

The Class of 2009
Baccalaureate Service
Gray Chapel
Ohio Wesleyan University
Delaware, Ohio
May 9, 2009

“Many Paths, One Journey”

Sara Fagan, Artist Statement:

As a Fine Arts major and Education minor, my goal is to become an elementary school art teacher. My concentration is in oil painting, but I work in many different media and styles. The artwork on the cover shows a computer image design I made by altering and overlaying about 50 layers of photos and drawings I've created during my years at Ohio Wesleyan, which I then compressed together. The work represents the many diverse pathways by which we, as Ohio Wesleyan students, arrive here and become a family, but also shows how we all eventually leave. Lines which converge will at times move away or disappear. However, because of the close proximity of the lines, colors and designs bleed together at times and become one. As the lines move apart, one line might look a bit different than it did before. This is symbolic of the path we have all taken to come to Ohio Wesleyan, to grow, share, and change while we have been here, and to establish the direction of our separate and perhaps shared journeys into the future.

A Chaplain's Note to the Artist's Statement:

Sara Fagan's profound artwork on the front cover of this bulletin holds the heart of tonight's eclectic reflections. It represents not only the many layers of Sarah's own life experiences at Ohio Wesleyan University over the past four years, but also the spiritual journey for each and every student here. When I meditate upon Sara's layered visual, I think of what it takes for any one of us to build a life. The Monks of the Weston Priory, in Weston, Vermont, speak of this as a process not unlike that which is revealed in the profound wisdom of Sara Fagan's art work:

*The human heart
is not built in a day.
It takes a lifetime
to make a human heart.*

*It takes all:
birth
and learning how to talk
making wishes
living with hope
dreaming dreams.*

*The human heart is nourished
with yearning for tomorrows
with poetry and devotion
with contemplation
and the incessant thought of home.*

*The human heart prays;
it strives to find a faithful lover.*

*It does not love
until it dies in fidelity
for the mystery of another life.*

*The human heart suffers
or else it does not grow.*

*It exhausts itself
or else it is empty.*

*It waits and hopes
at dawn and dusk
in darkness and in daylight.*

*The human heart
is not built in a day.
It takes a lifetime
to make a human heart.
It takes all.*

-The Monks of the Weston Priory

A Note from the President:

As you celebrate Baccalaureate tonight, please know that my family and I hold you all in our prayers. As we celebrated today the graduation of our own daughter at Hendrix College, we know the joy, the pride, and the gratitude you and your parents are experiencing tonight, and which my family and I will share with all of you tomorrow.

Your theme for tonight, “*Many Paths, One Journey,*” is a good summary of the academic and spiritual journey you have experienced, both individually and collectively, over the past four years. It also speaks to the passage of your senior year, which I have had the honor of sharing with you. You came to this campus from so many different places, with so many difference faces, families, dreams, and determinations. You will leave this campus tomorrow as citizens of the world, with a clearer and deeper sense of what it will take to make this world a better place. I celebrate that journey with you, from deep within my being, and I thank God for each and every one of you, and what you will yet become.

Sincerely,

Rock Jones, University President

A Special Note of Thanks:

Thank you to **Jesika Keener** and **Kyle Herman** for their hard work, time, and talent in compiling the *Senior Class Slideshow*.

Thank you to **Oakland Nursery** for donating the trees and greenery which create the pathways in the chapel.

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE
Ohio Wesleyan University
The Class of 2009

“Many Paths, One Journey”

8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, 2009

Gray Chapel
Ohio Wesleyan University

Prelude in Pictures

The Senior Class *Slideshow*

University Greeting

The Reverend Jon Powers
University Chaplain

President’s Commission Awards

Carol DelPropost
Assistant Vice President of Admission

Religious Life Awards

The Reverend Dr. Blake Michael, Chair
University Committee on Religious Life
The Reverend Jon Powers, University Chaplain

Student Leader Greeting

Ben Goodrum and Tricia DiFranco
Baccalaureate 2009 Co-Chairs

Organ Prelude

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist
“Prelude and Fugue in D Major”
Johann Sebastian Bach

Baccalaureate 2009 Hymn

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

"God of Wisdom, Truth and Beauty"
Jane Parker Huber

Music: Ludwig von Beethoven, 1822, *Ode to Joy, Hymn to Joy*
Verse five: Chaplain Jon Powers, dedicated to the class of 2009

1. God of wisdom, truth, and beauty,
God of spirit, fire, and soul,
God of order, love, and duty,
God of purpose, plan, and goal:
Grant us visions ever growing,
Breath of life, eternal strength;
Mystic spirit - moving, flowing ,
Filling height and depth and length.

