

Hanwen “Evan” Bai ’11 Young Alumni Award

In recognition of his groundbreaking contributions to the field of computational genomics, transformative leadership in corporate inclusion, and entrepreneurial success, the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association is proud to present **Hanwen “Evan” Bai ’11** with the Young Alumni Award.

Since graduating summa cum laude from OWU with degrees in genetics and biochemistry, Evan has embodied the spirit of a liberal arts education.

As the director of computational genomics at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Evan manages a global team of Ph.D. scientists across the United States and the United Kingdom. His work is at the forefront of modern medicine, overseeing a portfolio of over 10 disease programs—ranging from pre-clinical research to approved, life-saving medicines. Evan’s research has been instrumental in advancing our understanding of complex diseases. His work has uncovered novel somatic alterations driving kidney cyst development in Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) and identified genetic modifiers to aid those living with Cystic Fibrosis. During his doctoral studies at Yale, he led pivotal genomic analyses into brain tumor transformation, identifying potential therapeutic targets for gliomas and meningiomas. A prolific scholar, Evan is the author of numerous articles in premier journals, including *Nature Genetics* and *Science*, and he received the prestigious Carolyn Slayman Prize for his doctoral dissertation at Yale University.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Evan is a steadfast champion of equity and belonging. As the former co-chair of Vertex’s PRIDE Employee Resource Group, he led initiatives that doubled the organization’s membership and launched a “reverse mentorship” program that has since become a model for other Fortune 500 companies. For his efforts in fostering an inclusive global workplace, Yahoo Finance named Evan to the “2022 OUTstanding LGBT+ Role Model List.”

Evan’s creativity extends far beyond the lab. As the founder of Hanwen Interiors, an interior decorating firm specializing in modern, Asian-inspired design, he has gained regional acclaim, with his work featured on the cover of

the *Boston Globe Magazine*. True to his spirit of service, Evan donates 10% of his design fees to local LGBTQ+ nonprofit organizations.

Despite his international success, Evan has never forgotten his Ohio Wesleyan experience. He has volunteered for alumni and career initiatives. He is a member of the Loyal Bishops Society, specifically supporting international student initiatives to ensure that the next generation of global Bishops can find their home in Delaware, Ohio.