

OWU

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY | FALL 2023

M A G A Z I N E

Ring in a New Era

Matt vandenBerg
looks to “pursue
unprecedented heights”
at Ohio Wesleyan.





Photo by Mark Schmitter '12

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Ohio
Wesleyan
University

Cover photo by
Paul Vernon

It's all about transforming lives

It's appropriate that the first issue of OWU Magazine after I've joined Ohio Wesleyan University features a major story on some of our amazing alumni living and working in New York City.

Just days before my family and I moved to Delaware and the OWU campus, we took a summer vacation to explore some of the rich history of early America. We traveled to Washington, D.C., and toured the White House. We traveled to Boston and walked the Freedom Trail—and stopped in Cheers, where literally no one knew our names. And we traveled to New York City.

My wife, Melissa, and I loved being back in the city, and our children, Jackson, 10, and Sylvia, 7, could not get enough of Nintendo New York at

new president begins their tenure with a listening tour, but I want to do something a little deeper. What Matters is my attempt to immerse myself in the OWU campus and culture, to fully experience life as a Bishop. I've worked alongside staff and sat in the classroom with faculty, worked with students in the research lab, practiced with them on the athletic field, dined with them, met with Delaware leaders in the community, and visited alumni where they live and work.

It's essentially my own version of the OWU Connection—the same type of immersive, experiential learning that our students enjoy.

During the New York trip, one of the remarkable alumni I met was **Shirley Paden-Bernstein '73**, who you can also read about in this issue. When she came to Ohio Wesleyan, Shirley was a first-generation college student from a family of eight living in the inner city of Philadelphia. Today, she owns Shirley Paden Custom Knits and designs custom hand-knit clothing. She also is an internationally recognized teacher, author, mentor, and philanthropist.

Ohio Wesleyan changed her life and the trajectory of her family. In recognition of that transformation, and as a way to honor her mother, who she says did not have the opportunity to attend college, Shirley made a five-year pledge of \$1 million to OWU to support initiatives like first-generation college student scholarships and the OWU Bridge Program, which gives new students skills and connections that will help them thrive at OWU.

Shirley recognizes that students may not arrive at OWU from equal starting points. Her gift enables us to provide hardworking and resilient students with the resources they need to succeed in college and their chosen life paths.

Thanks to such investments in our students from Shirley and other generous alumni, we are strengthening our ability to help students achieve their goals.

And these programs are working.

This fall, the percentage of our first-year students who completed a successful year and returned as sophomores increased to 84.3%, a full 2.5 percentage points higher than last year, and OWU's highest retention rate in 14 years. Digging a little deeper, our retention rate for first-generation students rose 9.8 percentage points, and

“During my What Matters activities, I am consistently learning that the Ohio Wesleyan community loves this university for the way it helps students find their why and find their way.”

retention rose 7.1 percentage points for Pell-eligible students. That is proof of the success of our extensive efforts and initiatives with at-risk groups.

Those numbers represent lives being transformed. Families being transformed.

And that is what matters.

During my What Matters activities, I am consistently learning that the Ohio Wesleyan community loves this university for the way it helps students find their why and find their way. Because of their experience with faculty mentors and coaches, through internships and travel, and with friends in this residential community, students who come to OWU are changed forever. They will live richer, more purposeful, and more rewarding lives because of their experience at OWU and their lifelong relationship with the greater OWU community across the country and around the world.

I am thrilled and humbled by the opportunity to help carry on and expand this great tradition.

Matt

Matt vandenBerg

President, Ohio Wesleyan University

Facebook: mattpvandenBerg



*A walk in Delaware led to an impromptu meeting with **Jim Mendenhall '73**, a discussion about OWU, and a selfie.*

Rockefeller Plaza and the Barbie Shop at FAO Schwartz, respectively. We were all thrilled by the energy of the city and awed by its history. Standing at the site of the World Trade Center prompted a thoughtful discussion about ideas like freedom, sacrifice, equality, and responsibility—foundational ideas that harken back to the American Revolution.

Then, just a few weeks after we moved to Delaware, I took my first trip as Ohio Wesleyan president—and that trip was to New York City.

The trip was part of my What Matters listening tour. It seems every

On Rock's Retirement

President Rock Jones is the best thing that has happened to OWU in my lifetime—and I'm 80 years old!

Nancy Reynolds Schneider '64

Glenwood Springs, CO

Remembering Professor Rabby

My heart leapt at seeing Professor Rabby's photo on page 47 of your Spring 2023 issue. I played Louisa in his production of *The Fantasticks* in the fall of 1967, a dream come true for me. Frank Corrado was a thrilling El Gallo.

Professor Rabby was a gifted comic and insightful director, equally at home with farce and high drama—I also recall his searing production of *The Crucible*. His wife taught me how to sing. He was inspiring at every turn, with a deep humanity.

Betsy Nickeson Bilus '71

New Canaan, CT

Chappelear Photos

I'm delighted that the last two issues of the alumni magazine have devoted space to the OWU theater and the role it's played in enriching students' time at OWU. In my days, I was the only guy who played football and acted in plays.

After donating money to spruce up Chappelear I was saddened to learn that all the pictures of actors and productions covering decades have been tossed and replaced with bare walls. I'm lobbying Ohio Wesleyan to reverse this decision and your fine publication has given my cause a nice boost.

Jon Armstrong '73

Columbus, OH

OWU Magazine: *We are very happy to report that all of the historic photos, alumni pictures, and paintings were taken down during the summer only so that the walls could be painted. It was never the university's intention to discard them. By the end of May, the archival photos were back up on the walls of the Chappelear lobby, where they continue to be today.*



The Concert that Never Was

What's wrong with this picture? That's a question that popped into my head when I read your "Mysteries for the Archives" story and your article on the rededication of Slocum Hall.

I attended the homecoming as part of the '68 football team being inducted in the OWU Athletics Hall of Fall. I walked around beautifully restored Slocum, recalling studying there even though Beeghly Library had just opened. Old Slocum Hall was quiet, still, and infused with history.

A display recalling concerts caught my eye. The caption declares that Crosby Stills Nash and Young took to Gray Chapel stage and rocked the campus. That didn't happen.

[David] Crosby's girlfriend died on September 30, and the concert was canceled. So contrary to the write-up on display in Slocum, CSNY did not rock Gray Chapel.

Other concerts that did take place [include] Jefferson Airplane (I attended and they really did rock Gray Chapel), Chicago, Blood Sweat and Tears, Mountain, Richie Havens, Jethro Tull, and Frank Zappa.

Best wishes and keep up your great work.

James Wallar '70

Fairfax, VA

Share your opinions!

Email us at: magazine@owu.edu
tweet @OhioWesleyan

Send us a letter: OWU Magazine
Office of Communications
61 S. Sandusky St., Delaware, OH 43015

Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

OWU

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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Solving the Mystery Photo

More than 20 Bishop alumni wrote in to solve—in whole or part—the mystery photo from the Spring 2023 issue. A few of the responses are printed below. Those pictured are from the OWU swim team, and the photo was taken around 1960. There was some disagreement about the identity of some of the individuals, but according to a majority of the responses, the individuals are, from left, **Wink Franklin '62, Al Waterfield '62, Coach Dick Gordin '52, Larry Lays '60, and Ed Lash '60.**

My younger sister, **Janet Dickey Seese '72** sent to me, on my cell phone, a picture from “Mysteries from the Archives.” It was easy for me to solve this puzzle for you! It was four members of my varsity swim team with Dr. Dick Gordin (our swim coach).

I earned varsity swim team letters from my sophomore through senior years as a breastroker, setting nine records. I was a member of Phi Gamma Delta. I was president of our 1960 “Class of 60

Celebrates 50” class reunion in 2010, with 170 persons in attendance. Dr. Richard Gordin was one of three of our guests of honor for that event, all of whom had been our professors 50 years before that celebration with our classmates.

These four men, with a host of others, were part of a 1959-1960 winning season where we lost only one dual meet, and many of our team members set both school and pool records that year. We won meets against Central State, Muskingum, Wittenberg, Cincinnati, Kent State, Akron, Wooster, Albion, Baldwin Wallace, and Oberlin, losing only to Kenyon.

The men in this 1959-60 school year picture are (left to right) Wink Franklin, sophomore, Sigma Chi; Jim Brown, sophomore, Phi Gamma Delta; Dr. Dick Gordin; Larry Lays, senior, co-captain, Phi Kappa Psi; and Ed Lash, senior, co-captain, Sigma Chi.

The gray blazers were purchased by us, and worn to swim meets and other events by all of our varsity swim team swimmers. (I still have mine and wear it.) The emblem on our sport coats had an OWU swim crest on them.

This year, most of my classmates will be celebrating their 85th birthdays. All of us have a plethora of pictures, memorabilia, and memories. I am honored to be able to share, and interpret, just one of them for all Ohio Wesleyanites!

Dr. Jerry Dickey '60
Cincinnati, OH

This is a photo circa 1962 of my father, **Dick Gordin '52**, the Ohio Wesleyan swimming coach, with the medley relay team that qualified for the NCAA Swimming Championships. The members

of the team were Winston “Wink” Franklin '62, Al Waterfield '62, Jim Brown '62, and Robin Farran '62.

I was an 11-year-old kid that helped with “handheld timing” of the meets. What a great experience for me. I believe all these athletes are members of the OWU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Thanks for the great memory.

Rich Gordin '73
Logan, UT

The mystery photo in your magazine includes my swimming teammates probably Class of 1960, Ed Lash, Larry Lays, and Jim Brown with coach Dick Gordin. I could not identify the fourth person.

Barry Poulson '51
Broomfield, CO

It's been over 60 years, but sort of looks like Wink Franklin, Jim Brown, and Coach Gordin. Their other medley relay teammates were Robin Farran and Al Waterford. They went to the NCAA finals in 1961. They are all in the OWU HOF.

William Bossert '61
Delaware, OH

Other readers who sent in partial solutions included: Emeritus Professor Harry Bahrack, **Jack Brown '60, Reid Calcott '64, Linda Collins '62, Laurie McGregor Connor '77, Doug Gordin '78, Richard Gossen '62, Thomas Grau '60, Mike Hoffman, Annetia Shoemaker Lukas '47, Grant McLennan '64, Dan Nelson '63, Robin White Obetz '62, Chuck '64 and Cheryl Pitcock '65, James Sheets '64, and William Thompson '60.**

A new mystery photo from the OWU Archives appears on Page 48. Let us know if you can help solve the mystery.

Upcoming events

Alumni, families, and friends, join us for these upcoming gatherings. Visit owu.edu/alumni for details and to register.

Dec. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Washington D.C. Holiday Gathering
Airlines for America, hosted by Nick Calio '75 and Lydia Keller Calio '77

Dec. 7, 7-9 p.m.
New York City Holiday Gathering

Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.
San Francisco Holiday Gathering
Hosted by Jack Luikart '71 and Lorry Haycock Luikart '73

Dec. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Columbus Holiday Gathering
Franklin Park Conservatory

Dec. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Cleveland Holiday Gathering
Butcher and the Brewer

Feb. 7, 2024
WOW Speaker Series (virtual)
Lead Her Forward, a conversation in honor of national women and girls in sports day

Feb. 14-15
We Are OWU
OWU's annual day of giving, owu.edu/weareowu

Feb. 17, 11:30-1 p.m.
Naples Red & Black Luncheon
Naples Yacht Club

Feb. 23-24
Mock Convention
Join the great OWU tradition in Gray Chapel or watch online

April 19
Presidential Inauguration
On campus and viewable online, inauguration ceremony for 17th President Matt vandenBerg

May 17-19
Reunion Weekend 2024
On campus, celebrating class years ending in '4 & '9

Student success initiatives making “tremendous progress”

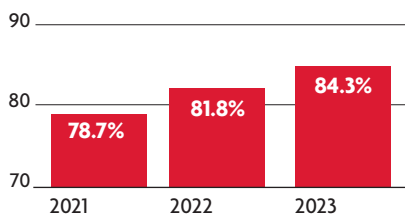
Ohio Wesleyan is on a mission to identify and eliminate impediments to students remaining enrolled and persisting to graduation. Two years into the all-hands-on-deck initiative, OWU is seeing its highest retention numbers in 14 years.

“Our first-to-second-year retention rate is 84.3% for the class that entered in fall 2022,” President Matt vandenBerg, says. “That is 2.5 percentage points above the rate for the class that entered in 2021—and fully 5.6 percentage points higher than the class that entered in fall 2020. It is our highest retention rate since the class that entered in fall 2009.

“To dig a little deeper,” vandenBerg says, “our retention rate for first-generation students rose 9.8 percentage points, and retention rose 7.1 percentage points for Pell-eligible students. That is proof of the success of our extensive efforts and initiatives with at-risk groups.”

Indeed, OWU made significant gains in persistence with all class levels this year, including a nearly 7 percentage point rise in retention of students going from their second year to their third

FIRST-YEAR RETENTION



year—from 87.4% to 94.3%, the third consecutive year this rate has risen. “This is tremendous progress!” vandenBerg says.

Provost Karlyn Crowley credits a concerted, combined OWU faculty-staff effort with helping more students

fulfill their higher education aspirations.

“Every student at Ohio Wesleyan should feel that they belong, that they have the tools to persist, and that they will graduate to go out in the world and succeed and give back,” Crowley says.

“We are asking, ‘What is getting in the way of student success?’ And then we clear it,” she says. “We are asking, ‘Why is that process so complicated for students and families?’ And fixing it. We are asking, ‘What small amount of assistance might make the difference between a student dropping out or finishing?’ And doing it. It is a whole campus effort to see what is not student-centered and make it so.”

Dwayne Todd, vice president for Student Engagement and Success, says the university has launched several important initiatives over the past few years to support student retention:

Moving the Needle. Launched in fall 2021, this initiative identified specific areas for improvement and created four committees to design, vet, and help implement solutions. The groups currently are working in the areas of academic support, the business of being a student, the first-year experience, and holistic student advising.

Bridge Program. Launched in summer 2021, this free, three-week residential experience provides incoming first-year students with the skills and self-confidence they need to thrive at OWU. Ohio Wesleyan is retaining about 95% of students who complete the Bridge Program each year, Todd says.

Bishop ACCESS. This fee-based program provides one-on-one academic coaching for students with executive function challenges including ADHD, learning disabilities, and mental health disabilities.

Camp Oh-Wooo. All incoming students currently participate in a



Every OWU student now completes OWU Connection experiences, putting their learning to work outside the classroom, like **Niladri Deb '25**, who last summer worked on Intel-related nanotechnology research through the Ohio 5-OSU Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program.

three-day Camp Oh-Wooo off-campus adventure, which seeks to help the university’s newest Bishops make friends, reduce anxiety, and connect to OWU. Camp Oh-Wooo is held each fall before classes start.

First-Year Seminar. All new students now complete a semester-long first-year Seminar designed to help them continue to build relationships and chart the course of their OWU academic journey while they collaborate on “How to Change Your

World” and tackle a specific issue of global importance.

First-Gen OWU/Bishop Elevate.

With 21% of Ohio Wesleyan’s total student population identifying as first-generation college students, the university is working to ensure they have the support they need to understand expectations and processes as they forge their futures. This fall, OWU launched the Bishop Elevate office and program to provide an even stronger framework for these efforts.

