Graffiti artist inspires students at Art and Design event

Jim Smith, Faculty Adviser

Dating back to the ancient workers who built the Egyptian pyramids, graffiti has been used as a way for persons to leave their mark on the world. But what for many years was seen as an act of vandalism, has now gained acceptance as a sought after art form. While some business owners still disdain the unwelcome marking of their facades, others are now offering significant payments to commission this urban art form from truly skilled graffiti masters.

One such master was a guest on the SNU campus this last Thursday evening. Bobby Levering, a local Oklahoma urban artist who signs his art with the name ENTAKE, was invited by the Art and Graphic Design department to share some graffiti painting techniques and to conduct a live demonstration. In just over an hour, Levering filled a canvas panel with his signature character, a one-eyed walrus.

Professor Whitney Porch, who organized the event, talked about her motivation with regard to her students. “With these kinds of events it really showcases [to students] that they can take the things they are learning in class and apply them to nontraditional means.” She also talked about how we can showcase the university, especially the Art and Graphic Design department to potential students in the area. Porch invited local high school students to attend, and they made up half of the event’s 40 participants.

Levering, who works as a plumbing crew supervisor, talked about what inspires his art. “I try to look at all aspects of life, I try to find the positive and pretty much life inspires me.” Levering also enjoys working with other artistic mediums including sculpture, marker drawing and some acrylic and oil painting. He indicated that spray paint is his favorite means of expression that never gets boring for him.

At the end of the demonstration, 15 participants were given the opportunity to try out some of Levering’s techniques on a canvas of their own. Levering was generous with his time and offered words of encouragement as he worked with the student artists. Porch also presented some art supplies to a few lucky attendees.

Oklahoma plays host to cricket invasion

Clay Milford, Staff Writer

During the months of August and September of 2013, the state of Oklahoma underwent a cricket attack of Biblical proportions. After a mild winter and an uncommonly wet spring and summer, Oklahoma has been plagued with hordes of the insect from the central to northeastern parts of the state.

Dr. Rick Grantham, an Entomologist from Oklahoma State University, says that due to the weather, the Sooner state has made itself a perfect cricket breeding ground. “We have crickets at this time every year, but some years we have more than others. Last year we had a large mating flight and this year appears to be another heavy year – actually the first time I have ever seen back-to-back years. A hot summer followed by decent rain in late July and August seems to be the triggers for cricket flight activity. Crickets need warm moist soil to lay their eggs in, and the conditions have been good for the last two years. Nature has a way of controlling how large the populations will be through winter temperatures, moisture, predation, parasitism and cannibalism. If any of these factors have huge swings, then populations will vary greatly.”

Although the swarm has been heavy for the past few months, Dr. Grantham says that we are now at a lull in cricket mating activity. “The peak mating flights were about three weeks ago and numbers have been falling steadily since. We had
Formally known as Global Vision Week: Go week 2013

Grace Williams, Business Manager

This coming Tuesday October 8th until Thursday October 10th is Go Week, formally known as Global Vision Week. Joel Mullen, newest University Pastor in the office of Spiritual Development, said

"We want to facilitate opportunities for SNU students to go and engage their world. ‘Go Week’ captures the idea that faith and obedience involves movement and commitment."

Go Week will be used to inform students about opportunities and challenge students to travel and serve internationally through a study abroad program or mission trip. The verse of the week is Genesis 12:4, “So Abram went, as the Lord told him...”

On Tuesday, Elieen Ruger will speak in Chapel and share about study abroad opportunities for students. Ruger will also talk about how students can get involved with Commission Unto Mexico. Directly following Chapel will be a study abroad fair in the commons with representatives from different organizations who will be able to talk specifically about locations and classes.

On Thursday, Mullen will speak in chapel to challenge students to listen to where God may be calling them to go and then to take a step of obedience. Mullen will also share some information on the SIMs (SNU in Missions) trips.

Six SIMS trips have been confirmed for summer 2014 in Australia, Haiti, Germany, Brazil, and two teams in Swaziland, one with the Luke Commission and one with BFC’s station. Further information about the SIMS trips, past and present, will be given on Monday, October 28th at 6:30pm in Herrick before solace.

