

OWU

Ohio Wesleyan Magazine

VOLUME 85 ISSUE NO.1 ♿ WINTER 2007 ♿

The Faces of Leadership

Crafting a Campaign

Scenes from Homecoming 2007

Jesse's Story

Hitting the High Notes



Find
YOUR
Passion

OWU

Ohio Wesleyan Magazine

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Pictured on the front cover of this *Magazine* are Patricia Belt Conrades '63 and Evan Corns '59, co-chairs of OWU's comprehensive campaign.

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The Ohio Wesleyan Magazine (ISSN 0030-1221) is published in Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring by Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio. Periodicals postage paid at Delaware, Ohio and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Magazine, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio 43015. General University telephone number: 740.368.2000.



Printed on recycled paper

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Because We Care...

The faces of OWU leadership come in many shapes, sizes, and textures. These faces belong to students who take charge of campus organizations and to professors who ignite the minds and imaginations of their students. They are the faces of employees whose focus is on being the best darned chef, carpenter, writer, vice president . . . (fill in any of OWU's several hundred job titles) . . . and the faces, of course, of Ohio Wesleyan alumni. Spanning the globe and balancing an array of careers, family responsibilities, community commitments, and in general, busy lives, OWU alumni share one special sentiment: their passion for Ohio Wesleyan.

I recall asking one very devoted alumnus, a University Trustee whose volunteer work for OWU touches just about every component of the University's structure, just why he is so committed to spending so much of his time and energy at Ohio Wesleyan. From campus events, meetings, and celebrations to the more somber memorial services for departed University faculty and staff members—this person is ever present and engaged in those OWU moments. His answer, though simple, brought a tear or two to my eyes.

"I'm here [so much] because I care," he said. Simply stated, yet powerfully received.

This issue's cover story "Faces of Leadership: Crafting a Campaign," has everything to do with alumni passion for their alma mater. We want to draw you into the workings of our comprehensive University campaign, and encourage you to know our two co-chairs, Evan Corns '59 and Patricia (Patsy) Belt Conrades '63. There are impressive stories behind the faces you see on our cover.

Another inspirational story in this magazine is about a very special student. Amazing Jesse Jean. Jesse's story is one that portrays a sense of leadership—and extreme strength of character. With the confidence and guidance of important mentors in his life, the OWU senior came to the University, and has studied hard, set and achieved his educational goals, and proven his leadership talent on Ohio Wesleyan's basketball team. Against the odds, Jesse battled back after growing up in a rough and tough Washington, D.C. neighborhood. He realized his potential, took it upon himself to excel, and hopes, one day, to use his sociology background for good causes. It is, he shares, the human factor of that discipline that is most compelling to him.

As this holiday season ends and a new year begins, we wish you a happy, healthy, and very amazing year.

Pamela Besel
Editor



Also in this issue:
Alumni Ballot
2007

Affording, Accessing, and Sustaining a College Education



David O. Robbins

When I went off to college many years ago, there was one word that permeated almost every college campus conversation. That word was *ability*. Students worried about their *ability* to meet the challenges of a rigorous college experience while college administrators and faculty pondered the important question of how the academy would be able to accommodate the upcoming generation of baby boomers. The phrase that many college students heard in those days was, "Look to your left, look to your right...that student on either side of you may not be here next semester." I wondered if I would be that unfortunate student to the *left or right* who found college life too rigorous, too entertaining, too far from home, or too expensive. Attrition was considered a form of institutional screening—a way to make room for students with more academic potential.

That was then. Today, colleges are more student centered, and assuring a student's ability to graduate once enrolled is increasingly perceived to be the shared responsibility of both the college and the student. While the word "*ability*" is still popular on college campuses, it often comes with one of three prefixes—*affordability*, *accessibility*, or *sustainability*. Escalating educational costs are placing a private undergraduate education out of reach for a growing portion of our population and seriously challenging the mission of colleges like Ohio Wesleyan.

Operating budgets have grown as colleges compete to attract and better serve students through greatly enhanced curricular and co-curricular programs. At the same time, a greater number of college dollars also are awarded to students in the form of financial aid.

The socioeconomic base within this country, and especially within the Midwest, has shifted. OWU and other colleges are trying to meet the need of both low and middle income families through need-based and merit-based aid. Though their need is partially acknowledged in the federal aid assessment process, many middle-income families feel that a high quality private education is beyond their reach. And it is interesting to observe that now, more than ever, quality liberal arts colleges are competing with larger, lower-cost, state-supported universities that increasingly attempt to emulate the small college experience.

In addition, students are selecting colleges, not only on the basis of academic reputation, but also, on the quality of their residence halls and access to everything from private counseling to wireless Internet service, to state-of-the-art recreational facilities to affordable off-campus study programs. Colleges find that they need to direct a greater proportion of their resources to enhance the total college 'experience' in order to meet student expectations.

Colleges like Ohio Wesleyan, that are highly dependent upon tuition income, must find alternative revenue sources if we are to continue to produce alumni who will be able to assume leadership roles in the global society of tomorrow. And that's where you, our faithful alumni, play an integral role. Your donations—large and small—in support of our Annual Fund and our various scholarship, program, and faculty chair endowments, are crucial to our future success in recruiting, retaining, and educating the next generation of alumni.

In this magazine, you will learn about the generosity of donors who are making a difference for our University. Please join me in thanking them and in encouraging others to also become part of the exciting future of this great University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Robbins".

David Robbins
Interim President and Provost

SCIENCE

Scenes from OWU's Summer Science Research Symposium—Year #15!



Celebrating its 15th year at Ohio Wesleyan, the Summer Science Research Symposium continued its tradition of amazing those who came out in mid-September to see interesting posters and hear about “all matters science.”

Science matters—whether students work in the labs, classrooms, out in the field, or when discussing research, one-on-one with professors. *Science matters*—as students try to solve the unknown by experimenting, predicting, verifying, and projecting knowledge about life on this planet. And at OWU, science and discovery are what thrill students and faculty mentors the most, that is, besides their shared journeys as collaborative researchers.

This year’s symposium included the research of 34 students—26 who conducted research on campus and eight students who worked off campus at other universities during the summer. One student conducted his research in Guadalajara with alumnus Dr. Herbert DuPont '61; six non-OWU students conducted research supported by the grants on our campus. This year’s program also featured the formal dedication of the Patricia Belt Conrades Summer Science Research Symposium, with both Mrs. Conrades '63 and benefactor Dr. Nancy Reynolds Schneider '64 attending.

To honor her longtime friend and recognize OWU’s strong science and math programs, Dr.

Celebrating the special day were symposium guests and friends, left to right: Interim President and Provost David Robbins, Assistant Professor and SSRP Coordinator Laura Tuhela-Reuning, Dr. Nancy Reynolds Schneider '64, Patricia Belt Conrades '63, Dean of Academic Affairs, Chuck Stinemetz '83.

Schneider endowed the symposium in Patsy’s name. (See our story in the September 12 edition of *Connect2OWU* at connect@owu.edu/issues/ourtown.)

As one student shared, “This program opened my eyes to the world of research and allowed me to work one-on-one with a knowledgeable mentor.”



1 Asegedech Shimellis '09 explains her research focusing on how different animals regulate calcium in their bodies, looking specifically at crayfish. The pre-medicine/genetics major says that she has learned a lot about animal handling and data analysis through her research. 2 Jack Stenger '10 and faculty mentor and zoology professor Jed Burt are research “partners” looking at patterns of change among tail feathers of sparrows. As Stenger explains, bird feathers having melanin withstand environmental situations more heartily than those with white feathers. If the white appears in the tail’s center, that area degrades faster. 3 Patricia Belt Conrades '63 and longtime friend and fellow alumna Dr. Nancy Reynolds Schneider '64, receive their personal framed copies of this year’s symposium booklet.

From the JayWalk »





2007

A weekend to remember with something for everyone. That's the best way to describe OWU's Homecoming 2007, held on October 26-28. Ushering in the weekend festivities was Spirit Week, featuring Pie a Professor Day, Dress as Your Favorite Rock Star Day, and the more traditional Red and Black Day.

Other highlights— The unveiling of former OWU President Tom Courtice's portrait; a dinner honoring former University Chaplain James Leslie—and the establishment of the James Leslie Center for Peace and Justice (see stories on page 7); and the opening of *The Madwoman of Chailot* production at Chappellear Drama Center. But there was more—so much more! A variety of sports competitions, including the Homecoming football game (OWU beat Allegheny, 17-10);

the crowning of our Homecoming royalty; fraternity and sorority open houses; a special program for OWU prospective legacy students and their families; Black Family Weekend activities; team reunions; and the induction of 11 new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame and a new Robert Strimer Honor Awardee. Here are a few weekend snapshots. You can visit our Homecoming photo gallery at gallery.owu.edu to get a complete picture of Homecoming 2007.

Keeping the faith

By Ann Marcum

When Claire Everhart '10 started looking at colleges, more than fancy buildings and academic course offerings caught her eye.

“A Christian presence on campus was a big deciding factor,” says Everhart, who also put Denison University and Allegheny College on her short list. “In the end, I thought Ohio Wesleyan had a lot more to offer [Christian students].”

Everhart isn't alone. According to Chad Johns '02, associate chaplain for mission, vocation, and servant leadership, the demand for weekly chapel services has slowly increased over the years. Recent research indicates that religion is not disappearing on college campuses. A variety of religious organizations representing today's diverse student population shares campus space these days.

