

## \*288 lbs!

\*The amount of food wasted at Smith Dining Hall last week. There were two-and-a-half days of data missing due to a broken dish machine. The previous week's total was 491 lbs. This data is courtesy of Chartwells, OWU's dining service provider.

## The future of Fiji

By Haleigh Rohr  
Transcript Correspondent

A little over a year since the closure of the chapter by its alumni, former members of the Theta Deuteron chapter of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) are still holding onto the possibility of re-colonization.

According to junior Rob Doersam, former president of Fiji, the chapter's recruitment numbers had been declining since the house went through legal issues in the '90s, after which they no longer allowed alcohol in the house. Doersam said steady progress was being made in the year leading up to the chapter's closure, but it wasn't enough to keep the fraternity financially stable.

Assistant Director of Student Involvement for Greek Life Allison Bressler said the chapter was closed due to financial problems.

At the time they were removed, Fiji was at 52 percent, expecting to drop to 42 percent by the following semester.

Doersam said there were several little things Fiji could have changed to secure their place on campus, but he said he has no regrets.

"You have to play with the cards you're dealt," Doersam said.

Isaac Boltansky, former student and a spring 2005 Fiji pledge, remarked on his time in the fraternity.

"I am lucky to say I made great friends and learned a lot about myself," Boltansky said. "A house is cursory. Friendships, however, are something above that."

Doersam said he misses his brothers, as well as living in the house.

"Besides missing having a house that big and having the fraternity to be involved with in general, I definitely miss our chef Bob's cooking," he said.

According to Bressler, Fiji is allowed to return to campus in the future, after a period of inactivity.

Doersam said he hopes to see the return of Fiji to campus.

"I wish everyone who may be involved the best of luck with re-colonization," he said. "I'd be interested in helping out if the time is right."

The decision as to what will happen with the Fiji house, as well as the two other empty fraternity houses on campus, remains undecided.

With the fates of the vacant fraternity houses to be determined by the Greek Life Study Group, Doersam said he hopes OWU will keep the old Fiji house closed until the fraternity can give re-colonization a try.

## '09 class gift contributes to annual fund

By Lucas Bezerra  
Transcript Correspondent

The class of 2009 is planning to set the record for the largest graduating class contribution ever by raising \$5,000 to contribute to the OWU Annual Fund.

With help from President Rock Jones, graduating class trustee Ryan Jordan and senior class president Amanda Thompson decided this would be the best way to give back to OWU.

Thompson said the two seniors wanted "what would have the most impact for the greatest number of students."

"Nearly 10 percent of the cost of an OWU education is funded by gifts

to the Annual Fund," Jones said.

The Annual Fund provides income for OWU's operating budget (about 9% of the budget annually), the largest portion of which supports student scholarships and financial aid. Faculty projects and ongoing costs of operating the physical plant also gain support from the Annual Fund.

Assistant Director of the Annual Fund Becky Leach said that as of Feb. 18, the Annual Fund had raised almost \$2.5 million from 3,458 donors.

"Although \$5,000 may not sound significant compared to \$2.5 million, the majority of our gifts are less than \$500 each," Leach said.

Senior Amanda Zechiel said she supports the efforts of a gift of this

magnitude.

"Increasingly difficult financial times take a toll on our endowment, Zechiel said.

"Because of this, a financial contribution is an effective gift because it gives the university the ability to truly use our gift in the most important ways possible."

Donating a class gift is an OWU tradition dating back to 1909, when the historic walkway in front of Slocum was built.

The walkway was enhanced in 2008 through a donation from the class of 1959. Now, the class of 2009 plans to add to these efforts to improve the university, as the previous classes have.

Vice President for University Rela-

tions Mark Shipps said that upon achievement of this goal, a bench would be attributed to the class of 2009 and placed on the rededicated walkway.

Thompson said the bench "is a great symbol of the connection between the past leadership at OWU."

In addition to a bench, OWU graduate and board of trustee member Evan R. Corns announced he will donate \$1,000 to the Annual Fund if the seniors achieve their mark.

With a senior class of 395, the class would surpass their goal if each of them gave \$13.

"The amount of \$13 is not much more than an afternoon at happy hour costs us," Zechiel said.

## Angela Davis theorizes, speaks on individual freedoms at Wright State

By Kimberly St. Louis  
Transcript Reporter

On Feb. 23, Wright State University presented "An Evening with Angela Davis" as a part of the 2008-2009 Presidential Lecture Series entitled "Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Academic Inquiry" and Women's History Month.

President of WSU David R. Hopkins said they started the lecture series to enrich the distinct learning experience of their students, and so they can "gain global experience on issues facing our nation and the world."

"For many years, the International Women's Day was virtually ignored in the U.S.," Davis said.

Davis said that in 1975, the United Nations realized that a day wasn't long enough to celebrate the history of women, and decided to extend it to a decade-long celebration: the International Women's decade, 1975-1985.

"This year, there is a special historical conjunction [and there's] new terrain for the analysis of history and the future of history," she said.

Davis said the theme for Women's History Month this year is "Women taking the lead to save our planet," which, according to the website, is honoring "women who have taken the lead in the environmental or 'green' movement."

Davis said that long before the celebration of Black History became a month-long event, there was the celebration of "Negro History Week." She said the extension of the celebration to a month defined the importance of Negro History Week.

"Black people were vastly more capable than the supremacist white society recognized," Davis said.

Davis said people suffer from the "messiah complex;" they have a tendency to focus on extraordinary individuals and heroes. She explained how celebrities overshadow the contributions of those which, without them, certain things would have never emerged. She said, "we don't know how to think about them as agents of history."

Davis said although Rosa Parks is famously known for an act that started a successful boycott of the Montgomery bus system in 1955, there were similar efforts made prior to hers.

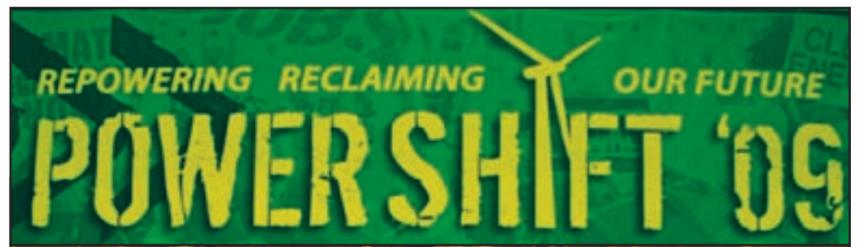
Davis mentioned the book written by Joann Robinson, "The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It."

She said what is now officially known as the Civil Rights Movement was informally known as the "Black Freedom Movement" amongst African Americans.

Davis moved forward to the present, and said people are still celebrating the election of our 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, Barack Obama.

"I never imagined that I would have experienced this in my lifetime," is the motif Davis said has been going around.

Davis said the excitement people have is not because Obama is a black body, but is due to his "identification with the black radical struggle for freedom."



Power Shift photo essay on Page 7

## Rock Tour gets families, alumni jonesing for improved OWU

By Kelly Gardner  
Transcript Reporter

For the last few months, President Rock Jones has been visiting OWU alumni, friends and parents to give them the opportunity to reflect on the future of the university and offer advice. In all, Jones will visit 30 cities, and has already been to 19 as part of the "Rock Tour."

Jones said the focus of the tour is not fundraising.

"I do remind those in attendance of the important role their gifts play in providing the best education possible to our students, but these events are more about friend-raising. The time for fundraising will come soon, hopefully with an improved economy," Jones said.

Jones said he has enjoyed each city because of the valuable experiences and memorable stories shared. He believes each city has given him more insight into the university's changes over the past 50 years.

"Almost all of the alumni with whom I have visited have told me stories about one or more professors who had a special influence on them as students, and whose classroom teaching and out-of-class advice has shaped their lives in memorable ways," Jones said.

"I have heard many stories of special relationships

*"I do remind those in attendance of the important role their gifts play in providing the best education possible to our students, but these events are more about friend-raising."*

-- President Rock Jones

that were born on the OWU campus, including stories of alumni who still meet annually with their closest OWU friends, more than 50 years after graduation. I also have met many alumni couples who met here at OWU."

Jones has been so impressed with the positive feedback and support from faculty, family, alumni and friends that he recommends his fellow college presidents consider their own version of a Rock Tour.

Jones said the tour is important because it engages alumni and parents in thinking about the future of the university, and allows them to know and understand the president's vision and leadership.

"Ultimately, their support will be determined in important ways by their confidence in the leadership and in the vision the university's leaders are

establishing for the future," Jones said.

"The downside of the tour is that it requires me to be away from campus more than I would like. I intentionally waited until the spring semester for most of the Tour, so that I could spend almost all of the fall semester on campus.

"I would advise new presidents to take care to not allow the time away from campus to prevent them from becoming acquainted with students, faculty and staff."

With the input of alumni and friends, the tour has been changing as it progresses. Jones said the earlier events were designed as focus groups, but have been changed to a preliminary strategic vision.

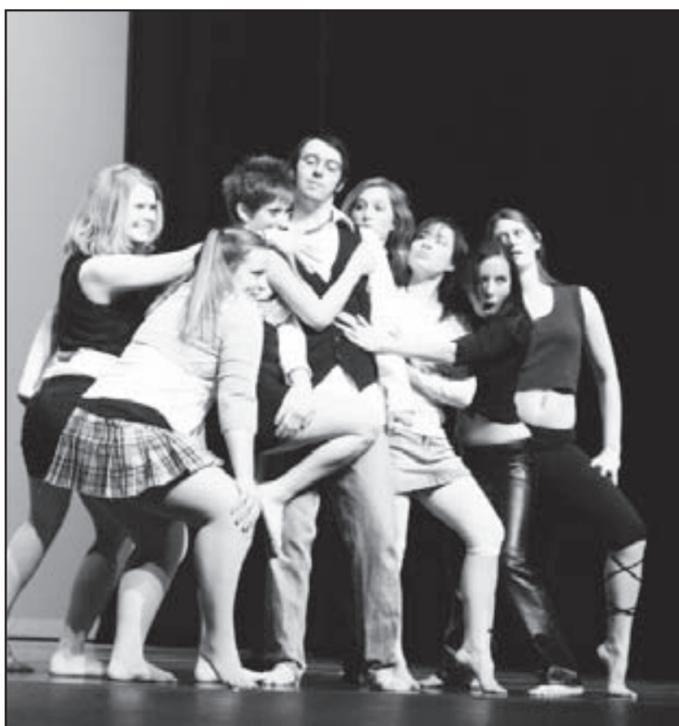
"The presentation has evolved as the tour has continued, partly in response to the input from alumni and parents at the early events, and partly because the strategic vision is beginning to take shape," Jones said. "More recently, I have outlined a preliminary strategic vision and then asked those in attendance to react to the vision and to offer their counsel."

