

OWU

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2023

M A G A Z I N E

ROCK SOLID

15 Years of Historic
Challenges & Achievements







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Ohio
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Cover photo by Seth Kerechanin

Reflections on 15 years leading Ohio Wesleyan

Fifteen years ago, when I joined Ohio Wesleyan, I posed two questions as I met with dozens of groups of faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni, and community members.

What do you value most about Ohio Wesleyan?

What are your highest aspirations for Ohio Wesleyan?

Answers were remarkably consistent across the OWU family.

Faculty and staff talked about how much they valued students and how they embrace all that OWU offers; students and alumni talked about how much they valued their professors and others who shaped their time at OWU.

Aspirations often echoed the words of Professor Joe Musser when I first posed these questions to the presidential search committee in my initial interview: "We want Ohio Wesleyan to be the place of choice for the best students and the best faculty."

Those conversations oriented me to Ohio Wesleyan and helped shape the strategic plan we adopted in 2009. They helped form a vision for an institution that educates the next generation of moral leaders for a global society. They helped bring to life the OWU Connection as a signature experience in which students connect theory to practice, and classroom learning with real world experience in a global context. They helped shape conversations with passionate alumni whose generous support would make possible a renewal of the historic academic campus and a transformation of the residential campus.

Now, with 15 years of experience at OWU, perhaps it is time for me to offer my own answers to those questions.

What do I value most about Ohio Wesleyan?

The answer is simple. It is the people.

It starts with the students. I have been privileged to watch students embrace every opportunity on this campus and to see lives transformed, year after year. Last spring, when I stood in front of the class of 2012 at their 10-year reunion, I recalled that we were freshmen together in the fall of

2008. Then I marveled at all they have accomplished in a decade of life beyond OWU.

It is the faculty and staff, who devote their professional lives to the mission of residential, undergraduate education. It is the alumni, who have such deep passion for their alma mater and give back by supporting our student recruiting efforts, mentoring students, establishing internships, and generously supporting the university with their philanthropy. It is the trustees, who lead with vision and have provided such wise counsel. It is the parents, who become part of the OWU family when their children enroll.

It is the people. And it is the mission.

We live in an increasingly polarized world where more time is focused on things that divide us than on things that can bring us together. We live in a world that is starving for thoughtful leaders who have the intellectual capacity to explore complex problems from the perspective of multiple disciplines in search of lasting solutions.

We need leaders with the empathetic capacity to engage those with different life experiences and build bridges of understanding. We need leaders who can communicate persuasively. We need leaders with imagination to create better ways for us to live and work together. We need leaders who have historical perspective, who see the beauty in artistic expression, who are not afraid of change, and who have true moral ballast. We need leaders who are shaped by the virtues and values of a residential, liberal arts education. We need a new generation of moral leaders for a global society. We need more graduates of places like Ohio Wesleyan.

What are my highest aspirations for Ohio Wesleyan?

Like Professor Musser, I want Ohio Wesleyan to be a place of choice for the best students and the best faculty, because those are the ingredients for a community of scholars that produces the outcomes I just described.

Ohio Wesleyan must continue to innovate and reimagine the way it fulfills a mission that was established more

than 18 decades ago. New majors, new co-curricular offerings, new pedagogies, new commitments to serving an increasingly diverse population, and new understandings of what it means to create educated citizens whose leadership can transform our society will make OWU a place of choice.

In my inaugural address, I reflected that we are stewards of a treasure.

For 15 years, Melissa and I have been privileged to work alongside thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who have shared in the stewardship of this treasure we call Ohio Wesleyan University. Our lives have been enriched beyond measure by the relationships we have formed, the work we have shared, and the students we have watched grow and thrive.

Now, it is a time for a new season in life. I am thrilled to pass the baton of leadership to Matt vanderBerg. Matt is an accomplished, innovative, creative leader with a deep commitment to the values of residential, liberal arts education.

While I had not known Matt prior to December, we have spent much time together in these months. Every time I am with Matt, I am inspired by his passion, encouraged by his thoughtful questions, and renewed in my confidence in the future of this great university. Our Board has chosen well, and the future of OWU is in the best of hands.

Values and aspirations align around people and mission. I am grateful beyond words for the opportunities that have come my way through association with the people and mission of Ohio Wesleyan. I look forward to all that is ahead.

Thank you for your friendship, for your passion, and for your abiding and profoundly generous support. Thank you for making every day of the past 15 years a great day to be a Bishop!



Rock Jones

President, Ohio Wesleyan University
Twitter: @owu_rockjones

Solving the Mystery Photo

I have no idea who those folks are or what year it is, but I love the picture. And I love the concept of solving the mysteries from the archives.

After you have solved each mystery, I hope that you will republish each picture with the identifying information. Until the riddle is solved, it will be fun for readers to try to place the era of each picture and guess what's going on.

Diane Blanda Quammen '70

Editor: Diane's suggestion is exactly what we plan to do!

Many alumni from the early 1970s sent at least partial solutions to the mystery photo, including **Greg Sprowls '73**, who was the first to respond, and **Barbara Jenkins '72**, who remembered that another shot from the same photo session was published in the Winter 2003 OWU Magazine.

Phil Sawyer '72 provided the most comprehensive explanation for the photo. It's no mystery why he knew; Phil is in the photo. Most of his letter is printed below.

I think I can help you with this one.

The picture was taken in the fall of 1971 and features the cast of the play *Story Theater*, a dramatization of a dozen short plays based on works by writers and fabulists including Aesop, the Brothers Grimm, and Kipling.

The play was unusual. The "stage" comprised the entire theater and eschewed the traditional distinction

between stage and audience. The audience was seated throughout the theater, and the actors performed around and among them, so the audience was essentially a part of the play.

In addition, several of the actors went on to notable careers for their cinematic and theatrical work:

Patricia Wettig '73 was a cast member of the highly praised television program *Thirtysomething*, for which she won three Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe as outstanding actress. She also appeared in television's *Brothers & Sisters* and in the movies *City Slickers* and *Guilt by Suspicion*.

Wendie Malick '72 has starred in such comedies as *Hot in Cleveland* (with the late Betty White), *Just Shoot Me*, and *Dream On*, for which she earned four Cable Ace Awards for best actress.

Billy Serow '72 went on to attend the Neighborhood Playhouse, one of the most prestigious acting schools in the country. He is a partner at Abrams Artists Agency and is a well-known talent agent and an adjunct professor at Yale and Rutgers universities.

Phil Sawyer

Other alumni who sent in partial solutions included: **Jeffrey Beard '72**, **Joel Beja '73**, **Erik Colonius '69**, **Bob Holm '60**, **Missy Lee '75**, **Mari Schatz '75**, **Nancy Williams '72**, **Tom Williams '72**, and **Mike Wolf '73**.

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

Identified in the past issue's mystery photo are cast members from the 1971 production of *Story Theater*: from left, **Nancy Griner Musgrave '72**, **Phil Sawyer '72**, **Camille Likes Gallagher '73**, **Scott Chandler '72**, **Randy Dayton '73**, **Wendie Malick '72**, **Patricia Wettig '73**, and **Billy Serow '72**.

Share your opinions!

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



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Matt vandenBerg named 17th OWU President

Ohio Wesleyan announced in January that Matthew P. vandenBerg, Ed.D., will succeed Rock Jones and become OWU's 17th president when he takes office July 1. He most recently was president of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina.

"Ohio Wesleyan is poised for greatness," says **Nick Calio '75**, chair of the Ohio Wesleyan Board of Trustees. "Under Rock's leadership, the university has advanced in so many areas, and we are pleased to hand the baton to Matt. We are confident he will bring the vision and execution needed to help Ohio Wesleyan continue to advance and succeed in its critical mission of preparing future generations of engaged citizens and effective leaders."

Kara Trott '83, chair of the Presidential Search Committee and vice chair of the OWU Board of Trustees, says, "Matt is an innovative, energetic leader who will help to build upon Ohio Wesleyan's reputation and success, especially as the Columbus region works to transform itself into the Silicon Valley of the Midwest. Matt has the drive and vision to ensure that Ohio Wesleyan is an integral part of this high-tech transformation. Both the Presidential Search Committee and the university's Board of Trustees were unanimous in their selection of Matt to boldly and confidently lead Ohio Wesleyan into the future."

vandenBerg says he is excited to become a Bishop and continue the progress Ohio Wesleyan has experienced under Jones' leadership.

"Ohio Wesleyan is a distinctive, forward-looking, and appreciably student-centered institution that transforms lives," vandenBerg says. "With initiatives like the OWU Connection, Ohio Wesleyan and its faculty are reimagining the liberal arts for the needs of a new world and a new generation of students."

"I want to honor all that makes Ohio Wesleyan special as I work to build relationships, earn the trust of stakeholders, listen with care, and make values-based decisions that continue to differentiate and distinguish the



Photo by Frankie Creel

Matt and Melissa vandenBerg will move to Delaware with their two children, Jackson, age 10, and Sylvia, age 6, and their 1-year-old golden retriever, Penny.

university," vandenBerg says. "This is an exciting time for OWU, especially with all that is happening in central Ohio, and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this accomplished university."

He jumped into OWU's enrollment push in March, with encouragement from Jones, filming a brief video message that was sent to prospective students explaining why he's joining OWU—and why they should join him.

During his two years at Presbyterian, his many achievements included:

- Growing first-year student admission substantially in his first year as president.
- Leading the college through an intensive and inclusive process to identify a distinctive new market position as "America's Innovative Service College" and launching a strategic plan, with unanimous Board of Trustees' approval, to support the position.
- Building a new Division of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the college, including an endowed vice presidency.
- Building partnerships with the community to drive economic development, cultural enrichment, and

student engagement.

- Launching the nation's largest service-based entrepreneurship case competition for high school seniors.
- Leading the college's most productive fundraising year in its history.

Amy Downing, professor of biological sciences, says the faculty look forward to working with the new president to ensure students are ready to achieve their career and graduate school goals.

"We believe the experiences Matt brings to OWU and his approach to leadership will be an excellent fit for the Ohio Wesleyan community," says Downing. "He understands the mission and value and culture of an institution like Ohio Wesleyan and shares the faculty's commitment to transforming the lives of students through a liberal arts education. He is creative with bold ideas and a proven ability to execute them. The faculty are eager to partner with Matt as we envision the future directions for OWU."

The fall issue of *OWU Magazine* will include much more about OWU's new president, including an interview exploring his goals for Ohio Wesleyan.

New major focuses on creating healthier world

Ohio Wesleyan is adding a new public health program and public health major in fall 2023 to prepare students for careers focused on promoting wellness and preventing disease.

“Public health workers are critical to keeping communities healthy, preventing and managing pandemics, working toward social justice, managing disaster relief, and increasing access to health care and quality of life for all,” says program director Christopher Fink, who is overseeing the program with Vanessa Hildebrand, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.

Students who earn a Bachelor of Arts in Public Health at OWU will be prepared to enter the workforce or any graduate program related to public or global health, says Fink, who also is an associate professor of health & human kinetics.

“This could be in a government, nonprofit, or private sector setting,

and could include work in community health education or research, data management, health system administration, and more,” Fink says, “or graduate study in a range of public health subdisciplines, as well as medical school, veterinary school, public policy, or law school.”

Every Ohio Wesleyan student majoring in public health will complete a hands-on learning experience outside the classroom, such as an internship at an agency or healthcare organization, or a research project with faculty.

The interdisciplinary program builds on OWU’s strong programs in areas such as biology, health & human kinetics, economics, politics & government, sociology & anthropology, and nutrition. Students will develop skills to identify, analyze, and help solve public health problems and inequities.

Graduates of the program will join a growing pool of OWU alumni working

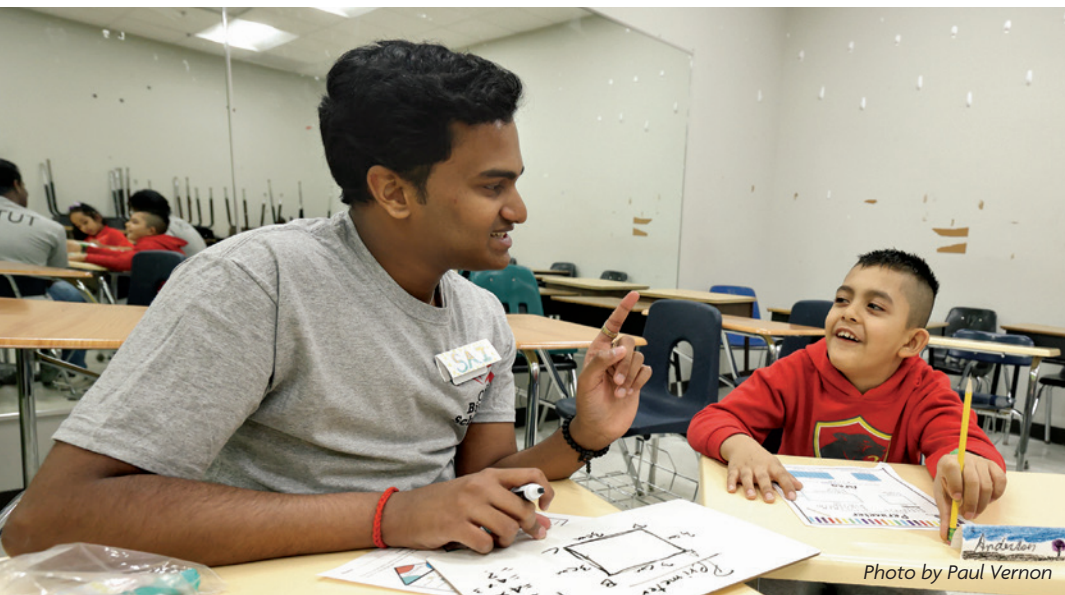


*Graduates of the new public health major will join a growing number of alumni, such as **Allison Kolbe '12**, working in the field. With a background in biology and bioinformatics, Kolbe is a health science policy analyst at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

in public health, including physicians, nurses, academics, researchers at the Centers for Diseases Control, government officials, and a public health leader at The Carter Center whom you can read about on Page 28.

Doing Good

Through the Bishop Scholars program, students, including **Sai Suresh Kannan '24**, are tutoring third-graders twice a week at Columbus Bilingual Academy North. The Bishop Scholars also are tutoring youths in the Delaware City and Buckeye Valley Local school districts. More than 70 OWU students have provided intensive support in math and reading to help children get back on track academically following the COVID-19 pandemic. OWU earned a state education grant of nearly \$500,000 to support the Bishop Scholars program, which launched in the fall.



New program elevates first-gen students

OWU is launching a new “Bishop Elevate” office and program to help first-generation college students thrive in their educational careers and persist to graduation.

The Bishop Elevate initiative is being supported with a \$250,000 lead gift from **Thomas Palmer '69**, and his wife, Susan Palmer, and a two-year, \$150,000 grant from the Florida-based Arthur Vining Davis Foundations.

The Bishop Elevate program is the foundational component of Ohio Wesleyan’s new Bishop Elevate office, which is being led by Thea Smekens, director of first-generation student success.

One in five OWU students is the first in their family to attend college.

Double

For only the third time in league history, students from one school captured both men's and women's Player of the Year honors in NCAC basketball. Senior Jack Clement and junior Kasey Schipfer led OWU's men's and women's basketball teams to successful seasons, and the NCAC recognized them as the top players in the league.

Schipfer, a guard, led the league in scoring and was named the top defensive player. She is the first person to win both NCAC Player of the Year and Top

Kasey Schipfer

Junior

Hometown: Mechanicsburg, OH

Majors: Psychology and Exercise Science

Hoops stats:

- 18.2 points/game (1st in NCAC)
- 8.6 rebounds/game (4th)
- 3.0 assists/game (6th)
- 2.3 steals/game (3rd)
- .870 free throw pct. (1st)
- .511 field goal pct. (3rd)

Most memorable game: Our NCAC conference championship game, because it showed all of our team's hard work paying off. It was such an incredible experience and something I will remember forever.