During the past decade or so, the University's religious offering consisted of a service during freshman orientation, something to celebrate Ash Wednesday, and special services based on events or crises as they occurred.

“Every year, people would ask [at freshman orientation], ‘Do you do anything on a weekly basis?’ ” says Johns.

Starting this fall, those inquisitive people were granted their wish. Coming a long way since the University's founding – a time during which two or three required chapel services each day were common, up until the 1960s – weekly services currently focus on four distinct traditions: Sacramental; contemporary evangelical praise worship; contemporary Protestant and Catholic liturgy; and Taizé, or contemplative prayer and chant meditation.



Members of the Ohio Wesleyan community, including Chaplain Jon Powers, now gather weekly for the expanded services in Norman Vincent Peale Chapel.

For those interested in exploring non-Christian traditions, Jewish Shabbat services, Muslim Juma prayer sessions, and Hindu yoga classes also are showcased in the Norman Vincent Peale Chapel in Hamilton-Williams Campus Center. There is discussion of installing on-campus basic washing stations – a staple for Islamic prayer preparation. Chaplain Jon Powers is working closely with the University's Muslim Student Association on this venture.

Additionally, the staff of the Chaplain's Office has been shuffled to reflect the expanded offerings. Revised positions geared toward Protestant, Catholic, and even wilderness ministries have been created.

“Jon [Powers] likes to redesign things every five years or so,” says Johns.

The expanded offering has had a positive impact on students, says Everhart. An average of 30

students attend the weekly services, and she has seen an increase in participation in other Christian-oriented groups on campus.

“It's really good to expose people to different kinds of worship,” says Everhart, who is president of the University's Christian Student Leadership Council and is involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She also competes on the cross country and track teams.

Everhart encourages first-year students to explore the expanded offerings, and cites that the events are a good opportunity to get “plugged in” to the Christian community.

“We have a lot of offer,” says Everhart, with a smile.

Ms. Marcum is Assistant Director of Media and Community Relations at Ohio Wesleyan.

FORMER OWU CHAPLAIN JIM LESLIE HONORED

OWU's former University Chaplain James Leslie was recognized for his nearly three decades of accomplishments and service to the University at a sold-out dinner program held in his honor on October 26. The "Celebrating the Ties that Bind" event included dinner; music by the Gospel Lyres; remarks by Board of Trustees Chair Kathe Rhinesmith '64, former OWU President Tom Courtice, HON. '04, University Chaplain Jon Powers, alumni, and members of the community.

The culmination of the evening was the announcement of the creation of the James Leslie Center for Peace and Justice, which will be housed in the chaplain's office. Attendees at the dinner were unanimous in singing Leslie's praises.

"Jim is the star of the evening," says Jeanette Kraus, alumni records supervisor. "He knows us. He knows our stories, and has always been an affirming friend and remains a member of the Delaware, University, and church families. He touches all those places."

Longtime Delaware resident and Adjunct Professor of Economics Joan Manter is equally complimentary.

"The Leslies are an incredible couple with wonderful children. I just can't say enough about them. They've lived all over the world and he's the most intellectual person I know," she says.

Leslie was OWU's chaplain during the turbulent times of the Vietnam War. Widely traveled and committed to ecumenism, he reached out to students of all faiths, and was heavily involved with the international community.

As quoted in a story appearing in the summer 1988 *Ohio Wesleyan Magazine*, Leslie said, "It's been my goal to try to point people in the right direction and show them why we need to live as brothers and sisters in the world."

For more information about the center, contact the Chaplain's Office at (740) 368-3083.



Former OWU Registrar Mary Jean Roach congratulates former Chaplain Jim Leslie.



PICTURE THIS: Courtice Portrait Unveiled

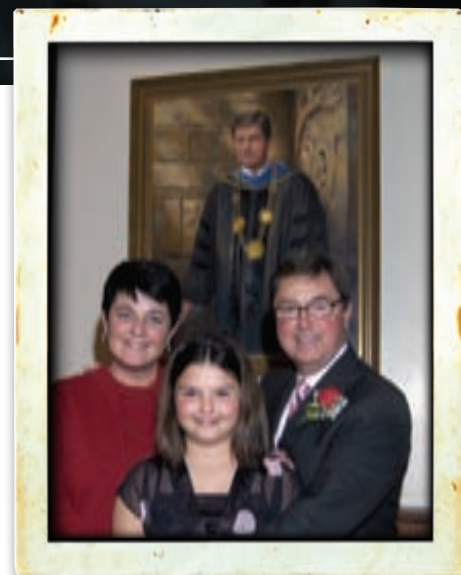
A special moment for Mary Milligan and Tom Courtice.

There is a new presidential portrait hanging in University Hall. Thanks to the vision and extreme generosity of Mary Milligan HON. '02, and the artistry of Sam Knecht, artist and fine arts professor at Hillsdale College in Michigan, a beautiful oil portrait of Ohio Wesleyan's 14th president, Thomas Courtice, is here on campus for all to enjoy.

The portrait dedication took place on October 26, during Homecoming weekend on the first floor of a jam-packed University Hall. Mrs. Milligan, wife of Robert L. (Bill) Milligan '22, smiled as she offered the crowd her thoughtful reflection.

"Bill believed, as I did, that Tom had the vision, ability, and leadership qualities needed for the OWU presidency," she says. "I later mentioned that I wanted Tom's portrait to hang on the wall of University Hall. He will be long remembered."

Arriving at OWU in 1994, Courtice had a good sense of the people and culture; his own grandparents were OWU graduates. His roadmap to institutional excellence featured: insuring sustained excellence in the liberal arts; strengthening opportunities for education beyond the classroom; enhancing the quality of life at OWU; strengthening and supporting technology resources; and marshalling resources needed to support Ohio Wesleyan's programs and future goals. All of this while also



The Courtices: Lisa, Lindsey, and Tom.

overseeing a \$100 million-plus capital campaign.

As quoted in the summer 2004 edition of the *Magazine* which focused on "The Courtice Years," Courtice recalls his decision to leave the presidency at West Virginia Wesleyan for OWU's presidency.

"The overwhelming draw for Lisa and me had everything to do with becoming part of the OWU program and knowing that the college and its people are so highly respected," he said.

"My thanks to Sam, and of course, to Mary, on behalf of Ohio Wesleyan," says a beaming Tom Courtice.

Evan & Patsy



By Pam Besel

**“I WANT
HUNDREDS OF
WARRIORS WHO
WILL RALLY
AROUND THIS
GREAT CAUSE.”**

— EVAN CORNS '59



Crafting a Campaign

**CO-CHAIRS OF OWU'S COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN.
EVAN CORNS '59 AND PATRICIA BELT CONRADES '63,
HAVE JUST WHAT IT TAKES TO TRAILBLAZE AND INSPIRE...
THE REST IS UP TO THE OWU FAMILY.**

It's difficult—nearly impossible—to be in a room with, Evan Corns '59 and Patricia Belt Conrades '63 (Patsy) and not feel their passion for Ohio Wesleyan. It's like an aura or wave of electricity. Warm yet brisk. Inspirational and intense. But always deliberate in expressing what is shaping up to be the Corns/Conrades credo (thanks in part to thoughts of poet Robert Browning) for OWU's comprehensive campaign, now in its quiet phase: *"Reach to exceed thy grasp."* These campaign co-chairs are, you see, absolutely convinced—and always ready to convince their listeners—that this is the way, and the only way, to have a successful campaign. And a secure, solid, and continuing institutional presence in the competitive higher education arena.

Knighted campaign co-chair by OWU's Board of Trustees two years ago, Evan Corns was a top choice, and as Mark Shipps '70, vice president

of university relations, recalls, "It was a foregone conclusion." As a lifetime Trustee, head of OWU's Annual Fund Council, and generous donor, (the R.W. Corns building, named in honor of father Richard; Corns Scholars Program; and, more recently, his \$3.25 million gift noted on page 17 of this magazine), Corns' love affair with Ohio Wesleyan began when he visited campus one rainy Saturday morning in the spring of 1955.

"I stayed at the SAE house," says Corns, fondly remembering his visit, and memorable excursion to nearby Columbus, led by soon-to-be fraternity brother, David Hobson '58, now in his ninth Congressional term. Corns proudly shared his OWU intentions with his grandmother and father, upon returning home.

"It was my father, Richard, who reminded me that all of the rubber companies in Akron were run

by OWU people such as Joe Meek '25 product manager at Firestone (father of Phil Meek '59 former Board chair); Jim Roberts '23, head of sales; and B.F. Goodrich CEO, J. Ward Keener, a former OWU economics professor," recalls Corns. And it also was Richard Corns whose wisdom and sage advice son Evan shares.

"I was raised on the knee of a father who tithed and who always believed that people should give to the very best of their financial capabilities. As I was growing up, I heard him frequently say: 'The mark of a man is not what he makes, but what he gives.' I've never forgotten that advice."

Corns, a history major, graduated from OWU in 1959, moved on to graduate study at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and after military service, was primed and ready to immerse himself in the business world. In 1976,

he and four colleagues founded America's Body Company, suppliers of truck bodies and equipment.

"We started that company from scratch, and in 20 years, it became the largest company of its type. That is the result of hard work, hustle, imagination, and innovation."