"In the focus groups in the earlier events, and still to some extent in the more recent events, I have asked alumni and parents to share with me the things they value most about Ohio Wesleyan, and their aspirations, hopes, and dreams for the future of Ohio Wesleyan."

# Spice it up one more time

Right: Freshman Nathaniel Barber finds himself surrounded by different versions of Britney Spears at Terpsicorps, the annual student showcase of original and creative dance work.

Below: The Spice Girls and the different Britneys had a face off at Terpsicorps. This year's show took place on Sunday, March 1, at Chappellear Drama Center and featured various dances that were choreographed and performed by students.



Photos by Sara Mays



# Campus safety lights still beacons of hope

By Linda Stover  
Transcript Correspondent

With the advent of cell phones and text messaging, the university's Emergency Safety Phones – the blue light kiosks around campus – have become technological relics, but Public Safety (PS) officials said they are still reliable and useful.

PS Officer Chris Mickens said cell phones are the newest safety tool on campus and seem to have overtaken the safety phones, but also said they are still useful.

"The blue lights are a great tool and are better than nothing," Mickens said. "In the 10 years I have been here, I have had maybe five calls from the blue lights, and none of those have been of dire emergency."

"The situations mostly deal with students fighting on campus or someone finding another person stranded on the ground."

Director of PS Bob Wood has also experienced limited activity from the safety phones and said most of the calls he has received have come from cell phones.

However, freshman Vicky Benko, who witnessed an individual use the phone by Hayes Hall to get help for a friend with alcohol poisoning, said knowing the safety phones are there in the event of an emergency is comforting.

"It's nice to know that you can be walking on campus and no matter what you're doing, there is a safety net if you need it," Benko said.

According to the university's website, the campus has seven safety phones, which call the PS office when activated.

If the PS office is not open, the call goes directly to the officer on duty.

If there is a fire or medical emergency, the calls are directed

to the Delaware Fire Department or Grady Memorial Hospital.

Both officers suggest that cell phones are the best option to reach PS, but the safety phones are there if needed.

Freshman Stephanie Thomas said she feels that cell phones are not always the best option in the event of an emergency.

"It takes longer to get your cell phone out and dial the number for PS, whereas the safety phone dials PS directly," Thomas said.

Benko said she agrees. "The reaction is much faster with the safety phone because you can just press the button," she said.

"And depending on the type of emergency, you may need to use your hands for something other than your cell phone."

Wood said he personally didn't know the cost of keeping the safety phones operational but said it's "probably" worth maintaining the current phones.

"Any new installations (to the safety phones) need to be carefully considered as to whether the money could be used in a different or better way to increase safety on campus," Wood said.

As far as university security goes, Mickens and Wood both agree the campus is fairly safe, but they urge students not take it for granted.

They stress that unfortunate events happen on every campus, no matter how secure it is.

The safety phones are located between Slocum and Elliot halls; between Hayes Hall and Oak Hill Drive; across Williams Drive from Delta Tau Delta, Bashford Hall and Alpha Sigma Phi; on the north side of University Hall; on the west side of Beeghly Library off the JAYwalk; and on the west side of the Science Center.



## INCIDENT REPORT

Feb. 23 - March 1

- On Feb. 23, the housekeeping staff reported a microwave oven missing and believed stolen from the kitchen area in Bashford Hall.
- On Feb. 23, a Thomson Hall resident was referred to student judicial for theft of university-owned property.

• On Feb. 25, while on routine patrol, Public Safety found a student living in Stuyvesant Hall to be in possession of illegal alcohol while at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. The individual was referred to student judicial.

• On Feb. 25, two fire alarm manual pull-stations were found damaged and an emergency exit sign destroyed in Stuyvesant Hall.

• On Feb. 27, while Public Safety was responding to a fire alarm at Alpha Sigma Phi, a house member advised the officers that he had witnessed the theft of a bicycle, which had been secured to the bike rack near the fraternity. Ownership of the bike was not determined, and the bike was not recovered.

• On Feb. 28, a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity witnessed an intruder inside the fraternity. After reporting the incident, he assisted Public Safety and the Delaware Police in apprehending the intruder, who was arrested by the Delaware Police and charged with criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct.

• On Feb. 28, residence hall staff reported damage to two emergency fire exit signs in Stuyvesant Hall.

• On March 1, a Smith Hall resident reported her bicycle missing and believed stolen. The bike was reported locked to the bicycle rack near Hayes Hall.

--Compiled by Micah Klugman

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Sat, Mar 14<sup>th</sup> – St. Patty's Pub Crawl  
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Photo by Tim Albon

PetPals provides funding for stray animals to be spayed or neutered so the animals, like the dog above, can stay at the Humane society without fee.

## PetPals 'fixed' on helping strays

By Maggie Meloy  
Transcript Correspondant

National Spay/Neuter Awareness Day fixed itself in OWU history on Feb. 24 as an event that inspired by OWU PetPals to raise money for stray animals found on campus.

Junior and PetPals President-elect Stacey Venzel said the organization has a fund designed specifically for fixing animals so they can go to the Humane Society of Delaware County (HSDC) without fee.

"When there's not enough room at the shelter for HSDC to take in the strays we find,

the least we can do is get them fixed (it's called catch/neuter/release) in an attempt to lower the number of strays by way of preventing overpopulation," Venzel said.

Cornell University reports 75 percent of cats and 56 percent of dogs brought to shelters are put to death, according to Venzel's campus-wide e-mail.

"There are too many strays and unwanted pets and not enough room to keep them happy and healthy off the streets," Venzel wrote. "How about stopping the problem before it happens? You can help prevent overpopulation

and the subsequent killing of healthy animals by spaying or neutering your pet."

Venzel said the board members frequently receive calls about strays found in dorms that Public Safety will kick out unless PetPals takes action.

"Some of us live in dorms or just can't take them in all the time," she said. "So we thought up this idea of a fund specifically set aside for OWU, where jars will be collected every two weeks."

Senior and current PetPals President Pooja Dutt said all donations go to the OWU Fund for the Animals. The money from the fund will cover all

medical expenses for spaying/neutering strays as well as emergency medical care.

Dutt said she will continue to take strays to the Humane Society, but students have to do their part in helping the cause.

"We need to make everyone else realize that it's their responsibility to fix their own pets and pitch in whenever they can," she said.

Dutt said the organization will keep reminding students about the jars and why spay/neutering is important.

"We will also be doing some form of active fundraising targeting faculty and staff

because we know college kids won't donate cash," she said. "But no worries, we'll hit you up for food points soon."

Junior Alison Hill donated to the fund and said she hoped her contribution made a difference.

"I don't have a lot of extra change these days, but I love animals, and I feel good that I gave what I had towards such a good cause like this one," she said.

Donation jars were placed in the Psychology Department office, Science Center office, Mowery Alumni Center desk and Beeghly Library circulation desk.

Department head Jeffrey Nunemacher said the lunch talks are a traditional part of the interview process, but the free pizza was added during this hiring in order to draw more students.

"It is important [for the applicant] to meet a cross-section of the people involved," Nunemacher said.

## Math students solve new faculty equation

By Brooke Wanstrath  
Transcript Correspondant

Professors in the math and computer science departments are getting students involved in the hiring of a new faculty member.

As part of the interview process, the four finalists for the position of assistant professor of mathematics recently gave a series of talks to students about mathematical concepts they find particularly interesting over free pizza lunches. The candidates accompanied students to the Mean Bean Cafe, allowing the students to get to know the applicants personally.

Department head Jeffrey Nunemacher said the lunch talks are a traditional part of the interview process, but the free pizza was added during this hiring in order to draw more students.

"One of the applicants, Tricia Muldoon Brown, a graduate student at the University of Kentucky, said everyone made sure she was well-informed about the position.

Professors encouraged students to provide input on the finalist they would like to see as their new teacher.

Computer Science Professor Sean McCulloch said he was looking for a candidate who was "young and dynamic," a good teacher who can explain things clearly and work with small class sizes. Nunemacher said someone with fresh ideas and an interest in the discrete side of mathematics and who fits well with the department would be preferable.

Discrete mathematics is playing an important role in this decision. According to Nunemacher, the Math Department doesn't "have anyone on the discrete math side of things." All the current professors prefer complex analysis, a branch of mathematics that emphasizes numbers as part of a continuum, whereas discrete mathematics look at numbers as sets of objects. Discrete mathematics is a required course for both math and computer science majors.

Around 150 detailed applications were sent including a resumes and statements about teaching and research. Before the faculty narrowed the field down to five finalists, one of the finalists accepted a position at another school before the last series of interviews began, bringing the number down to four.

## Campus Girl Scouts provide education and cookies

By Rachel Ramey  
Transcript Correspondant

Many of the general public are familiar with their cookies, but the Campus Girl Scouts are out to prove there's more to scouting than just cookies.

Campus Girl Scouts (CGS) has only officially been on campus for a year.

This community service-based organization strives to promote the ideals, opportunities and programs of the Girl Scouts to the greater Delaware community.

"I have moved every two years since I was born, and the only thing that has stayed with me for 14 years is Girl Scouts," said co-president of CGS, Erika Hankins, a junior. "There are so many things that

girls don't do. Girl scouting offers so many opportunities to girls who don't know that they're out there."

Hankins said she wants to share her enjoyment and experiences in scouting with other people. According to Hankins, girl scouting is simple and not overly demanding.

Junior Kristen Lear, the other co-president of CGS, also said students don't need to have previous Girl Scout experience, or even be a female, to volunteer with CGS.

Since there aren't many CGS organizations in the country, Lear said there is no real precedent for OWU's CGS chapter to work with.

She hopes to work with colleges in the area that have CGS in an effort to develop



this chapter.

The members of CGS are technically adult troop leaders, Lear said, but it's sometimes difficult because of their age difference with the other troop leaders. The ages of the CGS members are somewhere in between the girls they lead and the rest of the adult leaders. Lear considers this a positive.

"We can relate more to the

girls, and it helps us get to their level," Lear said. "They look up to you."

The main function of CGS is to provide an opportunity for girls in the Delaware community to become involved in Girl Scouts.

The organization has started two lunch bunch troops at Woodward Elementary for Junior Girl Scouts and Brownie Girl Scouts.

Freshman Jennifer Federer said if it were not for CGS, these girls would have no Girl Scout troops.

These two troops are organized and run solely by CGS, and the elementary students involved earn real badges and patches. Recently, the Junior and Brownie Girl Scouts have been working on their commu-

nication badges.

