

Butler A. Jones  
House of  
Black Culture

# RITE OF PASSAGE



**Whoooooooooooo!** **Guillo Gutierrez '18** takes a turn down the Clifton rock slide near an observatory in Bristol, England. As described by The Guardian “this natural slide is nothing more than a sloping band of rock polished to shiny slipperiness by decades of dedicated bottoms.” Guillo is cheered on by assistant media services manager Elaine Chun (top left, filming), and classmates in the travel-learning course “Space Exploration: Past, Present and Future,” taught by professor of physics and astronomy Robert Harmon, (from left): **Julia Anne Caple '20**, **Haley Talbot-Wendlandt '18**, **Dexter Allen '21**, **Alec Martin '19**, **Gracie Clevenger '21**, **Emily Ehrhart '20**, and **Sami Bates '20**. The group visited England and Germany in May and toured European Space Agency facilities and other European observatories. Photo by **Reilly Wright '20**.



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After spending decades in a Delaware home's crawl space, World War I pins and rank bars belonging to an OWU family were returned thanks to a curious alumnus.

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A photo essay by **Mark Schmitter '12** of a few of the travel-learning experiences had by OWU students this summer, with visits to Northern Ireland, Paris, England, and Italy.

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# Looking back in gratitude

## ON A DECADE AT OWU

**T**his summer marks a personal milestone as I complete my 10th year as president of Ohio Wesleyan University. I feel today, even more than I felt 10 years ago, honored and humbled to serve this great institution.

In the spirit of a season of personal reflection and gratitude, here are some things I have learned over the past decade:

■ **Ohio Wesleyan attracts** amazing students who bring aspiration, curiosity, and commitment to their college experience. They want to learn; they want to serve; and ultimately they want to make a difference in the world. Nothing has been more thrilling than presiding at Commencement and presenting diplomas to new graduates, every one of whom crosses the stage with a sense of accomplishment and with an awareness of possibility as they leave OWU for all that is to come.

■ **The faculty at OWU** are deeply committed to students and to the values of a liberal arts education. They cherish our heritage, while always thinking in innovative ways about how to fulfill that heritage in the future. New majors, summer online courses, The OWU Connection, and consistent appreciation for individual mentoring of students in preparation for life and work beyond college are just some of the ways these commitments are fulfilled every day.

■ **The staff who serve students** and support the work of the faculty see their work as far more than a job. They embrace the educational mission at all levels of work, devoting their



*Rock speaks at 2018 Commencement.*

**OWU ALUMNI SHARE AN USUAL DEPTH OF PASSION FOR THEIR ALMA MATER. THEY WILL DO ANYTHING THEY CAN TO SUPPORT OWU'S MISSION AND ENHANCE THE EDUCATION OF HER STUDENTS.**

professional lives to enriching the experiences of our students in every aspect of their time on campus.

■ **OWU alumni share** an unusual depth of passion for their alma mater. They will do anything they can to support OWU's mission and enhance the education of her students. Alumni assist with student recruitment, career advising, and internship placements; their philanthropic generosity is just extraordinary. OWU would not be OWU without the deep commitment of alumni.

■ **The undergraduate, residential small college** experience matters now more than ever. In a time when economies of scale often call for larger and larger enterprises, and when technology makes it possible to fulfill virtually any transaction by sitting in front of a

computer screen or looking at a hand-held device, there is no replacement for the "Aha!" moments that accompany the learning environment of a small seminar, individual and regular interaction with a faculty mentor, and the leadership and social engagement fostered beyond the classroom at a small college.

■ **Full development of The OWU Career Connection** will provide an even stronger pathway to life beyond college. A liberal arts education is the ideal preparation for life and work. It prepares not just for the first job, but for lifelong learning that leads to meaningful and fulfilling jobs throughout life.

■ **Higher education is the ladder** of opportunity in our society, and equal access to this ladder is fundamental to our democracy. Ohio Wesleyan will not waver from its commitment

to be affordable and accessible to all qualified students and to serve a diverse array of students from all walks of life and all corners of the globe.

In this issue of the magazine, we offer a vibrant full-color look at one of those corners through the lens of frequent contributor **Mark Schmitter '12**, who accompanied several student travel-learning groups throughout Europe this summer as they explored issues ranging from sectarianism to imperialism, with Shakespeare's sonnets in between.

Also in this issue, alumni and students lend their voices to a portrait of the House of Black Culture, a place that has helped foster a vital support system for students of color who resided there, and in the campus community at-large, since

its founding nearly five decades ago.

And author and columnist **Richard North Patterson '68** presents a look back at the year of his graduation in an essay that touches on every raw nerve still exposed today, a reminder of how far we've come and how far we have yet to go.

I am grateful for all who support the mission of Ohio Wesleyan, and I look forward to our continued work together. Thank you for your support, and thank you for the opportunity to work with you. ■

**Rock Jones**  
President, Ohio Wesleyan University  
Twitter: @owu\_rockjones



Rock shortly after his inauguration in 2008 as Ohio Wesleyan's 16th president.

**Congrats to the 'Jewel in the Crown'**

I received my copy of the magazine in the mail and was delighted — thrilled, ecstatic — to see “Art Appreciation” on the cover, the extraordinarily supportive letter from Rock Jones just inside and, most especially, the fantastic article about the museum as a feature in the issue. The inclusion of a number of images from the collection and thoughts from quite a variety of individuals made the article strong in message and comprehensive in scope. Hopefully, it will catch the attention of the many who are unaware of the museum and encourage those who are familiar with it to again visit and support the institution, the mission, and the goals.

“Art Is Vital to Democracy and Life,” Rock Jones’ introduction to the issue, was great in that it emphasized the role of the museum as an institution and as an integral part of the University fabric.

From my first meeting as a member of the Advisory Board, I have advocated for recognition of the Richard M. Ross Art Museum as the “Jewel in the Crown” of Ohio Wesleyan University, particularly in the University magazine. Congratulations to the museum for this well-deserved accolade! I feel Elizabeth McKeever Ross smiling!

**William Spink '68**  
Ross Advisory Board Member  
New York, New York

**Share your opinions.**

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*Letters may be edited for length and clarity.*

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## Stefanie Niles, Ed.D., named vice president for enrollment and communications

Stefanie Niles, Ed.D., has been named vice president for enrollment and communications at Ohio Wesleyan. Niles will oversee the offices of admission, financial aid, and communications and work closely with prospective students and families to help them successfully navigate the college enrollment process.

Most recently, Niles served as the vice president for enrollment management at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. During her tenure, she oversaw up to 118 employees and was responsible for the admission, financial aid, marketing and communications, institutional research, and athletics departments. A national leader in her field, Niles is the 2018-19 president of the 16,000-member National Association for College Admission Counseling, the leading national organization for college admission professionals.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Stefanie Niles join our leadership team," said Lynette Carpenter, Ph.D., a member

of the search committee and professor of English. "The depth and breadth of her experience, her record, her understanding of the market, and of OWU's specific strengths and challenges, as well as her leadership position at the national level, make her the ideal candidate to move us forward and help us meet our goals."

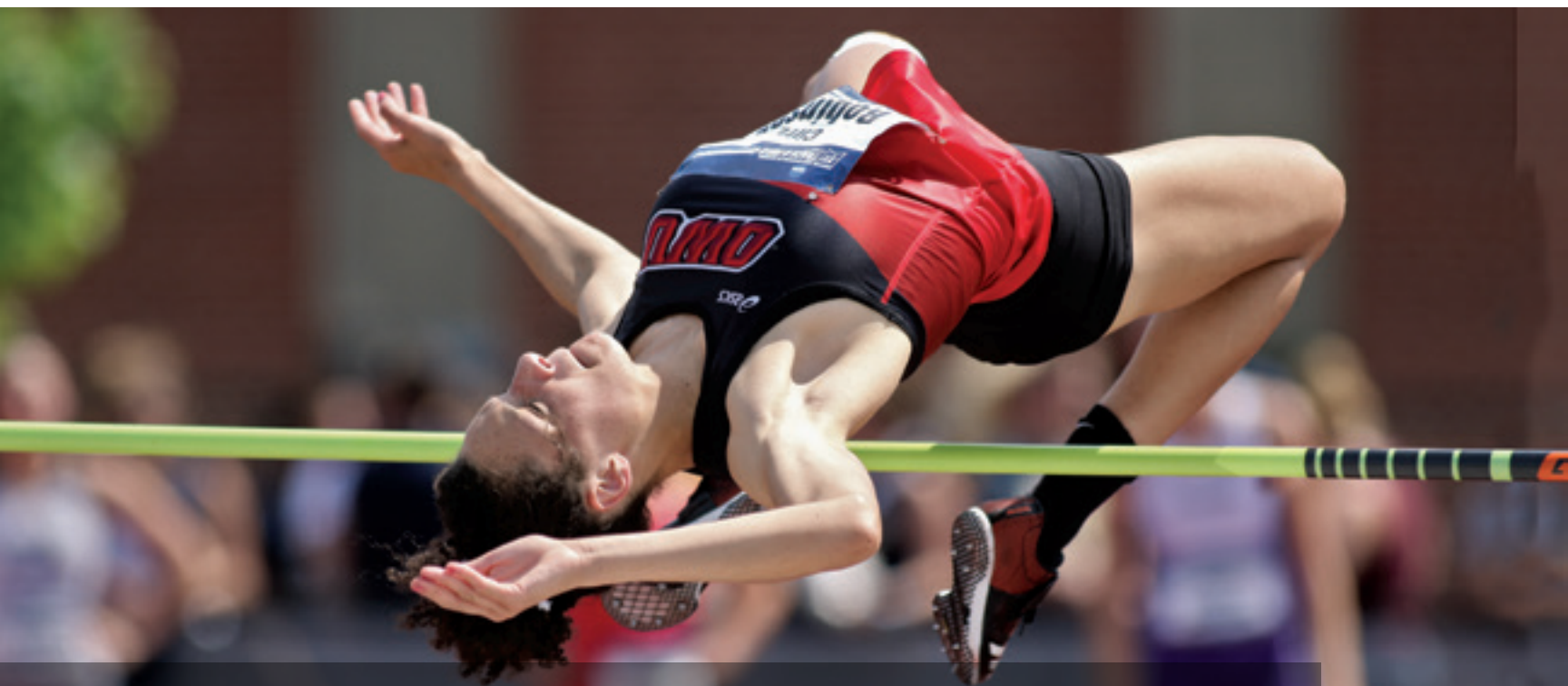
At Dickinson, Niles expanded international recruiting and enrolled the most diverse and best academically prepared classes in the college's history in 2017 and 2016, respectively. The college reported its largest applicant pool ever in 2017-2018.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join the Ohio Wesleyan community," Niles said. "I'm eager to work with the dedicated staff on the enrollment team to share the great benefits of an Ohio Wesleyan education with the world. It will be my honor to lead the effort to continue to expand OWU's strong legacy through the recruitment of talented, diverse, and capable students."



Stefanie Niles

"Stefanie Niles is a highly accomplished, go-to, get-it-done professional," said President Rock Jones, Ph.D. "Her energy, passion for a liberal arts education, capacity to mentor staff, strategic approach to leadership, and absolute drive to succeed all position her for success. She will be a tremendous resource to prospective students and their families during the college enrollment process." ■



## Reaching great heights

**Cirrus Robinson '20** successfully defended her national championship in the high jump at the NCAA Division III indoor championship meet in March, hosted by Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama. She went on to repeat the feat at the outdoor NCAA Division III championship meet, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, in May. **Megan Sievers '20** placed ninth nationally in the long jump at the indoor championship and 15th at the outdoor.

## Summer Bridge Program helps new students with transition to college life and learning

To help equip first-year students with the skills to thrive in college, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) introduced a three-week residential Summer Bridge Program, running July 22 to Aug. 15. Twenty-three students were expected to participate in a classroom experience designed to strengthen their quantitative, qualitative, and critical thinking skills.

The program introduces students to University resources and prepares them for the rigors of an OWU education, while allowing them to make early, enduring

friendships. It is open to all incoming first-year students, with a focus on first-generation students, low-income students, students of color, and/or LGBT students. OMSA historically held pre-orientation programs of limited duration; the Bridge program is an expansion of those efforts.

“We all know that leaving for college is a big moment in a young adult’s life, but for students from marginalized groups, the transition can be even more of a challenge,” says Charles Kellom, assistant dean of OMSA. “We wanted to create a way to welcome and support these

students, while getting them excited for the four years to come.”

**Chris Weber P’20** and **Nancy McGowan P’20** of Cincinnati, whose daughter is a rising junior, recently made a \$10,000 gift to support the purchase of as many as 10 laptops for students in the program.

The program is free, and housing, meals, and social activities are provided. It leads directly into Camp Oh-Wooo, a six-day immersion program required for all first-year students to help introduce them to OWU. ■

### First-year students to be introduced to ‘Strengths’

This year, the Student Involvement Office will introduce another tool in the toolbox of supporting incoming students. StrengthsFinder for students, from Gallup, is designed to help them discover and develop their strengths to reach their full potential.

Nancy Bihl Rutkowski, director of student leadership and first-year foundations, is overseeing the campus introduction of the strengths-based philosophy developed by psychologist Don Clifton in the 1950s. “I’ve used Strengths in my leadership courses for years and benefited from it immensely in my own

professional development. I’m excited to see our students get the chance to apply this to their own lives,” Rutkowski says.

All students will take the self-assessment to help identify their career, vocational, academic, and college success goals, and it can be used with advisors and in the first-year UC 160 courses.

“Younger people want to live out their mission in a meaningful way,” says Casandra Fritzsche, a higher education consultant with Gallup. “This is a unique way to celebrate students.” ■

## Boren awards support study in Croatia and Tanzania



**Jenna Chambers ’18** (left) and **Carly LoVullo ’16** (right) were selected in April to receive Boren Awards from the National Security Education Program. The highly competitive awards enable recipients to study less commonly taught languages in world regions considered critical to U.S. interests. Only 221

awards to undergraduates were made this cycle.

Chambers, of Saugatuck, Michigan, was an international studies and German double-major and a studio arts minor who became acquainted with Croatia during her semester abroad in Freiburg, Germany. She earned a \$20,000 Boren Scholarship to support a yearlong study of Croatian at the University of Zagreb’s Croaticum – Centre for Croatian as Foreign and Second Language. “This is a really strong opportunity for cross-cultural environmental understanding and learning,” says Chambers.

LoVullo, of Cleveland, was a double-major in international studies and black world studies. She earned a \$24,000 Boren Fellowship to support a yearlong

study of Swahili in Tanzania, at the Kiswahili na Utamaduni in Dar es Salaam. While there, she will research best practices for community-based disease surveillance of dengue fever in three Tanzanian coastal regions. “If we want to ensure that our nation is safe and secure from potential threats by using real-time surveillance, we must collaborate with all actors involved,” LoVullo says.

After their Boren Award-supported projects, the women must fulfill a one-year federal service requirement. Chambers hopes to take a position with the Department of State that intertwines translation and policy work. LoVullo plans to work with the U.S. Agency for International Development with a long-term career goal of becoming a foreign service officer there. ■

## Alumni Network encourages Bishop connection

A new online professional networking system is linking Ohio Wesleyan students with alumni across the nation and around the world.

Since the February rollout of OWU Alumni Network, more than 1,100 people have created free accounts allowing them to connect with Bishops in their community and field.

Designed to facilitate easier connections between students and alumni, and to allow alumni to build their professional networks, OWU Alumni Network is a joint venture between the Office of Alumni Relations and the Office of Career Services. Increasing alumni engagement is one of the goals of the ongoing Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign.

“We wanted to give young alumni another tool for reaching out to potential connections as they’re getting established after OWU,” says Katie Webster, director of alumni relations. “We are so fortunate to have so many alumni that are eager to help one another — Bishops love helping Bishops — and OWU Alumni Network makes that so much easier.”

The platform is powered by Wisr and also used by Denison, Oberlin, and other peer institutions.

“From a career services perspective, OWU Alumni Network also puts the power in the hands of students, showing them the wide breadth of alumni in their desired field who are available and eager to offer advice, or even internships,” says Leslie Melton, director of career services.

To create your free account, visit [owu.edu/alumninetwork](http://owu.edu/alumninetwork). ■



## Motivational speaker Lisa Lockett to deliver WOW keynote

Lisa Lockett will provide the keynote address at the second biennial Women of Ohio Wesleyan (WOW) leadership forum, taking place on campus Oct. 19-20.

Lisa’s husband, **Teddy Lockett ’84**, was a partner and vice president at Cantor Fitzgerald working at the World Trade Center at the time of the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001. Her forthcoming book, *The Light in 9/11: Shocked by Kindness, Healed by Love*, traces her inspiring journey through grief, offering empowering everyday lessons on handling life’s challenges. She has three children, including **Jen Lockett ’16** and **Billy Lockett ’20**.

Deborah Thomas-Nininger, a professional development expert whose lessons translate to women at work and at home, will help wrap up the event with an interactive session. Other planned WOW panels will discuss the elusive work-life balance, the value of women advocating for themselves, and other topics relevant to women today.

For more information, visit [owu.edu/wow](http://owu.edu/wow). ■



## New provider expands campus dining options

Smoked meats, fresh gelato, and locally sourced ingredients will soon be on the menu for students, and that and more will be available around-the-clock.

AVI Foodsystems – America’s largest independently owned and operated food and hospitality provider – took over dining and food service operations on May 14.

OWU selected AVI after a bid and selection process that included participation from students, faculty, staff, and administrators, with a goal of greater access to made-from-scratch cuisine, local ingredients, and a dining plan that provides students with unlimited access to food in select venues.

