

Hip-hop dance club steps up on campus

By Allie Le
Transcript Correspondent

This upcoming spring semester, the members of Ohio Wesleyan's Sick Steps (OSS) will focus on spreading their passion for hip-hop dance throughout campus.

Their goal is to perform in CultureFest, Vietnamese Students Association's Lunar New Year and Global Outreach Show this coming spring.

According to sophomore Leah Duong, president of OSS, the club focuses mainly on hip-hop dance. However, every member will be able to learn much from one another due to their diverse styles and different backgrounds.

"OSS' major purpose is to promote hip-hop culture on campus and become a place for anyone who is interested in hip-hop to come and share their experience with others," she said.

Duong said she came up with the idea of establishing the club after noticing the school did not have a hip-hop club or class for hip-hop dancers to practice and learn.

With her fellow hip-hop lovers, Duong decided to dance in Rafiki wa Africa's Global Outreach Show (GOS) as a group this past spring. They formed OSS as a result.

The club was officially recognized by the Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs and the Student Involvement Office on Oct. 11.

Sophomore Amanda Liu, one of the club's founding members, said her experiences as an OSS member have been memorable from the beginning.

"It is also very exciting, as we are creating history in a way at OWU, and it is very comforting to see many new members joining who also share the same passions and love for dance, and are willing to give up their own time to join the club," she said. "After all, a club is about the people, for without the people the club would be pointless, so I am very happy to see so many people who also recognize the need for this club."

According to Liu, the members' expectations are not "sky high," since the club is fairly young. Their goal is to "establish a well-functioning club, with many interested and enthusiastic members."

Renovation plan presents path forward

By Brian Cook
Transcript Reporter

The future of Ohio Wesleyan's residence halls is now clearer with the completion of a plan from Mackey Mitchell Architects.

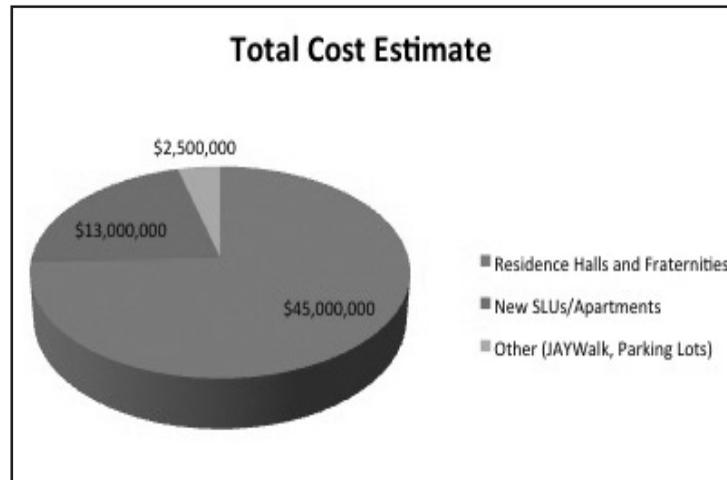
In October, the firm presented to the Board of Trustees a comprehensive package of renovation options the university could pursue.

According to the report, there are three different renovation options.

The first option would "replace building infrastructure systems that have exceeded life expectancy and upgrade life safety features."

This option, according to Mackey Mitchell, would result in little to no loss in capacity.

The second option would "provide enhancements achieved with modest alterations," according to the slideshow presentation.



Graphic by Brian Cook

The projected cost of each section of campus with the renovation plans presented to the university.

tation.

According to Mackey Mitchell, this plan would result in a loss of two to three percent of present capacity in residence halls.

The most costly option would be to "reconfigure spaces to

reflect current best practices in student life design."

This plan would result in close to a 10 percent reduction in present capacity.

Craig Ullom, vice president for Student Affairs, said any reduction in capacity in resi-

dential buildings would not include Stuyvesant Hall, because it recently underwent renovation completed in the fall of 2012.

Wendy Piper, assistant dean of Students Affairs and director of Residential Life, estimated that the third renovation option would cost the university \$90-100 million.

Piper said most of the improvements would go into projects that students would not be able to see from the outside.

"Eighty cents of every dollar go behind the walls," she said.

The scope of work for the university starts with focused improvements.

Piper described these as "more of a surface improvement," with most of the money going into cosmetic improvements and a minority of the money going to improvements

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Success Guide initiative aims to improve student retention

By Jija Dutt
Transcript Reporter

This past summer, Ohio Wesleyan developed a new initiative of Student Success Guides to improve student retention and graduation rates.

University President Rock Jones said the program was created to see if "through more personal attention we might help students engage more fully on campus and experience greater rates of success at OWU."

Martin Eisenberg, dean of academic affairs, and Dean of Students Kimberlie Goldsberry oversee the program.

The role of the Student Success Guides is to be available as resources for the students and guide them to become more engaged on campus, help them find various forms of support and assist them in developing plans that will help meet their objec-

tives and achieve success.

Currently there are three Student Success Guides on campus: Assistant Chaplain Lisa Ho, Career Counselor Amanda Stewart and Eric Gnezda, part-time instructor of speech.

"They were chosen because of their strong working relationships with students and their particular interest in this issue," Jones said.

Ho said the average retention rate in the last five years is 82 percent, and the graduation rate, which is the number of students who come in as freshmen and stay on until they graduate four years later, was the highest in 2009 at 71 percent.

She said her role as a Student Success Guide is to see the "numbers get better."

The students in the program are pre-identified by the Office of Admissions as those who might need extra help.

They receive an email about the program and it's up to them if they get back to the guides and accept the help.

So far, Ho said the guides have had about a 50 percent response rate from the 137 students identified.

She said these students range from those who have basic problems with study skills, to those who have difficulty accessing books and require financial aid. She said the majority of the students have time management problems.

She said her goal as a guide would be to see the program open up more, have more staff involved in it and to develop a peer-mentoring program in which upper-class students who have gone through the program can mentor under-class students enrolled in it.

"(That way) both have an incentive to stay back," she said.

Ho said she is honored to be a part of the program, and is excited to see where it goes.

Her formula for the program is to connect "people with passion." The biggest achievement as a guide, she said, will be "standing in 2017 in Phillips and watching the freshmen graduate—see the students thrive."

Craig Ullom, vice president for Student Affairs, said he thinks programs like Student Success Guides "are great partnerships with students to promote and support their continued success at OWU."

Jones said he is "very interested" in seeing students succeed in all facets of their university experience.

"I hope this program will provide an additional resource toward those objectives and that one measure of success will be improved retention and graduation rates," he said.



Keith Rucker
Former NFL player coaches at OWU

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Dual recital
Junior majors put on performance

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Swimming Bishops
Men's and women's teams look ahead

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RLCs assess probability of community damage

By Sadie Slager
Transcript Correspondent

Students in some Ohio Wesleyan residence halls are already racking up community damage charges.

An unplanned fire alarm in the middle of the night over fall break brought up the possibility of community damage fees being assessed to all Thomson Hall residents, as the alarm was caused by fire extinguishers being unnecessarily expelled.

Jill Auxter, residential life coordinator (RLC) for Thomson and Bashford Halls and the fraternities, said at this time she has no additional information regarding the fire alarm incident in Thomson. She said thus far, Thomson and Bashford do not have any community damage charges.

