

# OWU

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY | FALL 2021

M A G A Z I N E

## Astonishing!

Record-Smashing Donations  
Transform the OWU Experience



After 18 months of pandemic, the first day of Fall 2021 classes was filled with joyous reunions, like this giant hug between former field hockey teammates **Bolu Ogunye '23** (background) of Hamilton, Ontario, and **Astrid Koek '22** of Maastricht, the Netherlands.

(Photo by Paul Vernon)





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OWU is one of America's leading universities for preparing Ph.D. scientists, especially women in life sciences. Many have helped lead our battle against COVID.

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On the cover: Senior **Karrington Ewell**, a politics & government major from Prince George's County, Maryland, shows her joy for the apartment-style living in the brand new Bradford Milligan Hall, where she is a resident assistant.

Cover photo by James DeCamp



## We're investing in the student experience, and our world's future

**O**n a glorious weekend in early October the entire OWU community came together to celebrate the record-breaking Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign. More than 1,000 alumni, parents, and friends came to campus to share in the celebration and Homecoming/Fall Family Weekend.

The Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign brought \$238 million in gifts to advance the mission of Ohio Wesleyan University. The campaign dramatically increased endowment support for scholarships and financial aid, for the student experience defined by The OWU Connection, and for support of the faculty, who are the heart and soul of the university. The campaign provided a transformation of the physical campus, both the historic academic campus and the residential campus. More than half of the beds on campus are in buildings that are new or fully renovated as a result of this campaign.

Nearly 20,000 people made gifts to Ohio Wesleyan through the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign.

**“More than half of the beds on campus are in buildings that are new or fully renovated as a result of this campaign.”**

Each gift represents gratitude for the impact of the university on the lives and families of the donor, and each gift represents confidence in the future of the university as an undergraduate, residential university where lives are

transformed and graduates are prepared to change the world.

It is especially remarkable that the final 15 months of the campaign took place during a global pandemic, when we were unable to meet with donors in normal ways, and when all of us were distracted by the unprecedented challenge of COVID. Yet, it was in this period that the campaign achieved its greatest success and left its greatest mark on the campus, with the construction of Bradford Milligan Hall and the full renovation of Smith Hall as the home of all first-year students.

As I think about the impact of a campaign that concluded in the midst of a pandemic, I am reminded of two of the many lessons the pandemic taught us.

First, while we saw that it is possible to continue teaching and learning in a remote environment, we learned that there is no substitute for the experience of being in residence, on campus. The entire campus is a laboratory for learning. Learning happens in the classrooms, laboratories, and studios; on the playing fields; in the dining halls, residence halls, and Greek houses on the Hill; while passing one another on the JAYwalk; and engaging in all of the ways that contribute to a well-rounded education. The campaign allowed us to invest deeply in the physical campus, and the pandemic reminded us again why this is so important.

Second, the pandemic has reminded us of the fundamental value of liberal arts education to our society. The pandemic has called for leadership in public policy, scientific inquiry, public



*Rock Jones speaking at the October 1 campaign celebration to announce the results of the record-setting Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign.*

health, social service, and more. I have been fascinated to learn of the ways in which Ohio Wesleyan alumni have been at the forefront of much of the work of the pandemic. In this issue of *OWU Magazine*, you will read about several women who have been instrumental in the scientific work of the pandemic. All graduated in the last 15 years, and all benefitted from the powerful experience of being on campus in close collaboration with faculty mentors as they completed their undergraduate work.

The campaign allowed us to invest even more deeply in the student experience and in the work of the faculty who shape this experience, and once again, the pandemic reminded us why this is so important.

As you read this issue, I hope you will feel both the gratitude and the confidence that inspired the success of the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign, and that inspires the work of every person on campus, every day. I can think of no work more important to the future health and well-being of our society.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rock Jones".

**Rock Jones**  
President, Ohio Wesleyan University  
Twitter: @owu\_rockjones

# letters

## OWU Magazine is back, thanks to OWU alumni

As you may know, these are challenging times for colleges across the country, with a shrinking number of college-age students, increasing expenses and competition, aging facilities—and a global pandemic.

Ohio Wesleyan completed a review of its academic and administrative programs in the first half of 2020, and one of the cost-cutting measures identified was to cease publication of *OWU Magazine* and rely, instead, on electronic communication with alumni and parents. That's why you have not seen an issue of *OWU Magazine* since May 2020.

We regretted having to end the magazine, which had been published for more than a century, but we have a profound obligation to hold down tuition costs for our students. The cost to produce, print, and mail a magazine to about 25,000 alumni and parents three times a year has grown substantially.

Beginning around the 2020 holidays, however, we began to hear requests for us to bring back the magazine. Those voices continued to grow louder throughout 2021.

Then, the chorus gained an indomitable power this summer, with an incredibly generous gesture by two OWU alumni.

During a friendly conversation I had with an alumnus at OWU's double-commencement in June—where his grandchild was graduating—we chatted about the magazine, and he asked me about our budget. Within a couple of weeks, I learned he and a fellow alumnus had donated enough to fund the production of two issues a year for the next five years.

We in the offices of Communications and Alumni Relations were overwhelmed.

Fittingly, our cover story for this issue of the reborn *OWU Magazine* tells the story of how OWU alumni and friends made the 7-year Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign a record-smashing success. It is not hyperbole to say that you have transformed the campus and created a brighter future for this university. As Rock Jones says, "We know that philanthropy is the difference-maker for American higher education."

And alumni literally saved this magazine. The joy you see on the faces of the students' pictured on the cover and in the article, mirrors the gratitude of faculty and staff across Ohio Wesleyan.

We pledge to fill *OWU Magazine* with stories and photography that will inform, fascinate, inspire, and entertain. In addition to providing news about your university, we'll focus largely on OWU alumni who are changing the world—like the young scientists in the article "Rising to the Challenge of a Pandemic." And through Class Notes, we will continue to give you updates about your classmates.

Please keep in touch with us. Send us news for Class Notes, whether it's a new job or achievement, a wedding photo, or baby announcement. Send a letter (magazine@owu.edu) responding to an article in the magazine. See more—including expanded Class Notes—at [owu.edu/magazine](http://owu.edu/magazine), and follow us on social media at the sites noted below.

Thank you for all you do for Ohio Wesleyan University—and thank you for "creating tomorrow" for *OWU Magazine*.

—Will Kopp, Editor

### Share your opinions!

Email us at: [magazine@owu.edu](mailto:magazine@owu.edu)  
tweet @OhioWesleyan

Send us a letter: *OWU Magazine*  
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Letters may be  
edited for length  
and clarity.

# OWU

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2021

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**Alumni Survey** The OWU Alumni Survey is coming to your email inbox in late January. It's important that we hear your voice, so please make sure we have your most current email address and contact information. Please go to [owu.edu/emailupdate](http://owu.edu/emailupdate) today and update your information.

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## **Back Porch takes center stage**

Ohio Wesleyan University's first artist-in-residence, **Andrew Wilson '13**, smiles broadly when he discusses the inspiration for his *Back Porch* outdoor sculpture—a 14-foot high, 8-foot wide, and 8-foot deep metal monument that honors generations of OWU Black lives and legacies.

"The back porch of the House of Black Culture was an important space for community, socializing, and rest," says Wilson, who studied fine arts at OWU and later earned a master of fine arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

"It was a liminal space between outside and inside where we could be both highly visible and invisible. It was a space of respite for so many. *Back Porch* is a way to honor this space and its importance to Black life at Ohio Wesleyan."

The Corten steel cuboid sculpture, which stands on the lawn outside Elliott Hall, was dedicated at a ceremony October 2.

The size of the artwork is based on the volume of the original screened-in

back porch at the House of Black Culture, a residential refuge for Black students and their allies for more than 50 years and rebuilt in 2019.

The monument's location on Ohio Wesleyan's academic campus also is significant, Wilson says.

"This work becoming part of the visual landscape of the academy and the area of serious thought and study will place Black space within those parameters as well," he says. "Visibility and representation are important and valuable tools to see oneself as part of the whole."

Wilson created and installed *Back Porch* with assistance from sculpture professor Jonathan Quick. Together, they spent months building the piece inside Haycock Hall. In June they used an industrial forklift to move the artwork and install it.

Quick says it was rewarding to work with Wilson to create public art with such an important message. "It is reminiscent of reductive minimalist sculpture," Quick says. "Its meaning isn't immediately accessible, but it is

powerful." He believes once people read the bronze plaque explaining *Back Porch*, they will be struck by its symbolism and significance in recognizing Black space and Black lives on campus.

Wilson's artist residency and sculpture creation were supported by The Ebb and Teena Haycock Public Art Endowment, which **Lorry Haycock Luikart '73** created in 2020 in memory of her father and mother. Ebb Haycock, a fine arts professor, created OWU's first foundry and ran it for more than three decades until his retirement in 1985; Teena Haycock served as a secretary of the Theatre Department.

"I'm very grateful that the Public Art Fund, initiated in my parents' names could support this endeavor," she says. "Ebb and Teena were civil rights proponents and next-door neighbors and close friends with B.A. Jones, for whom, of course, the House of Black Culture is named. Thanks to Andrew's activism, Rock's open heart and mind, and the blood, sweat, and tears of Professor Jon Quick, this important addition to OWU's campus has come to be."



Andrew Wilson (left) works with sculpture professor Jonathan Quick to install Wilson's *Back Porch* metal artwork on the academic side of campus. The 14-foot-tall metal sculpture honors OWU Black lives and legacies.



Photos by Paul Vernon

## A summer of science for 53 students

Summer science research was back in full force this year, with 53 students and 18 faculty members working together in campus labs, in the field, and at other universities. All of the students presented their work at the Patricia Belt Conrades Summer Science Research Symposium in September. A few of the projects are shown here.



**Alejandra Coronel-Zegarra '22**, a biochemistry and management economics major, was one of 13 students working with Chris Wolverton, professor of biological sciences, on NASA-funded research into how plants respond to gravity. The team investigated to find the genes that cause plants to respond to gravity even when they are mutated to not contain starch.

*(Photo by Paul Vernon)*



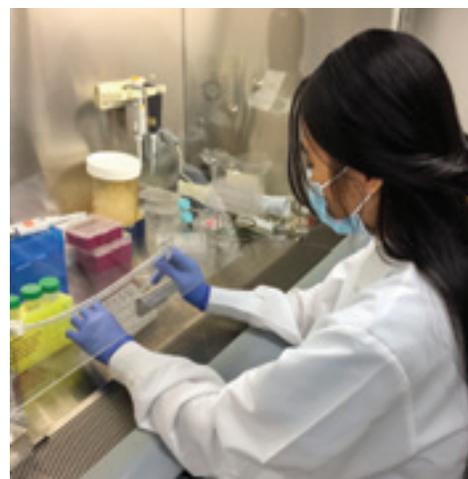
**Jay McConkey '23** (left) and **Gram Dick '22** (center), working with Associate Professor of Environment & Sustainability Nathan Rowley, used a drone to calculate the amount of sunlight falling on rooftops of campus buildings in the summer and winter. Their calculations could be used to determine the most effective spots for solar panels.

*(Photo by Paul Vernon)*



Bethany Rudd, assistant professor of chemistry, worked with biochemistry major **Ali Amer '23** to examine the nature of interactions between ibuprofen and a component of our cell membranes. Investigating this piece of the puzzle helps us understand how ibuprofen and other medications work in our bodies.

*(Photo by James DeCamp)*



**Hien Ngoc Mai '22** assisted with medical research this summer at Washington University School of Medicine. The work involved developing biomarkers to help diagnose neurodegenerative diseases.

*(Photo courtesy of Hien Ngoc Mai)*



Photo by Paul Vernon

## Commencement combo celebration

These two photos illustrate the story of a university and its students learning to adapt and persist.

Above is the view of Merrick Lawn at the exact time that the 2020 OWU Commencement was originally scheduled, May 9. The Class of 2020 graduated without a ceremony—and if you look closely, you can see one of the few students who donned their regalia and returned to campus for a few photos to commemorate what would have been “their day.”

A long year later, on May 29, 2021, with Bishop spirit, innovation, vaccines, and testing, we were able to celebrate the 176th and 177th OWU Commencements on a cool, cloudy, and glorious June day in Selby Stadium. The 2020 and 2021 classes marched into Selby, cheered on by family and friends—a proud home crowd on both sides of the stadium.

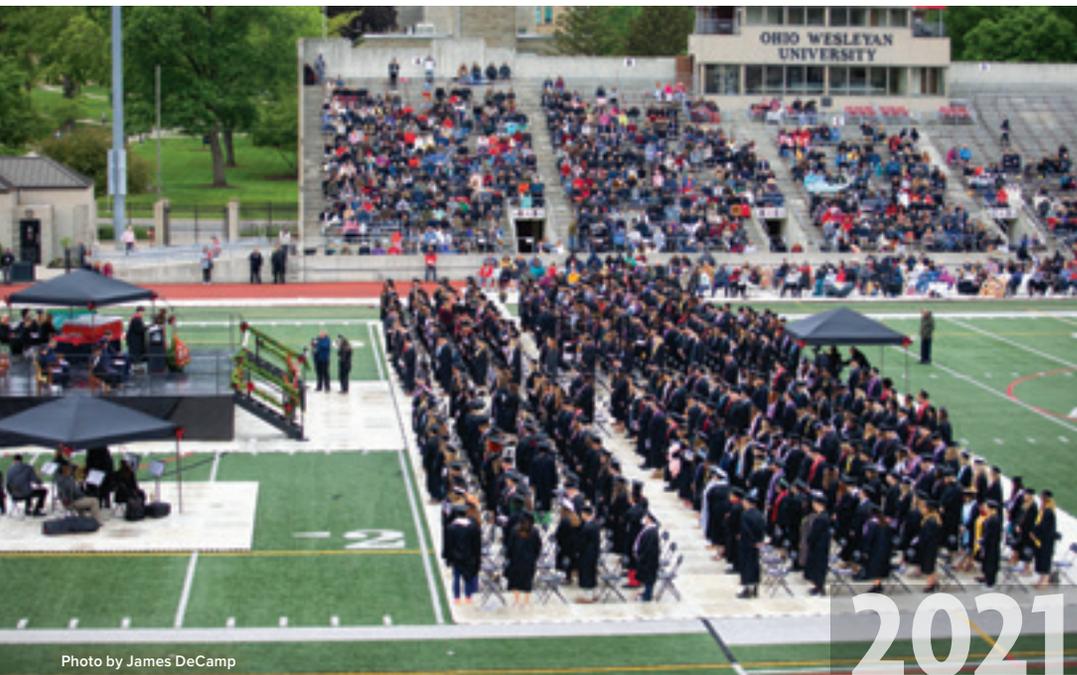


Photo by James DeCamp

**“The real story is the creativity, ingenuity, and profound commitment you brought to the work before you. You never stopped. You persisted.”**

—President Rock Jones

## Moving the needle on student success

Ohio Wesleyan is partnering with Credo, a higher education consulting firm, in a 5-year initiative to enhance student success. Headed by Professor of Psychology Vicki DiLillo (right) and Dean of Student Services Brad Pulcini (left), the Moving the Needle project will unite the full campus community in

developing, implementing, and enhancing the conditions, practices, systems, and solutions that foster student success and retention. Moving the Needle launched this autumn with a comprehensive assessment of the student experience across all aspects of campus life. Information gathered during this phase will guide our future work to enhance the student experience from enrollment to graduation.





## Six new faculty join OWU

The six new assistant professors who joined OWU this fall share one important trait: interdisciplinarity. All are able to draw on multiple areas of study within their own courses, and they will work with faculty across other areas and divisions to create deeper learning opportunities for students. The new faculty are (as pictured from left):

**Cortney Knipp**, Performing Arts. MFA, University of Texas at Austin. An applied theatre facilitator and community-based artist, she was the inaugural artistic director and program manager of UVA Acts at the University of Virginia, an educational theatre program promoting equitable, vibrant spaces for working and learning.

**Alejandra Rojas Silva**, Fine Arts. Ph.D., Harvard University. Her research focuses on representations of the natural world in relation to indigenous, colonial, and contemporary forms of identity.

**Brian Granger**, Performing Arts. Ph.D., University of California-Santa Barbara; MFAs, Ohio State University and New York University. He is a theatre book writer, playwright, theatre scholar, songwriter, and actor/director whose works explore how we treat one another across race, gender, and class.

**Bona Kang**, Education. Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley. Her K-6 classroom experience includes teaching-research partnerships with a college-affiliated

lab school in western Massachusetts, and her research interests focus on elementary school children's cognition and development in mathematics.

**Will Georgic**, Economics. Ph.D., Ohio State University. His research explores environmental problems likely to worsen with climate change to inform more efficient policy decisions.

**Antron Mahoney**, Africana, Gender, and Identity Studies. Ph.D., University of Louisville. His research interests include critical explorations of embodiment and freedom, exploring race, gender, and sexuality theories and politics in the context of social movements and leadership.

## Chief diversity officer works toward antiracist campus

As OWU's chief diversity officer, Dawn Chisebe, will work to lead, build, and strengthen Ohio Wesleyan's diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies and initiatives.

Chisebe had held the role on an interim basis for just over a year before being named to the permanent position at the end of September.

"Dawn Chisebe is tireless and fearless in her efforts to make Ohio Wesleyan an antiracist space, and the university already has made important strides thanks to her good work," says President

Rock Jones.