Smith Hall and the Marketplace in Hamilton-Williams Campus Center will convert to “anytime dining,” with students able to eat as much as they care to without points or swipes. Smith Hall will be open for dining 24/7. During winter break, plans call for the addition of a Boar’s Head Café to Schimmel/Conrades Science Center, with Merrick Café converting to a fully licensed Starbucks in fall 2019.

The 2018-19 meal plan prices did not change from those previously announced under the old vendor and represent the customary small increase over the previous year.

In an email announcing the changes, President Rock Jones wrote: “Along with AVI’s culinary services and catering, they impressed the review committee with their commitment to student engagement. The company plans to develop a strong wellness program and maintain open and frequent communication with students. They also have expressed excitement and commitment to providing students with jobs on campus.” ■





## SLU: SLOAN FAMILY CREATES PERMANENT HOME AT OWU



*The Sloan family and President Rock Jones (right) at the naming reception for the house at 94 Rowland Ave. on May 18, including (from left): Kathleen, Samantha Simon, Andrew, Lisa, and Tim.*

The Sloan family's connection to Ohio Wesleyan traces back to a poster in a high school computer lab in San Marino, California, where **Andrew Sloan '13** first learned about OWU. On the poster was a picture of the Oracle sculpture that stands between Beeghly Library and Chappellear Drama Center.

From there, Andrew decided to visit campus, and his parents met with Pat Kelly, senior associate director of Admission. His mother, Lisa Sloan, remembers the moment almost 10 years ago when Andrew turned to her in Hamilton-Williams Campus Center and said he could picture himself at OWU, "And I thought, 'Yeah, I could, too,'" she recalls.

Tim Sloan remembers his son's move-in day, when President Rock Jones, as he does each year, helped students haul boxes of their belongings. "That made such an impression on us and stuck with us for nine years, since the first day Andrew was here," Tim says.

When it was time for **Kathleen Sloan '16** to look at schools three years later, Andrew convinced his sister to check out OWU, too, and she was sold. The opportunities to get involved, including in Greek life and sports, "really gave me confidence, and that has grown even more post-graduation," Kathleen says.

"We initially got involved in supporting Ohio Wesleyan because of the admiration we had for Rock and the entire

administration. Early on in Andrew's first or second year, we thought this is a school that we wanted to give back to," Tim says.

Tim served a term on the Board of Trustees, and both he and Lisa are on the leadership committee of the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow comprehensive campaign. "We said, 'We'll be happy to help wherever you think it's going to make the biggest difference,'" Tim recalls telling Jones about their campaign gift.

The Sloans' initial \$1 million gift, along with other support, allowed for the construction of the Small Living Unit at 94 Rowland Ave. With their recent additional \$500,000 gift, the SLU-plex was named the Sloan House at a ceremony held during Reunion Weekend, May 18.

The entire Sloan family, including **Samantha Simon Sloan '14**, was in attendance. She found OWU without the benefit of a well-placed poster, but through lacrosse and track. Both Samantha and Kathleen are members of Delta Delta Delta, and it was at a party during Samantha's sorority bid week that she met Andrew. The couple married in 2014, and they currently live in Washington, D.C., as does Kathleen.

"There are so many blessings that have come to the Sloan family because of Ohio Wesleyan," says Tim.

Adds Lisa with a laugh, "and because Andrew saw a poster in high school." ■

## PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP: INVESTING IN AN INDIVIDUAL STUDENT'S FUTURE

**Doreen DeLaney Crawley '91** traces her path to executive vice president and chief operations officer of Grange Insurance back to the people at Ohio Wesleyan, like Nancy Bihl Rutkowski, in the Student Involvement Office, and those who made it possible for her to afford college at all.

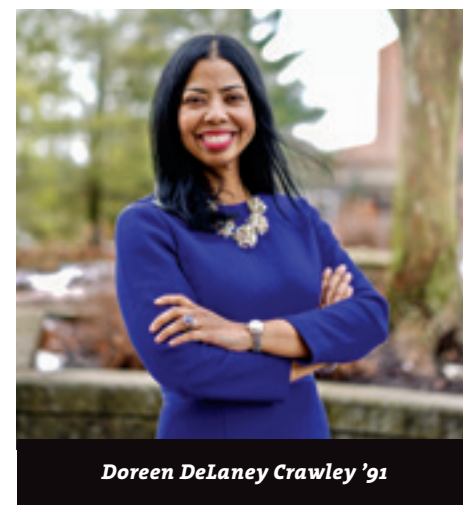
"I remember one semester I got a \$250 scholarship from the black alumni association and I was able to buy all my books, and it meant so much to me that those alums would come and do that," she recalls.

"Ohio Wesleyan accepted me. Even though I looked different and I didn't have the same 'pedigree' when I got here, I feel like I left here very much on the same trajectory as the other students," she says. "Ohio Wesleyan was a place for me to begin to get my leadership chops."

DeLaney Crawley has risen through the corporate ranks, first at what's now JP Morgan Chase – where she interned while at OWU – and most recently at Grange.

Remembering the uncertainty that financial stress can cause for a student, DeLaney Crawley established three Promise Scholarships with her gift to the Connect Today, Create Tomorrow campaign, each of which includes \$5,000 per year for all four years of the student's undergraduate experience.

"I'm investing in someone's future the way that so many people at Ohio Wesleyan invested in me," she says. ■



**Doreen DeLaney Crawley '91**

Photo by: Reilly Wright '20



## OHIO WESLEYAN STUDENT SCORES WITH UTAH JAZZ GAMING TEAM

By Cole Hatcher

When **Malik Leisinger '19** bested nearly 72,000 hopefuls to score a spot on the NBA 2K League's Utah Jazz Gaming team, that was just his first victory. He's had many more since.

In April, Leisinger – a business administration major, accounting minor, and Battling Bishop men's basketball player from Lakewood, Ohio – became one of 102 gamers drafted nationwide for the NBA 2K's inaugural season of computer-gaming competition. In total, 72,000 people tried out for a spot on one of the NBA 2K's 17 "esports" teams.

"As far as the experience goes, so far it has been great!" says Leisinger, who was drafted in the second round by Utah

**"I have been able to meet everyone in the Utah Jazz organization, from owner Gail Miller to president Steve Starks."**

– *Malik Leisinger '19, on his esports experience*

Jazz Gaming. "I have never been to Utah, so shifting from living in Cleveland my whole life to Salt Lake City was different at first, but I am getting used to it. One of the main things I enjoy is being surrounded by the beautiful mountains at all times."

Leisinger began competing for Utah Jazz Gaming in May and has since earned countless accolades for his cyber skills. He reduced his class load to part-time to accommodate the temporary move and is taking one of OWU's online summer courses, with plans to return to campus in the fall.

Over the past three months, Leisinger has earned "Top Performer of the Week" honors, including being named Week 3's No. 1 player, "Player of the Weekend" accolades, and best single-game rebounding recognition.

Leisinger also will forever hold the distinction of scoring the first-ever basket in the NBA 2K League Tip-Off Tournament as well as the first basket in Utah Jazz Gaming history. (In the inaugural contest, he helped

to lead his team to a 68-65 victory over the Wizards District Gaming.)

And while the experience definitely involves fun and games, it is much more, Leisinger says.

"I have been able to meet everyone in the Utah Jazz organization, from owner Gail Miller to president Steve Starks," says Leisinger, who was drafted after successfully completing both a gaming skills test and one-on-one interview. "Meeting and socializing with these people of power is really intriguing for me because it mixes my passion for the game of basketball and (my career interest in) business and marketing.

"I am thrown into the aspects of marketing and promoting the Jazz Gaming, and, more importantly, building my individual brand," Leisinger says. "After this experience, I will have a lot of hands-on experience in the business and marketing areas, and I hope to land a job with one of the many NBA teams that have an esports team.

"This is a growing industry," he says, "and, after a successful season, I envision the league growing from 17 NBA teams this year to 25 teams next year and, after that, all 30 teams will be involved."

Analysts also predict a strong future for such esports, with Newzoo, an Amsterdam-based market research firm, estimating the industry will grow to \$1.4 billion by 2020.

Leisinger and his fellow NBA 2K draftees will earn between \$32,000 and \$35,000 for their contributions to the sport, as well as housing and health insurance. During the season, they will compete for an additional \$1 million in prizes.

The NBA 2K season began May 1 and runs for 17 weeks. It was set to conclude in August with the first NBA 2K League finals. On the Jazz roster, Leisinger is known as MrSlaughter01, a center described by reporters as "a slashing rebounder." When he sports his Battling Bishops uniform, he is a point guard.

Follow Leisinger's NBA 2K adventures on Twitter @MrSlaughter01. ■



# Columbus Monnett Club

## celebrates 100 YEARS

By A.L. Davies '19

**Liz Long Downey '06** joined the Columbus Monnett Club because her grandmother, the late **Margaret MacGregor Nichols '37**, was a member and attending the meetings gave them a deeper shared bond as OWU women. In May, Downey was among those who gathered at Scioto Country Club for a luncheon to mark the last remaining Monnett Club reaching its 100th anniversary.

The first club started in 1910 in New York City, in the name of **Mary Monnett**, an OWU student who donated \$10,000 for the completion of Monnett Hall during her senior year in 1857. The Columbus chapter was founded by **Mary Hull Sisson 1909** in 1918 for women who wanted to continue the fellowship they'd shared at OWU by doing volunteer sewing work together for the Red Cross. The clubs also provided educational programs, service projects, and scholarships to the communities of each chapter. The Columbus chapter was the third and became part of a network of 19 Monnett Clubs from Boston to southern California.

**Janet Raup Gross '81** said one of her favorite things about the club is the diversity of ages and class years represented by the women involved. "You get bits of wisdom and you learn things from the people around you," she said.

Gross originally came to a meeting as a college senior to make connections in the political science field.

"I was invited by **Ann Tarbutton Gerhart '69** while looking for a job. Ann said, 'Why don't you come to a Monnett Club meeting?' And after that, I just kept coming back," she says. Gross' daughter, **Charlotte Gross**, is now a rising junior at OWU.

At the May event, Brent Carson of the Delaware County Historical Society discussed OWU and Delaware in 1918. During World War I, the women of Monnett Hall posted war bulletins acknowledging female war efforts, organized book drives for soldiers, and spearheaded letter-writing campaigns to soldiers.

Carson devoted part of his talk to discussing the rules and policies of Monnett Hall and OWU

in 1918, getting plenty of laughter with his references to Monnett rules dictating: "Escorts should be dismissed at the door without protracted conversation" and University rules such as: "Men and women shall only walk one block together."

**Laurie McGregor**

**Connor '77**, a past Monnett Club president, says she's especially proud of the value the club places on each

member. "We believe in parliamentary procedure, and we believe everyone has a voice and a role to play in the club," she said. "It's refreshing to see an organization like this."

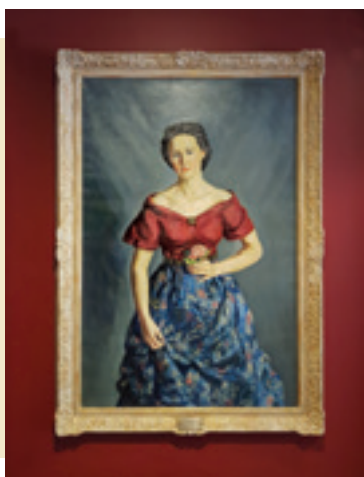
Chapter president **Virginia "Ginny" O'Grady Shippis '70** urged everyone to take a few minutes in the coming month to write down their favorite OWU and Monnett memories.

"God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December," she said, quoting playwright James M. Barrie. "Our goal is to not forget these memories. Hopefully by next December, we'll have the roses."

*Women interested in attending future Columbus Monnett Club events may contact **Kim Eckhart '13**, membership vice president, at [kfeckart@owu.edu](mailto:kfeckart@owu.edu) or check for scheduled events at [owu.edu/alumni](http://owu.edu/alumni)*



*Laurie McGregor Connor '77 (left) talks to the gathering during the presentation of flowers to past Monnett Club presents including (from left) Ann Armstrong Knodt '61, Sally Eliot Williams '48, and Dusky Johnson Reider '51.*



## MONNETT LEGACY

Club dues go toward a Columbus Monnett Club Scholarship and the Clara Nelson Emergency Fund, named after **Clara Nelson 1872**, the chair of the French Department for 31 years and founder of the Monnett Day celebration, which took place annually on May Day.

Monnett Hall became the designated building for the Ohio Wesleyan Female College before the school merged with OWU in 1877. Monnett Hall then became the primary women's dormitory at OWU until 1968. A portrait of Mary Monnett, by **Emerson Burkhardt '27**, now hangs in the Monnett Room in the Mowry Alumni Center, along with the stained glass windows from the hall, which was razed in 1978. A memorial garden was planted in its place. **Meg Deeter '17** used a Theory-to-Practice Grant to create an apiary near the garden, helping flower growth and the local honeybee population.

## Taimur Iftikhar '20 ● Day on the JAY

Taimur Iftikhar '20 knew when he left Lahore, Pakistan, for Ohio Wesleyan that if he was ever going to feel at home in Delaware, Ohio, he would need to get involved. So as soon as he arrived on campus, he began to put himself in the middle of as much as he could. "I've found that the more you get involved with the

things you do, the more you love the things around you," he says.

In his role as logistics director for the Campus Programming Board (CPB), "Timmy," as he is known, was responsible for the setup of many of OWU's iconic events, including the spring 2018 Day on the JAY, held on a cool but lively April 20.

### 1 Making a Day on the JAY

The all-campus celebration began as an inauguration after-party for President Rock Jones in 2008. Rock suggested that the party was so much fun we should do it every year. And so we do: once in the fall to kick off the semester and once in spring to wrap up. The picnic-and-games event often features bounce houses, lots of food, henna tattoos, and a DJ. (It's not a party til somebody starts the nae nae.)

### 2 Not following his father's footsteps

Timmy is a finance economics major, which makes him unique in his immediate family of doctors. His father is a gynecologist, his mother is a pediatrician, and his sister is getting her Ph.D. in microbiology. But after coming to OWU, Timmy discovered that econ suited him best.

### 3 Joining the Club

Timmy was among the students selected to join President's Club, a prestigious student group whose members regularly work with Rock in support of University activities. The organization values a strong sense of morality and a well-rounded outlook, and strives to provide engaging leadership opportunities for students with leadership potential. "That's a big honor, and you get to represent what OWU is," says Timmy, who serves as vice president of finance for the club.

### 4 Chi Phi

Timmy is the philanthropy chair for his fraternity. "I really owe a lot of my good time over here to Chi Phi; my brothers have helped me a lot settling here. They put a smile on my face."

### 5 Welcome to Oh-Wooo

Camp Oh-Wooo is an orientation program for incoming students held annually before classes start in August. With the help of student leaders like Timmy, new students become acclimated to life at OWU and make early friendships.

### 6 Organizing the fun

In addition to Day on the JAY, CPB is also responsible for the late-night party Stuyin' Up All Night, the Rock the Block concert, the acapella competition A cappellooza, and Bishop Bash. For this year's Bash, Timmy was geeked to help bring comedian Hasan Minhaj, senior correspondent on *The Daily Show* and host of the 2017 White House Correspondents' Dinner, to campus to perform.

### 7 Who doesn't love free food?

One of the best parts of the spring Day on the JAY, according to Timmy, is the free food. "It's at the end of the semester, so you want to preserve all the food points you have," he says. (But that won't be an issue anymore; see article on Page 6 about OWU's new food service vendor.)

—Molly Vogel





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# Alumnus sleuth solves 100-year-old military mystery

By Molly Vogel



*The box that held the Collord medals for decades in the crawl space of a Delaware home sold from one OWU professor to another.*



**D**avid McQuigg '92 remembers playing with the interesting-looking box as a kid, taking it out of one of those old suitcases with the hard sides. Maybe it was always there in the crawl space of his childhood home at 340 N. Liberty St. in Delaware, Ohio. Details and memories surrounding the box, which is shaped like a shield with an American flag on it, are fuzzy. Which is understandable given that the military pins, rank bars, and patch inside turned out to belong to a man who died in 1918.

The story of the Collord military memorabilia, and how it was returned to the family by way of Ohio Wesleyan, might never have been a story at all if McQuigg, retired as a detective with the Delaware Police Department, hadn't been curious.

McQuigg was helping his father, Robert, a former chemistry professor at OWU, and his mother, Ruth, downsize last spring before their move to a retirement community. He recognized the box when he found it all those years later, from when he used to play with it as a child. They didn't think anything of it back then. "I think Mom and Dad just shrugged their shoulders and said, 'It's probably your grandfather's,'" McQuigg recalls.

This made sense, because his grandfather had also served in World War I. But something about the bars bothered McQuigg, who knew that his grandfather had been a private. So McQuigg did what any good detective would do – he began to Google, and he realized the details of the pins didn't match his family history.

Which is about the time his mother reminded him about who had previously owned the house they bought around 1970 – James "Jim" Collord, an assistant professor of history at OWU from 1920 to 1925, and his wife.



**Judith, who turned 90 in June, didn't know the box existed. "I was shocked," she says. "It's the kind of thing you hear about on TV."**

At that point, McQuigg reached out to Ohio Wesleyan, where University records turned up Judith Collord. Judith's late husband, also named **Jim Collord**, was a member of the OWU Class of 1950, and was nephew to the late professor. With Judith's permission, OWU shared her contact information with the detective, who mailed the box of medals to her in Cary, North Carolina.

the Army's 38th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division. He was killed on either Oct. 9 (according to *The University of Vermont in the Great War*) or 11 (according to the American Battle Monuments Commission), 1918, one month before Armistice, in France, in the largest battle to that point in U.S. history, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American

was a pilot in WWII, returned. "It means so much to me because my son is in the service, my dad was in the service, and I just feel like to have them returned is amazing," she says.

