

The Class of 2011  
Baccalaureate Service  
Gray Chapel  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Delaware, Ohio  
May 7, 2011  
*“Stone Soup”*

*The Class of 2011 has been deeply touched by world events, especially the cultural conflicts related to race, religion, and geo-political tensions. A national leader who has impacted that conversation at Ohio Wesleyan over the past four years is Eboo Patel, the founder and director of Interfaith Youth Core, and the inspiration for Ohio Wesleyan's new Interfaith Leadership Council. It was Eboo's rendition of Stone Soup that was impetus for this year's Baccalaureate theme.*

**“Stone Soup”** excerpt from *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel

—I love this,” Linda said during one meeting. —We each bring something important and unique to this discussion. Mark and Allie have the experience of living in co-ops in Madison. Eboo and Jeff know about the Catholic Worker Movement. It reminds me of my favorite childhood story, about a guy who comes into a starving village with a large pot and a big stone and tells the villagers that he is going to cook them stone soup. He puts water and the stone in a pot and when it starts boiling, he tastes it and says, It’s almost ready, but it needs some carrots. ‘ One of the villagers says he has some carrots, and he runs and gets those. The guy cuts them up, puts them in the pot, and then tastes it again and says, Almost ready. It just needs some celery. ‘ Somebody else says they’ve got celery and runs and gets it, and the guy cuts it up and puts it in the pot. And on and on with potatoes and turnips and garlic. And then presto—stone soup.”

People were quiet for a moment. The story had struck a profound chord. I think that’s exactly what we’re about, ‘ Jeff said. Creating a space that brings out the various talents of a diverse community, and then collecting those talents so that they form something even better that can feed all of us. ‘

I think we just got our name—Stone Soup, ‘ John said.”

**A Special Note of Thanks:**

To **Guanyi Yang** for his hard work in compiling the *Senior Class Slideshow*, **Old Stone Presbyterian Church** for donating the can good drop off bin, and **Nancy Tumeo** in the Card Office for her consistent support.

**BACCALAUREATE SERVICE**  
**Ohio Wesleyan University**  
**The Class of 2011**

–Stone Soup”

8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, May 7, 2011

Gray Chapel  
Ohio Wesleyan University

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**Prelude in Pictures**

The Senior Class Slideshow

**University Greeting**

The Reverend Dr. Rock Jones  
*University President*

**President’s Commission Awards**

Dr. Paula White  
*Associate Professor of Education*

**Religious Life Awards**

The Reverend Dr. Blake Michael  
*Chairperson of Religion Department*  
The Reverend Jon Powers  
*University Chaplain*

**Student Leader Greeting**

Kyle Herman and Christina Yost  
*Baccalaureate 2011 Co-Chairs*

**Organ Prelude**

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

*"Praeludium in A Minor"*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

**A Gift of Sacred Journey**

*"Interfaith Dialogue"*

Ahlam Awad  
Michele Gilbert  
Caroline Miller  
Sydney Parmes  
Martha Lear-Park  
Gabe Quick

**A Gift of Tradition**

*St. Theresa's Prayer*

Joanne Neugebauer

**A Gift of Music**

*"Let it Be"*  
The Beatles

Pitch Black  
Julia Alkon  
Becky Brinkman  
Clare Edwards  
Michele Gilbert  
Emily Knobbe  
Marie Krulewitch  
Hillary Robertson  
Rachel Roman  
Annie Root  
Madeline Shier  
Jessica Spafford  
Rachel Spetrino

**A Gift of Tradition**

*"See it Through"*

Kylle Summers

**A Gift of Movement**

*“How Can I Keep From Singing”*  
Robert Wadsworth Lowry

Chantel Deane  
Laurel Elliot  
Samantha Spiridellis

**A Gift of Sacred Journey**

*“Changed”*

Lathania Brown

**A Gift of Tradition**

*“Song of Myself”*

Heather Werling

**A Gift of Sacred Journey**

*“I Can Do That”*

Frank Weschler

**A Gift of Music**

*“Shalom Rav”*

Michele Gilbert  
Marie Krulewitch

**A Gift of Tradition**

*“The Spiritual and Personal Sides of OWU”*

Natasha Azar  
Emily Bates  
Ali Oosman

**A Gift of Sacred Journey**

*“That it will never come again”*

Kristen Lear

**A Gift of Movement**

*“Final Dance”*

Monique Cherry

**A Gift of Tradition**

*“The Giving Tree”*  
Shel Silverstein

Sarah Murphey

**A Gift of Tradition**

*“Thou Preparest a Fable Before Me with a Sumptuous Feast of Gleanings”*

Sayan Ghosal  
Greylyn Hydinger

**A Gift of Music**

*“The Prayer”*

Chantel Deane  
Meag Dow  
Sarah Kenny  
Jessica Spafford  
Annie Spain  
Lauren Spavelko

