



OWU

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2024

M A G A Z I N E

What's in the Water?

Kindness. Boldness. Innovation.



Total Amazement!

OWU students have seen fantastic feats in Selby Stadium, but maybe nothing as sublime as three minutes of total solar eclipse. The OWU community gathered in Selby to experience the first total eclipse ever at Ohio Wesleyan. Everyone came away amazed and exhilarated.



features

8 What's in the Water?

At his inauguration as OWU's 17th president, Matt vanderBerg reflected on OWU's distinct character—and announced revolutionary new programs. Read his inaugural speech.

17 Artificial Intelligence in a Real World

OWU alumni and faculty share their thoughts, hopes, and fears on how artificial intelligence may transform our way of life.

42 Phil Meek '59 Remembered

Ken Sternad '77 pays tribute to his friend, fellow trustee, and Phi Gamma Delta brother.

departments

2 READERS' LETTERS

3 FROM THE JAYWALK

6 COMFORT ZONES

30 BISHOP BATTLES

32 TEACHING MOMENTS

33 FACULTY NOTES

35 CLASS NOTES

40 UPCOMING EVENTS

41 WEDDINGS

43 IN MEMORIAM

48 MYSTERIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

On the cover: The photo-illustration by Larry Hamill celebrates the rebirth of spring and the magical essence of OWU's Sulphur Spring.

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OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

M A G A Z I N E

SPRING 2024

Editor and Chief Communications Officer

Will Kopp
magazine@owu.edu

Class Notes Editor

Reilly Wright '20
classnotes@owu.edu

Designer

William Walker

Vice President for University Advancement

Natalie Milburn Doan '03

Director of Alumni Relations

Katie Webster

Alumni Editorial Advisory Board

Jeff Davis '81, Susan Headden '77, Greg Moore '76, Alan Ohnsman '89, Jonna Gallo Weppeler '93, Alexis Williams '12

Magazine Planning Committee

Mark Beckenbach, Dina Daltorio, Natalie Doan, Cole Hatcher, Ericka Kurtz, Dustin Reichard, Katie Webster

Printed by Lane Press, South Burlington, Vermont

Office of University Communications
740-368-3108
magazine@owu.edu

Alumni Relations Office
740-368-3325
alumni@owu.edu

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readers' letters

OWU in the Big Apple

I enjoyed the fall edition of the *OWU Magazine* with a focus on alumni in "Taking a Bite Out of the Big Apple" and "The Insider's Guide to NYC."

As you may know, NYC is composed of five boroughs: Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Staten Island, and Brooklyn. Having been raised in Brooklyn, attending all public schools there, before attending OWU in the fall of 1961, our fellow alumni may have forgotten about one of OWU's most brave and courageous alumni, **Branch Rickey 1904**.

NYC had three major league baseball teams when I was a child: the New York Yankees, New York Giants, and Brooklyn Dodgers.

Those of my age enjoyed the movie 42, involving the role that Branch Rickey had in breaking the color barrier in MLB by signing Jackie Robinson. Ebbets Field—home of the Brooklyn Dodgers—was replaced by the Ebbets Field Apartments, with a home plate marker in the sidewalk. This spot ties OWU alumni visiting NYC to the site of Branch Rickey and the history of the Brooklyn Dodgers!

The movie 42 is still available to stream for those who want to learn more about the Rickey-Robinson relationship and its lasting impact on baseball.

It's a great day to be a Bishop!

Pete Lee '65

Gratitude for Shirley

Hello, from a '62X long-time contributor.

I was thrilled with the Gifts & Gratitude article! Both the success of **Shirley Paden-Bernstein '73**, and the commitment to first-gen student success. I was deeply gratified to see the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ students called out.

My two years at OWU and two more at BWU in Berea, OH, gave me a foundation for my career that focused on helping people develop their capabilities. And in retirement, in Duluth, Minnesota, I am still deeply engaged with the BIPOC and differently gendered community as a volunteer.

And it was great to read about the actively engaged new president and his "What Matters Tour!"

Janet Smith Magree '62X

Mystery photo ID

I am sorry that I didn't write earlier about the mystery photo in the Spring 2023 *OWU Magazine*. In any event, I can tell you with 100 percent certainty that the swimmer identified as **Al Waterfield** is not Al. The swimmer second from left in the photo is **Jim Brown. Dr. Jerry Dickey**, a teammate of all of these men, had all of the names correct!

By the way, **Barry Poulson**, one of the letter writers, is Class of 1959, rather than Class of '51.

As for the photo in the latest issue of the magazine, I don't have a clue! But it is a wonderful issue! Thanks so very much!

Bob Holm '60

Mystery solved!

I believe I am the only person who can answer your mystery.

The ONLY connection that picture (Mysteries from the Archives, Fall 2023) has to Ohio Wesleyan is me, **Chuck Frostick, Class of 1979**, standing on the far left in the back row.

It is from my George Washington High School 1975 yearbook—in Charleston, West Virginia.

During my college years (and later into the 1980s when I continued to work for the school in a variety of jobs) I was a photographer for OWU, working through the public relations/sports information office, and also shooting for *The Transcript* and the yearbook. I can only imagine that somehow that photograph from my precollege days ended up in a stack of Ohio Wesleyan pictures. I must have, at some time, shown this picture to friends.

It shows a silly "float" we put together for a homecoming parade as a followup to the previous year's float, which was a huge beer "can" made up of hundreds of empty cans. We were obviously not as ambitious in our float making as was the crew from the previous year.

Certainly not the explanation I'm sure you were hoping for, but this does answer your mystery.

Chuck Frostick '79

Share your opinions!

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

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

Letters may be
edited for length
and clarity.

Scenes from an unconventional convention

At Ohio Wesleyan's 2024 Mock Convention in February (this year a Republican convention), students looked beyond the presidential candidates running at the time and nominated Utah Senator Mitt Romney to head their ticket. They also debated and amended a Republican Party platform

that students had written following a series of policy-related panel discussions in the fall. Several GOP current and former officeholders, including former Ohio Lieutenant Gov. Nancy Hollister, spoke to convention-goers, encouraging the students to be active and engaged citizens and to vote

at every opportunity. OWU's Mock Convention tradition dates back 140 years—making it the nation's oldest collegiate mock convention. It has been held in conjunction with nearly every presidential election since 1920.



Assistant Professor of Politics and Government Brianna Mack (standing) confers on stage with Mock Convention Executive Directors **Timothy Page '25** (left) and **Sophie Gipson '24**. Mack served as Mock Convention advisor this year.



Representing Florida, **Raymond Craig '27** states his case while **Saharla Lohan '25** awaits. At the conclusion of the convention, Saharla received the Theodore Roosevelt Domestic Policy Debate Award.

Raazia Aamir '26 addresses the convention while **Digvijay Tekade '24** waits his turn. Both Raazia and Digvijay participate in student government.



Ella Holtsberry '27 presents platform testimony during the first day of Mock Convention. Ella received the Bush Economic Policy Debate Award for her contributions at the event.



Photos by Paul Vernon

Rock Jones portrait graces Slocum Reading Room

For more than 120 years, the faces of Aristotle, Shakespeare, Beethoven, and Abraham Lincoln have gazed down on OWU students from the skylight of the Slocum Reading Room. Now, a new face with a kind and benevolent expression, will be looking back at students on their own level.

The portrait of OWU's 16th president, Rock Jones, was unveiled in a ceremony April 18 before a room full of alumni, faculty, staff, students, and trustees.

More than 20 alumni donors completely funded the painting of the portrait, and **Debra Force '75**, president of Debra Force Fine Art in New York, managed the project, which led to the selection of portrait artist Steven Polson to create the painting.

In a recorded message played at the unveiling ceremony, Polson said, "I've painted other university presidents, but the attention paid here, the strong sense of community at this school, and the admiration for its president truly stood out."

Jones said that as he looked around the room his mind was flooded with



Rock and Melissa Jones with the portrait that now hangs in the Slocum Reading Room.

memories, reflecting that for him and his wife, Melissa, "our lives were touched and enriched in ways that we never would have imagined."

He left the audience with a final thought about the importance of OWU's ongoing work.

"I don't think anything is more crucial to the future of our democracy, to the well-being of our planet, to the health and the strength of the human fabric than the sustainability of places like this."

Senior wins Fulbright award



Mayukha Dyta

Mayukha Dyta '24 of Powell, Ohio, earned a highly competitive Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program grant to spend nine months in India studying the country's medical diagnostic and treatment delivery methods in urban versus rural areas.

Her Fulbright-Nehru Student Research grant will support her research at Goa Medical College and Hospital in Goa, India, where she already has completed two summer research projects with grant support from OWU's signature program, the OWU Connection.

Each of Dyta's OWU Connection projects—"Teaching Medical Diversity: How Indian Medical Schools Prepare Their Students for Diverse Patient Population" and "Books to Pills: How Medical Education is Translated to Treatment in Indian Medical Systems"—laid the foundation for her successful Fulbright application.

"So far, I have researched how the Indian medical education system teaches their students how to become doctors, and in what ways these students engage in medicine throughout their time as a student," says Dyta, who majored in pre-

medicine and sociology/anthropology.

"The Fulbright will be a continuation of this process," she says, "and will focus more on how these students learn different diagnostic methods, and how their learned processes of treatment are molded by the patient and area they are treating in, whether that be urban or rural areas."

At OWU, she also worked as a research intern and volunteer at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus and at Mount Carmel St. Ann's in Westerville.

After completing her Fulbright experience, Dyta plans to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. in medical anthropology.

She says her OWU experience and the Fulbright grant are "the beginning of a lifelong commitment to creating medical spaces full of diversity, mutual communication, and understanding in all shades of medicine."

Alumni gifts to The Ohio Wesleyan Fund support OWU Connection experiences for students through research, internship, and service opportunities.

19

Summer Science Research experience on campus with faculty mentors uncovering new knowledge

10

Summer research at universities and research centers like Cornell, Ohio State, University of Pittsburgh, Mayo Clinic, and Texas Children's Hospital

OWU Connection Experience for the Class of '24

76

Students awarded OWU Connection grants (25% of the class)

6

Continents where students volunteered and performed service learning

1,000

Average number of hours of volunteer service performed by every member of the class

94%

Improvement in math scores for K-8 students tutored by OWU students in the Bishop Scholars program

86

Studied abroad or took a travel-learning class

75%

Completed at internship (10% had more than one!)

comfortzones

Pedro Figueiredo '25

Theatre and Film Studies major from Salvador, Brazil
Chappelear Drama Center

Pedro Figueiredo is active and involved across campus, including work as a resident assistant and president of the Incredible Film Club, but hands-down, his OWU comfort zone is Chappelear. From the rehearsal room in the basement to the stages and backstage areas to the tech room above, this is his home. He has written and performed in one-act plays in Chappelear, served as stage manager for a production, and he performed in the musical *Xanadu* in spring of 2023.

A native of Salvador, Brazil, Pedro chose OWU after meeting with faculty in Theatre and Film Studies. "When I met with the faculty, I felt like it was really personalized here," he says.

This spring, he's been busy on campus making his first movie, and long-term, he hopes to work in the film industry as a screenwriter, director, and producer.

1 Guardians of the Galaxy

"I love sci-fi," Pedro says. When he was 15 years old, Pedro bought this *Guardians of the Galaxy* cap during his first trip to Disney World. *Guardians* was a movie and television series at the time, based on a superhero team from Marvel Comics.

2 One-Act Wonders

Every year, the Performing Arts Department produces a show of one-act plays written and performed by students. For that show last year, Pedro wrote "Contact in the Dark," which he calls a sci-fi comedy. He also performed in a classmate's play. To commemorate the event, the students received pins.

3 The Sorting Hat Says ... Ravenclaw!

Pedro also bought this scarf during his first trip to Florida, when he dove into the world of Harry Potter at Universal Studios. The scarf features the colors of the Ravenclaw house from Hogwarts. "I am a Ravenclaw!" he says, noting they are more creative and think outside the box, like Luna Lovegood and Gilderoy Lockhart.

4 First Gen

Pedro is on track to become the first member of his family to graduate from college. And he has been active in OWU's extensive initiatives to help first-generation college students succeed on campus from day one through graduation day.

5 The Shakespeare Office

This summer, Pedro is returning to work as a video specialist for the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, Minnesota, where he can again wear this lanyard. He worked there last year through an OWU Connection internship. His favorite achievement there last summer was creating and shooting "The Shakespeare Office," a parody of the iconic sitcom. "*The Office* is one of my favorite TV shows of all time, and so I had the idea of using Shakespeare characters in an office setting. I wrote the script of the video along with my coworker in the social media team, and we shot it with the actors in the company. I also worked on the editing. It was great how GRSF was supportive and engaged in helping us make this idea come to life," he says. "Now I feel that I can make professional videos with advanced equipment and editing software."





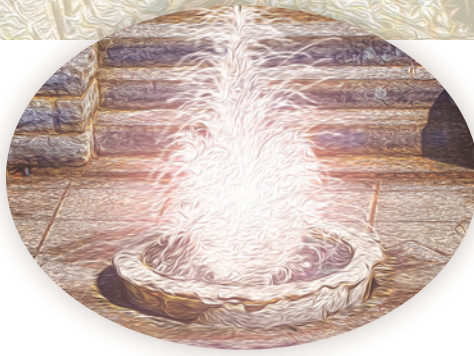
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4

5



What's in the Water?



Photo by James DeCamp

**New president reflects on OWU's Sulphur Spring
source to launch Ohio Wesleyan's future**

OWU's 17th President Matt vandenBerg invoked the Spirit of '76 and the Spirit of '42 as he called for a new OWU rebellion of kindness, boldness, and innovation in his April 19 inaugural address. He also created OWU history with groundbreaking announcements. An abridged version of his address is printed below.

Exactly 249 years ago today (April 19), in the early morning, a 41-year-old silversmith had already hastily mounted his horse and raced off into the mist. Shrouded in darkness and chilled to the bone, he sped through a labyrinth of muddy streets on the northern outskirts of Boston.

His mission? To warn his neighbors of an imminent attack. The British were coming, and their intentions were clear: to extinguish the spirit of rebellion smoldering in the hearts of the colonists.

Aided by a pair of lanterns at the Old North Church and other riders, Paul Revere alerted the militia to the impending attack. The British would soon detain Revere, along with John Hancock, Sam Adams, and others, but not before they'd successfully mobilized the countryside.

April 19 brought us that legendary Midnight Ride. April 19 witnessed the Shot Heard 'Round the World. On April 19, the Battles of Lexington and Concord ignited the American Revolution.

Of course, historical events are often rife with misconceptions. And as our distinguished history colleague, Barbara Terzian, teaches, Paul Revere's ride features one such myth. As it turns out, he did not, as it's commonly reported, repeat the phrase, "The British are coming."

Why, you might ask? Because that simply wouldn't have made sense. In those days, the colonists still saw themselves as Englishmen. So, for someone to warn them that "the British are coming" would be like telling someone in Ohio, "The gray clouds are coming!" It's like: "OK. We know. And why are you shouting?"

What Paul Revere actually called out as he catalyzed the rebellion was this: "The Regulars are coming." The term "Regulars" was a reference to the formal Redcoat-wearing troops, as opposed to their own local citizen-soldiers. So, for our nation's founders, the enemy was "The Regulars."

Higher Ed Challenges

Nearly two and a half centuries later, much of higher education finds itself at odds with a very different type of "Regulars." Not one of military form, nor one that wears a redcoat. In fact, the Regulars we face now aren't even human. While a bit of a nebulous

concept, the modern-day Regulars we face today are still dangerous.

The Regulars of today come in the form of a general malaise, a defensive posture, and a stasis that has consumed our industry slowly, yet steadily, through decades of mounting pressures.

The Regulars are a scarcity mindset born from years of cutbacks, pullbacks, and setbacks.

The Regulars are a reluctance to adapt and a form of muscular atrophy that comes from doing the same things repeatedly but expecting different results.

To say these are difficult times for higher education is an understatement of epic proportions. You might say that goes double for small, private residential liberal arts colleges. We're buried under an ever-growing pile of concerns—from soaring inflation and price sensitivity to questions about the value of a degree, declining enrollments, political rancor, brinkmanship, and calcified financial models. We're mired in a national retention and graduation crisis, and students need more and better help than colleges sometimes have to offer. Take, for example, America's growing mental health epidemic and our industry's collective response. We're bringing a squirt gun to a forest fire.

Meanwhile, a dramatic erosion of empathy and widespread reluctance to engage in constructive dialogue plagues the entire nation, and it certainly hasn't spared higher education. As a society, we're deeply polarized. We increasingly identify only with our own political and cultural tribes. We find ourselves far less willing to engage with those who hold different views. We too often blame each other for our problems when instead we should find common ground, leverage our diversity as a strength, and rally in unity toward solutions.

Coping Mechanisms

As a sector, the responses of many liberal arts colleges to the Regulars of our time have hardly been inspired or effective. Far too many institutions have fallen into a trap of unhealthy coping mechanisms, like cutting our budgets to the bone and hoping to save our way out of repeated crises. Sometimes we do the opposite and keep stretching and flexing and adding

programs to try and be all things to all people.

But ultimately, all these things do is dilute our missions and leave us feeling less certain of who we even are.

Paradoxically, we yearn for recognition. We decry how we're "everybody's best kept secret." We lament how more people would love us—if they just got to know us. And not coincidentally, we all use the same clichés to try and recruit students—like small class sizes, faculty who really care, experiential learning, and alumni successes. Everyone who's been on a college tour recently knows they all sound the same. You know, Regular.