Auxter said the only instance in which all residents

are affected with a charge is if individuals are not identified who caused the damage.

She said these types of incidents come in several forms.

"Some examples might be a broken window in a hallway or if a fire extinguisher is expelled or found missing," she said. "This isn't referring to a specific incident, but rather are just examples."

According to the 2013-2014 student handbook, students responsible for negligence, abuse of facilities or other forms of damage will be responsible for paying the cost of repair, cleanup or replacement.

If the identities of these people remain unknown, community damage charges are divided between residents and charged to individual student accounts at the end of each semester.

Freshman John Waldon, a Thomson resident, said he was unaware the alarm went off until the next day because he slept through it. He said he heard about fire extinguishers being taken out of the building, but was unsure of the details.

"People told me someone was messing with the equipment," he said. "I have heard of what happened, but I have no clue on the identities of those involved."

Waldon said he doesn't think it's fair for all residents to have to pay for other people's careless acts, but the rule has to do with group responsibility.

"The policy is aimed at creating a peer responsibility system and that creates an atmosphere where these people don't feel unpunished," he said.

Ally Himes, RLC for

Smith Hall and Austin Manor, said she heard someone sprayed the fire extinguishers in Thomson, but didn't hear of an official incident report after the event.

She said in the residential halls she manages, community damage incidents this year have ranged from bodily fluids in common areas like elevators and steps to public bulletin board displays being ripped down.

Himes said it is difficult to find out who commits most community damage because frequently no one sees the incident taking place or comes forward to report who has done it.

"If there's community damage and no one was seen, there are really no steps taken to find out," she said.

Himes said each damage has a "different price" and community damage charges

for incidents such as vomit and urine are dependent upon how long each mess takes to clean up since this goes above and beyond daily cleaning services.

"It's \$22 per hour for cleaning, so that is applied and split among everyone in the building each time something happens that needs to be cleaned up," she said.

Himes said community damage charges are significantly lessened once divided among all members of a residential community.

This is her first year as an RLC at OWU, so she has not yet to do an overall assessment of community damage charges; but Himes estimates that throughout the whole year community damage charges for Smith are probably between \$4,000 and \$4,500 among the whole building.

For everyone individually, Himes predicts this will culminate to be less than \$100 charged to each resident at the end of the year.

One way to reduce community damages is to make sure all residents are aware of what actions constitute community damage without a suspect being identified, Himes said.

According to Himes, students probably don't know that incidents like pulling down bulletin boards and urinating in public places are considered community damages, but she aims to reiterate with her residents what will be charged to the residential hall as a whole.

Himes said community damage charges also depend on how diligent Residential Life staff members are in reporting and following up on incidents.

RENOVATION, continued from Page 1

behind the walls.

The university is also exploring a restoration of the residence halls, according to a report detailing the next steps of the Student Housing Master Plan (SHMP).

Piper said renovation would involve "returning (the residence hall) to its original condition." She said things like electrical wiring and plumbing repairs would take up a large percentage of the budget for the project.

Freshman Woody Jamiel said he would like to see improvements to the quality of living in Thomson Hall and Bashford Hall. "They should definitely get new flooring," he said.

In addition to the renovation projects, a plan has been pro-

posed to construct brand new Small Living Units (SLUs), as well as build an apartment complex that would sit at the intersection on Rowland Avenue and Liberty Street in front of Bashford and Welch Halls.

According to the Mackey Mitchell report, the SLUs have a number of structural problems. Some of those problems include "water infiltration into stone basements" and "lack of ADA compliant accessibility."

The report said the cost to renovate the SLUs would be prohibitive, and instead recommended that replacement SLUs be built.

Ullom said an earlier version of the Student Housing Master Plan in 2010 included replacing the SLUs with apartments, but the university now intends to follow the recommendation

of the Mackey Mitchell report and build new SLUs, as well as build the new apartments.

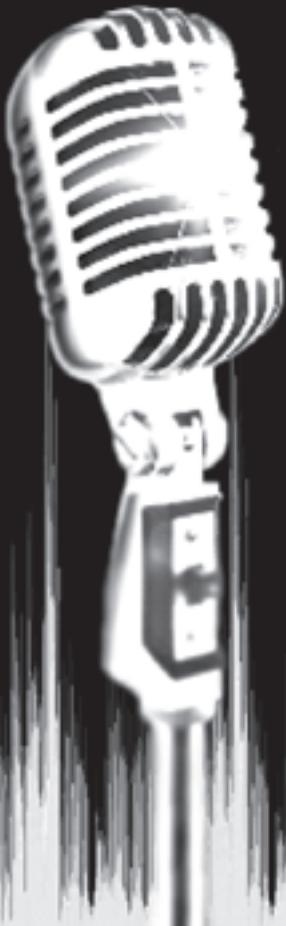
According to the SHMP report, the total cost of all the projects will add up to approximately \$60.5 million. This amount includes \$45 million allocated to the residence halls and fraternities, and \$13 million for new SLUs and apartments.

The university estimates that it will cost about \$37,000 per bed to renovate the residence halls and fraternities, while it will cost \$65,000 per bed to build new SLUs and apartments.

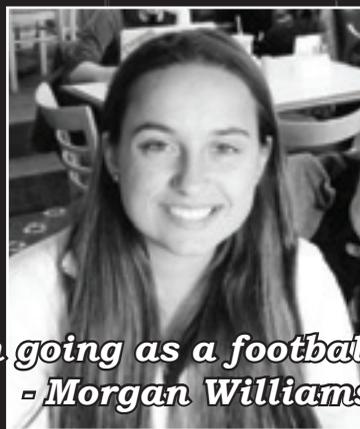
Per the SHMP, the university has already invested more than \$20 million into the residential side of campus, which included an overhaul of Stuyvesant Hall, renovations to 4, 23 and 35 Williams Drive, and focused improvements in Hayes and Welch.

Sound-Off OWU

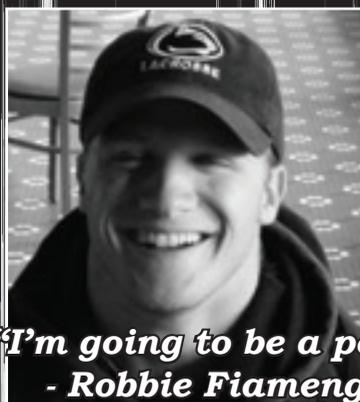
What are you dressing up as for Halloween?