OWU Connection. Designed to help all students “think big, do good, go global, and get real” (hands-on experience), the OWU Connection “has all four components that make up the high-impact experiences leading to retention,” Crowley says.

President vandenBerg expects the progress to continue. “Ohio Wesleyan is raising the bar on student success, and I look forward to seeing how much our students can achieve with this infrastructure. I’d like to thank all of our

faculty and staff for their outstanding work, especially Karlyn, Dwayne, and their teams.”



**bishop
battles**

Football and men’s soccer tour and play in

International learning opportunities can be vital for a 21st-century college education. However, at many universities, student-athletes find it difficult to squeeze international travel into their busy schedule.

Ohio Wesleyan made it easy to go global this past summer for its football and men’s soccer teams, with the Battling Bishop football team visiting Spain in May and the men’s soccer team touring Germany in August.

“It was an educational opportunity to see parts of the world that I don’t think many of them would (otherwise) see,” says football coach Tom Watts. “We’re very fortunate to be able to do this with teammates and staff and be able to see the history of this part of the world.”

The men’s soccer team, which has traveled to Germany 12 times since the 1980s, landed in Frankfurt and went on a tour of the Rhine River, boating from Bingen to St. Goar on the way to the host city of Baumholder.

Baumholder District Mayor Bernd Alsfasser and City Mayor Günther Jung welcomed the Bishops to town, and the team then toured Baumholder’s city museum and the U.S. Army base in Baumholder, where the Bishops presented a clinic for family members of soldiers on the base, which is one of the largest U.S. bases in Europe.

“It is a very tight-knit community,” says junior back **Brady West**, “but it’s

different in that a lot of people are American soldiers. It’s cool to see the relationship between soldiers and the town. They really cherish what they have.”

“Baumholder is the definition of a community that everyone takes pride in,” says senior back **Josh Cabacungan**. “They show up at soccer games, and they take us in and make us part of their own families. Our host dad was in the German military, and they have friends in the U.S. military, and they were inspired to learn English and become a host family for us.”

The Bishops played several games during the trip, including one in Oberkirchen, where they have played on

each trip since 2005. Before this year’s game, a 2-0 loss to JFG Schaumberg-Prims, local officials dedicated a brick in an Oberkirchen plaza to Ohio Wesleyan men’s soccer coach Jay Martin.

The Bishops’ busy schedule included a tour of the German Football Museum in Dortmund, where the team learned about the history of the sport and its place in German culture; a visit to the castle ruins at Heidelberg, where they toured one of Germany’s most picturesque university towns; a day in Trier, the oldest city in Germany and one of the largest cities in the Roman Empire; and a trip to Dachau to visit the memorial and museum.

The team’s time in Köln was one

The men’s soccer team visits Baumholder’s Thick Tower, a fortification built in the 16th century.





Photo by Paul Vernon

Before classes began in August, all first-year students attended Challenge Camp, Service Camp, or Wilderness Camp to help them quickly forge connections that last. Those attending Service Camp included, from left, **Chantelle Ntiamoah**, **Judy Ray**, and **Jennifer Velasquez**, shown here volunteering at Mid-Ohio Food Collective in Columbus.

Europe

of the highlights for West. “You can feel the history was there with more of a modern vibe, but they were able to keep both. There are some modern landmarks and the cathedral.”

The travel was interspersed with games against German opponents throughout the trip, and the players lived with host families in Baumholder.

“What is unique is that our guys stay with German families while we’re there,” says Martin. “We want to introduce them to high-level soccer and German culture. We play professional teams and little German soccer clubs, and I think, anecdotally from the guys, that it has been pretty successful.”

On the day of the Bishops’ final

game, they traveled to Fritz-Walter Stadium in Kaiserslautern, home of 1. FC Kaiserslautern. After seeing some of the inner workings of the stadium and going through the tunnel to field level, the team got a surprise visit from former United States men’s national team member and current Kaiserslautern player Terrence Boyd.

With the competitive portion of the schedule completed, the team headed to Munich, where they toured the legendary Neuschwanstein castle and attended a Supercup game between Bayern Munich and Leipzig.

The football team landed in Madrid, then traveled to Valencia to view some of the outstanding modern architecture

before heading to the eastern Mediterranean coast.

Then, the team visited the Peniscola Castle fortress that sits above the beaches of Peniscola before donning the pads for a practice session.

The following day in Salou, Ohio Wesleyan faced the L’Hospitalet Pioners, building a 21-3 halftime lead on the way to a 28-3 win.

“A lot of (their) players were from a larger demographic group in terms of ages,” says junior defensive end **Tyler Yanka**, “but they love the sport as much as we do.”

“They were a really cool group,” says senior quarterback **Kaden Buza**. “They were fun and excited to see us play, and we did a jersey swap (after the game).”

The squad went on to Barcelona, where they viewed Catalan Modernisme art and toured the medieval Gothic Quarter area, the Barcelona cathedral, the Eixample District, and La Sagrada Família, the largest unfinished Catholic church in the world.

Neither Buza nor Yanka had ever traveled out of the United States before.

“I never thought I’d have that much fun traveling before,” Yanka says. “I’ll never forget it.”

“This was a trip of a lifetime, and I was excited to see our guys enjoying the trip from start to finish,” says Watts.

—Mark Beckenbach ’81

The football team visits the Royal Palace of Madrid.



comfortzones

Sally Leber

Director of Community Service Learning Legacy Labyrinth

In most past Comfort Zones photos, the subject is often surrounded by things that hold special meanings and memories for them. Sally Leber, however, wanted to surround herself with people at the labyrinth down the hill from University Hall. That is absolutely appropriate. Sally's job is to forge and nurture partnerships—on campus, in the community, and beyond.

She builds these partnerships to promote service learning, a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction to enrich the learning experience and strengthen communities.

As students participate in their community service projects, they meet real needs of communities and develop practical skills, self-esteem, and a sense of civic responsibility. They develop the tools and insight to do good for life.

"Service, when combined with learning in and out of the classroom, is such a powerful catalyst for self-discovery," Sally says. "Our students are seekers. They want to find meaning and purpose. They want to effect change."

The labyrinth, created thanks to a gift from **Kathe Law Rhinesmith '64**, has become a comfort zone for many. Sally is the steward of the labyrinth.

1 Giving Voice.

Holding a megaphone to represent the importance of making sure all voices are heard, junior **Jakob Sanders** is a drummer in the Marching Bishops, a resident assistant, and an active member of the Black Student Union and Black Men of the Future. Sally says, "Some of our best proposals, projects, and programs have roots in student conversations."

2 Serving the Community.

Representing community partnerships, Taj Bakare is president of Unity Community Center. A favorite volunteer site for OWU students, the center celebrates the South Side's history and culture and provides resources and services to those in need.

3 Gathering Locally, Serving Globally.

Sophomores **Zahra Yazdani** from Afghanistan and **Tasfia Rahman** from Bangladesh hold the globe to represent the contributions of international students and the expansive reach of OWU's community service efforts.

4 Tutoring & Mentoring.

Senior service learning intern **Marquel Henry** is one of more than 70 OWU tutors serving in Columbus and Delaware schools as part Bishop Scholars, a \$500,000 grant-funded program designed by Sally and Assistant Professor of Education Michele Nobel and managed by Kerri Robe.

5 Exploring Careers.

As part of the OWU Connection team, Sally works with **Newton Kimberly '13**, OWU's career catalyst for students seeking careers with social impact.

6 Being Flexible.

Sophomore service learning intern **Lillyonna Wazny** holds an articulated artist model to emphasize that flexibility is one of the most important attributes of a volunteer.

7 Learning & Serving.

At OWU, service and learning go hand-in-hand. These are some of the books Sally uses when she teaches, bringing civic engagement and service into the curriculum.



Photo by Paul Vernon



EVENTS •
WITH SENIOR
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FOR OR A TWO
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HARE HISTORY
HELP CELEBRATE
• CLEARWALLS
S • TAP MAPLE
RE • KEEP DEEDS
LIVE • SOCIALIZE
TQUNE THERAPY
& DIFFERENCE

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THE CALLY
SERVICE
IN THE WHOLE WORLD

BUILD BRIDGES • CLEAN UP STREAMS &
WATERS • PROMOTE PEACE • VOLUNTEER
AT THE SYMPHONY • TAKE CALLS ON THE
WOMEN PREVENTION HOT LINE • ADVOCATE
FOR THE HOMELESS • SERVE FOOD • BELIEVE
HEALS • CONDUCT FOUR DRIVES • LEAD
HOW TO PLAN, COOK, & SHARE MEALS •
GOOD HEALTHY MEALS • WORK TO ERADICATE
FOOD INSECURITY • COLLECT CLOTHING •
RAISE & DONATE MONEY • WORK AT THE
FREE STORE & THE FOUR BANK • GIVE
VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
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THE JUDICIAL PROCESS • SUPPORT VICTIMS
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Civic
Engagement
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Concepts and Practices
Barbara Jacoby
and Associates
FOREWORD BY THOMAS EHRlich

TAKING A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE



On the world's biggest stage, Ohio Wesleyan alumni are making a vital impact and living large in New York City.

*By Joni Sweet
Photography by Dwight Hiscano '85*

“EMPIRE CITY.” “THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS.” “GOTHAM.”

New York is the city of a thousand nicknames. Call it what you will, it's one of the world's most iconic destinations, drawing more than 60 million visitors in a typical year. Travelers come to bask in the glow of Times Square, see performances on Broadway, marvel at the museums, zoom to the top of the Empire State building for a birds'-eye view of the famous skyline, and seek out the best slices of pizza the world over.

As fun as their trips are, visitors often point to the skyscraper-high cost of housing, noisy traffic, and daunting crowds and ask, “How does anyone live here?” before making a swift exit. Yet, the city's 8.5 million residents recognize what the tourists miss: New York City is actually an amazing place to call home.

For proof, just ask the OWU alumni who've built their lives and careers in the Five Boroughs.

Here's a look at their stories and why they were drawn to New York City—and chose to stick around.

A destination for the dreamers

Going back home after graduation was a no-brainer for born-and-bred Brooklynite **Paul Asencio '92**, who identifies as a “New York guy to my core.” His loved ones were all there, and he already knew that New York's dining, nightlife, and entertainment scenes were “second to none.” But when major opportunities in the city's sports world opened up to him—starting with a job in sales with the New York Mets—he quickly realized New York was a place where fantasy could become reality.

“I grew up a huge Mets fan and my dad was a huge Mets fan, so when I got that job, it was a dream come true,” says Asencio. Over the next 17 years, he rose the ranks to become the Mets' senior vice president of corporate partnerships sales and services, never losing the thrill for having a hot dog at Citi Field (previously known as Shea Stadium) and sitting up close to the games.

Since then, his career has spanned many names

PAUL ASENCIO '92

CITY HALL PARK

Last April, Paul Asencio took on the role of chief revenue officer at Williams Racing, leading the British Formula One team's commercial and marketing operations. Previously, he grew the sales departments at top sports brands, including the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), Fanatics sports merchandise retailer, and the New York Mets. He started working in sales at New York Sports Clubs in 1993.





BHAVNA MURALI '12 BROOKLYN BRIDGE

In her role as senior consultant at the healthcare company Cerner Enviza, Bhavna Murali helps pharmaceutical and biotech companies with their clinical strategies for developing cancer-fighting drugs. "Helping efficacious drugs get to clinic quickly can have a significant impact on patients' lives, especially in oncology, where time is of the essence," she says. She completed her Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology at Washington University in St. Louis in 2018.

in professional sports, including the licensed sports merchandise retailer Fanatics, Inc., the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), and now Williams Racing, where he works as the British Formula One team's chief revenue officer.

"The biggest piece to my whole career is that I've always stayed around New York," says Asencio. "We have two teams in every single professional sport."

Even though he has spent the last 17 years commuting into the city from nearby Floral Park, where he relocated to get more space for his family, he and his wife often talk about moving back to Brooklyn—the place that first sparked his love of sports.

"On any given day in my childhood, my buddies and I would play pick-up basketball games in parks all

around the city. It sticks with me to this day," he says.

Whereas Asencio always had a local's perspective on life in New York, **Bhavna Murali '12** initially imagined it from afar. "Growing up in New Delhi, I always saw New York City in movies and TV shows. I also just loved the architecture and big buildings, the hustle and bustle, and the diversity I saw when I visited close friends here after college," says Murali.

So when she was offered the opportunity to put her education in cancer biology to use as senior consultant at the healthcare company Cerner Enviza, she jumped at the chance and made the move to New York in 2019.

"It was unique that my company asked me to move to New York, since a lot of pharmaceutical and biotech companies are in San Francisco," says Murali.

She finds deep meaning in her work helping to bring life-saving cancer drugs to the market. But Murali also appreciates what the city has brought her outside of her work life. The diversity of New York has allowed her to develop friendships with people from all walks of life, including through the Buddhist community Soka Gakkai International.

“New York is one of the best places to be exposed to different people. It helps inspire you to take your limited vision of your career and life and open it up in a whole new way,” she says.

After four years, New York still fills her with awe.

“I’m a 10-minute walk away from Central Park, where everyone from all over the world comes on their vacation. Every time I go there, I get a ‘pinch me’ feeling,” she says. “I never take any part of that for granted.”

As fulfilling as life in New York can be, newcomers like **Peter Reveles ’14** say it takes guts to make the big move. He made his way to New York to work as a software engineer at Instagram after resigning from Facebook and traveling the world for 18 months. The journey took him to Spain, Morocco, Greece, Taiwan, Italy, and Mexico—to name just a few. It also prepared him to take on the Big Apple in the next stage of his career.

“At any other point in my life, I would have been

nervous about moving to New York. I remember thinking I could lose myself in a scary, big place, but after traveling and being in so many new places, I wasn’t afraid,” he explains.

The new home base actually felt smaller than Reveles had expected, largely thanks to the New York City Subway. It runs 24/7 and connects 472 stations across the five boroughs, serving 2.4 million riders per day. Combined with the buses, New York’s public transit system is the largest in North America.

“It makes it so easy to get around and visit all the different neighborhoods. It makes it easy to get a sense of space and understanding of the geography of the city,” says Reveles.

Being able to ride from one place to another has turned New York into a source of endless inspiration for Reveles and allows him to take advantage of city’s opportunities to get creative, like taking a cinematography class at the School of Visual Arts.

“I think it would have been incredible to transition from the corporate life of a software engineer into the creative life of working in the film industry,” he says. “But there are so many resources for whatever creative endeavor you want to do here, and that’s one of the things I really enjoy about the city.”



PETER REVELES '14 BUSHWICK

Peter Reveles' career as a software engineer has taken him to several social media start-ups, including Circle and Yo, eventually landing him a role working on Facebook's newsfeed and notification features in 2015. He left in 2018 to spend the next 18 months traveling the world and "to practice building software from 0-1." Reveles now lives in Brooklyn and works as a senior software engineer at Instagram. Reveles lives in Bushwick, a neighborhood in the northern section of Brooklyn that is famed for its street art.



A magnet for the ambitious

New York's center as a powerhouse for so many industries makes it a magnet for the ambitious.

"I never intended to move to New York, but I came because it was the place to be if you wanted to be involved in the art world," says **Debra Force '75**.

She first became enthralled by art auctions while working in Philadelphia as a corporate art collector for an insurance company. Naturally, when she heard about an opening in the American paintings department at Christie's auction house in New York, she applied and was offered the job in 1984.