So, how should we engage our modern-day Regulars? What is the path to real rebellion? How will Paul Revere know where to find us?

OWU's Distinction

Thankfully, we don't need to look far for answers. For all you Bishops in the house, let me tell you something you already know: OWU is astonishingly gifted at helping 18-to-22-year-olds find their way—to answer the all-important self-discovery questions during the most formative stage of their lives—the questions that test assumptions and surface the truth. What am I good at? What gets me out of bed in the morning? What's my role in creating a better world?

We have the perfect opportunity to learn from our own successful approach with students—to take a page out of our own textbook. We have the chance to ask ourselves the very same existential questions, even if they're tough.

What makes us truly distinctive? What can students get at OWU that they won't, or they don't, or they can't get anywhere else? How do we align our resources and energies so that those distinctions truly shine?

In other words, at Ohio Wesleyan University, "What's in the Water?"



*[At this point, several OWU students, including **Katie Davis '25** (left) surprised the audience by breaking into a song, "What's in the Water?" written and arranged for the occasion by OWU faculty **Lusie Cuskey, Brian Granger, and Jason Hiester, along with Will Kopp.**]*

As you gleaned from the song, Ohio Wesleyan's story is indeed grounded in water, and it's propelled by the elements of vision, innovation, community action, and grit.

Long before the arrival of settlers, this land belonged to herds of roaming buffalo and to Native American tribes like the Mingo, Shawnee, and Lenape, who referred to the Sulphur Spring as "Medicine Waters." Ever since our birth, and in our most natural state, we are a place of healing, rejuvenation, and replenishment.

It was the late 1820s when landowners donated this tract to the Village of Delaware. Within a handful of years, developers sensed commercial potential and built what was then called the Mansion House Hotel right on this very spot. It was a resort—and one of Delaware's first major financial endeavors.

After a series of fits and starts, the business failed. Yet, where many saw disappointment, one saw destiny. The Methodist minister—a visionary named Adam Poe—dared to dream big. He was aware that the two Ohio conferences of the Methodist Church were seeking a spot for their new college. He knew his community needed that college.

Believing the Mansion House Hotel could be the deal clincher, he convinced the building's owner to sell it at a discount. He took out a personal loan, and just like what Paul Revere had done 66 years earlier, he went door to door activating the countryside in grassroots fashion.



Inauguration Week activities on campus included visits from a coffee truck, where **Jasmine Alfred**, assistant director of admission, secured her fuel for the day, and an ice cream truck, where **Abigail Bennett '25** picked up a soft-serve treat. Photos by Paul Vernon

This community responded in force to their Revere; 172 Delawareans, \$10,000, and one deed later, Poe gifted the hotel and land to the church.

He then invited the church's exploratory committee for a visit to inspect the building, and I have to imagine, he sat down the night before, and he prayed his plan would work. Well-researched though the move was, it was the risk of a generation. It was a rebellion against the status quo. And it wasn't his, alone. He had rallied everyone he knew—and then some—all for this dream.

Imagine the joy and the sheer relief Adam Poe experienced when Dr. Charles Elliott—the future namesake of the Mansion House Hotel—shook his hand and said, “Dude, let's totally do this.” I might be paraphrasing.

Adam Poe and this community crafted a magnificent vision. They created a pathway and surmounted the obstacles. Working in unity, they willed their way to the future of their dreams.

So, when all these years later, we stare down the Regulars of our time and ask ourselves the existential questions, that story is what's in our heads. That is what's in our hearts. That is what's in our water.

But don't just take it from this newcomer. Take it from OWU graduate **Branch Rickey**, who broke baseball's color barrier when he signed Jackie Robinson to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Take it from **Willa Player**, another OWU grad and Civil Rights activist who was the first Black woman selected as president of an accredited four-year college.

Take it from OWU's **Wendie Mallick**, the famous actress and model who fights for affordable housing, the environment, and animal rights.

Take it from the University of Michigan's football team, who lost 17-7 to OWU on our most recent trip to Ann Arbor. OK, fine, it was 1928. It's not our fault if they refuse to play us again.

Take it from 40,000 alumni and countless more to

come.

Just like our graduates, OWU soars because we lead with vision, innovation, action, and grit. Because we're willing to risk all that we have so that all can have more. Because we work in unity not just for the sake of making a better OWU, but for the sake of making a better world through OWU.

And just in case we don't yet feel sufficient inspiration, consider this:

For centuries, our Suphur Spring has ebbed and flowed. Years ago, it finally dried up and disappeared. But this academic year brought something different. Our colleagues and students in Environment and Sustainability found that long-lost spring. The campus icon of Ohio Wesleyan University is back. Hope, it would seem, still springs eternal.

So today, it's with the full-blown winds of inspiration and moxie at our backs that we embrace true rebellion against our modern-day Regulars.

We rebel *against* the forces that tend to divide institutions, pitting faculty against administrators, college against community, and students against each other.

We rebel *for* offering understanding, sharing grace, and building unity.

We rebel *against* the myth that the liberal arts are irrelevant and *against* the false dichotomy between the liberal arts and workforce development.

We rebel *for* a fresh, dynamic, and innovative delivery of the liberal arts—a model that's needed now more than ever.

We rebel *against* the scarcity mindset and political controversies that fuel fear, that cloud vision, and that distract us from our greatest purposes.

We rebel *for* taking measured risks, for expanding educational access, and for strengthening our culture of belonging.

And as we lean in to our rebellion on this day, let's



Throughout the week, school spirit was evident from head to foot, literally. Photos by Paul Vernon



Anubhav Raghav '25 got a photo with the Bishop and a life-sized cutout of the new president. Anubhav's sign was one of many students posted on Brag Day, noting their internships or employers. Anubhav is working this summer as a consulting intern at Ernst & Young in New Delhi, India. Earlier this year, he represented OWU at the Impact Investing Conference at Yale.

not just remember our history. Let's not just invoke history. Let's make history.

Our Rebellion

And let's do that right here, right now, beginning with an investment in our most precious asset: our people.

It's no coincidence that the healthiest organizations are usually the ones that demonstrate care for their people. And budgets are a reflection of priorities. "Show me an organization's budget," so the saying goes, "and I'll tell you what they really value."

OWU's faculty and staff have proven their investment worthiness for many years—the last handful in particular: COVID, a reimagination of our curriculum, program and administrative reviews, a faculty handbook overhaul, student success initiatives, and even an on-the-dime transition to a distributed library system this year.

To my colleagues, I say this: I see your efforts. I hear your aspirations. I share your goals.

Investing in our people will be a fundamental priority for Ohio Wesleyan University during my time as your president. In the coming months and years, we'll set meaningful goals for compensation, professional development, work-life balance, and more. Together, let's dream big, and let's define and pursue what it takes to make OWU a premier employer in our state.

After consulting with the board, cabinet, and faculty and staff leaders, I'm pleased to share two small steps in the right direction, both focused on retaining and rewarding talented individuals who show drive and deliver performance.

In the next academic year, OWU will double merit award amounts for faculty members, and these amounts will stack on top of cost-of-living adjustments. OWU will make a similar, commensurate investment in merit awards for staff.

If you would, please join me in thanking the board, cabinet, faculty and staff leadership, and especially VPs Mike Bruce and Karlyn Crowley for their leadership.

Teaching, Learning, & Innovation

We recognize the need to support faculty as they help us to cement our status as a model university for teaching excellence, hands-on learning, holistic

Activities on Monday of Inauguration Week included a celebration of the reimaged and refreshed atrium of Hamilton-Williams Campus Center, which features new furniture, a spirited red-and-black motif, selfie spots for students and visitors, and art by mural artist Nick Stull '07.

advising, and student success. Our faculty deserve the best available resources and tools to develop new pedagogies, explore curricular innovation, leverage AI and other technologies, and navigate evolving classroom dynamics.

For years, Ohio Wesleyan has been the only institution among the Ohio Five without a full-time, dedicated professional leading our efforts in this work. That status is now officially obsolete.

This morning, thanks to the vision of our provost, Dr. Karlyn Crowley, and thanks to the requests of many faculty colleagues, we're proud to announce the launch of OWU's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation and the creation of an endowed director to lead our efforts.

The national search for our inaugural director for the Center has concluded successfully. Although she hasn't started yet, our new director joins us this morning. Dr. Barbara Bird, please rise so we can welcome you to the OWU community.

First-Gen Leadership

This December, the industry publication *Inside Higher Ed* featured the tremendous student success story unfolding at OWU. In just two years, we've seen a 6 percent rise in first-to-second-year retention. Retention for returning second-years is now 84 percent, and for third-years, it's 94 percent.

If the increasing media attention and calls I receive from fellow presidents are any indication, OWU is developing a national reputation for its pioneering, all-hands-on-deck work in student success.

This is also increasingly the case with our first-generation college students, a population for whom retention is up 10 percent in the last two years, a testament to Drs. Paul Dean, Dwayne Todd, Brad Pulcini, and Phokeng Dailey, along with Doug Koyle, Jason Timpson, and many more. It's also increasingly the result of the leadership of Thea Smekens, who leads



Photo by Paul Vernon

our first-generation student success office.

Numerous families have fueled this progress through visionary philanthropic support. They include the **Newtons, Palmers, Eastwoods, Shipps**, and more.

OWU has the tools, the expertise, and the momentum to be the change that first-gen and underserved students need from higher education. With the wind at our back, we'll set out to become a premier destination in the U.S. for first-generation college students.

In recent months, OWU has received two significant investments that further catalyze our work. We're grateful to 1973 graduate **Shirley Paden-Bernstein** for her gift of \$1 million and to 1992 graduate **Kathrine Grissom** for her commitment of \$2 million.

Hamilton-Williams

College is far more than instruction and class time. Done well, it's a transformative experience, so it's with great intentionality that OWU requires most students to live on campus for all four years. A great deal of learning occurs outside of the classroom, and that time spent outside of class needs to be connected and fun.

During my listening tour, I learned how grateful students are for the many planned events, activities, and concerts OWU provides. Yet, students have also been clear that existing campus facilities do not sufficiently accommodate spontaneous and informal gatherings and fun. We're taking that problem head-on.

On Monday, we dedicated our newly transformed lobby in the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center.



President vandenBerg announced a gift from an anonymous alumni donor to fully fund the renovation of 4 Williams, the former Alpha Tau Omega house, into a reborn MUB, "the ultimate student hang-out, with lounging space, indoor and outdoor games, patios, space for TV and music, and ... for students of age, a safe and responsible place to enjoy a beverage."

Thanks to the generosity and hard work of many, one of the most popular student hangouts on campus has become a modernized, comfortable place of belonging for all.

Please join me in thanking Dawn Chisebe, Dwayne Todd, Sara Stuntz, the Student Engagement and Success Team, the President's Circle, the Advancement Office, and many others who made this possible.

Student Hub

Dwayne Todd, his Dean's Council, and student leaders worked for months to create a plan to make OWU a more intentionally fun and engaging campus. From that work, and through my listening tour, we heard repeatedly that OWU needs a designated place where all students, regardless of affiliation, can hang out, relax, and build community—on their own terms.

For alumni, think about your experience and imagine a rebirth of your favorite gathering places: the MUB and the Grub-Pub!

Situated on Fraternity Hill at 4 Williams Drive is the old Alpha Tau Omega house. It's served a number of purposes, and recently, it's been empty.

The Dean's Council, student advisors, and our architect imagine an impressive renovation. It would be the ultimate student hang-out, with lounging space, indoor and outdoor games, patios, space for TV and music, and more. And, for students of age, a safe and responsible place to enjoy a beverage.

Unfortunately, there's a problem, and it's a big one. The building needs intensive work to get the concept just right. It's a tall task and will take \$3 million.

Thanks to an anonymous donor—OWU grads who I know are watching right now on livestream—that problem is now resolved. I'm overjoyed to share on their behalf that OWU's new student social hub—designed by and built for students—is now fully funded, and construction planning starts immediately!

Entrepreneurship

The Delaware Entrepreneurial Center at Ohio Wesleyan University, or DEC for short, is a first-in-kind liberal arts business accelerator. It's the first such partnership in the United States between a city, county, and educational institution. Founded in 2018, it helps budding entrepreneurs connect with talented OWU students who help in various ways.

Since inception, the DEC has graduated 11 companies, added 45 new full-time jobs to the local tax base, and attracted \$3.7 million in investments.

It makes sense for this work to happen here, in Delaware—a community known for innovation and for transforming a failed hotel into a university. It also makes sense to keep charging ahead—because that's



On the day before vandenBerg's inauguration, he signed landmark partnership agreements with Columbus State Community College President Dave Harrison (left) and Claflin University President Dwaun Warmack (right). vandenBerg and Harrison hope the OWU-CSCC agreement will establish a new paradigm for how national liberal arts universities and community colleges can work together to promote access to higher education. The sister-school agreement with Claflin is one of the most comprehensive agreements in higher education signed between a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). Photos by James DeCamp

what entrepreneurs do. In the months and years ahead, we'll cement our role as a hub for innovation and a home base for founders—not only for Delaware, but for Columbus, Ohio, and the United States.

On Tuesday of this week, we announced a bold new business plan competition open to entrepreneurs of all ages across the world. With a pool of up to \$250,000, I'm pleased to share that the DEC is now home to the largest business plan competition in the entire state of Ohio!

Please join me in thanking the City of Delaware, Delaware County, **Megan Ellis**, Steve Flaherty, Phil Smith, and everyone else who made this possible!

Columbus State Community College

When institutions with complementary abilities and resources toss aside competitive instincts—and instead collaborate—barriers break and lives change. In Columbus State Community College, OWU has found a kindred spirit that shares many of our biggest goals.

Yesterday, on the Delaware campus of Columbus State, and after months of work by our teams, President Dave Harrison and I signed a landmark agreement—a three-part partnership that we hope will establish a new paradigm for how our types of institutions work together.

Part 1: Thanks to our new 2+2 Preferred Pathway, qualified Columbus State graduates can now enroll at OWU with junior status in their major with a clear path to a bachelor's degree for an incredible 20 majors.

Part 2: Under our first-in-kind Tuition Match Program, up to 25 Columbus State graduates per year who've earned a 3.5 GPA or higher will pay the same

exact Columbus State tuition rate to attend OWU.

Part 3: Our new Teach Now Program addresses Central Ohio's alarming teacher shortage in head-on fashion. Starting this fall, qualified high school students can dual-enroll at Columbus State and transfer seamlessly into OWU's education program. Students will graduate from OWU with their bachelor's and teaching license in two years—and at just a fraction of the cost.

Together, in a handful of months, we've built one of the most comprehensive partnerships in the U.S. between a national liberal arts university and a community college. And it's just the beginning. Karlyn Crowley, Brian Rellinger, Dale Brugh, Sarah Kaka, Lee Richards, Will Kopp, Adam Smith, the Transfer Super Team, and more than 25 OWU faculty members made this possible.

Claflin University

OWU has done significant work in recent years to strengthen our culture of inclusion and belonging. This work is a continual journey, not a destination. There is always room to improve. And one priority for us is to enhance our racial diversity among our students, faculty, staff, and executive leaders. Doing so will not happen overnight, but rather through a sustained, disciplined effort.

Over this academic year, a team of OWU faculty and staff members has dreamt about the possibilities to develop a special kind of institutional partnership—one that could help advance our goals and expand our horizons. We outlined criteria, researched institutions, contemplated value that we could offer, and produced a

short list.

At the very top of that list was Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC, a fellow United Methodist-related institution, the oldest HBCU in the state, and a university that has much to teach us.

When I first spoke with President Dwaun Warmack, the excitement was mutual, and the partnership ideas came easily. When the conversation expanded to include more faculty and staff collaborators, the same was true. Together, we saw potential for student and faculty exchange, pipeline programs, shared resources, and joint-research and entrepreneurship projects.

Yesterday, President Warmack and I signed a groundbreaking sister school agreement. We're told it's

one of the first and most comprehensive agreements between an HBCU and a Predominantly White Institution in American higher education.

Dawn Chisebe, Dr. Phokeng Dailey, the Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy, Jason Timpson, Sally Leber, and more led us from OWU.

Delaware County Promise

Our last announcement circles back to the beginning: our founding by this community.

Today, Delaware County is the healthiest, wealthiest, and fastest-growing county in Ohio and a rising star nationally. Unfortunately, many families of modest means don't share equally in that prosperity,



Photo by James DeCamp

Amid a standing ovation after announcing the creation of the Delaware County Promise program, vandenBerg thanks Linda and Joe Diamond for their support to make the groundbreaking initiative possible. The program provides full-tuition scholarships for Delaware County high school students with GPAs of at least 3.5 and family incomes under \$100,000. Also on stage for the announcement are superintendents from Delaware County school districts and OWU VP for Enrollment Adam Smith.

and they face systemic challenges in improving their quality of life.

Higher education is one of the great social mobility agents that can unlock a better life, but only a small number of local students take advantage of their hometown four-year university. Many from disadvantaged backgrounds don't attend college at all.

Our data and discussions with counselors and families suggest why. Affordability—and perceptions of affordability—are the greatest threat to our youth's college attainment. Tackling this problem for talented students of modest means would boost social mobility for Delaware, catalyze economic development efforts, and change lives.