Pregame routine: Drawing the symbols for Romans 8:28: "God is greater than the highs and the lows" (G>^v) on my wrist before the game and listening to my pregame playlist. I also read Psalm 20 and 111 verses.

Favorite class: Adult Fitness and Prescription, taught by Andrew Busch

OWU Connection experience: I am involved in a year-long research project with another student to do a kinematic analysis of knee valgus during functional tests and layups in collegiate basketball players. It has been a great opportunity to gain experience for future projects at the graduate program level.

Favorite study spot: Beeghly Library

Most memorable campus experience: Having the opportunity to be a part of and speak at the WOW (Women of Wesleyan) event. It was really fun to be able to meet some of the distinguished alumni.

Favorite Delaware dining spot: Son of Thurman

Favorite movie character: Captain America

The superpower I'd want to have: The ability to fly



Defensive Player.

The women's team won the NCAC tournament for the first time since 2008-09, defeating Oberlin 79-71 in the final. In their first-round NCAA D-III tournament game against 10th-ranked Gustavus Adolphus, Schipfer led the Battling Bishops with 17 points and 5 rebounds, but they came up short, 84-68, finishing the season at 18-11.

Clement, a wing, also led the NCAC in scoring. The Battling Bishops tied for second place in the league and finished with a 16-10 record.

Trouble

Jack Clement

Senior

Hometown: Bellefontaine, OH

Major: Health & Human Kinetics

Hoops Stats:

- 23.1 points/game (1st in NCAC)
- 4.7 rebounds/game (17th)
- 2.5 assists/game (7th)
- 2.2 3-pointers/game (3rd)
- .317 3-pt field goal pct. (4th)

Most memorable game: Beating Wooster at home my freshman year, because we were a young team and just started figuring things out.

Pregame routine: I don't listen to any music, and I always wear my gray socks.

Favorite class: Mental Aspects of Sport, taught by Jay Martin

OWU Connection experience: Service project with Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Favorite study spot: Slocum Library

Most memorable campus experience: The homecoming football game in 2022, particularly the tailgate and the postgame fun with all my friends on the football team! OWU defeated Denison that day 41-7.

Favorite Delaware dining spot: Hamburger Inn

Favorite movie character: Severus Snape (from the Harry Potter series) because of his character evolution throughout the movies. I love his voice too.

The superpower I'd want to have: The ability to read minds



Photo by
Paul Vernon

comfortzones

Doug Zipp

Director of Athletics

Doug Zipp joined Ohio Wesleyan as athletics director in 2017, and in his first five years, he has helped expand OWU sports with a successful wrestling team, increased access and opportunities in women's programs, overseen the renovation of Branch Rickey Arena, and guided the program through a pandemic.

Early in Doug's career, he spent 16 years at Kenyon College, including nine in student life—as dean of residential life and dean of students. He says this experience gave him a wide-angle lens to understand and appreciate student growth and development.

“Sitting in the chair’ of student-conduct meetings, room selection, advising, facility management, being on call 24/7 for student issues, and a host of other administrative roles,” he says, “allows me to pull from so many different experiences and, I hope, provide good counsel and direction to our students and staff.”

His goals for OWU's athletic program grow from his career in student life: academic success, service to the community, a holistic student-athlete experience, and winning.

1 Brilliant Battling Bishops

This is what drives Doug Zipp—more than 500 student-athletes on 24 different teams. They are winning on the field, in the arena, and in the classroom. The GPA for OWU student-athletes has increased every semester for the past five years and was 3.24 in fall 2022. (For the names of the students in this photo, go to owu.edu/magazine.)

2 The Hub

His comfort zone is Edwards Gym and Simpson Querrey Fitness Center, which he calls the vibrant hub of OWU athletics. He says, “From daily recruit visits, to faculty and staff coming to work out, to students going to an HHK or dance class, to athletes visiting their coaches, to the sounds of athletes above in the gym or below in the weight room, it's an energetic and sometimes chaotic environment.”

3 On the Court and Fairway

Doug played varsity basketball and golf at Elmira College, a liberal arts school in Elmira, New York. He says he had never golfed, but his basketball coach also served as the golf coach and recruited him to join the team.

4 Golden

Doug and his wife, Cathy, have two golden retrievers, Oliver and Rosie, who he says, “are spoiled rotten and have us well trained.”

5 Hey Ref!

Doug worked “on the dark side” of sports as a basketball referee for 22 years at all three divisions of college ball and at the high school level. The most important lesson he learned: “When a moment gets very intense, focus, stay calm, and call the obvious.”

6 The Bills Forever

Doug grew up in western New York, and his father took him to Buffalo Bills games as a kid. “It was a way of life,” he says. “I have seen and experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly, and my entire family has stuck together as Bills fans.”





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Photo by Seth Kerechanin

ROCK SOLID

For 15 years, Rock Jones has guided OWU through some of its most difficult challenges and greatest achievements

By Susan Headden '77

It may be the very definition of an impossible job: Shape a vision for the future. Inspire students, appease faculty, and engage alumni. Manage unforgiving budgets. Hire and fire people. Navigate internal and external politics. Travel exhaustively, fundraise relentlessly, and open your family home to a nonstop stream of dinners and receptions.

No wonder the average tenure of a college president today is just 6.5 years.

Yet when Rock Jones retires as the 16th president of Ohio Wesleyan University June 30, he will have served for 15 years—longer than anyone except the university's founding president.

In his decade and a half of leadership, Jones has shepherded OWU through some of the most challenging years of its 181-year history. Confronted with the Great Recession on nearly his first day on the job, Jones went on to grapple with budget cuts, enrollment drops, demographic changes, political divisions, cultural upheaval, and a worldwide pandemic.

All the while, he has led Ohio Wesleyan through a period of innovation and renewal. Thanks largely to Jones' fundraising efforts, the academic campus has been restored to its 19th-century roots while incorporating 21st-century technology. The residential campus now serves students in new and renovated surroundings that better connect to the academic campus and meet the needs of information-age students. Perhaps most important, the OWU curriculum has been enhanced and reimaged to more

closely link the liberal arts to practical work.

Throughout these transformations, Jones has earned a reputation as an exceptionally effective and forward-thinking leader, and a collaborative, transparent, and principled administrator who combines the heart of a chaplain with the decisiveness of a CEO. Earnest and accessible, he is known as a listener, a trusted mediator, and a leader who gets things done. He leaves the university on solid footing, and with much good will. "Rock is a rock," says Provost Karlyn Crowley.

"Rock comes at everything from a great moral and intellectual perspective, in terms of what is the right thing to do," says **John Milligan '83**, past president of the OWU Board of Trustees, who notes he's observed Rock's leadership for 13 years. "Being a college president is an incredibly difficult and time-consuming job. It's actually more of a lifestyle than a job—24-7. And Rock has always approached the job from a really grounded center."

Now, Jones says, it's time for him to go.

"I think that there are seasons of leadership. There are seasons of life. And I feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to do this work for 15 years. And so as the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign ended,

and when we were coming to the next strategic planning process, it felt like an appropriate time to transition to a new season of leadership," he says.

"And Melissa and I now have three grandchildren 800 miles away, so there's a new season of life for us personally. It seemed there was a confluence that made this the right time."

When Jones arrived on the OWU campus in July 2008, he had seen little reason to leave



Photo by Seth Kerechanin

Rock and Melissa Lollar Jones have enjoyed living on campus for 15 years. Their backyard abuts the backyards of fraternity houses.

Hendrix College (his alma mater and that of his wife, Melissa), where he was happy in his role as a top administrator and enjoying extended family nearby. But then he participated in a three-day seminar emphasizing that the most effective presidencies come when the vocation of the leader is aligned with the mission of the institution.

At the end of the seminar, the participants were asked to list the characteristics of an institution they might want to lead. Jones talked about his commitment to the residential, undergraduate liberal arts experience.

“My interest was in a setting where the president can be deeply involved in the lives of students,” Jones recalls. “And I said I would like to be in a setting where the work of the small college is instrumental to the community, as opposed to being swallowed up in a large city. I said I’d like to be in a place that had a history of strength, but which aspired for more, and demonstrated evidence to achieve more.” And if the college was affiliated with the Methodist Church, so much the better. Shortly thereafter, a leader of

“Rock has always approached the job from a really grounded center.”

John Milligan

the workshop called to tell Jones that Ohio Wesleyan was looking for a president—and it looked like he had written the profile.

Jones hardly fits the stereotype of the stiff, bow-tied administrator in the ivory tower. He’s got the big office, of course, and the tall stature and authoritative voice. But he’s also “Rock”—a friendly face on campus helping

with the move-in, the cook flipping the pancakes for students during exam week, and the Battling Bishops’ Number One Fan, attending nearly every home sporting event and artistic performance whenever he’s in town.

Waiting at a Sandusky Street stoplight while walking to work, Jones routinely engages students in conversation. **Sharif Kronemer ’12**, recalls one “Day on the JAY”—the traditional campus-wide celebration—when a group of students suddenly broke into a dance. Jones ran into the crowd and started jumping right along with them. “It wasn’t the best dancing I’ve ever seen,” Kronemer says, “but this was clearly a guy who wanted to connect with the students. It was totally impromptu.”

The custom was far different when Milligan attended OWU in the eighties. “When I was in college, we never would have called the president by his first name. But everybody knows Rock, and he knows everybody, which

STUDENTS’ FRIEND AND MENTOR



From meeting with students in residence halls and dining rooms to attending every performance, athletic contest, and academic event possible, Rock Jones has been ubiquitous in student life activities at OWU. He was even duct-taped to a wall as part of a student fundraiser.



is remarkable. He is just an incredibly open and visible leader, and I think that's why people feel so strongly about him—because they have engaged with him personally.”

Kronemer, now a post-doctoral fellow in neurology at the National Institutes of Health, had connected with Jones both as vice president and president of the student governing organization and as an athlete. In the former capacities, he attended biweekly meetings with top administrators and recalls Jones as a transparent and thoughtful leader. “The agenda was for the students and the university administration to sort of communicate with each other, to share ideas, and Rock was always really receptive to whatever we had to offer him. It wasn't like you were figuratively at the table; you really were at the table.”

Kronemer adds an overarching thought: “The president is such an important person at a university. In lots of ways, they set the culture and the vibe. And that person can really make you feel like you're at a place that you're welcome at and that you're proud to be at. And that's what Rock did. He made Ohio Wesleyan a place that I was excited to tell people I was from.”

It's all about relationships

It's notable that Jones, who holds a master of divinity

“It wasn't the best dancing I've ever seen, but this was clearly a guy who wanted to connect with the students.”

Sharif Kronemer

degree as well as a Ph.D., also once served as a college chaplain. At OWU, he sees the Methodist influence as a cultural, not a dogmatic, one, manifested in the university's commitment to service, international reach, and holistic education. “John Wesley talked about the life of the warmed heart and the extended hand...that your faith gets lived out in the way you treat other people,” Jones explains. “We ought to be able to serve students regardless of their faith

tradition, then serve them in a way that encourages their own growth.”

Jones has often drawn on his pastoral skills in moments requiring that style of leadership, such as helping the campus cope with several student deaths in his first few years—and this spring. Most important, though, may be his exceptional skills as an attentive listener and relationship builder. His popular “Rock Tours” have kept him on the road many weeks out of the year, meeting with alumni in cities from San Francisco to Boston. As grueling as he has found the late nights and 4 a.m. wakeup calls, he is invariably energized by the people. “So much of this work is relational,” he says. “And it's the relationships on the campus, the relationships with students, with faculty, with staff, and with alumni, and in particular with donors.”

CAMPUS HOST

*Rock Jones has welcomed to campus dozens of distinguished leaders from around the world, such as the late Congressman John Lewis (right) and broadcast journalist **Byron Pitts '82** (below). And like the perfect host, every year he lends a hand to help students move into their OWU residence halls. In the photo, he gets assistance from 2022 Special Thanks and Recognition (STAR) Award-recipient Shane Andrews.*



Working effectively with donors, Jones says, requires far more listening than talking; only through the former, he says, can he understand benefactors' passions and interests. "Donors are looking for alignments between their passions and the institution's needs. And when those alignments happen, philanthropy can be one of the most rewarding things a person does. All that work is pastoral—the listening, the seeking of alignment, and the extraordinary opportunity to participate in what can be among life's most meaningful experiences."

Bricks, mortar, and megabytes

The bricks-and-mortar legacy of Rock Jones is apparent in capital improvements from one end of campus to the other. On the residential side, the new Bradford Milligan Hall provides apartment living for seniors; a reconfigured and renovated Smith Hall welcomes first-year students with a design that encourages them to mingle; three new duplexes and two new houses bring together students with mutual interests; and historic Stuyvesant Hall has been updated in a way that respects its grand colonial style.

On the academic campus, the Elizabethan-style Merrick Hall, completed in 1873 and shuttered in 1985 (when the editor of the *Transcript* called it a "decrepit, bat-and-flea-infested mold farm"), shines anew as a favored gathering center and classroom space, and the colorfully sky-lit Slocum Hall boasts a top-down renovation that restores and protects its turn-of-the-century beginnings. The elegantly designed Meek Aquatics and Recreation Center, renovated Branch Rickey Arena, Simpson Querrey Fitness Center, and

Edwards Gymnasium provide top-notch facilities for the Battling Bishops.

This historic campus renewal springs from alumni giving of more than \$93 million for capital projects during Rock's tenure, a testament to the prodigious fundraising talents of Jones and tireless staff. It is also the result of some unsparing assessments of the facilities. In 2018, Jones asked a group of high school counselors for their thoughts after a tour of campus. Rock recalls: "The first person who spoke up said, 'The curriculum is great, and we're impressed with what we heard from the students about the faculty, and the center of the campus feels vibrant, but you will not get my students until you fix the residential campus.'"

It hit home. Jones then met with student tour guides, who told him tours go very well until they cross South Liberty Street.

A short while later, Jones led a board retreat on residential renewal that led to the plan for the Smith Hall renovation, the construction of Bradford Milligan, and other residential improvements, and a commitment to move ahead with about \$55 million of work.

Gen Z comes to campus

Jones' long tenure also coincides with significant changes in the student body—in students' habits, interests, and chosen paths of study. Those who were seniors his first year had not yet adopted Facebook, Instagram, or texting when they arrived on campus. Today, of course, they are digital natives and their phones have become vital appendages. "Students who are arriving today have no memory of a life before the

FUNDRAISER



Rock's passion for OWU has helped him raise hundreds of millions of dollars for the university. Under his leadership, OWU conducted the largest campaign in its history and secured the largest gift ever. In the photos, Rock and VP for Advancement **Natalie Doan '03** celebrate the \$10 million gift from an anonymous alumni donor, and he kicks off the public portion of the record-setting Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign with (from left) campaign co-chairs **John Milligan '83**, **Kathie Bradford Milligan '83**, **Nancy McGinty**, and **Kevin McGinty '70**.



iPhone,” Jones observes.

As Jones sees it, this modern phenomenon has both benefits and drawbacks. “On the one hand, the students are more connected than any past generation; they talk to their parents all the time, and they can communicate with people anywhere in the world,” he says. “But they’re also, in many cases, more isolated than ever.” Thus it is, for instance, that the new design of Smith Hall deliberately incorporates many common spaces along with shared, down-the-hall bathrooms.

“Particularly in that first year, we wanted people to get out of their rooms,” Jones says. “We want them learning to interact with others.”

Confronting crises

Jones has been at the helm of OWU during an exceptionally difficult time for small private liberal arts colleges. More students (and their parents) are questioning the value of a private four-year experience, and a declining birthrate has left a shrinking pool of eligible candidates for colleges overall. From 2019 to 2021, post-secondary enrollment in the United States dropped by 6 percent.

