

Exponent Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Abbey Pignatari
pignataria@uwplatt.edu

CHIEF COPY EDITOR
Morgan Hays
haysm@uwplatt.edu

PUBLIC RELATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA/
WEB EDITOR
Dalton Miles
milesda@uwplatt.edu

LAYOUT EDITOR
Alan Russell
russellal@uwplatt.edu

GRAPHICS EDITOR
Elizabeth Kaiser
kaiserele@uwplatt.edu

PHOTO EDITOR
Jacob Thomas
thomasjac@uwplatt.edu

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Elliot Gaul
gaule@uwplatt.edu

ASSISTANT CIRCULATION MANAGER
Evan Krug
kruge@uwplatt.edu

AD MANAGER
Becca Askew
askewb@uwplatt.edu

COPY EDITOR
Breanna Moore
moorebre@uwplatt.edu

COPY EDITOR
Garrison Ledbury
ledburyg@uwplatt.edu

COPY EDITOR
Ryan Teutschmann
teutschmannr@uwplatt.edu

COPY EDITOR
Stephanie Johnson
johnsonsteph@uwplatt.edu

GENERAL REPORTER
John Jones
jonejo@uwplatt.edu

GENERAL REPORTER
Matthew Anderson
andersomatt@uwplatt.edu

ADVISER
Enrique Reynoso
reynosoe@uwplatt.edu

NEWSROOM
428 Warner Hall
BUSINESS OFFICE
431 Warner Hall
MAILING ADDRESS
UW-Platteville
Exponent
1 University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818
E-MAIL
uwpxponent@gmail.com
PHONE
608-342-1471
ONLINE
uwpxponent.com

The first copy of the *Exponent* is free.
Additional copies are one dollar. A
yearly subscription is \$20.

The *Exponent* is published every
Thursday except during holidays and
University vacations. It is written
and edited entirely by UW-Platteville
students, who are solely responsible
for its editorial policy and content.
Editorials represent the opinion of the
Exponent Editorial Board.

The advertising deadline is 5 p.m.
Friday. To place an ad, please call and
ask for an advertising representative.
A copy of our ad rates and policies are
available on our website or by request.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Name: Isaac Wiegel
Hometown: Belmont, WI
Year: Freshman
Major: General Engineering
Sport: Wrestling



Jacob Thomas photo

How old were you when you started wrestling?
I started wrestling in grade school, probably around 3rd grade.

Who or what inspired you to compete?
My coaches, Craig Donar, Emric Williams, Andrew Campbell, and
role models, Josh Eastlick and Jordan Burroughs, have inspired me.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
I see myself achieving my goals as an athlete by winning a
national championship in wrestling, and as student, by finishing
school and getting into the workforce where I can apply my
knowledge and skills.

What do you do outside of wrestling and school?
Outside of wrestling and school I enjoy reading books that
help me grow as a person. One of my favorites is *Chop Wood
Carry Water* by Joshua Medcalf. I also enjoy hanging out with
my friends and playing card and board games. I enjoy lifting
and exercising on my own. I also frequently go to church and
attend bible studies to grow in my faith. Being a follower of
Christ is one of the best experiences I’ve had and continue to
have every day. I give credit to God for all that I have.

Do you have any advice for incoming freshmen attempting
to join the team?
To freshman, I would say be prepared to put in work and
sacrifice bad habits. Learn from your mistakes right away and
don’t keep making the same mistakes.

Ethnic cleansing in modern Burma
History Club’s lecture series ends with contemporary horrors

Alan Russell
russellal@uwplatt.edu

The fourth and final installment of the History Club’s lecture series
on genocide was presented by Dr. Travis Nelson, which focused on
the current ethnic cleansing in Burma. The Burmese government is
in the process of removing the Rohingya people from the country.
They cite them as the reason for economic and social failings in the
country.
Nelson began with a brief history of Burma, and, as with many
genocides and ethnic cleansings, the chain of events began with
European colonization. In this case, it began with the British taking
over Burma and subsequently the Indian subcontinent as a whole.
Following World War II, India claimed their independence in late
1947, and Burma joined them in independence shortly after on Jan. 4,
1948.
From 1948-1962, independent Burma was in a large amount of
social strife, with various military groups controlling sections of the
country. In 1962 a military coup overturned the Burmese government,
immediately nationalizing the economy and banning independent
newspapers.

After years of a semi-stable government, this military group
passed a law demoting the Rohingya people to associate citizenship,
diminishing their rights and otherwise placing a marker on them
signifying that were outsiders in the country. Six years later, the
military declared martial law and created the State Law and Order
Restoration Council.

SLORC arrested thousands of human rights activists protesting on
behalf of the Rohingya people. They also changed the name of Burma
to Myanmar to differentiate themselves from former governments.

One of the arrested activists, Aung San Suu Kyi, won the Nobel
Peace Prize for her activism while held under house arrest. She
was eventually released and became a spokesperson for the protests
happening in the country.

In 2007, the Saffron Revolution brought a series of major anti-government protests
following the removal of fuel subsidies by the government. These protests were famously
led by Buddhist monks, acting as the spiritual leaders of the country.

In 2008, a cyclone struck the country, killing 85,000 people and displacing over 800,000.
The government refused

most support offered, accepting help only from a few neighboring
countries. First Lady Laura Bush was irate, and in a rare moment
spoke in the White House press room about the incident and the
United States’ offers of help.
This brief history was how Nelson set the stage for the series of
events that led to the ethnic cleansing. A combination of political
instability, natural disaster and the separation of a people from
the whole caused the Burmese population to be physically and
emotionally exhausted.
In 2012, this came to a head when the rape of a Buddhist woman
was blamed on a Rohingya man. This accusation resulted in massive
violence against the Rohingya people. When the Rohingya were
assaulted, the violence hardened their identity, and spurred them to
take pride in who they were rather than attempt to assimilate to avoid
persecution. The largely Buddhist population of Burma used anti-
terrorist excuses for the violence.
“On Facebook and other social media, propaganda against
the Rohingya was shared everywhere, and because people were
uninformed, the anti-terrorist motives were seen as justified to the
general public of America and other first-world countries, worsening
the situation for the Rohingya as it built up the false motives of the
Burmese government,” Nelson said.

A group of Rohingya, under the strain of violence and a lack of
safety, created an extremist militant group in response to the attacks.
The group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, claims their
motives and purpose are to defend and protect the Rohingya people
from their attackers. The Burmese government, however, has declared
them a terrorist group, claiming they are led and funded by foreign
Islamists, despite no definitive evidence to come to that conclusion.
In 2016, Aung San Suu Kyi, the activist who won the Nobel
Prize, was voted in as president of the country. As the state of the
Rohingyan people has declined, she has been widely criticized for not
speaking or acting on behalf of the Rohingya, as she had when she
won the prize.
“I’m not really sure why she doesn’t speak out. There’s a lot of
speculation about it; the military is still largely in control, so her
position is very much a figurehead, so she may not have the power to
act. Or she may be afraid for her safety to speak up. Or her position
on the subject may have changed, or it could be none of those things.
All we really know is that she hasn’t done anything publicly to defend
the Rohingya since she became the de facto president,” Nelson said.
In 2017, an ARSA attack led to an anti-Rohingya crackdown by
the Burmese government, forcing the Rohingya out of their historic
homeland and sending many out of the country.
The situation has not yet been resolved; however, the United
Nations are working to send in aid workers and return the Rohingya
to their homeland. The Chinese and Russian delegations opposed the
motion to send UN aid into the country as of late 2017.



Elizabeth Kaiser graphic