

HONORING THE OHIO WESLEYAN CLASS OF 2025

The One Hundred and Eighty-First

COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 • 1 P.M.

Ohio
Wesleyan
University



Helpful information for our Commencement guests can be found on the last page of this program.

On-campus wifi access is available to Commencement guests using BishopGuest, username: **wifiguest**, and password: **welcome2owu**.

Streaming video of the ceremony is available at **owu.edu/stream**. Chappellear Drama Center is the alternate viewing location for inclement weather or guest overflow.
owu.edu/map

If the Commencement ceremony is moved to the Gordon Field House due to inclement weather, indoor tickets will be required. If your graduate did not pick them up, tickets will be held at the will-call table inside the east entrance. Unticketed guests are invited to watch the live stream in Chappellear Drama Center.

For our guests with hearing impairment or who experience attention/concentration-related barriers, live captions of the Commencement ceremony will be viewable using any personal Internet-connected device (i.e. mobile phone, tablet, laptop) at **owu.edu/commencement-captions**.



PROGRAM

President Matt vandenBerg Presiding

PRELUDE

Courty Airs and Dances
by Ron Nelson (1995)

OWU Symphonic Wind Ensemble

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance
by Edward Elgar (1901)

OWU Symphonic Wind Ensemble

INVOCATION

Dr. Chad Johns '02, B.A., M.Div., D.Min., *University Chaplain*

WELCOME

Dr. Matt vandenBerg, B.A., M.P.A., Ed.D., *President*

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aaron Granger, Esq. '93, B.A., J.D.,
Trustee

REMARKS BY THE PROVOST

Dr. Karlyn Crowley, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., *Provost*

PRESENTATION OF THE ADAM POE MEDAL TO RETIRING FACULTY

Dr. Crowley

Dr. Xiaoming Chen, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Dr. Michael V. Esler, B.S., M.A., Ph.D.
Barbara MacLeod, B.A., M.M., CFA

PRESENTATION OF THE SHERWOOD DODGE SHANKLAND AWARD FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF TEACHERS

Dr. Crowley

Endowed by the late William H. and Frances Shankland Ryan '29

Dr. Elizabeth A. Nix, B.S., Ph.D.

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP HERBERT WELCH MERITORIOUS TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Crowley

Provided by the Greater New York Alumni Association

Dr. Laurel Anderson, B.A., Ph.D.

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP HERBERT WELCH AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY OR ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Crowley

Dr. Ramon Carreno, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE

Jasmine Guy, Honorary Doctor of Fine Art

Dr. vandenBerg and Dr. Crowley

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Jasmine Guy '25, Hon. D.F.A.
Dancer, Actor, Author, Director

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025 AND
CONFERRING OF THE DEGREES IN COURSE

Dr. vandenBerg and
Lee Richards, B.A., M.Div., *Registrar*

REMARKS BY THE CLASS OF 2025 REPRESENTATIVE

Amara Carlson '25, B.A.

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.

Emily Clausing '25, B.A., and
Maja Todorovic '25, B.A.

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.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. vandenBerg

RECESSIONAL

Carrollton March
by Karl King (1909)

OWU Symphonic Wind Ensemble

The audience is asked to please remain seated during the ceremony to allow event staff, security, and professional photographers/videographers access to all areas. At the end of the ceremony, please remain seated until the platform party and faculty have recessed.

2025 CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES

Alessandro “Sandro” C. Bruni, B.A.,

Posthumously

Charles “Charley” H. Morris V,

In Memoriam

Kaitlin Ann-Marie Adams, B.A.

Tiwani Jesu R. Adediran, B.A.

Timothy Alexander, B.A.

Michaela Rose Alfano, B.A.

Jennifer Elizabeth Allen, B.A.

Spencer G. Amacher, B.S.

Seth A. Anderson, B.A.

Victor David Ayala Vera, B.A.

Natalie Helen Baker, B.A.

Chhabika Basnet, B.A.

Clare Nina Beam, B.A.

Ashley N. Beatty, B.A.

Giorgi Bediashvili, B.A., B.S.

Sejal P. Bhojwani, B.A.

Brooke Elaine Black, B.A.

Brynn K. Blackstone, B.A.

Tyler B. Bodovetz, B.S.

Payton Nicole Boerner, B.A.

Savannah Joann Brantley, B.A.

Noah Vincent Brazytis, B.A.

Ellie Brennan, B.A.

Courtney E. Brown, B.A.

Jalen Mekhi Buffington, B.A.

Natalie Claire Buravlov, B.A.

Terrell M. Burton II, B.A.

Kara Nichole Cannon, B.A.

Amara Marlene Carlson, B.A.

Justin D. Carro, B.A.

John A. Cervieri III, B.A.

Abby K. Charlton, B.A.

Emily Faith Clausing, B.A.

Lillian Grace Coats, B.A.

Madison M. Cofer, B.A.

Casey Comerford Conklin, B.A.

Elliott Marie Conroy, B.A.

Evan Charles Cook-Merino, B.A.

Holly Rachael Counts, B.A.

Nuri Phillip Jahrod Craig, B.A.

Peyton Alyia Creed, B.A.

Tyler Andrew Cunningham, B.A.

Gabriella J. Dahllof, B.A.

Olivia Ryan Danley, B.A.

Lily Makenna Davis, B.F.A.

Niladri Deb, B.A., B.S.

Brielle E. DeCarolis, B.A.

Kaylee Latrese DeShong, B.A.

Jackson Mark Dickson, B.A.

Ellie Dodds, B.A.

Savannah Rose Domenech, B.A.

Zach Wade Donley, B.A.

Joseph A. Doza, B.A.

Ryan Cameron Duckworth, B.A.

