

# OWU

## PLANTS IN SPAAAAACE

Professor  
Chris Wolverton  
sows seeds of  
discovery beyond  
the pull of gravity

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A view of Selby Stadium through the leaves in fall.

Photo: Abi Care Horvat '17



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**ON THE COVER:** Professor Chris Wolverton received a grant from NASA to send an experiment to the International Space Station. *Photo by Thompson Creative Imaging and Bill Walker.*

## 2020 VISION SHOWS FORESIGHT

*The enrollment objective of 2,020 students by 2020 is critical to OWU's future*

**E**ighteen months ago, Provost Chuck Stinemetz convened a faculty summit on the future of Ohio Wesleyan University and its academic program. The faculty looked closely at emerging trends affecting American higher education, including shifting demographics, rising costs paired with stagnant family incomes, increasing emphasis on outcomes and career preparation, and ways in which the OWU curriculum should

be an important strategic conversation. The outcome of the retreat was a commitment to increase enrollment at OWU to 2,020 students by 2020. This has become known on campus as our 2020 Vision.

Nothing about this objective is easy. It requires careful planning and execution. To that end, the board and faculty identified five pillars for the 2020 Vision: creation of new and enhancement of existing programs, improvement of

business administration, computational neuroscience, data analytics, nutrition, communication (tracks in media production studies; organizational, interpersonal, and group communication; and strategic corporate communication), social justice, and special education, as well as a petition for accreditation to offer a Bachelor of Science degree. This is a remarkable set of accomplishments in a short period of time.



*President Rock Jones lends a hand to Bree Riggle '18 on move-in day Aug. 20.*

evolve to fulfill our historic mission as a liberal arts university while responding to the changing needs and expectations of students and their families. The faculty convened in a second summit in January of 2016 to continue the conversation and to explore the question of the appropriate size of Ohio Wesleyan as we move toward the middle of the 21st century.

In February of 2016, the Board of Trustees met in a retreat on campus where they were joined by faculty for this

the student experience outside of the classroom, enrollment initiatives including growing international student and transfer student recruitment, renewal of the physical campus, and development of a sustainable financial model.

Much has been accomplished in a short period of time. New academic programs are designed to create bridges between our liberal arts curriculum and professional preparation. In the past year the faculty has approved new majors in

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**“MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO CREATE BRIDGES BETWEEN OUR LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM AND PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION.”**

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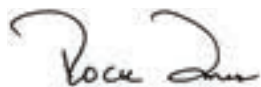
In response to the need to address cost and to allow students to complete academic work in the summer while engaged in internships, jobs, undergraduate research or other programs anywhere in the world, OWU offered a portion of its summer session online this past summer. Our summer enrollment increased 30 percent over the previous year, and we will double the number of online summer offerings in 2017.

In the coming months, we will develop strategies to dramatically rethink our approach to career planning and development. We intend to engage students from their earliest weeks on campus in programs that enable them to

think deeply about their passions and to align their academic work more directly with their aspirations for meaningful lives and fulfilling careers. We will place even greater emphasis on internships and practical, real-world experiences through The OWU Connection.

This is a time of bold and aspirational thinking at OWU. The University is blessed both by deeply dedicated, innovative faculty, and by alumni and friends who provide the philanthropic foundation that allows Ohio Wesleyan to continue to educate the next generation of moral leaders for a global society.

In this edition of the magazine, you have the opportunity to read about the work of faculty and students in a research laboratory, to learn more about the 2020 Vision, and to hear from the recent Women of Wesleyan weekend, a reminder of the deep connections that exist within the OWU family. I encourage you to consider your place in these stories and to share your thoughts as we work together to advance Ohio Wesleyan's noble mission in these rapidly changing times. ■



**Rock Jones**

President, Ohio Wesleyan University  
Twitter: @owu\_rockjones

**Missed opportunity to remember**

While I greatly enjoy the magazine, I was somewhat disappointed in your Baby Boom generation article in the fall issue. The article mentions many important events, people and characters of the time, but I did not see any "In Memoriam" mention of the OWU students/graduates who served their country during the Vietnam Conflict, regardless of whether they volunteered or were drafted, and gave it their all, the ultimate sacrifice. An omission, and a sad one. Yet you did give editorial space to 15 students who protested, demonstrated against the war. Protesters are not always right ... they have a right to protest, but show some respect for others as well. Are those who fought not as important? What about the Vietnam Memorial? I guess Stokely Carmichael or the like is more important to this narrative.

– **George Aitken '66**  
**Colonel, USAF (retired)**

**Helping dreams take wing**

We read about Dr. Jed Burt's passing in the fall issue of *OWU Magazine*. His influence on our son, Corey, was instrumental in his love of birds. Corey is now in Florida working for Natural Encounters, which contracts with Disney World to train birds and put on the bird performances at Animal Kingdom. OWU gave him the confidence to grow into the man he is today, and Dr. Burt gave him knowledge to build on. We thank him. We hope Corey passes on the pride and knowledge of his experiences at Ohio Wesleyan.

– **Glenn and Jo Derryberry**

**Share your opinions.**

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*Letters may be edited for length and clarity.*

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WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

# OWU

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**CORRECTIONS:** Our Fall 2016 issue contained an incorrect Board of Trustees listing, please see Page 47 for an updated listing. Participants at a Phi Delta Theta reunion were misidentified, an updated listing can be found at [owu.edu/magazine](http://owu.edu/magazine). We regret the errors.

## OWU adds new majors

The menu at Ohio Wesleyan's all-you-can-think academic buffet just got bigger.

Faculty members recently approved new majors in communication, data analytics, Middle Eastern studies, nutrition, and social justice. Classes for the offerings will begin in fall 2017.

The communication major will be part of OWU's newly renamed Department of Journalism and Communication. The major was created to "blend the intellectual breadth of a liberal arts education with a deep understanding of communication strategy and experience in digital media production," Provost Chuck Stinemetz says.

Communication majors will choose from three concentrations: media production studies; organizational, interpersonal, and group communication; or strategic corporate communication. In addition to their core courses, communication majors also will be able to focus on specific fields, such as political, health, or business communication, Stinemetz says, allowing

them to pursue targeted interests and career goals.

Professor Dale J. Brugh, OWU's associate dean for innovation, says the nutrition and data analytics majors also will provide students with practical skills in the context of the liberal arts. "The major in data analytics will help students gain the skills necessary to process large data sets, see trends, and make insights that drive decision-making," Brugh says, noting that few liberal arts institutions offer data analytics.

"The major is grounded in the liberal arts with emphasis on the social, ethical, and cultural impact of big data and its use," he says. "This combination of technical skill and critical thinking will position OWU graduates to take advantage of the growing number of data analytics jobs in fields such as finance, marketing, insurance, and health care."

The nutrition major, Brugh says, "focuses on the relationship between food, nutrients, and human health. It addresses

student interest in careers such as health education, community health, food justice, food advocacy, food policy, food industry work, and dietetics."

In addition, he says, the major also "complements other majors for those students contemplating advanced study in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and physician's assistant."

Faculty members last year approved a new major in business administration, which began enrolling students this fall. The major offers concentrations in both management and marketing. It was already the third-most-popular major among incoming first-year students.

The new majors are part of a plan approved by the Board of Trustees to enroll 2,020 students by 2020 through various initiatives, including enhancing academic offerings. *Read more about 2020 by 2020 on Page 20.* ■



### Orchesis

Performers in the annual contemporary dance concert

Orchesis hang out on the pedestrian bridge near campus. The November concert featured original work by students, guest choreographers, and artistic direction by assistant professor of theatre and dance Rashana Perks Smith. ■



## One OWU

**Cyndni Chèry '18** inks her thumbprint on a group work of art at One OWU: An Evening of Harmony, Healing, and Hope. The Oct. 3 event at the labyrinth was organized to lift up and support all campus community members. ■

Photo: **Mark Schmitter '12**



Photos: **Hannah Wargo '19**

## Aca-mazing

The fourth annual A Cappellooza, featuring performers from OWU groups the JAYwalkers (left), Pitch Black, and OWtsiders was held Nov. 5 in Gray Chapel. The event was hosted by **Eric Gnezda '79**, an OWU faculty member and singer/songwriter, with a theme of movie songs. Groups from other local colleges, and the Grammy-nominated a capella group Committed also performed. ■

***Symone Mann '19**, president of the OWtsiders, performs.*



**Festival of lights** Aaina Gupta '18

(left) and Areena Arora '17 dance at the Diwali celebration on Nov. 13, organized by SANGAM, the student organization highlighting South Asian cultures. ■



Photos: Reilly Wright '20



**Fall Festival**

Delaware families and members of the OWU community enjoyed the second annual Fall Festival outside the Delta Tau Delta house on Oct. 28. The event, organized by the Faith and Justice Club, featured trick-or-treating around Williams Dr. (blocked to traffic for the occasion), two bounce houses, and pumpkin decorating. **Julia Anne Caple '20** (foreground, above) and **Emma Wong '20** paint eager faces. Max Brooker (below), son of **Matthew Brooker '03** and **Julia Brooker '05**, gives **Bob the Bishop** five. ■



**OWU by the numbers**



Percent increase in the size of this year's incoming class over last



Countries, including the U.S., represented in the student body



Percent of students who receive some form of financial assistance, thanks to donor support



Percent of class of 2015 graduates who found employment or enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation





1971



2016

## ALL-FOOTBALL REUNION BRINGS TOGETHER CONFERENCE CHAMPS

More than 20 members of the 1971 football team gathered on the steps outside Merrick Hall at the all football reunion during Homecoming and Family Weekend, Oct. 8.

Their team, coached by **Jack Fouts '48**, won the Ohio Athletic Conference title and was selected to play in the

Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl (the NCAA College Division Western Regional title game). Samford (Alabama) won the game, 20-10, but forfeited the victory after it was discovered ineligible players were used.

# DITTRICK HOUSE

## Ohio Wesleyan dedicates new Small Living Unit

On what **Tom Tritton '69** called the “most glorious possible October day,” the Ohio Wesleyan community came together on Oct. 6 to dedicate the Dittrick House – OWU’s first new student housing construction in 50 years.

Tritton, chair of the OWU Board of Trustees, welcomed guests to the outdoor event, held in front of the Dittrick House, a 5,795-square-foot duplex containing two small living units (SLUs) of 12 students each. Its construction – and the construction of a second “SLUplex” underway at the corner of Rowland Avenue and S. Washington Street – was made possible by gifts from **Doug Dittrick '55** and others who believe strongly in the value of a residential liberal arts education.

“Their generosity allows us to celebrate this house – and all of

the great things on this campus,” Tritton said.

President Rock Jones noted the Life Trustee’s “catalytic role” in advancing Ohio Wesleyan’s residential campus and his longtime connection with the University, his pioneering role in the cable television industry, and his extraordinary legacy of service, which includes an integral role in Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope), a Haitian orphanage that houses 350 children and provides health care for dozens of children each day in its clinic.

Jones thanked Dittrick for being “supportive of Ohio Wesleyan in every conceivable way,” calling him “an exemplar of everything we would hope for in an alumnus.”

Dittrick told the crowd at the dedication that he still recalls being a “Delaware townie” 65 years ago when he enrolled at



*Doug Dittrick '55 and Rock Jones*



*The Dittrick House welcomed its first residents this fall, including members of the Sexual and Gender Equality House. (From left) **Melanie Doweiko '17, Julianne Zala '17, Marisa Grillo '19, and Alyssa Clark '17.***

Ohio Wesleyan, following in the footsteps of his father, a 1931 alumnus and former OWU faculty member. Despite all Dittrick accomplished since graduating, he said Ohio Wesleyan and his fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta, “are still the driving forces for me.”

Dittrick said he plans to continue supporting the University and encouraged others to do the same, especially students, as they become young alumni. “You’d be a godsend to us and Ohio Wesleyan,” he said. “We need all of you to support us.”

Additional donors recognized for student housing gifts were **Phil Meek '59** and **Nancy La Porte Meek '59, Rich Alexander '82, Mike McCluggage '69,** and **Tim and Lisa Sloan P '13, P '16,** parents of two recent OWU graduates.

After the ceremony, both Alexander and McCluggage said their time as trustees has helped underscore for them the need to enhance OWU’s student housing to support a vibrant living-learning community, retain current students, and attract future Bishops.

The gifts recognized all were made as part of Ohio Wesleyan’s seven-year, \$200 million Connect Today, Create Tomorrow comprehensive campaign. To date, the campaign has raised \$115 million, including \$3.2 million of its \$10 million goal for residential facilities.

Alexander, a 12-year trustee, said when the opportunity arose “to collaborate with Doug and be among the initial drivers

**Interfaith House (IF)** asks “How do we coexist?” In matters secular and spiritual, concrete and abstract, IF members strive to create an environment in which diversity can thrive. House projects have included a community dinner to celebrate the Muslim festival of Eid and a “Jesus Ate with Sinners” event linked to lessons from the Last Supper.



**Sexuality and Gender Equality House (SAGE)** works to uplift students from marginalized identities, provide a safe space, and serve as a resource for promoting sexuality and gender equity. Members work to bring programming to campus with special consideration for the women’s and LGBT movements. House projects have included Transgender Celebration Week and “Take Back the Night,” a speak-out and march in protest of sexual violence.



of OWU's first new student housing in five decades, it was something I couldn't pass up."

"The SLUs are so important," Alexander continued. "They are the runway leading to the residential campus, they are welcoming, they reflect our diversity, and they contribute to our vibrant living-learning community. ... The SLUs are a terrific reminder of what the Ohio Wesleyan experience is all about."

McCluggage, who lived in Bashford Hall and the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house as a student, said he's equally pleased to support new SLU construction. "It's important that the living experience is a positive experience for our students," McCluggage said, adding that he is impressed by the small living units and the opportunity for the house members to "get to know one another in a collaborative, collegial setting."

The Dittrick House is home this year to the Interfaith House (IF) and the Sexuality and Gender Equality House (SAGE). The student-moderators of the two SLUs shared their thoughts with the crowd on the value of small living units and then invited everyone inside to tour their bright, spacious dwellings.

Speaking on behalf of SAGE, **Lissette Gonzalez '17** said the Dittrick House, with its open-concept layout, has nurtured an even stronger sense of community within the SLU and enhanced meetings to discuss its mission, "How do we coexist and create a safe space for dialogue?"

In discussing IF, **Chase Smith '17** referenced Ohio Wesleyan's aim to place education in the context of values. "Nowhere do I see this more than in the SLUs," Smith said. "SLU members live the mission and values of Ohio Wesleyan University." ■



*Interfaith House residents use their common space for house projects, faith-based club meetings, events with the Chaplain's office, or just to relax and have a house meeting. From left: **Emily Phillips '17**, **Olivia Lease '17**, **Courtney Dunne '17**, **Dom Mejia '17**, **Anna Davies '19**, and **Sean McCartt '18**.*

### AN OWU TRADITION

With a history that dates back nearly 50 years, Ohio Wesleyan's small living units (SLUs) are an integral part of campus life. Conceived by faculty members to enhance the residential campus experience, SLUs are living-learning communities of 10 to 12 students passionate about common topics and issues. SLU members engage in lively discussions with their peers, participate in cultural and educational activities, and create programs and events to educate the campus and Delaware communities about their house's most important issues.

### A SLU OF KNOWLEDGE

Ohio Wesleyan's seven SLUs explore issues ranging from social justice and environmental awareness to cross-cultural experiences and language. The groups living in the new Dittrick House explore issues tied to faith and personal identity.

## SOCCKER COACH KICK-STARTS TWO GENERATIONS OF PLAYERS

Jay Martin probably wasn't thinking about recruiting two decades into the future when he was coaching in the late 1980s and '90s. But it turns out there are unforeseen benefits to achieving the remarkable longevity that Martin has had as coach of the Ohio Wesleyan men's soccer team.

**Scott Norman '88, Andy Riggle '95, and Domenic Romanelli '88** all played for Martin in their time at OWU; now their sons do. First-year students **Nolan Norman '20, Drew Riggle '20,** and **Antonio Romanelli '20,** along with Nolan's older brother **Nick Norman '17** are on the 2016-17 roster.

Martin, the men's coach since 1977, speaks highly of his second-generation players. "All of them have a very positive mindset because they come from an athletic family and an athletic background," Martin says. "It's a pleasure working with these guys."

