Dear Classmates, soul mates

Renaissance woman

Music City manager

Couples who met on campus share their stories

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OWU I Do.
More than 900 alumni and friends from classes ending in 2 and 7 returned to campus May 19-21 for Reunion Weekend, featuring the all-alumni picnic.

Photo: Mark Schmitter '12
Features

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From pinning to texting, a few of the 3,736 alumni married to alumni share the stories of how they met through OWU.

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ON THE COVER: Thousands of couples have met at OWU, or because of it, including (clockwise from bottom left): Kyle Lemke ’12 and Taurey Overturf ’12, Bill Dunham ’51 and Elva Pickwick Dunham ’52, Kelli McNairy Winston ’93 and Thomas Winston ’92, and Tom Williams ’72 and Nancy Seiwert Williams ’72.

Photo: Mark Schmitter ’12, styling by Walker Design & Marketing.
Among the many things I enjoy about my work as president of Ohio Wesleyan is the opportunity several times a year to visit with prospective students and their parents. I often begin these conversations by asking the students two questions: “If you can imagine 25 years after your college graduation, how many of you will be in jobs that exist today?” The answer to that question is “some.” New jobs are created every day, and many of the jobs our graduates hold today did not exist 25 years ago. But then I ask, “If you can imagine 25 years after your college graduation, how many of you will be in jobs that utilize exclusively knowledge and technologies that exist today?” And of course the answer to that question is “none.” By some accounts, knowledge now doubles annually. Technologies change daily.

This for me points to the abiding benefit of a liberal arts education. While we care about the knowledge our students acquire, the more important benefit of their education is the way it cultivates capacities for lifelong learning and for leadership in a rapidly changing world. These capacities include critical and analytical thinking, the ability to communicate persuasively in written and oral form, the ability to work in teams to develop innovative solutions to complex problems, the ability to explore big problems from the perspective of multiple disciplines, empathy and the ability to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, and a moral compass to do things in an ethical way. These are the hallmarks of an education that prepares graduates for a lifetime of accomplishment and fulfillment, regardless of their area of professional interest.

When corporate CEOs were asked by the Association of American Colleges & Universities’ Liberal Education & America’s Promise program what they valued most in recent college graduates they would like to hire, the answers included the following:

- Nearly all employers surveyed (95 percent) say they give hiring preference to college graduates with skills that will enable them to contribute to innovation in the workplace.
- Nearly all those surveyed (93 percent) say that “a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than (a candidate’s) undergraduate major.”
- More than 9 in 10 of those surveyed say it is important that those they hire demonstrate ethical judgment and integrity, intercultural skills, and the capacity for continued new learning.
- More than 75% of employers say they want more emphasis on key areas, including: critical thinking, complex problem-solving, written and oral communication, and applied knowledge in real-world settings.
- 80 percent of employers agree that, regardless of their major, all college students should acquire broad knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences.

It’s hard to fathom today what members of the Class of 2017 will be doing professionally when OWU celebrates its bicentennial in 2042. But I am confident that with the benefits of a liberal arts education that connects rigorous classroom education with robust practical real-world experiences, our graduates are ready for the world that awaits them.

When the class that graduated in
WHILE WE CARE ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OUR STUDENTS ACQUIRE, THE MORE IMPORTANT BENEFIT OF THEIR EDUCATION IS THE WAY IT CULTIVATES CAPACITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND FOR LEADERSHIP IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.

1992 gathered for its 25-year reunion in the spring, members of the class were given letters they wrote to themselves on the occasion of their graduation 25 years ago. The letters had been sealed for a quarter of a century until they were opened, one by one, as the class gathered back on campus. The letters serve as a reminder of how much can change in 25 years.

You can read the story of those letters in this issue of the magazine (on Page 12). As you read these stories, I invite you to think about the timeless benefit of the education offered at OWU. At OWU, the enduring values of a liberal arts education continue to prepare graduates for lives of leadership and service in every sector of our society. I am grateful for your role in sustaining this legacy.

Rock Jones
President, Ohio Wesleyan University
Twitter: @owu-rockjones
Doug Zipp named new athletics director

Douglas W. Zipp was selected as the University's 12th athletics director since 1907, when Branch Rickey held the position. Zipp will join Ohio Wesleyan on Aug. 15 to lead an NCAA Division III program that will be adding its 24th and 25th athletic sports in 2018 (women’s rowing and men’s wrestling).

For the past five years, Zipp has served as director of athletics at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va., where he oversaw 21 varsity sports with 480 student-athletes and 53 full-time and part-time coaches, administrators, and staff.

“Doug Zipp brings a strong background in both athletics and higher education, and he will be a major asset in future strategic planning for athletics at Ohio Wesleyan,” says Chuck Stinemetz, chair of the search committee and OWU provost. “His extensive experience in Division III athletics and in student life make him uniquely qualified to carry on and enhance OWU’s long tradition of success on the playing fields and achievement in the classroom and in life after graduation.”

Before Shenandoah, Zipp worked 16 years at Kenyon College, joining the Gambier, Ohio, school in 1996 as dean of residential life. He later was promoted to special assistant to the president and dean of students, and in 2005 was named associate director of athletics for facilities and operations.

Previous athletics director Roger Ingles resigned from the position he held for 12 years to take a similar position at Capital University in the Columbus suburb of Bexley. Ingles was previously interim AD for one year, associate AD for three years, and assistant AD for seven years. Ingles also served as OWU baseball coach for 22 seasons.

A farewell gathering for Ingles was held on May 3 held in the Simpson Querrey Fitness Center, and was attended by the OWU community, as well as his wife, Jo (taking picture) and son Brad ‘14 (center), who works in the Office of Alumni Relations.

NEW DEGREES OFFERED

1. Psychology
2. Management Economics
3. Health & Human Kinetics
4. Politics & Government
5. Zoology

Microbiology
Geology

Two new bachelor of science degrees are joining physics and astrophysics. They will be awarded as early as May 2018.
House of Black Culture receives leadership gift

In recognition of the important role the House of Black Culture plays at Ohio Wesleyan and as part of its commitment to improving residential facilities, the University has recommitted to keeping the house in the same location where it has stood proudly for nearly 50 years.

Ed Haddock ’69, a member of the Board of Trustees, along with his wife, Edye, and son, Ted, through their Edward E. Haddock Jr. Family Foundation, have made a $300,000 leadership gift in support of the house. While details are being finalized, their gift will be used to challenge others as part of a greater fundraising initiative.

Co-chairs of the HBC fundraising committee include Morton “Pete” Smith ’71, one of the founders of the house and a former moderator, his wife Barbara Smith ’74, Aaron Granger ’93, and Khadija Adams ’04, a former moderator.

“Students of all colors need the things that 65 Oak Hill Ave. offers; space to learn, space to teach, space in which they can feel safe, space in which they can have fun. I am pleased to be partnering with the University to give alumni an opportunity to bless current and future students with a home and home base that will nurture them in the way that we were nurtured,” says Adams.

The committee will provide feedback as plans to rebuild the house develop. For the latest information on the house or to learn how to get involved, please visit owu.edu/HBCupdates.

Latinx Summit features ‘Maria’ from ‘Sesame Street’

The second annual Summit of Ohio Latinx was held at Ohio Wesleyan April 21-22 to provide a space for Latinx students and allies from different campuses to get together to discuss academic, social, economic, educational, and political topics concerning the Latinx population. (Latinx, pronounced lah-TEEN-ex, is the gender-neutral term used in lieu of Latino or Latina.)

This year’s summit was headlined by Sonia Manzano (below), of the TV program Sesame Street, who discussed her new book, Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx, and the struggles she faced coming from a poor Puerto Rican family. Angel Colon, who survived the 2016 shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Fla., also spoke about embracing diversity and facing the challenges of prejudice. CNN visited campus to film Colon for a special on the aftermath of the shooting.
OWU joins Carnegie Mellon program

Ohio Wesleyan joined Carnegie Mellon’s Heinz College Regional Education Partners Scholarship program in June to create new post-graduate pathways for students seeking advanced degrees in management, public policy, and information technology.

The program will provide up to 10 qualified Ohio Wesleyan graduates with scholarship support of at least 30 percent of their per-semester tuition while enrolled in a Heinz College master’s program.

Pittsburgh-based Heinz College consists of two schools: the School of Public Policy and Management and the School of Information Systems and Management.

Dale J. Brugh, OWU associate dean for innovation, says the Carnegie Mellon partnership is made possible by OWU’s reputation as one of the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions.

“We think this creates important new pathways for OWU students planning to seek master’s degrees not only in information technology, but also in management and public policy,” says Brugh, who also is a professor of chemistry.

OWU is also part of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Early Acceptance Program, which allows qualified OWU students to gain provisional early acceptance into LECOM’s medical school.

The Final Lap

Seniors celebrated the inaugural year of an event destined to become a graduation tradition by running “the final lap” of campus on May 9, under inflatable arches decorated with lights down the path around Slocum Hall to Chappelear Drama Center and back down the JAYwalk to Gordon Field House, followed by an all-campus party. The Class of 2017: (From left, in front) Melody Smith, Shank Sharma, James Murphy, and Lee LeBeouf.
Gifts and Gratitude

CLASS OF ’17 IMPRESSES WITH SENIOR CLASS GIFT PARTICIPATION (and beats Denison!)

College students, generally speaking, are not known for having lots of disposable income. That makes the enthusiasm and generosity shown by the Class of 2017 that much more impressive. A greater percentage of seniors chose to give back to Ohio Wesleyan with their Senior Class Gift than any class in almost a decade — 72 percent.

The group effort was the result of creative challenges and the work of the 2017 Senior Class Council, including Lee LeBeouf ’17, senior class president. LeBeouf admits that her competitive nature helped fuel her efforts to make her class giving stand out.

“Everybody on Senior Class Council talked to their friends, their fraternities and sororities," she says. “If you’re talking to someone one-on-one and explain to them where the money goes, most people are willing to give a few bucks.”

The Senior Class Gift was established in 1967 as a way to bring graduating seniors into the longstanding tradition of charitable alumni support by the Ohio Wesleyan community, dating back to the tradition of philanthropy established by the Rev. Adam Poe when the University was founded.

The funds support the Ohio Wesleyan Fund, unrestricted dollars that make up 10 percent of the school’s annual operating budget. They help pay for everything from landscaping and dorm maintenance to scholarships and faculty professional development.

“So many people are on scholarships, and those funds wouldn’t exist if it wasn’t for alumni giving back,” says LeBeouf, herself a scholarship recipient.

Alumni giving is a factor in college rankings, making encouraging a habit of participation — not gift size — a key component.

The council was originally aiming for 55 percent participation from a senior class of 383 students, and came up with a clever marketing idea: Senior Night at the Backstretch bar. “Those who gave $5 or more got two drink tickets, so that was a pretty big draw, as you might imagine,” LeBeouf says.

To encourage seniors to come out, the council arranged to have President Rock Jones attend to announce that the commencement speaker would be Venezuelan businessman Andres Duarte ’65. It was Jones’ first time in the Backstretch (really). “We also got him to climb up on the bar,” LeBeouf says.

Jones also offered dinner at his house to anyone who made a gift, and with seniors starting to run out of food points at the end of the year, that provided additional motivation. In the end, almost a quarter of the class, 90 students, attended the dinner at Pritchard House.

Wanting to encourage a little friendly competition, Raeceen Daugherty, who works with the class through the Office of Annual Giving, suggested going head-to-head with rival Denison. Her counterparts at the school in Granville were game, and the “Cash Before the Clash” was on, with the winner announced during “Denison Day,” when the lacrosse teams play. OWU won the challenge handily and took home the trophy until next year, when it will be up for grabs by the Class of 2018.

“I was blown away by the response from the Class of 2017,” says Colleen Garland, vice president of university advancement.

“Lee LeBeouf and the Senior Class Council provided great leadership, creativity, and enthusiasm. Importantly, they also beat Denison. This bodes well for the future as these graduates become loyal alumni,” Garland says.
Renaissance woman prefers the Middle Ages

SALLY LIVINGSTON | Associate Professor of Comparative Literature

Before coming to Ohio Wesleyan, Sally Livingston spent a career helping women manage their wealth as the owner of an investment company in Massachusetts. “I really wanted to enable and empower women around money,” she says.

After the attacks of Sept. 11, she began to reevaluate, thinking: “Wait a minute, what do I really want to do with my life?”

So she picked up close to where she’d left off in 1972 — when she was working on a Ph.D. in Renaissance history at the University of Toronto and was derailed by various life circumstances. She started taking courses as a special student (outside of a degree program) at Harvard University, then was admitted to the Ph.D. program in comparative literature in 2004. She earned her degree four years later, at the age of 61, writing her dissertation on how women over a broad historical time period wrote about their lack of wealth.

“I tell people I had a 22-year sabbatical, because I could learn more languages, I could read whatever I wanted, I could think – all that,” she says.

She came to Ohio Wesleyan in 2011 and is now an associate professor of comparative literature. This year she was granted tenure at the age of 70.

At an age when many are retired, Livingston is still going full speed, despite undergoing treatment for a brain tumor during the past 12 months. She was back in the classroom 11 days after surgery and has kept up a full teaching load, determined not to let her diagnosis define or delay her.

“Oh my sabbatical next fall, I’m going to learn biblical Hebrew,” she says, as if she’s buying a new pair of shoes. Livingston, the former investment manager, is not just fluent in numbers, but easily slips into foreign languages, too. She is proficient in medieval Latin (“obviously,” she notes, since she considers herself a “basically a medievalist”), along with French (“it’s engrained in me”), Russian (learned in college), and Italian (“the language of my heart”).

Her fluency makes her a natural fit for the Comparative Literature Department, whose professors speak a combined dozen or so languages, and where she melds her love of literature, history, and economics to inform her teaching.

Perhaps not surprising for a woman who has had two seemingly disparate careers, Livingston takes a wide view, trying to examine, in her words, “big issues” through the lenses of different cultures’ literature.

“I tell people I had a 22-year sabbatical, because I could learn more languages, I could read whatever I wanted, I could think – all that.”

“The reason I love literature is you get to understand what makes the world tick. Students can see how it’s different growing up one place or another,” she says.

Her classes are especially popular with OWU’s many international students, who often produce satisfying essays in her Rites of Passage course to the question “What is home?”

The idea intrigues Livingston so much that she’s begun thinking of exploring homesickness and homecoming in the Middle Ages with her third book. Her first, Marriage, Property, and Women’s Narratives (Palgrave Macmillan 2012), was the result of her dissertation and contained chapters on medieval women who rejected marriage, and Virginia Woolf’s women — the latter written at Woolf’s own writing desk, thanks to a friend who owns it.

Livingston spent the past summer at work on her second book exploring frame stories, which can feature stories within a story. The structure somewhat resembles her own career path, separate but similar tales and part of her broad view.

She looked forward to her annual summer trip to work in the library at Harvard and regretted that the conclusion of her treatment prevented her from her other customary summer trip to Italy.

After more than two decades in finance, and years more back in school to complete her Ph.D., Livingston is happy to have finally found her calling, and her home, at OWU. “In many ways, it’s been a dream job, especially at my age,” she says.

Just don’t ask her about retirement. She scoffs. “No, heavens! Why would I do that?”

— Molly Vogel
In the early days of Ohio Wesleyan, students were expected to avoid dancing as a display of personal responsibility. But violations and “sneak” dances became more common until the “dancing situation” had to be addressed by the administration. Following a student petition, dancing was finally permitted in campus buildings in 1929, and students haven’t stopped shakin’ it since.

