

**The Class of 2016
Baccalaureate Service
Gray Chapel
Ohio Wesleyan University
Delaware, Ohio
May 7, 2016
7:30 p.m.**

“Beyond the Circles of Our Worlds”

~ ~ ~

*“A big part of what the 21st century will be about is whether religion is a
bubble of isolation,
a barrier of division,
a bomb of destruction,
or a bridge of cooperation.
Lots of leaders have been pushing for
the bubble,
the barrier,
and the bomb.
I think now you’re starting to see
a critical mass of participants and leaders building bridges.”*

Eboo Patel, Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core, who presented OWU with the award for Best Interfaith “Better Together” program in the nation.

A Special Note of Thanks to:

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Mary Jeffries for her endless energy and creativity

Families: Be sure to take your graduate's baby picture with you tonight!

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE
Ohio Wesleyan University
The Class of 2016
“Beyond the Circles of Our Worlds”

7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 2016

Gray Chapel
Ohio Wesleyan University

Processional Alex Armstrong, '16, organist

Procession of Our National Flags

University Greeting The Reverend Dr. Rock Jones
University President

President's Commission Awards Chuck Della Lana
*Co-Chair, The President's Commission
on Racial and Cultural Diversity*

Religious Life Awards The Reverend Jon Powers
University Chaplain
The Reverend Dr. Blake Michael
Professor of Religion

Student Leader Greeting Naa-Oye Bosompra
Luke Waters
Baccalaureate 2016 Co-Chairs

Our Jewish Tradition *Sacred Scripture* Emma Drongowski

Our Christian Tradition *“Evangelism”* Benjamin Pelkey
Cameron Pappa

“Chalice” *Billie Paulus* Billie Paulus

Our Muslim Tradition	<i>Sacred Scripture</i>	S M Bargeen Turzo
Our Interfaith Tradition	<i>“Love, Live, Believe” Khoa Lam</i>	Khoa Lam, conductor Chris Brinich, violin Alescia Austin, viola Emily Phillips, percussion ZoAnn Schutte, clarinet Colette Siddle, soprano Jamie Chornoby, flute Jiamo Zhang, piano
From My Personal World		Camille Mullins-Lemieux
“The Station”	<i>Robert J. Hastings</i>	Jerry Lherisson
“Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front”	Wendell Berry	Reilly Reynolds
“Pray for Me”	<i>Michael W. Smith</i>	Emily Harrison
From My Personal World		Kelsey Thornton
From My Personal World		Robert Federer
“In My Life”	<i>Lennon/McCartney</i>	Hannah Simpson
The Senior Class Comes Forward		Alex Armstrong, '16, organist

At this time, we invite all members of the graduating class to the stage for candle lighting and singing of the alma mater.

“Alma Mater”

1. Ohio Wesleyan, Sweetly and strong
Rises our hymn of praise for thee alone;
Heaven re-echoes it, loud let it ring,
Ohio Wesleyan! Loyal hearts sing.
2. Ohio Wesleyan! Proud is thy crown.
Rarest of laurels e'er Vict'ry has known;
Noblest achievements have hallowed thy name,
Ohio Wesleyan! Deathless thy fame.

Benediction

Natalie Wood
The Reverend Kerry Wood

Postlude

Alexander Armstrong, '16

*"Don't underestimate
the power of your vision to change the world.
Whether that world is your office, your community,
an industry or a global movement,
you need to have a core belief
that what you contribute
can fundamentally change the paradigm
or way of thinking about problems."
- Leroy Hood*

THE BACCALAUREATE COMMITTEE 2016

The word *liturgy* means “the work of the people.” Tonight’s liturgy illustrates that original meaning. This service is a prayerful, earnest, and semester-long effort of the Class of 2016. Their goal has been consistent and conscientious: to bring together all the mysterious and kaleidoscopic ways in which God has touched their lives, informed their faith, and molded their character over the past four years at Ohio Wesleyan University. This service is, by intent, patterned and chaotic, personal and corporate, sorrowful and exultant. It is not intended to be comprehensive or complete, but rather allusive and illustrative. All the sights and sounds of this evening are a collage of praise to God, a tapestry of thanksgiving, if you will, to acknowledge that “we have not come this far by our own power.”

