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Profs want curricular, salary support

By Suzanne Samin
A&E Editor

“Show me the money,” was the resounding call that filled the Benes rooms on the evening of Feb. 20.

The words, which came from Dr. Dan Vogt, professor of chemistry, were directed at low faculty salaries and changes to Ohio Wesleyan’s curriculum, which would make travel-learning courses, course connections and the first-year pilot course part of the university’s catalogue.

The Academic Policy Committee’s (APC) OWU Connections Curricular Plan was discussed, voted upon, and passed with some alterations at the Feb. 20 faculty meeting.

The decision determined whether these courses would be offered in the future. Dr. Danielle Hamill, zoology department chair and chairperson of the Academic Policy Committee, said, “The OWU Connections curriculum is designed to include opportunities for students to make connections at various levels, including connections to the university, connections across disciplines, connections beyond the classroom, global connections and more.

“The Committee believes each curricular component has academic merit, as well as being of interest to students and faculty.”

Hamill explained changes in the curriculum must be approved by the APC, which is a committee consisting of nine faculty elected by their peers, three students appointed by WCSA, and three administrators (typically the provost, dean of academic affairs, and registrar).

The types of curricular changes the committee approves include new courses and majors, as well as more over-arching changes such as introduction of the Q requirement, or, in this case, adoption of a new curricular plan.

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Photos by Ian Moran



A Fusion of Talent

Above: Alexis Stevens and sophomore Gus Wood hug after Wood won first place for his poem “Whittling: A Coming Out” at the talent show organized by OWU P.R.I.D.E. and Stonewall Fusion, a Columbus-based LGBT organization. The organization serves as a support group for LGBT members and allies.

Left: Drag queen Alexis Stevens, the special guest judge at Fusion Friday, announces the winners of the talent competition held during the event.

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Conclusion outside the courtroom: Sigma Phi Epsilon sexual assault case settled after more than a year and a half

By Noah Manskar
Transcript Reporter

A 19-month legal battle among several former and current members of the Ohio Wesleyan chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon came to an end early last month without ever seeing a courtroom.

One former Sig Ep pledge instructor, along with his father, charged five other brothers with libel, emotional distress and abuse of process, saying they “falsely accused” him of sexual assault. They claimed damages greater than \$25,000.

According to the complaint filed May 6, 2010, the accused brothers made “numerous false and defamatory statements... in both oral and written form” to the university’s Department of Public Safety, the Judicial Affairs Department and a Sexual Assault Hearing Panel.

The pledge instructor charged his former brothers knew their statements were false and that they did not have any information to support them.

He also argued their actions were “atrocious, extreme, outrageous, intolerable in civilized society and constitute heinous conduct,” and that they “perverted (the university) proceeding.”

The accused brothers moved for immediate dismissal of the case in their favor and argued their statements were true, constituted opinion and could not legally be held libelous because they occurred in the setting of a closed hearing.

They also asserted the emotional distress charge was moot because their actions were not extreme, and any of their

adverse affects were unintentional. Additionally, they said, the plaintiff presented no evidence of “psychic injury.”

They also denied the merit of the pledge instructor’s charge that they misused the proceedings because the university handled the sexual assault claims privately and never initiated any legal processes.

“COERCE, PRESSURE, AND INTIMIDATE”

The impetus for the lawsuit was a university investigation conducted after one of the brothers, along with the Sig Ep housefather, made a formal sexual assault complaint to PS in early 2010. The brother reported the plaintiff had “aggressively touched” his penis and asked him inappropriate questions about his personal life and sexual interests.

Three other Sig Ep brothers came forward with similar allegations after they heard about the initial charges.

One reported an incident in which the plaintiff tested him on the Greek alphabet and told him to remove an article of clothing with each mistake he made. After several errors, the brother “had removed all his clothing except his boxers,” according to his counterclaim. The pledge instructor “told (him) that he had to get completely naked,” but he refused.

The brother said the pledge instructor “continued to coerce, pressure, and intimidate (him) by telling him that he was the ‘new member educator’ and that (he) was a pledge, not just that, but that (he) was also the ‘pledge class president’ and that

he needed to know everything better than the rest.”

The pledge instructor told the brother to try reciting the Greek alphabet again, and that there would be “more ‘consequences’ each time (he) made additional mistakes....”

The brother was unable to accurately pass the test, so the plaintiff demanded that he “make himself ‘hard.’” He complied after much pressure, “but did it aimlessly to avoid becoming aroused.”

Following this, the pledge instructor displayed his knowledge of the Greek alphabet by holding a lit match and reciting it in its entirety before the match burned his hand. He similarly challenged the brother, holding another match under his testicles; he was unable to sufficiently recite the alphabet before the match slightly burned him.

In addition to these episodes, two other members of the fraternity joined the initial accuser in reporting incidents where the pledge instructor forced them to strip to their boxers during an initiation ritual. One was told to remove all his clothing and “spin in a circle while singing the song ‘I’m a little tea pot.’”

THE UNIVERSITY INVESTIGATES

Judicial Affairs Coordinator Michael Esler investigated the incidents after they were reported to PS. The university moved the pledge instructor from the Sig Ep house into a residence hall during the investigation.

See SIG EP on page 2

Fete honored for selfless teaching



Photo from MFL Dep. webpage
Professor Margaret Fete.

By Liza Bennett
Transcript Reporter

Students and faculty honored Margaret Fete and her dedication to students and French during a memorial service held last Tuesday.

Fete died on Dec. 24, 2011 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a professor of modern foreign language at Ohio Wesleyan, and began her teaching career there in 1970.

Fete received degrees from Middlebury College and Wesleyan University in Connecticut. She taught introductory French and Spanish, as well as upper level French language, civilization and literature courses.

Junior Anna Cooper, said the service was fitting.

“Prof. Fete has personally been the most influential professor I’ve had at OWU, I was able to work with her for my first five semesters,” Cooper said. “She cared so much about her students and taught me how to be an informed student and helped me to develop a well-rounded, global perspective.”

Fete shared with students her extensive travel experiences in Europe.

The National Endowment for the Humanities granted her summer awards to pursue research on narrative fiction and film, l’écriture feminine, criticism, theories of writing, language, and culture. She was published in the French Review and Notre Librairie.

Cooper said, “She wanted me to make the study my own, would ask me and help me develop it in the direction I wanted.

“She emphasized how important it is to understand the cultural context of your work and the background and life of the authors.”


The Modern Foreign Language department has suffered two deaths this academic year.

Susanna Bellocq, professor of French, died on Nov. 27, 2011.


Senior Laura Miske, MFL student board president, said these losses were hard on the department as a whole.

“As Dr. Rojas mentioned in his remembrance, we are now in a state of rebuilding rather than expansion,” Miske said. “Their passing has left a huge hole in the heart of the department that cannot just be quickly filled up again.”


See MEMORIAL on Page 4




If participating, what did you give up for Lent this year?




“I haven’t really thought about it, but I think giving up movies would be a pretty hard thing to do.”
– Arthur Taylor, ’13



“I have not personally given up anything for Lent, but my aunt gave up wine.”
– Alexandra Hutchings, ’12



“I’ve been trying to cut back on my sweets, especially cookies and ice cream.”
– Alec Swiecinski, ’13



“I am trying to go to church every weekend.”
– Tim Carney, ’12

GREEK OF THE WEEK

CHAD WILLIAMS

SIGMA PHI EPSILON

Senior Chad Williams, an offensive guard for the Battling Bishops, was recognized as one of seven college football scholar-athletes in the Central Ohio area, based on excellence in athletics and academics. Chad was also recognized as the top scholar-athlete from among the seven college athletes honored. He is the third Ohio Wesleyan player to be honored as a National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete, and he will receive a postgraduate scholarship from the Columbus chapter of the National Football Foundation. After graduating from OWU, Chad plans on going to graduate school and becoming a history teacher and a football coach.



ΣΦΕ

Spring break mission trip immerses OWU students in interfaith discussion

By Katie Carlin
Transcript Reporter

While most Ohio Wesleyan students will spend the week of spring break working or relaxing, seven small groups of students will dedicate their time to mission, service and leadership.

Each of the seven spring break mission groups have unique goals, whether it is working for justice, engaging with other cultures or helping restore small communities.

The Chicago Group, however, has goals that are both abstract and intangible: students will be spending the week in the inner city of Chicago where they will focus on the Muslim community in America and interfaith dialogue in the midst of complex tensions.

Senior Mary Slebodnick, who is serving as the team’s reflection leader, said she is very passionate about interfaith work.

She is hopeful the trip will enrich her commitment to understand religions beyond her own.

Slebodnick said her team will be working with three pivotal organizations in the inner city of Chicago, including CAIR, the Council of American Islamic Relations, whose goal is to promote cooperation between all different faiths.

Slebodnick said her mission team is very different from the others.

Slebodnick said because her trip is dealing with complex interfaith issues, their goals are hard to verbalize.

“We have one of the more complicated trips because we are totally education based,” she said.

“A lot of the other trips, which are service based, such as the team aiding in Hurricane Katrina recovery or the team working in El Salvador at orphanages.”

Slebodnick attended a speech at Capital University in Columbus last fall by Eboo Patel, the founder of Inner Faith Youth Core, another group the mission team will be working with next week.

