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# OWU

Ohio Wesleyan Magazine

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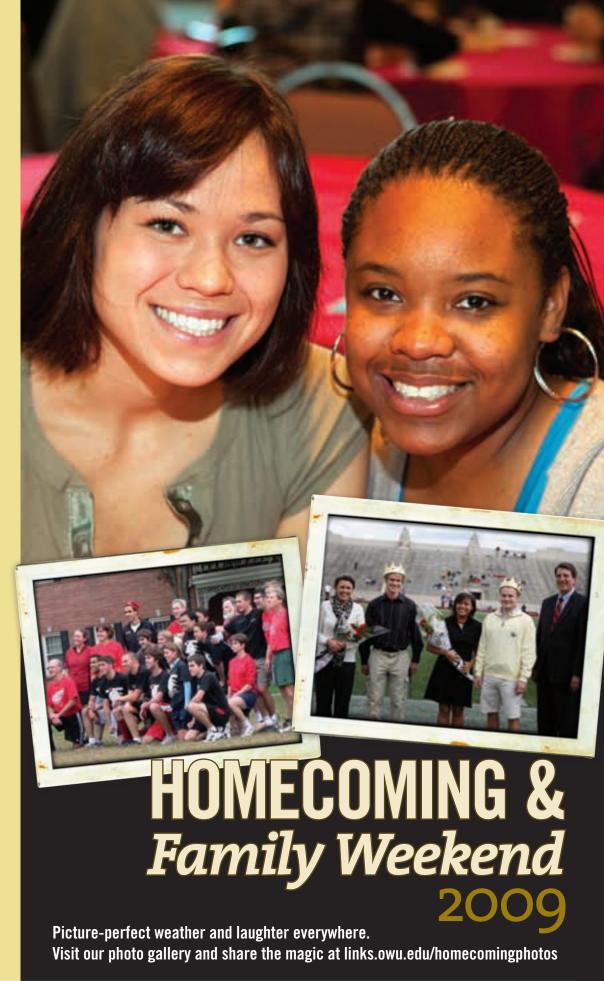
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OWU ☞ WINTER 2009

# What makes a community strong?



President Rock Jones

ONE OF THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF A RESIDENTIAL LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY IS THE STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAT CAN FORM ON **THE CAMPUS.** In a rather extraordinary way that may be unmatched anywhere else in American society, small residential colleges bring together young adults from every family background and from all corners of the globe. We house them in residence halls in proximity to one another. They share meals together. They enroll in classes and devote large amounts of time to the life of the mind. But they also find time to pursue and develop all sorts of interests beyond the classroom. Along the way, they become part of the community of scholars we know as the OWU community. And by the time they graduate, most students can describe for you what they perceive to be the unique attributes of this particular community. It is extraordinary to think about the ways in which diverse individuals from different backgrounds with wide-ranging interests come together to form this community of scholars.

In some ways, this is all a bit unreal. We sometimes hear people talk about the OWU bubble, implying that the campus sits enclosed in a bubble, isolated from the real world. We work to offset that by creating real-world opportunities as part of the OWU student experience.

These include volunteer work with local non-profit organizations, internships, off-campus research, and study travel. There is, however, something special about the feeling of the campus itself and the community that is fostered here.

In my 18 months as president, I have experienced that community in large and small ways. Earlier this fall, on the Friday afternoon of Homecoming, the entire campus gathered in Gray Chapel to hear Susan Eisenhower discuss issues related to energy in the 21st century. In the question and answer session that followed, questions were posed by students, by faculty, by alumni, by parents, and by other guests. The lecture was followed by an all-campus dinner. Some alumni spoke fondly of their memories of the entire campus coming together in Gray Chapel three times a week for the common experience of lectures, concerts, and other presentations. I doubt we will ever return to the practice of required attendance at events in Gray Chapel three times a week, but the Homecoming gathering provided a model for the power of a shared experience, including vibrant intellectual exchange and dynamic social interaction, in the context of this community.

Communities of smaller sorts are formed in hundreds of places on this campus.

Recently Melissa and I have had dinner in several of the Small Living Units (SLUs) on the perimeter of campus. Each of these SLUs organizes its life around a theme of common interest to the students who live there. Students apply and are selected by their peers based on their interest in the theme of the house. We have been impressed by the intellectual vitality, the social commitment, and the strong sense of community that these students experience. The same thing happens in fraternities and sororities, in academic societies, in athletic teams, and in the dozens of student organizations that exist on the campus.

We know prospective students take stock of the campus climate when they visit and when they make their decisions about where to enroll in college. We also know the feeling of that environment shapes much of the experience students have here. Their academic success, their intellectual development, their social maturation, and their overall satisfaction with their college experience grow in large part from their comfort with the community that is reflected on the campus. So we pay a lot of attention to the intellectual and social climate of the campus and to the numerous ways in which community develops. Our strategic plan includes specific initiatives relating to our campus community, including thorough renovation of our residential

facilities and development of programs that foster community and enhance personal development.

In this issue of the Magazine, we share with you stories of community at OWU. These stories reflect the narrative that shapes and defines Ohio Wesleyan today. We hope they bring forth memories of the OWU you experienced in past decades, even as they help shape the experience of future generations of OWU students. I welcome your reflections on the community you experienced in your years on this campus and your aspirations for the community we create for our students today. And I ask for your support as we work together to sustain the legacy of OWU and to preserve the values of this dynamic community of scholars.

Voce du

Rock Jones President of Ohio Wesleyan University



OWU ☞ WINTER 2009

# **Blending Theory-Practice and Travel** *OWU's Sagan Fellows Courses*

Economics professor **Bob Gitter** will take several Ohio Wesleyan students enrolled in his "Mexican Migration Experience" Sagan Fellows course to Mexico during spring break, to stay with families there and gain an understanding of their lives. Gitter's is one of six OWU spring courses that is part of the carefully designed Sagan Fellows courses approved recently by the University's Academic Policy Committee.

Following the fall semester's full palette of speakers who engaged students and the rest of the Ohio Wesleyan community to think about the Sagan National Colloquium theme, "Renewing America for a Global Century: From Theory to Practice at Ohio Wesleyan University," the spring courses have been created as interactive learning opportunities to put theoretical learning into practice.

"Six OWU faculty members having expertise in four major divisions of our liberal arts curriculum will teach these courses, all of which have substantial interactive as well as off-campus experiences and which focus on science, social sciences, humanities-classics, the arts, and an interdisciplinary area," says **Sean Kay**, professor of politics and government and international studies coordinator—and coordinator of this year's Sagan National Colloquium.

Those professors, who along with Gitter, will teach this year's Sagan Fellows courses are:

• Richelle Schrock (Women's and Gender Studies), "Gender and the Immigrant Experience," will examine how women are uniquely positioned as migrants in the global economy. Students enrolled in this course will visit immigrant and refugee communities in Columbus, and may, for example,

"The courses offered by Sagan Fellows this spring provide excellent examples of the ways in which OWU faculty challenge students to connect theory and practice," says OWU President Rock Jones. Each of these courses includes rigorous academic work that will be enriched by practical experiences. The majority of the courses includes substantial international exposure with three of the six courses including travel outside the country and another course including significant interaction with international communities in Columbus. It is my hope that we will increase the number of Sagan Fellows next year, building on the important pioneering work of this year's Fellows. OWU has the opportunity to set a national standard for a liberal arts education that connects theory to practice and prepares students to thrive in this global century. The work of the Sagan Fellows makes an important contribution to our collective efforts to achieve this aspiration."

tutor an Ethiopian child in English.

- Michael Flamm (History), "The Vietnam Experience," introduces students to the history, culture, and politics of Vietnam, emphasizing the time period from 1940-1975. Students will travel to Vietnam in May 2010 as part of the mission trip.
- Ed Kahn (Theatre & Dance), "Political/ Social Cabaret," will draw students from across academic disciplines to study the literature, history, and practice of 20th and 21st century political/social cabaret and agit-prop theatre and explore writing and

performing in their own contemporary political and social material.

- Robert Harmon (Physics and Astronomy), "International Competition and Cooperation in the Exploration of Space," will trace the development of space exploration by all participating nations while focusing on exploring possibilities that the future holds for our global society. Considering that a manned mission to Mars may well occur in the coming decades, this sort of international venture will promote international harmony and global understanding. Students will study in Japan.
- Chris Wolverton (Botany-Microbiology), "Biofuels" will focus on biofuel development from the molecular and cell biological levels to discussions about the manufacturing and engineering challenges associated with biofuel production and distribution systems. Classroom discussions will involve current research programs aimed at genetically modifying biochemical pathways to maximize biofuel production in various organisms. Students also will travel to a biofuels research laboratory facility.
- Bob Gitter (Economics), "The Mexican Migration Experience" will involve detailed study of Mexican migration to the U.S. Students will travel to Mexico City and a rural site in Puebla, Hidalgo, or Tlaxcala, Mexico, and will meet with town leaders, stay with host families, and attend lectures, tours, and other meetings.

In preparation for their trip to Mexico, Gitter and his students will read about and discuss migration law and the impact on migrants and on nativeborn Americans, also looking at Mexico's cultural, historical, and political aspects.

"While we are in Mexico, we'll meet



# Linda Earle Heads New York Arts Program Building a student-alumni arts community

From her office at the New York Arts
Program headquarters within a historic
four-story, Civil War-era townhouse in
Chelsea, Linda Earle, the program's new
executive director, is just minutes away
from a myriad of art galleries, theatres,
Chelsea Market, and Madison Square
Garden for starters. A native New
Yorker, Earle is thrilled with her new job
and equally happy to be working in her
home state.

"I see that as a great advantage," says Earle, whose lengthy track record of experience—30 years—in the visual, performing, and media arts includes

her executive directorship of program for the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, one of the nation's leading organizations for emerging visual artists. Earle also was senior program director for the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), where as she explains, the multi-disciplinary Individual Artists Program was established under her direction in 1984. Earle's portfolio also includes teaching, writing, lecturing, curating visual arts and film exhibitions, and serving on many advisory boards. Earle received her bachelor of arts degree in film

studies from Hampshire College and her master of fine arts in film from Columbia University. Higher education—particularly liberal arts learning—is important to Earle.

Established in 1967, the New York Arts Program is managed by Ohio Wesleyan. Through hands-on experiences as interns in a variety of arts-related organizations, students have the opportunity to gain valuable insights into such areas as acting, directing, designing, playwriting, and stage managing, while earning academic credit.

"We want students to discover their interests while making tie-backs to the liberal arts," says Earle, a strong proponent of theory to practice learning opportunities. Most students participating in the program live in the house in Chelsea, an area in New York that once was the garment and flower district. Earle's more immediate goal is to foster more community spirit within the house and the 33 students now staying there. Featuring laundry facilities, computers, and a TV area in the lower level, the house offers space for faculty and administrators on the first floor, and three floors of residential space for students, plus lounges and a kitchen.

"I've been hearing from many students and alumni who have participated in the New York Arts Program, how their lives have been changed by their experiences," says Earle. "I'd like to reach out to more of our alumni, and build a strong community."

For more information about the New York Arts Program, please visit the Web site at **www.nyartsprogram.org.** 

what they are experiencing," says Gitter. And when they return, his students will come together again as they present a major project or paper to the OWU community.

"I am most excited about the opportunity to dig in and understand the details behind some of the cutting-edge research targeted at developing commercially viable biofuels," says Wolverton. For Flamm's students who will travel with him in May to Vietnam, it will

be a chance to talk with people there whose lives were affected by the war.

"It will be an opportunity for us to experience the impact of U.S. military policy in action and ongoing problems faced by the Vietnamese people," says Flamm.

As Kay explains, the Sagan Fellows courses are semester long, with students paying basic fees such as airfare. There will be open enrollment for the classes, with permission from instructors needed, and required completion of application forms,

similar to those associated with OWU's off-campus programs. In addition, OWU will host an array of other Colloquium-related events and speakers during spring semester.

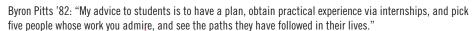
"The Sagan Fellows courses will offer exciting opportunities for our students to take an active role in addressing the significant challenges we face in the U.S. and the world," says Kay.

OWU ₩INTER 2009

### **Byron Pitts '82 Mesmerizes the OWU Community**

OWU's Emmy award-winning journalist shares new book and many life-shaping memories









Top photo: Byron, with his OWU teacher/mentor, Emerita Professor of English Ülle Lewes. Photo below: Byron takes time during his visit for a book signing.