There are still some questions, as one might expect with war and the passage of time.

McQuigg remembers that something like an old luggage tag saying "Geo.



(Left) OWU Professor James Collord, Clarence's brother

(Middle) Clarence Morrill Collord

(Right) James Collord, Clarence's nephew

"I was just tickled pink to be able to get them back to her," says McQuigg.

McQuigg knows something about the loose ends that can be torn by war. His uncle fought and died in Korea. He and his dad have both given their DNA in the hopes that his remains might be matched someday. As a detective, he has a natural inclination toward closure.

Judith, who turned 90 in June, didn't know the box existed. "I was shocked," she says. "It's the kind of thing you hear about on TV."

Judith believes the items in the box belonged to Clarence Collord, brother to the Jim Collord who taught at OWU, and uncle to Judith's husband. (Judith notes Clarence's sister "Aunt Edith," had a way of clarifying pronunciation for those who would say "Coal-lard": "I'm not a pig, I have the 'lord' in my name.")

Clarence was a first lieutenant in

Cemetery in France.

After OWU, Uncle Jim remained at least part time in Delaware and also Winter Park, Florida, and married twice and had four daughters. He died in 1976.

The younger Jim returned to Buffalo, New York, where he met Judith and he became a pediatric dentist. After Jim was diagnosed with cancer, they moved near Raleigh, North Carolina, so he could receive treatment. He died in 2004 at the age of 79.

After the box arrived in the mail from McQuigg, Judith distributed it and the pins to her son, Tom, who lives in the Netherlands, and daughter Patricia Collord Besch, who lives near Buffalo. Patricia's son Maxwell is an Army Ranger and sniper in the 10th Mountain Division.

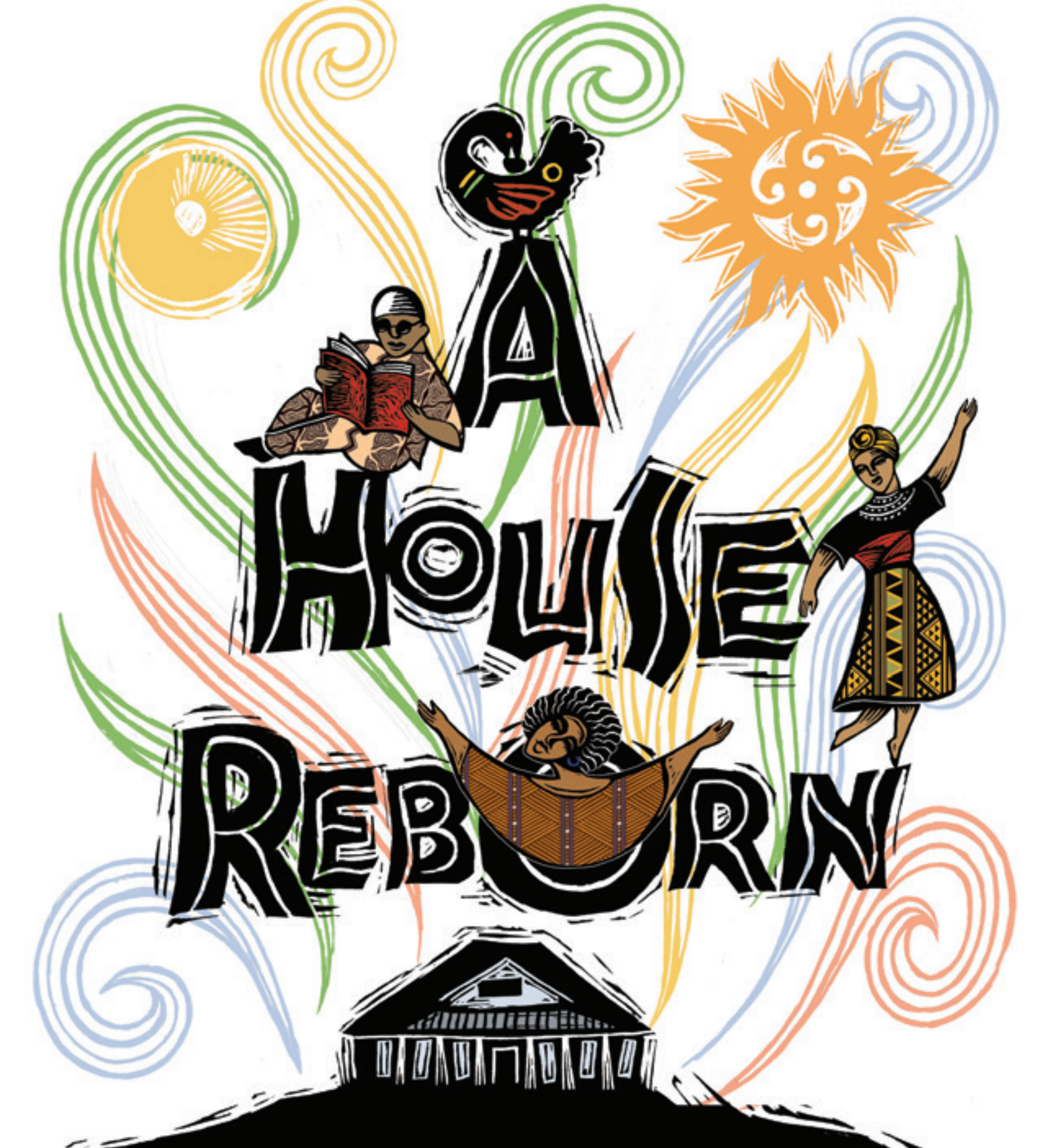
Patricia was especially pleased to have the connection to her father, who

Collord" was in the suitcase, which could mean some of the contents belong to another Collord; Jim and Clarence's father, also named James, was a major. Their uncle and grandfather were both named George.

Heather McLaughlin, whose father was first cousins with Judith's husband Jim, is the unofficial keeper of the Collord family history. She has the WWI victory medal that was sent to Clarence's family after he was killed, and the certificate for the Silver Star he was awarded posthumously, signed by Gen. John J. Pershing, who led the American Expeditionary Force in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

No one knows what happened to the Silver Star.

But maybe it'll turn up. Someday. ★



**Construction of new House of Black Culture  
is underway, with plans to open in January**

*Illustration by Evangelia Philippidis*



## “Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

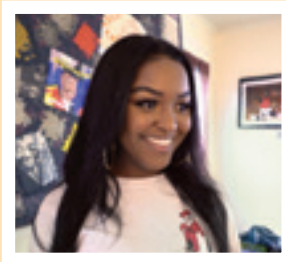
When **Leman Hodges '74** was a freshman, he suffered unimaginable tragedy when both his parents were killed by gun violence in separate incidents back home in Cleveland. His Ohio Wesleyan classmates raised money to buy him a bus ticket for a trip home. Today, he says his relationship with the students he had only recently met through the House of Black Culture sustained him. “I can honestly say the support I received in this House helped me to stay here and get my education here,” he says.

More than four decades later, **MaLia Walker '19**, a triple-major in black world studies, pre-med, and neuroscience from Los Angeles, found a similar bond in the House. “Being at a predominantly white institution, it’s not like a turnoff not seeing your people, but it’s intimidating. You don’t feel as comfortable if you don’t see people who look like you. So I wanted to go where my people were,” she says.

Since it opened originally as “The Black House” in the fall of 1970, hundreds of OWU students have lived in or regularly relaxed at the five-bedroom home, which grew to become a sanctuary of African-American culture, social gatherings, and familiar caretaking. The House was renamed for former sociology Professor Butler A. Jones in 1994. Jones taught at OWU from 1952 to 1969 and headed the Sociology Department for eight of those years. A national leader in his field, Jones submitted 10 briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court in cases involving equal treatment of all citizens.

An article in *The Transcript* from Oct. 1, 1970, says the former honors house welcomed 13 men its first year.

**Reginald Surmon '73**, then coordinator of the Student



**MaLia Walker '19** was among the last student residents of the former House in the 2017-18 school year.

Union on Black Awareness (SUBA), called the House “a start,” and **Pete Smith '71**, a SUBA founder and former coordinator, was quoted as saying: “The House seems to be working beautifully as a symbol of black manhood on Wesleyan’s campus. It can only act as an instrument of self-realization of our black students.”

And for decades it has been, for men and women alike. The House was traded back and forth between men and women each year, with room for 10, until going coed in the late 1990s. But after decades of deferred maintenance, the structure at 65 Oak Hill Ave. was a relic of its former self and no longer habitable. The last student residents moved out in May.

Recognizing the symbolic importance of the House, and guided by the impassioned response of alumni, the administration committed to rebuilding it at the same location with many of the same communal features when it reopens in January 2019 (for more on plans for the new House, see Page 18).

Before it was razed, many of those alumni responsible for the creation and life of the House of Black Culture came back to pay their respects one last time, at an open house and “rite of passage” during Reunion Weekend.

“This place was a home away from home for me, and the students who would come here became my expanded brotherhood,” Hodges recalled in May, his eyes wandering about the family room. “This is the place where we could find our voice on this campus. It gave you a sense of culture. It helped create strong will and a sense of determination. Who knew you could get all that from a house?”

### Old Senior Honor House Becomes Black Dorm Unit

For the first time in their history the black students of Ohio Wesleyan have been granted a small living unit located at 65 Oak Hill Ave. The Black House, last year's Senior Honor House, houses 13 men.

Some kitchen facilities are lacking but will be supplied by the University sometime within the year.  
Consulting on

This Oct. 1, 1970, edition of *The Transcript* announced the creation of what was then called “The Black House.”



Former residents and visitors to the House of Black Culture returned to say goodbye to the old structure at the May open house, (from left) **Sharon Holey Shumate '74**, **Morton V. “Pete” Smith '71**, **Bernice Tucker Humphrey '74**, **Barbara McEachern Smith '74**, **Rev. Myron McCoy '77**, **Reginald Surmon '73**, **Aaron Granger '93**, **Renee Malone Whiteside '75**, **Leman Hodges '74**, **Debbie Thomas Mines '73**, and **Khadija Garrison Adams '04**.



(From left) McEachern Smith and her husband, Pete Smith, one of the founders of the House, were among those who shared memories during a “rite of passage” ceremony in May, along with Granger (at microphone).



Reginald Fields '92 (left) and Thomas Winston '92, who were roommates in the House, share a greeting in May.

## “Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.” – Booker T. Washington

In the late 1960s, OWU’s black students, who made up less than 2 percent of the student body, felt increasingly isolated on campus. At the tail end of the civil rights era, relations between black and white students were still uneasy, untrusting, and uncomfortable. It was still commonplace to hear of civil unrest on campuses elsewhere, and Ohio Wesleyan did not seem immune from potential unrest.

Pete Smith says 1968 “was a very different time. We knew very quickly as black students on this campus that we needed to be change agents. There wasn’t a lot to do on campus socially if you were a black student. We weren’t invited to events around campus. It could be a very isolating place. That was a tough thing to do because everything around you felt like it was already so well established. So how do you fit in?”

The administration made the Cave available, a small but now venerable meeting spot in the basement of Stuyvesant Hall on campus. But these students demanded more, something that could feel like a real home when their dormitory halls grew too stressful. A spot where they could rest, relax, eat, study, gather, socialize, and do it around friendly, familiar faces.

Smith recalls black students banding together and asking the administration to provide them with a small living unit on campus. “That’s how this all began,” Smith recalls. “This House became a hub, a refuge for the black students on campus. We had to become change agents for Ohio Wesleyan.”

The sentiment is accurate but there was even more to it, recalls Reginald “Reggie” Surmon. “We wanted to add the black experience to this campus and to our education. We wanted to see more black faculty, resources for a black house, and a fund to bring black entertainment to campus,” Surmon says.

What Surmon did not count on was how the House became a survival tent for young people struggling to make the most of an opportunity to earn an education at a highly regarded academic institution.

“A lot of us came to Ohio Wesleyan not classically prepared to do college-level work. So we had to learn study habits, learn the English language in some cases, and we leaned on each other to get it done. This House was the only place on campus where you could feel comfortable facing those challenges together, helping each other. This was an opportunity for us, but we weren’t necessarily prepared for it when we first arrived until you spent time in this House.”

In fact, the retention rate of black students was low during that period because of the struggles many faced adapting to college life at OWU.

“Some black students didn’t make it. They didn’t come back. We’d go on a break, and when you came back to campus a few people weren’t here. It was shocking sometimes because you had no idea,” recalled **Bernice Tucker '74**. “For those of

us who stayed, this House helped us make it through.”



(From left) **John Cheek '77**, **Jackie Wood '75**, **Harlan Magruder '78**, and **Stacey Payne '78** on the House porch in the mid-1970s.





The House hosted a cookout open to the entire campus in August 2017.

**“If you don’t like something, change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude.”** – Maya Angelou

**Aaron Granger '93**, a member of the OWU Board of Trustees, didn’t live in the House as a student, but says he spent enough time there as an undergraduate to know how vitally important it is for campus.

“We want to make this House look on the outside how it has made each and every one of us feel on the inside – a warm, welcoming sense of culture and community that we can all be so proud of,” Granger said at the May event. “The outward physical manifestation of the House publicly announces to those who pass by that the black experience on campus is important. Inwardly, the walls of the House provide a safe environment for building a sense of family and pride that can be explored and ultimately shared with others throughout the University community.

“This moment is too important to sit by and do nothing,” Granger said.

President Rock Jones has been vocal about the University’s commitment to the House of Black Culture and what it stands for, hosting forums on campus with students and participating in an online chat that was live-streamed during the planning phase in April 2017. “Ensuring each student finds their place is a hallmark of the Ohio Wesleyan experience,” Jones says. “We are thrilled that donor support is allowing us to rebuild this critical piece of OWU’s history and future in the same location where it has meant so much to so many.”

**Genaye Ervin '19**, a triple-major in business administration, communication, and health and human kinetics sports management from Cleveland, lived in the House her sophomore and junior years and served as moderator. She was a member of the advisory committee (chaired by Granger) that gave feedback during the design and planning phase for the new

house. “It’s not like we’re just students and we’re on the committee and we’re just here for show. They’re actually listening to us, so I really appreciate that,” she says.

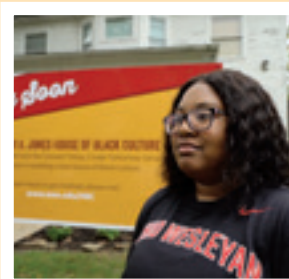
“I’m really proud to be a part of something of that nature and to be able to say that I did what I could to get funding for the House, and to make sure that the House stayed on campus and that minorities can have a safe place to go to – an actual home instead of just meeting once a week,” Ervin says.

**Daniel Delatte '19**, a double major in environmental studies and international studies, with a minor in Spanish, from New Orleans, has never lived anywhere else on campus. “It’s just really weird sometimes being on campus with nowhere to really go and be yourself sometimes; this provides a safe space for it,” he says. “These were the first friends that I made here, people that graduated, they showed me that this school was pretty cool.”

This welcoming sense of home has been passed down through the years, even as the House itself deteriorated. “You could feel the presence of this House every time you would walk in,” says **Kenny Williams '09**. “There was

always a sense of home, even if you didn’t live here. Even if you lived in a dorm you could come here to get a sense of culture from the pictures and artifacts that have been left behind from people who were here before.”

**Kadijah Adams '04** says 65 Oak Hill was a place for extending learning. “We would host programs that were not only about educating other black students, but a lot of times it was about educating the entire campus,” she says. “It was great to see black students learn in real time about black culture but then also share that information with the larger campus by inviting everyone into the House.”



**Genaye Ervin '19** served as moderator of the House and was also a student representative on the advisory committee chaired by Granger which helped offer input in the new House design.

**Rev. Myron McCoy '77 D. Min.**, a member of the Board of Trustees, recalled students of different races coming to visit the House and spend time with friends. Using the House as a tool to help bridge racial and other divides through lessons of inclusion must also be part of the House's future, he said. "By the time I arrived on campus the House was already established and there was a sense of black students becoming one. By the time we left, we left with not only a feeling of being prepared for our careers but with a sense of community and the importance of

giving back once you are gone," McCoy said. "That's the foundation of this place, and we must figure out how to make sure that is part of what makes this House important for future students who will come to this campus," McCoy said. "How do you share that culture from this House with everyone so that they take that with them back to their communities when they start their careers? That's what will make Ohio Wesleyan feel like an even better place."



## Sankofa • A message from the HBC fundraising committee

In announcing the fundraising initiative for the House, the committee drew on the Ghanaian word "sankofa," meaning it is not taboo to go back and get what you forgot.

Often symbolized by a bird with its feet facing ahead while its face turns back, Sankofa teaches us we must go back and gather the best of what our past offers so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward.

A new physical structure will soon grace the campus of Ohio Wesleyan and continue the rich traditions of the House of Black Culture. The address and legacy of the House will

remain, with a beautiful new home to celebrate the impact its residents have had on one another, the Ohio Wesleyan community, and the world.

All contributions help to cement our history while simultaneously fostering a place for current and future students to learn, grow, build community, and fuel the legacy of the House.

- **Khadija Adams '04, Aaron Granger '93, Barbara McEachern Smith '74, and Pete Smith '71**

When it opens in January in the same location at 65 Oak Hill Ave., the new House of Black Culture will keep many of the communal attributes that made the former house such a popular gathering

space for almost five decades, with many modern updates. The 3,610-square-foot single-story house will have space for 12 students in six bedrooms.



A porch will wrap around the front of the house, and a four-seasons room is in the back.



