

The Class of 2017  
Baccalaureate Service  
Gray Chapel  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Delaware, Ohio  
May 12, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

## *“Metamorphosis”*

~ ~ ~

*“Not everything that is faced  
can be changed.*

*But nothing can be changed  
until it is faced.”*

**James Baldwin**

*A Special Tribute  
to  
Becky McKinniss Swartz*



*Your loving spirit, maternal care, faith witness,  
and meticulous attention to our every need  
made our metamorphosis complete.  
You were our cocoon; you gave us our wings;  
our flight from here is your crafted creation.*

*We pray Godspeed for your new journey, as well.*

*We love you. We honor you. We thank God for you.*

**BACCALAUREATE SERVICE**  
**Ohio Wesleyan University**  
**The Class of 2017**  
“Metamorphosis”

7:00 p.m.  
Friday, May 12, 2017

Gray Chapel  
Ohio Wesleyan University

**Processional of Our National Flags**

*"Namdaemoon Celebration"*  
*Joseph Musser, composer*

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

**University Greetings**

The Reverend Dr. Rock Jones  
*University President*  
Lee LeBeouf and James Murphy  
*Class President and Vice President*

**President's Commission Awards**

The Reverend Jon Powers  
*Founding Member, The President's Commission*  
*on Racial and Cultural Diversity*

**Religious Life Awards**

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

**Student Leader Greeting**

Jude Fahoum  
Sharon Hayes  
Dominic Mejia  
Chase Smith  
*Baccalaureate 2017 Co-Chairs*

<b>Our Commitment to the Interfaith Journey of Discovery</b> <i>“How Far I’ll Go” – Lin-Manuel Miranda</i>	Olivia Lease Emily Phillips Colette Siddle
<b>Our Commitment to Jewish Tradition</b> <i>Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Micah 6:6-8</i>	Samantha Cacciatore
<b>Our Commitment to Christian Tradition</b> <i>Deuteronomy 31, Jeremiah 29:11, Corinthians 4:16-18</i>	Andrea Beavers
<b>Our Commitment to Muslim Tradition</b> <i>Surah Al-Falaq and Surat Al-Hujurat, v. 13</i>	Jude Fahoum Khadijah Salman
<b>Our Commitment to Personal Integrity</b> <i>“Finding and Sustaining Self Love”</i>	Rebecca Manning
<b>Our Commitment to Faithful Diversity</b> <i>“Lacrosse, Science, Catholicism, and Community”</i>  <i>“Like an Avalanche”</i>	Mario Vezza  Colette Siddle Emily Phillips
<b>Our Commitment to Social Justice</b> <i>“What do we have in common?”</i>  <i>“A Franciscan Prayer”</i>	Kadra-Ayan Ahmed Meme Salazar Rodriguez  Jennifer Bennett
<b>Our Commitment to Cultural Celebrations</b>	Michael Mora Brenes Rosa Escobar
<b>Our Commitment to Servant Leadership</b> <i>“Inviting YOU to the Journey of Service”</i>	Desiree Young
<b>Our Commitment to Living Our Parent’s Dreams</b> <i>“A Mother’s Prayer” – Billene Seyoum Woldeyes</i>	Elikem Gadzepo

**Our Commitment to Change the World**

*“Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front”*  
– Wendell Berry

Emma Nuiry

**Our Commitment to the Source of All**

*“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”*  
– Thomas Troeger

Dominic Mejia  
Kiersten Payne

**The Senior Class Comes Forward**

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

*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**

Sharon Hayes  
The Reverend Kathleen Hayes  
James Murphy  
The Reverend Cheryl Murphy  
Chase Montana Smith  
The Reverend Marie Duquette

**Postlude**

*“Litanies”*  
Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Joseph Musser, organist

## Liturgy Notes

**The Processional, "Namdaemoon Celebration,"** was composed by Joseph Musser in 2015 to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Namdaemoon Presbyterian Church in Seoul, Korea, founded by Horace Allen, OWU alumnus [1881]. Dr. Allen, who was born in Delaware, Ohio, was a medical missionary to Korea, and the first U.S. Ambassador to that country. Dr. Musser played the premiere in Seoul. The composition combines two folk melodies that have been adopted as hymn tunes as well: "What Wondrous Love Is This" from the U.S. and "Arirang" from Korea. We thank Professor Musser for this wonderful gift!