"It's a lot of work, but it's worth it," Federer said. "It's really fun, and the girls really enjoy it."

In addition to running the two troops at Woodward, CGS has been asked by the Girl Scout Council to do one council-wide activity in the fall and one in the spring.

Their spring activity - "Healthy Me!" - will take place on April 25 to promote healthy habits. Programming may include healthy food choices, proper exercise habits and yoga or dance activities.

Future plans of the Campus Girl Scouts also include the selling of Girl Scout cookies and tentative female-awareness activities in March - Women's History Month.

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Top left: It's not a Conga line but the aquatic version of leap frog, one of many events that comprised Delta Gamma's annual Anchor Splash. Swimmers in the back swam to the front through teammates' legs to reach the front of their respective lines.

Center right: Students prepare to dive into the pool for another round of competition Friday night.

Bottom left: The most recently inducted members of Delta Gamma get ready to sit on top of inflatable killer whales and be towed across the pool by swimmers from each team for the Whale Ride.

Bottom right: A Delta Gamma member observes the event's activities at Pfeiffer Natatorium.



Students got wet Friday, Feb. 27, as Delta Gamma hosted its annual Anchor Splash at the Pfeiffer Natatorium to raise money for Service for Sight, the sorority's philanthropic mission.

This year's Anchor Splash, titled "Shipwrecked," lasted from 7 to 9 p.m. and included teams from all the sororities and several fraternities, although varsity athletes and other campus groups have participated in the past.

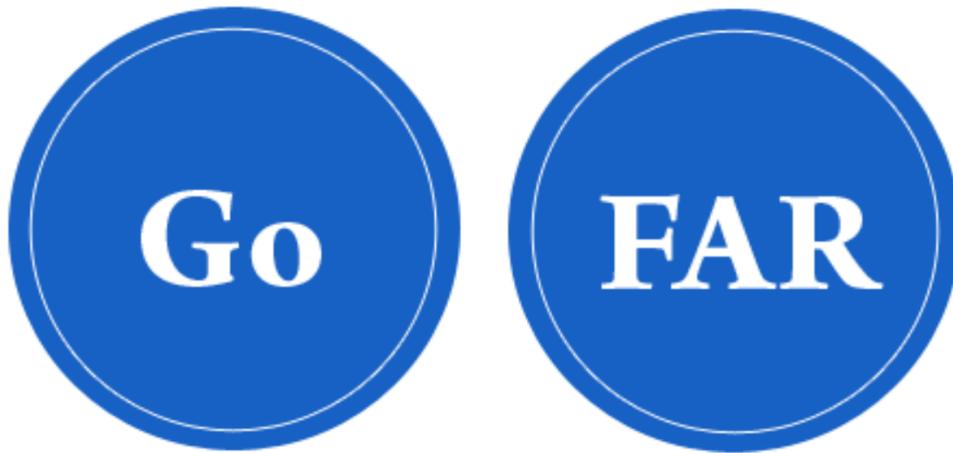
Activities consisted of relay races, synchronized swimming and other aquatic-based events that ranged from intensely competitive to outlandishly fun. One of the games, the whale race, saw the newest members of Delta Gamma sitting atop inflatable killer whales and being dragged across the pool by the different teams.

Another game was a variation of leap frog, but instead of hopping over each other, teammates were required to swim underwater through each other's legs to chain across their lanes.

Service for Sight has been Delta Gamma's charity since 1936 and is dedicated to the prevention of and eventual cure for blindness, especially in children. Each year, the sisters from all chapters of Delta Gamma combine to contribute over 96,000 hours of service toward it. Across the nation, 100 different chapters of Delta Gamma participated in Anchor Splash.

Photos by Carlo Biagioni





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### **Monday, March 23: Freedom of Religion**

**Noon to 1 p.m. in Peale Chapel**

OWU Chaplain Jon Powers and Charles Wilson, rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Delaware, will consider what freedom of religion really means.

### **Tuesday, March 24: Freedom of Speech**

**Noon to 1:30 p.m. in Benes B**

A panel comprising an attorney specializing in First Amendment issues, a senior reporter at the Columbus Dispatch and an member of the academic community will address historic and contemporary issues associated with freedom of speech.

### **Wednesday, March 25: Right to Petition**

**Noon to 1 p.m. in Hamilton-Williams Atrium**

Students are invited to contribute their petitions to OWU's WCSA and administration on a 30-foot banner. Each petitioner will receive a Go FAR memento.

### **Thursday, March 26: Freedom of the Press**

**Noon to 1 p.m. in Benes A**

The Transcript editor-in-chief goes on trial for libel. Come watch the courtroom controversy and hear about real-life court cases that influence the decision of the OWU Supreme Court (a.k.a. Journalism Student Board members).

### **Friday, March 27: Right to Peaceably Assemble**

**Noon to 1:30 p.m. in Benes A**

Join a peaceable assembly (luncheon). Drew Lenox, chair of the student board, speaks directly to Generation Y about their obligation to the First Amendment. The Journalism Student Board will also present a cash award to a student who exemplifies -- through scholarship and practice -- promotion of First Amendment protections.

**Funded by an Inglehart Grant from College Media Advisers  
and a gift from the Margaret Ann Beltz estate.**

## **Journalism student board awarded grant to fund First Amendment education**

During the fall 2008 semester, the Journalism Student Board was recently awarded a Louis Ingelhart First Amendment Fund grant for \$1,000 to educate the campus and community about the freedoms protected by the First Amendment.

The fund is named for Louis E. Ingelhart, builder of the Ball State University's journalism department, dedicated defender of the First Amendment and mentor to a multitude of college and high school media advisers. The fund was established by College Media Advisers, Inc., and donors and is administered through CMA.

Awards are made annually and announced during the fall Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Advisers conference. This year, that conference was held in Kansas

City from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.

OWU's journalism student leadership submitted a proposal to present a "Go FAR" program. "Most people don't know what protections are offered in the First Amendment, but they do tend to understand the basic concepts. We have planned a full day event promoting First Amendment rights. We will call our event Go FAR, with the acronym standing for 'First Amendment Rights.' During our Go FAR event, we want to be able to promote all the protections of the First Amendment and be able to inform students on what these protections mean," the proposal noted. The event will comprise five active learning modules in which all students, faculty and members of the community are invited to participate. Each module will represent

a freedom protected by the First Amendment.

In addition, a donation from the estate of Margaret Ann Beltz will fund a special award given to an journalism major or minor who exemplifies -- through scholarship and practice -- promotion of First Amendment protections. Beltz began her career as a newspaper reporter with the Wheeling News Register and worked her way up to city editor, a position she held for many years prior to her retirement. She mentored many young journalists during her career.

Members of the Journalism Student Board include: Drew Lenox '09, Ryan Armstrong '09, Willy Yoder '09, Greg Stull '09, Danny Eldredge '09, Shade Fakunle '10, Kimberly St. Louis '10 and Kyle Sjarif '11.

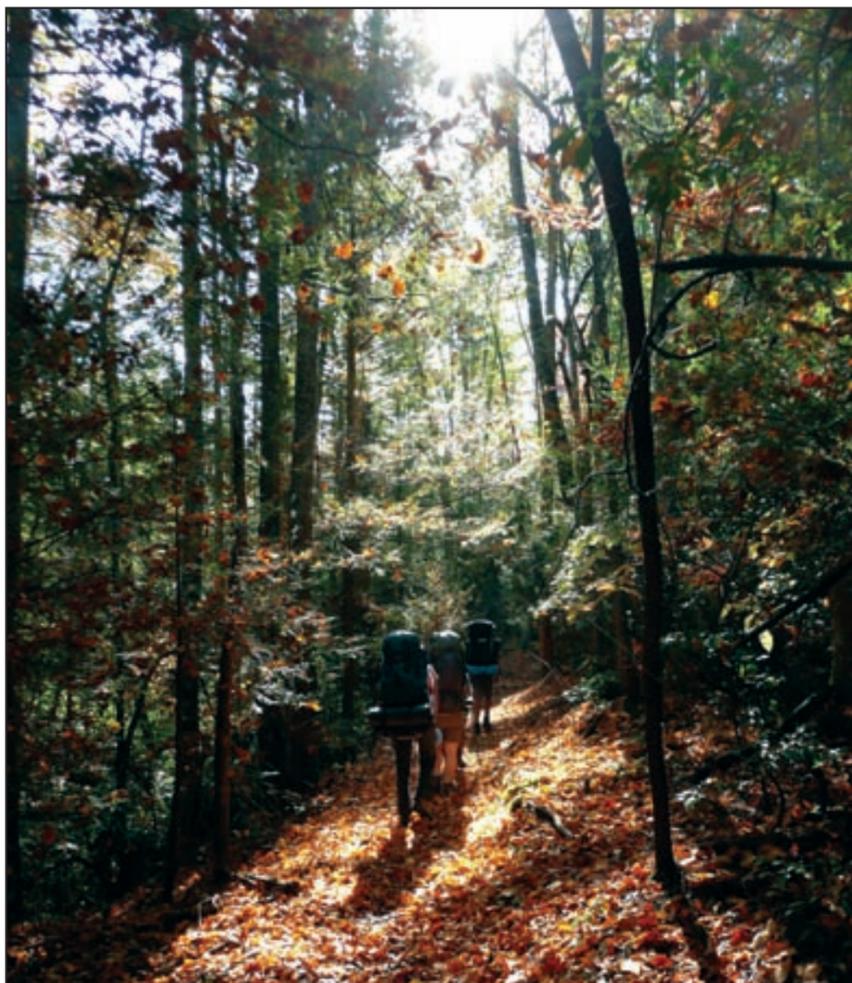


Photo by Selby Majewski

Students with full packs hike on a recent wilderness trek. This year's destinations are Cumberland Island, Ga.; the Everglades; Horseshoe Canyon Ranch in Arizona; and Big South Fork, Tenn.

# Students plan natural adventure on university wilderness treks

By **Samantha Beany**  
Transcript Reporter

Over spring break, OWU students will be returning to the wilderness.

The Wilderness Treks consist of four trips: backpacking trips to Tennessee and Georgia, a climbing trip to Arizona and a canoeing trip to the Everglades.

Junior Selby Majewski is leading the backpacking trek to Big South Fork, Tenn.

"It means a lot to be taking people and showing them what I love," said Majewski.

Leading a load of first-time backpackers, Majewski said her biggest challenge is keeping everyone "healthy and safe."

"The weather looks good, but it could be snowing, it could be wet, it could be 20 degrees," she said. "It's important to be prepared to deal with the weather."