2. God of drama, music, dancing,
God of story, sculpture, art,
God of wit all life enhancing,
God of every yearning heart:
Challenge us with quests of spirit,
Truth revealed in myriad ways,
Word or song for hearts that hear it,
Sketch and model - forms of praise.

3. God of atom's smallest feature,
God of galaxies in space,
God of every living creature,
God of all the human race:
May our knowledge be extended
For the whole creation's good;
Hunger banished, warfare ended,
All the earth one neighborhood!

4. God of science, history, teaching,
God of futures yet unknown,
God of holding, God of reaching,
God of power beyond earth's thrones;
Take the fragments of our living,
Fit us to Your finest scheme;
Now forgiven and forgiving,
Make us free to dare and dream.

5. God of pathways placed before us,
God of choices blurred and bold,
God of journeys now behind us,
God of paths yet to unfold;
Take these fragile years of learning,
Formed to fit Your finest scheme;
Now forgiven and forgiving,
Send us forth to dare and dream.

Sacred Reflection

*“Birds of the Same Nest”
Atharva Veda*

Anisha Barbora

Sacred Reflection

“We Never Stand Alone”

Stan Osei-Bonsu

Musical Reflection

*“Imagine”
John Lennon*

Pitch Black

Ashley Antle
Katie Atkinson
Betsy Lewis
Rachel Spetrino
Emily Turner
Joanna Van Sickle

Holy Scripture

*“The Opening”
The Holy Qu’ran - Surah 1:1-7*

Saad Dada

Sacred Reflection

“The Power of Dreams”

Edmund Livingston

Sacred Reflection

*“The Ragamuffin Gospel”
Brennan Manning*

Justin Skaggs

Musical Reflection

“Lascia ch’io pianga”
G.F. Handel

Juliet Partington
Jennifer Zimberg

Sacred Reflection

“Finding Peace in Judaism”

Michael Cohen

Sacred Reflection

“Oscillations between the Laboratory and the Wilderness”

Sahar Mazhar

Musical Reflection

“Morning Has Broken”
Cat Stevens

William Kenny

Sacred Reflection

“In Their Footsteps”

Laura Coonfield
Marianne Rapacz
Tara Sestito

Sacred Reflection

“Coming of Age”

Vance Brown

Musical Reflection

“May it Be”
Enya

Addie Frentsos

The Senior Class Comes Forward

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

“Alma Mater”

1. Ohio Wesleyan, Sweetly and strong
Rises our hymn of praise for thee alone;
Heaven re-echoes it, loud let it ring,
Ohio Wesleyan! Loyal hearts sing.

2. Ohio Wesleyan! Proud is thy crown.
Rarest of laurels e'er Vict'ry has known;
Noblest achievements have hallowed thy name,
Ohio Wesleyan! Deathless thy fame.

Benediction

Nicholas Oteng

Postlude

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

“Trumpet Tune”

Dr. Joseph Musser

(Written for the Ohio Wesleyan University Phi Beta Kappa Initiation)

THE BACCALAUREATE SEMINAR 2009

The word liturgy means “the work of the people.” Tonight’s liturgy illustrates that original meaning. This service is a prayerful, earnest, and semester-long effort of the Class of 2009. Their goal has been consistent and conscientious: to bring together all the mysterious and kaleidoscopic ways in which God has touched their lives, informed their faith, and molded their character over the past four years at Ohio Wesleyan University. This service is by intent patterned and chaotic, personal and corporate, sorrowful and exultant. It is not intended to be comprehensive or complete, but rather allusive and illustrative. All the sights and sounds of this evening are a collage of praise to God, a tapestry of thanksgiving, if you will, to acknowledge that “we have not come this far by our own power.”