Following in his Ohio Wesleyan footsteps have been daughters Katy '91, Nancy '98, and son-in-law, Scott Walker '88.

"That Evan asked Patsy Conrades to be his campaign co-chair is no great surprise," says Shipp. "Her role as a University Trustee, generous donor (state of the art Conrades♦Wetherell Science Center, and the Conrades' funding of the multimillion dollar OWU marketing and university relations initiatives, heading the list), and her creative, enthusiastic nature make this a wonderful combination." It will be, according to both co-chairs, a hands-on, aggressive, priority-driven campaign, spiced up by—you guessed it—a good amount of hard work, hustle, innovation, and imagination. No surprises there.

**"THE WORKING,
INDEPENDENT WOMAN
IS A FORCE TODAY, AND
WE NEED TO REACH OUT
IN WAYS WE HAVEN'T
DONE BEFORE."**

— PATSY CONRADES '63

"When Evan suggested that I co-chair the campaign with him, I realized that it was important for me to do so, and I also think so highly of him," says Conrades, pointing to the many opportunities and challenges facing Ohio Wesleyan, and the need to involve more people in the process—and more women supporters and donors in the mix.

Adding Women to the Mix

"The working, independent woman is a force today, and we need to reach out in ways we haven't done before," she says. Especially in marital situations where she is the alumna and her spouse is not an OWU graduate, Conrades continues. And recent trends involving women and philanthropy show that women today own close to 60 percent of our nation's investment wealth in the U.S., with a combined net worth of \$4.2 trillion dollars.



"There are many challenges and opportunities for us," says Conrades. "We will be a hands-on team, making calls, and increasing our direct contact with alumni."

That translates to working more strategically, and perhaps, more aggressively than ever before. And who better to champion that cause than a lady whose family—husband George '61, father

Arthur Belt '34, sister, Nancy Belt Muldoon, uncle James C. Ruther, and daughters Laura C. Wilson '88, and Anna J. Conrades '03 attended or graduated from Ohio Wesleyan?

"I was programmed to go to Ohio Wesleyan," says a laughing Conrades, recalling her great memories of OWU, and a favorite professor, Dick Smith (history). One of the good friends she met at OWU was Nancy Reynolds Schneider '64, (Conrades' Kappa Kappa Gamma little sister) who went on to medical school in her late 30s, becoming one of the nation's leading children's oncologists. Schneider encouraged friend Patsy to go to nursing school later in her life. The two have remained close friends over the years. Schneider recently honored her college friend by endowing in her name, the Patricia Belt Conrades Summer Science Research Symposium, which both alumnae attended in September. The 10-week summer research program is funded by OWU through a combination of endowed and operating budget funds.

"I was so impressed by the sophisticated level of research we saw, as students presented their work to us," says Conrades. "At least my friend Nancy more totally understood what they were saying," she says, chuckling.

It's Everyone's Campaign

In a more serious voice, Conrades speaks of the important roles played by each member of the OWU community as the campaign unfolds—and so that the University continues to be recognized for its superior teaching and learning opportunities.

"We are behind our competitors and need to catch up," she says. And that finger points to the endowment. Sitting on the facilities committee of the Board, Conrades knows all too well the constant drain on that fund because of physical plant needs alone.

"I don't think we have succinctly stated the importance of giving to OWU, and of being competitive," says Corns, explaining that campaign focal points will indeed include building up the endowment (focusing on

scholarships and endowed professorships, facilities, and programs that enhance the student experience).

“I want hundreds of warriors who will rally around this great cause,” he says, emphatically. Both Conrades and Corns believe it is up to members of the Board to set dynamic leadership roles and pave the way to fulfilling our [campaign] goals.

“We all value our OWU experiences,” says Corns. “It is time to recognize that and pay it back [to OWU] to the best of our financial abilities.” He and his co-chair are ready to put their Yin-Yang-like energies to work for their alma mater.

Conrades, a volunteer registered nurse in Boston, is, as Shippis describes, the perfect co-chair to work with Corns.

“Patsy is someone who likes to figure things out,” says Shippis, observing the balance and the love for OWU that she brings to campaign efforts. “She knows the importance of really understanding the priorities of the campaign, making sure the goals are in alignment with OWU’s needs, and communicating them clearly to our alumni and friends.” Together, he explains, these co-chairs will ensure that we are following a logical process as a university strategic plan and campaign priorities are adopted by OWU following approval of the Board of Trustees.

Besides her nursing work, Conrades enjoys sports, knitting, gardening, (she nurtures four gardens at her home, saying, “I believe in God even more when I see a flower grow,”) and being with her family, including eight grandchildren, most of whom live close by in Boston.

“I feel fortunate to be married for the past 44 years to George, and to have moved 11 times with him during his careers with IBM, BBN Corp., and Akamai, and with Polaris Venture Partners, and as executive vice president of GTE (after that corporation acquired BBN), where he was chairman and CEO,” she says.

And amid busy careers and lives, both Conrades are great friends and supporters of Ohio Wesleyan.

“OURS IS A COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN IN TERMS OF ITS IMPACT ON OWU AND HOW WE APPROACH DONORS.”

— MARK SHIPPS '70



Looking Ahead

The campaign’s “next steps,” according to Shippis, involve creating a small campaign committee whose members will reflect different constituencies. With staffing in the development and alumni relations areas fleshed out during the past year, (14 new positions have been added

with seven to be filled as part of the university relations initiative), Shippis describes his office’s marching orders—while OWU searches for a new president—as: mini campaigns, including fund raising for the Ross Museum, *Remembering Mr. Rickey* Campaign, Lilly Endowment Fund, Summer Science Research Program, and of course, the Annual Fund.

“Ours is a comprehensive campaign in terms of its impact on OWU and how we approach donors,” explains Shippis. That strategy features engaging alumni with alumni; donors with donors; friends with friends; and parents with parents.

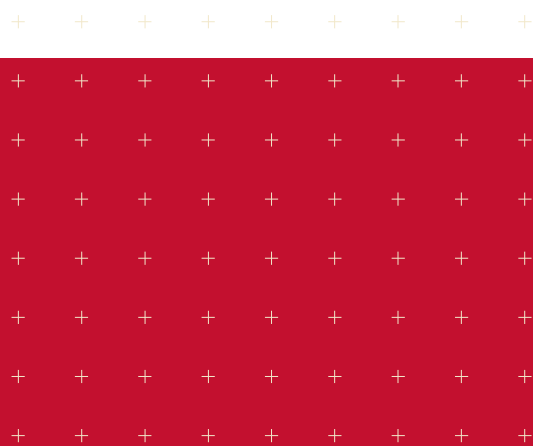
“I’d like to see this campaign succeed so that in five to ten years we can look back and see that we have made a difference by providing a solid endowment base for the institution,” says Shippis. “We all need to be pulling in the same direction in order for that to happen.” Leadership such as Conrades’ and Corns’ plays a key role in this campaign success.

“With all the expertise and energy that our co-chairs bring, a University Relations staff now assembled and ready to go, and being on the brink of hiring a dynamic and visionary new president, we have all the ingredients and confidence that the campaign will exceed our highest expectations,” says interim president and provost, David Robbins. “Add to that the loyalty and appreciation of our alumni, and we can forever transform our beloved Ohio Wesleyan into the most engaging and top-rated liberal arts colleges in the country.”

“We are so excited to have Evan and Patsy working with us,” says Shippis. “They represent the best of Ohio Wesleyan’s best.”

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





You can't help but like Ohio Wesleyan senior Jesse Jean. The tall young man's broad smile is immediately endearing. His voice is low and a little quiet, yet he exudes an easy sort of confidence. If you talk to Jesse for very long at all, you'll learn that he takes his studies seriously, loves to play basketball, and enjoys spending time with his friends. You might even think he's the typical OWU student; however, he is anything but typical.

Jesse Jean is amazing.

By *Ericka Kurtz*

JESSE'S STORY BEGINS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. At the tender age of two he witnessed the violent death of both of his parents and went to live with his grandmother. For a long time, Jesse wouldn't speak to anyone but his older sister. Because of this, he was placed in classes for students with learning disabilities, though his teachers agreed he didn't belong there.

And all the while, Jesse was growing up in a tough neighborhood where crime, drugs, and violence were ordinary parts of life. To say that the odds were against Jesse is an understatement.

If Jesse had given up on himself, there were others who weren't willing to give up the fight. Two of his mentors saw to it that he had the chance to attend a charter school, but the change in scenery wasn't the solution to Jesse's problem. "I faced a lot of challenges getting my high school situation figured out," he recalls. "I was living with my grandmother who had diabetes and was trying to raise me as well as my brother and sister. I'd stay home from school a lot to help her, but sometimes I'd just stay home to sleep. She did the best she could, but I didn't really have anyone to force me to go to class."

Jesse's absence in school drew the attention of his principal, who called a meeting. "My grandmother and my two mentors thought I needed another, more drastic change in scenery. I was given the opportunity to attend one of two boarding schools, and I chose one in Woodstock, Connecticut."

His decision to go to Connecticut was not made without reservation. "At first I didn't really want to go," says Jesse. "But I was in a negative environment. I always thought that I wanted to go to college, but I wasn't sure how to go about getting there. I learned from my mentors that almost all of the students at this boarding school went on to college. I knew if I wanted to go to college, I had to get to that school."