#### "OHIO WESLEYAN IS ALWAYS WITH ME, WHEREVER I GO."

Those words, spoken by CBS Evening News Chief National Correspondent and 60 Minutes contributing Correspondent Byron Pitts '82, at a recent campus-wide lunch in the Benes rooms of the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center, touched the hearts of the more than 200 students, faculty and staff members, and friends who turned out for the event. Pitts has been on the road promoting his new book, Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Helped Me Conquer Life's Challenges, and wanted to include his alma mater on his book tour. And his alma mater rose to the occasion.

Addressing the large group, Pitts said special hellos to OWU alumni in the audience such as Margaret MacGregor Nichols '39, noting that

several members of her family also have graduated from OWU.

"There is a wonderful tradition at Ohio Wesleyan that people are proud to send their children and grandchildren here," notes Pitts. "It speaks to the draw of this place, that we want our children to get a great education. For centuries, people have seen the value of this place." Pitts also took the opportunity to acknowledge two of his former OWU professors who played significant roles in his OWU education and life after Ohio Wesleyan. Verne Edwards, professor emeritus of journalism, who Pitts likened to an army general, whose high expectations of his students and great teaching were instrumental in Pitts' excellence as an Emmy-award winning journalist. It was, however, Ülle Lewes,

professor emerita of English, who worked with Pitts as his teacher and mentor at Ohio Wesleyan and helped him to overcome the obstacles that came close to driving him away from OWU during his freshman year. He attributed his recent move up to 60 Minutes in large part, to Lewes.

Talking more about his new book, Pitts explains it is about the journey of a 12-year-old child who stuttered and was just learning how to read. That child, Byron Pitts, has a mother, Clarice, who stepped out on her faith.

"She had mountain-moving faith," he recalls. "We all can point to people in our lives who have stepped out on nothing for us," he says, sharing that he wrote his new book for the underdogs—those who have been told they are unworthy.

"My book also is meant to encourage the encouragers, and plant the seeds of knowledge and encouragement in others." Just prior to taking questions from his audience, Pitts concluded his remarks by saying that his work has taken him to 37 countries and Ohio Wesleyan remains the most special place to him.

Also that afternoon at OWU, Pitts received several awards, including his formal induction into the SUBA Hall of

Fame, presented by Dan '84 and Sonetta Shahid-Sturkey '83, a framed OWU banner and plaque commemorating the publishing date of Pitts' book, and witnessed the presentation of a check for \$400—money raised by OWU SUBA and journalism students—to Dempsey Middle School's reading intervention program, in honor of Byron Pitts. Prior to departing from the OWU campus, Pitts also had an opportunity to spend time and share experiences with

several journalism majors. His advice to students?

"Have a plan, obtain practical experience via internships, and pick five people whose work you admire, and see the paths they have followed in their lives."

For more scenes from Byron Pitts' visit to Ohio Wesleyan, view our photos at links.owu.edu/Pitts.

#### The Dean is In

### Building community is high on Kimberlie Goldsberry's list

Dean of Students Kimberlie Goldsberry, who joined the Ohio Wesleyan staff in August, says she already can see a strong community at OWU.

She frames her outlook on building a campus community based on the "Six Principles of Community," a book written by the late Ernest Boyer, a member of the Carnegie Foundation. The book lists the six main components of creating a solid community: an educationally purposeful community; an open community; a just community; a disciplined community; a caring community; and a celebrative community.

Goldsberry recognizes Ohio Wesleyan already displays many strong aspects of these six criteria.

"OWU is clearly a very caring community, and a community is defined by the people within it," Goldsberry says. "There is a warmth about the people here—everyone is more than willing to help one another."

Working previously at Xavier University in Cincinnati for 13 years before arriving at OWU (she most recently served as executive director of student involvement), Goldsberry describes her job responsibilities at Ohio Wesleyan as: mentor, coach, partner, and "firefighter"—helping to put out the small "fires" that sometimes occur.

Goldsberry also notes the celebrative atmosphere she has witnessed at Ohio Wesleyan, saying that it creates excitement and makes people feel truly connected with the University.

"I enjoy all of these educational, social, and celebratory events—anything as small as students coming up to tell me they just got engaged, to fraternity dinners honoring alumni and current students, all the way up to [attending] the Sagan National Colloquium events," she says.

Goldsberry also has set up a program named 'Dine with the Dean.' This is a time where students can eat lunch with Goldsberry and talk with her about any ideas, concerns or recommendations they might have for the university.

"We want this to be an avenue for the student voice, and then we can share and respond to students' needs," she says. "We are striving for an open connection with the student body."

The dean also is currently working to review the judicial process.

"Learning is a key goal enabling people to make better decisions in the future," she



"OWU is clearly a very caring community, and a community is defined by the people within it," Goldsberry says.

says. "Our judicial conduct process needs to reflect that."

Goldsberry says the one thing she hopes to see more of is OWU [people] recognizing all of the remarkable things they are doing.

"I know it's sometimes hard to 'toot your own horn,' but we have to let people at OWU and beyond know the awesome things we are doing here."

-Emily Hastings '10

OWU ☞ WINTER 2009

New Life for a Landmark
THE FUTURE OF STUYVESANT HALL





plans for its renewal are being discussed.

#### Gracious. Stately. And for decades of Ohio Wesleyan students, home.

At its opening in 1932, majestic Stuyvesant Hall was decades ahead of its time. Suites with shared baths were a new concept. Community was created by the gracious parlor and gathering spaces on every floor. The Stuy Smoker, with its wide expanse and stage, offered a superb entertainment venue. The carillon in the building's bell tower marked students' passage to classes, and recitals often were part of an Ohio Wesleyan evening. The courtyard and fountain added to the building's elegant atmosphere.

Now, however, Stuy is showing its age. A case has been made for its renovation, and a late alumna's bequest is paving the way for renewal. Alice Klund Levy '32 was a senior advisor

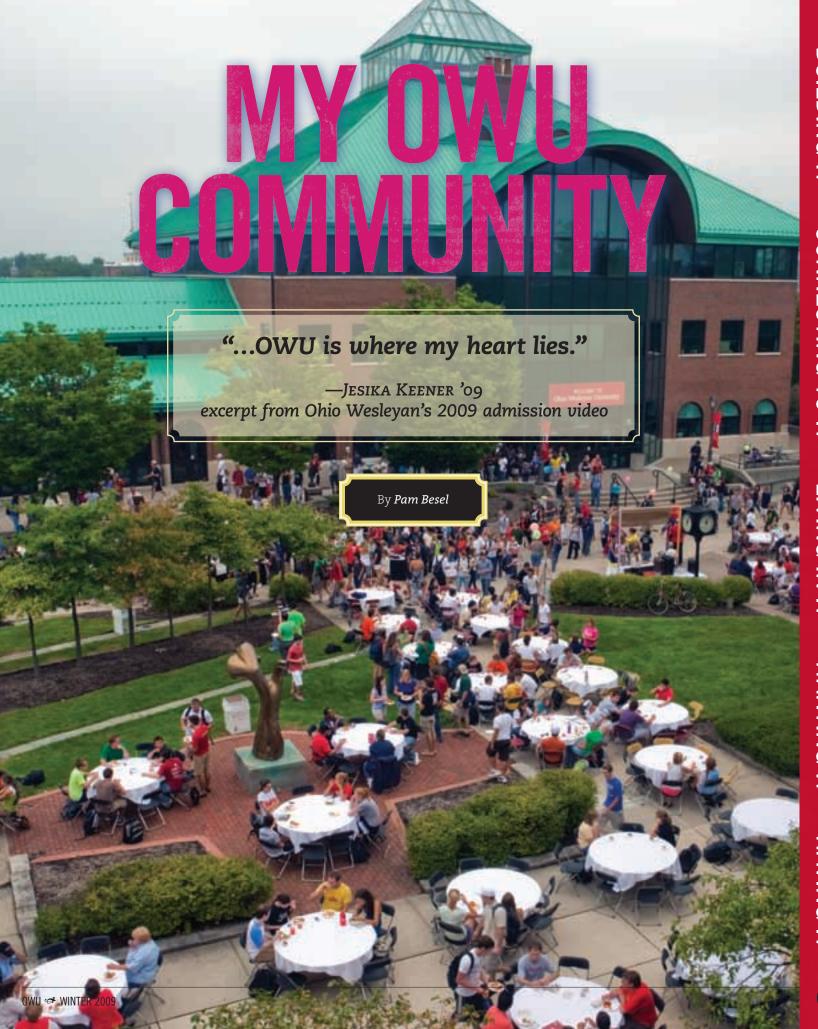
to first-year women when Stuyvesant opened its doors. Throughout the years, Alice and her husband, Harold P. Levy, were donors to Ohio Wesleyan, and at her death, the University received a \$1 million estate gift. Because Levy's bequest was unrestricted, the Board of Trustees voted to make it the principal gift in the restoration of Stuyvesant Hall.

The case statement for the project says that "the time has arrived to restore this historic structure to its original grandeur" and make it "the most desirable place to live at OWU." While that's a laudable goal in itself, the renovation is only part of a broader initiative. "The residential experience is central to the educational mission of small liberal arts colleges and universities," says Annie Griffith Seiler '75, regional director of development. "The revitalization of the residential campus is a key component

of OWU's new strategic vision. The Stuyvesant renovation will be the prototype for the rest of the campus. It's not about one building. It's about the entire campus community and providing top-notch residential options."

While the dollar figure for the restoration has not been established, Seiler and others estimate that approximately \$10 million to \$12 million will be required. Because for 40 years Stuyvesant Hall was home only to female students, the fundraising for its renovation will be Ohio Wesleyan's first women-focused, women-led campaign. Spearheading the initiative are Kathe Law Rhinesmith '64, chair of the Board of Trustees; board member Patricia Belt Conrades '63, and Seiler.

-Gretchen Hirsch



Home is where the heart is, and about this time of year, the hearts of Ohio Wesleyan students have warmed up to the various residence halls and houses in which OWU's students live.

One description of the six residence halls, nine Small Living Units (SLUs), and seven fraternity houses doesn't do them justice. That's because each hall, themed SLU, and fraternity has its own character and ambiance. The aroma of a tasty Middle Eastern specially cooked meal in the International House; lively discussions at weekly chapter meetings within the 15 sorority and fraternity houses; "TV Night" in the residence halls, and shared laughter as students get together to watch hilarious scenes from *The Office* sitcom.

Like most aspects of the college experience, residential living is multidimensional. Zen-like serenity on an early morning is transformed into a raucous game of Frisbee on the lawn, or a heated debate about....just about anything. Late night soul-searching talks with roommates and friends join minds and hearts, in the quest for connection and community.

On the following pages, we take a look at this kaleidoscope of OWU residential living opportunities and how each offers the possibility for building a more cohesive Ohio Wesleyan community. Who better to tell these stories than the students and staff members who are in the thick of it all?

Meet Craig, Wendy, Jack, Katie, Allison, Ellen, and Jeremy.





# **BUILDING: A Circle of Care**

contributes to learning outcomes.

The advantage of being a residential

environment—what it means, and how it

The advantage of being a residential campus is, as Ullom explains, living in proximity with other students and developing resilience and tolerance that are associated with being around a variety of people and lifestyles. Issues and conflicts—be they roommate-related tensions, health problems, or any variety of other concerns, are addressed by what Ullom describes as OWU's "circle of care."

"The idea and actions of making available those resources is a key part of what we do," says Ullom. That and more intentional programming.

"The residential environment is about more than living in the residence halls. It's more all-encompassing than that." The notion of customization and service intervention—more of a one-on-one relationship with students—is an OWU hallmark and contributes to learning outcomes.

During his past 34 years of working with college students at universities, Ullom contemplates how things have changed.

"There are more complexities today because of technology and new ways of connecting with our students," he says. Students with learning challenges can succeed at college, thanks to new medications on the market and supportive faculty and staff at places like Ohio Wesleyan. As Ullom notes, it takes a unified university for any residential and student life program to be effective and reach its goals.

"Our entire campus came together

during the past year as we prepared for the North Central self-study accreditation visit," says Ullom, noting the successful outcome of that visit. Other behind-thescenes work on OWU's strategic plan which was approved by the Board of Trustees in the spring; the Greek Life Study Group resulting in a statement of values and expectations forming the architecture for fraternity and sorority life; and a Residential Life Task Force that forged a plan of action for facilities improvement—have added new excitement for the future. In addition, a revised "YearOne" program for firstyear students has further customized relationships with these students by better addressing their developmental needs, increasing the number of resident assistants working with new students and as Ullom says, "being more intentional in helping students transition to college."

Other changes, including combining OWU's StART program with Fresh X, and Orientation will make a noticeable difference in recruiting and retaining first-year students.

