

Chartwells  
takes heat  
over menu

By Spenser Hickey  
Assistant Copy Editor

Chartwells’ Feb. 6 “Black History Dinner” in Smith Hall has sparked some controversy.

On the menu was pulled barbecue pork, collard greens, baked beans, and macaroni and cheese.

Gene Castelli, Chartwells resident district manager, said the celebration was no different from the special Mardi Gras menu, and that holidays have foods associated with them, like Memorial Day’s link to hamburgers and hot dogs.

“Food creates memories, creates emotions that are tied into certain events throughout the year,” he said.

Castelli said Chartwells chefs picked out the food, but he didn’t know who was directly responsible for determining the menu. He said Chartwells Supervisor Beverly Coleman prepared similar menus for Welch Hall in previous years.

When Coleman was in charge of the themed menus, they were called “Soul Food Night.” Castelli said she used her own recipes in those instances.

Senior Andrew Dos Santos, co-president of Black Men of the Future, heard the menu was being brought back and worried about what foods would be on the menu. He considers the most recent menu a stereotype of the African-American community.

After seeing this year’s menu, he said he doesn’t think it’s okay.

“When (other students) see this food, they think this is what black people eat,” he said.

Senior James Huddleston, co-president of BMF, said he’d prefer if the menu had been called “Soul Food Day,” as in the past, instead of “black history,” since soul food is “an actual genre of food.”

Sophomore Garrison Davis said the menu didn’t offend him because it was in Smith, which he thinks tries to please all cultures, but fails.

Castelli said he hadn’t heard anything from African-American students, but that he and Chartwells would be open to criticism.

“(I)f the African-Americans don’t like it, if they came to me and said, ‘We don’t want you serving this food,’ we’d go, ‘Hey, what do you want to see us serve?’” he said. “We’d ask for input.”

Castelli said he thought allegations that the menu was “racist” are “ridiculous.”

“Food isn’t racist,” he said. “People are racist, but food isn’t racist.”

Tuition rates continue to increase

Increase as percentage declining, but tuition still above median among peers

By Noah Manskar  
Editor-in-Chief

Ohio Wesleyan’s tuition will increase 3.5 percent next year from \$38,890 to \$40,250, according to a Jan. 29 announcement from Dan Hitchell, vice-president of finance and administration and treasurer.

Hitchell said the increase is a result of rising fixed costs like lights, heat, power, facility and technological maintenance, and library expenses.

“Even when we’re aggressive in cost containment, some things will go up and cost more,” he said. “You walk around a college campus and it’s like running a small city.”

According to Hitchell, the rise is low compared to other Great Lakes College Association (GLCA) institutions—the highest rates of increase as a percentage of current tuition are around 5 percent, while the lowest are around 3.

OWU’s rate of increase has declined 3.2 percent since the 2006-2007 fiscal year, from 6.2 percent.

Tuition for the current year is the cheapest of the Ohio Five—OWU, Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College and the College of Wooster—but is the sixth-most expensive of the thirteen GLCA schools. Earlham College ranks just above OWU, with a tuition cost of \$39,200.

Sophomore Ibrahim Saeed said he thinks the university “hasn’t really given a proper explanation” of the increase.

“It was so strange, and there are a lot of things that go unexplained,” he said. “But sometimes you don’t want to argue with it because it is what it is.”

Saeed said his expenses as an international student, in addition to tuition, have increased—the rate for his

health insurance went from \$1,000 to \$1,500 since the 2011-2012 year.

University President Rock Jones said the President’s Office makes an annual report of “the needs for the upcoming year” and “the expenses related to those needs” to the Board of Trustees, which ultimately determines tuition rates.

Jones said salaries and benefits for faculty and staff also contribute to growth in expenses, which the university is trying to keep down, along with the aforementioned fixed costs.

“We’re trying to be as energy-efficient as we can,” he said. “We’re trying to look at ways to use purchasing to make the least expensive acquisitions, but still have the quality of materials that we need. A couple of years ago we had significant reductions in administrative staff as a way to hold down cost. We’ve not had significant program budget increases in recent years.”

Hitchell said one way to cut costs is to evaluate which staff duties—accounting tasks, for example—can be automated and completed more efficiently.

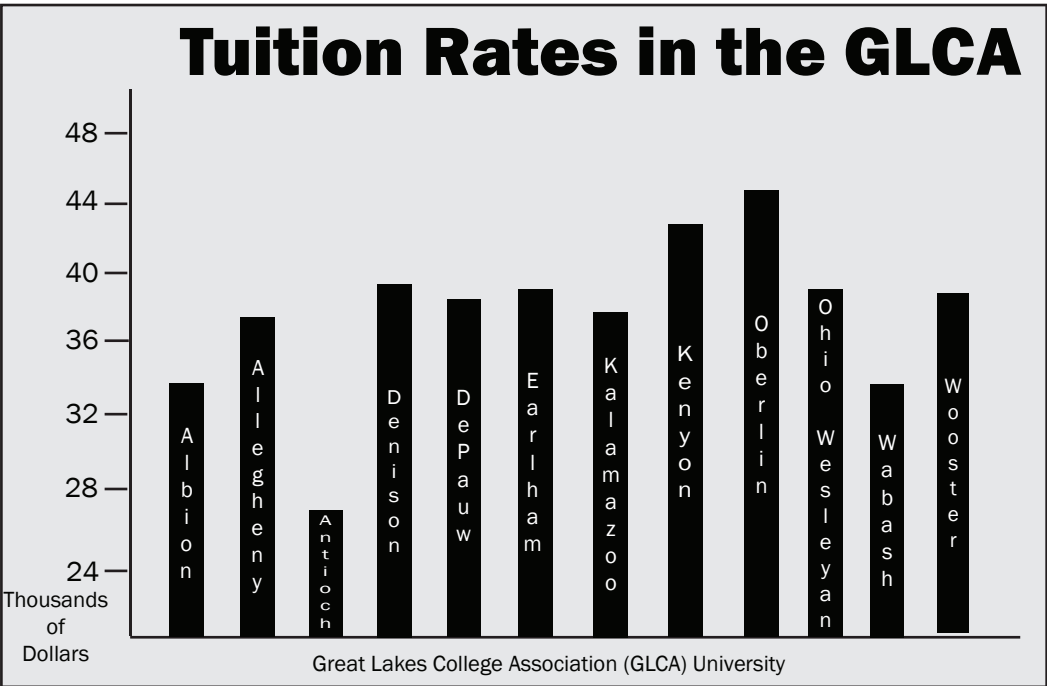
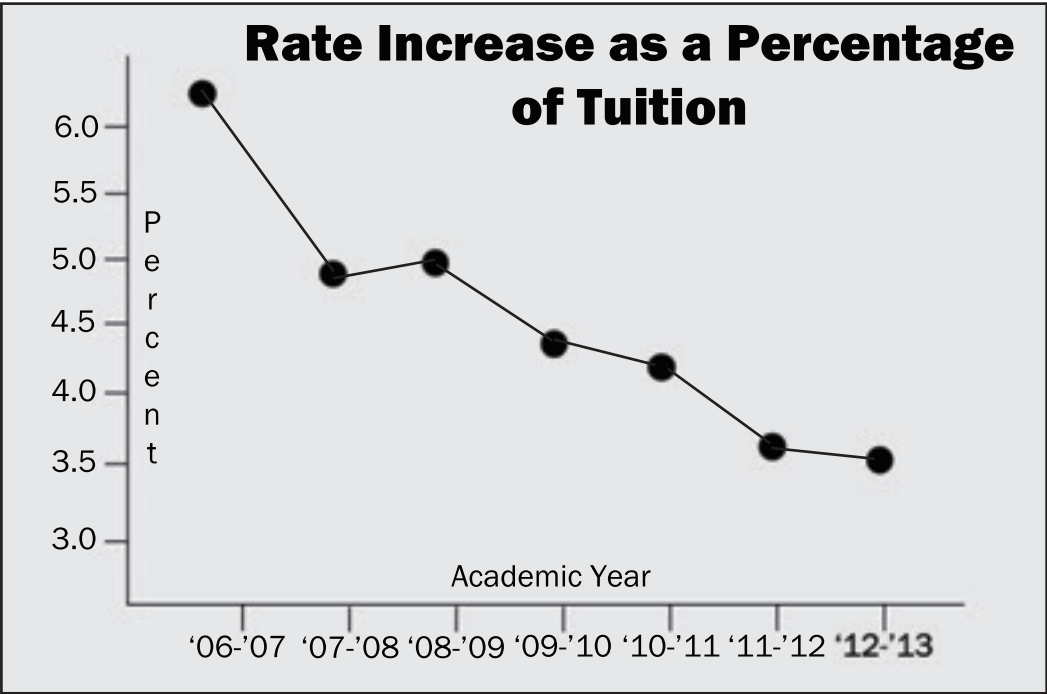
This allows “higher order” jobs to be done faster without hiring new employees.

He said this kind of “creativity,” rather than “cost containment” alone, is what the university will need to keep tuition from increasing at a higher rate.

“Cost containment means we’re going to just spend less,” he said. “Creativity means we’re going to spend better and achieve more with what we spend.”

Jones said the university attempts to offset increases with financial aid, the budget for which is “much larger than it was six or eight years ago.”

One reform to the financial aid system has been an in-



Graphics by Noah Manskar

Ohio Wesleyan students are well aware of the tuition increase announced by Vice-President of Finance and Administration Dan Hitchell last week. But how does it compare with past years, and how does OWU’s tuition match up with similar institutions?

crease in the amount awarded through Schubert scholarships for prospective honors students.

Recipients receive a base amount of annual scholarship money and get a chance to earn more at one of two com-

petitions early in the spring semester.

The base funding for the class of 2015 was \$17,000 per year; the class of 2016 saw an increase to \$22,500. The former’s Schubert funding didn’t increase with tuition. Jones

said this was because the program had been changed to have a larger base amount and less additional money from the competition.

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Administration gives  
full-time provost job  
to longtime interim

OWU alumnus (’83)  
enters seventh year with  
Dept. of Academic Affairs

By Hannah Urano  
Transcript Correspondent

On Feb. 1, University President Rock Jones announced, “with a sense of great enthusiasm and excitement,” the selection of Charles Stinemetz as Ohio Wesleyan’s new provost.