So Jesse packed his bags for the Hyde School, a school that emphasizes its "character compass." The first point of the compass reads, "An explicit philosophy of character in the form of the Five Words: Courage, Integrity, Leadership, Curiosity, and Concern." Another important aspect of education at Hyde is the family-based character program, which states that parents are the primary teachers in a child's life.

Jesse's mentors – Teri Ellison and Toni Husted – were quick to fill the parent role for Jesse. When he needed them, they were there. For Jesse, these women and their families are his family. "I admire my family and what they've done for me," he says. "They aren't my biological parents, but I wouldn't be where I am today without them."

There's no doubt about it – Jesse has had help in his life. Guardian angels, Providence, luck – whatever you want to call it, Jesse has been pushed. But something inside Jesse must have welcomed that change. Exhibiting all of the characteristics of Hyde's character compass, Jesse thrived at the Hyde School. While college had once been a distant dream to Jesse, it suddenly became a very attainable goal.

"My senior year I was assigned a college counselor who gave me a list of 13 schools," says Jesse. "But Ohio Wesleyan wasn't initially one of my choices." Fate came knocking, and Jesse got to know Sharon Smithey Coale '72 through her daughter Brittney '07, who also attended Hyde. "It's a close community and you get to know people," Jesse says. "Sharon reached out to me and said that if I ever wanted to know more about OWU, she'd be happy to talk to me."

"I watched Jesse grow as a student at Hyde," recalls Coale. "I thought he needed to be in a small setting where people would treat him as family. I thought that Ohio Wesleyan would be a natural fit for him. At OWU, you're in a nurturing environment where you can still receive guidance to make sure you succeed."

"I recall that when I met with Jesse, I recognized strong leadership skills in him," says OWU Assistant Vice President of Admission and Financial Aid Carol DelPropost. "Here was a young man who against all odds had been successful. I saw that he had fortitude, focus, and vision. I didn't focus on his trials and tribulations, but rather, what he had been able to achieve. I saw great potential in Jesse, and I felt Ohio Wesleyan was the right place for him to realize that potential. It's our good fortune that Jesse came here, and Ohio Wesleyan is proud to have him as a student and future alumnus."

Like any prospective college student, Jesse had a lot to consider when selecting a college. "In the end, I thought Ohio Wesleyan would be the best environment for me to pursue education and play sports," says Jesse. "I've always loved sports – especially basketball – and it was important for me to play sports in college. School can be exhausting and sports give me a release. Sports also help keep me disciplined because I know I have to get my studying done."

OWU has been the right environment for Jesse. He will graduate this May and has also received several basketball awards including a Team Award and an All-Conference Honorable Mention. "I'm really proud of the Most Improved Award, which I received two years in a row," he says.



OWU's Jesse Jean will leave his mark on the world.



“Jesse is a great young man and has been a pleasure to coach during his time at OWU,” says Mike DeWitt '87, head men's basketball coach. “He is a very diligent student-athlete who works hard both in the classroom and on the basketball floor. Over the years, and especially this year in his senior season, Jesse has developed into a true leader. When Jesse came to Ohio Wesleyan, he was very raw in terms of basketball ability, but he has worked extremely hard to improve his skills and understanding of basketball. The Most Improved Player award is voted on by his teammates, which tells you just how much respect they have for him and his work ethic.”

If Jesse's perseverance at Ohio Wesleyan is any indicator, the OWU family can look forward to great things from Jesse Jean. Certainly he will leave his own mark on the world. But Jesse – who is modest about his success – doesn't look ahead too much.

“I'm a sociology-anthropology double major,” he says. “The human factor of sociology really interests me, and right now I'm open to all options. I know that I'm prepared for life after OWU, which doesn't take away all of my anxiety, but I do feel more confident. And I think that I am better than when I first came to Ohio Wesleyan. **For some people, college is very simple. But for me, it's been huge.**”

Ms. Kurtz is Assistant Director of University Communications and Assistant Editor of the Magazine at Ohio Wesleyan.

Published works of OWU students, alumni, and faculty.

Talking Your Way to the Top: Business English that Works

by Gretchen Hirsch, published October 2, 2006
by Prometheus Books

If you've ever wondered what might be keeping you from taking the next step up the corporate ladder or you haven't felt confident about your everyday business speech, then Gretchen Hirsch's *Talking Your Way to the Top: Business English That Works* could be your key to moving up.

For years, Hirsch, a writer in Ohio Wesleyan's Office of University Communications, kept lists of funny expressions and silly things people say. Those lists served as her inspiration. But once she entered corporate America, she came face to face with what she calls the "mother lode" of meaningless communication—and was inspired to write about how to speak effectively in the business setting.

"If you can't communicate, you cost yourself time and money and those are two things that American businesses can't afford to waste," Hirsch says. "If we're not as competitive as we used to be, it could be because we don't communicate as well as we used to. American business language used to be stuffy, but at least we knew what it meant. Today, we aren't so sure."

Hirsch describes today's business speech as "bland." Her book begins with a series of lists: commonly mispronounced words and a category of words she calls "flabspeak"—buzzwords, euphemisms, redundancies, and clichés. For example, she says a new buzzword appears to be "landed on," rather than "agreed to" or "decided."

"I think the reason business speaks this way is that the United States doesn't have much patience for long-term strategy," Hirsch says. "When companies have to report to Wall Street every quarter, they want the news to be as rosy as possible. If it isn't, they try to couch it in words that don't mean anything so people don't know how the company is really doing. It's also a very litigious world. If we say nothing intelligible, we're less likely to get sued."

The remainder of her book includes chapters on how to use speech effectively in various workplace scenarios: job interviews, meetings, presentations, and meeting the media. The last chapter reviews the language of leaders and provides a quick look at the speech of Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Oprah Winfrey, and Barack Obama.

Hirsch hopes that people who read her book come away with a greater appreciation of the importance of communication. "Language is the underpinning of the culture we live in," she says. "Words are important. When we water down our speech and take away meaningful discourse, which is what is happening with all of these buzzwords, it has a significant effect."

You can find Hirsch's book in major bookstores, online at Amazon.com, as well as at the Ohio Wesleyan Bookstore.

Andrea Strle '99

Gretchen Hirsch is a writer in the Office of University Communications at Ohio Wesleyan.

A 'TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FOREVER' GIFT

Evan R. Corns '59 Honors His Alma Mater with a \$3.25 Million Contribution

"Choosing to attend Ohio Wesleyan University has made all the difference in my life," says Evan R. Corns '59. "In giving to the University, I wanted to contribute in a way that would help Ohio Wesleyan continue to change students' lives today, tomorrow, and forever."

On October 4, Corns did just that. That's when Ohio Wesleyan announced it would receive a multiyear \$3.25 million gift from Corns, a member of the University's Board of Trustees and co-chair of the upcoming capital campaign. The contribution includes a \$1 million estate gift.

Corns' contribution will support multiple facets of the University, including the Annual Fund, endowment, and campus improvement projects. Areas to benefit include the Woltemade Center for Economics, Business, and Entrepreneurship; the Libuse L. Reed Endowed Professorship; the Richard W. Smith Civil War Lecture Series; and the new Richard Fusch Fund for Excellence in Geographic Studies.

In addition to this multimillion-dollar gift, Corns' family also decided to support Ohio Wesleyan when choosing a gift for the Pepper Pike, Ohio, resident's 70th birthday. To honor Corns, his family created The Evan R. Corns '59 Endowed Scholarship, which will benefit OWU students with significant financial need.

The unique gift was presented to Corns during a family vacation that included his three daughters, Nancy Corns Littlehale '98, Katy Corns Walker '91, and Andrea Corns Hill, along with their husbands, Andrew Littlehale, Scott Walker '88, and Eric Hill.

David O. Robbins, Ph.D., OWU's interim president and provost, said the University is honored by the generous gifts.

"Evan Corns and his family are very special to Ohio Wesleyan University," Robbins says. "Evan's energy and excitement enrich our campus every day. His commitment to our mission, his passion for his alma mater, and his generosity truly will benefit Ohio Wesleyan 'today, tomorrow, and forever.'"

Published works of OWU students, alumni, and faculty.

Madness Unchained: A Reading of Virgil's Aeneid

by Lee Fratantuono, published by Lexington Books, July 2007



Lee Fratantuono is Professor of Humanities-Classics at Ohio Wesleyan.

Professor Lee Fratantuono's new book, *Madness Unchained*, is an ambitious, comprehensive work that, he says, "tries to present a coherent reading of the entire poem and to sum up the state of Virgilian criticism at the beginning of the 21st century. There is close analysis of every scene in the poem and, in some cases, individual lines."

Fratantuono, the William Francis Whitlock Professor of Latin, says that the *Aeneid* is "the epic of Rome's founding, written at the time when Rome was being re-founded under Augustus, so that it looks both forward and backward. There is a need to read the poem coherently and address its historical context to discern what Virgil thought about the new government, among other things."

Madness Unchained is aimed at a relatively wide audience. "My next book, *A Commentary on Virgil, Aeneid 11*, is more for Virgil scholars. It will be published in Belgium and is in the process of final revision now. Ideally, it will be released in late 2008. The current book, however, is for many kinds of students and readers who might want or need to know more about the poem."

Fratantuono says he has always been interested in antiquity. "I entered college as a classics major and continued on to graduate school in the classics. It was not a soul-searching decision. Classics involves so many other disciplines—history, literature, art and archaeology, mythology. I was just drawn to it."