**“What do we have in common?”** A note from Meme and Kadra: As we navigate life and different spaces, we have both found injustice and inequality directed to ourselves and to others everywhere. Even though we come from different ethnicities, genders, spiritual journeys, and sexualities, we have found strength and solidarity in our friendship. In this performance, we will discuss the different places where we have been and what we have witnessed. We want everyone in the room to look within themselves and recognize the ways in which they have privilege and in which they do not. We want everyone in the room to stand in solidarity with the real struggles of different targeted communities and call out the ways in which you yourself perpetuate stereotypes. We want to help unmasquerade the hypocrisy that has surrounded our lives and those of underserved communities in sexuality, ethnicity/nationality/race, gender, spiritual journeys, socioeconomic statuses, mental and physical health, social and physical abilities, and visa status. Finally, we want to help support a fundraiser for medical supplies and menstrual items for Venezuela, which is in a state of national emergency. If you would like to collaborate, please contact us at [madrs324@gmail.com](mailto:madrs324@gmail.com). This is truly what it means to be OWU!

## THE BACCALAUREATE COMMITTEE 2017

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 2017. Their goal has been consistent and conscientious: to bring together and celebrate the mysterious metamorphosis in which God has touched their lives, informed their faith, and molded their character over the past four years at Ohio Wesleyan University. Like any metamorphosis, these four years together have been at the same time patterned and chaotic, personal and corporate, sorrowful and exultant. This celebration tonight 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 to acknowledge that “we have not come this far by our own power.”

**Baccalaureate Committee:** *Co-chairs:* Jude Fahoum, Sharon Hayes, Dominic Mejia, Chase Smith; *Secretary:* Daud Baz; *Graphic Design:* Hannah Rawlings; *Baby Photos:* Jenni Bennett, Alyssa McKinney, Michael Mora Brenes; *Chancel Design:* Jude Fahoum and Sharon Hayes; *Reception:* Kiersten Payne.

**Ex-Officio:** Courtney Clark and Zafir Hayyat, Class of 2018; Abby Ralph, Class of 2019; Noah Spicer and Ahmed Hamed, Class of 2020; Associate Chaplains Mary Jeffries and Chad Johns, University Chaplain Jon Powers, Assistant to the Chaplain Becky Swartz.

## **Honoring Our National Flags**

*The flags placed at the front of Gray Chapel this evening represent all the nations of our Class of 2017. These flags represent:*

### **United States of America**

Kadra Ahmed

### **Afghanistan**

Daud Baz

### **Bangladesh**

Shabab Sami Kabir

Shamayeta Rahman

### **Bulgaria**

Ryan Bishop

### **Costa Rica**

Michael Mora Brenes

### **Cyprus**

Cemaliye Semmedi

### **Ethiopia**

Jemil Seid Ahmed

### **Ghana**

Elikem Awoyo Gadsekpo

### **Greece**

Vasileah Stephanie Mizas

### **Hong Kong**

Curtice James Taylor

### **India**

Areena Arora

Urvija Rishi

Shashank Sharma

### **Myanmar**

Kyi Linn Htoo

David Dawng Hikaung Tangbau

### **Nepal**

Harang Jung- Born

### **Pakistan**

Aadil Kohari

Misha Babur Rafiq

Khadija Salman

Shaaref Ali Shah

Raja Khayyam Zubair

### **Palestine**

Jude Fahoum

### **People's Republic of China**

Yimei Deng

Xiaoshu Liu

I-Liang Lu

Xi Peng

Qianni Ren

Shaoyin Sun

Yiling Yu

### **Saudi Arabia**

Alfahdah Sulaman Alsudayri

### **South Korea**

Harang Jung- Born

### **Sweden**

Cajsa Anna Matilda Ohisson

### **United Arab Emirates**

Ruchi Kansal

### **Venezuela**

Maria De Los Angeles Salazar

Rodriguez

## **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 Congressman John Lewis, Morris Dees, Gloria Steinem, and Immaculée Ilibagiza. The chapel is named in honor of Brother David F. Gray, President of the Board of Trustees in the 1880s. 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 Church 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 4,644 pipes arranged in 84 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  
for Racial and Cultural Diversity**

*The President's Commission for Racial and Cultural Diversity recognizes one student, one organization, one faculty, and one staff member for working to improve the state of racial and cultural diversity and/or social justice at OWU each year. We are grateful for the leadership, witness, and work of these outstanding individuals and groups who are honored here tonight.*

