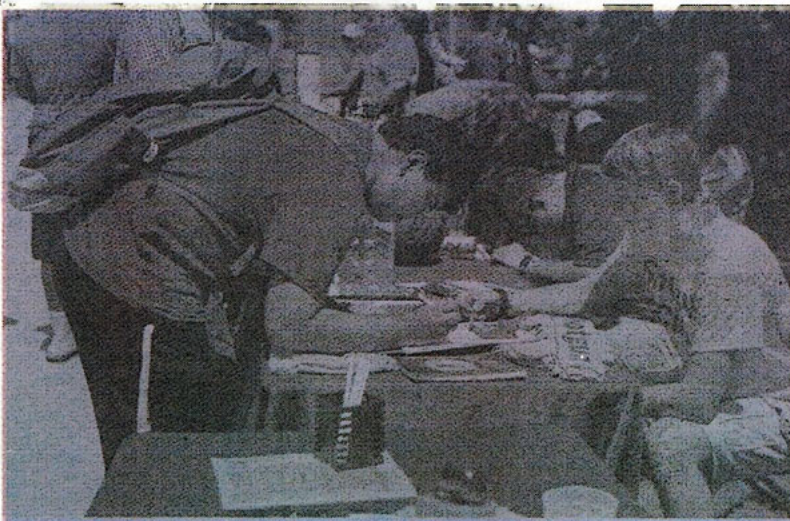
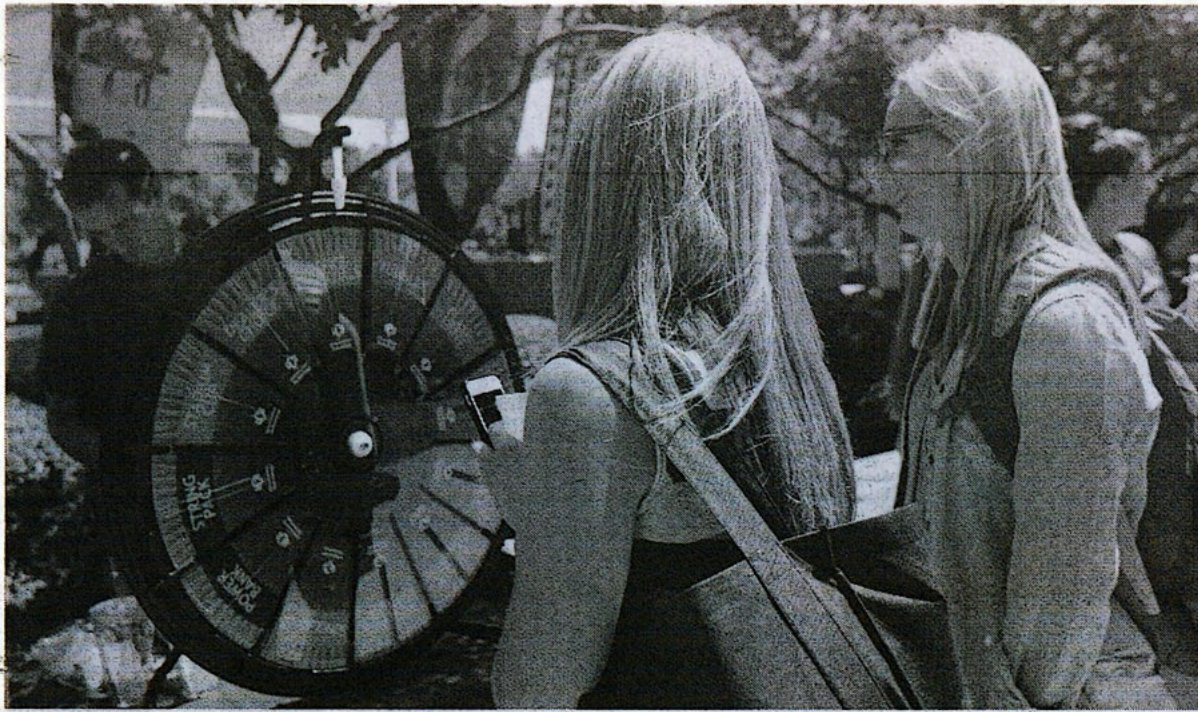
Jackson won second team All-MIAA outside hitter accolades last season, as well as Barr and Smith receiving honorable mention.

The Broncos will start their season Sept. 3 hosting Bacone and Mid-American Christian at 6 p.m. at Hamilton Field House. Conference play begins Sept. 16 in Joplin, Mo. against Missouri Southern.

Below: In this archived photo from last season UCO players volley the ball back over the net. Photo by Cyn Sheng, The Vista.



Left: UCO Senior Mid-back Juliette Smith jumps up to pike the ball in this archived photo from last season. As one of the senior leaders this year, Smith along with the other ten returning players will need to step up for the Broncos. Photo by Cyn Sheng, The Vista.



the **VISTA**

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