"I am truly honored to be able to continue to build relationships across campus and work together to strengthen our commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and ensure that we are actively working toward being an antiracist campus," Chisebe says. "I want to work closely with our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and our community partners as we move forward together."

Chisebe reports to Jones and chairs OWU's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council and oversees the DEI Grant

program, created earlier this year to financially support projects by students and employees to advance the OWU campus as an antiracist space. She also continues to teach classes as a member of the Department of Africana, Gender, and Identity Studies.



# comfortzones

## Brian Emerick: Smith Hall

In the past decade, OWU has transformed the residential experience, with new apartments, new and renovated houses, a completely renovated Smith Hall serving as a first-year community, and equally important, a renewed mission from Residential Life staff and student leaders to foster community and help students. Over the past four years, Brian Emerick, director of residential life, has overseen this work, from improving room selection and move-in processes, to organizing fun events, to reimagining the role of resident assistants.

### 1 Res life cheerleader

Brian loves working in Residential Life. "I see so much potential in the residential experience. It's what drives me to work hard every day to improve the experience OWU students have in their residential communities."

### 2 Community building

The renovated Smith features a variety of common spaces that encourage students to get out of their rooms and join their friends in work (study rooms and meeting spaces) and play (game room, kitchen, fitness center, and theater).

### 3 10,000 lakes & hotdish

A born Minnesotan, Brian loves tater tot hotdish, the Twins and Vikings, and all things outdoors. Listen closely for a Minnes-ohh-ta accent the next time you're with Brian. He grew up there and loves returning to visit family.

### 4 Yoda best!

This mug describes Brian's life: family, Star Wars, humor, and coffee. He's a loud and proud soccer dad, loves science fiction TV and movies, tells dad jokes, and relies on Minnesota's Caribou Coffee to keep up with his two kids, dogs, and cat.

### 5 A travelin' man

He loves to travel. He's been to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Mexico, and China, where he picked up these terracotta warrior statues. His next two trips abroad will be to Italy and France.

### 6 Historic reader

Brian loves reading and history. He's currently reading *Salt* by Mark Kurlansky, which tells the story of how the salt trade shaped history, cultures, and geography around the world. He earned his B.A. in history at Gustavus Adolphus College. He later earned a master's degree in student development in higher education at the University of Iowa and an MBA at St. Cloud State University.

### 7 A new runner

He started running this year and ran his first 10K in September. He's now training for a half marathon and hopes to run a full marathon someday.

### 8 Late night help

Brian and his team created a Residential Life Late Night Desk to give students a comfortable way to interact with Res Life in the evenings. He says, "I can't emphasize enough how truly collaborative all of these improvements have been, and how fortunate we are to receive all the support everyone has offered Residential Life."





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# Leaping into the Future

OWU's Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign shattered giving records, transformed the campus, and is opening life-changing opportunities for students.

By Kathy Lynn Gray  
and Ericka Kurtz



Volleyball players **Ava Kutilek '25** (left) and **Neah White '24** and men's basketball player **Tony Carter '24** celebrate their bright and newly refurbished home court, Branch Rickey Arena. Ava is from Wilmette, Illinois, undecided major; Neah is a psychology major from Indianapolis; and Tony is a communications major from Brecksville, Ohio.

Jumping photos by James DeCamp

**If you haven't visited Ohio Wesleyan in a few years, prepare to be astounded. Thanks to the overwhelming success of the recently concluded Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign, the beloved and historic OWU campus has been refurbished, renovated, and updated for a new generation of students—and alumni—to enjoy.**

The transformation on campus is beautiful, and it extends beyond the physical aspects. Scholarships and financial aid, experiential learning through The OWU Connection, faculty development and recruitment, and the overall learning environment all benefit from the tremendous generosity of OWU's alumni and friends, which raised nearly \$238 million, shattering the original campaign goal of \$200 million.

"We know that philanthropy is the difference-maker for American higher education, particularly for small colleges like Ohio Wesleyan," says President Rock Jones. He says each donation is both a measure of gratitude to OWU and a measure of confidence in the institution and its future.

Jones believes the money raised—the most ever in any OWU campaign—ensures the university's longevity. "The institutions that will thrive in the future will be those that benefit from philanthropy," he says.

The campaign's impact is also immediate and has enhanced the OWU experience of students throughout the seven-year campaign that began in 2014. "Donors make gifts because they want to create opportunity, and the opportunity is created when the money is put to work," Jones says. "When we receive gifts, we want them to be put to work immediately."

**Justice Clark '24**, a zoology major from Oklahoma City, didn't have to wait to benefit from the campaign. He credits his scholarship support for helping him make his success a reality. "During my time as a Dicke Scholar, I have been given the opportunity to meet community trailblazers from diverse areas, including

academia, entrepreneurs, and healthcare, who took the time to share their remarkable knowledge and insight," he says. "Additionally, being a Dicke Scholar has allowed me to cast my net wide and possibly participate in OWU's study abroad program in Tanzania, which I would have never envisioned doing before attending OWU."

## Connecting Today

Planning for the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign began at a board of trustees retreat in February 2014, where priorities and a timeline were discussed. By May, the campaign goal of \$200 million was set, and two months later, the quiet phase of the effort began.

"We had big aspirations, and we felt the best opportunity to meet those goals was over a period of seven years," Jones says. "Some were concerned that the goal was too high. But we felt that the needs we identified, with the vision in place, would be fulfilled in the most robust way with a campaign of this magnitude."

By the time the campaign had its public launch in October 2017, \$139 million had been raised from donors, and the funds were already transforming the campus and student experience. The campaign goal was met in the fall of 2019, but with urging from campaign co-chairs, **John and Kathie Bradford Milligan '83**, of the San Francisco Bay area, and **Kevin McGinty '70** and his wife Nancy, of Moreland Hills, Ohio, trustees decided to keep going to see how much more could be raised by the campaign's planned conclusion.

In the final years of the campaign, Vice President of Advancement **Natalie Milburn Doan '03** and her team contended with the fundraising challenges presented by the



*The new Bradford Milligan Hall apartment building, with three SLU houses on Rowland Avenue.*



COVID-19 pandemic.

“We were facing limited opportunities to travel and meet with potential donors,” Doan says. “But we never wanted to use the pandemic as a reason to not keep moving forward. I think the pandemic propelled advancement staff to excel in spite of the situation—we were determined. Our advancement staff quickly adjusted to more phone calls and the world of Zoom to meet with donors, and our donors very graciously pivoted as well. Together, we worked to keep the momentum and the impact going for OWU and for our students.”

“Natalie’s taken it to a whole new level,” says Kevin McGinty. “As co-chairs we do some work, but it’s really the staff who do the big, big lifting.”

John Milligan says even the pandemic could not stanch the loyalty and generosity of OWU alumni and friends. “We had a great breadth of donors, people coming from far and wide to donate. There were people’s passion projects and money flowing in from unexpected places.”

By the end of the campaign on June 30, 2021, nearly 20,000 people had donated to the campaign, including

6,896 new donors, of which 218 gave \$50,000 or more. The Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign was celebrated during Homecoming & Family Weekend, October 1-2, which included the dedication of Bradford Milligan Hall, OWU’s new apartment-style residence hall; an all-campus celebration and campaign announcement on the JAYWalk; and many alumni events that had been on hold, including 50th reunions for the Classes of 1970 and 1971.

Nancy McGinty says it was rewarding to learn about all the successful OWU graduates and

to see their generosity. “When you initiate a campaign it sends a message to everyone that we are on the cusp of something great,” she says. “At the end of the campaign, you’re at the moment when we make that greatness happen.”

The campaign’s impact is two-fold, Kevin McGinty says. “It reinvigorated our investor base to let them know we still have a very vibrant, forward-looking product to offer the next generation of students. And it showed we could reinvigorate our physical landscape, the campus itself, to provide a comfortable, safe environment.”

**“We know that philanthropy is the difference-maker for American higher education.”**

- Rock Jones

## The First 7 Years of Impact

### Fitness for Body & Mind February 2014

As the OWU Board approves the quiet launch of the 7-year campaign, **Louis Simpson '58** and his wife and business partner, Kimberly Querrey, donate \$8 million to support the renovation of Edwards Gymnasium and the transformation of the former Pfeiffer Natatorium into the new Simpson Querrey Fitness Center (top left), which now includes classrooms and Januzzi Dance Studio.

### Expanding The OWU Connection May 19, 2014

**John and Kathie (Bradford) Milligan '83** donate \$5 million to support expansion of The OWU Connection, the unique curricular program that blends student research, travel, internships, and service to help students Think Big, Go Global, and Get Real. A major campaign initiative, more than \$20 million will be raised to provide OWU Connection experiences for students for years to come, like the biology travel-learning class pictured above right in Utah.



**Mohammad Niazi '22 (left) and Brooke Hall '23** celebrate near the OWU Connection office in Merrick Hall. Mohammad, a communications major from Karachi, Pakistan, and Brooke, an exercise science major from Julian, Pennsylvania, have had internships in New York and Florida, respectively.

## Renewing Campus

Campaign and university leaders were committed to transforming OWU's physical campus.

The Milligans saw the need to update OWU's residential campus when they began looking at colleges with their oldest child, **Bradford Milligan '15**. "When we'd tour other campuses, the residential buildings were way above what was at Ohio Wesleyan," remembers Kathie, who graduated from OWU with a speech communications major. "We were looking at it from the lens of students looking at colleges, and we knew that was making it harder for OWU to compete."

John, who majored in chemistry, thought the physical conditions of OWU's residential campus did not align with the rest of the OWU experience. "It was clear that OWU had a lot of needs," says John, who has been on the OWU board since 2010 and is currently its chairman. John's connections with OWU run deep. His great-

grandparents met at OWU, and his grandfather, **Robert L. Milligan '22**, was both a graduate and a board member.

The McGintys also saw the great need to refresh campus, particularly the residence halls. Kevin, who grew up in Cleveland and was a first-generation college student, didn't care what the OWU residence halls were like when he was living there. "I was just so happy to not be sleeping in a room with my brothers," he laughs. But as an OWU board member for 15 years, Kevin realized that small liberal arts colleges had to keep moving forward.

"If you can't get kids to go to Ohio Wesleyan because of the dorm, then how are they going to find out you have a terrific school?" asks Kevin.

"These historic campuses need a lot of love, and OWU needed a lot of love," says John.

As a result of the campaign, \$61 million worth of love has, or will, be funneled into campus buildings. By 2019,

### Endowed Chairs

April 2015

The estate of **Beatrice Knapp McDowell '40** makes a \$1 million gift to create an endowed faculty chair in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. During the course of the campaign, more than \$22 million will be raised to support OWU faculty.

### Merrick Hall Reborn

August 20, 2015

Thanks to an \$8 million gift from an anonymous donor, this 1873 jewel was refurbished with modern classrooms, an elegant third-floor meeting space, and the first-floor headquarters of The OWU Connection.

### Online Classes

May 2016

OWU debuts six online summer courses, supported by a gift from **David Miller '54**, enabling students to complete classes while also participating in OWU Connection-related travel experiences. Online summer offerings grew over the years and provided valuable experience to faculty, who were forced to move all classes online when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.



*Madison Miller '22 created a 501(c)3 nonprofit, The Veteran Narrative, which advocates for veterans mental health awareness, and she runs the organization from OWU's Delaware Entrepreneurial Center. Madison is a business and psychology major from Coshocton, Ohio.*



transformations included—east of Sandusky Street—the renovation of Merrick Hall, Edwards Gymnasium, and

Branch Rickey Arena as well as construction of Simpson Querrey Fitness Center and upgrades to the Luttinger Family Tennis Center. West of Sandusky, the campaign funded the creation of the Delaware Entrepreneurial Center, the construction of three small living duplexes (Sloan, Dicke, and Dittrick houses), Gillespie Honors House, and the Butler A. Jones House of Black Culture, as well as the renovation of the Phi Delta Theta House.

More upgrades followed in 2019 under the umbrella of the Residential Campus Renewal Plan, with projects to completely renovate Smith Hall to house all first-year students, with a dining hall and gym, and to construct Bradford Milligan Hall apartments for seniors. Both

**SLU Houses**  
**October 6, 2016**

*A new era of Small Living Units begins with the dedication of the Dittrick House (inset above), the first “SLUplex” and first new student housing construction in 50 years. The building is named in recognition of **Doug Dittrick '55**, whose \$1.5 million gift funded the construction. Two more SLU homes would be built along Rowland Avenue with gifts from Jim and Janet Dickie and **Tim and Lisa Sloan P'13 and P'16**.*

**Happy Anniversary!**  
**October 19, 2017**

*OWU's 175th anniversary celebration includes the public-phase launch of the \$200 million Connect Today, Create Tomorrow fundraising campaign. During the leadership phase, begun in 2014, the campaign received gifts totaling over \$140 million.*

**Scholarships**  
**August 2016**

*A gift of more than \$4.5 million from the estate of **James Morris '44, M.D.**, will be used to create one of the university's largest endowed student scholarships. Throughout the campaign, more than \$47 million will be donated to support scholarships and financial aid.*



Zoology major **Justice Clark '24**, from Oklahoma City, loves living in the rebuilt Butler A. Jones House of Black Culture.

projects were completed in time for the beginning of fall semester this year. Lead donors for the Residential Renewal project included **Kara Trott '83**; **Richard Bohr '43** and Georgette Brusak Bohr; Sharon and **Rob Hickson '78**; **Dan Glaser '82**; **Marcella McDonnell Stevens P'18** and **Gregory Stevens P'18**; **Kathy Boles '71** and Alton Smith; and **Vik Malhotra '87**.

Finally, iconic Slocum Hall, including the Slocum Reading Room, is now being renovated and restored, thanks to a gift from an anonymous donor, and will open in Fall 2022.

Bob Gitter, professor of economics, says, "The campus looks better than it has in my 45 years here."

## An OWU Experience for All

Gitter also is impressed with how the campaign is expanding scholarships. A total of \$68.4 million was raised for financial aid, scholarships, and The OWU Connection, the university's signature program of experiential learning embedded in a vibrant liberal arts curriculum.

"Our campus now is more diverse than it's ever been in terms of race and culture and income levels," Gitter says. "I have so many students who are first-generation college students, and the financial support is so important to them."

One of those first-generation students, **Brittani Stiltner**

### Honors House

August 2017

*The Gillespie Honors House opens, housing 27 students and providing endless educational opportunities, thanks to a \$2.5 million gift from **Robert Gillespie '66** and **Ann Wible Gillespie '67**.*

### Launching Pad for Entrepreneurs

August 2018

*OWU launches the interdisciplinary Carol Latham Entrepreneurial Scholars Program for students seeking to become the next generation of business trailblazers. A gift from **Carol Hillkirk Latham '61** helps to fund the program, as well as the new Delaware Entrepreneurial Center at Ohio Wesleyan University, a university-city-county partnership that houses local start-ups, including some launched by OWU students.*

### House of Black Culture

May 18, 2019

*The reconstructed Butler A. Jones House of Black Culture, in the same location at 65 Oak Hill, welcomed back former residents during Reunion Weekend.*



Among the first-year students thrilled to live in the newly renovated—and air-conditioned—Smith Hall are, from left, business major **Kathy Habian** from Medina, Ohio; undecided major **Avery Panozzo** from Denver, Colorado; genetics major **Spencer Amacher** from Blacksburg, Virginia; and **Mindi Klaus**, a microbiology and zoology major from Marion, Ohio.

'23, from Tiffin, Ohio, has benefited from the campaign in numerous ways. The oldest of six, she says she never could have afforded OWU without the scholarships she was awarded. A triple major in Spanish, economics, and international studies, she's an intern with the university's Global Scholars Program (alumni donations pay for her stipend) and last spring participated in a two-day Career Trek in Cleveland through OWU's Career Connection, provided by campaign support.

Connect Today, Create Tomorrow also has directly impacted **Gram Dick '22**, a first-generation student from Bucyrus, Ohio, guided to OWU scholarships—and a major—by a faculty member.

"As I was taking my business classes, I was also

taking geography classes to fill other areas I needed in my liberal arts education." His professors helped him discover his true passion for geography.

"Ever since then, I have never been more interested in my work, and it has led me to seek further opportunities in this field," he says. In 2021 he worked with Associate Professor Nathan Rowley on a project in the Summer Science Research Program, using drones to determine the potential benefits of installing solar panels on the roofs of OWU buildings.

## The OWU Connection

A priority of the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign was to bolster The OWU Connection, an

### Slocum Hall May 17, 2019

OWU receives the largest single contribution in its history—a \$10-million anonymous contribution—to support the renovation of 123-year-old Slocum Hall. When it reopens in fall 2022, Slocum will house the Admission office and Career Connection, which helps students secure internships, build resumes, and develop the career-readiness skills.

### Residential Renewal Summer 2019

Several donors contribute \$20 million enabling OWU to expand a Residential Renewal program to completely renovate Smith Hall to house all first-year students and build a new apartment building for seniors. By the end of the campaign, two-thirds of all OWU students will be living in housing built or remodeled in the past decade.

