

2013 Bishop Games

Bishop Champion Games celebrate different abilities



Photo by Jane Suttmeier

Junior Kate Nance (left) dances down the track during one of the Bishop Champion Games events. Check out more photos on page 3.

By Jacob Beach
Transcript Reporter
and Phillipe Chauveau
Transcript Correspondent

The weather was warm and so was the atmosphere at this year's third annual Bishop Champion Games.

The Ohio Wesleyan Athletic Council sponsored the event; proceeds went to expenses for next year's games. The games' website said its events are geared to partici-

pants with special needs ages 8 and up.

Sophomore Kylea Davis was in charge of the Games this year. She said she was "honored" to put on the event.

"We can all learn a lot from each other, I feel it's not the responsibility but we, as athletes, should be using our abilities to celebrate the abilities of other athletes," she said.

Student-athlete volunteers staffed the event. Some helped set up and cheer on

the athletes, while others were assigned to be buddies of athletes. Buddies helped athletes find their way around and perform better in each event. Freshman Sara Johnson, a member of the OWAC, was assigned as a buddy.

"He was a bit shy and wanted to sit with his parents first but after I showed him that we had balloon toss, he came out of his shell," she said.

After 10 minutes for the athletes to get to know their buddies, they were directed to their respective competitions, starting with the Softball Toss and the Football Toss.

The athlete's throws were measured and the top results were recorded, but the real point of the events was to have fun. After their turns, competitors would throw the balls around between themselves and with the volunteers, creating a friendly environment for everyone.

Next up, the athletes competed in 20- and 50-meter dashes. The races went by quickly, and they were very interested to see how fast they could run.

Senior Emily Johnson, an OWU athlete, has volunteered at all three Bishop Champion Games events. She said working with this year's competitors "brought tears to (her)

eyes."

"I run cross country and track here at OWU, and often forget to be grateful for the fact that I am blessed with the ability to run, let alone walk," she said. "Just seeing the participants in these events reminds me to be thankful for what I have. Instead of being upset that I didn't run two seconds faster in my race, I should be thankful that I have to legs to run with at all."

Junior Holly Fouch, another OWU student-athlete who helped with the games, said she learned a lot from the event that she plans to apply to her own athletic career.

"Winning is always fun, but it's the relationships with others and the memories from them that will last throughout the years," she said. "It just help(s) put everything in perspective that regardless of physical capabilities every athlete involved was giving their best and it was incredibly inspiring to watch."

OWAC had a little more help with this year's game from fellow NCAC school Hiram College.

Hiram recently started its own athletic council and was looking for way to expand their program and give back to their community.

"Going to other people's

events and seeing how they run them is definitely going to help us," said Hiram freshmen Emily Mortimer.

Hiram brought about 10 student athletes two hours and 15 minutes by van to the games to help and learn from the experience. Hiram senior Katie Valaitis said the collaboration with OWU is an effort to "raise awareness and knowledge," building on other service-oriented campaigns like Relay for Life to garner support for a similar event

there.

I think it's great and is something that more colleges should do," she said.

Johnson recalls the games' closing ceremonies as her favorite part, and one of the most emotional.

"(We all lined) up to create a tunnel for the athletes to run through during the awards ceremony," she said.

"As they ran through, all of the OWU athletes held out or hands for high fives and cheered for them."



Photo by Jane Suttmeier

Games competitor Andrew Bledsoe is accompanied by an OWU student as he goes for the gold. Check out more photos on page 3.

Community Market campaign builds

By Cecilia Smith
Transcript Correspondent

The Delaware Community Market will be on the ballot for next year's off-campus food point program.

Junior Alex D'Amore-Braver, a House of Thought resident, has been campaigning to get the Community Market on the off-campus food point list as his house project for this semester.

The Community Market, located on East William Street, sells local food and gives some proceeds to charities.

D'Amore-Braver has been tabling in the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center to raise awareness for his goal.

"It's just been strategizing and laying down the groundwork," he said. "My goal is to make sure the Community Market makes it out of the nomination stage and actually on the food-point program."

According to D'Amore-Braver, the Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs (WCSA) recently voted to put the market on the ballot for next

year. He said the project came from his interest in food issues.

"I've read that people are getting away from the source of their food," he said. "...I would like it in general if people were eating more fresh food and supporting the local economy."

Because the Community Market is about a mile from the school, D'Amore-Braver said part of his project will include arranging transportation to and from the market, which he hopes will increase patronage from the community. He said he thinks many potential patrons "are the people who aren't aware of it and who haven't been there."

Freshman Mili Green said she didn't know about the Community Market, but said she would vote to add it to the off-campus program.

"There are times when you need a real meal, you know?" she said. "It would be nice to make it on my own without spending real money."

D'Amore-Braver said voting for the program will take place in the middle of April.

Gitter predicts Ohio as new destination for Mexican migrants

By Rachel Vinciguerra
Transcript Correspondent

Economics Professor Robert Gitter told students Thursday that one of 20 workers in America can say they were born in Mexico.

Gitter spoke about Mexican migration to central Ohio as part of the Norman J. Gharrrity Lecture Series, put on last Thursday at noon by the Department of Economics.

The series is in honor of Gharrrity, a retired economics professor who taught at OWU from 1962 to 2005. According to the pamphlet distributed at the lecture, Gharrrity had a particular interest in deepening understandings of relations between nations and especially differences of how economies function.

Junior Andrew Paik, student chair of the economics department, said it is part of his job to find speakers for the Norman Gharrrity Lecture series.

"It's designed to promote learning outside of the classroom environment and provide interesting lectures about economics and management for our students," he said.

He said Gitter selected the

topic of his lecture, titled La Travesia A Delaware Y Columbus: A Look at Mexican Migration to Central Ohio.

Gitter said Gharrrity was invited to attend on Thursday, and he wished he could have been there.

"I have learned a lot through him," Gitter said.

Gitter said he wanted to approach the topic of Mexican migration to Ohio from four perspectives: as an economist, as a historian, in relation to public policy and through the lens of current issues and concerns.

From a historical perspective, Gitter said the quotas established for immigration to the United States between 1890-1920 were set based on statistics from 1830-1890.

"I think it's interesting how laws are passed and what ends up happening can be quite different," he said.

By the 1940s, the Bracero program had been implemented to bring Mexican workers into the United States for periods of 6 months during World War II, Gitter said. During that time, the U.S. government deported Mexicans through the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the De-

partment of Labor was stamping their papers and sending them back because there was a need for a workers.

"Then in 1965, LBJ (Lyndon B. Johnson) signed the Immigration and Nationality Act," Gitter said. "And that's still a law today."

The Immigration and Nationality Act abolished the established quotas and dramatically increased the number of people who were allowed into the country.

Gitter said the single most important factor for an immigrant to gain entry to the country today is family reunification. These people will also migrate to places where the cost of living is lower and where their friends, family and townspeople have settled.

"Mexican migrants, then, tend to be more concentrated," he said.

Gitter said places like California and Texas were the main destination states for Mexican immigrants until the 1990s; but since 2000, that is changing. Today states like North Carolina and Ohio are also major destinations.

"It's not that they go right from Mexico to Ohio," he said. "The story is usually, 'I

left Mexico, went to California and wound up in Ohio.'"

He said there are three main concentrations of Mexican migrants in Columbus today: on Broad Street, near the airport and on Morse Road.

Paik said Gitter's reinforcement of how close to home these issues are struck a chord with him.

"Latin American migration has continued to become a more and more important issue for Americans, not just in California and Texas, but all over the country," he said. "With immigration reform on the table and the evidence of increasing migration to Ohio...I found the lecture very relevant."

Gitter said he predicts Mexican migration to the United States will slow as education and political systems improve across Mexico. He also said Mexican migration in the United States will continue to flow to central Ohio.

The lecture ended with a brief set of photographs showing the Latin American presence in central Ohio.

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Lifeguard hours cut at Meek & Edwards
 Affected student workers notified by email

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Do you vote?
 Many factors effect national and local turnout

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Bishops take double-header
 Baseball wins two home games against Otterbein

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Life guards at Meek and Edwards lose hours, little warning

By Taylor Stoudt
Transcript Reporter

At 9:30 p.m. on Friday, March 29, students working as lifeguards at the Meek Aquatics and Recreation Center received an email from Aquatic Director Michael Kroll informing then of the cut in hours at Meek and Edwards Gymnasium. For some students, this was less than three days’ notice that they would no longer have a work-study job.

The Federal Work-Study program is a program offered at Ohio Wesleyan for students who qualify for financial aid. Through the program, funded by the federal government as part of the U.S. Department of Education, students earn money for their education by working for the school.