Baccalaureate Committee: Co-chairs, Luke Waters and Naa-Oye Bosompra; Secretary, Caitlin McNaughton; Graphic Design, Camille Mullins-Lemieux; Baby Photos, Rebekah Mahoney and Bill Milanick; Chancel Design, Faith MacDonald and Bhudayal Arjune; Reception, Bhuneshwar Arjune

Ex-Officio: Chase Smith, Dominic Mejia, and Jude Fahoum, Class of 2017; Sharon Hayes, Miranda Anthony, and Courtney Clark, Class of 2018; to be named: Class of 2019; Associate Chaplains Mary Jeffries, Lisa Ho, Chad Johns, and William Hayes, University Chaplain Jon Powers, Assistant to the Chaplain Becky Swartz.

Honoring Our National Flags

The flags placed at the front of Gray Chapel this evening represent all the nations of our Class of 2016. These flags represent:

USA	Australia
Bangladesh	Burundi
Canada	China
Egypt	Guyana
India	Indonesia
Japan	Malaysia
New Zealand	Nigeria
Pakistan	Paraguay
Saudi Arabia	Thailand
Virgin Islands	Vietnam

Gray Chapel and the Rexford Keller Memorial Organ

Gray Chapel has long been Ohio Wesleyan's major chapel, concert hall, lecture hall, and place of gathering for the campus community. For over a century, some of the world's leading performers and preachers, speakers and scholars have held forth in this sacred space. Among the more recent are Congressman John Lewis, Morris Dees, Gloria Steinem, and Immaculée Ilibagiza

The chapel is named in honor of Brother David F. Gray, President of the Board of Trustees in the 1880s. In 1888, Acting President and Professor McCabe made a plea for a chapel to be built somewhere between University and Monnett Halls. Brother David F. Gray pledged \$10,000 toward such a building. When University Hall was built, the construction of the chapel was named in Brother Gray's honor.

The glorious Rexford Keller Memorial Organ, installed in 1980, was designed for Gray Chapel and was constructed by Johannes Klais Orgelbau of Bonn, Germany, one of the world's most prestigious organ builders. This splendid instrument is one of only eight built for America by the Klais firm. (The organ at Asbury United Methodist Church in Delaware, Ohio, is the most recent.) It has mechanical linkage to the valves that admit air to pipes. This permits the musician infinite control over the shadings of the music. The organ, in a case of European white oak, contains 4,644 pipes arranged in 84 ranks and ranging from more than 20 feet in length to one-quarter of an inch. The pipes are composed of special alloys of tin, or of mahogany, pear wood or redwood. The pipe shades, which are both decorative and functional, are covered with 22-carat gold leaf. The Klais instrument is the third organ to be housed in Gray Chapel since the chapel was constructed in 1893. It is one of the largest and finest modern mechanical action pipe organs to be found in an educational institution in the United States.

We are grateful to those who came before us for these dedicated resources which make this chapel and organ available to us for the worship of God. It is a solemn blessing, in the midst of an academic institution, to have such glorious facilities in which to praise the source of all knowledge and truth.

The President's Commission for Racial and Cultural Diversity Awards

The President's Commission for Racial and Cultural Diversity recognizes one student, one organization and one faculty or staff member for working to improve the state of racial and cultural diversity and/or social justice at OWU each year.

Student Diversity Award Winner: *Kaila Johnson*

Kaila Johnson is known on campus as a person who gets involved. She is the moderator for the House of Black Culture and an active member of Sister's United and SUBA. Last summer, she completed an internship at the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, an organization dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry, and racism.

She is known for personally getting to know and providing support to many of the underrepresented students on campus. She is an exceptional listener, leader, and a person of action when it comes to dealing with issues of social injustice.

Faculty/Staff Diversity Award Winner: *Dr. Shari Stone-Mediatore*

As a professor of philosophy, Shari Stone-Mediatore has brought many speakers and events to campus on a range of social justice issues including race, gender, sexuality inequities, war and peace, and neocolonialism.