Senior Sahar Mazhar is leading a team of 11 on an all-women's backpacking trip to Cumberland Island, Ga. She said she is looking forward to enjoying "forests, sandy beaches and great wildlife, including wild ponies and

armadillos."

Junior Patricia Troy, who is co-leading the trip to the Everglades, said her team of 14 is canoeing through the "squat and gnarly" mangroves and then camping on the beaches that form around their roots.

Troy said the experience is much more than a camping trip.

"You're not just going into the woods to have fun," said Troy. "You go out, and you have an experience. When you come back, it's 'What did I discover about myself, and how can I facilitate that in life?'"

Senior Lauren Smith and junior Jeremy Franz are leading the climbing trip to Horseshoe Canyon Ranch in Arizona.

Their team of 12 will camp at a horseshoe-shaped dude ranch surrounded by mountains.

The Smith-Franz team is operating under the theme "Climb Well, Live Well," which means "enjoying the journey and not looking at the end goal," said Franz.

The Troy, Majewski and Mazhar teams also have themes.

"Sun, Wind, Tide" is our

theme," said Troy. "The sun nourishes you. The wind represents your life journey, and how your past experiences have changed your life. The tide represents relationships because they are the same but always changing."

Majewski described her team's theme as taking advantage of their resources, time and skills.

"Our trip is about understanding our past and present, and reflecting upon where it is taking us in the future," said Mazhar. "College is a turning point for a lot of students, and this trip is designed to allow participants the space and time to obtain some direction."

The team leaders also talked about Wilderness Trek misconceptions.

"You don't have to be in the best physical condition," said Smith. "It's for everyone. Don't be scared. Don't let your physical limitations limit you."

"It's not just an outdoors trip, Majewski said. "I know I'm going to be a better person for it. I think you have to go to see how much it can change you."

## Lateiner kisses his way through history

By **Kelly Gardner**  
Transcript Correspondent

Professor of Greek Literature Donald Lateiner proved a kiss can be more than just a kiss when he spoke on Valentine's Day at the American Association for Advancement of Science on kissing protocols, techniques and taboos.

Lateiner's interest is Ancient Greece and Rome, non-verbal behavior and ritual procedures.

"I heard that Wendy Hill, Helen Fischer and Sarah Woodley were also speaking on kissing, and decided I, too, could learn a few things from this experience," Lateiner said.

Lateiner discussed the difference between a deep mouth kiss, a peck on the cheek, social kissing and who and whom you can appropriately touch and kiss. There were many different types of kisses, and each kiss had a different meaning: familial, parental kissing, social kissing between friends and deferential, expressing power and hierarchy.

In movies, Hollywood directors show kissing up close and personal, making the viewers feel the passion of the kiss. But kissing wasn't always shown this way and was typically left to the audience's imagination. None of the paintings or artwork from the Greek and Roman era, from which Lateiner

based his findings, showed the subjects actually kissing.

"Many of the pictures captured the moments before a kiss, and I believe the reason for this was because kissing did not look elegant or graceful as it does today," Lateiner said.

"The Romans would show the full body and the position of the face and hands on the body. This gives it a more erotic and obscene feel to the picture.

"There is never any doubt the two will kiss, but the face is not distorted as it would be as if they were in mid-kiss. I believe they felt they were distorting and obscuring the body in a picture where an actual kiss was being captured," he added.

Junior Sibel Gokce said she wished she would have heard Lateiner's presentation because the art of kissing is unknown.

"It is such an interesting subject because it has been around for so many years and has been used in different ways throughout history. It would've been a very informative and fun presentation to listen to," Gokce said.

Lateiner said the turnout and support of the press was overwhelming – only standing room was left before the presentation began.

"In my field of work, we don't typically get news conferences, and because there was a lot of publicity, we [the panelists] knew this was a big meeting," Lateiner said.

## Ross gives celebratory, cautionary talk to OWU greeks

By **Thomas Lawrence**  
Transcript Reporter

When Lawrence C. Ross spoke about his book "The Divine Nine," he wasn't talking about ancient deities but rather the nine historically black greek letter organizations that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

On Feb. 18, Ross, a columnist from California and author of two other books, talked to OWU students about the history and creation of the organizations, three of which are on campus – Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta – and the problems they face, especially regarding hazing.

The event was funded by Black Men of the Future and Sisters United.

Ross explained that NPHC was slowly created, one organization at a time, throughout the country. The first, Alpha Phi Alpha, was established in 1906 at Cornell University.

Ross said the idea for black greek organizations stemmed from the two, sometimes opposing, views of black thought: Booker T. Washington's belief in a strong economic center that would lay the foundation for a future equality between races and W. E. B. Du Bois' principle that the black elite should reach into the rest of the race and lead them to equality.

Black greek organizations were designed to do the both for the black community.

"When we become members [of a black greek organization], we join not for our sake but for the sake of the African American community," said Ross.

He lauded the greek organization's philanthropic deeds but warned that some organizations spend too much time partying.

"If all you do is step, then the people you bring in will only want to step," he said.

Ross condemned the policy of hazing, calling it "the



Photo by Shafalika Jackson

Lawrence C. Ross, author of "The Divine Nine," speaks to the audience in HWCC Benes Rooms on Wednesday evening, Feb. 18. Ross was hosted by Sisters United to come and speak to OWU students about African-American greek organizations. Ohio Wesleyan has three historically black greek letter organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta.

main problem [black greek organizations] face today."

He told somber stories of students who have died because of hazing. One person died because he had asthma and was forced to run laps. Two women died after one was caught by a current on the beach, and the other tried to retrieve her.

Ross said hazing sets up a power construct between the member and the inductee. The inductees are told the tasks prove their loyalty or some other trait when, in fact, it proves nothing. For most hazers, it's just a way to get free things.

Ross recalled his experiences of hazing, which were nonviolent.

"For seven weeks and one day, they told me to say 'Alpha Phi Alpha does not haze.' For seven weeks and one day, they hazed me," Ross said.

He also told of his time as a

first-time hazer.

"I told my friend to have a donut delivered to me at my room by 6:08 every morning for 10 days," Ross said. "The bakery was 10 minutes away, and it opened at 6 a.m." Unfortunately, he was smart enough to just buy 10 donuts and place one on my door. So by the last day, I was eating 10-day-old donut."

Those who attended said the talk had a great impact on them.

"It was great to hear someone denounce hazing, especially an adult," said sophomore Laurel Elliot. "I've always felt like I'm a greek, but I've always felt that some people join for the wrong reasons, and I've become cynical."

"I talked to [Ross] afterwards, and he said that the best greek members join while they're still cynical. That was the first thing he said. It was great."



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The name of the network is taken from the ad size: 2 columns across by 2 inches deep (3.5" width by 2" depth). The ad space offers plenty of room for logos and/or website addresses.

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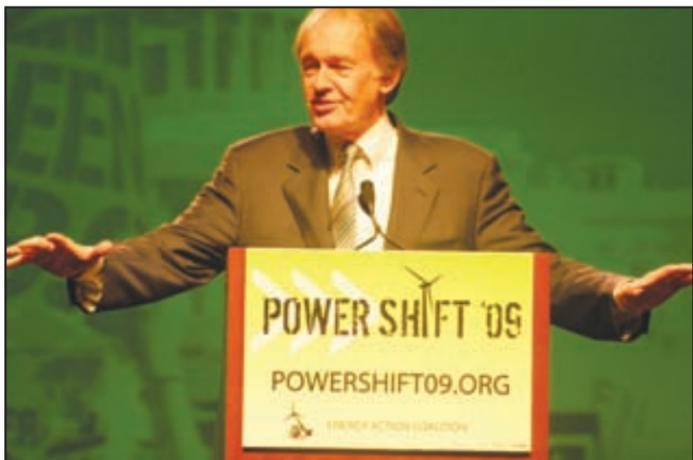
- **The Buchtelite** - Univ. of Akron; published Tues & Thurs; 10,000 circ; 25,000 campus
- **The Collegian** - Ashland University; published Thurs; 1,500 circ; 6,200 campus
- **The Pulse** - University of Findlay; published Thurs; 1,500 circ; 4,500 campus
- **The Daily Kent Stater** - Kent State University; published Mon-Fri; 10,000 circ; 22,500 campus
- **The Transcript** - Ohio Wesleyan Univ.; published Thurs; 1,000 circ; 1,850 campus
- **The Tan & Cardinal** - Otterbein College; published Thurs; 1,500 circ; 3,000 campus
- **The Clarion** - Sinclair Community College (Dayton); published Tues; 5,000 circ; 23,000 campus
- **The Independent Collegian** - Univ. of Toledo; published Mon & Thurs; 10,000 circ; 20,700 campus

# POWER SHIFT 2009



All photos by Ben Boynton

From Feb. 27 to March 2, more than 12,000 students from around the world gathered in Washington, D.C. for Power Shift 2009, an unprecedented summit on environmental and related social justice and economic issues. This year's Power Shift was the largest gathering of youth in support of the environmental movement in United States history. Nearly 500 students from Ohio alone participated, with 17 OWU students attending from the Environment and Wildlife Club. The four-day event was filled with speakers, workshops and conferences about solutions to energy and environmental demands and campus sustainability initiatives.



Rep. Ed Markey, chair of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming in the House of Representatives, addresses students about the current status of U.S. environmental policy.



Conference participants rallied on the west lawn of the Capitol building after the conference ended on Monday. From left to right are sophomore Veronica Malencia, senior Chris Kelley, sophomore Heather Werling, freshman Alison Maurice and freshman Kristen Curtis.



After the keynotes on Saturday night, Philadelphia-based hip hop band The Roots performed.



During the conference, time was allocated for students to meet with others from their respective states to organize and share information. Ohio students decided to focus on a campaign to stop new coal plants from being built in Ohio while supporting renewable energy initiatives, such as wind and solar. Plans were also made for an Ohio student environmental conference in October of 2009.

# Opinion

**Quote of the Week:** "I think there would be a negative response [to the aliens] because of the fear of the unknown."

-- Rock Jones, during the Phone Home Panel's discussion for Space Week



## OWU not so keen when going green

**Christopher Kelley**  
Guest Columnist

This year, OWU went green. What an apropos message! Indeed, this campus has become ripe with environmental projects (including mine!). The SNC class had over 20 projects last semester. To name a few: Food Waste project has this fine paper publish the food waste on its sacred front page. The Composting project is making rich soil—and using it! Recycling has become the highest virtue here; anyone not recycling is not cool. Environment and Wildlife Club (E&W) gets cozy with 30-odd members piled into the common room of the Tree House each Tuesday. Environmental projects are growing like rabbits out of E&W. This campus is definitely Green!