The beautifully renovated buildings, Jones says, “are just vessels for what happens inside of them.” So, on top of the physical improvements, he has overseen a revamped curriculum that draws clearer connections with jobs and careers for graduates and added co-curricular programs proven to attract good students and enhance their experience. The latter includes marching band, which put about 60 student musicians on the field this year, and a wrestling program that has attracted more than 30 students, most of whom Jones believes would not be at OWU otherwise. Meanwhile, new majors include public health, business administration, communication, and quantitative economics.

“We’re trending well, and I expect we’ll be able to at least match, if not exceed, last year’s [enrollment results],” Jones says. He notes that the university also has enjoyed a 3 percentage point increase in retention this year—a key measure that reflects how prepared students are for the rigors of an OWU education and how well the college keeps them academically stimulated and intellectually and socially engaged.

Marjorie Hass, president of the Council of

BUILDER



Rock and the advancement team's prowess at fundraising have spurred a construction and renovation boon that has remade the campus. The many groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings have included the Simpson Querrey Fitness Center, Bradford Milligan Hall apartment building, Delaware Entrepreneurial Center, six SLU houses, and Gillespie Honors House.



Independent Colleges, notes that OWU now ranks in the top 15 percent of all CIC institutions for student retention.

Jones, like all university presidents, has confronted countless other challenges in his many years at the helm of OWU. None could have been more unexpected or more disruptive than a global pandemic.

Jones says he is “pretty amazed” at how the university came through the COVID-19 crisis. In mid-March 2020, the college was on spring break, and Jones was traveling to St. Louis, Chicago, and Birmingham. He suddenly had to make the call to postpone students’ return for a week. That decision turned out to be one of the easier ones. Over the next few days, it became clear that the COVID numbers would only get worse. Fortunately, Jones and the leadership team had the counsel of Milligan, board chair at the time and a pharmaceutical executive with a Ph.D. in biochemistry who had spent 30 years planning for pandemics.

“It was really tough,” Jones says. “But John was a tremendous resource, and he knew all the players, the folks from the CDC.” At first, Jones recalls, the team simply lacked the data upon which to make a reasoned decision. “One of the things I said to the team is that we’re going to have to make decisions quickly without the time or the information that we normally want.”

Quickly, spring break was extended a week—then classes were switched to an online format through the rest of the school year.

“I remember driving around campus at six o’clock [in late March], and it was now getting light at that time of year, and there is not a car in a parking lot, not a light on in a building. It was a killer,” Jones says. “And a week later, we should have been having baseball, softball, lacrosse, track and field, tennis, theatre and music rehearsals. And there’s nothing happening.”

The loss of human engagement is something Jones says he felt as profoundly as the students did. “For the first few weeks, it was so intense that there was no time to do anything. I don’t think I realized the effect it was having on me until the spring of ’22. I was a little concerned about my health, and I realized I hadn’t been doing the things that energize me. As I was getting back into it, and I was feeling better, I realized that the things that give me energy had been taken away.”

The turmoil of the pandemic was exacerbated across the nation and at OWU and other colleges in 2020 with the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Andre

“In the face of adversity that at times became so vitriolic and personal in relation to our COVID decisions, he remained steady.”

Karlyn Crowley

Hill (in Columbus), and the ensuing protests. Jones and OWU officials reached out through a series of online town hall sessions—to connect with students, parents, and alumni and to give them a forum to connect with the entire university community.

Jones initiated the OWU Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan “to create meaningful and immediate change on campus,” hired the

university’s first chief diversity officer, and led a Board of Trustees retreat devoted solely to achieving the goal of “inclusive excellence.”

Dawn Chisebe, OWU’s chief diversity officer, says, “Rock has been a persistent advocate for students of color at OWU. He brought together students, alumni, and funders to rebuild the House of Black Culture, and following the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many others, he truly listened to students and pushed to create and implement a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan, which continues to expand opportunity and improve life at OWU.”

As devastating as the pandemic and social upheaval were, OWU was able to weather the financial impact because it had already begun university-wide reviews of administrative processes and academic offerings. The administrative review resulted in \$10 million in cost reductions, including the elimination of 44 positions (30 of them were filled at the time), and the academic review resulted in the elimination of 18 majors and a reduction in full-time faculty from 128 to 100. Nearly all the faculty reductions were made through an early-retirement program.

“The reduction was an important thing to do, and the university is now stronger and in a much better position to go forward,” Jones says. “But it was very hard. There were maybe five positions of tenured faculty, and the hardest thing I’ve ever done was calling those five people.” Moreover, the isolation caused by the pandemic, he says, “meant the grief process didn’t happen as it could have.”

Still, Jones gets high marks for his handling of those turbulent times. There were no lawsuits or nasty headlines. And because Jones had laid a foundation of trusting relationships, he had the benefit of a patient and supportive board of trustees, along with a relatively understanding faculty.

“Rock is solid, stable, and firm in the face of adversity and challenge,” says Crowley. “If you had to go through a crisis with someone, it would be him. He acts from a strong and clear moral compass that does not deviate

when external pressures are extreme. In the face of adversity that at times became so vitriolic and personal in relation to our COVID decisions, he remained steady.”

Jones credits the faculty. “Because many senior faculty took early retirement, we didn’t have to make some of the hard decisions we would have otherwise. But even that was hard, because some of these faculty members were retiring earlier than they had planned. But they retired so that younger colleagues would not be affected.” Overall, he says, “the campus had a sufficient understanding of how the financial structure of small colleges is changing. And that we couldn’t keep going the way we were going.”

Jones and other university leaders also were coming to the realization that OWU could not best serve current students without significant changes to the curriculum. So in one of the final initiatives during his presidency, in 2022 the OWU faculty completed the first overhaul of the university’s academic program in nearly 50 years.

The new academic framework is built on three key components designed to ensure that all OWU students can think critically, reason analytically, and communicate effectively. General academic requirements, which traditionally had been met through courses in specific departments, now focus on producing the core competencies students need to be productive employees and engaged citizens. Students also will be required to take a first-year seminar centering on a complex problem that teaches them to think deeply, broadly, and ambitiously. Finally,

“He has completely reimagined the board of trustees for the modern institution.”

Chris Wolverton

all students will be required to gain hands-on experience through the OWU Connection, a program that has long provided students with service learning, internships, and field research, but which had not been required.

Jones says such fundamental changes could happen only through “the leadership of the faculty.” He says,

“The president can help nudge the faculty and, more importantly, the president can work with donors to provide resources for the faculty, but the credit goes to the faculty for doing this work.”

Nevertheless, Chris Wolverton, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences and a member of the University Governance Committee, says, “Rock had the vision to give it that overarching structure.”

And Jones has been the leading advocate for the OWU Connection, which was launched early in his tenure. The program has been enhanced considerably by his success both in raising close to \$20 million to fund it and in encouraging alumni to create internship opportunities for students. The program has transformed the OWU experience for students and faculty.

“Rock’s vision and leadership with the OWU Connection bolstered some of the most poignant educational experiences I—and others—have had at OWU,” says Mary Anne Lewis Cusato, associate professor of modern foreign languages.

“The OWU Connection has been at the heart of my work with students and colleagues since my first semester almost 10 years ago,” she says. “The OWU Connection has pushed us beyond our comfort

FACULTY & STAFF PROMOTER

*During Rock’s tenure, OWU created the Special Thanks and Recognition (STAR) Award to honor the staff member of the year. In the photo, he presents the 2018 award to Fody Frentzos, coordinator of athletic facilities and equipment. Rock also has overseen the creation and expansion of faculty opportunities through the OWU Connection and academic programs such as the **Thomas W. Palmer ’69** and Susan Palmer Global Scholars Program. Below, he toasts the endowment of the program with (from left) Tom and Susan Palmer, and program co-directors Mary Anne Lewis Cusato and Jeremy Baskes (not pictured is co-director Nathan Rowley).*



zone through research, travel, interviews, proposals, internships, independent studies, and presentations. And it has brought learning to life.”

Jones has also worked to create a far deeper engagement between the board and the faculty, while recruiting to the board a diverse group of experts with particular skills and backgrounds.

Wolverton notes, “He has completely reimagined the board of trustees for the modern institution.”

Looking ahead

While Ohio Wesleyan’s enrollment grew this year, Jones acknowledges that OWU and other small colleges must get a handle on tuition prices and related discounting. The intense competition for students, which leads to discounting, is “the existential problem for American higher education, and, in particular, for the vast majority of small colleges,” Jones says. “The supply-and-demand curve is not in our favor. And in the future, the scariest outcome would be that it just drives the

[tuition] price to zero. That’s not sustainable.”

The answer, he says, lies in public *and* individual investment. “This political narrative about free college or [forgiven] student debt feeds the notion that you shouldn’t have to pay for college. I think college is both a public good and a private benefit. That’s why the public invests in higher education, but it needs to be a combined investment, and that narrative is being lost.”

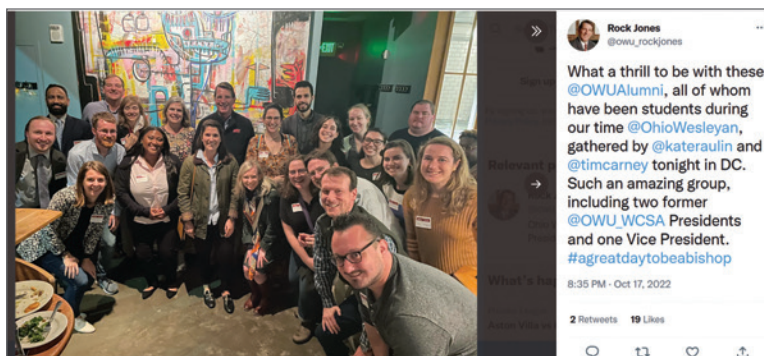
Jones is intent on reclaiming the narrative, convinced that the small institutions that will thrive are those with broad, reliable, and growing philanthropic support. “That’s a benefit for Ohio Wesleyan,” he says, “because we do have generous philanthropic support, and that’s going to be more important than ever.”

The future enrollment strategy, Jones says, likely will target a handful of out-state locations. Partly because of alumni support in the region, the Northeast remains important, but fewer students come from the Northeast than they once did. In addition to Ohio, home to many competing colleges, Jones says the university is

ALUMNI CHEERLEADER



Whether leading the homecoming march to Selby Stadium (left), greeting families returning for Reunion Weekend, or celebrating with alumni on the road (like this group from the Class of 2012 in Washington, DC), Rock is a fervent cheerleader for the university and advocate for alumni to stay connected with OWU and current students.



looking to cities such as Nashville, Raleigh-Durham, Washington, Austin, and Denver. “These are areas with vibrant populations, and more likely to have the students looking for our kind of place.”

Student-athletes also are getting a special look. “Families will choose a place like Ohio Wesleyan for an athlete that they might not choose for one of their other children,” Jones says. “One of the things I’ve really appreciated here is how athletes are involved in the total life of the student. Four times in my tenure, the student body president was a varsity athlete.”

Says Athletic Director Doug Zipp: “Rock is one of the biggest advocates for athletes that I’ve had the pleasure of working with—and every student knows it.”

After they leave Delaware in July, Rock and Melissa, who will soon celebrate 40 years of marriage, will divide their time between their summer home on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, and a new house near Hendrix in Conway, Arkansas, where they still have family (including all their grandchildren) and lifelong friends. Jones says he looks forward to traveling, cooking, gardening, and reading. A fan of good fiction and biography, he has come to rely on the owner of Ocracoke’s independent bookstore for suggestions. “I say, ‘O.K., Leslie, what do I need to read this summer?’ And she’ll pull five novels off the shelf.”

Professionally, he’s going to take a pause. “I want to give myself time to just collect my thoughts. Then I know I’ll need something else to do,” he says. Another leadership position? Writing? He doesn’t know, except to say that whatever he does will keep him connected to the field of education. “But I have not wanted to lose a part of my last year here thinking about that,” he says.

So, he has been taking care of administrative business and engaging alumni on his final Rock Tour. On May 13, he will help launch the Class of 2023 into the world—a world he hopes will bring them rewarding careers and rich opportunities for public service. He hopes, too, that they will leave their now-alma mater with a sense of gratitude and fulfillment.

“I tell prospective students that when they graduate I don’t want them to look back to what they were hoping to happen in college and say, ‘I picked a place where that is what happened.’ Instead, I want them to look back and say, ‘I picked a place where things could happen that I never imagined, and I became a person I didn’t know I could become.’ That’s what it means to be a college that changes lives.”

Rock Jones might say that he chose such a university, himself.

*Pulitzer Prize winning journalist **Susan Headden '77** is a communications consultant based in Washington, D.C.*

HEAD OF STATE



As OWU's 16th president, Rock has presided at the convocation and commencement of more than 5,000 students. He also has bestowed honorary degrees on dignitaries such as Dr. Amy Acton, director of the Ohio Department of Health during the pandemic. And he has opened and closed 15 academic years with the ringing of OWU's historic bell.





Glory Days Anew

OWU rededicates beloved Slocum Hall after \$11.25-million, donor-funded renovation

Historian Shelby Foote said, “A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library.”

Serving as Ohio Wesleyan’s library from 1898 to 1966, Slocum Hall stood at the center of OWU academic life—literally, figuratively, and aesthetically. At the core of the building, the Slocum Reading Room and skylight symbolized the beauty and virtue of a classic liberal arts education.

Today, following an \$11.25-million, donor-funded renovation, 124-year-old Slocum Hall again shines in its full grandeur. Perhaps more important, it has returned to its place at the center of academic life, as the home of the university’s signature program, the OWU Connection.

All of the offices supporting OWU Connection programs for research, travel, service, internships, and career preparation have come together on Slocum’s

second and third floors. Students will come to Slocum throughout their OWU years to find their academic passions, plan their pathways, and participate in outside-the-classroom learning to gain experience throughout the world.

The first floor continues to house the Office of Admission, serving as OWU’s front door for prospective students and families.

“Every current and future Ohio Wesleyan student will benefit from this project,” says President Rock Jones. “Prospective students and families will visit Slocum Hall to meet with the Admission team, and enrolled students will use the building to plan their OWU Connection experiences, explore career and graduate school opportunities, and shape successful futures.”

The university rededicated the building during an October 7 public ceremony that kicked off the 2022 Homecoming and Family Weekend.





Preceding page: The glass skylight is 70 feet long and 20 feet wide, and it contains 18 portraits of historic figures likely chosen by the original donor, Charles Elihu Slocum, a physician from Defiance, Ohio.



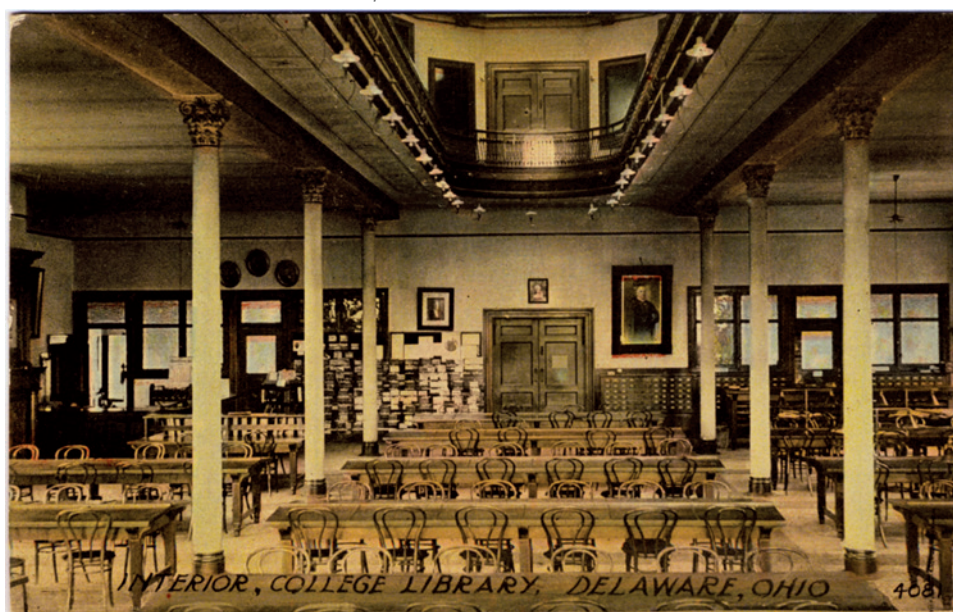
Slocum's five fireplaces were restored.



