

The Class of 2013
Baccalaureate Service
Gray Chapel
Ohio Wesleyan University
Delaware, Ohio
May 11, 2013

“Worlds within the World”

A Special Note of Thanks To:

Katie Wegener for creating and designing the artwork on the cover

Haneya Hasan and Luke Waters for compiling the *Senior Class Slideshow*

Nancy Tumeo in the Card Office for her consistent support

Print Services for printing the programs

Renee Villanueva-Henkle for hand crafting the flag poles and stands.

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE
Ohio Wesleyan University
The Class of 2013

“Worlds with the World”

8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 11, 2013

Gray Chapel
Ohio Wesleyan University

Prelude in Pictures

The Senior Class Slideshow

Prelude

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Setting by Bradley Sowash

Liza Blakeslee

University Greeting

The Reverend Dr. Rock Jones
University President

President's Commission Awards

The Reverend Jon Powers
University Chaplain

Religious Life Awards

The Reverend Jon Powers
University Chaplain
The Reverend Dr. Blake Michael
Professor of Religion

Student Leader Greeting

Kami Goldin, Gene Sludge, Guanyi Yang
Baccalaureate 2013 Co-Chairs

A World of Tradition *Prophets of a Future Not Our Own* Rachel Kulhanek
Oscar Romero Kaitlin Lentz

A World of Sacred Journey *Entering a World of Faith* Rebecca Pollard

A World of Music *9,000 Days* Clerel Djamen
Adaptation by Kyle Eastwood

A World of Sacred Journey *Going to College: A foreigner's story*
Iftekhar Showpnil

A World of Tradition *1 Corinthians 13:1-13* Chelsea Leeds
Allyson North
Michel Wigney

A World of Movement *Perfect* Victoria Biddinger
Pink Tessa Cannon

A World of Sacred Journey *The Man from Within* James Huddleston

A World of Sacred Journey
My Journey Transformed: What I Never Knew until I Came to Ohio Wesleyan
Tammy Winkler

A World of Music *The Parting Glass* Elizabeth Andersen
 Performed by Pitch Black Danielle Bernert
 Arranged by Elizabeth Andersen and Andrew Tuchow Clarice Edwards
 Madeline Shier
 Charlie Waldo
 Colleen Waickman

A World of Tradition *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front*
 Wendell Berry Kami Goldin
 Anni Liu

A World of Movement *Equal Footing* Jordan Ahmed
 Kathleen Dalton

A World of Sacred Journey *First Times* Guanyi Yang
 Dasom Yang

A World of Music *Ave Maria* Colleen Waickman
 Charles Gounod Liza Blakeslee

A World of Sacred Journey *Challenges* Kim Eckart

A World of Sacred Journey *Directions* Megan Cook
 Megan Cook

The Senior Class Comes Forward

Liza Blakeslee
Clerel Djamen

*At this time, we invite all members of the graduating class to the stage
for candle lighting and singing of the alma mater.*

“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 Kim Keether Ball, '83
Anna Cooper, '13

Postlude

“The Chimes of Love”
Stephen Heller

Liza Blakeslee

THE BACCALAUREATE COMMITTEE 2013

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 2013. 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: Kami Goldin, Gene Sludge, Guanyi Yang (Co-Chairs), Cali Cornacchia, Megan Cook , Haley Figlestahler, Katie Jacob, Katie Pappenhagen, Iftexhar Showpnil, Eri Takeuchi, Jelani Virgo, and Tammy Winkler.