Drawn together by this realization, leaders from Delaware County, the Delaware County Foundation, our four school systems, generous donors led by Joe and Linda Diamond, and OWU have been brainstorming



With Delaware County Commissioner Gary Merrell (left) and Delaware City Manager Tom Homan (right), vandenBerg signs a 3-year extension of OWU's partnership with the county and city to operate the Delaware Entrepreneurial Center at Ohio Wesleyan University. During Inauguration Week, he announced that, in the fall, the DEC would host the OWU Business Plan Competition with a \$250,000 prize package, the largest in Ohio.

and problem-solving for many months. I ask them to join me on the stage at this time, with VP for Enrollment Adam Smith representing OWU. Thanks to the collaborations of these and many other individuals, we have two announcements to share.

First, we have a number of extraordinarily talented students from Delaware County—and their supporters—with us today. You're here because you're among the most academically talented students in Delaware County. You've worked hard. You've enriched us with your service, leadership, athletic prowess, and artistic abilities. You personify our ideals. We're proud of you, and we want you to be able to go world-class with your college education.

Thanks to the leadership on this stage and

elsewhere, and thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, I'm proud to share that every single one of you is receiving a full-tuition scholarship to attend Ohio Wesleyan University! Congratulations!

Second, the Delaware community is ready to make one of the more consequential higher education-related announcements since this community built OWU.

Starting this fall, every single high school student who lives or goes to school in Delaware County, who earns a 3.5 GPA or higher, and whose families make a combined \$100,000 or less—every single student who fits those three criteria—can now attend Ohio Wesleyan University, absolutely tuition-free.

We won't stop here. We won't stop now. We won't stop until we achieve our dream to remove cost as a barrier for every qualified student from Delaware County—the place that gave life to OWU.

The OWU Rebellion

Today is a celebration of who we are, all we've done, and the momentum we're building.

But we don't mistake celebration for victory. This isn't mission accomplished. This is mission launched. This is an Ohio Wesleyan rebellion of kindness, boldness, and innovation.

And while we all feel a sense of impatience to arrive immediately on the doorstep of our goals, let's remember that there's beauty in the work, the challenge, the struggle.

Shortly after the Battles of Lexington and Concord had begun, it's reported that Sam Adams and John Hancock, probably exhausted from the previous night's work, watched from a safe distance. In that moment, Adams is said to have turned to Hancock and declared, "It's a fine day."

"Very pleasant," Hancock agreed, noting the weather.

Adams needed to clarify. "What I mean," he said, is "this day is a glorious day for America."

It's a captivating sentiment, because the Declaration of Independence would have to wait another 14 months, and victory wouldn't come for another eight arduous years. But in that brief window of time, they must have felt a sense of relief, resolve, and rejuvenation after finally drawing a line in the sand and facing the Regulars head-on.

It makes one pause and consider exactly what we mean at OWU when we exclaim, "It's a great day to be a Bishop."

It is indeed a great day to be a Bishop. On our calendars, and in our hearts, it's April 19. Our Sulphur Spring is back. We know what's in our water. The rebellion is on! And independence calls the name Ohio Wesleyan University.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN A REAL WORLD

Ohio Wesleyan alumni and faculty share their thoughts, hopes, and fears on how AI may transform our way of life.

Since ChatGPT burst into the world at the end of 2022, artificial intelligence, AI, has spurred visions of opportunity and fears of catastrophe.

AI is already transforming industries and upending how we see the world. It even helped create a new Beatles record! And AI is certainly rocking the education world, from students using AI to write papers to teachers trying to detect such efforts while also using AI tools to enhance classroom learning.

OWU faculty are rapidly exploring how to best use AI on campus, and alumni in practically every field are trying to envision how this breakthrough technology will transform their jobs while that transformation is already underway.

OWU Magazine asked a dozen alumni and OWU faculty to share their thoughts on AI in their field—now and over the next few years.

In a way, we also asked one of OWU's most famed graduates—**Norman Vincent Peale, Class of 1920** and best-selling author of *The Power of Positive Thinking*—to write an essay on AI. It no longer matters that Peale died more than 30 years ago. ChatGPT created the essay in a matter of seconds in response to the request, "Writing as if you were author Norman Vincent Peale, write a 600-word essay on the impact that artificial intelligence will have on society in the United States over the next decade. This essay is for publication in *OWU Magazine*, a magazine for alumni of Ohio Wesleyan University."

After you read the essays that follow, please send your thoughts, hopes, and fears about AI to *OWU Magazine* to share online and in the next issue.



THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

Glenn Entis '76 | Senior Director at Google Research, San Francisco, CA



The impact of AI on humanity is a big topic for a short essay, so I will focus on a conveniently narrow sample—will it affect me?

Yes, profoundly.

I know this because the steady advances in computer graphics and animation have

shaped the course of my career ever since I saw my first computer-animated film, a black-and-white line drawing of a morphing hummingbird, as an OWU freshman in a fall 1972 colloquium organized by Marty Kalb.

After almost half a century working in this field, I can report that the current explosion of AI techniques, particularly the combination of large language models and generative media (AI models that can produce images, video, audio, simulations, etc.), are by far the most profound and far-reaching.

Previous advances extended our abilities in making images, and in so doing, raised deep and sometimes challenging questions about taste, human craftsmanship, the personal vs. the technical. But the current wave of advances is also challenging our previous conceptions of human intelligence, creativity, and agency. The speed of those advances—and the overwhelming nature of the challenges—is unprecedented.

I am optimistic and excited at the creative possibilities opening up in this new branch of creative tools. The power and promise of these tools as creative partners is stunning.

This is not to say that art will just make itself. Co-creation—the collaboration between human artists and these powerful tools—is the key to their long-term contribution to our lives and culture.

There are many good reasons to consider personal expression as a fundamental property of art. By that definition, artifacts made without human input or

intervention would be decoration or maybe just cultural pollution but would not qualify as art. But these are tools artists guide, prompt, iterate, polish, and interpret, and the results are expressions of personal aesthetics and values, no matter how sophisticated the tools.

Will there be bad art, bad actors, bad consequences? Will something be lost, and will jobs and roles evolve? Do we need to act responsibly in the development and deployment of new tools and techniques?

Of course!

But as a species, we seem to be wired, maybe inexorably, to continue hammering away at the double-edged sword of technological progress. Every new idea and technology, from the written word to the printing press, photograph, electronic transmission, and now AI, has introduced new challenges and potential dangers.

But it is not in the nature of artists, nor I believe the species as a whole, to stop the flow of progress, and simply say, “We’ve learned enough.”

AI AND THE VALUE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY THINKING

Chelsea Vadnie | OWU Assistant Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience



In 1950, mathematician Alan Turing published “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” in *MIND*, a journal originally for work in psychology and philosophy. Multiple disciplines are still tackling his questions and ideas. Turing begins by asking, “Can machines think?” In 2024, we would likely all agree that machines can “think,” but we are now concerned with what that means for the future.

In his article “What Is Artificial Intelligence,” John McCarthy, one of the founders of AI, said, “AI does not have to confine itself to methods that are biologically observable.” In other words, machines/programs can be designed to perform mental functions in a way that is different from the human brain.

The brain’s building blocks, neurons, are theorized to have evolved hundreds of millions of years ago. If biology selected neurons long ago to serve as the computational

BIG WAVE

processing units for life, why not use principles from neurobiology to create artificial intelligence? Not surprisingly, scientists began applying neurobiology principles to computer science in the 1950s.

We can think of neurons as computational nodes that integrate and send information. Similar to neuron nets in simple organisms, these nodes can be assembled into communicating nets to carry out simple functions. Specifically, psychologist Frank Rosenblatt built a neuron net-like machine, a Perceptron, in the 1950s to make binary decisions, such as right vs. left. The Perceptron integrated multiple inputs and then changed the weights of the inputs to make predictions. In other words, it learned.

This resembled one of Turing's ideas that intelligent machines could be built like a "child-brain" and exposed to an "appropriate course of education."

Similarly, modern AI uses artificial neural networks and "learning" from large amounts of data to produce original outputs. Thus, psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, biology, and other fields (interdisciplinary thinking) helped inspire computer science.

As a neuroscientist at OWU, I'm interested in how AI will affect education, research, and healthcare. AI has potential to help educators more efficiently use their time to better meet individual student needs. AI holds promise for aiding in drug discovery. AI is helping us understand how the brain encodes information. In healthcare, there is hope for AI-assisted precision psychiatry, with AI tools that help clinicians make diagnoses and decisions about treatments. Brain-computer interfaces are being paired with AI to develop devices to enhance the quality of life for individuals with an injury or impairment.

We are filled with hope for AI.

We are also rightfully cautious. AI is a useful, imperfect tool. It produces outputs based on its "education." We should be skeptical of AI and seek to understand the logic behind its outputs.

What does the future hold for AI? Turing suggested considering three components when designing a machine to resemble the adult human brain. Those components are the state of the brain at birth, an individual's education, and the experiences a person had. These components are complex: brain development, brain circuit function, encoding and storage of

information, and the lasting impact of experiences on biology.

We have hope that AI will propel science and education forward to increase our knowledge about these components. In turn, our new knowledge about Turing's components could be used to inspire advances in and uses for AI.

Turing ended his paper by saying, "We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done."

What we can be sure of is that we will need interdisciplinary thinking, all of us, to tackle the "plenty that needs to be done."

AI IS THE NEXT BIG TECHNOLOGICAL WAVE

Evan Reas '07 | Founder at AshramX, Tampa, FL



Bill Gates is credited with saying that most people overestimate what they can do in one year and underestimate what they can do in 10 years.

Many revolutionary technologies rhyme with this, whereby people overestimate how much it will impact the world in the short term but vastly underestimate the impact it will have in the long term. I believe artificial intelligence will be one of the starkest examples of this phenomenon in human history.

As somebody who is both a technology entrepreneur and venture capitalist, it is a critical part of my job to think about technology trends and how the future will be different than it is today.

The largest technology innovations in our lifetimes have been the personal computer, the Internet, and mobile phones. Those technologies impacted the daily lives of nearly every person in western civilization in a profound way. I believe AI will be the next technology that impacts nearly every person on a daily basis.

CREATIVITY

Some of the most extreme ways that AI will change how the world works will be similar to what we see in sci-fi movies. Cars will almost certainly drive themselves, and robots will almost certainly do factory work. Those things will be massive changes. However, the way that AI will impact more people more often is in things that are less obvious.

To really understand how prolific AI will be, we need to understand what exactly it is.

In its simplest form, AI analyzes tons of data (sometimes billions and billions of data points) to come up with a conclusion. In the example of ChatGPT by OpenAI, it analyzes almost all written text in human history to come up with the most likely answer to a question, written in a way that people would write it.

Even simpler, if I type a sentence with the final word missing, AI would use all this data and algorithms to predict what the most likely word should be. It's like the brainpower of all humans put together times a million, because it can do calculations that humans can't.

This will unlock solutions to some of the world's biggest problems in ways that will be hard to fathom today.

In the short term, we will likely see the way we interface with computers changing from term-based searches to more conversational things like chatbots. We will likely see more computer-generated text, voice, images, and videos. Very soon, the amount of content created by AI will surpass that of content created by humans.

We will also likely see the speed of discovery rapidly increase. This could unlock a new period of innovation like we haven't seen since the development of the printing press or the Internet. In the next few years, we will start to see discoveries in wonderful things like medicine, climate technology, and building materials.

We will also see rapid advancements in horrible things like AI weapons, biochemical warfare, and scams that will deplete people's life savings in seconds.

It will be a new world, and just as it was critical for people to understand how to utilize the Internet to be successful over the last 20 years, it will be critical for people to understand how to utilize AI for the coming 20.

Invest in your ability to understand and use AI and invest in AI itself. You won't want to be left behind in this wave. It could be the biggest one yet.

CREATIVITY, CREATION, AND THE ANIMATION INDUSTRY

Olivia Baylor '19 | Production Assistant at DreamWorks Television Animation, Los Angeles, CA



Artificial intelligence has been a major topic of discussion within the film and television industry. During the WGA and the SAG-AFTRA contract negotiations of 2023, both writers and actors fought and won to establish regulations for the use of AI in their professions.

The animation industry union, The Animation Guild (TAG), is negotiating its new contract in the spring of 2024. Like the writers and actors, animation industry workers also want to establish protections for themselves against AI. A member of TAG posted on Instagram this overheard statement from a streaming service executive: "If everything goes right [storyboard artists] will be replaced with AI in a few years."

This is the kind of statement that has many animation industry employees worried about how AI could negatively affect the industry.

In addition to the fear of AI coming for our jobs, there is also the issue of protecting our artwork from AI under copyright laws. There is evidence that AI software does not solely generate "original" art from work in the public domain, but also from artists who did not give consent for their work to be used in this way.

I believe that AI can still be a powerful and useful tool for artists to use with regulations. It can be used to make certain processes more streamlined and faster, improving what could be a stressful and taxing work environment.

No matter what executives decide about how AI will be used in animation studios, creatives are not going to stop making art and film. The animation industry is full of so many talented and collaborative artists that

& CREATION

they would sooner leave studios and come together to make their own independent films than let AI take full control over the beloved art form. I hope TAG is just as successful as the WGA and SAG-AFTRA in their negotiations.

TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITY AND ETHICAL ANXIETY

Nick Dietrich | OWU Assistant Professor of Data Analytics



In April 2023, a group of senior OWU students majoring in data analytics designed an opinion survey about artificial intelligence in the workplace. We sampled 1,000 respondents divided

evenly among four different employment sectors: healthcare, education, technology, and retail.

The results of our survey demonstrate a great deal of optimism about the possibilities—and anxiety about the realities—of how this technology will be used.

More than 80 percent of the respondents in each employment sector said they have used artificial intelligence technology. AI use was most prominent among workers in the technology sector (95 percent had used it).

At a glance, respondents appeared enthusiastic about AI; a plurality in each employment sector reported that they expect AI to enhance their work. Workers in the technology sector were the most optimistic about the possibilities of AI (60 percent believed it would enhance their work, and 8 percent believed it would detract), while workers in retail were the least likely to believe that AI would be relevant in their workplace (47 percent enhance, 8 percent detract).

Although most respondents were optimistic about AI, their written comments reveal a great deal of anxiety about the ways AI will be used.

Many fear AI would replace human workers. One

wrote, “I feel like AI has the potential to take my job.”

Others pointed out that AI can be a benefit or detriment to humanity depending on its use. One wrote, “AI can never replace human judgment, and sacrificing human judgment for perceived ‘efficiency’ is foolhardy.”

This picture of AI is nuanced, but it’s also consistent with reality.

AI has been used to make impressive advances in medical imaging and everyday technology. Consider, for example, all of the AI in your smartphone; it uses machine learning to recognize your face, predict the weather, and suggest words you might use in your text messages.

At the same time, this technology has also been used to worsen inequality. Students in my data analytics courses are often surprised to learn about widely used facial recognition systems that are ineffective at identifying faces with darker skin. Generative AI applications that write words or create images are trained using works from artists who never receive credit. Reuters reported that Amazon even attempted to use AI to evaluate job applicants but found that their AI system discriminated against women.

Like all technology, AI can create new possibilities, but it can also drive inequality and threaten human welfare. That’s why I teach OWU students to be thoughtful about technical and ethical aspects of algorithms. It’s up to the next generation of OWU students to build a future where the use of AI is ethical and empathetic.

AI IN FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Chaz Narwicz ’10 | Principal, Invoice to Cash, Denver, CO



Both within casual conversations and among corporate workers and executives, AI is a topic that creates both excitement and fear.

Within the corporate landscape, monetary investments in AI automation have significantly increased



over the past couple of years. Companies that are encountering massive economic hurdles—such as COVID, supply chain disruptions, inflation, recession, and war—are using AI to do more with less and maintain stability within their organizations.

For the past six years, I have worked at Esker, a company that provides AI-driven software that helps finance and accounting teams at large corporations (most commonly for manufacturing and distribution) to automate monotonous back-office tasks, such as data entry, typically done by people.

One example of where the software is used, is within accounts payable departments. Before automation, accounts payable teams at large companies typically received an email with a PDF attachment of an invoice from a vendor. This invoice data needed to be manually typed, line by line, into an accounting system before the vendor could get paid.

After implementing AI-based software that includes AI subset tools such as deep learning and machine learning, the invoice data can be automatically extracted and input, eliminating the need for data entry. The data extraction becomes more accurate over time as the software sees an increasingly larger data model (machine learning), resulting in less necessary manual or human intervention.

How does this type of AI change lives?

In a few different ways. AI enables workers to get back to higher-leveraged tasks that only humans can do, such as interacting with customers and vendors. Most people do not want to sit at a desk and type in data all day, so why not let a computer do it while you do something more interesting and valuable to the company where you work?

I have worked on many digital transformation projects that include implementing AI software for large enterprises, and most of the time it does not replace people, at least not yet. AI, rather, augments human intelligence to allow people to complete tasks faster and with better accuracy. Eventually, AI will most likely replace the mundane, repetitive tasks that most people do not want to do.

AI has only exacerbated the importance of evolving as a workforce, where the critical skills needed to land and succeed at jobs such as back-office accounting have

changed and will continue to do so.

AI will expand and create many new career pathways. Indeed, a February 2024 report from the World Economic Forum estimates that although AI may replace 85 million jobs, the technology also could create 97 million more jobs.

Individual success will depend on how people respond to this shift.

AI BRINGING ON A NEW WORLD IN HEALTHCARE

Rebecca Palmer '00 | Senior Consultant, AI, Baxter International, Columbus, OH



When was the last time you interacted with AI? I bet it was today.