Spiritual development will be hosting an Amazing Race to celebrate Go Week. Teams of four will go on a scavenger hunt throughout the Bethany/Oklahoma City area and interact with the community. Teams can sign up right after chapel on Tuesday, and the first clue will be given that afternoon.

The race will end on Thursday night at 8pm with a Go Week party in Bud Robinson before kingdom come. All students are welcome to attend regardless of amazing race participation. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the party.

Oklahoma plays host to cricket invasion cont.

a little bump in the road about a week ago, but numbers are now falling again. You will probably continue to see a few crickets until we have cold temperatures or a frost."

For those that do not enjoy the presence of the fall field cricket, Gryllus pennsylvanicus, the most common cricket found in Oklahoma according to Grantham, there are ways to keep them away.

"Exclusion and light management are the only effective ways to repel. Make sure there are no cracks around doors, make sure you caulk around windows and plug or cover weep holes in bricks. Good light management is by far the most effective control and the most contentious. Crickets are strongly attracted to light and, unless you can turn them off or switch to less bug friendly types (low-pressure sodium vapor lamps or yellow incandescent bug lights), then you are going to have crickets. Also, be sure to remove any dead crickets that pile up around lights as they will feed on dead bodies as well as their normal plant material."

Although having a cloud of insects around your home can be a nuisance, Dr. Grantham states that having crickets “attack” is not necessarily the worst thing to experience, as they provide food for birds and other animals that prey on them.

The state of Oklahoma seems to have recovered from their condition of shock after seeing the clouds of incoming crickets charging toward their homes, and Dr. Grantham assures everyone that something like this only happens “once every five to ten years.” So, for those shoveling piles of the dead insect away from the side of their home or school, just know you will all will get to wait at least half a decade before you have to do that again. As for now, relax and know that a cricket plague has come and gone, and we are all still here.
Fellowship of Christian Athletes: students growing together

Kira Roberts, Editor-in-Chief

“Since 1954, Fellowship of Christian Athletes has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels to use the powerful medium of athletics to impact the world for Jesus Christ. FCA focuses on serving local communities by equipping, empowering and encouraging people to make a difference for Christ,” according to their website.

The mission of FCA is to “present to coaches and athletes, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.”

Jeremy Tims is the FCA Area Representative for the OKC Metro. He lives with his family in Piedmont and has spent the last nine years working in this position. He became involved with this organization during his college years at Southeastern University when an FCA staff member asked him to join the team.

“FCA was the only tool that appealed to me as a college athlete. It allowed me to grow in my own walk and gave me the opportunity to invite my teammates to learn about the Lord,” Tims said.

“I absolutely love getting to drive around the OKC Metro on a daily basis and encourage Coaches to make an impact on their student-athletes’ lives.”

As far as a vision for FCA at Southern Nazarene this year, Tims would like to see multiple coaches attend meetings as well as to have every team represented at FCA gatherings. He wants everyone who comes to receive the challenge of growing closer to God on a daily basis. The goal is to give Him the glory on and off the playing fields/courts at SNU and to reach out and make an impact in the local community schools.

When asked about a story that stood out to him during his time with FCA, Tims said, “Watching college athletes from all across the state come together to volunteer five days of their summer at an FCA Camp. Watching them compete, laugh, cry and praise God together. It’s amazing to see how close they come to each other in those few days and how they refuse to let anyone down as they return to their campuses to make a difference for Christ. I never get tired of seeing this summer after summer!

“To be a complete athlete you have to be consistent in all three dimensions. To experience growth physically you must practice, work out and eat consistently. To grow mentally you must push yourself in the classroom and study. And to grow spiritually you must commit to being a part of Christ centered organizations and churches. Once an athlete has made these three dimensions a priority, they will succeed in life and will make an impact for Christ in everything they do!”

For more information about FCA, contact Jeremy Tims at jtims@fca.org or visit their website at www.fca.org. Meetings are every other Monday evening at 9:00pm in the Sawyer Storm Room.
Time management adjustment for Freshman athletes

Matthew Scott, Staff Writer

College Athletics is a subject that everyone always wants to talk about. Who won the game, what was the score and where are we ranked in the polls, fans ask. Fans hardly ask about an athlete’s academic or social life. The biggest jump a student can make, besides going professional, is the jump from high school to college. How are freshmen handling the difference between high school athletics and collegiate athletics?