Each year OWU receives a certain amount of work-study funds that they then distribute

to students who qualify. Students are then given the number of hours they are required to work in order to fulfill their federal work study and receive their financial aid.

According to a written response from Facilities Director Dustin Rudegeair, the cut in hours is a result in the failure to properly budget student employment funds and the number of work hours given to students.

“The cuts that have been made recently are due to the amount of student employment funds remaining in this year’s budget,” Rudegeair wrote. “While it is unfortunate that these cuts had to take place this year, we are still proud of the fact that between Meek and Edwards we were able to provide nearly 100 students with an on-campus job throughout most of the school year. We have also already identified ways to prevent

“Overall, our staff feels very forgotten, in a way. We have one of the largest staffs on campus, but we weren’t given a large enough budget or any real notice. I don’t think the school should be able to do this in the middle of the semester when it will be nearly impossible for students to find alternative work if they need it,” said sophomore Hannah Snapp

this from happening in the future(.)”

In the email Kroll sent to students Friday evening, he included the changes to Meek’s hours of operation and the need to redraft the work schedule.

“By re-doing the schedule it will make the cuts more uniform across the board and hopefully will not result in guards being let go entirely, however I cannot guarantee this,” Kroll’s email read. “The

schedule will be done by seniority (based on semesters worked at Meek, not student status).”

Meek will no longer be open from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., will be open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. only on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the SCUBA class, and will now be closing at 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and closing at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. These changes have not yet been posted on the OWU website.

Sophomore Hannah Snapp is one of over 30 students affected by these changes. She said the university did not offer the guards who were cut any other work opportunities.

“Guards who lost all their hours were offered to stay on as substitutes,” she said. “Our entire staff had federal work study, according to my boss.”

Snapp was working an average of 10 hours a week for her work-study and has had her schedule reduced to five hours. She said this is a problem because she has not yet earned the work-study amount the university allocated her.

“Overall, our staff feels very forgotten, in a way,” Snapp said. “We have one of the largest staffs on campus, but we weren’t given a large enough budget or any real notice. I don’t think the school should be able to do this in the middle of the semester when

it will be nearly impossible for students to find alternative work if they need it.”

According to Snapp, the federal work-study budget for the pool did not accurately reflect the realistic amount of lifeguards required to safely run the facility.

“(T)his is the school not treating its student employees fairly,” Snapp said. “We jump through a lot of hoops to work here to begin with from payments being months behind to the ridiculous system implemented to actually hire us.”

In addition to the cut in lifeguard hours, work studies for desk attendants in the Meek lobby and Edwards lobby have been eliminated entirely.

When asked to be interviewed about the cut in hours, Kroll and strength & conditioning coach and weight room supervisor Seth McGuffin did not respond to requests for comment.

MIGRATION, from Page 1

From the Jalisco Market, the Mexican grocery store in Delaware, to pictures of taco trucks in Columbus, Gitter said Mexican populations around Columbus have increased in the last ten years, some with an entrepreneurial bend.

“And the food in the taco trucks is a lot better than Dan’s Deli,” he said.

Junior Rachel Tallmadge said she attended the lecture as a student of economics who was interested in what Gitter had to say.

“I thought the lecture was really insightful and well done,” she said. “I took away from it how difficult and dangerous the labor is that is typically available

to Mexican immigrants in the United States.”

Junior Katie Buckingham also attended the lecture because she said she wanted to learn more about Mexican migration.

“I’ve heard him speak on this topic before,” she said. “I thought it was really interesting and well-balanced. I’ll definitely be more aware of the makeup of my surroundings now.”

Paik said the turnout was better than they had expected and even better than the turnout in previous years according to senior Alyssa Ferrando, the outgoing chair.

“I account that to the topic of the lecture since we’ve been using the same type of advertising methods for the last

few years,” he said.

Paik said economics department secretary Lisa Garvin should be credited with the success of the lecture, along with other board members

“She was extremely helpful in planning and organizing the event,” he said.

Paik said the event was a success and that he found himself comparing Gitter’s lecture to similar experiences of his friends at OWU.

“One of my acquaintances, who happens to be Guatemalan and also undocumented, lived in one of the areas Gitter described and experienced a very similar form of migration that Gitter described,” he said. “I think this lecture helpful students to understand the experiences of these immigrants.”

OWU Habitat builds future with local Family Promise

By Emily Hostettler
Transcript Correspondent

Volunteers from the Habitat for Humanity Chapters of Ohio Wesleyan and Delaware County volunteers are teaming up to build the county’s first homeless shelter just a few blocks from campus.

The new Family Promise House, located on 39 W. Washington Street, will be open to homeless families in the area and will provide shelter, food and support services to help families become independent again.

Sophomore Austin Daniels, OWU Habitat president, said the house is the largest ever built by the volunteers.

“(The shelter)’s going to better the community and provide stable support for struggling families,” he said.

Last Saturday, OWU Habitat members worked with Delaware County Habitat members to put siding on the Family Promise house.

Sophomore Jonathan Rodriguez, OWU Habitat treasurer, said he and the other volunteers wanted to make sure the job was done correctly so the siding wouldn’t break over time and end up hurting the people they are trying to help.

Rodriguez said he “felt great” when the group finished.

“We got a lot done and despite the fact that it was very cold and hard work, it was exciting to see that much progress in only four and a half hours,” he said.

The volunteers will continue their work on the Family Promise house this Saturday as

their last build of the year.

According to the Family Promise website, 109 requests for shelter were turned down last year; and three to five families, including some Delaware County families, are denied shelter in Columbus every day.

“There is a lot of poverty in Delaware County and it is important that there are places like the homeless shelter and soup kitchens to help people who are in need,” Rodriguez said. “Students can help a lot by volunteering their time at to help build or staff places like these and Habitat does a really great job at giving students the opportunity to help out those in need.”

Daniels said Habitat had just been re-established last year after its disbanding in 2008-2009. Leadership is currently undergoing the “trials and tribulations” of trying to get a stronger base on campus.

“(Habitat) is a principled organization centered about the core idea of creating awareness and promoting equitable options for families,” he said. “A common misconception is that families get houses for free, but in reality, they have to pay for their houses, as well as pay in ‘sweat equity.’”

While volunteers aren’t at build sites, they also work at Delaware County’s Habitat ReStore at 305 Curtis St.

The store provides Delaware families with affordable repairs and renovation materials, according to its Facebook page. Daniels said the money Habitat brings in at the store funds operation costs and future building projects.

Bilingual poetry reading shows unique perspectives

By Emily Feldmesser
Transcript Correspondent

April 1 brought a bilingual poetry reading by Spanish professor Juan Rojas for the release of Rojas’ new collection, “LUZ/LIGHT.”

Accompanying Rojas was his editor, Ivan Vergara, and his translator Jennifer Rathbun, a professor at Ashland University.

Rojas has named his work “transfronterizo,” or “trans-border,” poetry because he’s constantly crossing borders, both physically and metaphorically.

Rojas said he has poems written in “Spanglish,” a mix of both English and Spanish, and even some written in Portuguese.

“Poetry is usually written in one’s mother’s language,” he said.

Rojas said Vergara, editor of Ultramarina Editorial, asked him to publish a collection of his poems when he was



Juan A. Rojas, Professor of Spanish at Ohio Wesleyan

living in Portugal.

Vergara was working on a collection of his own, so Rojas convinced him to publish them together.

When either Rojas or Vergara read their poem in Spanish, Rathbun would read the stanza back in English to the audience of approximately 100 people comprised of students and people from the Delaware area.

The stories would range

from his hometown of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, or about his time in Portugal.

“In order to talk not just about my experience (of being an immigrant to the U.S.), but in everyone’s experience, and to give a voice to those so called ‘undocumented’ immigrants is that ‘LUZ/LIGHT’ begins to happen,” Rojas said about his inspiration for his new collection.

Rojas said this poetry session is a celebration of language, which was in turn organized to celebrate the release of his new collection.

Junior Hazel Barrera, president of VIVA LatinoAmerica, said it’s important for students to see what other publishers are doing and how creative they are.

In between the poems, Rojas would tell stories describing the background of the poem he was about to read.

“I began daydreaming about being a poet since I was in elementary school in my

hometown of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico,” he said.

“I used to read many Spanish and Latin American authors. I wanted to be like them, travelling, reading and writing.”

Freshman Emma Drongowski found the differences in the poems being read in two languages to be very interesting.

“Although the poems were perfectly translated, the rhythm and essence of the poems did not translate perfectly,” she said.

Freshman Nick Fonesca enjoyed how expressive both the poets were in their readings.

“When Vergara spoke, he used much imagery and accented emotion, while when Rojas spoke, I felt like he was telling a story,” he said.