Wait. Let's analyze how green we've become. Do you remember Meatless Mondays? That happened for a few weeks. Then the mad-cow carnivores ate the meek and weak vegetarians. Or maybe the meatless options were tasteless. Either way, meat slabs were back on trays. Once this happened, the idea of a green OWU seemed to go stale, turn brown and largely die – like brussel sprouts. Does anyone else feel this way too? I mean, what happened to the flurry of activity? I recall my emotion towards this program was hopeful. If I remember correctly, they said they knew the problem of most green movements, and I had hope. They fail because they don't take action. But *this* green movement is for real. It will go beyond raising awareness: it will *take action*.

But the Colloquium has flopped for the most part. Right? Maybe it's that I am ignorant of the status of these projects, but as far as I know, SNC has been a joke. But allow me to give credit where it is due: it raised awareness, and projects such as composting are running smoothly, and recycling has expanded. But these projects are small. It takes great financial support to sustain projects that make a huge difference, which is what I thought this SNC was going to do for once. Instead, it brought in high-paid speakers squandering its funds and decided to not work with the Delaware community. How is this a recipe for success?!? What were they thinking? And the blame is certainly not to be put on the hard-working Paula Travis or the students' laziness. Regardless, how much greener is OWU after SNC? Seriously contemplate this. Maybe I am just counting my chicks before they hatch. We'll see.

Oh yeah! And remember that email from Rock Jones about the Task Force on Sustainability? What happened to it? It still sits in the bottom of my gmail inbox, cold as ice and untouched. There was an Immediate Action branch to that Task Force too, but it has been not-so-immediate. It has been two months and no word.

But I have a theory to why this is. If yours is different from mine, let me know. Write to this paper! Do something! And no, my little column isn't just to rant and rave and to point a finger at the failure of an attempt of going green. Rather, the point of my article is for underclassmen who have yet to be frustrated:

My hunch to why the SNC rots, The Bike Movement is moving slowly and the Immediate Task Force is taking a long time is because of the administrative situation – not the administrators per se. In fact, most administrators are all for student projects. Indeed, this school is for students! But this school is also a business, and like all businesses, it must remain moderate in behavior. Thus they say "that's a very good idea, Christopher," and nothing more. That phrase may sound good and believe me, they mean well; its just that in meaning, well, they mean nothing. They avoid going the extra-mile and really supporting students' ideas and *taking action with students*. Is this too radical!? They make the students do ALL of the work. This triples the time it takes to accomplish anything because you have to go from one administrator to another.

So until administrators and students can walk hand-in-hand, take time to de-stress after meetings with them. Then be sure to quickly go to the next administrator because you will need to talk to at least three to do anything – some of them take over three weeks to meet with, but I won't name names.



## Letter to the editor: students evoke shame

Dear Editors,  
  
I just finished reading a recent issue of the Transcript, as I do every Pizza Sub Thursday in the Bishop Cafe, and I feel the admissions team isn't doing a very good job. I figured OWU was a great school when I came here four years ago, and I still feel that way, but sometimes the actions and words of other students make me feel pretty ashamed of earning the diploma in May. I have compiled a list of

grievances.  
•You probably aren't smart enough to be at OWU if:  
•You are the only person out of hundreds to exit the Science Center and break your arm on a snowy day.  
•You get multiple tickets and a few boots and still can't process parking on the street.  
•You think wasting \$15,000 of our money on bikes during an economic recession is a splendid idea.  
•You don't expect PS to look at your drunken escapades

on Facebook.  
•You are surprised your SLU or frat got kicked off campus because you can't clean up after yourselves.  
•You blame yourselves about the pounds of Smith food wasted and not Chartwells.  
•You think WCSA will give your organization any money at all this spring.  
•You think OrgSync is practical for every organization, ever.  
•You forget to log out on a library computer and then are

surprised that someone sent a fake campus-wide e-mail with your account.  
•You complain daily about being in Ohio, not taking into account YOU decided to go here.  
I digress. Wait. No, I don't. Let's start acting like we're in college, people. Grow up. Face the s\*\*\*.  
  
Rick Durham, senior  
  
P.S. I really like the PS incident reports. Great Job!

## Europe's border nations lose economic footing

**Alexandra Panait**  
Transcript Columnist

Europe is facing dire consequences on its fringes. Russia's economy is in the worst economic circumstances in years, marking the end of the positive domestic economy on which Putin emerged. Ukraine stands as the worst case scenario for a non-EU country on decrepit political and economical ground.

At a narrowed scale one finds Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Portugal confronted with collapsing investment and increased need for government intervention. The center of the European banking system is shaking due to the impact of the complete bankruptcy of Iceland banks that depleted their reserves.

Russia is undergoing an accelerating decline, under growing inequality and political instability. In January, its economy contracted by 8.8 percent while the overall economy throughout December and January recorded a decline of 2.4 percent of its GDP.

The data thus indicates the major chain reaction and the fragile base on which Russian economy was thriving in major cities, such as Moscow and St. Petersburg, in stark contrast with the reality outside such artificial economic boom. In January, the domestic industrial production declined by 16 percent while the construction

sector indicated a decline of 17 percent.

The sources for the huge currency destabilization are found in the global financial problems, declining oil prices and the credit crisis. Yet, the Russian banking system has played a negative role in its response to the distressing economic conditions.

The poor monetary policies have led to a ruble collapse shattering Russia's frail economy.  
Under the need for increased political cohesion, Russia is refocusing its priorities towards international stability. Aiming at restoring its international credibility and much needed long-term rapprochement with Europe, Russia announced the revival of the NATO-Russian Council for restoring a political equilibrium in the Caucasus.

The Russian ambassador to NATO, Dimitri Rogozin, emphasized the need to restore NATO's interests with Russia, curtailed as a result of the Georgian crisis in August 2008 and the Russian intention to instill military bases in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Eastern Europe is the most reticent bloc towards Russian interests, still impacted by the latter tyrannical energy policies in January 2009.

The frail economic circumstances and increased vulnerability of Western European countries are building an opportunity for

Russia to fuse its economic interests with security and political projects. It is up to Europe, most notably Western Europe, to not fall into a political trap and address the most impending problem, economic restoration.

The economic collapse which translated into a political game for interests that have trapped and paralyzed the domestic economy is most evident in the case of Ukraine. The inefficient political apparatus to secure a firm budget and reduce public spending have led to the IMF's refusal to award a much needed loan of \$1.84 billion.

The impending risk associated with a collapsing economy of the former Soviet state on the lack of political support for budgetary revision and the needed banking system reform have placed Ukraine in no-man's land, outside the gates of the EU and an aggressive Russian neighbor. Ukraine is thus facing pending social problems driven by the acute economic crisis, with no international support.

Under the pressure for a total economical breakdown propagating particularly in the periphery of Europe, a common denominator among the European states has emerged rooted in the anxiety, a declining public moral and a rising dissatisfaction with governmental policy tackling. Despite the surging need

for prompt policies and efficient leadership in order to curtail pending social chaos and massive unemployment and total collapse of European Southern and Eastern state, private interests and profits are unmatched, dominating the massive public losses.

Echoing the international level prevalence of self interest, domestic politics and economics reflect the narrowed yet tremendous interest of the few that rise over the overall crumbling of societies as seen from the rising black market to private firms (armaments, etc) to dominant figures in illegal activities to exploitative dominant political figures to the neighborhood gangs that engage in small scale robberies.

On the background of economic, the dire reality makes one put aside the previous confidence on which the government and institutions were founded and seek a practical interest of personal social security. Ironically, only under duress, reality voices harshly the importance of having a roof over the head and meeting basic everyday needs.

It is under such circumstance South Eastern European governments need to restore confidence through rapid mobilization and reliable policies, with long term vision rather than the stalemate instilled in most capitals.

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- To report, gather and interpret the news in a thorough manner which empowers all members of the OWU community in their decision-making.
- To maintain an open forum for the discussion of campus issues and other pertinent matters.
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- To practice professional journalism.

Founded in 1867 as The Western Collegian, The Transcript (USPS 978-520) is published weekly September through May, except during university vacations, holidays and examination periods. The views expressed in letters, columns and cartoons are the opinions of the writers and artists and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Journalism or Ohio Wesleyan University.

**Letters to the Editor and Press Releases**

The Transcript welcomes and encourages letters to the editor as well as press releases and story ideas. All letters to the editor must be accompanied by the writer's contact information for verification. Letters may be edited for grammar and defamatory or obscene material. Story ideas or press releases should be emailed to [owunews@owu.edu](mailto:owunews@owu.edu) or delivered to the Department of Journalism, Phillips 114. Before submitting story ideas or press releases, please first consider how the potential story pertains to the Transcript's audience and include that in your submission.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Gallery 2001 revisits alumnus' birthplace through lens



By Carlo Biagioni  
Transcript Correspondent

Gallery 2001, located on the first floor of Beeghly Library, is currently hosting a collection by photographer and alumnus Moshen Shirzadian. The Iranian-born photographer left his home country in 1974 in pursuit of a college degree and ended up at OWU, studying fine arts. His photographs are from 2006 when Shirzadian finally went back to Iran to visit.

The gallery seems to be hidden to many students, said Fine Arts professor Justin Kronewetter.

"Gallery 2001 was set up to make artwork available to the group of students typically different from those who go to the Ross Art Museum," Kronewetter, who manages both the Ross museum and Gallery 2001, said.

"The point is to honor people who do more than just produce art."

Started in 1970 at the behest of Kronewetter, the gallery was intended to become a part of the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center. He didn't comment on why it wasn't established there but said the Beeghly Library was the obvious second choice. The gallery is a donation from the graduating class of 2001.

Kronewetter said the gallery's location was key.

"The primary reason to see [Gallery] 2001 is because it is on the way to the cyber café," said Kronewetter.

He believes that if the gallery weren't so central in location, even fewer people would know its purpose.

Kronewetter said most of the Ross Museum patrons are almost, without exception, art students or art majors.

"Far too few people come [to Ross] in their four years at the university," Kronewetter said. "Students don't take advantage of the various learning experiences. Either they are too lazy or not comfortable going out of their comfort zone."

Freshmen Huntley Stone agrees. "Taking a break from studying one night, I passed Gallery 2001," he said. "The contrast of photos caught my eye. I stopped by and took a look at all the pictures."

Had he not been wandering to clear his head, he explained, he probably wouldn't have noticed. "They looked to be about third world countries and hope within them," Stone said of the photographs. "My favorite was the little kid by the fire."

Kronewetter said lack of student awareness for these events is not restricted only to the arts.

"About a week ago, I asked how many of my students were going to the basketball game, the OWU vs. Wooster one, I think," he said. "I was going to the game but not one of my students knew about it or wanted to go."