"When I first moved here, the city's vibrance was

"New York is one of the best places to be exposed to different people. It helps inspire you to take your limited vision of your career and life and open it up in a whole new way."

Bhavna Murali

very exciting. There was something new happening every day," she says. In her first decade in the city, she organized more than 40 American art auctions at Christie's and provided appraisals for museums and collectors.

In 1999, she made her own mark on New York's art world, forming Debra Force Fine Art on the Upper East Side. Through the gallery, she has sold works to more than 70 museums in New York and beyond, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the New-York Historical Society. She says it's been one of the most rewarding parts of her work.

"Museums are generally looking for the best or rare works. If they feel something I have in inventory meets

DEBRA FORCE '75 METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART | Millions of PBS viewers recognize Debra Force from her 25 years as an art appraiser on *Antiques Roadshow*. The Northeast Ohio native moved to New York to work in the American paintings department at Christie's, and today, she runs her namesake art gallery, which specializes in American art from the 18th-20th centuries and has sold works to many of the nation's leading museums. In the past year, she led the process to select an artist to paint the official portrait of Rock Jones, which was funded by donor gifts and will be unveiled next spring.



those requirements, it's gratifying to know that my opinion of this work of art is justified. It's also wonderful to be able to share these works of art with the public at a much greater scale than any gallery could provide," she says.

New York's not only the center of the art world—it's also the "media capital of the world," says **Tom Goodman '76**. After learning how to pitch and write stories as a reporter at the Delaware Gazette, he moved to New York and transitioned into the other side of media—public relations.

He started at the communications department at J. Walter Thompson advertising company, working on national media relations campaigns for clients such as the Eastman Kodak Company, before spending the next 15 years working in PR for network TV at ABC and CBS. Then, New York presented Goodman with an opportunity to do something he never planned: Start his own PR company. It all began with a meeting with British Airways after a referral from a journalist friend.

"I went out to their headquarters near LaGuardia Airport with nothing—no briefcase, no company, no business cards," says Goodman. The British Airways team wanted help publicizing an extreme promotional stunt they were planning that involved crowning a Times Square building with a half-size model of a Concorde airliner, and wanted to know whether he could take on the project. He agreed, and that's when Goodman Media International took off.

The company has since taken on campaigns for a number of notable clients, including Bloomberg, Animal Planet, HBO, National Geographic, and Scholastic, and Goodman has grown his team to about 20 to help with the work.

"There's an energy and excitement in New York. It's a good place for type A personalities. The people who



TOM GOODMAN '76 ROCKEFELLER CENTER

Tom Goodman took the skills he learned from legendary journalism professor Verne Edwards and as a reporter with the Delaware Gazette and applied them to a career in public relations and communications. After managing news information at ABC News, he founded Goodman Media International in 1996, and his firm has counted British Airways, Bloomberg, MSNBC, and Neiman Marcus among its many clients. He regularly employs summer interns from OWU and hosts visiting students from the Economic Management Fellows program.

want to come and work here make it easier to hire," he says.

Expanding his staff has been a rewarding experience for Goodman. He loves helping budding PR professionals, including interns from OWU, learn the ropes and get their footing in the city.

"Helping younger people get started in their careers gives me more pleasure than the work itself," he notes.

One of Goodman's favorite journalists to work with, **Tom Jolly '77**, who he'd known since his college days,



TOM JOLLY '77

NEW YORK TIMES CONFERENCE ROOM

After working at newspapers in Ohio, Maryland, and Pennsylvania for 15 years, Tom Jolly joined The New York Times as assistant sports editor in 1993. Since then, he has served as the paper's senior news editor and sports editor, helping earn the paper a prestigious George W. Polk Award in 2009. Jolly is now the associate masthead editor at the Times, managing a team of 80 staffers to design and edit the daily newspaper.

made his foray into New York media as assistant sports editor at *The New York Times* in 1993. Jolly already had around 15 years of reporting experience under his belt after working at newspapers in Ohio, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Working at *The New York Times* allowed him to continue advancing in his journalism career while newsrooms elsewhere struggled to stay afloat. In 2003, he began his eight-year tenure as the paper's sports editor, during which time his section's coverage on the hidden dangers of concussions earned a George W. Polk award. He now oversees production of the newspaper as its associate masthead editor.

"It's been a great experience to be at the Times during a period when it's been very difficult for the business in general," he says. "We've been fortunate enough to have a good business plan, maintain the standards that we've always held to, and remain an important part of the world of journalism."



"Fighting for the interest of our communities to make New York City safe and habitable for everybody is one reason I came back to my home."

Mathew Levy

While Jolly admits that it's very difficult to work in journalism everywhere these days, he says New York City is still a worthwhile place for new reporters to try to get their foot in the door.

"New York is headquarters for so many different journalism operations, from all the mainstream organizations to all the TV networks. There are also a tremendous number of digital sites, like Vice, the Daily Beast, and BuzzFeed," he says.

Plus, the city sights lend themselves to all kinds of storytelling, including photography—Jolly's avocation. He enjoys taking photos around the city and browsing B&H, a 70,000-square-foot camera and gear store that's been a Manhattan mainstay for 50 years.

A home for public service

New York City is one of the most densely populated places in the country. Living in such close quarters can be overwhelming, but it also fosters a strong sense of community and a desire to make the city—and the world

at large—a better place. That’s what drove native Manhattanite **Matthew Levy ’01** toward a career in public service.

“Fighting for the interest of our communities to make New York City safe and habitable for everybody is one reason I came back to my home,” says Levy.

Through his job as counsel and legislative director for the office of New York State Senator Robert Jackson,

Levy works to advance progressive bills focused on topics like expanding family leave eligibility and ending qualified immunity through the state legislature. He also distributes discretionary funds to community-based organizations to help those in need.

It’s a demanding job that requires Levy to spend significant time in the state capital, Albany. But when the legislature is out of session and he’s back

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ATTHEW LEVY ’08 LITTLE RED LIGHTHOUSE IN FORT WASHINGTON PARK

Born and raised in Manhattan, Matthew Levy’s career has spanned from practicing law to pushing progressive policies through the New York state legislature. “I’m a public servant at heart, and I always will be,” says Levy, who in September became a senior court attorney for the New York County Supreme Court. Previously, he was counsel and legislative director for the office of New York State Senator Robert Jackson. “The Little Red Lighthouse in Washington Heights is one of my favorite places in my neighborhood. The lighthouse is a hidden gem in NYC.”





GARGI PAL CHAUDHURI '01
50 HUDSON YARDS

With more than 20 years of experience in the financial services industry, Gargi Pal Chaudhuri may soon be more widely known for a series of short videos on YouTube called "Market Mythbusting with Gargi Chaudhuri," where she offers market tips and analysis. She began her career at Merrill Lynch before running the U.S. inflation trading desk as vice president at Jeffries & Co. She has spent the past 13 years at the investment company BlackRock, where she is head of iShares investment strategy Americas. Chaudhuri's office is in 50 Hudson Yards, one of New York's largest commercial towers.

home in his beloved Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights, he continues to find other ways to make a difference, including participating in New York County's Democratic Committee, serving on his community board, and attending rallies and protests.

"New York City was not the place to be when I was growing up here in the '80s and early '90s. It's radically different from what it once was, and that inspires me to help continue making the city better for everybody," he says.

Gargi Pal Chaudhuri '01 also carves time out of her hectic schedule to give back. After moving to New York in 2001 to work on the government bond trading desk as vice president at Merrill Lynch, she found that jogging through Central Park proved to be a great way to recharge. Logging those miles became an essential part of her life, so she started to look for ways to use it as a force for the greater good, as well.

"Every year that I run the New York City Marathon, I raise money for Shoe4Africa, an amazing charity that has built a hospital in Kenya entirely for children," says Chaudhuri, who is now head of iShares investment strategy Americas at BlackRock. "Running outside of work is a pretty high priority, so I try to find ways I can tie running to giving back. I've run about 25 marathons in total."

Running in New York—whether for noble causes or just to blow off steam—offers some personal rewards, as well. "Run a loop around the Central Park Reservoir at sunrise," says Chaudhuri. "It's absolutely stunning."

While some New Yorkers work to affect positive change in their spare time, others like **Sophia Bogues '92** have made entire careers of it. She grew up in Queens after immigrating to New York from Jamaica as a child and returned a year after graduating from OWU. Unsure of exactly what she wanted to do at first, she started working at community-based organizations like Boys Harbor, which provides education and character development for children in Harlem and the Bronx, and INROADS, a nonprofit dedicated to creating career pathways for ethnically diverse high school and college students. She quickly realized how rewarding it was to help prepare young students for their futures.

She now serves as director of the early college program at the City College of New York, a public research university whose campus in Hamilton Heights is filled with Collegiate Gothic buildings that are lit beautifully after dark. Through the program, which promotes college awareness to students as early as 8th grade and helps them earn college credits, Bogues

estimates that more than 1,000 students she's worked with have gone on to graduate from college.

"I've touched so many students' lives who've gone on to be these wonderful adults and contributing members of our society," she says. "Being in the city has provided me the opportunity to do that. It's been a wonderful experience."

If you can make it there ...

From helping the next generation achieve academic success to launching thriving businesses, OWU alumni have found their own individual ways to make an impact in New York. But the one thing they all share is the foundation that Ohio Wesleyan provided them to succeed in the city.

For some, like Chaudhuri, OWU opened up the door to New York City before they even received their degree.

"The summer between my junior and senior years, I interned at a financial firm in New York and they made me a full-time offer," she says. "I came back to the city after graduating and I've been here ever since."

This direct connection between OWU and New York continues to grow, as about 25 students a year have OWU Connection experiences—such as internships, research, and meetings with alumni—in New York City.

In a city as big as New York, success is often dependent on who you know. OWU alumni, like Goodman, credit the strong network of friends and colleagues they developed at OWU for key milestones in their careers. He received his first job offer in public relations from a person whose wife went to OWU.

"It was fortuitous," he says. And when he launched his company, he looked to someone he played with on OWU's lacrosse team for help securing office space—essential assistance, given how prohibitively expensive commercial real estate

can be in New York.

"He literally took me in, gave me nominal rent, and let me use a small conference room," Goodman explains.

OWU's liberal arts curriculum gave some alumni, like Force, an edge in carving out a niche in their industry. Even though she was primarily studying history, politics, and government, she also took an American folk art course that provided knowledge she'd use for the rest of her career.

"I'm a poster child for a liberal arts education," she says. "My experience at OWU helped get me to where I am—it's been invaluable to me throughout my life."

Joni Sweet is a freelance writer and editor living in New York City and is the author of 48 Hours: New York.

SOPHIA BOGUES '92 CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK | "Being in New York City has allowed me to touch so many students' lives," says Sophia Bogues. She has spent the last 13 years as director of the City College of New York's early college program, which introduces middle and high school students to college life and provides ongoing academic support. Prior to that, she recruited diverse students for internships at Fortune 500 companies through the nonprofit organization INROADS.



OWU|NYC

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO NYC

OWU ALUMNI SHARE THEIR
MUST-VISIT ATTRACTIONS,
RESTAURANTS, AND ACTIVITIES
IN NEW YORK CITY.



Bhavna Murali on the Brooklyn Bridge

WHAT TO DO | The perfect introduction to New York City is walking across the Brooklyn Bridge, which celebrates its 140th birthday this year. It's the best place to "admire the beauty of the city at sunset and watch the lights come up over the skyline," says Bhavna Murali.

Times Square and 42nd Street top travelers' itineraries on their first trip to the Big Apple. These attractions are notoriously crowded, but you can practically have the place to yourself if you visit very early in the morning, says Sophia Bogues.

Tom Jolly appreciates the city most when looking at it from behind a camera lens. He likes taking photos at the South Street Seaport, a historic waterfront neighborhood known for its cobblestone streets and row houses, and at the 9/11 Memorial. It lists the names of the victims on bronze parapets that surround two twin waterfall reflecting pools.

It's impossible to see all of Central Park's 843 acres on a single visit, but you can experience a lot by hopping on a Citi Bike and riding its six-mile bike loop, says Gargi Pal Chaudhuri. "It's a great way to see unexplored parts of the park and also get some exercise in," she adds.

Once you've hit all the other major tourist attractions, including the Empire State Building and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, spend some time getting off the beaten path in the city. Peter Reveles particularly loves going to Red Hook in Brooklyn for its local neighborhood feel. "There was a blues band playing on the street last time I was there, and you can get really close views of the Statue of Liberty," he says.

Inatteso Pizzabar, which Tom Goodman says has the best pizza in town.



Photo by Dwight Hiscano





Central Park

WHERE TO DINE | For quintessential New York cuisine—pizza—Tom Goodman directs visitors to Inatteso in Battery Park, which has offered Sicilian-style pies since opening in 2008. “It’s the best pizza in New York,” he says.

For another taste of New York, head to the 135-year-old Katz’s Delicatessen (the setting of the famous “I’ll have what she’s having” scene in *When Harry Met Sally*) for one of its legendary pastrami sandwiches. “Grab a knish to share, a couple of hot dogs, and, of course, a Dr. Brown’s cream soda to wash it all down with,” says Paul Asencio.

Looking for an artsy dining experience? Debra Force offers a couple of recommendations. Dig into southern Italian fare at The Leopard at des Artistes on the Upper West Side, which has murals of nude nymphs by Howard Chandler Christy lining the walls. Or, make a reservation at The Modern, which overlooks the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden at the Museum of Modern Art. “It has a formal dining room that’s very sophisticated,” she says. “You can also sample tapas in the bar area.”

Want to sample a bit of everything? Eat your way through one of the city’s food halls or bazaars. Matthew Levy likes Smorgasburg, an open-air food market that pops up in Manhattan and Brooklyn, as well as the Queens Night Market, which features up to 100 independent vendors on Saturday nights in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Both seasonal markets run from April through October and draw thousands of visitors. “They have food from all over the world,” says Levy.

Tom Jolly shot this photo while on a hard-hat tour of buildings on Ellis Island.



Photo by Tom Goodman

About Photographer Dwight Hiscano

Widely published and collected, **Dwight Hiscano ’85** has been shooting professionally for nearly 40 years.

His photographs have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Black and White Magazine*, *Nature’s Best*, and *Nature Conservancy Magazine* and have been featured in group and solo exhibits including the Nature’s Best exhibit at the Smithsonian, the National Geographic sponsored International Mountain Summit in Italy, the Capitol Rotunda, and Ohio Wesleyan’s Richard M. Ross Art Museum.

His Gower Gulch, Death Valley photograph was recently published by National Geographic in *Wie Sie die Berge Noch Nie Gesehen Haben* (Mountains as You’ve Never Seen Them), a collection of mountain landscapes published in Germany. His prints are held in numerous collections around the world.

A lifelong conservationist, Hiscano has served on the boards of several conservation organizations in his home state of New Jersey, and he has volunteered hundreds of hours and raised thousands of dollars for charities and conservation efforts.

Reflecting on this *OWU Magazine* assignment, Hiscano says, “Despite the challenges—crowds, wind, 90-degree heat—this was a fun assignment and a great opportunity to meet fellow OWU alumni, an interesting and inspiring group of people who couldn’t have been more patient and accommodating. I was also able to visit some NYC landmarks that I’ve never been to before—CUNY’s campus, the Little Red Lighthouse under the GW Bridge, and Bushwick’s famous graffiti!”