Baccalaureate Committee: Ben Goodrum and Tricia DiFranco (Co-Chairs), Jesika Keener (Secretary), Sara Fagan and Sierra Hinshaw (Graphics Co-Chairs), and Edmund Livingstone (Reception Chair).

Committee Members at Large: Vance Brown and Marianne Rapacz.

Ex-Officio: Sam Chesser and Claire Everhart, Class of 2010; Kyle Herman and Christina Yost, Class of 2011; Associate Chaplains Chad Johns and Kelly Adamson; Assistant Chaplains Lisa Ho, Jessica Kynion, and Tim Gebhart; and University Chaplain Jon Powers.

Honoring Our National Flags

The flags surrounding us in Gray Chapel this evening represent all the nations of our Class of 2009. In alphabetical order, these flags represent:

Bangladesh
Ethiopia
Ghana
India
Jamaica
Kenya
Nepal
Norway
Pakistan
People's Republic of China
Peru
Republic of Korea
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Thailand
Turkish Cyprus
United States of America
Venezuela
Vietnam

Special thanks to Darrell Albon, Director of International Student Services, for providing and arranging these flags for us tonight.

Gray Chapel and the Rexford Keller Memorial Organ

Gray Chapel has long been Ohio Wesleyan's major chapel, concert hall, lecture hall, and place of meeting for the campus community. Throughout over a century of use, some of the world's leading performers and preachers, speakers and scholars, have held forth in this sacred space. Among the more recent: the world renowned gospel choir Lady Smith Black Mombaza of South Africa, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and the Oomoto (Shinto) World Prayer Service for Peace. The chapel is named in honor of Brother David F. Gray, President of the Board of Trustees in the 1880's. In 1888, Acting President and Professor McCabe made a plea for a chapel to be built somewhere between University and Monnett Halls. Brother David F. Gray pledged \$10,000 toward such a building. When University Hall was built, the construction of the chapel was named in Brother Gray's honor.

The glorious Rexford Keller Memorial Organ, installed in 1980, was designed for Gray Chapel and was constructed by Johannes Klais Orgelbau of Bonn, Germany, one of the world's most prestigious organ builders. This splendid instrument is one of only seven built for America by the Klais firm. It has mechanical linkage to the valves that admit air to pipes. This permits the musician infinite control over the shadings of the music.

The organ, in a case of European white oak, contains 4,522 pipes arranged in 82 ranks and ranging from more than 20 feet in length to one-quarter of an inch. The pipes are composed of special alloys of tin, or of mahogany, pear wood or redwood. The pipe shades, which are both decorative and functional, are covered with 22-carat gold leaf.

The Klais instrument is the third organ to be housed in Gray Chapel since the chapel was constructed in 1893. It is one of the largest and finest modern mechanical action pipe organs to be found in an educational institution in the United States.

We are grateful to those who came before us for these dedicated resources which make this chapel and organ available to us for the worship of God. It is a solemn blessing, in the midst of an academic institution, to have such glorious facilities in which to praise the source of all knowledge and truth.

**President's Commission on Racial and Cultural Diversity
2009 Student Award**

Benjamin Goodrum

Ben is the epitome of Ohio Wesleyan's Statement of Aims, as OWU seeks to provide quality education for service and leadership that will enrich both Church and society. He has served as the vice-president of student government (WCSA), as a member of the Tree House small living unit (SLU), as Editor-in-Chief of *Opportunity Knocks*, the newsletter for OWU Community Service Learning, and he was active in the Student Union for Black Awareness (SUBA). Ben was also instrumental in coordinating the Standing Together to Reduce Intolerance and Develop Equality (STRIDE) series in celebration of Black History Month. The topic of the event was "Exploring the Cultural Differences and Similarities between Africans and African-American," which was open to the campus community to raise awareness about cultural diversity within the Black community. Additionally, Ben reactivated OWU's chapter of Amnesty International, a student group which educates people about global human rights abuses. As a sophomore, Ben initiated OWU's annual trek to the international prayer vigil to protest the School of the Americas at Fort Bennington, Georgia. Ben also provided the screening of a provocative documentary film on the status of the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and led the discussion on what next steps are needed for OWU's on-going response to this social justice crisis. Under the auspices of OWU's Lilly Endowment grant, The Lilly Vision OWU for the Theological Exploration of Vocation, Ben spent a semester of research and study in Kenya to explore the delivery of health services in sub-Saharan Africa. Ben has subsequently dedicated his life to confront the unjust distribution of health care to all humanity, which he considers to be a global crisis. Gandhi-like in both stature and spirit, Ben is an inspiration to us all. The superiority of his leadership is exceeded only by his gentle humility and his keen sense of purpose to serve humanity.