In 1962, a dance party at the MUB was the place to be. More recently, in December, the annual President’s Ball was held in the atrium of Schimmel/Conrades Science Center, where Trent Williams ’17 hit the dance floor. The ball, which is planned by the President’s Club for the senior class, was created in 1985 at the suggestion of then-sophomore Gay Johnson Grossman ’88 in response to a 1985 retreat held by then-University President David Warren to discuss community building on campus. Johnson planned the formal event and later ended up marrying her date, Steve Grossman ’87. (To read about more couples who met at OWU, see story, Page 12.)
Fotios Athanasius Frentsos Jr. ’84, known as “Fody” to his friends, which is everyone he meets, considers himself a true Delaware townie in the best way. He and his seven brothers and sisters grew up in Delaware and all remain in the area. He was the first in his family to go to college, thanks to the encouragement of then OWU-basketball coach Gene Mahaffey, who saw 17-year-old Fody on campus for noon basketball every day and asked him if he wanted to go to school — he even said Fody could play basketball, baseball, and football. And Fody did, winning nine letters in the three sports. After graduation he stuck around, serving as an assistant football coach for 11 seasons, then transitioning to baseball full-time because the practice schedule allowed him more time to spend with his family. Now, in addition to his coaching duties, Fody is part groundskeeper, maintenance man, and general Mr. Fix-It for anything in athletics.

1 Take (care of) cover
When serving up batting practice to hitters, the L-screen provides Fody cover. It’s taken a beating through the years from comebacks and needs the occasional touch-up, including welding. Fody does not really know the fine points of welding, but does it anyway. “I’m not good at it, but I know how to put metal to metal.”

2 Hooping it up
Fody regularly checks the infield for “greenies,” weeds that crop up along the base paths. Weed killer would destroy the field, so he uses a “hoop” or stirrup hoe to cut weeds at the roots.

3 Dirty work
Fody drives the Sand Pro to prepare the infield dirt. “It’s been a good feeling to be needed. My wife always says, ‘Fody, that’s your downfall, you like to be needed.’ ”

4 Triple-threat
Fody was a two-time All-Ohio Athletic Conference first baseman and set OWU career records in at-bats, runs scored, hits, singles, doubles, and total bases. On the hardwood, he set a school career record for field-goal percentage. He was inducted into the Ohio Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990. He now puts his experience to work as Bishops hitting coach.

5 The Frentsos-OWU Connection
Fody is married to Kelly Maxwell Frentsos ’86. They have six children — four boys and two girls — three of whom graduated from OWU. Although he’s had opportunities to be a head coach at other places throughout the years, a desire to remain near home and family always wins out. “I appreciate, always, the thought, but it’s hard for me to leave. I love Delaware. I want the kids to know there are good folks that come from Delaware. I challenge them all the time to talk to them, go meet a policeman.”

6 The good word on hand
Fody takes his Bible with him to games and turns to it often. “A lot of the kids that come in, they have many battles. I do use the Scripture quite a bit. I’m not saying it’s the fix, but it sure gives the baseline of a good trajectory when I start to speak to them.”

7 Fody can fix it
Fody has a small discretionary account at Hardware Exchange to buy parts or tools as needed, allowing the busy Building and Grounds Department to focus on bigger jobs. Everyone in athletics knows: “If you have a small need, call Fody. Some of the needs aren’t so small, but they’re cheaper because I work for free.”

8 A tool for good
One of the benefits to taking care of the fields is that players always know where to find Fody. “It’s nice being here because if someone has a problem, they come here. You put a rake in their hand and they just start talking.”

9 He walks the line
Fody runs the chalk liner to get the fields ready for play.

—Molly Vogel
About one out of every 10 Ohio Wesleyan alumni is married to a fellow graduate.

The numbers don’t begin to tell the story, but lucky for us, you did. Some alumni couples met their freshman year, some met a world away, and at least one needed an assist from public safety.

A few had only to look next to them, thanks to the University’s old practice of alphabetical seating, like Edith Weisman ’57, who didn’t have to change her name when she married David Weisman ’57, after they met sitting next to each other in Gray Chapel. Then there are the couples who really paired up, like Caleb Douce ’08 and Jaime Scharf Douce ’08, who are one of five married couples in their circle of OWU friends, including Dustin Rudegeair ’08 and Kelli Lester Rudegeair ’08. (Hopefully they rotated bridesmaid dresses.)

Some OWU couples didn’t meet during their time on campus, like Melvyn Magree ’60 and Janet Smith Magree ’62, who were already dating when they came to OWU; and Irwan Sie ’07 and Anna-Britt Mahler Sie ’02, who met at an alumni event in Los Angeles. There are also multiple stories of parents who met at OWU whose children followed in their footsteps and met their own soul mates on campus — legacy loves.

While there’s no way to include every OWU love connection, we invite you to add yours online at owu.edu/magazine. Here are just a few from throughout the decades. (Submissions have been edited for length and clarity).
JASON: In 1943, I was a V-12 student (Navy unit for future deck officers) sent from Kenyon to OWU. I took a chemistry course, and Janet Lynn was an assistant under Dr. William Manuel. We dated off and on. I was sent to Harvard Business School. Later she followed me to Boston. We were married March 3, 1945, in Cincinnati on my way to a destroyer in the Pacific.

The McCoys had three children. Their daughter, Marjorie McCoy Mapes '70, and son, Rick McCoy '72, both attended OWU.

(Editor's note: Mr. McCoy sent in this note but passed away March 1 at the age of 93 – two days before what would have been their 72nd wedding anniversary. To learn more about the V-12 program at OWU visit owu.edu/magazine.)

ELVA: When a freshman from Kenmore, N.Y., named Elva Pickwick met a junior U.S. Army veteran from Covington, Ohio, named William Dunham on campus in May 1949, it was the beginning of a great romance! We dated for two weeks, then were pinned for three years before marrying right after graduation, on June 21, 1952. ... Ohio Wesleyan is the reason for everything good that has happened in our lives. ... We are thankful for our many OWU friends and lots of happy memories that are the result of our Ohio Wesleyan connection.

Bill and Elva both went on to careers in education and had two daughters, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 21. Bill was the youngest of three brothers who all went to OWU, as did all of their wives.
**Peggy Stiles Breese ’54 and Claude “Cap” Breese ’53**

**Savannah, Ga.**

Peggy: We met in 1954 when I was a freshman bell girl at Stuyvesant Hall. (A “bell girl” was a person hired by the university to run a real “plug-in-the-cords switchboard.”) At that time, Stuyvesant Hall was female only, with calling hours ending at 10 p.m. If you had a date for the evening, or anytime, that person would go to the switchboard girl and ask her to ring the room number and tell the date that he was there to pick her up in the downstairs living room.

After two years of meeting other men whom I also enjoyed, I started a strong relationship with Cap when I moved from Hartupee Hall to Hayes House. He was a Kappa Sigma and I a Tri Delt, but he was a year ahead of me. However, in his senior year he proposed to me one night right out back of Hayes House next to the garage! The next year was filled with bouquets from him as he attended Columbia Law School in New York. The girls at Hayes House all enjoyed them, too. ...OWU surely brings back many fond memories. The Lord has been good to us for many years!

Peggy and Cap married after her graduation. Cap joined General Electric as an international attorney, and they lived many places while raising three sons: David, Stephen, and Mark. Peggy taught music in the public schools of New Jersey, Oklahoma, and New York and also built and conducted several Methodist Church music and choir programs.

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**Janet Wallace Lapp ’55 and Robb Lapp ’54**

**Arvada, Colo.**

Janet: I met Robb on my first Sunday in Delaware on a sidewalk in front of the Beta Sigma Tau house. All the fraternities were having open houses for the incoming freshmen women. Though we’re the same age, now 84, he was in the class of ’54 and I was a ’55 graduate. (He started grade school early.) We did not date until a year later because he was too shy to ask me out. We were engaged right after Christmas in my junior year.

Robb was a Beta Sig and I was in Cosmopolitan, a non-Greek women’s group to which many of the Co-op girls belonged. Both organizations focused on interracial, interfaith, and international relationships, a great foundation for our lives.

On the Sunday of my graduation week, Robb was ordained as a Methodist deacon in Rochester, N.Y. I graduated on Monday morning in Delaware. On Saturday, we were married by my father in Littleton, N.H., in the Methodist church he served. Three weeks later, we were in Western Springs, Ill., where Robb, a second-year student at Chicago Theological Seminary, was part-time youth minister and I was full-time director of religious education.

Life since has been a wild ride!... We are grateful to Ohio Wesleyan for all it has meant to us.

The Lapps had three children and Janet became a social worker. After Robb’s ministerial standing was terminated by the Methodists for being “too liberal,” he became a Congregational (and later UCC) minister, also leading a civil-rights open housing nonprofit in Denver. In May, 60 years after his first graduation from CTS, he received his second master’s.
JOANNE HLAVIN RITTER ’59 and JERRY RITTER ’56
Bellefontaine, Ohio

Joanne: Jerry was a senior and captain of the Battling Bishops football team when I was a freshman at OWU. I knew who Jerry was because he had a weekly bridge game with a fellow that I was dating. Time passed, Jerry graduated, and I pursued my fine arts major. In the summer of ’58 I was traveling throughout Europe with the OWU Women’s Glee Club under the direction of Robert Bowlus. This was the summer of the Brussels World’s Fair, and the Glee Club was singing in the American Pavilion on July 4.

Meanwhile, Jerry had been drafted into the Army and was serving in the Counter Intelligence Corps, later the C.I.A., in Frankfurt, Germany. While reading The Stars and Stripes, he noticed that the Glee Club would be singing at the World’s Fair and he managed leave to travel to see us. We literally walked into one another on the plaza at the World’s Fair and have been connected for 57 years and counting.

The Ritters have three children and live in Bellefontaine, where Jerry worked at Doral Packaging for more than three decades.

Judith Davis Tippett ’60 and Mike Tippett ’59
Ellenton, Fla.

Mike: It was late fall in 1956, my sophomore year. I was working on the current play as head of the prop crew. It was the first night of rehearsals for Bell, Book and Candle, directed by professor Don Eyssen. I had gathered my new crew members in a circle in the back area of the quonset hut on Euclid Avenue. To get to know the crew, I asked, “Are any of you taking Theater Appreciation?” (I had to know because I had to give them a grade at the end of the play’s run). A small, dark-haired freshman girl piped up: “Why do you think we’re on this crew?” That was the beginning of what has become a 60-year partnership. Not long after this first encounter, I was walking her back to Stuy each night. We were pinned on the playground of Boardman School one evening the following April.

Mike and Judith were married in August 1959. Their daughters Meg ’83, Kathy ’85, and Brooke ’88 all attended OWU, as did Mike’s father, W.B. Tippett ’35.

Diane “Dutch” Mulvihill Millard ’59 and Bob Millard ’60
Escondido, Calif.

Diane: We met on a blind date arranged by good friends during the winter of 1956. Diane was a freshman and Bob was a prospective student who decided to enter OWU that fall. Next came the pinning (Bob a Fiji and Diane a Theta), engagement, and marriage on June 4, 1960, the day before Bob’s OWU graduation. What started as young love has endured for over 60 years, all due to lessons learned at OWU. Firm Foundations Fuel Faithful Friendships!
Dave: In August of 1960, Dave and Carol met in astronomy class. Carol was a freshman, Dave a sophomore. It was a dark, starry night for the introduction to telescope viewing at the observatory on campus. As the professor was trying to keep the attention of the class on viewing techniques, Dave was paying attention to the girl on his right. This girl wasn’t responding to his jokes, but he did hear laughter on his left. As the class ended and the lights came up, Dave turned to his left and saw Carol. He decided, “That’s not bad.” Carol accepted his invitation for a cup of coffee. Pinning, engagement, and marriage ended the year.

It wasn’t until several years later that Dave was told that Carol wasn’t laughing at his jokes but at the funny sound of his heavy New England accent to her Midwestern ears. Dave and Carol have been married for 56 years.

Phyllis: The first time I saw my husband he was squatting on top of a table at the front of the auditorium, Beatles haircut flopping in sync as he bounced up and down. I was at an International Student Association (ISA) meeting with my Nigerian friend Folu. Kum-Leh was the strangest, funniest guy I had ever seen.

The second time I saw my husband I was walking behind him on the sidewalk leading to Stuy. He had his arm at the waist of a girlfriend, while he looked up at her. “Look at that,” I said to my friend. “She’s taller than he is!” (Yes, we actually worried about such things in the ‘60s.)

The third time was a charm — we actually met. It was an ISA bike ride. On the way back to OWU, a group of us sang Peter, Paul, and Mary songs. Kum-Leh got a leg cramp and had to slow down, so I stayed back with him. By the time we reached Delaware, it was pouring rain, and we were belting out Blowin’ in the Wind. As we passed the TKE house, an old family friend evidently saw us. My parents heard all about my new friend long before I said anything.

He planned to go home to Singapore and marry a Chinese girl. I planned to find a proper American. But he was very interesting, and we had so much fun. Besides, my girlfriends adored him.

Some 50 years later, he’s still interesting, and we still have fun. Somehow my few extra inches of height never seemed to matter.

Phyllis Dunn Yuen ’68 and Jonathan Kum-Leh Yuen ’66
Katonah, N.Y.
**Phyllis Dunn Yuen ’68 and Jonathan Kum-Leh Yuen ’66**

**Katonah, N.Y.**

**1970s**

Tom: She wore long, straight blond hair, an intricately embroidered vest, and I remember her blue jeans were spotless and pressed! Soon thereafter, I hosted a campus visit from my sister, Susan. On an evening walking tour, I saw the very same, now slightly more familiar, face through a window in what was at that time the sculpture annex. I actually told my sister: “I think I am going to marry that girl.”

I accidentally saw her again driving down Sandusky Street in a magnificent blue MGB-GT, and she pulled into a parking space inches from where I was walking. I just about had a coronary thinking I’d have to say something to her. Thankfully, she leapt out of the car and walked the opposite way to class, so I wrote down her license plate and student parking permit numbers and went promptly to the campus police seeking her identity. It must have been quite the scene as I actually told the female officer in charge that I had just seen this girl and I had to know who she was.

All I remember was the ladies in the office were squealing and I was quickly given her name and her room number in Austin Hall. That was enough to locate her roommate, whom I did know. I was able to get some facts and discovered she was going out with another guy. With this reality, my life was over. I was crushed. There was nothing more to live for.

Anyway, soon after the Christmas break as I was walking from class in Gray Chapel toward the MUB, there she was again walking toward me, I think in the same pressed jeans as the first sighting but shrouded in a long red winter coat. Somehow, I mustered the courage to introduce myself. It was one of the more gut-wrenching moments in my life. Within about two minutes I asked her out to a concert featuring Gentilly & Dunbar, a folk group from NYC and, for reasons still unknown, she accepted.

I would or could be arrested for stalking in today’s world! Nancy still laughs that the ladies were so compliant and came to my rescue so quickly.

The Williamses have three children including a daughter, Carrie Williams Schlegel ’05, who also met her husband at OWU (her story is on Page 19).

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**Sandi Aker Drake ’75 and Tim Drake ’74**

**Columbus, Ohio**

Sandi: My husband Tim and I met at OWU, though we were from towns right next to each other in the Cleveland area — Bay Village and Rocky River. We met at the campus radio station, WSLN. He was a DJ, and I showed up to do a Tuesday night news broadcast as part of my journalism major. He remembered that I had said I’d be back on Friday to do the 5:30 p.m. news. When I came back on Friday, he asked me out for a date that night.

