

# OWU

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2022

M A G A Z I N E



## OWU ROCKS *Cleveland*

**These Bishops Are  
True Believers!**





### **Restoring a Masterpiece**

At the center of OWU's campus since 1898, Slocum Hall and its iconic Reading Room are in the middle of an \$11.25 million renovation. Project funding includes a \$10 million contribution from an anonymous alumni couple. The Reading Room and leaded glass ceiling will remain at the heart of the building, and the room is being upgraded to improve accessibility and accommodate current student needs, like charging stations and desks that are intended for laptops. The historical integrity of the space is being preserved by restoring original details that were missing, such as the lighting around the balcony.

*Photo by James DeCamp*





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On the cover: **Kaye Ridolfi '83**, vice president of development at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

Cover photo by Angelo Merendino



## Preparing for a world of puzzles and mysteries

Photo by James DeCamp

**A**s I write this essay, students have returned from spring break and for the first time in two years everyone is on campus, with no restriction to activities, and without the need to wear facial coverings and keep a distance from one another. The energy is palpable as we enter the final weeks of an academic year, complete with lectures, concerts, productions, art shows, athletic competition, celebrations of student scholarship and accomplishment, and ultimately, preparation for Commencement.

It is an especially good time to be on campus.

The students who will graduate this spring spent more than half of their time at OWU in the grips of a global pandemic. They watched and actively participated in our nation's reckoning with racial injustice, deep political divisions, economic uncertainty, and most recently, the atrocities being inflicted on the people of Ukraine by Vladimir Putin. When they graduate, they will enter a world riddled with deep, complex problems.

**“An OWU education prepares students for a world where puzzles invariably run up against mysteries that are filled with ambiguity.”**

As I think about the world our graduates will enter, I find myself thinking anew about the importance of liberal education. I have been thinking about this in relation to a piece written by Gregory Treverton in the June 2007 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine*.

Treverton discussed the differences between puzzles and mysteries. About puzzles, Treverton wrote, “even when you can't find the right answer, you know it exists. Puzzles can be solved; they have answers.” About mysteries, he wrote, “a mystery offers no such comfort. It poses a question that has no definitive answer because the answer is contingent; it depends on a future interaction of many factors, known and unknown. ... A mystery is an attempt to define ambiguities.”

Might we say that a critical outcome of liberal education is the ability to do the hard work that identifies the acts that solve puzzles, to acknowledge the mysteries for which there are no definitive answers, to be able to discern the difference between a puzzle and a mystery, and to adequately value the role of each in human endeavor?

An OWU education prepares students for a world where puzzles invariably run up against mysteries that are filled with ambiguity. In this context, these new graduates will be prepared to apply the skills of critical and analytical thinking, interdisciplinary approaches to complex problems, intellectual curiosity, social awareness, political engagement, and an empathy that solicits and listens to those with different ideas and different life experiences.

The pandemic has been a lesson in puzzles and mysteries. On campus, as in every organization in the country, the past two years have required us to make decisions at lightning speed, often with only a fraction of the information we would have liked. We sought to align our decisions with our mission and values. We benefitted from the wise counsel of a Board chair who has spent much of his professional life thinking about pandemics, and from the deep support of local public health officials and physicians within the OhioHealth network. We benefitted from the flexibility, resilience, and sheer determination of faculty, staff, and



Rock Jones chats with seniors (from left) Mohammad Niazi, Veronica Cody, Anna Edmiston, Isabel Johnson, Cassie Farber, and Harris Ali at the March event to announce that Dr. Amy Acton would be the 2022 Commencement speaker.

students.

As we, hopefully, now are emerging from the grips of the pandemic, we can look back and ask what we learned.

While there is much we learned, I think the most important lesson is the renewed reminder of the advantage of being able to apply the lessons of liberal education in the midst of an unexpected crisis and an unprecedented challenge. We were both solving problems and acknowledging mysteries, finding clear answers and recognizing deep ambiguity.

In this issue of *OWU Magazine*, we share stories of the impact of our alumni in a particular region, greater Cleveland, and we hear from alumni who work in the field of mental health. In both stories, we see the work of alumni who have both solved puzzles and learned to live with mysteries. These stories remind us that OWU graduates are prepared to face complex and unforeseen challenges—like the mental health challenges exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, like the challenges of reinvigorating our great urban centers—and they are making the most of great new opportunities created in a richly diverse nation.

I share all of this to affirm again the fundamental importance of liberal

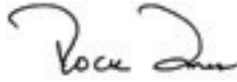


education to the well-being of our society, the future of our planet, and the full flourishing of human potential.

Liberal education is not about acquiring the skills for a trade. It is about developing the habits of the mind, and the heart, that spark imagination and, ultimately, help resolve problems.

Sometimes, the resolution includes clear answers. At other times, the resolution finds a way to live in the midst of the unknown. It is both science and art.

I am grateful to be in a place so deeply grounded in this mission, and I am grateful for the support you provide to make this real. As a result, I can say with confidence, members of the Class of 2022 are ready for the world that awaits them.



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

## Guiding OWU Magazine and connecting with readers

Thanks to all of the readers who wrote to us after publication of the Fall 2021 issue. We were overwhelmed at the positive response to the relaunch of the magazine and some of the stories in that issue, especially the story about young women scientists who have been working to keep us all safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of the emails we received are printed on Page 4.

I'd like to encourage everyone to share your thoughts with us. We hope that articles and photos in the magazine will spark your ideas and generate a conversation that we can share on these pages and online.

Also, we'd like to apologize for the late arrival of the Fall issue. We sent it to the printer in early November, but the national paper shortage delayed the publication for about six weeks. We hope this issue arrives in your mailbox by mid-May.

Something more under our direct control is the process we employ to plan and produce the magazine as we strive to give you a publication that you find interesting, enlightening, and entertaining.

For several years we have relied on a Magazine Planning Committee of faculty and staff to help us plan content and keep us informed about interesting stories from across the university. We meet four times a year, and I contact them frequently with questions and requests.

However, an important group is absent from that committee. Alumni. Since we're producing a magazine for alumni, we need to hear from you.

So, we have formed an Editorial Advisory Board to meet virtually twice a year to help guide the high-level, long-term vision of the magazine. At OWU, we have a wealth of talented, experienced, and prominent journalists to fill such a board and share their insights, expertise, and love of all things Ohio Wesleyan. Six quickly answered our request. They include Pulitzer Prize winners, newspaper and magazine editors, and social media experts, and they range from the Class of 1976 to the Class of 2013. I'm sure you'll recognize some of their names in the staff box at the right.

We met for the first time in February, and you'll be seeing their influence in the stories we tell and how we tell them.

Finally, our cover story on alumni living in Cleveland is the second in our series on "OWU's Favorite Cities." The first was on Washington, D.C. (Winter 2020). We plan to run our next "Favorite Cities" story in fall 2023, and we'd love to hear why you think we should choose your city. Please drop us a line at [magazine@owu.edu](mailto:magazine@owu.edu).

Go Bishops!

—Will Kopp, Editor

# OWU

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2022

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## Ohio Wesleyan Greeks win national academic honors

Ohio Wesleyan's fraternity and sorority members were recognized by the Gamma Sigma Alpha National Honor Society for their collective grade point averages in 2020 and 2021.

Gamma Sigma Alpha—widely considered the premier outlet committed to the academic success of Greek life members in the United States and Canada—placed OWU on its honor rolls for both of these years as part of its 2022 awards.

To be eligible for individual Gamma Sigma Alpha membership, students must have completed a minimum of 39 credit hours with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above or have earned a 3.5 GPA in any semester during their junior or senior year.

For full Greek life programs to earn

honor roll recognition, the overall grade point average of fraternity and sorority members must be higher than the GPA of the general campus. For 2020 and 2021, Ohio Wesleyan's fraternities and sororities earned overall grade point averages of 3.35 and 3.32, respectively, compared with 3.21 and 3.18 for all OWU students.

To support their academic success, OWU's Greek chapters all have student academic chairs. Sophomore **Sisi Fish**, a communication major from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is the current academic chair for the university's chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

She says academic support for her sorority includes "individual meetings with at-risk sisters helped along with Gamma Goals. Gamma Goals are where

each sister writes an academic goal in a binder for that week and checks off that goal the following week if they complete it."

Dwayne Todd, vice president for student engagement and success and dean of students, says the accomplishments of the university's fraternity and sorority members are impressive.

"The pandemic created challenges for college students everywhere in 2020 and 2021," Todd says, "but these OWU students remained committed to succeeding and to helping each other succeed. I am impressed by the support they continually give each other as Greek life members to ensure they achieve their goals."

## letters

### OWU Magazine relaunch

The Fall 2021 issue of the *OWU Magazine* is excellent. I've been reading this magazine for 63 years, and this issue is definitely one of if not the best issue yet. Kudos to those responsible.

**Denis Nock '58**

I want to congratulate you and your staff on the fabulous new Ohio Wesleyan alumni magazine. It is an issue I could not put down. I was so proud of those scientist women that you profiled, especially the woman who is working on the Pfizer vaccine that is preventing me from getting COVID here in the great Northeast.

This new magazine is a fabulous product. It is easily the best, most readable, and meaningful magazine I have ever received from Ohio Wesleyan. It is a real level up. It's a terrific publication.

I congratulate you on the design, the writing, the subject selection, and it gives you the feel of the school.

I want to congratulate personally that alumnus who contributed to the rebirth of this magazine.

This will make anybody who is thinking of coming to Ohio Wesleyan say, "Sign me up now!"

You will get a lot of new friends

and great students when they see this magazine. They'll want to be on those pages.

It's just a fabulous achievement. It makes me proud to be an Ohio Wesleyan graduate, more than ever.

**John Bailey '67**

Congratulations on the stunning renewed *OWU Magazine*! It is a terrific representation of our university, and I am so grateful to the donors who provided the monetary resources to get it started again and to sustain it over the next few years.

Kudos to all the staff members and contractors who made it happen! Thanks so much!

**Jean Bussell '69**

I would like to thank the two generous alumni whose donations made possible the re-publication of the *OWU Magazine*. I know the information and articles have been online, but there is something very satisfying about holding

the magazine in my hands, reading the articles, and enjoying the photos. Great to have the *OWU Magazine* back! Again, thanks to the two alumni, and to the editors, photographers, and all of the staff who make this publication possible.

**Fred Hoopes '73**

I just received my copy of the magazine and wanted to send along a hearty 'congrats' to you and your team. I was impressed with the whole package—attractive design, clean layout, compelling story mix, clear and graceful writing!

The whole OWU community—alumni, students, faculty and staff—owe a huge debt of gratitude to what I assume was a cast of at least dozens, if not thousands. I know this was a heavy lift—but it's hugely important for the school that the magazine was brought back to life. A hefty 'thanks' also to the alumni whose gifts made this possible.

I look forward to reading future issues.