Although their fathers attended Ohio Wesleyan, the current players all say they chose the school on their own, with winning a national championship as their main goal. Their fathers encouraged their sons to make the right decisions for themselves, and tried not to influence their choices.

"I didn't have to be the one to tell him that it's a great place. It's a great tradition; Jay's a great coach. Antonio found that out himself," says Domenic Romanelli.

"Success is what you come here for," Antonio confirms. The team won national championship titles in 1998 and 2011, and Martin is the winningest men's collegiate soccer coach in all divisions.

According to dads Scott and Andy, the program has remained the same in key ways. One obvious reason for the consistency over the years is Martin. His influence has created a specific

culture on the team.

"(Martin) brings the same kind of commitment to wanting to win, excellence, and asking a lot of his players. I think that's been a mainstay of Ohio Wesleyan soccer," says Scott Norman.

His younger son agrees. "The program is even better than I expected coming in. It's tough to really describe what we have here in terms of the pride and tradition of a soccer program," says Nolan Norman.

Nick Norman, whose team made it to the NCAA Division III semifinals in 2014, also came for the winning tradition. "The goal is to win a national championship. I think that's why every soccer player joins this program, because they know we can compete for a national championship," says Nick.

"There's a lot of tradition here. I think the quality of players is at the same level it was 10, 20 years ago. I think the player that comes here is one that wants to win a national championship and has a sort of unique personality," says Andy Riggle.

That includes his son, Drew. "It's not totally what I expected, but (Martin is) a great coach, and I did expect that. It's very serious and there's a winning mentality, which I expected," says Drew. "The culture is great."

Martin acknowledges the correlation between a father's experience and the likelihood of his son joining the same program, which has occurred in previous seasons. Martin believes it means the father had a good experience at OWU and playing soccer for him. "I take that as a compliment and look forward to getting more of these guys in the next few years," Martin says. ■

—Megan Parker '20

*Back row (from left):  
Andy Riggle '95,  
Domenic Romanelli '88,  
Coach Jay Martin,  
Scott Norman '88*

*Front row (from left):  
Drew Riggle '20,  
Antonio Romanelli '20,  
Nolan Norman '20,  
Nick Norman '17*



## Nancy Bihl Rutkowski ● Student Involvement Office

Nancy Bihl Rutkowski is approaching 30 years with Ohio Wesleyan University and knows how to fill a need when she sees one. She created her current position of director of student leadership and involvement by taking components of her first job, director of Greek life, and adding parts of her time spent as the new student orientation

coordinator. The job description she wrote for herself reflects her experience and passion for fostering leadership skills in the students she works with and teaches each day.

“Somehow, OWU just keeps getting better,” Nancy says. “OWU has always drawn students who care. I think we’re in great shape for the future.”

### 1 Sisters for life

Like **Phoebe Bush '18**, Nancy is a sister of Delta Delta Delta. She joined because she liked the message of Tri-Delta to “be kind alike to all.”

### 2 Learn to Lead

Nancy holds seminars and classes that teach new leaders how to best fulfill their roles. “My mantra is that I want students to take care of themselves and be healthy before engaging beyond the classroom.”

### 3 Make the connection

Nancy loves working with groups and one-on-one with student leaders like **Shashank Sharma '17**, her current intern. She has had a student intern every school year since 1998. “I have a ton of student contact with my job. That’s my favorite part,” Nancy says.

### 4 Leaders helping leaders

Nancy created Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Fellowships. The Fellows, like **Tyler Iffland '17**, help teach workshops for students who are new to leading clubs. “The feedback from students out in the world now is that it’s a very significant factor in getting the jobs they’re in,” Nancy says about LEAD.

### 5 Here’s the plan

Nancy’s highlighters and black leather planner are never far from her reach. She’s got her priorities straight, though: “Someone with a problem trumps a long to-do list.”

### 6 Scrapbook shoes

Alumna **Whitney Weadock '16** painted Nancy a special pair of TOMS shoes to commemorate her time as president of President’s Club. Different logos for clubs Nancy advises and a painting of the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center (where Nancy has worked since it opened in 1991) adorn the shoes.

### 7 I’ve got a Golden Bishop

Every April Nancy organizes the Golden Bishop Awards, which celebrate student achievements throughout the year. “I go to the bookstore and buy about a hundred bishops a year,” Nancy says. Sharma currently helps her coordinate the event and decorate the bishops.

### 8 Advisers to the President

Nancy has advised President’s Club since 2008, when Rock Jones became president. Under Nancy’s and Rock’s guidance, the club has grown to 30 members, with **Lee LeBoeuf '17** as president.

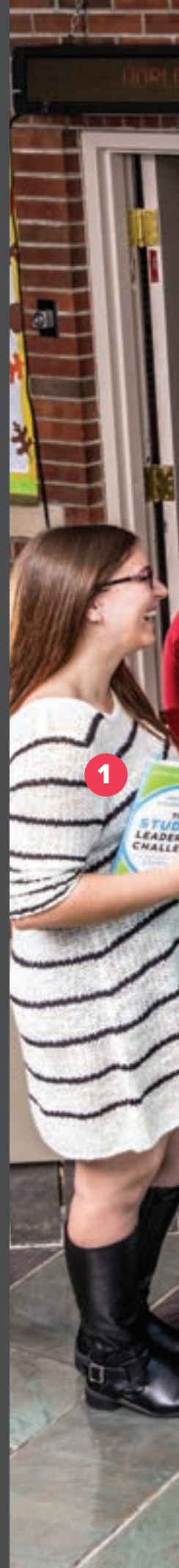
### 9 The welcoming committee

Nancy also created the Orientation Team Leader position. Students like **Emma Nuiry '17** help freshmen adjust to college life.

### 10 What’s happening this weekend?

Nancy oversees the Campus Programming Board’s plans for events, as well as helping students like president **Evan Hudgens '19** set up, tear down, and publicize. “That’s a passionate, very dedicated group of students,” Nancy says.

—A.L. Davies '19



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT  
OFFICE



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# D W U I N T

## PROFESSOR CHRIS WOLVERTON'S WORK TO SPROUT ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION



*By Misti Crane  
Photos by Thompson Creative Imaging*



# O O R B I T

Photo courtesy NASA

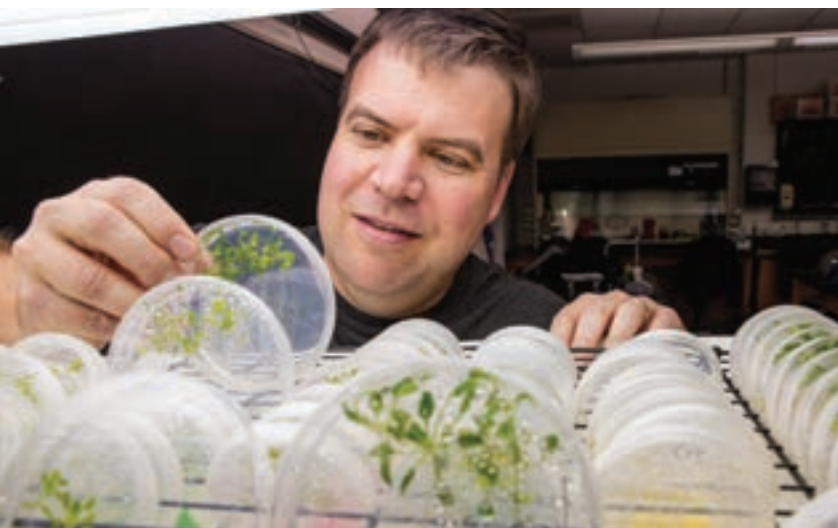
**A**s a ninth-grader in suburban Cincinnati, Chris Wolverton landed what was, at the time, his dream job. The local garden center didn't just sell plants; it made them. This early opportunity to experiment with propagation — creating new plants from parts of other plants — helped set Wolverton on his path toward becoming a botanist. On top of that, he was raised by a mother who spent her free time in the yard, her hands in the earth. And, "I had a fabulous 10th-grade biology teacher," Wolverton recalls.

So by the time he set foot on the Miami University campus as an undergrad, he had an uncommonly clear idea of where he was headed. A lot of botanists settle on that particular slice of science propelled by other primary interests — cell biology, for instance. For Wolverton, the plants came first. "It was purely, genuinely about the plant stuff," he says.

"I didn't grow up on a farm or anything, but plants always seemed cool, and it just seemed like they didn't get a lot of attention."

Now, Wolverton's plants — well, the seeds that will grow into plants — are on the verge of leaving Earth on a rocket bound for space. The OWU professor of botany and microbiology has secured a coveted spot for his research on a flight to the International Space Station. For somebody who studies the interplay between plants and gravity, this is a great big deal.

Wolverton's project, which is tentatively scheduled to launch at the end of 2017, was one of 16 selected to fly this round. Fewer than a third of the applicants were awarded grants.



Most people probably never consider gravity's role in plant development. But Wolverton is practically giddy about this opportunity to study the effects of weightlessness. He marvels at what might unfold when the same thread-thin roots he investigates on Earth grow in space, free of the inescapable pull here.

Wolverton and his team, which includes several current OWU students, hope to answer two primary questions: How much gravitational force does it take for cells within the root tips to respond? And how does it differ in plants that have been bred free of starch-filled bodies normally found in the roots? Scientists know these bodies play an important role, but the specifics of that remain a mystery.

The vital relationship between plants' roots and the pull of gravity — called gravitropism — is, on its own, scientifically interesting. But the work is about much more than scratching the itch of curiosity. It could have implications for crop productivity for farmers. It could answer questions about

plants' ability to survive when stressed by drought, how they regulate nutrients drawn from the soil, and how much fruit erupts from their blossoms.

The seedlings that are at the heart of the story are called *Arabidopsis thaliana*. The small, flowering weed is the fruit fly of botany, the plant scientists most often study and manipulate to learn more about all plant life. It's a member of the same family (Brassicaceae) that includes cabbage and radishes.

Wolverton will send some genetically altered *Arabidopsis* seeds (which are 30 percent as responsive to Earth's gravitational pull) and some wild seeds. They'll be mounted at NASA's Ames Research Center in California — 14 at a time — on rectangular membranes about the size of two postage stamps. Then, they'll go into seed cassettes (each about the size of a large Lego block) that have holes that allow moisture in. The cassettes eventually will be placed inside LED-lit boxes in a unit aboard the space station.

There, they'll grow for almost four days on a centrifuge that will replicate the Earth's pull, just shy of 1 G. During that time, the roots should grow about the length of a staple.

After that, the crew aboard the space station will drop the gravitational pull so that Wolverton can study what happens to the roots at zero gravity and at increments between zero gravity and 1 G. They'll get pictures during the flight, and frozen seedlings will come back for further study.

"We want to know: What is the minimum amount it takes to trigger these cells to know which way is down?" he says.

"It's a bit like, 'Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now?'"

In his lab at Ohio Wesleyan, Wolverton and his students have advanced understanding of how the root architecture develops in relation to gravity — basically by tipping tiny plants on their sides and gathering data on what is happening at a cellular level as the roots twist and turn and exploring how he can manipulate that.

**"We want to know: What is the minimum amount it takes to trigger these cells to know which way is down? It's a bit like, 'Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now?'"**

*- Professor Chris Wolverton*

**PREPPING SEEDS FOR SPACE TAKES METICULOUS PLANNING, TESTING, AND STEADY HANDS.**



Wolverton's experiment uses mustard seeds, which are widely used as a model organism in plant biology. They have a rapid life cycle and are prolific seed producers. This petri dish (pictured) contains several hundred seeds.



For the flight, Wolverton will mount 14 seeds at a time on rectangular membranes about the size of two postage stamps. The membranes go into seed cassettes (pictured) that have holes to allow moisture in. The chambers eventually will be placed inside LED-lit boxes in a unit aboard the space station.

Wolverton is working to determine the genetic switches that control the plants' response to moisture, nutrients, and other elements within the soil. One of the primary focuses is the role of auxin, a plant hormone that pools in the tip of the root.

As Wolverton contemplates the upcoming months and the opportunity to see how his experiments fare, he's experiencing his share of nervous energy. There's a lot to do to get this right. NASA has questions. And Wolverton has a lot of his own questions that he wants answered, and reanswered.

When he applied for the grant in 2014, he knew it wasn't a slam dunk. But, "I thought it was clever."

As the months passed, "I was checking the site every week, and I'd pretty much given up hope. I started to think it wasn't clever enough."

In early 2015, word came. He remembers his disbelief as he digested news that NASA would give him \$520,000 for three years plus a rare spot on the space station for his project.

## THE PULL OF GRAVITY

That kid back in southwestern Ohio? He didn't care much about space travel. He wasn't a boy who dreamed of becoming an astronaut or begged his parents to take him to the planetarium on the weekend. For him, it's always been about the plants.

Back in 1994, as an undergrad at Miami, Wolverton managed to find his way to Portland, Ore., to attend the annual meeting of the American Society of Plant Physiologists.

"I was listening to all these talks I could barely understand," he says. So he went for a walk. As he wandered alone through an exhibition hall filled with 1,000 or more scientific posters, he encountered some science that stopped him. The researchers employed a computer to take pictures of roots as they grew.

This was 1994. People were still getting accustomed to email. The marriage of computer and camera was something

that could grab a 21-year-old botany major's attention. As it turned out, the researchers behind it were from home, or close to it. Mike Evans, a now-retired plant biology professor from Ohio State University, led the work.

Wolverton and Evans got to talking and kept talking. After he graduated from Miami, Wolverton headed to Ohio State for graduate work in Evans' lab. "We watched for really subtle changes in the root architecture — movement at the top, or the bottom, or both. You can answer some questions about gravity just by looking carefully," Wolverton says.

He's continued to write new chapters in that body of research, which he brought with him to Ohio Wesleyan. And it's hit a point where his questions can't be answered on this planet. Opportunities to conduct an experiment aboard the International Space Station are to scientists interested in gravity what working with Meryl Streep is to an actor.

"It's a huge opportunity. Space flight and crew time aboard the International Space Station are rare commodities," says Sarah Wyatt, a professor of environmental and plant biology from Ohio University whose work went to space in 2014.

She counts herself among those eager to learn the answers to the scientific questions Wolverton is posing. "For someone working on gravity, the only real control experiment is to have no gravity, and that can't happen on Earth," she says. "Many of the questions we would like to ask ... can't be answered on Earth."

Wyatt is aware that watching her research go into space might have been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Her project evaluated what proteins were expressed in the cells of the plants in microgravity, the first analysis of this type.

"I think it's fantastic that Chris is getting this chance," she says.

Wolverton, 44, who lives in Delaware with his wife Jenn and their 13-year-old daughter Lindsay and 9-year-old son Jack, is a dedicated researcher. But toiling in a lab without the



To ensure the seeds will germinate as needed in-flight, Wolverton and research technician **Nathan Madonich '16** are growing their own in the lab.

In this photo from NASA, astronaut Kate Rubins holds a container like the one that will house the seed cassettes with Wolverton's experiment.



opportunity to interact with budding scientists was never going to suit him. That's what brought him to Ohio Wesleyan.

The school's size and the priorities set by leadership allow him the opportunity to run a robust research program while maintaining an active class schedule, something that can be difficult at larger research centers, Wolverton says.

He first came to Ohio Wesleyan in the summer of 2001 as an Ohio State doctoral student filling in for a professor who had left for another opportunity. "There were maybe seven, eight students, and I just loved it. I just fell in love with the place and the commitment to both time in the classroom and research."

Wolverton was walking the hallways with researchers whose work was appearing in prominent journals, including *Science*, and who interacted with students daily.

"So I put my hat in the ring, and I got the job."

**Nathan Madonich '16**, who graduated with a degree in botany, says he's grateful for Wolverton's teaching style (hands on, inclusive) and enthusiastic support of his students' pursuits.

Madonich, 22, spent the summer after his freshman year working on research in Wolverton's lab and, with the support of his professor, applied for and secured a research internship at Cornell University the next two summers.

Then his graduation coincided with a rare opportunity: Wolverton had money in his NASA grant to hire a research technician. "Working with him has been a blast," Madonich says. "This is not something everyone gets to do. This couldn't have happened to a better guy."