The large great room will be open to the kitchen and feature a gas fireplace. The fireplace mantel from the old house was salvaged and will be reinstalled in the new one. The popular kitchen banquette seating style from the old house will be carried over to the new one. (Renderings courtesy Thomas & Marker Construction)

## Funding

The total cost for the project is \$1.25 million. A fundraising initiative for the house was launched in August 2017 following a challenge gift by **Ed Haddock '69**, a member of the Board of Trustees, along with his wife, Edye, and son, Ted, through their Edward E. Haddock Jr. Family Foundation.

While the project is underway and the University is contributing substantial resources to ensure the project is completed on schedule, fundraising is ongoing. To learn more or make a gift, visit [owu.edu/givetohbc](http://owu.edu/givetohbc).





1968



2018

## SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

Times may have changed, but protests remain a campus staple. Students on the Ohio Wesleyan Peace Committee (top), who involved the campus in an international fasting movement against the Vietnam War, gathered to support their cause in this photo from the 1968 yearbook. On March 23 of this year, students (from left) **Julia Anne Caple '20**,

**Haley LaRoe '18**, and **Patience Savino '21** were among dozens participating in the March for our Lives kickoff rally to draw attention to gun violence, held in Hamilton-Williams Campus Center (photo by: **Gopika Nair '18**). Author and columnist **Richard North Patterson '68** explores other echoes of 1968 in 2018 on the following page.

“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes.”

– MARK TWAIN

In this essay adapted from a speech he delivered at his 50th reunion in May, author and columnist Richard North Patterson '68 explores three divisive issues of today, and a compassionate path to bridge them.



**F**or some of you 1968 is — quite literally — history, like John F. Kennedy and the Beatles. But for those of us who came of age then, that was the year it all cracked open. The Tet Offensive tarnished official optimism about the Vietnam War. Anti-war candidate Eugene McCarthy came from nowhere to challenge President Lyndon Johnson for the Democratic nomination. Robert Kennedy followed; Johnson withdrew. A racist murdered Martin Luther King Jr.; our cities exploded in violence. For millions, the assassination of Robert Kennedy felt like the death of hope. The Russians smashed Czechoslovakia's dreams of freedom. The Democratic convention chose Hubert Humphrey over McCarthy amidst massive police brutality against anti-war and anti-establishment protesters. And Richard Nixon rose like a phoenix to win the presidency of a country in turmoil.

For me, and many around me, that year was visceral and divisive, turning our lives upside down. Mores regarding drug use and sexual freedom changed dramatically.

Guys we knew died in Vietnam — and many of the living wondered why. Some avoided the draft; others served. If our government was deceiving us about the Vietnam War, as its opponents insisted, maybe the beliefs we'd grown up with were illusory. All too often, parents and children regarded each other across a chasm of mutual incomprehension. The fault line of 1968 had separated us from certainty.

This line traces to today, along three contentious issues: race, gender, and gun violence. Crucially, there are profound social, cultural, and political divisions that cracked open in 1968 — and now threaten to tear American democracy apart.

**No problem has been more wrenching** than the legacy of one of America's foundational sins, slavery. It is easy to forget that when my class came here as freshmen, 100 years after the Civil War, blacks in the South could neither vote nor enter hotels, restaurants, neighborhoods, and schools reserved exclusively for whites. But with the civil rights bills of 1964 came a white backlash against black empowerment. Subsequent polling showed that 50 percent of whites thought that Reverend King was hurting the cause of civil rights; only 36 percent thought he was helping. Race, it turned out, was not merely a Southern problem — it was an American problem, and America had not fixed it.

Following violent protests in major cities, Johnson established an advisory committee to address our racial dilemma. Its findings were stark, clearly stating that: "White society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it." Its report concluded: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal."

This struggle to comprehend and address our racial divide caused a tectonic shift in American politics. Traditionally,

Democrats were the party of the segregated South — in Congress, more Republicans than Democrats had supported the civil rights legislation spearheaded by Johnson. But by taking ownership, Johnson alienated millions of Southern whites, causing their mass migration to the GOP.

Thus the election of 1968 began the realignment of American politics — in great measure because of race. By pursuing the so-called Southern strategy, which emphasized "law and order," Nixon carried Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, and the Carolinas. But by explicitly attacking integration and civil rights, George Wallace won every other Southern state. The politics of racial identity were going national — not merely among African-Americans, but also among whites anxious about diversity and fearful of displacement.

**The wedge of race** still cuts deep. Few remember the furor in 1968 when Captain Kirk of television's *Star Trek* kissed a black actress. It seems so silly now. But racial anxiety persists. Lenny Steinhorn, a historian and communications professor at American University in Washington, comparing 1968 with 2018, notes how many whites today believe that "America is being undermined by the emphasis on diversity, by elites that want to impose a politically correct culture on traditional Americans who believe that Black Lives Matter activists show no respect..."

Consider two incidents 50 years apart. At the Olympic

Games of 1968, two African-American sprinters ignited a firestorm when they raised their fists in a black power salute. In 2017, black professional football players who knelt during the national anthem to protest alleged police brutality

excited similar outrage — and the condemnation of America's president, who dispatched his vice president to an NFL game to stage his own symbolic counter-protest on national TV.

Beneath all this lies bitter disagreement about the shootings of blacks by white police; racial inequities in law enforcement; and laws that punish trafficking in crack cocaine more harshly than its powdery cousin, which led to disproportionate punishments for blacks. And 50 years after Johnson's commission on race issued its report, fewer African-Americans have access to majority-white schools than in 1968, according to the University of California Civil Rights Project.

True, America has made great progress in advancing racial justice. But as uplifting as it was for many of us, regardless of party, the election of America's first black president hardly

**The admonition John F. Kennedy offered 55 years ago is even more pertinent now: "Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought."**

resolved our racial problems.

Persistent, too, are the ongoing issues regarding feminism and gender roles.

On one level, things are dramatically different. I have my own memories of Ohio Wesleyan when I arrived here. The dorms were segregated by sex, with strict curfews for women. With the girls locked up, the powers that be reasoned, how much trouble could a guy get into — especially when, in a comic harbinger of “just say no,” the infirmary denied women access to birth control? The answer soon became apparent: The arrival of spring opened the floodgates of pent-up sexual demand to the vagaries of the great outdoors — unleashing a small population explosion.

**In this environment, partisan loathing is what drives people to the polls. This is political crack cocaine for politicians who traffic in demagoguery and division. Today’s America is 1968 on steroids.**

With some exceptions, we imagined following our parents’ gender trajectories — the men pointing toward lifetime careers, the women planning a shorter stretch in some traditionally “female” occupation before transitioning to full-time motherhood. This led to a supposed syndrome called “senior panic” — believed to afflict any woman not yet engaged or, at least, attached to a guy who looked like a good bet for the altar.

But already the women’s movement was propelling millions of young women — here and elsewhere — toward a different life. When I entered law school 1968, there were six women in the first-year class of 160. Two years later, women were 35 percent of all new students. But their path was never easy. The workplace was frequently unwelcoming. Often they lacked mentors. Men who felt challenged resented them. Sexual harassment was chronic. Their husbands’ and boyfriends’ apparent support often cloaked a bedrock of traditionalism.

While enough swam upstream to change societal expectations for their brothers and sisters, daughters and sons, grandsons and granddaughters — it’s not yet over. Pay inequities between men and women remain, exacerbated by ethnicity and race. In particular, the #MeToo movement underscores the stubborn pervasiveness of sexual assault, exploitation and harassment — all the worse for the countless, nameless women we will never know. This battle, too, is far from done. (A minor personal note: One year ago I was thrilled to make a movie deal with an eminent Hollywood producer — Harvey Weinstein. Instead of “me, too,” all I can say is “Oh, well.”)

**As for the toll of death** by gunfire in America, all one can ask is “Will it ever end?”

Many asked this 50 years ago, when the assassination of John F. Kennedy was followed by the murder of his brother and Martin Luther King Jr. After Robert Kennedy died, Lyndon Johnson highlighted the average of 6,500 gun deaths per year. But the implacable opposition of the NRA stymied his efforts to pass meaningful gun-control legislation. Lamented Johnson, “We’ve been through ... too much anguish to forget so quickly.”

Surely no one who walks through the seemingly endless expanse of Arlington National Cemetery, hushed and pensive, ever forgets it. The tragic toll of war stupefies and stuns. In the 240-plus years beginning with the Revolutionary War, we have sacrificed nearly 1.4 million Americans. In itself, this number is hard to grasp.

In the past half-century, gun deaths by murder, accident, and suicide have claimed over 1.5 million Americans — 100,000 more deaths than all the wars of our history, as verified by Politifact, a nonpartisan fact-checking organization.

Here we can find no nobility, no consolation, no agreed-upon parades or speeches or monuments or national days of remembrance. Nothing but 50 long years of public slaughter and private sorrow — over five times more deaths every year than when Lyndon Johnson mourned our forgetfulness — with no end in sight.

**Yet here we are.** So it is incumbent on all of us, I submit, to reflect on how the divisions of 1968 affect us now — and what we can do to bridge them.

To be sure, in some ways 1968 was worse than 2018. We are not, at this moment, engaged in an all-consuming war, nor are we routinely afflicted by mass political or racial violence. But what is more dangerous today is that more Americans are more alienated from one another by virtually every societal measure — as if America decided to reconfigure itself along the fault lines of 1968.

Instead of sharing a common vision of America, we are forming into tribes which despise each other. This divide is less about ideas than culture and demographics — and it is tearing us apart.

It’s not my role to advocate for any policy, philosophy, or party. My effort is to ask that each of us realize what is happening to the country we love in common, and how we can re-examine our own attitudes and actions in order to acknowledge and ameliorate all that divides us. For the admonition John F. Kennedy offered 55 years ago is even more pertinent now: “Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.”

That, I submit, is a luxury we can afford no longer.





Consider what America is up against. Increasingly, we are sorted into think-alike communities defined by geography, ethnicity, education, and economic status. And so demography breeds division.

Take the chasm exposed by the election of 2016. College graduates preferred Hillary Clinton by 9 percent; those without a college degree chose Trump by 8 percent, according to Pew Research. More telling is the widening partisan gap among white non-college-educated Americans: 67 percent for Trump; 28 percent for Clinton. Women skew Democratic by a considerable margin; men are equally divided. Forty percent of Democrats are nonwhite; among Republicans, only 2 percent are black, and 6 percent Hispanic. The stark truth is that Americans have divided themselves into demographic tribes that started forming 50 years ago.

Thus American politics are increasingly racialized. Republicans often charge that Democrats practice “identity politics,” reflecting the social grievances of minorities and others. Frequently, Democrats accuse Republicans of promulgating “white identity politics,” reflecting the unease of many whites with America’s changing demographics and social standards. In terms of who both parties draw to the polls, both assertions are true.

Unsurprisingly, ever more political partisans live in gated communities of the mind. According to a Pew Research survey taken after 2016, Fox News was the principal source of campaign reportage for 40 percent of Republicans, but only 3 percent of Democrats, who, though in lesser numbers, preferred CNN and MSNBC.

These Americans occupy different Americas. Asked if they agreed that “Life in America today is worse than it was 50 years ago” for people like them, 81 percent of Trump voters agreed — and only 19 percent of Clinton voters.

This glaring disparity does not mirror relative economic anxiety — financially troubled whites were more likely to favor Clinton. Support for Trump reflected, above all, a rebellion against cultural and demographic shifts that have accelerated over the last five decades. When, in October 2017, 60 percent of Trump voters expressed a negative view of the National Football League, it was not about the price of tickets.

The same attitudinal divide permeates our views of gender. A Pew poll in July 2016 showed that 72 percent of Clinton supporters, but only 31 percent of Trump voters, thought that there were significant remaining obstacles making it harder for women to get ahead. A more recent poll inspired by my pal Harvey Weinstein showed that 80 percent of Democrats called sexual harassment a serious problem, and only half as many Republicans did.

**Finally, guns.** While in theory political partisans share some common ground, there are sharp differences on specific issues, as well as with respect to the role of the NRA. Far more Republicans than Democrats consider gun ownership to be an essential element of freedom. Among NRA members, opposition to gun control drives their voting preferences. Thus our elected officials are polarized by party.

Such divides become political trench warfare, stifling compromise and preventing us from resolving our most pressing problems. But even more pernicious is how this mass failure of empathy and imagination poisons our attitudes toward each other.

No longer do we view our political opposites as simply wrong or misguided, but as enemies of all we hold dear. As Paul Taylor notes, ever more Republicans and Democrats deny each other’s facts, disapprove of each other’s lifestyles, avoid each other’s neighborhoods, impugn each other’s motives, doubt each other’s patriotism, detest each other’s news sources, and, indeed, despise and dehumanize who they imagine each other to be.

In this environment, partisan loathing is what drives people to the polls. This is political crack cocaine for politicians who traffic in demagoguery and division. Today’s America is 1968 on steroids.

**What on earth,** we must ask, are we doing to each other — and to our country? Perhaps we need a new nationalism that transcends race and culture — one rooted in listening, not shouting; compassion, not fear; tolerance, not tribalism.

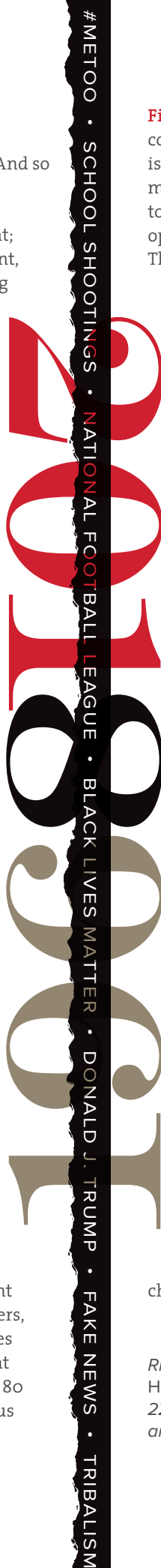
A leader we lost in 1968, Robert Kennedy, still has much to tell us: “We can perhaps remember, if only for a time, that those who live with us are brothers, that they share with us the same short moment of life. Surely this bond of common fate ... can begin to teach us something. Surely we can learn, at the least, to look around at ... our fellow men. Surely we can work a little harder to bind up the wounds among us, and become in our hearts brothers and countrymen once again.”

On turning 70, I thought a bit about the point of us as humans. Not only is our time on earth defined by our family and friends — those we cherish — but by those we learn to understand. We are not put here to be lab rats in someone else’s cage, but to expand the reach of decency and compassion for all who follow us.

Robert Kennedy’s brother said it well: “Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future.

And we are all mortal.” ■

*Richard North Patterson is a political columnist for the Huffington Post and Boston Globe as well as the author of 22 best-selling novels, former Chairman of Common Cause, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.*





Students in the "Shakespeare and Sites of Performance" English class listen to a guide on a tour of Kenilworth Castle, in Warwickshire, England. A 19-day revelry staged here by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, for his rumored paramour Queen Elizabeth I in 1575 is said to have been the inspiration for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



OWU CONNECTION TRAVEL LEARNING

# GOING GLOBAL

Students coming to Delaware, Ohio, these days would be advised to bring their passports. In the four-year course of study known as **The OWU Connection**, students work with their advisors to create a personalized academic pathway to broad-based knowledge, global skills, and real-world experience. Some students pursue internships, some opt for research, while some pack their bags — and some do all three! Photojournalist **Mark Schmitter '12** accompanied groups from OWU to Europe this summer to document three projects funded by OWU Connection grants and one of seven travel-learning courses offered last academic year. This learning beyond the classroom includes on-site instruction from local experts, student presentations researched during the school year, and, of course, a little sightseeing. Read more about students' OWU Connection experiences visit: [owu.edu/connection](http://owu.edu/connection).



# STRIFE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Six students traveled to Northern Ireland with the help of an OWU Connection grant, with assistant chaplain Lisa Ho and director of career services Leslie Melton, and spent two weeks investigating the history of Belfast's sectarian conflicts and how the social divides of the city are similar to American race relations. In the process, the group applied the conflict-resolution skills they learned through lectures, public discussions, and one-on-one sessions with journalists, church officials, and ex-combatants to understand approaches to addressing American social issues.



The group visited Corrymeela Coast in Belfast, Northern Ireland: (from left) **Eli Reed '19** of Columbus; **Anna L. Davies '19** of St. Clairsville, Ohio; **Adedayo Akinmadeyemi '19** of Columbus; and **Hannah Jo Grimes '20** of Quincy, Ohio. Photo courtesy Akinmadeyemi, by **Daniel Delatte '19** of New Orleans.



Grimes listens to a lecture by Ulster University criminal justice faculty and local police chiefs. Grimes hopes to pursue a doctorate in literature and work in racial reconciliation after graduating.



A trip to Northern Ireland wouldn't be complete without exploring the pub culture of Belfast. The group enjoyed several nights out together, where they made friends with community members, watched live music, and experienced the local nightlife. From left: **Cara Harris '18** of Chicago, Reed, Davies, Ho, Melton, and Grimes enjoy a round.

## OWU CONNECTION TRAVEL LEARNING

## FRENCH IMPERIALISM

OWU students and faculty, led by Mary Anne Lewis Cusato, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, and David Counselman, associate professor of Spanish, used an OWU Connection grant to pursue “A Collective Study of French Imperialism: The Cultural Tools and Consequences of Colonialism as Seen in Paris and Southern France.” They explored the genesis, uses, and critiques of “francophonie” (the French-speaking world), including student-led tours of museums, and topics such as blacks in Paris.



In the Louvre (from left) Cusato, **Farida Rezk '20** of Columbus; **Raissa Kanku '20** of the Democratic Republic of Congo; **Caroline Shaffer '19** of Murphysboro, Illinois; and **Allie Eynon '19** of Dublin, Ohio, discussed paintings they had studied in class that were in the service of imperialism, including *Napoléon et les pestiférés de Jaffa* (Napoleon Bonaparte Visiting the Plague-Stricken at Jaffa) by Antoine-Jean Gros (1804).



