

# OWU

Ohio Wesleyan Magazine  
VOLUME 87 ISSUE NO. 3 ♻️ FALL 2010

## Learning Adventure in Vietnam

**HOW AN OWU HISTORY COURSE PREPARED STUDENTS  
FOR THE ACADEMIC JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME**



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# OWU

Ohio Wesleyan Magazine

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From a classroom on OWU's campus to the country of Vietnam, students traveled halfway around the world to deepen their insight and understanding of one of the longest and most harrowing wars in history.

### 26 A Tradition of Exceptional Teaching

Meet our two latest recipients of Ohio Wesleyan's teaching awards.



ON THE COVER: Pictured here are several OWU students enjoying a quiet moment on Vietnam's Halong Bay. OWU professors Michael Flamm, Joan McLean, ten students, and OWU alumnus Carl Harris '56 were part of "The Vietnam Experience" travel-learning opportunity which took place in mid-May. Complementing an OWU history course, "America in the Sixties," and a weekly seminar on Vietnam, the two-week journey through Vietnam expanded each student's understanding of the devastation of the Vietnam War, the resilience of the people, and post-war reconciliation efforts. *See our story on page 17.*

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Class Notes

# *Selby under the lights!*

*First night game in the history of  
Ohio Wesleyan's Selby Field  
took place Saturday, September 25.*





## A New Year at OWU Takes Flight

ON A GLORIOUS SUNDAY EVENING IN LATE SUMMER, I FIND MYSELF ABSORBED IN THE ENERGY THAT ACCOMPANIES THE SIMPLE FACT THAT OCCURS ON EVERY COLLEGE CAMPUS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR: **THE STUDENTS ARE BACK.** They have been in the process of coming back for close to two weeks—the slow trickle of arrivals that began with resident assistants and house moderators, followed by athletes, Orientation leaders, international students, and about ten percent of the freshman class who come four days early to participate in pre-orientation FreshX wilderness experiences or three days of volunteer work with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Then, in one day, the entire freshman class arrives, bringing energy, anticipation, uncertainty, a bit of anxiety, and a full dose of enthusiasm for all that lies ahead. Two days

later, the remaining upperclassmen return, and the campus is at full occupancy and moving at full speed. Once again, the University is set to fulfill its historic mission of providing a life-changing educational experience on a residential campus that touches every aspect of the students' lives. So it is with great delight that we again celebrate this simple fact: the students are back.

This year that phrase takes on new meaning. Since the last academic year ended, OWU students have traveled to 30 countries on five continents as part of new initiatives designed to give them the opportunity to connect theory to practice in a global context. Some of the students participated in class groups, accompanying our faculty members, Dr. Michael Flamm (history) and Dr. Joan McLean (politics and government) to Vietnam at the conclusion of a course on American



History in the 1960s. Those who traveled with Dr. Mary Howard (sociology/anthropology), Dr. Denny Radabaugh (zoology), and Dr. Sally Waterhouse (zoology) studied the physical and human ecology of Bolivia. Other students traveled in small groups or individually to study, among other things, child welfare in India, health care in rural South Africa, green turtles in Costa Rica, and post-conflict transition in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Others joined a small group of administrators and Doug Dittrick '55 in Haiti to consider the OWU Haiti Initiative. Still other students took up equally interesting assignments closer to home, including projects for the Summer Science Research program; internships in politics in Washington, D.C.; hands-on learning about the arts in New York, and about business in Philadelphia—just to name a few. These students return to campus with a kaleidoscope of summer experiences that have deepened their individual understanding and expanded their individual world views. The collective result of these experiences is a campus that is even more intellectually alive and even more aware of the pressing challenges facing our global society.

While our returning students come back to campus from around the world, we have welcomed an extraordinary new class of freshmen. The class is more than ten percent larger than last year's class. As in recent years, ten percent of the students come from outside the United States, enriching our campus with a wonderful variety of life experiences. More than 15 percent of our students are domestic multicultural students, reflecting again the rich diversity that is so important to a campus dedicated to preparing a new generation of

leaders to address the complex challenges of our time. Many first-year students have told me that they chose OWU because of the variety of opportunities available for international study. They have talked specifically about their interest in travel-learning courses, and many of them already are thinking about applying for theory-to-practice grants. They are excited about the improvements to the campus, with several students telling me they chose OWU because of the new Meek Aquatics and Recreation Center.

Sixteen months ago, the faculty and Board of Trustees enthusiastically and unanimously endorsed a strategic plan dedicated to the development and resourcing of curricular and co-curricular initiatives that prepare a new generation of global leaders for a global society. We pledged to do this by building on the foundation of a classical liberal arts education with opportunities for students to connect theory to practice in a global context. Today, the results are encouraging. The faculty has embraced the opportunity for substantial curricular innovation. Students this summer have traveled the world. New students have chosen OWU because of these opportunities. Alumni, like Carl Harris '56, who traveled with

the group to Vietnam and whose story is told in this issue of the *Magazine*, have stepped forward to open doors, establish connections, develop internships, and provide financial resources. But a strategic plan is only a roadmap. Ultimately, the plan is not so much about the University as it is about the new generation of students we will serve and the impact they will have as a result of their time here.

For almost 168 years, Ohio Wesleyan has provided an education grounded in the classical disciplines of the liberal arts but structured in a way that is fresh and relevant for each new generation. The University opens and closes each academic year with the ringing of the historic bell. The bell, in its own way, announces the enduring purpose of this institution. More importantly, at the opening of the new academic year, the bell announces the arrival of a new generation and the simple fact that calls us to our daily work and animates this campus in the best of ways. The students are back!

Rock Jones, *President*



*Gloria Steinem headlines OWU's 2010 Sagan National Colloquium.*



## Big Names, Big Reputations, Small University

*How does a university with fewer than 2,000 students attract the likes of presidential candidates, famous athletes, premier scholars, Nobel Peace Prize winners, and four-star generals?*

Arthur Ashe, Simon Wiesenthal, John McCain, Strobe Talbott, Susan Eisenhower, Kurt Vonnegut, Joseph Nye ... these are just a few of the distinguished speakers that a small liberal arts college with approximately 1,850 students called Ohio Wesleyan University has attracted. And this fall, you can add internationally renowned writer,

lecturer, editor, and feminist activist Gloria Steinem to the list.

Steinem, who has been involved in social justice movements for more than 40 years, will speak on October 8 about “Women, Activism, and Change on a Global Level” as she headlines the University’s 2010 Sagan National Colloquium. The theme of this year’s Colloquium is “Global Opportunities for Global Citizens.”

“Ohio Wesleyan University is fortunate to attract many notable speakers representing a variety of academic disciplines and of social and political viewpoints,” says President Rock Jones. “It is particularly rewarding to see our students have the opportunity to engage with internationally renowned individuals who visit our campus.”

But how does a university no bigger than some high schools attract such prestigious, nationally and internationally known figures and offer speaker series that are on par with Ivy League schools? Chalk it up to its top-notch reputation, esteemed faculty, educated student body, generous donors, and distinguished alumni. But one faculty member, in particular, has been instrumental in bringing dozens of high profile figures to the University in the last decade.



*Wesley Clark, retired U.S. Army Four-Star General*

## A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

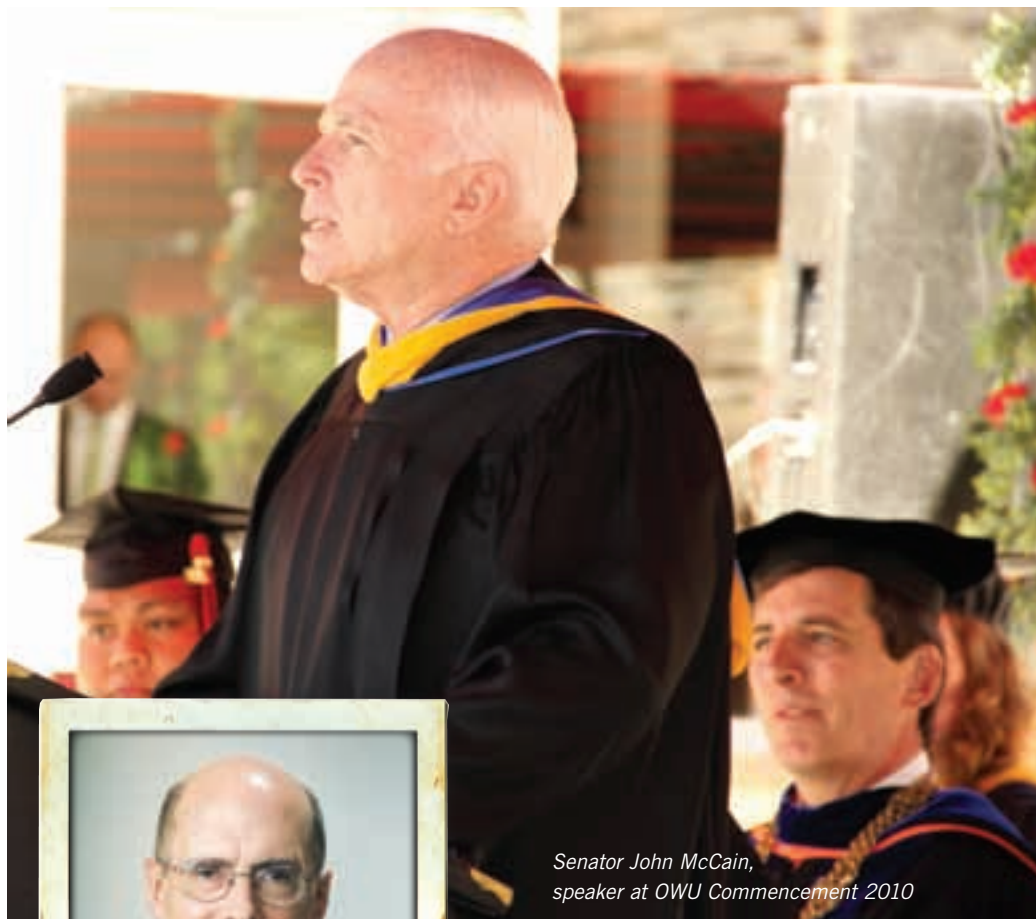
Sean Kay, professor in the Department of Politics and Government and International Studies Coordinator, is a well-known national expert in international relations. In his 11 years at OWU, he has graciously utilized the connections and friendships he forged through his many years working in high levels of government, with NATO, and teaching at prestigious universities such as Dartmouth, bringing to Ohio Wesleyan the likes of generals, scholars, and experts in their fields. They come because they know Kay and because of OWU’s stellar reputation.

No other Ohio liberal arts college can say they have had programming like OWU, Kay says with confidence. “It truly distinguishes us,” he says. “I’m especially proud of the fact that we have had some of the most prominently ranked scholars of international relations in the history of the field at OWU, including Robert Gilpin, Robert Keohane, John Mearsheimer, Stephen Walt, Alexander Wendt, and James Fearon. These are some of the most important scholars in the field and very few other schools like OWU can claim that mantle.”