"We'll also look at weaving together what happens in our international and off-campus programs, in career services, service learning, and blending those experiences with theory/practice possibilities for our students," says Ullom. A one-stop shopping opportunity, of sorts.

"Many of these pieces hopefully will come together next year," he says. "This is an exciting time for Ohio Wesleyan."

DR. CRAIG ULLOM, VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, IS A PRIMARY "PLAY CALLER" FOR OWU'S STUDENT LIFE AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE AREAS, AND IS A UNIVERSITY OFFICER. He describes the mission of his staff as assisting and supporting students to achieve their goals of academic success and attaining a broad liberal arts experience. Providing a safe environment to support special student population groups, counseling as needed, and helping students with their vocational goals and career searches also are key divisional goals.

The Magazine asked Ullom to discuss the notion of an OWU residential

0WU ← WINTER 2009 11



THE OWU SENIOR/ZOOLOGY MAJOR FROM CINCINNATI, OHIO INHERITED HIS FATHER'S LOVE FOR BIRDS. Jack

Stenger was looking for a small liberal arts university with a strong science program. Visiting Ohio Wesleyan and meeting Professor Jed Burtt, an ornithologist and President of the American Ornithologists' Union, clinched the decision for Stenger. But the Magazine wanted to know how a busy student involved in such campus groups as the President's Club, Sustainability Task Force, Environmental Wildlife Club, a Bishop Bike Share facilitator, and immersed in original scientific research and professional presentations around the country with Professor Burtt, relaxes at the end of the day. For Stenger and his 11 housemates, it is Tree House, one of OWU's nine Small Living Units (SLUs) that is "home," and a joy to come home to.

Jack Stenger lived in Welch Hall during his freshman year at OWU, and then it was Tree House that captured his heart. He liked the residents, the house theme (protection and nurturing of our environment), the physical layout of the house with four singles, four doubles, three stories, common living and dining rooms, and a communal kitchen

"It felt like home the first time I walked through the door," says Stenger. The aroma of freshly baked cookies also had something to do with that. While house residents can and do have

any academic major, they must re-apply each year to maintain SLU status. After the interviews and application process, residential life staff members make the final approvals. Although grades matter, it is each prospective resident's level of dedication that is observed.

Jack Stenger '10

"Each house member must do two house programs each year to further the mission of the house," says Stenger. This semester, Tree House residents and members of another SLU, Women's House, are creating a communal garden on campus. Collaboration between Tree House, WCSA, and the Environmental committee moved forward the campus-wide bike trail program.

"On Sundays, Tree House 'cooks' prepare Veggie Meal Night, with food bought from a local farm," says Stenger. In total, the SLU residents are scheduled to complete 24 house projects this year.

"The environment is a hot-button issue. Our[house]projects are open to the community, and we encourage people to come over and talk," says Stenger. "If I were asked to suggest one community building idea, it would be the need to find a common bond to unite behind, which for me, is the environment and making good lifestyle choices that will protect it."

## **BUILDING: A**

JUNIOR JEREMY HORNE ALMOST DECIDED TO LEAVE OHIO
WESLEYAN AFTER HIS FIRST
SEMESTER OF COLLEGE. AND
THEN HE WAS STAR STRUCK. A soccer injury prevented him from competing, and discouragement set in. It was just after he decided to join Alpha Sigma Phi last fall, that the pre-law major from Findlay, Ohio had a change of heart, and immersed himself into his fraternity environment and academic opportunities. Horne had found his niche at OWU.

Listening to Jeremy Horne talk about fraternity life and his involvement in numerous campus activities, it's hard to imagine that he ever considered leaving Ohio Wesleyan. As recruitment director of Alpha Sigma Phi, it is Horne's duty and pleasure to promote his organization, and the benefits of fraternity life.

"I like the brotherhood and the fact that no matter what time



# Niche at OWU

of the day or night your brothers are there for you, to watch football games, study, or just to talk," says Horne, who proudly conveys the fact that his fraternity has a high grade point average among other organizations. A second floor study room with two new computers, desks and bookshelves adds to the inviting study environment. But Horne also has decided it is important to be involved in more general campus activities and study opportunities. He serves on Ohio Wesleyan's student judicial committee as a student advisor. He also is the executive director of the College Republicans at OWU, and is healthy enough now to play intramural soccer. But at day's end, he likes spending time with his 22 fraternity brothers.

"It's not hard to understand the stereotype that fraternities and sororities have as cliquish," says Horne. "But I think we all also want to be part of a larger community and show support for each other." DIRECTOR OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT FOR FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE, IS THE PRIMARY LIAISON WITH CHAPTER MEMBERS AND ADVISORS OF OHIO WESLEYAN'S SEVEN SORORITIES AND EIGHT FRATERNITIES. It's not surprising to hear her say that fraternity and sorority life offers some of the most positive living and learning experiences available on campus to those who are interested. But Bressler also is the first to admit that members of the community need to learn how to express more clearly the essence and importance of these organizations—to celebrate their strengths and accomplishments and make improvements as necessary. Bressler is here to help them do just that.

Bressler knows well the many joys of being part of the community. As a member of Alpha Sigma Tau, "I had an instant support group, and that was special to me," says Bressler. Joining a sorority organization is not, however, quite the same as being part of a college club. "It's really about having friendships and networking possibilities for life." But what really draws students to join sororities and fraternities are shared values: sisterhood/brotherhood, service, scholarship, and leadership.

"Students can develop leadership skills by heading up committees, being officers within their organizations, or planning community projects," says Bressler. Through such annual events as Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash and Kappa Kappa Gamma's Balloon Pop—two of many service activities implemented by OWU's sororities and fraternities—students raise greatly needed funds for worthy causes. Bressler believes that the recent creation of a Council of Fraternity Presidents, replacing the former Interfraternity Council, has more effectively brought the seven fraternity presidents together as a community, to share challenges and learn about best practices of fraternity leadership. Further strides were made as this group began partnering with Panhellenic Council to work more cohesively as a community.

Allison Bressler

"One chapter affects an entire community, and we need to strive for accountability," says Bressler, who also feels a need for better integration into the larger OWU community. While there is a good amount of member crossover into athletics, science, music, theatre, and campus events, the need to better express the essence of fraternity and sorority life is apparent. "At the end of the day, involvement in fraternities and sororities can provide some of the most positive community-building experiences for students."

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# **BUILDING: An Internal Program**



Wendy Piper

#### BECOMING ENGAGED, BOTH IN RESIDENTIAL LIVING ARENAS AS WELL AS WITHIN THE LARGER UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY, DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN.

As OWU's Wendy Piper, assistant dean of student life/director of residential life explains, it is the programming opportunities within the residence halls, Small Living Units and fraternity houses that often are the springboards off which students become part of the larger campus environment. Piper and her staff are devoted to planning and implementing innovative community-

building ideas and opportunities for OWU students.

"Build it and they will come." The "it" in this case, is not a baseball field à la the 1989 movie, Field of Dreams, but rather, an inclusive and engaging residential life program that inspires and brings out the best in our students. In addition to Pipers's office staff members, four residential life coordinators (RLCs) and 50-plus resident student assistants (RAs) work as a team with students who live in the residence halls and Small Living Units.

"Our RAs and RLCs come up with programming ideas offered by student residents," says Piper. Some programs are no more complex than being together at TV or movie nights and sharing bowls of popcorn, tie-dying T-shirts together, listening to a guest speaker, or going out to dinner with friends. Trips to nearby Columbus to see professional sporting events, to shop, and even to pick apples at an orchard, bring students together. And strange as it sounds, so do the community bathrooms within many of the residence halls and SLUs.

"The bathrooms are great places for brushing your teeth and seeing your neighbors," says Piper.

Piper explains the process of matching incoming OWU students to residence halls as methodical and purposeful. Students complete an online housing application that asks for preferences regarding study habits, hobbies and special interests, favorite music, and even a question about being a "night" or "early morning" person.

OWU's first-year students are assigned to live in two residence halls—Bashford and Thomson—and work most closely with resident assistants.

"We want our students to share commonalities, but also be able to live with people they can learn from," says Piper, who enjoys seeing how students progress socially over time. "It's exciting to be able to work with them on their journeys."

### KATIE'S RESIDENCE HALL HURRAHS:

Bashford Hall...
"friendly, relaxed,
and super close to
Thomson Store and
the fraternities"

Hayes Hall..."a lot of girls (female residence hall), more spacious with quads, and somewhat quieter, which for me, has been a challenge.
But I really like the residence halls and being around lots of people."

## **BUILDING:**

ELLEN DURAN, A JUNIOR AT OWU IS FROM SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WHERE, AS IN MANY SOUTHERN STATES, **GREEK ORGANIZATIONS** AND AFFILIATIONS ARE STRONG. She decided that she would look into OWU's sororities with an open mind, and thought, "if it happens, it happens." And along the way, she got to know the women in her sorority, Delta Gamma, and other Greek organizations, and fell in love. She discovered that

# **BUILDING: An OWU Community**

FROM MEDINA, OHIO, KATIE JENKS WAS LOOKING FOR A UNIVERSITY THAT HAD STRONG LIBERAL ARTS AND THEATRE PROGRAMS AND REALIZED THE GOOD FIT WITH OWU DURING HER CAMPUS TOURS.

She lived in Bashford Hall during her

She lived in Bashford Hall during her freshman year and loved the community bathrooms. "You had to run through them as you brushed your teeth, and it was a great way to say hello to people," she says. In Hayes Hall now, Jenks likes the common area in her room, which leads into the doors to the bedroom areas. It's not uncommon to find Jenks and her friends laughing as they watch re-runs of The Secret Life of an American Teenager on certain nights, or having heated debates about politics at other times. It's all part of an OWU community that Katie Jenks really likes.

### How do we build community at Ohio Wesleyan?

"With all of our diverse backgrounds, Ohio Wesleyan students share similarities," says Jenks.

"I came to Ohio Wesleyan because I love the prospect of sitting next to people who are from halfway around the world," she says. In one of Jenks' English courses, she sat next to a student from Pakistan; as she and her classmates watched the movie Slum Dog Millionaire, Jenks asked her Pakistani friend questions about the movie

"He was so helpful and wanted me to understand what I was watching," says Jenks, who explains how easy it is to make friends at OWU.

"It's such an open, friendly environment." And OWU is a place, in her view, that has the right infrastructure and so any opportunities for students.

"It's a matter of putting yourself out there, and getting involved on campus," notes Jenks, who has no problem doing that. A member of the President's Club, Orientation leader, and publicity chair for the theatre department's recent production, Night Watch, Jenks is an Economics Management Fellow who came back from the group's recent New York trip wanting more.

"I live my experiences at college knowing that I'm only here for four years," she says, sighing a bit. "I don't want to graduate from OWU thinking "I should have done X, Y, or Z'," says Jenks, who might want to try living in Smith Hall next year. Why not?

# A Value-Packed Life

Ellen Duran '11

students were not only devoted to these groups, but also to many other clubs and organizations on campus, as well as to favorite residence halls and small living units.

That integration into the entire campus environment has really mattered to Duran, a resident of Smith Hall. During her first two years, she enjoyed living in Hayes and Thomson Halls. But in Smith, Duran's neighbors are underclassmen and upperclassmen—providing the social diversity she likes—and, as she points out quickly, "the food is awesome."

"While our fraternity members have the option of living in their houses, women must live in residence halls or SLUs," notes Duran, who actually prefers going to chapter meetings at the Delta Gamma house, while residing in Smith.

"I think this living situation is less intimidating for other friends who are not members of Greek organizations," she says. "What impacts me the most [at OWU], is that we all uphold certain values and are striving to be better people by living those values." For Duran and her sisters in Delta Gamma, that translates to supporting programming that promotes social responsibility and cultural awareness. Through their annual Anchor Splash and Anchor Bowl events, they raise funds for the Service for Sight Foundation, and for vision screenings within the school system.