The Drakes’ daughter, Alison Drake Burciaga ’03, also went to OWU, as did Tim’s parents, M. Richard ’43 and Nina Drake Drake ’43, where they sat next to each other, alphabetically, in a psychology class.
Amy Anderson McClure ’72 and Rusty McClure ’72
Dublin, Ohio

Rusty: I sat at the “late table” — the table set aside for Delt athletes who, because they were coming in from team practices, could not get to dinner on time — exhausted, my legs aching, wanting only to eat, get to the library, finish up two chemistry lab write-ups I had due the next day, and be done for the night. But our house manager had just announced that all Delt pledges were to stay and host the class of incoming pledges from the Theta sorority. Attendance, he declared, was not optional.

“Anyone absent this evening will be found and brought back to the house to clean the kitchen,” he said, smiling. “And remember… we know where each of you live.”

So, I had no choice. I finished dinner, and stayed at the table, a sullen, reluctant participant in the evening’s festivities. I vaguely remember the Theta girls arriving, Motown playing on the jukebox, the dining room becoming a dance floor…

“Hey Rusty.” I looked up to see three of my buddies staring at me. “Come over here and dance with this nice girl.” Not a chance, I thought — and almost said no. But then, across the room, my “not-me” look found the eyes of a statuesque brunette beauty, Amy Anderson.

Two weeks later, we went on our first date, and two months later became a couple. Five years later we were married. In a lifetime of fortunate occurrences, that shared gaze remains the most fortunate of all.

Amy and Rusty have been married 43 years. Rusty recently funded a renovation of the Delt house that included the renovation of the dining room floor and installation of a mosaic heart (right) marking the very spot where they met. Amy is the Rodefer Professor of Education at OWU.

Karen Steuver Schwaid ’76 and Steve Schwaid ’76
Sarasota, Fla.

Karen: I met Steve in September 1972 at freshman orientation. He was standing in front of Smith Hall holding a volleyball, asking everyone who passed by if they wanted to play. I was not very athletic and scurried on with a mumbled, “No thanks.”

After this encounter, Steve found my picture in the “Look Book.” For the next few months, whenever he ran into me on campus, he always asked if I wanted to play volleyball. My friends kept asking, “Who is that?”

Finally, in January, he got up the nerve to actually ask me for a date by leaving me a note at my dorm, Austin Hall. Unfortunately, I was in Washington, D.C., at the time with a group of OWU students protesting Nixon’s second inauguration. By the time I returned, several notes had accumulated in my message box, even though my roommate had told him I was out of town. (Steve always leaned toward overkill.)

A week or so later, we finally went on our first date. We went to see the movie Slaughterhouse Five at the Bijou. We dated throughout the rest of our college years and were married on June 19, 1977, a year after graduation. This year we celebrated our 40th anniversary.

We have had a wonderful life, complete with two sons. But we have yet to play a single game of volleyball.
1990s

**Kelli McNairy Winston ’93 and Thomas Winston ’92**

**Toledo, Ohio**

**Kelli:** Twenty-eight years ago, in August of 1989, during a freshman orientation in the Stuyvesant Cave (now the Willa B. Player Black Resource Center), we each met the person who would become a best friend, a spouse, and a parent of our two children.

It was during this freshman orientation that we shared with one another our love of baseball and unwavering support of our home teams - the Chicago Cubs for Thomas and St. Louis Cardinals for me. Our conversation quickly turned into a friendly Cubs vs. Cardinals rivalry, which immediately held an attraction between us and connects us still today.

In the days following orientation, Thomas came to my dorm room in Welch Hall (dressed in a suit following his fraternity’s business meeting) to separate the bunk bed in her room. No easy feat, but nevertheless successful in accomplishing his task, Thomas had made an impression on me and decided to ask me out on a date.

On Sept. 18, 1989 we had our first date at the Little Brown Jug and spent what seemed like hours learning about each other’s families, interests, and dreams for the future. We began dating shortly after we met, and, looking back on our time at OWU, fondly remember meeting each other for lunch in the MUB Pub, walking to the Strand to catch a midweek movie, and taking late-night strolls to UDF for ice cream sundaes. Ohio Wesleyan will always hold a special place in our hearts because it is where our love story began.

The Winstons were married on July 28, 1996, and have two children, Thomas, Jr. and Maya.

2000s

**Carrie Williams Schlegel ’05 and John Schlegel ’05**

**Chevy Chase, Md.**

**Carrie:** John and I met during the fall of our freshman year at Ohio Wesleyan. We quickly became friends but nothing more than that; I was still attached to my high school boyfriend and he to his high school girlfriend. As the year went on, so did life... we were both student athletes with busy schedules. Practices, games, study sessions, nights out, wins, losses, college life ensued.

Fast forward to the beginning of our sophomore year. I had arrived early for soccer preseason and I was desperate for “Schlegel,” (as I still called him at the time), to get to school. Our friend status was still intact, but I think we both knew that it was about to be more that that. We “coincidentally” crossed paths that first night he arrived on campus, and a few short weeks later we were spending almost every minute together outside of class and practice. The same holds true to this day except class and practice has morphed into work and kids. I wouldn’t change a second of it!

**John:** My first day back on campus my sophomore year, I headed over to a party at the SAE house. I recall seeing Carrie for the first time that year, and much to my delight she came and sat in my lap and was as eager as I to catch up on the summer, and it felt as though we had already been dating for months! I hoped then (and felt) that our friendship was soon to become much more. Soon after that night we began dating, and as they say, the rest is history! We were lucky enough to have found each other early on in our time at OWU, and we were able to create and enjoy so many fond memories, which is why OWU will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

Carrie and John were married May 22, 2010. John is in Commercial Real Estate with Transwestern and Carrie is starting teaching preschool in the fall.
Kelli Lester Rudegeair ‘08 and Dustin Rudegeair ‘08  
New Albany, Ohio

Dustin: Kelli and I met as freshmen early on. She played volleyball and basketball and I played basketball, so we met simply through our teams socializing with one another. We were pretty good friends for two years before we began dating in the late fall of our junior year. We were engaged shortly after graduating in 2008 and married on June 26, 2010. We have a daughter, Reese, who will turn 2 in November, who is a huge OWU volleyball and basketball fan.

Kelli is a first-grade teacher in Whitehall, and Dustin was, until recently, director of facilities and summer camps at OWU. He is now assistant athletic director at Capital University in Bexley.

Taurey Overtruef ’12 and Kyle Lemke ’12  
Berea, Ohio

Taurey: We met at the Zook Nook one morning my freshman year when I left the dorm super early. I was sitting by myself and wanted some company. Lucky for me, two guys walked in. One was Kyle and the other was his friend Raphi Fratkin. I was just like, “Hey, would you sit with me?” I think they took pity on me. Kyle remembers seeing how eager I was and that I had my sketchbook with me, which made him smile. We hung out a couple times but lost touch. Then the summer after our junior year, I was elected treasurer of the senior class and Kyle won class president. He texted me “congrats,” and we started talking over the summer. It was like two years had not gone by, we immediately picked back up again and started dating in December of 2011.

Fast forward to 2017. Taurey skipped her graduation from Case Western, where she completed her master’s in arts education, so they could return to OWU for Reunion Weekend in May. Taurey did not know that Kyle had secretly visited her parents to ask permission to marry her.

We got to campus super late Friday night and Kyle insisted on going to the bathroom in Ham-Wil on the way to the bar, which I thought was super weird. Then walking up the stairs, he led me to the Zook Nook. But the door was locked! Then he gets down on one knee near the Coke machine and he asked me and I was shocked like, “What?!” Of course I said yes! After calling our families we immediately headed down to the Backstretch to celebrate.

Taurey is looking for a position teaching art at the high school or college level and, after earning his MBA from Franklin University, Kyle is working at Jarrett Logistics in Orville. They’re planning a summer wedding in 2018.

Whitney Weadock ’16 and Shane Gorbett ’15  
Hilliard, Ohio

Shane: I met Whitney on the first day of classes in 2012, her freshman year and my sophomore year, in Welch basement playing a group party game called Mafia. The next day we also ran into each other at a CRU Bible study. From that moment on our friendship continued to grow and then blossomed into a lasting relationship. Our first date involved a movie at The Strand and participating in the “Stuy’ing Up All Night” party to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Stuyvesant Hall.

Shane works at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and Whitney is an elementary teacher. They were married June 24 in Gray Chapel.
Ohio Wesleyan University will recognize two teams as part of the University’s inaugural Team of Distinction ceremony on Oct. 21 during Homecoming & Family Weekend.

“The Team of Distinction was created to recognize teams that have distinguished themselves and made extraordinary contributions to OWU athletics,” says interim Athletics Director Mike DeWitt. “It is a way to honor those who, through a strong sense of mutual commitment, achieved above and beyond what could be achieved individually.”

A nine-member committee of four alumni, three coaches including DeWitt, and two staff members made the inaugural selections from among 18 nominations.

“Selecting which teams would be recognized in this first year was a challenge, given the many great teams across the entire athletics program that have achieved national championships and/or regional and conference titles, as well as No. 1 rankings, top-10 national finishes or undefeated seasons,” DeWitt says.

Ultimately, the committee decided, in this first year of the honor, to select two teams that achieved “firsts” in OWU athletics history - the 1946 men’s cross country team, the first Ohio Wesleyan team to compete in an NCAA championship, and the 1988 men’s basketball team, the first Ohio Wesleyan team to win an NCAA championship.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

The men’s cross country team had been dropped in 1939, but with the influx of male students returning to OWU from World War II, Athletics Director George Gauthier reinstated the team to compete in the fall of 1946.

But while there were runners, the coaching staff was working at maximum capacity and had nobody available to take the helm. Without a head coach, Quentin Brelsford ’48 led the way as the Bishop harriers opened the season with a win over Wooster, then passed one of their toughest tests against Oberlin before besting Toledo.

At that point of the season, The Transcript reported that Gauthier “has promised to send the team to the National Intercollegiate Cross Country Run if they continue to perform as per expectation,” and the Bishops lived up to their part of the bargain, recording wins over Ohio University, Baldwin Wallace, and Bowling Green before surviving a tight one over Case in the regular-season finale.

Gauthier came through as well, sending the Bishops to East Lansing, Mich., for the national championship, but then met that included all NCAA schools.

As he had done in every meet during the season, Brelsford finished ahead of the pack, closing out the race with a thrilling sprint to the tape to win in 20:22.9, just over a second in front of Curtis Stone of Penn State.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

The span from 1984 to 1987 was one of the most successful stretches in the history of Ohio Wesleyan men’s basketball, with the Bishops reeling off three consecutive North Coast Athletic Conference championships and winning a pair of NCAC tournament titles, but each of those seasons ended without an invitation to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Everything came together in 1987-88 under coach Gene Mehaffey. After opening the conference schedule with a double-overtime loss to Allegheny, the Bishops won their last 11 conference games and shared the NCAC championship, then avenged the previous year’s loss in the NCAC tournament title game with a 91-77 win over Allegheny.

With a 22-5 record, Ohio Wesleyan not only was going to the NCAA Division III tournament for the first time, but was selected to host the Great Lakes Regional. Ohio Northern was Ohio Wesleyan’s first foe. Lee Rowlinson ’88 scored 16 straight points during the second half to lead the Bishops to a 77-70 win.

Then came Scott Tedder ’88, scoring 29 points, including the game-winning 3-point bucket with :02 left in the second overtime, for a nail-biting 110-107 win over Hope. At his best in the big games, Tedder was brilliant again in a 106-103 quarterfinal win over Illinois Wesleyan. He finished the game with 39 points.

In Grand Rapids, Mich., Tedder and Rowlinson scored 35 of their 64 points in the second half as the Bishops pulled away from Nebraska Wesleyan for an 87-71 semifinal win. Tedder then led the Bishops with 27 points in the championship game, a 92-70 verdict over Scranton, giving Ohio Wesleyan its first national championship team. Tedder and Rowlinson received All-America honors, while Chris Turner ’88 and Mike Smith ’88 were all-conference selections.

— Mark Beckenbach
At their 25th reunion, the Class of 1992 read letters they wrote to their future selves

By Kathy Lynn Gray | Photos by Lisa DiGiacomo

What would it be like to hear from your 22-year-old self 25 years later?

Members of the Ohio Wesleyan Class of 1992 got a chance to find out at their 25th reunion dinner in May, when they opened letters some had written to themselves just before graduating. The 151 letters traveled the country for 25 years in the care of Elizabeth R. Dellamora, who took it upon herself to preserve her classmates’ hopes and messages. Alumni received the letters as they checked in at the Schimmel/Conrades Science Center for the dinner, and the authors read their words in their own time.

“I’m super excited to see people open them and have this little reminder of who they were 25 years ago and reflect on who they’ve become,” Dellamora says.

As alumni opened the letters, some cried, some chuckled, and some shook their heads at the dreams that their not-quite-adult selves had for their futures.

Azmat Tanauli grinned as he read his brief letter aloud to...
his friends. “In 25 years I will be an engineer living in Pakistan, thinking about going into politics. Inshallah (the good one).” Inshallah, he explained, means “God willing” in Arabic. Although Tanauli was an electrical engineer, he never returned to his native Pakistan, and he hasn’t gone into politics.

“Apparently, God was not very willing,” laughed Tanauli, now a software developer in product management for Oracle in Silicon Valley. “But I still have not lost that dream.”

Most alumni had no idea what to expect when they opened their letters, and many, like Tanauli, didn’t even remember writing them. Some, including John Wareck, were disappointed to learn they had not written letters. Instead, Wareck turned in a copy of The Transcript, the OWU student newspaper. “Because that’s all I was then,” says Wareck, a journalism major who says he spent all his free time at OWU — including all-nighters — writing, editing, and laying out the paper. He eventually went into real estate in New Haven, Conn.

Jules Clemo Tutkovics of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, burst into tears when she read her letter, which offered a hello to her unborn children and predicted she’d be driving a green Volvo station wagon. “Do they even make station wagons anymore?” she wondered as she celebrated the night with OWU classmates who have remained lifelong friends.

Among those close friends was Annie Halpin, whose pencil-written letter predicted that she’d be celebrating her 24th wedding anniversary (true) and thinking about colleges for her children (also true). “Everything’s exactly as I said,” says Halpin, a stay-at-home mom from Chicago. “It’s uncanny.”

For Dellamora, who went by Lisa in college but is now known as Stella, the readings were the culmination of 25 years of careful protection. Most recently, Dellamora kept the letters in a plastic zip case, like the kind blankets come in, under her bed. “These letters have been with me every place I’ve lived since Ohio Wesleyan, and I was terrified I was going to lose them,” she says.

“They’ve traveled with me from Ohio to Barrington, Ill., to Chicago, Ill., to Palatine, Ill., to Worcester, Mass., to Detroit, Mich., to Boston, to West Palm Beach, to Manchester, N.H., back to Boston, and then to New York City.”

25 years ago someone had a great idea

Just how and why the letters were written is something of a mystery. Dellamora recalls the germ of the idea came in her sophomore or junior year from her sister, who had written a letter her first day as a freshman at the University of Richmond and then opened it when she graduated.