**Student Diversity Award Winner:**

**Teona Council**

**Faculty Diversity Award Winner:**

**Paul Dean**

**Staff Diversity Award Winner:**

**Chris Mickens**

**Organization Diversity Award Winner:**

**VIVA Latinx and Horizons**

## UNIVERSITY RELIGIOUS LIFE AWARDS

Each of the Religious Life Awards honor 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, were cited by the John Templeton Foundation as one of the 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 in recent years by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., The United Methodist Church, the National Catholic Campus Ministry Association, the National Interfaith Youth Core, President Barack Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, and The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

**The Bliss and Mildred Wiant Award for Outstanding Leadership in  
Interfaith and Intercultural Relations**

*Jude Fahoum*

*“For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth; and because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.”*

President Barack Hussein Obama

*“No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive.”*

Mahatma Gandhi

With the pondering patient tolerance of a turtle, the enlightened alert leadership of a lion, and the cautious curiosity of a cat, Jude Fahoum models interfaith leadership at its very best. She engages people from all and any faith, creed, or culture with a gracious ease and a winsome wit. She invites difficult conversations between conflicting perspectives with a passion that sparks trust over tension and friendship over friction. With her scholarly, scientific, and analytical mind, she discerns the heart of an issue before most of us have digested the headline. As both a participant and a leader in Spring Break Interfaith Service Teams, the Interfaith House programs, the campus-wide Culture Fest, Horizons International, and four years of interfaith Baccalaureate leadership, Jude exemplifies the core values of her training from the national Interfaith Youth Core Interfaith Leadership Institutes. With this same skill set, she master-minded the renewal of Tauheed, the OWU chapter of the national Muslim Student Association. Her gentle spirit and brilliant mind combine to make her a formidable force for good on this campus and in the world.

**The Chaplain James Leslie Award for  
Outstanding Leadership in Peace and Justice**

***Brenda Gonzalez***

*“I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.”*

Abraham Lincoln

*“Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.”*

Henri Nouwen

*“Peace begins with a smile.”*

Mother Teresa

It begins with her smile. Gentle, gracious, open, heart-felt, contagious. From there, it spreads to her eyes, and then her open hands, and then her quickened steps – readying herself to help you in whatever way you may need; ready to encourage you in a time of stress; ready to care for you in a moment of uncertainty; ready to get you to where you need to go when no one else is able or willing or even aware that you need help. So here it is, dear Sainted Mother Teresa, as you envisioned we all might be: Brenda Gonzalez is peace personified. And like the gentle spirit of the man for whom her award is named (Chaplain James Leslie), Brenda is an inconspicuous culprit of any such peace-making; indeed, the last person you might suspect of being a blatant peace-monger. Yet there it is, as a captain of the Women’s Ultimate Frisbee Team, as a Peer Advising Intern at Career Services, as a quiet guide for so many students at OWU, unceremoniously helping them towards a better future, orienting and integrating them as a mentor. In her bright, dedicated, funny, curious, meandering, and always helpful way, Brenda has created a very different kind of standard for peace and justice. Would that the world could just follow her lead...

## **The Bishop Gerald Ensley Award for Outstanding Christian Leadership**

*Dominic Mejia*

Since his first day on campus four years ago, Dominic has blessed us with his pastoral, prophetic, academic, theological, administrative, and inter-personal gifts and graces. In his quiet and unassuming manner, he has impacted nearly every corner of our campus community: Disciple Bible Study (which led to his initiative to lead his own Bible study with a fellow student leader); Spring Break Mission week and Interfaith Service teams; Faith and Justice initiatives; county-wide annual CROP Walks; Oxfam hunger banquets; University Interfaith House and the Better Together interfaith initiatives (for which he contributed mightily to the reasons that Ohio Wesleyan received the national finalist award from President Obama at the White House higher education conference last year); University Baccalaureate Committee leadership; student leader within the Religion Department, and so, so much more! As a “colleague” to all of us in the University Chaplaincy, we have entrusted Dominic to work with us, counsel with us, make decisions with us, and even speak for us at University and community events. We have entrusted him with ministry as an assistant parish pastor, an assistant to a professor of religion, and we would not be surprised, *inshallah*, that he becomes a bishop of the church in his time. Yet, God is not done with Dominic Mejia; he will continue to raise the bar of theological inquiry, pastoral care, and church leadership for decades to come. Blessed be.