When he finished the shoot with Peter Reveles, Hiscano says he “wandered the streets of Bushwick, marveling at all the graffiti that I had heard about countless times, but never had the opportunity to see in person.

“I grabbed a few interesting abstracts and then noticed this down near street level, possibly an artist’s signature. I’ll never know, but I took it as a good sign.”



A Conversation with **President Matt vandenBerg**



Photo by Seth Kerechanin

The vandenBerg family, from left, Jackson, Melissa, Matt, and Sylvia.

Matt vandenBerg joined Ohio Wesleyan in July as the university's 17th president, and he seems to have been on the move ever since, immersing himself in the OWU culture, hosting pop-up events on campus, confronting a crisis with Beeghly Library, and even launching T-shirts into the crowd at events. *OWU Magazine* convinced him to pause for a few moments to answer some questions as a way to introduce him to the OWU community of 20,000-plus alumni.

You attended a liberal arts college. How has that shaped you?

I attended Alma College in Michigan. It was a family thing, and I know many OWU alumni can relate. My experience there fundamentally transformed my life, shaped my worldview, and catalyzed my career.

I came to Alma with great certainty that I would be a biology major, head to medical school, and become a doctor. Needless to say, that wasn't my calling. Being at a nurturing liberal arts college gave me the space and the grace to test my assumptions, to learn what I like and don't like, to make mistakes in a safe environment, and to discover my true passions.

I can't imagine that my nonlinear self-discovery process would have been nearly as smooth if not for the liberal arts model. My undergraduate pathway enabled and equipped me to discover and chase my real dreams.

Today's society places far too much pressure on 17- and 18-year-olds to know their major and career path as a prerequisite for selecting a college. What about students who don't yet know? What about students with multiple, complex interests? What about those of us who think we know but get it wrong?

College isn't a transaction. It's not just about your first job. It's an often complex process of self-discovery and growth. The life-changing experience we offer in the liberal arts—and especially at Ohio Wesleyan University—is more valuable and sorely needed than ever. My passion is helping more people to understand what OWU can do for them.

What college class most profoundly changed your life or your view of the world?

Organic chemistry. Those little structures aren't supposed to fit together, are they? Or if they are, there are many other people who can solve those problems better than I. That's OK, and now I know that. And now I know that I can contribute different gifts to society. Today, I lead an institution that's exceptionally good at helping young people to learn vital lessons like those.

What extracurricular activity?

I was the kind of student that some might call "over-involved." My love for people and meaningful work got me into a little bit of everything: drum major of the marching band, leader of the student service organization, fraternity member, resident assistant, recreational sports participant, and more.

But my most foundational extracurricular experience was participating in student government. When I was a first-year student, I took a risk, put myself out there, and ran for class president in a highly contested race. I prevailed, progressed through the ranks, and became president of the student body during my senior year. That journey taught me the importance of calculated risk-taking and the power of self-belief.

Tell us about your pathway to becoming a college president.

Serving as student body president introduced me to a role model who would ultimately become a lifelong mentor and friend: Alma's then-president Sandra Tracy. Sandra was the first person to tell me that she could see me becoming a president. She thoughtfully engaged me in the work of the college and generously offered me opportunities to shadow and learn from her.

Thanks to her, I graduated with a laser-like focus to become president of a small, private, residential liberal arts college. And every career move I've made since that point has been with that sense of mission at the fore. Now that I'm at OWU, my fire for the work has never burned more brightly.

"Within a single day of my family experiencing campus and the community, we knew this was the place for us."

What attracted you to Ohio Wesleyan University?

I was not looking for a new position when the presidency at OWU became available. I had been serving as the leader of a private liberal arts college in a different part of the country—an institution that had developed strong, positive momentum, especially in enrollment and fundraising.

I took a call to catch up with a longtime friend who happened to be the consultant leading OWU's presidential search. One conversation led to another, and I quickly discovered how uniquely special OWU is and how strong the match felt.

Within a single day of my family experiencing campus and the community, we knew this was the place for us. Ultimately, it was OWU's people, the thriving and supportive community of Delaware, and the transformative impact of our work that sealed the deal for us.

At OWU, we feel a strong sense of belonging. We revel in its culture of authenticity. I am grateful to thrive in my role knowing that my quirkily high-energy, penchant for innovation, and my student orientation are valued qualities.

What have you learned during the What Matters tour?

As you'll recall, this is a hands-on listening tour; it's like my own personal version of the OWU Connection.

Naturally, I've learned why many people chose OWU for college and why they work and live here, volunteer, and provide philanthropic support. I've heard countless stories of gratitude, family, community,

and transformation. I've participated alongside students in our welcome and orientation activities and witnessed how effectively they build community, self-confidence, and agency.

Students have walked me through their paths of self-discovery through the OWU Connection. I've worked (or interfered?) with students and faculty in the lab and felt their pride and excitement for what they do. I've danced at events alongside students on the JAYwalk and absorbed their joy and nervous energy. I've evaluated our campus buildings and infrastructure. I've heard concerns about the fraught state of higher education and how many pressures have not spared OWU.

I now have a long, growing list of questions, ideas, action items, and opportunities. I may not yet fully know what it all means, but I do know this: Our best days are ahead of us.

What matters to you about OWU? In other words, what do you value most about Ohio Wesleyan?

It's all about the people: our students, faculty, staff, alumni, community, and friends. They make OWU special. They make our transformative impact possible. And we'll all work together to ensure that our venerable institution thrives and changes lives forever.

What are your highest aspirations for Ohio Wesleyan?

I agree with past President Rock Jones in wanting OWU to be the place of choice for the best students, faculty, and staff. In fact, I think we have the

What Matters

Some college presidents begin their tenure with a listening tour. Matt vandenBerg started with an "experience tour" called What Matters. Working and playing alongside students, faculty, staff, and alumni, his goal was to experience the full



Matt vandenBerg has met with Residential Life staff for dinner at Pritchard House (with Melissa) ...



International students ...



Summer Science Research
Kira Bailey, Audrey Propp

ingredients to become one of America's great liberal arts colleges.

Just as we often advise young people to focus on being "enough" rather than constantly comparing themselves to others, I believe OWU's journey toward becoming a top-tier liberal arts college is about realizing that "enough" is not a limitation, but rather a celebration of our distinctive strengths and qualities.

By consistently excelling in our mission, nurturing a culture of innovation, and fostering an inclusive community, we will naturally become the college of choice, where students, faculty, and staff thrive—not because we measure up to others, but because we are Ohio Wesleyan University, and that's more than enough.

When considering the changing landscape of higher education, how can Ohio Wesleyan differentiate itself?

Through honest reflection, authenticity, bold innovation, calculated risk-taking, and focused discipline.

Finding ways to stand out and attract students in this tough climate is the existential question that all small, private, residential, tuition-driven institutions need to answer. Shockingly few have done so effectively. Too many of us sell ourselves using the same clichéd talking points: small class sizes, faculty who care, experiential learning, job preparation, alumni success stories, and the like.

What makes us truly unique? What can we offer that other institutions can't? How do we align our

resources and energies so that our distinctions truly shine?

I'm excited that I already see so much potential for OWU to pick a valuable, defensible position and win. I find myself forming some early hypotheses on what that might look like, but we need community input and will work with great urgency to secure it.

What has surprised you about Delaware?

Our town-gown relationship is already very strong. We have a chance to become truly elite in terms of how our community and university work together to transform lives.

You work out just about every day. What does physical activity and fitness mean to you?

Working out vigorously every morning centers me. I haven't missed a single day of working out or running in almost five years. I find that I'm sharper, more engaged, and more effective when I feel fit, healthy, and active. And it doesn't matter whether I'm working out with a group or solo. I enjoy both!

I also ride my bike around town and campus, so now I have yet another way to pack in the exercise.

You've mentioned your love for "dad jokes." How do you think humor can help you on the job?

Dad jokes are how eyeroll.

"I haven't missed a single day of working out or running in almost five years."

flavor and texture of the Ohio Wesleyan experience—and to learn what really matters to members of the OWU community. Pictured here are just a few of the many groups with whom he has met.



teams, from left, Associate Professor '25, and Matt Rease '24 ...



Orchestrator dancers ...



The volleyball team, where he got a serving lesson from Jahmila Noel '24 ...

Actually, my *modus operandi* is far less about dad jokes and more about finding humor and levity in daily work and life. But seriously, don't get me started with puns. I've always had a work-hard-play-hard philosophy, and I find it grounding to avoid taking myself too seriously.

What advice does Melissa give you most often?

Melissa is a phenomenally supportive spouse and the caretaker and glue of our family. She frequently reminds me to recharge my batteries, to give myself patience and grace, and to trust my instincts (except when we're deciding where to eat dinner).

If someone were to ask your children about your strengths and weaknesses, what do you think they would say?

I think they would say that I know who I am and what I value. In that way, I have a strong sense of direction.

But get me behind a steering wheel, and I think they'd say I need a better sense of direction. I'm not exactly Magellan.

What is something on your bucket list that you'd like to do next?

Our family dreams of going on a safari to South Africa.

Lightning Round

Favorite movie: *Good Will Hunting*

Most influential book: *Good to Great* by Jim Collins

Favorite vacation spot: West Michigan beaches

One lesson your kids taught you: It's not a problem if others don't think you can. You know you can.

Favorite board game: Monopoly

Favorite sports event: College football

Best concert you've attended: Pritchard House abuts FJI, and we tend to get "free" backyard concerts from talented student groups like 35 Live. But don't tell them I said that.

No. 1 performer on your playlists: Tom Petty

Most fascinating animal: Dogs. They're unfailingly loyal and loving. Do we really deserve them?

Go-to meal: Power salad.

Your superpower: I can stay focused, alert, and energized for very long periods of time.

Superpower you wish you had: The ability to heal the sick.

Morning routine: I start every single day with an intense workout, either weightlifting or running.

Favorite spot on campus: Wherever the action is! But here's a fact that's not well known yet: When I'm on the phone, I often use ear buds and wander the lawn in front of University Hall. If you see me out there going in circles, it's probably not because I lost a contact lens. If you see me, honk or wave!



The marching band at practice ...



Students marching to Selby Stadium ...



The women's and men's soccer teams.

A Loyal Heart Supports First-Gen College Students

As a child, **Shirley Paden-Bernstein '73** loved visiting her grandmother in the South and watching her knit on the back porch. “I remember the great love my grandma had for me. And it was magic to see what she created with her needles,” she says.



Shirley Paden-Bernstein

Paden-Bernstein's life adventures began in a low-income family of eight living in inner-city Philadelphia. Today, after a long career in the business world, Paden-Bernstein carries on the family tradition of needle art as a designer of custom hand-knit clothing. She owns Shirley Paden Custom Knits and is an internationally recognized teacher, author, mentor, and philanthropist. She says the trajectory of her life changed forever

when she arrived on Ohio Wesleyan's campus.

“Money can't buy what Ohio Wesleyan gave me,” she says.

Today, Paden-Bernstein is determined to change the trajectory for other first-generation college students. In August, President Matt vandenBerg announced Paden-Bernstein's five-year pledge of \$1 million to OWU to support first-generation student scholarships, the OWU Bridge Program, and other university initiatives that enhance the student experience.

“I'm like the poster girl for first-generation students, and I'm sure there are others,” Paden-Bernstein says. “As my OWU experience relates to first-gen students, when I first came to campus, there was the Student Union on Black Awareness, and they assigned an existing student to incoming students. It was an additional arm that was out there for us. They were guiding us in preparing for midterms, but it also was having an ear you could go to. I see some of this echoed in the efforts to welcome first-generation college students and make them feel they are part of the university. I think the entire Summer Bridge program is just wonderful.”

Her dedication to first-generation college students is critical at OWU, where one of every five students is the

first in their family to attend college. Her gift will support an initial group of five first-generation college students by closing the tuition gap after they receive merit scholarships and need-based aid. The scholarships also will provide an annual stipend for students to use for unanticipated costs such as medical expenses or emergency trips home.

Paden-Bernstein's commitment also will support the Ohio Wesleyan Bridge Program, a three-week, credit-bearing residential program designed to equip first-year students with the skills they need to thrive at OWU. The program is open to all incoming first-year students, focusing on first-generation students, low-income students, students of color, and/or LGBTQIA+ students. The Bridge Program provides students with a group of friends before classes even begin and gives them an early, insider glimpse into the resources they need to use at OWU and what life is like on campus.

Paden-Bernstein is confident in OWU's first-generation college student initiatives. “I am very proud of Ohio Wesleyan for being on the cutting edge,” she says. “They were on the cutting edge when they accepted us—the whole set-up with SUBA, setting up work-study for us, and pulling us into travel programs.”

She notes OWU's commitment to first-generation student success will make an impact on “everyone in the orbit of that first-generation student.” She adds, “And it's good for society. The more pillars of light we put into the community, the brighter everyone's future will be.

“You see your family, in my case, my parents, working so hard to try and do all they can. There were eight of us, and you honor that. My whole life, I want to honor that. Even now.

I want to make them proud. It's not a burden; it's just a responsibility you have. That is a thread that runs through being a first-generation student.”

Paden-Bernstein is honored and grateful to be part of the first-generation movement. “Someone stepped up and did what I'm doing so that I could have this Ohio Wesleyan education,” she says. “But now the torch has been passed, and it's our turn to give back. It's time to be grateful. And I am. I am eternally grateful. Sweetly and strong, very much a loyal heart here,” she says, referencing OWU's alma mater.

—Ericka Kurtz



At her 1973 graduation, Shirley Paden celebrates with her mother.

Lessons from the Best Coach

By Jay Martin



Photos by Paul Vernon

In his new book, *Lessons from the Best Coach: Develop a Winning Team Culture that Lasts*, OWU's legendary Jay Martin explains the management strategy that has made him the most successful coach in NCAA history. In the following pages, *OWU Magazine* reprints selections from Coach Martin's preface and first chapter.

On Friday, December 2, 2011, the Ohio Wesleyan University men's soccer team was playing in the national Division III semifinal in San Antonio, Texas. The opponent was Montclair State of New Jersey, who won the New Jersey Collegiate Association championship with a 19-2-0 record. In the stands there were 78 former Ohio Wesleyan University players. They knew none of the members on the current team. They were there to support the program. A program they contributed to when they were students at OWU!

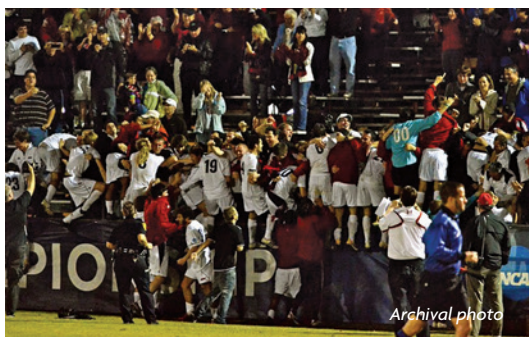
They came to San Antonio on their own. They paid their own way down to Texas and took valuable time away from their families during the holiday season.

The OWU team won the game 4-0. On Saturday, an additional 48 former players flew into San Antonio. They were there to support the program. There were even parents of former players in San Antonio!

There were so many former OWU players that there was an impromptu alumni game at Trinity University hosted by the TU coach and good friend Paul McGinlay!