Tyler Peter Duhl, B.A.

Emily Elizabeth Bridget Dunn, B.A.

Evan Dunne, B.A.

Nicholas R. Eaddy, B.A.

Kelsey Lee Eckhert, B.A.

Chelsea Grace Maris Edington, B.A.

Joseph Daniel Egleston, B.A.

Madison Paige Evans, B.A.

Kelly L. Farran, B.A.

Emilia Rose Fellenstein, B.A.

Joshua Edward Ferreira, B.A.

Caroline N. Fleming, B.A.

Jessica Lauren Fown, B.A.

Michael Joseph Franckhauser, B.A.

Kevin John Fratz, B.A.

Anthony Michael Fresolone, B.A.

Grace Lily Frye, B.A.

Iman Yasmine Furbee, B.A.

Nolan K. Gantrish, B.A.

Abigail R. Gardner, B.A.

Jennifer N. Garner, B.A.

Carson Vaughan Geier, B.A.

Ren Francis Geist, B.A.

Nathan Logan George, B.A.

Lauren Marie Gerber, B.A.
 Aubrey Rose Gerhardt, B.A.
 Natalie Kathryn Geyer, B.A.
 John Cole Glazzard, B.A.
 Gwendolyn M. Godsey, B.A.
 Alexander Eli Goldenberg, B.A.
 Trey Douglas Good, B.A.
 Sydney Elizabeth Good, B.A.
 Hale G. Goodnow, B.A.
 Yohanna Olivia Love Gray, B.A.
 Josie Blake Green, B.A.
 Sophia G. Greenbaum, B.A.
 Drew L. Grup, B.A.
 Kathryn Stella Habian, B.A.
 Cooper Biggs Haley, B.A.
 Kiley A. Hardyman, B.A.
 Brian Starling Harrington, B.A.
 Erika Harris, B.A.
 Ami Jolie Evans Hartshorne, B.A.
 Malcolm N. Henderson, B.A., B.S.
 Isaac Nash Henry, B.A.
 Marquis J. Henry, B.A.
 Braeden Troy Higgins, B.A.
 Semira A. Hill, B.A.
 Jacob Hinger, B.A.
 Henry E. Hinkle, B.A.
 Lauren Kellie Hollinger, B.A.
 Charlie D. Hornacek, B.A.
 Wesley Minilik Horton, B.A.
 Thurman Yao-Wen Hou, B.A.
 Hannah Ashlyn Huffman, B.A.
 Brady Nicholas Hunt, B.A.
 Aliisa Ruth James, B.A.
 Mary Isabelle James, B.A.
 Sydney B. Jefferson, B.A.
 Clint Johnson, B.A., B.S.
 Hannah Marie Johnson, B.A.
 Ashleigh Nicole Johnson, B.A.
 Aniya Rus-shel Johnson, B.A.
 Samantha Lynn Johnson, B.A.
 Kiersten Paige Judy, B.A.
 Kory Lawrence Kaiser, B.A.
 Geoffrey N. Kaminski, B.A.
 Auzlynd J. Katterhenrich, B.A.
 Coleman Grant Kegler, B.A.
 Ellen Marie Kennedy, B.A.
 Han Mil Kim, B.A.
 Leyna B. Kirsh, B.A.
 Shae Mychael Kline, B.A.
 Dana G. Kolesar, B.A.
 Maya Anjali Koob, B.A.
 Grace Jean Kopelcheck, B.A.
 Chevalyn Kosek, B.A.
 Catherine Kuhlman, B.A.
 Marvella Kurniawan, B.A.
 Ava E. Kutilek, B.A.
 Cali Autumn Lang, B.A.
 Miriam Alissa Lang, B.F.A.
 Shelby Caroline Latham, B.A.
 Simon Paul Leck, B.A.
 Brooke Marie Lenigan, B.A.
 Sophia Marie Leohner, B.A.
 Zack Michael Leonard, B.A.
 Sidney E. Lewis, B.A.
 Daniel Ryan Lewis, B.A.
 Kylie Peyton Linville, B.A.
 Joseph Steven Liss, B.A.
 Maggie Grace Lloyd, B.A.
 Allauna Lillith Lotts, B.A.
 Carley Kathleen Lounsbury, B.A.
 Madison E. Love, B.A.
 Saharla A. Loyan, B.A.
 Katie Jane Lucas, B.A.
 Lydia A. Luna, B.A.
 Eleanor Ying Luttmann, B.A.
 Elijah TD Lutton, B.A.
 Grace Dawn Luxon, B.A.
 Genevieve M. Maddox, B.A.
 Finn L. Maguire, B.A.
 Nicholas Mankowski, B.A.
 Abigail Jordyn Markowitz, B.A.
 Stephanie Erin Marquardt, B.A.
 Aaron N. Mars, B.A.
 Helen Grace Martin, B.A.
 Cheyenne Marie Martin, B.A.
 Camryn A. Martindale, B.A.
 Avery D. Maxeiner, B.A.
 Alexandra Josephine Maziarz, B.A.