The group spent time exploring Paris on foot. From left: Kanku, Eynon, and Rezk.

# SHAKESPEARE'S ENGLAND

The travel-learning course “ENG 336 – Shakespeare and the Sites of Performance,” taught by Zack Long, associate professor of English, retraces the trajectory of Shakespeare’s career from country player to courtly entertainer by looking at the various “stages” — some literal, some improvised — he performed in and the occasions he performed for, and culminated with travel to England, including a private tour of the Globe Theatre, as well as visits to Shakespeare’s birthplace and schoolroom.



The class, including (from left) **Rachel Scherrer '18** of Sebastopol, California, and **Sarah Gielink '20** of Twinsburg, Ohio, went on a private tour of the iconic Globe Theatre in London, a reconstruction of the 1599 theatre that was home to many of Shakespeare’s greatest plays.



The class listens to a performer outside Shakespeare’s birthday in Stratford-upon-Avon recite some of his sonnets in traditional costume.



Long (center) and students in the ENG 336 class listen to a tour guide inside Shakespeare’s childhood home.



OWU CONNECTION TRAVEL LEARNING

## COMPOSITION IN ALBA

Music composition students traveled to Italy through an OWU Connection grant to attend the Alba Music Festival Composition Program, where they participated in master classes and workshops on topics ranging from elements of compositional craft to career issues. They also worked with the SOLI Chamber Ensemble, the ensemble-in-residence at the program.

From left: **Noah Green '21** of Granville, Ohio; **Mi So Yoo '20** of Seoul, South Korea; and **Jess Martich '20** of Grafton, Ohio; in Chiesa di San Domenico in Alba.



From left: Martich, Green, and Mi listen to Elliot McKinley, associate professor of music composition, theory, and technology from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island, with another festival participant. McKinley was one of the festival composition faculty.


**THESE AND OTHER OWU CONNECTION EXPERIENCES MADE POSSIBLE BY SUPPORT FROM:**

E. Fred Carlisle '56 • Andres Duarte '65 • John Fairbanks Milligan '83 and Kathryn Bradford Milligan '83 • Thomas W. Palmer '69 and Susan Palmer • Thomas R. Tritton '69 and Louise M. Tritton • James B. Hoy '57 and Marjorie Hoy • Kara Trott '83 • Michael Geehan '58 and Elizabeth Andrews Geehan '58 • Lyman L. Leathers • Robert P. Bauman '53 • Norman Clark '59 and Mary "Betsy" Clark '58 • The Ollendorf Center • Ezra Vogel '50 • Robinson Lapp '54 and Janet Wallace Lapp '55 • Jan W. Baran '70 and Kathryn K. Baran • Margaret Weaver Krull '74 and Gary Krull • Karl Kuivinen '71 and Linda Kuivinen • Francis F. Quinn '78 • Mary Alice Austin '41 • Carolyn Root Deibel '67 • Robert D. Botjer '65 • L. Ried Schott '71 • Bruce R. Roberts • Susan Scrimshaw • Gus A. Platas '72 • Sue Bynum '64 • Anne L. Kleindienst '76 • Norman J. Scott '71 • Howard E. Strauch '50 and Joann Bowman Strauch '51

**Amy Butcher**, assistant professor of English, published “MIA: The Liberal Men We Love” on Literary Hub, “Women These Days,” an essay illuminating the need for feminism, in *Brevity Magazine*, and “Consolation Puppies: A Graphic Essay” with **Martha Park ’11** in *GRANTA* magazine. She also was a visiting writer at Wells College in Aurora, New York, and a visiting fellow at the Vermont Studio Center in February. She gave a presentation titled “From MFA Thesis to Published Book” at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference in Tampa, Florida, in March.

**David Caplan**, professor of English, was featured on the German journalism website WELT for his book *Rhyme’s Challenge*, a study of poetics in hip-hop. Caplan spent the past academic year at the University of Haifa in Israel, where he lectured about literature and poetry.

**Michael Flamm**, professor of history, published an article titled “Urban Upheaval and the Enduring Appeal of Law and Order” in *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History 14.4* (December 2017). He also published a book review in the

August 2017 edition of *Business History Review* titled “A Time of Scandal.”

**Jerry Goldstein**, professor of botany-microbiology, along with **Emily McKenzie ’17**, **Nicholas Reed ’18**, and **Andrew Smith ’17**, published “Effect of the length of antisense RNA on bacterial enzyme production” in *Research & Reviews: A Journal of Biotechnology* in 2017.

**Larry Griffin**, professor of music and chair of the Music Department, performed lead trumpet with the Four Tops in April, in Portsmouth, Ohio.

**Lynda Hall**, professor of psychology, presented four lectures on “Lifespan Memory” as part of the summer lecture series at Lakeside Chautauqua in Lakeside, Ohio, in July.

**Marty Kalb**, professor emeritus of fine art, saw his painting acquired in May by Stark State Workforce Center in Akron, Ohio, through the Ohio Percent for Art Project. Several of Kalb’s works are on extended loan to the Ohio governor’s residence through January 2019. In addition, Kalb chaired a summer workshop sponsored by the Ohio Council on Holocaust and Genocide

Education at the Jewish Community Center of Columbus, in Bexley, Ohio, in June.

**Keith Mann**, professor of geology, presented a lecture at the national meeting of the Geological Society of America in Seattle in October 2017.

**Christopher Modica**, assistant professor of psychology, published a book chapter in *European psychiatric/mental health nursing in the 21st century: A person-centered evidence-based approach* (Springer International Publishing, 2018). His chapter was titled “Problems related to eating, nutrition, and body image.”

**Franchesca Nestor**, assistant professor of politics & government, was a co-author for *Contemporary Regulatory Policy, 3rd Edition* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, July 2018).

**Carol L. Neuman de Vegvar**, professor of fine arts, published “Wayfaring strangers: a case study in island identity in Insular metalwork,” in *Islands in a Global Context, Proceedings of the Seventh International Insular Art Conference* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2017) and “In a strange

land: Anglo-Saxon expats and itinerant objects in Ireland,” in *England, Ireland and the Insular World: Textual and Material Connections in the Early Middle Ages* (Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2018).

**Dustin Reichard**, assistant professor of zoology, published “Female Dark-eyed Juncos produce male-like song in a territorial context during the early breeding season” in the *Journal of Avian Biology* in February.

**Chris Wolverton**, professor of botany-microbiology, welcomed his Plant Gravity Perception experiment back to earth after time on the International Space Station. The samples returned to his collaborator’s lab at Ohio University and the image data is being analyzed. Wolverton presented at the Committee on Space Research of the International Council of Scientific Union (COSPAR) 2018 assembly in mid-July in Pasadena, California.

The deadline to submit Class Notes and Faculty Notes for the Winter 2019 OWU Magazine is Oct. 5, 2018. Send to: [classnotes@owu.edu](mailto:classnotes@owu.edu)



“Crossroads (Marion, OH)” by **Frank Hobbs**, associate professor of fine art, 2017, oil on canvas. *Due to a production error, this painting was poorly reproduced on the back cover of the Spring issue. We regret the error.*



## CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

To RSVP for an event, please visit [owu.edu/alumni](http://owu.edu/alumni) or call **(740) 368-3325**.

### AUGUST 2018

**August 20 | Scioto Reserve Country Club, Powell, Ohio**  
Team OWU Golf Outing

### SEPTEMBER 2018

**September 1 | Wheaton, Illinois**  
Pre-game gathering, Ohio Wesleyan vs. Wheaton College Men's soccer game

**September 12 | Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Denver, New York City, Washington, D.C.**  
Welcome to the City  
[owu.edu/welcometothecity](http://owu.edu/welcometothecity)

**September 20 | On campus**  
i-cubed lectures

### OCTOBER 2018

**October 4 -6 | On campus**  
Alumni Board of Directors meeting

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

**Alumni  
& friends**

**October 5 -6 | On campus**  
Board of Trustees meeting

**October 5 -7 | On campus**  
Homecoming & Family Weekend  
Featuring affinity reunions for:  
Alpha Sigma Phi, Chi Phi, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Zeta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Phi Delta Theta, Pi Beta Phi, men's lacrosse, Psychology, tennis, field hockey, track and field /cross country, volleyball, wrestling, women's basketball

**October 19-20 | On campus**  
Women of Ohio Wesleyan  
[owu.edu/wow](http://owu.edu/wow)

**October 20 | Boston**  
Head of the Charles Regatta

### NOVEMBER 2018

**November 30 | Wright Room**  
Denver Holiday Party

### DECEMBER 2018

**December 4 | Columbus**  
Museum of Art  
Columbus Holiday Party

**December 4 | La Cabra Brewing**  
Philadelphia Holiday Party

**December 5 | State Room**  
Boston Holiday Party

**December 6 | LeParker Meridian**  
New York City Holiday Party

**December 7 | Home of Jack '71 & Lorry Haycock Luikart '73**  
San Francisco Holiday Party

**December 8 | Home of George '67 & June Romine**  
Los Angeles Holiday Party

**December 11 | Progressive Field - Infiniti Club**  
Cleveland Holiday Party

**December 11 | Home of Tom '88 and Lorraine McCann Simon '90**  
Atlanta Holiday Party

**December 13 | Public House Chicago**  
Chicago Holiday Party

**December 13 | Arts Club of Washington**  
Washington, D.C. Holiday Party

### CELEBRATING 2018 LEGACIES

At least 16 families celebrated the graduation of a legacy student at Commencement 2018. To see other legacy family photos, please visit [owu.edu/magazine](http://owu.edu/magazine)



**Mariah Chery '18** was joined at her graduation by her mother, **Cynthia Brown-Chery '77**.



(From left) Grandmother **Nancy LaPorte Meek '59** celebrated the graduation of **Jordan Larkin '18**, with Jordan's mother **Laurie Meek '92** and grandfather **Phil Meek '59**. Jordan's great-grandfather **Joseph A. Meek '25** was also a Bishop.

# Reunion Weekend

[owu.edu/alumni](http://owu.edu/alumni) | Facebook | LinkedIn | Twitter | Instagram



**Class of 1968** classmates (from left) **Dan Bennington, Tom Lange, and Susi Deal Phillips** enjoyed their 50th reunion.



**Class of 1988** classmates **Lee Kercher (left) and Mary Beth Sommer** were all grins.



**Francine Butler (left) and Debbie Thomas Mines '73** at the open house for the House of Black Culture (see cover story Page 14).



Members of the **Class of 1968** returned to walk in the Parade of Classes to a special ceremony in Gray Chapel in which they received their golden key diplomas recognizing their 50th reunion.



**Class of 1973** classmates (from left) **Robyn Morgan, Carrie Thomas, and Eleanor Milroy** enjoyed their 45th reunion dinner.



Dozens of royal fans turned out in the early hours to watch the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle live on TV in Stuyvesant lounge, complete with tea and tiaras.

More than 850 alumni and friends returned to campus to celebrate class years ending in 3 and 8. See all the pictures from reunion weekend at [owu.edu/2018ReunionWeekendPhotos](http://owu.edu/2018ReunionWeekendPhotos).



Students workers like **Rose Jonesco '20** (left) and **Haley Worthman '21** help keep Reunion Weekend cruising along.



**September Howat '02** (right) wears her love for OWU on her arm with a tattoo of Slocum walkway. **Jock Miller** (left) led his **Class of 1963** in the Parade of Classes and provided a robust soundtrack for the stroll.



**Class of 2008** classmates (from left): **Jessica Nare**, **Amandine Weinrob**, and **Alison Gary Mengerink** grabbed some noise-making clappers and bubbles for the Parade of Classes on the JAYwalk.



The **Class of 1993** sign is proudly displayed by (from left) **Erika Hewitt**, **Christopher Villar**, **Loretta Ishida**, and guest **Sonya Harding**.



The **Class of 1998** included (from left): **Eimile Tansey**, **Dana Fiordaliso Martin**, **Kate Halpin Moor**, **Gwen Goodkin**, **Anne Spreng Cole**, and **Kristin Goetzmann Graham**.



**Dan Dyer '08** and his wife **Megan Quinn Dyer '09** made sure to revisit the exact spot in an R.W. Corns classroom where they first met.

# 2018 AWARD WINNERS

## *Outstanding alumni honored*



*Each year during Reunion Weekend, the Alumni Association Board of Directors presents awards to selected alumni, usually those in their reunion years. The 2018 awardees honored on May 19 were:*

### **ANDREW B. BUSCH '83** **Distinguished Achievement Citation**

Busch was recognized for his passion for global economics and his national reputation in international finance. He is the chief market intelligence officer for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in Washington, D.C., as well as a published author and regular contributor on CNBC. ■

### **LUCY WEBB HAYES 1850** **Distinguished Achievement Citation**

Hayes attended OWU at a time when women were not allowed to earn degrees. She was posthumously recognized for her role in defining what it means to be a social advocate and for her commitment to women's equality. After transferring to the Cincinnati Wesleyan Female College to study subjects from Geology to Music, Hayes married Rutherford B. Hayes and became the first presidential spouse to have a college degree, as well as the first to be called "first lady." ■

### **DOUG GORDIN '78** **Distinguished Achievement Citation**

Gordin was recognized for his national achievements as a collegiate golf coach and leader in the sport. Gordin led Georgia Southern College and Florida Southern to multiple conference championships and Florida Southern to five team national championships. He has won National Coach of the Year four times and has been inducted into multiple halls of fame. His father, **Richard "Dick" Gordin '52**, was the legendary men's golf coach at OWU (see obituary, Page 45). ■

### **HONORABLE JOHN E. McDERMOTT '68** **Distinguished Achievement Citation**

McDermott was recognized for his 37 years as a trial lawyer, focusing on complex business litigation and litigation involving public entities, and for his position as the federal magistrate judge of U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. ■

### **THOMAS P. TURNER '83** **Distinguished Achievement Citation**

Turner was recognized for his significant contributions to aviation safety and pilot education, as an instructor and author. He served as an officer in the Air Force, and has served as the president of Mastery Flight Training since 1994. Since 2003, he has served as executive director at ABS Air Safety Foundation. He possesses multiple instructor and pilot certifications and is a consultant to the Federal Aviation and National Transportation Safety Board in Washington and numerous aviation industry groups. ■

### **PATRICIA BELT CONRADES '63** **Alumni Award**

Conrades was recognized for her remarkable involvement, championing, and investment in OWU. She majored in physical education and was involved with the OWU Senate and *The Transcript*. At the age of 48, Conrades earned a nursing degree from Norwalk Community College and went on to serve as a volunteer nurse. Her gifts, with her husband **George Conrades '61**, have changed the landscape of OWU both physically, with structural additions to campus, and programmatically. Her father, **Arthur Belt '34**, sister **Nancy Muldoon '60**, and two of her five children, **Anna Conrades '03** and **Laura Wilson '88**, also attended OWU. ■

### **HARRY FAULKNER '63** **Alumni Award**

Faulkner was recognized for his tireless service to OWU. He is co-chair of the OWU Honorary Coaches program, a Team OWU volunteer, an Annual Giving volunteer, and a 55th reunion committee member, among other past volunteer roles. He is a partner at Faulkner, Garmhausen, Keister and Shenk, where he specializes in real estate development, estate planning, and probate and banking. His father, **Walter '35**, uncle **Thomas '28**, brothers **John '68** and **William '72**, and his son **J.D. Faulker '93** all attended OWU. ■

### **AARON L. GRANGER '93** **Alumni Award**

Granger was honored for his roles as a member of the OWU Board of Trustees, chair of the House of Black Culture Advisory Committee, and for his work with students. Granger began a new position in June as Head of Legal for Williams Lea Tag America, a global marketing and communications provider. He is an A/PART volunteer and a Multicultural Affairs student mentor, and has served on the Alumni Board and as a Career Services volunteer. ■

### **DENIS B. NOCK '58** **Alumni Award**

Nock was recognized for his commitment to the postgraduate careers of students through his work with the OWU Office of Career Services and for supporting the development of OWU's externship program. He is senior equity analyst at Colorado Financial Management. He was director of the Deming Center Entrepreneurship Program at the University of Colorado and past president of the Boulder Chamber of Commerce. Nock is a founding member of the President's Circle, a member of the Tower Society, and was a member of the Woltemade Advisory Board. He's married to **Judith Mahoney Nock '60**. ■



The 2018 alumni award winners (back row, from left): Denis Nock, Aaron Granger, Harry Faulkner, Thomas Turner, John McDermott, with President Rock Jones and (front row, from left): **Sheila Fagan Plecha '84**, Alumni Association Board of Directors president, with Patricia Belt Conrades, Linda Diamond, and Joe Diamond.

## **MATTHEW LAFERTY '08**

### **Young Alumni Award**

Laferty was honored for his work in international social justice through Christian ministry and mission work. After graduating cum laude with University honors, he earned his master's degree from Yale Divinity School. He worked with an ecumenical ministry in Moscow, and has served as a pastor of the English-speaking United Methodist Church in Vienna since 2015. He works extensively with refugees, public health programs, and in preventing human trafficking. ■

## **MARIJA IGNJATOVIC BATEMAN '03**

### **Young Alumni Award**

Bateman was recognized for her leadership in international humanitarian and environmental efforts. She has worked as a special assistant to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and supported Princess Katherine of Serbia's efforts to develop the Serbian health sector through the Lifeline Humanitarian Organization. Since 2014, Bateman has been supporting the United Nations response to the Syrian crisis and the conflict in Yemen. ■

## **C. JOSEPH DIAMOND AND LINDA DIAMOND**

### **Honorary Alumni Award**

Joe and Linda Diamond were honored for their endless dedication to and support of the Delaware community and OWU. They established the C. Joseph and Linda Diamond Endowed Scholarship for students from the Delaware County area going into the arts, sciences, or humanities through an estate commitment in 2016. They are members of the Bishop Backers Executive Committee and Tower Society. The Diamonds were awarded the Town-Gown Award by the Ohio Wesleyan Athletic Department in 2017 in recognition of longstanding relationships with and outstanding support of Ohio Wesleyan student-athletes and athletic programs. Linda was recognized as 2001 Citizen of the year by the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce. Joe is a founding member and past president of Main Street Delaware and serves on its Design Committee. He is also a founding member of the executive board of the Strand Theatre and Cultural Arts Center and volunteers as the facility manager for the organization. ■

The **Distinguished Achievement Citation** is the Alumni Association's highest honor and is awarded to alumni who demonstrate professional accomplishment and outstanding service to humankind.