Ex-Officio: Kelsey Brewer, Haneya Hasan, and Rachel Vinciguerra, Class of 2014; Jack Kubicki and Annie Pappenhagen, Class of 2015; Katie Nunner and Luke Waters, Class of 2016; Associate Chaplain Chad Johns, 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 2013. These flags represent:

Armenia	Myanmar
Bangladesh	New Zealand
Burkina Faso	Nigeria
Cameroon	Pakistan
China	South Korea
Ghana	Tanzania
Hong Kong	Taiwan
India	Thailand
Jamaica	United Kingdom
Japan	United States of America
Kyrgyzstan	Vietnam
Malaysia	
Mexico	

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 are 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 6th Annual President's Award for Racial and Cultural Diversity. These awards are given to a student, faculty/staff/administrator, and campus organization/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 2012-2013 recipients are as follows:

Student Award

Andrew Wilson for confronting issues of racial and sexual identity both in his creative work and through his service on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus.

Faculty/Staff Award

Paula White for her untiring commitment to racial and social justice-- both in her teaching in the Education Department and through her years of leadership on the President's Commission on Racial and Cultural Diversity.

Organization Award

Sisters United for their work on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus to promote education and empowerment regarding diverse women's issues.

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**

Rebecca Pollard and Iftekhar Showpnil

Rebecca Pollard

“In Jewish history there are no coincidences.” - Elie Wiesel

Rebecca Pollard’s history as an interfaith leader at Ohio Wesleyan University is no coincidence. *Shekhinah* (a name for God evoking the indwelling presence of the Divine within and among us) has been stirring within Rebecca for many years. As early as middle school, her inquisitive mind and searching soul led her to read Jewish history on her own. When she came to Ohio Wesleyan, she tried to avoid religion, even as her heart and mind kept nudging her to wrestle with issues of faith. Like the biblical stories of old, one thing kept leading to another, a journey culminating in the discovery of a spiritual home at Congregation Beth Tikvah in Worthington, Ohio.

Rebecca’s faith journey has culminated in her being among the outstanding leaders of OWU interfaith initiatives: Common Texts, Better Together, Interfaith Passover Seder, Interfaith House, Chinese Culture Club, and the recent Midwest Regional Interfaith Conference in Cleveland. Last summer, Rebecca served as a camp counselor in Israel for “Project Harmony,” an international interfaith program to teach children to get along even if their religions and families are in conflict.

Just a few days ago, Rebecca acknowledged her deep faith discernment through conversion to Judaism. Soon, Rebecca will move to China to teach English and to continue her exploration of the world and the ways she can collaborate with others and with the Divine Mystery to build bridges and repair the world (*tikkun olam*). Rebecca could well say, in the words of John Wesley, “The world is my parish. Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may.”

Iftekhar Showpnil

“And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire *a still small voice*.” - I Kings 19:11-12

In the midst of a world filled with ceaseless and senseless noise, you have to lean forward and listen intently, carefully, attentively to capture the soft-spoken voice of Iftekhar Ahmed Showpnil; but when you do, you discover a world of wisdom whirling with poetic power and astounding common sense. Few students have demonstrated the sustained leadership and deep commitment to the promotion of interfaith and intercultural understanding as has he.

Through his leadership as a member of the Chicago Interfaith Spring Break Mission team, as a member of OWU Common Texts, and OWU’s representative to both the national Interfaith Youth Core Leadership Institute and the White House Conference on Interfaith Service Learning, Iftekhar helped establish OWU's new integrated interfaith group, OWU Better Together, which now fosters collaboration between clubs and organizations which had not previously worked together. He has been a leader in Residential Life, Tauheed (OWU’s Muslim Student Association), Greek Life (Alpha Sigma Phi), Habitat for Humanity, Columbus Initiative, Progress OWU, and Circle K., and various events for Horizon's Culture Fest, Rafiki Wa Afrika, VIVA, Relay for Life, Hillel’s Challah for Hunger, Scioto River Sweep, Open Shelter, and a soccer tournament fundraiser that raised more than \$1,000 for refugees of East Africa. The breadth and depth of Iftekhar’s campus involvement has broken down barriers, bridged gaps, and increased intercultural and interfaith initiatives and dialogue. His future goals include improving the quality of education in Bangladesh and providing more opportunities for students in impoverished regions. But no matter where he ends up, we know that his soft-spoken presence will bless those around him.