She said Patel said something that has stuck with her: “It would be nice if everyone said something they found beautiful about different religions,” he said.

Slebodnick said she grew up in a church where Christianity is the absolute truth.

“There was always that hang-up in the background,” she said.

“You feel like you are supposed to convert others to Christianity.”

She said she struggled when her younger sister, at age 15, told Slebodnick she was an atheist.

“She was dead serious,

“In order to have genuine, loving relationships, it is important to understand interfaith dialogue,” said senior Mary Slebodnick.

and she was not changing her mind. It was very painful for me having to think of her going to hell or anything like that.”

Slebodnick said it is the “put your money where your mouth is moments” that make the idea of interfaith more real.

She said throughout her life she has had several situations like these, where interfaith has enriched her life and her understanding of her own background.

Slebodnick’s desire to aid in interfaith mission work was reinforced when she visited the Lakota tribe in South Dakota.

“During this trip I learned how Christianity wiped out the Lakota culture,” she said.

Slebodnick said that people think the Lakotas are fine now, but the fear still lingers there.

“A lot of Lakotas still think that if they practice tenants of their original culture that it is satanic,” Slebodnick said.

“And that was really sad for me to see because their religion is so rich.”

Slebodnick said her interest in interfaith has helped her to realize the commonalities between all different religions.

“When they talked about their creator I felt like they were talking about my God,” she said.

Her personal experience understanding her sister’s desire to be atheist and spending time with the Lakota tribe that aims to suppress the Lakota tribe’s religious beliefs, motivated her to be a reflection leader on the trip.

Junior Tori Schlaudt is also a part of the Chicago Mission Team.

She said she thinks interfaith relations are incredibly important globally and locally because the world today is becoming more and more diverse.

“Many people are ignorant about the Muslim faith (myself included before this trip) and some even think that all Muslims are terrorists due to 9/11,” Schlaudt said.

“In order to have genuine, loving relationships, it is important to understand interfaith dialogue,” Slebodnick said.

SIG EP, continued from Page 1`

Cole Hatcher, director of media and community relations, said the investigation was conducted “in accordance with the disciplinary guidelines outlined in our Student Handbook,” and all parties were advised of their legal options.

While a report was filed with PS, several records requests to the Delaware Police Department indicated no report was ever filed there.

Esler said he was unable to reveal other details of the investigation because they are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The case was brought before a Sexual Assault Hearing Panel in conformity with the university’s sexual assault policy. The panel absolved the pledge instructor on all counts.

“(S)ince there were no witnesses or hard evidence, the preponderance of evidence began with a 50/50 percent margin of error,” the panel wrote in its collective report.

Esler said he has not encountered many cases like this in his time at the helm of Judicial Affairs.

“In 14 years of doing this job, I’ve probably dealt with 20-25 cases of sexual assault,” he said.

Hatcher agreed the incident was anomalous, and encouraged students to “immediately report any incident in which they feel threatened.”

“This type of incident is unusual at Ohio Wesleyan and goes against everything the university seeks to represent,” he said. “We work hard to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and safety. We always have been and remain a community that values personal integrity.”

Matt Hunter, a freshman who deferred bids from Chi Phi and Alpha Sigma Phi, said he feels the pledge instructor was wrong in his actions.

“I understand hazing to an extent and what its purpose is, but there has to be some sort of a line,” he said. “I don’t know

exactly where that is, but something like holding a match under your testicles goes beyond that line.”

Despite this, Hunter said such incidents haven’t affected his perception of Greek life in general.

“Hazing hasn’t really influenced my decision on whether I’m going to (pledge) or not, as much as the benefits of Greek life,” he said.

A SUIT WITHIN A SUIT

Charges against two of the brothers were eventually dropped, but two others—including the one subjected to the Greek alphabet test—and their attorney, James Connors, also brought a third-party lawsuit against the national entity of Sig Ep.

They charged the fraternity with two counts of civil liability for hazing and one count each of emotional distress resulting from negligence; defamation; assault and battery; misuse of legal proceedings; and civil conspiracy.

They also claimed Sig Ep owed them financial compensation for the incidents.

The national fraternity denied all the charges and moved for immediate dismissal of the third-party suit in its favor. It argued what happened to the affected brothers did not constitute hazing under Ohio law because it was not directly related to their initiation into the organization.

Additionally, the fraternity noted the only portion of its initiation rituals that calls for removal of clothing requires the pledging brothers to take off only their shirts.

Because the fraternity felt the incidents in question were not hazing, but assault and battery, it also argued the lawsuit was inappropriate because it was out of Ohio’s one-year statute of limitations on assault charges.

Delaware attorney Michael Heimlich, counsel for the national fraternity, added that complaints were only made to the university, never to his client.

Connors could not be reached for comment.

SETTLEMENT

All parties to the case—Christopher Burchinal, counsel for the plaintiffs; the brothers that countersued them and Sig Ep; and Heimlich, representing the national fraternity—settled out of court on Sept. 3, 2011.

According to the settlement’s terms, the plaintiffs were to pay \$10,000 to the two remaining defendants in three installments, and also provide a doctor’s note certifying the younger one was “in treatment.”

Additionally, the national fraternity promised payment of \$12,000 immediately upon dismissal of the case.

Heimlich said the settlement was only made to keep the affair out of court and legal costs at a minimum.

“The settlement was not an admission of liability,” he said. “It was made simply for economic reasons relating to the costs of litigation, and it shouldn’t be construed as an admission of liability.”

Burchinal could not be reached for comment.

Even after the settlement, it took nearly five months for the case to be officially dismissed.

Neither obligated party contacted the brothers who owed money until Nov. 15, 2011, after Connors approached Burchinal and Heimlich via email requesting documents for dismissal and the money his clients were owed. This prompted the brothers to bring legal action against both their debtors because of their failure to follow through.

Heimlich said he and his clients were not compelled to make any payments until the case was officially dismissed.

“If you look closely at the pleadings, our trigger to provide anything was based on dismissal,” he said.

According to Heimlich, an “accidental overpayment” from the Sig Ep trust fund—the source of the settlement money—was a major cause of the delay.

Heimlich and Sig Ep eventually drafted the documents for dismissal, and the case was dismissed on Feb. 1.

Big splash, big funds: Anchor Splash 2012



Freshman Sarah Dailey, of Delta Gamma (DG), is pulled on an inflatable killer whale during the Whale Race.

By Steve Gobel
Transcript Correspondent

Splash! – Contestants desperately raced against time and one another, trying to pull their blown-up-whale-riding Delta Gamma coaches to the end of the pool first.

Delta Gamma’s annual charity event, Anchor Splash, comprised many races that pitted Greek organizations against each other in a series of mock swimming competition events, all for a philanthropic cause.

The event can trace its roots to the University of Miami, Fla., where the DG chapter at U of M held a fundraising event for an organization known as Service for Sight. One of the

members was visual impaired, providing the inspiration for the first Anchor Splash event.

Anchor Splash took place in Meeks Auditorium for the second time in the event’s history.

Junior Meredith Wholley, a DG member, helped organize the entire event. Wholley said this year’s event went well, and they were “finally getting the hang of things now that (they) moved the event to Meek.”

Wholley said the biggest challenge for her and her fellow event organizers was communication with the large number of participants.

“There are many fraternities and sororities participat-

ing in such a big event, it’s hard to coordinate with everyone,” she said.

Friends and parents alike snapped photos and took videos of their friends or family members participating in the various events that included a Beautiful Eyes Competition, Banner Competition, Team Serenade, 100 Medley Relay, Sailor Strip, Doggie Paddle Relay, Corkscrew Relay, Whale Race and, last but not least, Synchronized Swimming.

While all the events of Anchor Splash were met with anticipation and excitement, the event that stole the spotlight was Synchronized Swimming.

Two DG members, junior

Erika Reese and sophomore Casey Smiley, said the most highly anticipated event was the latter.

“That’s what everyone looks forward to throughout the night,” Reese said.

After the competitive events were over, the DG coordinators tallied up all the points and named the winners.

Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity took first place, Kappa Alpha Theta sorority won second, and Delta Delta Delta sorority won third. The prize for winning Anchor Splash comes in the form of two \$15 gift cards to Amato’s Woodfired Pizza.

DG raised over \$1,500 through Anchor Splash this year, all of which will go to Service for Sight.



Photos by Mark Schmitter

From top to bottom: DG Sophomore Amelia Randall holds onto the whale during the Whale Race at Anchor Splash. Junior Brandon Segal, sophomore Brandon Proctor, and senior James DiBiasio of Sig Ep react to an ongoing event. Freshman Emma Markey and sophomore Amelia Randall cheer on the competitors during Anchor Splash.

Studying abroad in Delaware, Ohio, this spring break? Service is only part of the joint service learning trip for Japanese and OWU students

By Tim Alford
Transcript Reporter

OWU will team up with a Japanese university for a different kind of spring break.

Instead of participating in a “normal” spring break trip, 21 Ohio Wesleyan students have chosen to take part in the first ever reverse mission trip on campus.

This trip, termed Joint Service Learning, will also include 12 Japanese students from the OWU sister school Aoyama Gakuin University in Shibuya, Japan. Aoyama Gakuin is a Methodist University founded on many of the same principles as Ohio Wesleyan.