The **Alumni Award** recognizes those who demonstrate outstanding service to OWU.

The **Young Alumni Award** honors alumni who graduated in the past 15 years in recognition of a commitment to excellence in post-collegiate life and a significant or ongoing commitment to extraordinary work, research, volunteerism, or service to OWU.

**Honorary Alumni** status is conferred upon persons who have exhibited consistent interest in and support of OWU for a significant period of time.

### **NOMINATE SOMEONE**

Do you know an outstanding OWU alumnus/a you'd like to nominate for an award? To see full award descriptions and fill out a nomination form, visit [owu.edu/alumniawards](http://owu.edu/alumniawards).

# CLASSnotes

## 1950s

**Kenneth Lawson '53**, of Beavercreek, Ohio, celebrated 62 years of marriage to his wife Marge in December. They enjoy playing bridge twice a week at local senior centers and several times a year at tournaments in Indiana. They also enjoy ocean and river cruising and have taken more than 50 cruises to date. Lawson has had his private pilot's license since 1987.

**Paul Sharar '53** was honored for a lifetime of service to the national and Ridgewood, N.J.,

YMCA organizations at a luncheon in April at the YMCA Headquarters in New York City. Sharar was employed by the YMCA for 35 years, retiring in 1991 as vice president for program management and development for the YMCA of Greater New York.

**Gordon Smith '54** and **Helen Crider Smith '56** were featured in the February newsletter of Bethesda United Methodist Church in Maryland, where they have been members since 1962, for their work with Opportunity International, a

nonprofit organization working to end global poverty by creating and sustaining jobs.

**David Spooner '57** received the National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award in February. The award recognizes Eagle Scouts who have brought great honor to the highest rank of Boy Scouts of America through their personal and professional contributions at the local, state, and regional levels.

**David Hobson '58**, a former U.S. congressman from Ohio, was inducted into the Walk of Fame in Dayton in 2017. The Dayton Walk

of Fame recognizes outstanding and enduring personal or professional contributions to the community, nation, and world.

**Dan "Skip" Landt '59**, having retired from higher education, is in his 33rd year of teaching at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music. His jug band, Strictly Jug Nuts, has won the Chicago Battle of the Jug Bands three times. In June, he published *The Kazoo and You*, a cartoon compendium of kazoo-related lore, and produced the Kazoobilee, honoring what he refers to as "America's most humble musical instrument."

## Alumnae help Syrian refugees in Cleveland

**Suzanne Soppitt LeSure '69** (second from left) and **Mead Wilkins '71** (back), a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, both retired after successful careers working with abused and neglected children in Medina, Ohio. For 20 years, Wilkins was the director of a large agency that served low-income, elderly, and foster children. LeSure is a psychologist who



worked with traumatized patients in community, hospital, and private-practice settings.

She sold her private practice two years ago but was not quite ready to retire. Unbeknownst to each other, upon leaving those positions, LeSure and Wilkins both contacted Migration and Refugee Services in Cleveland to volunteer their services out of concern for the plight of Syrian refugees. They were both hired to work in the recently funded Survivors of Torture Program, which needed experienced practitioners. Wilkins is the clinical director of the program and works with a staff of caregivers to transform trauma in a healing environment.

During the past 24 months, more 300 individuals have been served from more than 26 countries. Services include free legal representation, counseling, case management, employment, ESL classes, and social services. LeSure implemented a therapeutic technique called "Testimonial Therapy" to help survivors deal with their trauma and achieve a sense of social justice. This involves four sessions in which the survivor's story is captured in a narrative form and then celebrated with family, friends, and staff.

As challenging as this second career has been, both LeSure and Wilkins have found it highly rewarding and satisfying. Not only has it been an opportunity to share the benefits of a great OWU education, it has also been culturally stimulating, socially engaging, and a great career conclusion.

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## 1960s

**Hugh Davis '63** was named Citizen of the Year in North Haven, Conn., in April at the North Haven Community Service Awards Dinner.

**Frederick Haney '63** published the book *The Fundable Startup: How Disruptive Companies Attract Capital* in February. Haney has 45 years of experience working with high-tech and healthcare startups, and in his book he offers practical advice to entrepreneurs who dream of starting high-tech companies.

**Robert Pine '63**, an actor with over 200 film and TV credits, including the TV show *CHiPs* and the films *Independence Day* and *Frozen*, was the first guest on the

podcast *The Working Actor's Journey* in December 2017.

**James Saunders '63** published the World War I novel *Animal Dances*, blending eyewitness accounts with historical fiction to tell the story of a conscripted young man who discovers his potential while enduring hardships. Saunders is a retired professor of otolaryngology, physiology, and neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Susan Phillips Read '69**, associate judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, delivered Albany Law School's 15th Hugh R. Jones Memorial Lecture in April in Albany, N.Y. Her lecture explored whether *stare decisis*, the doctrine of precedent, constrains decision-

making in a court of last resort, with special emphasis on the New York Court of Appeals.

## 1970s

**Stephen Penny '70** was honored by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce with its 2018 Community Achievement Award in April in Manchester, Conn. The award honors Penny for his lifelong service to the city, including serving as mayor. He practices law at Penny, Botticello & O'Brien.

**Christopher Dutton '71** received an honorary degree from Vermont Law School in May in Royalton, Vt. Dutton is the former chair of the Vermont Law School Board of Trustees and the former president and

chief executive officer of Green Mountain Power.

**Alex Shumate '72** was profiled in *Smart Business* magazine in January for his work as managing partner of Squire Patton Boggs law firm's Columbus location.

**Nicholas Calio '75**, CEO of Airlines for America, the trade association representing America's leading passenger and cargo airlines, delivered the opening keynote at Flight Check 2018, the National Airline Council of Canada's spring 2018 conference.

**Cathie Worthing Mutch Helfand '75** and her husband, Israel Helfand, run Marriage Quest retreats at their 1850s homestead in Cabot, Vt.

## Alumna honors Libby Reed with new award

At their 45th class reunion dinner on campus in May, **Carrie Thomas '73** presented **Jim Mendenhall '73** with a brass OWU seal she received 10 years prior from OWU English professor Libby Reed. Thomas credits Reed with providing her not only a career-shaping writing education, but also a lesson in how to find the best in others and carry a lifelong love of OWU. Reed gave the seal to Thomas the last time they visited before Reed's death, at Thomas' 35th class reunion.

This year, Thomas wanted to pass on this "symbol of commitment and excellence" in acknowledgment of a classmate's dedication to OWU, creating a tradition that can be repeated each year during reunion weekend. In giving the seal to Mendenhall, Thomas said she celebrated his unwavering commitment to OWU and sincere care for his classmates. In accepting it, Mendenhall lightheartedly dubbed the traveling award the "Love Oh-Woo Award."



## '73-'74 classmates remember a friend

Classmates gathered in Hunt Valley, Md., on April 8 to celebrate the life of Mike Spencer's wife Pam, who passed away Jan. 22. From left: **Eugenie Barbour Drayton '73**, **Judy Fasold Forrester '73**, **Dick Eakins '73**, **Deborah Primm Mills '74**, **John Mills '73**, **Mike Spencer '73**, **Jim Mendenhall '73**, **Lynn Oliver Garvin '73**, **Charlie Garvin '73**, and **Amy Kinney Raffel '73**.



## Second granddaughter welcomed to Kappa Alpha Theta

(From left) **Mary Steele Holm '60** celebrated sorority initiation with her two granddaughters, **Allie Holm '21** and **Ashley Brown '13** on Feb. 25. Mary presented Allie with a pin that belonged to her mother, **Henrietta Slater Steele '29**. All are members of the Gamma deutron chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

They have been working as a professional couple helping other couples since 1983. Their Marriage Quest retreat program has been named the Best Marriage Counseling Retreat in the U.S. by Guide Doc since 2015 and holds numerous other high national ratings.

**Michael Davis '76** retired from the active practice of law and is now a senior lecturer at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University. In 2017, he received the inaugural Law School Teaching Excellence Award and was selected by the 2018 graduating class as its faculty speaker at the law school convocation held in May. He resides with his wife, Karen, in Arlington, Va.

**Robert Burgoyne '78** joined the law firm of Perkins Coie in Washington, D.C., in February as a partner in the commercial litigation practice.

**Jill Lederer Hicks '78** was named 2018 Assembly District 44 Woman of the Year by the California Legislative Women's Caucus in March. Since 2009, Lederer Hicks has been president and CEO of the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce in California, which serves the cities of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, and Agoura Hills.

**Eric Gnezda '79** was honored by the Columbus Foundation, a community foundation in Columbus, as one of its 18 "National Number Ones" for 2018 in February. The list

celebrates the accomplishments of individual business and nonprofit leaders who have made outstanding contributions to the Columbus community over the past year. Gnezda was selected for his production of "Songs at the Center," a Columbus music series on WOSU-TV that is distributed nationally. The program features a small group of singer-songwriters performing "in the round," sharing the stage with their audience.

### 1980s

**Greg Cielec '80** was among the writers who gave readings as part of Thomas Moore College's Creative Writing Vision Program's literary reading event in February in Crestview Hills, Ky. Cielec is a Cleveland-based

freelance writer and micro-publisher and is the author of the novels *My Cleveland Story* and *A Poem on a Barroom Wall*, and the novella *Home and Away Games*.

**Nina Stack '82** was named executive director of the Champlin Foundation in Cranston, R.I., in July 2017. The foundation funds capital projects in Rhode Island to foster better medical care, improve education, expand access to social services, conserve open spaces, preserve historic buildings, enrich the arts, and advance animal welfare. Previously, Stack was president of the New Jersey Council of Grant Makers.

**Timothy Corbin '84**, Vanderbilt University baseball coach, became the winningest coach in the program's history on March



### Peek of Peale in picture pick

The late **Norman Vincent Peale 1920**, an influential minister and esteemed alumnus, received posthumous exposure for his popular book *The Power of Positive Thinking* when it made a cameo in a scene from *The Shape of Water*, the movie selected as best picture at the 2018 Academy Awards. (Credit to **Laurie McGregor Connor '77** for her eagle eye.)



### Ferris hosts OWU men's golf team during N.Y. tournament

**Dave Ferris '73** and his wife Anne recently hosted the OWU men's golf team at their home in Pittsford, N.Y. This is the second time the Ferrises have hosted the golf team as it participated in the University of Rochester's Fred Kraevetz Invitational. Pictured from left are **Dom Caminiti '19**, **Will Efke '20**, **Nick Braydich '20**, **Shane Hoben '20**, Anne and Dave Ferris, **Ian Miller '99** (men's golf coach), and **Zach Shahrokhi '18**. Junior **Dom Caminiti '19** won the individual tournament and the Bishops finished second in overall team score. The Ferrises also hosted a group of alumni at their home for a dinner with the team, so local alumni could network with one another and meet some current students, including **Darrell** and **Mary Anna Fitch Geib '57**, **Pat** and **Caroline DeMambro Coakley '09**, **Al Heath '77**, **Jake Miller '14**, **Sue Bender Bloch '64** and her son **Doug Hannie** (a local PGA pro in Pittsford), **Ian Miller '99**, and **Ryan Jordan '09**.



### Suchy receives highest staff honor from Texas Tech

**Kathryn Suchy '78** (center) was awarded Texas Tech University's esteemed Chancellor's Award of Excellence in May, the highest honor a staff member can receive. The award recognizes exemplary service and commitment to the university by increasing departmental productivity and/or efficiency, motivating co-workers to do their best, and instilling pride in Texas Tech. Suchy is the senior director of IT at the Rawls College of Business.



4 with a 9-4 win over Houston. Corbin's 656th win broke the record previously held by predecessor Roy Mewbourne. He has been the Vanderbilt coach for 16 seasons.

**Susan Henkel Smith '84**, adult clinical nurse specialist at Baylor University Medical Center, Critical Care Services in Dallas, was elected to the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Board of Directors in March. A clinical nurse specialist for more than 20 years, Smith serves the 113 critical-care beds housed within four intensive care units at Baylor University Medical Center — one of the largest hospital networks in Texas. She also chairs the Baylor Scott & White Health system's Critical Care Council.

**Michael Piatt '88** was named head boys basketball coach for the New Knoxville Rangers in New Knoxville, Ohio, in April.

**Bridget Lavelle Houlahan '89** graduated with her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Virginia in May 2017. She is currently a tenure-track pediatric nursing faculty member at James Madison University. She resides in Charlottesville, Va., with her husband of 25 years, Scott Houlahan. They have two sons, Timothy Patrick, 16, and John Ryan, 12.

### 1990s

**Bruce Baker '91** lives in Xiamen, China, and owns or is partners in three small education-related companies. He was a history

teacher in the U.S. for almost 10 years. China has been Baker's home for eight years, and he got married there in 2011. His wife is a psychologist, and the couple travels all over Asia and are planning house-hunting trips to Italy, Spain, and the U.S. throughout next summer and fall, as semi-retirement looks like a definite possibility in the next three to five years. Baker is always looking for new ESL teachers to work for him in China, and OWU grads will always come first (especially Delta Tau Deltas). His email is baketeach@126.com.

**Luther Marshall Washington '91** was named president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Texas Township, Mich., in July 2017. Previously, he was president of New River

Community and Technical College in Beaver, W.Va.

**Maria Hudson McCauley '95** was elected to the American Library Association Executive Board in February. McCauley is director of libraries at the Cambridge (Mass.) Public Library and has served on the ALA Council since 2013.

**Rick Ritzler '95** was appointed to the Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees in May. Ritzler is the chief talent officer at Information Control Company, the largest privately held IT services firm in Ohio.

**Kira Zeyer Baldonado '97** was named vice president of public health and policy at Prevent Blindness, the nation's leading



### Reich and Rosenberg partner for disaster planning session

OWU alumni and friends **Mark Reich '81** (left), chief operating officer of Lean Enterprise Institute, and **Zack Rosenberg '95** (right), co-founder and CEO of SBP, a nonprofit organization that helps communities recover quickly from natural disasters, paused for a photo during a strategic planning session facilitated by the Lean Enterprise Institute at SBP's headquarters in New Orleans on May 10. The training session aimed to increase SBP's disaster recovery capabilities in preparation for hurricane season.



### Cheng-Ghosh family update

**Nicholas Cheng '03** and **Sumita Ghosh '03** live in Chicago with their two children, Sophia (5) and Noah (1). Nick is a credit risk director at Bank of America, covering a portfolio of Fortune 500 food and agribusiness companies. He underwrites, structures, and manages more than \$8 billion of credit exposure in a variety of products including syndicated loans, leasing, trading, and treasury management products. Sumi works at ACCO Brands and is the director of disruptive innovation, where she is responsible for looking at new categories and new channels. They both enjoy spending time with their kids, whether it is baking sugar cookies or going sledding, and hope to take them to OWU and show them where mommy and daddy met. OWU has a special place in their hearts.



### OWU friends gather at alumni-owned Tampa restaurant

OWU alumni **Jim Fishman '83** (left), **Ali Kahle '81** (middle), and **Tamra Foster Muir '81** (right) gathered in Tampa, Fla., in March. They dined at Cru Cellars, a restaurant owned by **Torrey Bingham '03** (back) and **Jennifer Loring Bingham '04**.

volunteer eye health and safety organization, in April. Baldonado was previously director of the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness since its founding in 2011.

**Cynthia Galaty Galabota '97** was named development officer at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library in Pagosa Springs, Colo., in April.

**Sean Harris '97** was sworn in as president of the Ohio Association for Justice on May 3 at the organization's annual convention in Columbus. The OAJ is the only statewide association dedicated to preserving the 7th Amendment and the right to trial by jury. Harris is a partner with the Columbus firm Kitrick, Lewis, &

Harris Co., LPA, where he helps people in the areas of product liability, wrongful death, and personal injury.

## 2000s

**Eleni Drakatos '00** was elected by her peers to serve as the next president of the Ohio State Bar Association in Columbus. As president-elect, she now serves as an officer of the association and will take over as president in July 2019. Drakatos is a plaintiffs' attorney and the principal in a small family firm.

**Stephanie Calondis Geiger '00** was named executive director of SPI - Where Science and Play Intersect in Mount Vernon, Ohio, in February. SPI provides play opportunities for children to learn about science, both in

its dedicated play space and at many community events.

**Rita McMillen '00** was named CPEA Educator of the Year for Canton City Schools in Canton, Ohio. She teaches geology and environmental science.

**Amy Davis '01** joined the Occupational Health Department of Littleton (N.H.) Regional Healthcare in February.

**Matthew McGinnity '01** was inducted into the Beverly High School Sports Hall of Fame in Beverly, Mass., in April. McGinnity was a top-scoring lacrosse player during his time at Beverly High and played lacrosse at OWU.

**Matthew Salts '01** and his business, Charqui Jerky,

were featured in *This Week Community News* on Feb. 6. Salts runs Charqui Jerky in Powell, Ohio, selling award-winning locally made beef jerky at farmers markets, events, corporate cafeterias, his retail storefront, and other outlets.