## FOUR-STAR REPUTATION

Ohio Wesleyan attracts these speakers because of the excellence of its reputation as a major hub for the study of international relations and related policy in the United States, Kay says. “One of the great attractions for our speakers has been our students. Virtually every speaker we have comments afterwards on the outstanding quality of our student questions and discussions.”

By working his connections, Kay has brought retired four-star generals such as U.S. Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni, U.S. Army General Wesley Clark, and U.S. Army General John Abizaid, as well as Joseph Nye, a premier scholar in international relations. Kay also has invited Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institution and former Deputy Secretary of State for former President Bill Clinton, as well as 1997 Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams and Susan Eisenhower, an expert on international security and relations. All were welcome additions to OWU’s



Strobe Talbott

Senator John McCain,  
speaker at OWU Commencement 2010

speakers' repertoire.

"Often a speaker will just pop up on the radar, or someone I meet at a meeting or in a media appearance or such, and we get to talking, and before you know it they are lined up for OWU," he says. "Most of our speakers have a general impression of OWU. Generally they are mostly keen to get out of their policy or academic bubble and into the heartland and engage with the audience that we provide."

And while Kay has brought many notable speakers to Ohio Wesleyan, an assortment of other individuals and groups have brought

speakers such as Steinem, or the many talented alums who have returned to share their life experiences: journalists Byron Pitts '82, and Gregory Moore '76; novelist Richard North Patterson '68; and actress Wendie Malick '72. Steinem is coming thanks to the networking of Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies Richelle Shrock, director of this year's Colloquium, and the help of third-wave feminist Jennifer Baumgardner, who spoke at OWU last spring,

"Typically, these visits include classroom presentations, roundtable conversations with students, and public lectures," Jones says. "I have been particularly impressed with the attendance at the lectures and with the quality of questions posed by students in response to the presentations by visiting speakers."

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

## 2010 SAGAN NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM EXPLORES



Headlining Ohio Wesleyan's 2010 Sagan National Colloquium (SNC) is internationally known women's rights advocate and writer Gloria Steinem at 4 p.m. on October 8 in Gray Chapel. Steinem is one of more than a dozen distinguished speakers who are part of this year's Colloquium, which is exploring "Global Opportunities for Global Citizens."

Richelle Schrock, assistant professor at OWU and Director of Women's and Gender Studies, is coordinating SNC, which is multidisciplinary in nature and, as Schrock explains, includes scholars and activists from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

"Our speakers will address such topics as environmental pollution, Muslim American political identity, the Mexican diaspora, the role of women as global leaders, and international security policy," says Schrock. "The challenges of the 21st century require that students learn to see themselves as future leaders who will grapple with issues on a global scale. This year, SNC questions how to conceive citizenship when the scientific, economic, and political institutions that govern our lives are operative on a global scale."

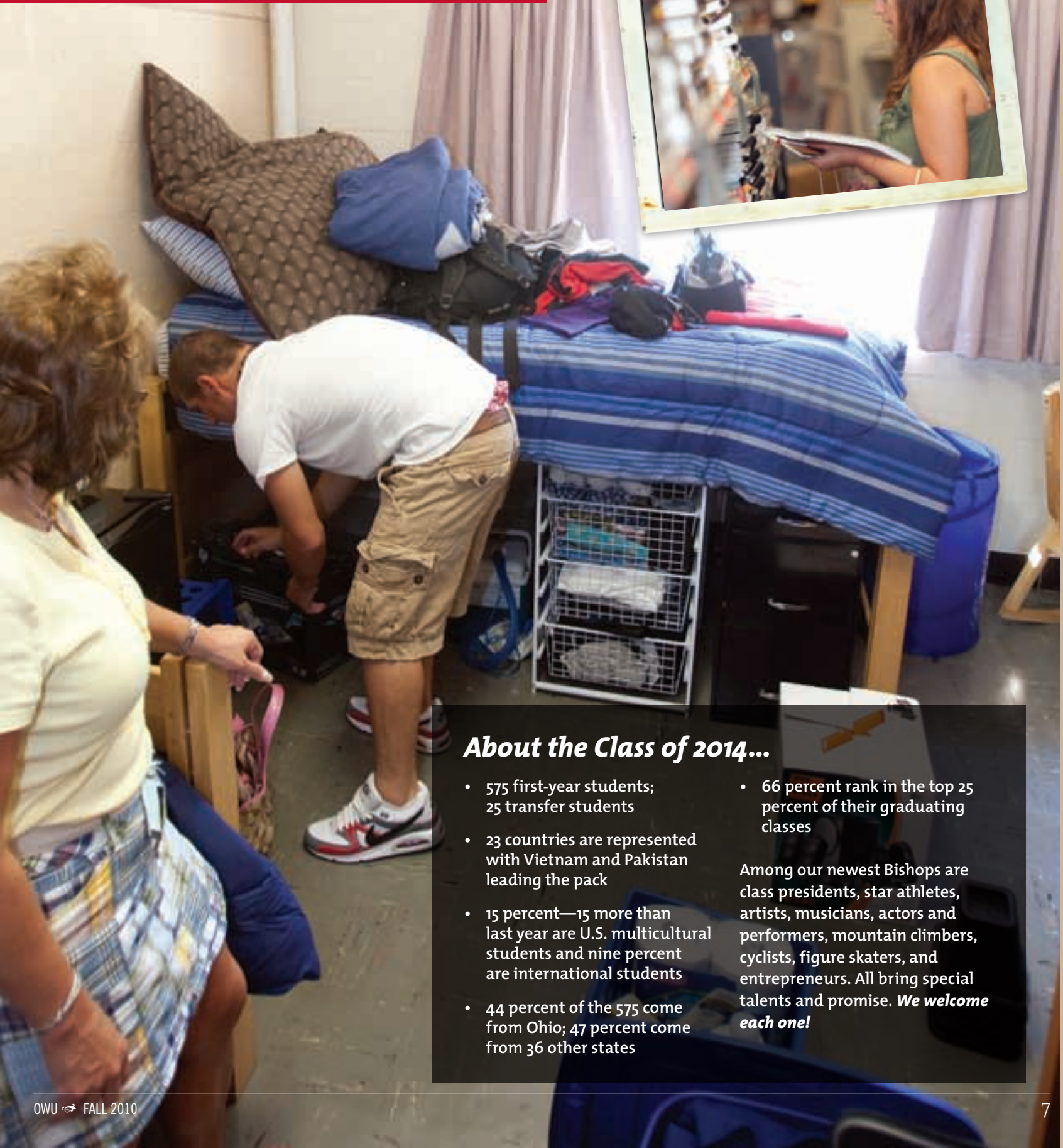
The bottom line: Students who participate in the Colloquium, says Schrock, will take away a more comprehensive understanding of what active citizenship means in the context of globalization.

To read more about OWU's 2010 Sagan National Colloquium, visit our Web site at <http://snc.owu.edu>





# MOVE-IN : 2010



## About the Class of 2014...

- 575 first-year students; 25 transfer students
- 23 countries are represented with Vietnam and Pakistan leading the pack
- 15 percent—15 more than last year are U.S. multicultural students and nine percent are international students
- 44 percent of the 575 come from Ohio; 47 percent come from 36 other states
- 66 percent rank in the top 25 percent of their graduating classes

Among our newest Bishops are class presidents, star athletes, artists, musicians, actors and performers, mountain climbers, cyclists, figure skaters, and entrepreneurs. All bring special talents and promise. ***We welcome each one!***



From Convocation to the festive New Student and Family Picnic — it was a day for building friendships and a sense of community.





New York's Radio City Hall hosts more than the well-known Rockettes dancers. The hall also was the locale of the recent recognition ceremony during which **OWU President Rock Jones** accepted the **University's National Presidential Award for Excellence in Community Service** from Patrick Covington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The award recognizes OWU students' outstanding commitment to service. For more about this, click on [links.owu.edu/communityserviceaward](http://links.owu.edu/communityserviceaward).

## Strengthening the OWU Connection

***New Mellon Foundation grant will support faculty efforts to enhance the student curriculum.***

Ohio Wesleyan has been awarded a two-year \$100,000 Officer's Grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support faculty efforts to enhance the student curriculum. The funding will support elements of OWU's new "OWU Connection" curricular plan—and the University's commitment to provide OWU students with challenging coursework that connects academic theory

to real-world practice. Preparing students for citizenship, leadership and problem solving in an increasingly global society is a key goal of the new plan.

Being piloted this fall, the OWU Connection contains four elements: a new first-year course designed to help students maximize their time at OWU; a Course Connection network encouraging students to explore multiple academic disciplines; expanded travel-learning courses providing more international experiences and incorporating travel experiences into coursework; and expanded independent project opportunities, enabling students to bring new ideas to support their work, as they collaborate with faculty advisers and share work with the community.

Ohio Wesleyan's Mellon Foundation grant will support faculty in the creation and implementation of up to 10 interdisciplinary Course Connection networks and three travel-learning courses during the next two academic

years. Examples may include networked studies of "The American Landscape," "Global Sustainability in the 21st Century," and "Health and Society."

"We believe these initiatives offer significant potential for enhancing the educational experiences of our students by allowing them to examine the connections among various disciplines and to experience the relationship between the undergraduate classroom and global context in which they live and work," says OWU President Rock Jones. "We are extremely appreciative of the Mellon Foundation's support of and participation in our efforts to create a liberal arts curriculum for the 21st century."



The Meek Center's 25-yard 10-lane swimming pool awaits finishing touches and of course, water!

## What's New at OWU?

*Plenty. A newly built Meek Aquatics and Recreation Center. Energy-efficient stadium lights at Selby Field. Brickwork and more green space on the JAYwalk. Housing renovations on Williams Drive. And a campus that gets better looking each day. Take a look.*

### MEEK AQUATICS AND RECREATION CENTER TO OPEN THIS FALL

The new 24,300 square foot Meek Aquatics and Recreation Center is Ohio Wesleyan's first "green" building, featuring 90 geothermal wells that will capture energy for heating and cooling, as well as heat water for the center's 25-yard swimming pool. The Meek Center was funded with alumni contributions and grants, including a lead gift of \$3.5 million from 1959 OWU graduates Phillip J. and Nancy La Porte Meek of Frankfort, Michigan.

Retired U.S. Representative David Hobson '58 helped the University secure two federal grants totaling \$1.1 million to help fund the geothermal portion of the project. The grants include educational components that will enable Ohio Wesleyan to use the geothermal system as a teaching tool for OWU students and the community. The Meek Center will contain an interior wall of glass to allow visitors to view the earth-friendly energy system at work. The project is registered with the U.S.