**A Gift of Sacred Journey**

*“Neighbors at OWU and Around the World”*

Kyle Herman

**A Gift of Sacred Journey**

*“Peniel”*

Christina Yost

**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**

The Reverend Donald Park  
Martha Lear-Park

**Postlude**

*“Dorian Toccata”*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

## THE BACCALAUREATE COMMITTEE 2011

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 2011. 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:** Kyle Herman and Christina Yost (Co-Chairs), Chloe Hamrick (Secretary), Martha Park (Graphics), Matthew Jordan (Reception Chair), Greyllyn Hydingler (Chancel Chair), and Caroline Miller (Service Chair).

**Committee Members at Large:** Sarah Murphey and Ahlam Awad.

**Ex-Officio:** Katrina Hansen, Michelle Meyer, and Maren Oehl, Class of 2012; Guanyi Yang, Kami Goldin and Gene Sludge, Class of 2013; Kelsey Brewer and Haneya Hasan, Class of 2014; Associate Chaplains Chad Johns and Kelly Adamson ;University Chaplain Jon Powers, and Administrative Assistant Sarah DuBois.



## **Honoring Our National Flags**

The flags surrounding us in Gray Chapel this evening represent all the nations of our Class of 2011. These flags represent:

Albania	People's Republic of China
Australia	Philippines
Bangladesh	Romania
Canada	Russia
Ethiopia	Singapore
Hong Kong	South Korea
India	Sri Lanka
Japan	Thailand
Kazakhstan	Turkmenistan
Mauritius	Trinidad & Tobago
Nepal	Vietnam
Nigeria	United States of America
Norway	Uzbekistan
Pakistan	Zimbabwe
Peru	

Special thanks to Darrell Albon, Dorota Kendrick, and Gerri Spurlock of the International Student Services Office for providing the 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 gathering for the campus community. For over a century, some of the world's leading performers and preachers, speakers and scholars, have held forth in this sacred space. Among the more recent: Morris Dees, Gloria Steinem, and John McCutcheon. 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 eight built for America by the Klais firm. (The organ at Asbury United Methodist in Delaware, Ohio, is the most recent.) 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.

**THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON RACIAL AND CULTURAL  
DIVERSITY AWARDS**

*The President's Commission on Racial and Cultural Diversity is pleased to announce the recipients of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Award for Racial and Cultural Diversity. These awards are given to a student, faculty, staff, or administrator, and campus organization or department in recognition of their efforts to improve the quality of life for all members of the OWU community by promoting diversity and social justice. The 2010-2011 recipients are as follows:*

Student Award

**Samuel Irvine** for his commitment and dedication to ensuring that all LGBTIQ students feel safe and respected within the Ohio Wesleyan community.

Staff Award

**Xudong Jin** for his role as mentor and advisor of the Chinese Culture Club and for his vision of Ohio Wesleyan as a "sister" institution to Chinese Universities and Colleges.

Organization Award

**People Regarding Individual Diversity Everywhere (PRIDE) and Student Union on Black Awareness (SUBA)** –These dual recipients are being recognized for their increased campus presence and commitment to multicultural programming.

## UNIVERSITY RELIGIOUS LIFE AWARDS

Each of the 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 awarded the Chaplain's Office \$2.5 million in grants over the past decade to support the further development of these programs.

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

*Ahlam Awad and Caroline Miller*

Ahlam Awad

There is no narrative about the increasingly strong interfaith culture at Ohio Wesleyan without the stately, solemn, graceful presence of Ahlam Awad. Throughout her four years at OWU, Ahlam has been a quiet but powerful force within the Muslim community and within all the interfaith initiatives of recent years. As an Ethiopian Muslim within a campus culture that is heavily South Asian, Ahlam has provided a fresh spirit and insight to our interfaith campus community. As Vice President of Tauheed, the Muslim Student Association at OWU, Ahlam has been a quiet, driving force behind their resurgence as a viable, stable student movement, and was instrumental in grooming the new leadership of first and second year students.

Beyond Tauheed, Ahlam has actively participated in sojourns to the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo, Ohio; Eboo Patel's lecture at Wooster College; and the Noor Islamic Center in Dublin, Ohio and has been a very active participant in interfaith initiatives at OWU in cooperation with Caroline Miller and Chaplain Powers. She has also demonstrated her interfaith spirit and leadership through her participation with the Christian-based spring break mission team to Love and Hope children's orphanage in El Salvador, her leadership with the multi-faith and multi-cultural programs of OWU's Horizon's International, her support for Common Texts—a study group that explores the similarities and differences of the three Abrahamic faiths.