I would be the first to admit I have never played college sports, but I know for a fact there is a huge difference between high school and college sports. Will House, a freshman that plays on the Offensive Line, said, “The biggest difference between high school and college ball is the level of competition. College is the next level of competition, and not many people are selected out of high school to go to the next level.”

That is what student athletes desire: a challenge and to earn what they get. “At this level everyone knows how to play the sport really well,” said Kelsi Holcomb, a freshman soccer player. College competition places students against the best, and student-athletes are up to the challenge. That does not answer the question of how students balance sports and school work.

“I think that school is harder because with traveling and being gone, it is hard to stay on top of every class and everything that we miss,” said Holcomb. Every athlete arrives at college with differing opinions of what will be harder: academics or sports. “Personally, I think my sport is the harder thing to deal with. You can have a tough exam coming up, but if you study hard enough, you can do great on it,” said House.

That means achieving the right balance can be difficult, and student-athletes have to sacrifice things they love to do. “I sacrifice sleep, I sacrifice social life and I sacrifice ‘me’ time,” said House.

“I knew it would be hard, but nothing prepared me for the mentally and physically exhausted days,” said Holcomb.

It is difficult for student-athletes to balance both academic and sports, but it is very rewarding. “It is very time consuming and always a struggle to get out of bed, but I love playing the sport, and I wouldn’t change that,” said Holcomb.

Student Athlete of the week

Jamie Hope

Class: Senior
Hometown: Cayuga, Texas

Jamie averaged 2.87 kills and 0.93 blocks per set along with 4.40 digs per set as SNU went 3-1 over the week. Hope had a career-high of 17 kills and was just two digs short of a career-high with 27 against Dallas Baptist.

Student Athlete of the week

Megan Johnson

Class: Sophomore
Hometown: Norman, Okla.

Johnson set the school record with an 18:16.48 at the Southern Stampede where she finished 11th.
OPINIONS

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LIFE: on support, encouragement and success

Patty Julison, Guest Writer

My name is Patty Julison. I am a 54-year-old senior, and I am a member of the LIFE Student Support Program. The acronym “LIFE” denotes each area this program seeks to develop in its student members: leadership, integrity, friendship and education.

Have you ever looked closely at a multi-faceted jewel? When you turn it different ways, the light catches the surfaces of the gem and reveals color and depth. The LIFE Program is like that jewel. It is a unique organization with facets designed for eligible students of all races, ethnicities, cultures, ages and ability levels. The assistance offered by this program is specifically for college students, and each aspect of the program is designed to meet students’ needs. You do not have to be a struggling student, nor do you have to be a genius. The program connects where you are and helps you get where you need to go.

When I entered SNU, I had no idea what kind of scholar I would be. As a first generation college student, there were a lot of things about the academic world I did not know. LIFE became a lifeline of information and assistance. There were days when I was a little discouraged (OK, I lie; I was very discouraged), and a visit to the peer mentors at the LIFE office made all the difference. They were there to understand and talk me off the ledge. When I realized I could actually do this college thing, the staff at LIFE was at hand to encourage me to think beyond a bachelor’s degree and consider graduate school, and they made sure I got the information I needed to make well-informed decisions.

Support is the focus of this program. Support is defined as “keeping somebody stable, bearing weight, giving help and encouragement.” LIFE staff members have certainly done that for me, and they are there to do it for every student in the program. Everyone needs help at some point. Study skills, financial management and professional etiquette do not come naturally. LIFE has seminars and events that help students learn skills that are essential for academic achievement and life beyond college.

Everyone gets bogged down, too. When you are trudging along at the back of the pack and think you are not going to make it, your LIFE peer mentors will come back and walk with you. They will do everything they can to encourage you across your finish line, whether it is turning out a quality research paper, completing that challenging class or just holding it together until the end of the semester.

Success in university has nothing to do with how cool you are, being a star athlete or becoming homecoming royalty. Success means you graduate. The LIFE Student Support Program is your very willing partner at SNU. I am blessed to be part of this program; it is not a label—it is a badge of honor that shows that I am serious about attaining my degree and I am willing to use every available tool to do it. I hope you will discover how the LIFE Student Support Program can become a partner in your quest for success.