“I thought that was a cool concept, but clearly we had missed the starting point,” she says. So when she and another student were organizing their OWU graduation baccalaureate, she decided to pass out large index cards and ask everyone to write a letter to themselves, to be opened in 25 years.

“There was no particular significance to 25; I just thought the idea of being 46 or 47 years old seemed really, really ancient,” Dellamora says. “I thought, ‘What if we opened a letter to ourselves in the future when we were really, really old?’”

A third of the 454 graduates of the class of 1992 took her up on the idea, composing their notes at the baccalaureate or dropping them off later at Dellamora’s dorm room.
“Now, 25 years later, people can get excited about the messages they gave themselves when they were so innocent and young and had no idea how this world is,” she says. (Letters belonging to alumni unable to attend the reunion were mailed to them.)

At least one letter writer credited OWU’s chaplain for the idea. The letter Doug Pierson wrote says: “As assigned by Chaplain Jon Powers, I have been asked to respond to the following comment: “In 25 years I will be:”

Powers, as it turned out, was at the 1992 reunion dinner. He says he’s always had a special relationship with the class because he started as OWU chaplain the year they were freshmen. But although he vaguely remembered the letters, he wasn’t sure either whether they were his idea.

Pierson’s letter continued: “In 25 years I hope to have accomplished many things. Finishing my tour in the Marines in 4 years. I will go on to Grad school. I wish to open up my own small business franchise and become successful. I will be happily married and live on the East coast. I hope to never lose my adventurous spirit and continue on doing wild things like rock climb, scuba dive, explore strange & unusual areas, and travel. See ya in 25 years, bud. Semper Fi In Hoc.”

Some of the letter’s predictions were spot on: Pierson is married and has a master’s degree in business. He’s had plenty of adventures, including climbing Mount Everest in 2008 and sneaking up into the OWU bell tower a year after graduation with some buddies (he was banned from campus for a year for that stunt).

But he lives on the West Coast, not the East Coast, and has remained in the Marines for 25 years, now as a reservist. Rather than running his own business, he leads a team of venture and integration IT specialists for Microsoft in Seattle.

“I think it would be pretty creepy if I opened the letter up and all of it were true,” Pierson says. “But I’m glad I was serious about it, and I’m impressed that someone kept the letters.”

Amy Lyon MacDougall wrote that she hoped she’d be healthy, wealthy and wise, married, in love with a wonderful man, have three kids and a summer house, and weigh 140 pounds or less.

“I was surprised,” says MacDougall, a commercial realtor.

“I thought I would have written some snarky note.”

Her letter, she concluded, was accurate in spirit. She married and is now divorced; is in love with a wonderful man (her 6-year-old son) and still is within her target weight. She has no summer home, but, hey, she lives in Sarasota, Fla., she notes.

Tricia Taylor-Lyphout, who goes by Minnow, was surprised when Dellamora told her before the reunion that she’d written a letter. Her senior year, in addition to a full load of classes, she worked full time as a bartender at the Delaware Hotel so she could pay her tuition.

“I had to work my butt off,” says Taylor-Lyphout, who majored in broadcast journalism and dance theatre. “I had specific targets of cash I had to make every week to pay my tuition; I remember being so exhausted my senior year.”

She was too busy working and studying to attend most of the graduation activities, including senior parties. “I hope what I said in the letter was insightful and makes me happy,” she mused before the reunion. “I’m interested to see if I mentioned the guy I was engaged to then, because he stopped making payments on my engagement ring, and it got repossessed.”

In fact, she did mention him: “In 25 years I will be married to [deleted upon request]. We’ll have 2 kids, 2 dogs, 2 cars and 2 incomes. I will be a reporter – big-time network gig I hope. Darcy Pennoyer will live next door to me and we will wash our cute little convertibles together.

Although she and her classmate Pennoyer, who lives in New Cannan, Conn., and is Darcy Smith now, are still friends, none of her predictions came true. Taylor-Lyphout has three kids and one dog, is divorced (but not from her college fiancé).

“‘What if we opened a letter to ourselves in the future when we were really, really old?’”

— Elizabeth R. Dellamora, who kept the letters for 25 years

Elizabeth R. Dellamora took care of the letters for 25 years and brought them to the reunion dinner for classmates to open.
“Everything’s exactly as I said.”
— Annie Halpin, upon opening her letter

and has no convertible. She was a journalist for 10 years but now is an epidemiologist in Toledo. “But I have a much better life,” she says as she looks around at her former classmates. “Sitting here with my friends, I know the most important thing is that we’re still friends and we have a really heartfelt connection with each other. I’ve learned that no matter how broken the road, it always leads back to campus.”

And the hard work to graduate was worth it, she says. “Ohio Wesleyan really did open a whole new world for me,” she says. “There were so many things I would never have considered a possibility if I hadn’t gone there.”

Those who hadn’t written letters, about half of the alumni in attendance, had to enjoy their peers’ trips down memory lane. “I don’t remember squat from when I was 22, so it would have been fun to have it,” says S. Craig Castor, president of an IT company in Greensburg, N.C.

He isn’t surprised, though, that his 22-year-old self hadn’t bothered to write a letter to his 47-year-old self. “I even thought about not going to graduation,” he says, “but my mother made me.”

His friend Tom Forestieri, who also had no letter, was bummed out but resigned. “I don’t know if I want to know what I was thinking of at that time,” says Forestieri, who runs a guide service for backpackers and skiers in the Boulder, Colo., area.

Despite having the letters for 25 years, Dellamora waited to open her own until the reunion. She wrote it, she recalls, sometime after the baccalaureate ceremony with her friend Dana Farmen (now Dana Cilluffo), as they partied in her room.

“I wrote that I was too stressed out. So what else is new?” Dellamora says after reading it. “I told myself to slow down, relax and try to be happy. And I had one last word: Someday the fairy tale will happen, and if it never does, at least I had some fun looking.”

She is happy these days, she says, after earning her Ph.D. in education, she runs Balance Between Inc., a company that helps educators “be more awesome.”

“I’m so thankful I have the privilege of doing something that makes me happy and helps other people,” says Dellamora, who lives in New York. “I’m so lucky.”

At the reunion dinner, alumni had the opportunity to write a second letter, to be opened at their 50th reunion. And, once again, Dellamora has volunteered to keep them safe for the next 25 years.

Kathy Lynn Gray is a freelance writer in Columbus.

(Left) S. Craig Castor and Tom Forestieri were disappointed to learn they hadn’t written letters, but enjoyed the reunion just the same.

Jules Clemo Tutkovics’ letter
By Eric Gnezda ’79 | Photos by Chad Driver
The name Dwight Wiles ’78 doesn’t appear in lights in Nashville; he prefers to leave the center stage to his illustrious clients. As president of Wiles + Taylor & Co., an accounting firm that employs more than 35 associates, Wiles is one of the top entertainment business managers in the industry.

He sits on the boards of the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music’s “Lifting Lives” program. His client roster has included Kenny Rogers, Brooks & Dunn, Big & Rich, Cheap Trick, Pretty Lights, Cage the Elephant, and many other acts that he prefers not to disclose (but you’ve heard of them).

We invited singer-songwriter Eric Gnezda ’79 to interview his old Sigma Chi brother. They’ve stayed in touch since college, with Wiles lending his insider guidance and consultation to Gnezda’s creation, the American Public Television series Songs at the Center, which airs on more than 150 stations nationwide and features small groups of singer-songwriters performing “in the round.” Guests have included Rock ’n’ Roll Hall of Fame inductee John Oates and three-time Grammy winner Delbert McClinton.

Gnezda and Wiles sat down together in Nashville to talk about everything from how Bonnie Raitt set Wiles on his music business path when she played Gray Chapel in 1976 to why it’s best to avoid “germing” a famous person.

(The interview has been edited for length and clarity.)
ERIC: How would you explain what you do?

DWIGHT: The joke is: We do everything that nobody else wants to do. There’s a team (manager, agent, record company, publicist) around an artist. We all have our roles, and we all have to communicate and get along and make things happen for the artist. Here we consult and direct the financial side of an artist’s life. We handle everything from tour budgets to taxes to refinancing houses. I always joke, “Our job is to say, ‘No, you can’t afford it.’” Nine times out of 10, we get overruled. But that’s our job.

ERIC: Because you do all the things that nobody else wants to do, I suppose they either love you or hate you, right?

DWIGHT: Pretty much, yeah. We’re the good guy sometimes, if we can help them get a loan. We’re the bad guy if we say, “That’s not a good idea. You shouldn’t be doing that.” Really, I look at our job as providing their team with information. An artist might say, “I want to take another person or two on the road with me.” We show them what it will cost for payroll, payroll taxes, workers comp, and per diem for this “investment.” Most people make investment decisions based on hopefully getting a return on their investment, correct? Sometimes that’s lacking in our artists.

ERIC: But artists are also big risk takers, aren’t they?

DWIGHT: They are risk takers, yes, although the artist’s personality is such that most of them are not what we would call “savers.” They are spenders. I can’t tell you the reason for that. Sometimes it’s because most of them grew up having nothing. Once they have some success, they want to prove it to the world by purchasing material things.

ERIC: But artists are also going to look at what they think the best decisions are artistically, right? That’s the balance.

DWIGHT: That’s the balance, and I’m not against that. I started with Brooks & Dunn in 1992. Every year, they would spend lots of money on their stage set. They were smart enough to understand that if radio ever stopped playing Brooks & Dunn, they could still make a career from their live performances because they’d be known for giving people a great show. Now in their particular case, it worked out. It doesn’t always work out.

ERIC: The secret to success in Nashville is learning how to just hang out. Then, when the opportunity comes, being able to deliver the goods. You’re the ultimate hanger-outer. Would you be willing to share the story of how your ability to hang out resulted in one of today’s biggest stars signing with you?

DWIGHT: Sure, but I can’t mention his name.

There’s a little grocery store around the corner from my office called the Turnip Truck. It’s a natural-foods store. I go there virtually every day, any day that I don’t have some kind of business lunch. Five, six years ago, there was a guy working there as a cashier. Honestly, he was miserable, just a miserable cashier. Honestly, he was miserable, just a miserable cashier. You could just tell he wanted to be anywhere else in the world but the Turnip Truck. Never knew his name. I’d just chat him up a little bit when I was going through the line. I’d try to make him smile once in a while and probably never succeeded, but I’d try.

Anyway, he disappeared at some point and then an artist manager-friend of mine, whom I’ve done business with for many years, called and said, “Hey, I want you to meet this new artist of
mine.” They came in and the artist turned out to be the former cashier from the Turnip Truck. And the new artist paid me the biggest compliment of my music career. He told his manager that I treated him with the same respect as a cashier as I did as a potential client.

That’s what I want. It didn’t matter that this person was a musician or not. I tell my employees to do the right thing. Be nice to people. You don’t have to talk business with them at all. Just get to know them, and do what you say you’re going to do. It’ll pay off in the long run. (Editor’s Note: This artist has released three albums and recently won a Grammy.)

ERIC: So it’s a cliché, but the stars are just people....

DWIGHT: OK, so I’ll tell you another story. I was at a TV taping back during the Nashville Network days. Pam Tillis was — and still is — my client. Her dad, Mel, along with Bobby Bare, Jerry Reed, and Waylon Jennings, had a super group called Old Dogs.

I was backstage and — this was not too far from the end for Waylon — I mean, he was not in good health. He had a cane and he wasn’t moving very well. He was by himself, just sort of leaning against the wall. My stepdaughter knew Waylon’s son, Shooter. I thought, ’Well, you know what, I’m going to go up and say hi to Waylon and introduce myself.’ I’ve been around enough famous people that I feel like I kind of know my boundaries. In the industry we call it “germing,” by the way, which is going up to a star and just making a babbling fool of yourself.

Anyway, I went up to Waylon, and I can see the look in his eyes as I’m walking up to him. He was looking at me like, “I don’t want to freaking talk to you, you idiot.” But I said, “Hey, Waylon, Dwight Wiles. I know Shooter.”

As soon as I said “Shooter,” his face just lit up. He said, “Really, how do you know Shooter?” And we had this conversation for five minutes about Shooter and my stepdaughter, and we were just two dads talking to each other. Then I just very respectfully said, “It was great meeting you, and I’ll see you later.” I could still remember that look he gave me, though, when I came up to him — “Don’t you dare try to talk to me.”

ERIC: You’ve always had a gift for putting people at ease, connecting with different types of people.

DWIGHT: Thanks. I feel that the liberal arts education that I got at Ohio Wesleyan really prepared me for this job. I didn’t get the accounting education there. That and the CPA designation came later. OWU taught me to deal with a variety of situations, personality types, and to learn from our differences and, most importantly, to communicate.

The class that prepared me the most for my business life was Report Writing, taught by Libby Reed, who I’m sure many OWU students remember. It’s hard to forget her and her red-ink edit pen.

ERIC: And it was an out-of-the-classroom experience at OWU, in fact, that literally gave you your start, wasn’t it?

DWIGHT: Yes, my sophomore year. The Bonnie Raitt, Little Feat concert. Doug Kridler ’77 (now president and CEO of the Columbus Foundation) was chairperson of the Major Attractions Committee (MAC), and he booked the concert at Gray Chapel. That was the first show I ever worked. I got to
see all the behind-the-scenes activities, all these people running around backstage working, like the road manager and the road crew. And the light bulb went off, and it was like, "Whoa, people do this for a living!"

When I was chairman of the MAC my senior year, I booked and became friends with the Columbus-based band McGuffey Lane, later signed by Atco/Atlantic Records, and their manager, Cliff Audretch. He gave me my first real job in the music industry basically as their road manager. Cliff and I remain friends and continue to work together to this day.

ERIC: I still say Bonnie Raitt at OWU was the best concert I’ve ever attended. Freebo (Daniel Friedberg) was playing bass and Billy Payne was on piano. I love to tell the story of how Bonnie did two encores and told us that if we kept showing this kind of appreciation for artists, we’d get “the cream of the crop.” Then, to make it even more extraordinary, Bonnie and Little Feat were not touring together, so it was a one-off combination Doug was able to put together just for OWU.

DWIGHT: And Lowell George was fronting Little Feat. We saw something really special — Lowell George performing. He died about three years later. But my entire life, since that night when I was a sophomore, has been about the music business. And Doug has certainly been one of my mentors and a friend. We still get together and are in touch frequently.

ERIC: To take the story full circle — 25 years later — the final concert Doug booked when he was president of the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts was Bonnie Raitt. You also worked together to produce the first concert in the Branch Rickey Arena — Chick Corea and his band, Return to Forever, featuring Stanley Clarke. And you worked the Hall and Oates concert, too, didn’t you?

DWIGHT: Yeah, and then just a few years ago, I saw John Oates at an industry function. He was sitting at the table next to me at a dinner for the Nashville Songwriters Association International, and I noticed one of my clients talking to him. I thought “Oh, what the heck, let me go say hi to him.”

I went over and introduced myself and said, “Hey, you’re kind of indirectly responsible for me being in the music business.” He said, “Oh yeah, how’s that?” I said, “Well, one of the first shows I ever worked as a stagehand was in college at Ohio Wesleyan University.” He said, “I remember that.” He didn’t remember me, of course, but did say, “I remember playing Ohio Wesleyan.” I’m thinking, “No you don’t.” But maybe he did. Maybe he has a great memory, but those moments are what make this industry so much fun.

ERIC: Interacting with celebrities is part of your daily business. But you’ve always preferred to be in the background, which takes a special kind of personality, one that is the opposite of what is found in most of the music business. Have you always been that way or is it something you learned?