After the reading, Rojas and Vergara had a bookmaking workshop, in which participants decorated the covers of “LUZ/LIGHT” and were able to keep their creations.

Sound-off OWU



What is your favorite or least favorite class at OWU?



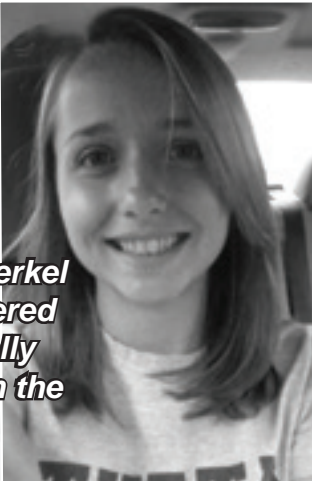
“My favorite class is Classical Issues in Political Theory with Dr. Biser.”
- Anthony Lamoureux, ‘14



“My least favorite class is Great Ideas in Mathematics, but it’s not because of the professor.”
- Katie Wiskofske, ‘16



“My favorite class is Love and Sexuality in Literature in the Arts with Dr. Stone-Mediatore.”
- Lane Bookwalter, ‘16



“The Devil, the Hero, and God with Dr. Merkel was really interesting, and has been offered at OWU for more than 50 years. It’s really cool to talk to alums who have taken it in the past with the same core books.”
- Jenna Rodcay, ‘13



“My favorite class is Role of the School with Dr. Pastors.”
- Mollie Herchenbach, ‘16

Bishop Champion Games rocking out on a beautiful day



Photo by Jane Suttmeier
Above: The Bishop and friends kick off the opening of the Bishop Games. Below: A contestant embraces one of her supporters during the game.

Photo by Jane Suttmeier
Above: Students and contestants cheer each other on during the races, creating a supportive yet competitive environment.
Below: A participant in the Bishop Games gets her face painted by one of the many student volunteers not just from OWU, but from Otterbein and Hiram as well.
Left: A contestant participates in the hula hoop competition. Games range from hula hooping, softball and football toss, foot races and water balloon races.

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Lets talk about Donuts

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As soon as you start thinking about personal health, the conversation on donuts really hits a snag. If donuts were loaded with vitamins and minerals, antioxidants and omega-3's, fiber and protein perhaps the discussion on donuts would go a little differently. Sadly, they are not. Donuts are filled to the brim with bad stuff. In fact, all of the things that make donuts the perfect food also make them awful for your body. Go through the list of overly processed flour, sickeningly sweet frosting, and thoroughly deep fried batter and it's easy to see why donuts might not make your doctor's list of recommended foods. That's not to mention all of the other stuff that can be drizzled on, stuffed into, or dusted over these circular disasters.

All of that said, I stand here in front of you today to say: 'Eat a donut!' Don't eat 6 or even 3, but eat a donut and enjoy it. It might not be good for your body but it will absolutely be good for your soul. Too often, concern for health and wellness becomes a game of absolutes, when instead it is all about balance and moderation. After a donut or two I guarantee your soul will feel better. You will feel refreshed! Rejuvenated! Reinvigorated! But be warned, as soon as balance turns to excess, when 2 donuts turn into a dozen, most of the benefits your soul feels get lost in the sea of sprinkles and chocolate frosting. Eat a donut. Don't worry about it. It's good for you.

Jake Bonnell

Read more at <http://blog.owu.edu/healthybishopblog/>

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The truth about voter turnout rates

Tim Alford
News Editor

It has only been a few months since voters across the country went to booths and voted on candidates for all offices of government. However, it will not be long before the campaign signs and television advertisements start up again to mobilize voters for the mid-term elections in 2014.

With every election comes the analysis of voter turnout data, a way to review how many voters actually show up to vote on Election Day. Analysis of this data can show trends, increases and decreases in voter turnout depending on the year and what offices are up for election.

Ashley Biser, an assistant professor of politics and government at Ohio Wesleyan specializing in contemporary political theory, identified four factors that can influence voter turnout in any election: institutional factors, election profile factors, luck and socioeconomic factors.

Institutional factors would include things such as if the state offers same day registration, if early voting is available, if there is automatic voter registration and even the factor that voting day is not on a weekend or a national holiday in America.

“We’re one of the few countries in the world that doesn’t have a national holiday for voting, or that doesn’t have it on weekends,” she said.

“...and part of that has to do with the fact that voting in the United States is so much of a state issue and not a federal one. It’s a lot easier to put in place those kinds of rules when you’re dealing with a more unitary system or it can come straight down from the federal government and not be so much at the state level.”

For the election profile factors, Biser said those who study politics know general (presidential) elections tend to have higher turnout than mid-term elections because of the attention they get and because there are sometimes big issues on the ballot to be voted on.

The greater attention would also lead to more get out the vote efforts by various campaigns to try to increase voter turnout. Luck factors, such as what the weather is in a given area, can also influence election turnout.

Socioeconomic factors include variables like whether or not the parents of the voter voted themselves and the income levels of the person can also influence if the person goes to vote.

The Data

The voter turnout data used in this story is from the United States Elections Project, which, according to its website, is an information source for the United States electoral system with the mission of providing timely and accurate election statistics, electoral laws and research reports to inform the people of the United States on how the electoral system works, how it may be improved and how they can participate in it.

This data comes from the research of Michael McDonald, an associate professor at George Mason University and a non-resident senior fellow of the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit think tank based in Washington, D.C. The United States Elections Project website can be found at <http://elections.gmu.edu/>.

McDonald cites different ways to calculate the voter turnout rate depending on what portion of the population is used on the United States Election Project website.

The voting-age population (VAP) is found in everyone residing in the United States 18 years of age and older.

The voting-eligible population (VEP), on the other hand, encompasses the population that is eligible to vote, which eliminates non-citizens, felons and mentally incapacitated citizens.

He indicates on the website that VEP statistics are a more valid calculation for use over time and across states. The VAP statistics can be problematic when applied to states because the number of ineligible voters (felons, for example) is not uniform across different states.

Additionally, the data was condensed further into VEP highest office turnout rate, which is how many people voted for the highest office on the ballot (the governor or senator for midterm elections, and the president for general elections).

These statistics are turned in by every state; therefore, the traditional numbers reported of people who voted in elections, according to McDonald’s website.

National Turnout Rates

The data from the graph on McDonald’s website shows a decrease in the national VEP turnout rates of about 12 percent from the 1960s to the 1970s. While specific percentages were unavailable for the years prior to 1980, this decrease is clear on the graph. Since 1980, the percentages have steadily increased to percentages close to what they were in the 1960s and 1970s.

Biser said some of the drop could be attributed to general dissatisfaction with the government.

“...I think in general we see a sort of frustration with government, and I think it’s a frustration that many people can understand, with the real question about, ‘What are these people doing that’s going to affect my life?’” she said.

“There’s an incentive to be a free rider and to let other people, the people who are really invested, to let them be the ones to do the work.”

Joan McLean, an OWU professor of politics and government and former political advisor for Democratic vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, said this drop could be partly due to the differences in the electorate. As the country passed laws giving younger people and minorities the right to vote, this increased the size of the electorate. However, she said it generally takes a generation for new members of the electorate to develop the habit of voting.