Sarah Mazzei, B.A.
 Nicola G. Mazzoleni, B.A.
 Megan Alexander McCarthy, B.A.
 Lauren Michael McClymont, B.A.
 Celeste E. McKinley, B.A.
 Colleen Emma McMenamin, B.A.
 Sydney Emeline McMillin, B.A.
 Alayna Jade McMullen, B.A.
 Ethan Gregory McNichols, B.A.
 Logan J. McSwords, B.A.
 Meghan Means, B.A.
 James Cooper Meek, B.A.
 Gabrielle Therese Michaud, B.A.
 Fiona Brighid Minton, B.A.
 Nicholas Roman Missler, B.A.
 Kahlil Mitchell-Smith, B.A.
 Natalia Munteanu Molotievskiy, B.A.
 Hannah Rose Moore, B.A.
 Caroline Elizabeth Mullins, B.A.
 Carrinna Ann Muncy, B.A.
 Emma Conti Munro, B.A.
 Hassan Mushtaq, B.A.
 Anna Michelle Mussenden, B.A.
 Mason Beckett Myers, B.A.
 Dorothy Scott Naftzger, B.A.
 Tala Emad Nasr, B.A.
 Zoë Gray Nelson, B.A.
 Ronald Netawat, B.S.
 Ethan Nickles, B.A.
 Evania Noguerras, B.A.
 Kai L. Nordlund, B.A.
 Jenna Ellen Norman, B.A.
 Donna Ryan O'Neill, B.A.
 Michael Matthew Ostertag, B.A.
 Timothy Raymond Page, B.A.
 Avery Michelle Panozzo, B.A.
 Brooke A. Parker, B.A.
 Katherine Cornell Pentecost, B.A.
 Lorenzo M. Perez de Lambarri, B.A.
 Alyssa Marie Perkins, B.A.
 Desmon T. Perry, B.A.
 Rachel Cheyenne Peters, B.A.
 Haydn Yutaro Peterson, B.A.
 Preston Pethtel, B.A.
 Raphael Petit-Frere, B.S.
 Danielle Elizabeth Phillip, B.A.
 Kaia Simone Pierce, B.A.
 Gabrielle Hope Plunkett, B.A.
 Jessa-Marie Canosa Powell, B.A.
 Maizy Marguerite Pratt, B.S.
 Bryar J. Ramey, B.A.
 Mason Charles Ramsey, B.A.
 Matthew Joseph Hayes Rease, B.A.
 Alexis Joann Reisch, B.A.
 David Rice, B.A.
 Lauren Isabelle Richards, B.A.
 Akhunzadi Ariyana Rimmel, B.A.
 Zachary Allen Ristau, B.A.
 Emmet Maxim Ritchie, B.A.
 Kaelyn Noelani Rodriguez, B.A.
 Franklin Anibal Rodriguez Bencosme, B.A.
 Amaya Zoé Rojas, B.A.
 Rebecca Roka, B.A.
 Moses Andrew-Rey Romero, B.A.
 Karlee R. Ross, B.A.
 Aidan Thomas Ross, B.A.
 Willow Bryn Rosser, B.A.
 Jack Robert Rotondo, B.A.
 Isabella Victoria Ann Roush, B.A.
 Lia Catherine Sadd, B.A.
 Colton J. Sadowski, B.A.
 Kayla Rose Saikaly, B.A.
 Mariam Samkharadze, B.A.
 Arieona Marie Sanders, B.A.
 Jakob J. Sanders, B.A.
 Priscilla Rubi Santos, B.A.
 Drew Angelo Schiano, B.A.
 Brynn Kathleen Schlesinger, B.A., B.S.
 Caroline Alexandra Schlorb, B.A.
 Noah F. Schnoor, B.A.
 Madison JoAnn Schumacher, B.A.
 Morgan Lindsey Scott, B.A.
 Surriya Malaika Sheri, B.A.
 Marissa Siegel, B.A.
 Savannah Silva, B.A.
 William Wesley Silver, B.A.
 Bavneet Singh, B.S.
 Joshua Carter Sloan, B.A.

Owen Lexas Smith, B.A.
 Nia Smith, B.A.
 Ryan M. Smudz, B.A.
 Claire Elizabeth Solberg, B.A.
 Holly J. Southwick, B.A.
 Callie Staley, B.A.
 Katelyn Elizabeth Stapleton, B.A.
 Kaden C. Starcher, B.A.
 Josephine Mae Stark, B.S.
 Ian Fredrick Robert Staten, B.A.
 Thomas Stathulis, B.A.
 Mason Andrew Stickel, B.A.
 Sammy Marshall Stoner, B.A.
 Haleigh Stover, B.A.
 Corey Strazek, B.A.
 Chloe Moiraine Sullivan, B.A.
 Diana Elizabeth Sumoza, B.A.
 Maximus Douglas Swartz, B.A.
 Kyle David Switzer, B.A.
 Joseph M. Tepper, B.A.
 Trey J. Theobald, B.S.
 Amelia Ryan Thrasher, B.A.
 Mason Carl Timko, B.A.
 Grace Catherine Tippens, B.A.
 Maja Todorovic, B.A.
 Amarilys Delayla Torres-Nunez, B.A.
 Christopher Anthony Tressler-Hughes, B.A.
 Stamatina Trigkoni, B.A.
 Abigail Elizabeth Trussell, B.A.
 Landon A. Turnbull, B.A.
 McKenna E. Tuttle, B.A.
 Sydney Maryann Vernadakis, B.A.
 Kenzie N. Votaw, B.A.
 Jon R. Walker, B.A.
 Thomas Brady Walsh, B.A.
 Kennedy C. Watkins, B.A.
 Callie Jane Webb, B.A.
 Bailey M. Weise, B.A.
 Greyson L. Wells, B.A.
 Samantha Renee Wernert, B.A.
 Brayden T. West, B.A.
 Christopher John Whelton, B.A.
 Jacob Ryan Williams, B.A.
 Andrew Robert Williamson, B.A.
 Gavin I. Wilson, B.A.
 Sasha Rose Wolak, B.A.
 Kelsey Alyssa Wolfe, B.A.
 Christian Jason Wolter, B.A.
 Lindsay Renee Wolverton, B.A.
 Camille Grace Womeldorf, B.A.
 Clara Marcia Wood, B.A.
 Austin D. Wyner, B.A.
 Hailey L. Wyse, B.A.
 Tyler D. Yanka, B.A.
 Spencer Hawkins Yates, B.A., B.S.
 Joel D. Zachary, B.A.
 Kevin Zhou, B.A.
 Jasmyn Diane Zimmerman, B.A.
 Grace Francynne Zoldak, B.A.
 Nathan J. Zuniga, B.A.