Current students also are working with Wolverton, helping shepherd his science to space. **Allyson Wojnoski '18**, a French and biology major from Connecticut, says working with him has opened doors for her, including the opportunity to present her own research at OWU's Summer Science Research Symposium and the American Society for Gravitational and Space Research meeting in Cleveland in October.

Wojnoski says she was set on going from undergrad studies straight to medical school prior to studying under Wolverton, but now is considering exploring more research before that. In addition to sparking an interest in plant biology, the experience also has likely given her a competitive edge when it comes to future job opportunities, Wojnoski says.

**Troy Jones '18** has been inspired to pursue a career in plant physiology by working alongside his favorite professor. "It has been an amazing opportunity to work with Dr. Wolverton," he says.

Wolverton's enthusiasm rubs off easily on undergraduate botany students, Jones says, and he gives them freedom to meaningfully contribute to the science. "He is able to teach complex ideas in a way that makes them manageable," says Jones, who is from Detroit and is triple majoring in botany, environmental studies, and classics.

## SOWING SEEDS FOR SPACE

The days in Wolverton's lab are filled with the kind of detail-driven preparation necessary for a rare shot at conducting an experiment in outer space. There aren't any do-overs. If the seeds don't grow or the lighting doesn't work like they hope, it could be a bust.

"We have been doing a *lot* of verification tests. For instance, NASA was interested in seeing how long our seeds would be viable," Madonich says. "We found that they can be pretty reliable even up to a year after they've been glued on membranes and are ready to go.

"We're also working to become comfortable with the flight hardware that will actually go on the International Space Station so there are no glitches."

If he's nervous about anything, it's that the plants won't respond to their light source in the way he and Wolverton expect.

## MANY OF WOLVERTON'S FORMER STUDENTS HAVE MOVED ON TO OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Evan Bai '11

MAJORS: GENETICS AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Earned a Ph.D. in genetics at Yale and is currently a research scientist at Vertex Pharmaceuticals in Boston. He analyzes and interprets human genetic data to understand human diseases and discover new therapeutic approaches.

"I first studied with Dr. Wolverton during a freshman honors tutorial course, where he worked closely with me and two other students on plant research in his lab. I was really struck by how patient Dr. Wolverton was when explaining

the science to me, a non-native English speaker. Since then, I fell in love with scientific research and continued to study plant root development with Dr. Wolverton throughout my four years at OWU."



### Breane Budaitis '14

MAJORS: CHEMISTRY AND GENETICS

Currently pursuing a doctorate in cellular and molecular biology at the University of Michigan. Works in the Verhey Lab, where she studies proteins in cell environments.

"I had the opportunity to conduct research in Dr. Wolverton's lab, where I worked on designing a genetic screen to better understand how plants sense and respond to gravity. Unlike the rigidity of science in the classroom, this research

experience brought to light the power of creativity in the sciences, reaffirming my aspiration to pursue a research-focused career."

“Another thing that’s always tricky is the germination rate and how viable these seeds will be. There’s always this worry in the back of my mind that the seeds won’t germinate,” Madonich says.

Wolverton, who will take the seeds first to California to NASA’s Ames Research Center, then to the launch site, either Florida’s Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral or Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, agrees. “The biggest issue would be some sort of biological failure,” he says.

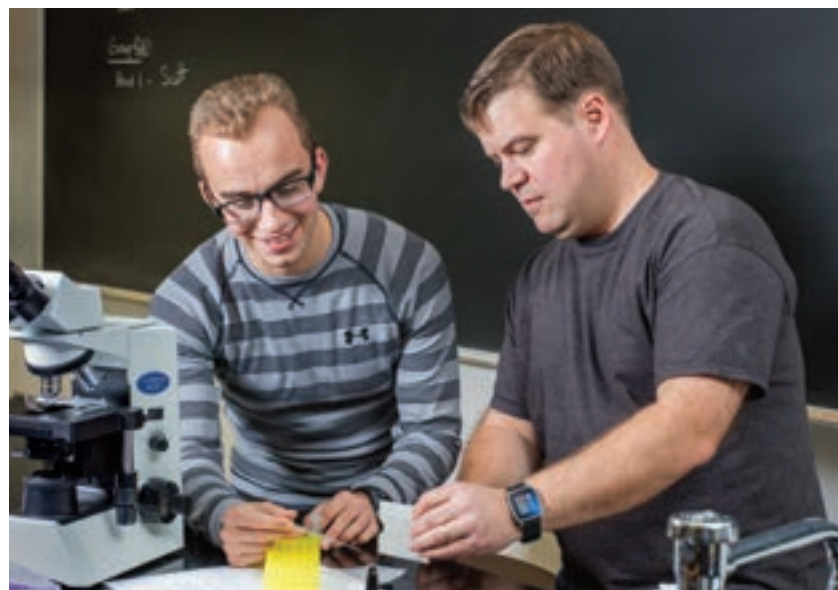
They’re sending a lot of seeds, though, and an outright experimental failure seems doubtful, Madonich and Wolverton say. And the lead-up to a trip to space is all about ensuring things go off as planned, which means lots of reassurances will happen between now and then.

“At one point, I pictured that I would drop some seeds in the mail and NASA would plant them and water them, and I would get the data back,” Wolverton says, laughing.

Marianne Steele, a project manager at the Ames Research Center who is working with Wolverton, says his work could provide important insights into human life as well. “One of the things NASA wants to do is to go to the moon and Mars and beyond. When we do that we’re not going to have gravity, and one of the important questions from a science perspective, as well as an exploration perspective, is what happens ... to human immunity, and muscle, and bone.”

Basic plant science can help NASA piece together information with applications that go far beyond the tiny seedlings aboard the space station, Steele says. “Plants are not human, and yet, they have a lot of similar molecular mechanisms going on. And they are a lot easier to take a look at than humans are.”

Beyond fostering a better understanding of what can be accomplished in zero gravity — and in different levels of gravity below what we experience on Earth — NASA is



The grant Wolverton received from NASA allowed him to hire **Nathan Madonich '16**, at work above left, as a research technician on his experiment.

interested in promoting work that has the potential to improve life on Earth, Steele says.

“That’s part of the whole process of selection,” she says.

“This is taxpayer money and we have to be responsible in using that money for Earth benefits as well as for exploration.”

Wolverton says applications in the field are probably a decade or more off, but the information he and other scientists are gathering about the interplay between plants and gravity could have far-reaching implications. “It doesn’t get much better than this in my field, to have this opportunity,” he says.

“It sort of feels like this is what I came here to do.” ■

*Misti Crane is a freelance writer in Columbus, Ohio.*

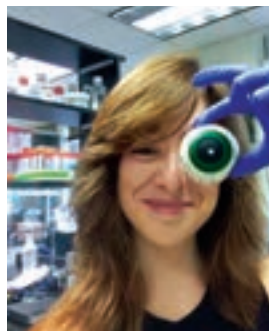
## AND VERY PROMISING CAREERS IN SCIENCE. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF HIS ALL-STAR ALUMNI CREW:



### **Iftekhar Showpnil '13**

MAJORS: CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY  
Currently pursuing a doctorate in the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology program at Ohio State University.

“Dr. Wolverton was very easy to approach and connect with on a personal level, and has been a great mentor and role model for me.”



### **Susannah Waxman '16**

MAJOR: BOTANY  
Currently lab manager at the Nils Loewen glaucoma research lab at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She’s also conducting her own research and has a paper set for publication, on which she is first author.

“In doing research in the Wolverton lab, I was also given something I hadn’t experienced in the sciences before — a creative outlet. While working in this lab, I was trusted with a space where I could try, fail, succeed, and learn my own way on my own time. I also learned that tape, wire, cardboard, and fire can take the place of unnecessarily expensive equipment in terms of fixing a lot of lab-related problems. This is absolutely a real-world research skill.”

— **A.L. Davies '19**

# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

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# 2020 BY 2020

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THE VISION FOR OHIO WESLEYAN

A bold new strategic plan for increasing enrollment and raising the University's profile by creating new programming, enhancing the student experience, improving campus buildings and residential facilities, and securing the University's financial future.

As Ohio Wesleyan University approaches its 175th anniversary in 2017, President Rock Jones and the Board of Trustees looked around campus, from Stuyvesant Hall down to Selby Stadium, and into the future. They examined how Ohio Wesleyan can best secure the core elements of its historic mission for 21st-century students, including the commitment to providing a vibrant residential campus founded in the liberal arts, remaining open and accessible to all, and being dedicated to the benefit of society.

Small residential liberal arts colleges face a number of challenges in today's marketplace, including demographic shifts, rising costs, and aging facilities. As identified in a study by Bob Sevier of Stamats, a leading expert in the field of higher education, the most vulnerable institutions share several characteristics, including academic programs misaligned with the marketplace, lack of a compelling vision and less than 2,000 student enrollment.

To address these areas head-on, and strengthen the

commitment to providing a practical liberal arts education, the ambitious goal of attaining an enrollment of 2,020 students by the year 2020 was created, growth of more than 20 percent in the student body.

But enrollment growth isn't the ends; it's the means to a larger goal. "The ultimate objective is being a dynamic, premier institution in the tradition of the liberal arts that connects theory with practice, the classroom with the world, and that prepares students for leadership," says Jones.

The vision for Ohio Wesleyan, 2020 by 2020, seeks to ensure the long-term viability of the University by establishing a plan for growth through five key areas of emphasis: aligning academic and co-curricular programs with current needs, improving student experience and retention, boosting recruitment, maintaining and improving the physical campus, and ensuring financial stability.

"It's a vision for Ohio Wesleyan; it's about the kind of institution we want to be," Jones says.

## BLOCK 1 Program Initiatives

Faculty across OWU have been re-examining the needs and interests of students and the marketplace with an eye toward developing new academic programs. “As the marketplace evolves and student interests shift, it is critical that OWU continue to adapt to meet these changing needs,” says Dale Brugh, associate dean for innovation. “Creation of new programs is an important component of our effort to achieve a larger student body.”

Business administration and computational neuroscience majors were introduced in fall 2016, and the former is already the third-most popular major among incoming students. Faculty members have surpassed the goal of two new majors per year by recently developing new majors in communication, data analytics, nutrition, Middle Eastern studies, and social justice. All will be available in fall 2017. Faculty also developed a new major in special education, which must be approved by the Ohio Department of Education. (Read more about these majors on Page 4.)

Many of these new majors are linked to career paths, some in

new areas like data analytics, yet each is also enhanced with OWU’s core foundation in the liberal arts. OWU graduates will have the expertise and the broad critical thinking skills to become leaders in their fields.

Summer online classes were introduced for the first time this year and led to a 30 percent increase over last year in summer session enrollment. OWU is looking to double the number of online classes for next summer.

Athletic programs and co-curricular activities are also key areas for growth. One-third of all students participate in a varsity sport, and

nearly everyone plays intramural sports, performs in music or theater, or participates in a club. OWU coaches are working to increase roster sizes, where appropriate, and the University is examining options for new sports teams and other extracurricular activities.

“Creation of new programs is an important component of our effort to achieve a larger student body.”

*Dale Brugh, associate dean for innovation*



*Ohio Wesleyan faculty member Justin Breidenbach is working with The Woltemade Center for Economics, Business and Entrepreneurship to launch an Accounting Fellows program. For more visit [owu.edu](http://owu.edu).*

### Fulfilling The OWU Connection

The OWU Connection is an interdisciplinary introduction to a lifetime of learning. Faculty created the comprehensive program to give students the broad-based knowledge, global skills, and real-world experience that will help them become leaders who can tackle tomorrow’s most important challenges. To prepare students for the world beyond OWU, through The OWU Connection students are encouraged to integrate knowledge across disciplines (Think Big); build a diverse and global perspective (Go Global); and practice the application of knowledge (Get Real Experience).

The University continues to develop new OWU Connection internship, research, and travel opportunities for students, and most of the new majors incorporate such experience in their graduation requirements.

The first-year seminar UC 160 “The OWU Experience” is an important step in a successful first year of college. Not only does the course introduce students to The OWU Connection, it also provides an early opportunity for community-building within the small classes. In recent years, retention of students who took the course was consistently higher than for those who did not. In 2014, retention was 12 percent greater for UC 160 students than non-UC 160 students. This year, for the first time, UC 160 is required for all new students, and administrators are hopeful that will lead to more students returning for year two and, eventually, graduating.



*Jadé Giordani '17 used a Theory-to-Practice Grant through The OWU Connection to travel to Tanzania in the summer of 2015 to study the culture and health care complexities of the Maasai people.*

## BLOCK 2 Student Experience & Retention

To address the issue of student retention, which currently stands at 80.7 percent (compared with 85 percent or higher among peers according to U.S. News & World Report), the Student Affairs division was reorganized, with the goal of improving first-year retention to at least 85 percent by 2020. Dwayne Todd was hired in June as the vice president for student engagement and success, followed by Brad Pulcini, the assistant dean for student engagement and director of the first-year experience, in August.

Pulcini's two primary job responsibilities obviously go hand in hand. "First year is the springboard of success to remaining a member of the OWU community," he says.

With that in mind, Student Affairs is re-evaluating new-student orientation, to focus more on community building. Three or four days in June would allow first-year students to be introduced to campus, meet their peers, and register for classes. An additional day could be offered prior to convocation in the fall for students who aren't able to attend in June. The goal would be to allow students to adjust in stages, so that fall orientation can focus more on preparing students for the rigors of college academics.

Consideration is also underway to refashion the residential experience for first-year students to instill a strong sense of community from the very first semester. "This will involve better connecting the curricular and co-curricular aspects of the first-year experience through the development

of living-learning communities, revising the residential programming model to better facilitate that goal, and adapting the residential adviser role to include a stronger mentorship component," Todd says.

To increase retention, the University is purchasing student success software to allow for identification and outreach to students who might be at risk early in the semester, allowing Pulcini to be proactive and connect a student with support resources. The software allows for faster follow-up with students after the identification of so-called "red flag behaviors" such as requesting a transcript (indicating a possible desire to transfer), or performing poorly on a first assessment in class (a sign he or she could be struggling academically), or not using the swipe card to enter dining facilities (because if a student isn't eating, he or she could need help).

To address the sometimes difficult transition back home for break after fall semester, Pulcini is creating a program that brings first-year students together over coffee to talk with upperclassmen about the adjustment.

Todd and his staff are working now with a cross-functional team of faculty, staff, and students to refresh their plan for retention to provide a clear set of priorities and tactics. "We believe the changes we will begin to make in the first year will have a lasting transformative effect on students throughout their entire OWU tenure," Todd says.

**"First year is the springboard of success to remaining a member of the OWU community."**

*Brad Pulcini, assistant dean for student engagement and director of the first-year experience*

*Dwayne Todd (left) and Brad Pulcini (center), from Student Affairs, organized a surprise "Finish Strong" event at the gate on S. Sandusky St. on Oct. 26 to encourage students going into the second half of the semester.*





## BLOCK 3 Student Recruitment

One of the primary aims of increasing enrollment to 2,020 by 2020 is to allow more students to take advantage of the quality education and opportunities available at OWU without compromising admission standards. Current enrollment is 1,724 students, but the campus can accommodate 40 percent more, around 2,400 students. Enrollment has fluctuated over the decades, with the low point 1,387 students in 1985.

Susan Dileno, vice president for enrollment, says growing enrollment will be a challenge, but it is attainable, with the cooperation of all departments involved in the 2020 Vision. “We know students find mid-to-larger institutions more attractive, and there’s always a risk when you’re dipping below 2,000 that prospective students are fearful it might replicate their high school experience,” says Dileno.

The University’s long-standing relationships and reputation are assets when it comes to recruitment. “We have a good rapport with guidance counselors who know our history, and we’ve continued those strong relationships. I think the sense of community here and social life and relationships with faculty are things that give us the edge over other institutions,” Dileno says.

“When they visit, it’s a true and powerful experience for prospective students. When you ask a current student why they’re here, (the strength of those connections) are

typically what they’ll cite.”

To broaden the University’s reach to prospective students, two regional recruiters were hired, one based in Chicago and focusing on Illinois and the Midwest and the other based in Cleveland, focusing on that region. Already, the incoming Class of 2020 was up 12 percent over the previous year. The class is also the most diverse in our history, including more than a third of U.S. students who are multicultural, as well as students from 35 states and 11 countries.