**President's Commission on Racial and Cultural Diversity
2009 Faculty/Staff Award**

Mr. Darrell Albon

Darrell Albon is affectionately known by all OWU as the “24-7” Director of International Student Services – but that’s just his nickname and formal title. In truth, Darrell serves as confidante, advocate, academic advisor, INS resource, cultural interpreter, diplomat, chauffeur, spiritual guide, father-figure, financial aid counselor, camp-counselor, coach, disciplinarian, personal pillar, Humanities-Classics expert, word-smith, story-teller, and devoted friend for not only our students, but for our faculty and staff as well. Over the past year, Darrell worked closely with Sally Leber, Director of the Columbus Initiative, and Terree Stevenson, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, to create the OWU Leadership Across Boundaries program. OWU LAB sprung from Darrell’s vision conceived at a faculty/staff retreat sponsored by The Lilly Vision OWU. Darrell’s seminal vision has enabled OWU to develop an exciting new venture for student leadership development, which involves intentionally selected student leaders from a wide variety of ethnicities, races, nationalities, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds. Most recently, this venture has led to the establishment of a new small living unit on campus, the “COW Shed,” which is the student-selected title for their designation as “Citizens of the World” (COWs). Darrell’s commitment to consistent improvement of the quality of racial and cultural diversity of Ohio Wesleyan has led to his strong leadership in a variety of campus-wide committees and work groups this year, particularly the Arts and Science and the Strategic Plan work groups. As a faithful citizen of Canada, Darrell brings to us a particularly keen sense of international sensibility, and as a devoted Catholic, he brings to us the epitome of St. Francis’s dictum: “Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” Darrell’s actions always speak more loudly than his words; but for both, we are grateful and blessed.

**President's Commission on Racial and Cultural Diversity
2009 Organization Award**

Chinese Culture Club

The Chinese Culture Club shares the knowledge of and enhances the influence of Chinese culture for all members of the Ohio Wesleyan community. This club also provides a vital and nurturing home for all Chinese and Chinese-descendent students, faculty, and staff as a social group on campus, who are indeed a significant, increasing, and highly valued population among us. The Chinese Culture Club has hosted several significant social and cultural events during the past school year, one of which was the Chinese BBQ to celebrate the Moon Festival. They have also contributed in significant ways to the Culture Festival hosted by OWU's Horizons International, providing special performances such as Chinese folk dances, and folk cultural exhibitions such as Chinese calligraphy. The Chinese Culture Club went beyond the bounds of the OWU campus this year to represent OWU at Ohio State University with special performances at their Chinese festival. They also coordinated a "China Week" series on campus, as well as a China Experience Open Class, which included a speaker from the University of Colorado. Perhaps the most significant contribution of The Chinese Culture Club to Ohio Wesleyan this year was the introduction of an officially-approved Chinese language class into the curriculum, which will now be available to students at Ohio Wesleyan from all ethnic backgrounds and nationalities. This remarkable group at Club at Ohio Wesleyan belies the wisdom of the ancient Chinese proverb, "A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step." We are, indeed, a better place, because the Chinese Culture Club is an integral part of our campus community.

THE TRUE NORTH AWARD
Stan Osei-Bonsu and Nicholas Oteng

Frederick Buechner, one of America's foremost writers and theologians once wrote that, "Our life's calling is that place where our deepest gladness meets the world's deepest need." Here at Ohio Wesleyan, we actively engage in that journey, the journey to find that point where deep gladness meets the world's deep need. We call it vocational discernment. We know that the path is often not a straight one, and we certainly know that the path is not always an easy one. But we persevere just the same, helping and encouraging one another along the way.