DWIGHT: I’ve never really been comfortable with being in the spotlight. It’s just not my thing. I don’t know where that comes from. That’s true in a lot of facets of my life. For example I am not active with social media. I’m always a little leery when I’m in a photo with an artist, which I am once in a while. I think the business manager needs to be out of sight. We’re more valuable to our artist/clients in the background than we are trying to make the headlines.

ERIC: At the beginning of your career when these things were happening and you were going to the Grammys and the CMA Awards and all of those high-profile events, was there an excitement about that?

DWIGHT: Of course there was, although I was — and will always be — obsessed with the music more than anything else.

I grew up listening to WMMS in Cleveland, which, of course, was one of the most influential rock stations in the country. They broke Bruce Springsteen and a lot of other people. My freshman year, there were four or five of us who drove to John Carroll University to see Bruce Springsteen and the original E Street Band, including David Sancious on keyboards and Clarence Clemons on sax. And a friend of mine from Nashville whose son goes to John Carroll University told me recently that Tim Russert (the late NBC moderator) was the concert chairman at John Carroll. So Tim Russert was the one who brought Springsteen to Ohio.

Looking back, the night made even a deeper impression upon me. I played some guitar growing up, and still do — very poorly — and I realized early on that I wasn’t going to make my living as a guitar player. But, as I mentioned, once I discovered there was a music business, I wanted to make my living in it. Good fortune, lots of hard work, and my passion for the business of music still make my job exciting and fun every day.
Julie Peterson ’07 lived up to her childhood nickname, “Bug.” Now an assistant professor of entomology and extension specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Peterson spends her time researching insects and sharing her findings with the agricultural community.

Peterson was a zoology major and Spanish minor at Ohio Wesleyan but didn’t discover her interest in insects until later in her coursework.

“When I came to Ohio Wesleyan, I knew I wanted to do zoology, and I knew I wanted to do something in that field with biology and working outdoors,” she says. “Then I took an entomology course when I was a sophomore with Dr. (Ramon) Carreno, and I loved it. By the time the class was over, I was like: ‘This is it. Definitely, the specific focus within zoology that I want to do is entomology.’”

Peterson’s work focuses on integrated pest management in field crops, and her research examines insect behavior, resistance management, food web dynamics, and compatibility of pest-control strategies. She defines her work as half research and half extension.

“I think the more I learned about insects, the more I realized just how fascinating they are and how much more there is we don’t know about them, which really intrigued me. It’s an area where there is still a lot of exploration, and there are a lot of frontiers and discoveries still to happen,” she says.

She received her Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Kentucky in 2012 and worked as a postdoctoral associate at the University of Minnesota before reaching her current position at the University of Nebraska’s Agroecosystems Entomology Lab. She now advises graduate students.

She credits the Summer Science Research Program (SSRP) with making a big impact on her. From attending scientific conferences to presenting her research in the living rooms of Delaware locals, she says the hands-on experience was powerful.

“Having done the summer science research experience and the independent study with Dr. (David) Johnson was hugely important for me to get that experience of learning how to ask the scientific questions,” she says. “Translating the scientific work into a more general public audience, a nonscience audience, that is a lot of what I do for my job now, taking the agricultural research and translating it to farmers.”

Along with SSRP, she took trips during her OWU studies to places such as Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, and other areas. Peterson says her Ohio Wesleyan education, connecting her from the classroom to the real world, was poignant.

“OWU really helped me to realize I wanted to do something where I could be working in the field and actually seeing my study system or my study organisms out there in the field,” she says.

Her research has been published dozens of times. Peterson is a member of several entomological and scientific communities and has received recognition including the J.H. Comstock Award in 2012 from the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America. During Reunion Weekend in May, she received the Young Alumni Award from the Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors.

“I was really very humbled and very grateful of the fact that I got the award because I look around at my fellow graduates and there’s so many people doing amazing and successful things,” Peterson says.

“It’s an area where there is still a lot of exploration, and there are a lot of frontiers and discoveries still to happen.”
— Julie Peterson ’07

“I’m just happy to be a part of that group of people who are out there in the sciences and in other fields having an impact.”
— Reilly Wright ’20
James W. “Jim” Pry II ’67 is absolutely bursting with Bishop pride. As a former trustee, university counsel, and volunteer, Pry has dedicated much of his time and expertise to Ohio Wesleyan since graduating 50 years ago. The Alumni Board of Directors presented Pry with the Alumni Award in May for his many contributions to the University.

He is humble about his efforts and says it just makes sense to him to help where he can. “That’s just how it was in my family,” he says. “I learned that when people help you, you should help them in return.”

Pry discovered Ohio Wesleyan when his older brother, C. Nicholas Pry ’63, made the decision to attend. “I guess that rubbed off on me,” he says. Pry made the most of his time at OWU by playing varsity football, becoming a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, and serving on the Interfraternity Council.

He particularly enjoyed meeting and learning from international students, because he’d rarely had the chance to talk to people from other countries. “I was opened up to the world,” he says. “Ohio Wesleyan is a wonderful place to meet people from outside the United States.”

Pry earned a bachelor of arts in economics with minors in geology and geography. “I had some wonderful professors at Ohio Wesleyan;” he recalls, mentioning the late economics professor Norman Leonard.

He went on to attend the University of Toledo and Ohio Northern University Claude Pettit College of Law before being admitted to the Ohio State Bar Association in 1971. Three years later, he also became a certified public accountant. He is now a partner at the Sears Pry Griebling & McBride PLL Law Firm in Bucyrus, Ohio.

Pry seemed destined to maintain a strong connection to OWU. He has had 11 family members attend the University, including his youngest son, Adam ’04. Even though he is a staunch advocate for the Bishops, Pry said he and his wife, Janet, left their two sons’ college choices up to them. “If you push them one way, they’ll go the other,” he says. “So it really was his own decision after considering all his options.”

Pry is a former member of the OWU Board of Trustees, on which he served from 2006 to 2012. He was also on the reunion committee for his 50th class reunion and is now a member of the Woltemade Center Alumni Advisory Board.

“I’ve always felt deeply indebted to Ohio Wesleyan,” he says. “They gave me an education. Not everyone feels so strongly about their alma mater.”

After 50 years, Pry still feels the impact of his liberal arts education. He went from never stepping foot on an airplane until law school to now having traveled to 72 countries. His favorite souvenirs from his trips are rocks, an echo of his days in geology class. On display in his library, they remind him of his experiences and how far he has come.

“I truly believe Ohio Wesleyan University is the best liberal arts college in the United States,” he says.

— Erin England
The following is a listing of OWU alumni events around the country. These events offer alumni, families, and friends opportunities to network with fellow Bishops and to reconnect with OWU near your hometown. To RSVP for an event, please visit www.owu.edu/alumni or call (740) 368-3325.

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

#### AUGUST 2017
- Aug. 2 | Boise, Idaho
  Red & Black Gathering in Boise!
  Home of Patricia Young ‘68
- Aug. 4 | Denver
  OWU Night with the Rockies
  Coors Field
- Aug. 18 | Baltimore
  OWU Night with the Orioles
  Orioles Park at Camden Yards
- Aug. 21 | Powell
  Team OWU Golf Outing
  Scioto Reserve Country Club
- Aug. 27 | San Francisco
  South Bay Alumni/Parent Reception
  Visit owu.edu/alumni for location

#### SEPTEMBER 2017
- Sept. 10 | Charlotte, N.C.
  Red & Black Reception
  Home of Emily Vaughan ‘86
- Sept. 13 | Columbus, Cleveland, Chicago, Boston, Washington D.C., Denver, New York City
  “Welcome to the City” Alumni Events
  Meet & greet between new alumni (recent grads) and alumni
- Sept. 17 | San Francisco
  OWU Night with the Giants
  AT&T Park
- Sept. 23 | New York City
  OWU Afternoon with the NYC-FC
  Yankee Stadium
- Sept. 30 | Columbus
  OWU Family Day
  Columbus Zoo

#### OCTOBER 2017
- Oct. 19-22 | On campus
  OWU 175th Birthday Celebration Featuring: Homecoming/Family Weekend, Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign kickoff; athletic reunions: cross country and track & field, volleyball, field hockey, football, men’s lacrosse, women’s basketball, men and women’s tennis, women’s soccer; Greek reunions: Chi Phi, Sig Phi Epsilon, Phi Delta Theta, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Sigma Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma — and more!

#### NOVEMBER 2017
- Nov. 30 | Columbus
  Holiday Party
  Columbus Museum of Art
- Dec. 1 | San Francisco
  Holiday Party
  Home of Jack ’71 and Lorry Luikart ’73

#### DECEMBER 2017
- Dec. 5 | Columbus
  Holiday Party
  Columbus Museum of Art
- Dec. 6 | Boston
  Holiday Party
  Harvard Club
- Dec. 7 | New York City
  Holiday Party
  LeParker Meridian
- Dec. 12 | Cleveland
  Holiday Party
  Progressive Field Infinity Club
- Dec. 13 | Philadelphia
  Holiday Party
  Wayne Hotel
- Dec. 14 | Washington, D.C.
  Holiday Party
  National Press Club
- Dec. 16 | LA/Orange County
  Holiday Party
  Home of Rodney and Jane Joyce (parents of Peter Joyce ’10)
  Lido Isle, Newport Beach, Calif.

#### FEBRUARY 2018
- Feb. 17 | Naples, Fla.
  Red & Black Luncheon

#### MAY 2018
- May 18-20 | On campus
  Reunion Weekend (celebrating classes ending in 3 and 8)

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Stay connected

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Update your preferred email address to stay connected to OWU and receive important news, invitations to events in your area, and the latest on class affinity reunions and activities at owu.edu/emailupdate
Class of 1972: (from left) David “Fletch” Fletcher, Bob Morris, and Rick Wagner

Tom Williams ’72 walks in the parade of classes.

Class of 2012: Rachel Schlosser (back left), Anthony Harper, Marina Metzler (front) and Anna Spencer (with phone)

Justin McCoy ’07 (left) and Jim Falko ’67

Class of 1977: Freshman year roommates Linda Steele (left) and Leslie Bennett enjoyed the parade of classes.

Class of 1967: (from left) Judy Morris-Hardy, Bev Heath Baker, and Susan Collins
More than 900 alumni, family, and friends returned to campus in May to celebrate classes ending in 2 and 7. Save the dates for next year, when we celebrate classes ending in 3 and 8 May 18-20, 2018.

Class of 1977 (from left) William “Speed” Stodghill, Kathy Shape Hedrich, Karen Wilton Crane, Laurie McGregor Connor, Ellen Simpson, Gail Ashcraft Shobin, and Mike Moss

Class of 1962: (from left) Mary Lou Herrold, Dan Herrold, and Jim Traxler enjoy treats from the Tower Society ice cream cart.

Class of 1947: Marilyn Nelson returned to campus for her 70th class reunion. Nelson, who turned 92 on Aug. 3, was the oldest alumna attending Reunion Weekend.

Class of 1992: (from left) Karyn Hardy, Azmat Tanauli, Bob Bishop, Ravi Animi, and Nina Pence
Justin Breidenbach, assistant professor of accounting, gave a lecture titled “Has Business Gone to Pot? The Business and Accounting Side of the State Legalized Marijuana Industry” at Lake Erie College in April. Recently, he has been researching how some producers of legal marijuana are unable to deduct many routine expenses from their federal taxes and how they struggle to find banks willing to manage their accounts.

Andrew Busch, assistant professor of health and human kinetics, presented his dissertation on protecting baseball players from upper-extremity injuries at the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association annual conference in Columbus in January. He also spoke last fall at the Graham School in Columbus through the Faculty Speaker’s Bureau. He was the first OWU faculty member selected to speak as part of that bureau.

Amy Butcher, assistant professor of English, enjoyed publication of three essays in March. “Bare Necessities” a Harper’s Postcard published on March 8, details what she found in unexpectedly normal Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, the largest and most remote oil field in the United States. “What a Third Grade Geography Lesson Taught Me About Women’s Place in the World” appeared in The Washington Post on March 8, and “How the Depressed Find Solace on Yak Yak, Believe It or Not” appeared in the New York Times opinion section on March 23.

David Caplan, Charles M. Weis Professor of English, associate director of creative writing, and poet, edited the book On Rhyme (Liege Press, 2017), which includes essays exploring rhyme throughout history by scholars in the United States and Britain. The book highlights rhyme’s complexity, suggesting new avenues for research and methodologies. Caplan has twice served as Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature at the University of Liège, where the press is housed. The press also published a French edition of his book Questions of Possibility: Contemporary Poetry and Poetic Form (2016). Caplan also appeared on the March 3 edition of the national “Academic Minute” radio program, in which he shared his thoughts on “Is Hip-Hop Poetry?” The segment is available at academicminute.org.

Bob Gitter, professor of economics, and Rachel Tallmadge ’14 had their article “The Determinants of Human Trafficking in the European Union” accepted for publication by The Journal of Human Trafficking. The work grew out of Tallmadge’s independent study with Gitter. They found that legalizing prostitution increased the level of trafficking in a nation. Gitter also published “Ohio Wage Match Project” in Behavioral Health Trends in Ohio, which examined employment of Ohioans diagnosed with behavioral health issues, and the entry “The Economic Impact of Immigration” in The American Middle Class: An Economic Encyclopedia of Progress and Poverty.

James Franklin, professor of politics and government, was invited plenary speaker at the first San Diego State University Conference on Social Movements and Protest, held in May. He presented a paper entitled “Protest Waves and Authoritarian Regimes: Repression and Protest Outcomes” from his broader long-term project studying 302 protest waves around the world between 1979 and 2011. The paper focused on 10 protest waves from three separate regions and time periods: Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile in the 1980s; China, Mongolia, and Taiwan from 1989 to 1991; and Serbia (two separate waves), Ukraine, and Belarus from 1996 to 2006.

Jennifer Jolley, assistant professor of music, saw her solo piano piece “Recomposing Scriabin” premiered by Kristofer Rucinski as part of the Scriabin Response Project at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music on Feb. 1. Her new wind ensemble piece “The Eyes of the World Are Upon You” had its world premiere by the University of Texas at Austin Wind Ensemble on March 5. Her new song “Shine a Light on Our Rights”, commissioned by the Canales Project and dedicated to Nadia Bushnaq and Vital Voices, premiered at the House of Sweden as part of Vital Voices program “This I choose...” in Washington, D.C., on March 7. Jolley also presented as part of the Computing in the Arts: Curricular Innovations and Results panel (along with Alan Zaring, professor of math and computer science) at the Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education 2017 conference in Seattle on March 9 and participated in two panel presentations at the 2017 College Band Directors National Association Conference in Kansas City, Mo., in March. Her piano trio “The Lives and Opinions of Literary Cats” was premiered by the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble as part of its “Brahms Through the Looking Glass” concert at the Berkeley Piano Club in March. She presented a lecture on her “Cats” piece at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music on April 21.

Juan Armando Rojas Joo, professor of Spanish and a poet, was invited to represent OWU during the VII International Poetry Festival “Poets in the Equinox,” at Institute Bernardo Arias Trujillo in La Virgina, Colombia, in March.

Felt Memory by Cynthia Cetlin (winner of the Ruth Lantz Award for Excellence in Fiber)
Cynthia Cetlin, professor of fine arts, and Wyatt Hall ’17 were among the artists selected to exhibit works in the Ohio Designer Craftsmen “Best of 2017” showcase in May and June at the Ohio Craft Museum in Columbus and through Sept. 9 at the Southern Ohio Museum in Portsmouth. The event showcases works in clay, glass, fiber, wood, metal, and mixed media – all created by Ohio Designer Craftsmen artists.