**Gordon Witkin '77**

### Share your opinions!

Email us at: [magazine@owu.edu](mailto:magazine@owu.edu)  
tweet @OhioWesleyan

Send us a letter: *OWU Magazine*  
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61 S. Sandusky St., Delaware, OH 43015

*Letters may be  
edited for length  
and clarity.*



## OWU teams up with Mount Carmel to offer nursing degree

Ohio Wesleyan and Mount Carmel College of Nursing have formed a partnership to provide two pathways to a nursing degree to OWU students. The new pre-nursing pathways allow students to complete between two and four years at OWU before earning their Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Mount Carmel, one of Ohio's premier nursing schools.

"These pathways are ideal for students who are interested in a career in nursing and also want an undergraduate experience that allows them to study abroad, play varsity athletics, join fraternity and sorority life, or participate in any of the academic and residential campus opportunities available at Ohio Wesleyan," says President Rock Jones.

"The pathways also enable students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing—as either their first or second undergraduate degree—at Mount Carmel College of Nursing, one of central Ohio's premier nursing schools."

The new pathways are available to students immediately.

"Ohio Wesleyan has many options for students interested in the health sciences, and we are excited to add

these opportunities to that list," says David Markwardt, OWU's lead adviser for students interested in pursuing studies in the fields of pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, and pre-nursing. "Our pre-nursing pathways offer students two options,

**"These pathways are ideal for students who are interested in a career in nursing and also want an undergraduate experience that allows them to study abroad, play varsity athletics, join fraternity and sorority life, or participate in any of the academic and residential campus opportunities available at Ohio Wesleyan."**

*Rock Jones.*

giving them the flexibility to select the program that best fits their personal and career goals."

Students who choose the Second Degree Accelerated Program first earn an OWU degree in their major of choice before enrolling at Mount Carmel to earn their BSN. After they enroll at Mount Carmel, students can complete their BSN in 13 or 18 months.

Students who select the Advanced Placement Program spend two years at Ohio Wesleyan and then five semesters at Mount Carmel, where they graduate with their BSN degree.

MCCN President and Academic Dean Kathleen Williamson, says, "Nurses are in great demand, and it is an excellent career choice for those who want to help others live their best lives."

In a pre-pandemic study, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the need for registered nurses is expected to grow 9 percent from 2020 through 2030, with an estimated 194,500 openings for registered nurses projected each year during the decade.

"Our program is very competitive," says Jami Nininger, Mount Carmel's associate dean of academic affairs, "and we are pleased to be collaborating with a university of Ohio Wesleyan's academic caliber to help its students pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees."

Nationally, an average of 94 percent of BSN nursing students have job offers within four to six months of graduation. The employment rate for MCCN graduates in recent years has been at or near 100 percent.

*Kat Zimmerly '11 earned an OWU sociology degree then completed Mount Carmel's 13-month accelerated BSN program. Today, she is a nurse in the Mount Carmel Health System. She says, "Ohio Wesleyan provided me with the tools necessary to be a more compassionate individual who could more readily adapt to the fast-paced demands of the nursing profession."*



Photo by Monty Soungpradith

# Think Big. Go Global. Get Real. Do Good.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, OWU students have continued to participate in OWU Connection internship, research, study away, and service programs.



Environmental science and biology major **Alena Arnold '23** (left) and Geography major **Jonathan Munroe '24** used an OWU Connection grant to examine public-private conservation in Chile.



Photo by Paul Vernon

Fine arts major **Olivia Anderson '22** completed an internship at the Columbus Museum of Art through a Ross Art Museum internship program supported by a fund honoring founding Ross Art Museum Board member **Al Cinelli '59**.



Photo by Rita Wortham

Finance economics major **Chase Dusek '22** interned at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and, before graduating, accepted a job with JP Morgan Chase Bank in Dallas.





Photo by Paul Vernon

Sociology/anthropology and politics & government major **Anna duSaire '22** received a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion grant to create a documentary film exploring the sense of belonging felt by students of color.



A team of 10 students spent the week of spring break helping rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. They worked with SBP, a nonprofit cofounded by **Zack Rosenberg '95** to assist with hurricane recovery efforts. The group included: (back row from left) **Newton Kimberly '13** (career catalyst for the OWU Career Connection), Christopher Mickens (assistant director of Public Safety), **Millie Rocco '23**, **Meg Edwards '22**, **Hannah Green '24**, **Ben Neher '25**, **Ava Hurd '23**, (front from left) **Myles Steed '23**, **Faith Deschamps '24**, **Deshawn Rode '24**, **Brooke Hall '23**, and **Graham Steed '23**. A second service team volunteered in the Lakota Nation, South Dakota.

## Statewide service award recipient

Senior **Anna Fender** is one of 10 students in Ohio honored with a 2022 Charles J. Ping Student Service Award in recognition of her four years of work at OWU, which includes interning and volunteering with People In Need Inc. of Delaware County. At PIN, she has supervised youth volunteer groups, helped provide access to healthy food for people experiencing food insecurity, and assisted families with eviction prevention, prescription, and utility needs. The honors are bestowed annually by the Ohio Campus Compact,

a nonprofit consortium of 40 colleges and universities working to strengthen the capacity of the schools “to educate students for civic and social responsibility and to improve community life.” Fender, from Sullivan, Illinois, is a triple-major in comparative literature, social justice, and women’s and gender studies. She says, “This work has allowed me to learn about the specific needs of people living in my community. It has also reaffirmed my desire to work with nonprofit organizations.”



## Thumbs up! Esports program begins at OWU

Kyle Jenkins is powering up Ohio Wesleyan University’s new esports program.

Jenkins joined the university last fall as its first esports program coordinator and head coach, coming from Western Colorado University, where he founded the esports program and served in a similar role.

potential team members. His proven track record provides great promise that we will see some exciting things in our new program at OWU!”

Esports is the collective term used to describe video games that are played in a highly organized, competitive environment. At the collegiate level, teams of students from universities across the nation play against each other.

“Students of all backgrounds are attracted to esports for a variety of reasons, but many are drawn in by the chance to compete while playing some of their favorite video games,” Jenkins says. “Esports can provide students the opportunity to build on-campus relations, as well as develop collaboration and teamwork skills. We have recruited over a dozen students to join our community this coming school year.

By early March, Jenkins had already recruited more than a dozen new students to join the esports program, which will begin competition in fall 2022. OWU teams will be playing games such as League of Legends, Rocket League, Valorant, Super Smash Brothers, and Overwatch.

OWU’s teams will compete in a new esports arena being created in Welch Hall, and competitions will be streamed on Twitch and YouTube.

The arena will be open to all OWU students.

“I am thrilled to become a part of Ohio Wesleyan University, and I am humbled to have the opportunity to work with such impassioned educators,” Jenkins says. “The area surrounding Delaware is teeming with potential, and I believe this program will quickly become a magnet for prospective students. Together, we will build an esports community that actively promotes student growth and achievement.”

Jenkins holds a master’s degree from the School of Business at the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a member of the National Association of Esports Coaches and Directors, and as a player, he has competed among the top 5 percent of Starcraft players and the top 10 percent of League of Legends players.



Kyle Jenkins

“We are immensely excited to find someone with Kyle’s experience to lead our new esports program forward,” says Dwayne Todd, vice president for student engagement and success. “Kyle brings a high level of energy and knowledge to this role, and he has a passion for gaming that I know will be readily apparent to





# 74 Years of Loyalty and Love

By **Makenna D.H. Daniels '15**, associate director of advancement

When you think about remarkable streaks, what comes to mind?

Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak in 1941? UCLA's 88 straight wins from 1971-74? Maybe John Dingell's 59 consecutive years representing Michigan in the U.S. House of Representatives? Or maybe your own Wordle streak?

At Ohio Wesleyan, the epitome of consistent loyalty is **Peter Gregory '48**.

Gregory, now a retired economics professor, has given back to Ohio Wesleyan every year since he graduated. That's right—for 74 straight years (and counting!), Gregory has remembered the impact of Ohio Wesleyan on his life through his annual philanthropy.

"Any assistance one can offer to help others achieve an education is among the most meaningful gifts one can make," he says.

Originally from upstate New York, Gregory received OWU tuition scholarships that opened opportunities he otherwise would not have had. "I grew up in a poor household and know what lack of income can be like," says Gregory. In situations like his, "education is not within reach."

His great appreciation for the help extended to him inspires him to give back each year.

Gregory's generosity and lifelong commitment to higher education is rooted in his OWU experience.

"I was there right after World War II,



when there were lots of veterans who had been out in the world coming to campus," says the Albuquerque, New Mexico, resident of more than 50 years.

While on campus, Gregory pledged Alpha Tau Omega, participated in the debate team and orchestra, and was admitted to the Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa honorary societies.

Gregory credits the strong relationships he built with OWU faculty for launching his career in economics. With their encouragement, he pursued graduate studies at Harvard, where he earned master's and doctorate degrees. He has held faculty positions in the economics departments of the Universities of Minnesota and New Mexico. Gregory had an active career consulting with some 29 governments in Latin America and Africa and is the author of three books and numerous other shorter works as well.

Despite years and miles between him and Delaware, Ohio, Gregory continues to remember Ohio Wesleyan each year with a gift.

"I feel very obligated to those who made life easier for me," says Gregory, referring to the donor support that made his own scholarship possible, "and wish to make it possible for others to realize the same success that I had."

When it comes to longevity in general, Gregory chuckles and admits he has no secrets. "Keep active!" he says, and shares that he goes for walks almost daily and still plays chamber music on a regular basis.

"I am very pleased that OWU continues to be a beacon of hope and education for students from all over."

Thank you, Peter, for your lifelong support of Ohio Wesleyan! ■

*Gregory hiking in Rio Grande Nature Preserve.*



*Peter Gregory on his 97th birthday.*

**"The generosity of OWU enabled me to finish college, go on to graduate school, and build a career for myself."**

*Donors who support one of Ohio Wesleyan's Annual Giving Programs for at least three consecutive fiscal years or who set up recurring gifts will be welcomed into the **Loyal Bishops Society**. The society recognizes alumni, parents, and friends who demonstrate leadership through their sustained support of the university. Through their loyal support, this community of donors sustains Ohio Wesleyan's ultimate purpose of equipping students with knowledge, competence, and character for leadership, service, and continued learning in a complex and global society.*

# comfortzones

## Kira Bailey: Merrick Hall Classrooms

Kira Bailey's *academic* comfort zone is the brain. As Ohio Wesleyan's senior faculty member in neuroscience, the associate professor of psychology and neuroscience welcomes scores of students into the world of the brain as a space for them not to find comfort, but to spark fascination, curiosity, exploration, and maybe a lifelong career. OWU launched its neuroscience program in 1994, named the program in honor of former professor and provost David Robbins in 2005, and expanded the program with a 5-year, \$5 million gift from **George '61 and Patricia Belt '63 Conrades** in 2011.





## 1 Liberal Arts University

Kira's love for neuroscience began at Concord University, a liberal arts school in Athens, West Virginia. A Concord professor recommended Kira for a summer internship with a neuroscience researcher from Yale doing functional MRI research at Hartford Hospital. The experience transformed her—and it now shapes how she teaches and works with students on research.