She has taken students abroad on several occasions to examine social justice issues in Mexico and her classes often are a source of inspiration to students who look to grow in insight about basic human rights and the link between social and environmental issues.

UNIVERSITY RELIGIOUS LIFE AWARDS

Each of the Religious Life Awards honor an individual who exemplifies a faithful witness to the ethical, spiritual, and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University, as delineated in the University's Charter of 1842 and the University's current Statement of Aims, as demonstrated in leadership both on campus and in the community, including church or other faith community affiliation.

These institutional honors, presented each year at the Baccalaureate Service, were cited by the John Templeton Foundation as one of the reasons for honoring Ohio Wesleyan University for its "Spiritual Growth program" in *The Templeton Guide: Colleges That Encourage Character Development – A Resource for Parents, Students, and Educators* (1999). The John Templeton Foundation declares such programs vital for college life.

"Students searching for meaning, connectedness, and significance present both a challenge and an opportunity for colleges and universities. Programs that foster spiritual growth provide a means to develop a vision of moral integrity that coheres and connects belief to behavior. Exemplary programs (*such as Ohio Wesleyan's*) affirm the integral role that spirituality and religion often play in shaping character."

This distinction has been reaffirmed in recent years by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., The United Methodist Church, the National Catholic Campus Ministry Association, the National Interfaith Youth Core, President Barack Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, and The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

**The Bliss and Mildred Wiant Award for Leadership in
Interfaith and Intercultural Relations**

*Naa-Oye Bosompra
Bhuneshwar Arjune*

Naa-Oye Bosompra

Nana is a beautifully humble member of the Ohio Wesleyan Interfaith House who strives for accepting differences between her faith and that of others, as well as those who do not identify with any faith in particular. She always has room in her heart and mind to understand and respect other world views, and she is easily able to discuss the many issues faced today surrounding religion and the human lives entangled in conflictual and confusing issues.

One student wrote of Nana, “I believe Nana has an interfaith nature in her soul, and it demonstrates itself through her kindness, her relationships, and her supportive attitude. Being a member of IF in itself shows Nana's commitment to Interfaith, but she also has represented Ohio Wesleyan at the international Interfaith Young Core Leadership Institutes and the White House Conference on the President’s Collegiate Challenge for Interfaith Community Service, where last year she helped Ohio Wesleyan receive the highest honor of “National Finalist” for our Interfaith Community Service efforts at Ohio Wesleyan. Nana continues to inspire and challenge us all with on-going questions and profound ponderings out loud about all the things she has learned at these conferences. Nana truly exemplifies an interfaith-inspired life, and truly draws us all to it.

Bhuneshwar Arjune

Bhuneshwar is actively engaged in the many groups on campus that work to celebrate the rich religious heritage of our internationally and interculturally rich campus community, and helped to share that heritage with others. Bhuneshwar is part of VIVA, which celebrates and promotes Latin American culture, and Sagnam, which celebrates and promotes Hindi religious culture. Through Sagnam, Bhuneshwar has shared the religious traditions of Diwali and Holi with the entire Ohio Wesleyan community.

One student wrote, “Under his leadership, the entire Sagnam group did a fantastic job with both of these events. I attended both and thoroughly enjoyed both. Individually, Bhuneshwar made significant contributions, and even performed a piece of music on the Drums for the Diwali event. Bhuneshwar is a student who honors and shares his own religious heritage freely, but in such a way that I, or other students who keep different faith traditions, never feel that we are being devalued because of our differing beliefs. Bhuneshwar possesses remarkable personal integrity. I truly have never heard any student or faculty or staff member speak anything but positive comments about Bhuneshwar. Students and all of Ohio Wesleyan community alike have benefited from his kindness, his care, and his rich and generous personal investment in them.”