Green Building Council, and OWU is seeking a Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

### ENHANCEMENTS AT SELBY FIELD

Just down the street, historic Selby Field has been enhanced with the installation of energy-efficient stadium lighting. The first OWU athletic event played "under the lights" occurred on September 25—when the Battling Bishop football team faced the Wooster Fighting Scots. This project, funded with a lead donation from David E. Griffiths '51, includes four light poles—two on the home side and two on the visitor side.

The southwest corner of Selby Field has a new Wall of Honor, with plaques listing six legendary OWU athletic directors: Branch Rickey 1904, Lynn St. John, George Gauthier, Bob Strimer Hon. '81, Dick Gordin '52, and Jay Martin Hon. '08. The Wall of Honor is scheduled to be unveiled during Homecoming Weekend, October 8-10.

Fund-raising continues for a building that will be needed when OWU hosts the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships in May 2011 at Selby Field. The building, which will be located near the starting point on the track, will include electronic timing equipment and a permanent concession stand.

### A FACELIFT FOR OWU'S "FRONT DOOR"

A gift from the OWU Class of 1961 funded a renovation during the summer of the main walkway heading west from South Sandusky Street, near the R.W. Corns Building and the Annex Building. The renovation included the addition of columns, brick walks, and green space for the area. It will mirror the Memorial Gateway across the street. The work continues westward toward Beeghly Library on what is known as the JAYwalk.

OWU Vice President of University Relations Charlie Powell says future plans include a continuation of the widening as well as the addition of paving stones to extend the JAYwalk westward in a project funded by a gift from the OWU Class of 1962.

### RESIDENTIAL LIFE HOUSING ENHANCEMENTS

Nearly 100 upperclass students, mostly seniors, are living in three University-owned former fraternity houses on Williams Drive. These buildings were extensively renovated and include new furniture and fixtures and central air-conditioning. The buildings at 4 Williams Drive, 23 Williams Drive, and 35 Williams Drive contain single- and double-occupancy rooms.

Two renovated houses opened in the fall near Pritchard House. Ten to 12 honors students will live in 123 Oak Hill Drive, while 129 Oak Hill Drive will serve as a guest house for the University.

Studies continue related to a planned major renovation of Stuyvesant Hall. An unrestricted estate gift from Alice Klund Levy '32 is the first principal gift for the project. The University

is now examining the costs of a complete renovation, including replacement of the roof, restoration of the tower and its carillon, upgrades to heating and plumbing, and refurbishment of the student rooms, parlors, and the “Stuy Smoker.”

Powell says new, significant pledges are needed for the renovation of Stuyvesant Hall and other campus buildings. Four people charged with seeking funding for various projects include Jim Kenny, OWU’s new director of development, and three development officers: David Chambliss; Jayn Bailey; and James Hess.

“The Development Office has significant work ahead as we explore multiple philanthropic opportunities with our alumni, parents, and friends,” Powell says. “Our fundraising initiatives are grounded in the OWU Strategic Plan.”

The Ohio Wesleyan University Board of Trustees has been evaluating campus facility needs in conjunction with how they fit into the University’s strategic plan. Look for updates about campus construction in future editions of *OWU Magazine*.

*Linda Miller O’Horo ’79 is Assistant Director of Media and Community Relations for the Office of Marketing & Communication.*

**The campus community and Delaware-area residents will have their first look at the Meek Aquatics and Recreation Center on Branch Rickey Way during a public open house on October 30. The event starts at 11 a.m. and will conclude at 1 p.m., when attendees will be encouraged to move to Selby Field to see the Battling Bishop football team face the Hiram Terriers.**



## POWER IT UP

### *Alumnus’ Contributions Fund Selby Field Stadium Lights*

#### THE LIGHTS SHINE BRIGHTLY OVER SELBY FIELD AS A TESTAMENT TO OWU’S DEDICATION TO BE THE BEST.

Ohio Wesleyan’s new stadium lights bring fresh energy to campus. The environmentally friendly lights also provide a unique opportunity for Battling Bishop football, field hockey, men’s and women’s track & field, and men’s and women’s lacrosse.

“We now have the opportunity for night varsity competition which, in the case of weekday competition, will significantly reduce the numbers of conflicts between class schedules and varsity contests,” President Rock Jones says. “Additionally, varsity teams can schedule practices later in the afternoon/evening so that student-athletes who have afternoon classes or labs will not have to miss as much practice time.”

The lights, installed in August, already have helped OWU to be selected as the host for the NCAC Division III Men’s and Women’s Outdoor Track & Field Championships, which will be held on campus in May 2011.

The lighting project cost approximately \$400,000 and is a part of many projects to improve Selby Field. The lead donation was given by David E. Griffiths ’51 of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, while additional funding was provided by John Kercher ’63.

“I thought it would be important for all of the amazing things that are happening at OWU,” Griffiths says.

Griffiths lived in Selby during his stay at OWU. He majored in politics and government and went on to earn a law degree at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Today, he is a partner in the Woodward & Griffiths law firm. In addition, he is an Ohio Wesleyan Life Trustee and a member of the President’s Circle. In 1986, Griffiths received an Alumni Award for outstanding service to his alma mater.

“It makes me feel good that I contributed to an institution that has meant so much to me my entire life,” he says.

Griffiths’ donation helps varsity sports with scheduling, but also contributes to other dynamics of OWU’s athletics.

“The lights will provide us with increased operational hours, which will directly impact our club, varsity and intramural programs,” says Roger Ingles, athletic director.

On September 25, the campus and Delaware community celebrated “OWU Under the Lights,” when the Battling Bishops football team played the first night game against The College of Wooster on the newly illuminated field. The event included a campus-wide tailgate and other special activities throughout the day and night.

For more information, visit: <http://news.owu.edu/2010/20100608-selbylights.html>.

*Shane Wepprich ’12 is a student writer for the Office of Marketing & Communication.*

*Mark Twain said that the difference between is the difference between the lightning and Ohio Wesleyan's well-known writers talk*



Bonnie Milne Gardner '77: Prolific Playwright

BONNIE MILNE GARDNER '77, HAS, AT VARIOUS TIMES IN HER CAREER, BEEN A PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR, ARTS ADMINISTRATOR, DRAMATURG, AND, SINCE 1985, A MEMBER OF THE OWU FACULTY. Currently the George S. and Louise C. Peters University Professor of Theatre & Dance, Gardner has received an Ohio Arts Council Playwriting Fellowship and was a semi-finalist at Actors Theatre of Louisville's prestigious Ten-Minute Play Contest. She is the author of *The Playwright-Director in American Theatre*. Gardner has written almost 30 plays—originals, adaptations, and short plays—that have been performed in New York City, California, Ohio, Alaska, and Florida.

The impetus for her plays, Gardner says, is “sometimes an idea that comes from a newspaper article, or an overheard conversation, or a dilemma that has occurred in my life or someone close to me.” But that’s just the beginning; next comes the real work of writing, revising, and polishing—separating the lightning from the bug.

Once her words are on the paper, Gardner reads through the dialogue “listening for several distinct areas to revise—to strengthen an idea or emotion, to better illuminate some aspect of character or action, or to improve the rhythm of the scene. One of the most important steps in revising plays is hearing how others say the lines on the page.”

Gathering trusted actors to read the play aloud helps the playwright quickly ‘hear’ what is working and what isn’t. “For example” Gardner says, “when the scene drags, or skips suddenly, or plays out with different pacing than it should. Then, of course, when the play gets produced, the rehearsal process is one of

By Gretchen Hirsch

the last and most pivotal opportunities to revise.”

Gardner lives for the thrill of the “Eureka!” moment. “I think that’s what ensnares one into becoming a writer; you have a kind of radar that goes off when it unearths the right word,” she says. “But the older I get and the more I write, the more I ramp up that radar—not to be satisfied with the first, or second, or third choice. I ask myself the same thing I ask my students about their work: ‘What’s really at stake here? Can I make it matter more?’”

Gardner says that sometimes it’s obvious when a play is finished and other times when she feels it never will be totally right. “But I always go through a kind of mourning period when I stop working on a script,” she says. “It’s like having a BFF that suddenly moves away, and you realize you’ll never be a part of their daily life again. So you start looking for a new BFF.”

Gardner’s current BFF is a new comedy, *Wedding Blisters*, which is loosely based on Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*. “It takes place over a wedding weekend at an island resort in Lake Michigan,” she says. “Lots of cherries. Cherry fudge, cherry jerky, cherry beer ...”

When Gardner’s children were little, she wrote whenever possible. And summers primarily. “But this year, during my sabbatical, my routine was a couple hours in the morning, a break for lunch, then several hours more in the afternoon,” she says. “There are now fewer distractions between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.



*the right word and the almost-right word  
a lightning bug. On these pages, two of  
about how they choose the right words.*

in our household, unless someone is home sick, or the dog begs to go out, or the plants scream to be watered. Then, I often have to go somewhere else and turn off my cell phone. And I'm not revealing the location!"

**DAVID CAPLAN SPECIALIZES IN 20TH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE, ESPECIALLY POETRY, AND HIS SCHOLARLY INTERESTS INCLUDE VERSE FORM AND CONTEMPORARY POETRY.** His recent publications consider the Internet's influence on contemporary poetry, recent trends in versification, and the work of individual writers such as Rafael Campo and Derek Walcott. He recently has published *Questions of Possibility: Contemporary Poetry and Poetic Form* and *Poetic Form: An Introduction*, as well as a collection of poems, *In the World He Created According to His Will*. His newest book, *Rhyme's Challenge*, is under contract to Oxford University Press.

From the titles of his scholarly work, it's easy to discern that Caplan has both interest and expertise in poetic forms. "Forms such as sonnet, haiku, sestina, or others, reveal the poet's ambition," he says, "even if it's unconscious to the poet. The form influences the poet and the other way around. Just cramming words into a form doesn't result in good poetry; what the poet tries to do is to add something to the form that hasn't been there before."

Caplan's next book deals with rhyme, especially that of hip-hop rhymers. "They are doing the most interesting rhymes in daring, inventive ways," Caplan says. "There's been considerable discussion about the political and sociological implications of hip-hop, but

the formal aspect of what these artists do hasn't been fully attended to."

Caplan's work in poetry criticism is lauded by others for his bridge-building between so-called "traditionalist" and "experimental" poets. "Traditionalists are to some degree experimental in that they are continually trying to expand the traditions," Caplan says. "And anyone who writes is writing a form. Experimental poets draw from so-called traditional poetry, and all poets, even traditionalists, are always experimenting because they're trying to see what comes next as the language reveals itself. It seems to me that both of these warring camps are influenced by the very things they attack. It's just not a helpful way of looking at things."

Always drawn to poetry, Caplan says it is "the most intense form of written language. I like to read novels, see plays, and go to movies, but poetry is what most attracts me."

He tends to write his poetry in bursts. "When it's going well, I write a lot, and when it isn't, I might not write for a little while. I don't recommend that particular way of working, but it's how I do it."