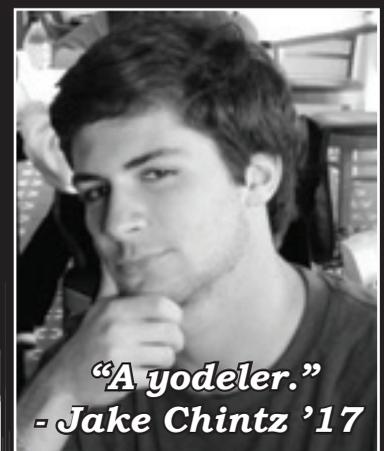
"I'm being a traffic light."
- Mario Vezza '17



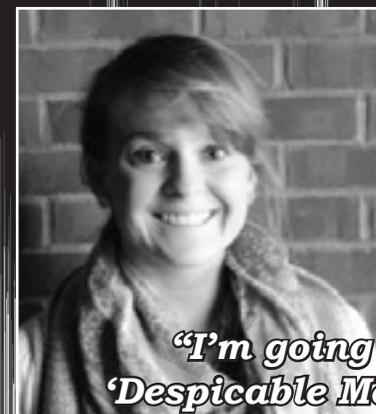
"I'm going as a football player."
- Morgan Williams '17



"I'm going to be a penguin."
- Robbie Fiamengo '17



"A yodeler."
- Jake Chintz '17



"I'm going to be a 'Despicable Me' minion."
- Megan Ryan '17

Students hold 'pro-love' protest against preachers

By Spenser Hickey
News Editor

Christianity was caught in the middle as two groups took to the Sandusky Street sidewalk to voice opposing views on the LGBT community Wednesday, Oct. 23rd.

The protest began after two street preachers came to campus around noon to speak against what they considered sexual immorality, homosexuality in particular.

The two preachers were brothers and only one, Jerry, would provide his name. They brought large signs about salvation through Jesus Christ, God's judgment, Bible verses condemning homosexuality and anti-abortion statements.

Junior Sally Stewart and sophomore Katie Berger responded by printing out signs and holding them in silence as they stood opposite the preachers.

"God is indifferent to sexual orientation," read Stewart's sign, while Berger's said God is love, "no exceptions."

The preachers argued God would not love a murderer or rapist, but Stewart said those examples were not related to sexuality, the issue they were talking about.

At first, they did not directly engage the preachers, but stood and sang Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

Stewart and Berger received hugs in support from several students, including freshman Evan Hively.

"This is what we need to support," Hively said.

By 3 p.m., over a dozen students had joined the original two, writing their own messages of acceptance on notebook paper.

Shortly afterward, the Chaplain's Office sent poster boards to the counter-protesters to use.

Stewart said she thought a few students would stand with them, but wasn't expecting the large response. She credited the Chaplain's Office for providing signs and making the protest a success.



Photo by Spenser Hickey

Jerry, one of the preachers, debates with freshman Aletta Doran, while sophomore Lane Bookwalter (center left) and junior Sally Stewart (center right) hold signs in the background. Stewart and sophomore Katie Berger started the protest.

"As long as they're out here saying what's wrong, I'm going to be out here saying what's right... they're making people upset, they're hurting people, and that is not anything I believe in as a Christian LGBT member," said senior **Shelby Thompson**, protestor and Chaplain's Office intern.

"I'm so proud," she said. "You know, this started out as a friend and I deciding that we were going to stand up for something we wanted to do and next thing I know there are people holding notebook paper signs and yelling and singing together and that was incredible, and next thing I know we've got posters and I'm just—I'm so proud."

With messages like "Honk in the name of love" and "God is not fear God is love," they spread across the sidewalk, waving to cars driving by. Many honked in support.

Senior Shelby Thompson, an intern with the Chaplain's Office, was one of the counter-protesters.

She brought the poster boards from the office to the

other demonstrators.

"As long as they're out here saying what's wrong, I'm going to be out here saying what's right," she said. "...This just isn't fair, this isn't right—they're making people upset, they're hurting people, and that is not anything I believe in as a Christian LGBT member."

Senior Karli Amstadt said she considered the preachers' message hatred. She held a sign saying that love was greater than hate.

"OWU is all about love," she said.

The preachers said their message was not one of hate. One said he was just there as a messenger preaching the word of God and didn't hate anyone.

The other, Jerry, said if he didn't warn someone that they were on a path to hell, he doesn't love them.

He used the metaphor that someone who did nothing while a blind man walked off a cliff could be charged with criminal negligence.

Senior Anthony Peddle, however, said they were misinterpreting the Bible with their preaching, and that they were "picking and choosing" specific verses and rules to follow and use as examples.

He said the students' response showed him how supportive the Ohio Wesleyan community is of students regardless of faith, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Senior Naomi Abrams, a Christian and resident of the

Interfaith House, said she thought the preachers were missing the point of how good and merciful God is.

"I think that shows, to me, that they don't understand how big God is and that God is so much better than the simple message that they're offering to people," she said.

In addition to holding signs, several students debated with the preachers on topics including their treatment of the LGBT community, women's rights and theology.

At one point, freshman Alexis Baker challenged Jerry on whether he agreed with a statement his brother made that women who were raped may be partially responsible.

After a long pause, he replied, "Sometimes." Baker

said she found his statement "sickening."

"Just because a man couldn't control himself, that makes it the man's fault, not the woman's," she said.

While sexual assault can and does happen with all genders represented as survivors and perpetrators, the vast majority of cases occur with a male perpetrator and a female survivor.

For more on the protest, watch a special video report on The Transcript's website and Facebook page.

Astronomy Club to explore solar system in observatories

By Sarah Thomas
Transcript
Correspondent

While rain prevented any stargazing at the first meeting of the Ohio Wesleyan Astronomy Club, the group explored the Student Observatory and made plans for later.

The club met late at night on Oct. 23 at the Student Observatory, which is located between the House of Peace

and Justice and Stuyvesant Hall. However, due to the rainy weather, the group was not able to look through the telescope located on the top floor.

Instead, they planned a trip to Perkins Observatory off of state Route 23 on Oct. 30. They plan to be able to see Venus and Jupiter, as well as the moon; but whether they will be visible depends on the clarity of the sky.

Robert Harmon, professor of physics and astronomy, said the group plans on traveling to Perkins Observatory every two weeks throughout the semester. They plan to meet at the Student Observatory every other week.

Harmon is the chair of OWU's department of physics and astronomy and the faculty adviser for the club. He has been involved with the group since 1999.

Sophomore Natalie Wood said there is no need for prior knowledge of constellations or planets in order to enjoy the club.

"They explain everything in layman's terms and are very patient," she said.

Even though no stargazing was possible, Harmon did take the group upstairs to view the telescope. He gave a brief history lesson about the building and the telescope.