## 2 Merrick Hall

Kira's first day of teaching at OWU in fall semester of 2015 was also the first day of classes at the newly refurbished Merrick Hall, which had been shuttered for 30 years. And as a newbie, she drew the 8 a.m. Monday class assignment. So, on her first day, she was the first faculty member to teach in the new Merrick Hall. Ever since, the four Merrick classrooms have been her favorite teaching spots.

## 3 Happy Valentine's Day

This model of the brain was a Valentine's Day gift from Kira's husband, Aaron Miller, before they were married. "For most people that might be an inappropriate Valentine's gift," she says, "but not for me."

## 4 Thinking Cap

She frequently leads a team of students in the Summer Science Research Program, focusing on her research into the effects of video games on emotion and cognition. They use this EEG cap to measure brain activity from the cortex of subjects playing games that Kira's students have designed. "I love how collaborative it is," she says. Kira and three former students recently published an article on their research.

## 5 Brainy Art

Her small gallery of brain-inspired art includes this plaque from her mother and a needlepoint that Kira created. She especially treasures a work that a student made showing sections of the brain made from leaves. "It's one of the most incredible things I've ever seen," she says.

## 6 Virtually Authentic

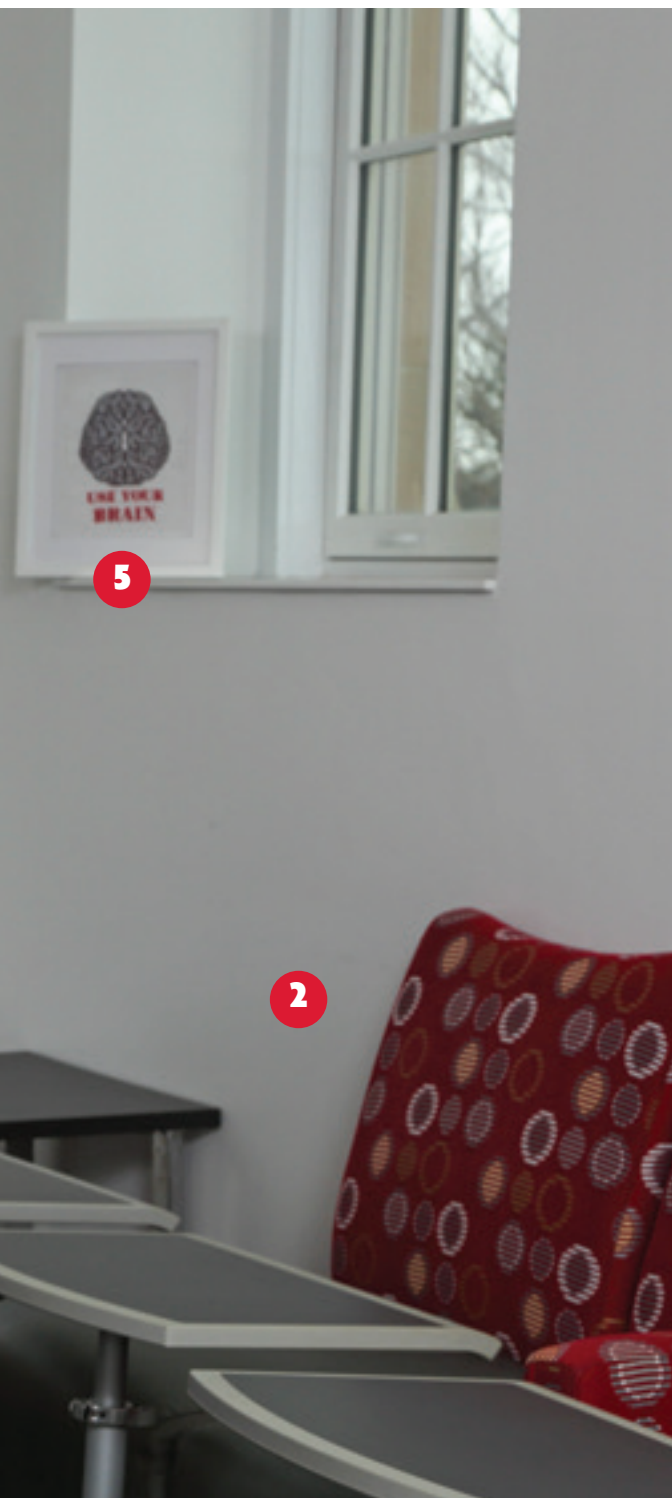
Kira knows that her Samsung Galaxy and social media have provided authentic connections to friends, especially during the pandemic. In an essay about online connections, she wrote, "If we approach our online interactions the same way we have always approached in-person communication, then it will be 'authentic' because what makes a relationship work is the people, not the format."

## 7 Karaoke Star

In the basement of their Delaware home, Kira and her husband built a home theater and fully equipped karaoke stage, where other OWU faculty and friends have joined them on the weekend. When she's not in the classroom or lab, you might find Kira there belting out "Gasoline" by Halsey or "Spiderwebs" by No Doubt.

## 8 Course Innovator

Kira has created three new courses, including her favorite, Cognitive Neuroscience. "That's my home territory," she says. Along with Franchesca Nestor (Politics & Government), she also served as a lead instructor for OWU's COVID-19 massively open online course (MOOC), which was offered free in the summer of 2020, was taught by more than 20 faculty, and attracted more than 1,000 students of all ages from across the country.



*We Believe!*

*Cleveland*

*For more than 150 years, OWU alumni have helped Cleveland rock as a leader in industry, commerce, the arts, sports, and civic engagement. That tradition continues today with new generations of Bishop alumni who call "Believeland" home.*

By **Kim Schneider '01**  
Alumni photos by Angelo Merendino



**D**on't call it a comeback. If you're from Cleveland, you get it. The appeal, the pride and the potential. It may not be the biggest city in the country, but Cleveland has always been small and mighty. Over the last decade, there's been a focus on revitalizing Cleveland's downtown and neighborhoods, attracting new residents, and making it a destination.

Nestled along Lake Erie, Clevelanders embrace the city's Midwestern roots by working hard, being friendly, and taking care of each other. That Rust Belt mentality has inspired change and innovation.

With popular spots like the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the West Side Market, and the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland has become an unexpected stop for tourists as well as an affordable option for those looking to settle down and raise a family.

Ohio Wesleyan alumni have a long history of traveling north to build a career in Cleveland and to help build Cleveland into an economic and industrial powerhouse and a center for the arts in the Midwest.

**Mary Bigelow (Janes) Ingham**, a Professor of French and Belles-Lettres in the 1860s at Ohio Wesleyan College for Women and honorary degree recipient in 1869, was one of the great social activists of 19th-century Ohio. After a teaching career, she co-inaugurated the Women's Foreign Missionary Society in Cleveland; was a charter member of the Cleveland Woman's Press Club; co-founded the Cleveland School of Art (now the Cleveland Institute of Art); and authored the book *Notable Cleveland Women* as well as a history of the Methodist Episcopal Churches of Cleveland.

**Myron Herrick** studied at OWU in the early 1870s, moved to Cleveland working in law and finance, served on Cleveland City Council, was president of a bank, and helped found the National Carbon Company, a predecessor of Union Carbide and Eveready. He later served as Ohio governor and U.S. ambassador to France.

**James Nance, Class of 1923**, was chief executive of the Central National Bank of Cleveland, the first chairman of the board of trustees of Cleveland State

### *Julie Tutkovics '92*

ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
IN CHAGRIN FALLS

*Originally, Tutkovics wanted to pursue a career in the investment side of banking. But an opportunity steered her toward communications, which led to positions with FirstMerit, New York Community Bancorp Inc., Citizens Financial Group, Fidelity Investments, and KeyCorp. She is now the executive vice president and chief marketing and communications officer for Huntington Bank. "I'm somewhat unique in the fact that I have continued to work for very large companies, some of which are headquartered in Cleveland," says Tutkovics. "But I've always had such a strong desire to live in Cleveland and I've been able to make that work."*





## Stacey McKinley '82

MARKET AVENUE WINE BAR

Before pivoting to a career in philanthropy, McKinley worked at three Cleveland law firms—Jones Day, Kahn Kleinman and Ulmer & Berne—where her legal practice focused on finance, real estate, business, and nonprofit law. She uses that experience as an adjunct professor at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where she teaches nonprofit corporations. Now as the director of gift planning at the Cleveland Clinic's Philanthropy Institute, she works with Cleveland Clinic donors. "I get to meet people at their best," says McKinley. "They want to give for a variety of reasons and they have fascinating stories."

University, and a trustee for University Hospitals of Cleveland.

Entrepreneurs and business and finance leaders like **Evan Corns '59**, cofounder of America's Body Co.; **Carol Latham '61**, founder of Thermagon, Inc.; **Curt Moll '61**, former chair and CEO of MTD Products; and **Bob Gillespie '66**, former president and CEO of Society National Bank and KeyCorp, created jobs and economic growth.

Former *Rolling Stone* magazine editor **Jim Henke '76** became the curator for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. And even in fictional Cleveland (Make-Believeland?) **Wendie Malick '72** created Cleveland's "Queen of Daytime" Victoria Chase for the Emmy-winning sitcom *Hot in Cleveland*.

Today, new generations of OWU alumni are rocking

Cleveland.

For many, the possibility of making a difference in Cleveland was one of the reasons they returned to their hometown. The connections you can make and the ability to be involved in shaping the city are appealing.

"When I think about my network here in Cleveland and how I can get involved, be impactful, and make a difference, there's no question that the construct of Cleveland allows for that," says **Julie Tutkovics '92**. "It's a small town inside of a big town."

Tutkovics spent some time living in Boston but knew she wanted to return to Cleveland to pursue her career in marketing for financial institutions and to find ways to contribute philanthropically. "I grew up in a family that was incredibly involved in Cleveland," she says.

Her mother was president of the Junior League, and



the desire to give back was instilled in her from an early age. “I always felt like there was tremendous opportunity here,” she says.

Today Tutkovics, the executive vice president and chief marketing and communications officer for Huntington Bank, sits on the board of nonprofits such as Destination Cleveland and Footpath Foundation. “The opportunity to come back to Cleveland and then be able to give back was always something that I wanted for my own life,” she says.

Finding that sense of purpose was important to **Stacey McKinley '82**. She's had an impressive career, first working in broadcast journalism, including a stint as co-host of “Good Morning, Kentucky” in Lexington. She then came back to Cleveland to attend law school at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where she now serves as an

adjunct professor.

“Cleveland was always home,” she says. “You'll always find opportunity here.”

After years of working for local law firms, McKinley made the jump to a career in development and fundraising, working for Cleveland State University and now at the Cleveland Clinic as director of gift planning at its Philanthropy Institute.

“I'm very grateful that I happened to come into a career that allows me to use my legal background with philanthropy,” she says.