### Global Scholars February 2020

**Thomas Palmer '69**, and his wife, Susan Palmer, create a \$2 million endowment for the Thomas W. Palmer '69 and Susan Palmer Global Scholars Program. Part of the Global Studies Institute, the program enrolls a dozen or more incoming students a year, and each receives a \$4,000 grant to pursue an international research or study project.

innovative curricular program to help students connect academic theory with real-world practice in a global context. The increased support aligns with OWU's goal to provide all students, regardless of their financial circumstances, with access to mentored research, internships, volunteer service, cross-cultural experiences, study abroad, and leadership development through The OWU Connection.

**Megan Ellis '05**, executive director of Career Connection, a program to help connect students with internships and prepare for the job market, says campaign funding has allowed her office to encourage students as early as their first year to think about careers and career development. Career Connection has launched seven career communities this year, led by Career Catalysts, industry experts who develop programs, lead workshops, and prepare students to succeed. Additionally, Career Treks give students externship and shadowing opportunities which help them navigate the uncertainties of choosing a career.

"Career Trek made me feel a lot better about my

college experience, because I met with alumni who talked about their careers and how they got there," says **Brittani Stiltner '22**. "Growing up as a first-generation college student, there was a lot of pressure to walk into college with a major and a job title in mind. But in talking with alumni, it was comforting to know I didn't have to have everything planned out for me and could explore my options."

Ellis says, "The campaign has made it possible to hire Career Catalysts and grow our internal team to expand our work with alumni and other professional connections." Campaign funds also have supported training for faculty to help show students how the skills they are developing in the classroom translate into skills that employers are looking for.

Another campaign-funded initiative is internship grants through Career Connection, which give students who are unable to afford the costs associated with having an internship, the opportunity to apply for grants to cover some of their expenses.

**Bulbul Bhati '23**, a computer science major from Delhi,



### **Branch Rickey Arena**

**April 2020**

*Following a lead donor gift by Doug Dittrick, a \$4 million renovation of Branch Rickey Arena begins to outfit OWU's home court with new flooring, bleachers, scoreboards, air-conditioning, and more (above left). Work is completed in December.*

### **Bradford Milligan Hall**

**August 2021**

*OWU's first apartment building opens, as 126 students move into the brand new, 46,500-square-foot building on Liberty Street at the end of Rowland Avenue (above right). The building was funded in part by gifts from John and Kathie (Bradford) Milligan.*

India, interned at RxNXT and Rev1 Ventures thanks to grants offered through Career Connection. “Through these grants, I managed to stay on campus over the summer and go back and forth from my work location, which was in Columbus,” Bhati says.

Bhati, who is interested in a career in data science and machine learning, says her internships gave her new perspectives because she worked alongside teams from other fields such as marketing, finance, and business development. She also applied her academic learning to her internships and vice versa.

“Using the skills I learned in class to solve real-life problems helped me grasp the concepts better. Now, whatever I study in the classroom, I try to analyze it from a real-life perspective or try to think of ways the concept can be applied in real life.”

Rock Jones says supporting students in their OWU Connection experiences is an essential part of the university’s mission. “By providing the support for students to extend their education beyond the campus through research, travel, and internships, we’re helping prepare students for the future, and students are bringing practical experience back to the classroom,” he says. “I’ve had students tell me how transformational these opportunities are for them.”

**Aliyah Owens**, a 2021 international business graduate, says her OWU Connection travel experience to Jamaica was life-changing. She traveled to Jamaica with **Daniela Black ’19** and Associate Professor of English Nancy Comorau to attend the Calabash Literary Festival and explore the intersection of literary production, reception, and distribution on its economic structure.

“The Theory-to-Practice trip to Jamaica was my first time out of the United States, so I had no idea what

to expect,” Owens recalls. “When I got there, there was such beauty in being able to see myself as a Black person and my experiences reflected in a culture that was not my own, and that made the world feel smaller and friendlier. I really needed and appreciated that connection and its timing, because my time at OWU was my first experience being away from the Black communities I grew up in.”

“We are incredibly grateful for donors, because Theory-to-Practice grants generally fully fund the travel experience,” Comorau says. “I work to keep costs low, but a \$1,500 to \$2,000 trip is still out of reach for many of our students.”

“I can’t stress enough that without this grant I would never have been able to afford to travel at all,” Owens shares. “Growing up, my family rarely had money or time to travel.”

The trip affected the rest of her time at OWU.

“Aliyah’s experience is the liberal arts experience we hope for,” Comorau says. “The world is complex, and disciplines are lenses to help us see that. Travel experiences expose students to a lot and act as accelerators. One day in another country can be like weeks in the classroom.”

Thanks to the generosity of OWU alumni and friends, the OWU experience will be transforming lives and creating brighter tomorrows for new generations of OWU students. ■

*Kathy Lynn Gray is a freelance writer from Columbus and is the mother of Emily Foster Whittaker ’08. Ericka Kurtz is director of university advancement communications.*

**See photos from 2021 Homecoming and Family Weekend at [owu.edu/magazine](http://owu.edu/magazine).**



## calendar of events

Alumni, family, and friends, join us for these upcoming events! Visit [owu.edu/alumni](http://owu.edu/alumni) for details and to register.

**Jan. 24 Alumni Survey** coming to your email box

**Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. (virtual): WOW Speaker Series: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Title IX and National Girls and Women in Sports Day**

**Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. (virtual): On Writing Mothertrucker and the Power of Female Friendship.**

Join Amy Butcher, director of creative writing and associate professor of English, as she reads and discusses the process of writing her new book, *Mothertrucker* (read an excerpt on Page 28). Butcher will be joined by writer and friend **Martha Park ’11**.

**Feb. 12 Naples Red & Black Luncheon**, Royal Poinciana Golf Club

**Feb. 16–17 We Are OWU Giving Campaign**

**Feb. 19 Branch Rickey Arena rededication**

**March 19 Fiji Pig Dinner**, on campus

**Apr. 26–29 Bishops for Bishops**, Team OWU Giving Campaign

**May 12–13 SAE Reunion**, on campus

**May 13–15 Reunion Weekend**, double reunion for classes ending in 1, 2, 6, and 7

**Save the Date: Homecoming & Family Weekend, Oct. 7–9**, on campus

**The WOW Factor**

Women of Ohio Wesleyan (WOW) was recognized as a 2021 Program of Excellence by the Independent College Advancement Associates (ICAA). Save the date for **WOW Weekend 2022, Nov. 4–5**.



# Rising to the Challenge of a Pandemic

Ohio Wesleyan is one of the leading universities in America for preparing Ph.D. scientists, especially women in the life sciences. Since 2020, many have helped lead our battle against COVID, and the pandemic has shifted their careers.

By Julianne Hill

As SARS-CoV-2 upended the world, Ohio Wesleyan University's many women of science have pivoted, tirelessly continuing their work with global impact.

Whether they are working at research centers, public health agencies, pharmaceutical companies, or hospitals, none as undergraduates could have foreseen the importance of being a scientist during a pandemic and influencing public health.

"With a pandemic, everything—all the work—is always the most important it can be," says **Sara Koenig '09**, director of COVID-19 Advanced Technologies and research assistant professor at Ohio State University College of Medicine. "The pressure is always severe; we're always on level nine. And that is pretty stressful."

Each says the hands-on, research-based educational philosophy that began at Ohio Wesleyan is the foundation for their scientific careers.

"I took a scanning and transmission electron microscopy class at OWU, and we actually got to operate the microscopes ourselves. That's unheard of," says **Briana Zellner '13**, now an ORISE (Oak Ridge Institute for Science

and Education) fellow working for the Centers for Disease Control. "Even in grad school, we weren't allowed to operate them."

According to the National Science Foundation, OWU ranks No. 21 among all universities in the nation in the percentage of women graduates who earn a Ph.D. in the life or biological sciences.

"The research experience at OWU gives the sense of what you need to finish graduate school, which is being persistent, and patient, and determined," says Laurie Anderson, Morris Family Professor of Natural Sciences.

Nationally, women drop out of STEM graduate programs at a higher proportion than men, but OWU women know what they're facing.

"As undergrads, they've experienced the kind of mentorship that they would receive as a

graduate student—really, a one-on-one apprenticeship—while at Ohio Wesleyan," Anderson says. "So, they know what they're getting into as they commit to a graduate program."

Amy Downing, professor of zoology, stresses that a Ph.D. requires a keen skill in hypothesis-driven investigation. "We teach in small classroom environments, and we're working on that skill right away."

And don't discount the mentorship of OWU's large team of women science professors with active research careers.

**Meredith Palmer '11**, a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow with Princeton University, says, "The strong female representation and mentorship in the OWU biology department was pivotal in helping get me to where I am today."

"Seeing women professors who have families and watching them navigate their roles as women in science and in their personal life and in academia was very inspiring," she says. "Having my introduction to academia be such a balanced, gender equitable department, I have that baseline, that expectation, that you can have a productive, diverse and creative ecosystem."



## Briana Zellner

B.A.,  
Microbiology,  
2013

Ph.D., Biological and  
Biomedical Sciences,  
University of Toledo

ORISE Microbiology Fellow, Centers for  
Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta, Georgia



*At the CDC, Briana Zellner loads patients' samples into an automated instrument used to detect SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, using the CDC serologic test.*

**“I took a scanning and transmission electron microscopy class at OWU, and we actually got to operate the microscopes ourselves. That’s unheard of. Even in grad school, we weren’t allowed to operate them.”**

*Photo courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

When Briana Zellner was hired by the Centers for Disease Control straight out of graduate school in February 2020, she believed she would be studying population immunity for diphtheria. But once the newly minted Ph.D. landed in Atlanta, she found herself tapped to become part of the CDC’s COVID-19 response.

Zellner is one of at least four OWU women graduates working at the CDC. She serves as a fellow in the microbial pathogenesis and immune response lab on a task force focused on developing an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay, more commonly known as ELISA, used to detect an antibody to SARS-CoV-2 in blood products.

“We were receiving serum samples from organizations like the Red Cross, and we were testing those samples for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2,” the Tiffin, Ohio, native says. “All of our data is for surveillance purposes, not for diagnostic purposes.”

That work served as the backbone of a scientific paper concluding that COVID-19 was present in the United States as early as December 2019.

“When you combine our surveillance data with

epidemiology data from other teams, that can help inform policy leaders about making decisions that promote and implement evidence-based policies for the greatest public health impact—things like masking, vaccination, and stay-at-home orders,” she says.

Once the vaccine distribution was established, her team moved to a newer, more precise assay on a luminex platform, which looks for three antigens instead of one, as ELISA does.

“This is the first time I’ve worked in public health, and you really get to see the direct impact, in real time,” Zellner says. “This is exciting. It’s really shown me that this is the direction I want to go in my career. I really do feel like I’m making a difference.”



*One of the benefits of Briana’s Georgia life is picking fresh peaches.*



## Allison Kolbe

B.A., Botany  
and Spanish,  
2012

Ph.D., Biology,  
Washington State  
University

Science Policy Analyst, Office of Science and  
Data Policy, U.S. Department of Health and  
Human Services, Washington, D.C.

Early on at OWU, independent studies pushed **Allison Kolbe '12** toward a career in science.

“My freshman year I did a freshmen tutorial class, and there were four students in the class. We were doing research in the lab, we were reading papers, we were doing the things that you do as a grad student, but we were doing it as freshmen. That just gave me a leg up that you don’t get at other schools.”

And when she took Laura Tuhela-Reuning’s microbiology class, she never imagined someday living through a pandemic—or doing work that informs the U.S. government’s response to one.

“I remember talking about things like the next pandemic could happen in our lifetimes and that really sticking with me at the time,” Kolbe says. “And now, we are living through this.”

In early 2019, Kolbe’s work at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services had focused on antimicrobial resistance and the opioid epidemic.

Once COVID-19 arrived, however, her data-driven research shifted to focusing on creating solutions to the pandemic’s most urgent public health issues, including rolling out the vaccine, modeling vaccine hesitancy, and determining the best target areas for outreach and education efforts.

“I got into science policy not totally knowing how I could apply my skill set. But there’s a good opportunity to apply data science to address pressing issues,” says Kolbe.

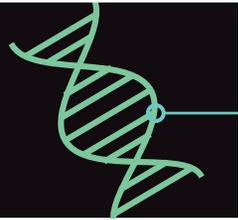
The pandemic has spotlighted health disparities among communities and racial and ethnic groups.

“As a fellow human being, that’s not an acceptable thing,” the Stowe, Ohio, native says. “That’s something I’m hoping to work on a lot in the future, whether that’s looking at COVID-19 or thinking about some of the next public health crises, like climate change and environmental justice issues.”



Photo by Mike Morgan

Allison Kolbe outside the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



## Claire Hoptay

B.A., Biochemistry and Microbiology, 2009

Ph.D., Microbiology and Immunology, George Washington University

Staff Scientist, Research Center for Genetic Medicine, Children's National Hospital, College Park, Maryland

**Claire Hoptay '09** and her lab at Children's National Hospital normally focus on airway-related research and childhood asthma. But shortly after COVID took hold, her group was assigned to build a new lab from scratch—this one serving as backup to existing infrastructure to handle the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

"There weren't that many cases in children at that time, but we didn't know if that would be the case," says Hoptay, who manages the lab along with her research duties. "We were getting anything and everything in place that could be ready to use in any scenario."

With the supply chain in disarray, that proved a challenge, "That meant a lot of hurry up and wait," the

Pittsburgh-area native says. "But as soon as the supplies and equipment came in, we'd rush in to set things up. Then, we'd realize what we'd need to tweak, order more things, and then wait again."

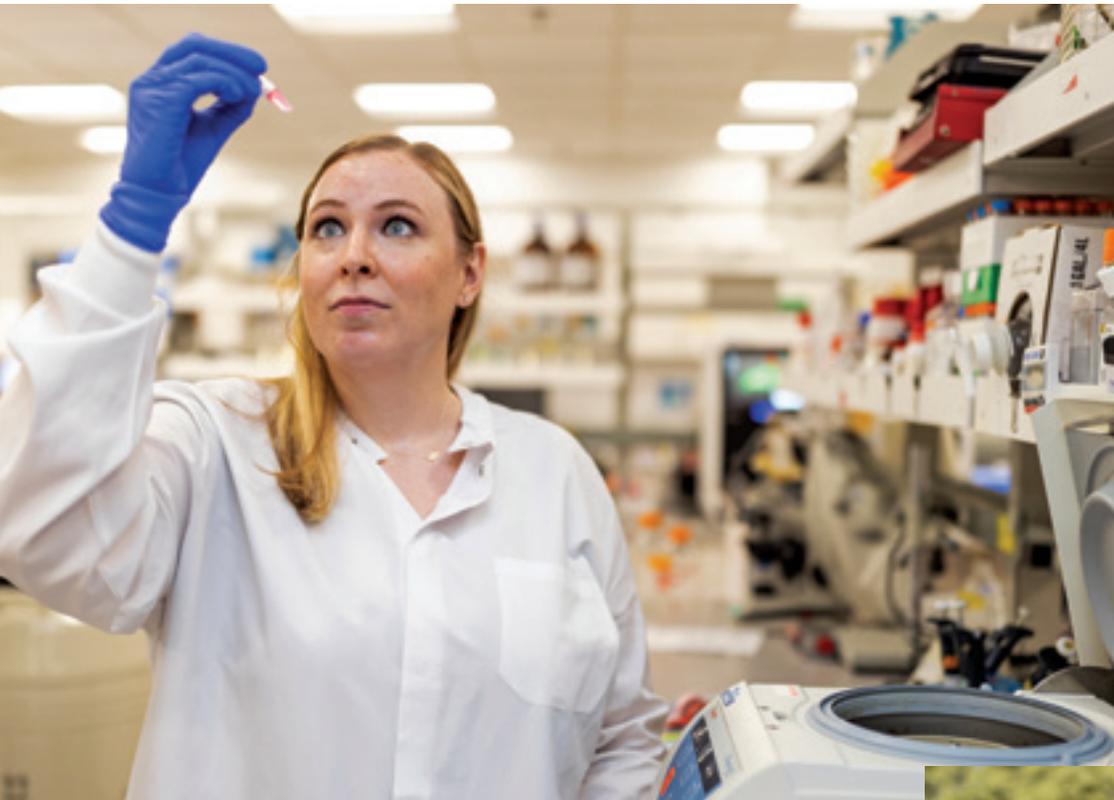
With the backup now in place, Hoptay has returned to her research on asthma while still keeping an eye toward COVID. "Will kids who have had COVID have a different asthma impact as they go forward?" she asks.

Hoptay, who has worked in the same lab since her Ph.D. dissertation, found that the pandemic pushed her into new territory—protocol development—and she enjoyed it.

"That was something new for me—troubleshooting in the lab," she says. "While I love my job now, I have confidence that if I wanted to go into R&D or to a biotech company, I could. The pandemic work has shown me that if the doors are there, I could go through them."

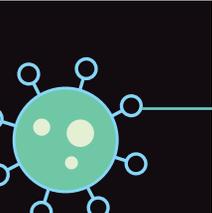
She says that confidence began with the preparation and mentorship at OWU.

"For science and STEM, the classes and the labs at OWU especially are great. There are so many labs that you have to take with your courses, which are standard at OWU but not at other schools," she says. "And there are just so many great female professors there. They are great examples of women being able to be in STEM and be successful. Having a professor and advisor that was a woman in chemistry was very powerful."