In which I have become ashamed

Ronna Fisher, Content Editor

As I scrubbed off the last remnants of his name my friend had boldly chalked onto my passenger side window, I wondered when had I become embarrassed enough to try. Now, the name Jesus emblazoned on my car? I was bold enough to start a battle against innocent bystanders, but I’m unsure why. I hardly recommend shouting Jesus at other people. I doubt I even saw them as outcasts. In fact, “outcast” to church with me became all the difference. They were there to understand and talk me off the ledge. When I realized I could actually do this college thing, the staff at LIFE was at hand to encourage me to think beyond a bachelor’s degree and consider graduate school, and they made sure I got the information I needed to make well-informed decisions.

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Support is ‘keeping somebody stable, bearing weight, giving help and encouragement.’”

It takes vulnerability and courage to ask even my closest of friends, “Can we pray together? Right now?” Again, I fear being “that person.” That person who is super religious—who always wants to pray. Yet, I find when other people are brave enough to be “that person,” I am full of relief and admiration.

If I cannot be comfortable in my faith in a place of comfort and friendship—in a place surrounded by other professing Christians, how am I to believe that I will ever make a difference outside of this safe place? I hardly recommend shouting Jesus at innocent victims on the street, unless, you know, that is your cup of tea. However, I must not let consideration for others or a desire to build relationships first turn into shame and fear.
Study abroad stories: culture shock sandwich

Katelyn Lamb, Guest Writer

“Were in it!” my friend exasperately declared as the persistent man tried yet again to persuade us into his shop despite our firm refusals. “We are in it.” This has become our catchphrase for India. When things do not go the way you expect, simply proclaim, “We’re in it!” and the adversity becomes adventure. Just take it all in and label it experience. When you are yelled at on the street and you are not sure why, “We’re in it!” When you ask for your change and are handed a candy bar, “We’re in it!” When you take the wrong bus and end up in a tent city, “We’re in it!” When you eat something that looks like moldy pudding, “We’re in it!” And when you are stared at like an escaped lion from the zoo, “We are in it!”

As you would imagine, going from a small Christian college in the middle of the Bible Belt to a large, secular university in one of India’s largest cities is quite the change. I had heard all the talk about culture shock, prepared myself and expected the challenge. However, a few days after arriving for my semester abroad, I realized there was one thing no one had warned me about, one aspect of rounding by new, uncomfortable situations to make me understand that needing God is the best thing for me. The greater my dependence on Christ, the more intimate our relationship is, the closer I understand him to be. If I could do all things in my own strength and ability, what need would there be for the Gospel? And so I have come to see in a month of culture shock sandwich what I couldn’t understand in 20 years of American Christianity: I am desperately needy, thanks be to God.

So things go, and remain uncomfortable and challenging. I am still clueless, still insecure and unsure about how to convey the incredible story that is God’s embrace of humanity. But now I see that it is not up to me to have things all figured out perfectly, to fit every degree of faith into an attractive formula, to make a steely academic defense for my faith. All of that is important, but it is not as important as leaning into my utter dependency and trusting that wisdom will come from the Lord. Here is to being in it, having all the wrong answers and admitting to every inch of neediness.

“___ What I had not expected was having to learn the culture of my own country.”

Write for The Echo!

Join us on Mondays at 6:15 in Room 307 with story ideas you want to write about!

Email Kira Roberts (kirarobe@mail.snu.edu) with questions
Amtrak: a convenient travel alternative

Rachel Whatley, Staff Writer

Amtrak: travel alternative

When it comes to out-of-state travel in America, the two most common options are car or plane. There are downsides and advantages to both. If you prefer to travel by car, you can do it on your own time, but driving for long stretches may be taxing. Additionally, if the weather is too bad, you are not going anywhere. An airplane is quick and has no interruptions between point A and point B, but you have to deal with TSA, legroom and possible delays. Then again, there is another option: Amtrak, and it attempts to incorporate the best of both worlds.

Why not turn back the clock? Amtrak train routes are available in 46 states, and the ends of some routes reach Canadian cities. The seats are roomy, and you can keep your luggage with you so that everything you might need or want is right there. The trains even provide sleeping accommodations if you want to travel overnight. Who knows, it might be nice to fall asleep and the next thing you know, you are in another city. In addition, there are many other advantages to taking Amtrak.