## The Cheryl McGinnis Award for Outstanding Catholic Leadership

Andrea Beavers

*"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."*

Mother Teresa

*"I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else - God is in this person's life. You can - you must - try to seek God in every human life."*

Pope Francis

Few people on this planet have a more healing heart than does Andrea Beavers. Her heart is filled with a compassionate and active love for those whom Jesus called "the least among us" – the yet unborn, the prisoner, the powerless, the impoverished. Her heart beats in sync with her brain, and the result is a level of leadership that impacts everyone around her. As an active participant and leader of the Newman Catholic Community, Andrea has served as the organization's president since spring 2016. Under her leadership she has introduced the group to her passion for prison ministry and the Pro-Life movement. She participated in what is perhaps the most counter-cultural demonstration of our time, the 2017 March for Life in Washington, D.C. Together with a powerful witness of other students and staff members from OWU, Andrea marched in solidarity with other Pro-Lifers to advocate for the rights of the unborn. Through her gentle words and faithful example, Andrea has encouraged others in their faith. Her hospitality towards others is endless, and she regularly invites other students to join her in seeking the sacraments of our faith, attending spiritual retreats, serving the community, attend Bible studies, and advocating for others on this campus and in the greater neighborhood of God's children that has no boundaries or walls or cells of separation. As our Catholic Chaplain Mary Jeffries says, "*Andrea has been a quiet but moving force, the glue that has kept Newman going. She has maintained her convictions despite the culture being her foe. I admire her strength, conscientiousness of heart, soul, and duty to God. I have been blessed to be a part of her journey and will pray for her continued calling for the goodness of others.*" Andrea is truly the presence of Christ among us.

## **The Taban Blake Award for Outstanding Servant Leadership**

*Courtney Dunne*

*“Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy.”*

Mahatma Gandhi

*“The servant-leader is servant first... It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply different from one who is leader first.”*

Robert K. Greenleaf

With a joyful energy and an inviting spirit, Courtney Dunne is an engaged and passionate servant leader, eager scholar, and a force for fantastic fun. Over the past four years, we have watched as Courtney developed a mature and thoughtful faith. She is not shy of big questions without answers and will honestly engage her own bias and beliefs. From that place, she has learned to apply her faith to everything aspect of life. For her, there is no division between the secular and the sacred. During her sophomore year, Courtney and fellow classmate, Oliva Lease, developed a web resource highlighting homelessness in Delaware. In her junior year, Courtney was a steady and reflective journalist during a campus crisis where she was able to provide the critical space needed to make quick, yet ethical decisions. Finally, in her senior year, as a member of the Interfaith House and a participant in the IFYC's Interfaith Leadership Institute, Courtney was inspired to host a series of dinners focused on fostering respectful interfaith dialogue. From her work as a journalism major reporting on homelessness and human trafficking, to her performance on the stage in theater, to her future work with student leaders in Kappa Alpha Theta, Courtney will continue to take this thoughtful and open approach to every space in her life.

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

*Desiree Young*

*“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”*

Mahatma Gandhi

*“The role of the teacher remains the highest calling of a free people.”*

Shirley Mount Hufstedler

For Desiree Young, Rock Climbing is a passion of practical skill, persistence, and perseverance. It is also a powerful metaphor for her whole life. As she has shared with us all tonight in her personal essay, *“Inviting YOU to the Journey of Service,”* Desiree comes to this moment of her life with a deep sense of awe and irony. Like so many of us who have achieved a college degree, this could easily have been for Desiree a very different story, one of chaos, calamity, and crushing defeat. That did not happen – perhaps for a whole host of reasons; one of which was because Desiree found herself. Indeed, like Mahatma Gandhi, Desiree found herself in the best possible way, by losing herself in the service of others. For so many, service is often just a polite and delicate sampling of a few good works, with the hope that one or another item might impress a future employer. For Desiree, this list is a kaleidoscopic tapestry of Civic Arts personified: TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) mentoring for the Delaware County Courthouse; Peer Mentoring with the Office of Student Multicultural Affairs first year multicultural and first generation college students; CLEAR (Choosing Learning Environments with Alcohol Respect) programs; Circle K leadership; Campus Girl Scouts; VIVA; Operation Annie; House of Peace and Justice member; College Democrats member; Economics Honor Society Tutor; and Telecom Assistant for OWU Communications. Then Teaching! Dempsey, Shanahan, and Buckeye Valley Middle Schools. The highest calling...