Caplan knows a poem is completed when he can't make it any better. "Of course, I can always change it," he says, "but if the changes don't make it better, they aren't worth doing. Sometimes I think I can't make the poem better, and, you know what? It really isn't very good. I'll put that one away in a drawer and maybe I'll come back to it someday. Other times, it's finished, and I'm satisfied with it."

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



*David Caplan:  
Contemporary  
Poet*

# What We Read This Summer

The *Magazine* asked several folks to share their summer reading favorites. **Here's what we heard.**

ROCK JONES

*President*

***Let the Great World Spin*  
by Colum McCann**

This novel is set in New York City in the summer of 1974, as construction of the World Trade Center is finishing. The city is in turmoil, the president is resigning, the war in Vietnam does not end, and the seams of the American social fabric are shredding. But the construction of the World Trade Center and a remarkable event that happened (an acrobat walked and danced a tightrope between the two towers) that summer, the promise of technology, and a series of unlikely relationships that form in the heart of the city and the heat of the summer offer hope for the future, demonstrating the power of love in the face of profound grief and loss. Now, three and a half decades later, with the knowledge of all that has happened, including the destruction of those towers, and the challenges faced by our world now, the novel invites us to wonder where we might find hope today, and what we might do with the hope, when we find it. It is a good question to be pondered by those embarking on the college journey, particularly for those enrolling at an institution dedicated to preparing global leaders for a global society.

ROGER INGLES

*Director of Athletics*

***When the News Went Live:  
Dallas 1963***

**by Bob Huffaker, Bill Mercer,  
George Phenix, and Wes Wise**

This book deals with those individuals who personally endured a national emotional trauma but could not take the time to grieve while reporting live to the nation on the assassination of the American president. This would become one of the biggest news stories ever in the history of television.

BOB GITTER

*Professor of Economics*

***The Big Short*  
by Michael Lewis**

Lewis is a truly gifted writer who has written an excellent background book about the recent financial crisis. He takes the mystery out of instruments such as Credit Default Swaps that were intentionally constructed to confuse people. (Think of this as buying fire insurance on someone else's house.) The book focuses more on the people who saw the crisis coming as well as those who helped bring it about rather than a technical financial account or pure historical study. I will use Lewis's insights in this Fall's classes.



DAVID HICKCOX

*Professor of Geography and Director,  
Environmental Studies*

***Storms of My Grandchildren*  
by James Hansen**

A riveting and highly readable book by one of the true pioneers in climate change and global warming. What Hansen writes about is one of the most important issues affecting civilization in the 21st century. Global warming is a real world issue that will dramatically impact current students and their children.

RANDOLPH QUAYE

*Associate Professor and Director of the Black  
World Studies Program*

***Overtreated: Why Too Much  
Medicine Is Making Us Sicker  
and Poorer*  
by Shannon Brownlee**

The book makes a compelling argument about why too much medical intervention is not always a good thing. It challenges us to take charge of our own health.

LYNETTE CARPENTER

*Professor of English and Chair, English  
Department*

It occurs to me that the books I've been listening to on tape are pretty eclectic. [Among others], I listened to a wonderful comic thriller, **Kyril Bonfiglioli's *Don't Point That Thing at Me***, originally published in the seventies. Anyone who is longing for more P.G. Wodehouse will thoroughly enjoy the escapades of crooked art dealer Charlie Mortdecai and his anti-Jeeves manservant Jock. And anyone who enjoys recorded books will be happy to hear that the books are read by Simon Prebble. In *Don't Point That Thing at Me*, Charlie has stolen a Goya, which he's secreted in a Rolls Royce Ghost due to be shipped to America, when he becomes entangled in a blackmail scheme gone awry. Lots of excitement, violence, and fun.

ROBERT HARMON

*Associate Professor and Chair, Physics and  
Astronomy Department*

***Western Philosophy*  
by Bertrand Russell,**

published in 1945. It provides an engaging overview of Western philosophical thought, starting with ancient Greece and moving on to the Roman Empire, the medieval Catholic Church, the scientific revolution, and modern philosophy.

SEAN KAY

*Professor of Politics and Government and Chair,  
International Studies*

***Michael Collins: The Man  
Who Made Ireland*  
by Tim Pat Coogan and  
*Ghost Light* by  
Joseph O'Connor**

I've been doing research for a book I'm writing here in Ireland. Coogan's book on Michael Collins and the Irish quest for independence is a must-read both for understanding that key time in world history and for understanding tactics of modern warfare with significant current applications. O'Connor's book is a classic—a timepiece of Synge's Dublin in the early 20th century—one of the best books I've ever read—on par with the best of Cormac McCarthy.

JOAN MCLEAN

*Professor of Politics and Government*

***Away*  
by Amy Bloom**

It is a novel about one woman's quest to make sense of a whole new way of life while dealing with the haunting experience that drove her to make the journey to New York City and eventually away from there. The human and physical landscapes Bloom creates bring the whole 1920s era alive. These images are alive not only in NYC, but also in the frontier outposts in Alaska, where Lillian Leyb travels back to her past and toward her future.

*Shane Wepprich '12 is a student writer for the Office of Marketing and Communication.*

# War— AND OTHER Remembrances

A VIETNAM LEARNING ADVENTURE



By *Pam Besel*

From the serenely beautiful Halong Bay and colorful bonsai and flower gardens of Cai Be to the Tunnels at Cu Chi—where reminders of the Vietnam War atrocities drive home war’s extreme brutality—several Ohio Wesleyan students, professors, their guide, and one very insightful OWU alumnus spent two weeks in May traveling through the country together. Getting to know the people, culture, and history of Vietnam firsthand, was an opportunity they long will remember.

Vietnam is an S-shaped country about the size of Italy, bordered by China to the north; Laos and Cambodia to the west; the East Sea to the east; and the Pacific Ocean to the east and south. Although 90 percent of the country's people are Vietnamese, the other 10 percent represent 54 different ethnic groups—a cornucopia of nationalities and cultures. Visitors to Vietnam behold with amazement, the majestic mountains, lush forests, beaches, waterfalls, and a colorful variety of flora and fauna that add to Vietnam's beauty. Yet, when most of us think about Vietnam, we visualize first, a very long and bloody war—now, the second-longest ever—in which the United States has been involved. **But there is more, so much more, to study and savor about the country, as those who participated in this year's Sagan Fellows travel-learning course, "The Vietnam Experience," discovered.**

### **THE GROUP: Primed for their Academic Journey**

An addendum to a course taught by OWU history professor, Michael Flamm, called "America in the Sixties," a new weekly Vietnam course component served as the springboard for "The Vietnam Experience." It was a magnet that drew a number of Ohio Wesleyan students to sign up and apply for the May 14-28 trip, coordinated by Flamm. Assisting him was his colleague Joan McLean, an OWU politics and government professor. She also attended the pre-trip weekly class discussion sessions with him and the 10 OWU students who were selected for the learning expedition—and had been assigned supplemental readings prior to leaving campus.

Those who participated in "The Vietnam Experience" were Ellen Defenderfer '13, Gavin Baker '10, Sarah Teigen '10, Joanne Neugebauer '11, Megan Hoffman '12, Chris Heckman '12, Ann Merrell '12, Kristen Suarez '13, Rachel Ramey '12, and Courtney

Hahn '11, along with Flamm, McLean, OWU alumnus Carl Harris '56, and guide Trinh Dinh Song.

For several of the students, the trip was their first outside of the U.S.; for others, the journey to Vietnam was a second or third travel-learning experience. All agreed, however, on the particular importance of learning firsthand about Vietnam's culture, economy, government, and the impact of the war, 35 years later.

"You couldn't ask for a better group," says McLean, who teaches about the U.S. presidency and Congress, and has a brother who served two tours in Vietnam.

"Song had been in the South Vietnamese Air Force and after the war was held for two-and-a-half years in a reeducation camp; Mike, a historian and scholar, focuses on the 1960s and Vietnam in particular, and was our trip organizer; and alumnus Carl Harris had worked for the State Department in Washington, D.C., and for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Vietnam."



*The OWU Vietnam travel-learning group in front of the Thien Mu Pagoda in Hue.*



## **DESTINATION: Vietnam**

With Song's help, Flamm put together the trip's itinerary, beginning with a walking tour of Saigon and welcome dinner. More touring in Saigon the next day included visits to the Reunification Palace, War Remnant Museum, Chinese Town, Thien Hau Temple, and Binh Tay market. During the course of the next several days, the group headed to the Mekong Delta, spent a homestay with former members of the Viet Cong, and heard their perspectives on the war.

"They shared that they fought because they had to, and didn't want to leave their families," says Joanne Neugebauer '11, a botany major who will graduate from OWU in May. While Flamm and McLean agree that the group focused on more than the Vietnam War, the impact of that conflict was palpable as they traveled to locales in Vinh Long, Da Nang, Hoi An, and Hanoi.

"More than three million people died there [during the war], and babies continue to be born with birth defects due to Agent Orange," says Flamm. Landmines and an assortment of bombs buried more than three decades ago are often exposed after heavy rains, as children innocently play with them or are encouraged by their parents to pick them up to sell at the market as scrap metal.

"At Hanoi's Friendship Village, we talked with children and Vietnam veterans who had been harmed by Agent Orange," says Gavin Baker '10, one of those students who had never left the United States before. His parents' siblings had fought in the Vietnam War, and his uncle had been sprayed with the toxic chemical.

"I was surprised at how friendly the Vietnamese people were. They showed no animosity toward us—just great sadness about the war." And curiosity about the United States.

"Vietnamese students we met there seemed to think we all are from California, and

*Professor Flamm with Friendship Village director, Nguyen Khai Hung.*



really wanted to know what our country is like," says Baker, who graduated from OWU in May with majors in sociology and philosophy.

"But we wanted to know more about the aftermath of the war, like for instance, can people from South Vietnam find jobs, and can they work for the government?" recalls Baker. While the government claims there is no discrimination between former South and North Vietnamese soldiers, Flamm shares "there are few University slots for children of South Vietnamese parents, and government jobs are hard to get." Starting one's own business, however, is acceptable. And tourists from the U.S. and other countries are increasingly important to Vietnam's economy.

The visit occurred during Ho Chi Minh's birthday and the OWU group noticed that U.S. commercial presence in Vietnam is overwhelming.

"It's odd to visit his tomb and spartan home and then go to a Pepsi-sponsored snack bar to eat," says Flamm.



## AN ALUMNUS SHARES

Carl Harris graduated in 1956 from Ohio Wesleyan, majored in religion and international relations, and ran track. His time at OWU was memorable, colored by great professors such as David Jennings in the history department, Goldie McCue of the religion department, and George Gauthier, athletics director and track and cross country coach. The Korean War came calling, though, and delayed the culmination of Harris' education for a while, as he served in the Marine Corps at an air base in California. Growing within was his interest in theology which led him to graduate studies at the Virginia [Theological] Seminary, after which he was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church.