Lee Fratantuono, professor and chair of the Classics Program, is co-editor of Pushing the Boundaries of History, the latest title in the Routledge Monographs in Classical Studies series. He collaborated on the new book with Mary English, professor of classics and general humanities at Montclair State University in New Jersey. Fratantuono’s own essay in the volume examines early Roman hero Marcus Furius Camillus and Roman historian Livy.

The deadline to submit Class Notes and Faculty Notes for the Winter OWU Magazine is Oct. 5, 2017. Send to: classnotes@owu.edu

book explores how rock music has influenced issues ranging from racial justice and gender equality to political revolution and antiwar activism. It takes readers inside “Bob Dylan’s America” and shows how this vision linked the rock ‘n’ roll revolution to American values of freedom, equality, human rights, and peace while tracing how those values have spread globally. The book is based on dozens of interviews with musicians and journalists and people running the business side of rock music.

Stephanie Merkel, associate professor of comparative literature, presented a lecture in February at the Bexley Public Library on “The Russian Wondertale. A Lecture with Recipes.” It was hosted by librarian Danielle Bernert ’13.

Randolph Quaye, associate professor of black world studies, has been awarded his second Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research into healthcare financing in East Africa and assist Tanzania’s University of Dar Es Salaam with its master’s degree program in public health. In addition, his paper “Assessing the Role of GPs in Nordic Health Care Systems,” published in Leadership in Health Services, was selected by the journal’s editorial team as a highly commended paper in the 2017 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence.

Anne Sokolsky, associate professor of comparative literature, gave two presentations in the spring: “The Lytton Report and Other Aspects of Sino-Japanese Relations Through the Lens of One American Journalist—George E. Sokolsky,” at the Midwest Japan Seminar at the University of Memphis in February, and “Myths of the Oriental Woman: Stereotypes of Asian Women and the Way They Have Fought Back,” at Mount Mercy College, sponsored by the Asian Network Speakers Bureau, in March. In addition, she has been asked to revise her chapter “Miyamoto Yuriko and Socialist Writers” and write a new chapter, “Hirabayashi Taiko,” for a second edition of The Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature (Columbia University Press). She has also received a TEW grant to do archival research for a book on her grandfather, George E. Sokolsky, a journalist and China specialist whose papers are stored at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution.

Shari Stone-Mediatore, professor of philosophy, presented a lecture titled “Colonialism and Mass Incarceration: How America Disguises Its Violence” at Stony Brook University in April. Previously, she has been a guest lecturer at the University of California-Berkeley, Northwestern University, St. Louis University, and the College of Wooster.

Marty Kalb, a former professor who taught painting, drawing, and modern art history in OWU’s Department of Fine Arts from 1967 to 2007, will be featured at the Richard M. Ross Art Museum Aug. 17 to October 8. A reception will be hosted at the museum Aug. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. (right) Land & Sky 6091 (2009) is 60” x 36” acrylic on canvas.

Golapogos #6 (2014) is an acrylic on canvas. It is 30” x 58” and is owned by Alice Ruotolo Branca ’76.

Eva Paris-Huesca (left, in front of Sagrada Familia church) and Glenda Nieto (right), assistant professors of Spanish, took eight students to Barcelona and the Basque-Navarran country in Spain in May, for the Travel Learning Component in Paris’ Spanish crime fiction class. They explored some of the most emblematic sites and spaces narrated and portrayed in 20th and 21st Century Spanish crime fiction.

D. Glen Vanderbilt Jr., professor and chairperson of the Department of Theatre & Dance, directed the main stage production of Androcles and the Lion in February. He also designed and painted the set.
Winifred “Wynn” Boin Breslin '54 hosted the final open tour of her art studio on May 27-28 and June 3-4 in Newark, Del., after 41 years of annual shows. Virginia Hanlon Grohl '59, mother of Nirvana and Foo Fighters member Dave Grohl, published *From Cradle to Stage: Stories From the Mothers Who Rocked and Raised Rock Stars* in April.

Max Urick ’61, former Kansas State University director of athletics, was one of six former athletic directors named to the 2017 National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame in June. Jackson Winters ’61 was inducted into the Ohio High School Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame on June 10 in Columbus. The honor recognizes Winters for his outstanding officiating career and significant contributions to interscholastic officiating in Ohio.

Mary King ’62 delivered the keynote address at the third Andean Meeting of Peace, a gathering of all the United Nations agencies involved in the Colombian peace process, on Nov. 4 in Bogotá, Colombia. Her presentation was titled “Contributions from Civil Societies to Cultures of Peace: The Role and Effective Involvement of Civil Society in the Public and Political Agenda of Building Peace.”

Art Shilt ’64 was recently inducted into the Dayton Kiser Athletic Hall of Fame. At Kiser, he lettered in four sports and won the Scholar Athlete Award. He played varsity basketball at OWU from 1961 to 1964. Shilt works as an investment advisor for Coastal Equities Inc. Last year, he became involved with Film Cincinnati and has appeared as an extra in six projects filmed there involving stars such as Cate Blanchett, Bruce Willis, John Travolta, Nicole Kidman, and others. An extra does not say a word — this restriction is where

Sorority sisters hang new painting in chapter house

Kappa Alpha Theta sisters gathered over Reunion Weekend in May to hang a watercolor painting by Ros Seabury Collins ’52 in their chapter house. From left: current student and Kappa Alpha Theta facility manager Ana Borish ’19, Ros Seabury Collins, and Liz Long Downey ’06.

Trustee honored for her work

Helen Crider Smith ’56, a member of the Ohio Wesleyan Board of Trustees since 1985, was presented with the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges (OFIC) Earl F. Morris Trustee of the Year Award at an event in April. President Rock Jones nominated Smith for the award, which recognizes an exceptional trustee from one of the OFIC’s 34 member institutions.

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- **Bernie Vendlinski ’03**
the loquacious Shilt has to really act!

**Walter “Mac” Whitehouse ’69** recently retired after a 36-year career practicing vascular surgery in Ann Arbor, Mich. He served as chairman of the Department of Surgery at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for two decades. At the time of his retirement, the Walter M. Whitehouse Jr. Endowed Chair for Surgery, the first for the hospital, was created with more than $2 million donated from patients, friends, family, and colleagues recognizing his many contributions to the organization, both clinical and administrative.

**1970s**

**Eric “Rick” Hursh ’70** was named senior vice president, institutional fixed income sales, at Noyes’ Capital Markets Group in Indianapolis.

**Lee Russell ’70** was named to the Zion Oil & Gas Inc. board of directors in May. Russell has been an independent geoscience consultant with the company since 2012.

**Geoffrey Chase ’71** was named provost of California State University Channel Islands in Camarillo in March.

**James Prosnit ’71** was installed as a member of the board of governors of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion at its meeting in Los Angeles in February.

**Stephen Tilson ’71** was named to the board of directors of First Federal Bank of Ohio in March.

**Jo Ann Hermann Emerson ’72**, former CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, received the Clyde T. Ellis Award on March 31, the highest honor given to an individual by America’s electric cooperatives.

**JoAnn Verburg ’72** featured her photo series “After Before” in an exhibition in the Cornerstone Art Center’s I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo., in February and March.

**W. Joseph Campbell ’74**, a journalism historian at American University, was interviewed on poynter.org on March 15 about the second edition of his book *Getting It Wrong: Debunking the Greatest Myths in American Journalism.*

**Peter MacGill ’74** was a member of the New York Selection Committee for the Other Art Fair New York, an event connecting emerging artists directly with buyers of all experiences, which launched at the Brooklyn Expo Center in June.

**Nancy Hollenbeck McToldridge ’75** was interviewed by the Santa Barbara Independent on May 29 about her role as director of the Santa Barbara (Calif.) Zoo.

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**Pi Phis reunite on campus**

More than 50 Pi Phi sorority sisters from four decades, 16 states, and 16 class years gathered on campus April 28–30, including **Sylvia Sanders Stevens ’59** left, and **Marian Cake Brink ’59**.

**Alumni host OWU golf teams for lunch**

On March 10, **Carol Kneeland Crocker ’63** and her husband LeRoy hosted the OWU men’s and women’s golf teams for lunch at Dataw Island Club in S. Carolina, where the couple are members and OWU hosts a golf tournament. From left (front row): **Jana Shipley, Marie Overing ’20**, **Liz Knowlton ’19**, **Alexis Reichardt ’20**, **Carol Kneeland Crocker ’63**, **LeRoy Crocker, Ana Borish ’19**, **Svitlana Yakim ’20**, **Blake Dell ’20**, (back row): **Ian Miller ’99**, **Nick Braydich ’20**, **Aunders Erickson ’20**, **Jamie Litzler ’17**, **Adam Armstrong ’19**, **Shane Hoben ’20**, **Zach Shahrkahi ’18**, and **Will Efekman ’20**.

**Classmates gather during graduation weekend**

Graduates from the Class of 1965 reunited for OWU graduation on May 13. From left (back row): **Dave Papoi, Heather Robinson Dick, Bob Alspach, Dan Schipfer, Andres Duarte, Cheryl Lawrence Pitcock, Marty Lytle Schipfer, front: Nancy Pfouts Rose**.

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**WELCOME NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS**

We are delighted to introduce the newest members of the Alumni Board of Directors:

**Peter Chase ’74** was a history and French major. He lives in south Florida and the greater New York area and is retired as the vice president, global consumer & market knowledge at Colgate Palmolive.

**Michelle Coutts ’09** was an economics major. She lives in Columbus and is a dental hygienist.

**Katherine Jenks ’12** was a theatre major. She lives in New York City and is a talent advisor with Capco.

**Anthony Peddle ’14** was an early childhood education major. He went on to earn his master’s in educational leadership and administration from Ashland University. He lives in Columbus and is a teacher with Columbus City Schools.

**Carrie Reinhardt ’94** was a psychology major with a minor in psychology, sociology/anthropology. She lives in Davidson, N.C. and is a regional administrator with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

**Andrew Sloan ’13** was a history and pre-theology major. He lives in the Washington, D.C. area and is development coordinator at the Newseum.
Anne Kleindienst ’76, an attorney with the national law firm Polsinelli, was recently included in 2017 Southwest Super Lawyers, a rating service of outstanding lawyers who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement, in the categories of business & corporate and franchise law.

Mark Lewis ’77 was named chairman of the board of directors for BIOQUAL, a research laboratory where human diseases are studied, in April. Rosenberg leads the construction law practice at Roetzel in Columbus, which was ranked a top Ohio law firm in the 2017 Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business for natural resources & environment.

Mary Gleason ’77 and Daniel Gleason ’78 celebrated the 30th anniversary of their Sylvan Learning Center franchise in Augusta, Ga., in May.

Thomas Rosenberg ’77 was named chair-elect of the American Bar Association Forum of Construction Law, the largest organization of construction lawyers in the United States, in April. Rosenberg leads the construction law practice at Roetzel in Columbus, which was ranked a top Ohio law firm in the 2017 Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business for natural resources & environment.

Timothy Walsh ’77 led two workshops in May at the Mansfield (Ohio) Public Library, educating participants about how to maximize Social Security benefits.

Steven Cooper ’78 was named executive advisor, government solutions, at Infobel Solutions Inc. in April.

Douglas Gordin ’78 announced his retirement as men’s golf coach at Florida Southern College, effective June 1, 2018. He has held the position for more than two decades.

Julia Barnes-Weise ’79 was named to the 2017-18 board of directors for the Medical University of South Carolina’s Foundation for Research Development in May.

Philip Holmes ’80, a police and fire reporter for the Williamsport Sun-Gazette for more than 30 years, received the Pickelner.

Charlesworth awarded chair in Biblical studies

James Charlesworth ’62, George L. Collord Professor of New Testament Language and Literature and director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Project at Princeton Theological Seminary, has been offered the Griset Chair in Bible and Christian Tradition at Chapman University in Los Angeles for spring 2018 during his sabbatical. In the past two years, he has presented invited plenary addresses abroad in Berlin, St. Petersburg, and Moscow, and in the United States at Houston Baptist University, Florida State University, and Lanier Theological Library in Houston (pictured, with his books).

He received the 2017 Thomas Nelson Distinguished Scholar Award and contributed commentary to the April PBS film The Last Days of Jesus. Previously, he taught in Jerusalem, Duke University, and the University of Tübingen in Germany. He served as McCarthy Professor of the Pontificia Universitá Gregoriana in Rome and distinguished visiting professor at Naples University. An ordained minister with the United Methodist Church, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Lanier Theological Library in the spring.

Alumnus’ poetry book features college roommate’s photography

Larry Levy ’69 is the author of a new collection of poetry, All the Dead Are Holy, published by Atmosphere Press and reviewed by, among others, poet and fiction writer John Palen: “[Levy] explores his Jewish and Midwestern heritage, the strains and joys of teaching and of being a student, the resilience and vulnerability of childhood, and the ever presence of evil in the world, from the Holocaust to our own time.... These poems exemplify compassion and emotional accuracy through an observing eye and craftsmanship.” The book’s cover is from a photo by Rob Hyner ’69, of Avon, Conn., Levy’s OWU roommate and good friend. Delta College professor emeritus in English and education, Levy received awards during his career for innovation, scholarship, and teaching excellence. He and his wife Cheryl Kern Levy ’69 live in Midland, Mich., where they direct plays and musicals for the Midland Center of the Arts.

The beginning of a beautiful friendship

Recently on a train between Tangier and Rabat, Morocco, David Herbawi ’18 and alumna Marcie McBurney Stutzman ’78 were surprised and excited to discover their shared connection to OWU. Herbawi is a geography major from Boston, in Morocco for a semester abroad studying Arabic. Stutzman, an English and French major, spent the semester researching oral proficiency in foreign languages in Morocco as a Fulbright Distinguished Teacher. She lives and teaches in Middletown, Md.
Byron Pitts ’82, Nightline co-anchor and ABC News chief national correspondent, was named a 2017 Horatio Alger Award recipient. The award recognizes top corporate and philanthropic leaders who have achieved great success in their field despite hailing from modest backgrounds. Pitts was formally inducted into the Horatio Alger Association during a three-day celebration from March 30 to April 1 in Washington, D.C. He also published the book Be the One on May 16.

Andrew Busch ’83 was named chief market intelligence officer at the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission in April.

Glenn Cummings ’83, president of the University of Southern Maine, was featured on local station WCSH-6’s program Bill Green’s Maine in April. The interview addressed Cummings’ Maine roots and the future he envisions for the school.

Sarah Stanton Andre ’84 was named a finalist in the romantic suspense category of the 2017 RITA awards. The RITA is the romance publishing industry’s highest award of distinction. Andre is the author of the novel Tall, Dark and Damaged.

Timothy Corbin ’84, head men’s baseball coach at Vanderbilt University, was honored by many of his former players who donated to a fundraising effort for the construction of new baseball facilities at the university in appreciation of Corbin.

Keith Kelly ’84 was named president of Citizens Bank Rhode Island in May.

Richard Spybey ’84 was named director of recreation outreach at Gilliam Springs Baptist Church in Arab, Ala., in July.

Michael van der Veen ’85 was named to the 2017 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list in May. He practices law in Philadelphia.