**The Chaplain James Leslie Award for
Leadership in Peace and Justice**

Luke Waters

*“We have a cause that is just.
We have a cause that is going to prevail.
For goodness’ sake, let us not spoil it by the kind of methods we use!”
Bishop Desmond Tutu*

*"The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it."
Flannery O’Connor*

Luke Waters is one of the most likable leaders at Ohio Wesleyan. From the moment Luke arrived at Ohio Wesleyan his freshman year, he has displayed a passionate and focused pursuit of justice. To paraphrase our university’s namesake, John Wesley, the *world* has been Luke’s classroom. From his involvement in the OWU Spring Break Mission Week programs –including leading two teams to St. Louis and Washington D.C.; to his semester-long internship with the Center for American Progress via the Wesleyan in Washington program; to travel-learning courses and Theory-to-Practice trips to Argentina, Portugal, and Northern Ireland; to studying abroad in Spain; to engaging the issue of mass incarceration on campus with Black Men of the Future, Luke has always engaged enthusiastically in significant and transformative learning, conversations, and gentle confrontations with issues of social justice and peace advocacy. Luke balances a firm commitment to justice with a level of humility and humor that makes him approachable to even those who may be challenged by his prophetic witness. Luke will continue his prophetic witness and work for peace and justice next year with the Episcopal Service Corp in New York City.

The Bishop Gerald Ensley Award for Leadership in Christian Mission

Faith MacDonald

Zach Claytor

Faith MacDonald

Faith has lived her life as *mission* through her four years at Ohio Wesleyan University. She is a natural leader that others naturally want to follow. As a freshman, Faith began to reach out to Delaware County high school students through Young Life at Ohio Wesleyan. She was an outstanding mentor and role model for the high school students; she helped her fellow OWU student leaders to grow and develop their faith. She continued to lead OWU students through prayer meetings and Bible studies. Faith grew up understanding the importance of local church involvement and the value of this community. As a senior here at OWU, she became a leader in her church college group, inviting students on Sundays and following up with them on campus throughout the week to help them get involved in local church community and deepen their faith journey as college students. Most significantly and profoundly, she has been committed to helping the international students on campus make this connection. She initiated and led a Bible study specifically for international students this past year. Her efforts have made a huge difference in the lives of these students and the quality of their faith engagement and growth while at OWU. Faith truly understands cross-cultural ministry, and she has a passion for reaching out to students who are between cultures or far from home. Her influence and leadership at OWU have helped many students find their faith and find a home.

Zach Claytor

Zach has been involved with the student leadership team of Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru) for all four of his years at OWU, and has been the primary student contact and organizer of their club activities for the past two years. Zach has traveled with other OWU Cru students to Panama City, Florida during Spring Break each year for a national meeting and outreach event with Cru students from around the country, as well as to Indianapolis this past winter break for the Cru Winter Retreat. Zach was integral in the organization of these trips, and has consistently demonstrated superb leadership skills in service to Cru throughout his time here.

One of Zach's professors wrote, "Zach truly exemplifies the personality traits and moral characteristics that one would expect from a person nominated for this award. He is one of the most responsible, enthusiastic, positive, encouraging, and unselfish students that I have ever known. He has consistently demonstrated a level of maturity and empathy that exceed his age. He serves as an excellent role model for his peers by leading with integrity, commitment, humility, and passion. He leads with a servant's heart – putting the needs of others ahead of his own without complaint; he is gifted with a passion for helping others and receiving joy from the success of others. Zach has a joyful spirit and uncanny ability to spread that joy wherever he goes, giving testimony to a strong and enduring faith through both words and action."

The Cheryl McGinnis Award for Catholic Leadership

Robert Rauch

*“Since many of you do not belong to the Catholic Church
and others are non-believers,
from the bottom of my heart I give this silent blessing
to each and every one of you,
respecting the conscience of each one of you
but knowing that each one of you is a child of God”.*

Pope Francis

Quiet, soft-spoken, deep water soul. That is Robert Rauch. If even there was among us a person who worked and walked with a “silent blessing” bursting in his heart, it would be Rob.

Through his involvement in the Citizens of the World (COW) House and the Ohio Wesleyan Catholic Community’s Newman group, Rob has served as an exemplary student leader. His time in COW has been marked with a promotion of interfaith and intercultural ideas in accordance with the house's mission and his deep personal beliefs. He has fostered much discussion about the role of faith and culture within our world. Rob’s student leadership to help bring Immaculée Ilibagiza to campus in the fall of his senior year, and his work with the World Relief Refugee Project (a drive for Syrian refugees) as his house project with Samantha Johnson, have shown Rob's devotion to his faith, the world around him, and the promotion of interfaith and intercultural ideas that Ohio Wesleyan holds so dear.