Barbara MacLeod, an OWU economics professor, said seven different countries will be represented by all of the students involved. She said the Japanese students will be arriving in Ohio on Thursday.

Instead of visiting another school or community, OWU students will be staying in Delaware and working with the students from Japan. Thus, the experience is termed a “reverse” mission trip. While on campus, the



OWU and Japanese students will build a house through Delaware County Habitat for Humanity.

On the first Sunday of the trip, March 11, OWU Chaplain Jon Powers said there will be a commemoration service for the first anniversary of the 2011 tsunami which hit Japan last March 11 at 2:46 p.m.

“We will hold our memorial service during that hour, beginning at 2 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church across the street from Chi Phi,” Powers said. “The Japanese students and their chaplain, Reverend Paul Shew, will be conducting the service, which will be open to the public.”

Powers, along with Sue Pastors, OWU director of Community Service Learning, co-founded both the OWU chapter of Habitat for Humanity and the Delaware County Habitat for Humanity in 1989.

Powers said the idea for

this type of a trip came about years ago when he met with Shew to explore the possibility of a “reverse mission team.” He said it has taken this long to hit the right time for this kind of a trip.

MacLeod took a trip to Japan last year and was inspired to plan the experience. MacLeod said she met up with some of OWU’s sister schools and Shew during the trip. From there the idea became a reality.

MacLeod said the team would not have been allowed to work in Japan because of the strict building codes. Takumi Shimizu, an exchange student from Japan who is studying at OWU and participating in the trip, said a builder must have a construction license to build a house in Japan.

“We have so many earthquakes, and if you are not a specialist in constructing, the buildings won’t be able to

stand earthquakes. But in the U.S., there is no such law. I thought this to be a great opportunity to do something I can’t back in my country,” said Shimizu.

Anthony Harper, a senior member of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity, said he found out about the trip through Alpha Sig’s Philanthropy’s Director Guanyi Yang. He said he worked with MacLeod on another program through a Theory into Practice into Theory (TiPiT) Grant called Nicaragua: International Business. He said he thought the trip was fun and informative.

“I knew working with Professor MacLeod again would be an informative experience, especially considering that it focused on local poverty,” he said. “Plus, I’ve visited Japan before and Japanese students hosted me during my stay in Japan; therefore, I thought it would be only appropriate to

return the favor to Aoyama Gakuin University students.”

MacLeod said everyone will work from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., then have some type of activity in the evening, including lectures from different service providers.

“With everyone involved, this is more of a community event,” she said.

MacLeod said this is not a typical spring break on campus, because the Japanese students and the OWU students will be staying with host families in Delaware. Powers said for the Japanese students, Delaware can serve as a solid example of a typical, Midwestern, college-town community.

“We can offer not only a Habitat build, but also the number one zoo in America (Columbus), a typical shopping mall (Easton), a visit to Amish country, and exposure to a major U.S.-Japanese partnership (Honda),” Pow-

ers said. “Plus (we can offer) family home-stays for each student, exposure to Dr. John Durst and his lecture about poverty in middle America, and exposure to some key poverty-related service agencies in Delaware like the Salvation Army, Common Ground Free Store, Family Promise, People in Need, Domestic Violence and Help Line, Vineyard Food Pantry and Andrew’s House.”

Harper and Shimizu both said they were excited for the trip.

“Getting to know and become friends with the Japanese students is what I’m most excited about,” Harper said. “I’m also very excited to help with Habitat’s mission statement and build houses, learn more about local poverty, and learn more about the family I’m helping out.”

“Since this is my last semester at OWU, I want this project to be the most memorable experience at OWU, and I am really looking forward to it,” Shimizu said.

An information page detailing the experience was used as background for this article.

Have no fear, House of Black Culture is here ... to stay New status as a themed house ensures HBC’s permanent residency on Oak Hill Dr.

By Ellin Youse
Transcript Reporter

President Rock Jones and Residential Life have recently approved the House of Black Culture to become a themed house, bringing pride to both current residents and alumni of the house.

As a themed house, the House of Black Culture (HBC) will no longer be required to apply for renewal, a process for all Small Living Units (SLUs). HBC will be ensured a permanent presence on campus.

HBC is currently a SLU with Heritage House status, meaning the house has functioned and contributed to the OWU community for an outstanding period of time. Senior Samantha DeJarnett, HBC moderator, said Heritage Houses

are SLUs deemed by the university to have mission statements that are important to keep on campus both in the present and in the future.

The HBC’s mission statement focuses on creating a safe haven for all students on campus and promoting African American culture and awareness through programming and discussion.

“This is a very positive transition for the HBC and myself, and our members are extremely excited that the university sees our house as important enough to always have around,” DeJarnett said.

DeJarnett said the only other change to the HBC is that the house moderator’s title will be changed to Resident Assistant (RA).

Vernita Johnson (’95), a former HBC resident, said she was “pleasantly surprised” to

hear of the house’s new status.

“I have never imagined OWU without the house,” Johnson said. “I’m surprised to hear the news because I never considered the possibility of OWU not having the house on campus.”

Johnson said she sees the HBC as an important living option because it was her “home away from home” and provides residents with a strong sense of connection to one another.

“My freshman year was kind of awful,” she said. “A lot of the white students had never been around people of color, and then when I came home from class, I felt I never had a break from teaching white people about being black,” she said.

Dan Sturkey (’84) said life was different during his years at OWU, and he appreciates the social progress that both the HBC and cam-

pus have made since he graduated.

Sturkey’s wife is also an HBC alum (’83). During their years at OWU, the house was not co-ed, and male and female residents took turns living in the house every other year.

“I think it’s great to see it co-ed,” he said. “You would never see diversity or co-eds in one building. Things have changed, and I don’t think that would have happened if OWU wasn’t so open and liberal in thought.”

Sturkey said he believes the HBC’s new title of a themed house is an honor because it exemplifies OWU’s true commitment to diversity.

“Looking back, there was a separation between blacks and whites on campus,” he said. “Now that has dissolved, but the house still has the capability to bring people together. I think it is a living example of a social evolution.”

Tree House brings veggies to campus



Photo by Sophie Crispin
Students who attended Veggie Meal Night gather in the kitchen and have a laugh together.

By Sophie Crispin
Transcript Correspondent

The Tree House, a Small Living Unit, fed students homemade vegetarian and vegan food at their veggie meal night last Thursday. The meal was free and open to the campus and was held at the Tree House. Sophomore Alex Kerensky, the house moderator, and sophomore Michael Cormier organized the meal as one of the many programs put on by the house each semester. The veggie meal night is a regular Tree House program. “I don’t know how long it’s been going on, actually,” Kerensky said. “It’s happened as long as I’ve been at Ohio Wesleyan.”

Veggie meal nights bring people to Tree House and show them what the community in the house is like, but the primary goal is to show people that vegetarian and vegan food is accessible and can taste good.

“It’s important to tell the community about the benefits of vegetarianism,” Kerensky said. “We want to show that you can make delicious food out of locally-grown ingredients.”

The meal began with kale and sweet potato soup with lemon and cumin, followed by pizza with spinach and basil pesto, tomato, eggplant, and mozzarella and gruyère cheeses. The food was purchased from a community market, and past meals have been bought at the farmers market on Sandusky Street. “It’s actually more affordable than people think,” Kerensky said. “We spent about \$100 this time, and we usually feed between 50 and 80 people over the course of a night.”

Bringing people together

and cultivating a sense of community is one of Cormier’s favorite parts of veggie meal nights. “It’s really nice to prepare food with the house and invite others to share it with us,” Cormier said. “It’s a Tree House tradition that really builds community.”

Sophomore Melodie Beeman-Black was one of the many students to enjoy Tree House’s vegetarian and vegan offerings.

“I’ve always really enjoyed these meals because they use organic ingredients, and it’s nice to hang out with people and have a good, healthy meal,” Beeman-Black said. “I’m a vegan and there aren’t many options here on campus for me.”

Promoting healthy, accessible food options to students is important to Kerensky, who would like to start a blog about making healthy meals out of food that can be purchased at the Thomson corner store.

Cormier shares his passion for accessible, healthy meals, and looks to community sources like the community market for organic options.

“Realistically, it seems strange to buy processed food from hundreds of miles away if you have local, organic food right where you live,” Cormier said. “It’s important to show people how easy it can be to make this food with ingredients bought right here.”

The meals are planned sporadically throughout the semester, and although they don’t have a date planned for the next one, Cormier has already begun planning the menu.

“I’m thinking about doing Mexican, there are so many good flavors,” Cormier said.

Student-run Facebook page gives OWU spin on Internet memes

By Christin Butler and Misa Farslow
Transcript Correspondents

Ohio Wesleyan student camaraderie has found a new form on the Facebook page, “OWU Memes.”

Envisioned by sophomores Jordan Grammer and Maria Jafri, the memes on the page include random stock images with witty captions where students can express their opinions about the university.

The page, owned by both Grammer and Jafri, was created on Jan. 20. The page had immediate popularity with 350 fans within its first 24 hours. Today the page has 764 followers and is growing each day.

“We saw colleges across the country start to create these pages and we wanted to bring the fun to OWU and hopefully bring our community together over some good laughs,” says Grammer.

“I’ve seen isolated OWU-related memes pop up here and there, but it wasn’t until I saw the success of the college pages that I thought it’d be a great idea.”