With the Cleveland Clinic's recent centennial campaign, the Philanthropy Institute helped raise more than \$2 billion in donations. Those funds have helped in a multitude of ways, from advancing the study of a breast cancer vaccine to providing free eye exams

*“People  
in Cleveland  
are very  
generous.”*

Kaye Ridolfi

### *Kaye Ridolfi '83*

ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

*In March, Ridolfi was named vice president of development at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, after more than a decade in a similar role with the Cleveland Foundation. She also has worked in development with another great Cleveland organization, Case Western Reserve University, as well as Ohio Wesleyan. “I know that the work I do is helping to make some part of the world a better place,” she says. “People in Cleveland are very generous.”*





## *Hasani Wheat '09*

EDGEWATER PARK

*As the program coordinator for the registration department at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, Wheat helps the registration management team plan and execute petition verification and provisional processing and conduct periodic inventory inspections to prepare for elections. Active in serving his community, his favorite service projects include cleaning up trash at Edgewater Beach and volunteering at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. "Community service is important because you never know when someone is going to be in need," he says.*

and eyeglasses to children in underserved communities.

"Cleveland is a great place when it comes to philanthropy," she says. "There are so many ways to get involved."

That sense of kindness can be traced back to the start of the Cleveland Foundation, the world's first community foundation, in 1914. For the past decade, **Kaye Ridolfi '83** served as its senior vice president of advancement and saw firsthand how gifts small and large can make an impact in the community.

For example, the organizational funds launched by the Cleveland Foundation support Northeast Ohio nonprofits such as Ideastream Public Media and the Near West Theatre with their missions but also help them invest equitably.

"We really focused on making Cleveland a better place

*"You can actually be part of a neighborhood and feel like you have some type of say."*

Hasamni Wheat

by helping people to be thoughtful about what they want to do with their money," she says.

Originally from central Ohio, Ridolfi says she was thrilled to join the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in March as vice president of development. "Their incredible exhibits, educational programs, and events have enriched the lives of all in our region and around the world. This is an exciting time in the

museum's development to ensure the continuity of the institution for generations."

"I know that the work I do is helping to make some part of the world a better place," she says. "People in Cleveland are very generous."

For **Hasani Wheat '09**, who grew up in Cleveland's Harvard-Lee neighborhood, participating in community service is what drives him. Wheat has volunteered at the



Greater Cleveland Food Bank and trash cleanups along Edgewater Beach. He also serves as the president of the Kiwanis Club of Cleveland.

“It was a no-brainer to come back to Cleveland,” he says. “Coming back and being able to see how things were changing and actually being a part of that change made it really easy for me to be like, well, I want to just stay in Cleveland.”

In his role as program coordinator for the registration department at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, he’s had an opportunity to learn about Cleveland’s neighborhoods and all they have to offer—from walkable communities, family-owned businesses, and engaged residents.

“It’s one of those things where you don’t have to live in a cocoon anymore,” he says. “You can actually be part of

a neighborhood and feel like you have some type of say.”

Building a sense of community and addressing the health and economic inequities that exist in the city is why Cleveland native **Shelli Reeves ’16** founded Reframe History, an organization dedicated to keeping stories alive through archiving the past, recording the present, and advocating for the future.

“Cleveland is extremely significant in African American history because of the Great Migration and how many people moved from down South up to Cleveland because of the industry that we had here,” she says.

The ability to create a business and get advice from others is something that Reeves appreciates about Cleveland, where she’s also worked at the Cleveland Museum of Art and Ideastream Public Media.

## *Shelli Reeves ’16*

ROCKEFELLER PARK GREENHOUSE

*Reeves is dedicated to breaking down barriers and building community. As the founder and CEO of Reframe History, an organization dedicated to keeping stories alive through archiving the past, recording the present and advocating for the future, Reeves is an influential Black voice in Cleveland. “I’m telling the stories of African American people who are living in Cleveland right now,” she says. “The way that I can interact with community on so many different levels brings me so much joy.”*





“In Cleveland, there are a lot more people trying to innovate, which is exciting,” she says. “I still think that we have a long way to go. But I have been able to find other people who are creating tech startups and other people who are engaging in trying to start businesses that are really going to push the envelope of what it means to have a business.”

In the past decade, small businesses of all kinds have seen an influx of support from Clevelanders. Makers markets, pop-up shops, and social media have helped mom-and-pop businesses, artisans, and chefs flourish.

Having a network of creatives is one of the reasons that experimental painter **Madelaine Mavec '14** returned to Cleveland to start Mavec Collections, a gallery that features her fine art designs on paper, fabric, and leather.

“There are a lot of creatives in Cleveland,” she says. “That’s what’s exciting about being here—Cleveland really is a cultural place. It allows for that type of creative energy to exist here.”

Another important aspect to what Mavec does is support other local businesses with her work. For example, she uses paint from Sherwin-Williams and works with a local printer for her paper products and promotional materials.

“Building those relationships and supporting those individuals in their businesses will only benefit Cleveland in general,” she says. “I try to be really conscious of that.”

Those connections have helped foster an atmosphere where people want to not only work in Cleveland but also stay and build a future. Downtown Cleveland has



### *Madelaine Mavec '14*

STUDIO IN CHAGRIN FALLS

*As an experimental painter, Northeast Ohio native Mavec makes use of bright colors and various applications of paint. She opened Mavec Collections in downtown Chagrin Falls to showcase her fine art designs on paper, fabric, and leather. Her pieces can be seen around Cleveland in places such as Sherwin-Williams, University Hospitals, the Cleveland Clinic, and Laurel School. “My work is a way for me to bring joy to other people,” she says.*





## Michael Kubinski '02

CLE CLOTHING COMPANY FLAGSHIP SHOP

Kubinski was working as a junior graphic designer for a consumer goods company when he started screen-printing T-shirts with a friend as a “creative outlet.” They eventually focused on making T-shirts that celebrated Cleveland pride. In 2008, he founded CLE Clothing Co. with items that show love for all things Cleveland—think the West Side Market, polka, Progressive Field, and Lake Erie. Today, Kubinski oversees four retail locations and an online store with around 30 employees. “It’s not just a job, it’s a family for us,” he says. “My wife and I, we literally are a mom-and-pop shop.”

seen an influx of new residents as well as a slew of new residential construction projects.

“There’s been just an exciting new wave of energy in Cleveland,” she says.

**Michael Kubinski '02**, founder of CLE Clothing Co., can attest to the positive vibes. What started as a T-shirt company in a basement has expanded to four retail locations and now includes a variety of Cleveland-inspired apparel and accessories.

“We created something where people can show and wear their pride,” he says. “The people here just really love the city, love the hard work ethic and Cleveland’s underdog mentality.”

*“The people here just really love the city, love the hard work ethic and Cleveland’s underdog mentality.”*

Michael Kubinski

When he opened CLE Clothing Co.’s flagship store on East Fourth Street in downtown Cleveland back in 2012, Kubinski could already see the beginnings of the city’s revival.

“We saw this great resurgence of Cleveland pride and it just continued,” he says. “Now we’re just seeing more apartments and more people living downtown compared to what it was 10 years ago. We can see

the city changing right before our eyes.”

Part of the city’s success comes from leading organizations in town working together for a common goal. **Marty McGann '02** knows this firsthand from the variety of projects he’s worked on as the executive vice president of advocacy and strategy at the Greater



## Marty McGann '02

VOINOVICH PARK

McGann is working towards a better Cleveland as the executive vice president of advocacy and strategy at the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the United States. McGann is responsible for the execution of GCP's three-year strategic plan with a focus on worker mobility, innovation, and tax/competitiveness. "I've had the good fortune of getting to work on really exciting projects for our community," he says.

*"We're part of a big collaboration with a lot of stakeholders."*

Marty McGann

Cleveland Partnership, the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the United States.

"There's nothing that GCP does alone," he says. "We're part of a big collaboration with a lot of stakeholders. We get to help advance really important issues in Cleveland."

One of those issues centers around reliable and affordable access to broadband internet for all Cleveland residents. Cleveland is currently the most disconnected large city in the nation. And McGann hopes to change that.

"You can't grow and expand and develop as a community if a third of your population has no reasonably affordable access to internet," he says. "We've been lobbying the federal, state, and local governments to work with us on solutions to expand internet affordability in our community."

Other projects that McGann has worked on include the

Cleveland Plan, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's transformation plan, as well as the extension of Cuyahoga County's sin tax, which helps maintain and improve Cleveland's professional sports facilities.

And Cleveland sports is always a hot topic among its residents. That enthusiasm has led the city to host major sports events such as the 2019 MLB All-Star Game, 2021 NFL Draft, and the 2022 NBA All-Star Weekend.

"We are the smallest city in America that has three major sports teams," says **Bob DiBiasio '77**, the senior vice president of public affairs for the Cleveland Guardians. "With all those events we attracted to the city, Cleveland has put itself on the map in a really extraordinary way."

DiBiasio lives and breathes sports. In addition to working for MLB teams for an impressive 44 seasons, he's also the president of the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame. He knows how much teams like the Guardians, Browns, and Cavaliers mean to the city.



“We believe that not only do we provide terrific entertainment and service to others, but there’s a communal spirit that we are a part of,” he says.

That shared attitude goes beyond just winning games. As a testament to Cleveland’s philanthropic roots, many top organizations in town focus on giving back to Cleveland. And for the Cleveland Guardians, charity plays a vital role.

“We are very involved in a number of youth-oriented activities and programs that address the needs of the underserved in our community,” says DiBiasio, who is

also president of the Cleveland Guardians Charities. “Folks focused on helping and serving others—that’s part of the DNA of Cleveland, which I think makes us incredibly strong community.”

*Kim Schneider '01 manages communications at Cleveland Clinic and is the former editor of Cleveland Magazine.*

This is the second in a series of articles on OWU’s favorite cities. You can read about Washington, D.C., alumni in the Winter 2020 issue. Please let us know why your city should be the next one we feature in *OWU Magazine*.



### ***Bob DiBiasio '77***

**PROGRESSIVE FIELD**

*DiBiasio loves baseball. The Northeast Ohio native has worked for Major League Baseball for 44 seasons: 43 with the Cleveland Guardians and one with the Atlanta Braves in 1987. He says from an early age he wanted to work for his hometown team. “The Guardians are a rallying point for our community, where people can gather and have fun,” he says. “We take that responsibility very seriously.”*

# THE BEST OF

*Alumni offer the*



Courtesy of  
Destination Cleveland



Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

## *What to Do*

Visitors come to Cleveland from around the world specifically to visit the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum**. Since its opening in 1995, the Rock Hall has hosted more than 13 million people in its iconic structure, designed by I.M. Pei.

The expansive and educational exhibits and galleries showcase memorabilia from legends and icons spanning all genres of music. "The Rock Hall is talking about hip-hop and jazz in a way that it was not being spoken about before," says Shelli Reeves.

Kaye Ridolfi says, "If you haven't visited the Rock Hall lately, you'll want to see the newer interactive area called The Garage, where visitors can sing or play instruments, just like they're playing in their own garage band, with house musicians filling in the rest." Other areas of The Garage have guitars, keyboards, and drums that you can play on your own.

Also, while you're in Cleveland, check out **Playhouse Square** in the city's Theater District, which boasts North America's largest outdoor chandelier. "A lot of people don't realize that Playhouse Square is the second largest theater district in the country, second only to

Broadway in New York," says Kaye Ridolfi.