The Taban Blake Award for Servant Leadership

Billie Paulus

Billie is the very vibrant picture of a servant's heart – in her leadership on campus and in her service with the community. She is equally at ease with the grit of working behind the scenes or the grace of greeting a packed hall of people. As we will all experience this evening, Billie is a gifted singer, musician, and song-writer. She has served her local church, the Delaware City Vineyard, as a worship leader, and she has completed an internship there. Billie has led Bible studies and fellowship groups on campus, and has been instrumental in connecting different faith groups on campus through ecumenical prayer groups and campus-wide events. Her passion for connecting people has also led her to three years of service as a student leader in the Fresh X pre-orientation program. Billie welcomed first year students in their transition to OWU and became a close friend and mentor to many of them. Through her leadership, many of them also found a heart for service and made connections with Habitat for Humanity and other service projects in Delaware. Not content to stay in Delaware, Billie expanded her service and leadership to join the Wilderness Ministry in leading a Spring Break Wilderness Trek to North Carolina during her senior year. She conceived an experience that integrated worship with outdoor adventure, and led a group through camp-fire discussions, hiking mountain tops, and singing songs together. Whether on campus, at her church, or in the wilderness, the impact Billie has made through her servant leadership at OWU has been, like the old church camp song puts it so enthusiastically, “deep and wide, deep and wide...”

The Arthur S. Flemming Award for Leadership in the Civic Arts

Kelsey Thornton

*“Note too that a faithful study of the liberal arts
humanizes character and permits it not to be cruel.”*

Ovid

*“Until the great mass of the people shall be filled
with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare,
social justice can never be attained.”*

Helen Keller

Kelsey Thornton is a force for good writ large. Kelsey began her freshman year as an active and strong influence with Delaware County high school students as student leader in Ohio Wesleyan Young Life. She has helped that campus ministry in the greater Delaware community grow, and countless young lives have been impacted by her caring and compassionate presence in their midst. Her persistence in that service with young people is a testament to her steadfastness and passion for mentoring high schoolers. This commitment has extended over her years at Ohio Wesleyan to also impact underclassmen on campus. Kelsey has mentored many fellow Christians within the OWU community through her friendships, her sensitive caring, and her deep commitment to social justice. Indeed, Kelsey especially lives out her Christian faith through her social justice work. She has educated our entire campus community about sex trafficking in the United States and how it is linked integrally to a worldwide system of sexual slavery for economic gain. One of the highlights of Kelsey's blend of academic study, civic arts, and faith commitment was her Ohio Wesleyan Theory into Practice grant, “Opposing Human Trafficking in India.” She travelled to India to gain a better understanding of human trafficking by shadowing and volunteering with the organization International Justice Mission, and then she brought her knowledge home to educate us all about these issues so vital to our time.

**The Robert and Bette Meyer Award for faithful witness
to the ethical, spiritual, and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University
as delineated in the University's Charter and Statement of Aims**

Christopher Mickens

*“Mitakuye Oyasin - We are all relatives.”
“Everything the Great Spirit does is done in a circle...”*

These two quotes are at the core of ancient wisdom of the Lakota Nation. They also are core to the wisdom of Chris Mickens. Over the years, Chris's service with Ohio Wesleyan students traveling to the Lakota Nation for Spring Break Mission teams has impacted their lives in profound ways. Chris's own Lakota-like spirit has blessed and empowered even more students, faculty, and staff over the years in his capacity as a Public Safety Officer. With calm presence, gentle wisdom, and a deep caring for every student, Chris consistently navigates difficult situations on campus in ways that bring healing and stability to the campus community.

Chris began his service ten years ago as a Spring Break Mission team member, as a member of the all faculty/staff team on the United Houma project in Louisiana. He subsequently has served as a faculty/staff advisor nearly every year since – three years with the Lakota Nation; two years with the Chicago teams; once with the Food Justice team in Delaware; and this year with the Crossroads of the Powerful and the Powerless team in Washington, D.C.