Wherever life takes her, there can be no doubt that Ahlam will continue to engage those around her with her passion for interfaith understanding.

## Caroline Miller

A Jew, a Muslim, and a Christian are walking down the street: No, it's not the beginning of a bad joke; rather, the beginning of a powerful, life changing experience. On the streets of Washington, D.C. last fall, Caroline Miller represented Ohio Wesleyan University at the first White House Interfaith Leadership Institute. Within a matter of minutes upon arrival, Caroline had made new friendships with a Muslim student and the Muslim chaplain from another university. By the end of the institute, Caroline had built relationships with student leaders, faculty, and staff from all over the nation, all dedicated to the promotion of interfaith community service on their campuses. Caroline returned from that experience more inspired than ever to share her Jewish identity with others, and to learn more about other faith backgrounds.

As President of OWU Hillel, Caroline had often brought non-Jewish friends to Hillel events, where she introduced them to Jewish religious and cultural traditions. Now, however, her vision was expanded to include all faith traditions in a rich blend of intercultural conversation and shared experiences: Late last fall, Caroline initiated the new campus-wide Interfaith Leadership Council, and it has become a vibrant force dedicated to the long-term vision that all students who graduate from OWU demonstrate "religious literacy" in the context of an interfaith community.

As a creative illustration of her commitment, she helped OWU Hillel start a project called Challah for Hunger, which unites students (of different faith traditions and no faith traditions) to bake and sell Challah, a traditional Jewish bread, to raise funds for relief in Darfur and other causes selected by the students who participate (such as various Spring Break Mission Team projects).

Caroline's interest and respect for religious differences and commonalities, combined with her demonstrated leadership across boundaries in related matters of economic, social, political, and cultural justice, will infuse whatever she does in the future. Her sharp intellect, gentle spirit, and genuine love for all humanity will lead the way.

## **The Chaplain James Leslie Award for Leadership in Peace and Justice**

*Martha Lear-Park*

With the quiet grace of a Southern theologian, mingled with the intense persistence of Southern social activist, Martha Lear-Park personifies an artistic blend of John Wesley with Jim Leslie. Her prophetic passion for faith-based social justice leaves an indelible imprint on this campus, this community and, indeed, the world.

Even a brief sketch of the many issues Martha has confronted illustrates her depth and breadth. In large part because of its racial prejudice and religious bias, Martha has challenged the ethical and pragmatic realities of the death penalty. She has also initiated a long-series of discussions and discoveries about the possibility of faith-based civilian-led activism to end wars. Beyond the more overt forms of violence exemplified by the death penalty and war, Martha has also continued campus dialogues about need for interfaith cooperation and the violence of religious bigotry. From co-coordinating a program that brought the playwright/ actress Rohina Malik to campus, to creating and implementing a Spring Break Mission Week team to Chicago to study Christian-Muslim dialogue, Martha has been at the forefront of this nationally imperative conversation.

One of Martha's nominators wrote: —Her connection to faith-based justice is inspiring. Her projects have consistently shifted my understanding of where religious interest lies in working toward human rights and social equality.” Nearly 50 years ago, Chaplain Leslie prayed: —Give us a vision of a world made new and a passion to accomplish that undertaking.” Today, through her leadership, her witness, and her dedication, Martha Lear-Park embodies that vision, that passion, and that undertaking. Praise be.

## **The Bishop Gerald Ensley Award for Leadership in Christian Mission**

***Lathania Brown and Christina Yost***

### Lathania Brown

On May 7, 1972, at the United Methodist Church's General Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, Ohio Bishop F. Gerald Ensley, OWU graduate class of 1927, lamented what he called ~~the~~ Christian *malaise* in missions." He concluded, "Probably not for centuries has the witness of Christian people on ultimate questions been so hesitant and uncertain." Thirty-nine years-to-the-day later, Lathania Brown receives tonight The Bishop Gerald Ensley Award for her *vibrant, enthusiastic, energetic, exciting, pulsating, lively, brilliant, dazzling, passionate, colorful, and compelling* leadership in Christian mission. Bishop Ensley would be pleased.

Throughout her three short years at OWU (she is graduating one year early), Lathania has embodied the Christian mission vision of Bishop Ensley's greatest hope. She served as a member of the Spring Break Mission Week team to Belize and then led a Spring Break Mission Week team to Jamaica, taking a group of students and faculty advisors to her hometown of Kingston to expose them to the injustice of poverty and racism that exists. But mission exists right here as well as abroad. In the Delaware community, Lathania served as an intern at Delaware City Vineyard Church, which offered her a chance to interact with the local faith community and learn more about efforts to change lives oppressed by poverty and racism. On campus, Lathania has been an active leader of the OWU Faith and Justice group and has attended annual the Jubilee conference.