By Katie Tuttle  
Transcript Correspondent

Every year, the Ohio Wesleyan art department chooses an alumnus and gives him the honor of the Distinguished Alumni Artist. This year, it's Moshen Shirzadian, who graduated in 1983.

Shirzadian came to the U.S. from Iran to pursue studies in filmmaking at OWU. After the only filmmaking class was cancelled before he could take it, he ended up in the art department. One of his instructors was current professor of Fine Arts Justin Kronewetter.

"I take a great deal of pride in Moshen's professional accomplishments," Kronewetter said. "Knowing that I contributed to his success in some small way is very gratifying.... His accomplishments are many and varied, and collectively, they provide reassurance that my personal efforts on his behalf were anything but wasted."

On Feb. 26, Shirzadian spoke and presented some of the pictures he took when he went back to Iran in 2006. Titled "Revisiting My Birthplace: A Journey Through the Camera Lens," Shirzadian's photographs depict everyday life in the cities of Iran.

"When you look at these pictures, what is your reaction to them?" Shirzadian asked the audience after the slideshow. "What is it you thought I was trying to show?"

Shirzadian got many an-

swers. One audience member felt the focus was on people. Another said, "Everyday life. All aspects of living every day." A third member said it seemed as if Shirzadian had connected with each of the people in the photos.

"I think that in looking at these photographs, I have a much different impression of Iran than I did before," he said. "They have given me an insight to a country and a people that is quite different than before."

Junior Jo Hartley also attended the talk and said she had similar feelings about the pictures.

"I think that the photos were important in giving us a small glimpse of everyday life in Shirzadian's home country of Iran," Hartley said. "Although it's shameful to admit, many Americans have an egocentric outlook on the world and often don't feel like what goes on beyond our own borders is worth knowing about. I think artists like Shirzadian play an integral role in reversing this mindset."

Shirzadian's artwork is currently on display in Gallery 2001 in Beeghly Library. On the artist statement that accompanies the exhibition, Shirzadian makes a connection to all the photographs in his collection.

"The images on display here are not what exactly Iran looks like," the statement read. "Iran also consists of beautiful

places, both modern and fancy buildings, advanced technology and many other elements. It's just that on this trip, I had intentionally decided to point my camera at subjects that were interesting to me, which, for the most part, ended up being people."

Shirzadian said he was very honored to be named as OWU's Distinguished Alumni Artist for 2008-09. He also said he would like his images to make statements about someone, something, somewhere, everyday life, culture or people, but that each image is different. He also had very good advice to current OWU art students.

"Understand and know what you want to accomplish as a photographer," he said in an email. "It is important to set a goal. Remember, there is a difference between studying fine arts and photography and having the technical and artistic background to be good enough to make a living... My advice is to make sure your work is good enough that you can make a living in photography after you are out of college."

Shirzadian graduated from OWU with a BFA in 1983. He then went on to pursue photography at Ohio State, receiving his MA in 1985.

"This is what I consider my hometown for real," Shirzadian said about Delaware. "Even though I came here to study filmmaking, I do not regret coming to Ohio Wesleyan."



Currently on display as part of Gallery 2001, the photography of OWU alumnus Moshen Shirzadian depicts the images he saw in his home country of Iran when he returned for a visit in 2006. Shirzadian was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Artist Award 2008-09 by the OWU art department. The display is entitled "Revisiting My Birthplace: A Journey Through the Camera's Lens."

### Shade's Top 3

#### 1. Sleep!

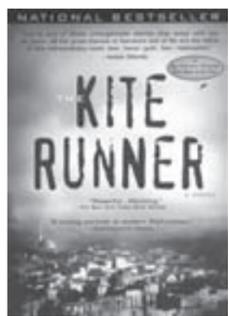
I know everyone is just about losing their minds from all the midterms! The number one thing I can suggest for spring break is SLEEP!

We all deserve it! With the holidays we don't get off, such as President's Day and MLK Day, we have been working our butts off non-stop! I'm ready to get under the bed covers! So make yourself a promise that as soon as you get home, or wherever you decide to go, that you will treat yourself to a good night's sleep! I don't plan to do anything else!

Who? You! What? Sleep! Where? Wherever dreamland takes you! When? Spring break! Why? Because you can!



#### 2. Some good readin'



Since we have this break, what better time to get in some good reading? I'm actually going to be reading "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini over break. I have heard nothing but raves about this best-selling book, so I figure, why not read it? I challenge you to read it with me!

"The Kite Runner" is about the friendship between two young boys, Amir and Hassan, who are growing up in Afghanistan before the Soviet invasion. It shows a true test of friendship as the Soviets invade and Amir and Hassan are split up. OK, so I'm not going to tell it all because I haven't even read it myself! It is only about 400 pages, and it's less than \$20! You should never pass up on a good read. I bet you can't beat me!

#### 3. Get off ya butt!

OK, so I mentioned sleep. I suggested a good book to read. I feel like my "Top 3" is complete! Even though I love to relax (some call it lazy), but you can't go on spring break and stay in the house all day!

Spring break is the perfect time to volunteer. When you get home, look into local old folks homes (I mean that in the most polite way) where you can hang out with someone who doesn't get much attention. Or, look into your local recreation center to see if you can help with the neighborhood kids. Maybe you can start a recycling program in your neighborhood.

Just do something! For those who plan to sit at home on the couch, this is your perfect opportunity to give back. You will come back to school feeling warm and fuzzy inside!



Never know what to do because "there's just too much going on" or "there's never anything going on"?

This weekly column will point you to the top three things to do at OWU and beyond the Delaware city limits, because we know how much you love to leave.

Send suggestions to [owunews@owu.edu](mailto:owunews@owu.edu) with "Top 3" in the subject line.



Photo by Terree Stevenson

“Bush Slam” winner Vanessa German recites one of her poems with great emotion as students watched quietly from the audience. German hosted the second annual Slam Bam Poetry Jam on Thursday, Feb. 26, in Bishop Cafe. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and Rafiki Wa Afrika, the event involved students reading poetry they had written or sharing the work of a poet they admired. Traditionally held in September, the Poetry Jam was moved to February to fall in line with Black History Month, the theme of which this year was “Celebrating the similarities that bring people together.” German is best known for winning the “Slam Bush” poetry jam in Miami, Fla., in 2004, which consisted of poets sharing their work that criticized then-President George W. Bush.



# Poetry for the soul at OWU

By Kelley King  
Transcript Reporter

“Instead of going to war, we should dance,” said Vanessa German, this year’s host for the second annual Slam Bam Poetry Jam, hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) and Rafiki Wa Afrika.

OMSA usually hosts the poetry jam every September, but last year the Jam was moved to February to help celebrate Black History Month.

Students read their own work or presented their favorite artist’s poetry.

This year’s Black History Month theme is “Celebrating the similarities that bring people together.”

German, a multi-disciplinary artist, is known for winning the “Slam Bush” poetry jam in Miami, Fla., in 2004.

Sophomore Mats Nordbo enjoyed the host’s presence at OWU.

“She was very eccentric and had great stage presence, which got the audience completely involved,” Nordbo said.

Terree Stevenson, director of Multicultural Student Affairs, said she continues having the poetry slams because “it gives students an opportunity to express themselves and showcase their talents.”

“It is so wonderful to see the array of talents and gifts our students have, and I am glad they are willing to share them with OWU,” Stevenson said.

One student who shared his poetry was sophomore Frankie Weschler.

“If you read a poem, all you hear are the words, but if you present a poem, you are able to feel the poem,” Weschler said.

“You are able to see the emotion the artist is portraying, and the poem sometimes reaches out and touches the listener. If I am able to reach someone, I know my poem has been felt and not just heard,” he added.

Ten students presented their own work, and a number of students made “shout outs” toward happenings that have affected them.

“I love poetry slams. I think they are a great place for people to express themselves and their feelings,” Weschler said. “The poetry slam is where people are not judged but accepted. It is a melting pot of talent.”

# Space week focuses on extraterrestrial

By Brad Russel  
Transcript Reporter

What if aliens landed in Delaware tonight? Would they be nice or aggressive? How would humans react?

These questions and more were answered during Space Week. The week kicked off with a panel discussion of the social and religious implications of finding life in the universe. Titled “Phone Home,” the panel included President Rock Jones, Associate Chaplain Chad Johns, chair and professor of physics and astronomy Robert Harmon and visiting professor Sarah Lancaster. The event was moderated by professor of physics and astronomy Barbara Andereck.

Harmon opened with a presentation on the scientific possibilities of finding life in the universe. He explained the existence of aliens is possible, but there are 100 billion candidate stars that could have planets capable of supporting life. Harmon said there are also many planets similar to Jupiter: large, gaseous and unable support life.

Harmon said future technologies could allow astronauts to travel at a fraction of the speed of light, but even at that speed, travelling to another solar system would take millions of years.

Harmon added that extraterrestrial life might be found through radio waves broadcast throughout the universe.

Or, aliens could find humanity first.

Harmon said if aliens had the technology to travel to Earth, they’ve likely already destroyed themselves. This was one of Harmon’s concerns for the human race; if humans develop the technology for intergalactic travel, it might lead to their destruction.

Harmon also said it is possible Earth is special and the

only life-sustaining planet in the universe, but astronomers and scientists don’t know yet.

Harmon’s presentation inspired different responses among the panelists.

“I think there would be a negative response [to the aliens] because of the fear of the unknown,” said Jones.

Johns provided a different interpretation, seeing a positive in the arrival of a new life form.

“The arrival of an alien species would unite humans beyond all known times before,” Johns said.

“I have a hard time imagining there would be one outcome,” Lancaster added.

While some people would likely react negatively, she explained, others would act with a sense of curiosity.

Lancaster also believed there might be issues if humans discovered life on another planet.

“There is a precedence of ‘we discovered it,’” Lancaster said. She said history would repeat itself, and humans would colonize the planet and take the resources as their own, just as the Spanish did with the discovery of the Americas.

When the questions being asked by the moderator turned more directly to faith, the panel expressed optimism over religion and new life.

“It is possible for faith to evolve,” said Lancaster.

She compared finding new life to the debate over evolution.

She said that some people wouldn’t have any connection to the aliens; they’d view other life forms as unholy. Others would be accepting and see them as just another creation of their god.

“Finding pond scum would be epic. Finding life on another planet would force us to revisit our own beliefs,” Johns said.