2025 RECIPIENT OF THE ADAM POE MEDAL

DR. XIAOMING CHEN, PH.D.

Professor in the Department of History

1991-2025

After working as a reporter and editor for China's Xinhua News Agency, Xiaoming Chen came to the United States in 1986 to study history at The Ohio State University. Dr. Chen started teaching at Ohio Wesleyan University in 1991 and received his Doctorate of Philosophy degree from Ohio State in 1995.

Dr. Chen's book, *From the May Fourth Movement to Communist Revolution: Guo Moruo and the Chinese Path to Communism*, was published in 2007 by the State University of New York Press. (It has been in paperback since 2008.) His publications also include a list of articles on the May Fourth era in modern Chinese history.

At Ohio Wesleyan, Dr. Chen has taught courses on the history of Asian countries and regions, including China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

"My best memories at Ohio Wesleyan are many of the students that I have taught over the years," Dr. Chen says.

2025 RECIPIENT OF THE ADAM POE MEDAL

DR. MICHAEL ESLER, PH.D.

McKendree Professor in the Department of Politics & Government

1985-1989, 1995-2025

Michael Esler calls his 34 years at Ohio Wesleyan University "wonderful and satisfying."

"I have been lucky to be a member of the Department of Politics & Government," he says, "which has been staffed by interesting and colorful characters who shared a love of politics, democracy, teaching, and learning."

As a scholar, Dr. Esler specializes in the judicial process and policy making, and he has taught courses including American Constitutional Law, Civil Rights and Liberties, American National Government, and Politics and Government. He also has served as advisor of the Pre-Law Studies program, co-advisor of the Pre-Law Club, coach of the Moot Court Team, and coordinator of Judicial Affairs at the University.

"Although my relationships with colleagues in the PG Department and beyond have been priceless, the relationships that I have developed with students that I have taught and advised have been incomparable," Dr. Esler reflects.

"OWU's tradition of excellent teaching is its calling card," he says. "It is apparent to every new professor who arrives on campus and inspires us throughout our careers. Knowing that I work with colleagues who prioritize excellence in teaching has always driven me to do my best. From my earliest days to now, as I near the end of my career, I have been confident that any student who attends OWU will receive an education that is second to none. I am happy to have played a small part in keeping this tradition alive.

"As forces inside and outside academia challenge the culture that has shaped OWU," Dr. Esler concludes, "my hope is that Ohio Wesleyan maintains its traditions and continues its excellence in preparing students for the future."

2025 RECIPIENT OF THE ADAM POE MEDAL

BARBARA MACLEOD, CFA

John J. Joseph and Joseph A. Meek Professor in the Department of Economics & Business – Business Administration
1999-2025

“Dedication, passion, and excellence are just a few words that describe Prof. Barbara MacLeod.”

— Dr. Glenn Bryan, colleague

Barbara MacLeod is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Iowa State University (history), and earned Master’s degrees in finance (Northwestern University) and banking (University of Delaware). She worked in the financial industry for many years, achieving her Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. She spent seven years on the board of the Columbus CFA Society, serving as president during the 2008 financial crisis.

When Professor MacLeod joined Ohio Wesleyan in 1999, the University offered one finance course. Through her tenure, she developed a robust and analytical finance curriculum officially recognized by the CFA Institute, garnering scholarships for OWU students and degree programs in finance. At various times, she has taught International Business, Corporate Strategy, Marketing Management, and Business Aspects of Sport. She is passionate about helping students launch their careers and always asks new acquaintances whether they offer internships.

Professor MacLeod coordinated the international CFA Level I curriculum for six years and edited books on fixed-income analysis, corporate finance, derivatives, and financial analysis. She has consulted in the areas of risk management, pricing strategies, portfolio management, and valuation, and has served on the boards of two firms. More recently, she has advised and supported early-stage business development for women entrepreneurs.

Professor MacLeod has spent her time in roles that supported students and exemplified service. She was a faculty advisor on spring break trips exploring racial reconciliation in Mississippi and working with orphans in areas from Russia to Ecuador. She took students to Nicaragua under one of the first Theory-to-Practice Grants and wrote another that brought Japanese students to Ohio to learn about poverty and build Habitat houses.

For many years, Professor MacLeod was the faculty advisor to the Habitat for Humanity student chapter, the First Generation Investors OWU chapter, and the OWU Investment Club, which manages the Geoff Hirt fund for OWU’s endowment. She traditionally had an overload of academic advisees, worked with transfer students, and has participated in summer registration for incoming first-year students every year but one since the program’s initiation.

Professor MacLeod also served in leadership roles, including 10½ years as chair of the Department of Economics (now Economics & Business). She was chair of the committee that developed policies and procedures for the first implementation of OWU’s emergency notification system. For three years, she officially mentored faculty new to OWU. She served twice on the University Governance Committee as well as on the Admission (chair) and the Academic Status committees.

In addition, she served on the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics almost every year since starting at OWU. A fixture as the finish line official at track meets, Professor MacLeod served as Faculty Athletic Representative since 2009 and as chair of the NCAC Caucus 2014-2016 and chair of the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee 2020-2021.

Professor MacLeod will continue to teach part-time, as she is loath to entirely give up teaching and interaction with students.

2025 SHERWOOD DODGE SHANKLAND AWARD FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF TEACHERS

DR. ELIZABETH A. NIX, PH.D.