And, so far it is. The reaction to the page has been a

“It’s funny when people have shared humor, everyday things that we share and can poke fun at,” Courtney Durham said.

positive one.

Junior Andrea Kraus said she thinks the page is “funny and silly,” and named her favorite memes: “SLU girl and the one that says, ‘Put the flags up. Prospies are coming.’”

Senior Courtney Durham said she enjoys creating and submitting memes.

“It’s funny when people have shared humor, everyday things that we share and can poke fun at,” Durham said.

When asked what his favorite meme was, Grammer said, “I don’t have a favorite one specifically, but I really enjoy the memes the entire campus can relate to such as the amount of squirrels or Linda in University Hall, rather than an inside joke between a small group of people.”

Not everyone had good things to say about the page.

“I think it’s funny and a little exaggerated but occasionally hurtful,” said sophomore Kati Sweigard. “Some of the

Greek ones are a little offensive, as an affiliated woman, because you can perpetuate stereotypes.”

Senior Jon Rux said he is not a fan of the page.

“I think it’s an attempt at OWU students trying to be funny and it’s a fail,” he said.

Rux did admit that the meme with Boromir, from the Lord of the Rings series, saying, “One does not simply live off campus” was his one and only favorite.

Erin Sayegh, another avid follower of the page, and blunt critic, said she thinks that some of them are “very on point, but some people just aren’t funny and shouldn’t write them.”

She said she hopes the page goes on to be written by people who “understand humor and irony.”

Even with her criticism, she couldn’t wait to open the page while answering questions.

Grammer said that he receives rave reviews, but some

topics brought up by the memes have raised conflict.

Some projects such as the fountain on the JAYwalk are already controversial and when they are brought up on the page, arguments often begin.

Grammer and Jafri constantly face the issue of controversy when posting the memes.

“I’ll admit that some of our jokes are more controversial than others,” Grammer said. “We always try to keep things under control and foster healthy discussion without bringing backlash to the page or the administration—and we won’t post certain things if they are just way too offensive or in poor taste.”

But for now, the page remains up with the fan base growing day by day.

With favorite feature memes such as “Good Guy Greg,” “Scumbag Steve,” “The Dos Equis (beer brand) Guy,” and “Annoying Facebook Girl,” OWU Memes also includes some of the students own creations, while still encouraging them to send more.

Submissions can be posted directly to the Facebook page or emailed anonymously.

Fiji ready to present new founding fathers

By Cara Foley
Transcript Reporter

As Fiji makes its strong comeback to the Ohio Wesleyan community, the excitement of solidifying their first pledge class in four years is almost complete. The soon-to-be brothers have participated in dinners at Buns, El Vaquero and played dodge ball to get to know each other.

Brett Pytel, Assistant Director of Expansion for Fiji, said over the past four weeks they have met with over 90 unaffiliated men on campus.

“These men ranged from freshman to senior status,” he said. “As of today, we have extended 24 bids which have all been accepted.”

Senior Mark Schmitter said joining Fiji is a really good opportunity because he is a senior, and Fiji was looking for upperclassmen to build a strong presence for the underclassmen to follow.

“The organization also really appealed to me in the way that members are expected to act and what they stand for,” he said.

This past Sunday, Fiji hosted a “Not for College Days Alone” invite-only dinner where 50 undergraduate candidates and over twenty graduates brothers attended at 1808 American Bistro.

This was the last event before Fiji finalized its founding

father class.

Schmitter said the dinner held on Sunday night was great.

“The alums were very excited to see the new group of guys and spent a lot of time talking to us about what they had gotten out of the fraternity,” he said. “The food was fantastic as well, and it was just another great event put on by the Fiji graduates.”

Senior John Carlson said when he first arrived on campus his freshmen year, he didn’t think any of the fraternities on campus were a good fit for him.

“The philosophy and values of Fiji seem to align with my own which is why I decided to join,” he said.

Carlson said he thinks the benefits will include meeting a network of students he might not have otherwise been exposed to. He also said he looks forward to having the chance to be part of an international network of Fiji members.

“Students involved in Greek Life seem to have a tight knit bond with one another which I think is important,” he said.

“Next Thursday, we will host our first two official Fiji events,” said Pytel. “The founding fathers will be pledged into the fraternity on Thursday and later that evening we will host our ‘Evening with the Fijis’ reception

in Benes Rooms A&B at 7:30 p.m.”

Freshman Taylor McGinnis said he thought it would be great to be a founding father for a fraternity.

“I think that being a Fiji member will be great at keeping me academically successful, while having a great social life and positive future,” he said.

Pytel said this is their formal unveiling of the founding father class and it is open to the entire OWU community.

“We will also be giving away our scholarships, awarding philanthropy money, and thanking the campus for hosting us during our time at OWU,” Pytel said.

Desserts and beverages are to be served, as well.

McGinnis said he is excited for this Thursday’s event.

“It will be really cool getting pledge in, and hopefully I’ll get a scholarship,” he said.

Schmitter said he’s really excited to have an event with everyone on campus (this Thursday night) and to have everyone there who has been so supportive of him going Fiji.

“I have already met a lot of great new people both in undergrad, and graduates,” he said. “The graduates keep pushing us to make sure we network with them once we graduate so it feels like not only are we getting this great

experience now, but it will lead to even more opportunities in the future.”

Schmitter said that there are a lot of guys he knows pledging Fiji.

“Obviously some friends are already happily in other fraternities, but those who weren’t decided yet seem to be going Fiji,” he said.

Carlson and McGinnis also said that they have a good amount of friends who are also pledging Fiji.

Carlson said he thinks they have enough interested and committed founding fathers that the organization and hard work needed to make the fraternity successful will be evenly spread.

“Fiji is still in the early stages of the process, but as we move forward the decisions made to recolonize the fraternity will be consistent with the ideals and philosophy of the fraternity,” he said. “We had dinner with many OWU Fiji graduate brothers on Wednesday night where we learned more about what made the fraternity a success prior to the deactivation.”

Carlson said the founding fathers of Fiji plan to continue in the path of the graduates before them.

Join the soon-to-be founding fathers of Fiji Thursday night at 7:30 P.M. in the Benes Rooms A&B for “Evening with the Fijis.”

MEMORIAL, continued from Page 1

“We are working to restructure the department in the time of this tragedy while keeping the integrity of the French department that Drs. Fete and Bellocq had so well established.”

Lee Fratanuono, associate professor of classics and William Whitlock professor of Latin, said the service was done respectfully and it was a proper goodbye to a professor who had taught at OWU for so long.

“Chaplain Powers and Sarah Dubois organized a wonderful service and the remarks by President Jones and Dean Stinemetz, a former student of Margaret’s, were especially welcome,” Fratanuono said.

“She also stressed the importance of asking questions to establish meaningful dialogue and making connections. The fact that she was on medical leave last semester but offered to take the time to work with me in an independent study shows how much she values her students.”

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Students show P.R.I.D.E. at Fusion



Photos by Ian Moran
Left: Students talking to each other during speed-friending at the beginning of the night.
Above: Freshman Ryan Haddad and Junior Colleen Waickman sing “One Less Bell to Answer.”

By Spenser Hickey
Transcript Coorespondent

“For anyone who burned down their closet, dance with me, loud and careless, wherever we are not invited...Fuck closets. We were made for ballrooms and stages, atriums and the sky.”

That’s how sophomore Gus Wood finished his poem “Whittling: A Coming Out,” the first-place winner at Friday night’s talent show in the Schimmel-Conrades Science Center.

His poem, about the struggles of gay youths to find acceptance of their sexuality, began in a quiet, tentative voice, but as it reached the end he spoke in a thunderous roar.

“I am a real boy, atop a lumber yard of never again,” he shouted, the microphone no longer needed as his voice filled the atrium’s silence. “My heart in a trophy case, for whoever deserves it!”

When he finished, the watching crowd rose, as one, to give him a standing ovation. They stopped only when he sheepishly said he had a second piece, “Open Letter to Superman,” to read as part of his act.

The audience sat back

Fusion connects LGBT community and allies

By Spenser Hickey
Transcript Correspondent

“(Fusion Friday) is a great opportunity to showcase OWU to other students,” said Tim Valentine, a recent graduate of Ohio State University. “It shows that OWU is an open campus and supportive of LGBT students.”

Fusion is a branch of Stonewall Columbus, the LGBT center for central Ohio, which manages Columbus’ PRIDE festival, holds classes, and offers support groups.

Fusion is an event for college-age members of the LGBT community, and allies, to connect with each other outside of schools or bars and nightclubs. According to Valentine, the event empha-

sizes a drug-free atmosphere.

Fusion was founded in 2008 but didn’t hold events at colleges until last year. The branch held a talent show Friday in the Schimmel Conrades Science Center. This was the branch’s farthest event from Columbus so far.

Anthony Peddle, President of OWU P.R.I.D.E., came up with the idea for the event. “I didn’t expect it would be like this. (I) didn’t expect the space to be so awesome,” said Emily Dunlevie, a Columbus State student on the Fusion board. “(OWU) really pulled it together for hosting for the first time.”

All of the members of the Fusion planning board are from the Columbus area. Logun Baker, who will be taking over coordinating duties along with Ben

Maynor next year, first attended a Fusion event in February 2011. He was the President of PRIDE at DeVry University and found Fusion to be “much more laid back and casual than other hangouts.”