When driving, you do not really get a chance to enjoy the scenery, but if you get an upper-level seat on an Amtrak train, you can enjoy the view all you like. Another advantage over driving is the dining car. As opposed to driving, there is no need to stop and find a place to eat. The food is reasonably priced and actually okay—it sure beats airline peanuts. Of course, you can bring your own food, too.

If you like the speediness of airplanes, Amtrak might not be your best bet. Nevertheless, it is a worthwhile option for the rest of us who do not mind taking it easy. The Heartland Flyer route, which connects Oklahoma City and Fort Worth, Texas, supposedly takes a little over four hours. From my experience, it can end up being hours late. However, the last time I went, we were more or less on schedule. A big advantage over an airplane, though, is the pricing. A trip from Oklahoma City to Fort Worth and back will only cost around 70 to 80 dollars. Also, while airlines are very strict and fussy about what can be brought on board, Amtrak offers some more leeway. They do have weight and measurement requirements for luggage, but the restricted items list is not very long.

The Heartland Flyer does not happen to have Wi-Fi, but other routes do. On my last trip, we passengers were told to “pretend like it’s 1963.” Long-distance routes include suites and bedrooms and can be offered to just about any combination of adults and children. The bedroom and bedroom suite, both for adults only, come with a private bathroom. Towels, linens and bottled water are provided complimentary in all suites and bedrooms. Additionally, meals are included with sleeping accommodations.

Now, who is up for a trip to Fort Worth?

City of Bones book review

Macy Sliman, Staff Writer

Similar to most other forms of entertainment, books have taken a different direction than they have in the past. As it would seem, the urban fantasy genre of reading material has all but taken off. For those of you who do not know, urban fantasy is a sub-genre that is more defined by place and time. It is set in a contemporary time but with supernatural aspects—think Twilight or Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. These are some of the more popular ones that non-readers might be familiar with. Those who are familiar, either with books in general or the genre specifically, have heard of others that are popular as well, like City of Bones by Cassandra Clare.

City of Bones takes place in a present time big city. The focus of the story is on the main character, Clary Frey. In the beginning, Clary is just an average teen until she starts noticing things she is not supposed to, for instance a group of teens covered in strange markings killing another teen with blue hair. Only the blue-haired teen is not actually a teen but a demon in disguise, and the other killer teens are actually three Shadowhunters, warriors dedicated to protecting humans from demons and other Downworlders, such as werewolves, vampires, warlocks and other fairy tale creatures. As Clary is pulled into the world of the Shadowhunters, she becomes more aware that the world around her is actually full of demons in disguise and Shadowhunters who hunt and kill them. Within twenty-four hours, Clary has more ques-
City of Bones book review

City of Bones is a book review discussing the novel’s strengths and weaknesses. The review highlights the character development, which is significant as Clary discovers more about herself over the course of the plot. The story is written in third person and mostly from Clary’s perspective, which the reviewer finds to be well done. Although the book is excellently written, the reviewer criticizes the over-detailing that can jar the reader from the story.

Most of the conflict in the book is caused by the rogue Shadowhunter Valentine, who has political views similar to Hitler’s. His ploys to exterminate all Downworlders are the focus of the main characters, along with figuring out who Clary actually is and how to rescue her mother. The plot is fairly well done, with twists and turns that make it an interesting and imaginative read.

Fine Arts Student Feature

Taylor Greenhill

Hometown: Houston, TX

Hobbies and Interests: Riding my scooter, playing table tennis, and playing disc golf

Most prized possession: Either my cello or my guitar

Three words that describe you: Loyal, Kind, Witty

Best advice your parents gave you: “Stop sliding on the carpet, you’ll get holes in your socks!”