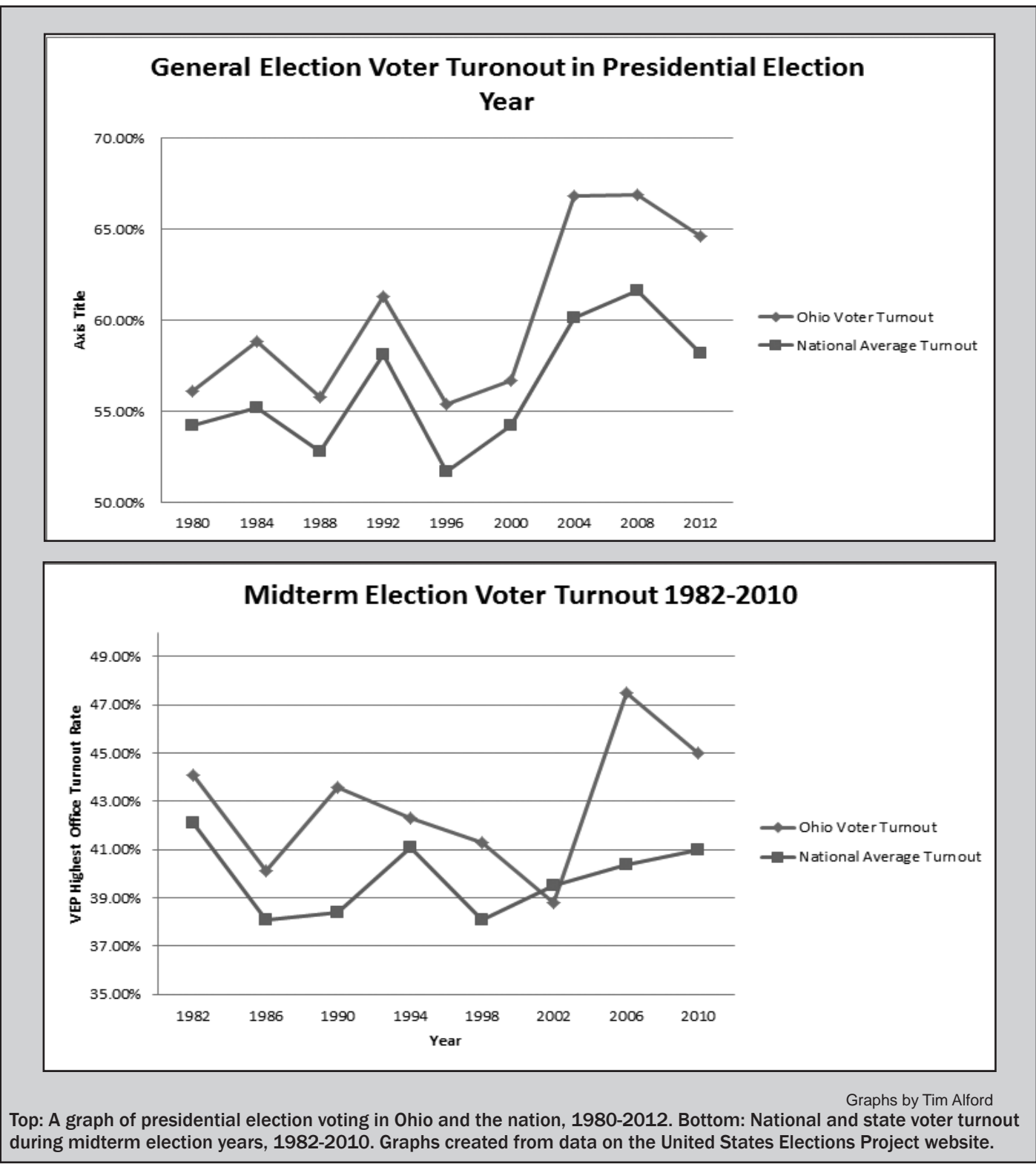
“So, I would speculate that could account for some of the decline, and then the bounce back could be that the issues of importance to these two voting groups, minorities and young people, have gotten much more play in the last decade or so,” she said.

“Then, when you see with the Obama campaign appealing to both of those groups, it begins to set a pattern of interest because we know what people do early on in their voting life is what they do later on.”

For general election years, the national average stayed within the low to mid-50-percent range in the 1980s and the 1990s.

The only exception is a spike in the 1992 elections, where the national average jumps from 52.8 percent in 1988 to 58.1 percent in 1992 and back down to 51.7 percent in 1996.

The 1992 election was the year when Bill Clinton ran as the Democratic Party candidate, George H.W. Bush ran as the Republican Party candidate and Ross Perot ran as an independent. Biser said Perot running as a third candidate could have had an effect on turnout.



“I think that it was a heavily contested election,” she said.

“There were choices and there was a third candidate, and that makes things more interesting. Our system is not designed to have third candidates do well. It’s designed for a two-party system, and it’s going to encourage a two-party system. I think another institutional factor is...often times places that have more parties on the ballot have higher turnout because you feel like you have more choices.”

The next major jump in the national average comes in 2004, where the VEP goes up to 60.1 percent. The percentage stabilizes and the final data available from the 2012 elections is a VEP of 58.2 percent.

McLean said the spike could have been due to amendments for same-sex marriage bans on state ballots in 2004, causing many more social conservatives wanting to go out to vote to get the amendments passed.

The national rates for midterm election turnout, however, are much lower than the presidential election years. Biser cited reasons why this is so much lower as well as the impacts statewide elections can have.

“I think there’s a lack of understanding in terms of the impact that statewide elections can have,” she said. “If you look at the Tea Party, if you look at other sort of movements, they’ve actually been very effective in local elections.”

She said the Christian Right, a right-wing political group, has been extremely effective in local contests like school board elections. She said local elections are also important because they give candidates practice in running an election.

“I think that a lot of times we only focus on the bigger elections when, in fact, there is a lot of underground work going on at the local level that we should pay more attention to,” Biser said.

McLean agreed with Biser’s notion of a lack of understanding in the impact of local

elections.

“...Midterm elections, you have to be more deliberate in one of two ways: you accept the civic responsibility that voting is important or you’re moved to vote because one of the issues or candidates is important to you,” McLean said. “...The government that has the most impact on day-to-day lives is the local and state. Yet, it is the least paid attention to when it comes to voting and voter turnout.”

There is also less of a difference between the high and low points in turnout from 1982 to 2010, the years the data was available. The national average was at its high point in 1982 at 42.1 percent and at its low point in 1986 and 1998 at 38.1 percent.

Ohio Turnout Rates

While Ohio VEP turnout rates for general elections had jumps in the same years as the national rates, the Ohio percentages are consistently higher.

National turnout rates hovered around the mid-50-percent range for most of the period between 1980 and 2000 with an increase to the low 60 percent range from 2000 to 2012. Ohio rates, however, started in the mid-50-percent range and increased to the mid-60-percent range in the years 2000 to 2012.

The closest the national turnout rates came to Ohio’s rates from 1980 to 2012 was in 1980 when the difference was 1.9 percent. From that point on, Ohio turnout rates were 2 percent or more above the national rates, even getting as much as 6.7 percent higher in 2008.

McLean described why Ohio being a swing state in elections can impact voter turnout percentages.

“Swing state means that it’s politically divided and open to voting, so you’re getting both party’s candidates,” she said. “People think their vote counts.”

“We know people are more likely to vote when they think their vote counts or makes a difference.”

Biser agreed with McLean,

going back to Ohio’s swing state status being a major institutional factor.

“What makes it (Ohio) a battleground state has to do with the electoral college, and so I think it makes sense that since your likelihood of having an impact on the election is much higher,” she said.

“We said in Bush versus Gore in 2000 that...all those questions about, ‘Will my vote count?’--that’s a really important question in swing states, and so I think that a swing state, one you know isn’t going to go one way or the other, makes a difference.”

This holds true for midterm election years, as Ohio’s VEP rates stay in the low-40-percent range from 1982 to 2002, only dipping below 40 percent in 2002 at 38.80 percent.

However, the major difference comes in the jump after 2002 with VEP rates going up to 47.5 percent in 2006 and dropping slightly to 45 percent in 2010. The national rates did not experience a jump nearly as large as this in midterm election years.

McLean said part of the reason for some of the different jumps for Ohio and the National VEP rates for midterm elections is Ohio featuring a gubernatorial election in midterm election years. Not all states elect a governor at these times, so highly contested races for governor could be a reason for Ohio’s higher VEP rates in midterm elections.

Moving Forward

While the data shows the voter turnout rates have been steadily increasing since the 1980s, there is still only roughly 60 percent of the population showing up to vote nationally in general elections.

McLean said there are a few factors that could influence whether there’s an increase in turnout.

“Clearly, people have to think that voting matters and that they have choices,” she said. “...It would be very hard to guess the impact that political partisan politics and the election nearing politics is going to have. When you have high voter turnout, you have

people who believe in the system.”

From a campaign and voter mobilization perspective, both Biser and McLean commented on the impact of get-out-the-vote efforts and technology.

Biser commented specifically on how after Republicans lost in 2008, the party learned they could not just rely on their base and that the Obama campaign had done a great job in terms of the ground efforts to get people to go vote.

McLean said technology has allowed for more sophisticated voter targeting and tracking for campaigns.

She said the down side to the all of the technology and voter mobilization efforts is “voter contact fatigue,” which could ultimately hurt the campaigns if they bother voters too much.

More to the Story

While all of this data points to voter turnout percentages increasing, there are still many factors to consider. One such factor, Biser said, is the use of VEP rates as opposed to VAP rates.

“This is already a smaller subset of people and that doesn’t include the people who have been disenfranchised through felon disenfranchisement and all of those things,” she said.

“I think that’s actually a really huge problem. I understand the reasons for it, but I also think that if you look specifically at the racial dimensions of felon disenfranchisement, it is a huge problem for civil rights in this country.”

There are many more factors that can be explored through this topic, such as looking at specific socioeconomic factors, using a median of national voter turnout rather than an average and comparing each state.