The Chaplain James Leslie Award for Leadership in Peace and Justice

Kamila Goldin and Colleen Waickman

Kamila Goldin

“Prophets are those who take life as it is and expand it. They refuse to shrink a vision of tomorrow to the boundaries of yesterday.” - Sister Joan Chittister, OSB

Kamila Goldin has been, and will continue to be, a prophetic vision and voice among us. She is the vibrant, living legacy of Chaplain James Leslie – brilliant, frisky, fun-loving, questioning, persistent, patient, earnest, passionate, pastoral, scholarly, and analytically astute. Kami’s commitment to peace and justice as both a local and a global calling has been evident throughout her years at Ohio Wesleyan – especially as a tutor with young inner-city children through the OWU Columbus Initiative, as a student intern with the OWU Women’s Resource Center, and as a leader and participant in two spring break mission teams. As a powerful presence in the House of Peace and Justice, Kami served as the SLU representative on the Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs budget committee and led a petition drive asking the university to consider increasing the number of clinical counselors on campus to better meet student health needs.

Yet the echoes of Kami's voice, ringing with a clarion call to issues of peace and justice, won't fall silent on campus when she graduates tomorrow. Her classmates have elected her as the 2013 representative to the Ohio Wesleyan Board of Trustees. For at least another three years, Kami's prophetic witness will continue to shape the lives of students at OWU. Kami's passion, her drive, her love for her fellow human beings, her deep sense for the necessity of justice in this world--these are the core of Kami. These are her witness to the world.

Colleen Waickman

Three years ago, Colleen Waickman transferred to Ohio Wesleyan University seeking, at least in part, a place where her passion for issues of peace and justice could work in harmony with her faith and beliefs, where she could explore each individually as well as the deeply intertwined areas of intersection between the two.

And she found one. As a student leader and activist, Colleen has lived and participated in the Women's House, helped organize a group of students to attend the 2013 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference, and served as an intern in the Spectrum Resource Center. As a person of faith, she worked diligently on the Radical Gospel Living Conference, participated in Monasteries of the Heart, helped to lead a Benedictine Spring Break Mission Team, and organized a discussion group around issues of faith and sexuality.

Of course, Colleen's life shows us that the distinctions between faith and justice, peace and activism, are only superficial. In fact, she demonstrates admirably the reality that they are all part and parcel of a higher truth and a deeper love, that faith and love are action verbs and that everyone matters in the eyes of God.

Colleen's passion to make a difference, to learn and understand, and to explore ever more deeply the most foundational questions of life and existence serves as an inspiration to the students, faculty, and staff around her. She will be missed as she leaves OWU; but she will take that thoughtful passion with her and continue to bless the world around her.

The Bishop Gerald Ensley Award for Leadership in Christian Mission

Haley Figlestahler and Katie Jacob

Haley Figlestahler

At Ohio Wesleyan, Christian mission leadership has many forms and faces. With a keen mind for creative ideas and a heart for serving others, Haley Figlestahler has been one of its brightest. Haley has explored her Christian faith from many angles, and at a depth of reflection that models for others what it means to be a solid spiritual leader. Her years of leadership and service at Ohio Wesleyan are kaleidoscopic: She was a member of the Haiti OWU service team, coordinated campus participation in a local food pantry, and participated in multiple other service activities on campus and in the community. Haley was an active member of the OWU Interfaith House, where she not only represented her own faith well, but was eager to learn about other faith expressions. She has also been an integral part of the OWU Wilderness Ministry for three years, learning to integrate faith with outdoor experiences and leading her peers in discovery and growth in their own faith journeys. Whether hiking in the California desert, backpacking in the Wyoming wilderness, ice climbing in New Hampshire, serving orphans in Haiti, or preparing meals for others in need, Haley continually challenges her (and our) ideas about faith, about the world, and about our place in the world.