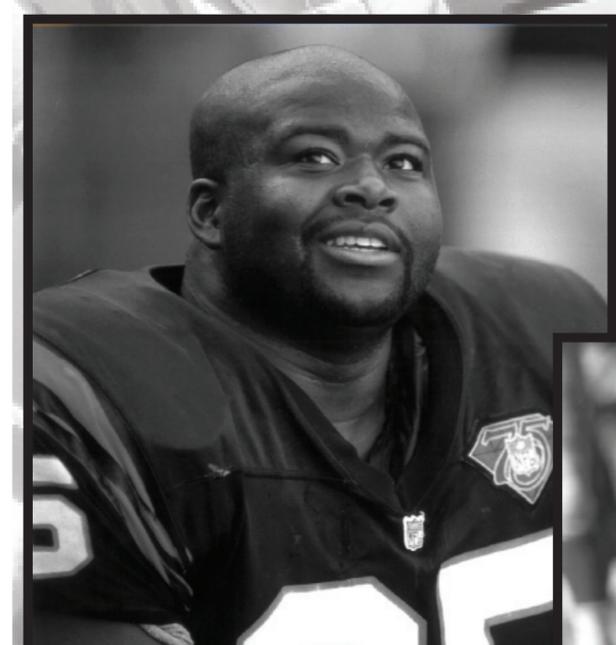
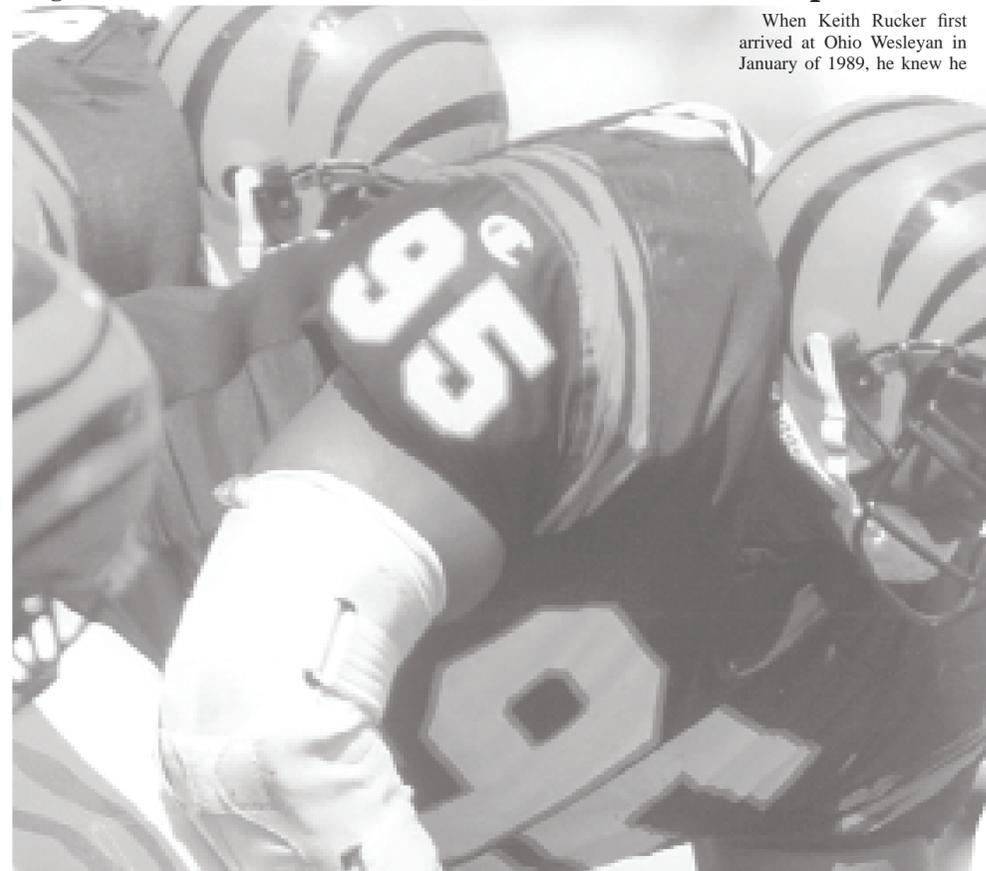
The Student Observatory was built in 1896. The telescope was originally powered by falling weights, which extended down into the ground below the building so the telescope would always remain stable. In 1970, the telescope became mechanical.

The telescope is nine and a half inches, which is actually the diameter of the lens. The lens is refractive, which means it uses glass lenses.

The telescope at Perkins Observatory is reflective and uses mirrors.

Professors used to hold classes in the Student Observatory, but no classes are currently conducted there. The last time Harmon taught a class in the building was in 2000.

"Perkins is a fun vacation spot, but I could live here," said sophomore Zachary Claytor, club vice president.



The Keith Rucker Story

By Taylor Smith
Sports Editor

When Keith Rucker first arrived at Ohio Wesleyan in January of 1989, he knew he

was getting another chance to play football; but his main goal was to earn his degree and keep the promise he made to his mom.

Little did he know by the time he graduated, he would make N C A A history in more than one sport and be on his way to the National Football League.

Rucker is currently in his second season with Ohio Wesleyan football as the team's special teams coordinator and defensive line coach. He returns to the Battling Bishops after spending 13 years coaching high school football in the Cincinnati area, which followed seven years in the NFL.

While attending OWU, Rucker made a name for himself in the athletics department. Besides being a three-time All-American in football and one of the "most dominant" defensive players the school has ever seen, he also participated in track and field as a thrower, winning four national championships while being named an All-American seven times.

Rucker found Ohio Wesleyan and then-head coach Mike Hollway with the help of his brother, and transferred soon after spending a year at junior college back home in Illinois.

Rucker originally attended and played football for Eastern Michigan University, but because of

some "poor choices," he ended up losing his football scholarship.

Athletic Director Roger Ingles was a member of the football staff as the team's wide receiver and tight end coach when Rucker made his first visit to campus. He recalls the coaches were expecting him, but didn't know his size alone would be enough catch everyone's attention.

"We're sitting in his (Hollway's) office and all I remember is it was like someone turned the lights out, because he walked in front of the doorway and he had to duck sideways to get in," he said. "And he came in, and the first thing I knew someone was in the hallway because I saw coach Hollway's eyes get real big. I turn around and I saw this guy and I think, 'This can't be who he is talking about.'"

Rucker was one of the biggest to play the game at the Division III level—measuring six feet, four inches and weighing 350 pounds, he was the largest defensive threat every time he stepped on the field while in college.

NEW SCHOOL, NEW CHALLENGES

When Rucker attended Eastern Michigan, his world was football and only football. It was acceptable to miss class, he said, and the only thing he had to worry about was attending practice and games—he didn't have to be responsible for much else. Rucker said he faced favorable changes at Ohio Wesleyan.

"I liked the small campus atmosphere," he said. "The academic setting was what was really impressive with me. On my first day at Eastern Michigan I walked into a lecture hall with 350 kids and the professor. I never saw his face. All he did was write on the chalkboard the whole time.

"Being here I knew it was going to be a big time management, had to be very organized. Being in a small campus environment with 20 to 35 kids in a classroom helped me regain that focus that I had in high school. I knew I was going to be held accountable."

Former track and field coach Marv Frye said when he first met Rucker, he knew the future All-American would face new differences in his academic efforts, but his mental outlook on things would be his best tool.

"I think he had some doubts in himself, but he has always had an upbeat attitude," Frye said. "He was now (at) a tougher school than before; he knew he had a challenge ahead of him."

ATHLETE OFF THE GRIDIRON

Although he had gone back to school to earn a degree and to enjoy another opportunity to play football, it didn't take long for the track and field coaches to find Rucker and get him on the team. He just saw it as another activity to keep him occupied.

"Those guys (the coaches) took me in and saw something that I had and I could bring to the program..." Rucker said. "Coach Frye talked me into coming out for track. It gave me something to do other than just academics and there wasn't much to do in a small town, as it was a lot less developed than it is now.

"I went out for track and the rest is history for how that went. But it also helped me get into better shape in order to still want to go out for football, so that's how I got back into football."

Rucker had thrown in high school, so it wasn't new to him; but he joined during the indoor season, which he had never experienced. That didn't prove much of a challenge to him, though—he qualified for indoor nationals in the shot put on the first throw at his first meet.