The TRUE NORTH AWARD is given tonight to two students whose inner compasses have led them on sometimes circuitous routes toward points of discernment. Along the way, they have built bridges within our community, explored some difficult paths, helped lead others toward cultural and spiritual understandings, and, in the end, made some profound changes within their own lives. Our campus is richer for their presence; the world will be better a better place because they have found their TRUE NORTH, that place where their deep passions meet the world's great needs.

Tonight, we are honored to present the TRUE NORTH AWARD to **Stan Osei-Bonsu** and **Nicholas Oteng**.

UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE RELIGIOUS LIFE AWARDS

Each of the Trustee Religious Life Awards honors an individual who exemplifies a faithful witness to the ethical, spiritual, and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University, as delineated in the University's Charter of 1842 and the University's current Statement of Aims, as demonstrated in leadership both on campus and in the community, including church or other faith community affiliation.

These institutional honors, presented each year at the Baccalaureate Service, are cited by the John Templeton Foundation as one of the primary reasons for honoring Ohio Wesleyan University for its "Spiritual Growth program" in *The Templeton Guide: Colleges That Encourage Character Development – A Resource for Parents, Students, and Educators* (1999). The John Templeton Foundation declares such programs vital for college life.

"Students searching for meaning, connectedness, and significance present both a challenge and an opportunity for colleges and universities. Programs that foster spiritual growth provide a means to develop

a vision of moral integrity that coheres and connects belief to behavior. Exemplary programs (*such as Ohio Wesleyan's*) affirm the integral role that spirituality and religion often play in shaping character."

This distinction has been reaffirmed by way of the Lilly Endowment, Inc. which has awarded University Chaplaincy at Ohio Wesleyan a \$2 million grant to support the further development of these programs. Such distinction is further affirmed by the Ohio Wesleyan Board of Trustee capital campaign for The Lilly Vision OWU, by which they seek a \$6 million endowment to fund these programs in perpetuity.

**The Bliss and Mildred Wiant Award for Leadership in
Interfaith and Intercultural Relations**

Michael Cohen and Sahar Mazhar

Michael Cohen

In the midst of many cultural and theological challenges, Michael Cohen rises to the top of his class as a superb diplomat, interpreter, and representative of what it means to be “Jewish” in the midst of such an eclectic, interfaith, intercultural, and international class as the OWU class of 2009. Michael has served faithfully in his role as a leader of the OWU chapter of Hillel, which this year assisted in the restoration of the position of Assistant Chaplain for Jewish Life at OWU and the drafting of the first official OWU Hillel constitution in over ten years. In the midst of these institutional roles, Michael also served as a powerful voice for Judaism on a STRIDE panel for inter-faith dialogue. Additionally, he served throughout his years as a fierce and faithful voice for social justice as a member of the Peace and Justice House, and as a student leader for the annual OWU prayer vigil protest against the School of the Americas. An eternal hallmark of the Jewish faith is integrity, one that will be Michael’s legacy at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Sahar Mazhar

Throughout her early years as a student at OWU, Sahar Mahzar was a significant contributor to OWU's Common Text, a group of students from the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam who together study the common teachings of their inter-woven faith traditions by way of the Hebrew *Tanakh*, the Christian *Gospels*, and the Muslim *Qu'ran*. She helped lead the re-dedication of Norman Vincent Peale Chapel as "a place of prayer for all people," (the Book of the Prophet Isaiah), and she has most recently served as student leader for the 2009 Spring Break Wilderness Trek to Cumberland Island, whereby she intentionally invited women from a variety of countries, cultures, and religious backgrounds to engage with her in intense and life-transforming conversations about their faith and culture. Sahar represents, for all of us, the hope of humanity – that God is not done with us; that there is yet hope that we, as all God's children, will yet see our blessed, beautiful inter-connectedness.