"But international relations [work] is in my DNA," he says, explaining how he applied to the USAID in 1966. Harris was accepted and went on to work for the next 18 months in Vietnam, followed by similar work in Nigeria, Vietnam again, and back to Washington, D.C. to work for the State Department. Since 1993, he has been a foreign affairs consultant for a long list of Third World countries. So a more natural fit for "The Vietnam Experience" and the 10 eager OWU students with whom he traveled, would have been almost impossible to find.

"I wondered at first about how I would relate to these students, given our age differences," says Harris. "After a few days, they started asking me what it was like 54 years ago at OWU!" But members of the OWU contingent were grateful for the insight and information he offered at every juncture of their trip, and, as Harris says, "Much of the time we talked in informal ways, but the reality is that we were sharing information in a deep, caring, and authentic way." It is an authenticity resulting from both his world experiences, and something else that Harris and the students share: an Ohio Wesleyan education.



*OWU alumnus Carl Harris '56 is pictured here as a U.S. Agency for International Development employee in 1967, assigned to Quang Tin Province. Seated next to him was Captain Cuong, who was responsible for the care of 65,000 displaced persons in 25 refugee camps.*



*Some scenes from Vietnam—from prayer services and military tunnels, to bombed-out buildings, boat vendors, and PeaceTrees, Vietnam . . .*



## MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Each item on the two-page travel itinerary for “The Vietnam Experience” was carefully planned by Flamm and Song with several goals in mind, but with the kaleidoscope-like result of helping students to see how everything—a country’s government, culture, economy, and history—works synergistically to provide the clearest understanding of that country.

Exploring Vietnam’s political system today and the process of post-war reconciliation were important for the group to explore. Flamm wanted the students to think about how we might build relationships [between countries] after a difficult past. That is perhaps why they liked the conservation work being done at PeaceTrees Vietnam, in Quang Tri Province. Founded in 1995 by an American, Jerilyn Brusseau, whose brother had been killed in Vietnam during the war, PeaceTrees Vietnam focuses on renewing relationships between the U.S. and Vietnamese people by planting trees, providing survivor assistance, landmine education, and other help. Harris, himself, has been active in viewing the removal of the

potentially explosive bombs.

“Being the science person I am, I loved seeing this conservation work as I was reminded about the casualties of war. The importance of reunification efforts is quite clear,” says Neugebauer.

As memorable moments go, just traveling from point A to point B in the country’s extreme heat and humidity could be both memorable and challenging.

“You must quickly master how to cross a street with no lights, lanes, crosswalks and 30 to 40 motorbikes coming at you, and which have no intention of stopping. The traffic has its own choreography and your part is to walk at a steady pace,” says McLean, noting that there is, however, no road rage. “Whether on the streets or traveling Highway 1, the country’s main north-south road, drivers simply use a steady stream of short beeps to let you know they are near.”

Conversations about what everyone had experienced each day were held most often at dinner, or while riding the bus to different locales. Sometimes it takes reflection time together to mull over the day’s travels in a country such as Vietnam, still in a recovery phase of sorts from the war, but doing its best to modernize and strengthen its economy. It was interesting to note a sophisticated Saigon, with KFC restaurants, Gucci, and five-star

hotels amid abject poverty, poor sanitation, and people who are struggling each day to make a living for life’s bare essentials, McLean shares. She likes the travel-learning opportunities for OWU students as they immerse themselves in learning about other countries and cultures.

“If programs such as ‘The Vietnam Experience’ are to make an impact, students need to be more than tourists. They must be travelers open to exploring new places, to connecting to people who speak different languages and have different customs, and to staying safe while doing so,” says McLean. “Our students did superbly.”

A high point during the trip for Baker was the visit to Hue, where the group saw China Beach, the Cham Museum, the Citadel, the Imperial City, and also took a boat trip on the Perfume River, while listening to live Vietnamese music.

“I also enjoyed learning about the flora and fauna of the Mekong Delta area,” he says.

But for Carl Harris, a memorable teaching moment came from one of the students, who upon visiting the Cu Chi tunnels, refused to pose for a photograph atop one of the badly scorched American military tanks used during the war.

“This student wanted to show respect for all of the people who lost their lives. What I got out of this trip was a heavy dose of 10 really fine students, and the opportunity to watch how well they related to each other.” For Professor Michael Flamm, “The Vietnam Experience” deepened and broadened his commitment to presenting perspectives on the war.

“The suffering, why events took place as they did, and the propaganda used by governments to present their views of history are included here,” he says, referring to the horrific Hoa Lo Prison’s façade as the “Hanoi Hilton,” at which photos of captured pilots portrayed

pool-shooting, well cared- for prisoners of war. A first-time traveler in Vietnam, Flamm is grateful for the opportunity to see the country and people about whom he has taught for a dozen years.

## BACK AT HOME

Thinking about what they had seen and heard during their trip to Vietnam, the 10 OWU student travelers returned to complete their assigned course projects, which were due by June 18, and to submit their evaluations of the trip. Blending the earlier class discussions on campus with all that they experienced during their two weeks in Vietnam and journal notes they kept, the students chose topics of special interest. Agent Orange, Women in the War, and a Profile of Hanoi were several project topics about which the travelers now can write and talk more authoritatively, thanks to their Vietnam expedition.

“The Vietnam Experience” is a wonderful example of the commitment of Ohio Wesleyan’s faculty to offer students real world experiences that enrich the academic work of the classroom,” says OWU President Rock Jones. “The students who completed a study of America in the 1960s with a special focus on Vietnam, saw those studies come to life through their experiences in Vietnam. Drs. Flamm and McLean set an ambitious itinerary that maximized those experiences. I commend both professors for their vision for this experience, and I am thrilled with all of the plans being developed by OWU faculty to provide experiences for students to connect theory to practice by including international travel in the context of OWU courses for students. The involvement of Carl Harris enhanced the experience by connecting students to an alumnus and providing the context of a person who was in Vietnam during the period the students studied,” says Jones.

As for Flamm, McLean, and Harris, the “older students” in the group, an experience almost transcendental in nature, caused them to think reflectively about any war’s impact on people’s lives.

“We were having dinner with Song and his wife, Lan, one evening, when she and Carl discovered that they had been together in the same small village—Tam Ky—in 1968,” says Flamm. He explains that Lan was a schoolgirl of 12 years, hiding with her family in a bunker, and Carl, 35, was in the Marine compound, when an empty American jeep suddenly exploded. They both remembered the incident with clarity, and looked at each other, as though they were transported back in time by their memories.

An extraordinary moment for all who were at the dinner table, there was this inextricable connection between two human beings, one from the United States, the other from Vietnam, who shared a terrifying moment during a war that destroyed many lives on both sides.

“Song explained that for many Vietnamese, their Buddhist tradition makes forgiveness and reconciliation not only possible, but also necessary,” says McLean. “Clearly that is the spirit driving the work at places such as Friendship Village, where we saw on display an OWU banner presented by OWU Chaplain Jon Powers and students on a spring break mission team that visited Vietnam a few

years ago, to learn more about the ongoing effects of Agent Orange.”

Joanne Neugebauer can’t say enough about “The Vietnam Experience,” despite the challenges. She emphasizes that Americans don’t know the meaning of hot [weather] until they visit a place like Vietnam. She describes the busy marketplaces, the amazing food of Vietnam, and warmth of the people in one breath, and in the next, a description of the eerie sounds of the jungle where “a lot of things go bump in the night” and the challenge of sleeping on an army cot in mosquito netting during one of the homestays.

“Every town we passed through and every landscape we drove by made me think about how it must have felt to travel as a soldier with a heavy pack—hoping that whatever is around the corner would not kill you,” she says. “The whole experience was [at times] surreal, enlightening, and humbling. I would go back to Vietnam in a heartbeat.”

*Pam Besel is Director of Internal Marketing & Communication at Ohio Wesleyan and Editor of the Magazine.*



*Song led an informative discussion about Vietnam’s military tunnels, their locations, and wartime purpose.*





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**“..We were sharing information in a deep, caring, and authentic way.”**

**—Carl Harris '56**



# Find Your Passion —and Pursue It!

Adding yet another learning dimension to the recent Sagan Fellows travel-learning course, “The Vietnam Experience,” was the opportunity group members had to meet an Ohio Wesleyan alumna, Nga Nguyen '98, Task Manager, Water and Sanitation Program at the World Bank in Vietnam. Her story is about setting goals, taking risks, and just ‘going for it.’

## **Q: *What Is Your Job Like at the World Bank?***

**A:** My job is a combination of half technical work and half management. I head up a hygiene promotion program to encourage mothers to handwash with soap to prevent their kids from getting sick and dying from diarrhea—Public Health 101. I have a Master’s in Public Health, with a concentration in Behavior Change Communication. I work with advertising agencies to develop our commercials, train experts to develop our curriculum, and train women to carry out communications in their communities, promoting handwashing. Since the project in Vietnam is part of a larger global project, I am part of a larger team that includes people from the United States, Peru, Senegal, and Tanzania, requiring ongoing cross-cultural communications, both written and spoken. The best part of my job is going to the field to see firsthand how the activities have evolved since we came up with the initial design. The project presents challenges every day, which keeps me on my toes and very engaged in my work.

## **Q: *Are You from Vietnam?***

**A:** I am originally from Vietnam but immigrated to the U.S. when I was five years

old. We were part of the boat people who left Vietnam in the late '70s and early '80s due to the political leadership following the end of the Vietnam War.

## **Q: *What Do You Remember Most About Your Years at OWU?***

**A:** I recall most the friendships I made with international students who really opened my eyes to different cultures and backgrounds. Most of my friends were from overseas and I learned a lot and became interested in countries such as India, Pakistan, and Nepal. I remember having close ties with my professors and how readily accessible they were for academic and career advice.

## **Q: *What Advice Did You Offer OWU Students Participating in “The Vietnam Experience” Course?***

**A:** I suggested to one of the students seeking career advice to set milestones for herself. OWU gives you skills that you can apply in a variety of situations. The degree prepares

you for challenges. But it is not a roadmap to a fulfilling career. After I graduated from OWU, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in international development, but had no idea in which sector. While working at an international development firm in Washington, D.C., I met a colleague who was skilled enough to be an international consultant, even though she was only 32. I told myself, “I want to be in her shoes when I am 32. Now, what is it going to take to get there?” I decided to pursue one or two international field experiences and a good graduate degree that is specialized enough to help me secure work with multiple institutions at the same time. I set a roadmap for myself to reach my milestones (it took five years), but my goals kept me focused and motivated. I love what I do, but am always open to pursuing other interests. The job or graduate degree you attain does not lock you into one type of career for the rest of your life.

## **Q: *What Are Other Secrets to Your Success?***

**A:** It is critical to find something you are passionate about, and not be afraid to pursue the course that gets you there. As an immigrant whose family risked everything to come to the United States, my decision

*Nga Nguyen '98*

to come back and work in Vietnam was a difficult one for me to defend with my family. But, I knew field experience was critical for my own understanding of how to better help the poor—knowledge that I could not get simply by working in Washington, D.C. So I quit my job [in D.C.], paid my own way to Vietnam, and worked in a position for which I was overqualified. It allowed me to really experience what it's like to live without electricity 24 hours a day and to worry about how the weather will affect my crops and my family's nutrition for the next few months.

