A photograph of the Gray Chapel at University Hall, featuring a large, ornate stone building with multiple steep, shingled roofs and pointed spires. The scene is set against a clear blue sky, with some autumn-colored leaves visible on the right and green foliage in the foreground. The text "ENDOWED CHAIRS CEREMONY" is overlaid in white, serif, all-caps font at the top.

ENDOWED CHAIRS CEREMONY

October 5, 2023

4:15 p.m.

Gray Chapel
University Hall

Prelude

Piano Music

Frank Chiou, DMA, Associate Professor of Performing Arts

Processional

Installation Program

Opening Remarks

Matthew P. vandenBerg, Ed.D., CFRE, President
Nick Calio '75, Chair, Board of Trustees

Introduction of the Endowed Chair Process

Karlyn Crowley, Ph.D., Provost

Installation of the Charles M. Weis Professorship in English

Introduction, Nancy Comorau, Ph.D.
Recipient Remarks, Mark Allison, Ph.D.

*Installation of the Charles W. Fairbanks Endowed Chair
in Politics and Government*

Introduction, Susan Gunasti, Ph.D.
Recipient Remarks, Ashley Biser, Ph.D.

*Installation of the Warren C. Fairbanks Endowed Chair
in Communications*

Introduction, Ashley Kennard, Ph.D.
Recipient Remarks, Phokeng Dailey, Ph.D.

*Installation of the Ralph and Ella Schaaf Rodefer Chair
in Education*

Introduction, Michele Nobel, Ph.D.
Recipient Remarks, Sarah Kaka, Ph.D.

Installation of the Ben T. Spencer Professorship in English

Introduction, Mark Allison, Ph.D.
Recipient Remarks, Zack Long, Ph.D.

Installation of the James B. Heisler Chair in Economics

Introduction, Bob Gitter, Ph.D.
Recipient Remarks, Julide Yazar, Ph.D.

Closing Remarks

Matt vandenBerg

Alma Mater (see back cover)

Marvella Kurniawan '25

Recessional

**You are invited to join us in the main hall for a champagne/
sparkling water toast at the conclusion of the ceremony.*

A Brief History of Endowed Chairs

One of the greatest honors a professor may receive is the invitation to hold an endowed position at a university. Since the first professorships were established, they have provided an enduring tie between the benefactor's legacy and the university.

While we know that there were special lecturers in Ancient Greece, the tradition of endowing positions as we understand it today goes back to 1502 with the Lady Margaret chairs in divinity at Oxford and Cambridge, created by Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII. At the time, the tradition was to give endowed professors an elaborate chair from which to lecture.

In 1546, Henry VIII established the Regius Professorships at both Cambridge and Oxford in five subjects: divinity, civil law, physic (medicine and natural sciences), Hebrew, and Greek. At Oxford, George I later added the Regius Chair of Modern History and in 1842 Queen Victoria established chairs in Ecclesiastical History and Moral and Pastoral Theology.

Following the initial royal endowments, private individuals joined in establishing chairs, with the first being the Lucasian Professorship of Mathematics, established in a bequest by former Parliamentarian Henry Lucas in 1663. Among the 17 scholars who have held this professorship are Sir Isaac Newton and Stephen Hawking. The first endowed chair in America was funded by London merchant Thomas Hollis at Harvard in 1721 when he established the Hollis Professorship of Divinity.

Today, endowed faculty positions serve much the same purpose as they did centuries ago. For the university, they provide a means to attract and retain the very best faculty. For the professor, they provide an internationally recognized mark of distinction. For the benefactors, they ensure the continued pursuit of study and research in an academic discipline and link the donor's name in perpetuity with the accomplishments of the university.

Because a chair is often perpetual, when a chairholder leaves or retires, another outstanding scholar is appointed to occupy the chair. In this way, endowed positions enhance and maintain excellence in teaching and research to help extend Ohio Wesleyan's scholarly achievement and ensure continuity in academic fields.

Ira Lipman, Class of 1963

Ira A. Lipman was a distinguished American entrepreneur and philanthropist, best known as the founder of the private security firm Guardsmark. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1945, his contributions to the security industry mark Ira's legacy, his commitment to civil and human rights, and his philanthropic endeavors.