Photos by Tyler Mahal





## Sara Koenig

B.A., Botany-  
Microbiology,  
2009

Ph.D., Biomedical  
Sciences, Ohio  
State University

Director of COVID-19 Advanced Technologies and  
Research Assistant Professor, Ohio State University  
College of Medicine, Columbus, Ohio



As Ohio State University's director of COVID-19 advanced technologies, Sara Koenig was at the center of COVID testing at the university and in the state.

Photos by Wendy Pramik

A background in molecular biology helped pull Sara Koenig, a research assistant professor specializing in cardiac arrhythmias and focused on cholesterol, into Ohio State University's pandemic response with high throughput testing in March 2020.

"We set up this lab in 10 days, and it was an enormous effort with a team of about 50 people and everyone working 16-hour days, seven days a week," says Koenig. A partnership with the state of Ohio made the OSU COVID-19 lab an extension of the Department of Health, conducting coordinated COVID testing along with other Ohio health systems, including the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, and Children's in Dayton.

"Every month there was a new project, a new need, like helping smaller community hospitals establish labs and taking them through our workflow," she adds.

Things started to slow down in January 2021, but the lull proved temporary as variants started taking hold.

"At that point, we all pivoted and established a next-generation sequencing lab, to sequence-identify all the

**"Every month there was a new project, a new need, like helping smaller community hospitals establish labs and taking them through our workflow."**

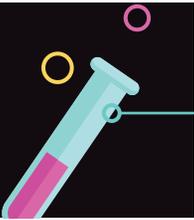
positive specimens that were coming into OSU," she adds.

Meanwhile, Koenig continues her research on cardiovascular genetics with two graduate students.

"I really do love research. I always have. It's refreshing to work with students, and help turn them into scientists," she says.

However, her more organizational-oriented work during the pandemic sparked a new interest, and she now is studying in a master's program focused on operational excellence at OSU's Fisher College of Business.

"I definitely enjoy the operational and administrative roles I've had," she says. "I want additional training and education to move my career in that direction."



## Amanda Robinson Panfil

B.A. Microbiology,  
2006

Ph.D., Cellular and Molecular  
Biology, University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

Assistant Professor, Ohio State University,  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Columbus, Ohio

Shortly after the pandemic shut down her Ohio State University lab focused on the human T-cell leukemia virus-1, **Amanda Robinson Panfil '06** followed her own curiosity and conducted a few basic experiments with some accessory proteins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and their role in the immune response.

“Being experienced as a virologist, I understand a lot of what’s happening,” the Arlington, Ohio, native says.

“I could have predicted there’d be variants, and that people who are vaccinated would have breakthrough infections. But seeing it all play out in real time is really something.”

Panfil has since returned to her passion—studying oncogenic viruses. “Even though we’re in a pandemic, these other viruses are not going to go away,” she says. “The people infected with those viruses are still going to need help.”

Investigating the only known human retrovirus that can cause cancer fascinates her. “I like understanding how it works, and how it can hijack the cell,” she says. “I also like seeing what results in transformation which leads to disease along with the different ways where you can try to treat that or cure it.”

For Panfil—and all these alumnae—the pandemic also has underscored the importance of being teachers themselves to help educate the public about science.

“There’s a lot of misinformation,” she says. “If we can help people to understand what they’re reading about the virus and help them understand why that information is false, or why it’s true, and what that means for them, that’s what we as scientists need to do.

Investigating the only known human retrovirus that can cause cancer fascinates her. “I like understanding how it works, and how it can hijack the cell,” she says. “I also like seeing what results in transformation which leads to disease along with the different ways where you can try to treat that or cure it.”



*Amanda Robinson Panfil relishes her dual role in virology research and in teaching the next generation of scientists.*

*Photos by Paul Vernon*



## Betty Villar

B.A., Biochemistry,  
2007

Ph.D., Computational  
Biochemistry, Boston  
University

Senior Scientist, Pfizer  
Andover, Massachusetts



Photo courtesy of Pfizer

At OWU, **Betty Villar '07** felt empowered and encouraged.

“The sense I got from professors was there was no difference for women. The attitude was, ‘Oh, of course, you can go get a Ph.D. That could be your next step.’ You were never dissuaded from these considerations. And there was definitely encouragement.”

Now, working in Pfizer’s manufacturing science and technology group, Betty and her team have been smack in the middle of the pharmaceutical giant’s vaccine work.

While the pieces to develop mRNA vaccines were long in place, the work by Pfizer’s other scientists focused on creating the specifics to make it work for COVID. “Once they identified that piece that made it work for the COVID-19 virus, then our group was able to assist in a couple of ways.”

They conducted troubleshooting as her fellow scientists, working around the clock, moved the vaccine

**“I didn’t mind coming in on Saturday or Sunday, making sure that these processes were done as quickly as possible, because you’re working for the greater good.”**

*Betty Villar at the Pfizer lab.*

production processes to large-scale production. And with major hiccups in the supply chain, they tested secondary suppliers of materials, making everything meet rigorous standards.

“There were shortages of everything, everywhere,” she says. “If you’re used to getting something from a supplier, your work always comes out the same way, because you have certain expectations of what you’re getting. And then, suddenly, you need to find it from a different place.”

That requires a great deal of testing to make sure the new suppliers’ products meet all of the same expectations, “and it looks the same and behaves the same when you added it to the process,” the Elizabeth, N.J., native says.

Her work was important and meaningful. “To know that the numbers I give you or the yes-no on this I give you is what might determine the next step in the manufacturing scale production, that stuff sort of weighs on you a little bit,” she says. “But on the other hand, it does give you that drive. I didn’t mind coming in on Saturday or Sunday, making sure that these processes were done as quickly as possible, because you’re working for the greater good. It gives a different sense of what work is.”



## Kristen Lear

B.A., Zoology,  
2011

Ph.D., Integrative  
Conservation, University  
of Georgia

Endangered Species Intervention Specialist,  
Bat Conservation International  
Fort Collins, Colorado

Her lifelong love of all creepy crawly animals led **Kristen Lear '11** to devote her career to one of Dracula's favorite creatures—bats.

"I had pet rats in middle school and high school, and I love snakes and spiders. Bats fall into that group. They're unnecessarily maligned," says Lear, who received a Fulbright as she graduated from OWU to study endangered bats in Southern Australia.

Now, a year into her dream job of leading a binational agave initiative to restore agave plants vital to bat migration, she sees the pandemic underscoring how humans and wildlife are intricately linked.

"If we protect natural habitat for wildlife, there will be fewer occurrences of negative human and wildlife interactions," Lear says. "Preserving natural habitat means we are not pushing them together in areas where the jumping of viruses and other pathogens can happen."

Lear, who first built bat houses as a 12-year-old Girl Scout in Cincinnati, deepened her reliance on a wide network of strong local partners, who have helped her understand the contexts of how the residents use their land and make their livelihoods. The pandemic has inspired Lear's team of colleagues to develop a safer, less field-intensive process to sample bat DNA via EDNA—environmental DNA—which tests DNA bats leave behind on the flowers they've pollinated.

"OWU prepared me to do this work. They gave me the tools to think critically, to design my own research program and questions," she says.



Photo by Leigh Vogel



As a researcher in the field leading a binational agave initiative and as an educator and advocate on the stage of the National Geographic Explorers Festival, Kristen Lear is doing vital work to protect bats and their habitats.

Photo provided by Kristen Lear/  
Bat Conservation International



## Meredith Palmer

B.A., Zoology,  
2011

Ph.D., Ecology Evolution  
and Behavior,  
University of Minnesota

National Science Foundation  
postdoctoral fellow, Princeton University  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**“The strong female representation and mentorship in the OWU biology department was pivotal in helping get me to where I am today.”**



Photo provided by  
Meredith Palmer

*A behavioral ecologist and National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University's Pringle Lab, Meredith Palmer investigates the decision-making of large herbivores as they respond to predators. In January she begins a permanent position as a conservation technology specialist at Fauna and Flora International, where she will be working to innovate new conservation solutions for projects around the world.*

The tales Meredith Palmer's British grandparents told of fighting off crocodiles and building bridges in Africa inspired her to lead a life of adventure.

Now a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University, the behavioral ecologist's work focuses on predator-prey dynamics spanning across eastern and southern Africa and in North America. She conducts conservation work examining how large carnivore predators, such as lions and wolves, shape ecological communities.

Because she has always grappled with her family's "very colonial type of activities," she deliberately



has worked to empower local people in African communities, training local researchers and field assistants

Photo by BBC Natural  
History Unit

through the years.

When the COVID-19 pandemic halted her travels, these relationships with researchers on the ground in Tanzania and Mozambique allowed her long-term monitoring projects and conservation programs to move forward.

"We've really been able to continue to do the work that we do through COVID even though I'm not there personally to oversee our different projects," she says.

Her future research will concentrate more on

infectious diseases, as she moves in January to a new post-doc position partially funded by the National Science Foundation. At the University of Glasgow, she'll be examining the ecology of emerging infectious diseases, studying parasite transmission in the great wildebeest migration in Tanzania.

"Until now, I've been focused on predators from the outside environment. Parasites are just predators that eat you from the inside," Palmer says

Palmer's robust involvement in public outreach and citizen science projects, including camera trapping, now inspires the professors who inspired her.

"It's a great tool for teaching, especially for students who don't have good access to field sites," says Professor Laurie Anderson. "They can look at these photographs and actually contribute to the research by scoring photographs for the presence and absence of wildlife. And that's really cool."

# MOTHERTRUCK

*Mothertrucker: Finding Joy on the Loneliest Road in America, the new book from Amy Butcher, director of creative writing and associate professor of English, began receiving stellar reviews and awards months before it was to land on store shelves. Publisher's Weekly called it "tender and gripping," writing that the book "explores myriad issues with nuance and grace, including Indigenous rights, violence against women, religious hypocrisy, and environmental concerns." Kirkus Reviews praised the book as "a searching and deeply empathetic memoir" and "a sobering reflection on verbal*

*and psychological abuse" that "honors the healing power of female friendship and questions the nature of divinity beyond its constricting patriarchal manifestations."*

*Last February, excerpts of Mothertrucker were awarded an Individual Excellence Award by the Ohio Arts Council, with judges calling the book "well researched,' 'very well-written,' and 'a positive antidote to the trauma of violence against women.'"*

*Published in November by Little A Books (in print and as an audio book read by Butcher), Mothertrucker is a story of domestic violence, fear, independence, and*



# CKER

friendship. Butcher says it's a book about "what it means to be a woman in America." It chronicles her travels on Alaska's Dalton Highway with Joy Wiebe, a 50-year-old wife and mother and the nation's only female ice road trucker.

OWU Magazine is proud to share with our readers this excerpt from Chapter 4 of *Mothertrucker*.



On the Dalton Highway, Joy explains, everything is something else: cars are called four-wheelers, plows are blades, Joy is Joy Mothertrucker. When, eight miles in, she pulls the truck over along the shoulder, I worry she's turning back—that already this drive we're

undertaking has proven too intimate—but she says no and points instead to a row of bulbous trees just off the highway.

"Candy Land trees!" she tells me. "Because they look more lollipop than tree!"

I counter with Dr. Seuss, but we both agree they're strange.

These trees are Joy's favorite. Everywhere, and on every branch, snow hangs in packed, tight circles, almost comically.

This is the boreal forest, Joy tells me—a stark departure from any other forest I've ever known, a place where trees grow relatively uniform in height but vary endlessly in width and shape. The forest looks like a patchwork, stunted spruce alternating between tall aspens and open space, the result of the way sunlight is always shining at an angle in the Arctic landscape, a dramatic difference. Each spring, the top layer of permafrost thaws only long enough for new roots to take hold, and then everything freezes up again, settles in for winter. The stunted growth is dramatic, gnarled and topped—on this particular morning—with perfect scoops of snow, like dollops of mashed potatoes.

We hop down from the cab, and I ask Joy if she'll take my picture.

"That's the point." She laughs. I slip across the icy gravel and climb the wall of snow that has been erected thanks to the highway plow. I struggle in the wild wind to remain upright and unrounded. Joy laughs and snaps my picture.

"Again," she says, stepping forward. "I think your eyes were closed."

I want this as proof—that regardless of any fear, any sense I don't belong, I have traveled to Alaska to sit within Joy's truck cab and observe the place as she promised.

We've only traveled eight miles, but already things feel different, foreign, as if this part of Alaska is part of another America entirely. I am the wild and lucky recipient of Joy's impossible generosity, and when she looks at me and laughs, I feel something warm inside me, like an animal, tight and burrowed.

We climb back in the truck and Joy points just up the road, where men's deaths begin to announce themselves with frequency. She points and tells me Handlebar was crushed by a pipe at this shallow pass just beyond Graveyard.

"It sounds like you're playing Clue," I say.

"It does sound like that," she admits, and then she rattles off some more names. Moustache spun out around Gobbler's Knob, and Elixir died after a medical emergency caused him

**T**he stunted growth is dramatic, gnarled and topped—on this particular morning—with perfect scoops of snow, like dollops of mashed potatoes.



*The author amid  
“Candy Land trees”  
in a photo taken by  
Joy Wiebe.*

to crash his snowplow near Oh Shit Corner. She tells me Donut was one of the lucky ones; he survived after being buried alive in a sudden avalanche as he was descending Atigun Pass last winter. There was low visibility, she explains, so crews had to search for him via grid formation, charting with unique precision the endless expanse of snow-white earth.

“This area,” Joy says, sucking at her teeth, “it’s not like the rest of Alaska. Here, storms come up so quick, so fast, and suddenly you can’t see anything.”

I think of how much of life is like that: good until it isn’t.

Outside the window, there’s another cross.

“I think about it a lot,” Joy says. “How they all thought they were getting home that night.”

Elixir and Moustache and Handlebar, Buck and Spud and Cactus Jack. Getting home to their wife or to their children or to a heaping plate of chicken pot pie. To linen stretched over a tabletop, a tumbler of milk neatly sweating. To Jeopardy! or the evening news.

It makes her a better driver, Joy tells me, a better member of this community. She releases a squeeze of windshield fluid and pivots the wipers from side to side. She tells me these men didn’t expect to die, to go through their windshields, to collide head-on with another truck, to be crushed or burned or smashed. I listen, scared to be beside her—that much should be obvious—but it’s a different kind of fear than the fear I’ve felt for years.

Which is to say, quite simply, I do not fear Joy’s company.

Still, it is unpleasant. No one wants to die. I can’t help but think of what my handle would be, what they’d say when they found my body.

“I’d call you ‘Spice Girl,’” Joy tells me, “though I

promise: you won’t die. But the way you doctored up those breakfast potatoes earlier? The way you seem to doctor up everything?”

She nods down at my backpack, where the cap from a travel-size bottle of Cholula pokes out.

“Me? I try to help everyone I can whenever I can,” she continues. “Like a guardian angel of the highway? There’s that idea, ‘Do unto others . . . ?’ I try to truck unto others, you know, the way I myself would want to be trucked.”

I think of all the verbs one might replace with trucked. Loved is chief among them. What would it look like if we all loved right?

“I’ve always got spare parts in the back, and extra food, blankets, matches, you know? All you need?” Joy continues. She rolls down her window to let a mosquito

flee for the mountains, its black body sharp against the clean blue sky. “I don’t care what it costs: my salary or my own schedule. You save a life if there’s a life to save.”

She’s silent for a moment.

“You’re going to think this is crazy,” she says finally, “but I’ve always felt God made me to put me here. I think He built me to tend to this landscape, specifically.”

I want to tell her I agree—I do, in many ways—but I also wonder what it says about the men who’ve lost their lives out here. What was God doing there?

Everywhere I look, the world is an open wound.

Instead I look to the console, where Joy’s phone lights up the space between us.

“I thought you said we’d have no service?” I ask.

“You’d have no service,” she clarifies. She points down at her phone. “GCI,” she says. “They’re an Alaskan cell phone company, and they’ve been installing a couple towers up here these past few months.”

“The American wild isn’t so wild anymore,” I say.

Joy frowns in slight acknowledgment.

“ ‘ve always felt God made me to put me here. I think He built me to tend to this landscape, specifically.’ ”

She picks the phone up, studies it. A man by the name of Jim Rocker has sent her photos of his petunias. The flowers fan out, hot pink and yellow, across the screen.

“Text him for me, ask him to show me his bean shoots,” Joy says. Then, “Not a euphemism!” She laughs. “There’s something special about his soil.”

She gestures again, and I take her phone and am surprised there is no passcode, surprised all the more by the wallpaper that blooms across her screen—the sherbet orange of a tundra sunset, as if she can’t get enough of this place, not ever.

I type out her soil inquiry, writing, Let me see those beans!

The morning sun warms the inside of our cab, and I feel overcome by a sense of ease. For a moment, I feel willing to concede that maybe there is a God, and maybe He did create this place, but maybe we aren’t the point, the heroes in this story. Maybe we are simply postscript, because God knew his creation was worth a witness: the stars and earth and mountains, the emptiness of this expanse, how it’s the lack of human spoil that makes this place so goddamn gorgeous. ■

*Printed with permission from Little A, Amazon Publishing.  
Mothertrucker: Finding Joy on the Loneliest Road in America is available in print, ebook, and audio editions from Little A, Amazon Publishing.*

## Writing Mothertrucker Through A Series of Twists



Amy Butcher, an award-winning essayist and author and director of OWU’s creative writing program, says the process for writing *Mothertrucker* mirrored the advice she gives to her students.

“Like most projects, it began as one thing—a profile of an extraordinary woman—and evolved into something altogether

different upon research and experience,” she says.