In the final game, OWU defeated a very good Calvin College team 2-1 to win their second national championship. The stands were across the field from the team benches. When the whistle blew, all of the OWU players ran across the field and jumped into the stands to celebrate with the former players. Let me repeat that none of the alumni knew any of the current players, but they knew the program.

As I watched the celebration, my wife, JoAnn, came up to me and said, "Jay, this is what you do, and it has very little to do with soccer! You have connected with these players for the last 35 years. Different players, different generations, the same connection."



Archival photo

OWU players celebrate the 2011 national championship with alumni attending the game.

I knew that we had a good program. I knew we won a lot of games. But this was a realization: The program was more important than soccer for these players and former players. It made a lasting impact.

This is what this book is about. How can you as a coach or manager or leader create an environment that empowers your players or workers or followers?

Coaching or management or leadership is changing. The “my way or the highway” mentality is no longer appropriate. The players or employees today want more. Good coaches/managers or leaders want to create an environment that empowers the players/employees/followers. They want to create an environment that is positive. They want to create an environment where there is a connection between the coach or manager and the players and followers. The best teams and organizations create an emotional attachment between the players or followers and the organization. I want my players to look at the soccer program as more important than a team.

To me, a soccer team is the two hours each day at practice; a soccer program is the other 22 hours. How many teams have you been on that were two hours each day and not the other 22 hours? My guess is most of them!

Team dynamics suggest that a team goes through four stages. The first stage is the forming stage, the second phase is the storming stage, the third stage is the norming stage, and finally the performing stage. I contend that most teams never get past the storming stage. This book will lead you and your team or organization through the storming stage and into the performing stage.

This book will examine the ways a coach/manager or leader can create an environment that will be embraced by the team members. It will present an environment that is conducive to intrinsic motivation. All good organizations thrive on intrinsic motivation! This book explains how to create a culture. It is a coaching book. Not a soccer coaching book.

Coaching Philosophy

The foundation of my philosophy is very simple, but it makes colleagues and peers shake their head in disbelief. **I do not believe that coaches develop players.** You simply cannot make someone else better. **Only players can make players better.** Most coaches want to believe they make players better. In fact, I know a coach that has on his business card, “...the high school coach who developed (an MLS player).” Sorry, coach, that is not true!

And it is the same in business; managers cannot



make employees better—only employees can do that! Coaches and managers don’t have this magic wand that they wave over players and employees to make them better! It is not that simple.

Every player who comes to Ohio Wesleyan must change the way he or she plays in order to make the team. This is not a negative thing. Every time players move “up” to a higher level, they must change the way they play. If players continue to play the way they did in high school or club they will not play at Ohio Wesleyan University. And that is the case with most college teams, at least most good college teams.

Players must increase their fitness, play the ball quicker, and increase their strength. That is just a start. That is to get one foot on the practice field. To play and be successful, players must continue to get better. But the coach cannot make the player better! The player must do it!

Every year, we have players who tell me they cannot get better. They say they are “set in their ways.” The truth is they don’t want to get better, because it is hard. And if they don’t get better they don’t play!

The best and worst example is from the championship game in San Antonio in 2011. There were four seniors sitting on the bench next to me who did not play! Can you believe that? Senior year! National championship

The best teams and organizations create an emotional attachment between the players or followers and the organization.



game! But they did not play a minute. It was good that we won easily on Friday in the semi-final. That gave all these players a chance to see some action in the Final Four! But not in the final! They simply did not change the way they played from freshman to senior year.

Convincing players that the coach cannot make them better is difficult. It is hard for a number of reasons, but

the biggest reason is our sporting culture in this country. Our system is “coach centric.” It must change to be player centric.

American players are reactive, not proactive. Players show up for practice and wait for the coach to tell them what to do. Players then react to what the coach says, and most often, players go through the motions. Players cannot get better doing this. But it is what happens in the United States. We must teach our players and employees the concept of deliberate practice or as Daniel Coyle calls it in *The Talent Code*, deep practice.

The Importance of Practice

To learn any new skill or gain expertise in a skill you need to practice, practice, and practice some more! No one will debate that. In fact, practice is the only place where players get better. The games are a “test” to see if the players did improve in practice. The players have to take practice seriously.

But it is **how** you practice that makes the difference. It is the **quality of your practice that is more important than the quantity**. Practice does not make players perfect; it makes the players’ habits permanent. So, high-level practice makes high-level players. Talent does not make a big difference. Hard work does.

This concept is known as *deliberate* or *deep* practice, and it’s incredibly powerful.

The common view held, until recently, was that **expert-level performance** was simply the result of **talent** and **“natural abilities.”** This view has held back scientific progress towards learning. What really makes experts so talented, from a psychological perspective?

Experts in sport are not people with freakish natural abilities in a particular domain. Experts are experts at maintaining high-levels of practice and improving performance. It’s not about what you’re born with. It’s about how consistently and deliberately you can work to improve your performance.

So, what is deliberate or deep practice? It is a highly structured activity engaged in with the specific goal of improving performance. It requires effort, it has no monetary reward, and it is not inherently or always enjoyable. Deliberate practice takes time to improve performance, but it **will improve performance!**

There are four steps to deliberate practice. When these conditions are met, practice improves accuracy and speed of performance on cognitive, perceptual, and motor tasks:

1. The athlete must be motivated to attend to the task and exert effort to improve performance.
2. The design of the task should consider the pre-existing knowledge of the athletes so that the task can be correctly understood after a brief period of instruction.
3. The coach should provide immediate informative feedback and knowledge of results of your performance.
4. The athlete should repeatedly perform the same or similar tasks.

It’s important to note that without adequate feedback about performance during practice, efficient learning is impossible and improvement is minimal. How do you, as a coach or manager, provide feedback?

Simple practice isn’t enough to rapidly gain skills. Mere repetition of an activity won’t lead to improved performance. The practice must be intentional, aimed at improving performance, designed for your current skill level, combined with immediate feedback, and repetitive. The player is responsible for the intentional aspect of practice. The coach is responsible for the immediate feedback!

Becoming an expert is a marathon and not a sprint. You cannot reach peak performance in just a few weeks. Practices must be deliberate and intense.

We start every practice by telling the players **what** we will do, **how** we will do it, and (most importantly) **why** we will do it. Players will be motivated if they know the why! But, in addition, players must come to practice with the goal of getting better. Each player must have his/her own goal for the practice session. The coaching staff has a goal for the team, but real improvement comes from players having their own goal. For example, a soccer player may go to practice with a personal goal of playing

two-touch. So, for everything that happens in practice, the player plays two-touch. The player will improve technique and field vision by doing this! The player will get better.

Feedback

In 1974, two Ph.D. candidates in educational psychology—Ronald Gallimore and Roland Tharp—wanted to define the perfect teacher for their doctoral dissertation. They decided to use basketball coach John Wooden as the subject. Coach Wooden still holds the record for the most NCAA tournament championships in basketball.

The researchers watched every practice that season and coded every comment that Coach Wooden used during practice, for example, positive comment, negative comment, business comment, informational comment, etc. When asked which types of comments were used most, most respondents guess “positive comment.” After all, we are told repeatedly that positive comments are very valuable for learning and self-esteem! You may

be surprised to know that positive feedback was not the most often used. Here is a quick breakdown:

- Positive comments about 6%
- Negative comments about 6%
- **Informational comments about 74%**

To improve, athletes need information, not just positive reinforcement. A few years ago, I observed an academy session of an MLS club. The session lasted one hour and 15 minutes. The session focused on the near post/far attacking part of the game.

During the entire session, the coaches did not offer one piece of information! They offered many positive comments, but no information. The runs were wrong, the serves were wrong, the defenders were wrong. The exercise was a disaster. Yet the players left feeling that they got better at attacking the goals. They did not get better. They may have even gotten worse!

Doug Lemov in his book, *Practice Perfect*, offers some tips on the use of feedback in a practice setting:

- **Practice using feedback.** The coach must create an environment where feedback is used as quickly as possible. For example, in an activity where there is a line, after giving feedback, put the player back at the top of the line and not the back of the line.

Have the player repeat the task immediately. Use feedback immediately!

- **Apply feedback first and then reflect on feedback.** Ask players to apply feedback before thinking about it. That will help the player make using feedback a habit.
- **Shorten the feedback loop.** John Wooden thought that *correction was wasted unless done immediately!*
- **Use the power of positive.** What players do right in practice is as important as what they do wrong. *Catch them doing something right!*
- **Limit yourself.** Limit yourself in the amount of feedback you give; people can only focus on a few things at a time.
- **Make it an everyday thing.** Consistent feedback in practice makes it a normal part of the learning process. Start giving feedback immediately in the first practice; don't wait for something negative to happen!
- **Describe the solution, not the problem.** Move away from using the words “don't” and “but.” Tell players how they can succeed. Research suggests that one of the most demotivating aspects of sport is that coaches criticize but do not correct or provide information!
- **Lock it in.** Make sure that the player interprets the feedback correctly by asking the player to summarize what was said; ask players to prioritize the feedback and ask how they will implement feedback.



Lessons from the Best Coach was published by Meyer & Meyer Sport and is available from the publisher or Amazon.

Scenes from 2023 Reunion Weekend

May 19-21, 2023



Sunny skies shone down on the Parade of Classes, which included the 50th anniversary Class of 1973.



From left, Regina Hall, **Robert Hall Jr. '73** and **Paida Saburi '02**.



Generations of Bishops celebrate at Reunion Weekend: Seated **Mary Merullo Winter '48**, back row from left, the Bishop, **Eric Gnezda '79**, **Yvonne Smith '98**, and **Nicole Gnezda '73**.



William Kantonenon '58 represents the great '58.



Friends reconnect: from left, **Rose Moeller-Jacobs '13**, Nancy Bihl Rutkowski, **Ronnesha Addison '12**, **Anthony Grawe '12**, and **Kimberly Eckert '13**.



The 2023 Alumni, Honorary Alumni, and Distinguished Achievement award recipients gather with then-President Rock Jones: Front, from left, **Ann Muenster Nuiry '73**, **David Fouts '73**, **Belinda "Binney" Brown Fouts '73**, **Susan Palmer H'23**, **Jim Mendenhall '73**; back, Jones, **Deydre Smyth Teyhen '93**, **Vaikuntanath "Ram" Samudrala '93**, and **Lisa Sloan H'23**.



Gathering before the interview between **Greg Moore '76** and retiring President Rock Jones are, from left, **Thomas Winston '92**, **Kelli McNairy Winston '93**, and **Carrie Lippert Reinhardt '94**.

Charles Leighton and the Memphis Belle

By Michael Flamm, Professor of History

Step back in an OWU history classroom for a mini-class with Professor Michael Flamm

Eighty years ago, in May 1943, the Memphis Belle returned safely from a bombing raid against a German submarine base and became one of the first B-17s in the Army Air Force to complete 25 missions over Europe. It was no small feat—the three-month survival rate for bomber crews at the time was less than 20 percent due to German fighter planes and anti-aircraft fire.

The navigator of the Memphis Belle was **Charles Leighton**, a chemistry major and football player at Ohio Wesleyan. On November 28, 1941, the senior tailback played his final game. Nine days later, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, and the United States went to war. In January 1942, Leighton enlisted—graduation would have to wait. “My chemistry professor was more intimidating than Hitler,” he later said modestly.

Despite suffering from chronic airsickness, Leighton constantly checked and rechecked his maps and charts to ensure that the plane made it to the target and back to base. He also operated a machine gun and battled frostbite. The B-17s were unpressurized and unheated—at 25,000 feet, it was like being on the summit of Mt. Everest, with temperatures routinely 20 degrees below zero or colder.

“If that sounds like nothing more than the minimum job description,” recalled the captain of the Memphis Belle, “try factoring in these elements: a sky filled with black smoke from bursting flak and whizzing aircraft both enemy and friendly, fierce blasts of wind and weather, false navigational beams being thrown up by the Germans on the ground, voices screaming through your headset phones, and the superhuman need to keep concentrating ... after seven to eight hours of trauma-filled flying time.”

Leighton accepted the pressure: “When you are the lead navigator, the whole formation depends on you. The responsibility is frightening.” He also acknowledged the fear: “You get scared sometimes, but usually any feeling of fright or tenseness leaves you when you start mixing it up.” Always calm under pressure, he and the crew then returned to America in mid-1943 to participate in a War Bond promotional tour.

The 1944 release of *The Memphis Belle*, a powerful documentary produced by Hollywood director William Wyler, made Leighton and his crewmates famous. (Watch the film on the Library of Congress website or Netflix.) But the humble navigator rarely spoke of his military service. Although he accepted his celebrity as part of his life, he would not dwell on it.

In 1945, Leighton married his childhood sweetheart, Jane Francis, received an honorable discharge, and returned to his home in East Lansing, Michigan. There he started a family and finished his degree at Michigan State University, which is why he never received his OWU diploma—until 2023, when President Rock Jones presented it to two of Leighton’s grandchildren as part of the annual Vogel Lecture. (Watch the ceremony on the OWU website.)



The crew members of the Memphis Belle are pictured after their 25th mission. Navigator Capt. Charles Leighton is sixth from the left.

Leighton spent his career in various Michigan public schools as a teacher and counselor. He died in 1991, survived by his beloved wife, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

“He was a real peacemaker, a very special caring person ... who did not have an enemy,” said colleague Tom Nelson. “He was a very modest person who was very proud of his role in World War II—but at the same time slightly embarrassed by the publicity.”

As the United States once again faces serious threats in Europe and Asia, the OWU community should feel a sense of pride in Leighton’s example. We also owe a debt of gratitude to all who have chosen to defend freedom and democracy, which are now at risk abroad and at home.



Michael Flamm

Andy Busch, associate professor of health and human kinetics, **Chris Modica**, associate professor of psychology, and **Emily Sheridan '23**, published the article “The Effect of Yoga on Anxiety, Attention and Social-Emotional Symptoms in Preschool Children: A Pilot Quasi-Experimental Study,” in *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*, August 2023. The study evaluated the effectiveness of a short yoga session on behavioral and cognitive outcomes in preschool children. Findings indicated that a short yoga session improved the children's measures of anxiety, social-emotional behavior, and attention.

Busch also lectured at the Prague School of Rehabilitation and Manual Medicine workshop in Prague, Czech Republic, discussing several of the research articles he coauthored with many therapists trained in utilizing dynamic neuromuscular stabilization principles. This research analyzed diaphragm motion in healthy individuals during various postural-respiratory situations and helped further our understanding of the diaphragm's role in postural stability. The findings support the hypothesis that weightlifting, coupled with voluntary contraction of the abdominal muscles, results in greater intra-abdominal pressure and provides a beneficial stimulus for the diaphragm as a therapeutic approach in postural-respiratory training programs for chronic nonspecific low back pain.