Nicole More, director of international admission, and her office are emphasizing recruitment in China, India, Pakistan, and Vietnam, along with a few other locations. “We are connecting with OWU alumni and international schools around the world, plus looking to form new partnerships when possible,” More says.

The Admissions office is also focusing on recruitment of transfer students, which are a substantial pool of possible applicants. According to DeVry, at any given time, 40 percent of college students are transfer students. Recognizing this reality, OWU has a partnership with 25,000-student

Columbus State Community College designed to allow for easier transfer of credits and is dedicating more resources to process transfer credits for those students.

*(Below) Orientation leaders welcome new students and their families to campus during New Student Orientation Aug. 20.*



## BLOCK 4 Physical Campus

The Ohio Wesleyan campus has always been a beautiful one, but making sure it remains so while adapting to fit current needs is a constant area of focus. From regular beautification efforts, like landscaping and improved signage, to consideration of long-term plans for first-year housing, enhancing the physical campus is critical to ensuring that OWU is attractive to incoming students and a worthy home to current ones.

Recent major renovations to Merrick Hall, as well as the construction of the Simpson Querrey Fitness Center and renovation of Edwards Gymnasium – all made possible through major philanthropic support – have already made significant impact to the campus. Renovations to the Admissions office in



*Various improvements were made to the physical campus over the summer, including to the sidewalks and landscaping on the academic side.*

Slocum Hall were completed over the summer, and the newest Small Living Unit (SLU) duplex community, the Dittrick House, was dedicated in October and represents the first new student housing construction in more than 40 years. (See story on Page 18.) An additional SLU at Rowland Avenue and Washington Street is scheduled to welcome residents in January with construction of a new honors house on Oak Hill west of the Butler Jones House slated to begin over winter break.

To further strengthen OWU's identity as a residential campus and build community, plans are underway to further enhance the JAYwalk as OWU's Main Street and town square.

*The newest SLUplex containing the House of Peace and Justice and the House of Linguistic Diversity will welcome its first residents in January.*



## BLOCK 5 Financial Plan for the Future

To secure long-term viability, the Board of Trustees and its finance and investment committees have taken steps to define building blocks for growth, including growing OWU's endowment and annual operating revenue.

As a further step toward establishing solid financial stability, OWU will publicly launch the comprehensive campaign Connect Today, Create Tomorrow during the University's 175th Birthday Party, Oct. 19-22, 2017. All of the Ohio Wesleyan community will be invited to participate in the ongoing seven-year campaign, which includes objectives for capital

improvements, as well as growing the endowment, securing annual giving, and investing in faculty innovation.

Every generation of alumni that has lived in Stuyvesant Hall, or watched or played in athletic contests in venues such as Selby, has benefited from the foresight of campus leaders who preceded them, working throughout the years to ensure the Ohio Wesleyan tradition remains strong. That spirit continues with the target of 2,020: Keep OWU strong, vibrant, and ready to serve new generations of students as we look ahead to our bicentennial 25 years down the road. ■

**Ohio Wesleyan University's 175th Birthday Party**  
Oct. 19-22, 2017

## Join Alumni & Friends and Make the CASE

The Alumni Relations office is here to connect you to your alma mater, to current students, and, perhaps most importantly, to each other. We all want the University to be successful, and there are many ways — **small**, **medium**, and **large** — that you can connect to each other and help your University achieve the enrollment objective of 2,020 by 2020. We look forward to seeing you!

	Small	Medium	Large
<p><b>C</b> Career Development owu.edu/careers</p>	<p>Join the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni &amp; Friends group on LinkedIn</p> <p>Offer an externship to a student (job shadow)</p> <p>Post a job or internship on Bishop Link and LinkedIn</p>	<p>Offer to speak on a career panel or other career event</p> <p>Offer an internship to a student</p> <p>Attend an Alumni &amp; Friends After 5 networking event in your area</p>	<p>Start an Alumni &amp; Friends After 5 networking group in your area</p> <p>Participate in the Alumni in Residence program (mentor a student, provide résumé review and interview tips)</p> <p>Become a featured speaker in the Alumni Webinar Series</p>
<p><b>A</b> Admissions owu.edu/apart</p>	<p>Recommend/encourage prospective students to apply to OWU</p>	<p>Send congratulatory notes to admitted students</p> <p>Call admitted students</p>	<p>Staff a college fair in your area</p> <p>Participate in a guidance counselor and/or yield reception in your area</p>
<p><b>S</b> Social Events and Service Opportunities owu.edu/alumni</p>	<p>Update your information with the alumni office</p> <p>Attend an alumni event in your area</p> <p>Connect with us and fellow alumni through social media</p>	<p>Ask an alumni friend to join you at a regional event</p> <p>Attend your class or affinity reunion</p> <p>Come back for Homecoming or Reunion Weekend</p>	<p>Join your reunion committee</p> <p>Host a regional alumni event</p> <p>Volunteer on a regional leadership board</p>
<p><b>E</b> Engagement and Participation in Giving owu.edu/give</p>	<p>Make a participation gift to the Ohio Wesleyan Fund</p> <p>Participate in online giving through the City Challenge April 19-21, 2017</p>	<p>Increase your annual gift</p> <p>Encourage alumni to make a gift to OWU</p> <p>Sign up for a monthly donation</p>	<p>Join the 1842 Society with an annual gift of \$1,842 or more</p> <p>Join The Tower Society by informing the University that OWU is in your estate plans</p> <p>Invest in the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign</p>

For more information on how you can get involved, contact Katie Webster, Director of Alumni Relations, at [kpwebste@owu.edu](mailto:kpwebste@owu.edu) or 740-368-3329

**WOW**  
*(the name says it all)*

The inaugural  
**Women of  
Ohio Wesleyan**  
leadership forum  
offered connection,  
conversation,  
and camaraderie

*By Kathy Lynn Gray  
Photos by Paul Vernon*

**J**o Raffa Boukhira '76 hadn't been back to campus in 25 years when she received her invitation to the first Women of Ohio Wesleyan Leadership Forum and decided to attend. "I really wanted to retrace the paths I'd walked on as a student," says Boukhira.

The two-day event in September more than lived up to her expectations, as she listened to alumnae from around the country and spanning generations talk about their challenges and successes since graduating. More than 100 alumnae, students, and faculty gathered in Merrick Hall to listen to panel discussions on philanthropy, entrepreneurship, and achievement in wide-ranging conversations and informal networking gatherings.

"It's amazing to see what people accomplished," says **Colleen Nissl '72**, a co-chair of the event. "It's very inspiring." (Please see biographies of some of the panelists, following pages.)

Boukhira, director of institutional advancement at the Kingsbury Center, a private Washington, D.C., school for the learning disabled, was most impressed by the panel on women and philanthropy. **Ginny Kirkwood '64**, who began giving back as soon as she left OWU, shared her uncommon life of international service. While most of her girlfriends were getting married, she worked in the Peace Corps in Turkey for two years helping orphaned children. That led to a marriage of 50 years and a life filled with family, career, and good works.

"If you can give something back, you should do it," she told the audience. "There's desperate need around us every day, and if you can help in any way, just do it. Doing volunteer work can be something little — sometimes it's just going to see a neighbor for a cup of tea."

A student panel moderated by Ashley Biser, associate professor of politics and government, touched on the experience of women at Ohio Wesleyan today and how they are being connected with opportunities. "I had the most popular major when I started: undeclared," joked **Emma Nuiry '17**. "I think OWU does a fabulous job nurturing and fostering passions." (Nuiry has found several: She's double majoring in sociology/anthropology and women's and gender studies with a minor in black world studies.)



**Vernita Johnson '95** (left) and **Dr. Laura Staley '84** (center) engage in the discussions at WOW. Student **Jocelyne Muñoz '17** (above) listens to a panel discussion.

**WOW**  
 Women of Ohio Wesleyan  
 NETWORKING | MENTORING | EVENTS

Two panels focused on how women have become leaders in their fields. “You have to just dive into it,” says **Julie Podolec '07**, who started a frozen fruit-bar company in southern California with her husband. She was a stay-at-home mom when she decided to make fruit pops for her teething young son after searching for some without extra sugar.

She created Modern Pop, Inc., in 2013. In three years, the startup has evolved from a single pushcart to a company selling to retailers such as Costco and Whole Foods, largely because Podolec wasn't afraid to reach out to big-company executives, embrace social media, and work tirelessly to promote her product. “You have to commit and be a little

crazy,” she says. “I think that's the thrill of it all.”

In addition to believing in themselves, panelists also expressed a common thread of encountering sexism throughout their careers. **Carol Latham '61** says she had no illusions that she was on equal footing with men when she founded Thermagon, which manufactured heat-transfer materials for electronic components. She'd been a single mother raising three children in Cleveland throughout her career and had worked in an almost 100 percent male world even before she started the business in 1992.

“I needed to outperform my male counterparts, and I never spent much time thinking about it,” says Latham, who



**Ginny Kirkwood '64** (left) and **Patsy Belt Conrades '63** shared their stories and views on the importance of philanthropy.

In the student panel (from left), seniors **Emma Nuiry '17**, **Tanisha Murphy '17**, and **Jocelyne Muñoz '17** discussed their professional hopes for after graduation and how OWU has helped them find their respective passions.



## JESSICA CHOATE '17

WOW Leadership Committee, student panelist

Halfway through her education at Ohio Wesleyan studying pre-med, Jessica Choate discovered a new passion: politics and government.

So when she was offered a spot as the only student on the Women of Ohio Wesleyan Leadership Committee last spring, she jumped on it.

“I'm hoping to go to law school, and the connections I've made had a big impact on me,” says Choate, who is the OWU student body president. “It was great on the networking level, being able to meet several attorneys on the committee. Those are OWU connections I know I'll be able to reach out to when I'm leaving here.”

Choate hopes to work in Washington, D.C., as a lawyer, so she has her sights on Georgetown Law. But first she plans to join AmeriCorps for a year after graduating from OWU.

Ultimately, she'd like to serve as a judge.

Listening to the women at the leadership conference inspired her.

“I was surprised at how the women had been mistreated in the workplace and how it's been difficult for their ideas to be appreciated,” she says. “So many accomplished women came back. Being able to meet strong women who have faced adversity was motivating.”



## KRISTEN HAJDUK '05

“Women leading the way” panelist

When Kristen Hajduk, a U.S. Department of Defense policy adviser, got tired of her male colleagues appropriating her ideas, she enlisted other co-workers to support her before going into meetings.

As the only woman on most of her homeland security projects, she brings unique insight. “The journey to self-realization is the best I could hope for any woman,” Hajduk says. “If someone disagrees with you, it doesn't mean you're wrong; it just means that they have a different perspective.”

After loving a global issues class her first semester at OWU, Hajduk graduated with a double major in international relations and English literature. She went on to work at think tanks analyzing homeland security and the strategic impact of U.S. involvement in Iraq and, more recently, as an adviser in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations.

Outside her official duties, she co-founded the No Exceptions initiative, an advocacy campaign that in 2016 helped persuade the secretary of defense to open all military jobs to women soldiers.

“It was the one place where discrimination against women was still legal in the United States,” Hajduk says. “This was one more step in making sure the military had the best and the brightest. To know we played a part in shaping that decision is one of the things I'm most proud of.”



majored in chemistry at OWU. “I just did my thing. I knew my data, and I knew our products were the best,” she says.

Aware of differing views of women in other countries, one of Latham’s early business cards listed her as technical director of Thermagon, not owner. “In Korea, a guy turned to me and said: ‘Why did your company send you?’ I told him it was my company and I invented the product. He was just speechless.”

**Bridget Donnell-Newton ’80**, the mayor of Rockville, Md., shared her career of public service but called herself a reluctant politician, although she grew up in a family where politics and government were discussed at the dinner table. “I just came into who I am,” she says.

“I decided I was complaining too much, and that’s when I ran for office.”

Based on the response to the inaugural event, plans have already begun for the next WOW, possibly in 2018. Colleen Garland, OWU vice president for university advancement, hopes the women’s forum becomes a signature event for alumnae to “connect, collaborate, learn, and give back” to the University.

“The inaugural year for this event was an inspiring way to connect the impressive women of Ohio Wesleyan across generations and professions,” she says. “It was so invigorating to see the attendees engaging with each other and discussing

“I left the conference feeling really empowered and reassured, like I was on the right track.”

—Kelsey Ullom ’14



**Dr. Diane Petersen ’66** delivered a moving and lively keynote address to a packed house on the third floor of Merrick Hall.

## DIANE PETERSEN ’66

*WOW keynote speaker*

Diane Petersen came to OWU in 1962, expecting the school to be as integrated and liberal as her New Jersey high school. She ended up breaking racial barriers in the University’s all-white Greek system, becoming the first African-American Delta Delta Delta sorority member after a year of pushback by the organization’s national office in Texas.

Dr. Petersen remembered the fight in her WOW keynote address. “No one was going to tell us what to do,” she recalls with a chuckle. “I had clearly come to the right place.”

“I came to college wanting to be a serious stage actor,” she notes. But her undergraduate education, and the support she received from her sorority sisters, taught her to take on new challenges throughout her life.

She found a management job after graduating as a speech major but quickly saw that women were not treated the same as men. So she returned to school, earning a master’s degree in communicative disorders from Northwestern University in 1968 and, in 1982, a medical degree from the University of Michigan before going on to a career as an ear, nose, and throat specialist.



## AMY WELDELE ’97

*Moderator, panel on entrepreneurship*

Here’s what bemuses Amy Weldele about her career as a financial adviser: Few women choose it.

And yet, it’s a job that seems suited to females: flexible, family friendly, and based on developing trusting relationships and helping others.

Ten years ago, only 25 percent of certified financial planners were women. Today, that’s still the case, Weldele says. She’d like to change that.

She’s co-founder of the women’s initiative at her firm, Budros, Ruhlin & Roe in Columbus, where she has worked her way up in 18 years from an assistant wealth manager to a senior wealth manager. The initiative’s goal is to make financial planning appealing to women and to mentor them.

Weldele credits Ohio Wesleyan with introducing her to the field during a semester-long internship at a bank in Philadelphia, where she worked with a financial adviser.

“I thought I wanted to help people financially, but I wasn’t sure what path I would take,” she says. “That helped narrow it down.”

After she graduated with an economics degree, she sold life insurance for a year before joining Budros, a top-ranked fee-only financial planning firm.

“It’s a relationship-based business, helping our clients navigate through their lives and make financial decisions,” says Weldele, the mother of two elementary-school children. “I realize how fortunate I am to really make a difference.”



both the opportunities and the challenges that women face in today's workplace, and how the university helped prepare them for their careers."

**Kelsey Ullom '14**, traveled from her home at the time in Houston to attend. "I left the conference feeling really empowered and reassured, like I was on the right track," she says. "It was especially interesting to listen to the older women there and realize that everyone in the room had a different way of dealing with inequality in the workplace."

Ullom, who recently transferred within her company to Washington, D.C., works for the Institute of International

Education, linking undergraduates with scholarships to study abroad. She says she made useful contacts during the conference with whom she hopes to connect in the future.

Despite the different career paths the alumnae in attendance have taken since graduation, their Ohio Wesleyan education provided a bond across the years and professions. "I was a little intimidated to talk to some of the professionals in the room, but because we all had the link to Ohio Wesleyan, it turned out to be the most comfortable networking I've ever done," Ullom says. ■

*Kathy Lynn Gray is a freelance writer from Columbus, Ohio.*



*Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to network in Merrick between discussions.*

*Kelly Burns (left), OWU development officer, chats with participants from a panel on entrepreneurship including Amy Weidele '97, (center) who moderated and Vernita Johnson '95, (right) who discussed her jewelry-making business.*



## COLLEEN NISL '72

*WOW Co-chair*

Work harder, work longer, and do it better.

That's how Colleen Nissl got ahead in what was mostly a male-dominated profession when she graduated from law school in 1975. Now in her 41st year of law, she is general counsel and senior vice president for NetJets, a private aviation firm with operations in Europe, China, and the United States. Before that she was associate general counsel for Borden as well as senior counsel for Battelle Memorial Institute and chief counsel in the Ohio attorney general's office.

At Ohio Wesleyan she majored in history, taking advantage of a semester in Mexico and an internship in Washington, D.C.

"My mother expected me to get married and have a family, but I knew I wanted to be independent and take care of myself," Nissl says. Eventually she did both, relying on what she says is her No. 1 strength: the ability to multitask.