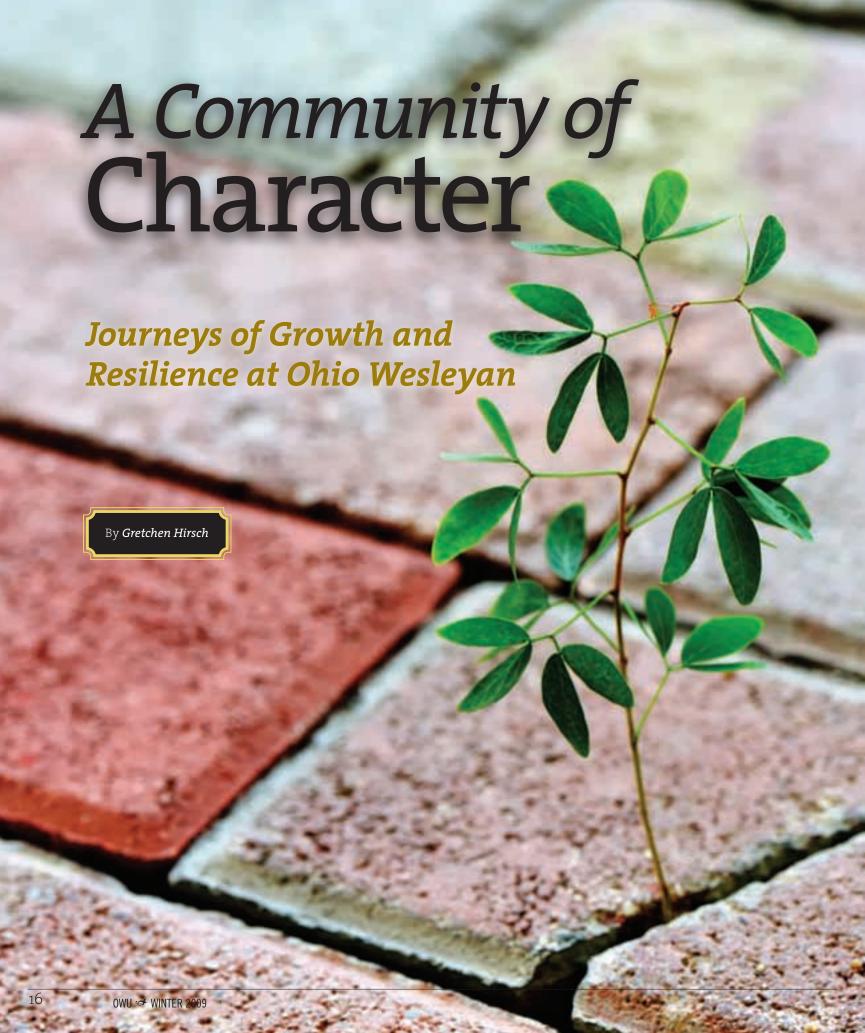
"Other Greek organizations raise

manay far Ct. Inda Hagaital and

money for St. Jude Hospital and rehabilitation programs for imprisoned people," says Duran. This service commitment is shared by all Greek—and non-Greek students. "We share and live those values."

Pam Besel is Director of Internal Communications and Editor of the Ohio Wesleyan Magazine.

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Faroog Busari '10

BY THE TIME HE ARRIVED AT OHIO WESLEYAN, FAROOQ BUSARI ALREADY HAD LIVED ON THREE CONTINENTS AND ATTENDED 15 SCHOOLS. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Busari was caught in a tug-of-war between his mother's and father's families. "I don't remember much of my childhood because I was never in one place longer than six months," he says. He grew up with his grandmother until her death when Busari was six years old. For a while after that, he lived with his father's father and later moved to London to live with his father and stepmother.

In London, Busari bounced from school to school. "I went to so many different ones I never got the opportunity to focus on the foundations you need for success in school. But I played soccer, and I was very passionate about it."

In his early teens, Busari was adopted by his father's mother's sister in Simi Valley, California. "She was my angel," he says. "My great-aunt, my 'mom,' instilled in me that school was important." She also was instrumental in his change of religion. "I was born a Muslim and went to a Muslim school in Nigeria for a while," he says, "but my adoptive mother was a Christian. Although I didn't convert to Christianity until February of 2009, it was often on my mind because I went to church with her and we prayed together every morning. I could see the way God was working in her life."

A move to an uncle's home in Valencia, California, where the school was full of gang violence, was followed by acceptance and a scholarship to The Dunn School near Santa Barbara. "I had to repeat the tenth grade, but it all went wonderfully. I started to take school more seriously, and I was playing soccer," he says. "At that time, my mom, one of my sisters, and [girlfriend] Courtney were definitely the most important women in my life."

But events were conspiring to rob him of two of them. "In eleventh grade, my mom passed away, and I was pretty much alone, except for Courtney and my sister," Busari says. Because his mom had filed his financial paperwork, Busari didn't know how or when to do so, and after his junior year, he lost his scholarship. "I was living with friends and having to make decisions on my own when I was 17."



### "So I made a deal with them: I would take them to the skate park once a week for every week they read a book."

His soccer coach suggested that he apply at Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio. He visited the school and was offered a scholarship, but once again would have to repeat a year. "I really struggled with that. I felt like giving up, but I thought about what my mom would say. I prayed a lot," he says. Eventually, although it meant leaving Courtney, he made the move because he could live on campus and continue to play soccer.

What Busari learned from this odyssey was that one of his strengths was his ability to create relationships. "God puts people in your path for a reason," he says, "but you can't be closed off. You have to open up to allow others to help you."

That desire for relationship was a reason Busari chose Ohio Wesleyan. "I needed a small school where I could ask my professors for help. I'd always had good relationships with my teachers. They'd always helped me, and I needed to continue that if I was going to succeed."

He found a first friend in the Office of Admission. "My college counselor brought me to Delaware for my interview, but I had no way back," he says. "What impressed me was that [Senior Associate Director of Admission] Laurie Patton drove me all the way back to Hudson."

Busari always has had ideas—lots of ideas. One that came to fruition was a college laundry service—picking up,

washing, drying, folding, and returning students' clothing. He put together his business plan; took it to his economics professors, who helped him refine and improve it; and founded EaZZy Clean, LLC. Like all would-be entrepreneurs, Busari found a lot of bumps in the road, but like all successful entrepreneurs, he learned to "rethink, reconstruct, and find alternatives." EaZZY Clean is profitable and has paid back its investor. Some of the company's profits also are donated to campus organizations. "The business has to be part of the community," he says.

In 2008, Busari and EaZZy Clean triumphed over 50 other competitors from nine universities to win the statewide "Make it Your Business" competition, co-sponsored by Ohio Treasurer Richard Cordray and by the Williams College of Business at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

"The economics department is the best one on campus," Busari says with a big smile. "Both professors and alumni have helped me so much, particularly [Woltemade Center Program Officer] Patricio [Plazolles]. He's taught me that success begins with believing in yourself. You have to speak about your dreams as if you've already accomplished them. Patricio encouraged me to apply for Operation Enterprise, even though my GPA wasn't high enough. I was surprised to receive my acceptance within hours of sending my application. I won two awards there and was taught and mentored by presidents and CEOs."

At Ohio Wesleyan, Busari has worked with all kinds of students. "OWU is small; you can't isolate yourself in one racial or

religious group. OWU is the community and the community is all of OWU. I've made it my goal to meet every student before I graduate. I know a lot of people, but now I have to meet 30 more a day."

Busari, who will graduate in December, is uncertain about future plans. "I'm currently applying for jobs with small- to medium-sized companies with CEOs who are passionate entrepreneurs. I want to learn as much as possible and be mentored by people who understand what it means to be an entrepreneur."

In addition to his career goals, Busari wants to make a difference. "A lot of people think I'm all about making money, but I'm not. I'm about making money to do good things with it. I love business, and I seem to have a knack for it and also for connecting with kids from ages five to 19. Maybe I'll find a way to do something with kids."

In fact, he already has. Busari has formed a relationship with a group of Delaware youngsters who love to skateboard. "When I asked them what they were reading, they said they didn't read," he says. "So I made a deal with them: I would take them to the skate park once a week for every week they read a book."

Busari's concern for other young people isn't limited to Delaware. "I might go back to Nigeria for a while to see my family and check in with a talented young musician named Dami. I'd like to help him get an education and give him a reason to believe in himself through his music. After all, what good is it if I'm blessed if I don't pass it on? The key to a good life is to have a purpose greater than yourself."



"I WAS PLAYING CHESS WITH FAROOQ BUSARI," SAYS HUNG NGUYEN, A FIRST-YEAR ECONOMICS MANAGEMENT FELLOW FROM VIETNAM. "I told him about my passion for movie making, he told me about his passion for business, and we started talking about our dreams. He mentioned that one of his goals was to meet every student on campus and to take a picture of each meeting."

Nguyen thought that objective might be a little too personal. What if, he suggested, Busari shook hands with every student and the handshakes were photographed "as a quick, concrete symbol of campus unity."

As the project began, Busari came across a quote from economist/author Jeffrey Sachs: "When the end of poverty arrives, it can and should be in our own generation. It will be citizens in a million communities in rich and poor countries alike, rather than a handful of politicians." Nguyen also was hearing about Sachs in Professor Saif Rahman's class about microfinance, and the two students' interest in Sachs's work resulted in

a bigger vision of what the handshake project could become.

"A handshake is a powerful symbol," Busari says. "Presidents can end wars with a handshake. Why not use handshakes to end poverty? Why not unite this diverse community, where Christians, Jews, and Muslims pray together, to help bring poverty to an end?"

The program began simply. "Hung and I shook hands and took a picture of that handshake," Busari explains. "Then we shook hands with more students and photographed those—and shared the United Nations Millennium Goals regarding poverty with everyone whose hand we shook. Hung suggested that we create a mosaic mural of our first handshake made up of the images of all the other OWU handshakes, which now number more than 1200. We'll make posters of the mural, and students can purchase them for around \$10 through a 501 (c) (3) organization we're establishing to fight poverty. The mural demonstrates that the entire campus is uniting to eliminate poverty."

Busari's plans go far beyond Ohio

Wesleyan, however. "We'll be creating murals throughout the world," he says, "and setting up a Web site called ShakePoverty.org. On the site, all the murals will be available, and when visitors enter their names, they'll go directly to their mural and their own handshake picture. They can order from the site. We expect this idea to spread rapidly to other campuses, churches, and organizations."

When Busari graduates in December, he will spend some of his time in churches and service groups talking about ShakePoverty. "I will be back at Ohio Wesleyan in May 2010," he says. "By that time, I hope to have raised \$50,000." If he also returns to Nigeria as planned, it's a safe bet that Shake Poverty Nigeria will be established quickly.

In an age of H1N1, Busari assures everyone that "we practice safe shake. Student Health donated lots of hand sanitizer, and we're using it."

"As a freshman," Nguyen says, "I feel very lucky to have found a mentor and buddy like Farooq."

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# Community of Character

BETSY CHAPMAN'S JOURNEY
TO OHIO WESLEYAN WAS NOT
NEARLY SO CIRCUITOUS AS FAROOQ
BUSARI'S—JUST A STRAIGHT
SHOT DOWN INTERSTATE 71 FROM
ASHLAND. On campus, their stories
have been different as well. Busari
turned a laser-like focus on business,
while Chapman's vocational decisions
were not so easily made.

"When I was in high school, I had thought I'd be a music major because I was took part in so many musical activities, but I burned out. I was good, but not great." A talented math student, Chapman then thought a double major in math and accounting might be the way to go. "OWU calculus changed my mind about that," she says. She stuck with the accounting major until she decided that "the business world and I really don't get along all that well. I like accounting itself, though, and I have enough courses for a minor in accounting."

Throughout this period of trying on different fields, Chapman also was taking courses in religion, notably one called Power and Leadership, which she terms "amazing." She also became active in working with the Office of the Chaplain. She was Team Leader for the Chicago Mission Team, which dealt with issues of poverty and homelessness. "It was eye-opening. Before then, I had not done an OWU mission. I'd never felt a pull toward it,



Betsy Chapman '10

but the more I researched the Chicago trip, the more I became passionate about it. We learned about our own stereotypes about poverty and homelessness by being on the streets of Chicago."

This year, Chapman will be the reflection guide for the Habitat for Humanity Mission Team. "This one is more similar to mission trips I did in high school, but I hope we'll also get to know the family and learn their story."

At the same time she was struggling to discern a major, Chapman also was thinking about leaving OWU altogether. "In my first year, I had great roommates," she says. "In my sophomore year, I was an RA and lived in a single. I felt so alone and isolated, I was on the brink of transferring. But then I was invited to membership in Delta Zeta. I loved it. DZ was the reason I stayed, and today I can't believe I was ever even thinking about transferring."

Chapman found a similar community

in the family of Small Living Units (SLUs). "I'd never had much to do with the SLUs because none of the themes grabbed me, but when the Interfaith House was proposed, I thought it was a great idea." Today, Chapman is moderator of the house, which contains "mostly Christian denominations and agnostics and atheists. I'd like to see it include several religions, rather than just denominations," she says. "The SLU community is just great. I've never met a SLU resident I haven't liked, and the 11 of us in our house are like a family."