Fratantuono's writing process is straightforward, he says. "I do all my research and reflection before I begin to write. Then once everything has germinated and I have essentially formulated the book in my head, I write very quickly. I don't agonize over it. This entire book was written between the beginning of July and the end of August in 2006 and then revised." The result is a book that reviewers have called "a stunning achievement" and "the most thorough analysis of the *Aeneid* to appear in decades."

Madness Unchained is available from Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Borders, and Lexingtonbooks.com

Gretchen Hirsch

LOU SIMPSON: RAISING THE BAR FOR ALUMNI GIVING

By *Gretchen Hirsch*

CLASS OF

1958



IN MAY 2008, THE CLASS OF 1958 WILL GATHER FOR ITS 50TH REUNION. Among those who'll be mingling with classmates is Lou Simpson '58, chief executive for capital operations at GEICO. Simpson's success in the world of investing is legendary, and he has credited Ohio Wesleyan with the "solid groundwork" that prepared him for graduate school and the myriad business challenges he has faced during his long, distinguished, and continuing career.

A native of Chicago, Simpson came to OWU as a transfer student from Northwestern University in the fall of 1955. An economics major, he became a member of Kappa Sigma and was active in the Republican Club and the Red Cross, as well as an enthusiastic supporter of both WSLN and *Le Bijou*. He also was a member of the first Men's Court.

During his tenure at Ohio Wesleyan, Simpson fell under the tutelage of economics professor Blaine Grimes, serving as his student assistant for two years. As is typical of student-faculty relationships at OWU, Grimes was not only Simpson's professor, but also became a valued mentor and friend, says John Linton '60, a

close friend of Simpson's for nearly 50 years. "I recall he even babysat for the Grimeses," Linton says.

"We met when I was a freshman and Lou was a junior," Linton continues. "I was impressed with his intellect. He had tremendous intellectual curiosity, and by the time he was a senior he already knew a lot about economics and finance. Even then, he had an analytical outlook that wasn't overcome by the emotions of the moment. In spite of all that, he was also a regular guy, someone you could have a beer with on Friday night."

Since his graduation from OWU, Simpson's career trajectory has been an upward line. After earning a master's degree in economics from Princeton, he joined the teaching faculty, but soon returned to his home town to become an associate—and then partner—with Stein, Roe & Farnham, an investment firm. In 1970, he assumed the post of vice president of United California Bank and rose quickly through the ranks to become senior vice president and director of portfolio management. In 1977, Simpson became president and CEO of Western Asset Management, a subsidiary of Western

Bankcorporation, where he remained until 1979.

Simpson's hiring at GEICO marked the beginning of his relationship with Warren Buffett and Berkshire Hathaway. In 1979, Berkshire Hathaway owned approximately 30 percent of GEICO, and the company's chairman, John J. Byrne, was looking for a chief investment officer. As Byrne has told the press, he sent several candidates to interview with Buffett. When Simpson left Buffett's office, Byrne received a call from Buffett, telling him to call off the search. Simpson was the one. He joined the company as senior vice president and chief investment officer; from 1985 to 1993, he served as vice chairman of the board, and was elected to his current position in May 1993.

Nearly 30 years from Simpson's joining the company, GEICO is a wholly owned independent subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, and he continues to oversee the company's



\$4+ billion stock portfolio, regularly outperforming the Standard and Poor's index. He remains one of Buffett's most trusted colleagues. As Buffett told *The New York Times*, Simpson is "smart, classy, and loyal ... a very sensible, sound, decent guy."

Linton adds that Simpson's wide range of interests, from music to sports to politics, and his analytical skills have continued "to provide the stable platform from which he evaluates investments today. But that's not new. He had those abilities in college. I believe he's a fine representative of the value of the liberal arts.

"One other thing about Lou," Linton notes, "is that he's great about keeping in contact. He's stayed in touch with professors and friends, often over many decades."

Simpson certainly has stayed in touch with Ohio Wesleyan. "He's been a tremendous asset and friend to the University," says Evan Corns '59. "We reconnected after about 40 years when we both served on the Woltemade Center board. He played a very active leadership role in charting the early course of the entrepreneurship focus of the center. He's been back often to speak, always to packed houses. He gave the inaugural Milligan 'Leaders in Business' Lecture in 1992 and lectured again for the program in 2005. And, of course, he's made a significant investment in Ohio Wesleyan."

Given his relationship with Blaine Grimes, it's not surprising that Simpson is both the driving force and the major donor to the Blaine Grimes Summer Grant Fund, which provides supplemental support to top economics students for exceptional summer internships. He has been a consistent and generous giver to many programs of the Annual Fund, often making matching or challenge gifts to encourage participation from other alumni. In recognition of his personal accomplishments and support of the University, Simpson has been awarded Ohio Wesleyan's highest alumni honor: the Distinguished Achievement Citation.

This year, Simpson is honorary chair of the Annual Fund campaign for the 50th reunion of the Class of '58. As is his style, he's urging his class toward the largest single class gift in the University's history. His challenge gift will match the class's contributions with one dollar for each two dollars raised, up to their goal of \$250,000. Once that goal is met or exceeded, excluding Simpson's match, an anonymous donor has pledged an additional \$125,000—for a total goal of \$500,000, establishing a new Annual Fund target for the Class of '59 and those that follow. It's ambitious, but setting the bar high is what Lou Simpson—and the Class of '58—are all about.

Ms. Hirsch is a Writer in the Office of University Communications at Ohio Wesleyan University.



Marty (Julian)
G. Martin '50 and
Wes (Lois) Wesler
Martin '51.

**YOU'RE
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"OWU has provided us with a fine and lasting education, a fine and lasting marriage, and a fine and lasting treasure of friendships, all of which have survived for more than fifty-five years. We're happy to help others experience the same."

If, like the Martins, you've included OWU in your estate plans, please let us know so we can recognize you and add your name to our growing list of Tower Society members.

If you'd like information about ways to create an estate gift, please call the Office of Gift Planning at (740) 368-3078. We'll be happy to help.

A Tradition of Generosity

By *Gretchen Hirsch*

“I WAS A CHILD OF THE DEPRESSION,” SAYS MARY MILLIGAN, HON ’02. “I didn’t have the advantage of the type of education available at a university like Ohio Wesleyan.” But when she married Robert L. “Bill” Milligan ’22, in 1972, she adopted Ohio Wesleyan and Ohio Wesleyan “adopted me, too,” she says.

Bill Milligan’s ties to Ohio Wesleyan go back and forward from generation to generation. His parents were graduates of the University in the late 1880s. Several uncles and cousins from both sides of his parents’ families also graduated from Ohio Wesleyan, the most notable of these being his uncle, Charles Warren Fairbanks 1872, who served as vice president of the United States under Theodore Roosevelt. Several children and grandchildren also have called Ohio Wesleyan home.

Bill Milligan was president of Pure Oil. As he achieved his success, he maintained his connection to Ohio Wesleyan. “His family background was here and he was always so interested in what was going on,” Mary Milligan says.

Over the years, the Milligans’ interest in the University has taken a multitude of forms. In 1992 they endowed the Woltemade Center’s Robert L. Milligan “Leaders in Business” Lecture Series, which brings prominent business leaders and academicians to campus to speak with students. Bill Milligan also served as a trustee from 1955-1979, becoming a life trustee in 1979.

The couple also encouraged others to support the University, and one of OWU’s most exceptional gifts came from their quiet cultivation of a family member. “Bill remained close to his cousin, Cornelia Fairbanks Albright,

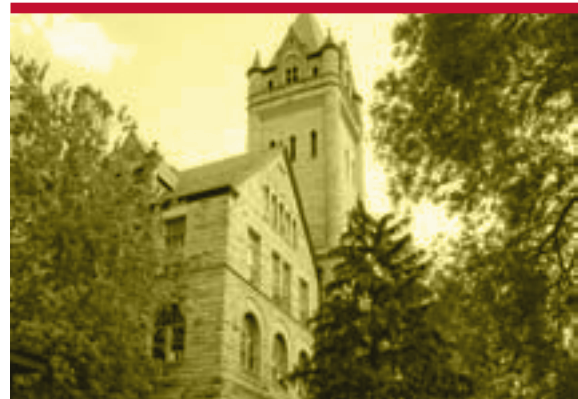
and after Bill and I were married, she and I became friends, too. We didn’t see her often, but Bill kept her informed of everything he did at Ohio Wesleyan, with the hope that someday she would make a donation.”

Their gentle persistence paid off. In 1994, even though she had never stepped foot on the OWU campus, Cornelia Fairbanks Albright left the largest single bequest the University had received up to that date. Her more-than-two-million-dollar gift endowed three faculty chairs in journalism, politics and government, and history. An accomplished fundraiser in her own right, Mary Milligan says, “The secret to raising money is to ask for it.”

Since Bill Milligan’s death in 1999, Mary Milligan has continued the family’s tradition of service to Ohio Wesleyan. Her latest contribution was the commissioning of the presidential portrait of Tom Courtice, HON ’04, Ohio Wesleyan’s 14th president, who served the University from 1994-2004. The portrait, by Sam Knecht, was unveiled during Homecoming 2007. “I wanted Tom to be remembered,” she says.