Her work, she believes, has made it easier for women who came after her to have legal careers — and to mix family with a career. But equality remains elusive.

"We've come a long way, but we're never there," she says.



## TRACIE WINBIGLER '87

*WOW Co-chair*

An economics major at OWU, Tracie Winbigler became part of General Electric's executive training program after graduation, eventually climbing the ladder until she was the chief financial officer and an executive vice president at GE Asset Management. She served in similar positions at NBC Universal Television Group and, in 2012, became the chief financial officer for the National Geographic Society. She is now chief financial officer of the specialty outdoor retailer REI, based in Seattle.

Winbigler says her liberal arts education at Ohio Wesleyan helped her work in a variety of industries, and she credits OWU professor Bob Gitter for steering her into the GE training program.



To express interest in participating in a future WOW event, or to learn more about becoming a mentor for a current student, please contact Katie Webster, [kpwebste@owu](mailto:kpwebste@owu) or (740) 368-3329

For more photos from WOW, visit [owu.edu/wow](http://owu.edu/wow)

WOW



# BANKING ON OWU: ROBERT W. GILLESPIE '66

**Robert W. “Bob” Gillespie '66** will be the first to admit that he came to Ohio Wesleyan University unprepared for the rigors of academic life. “I’m one of these folks who really experienced a great deal of personal growth in my four years at Ohio Wesleyan, because I came in probably not really ready for a college experience,” he says.

But professors like Norman Leonard in the Economics Department opened his eyes—and his ears—to the benefits of a quality education, and good communication skills. “I would find myself writing notes in his labor economics class that didn’t relate to labor economics, they related to the incredible way he expressed himself,” Gillespie recalls.

Outside the classroom, Gillespie enjoyed the privilege of serving as president of the Epsilon chapter of his fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi. “There, I learned that, by golly, I’ve got a little bit of leadership skills,” Gillespie says modestly.

Following his graduation with a B.A. in economics, Gillespie built upon the leadership and communication skills he had learned at OWU and in just 11 years went from working as a teller at Cleveland Society for Savings bank to its president, as it was renamed Society National Bank. Nine years later, he was named president of Society Corp., and later became chief executive officer. He guided the institution from a \$3 billion enterprise to a \$120 billion operation, then

“I experienced a great deal of personal growth in my four years at Ohio Wesleyan, because I came in probably not really ready for a college experience.”

—Robert W. “Bob” Gillespie '66



**ALUMNI AWARD**

became chairman and CEO of KeyCorp four years after it acquired Society Corp. in 1993. He remains chairman emeritus of KeyCorp in Cleveland.

As Gillespie advanced in his career, he remained connected to OWU, joining the Board of Trustees as a Trustee-at-Large in 1987 and serving until 2013, when he became a Life Trustee. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees’ University Advancement, Finance and Operations, and Investments committees. Gillespie also has been active with the Department of Economics and with the Woltemade Center for Economics, Business and Entrepreneurship. He previously served as

chair of the Campaign for Ohio Wesleyan and has been a dedicated volunteer with annual giving, his class reunion, and more. Bob and his wife, **Ann Wible Gillespie '67**, are members of the Founders’ Circle and the Tower Society, and recipients of the Adam Poe Medal.

In May, he was recognized by the Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors with the University’s Alumni Award for his outstanding service and dedication to his alma mater. “When I received my recognition at my 50th reunion, others on the platform were folks that I knew extremely well, dear friends and people who shared that commitment to stewardship that made it easy to join up,” he says. ■

—Molly Vogel



Photo: Paul Vernon

# TO INFINITY, AND BEYOND

For **James “Jim” Oberg ’66**,

Ohio Wesleyan University was a launching pad, starting him off with a degree in mathematics and fueling a lifelong passion.

“I was learning how to learn,” Oberg says about his Ohio Wesleyan experience. “It’s basically a passion that has remained all my life.”

Fulfilling the University’s mission to create students with well-rounded interests, he developed a hunger to learn new things and share them with those around him. And share he has. “I’m one brick in a large building of space exploration,” Oberg says. “But I’ve opened up some special windows into secrets of space flight with the historical research I did.”

The recipient of Ohio Wesleyan University’s Distinguished Achievement Citation (DAC), Oberg has 1,000 published journal and magazine articles, 29 UFO debunkings, 10 published books, 22 years with NASA, and two master’s degrees (from Northwestern University in applied mathematics and from the University of New Mexico in computer science). He is also fluent in four languages. He now lives on a ranch in rural Galveston County, Texas, with his wife Alcestis and “fine herb gardens, orchards, a miscellaneous collection of dogs, cats, and horses, and an often grand view of the sky,” he says. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Oberg says OWU was his “home away from home” and taught him how to work



**“I always wanted to be a rocket scientist.”**

—James “Jim” Oberg ’66



productively with both like-minded people and those with whom he didn’t always agree, which served him well in his professional life.

Oberg was awarded the DAC for his work with NASA and his freelance work on the study of

space. He has freelanced for NBC, ABC, United Press International and MSNBC. PBS made his book *Red Star in Orbit* into a documentary series in 1991. It is considered a groundbreaking study of the Russian space program from 1957 to 1981.

“I always wanted to be a rocket scientist,”

Oberg says. “I was inspired by science fiction and newspaper articles of the 1950s describing the new age of exploration.”

Oberg won NASA’s Sustained Superior Performance Award in 1997 and the American Astronomical Society’s Jonathan Eberhart Planetary Sciences Journalism Award in 2014 for his article “Torrid Mercury’s Ice Poles” in *Astronomy* magazine.

Internationally, he is a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society and, in 1993, he was invited to be the first foreign member of the Russian Academy for Cosmonauts. He’s also recognized as an expert on the Russian and Chinese space programs.

“I was doing things no one had ever done before,” Oberg

says about his time at NASA. “I was doing things people could only dream about until we carried it out.” ■

—A.L. Davies ’19

*Oberg (above) serves as lead rendezvous and guidance procedures officer in the “Trench” in Mission Control for a satellite retrieval mission in 1991.*

*Oberg (right) hangs out with famed astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson in New York City in 2012. (Photos courtesy James Oberg)*



# DOCUMENTING CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In his tireless pursuit of the story, **Driss Sekkat '06** has risen from a journalism major and college intern at CNN to award-winning documentary filmmaker, for which he was presented the 2016 Ohio Wesleyan University Young Alumni Award.

Sekkat credits his professors with helping prepare him for his career in international media production. "OWU was incredible in every way. We had such a great journalism department with Professor (Trace) Regan and Professor (Jim) Underwood and Professor (Paul) Kostyu. I owe everything to them," Sekkat says.

Sekkat created and produced four seasons of *Street Pulse*, an investigative documentary series, for Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Inc. (MBN). A 2015 feature on the people who live in cemeteries in Cairo, Egypt, because they cannot afford housing won the Bronze Award at the New York Festival. The program also won the 2014 Council on International Nontheatrical Events (CINE) Special Jury Award and the 2013 CINE Golden Eagle.

"I'd say (I'm most proud of) *Street Pulse* because it was able to compete against huge names like HBO and Showtime. I was working with a really small team," Sekkat says. "We were able to prove to ourselves we could do it."

Sekkat, who is currently based in Miami, gravitates toward gritty material that puts him close to his subjects, often working internationally. "I like creating formats around human-oriented stories," he says. "That's my passion."



Sekkat reviews his work from a day on the set in Indonesia in November. (Photo courtesy Driss Sekkat)

**"I like creating formats around human-oriented stories. That's my passion."**

—Driss Sekkat '06



While at Ohio Wesleyan, Sekkat wrote for the student newspaper, *The Transcript*, and ran the OWU radio station, WSLN, and television station. He also played on the varsity golf team.

Mentors, including OWU graduates **Byron Pitts '82** and the late **William Headline '54**, have inspired Sekkat throughout his career. Headline was also a member of Phi Gamma Delta, the fraternity Sekkat joined at OWU. "Every time we win an award and every time we wrap up production, I think of OWU because you can't forget where you come from," he says. ■

—A.L. Davies '19

**Know someone you'd like to nominate for an alumni award?**  
Visit [alumni.owu.edu](http://alumni.owu.edu) to submit a nomination

# Homecoming & Family Weekend

#owuhomecoming | Facebook | LinkedIn | Twitter | Instagram



More than 800 alumni, family, and friends returned to campus Oct. 7 and 8 for reunions, including the All Football Reunion, Delta Tau Delta Mu Chapter 150th Anniversary Reunion, a Donors & Scholars Brunch, and alumni tailgate before OWU football triumphed over Kenyon 25-17. Save the date for next year, Oct. 19-22, 2017.



# 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.owu.edu/alumni](http://www.owu.edu/alumni) or call (740) 368-3325.

## JANUARY 2017

**January 21 | On campus**  
Bishop Backer Community Day  
Branch Rickey

**January 24 | Youngstown, Ohio**  
"Selections from the Collection of  
the Richard M. Ross Art Museum"  
Showing & Reception  
McDonough Museum of Art

## FEBRUARY 2017

**February 11 | Naples, Fla.**  
Red & Black Luncheon  
Naples Grande Beach Resort

**February 11 | On campus**  
Phi Delta Theta Gathering

**February 25 | Long Island, N.Y.**  
Men's Lacrosse against Messiah  
Long Island, N.Y.

## MARCH 2017

**March 24-25 | On campus**  
FIJI "Pig-Weekend" Reunion

## APRIL 2017

**April 15 | Multiple Locations**  
OWU vs. Denison Viewing Parties

**April 19-21 | Multiple Locations**  
Ohio Wesleyan City Challenge

**April 20-22 | On campus**  
Alumni Board - Spring Meeting

**April 29 | On campus**  
Pi Beta Phi Reunion Recognition

## MAY 2017

**May 18 -19 | On campus**  
Board of Trustees

**May 19-21 | On campus**  
Reunion Weekend (celebrating  
classes ending in 2 and 7)

## JULY 2017

**July 15 | Northern Michigan**  
Red & Black Luncheon  
Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club

**July 29 | Cape Cod, Mass.**  
Red & Black Clambake  
Earlham, Mass.

## OCTOBER 2017

**October 19-22 | On campus**  
OWU 175th Birthday Party  
including Homecoming and Family  
Weekend, and public kick-off of  
Connect Today, Create Tomorrow  
comprehensive campaign.



### Stay connected

Update your preferred email address to stay connected to OWU and receive important news, invitations to events in your area, and the latest on class affinity reunions and activities at [owu.edu/emailupdate](http://owu.edu/emailupdate)

### Don't Be a Stranger!

If you are interested in becoming involved in your regional chapters, please contact us at one of the following email addresses:

Baltimore Alumni/Parent Chapter - [Baltimorealumni@owu.edu](mailto:Baltimorealumni@owu.edu)  
Bay Area Alumni/Parent Chapter - [SanFranciscoalumni@owu.edu](mailto:SanFranciscoalumni@owu.edu)  
Boston Alumni/Parent Chapter - [Bostonalumni@owu.edu](mailto:Bostonalumni@owu.edu)  
Columbus Alumni/Parent Chapter - [CentralOHalumni@owu.edu](mailto:CentralOHalumni@owu.edu)  
Chicago Alumni/Parent Chapter - [Chicagoalumni@owu.edu](mailto:Chicagoalumni@owu.edu)  
FairChester (CT-NY) Alumni/Parent Chapter - [FairChesteralumni@owu.edu](mailto:FairChesteralumni@owu.edu)  
New York City Alumni/Parent Chapter - [NYCalumni@owu.edu](mailto:NYCalumni@owu.edu)  
Northeast Ohio Alumni/Parent Chapter - [NortheastOHalumni@owu.edu](mailto:NortheastOHalumni@owu.edu)  
Northern New Jersey Alumni/Parent Chapter - [NorthernNJalumni@owu.edu](mailto:NorthernNJalumni@owu.edu)  
Rocky Mountain Alumni/Parent Chapter - [Denveralumni@owu.edu](mailto:Denveralumni@owu.edu)  
Philadelphia Alumni/Parent Chapter - [Philadelphiagalumni@owu.edu](mailto:Philadelphiagalumni@owu.edu)  
Washington, DC, Alumni/Parent Chapter - [DCalumni@owu.edu](mailto:DCalumni@owu.edu)

### SAVE THE DATE

### Reunion Weekend 2017

May 19-21, celebrating the classes that end in "2" and "7"

#OWUreunion

**Amy Butcher, assistant professor of English**, published “Pokémon Go See the World in All Its Splendor,” in the July 17 edition of *The New York Times* Sunday Review. An additional essay, “Flight Behavior,” published in the June issue of *The American Scholar*, was awarded grand prize in the Solas Awards for “Best Travel Writing of 2016” and anthologized in *Best Travel Writing 2016*. Her essay “A Slow Kind of Unraveling” has also been distinguished as a notable essay in *Best American Essays 2016*, guest-edited by author Jonathan Franzen.



**Michael Flamm, professor of history**, wrote *In the Heat of the Summer* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), a book about the New York City race riots of 1964. Dave Farber, a professor from the University of Kansas, said, “Flamm’s riveting history of black anger, police misconduct, and the politics of law and order sets the stage for today’s debates over incarceration, police-community relations, and the struggle for racial justice in the United States.”

**Frank Hobbs, associate professor of fine arts**, took part in a three-person art exhibit in the Andrews Gallery at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. The exhibition ran from Oct. 6 to Nov. 4 and was titled “One Off: Monotypes by Barbara Grossman, Frank Hobbs, Yvonne Petkus.”



**Jennifer Jolley, assistant professor of music**, had the world premiere of her beginning band piece *Last Stage to Red Rock*. It was performed by the Mason Intermediate School’s 6th Grade Beginning Band at Mason (Ohio) Middle School from May 9 to 11.

**Ted Cohen, professor of sociology-anthropology**, published the 13th edition of his textbook *The Marriage and Family Experience: Intimate Relationships in a Changing Society* (Cengage, 2017). Originally authored by the late Brian Strong, the current edition is the sixth edition Cohen has updated and revised. The 13th edition addresses racial, gender, and sexual diversity in how marriage, intimate relationships, and parenthood are experienced, including wider examination of multiracial and biracial experience, ongoing changes in how we conceptualize and understand gender, and discussion of the movement for marriage equality that culminated in the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

**Emmanuel Twesigye, Aden S. & Mollie Wollam Benedict professor of Christian Studies**, published the textbook for his classes “Critical Issues in Religion and Ethics” and “Moral Values in Contemporary Society.” The book is titled *Religion and Ethics*

From left: Conductor Chad Fourman, Jennifer Jolley, Micah Ewing. Performers in the background.

Today: *God’s World and Human Responsibilities* (University Readers, Cognella Press, 2016).

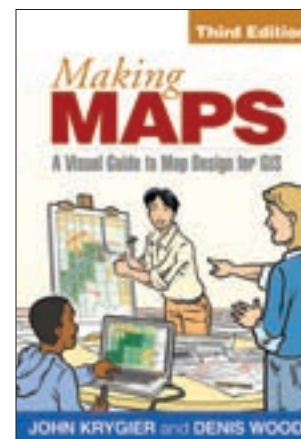
**Donald Lateiner, emeritus professor of humanities-classics**, co-edited and authored two essays for *The Ancient Emotion of Disgust* (Oxford University Press, 2016). His essays are titled “Theory and Practice of an Ambivalent Emotion” and “Evoking Disgust in the Latin Novels of Petronius and Apuleius.” Lateiner’s interest in the subject grew from his course at OWU titled “Love and Sexuality in Literature and the Arts.”

**Ji Young Choi, associate professor of politics and government**, stayed as a visiting scholar for spring 2016 at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies at Ohio State University. Young also gave lectures on Korean politics in Shanghai, China, on March 28 and in Washington, D.C. on July 28. He took OWU students to Seoul, South Korea, to study environmental politics on a grant in May and will teach a Travel-Learning course there in the spring 2017 semester.

**Eva Paris-Huesca, assistant professor of modern foreign languages**, wrote a book review of *El Agua de la Muerte* by Nieto Solis and Jose Antonio in the 2016 *Journal of Hispanic Studies*. In April Paris-Huesca gave a Skype lecture at Mount Holyoke

College in South Hadley, Mass., titled “Las Voces Femeninas en la Ficción Criminal Española.” In July she gave a presentation about Susana Martin Gijon’s *Vino y Polvora* at the Gijon Noir Week Festival in Spain.