A talent you possess: Leading worship

Biggest fear: Falling to my doom

I would like to have witnessed: The very first performance of Beethoven’s 5th Symphony

Best memory: Watching Tom and Jerry on Saturday mornings

As a child you dreamed of being a...... MLB Baseball Player

Pet Peeve: When I open the door for people and they go out of their way to walk through the other

Favorite Quote or verse: “If you’da been thinkin you wouldn’t ‘a thought that.” - Michael “Squints” Palledorous from The Sandlot

Photo used under the Creative Commons License
Campus corner in Norman: thumbs up for an entertaining afternoon

Kira Roberts, Editor-in-Chief

Pavestone sidewalks, Bradford pear trees and textured buildings of all colors lined every street. Ecclectic clocks and old telephone booths graced every corner with antique flair. The perfect place to spend a Saturday morning, Campus Corner in Norman has something to offer for all kinds of people. Exploring the peculiar nooks and crannies of this center of commerce will not disappoint the curious college student.

While the environment is not necessarily the best for long periods of studying because of the tense music, Gray Owl Coffee is worth a stop for a good cup of coffee. Visit Crimson and Whipped Cream for a cupcake and a quick stop at the photo booth to commemorate the moment. Whether you are a sushi lover, burger fanatic or Mexican food junkie, Campus Corner has a restaurant that will satisfy your craving. For all the football fans out there, the cookouts before Oklahoma University games would be the perfect getaway from campus and something to do without spending too much money.

If people watching is a favorite pastime, this is also the place for you. While it is generally known to attract college students, the dynamic range of people is quite surprising and entertaining. Poking around the shops is a delightful experience as there are so many random things to look at. From the broad range of merchandise to the paintings and eccentric decorations on the outsides of buildings, this experience is sure to fulfill your expectations.

Overall, I would have to give Campus Corner a thumbs up for capturing my interest and providing an inexpensive and entertaining day away from school.

Next time you have an afternoon free or are bored when everyone leaves campus on the weekends, be sure to check out Campus Corner. Go to www.oucampuscorner.com for a list of merchants.

“Someone wrote this on a street wall in Limón, Costa Rica. This particular port city is arguably one of the more important locations in the country (due to its exportation). However, it is poorly treated and often overlooked. In this city filled with trash that doesn’t get cleaned up, someone from Limón desires a different and simple way - “leave the world in better conditions than we found it.”
The ECHO is the weekly student newspaper of Southern Nazarene University and is a long-standing member of the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association. Viewpoints expressed in the paper are not to be considered official standard-bearers of the university or its sponsoring denomination.

Editorials on the op/ed pages that are generated by the ECHO staff—and therefore have no byline—express the opinions of the editorial staff but not necessarily of the administration, faculty or staff of Southern Nazarene University. Personal columns with bylines as well as opinions reprinted from subscription wire services or other publications by permission express the opinions of the writer and not necessarily of the editorial staff of the ECHO or the administration, faculty or staff of Southern Nazarene University.

The ECHO publishes a public forum called “Letters to the Editor” and invites readers to express themselves here. The editorial staff requests that letters not exceed 250 words and reserves the right to edit them for clarity and brevity. All letters must be signed. Send them to The ECHO, SNU Box 2541, or through e-mail at echo@snu.edu. Letters will not be returned. Unless otherwise marked, letters received by The ECHO that deal with newspaper content or practice will be considered for publication.

Information on advertising and subscriptions can be obtained by contacting the business manager of the newspaper at echo@snu.edu.

Editor-in-Chief: Kira Roberts
Content Editor: Ronna Fisher
Layout Editor: Amy Lauver
Business and Social Media Manager: Grace Williams
Adviser: Jim Smith

Upcoming Campus Events

Oct. 5 - Cross Country Jamboree @ OSU
Oct. 5 - SNU Volleyball @ Henderson State
Oct. 5 - SNU Football @ East Central
Oct. 5 - Men’s Soccer @ Lindenwood

Oct. 6 - Home Women’s Soccer game @ 7pm
Oct. 8 - Start of GO week!
Oct. 8 - Home Volleyball game @ 7pm
Oct. 9 - Fields of Faith

Oct. 10 - Home Men’s Soccer game @ 7pm
Oct. 11 - Home Women’s Soccer @ 5pm // cancer awareness
Oct. 11 - Southern Nazarene Live @ 7pm
Oct. 11 - SNU Volleyball @ Texas Western

Oct. 11 - Start of Red/ Parent’s weekend
Oct. 12 - Home Football @ 2pm
Oct. 12 - Home Men’s Soccer @ 7pm
Oct. 12 - SNU Volleyball @ Southwestern Assemblies of God