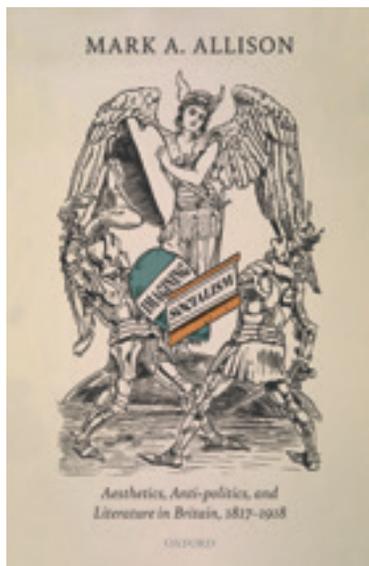
“I talk to my students a lot about how the creative essay intentionally begins from a place of questioning or curiosity. Philip Lopate argues we must begin essays from a place of doubt or not knowing, which runs counter to the academic essay we all know and write in high school. Vivian Gornick argues it must ‘take the reader on a journey’ and ‘bring us into a clearing where the sense of things is greater than it was before.’

“That doesn’t mean, I tell my students, that everything is resolved and you have the answer suddenly to everything that confounded you. It means you’ve added to the conversation, or gained some clarity, or perhaps have a renewed focus on the question you were originally setting out to answer for yourself or others. In fact, even the term ‘essay,’ which most in the literary community prefer over ‘creative nonfiction,’ originates from the French term *essayer*, or *to attempt, to try*. The genre truly comes from a place of experimentation and working towards a point of clarity.

“This book is an essay around what it means to be a woman in America, what it means to be ‘strong’ and operating in a patriarchal world and nation, as much as it is an exploration of a subject, Joy ‘Mothertrucker’ Wiebe.

“It goes without saying, then, that the project took me in a direction I never expected but should have: a frank conversation about the prevalence of intimate partner violence and the way it dominates and shapes the lives of so many. For my part, I want this book to be seen as a work of advocacy surrounding visibility—not only of the myriad ways in which one can abuse another person (physically, of course, but also psychologically, verbally, emotionally, and financially), but also in the way millions of women and trans and non-binary individuals suffer primarily in silence in this country, because while the abuse against their body matters, they understand we still operate in a society that so commonly insists that it doesn’t.”

Butcher says she’s especially grateful to **Kathy Boles Smith ’71** and Alton Smith for their campaign gift supporting their endowment for faculty leave, which provided her with leave to finish the book.



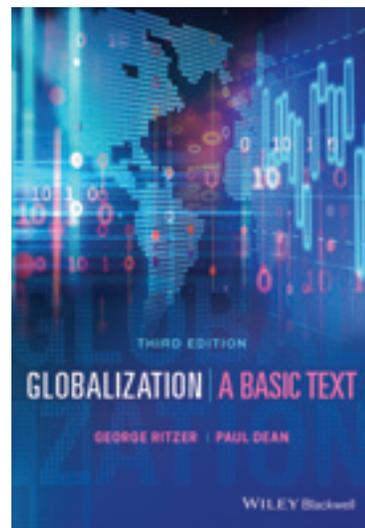
**Mark Allison**, professor of English, authored a new book examining British socialist writing across the long 19th century. *Imagining Socialism: Aesthetics, Anti-politics, and Literature in Britain, 1817-1918*, published by Oxford University Press, is a literary study of 19th-century British socialism, and it engages with concerns that are of the moment: growing economic inequality, exasperation at political polarization and gridlock, and the resurgence of interest in socialism among Millennials and Generation Z. Allison writes in the introduction, “(I)t would be vanity to think that the struggles of so many intelligent, committed, and well-meaning men and women have nothing to teach us today.”

**Kira Bailey**, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience, co-authored the article “Shooting Your Accuracy in the Foot? Examining the Short-Term Effect of Playing an Action or Strategy Video Game on Cognitive Control,” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2021, Vol. 18. Bailey’s co-authors, **Mickey Rice ’19**, **Alexis Lease ’19**, and **Malia Walker ’19**, worked on the project while at OWU.

**Amy Butcher**, associate professor of English and director of creative writing, is receiving stellar reviews and awards for her latest book, *MOTHERTRUCKER*, published in November (see Page 28 for an excerpt and more information). Additionally, her essay “On Images of Violence: An Author Visits the Billy Ireland Cartoon Museum,” edited by Suzanne Goldsmith-Hirsch for *Columbus Monthly* magazine, was awarded a notable distinction in *Best American Essays 2021*, guest edited by Kathryn Schulz.

**Antoine Clark**, part-time instructor of woodwinds and chamber orchestra, wrote the article “Rudolph Dunbar: A Striking Example of His Musical Period,” published in *The Clarinet*, June 2021. Dunbar (1899-1988) was a virtuoso clarinetist, jazz musician, teacher, orchestral conductor, music critic, journalist, and founder of the Rudolph Dunbar School of Clarinet. Clark also served as guest conductor for the Richmond (VA) Symphony for its Red, White and Lights performance, July 4.

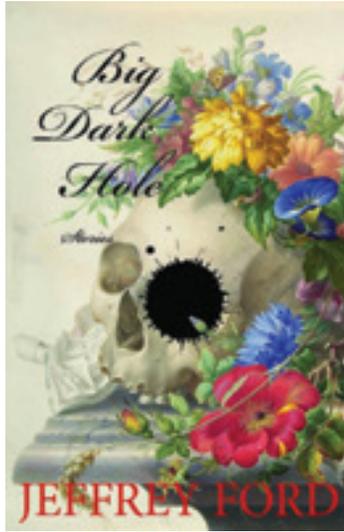
**Phokeng Dailey**, assistant professor of communication, published the book chapter “TV’s Black Women Medical Professionals: Sapphires with a Stethoscope” in *Working While Black: Essays on Television Portrayals of African American Professionals*, L.T. Brackett (ed.), McFarland Press, 2021. She also was featured in an interview with financial advising firm TSG Advice Partners as part of the firm’s “Conversations Series: Spotlight on Educators.” The interview, posted on Facebook Watch, focused on how higher education responded to the global pandemic.



**Paul Dean**, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, co-authored (with George Ritzer) the book *Globalization: A Basic Text* (3rd ed.), Wiley-Blackwell, Malden, MA, October 2021. Dean also delivered a presentation, “Lifting While We Rise: Working-Class First-Gen Graduates Promoting Economic Justice and Staying True to their Roots,” at the Working Class Studies Association Conference (virtual), June 7, 2021.

**Michael Flamm**, professor of history, is serving as the historical consultant for the new Advanced Placement edition of Alan Brinkley’s best-selling *American History* textbook. Flamm is reviewing the revised structure and new history content, and he is providing input on editorial changes.

**Erin Flynn**, professor of philosophy, published the article “Athletic Skill and the Value of Close Contests,” in *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*. 48(2), July 2021. The paper challenges the commonly held view that athletic contests are comparative tests of athletic skill by arguing that the value of close athletic contests cannot be reconciled with the former view.



**Jeffrey Ford**, part-time instructor in English, published a short story collection, *Big Dark Hole* (Small Beer Press), in July. A review from *Kirkus* describes the book as, “Fifteen tales of horror, suspense, and macabre encounters that recount moments when the fantastic finds a crack in our everyday world.” Read one of the stories, “Five-Pointed Spell,” at [Literary Hub](#).

**Anne Fry**, professor emerita of zoology, wrote the article “A History of Zoology at Ohio Wesleyan University: 1844-2021, published in August 2021” on the OWU Digital Commons.

**Glenda Nieto-Cuebas**, associate professor of world languages and cultures, served as co-editor (with Tania de Miguel Magro, Mina Garcia, and Erin Cowling) of the book *Social Justice in Spanish Golden Age Theatre*, University of Toronto Press. The collection of

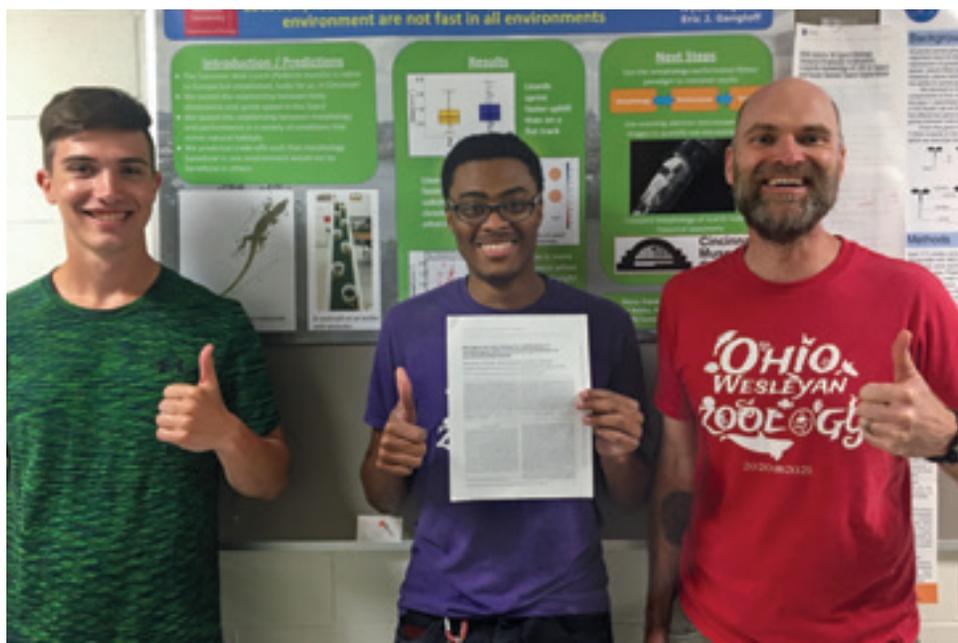
original essays focuses on the many ways in which early modern Spanish plays engaged their audiences in a dialogue about abuse, injustice, and inequality. The book includes Nieto-Cuebas’ essay “Systemic Oppression in Morfeo Teatro’s Adaptation and Production of *El coloquio de los perros*.” The Association for Hispanic Classical Theatre (AHCT) also awarded Nieto-Cuebas the 2021 David Gitlitz Comedia Prize in Pedagogy and Mentorship for her “distinguished career of teaching tied to the AHCT’s mission of fostering appreciation for Classical Hispanic theater.” She also is currently serving as vice president-elect for membership and registration for AHCT. Finally, her interview, co-conducted with Erin Cowling, “Entrevista con EFE TRES Teatro: El Merolico confinado” was published in *Comedia Performance: Journal of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater*, 17(1), 2021.

**Sarah Kaka**, assistant professor of education, published several works in the past few months. She wrote two chapters in the 2021 book *Hollywood or History? An Inquiry-Based Strategy for Using Film to Teach World History*, edited by Scott Roberts and Charles Elfer; the first was an invited chapter titled “The Lives of Children During the Industrial Revolution,” and the second, co-written with **Christopher Dobeck '18**, is “Perspectives on the Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in AD 79.” Her third book chapter this year, “Teaching History in Real Time: Using Ephemera, Artifacts, and Museums to Teach Social Issues,” was published in *Handbook on Teaching Social Issues* (2nd ed.), edited by Ronald Evans. Kaka also wrote the article “Digital

Simulations as Approximations of Practice: Preparing Preservice Teachers to Facilitate Whole-Class Discussions of Controversial Issues” in *Journal of Technology and Teacher Education*, 29(1). Also, Kaka’s blog post “You Can’t Pour from an Empty Cup: 6 Things New Teachers Can Do to Promote Their Own Wellness” was published on the Kappa Delta Pi blog.

Kaka also has presented four papers and sessions in 2021. In April she presented “Digital Practice Spaces and Clinical Practice in Teacher Preparation: Current Uses and Future Possibilities” at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (online). In June she presented “Teaching Divisive Issues in Uncertain Times” at the Ohio Center for Law Related Education Annual Civics Summit (online). In August Kaka, Assistant Professor of Education **Michele Nobel**, and Assistant Professor of Education **Jennifer Liszy** presented two sessions at the Association of Teacher Educators conference: “Preparing Antiracist Teachers: One Teacher Preparation Program’s Journey” and “Helping Preservice Teachers Build Resilience: One University’s Approach.”

**Francesca Nestor**, assistant professor of politics & government, received an Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award for 2020-21 in recognition of her excellence in teaching, civility and concern for students and colleagues, commitment to value-centered education, and service to students and the institution. The award was presented by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the



**Eric Gangloff** (right), assistant professor of biological sciences, along with students **Princeton Vaughn '22** (center) and **Wyatt McQueen '23** (left), authored the paper “Moving to the City: Testing the Implications of Morphological Shifts on Locomotor Performance in Introduced Urban Lizards” in *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 134(1), Sept. 2021. Their research also was featured in a blog post by Vaughn at [urbanevolution-litc.com](#).

# classnotes

Thank you to all who sent in submissions for the Class Notes section. Due to space limitations, we ask that entries be limited to 100 words. To submit Class Notes items, please use the form at [www.owu.edu/classnotes](http://www.owu.edu/classnotes). **The Spring 2022 deadline is February 1.**

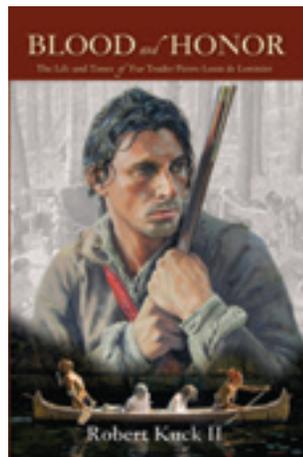
## 1960s

**Kent Taylor '62** placed his literary archive at the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, just over a year ago. He started writing poetry his first year at OWU in 1958 and has never stopped. The archive consists of manuscripts, books, correspondence, journals, and more.



**Alice Batchelder '64** (pictured with Richard Stranges, Hayes High School principal) was inducted into the Delaware City Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in September. She has served as a federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit since 1991, after being nominated by President George H.W. Bush. She served as chief judge of the court from 2009 to 2014. Alice and her husband, **Bill Batchelder '64**, live in Medina, OH.

**Robert Kuck II '65** authored a new historic novel, *Blood and Honor*. The novel explores the life of French fur trader Pierre-Louis de Lorimier in a formative time of American history.



**Thomas Vivyan '67** was recognized by the Ohio State Bar Association for his 50 years of service to the community and the legal profession. He has been in private practice since 1975, working in plaintiff personal injury, collections, insurance defense, and more.

## 1970s

**Daniel DiBiasio '71** announced his impending retirement from his position as president of Ohio Northern University in 2022. Since becoming president in 2011, his achievements include emphasizing student involvement in high-impact practices, increasing opportunities for community service and engagement, expanding athletics, building and renovating facilities, expanding sustainable energy practices, and launching a comprehensive effort to increase diversity, equity and inclusion at the university.

**Janet Frost '71** published her first short story through Painted Legacy Productions, LLC. "Dream of the Blessed Queen" is a fantasy that follows the story of Sir John Colchester's quest for a home and his discovery of a strange kingdom and its queen. Janet lives with her family in Connecticut and Ontario, Canada.



**Annie Seiler '75** retired from OWU in June after 38 years of service. She worked in a variety of capacities at the University, including in admissions, alumni relations, and major gifts. Annie raised millions for the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign and led more than 1,700 visits with OWU alumni, parents, and friends during her career. Annie is pictured above at 2021 Homecoming weekend.

**Rudolph Peckinpaugh Jr. '76** was recognized with Best Lawyers 2022 Lawyer of the Year awards in Toledo, OH (Medical Malpractice Law and Defendants).



**Dick Ames '77, Darrell Austin '76, and Jerry Lasky '76** got together at the "country club of Cleveland."



## 1980s

**Stephen Bright '80** joined Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, VA, as vice president for finance and treasurer. He has more than 30 years of experience as a financial manager, including his previous role as vice president for business and finance at University of Lynchburg.

**Tom Neel '81** was named the New London (Ohio) Rotary's 2021 Citizen of the Year. Tom co-founded the New London Area Historical Society in 1985 and has served as president since then. He retired this year after 37 years as director of the Ohio Genealogical Society.



**Imogene Gregory Johnson '80** was appointed as OWU's director of human resources. She has more than 20 years of experience in HR management, most recently at her own company,

Strategically Driven HR Consulting LLC. At OWU, Imogene will be responsible for planning, developing, and implementing programs for administrative and support staff.

**Bruce Tall '82** joined the coaching staff at Emory & Henry College in Emory, VA. He brings extensive experience in defense at Mississippi State University, Western Michigan University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and more.

**Anthony Knight '83** had his work "No Cowards in Our Band," a musical drama based on the life and work of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, premiere on WCNY-TV in Syracuse, NY.

**Dale Beatty '86** joined the strategic advisory committee of Laudio, a Boston-based performance management and engagement platform for health systems. Dale is the chief nurse executive and vice president at Stanford Health Care, a health system and flagship hospital for Stanford University.

**Todd Fitch '86** was added to Ohio State University football's coaching staff as offensive analyst. He brings over 30 years of experience, including coaching at Vanderbilt University, Boston College, and South Carolina University.

**Courtney Lowe '86** was promoted from marketing and business development chief to president of the Woodstock Inn and Resort in Vermont. He is a longtime hospitality industry executive who joined the Woodstock Inn in 2010.