***Q: What Did You Think About the OWU Students You Met?***

**A:** I spent too little time with them, but was impressed with their openness to learning outside the classroom. OWU's campus is like an oasis for learning. Going to hot and dusty cities where you sweat 24/7 to learn about the Vietnam War takes willingness to step out of your comfort zone. Kudos to them and kudos to OWU for developing those courses!

*—Compiled by Pam Besel*



“Dr. Musser is amazing. I feel much more confident in my writing after being ‘Musserized.’”



# A tradition of exceptional teaching: OWU's latest teaching award winners

By *Gretchen Hirsch*

**AT COMMENCEMENT 2010, JOSEPH F. MUSSER, ENGLISH, COMPLETED A CLEAN SWEEP OF ALL OF OHIO WESLEYAN'S MAJOR FACULTY HONORS.**

A prior winner of the Sherwood Dodge Shankland Award and the Bishop Francis Kearns Award honoring “the faculty member who best exemplifies the ethical, spiritual, and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University,” Musser has added the Bishop Herbert Welch Meritorious Teaching Award.

Musser's teachers, from elementary school through college, and his parents influenced his decision to enter teaching. “Because of the Depression, my mother left school after eighth grade to help support her family, and the Depression also kept my father from attending college. Both of them always seemed to assume that my brother and I would go to college, and they sacrificed and saved to enable us to do so. They held teachers in high esteem.

“Teaching offers me endless satisfaction because it requires me to keep learning,” Musser

says. “I am curious about and interested in a lot of topics. I design my writing courses such that students can follow their own interests; and in order to help as much as I can, I try to explore their topics as they are doing so.”

Allowing students to follow their own interests means that in Musser's Elements of Style and Rhetoric class, he might be learning about the dimples on a golf ball, art galleries devoted to duct tape, the contributions of Japanese Americans to the U.S. Army in WW II, or a student's personal experience as a circus clown.

It's clear that for Musser, learning is a lifelong enterprise—and one that takes time. Teaching, he says, is a matter of persistence because students learn incrementally. “A student may have an ‘aha’ moment,” he says, “but you want to be sure that the insight, knowledge, or understanding is both sustained and productive.


“A student may not even be aware until years after the fact that an experience, an assignment, or a discussion was leading him or her in a new, unexpected direction,” Musser continues.

**“He knows a lot and I have enjoyed plumbing the web-like depths of his mind. He's awesome.”**

“The most gratifying comments from former students are observations such as, ‘I find myself frequently using the strategies you introduced,’ or ‘Now I understand why you asked us to ... .’”

When he isn't teaching, Musser often is indulging his love of music. “Music is a great source of joy for me,” he says. “I love playing the organ and piano, singing in choirs, and writing music. But it can be a source of joy only if I recognize and accept my limitations. I'm grateful I have enough talent to enjoy making music, but have a sober enough estimate of that talent not to expect to flourish as a professional.”

Those who heard Musser's original composition at Rock Jones's inauguration might disagree. But there's no disagreement that Musser is a master teacher, well deserving of the accolades he has received from Ohio Wesleyan.



“Instead of [the Old Testament] just being stories heard in a children’s Sunday School class, she helped me to see it as the rich history of the Israelite people. I am eagerly looking forward to my next class with her this fall! She rocks.”

“Dr. A-K’s enthusiasm is refreshing and contagious.”

**PATRICIA AHEARNE-KROLL, RELIGION, IS THIS YEAR’S SOMEWHAT SURPRISED WINNER OF THE SHERWOOD DODGE SHANKLAND AWARD FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF TEACHERS.**

“I knew I’d been nominated because the person who nominated me told me, but we’re a small department—not always front and center—and I never expected to win.”

Ahearne-Kroll teaches Old Testament History and Literature, Judaism in the Greco-Roman Period, and Judaism in Late Antiquity—courses that often present unique teaching challenges. “By the time they come to college, students have some familiarity with areas of study such as math, science, history, and English, but that’s not as likely in what I teach,” she says. “About half the introductory course is helping students understand the academic study of religion. I try to begin slowly because I know that analytical, critical thinking about religion may be difficult or even life-changing for some students. My classes are descriptive, not evaluative in the sense of judging a religious practice as right or wrong. They’re more like

sociology classes in some respects.”

For example, she says, “The Old Testament—the Hebrew Bible—was written over centuries by various scribal schools, and the different perspectives about God and human action were culturally contextualized. The writers were dealing with the issues of their own time, with what was occurring in their culture. This can be a difficult concept for a student who believes that the Bible was created all at one time. It’s very rewarding when students begin to grasp the complexities involved and to understand that religions are not monolithic institutions.

“What I most hope to give students,” Ahearne-Kroll continues, “is an appreciation that religious practice is a complex phenomenon and that misperceptions about religious practices have caused serious problems throughout human history. Some misperceptions, especially those related to Judaism, have led to horrible results. Over time, students become much more mindful of the ancient prejudices that also appear today.”

Ahearne-Kroll says she “loves” the small classes at OWU. At the upper levels, her classes may have 15 or fewer students. “I can engage

with my students so much more in these small settings,” she says. Religion majors write a thesis paper in their senior year, and she often sees how well-developed their skills have become throughout their college experience. “They aren’t just regurgitating what they’ve heard,” she says. “They’re communicating the results of careful critical and analytical study. That’s very gratifying to me to witness as a professor.”

If Ahearne-Kroll were not teaching, she probably still would be involved with the study of religion and its effects on contemporary events. “My college minor was international studies,” she says, “and if I weren’t in the classroom, I might be with a nonprofit organization or the government, analyzing how religion plays a part in global and local affairs.”

Ahearne-Kroll made the decision to teach because she believes in the power of education and the good it can do in people’s lives. Her students are the recipients of that good every day.

*Gretchen Hirsch is a Writer in the Office of Marketing & Communication at Ohio Wesleyan.*



# Strong Links

*Jana Shipley heads up the New Women's Golf Team*

By Mark Beckenbach '81

**OHIO WESLEYAN'S NEWEST VARSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT MADE ITS DEBUT ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, WHEN THE BATTLING BISHOP WOMEN'S GOLF TEAM TOOK ON WOOSTER.**

Although women's golf is a new sport at Ohio Wesleyan, there was an air of familiarity about the program as Jana Shipley returned to Delaware to take the head coaching reins.

Shipley, then known as Jana Edwards, was head coach of the Ohio Wesleyan women's track & field team from 1980-85, leading the Bishops to the first North Coast Athletic Conference indoor track & field championship in 1985 as well as multiple state titles in the Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAISW) in the years before Ohio Wesleyan women's teams were affiliated with an athletic conference. She was inducted into the Ohio Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996.

"I've been waiting 10 years for Ohio Wesleyan to start this program, and I'm very excited that they have," Shipley says. "I would not have gotten back into coaching golf unless

it was at Ohio Wesleyan. I have strong feelings for Ohio Wesleyan from when I was here before."

After leaving Ohio Wesleyan, Shipley served as the head women's golf coach at The Ohio State University from 1987-91, guiding the Buckeyes to nine tournament wins, a Big 10 championship, and a pair of NCAA tournament appearances. She also has experience as a golf professional at The Ohio State University Golf Courses, The Country Club at Muirfield Village, and The Meadows Resort in Sarasota, Florida.

Since leaving coaching, Shipley has remained active in golf, participating in numerous regional and national tournaments, as well as qualifying for the USGA Mid-Amateur and finishing second at the Women's National Club Championship.

"I am absolutely thrilled that we were able to attract someone of Jana's experience in coaching golf to start this program," says Roger Ingles, Ohio Wesleyan athletics director. "We could not have asked for a better person to be our first women's golf coach. She's a Big 10 championship coach, and she has coached at Ohio Wesleyan and is familiar with the University. She has the drive,





knowledge, ambition, and skills to make this a premier women's golf program."

"I think it will take a few years to get the team established, but I think we can eventually compete for a national championship in NCAA Division III with the quality of golf courses to which we have access and the great tradition at Ohio Wesleyan," Shipley says.

The addition of women's golf increases Ohio Wesleyan's complement of varsity sports to 23, with 12 for women and 11 for men. Women's golf is the first varsity sport to be added at Ohio Wesleyan since 1998, when softball was elevated to varsity status for the 2000 season.

Ohio Wesleyan becomes the sixth North Coast Athletic Conference institution to sponsor women's golf, joining Allegheny College, Denison University, Hiram College, Wittenberg University, and the College of Wooster, and the NCAC will conduct its first women's golf championship in 2010-11.

"We pride ourselves on offering every sport the NCAC sponsors," Ingles says.

The Ohio Wesleyan women's golf team will have the unique benefit of drawing on the rich tradition of the Ohio Wesleyan men's golf program, which has won 23 conference championships—including seven of the last nine NCAC titles—and recorded 18 national top-10 finishes, including six in the last nine seasons.

Ohio Wesleyan men's golf coach Ian Miller has been assisting in recruiting for the Battling Bishops' inaugural women's golf team.

In addition to continuing as head coach of the men's golf team, Miller will become director of golf operations, overseeing scheduling and travel schedules for both teams, and assisting in recruiting for the women's team.

"We are very fortunate to have outstanding golf facilities at our back door which will allow us to accommodate two programs and are willing to work with us to help make this happen," Ingles says. "This gives us unique scheduling opportunities and facility options."

*Mark Beckenbach '81 is Associate Director of Marketing and Communication and Sports Information Director at Ohio Wesleyan.*

## OWU Hires New Men's Lacrosse Coach



As this edition of the OWU *Magazine* was headed for the press, OWU's new Men's lacrosse coach, Mike Plantholt, was named. He comes to Ohio Wesleyan from Randolph-Macon College, where he was head men's lacrosse coach.

"I couldn't be happier to join the coaching staff at Ohio Wesleyan," says Plantholt. "I'm excited to continue my career at such a prestigious academic and athletic institution. It is my hope to continue the strong history and tradition that is Ohio Wesleyan men's lacrosse. I'd like to thank the players, coaches, and athletic administration at Randolph-Macon for making my time there so special and enjoyable."

"We are thrilled to bring Mike to Ohio Wesleyan," says Roger Ingles, OWU's athletics director. "I think he is one of the rising stars in NCAA Division III men's lacrosse."

At Randolph-Macon for four years, he led the Yellow Jackets to new heights. A graduate of Gettysburg College and former assistant coach and player there, Plantholt began his coaching career at Muhlenberg College.

"Mike's experience as a player and as a coach at Gettysburg—one of the top five programs in NCAA Division III—and his experience at building a program at Randolph-Macon to new heights, make him a great choice to head up our program," says Ingles.