As Haley pursues a future vocation in Christian mission, we are delighted that she has been accepted to a one-year internship with the Wilderness Ministry program of the Chaplain's Office. Here, she will continue to impact the leadership development and faith formation of OWU students. We are blessed that her mission is anchored, at least for a season, right here at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Katie Jacob

“Still waters run deep.” Katie Jacob’s years of Christian mission leadership and service, combined with her scholarly approach to the world’s greatest wounds, may appear quietly unassuming. However, the impact she has made on the lives of others has run deep and broad. For three years, Katie was a member, then reflection guide, then team leader for OWU’s mission team to Love and Hope Children’s Home in El Salvador. While studying abroad in Quito, Ecuador, she logged 200 hours of volunteer work at La Fundación Mariana de Jesús serving senior citizens and children. Katie also volunteers at First English Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio, providing free weekly dinners for people in the area and volunteering at their Advocacy Center.

Katie’s professors have reported that her contributions in the classroom “were deeply reflective and thoughtful, as were her written essays with respect to a number of issues such as racial inequality, developing countries’ struggle with globalization, educational inequity, and poverty.” Katie’s major senior project, “Liberation and The Kingdom of God on Earth: The Social Critiques of Walter Rauschenbusch, Gustavo Gutierrez, and James Cone,” was a substantive academic work that prepares her well for her forthcoming studies at The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, from which she plans to seek ordination as a minister in the Lutheran Church.

Beyond these accomplishments and goals, Katie’s personality shines with the same characteristics as the Jesus she follows. Trustworthy. Dedicated. Wise. Thoughtful. Mature. Loving. Quiet strength. Warm. Genuine. Peaceful. These are the traits that people around Katie experience everyday. Who knows? Perhaps here we have, in the making, yet another *real* Bishop from Ohio Wesleyan University.

The Cheryl McGinniss Award for Catholic Leadership

Betsy Dible

In the midst of a generation where universality is honored above particularity, it is not easy to maintain one's individual faith tradition. Yet Elizabeth "Betsy" Dible has done just that, with grace and integrity, both intellectually and spiritually.

Betsy has been an active member and leader in the Newman Catholic Community since she first arrived on campus as a freshman at OWU. Prior to and beyond assuming a leadership role, she attended social events, planned retreats, and represented Newman at club fairs and recruitment events. During her junior and senior years Betsy's peers elected her as president of Newman. Betsy also participated in a spring pilgrimage in 2010 that traveled throughout Ohio while learning about Catholic saints and preparing for a retreat that was held later in the year. After her term as president ended, unlike some seniors, she didn't "drop off the face of the Earth." Rather, she demonstrated even deeper leadership through her mentoring of the new executive board and her active participation in Newman meetings and events this year.

While she considers herself a "cradle Catholic," Betsy does not live with blind faith; rather, she embraces the traditions that she learned growing up and seeks to continually learn more so that she can be an informed and passionate leader. In her daily speech and actions, Betsy is loving and respectful to everyone she meets. To know Betsy is to know that she is rooted in the Catholic faith, which one can plainly see from the exuberant smile on her face at the mention of any and all things Catholic. Betsy joyously lives and breathes the Catholic faith, and she truly has been a role model for her fellow Catholic students at OWU.

The Taban Blake Award for Servant Leadership

Megan Cook and Gene Sludge

Megan Cook

Quiet. Powerful. Quiet. Hysterical. Quiet. Brilliant. Did we mention quiet?

If anyone deserves to follow in Taban Blake's footsteps and carry the award that bears his name, it's Megan Cook. Megan would never stand out in a crowd; she wouldn't want to. But even in the midst of that crowd, she would be quietly working to make the world a better place in big or small ways. Her unassuming presence belies a powerhouse of proliferate positive contributions to Ohio Wesleyan community.

As a member of the Women's House, Megan brought awareness to issues and stigmas surrounding mental health. As a member of the Greek community, she served as the president of the Delta Zeta sorority. As a participant in religious life, she has lent her wisdom to Bible studies. As a person dedicated to service, she has co-led a Spring Break Mission Team to El Salvador and participated on a team to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA, as well as an all-Greek team that worked on flood recovery in Apalachin, NY. As a student, Megan has excelled, even scoring in the 99.8 percentile on the MCAT.