Using her Neuroscience studies at OWU, Lathania plans to go to medical school, and then start a ministry with the homeless in Jamaica. Her powerful ministry will continue to shine. Bishop Ensley would indeed be pleased.



## Christina Yost

Four years ago, a quiet, shy, young woman arrived on campus seeking to engage with the Christian community here. Four years later, Christina Yost is graduating as one of OWU's strongest Christian leaders.

While at OWU, Christina deepened her already established connection to the United Methodist Church by reforming and leading the United Methodist Student Movement and by serving as a pastoral intern at William St. United Methodist Church. As both an attendee of the National UMSM Student Forum and as a committee member that prepared for the on-campus visit of the United Methodist University Senate, she began to explore the broader issues and understandings at work within her own tradition.

But her work was not limited to standalone United Methodism or even Christianity. Instead, she broadened her perspective by taking her faith into the interfaith community through a mission team that explored Christian-Muslim dialogue in Chicago and an Interfaith Youth Core conference sponsored by Eboo Patel, among other endeavors.

Through her work on the Religion Student Board and Disciple Bible Study, Christina has pushed those around her to go deeper into their own faith even as she has gone deeper into hers. She has been willing to grapple—theologically and spiritually—with difficult issues ranging from theodicy and apocalypticism to sexuality and interfaith dialogue in the church.

Many young saints-in-the-making have passed through the hallowed halls of Ohio Wesleyan. But few have had the balanced depth and breadth of spiritual, intellectual, social, relational, and organizational leadership that Christina has consistently demonstrated. As she pursues ordination as a minister at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio next year, we know that the church and the world wait eagerly for the gift of her continued ministry.

## **The Taban Blake Award for Servant Leadership**

*Greylyn Hydinger*

Some leaders do not know how to be servants. Some servants do not know how to be leaders. But when leadership and service are blended and balanced, it becomes an art form – a “civic art” indeed.

Greylyn Hydinger has consistently demonstrated the heart and mind of a servant leader throughout his years at Ohio Wesleyan. With quiet, gentle grace balanced with a laser-like intellect, Greylyn is the epitome of the “behind-the-scenes” leader – always eager to help in any way possible, yet rarely, if ever, in the spotlight.

The little red VW bug with humungous mattress and box-springs tied to its roof, chugging up the street just before it rains? That would be Greylyn – helping a professor move from her apartment to her new home. The first student to arrive and the last student to leave, when a major program needs set-up and take-down? Again, that would be Greylyn. Scrubbing an old house to make it ready as a shelter for former prostitutes? Yes, Greylyn was front and center. Taking his Spring Break Week to serve in Belize? Greylyn. Serving as the student leader for a cold and rainy Wilderness Trek to serve others as “Trail Angels” on the Appalachian Trail? Greylyn. Consistent, strong, knowledgeable leader for the OWU Outdoor Ministry Team? Greylyn. Passionate, thoughtful, prophetic, and very hands-on leader with the OWU Faith & Justice group? Greylyn.

The Ohio Wesleyan *Statement of Aims* claims that we seek to offer “a quality of scholarship, leadership, and service that has enriched both Church and society.” No one better represents that blend and balance than does Greylyn Hydinger.

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

*Kyle Herman*

In his book *Young India*, Mahatma Gandhi proposed the “seven social sins” against which any civil society could be judged: —Politics without Principle, Wealth without Work, Pleasure without Conscience, Knowledge without Character, Commerce without Morality, Science without Humanity, Worship without Sacrifice.” If these are to be the values and practices that constitute good citizenship, then Kyle Herman is the epitome of the “civic artist.” From the moment he stepped on campus four years ago, Kyle has stood out as an exceptionally principled, hard working, conscientious, moral, humane, and sacrificial person of deep character.

Receiving honor and recognition his freshman year for his leadership, academics, and athletic ability, Kyle never slowed down in his involvement at Ohio Wesleyan. He is an accomplished scholar athlete. He is an active member of both his faith community and the greater interfaith community of OWU. He has served both as vice-president and president of the Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs. With quiet confidence and stark humility, Kyle helped to lead WCSA through significant changes in major policies and procedures that will touch the lives and well-being of every student at Ohio Wesleyan for years to come.