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<b>Benes Rooms, 6pm</b>	<b>Global World</b>	<b>Tough Economy</b>
	<b>HWCC 304, 6pm</b>	<b>HWCC 304, noon</b>

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# Bishops Sports

## Gatz dives into OWU swimming record books

By Chelsie Pacha  
Transcript Reporter

Junior David Gatz said the 200-yard breaststroke is the awkward-looking one with a frog kick, but at the NCAC championship, there was nothing awkward in the way Gatz took the record in the event.

"I actually had both the 100 and 200 breaststroke records from last year, but managed to lower both of them at our NCAC conference swim meet," said Gatz.

Gatz said the NCAC conference championship meet features nine men's teams that compete in a three-day competition for the conference title.

Teammate and sophomore Dom Schlabach said he was overwhelmed and excited when Gatz set his record.

"The whole team was at the end of his lane cheering him on, and all the other teams were watching," said Schlabach.

"When he won, the crowd blew up, and everyone was excited for him. Before he raced, he described what he would have to do each lap in order to win. Because he is such a talented swimmer, he was able to do this and pull off a 2:01:23."

Gatz said he has been swimming for most of his life, specializing in 100 and 200-yard strokes.

"I think I got my first ribbon for swimming when I was 6, maybe 7, so I guess I've been swimming for a total of 14-15 years," said Gatz.

Although he said he has accomplished many goals, there is one more thing he has

his heart set on.

"Realistically, I've already gone much faster than I ever expected to, so I'm pretty content in terms of goals," said Gatz.

"I would like to, however, defend my conference titles one more time next year to get full All-American honors. I got honorable mention All-American honors last year, which was still pretty cool."

Gatz said he believes his teammates and Coach Richard Hawes have been the most important factors in his swimming career.

"We are a fairly close group and have a great atmosphere on the team," said Gatz.

"Teammates are friends, and they are training buddies, and together, we are capable of training much more effectively than if we're alone."

Schlabach said he agrees, and thinks Gatz is a leader in and out of the pool.

"David is a great teammate and captain," said Schlabach.

"He is someone that the first year swimmers look up to and strive to be. He has helped me better a couple strokes, and is always helpful when I have questions. He is truly a great leader and teammate."

Despite his accomplishments, Gatz does not plan on furthering his swim career after his graduation.

"I plan to be quite done with swimming when I'm through with college," said Gatz. "I'm sure I will swim on occasion, but not at the same intensity. At some point, I would like to get into triathlons, which obviously require swim training."



Photo by Ben Boynton

Junior Ricky Scheetz battles an opponent in last week's game against Hendrix. After starting 2-0 in big wins, the Bishops traveled to Virginia to take on 10th ranked Lynchburg in a non-conference battle. The scoring went back and forth as junior Rob Young scored four goals, but the team fell 9-8. They will take two road trips this week and return home on March 18.

## Bishops stung by Hornets

By Colin Magruder  
Transcript Reporter

Saturday began what Coach Sean Ryan dubbed, "Murderer's Row" for the Bishops as they traveled to Virginia for their yearly match against the tenth-ranked Lynchburg Hornets.

OWU started off strong, with junior attacker Rob Young scoring just a minute into the game, giving the team a 1-0 lead.

However, that was all the Bishops could put up in the first period, while Lynchburg went on a 4-0 run to close out the first.

The Bishops were able to rebound early in the second period, stringing off their own 4-0 run behind goals by se-

niors Karl Zimmerman, Nick Gallagher and Young to give OWU a 5-4 lead.

The Hornets tied it, but Young notched up another goal to take OWU into half-time with a 6-5 lead.

"I was very happy with how we reacted when we were down 4-1, and we then had a 6-5 lead at half," coach Ryan said.

The third quarter didn't have as many goals, but OWU held a 7-6 advantage going into the last period behind another Gallagher goal.

Lynchburg tied the game early in the fourth period, only to be answered again by Young, who put up his fourth goal of the contest and gave the Bishops the 8-7 lead.

With just over five minutes

remaining, the Hornets tied it up at eight, and three minutes later, tacked on the game winner for a tough 9-8 victory.

"I learned we have a lot of fight and grit that has been missing at times the last three years" said Ryan. "It was a great learning experience, and we played very well. We know we made a couple of mistakes that we can fix, and that could have changed the outcome."

Young had much of the same sentiment.

"We faced adversity early, and everyone stayed positive and played hard throughout the whole game, and that I am very proud of," Young said.

Ryan did find some positives.

"The attack played really well, as did our man down

defense, and Jud Hall was outstanding with 14 saves," he said.

"Ricky Scheetz did a nice job on face-offs, and overall, the kids worked really hard."

"We know that we can compete with anyone," Young said. "We know that if we can cut out the little mistakes, we will have a very successful 2009 season."

The team doesn't have a game until spring break, when they head to the east coast to take on #1 Salisbury, followed by a game at #2 Gettysburg.

"These games are only going to strengthen us for after spring break when we get into conference games," said Ryan.

"In order to be the best, we have to beat the best."

## Remembering Mr. Rickey campaign continues: lights coming to Selby

By Steven Ruygrok  
Transcript Correspondent

Selby Field has had new turf and border fencing installed over the past few years, and now the university is planning to shed some more light on the subject.

Athletic Director Roger Ingles said Ohio Wesleyan is looking to place lights around Selby Field within the next few years.

"I am not allowed to be a betting man by NCAA rule, but I would be disappointed if the lights are not done in the near future," Ingles said.

He said getting lights would cost between \$300,000 and \$325,000.

"There is an active campaign currently under way to raise the money,"

Ingles said. "A significant portion of the [money for the] lights has been raised, but much more needs to get done."

Ingles said around one-third of the lighting costs have already been raised.

Ingles also said OWU is still awaiting approval from both the state of Ohio and the city of Delaware.

The school already has verbal support from the city and county high school athletic departments for getting the lights put up, he said.

"Once funds are approved, then it would take about eight to twelve weeks to get the lights ordered and up," Ingles said.

Head Football Coach Mike Hollway said the lights would extend the

accessibility of the field to teams that are both in and out of season.

"The greatest single factor is lights will increase availability of the best outdoor surface on campus for all students, including intramurals," Hollway said.

"High school playoffs on the OWU campus would aid in recruiting."

Hollway said he doesn't see any negatives in getting lights on Selby, and added it would be a win-win situation for OWU and the Delaware Community.

Sophomore Danny Flanagan, who plays wide receiver for OWU, said the addition of lights would add more excitement for him and his teammates.

"Every football player enjoys a night game," Flanagan said. "That's the time when most of us played our games in high school, and everyone looked forward to Friday night and playing under the lights."

Flanagan said having night games would increase the attendance of students at games, because sometimes students aren't awake for their 1 p.m. start times.

If the games were to start in the evening, students wouldn't be rushed to make the game.

Sophomore Josh Gardner said he would be more inclined to watch a game at night than during the afternoon.

"I feel that during the day over the weekends is the time for people

to just relax, maybe catch up on sleep, studies or homework," he said. "The night time is when people are more willing to go out and enjoy the [game]."

Gardner also said having night games would create a more appealing atmosphere for the fans to get excited.

"Everyone knows that having the big game under the lights is one of the most exciting experiences in sports," Gardner said.

"I could use soccer games as an example. The games occur at night under the lights, and the experience is fun and exciting."

For more information on these changes and other renovations, please visit [mrrickey.owu.edu](http://mrrickey.owu.edu).

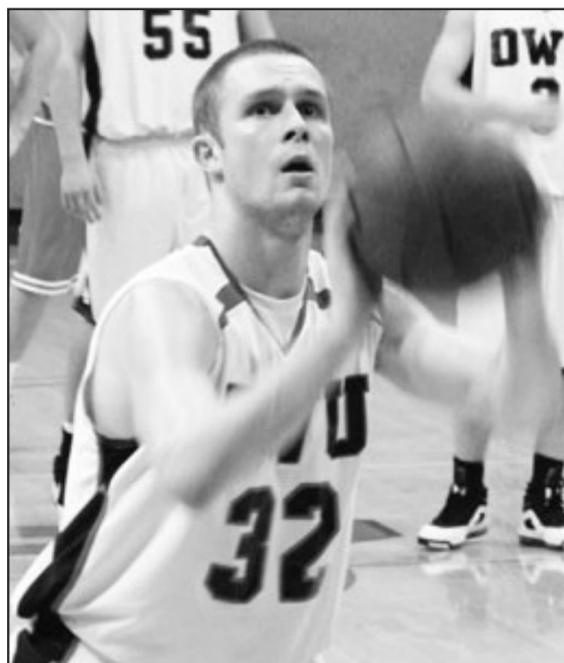


Photo by Ben Boynton

Senior Kyle Miller shoots a free throw early in the season. The team was on an 11-game win streak and in a tie for first place before losing to Allegheny twice: 59-57 and 78-75. The Bishops finished 17-8 and second in conference play at 13-3.

## Winning streak, season end for men

By Chris Lathem  
Transcript Correspondent

The men's basketball team suffered a 3-point overtime loss to Allegheny College on Feb. 24 in the first round of the NCAC tournament.

The home loss marked the end of their season, and the second time in a three-day span that OWU lost to Allegheny.

The two deficits, which only total five points when combined, halted the Bishops' 10-game winning streak, their quest for a second straight NCAC tournament title and an NCAA tournament appearance.

"It's hard to lose at home to a team that we know we should beat," said sophomore Dillon McBride. "It's hard to get past that bad taste that's left in all of our mouths."

The Bishops, who finished

with a record of 17-8 and 13-3 in conference play, felt they achieved many goals this year, even though they finished in second place in the NCAC regular season and failed to defend their title as NCAC tournament champions.

"Going into this year, people thought that we were going to struggle because we graduated six seniors last year," sophomore Mike Schwartz said. "But I believe we exceeded expectations and had a good run."

The Bishops started the season at 3-2, looking forward to their first NCAC game against Wooster.

Wooster, considered one of the better teams in the NCAC, handed the Bishops an 82-65 loss. The Bishops rebounded in their next game, crushing Kenyon 95-59 in front of a home crowd.

After a 1-2 out-of-confer-

ence stretch, the Bishops re-entered conference play with a win against Denison and a loss to Hiram.

They then began a 10-game winning streak, which vaulted them to the top of the conference. No game may have been as memorable as the 83-65 home victory against Wooster. "Beating [Wooster] in front of our home fans during the 'white out' was a special moment, and one of the highlights of the season," said Schwartz.

"It was an incredible atmosphere, and we played one of the best games that we played all year."

The run ended when Allegheny defeated OWU 59-57 in the regular season finale.

The result not only ended the streak, but also prevented the Bishops from capturing the NCAC regular season title.

Then, a 78-75 overtime loss to Allegheny days later elimi-

nated OWU from the NCAC tournament, ending their season.