The provost is the vice-president for academic affairs and is one of five vice-presidents that report directly to the president.

Specifically, Stinemetz said, he is responsible for the “academic division” of the university, which includes Academic Affairs, Athletics,

Libraries and Information Services, and the Registrar’s Office.

Director of Athletics Roger Ingles was a member of the search committee, which he said did an outstanding job of vetting candidates and put a lot of time and effort into the search.

“Obviously I am thrilled of our hire and support it 100 percent,” he said.

Stinemetz said his experience at OWU began in the early 1980s as an undergraduate majoring in botany and chemistry.

He served as interim provost during the last year, and



Charles Stinemetz

before that worked as dean of academic affairs at the university since 2006.

“I have always valued the inclusive culture of Ohio Wesleyan,” he said.

“It is a place that is willing to listen to different ideas from varying perspectives and formulate informed views. This has not changed since I was a student.”

According to Stinemetz, students today are more committed to helping others, both academically and personally, than when he was a student.

“This is a very admirable trait that my generation came

to much later in life,” he said.

Barbara Andereck, interim dean of academic affairs, said she is pleased with the appointment and believes Stinemetz’s knowledge of OWU will be valuable as he works with the other vice-presidents at the university.

“He has extensive and excellent administrative experience,” she said.

“He works well with a very wide array of people, he understands and appreciates how the university operates and he has a deep commitment to Ohio Wesleyan.”

Director of Libraries Catherine Cardwell shared Andereck’s sentiments, saying that Stinemetz knows how to be effective with various constituencies on campus and build consensus when making important decisions.

“He is deeply committed to the OWU community and making it a great place to study and work,” she said.

Ingles said he believes Stinemetz will bring a balanced approach to academics and athletics to the position.

Stinemetz said he is ex-

cited to have the opportunity to work with the faculty and staff to continue providing the strong academic experience that OWU is known for, while also exploring new ways to promote unique educational opportunities for Ohio Wesleyan students.

“Related to this goal, I am interested in promoting the use of new technologies to enhance the learning experience of students without detracting from the close faculty-student interactions that take place in the Ohio Wesleyan classroom,” he said.

Cardwell said she supports this goal, and thinks it will be successful in “improving the conditions of academic buildings and creating flexible, contemporary classrooms and study spaces that support a variety of teaching and learning needs.”

To Andereck, the university is in the process of exciting changes, many of which Stinemetz helped facilitate.

“His continued leadership will allow further development and exploration without losing momentum,” she said.



An inside  
look at life  
in Chapple

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Addressing  
the parking  
problem

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VSA holds  
Lunar New  
Year festival

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# Philanthropy events’ cost capped

**By Caleb Dorfman**  
*Transcript Correspondent*

**Editor’s Note:** *Caleb Dorfman is member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and interviewed his fraternity president Ryan Klein for this story.*

The cost to participate in fraternity and sorority philanthropy events is likely to be capped at \$50 by the end of the month.

Dana Behum, assistant director of student involvement for fraternity and sorority life, said in an email that the Council of Fraternity Presidents (CFP) is working with the

Panhellenic Council (PHC) to make philanthropy events more affordable for all members of the Ohio Wesleyan community, both Greek and unaffiliated students.

“CFP recently voted to set a price cap of \$50 for clubs and organizations to participate in philanthropy events,” Behum said.

“Last year, the cost to participate in fraternity and sorority philanthropy events spanned from \$25 to \$80.”

According to Behum, in order for the price cap to be approved for sororities, the Panhellenic Council –a group

composed of representatives from each sorority and fraternity – must vote to approve it.

Rebecca Fisher, Panhellenic representative for CFP, did not reply to requests for comment.

Senior Tyler Hendershot, CFP president and marshall of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, said the price cap was added to the list of bylaws, which will be voted on in late February or early March.

“Pretty much everyone in CFP is in favor of the price cap being passed,” he said. “Last semester, the price cap was sent over to the Panhel-

lenic Council to be voted on and approved for the sororities. I don’t know if they ever voted on it, but if they did, it must not have passed.”

According to Hendershot, the idea for the price cap came from junior Ryan Klein, president of Delta Tau Delta and university liaison for CFP.

“I brought up the price cap because it was becoming too expensive to participate in all of the fraternity and sorority philanthropy events,” Klein said.

“We voted on adding it to the bylaws, and it was unanimously approved.”

## Weekly Public Safety Reports

Week of Feb. 5 to Feb. 11	system.
Feb. 5, 8:05 a.m. – A Hayes Hall resident was transported to Grady Hospital on a welfare concern.	Feb. 9, 3:50 p.m. – An Aramark housekeeper called to document an injury from a trip and fall that occurred in Benes Room A. No first aid was required.
Feb. 6, 12:23 a.m. – Public Safety was dispatched to Corns on a trouble fire alarm.	Feb. 9, 11:10 p.m. – Public Safety was dispatched to Smith Hall for alcohol discovered in the room by RA’s. No one was in the room and the owner of the alcohol could not be found. The alcohol was confiscated and destroyed.
Feb. 7, 3:16 p.m. – Public Safety was dispatched to the Science Center to meet with staff about a fire in a lab machine.	Feb. 11, 12:05 a.m. – Public Safety was dispatched on a fire alarm in Hayes Hall.
Feb. 7, 10:30 p.m. – Public Safety was dispatched to Austin Manor to meet an OWU student on a welfare concern following up on a previous incident.	Feb. 11, 12:20 a.m. – Public Safety was dispatched to the House of Thought on a trouble alarm. The smoke detector was activated without reason and an electrician was called.
Feb. 9, 2:00 a.m. – Public Safety was dispatched to Corns for a trouble alarm. After the building was declared all clear, and electrician was called to reset the	

<b>TUITION</b> , continued from Page 1	
Saeed said he thinks the university administration should adjust aid for current students to assuage the tuition increase.	coming years.
“I think if they’re going to increase tuition like that, they should increase other things, like increase our scholarships,” he said.	“I think that families are doing all they can, and we have to be careful to not push tuition too high,” he said. “We have to balance the increases in aid against the increases in tuition, so reducing the increase in tuition also increases the amount of additional aid money that’s available.”
Despite such reforms, Jones said he thinks the university will need to keep rates of increase for tuition low in the	Hitchell said he thinks keeping increases down is essential to the “mission” of schools like OWU.
	“The challenge for higher ed is going
	to be how we deliver that mission and accomplish more with what we do spend,” he said.
	Saeed said he wonders what the future of tuition will look like at OWU if increases continue.
	“It’s weird, because when you’re a sophomore you think, ‘What am I going to be paying my senior year? What are the freshmen going to be paying their senior year? If my kids go here are they gonna be paying 80,000 a year?’” he said.

# Despite changes, HBC serves as a safe haven for minority students

**By Spenser Hickey**  
*Assistant Copy Editor*

The House of Black Culture serves as a focal point for educating the Ohio Wesleyan community on Black history and issues, as well as a meeting place for the African-American community.

Named after Butler A. Jones, the University’s first African-American professor, the House of Black Culture was founded in 1970 by Pete Smith and Barbara McEachern Smith.

Smith and McEachern also started the Student Union on Black Awareness.

In 1970, there were only around 40 African-American students at Ohio Wesleyan, according to a Connect2OWU article on the Smiths.

HBC, known then as the Black House, was a “safe haven” for African-American students, said junior Lehlohonolo ‘Lucky’ Mosola, HBC’s Resident Adviser.

“Now, though, it’s used much more as a community meeting place for students in general, but specifically students in the African-American community,” Mosola said. “It’s certainly a focal point for the community now more than any kind of a protection.”

Terree Stevenson, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, said she thought it has

*“It’s just the obliviousness to what this community is about, especially on this campus, because they’re fighting for something, but the only thing they ever think about for BMF or the house is their parties. That’s offensive to me,” said Madeleine Leader, junior and future resident of the House of Black Culture.*

“the same [role] today as it was historically, and more so.”

She said it still serves as a safe haven for students to feel physically, emotionally, mentally, culturally and spiritually safe, as well as a programming space and historical reference for alumni who lived there.

“I think it’s a symbol of a long-standing opportunity for the university to create and support a place for students of color,” she said.

Mosola, currently in his second year at HBC, said he joined the House because his high school program provided little contact with other African-American students, something he wanted to make up for at OWU.

“After my freshman year, I got to know somebody who lived here, and I joined BMF (Black Men of the Future), which is a student organiza-

tion I met a lot of people here through,” he said.

Freshman Jerrell James, who applied to live at HBC next year, said he sees it as “a common ground” where he can be himself.

Aaron Cameron, also a freshman, said he thinks it’s “a place where people can meet and converse and basically just have a good time, live life.”

Senior James Huddleston, HBC resident and co-president of BMF, said he sees the house as a place where he can let his guard down.

He credited living there with encouraging him to focus on academics.

Junior Shelby Alston said her sister, a graduate and former HBC resident at the time, introduced her to the house.

“I just instantly fell in love with this house,” she said. “It’s

just this atmosphere is so welcoming and so open.”

She said many residents, past and present, are “big influences on this campus” as upperclassmen and African-Americans making “an impact and a difference.”

Junior Madeleine Leader said she’s excited to join HBC and live with people who “practice what they preach, and who live for what they’re passionate about.”

At the same time, she acknowledged that there is “a struggle” identifying with the African-American community as a white person, offering her Residential Life application to live at HBC as an example.

She said she’s been involved in activism for racial equality her whole life and is a member of SUBA and Vice President of Sisters United at Ohio Wesleyan.

“Being around people like this, you realize what you’re fighting for and why it’s so important to celebrate our differences and come together and keep fighting for them,” she said.

Leader said she identified with “being attacked for the person you are at your core” since she was ridiculed as a child for being a Jew.

She said there is “zero awareness” of how often students use racially-charged words.

“I’ve heard plenty of white students say the n-word to each other,” she said. “It’s just the obliviousness to what this community is about, especially on this campus, because they’re fighting for something, but the only thing they ever think about for BMF or the house is their parties. That’s offensive to me.”