Associate Professor in the Department of Health & Human Kinetics

Elizabeth “Liz” Nix is a registered dietitian nutritionist and associate professor of Nutrition in the Department of Health and Human Kinetics, where she collaborated in the development of programs for Nutrition and Public Health. Dr. Nix teaches courses in introductory nutrition, food transformation, food systems, and advanced human nutrition and metabolism course. Her research interests include health behavior changes and biomarkers of behavior change, such as skin carotenoids, a biomarker for fruit and vegetable intake. Dr. Nix’s further interests are in the social and systemic influences of health, and particularly nutrition. Her interest in the food system and the role it plays in human health has led her to study systemic factors of diet across the world including Italy, Spain, and most recently, Cuba.

2025 BISHOP HERBERT WELCH MERITORIOUS TEACHING AWARD

DR. LAUREL ANDERSON, PH.D.

*Morris Family Professor of Natural Sciences; Shanklin Family Professor in the
Department of Biological Sciences*

Laurel “Laurie” Anderson is a plant ecologist in the Departments of Biological Sciences and Environment and Sustainability. She is also President of the Board of Directors for the Ecological Research as Education Network (EREN) and chairs the Network Management Team of the Macrosystems Ecology For All Network (MEFA), both projects initiated with grants from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Anderson’s research and teaching interests include temperate forest ecology, invasive plants, global environmental change, and developing collaborative ecological projects across small colleges.

Dr. Anderson has published 29 academic papers on these topics, and has led travel courses on environmental change in Brazil, Utah, and Alaska. In 2015, she was recognized as the Ohio Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. In 2022, she was honored with the Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education from the Ecological Society of America. Dr. Anderson is also a published poet and loves to explore how intersections among the humanities, arts, and sciences deepen our understanding and connection with the non-human world.

2025 WELCH AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY OR ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

DR. RAMON CARRENO, PH.D.
Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences

Ramon Carreno is a teacher-scholar who is passionate about working with students at Ohio Wesleyan. He has taught courses in parasitology, cell biology, entomology, evolution, and invertebrate zoology, as well as travel-learning courses to the Galápagos Islands and Costa Rica.

Dr. Carreno continues to serve as the university's pre-veterinary advisor and has served on several faculty committees. He and his students have carried out research in the fields of parasitology, entomology, and wildlife diseases, with 36 papers published during his time at OWU.

Dr. Carreno's students have had many field and lab experiences, and many of them have presented their research at local and national conferences. This research has included surveys and systematics of parasites from mammals, birds, insects, and other animals, as well as the description of several species new to science. Dr. Carreno's students also do research involving diagnostic methods including DNA barcoding and molecular phylogenetics, light microscopy, and scanning electron microscopy.

Dr. Carreno was a part of a team of faculty that was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant that enabled purchase of the electron microscope, and his research on parasites of mammals has also been funded by NSF.



Scan to learn more about each of the faculty awards and access lists of previous award recipients.

**OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT AND
2025 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

JASMINE GUY '25, HON. D.F.A.

Dancer, Actor, Author, Director

Dancer, actor, author, director, and the winner of six NAACP Image Awards, Jasmine Guy has entertained and informed audiences for more than 45 years.

Guy began her career as a dancer for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center at age 17 and is well-known for her role as Southern belle Whitley Gilbert on NBC-TV's "A Different World," which aired for six seasons between 1987 and 1993.

Guy remains an in-demand performer, currently appearing in Tracy Oliver's "Harlem" comedy series on Amazon Prime and earning the 2023 Emmy Award as Outstanding Actress in a Short Form Comedy or Drama Series for her portrayal of Barbara Baldwin in "Chronicles of Jessica Wu."

Guy first visited Ohio Wesleyan in 2023, when she was the featured speaker at Ohio Wesleyan's inaugural Melvin Van Peebles Symposium, where she urged young creatives in the audience to "support your gifts with information, knowledge, and technique."

Her long list of television credits includes ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," NBC's "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air," Showtime's "Dead Like Me," and the CBS miniseries "Queen" and "Stompin' at the Savoy."

Guy's film roles include the Oscar-nominated short film "My Nephew Emmett," Spike Lee's "School Daze," and Eddie Murphy's "Harlem Nights" and "Diamond Men." Her Broadway performances range from The Alvin Ailey Repertory Company to "Grease," "The Wiz," and "Chicago." She also directed the world premiere of the opera "I Dream" at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, celebrating the life and journey of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Guy wrote the 2005 book "Afeni Shakur: Evolution of a Revolutionary." Described as "a powerful testament to the human spirit and the perseverance of the African American people," the memoir examines the life of Shakur, the mother of rapper and actor Tupac Shakur, and "one of the most visible figures in both the hip-hop and Civil Rights movements."

In recognition of her many achievements, Guy will receive an honorary OWU Doctor of Fine Art degree during today's Commencement ceremony. Honorary doctorates are the university's highest honor, awarded to individuals who have demonstrated excellence in their fields and made significant contributions to the betterment of the world.

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

2025 STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

AMARA CARLSON, B.A.

Today, Amara Carlson earns her Bachelor of Arts degree in Health & Human Kinetics with a minor in Nutrition.

At Ohio Wesleyan, the Dublin, Ohio, resident served as a two-time women's lacrosse captain, a student-intern for both the OWU Connection and Alumni Engagement offices, a student-director and presenter at the 2024 Women of Wesleyan (WOW) weekend, a three-year student leader of the Cooking Matters community education program, and a member of the Health & Human Kinetics Student Board.

Carlson also was engaged in Fraternity and Sorority Life, serving as the director of marketing for the Panhellenic Council and as the vice president of membership and a member of Delta Gamma, one of OWU's five sororities and six fraternities.