Milligan’s generosity doesn’t stop at Ohio Wesleyan. She’s involved in an array of Chicago-area organizations, especially the Women’s Board of Presbyterian Homes, where she has been a director for more than 20 years. She’s also an avid golfer. “I’m not very good,” she laughs, “but I like to play. And I’m a fly fisherman, too. Bill loved it, and we traveled all over the world, from New Zealand to Iceland, to fish. We found that Montana is as good as anyplace else in the world—and much easier to get to.”

In 2002, Ohio Wesleyan made Mary Milligan an honorary alumna. There’s surely no one more deserving.



MEMBERS OF THE OWU COMMUNITY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAMPUS TOUR IN EARLY NOVEMBER,

with Mike DiNardo, architect and partner of The Collaborative Inc., a Toledo-based architectural firm. Guiding his tour participants attending scheduled sessions in the campus center’s Benes rooms, DiNardo moved from one oversized architectural rendering posted on the wall, to another, describing at each juncture, a featured segment of the campus. Each poster zoned in on OWU’s residential, academic, athletics, and general activities sectors, displaying current campus buildings, streets, and walkways, as well as ideas for the future. DiNardo’s “tour” offered the Ohio Wesleyan family a conceptual journey into the realm of “possibility thinking” — which will culminate in an exciting facilities master plan for OWU. And as Ohio Wesleyan’s interim president and provost David Robbins observes, it has been almost two decades since OWU’s previous master plan.

“Over that time, many programmatic and lifestyle changes have taken place at our university, and current work with The Collaborative is designed to address those changes and analyze our current needs and reassess future space needs to maximize our attractiveness and effectiveness as an academic institution,” says Robbins. He emphasizes that while often overlooked and minimized, well-designed ergonomic factors within our physical space play a critical role in almost every aspect of our lives — enhancing our work efficiency, improving our health and safety, and making our sports and leisure times more enjoyable. And as a residential learning community,

COLLABORATING WITH THE COLLABORATIVE INC. ON OWU'S MASTER PLAN

By *Pam Besel*

Ohio Wesleyan is interested in not only the quality and quantity of our academic space, but also our athletic, recreational, and residential areas.

“Over the course of this academic year, The Collaborative, in consultation with our community, will be developing both short-term and long-term plans to enhance our current physical plant. This will be an exciting process that draws not only on the expertise of our consultants, but also on the vision and passion we all share for our great university,” says Robbins. DiNardo agrees.

“The planning process is a great thing for architects to be part of,” DiNardo explains. “Large scale [campus] town meetings encourage people to think about their goals, issues, passions, and any roadblocks that exist. We can use this information as we actually start to draft a plan.” That plan, which DiNardo refers to as the 10-year-plus plan, is becoming more focused as meetings involving his firm, OWU’s planning committee, and now, the larger community are occurring.

No strangers to Ohio Wesleyan, The Collaborative team has worked with the university for almost a decade on such projects as Edgar Art Hall, the Richard M. Ross Art Museum, Haycock Hall, the R.W. Corns Building, and Stuyvesant Hall’s Wellness Center.

“We see this campus as really well managed and organized,” says DiNardo, whose primary concern focuses on the east to west length of campus, and how to better connect the residential and academic areas.

“Students also need to feel there is a central campus area.” And the athletics complex is

another important component of this broader planning process.

“It seems logical that we look at project sequencing and securing more updated cost estimates pertaining to our ongoing *Remembering Mr. Rickey* campaign,” says Mark Shipp’s ’70, vice president for university relations. Four years have passed since receiving the original estimates. “We need to give our donors the best information we have and good ideas concerning [building] costs.” And those costs are ever rising.

“Steel and copper prices have doubled since last spring,” says Kurt Schmitt, president of Lincoln Construction, the same firm that assisted The Collaborative in preparing the original Rickey estimates. And fuel prices, as everyone is well aware, continue to increase almost daily. That fuel goes beyond the gasoline we pump into our cars.

“Fuel is in everything from plastic pipes, to asphalt, to shingles and plumbing pipes,” he says. Construction costs alone have escalated by 23 percent during the past five years.

“Campus planning and design are iterative,” says Chris Setzer, OWU’s director of buildings and grounds. “There are times when your original directions must shift, and you need to modify the plan.” What has remained constant over the past four years is progress of the athletics campaign.

“This mini-campaign is the first to encompass a number of our facilities,” says Shipp’s. Those include Selby Field, Branch Rickey Arena, Gordon Field House, Edwards Gymnasium, the Sagan softball field, Littick baseball field, the field hockey and football/lacrosse fields, and the tennis courts. “We have finished the softball field, new landscaping on Henry Street, and roof work on Edwards Gymnasium, including the skylight, roof

repair, and upgrades in the weight room,” says Shipp’s. (All of this amid unexpected roof leakage and repairs in Branch Rickey Arena, following last year’s heavy snow, ice, and rainfall. Further scrutiny about the life span of that facility and others is unavoidable.)

Concurrent with work being completed on the Rickey campaign were new irrigation systems that have been installed in the hockey field as well as the lacrosse practice fields and the Littick baseball field. New turf and a new track surface installed at Selby Field enable students to use that facility for such fall sports as field hockey, football, lacrosse (practice), and men’s and women’s cross country. In the spring, the field is available for lacrosse competition and men’s and women’s track sports. Usage patterns are definitely changing—information that DiNardo and OWU’s planning committee are noting.

“We are working together to determine the University’s goals and more immediate priorities,” he says. “We then can decide when and how to phase in projects and obtain cost estimates.” Some projects, DiNardo believes, need attention sooner than others, such as the parking area near Edwards Gymnasium, which he views as the entryway to campus, and an immediate image-maker.

“Campus planning is a wonderful process and it’s fun to watch people get more excited as they envision the institution’s future.”

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



Abram Wilson '95 combines his love for music and education in his latest project.

OWU ALUMNUS ABRAM WILSON RECOGNIZED

Abram Wilson '95 grew up playing his trumpet in the jazz clubs deep in New Orleans, and now travels the world spreading his musical talent. And though he has piles of musical memories from his time at Ohio Wesleyan, the cafeteria sticks out most to him.

"It seems so random, but one of the things that sticks out is the midnight buffets at Smith [Hall]," says Wilson, who has called London, England, home for the past five years. "It was the most communal, happy time. Everyone would be there—it was a warm experience."

For Ohio Wesleyan professor Larry Griffin, who cultivated Wilson at the undergraduate level, the memories also are strong.

"You just knew Abram was going to do something special," says Griffin. "It's rare that I have the opportunity to interact with a student who has that level of integrity and talent."

Wilson had an upbringing rich in music before landing at Ohio Wesleyan in 1991. Both of his parents were music enthusiasts—his mother played clarinet and his father sang and played guitar—and Wilson recalls hearing the sounds of Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder frequently as a child.

At the age of nine, Wilson decided he would become a professional drummer. His mother had other thoughts and brought home a nice, shiny trumpet.

"I fell in love with it right away," he says, with a laugh.

Wilson has transformed his musical talent into a successful career, winning a British Jazz Award 2007 for Best New CD and receiving nominations for the Music of Black Origin (MOBO) award for Best Jazz Act 2007, and three BBC Jazz Awards in 2005 and 2007. He spends his days practicing, touring, and coming up with new ways to spread his love of music across the world.

Right now, he's working on youth jazz education and professional artist development for Tomorrow's Warriors Ltd., in collaboration with Dune Records. He also developed "Ride! Ferris Wheel To The Modern Day Delta," a jazz story about a young man in backwater Mississippi, and "Roll Jordan Roll," a musical and historical project based on the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a group of freed slaves who achieved monumental success in England in the late 19th century.

Wilson's favorite part of his job is interacting with young people through musical workshops. As a music education major at Ohio Wesleyan, youth education and awareness still ignites his passion.

"Jazz is such a life-changing experience," he says, mentioning the challenge of competing for adolescents' time with modern-day giants like MTV. "When kids are able to see it performed live, they're just like, 'wow!'"

Griffin recalls Wilson's face lighting up when he performed as an undergraduate for local Delaware school children.

"He wanted the kids to learn everything he

knew," says Griffin. "Abram communicated jazz so they could see why it is important, as a means of expression. He gave them a piece of himself, and I admire that."

To current aspiring musicians, Wilson says to stay determined and be proactive about shaping your own career. Don't wait for others to do it for you.

"It's important to practice, but you need to get out and show people what you can do," he says, pointing out that it's even beneficial to branch out to different types of music and different instruments.

Griffin encourages everyone—musician, or not—to enjoy the talents of one of Ohio Wesleyan's greatest accomplishments.

"Abram Wilson benefited from Ohio Wesleyan, but Ohio Wesleyan has also benefited from Abram Wilson," says Griffin, who would love to bring the musician to campus for a performance in the future. "It's time to bring Abram home."

To hear samples of his music, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.MySpace.com/abramwilson"](http://www.MySpace.com/abramwilson) www.MySpace.com/abramwilson and www.abramwilson.com.

Ms. Marcum is Assistant Director of Media and Community Relations at Ohio Wesleyan.

Hitting the High Notes

BY MUSIC OF BLACK ORIGIN, BBC

By *Ann Marcum*



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

By *Ericka Kurtz*



Four OWU coaches, four OWU alumni, left to right: Jon Whithaus '91, Tyler Mott '04, Mike DeWitt '87, and Bob Barnes '88.