## OWU's Own Dynamic Duo

*Gatz and Shinn Recognized as NCAC Man and Woman of the Year*

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY IS HONORED TO HAVE GRADUATED THE NORTH COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR.

David Gatz '10 was selected to receive the NCAC Don Hunsinger Man of the Year Award and fellow Bishop Sarah Shinn '10 won the NCAC Pam Smith Woman of the Year Award. For the first time in history, a male and a female athlete from the same university have won the two awards in the same year.

"I think it's great to share this award for the first time with a male OWU athlete, and it goes to show how strong OWU is in developing well-rounded and academically-oriented athletes," says Shinn of Edinboro, Pennsylvania.

Gatz earned MVP swimming honors all four years at OWU. He has broken the 200 and 100 breaststroke record at Ohio Wesleyan and holds the record for the conference in the 200

breaststroke. Gatz has qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships three times and earned five All-America® certificates—all while maintaining a 3.91 grade point average and triple-majoring in pre-medicine, biochemistry, and pre-professional zoology.

"Most of my collegiate career would not have been possible without the support and opportunities offered by the Ohio Wesleyan community," says Gatz of Delaware, Ohio.

Shinn, a four-year member of OWU's indoor and outdoor track and field team, possesses 15 all-conference certificates and holds OWU's records for the outdoor 1600-meter relay and the distance medley relay. She kept a 3.96 grade point average in accounting and placed 10th in the 800-meter during the 2010 NCAA Championships.

"The North Coast Athletic Conference is a great conference to compete in because each school is very vocal about academics being the

focus, yet the athletic competition is still strong," Shinn says. "It is very typical to see students up in the stands doing homework before a track meet begins or in between events."

Last year, Ohio Wesleyan's Kyle Holiday '09 won the inaugural Don Hunsinger Award, meaning that so far only Bishops have won the honor.

"What you do every day in the classroom and on the field is a grind," Shinn says. "If you can come to appreciate and almost enjoy that constant hard work, you are set for success. And in doing that, you can build friendships and relationships that will bring out the best in all of you. Go Bishops!"

For more information about OWU athletics, visit <http://bishops.owu.edu>.

—Shane Wepprich '12 is a student writer for the Office of Marketing & Communication.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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](mailto:alumni@owu.edu)

### OCTOBER

#### October 2 — Chicago, IL

OWU Football Tailgate  
Battling Bishop Tailgate – Ohio Wesleyan vs. University of Chicago

#### October 8-10 — Delaware, OH

Homecoming & Family Weekend 2010  
Classes of 1984, 1985 and 1986 25th Cluster Reunion  
SUBA/OMSA Reunion  
Men's Lacrosse Reunion  
Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony  
ΣAE Reunion  
English Department Reunion

#### October 26 — Grove City, OH

Central OH "Bishops in Service" Event  
Mid-Ohio Foodbank

#### October 28 — Pataskala, OH

Class of 2011 and Central Ohio Alumni  
Corn Maze and Bonfire at Lynd's Fruit Farm

### NOVEMBER

#### November 4 — Hilton Head, SC

The home of Bill and Jan Pierce Raisch '65

#### November 7 — Delaware, OH

Golden Bishop Fall Luncheon & theatre production of *Mame*

#### November 11 — Delaware, OH

OWU Heritage Day at Gray Chapel  
(Also Columbus Monnett Club Event)

### DECEMBER

#### December 2 — New York, NY

New York City Holiday Event  
The University Club

#### December 7 — Delaware, OH

Hudler Tree Lighting Ceremony

#### December 8 — Columbus, OH

Central OH Holiday Event  
Muirfield Village Golf Club Pavilion

#### December 9 — Washington, DC

Washington DC Holiday Event  
The Evening Star Building

#### December 14 — Chicago, IL

Chicago Holiday Event  
Union League Club of Chicago

#### December 16 — Boston, MA

Boston Holiday Event  
Finale Desserts, Brookline, MA

### JANUARY 2011

#### January 11 — Grove City, OH

Central OH "Bishops in Service" Event  
Mid-Ohio Foodbank

#### January 29 — Cleveland, OH

Biennial Cleveland Snowball  
The Country Club, Pepper Pike, OH

### FEBRUARY 2011

#### February 4 — Sarasota, FL

The Field Club

#### February 5 — Naples, FL

Quail Creek Country Club

### MARCH 2011

#### March 18-20 — Delaware, OH

FIJI Pig Dinner Weekend

#### March 22 — Delaware, OH

Columbus Monnett Club Meeting at Pritchard House

#### March 25-27 — Delaware, OH

Phi Kappa Psi Sesquicentennial Reunion

### APRIL 2011

#### April 12 — Grove City, OH

Central OH "Bishops in Service" Event  
Mid-Ohio Foodbank

#### April 14-16 — Delaware, OH

Alumni Board Spring Meeting

#### April 15-17 — Delaware, OH

Phi Union Weekend

#### April 30 — Columbus, OH

Columbus Monnett Club Lunch

### MAY 2011

#### May 13-15 — Delaware, OH

Alumni Weekend featuring special reunions for classes ending in "1" of "6" and 50th Reunion activities for the Class of 1961

## Get Your Le Bijous!

Extra! Extra! Re-live your OWU college days by ordering—free of charge—any of the following available Le Bijou yearbooks that you would like to have. The following books will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis: 1920-1939, 1941, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1951-1954, 1956-1958, 1961-1964, 1966-1969, 1971-1973, 1976, 1985, 1986, 1992, 1999, 2002, 2003. Contact Emily Haddaway, digital librarian and curator for OWU's Historical Collection at [edhaddaw@owu.edu](mailto:edhaddaw@owu.edu) for further information.



# Remembering

By Pam Besel

## MILLIGAN LEGACIES

Melvin Milligan 1872, Jennie Fairbanks 1874,  
parents of Bill Milligan '22

Charles Fairbanks 1872, Bill's uncle

Dr. Robert Milligan '22, Mary's husband

Warren Milligan '56, Mary's stepson

Emily Edwards Milligan '54, wife of Warren

Robert Milligan, Jr. '56, Mary's stepson

Dr. John Milligan '83, Mary's step-grandson

Kathryn Bradford Milligan '83

Scott Milligan '90, Mary's step-grandson

*Portrait of Bill and Mary Milligan painted by Sally Keller.*

**WHILE VISITING MARY COOK MILLIGAN'S HOME IN EVANSTON, ILLINOIS, ONE COULD SENSE HER AFFECTION FOR HER ADOPTED ALMA MATER.** A beanbag Bishop sat proudly on the couch in her living room, next to a stuffed OWU teddy bear, with other Ohio Wesleyan memorabilia and noticeable accents of red and black scattered here and there throughout the home. Mary's late husband, Robert "Bill" Milligan '22 and several members of the Milligan family graduated from Ohio Wesleyan. Her love for OWU, however, was just as strong as theirs, up to the time of Mary's death on July 15.

The news of her passing in Evanston, Illinois, saddened members of the Ohio Wesleyan family, and especially OWU alumni and special

300-plus-year-old slant-top desk that will reside in Pritchard House.

"Another [gift] is a beautiful painting of Mary and Bill that will hang in a place of honor in the R.W. Corns Building," says Shippo.

Mary's presence on campus will be missed. The Milligans faithfully attended every Milligan [Lecture] event, each including a gala dinner.

"After Bill's death, Mary continued to attend these Milligan Lectures and took a genuine delight in meeting and engaging our students and learning more about their studies and career plans after OWU," recalls Professor John Boos, co-director of the Woltemade Center." That was just Mary's way.

Those who knew Mary well, such as Shippo, speak of the great Milligan family tradition

### **"Yes Ma'am, Mary!"**

OWU alumnus Evan Corns '59 remembers Mary Milligan with great fondness. At an alumni event hosted by Mary in Chicago not too long ago, he told the group, with a twinkle in his eye, that it took a special person to lure him away from his Key West home to the Chicago gathering.

"Had Mark Shippo '70 called me to be in Chicago in mid-March, I would have said 'Gee, I don't think so.'" Continuing his story, Corns said, "If even the great Rock Jones invited me [to the event], I probably would have said 'Rock, it's really tough to leave Key West in March.' However, when Mary Milligan requested me to be there, I said 'Yes, Ma'am.' You could not say no to Mary!"

# Mary Cook Milligan, Hon. Alumna '02

friends in the Evanston area who knew or knew of her and Bill's many contributions to the University over the past three decades.

Bill, a Life Trustee at OWU, and Mary were integral supporters of the Woltemade Center for Economics, Business, and Entrepreneurship since 1992, when they endowed the Milligan Leaders in Business Lecture Series. More recently, Mary also had been an ardent supporter of the President's Circle, and of OWU's past and current presidents.

"Mary funded former OWU President Tom Courtice's portrait, which hangs in University Hall, and she was very proud of that," says Mark Shippo '70, Special Assistant to the President. She also created a fund for OWU President Rock Jones' portrait, saying before she died, as Shippo recalls, "she hoped we wouldn't have to tap into that fund for a long time." Just recently, the University received one of Mary's estate gifts, a

at Ohio Wesleyan, dating back to Bill's father and mother, Melvin Milligan 1872 and Jennie Fairbanks 1874 who attended as did Bill's uncle, Vice President of the United States Charles Fairbanks 1872.

"Today, step-grandson John '83 is a member of Ohio Wesleyan's Board of Trustees," says Shippo. Mary's care for and counsel to OWU presidents past and present were appreciated and respected.

"Mary Milligan gave full definition to the expression 'lady,'" says Courtice. "Her grace, kindness, generosity, and constant expression of concern for others were characteristics that reflected a true image of Mary's daily presence in our lives. Ohio Wesleyan and the many persons in our community who came to know her are enriched as a result of her manner and her influence."

As OWU President Rock Jones summarizes,

Mary Milligan shared the passion of her husband, Bill, for the students of Ohio Wesleyan.

"Mary joined him in supporting OWU in extraordinary ways," says Jones. "In recent years, she made provisions through her estate to endow a Milligan Chair in Economics. Her home in Evanston featured Bill's handmade furniture, their lovely collection of art, and a full dose of the red and black of OWU. Mary brought energy, vitality, and excitement to every aspect of life. Her final trip to the OWU campus occurred at Homecoming last year, when she enjoyed football, theatre, and sitting in the Founders' Plaza at the end of a full day. She will be missed by all who knew her, but her legacy of interest in Ohio Wesleyan students and faculty will live in perpetuity."

*Pam Besel is Director of Internal Marketing & Communication at Ohio Wesleyan and Editor of the Magazine.*

## A Global Alumni Network

Imagine if all you really knew about American universities came from the movies. You might deduce that college in America is some strange hybrid of the quintessential college movie *National Lampoon's Animal House*, where fraternity members battle their college administrators, and the more recent flick *Accepted*, where a young man who has been rejected by every college he applies to establishes his own school—the South Harmon Institute of Technology.