Slocum served as the campus library until 1966 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. This photo is from 1963.



This postcard from the early days of Slocum Library shows the stenciled pattern and lights hanging beneath the Romanesque arcade, both of which have been replicated in the renovation.



A thoughtful renovation

“Great care went into restoring and renewing this iconic building,” Jones says, “and we are grateful to the donors for their generous support.”

Before the restoration began, architects researched Slocum Hall and discovered it originally had a stenciled pattern on the Reading Room ceiling. They replicated the stencils by hand, using enlarged historic photographs for reference. They also recreated the painted medallions that originally aligned with the Reading Room’s columns and replicated many of its

original light fixtures.

All but two of the building’s original windows were restored, with new interior storm windows installed to make them as energy efficient as replacement windows. In addition, workers restored the building’s five fireplaces, along with the original ceramic tile in the building’s first- and second-floor landing spaces.

In addition to preserving historic details, the architects added new items and amenities to make Slocum Hall more modern and functional. This includes installing air-conditioning, an elevator, an





The first floor features the Office of Admission, serving as OWU's front door to prospective students and their families.



A second-floor conference room features a wall that pays tribute to the card catalogs that alumni will remember from Slocum Library.

exterior accessibility ramp, and a sustainable “green” cork floor in the Reading Room to improve acoustics.

The renovated building also features 17 wood-and-glass cabinets along the east wall of the Reading Room that mimic the original library cabinets and feature artifacts that tell the story of Ohio Wesleyan's 181-year history.

Invaluable donors

The 29,076-square-foot renovation was fully funded by donor gifts including a \$10 million contribution

from an anonymous alumni couple. Their contribution, announced in 2019, is the largest single outright gift in Ohio Wesleyan history.

Additional gifts supporting Slocum Hall's renovation and reinvention include \$1 million from OWU Trustees **John Milligan '83** and **Kathie Bradford Milligan '83**, and \$500,000 from **Robert Gillespie '66** and **Ann Wible Gillespie '67**.

Schooley Caldwell served as the project architect, Setterlin Building Co. as the general contractor, and Hill International Inc. as the owner's representative. All are









The restoration crew uncovered the original ceramic tile on the first- and second-floor landing spaces and repaired and restored this original feature.



The display cases in the back of the Reading Room serve as an architectural nod to the library stacks and contain artifacts that tell the history of Ohio Wesleyan.





The Milligan Room on the first floor combines original architectural features with modern technology to provide an impressive space for admission programs and campus events.



Touches of modernization include the building's first elevator.



The restored Reading Room has quickly become a favorite study spot for a new generation of OWU students. A new cork floor improves the Reading Room's acoustics.



From left, OWU Connection Coordinator Jill Hayes, OWU Connection Executive Director **Megan Sanders Ellis '05**, and OWU Connection Associate Dean Dave Markwardt meet in the third-floor OWU Connection offices.

So Close

Sarah Yerian and her team from The Carter Center are nearing their historic goal of eradicating Guinea worm disease.

By Julianne Hill

Photo by Caroline Joe

Sarah Yerian at The Carter Center in Atlanta.

While the world's attention has focused on COVID-19, The Carter Center has been quietly nearing its goal of eradicating another terrifying disease. It would be only the second time ever, after smallpox, that we have completely conquered a disease.

At the heart of that work for the past decade has been **Sarah Yerian '06**, senior associate director of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program.

Yerian and her team tirelessly work with communities in several African countries in the effort to eradicate Guinea worm disease. It would be the first parasitic disease to be eradicated and the first disease to be eradicated without the use of a vaccine or medicine.

They are so close. About 3.5 million people in 21 countries in Africa and Asia suffered Guinea worm disease, or dracunculiasis, when The Carter Center began leading an international campaign to eradicate the disease in 1986. In 2022, there were only 13 known cases of the disease in five countries, the lowest annual case

total ever reported.

People contract the disease when they drink from stagnant water sources contaminated by Guinea worm larvae. Those worms then mate and grow inside the person's abdomen. After about a year, the female worm, then about 3 feet long, slowly, slowly bores its way out of the person's skin—an agonizingly painful and debilitating experience that can take a few weeks and impacts the ability to attend to basic needs and work or attend school. To relieve the burning sensation, victims naturally seek relief by going back into the water—and that sends larvae back into the water source and starts the cycle anew.

President and Mrs. Carter founded The Carter Center in 1982 to advance peace and health in countries around the world. Eradicating Guinea worm disease has long been a major priority of the Atlanta-based organization. Because there are no vaccines, Yerian says they work closely with ministry of health officials in each country

on water treatment and education programs to change people's behavior.

"They are sovereign countries," she says, "and we provide the technical, financial, logistic, and operational support they need to then actually implement the program."

It's working.

"This is an exciting time," Yerian says. "We're in a really good position to eradicate Guinea worm."

An international life

Yerian's days may range from sleeping in tents and bucket bathing under the stars to updating leadership and President Carter on the Guinea worm program and the challenges in South Sudan.

"Sarah's been through some severely traumatic situations in South Sudan, coordinating an evacuation during the outbreak of civil war in 2016," says Adam Weiss, director of the program. "There were helicopters flying over shooting rockets and missiles and killing people, and she was coordinating the evacuation and safety of staff."

Yerian says her "international life" has surprised a lot of people—and herself. She says when she was growing up in Cincinnati, she was the type of shy girl who might come home from a sleepover early. She didn't really care for the outdoors, wasn't fond of camping, and really, really hated bugs.

Pivot point

The path from Cincinnati to Africa began during her days as a biology and environmental science major at Ohio Wesleyan. One day she stumbled onto the table of the School for Field Studies, an independent study abroad program, at OWU's Hamilton-Williams Campus Center.

"I had this pile of library books in my arms, and this guy was saying, 'Hey, who wants to go to Costa Rica or Kenya for the summer?' And I said, 'Me, me, me, me, me!'" she recalls.

She chose Kenya for the one-month, hands-on summer environmental research course doing wildlife management work.

She loved it so much that she found a way to go back. Through OWU, she received an Eli Lilly Vocational Discernment Grant to fund her work at an orphanage near The School for Field Studies' work in Kenya. She became the school's intern, then the student affairs manager, helping professors with their field work and supervising and advising students as they adjusted to life in Africa.

"There were helicopters flying over shooting rockets and missiles and killing people, and she was coordinating the evacuation and safety of staff."

"I don't think I would have ended up where I am if I didn't have the opportunity to go back and really understand more about what I might be good at and where I might have an impact," she says.

Uncharted waters

While working with animals was interesting and fun, Yerian yearned to focus on the human-wildlife conflict, especially their connection to water.

That motivated her to go to Emory University to earn a Master of Public

Health focused on global health. As part of her studies, she returned to Kenya as a visiting researcher through a partnership among Emory University, Food for the Hungry, and Millennium Water Program in Kenya, designing a qualitative study of the role of women in water management.

The rigor of Ohio Wesleyan helped prepare her for graduate studies. As a child, she'd imagined becoming a teacher, but a class with zoology professor Dennis Radabaugh called *Animals in Their Environment* inspired her to declare her major. "I was totally surprised when science was the track for me," she says.

The environmental science major required a second major, and, inspired by Radabaugh's class, she paired it with biology. She says the double-major requirement—providing a specialty—and guidance from OWU faculty proved to be crucial for her.

"I had great mentorship from Dr. David Hickcox [emeritus professor of geology & geography] throughout my time at OWU and even after," she says.

Yerian's work at Emory led her back to Africa as a UNICEF/Emory research fellow in Kigali, Rwanda, serving as a liaison on menstrual hygiene between that country's stakeholders and the university.

'A whole new thing'

At Emory, a professor connected her to the university's longtime partner, The Carter Center, which led her to join the South Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program in 2013. It was a stretch outside her comfort zone. "We were camping all the time out in the villages, using latrines—it was a whole new thing for me," she says. "I'm proud of myself for not letting what could seem like a discomfort get in the way of doing really meaningful things and having really amazing life experiences."

For the next six years, her work included supervising hundreds of village volunteers and staff members, developing training and treatment protocols, providing



In a photo from 2007, former President Jimmy Carter tries to comfort 6-year-old Ruhama Issah at Savelugu Hospital in Ghana as a Carter Center technical assistant dresses Issah's extremely painful Guinea worm wound. (The Carter Center)



Volunteers speak to a crowd about how to detect guinea worm at a cash rewards ceremony in Dangabol Market, Chad, in 2018. (The Carter Center/Jane Hahn)

health education about the disease, distributing different types of filters for water, using larvicide, and containing cases that emerge with contact tracing.

Once someone displays disease symptoms, they are monitored daily by a community volunteer who also provides treatment. "That includes helping to remove the worm slowly," Yerian says. "It might take a few days to a few weeks to fully extract a worm, because you want to do it slowly, pulling a little bit each day."

Weiss says Yerian is "an amazing, very adept, very perceptive leader and is able to navigate the high-level vision piece all the way to the nuts and bolts and mechanics of how do we actually do this." He adds, "From the day I met her in South Sudan, she's always stood out as being able to connect dots and tap into her deep care for people in general. I think that's part of what sets her apart."

A twist and a curveball

Since 2019, Yerian has been senior associate director of The Carter Center's overall Guinea Worm Eradication Program. She focuses on offering technical, financial, and logistical support to partners in the remaining countries facing Guinea worm, now down to 13 cases.



Yerian is pictured while working in South Sudan. Adam Weiss, director of the Guinea Worm Program, says what sets her apart is her ability to "tap into her deep care for people."



At The Carter Center, Yerian and Kate Braband lead a demonstration during the annual executive briefing for members of the center's Ambassadors Circle and Legacy Circle donor groups, which takes place in Atlanta and Plains, Georgia. (Photo by Katie Archibald-Woodward)

"This last mile of the campaign is challenging. There's been a twist and a curveball," she says. Guinea worm disease has emerged in domestic dogs in Chad and in cats in Mali, Angola, and Ethiopia.

But she's confident they'll get the job done. "We've got a whole network of researchers working on the remaining questions," she says.

Now based in Atlanta, Yerian says the pandemic has slowed her travels. When she does go to Africa, she now brings her 1-year-old son. Her husband lives in Kenya, where he focuses on wildlife management.

If Guinea worm disease goes the way of smallpox, eradicated forever, Yerian hopes to continue working to implement health programs. "That is where my passion is, executing and trying to make things happen on the ground."

She remains grateful for her foundational experience at Ohio Wesleyan.

"It's important to not be afraid to explore and figure out what it is that you enjoy, and that you're good at," she adds. "There are lots of people on campus who can provide mentorship on life skills to figure out, how do I determine what I love to do, what I'm good at, and how do I become better."

Julianne Hill is a freelance writer, producer, and educator based in Chicago.

Understanding through the sense of touch

By Kristina Bogdanov, Associate Professor of Fine Arts

Enjoy this mini-class from fine arts faculty member and ceramics artist Kristina Bogdanov

As a college professor in 2023, I am not necessarily the most immediate source of knowledge for my students, as may have been the case 30 years ago. Now, we are all a fingertip away from all the knowledge contained within the virtual space on our mobile phones.

For better or for worse, our personal and professional experiences are heavily consumed by the virtual realms. It's easy to find many benefits of this technology and virtual experience. However, during the pandemic, I became more aware than ever of the importance of human touch. Can the internet, as the all-powerful Oz, provide us with a true understanding of the sense of touch in the same way as a simple handmade art object?

My love for clay comes from seeing it as the most receptive art material. Clay, so primitive, raw, and dirty, is malleable enough to capture the finest detail of a human fingerprint. Clay is powerful enough to record the energy, character, and gesture of an artist by the simple act of touch. This natural quality of clay is something I reference constantly in my teaching.

What can we learn by observing, touching, and using a simple object such as a handmade mug?

In the top photo, I present one of my favorite mugs, by an unknown maker. The unique circular grooves on the surface are the first clue about how this object was made, indicating it was made on the wheel. This type of texture can be made only by human fingers running across the form while it turns on the potter's wheel.

However, as you can see in the center photo, it is not a symmetrical mug, as one would expect from wheel-thrown forms. The mug has indents that have captured the maker squeezing the form on the wheel. This petrified "hug," in relation to a small handle and a small imprint of a seashell, communicate how the mug should be held. As shown in the bottom photo, you wrap your hand around the mug, rest your thumb on the seashell, while your index finger goes through the handle's space, as through a ring (if you, like me, are not a fan of handles, this is



If you examine this mug closely—with your touch and your vision—you can begin to "read" its history, and maybe learn something about its maker.



Kristina Bogdanov working in the Haycock Hall studio.

a great design).

By holding the mug this way, you are shaking hands with the maker. Every morning as I drink my coffee and by holding the mug feel the grooves, I greet the maker who left these marks: "Hello, how are you? Hope your day goes well...."

Besides this subtle yet incredible way to communicate, this mug contains a few more interesting clues about its origins.

The seashell and the two small marks shown in the third photo were actually the standing points for the mug during the firing process. Basically, the mug was not standing in the kiln the way you see it and use it, but rather, it was on its side. That's why there is a glaze drip on the bottom edge.

Also, this orientation allowed for the bottom of the mug to be completely glazed.

The color and texture of the glaze, as well as the use of a seashell, indicate that this mug was wood fired, which means it is a high-fire ware (fired at around 2,380F). The ash from the wood makes unique glazes, and every wood fire produces unique pieces; no two pieces ever come out the same.

The aspect of individuality is an innate part of art, which will always be a refreshing and lively counterpart to the increasingly systematic and programmed world we live in.

Barbara Andereck, professor emerita of physics and astronomy, published the article “A Room-Size Model of Lunar Phases,” describing an interactive demonstration she developed to help astronomy students visualize what causes the moon’s phases, how the phases change during the month, and what time the moon is above the horizon in different phases. The article was published in the January 2023 issue of *The Physics Teacher*.

Kira Bailey, associate professor of psychology, coauthored the article “Effects of Media Use, Smart Phone Addiction, and Adult ADHD Symptoms on Wellbeing of College Students During the COVID-19 Lockdown: Dispositional Hope as a Protective Factor.” It was published in *Frontiers in Psychology* in December.

Mary Anne Lewis Cusato, associate professor of world languages & cultures, wrote the article “The Djamila Phenomenon: How the Confinement of Two Algerian Revolutionaries Was Translated for a French and Global Public, 1956-1962.” It tells the story of female Algerian revolutionaries Djamila Bouhired and Djamila Boupacha, who were captured by French troops in Algeria, tortured, tried, and sentenced to death before both their cases went abroad. These women and their cases became the canvases upon which French media and intellectuals reflected on Algeria and the right to self-determination, as well as existential notions of freedom and constraint, nuances of second-wave feminism, and even France’s own nationhood and identity. The article will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*. In March, she published the essay “3 Key Ways to Connect Courses and Careers” in *Inside Higher Ed*. In the essay, she argues that all faculty can start with the following three steps to connect coursework and career: teach students to think about skills, not just content; maintain strong relationships with our recent graduates and connect them with our current students; and

encourage interdisciplinarity. Finally, she also published a book review of Joseph Ford’s *Writing the Black Decade: Conflict and Criticism in Francophone Algerian Literature* in the *Bulletin of Francophone Postcolonial Studies*.

