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## Chlorine levels sideline AU swimmers

ZACH READ  
@zach\_read20

The swimming pool in the Ashland University recreation center had to undergo a shocking treatment last weekend (Oct. 18-19) due to the combined chlorine becoming too high. The chloramine (the combined chlorine) level in the pool became too high which affected the skin and breathing of AU swimmers during practices. This effect on the swimmers propelled the rec center staff to undergo shocks of the pool so the chemicals would not cause further symptoms to the athletes. “We are shocking, or super chlorinating the pool, which is where you provide so much chlorine in the water at one time that it oxidizes all the chloramines and that actually evacuates them from the pool,” Assistant Director for Aquatics and Student Development, Justin Fletcher said.

During the week of Oct. 15-19, the chemicals really began to affect the athletes, some who even become allergic to the pool when the chlorine doses became too high. On Oct. 17, ten AU swimmers had to be away from the team and instead practiced at the local YMCA on Miller St. in Ashland where the chlorine levels were better and would not irritate the athletes. On that same day, athletic trainer Anthony Bartko saw 16 different athletes from the swimming and diving team on symptoms caused by the pool chemicals. “It’s making it so the students athletes are experiencing a variety of symptoms from cough, runny nose, stuffy nose, irritated skin and dry skin,” Bartko said. “I also had one student athlete who was experiencing a bloody nose and she was

also vomiting.” Bartko said that this has been an issue where it has affected the swimmer’s respiratory systems for about three weeks now. He also believes this is a health issue that decreases their performance while trying to practice and prepare for the 2018-2019 season. “It’s going to decrease their performance if they are not able to breathe adequately and they feel run down because of it,” Bartko said. “I’ve had to pull a couple of them completely from participating in any swimming because the chlorine exposure is getting so bad.” Fletcher is a certified pool operator through the National Swimming Pool Foundation and therefore oversees the maintenance and operation of the pool. Fletcher said that this situation, for the chloramine levels to become this high, occurs when the pool suddenly

starts being used more. When the swimming and diving team began practicing twice a day, Fletcher said that is when the chloramine levels started to increase because of the skyrocket of usage of the pool. “Whenever you have 27 athletes in there kicking, swimming, stirring everything up that is then kicking those chloramines up into the air and it hovers right over the surface of the pool,” Fletcher said. Once Fletcher knew that the chloramine levels became an issue and affected the athletes, he and the other rec center staff had to wait until the weekend of Oct. 13 so that they could do a non chlorine shock. This method did not work which then turned them back to a full chlorine shock of the pool. “That process (the non chlorine shock) did not work so we are going back to the tried and true super chlorinating method which we

know is more effective,” Fletcher said. Coming off of the fall break weekend when the rec center was able to shut the pool down and initiate that full chlorine shock, Fletcher said that they were able to reduce chlorine from the higher level that it was at. For Bartko, he wants to continue to ensure the health of his student athletes and has realized the seriousness of this situation being detrimental to the athlete’s health. Moving forward, the AU rec center has changed their plans so that they can adapt to the rising situation of the chloramine level so that the full swimming and diving team can resume normal practices with all of its athletes. “We’re continuing to adjust and change our plans we had in place to make sure that we can provide the best facility that we can,” Fletcher said.

## Harlem Globetrotters set to travel to AU

RACHEL RAMSEY  
@RachelRamseyMMJ

Kates Gymnasium is set for the Original Harlem Globetrotters to perform in February for their Fan Powered World Tour. Harlem Globetrotter games gives fans an interactive experience by participating in events before, during and after the games according to the Harlem Globetrotter press release. Some athletes featured in the Globetrotter games include Big Easy Lofton, Hammer Harrison, Thunder Law, Torch George and others. Fans can order their tickets online and prices range from \$18 for gener-

al admission to \$219 for the “magic pass” which includes special seating with the team, backstage pass and a jersey. Ashland University student Madison Bement says she has seen the Globetrotters perform before and is thrilled that they are coming to Ashland. “I saw them perform at the Q [Quicken Loans Arena] when I was in the eighth grade and I thought it was really entertaining,” Bement said. “I think it would be something new and different for our campus and it would attract a large crowd of people.” The Harlem Globetrotters started their journey Jan. 27, 1927 in

Hinckley, IL after being founded by Abe Saperstein in 1926, according to their official website. The Globetrotters have traveled all over the world, have had their own cartoon show on the CBS network and have performed at a variety of live events and television shows like “The Tonight Show” and “Sesame Street.” The Globetrotters will tip off Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in Kates Gymnasium. For more information about the upcoming event or tickets, visit goashlandeagles.com or the Harlem Globetrotters official website, harlemglobetrotters.com.



HARLEMGLOBETROTTERS.COM  
Some of the members of the Harlem Globetrotters that will travel to AU.

## Video game design basics elective being offered in 2019 spring semester

JOY JOHNSON  
@AUCollegian

Ashland University will offer a video game design basics course for the first time this spring semester. Carl Nestor, instructional designer within LearnAU, worked with Dr. Iyad Ajwa, the chair of the mathematics and computer science department, to create this elective course for students. CS260 Video Game Design Basics is a special topics elective course meeting Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 12 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Nestor will be teaching

the class in Kettering 219 and said he thinks the course will be valuable to many students, as it will help teach them the basic skills of a growing industry. “It’s a multibillion-dollar industry and I think there’s a lot of opportunity,” Nestor said. “It’s something that touches a lot of different people and there’s a lot of cool things you can do with this.” The goal of the course is to generate interest among students regarding the course and educating the interested students on the ins and outs of basic video game design, he said. According to the syllabus that

Nestor created, he hopes to provide students with “a broad introduction to the video gaming industry.” During the course, students can expect to learn and perfect skills in designing stories, characters, game mechanics before storing everything in a game design document, which Nestor likened to the gaming rulebook. “The game design document is basically the bible, the rule book for your game,” Nestor said. “All your sketches, characters, world that you’re building, the story...all of it goes into this document that you will create that will show what you’re going to do.”

While students learn these skills, they will also learn how to use an industry standard gaming software called Unreal. Students will use Unreal to create their own simple, yet immersive video game by the end of the semester. CS260 requires students to bring their own laptops, as well as purchase a textbook for the course. The course has no prerequisites and any student with an interest in the subject matter is welcome to take it. “You don’t have to be a programmer to take the course and succeed in the course,” Ajwa said. He welcomes students with not only an

interest in gaming, but those who are interested in programming, graphic design and the arts as well. As this is a special interest course, the class size will be between 24-25 students. This class size will make it easier for students to ask questions and feel like their voice is heard while learning this new subject matter Nestor said. If students are interested in signing up for this course, they can talk to their adviser and look for it while registering for courses in November.

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