Ira founded Guardsmark in 1963 to improve the quality of private security guard services. By the time he sold the company to Universal Protection Services (a predecessor of Allied Universal) in 2015, Guardsmark had generated over \$500 million in annual revenue and employed 17,000 security officers in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

A pioneer in the security industry, Lipman authored several influential books on security and served in leadership positions on several industry associations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. He was also active in several philanthropic causes.

As a teenager growing up in Little Rock, Lipman was a source for NBC reporter John Chancellor while covering the unrest surrounding integration in the 1960s. That encounter and his encounters with renowned journalist David Halberstam fueled Lipman's love of the free press, which he supported throughout his life. In 1995, he established the John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism at Columbia University. At Ohio Wesleyan, Ira established the Charles M. Weis Professorship in English, in honor of longtime English professor Charles Weis.

Lipman was also a lifelong activist in service to human rights, including terms as chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the United Way of America's ethics committee. He was on the Council on Foreign Relations and a board member of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, New York Historical Society, United Way of America, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. He became an active member of the Council on Foreign Relations in 2002.

Ira's remarkable contributions to security, civil rights, and philanthropy earned him several prestigious awards, including the Stanley C. Pace Award for Leadership in Ethics from the Ethics Resource Center and the American Business Ethics Award. He received a Distinguished Achievement Citation from Ohio Wesleyan University for his significant professional accomplishments and service to humanity. Lipman also held honorary degrees from John Marshall University, Northeastern University, and Ohio Wesleyan University. His enduring legacy inspires those dedicated to improving society and advancing the cause of justice.

Mark Allison, Ph.D.

THE CHARLES M. WEIS
PROFESSORSHIP IN ENGLISH



Mark A. Allison received a B.A. from Kenyon College, an M.A. from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He specializes in the literature and culture of nineteenth-century Britain as well as the interdisciplinary field of Utopian Studies. He joined Ohio Wesleyan's English department in 2007, fulfilling his dream of teaching at a small liberal arts institution. He regularly offers classes in Romantic and Victorian literature, the classic British novel, literary theory and criticism, utopian and dystopian literature, and the first-year writing seminar. In 2019, Mark became co-director of OWU's Honors Program. In this role, he works closely with the Honors Student Board to plan social and academic events, assists Admissions in recruiting

prospective honors students, and oversees the Gillespie Honors house. Mark's research focuses on the intersections between literature, politics, and what we would now call social justice movements. His book, *Imagining Socialism: Aesthetics, Anti-politics, and Literature in Britain, 1817-1918* (Oxford University Press, 2021), examines the ways in which British socialists sought to mobilize the resources of literature and the arts to overcome the deadlocks of traditional institutional politics. In his spare time, Mark enjoys being the butt of his two daughters' jokes, rooting for his home state's basketball team, the Indiana Pacers, and planning overstuffed itineraries for his next trip to Great Britain.

Cornelia Fairbanks Albright

While Cornelia Fairbanks Albright may not have been an Ohio Wesleyan University alumna, the Fairbanks family name has a rich history at Ohio Wesleyan University. Both her grandparents, Charles Warren Fairbanks, former Vice President of the United States under Theodore Roosevelt, and his wife Cornelia Cole Fairbanks, former national president of the Daughters of the American Revolution, graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in the class of 1872. In 1898, their son and Cornelia Fairbanks Albright's father also graduated from Ohio Wesleyan and eventually went on to own and be head publisher of the Indianapolis News. With her family's love for Ohio Wesleyan in mind, as well as her connection to former trustee member and second cousin Robert "Bill" Milligan, Cornelia Fairbanks Albright decided it best to endow three chair positions at the university in the departments of Politics & Government, History, and Journalism, in the names of her grandparents and father.

Ashley Biser, Ph.D.