It speaks volumes about a university when its alumni want to continue their careers there. At Ohio Wesleyan, four head coaches are also OWU alumni — Bob Barnes '88, head women's soccer coach; Mike DeWitt '87, head men's basketball coach; Tyler Mott '04, interim head baseball coach; and Jon Whithaus '91, head golf coach.

"I think when prospective students see that alumni are still here, it brings a great deal of credibility to OWU," says Barnes. All four of the coaches view working at their alma mater as a huge advantage.

"I haven't found coaching here more of a challenge than coaching anywhere else," says DeWitt. "In fact, being an alumnus made the initial transition period easier because I knew many of the people here as well as how everything worked administratively."

Barnes agrees. "I know people all over the OWU campus from administrators to faculty to athletics to housekeeping."

"There are challenges every day when you're a coach," Mott says. "But I definitely think the fact I'm an alumnus is much more of an asset than a liability."

"I've been through what my players have been through, and that helps," Whithaus says. "The current players are getting the same opportunity to change their lives that I had."

Watching current student-athletes have the same great experiences that they enjoyed at OWU is a common thread for all four coaches, but each has his own special reasons for being at Ohio Wesleyan, too.

For Jon Whithaus, it's the legacy of Dick Gordin '52. "The golf tradition at Ohio Wesleyan is deep," he says. "And we have the 'Gordin Way'

of doing things, which includes respecting others. It's difficult to explain, but it's easy to know when you're not following the 'Gordin Way.'"

"For me, the best part about working at Ohio Wesleyan is carrying on the tradition of good things that have happened here," says Mott. "The quality of alumni here is impressive, which says a lot about OWU. Athletics gives kids a lot of great qualities and prepares them for the real world — I'm proud to be part of that."

"Besides the actual coaching of the men's basketball team, the best part of coaching at OWU as an alumnus — at least for me — is the nearly daily contact I have with all the other basketball alumni from the various eras of OWU basketball," says DeWitt. "Their support of our program is truly special."

Barnes also keeps in contact with many of his former teammates. "It's easier to do that since I'm at OWU," he says. "I have so many great memories of Ohio Wesleyan. In the classroom it was the pleasure of having Dr. Alice Simon — the best-ever — as a professor; playing every game on the soccer field with my teammates, especially beating Akron; watching our men's basketball team win a national title; the men's lacrosse team having epic battles with Hobart for national championships; the list goes on."

Barnes, DeWitt, Mott, and Whithaus are not the only alumni to call the OWU Athletics Department home — several other alumni also work or volunteer in the department including: Bruce

Anderson '78, track and field; Harold Dale '04, football; Kelly Dew '97, office manager; Jeff Fisher 'XX, men's soccer; Fody Frentsos '84, baseball; Sheila Gisbrecht '95, volleyball; Mike Holden '70, football; Hillary Hughes Miller '06, women's soccer; Matt Ufferman '01, women's soccer; Jon Van Horn '01, men's soccer; Jessica Viertlboeck '01, women's basketball; and Jon Way '95, football.

Ms. Kurtz is Assistant Director of University Communications and Assistant Editor of the Magazine at Ohio Wesleyan.

Marge Sagan Field to Open in Spring

By *Mark Beckenbach '81*

The coming of spring 2008 will herald the arrival of a new era in Ohio Wesleyan softball, when the opening of Margaret Sagan Field gives the Battling Bishops their first home field in more than a generation.





"It's the realization of a dream for softball players," says Mark Shipps '70, vice president for university relations. "It's been difficult for them to do well without having a home field. I'm excited for the team, and I'm excited for the coach. I know Marge Sagan is really thrilled about this and hopes to be here in the spring to throw out the first ball."

Margaret Sagan Field is located on Henry Street directly south of Littick Field, Ohio Wesleyan's existing baseball field. It is oriented similarly to Littick Field, with home plate at the northwest corner of the lot, the first base line parallel to Henry Street and the third base line heading toward US 23, which lies beyond the leftfield fence.

The facility features dugouts, bleacher seating, and a two-story press box with areas for concessions and storage. Original specifications called for dimensions of 200 feet down the lines, 207 feet in the alleys and 215 feet to straightaway center.

"The impact emotionally and psychologically upon our softball team can't be measured," says Roger Ingles, Ohio Wesleyan athletics director.

Constructed in conjunction with Margaret Sagan Field was a matching two-story press box at Littick Field. The Littick Field press box also includes a media area and office space on the second floor, as well as a concession area, a storage area, and restrooms on the ground floor.

The press box sits directly behind the backstop, and the bleachers, which formerly occupied that space, have been repositioned to the sides.

Another part of the project is the parking lot, which has been constructed off Henry Street, south of Margaret Sagan Field, allowing off-street parking at softball contests.

"The softball team has been really patient while we raised money and got the extra approvals to get baseball done and the landscaping along Henry Street," Shipps says. "This project was bigger than just softball."

"The aesthetic impact upon Henry Street is tremendous," says Ingles. "This is a facility we are very proud of and pleased to have our student-athletes participate on in the future."

Mr. Beckenbach '81 is Director of Sports Information at Ohio Wesleyan.



As reported by the former center of OWU's 1967 undefeated Ohio Athletic Conference championship football team, Pat Flanagan '68, "Our weekend team reunion was a great success." Nineteen team members and several players who preceded or followed the '67 team attended the weekend festivities, which included a golf outing, social gathering at the home of former OWU linebacker Tony Heald '71, pre-game breakfast with the current OWU team followed by the game against Wabash, and the half-time recognition of the 1967 team, with a dinner later in the evening.

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Celebrate Their Success.

Alumni Happenings »

November 3

Delaware, OH

The OWU English Department held an alumni event on Saturday, November 3 to provide current students a chance to network with our distinguished English Department alumni, celebrate the careers and impending retirements of Ülle Lewes and Dennis Prindle, and to talk about the upcoming campaign and the plans for the English Department. Approximately 75 alumni, current students, faculty, and emeriti enjoyed getting to know each other at the event.

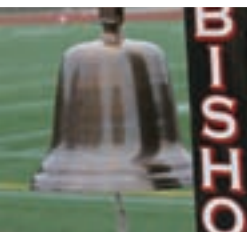
November 7

Columbus, OH

A group of 25 Central Ohio Golden Bishops enjoyed a docent-led tour of the exhibit "In Monet's Garden: The Lure of Giverny" at the Columbus Museum of Art. Following the tour, the group enjoyed each other as they had the opportunity to peruse through the museum's other exhibits.



ON CAMPUS



GIVE A GIFT . . . TRANSFORM A LIFE.



"The scholarship at OWU, and its liberal arts philosophy, contributed significantly to my careers in both the USAF and with General Motors. Both careers were exciting and rewarding, and they provided the means to raise our family and to provide for the education of our two children. Without the OWU experience, none of this would have been possible."

— Tom Tatham, 1956

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<http://annualfund.owu.edu/>

ON OCTOBER 27, 2007, AN OHIO WESLEYAN ERA PASSED.

Mary Poe Timmons '22, the University's oldest alumna, passed away at the age of 104. Holder of the Monnett Teapot, Timmons returned frequently to OWU during Alumni Weekend to lead the annual Parade of Classes. In 2002, she became the first alumna ever to attend her 80th class reunion. Timmons last visited Ohio



Wesleyan in May when she celebrated her 85th class reunion.

After graduating from OWU, Mary Poe taught high school English, algebra, and geometry before marrying Donald Timmons '22. Their five sons – John '47, Richard '50, Robert '50, Frank '52, and James '61 – all attended Ohio Wesleyan as well as niece Nancy Poe Wenzlau '50, Thomas Wenzlau '50, 12th President of OWU, great niece Kathy Wenzlau Comer '76 current member of the Board of Trustees, and many other family members.

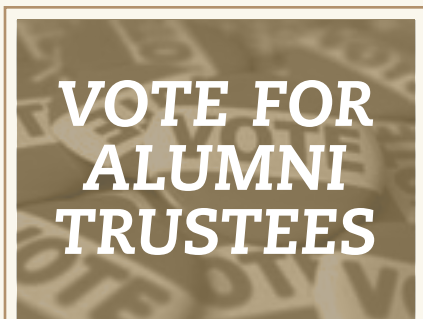
Sons Frank and Jim also served on University boards; Frank as a member of the Alumni Association and Jim as a life trustee of the Board of Trustees.

Timmons once told one of her grandchildren that her favorite Bible verse was “To whom much is given – much is required,” explaining that she interpreted the verse to mean “whatever a person is given, something of that must be given back” – words that sum up the long and generous life of Mary Poe Timmons.

Mock Convention Set for February 1-2

OWU Alumni! There's another campaign you should remember in 2008!

On February 1-2, Ohio Wesleyan will host its Mock Convention in Gray Chapel. A tradition on the campus since 1884, the event brings together current students, alumni, and the campus community to “choose” the next presidential candidate. More details and event schedules are available at [HYPER-LINK “http://mock2008.owu.edu”](http://mock2008.owu.edu) <http://mock2008.owu.edu>



See page 46 for nominee information

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To register for events, visit the Web site at <http://alumni.owu.edu/events.html> or contact the Alumni Office at (740) 368-3325 or events@owu.edu.

FEBRUARY

February 2—Naples, FL

The annual Naples luncheon will be held at a new location, The Quail Creek Country Club. This year's special guest will be David. O. Robbins, interim president and provost.