Nick Dietrich, assistant professor of data analytics, coauthored the article “How Governance Shaped Military Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic,” which was published in *European Political Science Review*. The article presents original data on global military deployments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most countries deployed their military to combat the pandemic, but the shape and scope of these missions varied; some countries deployed the military for logistic operations, and others deployed the military to enforce lockdowns, for example. The article explores these differences and their relationship to governance. The article was published online March 1, and the print edition is forthcoming.

Rich Edwards, professor of performing arts, has directed several music events and groups. In the fall, he led the largest enrollment of the OWU Marching Bishops to 14 performances, including their first away game. He was the featured high school honor band conductor at the Tri-County Band Festival, which included a performance by the OWU Symphonic Wind Ensemble with guest conductor Chris Lizak. As director of the OWU Music Festival, Edwards managed a 2-day event in February featuring six large ensembles with over 270 band and choir students from 52 middle and high schools across Ohio. He also is collaborating with over 30 OWU students and staff to prepare the OWU Summer Music Camp (June 18–23) for band, choir, and orchestra students in grades 6–12. Learn more at owu.edu/SummerMusicCamp.

Michael Flamm, professor of history, returned to Buenos Aires to co-teach a Fulbright seminar on “The USA Today” for a select group of Argentine lawyers, journalists, educators, and officials. He also will continue to serve on the Finance

Committee of the Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians, the largest and most important professional association dedicated to the teaching and study of U.S. history. Finally, he gave several presentations as part of OWU’s Lifelong Learning Institute.

James Franklin, professor of politics & government, published the article “Human Rights in Latin America” in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies* in January.

Eric Gangloff, assistant professor of biological sciences, along with a team of student researchers, conducted a project on wall lizards in the summer of 2021, supported by Summer Research and OWU Connection funds. The experiment they conducted, on the relative importance of body shape, claw shape, and temperature on the ability of lizards to climb and cling, is now published as the article “Climbing and Clinging of Urban Lizards Are Differentially Affected by Morphology, Temperature, and Substrate” in the journal *Integrative Organismal Biology* 5, Feb. 2023. Gangloff also coauthored (with Neil Greenberg) the book chapter “Biology of Stress” in *Health and Welfare of Captive Reptiles*, 2nd Ed. In this chapter, Gangloff and Greenberg review research on stress biology in reptiles for a wide audience, including captive managers and research biologists.

Bob Gitter, professor emeritus of economics, gave the keynote address at the Economics, Social Sciences, and Humanities section of the 11th International Congress of the Investigation in Basic Science and Agronomics at the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo in Mexico in September. He spoke on “The Path to El Norte: The Causes and Effects of Mexican Migration to the United States.” Migration issues have been the main focus of his research in recent years, and he was excited to share his findings on Mexican immigrants in the United States with Mexican scholars from many fields.

Hanliang Guo, assistant professor of math and computer science, coauthored the paper “Spontaneous Phase Coordination and Fluid Pumping in Model Ciliary Carpets,” which was published in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in November. In the same month, he also delivered a presentation titled “Periodic Trajectories of Rotating Micro-cylinders in a Confining Geometry” at the annual meeting of American Physical Society, Division of Fluid Dynamics.

Shala Hankison '95, associate professor of biological sciences, **Eric Gangloff**, assistant professor of biological sciences, and eight OWU students and recent graduates—**Breanna Fry '21**, **Alena Arnold '23**, **A. J. Lashway '23**, **Jenell Betts '20**, **Sandra Otap '22**, **Katherine Walter '23**, **Makenna Juergens '23**, and **Alax Crawford '21**—published the article “Effects of Reliance on Stored Sperm on Reproduction in the Sailfin Molly *Poecilia latipinna*” in the *Journal of Fish Biology*.

Sarah Kaka, assistant professor of education, and **Michele Nobel**, assistant professor of education, coauthored the article “Preparing Antiracist Teachers: One Teacher Preparation Program’s Journey,” which was published in the journal *The Teacher Educator* in November. This paper chronicles the journey that one teacher preparation program has embarked upon to intentionally prepare antiracist teachers who promote justice and equity in their classrooms.

Kaka also presented the paper “‘Divisive Issues’ Legislation: Teacher Perceptions of Curricular Autonomy as Related to Practice” at the College and University Faculty Association of the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA, in December. She also presented a poster session on “Using Online Simulations to Assist Teachers in Facilitating Controversial Discussion” at the same national conference. In February, she presented a paper titled “‘Divisive Issues’ and Collateral Damage: The Evolving Needs of Teachers Entrenched in the Culture Wars” at the American Association of Colleges

for Teacher Education Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN.

Chris Modica, assistant professor of psychology, and **Vicki DiLillo**, professor of psychology, coauthored two articles that were published in *Body Image*, 44 (2023): “A Structural Invariance Analysis of the Acceptance Model of Intuitive Eating across Black, Hispanic, and White Young-Adult Women”; and, with Viren Swami, “Measurement Invariance of the Broad Conceptualization of Beauty Scale (BCBS) across Black, Hispanic, and White Women in the United States”. The first article tests whether a theory of intuitive eating is valid among Black and Hispanic women in the United States. The second article tests whether a scale of conceptualizations of beauty is valid among Black and Hispanic women in the U.S.

Dustin Reichard, associate professor of biological sciences, **Abbi Turner '20**, and Mark Hauber, a professor at the University of Illinois, published the article “Twenty-two Years of Brood Parasitism Data Do Not Support the Mafia Hypothesis in an Acceptor Host of the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)” in *Journal of Field Ornithology* 93(4):4, Nov. 2022. Turner conducted the research with Reichard as an independent study before she graduated.

Shari Stone-Mediatore, professor of philosophy, published the article “Unsettling the Paradigm of Criminal Justice” in *Radical Philosophy Review* 25(2). She also received a grant from the Illinois Humanities Envisioning Justice program to complete a book of interviews of people with life sentences, which she is producing together with **Karli Walsh '24** and **Athena Vakaleris '22**. In February, Stone-Mediatore co-organized and co-lead a series of educational workshops on campaigns for fair parole review for people with long sentences. She also is serving as educational director for the decarceration organization she co-founded, Parole Illinois.

Samantha Tucker, part-time instructor

in English, published the book (with Amy Spears) *Collective Chaos: A Roller Derby Team Memoir*, which examines the evolution of the sport through the historical lens of Ohio Roller Derby, one of the founding leagues of the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association. Part sports autobiography, part cultural critique, the book offers the collective experience of a tenacious group of nontraditional athletes who play, officiate, plan, schedule, market, and manage the business of a (mostly) women’s amateur sports team.



Photo by Paul Vernon

Chris Modica, assistant professor of psychology, was one of 10 faculty presenting mini-lectures at the 2022 i³ event in October. The popular event returned for the first time since 2019 and attracted a crowd of about 800 in Gray Chapel. Modica presented “Tolerating Uncertainty: What OCD Can Teach Us about Facing the Unknown.” Other faculty covered topics such as the knowledge of plants and the role of teaching in preserving democracy. You can see videos of the presentations on OWU’s YouTube site.

President's Circle leads the way for life-changing OWU experiences

Coffee and a donut. Simon and Garfunkel. Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen. Some things work best in pairs.

For **Evan Corns '59**, the winning combination is the Ohio Wesleyan Fund and the President's Circle. "If you can support both, you should," he says. "It's a dynamic one-two punch for OWU."

The President's Circle is a select group of alumni, parents, and friends who focus on strategic initiatives selected by the president. President's Circle members commit to investing \$10,000 a year beyond their gifts to the Ohio Wesleyan Fund and other programs they may support.

In 2008, Evan Corns and **Mark Shipps '70**, who was then vice president of university relations, formed the President's Circle. "The idea was to provide the president with out-of-pocket funds to further the cause of Ohio Wesleyan in whatever way he felt best," Corns recalls.

Since then, the President's Circle has packed a powerful punch for OWU, often in critical, behind-the-scenes work. "The President's Circle provided the seed funding for the OWU Connection, which is now the signature program that defines the experience of every student," says President Rock Jones. "We have secured close to \$20 million in endowments to support the OWU Connection, and this would not have happened without the President's Circle."

In other strategic work, the President's Circle funded studies leading to the residential renewal. Today, two-thirds of OWU students living on campus reside in housing built or renovated within the last decade.

"Members of the President's Circle are passionate about Ohio Wesleyan, care deeply for the experience of our students, and recognize the importance of new initiatives that advance



Computer science and mathematics major Elijah Adams '23 interned as a software implementation assistant at Custom Rubber Corp. in Cleveland as part of his OWU Connection experience. The President's Circle provides critical seed funding to make OWU Connection experiences like this possible.

the mission of OWU," says Jones. "They're curious about what's happening on campus and asking great questions related to all aspects of the Ohio Wesleyan experience."

The impact of an OWU experience inspires President's Circle members **Kate Raulin Carney '12** and **Tim Carney '12** to stay connected with Ohio Wesleyan. "So much of where we are in our lives can be attributed and traced back to our OWU experience, from the people closest to us to the opportunities we have pursued in our careers," says Tim. "We see our investment not only as a responsibility to give back, but also as a gift to contribute meaningfully to ensure the opportunities an OWU education can bring are available to others."

President's Circle members are among the most loyal Ohio Wesleyan donors, and their impact extends beyond their philanthropy. "Members of the President's Circle have provided seed funding for so many important initiatives over the past 15 years," Jones says. "They've also provided valuable wisdom and counsel for me."

Kate and Tim Carney hope donors consider joining the President's Circle to enhance future work. "The president has the privilege of having the bird's-eye view of what is happening and where the university needs to go," Kate says. "This pool of discretionary funds is crucial to provide the president the ability to ensure OWU can adapt quickly to meet the ever-evolving needs and pressures placed on higher education so OWU can meet the needs of its students."

"I feel very strongly that the president of Ohio Wesleyan should have access to this type of funding," says Corns. "If we have the confidence to hire a president, we should have the confidence in their ability to designate funding where it is needed."

—Ericka Kurtz



Photo by James DeCamp

The President's Circle enhances the student experience by helping fund new programs such as the Marching Bishops, men's wrestling, and esports.



NYC Rock Tour—Rock and Melissa met with hundreds of alumni during a farewell Rock Tour to cities across the country. Pictured at the New York event are, front row: **Acadia Caryl '22**, **Marilyn Baer '14**, **Bhavna Murali '12**, **Sara Hollabaugh Serbanoui '17**, **Sarah Hartzheim '14**, **Billy Lewis '21**; back row: **Malcolm Clark '14**, **Roni Cody '22**, **Martin Clark '14**, **Rock Jones**, **Michael Serbanoui '15**, **Lucas Nathanson '22**, and **Mohammad Niazi '22**. See more photos from Rock Tour events at owu.edu/magazine.



WOW—From left, **MaryChris Williams '99**, **Emily Metz '99**, and **Jennifer Ullman '99** get together during a break at the biennial Women of Ohio Wesleyan event last November.



Door Crashers—Alpha Phi Alpha brothers, from left, **Kenneth Williams Jr. '08**, **Aaron Granger '93**, **Daniel Sturkey '84**, (and from other colleges) **Aaron Martin**, **Simeon Frazier**, **Eric Pannell**, and **Malik Ferguson** meet at the Slocum Dedication, where this door is part of the OWU history display in the Reading Room. Seven men were granted a charter in 1982 to form OWU's Omicron Rho Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the nation's oldest historically Black fraternity. Shattered in seven pieces and then reassembled, the door represents the fraternity breaking through and becoming part of the fabric of OWU.



Naples Rock Tour—Alumni celebrating at the Naples, Florida, stop on the Rock Tour included, from left, **Eric Hursh '70**, **Carolee Turner O'Hara '70**, **Belinda (Binney) Brown Fouts '73**, **Kathleen O'Hara Hursh '73**, **David Fouts '73**, and **Richard Sterrett '73**.



Homecoming—The undefeated 1967 football team was inducted into the OWU Athletics Hall of Fame as a Team of Distinction during Homecoming weekend. Teammates on hand to receive the honor included, from left, back row: **Vern Venne '68**, **Tom Trumble '68**, **Jim Wallar '70**, **Dick Faulkner '68**, **Bill Long '69**, **Bart Drake '68**, **Bob Amoruso '68**; front row: **Tom Liller '71**, **Tom Kaiser '70**, **Atilia Daray '70**, **Clendon (Jay) Parr '70**, **Larry Fedak '68**, and **Ed Kurent '68**.

2023 Homecoming

Gospel Lyres choir reunion to make a joyful noise

Soon after arriving at Ohio Wesleyan for her freshman year, **Marteal Pitts '76** realized she missed the music she grew up singing in church. Then, one day before dinner in Smith Hall, she was thrilled when she heard **Cheryl Smith Benefield '74** playing familiar music on the piano, and she joined a couple of other students to sing a few favorite hymns and gospel songs.

That impromptu singalong in 1972 turned into the makings of the Gospel Lyres, a choir that became a mainstay of spiritual and social connections for a host of African American students at Ohio Wesleyan. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Gospel Lyres' first concert performance, a reunion concert will take place during Homecoming & Family Weekend, Oct. 6–7.

Marteal says her encounter with Cheryl sparked an idea to organize OWU's first gospel choir. Marteal and Cheryl posted flyers around campus to spread the word, and they were shocked when nearly 30 students arrived for the first meeting in the basement of Smith.

"It blew my mind," Marteal says. "They kept coming. I had never seen that many Black students at one time on campus."

The 1973 spring concert in Chappellear Drama Center was the culmination of months of organizing, planning, and rehearsing. As cofounders, Cheryl served as the choir's first pianist and Marteal,

who had never led a choir before, became its inaugural director.

The Gospel Lyres was "a place to belong and connect," Cheryl says. "There was a sense of belonging and acceptance. You could utilize your God-given talents and gifts."

The choir also provided an opportunity to bring together Black students, who were few among the total student population, Marteal says. "To sing that music was like having church. Getting lost in the harmonies and flowing with those familiar sounds was soothing. To see that camaraderie let me know there were others like me who grew up in the church. It was inspiring."

The Gospel Lyres' numbers and reputation grew over the years, and they branched out to perform at various Delaware churches as an unofficial OWU ambassador. The choir also performed in other cities, including Philadelphia, New York, and Cleveland, to sing. "The word on the street was that we were polished," Marteal says.

Marteal considers her tenure with the Gospel Lyres a sacred experience. As the 50th anniversary of the first concert approached, she reached out to alumni to help her plan a reunion of the choir, although the group no longer exists at OWU today.

"I'm saddened that something that strong and vibrant fizzled out because no



The Gospel Lyres perform at their 1976 spring concert.

one had the passion for it," Marteal says. She hopes the fall gathering will ignite interest in current students to revive the choir.

The Gospel Lyres reunion and concert will be part of Homecoming & Family Weekend, and the group is working in partnership with the committee organizing the Black Alumni Reunion for that weekend as well.

Past Gospel Lyres members—and all who are interested—are welcome to join in the singing, reunion preparation, fundraising, or other support. Please contact Marteal at blessedlmhpitts@gmail.com.

Homecoming & Family Weekend information is at owu.edu/HFW.

—**Barbranda Lumpkins Walls '79**

Upcoming events

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

May 3

Rock Tour Cleveland

Details at owu.edu/rocktour

May 19–21

Reunion Weekend 2023

Celebrating 15 years of leadership by President Rock Jones and Melissa Lollar Jones. Class reunion celebrations for classes ending in '3 and '8

Jun. 24 OWU Night at the Cleveland Guardians

Sep. 13–14

OWU Welcome to the City (Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, DC, NYC and more)

Join us for casual evening events to welcome our most recent young alumni, alumni new to the area, and alumni who want to meet other OWU Bishops! See owu.edu/WTTC for details.