THE CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS
ENDOWED CHAIR IN POLITICS
AND GOVERNMENT

Ashley Biser received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and has taught in the Politics and Government Department since 2008. A political theorist by training, she is driven to understand how human beings with drastically different experiences of the world can live and work together. Her research focuses on the work of Hannah Arendt, which she has brought to bear on contemporary questions about reproductive technologies, socially engaged art, and, most recently, disability politics. At Ohio Wesleyan, she teaches a wide range of courses in the history of political thought, including courses about American democracy, global citizenship, science and politics, and, most recently, disability politics. She enjoys using simulations in her teaching and has twice served as the Faculty Director of OWU's Mock Convention—a campus tradition that dates back to 1884. Since arriving at OWU, Biser has also



held a variety of administrative posts, including Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Assistant Provost for Curriculum and Equity—in which capacity, she worked with the Committee on Academic Programs to revitalize OWU's general education requirements. Since 2022, she has served as the Inaugural Faculty Director for OWU's new first-year seminar, How to Change the World. Hailing from Rochester, NY, Biser has a fondness for cold climates. In 2005 she helped co-found Akili Dada, an international nonprofit organization that funds leadership opportunities for young women in Kenya. In her spare time, she enjoys rowing—a sport that embodies her love for collaboration, early mornings, and being outside. She lives in Delaware, OH with her wife, Erin, and three very bad cats.

Cornelia Fairbanks Albright

While Cornelia Fairbanks Albright may not have been an Ohio Wesleyan University alumna, the Fairbanks family name has a rich history at Ohio Wesleyan University. Both her grandparents, Charles Warren Fairbanks, former Vice President of the United States under Theodore Roosevelt, and his wife Cornelia Cole Fairbanks, former national president of the Daughters of the American Revolution, graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in the class of 1872. In 1898, their son and Cornelia Fairbanks Albright's father also graduated from Ohio Wesleyan and eventually went on to own and be head publisher of the Indianapolis News. With her family's love for Ohio Wesleyan in mind, as well as her connection to former trustee member and second cousin Robert "Bill" Milligan, Cornelia Fairbanks Albright decided it best to endow three chair positions at the university in the departments of Politics & Government, History, and Journalism, in the names of her grandparents and father.

Phokeng Dailey, Ph.D.

THE WARREN C. FAIRBANKS
ENDOWED CHAIR IN
COMMUNICATIONS

Phokeng Motsoasele Dailey, is an Associate Professor, current chair of the Department of Journalism & Communication, and interim Co-director of the Palmer Global Studies Program. She teaches courses at the intersections of communication, Black studies, and public health. Her research focuses on health disparities among immigrant and refugee populations with an emphasis on assessing the role of communication, culture, and racial identity in health decision-making. She has conducted invited talks with pediatric healthcare providers regarding effective strategies for increasing adolescent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and asthma control compliance among parents. She has also been the recipient of multiple awards, which include top papers from the American Association for Cancer Education and the National Communication Association, and a Best Paper Award from The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center.



She has published in several top journals in Communication and Public Health including Health Communication, Communication Studies, Qualitative Health Research, and Journal of Cancer Education. Dr. Dailey is passionate about creating pathways for historically minoritized students to find a place of true belonging at OWU. Consequently, she co-leads the curricular component of OWU's summer bridge program, a travel learning course in Southern Africa, and co-created the annual, Global Majority Block Party. Prior to making the decision to enter the academy, Dr. Dailey worked in visual merchandising and has technical experience with copywriting, and the use of emerging technologies in creative messaging. She currently serves on the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Council and the Institutional Research Board (IRB) at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Ralph Rodefer, Class of 1919

Ralph Rodefer was born in a house on Troy Road, Delaware, Ohio, in 1899. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1919 and received a Master of Science degree from the University of Chicago in 1921. For 70 years, he lived in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where he taught math and science at Marquette High School and math and physics at Michigan Tech University.

An ardent sports fan, Ralph could easily recall significant sporting events of the past. He amazed his friends with all kinds of sports trivia. He excelled in bowling, basketball, and hunting.

After only ten years of marriage, his beautiful wife, Charlotte Jane, died of cancer in 1975. During the winters after his wife's death, Ralph returned to Delaware and lived on the Troy Road family homestead with his sister Helen Rodefer, Class of 1922. He was a fitness buff, faithfully using his Nordic Track into his nineties. He passed at the age of 98 in 1997.

In his estate, Ralph bequeathed \$1 million to establish the Ella Faye Schaaf Rodefer Chair in Education in honor of his mother, a teacher who attended Ohio Wesleyan's Normal School in the early 1890s. At the first Founders' Circle induction event in 1998, Ohio Wesleyan President Tom Courtice said, "Ralph Rodefer's gift so touches us. As an educator, he understood better than most the importance of offering our students a quality educational experience both in the liberal arts and, more specifically, in the art of teaching and mentoring students."