Amy Butcher, associate professor of English and director of creative writing, was the featured writer and instructor of the 13th annual Tutka Bay Writers Retreat at Tutka Bay Lodge outside of Homer, AK, in September. This retreat blends craft talks, in-class writing, readings, and discussion with unstructured time for writers to experience the immersive natural environment or concentrate further on writing. While in Alaska, she also hosted readings at The Writer's Block Bookstore in Anchorage and Pioneer Commons at the Kachemak Bay Campus in Homer. Previous Tutka Bay Writers Retreat instructors have included Louise Erdrich and Luis Urrea. This summer, Butcher taught for the 11th year as writing

faculty with the Sitka Fine Arts Camp—a nonprofit arts education organization that serves 1,000 K-12 students annually. This year, she worked alongside two OWU students (**Emily McCullough '24** and **Jason Tannenbaum '24**) and six alumni (**Steph DeSoto '21**, **Fiona Hansen '22**, **Elizabeth Mushaben '23**, **Jamison Neal '23**, **Emma Neeper '21**, and **Millie Rocco '23**). Butcher also was a featured presenter at the 36th annual Casper College Literary Festival in Casper, WY, and was the invited writer for the Rufus & Louise Reiberg Reading Series at IUPUI, where she gave a reading and hosted a workshop for students.

Butcher's most recent book, *Mothertrucker*, was released in German translation (translated by Dietlind Falk and published by HarperCollins) this spring and in Chinese translation (translated by Ruijie Ren and published by Chinese press Folio) this summer. She also presented on the process of writing *Mothertrucker* as an adult enrichment lecturer aboard the seven Majestic Princess' Voyage of the Glaciers cruises through the Inside Passage of Alaska as part of their North to Alaska series.

Krystal Cashen, assistant professor of psychology, coauthored the article “Perspectives of Youth with LGBTQ+ Parents: Feelings of Openness and Acceptance Towards Others, Oneself, and Family,” published in *Journal of Adolescent Research*, advance online publication May 2023. The article examines the perspectives of youth with LGBTQ+ parents on how their family experiences shape how they think about themselves, others, and their families. **Kay Simon '15** is a coauthor on the paper.

Nick Dietrich, assistant professor of data analytics, and **Brianna DeMuth '23** coauthored the article “Explaining Support for Human Rights Actions: Experimentally Studying Democracy and Personal Authoritarianism” in *Democracy and Security*, published online August 2023. The article presents data from a survey experiment conducted during Ohio Wesleyan's 2021 Summer Science Research Program. This experiment studied how pre-existing views about

authority shape public support for international intervention during humanitarian crises. The project was made possible with funds from the **Shadman Zafar '94** to support data-driven research with students in the data analytics program.

Michael Flamm, professor of history, delivered the annual Joseph and Edith Vogel Lecture on OWU at War: Charles Leighton and the Memphis Belle. For more on the celebrated bomber's navigator Charles Leighton, see Flamm's article on page 34. At the ceremony, President Rock Jones presented the diploma to Leighton's grandchildren. Flamm also co-taught a Fulbright seminar in Argentina and continued to serve on the Finance and Advancement committees of the Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians.

David Johnson, professor emeritus of botany and microbiology, and **Nancy Murray**, curator of the Jason Swallen Herbarium at OWU, oversaw an international team of 32 researchers who produced *Flora of Thailand 16 (1): Annonaceae*, published in 2022 by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Bangkok. The book is the first-ever account of nearly 300 species of the pawpaw family occurring in Thailand, part of a project to describe Thailand's 12,000 plant species, begun in the 1960s and nearing completion.

Sarah Kaka, associate professor of education, was lead author for the article “A Steep Hill to Climb: Lessons from Professional Development on Inquiry Creation,” published in *Social Studies Research and Practice*, Sep. 2023. She also presented two papers in April at the prestigious American Educational Research Association's annual meeting in Chicago. The first was “‘I Have Never Wanted to Quit More as a Teacher’: How ‘Divisive Issues’ Legislation Impacts Teachers,” and the second was “These Laws Allege that We Can't Be Trusted: The Culture Wars and the Teaching Profession.” Finally, she was interviewed as an expert on divisive issues legislation

and featured on two episodes of the TeachLab podcast as part of their series Teacher Speech and the New Divide. The first episode is “Understanding Divisive Concepts Laws,” and the second is episode 4, “Teacher Autonomy.”

Marty Kalb, professor emeritus of fine art, received an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award for 2023. An exhibition of paintings from Kalb’s Ocean Paintings, which were recognized by the OAC award, was held at OWU’s Ross Art Museum in April and May. The show’s 16 paintings, inspired by Kalb’s original photographs, are images of water affected by tides, wind, and land; waves crashing against rocks; waves meeting cross currents; small eddies gliding smoothly over wide beaches; or the tide gently receding back to the sea. The catalog for the exhibition, made possible through funds from the Ohio Arts Council, includes illustrations of all the paintings, an essay by Kalb, and contributions from artists and museum professionals.

Kalb also gave two presentations at OWU’s Institute of Lifelong Learning: one on the ways the memorialization of individuals or historical events has been reexamined, and one studying historical examples of artwork that depict images of tragedy.



Marty Kalb’s “Curacao,” which he painted in 2022, is an acrylic on canvas measuring 60 inches x 48 inches. His ocean paintings are about water meeting different elements in the natural environment, offering viewers a moment to contemplate the force and complexity of the natural environment.

Glenda Nieto-Cuebas, associate professor of Spanish and George and Louise Peters Professor of World Languages and Cultures, published one article, two interviews, and a theatre review and delivered two conference presentations. The article, “Lope Enters with His Entourage: Metatheatricality in Ignacio Amestoy’s *Lope y sus Doroteas*,” was published in *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal of Romance Languages*, Vol. 77, No. 2, 2023. The article examines how Lope de Vega is brought to center stage as a character in the recent theater production *Lope y sus Doroteas o cuando Lope quiere*, written by Ignacio Amestoy and directed by Ainhoa Amestoy. This analysis delves into theatrical choices used in this production to craft the narrative and highlight Lope’s obsessions and self-absorption through his relationship with his younger daughter.

Nieto-Cuebas published the interview “Reimaginando a Lope para el siglo XXI: Conversación con Ignacio Amestoy y Ainhoa Amestoy” in *Comedia Performance: Journal of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 2023. With Erin Cowling, she also published a two-part interview with Octavio Solis, one of the most prominent Latinx playwrights of our time. The interviews were published as “The Making of the Shiny Knight of Chicanos, a Conversation with Octavio Solis,” in *Howlround Theatre Commons*. With Cowling, Nieto-Cuebas also coauthored the review “*Fuente Ovejuna*, by Lope de Vega, directed by Mariano de Paco Serrano, Teatro Circulo, Oct. 7-23, 2022,” in *Latin American Theatre Review*, Spring 2023. Finally, she delivered the presentations *Lope Enters with His Entourage: Metatheatricality in Lope y sus Doroteas*, Apr. 21-22, at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington; and Roundtable: Safe Spaces for Women in the Early Modern Hispanic World, Mar. 10, at Renaissance Society of America in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Shari Stone-Mediatore, professor of philosophy, along with **Karli Walsh ’24** and **Athena Vakaleris Knox ’22**, produced the booklet, “Who We Are: Stories from People Incarcerated in Illinois with Life

Sentences.” This collection of interviews with a preface by Stone-Mediatore was produced with funding from the Illinois Humanities Envisioning Justice Initiative. It has been distributed to Illinois lawmakers as well as people in Illinois prisons.

Chris Wolverton, professor of biology and Albert M. Austin Professor in Natural Sciences, coauthored the article “Antigravitropic PIN Polarization Maintains Non-vertical Growth in Lateral Roots” in the very high-impact journal *Nature Plants*, 1-14, 2023. The research is part of a project he began more than 10 years ago that merged with Stefan Kepinski’s world class lab at Leeds in England starting in 2014. He received a Thomas E. Wenzlau Grant for Faculty and Curricular Development to travel to Leeds during his sabbatical that year, and this is the result. Wolverton also published the article “Meta-Analysis of the Space Flight and Microgravity Response of the Arabidopsis Plant Transcriptome,” in *Npj Microgravity* 9, No. 1, March 2023. The article is a meta-analysis that grew out of work with the NASA GeneLab Plant Analysis Working Group.

Julide Yazar, associate professor of economics, and **Bob Gitter**, professor emeritus of economics, coauthored “Border Games: A Game Theoretic Model of Undocumented Immigration,” which was published in *Games* 14, No. 5: 58. In the paper, they introduce a game-theoretic model of undocumented immigration with the aim of emphasizing the strategic interaction between the different forces affecting the issue. They show that the impact of unilateral actions, such as tightening border enforcement, are muted due to the strategic interplay. Yazar also presented her paper “A Novel Likelihood-free Bayesian Approach for Calibration of Agent-based Models Using Conditional Variational Autoencoders” at WEHIA 2023: Annual Workshop on Economic Science with Heterogeneous Interacting Agents in June. In this paper, she presents a machine-learning-based approach to Bayesian parameter fitting to agent-based economic models that is scalable to models with high-dimensional parameter vectors.

classnotes

Thank you to all who sent in submissions for Class Notes. 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. **The deadline for the Spring 2024 issue is February 1.**

1970s



Victoria King Heinsen '70 released her fourth book, *Robbie F. Woods, Entrepreneur*. Both this book and the previous one, *Jessica F. Woods, Attorney of Record*, present major characters who have graduated from OWU. As they travel life's roads, they do their best to overcome whatever obstacles life throws at them. Victoria appreciates the worlds about which she writes because she has encountered similar obstacles herself. She has great compassion for her characters, among them several Delta Gammas and Phi Delta Thetas. Victoria

continues to teach writing and research at Bowling Green State University. She lives in Dublin, OH, with her husband and cat, both of whom sometimes play roles in her books.

Robert Chrane '73 was honored as a 2023 Tech All-Star by Mortgage Bankers Association. He is the founder and CEO of Down Payment Resource, a technology connecting homebuyers with homebuyer assistance programs. The Mortgage Bankers Association's Tech All-Star awards are presented to individuals who deliver impactful contributions to the mortgage industry.

Agnes Haigh Widder '75 retired from her humanities bibliographer librarian position at Michigan State University Libraries in July. She had worked at Michigan State since 1979.

Guy VanHorn '79 received his master of science in foods and nutrition from the

University of Georgia. Guy volunteers his service to community organizations fighting for food security, nutritional adequacy, and local food systems to benefit neighborhoods in need.

1980s



David Hazard '80, Andy Hart '80, Jeffrey O'Sullivan '81, and Joe Angel '79 (from left) participated in the Pan-Mass Challenge, a bike-a-thon raising money for cancer research. The four rode more than 190 miles across Massachusetts, from Sturbridge to Provincetown. David

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

The Final Witness

OWU Alum Recounts His Secret Service Work During Kennedy's Assassination

BBC News. CNN. *The New York Times*. *People*. *Vanity Fair*. And the list goes on.

Paul Landis '57 is making headlines around the world for his new book, *The Final Witness: A Kennedy Secret Service Agent Breaks His Silence After Sixty Years*. The 240-page book recounts

the time of President John F. Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas. Landis, then 28, was a Secret Service agent riding in the car behind the president's limousine when Kennedy was shot.

"I knew my book would create a little stir, but I didn't think it would be this much," Paul said during a recent telephone interview from his

home in Shaker Heights, Ohio. "I'm hoping people believe me. My book is the truth. It's what I saw. It's what I did."

In the book, Paul recounts picking up an intact bullet from Kennedy's car after the shooting and placing it on a hospital gurney. Landis was not questioned by the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination, and he never talked about the bullet and how it changes history—until now.

"I finally decided to tell my story," he said, noting that the book took three years to complete. "It needed to be told."

Even before the book's Oct. 10 release, it was ranked on Amazon.com's best-sellers list for all books and in the categories of U.S. Biographies, U.S. State and Local History, and Law Enforcement Biographies. Landis credited Ohio

Wesleyan classmate and friend **Evan Corns '59** with helping to connect him with the literary agent who helped to make this success possible.

Of the tome, award-winning journalist and author Matthew Algeo proclaims: "If you think there's nothing left to be said about the Kennedy assassination, think again: former Secret Service agent Paul Landis's gripping, second-by-second eyewitness account is an indispensable addition to the canon. A fascinating peek behind the curtain of the Kennedy White House and the Secret Service, *The Final Witness* will surely stand as the final revealed inside account of Camelot and the tragic events in Dallas six decades ago."

Before he became a Secret Service agent, Paul was a geology major at Ohio Wesleyan whose favorite professor was George Cowl, a 28-year member of OWU's geology department and his academic adviser.

Paul describes himself as "an average student," whom Cowl occasionally urged to work a little harder. During his four years as a Bishop, Landis also pledged the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, played varsity golf as a first-year student, and was a member of the ROTC drill team.

"I have a lot of good memories, a lot of fond memories of Ohio Wesleyan and Delaware," he said. "I love Ohio Wesleyan."

After graduating, Landis served in the Ohio Air National Guard for two years. And then he heard a friend of his sister talking about his job as a Secret Service agent helping to protect President Dwight D. Eisenhower. "The more he talked, it just sparked an interest in me," Paul said. "I thought, 'Hey, this is the greatest job in the world. I want to do this.'"

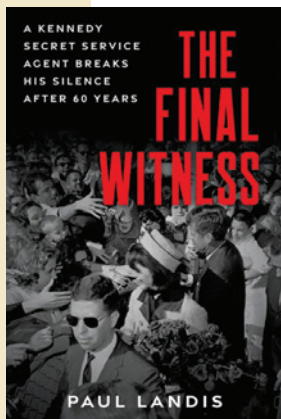
He said his work with the Kennedys began with "kiddie detail" in August 1961, working to ensure the protection of 9-month-old John Jr. and nearly 4-year-old Caroline. In October 1962, he was assigned to First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy's security during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Although he witnessed Kennedy's horrific shooting and was in the trauma room at Parkland Memorial Hospital when the president was declared dead, Landis also has many happy memories of his time with the First Family. One of his most vivid memories, Paul said, is "taking Caroline and Macaroni (her pony) into the Oval Office."

"She wanted to go see Daddy," Landis recalled, "and I'm thinking this is not a good idea." Still, he relented and went with Caroline and her pony to Kennedy's office. "The screen door was open, and the president was busy writing ... and I thought, 'Why not?'" Paul recalled with a chuckle. "The look on President Kennedy's face, I'll never forget. His jaw dropped and then he smiled."

In hindsight, Paul said, "It was the best job I could ever have had."

—Cole Hatcher





A group of 28 OWU Phi Kappa Psi alumni from class years 1979-82 came from 16 states to meet at the Boathouse of **George Sehringer '79** in Bay Village, OH, sharing camaraderie, laughs, memories, and fun. From left, front, **Bob Pulitzer '81, Steve Kjellmann '82, Andrew Dunn '79, Jeff O'Sullivan '81, John Green '79, John Hunger '80, Bill Potter '81**; back, **George Sehringer '79, Bob Fishman '79, Charles Murphy '79, Jim Wagner '80, Robert Trask '80, Peter Tunkey '81, Tom Kane '81, Mark Rodan '80, Brian Cruse '80, Bob Buzzanco '82, Sam Adams '82, Jim Newman '80, Brad Clippinger '82, John Whitaker '81, John Berger '81, Blair Woodring '82, Greg Altnauer '81, Les Kaciban '80, Dave Griffin '80, Joe Angel '79, and Rob Shaw '79.**

and Andy founded the team 10 years ago, and they have raised more than \$3 million to fight cancer. The team has over 150 members, and 60 to 80 ride every year.



the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national tournament for the second straight year.

Richard Alexander '82 donated 1.2 acres of land for environmental conservation to the Darien Land Trust.

Bruce Tall '82 joined the football coaching staff as co-defensive coordinator at Murray State University (KY). He has more than 35 years of experience in coaching, including at West Virginia University, Mississippi State University, and Emory and Henry College.