Chapman's plans include applying to Methesco (Methodist Theological School in Ohio). "I'd like to be in Christian education," she says. "I've found out you can be ordained a deacon and work in various types of offices. I'd love to come back here and be part of the Chaplain's office. I also work Saturdays at a car dealership. I enjoy doing their books, so maybe there's some way for me to use my accounting and still be involved with a church-related office."

In her years at Ohio Wesleyan, Chapman has found both a community and a calling. If asked to describe OWU, Chapman says, "It's a place where everyone can be loved and accepted. The house I grew up in is no longer my home. Ohio Wesleyan is my home."

Gretchen Hirsch is a writer in the Office of Marketing and Communication at Ohio Wesleyan.

## What's On Your Mind?

#### SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPLEMENTS CAMPUS COMMUNICATION











RACHEL SPETRINO '11 RECEIVED HER FIRST-YEAR ROOMMATE ASSIGNMENT, THE MEDINA, OHIO, RESIDENT DID WHAT MOST COLLEGE STUDENTS DO THESE DAYS. SHE JUMPED ON FACEBOOK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HER SOON-TO-BE SUITEMATE.

"I made all kinds of assumptions about my roommate based on her Facebook profile and really freaked myself out," recalls Spetrino, a pre-med and theatre major. "I learned, after living with her for about two days, that most of the stuff from her page was true."

But that turned out to be a good thing, adds Spetrino, who cautions others not to "Facebook stalk" their new roommates.

"She was totally different than me, and I think that's why it worked out so well," Spetrino says, adding that the two remain good friends even though they no longer are roommates.

From researching roommates to promoting special events, social media outlets—like Facebook, Flickr, and Twitter—have changed the international communication landscape, including Ohio Wesleyan University.

"I struggle to remember how I stayed in contact with friends before there was Facebook," says Trevor Hawley '10, a politics and government major from Westport, Connecticut. "It has allowed me to reconnect with elementary classmates and camp friends that I hadn't seen or heard from in years."

As one of OWU's new student orientation leaders, Hawley also has used Facebook and Twitter extensively to share information with first-year students.

"In just the past two years of being in charge of orientation, I've seen that more and more students rely on social media to meet people and get information—even though it's all on the orientation Web site," Hawley says. "Creating a Facebook group for the incoming students and the orientation team to join has been incredibly useful. It allows new students to meet each other before they even get to campus and gives them an informal means to get information such as dates and times."

In addition to using Facebook, Hawley and fellow orientation leader Amy Gallagher '10 of Solon, Ohio, added Twitter to their electronic arsenal this fall to help keep first-year students informed.

"For the over 100 new students who 'followed' us, it was incredibly useful," Hawley says. "It was groundbreaking in the

sense that we were the only small liberal arts school to have its orientation program up on Twitter. And we utilized it in unprecedented ways. We gave daily updates over the summer about the progression of the planning—giving them a behind-the-scenes. We used it to get input from incoming students about what kind of events they wanted to see in the program. Most notably, we gave real-time updates about events during the actual orientation program. This allowed students to receive updates on their cell phones about what the upcoming event was and where they needed to be."

### But are there downsides to all of this electronic interaction?

At least one research study has blamed too much time online for slips in students' academic performance—sometimes by as much as a whole letter grade. So it's important to keep use of Facebook and other social media in check, says Kim Dolgin, professor of psychology. Dolgin's current research focuses on adolescents' use of "new technologies," including the Internet, and their effects on development.

But, Dolgin adds, the news isn't all negative. "College students who use Facebook are more socially engaged, as a group, and more politically active, than those who do not," she says

And at Ohio Wesleyan, Hawley says, face-to-face communication remains the most important interaction.

"It may be the size of our school, but we typically see our friends on a daily basis, just by walking from class to class, so social media hasn't been as necessary to stay in touch," he says. "[Still] it has been tremendous for getting information out about upcoming events. It's almost like if it's not on Facebook, then it isn't an event."

If you still haven't jumped into the social media pool, here's your chance to dive in. Visit http://follow.owu.edu for information about becoming OWU's fan on Facebook, following our tweets on Twitter, watching our videos on YouTube, and more

Cole Hatcher is Associate Director of Media and Community Relations at Ohio Wesleyan University.

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# The Man Behind the Curtain

IN LIFE, WHATEVER IS EXCITING, BIG, OR FUN USUALLY ATTRACTS ALL OF OUR ATTENTION WHILE EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES QUIETLY MOVE ALONG, SOMETIMES WITHOUT MUCH NOTICE.

Take for instance the idea of community. What builds community? At Ohio Wesleyan, one can easily feel a sense of community every May when more than 1,000 alumni return for Alumni Weekend. Commencement is also a special time when thousands of family members, friends, faculty, staff, and alumni can share in the joy of students successfully completing their journey at OWU.

While Alumni Weekend and Commencement help to create loyal feelings for Ohio Wesleyan, there are other, perhaps less obvious, building blocks in the construction of community—such as human resources.

Director of Human Resources Troy Washington understands how human resources can contribute to the daily sense of community that he hopes all employees will feel at Ohio Wesleyan. "HR is just one of the many offices that can have a positive impact on building a sense of community on campus," he says. "Be it through the design and implementation of training and development programs, supporting skill development, or diversity and inclusion, or assisting employees with work/life balance issues, HR is often seen as the office that sets the tone for how employees are treated and valued. Because of this, it's critical for HR to have a dedication to customer service and to going the extra mile to support each and every employee."

By **Ericka Kurtz** 

Washington, who came to Ohio Wesleyan in June from the University of Dayton, is taking steps to implement new tactics that fit into one of the University's strategic goals of continuing to build community. "While there is already a great foundation in place at OWU, there are a number of projects that will help to improve the human resources function," Washington says. "With the help of the Office of Marketing and Communication, we have already begun developing a new Web site that will greatly enhance the level of self-service and information our employees have at their fingertips. When complete, the new Web site will encompass information ranging from benefits to employee handbooks and answers to frequently asked questions. We are also working with the communications office to produce recruitment materials to aid in the process of recruiting new faculty and staff members."

Pam Besel, director of internal communications and editor of the Ohio Wesleyan Magazine, is working with Washington on the HR Web site and recruitment materials. She values the role of human resources in enhancing overall internal communication at OWU. "Building relationships with people is central to our efforts within both Troy's office and ours," says Besel. "As professional communicators, we can be helpful in disseminating HR news and information clearly. By collaborating strategically, we can do that — and more."

Beyond the Web site and recruitment materials, Washington has other plans for the HR effort at OWU. "In the upcoming months, we will begin working



Troy Washington

on the rewrite of the handbook for staff employees and the addition of a handbook for administrators, an orientation program for new employees, and a performance management process for our employees."

Washington wants alumni to know that the HR office affects them, too. "HR's impact on alumni is both indirect and direct," he says. "Indirectly, HR supports the employees who help to organize and support the alumni, keeping them both informed about the advancements of the institution, as well as connected to the campus. Directly, given the challenging and rewarding environment that working in higher education can provide, many alumni find themselves with the desire to make the transition from being a student to an employee. When this happens, HR is one of the first offices that they come in touch with in applying for openings or going through the benefits orientation process when they come on board."

Ericka Kurtz is Associate Director/Project Manager of Marketing & Communication at Ohio Wesleyan and Assistant Editor of the Magazine.



# Student organizations and activities foster relationships through shared goals

It takes place in residence halls and Small Living Units, on athletic fields and mission trips ... people coming together for a common cause, a shared belief, to provide support or guidance. It's called community building, and it happens every day at Ohio Wesleyan through the actions and words of students choosing to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

"As students participate in organizations with other students with whom they share common interests and passions, they develop friendships and build sub-communities that contribute to the overall sense of community that is one of the defining features of Ohio Wesleyan University," says OWU President Rock Jones. "I see community being built as students join together for volunteer projects, to plan mission trips, to raise funds for important causes, to work together on literary magazines, to deepen their knowledge of particular academic disciplines, and in so many other ways."

At the root of community building are relationships. Perhaps the single experience

offered by Ohio Wesleyan that epitomizes community building is Fresh X, says Sue Pasters, director of community service learning at OWU. "I can't think of any one single program that builds community faster and more lastingly than Fresh X," she says. "It hits students at a pivotal moment in their college experience and they are primed to bond over this transitional pivotal moment."

The power of the annual Fresh X wilderness and Habitat for Humanity trips is in the timing, says Assistant Chaplain and Fresh X Director Tim Gebhart.

The experience captures students at a vulnerable state, when they are leaving home and beginning college on their own and they may not know anyone.

"This is a time of uncertainty, nervousness, and anticipation," Gebhart says. "It's an opportunity for students to leave old things behind and to pick up new. Put simply, Fresh X is where students find the friends they will spend the next

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four years with. Freshmen arrive on campus feeling at least a little lost and overwhelmed."

Other student experiences and organizations at Ohio Wesleyan build community through exposing students to diversity.

Senior journalism major Shade Fakunle has experienced community building first hand through her involvement as president of SUBA (Student Union on Black Awareness) and past president of Sisters United. She strives to encourage people to reach out of their comfort zones and get to know someone they might not otherwise. Through new relationships that she has witnessed, people gain a better understanding of themselves and the people around them.

"We are not just here to go to class, get our grades, and leave," Fakunle says. "We are a small University and part of being here is getting to know diverse people, enhancing your opportunities, and getting together as one. You need to reach outside the box, outside your comfort level and explore the world beyond what you are used to. Building a community is part of that."

Mission trips are life-changing experiences that certainly take students out of their comfort zones, putting them in a new place that may be entirely foreign. Students turn to each other for comfort and support, says Chad Johns, associate chaplain for mission, vocation, and servant leadership.

"These experiences force you to confront things that you haven't had to do before," Johns says of mission trips. "When you share something like that with a group of people, when you can process that experience together, it takes the relationship deeper. We provide a space through mission trips for people of similar faiths and people of dissimilar perspectives to come together. We create a space for people to get together and know each other on more than a superficial level."

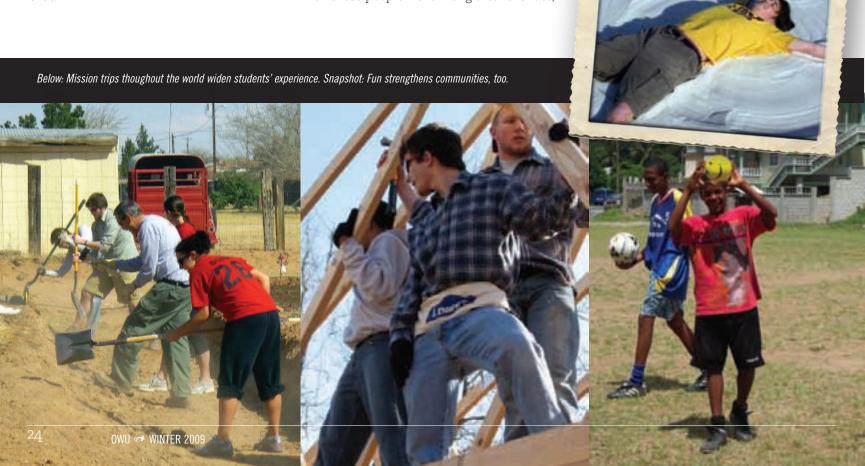
Junior Alexa von der Embse says being a part of mission trip teams for three years has introduced her to people she otherwise would not have met. She has been to North Carolina and El Salvador.

"You fundraise with these people, you build houses with these people, you go to another country with these people, you come back and share pictures and experiences with these people—even long after the fact,"

She says. "My mission team from last spring still meets every now and then, just because of that amazing shared experience we had. I think it definitely was a unique way to connect with students from other disciplines and backgrounds, students that I never would have known otherwise."

Von der Embse also credits her involvement with Greek life, through Kappa Kappa Gamma, for exposing her to many people and providing her with a sense of community at Ohio Wesleyan. She says joining the sorority was one of the best decisions of her college career.

"It has given me a sense of family here at OWU, more than anything else," says von der Embse. "That's one of the greatest things about Greek life here at OWU—it's a support system and a foundation on which you can build. We work together in philanthropy events, we support each other's goals, and we encourage one another to be the best person you can be."



Student government is another tool for community building that junior Kyle Herman, currently WCSA president and a member of President's Club, says he spends a great deal of time thinking about. He joined both organizations with the hope of having a positive impact on student life at OWU while gaining leadership experience.

"One of the reasons I decided to come to OWU is because it gave me the impression of a small, close-knit community," says Herman, who is studying international studies and politics and government. "I definitely feel that we have a strong sense of community here, but we also have a lot of opportunities for students to pursue their own divergent interests. The OWU community is special because it is made up of so many people whose interests overlap in different areas. But there are some moments when we do all seem united as a single community, the most memorable of which usually extend beyond the students and include faculty and staff and alumni."