No matter what time of year it is, the city's enthusiasm for its sports team is always riding high. With MLB's **Cleveland Guardians**, NFL's **Cleveland Browns** and the NBA's **Cleveland Cavaliers** (who just hosted the 2022 NBA All-Star Game), it's easy to be a sports fan in the Land.

It's also easy to be a music fan when you're in the home of rock 'n' roll—and you have a hall-of-fame orchestra. The world-renowned **Cleveland Orchestra** is located in the iconic **Severance Hall**. "It's the jewel of our town," says DiBiasio.

It doesn't get much better than a visit to **Lake Erie**, especially at **Edgewater Beach**, part of Cleveland Metroparks' 24,000 acres. "If you blindfolded someone and brought them to the lake, they'd think it was the ocean," says Mavec. Paddle boarding, swimming or boating—take your pick. "You'll even see people out there surfing," says Michael Kubinski. "They're out there year-round."

Beyond the beach, the **Cleveland Metroparks** offers 18 reservations great for getting outdoors says Stacey McKinley, who is an avid cyclist, and Julie Tutkovics, who walks her family's yellow Lab every day in the Metroparks. "To

be able to have access to the lake and have access to the outdoors is incredibly important to us," Tutkovics says.

What also makes Cleveland so welcoming is its neighborhoods like **Gordon Square** and **University Circle**. Each one bustles with energy from its family-owned businesses, cultural spots and top-quality restaurants. "University Circle is just a great place to be whether you're looking for a concert or if you want to go to good restaurants," says Hasani Wheat. University Circle is also home to the **Cleveland Museum of Art**, known for its collection of more than 45,000 pieces from around the world.

Other impressive spots worth your time include **Public Square**, which was renovated in 2016 and hosts events during the summer and an ice-skating rink in the winter. "Public Square is a remarkable asset," says Marty McGann. And the **Cleveland Public Library's main campus** boasts historic architecture and plenty of history to uncover. "I love going to the photo archive and just looking at all photos of people, or looking through the microfiche of old newspapers," says Reeves.



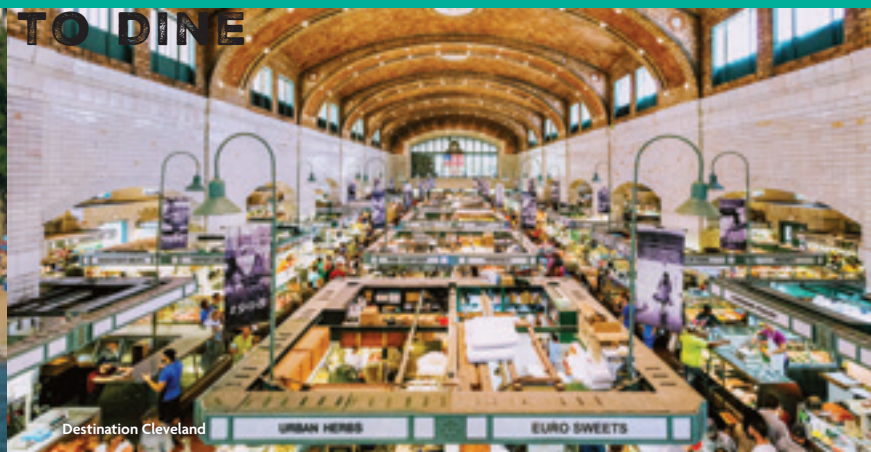
# CLEVELAND

## Our top travel tips



Photo by Kyle Lanzer for ThisIsCleveland.com

## WHERE TO DINE



Destination Cleveland

## Where to Dine

Not sure what you're in the mood for? Then plan a stop to the almost 110-year-old **West Side Market**, known for its indoor and outdoor markets. "You can't take for granted the amazing things you'll find in there," says McGann.

In addition to its strong Eastern European culture—and restaurants such as **Balaton**, a Hungarian spot known for its stuffed cabbage and goulash—Cleveland is also home to a variety of diverse cultural options. Wheat is a fan of the city's Ethiopian restaurants such as **Empress Taytu**. "I try to frequent restaurants where it's not just regular American food," he says. "The place needs to have a story behind it."

You'll have one of the best dining views in Northeast Ohio on the deck overlooking the scenic Chagrin River falls at **17 River Grille**, owned by **Rick Doody '80**. And his other restaurants, including **Cedar Creek Grille** and **Lindley's Lake**

**House**, are Cleveland favorites.

Cleveland's **AsiaTown** is home to a variety of Asian cuisine. At LJ Shanghai, you must order the popular soup dumplings. "**LJ Shanghai** is a treasure," says DiBiasio. "Their soup dumplings are good as you can get anywhere."

Head to Tremont, where you'll find **Prosperity Social Club**, located in a 1938 barroom and known for its fried haddock (fish fries are big in Cleveland). "That's where I met my wife," says Kubinski. "So that's just kind of our port in the storm, if you will."

And if you haven't heard of pierogies (another Cleveland staple), you'll find plenty dotting the menus at spots across town. **Market Garden Brewery**, **Der Braumeister**, and **Jukebox** are just some restaurants with their own unique twist on the dumplings.

While barbecue has become a popular cuisine in Cleveland in recent years,

Reeves is a fan of another Southern favorite: biscuits. She heads to **The Bake Shop**, where owner Shawnda Moyer recently opened her shop after doing pop-up shops around town. "They make really lovely biscuits," she says. "But it's also the type of place that I come in and everybody knows my name."

That friendly atmosphere can be felt around Cleveland. For Tutkovics, McKinley, and DiBiasio, their go-to spots are in Gordon Square. They frequent places such as **Toast** (which has a great wine list), **Luxe Kitchen & Lounge** (known for an amazing brunch), and **Il Rione** (which has the best pizza in town according to DiBiasio). "There are great outdoor patios, so you can bring your dogs," says Tutkovics. "Gordon Square has phenomenal energy."

—Kim Schneider

*Dine around the world in Cleveland—barbecue, biscuits, goulash, injera, pierogis, and so much more.*

# A Second Pandemic

Ohio Wesleyan alumni across the country are working at the front lines of a national mental health crisis—providing care for people of all ages and backgrounds. And they have some sage advice for us.

By Julianne Hill



**D**epression. Anxiety. Addiction. Homelessness. Ohio Wesleyan University alumni working in mental healthcare are witnessing how the COVID-19 pandemic is amplifying many Americans' struggles, creating what many see as a second pandemic. This national mental health crisis is stretching thin social support systems that serve as individual coping mechanisms.

"What we're seeing is a huge crisis brought on by COVID," says **Sue Tafrate '94**, project director for PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) and housing and homelessness policy administrator for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Columbus.

With specialties ranging from treating those with eating disorders to the LGBTQ+ community to homelessness, with patients ranging from children to veterans to the elderly, OWU alumni now find their life's work extra challenging during these pandemic times.

## Waiting Game

While the COVID-19 virus itself doesn't directly cause mental illness, pandemic-induced pressures from isolation, lack of child care and caregiving, and income

and food instability sent rates of depression soaring from 8.5 percent pre-pandemic in the United States to 32.8 percent in 2021. And the number of people considering suicide is up—again—now at 4.5%. Rates of substance abuse continue to rise, now at 7.7% of adults and 4% of youth, with the CDC estimating 100,000 overdose deaths in 2021 (statistics from Mental Health America).

"Prior to the pandemic, there was no shortage of need for mental health services," says **Josh Curie '08**, therapist and clinical director of Josh Curie & Associates Therapy, Ferndale, Michigan. "The pandemic just exacerbated those needs—a lot."

After two-plus years of COVID-related stressors, finding care is difficult. Providers are overwhelmed with caseloads, pushing many to retire or simply leave the field. With so much demand, clinicians must protect their own mental health.

"Burnout has been huge," says Curie, who specializes in treating the LGBTQ+ community. "We're often seeing clients between 8:00 in the morning and 10 o'clock at night. I'm often here on Sundays and seeing people on the weekends. We're stretched."

That means having to be realistic about caseloads. "We have to say, 'I can't take just one more person,' even





though the demand is great,” he adds.

The impact is tough on clients, who sometimes spend weeks, sometimes months, hoping to even get on a waitlist.

This bottleneck hits kids especially hard. “We have probably never had enough children’s mental health providers in this country,” says **Ellen Sejkora ’13**, pediatric psychologist at Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth, in Hanover, New Hampshire, that state’s only pediatric crisis center. “Now, our system is breaking because we have staff shortages. Our staff is getting COVID. Our patients have COVID. It’s just really highlighting the cracks in our system that were already held together with Scotch Tape.”

The waiting game is not just frustrating—it is dangerous.

As time passes before treatment, people become sicker, ultimately needing a higher level of care, says **Anna VanMeter ’11**, a Columbus-based clinical psychologist who works at The Emily Program, a national organization that helps those with eating disorders. “By the time they get seen by a therapist, they need partial hospitalization or they may need inpatient care,” she adds.

That holds true for young children, too. “Kids are

really, truly, genuinely in crisis,” Sejkora says. “We are seeing more suicide attempts; we are seeing more potentially high lethality attempts and more repeated attempts.”

In the homeless community, lengthy waitlists mean some don’t receive care at all. “By the time their appointments come around, those people are nowhere to be found,” Tafrate says.



Photo by Paul Vernon

*The pandemic has forced Sue Tafrate to perform her duties for the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services from her home in Dublin, Ohio.*

## Protocol Changes

Ironically, the lockdowns and quarantines necessitated by COVID have helped expand treatment options, as telehealth has grown and become an acceptable alternative to in-person appointments. That’s brought help to some who could not have otherwise accessed it.

“People who live two hours from care can now get



Photo by Kata Sasvari

In 2020, pediatric psychologist Ellen Sejkora joined Children's Hospital at Dartmouth in Hanover, New Hampshire's only pediatric crisis center. Not long after this photo was taken, her son Elliot Christopher was born.



Photo by James DeCamp

For more than 30 years, Randy Shively has overseen clinical services at Alvis, a halfway house in Columbus, Ohio. Alvis serves about 8,000 men, women, young adults, and children each year.

help easily," says VanMeter. The Emily Program has offered virtual telehealth services to all but those needing inpatient help since early 2020. "Some people can log on during their lunch hours."

She says conducting initial evaluations remotely has helped them uncover issues they can address more quickly.

For instance, for those with eating disorders, not only has COVID-19 increased isolation, it has also led to inflation and escalated food insecurity. Telehealth has allowed VanMeter and her colleagues to identify some of those cases early. "That's changed our treatment—we're focused on how to get that person enough access to food," VanMeter adds.

Telehealth has also been vital for families with children fighting cancer. The pandemic adds extra challenges for these children, who are often immunocompromised during chemotherapy.

"Those psychosocial and psychological demands that kids and their families typically face when facing a life-threatening illness are certainly magnified," says **Brian Delaney '82**, institute psychologist, divisions of psychosocial oncology and palliative care, neuro-oncology, and pediatric cancer genetic risk program at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston.