Peter Rubacky '80, Greg Knopp '80, Russ Whitman '80, and George Snyder '80 (top photo, from left) got together in northern New Jersey with some great, lifetime friends to play golf and catch up. The bottom photo shows the Sigma Alpha Epison brothers on the links 35 years ago, from left, Peter, Russ, Greg, George.

Steve Bruce '81, head coach of the Indiana University/South Bend women's basketball team, guided the Titans to the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament title for the first time since 2005, and they participated in

Doug Robinson '86 was inducted into Johnson Central High School Athletic Hall of Fame (KY). He lettered three years each in football, basketball, and baseball in high school and was selected all-state in football and baseball his senior year. Doug also earned varsity letters in football and participated in baseball and track at OWU. He is a retired federal agent from the U.S. Department of Justice and chief of police.

Mary "Molly" Irwin '89 joined the research firm Abt Associates as principal solutions architect for workforce, children, youth, and families. She has more than 25 years of experience leading research and working with policy makers and researchers, most recently as the Pew Charitable Trusts' vice president of research and science.

1990s



Mike Gebremedhin '91, Laura Gosling '90, Heather Robinson '94, and Pierre Tchetchen '00 (from left) enjoyed a full OWU reunion in Accra, Ghana. They all work at the U.S. Embassy in Accra.

Amanda Irene Hoyt Rush '94 published her debut memoir, *The Gathering Girl*, in March. Pulling from her background in humanities and classics, and guided by family artifacts, Amanda strives to make meaning of the cumulative and relatively quiet damage wrought by her parents' divorce, her mother's mental illness, and a childhood in which she was generally left to fend for herself. The book is for anyone who has been impacted by adverse childhood events and family dysfunction. Amanda is a psychiatric nurse practitioner in Columbus, OH. Her other published writings are available at amandairush.com.

Terree Stevenson '95 was appointed dean of students at California State University, Fresno (Fresno State). Since 2018, she had served as dean of students at Central State University in Wilberforce, OH.

Karla McCain '98 was hired as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Cottey College (MO). Prior to joining Cottey, she served as the provost of Blackburn College and was a faculty member at Austin College (TX).



Kristin Kelling '99 (right) and **Melody Maxwell '10** (left) discovered their OWU connection during a country team meeting in Brazil, where they both work at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia. Kristin is a diplomat serving as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Attaché. She works at the intersection of global health and diplomacy, focusing on the bilateral relationship between the United States and Brazil. She has more than 20 years of federal management and leadership experience, including a long history of engagement and collaboration with Latin America through her work at the U.S. Department of State and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She earned a Master of Health Science degree in International Health from Johns Hopkins University and is pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Melody is a veterinarian and diplomat for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. In her current location, she is the APHIS Area Director and Agricultural Attaché for seven countries in South America. She focuses on facilitating agricultural trade and safeguarding U.S. agriculture by strengthening host countries' local capacity to identify and control plant and animal pests and diseases. She was previously posted in Dakar, Senegal,

covering 24 West and Central African countries and is looking forward to her next posting in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2024. She completed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees at Ohio State University.

2000s



Joel Glassburn '00 was inducted into the Ohio Golf Coaches Hall of Fame. At the May ceremony, Joel was honored in front of a room full of varsity golf coaches from across the state. A 7th grade science teacher at Olentangy Berkshire Middle School, Joel is in his 23rd year of teaching. He coached varsity golf at Olentangy High School for 17 years. Joel played varsity golf at OWU for four years and was a member of the team that won an NCAC Championship. He also received the Dick Gordin Award as Player of the Year in the NCAC.

Raymond Butler Jr. '01 was named dean of students at Roger Bacon High School in Cincinnati, OH. He has two decades of experience in education, including 18 years as a social studies teacher and two years as dean of students at LaSalle High School.



Martha Loizeaux '02 received a Fulbright Teacher Exchange award to Colombia for the 2023-24 cycle from the U.S.

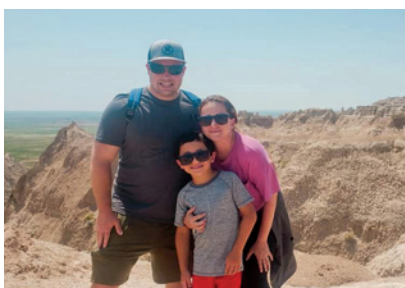
Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. She currently is a science teacher and head of the science department at Ocean Studies Charter School in Key Largo, FL. The award will allow Martha to teach and/or conduct research in Colombia before returning home to share her stories, welcome foreign scholars, and encourage colleagues and students to go abroad.

Levi Williamson '03 joined CREC Real Estate, a private equity real estate investment firm, as director of business development. He will focus on fundraising and growing the firm's relationships with institutional investors and financial intermediaries in North America and globally. Previously, he was director of business development at Optima Asset Management.



Tami McCandlish '04 published a memoir, *Let the Bees Buzz: Finding Redemption in the Aftermath of School Bullying*. It became a No. 1 new release on Amazon. As a writer, speaker, and business executive for the past 20 years, Tami has shared her story with thousands. She is also a fitness coach who has inspired thousands to healthier lifestyles. She and her husband, Charlie, live in Ohio with their kitties. To learn more, visit tamimccandlish.com.

Andrew Keatts '06 was hired to coauthor a new newsletter from Axios Local in San Diego. He previously worked at the Voice of San Diego for more than 10 years as investigative reporter and assistant editor.



Earle Havran '09 was promoted to investment advisor at Key Bank Corp. in Pittsburgh, PA, where he ranks in the top five revenue producers in the company. He specializes in assessing and suggesting investment opportunities, conducting research to execute finance deals, and facilitating deals with investors. He also is a dedicated father, husband, and coach. He is pictured here with his wife, Melissa, and son, Michael.

2010s

Travis Wall '12 was named head coach of men's soccer at Kenyon College. A member of OWU's Athletics Hall of Fame, Travis was captain of OWU's 2011 national championship team as well as the 2011 NSCAA National Player of the Year. He was a two-time All-American and was named to the NCAC's 2004-2013 All-Decade Team. Previously, he was head coach of the men's soccer team at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN.



Andrew Howard '13 earned a Ph.D. from Ohio University in history, studying British imperialism in India. He taught world history at Ohio University while writing his dissertation on British colonialism in the Himalayan

Battling cancer on the front lines

Barbershops are iconic in American culture. One can get a fresh cut, make friends, enjoy fun conversations, and catch up on the latest sports news. But what if barbershops could also help men receive critical and preventive health care?

Rebecca Manning Miller '17 and the Cleveland African American Prostate Cancer Project (CAAPP) are meeting men where they are—in barbershops—to deliver life-saving information. A Case Western Reserve University program, the CAAPP, is a randomized control study that seeks to leverage barbershops and the existing relationships between barbers and their clients to bring prostate cancer screening and education to Black communities in Greater Cleveland.

As the project director of CAAPP, Rebecca's role includes many responsibilities, including project management and evaluation, facilitating the work of multiple teams, participant recruitment and engagement, data collection and analysis, communications, and more. "My team members have described me as the glue of the team that keeps all the various elements of our study working in harmony," Rebecca says.

"The most fulfilling aspect of my job is helping to provide community members with prostate cancer screening, education, and resource connection while also building an extraordinary skill

set in managing our study's various research, clinical, administrative, and community aspects. A typical day is never the same, which is what I love most about this work," she says.

Rebecca's work with CAAPP is bringing vital healthcare into underserved areas.

"Cleveland can seem big at times, but we are a close-knit city, and when collaboration is at the center of institutional partnerships, we can do some damage to health disparities," she says. "We have almost 100 people consented to CAAPP and screened over 50 individuals for prostate cancer. We are working with over 70 barbers across different shops to accomplish this work."

Rebecca notes that her career path has been unconventional, beginning as a chemical and biological safety specialist after graduating from Ohio Wesleyan. Once she started working at Case Western, she earned a master's of public health with a concentration in population health research and a master's of science in nutrition.

"When I saw the role for project director at CAAPP, a colleague of mine encouraged me to apply, and I'm so glad I did," she says. "It's the perfect culmination of my skills and provides an increased opportunity to make a direct impact in my home city of Cleveland."

—Ericka Kurtz



Rebecca Miller on the steps of the CAAPP mobile unit, which allows them to reach directly into Cleveland neighborhoods.

province of Kashmir, “Fixing the ‘Happy Valley’: British Sentimentality and Their Intervention in Kashmir, 1885-1925.” While completing his doctorate, he taught history at Terra State Community College. In the fall, he joined the faculty at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as a full-time lecturer of world history, as meanwhile, he adapts his dissertation into publication as a book.

Acorye White '14 directed and acted in the horror film *Trinket Box*. After its opening in late March, the independent film took the top spot for self-distributed U.S. theatrical film release in 2023. *Trinket Box* follows a newlywed interracial couple, Mike and Ava, who encounter an historical evil.

Audra Thompson Smith '15 is now a member services representative for Kemba Financial Credit Union in Bellefontaine, OH. She generates loan applications, opens accounts, and assists with personal financial needs.

Hannah Mary Simpson '16 was engaged to Maxwell Zuniga. Hannah is enjoying a busy acting career in Chicago, and she shot a commercial in May.

Sarah Fowler '17 was named head cross country coach and assistant track and field coach at Seton Hall University. A six-time All-American at OWU, Sarah previously was head cross country coach for two seasons at Minot State (ND).

Cienna Baka '22 was selected as one of six nationally to receive the Grace Mason Lundy Award, presented to senior Delta Zeta members who during their college years gave the greatest evidence of loyalty, devotion, and service to their chapters and the sorority. Cienna is the first member of the chapter to receive this award in 32 years.



Lucas Nathanson '22 (left) was promoted to account executive at Goodman Media. He was an Economics Management Fellow at OWU, where he met **Tom Goodman '76**, (right) and later joined Goodman Media.



OWU alumni spanning generations are teaming up as staff members at Carlisle Elementary School in Delaware, OH. The proud Bishops and Pacers are, standing from left, **Laura Houtz Waltz '02**, **Gracie Clevenger Roberts '21**, **Janet Dickey Seese '72**, **Theresa Beach Carlson '86**, **Natalie Geer '16**, **Michelle Howison Burkart '90**, and **Marcy Burgie Terry '00**; kneeling is **Cory Lawrence '11X**.



Tammy Winkler '13 is looking for the original owner of this Jewish Siddur (prayer book), which she received from former chaplain Jon Powers during her years at OWU, where she was very involved in the chaplain's office. The inscription on the inside cover reads (in English), “Michael Mordechai son of Leah Malka.” Chaplain Powers cannot recall who this is or who the book belongs to. If you have information about the book, please contact Tammy at sunshine7590@gmail.com.

Births



Tyler Mather '12 and Nichele Mather welcomed Arthur “Artie” Tyler Mather on May 10. Arthur joins his 3-year-old sister, Truffle.



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. 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. High-resolution photographs are welcome.

The deadline for receiving Class Notes and Faculty Notes submissions for the Spring 2024 OWU Magazine is February 1, 2024.

weddings



Waltz-Williams Wedding
Michelle Waltz '02 married Tyrone Williams on Oct. 9, 2022, in Cleveland, OH. From left: **Megan Maurer Hill '02**, **Janice Blair '02**, bride, groom, **Amanda Boles Moore '02**, and **Garrett Moore '02**.



Peddle-Pilon Wedding
Anthony Peddle '14 (left) married Tyler Pilon on June 10 in Delaware, OH. They were joined in celebration by **Bethany Mann Herbst '14**, **Alex Johnson '15** and **Kelsey Brewer Johnson '14**, **Tabi Johnsen '14**, and **Shana Riley**. They were also joined by current and former OWU staff Nancy and Mike Rutkowski, Katie and Tony Webster, and Dana and Larry Behum.

Giarrusso-Picarillo Wedding
Alyssa Giarrusso '17 married Dominick Picarillo on Jan. 15 in Aquebogue, NY. Alumni attending included, from left: (top) **Rachel Charles '17** and **Katie Silverstein Carney-DeBord '16**; (middle row) **Claire Lofgren '16**, **Kellie Garvin '17**, **Alyssa Richter '17**, and **Cat Mechler '17**; (front) **Tyler Carney-DeBord '15**, **Bob Barnes '89**, **Haley Langhorne McCrone '17**, **Ryan McCrone '17**, bride, **Jim Giarrusso '79**, **Justin Giarrusso '13**, and **Ken Neill '79**.



For more detailed information about the alumni listed below, please see 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 from September 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023.

1940s

Frederick Warren Coe '41, of Redding, CA, June 10, age 104.

Mildred Newcomb '41, of Upper Arlington, OH, March 18, age 108. She is survived by nephews **Michael Newcomb '73** and **James Newcomb '79**. Millie was a member of OWU's Tower Society. She was also professor emeritus of English, teaching at OWU for a number of years before retiring in 1979.

Margery Mayer '45, of Brentwood, TN, April 8, age 99. She was predeceased by brother **Ronald Mayer '51**. Margery was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Helen Long Field '46, of South Hadley, MA, Feb. 22, age 99. She was predeceased by sister **Nancy Long Andrews '49**. Helen is survived by daughter **Margaret Field Light '84**. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Sarah Hoover Buchert '48, of Marietta, OH, Aug. 8, age 96. She was predeceased by husband **Roger Buchert '49** and brother **Charles Hoover '50**. She was a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Lorna Jean Kraft '48, of Canton, OH, July 5, age 96. She is survived by grandchild **Alexander Snyder '26**.

Marilyn Martin Knerr '49, of Mechanicsburg, OH, June 15, age 96. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Beverly Tierney Marshall '49, of Portsmouth, OH, March 14, age 95. She was predeceased by husband **Jack Marshall '44**. Beverly was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

1950s

Torrey Massey Isaac '50, of North Harmony, NY, May 8, age 94.

James Parks '50, of Grandview Heights, OH, Aug. 11, age 97. He was predeceased by sister **Sarah Parks Edelman '52** and brother **John Parks '54**.

Cecil "Scotty" Scott '50, of Granville, OH, May 24, age 95. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Donna Guthrie Lewis '51, of Kalamazoo, MI, June 7, age 95.

E. Rodman "Rod" Heine '51, of Chapel Hill, NC, July 29, age 94. He was predeceased by parents **Walter Heine 1923** and **M. Louise Kimler Heine 1924**, and sister **Litta Heine Vigne '53**. Rod is survived by son **Eric Heine '77**. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Dorothy Lander Lincoln '51, of Tecumseh, MI, July 3, age 93.

Roberta Sloatman Hurlburt '51, of Windsor, VT, July 18, age 94. She was predeceased by parents **David Sloatman 1923** and **Esther Hughes Sloatman 1925**. Roberta is survived by sister **Esther Sloatman Barto '54**.

Lois Wesler Martin '51, of Austin, TX, June 15, age 93. She was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Sally Brown Moldoven '52, of Poland, OH, July 25, age 93. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Herbert Detweiler '52, of Cutler, ME, March, age 93. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

Joanne Goodnow Geyer '52, of Hamilton, NY, July 1, 2022, age 92. She is survived by child **Peter Geyer '81** and grandchild **Natalie Geyer '25**.

