



This month, Ohio Wesleyan is proud to feature a passionate Bishop volunteer in our community: Jim Mendenhall '73! During his time at Ohio Wesleyan, Jim was active in Greek Life, a Resident Advisor, SUBA, and Council on Intercollegiate Athletics. Jim's connection to OWU goes all the way back to his childhood in Delaware, OH, and in the fifty years since he graduated, Jim has worn many hats in service to his alma mater. Most recently, Jim serves as an [Alumni Partner](#), a Chapter Advisory Board Member for Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Co-Facilitator for [OWU Lifelong Learning Institute](#), a member of [The Bishop Backers](#), and a Reunion Committee member for the Class of 1973's 50th Reunion.

What leads you to volunteer? I think it's important for those of us who had the benefits of attending Ohio Wesleyan to pay it forward. I love to volunteer my time, talents, and treasures to the place that I love because I want to see it thrive and be a premier liberal arts school nationally. When students and families look at Ohio Wesleyan, I want them to say, 'Now, there's a place where my student can thrive and become the best version of themselves.'

Is there something that you've found especially rewarding in your volunteer service? I get to see students come in as freshmen not knowing where they want to go or how they want to get there, and I work with them throughout their time here at Ohio Wesleyan. The happiest time of my working with them is in May when I see them walk across the stage at Merrick to get their diplomas. That's when I feel that we've accomplished something. What makes me feel good is that I can see them grow, from day one to the day that they leave this campus.

What have you cherished most about being an alum of the University? How it prepared me for my life and my career. I had a wonderful 35-year career in the pharmaceutical/biotech industry. I was prepared, and I was challenged by some wonderful professors. I remember my first A in public speaking with Professor Jimmy Eliopoulos. That course gave me the confidence to be in front of people. To this day, speaking in front of crowds doesn't bother me. I once had to give a speech in front of 3,000 transplant surgeons, and I went back to the fall of 1969 to

Speech 10. I remember what Dr. Eliopoulos told me: 'Mendenhall, what are you afraid of? Tell them what you have to say. Just get up there!' I can go on and on about these professors, these people who said, 'Jimmy, you can do it.' It was there, and I just had to have someone encourage me. That's where my love and my thankfulness for being an alum comes from."

What are you most excited about for OWU's future? I am really excited about the new president. I'm excited about what I've heard and read, and I've seen his energy and his passion. I think Ohio Wesleyan today is poised for major and good changes. I'm excited about the future and that OWU is trying to gauge where it's been and where it wants to go to be a premiere, national liberal arts institution.

Do you have a favorite event to attend as an alum? Anything that brings alums back together! Alumni Weekend, Homecoming, and PhiUnion for Phi Delt annually are the first to come to mind. I'm really excited for this upcoming alumni weekend. You get one chance at a 50th. I never would have believed in September of 1969 that I'd be here today. Ohio Wesleyan's given me a lot—I met my wife there, I met some great friends there, and I had a great career. I love Ohio Wesleyan.

Thank you, Jim, for continuing to pay it forward for OWU!