Alston said being the House of Black Culture carries a certain stigma among the general community.

“I’ve heard people saying they’re afraid to come here, or will they get hurt if they come here [or] all we do is party,” she said.

“It hurts to see that this house has such a rich and unique legacy, and people only focus on the negative stuff or the stuff they see us for, like, ‘Oh, they throw awesome parties,’” she said.

“Well, what else have we done, besides parties, because we’ve done so much, and do you forget the events we’ve put on?”

Events they’ve held, she said, included a lecture by Terrence Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American high school students who initiated desegregation by attending a formerly all-white Arkansas school. Alston said Roberts “captivated the audience.”


While HBC was formed as a SLU, it made the transition to being a heritage theme house this year.

Mosola said the change came due to the SLU renewal process.

Each year, SLUs must apply for and earn renewal from the university or be shut down; however, Mosola said “the school said pretty much unequivocally that they weren’t going to shut the House of Black Culture down.”


This made it unfair for HBC, which wouldn’t be shut down, to be in the same category as houses that could be shut down. This distinction led to unnecessary work for HBC members.

Despite the change, Mosola said, practically it’s “very much similar,” but the house does less programs now, since not all members are required to plan individual events.

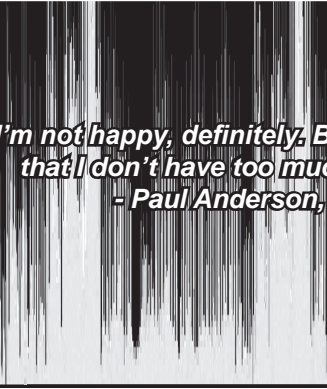


# Sound-Off OWU

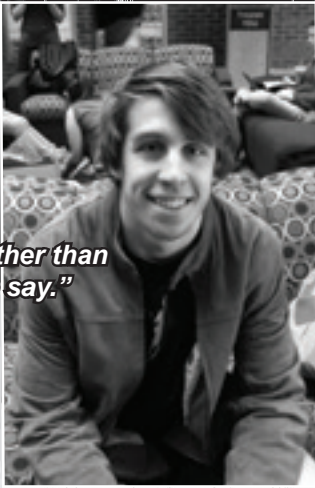
## What do you think about the tuition increase?




*“It can’t just keep increasing. Eventually the bubble is going to burst and people will stop putting up with the price of a college education.” - Rob O’Neill, ‘15*



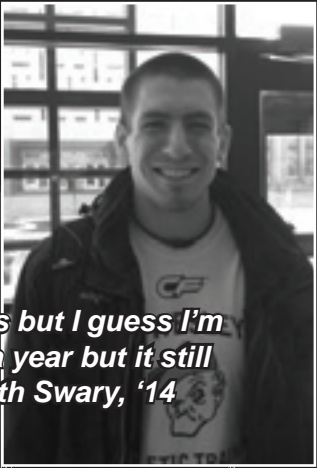
*“I’m not happy, definitely. But other than that I don’t have too much to say.” - Paul Anderson, ‘16*




*“I think it’s to be expected because it increases annually but also unfair and incessant for how much we pay but at the same one out school provides us with a fair amount of financial aid.” - Ali Castelero, ‘13*



*“Keep on going Rock Jones. You do what you do.” - Meredith Merklin, ‘13*



*“It kind of sucks but I guess I’m out of here in a year but it still sucks.” - Seth Swary, ‘14*



*“I feel it’s kind of ridiculous. I dont know what the reasons are or who decides when and how much the tuition goes up. I’m upset about it.” - Erik Poicon, ‘14*





The SAFEWalk desk in Beeghly Library.

Photo by Eric Tift

By Sadie Slager  
Transcript Correspondent

10 minutes make a difference for students walking home late at night.

Public Safety Sergeant Chris Mickens said the estimated 10-minute wait for SafeWalk workers to reach a student who is at any location around campus deters many from utilizing the program.

“The average is a 10-minute or less walk to get from the SafeWalk hub to where the student calls from,” he said. “But people don’t usually want to wait the 10 minutes it takes for the SafeWalk workers to get to them from the library, so they don’t call for a walk.”

Mickens said the SafeWalk program has improved over the past few years, as SafeWalk workers used to walk around campus instead of being stationed in a central location,” he said. “That became very cumbersome for the student workers because they had to be out and about for so long. Three years ago I put a station at the library and one by the Thomson store.”

Mickens said these locations were chosen because they are the most heavily traveled areas in the evenings, but now there is only one central SafeWalk station.

“It was hard to keep four people working both stations all the time, and numbers are a big part of being safe,” he said.

“So we cut it to one station at the library.”

Although SafeWalk is stationed at the library and more than 90 percent of SafeWalks come from students leaving the library, Mickens said, students can call to get a SafeWalk from other areas on campus.

Mickens said there always have to be at least two students working at the SafeWalk station, because if there is only one worker, the safety element is lost.

“There’s a strict attendance policy because it’s counter-instructive to have only one person working, because then that person will walk back to the library alone,” he said.

Mickens said there have been no SafeWalk escorts yet in 2013. He said 134 students requested escorts in the 2011-2012 academic year, and 68 in the fall 2012 semester.

Mickens said if a student is off-campus and requests a ride, a Public Safety officer might be sent to pick them up if they feel unsafe or are alone.

“There needs to be an articulated safety concern,” he said. “If someone wants a convenience ride, I may do it if I’m not busy, just as a courtesy.”

Mickens said he would rather give a ride to someone who doesn’t truly have a safety concern than not help someone who asks for an escort.

“We don’t want the worst

case scenario to happen, so we’d rather the bad judgment call be that we gave someone a ride when there wasn’t really a safety concern,” he said. “The ones that are hardest to judge are when students call at like 2:45 a.m. during the weekend.”

Junior Anne Frissora said she has never used the SafeWalk program because she doesn’t know enough about it.

“I do feel for the most part safe on campus, but I don’t feel as safe on the streets surrounding campus.”

Frissora said Spring Street and Park Avenue are example of areas where she sometimes feels unsafe.

“I definitely wouldn’t want to walk alone on those streets, especially at night,” she said.

Mickens said he hopes student start using SafeWalk more frequently and he is working on ways to make it more heavily advertised.

“We are looking for reasonable suggestions on how to get students to utilize the service more,” he said.

“We’ve thought of having maybe a raffle for people who are new to using the system and one for everyone who uses it.”

Mickens added that although Delaware is a safe place, anything could happen at any time and students should take the proper precautions of walking in groups of two or more at all times.

## WCSA’s new residential reps take office

### Students unsure of what res reps’ role is

By Brian Cook  
Transcript Correspondent

14 individuals were elected as Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs Residential Representatives for the 2013 calendar year, according to junior Martin Clark, WCSA President.

Also, two Small Living Unit Representatives were elected to serve on WCSA for the 2013 calendar year.

Freshmen making the cut as Residential Representatives include Whitney Weadock, Jerry Lherisson, Katie Nunner, Erica Shah, Hannah Henderson and Lily Pham.

The school’s sophomore Residential Representatives include Mike Serbanoiu, Memme Onwudiwe, Ashkan Ehktera, Alex Lothstein, Lauren Rump and Shane Gorbett.

Juniors who will serve as Residential Representatives this coming year include Sammi Heffron and Caitlin Bailey.

According to the WCSA Constitution, “Residential representatives shall be responsible for representing the general student populous residing in residence halls.”

Only people who live in a residence hall are eligible to run for the position.

One of the Representatives lives in Bashford Hall, one in Smith West, two in Smith East, and three each in Welch, Hayes and Stuyvesant Halls. None live in Thomson

Hall.

Additionally, the two SLU representatives elected are juniors Ethan Hovest and Nora Gumanow.

As with residential representatives, one must live in a SLU to be eligible for election. In both instances, the representatives will only serve those who live in their specified domain.

Elections for residential representatives and SLU representatives were held on Feb. 1, which was technically a violation of the WCSA Constitution.

The body’s constitution mandates that residential and SLU representatives be elected in the second week of the spring semester.

Residential and SLU representatives are voting members of WCSA.

While residential representatives do significant work for WCSA and their constituents, their efforts can go unrecognized by students. Many students said they feel that residential representatives are basically irrelevant in their daily lives.

“I don’t know anything they do on campus,” sophomore Hannah Sampson said. She also said that she does not know any of the new representatives personally.

Sophomore Landon Erb also said that he does not

have a working relationship with the residential representatives. He said that he was unaware of any of the representatives’ responsibilities.

Clark and junior Timothy O’Keeffe, WCSA vice president, ran together on a platform to increase awareness of WCSA’s role on campus.

Awareness of WCSA was discussed by all three presidential tickets.

Proposed efforts they discussed during campaigning included encouraging members to wear WCSA sweatshirts to events, particularly WCSA-funded ones.

They also discussed setting up office hours and giving non-voting WCSA positions to important student organizations.

In an article published last year by The Transcript, then-sophomore Alex Kerensky, one of the SLU representatives for 2012, said, “I’d like to make WCSA more transparent and less of a mystery.”

Kerensky is now a WCSA Representative for the Class of 2014.

Typically, residential representatives are responsible for dealing with problems exclusively in the residence halls, not SLUs or fraternities.

Both residential and SLU representatives serve terms of one calendar year.

“I don’t know anything they do on campus,” said sophomore **Hannah Sampson.**

## Senior SLU members leave memories in houses

By Cecilia Smith  
Transcript Correspondent

Imagine going to a line-dancing bar with friends and being the only ones there – besides a bachelorette party.

That was one of the memories senior Chris Marshall recounted as one of his favorites from living in Tree House.

“This place is dense with memories,” Marshall said about Tree House. “Not living here on a normal basis is going to be tough.”

Marshall, who has lived in the house since his sophomore year, will be graduating after this semester. Though Marshall said he ended up in the house by coincidence, living in a Small Living Unit (SLU) has given him something to look for in the future.

“It’s spoiled me,” he said. “This kind of living situation will be at the back of my mind when I’m thinking about living anywhere...It has made me never want to live alone.”

Marshall was not the only one who said he had fond memories. Seniors at the Women’s House started crying when talking about the experience of living in a SLU.