## The Rabbi Andi Fisher Berlin Award for Outstanding Jewish Leadership

*Samantha Cacciatore*

*“When we can fully embrace all of ourselves, we become whole. When we honor every individual in our community, we develop skill and emotional depth otherwise inaccessible. May each soul, each element of the divine in us, find its place in our community. And through them, may we find the highest of ourselves.”*

Rabbi Andi Fisher Berlin, *I am Rebecca*

Samantha Cacciatore also is a Rebecca. It is something she cannot shake loose. Bred in the bones of her sacred heritage is this power of the feminine to work God’s will in the world, in spite of all the curses and contradictions that confront us. It is through that power that Samantha helped lead the vision, with a few of her friends and the scholarly support of Associate Chaplain for Jewish Community, Dr. Michael McOsker, to resurrect the dry bones of OWU Hillel, and making it yet again a safe haven and sanctuary of spiritual succor for Jewish students. Sam also helped plan the Passover meal for all faith groups on campus, and she demonstrated further leadership through the Interfaith Leadership Institute of the national Interfaith Youth Core, which she integrated effectively into her projects on campus. Yet Samantha’s vision and vitality as a leader of our Jewish community goes even deeper and broader. With an extreme passion for social justice, especially in relation to the Veterans Administration, and people with mental illness and PTSD, Samantha has served the veterans’ programs at Newton City Hall, the elderly of Delaware at Willowbrook Christian Village, and the inner-city children at the OWU Columbus Initiative, Linden Elementary. With courses in psychology, theatre, black world studies, science, classics, and English, and independent studies within the psychology, including work with autistic children, plus studies at the University of College Cork in Ireland, this Rebecca is raring to be her highest self; *Tikkun Olam* – the mending of the world.

**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**

*Leslie DeLorme Milton*

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*  
- John Quincy Adams

*"Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to 'jump at de sun.' We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground."*  
- Zora Neale Hurston

*"Wife, mother, hard working woman who loves God and family."*  
- Leslie Melton

*"Leslie has been busy nonstop this school year, especially with one assistant leaving and the hiring two new staff members, plus five new student interns. Yet she has been available to students, even when she barely has time to do so. She has taken on the university task to help organize Commencement. I would love to have her hard work recognized!"* (A student)

*"OWU is extremely lucky to have Leslie Melton. She is knowledgeable, strategic and positive, works extremely hard, and she truly loves working with students. Leslie has a great sense of humor and you never know when she'll break into song or decide to have some crazy ice breakers during meetings. Students love her and she's truly deserving of this award."* (A colleague)

*"Leslie is one of the most determined and resourceful leaders on campus. She heads a critically underserved and resourced department but makes the most out of what she has to work with. [We alumni] absolutely admire Leslie's resolve to fully support our student population as they make the transition from the OWU campus to the "real world" of work and careers."* (An alumnus)

*“Leslie approaches her work with a strong commitment to student success, both as undergraduates, and more importantly in preparing them for life after college. She brings a special blend of technical competence, strong communication skills, and advocacy for improvement and growth of the Career Services function at OWU. She is a wonderful asset to the OWU Administrative team, and she has had a positive impact on hundreds (probably thousands) of OWU graduates.”*  
(An alumnus)

*“Leslie’s dedication to our department has created an office that works diligently and tirelessly to provide students at Ohio Wesleyan with opportunities and advice that will benefit them long after they leave the University. She never expects more than she is willing to give and is always right beside us doing the hard work. She always encourages us to give our all and at the same time realizes that life and family are tantamount to happiness. Her sense of humor keeps us all on our toes and expecting the unexpected. She always looks for the positive in every situation and her vision of what The Office of Career Services can and will be is forward thinking and impressive. She is a pleasure to work for and with. Her heart is always with the students on this campus, helping them to achieve their goals, personally and professionally.”* (A colleague)

Leslie Melton joined the Office of Career Services at Ohio Wesleyan University as the Director in 2008. Prior to joining OWU, Leslie worked in Career Services at Ohio University, and interned in the Counseling and Student Development Center at Kishwaukee College. Leslie received both her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and her Master of Science in Education from Northern Illinois University. Leslie is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). She is also a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the American Association for Employment in Education (AAEE), the College Student Educators International (ACPA), the Midwest Association for Colleges and Employers (MwACE), and the Ohio Association for Employment in Education (OAEE). Her professional interests include career counseling and coaching, event planning, student engagement, employer relations, and multicultural, international, athlete, and graduate student development. Leslie truly exemplifies the very best of Ohio Wesleyan University – past, present, and future!