Academically, Carlson earned Dean's List recognition during all eight semesters of her enrollment. In April, she received a Top Ten scholar-athlete award, voted on by the Ohio Wesleyan Athletics Council and based on her impact on her family, team, university, and Delaware community. Carlson was twice named a Top 50 scholar-athlete and was inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma, the national college-athlete honor society.

Carlson says one of her most memorable Ohio Wesleyan experiences was traveling to the United Kingdom as part of a 2024 OWU Connection Travel-Learning Course, which compared food regulations, safety, and politics with those in the United States.

Carlson is a legacy student, with her brother, Nick, graduating in 2022.

For her next journey, Carlson has accepted a full-time position in the Columbus, Ohio, office of Vertiv, a global provider of critical digital infrastructure. She also will continue to coach youth lacrosse.

"It's hard to believe I was once a shy high schooler who had no idea where life would take me," she says. "I am so grateful for the endless opportunities OWU has provided me. I am better prepared for what's to come. No words will ever describe how amazing this place and these people are."

IN MEMORIAM

The Ohio Wesleyan University Class of 2025 and the OWU community remember these beloved Bishops taken from us much too soon.

ALESSANDRO “SANDRO” C. BRUNI

November 8, 2001 – March 15, 2025

Sandro was completing his senior year when he became unable to continue his fall semester studies because of Diffuse Midline Glioma, a rare and aggressive cancer with no established treatment. He was majoring in Geography and minoring in History, and was a valued member of the Battling Bishop wrestling team.

Today, Sandro’s family is awarded his Bachelor of Arts degree, and his classmates have reserved a chair for Sandro among the graduates.

Friend and former teammate Haji Sidibe ’24 spoke at Sandro’s April 6, 2025, Celebration of Life, sharing, “You impacted so many people. ... You were a special being, and your soul will continue on with all of us. I have no choice but to bring your passion, your energy, your toughness into everything I do for the rest of my life. Sandro forever.”

Sandro’s family also shares that as a selfless final act, he donated his body to Gift from a Child and research facilities working to find a treatment for his cancer.

CHARLES “CHARLEY” H. MORRIS V

February 25, 2003 – March 2023

Charley was a sophomore at Ohio Wesleyan when he and his father, Charles, were lost during a spring break kayaking accident in Beaver Lake, Arkansas. Charley was a beloved member of the Battling Bishops men’s cross country and track & field team and competed in the 2023 North Coast Athletic Conference indoor championship meet.

His classmates have reserved a seat for Charley among today’s graduates.

During a 2023 campus memorial service, Charley’s roommate, teammate, and friend Trey Theobald ’25 shared:

“Charley will always be remembered in the stories we tell about him, just like his favorite album he had hung up in our room, Juice WRLD’s ‘Legends Never Die.’ Legends never die.

“Every time I get caught feeling overwhelmed by the pain of this loss that I, Charley’s family, and this campus have gone through ... I’m comforted by the fact that a pain this deep can only come from a bond that strong.”

FAMILY DONOR LIST

Thank you to the families of seniors who made a contribution to the Ohio Wesleyan Annual Giving Programs in the 2024-2025 academic year. (Gifts received as of April 23, 2025)

Jennifer A. and John W. Bodovetz

Tia B. Boston

Melissa M. Carlson

Donald and Kristine Charlton

Cara and John Conklin

Annalise Conti '88

Melody and Barry Dahloff Jr.

Lee and Shannon Davis

Tia and Brian Davis

Karen and Michael Domenech*

Joshua and Lee M. Duhl

Jana and Rick Edington

Michael and Shawn Fresolone

Bruce and Grace Gerber

Brian and Lisa Goldenberg*

Kevin '84 and Charity Hinkle

Kenneth and Tara '91 Kaiser

Rebecca and Steven Kuhlman*

Theresa Lewis

Jacqueline and Warren Markowitz

John and Tiffany McCarthy Jr.

David McMillin

Joseph and Reverend Sara A. Cornett McSwords

Donald and Marcy Myers III*

Olivia and Stanley Nelson

Jamie and Kevin Paskvan

Francis and Kelli Phillip

Franklin Rodriguez Sr.

Jeanne and Mark Ross

Eric and Erin Schlesinger

Daniel and Rhanna Silver*

James Smith Jr. '95

Paul '89 and Karen '91 Staley

Christine and Roger Stark

Dr. Caryn '96 and Jeffrey Theobald

Allison and Jason Wolter

Dr. S. Chris and Jennifer Wolverton

*1842 Society: Leadership donors who have supported the Ohio Wesleyan Annual Giving Programs at or above \$1,842.

GRADUATING SENIOR DONOR LIST

Thank you to the seniors who made a contribution to the Ohio Wesleyan Annual Giving Programs in the 2024-2025 academic year. (List as of May 1, 2025)