Senior Victoria Sellers said living in WoHo made her more self-aware.

“I’ll miss how these people live activism and feminism and open-mindedness,” she said. “They’ve taught me the difference between living activism and speaking activism.”

WoHo residents said the house will lose eight seniors after this semester, one of the greatest proportional numbers of all the SLUs.

Freshman Claudia Bauman, who will move into WoHo at the start of the 2013 fall semester, said the current members joke about who their replacements will be.

“They joke around about me filling the role of Alex Crump, but I’ve got some big shoes to fill if they’re comparing me to her,” she said. “Hopefully I’ll be able to add my own flavor to the house.”

Marshall said he wasn’t looking for his replacement during SLUsh week, but he does hope current and new members will keep the seniors in their minds.

“I don’t want them to dwell on us being gone,” he said. “I have more faith in them than I do in me. I don’t want to leave any grand legacy behind, just more, like, memories.”

Photos of and letters from former housemates decorate the walls of WoHo. Sellers said members have been con-

sidering delegating a wall for members to handprint as they leave the house.

“This house has given me so, so much,” she said. “I feel like I’m walking away with part of the house imprinted on me.”

Sellers said one of her favorite “publishable” memories took place at a Take Back the Night event when she and other members of the house spent the day “literally running around” making and lighting luminaries for the march portion. She said she cried when she saw their completed work.

“It was beautiful,” she said. “Not just because they were pretty white lights against a dark background, but because of the symbolic meaning of all the work we’d done and what it all meant.”

Marshall said his experience at Tree House “made” his OWU experience.

“I never thought I’d experience home at a college,” he said. “[Living in a SLU] has broken me out of my mold. It’s made me love being surrounded by people. It’s made me more conscientious about the sustainable lifestyle. It’s left me with some of the most indelible friendships. It’s not just Tree House. There’s no house I won’t miss.”

# A life of lasting significance

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At MTSO, pursue your master’s while you’re getting started with a rewarding vocation. Many MTSO students already are serving in vital professional roles. Our class schedules make it work, and our scholarships help make it accessible.



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### Correction:

In last week’s Sound Off on page 2, a quote by Eilish Donnell was placed next to the wrong photo.

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# Fighting the ‘nonsense’

## Finding a place on and off the stage

By Noah Manskar  
Editor-in-Chief

A steel pipe 18 feet long lay on Chappellear Drama Center’s main stage among bare set pieces. A group of seven or eight stood and stared in amazement at its sheer size; two more admired from the catwalk about 30 feet above. All were growing tired—it was getting close to midnight.

Attached to the monolithic rod was a two-foot crossbar, which had to attach to the edge of the catwalk—known as the grid—so the larger piece could hang down above one of the theater’s entrances. It was one of four special lighting apparatuses designed and built specially for “The Passion of Dracula,” the Ohio Wesleyan Department of Theatre’s latest production.

The goal was to get the obnoxiously giant contraption suspended in the air. To do so, it had to be raised 30 feet off the ground first.

The light crew stopped its staring and tried to pick up the pipe. The result was a much less patriotic and much less successful reenactment of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima.

After a brief conference about how best to complete the job, the crew decided a rope would be tied around the crossbar so they could hoist it up to the grid. It was, miraculously, successful—now the pipe just had to be lifted over and attached to a railing about four feet high. Its incredible length made this a Herculean task.

Margaret Knecht, “The Passion of Dracula’s” master electrician and the crew’s fearless leader, supervised from about 15 feet in the air from the Genie, the department’s resident utility lift. The pipe dangled above her head, the crew holding it in a tenuous balance. Her eyes were alert—she was ready to dodge the thing if she had to. She was admittedly a little scared. But she loves moments like these, because they bond the crew in a way nothing else can.

“At the time, I was terrified that people were gonna fall off or it was gonna fall and hit me or something terrible was gonna happen, but we look back on it and we’re like, ‘We almost died that night!’ and we laugh. Bad situations turn into good things, and if you have the right attitude, anything can be fun—even sucky midnight calls.”

Margaret is a junior at OWU from Chardon, Ohio, with an endearingly raspy voice. She likes to wear a lot of black and drink a lot of two-percent milk.

Her first theater experience was as a Jet in “West Side Story” at the age of 6, but she doesn’t consider herself a “theater baby”—someone who was born and raised in the theater.

She joined her high school’s drama club with her older brother as a way to meet new people, and discovered a love for both technical work and performance. She worked on crews for “Nickled and Dimed,” “My Fair Lady,” “Beauty and the Beast” and “Noises Off,” and acted in “You Can’t Take It With You,” “Steel Magnolias” and “The Sound of Music.” She hated “The Sound of Music.”

“My dad calls it ‘Sound of Mucus,’” she said. “It’s really funny.”

In high school, Margaret wanted to be a marine biologist, but decided to pursue theater after a conversation with her high school drama teacher Mrs. Horbath, who introduced her to stage management. She fell in love with management and production in high school because she “loved being in charge”—something she didn’t get from performing.

“It was great in a superficial way to be on stage and get the applause and things like that,” she said, “but I found it more fulfilling to me to be that person behind the curtain that made everything run, that made every aspect of the show come together—the actors, the sound, the lights, everything. I loved being that person, and that might be a little egotistical, but it’s the epitome of what is magical about theater to me—that you can take words on a paper with a script and turn it into a spectacle, or a play that moves people, or just something entertaining. You can just take something so small and make it so big.”

Margaret stage-managed “The Fairy Queen,” the baroque Shakespearean musical spectacle OWU produced in the fall. It’s a stage manager’s job to help the director with anything he or she needs, settle disputes among the company, make sure everyone knows when to be at rehearsals, write a report for each rehearsal and a plethora of other duties. This meant Margaret was in the theater from before 7 until after 10 each night for rehearsals—even earlier and later during tech week, the hellish polishing period in the week leading up to opening night.

Additionally, Margaret had to do what’s known as calling the show—communicating to every member of the crew what to do during the performance and when to do it. “The Fairy Queen” had over 175 light cues, moving scenery, special effects (like a flash pot that almost caught the lead actress’s costume on fire) and myriad other technical elements. Margaret knew every one, backwards and forwards.

Theater puts her under a lot of stress, and can be physically and emotionally taxing. But she said she loves it, simply “because it’s theater.”

“The thing about theater that I’ve noticed, at least for myself, that even the times that I hated it and the times I was extremely stressed out, underneath it all I still loved it,” she said. “I would rather be stressed out about theater than stressed out about schoolwork.”

For Margaret, this zeal is something she can’t put into words. Despite all it takes out of her, it gives something back that she can’t describe.

The only reasons she can give for sacrificing so much are those five syllables: “because it’s theater.”

“I could tell you it’s about the community or about the problem solving or about the fulfillment, but those are just symptoms to the overall disease,” she said. “Those are great, but the passion that I have is something that I can’t explain.”

Margaret came into the department intending to do a performance concentration, but realized she only enjoyed it for the “wrong reasons”—applause and the thrill of performing. Technical work brought her a different, less superficial kind of fulfillment, despite the initial “egotistical” pleasure of being in charge; so she made the transition from getting a lot of recognition to nearly none.

“That hurt—not hurt, but that was a little bit of a twinge for a little while,” she said.

“But I’ve progressively gotten over it, because I would rather—not even just get praise—but I would rather be recognized by my peers in the department than the audiences. Because I loved being that person that people felt that they could count on, because I feel like I’m a pretty trustworthy person. So being able to be there for this department and

being able to help the show run and being recognized by my peers—people that I actually want their respect, and their respect actually matters to me.”

Margaret didn’t abandon acting completely—she appeared in the infamous “Mame” her freshman year, and played Madame Desmortes in last spring’s “Ring Round the Moon”—so she occupies a unique position in the eternal feud between actors and “techies.”

The two distinct groups often quarrel because they each form tight bonds over the course of rehearsals and late-night calls. While both come together as a cohesive unit to put the show on, Margaret said, they exist in separate spheres.

“Sometimes it’s like, ‘Techies unite! Actors unite!’ And techies will take jabs at actors, and actors will take jabs at techies,” she said. “We’re under a full community. I don’t want to make it sound like we’re segregated. I’m both an actor and a techie, and it’s really fun to make jabs either way.”

Kristen Krak has bridged the gap between techie and actor, too. She stage-managed the 2012 One Acts, a collaborative production by the Directing and Playwriting classes, as a freshman. It was much less demanding than “The Fairy Queen,” but still required gaining a good deal of knowledge on a steep learning curve.

More recently, Kristen’s stuck mostly with acting. She played Hermia, one of Shakespeare’s Four Lovers, in “The Fairy Queen,” and will star as Wilhelmina in “The Passion of Dracula.”

Kristen is a sophomore from Granville, Ohio. She loves cats, plays guitar and has a small nose piercing, a popular body modification among the theater department.

Kristen said she started dancing around age four. She gave her first ballet recital when she was five, and got her first acting experience as the Mouse Queen in a local production of “The Nutcracker.”

Being on stage from such a young age made performance natural for her. She wanted to go into genetics in high school, but her youth pastor’s wife—like Margaret’s Mrs. Horbath—made her realize theater was her true passion.

Her parents questioned her decision to make such a drastic change, and she still hesitates herself—as one who describes her “inner nature” as caring and nurturing, she sometimes wonders how she is “directly helping people” through theater.

In her senior year of high school, Kristen worked with a special education class of developmentally disabled students her age. She befriended a 16-year-old autistic girl named Lauren, who didn’t talk much, but often amazed Kristen with what she could do—once, she spilled a jigsaw puzzle onto the floor and solved it within five minutes.

“Like, it was a huge puzzle,” Kristen said.

“And she just sat there and just twisted them, twisted them, picked up another piece, twisted them—I just stood there open-mouthed, like, ‘Did she do this? Has she done this puzzle before?’”

Soon after working with Lauren, Kristen started volunteering at a theater program for autistic children. The staff would rehearse a fairy tale with a younger group of 8- to 12-year olds, and a high-school age group would practice a portion of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

Kristen worked with a boy

there named Jake. To help him memorize his lines, she read one to him while he was coloring and he’d repeat it. He would never look at her while they rehearsed, so she thought he wasn’t retaining anything.