President Jones agrees. "Community does not imply conformity or the absence of conflict; rather, community implies a place where individuals respect one another and acknowledge the importance of each person. This acknowledgement is rooted in relationships among individuals and groups within a community. These relationships are grounded in trust, mutual celebration, honest disagreement, intellectual challenge, and general concern for the common good. The ability to sustain healthy relationships is an important component of a fulfilling life. As we learn to develop and sustain healthy relationships in the OWU community, we prepare our students for life beyond OWU, where our world awaits a new generation of leaders who share these community values."

For a more complete view of OWU's student organizations, visit http://gallery.owu.edu/galleries/20090826-ClubFair.html.

Andrea Misko Strle '99 is Class Notes Editor of the Ohio Wesleyan Magazine, and a freelance writer in Columbus. Ohio.

# **Unity Through Community: Through a President's Eyes**

SUBA MISSION STATEMENT: THE PURPOSE OF SUBA IS TO EXPOSE AND EDUCATE THE OHIO WESLEYAN, DELAWARE, AND COLLEGIATE COMMUNITY ABOUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITIONS AND CONCERNS, THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND POLITICAL/ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT.

I remember the first time I attended a meeting of the Student Union on Black Awareness (SUBA). I was a freshman and my roommate and I were running to the SUBA Welcome Meeting in the Willa B. Player Black Resource Center, better known as The Cave. My eyes grew big as we opened the door and saw a room full of people. I could see why it was called the Cave: The walls were brown and on them were paintings that represented the rich culture and history of students of color at Ohio Wesleyan.

We began to mix and mingle. It was our first chance to make each other laugh and see all the bright smiles full of anticipation of a new life at OWU and the new friendships we would build. At that time, I never imagined that three years later, I would be in that very room as the President of SUBA, offering the same experience to many multicultural first-year students.

When I think about community, I think about a multitude of people, diverse in backgrounds, experiences, and goals. Individuals in a community work together to make sure the entire community is in equilibrium, and when there is a bump in the road, they work together to mend the road, and not just the bump.

In SUBA, we reach this equilibrium through our theme of "Unity through Community." We strive to get to know one another, get to know SUBA, and put what we have learned into action through various events and community service projects. We are seeking to do what we can to make a

difference in both the Ohio Wesleyan and Delaware communities.

This year, we concluded that we are striving to be students of the present who are learning from the past and building the future. We are providing the stepping stones for the generations that follow us. If we are not one, one body, one mind, one unit working together, then what are we here for?

It has been a great experience serving as president of SUBA. I have met many wonderful students who are enthusiastic about doing what they can to unite the multicultural community at OWU. I thought I knew a lot about being a student leader, but I can definitely say that there is always more to learn.

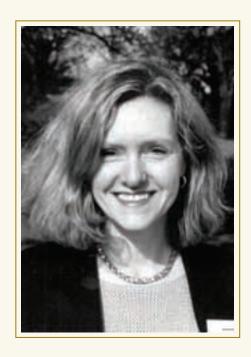
SUBA is working to fulfill our mission statement by reaching into the community with educational programming and service. We are also working to raise money for our Black Student Retention Fund, an endowment account that was created for students of color who are struggling with tuition. This fund was created more than a decade ago, but does not have enough money for its purpose. This year, we will devise new plans to raise enough money so the fund can do what it was created for.

We are building a fine community of committed students who are willing and able to keep the tradition of SUBA alive. By helping others, we are helping humanity.

Unity through community. What more could we strive for?

Shade Fakunle '10 is a student writer in the Office of Marketing and Communication.

OWU ☞ WINTER 2009



## **Greetings Fellow Bishops!**

IT IS INDEED AN EXCITING TIME IN OHIO WESLEYAN'S HISTORY AS WE EMBARK TO SECURE OUR BELOVED ALMA MATER'S PLACE AMONG THE NATION'S PREMIER LIBERAL-ARTS INSTITUTIONS. In the very near future, we will implement the visionary strategic plan formulated by faculty, alumni, and staff. President Rock Jones will spearhead this impressive project.

An example of the innovative concepts being set forth in our strategic plan is the Theory into Practice initiative, which will promote engaged learning experiences beyond walls of the classroom and borders of the campus, with substantially increased opportunities for international exposure.

These experiences include a series of curricular innovations: new courses, seminars, tutorials and individually designed learning plans. OWU will invest in academic facilities to create state-of-the-art venues for instruction, open up more space for seminars and group work, and bring academic technology into classrooms across the campus.

How can we assist in this endeavor to ensure today's students an excellent higher education and achieve a premier position for OWU among the best liberal arts institutions? So glad you asked.

- Refer Highly Qualified Students
- Connect with Prospective Students and Parents
- Share OWU Story with Local Guidance Counselors
- Represent OWU at College Fairs
- Mentor a Student
- Serve on Class Reunion Committees
- Host Regional Alumni Events
- Assist Fund Raising Efforts (Annual Fund, "W" Association, Tower Society)
- Provide Internship Opportunities
- Provide Employment Opportunities
- Support Career Services Initiatives

In short, be a dynamic advocate for OWU. Every action taken and every dollar contributed is so important in the life and health of our alma mater. Your commitment to Ohio Wesleyan is greatly appreciated. In fact, why not experience the gratitude first hand? Return to campus to witness the energy and progress being made... also a great way to feel "forever young."

Go Bishops!

Kathy Butler '74
President, Alumni Association

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE INADVERTENTLY NOT LISTED IN THE 2008-2009 REPORT OF DONORS. OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES ARE EXTENDED FOR OUR ERROR.

#### CLASS OF 1945

The President's Club – Annual Fund Gifts of \$1,000 - \$2,499

\*\*Robert H. Seeley\*\*

#### **CLASS OF 1958**

The University Giving Club – Annual Fund Gifts of \$250 - \$499 *Emily Kerr Ballentine* 

### CURRENT PARENTS, STEPPARENTS, PAST PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, STEP-GRANDPARENTS

Annual Fund Endowment – The President's Club
– Annual Fund Gifts of \$1,000 - \$2,499

John H. Leshy and Delores King Leshy

Annual Fund Endowment – The Adam Poe Club – Annual Fund Gifts of \$500 - \$999 *Henry Clyde Hubbart\** 

### Inspire a Future Bishop

Attending OWU means more than receiving an outstanding education. It's also about becoming part of a bigger family — the OWU family.

Memorable professors, classes, activities and life-long OWU friendships have inspired many. Pass on these enriching experiences by encouraging talented students you know to explore all that Ohio Wesleyan has to offer. Continue the Ohio Wesleyan Tradition.

Did you know . . . prospective students who are referred to OWU by an alumnus are eligible to receive a \$500 award as part of their financial aid package? Submit a referral today at http://alumni.owu.edu/apart\_studentref.html. For eligibility questions, email owuapart@owu.edu.

PASS ON THE OHIO WESLEYAN TRADITION.

# YOU'RE IN GOOD COMPANY



"... an investment in OWU I'm pleased and honored to make."

Judith L. Schultz '65, a newspaper reporter and editor for more than 26 years who retired from LexisNexis in 2006, recently decided it was the perfect time to support OWU's mission with the establishment of a charitable trust.

"The command of the English language, concise writing style and clear thinking were the parts of my OWU education that always have been the source of my livelihood. I've always been thankful for the skills I learned at Ohio Wesleyan. But when a colleague's daughter recently chose Ohio Wesleyan, it hit home that a good liberal arts education is highly valued by today's generation of parents and students, too."

Judi's gift will support her and her partner during the remainder of their lives and eventually endow a scholarship for future students.

If you, too, have made provisions to support OWU or would like information on how to make such a gift, please contact us at (740) 368-3078 or http://giftplanning.owu.edu.

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# **Chatting with Charlie**

# CHARLES E. POWELL RECENTLY JOINED OHIO WESLEYAN'S SENIOR TEAM AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONS.

President Rock Jones introduced Powell to the campus community in November. Powell came to OWU from Grinnell College in Iowa, where he served as director of development. He has worked in every area of university relations during his career in higher education. Prior to his appointment at Grinnell, Powell also worked at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio; and at his alma mater, Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania. As OWU's vice president, Powell will direct the University's efforts in University Relations, Development, Alumni Relations, and Development Services.

"We conducted a thorough national search, and we are extremely fortunate to have attracted someone with Charlie's extensive experience in planning and executing capital campaigns," says President Jones. "We must move our campaign forward to fulfill the vision of our strategic plan, and I am confident that Charlie's leadership and organizational expertise will be a driving force in helping to achieve our ambitious development goals."

A veteran fundraising and advancement professional, Powell described his interest in Ohio Wesleyan as a "singular opportunity," explaining that he wasn't actively in the job market when he became aware of the position. However, he quickly determined the situation at Ohio Wesleyan presented an outstanding opportunity for growth and success.



# I have a fundamental belief that all successful university development work is based on the relationship between alumni and the institution.

"I have a fundamental belief that all successful university development work is based on the relationship between alumni and the institution, and that Ohio Wesleyan has an extraordinarily rich heritage of such strong relationships," Powell says. "When it comes to fundraising, I believe alumni should be engaged with the strategic vision of the institution to foster an atmosphere of "aspirational giving." We should strive to determine what the donor's aspirations are for Ohio Wesleyan, and then set about finding ways to help them realize those goals within the University's overall plan."

Ohio Wesleyan Trustee Mike Long '66 served on the search committee that selected Powell. According to Long, Powell's blend of experience as a fundraiser and as an effective manager and mentor helped him to stand out in a deep field of candidates.

"We began the search with the hope that we would be able to identify the right individual with the total package of skills across both areas," Long says. "Charlie impressed the committee and the members of the University community during his interactions on campus. He is a proven fundraiser, and we heard very positive comments about his ability to manage effectively and counsel developing talent from those who had worked with him. We are very excited to have him on board."

The search for Powell began after former Vice President for University Relations Mark Shipps '70 announced his intentions to move into a principal gifts role to work more closely with the University's top donor prospects. Powell expressed his sincere appreciation to Shipps for his service to the University, and considers the former OWU trustee to be a great asset as Powell takes over the reins.

"I have great respect for the work that Mark has done for University Relations over the years," Powell says. "The Shipps legacy is a treasure at Ohio Wesleyan, and I look forward to working with Mark to continue building on the strong foundation that has been established, in large part due to the service of Mark and other generations of his family."

Powell also says the depth of experience and dedication he discovered in the University Relations staff was a motivating factor in his decision to accept the position.

"It is a privilege to join a great staff of exceptional individuals who are committed to the success of Ohio Wesleyan as a leader among nationally ranked liberal arts colleges," Powell says.

A commitment of higher education extends through the Powell family. Charlie's wife, Kathleen, has worked for more than two decades in the career services field, and the move to Ohio enabled Kathleen to accept a new position at her undergraduate alma mater, the University of Akron, as director of the Center for Career Management.

Kathleen has served on the board of the National Association of Colleges and Employers, and is very active in the field of career development," Powell says. "She finds great satisfaction in working with students and alumni as they seek to reach their potential in their career pursuits."

When he is able to find time away from the office, Powell's passion is racing vintage sports cars. Several times a year, he takes his restored 1972 Corvette to road courses throughout the Midwest, and plans to continue racing that car next summer. Powell's other hobby is golf, in which his self-professed goal is to "play bogey golf" on a consistent basis. "I haven't quite gotten there yet," he jokes. The Powells have three children: daughters Elizabeth in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Anne in Norfolk, Virginia; and a son, Charles III, a senior at West Virginia Wesleyan University in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

"Kathleen and I sincerely appreciate the warm welcome we have received, and we are looking forward to being active and engaged members of OWU's campus community," Powell says.

Mark Cooper is Director of Marketing and Communication at Ohio Wesleyan University.

## ALUMNI WEEKEND 2011 REUNION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! (CLASSES ENDING IN 65 AND 18)

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Please contact Sarah Stiles at (740) 368-3333 or at sestiles@owu.edu.

OWU ☞ WINTER 2009

Published works of OWU students, alumni, and faculty

# A Commentary on Virgil, Aeneid XI

Released internationally as Volume 320 in the Collection Latomus of the Société d'Études Latines de Bruxelles.

Following his critically acclaimed Madness Unchained: A Reading of Virgil's Aeneid, Dr. Lee Fratantuono, the William Francis Whitlock Professor of Latin, has published A Commentary on Virgil, Aeneid XI. Released internationally as Volume 320 in the Collection Latomus of the Société d'Études Latines de Bruxelles, the work is a revision of his 2002 thesis from Fordham University.