Roger Kennedy '52, of Toledo, OH, July 4, age 92. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

John Plunkett '52, of Wyckoff, NJ, Feb. 21, age 93. He is survived by his wife **Evelyn Colbeth Plunkett '52** and daughter **Susan Plunkett Fasano '78**.

Marilyn Reese Foreman '52, of Worthington, OH, May 22, age 93. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

William Smith '52, of Glendale, AZ, May 16, age 93. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

James Tiffin '52, of Needham, MA, March 28, age 93. He is survived by daughter **Tracey Hogan '82**. James was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Walter "Wally" Zavitz '52, of Portland, OR, March. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Barbara Ziegler Kaiser '52, of Lafayette, IN, May 20, age 93. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Tyler "Page" Brightman '53, of Worthington, OH, March 25, age 93. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Marian Nelson Ferguson '53, of Lakeville, CT, Nov. 21, 2022. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Marianne Reider Michael '53, of New Canaan, CT, Feb. 9, age 90.

John Shuster '53, of Beavercreek, OH, May 25, age 91. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Mary Thomas Hartford '53, of Richmond, VA, May 4, age 91. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Jenny Van Luit Sehringer '53, of OH, May 3, age 91. She is survived by nephew **John Cannon '86** and grandchild **G.K. Sehringer IV '08**. Jenny was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Barbara Davis Rix '54, of Ashland, NE, June 23, age 91. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Lucy Griffin Carillot '54, of LaGrange Park, IL, March 5, age 90. She is survived by daughters **Lauren Payne '82** and **Carol Payne Wagner '85**. Lucy was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Alfred Hubler '54, of Elyria, OH, July 31, age 91. He was predeceased by wife **Lois Malish Hubler '53**. Al was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

Carol Inman Everson '54, of Maumee, OH, June 20, 2022, age 89. She was predeceased by husband Jack Everson. Carol was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Nancy Kepner '54, of Highlands Ranch, CO, Oct. 3, 2022, age 90. She was predeceased by sister **Mary Fast Overmire '47** and cousin **Barbara Shriver Taylor '42**. Nancy is survived by husband **Philip Kepner '54**. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Lynda Redhead Goldie '54, of Asheville, NC, March 6, age 90. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

John Root '54, of Sarasota, FL, April 26, age 90. He is survived by cousin **Frances Ransone '55**. John was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Richard Blayney '55, of Louisville, KY, April 28, age 89. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

William Davies '55, of Acton, MA, Feb. 4, age 89. He is predeceased by uncle Albert Davies 1925. Bill is survived by sibling **Lu Davies Hill '56**. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Doris Gibbas '55, of Naperville, IL, April 28, age 90. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Philip Johnson '55, of Manns Choice, PA, March 13, age 90. He was predeceased by aunt **Edna Johnson Barber '28**. Philip was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

William Libby '55, of Hudson, OH, May 3, age 90. He is survived by siblings **Margaret Douglas '57** and **Edwin Libby**

'58. Bill was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Susan Mackey Brown '55, of Lakeside-Marblehead, OH, April 17, age 89. She is survived by sister **Lynette Patterson '57**. Susan was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Barbara Schaaf Kortwich '55, of Chagrin Falls, OH, March 14, age 89. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Gregg Wharry '55, of Boise, ID, July 6, age 90.

Lyston Knappenberger '56, of Mayville, NY, July 14, age 89. He was predeceased by father **Harold Knappenberger 1924**, uncle **Lee Smith 1924**, and aunt **Florence Smith 1925**. Lyston was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

Carol Pascarella '56, of Avon Lake, OH, June 18, age 89. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Sarah Selkirk Timmons '56, of London, OH, May 12, age 88. She was predeceased by husband **Thomas Timmons '55**. Sarah was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Joanna Shinkle Nicklin '56, of St. Louis, MO, June 8, age 88. She is survived by sister **Helen Ashmore '61**. Joanna was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Keith Eiken '57, of Louisville, KY, Feb. 3, age 87. He was predeceased by brother **Richard Eiken '53**. Keith is survived by niece **Amy Eiken '84** and sister-in-law **Maribeth Graham '55**. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Susan Engel Knudsen '57, of Billings, MT, April 16, age 78.

Martha "Marty" Rinehart Vlerebome '57, of Lancaster, OH, Feb. 10, age 87. She was predeceased by husband **J. Allan Vlerebome '55**. Marty was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Edwin Weber '57, of Columbus, OH, April 12, age 88. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Richard Hagenlocker '58, of Fredericksburg, VA, April 22, age 86. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Ralph Morrow '58, of Key West, FL, July 31, age 87. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Frederick Rice '58, of Falmouth, ME, June 17, age 87. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Judith Yingling Giffin '58, of Cridersville, OH, July 14, age 87. She is survived by husband **Bill Giffin '58**. Judith was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Norman Zigrossi '58, of Knoxville, TN, July 5. He is survived by daughter **Karen Zigrossi '85**. Norman was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Thomas Hearn '59, of Chippewa Falls, WI, July 19, age 86. He was predeceased by parent **M.K. Hearn '29**. Thomas was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Martha "Marti" Leihgeber Becker '59, of Memphis, TN, April 28, age 85. She was a member of OWU's Tower Society, Loyal Bishops Society, and Chi Omega sorority.

Morgan Phillips '59, of Auburn, AL, Feb. 24, age 86. He is survived by son **Matthew "Scott" Phillips '83** and daughter-in-law **Margaret Freehling Phillips '85**. He also was professor emeritus of religion, teaching at OWU for 37 years.

Carol Rees-Eickhoff '59, of Lisle, IL, Feb. 27, age 85. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

H. Bruce Russell '59, of Estero, FL, March 26, age 85. He was predeceased by sister **Ann Nelson '58**. Bruce is survived by brother **Theodore Russell '58**. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Joanne Teopfer Wright '59, of FL, June 24. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

1960s

Susan Collie Pond '60X, of Philadelphia, PA, March 23, age 84. She was predeceased by mother **Dorothy Morris '33**. Susan is survived by cousin **Nancy Williams '72**. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Raymond Hopkins '60, of Swarthmore, PA, May 23, age 84. He is survived by wife **Carol Hopkins '62** and cousin **Sarah Cornwall '67**. Raymond was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

M. Patricia Hunt Perry '60, of Guilderland, NY, Feb. 27, age 85. She is survived by son **Jeffrey Neal '85**.

June Kiger Baughman '60, of Summit County, OH, Feb. 4. She was predeceased by brother **Thomas Kiger '55**. June was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Edmond Lash '60, of Ashland, OH, May 9. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Stan Noland '60, of Cincinnati, OH, June 1. He is survived by brother **Thomas Nolan '67** and niece **Katheryn Noland '01**. Stan was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Natalie Vernon Davis '60, of Lebanon, NH, July 19, age 85. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Alan Alexander '61, of Cleveland, OH, April 5, age 83. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

Kenneth Durst '61, of East Dennis, MA, July 20, age 84. He is survived by wife **Barbara Eastman Durst '61**. Kenneth was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Edward Griesmer '61, of Queensbury, NY, April 11, age 83. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

John Traul '61, of OR, Jan. 23, age 83. He was predeceased by father **John Traul '32**. John was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Gail Woodford Kramer '61, March 20, age 83. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Barbara Brillhart Niehoff '62, of Columbus, OH, Feb. 22, age 82. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Cynthia Pender Robbins '62, of Cabot, VT, June 22, age 82.

Denis "Skip" Winder '62, of Durango, CO, May. He is survived by sister **Daphne Winder John '59**. Skip was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Frederick Fischer '63, of Edison, NJ, April 7, age 82. He was a member of Kappa Psi fraternity.

William Geiger '63, of North Olmsted, OH, May 12, age 82. He is survived by brother **Russell Geiger '66**. Bill was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Anne Gilmore '63, of Lancaster, OH, March 22, age 81. She is survived by brother **John Gilmore '62**. Anne was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Albeon Anderson '64, of Rocky Mount, NC, July 2, age 81. He is survived by brother **Michael Anderson '66** and son **Michael Anderson '93**.

Burt Biderman '64, of New York, NY, May, age 80. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

David Closs '64, of Scotch Plains, NJ, July 5, age 80.

Lynn Kummer Reinhardt '64, of Medina, OH, June 1, age 80. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Selina Pendergrass Woods '64, of Winchester, MA, July 29, age 81. She is survived by husband **William Woods '64**. Selina was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Robert Strom '64, Jan. 13. He is survived by wife **Mary Franz Stom '63**. Robert was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Gale Eckerson '65, of Worcester, MA, Jan. 18, age 79. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Edwin Pfaff '65, of New Braunfels, TX, March 31, age 80. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Roger Van Deusen '65, of Gulfport, FL, March 8, age 79. He was predeceased by father **Richard Van Deusen '32**. Roger was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Catherine Harding Davis '66, of Keene, NH, June 6, age 78. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Thomas Mahoney '66, of Canandaigua, NY, March 4, age 79. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Leslie "Lee" Cashman '67, of Stonington, CT, June 5, age 78. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Janet Harris Sanders '67, of Snellville, GA, July 11, age 77. She was predeceased by father **William Harris '45**, mother **Elizabeth Harris '45**, and aunt **Joy Dunlap '45**. Janet is survived by siblings **Nancy Backhaus '64**, **David Harris '69**, **Mary Woods '75**, and **Carrie Harris '84**.

James Hunt '67, of New London, NH, June 13, age 77. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Roger Morris '67, of Secane, PA, May 31, age 77.

John Hinton '68, of Huron, OH, Oct. 9, 2022, age 75. John is survived by wife Phyllis, and daughters **Emily Hinton '94**, **Megan Hinton '97**, and Kallie Hinton. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Anne Perkins Hinton '68, of Nantucket, MA, Feb. 2, age 76. She was predeceased by parents **Charlotte Perkins '43** and Lowell Perkins. Anne is survived by daughters **Emily Hinton '94** and **Megan Hinton '97**. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Elizabeth Fowler Schneider '68, of Cincinnati, OH, Feb. 10, age 76.

Donald "Reggie" Ryals '68, of Sarasota, FL, June 10, age 76. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Louis Goldstein '69, of Andover, MA, Oct. 31, 2022, age 74. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Madeline Williamson '69, of Abiquiu, NM, Dec. 28, 2022. She was predeceased by mother **Ruth Perry Williamson '47**, uncle **Ralph Hoke '37**, and aunt **Lelah Perry '36**.

1970s

JoEleanor Hand Lilly '70, of Thomasville, GA, Feb. 15, age 74. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Anthony Dardzinski '72, of Chippewa Lake, OH, April 19, age 72.

Gary Brown '72, of Ada, OH, April 25, age 84.

Nina Sabrack '72, of Cleveland, OH, May 15, age 72.

Thomas Hughes '74, of OH, April 18, age 72. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Mark Bigelow '75, of St. Johnsbury, VT, March 19, age 69. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Linda Brey Marous '75, of Bexley, OH, Feb. 23, age 70. She was predeceased by parents **Carl Brey '50** and **Vivian Stahlhut Brey '49**. Linda is survived by husband **Michael Marous '76**, brothers **Donald Brey '77** and **Steven Brey '86**, and daughter **Sarah Marous '10**.

John Nicely '75, of Havertown, PA, Dec. 18, 2022, age 68. He is survived by brother **Timothy Paik-Nicely '73**.

Mary Grace Prichard '76, of Lynn, MA, Jan. 31, age 69. She was predeceased by father **Norman Prichard '48**.

David Appell '77X, of Sandusky, OH, Feb. 15, age 67. He was predeceased by aunt **Eleanor Fowler Scheid '49**. David is survived by siblings **Mary Alice Appell McKone '70** and **William Appell '79**. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Brad Walker '77, of Greensboro, NC, March 3, age 68.

1980s

Jeffrey Hubschman '81, of Mount Gilead, OH, May 4, age 63. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

Michael Burke '82, of Rye, NY, Aug. 14. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

James Hays '82, of Columbus, OH, March 9, age 63. He is survived by brother **Willard Hays '72** and daughter **Allyson Hays Hillyard '13**. Jim was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

James Morris '82, of Wylie, TX, July 16, age 63.

Rodney Hayes '87, of Hamden, OH, July 21, age 58.

1990s

Matthew Smith '95, of Delaware, OH, May 21, age 51.

Pamela Van Riper '95, of Powell, OH, June 12, age 50. She is survived by husband **Edward Van Riper '95**. Pam was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

David Lauffer '98, of Watertown, NY, June 28, age 48. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

2000s

Jason Aikens '03, of Columbus, OH, June 1, age 43.

Faculty & Staff

Cyrus Hay, of Delaware, OH, March 11, age 98. He was the greenhouse manager at OWU for 13 years. Cyrus was predeceased by son **Kenneth Hay '74**. He is survived by son **David Hay '76**.

Ruth Heitzman, of Delaware, OH, May 14, age 92. She was the catering supervisor at OWU for 38 years.

Johnnie Ray Hoopes, of Delaware, OH, Feb. 13, age 94. She taught home economics at OWU from 1959 to 1963.

Conrad Kent, of Delaware, OH, April 28, age 80. He was professor emeritus of modern foreign languages and humanities-classics. Conrad taught at OWU for more than 30 years.

Mildred Newcomb '41, of Upper Arlington, OH, March 18, age 108. She was professor emeritus of English, teaching at OWU for a number of years before retiring in 1979. She is survived by nephews **Michael Newcomb '73** and **James Newcomb '79**. Millie was a member of OWU's Tower Society.

Arthur Peterson, of Sun City, CA, March 23, age 96. He was a professor and department chair of politics and government at OWU. He was predeceased by son **Jon Peterson '76**.

Morgan Phillips '59, of Auburn, AL, Feb. 24. He was professor emeritus of religion, teaching at OWU for 37 years. He is survived by son **Matthew "Scott" Phillips '83** and daughter-in-law **Margaret Freehling Phillips '85**.

Linda Rader, of Delaware, OH, Feb. 1, age 73. She was a housekeeper at OWU.

Susan Raz Gorby, of Noblesville, IN, Feb. 6, age 79. She worked in student counseling services at OWU.

Carlton Thompson, of Delaware, OH, April 10, age 88. He worked in maintenance at OWU.

Sympathy to

Bjill Haddock McNaughton '70, **Hallie McNaughton Trigg '05**, **David McNaughton '10**, and **Caitlin McNaughton '16** for the loss of their husband, father, and uncle, **Brian McNaughton**, on June 2, 2022, age 67.

Donald Curran '81, **William Curran '92**, and **Charles Curran '94** for the loss of their father, D. Edward Curran, of Wayne, PA, Feb. 23, age 92.

Bradley Kendall '88 for the loss of his father, Leigh Kendall, of Lancaster, PA, Feb. 11, age 85.

What's the story?



OWU Archives has a large file of photos labeled “Unknown.” Photos like this one.

More than 20 alumni helped solve the mystery photo from the Spring 2023 issue. Now, for our fall issue, we have a fall photo from the archives. Can you help us identify these students and what the story is behind the photo? Have they built a mini-float honoring Schlitz? Where are they? And whose VW Beetle is that peaking out?

OWU Magazine aims to solve these mysteries from the archives. And we need your help. Please contact us if you know the people in this photo and the story behind it. We will publish the answers in the next OWU Magazine.

If you can help solve the mystery of the photo above, please send us an email at magazine@owu.edu.



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Fans had much to cheer
during OWU's 48-7 2023
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over Kenyon.