Yet while these accomplishments are impressive, Megan's care and compassion, her wit and her wisdom, are what really make her stand out. Whether she's quietly playing bananagrams and manages to link the words "binders", "women", and "rude", or whether she's listening intently to a discussion only to interject an observation of quiet profundity at the end, Megan's presence at OWU has been a symphony of incalculable ripples that will continue long after she's gone.

Gene Sludge

With a kind, gentle grace anchored in a deeply prophetic Christian faith, Gene Sludge exudes not just the tradition but, indeed, the true spirit of Taban Blake. Throughout his four years at OWU, Gene actually fulfilled a number of the roles Taban played on campus. Gene served in various leadership positions with Gospel Lyres, Black Men of the Future, Rafiki Wa Africa, and the Religion Department Student Board. He was a tutor for Big Brothers & Big Sisters, a mentor and teacher assistant for Upward Bound, and a mentor for Unity Through Community. This year, Gene is co-chair of the Baccalaureate Committee, and chairman of the Gift Committee of OWU's senior class. As president of the Student Union on Black Awareness (SUBA), Gene stepped up to great challenges as a young student, and used his leadership to empower younger leaders to take on greater responsibilities and work to their highest potential, preparing them to step up as he and his classmates stepped down their senior year, to ensure that the vision and purpose of SUBA continue to be fulfilled. Gene's ability to inspire and motivate others to develop their leadership potential is grounded in his personal and pastoral care for everyone around him because, as he likes to say, "You never know what people are going through in their lives."

Gene's interest in reaching out globally to better understand the world in which we live resulted in a Theory-to-Practice grant aimed at enabling Gene and several other students to travel and study the impact of post British Colonialism on the people of Zimbabwe. His senior Religion project, "Religion and Slavery: The Barriers of Biblical Texts and Colorism for African-Americans," was strong evidence of his capacity as a scholar and researcher, and bodes well for whatever further academic pursuit he may be called by God to explore. Truly, Gene lives his life, and leads those around him, out of his deep sense of God's call and claim on his life. Gene is, in Taban's words, "Blessed!"

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

Katie Pappenhagen and Guanyi Yang

Katie Pappenhagen

When Katie was nominated for a recent award given in recognition of outstanding humanitarian service on campus and in the community, she sent an email that went something like this: “I just heard that I was nominated for one of your awards. I am beyond flattered. I just wanted to clarify that I did not organize some of these particular events; I just supported them. I don't want to take credit for the hard work that others put into those events!” ...and then she provided the committee with a list of things that, in her mind, she did *not* really do. So Katie basically SENT A REBUTTAL to her own award nomination! That speaks volumes about a person who leads with the very humble heart of a servant leader.

Enthusiastic and optimistic, Katie's leadership has benefitted the Women's Resource Center, Re-New Orleans Mission Teams, Delta Zeta, and the President's Commission for Racial and Cultural Diversity. Additionally, she has served by tutoring in the Columbus Initiative, living in the Interfaith House, creating a firm footing for Unitarian Universalism in respectful relationship with other faith communities on campus, and supporting Sisters United at rallies and forums. These are just a few examples of the many ways in which Katie served in and with the Ohio Wesleyan community.

Her final paper, *“Is This America?! Race, Class, and Poverty in Post Katrina New Orleans”* showcased how her academic acumen blends with her passion for social justice and responsible civic arts. Suffice it to say that, throughout her college career, Katie has intentionally, thoughtfully, and profoundly integrated Scholarship, Social Justice, Service Learning, Faith, and Civic Arts Leadership.