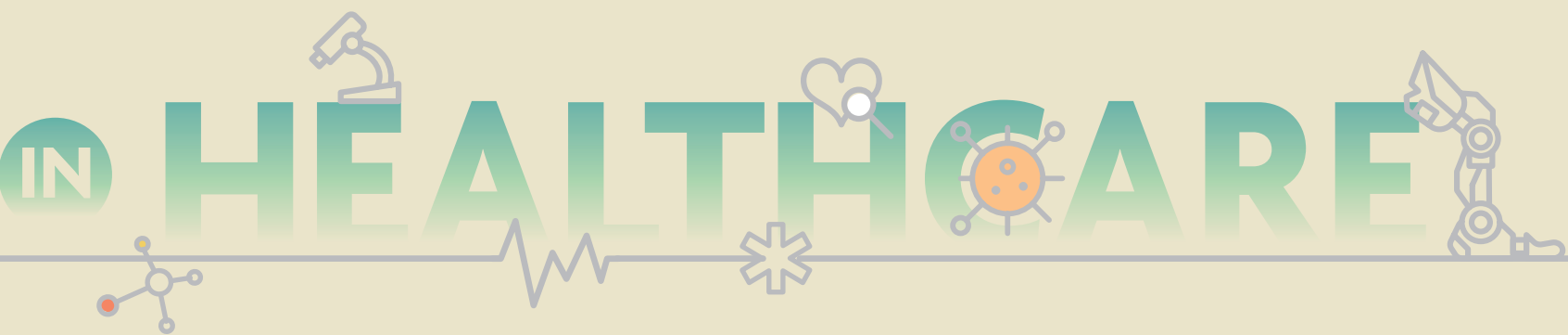
AI may or may not be something you think about when you interact with chatbots, Alexa, Google, and Siri, and maybe those pesky social media algorithms, but did your car help

you parallel park? Have you used Google or Adobe Photoshop tools to eliminate photobombers or erase inconvenient shadows in those vacation pics? Have you received editorial assistance on an article you wrote (like I did to proofread this article)?

AI holds enormous promise in an area that touches us all: healthcare. Let's explore how AI can revolutionize medical equipment and the patient experience.

The future of medical equipment

To support medical product innovation, generative AI can proactively collect and summarize recently published studies using Large Language Models (LLMs), such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Meta's Llama2. These can be turned into push notifications so that product developers can always leverage the latest advances in their fields when developing tomorrow's devices.



When it comes to assembling new products, AI is capable of analyzing vast sets of historical data to “learn” from past experiences. AI can identify potential manufacturing defects earlier in product development, suggest engineering efficiencies to make products faster at less cost, or simulate various device-use cases to fine-tune overall performance. In general, AI’s ability to extract actionable insights from massive data sets will empower the creation of cutting-edge medical solutions across all areas of care.

Once new products are released into the marketplace, AI-powered interactive educational materials can support clinicians to implement new technologies quickly and effectively. Examples include models that provide real-time guidance and feedback during usage and virtual reality tools that allow clinicians to practice in realistic settings with adaptive learning environments to advance their skills. AI can also provide collaborative learning environments where clinicians can share experiences and best practices to help others adopt new technologies faster, further spurring us toward innovative new healthcare solutions.

In patient care settings, AI offers real-time data analysis with the added benefit of hindsight from past clinical decisions. Healthcare providers can leverage this hindsight to predict patient outcomes more precisely and diagnose disease more accurately.

Soon, AI will even be used to proactively alert clinicians of potential treatment errors—which can be catastrophic for patients and costly for facilities—when a treatment deviates from standard operational procedures for the patient.

Furthermore, AI can support routine testing and guidance to keep medical equipment properly maintained and always ready to use. These AI-powered devices will be able to order replacement parts when needed, troubleshoot themselves, and then explain to either a human or a computer how to fix the problem. This promises to slash maintenance costs and reduce the likelihood of device failures.

The future of the patient experience

Reimagine your annual physical with a more proactive approach to maintaining your health and monitoring risks, rather than belatedly trying to repair your health after the damage has been done.

Thanks to noninvasive diagnostics that use AI and biomarkers to screen blood, urine, and saliva, it will become possible to catch disease at its earliest points and even predict it before it happens. Examples of this include the early identification of bladder or prostate cancers, Alzheimer’s disease, and Parkinson’s disease, as well as the long-term maintenance of respiratory disease.

If you are diagnosed with a disease, your primary care physician will use AI-derived personalized treatment plans so you are treated as the complex individual that you are, with a full picture of your unique life circumstances.

A favorite of mine is the concept of an AI-assisted digital health wallet. (Who else is tired of filling out endless paper forms every time you go to an appointment?)

This tool centralizes your health information from your various providers across the years and locations and sends updates to your active clinicians whenever new results arrive or you begin new medications. The tool will also suggest tailored therapeutic and preventative options for your primary care provider to try, as well as send you personalized reminders and ideas to help you adhere to your healthcare plan. And if you ever find yourself in an ER, you have all the important, up-to-date information at your fingertips for yourself and your loved ones.

One potential impact of AI that largely goes unnoticed is more accessible biomedical information for the public, explained in understandable terms that can help us become more knowledgeable advocates for ourselves and our families.

Are you confused about how Ozempic and Wegovy (GLP-1 drugs) work? Feel that you need a better understanding of how mRNA vaccines work?

AI can break this down for you in nontechnical language and provide resources for additional reading. If you need to decode medical instructions from your doctor, are struggling to understand the key points of a health article, or want to dive into scientific literature, AI can help you summarize the key points and explaining it in ways that help you understand more deeply.

These ideas barely scratch the surface of what’s possible. AI’s ability to uplift healthcare is strong, though it will take time. Whether AI makes a difference by any or all of these paths, sooner or later, the hope is that it enables a healthier future for us all.



EXPANDING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND AVOIDING HALLUCINATIONS

Chris Heckman '12 | Reference Librarian, Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Bethesda, MD



Artificial intelligence technology is already being integrated into much of the basic office software we use. Microsoft's next suite of products will include AI tools, and other software products are hot on their heels.

I work as a medical librarian. I spend most of my time at work helping

medical researchers and students locate research articles and data. The introduction of AI tools is likely to have a significant impact on both research and practice in the field of medicine generally, but I will focus here on its applications to my work navigating biomedical research literature.

Much of the coverage of AI has focused on text generators like ChatGPT or Google's Gemini AI, but publicly available tools like these are largely ineffective in navigating scientific literature. They weren't trained on the body of research literature that is locked behind publisher paywalls, and they can't interact effectively with subscription database interfaces.

Reliability is another issue. Large language learning models generate their responses based on an astonishing number of variables, and they're always "learning" based on user input. Consequently, if you request "the five most important articles on anticoagulants" one day and then make the same request the next, you're likely to get two different answers.

Further challenges are posed by "hallucinations," the tendency of text generators to occasionally invent

false answers. This is inherent in the creative power of text generators; the same capacity for combining text in unexpected ways that allows ChatGPT to compose an extemporaneous poem on a topic of your choice also means that it might generate a plausible looking citation to a study that doesn't actually exist.

The future of AI in scientific literature lies in tools developed specifically for navigating this body of research. There are already multiple startups focused on this project, and I have no doubt that the big scientific publishers are pursuing AI tools they can embed into their research databases.

The success of these projects will depend on their reliability. Can these AI tools consistently return accurate, useful responses to users with a minimum of hallucinations?

If so, they have the potential to radically streamline and simplify the literature review process for researchers, saving time for busy scientists and students while speeding up the pace of scientific advancement. If not, they will either fail to catch on or artificially distort the direction of future scientific research.

Users also have questions about potential racial and gender bias in AI-generated content. AI output is only as good as the data it is trained on, and if the input reflects systemic biases, so will the output.

Finally, many in my field have data privacy concerns about these tools. What kind of insights might data about frequent searches at a given hospital, or by a certain set of doctors, yield? How might the publisher who owns the database use the data? To whom might they sell it?

In my field, if reliable AI tools become available they could become indispensable tools that medical librarians, students, and doctors use every day. On the other hand, if challenges related to reliability, bias, and data privacy aren't overcome, their applications may be much more limited, or they may have problematic effects.

I will be eagerly waiting to see what happens next.

THE BIRDS?

IS AI FOR THE BIRDS?

Dustin Reichard | OWU Associate Professor of Biological Sciences



The release of ChatGPT in late 2022 created a tangible sense of unease in higher education. This new technology was met with open arms by some (“We can co-teach with AI!”) and active hostility from others (“It should be banned!”).

My own world was about to be disrupted by the arrival of our second child in February 2023, so my response to the arrival of AI was something along the lines of, “that’s a future-me problem.”

After my parental leave, I returned to the classroom in fall 2023 and started to wonder how to approach this new normal. Banning AI didn’t seem feasible or productive, so I decided to embrace AI and try to teach my students how to use it effectively and ethically.

I started requiring students to ask an AI chatbot to write a draft of their research papers before they wrote anything themselves. Students had to share the AI-generated draft with me, and they had to reflect on its strengths and weaknesses. This approach taught the students to use AI to brainstorm, and it allowed me to compare the AI-generated text to the student’s eventual writing to avoid plagiarism.

Most students found the exercise to be helpful. However, the students also identified clear weaknesses in the AI’s writing. Most importantly, AI was unable to cite accurate sources for its information.

As AI continues to improve, these weaknesses will fall away. Both students and professionals alike will work collaboratively with AI to generate drafts for grant proposals, research papers, and even entire books. Those that avoid AI will be left behind.

AI has also touched my own research field in interesting ways. Anyone who has used the Merlin Bird ID app to identify birds by sound or photos will know

one application of AI to ornithology. In the past, people would train for hours to learn the vocalizations of every bird in the forest. Then they would sit and conduct “point counts” to measure the diversity of birds in an area. Now, we can place a microphone in the woods, record for days, and then ask AI to isolate and identify all the species in the recording. The potential applications of AI for studies of animal communication and conservation are staggering.

On a related note, the optics company Swarovski started selling the first “smart binoculars” in February 2024. These binoculars include a camera integrated with the Merlin Bird ID app, which allows the user to sight a bird in the binoculars and receive an immediate identification. Although the cost (about \$5,000) will be prohibitive for many, this new technology is clearly going to be a game changer for bird identification.

In the near future, AI will affect nearly every aspect of our lives. It’s essential for educators to embrace this technology now so our students enter the workforce prepared to collaborate with AI. As scientists, we have the potential to improve our efficiency and supercharge our data collection and analysis with AI.

Although there is clearly the potential for AI to be misused on a variety of fronts, I am cautiously optimistic for what the future holds.

AI, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Ken Bagstad '99 | Research Economist, U.S. Geological Survey, Geosciences & Environmental Change Science Center, Denver, CO



Climate change. Pollution. Extinction. The environmental effects of today’s triple crisis are visible worldwide.

These challenges drive my work, which measures connections between the environment and economy, building tools for decision makers in businesses and governments around the world to better account for the value

that nature provides to society. AI plays a growing role in



that work, supporting conservation and the push toward sustainable economic development in myriad ways.

As in other fields, machine learning algorithms—the 800-pound gorillas of the AI world—enable sophisticated analysis of patterns in “big data” in the field of conservation and sustainability. Machine learning is applied to massive data sets that are far too complex for humans to analyze, but which high-powered computing systems can use to discern useful and important patterns.

Such analyses integrate diverse data sourced from satellites and drones, on-the-ground measurements, citizen science, social media, governmental statistics, and more. Machine learning supports environmental applications as diverse as tracking deforestation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by improving the efficiency of the power grid, and deterring wildlife poaching and illegal fishing. Here in the United States, machine learning plays a frequent role as we work to create the nation’s emerging system of environmental-economic statistics.

Other AI approaches hold promise, too. For instance, in my work on the Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability (ARIES) Project over the last 17 years, we’ve paired semantics—machine-readable labeling of scientific data and models—with machine reasoning—algorithms that enable computers to make choices in how to assemble those data and models. This lets us automate scientific workflows and deliver data to decision-makers with greater speed, quality, and transparency than previously possible.

For instance, we’ve partnered with the United Nations to develop AI-based tools that speed the rollout of new environmental-economic accounting systems globally. This ensures these accounting systems can be implemented by nations in the Global South that too often lack the resources for environmental monitoring, yet face significant environmental pressures as providers of much of the world’s food and raw materials.

As in other fields, AI poses risks as well as benefits for environmental sustainability.

Greenhouse gas emissions from computing already exceed those from aviation, and they could grow rapidly in the coming decades. And the degree to which AI supports or undermines those on the front lines of environmental change—from indigenous communities

to small island nations—will determine whether it can empower humanity’s most vulnerable or simply serve entrenched interests.

In thinking about how AI will shape the workforce of tomorrow, my views have been shaped by the writing of Taiwanese AI expert Kai-Fu Lee. Lee suggests that the jobs most at risk of automation by AI are those centered on highly repetitive tasks, like assembly lines, and those requiring minimal direct interaction with other people.

Science is an interesting case here; parts of it are highly repetitive, while others are quite creative, and in terms of human interaction, the classic stereotype of the scientist as an introvert certainly carries a grain of truth! As a scientist, I am excited about the opportunities to delegate routine tasks to AI, enabling humans to work on more creative tasks, while better supporting stronger interactions with the public and decision makers.

At a time when public awareness and the capacity of AI are rapidly growing, it’s important for students, recent graduates, and even those well established in the workforce to reflect on how they can pair AI with innately human strengths, like creativity and human interaction, to build durable and rewarding careers.

As an OWU graduate, I greatly appreciate how a scientific education grounded in the liberal arts contributes toward a career using AI to solve complex real-world problems in conservation and economic development in ways that best serve humanity.

AI TRANSFORMING THE WORK OF LAWYERS

Lars Mahler '00 | Chief Science Officer at LegalSifter, Columbus, OH



Generative AI applications such as ChatGPT let us do three things that were previously impractical:

- Users can now chat directly with an AI model to clarify

AI IN K-12 WORK

their intent and work together to find a solution. This textual interface enables new ways of interacting with AI, as well as databases and other software.

- Users can provide rich context—documents, user preferences, and more—so the AI can craft a solution that meets their specific needs.
- These new models can summarize and synthesize information and generate “content” in different modalities: text, images, videos, music, and more.

I serve as chief science officer for a legal technology company called LegalSifter. We help lawyers and contract professionals draft, review, negotiate, and manage legal contracts. AI is already transforming our industry, and contract professionals are using AI to:

- Read contracts, find the presence or absence of provisions, and provide guidance.
- Perform AI-assisted edits, based on the company’s negotiating best practices.
- Summarize contracts.
- Extract information and answer questions about contracts—either single contracts (“What is the end date of this contract?”) or whole collections of contracts (“Which of these contracts can I assign in the event of an acquisition?”).

I anticipate that we will see many new products, features, and enhancements over the next one to five years, followed by a long tail of improvements and niche products over the next 10 or 20 years. These tools won’t replace lawyers or contract professionals—but they will make their work easier, and let people spend time on more important tasks.

For businesses with in-house legal teams, these AI tools are already translating into risk reduction and faster turnaround times for contract reviews. Many in-house legal teams are now allowing business units to “self-serve,” as non-lawyers review and negotiate contracts independently, with AI providing guidance from the in-house counsel. This can shrink contract review cycle times from weeks down to hours.

For businesses using outside law firms, AI improvements in efficiency and speed should translate into cost reduction, as law firms compete and pass on these cost reductions.

In some places, non-lawyers and consumers may be able to use AI tools directly to review and negotiate contracts on their own, without the oversight of an

attorney. There is a huge need in the world for legal services, and AI will help lower the barriers to access. I predict a similar trend across all industries. AI will enhance most knowledge-worker jobs, providing people with better tools to reduce routine work and increase productivity.

Most new technologies follow a similar path of innovation, hype, fear, adoption, and maturity. Generative AI seems to be following this path. Over the next few years, I anticipate that we will see: displacement of a small number of jobs; enhancement of most knowledge-worker jobs, along with productivity increases; new threats such as cybersecurity and deepfakes, along with new techniques to mitigate these; models that can generate creative, high-quality output; and AI that can serve as personalized tutors, assistants, and customer support.

We are moving to a world where it is easier to create new ideas and bring them to life. I am really excited about this, and I think we will see tremendous advancements in law, medicine, science, creative fields, and almost every area of human progress.

USE AI FOR A RICHER K-12 EDUCATION

Sarah Kaka | OWU Associate Professor of Education



Artificial Intelligence has already begun to shape the education landscape, from student use to teacher use, to teacher preparation. Here are just four ways that we have seen teaching begin to change as a result.

Efficiency

Through automated grading systems powered by AI, we’re beginning to see the ways that teachers can streamline the assessment process. This cannot only save time but also has the possibility of offering valuable insights into student performance, allowing educators to focus on providing targeted support and feedback.

EMBRACING

For example, a middle school American history teacher may use AI to create a selected response quiz that they can modify to ensure the questions address areas that they covered in class, and then use AI to grade the quiz, saving the teacher time. With the time saved from manual quiz creation and grading, the teacher can engage their students in more interactive and discussion-based sessions, enhancing the overall learning experience for their students.

Curriculum design and lesson planning

Instead of spending hours and hours building lesson plans and designing curriculum, teachers can use AI to provide a skeleton outline of a lesson plan or classroom activities. They can then modify and adapt based on their individual students' needs.