"I threw it and they marked it, but they wouldn't move the marker," he said. "I was like, 'What are they doing?' This was just something I was doing for fun, and it kind of helped me to be organized. Coach Cornell comes over and says, 'Congratulations kid, you just qualified to go to nationals,' and I'm like, 'Okay.' It was nothing big. I was having fun and I went on from there."

Rucker's national bid came to no surprise for his

coaches. Frye said he knew it would happen; it was only a matter of when. There was also the issue of no one in the conference being able to challenge him.

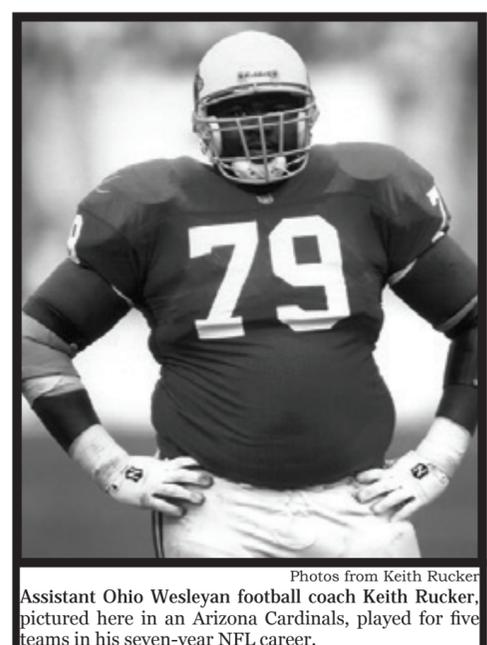
"We expected him to do it; the question was, 'How good is he going to be and how much can he improve?'" Frye said. "Normally nationals is a different experience, you have to feel comfortable. No one challenged him in the NCAC, nationals was a different atmosphere altogether."

Rucker went on to earn fifth at nationals that year. His junior year he won shot put at indoor nationals and shot put and discus at outdoors. Rucker said competing at nationals was just like any other meet to him, he was just having fun. It was also about the people he met there.

"It was the same group of 16 or 20 guys at nationals; it became like a big inter-competition at nationals," he said. "We always got together and hung out, the coaches would go and the players would go. Those relationships I've built 20 some years, and I still have them. It was a friendly rivalry. We'd push each other and compete and then when it was over we'd go grab a bite to eat."

Rucker said competing in track and field, football and basketball, which he only did his senior year, was always fun. It gave him something to do in addition keeping up with his schoolwork and student teaching as he worked toward his career.

Rucker said he never felt stress to perform as he was always having fun. The only time he said he felt any pressure was after he won three



Photos from Keith Rucker Assistant Ohio Wesleyan football coach Keith Rucker, pictured here in an Arizona Cardinals, played for five teams in his seven-year NFL career.

championships his junior year.

However, Rucker never had the chance to defend his titles, as he was preoccupied with other tasks at hand.

TO THE LEAGUE

Rucker became one of the best-known names in Division III football. The combination of his size and his attitude on the field made Rucker a force that all opposing teams noticed and respected. His coaches noticed his talent immediately and knew he had potential.

"He was a physical inside presence," said Pate Delaney, the OWU football team's defensive coordinator. "He is a remarkable athlete, go down and watch him play racquetball. Still today, you can tell why he was an NFL talent, because of how great of an athlete he was."

"He played basketball here, he ran track just for fun, I think, or to look at girls. He has remarkable flexibility and he played hard... Keith probably was the most dominant Division III lineman in the history of Division III."

Rucker was the team's defensive tackle, lead run stopper and center of an already great defensive line. During the 1989 season, the defense held opposing teams to 189 yards rushing for the season, just 18.9 yards a game.

Rucker had received his first NFL offer by his junior year—the San Francisco 49ers invited him to join their practice squad. Rucker said after much debate and conversation with his brother, he decided to return to Ohio Wesleyan for his senior season.

That senior year may have made all the difference for the rest of his college career.

Rucker was named an All-American for the third year in a row and was invited to play in the Hula Bowl, the college senior all-star game, in Hawaii. He was the first Division III player to be invited to the event, which usually pulls the top 100 seniors from the Division I level.

The first play of the game, Rucker made a sack.

He followed up the performance by being one of the 310 players invited to the NFL Scouting Combine. There he continued to impress scouts, running a time of 4.9 seconds for the 40-yard dash, respectable for a player his size.

Despite getting calls from multiple NFL teams leading up to the draft, Rucker was not selected. Not to be disappointed, he talked to his agent who said multiple teams contacted him and were looking into him as a free agent.

Rucker headed back to Ohio Wesleyan not knowing whether he would get the chance to play in the NFL. Rucker said when he pulled off of Route 23 onto Sandusky Street, there was sign that said, "Keith Rucker is a Cardinal." His initial thought was, "did I miss myself get drafted?"

Without any knowledge of the agreement, Rucker's agent signed him with the Arizona Cardinals. He had determined the offer to be his best bet at getting into the NFL.

Although short on credits to earn his degree, Rucker earned the right to walk at graduation, which he passed up on as he had to report to Phoenix, Ariz., for minicamp.

As a rookie heading into training camp, Rucker said he sat sixth on the depth chart at his position. Several weeks later, after the final preseason game, Rucker said he and his teammates waited in their hotel for a call as to whether or not they made the cut.

Rucker said after four hours of waiting, he finally decided to call his position coach to see when the cutting process would be over and if he made it.

All his coach had to say was, "Well if you haven't received a call by now... guess that means you've made the team."

The first few weeks of the regular season had its ups and downs for Rucker. He said he played two snaps in his first game on the field-blocking unit, was cut the night before the second game and ended up watching that game from his house.

The next week he was resigned a couple days before the Cardinals played the Washington Redskins. He recorded eight tackles and two sacks, and one week later they rearranged the entire defense to accommodate Rucker as a starter.

Over the next seven seasons Rucker played for the Cardinals, Cincinnati Bengals, Philadelphia Eagles, Washington Redskins and Kansas City Chiefs; he was a regular starter in his time with the Cardinals and Bengals.

Rucker said seven years into his NFL career, after not getting much playing time in his latter seasons and going through a divorce, he decided to retire.

THE PLAYER BECOMES THE COACH

Following his retirement, Rucker decided to go back to school. He returned to Ohio Wesleyan to coach the football team and finish his de-

gree. After receiving his diploma, he moved to Cincinnati to be with his family and take a high school football assistant coaching position.

He said coaching is one of the things he has enjoyed most about his entire experience, which came full circle last year when he returned to Ohio Wesleyan football when head coach Tom Watts took the helm.

"There's a lot that I have enjoyed, but the biggest thing for me is to pass on that knowledge and those skills that I worked so hard to master to guys that when I was at the level they're at now, didn't have a clue," Rucker said. "I'm teaching them, and to watch them get it, that 'ah-ha' moment, you see the eyes light up and the (light) bulb go off. That's the biggest thing for me."

Being a celebrity on campus, Watts said Rucker brings a lot of experience and knowledge to the Bishops' football program. With hard work, dedication, organization and being a community and family man, he makes an impact.

"Obviously the players have a lot of respect for Keith, because he's been at all levels," Watts said. "Not only has he played at Ohio Wesleyan, he's coached in the NFL, he's coached high school football, he's coaching our kids, so he has a lot of experience behind his years."