**Mark Schwartz, professor of mathematics**, and **Ben Letson ’14** had a jointly authored paper accepted for publication in *Mathematics Magazine*, a periodical of the Mathematical Association of America. The paper, “The Regiomontanus Problem,” considers where to stand to optimally view a painting. The research for the paper was carried out during OWU’s Summer Science Research Program in 2012. The paper will appear in 2017.



**John Krygier, professor of geology-geography and director of environmental studies**, along with co-author Denis Wood, used Illustration and InDesign to make the third edition of their book *Making Maps: A Visual Guide to Map Design for GIS* (Guilford Press, 2016) from scratch. Matthew Wilson, a professor from the University of Kentucky, said, “The book is fresh, lively, and engaging—it is a pleasure to read and thought-provoking for students.”

# CLASSnotes

## 1930s

**Mary Laning Stewart '39** was honored by the city of Norwalk, Ohio, for serving 40 years on the Architectural Review Board.

## 1950s

**Joyce Bohyer Hildebrand '50** was honored for her fine-arts advocacy when the London (Ohio) High School performance auditorium was named after her.

**George Kerns '51** received the University of California, Santa Barbara, College of Engineering Exemplary Service Award.

**Connie Naumann Luhta '52** was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. A pilot who has competed across the world in air races, she is the owner of Concord Air Park and president of Cleveland's International Women's Air and Space Museum.

**Chuck McManis '54** was featured in the *Las Vegas Journal-Review* for his 42 years of experience with gun engraving.

**Charles "Vic" Brown '58** donated a copy of his book *Vampire Resurrection* to the Williamsburg (Va.) Regional Library as a part of its Local Authors Project collection.

**John Batty III '59** was appointed to the board of directors at Talbot Hospice in Easton, Md.

**Charles Purviance '59** retired from his 19-year position as executive director of the Kirtland Partnership Committee, the nonprofit organization of civic leaders that works to preserve and expand Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M.

## 1960s

**Bruce Buchanan '61** received Delta Tau Delta fraternity's Alumni Achievement Award in August. Buchanan is a professor of computer science, philosophy, and medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

**Roger Jennings '62** published *Waking the Lion*, a book about his grandfather, who was credited by the Eastern Orthodox Church with saving 1,250,000 Greeks, Armenians, and Jews from death at the hands of the Turks.

**Robert Nelson '62** published *Dirty Waters: Confessions of Chicago's Last Harbor Boss*, a memoir about his time as director of harbors and marine services in Chicago.

**John Bassett Jr. '63** announced his plans to retire as Heritage University president at the end of the 2016-17 school year.

**Daniel Mills '63** co-authored *The Trump Phenomenon and the Future of US Foreign Policy*, a book recently published by World Scientific.

**William Davis '66** is director of the Barnstormers, a four-part male choral group in New England that recently celebrated its 70th anniversary.

**Robert Gillespie '66** and **Ann Wible Gillespie '67** donated "celebration bells" to University Hospitals' (Cleveland area) Seidman Cancer Center. Cancer patients will ring the bells at the end of their treatment.

## ALUMNI ENSURE LINCOLN HONORED IN DAYTON

**Thomas C. Cecil '52**, has been a self-proclaimed "Lincolnphile" since he was a boy and heard stories about Abraham Lincoln from his father, Judge Lester Cecil, a Lincoln scholar. Earlier this fall, Thomas Cecil fulfilled a dream as he watched the unveiling of a new Lincoln statue in downtown Dayton.

Cecil was the driving force behind the 11-foot statue commemorating Lincoln's delivery of an anti-slavery speech in Dayton's Courthouse Square while on the campaign trail in 1859. The statue was unveiled Sept. 17, on the 157th anniversary of the speech.

Cecil founded the nonprofit Lincoln Society of Dayton in 2003, and the organization received endorsement from the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in 2014. The society raised more than \$250,000 to commission a bronze statue created by sculptor Mike Major, the first artist-in-residence for the Ohio Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts. The society is currently raising funds to light the statue. "The Lincoln Society of Dayton would not exist without the dream of Tom to find a way to create a statue of Abraham Lincoln in honor of his speaking here," says **Maribeth Graham '55**, vice president of the society. The society's 100 members also include **Ben Graham '52** and **Martha Hibbert Boice '53**.



**Thomas Cecil '52** (seated) and his brother (front left), **David Cecil '55** and Tom's seven children at the dedication of the new Lincoln statue in September.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neal Bozentka '81  
Denise Sabo Brenner '00  
*Alumnae Panhellenic  
Council Representative*  
Joni Manos Brown '78  
Sarah Bruno '10  
Kristen Cemate '06  
Vicki DiLillo  
*Faculty Representative*

Chuck Nider '07  
*Alumni Interfraternity  
Council Representative*  
Elizabeth Long Downey '06  
*Vice President*  
Fred Evans '68  
Erin Flynn  
*Faculty Representative*  
Bob Gordon '88  
Candace Griffith '09

Kevin Hinkle '94  
*Alumni "W" Association  
Representative*  
Martha Nunn Lewis '83  
Anne Lynde '78  
Ann Muenster-Nuiry '73  
Jonathan Noble '06  
Hillary Panas Pember '85  
Sheila Fagan Plecha '84  
*President*

Keith Rozanski '99  
Lana Rucks '95  
Dan Sharpe '06  
Samuel Smith '96  
Mary Beth Sommer '88  
Sue Struna Subel '69  
Thomas Tatham '56  
Drew Thawley '97  
Bernie Vendlinski '03



**Charlene Dwyer Davis '68**, an attorney at Bayard Law in Wilmington, Del., has been named to the 2017 edition of the Best Lawyers in America list.

**Richard Shale '69**, author of several books and articles on pop culture, gave a presentation on July 16 as part of the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society Memories of a Lifetime lecture series.

## 1970s

**Nancy Frank '71** was a featured artist at OWU's Ross Art Museum during its equine-themed exhibit "A Show of Horses" in September.

**Wendie Malick '72** was featured in the October/November edition of *Cowgirl* magazine.

**Clay Small '72** published his first novel, *Heels Over Head*, available on Feb. 7, 2017.

**Nancy Talanian '72** was a featured artisan at the Whately Historical Society Fall Festival. She has been making pottery for more than 20 years.

**Tom Cole '73** was inducted into the City of Toledo Athletic Hall of Fame on Nov. 7.

**David Janson '73** won the 400-meter national championship in the 65-69 age bracket at this year's USATF Track and Field meet in Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Joseph Costabile '76** was installed as the 224th president of the Medical Society of New Jersey.

**Matthew Hamlin '76** was appointed to the Texas Health Services Authority Board of Directors.

**Paula Kalamaras '76** is the author of the book *The Mystery of the Lone Wolf Killer: Anders Behring Breivik and the Threat of Terror in Plain Sight*, about the tragedy of the 2011 Norway attacks.

**Robert Kestner '76** is chairman of the BakerHostetler law firm in Cleveland, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

## DEBUNKING (MORE) JOURNALISM MYTHS

**W. Joseph Campbell '74** published the second edition of his book *Getting It Wrong: Debunking the Greatest Myths in American Journalism* (University of California Press, 2016). The new edition covers the first Kennedy-Nixon debate in 1960 and the "Napalm Girl" photo from the later years of the Vietnam War. Campbell is a three-time Pulitzer Prize nominee and is a full-time tenured professor in American University's School of Communication.



**Anne Kleindienst '76**, a shareholder with the national law firm Polsinelli, has been selected for inclusion in Chambers USA. Chambers is considered the leading legal industry ranking organization in the world. Kleindienst practices in the areas of health care and business law in the firm's Phoenix office.

**Gregory Moore '76** is Hearst Visiting Professor of Professional Practice at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

**Douglas Kennedy '77**, an attorney at Roetzel & Andress LPA, has been named to the 2017 edition of the Best Lawyers in America list.

**Thomas Rosenberg '77**, an attorney at Roetzel & Andress LPA, has been named to the 2017 edition of the Best Lawyers in America list.

**Michele Wolf '78** has a law office in Oakland, Calif., and had been a judge pro tem for San Francisco Superior Court since 2013. She currently sits on the bench in Civil Discovery and Juvenile Traffic Courts, and acts as a settlement judge in unlawful detainee cases. Wolf's legal practice involves protecting victims of catastrophic personal injury accidents, employment discrimination, and sexual harassment.

**Lansden "Sandy" McCandless III '79** joined First Bank as vice president, commercial loan officer for Midwest Commercial Banking.

**Chester West III '79** was awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Laurel Highlands (Pa.) Council, Boy Scouts of America, on June 14. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest honor a local council can bestow on its registered adult leaders.

## 1980s

**Robert Hanna '81**, an attorney at Tucker Ellis LLP, was selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of the Best Lawyers in America list.

**Jeffrey Long '82** is a member of the College Football Playoff selection committee.

**Byron Pitts '82** presented "How I See It Now: My Remarkable Journey from Illiteracy to Nightline" at Miami University Regionals' annual Harry T. Wilks Distinguished Lecture Series on Sept. 14.

**Amy Chesher Pelicano '84** is director of development for Bethany House Services, an organization that assists homeless and at-risk families with housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

**Michael van der Veen '85** was selected for the 2016 Super Lawyers list, a rating service of outstanding lawyers. He was also elected to the Board of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

**Eugene Clayton Mowry IV '86** was a speaker at the fifth annual Space and Satellite Regulatory Colloquium on Oct. 20. Clayton is president of Blue Origin, an aerospace manufacturer and spaceflight services company.

**Laura Baker Campbell '87** left her two-decade tenure as a literacy specialist with the private, national nonprofit Motherhead Inc., last summer to work as executive assistant to the Chancellor at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, the nation's first public residential high school focused on science, technology, engineering, and math. She is enthusiastic about her next professional chapter in an educational environment whose alumni loyalty and campus remind her of her days at OWU.

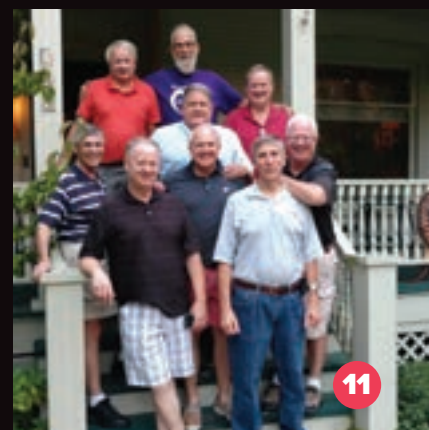
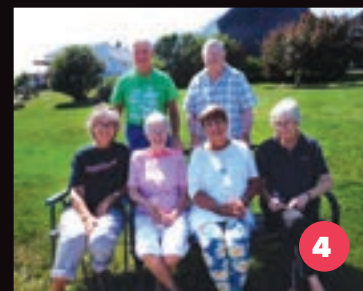
**David Mangus '87** was selected as the 2016 Raytheon Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year.

**Christopher McComish '87** is executive vice-president, personal banking, and co-head of North American Specialized Sales for BMO Harris Bank.

**Marcella Kane Williams '87** graduated from Duquesne University with a doctorate of Nursing Practice degree.

**Bruce Anderson '88**, whose father taught philosophy at OWU for many years, is program chair of Political Science and Pre-Law Adviser at Florida Southern College (a tier-one liberal arts core institution in Lakeland, Fla.) and Miller Distinguished Professor. He was also appointed the Dr. Sarah D. and L. Kirk McKay, Jr. Endowed Chair in American History, Government, and Civics.

**Michael Piatt '88** was named the new boys basketball coach at Milton-Union High School in West Milton, Ohio.



**1 | Toledo gathering of friends**  
Virginia Fairhurst Keller '81, and her husband Steve hosted a small alumni gathering at their home in Perrysburg, Ohio on Nov. 2. Pictured from left to right: **Tom Palmer '69, JB Rorick '78,** President Rock Jones, **Tom Brooks '75, Suzanne Rorick '80, Kelli Winston '93,** Susan Palmer, **Virginia Keller '81, Tim Zorn '74, Thomas Winston '92, Thomas Fairhurst P '75, '79, '81,** and Steve Keller.

**2 | Bishops bond over golf**  
In June, a group of alumni gathered in Colorado for an annual golf outing. Pictured here in front of an OWU blanket (from left): **Rick Schaal '60, Nancy Reynolds Schneider '64, Patsy Belt Conrades '63, Jon Hillegas '60, and George Conrades '61.**

**3 | A tradition of service at Haitian orphanage**  
**Lizzy Wynne '16** (left) and **Emma Sparks '16** are serving as volunteer coordinators for the Pwoje Espwa orphanage in Les Cayes, Haiti. Sparks and Wynne represent the third straight round of OWU Kappa Alpha Theta

women to hold the positions, following in the footsteps of **Brenda Gable '15, Rachel Vinciguerra '14, Kate Raulin '12,** and **Kelsey Ullom '14.** Ohio Wesleyan connected with Pwoje Espwa ("Project Hope") through alumnus **Doug Dittrick '55,** who has been influential in operating the facility.

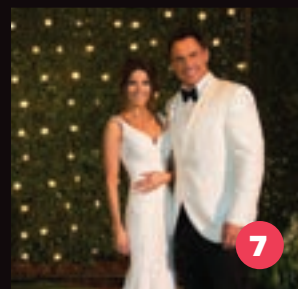
**4 | '62 classmates reunite**  
For the third year in a row, classmates from the class of 1962 reunited in Rhode Island in August. Pictured from left to right: (back row) **Bob Wright '62** and **Ward Ellsasser '62,** (front row) **Linda Collins '62, Anne Foresman Ellsasser '62, Carol Cramp Schubert '62** and **Enid Parkinson Ford '62.**

**5 | Pi Phi gathering brings Bishop spouses together**  
Pi Phis from the 1950s keep in touch with frequent reunions at scenic locations around the country and through an annual newsletter. Several Pi Phis and their spouses met in Charlottesville, Va., for a "Road Scholar" program, including sightseeing, fun and laughs. From left to right: **Jerry Ritter '56, Jack Batty '59, Jim Eickhoff '58,** and **Bob Stevens '58.**

**6 | Up close and personal with U.S. tennis stars**  
**Jeffrey Ryan '86** is senior director for USA Team Events for the United States Tennis Association and was in Rio with the U.S. tennis team for the 2016 Summer Olympics. He is pictured here with U.S. tennis star Serena Williams.

**7 | Freyermuth-Steines wedding**  
**Julie Freyermuth '01** was married to Mark Steines on Aug. 20 in Los Angeles. The wedding was a surprise to guests, who thought they were attending a fifth anniversary party for the groom's Hallmark Channel TV show, *Home & Family.*

**8 | Kinzer-VanMeter wedding**  
**Adrianna "Anna" Kinzer '11** was married to Jeremy VanMeter on May 14 in Delaware, Ohio. Joining in the celebration were, from left to right: **Kelsey Kerstetter '12, Kristen Kalinowski '11,** the groom and bride, **Marisa Jones '11, Sophie Rosenthal '12,** and **Katie Hurley '12.**



#### 9 | Janca-Feliz wedding

**Katherine Janca '07** married Luis Feliz on July 17 in Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic.

#### 10 | Alumnus supports event to enable local veterans

**Rocco Donnino '84** is founder of Cow Harbor Warriors in Northport, N.Y., a nonprofit organization that has donated more than \$235,000 to local and national veterans organizations since its inception in 2012. Its mission is to honor and help veterans who were wounded as a result of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom by raising funds and awareness and enlisting community support. Sept. 9-11 was Cow Harbor Warrior Weekend, an event organized to thank and help veterans to advance past their injuries. The organization housed and hosted 12 post-9/11 wounded veterans and their families for three days of appreciation, recreation, and celebration. Donnino (right) is pictured here with Bobby Henline (left), an Iraq War veteran, and Tim Scherer (middle), a Gold Star father whose son was killed in action in Iraq.