"Latomus is the journal of a prestigious learned society devoted to the study of the Latin language and Roman history," Fratantuono says. "It was founded in Brussels, Belgium, before the Second World War. They produce not only a journal but also a series of monographs, the so-called Collection Latomus.

"I have published half a dozen articles for the journal," Fratantuono continues, "and I am currently engaged in work on a commentary on Virgil, Aeneid V that will be submitted to the monograph series. The general director of Latomus, Professor Carl Deroux, has been a mentor for some years now, and I was able to spend some time with him this past summer in Belgium."

The release of his current book is far from the end of Fratantuono's publishing plans, however. He is in contract for a third book, *Madness* 

Transformed: A Reading of Ovid's Metamorphoses, due out in 2010, and is co-editor, with Dr. Stephen Maddux of the University of Dallas, of

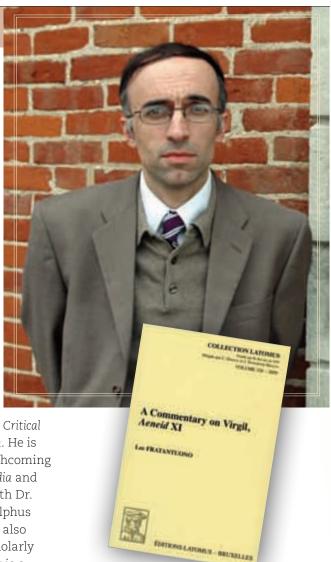
The Sermons of Peter the Lombard: Critical Text, Commentary, and Translation. He is contributing articles to the forthcoming Wiley-Blackwell Virgil Encyclopedia and is at work on a Tacitus Reader with Dr. Mary McHugh of Gustavus Adolphus College. Five additional articles also are scheduled for release in scholarly journals. Another major project is a critical edition, with French translation and commentary, of the poems of the Appendix Vergiliana that he is preparing with his department colleague Dr. Alison Lovell. This past summer, they met in Paris with a Latinist from the Sorbonne to advance work on this project.

In the preface to his newest book, Fratantuono says, "Paramount to the explication of the themes in Book XI is the heroine, the Volscian warrior girl Camilla. This commentary attempts to provide the most detailed study yet offered of Virgil's most enigmatic character."

Fratantuono teaches Latin and Greek language and literatures to all levels of students and a popular sequence on the Roman Republic and Empire. He also is one of the academic advisors to the Delta Upsilon chapter of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

He is also a philatelist and numismatist, often called upon to appraise collections of French colonial and monégasque stamps and coins, which are his specialty.

Gretchen Hirsch is a writer in the Office of Marketing and Communication at Ohio Wesleyan.



# Bishop Pride

We often hear people talk about Athletics helping build a sense of community on a college campus. A sense of community is an intangible yet vital component of a healthy community. Our Athletic Department and Ohio Wesleyan Athlete of a healthy community building committee (OWAC) have recently taken steps to develop community building elements such as image, spirit, character and pride into our daily routine.

This fall we unveiled a new slogan for the athletic department. It reads—"22 Sports—1 Team—Team OWU." Each student-athlete was given a t-shirt with this slogan on it. All athletic teams were announced and honored at the first this slogan on it the fall. It was an impressive sight to see our athletes to home football game in the fall. It was an impressive sight to see our athletes to gether on the field. This ceremony is a part of our new Team OWU gether on the field. This ceremony is a part of our new Team OWU wideo which can be viewed online at teamowu.owu.edu.

We continue to build pride among our athletes in our overall program but we have reached out strongly to the local community as well. OWAC and the Athletic Department have several community building programs in place for this year. This fall we continued free admission to all regular season Ohio Wesleyan athletic events, hired the local band "Barrel House" to perform on October 25 for all the student-athletes in Branch Rickey Arena, and on October 25 for all the student-athletes in Branch Rickey Arena, and eveloped special themes for selected home contests. These special themes developed us to pick a different community charity for each game and collect allowed us to pick a different community charity for each game and collect donations for them. The first football game saw five boxes of school supplies donations for them. The first football game saw five boxes of school supplies donations for local elementary students. OWAC has a Facebook group which collected for local elementary students for the home games when teams is used to send out Red Alerts to students for the home games when teams choose to attract extra student fan support.

This winter we will be conducting our Buckeye Read program in which student athletes read to students at local elementary schools. OWAC student athletes read to students at local elementary schools. OwaC student athletes read to students at local elementary schools. OwaC student athletes read to students at local elementary schools. OwaC is raising funds for the LifeStraw water purification campaign. One single is raising funds for the LifeStraw allows a family of four to drink from any water source and LifeStraw allows a family of four to one year.

In the spring we will host the Bishop Champion Games, which last year had 97 Special Olympics athletes participate in a track and field meet at Selby Stadium. The Bishop Olympic Games will be held in Branch Rickey Arena. This event features several different contests between Ohio Arena. This event features, coaches, and faculty. We conclude the year Wesleyan athletic teams, coaches, and faculty. We conclude the year with our annual Dale J. Bruce Scholar-Athlete Dinner. A key with our annual Dale J. Bruce Scholar-Athlete Dinner is that the members component to our unique sense of community is that the members a shared emotional and physical connection.

-Roger Ingles, Director of Athletics at Ohio Wesleyan University.



# Will you join our team?

We need all of our players off the bench and in the game.



# Team OWU

Give online: annualgiving. owu.edu/teamOWU.html.

# STAYING ON TRACK



By Michelle Rotuno-Johnson '12



AN OHIO WESLEYAN EXPERIENCE IS VALUABLE IN THAT IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH OUT AND GROW, TO LIVE AS WELL AS TO LEARN. Many Ohio Wesleyan students are not only focused on their personal successes but also are involved in the community and are looking beyond the campus as they spend their time learning and taking steps down their chosen paths.

One such student is Sean Patrick '11, a track and field athlete and education major who graduated from Delaware Hayes. Aside from being a nationally qualifying athlete and a record-holder at both school and state levels, Patrick is a dedicated leader, educator and community member who embodies the Ohio Wesleyan spirit on campus and in his native Delaware community.

Patrick said he is glad he stayed in

Delaware and came to OWU—not only for its esteemed education department, but also for its personal value to him.

"OWU was my gut feeling," he says. "It is a place where I can be a college athlete, a leader of a campus group, and still have time for my studies. I am glad I chose to stay in Delaware because life is too short to dwell on the what-ifs or the could-have-been. Staying here has given me all that I could ask for in a college experience."

Kris Boey, the men's and women's cross country and track and field coach, says Patrick is unique in his connections to Delaware and is someone who is striving to get the most out of his college experiences. "Sean is someone who looks at his college experience as being much bigger than Ohio Wesleyan," Boey says. "He understands the value of the liberal arts experience and has created a well-rounded experience for himself. The Delaware community is important to him, and that makes him different from his peers."

Patrick has competed with the soccer, football and track and field teams in his time at OWU and has qualified for National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) meets twice. He has 12 All-North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) awards, is an All-Ohio record holder in the 4x200 indoor relay and a school record holder in the 4x400 and 4x200 indoor relays. He was also named the Division III All-Academic Track and Field Team by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

But Patrick is not just concerned with his own success. Along with friend Scott Hassee '10, a former member of the golf team, he began the Bishop Champion Games in the spring of 2009 to give specialneeds athletes the opportunity to compete in a track and field meet. The event, hosted by the Ohio Wesleyan Athletic Council (OWAC), brought 97 athletes to OWU's Selby Field. Patrick, also the president of OWAC, said he couldn't have done it without the support of other OWU athletic teams.

"My best friend has Down Syndrome, so when I heard this idea I could not help but partner with Scott and create the Bishop Champion Games," Patrick says. "We had so much help from the athletes as well as the athletic department, which really was the reason that we were able to create a successful and fun day."

Patrick said there are two other events



OWU hosts for special-needs athletes: Dollar Night Basketball and the Special Friends Walk. He says being an athlete is a way to be an inspiration to people.

"A college athlete is the chance to live your dream, achieve great goals, and defy all odds," he says. "You are what every kid wants to be, the dream of every Special Olympics athlete who will never be given the chance. It means you play for more than just yourself; you play for all those who have come before and all those who will come after but most importantly all those young kids in the stands looking up to you."

Patrick is also passionate about his early childhood education major, and is doing a field experience at Delaware Christian School.

"I love the fact that I get a chance to change a child's life with everything that I do in the classroom," he says.

Amy Anderson McClure '72, chair of OWU's education department, says Patrick is proving himself to being a dedicated and talented teacher.

"I have been impressed by the strength of Sean's commitment to working with young children," McClure says. "It is unusual for a young man who is athletic and academically able to be so willing to devote those talents to helping children develop academically and emotionally."

Patrick says one of the benefits of teaching at Delaware Christian is that his relationship with his students is symbiotic; they teach him as well.

"They teach me lessons about patience, determination, and happiness that I could truly not replace with any other experience," he says. "That is the beauty of the teaching profession; it is a win-win situation, and if I can touch one life in my teaching career it will all be worth the work."

As one would imagine, being as involved and as dedicated as Patrick is involves a sense of balance and an awareness of priorities, which Patrick says are difficult sometimes.

"Balance is something that I have to

work at every day without end," he says.

"It is not easy and I admire those athletes who do it alongside me. I use their drive and work ethic to help my own life moving forward."

Patrick credits his parents for his mentality and says he tries to make the most out of every chance he gets. He says he finds his success the most rewarding when he knows he has done something for someone else.

"Without this advice, it would be easy to either become selfish with accomplishments or to become overwhelmed with responsibility," Patrick says. "Being active in groups and an athlete is a blessing that I do because I have been given the gift of opportunity. I do it for those people who are physically handicapped, mentally disabled, or just not given the chance because success is much sweeter if the focus is not on me."

Michelle Rotuno-Johnson '12 is a student writer in the Office of Marketing and Communication.

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## Alumni Happenings >>



spirit. This year's winner for "best banner" was the Vietnamese Student Association.



Munch & Mingle: Students, alumni, faculty, and Alumni Association Board Members gathered during the noon hour to network and chat about future career options.



Young Alumni participated in a career coaching and leadership session with alumna Lisa Dieli Parker '78 in September.

(l-r): Megan Turner Brooks '04, Elizabeth Long '06, Jason Downey '02, Lisa Dieli Parker '78, Peter MacLeod '08, and Gary Brenneman '09.



OWU 

WINTER 2009



### Vote for Alumni Trustees!

Choose your representatives to the Board of Trustees!

www.owualumni.com/ALTR2010



#### Aaron L. Granger, '93

After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan in 1993 with a B.A. in politics and government and religion, Aaron Granger earned his law degree from The Ohio State University. Today, he is a partner in the Labor and Employment Practice Group of Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn Co., LPA, one of Ohio's largest law firms. As a management lawyer, Aaron focuses on helping employees limit their liability.

In 2009, Aaron was elected to the Ohio State Bar Association's Council of Delegates for District 7 and was recognized as one of the Forty under 40 in central Ohio by *Business First*. Aaron has served as campaign treasurer for Ohio Treasurer, Kevin L. Boyce, and is a former chair of the workers' compensation committee for the Columbus Bar Association.

Aaron is an active member of the central Ohio community, serving as vice president of the board of trustees for South Side Learning and Development Center. He also is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and recently served on the Community Action Agency Task Force. Aaron is a 2008 graduate of Leadership Columbus.

The speaker at Ohio Wesleyan's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration in January 2008, Aaron has served on OWU Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2001 to 2007. He lives in Columbus with his wife, Carla, and their two children.



#### John F. Milligan, Ph.D '83

Dr. John Milligan is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Gilead Sciences, Inc. The company specializes in the discovery, development, and commercialization of treatments for viral and other life-threatening diseases.

After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan in 1983 with a major in chemistry, John pursued graduate study in biochemistry at the University of Illinois, where he received his Ph.D. in 1988 for his work on understanding the molecular nature of protein-RNA. Continuing his work on RNA structure and function, John was an American Cancer Society postdoctoral fellow at the University of California at San Francisco from 1988-1990 in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics. In 1990, John joined Gilead Sciences as a research scientist working on projects aimed at the discovery of molecules that can selectively inhibit gene expression. In 1994, he moved into Gilead's Project Management Group with responsibility for Gilead's antiviral portfolio. In 1996, John was named Director of Project Management and Project Team Leader for the Gilead and Hoffmann-La Roche Tamiflu® collaboration, followed by his appointment in 1998 as Senior Director, Corporate Development, and his 2000 appointment to Vice President of Corporate Development. Taking on greater responsibility in 2002 as Chief Finance Officer, John helped Gilead's company revenues grow by more than twentyfold—from just under \$200 million in 2001 to more than \$4 billion in 2007. He was named Gilead's Chief Operating Officer in 2007 and was appointed President in 2008.