There are many reasons people show up to the polls some elections and not others.

While this covers the broad idea of the changes and truths about voter turnout rates, there is much more to the story to cover why many of the changes in turnout occur and what it means for the future.

OWU’s four most popular majors reflect university’s diversity

By Elizabeth Childers
Managing Editor

While Ohio Wesleyan offers an array of majors in several departments - 93, according to OWU’s website - over the past five years, and according to the current declared majors, there are four who seem to draw in the most students: Zoology, Psychology, English, and Economics respectively.

These four departments being the most popular are significant in showing the diversity at OWU. Though the university is known for its science programs (OWU is one of the few in the country to offer zoology as a degree and as a separate department, which is a large draw to prospective students), the four departments with the highest number of students with declared majors are as diverse as what 93 majors would suggest. All four of these programs are also listed by the Princeton Review as some of the top ten majors in the country.

“Be warned, however, that these are not necessarily the degrees that garner the most demand in the job market,” the Princeton Review writes. “More importantly, they don’t lock you into a set career path. Each major offers unique intellectual challenges and develops skill sets that will be applicable to various careers.”

The four departments listed here – zoology, psychology, English and economics – are all very different routes of education, but all seem to do the same thing: preparing students for a wide array of different jobs focusing more on the skills and thinking styles taught by each discipline.

Zoology

Zoology currently has the most number of declared students, with 94 as of this month. The department is home to several pre-professional programs such as pre-vet and pre-med as well as home to a general Zoology degree.

The department’s chairperson, Dr. Ramon Carreno, said they have a prevalent number of prospective students come in to both sit in on classes and speak with members of the department. OWU is one of the few universities who has a department specifically labeled zoology, and Carreno said that’s definitely part of the lure for new students to come and take a look. Prospective students come from all over the country and from overseas.

Depending on what type of degree students pursue in the zoology department, students can have different expectations about their curriculum. Pre-professional programs in zoology tend to have a much stricter set of pre-required classes as opposed to a general zoology degree, Carreno said. Often times, if students change their directions in the zoology department, they either move from a pre-professional route into a general zoology degree, or leave zoology altogether to join a different department either in the social sciences or humanities.

“We don’t work as a training facility for future employees to have some sort of skill they can use working somewhere,” Carreno said. “Our biggest priority here is to train our students as thinking scientists. Our intro courses strongly emphasize the scientific method and the laws of science and thinking like a scientist.”

The introductory courses for zoology focus on the idea of applying fundamental principles of science to fields where the students find their interests. “So when you take ornithology, clearly you will learn the birds very well from our world class Ornithologist Ed Burr’t,” he said. “You will learn the birds and be able to understand the diversity of birds, the systematics, the evolution, ecological factors, conservation, and where birds fit into the world, etc. When you take a course such as my Parasites and Immunity course you will learn all of the major parasitic influences that exist in the world from a human and veterinarian perspective. But all of this still comes back to the scientific approach.”

Many students in the zoology department have been involved since their freshmen year. Because OWU’s zoology department is so alluring, many freshmen who come into the program stay in the program. It is rarer, Carreno said, for older students to trickle in after taking a zoology course or two. It isn’t unusual for students in zoology to double major at OWU.

Carreno recalled a student who had graduated a few years ago who was both a zoology major and a theater major. “That was one of the more unusual ones,” he said.

Zoology majors from OWU end up in several different types of jobs all over the country.

“We have students who go on to be veterinarians, we have students who become physicians,” Carreno said. “A lot of our students go

off to graduate school. We have students who end up in dental school, or become teachers. Some of our graduates end up teaching in elementary schools and high schools. And we do have a reasonable number of students working in zoos and a lot of our current and graduate students are at the Columbus Zoo and all places around the country. There are a lot of different possibilities.”

Because Zoology is a popular department at OWU, Carreno said there is sometimes a certain pressure about class enrollments. It isn’t unusual for a class to have a waiting list, or for introductory classes to have 30 to 40 students enrolled.

“In my experience, it tends to fluctuate from year to year across campus,” Carreno said. “But, I think in Zoology, generally, there is a pressure in most semesters for enrollment. We are challenged to deal with that with the resources we have available. We occasionally open additional sections of courses, sneak a few more spots into courses that are otherwise capped.”

Labs, he said, won’t have a full 30 students in them at any time. Lab sizes are small, capping at 16 for more upper level courses and at most 18 for an introductory course lab. Often times, these larger classes are separated into two smaller sections for lab times, such as having two sections of 15 meeting at different times as opposed to one large lab.

Carreno said zoology is a department where collaboration with other departments on campus is required and happens “100 percent of the time.”

“The world doesn’t revolve around biology alone,” he said. “All of the sciences depend on each other, like chemistry and physics...Our rapidly expanding and currently in development neurosciences program is a classic example. We have biologists who work in physiology and fields related to neuroscience. The physics department now has a neuroscientist working in it, and psychology as always had a neuroscientist there. Our closest relative, which I guess is one way to put it, is the Botany/Microbiology department.”

The zoology department currently has nine tenure track professors along with a few assistants for teaching and part time professors who cover for medical emergencies. Carreno said the department is relatively a young one, with all but two professors joining after 2000. Carreno said he sees the department as very modern and forward thinking and it “comes with a tradition of active scholarship and is going to be quite strong for decades.”

Carreno also said faculty members in the zoology department has kept strong research ties to former labs as well as maintained connections with newly visited labs and labs the department plans to be working with in the future.

“When someone graduates from here, they should be a well rounded and well trained biologist who is familiar with the diversity of life around them and who can put themselves in a research setting right away and be able to carry out the pursuit of scientific knowledge,” Carreno said. “From a less philosophical perspective, these students are well rounded enough to meet other requirements they might face.”



Photo courtesy of the Department of Zoology
An Island Biology class during a laboratory session in the lowland rainforest of Ecuador.



Graphic Courtesy Department of Psychology

Psychology

Psychology is close behind zoology, with the second largest number (87) of enrolled majors currently on campus, as well as in the past.

“Psychology is popular nationally, so the fact it’s a big draw on our campus isn’t too surprising,” the department’s chairperson, Lynda Hall, said. “But I also think we have a relatively flexible curriculum, that’s just how our curriculum works, so a lot our majors are double majors and I’m going to guess for some department’s that’s not necessarily true.”

With only three courses required by all psychology majors, this does show how Psychology can definitely be flexible. Beyond those three classes, which are Psychology 110, a psychology stats course, and research methods, students are free to pick classes that fulfill certain categories for their majors.

“We require nine courses for the major, which is fairly low,” Hall said.

Many prospective students visit the department for OWU ‘prospie days.’

Students take a few different paths into the major. While there are students who visit before attending OWU, come in their freshmen year and proceed to follow their interest into psychology, it is also common for students who take Psych 110 as an elective, which is very popular, and decide they wish to transfer to psychology before declaring their major. Hall also said there are students who come to OWU fully intending to major in psychology, but discover it’s not what they expected and move to a different department.

“We approach it as a science and I think the methods of mastering the material are very comparable to the study methods for the natural sciences and some students aren’t expecting that and aren’t too fond of it,” Hall said.

Because Psychology is such a popular major, Hall said it can be a tension for the department when scheduling students in classes.

“One of the problems for us is we try not to close students out, but then classes can get large,” she said. “Being able to balance and being responsive to student’s needs and helping them get through the curriculum at their pace, but then also not letting classes get too large. That has always been a tension for us.”

There have been a lot of changes in the Psychology department faculty wise. Hall said semesters when they department has been “understaffed” has been more stressful than others when trying to create a balanced schedule.

“The good news there is, we’re close to fully staffed,” she said. “Next year, we will be, and that is a first time in a long time so we’re very excited about that because then it will be easier to do both: to offer classes in a way where students can register for classes when they need it but also without having the class sizes be quite so large.”

The Psychology department has eight teaching positions, and will have nine teaching faculty next year. They are located in the basement floor in Phillips, but use most of the classrooms in the whole building. Classes also are in other buildings as well.

“We follow the guidelines of the American Psychology Association, which encourages us to have a breadth in the curriculum,” Hall said. “We think it prepares students for life after graduation the best. We also find students who go off to grad school programs which are extraordinarily specialized but don’t want students who have already specialized, they want people who have had a good breadth in classes so they’re ready to specialize.”

As a result, many students are prepared for

“We’ve been very successful when placing students in doctorate programs...and we’re placing people in highly competitive programs. Many more go into masters programs, social work programs, and social health programs,”
said Lynda Hall,
department chair.

a different array of jobs, and end up in occupations ranging from teaching to human resources. Many psychology majors also major in economics, another top major at OWU, and use their degrees in the business world. Students also go into medical and law school.