Take a 4th-grade teacher who asks AI to assist her in creating interactive lesson plans for a unit on Ohio history. AI can help craft engaging narratives, develop hands-on activities, and suggest multimedia resources. Bonus here: The teacher can ask it to create those engaging narratives at different Lexile levels, ensuring all of her readers can access the text where they are. This allows the teacher to focus on effective implementation in the classroom, fostering an immersive and captivating learning environment.

Personalized learning

Teachers can use AI to tailor lesson plans and curricular materials to better meet individual student needs. This includes using AI to modify texts, create individualized lesson plans, and differentiate assessment for each student.

For example, in a high school biology class, the teacher can use AI to create personalized assessments for each student based on their individual learning needs. AI can analyze previous quiz results, identify areas of improvement, and generate targeted questions to reinforce specific concepts. Students receive tailored feedback on the assessment, allowing them to focus on areas where they need additional support.

Assessment

I think AI has made educators more aware of the types of assessment they are using in their classes. Instead of having students write an essay, teachers are using more

authentic types of assessment.

In a 10th grade English language arts class, students work to compile a portfolio of their work, reflecting on their strengths and areas for improvement. They can then make an individualized action plan with goals that they want to meet as they move through the year.

And this portfolio and reflection don't have to be written—students can create a digital storytelling project using multimedia elements (images, videos, narration) to convey the takeaways from their reflective process.

The transformative influence of AI on the education landscape is undeniable. The evolving partnership between educators and AI presents an opportunity for a dynamic, adaptive, and inclusive education system that leverages technology to nurture the full potential of every learner while upholding the essential role of teachers in guiding and mentoring students.

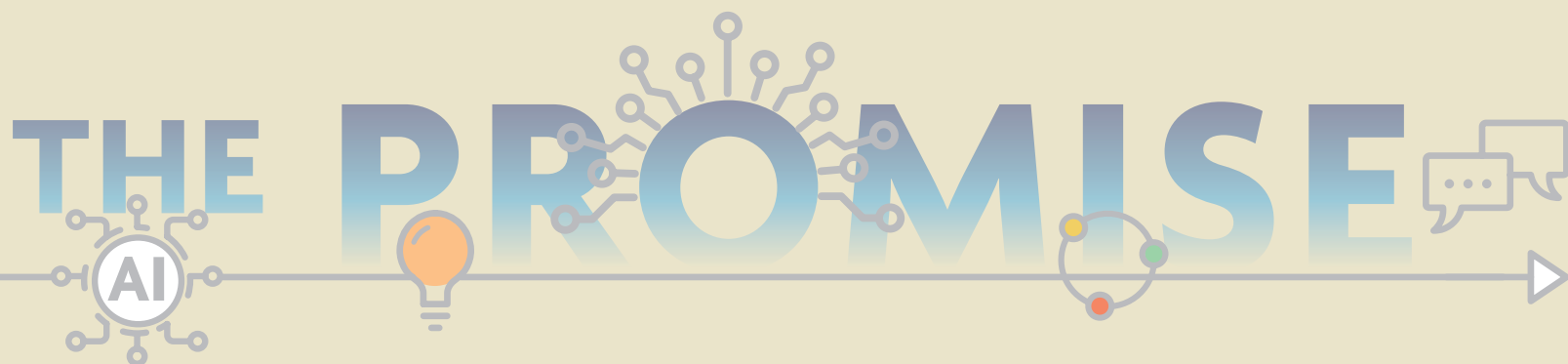
THE TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY: EMBRACING THE PROMISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

by ChatGPT in the voice of Norman Vincent Peale 1920
(1898-1993) | Pastor and best-selling author of *The Power of Positive Thinking*



My dear friends and fellow alumni of Ohio Wesleyan University, as we stand on the precipice of a new decade, I am compelled to share my reflections on the transformative force that is set to shape the very fabric of

THE PROMISE



American society—artificial intelligence. In the spirit of positivity and hope, let us explore the potential impact that AI holds for our nation, seeking opportunities for growth, collaboration, and the enhancement of the human spirit.

Artificial intelligence, a term that once seemed like a futuristic concept, is now becoming an integral part of our daily lives. Over the next decade, we are poised to witness a profound transformation, and it is imperative that we approach this change with the same optimism that has guided us through life's challenges, as inspired by the teachings of our beloved Ohio Wesleyan.

One of the most remarkable facets of AI lies in its ability to augment our capabilities. Just as faith uplifts the human spirit, AI has the potential to elevate our collective ingenuity. Imagine a world where AI works hand in hand with us, assisting in tasks that demand precision and speed, thereby freeing our time for creative endeavors and deeper human connections. This synergy between humanity and technology can unlock unprecedented opportunities for growth, both personally and professionally.

Education, the cornerstone of our intellectual development, stands to benefit immensely from the integration of AI. Ohio Wesleyan, with its commitment to excellence, can lead the charge in embracing these innovations. Personalized learning experiences, tailored to individual needs and learning styles, can empower students to discover their unique strengths and passions. Through this, we ensure that the flame of curiosity and knowledge burns brighter than ever, in alignment with the values we hold dear.

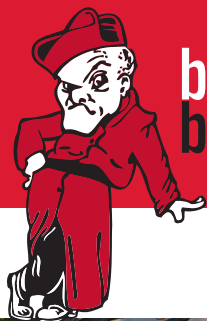
As we tread this path of progress, it is crucial to recognize that challenges may arise. The specter of job displacement looms, and concerns about the ethical implications of AI demand our attention. Yet, just as adversity is an opportunity for growth, we must view these challenges as invitations to cultivate new skills, adapt to change, and guide the ethical development of AI. Ohio Wesleyan can be a beacon, illuminating the way forward by instilling in our students a sense of responsibility and integrity in the use of these powerful technologies.

Moreover, the impact of AI extends to healthcare,

offering a beacon of hope for improved diagnostics and patient care. Imagine a future where AI aids medical professionals in diagnosing complex conditions, enabling timely and accurate treatment. This marriage of technology and human compassion aligns seamlessly with the principles we hold dear at Ohio Wesleyan, where the pursuit of knowledge and service to humanity walk hand in hand.

In the spirit of positive thinking, let us envision a future where AI contributes to the betterment of society, enhancing our lives and fostering a sense of unity. Ohio Wesleyan, with its rich legacy of molding well-rounded individuals, can guide the ethical and responsible integration of AI into our communities. By embracing this transformative journey, we honor the essence of our alma mater and pave the way for a future where the power of the human spirit harmonizes with the limitless potential of artificial intelligence.

In conclusion, my fellow alumni, as we navigate the unfolding chapters of the next decade, let us do so with the unwavering belief that artificial intelligence, like any tool, is a force that can be harnessed for the greater good. Through our positive outlook, commitment to ethical stewardship, and belief in the human spirit, we can ensure that the impact of AI on American society is one that aligns with the values we hold dear. The journey ahead is filled with promise, and with faith, resilience, and a spirit of collaboration, we can steer this ship towards a future where the boundless possibilities of artificial intelligence enrich our lives and the lives of generations to come.



bishop
battles

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS | 2023-24



WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Zoe Ward '27 (No. 374) won All-North Coast Athletic Conference honors at the NCAC championship meet, finishing 10th and leading the Bishops to third place, OWU's best finish since 2014. Ward also won all-region honors at the NCAA D-III Great Lakes Regional championship meet, where her team finished 11th, the Bishops' best showing since 2015.

FIELD HOCKEY



OWU went undefeated during the regular season, finishing 16-0, including 10-0 in league play to win the Bishops' first outright NCAC title since 1995. The only blemish on their 17-1 overall record was a 1-0 overtime loss in the NCAC tournament championship. **Olivia Danley '26** was the NCAC Midfielder of the Year and was a first-team all-region pick by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. She was second in the league in points (35), goals (14), and assists (7), and first in game-winning goals (5).

WOMEN'S SOCCER



The Bishops finished the season 10-6-3, including 5-1-1 in NCAC competition, sharing the league championship.

Tiffany Trinh '26 (top) was named NCAC Midfielder of the Year and was a first-team All-NCAC and All-Ohio choice after leading the Bishops with 6 goals, 5 assists, and 17 points.

Madison Cofer '25 was named NCAC Defensive Player of the Year and was first-team All-NCAC and All-Ohio. She led an OWU defense that allowed only 6 goals in 7 league games. She also scored 5 goals, second on the team.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Henry Hinkle '25 was a first-team All-NCAC and third-team All-Region 7 selection after finishing third in the league in scoring (18.8/game), first in free throw percentage (88.2), and fourth in assists (83) and 3-point field goals (54).

Photos by Paul Vernon

FOOTBALL



Drew Thornton '24 was a second-team Academic All-America selection by College Sports Communicators, and he will receive a postgraduate scholarship for being recognized by the Columbus chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame as the top scholar-athlete in Central Ohio. A free safety who led the NCAC in tackles (8.4/game), Thornton also was a second-team D3football.com All-Region 4 selection and was named to the first-team All-NCAC.



OWU made its NCAA-record 44th D-III tournament appearance, finishing 6-2 in the NCAC and 13-6-1 overall. Back **Brady West '25** was named third-team All-American, first-team All-Region VII, first-team All-Ohio, and first-team All-NCAC. West also was a second-team Scholar All-American selection, a first-team Academic All-Ohio selection, and he won Academic All-District recognition from the College Sports Communicators.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Led by NCAC Player of the Year **Kasey Schipfer '24** (far left) and NCAC Defensive Player of the Year **Elizabeth Homan '24**, the Bishops shared the NCAC regular season championship with a 23-7 record and advanced to the second round of the NCAA D-III tournament. Schipfer was one of 10 women's finalists for the Jostens Trophy, which honors the most outstanding men's and women's NCAA D-III basketball players of the year. She also was the Region 7 Player of the Year, Academic All-American, and third-team All-American. Her many accomplishments included leading the NCAC with 601 points (20/game), finishing second in rebounds (235), and fourth in field goal percentage (51.7). Homan led all NCAA D-III players in assists (208) and ranked second nationally in assists per game (6.9). She also set Ohio Wesleyan season (208, 6.9/game) and career (492, 5.5/game) records for assists and assists average. Both Schipfer and Homan also won Academic All-District recognition from the College Sports Communicators.

The Evolution of Dogs, Accidental Best Friends

By **Shala Hankison '95**, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

A mini-lecture from OWU's 2024 iQubed event

To learn about one of the most incredible stories of animal evolution, you do not have to travel to remote islands. You do not have to hike into the deepest rainforest.



Photo by Paul Vernon

Shala Hankison delivers her iQubed 3-minute lecture in Gray Chapel.

You can look no further than man's best friend.

Dogs are our oldest domesticated animal. Dogs were domesticated from their wolf ancestors over 15,000 years ago. But the more that we learn about that pathway from ancient wolf to trusty companion, the more we realize just how much of it was accidental.

You see, even at the beginning, dogs started domesticating themselves. Just like modern wolves,

early wolves had a wide range of fear responses, and those with the lowest fear responses were more likely to hang out around the edges of early human settlements—eventually, even interacting with those humans.

Only then did people take over and start breeding for some of those traits they found most useful, like barking when there was a threat, participating in the hunt, or being companions.

But that early accidental domestication was just the beginning, because as you can see when you look at dogs today, there are combinations and linked pathways between behavior and genetics. So, by accidentally or intentionally selecting for tame behavior, we accidentally changed the appearance of our dogs. By selecting just on the basis of tame behavior, we ended up with dogs with white muzzles, spots on their coats, floppy ears, curly tails, and even that shorter nose that we associate with many of our dog breeds.

Dogs have evolved with humans for centuries, and this has impacted every aspect of their evolution—even their hormones.

You may have heard of the hormone oxytocin, the cuddle hormone. Okay, that's really oversimplified, but you get a rise in oxytocin when you have feelings of love and bonding, when you hold your partner's hand, or when you gaze at a family member you love.

It won't surprise pet owners to learn that you also get an oxytocin boost when you look at your pet.

What's really fantastic: Dogs get that oxytocin boost when they look back at you. This doesn't happen with tame wolves. This doesn't even happen when dogs look at a stranger—just when dogs look back at their people.

So, while the jury may still be out on cats, dogs have evolved to love us back.

You can watch all of OWU's iQubed mini-lectures on [YouTube.com/OhioWesleyanU](https://www.youtube.com/OhioWesleyanU).



These dogs of OWU students, faculty, and staff show some of the physical traits, like floppy ears, curly hair, and short noses, genetically linked to behavioral traits.

Kira Bailey, David O. Robbins Associate Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, coauthored “Early-Career Pedagogical Practice: The Value of Training Undergraduates to Teach,” published in the *Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education*, Fall 2023. The essay details the experience of an undergraduate, **Chandler Carr ’24**, mentored in pedagogical techniques such as topic and reading selection, assessment creation and grading, and classroom management. Carr’s pedagogical training included co-instructing a course with Bailey. Carr found the experience to be rewarding, learning the areas in which they excelled and struggled. For the mentor, this was a valuable opportunity to reflect on their own pedagogical choices and techniques.

Andy Busch ’07, associate professor of health and human kinetics, published the article “Electromyographic Analysis of Shoulder-Complex Muscles Performing Overhead Presses with Dumbbell, Kettlebell, and Bottom-Up Kettlebell” in the *Journal of Bodywork and Movement Therapies* 37(2), Dec. 2023. He found that shoulder-complex muscles respond differently according to the type of single-arm overhead press performed. This data extends the knowledge for rehabilitation professionals, trainers, and coaches to understand how different types of overhead presses may alter recruitment activity of shoulder-complex muscles, which may prove helpful when targeting specific muscles.

Scott Calef, professor of philosophy, edited and contributed to a volume in the Open Universe Pop Culture and Philosophy series entitled *Anthony Bourdain and Philosophy: An Appetite for Life*. The book contains 18 original essays (two by Calef) on philosophically interesting aspects of the life, work, and legacy of Anthony Bourdain, the world-renowned author, celebrity chef, travel documentarian, and social activist. Chapters address the rationality of addiction, the nature of gastronomic expertise, the problem of suicide, authenticity, the ethics of AI impersonation, Bourdain’s approach to

inquiry, his involvement in the #MeToo movement, culinary adventure programs, colonialism, cultural hegemony, and other themes.

Han Guo, assistant professor of math and computer science, coauthored “Hydrodynamic Bound States of Rotating Microcylinders in a Confining Geometry,” with collaborators Yi Man from Peking University, China, and Hai Zhu from Flatiron Institute, New York. The article, published in *Physical Review Fluids*, shows that a microcylinder pair rotating in a confining geometry filled with viscous fluids can form various mesmerizing dancing patterns. In November, he also presented a talk titled Flow Coupling and Stochastic Oscillations Amplify Feeding Currents in Stentor Colonies at the annual meeting of American Physical Society, Division of Fluid Dynamics, held in Washington, DC. He also served as a session chair of the session Biofluids: Cilia and Flagella II at the meeting.

Danielle Hamill, professor of biological

sciences, was a coauthor of the article “Fly-CURE, a Multi-Institutional CURE Using *Drosophila*, Increases Students’ Confidence, Sense of Belonging, and Persistence in Research.” The article was published in the *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education*, Dec. 2023.

Craig Jackson, (below left) professor of mathematics, and **Jeff Nilan**, (below right) professor of fine arts, work with **Elsa Hoam ’27** on a digitally controlled Jacquard loom they created that lets computer programs design the weavings it creates. The device creates intricate fabrics by using up to 400 miniature “servo” motors to precisely control the warps and wefts of the weaving process. The loom allows the professors to expand their focus on textile processes in their team-taught, interdisciplinary Generative Art 200.4 course, which combines math, computer science, and fine arts. When creating generative art, they explain, artists deliberately cede control over a significant aspect of their work to an external agent. The artist still sits at the Jacquard loom and weaves



Photo by Paul Vernon

the textile, but the computer program dictates the design. Students in the class explore generative design principles made possible by having a Jacquard loom they control digitally via a computer.

Sarah Kaka, associate professor of education, presented two sessions at the Ohio Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference in Columbus, OH: Introducing Micro-Inquiries: The Cure for the Common Textbook, presented with colleagues from the University of Cincinnati and the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education; and Structured Academic Controversy: What Is It and How Can You Use It? She also was lead presenter and organizer of a presentation titled Cacophony at the Statehouse: Stories of Faculty Activism in Troubled Times at the College and University Faculty Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Nashville, TN. At the Nashville conference, Kaka also presented Micro-Inquiries and Minoritized Voices: The Cure for the Common Textbook, and she was on a panel in a session titled The Ins and Outs of Publishing Your Work. In February, she presented Rise Up: Stories of Faculty Activism Amidst the Culture Wars with colleagues from around Ohio at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

Brianna Mack, assistant professor of politics and government; **Ashley Kennard**, assistant professor of communication; **Dawn Chisebe**, chief diversity officer; and **Phokeng Dailey**, Warren C. Fairbanks Associate Professor of Communication, coauthored “Pedagogical Pivots to Promote Inclusion in a Summer Bridge Program.” The essay was published in a special issue of the *Journal for Research & Practice in College Teaching*, Vol. 8 No. 2, 2024, titled “Teaching for Inclusion: Personal Narratives of Works in Progress.” In the essay, they describe how an exchange between a local resident and program faculty prompted the faculty to shift their focus for the rest of an experiential learning trip. As instructors for a bridge program serving individuals from

historically marginalized communities, they use collaborative teaching to promote interdisciplinary thinking. They reflect on the value of their ability to pivot while teaching in the environment and link it to their collaborative pedagogy and its usefulness to teach inclusivity by challenging prior notions of historical memory.