This prompted him to join the Fusion board, which is comprised of LGBT leaders from various area schools.

Valentine listed the member colleges as OSU, Columbus College of Art and Design, Capital University, Columbus State University, Otterbein University and DeVry University. OWU is the first member college to host an event.

“It’s a fun atmosphere,” said Sulaina Hrenko, an OSU student who commutes from Delaware. “I get to hang out and socialize with people I wouldn’t usually.”

down to listen. They were amazed again by “Open Letter” as its narrator compared his struggle to find acceptance to that of Clark Kent hiding his identity as Superman.

“Shame is feeling a lot like Kryptonite these days. It’s killing me, Clark,” Wood said, his voice capturing the pain of being victimized by bigotry in a way the words alone cannot express. “How do I stop bullets, when they are fired from whispers and sideways glances?”

Wood was one of eight participants in the talent show, which raised awareness for the LGBT community on campus and was organized by OWU P.R.I.D.E., led by Anthony Peddle, and Stonewall Fusion, a Columbus-based LGBT organization. Second place went to Otterbein student Kaleigh Autzen, who sang an aria from Charles Gounod’s opera “Roméo et Juliette.” Third place went to junior Colleen Waick-

man and freshman Ryan Haddad, who sang an arrangement of “One Less Bell to Answer” and “A House Is Not a Home” with the gender singing roles reversed. Also performing were freshman Riley O’Brien and sophomore Alex Oney, freshman Abby Siegel, CJ Lickert, and sophomore Jenna Culina, using the stage name “Dustin Beavers.”

The show began with a short game of speed-friending, where everyone formed two

lines facing each other, then had 60 seconds to talk to the person opposite them before moving down the line.

Hostess Alexis Stevens, a Columbus-area drag queen, then took the microphone for her act, a comedy and dance routine. Audience participation played a role, particularly for Public Safety lieutenant Cathy Hursey, who stood guard at the top of the steps; Stevens repeatedly joked that her risqué comments might

make Hursey shoot her.

Stevens didn’t focus her audience interaction solely on PS personnel, though. She also walked through the crowd in front of the stage, first pulling freshman Kyle Simon out of the audience for a dance and then planting a lipstick-stained kiss on Haddad’s cheek. Simon and Haddad are interns at OWU’s LGBTIQ Resource Center.

The event winded down after the judges announced the top three finalists around 10:30, though Simon said that other Fusion events often ran until midnight, however this was the first time they’d done a talent show.

Next month’s Fusion event will be Friday April 13. Both Stevens and the event coordinator, Tim Valentine, asked Wood to attend and present again.

“What a wonderful, wonderful opportunity this was. I’m so glad to Ohio Wesleyan for hosting this,” said Stevens in the closing moments of the show. “You guys did an amazing job. Next year we’re going to make sure we get a caravan, we get lots of people signed up, so that we can all come out and we can experience this amazing facility, and Cathy.”

APC, continued from Page 1

To those who know about OWU’s commitment to service and international relations, the idea of approving these courses into the curriculum seems moot. However, these courses require extra work from faculty members who choose to lead them, and they do not get compensated financially.

“If you’re going to implement this plan, we (the faculty) can’t do more work,” said Professor of Chemistry Kim Lance, a member of the APC. “So somehow you need to compensate us for doing this extra work.”

“That compensation could come in a variety of ways. It could come in course releases, in professional development funds to apply to your research, or it could come in just paying you a stipend – x amount of dollars to do it.”

These concerns led the APC to recommend “that a first step towards addressing full-time faculty workload will be adopted including the option of two ‘2+’ semesters in a six-year period and credit for faculty-directed individualized student study that may be taken as a course release, professional development funds, or stipend.”

A course release, Lance explained, is a permission given to a faculty member to drop one or two of the courses out of the six they are contracted to do on a yearly basis, in order to do other activities such as the administrative work done by department chairs.

According to the American Association of University Professors Faculty Salary Survey conducted by the Chronicle of Higher Education, as of 2011, full time professors at OWU are, on average, paid \$80,000 a year, while associate professors are paid \$58,200 and assistant professors \$52,000.

President Rock Jones, who attended the faculty meeting, acknowledges the inadequacy of faculty salaries. “I am deeply committed to

enhancing faculty salaries. For too long, faculty salaries have hovered at or near the bottom of faculty salaries among the Great Lakes College Association institutions.”

“The Board adopted a resolution to bring faculty salaries to the median of the GLCA, and we continue to work to fulfill that resolution as quickly as possible. Two years ago, faculty received an average increase of seven percent in salary, something found almost nowhere else in the country in this difficult economy,” he said.

Given the extra work involved with taking on the additional course-load involved with the OWU Connections curricular program, some faculty members are discontented with these figures. Some are discontented with their salaries overall.

Additionally, in order to maintain and fully implement the new curricular plan, APC felt OWU would have to hire at least seven new faculty members – another expense for the university.

Some faculty at the meeting felt that paying faculty for extra work on a case-by-case basis goes against the mission of the university, and that it will lead to neglect of students. This is the argument that led to the motion to strike the clause from the plan.

Joe Musser, professor of English, spearheaded this argument, but was unavailable for comment.

“Ohio Wesleyan is like just about every institute of higher education in the United States in that they really run on the good will of the employees...There are so many people here who do things that are beyond their contract but they do it because they are part of the community,” Lance said.

He said that there is nothing in his contract to write letters of recommendation for students – he does not get paid for it – but he does it because he wants his students to succeed. He

added the reasoning behind those in opposition of the clause was that if the university started to pay faculty for extra work, there might be the demand for being paid for things like letters of recommendation and independent studies.

Lance said this could be a dangerous road to go down, because underpaid faculty will have to choose things to do for students based on whether they get financial compensation.

According to Lance, though the Board of Trustees passed a faculty salary enhancement package, last year faculty salaries only increased a dollar each – due to a drop in enrollment. It was reported during the meeting that the University’s deficit is at \$330,000, and OWU’s expenses are 17% larger than its \$6 million budget.

Lance, who has taught at OWU for 23 years, said he thinks a major part of OWU’s deficit and dropping enrollment numbers is a lack of focus on student housing in favor for more focus on specific programs.

Kyle Smith, associate professor of Psychology and member of the Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA), presented findings from a consultant hired by the university to assess prospective student perception of OWU.

He said the committee found that matriculating students believe OWU is strong in theory-to-practice, community service and global learning opportunities. Students who chose not to come here see OWU as being weak in those areas. He added that committee members were surprised that OWU dorms weren’t rated far below others; regardless, affordability, location, campus life, academic programs, etc., had more of an effect on final decisions.

He also said that financial aid was one of the biggest factors in matriculation.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Jones said that OWU had seen a higher fresh-

man retention rate than last year – at 95%. However, this is lower than previous years. Additionally, after a recent prospective student day, the Admissions department was pleased with the amount of visitors.

Lance added that after visiting Otterbein University recently, he learned they are placing a larger emphasis on their residential life by working on a plan that ensures seniors have their own apartments. He said that this was why Otterbein is drawing more prospective students to their campus than OWU.

“There was a time where students were choosing Ohio Wesleyan because our suites had individual bathrooms as opposed to two per hall,” Lance said. “Students care about where they are going to live. We keep ignoring that.”

Whatever the reason may be for dropping enrollment numbers, it is adversely affecting the faculty that OWU considers absolutely instrumental in the university’s success.

In Rock Jones’ inaugural address as president of OWU, delivered Oct. 10, 2008, he said, “We stand on the shoulders of our faculty. The reputation of this institution was developed first as a result of the teaching and scholarship of a stellar faculty.”

“This well-deserved recognition continues to this day. The teacher-scholars of this faculty are this institution’s greatest asset, and they are our students’ greatest resource. We must work to increase the size of our faculty, building on our core strengths and diversifying the range of expertise represented here.”

In other business, Kaaren Courtney, professor emeritus of modern foreign language, presented a memorial resolution for the late Susanna Bellocq and asked that it be accepted as a permanent part of the minutes of the meeting, and that a copy be sent to the Bellocq family. A moment of silence and reflection followed the presentation.

Opinion

Saying farewell to memorable college years

Sitting here in Beeghley Library writing this editorial, I start to become nostalgic by the thought that I have only three months left to sit in this library doing schoolwork.

The bittersweet emotions of moving on from college and into the real world are starting to set in. As I send out applications for summer internships, it begins to feel real.

Every time I click the “Submit Application” button on my computer, the future inches closer and closer.

OWU is my home. It has been for the past four years, and I have found an incredible sense of comfort here.

I have always been horrible at saying goodbye to people, places and even things. I cannot imagine walking around next year and making it ten steps without seeing a familiar face waving and smiling at me. The friends you make in college will always hold a special part in your life, but the idea of not being able to see them everyday is heart wrenching.

Saying goodbye to not only friends, but nights spent in Clancey’s or The Backstretch will be reserved for the times when group reunions come back to pay the university a visit.

No more Beehive Books or Mean Bean study sessions.

No more Blackboard assignments or articles to read on ERes before class.

No more daily iced coffee visits in the Zook Nook or late night caffeine with Big E.

No more signing up for classes to take in the next semester, because the next semester is life.