“We’ve been very successful to placing students in doctorate programs...and we’re placing people in highly competitive programs,” Hall said. “Many more go into masters programs, social work programs, and social health programs.”

While many psychology majors go on to graduate school - Hall said probably a third would be a good guess - many do leave OWU and jump right into the workforce, either not pursuing a graduate degree or taking a gap period before moving on to their masters or PhD. Students who don’t go on to graduate work go into the business world or go into marketing. The way the psychology program is set up at OWU, students are prepared to work in environments where being able to communicate is key.

“Our department is active in community activities, like committee work,” Hall said about her department’s interaction with other departments on campus. “For me personally, that’s been a big way of getting out of the department and interacting with others. It’s one aspect of committee work I value a lot.”

They also participate in StART, the program for freshmen students to get them settled in at OWU. The faculty of this department also gets involved in summer science research programs on campus, which also get them involved with the natural sciences.

“It’s funny, as small a campus this is, we can get so engrossed in department business that it’s easy to be more separated than I think you intend. I’m pleased we do as much as we do; I wish there were more opportunities to do more. The biggest limit is there are only so many hours in a day.”

Hall is hoping, as great as it has been to have new faculty members come in and see their new ideas, that the department settles down for a while.

“We’re looking forward to being stable (faculty wise) for a little while,” she said. “We would like to develop our facilities. One of the challenges making sure we always are up to date on technologies and lab facilities. That is something we will be focused on.”

This is part one of a two-part series. Next week’s Transcript will explore the English and Economics majors.

Opinion

Beyond the Equal Sign: Being a straight ally involves more than a profile picture

To be honest, when I first found out OWU Confessions existed, I groaned a little bit to myself.

I've seen these pages sprout up from other universities, and I've found them to be places where vitriol and judgement are condoned and human decency is sometimes abandoned altogether. I don't want such a place to exist at Ohio Wesleyan because we deserve better—no one on this campus should be subjected to anonymous hatred and rumor.

But so far, the posts have been fairly innocuous. The carbon copy, "OWU Confessions Absolutely Anonymous," has hosted some submissions leaning further toward obscene, but I haven't seen anything that's had the potential to do substantial harm to anyone. In the past couple days, I'm somewhat ashamed to admit, the pages have become guilty pleasures of mine.

Some of them, however, have been hard to read. The potential fallout that could result if the submitter's identity were known is unsettling to me, so the anonymity is good. But it shocks me what some people have done to and think about others, and that they're so cavalier about admitting it.

Then again, it's made me realize the therapeutic power of letting go of something a person has kept secret for a long time. To confess must be inherently cathartic—I can only imagine how much of a weight must have been lifted off the shoulders of those who submitted some of the posts.

Several of them are genuine and positive, too, honest admissions of struggle or stories of hope. The fact that OWU Confessions has produced a raw human bulletin board as well as an internet cesspool is remarkable.

What aren't genuine, though, are the comments. The hard thing about an online forum for things as intimate as these confessions is that everything is submitted for the judgment of the internet's harshest critics. People are quick to judge each other's secrets, and ridiculing them is a sure way to kick a confessor while they're down.

Like the posts, though, not all comments have been this way. Some are supportive, giving the submitter solidarity or sympathy. Some even invite non-anonymous conversation with them if they need someone to talk to.

Even more often, I see commenters calling out problematic confessions—like those of people who chronically cheat on their significant other, or think the "friend zone" exists.

As University Chaplain Jon Powers pointed out to me, there's a difference between criticism and criticism with substance. The latter is the only kind of criticism that should ever show up on OWU Confessions. Someone's honest admission of human struggle should not be laughed at; but if you've got the bravado to publicly (albeit anonymously) issue your opinion as objective fact or dig up an embarrassing moment from someone's past, I don't feel it's unfair to receive a little criticism.

Ultimately, it comes down to two entities—the moderators of the Confessions pages and their readers.

The former have a responsibility to ensure the submissions they choose to post won't do anyone any harm. While some of them are entertaining, no confession should involve any other person by name. Neither the submitter, nor the moderator, nor anyone else can possibly know how someone will react to having something intimate about themselves published online by someone else. The anonymous compliments are surely rather innocuous (at least as far as I've known), but the harm outweighs the good for anything otherwise.

The latter—us—have a responsibility, too. We need to uphold the power of OWU Confessions as a cathartic forum rather than support the its potential danger. This means being supportive of people who submit secrets that might have been difficult to admit, and substantially criticizing those who attack or demean others. Our campus should be a safe space, not a harmful one. This extends to Facebook, too.

OWU Confessions can be a good thing for a lot of people, but we shouldn't allow it to turn into a bad thing for anyone.

Noah Manskar
Editor-in-Chief

Quote of the week:

"I run cross country and track here at OWU, and often forget to be grateful for the fact that I am blessed with the ability to run, let alone walk. Just seeing the participants in these events reminds me to be thankful for what I have. Instead of being upset that I didn't run two seconds faster in my race, I should be thankful that I have to legs to run with at all,"
--Senior Emily Johnson, volunteer at the Bishop Champion Games

Rescuing the rescuers: Finding a fair solution for the affected Meek lifeguard staff

By Taylor Smith
Copy Editor

I can truthfully say, I am not the only lifeguard upset with the recent changes that have occurred at the pool, and we're not the only ones on campus have been affected.

On Friday, March 29, work-study students for the Edwards Weight and Conditioning room, the Meek Aquatic Center and Edwards Gym received an email regarding the issue of their work hours being cut and/or eliminated.

The desk attendant positions for the Meek and Edwards' lobby were fully eliminated or "let go" effective April 1 and the hours for lifeguards and weight room staff had their hours cut back, as the hours of those facilities were also cut.

Rumor has it and several Meek and Edwards' staff members have been told that cuts were being made because the school lacked resources (i.e. money) to continue operating the facilities as they had been.

Basically it cost the school more to pay us than it did to keep the facility open.

I know as a lifeguard we received a Google Doc to sign up for hours on the newly revised schedule and there was a mad rush to get hours. Hours were assigned based on seniority working at the pool, so only a few freshman lifeguards

The administration and the Athletic Department are—or should be—responsible for determining a budget and system that is reliable throughout the year and does not leave students jobless with a month of school left.

made the cut. There were even a few junior and sophomore lifeguards who just recently started working at the pool this year, so they didn't make the cut either.

I have been fortunate to have been working as a lifeguard since I stepped foot on campus my freshman year three years ago, so I was not badly affected.

I did have my hours cut down from 12 hours a week to seven hours a week. Some were not as lucky. Some lifeguards went from working 10 or more hours a week to less than five hours a week.

The reason there is a shortage of money is because the new weight room desk attendants are paid out of the same budget the lifeguards and Meek and Edwards's desk attendants are paid out of.

I am not aware how many total weight room attendants there are, but I have noticed when I go there are two to three attendants at a time. Most would say they don't do

much, and I do not know how much they're paid per hour.

But I'll give them the benefit of the doubt, for now, because I know, as a lifeguard, my position has been criticized for being easy, overpaid and not having to do much; then again, I am a trained and certified professional rescuer.

I can't help it that there are not many people at the pool sometimes and I am being paid to do homework, though there are times where so much is going on we sit in the chair for most of the shift.

I feel as though the school can help how it pays the workers for two facilities. The weight room never had a single staff member on hand, let alone three. When the school renovated the weight room and created new positions—initially great for the students—the administration, Student Employment and the Athletic Department should have determined where they plan on getting money to pay these workers.

If they're just going to combine budgets, there's nothing wrong with that, but they should of at least made sure they had the money to pay the students to work the hours they originally signed up for and not force them to change it mid-module.

I know I'm not aware of all the details of this situation, which leaves me a little confused; but aren't most work-study students paid through the federal government? Most federal work-study grants pay \$1,500 to \$2,500 a year.

Some feel it's rare that students reach his or her limit, but some do, which is why there shouldn't really be much of a budget issue.

If a student doesn't earn his or her full federal work-study money, that's the end of it—it cannot be held for the future and the school can't use it for other reasons.

There are a lot of work-study students who rely on that money to help pay for their tuition, living expenses and other costs that arise (supply fees, parking permits, fraternity or sorority dues, etc.). For some it is spending money, but for many it is need.

The administration and the Athletic Department are—or should be—responsible for determining a budget and system that is reliable throughout the year and does not leave students jobless with a month of school left.

