

Ohio  
Wesleyan  
University

**CLASS PRESIDENT ANTHONY M. PEDDLE '14  
COMMENCEMENT REMARKS**

**Sunday, May 11, 2014**

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Before I begin my formal remarks today, I would like to take a personal moment to thank everyone who assisted and supported me after Saturday's incident. The outpouring of love and support that I received reminds me why I am proud to be a part of the Ohio Wesleyan family today and always. Thank you for that. As you can see, I am doing well, and I am looking forward to celebrating this wonderful day with all of you.

And now, for the real reason we're here...

Friends, Family, Faculty, Staff, Board of Trustees, Dr. Rock Jones, Mr. Stephen Ollendorff and, most importantly, the Ohio Wesleyan University Class of 2014:

We did it.

We're here.

Just four years ago, we celebrated graduating high school and moving on to college; a whole different world for most of us—and for many of us, the first time being away from our families.

Today we observe the culmination of our undergraduate experience with many of us moving into careers and some to graduate school—but the support and love of our families continue to drive our successes.

Notably, today we also celebrate Mother's Day.

So, Happy Mother's Day! I love you, Mom!

Likewise, fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters have played prominent roles in our successes. Today, we celebrate you, too.

Our four years at Ohio Wesleyan have brought many challenges, triumphs, trials and tribulations, but, nonetheless, we have remained strong as Battling Bishops.

We spent four years discovering who we are. And today, we stand here, breathless against the world, nervous and excited all at the same time.

We have eagerly awaited this moment since entering our freshman orientation experience just four short years ago.

The opportunity we are afforded while at Ohio Wesleyan is astounding

We stand poised and ready to take on the world—not an unemployed, violent, or intolerant world—but the world of our dreams—the world we get to shape and create.

We stand equipped with a liberal arts education, more life experiences than many of our peers, and, quite frankly, more stamps in our passports than we could ever dream.

We are global leaders.

We are lifelong learners.

We are OWU.

As I reflected on my four years here, I thought about many memories and friendships. The community we have experienced spans farther and wider than just this campus.

Like our educations, OWU is constantly expanding...the Stuyvesant Hall renovation, the Fountain (or JAYf as many of us have come to call it), the library renovations, the renovation of the JAYwalk as a whole, the food court renovation, and, as we celebrated last summer, the upcoming renovation of Merrick Hall.

These renovations were all key markers in the time line of Ohio Wesleyan University, while our class made our own marks on the road map of Ohio Wesleyan.

During our four years at OWU, we celebrated national champions and leaders in the classroom, laboratory, on the athletic field and on stage. Our legacy will remain long after today; the Class of 2014 has made a lasting impact on the hearts of professors and staff, and on the framework of Ohio Wesleyan University.

As we stand poised to take on the challenges that lie ahead, we also hide our fear and insecurities under these mortarboards. It's going to be tough—we all know that—but the education, optimism and confidence we're hiding under these same mortarboards show the value of a liberal arts education.

I think Ellen said it best: "Follow your passion, stay true to yourself, never follow someone else's path unless you're in the woods and you're lost and you see a path, then by all means you should follow that."

Let's write our own history; let's do something memorable.

We have four years behind us, and lifetime ahead of us. As Bono said in 2005: "Your degree is a blunt instrument. Build something bold with it!"

So, let's hit it! Congratulations, Class of 2014, we made it.

Anthony M. Peddle '14  
Senior Class President  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
May 11, 2014  
Commencement Remarks