Kyle also provided a rallying voice to the student body as they collectively celebrated campus-wide victories, and a calm, reassuring voice as we mourned tragic losses together. During the national elections of 2008, Kyle was a pivotal member of the OWU "Vote Out Poverty" team and he was subsequently a founding member and leader of the OWU Faith and Justice group. In recent years, Kyle has traversed the globe through OWU's academic ventures, studying first-hand the tangled complexities of politics and culture.

Anchored in such a Gandhian/Wesleyan ethic, and with integrity and grace, Kyle Herman goes forth as a true Citizen of the World. And the world will be the better for it.

**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**

*Amanda Stewart*

Early on in her tenure as a Residential Life Coordinator at Ohio Wesleyan, Amanda Stewart came to the Chaplain's Office to offer her services to help with any mission team projects and any other collaborative support needed. Little did she know that for the entirety of her time at Ohio Wesleyan, she would be immersed in solid community service and missional adventures, and also deeply intense crises that would demand every ounce of her personal skills and sensitivities. Without fail, Amanda has risen to each challenge with a calm professional presence, a sharp eye for need and nuance, and a deep abiding faith that has comforted and strengthened those around her.

As a mission adviser, Amanda has twice served on the El Salvador Mission Team. Amanda worked with students helping them understand the true meaning behind their service. In the words of one of her co-advisers, —Amanda's caring and compassionate outlook was an inspiration to both myself and the entire team." Deeply moved by the people she interacted with, she found a special place in her heart for the children at the home. Through these experiences, Amanda has not only found a new passion, but she has found a new calling. She intends to continue serving the Love and Hope Children's Home in the near future.

Never before has this high honor been awarded to anyone with only two years of employment at Ohio Wesleyan. Yet in her short time with us, Amanda has demonstrated such a high level of professionalism and integrity and has built such an extraordinary number of meaningful relationships with so many students that she truly deserves this award. Amanda now goes out into the world, with the Class of 2011, to provide leadership and service as a missionary for orphaned children – indeed, this is ~~the~~ Wesleyan Way.

**The Bishop Francis Enmer 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. Chris Wolverton*

Dr. Chris Wolverton is one of the most talented professors at Ohio Wesleyan. His teaching style is both informative and fun, making complex subjects and ideas easily understandable to students in his classes. However, his tests are far from the easiest tests in the world. He never asks simple memorization questions, but instead asks students to learn the basic concepts and then apply those concepts as the students synthesize the —big picture,” as he frequently says, of what is occurring in plant physiological processes. Earlier this semester, almost all the students in one of his classes failed an exam. To Chris, having a solid understanding of the material is of supreme importance. Rather than simply saying, —Oh well, you failed the exam; let’s move on,” Chris provided grace to his students. He allowed the students in his class to study more and retake their exams, requiring the students to learn the material that is important to a good understanding of plant biochemical pathways.

Chris and his wife, Jen, have welcomed students, faculty members, and community members into their home for Bible studies and Christian fellowship; they regularly attend a home church in Lewis Center and are in the process of starting one of these churches in Delaware. However, Chris’s commitment to Christian values are never left at a worship service. Taking their faith into the community, Chris and his wife frequently volunteer together at Common Ground, a free-store that serves the Delaware community, and serve free meals at Andrews House. Chris is an outstanding teacher and community member who integrates his faith in all facets of life.

**A Special Award from the Class of 2011**

**For 22 years of Exemplary Service**

*Sue Pasters*

For twenty-two years, Sue Pasters has been the heart of community service learning on campus. As the first Director of Community Service Learning at Ohio Wesleyan, her passion for serving underprivileged children has shaped the core of the program. Her commitment to empowering students to pursue the causes about which they are passionate has shaped the rest.

Sue can claim many notable achievements. She helped institute and lead the Summer of Service program, which was the pilot project that led to the domestic Peace Corps program, Americorps. For many years, Sue has worked cooperatively with the Education Department on campus about connecting academics and service. She has built dozens of partnerships with community agencies and guided students and community partners to connect. On campus, Sue has worked with student service organizations such as Buckeye Valley Reads, the former House of HOPE (Helping Others Pursue Education) small living unit, and Habitat for Humanity and helped form and guide the current incarnation of the Spring Break Mission Week program. Sue has regularly counseled students with required community service hours, seeking to make their —punishment” both educational and redemptive. And under Sue’s leadership, OWU won the 2009 National President’s Award for Community Service—one of only three schools in the country to achieve such distinction that year.

Yet Sue will not point to these things as her legacy. Instead, she will point to the wall in her office covered with pictures of alumni, students who have become her friends, now scattered around the world in leadership and service to all humanity. These are the lives changed. These are the ripples in the pond changing lives all around them. This is the legacy that Sue has created.

## **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.