**Christopher McComish '87** was appointed CEO of S&T Bancorp, Inc., in Indiana, PA, the holding company for S&T Bank. With 30 years of financial service experience, Christopher most recently served as senior executive vice president of consumer banking of TCF Bank.

## 1990s

**Amelia Haley Perez '90** seated with professor Michael Koortbojian, chair of the department of art and archeology at Princeton University, attended the James F. Haley Memorial Art Lecture Series and dinner at Princeton on Dec. 4, 2019. This event was established in 1990 in memory of Amelia's uncle, Jim Haley '50, by her father, William R. Haley '45.

## YOUR OWU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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When you graduate from Ohio Wesleyan, you become part of a worldwide network of Bishops and an instant member of the Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association. The Alumni Association is the heart of the Bishop alumni community inspiring, cultivating, and creating meaningful engagement opportunities to stay connected with each other and the University.

## 2021-2022 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Alumni Association Board of Directors is the governing body of the Alumni Association and works to increase awareness, pride, participation, volunteer involvement, and philanthropic commitment of alumni to OWU.

Elizabeth Long Downey '06, *President*  
Keith Rozanski '99, *Vice President*  
Jennifer Magro Algarotti '00, *Alumnae*  
*Panhellenic Council (APHC) Representative*  
Matt Bixler '78  
Denise Sabo Brenner '00  
Mitchell Briant '07, *Alumni Interfraternity Council*  
*(AIFC) Representative*  
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Zibbi Palmer Cunningham '99

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Sean Harris '97  
Dylan Hays '20  
Kevin Hinkle '94, *W Association Representative*  
September Howat '00  
Katie Jenks '12  
Sarah Kieta Kirwen '06  
Anthony Knight '83  
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Julie MacMillan '88  
Justin McCoy '07

Vic Misiewicz '82  
Andrea Moore '82  
Michael Pattison '04  
Anthony M. Peddle '14  
Carrie Lippert Reinhardt '94  
Diana Poos Roach '72  
Drew Thawley '97  
Julie Clemo Tutkovics '92  
Gordon Witkin '77  
Shondra E. Wygal '94



**Andrew Harris '90** joined Vanasse Hangen Brustlin's (VHB) in Wethersfield, CT, as senior project manager and senior geologist for its Connecticut Site Investigation & Remediation practice and the Southern New England markets.

**Julie Kenney '95** was welcomed as principal of McKinley Elementary School in Marion, Ohio. She brings 17 years of principal experience from Cardington School District.

**Shawn Montgomery '95** was named vice president of operations at Nth Cycle, a metal processing and recycling technology company in Boston, MA. His 25-plus years of industrial experience includes the past 17 with high-tech startups such as 7AC Technologies and Seldon Technologies.

**Anne Carothers Woodward '96**, along with her husband, Whitney, opened Annie B's Pizzeria in Coalville, Utah. The new restaurant serves takeout orders of handmade pizzas, salads, and chicken wings.

**LaTida Smith '96** was appointed president of the Winston-Salem Foundation, a community foundation serving the greater area of North Carolina's Forsyth County. LaTida is the current president and CEO of the Moses Taylor Foundation, where she built their grant-making strategy and defined the foundation's role in improving the region's health.

**Steven Steinhilber '97** was named president of Luther Rice College and Seminary in Lithonia, GA. He is an alumnus of the school and most recently served as Luther Rice's executive vice president.

**Bradley Cooley '98** was appointed superintendent of Norwalk City Schools in Ohio. He has been with Norwalk City Schools since 2002 and has been a high school principal since 2009.

**Karla McCain '98** was named provost at Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL. She will be part of the schools' leadership and provide administrative oversight for the college's academic divisions and more. She spent nearly 20 years at Austin College in Texas as associate vice president for academic affairs and professor of chemistry.

**Maggie Smith '99** had her latest book, *Goldenrod*, featured in *People* magazine as its poetry pick. NPR's review notes, "the book is filled with the poet's unrelenting willingness to learn, to dream of a better world."

## 2000s

**James "Jimmy" Francis '01** was named president and executive director of the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center in Pasadena, CA. He has experience in overseeing large facilities and programs at both the California State University Northridge and The Ohio State University.

**Aurn Singhal '01** was appointed global head of index product management at Qontigo in New York City. Aurn will oversee the expansion of their index product suite and help integrate with analytics to build strategies to market to clients.

**Andrew Eich '02** was promoted to president and chief financial officer of Covia in Independence, OH, a provider of mineral-based and material solutions for industrial and energy markets. He will lead and execute strategies for growth in Covia's industrial and energy segments.

**Noel Anderson '03** presented the Hixson-Lied Visiting Artist Lecture by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Art, Art History and Design in April. He is a printmaker and professor in New York University's Art and Art Professions Department, and area head of print media. Noel explores Black masculinities through print media and arts-based research.

**Elizabeth Dale '04** was named a 2021 Emerging Scholar by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. As assistant professor of nonprofit leadership at Seattle University, Elizabeth focuses on the field of nonprofit and philanthropic studies to "expand our notion of who is considered a donor" and examining diversity and inclusion in fundraising. The Emerging Scholar Award honors scholars whose research impacts philanthropy and fundraising.

**Janelle Thompson Gasaway '05** (pictured with Richard Stranges, Hayes High School principal) was inducted into the Delaware City Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in September. As a pitcher on the OWU softball team, Janelle was named All-NCAC Honorable Mention in 2002 and Academic All-District in 2003. She now works as a realtor and lives in Delaware with her husband, Matt, and children, Dylan and Audrey.



**Jamie Blake '07** was hired as head women's lacrosse coach at Castleton University in Castleton, VT. She previously was the head coach of the girls' lacrosse team at Burr and Burton Academy, leading them to the state finals in 2018 and was named Bennington Banner Coach of the Year.

## Her kind of town

In January, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot appointed Kate LeFurgy '08 as the communications director for the Mayor's Office. LeFurgy had been the mayor's deputy communications director since May 2020, joining the office shortly after the pandemic struck.

"Kate has played a critical part in navigating our city through the enormous challenges of the last year," said Mayor Lightfoot at the time of LeFurgy's appointment. "She is fiercely committed to our mission of building a transparent, responsive City government that reflects the experience and needs of our residents, and I'm thrilled to have her stepping into this leadership role."

"I am thrilled to step into the role of Communications Director for Mayor Lightfoot in this crucial moment,"



Kate LeFurgy

LeFurgy said upon her appointment. "Now more than ever, clear and direct communication and transparency is necessary to help Chicagoans steer through this crisis. That is a solemn responsibility that I stand ready to fulfil."

LeFurgy majored in international studies and Spanish at OWU, studied for a semester in Salamanca, and served as president of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

She says, "My experience at OWU gave me the confidence to take challenges head on and speak my mind, unapologetically, which has served me well as chief spokesperson for the best city in the world, Chicago."

She later earned a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and since then has stayed in the city that she calls "a magical place." Prior to joining the Lightfoot administration, LeFurgy was chief communications officer to Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia.

An avid gardener, she lives in Wicker Park with her husband and their cat, Luna.

**Sam Duplessis '08** joined Penn Libraries at the University of Pennsylvania as director of advancement. He will work to advance their fundraising efforts. Recently, he was regional director for major gifts at the Wharton School.

## 2010s

**Lauren Figy Cadigan '12**, supervisor of science, technology, and engineering at Westfield (MA) Public Schools, was named a 40 Under Forty by *BusinessWest*, honoring young professionals in West Massachusetts. The publication praised her passion and encouragement of students interested in STEM fields.

**Megan Pinto '14** was named a finalist in the Poetry Society of America's Chapbook Fellowship for her manuscript *These Contusions*. Megan lives in Brooklyn, and her poems can be found or are forthcoming in *Ploughshares*, *Lit Hub*, *Plume*, *BOAAT*, and elsewhere.

**Lidia Mowad '15** joined McDonald Hopkins LLC in Cleveland, OH, as an associate in the Intellectual Property Department. She brings experience from the Office of the Ohio Attorney General, Federal Trade Commission, and NBCUniversal.

**Brianna Robinson '15** performed in a livestream benefit concert, "Still Dreaming: A Musical Tribute to MLK." The program featured a diverse group of composers and performers to benefit the Neponset Neighbors Together Fund through United Way. Brianna sang "Songs of Love and Justice" by Adolphus Hailstork, from the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We want to hear from you



Please send us your news using the form at <http://www.owu.edu/classnotes>. Or email your news to [classnotes@owu.edu](mailto:classnotes@owu.edu). Submissions may be edited for space or clarity.

You can also submit your news to:  
Attn: Class Notes Editor  
OWU Magazine  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Mowry Alumni Center  
61 S. Sandusky St.  
Delaware, OH 43015

*Include your name and class year as well as a daytime phone number. Photos are welcome.*

**The deadline for receiving Class Notes and Faculty Notes submissions for the Spring 2022 OWU Magazine is February 1, 2022.**

## Alumni Survey

Calling all alumni! Calling all alumni! The OWU Alumni Survey is coming to your email inbox soon and we need your participation. To ensure your voice is heard, please make sure we have your most current email address and contact information. Please go to [owu.edu/emailupdate](http://owu.edu/emailupdate) today and update your information.

# Weddings



David McNaughton '10 and Katie White were married on July 17 in Dennisport, Mass. L-R: Tommy Crabill '09, Jake Meiser '10, TJ Trigg '09, Hallie McNaughton '05, Caitlin McNaughton '16, David McNaughton '10 (groom), Jill Haddock McNaughton '70, Katie McNaughton (bride), Emily Steger '09, Mary Grimm '09, Jessica Kleinman '09, Blake Pifer '10, Dan Conroy '10, Yessica Arriaga, and Brandon Luttinger '10.



### Cute Wedding

OWU friends reunited to celebrate the wedding of James and Rebecca Cute in Providence on Sept. 11. Pictured from left: **Bill McLaughlin '74**, **Bill and Wendy Hamilton Cute '73**, **Jon Davies '71**, **Chris Parianos Davies '73**, **Larry Robb '73**, and **Jan Ferrara Robb, '72**.

### Tell the OWU World!

Send us your wedding photos and birth announcements for inclusion in *OWU Magazine* and on the OWU website. Please go to [www.owu.edu/ClassNotes](http://www.owu.edu/ClassNotes) to send us your wedding photos and birth announcements for publication. Please clearly identify everyone in the photo with their respective class year. Thank you!

# inmemoriam

For more detailed information about the alumni listed below, please see [owu.edu/InMemoriam](http://owu.edu/InMemoriam), which includes links to full obituaries. The webpage is updated frequently, and names remain on it for one year from the date of death. The list below includes alumni and others who passed away after December 1, 2020, and before September 1, 2021.

## 1930s

**Marian Moyer Ford '38**, of New Smyrna Beach, FL, Dec. 15, 2020, age 104. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**E. Jean Whiting Addison '39**, of Tucson, AZ, Jan. 1. She was predeceased by siblings **Herbert Whiting '38** and **Margaret Whiting Funsett '44**.

## 1940s

**Mary Shaweker Crull '42**, of Montgomery, OH, Feb. 6, age 100. She was predeceased by husband **C. Leonard Crull '41**. Mary was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Robert Layer '43**, of Springfield, IL, Dec. 20, 2020, age 99. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**Robert Neasse '43**, of Cave Creek, AZ, Feb. 9, age 99. He was predeceased by wife **Emagene Forsyth Neasse '43**, and is survived by daughter **Angela Neasse Layton '67**. Robert was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Kathryn Shimmon Crowther '43**, of FL, Apr. 26, age 99. She was predeceased by sister **Elizabeth Shimmon Judd '39** and cousins **Herbert Whiting '38**, **Winifred Manchester '24**, **Robert Manchester '27**, **Ruth Ferguson Horr '36**, **Margaret Funsett '44**, and **Robert Cooley '39**. Kay is survived by daughter **Sarah Crowther Gosney '70**. She was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Ruth Dolle '44**, of Dayton, OH, Jan. 22, age 99. She is survived by cousin **Ruth Hessler Pettinger '60**. Ruth was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Ruth Tenwick Weeks '44**, of Cleveland, OH, June 4, age 98. She was predeceased by husband **Lloyd Weeks '44** and sister **Rita Tenwick Nyberg '40**. Ruth is survived by daughter **Marilyn Weeks Johnston '69**, and niece **Jane Nyberg Blank '70**. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Roberta Morrall Williams '45**, of Girard, OH, Mar. 26, age 97.

**Patricia King McCeney '46**, of Washington DC, Mar. 25, age 96. She was predeceased by sister **Marion King Kelly '45**. Patsy was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Mary Sanders McBride '46**, of Santa Rosa, CA, Jan. 18, age 95. She was predeceased by husband **Robert McBride '48**, parents **William Sanders 1913** and **Alice Hillman Sanders 1915**, and siblings **John Sanders '48** and **Alice Sanders Grant '50**, and cousin **Edward Rentz '54**. Mary was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**George Umemura '46**, of Carmel, IN, May 12, age 97.

**Julia "Alene" Beachler Beall '47**, of Takoma Park, MD, Feb. 24.

**Patricia Breece McKinney '47X**, of Raleigh, NC, Dec. 13, 2020, age 96. She was predeceased by uncle **James Breece Sr. 1920**, and is survived by brother **James Breece Jr. '49** and nephews **James Breece III '74** and **Anthony Breece '77**. Patricia was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Ruth Hofmann Grub '47**, of Cranberry Township, PA, Dec. 23, 2020, age 98.

**Marilyn Sturdivant Nelson '47**, of Joy, IL, Feb. 25, age 95. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Alice Walker Calvin '47**, of Greensboro, NC, Jan. 7, age 95. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Helen Browne Peters '48**, of Copalis Beach, WA, May 10, age 94. She is survived by cousin **Flora Taylor Figge '49** and nephew **Christopher Browne '73**. Helen was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Audra Jones Hansen '48**, of Hagerstown, IN, Jan. 14, age 93. She was predeceased by parent **E. Ray Jones 1910**, brother **Wilbur Jones '47**, aunts **Pauline Jones 1921** and **Audre Jones 1914**, and uncle **Charles Jones 1907**. Audra was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Virginia Meyer Sinor '48**, of Chattanooga, TN, May 12, age 95.

**Lois Huenefeld Deane '49**, of Windermere, FL, Jan. 12, age 93. She was predeceased by sister **Margaret Huenefeld Hamer '44** and cousin **Virginia Winkler Benedict '45**. Lois is survived by sister **Julia Huenefeld Beers '57**. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**James Swomley '49**, of Bloomfield, CT, Apr. 5, age 92. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Frances Wright Hoffmann '49**, of Goshen, NY, Mar. 10, age 93. She was predeceased by husband **Don Hoffmann '45**. Fran was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

## 1950s

**Betty Blessing Frederickson '50**, of Savoy, IL, June 26, age 92. She was predeceased by husband **L. Thomas Frederickson '50** and sister **Janyce Blessing Albert '53**. Betty was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**William Broberg '50**, of Sun City Center, FL, Feb. 22. He was predeceased by wife **Margaret Gilruth Broberg '50**. William is survived by children **Catherine Broberg Foerster '73**, **Linda Broberg Kilmer '77**, **Karen Broberg Palotti '75**, and **Donna Broberg Shum '77**. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

# inmemoriam

**Roberta Clark Scurlock '50**, of Worthington, OH, July 20, age 92. She was predeceased by aunts **Marjorie Rickey 1924** and **Thelma Rickey Grimm 1921**. Robbie was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Nancy Fleming Callander '50**, of Concord, MA, July 18, age 92. She was predeceased by husband **Douglas Callander '50**. Nancy was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Martin Kyre '50**, of Lubbock, TX, Feb. 13, age 92. He was predeceased by wife **Joan Randolph Kyre '54**. Martin was a member of OWU's Tower Society.

**Jane Lovejoy Riegger '50**, of Medina, OH, Feb. 17, age 92. She was predeceased by husband **Robert Riegger '50**. Jane was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Jane Reiser '50**, of New Philadelphia, OH, Apr. 28, age 92. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**Allen Theis '50**, of Lakewood, OH, Dec. 16, 2020, age 94. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Ezra Vogel '50**, of Cambridge, MA, Dec. 20, 2020, age 90. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity, as well as OWU's Tower Society, Board of Trustees, and Founder's Circle. Ezra also received a Distinguished Achievement Citation.