"He is a very good teacher and mentor. I think because people see him as a big guy, they think he's a loud guy, but he's not like that at all. He is very patient with the kids and he definitely has their respect or everything that he does."

Junior defensive end Brok Gould said he is a good person with a great personality who is always fun to be around and can make the guys laugh.

"I think that his experience of football in his career has helped him to become the great coach he is today and he will continue to help young athletes learn the values that go along with the game," he said.

Sophomore nose tackle Dominic Wilson said Rucker, or "Ruck" as they like to call him, is like a second father to him and the rest of the defensive line.

He said Rucker has knowledge and passion for the game and makes practice fun, yet is diligent when it comes down to business.

"But don't let his fun, laid-back nature fool you. Coach Ruck tells it like it is," Wilson said. "If you missed an assignment or didn't play your role during a game, he's quick

to tell you that you messed up but will give you tips on how to utilize your own personal strengths to be better on the next go-round.

"It's rare that he raises his voice, and the criticism that he gives you is genuine. He's always about uplifting us and making us better players and men in the future. Those characteristics explain why I have no problem going to battle for him."

That is exactly what Rucker is trying to do—make better players and men out of those he coaches. Rucker said one of the things he enjoys the most is sharing his stories from his time as a Bishop.

"(T)hat's something I'll have forever," he said. "And trying to get them to understand to relish in the moments they're going through with each other, because these guys have formed a bond for the rest of their lives. Those stories and that camaraderie I like to share because I want them to understand that this is just not a walk, this is a journey, and you're taking it with a bunch of guys and some of you are taking the same steps."

"You're going to share it for the rest of your life, and you'll end up telling your kids about it. It's more so about the relationships you build here and I like to share that with them."

Coaching and being a father has become Rucker's priority in life. It's not known how much longer he will stay with the Bishops or if he will try to move up in the college coaching world. But he is here, and that is all that matters to the team for now.

Delaney said he thinks Rucker has done a great job coaching his players.

"He makes them accountable and he's fun," he said. "He laughs and jokes with them. The kids really like him a lot, and we're lucky to have him."

Frye has seen Rucker grow from the first time he stepped foot on campus. He said he is a joy to be around, always has a positive attitude and is willing to do anything asked of him.

"I think his upbeatness is reflecting in his coaching career," he said. "The kids like him, respect him and enjoy him. It's been a real pleasure to have him as an athlete and now as a friend."

If Rucker could sum up his athletic experience at Ohio Wesleyan in a few words, he would say, "It was fun and we made it fun."

"The academics are the number one reason to be here, but the athletics add so much more to that academic experience," he said.

Opinion

Quote of the Week: “Those stories and that camaraderie I like to share because I want them to understand that this is just not a walk; this is a journey, and you’re taking it with a bunch of guys, and some of you are taking the same steps.”

--Ohio Wesleyan assistant football coach Keith Rucker

As crazy as it seems, resistance to hate is still important

When I first saw the evangelizing subjects of page three’s story at the end of the JAYwalk last Wednesday, I just rolled my eyes.

I would say most of the Ohio Wesleyan community understands the danger of the theology whose signs symbolically equate God’s love to the bloody face of Jesus Christ; and I admire and commend the brave students who stood opposite them engaging in assertive dialogue and soliciting honks from “pro-love” passersby.

But the serendipitous performance of “The Stonewater Rapture” this past weekend showed, to me, how such a doctrine is the social and moral antithesis of the Christian Gospel and how human beings should treat each other.

In the interest of full disclosure, I was the publicity head for that production, and the director, Claire Hackett, is my girlfriend.

In the play, eighteen-year-old Whitney and his girlfriend Carlyle explore their sexualities in a Texas town where a similar doctrine permeates their lives and beliefs.

The belief in an angry, jealous God who punishes sex that isn’t heterosexual and procreative forces Carlyle to cope with a gang rape by interpreting it as a spiritual experience. It makes Whitney hate himself because he thinks he might have sexual feelings toward a man. And it enforces a severe sexual double standard that results in the aforementioned gang rape—the men can take whom-ever they want as sexual toys, while the women must remain virginal and guilty.

Religion isn’t the only cause of the incredible problems Whitney and Carlyle face, but its dominance in their environment makes fertile ground for their dire situation’s roots. The paradoxical doctrine of internalized hate and judgment resulting from God’s love is the trunk from which the branches of violence and alienation grow in Stonewater.

The play and the pastors’ visit last week make it clear to me that it’s imperative we create a community impermeable to this doctrine’s influence. It germinates division and fear in people of all beliefs and non-beliefs. Neither is a products of love, the glue of true community.

Noah Manskar
Editor-in-Chief

Maryville case indicates need for cultural change

By Emily Feldmesser
Copy Editor

The rape of 14-year-old Daisy Coleman by 17-year-old Matthew Barnett in Maryville, Mo., has captured the nation’s attention.

Barnett wasn’t charged with statutory rape. According to Missouri law, the victim has to be younger than 14 or the perpetrator older than 21. Barnett’s family is also politically influential in the area.

Ever since the rape, Coleman and her family were driven out of their home. Her mother was fired from her job and their house was burned down in retaliation for coming forward with these allegations.

But Coleman is staying strong and speaking out against her attacker.

I feel like these kinds of stories are a constant mainstay in news media. It’s nothing new—every year, assaults and attacks happen and go unreported.

And with the prevalence of social media, even the victims do not retain their privacy—

the attacks in Maryville and Steubenville, Ohio, were both filmed.

The social media aspect of this case also reminds me of a current rape investigation going on at Ohio University. During their Homecoming Weekend, videos and pictures came out on Instagram and Twitter accounts of a man giving a woman oral sex in public. As of late, the woman in the video has filed rape charges.

One of the comments posted on an OU social media account said, “I think it’s so unfair how girls can get drunk and act slutty then blame the guy for ‘taking advantage of them.’”

When someone is drunk, consent isn’t automatically given. Not giving a response isn’t the same as a definite “yes.”

But just imagine having your alleged assault capture on video and on film for people to see.

A student at OU was falsely identified as the woman in the video. She was so relentlessly victimized by people on the Internet that she has

hidden herself away and has stopped going to classes.

What I want to talk about is rape. It’s a scary word with horrible consequences. But it’s a real issue.

Instead of teaching women not to get raped, we need to teach men not to rape.

I laugh as I say this because to me, it’s common sense. I don’t understand why we would need to teach common sense, but I guess it’s necessary.

When I go out, I’m always conscious of what I’m doing, how I dress, how I dance and how I act. I don’t want to “entice” the men around me to “make” them do something I wouldn’t want them to.

Because, you know, men can’t control themselves around a woman dancing in a bar. Right?

It’s the woman’s fault for wearing a short skirt, for drinking a bit too much or for dancing too provocatively. Right?

No. It’s not the woman’s fault. She should act however she wants to. She should be able to walk home safely at night.

But she can’t. She has to be aware of the men out there who don’t respect women. She has to be careful of the men who grab and grope at her at the bar. She has to watch out for the guys who catcall her while she’s walking to work.

I’m sick of it. Why do people have to tell me how to dress, who to hang out with, when I can go out or how to live my life? I cannot and will not live for someone else.

Women are in control of their own bodies and their own lives.

