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AT OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1895

Wednesday
February 19, 2014www.ocolly.com
25 centsRED DIRT
RAISERS

JACKIE DOBSON/O'COLLEGIAN

Cale Lester plays at Eskimo Joe's during a benefit show for Mike Hosty on Jan. 30. Hosty needed financial help after an open heart surgery.



Kassie McClung

@OCollyfeatures

It felt more like a family
reunion than a concert.The front room of
Eskimo Joe's was covered
with guitar cases and
cables. A crowd of more
than 50 people — many ofMusicians band
together for causethem musicians themselves
— lined the walls and sat
shoulder-to-shoulder at
tables.A long table stood by the
stage. On it hung a poster
that read, "Hosty Hoo-
tenanny, benefitting the
Hosty Duo."They were gathered in
support of Mike Hosty, anOklahoma musician who
underwent open-heart
surgery on Jan. 30.He would be in recovery
for two months, unable to
play music and ultimately
without income.The Red Dirt Relief
Foundation stepped in and
coordinated the benefit
concert to help lighten his

financial load.

Brad Piccolo, a member
of the band the Red Dirt
Rangers, strummed one
final chord on his guitar
and stepped up to the
microphone."God bless Mike Hosty's
heart," he said. "He's the
reason we're all here."Helping musicians like
Hosty is exactly what the
founders of the foundation
hoped to achieve when
they formed it in 2011.The idea for the Red
Dirt Relief Fund formed in2011 at the Red Bull-spon-
sored event, Gypsy Cafe.Red Bull recruited Katie
Dale, a field-marketing
manager for the company,
and Tim Holland, general
manager of Eskimo Joes, to
coordinate a music festival
in Stillwater.When the pair began
planning the festival, they
were certain of two things:
they wanted to pay tribute
to red dirt music, and they
wanted to support Okla-
homa musicians.

"That was the plan going

into the event," Holland
said. "We just didn't know
what it was going to turn
in to."Dale said Red Bull
allowed her to pick a
nonprofit organization to
donate the proceeds of the
festival to."Red Bull already bud-
geted for the event," she
said. "So they didn't need
proceeds from the ticket
sales necessarily."There wasn't a definite
plan for the money until

SEE DIRT PAGE 3

TECH playground has open house



Alex Strohm

@OCollyresearch

Not all playgrounds are
for children.The College of Educa-
tion held an open house
for the new TECH
Playground on Tuesday.
The playground, in 326
Willard Hall, is a creative
space where students and
faculty can not only feel
inspired, but also collabo-
rate with others to solve
problems.The mission of the
TECH playground is to
"provide experiences for
those who love to learn,
play and explore innova-
tive, creative, and imagi-
nating ways to improve
teaching and learning
with technology."

KURT STEISS/O'COLLEGIAN

Mitch Harrison shows off a touch-screen display
in the TECH playground.Susan Stansberry is an
associate professor and
program chair of educa-
tional technology as well
as the TECH Playground
director. She said TECH
stands for "transforming
education through creative
habits.""A lot of that comes
into research so this is a
place to come and think
and dream and play and
come up with new ideas
and challenge each other'sthinking—that was the
dream has really been,"
Stansberry said.In 1997, the idea for
a space like the TECH
playground was con-
ceived. Stansberry said
she gives credit to her
former boss Ed Harris
and Pamela Carroll, the
newly selected Dean
for the College of
Education.

SEE TECH PAGE 6

Debaters discuss retention plans



Kendra Nipper

@OCollySGA

Student Government
Association presidential
candidates vowed to
fight for higher retention
rates during the debate
Tuesday night.The presidential can-
didates, Alison Slagell
and Matthew Chuning,
expressed their excitement
before the debates started.During the debate, Slagell
and Chuning, along with
running mates Clint Dun-
can and Charlie Gibson,
answered questions asked
pertaining to Oklahoma
State University.The candidates were
asked how they intended
to address and improve
the low four-year retentionrate at OSU. Slagell said it
was embarrassing to have
such a low retention rate,
especially compared to other
universities. She said most
students at OSU find it hard
to believe people don't want
to attend OSU, but some
students didn't have the great
experience most have.Slagell said the retention
rate was very important to
her because OSU is on the
lower end.For the full story, visit
ocolly.com/news

KENDRA NIPPER/O'COLLEGIAN

Tuesday night's debate candidates were Clint Duncan and Alison Slagell (left) versus Matthew Chuning and Charlie Gibson.

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