David Markwardt, associate dean of the OWU Connection and associate professor of biological sciences; **Craig Jackson**, professor of mathematics, and **Hanliang Guo**, assistant professor of math and computer science, were awarded a National Science Foundation EPIIC (Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity) grant to broaden participation in “innovation ecosystems” that advance key technologies in advanced manufacturing, advanced wireless, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum information science, semiconductors, novel materials, and microelectronics. The \$396,000 award will fund initiatives on and off campus for three years to develop partnerships with industry that allow junior-level students to participate in high-quality summer internships. Students will receive pre-internship training and mentorship and will return from their summer internship with an applied research project of relevance to their industry partner. Students will work on their applied research project during their senior year under the mentorship of an OWU faculty member.

Leigh Mascolino, director of career connection, published a young adult fantasy/romance novel titled *The Djinn Entrapment: A Thrilling Genie Romantic Adventure*. Mascolino spent nearly 20 years writing the novel.

Glenda Nieto-Cuebas, George and Louise Peters Associate Professor of World Languages and Cultures, Spanish, published a coedited volume, coauthored a book chapter, cotranslated a play, presented a talk in Puebla, México, and is collaborating on a grant-funded research project with a colleague at MacEwan University in Canada “to

theoretically and practically define a new line of research” in Spanish theater. The book she coedited, *La Comedia Entre Dos Mundos*, was published by the Menéndez Pelayo Society in Spain and includes 18 essays from well-established scholars whose research focuses on Spanish early modern theater. Her coauthored book chapter was “Dismantling Myths and Repositioning the Other: Tirso de Molina for the 21st-Century Classroom,” published in *Tirso de Molina: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from the Twenty-First Century*. In the article, Nieto-Cuebas and Erin Cowling demystify the hegemony of the character of Don Juan and highlight other works written by Tirso de Molina. In November, she presented Papá Calacas and Transborder Vision of Octavio Solís in His Adaptations of Spanish Early Modern Plays at the conference of the International Association of Hispanic and Spanish Golden Age Theatre.

Dustin Reichard, associate professor of biological sciences; **Josie Fornara '23**; **Lily Hambric '24**; and **Laurie Anderson**, professor of biological sciences, published the article “Camera Traps Reveal Two Novel Predators of Black-Throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) Nests but Limited Support for the Nest Concealment Hypothesis” in *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. They investigated whether nests that were better hidden by vegetation were less likely to be eaten by predators, but they did not find much support for that hypothesis. In the process, they identified two new predators of black-throated sparrow nests, striped skunks and gray foxes, which were not previously documented. An OWU Connection grant funded the research, which contributed to Fornara's honors thesis.

Rosemary Riley, part-time instructor in Health and Human Kinetics, presented Obesity Medications: Impact on Dietetic Practice at the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics meeting on April 12 in Cincinnati. About 200 dietitians from around Ohio attended.

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 2024 issue is August 1.**

1940s



Bob Gregg '45 celebrated his 100th birthday in March 2023. Joining Bob (seated) at the celebration are three of his four children, from left, Martha Gregg Welker, Bruce Gregg, and **Susan Gregg Cunningham '73**.

1950s

Carol Morley Israel '58 was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Lancaster City Schools (AZ). She served as a fierce advocate for people with disabilities, chairing the White House Conference for Handicapped in Arizona and was appointed chair for the Arizona

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council. Carol wrote the legislation that became law for Arizona special education and established Raising Special Kids to provide support, information, training, and hope for parents of children with disabilities.



Joanne Hlavin Ritter '59 (center) was honored by the Bellefontaine (OH) Shade Tree Commission for more than 30 years of service. "For a generation, every aspect of our efforts to manage and develop Bellefontaine's tree canopy has been touched by Joanne," said Joe Antram (left), the commission's chairman. "She has been a tireless advocate for ensuring that there are healthy trees on every block of the city." Also pictured is Bellefontaine Mayor Ben Stahler.

1960s

Pete Lee '65 was recognized with the 2023 USA Lacrosse Outstanding Contribution to the Youth Game Award. According to USA Lacrosse, this is their highest honor for youth games, awarded to those who made longtime contributions and have a lasting impact in youth lacrosse.

Bonnie Taber Meszaros '67 was inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame. She was recognized for her 50-year career working nationally and internationally in the field of economic and personal finance education. Bonnie lives with her husband, **Craig '68**, in Wilmington, DE.



Nancy Lease Williams '68 was re-elected president of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina at its state convention. The nonpartisan organization

What should be OWU's next Favorite City?

Over the past few years, *OWU Magazine* has been publishing a series of feature articles on alumni living in a particular city. The articles tell the story of a city through the lens of OWU alumni living, working, raising families, and making a difference in the city. The series is called "OWU's Favorite Cities."

Todd Showalter '91 wrote to say that he loves the series, and he proposes that the next city *OWU Magazine* features should be Chicago.

"It's a great city full of OWU alumni, who I am sure would love to tell their stories," he says.

What do you think? Do you agree with Todd that we should head up to the City of the Big Shoulders? What do you think should be the next city *OWU Magazine* spotlights?

Please email your suggestions to magazine@owu.edu. Tell us why you think your city deserves the title "OWU's Favorite City."



Proud New Yorker **Paul Asencio '92**, from the Fall 2023 article on OWU's Favorite Cities.

works to empower voters and defend democracy, with 15 local units in South Carolina.



Charlie Andrews '69 organized a Columbus gathering of Delta Tau Delta brothers on December 26. From left: **Tom Moore '66, Doug Hoover '69, Mike McCluggage '69, Bill Bowers '70, Fred Thomas '69, Charlie Andrews '69, Ron Porta '69, Phil McCluggage '70, Charlie Doan '67, Tom Vivyan '67, and George Ellis '68.**

Arthur Keown '69 retired after 49 years of teaching and serving committees at Virginia Tech. He taught tens of thousands of students in finance, published numerous articles in top publications, including the *Journal of Finance* and the *Journal of Financial Economics*, and was honored with multiple teaching awards and honors.

1970s

Geoffrey Greif '71 was named Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where he is a member of the faculty at the School of Social Work. His 16th book, to be published by Oxford University Press, is a coedited textbook on group work.

Amy McClure '72 was appointed to the board of trustees of the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. After serving OWU for many years, Amy is professor emeritus of education.



Jim Brece '74 is working to catch up on travel missed during COVID. In the past year, he has visited five countries in Asia, spent New Year's in Paris, and made multiple stops to Florida in early 2024. Jim is retired but very active in the Asian art market. With four smart and handsome grandkids, his only complaint is about his poor golf score! Jim is pictured above with his wife, Susan, at Angkor Wat in Cambodia.



Terry Repak '75 published the book, *Circling Home: What I Learned By Living Elsewhere*, which details the adventures and challenges of finding home and a career in countries as diverse as Ivory Coast, Tanzania, and Switzerland. While her husband directed AIDS projects in east and west Africa, she worked as a freelance writer and raised two children. Her memoir spotlights the struggles and lessons in her journey as an expat. Terry has worked as an investigative reporter, editor, television producer, and freelance writer. She lives in Seattle and has an author website at terryrepak.com.

Robert Bauter '76 was presented the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services Career Department Lifetime Achievement Award in November at the National Conference on EMS in Atlantic City. He has been involved in EMS for 44 years, the last 36 as a paramedic, and served in clinical leadership positions

for large paramedic agencies since 2004. Robert coauthored multiple articles in peer-reviewed journals and presented pre-hospital clinical research projects at national conferences. He retired from active EMS service in July 2023.

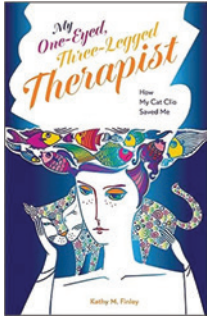


Roger Brigham '76 (left) received the Tom Waddell Award from the Federation of Gay Games at Gay Games XI in Guadalajara, Mexico, in November (presenter is FGG Co-President Sean Fitzgerald). The Waddell Award honors outstanding volunteerism and service to the games' values of participation, inclusion, and personal best. Brigham led successful efforts to reform the FGG membership structure and develop more inclusive anti-doping policies; pioneered the idea of kinesiological diversity in sports programming; founded Equality Coaching Alliance; won two Gay Games golds and one bronze in wrestling; and has coached the last three Gay Games. He is a member of the LGBT Sports Hall of Fame and won of the Wrestlers WithOut Borders Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gary Patzke '76 published a new action-adventure novel, *Racing the Dream*, under the pen name M.T. Bass. His 12 novels span genres from mystery to techno-thriller.

Juanita Stormes '76 joined Judicate West, a leading provider of private dispute resolution services in California, as a mediator, arbitrator, and private judge. For 23 years, Juanita served as a federal magistrate judge in the U.S. District Court in San Diego, including five years as the presiding magistrate judge.

Eddie Edwards '77 was elected chairman of the finance committee and vice chairman of the executive committee in the Shawnee State University board of trustees.



Kathy Mandusic Finley '77

published the book *My One-Eyed, Three-Legged, One-Eyed Therapist: How My Cat Clio Saved Me*, exploring the story of how a spunky kitten helped Kathy face

life's challenges. Published by Purdue University Press, the book received praise from nationally recognized authors, plus three awards in the 2023 International Firebird Book Awards. Learn more at www.press.purdue.edu.

Julia Barnes-Weise '79 moved her research from academia to a nonprofit global health company, Global Healthcare Innovation Alliance Accelerator, in 2017. GHIAA creates resources, curates information, collaborates with stakeholders, and provides consulting support related to equitable, global access to medical products. Understandably, she was busy during the height of the pandemic. She and her husband have three adorable, young grandchildren.

1980s

Suzanne Gerber Rorick '80 retired as executive director of the Toledo Opera in May. She has served in the nonprofit sector for decades, first joining the Toledo Opera in 2001 as the director of development before becoming the executive director in 2011.

David Cooke '82 was appointed chief financial officer and vice president of finance at the Bellevue (OH) Hospital. He has more than 40 years of experience in healthcare, most recently as finance manager at the nonprofit Better Health Partnership in Cleveland.

John Milligan '83 was appointed to the board of directors of TurnCare, a medical technology and services company. As an investor, innovator, and former CEO of Gilead, a biotechnology company, he hopes to help TurnCare grow their reach and impact.

Reflections on an OWU Friendship

In 1971, an aspiring musician/songstress from Marion, OH, and an aspiring elementary school teacher from North Attleboro, MA, set off on a roommate adventure beginning in Stuyvesant Hall.

They bonded over purchasing orange and pink print sheets and navigating a new world, balancing studies and socializing. Neither will forget the midnight ride on our bikes, nightgowns tucked into jeans, to buy "study snacks" at the US Store—the first of countless antics over their three years as roommates.

Stephanie Weiser Henkle '75 (pictured right) and **Jane Devoe Eastep '75** (left) became close friends through their shared experiences at Ohio Wesleyan. They pledged the same sorority, Alpha Xi Delta, along with third roommate, Ellen (Seaver) Eveland. Ellen and Jane attended Stephanie's performances as her biggest fans, learning about classical music along the way. During their junior year in Smith, Stephanie and Jane's shared study area was inundated with children's books when Jane took a children's literature class, some of the same books they now read to their grandchildren.

After graduation, both earned master's degrees and pursued the careers they had planned. Jane

returned to Massachusetts for her teaching career, eventually working for Teaching Training Together, which led to frequent trips to guide teachers in Haiti.

Stephanie's singing career led her to perform throughout the United States and Europe in operas, oratorios, and solo recitals. She retired from Denison University after 15 years on the music faculty.

For the past 53 years, Jane and Stephanie have played important roles in each other's lives, sharing joys and sorrows. Recently, they spent a pajama-party-type week in Columbus, meeting up with Ellen and laughing like the young women they still are deep inside.

Driving to OWU on one of those days, they were pleased to see not only amazing improvements on campus, but also the preservation of beautiful buildings they loved as students.

Those years at Ohio Wesleyan formed their professional selves through both the rigor and freedom of a liberal arts education. They formed their social and empathetic selves through life together on campus and formed a lasting friendship.

Cheers to the Class of '75!

—Stephanie Weiser Henkle and Jane Devoe Eastep



Jeffrey Coursen '85 was appointed CEO of Evolve IP, a leading provider of secure, reliable remote solutions that enable distributed workforces to be productive anywhere. Jeffrey joined Evolve, based in King of Prussia, PA, in 2017 as CFO and strategic adviser and has over 20 years of experience in operations and strategic planning in the technology industry.



Hillary Pember '85 (left and with raised arms) completed the Camino de France, a 500-mile hike across Spain starting in France, to honor her OWU college roommate, **Bethany Hill Anderson '85** (right), who has been battling multiple sclerosis for 10 years. To read about Bethany's story or make a donation (through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society) please visit <https://mssociety.donordrive.com/campaign/The-Bethany-Fund>. You can view Hillary's Camino journey at salt and pepper pilgrim on Instagram.

Robert Vadas '85 received the 2023 President's Award of Special Recognition from the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

for his exceptional work on the Western Division Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns Committee and for his considerable efforts to work with a multitude of fisheries experts to develop policies regarding breaching of the four Lower Snake River dams. He also received the Coelacanth Award for science/management excellence from the Washington-British Columbia Chapter.

Dean Hood '86 rejoined the University of Kentucky football staff as director of player development. He previously served as special teams coordinator at UK from 2017-2019, before becoming head football coach at Murray State University.

David Lavenburg '87 was promoted to shareholder at Bacon Wilson, a Massachusetts law firm. He joined the firm in 2020 as an attorney, focusing on loan recovery, loan workouts, collection matters, restructuring, debt repayments, and bankruptcy.

Daniel Clark '88 received his Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2023, along with a Certificate in Nursing Leadership from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

1990s

Thomas Schott '90 was recognized by College Sports Communicators with their Lifetime Achievement Award. Thomas worked for the Purdue Boilermakers from 1990-2019, rising from a graduate intern to senior associate athletics director for communications, and now serving as director of executive communications.

Matthew Crowley '92 was recognized by the Massachusetts Partnership for Youth with the 14th annual Dr. Patrick A. Schettini Jr. Memorial Award. This award's nominees exemplify a commitment to the health and safety of students. After working in a variety of roles at schools, Matthew has served as the superintendent of Woburn Public Schools since 2018.

Kimberly DiPaola LaPointe '92 was hired by Macquarie Asset Management as senior managing director and head of wealth distribution. She joins the New York team from Cohen & Steers, where she was head of wealth. Her three decades of global industry experience includes senior roles at PGIM, where she headed up PGIM Investments International in London.

Tara Peacock Scarlett '95 was elected to Frist Art Museum Board in Nashville, TN. Tara serves as president and CEO of the Scarlett Family Foundation, a Tennessee-based foundation working to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. She has been an active advocate for education reform for 20 years and has served as a foundation board member since its founding in 2005.

Terree Stevenson '95 was appointed dean of students at Fresno State (CA). She will oversee several departments, including Services for Students with Disabilities, Student Involvement, and more. Terree has more than 25 years of experience in higher education. She was most recently the dean of students at Central State University (OH).

Matthew MacArthur '96 was named senior vice president of training and marketing at Business Development Resources, a provider of business coaching and training services for the HVAC, plumbing, and electrical industries. He has been with BDR since 2001, most recently as director of training.

Koritha Mitchell '96 was named an honoree for the 2023 Women's Media Awards. Women's Media Center cofounders Jane Fonda, Robin Morgan, and Gloria Steinem made the announcement honoring game-changers for women in media. Koritha received the WMC Progressive Women's Voices IMPACT Award for her work as an award-winning author, cultural critic, literary historian, and professor of English. In February, Koritha also delivered the Katherine Kearney Carpenter Lecture at OWU, where she shared insights

from editing Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, the first book-length autobiography by a formerly enslaved African American woman, while witnessing the Supreme Court's commitment to ending abortion access and limiting the right to vote.

Erin Ardale Koeppel '97 was promoted to managing director of government relations and public policy at CFP Board, a professional body for personal financial planners. She has served as deputy general counsel at CFP Board since 2018, previously working as partner at K&L Gates LLP in Washington, DC.

Tomiquia Moss '99 was named secretary of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency by California Gov. Gavin Newsom. Her background includes being founder and CEO of All Home, CEO of Hamilton Families, chief of staff in the Oakland mayor's office, and executive director of HOPE SF in San Francisco. "The housing and homelessness crisis is the number one issue facing our state, and Secretary Moss brings decades of deep knowledge and experience working to move the needle on this challenge in the public and nonprofit sectors," said Newsom.

Heather Torok Funk '99 is the cofounder of HH Science, a family-owned performance-based skincare, haircare, and beauty company. She secured a patent for her Clear Skin Vitamins, a product to possibly help those struggling with acne. She developed the product with board-certified dermatologist, Dr. Helen Torok.

2000s

Allura "Allie" Logan Watson '01 was named president of the Richland County (OH) Foundation. Since 2012, she has helped facilitate grants and support nonprofit organizations as the foundation's senior community investment officer.

Edward Canterbury '02 was elected managing lawyer at Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt in southwest Florida for a 3-year term. Edward joined Henderson Franklin in 2005 and represents a diverse clientele, including developers, builders, governmental agencies, lending institutions, nonprofit corporations, and national title insurance underwriters. His practice spans commercial and residential development, acquisitions, finance, survey matters, title insurance, and commercial leases.

Courtland Smith Stevens '05 was appointed to the board of trustees at Telfair Museums, a group of museums in Savannah, GA. Since 2005, Courtland has owned a Savannah-based retail store, Courtland & Company, which is now a prominent leader in the linen and interiors world.