The Chaplain James Leslie Award for Leadership in Peace and Justice

Benjamin Goodrum & Lydia Spitalny

Benjamin Goodrum

Ben is the epitome of Ohio Wesleyan's Statement of Aims, as OWU seeks to provide quality education for service and leadership that will enrich both Church and society. He has served as the vice-president of student government (WCSA), as a member of the Tree House small living unit (SLU), as Editor-in-Chief of *Opportunity Knocks*, the newsletter for OWU Community Service Learning, and he was active in the Student Union for Black Awareness (SUBA). Ben was also instrumental in coordinating the Standing Together to Reduce Intolerance and Develop Equality (STRIDE) series in celebration of Black History Month. The topic of the event was "Exploring the Cultural Differences and Similarities between Africans and African-American," which was open to the campus community to raise awareness about cultural diversity within the Black community. Additionally, Ben reactivated OWU's chapter of Amnesty International, a student group which educates people about global human rights abuses. As a sophomore, Ben initiated OWU's annual trek to the international prayer vigil to protest the School of the Americas at Fort Bennington, Georgia. Ben also provided the screening of a provocative documentary film on the status of the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and led the discussion on what next steps are needed for OWU's on-going response to this social justice crisis. Under the auspices of OWU's Lilly Endowment grant, The Lilly Vision OWU for the Theological Exploration of Vocation, Ben spent a semester of research and study in Kenya to explore the delivery of health services in sub-Saharan Africa. Ben has subsequently dedicated his life to confront the unjust distribution of health care to all humanity, which he considers to be a global crisis. Gandhi-like in both stature and spirit, Ben is an inspiration to us all. The superiority of his leadership is exceeded only by his gentle humility and his keen sense of purpose to serve humanity.

Lydia Spitalny

Lydia Spitalny, since she first stepped foot on this campus, has been the Jewish Martin Luther King, Jr. of her class – diminutive and determined, poetic and persistent, vibrant and visionary. Her creation of OWU STAND for education, witness, and action on behalf of the victims of Darfur has been and will continue to be a hallmark of her prophetic presence among us. The recent OWU celebration of Yom Hashoah, which combined the presence of OWU's Hillel with OWU students from STAND, SUBA, Sister's United, Black Men of the Future, and Rafiki wa Afrika was a powerful tribute to the impact Lydia has had on our diverse campus community. Lydia's subsequent involvements with prayer vigils at the School of the Americas, the Ghana Student Fund, and her various trips and personal service missions in Africa are cumulatively overwhelming. With her outstanding academic acumen and her passion for leadership, service, and social justice, Lydia is truly the epitome of everything Ohio Wesleyan University hopes to nurture in its student body.

The Bishop Gerald Ensley Award for Leadership in Christian Mission

Janna Dagley

In a recent OWU Chapel Service, we were all challenged to imagine who in our daily life represented for us the presence of the Incarnate Christ. Chaplain Powers said that the immediate image that came to him was Janna Dagley. As he shared his revelation with other Christians across campus, there was no surprise. During the past four years, Janna was a founding member of the Vote Out Poverty team, served as a leader for Campus Crusade for Christ, was active with the Jubilee team, attended the Jubilee Conference on a regular basis, was president of the Christian Student Leadership Council, and served as the Spiritual Guide of the Lakota Nation spring break mission team. Janna's broad experience in the OWU faith community, and her passion for incorporating service and social justice into religious life, earned her the respect and admiration of her peers. Janna's deep-felt calling to infuse service and justice into the Campus Crusade for Christ fellowship not only led a vast increase in Campus Crusade involvement with community service, but also led her to challenge all the other Christian organizations on campus to become more involved in social justice. Chaplain Powers says, "Janna exudes the loving, serving, sacrificial spirit of Jesus in every bone of her body. As the Lakota people say, Janna is good medicine; don't mess with her."