Focus on '42' overlooks OWU's checkered racial past

Access to OWU housing had color barrier until 1949, two years after baseball's was broken

By Spenser Hickey
Assistant Copy Editor

As the new film "42" – a biopic about the life of Jackie Robinson and his role in the integration of professional baseball – is released this weekend, the OWU community has been invited to take part in a celebration of the role played by Robinson and Branch Rickey, the Brooklyn Dodgers manager and member of the OWU class of 1904.

There will be a discussion from 4 to 5:30 p.m. featuring Rickey's grandson, Branch B. Rickey, and Cleveland Indians Vice-President for Public Affairs Bob DiBiasio, and OWU alum. The Cleveland Indians were the second team to field a black man in modern baseball, shortly after the Dodgers.

There will be four baseball games played against Denison – two doubleheaders at noon Saturday and Sunday. Also on Sunday, the Strand will show "42" at 2 p.m.; there will also be an art exhibit at the City Art Center.

Yet as we honor these brave men and the role OWU played in influencing Rickey's decision to break the baseball color barrier, there is another color barrier that deserves remembering – and OWU's collective role in it is one we are

far less likely to be fond of.

The page "The History of Ohio Wesleyan Athletics" on the university website says Rickey was inspired to hire Robinson in 1903 after seeing the OWU team's catcher – a black man named Charles Thomas – be denied lodging at a South Bend hotel, and insisted that Thomas stay in his room.

An April 15, 2012, article in "The New York Times" backs up this claim, although the article acknowledges Rickey may have embellished the tale for dramatic effect.

What our website does not mention is that when Thomas returned to Ohio Wesleyan, he would be denied equal lodging there as well.

It was not until 1949 that Betty-Lou Dotson '50 took part in integrating the dorms at Ohio Wesleyan, becoming the first black woman to live in them.

Before that, black students, including the first black graduate, Olive Day '03, had to live in off-campus boarding houses or in Selby Stadium.

I imagine most students here are far less aware of this racial barrier and its connection to OWU – it's certainly not one we would want to publicize, especially since it continued after Rickey, on the

We cannot properly honor the heroes of our shared legacy without also admitting our own failings, past and present – or resolving to correct them in the future.

virtue of his time at Ohio Wesleyan, integrated baseball.

It is also of note that it was not until 1968 – perhaps the most turbulent year in the history of American race relations – that a student group was formed to represent the interests of the black community at OWU.

In 1968 there were only 40 black students at OWU; Pete Smith, class of '71, one of the founders of the Student Union on Black Awareness (SUBA), said half of the black students left OWU his freshman year, leaving the others to decide whether to follow them or stay and commit to making positive changes.

The newly formed SUBA had to struggle for recognition and their own private meeting space, the Willa B. Player Center in Stuyvesant Hall.

Now, though, members of SUBA and its umbrella organizations question whether the Center receives the respect it deserves and can still be considered a safe space for their community.

I do not write this in an attempt to dissuade you from attending the celebratory events or viewing "42." I imagine I'd be one of the last people on campus to discourage increasing awareness of racism and its effects.

But at the same time, remember that our collective past is not as noble as we would like it to be.

Yes, Rickey's role in breaking down the MLB's color barrier is something to be honored and remembered, but the existence of a color barrier in Ohio Wesleyan housing should also be remembered and acknowledged.

As you observe the events, keep in the back of your mind the knowledge that racism and discrimination, as well as sexism and homophobia, are still strongly persistent in our community.

We cannot properly honor the heroes of our shared legacy without also admitting our own failings, past and present – or resolving to correct them in the future.

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...To maintain an open forum for discussion of campus issues and other pertinent matters.
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Arts & Entertainment

Cricketz claim winning title at Global Outreach Show

By Marilyn Baer
Transcript Reporter

Seven acts competed in this year’s Global Outreach Show (GOS) for a grand prize of \$500.

Rafiki Wa Afrika (Rafiki) hosted the event to raise money for the Ghana Student Education Fund.

They raised over \$400 in this year’s showcase, according to junior Alisa Nammavong, Rafiki president.

The evening featured musical performances, choreographed dance routines and a fashion show with clothing from Ghana, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Senegal.

In order to determine this year’s champion, up to 100 points were awarded to each act.

60 percent of the points were awarded by three judges – Sally Leber, the club’s advisor; University Chaplain Jon Powers; and Residential Life Coordinator Jill Auxter. The remaining 40 percent of the points were determined by the volume of the audience’s applause.

This year’s first place winner was Cricketz, a dance group from Calvin College in Michigan.

“We entered GOS as returning champions from last year to try making a mark in a different society other than our own college campus,” said Kofi Akyeampong, a choreographer for the group.

They danced to a mix of songs including “Bad Decisions” by Trey Songz, “I Like to Move It” by Reel 2 Reel and “Kukere” by Iyanya. Akyeampong said they used the different songs to showcase the group’s different talents and styles.

They began preparing for the show by dividing up the choreography among each other and practicing daily.

“Everyone had a song or half of a song to choreograph their dance to,” he said.

“We practiced every week-

day for one and a half hours for two weeks.”

Akeampong said he felt “blessed” after winning the competition.

“It just reminds us that God is on our side and he’s going to keep blessing us as long as we don’t doubt him,” he said.

The Cricketz plan on using the prize money to invest in “crew clothing to make us look better while we dance,” Akeampong said.

The second place winner was OSS (OWU Sick Steps), a new dance group comprised of Ohio Wesleyan students interested in hip-hop dance culture. They received a \$200 prize for their podium performance in the show.

The dance had three choreographers: senior Yushan Hayman, freshman Nguyen Viet Quang and freshman Linh (Leah) Duong.

Each of the three choreographed their own song in their own style, Hayman said.

Duong said the group entered the show for a chance to “show off (their) talents,” and because it was for charity.

One of the group’s dancers, sophomore Prabhjot Virk, explained the group’s preparation for the show.

“Since there were three different dances to learn, each choreographer set up their own practices, and in the last week we joined them,” Virk said.

“We had practices a couple times a week for two weeks, and then almost every night the week of the show.”

Duong said hearing the group’s victory announced was “incredible.”

“I was completely speechless because we were not expecting to win anything at all,” she said.

“We joined GOS with the mindset of just to have fun and do what we love, which is dancing. For us, this was just a show, not even a competition.”

Hayman said they weren’t sure yet how they’d spend their prize money.



Photo by Jacqueline Osei-Bonsu

Above: Cricketz, a dance group from Calvin College, took first place for the second year in a row at Saturday night’s Global Outreach Show. The group was one of seven acts to perform, and took home the prize of \$500. Kofi Akyeampong, a member of Cricketz, said the group felt “blessed” to win the talent show.



“I think there was an idea to start a hip-hop club on campus, in which case some money might go to that, and the rest we might use to go out as a group and celebrate,” Hayman said.



Photos by Ngoc Le

Left, Center: Models in the fashion show portion walk in West African designs. The fashion show is intended to give performers and audience a break from the evening’s high-intensity dancing. Right: Sophomore Deki Pelmo and freshman Abby Hanson performed a mash-up of songs, including “I’m Yours” by Jason Mraz. This year’s Global Outreach Show, an annual Rafiki Wa Afrika event, raised over \$400 for the Ghana Student Education Fund, an organization that provides supplies and resources for Ghanaian students.

Chamber Orchestra highlights various individual talents in ‘rare’ feature performance

By Jane Suttmeier
Photo Editor

On Tuesday, April 2, the OWU Chamber Orchestra performed six pieces, including an original by senior Justin Giarrusso, and one with vocal accompaniment by soprano junior Samantha Rammaha, conducted by professor Michael J. Malone.

Giarrusso composed his own piece called “Divertissement Concertante,” which was a work that captured dance aspects such as music used for ballet and featured soloists.

Giarrusso said he was asked to write a piece for the orchestra as part of the “Senior Orchestral Composition” pattern that began last year.

“(Malone) had requested I write something that would feature some of our strong and under-represented players, particularly the concertmaster (first chair, first violinist), principal cello, flute, clarinets, and harp,” he said.

Giarrusso drew inspiration from other composers to create the divertissement, which is often an “inserted segment of ballet.”

“I was thinking a lot about Vivaldi’s concerti while I was writing, especially with the idea of the returning material (ritornello) separated by contrasting sections,” he said.

Giarrusso said he had been working on the piece since



November.

“It took all semester worth of rehearsing with the orchestra to prepare for the concert,” he said.

Rammaha sang alongside the orchestra in “Ah! Spietato!” a piece from the 1715 Italian opera “Amadigi di Guala” (“Amadis of Gaul” in English) by Handel.

Rammaha performed as Melissa, a sorceress in a plot of “visions and anguish of the true lovers,” according to the New Grove Dictionary of Opera’s description of the work.