February 7—Cleveland, OH

A reception at the Urien Club featuring OWU Politics & Government Professor Craig Ramsey, who will discuss the Super Tuesday primaries and what is on the horizon for the 2008 Presidential Election.

February 9—On Campus

20th Reunion of the 1988 Men's Basketball National Championship Team

MARCH

March 6—Houston, TX

Houston area Battling Bishops will gather for a reception featuring Burt DuPont '61, director, Center for Infectious Diseases, University of Texas Medical School and chief, Internal Medicine Service, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston at Maggiano's Little Italy.

March 28-30—On Campus

Fiji Pig Dinner Weekend and Phi Delt Union

APRIL

April 12—On Campus

A reception and celebration of the many contributions of Denny Radabaugh and Sally Waterhouse. We hope to prepare a photographic tribute to their many adventures, whether in the Galapagos and lowlands of South America, the midnight swamps of Delaware County, or the classrooms of Ohio Wesleyan. For this purpose we need your help. If you have photographs you would be willing to loan for inclusion in the show or anecdotes you would be willing to share, please send them to:

Jed Burtt or David Markwardt

Department of Zoology, Ohio Wesleyan University
Delaware, OH 43015-2390

or email them to:

Jed: ehburtt@owu.edu

David: ddmarkwa@owu.edu

MAY

May 16-18—On Campus

Alumni Weekend 2008

**If you are interested in coordinating an OWU event in your city or would like to assist with one of the events listed above, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@owu.edu or (740) 368-3325.

OFF CAMPUS





September 9

Columbus, OH

About 60 Columbus area Battling Bishops gathered at Fado's Irish Pub at the Easton Town Center for a Young Alumni Networking Social. Politics & Government Professor Sean Kay and Jim Breece performed some live music for the group.

September 15

Columbus Monnett

Over 30 alumnae from Central Ohio gathered at Lindy's in German Village to hear from owner and author Sue Goetz Doody '56 discuss her new book, *As the Tables Turn*.

September 26

San Antonio, TX

The San Antonio Riverwalk looked eerily similar to the OWU's "Jaywalk" as area Battling Bishops gathered at Biga on the Banks for dinner and to find out what is going on back at OWU.

September 27

Austin, TX

Battling Bishops in Austin met at Louie's 106 for dinner and to find out what's new at OWU and to catch up with past friends.

September 28

Cleveland, OH

Nearly 100 alumni gathered at the Cleveland Yachting Club for a Clambake with special guest David Robbins, interim president and provost.

September 29

Baltimore, MD

Over 50 Battling Bishops in the Baltimore/DC area met on a gorgeous fall afternoon at Phillip's Seafood for a traditional bay area crab bake dinner.

October 23

Ann Arbor, MI

Nearly 30 Battling Bishops gathered for a wine tasting reception at Vinology in Ann Arbor.

October 23

Detroit, MI

Detroit area Battling Bishops gathered at Andiamo Osteria in Royal Oak for a wine tasting reception.

November 5

Columbus Monnett

Central Ohio Alumane gathered at the home of Jan Kaye Fritz '57 to learn about decorating for the holidays.

November 7

New York Young Alumni

A group of New York City young alumni gathered at Rosa Mexicano in Union Square for a Young Alumni Networking Social.

On opposite page:

- 1 Columbus: Politics & Government Professor Sean Kay and Jim Breece rock Fado's during the Young Alumni Networking Social in Columbus.
- 2 Columbus: A group of alumni gather at Fado's.
- 3 Monnett: (l to r) Dorothy Stokes Peppe '38, Jean Randall Ludwig '34, Sally Spencer Patton '36.
- 4 Monnett: Sue Goetz Doody '56 shares anecdotes from her book *As the Tables Turn*.
- 5 San Antonio: Alumni reconnect at Biga on the Banks.
- 6 Austin: A group of alumni and friends enjoy dinner at Louie's 106.
- 7 Cleveland: Alumni during the Cleveland Clambake.
- 8 Cleveland: Young alumni gather with Interim President David Robbins.
- 9 Ann Arbor: Alumni spend an evening at a wine tasting reception
- 10 Detroit: The group enjoys an evening of wine tasting.

PASS ON THE OHIO WESLEYAN TRADITION

Do you know current high school students who are looking for a college experience that provides academic rigor, a place that they can discover their passion, and a tradition of transforming lives?

CONTINUE THE OHIO WESLEYAN TRADITION. Encourage talented students you know to consider OWU. Visit our Web site and refer them. This will help us to reach out and encourage them to discover OWU—and to share with these students the OWU story. It's quick and easy.

www.alumni.owu.edu/apartstudentref.html





Be A/PART of Ohio Wesleyan's Future

Invest in OWU's future by sharing your time with and passion about your alma mater. Join the Alumni/Parent Admission Recruitment Team (A/PART)!

By representing OWU at a local college fair; attending an admission program in your area; contacting prospective students and their families to share your experiences as an alum; or informing Ohio Wesleyan of talented students from local high

schools, you'll have a special opportunity to inspire them to learn more about Ohio Wesleyan, and hopefully, to enroll!

We are looking for volunteers from all areas of the country but particularly those of you from: Baltimore, MD; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; Detroit/Ann Arbor, MI; Nashville, TN; Philadelphia, PA; Phoenix, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; and St. Louis, MO.

For more information on the A/PART program, visit our Web site at <http://alumni.owu.edu/apart.html>, or contact Ed Lenane, assistant director of alumni relations-volunteer coordinator at ewlenane@owu.edu.



Alumni/Parent Admission Recruitment Team

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Vote for your representatives to the Board of Trustees! Make sure to send in your ballot to the Alumni Office by March 1, 2008.

ABOUT THE NOMINEES

Christopher P. Anderson '98 (restricted category) – Christopher is currently an Associate with the law firm of Arnold & Porter, LLP in New York City where his practice focuses on complex environmental litigation, including Superfund cases, natural resource damages claims, and other regulatory enforcement actions. He graduated from OWU with a degree in Music and Philosophy in 2002 graduated from the Harvard Law School where he served as symposium chair of the *Harvard Law Review*. Shortly after graduating from Harvard he served as a law clerk for a Federal Appeals Court judge. In the past he has served as an Ohio Wesleyan Annual Fund Giving Committee member.

John C. Gordon '76 – John is President of Gordon Document Products, Inc. based in Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from OWU with a degree in Politics & Government and in 1979 graduated from Mercer University Law School. He serves as the treasurer and director for the West Mental Health Foundation in Atlanta. He is active as an alumnus with the Atlanta Alumni Chapter, Alumni Admission Representative, and Annual Fund Representative. John is a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Michael G. Long '66 - Mike is a Partner for the law firm of Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP in Columbus, OH. After graduating from OWU with an Economics Major, Mike received his law degree from The Ohio State University in 1969. As an alumnus he has served on the Alumni Board of Directors and has served as the University Council until assuming his current role as the vice chair of the Board of Trustees. Mike is a member of Sigma Chi.

Peter K. Pak '90 – Peter is a Cofounder of The Decatur Group, a private equity firm focused on middle-market transactions. Prior to cofounding this firm, Peter was an executive vice president of Affordable Residential Communities Inc. and served as a principal with Fox Paine & Co. and Indosuez Capital. He graduated from OWU with a degree in Economics Management and Politics & Government, served as a captain of the men's soccer team and is a member the OWU Hall of Fame. Peter is a member of Phi Kappa Psi and has served as an alumni admissions representative and has been active in Team OWU.

C. Paul Palmer IV '96 (restricted category) – Paul currently serves as vice president of development and corporate counsel for the National Lime and Stone Company. As a student, he was active in Varsity Golf. He is an attorney and has a law degree from Indiana University School of Law. Prior to joining National Lime and Stone, he worked as an associate attorney at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, a New York City law firm. Paul is a member of Sigma Chi.



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WANTED

Reunion Planning Committee Members

Enthusiastic OWU alumni are needed to assist in the planning and communication of their class reunion. Share great times with alumni and keep the OWU spirit alive. Volunteers will inform classmates about Alumni Weekend 2008 class activities. Contact Brenda DeWitt at (740) 368-3329 or bedewitt@owu.edu in the Alumni Relations Office to get involved. The name list for committee members for Alumni Weekend 2008 is not all inclusive. If you have previously volunteered to help with your reunion and we have inadvertently left your name off of the list, please contact our office to let us know that you want to help plan your reunion.

IRELAND

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September 4-12, 2008

*For more information, please call (800) 323-7373
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The Young Alumni Connections in each city focus on events for alumni who graduated within the last 10 years. If your city isn't listed and you would like to have an event in your area, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 740-368-3325 or alumni@owu.edu.

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May 16-18

A L U M N I W E E K E N D 2 0 0 8



All alumni are invited to Return to campus to Renew friendships and Reunite during Alumni Weekend. Classes ending in "3" and "8" will be featured as they celebrate special reunion years.

The All-Alumni Parade and Luncheon, a Blues & Barbeque, art exhibits, delicious food, Alumni College sessions, and great conversation with wonderful friends are just some of the highlights of Alumni Weekend. Mark your calendar today and make plans to return to Ohio Wesleyan.

SUBMIT YOUR REUNION CLASS NOTES ONLINE AND KEEP UP WITH ALL THINGS ALUMNI WEEKEND AT [HTTP://WEEKEND.OWU.EDU](http://weekend.owu.edu) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MARCH 1, 2008.

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2007 President's Ball