**Jose "Pepe" Villasenor III '01** was named head football coach at St. Joseph High School in Santa Maria, Calif., on March 1.

**Burton Welly '01** was named head of special situations and distressed credit trading at Cowen Inc., a financial services firm in New York City, in February.

**Andrew Eich '02** was named the future executive vice president and chief financial officer of the combined Unimin and Fairmount



### Young Alumni Award winner visits campus

**Driss Sekkat '06** returned from his documentary filmmaking work overseas, including in Indonesia, and visited Mowry Alumni Center on campus in March to pick up his Young Alumni Award, which was awarded during the 2016 Reunion Weekend.



### Palmer's African bird research featured in *National Geographic*

**Meredith Palmer '11**, a Ph.D. candidate in behavioral ecology at the University of Minnesota, published a research paper on African birds that sleep in the armpits of giraffes, and the topic was picked up by *National Geographic* in February. Palmer's research, published in the *African Journal of Ecology* in February, reveals photographic evidence of yellow-billed oxpeckers sleeping nestled on the bodies of giraffes, water buffaloes, and elands. These mammals are a food source for the birds during the day, but Palmer says the nighttime closeness is likely safe and comfortable, while potentially serving to deter competitors. Palmer and her research partners discovered the oxpeckers' nighttime habits through rare photos from a large multi-year camera trap study in Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.



### Ottney-Grover wedding

**Sarah Ottney '06** married Drew Grover on Aug. 13, 2016, in Toledo, Ohio. From left: **Kristen Weimer Seigel '07**, **Lee Seigel '06**, the bride, **Lauren Blyth '06**, and **Abigail Maley Berkey '06**.

Santrol companies in March. The two companies are slated to merge in mid-2018 to form Covia, providing proppant and industrial materials solutions. Eich has served as senior vice president and chief commercial officer of Unimin, which is headquartered in New Canaan, Conn., since June 2016 and has been a member of the Unimin Board since January 2016.

**Clifton R.S. Williams '06** was named district director for Ohio's 11th Congressional District in April, serving U.S. Rep. Marcia L. Fudge. Williams had been serving as acting district director since February and was previously senior policy advisor.

**Tommy Crabill '09** was named head men's soccer coach and assistant professor of physical

education at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass., in May.

## 2010s

**Kristen Lear '11**, a student in the Integrative Conservation doctoral program at the University of Georgia, received a Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Scholar Award in May. P.E.O. is a nonprofit organization that promotes educational opportunities for women throughout the United States and Canada. The scholarship will help fund Lear's work involving the endangered Mexican long-nosed bat, which is under threat of extinction in part because of human harvesting of its main food source, agave plants. Through her doctoral research, Lear is working to raise

awareness of the issue among rural Mexican communities while creating and implementing bat-friendly agave management programs.

**Bhava Murali '12** recently graduated with a Ph.D. in molecular cell biology from Washington University in St. Louis. Her thesis work was "Targeting the microenvironment: Approaches for reducing breast cancer metastases and chemotherapy-induced bone loss."

**Taimur Islam '13** returned to OWU this spring to deliver the 2018 Muller Award Lecture, "Quantum Encryption: Internet Security in the Age of Quantum Computing Era." Islam earned his Ph.D. in physics from Duke University and recently began conducting postdoctoral research at Ohio State University, developing encryption technology to secure the internet from the threats of quantum computing.

**Nicole Blatchford '15** received her M.B.A from the University of Akron in August 2017 and her doctorate from the University of Akron School of Law in May 2018.

**Ryan Haddad '15** is an actor and playwright whose one-man play, *Hi, Are You Single?*, was included in Cleveland Play House's 13th annual New Ground Theatre Festival May 17-19.

**Kyle Simon '15**, a development psychology student at the University of Kentucky, was the recipient of a research grant from the University of Kentucky Office of LGBTQ Resources in May.

**Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred '15** was named assistant coordinator for the 2019 season at the Church of the Brethren Workcamp Ministry in Elgin, Ill., in February.

**Evan Lee '16** was named assistant technical director for the Richmond Kickers Youth Soccer Club in Richmond, Va., in March.

**Hannah Simpson '16** is communications manager and an actor at Odd's Bodkins, a Chicago Shakespeare ensemble that produces classic plays with unconventional casts and staging. In May, Odd's Bodkins performed the world premiere of *The Tragedy of Tom Riddle*, which Simpson and six classmates wrote as the final project for their "How to Write Shakespeare" course at Ohio Wesleyan. The play is the origin story of the Harry Potter series' Voldemort, written in the style of Shakespeare.

## Births 1990s

**Aaron Granger '93** and his wife Stephanie welcomed daughter Lincoln on March 22. Lincoln joins siblings Noah and Shelby.

## 2000s

**Jennifer Blair Hall '00** and her husband Randy welcomed daughter Katherine Margaret on Feb. 19. Baby Kate was also welcomed by big brother Daniel.

**Michael Long '03** and **Erika Howland Long '04** welcomed their third daughter, Hannah Rose, on April 8.

**Sarah Ottney Grover '06** and her husband Drew welcomed their first child, Marvin, in March.

**Meg Flood Struble '08** and **Matthew Struble '10** welcomed daughter Grace Marguerite on March 21.

## 2010s

**Hannah Palicka Rife '11** and her husband Justin welcomed daughter Lorelai Gayle on Dec. 7.



### Legacy family attends Symphonic Wind concert

The family of **Natalie Baker Campbell '19** (front center) gathered on campus to hear her perform in the OWU Symphonic Wind Ensemble on March 25. Among them were five OWU alumni, pictured from left (back row): **Judy Conrad DeVere '62**, **John Baker '55**, **Emily Moore '16**, (front row): **Hannah Baker Rawlings '17**, Natalie, and **Laura Baker Campbell '87**.

## In Memoriam

### 1930s

**Elinor Bale Brelsford '38**, of Santa Barbara, Calif., Jan. 30, at the age of 101. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**E. Ann Haney Johnston '38**, of Martinsburg, W.Va., April 16, at the age of 101. She was predeceased by two brothers, **George Haney '32** and **Ralph Haney '34**. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Edward Stewart '38**, of Deerfield Beach, Fla., Feb. 21, at the age of 103.

### 1940s

**Betty Babcock Covert '41**, of Portsmouth, Ohio, April 5, at the age of 98. She was predeceased by her husband, **Donald Covert '41**, and two sisters, **Mary Babcock Scurlock '49** and **Joan Babcock Eynon '44**. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Betty Goodrich Scott '41**, of York, Ohio, Jan. 28, at the age of 98. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Yvonne Renner Brecht '43**, of Parker, Colo., March 31, at the age of 97. She was predeceased by her husband, **Henry Brecht '41**, and is survived by a daughter, **Mary Lou Brecht Johnson '73**. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Charles Huffman Jr. '44**, of Westlake, Ohio, March 12, at the age of 95. He was predeceased by a brother, **Robert Huffman '49**, and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Naomi Perkins Shaffer '45**, of Bermuda Run, N.C., March 18, at the age of 95. She was predeceased by her husband, **George Shaffer '43**, and was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Grace Putnam Schantz '46**, of Orrville, Ohio, March 10, at the age of 93. She earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in 1947, and went on to work as a feature writer for *The Daily Record* and as a high school teacher in Orrville. She married Bruce Schantz in 1948, and raised seven children, including Peter Schantz, the director of the OWU Physical Plant. She was predeceased by a sister, **Barbara Putnam Rush '48**. Grace was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Audrey James Fox '47**, of Bradford, Pa., May 11, at the age of 93. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Catherine Wilson McNamara '47**, of Canton, Ohio, April 10, at the age of 92. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Elizabeth Nelson '47**, of Auburn, Ind., March 26, at the age of 92. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Joan Ballantine Newman '47**, of Hilton Head, S.C., March 14, at the age of 91. She was predeceased by a brother, **Ralph Ballantine '41**, and a sister, **Betty Ballantine Luft '38**.

**Phyllis Strasburg Rowland '47**, of Bay Village, Ohio, May 12, at the age of 94. She was predeceased by her mother, **Helen Hudson Strasburg 1922**, and two brothers, **Robert Strasburg '58** and **William Strasburg '50**. She is survived by a son, **Theodore Rowland '77**. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**W. Scott Westerman '47**, of Ann Arbor, Mich., April 18, at the age of 93. He was predeceased by his wife, **R. Marcine Percy Westerman '46**, and was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.



**Phoebe Sears Strahler '48**, of Peachtree City, Ga., Feb. 9, at the age of 92. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Phoebe was born on March 6, 1925. She married Robert Francis Strahler on June 22, 1948, in Columbus. After graduating from OWU, Phoebe taught music in Columbus while her husband finished veterinary studies at Ohio State University. They moved in 1951 to Illinois, where they raised five children. Phoebe helped operate her husband's veterinary practice and played the church organ. She and her husband enjoyed golfing with friends. Phoebe also played bridge and liked the occasional dry martini. The Strahlers moved to Florida in 1980. After her husband died in 2005, Phoebe relocated to suburban Atlanta to be near three of her children. She is survived by her children, seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Chester Williams Jr. '48**, of Rye, N.Y., Feb. 6, at the age of 97.

**Avis Butman Farber '49**, of Medford, Ore., March 11, at the age of 91. She is survived by a brother, **Donald Butman '58**.

**Paul Hummel Jr. '49**, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, April 6, at the age of 92. He was predeceased by a brother, **David Hummel '52**, and is survived by his wife, **Shirley Moore Hummel '48**. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Betty Hubbard Bennett Irwin '49**, of Columbus, May 9, at the

age of 89. She was predeceased by her first husband, **Henry Hubbard '49**, and her second husband, Jack Irwin. She is survived by a sister, **Juanita Bennett Weber '53**. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Roberta Williams Siegfried '49**, of Wadsworth, Ohio, March 9, at the age of 90. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

### 1950s

**Patrick Marrs Jr. '50**, of North Charleston, S.C., May 7, at the age of 90. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**C. Kenneth Storer '50**, of Columbus, April 26, at the age of 91.

**Robert M. Olds '50**, of Brigham City, Utah, March 12, at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, **Catherine Winkler Olds '49**. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

**Jeanne Bigalow Tripp '50**, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Feb. 24, at the age of 89. She is survived by a granddaughter, **Catharine Gardner Tripp '02**, and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Ruth Sinnett Westbrook '50**, of Columbus, May 8, at the age of 89. She is survived by a sister, **Arlene Sinnett Harshman '44**, and was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Carolyn "Kitty" Carr Eberhardt '51**, of Pittsburgh, March 29, at the age of 88. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Herman Luchs Jr. '51**, of Riverside, Calif., March 20, at the age of 88. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Elizabeth "Betty" Hart Raup '51**, of Springfield, Ohio, Sept. 1, 2017, at the age of 88. She was predeceased by her husband, **George Raup '49**, and a brother,

**James Hart '37**. She is survived by a daughter, **Janet Raup Gross '81**, and a granddaughter, **Charlotte Gross '20**. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority. *Incomplete information was included in the Winter 2018 issue of the magazine, we regret the oversight.*

**Paul "Ron" Pendery '51**, of Fort Thomas, Ky., July 4, 2017, at the age of 87. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Elizabeth Lyon Beachy '52**, of Sandusky, Ohio, Feb. 14, at the age of 87. She was predeceased by her mother, **F. Lucile Budd Lyon '23**, and was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**William Kuhne '52**, of Champaign, Ill., Feb. 2, at the age of 85. He is survived by a brother, **Christopher Kuhne '59**, and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**James Wagner '52**, of Simsbury, Conn., Oct. 6, at the age of 87. He was predeceased by his parents, **Justine Heasley Wagner '25** and **H. Hughes Wagner '25**. He is survived by a sister, **Mary Wagner Manley '52**, and two sons, **Jeffrey Wagner '83** and **James Wagner '80**. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. *Incorrect information was included in the Spring issue. We regret the error.*

**Nancy Campbell Brawley '53**, of Winston-Salem, N.C., March 14, at the age of 87. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Barbara Kunz Kiernan '53**, of Fayetteville, N.Y., Jan. 30, at the age of 86. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Karen Klopp Petry '53**, of Newark, Del., March 25, at the age of 87. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Sam Morgan '54**, of West Melbourne, Fla., April 19, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife, **Diane Carpenter Morgan '55**, daughter Amy, and son Scott. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Peter Whedon '54**, of Kenwood, Ohio, Feb. 21, at the age of 85. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Richard Brautigam '55**, of Decatur, Ill., May 11, at the age of 85. He was predeceased by his father, **Chester Brautigam '30**, and was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Albert DeMartin Jr. '55**, of Hamilton Square, N.J., April 17, at the age of 86. He was predeceased by his wife, **Nancy Weaver DeMartin '56**, and was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**Rev. Joseph Goetz '55**, of Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 24, at the age of 84. His sister, **Sue Goetz Doody '56**, passed away just two months later (see right). Goetz was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**Charles Helm '55**, of Cleveland, March 22, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife, **Judith Hawley Helm '56**, and a son, **Carter Helm '83**. Charles was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, and he served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952.

**Carolyn Carrigan Wells '55**, of Toledo, Ohio, April 1, at the age of 84. She was predeceased by a brother, **Warren Carrigan '49**. She is survived by her husband, **L. Jack Wells '53**, a daughter, **Elizabeth Wells Weeks '79**, and two grandchildren, **Dale Cooney '92** and **Sarah Wells '14**. She was a member of the OWU Board of Trustees, the OWU Tower Society, and Pi Beta Phi sorority. She received an OWU Alumni Award in 2000.

**John Wing '55**, of Painesville, Ohio, April 22, at the age of 85.

**Thomas Bonnell '56**, of Canton, Ohio, July 15, 2017, at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife, **Georgia Cummings Bonnell '56**, their children, and grandson **Jacob Bonnell '13**. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. *Incorrect information was included in the Winter issue. We regret the error.*

**Sue Goetz Doody '56**, of Columbus, April 26, at the age of 83. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She was predeceased by a brother, **Rev. Joseph Goetz '55** (see above), and is survived by her children, **Trish Doody Elkind '83**, **Chris Doody '83**, **Rick Doody '80**, and Beth Anne Doody Anderson. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, who were her pride and joy. A native of Dayton, Ohio, Sue graduated from Oakwood High School. She went on to graduate from OWU with a degree in education. She taught elementary school in Columbus City Schools for three years. During her travels, Sue developed a love for cooking and great food. This passion propelled her to share her table with others, first with cooking classes in her home, followed by a catering business, and culminating in her beloved Lindsey's restaurant. She operated Lindsey's, a Columbus institution in German Village, for more than three decades. Sue served on many boards and supported many organizations within the community.

**Richard Henry '56**, of Jackson, Ohio, April 22, at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife, **Marjorie Mittel Henry '57**, and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Diane Petersen Kopp '56**, of Greenwich, Conn., Feb. 1, at the age of 83. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**William "Bill" Lodge '56**, of Estes Park, Colo., March 3, at the age of 85. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Walter Sherman Jr. '56**, of Nokomis, Fla., May 11, at the age of 84. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**Robert Spolar '57**, of Southington, Conn., March 19, at the age of 82. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**John Knapp '58**, of Waynesboro, Va., March 9, at the age of 81. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Albert Cinelli '59**, of Youngstown, Ohio, May 12, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, **Suzanne Vacha Cinelli '60**, a sister, **Dorothy Cinelli Powers '62**, and a daughter, **Pamela Cinelli '94**. He was a member of the OWU Tower Society and Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Carol Matthews Keighron '59**, of Hendersonville, N.C., Feb. 28, at the age of 80. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

## 1960s

**Catherine Rusk Howard '61**, of Newcomerstown, Ohio, April 12, at the age of 78. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Joanne White Nye '61**, of Orwell, Ohio, Feb. 6, at the age of 78. She is survived by a brother, **Robert White '63**, and was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Arthur Pape '61**, of Wheaton, Ill. and Woodcock, Pa., Feb. 15, at the age of 78. He was predeceased by his father, **Edward Pape '34**, and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Joseph Razek '61**, of Georgetown, Texas, April 17, at the age of 78. He was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity.

**Gayle Binder Treon '61**, of Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 31, at the age of 79. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Judith Hudson McDowell '62**, of Columbus, May 6, at the age of 77. She is survived by a daughter, **Alaska Black '90**, and a son, Jason Black.

**Charles Mills Jr. '62**, of Bonita Springs, Fla., Feb. 23, at the age of 77. He was predeceased by his father, **Charles Mills 1919**, and is survived by two sisters, **Mary Mills Neely '49**, and **Rachel Mills Gherlein '47**. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Sheila Wagner Ploger '62**, of Oberlin, Ohio, Oct. 30, at the age of 76. She is survived by a brother, **Randall Wagner '60**, and was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**Leo Basbagill '63**, of Milford, Conn., Dec. 30, at the age of 76. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**Marian Peed Weisz '63**, of Waterton, N.Y., Feb. 25, at the age of 76. She was predeceased by her father, **Paul Peed '30**, aunt **Marian Seymour Simmermacher '31**, and, by six months, twin sister **Martha Cline Peed '63**. Marian received her master's in education and community relations as part of the National Teacher Corps Program. She was the city of Boston health coordinator of elder affairs and was an adult education specialist with the Army Continuing Education Services, working with U.S. soldiers in Germany, Fort Drum, N.Y., and at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

**William Gleason Jr. '64**, of Seattle, Feb. 3, at the age of 74. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the OWU Tower Society.

**Diane Dickerson King '65**, of Victor, N.Y., Jan. 25, at the age 74. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Keith Kistler '65**, of Lancaster, Ohio, Oct. 15, at the age of 74.