#### 11 | Sig Ep fraternity brothers catch up

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brothers gathered at the home of **Mike Newcomb '73** in September. Future gatherings are in the works, and other friends are welcome. Email **Don Slobodien '75** at [donslobo@columbus.rr.com](mailto:donslobo@columbus.rr.com) to be included. Pictured from left to right: (front row) **Mike Newcomb '73, Don Slobodien '75, Brad Zimmerman '75, Chris Martin '75, Dick Fowler '75,** (middle row) **Roger Krohn '75,** (back row) **Fred Schill '75, Jon Peterson '76, and Jeff Wagner '75.**

#### 12 | Swary-Hanak wedding

**Tyler Swary '13** married Laney Hanak on June 10. Swary is in his fourth year teaching sixth-grade science and social studies at Napoleon (Ohio) Middle School. He is the defensive coordinator for the Napoleon Wildcats and also coaches eighth-grade basketball and junior high track. He lives in Napoleon with his wife and two dogs, Kylo and Kobe. Joining in the celebration were (from left): **Clint Saunders '13, Hayley Cook '14, Nick Ziegenbusch '13, Megan Bachelder '13, Ericka Reese '13, Tyler Sheetz '13, Paul Murphey '13, Tyler Swary, Matt Staveski '10, Justin Segal '14, Lauren Janowicz '15, Brandon Cannon '10, Chris Demecs '14, Rebecca Overbeek '14, and Seth Swary '14.**

#### 13 | Alumni gather for roundtable

**Matt Palmer '79** hosted an OWU alumni roundtable on Aug. 30 as part of the Columbus Foundation's Big Table initiative. Palmer is co-founder and president of the Joseph Group, a premier capital management firm in Columbus with a focus on wealth and financial planning. Pictured from left to right: **Farooq Busari '10, Dr. Alice Simon, Wendy McCall Johnson '74, Vernita Johnson '95, Valorie Schwarzmann '81, Kelly Burns, and Matt Palmer '79.**

#### 14 | Friendship on the high seas

On a recent cruise, OWU alumni and Phi Gamma Delta brothers **Hugh Pace '74** and **Dave Spence '58** met and discovered their common university and fraternity roots. A new friendship evolved on a ship in the Baltic.

## 1990s

**Christopher Clark '90** was appointed to the Georgia Board of Corrections by Gov. Nathan Deal.

**Caroline King Powers '90** was appointed to the board of trustees for Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM).

**Reginald Fields '92** was appointed to the Central State University board of trustees.

**Kelly Gordon '92** was named director of the School of Fine Arts at Concordia University in Texas, where she also serves as director of Theatre and co-director of the Honors Program.

**Elizabeth Kanne Miller '92** is deputy head of GEMS Nations Academy.

**Casey Wilson '93** is senior pastor at Centenary United Methodist Church in Granville, Ohio.

**Trent Collier '96**, an attorney at Collins Einhorn Farrell PC, was named to the "2016 Michigan Super Lawyers" list.

**Chris Masters '96** is associate director of communications for the Big Ten Network.

**Mayank Pandya '97** joined UnityPoint Clinic—OB/GYN—Mulberry in Muscatine, Iowa, as an OB/GYN.

**Tomiquia Moss '99** is the chief of staff to Mayor Libby Schaaf in Oakland, Calif.

**Maggie Smith-Beehler '99** is the author of the poem *Good Bones*, which went viral in the aftermath of the Orlando nightclub shooting in June.

## 2000s

**Carrie Schiffer Allman '00** was honored with the Allegheny County (Pa.) Exemplary Employee Award last month, recognizing her efforts to start a training program at the county Office of the Public Defender for new hires and experienced attorneys.

**Michael Jordan '00** is a regional business consultant at Symmetry Partners, LLC, an investment advisory firm.

**Tyler Stillman '00** is athletic director at Firelands School District in Lorain County, Ohio.

**Vincent McGinniss '02** has become board certified in Facial Plastic Surgery.

**Salman Syed '03** is co-founder and CEO of Arccos Golf, which sells a GPS and stat tracking system for golfers.

**Rebecca Hinkle '04** is managing director for the Performing Arts School at Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, N.J.

**James Westfall II '04** was featured in the Sept. 22 issue of *Columbus Alive* magazine for his work as a bartender at St. James Tavern in Columbus.

**Kristen Hajduk '05** is a fellow in the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

**Brian Small '05** joined the Bucknell University men's lacrosse staff as an assistant coach.

**Emcet Tas '06** has joined the World Bank's Young Professional Program (YPP) in Washington, D.C. The YPP is the World Bank's most competitive recruitment program, which prepares a select group of professionals age 32 or younger for top technical and leadership roles in international development. In his new role, Tas will participate in a two-year leadership program while working on cutting-edge research and policy issues in the field of economic development.

**Nicholas Stull '07** presented his exhibition of paintings titled "Lap Lanes Closed For H2O Fit Club" at 934 Gallery in Columbus in August.

**Elizabeth Davis '08** joined McDaniel College as director of international and off-campus programs.

**Trevor Jones '08** received the Tom Patton Award for Excellence at the Ameriprise Top Advisor Conference, recognizing a financial advisor who provides outstanding service to his community and clients.

**Summer Quesenberry '08** was named head basketball coach at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio, just the third in school history.

**Hilary Holmes Cessna '09** joined the Manchester, N.H., office of Bernstein Shur, one of northern New England's largest law firms.

**Ashlie Britton Plants '09** joined Shaker, a company that develops recruiting technology, as a member of its Design-Build team. Plants is an industrial-organizational psychologist.

## 2010s

**Gretchen Croll '10** graduated in 2015 from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a masters in Library and Information Science. She is working as a research and information operations specialist 1 at Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe in Canonsburg, Pa.

**Jeremy Horne '11** was featured in the September issue of Alpha Sigma Phi's *Tomahawk* magazine as a frequent donor to the fraternity.

## ALUMNA FIGHTS PESTS IN THE FUNNY PAGES



**Abbey Powell '96** is a public affairs specialist for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, working with plant biologists, entomologists, policy experts, and regulatory officials to promote their mission of safeguarding American agriculture and securing safe U.S. agricultural trade. "Yes, I talk about bugs all day!" Powell says. "But I'm also here as a 'change agent,' as OWU expects their grads to be."

Powell is changing the conversation about invasive pest issues, and she's doing so in unexpected ways. In fact, she has been re-created as a cartoon character in the nationally syndicated "Mark Trail" comic strip. Named "Agent Powell," her character has raised awareness about the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, as well as imported red fire ants. As both an employee of the USDA and as "Agent Powell," she believes the conversation is an important one. "Each year, invasive species cost the United States about \$120 billion. Since they originate from other countries and have few or no real natural enemies here, they can quickly spread." Pictured here, she holds a picture of an edition of *The Washington Post* comics page in which she is featured, as well as a mug featuring the comic strip.

**Marie Krulewitch-Browne '11** received the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati's Jewish Innovation Funds to produce a Jewish and Israeli Arts and Cultural Festival in Cincinnati next year.

**Cody Morrison '11** is a chiropractor at Leaf Chiropractic & Wellness Center in Delaware, Ohio.

**Christian Kissig '13** is a lab chemist at Columbia Chemical. Previously, he served as a research technologist at the Cleveland Clinic.

**Elizabeth Spragens '13** was named Macon (Tenn.) County High School head girls soccer coach.

**William Thieman '13** was named girls tennis coach at Olentangy Liberty (Ohio) High School.

**Dre White '14** was named varsity boys basketball head coach at Ada (Ohio) High School.

**Matthew Hunter '15** is a sports performance coach at Athletic Lab, a sports performance and fitness training center in North Carolina.

**Cody Kent '15** published a study with the late OWU professor Jed Burt linking feather-degrading bacteria to damaged plumage on wild birds for the first time.

**Nhi K. Amy Nguyen '15** is the owner of A Taste of Vietnam, a restaurant that recently opened in Worthington, Ohio.

**Evan Lee '16** was recognized as FC Cincinnati's most improved player for the 2016 season.

## Marriages

### 2010s

**Justin Blackburn '06** was married to Elise Guimont on Sept. 24 in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Charlotte, N.C.

**Michael Alcock '08** was married to Rachael Cobb on May 21.

**Hilary Curry '10** was married to Beverly Ann Harrell on Aug. 24, 2015.

**Ethan Baron '11** was married to Ellen Freedman on Aug. 20.

## Births

### 1980s

**Robert Albrecht '80** and his partner Kelsey welcomed son Bryon Timothy Albrecht on June 6.

## 2000s

**Patricia Gray McCarthy '01** and **Michael McCarthy '01** welcomed son Gray William McCarthy, on June 23. Also celebrating is aunt Christine Gray Sellitto '99.

**Katie Hollidge Nelson '01** and her husband Chris welcomed daughter Emily Ann Nelson on July 1. Emily joins big brothers Andrew and Ben.

**Morgan Johnson Vihlidal '03** celebrated the birth of son Logan Thomas Vihlidal, on June 20. Also celebrating is grandfather **Joel Poetker '56**.

**Nicholas White '04** and **Kimberly Holbrook White '05** welcomed daughter Julia White, on Aug. 28.

**Kelsey Wright Chin '05** welcomed daughter Lyla Chin, on Sept. 28. Also celebrating is grandfather **David Wright III '76**.

**Clint Evans '05** and **Stephanie Schroeder '08** celebrated the birth of son Brody David Evans, on Aug. 24. Also celebrating is grandfather **James Schroeder '60**.

**Benjamin Norris '05** welcomed son Otto Benjamin, on Sept. 27.

**Dan O'Brien '05** celebrated the birth of Quinn Hamilton O'Brien on July 25.

**Kevin Johnson '06** welcomed son Connor Michael Johnson, on June 24.

**Korry Lee '06** celebrated the birth of daughter Kenzie Faye Lee, on June 27.

**Joe Rosato '06** and Demaris Rosato welcomed daughter Norah Ann Rosato on May 23. Also celebrating are uncles **Jamison Dague '08** and **Anthony Rosato '09**.

**Meghan Feran Sexton '06** welcomed son Cooper Joseph Sexton, on Aug. 3. Also celebrating are aunts **Katherine Feran Lindamood '03** and **Sarah Feran Ayers '00**.

**Brittany Coale '07** welcomed son Robert William Bourassa, on July 9. Also celebrating are aunt **MaryEllen Coale Krapf '05** and grandmother **Sharon Smithey Coale '72**.

**Dana Reznik Gerken '07** and her husband, William, welcomed twin sons, Walter "Wally" Timothy and Harris "Harry" Gregory, on Aug. 4.

**Liz Urmston Boham '08** and **Garett Boham '08** welcomed son Robert Owen Boham, on Sept. 16.

**Wesley Perkins '09** celebrated the birth of son Luke James Perkins, on July 11.

## In Memoriam

### 1930s

**Sarah Spencer Patton '36**, of Upper Arlington, Ohio, Sept. 21, at the age of 102. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Richard Patton '36**, and son **John Patton '67**. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Ailene Meyers Utz '39**, of Weatherly, Pa, Sept. 30, 2015, at the age of 98. She was predeceased by her husband, **David Utz '39**, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

## 1940s

**Eleanor "Sue" Kneen Hudson '40**, of Sebring, Ohio, July 6, at the age of 97. She was predeceased by two brothers, **John Kneen '37** and **Charles Kneen '49**. She is survived by two children, **Douglas Newton '69** and **Ann Newton '67**. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Marian Boyd Eanes '41**, of Cincinnati, June 15, at the age of 96. She was predeceased by her husband, **Edwin Eanes '41**, and is survived by son **Michael Eanes '64**. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Elinor Selby Garriques '41**, of Aurora, Colo., June 27. She was predeceased by her husband, **Theodore Schaible '40**, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Marian Schlabach Ramlow '41**, of La Crosse, Wis., Aug. 7, at the age of 96. She was predeceased by two sisters, **Anne Schlabach Burkhardt '37** and **Margaret Schlabach Dalzell '38**. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Florence Shultz Nash '42**, of Sun City Center, Fla. Aug. 9, at the age of 95. She was predeceased by a sister, **Dorothy Shultz Stone '34**. Please see a longer version of this obituary online at owu.edu/magazine.

**Janet Malloy Tompkins '42**, of Bismarck, N.D., June 10, at the age of 95.

**Robert Owen '43**, of Centerville, Ohio, July 2, at the age of 95. He was a member of the OWU Tower Society and Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Janet Henthorn Wolf '43**, of Denville, N.J., July 17, at the age of 94. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Charles Bettinger Jr. '44**, of Charleston, W.Va., July 3, at the age of 93. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Virginia Collier Penrose '44**, of Woodland, Calif., July 25, at the age of 94.

**Leon Havre '45**, of Orlando, Fla., July 9, at the age of 92. He was predeceased by his wife, **Nancy Quillen Havre '50**, and was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

## 1950s

**Dorothy Ham DeVault '46**, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, July 8, at the age of 91. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Barbara Crew Long '46**, of Medina, Ohio, July 5, at the age of 90. She was predeceased by her mother, **Mary Chandler Crew 1917**, her husband, **James Long '48**, and a brother, **Malcolm Crew '48**. She is survived by a daughter, **Elizabeth Long Lavallo '77**. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Dorothy Johnson Ferguson '47**, of Fort Wayne, Ind., July 14, at the age of 90. She is survived by a son, **John Ferguson '71**, and was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Marthella Mizer Burrows '48**, of Bellevue, Fla., Aug. 31, at the age of 89.

**Hal Fausnaugh '48**, of Rocky River, N.C., July 16, at the age of 90. He was predeceased by his mother, **Ruth Tarr Fausnaugh '21**, and is survived by his wife, **Agnes Park Fausnaugh '51**, a sister, **Ann Fausnaugh Burke '58**, and a grandson, **Perry Obee '06**. Hal was a member of the OWU Board of Trustees, Tower Society, and Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Janet Hughes Sitterle '48**, of Greenfield, Ohio, Aug. 10, at the age of 89. She is survived by a son, **Robert Judkins '72**, and was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**John Vutech '48**, of Columbus, Sept. 4, at the age of 93. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Selene Elliott Butters '49**, of Dublin, Ohio, Sept. 27, at the age of 89. She is survived by a grandson, **Andrew Stock '17**.

**Betty Bruner Farrier '49**, of Provo, Utah, Sept. 22, at the age of 89.

**Harry Kane '49**, of Williamsburg, Va., June 13. He is survived by his wife, **Jean Sayre Kane '48**, and was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Raymond Cheseldine '50**, of Bonita Springs, Fla., June 29, at the age of 86. He is survived by a son, **Raymond Cheseldine III '79**. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Harry Gill Jr. '50**, of Houston, Aug. 26, at the age of 92. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**William Bangham '51**, of Bay Village, Ohio, Sept. 21, at the age of 88. He was predeceased by his parents, **Norman Bangham 1919** and **Mary Dickerson Bangham '21**, and a sister, **Elizabeth Bangham Temple '44**. He is survived by a daughter, **Kristen Bangham Newcomb '78**. William was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**George Barker '51**, of Greensboro, N.C., Sept. 14, at the age of 89. He is survived by a sister, **Helen Barker Dimlich '55**, and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**Ruth Ice Cornish '51**, of Fort Collins, Colo., July 22, at the age of 87. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Janet Guinn Gerlinger '51**, of Bermuda Village, N.C., Sept. 6, at the age of 87. She was predeceased by her husband, **R.A. Gerlinger '50**, and was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Shirley Russell Jacot '51**, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, July 20, at the age of 87. She is survived by a sister, **Miriam Russell Conley '59**, and was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Daniel Ransom '51**, of Orchard Park, N.Y., July 18, at the age of 87. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Jack Allen '52**, of Seven Lakes, N.C., June 22, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Mayer Allen '53**, a son, **Douglas Allen '81**, and a brother, **James Allen '68**. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Mildred Bair Brydon '52** of Glen Ridge, N.J., March 28, at the age of 89.