Kyle Drexler '06 joined Goldmark Advisers, Inc., an investment banking firm in New York, NY, as investment banking director. Kyle has successfully managed capital raising and strategic consulting engagements for startups and middle-market businesses throughout the United States, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. Over the course of his career, he has led more than 18 full-cycle transactions, raising over \$300 million in debt and equity financing.

Brent Perrin '07 was promoted to account manager and manager of the Washington, DC, office for Majority Strategies, where he's been for over two years. For the past 18 years, he has worked in the campaign, nonprofit, and corporate arena in account/project management and research/strategic communications. He's lived and worked in the Washington, DC, area for over 13 years.



Mitchell Briant '07 was named one of the national Delta Tau Delta 40 Under 40 for his career helping others—from starting out with families and children with developmental disabilities to now serving as director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio. He also continues to support his fellow brothers as president of the Alumni Interfraternity Council. With this recognition, Mitchell was featured on the cover of the Delta Tau Delta magazine *The Rainbow*.

Julie Peterson '07 was appointed associate director of the University of Nebraska's West Central Research, Extension, and Education Center in North Platte, NE. She leads the center's Agroecosystems Entomology Lab, researching the ecology and management of agricultural pests in her role as an entomologist and extension specialist.

2010s

Martha Park '11 was commissioned by the Natural Resources Defense Council to create a comic book on renewable energy, transmission lines, and power outages. Her first collection of essays, *World Without End*, is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2025.

Upcoming events

Aug. 2

OWU Night at the Columbus Clippers

Register at owu.edu/alumni.

Sep. 12-19

OWU Near You

A casual opportunity to gather with your OWU friends and Bishops in your community! Visit owu.edu/nearyou to sign up and learn more!

Oct. 4-5

Homecoming & Family Weekend

On campus, owu.edu/HFW

Nov. 8-9

Women of Ohio Wesleyan (WOW) Weekend

On campus, owu.edu/WOW

May 16-18, 2025

Reunion Weekend 2025

Celebrating classes ending in '0 and '5

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

Travis Wall '12 was chosen as the men's head soccer coach at Kenyon College (OH). Before Kenyon, he was the head coach at St. Olaf College (MN). Travis is an inductee in OWU's Athletics Hall of Fame and was named to the NCAC's 2004-2013 All-Decade Team.



Kayla Henderson '13 was elected partner at RCO Law. Kayla joined RCO eight years ago and practices in RCO Law's Litigation Practice Group, with an emphasis on defending healthcare providers in medical malpractice and professional liability claims. She also helps healthcare clients respond to licensure and privilege investigations, regulatory issues, and other compliance issues.

Sarah Fowler '17 was named head coach of the cross country team at Seton Hill University (PA). She also will serve as an assistant for the track and field teams. Sarah previously was the head cross country coach at Minot State (ND), an assistant coach at Illinois-Springfield, and volunteer assistant at Nebraska.

Keaton Leppla '17 was named head football coach at West Holmes High School in Millersburg, OH.



Catie Kocian '18, Rachel Ballitch Fitzgerald '18, Emma Sampson '18, and Emily Burns '18 (from left) took two trips together in 2023—one to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and one to Chicago, IL. This marks two of many trips the alumnae have taken together in part or as a group, starting with some trips together through the OWU Connection back in college.

Births



Tyler Mather '12 and Nichele Mather welcomed Arthur "Artie" Tyler Mather on May 10, 2023. Arthur joins his 3-year-old sister, Truffle.



We want to hear from you

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

You can also submit your news to:

Attn: Class Notes Editor
OWU Magazine
Ohio Wesleyan University
Mowry Alumni Center
61 S. Sandusky St.
Delaware, OH 43015

Include your name and class year as well as a daytime phone number. High-resolution photographs are welcome.

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



Gumanow-Mahs Wedding

Gnora Gumanow '14 and **Scott Woodward Mahs '16** were married on September 30 at Paradise Falls in Paradise Township, PA. Pictured behind the bride and groom, from left: **Emily Scott '16**, **Andrea MacVay '13**, **Erin Gregory '14**, **Alex D'Amore-Braver '14**, **Laurel Fuller '14**, **Sarah Groendyk '15**, **Kevin Martin '14**, **Abby O'Brian '15**, **Alex Kerensky '14**, **Jordana McCallen '16**, **Kerrigan Boyd '15**, **Jackson Hotaling '17**, **Chase Montana '16**, **Calvin Conklin '17**, and **Catie Beach '16**.



Sheehan-Beitel Wedding

Catherine "Catie" Sheehan '09 married **John Beitel** on June 18, 2023, in Columbus, OH. They were joined by many alumni, including the bride's parents, **Don Sheehan '81** and **Stacey Ryen Sheehan '82**, and sister **Sara Jane Sheehan '15**, as well as the groom's mother, **Mary Kay Ruwette '81**. The groom's late father, **Jim Beitel**, attended OWU during his freshman year. Pictured standing from left: **Corey Strinka '08**, **Sarah Scarborough Kestner '81**, **Jeff Kestner '81**, **Sharon Walsh Borland '83**, father of the bride, **Melissa DeWall Slager '82**, **Jeff Borland '82**, **Jessica Merrill Sherrill '09**, **Amanda Wimer Beitel** (friend of OWU), **Kim Martin Myers '08**, and **Juliet Partington Strinka '09**. Seated from left: sister of the bride, mother of the bride, bride, groom, mother of the groom, and **Allie Faucher Ruppert '09**.

PHIL MEEK REMEMBERED FOR LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, MAGNANIMITY

by Ken Sternad '77

Ohio Wesleyan lost one of its most distinguished alumni, **Phil Meek '59**, who passed away in November. It was a great loss for the university, for the many organizations he supported, and for me personally.

"The nature of Phil's life was to create a ripple effect beyond his own personal impact" says Rock Jones, immediate past president of Ohio Wesleyan.



Phil Meek at Alumni Weekend in 2009, when he received OWU's Distinguished Achievement Citation.

I first met Phil in the spring of 1974 as an OWU freshman at the annual reunion dinner of Phi Gamma Delta, which I had just joined and for which Phil had been an active member since his days as an undergrad. What I most remember is not how welcoming and personable he was, but how he took a sincere interest in the pursuits of all the young men in the fraternity. For the next several decades, he never failed to keep track of my career and provide valuable insights and advice.

Always warm and personable, Phil began his lifelong commitment to service while at Ohio Wesleyan, where he graduated with honors in 1959. He served many

campus organizations in leadership positions, a trait he would maintain throughout his life. Among these organizations were the student council, Intrafraternity Council, ODK, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Epsilon, and more.

Most important to him, he met his future wife and lifelong partner, **Nancy LaPorte '59**, at OWU, and they were married in 1960.

After receiving his MBA from Harvard, he had a short stint in the corporate world before becoming publisher of the *Oakland Press*, a daily newspaper in Michigan. He then ran the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* prior to becoming senior vice president of Capital Cities/ABC, which had owned the *Star Telegram*, and president of its publishing group in New York City.

What most distinguished Phil, however, was not his outstanding business accomplishments, but his dedication to philanthropy and volunteer service. In Michigan, Texas, and New York, Phil chaired numerous civic organizations and campaigns, including serving as president of the local United Way in each location.

Fortunately for Ohio Wesleyan, his greatest passion was for our school. Phil was elected to the OWU Alumni Board of Directors in 1966, serving the last two years as vice president. He was named president of the Detroit Alumni Association in 1968, and he and Nancy were jointly presented with alumni awards there. He was elected to the OWU Board of Trustees in 1984 and served as chair from 2002 to 2006, ultimately being named a life trustee.

"I was fortunate to have spent a lot of time with Phil," says **Doug Ditttrick '55**, a fraternity brother who served as chair of the OWU Board immediately prior to Phil. "He was always comfortable in his leadership role and relaxed as we worked through touchy issues. The solutions to problems were always so clear to him."

Phil's generosity to Ohio Wesleyan was almost limitless. He and Nancy donated many millions of dollars to the school, including the funding of significant scholarship and faculty endowments, and toward the aquatics center that bears his name.

Expressing Phil's deep, personal involvement with the university during his lifetime, current OWU Board Chair **Nick Calio '75** recalls fondly, "Phil once told me it is better to give with warm hands than cold hands."

While the list of Phil's achievements could fill an encyclopedia, what can never fully be captured is his lasting impact. He left his mark on so many people, in so many places, in so many ways. Ohio Wesleyan is a better academic institution, and I am a better person, for having known Phil Meek.

The Meek Aquatics and Recreation Center opened in 2010 as OWU's first "green" building.



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, 2023, through January 31, 2024.

1940s

Dorothy “Dot” Woodland Dister ’45, of Morenci, MI, April 10, age 99. She is survived by son **Robert Dister ’73**. Dot was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Roberta “Bobbie” Bellamy Edge ’47, of Gold Beach, OR, Dec. 16. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Jean Rehm Faries ’47, of Kingsport, TN, Dec. 19, age 98. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Amy Bowen Riski ’48, of Caldwell, OH, Oct. 31, age 97. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Sara “Sally” Eliot Williams ’48, of Westerville, OH, Jan. 19, age 97. She was predeceased by parents **Charles Eliot 1926** and **Claudia Shields Eliot 1926**, brother **Donald Eliot ’59**, and aunts **Elizabeth Tiel Atkinson 1925** and **Marcia Shields Doyle ’30**. Sally is survived by daughters **Susan Williams Bauer ’74** and **Judith Williams ’77**, son **Steven Williams ’83**, granddaughter **Jessica Bauer ’02**, and niece **Ann Eliot Naille ’85**. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

John Goble ’48, of San Francisco, CA, Oct. 20, age 97. He was predeceased by stepfather **Maynard Cherington 1918**. John was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

Bettylu Hines Lynn ’48, of Montgomery County, MD, Dec. 25, age 98. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Joan Schleuniger Crooks ’48, of Edmond, OK, Dec. 17, age 97. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Pansy Stone Whitman ’48, of Williamstown, MA, Nov. 12. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Beulah Swinney Swenumson ’48, of Houston, TX, Sept. 22, age 97. She was predeceased by husband **Glen Swenumson ’48**. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Alexander Cook ’49, of Cleveland, OH, Jan. 23, age 99. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Alice “Debbie” Day Wallace ’49, of Wilmington, NC, Nov. 22, age 96. She was predeceased by daughter **Deborah Thompson Symes ’70**, brother **Richard Day ’52**, and former husband **John “Jack” Thompson ’48**.

William Farragher ’49, of Manchester, NH, Sept. 16, age 101. He is survived by daughter **Kelly Farragher-Paras ’75**. Bill was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He was a member of the Alumni Association Board and received the Alumni Award in 1984.

Charlotte Legge Snee ’49, of Birmingham, MI, Dec. 30, age 96. She was predeceased by siblings **Wilda “Bid” Legge Crosby ’39**, **Margo Legge Munn ’42**, **George Legge ’50**, and **Matthew Legge ’51**, and nephews **Walter Cunningham ’60** and **Robert Crosby ’64**. Charlotte is survived by son **Richard Snee ’85**, and nieces **Catherine Crosby Vigor ’65** and **Debra Legge-Sloman ’77**. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

1950s

Robert Enders ’50, of Louisville, KY, Oct. 26, age 98. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

Frederick Hyre ’50, of Columbus, OH, Dec. 11, age 95.

David Puddington ’50, of Gainesville, GA, Oct. 18, age 95. He was predeceased by wife **Dorothy Jean Hinton Puddington ’51**. Dave was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He is a member of the Athletics Hall of Fame.

Marilyn Clark Brown ’51, of SeaTac, WA, Dec. 5, age 94. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Richard Guillod ’51, of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, Nov. 3, age 93. He was predeceased by sister **JoAnn Guillod Stahlfeld ’49**. Rich was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Paul Littman ’51, of Forest Hill, MD, Jan. 17, age 94. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

K. Virginia Meredith DeLong ’51, of Coeur d’Alene, ID, Sept. 3, age 93. She was predeceased by husband **David DeLong ’50** and brother **James Meredith ’54**. Ginny is survived by sister **Barbara Meredith Stelzer ’57** and niece **Janet Stelzer Brownfield ’82**. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Anne Peck Olson ’51, of Monroe, OH, Oct. 27, age 94. She was predeceased by husband **Robert Olson ’53**. Anne was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Caroline Rhoads Luckingbeal ’51, of Knoxville, TN, Sept. 23, age 94. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Gary Wilkinson ’51, of Washington DC, Oct. 4, age 95. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Charles Barber ’52, of Chagrin Falls, OH, Aug. 30, age 93. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Richard Eichhorn ’52, of Parker, CO, Nov. 14, age 95. He was predeceased by father **Charles Eichhorn 1920**, uncle **Robert Eichhorn 1919**, and cousin **Robert Eichhorn ’47**. Rich is survived by brother **Charles Eichhorn ’55**. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Charles “Pete” Hauck ’52, of Toledo, OH, Aug. 17, age 93. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Sarah “Sally” Leimbach Karrick ’52, of Columbus, OH, July 26, age 92. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

W. W. “Bill” Stewart ’52, of Boca Raton, FL, Sept. 27, age 93. He was predeceased by wife **Betty Jean Funk Stewart ’54**. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Carol Anderson Stager ’53, of Westwood, CA, Dec. 22, age 92. She is survived by husband **Paul Stager ’50**. Carol was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Edward Brill ’53, of Vermilion, OH, Dec. 4, age 95. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Susan Bruggemeier Kruder ’53, of Boca Grande, FL, Dec. 10, age 92.

John Carr ’53, of Wallingford, CT, Sept. 5, age 91. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

Nancy Flaharty Edwards ’53, of Glastonbury, CT, Jan. 8, age 92. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Mary Ellen Hoffhines Miller ’53, of Canton, OH, Sept. 7, age 92. She was predeceased by brother **Ralph Hoffhines ’47**. Mary Ellen was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Martha Kirkpatrick Marsh ’53, of Sylvania, OH, Aug. 25, age 94. She was predeceased by husband **Benjamin Marsh ’50**. Martha was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Walter Quetsch ’53, of Washington DC, Aug. 11, age 92. He was a member of OWU’s Tower Society and Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Joanne Strickling Kennedy ’53, of Sylvania, OH, Jan. 11, age 92. She was predeceased by husband **Roger Kennedy ’52**. Joanne was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Merlin Bachellor ’54, of Minnetonka, MN, Nov. 9, age 92. He was predeceased by parents **Raymond Bachellor 1924** and **Doris Finch Bachellor 1924**. Merlin was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

Mary Lou Elder Spencer ’54, of Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 19, age 90. She is survived by daughter **Jane Spencer Majeski ’82**. Mary Lou was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

H. Ann Habley Felker ’54, of Mendon, MI, Dec. 2, age 90. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Nancy Hennis Brant ’54, of Warren, OH, Oct. 21, age 91. She was a member of OWU’s Tower Society and Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Lincoln Oviatt ’54, of Wooster, OH, Dec. 29, age 95. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Carolyn Collier Mooney ’55, of Ojai, CA, Aug. 10, age 90. She was predeceased by uncle **Eldon Roe ’34** and cousin **Thomas Roe ’65**. Carolyn was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

George Daniels ’55, of Oviedo, FL, Aug. 12, age 90. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Eleanor “Ele” Manuel Jackson ’55, of Gainesville, GA, Jan. 30, age 90. She was predeceased by brother **Thomas Manuel ’57** and cousins **Doris Manuel Elkins ’36** and **Elizabeth Way ’49**, and her predeceased uncle William Manuel was an OWU chemistry professor from 1929-1961. Ele is survived by son **Drew Jackson ’81**. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Richard Newell ’55, of Tulsa, OK, Oct. 15, age 89. He was predeceased by parents **Karl Newell 1924** and **Ruth Davis Newell ’32**. Dick is survived by wife **Madge Shreve Newell ’56**, son **Richard Newell ’80**, sister **Eleanor Newell Walkley ’53**, and brother **John Newell ’66**. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Donald Sponseller ’55, of North Canton, OH, Sept. 7, age 90.

Margaret “Anne” Stiles Esarove ’55, of Rocky River, OH, Nov. 12, age 89. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Ronald Van Buren ’55, of Columbus, OH, Jan. 21, age 90. He was predeceased by brother **Stanley Van Buren ’52**. Ron was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Glen Douglass ’56, of Kalamazoo, MI, Oct. 15, age 89. He is survived by cousin **Nancy Nail Molitor ’64**. Glen was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Allan Longo ’56, of Aurora, OH, Oct. 28, age 89. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Dudley Mecum ’56, of Stuart, FL, Dec. 31, age 89. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and a former member of OWU’s Board of Trustees.