**Betty Ann Bowser '66**, of Mexico, March 16, at the age of 73. Bowser was a renowned TV news correspondent, working for many years for *PBS NewsHour*, where she covered hundreds of stories, including the Oklahoma City bombing, life in New Orleans after Hurricane

Katrina, and the debate over Obamacare. Bowser was among the first generation of female broadcasters, beginning her career at a local Virginia TV station and advancing to a position at CBS News, where she was the co-anchor of *30 Minutes*, a newsmagazine program for children that won four Emmys as well as DuPont and Peabody awards, before joining *NewsHour* in 1986. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the OWU Board of Trustees.

**Carolyn Baumann Morris '66**, of Atlanta, April 1, at the age of 73.

**Robert Cleaveland '67**, of University Place, Wash., Feb. 14, at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife, **Deanna Davis Cleaveland '68**, and was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Gary Peterson '68**, of Louisville, Ky., April 30, at the age of 72. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Lynn Ryder Cain '69**, of Red Lodge, Mont., April 28, at the age of 70. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

## 1970s

**Melissa Brown Massman '74**, of Coffeyville, Kan., March 29, at the age of 65.

**Kenneth Mutch '74**, of Foresthill, Calif., March 27, at the age of 66.

**Tommy Robertson Jr. '74**, of Westerville, Ohio, Feb. 4.

**Bruce Wilson '74**, of Milwaukee, Jan. 28, at the age of 66. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Rina Sky Wolfgang '74**, of High Point, N.C., Feb. 8, at the age of 65.

**Donald Haley '79**, of Amelia, Ohio, March 26, at the age of 60. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

## 2010s

**Todd D'Andrea '17**, of Columbus, March 24, at the age of 31.

## Faculty/Staff

**Katherine "Kitty" Kutzli Lester '44**, of Joliet, Ill., Feb. 2, at the age of 95. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She returned to OWU after her graduation in the dual post of assistant dean of freshmen women and University social coordinator. It was then that she met and later married a member of the music faculty, Paul Lester. The couple moved to Joliet and had three daughters, and Kitty went on to teach kindergarten, third grade, and developed a gifted program.

Myrna Jean Morton, of Biglerville, Pa., Feb. 10, at the age of 88. She was a librarian at OWU.

Roland Pfaff, of Joyce, Wash., March 31, at the age of 77. He was a professor of philosophy at OWU.

Betty Trego, of Delaware, Ohio, Feb. 15, at the age of 90. Betty worked at OWU from 1965 to 1997, serving as a secretary in the office of public relations and secretary to the Board of Trustees. She served as a "surrogate mother" to the many students she befriended over the years. She was known for contributing far beyond the

formal capacity of her role, serving as an integral part of both the office and broader campus community. She is survived by daughters Jane Maggio and **Lori Trego '83**.

## Sympathy to

**Marilyn McGarrity Minford '63** of Winston-Salem, N.C., who lost her husband of 45 years, James Locke Minford, when he passed away suddenly and unexpectedly of cardiac arrest on June 14, 2017.

**Suzanne Farmer Campbell '72** for the death of her father, C. Richard Farmer, of Lancaster, Pa., on Feb. 7.

**Elizabeth Eynon Wetherell '78** and **David Wetherell '76** for the death of Elizabeth's mother, Susan Eynon, April 27, at the age of 85.

**Amy Herrington Ventre '10** for the unexpected death of her mother, Dawn Herrington, on Jan. 25. Dawn was Amy's biggest supporter both in college and beyond, and was a particularly big fan of OWU, as Amy as the first member of the family to graduate from college. Amy is pictured here with her mother and father, John Herrington.



## 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  
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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 Winter 2019 OWU Magazine is Oct. 5.

## Richard D. Gordin '52

**Richard D. Gordin**, who coached at Ohio Wesleyan University for 39 years and remained active in the Ohio Wesleyan and golf communities for another 25 years as a mentor and invaluable resource, died March 29. He was 89.



Gordin returned to his alma mater in 1954 as head coach of the soccer, swimming, and golf teams. He guided 22 of his last 25 men's golf teams to the NCAA Division III or College Division tournaments. Gordin was named NCAA Division III Coach of the Year in 1987 and 1993.

**Jon Whithaus '91**, who played for Gordin and later coached the Battling Bishop men's golf team, said: "Dr.

Gordin changed the course of so many lives over his decades of service dedicated to guiding the development of the many young people who had the honor of being associated with him. ... He set a standard of excellence through his own personal conduct, which consistently allowed his genuine desire to help others excel."

**Jamie Green '93**, who was a member of Gordin's final Ohio Wesleyan team and is now the men's golf coach at Duke University, said "I remember when I first looked at the possibility of coaching, I went to a coaching convention and there were like nine coaches who had played for Dr. Gordin at Ohio Wesleyan, and that made me realize the impact he had upon us. ...I will remember with great fondness his gentle nature. When you were around him, you felt important. At the same time, he was a very passionate competitor."

Ohio Wesleyan men's golf Coach **Ian Miller '99** said: "Dr. Gordin epitomized the term gentleman, and his soft-spoken intensity was an incredible trait that touched everyone. His accomplishments as a collegiate coach, administrator, and competitor are too numerous to mention, but they are highly overshadowed by his accomplishments as a husband,

a father, a mentor, and friend. Ohio Wesleyan was graced with 'Doc's' amazing presence for 65 years. He will be missed dearly by the OWU community, but his legacy will never be forgotten."

Gordin served as director of the Physical Education Program at Ohio Wesleyan from 1960 to 1967, as associate chair of the Physical Education Department from 1967 to 1970, and as co-chair of the department from 1971 to 1977.

In 1966, he earned his doctorate from The Ohio State University, completing his dissertation on the life and career of legendary golfer Bobby Jones and becoming one of the foremost authorities on Jones.

He became Ohio Wesleyan's athletics director in 1977, overseeing the development of the Branch Rickey Center and remodeling of Edwards Gymnasium and Pfeiffer Natatorium.

Gordin also helped develop the North Coast Athletic Conference, the first intercollegiate athletic conference in the country to treat men's and women's sports equally at its inception, with Ohio Wesleyan becoming a charter member in 1983.

During Gordin's first seven years as athletics director, Ohio Wesleyan won the OAC's coveted all-sports trophy three

times, finished second three times and third once.

Gordin returned to full-time teaching, coaching, and writing in 1985. In 1994, Gordin was only the eighth person to receive the Golf Coaches Association of America's Honor Award. He was inducted into the Ohio Wesleyan Athletics Hall of Fame in 1993.

He was a charter member of the Intercollegiate Golf Coaches Hall of Fame, was president of the Golf Coaches Association of America, and served as historian and archivist at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, site of the annual Memorial Tournament.

A native of South Charleston, Ohio, Gordin graduated from Dublin High School, then served in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1948.

The Ohio Wesleyan Athletics Department annually bestows the Dr. Richard Gordin Award, which recognizes the highest cumulative grade point average among senior male student-athletes. The Ohio Wesleyan men's golf team annually hosts the Gordin Collegiate Classic, a fall tournament that includes 12 of the best NCAA Division III teams.

Gordin is survived by his wife, **Paula Egan Gordin '51**, and their sons, **Richard D. Gordin '73**, **Robert H. Gordin '75**, and **Douglas P. Gordin '78**. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. ■

## Carl Pinkele

Carl Pinkele, the Honorable Charles W. Fairbanks professor of politics and government from 1976 to 2010, died May 30 in Haymarket, Virginia. He was 77.

Pinkele served as chair of the Politics and Government Department and was director of the Arneson Institute for Practical Politics and Public Affairs for more than two decades. In the latter role, he organized frequent lectures and roundtables on political issues, featuring leading figures from academia, journalism, and government. He also helped arrange countless internships for students in the Wesleyan in Washington Program, which he created.

He taught courses in American politics, comparative politics, racial politics, environmental politics, and political theory. After leaving OWU, he served as a visiting fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He has also served as an advisor and consultant to political candidates across the country.

Pinkele was known as a demanding professor, but his sense of humor was legendary with students and faculty alike. At one point, students created a Facebook page dedicated to his witty comments and retorts from their classes. He also enlivened Mock Convention debates with his pointed challenges to the

proposals and authority of other speakers.

He published books on a wide range of subjects, including European politics, several monographs dealing with Sino-Soviet relations, and essays on public policy, comparative judicial politics, judicial elections, and democratic theory.

Pinkele is survived by his wife, Barbara, who worked at the University for many years in the English Language Program and the Writing Resource Center, and by their daughter, Abigail. His family suggests those who wish to may make gifts to the Wesleyan in Washington Program in his honor. ■



# DATA-DRIVEN TO EXCEL

By A.I. Davies '19

When it comes to data, **Anna Cooper '13** has been cracking the political code since she was a teenager. By combining her passion for social justice with the data skills she's learned volunteering for political campaigns, Cooper went from registering people to vote to working in the White House, and she now manages data for an organization with nearly half a million members.

Cooper was recognized with a 2018 DCFemTech Award, awarded to "Power Women in Code, Design, and Data," at the *Washington Post* building on May 7, for her coding work with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and developing an in-house polling program for the organization. She also designed and implemented a voter turnout mail experiment for the 2017 mayoral races of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, and served as a member of the organizational committee for Crack the Code, an event for women and "genderqueer" people working in data, technology, and analytics.

Cooper now works as the director of data and information systems for the Communications Workers of America (CWA), a labor union representing more than 400,000 members across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. She collects and organizes data on all active members. "I have an opportunity to use my privilege and expertise to contribute to something larger than myself," she says.

"I'm also constantly inspired by our members — the hard work they do in factories, call centers, airplanes, newsrooms, and how they'll put themselves on the line for the working conditions they and their colleagues deserve."

Though Cooper originally thought she might go into the sciences, she became interested in community activism through her involvement at OWU as an intern at the Women's Resource Center, as a sister of Delta Zeta, as president of the Panhellenic Council, and as a member of the House of Peace and Justice. "I had this pivotal moment where I thought, 'What's stopping me from going into that kind of work?'" she says.

She decided to take the fall semester of her senior year off to organize in Knox County for Barack Obama's re-election, and spent her senior year semester interning for the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, a nonprofit that advocates for gender equality.

Cooper got her start in the political field at the age of 17, when her mother signed her up to help register people to vote. "I was so nervous to talk to strangers, but I set a 2008 county record for the most voter registrations in a day," she says.

Working in different field roles inspired Cooper to explore the targeting behind campaigning. She found her niche in 2014 by landing her first data-based role in the Senate campaign for



Anna Cooper with her 2018 DCFemTech Award

**"I started volunteering and felt so affirmed and empowered by how I could contribute to a movement when I push myself beyond what's comfortable."**

— Anna Cooper

Alison Lundergan Grimes in Kentucky, who took on 30-year Senate veteran Mitch McConnell. "I committed to learning everything I needed to know about 'data' on the job. I had a can-do attitude, passion for the job, a team of supportive women, and folks who could vouch for the fact that I'm reliable and learn quickly," Cooper says. "It was one of the hardest jobs I've had, but I've been hooked ever since."

Cooper cites President Obama as the reason she fell in love with political work. "I started volunteering and felt so affirmed and empowered by how I could contribute to a movement when I push myself beyond what's comfortable. Campaign politics became a venue for me to unite my passion for social justice and discover my confidence," she says.

After a few years of working on campaigns across Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia, Cooper secured a position in the Presidential Personnel Office of the Obama White House as associate director of technology and operations. In this position, she managed logistics for all political appointments, focusing on Senate nominations. "It was an incredible honor to serve in the Obama administration and work in the White House after all the work I'd done in Ohio on both of Barack Obama's presidential campaigns," Cooper says.

In addition to passing a six-month FBI background check that made her eligible for top-secret clearance, Cooper also got to participate in women's leadership panels with NASA rocket scientists and the head of the National Science Foundation, attend an arrival ceremony for Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and breathe the rarefied air of the West Wing.

Because data management is such a new field, Cooper has had most of her training and education on the job. Her broad liberal arts education, which features a major in French and a double minor in women and gender studies (WGS) and biology, has also given her career advantages.

"The WGS coursework has been the most practical. Learning about the history of work, gendered communication styles, and socialization has been wildly helpful to navigating male-dominated fields and learning how to trust my own voice," she says.

Cooper has been fortunate to combine her seemingly disparate interests. "One of the things I love about my current job is that it's a combination of every job I've had, plus a lot of new challenges," she says. "It requires the creativity, persistence, and 'hard asks' of a field organizer, targeting and systems know-how from someone who's been on the ground with data and tech tools, and the political acumen, tact, and understanding of bureaucracy of a White House position." ■



## TRENI '12 DROPS SECOND ALBUM, 'ALPHABET CITY'



**Morgan Treni '12** has a confession to make. As an Ohio Wesleyan freshman, she sometimes sneaked into Hamilton-Williams Campus Center at 5:30 a.m. to sit at the grand piano and write songs.

Treni's early morning efforts resulted in her first album, 2014's *The Dreamer and Other Essays*, hailed by one music critic as "an impressive recording by a well-developed, literate singer-songwriter whose college major in writing comes through."

Fast-forward to June 27, 2018, and Treni – with her band Morgan Treni & the Landscapes – released a second album, *Alphabet City*.

Instead of the jazz-folk flavor of *The Dreamer*, the new album rocks harder with "a lot of dynamics, genres, and colors," Treni says. But it still contains all-original music penned by Treni, an English major with a nonfiction writing concentration.

"Everything started with my writing degree," Treni says, noting especially "two pivotal professors at Ohio Wesleyan who inspired me:" Tom Burns and Michelle Disler, formerly with the English Department.

Treni still recalls the life-changing advice shared by Burns, who retired in May: "Class, you can get anything you want in the world with rhetoric."

"I will never forget that opening phrase," Treni says of her first day in Burns' class. "It never fails to encourage me."

Since graduating, Treni has created both a record label, Lobstage Records, and an upscale live-music provider, Golden Estate Entertainment, which serves the New York communities of Manhattan, the Brooklyn waterfront, northern New Jersey, and Westchester County.

"I have continued to grow into my writing degree since I left Ohio Wesleyan," Treni says. "It's really the gift that keeps giving, but I did find a safe space to begin exploring my identity on campus."

Learn more about Morgan Treni & the Landscapes online at [morgantreni.com](http://morgantreni.com). ■

– Cole Hatcher

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# THE ONLY WAY TO BE A GREAT DANCER

*Adapted from the 2018 Commencement address by Paul Schimmel '62, Ph.D., Hahn Professor of Molecular Medicine and of Chemistry at the Scripps Research Institute, formerly with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was MacArthur Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics. He is author or co-author of about 500 scientific papers and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Inventors, American Philosophical Society, and American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the co-founder/founding director of seven publicly traded biopharmaceutical corporations and of a number of private corporations.*

**T**oday I will tell you the only way to be a great dancer.

First, let's go back to 1842, to a woman named Lavinia Warren. She was 32 inches tall, but in every way a woman with the same feelings and emotions as us all. But an outcast. So, she joined a circus, to be a curiosity like an orangutan.



Now forward to 1988 at Massachusetts General Hospital. The chief of pediatrics is with the teary parents of an infant girl who will die in a few days.

Now to 2002, to a private home. A 21-year-old woman is dying of a sepsis blood infection.

I started medical school because I wanted to help people. But I left and went to graduate school because I was more drawn to math, physics, biology.

Why did I tell you those three stories? They are medically related and summarize where I had arrived in my thinking and why I had the life I did.

Along the way, I saw a great dancer being interviewed. He was asked: "How do you become a great dancer?" He said: "Study books and diagrams and work at it. Also, watch and imitate what you see on a video and you will be better. Get a teacher, and be better yet.

"But there's only one way to be a truly great dancer: Just get up and dance like no one's looking."

Why: Because self-consciousness, what other people think, and self doubts hold you down.

Back to the Massachusetts General Hospital and the dying infant girl. The pediatrician suggests an experimental (not yet approved) drug under development. He gets lots of criticism from other doctors, pushing back. But he moved ahead anyway, got approval from regulatory authorities. That was 30 years ago. Today the infant girl is a wife and a mom, living a normal life.

What about the woman dying of sepsis? One of the companies I started developed a medicine for sepsis. We were far from approval. We called the FDA. We talked to the parents. With approval from both parties, we injected her. She revived. She went on with her life.

I asked our CEO years later, after the drug got approval, "How many people would not be living if we hadn't started this company?" After aggregating data the answer was: 300,000.

This was my ultimate payoff. Had I been a doctor, let's say I saw 500 patients a year for 40 years — that's 20,000 people.

Now, Lavinia Warren. She had a defective gene that controls growth hormone production. But the hormone was not available. One of two founders of Genentech wanted to prove he could make it by recombinant DNA methods. He had enormous pushback, because this was considered at the time to be dangerous genetic engineering. He pushed through. That became standard therapy for any child diagnosed with the defect. Now that child can grow to normal stature.

In all three cases people pushed through the dogma and consensus that holds you back. If you don't, then "You will some day look back and realize that your life was the result of other people's thinking" (Steve Jobs). Echoed by a line from singer Bob Seger: "I wish I didn't know now what I didn't know then."

Now, another graduation ceremony many years ago at MIT. President Jerome Wiesner gave the commencement address and reflected back on his previous commencement speech. He'd heard a graduating senior say, "Dr. Wiesner said something that day that was more important than my entire four-year MIT education."

Wiesner went out after the ceremony and found the student and asked: "What did I say that was so profound?"

The student said: "I lined up to receive my diploma. When my name was called out, I walked across the stage. You handed me my diploma. Then, you put your hand on my back, gave me a push and said: 'Keep moving.'"

That was it!

Just keep moving. Dance through the dogma and consensus as if no one is looking. ■

To submit an essay or idea for consideration as a future Final Word, email [magazine@owu.edu](mailto:magazine@owu.edu).

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