Guanyi Yang

In the true spirit of Civic Arts, Guanyi Yang's expansive leadership is the spark-plug that ignites our deep sense of close-knit community and our commitment to global issues. One student wrote, "Guanyi is one of the happiest, most positive people at OWU! He is welcoming to everyone and goes the extra mile to help others. He has spread his enthusiasm to numerous campus organizations.

Guanyi's positive attitude serves as a role model to others. Quite simply, he is one of those folks on campus who can 'make your day' just by interacting with you. Empowering others is also a strength of Guanyi's. This has been evident in the Chinese Culture Club, as he assisted younger members in learning the ropes of the organization. He is also known for his random acts of kindness, such as writing notes of encouragement to a peer, highlighting all the wonderful qualities he had observed in him. Guanyi is everywhere on campus and seems to know everyone! It is quite likely that if asked, each person he knows would say, 'Guanyi is a great guy and he does a lot for OWU!'"

As part of that service, Guanyi has served as a co-chair of the Baccalaureate Committee and treasurer of the Senior Class Council. He has been an active member of several honors societies, the Chinese Culture Club, Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity, WCSA, the University Sustainability Task Force, the Equestrian Team, Columbus Initiative, Common Texts, and three Spring Break Mission teams. With a double major in Economics and Mathematics and a minor in Accounting, Guanyi's academic research consistently blends his analytical abilities in economic with his passion for social science, social justice, and environmental issues. Upon graduation, Guanyi will further his study in the Ph.D. Economics program at The Ohio State University, from which we expect to see his impact on the global stage for many years to come.

**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**

Cole Hatcher

Storms! Power-outages! Lock-downs! Reality TV shows visiting from India! First Fridays in downtown Delaware! First ladies visiting from the White House! Few events, large or small, occur on this campus without the calm, quiet, competent finger prints of Mr. OWU Communications, Cole Hatcher.

You might say that Cole is just one of the many unsung heroes at Ohio Wesleyan; but you can also say with absolute certainty that no one on this campus is kinder, more responsive to students/faculty/staff, or more attuned to doing all the little things that coalesce to make Ohio Wesleyan a better family, a better community, a better learning environment.

Cole's work on campus, in the Delaware community, and among his faith community with the United Church of Christ in Columbus, all go far beyond anything he would ever claim. He is one of the best advocates for positive town-gown relations the University has ever had. He is as tireless and humble as he is persistent and productive. Yet he is the first to share credit and praise others. Simply put, Cole is one of the best among us (and the fact that this statement would just make him cringe is but another piece of evidence to support his exemplary servant leadership on our campus and in this community.)

With his quiet demeanor and behind-the-scenes attentiveness to detail, Cole's contributions are not always obvious to most of us, but their impact is so great for all of us. His life and work are truly testimony to Ohio Wesleyan University's "scholarship, leadership, and service that enriches both Church and society."

**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. Heather Grunkemeyer

With a quiet authority, a brilliant mind, a practical competence, a sardonic wit, an athletic stamina, and a passionate heart for serving others, Heather Grunkemeyer exemplifies the core values and teaching goals of Ohio Wesleyan. As faculty advisor for four different Spring Break Mission Teams, she brings a flexible, calm, organized, and unflappable demeanor to each experience. As both a scholar and teacher, as chair of the Chemistry Department, and as a member of various institutional committees, Heather exemplifies Rudyard Kipling's vision of "keeping your head" in the midst of chaos and cacophonies. And as an experienced athlete herself, she is strongly supportive of students who seek to blend sports with academic excellence.

As a member of her neighborhood and faith community, Heather exemplifies solid, traditional, faith-based family values. She and her partner Megan are the proud, devoted, and dedicated parents of their two sons, and both moms are deeply involved in every aspect of their sons' school, social life, and Sunday School experience. Heather devotes her time to going into the elementary schools to get children excited about science. She makes learning fun for children, and by doing so encourages them to pursue science. (For example, she teaches them to freeze a banana using dry ice and use it as a hammer!) During her forthcoming sabbatical, she plans to apply for a grant to bring science into secondary schools; to get college students engaged with elementary school learning for the benefit of both students at universities and in grade school classrooms. Here truly is Charles Wesley's vision of "knowledge and vital piety now wed."