Though a bit far-fetched, the above example isn't completely untrue, at least for prospective international students. "International students want to know what it is like to be on campus because they don't have the luxury of visiting campus or spending a night in the dorms like domestic students do," says Pooja Dutt '09, who came to Ohio Wesleyan from India and has traveled with Associate Dean of Admission and Director of International Recruitment Grace Poling to recruit international students. "Some of these students have never been to the U.S. Their idea of an American university is what they see in the movies."

Dutt is pursuing her master's degree in wildlife conservation at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, and also working as a research and development officer in Macquarie's institutional advancement office. "I realize the challenges involved with international recruitment, having been on both sides of the wall," she says. "I think it is really important for international alumni to be part of the effort to attract students from overseas."

Weiching Poon '87 also has assisted Poling with recruitment by attending school fairs in Singapore. She is a deputy general manager at the Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken's Singapore branch. "When students can see that OWU alumni are genuinely happy

*Pooja Dutt '09 and Grace Poling.*



By *Ericka Kurtz*

about their undergraduate experience, they can see the spirit that embodies life at Ohio Wesleyan, and it's this spirit that draws good students to OWU. It's also important to show international students that Ohio Wesleyan has a strong international student body and that the University is an inclusive place for international students."

Poling says that it is impressive for prospective parents and their students to be contacted by alumni in the area. "Alumni can respond to their concerns and questions based on the local cultural context. International alumni are also a great resource of support when it comes to organizing alumni and prospective student events. Alumni definitely help us yield prospects."

The work of international alumni regarding recruitment is invaluable, but domestic alumni can contribute to the effort as well. David '65 and Pat Frasher Papoi '66 have worked domestic college fairs, and they also were the first college representatives to visit Auckland International College in New Zealand on a three-week self-drive trip the couple planned. "The AIC leadership called a special assembly with Pat and me as the guest presenters," Papoi says. "We tailored the presentation to be highly interactive, more about education in the U.S. than about OWU. We started by asking

students to name U.S. universities, and then we compared and contrasted the various types of schools. Given the circumstances, the assembly was not the time to make an overt pitch for Ohio Wesleyan. Nonetheless, we often injected the OWU name. We left admission literature with the students and guidance counselor."

"Afterward, Dave and I noted that what to us in the U.S. is obvious was news to these students," says Papoi. Most of these students had previously considered furthering their educations in the U.K., Australia, or New Zealand."

The Papoi's visit did yield one student, Sung Kyu Kim, who graduated from OWU in 2009, and Grace Poling has since visited AIC for a more conventional college fair. "An articulate, knowledgeable, and satisfied alumnus can be the best OWU ambassador," says Papoi.

"For a high school student who has no idea about the University, international and domestic alumni can serve as true ambassadors," Dutt says. "Their first-hand accounts of campus experiences can inspire future students to choose OWU."

For details about how you can assist with international student recruitment, contact Grace Poling at [gpoling@owu.edu](mailto:gpoling@owu.edu).

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



By Linda O'Horo '79

# 'Paying It Forward' with the Bishop Network

Remember when you were an OWU junior or senior, pondering your next steps after graduation? Gone but not forgotten by many Ohio Wesleyan alumni, parents, and friends are those years of uncertainty (for many) and pressure to determine career paths and secure jobs. Through a new networking tool at OWU, students can meet members of the Ohio Wesleyan family who are members of The Bishop Network, and who want to make a difference for students by providing advice and assistance for internships and future careers.

The Bishop Network, sponsored by the Office of Career Services in coordination with the Alumni Relations office, comprises a group of OWU alumni, parents, and friends who are listed in an online database and serve as network "guides" who are contacted by students.

"Time and time again, networking proves to be one of the most effective job search strategies—not only for Ohio Wesleyan students, but also for students across the country," says Leslie Delorme, OWU Director of Career Services. "On the average, 70 to 80 percent of job seekers find positions through networking or networking leads."

Karen Learner Beis '00 decided to "pay it



forward" and sign up to provide career advice for OWU students.

"I enjoy helping when I can," she says. "It feels good to give back to Ohio Wesleyan." She was grateful to have received assistance from OWU Career Services when networking for her first job after graduation. Karen is Managing Editor for the American Society of Hematology in Washington, D.C.

Recent OWU graduate Emily Heppen sought assistance through Career Services when seeking a job in the Washington, D.C., area. She was able to set up meetings with ten OWU alumni during the week. "Everyone was so helpful. They were all so nice," she says.

When viewing the list of OWU contacts, Heppen recognized Beis as her camp counselor from years before in New Jersey. She contacted Beis and scheduled a face-to-face meeting

during this past spring break. Heppen thanks Beis for helping her obtain interviews that resulted in a job offer from the American Society of Hematology. She ultimately decided to accept another position as an executive assistant for the public relations firm Story Partners in the Georgetown area of Washington, D.C.

"I think that students need to be encouraged to network," she says. "A lot of people are shy and nervous about networking with older people," says Heppen. Beis agrees.

"I highly recommend that people sign up to participate in the new networking system at Ohio Wesleyan," said Beis. "It's great that OWU is offering it. It's another tool. The job market is really tough now."

Anyone registered with previous OWU career networking programs must re-register online with The Bishop Network. Please log in at <http://w3ww.myinterfase.com/owu.mentor> to complete a brief registration survey. If you have questions, contact OWU Career Services at (740) 368-3152.

*Linda Miller O'Horo '79 is Assistant Director of Media and Community Relations for the Office of Marketing & Communication.*

# Alumni Happenings »



*The cast of "Hot in Cleveland," from left: Valerie Bertinelli, Wendie Malick '72, Jane Leeves, and Betty White.*





# OWU Alum Wendie Malick Stars in New Sitcom “Hot in Cleveland”

OWU ALUM WENDIE MALICK '72 IS RETURNING TO OHIO, AT LEAST IN SPIRIT, IN HER NEW, AND VERY WELL-RECEIVED, TV LAND SITCOM *HOT IN CLEVELAND*. The refreshing comedy has Malick portraying the 50-something Victoria Chase, an attention-loving, former soap opera actress with five ex-husbands, three adopted children, and one grandchild.

“It’s interesting the kind of response I am getting from people on the street,” Malick says of the show. “It is a bigger cross-section than I was expecting ... it’s [the sitcom] really hit a nerve with people. A huge part of it is because there has been so little about women in their 40s and 50s ... producers are realizing there is a target audience that has been overlooked and in the process we have been a funny, well-written show and brought a big fan base to the show.”

*Hot in Cleveland*, which began airing in June, revolves around three fabulous L.A. women of a certain age who are best friends. Their lives are changed forever when their plane—headed to Paris for a girls-only celebration—unexpectedly lands in Cleveland, Ohio, and they soon rediscover themselves in a town where perfection isn’t required. The women find themselves renting a house together and battling its feisty caretaker, played by Betty White. The show, which also stars Valerie Bertanelli and Jane Leeves, airs at 10 p.m. EST on Wednesdays on TV Land.

Malick, who studied fine arts and theatre at OWU, finds working with the show’s cast and staff truly enjoyable. “Among the four of us, we figure we have some 200 years in the business of comedy,” Malick says with a chuckle. “Everybody has been doing this for a while. We are veterans of the field, bringing professionalism and maturity. It’s like doing

By *Andrea Misko Strle '99*

shorthand. It’s a solid, great group. It’s like playing tennis with great people; you hit the ball and you know they are going to hit it back.”

It’s not the first time Malick has been on a hit show. She starred in the popular 1990s NBC sitcom *Just Shoot Me* with David Spade and HBO’s *Dream On*. She also has appeared in many films, including *The American President* (1995) and *On the Edge* (2000). She has garnered numerous awards and award nominations.

And while her current show is based in Cleveland, she lives in the Santa Monica, California, mountains with her husband and films in the same lot in Studio City where *Just Shoot Me* was filmed. The Buffalo, New York, native recalls life on Lake Erie and remembers fondly her few visits to Cleveland. “I have so many friends from that area that I went to college with. It is very familiar to me,” she says.

Malick returned to Ohio Wesleyan in 2001 to deliver the Commencement address and still keeps in close contact with her theatre teacher and mentor from OWU, Professor Emeritus Bo Rabby. She also has maintained friendships with about 20 OWU alums from a group they like to call G.O.O.F.—Gathering of Old Friends. “We have stayed friends through marriages, divorces, kids’ weddings. That’s my ‘Big Chill’ group. We celebrate each other.”

Remembering her years at Ohio Wesleyan, Malick says she “absolutely knew” she was



Wendie Malick '72

going to be an actress. She modeled for a while and worked for Republican Congressman Jack Kemp, but left politics behind to act. And while her interests include the fine arts, she also is passionate about animal issues and poverty. She recently returned from Washington, D.C., where she was lobbying for various issues, particularly the plight of wild horses. She also has a deep concern about the future of the planet and is encouraged by young people today and their approach to “healing the planet.”

“I’m hopeful that the young people, interconnected worldwide, will make this happen,” she says. “OWU students, I implore you to heal the planet.”

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

# Making Music and a Promise



**LYMAN AND VIRGINIA “GINX” WILLIAMS PECK '42** (pictured above)  
**MET IN MISS CLARK'S FOURTH-GRADE CLASS IN LEBANON, OHIO.**

“She was my girl ever since,” recalls Lyman, reminiscing about his wife of 58 years, whose unexpected death in 2005 was only the second time in all of those years during which they were separated. His voice softens some as he talks about Ginx, her giving nature, and her ongoing love for church and organ music.

She studied under the great Rexford Keller at OWU and was in awe of Gray Chapel’s majestic Klais organ .

“College was a time of great inspiration, as it should be,” wrote Ginx. “At Ohio Wesleyan, I heard organ music so thrilling and choirs so perfectly trained that they served the intended purpose: to fill you with the Glory of God . . . I realized what organists should sound like.”

Behind her musical interests all the way with cast iron support, Lyman was always there to encourage his wife to pursue her dreams. Ginx eventually became the organist at the Oxford (Ohio) United Methodist Church, where she played for 25 years. Lyman’s own educational and professional pursuits were varied and fulfilling.

Yale-educated in mathematics, he eventually received a doctorate in mathematics education and taught at such universities as Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, Florida State, and Miami University. Lyman’s interest and training in meteorology and flying—he was both a fighter pilot in the war and a weather officer—resulted in what he calls a fighter pilot mentality.

“If you have the training and the mentality, there’s always something [new] worth trying.” And worth honoring. Ginx’s love for church and organ music is cause enough for Lyman’s recent charitable gift annuity for an organ scholarship at Ohio Wesleyan.

“She is responsible for developing in me an obligation to give back to the world what has been given to me,” says Lyman. “I want to do everything I can to keep this important part of church music alive.”

We invite you to be part of Ohio Wesleyan’s future and make the University part of your estate planning. **Support The Tower Society. Today, Tomorrow, Forever.**

## THE TOWER SOCIETY

<http://giftplanning.owu.edu>

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