**Ivan Fraser '52**, of Silver Lake, Ohio, Aug. 1, at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, **Dolores Deist Fraser '53**, and was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Lois Kolyer Gregory '52**, of Peachtree City, Ga., Aug. 13, at the age of 85. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Jane Stuntz Jager '52**, of Newbury, Vt., June 3, at the age of 84. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**James Lynsky '52**, of Rossmoor/ Los Alamitos, Calif., March 20, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife, **Shirley Underwood Lynsky '55**, and was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Joe Slone '52**, of Lexington, Ky., Aug. 8, at the age of 86. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Ruth McAfee Fenton '53**, of Port Charlotte, Fla., on June 9, at the age of 84. She is survived by a brother, **William McAfee '56**, and was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Marion Lightfoot '53**, of Arkansas City, Colo., Sept. 10, at the age of 85. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Nancy Bernard Miller '53**, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, June 23, at the age of 84. She was predeceased in death by her husband, **Carl Miller '52**, and was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Thelma Cook Sparks '53**, of Upper Arlington, Ohio, July 12, at the age of 84. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Martha Bowman Ebeling '54**, of Oakwood, Ohio, Aug. 2, at the age of 84. She is survived by her husband, **Harry Ebeling '54**, and was a member of the OWU Tower Society and Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Laurence Kimble Jr. '54**, of Davis, Calif., June 3, at the age of 85. He was predeceased in death by his father, **Laurence Kimble '28**, and is survived by a brother, **Robert Kimble '55**. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Edwin Lee '55**, of Coshocton, Ohio, Sept. 29, at the age of 83. He was predeceased in death by a brother, **Edward Lee '55**, and is survived by a sister, **Eloisa Lee Amick '58**. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Patty Kline Shuster '55**, of Lucasville, Ohio, July 8, at the age of 82. She was predeceased in death by her mother, **Helen Millar Kline '22**, and is survived by her husband, **John Shuster '53**. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**George Skipper '55**, of Bentleyville, Ohio, Aug. 14, at the age of 82.

**Yvonne Sutton Eder '56**, of Fort Myers, Fla., June 24, at the age of 82. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Beverly Schroeder Allison '57**, of Greeneville, Tenn., Aug. 21, at the age of 81. She was predeceased in death by her mother, **Vera McQuillin Schroeder '25**, and her sister, **Shirley Schroeder Kersten '51**. She is survived by her husband, **James Allison '56**, and was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Diane Turner Breese '57** of Toledo, July 4, at the age of 81. She was predeceased by her husband, **David Shaffer '57**, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Ralph Eisnaugle '57**, of Columbus, Sept. 30, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, **Nancy Quinn Eisnaugle '57**, a son, **Jeffrey Eisnaugle '83**, and a brother, **Edmund Eisnaugle '69**. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Melvin Vulgamore '57**, of New London, N.H., Aug. 12, at the age of 81. He is survived by a daughter, **Allison Vulgamore '79**.

**Eleanor Kirk Achtermann '58**, of Lancaster, Pa., Sept. 6, at the age of 80. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Algerdas Cheleden '58**, of Glendale, Calif., June 6, at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife, **June Miller Cheleden '58**, and was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**David Kennedy '58**, of Lorain, Ohio, Sept. 26, at the age of 83. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Michael Heningburg '59**, of Silver Spring, Md., Aug. 23, at the age of 78. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

**Patricia Nittskoff Naylor '59**, of Hemet, Calif., Sept. 3, at the age of 79. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

## 1960s

**Basil Pessin '60**, of Renfrew, Ontario, May 28, at the age of 77. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

**Ruth Mason Richissin '60**, of Coshocton, Ohio, Sept. 12, at the age of 78. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**John Day '61**, of Wilmington, N.C., May 27, at the age of 78. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Brian Whalen '61**, of Grand Rapids, Mich., June 21, at the age of 76. He is survived by a son, **Daniel Whalen '08**. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**Sandra Riggs '62**, of Janesville, Wis., June 17, at the age of 75. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Susanne Lautier Ullrich '62**, of Port Orange, Fla., and Warren, Conn., Sept. 22, at the age of 76. She is survived by her husband, **Walter Ullrich '62**, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Marilyn Abel Boyer '63**, of Manhasset, N.Y., July 18, at the age of 74.

**Marianne Ruple Gardner '64**, of Willoughby Hills, Ohio, Aug. 16, at the age of 74. She is survived by her husband, **George Gardner '64**, a daughter, **Abigail Gardner '94**, and a brother, **F. William Ruple III '69**. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Dennis Orphal '64**, of Pleasanton, Calif., Sept. 8, at the age of 73.

**Susan Thomas Kirby '65**, of Winston-Salem, N.C., June 26, at the age of 73. She is survived by her husband, **Alan Kirby '65**, and three children, **Jill Kirby Podolan '92**, **Philip Kirby '96**, and **Matthew Kirby '93**. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Mark Holzapfel '66**, of Key West, Fla., Aug. 9. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Charles Meyer '67**, of Etowah, Tenn., July 27, at the age of 71. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Eric Peterson '67**, of Port Monmouth, N.J., Aug. 19, at the age of 71. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

**Gail Oakley '68**, of San Francisco, Aug. 16, at the age of 70. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Robert Wheale '69**, of Bonita Springs, Fla., July 12, at the age of 69. He is survived by a brother, **Kirk Wheale '66**, and was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

## 1970s

**Chester Lehmann '71**, of Bethlehem, Pa., July 20, at the age of 67. He is survived by his wife, **Jean Dobbins Lehmann '76**, and was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

**Linda Silling MacDonald '71**, of New York City, Nov. 6, 2015, at the age of 66. She is survived by a brother, **Michael Andrew Silling '74**. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Kenneth Hay '74**, of Klamath Falls, Ore., June 1, at the age of 63. He is survived by a brother, **David Hay '76**.

**Dana Dow Schuler '75**, of Cincinnati, Sept. 6, at the age of 63. She is survived by her husband, **Gregory Schuler '74**, and was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Suzanne Lee '78**, of New York City, July 21, at the age of 60. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

## 1980s

**Steven Dinardo '85**, of Philadelphia, June 22, at the age of 52. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Elizabeth Schnipke Tankovich '86**, of Delaware, Ohio, Sept. 6, at the age of 75.

## 2010s

**Alexander Razzolini '10**, of Jackson, Wyo., Aug. 30, at the age of 28.

## Faculty/Staff

Gerald Fry, a 10-year veteran of the OWU admissions office, June 28.

Ralph Hickson, who worked as an electrician and assistant superintendent of buildings and grounds for OWU for 37 years, Aug. 27, 2016, at the age of 93.

Robert Henry Ross Jr., a former faculty member, Aug. 25, 2016, at the age of 100.

Freda Russell, of St. Charles, IL, Sept. 19, 2016, at the age of 89. Freda joined the OWU staff in 1960 as secretary to the president. She retired in 1989 after working for four presidents and serving as secretary to the Board of Trustees.

## Friends

Martha Easton, wife of the late Loyd Easton, professor emeritus of philosophy at OWU, July 6, at the age of 100.

## Sympathy to

**Thomsa Stewart Haas '56** for the death of her husband, Dennis Haas, on Jan. 18, 2016, at the age of 81. The magazine apologizes for an error that appeared in this note in our fall magazine.

**D. Eugene Garrison '57** and **Ruth Garn Garrison '57** for the death of their daughter, Elisabeth "Lisa" Ann Garrison, on July 7, 2016, at the age of 55.

**Catherine Jones Mercer '74** for the loss of her father, Joseph Jones, on Aug. 9, and her mother, D. Jeanne Jennings Jones, on Aug. 18.

**Sloan White '78** for the loss of her mother, Elizabeth White, on Sept. 18. Elizabeth's late husband Eugene was a longtime English professor at OWU.

**Amy Seaman Fredrick '79** for the death of her mother, Kathryn Dively Seaman, on April 7, her 94th birthday.

**Cynthia Ross Polayes '79** for the loss of her mother, Sue Ross, on May 26, at the age of 83.

## IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR KIM LANCE

Dr. Kim A. Lance, a 28-year member of the Chemistry Department at Ohio Wesleyan University, passed away suddenly on Nov. 3.

Lance began teaching at Ohio Wesleyan in the fall of 1988. Over the years, he was awarded several teaching honors, including the Sherwood Dodge Shankland Award for the encouragement of teachers. He became the fastest-promoted faculty member in University history, serving as chair of the Chemistry Department before earning tenure.

His research in inorganic chemistry, published in several journals, continued until his death. He was not only a passionate teacher but also a caring mentor and friend to his students and colleagues.

As a researcher, Lance sought to find a catalyst that would purify water and leave nothing harmful or negative behind. "I believe that in many ways he himself was a catalyst, a positive agent of change, who



improved countless student lives both in and out of the classroom," said OWU President Rock Jones. In his personal life, Lance was a baseball fanatic, first as a youth ballplayer, and later as a youth coach, umpire, rules interpreter, and, for many years, commissioner of the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League. He was an avid Cleveland Indians fan.

Lance was also very involved in wrestling, having been a top-level wrestler in his youth. As a teenager, he was the first state wrestling placer from Wayne County, Ohio. Later in life, he was a loyal supporter of the Delaware Hayes High School wrestling team — often driving team members to off-season events, as well as helping to found the team's Mat Backers Association. He

also worked at the state wrestling tournament for many years.

Lance was born on April 11, 1960, in Wooster, Ohio, to James D. Lance and Naomi Myers Lance. After graduating from Waynedale High School in 1978, he attended the College of Wooster, graduating in 1982. He was the first member of his family to attend college. He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Ohio State University in 1988.

Lance is survived by his mother, Naomi Myers Lance; brothers Gail (Janice) Lance and Mitchell (Barbara) Lance; his wife of 28 years, Judith R. Maxwell; sons James and Paul; daughter Marie, and numerous nieces and nephews.

### Former students of Kim Lance remembered him fondly on Facebook.

**Kathryn Kin '14** One time I had a question for Dr. Lance and he said that it may have been easier to explain in person. Since the assignment was due the next day, he met me at the Tim Horton's at 10 p.m. just to help me understand. He was passionate about his students and it showed.

**Tammy Moseley Fitzsimmons '00** His presence will surely be missed among both students and faculty/staff. My condolences to his family in the wake of this loss. I'll never forget the morning he showed up for class dressed in a ratty t-shirt and pants. He'd come straight from the birth of his child and hadn't had time to change. That's how dedicated he was: even though he'd not had a bit of sleep, he refused to cancel class. Dr. Lance will be missed.

**Jeffrey Barrett Donaldson '04** Dr. Lance was incredible. I was a student with minimal science background; I'm a physician now. His encouragement and engaging teaching kept me going even when it was a tough slog, and now I do actually use chemistry every day.

*For more on Dr. Lance or to share your own memory, visit our Facebook page.*

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please email your news to [classnotes@owu.edu](mailto:classnotes@owu.edu). You can also submit your news to:  
Attn: Class Notes Editor  
OWU Magazine  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Mowry Alumni Center  
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Include your name and class year as well as a daytime phone number, should we need to reach you. Photos are welcome. Submissions may be edited for space.

The deadline for receiving Class Notes and Faculty Notes submissions for the Spring 2017 OWU Magazine is Feb. 3, 2017.



## Are you an artist, or do you know an alumnus/a who is?

If you would be interested in showing your work at OWU, please email **Tammy Wallace '02**, Assistant Director of the Ross Art Museum, at [tpwallac@owu.edu](mailto:tpwallac@owu.edu)





## COACH HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

The late **Richard “Dick” DeHaven ’60** was honored on Sept. 16 when Millikan High School in Long Beach, Calif., rededicated its football stadium to him, celebrating his championship-winning tenure as head coach of the football team. The tribute marked an emotional evening for many of his former players, who remember with deep fondness the formative role DeHaven played in their lives.

As a member of the OWU football team, DeHaven’s contributions were also legendary. As his dear friend **Roger Lockwood ’60** puts it, “The man was the personification of the ideal student-athlete: humble, shy, appreciative, loyal, caring, dedicated, hardworking, sincere, fun. Dick’s dad, Jeff, who coached football in Sandusky, and his mom, Cora, instilled in Dick a sense of purpose (Dad) and a sneaky sense of humor (Mom) that integrated perfectly with Dick’s personality.” Roger adds that DeHaven’s marriage to **Bette Lockwood ’61** is further testament to the steady and balanced life he lived. Indeed, his family was a source of true joy for him, and he took great pride in his three children, their spouses and his grandchildren. Pictured (from left): Dick, Roger, and Bette.

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# Facing a Winter of Discontent

By Martha Park '11

When people warned me it would be cold in Delaware, Ohio, I must have shrugged it off. I must have assumed the winters in Delaware would at least resemble the winters I'd experienced growing up in Memphis. I know this not because I remember it, but because I moved to Ohio Wesleyan University as a freshman with the same three pairs of wool socks and the flimsy coat I'd always worn on what I thought were particularly cold winter days at home in Tennessee. I must've thought this winter wardrobe would do the job just fine.

In Memphis, the summer heat starts to slack off in late September and early October, and people take to the streets for the first time after months spent in the air-conditioned indoors. But in Ohio, that first semester, the sudden chill of October spoke not to the slow tempering of summer but to something else: Winter was coming. Only I didn't know it — not really — not yet.

I went home for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and by the time I came back for the spring semester, things had changed. In the morning I would shower and braid my long, damp hair, expecting to let it air dry as it did at home. Instead, I left my dorm and, after walking for a couple minutes, was surprised by what felt like a log that had gotten snagged, somehow, on the hood of my coat. My damp braid had frozen solid before I'd reached the academic side of campus.

One morning in February, walking up Rowland Avenue into a biting wind, my face sort of froze, starting with my chin. The frigid air pushed tears from my eyes, and then — by some combination of bewilderment and homesickness and the pure, freezing cold, before I knew it — I was full-on crying, the tears freezing to my



***“My first Ohio winter gave me an inkling that I had come from somewhere else, a place demonstrably different from Delaware, Ohio.”***

—Martha Park '11

of us comes from somewhere, and that these places are wrapped up in who we are, in ways we might not even recognize until we find ourselves facing down a sudden gust of wind and walk into it, headlong. ■

*Martha Park was the spring 2016 Philip Roth Writer-in-Residence at Bucknell University.*

cheeks, trudging back to my dorm where my roommate's closet was filled with down jackets, waterproof boots, and thick scarves.

By the next winter, I'd stocked up on the same big, puffy coats everybody else was wearing, the ones I'd seemed to think I wouldn't need. I wore long underwear like it was my job. I dried my hair before I left my room. I bought extra gloves and earmuffs and I drank gallons of hot tea. I figured it out.

But that isn't the moral of the story. This is: My first Ohio winter gave me an inkling that I had come from somewhere else, a place demonstrably different from Delaware, Ohio. I began to see that my hometown might be as unusual for some people as Delaware was for me. And then I began to wonder about my

background, my childhood as a preacher's daughter, moving every few years from one church-owned parsonage to the next. Maybe that story would be as new to some people as Ohio winters were to me.

That first Ohio winter taught me that I carried stories of another place, another life. I began, in very small steps, to see my own story objectively, and to appreciate it for the first time. I began, in other words, to become a writer, because seeing the individual details that make a place or a person distinct is the first step to any compelling, believable piece of writing. That winter reminded me that each

What are your snowiest memories at OWU? Share with us at [magazine@owu.edu](mailto:magazine@owu.edu) or tweet to [@OWUAlumni](https://twitter.com/OWUAlumni).



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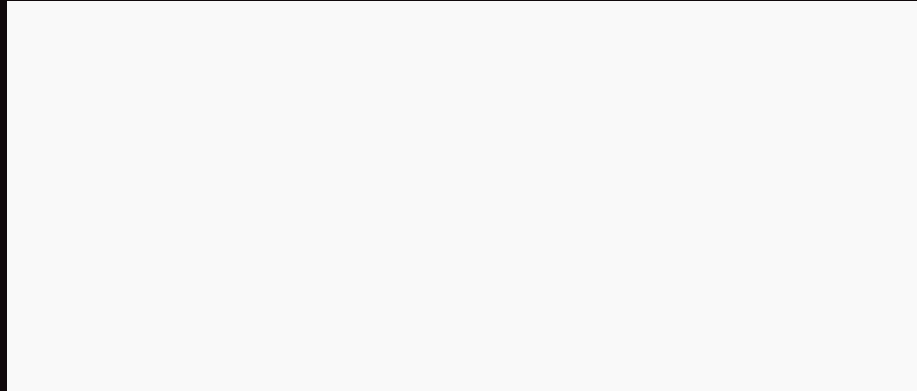
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*(Front row from left) Anna Schlueter '17, Emily Lee '17, (second row, from left) Katie Worland '17, Trasina Diazmunoz '17, Natalie Wynne '17, Claire O'Keeffe '17, and (top) Kelly Schade '17 at the football game during Homecoming and Family Weekend Oct. 8.*