Sarah Kaka, Ph.D.

THE RALPH AND ELLA SCHAAF
RODEFER CHAIR IN EDUCATION

Sarah Kaka earned her Ph.D. in 2017 in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. She taught high school social studies for ten years prior to making the shift to higher education and teacher preparation. Since joining the OWU Education Department faculty in 2017, she has served in a variety of roles. She is the Director of the Middle and Secondary Education Programs and the Director of Faculty Development, in addition to serving in her third year as department chair. Kaka has become a strong advocate for education in the state of Ohio, having testified to the Ohio Senate and House education committees both for and against a variety of bills affecting education in Ohio. She is also currently serving as Vice President of the Ohio Council for the Social Studies. Her scholarly work lies at the intersection of



teacher education and policy foundations with an emphasis on anti-racism and classroom practices around contested socio-political issues. Her current work focuses on supporting pre-service and in-service social studies teachers and teacher educators as they navigate the latest instantiations of the culture wars in social studies education. Most recently, she has committed to understanding the ways teachers perceive their curricular autonomy in response to so-called 'divisive issues' legislation. Kaka is married to Aaron Kaka, a principal software architect for Pearson. They have two daughters—Aria (13) and Lila (10). In her free time, she enjoys watching her kids grow in their passions and reading, and also enjoys visiting Disney World as often as possible.

In Honor of Ben T. Spencer

Honoring the individual for whom it is named and the faculty member who holds it, the Ben T. Spencer Professorship in Literature made history for Ohio Wesleyan University: for the first time at the institution, an endowed chair was named for a living professor and for the first time the endowment fully funded a chair.

Under the terms of the professorship, a member of the English Department faculty is chosen to fill the chair for two years, renewable once. The incumbent is to deliver an annual public lecture with a stipend. Funding was made possible by a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which was matched in three years by gifts, pledges, life income gifts, and bequests chiefly from the students who remembered and loved Ben as a teacher and a mentor.

A professor of English and humanities at OWU for nearly 40 years, Ben retired in 1969. He taught an estimated 7,000 students and is remembered primarily for his popular courses on Shakespeare and American literature. Ben, a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College, received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Cincinnati. Before joining the faculty at Ohio Wesleyan, he taught at Kentucky Wesleyan. Ben also taught at the Universities of London and Manchester, England, as a Fulbright Lecturer, at Uppsala and Stockholm Universities in Sweden, and at Wesleyan University. The holder of honorary degrees from his alma mater and Kentucky Wesleyan, he was an honorary alumnus of Ohio Wesleyan and, in 1963, was the first recipient of the Bishop Herbert Welch Meritorious Teacher Award.

Ben wrote numerous articles and books, including *The Quest for Nationality*, *Patterns of Nationality*, and a volume on memorable dogs in literature.

Zack Long, Ph.D.

THE BEN T. SPENCER
PROFESSORSHIP IN ENGLISH



Zack Long earned his B.A. from the College of William & Mary and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. Before joining Ohio Wesleyan in 2007, he served as a visiting instructor at Macalester College and an Assistant Professor at Sweet Briar College. In the English Department at OWU, Zack is the resident specialist in Shakespeare, Renaissance literature, and the history of theatre. Zack's scholarship is equally rooted in the fields of memory studies and trauma studies. His work inexorably returns to the question of how early modern theories of the mind, body, and environment affected the kinds of stories Renaissance authors told about their place in the universe. However, as a teacher, Zack's interests are wide-ranging and eclectic. From surveys of Shakespeare, Milton, and Moliere to special topics courses on intertextuality, adaptation, and festivity, to travel-learning courses, Honors tutorials,

and project-based seminars on everything from "Reading Ethically" to "How to Write Like Shakespeare," Zack's teaching is fueled by his curiosity—he loves learning new things and sharing them with his students. At OWU Zack has dedicated his time and energy to a number of initiatives, including all four quadrants of The OWU Connection. He started and supervises the English Department blog, *The Sturges Script*. He has also administered, chaired, and directed a number of departments, programs, committees, and task forces. This has made him very tired. When not working, Zack loves to walk his neighborhood, listen to records, play bass guitar, and go on adventures big and small with his wife Elisabeth and daughter Annabel—a high school senior, whom he will miss dearly this time next year.