**The Cheryl McGinniss Award
For Roman Catholic Leadership**

Laura Coonfield

Having been an active participant in her home parish's high school youth group, Laura became actively involved in Ohio Wesleyan's Catholic community since her first day on campus. She has participated in four spring break mission teams, serving with the Sisters of Charity of Rome, leading teams to both the Benedictine Community in Erie PA, and a medical mission in Nicaragua, and proposing and participating in the Hartford Catholic Worker team. She also participated in the "Crossroads of the Powerful and the Powerless" seminar at the CCNV Homeless Shelter in Washington, D.C. Additionally, she has presented at Newman club on numerous theological and philosophical topics. She has also served in the community as an RCIA sponsor and participated in Catholic theology studies at St. Mary's parish in Delaware. She participated in the OWU CALLED program and helped prepare and run the Catholic Discipleship fall retreat this year. One of her professors wrote, "In my 9 years at OWU, I have enjoyed knowing students of excellent character that demonstrate compassion for others through service. We have very giving students, indeed. Laura Coonfield is the single most generous and giving student I have ever known. She spends every summer, winter, and spring vacation in service... Every summer she works in a hospital doing good work in a kind of internship position – and then she volunteers her off-hour time helping patients. I've often thought that Laura has many qualities I hope my own daughter will possess: a strong mind, a very kind heart, and the generosity to put those to work for the benefit of others." Among her many future plans, Laura has committed to one year of service with the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry, in which she will live in an ecumenical community of lay volunteers committed to justice in radical solidarity with people who are poor, suffering, and in the most need of compassion, healing, and liberation.

The Taban Blake Servant Leadership Award

Renee Colvin

There is no student at Ohio Wesleyan who combines the judicial acuity of Thurgood Marshall with the social holiness of John Wesley more thoroughly and profoundly than Renee Colvin. Renee is passionate about knowing and loving others and truly serving them because she believes that everyone deserves love and respect. For a number of years in a row, Renee has served thousands of homeless people through her leadership with the OWU Seminar for “The Powerful and the Powerless” at the Center for Creative Non-Violence Homeless Shelter in Washington, D.C. Likewise, she has served hundreds of people in the Columbus community through her extensive work at the Open Shelter in downtown Columbus. As team leader for the OWU spring break mission team, she also has served hundreds of people across the country. On campus, she serves her fellow students through her leadership of Common Texts. She has taken to heart and to living practice Jesus’ words, “Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.” (Matthew 25:40).

The Arthur S. Flemming Award for Leadership in the Civic Arts

Mark Miller

To promote, distribute, collect, and sort all the “left behind” clothing, food, furniture, and supplies donated to local charity by OWU students at the end of the year is a daunting task – practically a full-time job. Everyone thinks it’s a great idea, but no one has the time this time of year to make it happen. Along comes Mark Miller, quiet and unassuming. “I’d really like to do that,” he says apologetically, “that is, if no one else really wants to.” And so, it all gets done, with superb organization, effective communication, and efficient results. That’s been Mark’s style and substance his entire four years at OWU. He has been the team leader for an OWU Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Mission Team, he has participated in the “Crossroads of the Powerful and Powerless” team at the CCNV Homeless Shelter in Washington, D.C., and he has participated in the Lakota Nation Spring Break Mission Team. He has been a key leader of the annual Circle K “Books for Africa” campaign, the annual Community River Clean-up of the Olentangy River, and a wide array of other community service projects throughout the community and throughout his four years on campus. As an economics major, Mark clearly “gets it” – that his academic and professional passions merge coherently, broadly, and deeply with his commitment to serving others in tangible and specific ways. He will never be one to claim credit for anything he has done, but you can be sure, if he is involved, it will get done and done well.

**The Robert and Bette Meyer Award for faithful witness
to the ethical, spiritual and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University
as delineated in the University's Charter and Statement of Aims**

Terre Stevenson

Terree Stevenson is a whirlwind. She is the architect of an amazing new program at OWU – STRIDE, which stands for Standing Together to Reduce Intolerance and Develop Equality. Through these panel discussions and related program initiatives, Terree has created a safe space for the campus community to “go deep” in positive, thoughtful, constructive ways to explore the sometimes delicate nuances of difference on matters of race, faith, nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender, orientation, and socio-economic class. In addition, Terree worked with Darrell Albon and Sally Leber to establish the Leadership Across Boundaries (LAB) initiative on campus, which has led to the creation of the Citizens of the World small living unit (which students affectionately call “the COW shed”). Terree has also created additional programs and opportunities throughout the year for various student groups to inter-mingle. For example, she helped promote the blending of Hillel’s Yom HaShoah Commemorative Service with Rafiki wa Afrika, SUBA, BMF and Sister’s United service for the victims of Darfur and other African diaspora. Additionally, Terree has expanded the annual Kushinda Celebration in both depth and breadth to include not only students of color, ethnicity, and nationality from all over the world, but also include faculty, staff, alumni, and community groups. Terree is always approachable, always available to assist students and campus colleagues in myriad ways, and she always does so with gentle grace and loving spirit. Her personal faith is as deep and wide as her love for the students of OWU. She remains active in her faith community, Liberty Hill Church, and she brings the richness of that faith to everything she does. She is truly one of the most valuable assets we have at Ohio Wesleyan University.