The John and Charles Wesley Lifetime Exemplary Service Award to honor those faculty or staff at Ohio Wesleyan who, over a significant period of time, have demonstrated a consistent and profound impact upon the intellectual and spiritual formation of our students.

Mark Shipps and Eileen Walker

Mark Shipps

Skim through the history books recording the sacred legacy of church related higher education in America. Stroll from the Jay Walk to Slocum Hall, keeping your eye on the quotes and names of those who have “brought us thus far on our way.” Read any recent documentation of Ohio Wesleyan’s story of survival and its potential for the future. In each instance, the name Shipps will appear. It is a name grounded in the inspiring history that has made OWU a servant leader in global higher education. It is a name that will vibrate for generations to come as the impetus and source of dedicated, committed resources, enabling OWU to continue its existence in the midst of increasingly scarce resources for small liberal arts institutions of higher education. At OWU, the name Shipps is generations thick with dedicated service. Tonight, we honor one who has kept the faith of that family tradition with exceptional care – Mark Shipps.

In the words of colleague David Robbins, “I know of no one who can top Mark Shipps in their genuine dedication and love for this university. His clear understanding of both the world of business and academe and his ability to successfully blend the two has been exceptional.” Others say about Mark: he is kind; sincere; genuine; quick to make meaningful connections; one of the last true gentlemen; few have any idea how many students he has helped behind the scenes; humble; modest; true; a heart that beats O W U O W U O W U! Mark, there will always be a place for you here at OWU, not just on this campus, but in our hearts.

Eileen Walker

“Never call an accountant a credit to the profession; a good accountant is a debit to the profession.” - Sir Charles Lyell

In all the rhetorical reviews of academia, no position is more deeply disdained nor more urgently depended upon for smooth and faithful functioning than that of the university accountant. So imagine a university culture in which, for nearly two decades, that person, as the head of university accounting, was consistently known to be wise; direct; endowed with the ability to listen and hear; collaborative; generous with her time; endlessly patient in her explanations; always able to give a quick smile and a contagious laugh – with a twinkle in her eyes; a hard worker; a completely dedicated worker; an important and valued member of the entire campus family for many years. These are the attributes that are compiled in the memories of those OWU administrators, faculty and staff who have had the honor to work with Eileen Walker over the past two decades.

Perhaps more importantly, here is an example of the memories of so many students who recall their frightful moments of walking into Eileen’s office to appeal their abject financial straits: “I called my parents to tell them I must return home because my bill was so not paid, but Chaplain Powers said go see this woman Eileen. She was so very kind, and she said something we could work out. Now my bill is paid in full over these many years, and I am now owning my own business back here in my homeland; soon I will repay OWU with a gift in honor of both Chaplain and Eileen. Without them, perhaps I would be herding goats instead of owning my own business now!”

From the depth of her skills as a professional accountant, and through her background as a social work student, and by her current commitments as a devout member of her Xenos faith community, Eileen Walker is the epitome of what makes Ohio Wesleyan the kind of exceptional community it is, grounded both historically and contemporaneously in faithful commitment and academic rigor.

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.

In Sacred Memory of Our Classmate

Vincent Emeka Earl McCurty Alozie

November 25, 1991-August 29, 2009

AN ODE TO CORNBREAD

My mouth filled with sunrays and sweetness,
A delicacy so beautiful,
Able to put out that flame of need
And craving.
Flour and cornfields,
Springs and autumns and golden woods,
A bread that can compare with the best cake in the
world.
We eat it at the table,
With vegetables and meats,
And to help the taste move down our throats,
We drink juice in grape flavor.
Cornbread, fields of wheat open their arms to
embrace our
Taste buds,
The sweetest delight you shall ever know.
A bread,
A golden triangle,
Made with compassion and love.

Vincent Alozie
Grade 7