Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors

Fall, 2022 Meeting Weekend Recap

October 6 - 8, 2022

By Denise Brenner ‘00, Vice-President

The energy, thrill and excitement of Ohio Wesleyan Homecoming & Family Weekend never disappoints - with changing colors on campus, the healthy spirit of athletic competition, reuniting with old friends, and meeting new ones. It’s such an appropriate setting for the first Alumni Association Board (AB) of Directors gathering of the new academic year. We started our fall, 2022 AB weekend on Thursday evening with a staff/board member social, where we welcomed our new members: Nisha Achieng '22, Victoria Gresh ‘88, Susanne Mussenden ‘90, Meme Onwudiwe '15 and Paida Saburi '02. It’s here that we received our marching orders for the [Emerging Leaders Reception](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ohiowesleyanuniversity/sets/72177720302860089/), one of the AB signature events that allows us to connect with students. Upon checking in, attendees pose for a polaroid photo with the Bishop that’s used later to help us remember the emerging leaders we met. During this event, our emcee for the evening, Anthony Peddle ‘14, did a fabulous job leading us in using the “four corners” model to pair alumni and students having commonalities and similar interests. After getting to know these outstanding students (identified as potential leaders by faculty, staff and coaches), we write a handwritten note to thank them, provide our contact information and present them with their Polaroid photo as a memento of the evening. We closed out Thursday evening with an AB dinner that allowed us to hear from our faculty representative, Nancy Comorau.

Friday morning we started our work early when President Keith Rozanski ‘99 called the formal board meeting to order and asked us to share our “It’s A Small Bishop World” stories. Listening to AB members talk about their random encounters with fellow Bishops in unexpected ways across the country and around the world was astounding! You never know when wearing your vintage OWU t-shirt will lead to a spirited conversation with a stranger – or even someone who isn’t a stranger… just someone with whom you didn’t know you had OWU in common. The overarching message was clear - don’t rest on your Bishop Pride! Despite our small size, OWU has a way of helping us make connections in ways we never thought possible.

The rest of the day was all business - we learned about our AB goals and key initiatives for the upcoming year (at the top of the list is increasing engagement - spearheaded by the upcoming Rock Tour); heard reports from [our committees](https://www.owu.edu/alumni-family-friends/get-involved/owu-alumni-association/learn-about-our-committees/) (Student/Young Alumni Relations/StAR, Alumnae Committee on Engagement/ACE, and Advancement) and affinity groups (Fraternity/Sorority Life and W Association/Team OWU Excellence); and discussed the importance of identifying OWU alumni who can assist with virtual engagement. We are compiling a list of alumni and Bishop Backers affiliated with businesses we could promote through virtual or locally hosted events. Examples include restaurateurs, entrepreneurs, career coaches, C-suite executives, or those who have a unique product to market. That being said - who do YOU know that should be included on this list? Submit your ideas to the Office of Alumni Relations here.

We spent Friday afternoon hearing from several important University offices: [Admissions](https://www.owu.edu/admission/) (with Interim Vice President for Enrollment Terry Cowdrey and Director of Admission Laurie Patton ‘95); [the OWU Connection](https://www.owu.edu/academics/the-owu-connection/) (with Executive Director Megan Ellis ‘05); and [the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs](https://www.owu.edu/about/offices-services-directory/office-of-multicultural-student-affairs/) (with Director Jason Timpson). It’s critical for AB members to be aware of the initiatives of these offices and articulate their importance when we return to our hometowns and interact with alumni, parents, potential students and friends of OWU. Items such as the OWU Connection and the Bridge Program are keys to engaging our graduates and recruiting future generations of OWU students.

The remainder of our weekend provided a slew of opportunities for AB members to actively engage with students, alumni, parents and campus visitors. The rededication of Slocum Hall (WOW - be sure to check out the photos [here](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ohiowesleyanuniversity/sets/72177720302833557/)), new Pints with Profs & Staff networking event, and always popular BishopFest (an all-community food, drink, music, and FUN event) occupied the rest of Friday. Saturday was a more informal day in which AB members chose their own adventure by attending various Homecoming & Family Weekend events (the Parent & Family Coffee & Connections event; “W” Association Hall of Fame & Team of Distinction induction; football Tailgate; Sporting events; the David Hamilton Smith Fraternity/Sorority Awards presentation; and, affinity reunions/dinners). And of course, there is always an opportunity to interact with our fellow Bishops in beautiful Downtown Delaware after hours. This is sometimes where the real AB work happens, as we recap our weekend and share ideas for maximizing our impact. We look forward to continuing our diligent AB work throughout the 2022-23 academic year and re-convening in the spring for the conclusion of the Rock Tour and celebrating OWU Reunion Weekend on May 19-21, 2023.

For those who weren’t able to attend Homecoming & Family Weekend - we missed you, and you can find the photo album [here](http://bit.ly/OWUHFW2022Albums). Please never hesitate to [reach out to any of us](https://www.owu.edu/alumni-family-friends/get-involved/owu-alumni-association/alumni-association-board-of-directors/) with your comments, concerns, questions, or to express interest in getting more involved with OWU. Because as always - today and every day is *A Great Day to Be A Bishop*!