Tiwani Jesu R. Adediran	Sydney B. Jefferson	Evania Nogueras
Timothy Alexander*	Aniya Rus-shel Johnson	Alyssa Marie Perkins
Michaela Rose Alfano	Hannah Marie Johnson	Rachel Cheyenne Peters
Jennifer Elizabeth Allen	Samantha Lynn Johnson	Danielle Elizabeth Phillip*
Natalie Helen Baker	Kory Lawrence Kaiser	Mason Charles Ramsey
Ashley N. Beatty	Auzlynd J. Katterhenrich	Alexis Joann Reisch
Giorgi Bediashvili	Maya Anjali Koob	Lauren Isabelle Richards
Sejal P. Bhojwani	Catherine Kuhlman	Akhunzadi Ariyana Rimmel
Tyler B. Bodovetz	Ava E. Kutilek	Franklin Anibal Rodriguez Bencosme
Payton Nicole Boerner	Cali Autumn Lang	Aidan Thomas Ross
Courtney E. Brown	Brooke Marie Lenigan	Victoria Ann Roush*
Amara Marlene Carlson	Daniel Ryan Lewis	Mariam Samkharadze
Abby K. Charlton*	Maggie Grace Lloyd	Priscilla Rubi Santos
Casey Comerford Conklin	Allauna Lillith Lotts	Brynn Kathleen Schlesinger
Holly Rachael Counts	Carley Kathleen Lounsbury	Caroline Alexandra Schlorb
Peyton Alyia Creed	Lydia A. Luna	Morgan Lindsey Scott
Gabriella J. Dahllof	Elijah TD Lutton	Savannah Silva
Lily Makenna Davis	Grace Dawn Luxon	Nia Smith
Kaylee Latrese DeShong	Genevieve M. Maddox	Claire Elizabeth Solberg
Savannah Rose Domenech	Abigail Jordyn Markowitz	Josephine Mae Stark
Emily Elizabeth Bridget Dunn	Stephanie Erin Marquardt	Amelia Ryan Thrasher
Nicholas R. Eaddy	Helen Grace Martin	Grace Catherine Tippens
Kelsey Lee Eckhart	Sarah Mazzei	Sydney Maryann Vernadakis
Joseph Daniel Egleston	Megan Alexander McCarthy	Kennedy C. Watkins
Kelly L. Farran	Lauren Michael McClymont	Bailey M. Weise
Emilia Rose Fellenstein	Sydney Emeline McMillin*	Greyson L. Wells*
Jessica Lauren Fown	Alayna Jade McMullen	Samantha Renee Wernert
Anthony Michael Fresolone*	Logan J. McSwords	Andrew Robert Williamson
Abigail R. Gardner	Gabrielle Therese Michaud	Christian Jason Wolter*
Carson Vaughan Geier	Fiona Brigid Minton	Lindsay Renee Wolverton
Natalie Kathryn Geyer	Kahlil Mitchell - Smith	Clara Marcia Wood
Gwendolyn M. Godsey	Natalia Munteanu Molotievskiy	Joel D. Zachary
Alexander Eli Goldenberg	Hannah Rose Moore	Jasmyn Diane Zimmerman
Kiley A. Hardyman	Caroline Elizabeth Mullins	Nathan J. Zuniga
Brian Starling Harrington	Emma Conti Munro*	
Isaac Nash Henry	Anna Michelle Mussenden	
Lauren Kellie Hollinger	Mason Beckett Myers	
Thurman Yao-Wen Hou	Dorothy Scott Naftzger*	
Hannah Ashlyn Huffman	Tala Emad Nasr	

**Leadership donors: Those who gave at least \$50 to Ohio Wesleyan's Annual Giving Programs.*

OWU SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

Conductor, Dr. Richard Edwards, B.M., M.M., Ph.D.

PICCOLO

Brooke Fogt '26
Oliviah Myers '28
Maryahna Shipmon '28
Taylor Thompson '28

TRUMPET

Evan Boling '26
James Hammel '28
Josiah Montgomery '27
Dr. Samuel Nemeth

OBOE

Anna Bradshaw '28

HORN

Will Telesz '27
Morgan Vaughn '26

CLARINET

Hannah Barenthin '24
Tammie Edwards
Nic Laurence '26

TROMBONE

Kayla Bayes '26
Anthony Kwasny '27
Jarek Montalban '28

BASS CLARINET

Nicholas Stockton '26
Jessica Tomassetti '28

EUPHONIUM

Henry Uible '27

BASSOON

Emily White

TUBA

Abigail Kidd '26

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Ryleigh Jones '27
Hannah Watson '23

PERCUSSION

Payton Mindel '27
Ryuka Okada '27
Samuel Roberts '26
Ian Smith '28
Cameron Zeferino '28

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Holly Robinson '26

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Juliana Kifus '26

KEYBOARD

Dr. Frank Chiou, B.M., M.M., M.A.,
D.M.A.

NOTES ON ACADEMIC DRESS

The history of academic dress reaches back to the early days of the oldest universities. A statute of 1321 required all “Doctors, Licentiate, and Bachelors” of the University of Coimbra to wear gowns. In England during the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. It is still a question whether academic dress finds its sources chiefly in ecclesiastical or civilian dress. Gowns may have been considered necessary for warmth in the unheated buildings used by medieval scholars. Hoods may have served to cover the tonsured head until superseded for that purpose by the skull cap. The cap was displaced by a headdress similar to ones now recognized as “academic.”

European institutions continue to show great diversity in their specifications of academic dress. However, when American colleges and universities desired to adopt a system of academic apparel a half-century ago, they worked out a system that all might follow. The code for academic costumes now in effect was approved by the Committee on Academic Costumes and Ceremonies appointed by the American Council on Education in 1959. The following information is taken from that code.*

GOWNS. The gown for the bachelor’s degree has pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The gown for the master’s degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist, with the sleeve base hanging down in the traditional manner. The rear part of the sleeve’s oblong shape is square cut and the front part has an arc cut away. It may be worn open or closed. Bachelor’s and master’s gowns have no trimming, but the doctor’s may be faced on the front with black or colored velvet and with three bars of the same across the sleeves. If color is used, it is the color distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains, and it matches the edging or binding of the hood. For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctors’ gowns, edging of hoods, and tassels of caps, the colors associated with different subjects are as follows:

Agriculture—Maize	Medicine—Green
Arts, Letters, Humanities—White	Music—Pink
Commerce, Accountancy, Business—Drab	Nursing—Apricot
Dentistry—Lilac	Oratory (Speech)—Silver Gray
Economics—Copper	Pharmacy—Olive Green
Education—Light Blue	Philosophy—Dark Blue
Engineering—Orange	Physical Education—Sage Green
Fine Arts—Brown	Public Administration—Peacock Blue
Forestry—Russet	Public Health—Salmon Pink
Journalism—Crimson	Science—Golden Yellow
Law—Purple	Social Work—Citron
Library Science—Lemon	Theology—Scarlet
	Veterinary Science—Gray

HOODS. Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. The binding or edging of the hood is a color distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains.