Having learned so much at this university, I know that when I walk across the stage this May I will be prepared for the next chapter.

Understanding that journalism is a hard industry to get into these days, the feelings of positivity come in waves.

OWU has taught me the necessary skills I need to be a professional, and understand the challenges that I will soon endure.

Independence is one of the biggest skills I’ve learned these past four years. Freshman year brought me to this new and exciting campus with a shyness that I now have shed.

It has made me able to speak up in classes, take control in group projects, and volunteer myself for more things than I could have ever imagined before.

Setting up meetings with my professors during their office hours is something I would have never considered doing my freshman year.

In order to achieve goals, you must put yourself out there. You must believe that you are more than what you give yourself credit for. I know that I pushed myself and challenged my insecurities.

This May I will leave OWU with the satisfaction of trying out many things.

Playing a sport, taking classes I would have normally avoided such as computer science or linguistics, working in Special Olympics, making strong relationships and friendships that will last beyond OWU are all things that I have learned to love and find the most difficult to say goodbye to.

If I hadn’t had any of these experiences, I wouldn’t be the independent woman I am today.

I will miss OWU next year so much and am so grateful of all it has offered me.

Cara Foley
Transcript Reporter

Quote of the week: “Shame is feeling a lot like Kryptonite these days. It’s killing me Clark.”

--Sophomore Gus Wood, a part of an original poem read at Fusion Friday

Sororities need homes of their own

By Noah Manskar
Transcript Reporter

First, a disclaimer: I know very little about Greek life.

I personally don’t understand the allure of joining a fraternity or sorority, and while I admire the effort Greek students put into their respective organizations, I rarely involve myself with that community.

One thing about Ohio Wesleyan’s Greek program that has continually baffled me, though, is the inability of members of sororities to live in their houses.

I know several sorority women, and they are all incredibly dedicated to the cause.

They work tirelessly planning events on and off campus, retreats to bond with new members and casual gatherings to promote not just their own sororities, but Greek life in general.

From my knowledge, it seems being in a sorority is a full-time job.

Why, then, are these steadfast devotees to the Greek community not allowed to live in the houses they pay dues to own and maintain?

I’ve heard several explanations—an old law that desig-

nates a house boarding more than eight unrelated women as a brothel is the most widely offered, supposedly out of its humor.

I find this explanation to be disgusting. An archaic statute that implies women become prostitutes when eight or more of them decide to live together is inherently misogynistic.

This law can’t exist anymore, right? Isn’t there a more sensible, progressive elucidation for why OWU’s sororities are nonresidential?

Indeed there is. According to Greek Life Coordinator Dana Behum, the sorority houses on Winter Street are not owned by the university, but by the national entities of the organizations or local alumni.

“OWU has no part in their property management decisions,” she said.

ResLife Interim Assistant Director Drew Peterson added the houses would require expensive renovations for them to meet the standards set by the national sororities.

Therefore, he said, even if the university cleared OWU members to live off-campus, they most likely wouldn’t be able to because the national organizations wouldn’t be

willing to invest in making the houses habitable.

While this is an infinitely more logical explanation than the brothel law, to me it still doesn’t justify keeping sororities from living in their houses.

At OWU, the benefits of membership are disproportionately greater for the latter than the former.

Fraternity brothers get to live in fully furnished on-campus houses.

Yet their dues are lower than those for sororities.

The fact that sorority women have to pay to keep up properties they can’t even live in, quite frankly, doesn’t make sense to me. Higher dues and an obligation to pay for university board create an apparent cost disparity that’s quite alarming.

Both the university and the national sororities with OWU chapters should be more sympathetic to this. It is in their interest to reward and encourage the commendable work our sororities do for the campus community and Delaware.

To ignore their efforts would be truly tactless.

A financial partnership between the university and the national sororities, especially

those with local alumnae, would not be infeasible.

It seems to me that if the national organizations were not fiscally alone in making proper renovations to the houses, they would be more inclined to do so and thus alleviate the financial burdens of the women that work so zealously for them.

Moreover, the university needs to put an end to the myth of the brothel law and make students aware of the reasons Greek Life and ResLife gave me for having nonresidential sororities.

While it seems funny on its face, the fact that it is the prevailing explanation makes Ohio Wesleyan and Delaware alike seem sexist and backward. I’m the first to admit Delaware isn’t the most cultured town, I don’t feel it’s right to give undue attention to misogynistic rules that allegedly existed here.

Nonresidential sororities are an unfortunate and unjust reality at Ohio Wesleyan, but they don’t have to be a permanent fixture. It’s up to the university and the national sororities—the institutions with the power to make a change—to create greater equity in our Greek community.

Student bashes report on College Republicans

Dear Editor,

This letter is regarding the article “College Republicans given a voice on liberal campus,”.

As I turned to page three of the most recent issue of the transcript this weekend, I was shocked to find what I can only imagine was an unedited blog post from a particularly uneducated freshmen given the full-page treatment, complete with the original poorly-ghosted, noticeably pixelated American flag backdrop that lacks a photo credit.

Whatever this mess was, it certainly wasn’t written by somebody who has taken even introductory journalism, or else it would read like it was written by somebody who has at least a passing familiarity with news writing.

Certainly, someone who knew what they were doing wouldn’t make the outrageous error of referring to a sitting

A well-edited page would, of course, never have the controversial assertion that this campus is “liberal” serve as both lead and headline in a news piece.

president only by his last name on first reference.

That’s the kind of stuff that gets you accused of being racist, and rightly so, given that it mirrors language used by the Ted Nugent branch of the Tea Party.

A well-edited page would, of course, never have the controversial assertion that this campus is “liberal” serve as both lead and headline in a news piece.

It would definitely not follow up such a lead with blatant weasel-wording that wouldn’t

last five minutes on Wikipedia, and it would not continue on to what reads like it came from the first chapter of “How to Write An Opinion Piece and Pretend it is News.”

Given that this would be laughed out of the news room of even an above-average high school paper, I have to ask: how did this ever make it to print?

Is the Transcript really so understaffed that nobody has fifteen minutes to review what is going to be a full page article?

I don’t believe malice went into this mistake, just poor editing and a conservative bias on the part of the author.

All the same, a subject like this really should have been treated with care, and, quite frankly, it wasn’t.

A quick straw poll in Ham-Will about the political leanings of our school got responses, “a little right of center”, “hilariously centrist”, “slightly left-leaning”, “pretty moderate”, and “extremely conservative” (though, to be fair, that last one came from a Jewish-atheistic-communist-hippie-feminist from the east coast).

It seems to me that opinion should stick to the opinion section; that a journalist should be checking their views at the door when they write.

This was not done last issue, and, in my opinion, the overall publication suffered for it.

Mark Rubeo

Tragic accident serves as time of remembrance

Liza Bennett
Transcript Reporter

The tragic car accident that occurred at Bowling Green State University involving members of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority should serve as a reminder to us all in the Greek community about the importance of valuing our fellow members.

Five members of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority were struck by a driver going the wrong

way on Interstate 75 South on Friday, March 2.

The sisters were on their way to the airport to embark on a spring break trip in the Dominican Republic with 16 other members of their sorority.

Three were killed and the remaining two were seriously injured.

While discussing this heartbreaking event with my fellow Delta Delta Delta sisters, it allowed us all to reflect on

the close friendships we had with one another and the tight bonds created between us all through sisterhood.

The idea of an event like this happening to the Greek community at Ohio Wesleyan is completely unimaginable.

When events like this occur, it is so crucial that we use them to help us remember and appreciate the reasons we chose to be a part of the Greek Community and our respective fraternities and sororities

at OWU.

We should reflect on the impact that our sisters and brothers have had on our lives.

Being a member of the Greek community grants us the opportunity to be a part of something that is so much larger than ourselves.

Being able to use this tragedy as a tool to help us reminisce on what being a brother or sister means should be the real take-away for all Greeks here at OWU.

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Arts & Entertainment

Students celebrate diversity at Culture Fest



LEFT: The American Sign Language Club poses at the end of their performance of “1234” by The Plain White Tees. CENTER: Students play Prince Charming and his guards in a Desi performance of “Cinderella.” RIGHT: Sally Leber, Interim Director of Service Learning, and junior Kami Goldin, a member of VIVA, dance salsa at Culture Fest 2012 last Saturday.

By Suzanne Samin
A&E Editor

Student organization Horizons International encouraged Ohio Wesleyan’s many cultural groups to collide this Saturday.

Their event, “Culture Fest,” encouraged different cultural groups on campus to display their pride through performances and food.

Sophomore Priyanka Venkataraman, public relations officer of Horizons International, said, “The primary organization that sets up and runs Culture Fest is Horizons International, but we work with the other main clubs on campus who help us by providing performances and food.”

It is Horizons International

that runs the majority of the event.

“The other main clubs are Rafiki Wa Afrika, the Vietnamese club, the Chinese Club, and Viva, as well as Tauheed,” said Venkataraman. “A lot of cultures are represented, but the main ones are Indians, Pakistanis, Africans, Jamaicans, Chinese, Spanish, Latin American and Vietnamese - as these are the main clubs that are involved.”

The event was tinged with a theme of interfaith connection, used as another unifying factor amongst these different cultures. A reading from the Quran, translated by junior Hank Owings, opened up the performances.

The American Sign Language Club performed the song “1234” by The Plain

White Tees.