“And I did it again, and did it again, but he still wasn’t paying attention to me, and I was like, ‘Alright Jake, tell me.’ And he just looks at me and spits out the whole monologue. I was like, ‘Point proven. Point proven.’”

Kristen said she’s read extensively about how working with characters can help children with autism like Jake and Lauren improve their communication skills and deconstruct “social barriers.” These sorts of programs are the answer to her question about how theater can help people.

“My two greatest passions in life are theater and autism, and it just so happens that they fit together very nicely,” she said.

Kristen finds working with characters liberating for her, too—the opportunity to be someone else makes it less intimidating to perform, even when performance is so natural.

“I don’t mind giving a presentation, but if I have to get up and talk about myself, that’s when I get nervous,” she said. “...But when I’m another person, when I’m playing a character, then I really don’t have a problem with it.”

Acting gives her the opportunity to have an extraordinary existence for a short time, an escape from her “solid, mediocre, decent life.” It’s a way to live in extremes and “be somebody exciting.”

But it can also put things in perspective. When she was a freshman in high school, Kristen played Emily in “Our Town,” a metaphysical play by Thornton Wilder about “life and looking back on life.” When she was in the show, a boy in the junior class at her school had just died in a car accident.

The play’s theme of life’s impermanence was jarringly relevant to these events—Kristen remembers crying after rehearsal one evening.

“I don’t think I would have gotten as much out of that play if that hadn’t happened like that,” she said. “But it really affected me and struck me and reminded me—the whole moral of the story was very true at that point.... I think it gave me the ability to help others, too, at that time, other people in my high school.”

The show made her realize how cathartic and healing theater can be for anyone—not just members of the company, but those in the audience, as well. A well-executed drama can make a viewer feel as if they’re not alone in a dark situation, and a good laugh at a comedy can cheer them up.

“I think that’s exciting as an actor—how is what you’re doing going to affect others?” Kristen said. “I think that’s a huge part about theater, is the effect that you reveal is the impression, the thoughts.”

As much positive power being in character has for Kristen, having to let go of a character has a lot of negative power for actors—especially Matthew Jamison.

The day after the last performance I wake up and it’s like I feel

For Matthew, the thrill of performing makes up for every sacrifice he makes for the theater. He describes it as “ephemeral”—“It lasts one moment, moment to moment, and it’s never exactly

different entity.”

Matthew was very much the theater baby Margaret wasn’t—his parents loved theater, and one summer sent him to a one-

pated in



Photo By Noah Manskar

Senior Andrew Rossi, left, and freshman Emma Merritt, right, rehearse a scene for “The Passion of Dracula.” The show, entering its second weekend of performances, is the OWU Department of Theatre and Dance’s latest production. Cast and crew members spent many long days and nights preparing the set, developing the characters and hanging lights. The light crew was sometimes in Chappellear until 1 a.m.

like I’m gonna die, like my life has no purpose anymore because this thing that I have sacrificed for and put my whole entire being into doing is done, and it’s horrible. It’s a horrible feeling.”

Matthew is a junior from Houston, Texas. He spent the fall semester in Europe, and he thinks in lists.

the same way again.”

This ephemeral nature of theater is why he wouldn’t let his parents watch the recording of his performance in last fall’s “Dear Brutus.”

“Because it becomes something—it’s not the play we did,” he said. “It’s something different. It’s not ephemeral once you film it. It’s like a completely

day musical theater camp against his will. In the end he loved it, and went back for every remaining session.

As a child, he acted in local community theater, where he was “exposed very early to drunken, naked adult actions, most of them gay.” He also worked in a few professional productions when children

New York’s Broadway Theater Project, a program run by professional directors and choreographers. He expected insightful advice that would help him on his way to a BFA in theater performance; he got something very different.

“It was miserable, because everyone was very jaded, like, ‘Yes, I’m a Broadway casting

director and that gives me the right to be an asshole to everyone.’ So it was very mean-spirited, and it was like, ‘This is how you do musical theater, and any deviance from this is wrong, and you’re a bad performer if you deviate from this.’”

He recalls a particularly bad session with Frank Wildhorn, who composed “Jekyll and Hyde” for the Broadway stage. Wildhorn talked about how he wrote a song for that show simply because his producers wanted a piece audiences could recognize. This sort of selling out, capitalizing on theatrical art, is what Matthew calls “shitty theater.”

“I don’t want to perform in shitty theater. I love musical theater, but I like a very small number of musicals. So yeah, I’d love to perform in musicals.”

“I kinda wanna be like a mash up of Bonnie and Ed—do literature but also theories... I’m really into educational theater, too, and Bonnie does that. But my favorite parts of both Bonnie and Ed.”

Bonne Milne-Gardner is an accomplished playwright and a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

She is Ohio Wesleyan’s resident expert on playwriting, dramaturgy, theater education, arts management and other subjects, according to the university website.

Ed Kahn began his theater career after working as an engineer. He has a Master of Fine Arts degree from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. from Tufts University. He teaches Directing and Theories of Performance at OWU.

Matthew said the faculty’s openness and expertise make them easy to work with in shows and serve as models for the kind of teacher he wants to be. They’re flexible, but not too flexible; they know what they want for themselves as directors, but are willing to make the student’s experience as close to ideal as possible.

“They are open to giving you the experience that you want within the framework that they want,” Matthew said.

Gus Wood does not feel so fondly.

“I honestly feel like at least some of the faculty here has forgotten their first priority at an institution of education, which is education,” he said.

“I feel like when a show goes up, or when a show’s going up, they’re so focused on doing the job of the show that they lose track of the fact that we’re all trying to learn from that process.”

Gus is a junior. He does performance poetry, and had the nation’s second-best haiku in 2011. The destination of his daydreams is Milk World, a universe where everything is made from dairy products.

Gus was first drawn to theater because of its power to make him cry. When he was young, his sister acted in “A Christmas Carol,” and the actor playing Jacob Marley made him burst into tears. He pursued it throughout high school and fell in love with theater as an art form, as “the most honest, engaging, powerful thing I have ever experienced.”

Gus’s freshman year was when “Mame” happened. “Mame” was a disaster.

“All you essentially have to do to elicit a Pavlovian groan from anyone in this current stock of theater majors, junior and above, is say the word ‘Mame,’ and there will be a groan so palpable that you can grab it, strangle it and ask it questions,” Gus said.

“Mame” is a 1966 musical by Jerry Herman; Elaine Denny-Todd directed the OWU production in the fall of 2010. Rehearsals started at 7 p.m. and had no designated end time, so the cast had no idea when they would be allowed to leave. The show was also “technically demanding,” Gus said—“We had a staircase, for Christ’s sake.”

Elane is one of the OWU faculty whom Gus feels has lost a sense of collaboration with her students over the years.

“You have an idea of the show,” Gus said of some experienced directors, “and it’s a very concise, narrow, complete idea—it’s even a good idea—but if anyone has something that isn’t that idea, it kind of throws a wrench in your machine and you have to think about it, and that bothers some people.” Elane, according to Gus, is someone it bothers.

Gus feels the cast must claim some responsibility in such situations, that it would be possible for a group of upperclassmen to approach a director with ideas of how to make the experience better for the company.

But most don’t say anything because they’re “(s)cared of making waves, scared of causing problems for themselves later.”

One step out of line could have lasting effects on one’s

career.

“Because one ‘Hey, I think you might wanna check yourself on that,’ could turn into ‘Hey, I’m not gonna cast you in that show next year,’” he said.

Gus said directors in the OWU department often make shows feel like work rather than a learning experience, and it often becomes hard to separate the stress of producing a show on a deadline from academics.

“(T)hat atmosphere pervades into the classroom, because the guy who yelled at me last night about how I don’t know how to focus a light is trying to teach me something else the next day,” he said. “Like, that level of impatience is still gonna be in my mind, and I’m not gonna want to ask questions, and I’m not gonna want to ask him to go over it a third, fourth, fifth time even though I need it.”

Gus came into OWU as a theater major and English minor. He’s now reversing the two, dropping theater to a minor and pursuing English fully. He said the way the department teaches its students isn’t conducive to learning for him. He said he spends most of his class time “either competing with the people in my class, or...feeling inferior about the things I don’t know.”

“(H)ow they could’ve kept me here is just understand that I, personally, as a student, need to fuck up nine times before I get a really good tenth time,” he said.

For Gus, theater at OWU has created a lot of good memories—many of his friends came from theater, and his contemporaries have become “like a family.” The department simply showed him that his future is in a different place, doing something else.

“Honestly, for me, I feel like I would’ve gotten here eventually,” he said. “This place made it go a hell of a lot faster.... I’m not walking away from this department howling and cursing and spitting and shitting. I am extraordinarily grateful for the good experiences, a tad resentful and regretful about the bad ones, but I’m not about to hold anybody more accountable than myself.”

Gus still believes in theater. He believes in its power as art, and the “sense of expression and vulnerability” it offers. And he believes in its power to send a message.

“This is gonna come off a Hallmark card, but none of us would be here if we didn’t feel we had something to say, and since everyone here has something to say, ideally—and I believe it’s true of this department, at least to some extent—if everybody believes they have something to say, everyone is willing to listen to somebody else.”

Caroline Williams is a freshman from Hudson, Ohio. She often wears a rainbow beanie that one of her friends sometimes steals off her head. Her biggest inspiration is her mother.

She started doing theater her sophomore year of high school—when she was still an introvert—doing sound with her friend Rachel, who she “sat in the corner with and didn’t talk to anyone with.”

She continued to do technical work, and interacting with the community in her department built up her self-confidence.

In her junior year she auditioned for and got a leading role in one of the school’s plays. This was the first time she had ever gotten “a big head.”

“But I think it was kind of good for me to have a big head at that point, and I think it’s easier to go up and come down a little bit than to just get myself to the regular point,” she said. “So I think it was nice to be coming down from having way too big of a self-esteem and figuring it out—I think I needed that, ‘cause it was a big step to think anything great of myself, ‘cause I had a really low self-esteem early in high school and before high school.”