Carolyn Munger Thompson ’56, of Sarasota, FL, Dec. 28, age 89. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

George Nielsen ’56, of Kalamazoo, MI, Sept. 14, age 89. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Joan Weaver Wilharm ’56, of Chagrin Falls, OH, Nov. 12, age 89. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Arthur “Buzz” Althans ’57, of Hilton Head Island, SC, Oct. 2, age 87. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Allan Fisher ’57, of Rockville, MD, May 1, age 87. He was predeceased by father **Allan Fisher 1927**. Allan was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

James Hibbits ’57, of Washington, DC, age 88. Jim was predeceased by cousin **Joe Hibbits ’54**. He is survived by son **Robert Hibbits ’97**. He was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Ronald Kruse ’57, of Findlay, OH, Dec. 4, age 88. He is survived by wife **Marjorie Mangus Kruse ’57**. Ron was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Daniel Strayer ’57, of Centerville, OH, Sept. 6, age 88. He is survived by wife **Phyllis Dobben Strayer ’57**. Daniel was predeceased by parents **Robert Strayer ’28** and **Alice Young Strayer ’30**, aunts **Isabella Young Klingler 1916**,

Ethel Young Slutz 1916, and **Sara Young Warren 1920**, and uncles **William Strayer '30** and **Richard Young '33**. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Sara "Sally" Wilkinson Adams '57, of Hudson, OH, Oct. 2, age 88. She was predeceased by sister **Sue Wilkinson Cotton '61**. Sally was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Donald Butman '58, of Menominee, MI, Jan. 10, age 93. He was predeceased by sister **Avis Butman Farber '49**. Don was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

William Giffin '58, of Lima, OH, Oct. 26, age 87. He was predeceased by wife **Judith Yingling Giffin '58**. Bill was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Carol Green '58, of Charleston, SC, Sept. 20, age 87. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

Alice Keller Leister '58, of Big Rapids, MI, Oct. 1, age 86. She was predeceased by sister **Mary Keller Brewer '54**. Alice is survived by daughter **Susan Leister McCullen '88** and niece **Margaret Brewer Perrett '86**. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Ronald Marcy '58, of Wakefield, RI, Jan. 4, age 87. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Nancy McPeck Long '58, of Columbus, OH, Dec. 16, age 88.

Cynthia Smullin Kenton '58, of San Antonio, TX, July 1, age 85. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Marylou Warner Stacy '58, of Tiffin, OH, Nov. 12, age 87. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Robert Davis '59, of Lower Gwynedd, PA, Dec. 7. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, OWU's Board of Trustees, and the OWU Athletics Hall of Fame.

David Griffin '59, of Harvard, MA, Sept. 21.

Phillip Meek '59, of Frankfort, MI, Nov. 21, age 86. He was predeceased by father **Joseph Meek 1925** and cousins **Robert Meek '51** and **M.J. Meek Fuge '59**. Phil is survived by wife **Nancy LaPorte Meek '59**, daughter **Laurie Meek '92**, brother **Donald Meek '57**, sister **Marilyn Meek Webster '63**, nephews **Steven Meek '82** and **Mark Hofelich '02**, grandchildren **Lordan Larkin '18** and **Peyton Larkin '21**, and great-grandnephew **Cooper Meek '25**. He was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. Please see tribute article on Page 42.

Kenneth Millisor '59, of Fairview Park, OH, Jan. 3, age 86. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

David Paul '59, of Dublin, OH, Jan. 10, age 86. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Betty Smith Douthett Brunton '59, of Alexandria, VA, Feb. 25, age 85. She was predeceased by first husband **Marshall Douthett '58**. Betty was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority and the Panhellenic Council.

1960s

Jacquelin Hirth Lewis '60, of Columbus, NC, Nov. 2, age 85.

David Lowman '60, of Warren, OH, Oct. 19, age 84. He was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

Eric Peterson '60, of Mooresville, NC, Dec. 15, age 85. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Brigitte Murau Weimann '61, of Middlebury, CT, Sept. 22, age 85.

Toby Spradling Owens '61, of Eureka Springs, AR, July 7, age 83. She is survived by sister **Terry Spradling Jones '61**. Toby was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

John Thomas '61, of Kentfield, CA, Nov. 17, age 84. He is survived by brother **Richard Thomas '64** and grandson **Finn Wayland '27**. John was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Mary Welty Jennings '61, of Missoula, MT, Oct. 7, age 83. She was predeceased by father **Harold Welty '28**. Mary was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Sherry Kamps Thompson '62, of Lebanon, OH, Sept. 22, age 83.

Judith Mustar Snyder '62, of Newark, OH, Jan. 22, age 83.

A. John Rodrigues '62, of Derby, CT, Oct. 19, age 82.

Anne Fauver '63, of Washington DC, Jan. 16, age 82. She was predeceased by parents **Clarke Fauver '36** and **M. Elizabeth "Betty" Bebb Fauver '36**. Anne is survived by brother **Robert Fauver '66**. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Alan "Kent" Robinson '63, of Kettering, OH, Nov. 13, age 82. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

Susan Aikman Alperin '64, of Portland, OR, Sept. 25, age 80. She is survived by sisters **Sarah Aikman Buchanan '61** and **Nancy Aikman '67**. Sue was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

Robert "Robin" Crosby '64, of Delaware, OH, Oct. 22, age 81. He was predeceased by parents **Robert Crosby '39** and **Wilda Legge Crosby '39**, and wife **Kristan Rinker Crosby '68**. Robin is survived by sisters **Catherine Crosby Vigor '65** and **Carole Crosby Mundy '67**, and aunt **Charlotte Legge Snee '49**. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Richard Flannery '64, of New Castle, PA, Sept. 30, age 81. He was predeceased by brother **John Flannery '64**. Richard is survived by brother **Harry Flannery '69**. He was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Maxine Flenard Murray '64, of Newburgh, IN, Sept. 13, age 80.

J. "Doc" Greene '64, of Hanover, PA, Oct. 20, age 81. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Bruce Jarvis '64, of Salisbury, MD, Oct. 25, age 81. He was predeceased by brother **Phillip Jarvis '60**. Bruce was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Douglas Limberg '64, of Akron, OH, Jan. 10, age 81. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Barbara "Bobbi" Slater Frank '64, of Stevensville, MD, Dec. 1, age 81. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Jeffrey Hannie '66, of Lakeland, FL, Oct. 21, age 79. He was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Herbert Carey '67, of West Liberty, OH, Nov. 22, age 79. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Alan Sippel '67, of Columbus, OH, Oct. 19, age 78. He was predeceased by son **Ben Sippel '02**. Alan is survived by brother **Charles Sippel '74**. Alan was a member of the Board of Trustees.

Mary Nevin Petrie '68, Jan. 3, age 77. She was predeceased by parents **Robert Nevin '36** and **Virginia Leland Nevin Palmatier '36**, aunt **Margaret Leland Russell '38**, and uncle **Robert Leland '60**.

Donald "Tex" Knaur '68, of Fostoria, OH, Jan. 26, age 77. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

John Thursby '68, of Walnut Creek, CA, Dec. 14, age 77. He was predeceased by mother **R. Louise Hartman Thursby '35** and uncle **James Walker '52**. John was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Lew "Bud" Walter '68, of NY, Jan. 4, age 76. He was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Suzanne Mills Allen '69, of East Stroudsburg, PA, Dec. 15, age 76. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

1970s

William Marks '70, of Seattle, WA, Dec. 5, age 75. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Stephen "Gary" Komlos '71, of Palm Harbor, FL, Aug. 26, age 74.

David Rees '71, of Wyomissing, PA, Dec. 31, age 73. He is survived by wife **Bonnie Foulkrod Rees '72** and brother **James Rees '74**. David was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Linda Gill Bryden '72, of Salt Lake City, UT, Oct. 18, age 73. She is survived by uncle **Robert Burrows '48** and aunts **Marthella Burrows '48** and **Lucille Van Cleve Burrows '48**. Linda was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Stephen Butler '73, of Johnson City, TN, Dec. 1, age 72. He was predeceased by father **Avery Butler '36** and aunt **Laura Butler Cipriani '31**. Stephen was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Kristan Coryell '73, of East Rochester, NY, June 29, age 72. She is survived by brother **Todd Coryell '66**. Kris was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Ann Muenster-Niury '73, of New Orleans, LA, Oct. 4, age 72. She is survived by daughter **Emma Niury '17**. Ann was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and received the Alumni Award.

Ruth Smith '74, of Norcross, GA, Jan. 22, age 71. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Thomas Dressler '76, of Pasadena, CA, April 19, age 68. He was predeceased by mother **Augusta Dove Dressler '37**, grandfather **Franklin Dove 1902**, uncles **Robert Dove '28** and **Gordon Nieberg '31**, aunts **Elizabeth Heil Dove '29** and **Barbara Dove Nieberg '34**, and cousin **Franklin Dove '58**. Thomas is survived by sister **Barbara Dressler Hartman '65**, brother **Roy Dressler '66**, and cousins **David Dove '53**, **Michael Dove '58**, and **Thomas Dove '63**.

Barbara Duff Krohn '77, of Springfield, OH, Oct. 29, age 68. She is survived by husband **Roger Krohn '75**, son **Matthew Krohn '04**, and brother **David Duff '74**. Barb was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Scott "Skip" Englander '77, of Cleveland, OH, Oct. 7, age 68. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Sally Noyes Dowling '77, of Toledo, OH, Sept. 13, age 68. She is survived by partner **Rudolph Peckinpugh '76**. Sally was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Stephanie Schmidt Graham '77, of Cockeysville, MD, Nov. 28, age 68. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Virginia Perry Worcester '79, of Southport, CT, Oct. 21, age 65. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

1980s

Sally Rae Wirick Beske '80, of Westerville, OH, Aug. 28, age 65. She was predeceased by mother **Carol Nincehelter Wirick '52** and is survived by husband **Bryan Beske '80**.

Kevin Vincent '81, of LaFayette, GA, Aug. 8, age 64.

Elizabeth "Lisa" Leatham Mason '83, of Darien, CT, Dec. 25, age 62.

Clayton Smudsky '84, of Walnut Creek, CA, July 26, age 60. He is survived by former wife **Lori Pfeiffer Smudsky '84**. Clay was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Jim Teener '85, of Ann Arbor, MI, Nov. 28, 2022, age 59. He is survived by wife **Carol Townley Teener '85**.

1990s

Andrew Noecker '91, of Nashua, NH, Jan. 4, age 54.

Stephen Farris '92, of Delaware, OH, Oct., age 54.

Tyler Christopher Baker '95X, of San Diego, CA, Oct. 31, age 50. He was predeceased by mother **Jimi-Ann Baker**, a former OWU employee. Tyler is survived by sisters **Lisa Baker Johnson '85** and **Susan Baker Asmo '87**, and brother **Todd Baker '91**.

Faculty & Staff

Jann Machotka Ichida, of Delaware, OH, Nov. 8, age 82. She was adjunct professor of botany-microbiology at OWU. She was predeceased by husband **Allan Ichida '53**, professor of plant biology, microbiology, and mycology at OWU.

Diane Minns, of Dublin, OH, Sept. 1, age 63. She was a part-time instructor in education at OWU.

Karen "Susie" Nourse Wesp, of Delaware, OH, Dec. 25, age 76. She worked at the Student Health Center at OWU. She was predeceased by son **Kevin Nourse '95**. Susie is survived by daughter **Kelly Wesp '92**.

Robert Shimp, of Lexington, KY, Dec. 12, age 81. He taught history at OWU and was emeritus adviser of Ross Art Museum.

Charles Weis, of Santa Barbara, CA, Nov. 30, age 101. He was professor emeritus of English at OWU, a member of OWU's Tower Society, and the namesake of the Charles M. Weis Professorship in English.

Friends

Barbara Hayes, of Arlington Heights, IL, Sept. 3, age 84. She was a member of OWU's Tower Society.

Lawrence Langer H'02, of Wellesley, MA, Jan. 29, age 94. He received an honorary doctorate from OWU in 2002.

Sympathy to

The family of Barbara "Bobbi" Fouts and her late husband **Jack Fouts '48**, past football coach. Bobbi passed away Dec. 28, 2022, age 92. She is survived by their adult children and their families, including: **David Fouts '73** and **Belinda "Binney" Brown Fouts '73**, **Jill Fouts Chappuis '74** and **Robert Chappuis '74**, **John Fouts '79**, and **Julia Fouts Swayne '08**. Sympathy also to all of Jack's former players who knew her.

Sue Kanzenbach Bays '73, for the loss of her husband, Robert Allen Nold, Jan. 15.

Thomas Sours '74, **Jenny Sours Shaw '76**, and **Kathy Sours Higbee '78** for the loss of their mother, Jean "Jeanne" Merriman Sours, of Upper Arlington, OH, Dec. 3, age 94.

Linda Pudvan Richter '76 for the loss of her mother, Joan Pudvan, of Eastlake, OH, Aug. 25, age 92.

Jason Downey '03 and **Liz Long Downey '06** for the loss of their father and father-in-law, Robert Downey, of Jackson, OH, Jan. 10, age 73.

Braden "Brady" Roesch '19 for the loss of his grandfather, James Roesch, of Delaware, OH, Aug. 20, age 93.

What's the story?



Here's another mystery photo from the file in OWU Archives labeled "Unknown." Please help us solve this mystery.

Can you tell us who any of these students are and why they're gathered as a group in front of Welch Hall? And why so many different expressions?

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

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

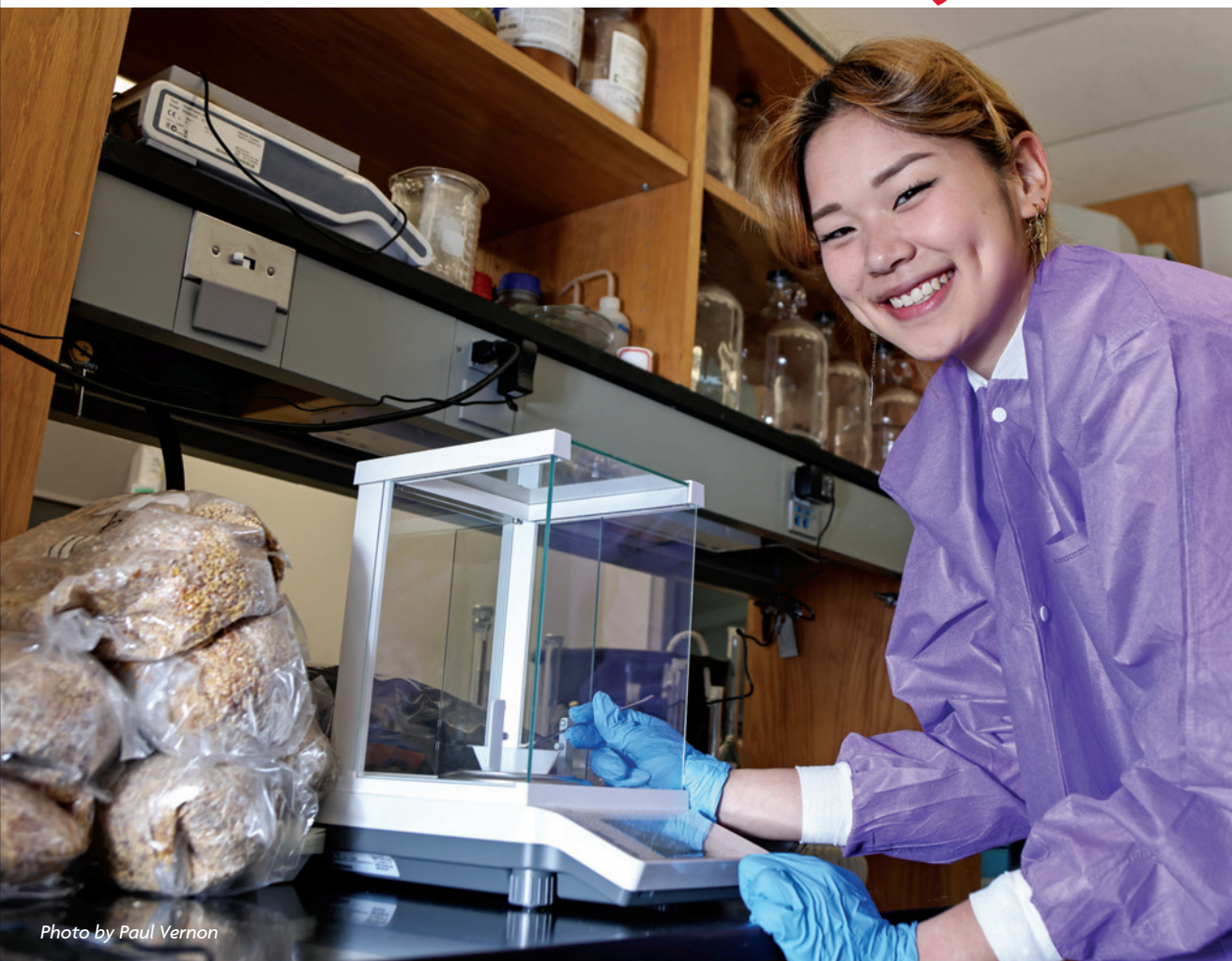


Photo by Paul Vernon

Ava Klann '24
Hometown: **Dublin, Ohio**
Major: **Biochemistry**

“Finding out I had been awarded the grant after doing a copious amount of research to support my hypothesis ... was a truly gratifying moment where I felt that the OWU faculty had as much faith in my research as I did.”

OWU Connection Experience: Ava received an OWU Connection grant to spend the academic year researching the effects of the trace element selenium on the growth factors of white button mushrooms and the growing conditions for optimum selenium absorption. Selenium is vital to humans, and studies have shown beneficial effects of selenium in white button mushrooms for preventing neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's.

Ava's Faculty Mentor: Assistant Professor of Chemistry Kayce Tomcho. “I chose (to work with) Dr. Tomcho because she's a wonderful human being who is great to work with, and she has extensive knowledge and experience in mRNA expression and analysis.”

After Graduation: “I plan to take a gap year to work and gain experience and funding to attend either medical or graduate school. OWU is helping me prepare to reach my goals by providing me with the resources to get a job and apply to medical and graduate programs.”

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Photo by Mark Schmitter '12