Junior Amanda Caserta said one of the reasons she came to Culture Fest was to support her friends in ASL club.

Dancing also played a role. Salsa dancing, put on by VIVA, got the crowd involved. Members of VIVA danced with people from the audience, including Sally Leber, Interim Director of Service Learning.

The Vietnamese Student Association did a bamboo dance, which involved dancers hopping through sticks before they clap together. President Rock Jones was taken from the audience to participate.

Students also participated in a choreographed dance to pop music from Korea.

Music was shared through songs in different languages from the Chinese Culture Club and Rafiki Wa Afrika, and a flute performance by senior Guanyi Yang.

The final performance was a “Desi” interpretation of Cinderella, where many students told the classic tale through dancing and rich costumes.

The term “Desi” refers to the people, cultures, and products of the Indian sub-continent.

Caserta said she had seen the group practicing the Desi performance for weeks, and was very excited to finally see it all put together.

After the performances, food was served from all different regions of the world, prepared mostly by the different cultural organizations on

campus. Students and faculty chattered about the performances as they stood in line for food.

Senior Eric Charette said he had an amazing time at the festival and that he felt the performances were really informative, engaging, and vastly entertaining.

Some students felt that Culture Fest was fundamental to bringing the student body together.

Senior Kelly Crunkilton said she felt Culture Fest was a really fun and important way to bring together groups that normally would not interact otherwise.

Terree Stevenson, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, echoed Crunkilton and said, “I loved the performances - they were wonderful. I

thought it was a great mix of culture and music to bring everyone together, to see the mixture of not only students involved but also the people attending. It is truly a great community event. So, I am not only pleased to be here, but also honored to be at such a community event.”

Venkataraman said Culture Fest is one event everyone looks forward to every year, and Horizons International is already thinking of what to do for next year.

She said a lot of people love to help set up, perform, cook food and do all sorts of things just to be involved.

Venkataraman said, in general, that everyone has a very positive attitude towards the event, including staff and faculty.

Orchesis fills hearts, minds, and seats

By Margaret Bagnell
Transcript Reporter

The audience roared with applause at this year’s 2012 Orchesis performances presented by the Department of Theatre and Dance at Ohio Wesleyan’s Chappellear Drama Center March 2 and 3.

Orchesis is OWU’s student dance company that allows the students involved to perform their own choreographed pieces, and work with guest choreographers to showcase their talent. Each piece performed displayed a wide array of emotions varying from pride to shame and even victimization in a piece depicting the aftermath of sexual violence.

Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance, Marin Leggat, artistic director of Orchesis said, “I think the more complex part of organizing the concert was scheduling. There are 22 dancers, 8 choreographers, 6 lighting designers and an entire technical crew whose schedules need to coordinate to get things done on time. Choreographers rehearsed 3 hours every week, and often ran into schedule conflicts when their dancers were involved in other academic and extra-curricular activities.”

“I remember Pledge Week was especially challenging, because our guest choreographer, Kristen Groves, was setting her dance on eight dancers that week. Most of these dancers had to plan well ahead of time to be able to participate in Pledge Week and attend all of Kristen’s rehearsals,” said Leggat.

The show drew a full house both nights.

“I was thrilled, but not surprised, by our large audience

es. The students have worked so hard since mid-October, and are really proud of the work they’ve done. I knew they would spread the word to get their friends, families and faculty to attend. I’m glad so many people got to celebrate these students,” said Leggat.

The performance consisted of vibrant costumes for each set piece, as well as different lighting sets all coordinated to make the overall expressions of the dancers reflect on the audience.

“I thought the costuming and lighting looked stunning. We had wide range of colors, fabrics, styles and moods from dance to dance. Jackie Shelley did a lovely job coordinating those costumes. Under the guidance of Glen Vanderbilt, student lighting designers Dave Winnyk, Ed Howland, Nathaniel Barber and Andrea Kraus created a new world for each dance,” said Leggat.

The dancers endured long practices in order to perfect each move and be in synch with one another and with that came a slight injury for Freshman Victoria “Buzzy” Biddinger. Weeks prior to the performance Biddinger dislocated her knee cap.

Biddinger said, “I took a few days off, but jumped back in when the swelling went down. My knee was starting to feel better, until I did it again during Yvonne’s piece on Monday and my knee made a loud ‘pop’ and the instant pain made me feel queasy. I went to the doctor the next day and he said that I was going to need an MRI because he was concerned about my ACL. This made me super stressed because I’ve already gone through two ACL surgeries. I was really

struggling with walking, so I told Marin that my gut feeling was that I wasn’t going to be able to perform. I was in five pieces and they all had to be changed a little bit, due to my absence. It was really hard to sit out and watch because I love being on the stage and have been training since October for Orchesis. However, the cast was so supportive of me and still made me feel important.”

Biddinger later got an MRI and was told she had a large tear in her meniscus, and that her ACL was fine. She got the approval from her doctor that she would be able to dance on it but it would be very painful.

“I iced, elevated, took ibuprofen, and jumped into rehearsal Thursday night. I had to be taken out of April’s piece because of all the jumping and intense movements, but I got to be in the other pieces with slight changes. My knee was a bit tender, but I had an amazing time Friday and Saturday on and off the stage. I’m so incredibly happy that I got to have this experience and I will treasure these memories forever,” said Biddinger.

Students who attended the performances were impressed by the intricate dance moves but, more importantly, the skill of the dancers.

“I attended the performance because it was required for my Intro to Dance Technique class,” said senior Kellianne Devine. Overall I thought the performances were unique and well designed. The lighting and the music really completed the dances.”

“There were key dancers like April Warner and Yvonne Hendricks that I especially

enjoyed watching. Their passion for dance was shown in every move and expression,” said Devine.

Senior Yvonne Hendricks acted, danced and choreographed her own piece called ‘Human’.

“I loved dancing in it and I had so much fun on stage with my dancers. The reactions of my dancers made it worthwhile,” said Hendricks.

Sophomore Emily Hostetler was another student who was a choreographer and dancer in the performances.

Hostetler said, “It’s so hard to choose my favorite dance. All of the dancers and choreographers worked their butts off for this show. My favorite dance to watch had to be Kristen’s piece. Everyone who wasn’t in her piece would dance to the music back stage. My favorite piece to dance in had to be Yvonne’s piece ‘human.’ African dancing is definitely not something I thought I would ever do, but it was an absolute blast.

This year’s Orchesis performances were successful from the use of publicity on campus.

“I think the performances went extremely well. We had quite a few dancer injuries but everyone pulled through and put on one of the best Orchesis shows we have had in years. I was so impressed by the OWU community showing their support and selling out two shows. It’s such a great feeling when people appreciate the months of work you put into something. The show, the experience, the people, everything surpassed my expectations. What I thought would be a good show turned into a fantastic performance” said Hostetler.

Pitch Black shines light on competitive talent at ICCA

By Tori Morris
Transcript Reporter

The ladies of Pitch Black, OWU’s female a cappella group, competed against 10 other groups at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) on Feb. 25.

The competition was held at Kettering High School in Kettering, OH.

The group sang “I Want You To Want Me” by Letters to Cleo, “I’ll Fly Away” by Alison Kraus and Gillian Welch, and a piece combining “Not Over You” by Gavin DeGraw and “Someone Like You” by Adele.

Senior Emily Knobbe said she felt the group sang well for their first time competing and incorporating choreography into the performance.

“We learned a lot about the quality of a cappella outside of OWU. Choreography was a big part of the judging, and this was our very first experience with choreography, so it was a lot to take on,” said Knobbe.

Junior Clare Edwards, president of Pitch Black, said she was glad the group was able to travel to a competition such as the ICCA, since the last time the group performed off campus was at Denison in the fall.

“The competition was really fun because we got to meet other groups and sing our sets for each other,” she said.

Edwards said the two groups who went on to the next round were “Buck That,” the men’s group from The Ohio State University, and “The Rip Chords,” an all women’s group from The University of Illinois.

Senior Julia Alkon said the experience was more about group bonding than winning, and the group sang well regardless.

“Although I really enjoyed getting to perform together in front of judges and a big audience, the best part was having the opportunity to be part of something like this and getting to hear all of the other groups,” she said.

Knobbe said she has high hopes for the ladies of Pitch Black as competitors in years to come.

“The winning groups were from very large schools, so we feel proud to have pulled off what we did, coming from such a small school. In future years, the group will have more practice with incorporating choreography into our set. We also were able to see the extremely high energy levels of many of the groups, and we will work even harder to meet that level,” she said.

Bishops Sports

Women’s Ultimate team shares family bond

By Heather Kuch
Transcript Reporter

Female students looking for a unique, club sport experience on campus can find it in the women’s Ultimate Frisbee team. These women who make up the team call themselves “Yetis.”

The back story on the name of the team is described as follows:

“One day an OWU woman was on a spirit quest in the Himalayas. She journeyed to the highest point of the highest peak in order to project optimal yodeling when she encountered her spirit animal, the Yeti. The Yeti advised her to return to her homeland and spread the word of Ultimate Frisbee in or-

der to extend peace and good times.”

The Yeti’s story is found on the team’s website.

Since it was founded, the group has grown significantly and competed in multiple events.