**The Bishop Francis Emner Kearns Award for faithful witness
to the ethical, spiritual and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University
as delineated in the University's Charter and Statement of Aims**

Dr. Juan Armando Rojas

Mystic poet, prolific scholar, passionate professor, dedicated servant, devoted husband, loving father, faithful friend, devout Catholic layman, voice of the powerless and the oppressed, citizen of the world – like a kaleidoscope, you can place these in any random arrangement at any given moment and you still have the brilliant pattern of deep humanity that is Juan Armando Rojas Joo. His title is Assistant Professor of Modern Foreign Languages and Director of OWU's Study Abroad Program in Salamanca, Spain, but his role on campus is much broader and deeper than that. He holds a Ph. D. from the University of Arizona, with a focus in 19th and 20th Century Latin American Literature, 19th and 20th Century Peninsular Literature, Colonial Literature, and Literary Theory. He is a prolific writer and has published a number of volumes of poetry and literary works. He brings all of this wide experience to his classroom, his directed studies, his supervision of the Salamanca program, and his personal mentorship of many students on campus. He also brings to us his deep sense of faith, mystic and powerful, and his deep passion for peace and justice. In addition to his academic and administrative service to OWU, Dr. Rojas serves the Latino Community in Delaware through St. Mary Catholic Church in a variety of roles, including teaching young people about the Catholic faith. He has also helped lead international prayer services in the Norman Vincent Peale Chapel and has assisted students in the anthropology film class with their documentary on homelessness and immigration issues. Dr. Rojas truly is the epitome of Ohio Wesleyan University's Statement of Aims, that we seek to provide quality education for service and leadership that will enrich both Church and society.

How is Ohio Wesleyan University related to the United Methodist Church?

1842 Official Charter and Current Statement of Aims

Since its founding, Ohio Wesleyan University has maintained its connection with the Methodist (now United Methodist) Church, offering a quality of scholarship, leadership, and service that has enriched both Church (faith community) and society. Its charter provided that “the University is forever to be conducted on the most liberal principles, accessible to all religious denominations (faith communities), and designed for the benefit of our citizens in general.” In spirit and heritage, the University defines itself as a community of teachers and students devoted to the free pursuit of truth. It attempts to develop in its students qualities of intellect and character which will be useful no matter what they choose to do in later life.

One of the three primary objectives of the University is to place education in the context of values. Liberal education seeks to develop in students understanding of themselves, appreciation of others, and willingness to meet the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society. It recognizes that trained sensitivity to private and public value issues, grounded in a sound grasp of various cultural heritages, is important for maturation and for living a good life. It accords high honor to intellectual honesty. Consistent with our Methodist tradition, Ohio Wesleyan University encourages concern for all religious and ethical issues and stimulates its students to examine their own views in light of these issues.

Official Affiliation with the United Methodist Church

In keeping with these sacred and social commitments, and based upon a regular review of its academic program, religious life, student life, and financial standing, Ohio Wesleyan University is officially affiliated with The United Methodist Church as a United Methodist institution of higher education.

Sierra Hinshaw, Artist Statement:

As I made my way around campus taking photos, I was struck by how familiar these iconic scenes had become to me during my four years at Ohio Wesleyan, and, just as they had become a part of my experience, so had they for generations of students before me. And, after I have gone from this place, generations of students will walk down these paths again and again before choosing their own paths through life. Though I cannot know where these paths will lead, I can wish them the very best on their journey.



*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.”*

- Psalm 119:105

The Official Seal
of
Ohio Wesleyan University