"Telehealth allows us to help families that prefer to meet in a virtual modality at this time," he says.

At Alvis, telehealth has been a godsend, says **Randy Shively '81**, director of research and clinical development, Columbus. The nonprofit human services agency offers reentry support programs, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services, recovery housing, and services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

"In some correctional facilities, COVID has been spreading rapidly," he says. "At the start of the pandemic, we knew nothing about telehealth. Our people were

## "Lack of coverage can result in those needing the most care to walk away from help."

Anna VanMeter

trained, and we found it works fairly well one on one."

However, telehealth causes its own

challenges. For those experiencing homelessness, owning a smartphone or tablet can make them a target for robberies, Tafrate says. Economically disadvantaged folks often can't access a signal strong enough to conduct telehealth via web call.

And in the LGBTQ+ community, home is not always a safe place, making the logistics of telehealth calls difficult.

"People need a safe space to be able to fully open up," Curie says. "We saw more people taking sessions from their car or outside in a park because maybe they want to talk about a partner or a family member, and maybe what they want to share would set the other person off."

## Prepared for the Unimaginable

While they were undergraduates, none of the OWU alumni could have imagined working in mental health through a global pandemic. Their preparation at OWU, however, moved them down unexplored paths and led them to serve those in need of support in the most difficult times.

"So many professors at OWU helped me to get to where I am," says **Heather Derry-Vick '10**, research faculty at Hackensack Meridian Health Center for Discovery & Innovation, Nutley, New Jersey.

"I really benefited from the expertise of the psychology department. Dr. Dale Swartzentruber was my advisor and provided very helpful guidance on my career path and to take classes that really instilled my excitement about psychology," she says. "More broadly, OWU's encouragement of students to explore different disciplines and bring them together in new ways through interdisciplinary work impacted me."



Delaney also benefited from OWU's liberal arts approach. He says he learned how to dive into uncharted topics from two professors outside of the hard sciences—writing professor Robert Flanagan and philosophy professor Daniel Anderson.

“What I got from them was an understanding of the importance of exploration, of asking questions and trying to understand. That's served me well.”

Sejkora double-majored in psychology and neuroscience. “It was a unique experience. I had really remarkable professors, like Jennifer Yates, who was the director of the neuroscience program and taught my intro to psych class,” she says.

“That I did research with Dr. Yates as an undergrad in a liberal arts college is just, like, ridiculous.”

Curie says the diversity and social justice focus of OWU shaped his career trajectory, especially Professor Mary Howard's work with the homeless community. “She was big on serving people that can't repay you and doing good work,” he says. “It's not enough to just talk about it, but to actually get in the trenches and do the work.”

## Solutions

With their day-to-day experience on the front lines, the mental health professionals interviewed for this article have wish lists for societal changes and insights that can help us all through difficult times.

To get through the stressors of the pandemic, the alumni agree that society must dig deep to help those in need.

Lack of insurance or adequate insurance often stands in the way of receiving care. According to Mental Health America, more than 10 percent of people with mental illness are uninsured, making it difficult to access expensive care.

“On a national level, we need to eliminate barriers in health care access,”

says Derry-Vick, whose work examines how psychosocial factors, such as stressful experiences or depressive symptoms, interact with health conditions—including cancer. “We need to offer continued support and coverage.”

Even for those who have insurance, navigating payment can be tricky. Many health plans do not offer the same depth of coverage for mental health conditions such as addiction or schizophrenia as they do for chronic physical health conditions like diabetes or heart disease.

“Authorization for insurance coverage for higher levels of care can be challenging,” says VanMeter. “Lack of coverage can result in those needing the most care to walk away from help.”

Early in the pandemic, some health insurance companies eliminated deductibles. “Those people didn't have any out-of-pocket expenses for therapy,” Curie says. “That was really helpful for them to sort through their feelings. However, that ended in July 2021.”

Also, employers can support those who need time off to attend to their mental health, especially for those who need partial hospitalization or inpatient services, the alumni agreed.

## Helping Others

In our individual communities and families, knowing how to support loved ones during this time of stress can be difficult.

“Acknowledge their struggles,” Curie says. “And sometimes, simply being able to say, very directly, ‘I care about you’ can go a long way. Let them know you will text and call. Tell them you want to make sure their well-being is being taken care of.”

Be on the lookout for changes in mood, sleeping patterns, and motivation. Know that your loved one may need professional treatment.

“Sometimes loved ones want to be pointed in the right direction, but it is difficult to start. Help them talk with an



Photo by Paul Vernon

*With The Emily Program in Columbus, Ohio, clinical psychologist Anna VanMeter provides treatment for adolescents and adults with eating disorders.*



*Heather Derry-Vick is a member of the research faculty at Hackensack Meridian Health Center for Discovery & Innovation Research in Behavioral Geriatrics.*



Therapist Josh Curie of Ferndale, Michigan, specializes in treating the LGBTQ+ community.

established health care provider. Use the tools on the *Psychology Today* website that can filter providers by area and insurance,” Derry-Vick says.

Research shows being altruistic—helping others—makes us feel better. Sometimes family members aren’t available to help, so Currie suggests being neighborly. “Just being observant and knowing what’s going on with your neighbors—if you could pick up a little bit of extra groceries for your elderly neighbor who you know is struggling a little bit—could go a long way in providing support,” he says.

For parents, model a good decision-making process and be transparent about struggles.

“It’s important to be honest with our kids. It’s OK for moms and dads to say ‘we don’t know the answers, but we’re going to talk to a lot of people and make good decisions,’” Sejkora says. “This can become a powerful tool for children to use in their lives.”

## Helping Yourself

Strive to be nonjudgmental of your loved ones—and yourself.

“When we or others are under stressful or traumatic conditions, we become more irritable,” Derry-Vick adds. “Some of these conversations could need a break or need a little more patience than they would normally.”

Setting boundaries is key, the alumni say. Give the support you can provide without overwhelming yourself.

“If a friend is trying to text you all day, every day, it’s important to be able to say, ‘I know you need a lot of support, but what I can really give you is maybe a once-a-week phone check,’” Currie says. “Help them explore who else they can rely on so that they don’t put that responsibility on only one person.”

Watching media consumption and substance use are important too. From daily reports on COVID to political unrest

**”We’re often seeing clients between 8:00 in the morning and 10 o’clock at night. I’m often here on Sundays and seeing people on the weekends. We’re stretched.”**

*Josh Curie*

experts ask.

Keep moving. “While working from home, it’s easy to become very sedentary. Aim for 15 to 30 minutes of movement every day,” Curie says. Consider taking a walk outside with a friend to add some social time too.

## Less Stigma

While getting support for mental health often carries a stigma, the pandemic has forced more people to talk openly about their struggles.

“Mental health has become more of an appropriate thing to talk about, and it’s discussed more openly in the mainstream,” says **Nicole Detling ’97**, owner of Headstrong Consulting, Salt Lake City. “People are more accepting and open to people’s struggles.”

Individuals feel more comfortable letting others know they are having a hard time. “I have 17-year-old daughters,” says Tafrate. “They and their friends really open up, and I see they have open minds about ending the stigma. I love seeing that for the younger generation.”

With stigma easing, patience and empathy can emerge.

Sejkora says, “If we can just be willing to show a little more kindness, more grace, it can make an impact.”

*Julianne Hill is a freelance writer, producer, and educator based in Chicago.*

and war, news provides vital information.

However, it can be unsettling. Choose which media you consume and limit your time. And be aware of how much you are drinking or smoking. Is cutting back possible, the



# OWU adapts & expands campus mental health services

By Julie Duhigg, OWU Director of Counseling Services

In December 2019 the Great Lakes Colleges Association held a mental health and wellness summit in Ann Arbor. As part of a nationwide trend, Ohio Wesleyan and other members of the GLCA were seeing a steady and notable increase in requests for counseling support from our students.

During the summit we explored ways to better meet the mental health and wellness needs of our students. We returned to our respective campuses with renewed energy and began enacting changes as the spring semester of 2020 unfolded.

Just three months later, we learned about COVID-19.

Along with the wider global community, OWU rapidly shifted into a protective response to better preserve our health and well-being. Our students returned home, and our faculty worked overtime to provide their courses remotely for the first time.

My counseling staff and I found ways to provide support from a distance, educating ourselves about how to best provide ethical and sound teletherapy.

During this time, our community inevitably managed losses. Along with the untimely loss of loved ones to the virus, students missed significant events in their lives—spring celebrations, sporting events, performances, graduation—all lost in the passing pandemic days.

Moreover, racial reckoning continued in the United States, with both a disproportionate number of Black and other people of color dying from the virus, as well as from problematic policing. Grief and loss on many levels became our collective human experience.

The mental health struggles of our campus community did not disappear, although they became submerged to the unique stress brought on by this global pandemic. While we learned keeping physical distance from one another was essential, we found ways to keep our students' well-being central.

Over the past academic year and a half, faculty, staff, and students of the OWU community worked with The JED Foundation,

a national organization centered on supporting the mental health needs of college students. Through JED, we identified the mental and emotional needs of our students and cultivated working groups to begin addressing areas including peer mentoring, recovery programming, and training our campus members to better respond to mental health concerns we encounter in our community.

In addition to our work with JED, OWU's Counseling Services continued to provide ongoing therapy support to our students. We also expanded support for students through several initiatives:

- Collaborating with a master's level counseling program at Capital University,
- Working with new interns each of the past two years,
- Developing a group therapy experience that allows students to continue building connections with one another as we find our way through these pandemic times,
- And beginning this spring semester, working with The Virtual Care Group, a business that supplements counseling and other healthcare support to our students.

I genuinely hope this pandemic is inching its way to a kind of closure that allows us to turn toward a new kind of labor. Meeting the mental health and wellness of our students is an interdependent endeavor, much like our efforts to combat COVID.

May we honor this fact: We need each other. May we listen deeply and hear our experiences with loss and grief. And may we join in reshaping the health and wellness of our worthy OWU community.



Photo by Paul Vernon

Julie Duhigg in her office in Hamilton-Williams Campus Center.

# Celebrating Women's Sports & 50 Years of Title IX

By Sarah Jonassen '22

In the past half century, no action has transformed college sports more profoundly than the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, signed into law by Richard Nixon.

Title IX, which barred sex discrimination in education programs and activities offered by entities receiving federal financial assistance, has had wide applications protecting the rights of individuals to equal access to higher education programs.

Within a few years, the law's most visible impact came on athletic fields and arenas at colleges and universities across the nation, from Division-I powerhouses to D-III liberal arts institutions. Over the past five decades, Title IX has transformed the landscape of athletics and empowered new generations of women to reach their full potential.

In 1970, OWU offered six women's varsity sports. By the end of the decade, new teams were participating in intercollegiate softball (1974) and indoor and outdoor track and field (1977), with cross country (1981), and women's soccer (1984) soon to join the mix.

Today, 196 women compete in 12 different varsity sports.