“We have around 15-20 girls that consider themselves Yetis,” sophomore Alex Kerensky said. “We go to a lot of tournaments, usually around five a semester.”

Kerensky said that while the Yetis compete in both the fall and spring semesters, the fall semester competition is not as demanding as the spring.

“The fall semester tournaments are more laid back,” Kerensky said. “They are not

sanctioned with USA Ultimate, but they are still competitive. Their purpose is to help the new players really understand the game and give everyone an opportunity to play some awesome Ultimate.

“In the spring, the tournaments are sanctioned and our scores are factored into a ranking system that will determine placement in sectionals in April.”

Last year, the Yetis won sectionals and continued on to the regional tournament. They performed well despite the absence of many upperclassmen who attended graduation that weekend.

“(I)t was really awesome,” Kerensky said. “We went to Regionals ... Still, with a main-

ly underclassman team, we competed and gave the other teams a run for their money.”

Junior Amanda Fawcett said the team has developed chemistry that helps them to perform collectively and successfully.

“There is something about the chemistry of our team that is indescribable,” Fawcett said. “There is so much love and respect on and off the field, and we have an awesome time playing together.

“Although we have gotten more serious about our game over the past couple of years, we maintain the outlook that as long as we play our hearts out, we are satisfied no matter what the outcome of the game is.”

Kerensky said the team schedules practices to work with each teammate’s obligations and commitment level.

“Practice times are currently changing to meet people’s busy, busy schedules and the commitment is totally up to you, but there is a more expected commitment in the spring semester,” Kerensky said.

“Honestly, the sport is so awesome...you grow to love it and commitment comes naturally,” she said.

The team is always looking for new members and Kerensky said the team provides a unique balance between competing and liking the sport.

“We are really open and always inviting new members to

come play with us,” Kerensky said. “We have a great balance between having fun and being competitive. Lots of girls find it very refreshing compared to their ultra competitive and aggressive team sports in high school or even college.”

Fawcett agreed with Kerensky and said it is the attitude of the team that balances having fun with being competitive.

“I’m actually currently studying abroad in Heidelberg, Germany, and although I’m having the time of my life, playing Ultimate with the Yetis is what I miss the most,” Fawcett said. “That’s part of what makes being a Yeti so enjoyable. There is so much room to have fun, and we always manage to do so.”

Women’s lacrosse extinguishes Comets

By Alex Hooper
Transcript Correspondent

Women’s Lacrosse beat Olivet College 16-2 on Saturday, Mar. 2 at Selby Stadium.

The game marked the second pre-season non-conference match of the year for the Lady Bishops.

Less than a minute into the game, junior attacker Annie Swanson scored, giving the Bishops a 1-0 lead. Ohio Wesleyan kept up this momentum going on a 9-0 run. The Comets did not score until 10:38 left in the first half.

The Bishops rallied back quickly with 3 more goals, leading the way 12-1 going into half time. The Comets would only score once more in the second half; it was not enough to fight off the Bishops, who went on to win 16-2.

Swanson led the team with 4 goals and 2 assists.

“We worked together in a way that I have yet to see out of this team in my two previous seasons playing lacrosse at OWU.”

Head Coach Margaret Grossman said the win was a team effort. There were eight different players who scored and six players who added assists. Freshmen Abbie Love scored the first three goals of her career and Saige Bell scored her first two as well.

“Everyone worked well together,” Grossman said. “It did not matter what combination of players was on the field. They all worked together and contributed for the entire 60 minutes.”

Once a 12 goal differential is reached in the 2nd half, a running clock will begin. The clock is not stopped for timeouts or referee

calls, according to the NCAA Lacrosse rulebook.

Junior Meredith Wholley, who had two goals and an assist, said this running clock was one outcome the team hoped to achieve.

“Our goal for this game was to get a running clock because we did understand that the other team was not as skilled,” she said.

“What made us so successful was focusing on making good plays, and then showing our sportsmanship at the end by not scoring when we were up.”

Swanson said the running clock really validated the team’s hard work.

“It felt great to have our first running clock game of the season,” she said. “I think it proved a lot to ourselves that we are better than we were last year and will continue to improve. It meant that the talent is there and our hard work in the preseason is paying off and will continue to do so if we keep up the same intensity.”

Grossman said the team is constantly improving.

“Overall we did exactly what we had planned to do (to) get better,” she said. “We are going into every game with the mentality that win or lose, we are going to get better.”

The Bishops next game will be in West Balm Beach Fla. against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Grossman said after the win she has a good outlook on the rest of the season.

“If this continues and we stick with the plan to control the tempo of every game as well as continue to get better with every practice and every game, I foresee the rest of the season shaping up to be the successful season that all of us want,” she said.



Photo by Sara Blake

Senior outfielder James DiBiasio (above) drove in two runs for Ohio Wesleyan during the second game of last season. This season, in a doubleheader against Case Western Reserve on Sunday, the Bishops lost 1-6 in the first game and won 7-3 in the second game.

Men’s basketball lose in final minutes of NCAA tournament

By Andy Wittenberg
Sports Editor

Editor’s Note: Coverage of this game is based off of a live video stream.

The Bishops tentative dominance over the Hobart Statesman was apparent from the beginning. After overcoming a small, 4-point Senator lead, the Bishops were on top almost the entire game—except for when it mattered. At the end.

With 47:02 seconds in the game to go, the Bishops still had a 4-point lead. By 24:40 seconds, they were down by 1 point. And, by the end of the game, with a last ditch timeout, the Senators finished their 10-point streak and took the game from the

Bishops, pushing the final score to 64-60.

The Bishops may have been upsetted in the last few minutes, but their plays still packed heat.

With over six minutes left in the first half, senior wing Tim Brady gets the court to himself, and hammers in a slam dunk.

Later, after halftime, junior guard Andy Winters and Spalding work together to dunk another basket.

With under two minutes to go in the second half, Winters tries to save a ball for the Bishops, goes beyond the court, and lands on an NCAA table, startling staff officials and ripping off the table’s covering.

Junior post Greg White said that OWU had a decent strategy--to not

give Hobart any possessions. He said executing that strategy was the hardest part of the game.

“Coach Dewitt has consistently mentioned that we need to play for 40 full minutes and not take any possessions off, but we let a few possessions get out of our hands and did not convert some key shots and did not convert some key defensive plays,” he said.

White said this about the game, the team overall, and its future:

“Regardless of the outcome, and knowing that we fell short of our goal to make a deep run in the NCAA tournament, it has been a good season for our basketball team and we look to carry our momentum and experience over to next season,

and work on our individual and team weaknesses in the off-season. We will have everyone back on our team but our graduating leading scorer, Tim Brady, who will be greatly missed, as his offensive game and leadership will be a challenge to replace.”

Coach Michael DeWitt said the season was successfull overall.

“In the last three minutes, we simply didn’t continue to do the things we had done all game,” he said. “We made some mental mistakes, and a good team like Hobart will take advantage of those mistakes. It was a disappointing end to an excellent season. We overcame a lot of obstacles and deficiencies to have success because of our great effort and team

chemistry.”

Winters said the team was not concentrated. “We lost focus the last few minutes,” he said. “We had the lead the entire game and all it took was a couple of back to back plays to get them the lead. We fought very hard for the majority of the game but did not close it out and it cost us. As a captain of the team I feel responsible for (the) outcomes of our games ... A great thing about the guys on our team is no one points fingers for any loss ... I wouldn’t ask for a better group of teammates and people to be with this year.”

This matchup concluded OWU’s men’s basketball season. The Bishops went 11-5 in their conference matchups and 20-8 overall.

Water polo club being restarted, new captains to bring sport to the Midwest

By Taylor Smith
Transcript Correspondent

Two students are reviving the OWU water polo club and said they hope to spark an interest in the sport on campus.

Freshmen Marcus Ramirez and Matthew Mahoney, both members of the swim team, are in the process of reviving the water polo club as a way to continue a sport they both played in high school and stay active in the off season.

“It’s a way to cross train and provides a constructive way to stay in shape,” Mahoney said.

“It provides students an opportunity who played before college another chance to play.”

Ramirez, who is from the West, and Mahoney, who is from the East, bring different perspectives on the sport because they have learned different styles of the sport.

Ramirez, who played in high school in California, said it also gives other students at the school an opportunity to participate in a new and different sport that they may have never played before.

“It is very popular on the East and West Coasts, but there isn’t enough interest in the Midwest,” Ramirez said.

However, the sport is popular enough for there to be other college club teams in the central Ohio area to play.

The club does face some issues with attendance.

There are currently only 10 members in the club, which is under the amount that Ramirez and Mahoney would like.

Ramirez said that a regulation team needs seven players in the water, but more are needed for substitutions and practice scrimmages.

“We want more (members) to join to have substitutes and different skill and experience groups for practice,” Ramirez said.

Member participation and time was an issue with the club before it momentarily dissolved.

Senior Anne McComas, the president the last time the club was around, attributed lack

of member participation at practice times and starting the club right up after swim season to be difficult for the club’s reputation.

However, McComas is positive about Ramirez and Mahoney’s attempt to revive the club.

“There are a few people who are very excited about starting the club which gives it a much better chance of being successful,” McComas said. “I left the club due to swimming related injuries.”

“There weren’t enough people to keep the club going,” she said. Hopefully there will be enough people that show up to practices to make the club a continuing success.”