Dale Beatty ’86 received his doctor of nursing practice degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in the spring. In addition, he was recruited to Stanford HealthCare in Palo Alto, Calif., to serve as the chief nursing officer.

Dean Hood ’86 was named special teams coordinator and outside linebackers coach for the University of Kentucky football team.

James Olsen ’86, an HBO production executive who oversees Vice News Tonight, participated in a panel discussion at DePaul University’s School of Cinematic Arts and the Master of Fine Arts in Documentary, which followed a screening of the HBO Vice documentary “Trans Youth.”

Sinclair works to improve struggling schools

Rich Sinclair ’96 is the founder of Leading Schools Forward, based in Chapel Hill, N.C., which helps turn around struggling schools by creating a spirited and sustainable work environment for faculty and staff. It works on a “people-centric” model that emphasizes character and establishing shared values. His research was inspired by the Built on Values model pioneered by Ann Rhoades. The model is now increasingly common across numerous industries.

“I began to study and practice culture leadership, determined to find a more effective organizational workplace model for schools than the traditional hierarchy,” Sinclair says. He was inspired to pursue education at a young age. Once at OWU, “I joined the House of H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Pursue Education) and after that, I never looked back.”

“College was a chance to start over after a difficult youth, and the opportunities in and outside the classroom were endless,” Sinclair says about his OWU experience. He recalls the constant support of friends and mentors, including education professor Amy McClure and former professor Michael Grote, psychology professor Kim Dolgin, Chaplain Jon Powers and Sue Pastors, then-director of community service learning, and his brothers in Alpha Sigma Phi.

But as his organization promotes, Sinclair knows that real change starts with the individual. “You cannot love, accept, and believe in others if you do not already have it inside you,” he says.
Patricia Ann Schullery Corso ’88 has opened a science-consulting business, Expanding the Lens, focusing on curriculum, experiments and activities, laboratory, and space design. She is a STEM specialist at Workspace Academy in Bethel, Conn, and teaches middle-school science at the Sherman School in Sherman, Conn.

Gay Johnson Grossman ’88, an advocate for the rare-disease community, recently co-authored the coloring book We Are All Rare, which is intended to educate elementary students about rare disease and other issues.

Robert Sealey ’88 was inducted into the Zanesville (Ohio) City Schools Hall of Fame in May.

1990s

Peter Eastwood ’91 was featured in the The Wall Street Journal on Feb. 11 for his successful leadership of Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance, a property-casualty insurer backed by Warren Buffett.

Scott Googins ’92 was named the University of Cincinnati’s 28th baseball head coach in June.

Elizabeth Kanne Miller ’92 was named president and head of Lauralton Hall, a college-prep girls’ school in Milford, Conn.

Rebecca Roesner ’92, Illinois Wesleyan University chair and professor of chemistry, was named the 2017 recipient of the James D. Dougan Award for Contributions to Faculty Governance in April.

William Day ’93 presented his solo exhibition “Exaltation” at the McLoughlin Gallery in San Francisco June 15 to July 29.

Christopher Peer ’94 was promoted to shareholder at the Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co. law firm in Avon, Ohio, in January.

Amy Jackson Pinson ’95 was named vice president of Century National Bank in Zanesville, Ohio, in April.

Earnest Winston Jr. ’96 was appointed chief community relations and engagement/ombudsman officer for Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools in Charlotte, N.C.

Jason Lisle ’97, astrophysicist and director of physical sciences at the Dallas-based Institute for Creation Research, announced in May that he discovered a new planet seven times bigger than Earth while analyzing data from the Kepler spacecraft.

Jess Knox ’98 was the keynote speaker at the Boothbay Harbor (Maine) Region Chamber of Commerce annual dinner on June 8. Knox has been president of Olympico Strategies since

Meryl Streep reads Smith’s work

Maggie Smith ’99 has poems forthcoming in The Best American Poetry 2017, Plume, Los Angeles Review, and elsewhere. Her works have recently appeared in The New York Times, Ploughshares, and other publications. Her poem “Good Bones” went viral in June 2016 following the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Fla. In April, it was read on the CBS drama Madam Secretary and was also read by Meryl Streep at the Academy of American Poets’ 15th annual Poetry & the Creative Mind gala reading at Lincoln Center on April 19. Her poem Small Shoes was featured in The New York Times on April 21. Smith did a public reading and discussion of Good Bones at OWU on April 5. Her third book, also titled Good Bones, will be published by Tupelo Press in September.

Roettenbacher creates image of distant star

Rachael Roettenbacher ’08 and her interferometric work to create a time-lapse video of the surface of the star Zeta Andromedae (And) were featured in Discover Magazine’s April issue. Her first-of-its-kind work for her dissertation produced a series of images of the star from more than a quadrillion miles (181 light years) away, allowing for comparison with the sun and for testing of models of stellar evolution. The pattern of spots on the star was revealed to be very different from that on the sun, challenging theories of how stars’ magnetic fields influence their evolution, according to Astronomy Now.

To create the mini movie, Roettenbacher observed Zeta And for 18 full nights, the time it takes the star to rotate, and then combined the light from six different telescopes to synthesize the kind of image that otherwise would be possible only with an enormous space telescope, according to Discover. The processed data are imported into a software program, developed by her mentor, John Monnier at the University of Michigan. The program images the observations as the surface of the star.

Roettenbacher is now a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Astronomy at Stockholm University in Sweden and trying to observe more stars to push observational techniques further.

In addition, she was awarded the 2017 Olivier Chesneau Prize in High Angular Resolution Astronomy for her doctoral thesis “Shifting the Starspot Paradigm Through Imaging Magnetic Structures and Evolution.”

Bishop clerks for Bishop

For the past three years, James Walsh ’10 (right) was a law clerk at Huffman, Hunt & Klym, LLC in Westlake, Ohio, whose founding partner is Charles Huffman Jr. ’44 (left). Walsh graduated from Case Western Reserve University’s School of Law in May, after which he left the firm to study full-time for the Ohio Bar.

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2012, and in 2014, he founded Maine Startup and Create Week. He has also been the statewide coordinator for Maine Accelerates Growth and associate producer for Greenlight Maine since 2015. He also co-founded Venture Hall, a training and events company, in 2016.

Thomas Ludwig ’98 was featured in The Bridge, a Brooklyn, N.Y., publication, on May 26 for his role as the co-founder and CEO of Brooklyn SolarWorks, a residential solar-power company.

Heidi Nyland Melocco ’98 recently published the book Western Horseman’s Legends 9.

Sara Gebhart Ott ’00 was named assistant city manager of Aspen, Ohio, in March.

Emily Hughes Smith ’00 was named to the Michiana, Ind., Forty Under 40 list in May. Smith is a co-founder of the branding company Naissance Inc.

Karen Green Vance ’00 was recently elected president of the church council of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Loveland, Ohio.

Adam Criblez ’01, assistant professor of history and director of the Center for Regional History at Southeast Missouri State University, released his book Tall Tales and Short Shorts: Dr. J, Pistol Pete, and the Birth of the Modern NBA on May 16.

Emily Patterson Donahue ’01 received the $2,500 Marian Porter Huffman Scholarship from Kent State University’s School of Library and Information Science, where she is pursuing her master of library and information science degree. She works as a media specialist at Lexington High School in Lexington, Ohio.

Kathryn Shaw Holeman ’01, daughter of Peggy Lynn ’69 and Don Shaw Jr. ’69, celebrated the May 2017 release of her third coloring book, Colouring History: The Tudors. Her other books include Color Me Married: The Stress-Free Way to the Big Day and Welcome to Baby Land: Coloring for the Calm Mom.

Latasha Lewis Kennedy ’01 was featured in the May edition of Oprah Magazine’s “Let’s Talk About Race” article.

Peter Merrion ’01 was named director of the Denver office of Holliday Fenoglio Fowler, L.P. (HFF). HFF is a leading provider of commercial real estate and capital markets services to the global commercial real estate industry.

Matthew Salts ’01, co-owner of Charqui Jerky, was featured in the April 21 issue of Columbus Business First magazine.

Joseph Cellar ’03 completed

**Greene-Shah wedding**

Erika Greene ’04 was married to Nihar Shah on April 15 in Columbus. OWU alumni joining in the celebration were (from left) Rachel Witsaman ’04, maid of honor Jenny Brodie ’04, Evan Garver ’04, Rebecca Little Leitschuh ’04, Jeff Sindelar ’04, Emily Flanagan Kaylor ’03, Elizabeth Davis Conway ’04, Chris Moore ’04, bridesmaid Becky VanFossen ’04, bride Ericka Greene ’04, groom Nihar Shah, Alleyn Harned ’03, Brad McCain ’03, Andrew Kaylor ’04, Victoria Hills ’03, Laura Caieto ’05, Frank Gebauer ’02, Claire Wittlinger Robinson ’04, Matt Robinson ’04, and Will Austin ’06.

**Alumni’s message in a bottle is found two years later and a continent away**

When Sadie Parsons ’16 threw a message in a bottle into the ocean during a semester at sea in 2015, she had no idea whether anyone would find it — or that it would land her on Australia’s ABC national broadcast. Parsons spent a semester in SEA Semester’s Sustainability in Polynesian Island Cultures and Ecosystems (SPICE) program, sailing on a 13-foot school ship among 23 students researching climate change in the South Pacific. The students started by taking classes in Woods Hole, Mass., then flew to American Samoa where they boarded the Robert C. Seaman, ultimately sailing to Western Samoa, Wallis and Futuna, Fiji, and New Zealand.

“Our captain has been sailing since he was 10 years old and was home-schooled as he sailed all over the world with his parents,” Parsons recalls. “One day he decided to throw a message in a bottle with glass wine bottles and corks. Since then he has thrown more than 250 bottles and has received around 45 responses! He passed the idea on to his students.”

Inspired by her captain, Parsons dropped her bottled message as the ship departed Fiji for New Zealand. Two years later, on April 14, she received an email from a 9-year-old boy named Tristan from Australia. “He was walking along a semi-remote beach called Hungry Head with his ‘mum’ and he came across my message in a bottle half-covered in sand. He emailed me right away!” says Parsons. Word spread of the surprising discovery, and Parsons was featured on the Australian ABC newscast as well as on a children’s news show.

These days, Parsons is still living near the water, running tour boats on her home island of Catalina, Calif. — and keeping an eye out for any bottles washing ashore, no doubt.

**Class Notes**
the Delaware, Ohio, Citizens Academy on June 12, a program that allows citizens to learn about how the city operates and how they can help make it better.

James Franko Jr. ’03 was recently named principal of Eastview Elementary School in Avon Lake, Ohio.

Scott Hayes ’03 was the featured organist in the opening concert of the St. Tim’s Discovers concert series in Toledo in February. He also presented a Mother’s Day organ recital at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Charleston, W.Va., in May.

Rachael Robinson ’04 was named education director at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden in April.

Cindy Quintanilla Greene ’05 was promoted to assistant secretary-treasurer of Mechanics Bank in Mansfield, Ohio, in April.

Kristen Hajduk ’05 was named a 2017-18 Marshall Memorial Fellow with the German Marshall Fund. The Marshall Memorial Scholarship is a leadership development program that prepares European and American leaders for trans-Atlantic relations through six months of distance learning and 24 days of in-person experience. Hajduk is special assistant to the acting under secretary of defense for policy.

Dan Sharpe ’06 was promoted to vice president for community research and grants management at the Columbus Foundation.

Brandon Bianco ’07, Case Western Reserve University head men’s soccer coach, was named chair of the NCAA Division III Men’s Soccer Committee in May.

Ashley Peele Kurtzman ’07, Virginia’s state coordinator for the VA Breeding Bird Atlas, gave a presentation titled “Conserving Virginia’s Birds With Science and Action” to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club on March 13.

Matthew Shirer ’08 was featured in Thoroughbred Daily News on Feb. 23 for his career in horse racing. He was also recently interviewed on the Horse Racing Radio Network’s podcast “Trainer Talk.”

Britta Buchenroth ’09 completed her obstetrics & gynecology residency at Riverside Methodist Hospital in June and joined Women’s Care Center of Columbus Inc., a private practice in Gahanna, Ohio.

Marisa Obuchowski ’11 was married to Adam Yosim on May 14 in Baltimore.

Kelsey Kerstetter ’12 and her husband Nathan Yhr welcomed daughter Penelope Kerstetter on April 30.

Marya Intal Fischer ’07 and her husband Jordan welcomed daughter Elle Grace Fischer on Dec. 22.

Trevor Jones ’08 and his wife Mary Jean welcomed daughter Reagan Marie Jones on March 23.

Melissa Schaub Voeller ’01 and her husband Mike welcomed son Mercer Clarence Voellerer on Feb. 25. Also celebrating are big sisters Mabel and Marilla and cousins Kayla Henderson ’13, Hannah Henderson ’16, and Alianna Henderson ’18.

Keith Dailey ’02 and Katie Ansted Dailey ’03 welcomed daughter Lydia Kate Dailey on April 3.

Anthony Simonetti ’03 and Jessica Drusbacky ’03 welcomed daughter Vesper Ann Simonetti on April 4.

Mark Boyd ’05 and Laura Small ’08 welcomed son Brooks Boyd on Feb. 7. Also celebrating are grandparents Susan Brezina Small ’76, Chad Small ’76, Susan Donaldson Boyd ’73, and John Boyd ’73.

Megan Hungler Borgia ’06 and Nicholas Borgia ’07 welcomed daughter Zoey Rose-Marie Borgia on Feb. 21. Also celebrating are grandmother Lynne Porter ’69 and uncle Matthew Borgia ’02.

Kristen House Sluss ’06 and her husband Philip welcomed a second son, Jeremiah Thomas, on March 28.

Karen Edenhofe ’07 and her husband Josh welcomed their fourth daughter, Gwendolyn Jean, on Aug. 15, 2016. She joins siblings Naomi, Elliott, and Daisy. The family lives in Beaver Falls, Pa.

Mary Ellen Mares-Fredericks ’44, of Porter Ranch, Calif., May 21, at the age of 94. After graduation, Mary went to work for Jack & Hints, a defense firm for the country during World War II, where she met her future husband, Robert Fredericks. Moving to California, they had three children. A fulltime homemaker, Mary stayed very busy in local government and community activities.

E. Jason McCoy ’44, of Seminole, Fla., March 1, at the age of 93. He is survived by his wife of nearly 72 years, Janet Lynn McCoy ’44, whom he met at OWU (see Page 13), and their three children, including Marjorie McCoy Mapes ’70 and Rick McCoy ’72.

Jean Scheufler Johnson ’45, of St. Petersburg, Fla., April 4, at the age of 93. She was predeceased by her father, Karl Scheufler 1919, and a sister, E. Elaine Scheufler Bushman ’55. She
was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan, she went on to Yale Divinity School, where she received a master’s degree in religious education. It was there where she met Jay S. Johnson, a Middletown, Ohio, native. They married in 1948 and eventually accepted positions with the Presbyterian Church as fraternal workers in northern Thailand, where they lived from 1954 until 1964, raising four boys. Upon returning, the couple tooted the boys to Ithaca, N.Y., where Jay pursued a Ph.D. in sociology and Jean obtained a second master’s degree (in home economics), receiving a master’s degree in Divinity School, where she was a member of Alpha Delta Gamma sorority.

The family later spent four years in Madison, Wis., working in education, then migrated to St. Petersburg, Fla., where they settled in for the remainder of their years. Jean worked as an assistant principal at two high schools.