They can choose whom they sleep or don’t sleep with. A woman saying no doesn’t mean “try again.” It means no.

If women want to walk home by themselves at night, they should be able to without constantly checking over their shoulder to see if someone is following them.

Women should be able to feel safe, no matter where they are or whom they are with. Women should be respected and cared for in the community.

Letter to the Editor

Conversations about race shouldn’t be one-sided

By Adam Coles
Transcript Contributor

I am saddened that I have to write this letter to you today. In your Oct. 24, 2013 issue, you printed an editorial by Noah Manskar about racism.

In that editorial, Noah expressed the following thought: “I feel it’s not a white person’s place to write

such a critique either—it’s our job to sit down, shut up, listen intently, and learn eagerly.” This thought is basically the expression of the idea that white people don’t have anything to say about racism, that our commentary isn’t important or relevant to the situation, and it is this thought that I find repulsive.

Noah’s point, that white people are often blind to rac-

ism and so should listen and learn about it, is a decent one and I respect it.

That said, I cannot believe that The Transcript, a newspaper based out of a university and an institution ostensibly meant to encourage education and intellect, would allow an editorial to go to print that straight-out claims that dialogue is bad and that one group of people have no right

engaging a topic as important as racism.

Next time a serious topic comes up for discussion, I implore The Transcript to not permit an editorial to try and quash debate.

I welcome Noah’s core points, for they are well put, but I ask that The Transcript encourage the discussion next time, not attempt to smother it.

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...To be fair, honest, courageous, respectful, independent and accountable.

...To provide our readers with accurate and comprehensive

news coverage that is relevant to the OWU community.

...To report, gather and interpret the news in a thorough manner which empowers all members of the OWU community and promotes a fair and open discussion.

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

...To provide students with journalistic experience while educating them in the procedures of a working newspaper.

...To practice professional journalism.

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. Please email letters or ideas to owunews@owu.edu or delivered to the Department of Journalism, Phillips 114.

Before submitting story ideas or press releases, please consider how the potential story pertains to the Transcript’s audience and include that in your submission.

The views expressed in letters, columns and cartoons are the opinions of the writers and artists and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Journalism or the university.

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Arts & Entertainment

Juniors split the spotlight at joint recital

By Adelle Brodbeck
Transcript Reporter

Juniors Caitlen Sellers and Grace Thompson provided a professional performance featuring music from a wide range of renowned artists in their junior recital on Oct. 28.

Thompson, a soprano, sang songs from artists such as Mozart and Franz Schubert. Sellers played pieces on her flute from artists such as Benjamin Godard and Albert Roussel.

The performance began with Thompson's series of songs, followed by Sellers' performance on the flute, and concluded with the pair performing Irish folk songs by John Corigliano.

Sellers said she has been playing the flute since she was in fourth grade, about 11 years. Aside from a few small performances, this was her first big recital.

To prepare for the show, Sellers said she spent a lot of time practicing her pieces

with her flute instructor, Nancy Gamso.

"On the actual day of the recital, I went running and did some yoga to prepare my mind and body," she said.

"Then I did a long warm up, thought through the entire performance, and went for it!"

Sellers said she had a difficult time deciding which songs to perform.

"There are so many fantastic and fun pieces," she said. "I had some ideas before the semester started, and Dr. Gamso suggested a lot of pieces too. I honestly loved everything that I played, but I think 'Kokopeli' was my favorite."

Thompson has had many experiences performing before this recital. She has been singing for most of her life through choir in high school, voice lessons and her involvement with OWU's female a cappella group, Pitch Black, but she said this was her longest recital to date.

Thompson performed



Photo courtesy of Caitlen Sellers

Flutist Caitlen Sellers performed individually at the joint junior recital she shared with soprano Grace Thompson on Oct. 28. The two concluded their performance with a duet of Irish folk songs.

songs in Spanish, French and German; she said she particularly enjoyed performing the Spanish pieces. She said the most difficult part was switching between different accents.

"Singing in different

languages isn't so hard anymore since I've been studying classical music for eight years," she said.

"It's usually transitioning between the languages and getting yourself in the mindset for each given pro-

nunciation in not very much time that's tricky."

In preparing for the recital, Thompson said she tried not to push herself too much.

"In the couple days leading up to your recital, don't overdo your practice," she

said. "You don't want to wear yourself down or psych yourself out. Just relax and get in the zone, and then give yourself a refresher when you're preparing that day."

Thompson said she and Sellers decided to work together partially because of their similar goals for their future music careers. They also liked the idea of a joint performance because it is uncommon for instrumentalists and vocalists to have joint recitals.

"We thought it would be a nice change," Thompson said.

Both performers agreed the overall recital was a success.

"I feel so good about how it went," Thompson said. "Of course everyone always notices their own little mistakes, but really I couldn't have asked for much more."

"I was very nervous going in, but then the music hit me and I got really into it," I hope the audience had as much fun as I did."

What's old is new again

By Julianne Zala
Transcript
Correspondent

Organist Alan Morrison helped rededicate the newly restored Rexford Keller Memorial Organ in Gray Chapel this past weekend with two recitals.

The Klais organ arrived to OWU in 1980 and hadn't received any restoration until a fundraising effort to restore it began in September of last year.

Robert Griffith, an Ohio Wesleyan organ professor who studied under Keller, said five major donors gave "seed money" for the project. He said most other donors were alumni and former students.

The renovations included a thorough cleaning of the entire organ, which involved the removal of all the original

4,522 pipes and windchests, chambers in which air is stored before being sent into the pipes and the installation of 122 new pipes, according to the recital program.

In addition, workers repaired any defects with the organ. The slider seals, which function to prevent the organ leaking wind when it exits from the windchests, were also replaced.

Once the cleaning was finished, the 400- to 500-pound pipes were placed into the organ stop by stop. "Stop" refers to the admittance of pressurized air into a set of organ pipes.

Organ voicers made sure each stop spoke at the proper volume; some stops were made louder or softer, and others were completely revoiced.

The project also included an addition of the 122-pipe

Blanchard Memorial Bombarde Division. The division is named after Gwendolyn and Homer D. Blanchard, who were both in the class of 1933.

Their family and friends added the division, which includes two trumpet stops that will give the organ a new voice.

Homer Blanchard began studying the pipe organ at age 13. He became a major proponent of the acquisition of the Klais organ in 1963, during his time as an OWU German professor.

After his death in 1988, his wife Gwen established the Homer D. Blanchard Memorial Organ Recital Series Fund, which provides funding for future organ performances.

University President Rock Jones opened the concert with a speech detailing the history

of the organ.

He also recognized the family members of the Keller and the Blanchard families who attended the concert.

He then introduced Morrison, who has played the organ since he was a senior in high school and is currently known as a premier American concert organist.

Morrison graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music and the Julliard School of Music.

He has played in Canada, Europe and South America, and has been chosen to perform at four national conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

Morrison began the program with "Phoenix Processional" by American composer Dan Locklair. He followed with "Concerto in A Minor, BWV 593" by Johann Sebastian Bach, a piece Bach trans-

cribed after Vivaldi's piece for the organ.

This was followed by "Ciaccona in B-flat Major" by Johann Bernhard Bach, which Morrison told the audience was "something (Bach) would have improvised while inspecting organs." The piece also featured individual voices of the organ, while the previous two-piece served as ensembles.