James B. Heisler, Class of 1938

James Heisler, a stalwart of industry and philanthropy, came into this world in 1916 in the quaint town of Ravenna, Ohio. He was the eldest among four siblings, born to Clyde and Anita Heisler. Growing up, James shared his formative years with two brothers, Robert, a member of the Ohio Wesleyan University class of 1942, and Bruce, who graduated in 1949. Their shared journey through education led them all to OWU.

In 1936, James made a significant life decision amid the challenges of the Great Depression. He left behind his studies at Ohio Wesleyan. He lent his unwavering support to his father, working at the A. C. Williams Co. This family-owned business had a rich heritage, tracing its roots back to 1844. James' dedication was a crucial lifeline that helped sustain the company during those difficult times.

The outbreak of World War II brought a change of fortune for the A. C. Williams Co. The company transitioned to manufacturing lightweight aircraft materials, aligning with the nation's wartime needs. James and his brothers, Robert and Bruce, formed an indomitable team that capitalized on the postwar industrial boom. Their commitment to staying abreast of technological advancements transformed the company into a modern and efficient enterprise. By this time, the A. C. Williams Co. had grown to employ more than 600 people in Ravenna. In the 1970s, the Heisler brothers sold the business, marking the end of an era. However, their legacy lived on as the company continued to operate in Ravenna under the name The Lite Metals Company.

Beyond his contributions to the business world, James was a director of the Second National Bank of Ravenna, an institution acquired by Society Corporation and ultimately merged with KeyCorp. His leadership extended to chairing Ravenna Porcelain, Inc., the Rankin Company, and Ravenna Industries. Furthermore, James was a director of the Gray and Ductile Iron Founders Society and played a pivotal role as a founder and director of the Magnesium Association.

James' unwavering loyalty to Ohio Wesleyan University bore fruit in 1997 when he endowed a chair in the economics department, leaving an indelible mark on his alma mater. The following year, he established The Heisler Family Endowment for the Study of Ethics, a testament to his commitment to ethical leadership in business. This endowment supported Ohio Wesleyan's Woltemade Center, allowing the campus to host distinguished and successful business leaders and writers who discuss the vital subject of ethical challenges in the business world.

James Heisler's life exemplified the fusion of industry, community, and philanthropy, leaving a lasting impact that inspires generations. His legacy is a beacon of dedication to education and ethical leadership.

Julide Yazar, Ph.D.

**THE JAMES B. HEISLER CHAIR
IN ECONOMICS**

Julide Yazar received her B.S. degree in Economics from Bogazici University, Istanbul. After obtaining her M.Sc. degree in International Trade and Finance from Lancaster University, she completed her MBA at the Imperial College, London. She worked as a corporate finance specialist at Credit Lyonnais before joining the Ohio State University for her doctorate studies in Economics, specializing in Mathematical Economics, Game Theory, and Industrial Organization. She received her Ph.D. in Economics at the Ohio State University, where she was awarded both a graduate teaching award and a research fellowship award. At OWU, Julide teaches principles of economics, intermediate microeconomic theory, industrial organization, behavioral economics, and game theory. In 2016, she was awarded the Bishop Herbert

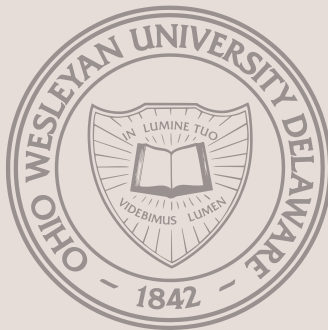


Welch Meritorious Teaching Award for distinguished service in teaching and for her significant contributions to the academic climate at Ohio Wesleyan University. Her current research interests are mathematical economics, game theory, machine learning and agent-based models in economics, and neuroeconomics. Her research was published in peer-reviewed journals, including Economic Theory, Games, Journal of Economic Interaction and Coordination, and Intelligent Computing: Theory and Application. In 2022, her work on Bayesian Learning in Cournot Markets received the best application paper award at the 4th International Conference on Decision Economics.

Alma Mater

*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.*

*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.*



Ohio Wesleyan University
61 South Sandusky Street | Delaware, Ohio 43015