Rammaha said she researched the song and lyrics and translated them from Italian to English before starting to learn the music, as she does with other pieces she performs.

“Understanding the plot of the opera was very important and helped me understand the character I was portraying and interpret the piece better,” she said.

“I also listened to and watched different performances and stagings of this aria so that I could get an idea of how people tended to interpret it.”

She said it takes about five to eight weeks to learn the song and be performance-ready.

“It only takes a week or so to learn notes and rhythms, but assimilating the translation and characterization and memorizing the piece takes the majority of the time,” she said.

“It took about another four rehearsals with the orchestra

to get the piece to gel with that many musicians.”

Sophomore Connor Stout played the bass for all six pieces, and said it took all semester to learn them.

His favorite was the Haydn’s “Symphony No. 104 in D Major.”

“It was incredibly involved, musically speaking, for its entire length,” he said. “Each movement was had its own infectious tune and it really kept me intrigued.”

Stout also performed in Rammaha’s and Giarrusso’s pieces as a part of the orchestra.

“(Rammaha’s) piece was interesting because the whole orchestra had to monitor their dynamics to match the vocal soloist, as opposed to Justin’s



Photos by Jane Suttmeier

Left: Junior Samantha Rammaha accompanied the orchestra in its performance of “Ah! Spietato,” a piece from Handel’s 1715 opera, Amadigi di Guala. Right: Jabez Co alternates between the xylophone and chimes during Rammaha’s performance.

piece that was purely orchestral,” he said.

“Justin’s piece was in a particularly difficult time signature, so that was the main challenge in that piece.”

Rammaha said her vocal training allowed her to sing this type of aria with ease compared to others.

“If you are learning to sing correctly and use your voice as organically and naturally as possible it should not be vocally strenuous,” she said. “You should not feel like it hurts. It takes years to learn this, and I am still learning.”

Stout, Giarrusso and Rammaha all said they plan on pursuing careers in music, whether in graduate school or beyond.

Stout performed in the

Chamber Orchestra for the first time this year, but said he enjoyed it and plans on continuing for the next two years.

“I plan on going to graduate school to get a degree either in vocal performance or songwriting, too,” he said.

Composer Giarrusso said he will be pursuing a master’s degree in music composition next fall.

“I hope to eventually become a composition professor,” he said.

Rammaha said she isn’t planning on participating again, but enjoyed this “rare” experience.

“I think it went very well,” she said.

“I was very pleased with the performance and very grateful for the opportunity.”

Bishops Sports

Baseball wins two games at home, defeats Oberlin and ONU

By Hugh Kerins
Transcript Correspondent

During this past week the Battling Bishops baseball team held strong at home, pulling out two victories in non-conference play.

On April 3, the Bishops hosted non-conference opponent Otterbein College.

Otterbein came into the game with a 16-4 record, but that did not faze the Bishops.

While Ohio Wesleyan had only played 11 games, the team still knew it had the tools to win.

“We knew coming into this game it wasn’t going to be easy, especially seeing who all Otterbein had beaten so far this season,” senior Greg Hock said. “But when it came time to play we knew we had the right materials to give them a run for their money.”

Otterbein jumped out to an early 3-0 lead that carried all the way through the eighth inning, but that’s when the Bishops came alive.

In the eighth inning the Bishops tied the game when by junior Sean Vollenweider stole home. Senior first baseman James Toland then broke the tie with a two-run double and lifted Ohio Wesleyan over Otterbein for good.

“Our team was able to come back by not giving up,” Toland said.

“We came together as a team stayed focused, and we played the game as it should be played. We got people on base and got them in.”

“It was a great battle and a great cross town rival win, and I am very excited what is in the future for this team as conference play starts up this weekend.”

Freshman right-hander Daniel Kasian came in as

“I am very excited what is in the future for this team as conference play starts up this weekend,” said senior **James Toland**, first baseman.

closer and retired the Cardinals in order in the top of the ninth to collect his first collegiate save, ending the game with a final score of 5-3.

With momentum on their side, the Bishops hosted Ohio Northern at Littick Field the following day, April 4, at to continue non-conference play before starting their conference schedule.

“I believe that we are beginning to learn what it takes to win ballgames,” senior Ben Steele said.

“We are a young team, so we are learning from our mistakes while playing hard.”

Unlike their last game, the Bishops didn’t wait until the end to make a dramatic finish—instead they came out of the gates running.

They scored four runs in the first inning and never looked back, increasing their lead up to 10-3 by the end of the fifth inning.

Vollenweider continued doing well, going 3-5 from the plate and driving in three runs to help the Bishops to back-to-back victories.

Other contributors to the 14-5 victory were senior Zach Bott, who went 2-4 from the plate with a double and one run batted in, and freshman Taylor Hutchinson, who collected three hits and had a double and a triple during his at-bats.

Women’s rugby rucks it up in scrimmage

Team stays active and plays each other despite Oberlin cancellation



Photos by Jane Suttmeier

Top: Sophomores Katrina Mason-Bentz and Daysha Swann try to tackle senior Carly Shields (center).

Left side, middle: Senior Gabby Melgar carries the ball as she runs from a teammate.

Left side, bottom: Shields runs from other players on her team during the scrimmage.

Right side, top: Shields and Bentz collide.

Right side, bottom: Sophomore Jessica Brewer throws the ball to a teammate.

Men’s lacrosse wins four games in a row against NCAC opponents

By Graham Lucas
Transcript Correspondent

After coming off a spring break tour in Maryland where they lost three straight games, men’s lacrosse has rebounded with a four game winning streak, remaining undefeated in the NCAC.

During their spring break tour, two of the three losses came from nationally ranked Salisbury University and Washington College. The team was 4-1 before the losses tarnished their record.

The Battling Bishops are 3-0 in North Coast Athletic Conference matchups with four conference contests left on their schedule. The team’s main rival, Denison University, is also 3-0 and ranked 13th

nationally for Division III lacrosse.

Junior Casey Helms leads the NCAC in points. He said the team will have to “play to the best of (its) ability” to win the last four conference games, which are crucial to getting to the postseason.

“In order to win our last four NCAC games, we are going to have to play to the best of our ability,” he said.

“As of right now, we are 3-0 in conference and have tough games ahead of us. Every team wants to knock off the undefeated team, so all of our opponents will, without a doubt, show up to play.”

“When we play to our capability and everyone is on the same page, we can run with any team in the country.

We are a dangerous team that makes smart decisions and plays tough. As long as we do this, we will be successful.”

The Bishops have played a total of 12 games, accumulating 163 goals and 99 assists, both best in the conference. Sophomore attacker John Umbach has scored 13 goals in the team’s last four wins despite having only five goals in the first eight games. Umbach said his job gets easier when the offense runs smoothly

“In general, we want to create scoring opportunities by dodging the defense and moving the ball,” he said. “The offense has been doing a great job creating opportunities and stretching the defense out which allows me to get open inside. We do whatever it

“We have a great group of guys, all of which bring something to the table, We all have roles on the team that we are aware of and this is what makes us so close on and off of the field. Everybody holds themselves accountable day-in-and-day-out because we all play for each other,” said junior **Casey Helms**.

takes to score.”

The Bishops will have extra support in their last four conference games with the return of sophomore attacker Tommy Minkler who tore his ACL, MCL and part of his meniscus during fall practice. As a freshman last season, Minkler tallied 24 goals and 22 assists in 16 starts. Minkler said he is willing to do anything to help his team win.

“It definitely feels good to

be able to help out the team on the field again” he said. “It will take me a little while to get back to one hundred percent, so right now my role is to push the starters to get better. These next four games are crucial for us, and at this point I just want to do whatever I can to help us win the NCAC championship and make a run in the NCAA tournament.”

As the Bishops close in on their last four potentially

conference-winning games, Helms said the team’s only goal is to win a national championship.

“We have a great group of guys, all of which bring something to the table,” he said. “We all have roles on the team that we are aware of and this is what makes us so close on and off of the field. Everybody holds themselves accountable day-in-and-day-out because we all play for each other.”

Weekly Scoreboard:

- April 6-Men’s Tennis vs Allegheny (L 1-8)
- April 6-Women’s Lacrosse vs Kenyon (L 5-19)
- April 6-Softball vs Kenyon (L 0-4, W 1-0)
- April 7-Baseball vs DePauw (L 3-4, L 8-10)
- April 8-Women’s Tennis vs Kenyon (L 0-9)

Upcoming Games:

- April 11-Softball vs Mount Union (Away)
- April 13-Baseball vs Denison (DH-Away)
- April 13-Softball vs Denison (DH-Away)
- April 13-Women’s Tennis vs Oberlin (Away)
- April 13-Men’s Lacrosse vs Wooster (Away)