Morrison then performed "Andante Sostenuto" by Charles Marie Widor, a French composer who composed the piece specifically for the Christmas season. The composition featured the organ's strings and flutes.

This was followed by "Scherzo, Opus 2" by Maurice Durufle. Morrison described the piece as "a game of chase" that features the "lush strings and beautiful flutes of the organ."

After intermission, Morrison performed "Five Dances" by Calvin Hampton, an American composer. Morrison said to the audience that the piece "works beautifully on this organ."

Morrison finished with "Variations on Sine Nomine" by John Weaver, an American composer.

Morrison told the audience the piece is "romp" of the tunes "The Saints Come Marching In" and "From all the Saints."

Morrison closed the concert by recognizing those involved with renovating the organ.

He described the process as, "such an overwhelming task" and "very labor intensive, a labor of love."

Morrison said the Klais organ "has a lot of character," and described it as "one of the best."

Premier organist first to play newly restored Gray Chapel organ

Sports

Swimmers young and old eager to compete

By Hannah Urano
Copy Editor

Coming off an impressive season last year, the Ohio Wesleyan men's and women's swim teams are diving in and training for their upcoming season.

Coach Richard Hawes said he is already optimistic for what lies ahead this season after a month of practice. This year's team is the largest Hawes has coached at OWU.

"It's exciting because the swimmers are excited coming in," he said. "It was apparent even before the season started when we had more swimmers coming to practice (on their own).

"For a coach, that's exciting to see because you don't always get that."

The team shares Hawes' excitement.

"I think that this is going to be one of the most challenging seasons in terms of the amount of yardage and difficulty of our practices, but we should have a very fast team this year," said senior captain Derek Smith.

Junior Matt Mahoney said this is the strongest team he's seen during his time at OWU.

"I'm mostly excited about finally having a fast and big enough team to bring some serious competition to our conference this year," he said.

Sophomore Heather DeHaas said she thinks the team's biggest advantage is the range of swimmers in every event.



"We have strong distance, mid-distance swimmers and sprinters," she said.

Smith said he sees the team's size as an obvious advantage.

"I think our biggest asset this year is the amount of swimmers we have on the men's team and especially the number of talented underclassmen we have," he said. "This is the largest the team has been in the four years I have been here, and we only graduated two seniors on the men's team last year and added five freshmen this year.

"I already know that some of them can go very fast, but I think that swimming for coach Hawes will make all of them faster."

Hawes said he thinks the team will benefit from a combination of the upperclassmen's experience and the skilled freshmen's enthusiasm.

"The upperclassmen are certainly helping the younger kids and the younger kids are certainly pushing the upperclassmen because we do have talented freshmen," he said. "Seeing them work hard motivates the seniors to continue to work harder."

Freshman Emma Beale said the training is "fairly different" from her high school program, but she thinks the changes are helping her technique and strength.

For freshman Evan Snapp, the season has so far been a



Photos by Jane Suttmeier

Left: Senior Olivia Gillison returns this year after missing half of last season as one of the top sprinters and consistent performers. Above: The men's team returns a dozen point scorers from conference to lead a talented freshman class in this year's swimming season.

combination of "mental excitement and physical exhaustion."

Unlike most OWU sports, the men's and women's swim teams practice together, making them function as a more cohesive unit.

"One thing I love about swimming is that your team quickly becomes a kind of family," Beale said. "The OWU team is very supportive. I haven't been here long, but I know that if I ever need anything in or out of the pool, I have lots of great people I can go to.

"I think this kind of atmosphere helps all of us be better athletes and students."

In terms of training, Hawes said he is continuing

a technique he implemented last season based on the University of California's swim program.

According to Hawes, three practices a week focus on "muscle confusion."

He said dry-land exercises are incorporated into these practices, as opposed to doing them after practice. The entire practice takes about two and a half hours.

Smith said getting back into the routine of regular workouts is an adjustment.

"As with every year, the area we need to improve in most will be dealing with the grind of the season," he said. "It's not easy to go to practice six days a week, sometimes twice a day, and balance all

our other responsibilities.

"But making sure we are doing everything that coach (Hawes) asks of us while keeping up with our other responsibilities, like school work for instance, is how we are going to get the most improvement."

For the men's team, Smith said one of their goals is to go undefeated in dual meets until they face Kenyon and Denison at the end of the season, the last two meets before the NCAC meet.

Despite their strong competitors, the teams are confident they will be able to improve their rankings at the end of the season conference meet. Mahoney said they also aim to make the Division III top 20.

"While winning is totally out of the question, I think we will be able to improve on last year's placing," Smith said.

Hawes said he is optimistic the men will be able to achieve their goals.

"I think on the men's side we have a chance to move up one or two spots," he said.

On the women's side, senior captain Jen Erichsen said her main goal is to make sure the season is productive and enjoyable.

"I want to make sure everyone has fun and accomplishes their personal goals in the pool," she said.

"Our team (women's team) is pretty small compared to other teams, but I think that we will continue to grow in the future."

Volleyball snaps losing streak

Bishops beat Ohio Christian after losing 10 straight

By Zane Kieffer
Transcript
Correspondent

The Ohio Wesleyan women's volleyball team snapped a 10-game losing streak in a victory over Ohio Christian University.

It was the first win in over a month for the Bishops as they overcame a 2-sets-to-1 deficit to come out with the victory.

Ohio Wesleyan won the game by scores of 25-15, 19-25, 24-26, 30-28 and 15-11 on Tuesday, Oct. 22.

"Ending the losing streak was just what we needed going into the final weeks of our season," said senior middle hitter Tamara Londot. "It felt good to finally finish a game with a win and not a

close loss. Ohio Christian was a good team and we had to fight, so not quitting after losing two sets was key."

Senior outside hitter Katie Fain said the victory gave the team a great sense of relief.

"A lot of the games we have lost should have been ours, but things just didn't fall our way," she said. "It gives us a lot of motivation to finish out the rest of the season on a good note and to continue to work hard in practice to hopefully beat Wooster and Kenyon and make it into the NCAA tournament."

The Bishops have four games left before they begin the NCAC tournament, including two important conference games.

The players are hoping to carry the

winning ways from this game into their last stretch of the regular season before the tournament.

"Some things I think we can salvage for the rest of the season is to not give up on each other, and continue to work hard and good things will happen," Fain said. "For us seniors, I think to continue to give it our all is important because our time is limited so we need to play every day like it's our last."

With the senior leadership, the Bishops can beat their overall record from last year if they win the rest of their regular season games.

"Our goals as a team are to win out," Londot said. "We only have four games left and all the teams are very beatable if we decide to show up and play."

Scoreboard

Oct. 22
Men's Soccer 1-1 Kenyon
Volleyball 3-2 Ohio Christian

Oct. 23
Women's Soccer 0-1 Denison
Field Hockey 1-2 Wittenberg

Oct. 25
Men's Swimming 149-69 Baldwin Wallace
Women's Swim 123-116 Baldwin Wallace
Volleyball 2-3 Wooster

Oct. 26
Football 51-13 Hiram
Field Hockey 1-6 DePauw
Men's Soccer 0-0 Oberlin
Women's Soccer 2-1 Oberlin