Her real passion for fully 25 years, however, was running a nonprofit cooperative business importing handicrafts from Asia and marketing the items at church conferences and periodic sales at the family home. The business, which she called the Thai International Display, helped support dozens of Asian artisans. Jay passed away in 2007. The couple leaves behind four sons: Larry, Douglas, Mark and Tim; and five grandchildren.

Phyllis Martin Erbaugh ’46, of Oakwood, Ohio, Feb. 18, at the age of 93. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Marilyn Jenkins Hoffman ’46, of Southern Pines, N.C., March 21, at the age of 92. She is survived by her husband, George Hoffman ’46, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority and the OWU Alumni Board of Directors.

Janice Schmidt Kenny ’46, of Newtown, Pa., March 20, at the age of 92. She was predeceased by a brother, Robert Schmidt ’37, and is survived by a daughter, Linda Kenny Hobkirk ’68.

Sara Carton Mitchener ’46, of Laurinburg, N.C., Feb. 25, at the age of 92.

Jean McCaulley Thomas ’46, of Ravenna, Ohio, April 12, at the age of 92.

Jeanellen Conger Atherton ’47, of Beverly Hills, Mich., and Hilton Head, S.C., Feb. 6, at the age of 91. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Marian Stull Combs ’47, of Gig Harbor, Wash., Feb. 13, at the age of 91. She was predeceased by a brother, Richard Stull ’44.

Elizabeth “Bee” Hart Akers ’48, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, May 13. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Anne Alevizon Mitchell ’48, of Shelburne, Vt., Feb. 8, at the age of 90.

Vivian Stahlhut Brey ’49, of Worthington, Ohio, Feb. 11, at the age of 89. She was predeceased by her husband, Carl Brey ’50. She is survived by three children: Linda Brey Marous ’75, Steven Brey ’86, and Donald Brey ’77.

Betty Baumgartner Freeman ’49, of Northborough, Mass., Feb. 13, at the age of 89. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard Freeman ’49, and is survived by a sister, V. Kae Baumgartner Holmes ’45. Freeman was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Doris Bremer Kurz ’49, of Westlake, Ohio, Oct. 22. She is survived by a son, Theodore Kurz ’72, and a daughter-in-law, Amy Kurz. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Kathryn Marsh Medley ’49, of Los Gatos, Calif., March 13, at the age of 90. Medley was predeceased by a sister, Eleanor Marsh Kirk ’47. She is survived by a daughter, Cynthia Urfer Sealy ’73, a sister, Victoria Marsh Warner ’59, and a brother, Victor Marsh ’62. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Sally Ann Petko ’49, of Denver, Feb. 6, at the age of 95. He was a member of Alpha Omega fraternity.

Ruth Klein Rouge ’49, of Bay Village, Ohio, May 8, at the age of 89. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Rouge ’50.

Jean Watts Tanger ’49, of Louisville, Ky., March 31, at the age of 89. Tanger was predeceased by her father, Mack Watts 1919, and a brother, Russell Watts ’48. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Margaret Crawford Watson ’49, of Wadsworth, Ohio, April 28, at the age of 89. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

1950s

Robert Rouge ’50 of Wadsworth, Ohio, April 28, at the age of 89. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

JoAnn Klepingier Moorhead ’50, of Indianapolis, Feb. 28, at the age of 88. She was predeceased by her husband, Dallas Moorhead ’49, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Roland Roush ’50, of Green Valley, Ariz., May 17, at the age of 89.

Nancy Penningroth Callison ’52, of Durham, N.C., Feb. 28, at the age of 86. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Glenn Kittinger ’52, of Watauga, Texas, May 4, at the age of 88. He was predeceased by his wife, Lois Webb Kittinger ’53, and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

W. Wallace Hill ’54, of Tustin, Ariz., April 1, at the age of 84. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority. She is survived by her husband, Virg Rank, to whom she was married for 58 years and 7 months. Together they had two wonderful children, David and Nancy.

Lynn Whiting Roy ’54, of Winter Park, Fla., and Cincinnati, May 9, at the age of 85. She was predeceased by her mother, Madelyn Fawcett Whiting ’30, and was a member of Kappa Gamma Gamma sorority.

Dale Wennerstrom ’54, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Jan. 13, at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife, Sallie Cochran Wennerstrom ’56, and was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

W. Wallace Hill ’56, of Chapel Hill, N.C., Feb. 19, at the age of 82. He was predeceased by his father, W. Wallace Hill’26, and is survived by a daughter, Pamela Hill Airhart ’94. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

Lucien Young Jr. ’52, of Zanesville, Ohio, April 22, at the age of 86. He was predeceased by his mother, Mary Racey Young ’24, and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Thomas Keiser ’53, of New Providence, N.J., April 12, at the age of 85. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Marilyn Kemp Martin ’53, of Menomonee Falls, Wis., March 6, at the age of 85. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

William Sherk ’53, of Beaver, Ohio, May 31, at the age of 85. He is survived by a son, Christopher Sherk ’83, and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Ruth Webster Rank ’54, of Tucson, Ariz., April 1, at the age of 84. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority. She is survived by her husband, Virg Rank, to whom she was married for 58 years and 7 months. Together they had two wonderful children, David and Nancy.

Lynn Whiting Roy ’54, of Winter Park, Fla., and Cincinnati, May 9, at the age of 85. She was predeceased by her mother, Madelyn Fawcett Whiting ’30, and was a member of Kappa Gamma Gamma sorority.

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W. Wallace Hill ’56, of Chapel Hill, N.C., Feb. 19, at the age of 82. He was predeceased by his father, W. Wallace Hill’26, and is survived by a daughter, Pamela Hill Airhart ’94. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

David Donovan ’57, of Evanston, Ill., March 20, at the age of 82. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.
Roger Dorer ’57, of Bay Village, Ohio, April 26, at the age of 81. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

A. Wallace Hood ’57, of Sebring, Ohio, April 28, at the age of 82. He is survived by a son, Jay Hood ’86, and was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Carolyn Atkinson Lucas ’57, of Rochester, Minn., April 19, at the age of 82. She is survived by a sister, Shirley Atkinson Felt ’53, and was a member of Delta Delta Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

William Steinbrenner ’57, of The Villages, Fla., April 15, at the age of 81. He is survived by a daughter, Amy Steinbrenner Rarick ’86, and was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Richard Orahood ’58, of Delaware, Ohio, March 1, at the age of 80. He was predeceased by a brother, Robert Orahood ’62, and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Caroline Kreisel Roos ’58, of High Point, N.C., Feb. 14, at the age of 80. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

David Spence ’58, of La Cañada Flintridge, Calif., May 16, at the age of 80. He was predeceased by his wife, Alice Hoyt Spence ’59, and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Susan Tweed Zartman ’58, of Mattapoisett, Mass., March 8, at the age of 80. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Douglas McCord ’59, of Charlotte, N.C., April 27, at the age of 80. He was predeceased by a sister, Mary McCord Meilinger ’57, and is survived by his wife, Evelyn Silbernagel McCord ’60. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Robert Ator ’60, Valdosta, Ga., March 9, at the age of 78. He is survived by a sister, Jeanne Ator Costello ’67, and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Richard Wiborg ’60, of Newton, Mass., Feb. 20. He was predeceased by his mother, Frances Wintermute Wiborg ’26, and a sister, Phyllis Wiborg Lewis ’51. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Cherie Toll Bottum ’61, of Arlington, Va., April 9, at the age of 77. She was predeceased by her mother, Clymene Frazier Toll ’29, and was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Judith Daugherty Butler ’61, of St. Joseph, Mo., May 7, at the age of 77. She was predeceased by her parents, Paul Daugherty ’33 and Eleanor Greene Daugherty ’33, and is survived by a sister, Susan Daugherty Shafer ’59. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Margaret Rigas Logothetis ’61, of Dayton, March 8, at the age of 77.

Margaret Mitchell Saam ’61, of Columbus, May 18, at the age of 77. She was predeceased by her father, John Mitchell ’36, and a sister, Marsha Mitchell Hutchins ’68. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Gerry Sexten Young ’61, of Anchorage, Alaska, March 27, at the age of 77. She is survived by her husband, Charles Young ’61, and was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

William Hands Jr. ’62, of Orient, N.Y., March 9, at the age of 76.

Sara Drick Messing ’63, of Morgantown, Pa., April 6, at the age of 75. She was predeceased by her husband, Aaron Messing ’62. Messing was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority and the OWU Tower Society.

Thomas Robison ’63, of Richland, Wa., March 31, at the age of 76. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Marilyn Harner Caddle ’66, of Charlotte, N.C., May 30, at the age of 73. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Robert Parsons ’67, of Upper Arlington, Ohio, April 10, at the age of 72. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Helga Muladore ’69, of Worthington, Ohio, May 16, at the age of 76. She is survived by two children, Ingrid Muladore Robechek ’70 and Eric Muladore ’70.

Charles Leviit ’71, of Lake Forest, Ill., April 9, at the age of 68. He was predeceased by his father, Elijah Leviit 1913, and was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Daniel Spencer ’71, March 7, at the age of 67. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Walter “Hutch” Hutchison ’72, of Flatwoods, W.Va., March 24, at the age of 66.

John Neuworth ’72, of Whitehouse Station, N.J., April 17, at the age of 67.

Carlton Crump ’73, of Spotsylvania, Va., March 16, at the age of 65.

Thomas Shannon ’73, of Dublin, Ohio, March 16, at the age of 66. Shannon is survived by a daughter, Kate Shannon ’08, and a brother, Donald Shannon ’75. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Michelle Burley-Keys ’74, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, April 14, at the age of 65.

Charlotte Froh Adams ’76, of Palm Beach, Fla., May 9, at the age of 62.

Lisa Rommel ’77, of Hudson, Fla., April 29, at the age of 61. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Susan Souders Obrecht ’77, of Greenwich, Conn., Nov. 13, at the age of 61. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Obrecht’s name was misspelled in the Spring 2017 issue. We regret the error.

Eileen Sell Brynteson ’78, of St. Paul, Minn., March 7, at the age of 60. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Sue Mathias Walters ’87, of Tiffin, Ohio, April 10, at the age of 65. She is survived by a daughter, Teresa Milner ’94.

Keith Stried ’00, of Ostrander, Ohio, Feb. 21, at the age of 40.

Geoffrey Dezevallos ’02, of Atlanta, Feb. 17, at the age of 39.

Scott Jackson ’02, of Port Liberty, N.J., Feb. 22, at the age of 36.

Kim Askins, of Delaware, Ohio, April 20, at the age of 62. Askins worked in food services at OWU.
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Robert Hickson ’78

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Rock Jones
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Sympathy to

Christopher Hyatt ’65 for the death of his wife, Nancy Hyatt, on April 12, at the age of 72.
Ann Williamson Meier ’69 for the death of her husband, John Meier of Sylvania, Ohio, on March 2 at the age of 69.

K. Nathan Bockbrader ’71 and Mariah Bockbrader ’15 for the death of Frances Long Bockbrader, Nathan’s mother and Mariah’s grandmother, on Jan. 5.
Marydana Livingston Johns ’74 for the death of her father, Bob Livingston, on March 18 at the age of 98.

James Reichert ’78 for the death of his mother, Martha Reichert of Pittsburgh, on March 14 at the age of 87.
Matt Palmer ’79 for the death of his father, Joseph Palmer of Bexley, Ohio, on March 10 at the age of 85.

Bill Berger, campus reservations coordinator at OWU, of Columbus, May 28, at the age of 27.
Noreen Ayres Craig, of Sequim, Wash., April 1, at the age of 88. She worked in campus testing at OWU.

Sephronia Dorsey Davis, of Columbus, Feb. 27, at the age of 64. She is survived by a daughter, Jennifer Wilms Hale ’95
Donald Paul Irish, of Minneapolis, Minn., April 14, at the age of 97.

Barton McNeil, of Gilbertsville, N.Y., Feb. 18. McNeil taught art at OWU.

James Studer, of Austin, Texas, March 5, at the age of 73. He was the former dean of student life at OWU.

Sympathy to

Christopher Hyatt ’65 for the death of his wife, Nancy Hyatt, on April 12, at the age of 72.

Ann Williamson Meier ’69 for the death of her husband, John Meier of Sylvania, Ohio, on March 2 at the age of 69.

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The Final Word

THE COMMITTEE: nearly 60 years of happy meetings
by Betty Crider Henderson ’58

In the fall semester of our senior year at Ohio Wesleyan University, 12 coeds from the Class of 1958 had an impromptu gathering by the piano in Austin Hall. We decided that our friendship should continue past graduation, and we were determined to make that happen. We named ourselves “The Committee,” and we gathered often in someone’s dorm room for “meetings” with no agenda, rules, or officers.

We were warmed by our friendship and energized by conversation about our hopes and dreams. Following graduation, we started circulating an envelope among us and adding individual letters and pictures. This envelope became two and continued to make its rounds for the next 25 busy years of marriages, jobs, and children.

What a gift it was when this treasure arrived – 12 letters from our OWU Committee friends along with pictures of spouses and children! We gave ourselves a month to read them all, remove our own letter and pictures, and add to the file before sending it on.

In 1983, we all returned to OWU for our 25th reunion. A “Committee meeting” was called in Becky’s room. She offered her chalet in Sugarbush, Vt., for a weeklong Committee meeting to be held in June 1986. We had three years to plan how we could arrange our schedules to be there.

We were spread across America, from Seattle to Charlotte, N.C.

It was to be a one-time event. Except for Joyce, whose husband was in the hospital at the time, all of us got there. We made it! Twenty-eight years of separation melted away as we talked in our circle of friendship of joys and sorrows, of our families and of our failures, of the past and of our hopes for the future. The conversation was spellbinding and eye-opening.

As our week together drew to a close, we all knew that we had to meet again. Di offered her home in Charlotte for our next gathering in another three years. We left feeling blessed by our week together and looked forward to the next Committee meeting in 1989.

Since that gathering in 1986, we have met regularly for 30 years in our homes across the country. Last October, we met again to celebrate our 80th birthdays at Joyce’s townhome in Middletown, Ohio. There were nine of us then: unfortunately Dottie and Marlyn have died, and Kayanne couldn’t leave her nursing-care facility. We talked with her by phone, and two of us visited her on the way back home. Sadly, Kayanne passed away in December. Every time we gather, our circle of friendship becomes more treasured and more meaningful.

We plan to keep on meeting until we can no longer manage it. We hope that our next meeting will be back where it all began, at OWU for our 60th class reunion in 2018.


Still “meeting” after all these years. The Committee reunites in Middletown, Ohio in October 2016. From left around the table: Libby Frey James, Becky Resch Johnston, Betty Crider Henderson, Joyce Hackney Christy (standing), Emily Kerr Ballentine, Suzanne Dost Bucy, Suzanne Schmuck Harrison, Jennie Dickson Kantonen, Diana Cottle Gleasner.

Is your OWU group of friends still meeting? Send us photos and updates at classnotes@owu.edu
JOIN US!

Please plan to join us on campus for an important weekend in Ohio Wesleyan’s history. We’ll celebrate our 175 years during Homecoming & Family Weekend, featuring affinity reunions and the Bishop Backers tailgate. We’ll also kick-off our Connect Today, Create Tomorrow Campaign, celebrating how far we’ve come as we look to OWU’s bright shared future.

owu.edu/175celebration
Members of the incoming class of 2021 enjoyed Orientation on campus in June. New students will move in Aug. 20.

Photo: Mark Schmitter ’12