Oct. 6–7

Homecoming & Family Weekend

Info at owu.edu/HFW. Events include:

- BishopFest OWU community gathering on Friday night
- Black alumni reunion
- Gospel Lyres 50th anniversary concert
- Hall of Fame induction
- Battling Bishops tailgate with food trucks, music, games, and more
- Athletic and fraternity and sorority reunions
- And more!

classnotes

Thank you to all who sent in submissions for Class Notes. Due to space limitations, we ask that entries be limited to 100 words. To submit Class Notes items, please use the form at www.owu.edu/classnotes. **The deadline for the Fall 2023 issue is August 1.**

1950s

E. Fred Carlisle '56 published *The Lake Effect: A Lake Michigan Mosaic*, a book on his experiences with Lake Michigan, as well as its aesthetic, emotional, historic, economic, and social effects. "It's that whole complexity, really, of what the lake is. To me, to other people, to societies, to economies, and to cultures," he says. The book is available from Mission Point Press (missionpointpress.com) and Amazon.



Three living generations of an OWU alumni family that stretches back five generations gathered for this special photo, which also includes a potential sixth generation. The three couples are, from left, **Vrinda Trivedi '15** and **Maxwell Carl Richards '14** with **Jiya Trivedi Richards**, **Robert Lee Istnick '56** and **Mary Virginia Fuller Istnick '57**, and **J. Randall Richards '83** and **Jennifer Lee Istnick Richards '84**. Their OWU ancestors include **Gaillard Fuller 1900**, **Carl Stitzel B. Fuller '29**, and **Thelma Skiff Fuller '29**.

1960s



James Charlesworth '62 (foreground) received his third honorary doctorate, from Athens University in Athens, Greece. He was lauded for his publications and service related to Judaism and Christian origins. He is the author of 90 books and editor of *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, two volumes, and *The Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls*, now more than 10 volumes. The most recent volume, published in December, is *Thanksgiving Hymns and Related Documents*, the hymnbook of the Essenes living near the Dead Sea at Qumran and elsewhere. He is pictured here in the Sacred Hall of Athens University.

Gates Vrooman '64 published *Like a Mountain Stream, Family Adventures, Friendships, and Spiritual Growth at the YMCA of the Rockies*. An avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast, he and his wife, **Nancy Vrooman '64**, vacationed and volunteered at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO, for many years, and this book follows their journey. Learn more at amazon.com/author/gatesvrooman.

Timmen Cermak '67 published *Marijuana on My Mind: The Science and Mystique of Cannabis*, a book explaining the effects and mysteries of marijuana. Timmen is a psychiatrist specializing in addiction medicine.

1970s

Lynne Martin Bowman '72 published *A Bright Forgetting*, a book that dives into her journey of caring for and remembering her parents, exploring how to say goodbye. "It is an elegy for what my parents and grandparents built, and what was rent, torn, or is tearing, and how that fragmentation is simply how, as humans, all our lives are synapses firing bright with beauty and memories," Lynne says. It is available from finishinglinepress.com.



Sharlene Carter '74, raised in Delaware, OH, shared her "Black History Coloring Book" and read a poem she wrote about the book at the Delaware Unity Community Center's oral history event called SANKOFA—Stories of Growing Up Black in Delaware. Sharlene is pictured with Richard Leavy, professor emeritus of psychology and now with the Delaware County Historical Society, who spearheaded the event in celebration of Black History Month.

Christine Knisely '74 received the Scouting Community Leadership Award at the 2022 Athens County (OH) Good Scout reception. Living in Athens since 1996, she retired from Ohio University's College of Education and Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2010. Chris serves on the Athens City Council, currently serving as president, and is a past board of trustees member at the First United Methodist Church and co-president of the Athens League of Women Voters.



Joe Costabile '76 was selected as chairman of the Department of Surgery at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes hospital in Camden, NJ. In 2022, Joe retired from the Navy medical corps after serving for 28 years as a reservist, and the last 16 spent with the U.S. Marine Corps. He is proud to have served.

Mary Ellen Trent '77 recieved the Pennsylvania Branch of the International Dyslexia Association's annual Janet L. Hoopes Award. Since 2010, Mary Ellen has been the director of admissions at Delaware Valley Friends School, a school for students in grades 1-12 who learn differently. She has been a volunteer, mentor, administrator, and more with the PBIDA.



Karen Hershner Dedo '78, Julie Riedel Schoch '77, Erica Robinson Mitchell '78, and Emily Thayer Guziak '78 (pictured from left) gathered in Woolford, MD.

Gary Washington '78 was named to the Rockdale Judicial Circuit Public Defender Supervisory Panel by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp. Gary is the Probate Court Judge for Rockdale County in Georgia, previously serving as an associate judge in the same court. He has more than 30 years of legal experience, including practicing at all levels of courts in Georgia.

John Mencke '79, with his wife, Helen, retired from their careers in banking and insurance. Their daughter, Emma, is employed at Aon in New York City, and their son, Jack, is finishing his junior year at the University of Arizona. The couple recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on a trip to Sicily, the Amalfi Coast, and Puglia. After raising their kids in Summit, NJ, they relocated

to Vero Beach, FL, to enjoy golf, tennis, beach, and the more favorable climate (excluding the occasional hurricane).



Dave Wilson '79 has a long history in the financial industry, starting as a bank teller while in school and later working at First Fidelity Security Group. He was a financial advisor until July 2022, when he became CEO at Ongoing Wealth Management with Charles Schwab & Co. as custodian.

1980s

Tim Feldman '80 was named CEO of Mind Genomics Advisors, Inc., a behavioral marketing organization for the healthcare field. Tim was a cofounder of The Partnership for Organ Donation, served in corporate strategic planning roles with PepsiCo and Viacom, and founded a healthcare strategy firm, MMI Consulting.

ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



Front row from left: **September Howat '02, Denise Sabo Brenner '00, Carrie Lippert Reinhardt '94, Diana Poos Roach '72, Katie Konepka '21, Nisha Aschieng '22**; middle row: **Jennifer Magro Algarotti '00, Shondra Wygal '94, Susanne Jaklitsch Mussenden '90, Michelle Corbett Coutts '09, Anthony Peddle '14, Gordon Witkin '77, Julie MacMillan '88**; back row: **Sean Harris '97, Paida Saburi '02, Zibbi Palmer Wentz Cunningham '99, Keith Rozanski '99, Victor Misiewicz '82, Drew Thawley '97, Memme Onwuidwe '15, Michael Pattison '04**

Donna McCabe Schaeffer '80 was named county administrative judge for the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County (MD). She has served as an associate judge at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County since January 2016, as a member of the Judicial Council's Domestic Law Committee, and is currently a member of its education committee.

Robert Hanna '81 was selected for inclusion in 2023's The Best Lawyers in America in the area of commercial litigation. He is a trial lawyer with experience in all aspects of business litigation, and he serves as chair of the Privacy & Data Security Group at Tucker Ellis LLP.

Daniel Glaser '82 retired as group president and CEO from Marsh McLennan, a professional services firm in risk, strategy, and people, at the end of 2022. He has served in various leadership roles at the company for a decade. In January, Clayton, Dubilier & Rice announced Dan joined their firm as an operating partner to help source new investments and support their teams.



Jeff Cousins '85 published *The Right Thing to Do*, a science fiction adventure about a captured alien, revealing that aliens created humans. Learn more at books2read.com/IfWeAreRobots.

Elliot Bennett '86 exhibited her photography in the show "Up Close and Personal" at the West Tisbury (MA) library. "I hope people will walk away inspired by nature and curious enough to try and look deeply. We tend to move too fast and not look close enough, or we go out for a walk and we're so in our head, we don't see what's around us," Elliot says.

James "JP" Olsen '87 was hired as the director of the Eugene S. Pulliam Center for Contemporary Media with DePauw University. Previously, JP had an extensive career in the media industry as a writer, journalist, filmmaker, producer, television executive, musician, and educator, most recently serving as the director of original programming for HBO.



Kevin Doyle '88 traveled to Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, for his latest post with Tetra Tech, heading a U.S.-government sponsored project to protect the rainforests and biodiversity of the Congo Basin. The Congo Basin—spanning 530 million hectares across Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo—supports over half of the animal, plant, and insect species on Earth known to science, and is the second largest tropical forest in the world after the Amazon. Kevin has lived and worked in Africa for a total of 25 years, starting with the Peace Corps upon graduating from OWU.

Zandra Wolfgram '88 was named director of marketing and communications at Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation and Sinfonia Gulf Coast, a Northwest Florida cultural arts and art education organization. She has over 30 years of experience, most recently as the director of marketing and digital content for Rowland Publishing, Inc.

1990s

Ritwick Ghoshal '93 was appointed managing partner and CEO of Bay Capital Investment Advisors Private Limited. He previously was director for private clients at Barclays Private Bank. Ritwick

has 27 years of experience in wealth management, including in Indian, Middle Eastern, U.S., and European markets.

Christopher LeFevre '93 was inducted into the Conotton Valley High School Athletic Hall of Fame (OH). He lettered four times in football and baseball and was selected as All-Ohio for football as a senior.

Scott McBride '93 was named associate deputy chief counsel for trade enforcement and compliance at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Scott has practiced international trade law on behalf of the U.S. government for more than 22 years—arguing before the World Trade Organization, litigating in U.S. federal courts and before North American Free Trade Agreement dispute panels, drafting international trade legislation and regulations, and counseling the International Trade Administration on the administration of trade remedy laws.

Deydre Teyhen '93 received the Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association, the association's highest membership category, recognizing APTA physical therapists who have worked to advance the profession for more than 15 years. Fewer than 300 of these recognitions have been awarded. Deydre has served in positions of leadership in and out of military treatment facilities and research labs for more than 29 years in the United States and overseas, as well as in a combat zone in Iraq.

Michael Tiedemann '93 was named CEO of Alvarium Tiedemann Holdings, a product of a merger between New York-based registered investment advisor Tiedemann Group and London-based wealth management and investment firm Alvarium Investments.

Bradley Moore '94 was named president and CEO of Roche Diagnostics North America, a biotechnology company. He joined Roche in 2016 as head of North America Diabetes Care before leading the newly created Core Lab and Point of Care commercial business unit as senior vice president in 2020.

Christina Diersing Zamorro '94 was named executive vice president and chief financial officer of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. After several years working for Ford Motor Co., she joined Goodyear in 2007 and has strengthened the company's financial strategy and treasury and investor relations functions.

Andy Hatton '95 was selected superintendent of Findlay (OH) City Schools and will assume the position August 1. He is currently the associate superintendent of learning and leadership for Upper Arlington (OH) City Schools. He earned an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Miami University and has served as a middle school teacher at Columbus City Schools, principal of Dempsey Middle School in Delaware City Schools, and director of curriculum at Dublin City Schools.

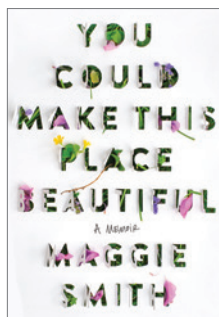
Jody Peacock '95 was named CEO of Ports of Indiana, the statewide port authority, which operates three ports on the Ohio River and Lake Michigan. Jody has served in various leadership positions for the Ports of Indiana since 2001, and he most recently was senior vice president for business development.

Lori Lauer-Roszman Rowland '96 was hired as vice president of finance for the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging in 2021. Her team oversees the program funding and budgets for the nine North Central Ohio counties served by AAA5. The agency helps aging adults remain independent and safe in their homes for as long as possible. With her husband, Scott, she lives in rural Crawford County.

Michael Mullady '98 was promoted to vice chairman at the Columbus, OH, office of CBRE, the highest title for producers at the company. He is the first professional in Columbus to achieve the vice chair title. He specializes in the acquisition and disposition of major

industrial facilities globally and serves as a tenant advisor for the site selection and lease negotiation process. During his career, Mullady has consistently ranked as the top producer in Columbus and repeatedly ranked in the top 3% and 10% of producers nationally at CBRE.

Eimile Tansey '98 was named chief people officer at ATI Physical Therapy, an outpatient physical therapy provider. She has dedicated more than 20 years in human resources and operations, including more than 15 years in leadership and executive roles. Eimile was previously chief people officer at elder-care provider InnovAge and vice president of human resources at CVS Health.



Maggie Smith '99 published her debut memoir, *You Could Make This Place Beautiful*, in April. She dives into the process of rebuilding her and her kids' life after the disintegration of her marriage, as well as the nuances of modern womanhood, traditional gender roles, and defining one's own life. Maggie has published a variety of other award-winning written works, including *Good Bones*, *Goldenrod*, and *Keep Moving: Notes on Loss, Creativity, and Change*.

2000s

Phillip Murphy '01 joined Rockland Trust's Corporate Banking Team in Burlington, MA, as vice president, relationship manager. Phillip has nearly two decades of experience in the commercial banking industry.

Khara Strum '01 was named director of Philander Chase Conservancy, the land trust at Kenyon College. Throughout her career, Strum has worked with rural, agricultural communities to develop shared conservation goals that benefit landowners, wildlife, and the environment. At Audubon California and Point Blue Conservation Science, she partnered regularly with landowners, conservation groups, industry leaders, and government agencies to enhance wildlife habitats on working lands. As an Ohio native, Khara is thrilled to return to her home state to continue her career while being closer to family.

Melanie Hill Hooper '05 was selected as CEO for Camp Fire Alaska, one of the largest and oldest youth development organizations operating in the state, with a focus on equity and inclusion. She has nearly 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience and has spent over a decade working in partnership with indigenous communities.

Reeti Khare '07, director of the Infectious Disease Laboratory at National Jewish Health in Denver, CO, is the senior author of a study that will help medical providers better understand the susceptibility of various nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) to different drugs. This new antibiogram will help providers make informed treatment decisions for patients with NTM. The research paper was published in the journal *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*.

2010s

Tyler Cordell '11 was promoted to associate head coach of the Columbia University women's basketball team. She has been with the team for the past six years, serving as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Those years have turned out to be the winningest six-year stretch in the NCAA Division I history of Columbia women's basketball.



We want to hear from you

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

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

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

The deadline for receiving Class Notes and Faculty Notes submissions for the Spring 2023 OWU Magazine is August 1, 2023.



Anni Liu '13 visited OWU to read from her recent award-winning book of poetry, *Border Vista*. Born and raised in Western China, Anni says, "My work explores distance and intimacy in my relationships with my family, with bureaucracy and state-sanctioned violence, racism and whiteness, the land, intimate partner violence, and the 'minor feelings' and major joys of being an alien and finding home." After the reading, she answered questions and signed books. Learn more about her work at anniliuwrites.wordpress.com.

Areena Arora '17 joined *Knoxville News Sentinel* as a data and investigative reporter. Previously, she was a senior sub editor at Glance, news publishing specialist at Reuters, and reporter at the *Idaho Press-Tribune*.

Zachary Miller '18 won the 41st Publinx Championship, a men's amateur golf tournament, in August in Wayland, MA. This win qualified him for up to five tournaments, including the 2023 Massachusetts Open.

John Bonus '19 joined U.S. Representative Don Davis' staff in Washington, DC, as scheduler/executive assistant. He served as a financial assistant at the Frost Group, the financial consultant firm of the Don Davis for NC campaign.

Births

Andrew Sloan '13 and **Samantha Simon Sloan '14** welcomed Wyatt Walter Sloan on July 7, 2022. Wyatt joins his 2-year-old sister, Matilda.