**Mary Ellen Oliver Priest '51**, of Lewiston, NY, Mar. 9, age 90. She was predeceased by husband **John Priest '50**, and is survived by sister **Julia Oliver Pierson '49**. Mary Ellen was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Marise Sawtell Bensinger McIntosh '51X**, of Walnut Creek, CA, Jan. 2, age 91. She was predeceased by husband **Thomas Bensinger '50** and siblings **Merton Sawtell '47**, **Marilyn Sawtell Leibold '47**, and **Eleanor Sawtell Hubbard '43**. Marise was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Richard Schaeffer '51**, of OH, June 11, age 93. He is survived by wife **Ruth Keese Schaeffer '51**. Dick was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**G. Clark Shaffer '51**, of Newark, DE, Apr. 10, age 94. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**D. James "Jim" Smith '51**, of Fenton, MI, May 25, age 93. He was predeceased by wife **Laura McCutcheon Smith '52**. Jim was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Helen Thompson Heines '51**, of Anthem, AZ, June 25, age 92. She was predeceased by husband **Richard Heines '52**. Helen was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Evelyn Turner White '51**, of Toledo, Ohio, Apr. 15, age 91. She was predeceased by husband **William White '48** and mother **Madelyn Lowe Turner 1925**. Evelyn was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Norma Allison Littick '52**, of Zanesville, OH, July 20, age 91. She was predeceased by husband **William Littick '50**. Norma was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**David Carto '52**, of Mansfield, OH, Apr. 4, age 90. He is survived by children **David Carto '78** and **Thomas Carto '80**. Dave was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Nancy Fillingham McCormick '52**, of OH, Feb. 2, age 90. She was predeceased by husband **Kenneth McCormick '51** and sister **Joan Fillingham Messer '50**. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**John Kuehn '52**, of Medina, OH, Apr. 25, age 90. He was predeceased by first wife **Jane Kleinmann '54**, parents **Adelbert Kuehn 1923** and **Emma Kuehn 1925**, and brother **Edward Kuehn '54**. John was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Mary Allen '53**, of Greenville, NC, July 17, age 89. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Richard Jackson '53**, of Durham, NC, Dec. 26, 2020, age 90. He was predeceased by siblings **Robert Jackson '51** and **Ann Jackson Hilliard '55**. Richard is survived by wife **Janet Wilson Jackson '52**. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Jean Krichbaum Huffman '53**, of Westerville, OH, Apr. 17, age 89. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Robert Neff '53**, of Kettering, OH, Jan. 18. He was predeceased by mother **Dorothy Stone Neff '27**, uncles **Sidney Stone '29** and **Charles Stone '27**, and cousin **Charles Stone '55**. Bob was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Elizabeth Norton McKinnon '53**, of Bristol, VT, Dec. 25, 2020.

**Helen Robertson Dunlap '53**, of Niles, MI, May 13, age 89. She was predeceased by husband **Ralph Dunlap '54**, father **Wilbur Robertson '26**, aunt **Mary Elizabeth Robertson Scaife '29**, and family members **W.N. Robertson 1898**, **Arthur Robertson 1909**, **A. Lindsley Scaife '29**, **Josephine Robertson Quast 1922**, and **George Truman Quast 1922**. Helen was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Henry Tilmans '53**, of Richmond, IN, Feb. 26, age 89. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**Daniel Butler '54**, of Media, PA, Feb. 5, age 87. He is survived by wife **Linda Zehring Butler '60**. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity.

**Richard DeVos '54**, of Bay Village, OH, Mar. 14, age 88. He was predeceased by wife **Berneita Heyman DeVos '54**. Richard was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Carolyn Gordon Hammitt '54**, of Lisbon, OH, Jan. 7, age 89. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**A. Roger Herrett '54X**, of Defiance, OH, Aug. 6, age 89. He was predeceased by father **Arthur Herrett 1915** and sister **Lucy Herett Niedenthal '49**. Roger is survived by wife **Carolyn Shuter Herrett '54**. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**John Miller '54**, of Cornwall, CT, May 1, age 90. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Margaret Miller Bowman '54**, of Medina, OH, Feb. 1, age 88. She is survived by grandchild and current OWU student **Nicole Ridenour**. Margi was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**Ralph Herms '55**, of Lexington, OH, Dec. 22, 2020, age 87. He was predeceased by uncle **Laurence Meredith Kimble '28** and cousin **Mary McColgan Hartley '54**, and is survived by cousin **Robert Kimble '55**. Ralph was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Thornton Lynam Jr. '55**, of Rehoboth Beach, DE, Jan. 15, age 88. He was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

**William Plavcan '55**, of Hagerstown, MD, Apr. 19, age 97. He is survived by sister **Elizabeth Plavcan Drumm '58** and son **William Plavcan '81**. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and OWU's Tower Society.

**Jeanette Lindquist Hakes '56**, of Naples, FL, July 29, age 86. She was predeceased by husband **John Hakes '56**. Jan was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Joyce Miller Hessler '56**, of Zanesville, OH, Aug. 24, age 86. She was predeceased by sister **Betty Ruehle Koons '56**. Joyce is survived by brother **Daryl Ruehle '62**. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**David Nystrom '56**, of Houston, TX, Feb. 26, age 87. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Shirley Reitz Fell '56**, of Slippery Rock, PA, Mar. 22, age 87. She was predeceased by brother **Roy Reitz '59**. Shirley was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Jerome Ritter '56**, of Bellefontaine, OH, Jan. 25, age 86. He is survived by wife **Joanne Hlavin Ritter '59** and brother **John Ritter '60**. Jerome was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Don "Trip" Triplehorn '56**, of Fairbanks, AK, Dec. 25, 2020, age 86. He is survived by wife **Julia Hardesty Triplehorn '57**. Trip was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**Patricia Turley McManis '56**, June 14, age 86. She is survived by husband **Charles McManis '54** and daughter **Sarah McManis McElwee '79**. Patricia was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Margaret "Peggy" Brown Weber '57**, of Lewis Center, OH, Jan. 12, age 85. She is survived by husband **Edwin Weber '57**, daughter **Amy Zepp Mathews '92**, and sister **Sally Brown Moldovan '52**. Peggy was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**John Detrick '57**, of Columbus, OH, Dec. 26, 2020, age 85. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Lucia Hossellman Burneson '57**, of Lima, OH, Jan. 5, age 85. She is survived by husband **Andrew Burneson '57**. Lucia was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**William "Billy Ray" Jennings '57**, of Lexington, KY, Aug. 14, age 86. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Esther Nelson Long '57X**, of Akron, OH, May 8, age 85. She was predeceased by husband **Fred Long '57**. Esther was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**David Thomas '57**, of Anderson, SC, Feb. 3, age 85. He is survived by daughter **Karen Thomas Hensley '85**. David was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**David Weisman '57**, of Granger, IN, Dec. 14, 2020, age 85. He was predeceased by wife **Edith Weisman '57**. Dave was a member of OWU Tower Society and Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Judith Bridge Hunter '58**, of Atlanta, GA, June 14, age 85. She was predeceased by husband **Robert Hunter '46**, parents **Ruth Gammill Bridge 1924** and **James Bridge 1922**, and sister Marilyn Bridge Vance '50. Judy is survived by child **Burtch Hunter '90**. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Donna Haines Lowman '58**, of Cortland, OH, Mar. 28, age 84. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**Walter Kachel '58**, of Great Falls, VA, Jan. 25, age 87. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**William Moorhead '58**, of Houston, TX, Dec. 20, 2020, age 84. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Jack Nagel '58**, of Tallmadge, OH, Mar. 2, age 84. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Nancy Tamlyn Nagel '60**. Jack was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Carol Neufeldt Rose '58**, of Scottsdale, AZ, May 3, age 84. She is survived by brother **Max Neufeldt '60**. Carol was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Kay Simmermon Laney '58**, of North Liberty, IN, May 16, age 85. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Margery Bensinger Greek '59**, of Cincinnati, OH, Dec. 19, 2020, age 83. He was predeceased by brother **Thomas Bensinger '50**. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

# inmemoriam

**Patricia Chase Saltsman '59**, of Mystic, CT, Dec. 29, 2020, age 83. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Nancy Betts Bowman '59**, of Willoughby, OH, Dec. 1, 2020, age 83. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Barry Livingston '59X**, of Chagrin Falls, OH, Aug. 14, age 84. He is survived by son **David Livingston '94**. Barry was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Glenn "Fred" Sykora '59**, of Shaker Heights, OH, May 1, age 83. He is survived by wife **Mary Sykora '62** and daughter **Elizabeth Sykora Kirchner '92**. Fred was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Donald Van Dyke '59**, of Vero Beach, FL, Dec. 23, 2020, age 83. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**David Yoder '59**, of Portland, OR, Mar. 10, age 83. He was predeceased by cousins **Charles Yoder '51** and **Robert Yoder '43**, and is survived by cousin **David Yoder '70**. David was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

## 1960s

**Merrill Darlington '60**, of Riverside, CA., Feb. 1, age 82. He is survived by brother **Larry Darlington '63**. Merrill was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

**Richard Greene '60**, of Sarasota, FL, Dec. 20, 2020, age 82. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**David Mallegg '60**, of Laguna Beach, CA, Aug. 9, age 83. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Nancy Morgan Giles '60**, of Traverse City, MI, July 8, age 82. She was a member of OWU's Tower Society, Associate Founder's Circle, and Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Robert Barr '61**, of Escondido, CA, Jan. 6, age 81. He is survived by wife **Joan Hoffman Barr '61**. Bob was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**John Everts '61**, of Media, PA, August 16. He is survived by wife **Judith Pyle Everts '62**. John was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Richard Hoppe '61**, of Dayton, OH, July 24. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Donald Merrell '61X**, of Fountain Hills, AZ, Jan. 13, age 81. He was predeceased by mother **Sarah Welker Merrell '29**, uncle **Harry Peat 1921**, and aunt **Lois Welker Peat 1924**. Donald is survived by sister **Amy Jo Merrell Sommers '57** and cousin **Janet Peat Smith '55X**. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Irene Nilsson Schoetker '61**, of St. Petersburg, FL, Feb. 23, age 81. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**Donald Pierce Jr. '61**, of Birmingham, MI, Mar. 12, age 81. He was predeceased by father **Donald Pierce Sr. '33** and uncle **James Pierce 1925**. Don is survived by siblings **Richard Pierce '63** and **Janet Pierce Raisch '65**. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Robert Warren '61**, of South Windsor, CT, Aug. 12, age 82. He is survived by daughter **Janice Warren '83**. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Jane Brandon Binns '62X**, of Hilton Head Island, SC, Jan. 17, age 80. She was predeceased by mother **Marjorie Hageman Brandon '29**, uncle **James Hageman '32**, aunt **Carolyn Hageman Hawley '39**, and cousin **Herman Hageman '63**. Jane is survived by husband **Gerald Binns '62** and brother **Edward Brandon '57**. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**H. James "Jim" Brown '62**, of New York, NY, Jan. 24, age 80. He was predeceased by parents **Howard Brown '29** and **Helen Janney Brown '30**, and sister **Patricia Brown Kropp '57**. Jim is survived by daughter **Kristine Brown Mahar '88** and nephews **Kenneth Kropp '80** and **Bradley Kropp '83**. He was inducted into the OWU Athletics Hall of Fame and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Kenneth Engler Jr. '62**, of Hague, NY, June 27, age 82. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Thurza Parsons Campbell '62**, of Sherborn, MA, Mar. 22, age 80. She is survived by husband **James Campbell '61**. Thurza was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**William Poist '62**, of Washington DC, Apr. 7, age 81. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Bonnie Root Ehmman-Bagley '62**, of Amherst, NH, Apr. 25, age 80. She is survived by sister **Carolyn Root Deibel '67**. Bonnie was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Patricia Topmiller '62**, of Thousand Oaks, CA, Feb. 28, age 79. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Linda Warner '62**, of Portland, ME, May 5, age 80. She is survived by brother **Wellman Warner '53**. Linda was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Harry Faulkner '63**, of Sidney, OH, May 29, age 80. He was predeceased by father **Walter Faulkner '35** and uncle **Thomas Faulkner '28**. Harry is survived by child **J. Douglas Faulkner '93** and brothers **John Faulkner '68** and **William Faulkner '72**. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Jerry Grace '63**, of Naples, FL, Jan. 24, age 79. He is survived by son **Christopher Grace '94**. Jerry was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**John Lippincott III '63**, of Weston, MA, Apr. 30, age 79. He was predeceased by his first wife, **Linda Deuble Lippincott '64**. John was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Nora Pearce Kelly '63**, of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, Apr. 1, age 80. She was predeceased by parents **Kenneth Pearce '27** and **Marion Orth Pearce '31**, uncle **William Pearce '31**, and cousins **Patricia Pearce Bixler '57**, **James Pearce '62**, and **William**

**Pearce '69**. She is survived by sister **Lucinda Pearce Fedak '67** and cousin **Robert Orth '56**. Nora was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Stephen Perrill '63**, of Indianapolis, IN, Mar. 27, age 80. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Jerome Bechtle '64**, of Whitefish, MT, July 15, age 79. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Keith Kelts '64**, of Rapid City, SD, Feb. 4, age 78. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Carol Sinzinger Ball '64**, of Berea, Ohio, Apr. 7, age 78. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Kenneth Ward '64**, of Westfield, NJ, Aug. 7, age 78. He was predeceased by wife **Margaret McAllister Ward '64** and is survived by daughter **Jane Ward Tyner '94**.

**Lawrence Boen '65**, of Irvine, CA, Jan. 21, age 83. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**John Bruce '65**, of Hilton Head Island, SC, Apr. 14, age 77. He was predeceased by father **Harold Bruce 1926** and uncle **Frederick Hout '31**. John was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Virginia Joseph Dodson '65**, of McFarland, WI, Aug. 9, age 77. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Mary Matson Kelly '65**, of Rochester, NH, Mar. 25, age 78. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Donald Pfister '65**, of Asheville, NC, Dec. 24, 2020, age 76. He was predeceased by brother **Robert Pfister '64**. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

**James Ruf '65**, of New York, NY, June 4. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Lauren Crecelius Lukens '66**, of Fort Meyers, FL, July 28, age 76. She is survived by sister **Ellen Crecelius Butz '64**. Lauren was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Thomas Sanders '66**, of Villa Rica, GA, Jan. 24, age 76. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Ann Simcoke Wood '66**, of Hampstead, NC, Apr. 3, 2020, age 75.

**Francis "Buck" Stultz Jr. '66**, of Delaware, OH, Jan. 16, age 77. He was predeceased by wife **Valerie White Stultz '69**, and is survived by child **Marny Stultz-Saldanha '99**. Buck was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Robert Ullom '66**, of Houston, TX, Mar. 2, age 76. He is survived by wife **Margaret Esch Ullom '66**. Robert was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Larry Heinzerling '67**, of New York, NY, Aug. 11, age 75. He was predeceased by father **Lynn Heinzerling '29**. Larry was a former OWU Board of Trustees member, received a Distinguished Achievement Citation, and was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Sue Meck Bender '67**, of Waldo, OH, Jan. 29, age 75. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**Evelyn Swartz Amidon '67**, of Stowe, ME, Mar. 25, age 75.

**Barbara Darrell Montgomery '68**, of Cincinnati, OH, June 3, age 75. She is survived by son **Matthew Montgomery '97X**. Barbara was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Dean Rockwood '68**, of Elizabethtown, PA, Feb. 27, age 74. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Scott Sattler '68**, of Eureka, CA, Jan. 13. He was predeceased by mother **Bernice Smith Sattler '31**. Scott was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Ruth Zimmerman '68**, of Boxborough, MA, Apr. 15, age 74. She was predeceased by brother **Thomas Zimmerman '72**. Ruth was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Susan Barbieri Lohr '69**, of Raleigh, NC, Dec. 27, 2020, age 73. She is survived by husband **Robert Lohr '69**. Susan was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Jon Berlin '69**, of Aldie, VA, Feb. 6. He is survived by wife **Nancy Berlin '69** and sister **Jane Theiler '73**.

**Norman Fite '69**, of Phoenix, AZ, Feb. 22, age 74. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Robert Johanson '69**, of Palm Coast, FL, June 1, age 74. He is survived by wife **Barbara J. Overmyer Johanson '67**.

**Ellen Kuntz Jordan '69**, of Memphis, TN, Jan. 25, age 73. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

## 1970s

**Anne Kinsey Cross '70**, of Moorestown, NJ, May 25. She is survived by husband **Derek Cross '68**. Anne was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Wendy Williams Beasley '70**, of Burns, TN, Aug. 18, age 72. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Marianne Mahoney '72**, of Austin, TX, Dec. 15, 2020, age 70.

**David Jefferson '73**, of Breckenridge, CO, Feb. 23, age 69. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Karen Reichert Buckingham '74**, of Foxboro, MA, May 3, age 68.

**Eulis Cathey Jr. '75**, of Buffalo, NY, Apr. 27, age 67.

**Thomas Cowie '75**, of Plymouth, NH, Mar. 22, age 68. He was predeceased by mother **Barbara Olhoff Cowie '49**. Tom was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

# MY DELAWARE MOM, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING

TRIBUTE TO ALFREDA ELIZABETH BONNER  
JAN. 1, 1926–DEC. 14, 2020

By Gregory L. Moore '76

It's taken me a while to collect my thoughts about my Delaware mom. Mrs. Alfreda Bonner, a long-time librarian, campus thespian, and one of Ohio Wesleyan University's greatest ambassadors, was an amazing woman and, quite frankly, the first diva I ever met.

Early on, I didn't frequent Beeghley Library (I preferred Slocum), so my first memory of Mrs. Bonner is at the Chappelle auditions for *A Raisin in the Sun* in 1972. She naturally owned the role of Lena. I played the son, Walter Lee Younger—Sidney Poitier's signature part.

This was fall, my freshman year. I was so impressed with Mrs. Bonner. You could tell she had been on the stage; she was commanding as Mama, and she lifted everyone else's performance.

She showed me how to deliver my lines. Everybody on the production approached her with awe and respect. I didn't know any better and thought she was some professional actress hired to play the role made famous by Claudia McNeil in the 1961 film.

I remember being a little knocked back during a rehearsal when I learned that Mrs. Bonner was an OWU librarian. We went on to get six standing ovations over the course of a week. I was so green, but Mrs. Bonner and OWU great Barbara McEachern, who played Ruth, whipped me into shape.