Caroline is doing a tech concentration in theater at OWU, but she took Elane’s Beginning

Acting class this past fall. There she learned how words are just another of one’s actions on a stage, and how every action—including speech—is significant.

“You don’t just move for the sake of moving,” she said. “You move to say something.”

Caroline is also an English major, so this was a difficult idea for her to grasp—she was used to thinking words were something inherently more powerful than movement. But her experience in theater has helped her learn that different people “understand the world” in different ways.

“(W)ords and theater—that is my way of understanding the world, and getting ideas. If I have a feeling about (something) in my personal life, or about social justice, I would write a play about it, and that would be how I send a message,” she said.

“Or I might write a poem about it. Some people, in terms of understanding the world and why we’re here, they do that through math equations, and that’s how they understand the world, and that’s what they feel is important. And I think that’s just as valid—if how you feel you can understand why we’re here and what’s around us, if that’s through physics or chemistry, or anything, that’s just as valid and important as me seeing it through a theatrical production in front of me, or someone who sees it through color on a canvas.”

Caroline worked on the second OWU production of “8,” a play by Dustin Lance Black about the legal battle against California’s ban on same-sex marriage. As an activist for marriage equality, she felt it was an important message to send, but she doesn’t feel theater should force the audience to think a certain way—it must “walk a line of getting people to agree with you,” but shouldn’t push them over it. Because of her respect for different understandings of the world, this is something Caroline said she’s going to be careful of.

“I think that what I’ll have to really think about in what I’m doing is not trying to get people to believe things, but telling them the truth and then maybe they’ll come out of it believing the same thing as me, or at least having an opinion,” she said.

“Because I’d much rather come out of a show thinking completely opposite of what I think that being indifferent about it.”

Caroline feels, though, that theater has an inherent power to bring such daunting social issues close to home and make them intensely visible to an audience. Because theater focuses in so tightly on human relationships and experiences, it makes it easy for the viewer to see a story up close and relate to it.

“I think theater often zooms in on the individual emotions of people in a situation, instead of just a broad statement about what happened,” she said.

As something that focuses so closely on individuals, Caroline thinks the theater is a place where one has to “be able to put yourself out there and be a little weird,” to establish an identity as an individual.

But at the same time, it’s welcoming—everyone has a place.

Caroline thinks these open arms should be carried through the auditorium doors because they’re so universal.

“I think it’s kind of been a really nice starting point for a lot of people that I’ve known, of being able to find a place in something,” she said, “and then taking it past theater and being like, ‘I can find a place other places, too. I have things to add, and people value me.’”

Caroline was on the light crew for “The Passion of Dracula.” She was there holding onto that pole for dear life with everyone else—without her, it would have likely knocked Margaret off the Genie. She was the anchor, and when she faltered, someone had to take the weight for her.

She was there, and she had a place. Everyone did.



# Opinion

## Students deserve food that supports individual and communal health

*I didn't eat in Smith Hall the evening Chartwells served its "black history" menu, but when I heard what was served, it was almost too much to believe—I certainly have not been totally satisfied with Chartwells as a foodservice provider, but I didn't think it would sink to overt racial stereotyping.*

*At the same time, I wasn't at all surprised when I found out it was true.*

*Chartwells, in my opinion, is seldom satisfactory when it comes to providing Ohio Wesleyan students with quality service. The racist menu in Smith Hall is just one example of many unnecessary steps Chartwells takes that detract from the student experience in dining halls.*

*Menus like last week's are undoubtedly appropriate—they purport to "honor" or "appreciate" a culture without any apparent regard for authenticity or input from actual members of that culture.*

*I've seen this in Smith Hall many times, and the example of the attempt at Indian food sticks out in my mind. Pita bread and naan, I've been told, are two different things.*

*I realize Chartwells management is not consciously trying to offend or hurt anyone; but regardless of the intent, these menus still perpetuate inaccurate cultural stereotypes. They could avoid issues like last week's by consulting black students before making the menu, rather than asking for their input afterward.*

*Doing so would be an actual appreciation—or at least a step toward it—rather than an attempted one, and would likely make the food more authentic and appetizing.*

*It seemed this used to be common practice, though—Chartwells Supervisor Beverly Coleman was involved in "Soul Food Nights" in Welch Hall before the foodservice there was discontinued. I can't help but wonder why her input was not asked for in this most recent instance, and why the name was changed. Much controversy could have been avoided had those things happened.*

*This is not the only way in which Chartwells is problematic, however.*

*Nearly every lunch or dinner I eat in the Food Court coats my plate with a rather thick layer of oil or butter. I avoid Smith Hall because the food there often leaves me feeling bloated and ill.*

*Chartwells often purports to use local and fresh ingredients, so I previously couldn't help but wonder why I had such a negative physical reaction to the food.*

*Evidence is contrary to these propositions, though. Eggs are rarely fresh from the shell; rather, they are a pre-beaten liquid mixture that's easy to quickly scramble.*

*I've seen grill workers in the Food Court spray a layer of oily cooking spray on each individual black bean burger they were cooking. The chicken is often rubbery and undercooked.*

*These are not my definitions of "fresh."*

*Additionally, my vegetarian friends are often left with little to no eating options besides salad. Nearly everything contains meat or is cooked in some sort of meat-based stock. Gluten-sensitive students, faculty and staff have issues, too—besides bagels, pizza, cookies and bread, there's little that doesn't contain an allergen for them. Vegan options are even more limited.*

*To me, Chartwells has much room for improvement. Perhaps some of the responsibility lies on us as students—Gene Castelli is always open to comments and complaints, and welcomes members of the OWU community to suggest how Chartwells can improve his service.*

*Don't hesitate to do so. I don't think I'm the only one who is tired of feeling lethargic after a meal on campus.*

*Mr. Castelli, consider this my open letter to you as someone you and your company serve. I hope you'll take these things to heart, and that you'll listen to my peers with the same sincerity.*

Noah Manskar  
Editor-in-Chief

## Quotes of the week:

*"Food isn't racist. People are racist, but food isn't racist."* -- **Chartwells Resident District Manager Gene Castelli**

*"When (other students) see this food, they think this is what black people eat."* -- **Senior Andrew Dos Santos**

# Booted: When OWU parking becomes a problem

By Jane Suttmeier  
Photography Editor

It took me a while to figure out why I keep having problems with Ohio Wesleyan's policies, but it all seems to be clear now. I have a car. Normally, for a teenage girl, that statement would be a dream come true—shiny red car sitting in the lot with a big red bow.

Instead, that shiny red car has glue stuck to its windows and remnants of a neon orange sign proclaiming ignorance. In the windshield wipers are specks of some 20 tickets that have been broken down by weathering over time that occasionally fly up and out as I'm driving to give a quick reminder of my poor life choices—or should I say parking choices. That front tire is a little bit soggier than others; drooping from its many punishments given by hard, cold metal bars.

They call them boots. I don't approve of the word given to that awful orange metal restraint. I like boots. I wear boots constantly. My car, on the other hand, should not be. My poor car, my poor wallet, taken advantage of by the "man."

*"I wonder, is there an officer whose job is solely stalking the spots, waiting and watching for that one student who parks in the Hayes circle to get a notebook and waits for the door to close to ticket her car? When do they have time for this?"*

You know those safe, "you probably won't get attacked by a townie if you park here," spaces right outside of my dorm late at night coming back from the library? Those six or seven spaces that are available in the dimly lit parking arenas of Hayes and then cross through to the other side, where there are eight or nine more in Smith? "Why are these spaces empty?" I wonder.

Is it that all the other journalists like me are out late working on a story? Or is it because no one wanted to pay for a parking pass that they were going to have to upgrade later on for a rough estimate of over \$500 by senior year? Maybe it's because students who actually live in those dorms can't even park there because those spaces are allotted to people of superiority to them, those

superior B-parkers that never show up. Or maybe Public Safety is too worried about the safety of their parking than of their own students.

I wonder, is there an officer whose job is solely stalking the spots, waiting and watching for that one student who parks in the Hayes circle to get a notebook and waits for the door to close to ticket her car. When do they have time for this?

I wonder if tickets are like their tips. Or the administration's tips, as if their pay isn't more than satisfactory with what they charge us to go here.

Why else would they spend so much time charging students for all their worth for an ability to drive onto a slab of concrete with paint by number lines?

But some can get away with it. Maybe they got a B

pass given to them by a student who went abroad.

Four unpaid tickets, it's a boot.

Four boots, it's a tow.

I'm guessing Public Safety doesn't have a secret tow truck, so they have to call one in. I saw the tow man one time, stalling creepily on the side of the lot, much like a hungry vulture preying the on owner's sanity and pocket cash. It's the circle of life, really—the circle of Hayes, or that ominous Stuyvesant lot that seemed heaven-sent. In reality, they crammed all the Cs into an abandoned lot behind a creepy house that may or may not be a SLU. But who knows the real truth?

Emily Lias, a freshman this year, is just one of the many victims. "There is not a fair amount of C parking spots close to the dorms," she said.

Lias, who has had around nine violations, thinks it's time to take a stand. "I don't agree with them booting the cars and towing them after three days when they don't alert you that there is a boot in the first place."

It looks like it's not just my pretty red car with a pretty hefty bill from OWU Public Safety.

## How to tackle the 800 pound gorilla Student believes a solution to off-campus housing should be found

By Tim Alford  
News Editor

Off-campus housing has been a tough and controversial issue in the three years I have been at Ohio Wesleyan. However, last year the university continued going completely residential and did not have an off-campus lottery, as I have heard there has been in the past. We all came back to school this year to find many of the houses and apartments students lived in on Oak Hill Avenue, Spring Street, Park Avenue and Sandusky Street occupied by Delaware residents or left empty.

I am trying to find what the benefits of this policy actually are. Sure, "residential campus" may sound great on a pamphlet high school seniors receive when they are applying to schools. It gets the university more money out of room and board. I have heard many arguments that it is supposed to bring the campus together, as well. But is it what students really want?

This question was answered for me during the course of an interview I did for my profile story on Public Safety Officer Jay McCann that ran in the Transcript last week. McCann says he has talked to students from every culture, concept, clique, social group, "you name it," and 80 percent of them say they want to live off-campus their junior and senior year.