Lewis-Schmittgens Wedding

Kathleen Lewis '12 and **Jeff Schmittgens** were married December 31 in Morristown, NJ. Those attending included, from left, front row: **Kimberly Lewis '15**, **Irena Pandzic '12**, bride, groom; back row: **Norman Lewis '83**, **Susanne Deming Von der Linde '83**, **Emily Lunstroth Hammer '13**, **Molly Curry Rosenthal '13**, **Scott Rosenthal '13**, **Mary Schinnick '13**, **Liza Bennett '13**, **Julia Alkon '12**, **Zack Weaver '11**, **Billy Lewis '21**, **Martha Nunn Lewis '83**, **Jenny Nunn Holland '74**, **Peter Holland '84**.



deHaas-Ameigh Wedding

Thomas deHaas '15 married **Asia Ameigh** on July 9 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Lakeside Marblehead, OH. Their wedding party included **Joe Kirincic '16**, **Matt Spatz '16**, **Zach Paull '15**, **Tom Horsfall '15**, **Christian Gehrke '15**, and **Heather deHaas '16**.



Miller-Sanford Wedding

Jess Sanford '17 and **Addison Miller '14** were married on May 27, 2022, in a private ceremony on Key Biscayne, FL. They are pictured in Miami, FL.

weddings



Lehman Wedding
Jane Lehman '13 was married July 23, 2022, in Cleveland, OH. Pictured from left: **Sarah Keleher '13**, bride, and **Ashley Riefler '13**.



Weaver-Pandzic Wedding
Irena Pandzic '12 and **Zach Weaver '11** were married June 11, 2022, in New York City. Pictured from left: **Kathleen Lewis '12**, **Julia Alkon '12**, **Scott Bobbitt '11**, **Liza Bennett '13**, groom, bride, **David Assaf '11**, **Audrey Hudson '12**, **Mary Shinnick '13**, and **Martim Thomaz '10**.



Trigg-McNaughton Wedding
Thomas (TJ) Trigg '09 and **Hallie McNaughton '05** were married July 23, 2022, in Delaware, OH, at The Barn at Stratford. Pictured from left, front row: **David McNaughton '10**, Yessica Arriaga (friend of OWU), **Jill Haddock McNaughton '70**, groom, bride, **Alicia Bower-Gonce '05**, **Emily Dow Doucette '07**, **Sandy Seel Gallagher '70**. Back row: **Blake Pifer '10**, **Emily Bradley Boynton '10**, **Caitlin McNaughton '16**, **Ben Boynton '10**, **Suzanne Gill Komara '05**, **Annie Yea-Ko '05**, **Jaime Baer Morse '06**, **Joey Mayo** (attended during '05).

Lewis-Lakin-Huang Wedding
Kate Lewis-Lakin '14 and **C.C. Huang** were married October 15, 2022, in Evanston, IL. Pictured from left, front row: **Colleen Waickman '13**, **Samantha Rammaha '14**, bride **C.C.**, bride **Kate**, **Xandria Titus '14**, **Rachel Thomas '14**, **Lauren Foote '14**. Back row: **Katalyn Kuivila '14**, **John Kuhn**, **Stephanie Toole '14**, **Kim Eckart '13**, **Jennifer Federer Veys '12**, **Chris Veys**, **Prashanth Peketi**.



Weddings

For more detailed information about the alumni listed below, please see owu.edu/InMemoriam, which includes links to full obituaries. The webpage is updated frequently, and names remain on it for one year from the date of death. The list below includes alumni and others who passed away from September 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023.

1940s

Ruthanne Trutner '42, of Leesburg, OH, Sept. 10, age 102. She was predeceased by mother **Evelyn Morris Huff 1915X** and husband **William Trutner '43**.

Marian Freitag Hartenstein '43, of Akron, OH, and Stuart, FL, Nov. 15, age 101. She was predeceased by brother **Robert Freitag '52**. Marian is survived by sister **Ellen Freitag Hay '51**, children **Sidney Foster '67** and **Brian Foster '77**, and grandchild **Kimberly Foster '93**. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Marian Radebaugh Hunter '45, of Indianapolis, IN, Aug. 8, age 99. She was predeceased by husband **Harold Hunter '45** and uncle **Harry Rudy '29**. Marian is survived by daughters **Dianne Hunter '67** and **Barbara Hunter Greiner '70**, and sister **Willella Radebaugh Butz '46**. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Barbara Amendt Kessie '47, of Columbia City, IN, Dec. 22, age 97. She is survived by brother **Gordon Amendt '55**.

Margaret Hanna Hoskins '47, of Mount Vernon, OH, Aug. 8, age 97. She was predeceased by husband **Clayton Hoskins '48**. Meg is survived by sister **Elizabeth Hanna Huibregtse '50**. She was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Hallie "Jean" Lewis Ditty '47, of Ashland, KY, Jan. 26, age 98. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Albert Albrecht '48, of New Castle, PA, Jan. 20, age 97. He was predeceased by wife **Nancy Cecil Albrecht '47**. Al was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Eugene Wambold '48, of Marathon, FL, Jan. 17, age 96. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Dorothy Dome Watt '49, of Hudson, OH, Aug. 12, age 95. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Virginia Kirk '49, of San Antonio, TX, Sept. 7. She was predeceased by husband **James Kirk '49**. Virginia is survived by niece **Mary Stewart Dix '73**. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

George Mitchell '49, of Wilmette, IL, Dec. 5, age 96. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Mary Nantz Black '49, of Williamsburg, OH, Jan. 9. She was predeceased by husband **Derl David Oberlin '48**. Mary was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Richard Stazesky '49, of Hockessin, DE, Sept. 21, age 95. He is survived by son **Richard Stazesky Jr. '78**. Dick was a member of OWU's President's Circle.

1950s

Charlotte Brainard Ferguson '50, of Clifton Park, NY, July 30, age 93. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Patricia Martin Butler '50X, of Shelton, CT, July 25, age 93. She was predeceased by cousin **Barbara Martin '49**. Pat is survived by son **William Butler '76** and cousin **Sarah Martin '04**. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Starr Schlobohm '50, of Wolfeboro, NH, February 3, 2012, age 83. He is survived by son **Starr Schlobohm Jr. '79** and daughter Pamela. His ex-wife, **Ina Gorham Schlobohm '52X**, passed away in 2020. Starr was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Anne Dabney Hofmann Beringer '51, of Wadsworth, OH, Aug. 19. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

R. Robert Kimes '51, of Reynoldsburg, OH, Aug. 11, age 93. He is survived by daughter **Rebecca Kimes Rust '77**. Bob was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Bruce Layton '51, of Towson, MD, Nov. 26, age 95. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

David McFeggan '51, of Canadian Lakes, MI, Dec. 20, age 93. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Sondra Ruese Dunham '51, of Sidney, OH, Jan. 20, age 94. She was predeceased by husband **Robert Dunham '50**. Sondra is survived by son **Andy Dunham '75**, daughter-in-law **Mary Snoke Dunham '74**, and granddaughter **Hilary Dunham '00**. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Joan Spicer Pratt '51, of Bainbridge Island, WA, Nov. 12, age 93. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Shirley Gordon Hansen '52, of Wilmington, OH, Oct. 10, age 92. She was a member of Gamma Pi Beta sorority.

Ina Gorham Schlobohm '52X, of Mashpee, MA, August 7, 2020, age 90. She was predeceased by ex-husband **Starr Schlobohm '50**. Ina is survived by son **Starr Schlobohm Jr. '79** and daughter Pamela. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Jayne Gray MacCracken '52, of Flagstaff, AZ, Sept. 3, age 92. She is survived by husband **Richard MacCracken '51**. Jayne was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Marvin Kornegger '52, of Novi, MI, Jan. 29, age 94. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Mary McClelland Corbin '52, of Findlay, OH, Sept. 23, age 92. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Joel Bahner '53, of Durham, NC, Oct. 10, age 92. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Jean Krum Gohn '53, of Cornwall, PA, Jan. 21, age 91. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

Paul Monroe '53, of Plevna, KS, Aug. 17, age 91. He was predeceased by brother **Ralph Monroe '41**. Paul was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

James Phillips '53, of Venice, FL, Nov. 14, age 92. He was predeceased by brother **William Phillips '46**. Jim was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Lowell “Jack” Wells ’53, of Monroe, OH, Sept. 21, age 91. He was predeceased by wife **Carolyn Carrigan Wells ’55**. Jack is survived by daughter **Elizabeth Wells Weeks ’79** and grandchildren **Dale Cooney ’92** and **Sarah Wells Simon ’14**. He was a member of OWU’s Tower Society and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Joan Ely Holwadel ’54, of Cincinnati, OH, Sept. 24, age 90. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Ronald Gensemer ’54, of Port Charlotte, FL, Aug. 1, age 89. He was predeceased by parents **Urias Gensemer ’27** and **Inez Chadwick Gensemer ’29** and aunt **Vivian Chadwick Michaels ’34**. Ronald is survived by wife **Neta Reber Gensemer ’54**, son **Robert Gensemer ’82**, and brother **Bruce Gensemer ’61**. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Margaret “Alice” Lilley Komanecky ’54, of Vancouver, WA, Jan. 15, age 90. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

James Lippert ’54, of St. Louis, MO, Nov. 13, age 90. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

James Meredith ’54, of Lima, OH, Dec. 22, age 90. He is survived by sisters **K. Virginia Meredith DeLong ’51** and **Barbara Stelzer ’57**, and niece **Janet Stelzer Brownfield ’82**. Jim was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Donald Smith ’54, of Sycamore, OH, Jan. 11, age 90. He was predeceased by father **Franklin Smith ’28**. Donald is survived by sister **Virginia Smith Thompson ’58** and son **Tad Smith ’84**. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Nancy White ’54, of Crestwood, KY, Nov. 24, age 90. She was predeceased by husband **Duncan White ’54** and sister **Ruth White Boden ’53**. Nancy was a member of OWU’s Tower Society, Board of Trustees, and Pi Beta Phi sorority.

David Jones ’55, of Wyomissing, PA, Jan. 8, age 89. He was predeceased by cousin **Jill Shanks Eliot ’59**. David was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Franklin Milkovich ’55, of Cold Spring, NY, Nov. 15, age 88. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Agnes “Aggie” Pinson Broker ’55, of Cincinnati, OH, Oct. 22, age 89. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Marjorie Post Amendt ’55, of East Lansing, MI, Sept. 10, age 89. She is survived by husband **Gordon Amendt ’55**. Marjorie was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

Stuart Root ’55, of West Grove, PA, Dec. 31, age 90. He was predeceased by cousin **Dewitt Irwin ’59**. Stuart was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Melvyn Smith ’56, of Petoskey, MI, Aug. 6, age 87. He is survived by wife **Nancy Tracy Smith ’56**. Mel was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Robert Watson ’56, of Strongsville, OH, Jan. 7.

Richard Taylor ’55, of Dayton, OH, Dec. 7, age 90. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Neil Wollpert ’55, of Kettering, OH, Dec. 3, age 89. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Laura Jube Weber ’56, of Mahwah, NJ, Dec. 10, age 88. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Jill Denison Thomson ’57, of McKees Rocks, PA, Sept. 7, age 87. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Rosemary Kramling Chenue ’57, of Covington, KY, Dec. 23, age 86. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Ronald McLaren ’57, of Willoughby, OH, Sept. 18, age 87. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

David Miller ’57, of Upper Arlington, OH, Dec. 11, age 87. He was predeceased by sister **Nancy Miller Vogt ’62**. David is survived by brother **Roy Miller ’55**. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Janet Reid Hyde ’57, of Seabrook, SC, July 20, age 87. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

David Spooner ’57, of St. Louis, MO, Dec. 10, age 87.

Nancy Jo Chamberlain Peterson ’58, of NC, Sept. 30.

Kay Husted Shillito ’58, of Rochester, NY, Nov. 27, age 85. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Keith Joseph ’58, of Commerce Township, MI, Dec. 18, age 86. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Joan Lampe Huffman ’58, of Williamsburg, VA, Dec. 29, age 86. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Sue Russell Michel ’58, of Sarasota, FL, Nov. 2, age 86. She is survived by husband **John Michel ’58**. Sue was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Joseph Tucker ’58, of Athens, OH, Nov. 28, age 87. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Richard Faul ’59, of Cincinnati, OH, Nov. 18, age 85. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Christine Kegley Parker ’59, of Franklin, OH, Nov. 10, age 85. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Gail Phillips ’59, of Nashua, NH, Jan. 27, age 84. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Harriet Sheley Kiemle ’59, of Lititz, PA, Nov. 2, age 85. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Marcia Van Scoy Davis ’59, of Chagrin Falls, OH, July 23, age 85. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

1960s

Richard Heyman ’60, of St. Petersburg, FL, Jan. 1. He is survived by sister **Sara Heyman Nelsen ’58**. Dick was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Mabel Kinney Stehler '60, of Pittsford, NY, Nov. 13, age 84. She is survived by husband **Carl Stehler '59**. Mabel was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Robert Leland '60, of Washington Twp., OH, Aug. 31, age 89. He was predeceased by sisters **Virginia Leland Palmatier '36** and **Margaret Leland Russell '38**. Bob is survived by son **Kurt Leland '80** and grandchild **Jenna Norman '23**.

Mary Stewart Rutchow '60, of Toledo, OH, Oct. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Richard Winger '60, of Vero Beach, FL, Nov. 12, age 84.

Frank Dunbar '61, of Dublin, OH, Nov. 10, age 83. He was predeceased by father **Frank Dunbar '32**. Frank is survived by sister **Charlotte Dunbar Nichols '69**, nephew **Douglas Haas '94**, and grandchild **Lindsay Dunbar '11**. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

John Orin '61, of Lakewood, OH, Aug. 19. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Robert S. Fifield '62, of Scottdale, PA, Aug. 11, age 81. He was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity.

Cynthia Keep Saba '62, of the East Bay region, CA, Oct. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Norma Osborne Claphan '62, of Westerville, OH, Jan. 14, age 82.

Howard Peters '62, of Cheshire, CT, Sept. 14, age 82. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

George "Andy" Feld '63, of Chapel Hill, NC, Aug. 20, age 83. He was predeceased by sister **Margaret Feld Meinzer '58**. Andy is survived by wife **Kathryn Newman Feld '64**. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

George Gebhardt '63, of Baltimore, MD, Sept. 6, age 80. He was a member of OWU's Tower Society.

Jean Liatti '63, of Avon, OH, Jan. 26, age 81. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Jane Rybolt Whitehead '63, of Hudson, OH, Sept. 27, age 81. She was predeceased by father **Robert Rybolt '35**, uncle **Albert Heavilin '38**, and cousins **Mildred Rybolt Wachter '31** and **Walter Rybolt '36**. Jane is survived by cousin **Megan Harlan '01**. She was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Delta Gamma sorority.

Esther Klemme Schmitt '64, of Dublin, OH, July 26, age 79. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Frances Page Thatcher '64, of York, PA, Jan. 7, age 80.

Robert Alspach '65, of Centerville, OH, Dec. 22, age 79. He was predeceased by brother **James Walters '71**. Bob was a member of OWU's Tower Society.

Ellen Marie Brasher Harris '65, of Gallant, AL, Jan. 7, age 79.

Elwood "Gray" Glass '65, Aug. 7, age 79. He was predeceased by sister **Elizabeth Glass Buchstein '69**. Gray is survived by sisters **Susan Glass Kelbus '67** and **Anne Glass Bump '70**. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Sally Patterson Sweat '65, of Tucson, AZ, Jan. 9, age 79. She was predeceased by cousins **V. Jean McConnell McCarty '50** and **Robert McCarty '53**. Sally is survived by cousin **Deborah Schnorr '70**. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Bonita Shindledecker '65, of Findlay, OH, Sept. 7, age 78. She is survived by husband **Thomas Shindledecker '63**. Bonnie was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Jacqueline Brooks Mitchell '67, of Newark, OH, Dec. 21, age 77. She is survived by husband **Clifford Mitchell '68**. Jacqueline was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

James Weaver Jr. '67, of Strasburg, PA, Nov. 27, age 77. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Margaret Ames Ward '68, of Corolla, NC, Dec. 9, age 76. She was predeceased by husband **Michael Ward '68**. Peggy was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

John Hinton '68, of Huron, OH, Oct. 9, age 75. He is survived by daughter **Emily Hinton '94**. John was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Kristan Rinker Crosby '68, of Columbus, OH, Sept. 13, age 75. She is survived by husband **Robin Crosby '64** and brother **Kent Rinker '70**. Kristan was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Thomas Heffernon '69, of Marlborough, MA, Aug. 7, age 75. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

1970s

Lynn Gableman Rupp '70, of Thomas, WV, Jan. 12. She was predeceased by uncle **James Mossman 1925**. Lynn is survived by husband **Robert Rupp '69** and daughter **Emily McCormick Rupp '02**.