Not long after, I adopted Mrs. Bonner as my Delaware mom. If she was that good of an actress, what else could I learn from her?

She was a cultured woman, who demanded good manners and read everything—newspapers, magazines, menus ... you name it.

We spent hours listening to her opera records, delighted in reviewing the album liner notes, and checked out articles in old magazines that she had collected.

She wasn't shy about giving advice. I needed to spend more time in the real library, she said. And don't leave without checking out something. Before too long, I was a regular at Beeghley, and if she was around, I always got in her checkout line.

Occasionally, she would sneak away to show me where to find a particular book. We'd wander into the culture section, and she'd point out stuff about opera and art. That's how I knew our library had a copy of *Raisin*, which I still have.

When I'd visit her little ranch house on Delaware's south side, she'd be so excited to show me the latest things she had read. There were plenty of books but also newspaper articles from the *Delaware Gazette* and the *Columbus Dispatch*. She knew I was a journalism major, and she wanted me to know she

was on top of that.

That's when I started to learn that Ohio Wesleyan was being portrayed a bit differently than what my experience was on the campus. Not that my experience was bad. I had a great time, met a lot of fascinating students, and was grateful to be there after barely meeting deadlines to get into college. That last part is a whole other story.

Looking back, those clippings and conversations fueled my activism, and I got more engaged in trying to change OWU.

I had already participated in a protest freshman year, part of a group that had occupied center court at a basketball game while a manifesto was read over the PA system. But after being around the Bonners and learning about Black Delaware, I got more into revolutionary literature, cofounded *The Witness*, and attended the historic 1975 March on Boston for school desegregation.

That growth was stoked over dinners with Mrs. Bonner and her beloved husband, Dewitt. I always thought he should have been a Black intellectual from Harvard. But he was a proud autoworker. They had nice things, a second home in Cardington, Ohio, drove Cadillacs. And he loved Mama, his pet nickname for Mrs. Bonner.

But being exposed to these talented, smart Black folks turned me into a sponge. I became a lover of theater, especially musicals, and even got to see the great opera star Jessye Norman. I own at least a thousand books and have given away that many over the decades.

I have my Delaware mom to thank for that. She was one of the most influential people in my life.

And here's the thing. I wasn't the only one. There were other students that she mothered in Delaware. Black and white. I'm not sure the school ever fully appreciated the important role she played for students.

Whenever I would start complaining, she'd tilt her head to the side, shoot me a glance and remark that OWU had helped her travel broadly, visit the great museums in New York, and go to the Met to see *Madama Butterfly*, her favorite opera. Take advantage of all you can while you are here, she'd say, and soar higher than anybody else. She didn't allow whining in her house.

I loved those pep talks. Way into her 60s, she essentially kept a scrap book of my newspaper career. Then she started sending me clippings and old photos after Dewitt died. She sold the ranch house and moved to an apartment.

She knew she had helped me fly, and I never stopped showing my appreciation. Whenever I was in town, I took her to dinner. I got a kick out of watching her order her meals with

an aristocratic air after she examined the menu. She knew what she wanted pretty quickly, but she read the whole thing to decide how good of a place it was. I do that, too.

The last time I saw Mrs. Bonner was Oct. 2, 2018, the day after I moderated a Q&A at OWU. She came to my events whenever she could. But this time she was with a caretaker, a friend from her church. She was a tad unsteady, but we made plans to meet at her place on Tuesday before I headed to the airport.

It was a strange last encounter. We sat together in the common area of her apartment building, the first time that she hadn't invited me into her home. We still talked about everything—my family, our lives, and her dinner club, an integrated group of octogenarians, give or take a few years, whom she met with regularly.

I asked her if she needed anything, and she admitted that she needed a pair of glasses. I gave her another business card and told her to have her optometrist call me so I could pay the bill. As I stood up to leave for the airport, she blurted out, "OK, you can come on in."

I knew she had been a hoarder. Back in the day, I had helped her clean out her ranch house so it could be sold. Now, 20-plus years later, here we were again. I was aghast. She would not be able to keep going like this. So, I called the county's adult services department and asked for a welfare check and demanded they get her place cleaned up.

Immediately.

I also found the friend from her church, a beautiful soul. We agreed that an intervention was necessary. The system is weird; it respects people's right to privacy and free will even

when they are struggling and making very bad decisions.

We developed a plan for haulers to clean out her apartment. But before we could execute it, Mrs. Bonner was rushed to the hospital. Authorities determined soon after that she needed to be in assisted living. That settled things.

Through it all, she remained a fiercely independent woman and resisted suggestions that she change any routines in her life. But she knew I had called the county on her. And without ever saying so, she was glad that I did.

I loved Mrs. Bonner. She knew that, too. The day I graduated from Ohio Wesleyan I made sure that she met my mother, who thanked her for taking care of me in Delaware.

When I got the call on Dec. 14 that Mrs. Bonner had passed away, I slumped into a chair. A wonderful journey had come to an end. I needed time to reflect—on those rehearsals, the

lectures, the dinners, her class, her grace and, her loyalty.

I was now ready to offer my tribute. It's never too late to say thanks.

Oh, I have one more thing to share. During our final performance of *Raisin in the Sun*, someone shouted from the crowd: "You can't talk to your mama like that." After the show, Mrs. Bonner proclaimed that you knew you had delivered an authentic performance when the audience responded like that.

That night, she said, I was excellent. ■



Alfreda Bonner (left), with **Greg Moore** and **Sabra Stewart '75**, starred in OWU's 1972 production of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

*Gregory Moore is the retired editor of the Denver Post, a member of the OWU Hall of Fame, and a recipient of the Poe Medal as a former member of the Board of Trustees.*

**Kevin Pickard '75**, of Syracuse, NY, May 14, age 67. He is survived by brothers **Lynn Pickard '62** and **Terry Pickard '67**.

**Charlotte Reid '75**, of Rehoboth Beach, DE, Jan. 29. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Douglas Kennedy '77**, of Dublin, OH, Aug. 14, age 66. He was predeceased by mother **Mary Jo Jones Kennedy '50** and is survived by wife **Candace Caldwell Kennedy '79**. Doug was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Ruth Ehinger Milvaney '78**, of New York, NY, July 16, 2020, age 64. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

## 1980s

**Rachel Brookshire McKinley '80**, of Yellow Springs, OH, Jan. 18, age 63.

**Elizabeth Dolphin '81**, of Farmington, CT, Aug. 15, age 62.

**Juan Manuel Palazon Villarreal '81**, of Rhinebeck, NY, May 20, age 61. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Robert Berquist '82**, of Bellefontaine, OH, Aug. 5, age 61. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Marcy Stevens Kimball '83**, of Plymouth, MA, Aug. 19, age 60.

**Karen Stewart Perrone '83**, of Earleville, MD, June 19, age 60.

**Edward Stone '83**, of Bangkok, Thailand, June 19, age 60. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

## 1990s

**Michael Warnes '90**, of Durham, NC, Mar. 7, age 52. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

## 2010s

**James Sanzone '16**, of Bluffton, SC, July 25, age 27. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

## Faculty & Staff

John Behrens, of Port Saint Lucie, FL, July 16, age 88. He taught American history and journalism at OWU.

Alfreda Elizabeth Bonner, Dec. 14, 2020, age 94. *Please see remembrance by Gregory Moore '76, Page 44.*

Mary Clark, of Delaware, OH, Dec. 26, 2020, age 97. She was a housekeeper at OWU.

Burl Coffee, of Delaware, OH, Feb. 15, age 85. He was a powerhouse engineer at OWU until retirement in 2001.

Joy Davis, of Minneapolis, MN, May 27, age 90. She taught English and literature at OWU.

L. Thomas "Tom" Dillman, of Delaware, OH, July 18. He was professor emeritus of physics and astronomy. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary Alice Dillman, assistant professor emerita of English and the Writing Resource Center.

Wilma Graves, of Chillicothe, OH, Dec. 30, 2020, age 84. She was an employee at OWU.

Joann Harvey, of Powell, OH, July, age 67. She was professor emerita of accounting, dedicating almost 30 years at OWU.



Sean Kay, of Delaware, OH, Nov. 13, 2020, age 53. The Robson Professor of Politics and Government and director of the International Studies Program, Sean was

a prominent member of the OWU family since joining the university in 1999. He was predeceased by grandmother **Anne Laylin Grimes '33** and great-grandmother **Fanny Hagerman Laylin 1907**.

James Kunz, of New Bern, NC, Jan. 4, age 75. He worked in the admissions department.

Betty Oby, of North Canton, OH, Apr. 19, age 91. She was an employee at OWU. She was predeceased by husband **David Oby '51**.

George William "Bill" Reed Jr., of Delaware, OH, June 8, age 88. He coached men's volleyball.

Herschel Shohan, of Amherst, MA, Jan. 4. He taught English at OWU.

John Topping, of Sebring, OH, December 2020, age 77. He was the director of administrative computing from 1978 to 2008.

Shirley Welsh, of Delaware, OH, July 8, age 79. She worked at OWU.

Miriam Willey, of Delaware, OH, Dec. 10, 2020, age 90. She taught religion at OWU.

Roy Wittlinger, of Chapin, SC, Apr. 17, age 79. He was a professor and chair of the Psychology Department and the first director of information systems at OWU, retiring in 2000 after 32 years.

## Friends

Donald Brady, of Greensboro, NC, June 18, age 88. He was a strong supporter of initiatives in education, including at OWU. Don is survived by wife **Mary Gay Halbleib Brady '56**.

# Sympathy to

**Richard Thomas '64** for the loss of his spouse, Julianne Simpson Thomas, of Fairfax, VA, Apr. 13, age 71.

**Ann Gerhart '69** for the loss of her spouse, Peter Gerhart, of Shaker Heights, OH, Feb. 7.

**Jane Tarbutton Evans '70** and **Ann Tarbutton Gerhart '69** for the loss of their husband and brother-in-law, Craig Evans, of Littleton, Colo., Mar. 9, age 72.

**William Copeland Jr. '71** (deceased), **Christopher Copeland '73**, **Constance Decelle Copeland '76**, and **Stephen Copeland '78** for the loss of their mother and mother-in-law, Carolyn Varin Copeland, of Columbus, OH, Jan. 23, age 103.

**Wendie Malick '72** and **Kenneth Malick '77X** for the loss of their father, Kenneth Malick, of New York, May 7.

**Allison Funk '73** for the loss of her husband, George Soule, in February 2020.

**Steve Walton '77** for the loss of his mother, Gwen Dulin, of Columbus, OH, Feb. 10, age 89.

**Scott Tedder '88** for the loss of his mother, Diana Tedder, of Canal Winchester, OH, Mar. 30, age 74.

**Annett Guglielmi Riehl '07**, **Christopher Guglielmi '07**, and **Phillip Guglielmi '11** for the loss of their mother, Annett Hollington Guglielmi, of Findlay, OH, Feb. 20, age 71.



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# It was 2020 a century earlier

A pandemic is killing millions of people in the United States and around the world. As an outbreak hits Ohio Wesleyan, fraternity houses are commandeered for care and recovery, and the campus is forced to shut down for a month. Even the president becomes ill. When they return, students are asked to social distance and follow health guidelines. And it's so difficult to study. • In many strange ways, 2020 was an echo of 1918. Below are excerpts from several articles in the *Ohio Wesleyan Transcript*, published after OWU reopened from its "influenza vacation."

## 1918

November 13, 1918

### Prexy Hoffman Suffers from Flu

Among the first to suffer from the influenza during the recent epidemic was President J.H. Hoffman. Although at no time was his condition alarming, yet he was confined to his home and held away from his duties for two weeks. The re-opening of the classes found the President in the best of health and fast to his tasks.

November 18, 1918

### Student Hospital with Full Equipment Is Success

The newly finished Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house on North Washington street was commandeered by the (University Hospital) Association, and turned into an efficient hospital which could care for from ten to twenty-five patients. The necessary equipment and supplies to give the men the very best attention were obtained, and the complete recovery of all the patients that were admitted may be attributed to the thorough and careful management of the authorities in charge. Although many of the other S.A.T.C. (Student Army Training Corps) schools lost from one to eight men during the epidemic, Ohio Wesleyan goes on record as not having lost a man. As convalescing hospitals both the Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Chi houses have been used.

### Recess Caused by Influenza Makes Much Confusion

The usual confusion of an opening term was the general impression of affairs around Ohio Wesleyan Wednesday of last week, as the students resumed their work after an involuntary recess of about a month. However, the disruption caused by Spanish influenza came so early in the school year that the work

may be easily continued or begun again according to the instructor's wishes.

The influenza epidemic was nationwide, and very few of the colleges were not closed, either by local or state orders. Ohio Wesleyan was closed previously to the order from the Ohio Board of Health, which commanded that all colleges and schools in cities having three thousand or more population should be discontinued until the disease was checked sufficiently to warrant their continuation without the possibility of contagion.

During the vacation nearly all of the students except the S.A.T.C. men went to their homes, but Monnett Hall remained open for the fifty women who remained. It has been estimated by the authorities that the recess may prove to contain more bad features than the real loss of time in the regular work, and that many students in the various colleges will not return, owing to the demand of the industries for employees.

The student soldiers, although not attending classes of the University, continued their drill and practice of military movements. Their work in war courses also continued. But this all means a renewed effort to cover lost ground in the school work. The faculty entertain hopes that this may be accomplished before the close of the semester, so that credit may be given for the semester's work.

The foot ball team was not affected much by the vacation, as far as training goes, as most of the men were in the S.A.T.C. and were here to continue practice....

December 4, 1918

### KEEP IT OFF!

It is a duty to ourselves and to our friends to strictly observe these rules for health laid down for us. To be

careless as to our living, and to think ourselves immune from this very serious plague, is running a great risk. If we do our part to ward off this contagion, we are helping ourselves and Humanity to a great extent.... We can do a great deal to limit the number of influenza victims at Ohio Wesleyan and incidentally aid in preventing our University from closing for a second time this semester.

### Precautions Issued Against Influenza

Instructors are asked to see:

1. That windows and doors are open sufficiently for good ventilation during class periods, and that students be advised to wear extra wraps if necessary.
2. That students sit several seats apart in class, if the seating capacity of the room permits.

Janitors are instructed to see that all class rooms are thoroughly aired before the first period in the morning, during the noon period, and at night after the last class.

Any student who feels physically indisposed as a result of chills, temperature, bad cough, sore throat, headache, loss of appetite, etc., should report immediately to the medical adviser at a college hospital.

December 11, 1918

### Studying

One of the hardest things to do this semester is study. The "flu" vacation, the S.A.T.C., the unsettled conditions about the campus—all come in for their share of the blame....

But, as Prexy says, "the test of a man is to press steadily onward to his goal in the face of adverse circumstances." If the studying comes a little harder now, the result will mean all the more to us in the future.

Introducing the **Alumni Referral Award**

# Awarding this \$4,000 OWU Scholarship is in YOUR Hands!



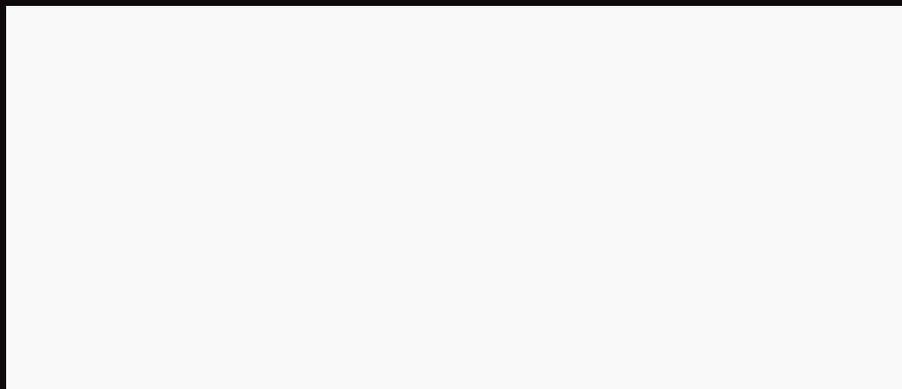
Pictured are  
sophomores  
**Gavin Kraska** (left)  
and **Haji Sidibe**.

We need your help. So does that special high school student you know. Now, you can help high school seniors become future Bishops with the **Alumni Referral Award!**

When you and other OWU alumni refer a senior to the OWU Admission Office by filling out the brief form at [owu.edu/refer](http://owu.edu/refer), they are eligible to receive a \$1,000-a-year award **on top of all other financial aid they receive!** That's an extra \$4,000!

The recipient can be a family member or that young person you know who would thrive at Ohio Wesleyan.

It's a great day to refer a future Bishop! Start now at [owu.edu/refer](http://owu.edu/refer).



After delays of 17 and five months, respectively, alumni from the Classes of 1970 and 1971 returned to campus for dual 50th reunions at a special Homecoming and Family Weekend celebration in early October. Pictured carrying the class banners are, from left, 1970 classmates **Roger Gould** and **Steve Sherwood** (a.k.a. by his class as "President for Life"), and 1971 classmates **Cynthia Haeberle Roberts** and **Laurie Bright Beam**. See more photos from the 2021 Homecoming and Family Weekend at [owu.edu/magazine](http://owu.edu/magazine).

(Top photo by Ashley Stuart)  
(Bottom photo by David Shakarashvili '24)