John lives in the San Francisco Bay area with his wife, Kathryn Bradford Milligan '83, and their three teenage children.



#### Cathleen "Catie" Butt '91

Cathleen "Catie" Butt is a 1991 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan with a major in sociology-anthropology. She received her law degree in 1996 from Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Massachusetts. Catie joined Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) in May of 2003, and while serving as Senior Counsel for CSC, she also serves as Director of Contracts for the Technology and Consumer group within CSC's Managed Services Sector, and as global lead for CSC's commercial relationship with a major automotive manufacturer.

counsel for Genuity Inc., (previously known as GTE Internetworking Inc. and BBN Corporation) where she held various legal and contracts positions since 1997. While maintaining familiarity with general commercial and corporate legal issues, she has concentrated in areas of IT outsourcing; large and midsize commercial transactions; Internet law; contract law; data privacy; telecommunications law; successful staff management; regulatory compliance; intellectual property law; and related topics.

Catie, who was inducted into OWU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002, is a member of CSC's Women in Leadership, the Association of Corporate Counsel, the American Bar Association, the International Association of Commercial Contract Management, and the Corporate Law practice group associated with the New Hampshire Bar Association. She resides in South Boston with her husband. Brent Arvidson.

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

#### **JANUARY**

#### January 12 - Columbus, OH

Mid-Ohio Foodbank Service Night Details forthcoming

#### January 14 – Atlanta, GA

Red and Black Dinner, 6 p.m. The Carter Center, 453 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA, 30307

#### January 16 – Delaware, OH

Community Day Women's Basketball, 1 p.m. Men's Basketball, 3 p.m. Kansas City Jammers Concert, 5:30 p.m., Gray Chapel

#### **FEBRUARY**

#### February 05 – The Villages, FL

Details forthcoming

#### February 06 - Naples, FL

Annual Red and Black Luncheon with President Rock Jones Quail Creek Country Club, 13300 Valewood Drive, Naples, FL

#### February 10 – Columbus, OH

OWU Alumni/Senior Class Night at the Blue Jackets, 7:00 p.m. Nationwide Arena

#### February 18 – Cleveland, OH

OWU Night at the Cleveland Cavaliers vs. Denver Nuggets 8:00 p.m. Quicken Loan Arena

#### February 27 – Delaware, OH

Golden Bishops Dinner & Concert Chanticleer: "An Orchestra of Voices" Dinner, 6 p.m./Concert, 8 p.m., Gray Chapel

#### MARCH

#### March 9 - Scottsdale, AZ

Red & Black Reception with President Rock Jones at the home of David '61 and Delmah Sears '60 Rowley

#### March 13 - Columbus, OH

Monnett Club Lunch and Speaker at BRAVO!, 11:30 a.m., Shirley Brooks Jones-Story of Delta Flight 15 Stranded in Newfoundland on 9/11, \$20.

#### March 18 – Kansas City, MO

Details forthcoming

#### March 19-21 — Delaware, OH

107th FIJI Pig Dinner Details forthcoming

#### March 23 – Delaware, OH

Dinner with 12 Strangers – Young Alumni/ Student event, Mowry Alumni Center, Monnett Room

#### **APRIL**

#### April 13 — Columbus, OH

Mid-Ohio Foodbank Service Night Details forthcoming

#### April 13 – Delaware, OH

Monnett Club Dessert at Pritchard House, 7 p.m. Learn about OWU's mission trips program. Speakers: Chaplain Jon Powers and Associate Chaplain Chad Johns

#### April 16-17 – Delaware, OH

Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

#### April 23-25 - Delaware, OH

Phi-Union Weekend – Celebrating 150 years of Phi Delta Theta

#### April 19-24 - Delaware, OH

Bishop Celebration Week

#### MAY

#### May 14-16 — Delaware, OH

Alumni Weekend 2010

#### **AUGUST**

#### August 10 - Columbus, OH

Mid-Ohio Foodbank Service Night Details forthcoming

#### **OCTOBER**

#### October 26 - Columbus, OH

Mid-Ohio Foodbank Service Night Details forthcoming

\*\* If you are interested in coordinating an event in your city, contact the Alumni Relations Office at (740) 368-3325 or e-mail alumni@owu.edu

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2010 May 14-16

HOMECOMING &
FAMILY WEEKEND 2010
October 8-10

0WU ➡ WINTER 2009

# OFF CAMPUS



#### 08.09.09 Annual D.C. Picnic

D.C. alumni welcome OWU'S Class of 2013 during the annual picnic. (Top left) Dorothy Smithey, Judy Holloway, and picnic hostess Sharon Smithey Coale '72. (Lower left) Eunice Hawkins Meek '57 and Lori Schneider Fisher '64.



#### 9.25.09 Cleveland Clambake

Approximately 50 alums gathered in Cleveland, Ohio for a Clambake at the Cleveland Yachting Club. A three-course meal was enjoyed by all. Pictured here: George Sehringer '79 and Jenny Van Luit Sehringer '53.

#### 9.7.09 Young Alumni Canoe Trip

Ohio young alumni gathered at Mohican Campgrounds for a 12-mile canoe excursion in September. (l-r): Emily Foster '08, Tarenne Ferenchak '09, Meg Flood '08, Devon Reitzes '05, and Angel Urbin '04 canoed on the Mohican River.

### STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR ALMA MATER . . .

#### facebook.

#### **FAN PAGES**

Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association Ohio Wesleyan Young Alumni Ohio Wesleyan University Class of 2000 Ohio Wesleyan University Class of 2005 Ohio Wesleyan University Class of 1980 Reunion Ohio Wesleyan University Class of 1970 OWU 1965

#### **PROFILE PAGE**

Battling Bishop http://www.facebook.com/battling.bishop

#### **GROUPS**

Ohio Wesleyan University – Class of 1995 OWU CLUSTER REUNION

'84 '85 & '86 Oct. 8-10 2010



Young Alumni Twitter: OWUYA





Linked In: Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni and OWU Friends

WEB SITE: www.owualumni.com



10.27.09 Mid-Ohio Foodbank Bishop Service Night

About 20 OWU alumni gathered at the new Grove City facility to package more than 300 boxes of food for senior housing sites.
(l-r): Mikaela Ebitz '08 and Sam Wallace '09 helped package boxes for Central Ohio senior housing sites.



11.6.09
Dave & Buster's
Senior & Young Alumni Night

75 seniors and Columbus-area young alumni gathered at the Polaris Dave & Buster's for a private reception and game night.

### 10.27.09 Red and Black Salem Event

Rock Jones shares heartfelt thanks with Nancy Morgan Giles '60, Alumni Association Board Past President, and Frazier Shipps '37, Life Trustee and Alumni Association Board Past President, for their many years of service to Ohio Wesleyan.

#### 10.15.09 Red and Black Seattle Event

Young alumni Jenny McAlister Halterman '01 and husband Tim '01 enjoy meeting President Rock Jones and celebrating OWU at the Seattle Public Library.



#### 9.22.09 Cleveland Alumni Group Dinner

Hosted by Dave Griffiths '51 and Evan Corns '59 at the Chagrin Valley Country Club. Front Row: Stuart Root '55, Glen Anderson '83, Darrell Austin '76, Don Poe '53, Doug Campbell '91. Back Row: Mark Shipps '70, Dick Brubaker '54, Jack McKinnie '54, Dave Griffiths '51, Evan Corns '59, Barry Clemens '65, David Livingston '94, Rock Jones, David St. Pierre '90, Rick Subel '69 and Craig Anderson '97.



# HONOR THE PAST.

# LIVE IN THE PRESENT.

# SECURE THE FUTURE.

Ohio Wesleyan's Tower Society recognizes alumni and friends of the University who have made OWU part of their estate plans. Gifts received from Tower Society members commemorate Ohio Wesleyan's distinguished past and point us toward an even more promising future.

We invite you to be a part of OWU's future by joining the Tower Society.

Call (740) 368-3078 or e-mail giftplanning@owu.edu to learn more about how you can qualify for membership.

http://giftplanning.owu.edu

## "Brothers and Sisters Sing On!"

### Alumni Glee Club Members Reunite During Homecoming

The reunion was the

culmination of an

18-month effort to

write and share the

history of the OWU

Men's Glee Club.

WITH SMILES AND HUGS, A
CORE GROUP OF 20 MEMBERS OF
THE OWU ALUMNI GLEE CLUB
GREETED EACH OTHER DURING
HOMECOMING 2009. The reunion
was the culmination of an 18-month
effort to write and share the history of
the OWU Men's Glee Club, dating back
to circa 1876. Sharing these special
moments with the group was OWU

President Rock Jones, who welcomed alumni back to campus and acknowledged their continued passion for OWU and the legacy of their previous director and former music professor, Gordon M. Almstead. Also present representing the Almstead family were

Robert Almstead '78 and his sister, Laurie Almstead Campos.

Kathe Law Rhinesmith '64, Gleeette and chairperson of OWU's Board of Trustees, shared a letter from Brandon Koehler '12, the 2009 Gordon M. Almstead Scholarship recipient, thanking the alumni for their support enabling him to complete his studies as a music major at Ohio Wesleyan.

Members of the Alumni Glee Club presented a copy of the new book, "Brothers Sing On: The History of the Ohio Wesleyan University Men's Glee Club, 1876-1952, and the Glee Club and Glee-ettes, 1953-1975" to OWU Archives staff members, Carol Holliger and Emily Haddaway—who were recognized for their assistance in completing the 300-plus page book. Holliger and Haddaway also were presented with a copy of the 1996 Cape Cod Alumni Glee Club Reunion

Concert performance in DVD format—the last performance directed by Professor Almstead before his death in 1997.

To purchase a copy of "Brothers Sing On:
The History of the Ohio
Wesleyan University Men's
Glee Club, 1876-1952,
and the Glee Club and
Glee-ettes, 1953-1975",

available for \$22.00, contact Brenda DeWitt, director of alumni relations, at bedewitt@owu.edu. Copies of the 1996 Cape Cod DVD (\$10.00) and a two-set CD of live Glee Club performances from 1961-1965 (\$15.00) can be purchased by contacting Pete Lee '65 at joetteandpete@aol. com. Copies of a 175-slide show CD featuring the Glee Club's 1968 three-week tour of South America are available from Fred Evans '68 at fevans424@comcast.net.



The OWU Legends Lacrosse teams left their mark on the Lake Placid Summit Lacrosse Tournament this past summer.

The Grandmasters Team (ages 45-50) captured first place and the Super Grandmasters (ages 50+) took third place. It was the first year the OWU Legends won in either division, and it was the best showing ever for the Super Grandmasters. Congratulations to the OWU Legends! Check out the complete photo gallery from this year's tournament at http://alumni.owu.edu/lax/index.html.

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#### EAST OHIO AREA CONFERENCE

Orlando Chaffee '79, Youngstown, OH William L. McFadden '58, Sheffield Lake, OH Ann Davies Moyer, North Canton, OH

#### WEST OHIO AREA CONFERENCE

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OWU ₩INTER 2009



# WEEKEND





Calling all members of the classes of 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005\*

Catch up with friends and favorite professors, see what's new on campus, and celebrate a time that shaped your life during Alumni Weekend 2010. The fun begins on Friday with a Blues and BBQ kick-off dinner and continues through Sunday morning with a farewell breakfast and Alumni Convocation. Special guests during Alumni Weekend include:

- The Class of 1960, who will celebrate their 50th reunion! Events for these Golden Key Bishops begin late Friday morning with a special reunion luncheon and Golden Key Diploma Ceremony.
- Back by popular demand—Alumni Weekend 2010 will feature the second ROTC reunion honoring alumni who fought in World War II ("Fractured Forties" alumni).

Make the Alumni Weekend 2010 Web site (www.owualumni.com/AW2010) the destination for all of your reunion needs. Get information about your specific class reunion including a listing of Lost Classmates, find your class page on Facebook, look up your reunion committee, and see who plans to attend. You also can submit your reunion notes online, RSVP to attend, and get answers to common reunion questions about hotels, airport shuttles, and more!

\* Members of the Class of 1985 will celebrate their reunion during Homecoming & Family Weekend 2010 (October 8-10) at OWU's first Cluster 25th Reunion. Visit the Cluster Reunion Web site at www.owualumni.com/Cluster2010.

www.owu.edu

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Class & Reunion Notes

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