**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. Thomas Wolber*

Dr. Thomas Wolber is the metaphorical mascot of all that is best about Ohio Wesleyan University faculty. His intense passion, intellect, and resourcefulness abound with such depth and breadth that it is hard to describe him and his impact on the entire campus community. His personal and professional passions interweave like a symphonic stretto of a Bach fugue; his melodic but meandering mumblings merge into simultaneously sounding counterpoints of compassion, confrontation, and commitment, with variant degrees of mathematical intricacy, formality, symmetry, and thoughtful self-contradiction. At any given moment, his documentable references might be any blend of German Language, Literature, Civilization; Comparative Literature; Environmental Studies; Higher Education; homelessness; the theology of ecology; the injustice of student financial access to education; Agent Orange; the beauty and civil necessity of trees; the urgent issue of food security; community communications; classical music; and ethics - each and all concern laced with a heavy dose of insight and care for faith and social justice.

Dr. Wolber is the Ohio Conference Associate Professor of Modern Foreign Languages, holds a B.A. from Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Born in Germany, Thomas came to the United States in 1977. In addition to teaching all levels of German language, literature, and civilization, he is involved in research on comparative literature and inter-disciplinary studies. Recent scholarly presentations and publications have focused on the psychological disposition of 20th century men and women as evidenced in literature. Thomas is also seriously pursuing a career as a writer and has published many poems both in German and in German-American periodicals. He has traveled extensively throughout Eastern and

Western Europe. And, oh yes, he also serves on Delaware's Shade Tree Commission!

Professor Wolber's spirit and witness are manifest in this essay in the current issue of his publication, *Community Matters*:

### **OWU's Motto & Seal**

*"In lumine tuo videbimus lumen"* is Ohio Wesleyan's official motto. In English, it means "In Thy Light We Shall See Light" or, more plainly, "In Your Light We See Light." The motto is a quote from Psalms 36:9. The biblical "thou" is obviously a reference to God who is the creator of all life and the light in the darkness. After all, OWU was founded by Methodists in 1842 who looked at God as the bedrock of all things. The open book we see in OWU's seal is therefore the Bible, not just any old textbook. Maybe it even shows the page from whence the quote was taken. Thirty-two light rays or spokes emanate from the tome in the form of a wheel – the light of God's inspiration and guidance. The number 32 is no coincidence. Those interested in numerology know that it is a holy number laden with both Christian, non-Christian, and pre-Christian meanings. It often suggests completeness and perfection. There are 32 pieces on the chess board. Some have claimed that the face of God would be formed by 32 letters of the alphabet if we knew them all. An interpretation that makes sense in the context of a university is to say that the number represents the 32 areas of inquiry, paths of wisdom, and/or God's ministries. Surrounding the Bible is a triangular shield (the trinity) that protects us from worldly sins and wickedness. A shield is an armorial device, but there is no complementary sword or spear. It is intended for defensive and peaceful purposes only, not for militant ones. If we trust God's word, i.e., the Bible, we are safe and protected. There could be other meanings hidden in plain sight, but the essential message is clear: Ohio Wesleyan University was founded as a school deeply rooted in biblical values, as a shiny city upon a hill, and a righteous fortress in an imperfect world. Its graduates were meant to be followers of God, peacefully doing His will and performing His work. It might also be noteworthy to point out that OWU's seal does not condemn, reject, and retreat from the world. On the contrary, the world is the stage, theater, or arena where we must stand, speak, and act. OWU sees itself not separate from the world, but as a part of it.

## **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 and Society. Its charter provided that “the University is forever to be conducted on the most liberal principles, accessible to all religious denominations, 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  
Dr. Kim Lance**



Chemistry Professor Kim Lance was 28-year faculty member known for his kindness, passion for teaching, and dedication to advancing green and sustainable chemistry.

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