**Diane "Dee Dee" Manos '76** began her athletic career at OWU in 1972, the same year that Title IX was enacted.

"In my era, women didn't earn athletic letters. It was only a few years ago that OWU decided to retroactively give us our letters," she says. "We didn't have uniforms. Ours were all recycled, but now these athletes have uniforms that belong to them."

Manos found success in athletics on the All-Buckeye Field Hockey Association team and as a Great Lakes field hockey finalist. She continues to foster her love of sports as OWU's volunteer assistant field hockey coach, where she delights at how women's athletics has changed.

"It's important that we remember this history of where we've been and where we're going. A lot of athletes now



A women's lacrosse game from around 1980.

may not know where women's athletics was and what we had to deal with. Even now, when you know things aren't as good as they should be, you realize it's better than it was."

Like Manos, Athletics Director Doug Zipp says Title IX has had a profound impact on women's athletics.

"When Title IX passed in 1972, only one out of every 25 women participated in sports. Now, nearly two out of every five women participate in sports activities, and that number continues to grow every year," Zipp says. "We have a long way to go, but we continue to evaluate our programs through the lens of Title IX as we consider offerings in the athletic department."

Former OWU women's golf coach Jana Shipley was a track and field standout at Ohio State University in the 1970s, setting a school record in the outdoor pentathlon. She also once held the world indoor and outdoor records



in the women's pole vault. She came to OWU as the head women's track and field coach in 1980 and helped found OWU's first women's cross-country team. She says student-athletes began seeing the biggest changes in the 1980s.

"Colleges across the country began offering women opportunities in athletics. We started getting more of the benefits that had previously only been provided to male students," she says. "Women today have the opportunities that they have because Title IX is in effect."

At that time, Ohio Wesleyan became a leader in creating the conference-wide structure for equality for women's athletics.

In 1981, longtime OWU coach, administrator, and faculty member Mary Parker cofounded the Centennial Athletic Conference, the first conference in the nation formed specifically for women's teams.

Two years later, OWU left the Centennial Athletic Conference and Ohio Athletic Conference to become a founding member of the North Coast Atlantic Conference. The NCAC was the first conference to treat men's and women's sports equally from its inception. Competition began in the 1984-85 academic year.

Head Volleyball Coach and Senior Women's Administrator Kirsta Cobb says competing in sports can change how women view the world and themselves.

"In the world, women are told to shrink themselves. In sports, we get to be the biggest version of ourselves, and do it proudly. We develop a different view of ourselves," Cobb says. "We get to be competitive and be leaders, and we do it with other amazing women. It's more transformational than just looking to win. It's about leading ourselves and our gender forward."

Captain **Juliann Althoff '91** agrees, "Sports have played a huge part in my life, not only in college, but beyond." Althoff was OWU's first woman two-sport All-American (swimming and high jump) and is now a chief medical officer at the Naval Medical Research Unit in Dayton. And she continues to compete with the Navy track and field team.

"It's helped me become the person I am today and contributed to my success as a naval officer through building foundational life skills."

"Young athletes should follow their passion and know the sky's the limit," she advises. "A lot of barriers have

been broken down recently. In the Navy, women can fly combat aircrafts or be on combat ships. Things that weren't possible when I began my career are now options."

**Rachel Seibel '10**, a two-time NCAC Pitcher of the Year, is thriving in a career in the growing sports industry. After 10 years of work with the New York Mets and the NBA, she recently returned to Ohio to continue her career in business development at Ohio State Sports Properties.

"On one hand, it's hard to believe that it's been 50 years. On the other hand, it's only been 50 years," Seibel says. "I'm optimistic and grateful for the work that's been done, but we still have a long way to go, and we need to keep the work up."

Soccer Academic All-American **Dr. Sarah Wall '06** acknowledges the massive success of Title IX while also seeing opportunities to make athletics more inclusive.

"We're in a new era now when LGBTQ and non-binary athletes are trusting others with publicly being themselves, but our framework for sport is often not inclusive. I hope that women athletes who benefit, or previously benefited, from Title IX will be advocates and partners for creating an equal space that includes transgender and non-binary athletes."

Wall joined the women's soccer team in the middle of what would become a 60-game winning streak, and as a first-year student was named NCAC Offensive Player of the Year as the Bishops won their second consecutive national championship.

She compares the shared responsibility of team sports with the family feel of being part of the larger OWU athletic community.

"Being an OWU graduate makes you a member of a small but very supportive family," she says. "So many of us played sports at OWU, and there's a mutual respect across teams, men and women."



*Dee Dee Manos came to OWU as Title IX was enacted in 1972, and she continues to serve as a volunteer assistant field hockey coach.*

**"In the world,  
women are told to  
shrink themselves.  
In sports, we get  
to be the biggest  
version of ourselves,  
and do it proudly."**

Kirsta Cobb



## 1982

**Julie Bredenbeck '84** (pictured) wins the NCAA D-III discus championship and All-America honors in shot put. **Liz Phelps '84** takes the first of three straight All-America honors in heptathlon.



## 1988

Seven OWU swimmers win All-America honors as the Bishops place 17th in the 1988 NCAA D-III championship meet, Ohio Wesleyan's best finish ever. The All-Americans are, pictured from left: **Juliann Althoff '91**, **Courtenay Feil '91**, **Carrie Urban '90**, **Catie Butt '91**, **Jen Schiller '91**, **Julie Dimmick '91**, and **Clare Birch '90**.



## 1987-93

Three-time All-American **Erin Foley '94** is part of a field hockey dynasty that captures seven straight NCAC championships and NCAA D-III playoff appearances, going 66-4-6 in conference play, including a 38-1-1 mark from 1987-90.



## 1992

The women's basketball team shares the NCAC season championship and wins the tournament championship, OWU's first league titles in the sport. **Krista Jacobs '92** (pictured) finishes her career as OWU's all-time leading scorer and a 4-time first-team All-NCAC selection.

# Bishop B

The history of women's athletics at OWU stretches back far earlier than Title IX, and the remarkable achievements are far too numerous to cover in one magazine article. Here are just a few of the most noteworthy accomplishments in the past half-century.



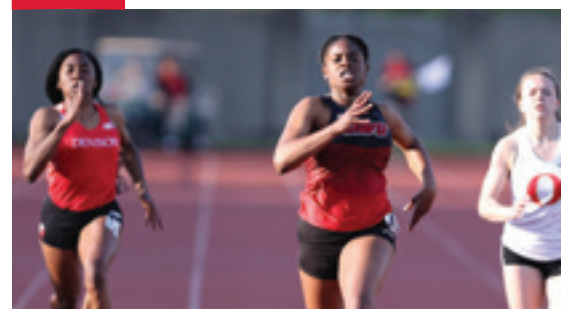
## 2004

**Linsey Longstreth '06** becomes OWU's first All-American in softball, as the Bishops capture a share of their first NCAC title.



## 2005

Soccer player **Sarah Wall '06** fills a trophy case as 4-time NCAC Offensive Player of the Year, 2-time Academic All-American, and NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipient.



## 2007-2016

What a dynasty! Over a 10-year span, the women's indoor and outdoor track & field teams bring home 19 NCAC championships.

## 2005

The women's lacrosse team wins its first NCAC tournament championship, and its 12 wins tie a school record.



## 2015-17

**Iris Anderson '18** becomes OWU's first volleyball All-American, earning the honor three times.





**1996**

**Kristen Sherrill '96** (left) and **Shelly Smart '96** become Ohio Wesleyan's first All-Americans in women's tennis.



**2001–02**

The women's soccer team wins two consecutive NCAA D-III national championships and extends its record-setting winning streak to 45 straight games. See story on Page 48.



**2001**

The women's basketball team finishes third in the nation, defeating Emmanuel in the third-place game of the NCAA D-III tournament, after winning their third consecutive NCAC championship.



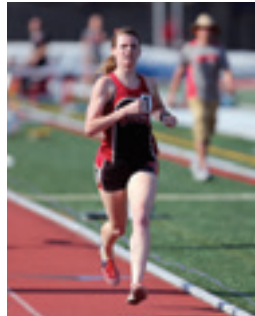
**2002**

**Katy Sturtz '02** finishes her Bishop basketball career as the fourth player in NCAC history to surpass both 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

# rilliance!

**2019**

**Alexis Reichardt '20** wins All-NCAC honors to become OWU's first 3-time all-conference selection in women's golf.



**2016–17**

**Sarah Fowler '17** becomes the first OWU runner to win All-America honors in cross country, indoor track (5000-meter run), and outdoor track (3000-meter steeplechase) during a single academic year.



**2018**

**Cirrus Robinson '20** sweeps the NCAA Division III indoor and outdoor championships in the high jump. Her three individual national championships are the most by an OWU woman.



**2021**

The field hockey team wins the NCAC tournament for the first time and captures its first-ever NCAA D-III playoff victory, a 2-1 overtime win against Cortland.

# Dark Matter and the OWU Connection

By Robert Harmon, Professor of Physics & Astronomy

*In this new department, Ohio Wesleyan faculty will bring their classroom into the pages of OWU Magazine, providing mini-classes on topics that fascinate them.*

**Y**ou and I and everything you can see are made of what physicists call “baryonic matter.”

But most matter in the universe appears to be another type that we cannot see, because it doesn’t emit, reflect, or absorb light, so we call it “dark matter.” We still don’t know for sure exactly what it is, and I’m not going to try to answer that in this “teaching moment.” But I am going to tell you about the OWU connection to the discovery of this mysterious dark matter.

We cannot see dark matter, but it does have gravity—and we can see how gravity affects other objects. In the 1930s, Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky, working at California Institute of Technology, discovered that galaxies in clusters are moving fast enough that the cluster would fly apart if only the gravity of the matter we see was available, which was the first hint of the existence of unseen, dark matter.



Photo courtesy of the California Institute of Technology, Archives



Fritz Zwicky and you know who.

Here’s a famous photo of Fritz Zwicky said to capture his personality. One day I was looking at it thinking “Who does he remind me of?” And then it hit me!

But this is not the OWU connection to dark matter that I’m talking about.

In 1970, American astronomer Vera Rubin and Kent Ford published a famous paper called “Rotation of the Andromeda Nebula from a Spectroscopic Survey of Emission Regions.”

Emission regions are star-forming regions similar to the Orion Nebula seen above. They’re bright enough to study in other galaxies, including the Andromeda Galaxy.

You can measure how fast objects are moving in these distant galaxies by observing the Doppler effect. We all experience the Doppler effect when we hear a train approaching and passing by us. A train’s motion piles up the sound waves in front of it when it approaches, and stretches them out behind it when it moves away. That’s why the pitch of a train whistle



Orion Nebula



Andromeda Galaxy

is higher when the train is approaching you and lower when it’s moving away. This Doppler effect applies to light waves, too.

Rubin and Ford measured Doppler shifts to determine how fast emission regions orbit the center of the Andromeda Galaxy at different distances from the center.

In photos of Andromeda it appears as though most of the galaxy’s mass is near its center, in which case orbital speeds would decrease as we got farther away from the center, as with planets orbiting the Sun. For instance, the Earth orbits the Sun at speeds three times faster than Saturn. And Mercury speeds along its orbit about 50 percent faster than the Earth.

