

Dr. Meredith Palmer '11 Young Alumni Award

The Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors proudly presents **Meredith Palmer '11** with the Young Alumni Award in recognition of her extraordinary achievements in wildlife ecology, leadership in conservation technology, and commitment to global biodiversity research.

Meredith has established herself as a leading voice in predator-prey dynamics and ecological monitoring. After graduating from OWU as a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar with a degree in pre-professional zoology, she completed her Ph.D. in ecology, evolution, and behavior at the University of Minnesota. Her groundbreaking research has redefined scientists' understanding of animal behavior in complex ecosystems, resulting in over 45 peer-reviewed publications.

Meredith earned a rare “triple crown” of academic honors in one week: the National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Smithsonian Fellowship, and the Fulbright Scholars Fellowship. This achievement paralleled her scientific impact; her discovery of yellow-billed oxpeckers roosting in giraffe “armpits” at night drew international attention, appearing in *National Geographic*, *Popular Science*, and the *African Journal of Ecology*.

Now a conservation scientist at Yale, she leads advances in the use of AI, machine learning, and sensor data for large-scale wildlife monitoring. Her global impact includes research and capacity building in Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa, where she serves as co-director of the Saadani Lion Project. She has secured over £750,000 in philanthropic funding for international conservation.

Meredith credits the mix of theoretical and practical training at OWU as the foundation for her success in graduate school and her subsequent research positions. Beyond her scientific contributions, Meredith is a dedicated mentor and advocate for equity in STEM, serving as a lead and developer for the *Women in Conservation Technology* program in East Africa and managing large-scale citizen science initiatives, such as Snapshot Serengeti.