Moving forward, the team will look to learn from this season in preparation for future seasons.

"We have to remember what happened this year and never allow it to happen again," McBride said. "We have to use the loss [in the tournament] to push us in our training, both in the spring and over the summer."

But the Bishops will have to move on without four graduating seniors, two of which are leading scorers.

"We will all miss the seniors that are leaving," said McBride.

"They are all great players and great friends, and I will be friends with them for life. They mean a lot to all of the guys on the team, both on and off the floor."

# NCAC Champs



Photo from OWU Online

After defeating Wittenberg 67-61 at home on Feb. 24, the Bishops traveled to Denison, upset them 80-66 and then beat Allegheny 73-65 in the championship. They now enter the NCAA Tournament and will face Illinois Wesleyan.

## Baseball ready to slide into season

By Forrest Rilling  
Transcript Correspondent

Ohio Wesleyan baseball is gunning for its third consecutive NCAC conference championship this season. After coming off back-to-back winning seasons, the Bishops look to add wins to their totals this year.

Since the beginning of the semester, the Bishops have been practicing and conditioning in Gordon Field House under coach Tyler Mott. This will be Mott's second full year as coach, taking the reigns from Tom Durant, who took the Bishops to a 13-3 record

in the NCAC West division in 2007.

J.R. Osborne, a sophomore first baseman and pitcher, said Mott has brought "revamped coaching styles...whatever he does, I like."

"Because of him, we'll stun a lot of teams," Osborne added.

In practice, Mott still stresses the idea of a team "identity."

After losing two senior pitchers, Sean Speed and Xander Jones, the Bishops are focused on developing their young arms. Along with pitching, the team will also focus on defense this year.

The Bishops' infield is anchored on the left side by senior Logan Hronis and junior Eric McComas. The outfield is secured by sophomore center fielder and relief pitcher Scott Wise, as well as senior outfielder Matt Rhoads.

There are predominantly freshmen pitching this year. However, there are some veterans hoping for spectacular years as well. Senior pitcher Greg Vasami is coming off last season's 10 appearances, a 3-2 record, a 5.91 ERA and 15 strikeouts.

Junior Matthew Struble, Eric Livingston, Osborne and Wise make up the rest of

the veteran pitchers on the rotation.

In addition, there are six freshmen pitchers competing for starting jobs and innings. Among the freshmen is Mason Farr, a southpaw from West Lafayette, Ind.

Farr was praised by Osborne, who deemed him a "freshman standout." Wise thinks Farr could be the team's number one.

Mott is focused on what he wants to accomplish.

"Pre-season is the time to get better everyday," he said. "The same goes for the regular season, but we want to play the best in May."

## Five helpful hints for cold running

By Clay Davis  
Transcript Reporter

It is 20 degrees out, although with wind chill, it may be closer to 10. Most college students will decide to stay indoors, but there are still some that go outside for a run.

A big reason for this is because running on a treadmill is not appealing, and deciding to do a long run on the indoor track is quite boring (I speak from experience).

So how can an OWU student enjoy a run outside in the cold and still remain healthy afterwards?

For one, make sure to dress in layers; that way, the run will not be as miserable.

There will be a greater chance, with more layers, that the skin will not be exposed to the cold, and will prevent a runner from getting frostbite.

Even if a person is more comfortable running in shorts, it may not be a great idea when the temperature starts to drop because the layer is thin.

Trust me, I have experienced my own stupidity in eight years of running.

When it gets colder and the bike paths become slick, it is time to be very cautious on your run.

My advice? Find a training partner to ensure a safe run. There are times when your partner will notice an icy patch, and you won't.

Having someone to keep the run safe is very important, especially when it starts to get dark.

As strange as it sounds, hydrate well. In fact, hydrating in the winter is just as important as the summer.

It seems strange, because a runner feels a lot thirstier when it is 90 degrees than

when it is 20. But in fact, dehydration can occur when it is chilly out, which can potentially turn a solid run into a slow and painful jog.

Another key component to running in the cold weather is stretching well before and after the run.

It plays a critical role to having a successful run or having a great training period.

A typical stretch should last for about 10 minutes, which means a runner should stretch even longer when it is cold.

If not, the chances increase that a muscle will be pulled, or that the recovery period will take much longer.

An athlete will notice this in competition if he or she does not stretch properly because there will be less flexibility and will lead to a poor performance.

If precipitation becomes a factor, then it is important to get dry after running.

Sitting around in wet clothes will only increase the likelihood of getting sick.

A runner needs to shower and change into new clothes as quickly as possible after this kind of run.

Some students see running as cruel and unusual punishment, while others can enjoy it from time to time.

In order to get the most out of a cold and sometimes wet run, it is important to keep these suggestions in mind.

Running outside in the winter is still possible, but being prepared for the bad weather is crucial for a successful run and for staying healthy.

Here's to hoping that it starts to warm up, that the snow and ice completely melt and that running outside can be "business as usual" again.

## OWU Coach's Corner: Softball coach focuses on little things

By Drew Lenox  
Sports Editor

Years at OWU: 3

Last Season: 17-21  
-10-4 in the NCAC  
-Second in the Conference

2008: NCAC Coach of the Year

Hometown: Hilliard, OH  
-Attended Hilliard High School

Previous Coaching Stops:  
-Capital University-Assistant Coach for six seasons  
-Helped Capital win an Ohio Athletic Conference championship and an NCAA Division III Central Regional runner-up finish

Was part of: the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Regional Coaching Staff of the Year while at Capital

Graduate of: Capital in '00  
-Degree in Elementary Education

Favorite Subject: Didn't have one

Playing Career:  
-Centerfielder for the Crusaders  
-All-America laurels all four seasons  
-First-team Academic All-American her senior year  
-Season record with .542 batting average in 1998  
-Career record of .488 batting average  
-Also set season and career records for hits, runs and stolen bases



Cassie Cunningham  
Coach: Softball

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite part of OWU:  
The people, the student athletes

Greatest Accomplishment in her first three years:  
Relationship and trust built with student athletes, and being able to help them off the field

Collections: Doesn't collect anything. Is a self-proclaimed "neat freak" - everything has its place

Greatest Influence in her Life:  
My parents and my grandma

"I have also been extremely blessed with fantastic coaches in my past, whose values are the basis of my coaching today."

Best Vacation:  
Siesta Key, Florida  
"We used to go every year with my family, and it was like heaven."

Favorite TV Show:  
The Cosby Show

Favorite Book: Doesn't have a favorite book but enjoys reading leadership and motivation books.

Childhood Dreams: "I always knew I wanted to coach, but I never thought I would be able to just coach. It has always been my passion, and it is great that I can really do what I love every day and survive."

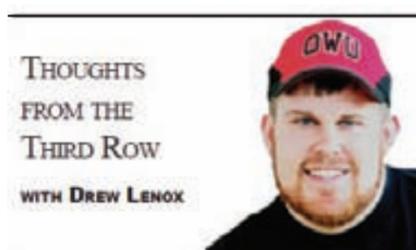
Someday, wants to:  
-Go to Australia  
-Go Skydiving  
-Visit the Vietnam Memorial with my dad

From the mouth of the Coach:  
-"Focus on the little things"  
-"Quiet, Consistent, Confidence"  
-"Rise above"

Goals at OWU: Wants to be consistently regionally ranked and consistently contend for a national title within the next four to six years

Favorite Sports Teams:  
Watches anything that's on but follows the Cincinnati Reds - but not a diehard vested in the team. Enjoyed watching Barry Larkin, Chris Sabo and Sean Casey

## Fans must return to happy times



When we are children, we are taught many things. We learn about right and wrong, and are often taught about the good things in life. We learn to make good decisions, and to recognize where bad ones have been made.

As children, we are told about the good things in life, and if we are brought up in a home of people who follow sports, we are taught all the glory and goodness the sporting world can offer. We pick favorite sports, favorite teams and favorite players.

We do not believe anything could ever be wrong with one of our heralded heroes, and when our team has another poor season, we turn right around (after a brief period of sadness, of course) and proclaim that everything is O.K., because next time, our favorite athlete will hit the home run, make the three pointer or score that last second touchdown.

When we are children, we know for sure that no matter how bad they finished this year, our team will be the champions in the next go around. Wasn't it great to be a kid as a sports fan?

But then, as we grow up, both positive and negative things happen. We learn more about our favorite sport, and can possibly participate in it and gain a greater appreciation for what we love to watch. But negatively, as we get older, we realize that there are a lot of negative things surrounding our sports heaven and the world in general.

As we get older and smarter, we realize that there are many bad things going on. We see them constantly on the news, and repeatedly in other people's actions. Athletes are constantly getting arrested for criminal acts or cheating to tarnish the sports we love.

There is a cloud in baseball right now that will not go away for awhile because of an entire era of players who felt the need to "enhance" their performance.

Baseball will live with this negativity for a while because eventually, all those players will

be up for the Hall of Fame, and the stories will continue.

Professional football is in a situation where veterans with longtime tenure are being released by the teams where many of them have always called home. In one offseason, Derrick Brooks, Keith Brooking, Marvin Harrison, Vonnie Holliday and Fred Taylor were released by the teams they helped shape.

It is also a league where college kids hyped up by Mel Kiper, Jr. and Todd McShay get paid outrageous amounts of money to sometimes be labeled a tremendous bust. That is part of the reason the Patriots could trade Matt Cassel for a second round pick, when there are reports they could have ended up with the twelfth overall pick: because Bill Belichick would have to pay No. 12 a lot more money than No. 34.

The NBA is getting ready to borrow \$200 million from JP Morgan Chase and the Bank of America. It doesn't sound like that league is in a perfect place right now.

There are big issues with how much college coaches are getting paid, and just last week, Jim Calhoun yelled at a reporter for questioning his salary. The Olympics are supposed to be the best our country has to offer, but some of the greatest Olympic athletes have had their medals taken away, and last year's golden boy got caught by a British tabloid with a bong.

With all the negative that can be taken from sports and athletes, it is always exciting to hear a story about something good.

It was nice to hear about how a coach who ran the score up 100-0 in a basketball game was subsequently fired, and how another player missed free throws on purpose when a player from the other team, who had lost his mother, showed up late to play in a game. The team did not expect him to attend, and had not put his name in the scorebook.

So, this weekend, I challenge you to return to your childhood. Return to the love of the game and those who play it. Instead of turning on the television or surfing the web and reading anything negative, have a casual conversation about how you believe your team will win the championship.

Sit back with your family and friends, and just watch a game. Don't watch before, after or halftime, but just watch the game.

Try to remember how fun it was to play touch football with your friends, shoot hoops with your siblings or just play catch in the front yard with your dad.