Why should McCann's word be taken in this situation? He has been with Ohio Wesleyan for eight years. He generally works the night shift, which naturally puts him in contact with students on the social side of campus, not the academic. McCann seems to make it a point to talk to students when he sees them on his shift. Students seem to trust McCann enough to

talk to him about what their complaints are.

I think the common misconception is that students want off-campus housing just to hold parties. Of course, off-campus houses help give the university some aspect of a social life that is not a university-sponsored event.

But, according to McCann, the top reason students say they want to live off-campus is so they can rent and start learning how to be independent. I'm going to have to agree with McCann that it is definitely healthy to want to learn to be independent.

But that option seems to be off the table. So now we have to look for a solution. The university wants to make everyone live in the dorms. The social scene has been lacking probably because students don't always want to attend university events or go through the hassles of registering one themselves. What now?

The solution McCann has offered, which he calls "the 800 pound gorilla in the room that no one wants to talk about", is an on-campus club. That's not necessarily an on-campus bar, but an on-campus club. Chartwells would handle the limited amount of alcohol to be served – if any – and the club would be for students only. McCann thinks the perfect place for this would be in Pfeiffer Natatorium because there are no neighbors that would be bothered and it has direct access from the JAYwalk.

It would be much safer for students than going to the bars downtown to dance because students would not have to walk on Spring Street to get home and only OWU students would be allowed into the club.

Unfortunately, McCann has yet to find someone with money to listen to him about this idea.

I think this idea, or some form of it, needs to be talked about more. There has been something missing with the social life at Ohio Wesleyan in recent years. The community has not seemed to be there outside of everyone's social group, fraternity, sorority, or SLU. This campus needs something get everyone excited and involved.

I hope the administration considers talking to students more about what they want to see improved on campus. We have had a lot of great improvements over my three years here. Stuyvesant Hall looks fantastic, the gym has never been better and the JAYwalk has received some nice renovations. But I still think there is work to be done.

I hope McCann's ideas get heard by someone. He definitely has a different insight by the nature of the job he does. I encourage students to stop and talk to McCann when you see him riding around on duty. There was so much more conversation we had when I rode along with him that I did not have room for in one story.

I also encourage someone from the administration to ride along with Public Safety on a shift sometime to see what campus life is like after 5 p.m. and not at a basketball game or dining hall. The ride-along itself was interesting outside of all of the conversation we had.

Despite all of my critiques, I am still extremely happy and blessed to be at Ohio Wesleyan. I just want to see this university continue to grow and improve in ways the students can have more fun in safer environment after I graduate.

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...To maintain an open forum for discussion of campus issues and other pertinent matters.  
...To provide students with journalistic experience while educating them in the procedures of a working newspaper.  
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# Arts & Entertainment

## VSA rings in Lunar New Year

By Emily Hostettler  
and Sarah Jane Sheehan  
Transcript Correspondents

Red and yellow filled the Benes Room at 5 p.m. on February 9 for the annual Vietnamese Student Association’s Lunar New Year event.

To many Vietnamese students at Ohio Wesleyan, the Lunar New Year is just as important as Christmas is to some American students.

On Feb. 9, the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) gathered students and teachers to celebrate the holiday with music, food and performances.

Freshman Khan Quoc Le, VSA president, said the Lunar New Year celebration is a time for the club’s members to get together.

“Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday in Vietnam,” he said. “It’s when people gather together with friends and family to have fun.”

Tet Nguyen Dan, or Tet, is celebrated on the first day of the first month of the Lunar Calendar, which differs from the Gregorian calendar—it is separated into 12 months with 30 days per month, according to Vietnam Online.

VSA integrated education into their event by opening the celebration with a documentary about Tet in Vietnam.

Dancing and singing performances by VSA members followed the film—there was a hip-hop dance choreographed by two members of the club that incorporated other students.

Two more performances came after the dance. One song was performed by Freshman Taji Wright sang a song in English and sophomore Thanh Vo joined her in Vietnamese. Finally, the whole club performed a traditional Vietnamese song.

During the rest of the event, the club set up a microphone for open performances. Many attendees performed songs, while one performed poetry.

“It is VSA tradition to organize Lunar New Year as a campus involvement event, and we wish to share a part of our culture to OWU,” Quoc Le said.

According to junior Ha Le, VSA members worked all Friday night and Saturday preparing food.

“All the food cooked for the event is traditional Vietnamese food: sticky rice, braised pork, spring roll and egg roll, and they all appear in traditional Lunar New Year celebration,”

*“Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday in Vietnam. It’s when people gather together with friends and family to have fun,” said Khan Quoc Le, VSA president.*

Quoc Le said.

Sophomore Mary Ann Lee said she had never been to the Lunar New Year celebration on campus before, but enjoyed the event.

“I really like the Vietnamese food,” she said. “The performances were really cool, especially how they sang in Vietnamese.”

Senior Alan Massouh said he wanted to make sure he got a chance to come to the event before he graduated.

“It was recommended to me by my South Korean friend,” he said. “It’s an excellent cultural experience all around.”

The Benes rooms were decorated in red and yellow, two colors that represent good fortune in Vietnamese culture, according to Vietnam Online.

It is also traditional to hand out gifts to friends and family members to ensure good fate for the rest of the year.

“We also handed out red envelope(s) at reception, which is an activity adapted from Vietnamese tradition of handing out lucky money in red envelope(s),” Quoc Lee said.

According to the Lunar Calendar and Vietnamese culture, 2013 represents the year of the snake—a year of love, peace and prosperity for many.

“This is a time of celebration at the end of the year,” Le said. “We always wish for luck, prosperity, health, success and love.”

Le also said her family speaks with a monk who predicts what the year may hold for their family.

“It’s something very important to us and we just want to share a part of our culture,” Le said. “I used to miss not being home for it, but you get used to it.”

Nguyen said VSA will be doing events to promote awareness of Agent Orange, a chemical weapon used in the Vietnam War, in the spring.



Photos by Emily Hostettler

Top: Students dance in the Vietnamese Student Association’s Lunar New Year Event. Middle Left: Freshmen Leah Duong and Legacy Nguyen demonstrate their hip hop skills while dancing for the crowd. Middle Right: Junior Prabh Kaur and freshmen Leah Duong and Legacy Nguyen dance to a mix of modern songs during one of the first performances of the night. Bottom: Seniors Anh Vo and Dung Pham play music to open Saturday’s festivities.

## Not your grandpa’s high tops

By Emily Lunstroth  
Transcript Columnist

High tops first became popular back when Converse All Stars were the only athletic shoe available. Now everyone not only wears converse, but different brands of high tops as well.

High tops are no longer reserved for skaters, basketball players or authentic hipsters. You can even walk around our campus and realize that wearing converse/tennis shoes or any type of athletic shoe is no longer about being lazy or wanting to be comfortable but is part of a style- a fashion statement.

In the past few months high tops have taken on a new rise in the fashion world. Up until now Nike and other athletic companies were the only brands to really offer high tops. Because of this they were sold at a middle price point in a wide range of colors and styles.

Street styles, like high tops, often take over the fashion world and work their way into high-end brands, as well as more affordable brands. You can now find high tops (even with a wedge) ranging from \$20 to \$300. Before this trend started, the shoe was only available in the middle price range; but now anyone has access, and the options are endless when it comes to style and quality.

The trend started in the streets with the true skaters and hipsters, but is now worn by celebrities and trendsetters. Does that mean it is for everyone? Honestly, no.

When I started seeing this shoe (in the black with a small hidden wedge) I was intrigued but knew ‘ha you could never pull that off’. I was right, an unnamed friend and I talked about how we loved the look on others but could admit we were not “cool” enough to wear them.

To put that little voice to rest in the back of our heads that said ‘oh come on yes you could’ we went to Target and tried them on. I can now say with confidence not everyone can pull them off, not everyone can pull off every trend.



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## Businesses get lucky on Valentine’s Day

Average romantic customer spends over \$100

By Brian Cook  
Transcript Correspondent

Students have already started to splurge for their loved ones on Valentine’s Day. Tonight, they will likely spend even more.

Restaurants in the greater Columbus area stand to receive a boost in revenue for Valentine’s Day, with much of the money coming from students on dates.

Despite Columbus’s diverse options, sophomore Brian Williams said Delaware is a great place to celebrate, too.

“There are several nice restaurants in town that would serve my needs adequately enough,” he said.

Williams said he does not have a car and would not like to rely on someone else to drive him and his date to a restaurant closer to Columbus.

Junior Cory Poulton, however, said he felt a dinner in Columbus would be a better experience.

“I like going to the hole-in-the-wall restaurants that have been around forever,” he said. “It’s not that Delaware doesn’t have those restaurants, but I’ve been to a lot of them already. I think a newer experience would be more fun.”

Poulton said he bought tickets for the Ohio State basketball game on Valentine’s Day, so he will spend the night there with his girlfriend instead of going out to dinner. However, he said, they will likely go out for dinner at some point during the week.

Junior Madeline Miguel said she will not go out to eat on Valentine’s Day, but the restaurant options in town have nothing to do with the decision.

“My boyfriend is currently in Ireland doing the Cork Program that OWU has,” Miguel said. “So I’ll be Skype dating him instead of going out to dinner.”

According to a study published by TIME Magazine last year, the average American will spend \$126.03 on gifts, food and other amenities for Valentine’s Day.

Poulton said his total tab will not quite equal the American average, but would not be shocked to hit triple digits.

According to the same study, about 220,000 wedding proposals will occur on Valentine’s Day, which account for about 10 percent of the annual total.

On the other end of the spectrum, the survey said there is typically a 40-percent increase in requests for divorce lawyers around mid-February.



# Bishops Sports

## OWU student discovers runners who share her passion

By **Brittany Vickers**  
*Transcript Correspondent*

Rays from the early morning sun waned through snow filled clouds. It was a chilly Saturday morning in January, a few leftover flurries from last night’s snowstorm drifted down. My car clock read 7:30 a.m. 19 degrees.

Cars crowded a shockingly full parking lot at Thomas Worthington High School. People bundled up in leggings, sweatpants and brightly colored jackets all shuffled in the same direction. Each person completed his or her look with running shoes.