Marc Taylor '70, of San Antonio, TX, Nov. 19. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Gary Voss '72, of Peterborough, NH, Aug. 18, age 72. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Barbara Daniels Hetrick '73, of Cedar Falls, IA, Jan. 5, age 71.

Katherine Kreyling '73, of Snohomish, WA, Nov. 17. She is survived by sister **Elizabeth Kreyling '76**. Katherine was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Walter Ettinger '74, of Baltimore, MD, Oct. 17, age 70. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Garret Roosma '74, of Marco Island, FL, Dec. 27, age 70. He is survived by wife **Emily Goodpasture Roosma '75**. Garret was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Robert Almstead '78, of Marengo, OH, Aug. 22, age 70. He was predeceased by mother **Dorothy Buck Almstead '45**. Bob is survived by brother **David Almstead '75** and niece **Jennifer Campos '07**.

1980s

Joel Burtman '80, of Voorheesville, NY, Nov. 20, age 64.

Joan O'Neill Murchland '83, of Delaware, OH, Oct. 6, age 88. She is survived by daughters **Suzanne Murchland Luecke '88** and **Rebecca Murchland '92**.



Photo by Paul Vernon

Charley Morris '25

Spring break ended with profound sadness on the OWU campus, with the news that sophomore **Charley Morris** and his father, Charles, drowned in Beaver Lake, Arkansas, where they had been kayaking during a family vacation.

In making the announcement to the campus community, Rock Jones said, "Charley was an exceptional young man who brought much to the Ohio Wesleyan campus. He will be remembered for his love for his family and the outdoors, his talent as a runner in cross country and track, his service as a Bishop Scholar tutor in local elementary schools, his dedication to his classwork, and his participation with OWU's chamber orchestra. Most of all, he will be remembered at OWU as a beloved friend."

As a first-year student-athlete, he was named North Coast Athletic Conference Middle Distance/Distance Athlete of Week after winning the 800-meter run at the Bob Shannon Invitational during the 2022 indoor track & field season. At this year's NCAC indoor championship meet, he finished sixth in the 400-meter dash and helped the Bishop 1600-meter relay team to a fifth-place finish.

"Charley was a joy to coach," said Kris Boey, director of track & field and cross country. "His smile and warm heart will stay with me forever. I'll be forever grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Charley's life these past

two years. Charley was a thoughtful and compassionate young man with a wonderful sense of humor and a kind heart. Charley was a wonderful teammate who celebrated the achievements of others even before his own. He will be dearly missed and will always be near."

"Charley was soft-spoken but carried a big heart for his teammates," said Ben Carlson, head cross country and assistant track & field coach. "His competitiveness was apparent in our first workout in the fall of his freshman year; it would've carried him to an outstanding second half of his OWU athletic career. I appreciated his love of this team and his teammates the most."

Charley participated in the Bishop Scholar tutoring program from its inception this academic year, tutoring at Buckeye Valley East Elementary School in the fall and at Conger Elementary in Delaware in the spring.

The OWU campus community held a memorial service for Charley April 11 in Gray Chapel.

In his announcement, Jones added, "While we are heartbroken by Charley's death, we are blessed to be part of a deeply caring community. I am grateful for the way in which students have reached out to care for one another, especially Charley's teammates and close friends, as they struggle with sadness and loss. And I am grateful for the competent, dedicated, and compassionate efforts of every member of our faculty and staff."

Courtney McCollum '88, of Sarasota, FL, Oct. 5, age 56. She is survived by cousin **Julia DiNapoli '89**.

Christian Pahl '91, of Malden, MA, Jan. 28, age 53. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Naima Johnston-Bush '93, of Noblesville, IN, Dec. 24, age 51. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Brian Jones '03, of Delaware, OH, Nov. 2, age 41. He is survived by uncle **Edwin Butcher '67**.

Kevin Barron '07, of Lambertville, MI, Dec. 1, age 38.

Faculty & Staff

Deborah Carter Peoples, of Delaware, OH, Sept. 24, age 70. She was director of the Hobson Science Library at OWU. She is survived by husband, James Peoples, professor emeritus of sociology and anthropology.

Joyce Chrystal, of Delaware, OH, Sept. 26, age 79. She worked in fundraising at OWU.

Joan Cornell, of Delaware, OH, Dec. 15, age 95. She worked at OWU.

David Eye, of New York, NY, Jan. 12, age 62. He taught poetry, creative writing, and literature at OWU.

Sandra Harper, of Highlands Ranch, CO, Aug. 2, age 84. She was professor emerita of modern foreign languages at OWU, teaching from 1968 to 2012. Sandra was honored with the Bishop Herbert Welch Meritorious Teaching Award in 2000 and Adam Poe Medal in 2012.

Ann Lee, of Delaware, OH, Aug. 3, age 80. She worked in admission and the registrar's office at OWU. She was a member of OWU's Quarter Century Club.

Anna Macias, of NY, Nov. She was professor emerita of history, retiring in 1993 after 30 years at OWU.

David Niwa, of Columbus, OH, Sept. 1, age 58. He taught music at OWU.

Ethel Shoaf, of Delaware, OH, Aug. 11. She worked in food service at OWU for more than 23 years.

Evan Smith, of Snohomish County, WA, Nov. 18, age 77. He taught at OWU.

Mary Spangler Will, of Shelby, OH, Dec. 26, age 89. She was a secretary at OWU.

Elizabeth Switzer, of Delaware, OH, Aug. 15, age 90. She worked in admission at OWU.

Patricia Szczech, of Columbus, OH, Dec. 31, age 81. She was an assistant professor of nursing.

Sympathy to

Betty Smith '52 and former OWU faculty member Richard Smith for the loss of Betty's brother, Charles Jackson, Aug. 25. Our sympathy also to Charles' grandchildren, who include **Rachel Lantz '22, Jennifer Ripper '14**, and current student **Samuel Ripper**.

Julia Strimer '62 for the loss of her brother, Peter Strimer, of FL, Nov.

Timothy Lanza '77 for the loss of his father, Guy Lanza, of Lancaster, PA, Dec. 31, age 97.

Laurie Goodrich Clark '81 for the loss of her father, Kenneth Goodrich, of Columbus, OH, Aug. 10, age 88.

Jennifer Bogart Gardner '88 for the loss of her father, Edward Bogart, of Alexandria, VA, Jan. 12, age 92.

SJ Barakony '98 for the loss of his father, Frank Barakony, of Parma Heights, OH, Aug. 28, age 81.

Tiffany Priest Schultz '06 for the loss of her father, Terry Preist, of Newark, OH, Jan. 1, age 75.

Hillary Fowler Milligan '14 for the loss of her stepfather, Robert Holder, of Canfield, OH, Aug. 1, age 75.

Llewellyn "Bo" Rabby

Llewellyn "Bo" Rabby, of Delaware, OH, Jan. 23, age 88. He was professor emeritus of theatre, teaching theatre at OWU for nearly 40 years. Bo is survived by children **Chris Rabby '89, Leigh Rabby '92**, and **Marcia Rabby Smith '95**.

Below are memories from a few of Bo Rabby's many students.

Wayne Turney '68: "From our first collaboration on *The Fantasticks* in the fall of 1967 to a remarkable *Tempest* in 2003, Bo has always been one of those rare friends in the theatre."

Frank Corrado '69: "Bo cast me as John Proctor in *The Crucible* (opposite the fantastic Pamela Erbe). My idea of 'technique' at the time was to channel the moves of assorted British film actors, adding a sloppy dollop of Brando to keep it real. Bo saw right through this and after a couple of rehearsals drew me aside in his down-to-earth way and said: 'Remember one thing here, Proctor is a farmer, not an actor.' No one in the theatre has ever said anything as important or more useful to me than he did in that one rehearsal years ago."

Cindee Mayfield Dobbs '76: "I can still remember the first time I was invited in that office, the 'inner-sanctum,' to discuss my future goals and aspirations. I was intimidated and terrified of the 'Bear.' But you became the single, most important, influence in my life as an actress. I will never forget you."

Deborah McColloch '77: "Bo had such a positive impact on scores of students through the years. One of my favorite happy memories of Chappellear is your production of *MacBeth*, with Rod Martin and Betsy Tobie."

Mark Eichorn '79: "Your love and inspiration for acting, directing, and teaching will live forever in those you have touched. Everytime I step on the stage, I ask myself, how would Bo direct me here?"

Sharon Shahinian '79: "One of the great mentors in my life."

Randy Myers '92: "Thanks to your resilient dedication to theatre, . . . you inspired many of us to pursue careers in the arts, and everyone to think and grow as individuals. That is a career worth its weight in gold."



Abby Feldman '98: "Is this art?" asked Dr. Rabby, in Junior Seminar, referring to a work depicted in the slide behind him.

"No!" I declared boldly, as a young college student might.

"Okay," he responded patiently, "why not?"

"Because you can just tell. I mean, look at that thing. Any sane person would agree."

And with that uneducated response Dr. Rabby merely raised his foreboding brow, and from his wry smile responded, "Anyone care to disagree?"

Jason Beehler '00: "Little did I know, as I fist-pounded my way through an utterly forgettable scene performance, that over the course of the next several years, the scary old man with the notepad and pen sitting in the dark corner of Rm. 008 in the basement of Chappellear would become my most trusted mentor, my favorite director on Earth, the man who taught me everything I know about theatre, and my dear friend."

Maggie Flanagan Hollway '02: "Tall, smart, a little gray, a belly laugh, contagious energy, stubborn, a father figure, intuitive, a good eye, a confidant, an uneven walk, a charmer. These are just a few words to describe a remarkable man, Dr. Rabby. Thank you for bringing us up, and never letting us down."

Rebecca Little '04: "But oh, the laugh! Dr. Rabby's rather loud guffaw reverberated throughout the room, causing chuckles among the students, revealing his sense of humor and sincere delight for life. Dr. Rabby's ability to let go and laugh at life's complexities, and at himself, led to unabashed friendships with students."

James Scotland IV '04: "Dr. Rabby helped a young man who wished to be funny become a comedic actor with confidence in his abilities to bring smiles to the faces in an audience."

What's the story?



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

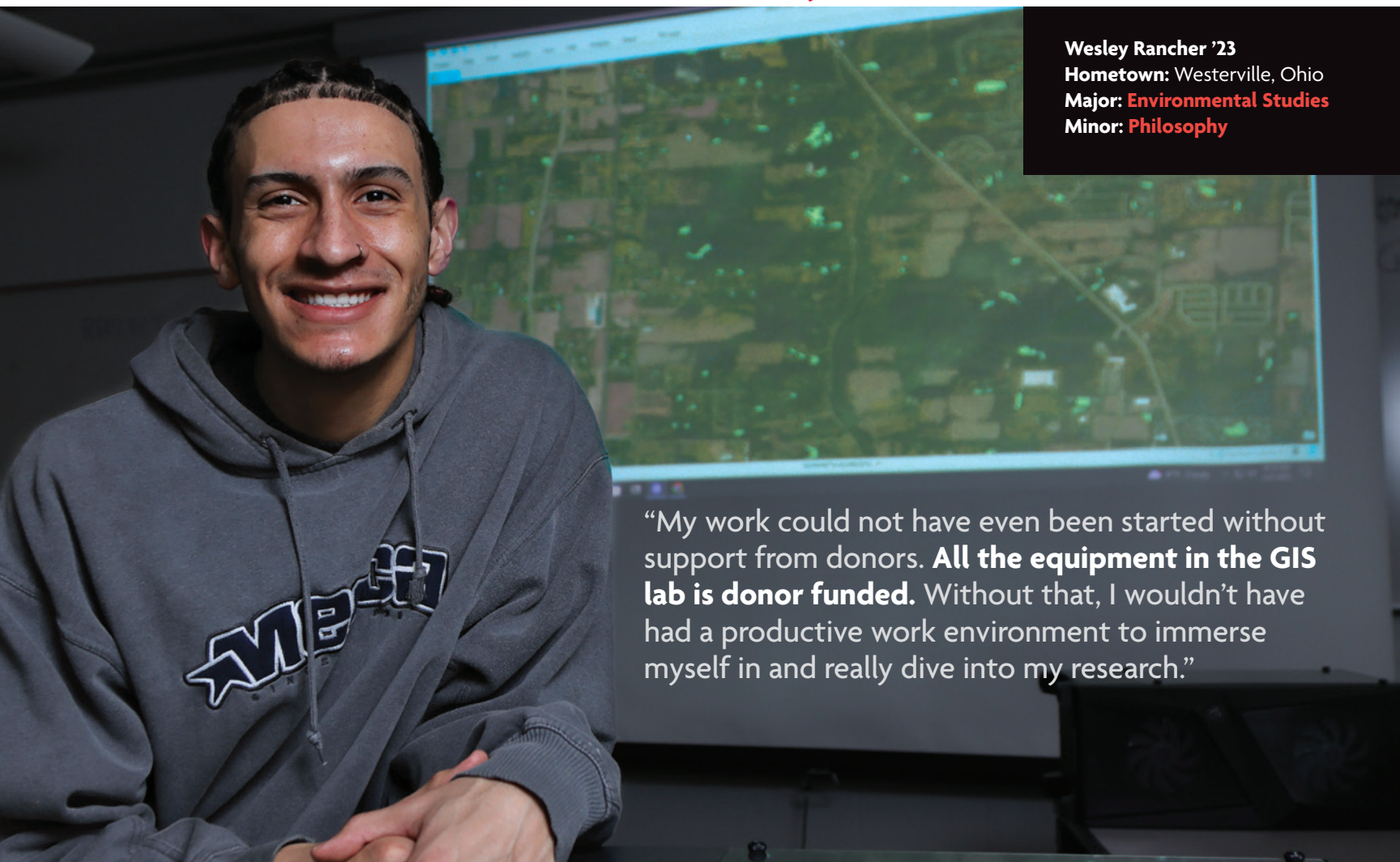
Nearly 20 alumni helped solve the mystery photo from the Fall 2022 issue. Now, can you help us identify these students, why they're shaking hands, where they are, and when this happened?

Maybe the crest on the far right student's jacket is a clue. Maybe the wallpaper and art behind them.

OWU Magazine would like to solve some of these mysteries from the archives. And we need your help. Please contact us if you know the story behind the photo. Who's in the picture, what are they doing, and where and when was the photo taken? We will publish the answers in the next *OWU Magazine*.

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

Create an OWU Connection when you invest in the Ohio Wesleyan Fund!



Wesley Rancher '23
Hometown: Westerville, Ohio
Major: **Environmental Studies**
Minor: **Philosophy**

“My work could not have even been started without support from donors. **All the equipment in the GIS lab is donor funded.** Without that, I wouldn’t have had a productive work environment to immerse myself in and really dive into my research.”

Wesley’s OWU Connection Experience: Mapping the impact of road salt on freshwater ecosystems in Delaware County using ArcGIS, an online geographic information system software. “I’ve gained confidence with mapping approaches and methods, and I’ll be able to incorporate this acquired knowledge with different research regarding the environment.”

After Graduation: Graduate school

His Goal: “I would love to work in industry in a niche scientific field, either at a company that works on solving environmental problems or at a company that needs more sophisticated understanding, recognition, and initiative toward its own environmental impact.”

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Photo by Brian Rellinger