Chris also has served in powerful leadership roles with such campus-related initiatives as Delaware's F.E.E.D. program (sometimes having as many of 60 OWU students on a Monday night to help feed families in Delaware); Grace Free Medical Clinic; Equine therapy for autistic children; and the Delaware community Free Store. As a member of the Delaware City Vineyard Church, Chris offers us all a spiritual witness grounded in thoughtful integrity.

This semester, Chris worked in a new collaborative relationship between Public Safety and the Community Service Learning Office. In this capacity, Chris provided strong and reflective leadership for a section of the Columbus Initiative – and he, along with his students, found a great passion for helping inner-city students succeed.

**The Bishop Francis Enmer Kearns Award for faithful witness
to the ethical, spiritual, and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University
as delineated in the University's Charter and Statement of Aims**

Dr. Paul Dean

The late, beloved Professor of Ornithology, Dr. Jed Burt, when asked to describe the most important aspect of teaching at Ohio Wesleyan University, said, "Setting the bar high is easy, helping the student clear the bar is what teaching is about. Awaken a passion in a young person and helping each student fulfill a newly formulated dream is the essence of teaching. There is no higher calling, no greater purpose in life." Professor Paul Dean exemplifies this high standard in his teaching, his research, and his personal life.

Paul was enthusiastically selected this year for this highest honor by the senior class and the faculty personnel committee. He is acclaimed throughout the campus for his prophetic work with social justice issues, his creative formation of curriculum with first generation students in UC 160, and his breadth and depth of rigorous and widely-acclaimed scholarship regarding social responsibility (civic arts), racial justice, and earth stewardship issues.

Paul has consistently provided exemplary witness and service to us all in such ventures as a faculty advisor for the TIPIT/Mission Teams to Vietnam to serve Agent Orange victims, and to Haiti to serve in our partner orphanage, Pwoje Espwa, his seminal role as initiator with Sally Leber for the first UC 160 classes for first generation students at Ohio Wesleyan, and his passionate witness to what we in the Wesleyan tradition call "social holiness" – that is, a life of intellectual and spiritual integrity that exudes "knowledge and vital piety," rigorous research and responsible living, and a love of neighbor that goes far "beyond the circles of our (own) worlds."

How is Ohio Wesleyan University related to the United Methodist Church?

1842 Official Charter and Current Statement of Aims

Since its founding, Ohio Wesleyan University has maintained its connection with the Methodist (now United Methodist) Church, offering a quality of scholarship, leadership, and service that has enriched both Church and Society. Its charter provided that “the University is forever to be conducted on the most liberal principles, accessible to all religious denominations, and designed for the benefit of our citizens in general.” In spirit and heritage, the University defines itself as a community of teachers and students devoted to the free pursuit of truth. It attempts to develop in its students qualities of intellect and character which will be useful no matter what they choose to do in later life.

One of the three primary objectives of the University is to place education in the context of values. Liberal education seeks to develop in students understanding of themselves, appreciation of others, and willingness to meet the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society. It recognizes that trained sensitivity to private and public value issues, grounded in a sound grasp of various cultural heritages, is important for maturation and for living a good life. It accords high honor to intellectual honesty. Consistent with our Methodist tradition, Ohio Wesleyan University encourages concern for all religious and ethical issues and stimulates its students to examine their own views in light of these issues.

Official Affiliation with the United Methodist Church

In keeping with these sacred and social commitments, and based upon a regular review of its academic program, religious life, student life, and financial standing, Ohio Wesleyan University is officially affiliated with The United Methodist Church as a United Methodist institution of higher education.

In Sacred Memory

of

Dr. Jed Burt



*"I hope that I convey to all students my passion for the birds I love,
the science that provides me with boundless excitement,
and the privilege I feel in becoming a trusted confidant in their lives.*

*Awakening a passion in a young person
and helping each student fulfill a newly formulated dream
is the essence of teaching.*

There is no higher calling, no greater purpose in life."

Professor Jed Burt