I joined the flow towards the school’s entrance and suddenly I was surrounded by at least 200 bubbly, chatty people – ready to brave the weather for their weekend run.

According to the statistics, a possible 1,000 runners surrounded me. 67 percent female, 37 percent male, 46 percent of us were beginners, 45 percent experienced and nine percent advanced, all of us training for some type of marathon; 57 percent taking on the full 26.2 miles and the remaining 43 percent of us taking on 13.1 miles.

I was looking for Jeff, the head coach of Marathoners In Training (MIT).

“There is Jeff, he’s the tallest guy you’ll ever meet,” a fellow runner with dark hair and a headband pointed across the slew of bodies. Indeed, Jeff stood two or three heads taller than everyone else in the crowd. I later learned he is “unofficially the tallest runner in Columbus,” from his online biography.

I made my way over. “You must be Brittany!” he said.

I sized him up: runner’s leggings, Brooks shoes, tufts of brown hair poking up a bit here and there, a bright yellow jacket with letters advertising, “MIT” and a marathon sized smile. He was oozing passion.

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A runner for life, Jeff began his career on the Thomas Worthington high school cross-country team. He continued his running at Otterbein University, and was determined to keep running post-college. So, in 2004 he signed on as Thomas Worthington’s head cross-country coach. Saturday morning meets meant the bus left early from the school, and Jeff and his team weren’t the only people standing outside in their running gear.

“I kept seeing all of these people getting together to run,” Jeff recalled. “I thought, ‘Man, I want to be a part of what they’re doing.’”

\*\*\*\*\*

So what is MIT doing? That’s what I was there to find out. May 13, the day of my very first half-marathon, was looming close in my mind. I wanted to do well so badly! But whenever I mentioned it to my friends and family they all looked at me like I was crazy: “13 miles!?” “You’re insane.” “Good luck with that!” I turned to scouring the Internet, and stumbled across MIT’s website.

“Change your life. One mile at a time.”

A clickable slogan if I’ve ever seen one. The hyperlink lead me to a website full of testimonials, photos of smiling, fit people and lists of training program potentials for halves, fulls and multi-sport races. All this in Columbus, Ohio? The same city listed in 2002 as the sixth-fattest city in America?

Yes, MIT is in Columbus, and has been since 2000, when it began with just 90 participants and 4 volunteer running coaches. Since 2001 the group has run approximately 2.7 million miles together, with it’s largest group the summer of 2012, totaling over 1,000 runners and 60 coaches.

The group runs together on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings, does core and cross training workouts Tuesday and Sunday mornings and attends a myriad of clinics on today’s relevant health and wellness topics.

The program options include the Full Marathon package, the Half Marathon package, the Multi Sport package or the Year Long membership.

The Full Marathon package is a 20-25 week program, depending on the date of your marathon, at \$120 for new members and \$100 for alumni.

The Half Marathon package consists of a four-month program, costing \$100 for newbies and \$80 for alums.

The Multi Sport Package comes in full or half options and is offered at the same price. It includes the addition of multi-sport specific clinics.

Finally, you could join for the year, which allows you to train for multiple races all year, for a fee of \$200 or \$160 depending on your previous member status.

So, I read the website, and on my first trip to Thomas Worthington I thought there was no way in hell anyone else was braving the 19-degree temperatures to go for an 8 a.m. run.

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“Our 10:30 group is awesome!” Jeff parted the sea of runners to introduce me to my pace coach for the day, Randy.

Randy grinned back at me, held up his 10:30 pacer sign and led our group to the door. Spry

on his feet, greying hair covered by a hat, Randy’s wiry strength gave him a sturdy and reliable look, and he engaged me in friendly conversation.

“How long have you been with MIT?” I ask.

“Oh, I’ve been coaching for probably seven years, but running since 2000.”

“How many marathons have you run?”

“Somewhere over 28...”

I think my jaw may have dropped on the spot. He just grinned, “I trained for the first few myself, but then I found this group. It’s something special. And then I found my running partner, Jill!”

He pulled in a tiny blonde woman in a pink “coach” vest. She laughed; her shy smile and spindly legs shouldn’t be mistaken for weakness, though – she had a look of steely determination about her as she led the other half of the 10:30 group.

As we made our way outside I couldn’t help but notice Randy’s conversation with almost every runner we passed, “Hey, how ya doin’ there, Dave?” “Tim! How’s the knee?” “It’s great to see you out again Sarah!”

And, although Randy spoke to a remarkable nine out of every ten, it wasn’t just him. I made a 360-degree turn: hugs, high fives, waves and cheery greetings. Everyone knew each other, more than that – everyone seemed to really like each other.

“This is where all my friends are!” 5’2”, her dark hair pulled back in a ponytail, Mikea’s face peered out from between her furry head band and high collared jacket. She started MIT because she had baby weight to lose and she couldn’t make it past the three-mile hump (today we were running six).

Now she runs with a close knit group of MIT women, at what she jokingly calls the 10:36 minute pace due to occasional injuries, 4 or 5 times a week.

“MIT changes your life,” she told me, “I’ve met my best friends here, lost my baby weight and run a marathon. I love coming every time, these are seriously the best people.”

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MIT is run out of the Fleet Feet store in Polaris, a franchise operation with a small town feel. I went to see the shoes, Jeff in his natural habitat and what Fleet Feet was all about.

Shiny storefront windows glimmered in the winter sun. I walked in and immediately focused on the back wall, which featured a rainbow of shoes – every color, style and type you could imagine. Jeff and I sat next to the glorious wall of shoes and chatted.

He told me stories of his mom and dad rediscovering running through MIT; how out of his 60 volunteer coaches just two of them would consider themselves lifelong runners – the rest had found their passion later in life through MIT; how the passing of a group member led to a funeral procession of running jackets in every color.

He gave me story after story, person after person, life after life, that MIT had changed, one mile at a time. If he can get just half of the “bucket list” people, as he called them, to stay with MIT as an existence and not just a checklist, he was making a difference.

This group isn’t just a workout. It’s a lifestyle. Every person I spoke to at MIT said, “Yes, we’re crazy, but I’m so glad to be a part of this.” Jeff, Randy, Doug, Mikea, Tim, Anne, Jill and so many others who were friendly enough to let me pester them as we ran – not one of them had a negative word to say.

No matter where they started or where they were headed in their life, Saturday mornings were the release, the escape, and the best way to start their weekend.

They don’t come just to run; they stay after and catch up, they meet up at local restaurants for a weekly breakfast gathering and they join book clubs together. Those are just a few examples from the people I had a chance to talk to.

In the short span of time I was attending, I was invited to several of these activities and immediately accepted without a second thought. If I was crazy enough to join them on their Saturday run, I was crazy enough to join them in the rest of their endeavors.

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Bodies warm, steamy breaths and spirits high – the final half-mile felt like flying. I ran in next to Dave, who’s making a comeback with the group after taking some time off. We chatted for a while about his stepdaughter’s volleyball career and college decisions.

It felt like we were already fast friends, we exchanged numbers and I offered my advice to his stepdaughter regarding collegiate volleyball decisions. He smiled and told me how proud he is I’m taking on the half in May.

I walked to my car feeling completely exhilarated. One run and I was hooked.

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On my last visit to MIT, Jeff gave me an offer I can’t refuse, “Come back and train with us. We would love to have you!” And I will be back, college student or not – my foreseeable future on Friday nights revolves around my Saturday morning run. The crazy in MIT is contagious; but if you ask me, it’s worth catching.



Photos by Brittany Vickers

**Top: The 12-minute pace group from the Marathoners In Training (MIT) running club braves the snowy weather to complete a run at Antrum Park in Worthington.**  
**Above: MIT’s 10-minute pace group poses at the end of their run on a dock in Antrum Park. MIT offers multiple pace groups to runners training for a variety of events.**

### Wooster defeats men’s basketball in overtime

**By Graham Lucas**  
*Transcript Correspondent*

He’ll be a great player in this league when he’s a senior.”

OWU would go scoreless for about four minutes until senior forward Marshall Morris split his free throws, increasing the Bishops lead to six.

Wooster’s senior forward Josh Claytor snatched up an offensive rebound and scored to bring the Scots within 60-58 with 1:17 left in the game.

OWU senior guard Andy Winters would commit a turnover on a deflected pass. The Scots turned the turnover into points when Brown hit a jump-shot from the top of the key to tie the game at 60-60 with :25 in regulation.

Junior guard Dre White missed a game-winner with :3 left on the clock.

“We kept swinging the ball, looking for the best shot,” White said. “I was able to get one off, but it was contested. I didn’t dwell on it, though; we still had overtime to play, and a chance to get the W (win).”

The Fighting Scots opened the overtime period with a 10-2 scoring run contributed by Claytor, Brown, and junior guard Doug Thorpe. Senior guard Anjuwon Spence said

the Bishops were not able to match the Scots’ shooting efforts.

“We had a difficult time hitting shots in OT (overtime), and in order to win, you gotta to put the ball in the basket,” Spence said.

The Battling Bishops only hit three out of nine shots in overtime. Four of OWU’s misses came from beyond the arc.

Junior Taylor Rieger, a transfer guard and the teams’ leading scorer, hit a 3-pointer with :43 left in overtime.

In the time remaining, Wooster’s Thorpe drained his last four foul shots to seal the game.

Wooster identically swept conference rival Wittenberg. The Scots win this past Saturday against Wittenberg earned them an outright NCAC title, their fifteenth title overall.

The Battling Bishops will look to win their last two regular season games against Denison and Wabash to finish with their best record the past five years. The Bishops may also earn a rematch against the Scots in the NCAC tournament, which begins on Feb. 19.

## Weekly Scoreboard:

Feb. 6 - Men’s Basketball v Wooster (67-74)  
Women’s Basketball v Wooster (46-69)

Feb. 9 - Men’s Basketball v Hiram (63-61)  
Women’s Basketball v Hiram (69-68)  
Men’s Tennis v Otterbein (1-8)  
Women’s Tennis v Otterbein (0-9)  
Men’s Track & Field at All-Ohio DIII Championships (2nd of 20)  
Women’s Track & Field at All-Ohio DIII Championships (2nd of 19)