CAPS. Mortarboards are generally worn as part of the academic costume. The long tassel fastened to the middle point of the cap’s top is either black or the color appropriate to the subject. It is customary for degree candidates to wear the tassel on the right side before degrees are conferred and to shift them to the left when the degrees are awarded. This custom is in some respects a substitute for the individual hooding.

*An “Academic Costume Code and Ceremony Guide,” *American Universities and Colleges*, American Council on Education, Washington, D.C.

THE UNIVERSITY SEAL OF OFFICE AND THE ORIGINAL UNIVERSITY HANDBELL

The Seal of Office worn by Dr. vandenBerg was designed by Mr. Reveley G. Beattie, a former trustee, and a member of the jewelry firm that made it. The seal symbolizes administrative responsibility and is suspended from a chain, the links of which are copied from a chain-mail surplice. A laurel wreath, ancient symbol of a chief executive, surrounds a replica of the official seal of the University and is quartered by keystones, representing the broad divisions of a liberal arts education. Two medallions are set in the chain above the presidential seal, one of which carries a replica of the tower of University Hall, surrounded by the motto: "Christ the Chief Cornerstone." The other seal is a reproduction of the globe with the inscription: "Serving All Mankind Worldwide."

The Commencement ceremonies will conclude with the ringing of the handbell first used in 1842 to call classes to order. It was presented to the University in 1941 by Nicholas Jones, grandson of the original owner, on the 100th anniversary of Founders' Day. It will also be used as a part of the opening Convocation in August.

PHOTOGRAPHY AT COMMENCEMENT

Ohio Wesleyan has several professional photographers and videographers in place at Commencement. Please remain in your seats during the ceremony to allow the professionals access to all areas. Family photos can be taken before and after the ceremony.

A professional photographer from Graduation Foto® will take a photograph as Dr. vandenBerg hands each graduate their diploma. In addition, each graduate will pose for a portrait at the designated backdrop as they exit the stage. Each graduate will receive a photo proof approximately one week after Commencement, and may order prints directly with the studio or through GraduationFoto.com. There is no obligation to purchase prints, and graduates pay no charge unless prints are ordered.

SPECIAL THANKS

FACULTY MARSHALS

Bradley R. Trees '86, B.A., M.S., Ph.D., *Head Marshal*
Shala J. Hankison '95, B.A., M.S., Ph.D.

STUDENT MARSHALS

Ella Holtsberry '27
Grace Lily '27

NAME READERS

Lauren Hensley, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Laurie Patton '95 P'22, B.A.
Amanda Rodenborg, B.A., M.L.S.
Doug Zipp, B.S., M.S.

FLORAL

Miller's Country Gardens

VOLUNTEERS

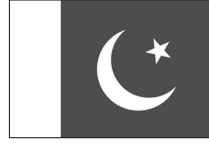
This event is made possible by the many students, faculty, staff, and friends who donate their time.

NATIONAL FLAGS

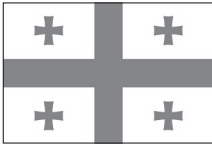
During Commencement, Ohio Wesleyan proudly displays the flags of every country represented by our graduating seniors. This year, we are displaying the following flags:



Dominican Republic



Pakistan



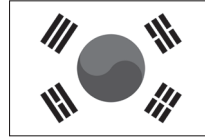
Georgia



Paraguay



Greece



South Korea



India



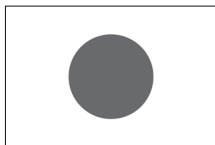
Suriname



Indonesia



United Kingdom - Cayman Islands



Japan



United States of America



Nepal

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR OUR COMMENCEMENT GUESTS

Public safety officers and credentialed event staff are on the grounds to answer your questions and assist you with directions.

If you need medical assistance, EMS personnel are stationed adjacent to Selby Stadium.

Restrooms are located on the first floors of University Hall and the Schimmel/Conrades Science Center.

Lost-and-found inquiries should be directed to any public safety officer.

In observance of the formality of this occasion, please turn off all cell phones or silence the ringers prior to the beginning of the ceremony.

Family and friends are invited to share photos, videos, and other Commencement-related well wishes by tagging social media posts with **#OWUgrad** and **@ohiowesleyan**.

ACADEMIC RECEPTIONS FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

owu.edu/map

HAMILTON-WILLIAMS

CAMPUS CENTER

Africana, Gender, & Identity Studies

Ancient, Medieval, & Renaissance

Studies

East Asian Studies

Economics & Business

English

Film Studies

History

International Studies

Journalism & Communication

Neuroscience

Performing Arts

Philosophy & Religion

Politics & Government

Pre-Law

Psychology

Public Health

Social Justice

Sociology & Anthropology

World Languages & Cultures

PHILLIPS HALL

Education

SCHIMMEL/CONRADES

SCIENCE CENTER

Biological Sciences

Chemistry

Environment & Sustainability

Mathematics & Computer Science

Physics & Astronomy

SIMPSON QUERREY

FITNESS CENTER

Health & Human Kinetics



Ohio Wesleyan University