Surprisingly, though, Rubin and Ford saw that orbital speed is almost constant when you move far from the galactic center. Later, Rubin measured more galaxies, and the results were always the same: near constant orbital speeds that imply dark matter! The unseen dark matter is providing extra gravity, making objects orbit faster than they otherwise would.

We now know there’s more than five times as much dark matter in the universe than baryonic matter.

So what’s the OWU connection to dark matter?

From Section II of their groundbreaking paper I quote: “The DTM image tube spectrograph was used on the 72-inch telescope of the Ohio State and **Ohio Wesleyan** Universities at Lowell Observatory....For the **Perkins** telescope, the scale perpendicular to the dispersion is 40” mm<sup>-1</sup>.”

In other words, they used the original Perkins Observatory telescope after it had been moved to Lowell Observatory in Arizona in the early 1960s. At the time, that telescope still belonged to *Ohio Wesleyan*.

That is the OWU connection to the discovery of the dominant form of matter in the universe!



Bob Harmon

Photo by James DeCamp



**Amy Butcher**, associate professor of English and director of creative writing, received numerous national reviews for her book *Mothertrucker*. *The Wall Street Journal* writes that the book is “shot through with poignant insights” and is “a rattling good story.” HarperCollins will publish a German translation of *Mothertrucker* in fall 2022 or spring 2023. *The New York Times* also published Butcher’s guest essay “I Know All Too Well How a Lovely Relationship Can Descend into Abuse,” on September 30, 2021. *Columbus Monthly* published her article “On Dangers Real and Imagined,” in November 2021. Butcher also delivered a lecture on her experience and the research that led to *Mothertrucker* with the Pace Women’s Justice Center, which provides legal aid and services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse.

**David Caplan**, Charles M. Weis Professor of English, published *American Poetry: A Very Short Introduction* as the latest book in Oxford University Press’s highly regarded “Very Short Introduction Series.” The series features leading figures introducing their fields. According to *The New Yorker*: “The Very Short Introductions range from worth reading to wonderfully appealing. It helps that some volumes are the product of exceptional writers and thinkers.” Other writers in the series include Mary Beard on Classics, Jonathan Culler on literary theory, Peter Singer on Marx, and Terry Eagleton on the meaning of life.

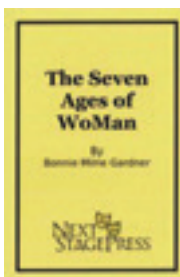
**Andrea Colvin**, associate professor of Spanish, published the article “Nuevas Voces por la Memoria, Verdad y Justicia: Una Entrevista con Cuatro Integrantes del Colectivo Argentino Historias Desobedientes,” in *Hispanic Journal*, Vol. 42 (2). It is an interview with four members of the Argentine organization Historias Desobedientes, whose members are descendants of individuals who perpetrated human rights violations during Argentina’s military dictatorship (1976–1982). The group was formed in 2017, and its members repudiate the actions of their family members and demand truth and justice, thereby breaking the silence imposed on them by their families and society.

**Vicki DiLillo**, professor of psychology, coauthored (with five others) the book chapter “Professional Women in Psychology: Integrating Your Values

into a Full Life,” in *The Portable Mentor: Expert Guide to a Successful Career in Psychology*, Third Edition, M. J. Prinstein (Ed.), currently in press and scheduled to be printed this year by Cambridge University Press, New York.

**Amy Downing**, professor of biological sciences, was one of many coauthors from institutions in North America and Europe on the articles “Current Water Quality Guidelines Across North America and Europe Do Not Protect Lakes from Salinization,” published in *PNAS*, Vol. 119 (9), and “Lake Salinization Drives Consistent Losses of Zooplankton Abundance and Diversity Across Coordinated Mesocosm Experiments,” published in *Limnology and Oceanography Letters*, 2022. The study, led by the University of Toledo and Queen’s University in Ontario, found that the salinity of freshwater ecosystems caused by road de-icing salts, agriculture fertilizers, mining operations, and climate change is increasing worldwide, and current water quality guidelines do not do enough to address the issue. Downing and her students conducted one of the 16 coordinated experiments in the United States, Canada, and Europe that contributed to the publications.

**Bonnie Milne Gardner**, professor emeritus of performing arts, published *The Seven Ages of Woman*, a reimagining of Shakespeare’s vision. The collection of dramatic pieces, published by Next Stage Press, portrays the stages of a woman’s life today. Her short play *White Squirrel* was performed in March by Playwrights Roundtable at the Marshall Ellis Theater in Orlando, FL. “Christina’s World,” a monologue based on Andrew Wyeth’s painting, received a December reading at Stage Brews Workshop in Asheville, NC. *Splitting Butternuts* will appear in a COVID drama anthology published by Flowersong Press June 2022.



**Will Georgic**, assistant professor of economics, coauthored (with H. Allen Klaiber) the article “Stocks, Flows, and Flood Insurance: A Nationwide Analysis of the Capitalized Impact of Annual Premium Discounts on Housing Values,” in *Journal of Environmental Economics*

and Management, Vol. 111, January 2022. Also, he coauthored (with Charles Towe, H. Allen Klaiber, and Joe Maher) the article “A Valuation of Restored Streams Using Repeat Sales and Instrumental Variables,” in *Environmental and Resource Economics*, Vol. 80, October 2021.

**Marty Kalb**, professor emeritus of fine art, presented the lecture “Degenerate Art Exhibition: Origins and the Nazi Response to Artistic Expression,” April 12, part of the Understanding the Holocaust series sponsored by the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, the Ohio Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education, and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.

**Sarah Kaka**, assistant professor of education, published *Hollywood or History? An Inquiry-Based Strategy for Using Film to Teach about Inequality and Inequity Throughout History* (Information Age Publishing). The book features



30 inquiry-based lesson plans that integrate Hollywood film clips to teach K-12 students about issues surrounding historical inequality and inequity. She also published the chapter “First Amendment Rights and Speech: Views from Students on News and Social Media in Schools” in *At the Schoolhouse Gate: Stakeholder Perceptions of First Amendment Rights and Responsibilities in U.S. Public Schools*, Patterson, N. and Chandler, P., editors, 2022. Kaka also published two articles: “Digital Practice Spaces and Clinical Practice in Teacher Preparation: Current Uses and Future Possibilities” in the *Journal of Digital Learning in Teacher Education*, November 2021; and “Put on Your Oxygen Mask First” in the National Association of Elementary School Principals’ *Communicator*, November 2021. She presented two research sessions at the College and University Faculty Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies’ virtual conference in November: “Social Studies Teachers as Instructional Gatekeepers for Issues of Race and Justice” and “The Unsettled Waters of Inquiry-Based Instruction: Social Studies Teachers’ Competing Perceptions and Practices.” She also presented two sessions at the Association of Teacher Educators Annual Conference in February with Education

Department colleagues **Jennifer Lisy** and **Michele Nobel**: “The Long and Winding Road: One Teacher Preparation Program’s Journey to Prepare Antiracist Teachers” and “You Can Do Hard Things! Teaching Resilience to Preservice Teachers.”

**Donald Lateiner**, professor emeritus of Classics, published the article “Bad News’ in Herodotos and Thoukydides: Misinformation, Disinformation, and Propaganda,” in the *Journal of Ancient History*, Vol. 9. The article examines how the first ancient historians investigated dubious stories and how they identified innocent mistakes and labeled misleading information, slogans, and catchwords. Lateiner also presented a lecture at a conference at the Academy of Athens. His presentation examined nonverbal behaviors in the *Aithiopika*, a novel of Heliodoros. The papers will be published in a volume by deGruyter.

**Barbara MacLeod**, John J. Joseph Chair in Business Administration, conducted financial literacy training for future homeowners of Habitat for Humanity of Delaware and Union counties in January and February. Topics included principles of financial planning, developing SMART goals, budgeting, credit management, appropriate record keeping, and predatory lending.

**Antron Mahoney**, assistant professor of Africana, gender, and identity studies, presented “Queering Black Fraternal Masculinity: Institutionalality and MiAKAs on the Down Low” at the National Women’s Studies Association annual conference in November 2021. The paper was part of a panel on Queering Masculinities in Popular Culture sponsored by the NWSA Feminist Masculinities Interest Group. Mahoney also provided commentary for an article in *The Columbus Dispatch* on transgender rights in Ohio, “Ahead of May Primary, Transgender Rights Become Latest Culture War for Ohio Republicans,” January 24, 2022. He also delivered a Black History Month lecture at Western Carolina University in February.

**Chris Modica**, assistant professor of psychology, published three articles: “Modeling the Associations Between Internal Body Orientation, Body Appreciation, and Intuitive Eating Among Early-Adult and Middle-Adult Men

and Women: A Multigroup Structural Invariance Analysis,” in *Body Image*, 39, 2021; “Ethical Considerations in Supervising Undergraduate Internships Across Professions: Issues of Competence,” in *The Ohio Psychologist*, 68, 2021 (coauthored with **Maria Alonso ’21**, now a graduate student at University of Central Florida); and “Emotionally-Focused Couples Therapy and Gay and Lesbian Couples: Considerations for Pursuer-Distancer Patterns,” *Journal of LGBTQ Issues in Counseling*, 16, 2022 (coauthored with **Karli Bigler ’21**, now a graduate student at Northwestern University).

**Francesca Nestor**, assistant professor of politics and government, published “Congressional Committee Demographics and Racially Salient Representation” in *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, October 2021. The article considers the impact of racial diversity among congressional committee members on committee behavior. New records show standing committees in the House with more Black members are more likely to hold racially salient hearings and hold more of such hearings.

**Michele Nobel**, assistant professor of education and director of OWU’s special education program, authored the book chapter “Challenging Deficit Thinking in Our Schools: It Starts During Educator Preparation” for the textbook, *Handbook of Research on Challenging Deficit Thinking for Exceptional Education Improvement*. In her chapter, Nobel explores why deficit thinking (framing situations or people in the negative rather than from a position of strength) exists in schools and what educator preparation programs can do to challenge deficit thinking and, subsequently, help students succeed.

**Eva Paris-Huesca**, associate professor of Spanish, published the article “Let Us Not Forget: Female Agency and Historical (Dis)remembering in Patricia Ferreira’s Cinema” in the *Bulletin of Spanish Visual Studies*, March 2021. It provides original analysis of the film *Sé Quién Eres* in relation to female film discourses of the new millennium and the crisis of memory, two issues that the director explores throughout her filmography. In November 2021, Paris-Huesca was elected to a two-year term as president of AGSS, the International Association of Gender and Sexuality Studies.

**Dustin Reichard**, associate professor of biological sciences, coauthored an article with **Holly Keating ’21**, “Seasonal Song Variation in Male Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*),” in *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, Vol. 133, 2021. They completed the project during OWU’s 2020 Summer Science Research Program.

**Rosemary Riley**, part-time instructor in health & human kinetics, conducted a series of culinary medicine webinars titled The Three C’s, Cooking Skills, Curriculum, and Cultural Foodways through the Center for Obesity Prevention and Education at Villanova University. Dietitians and nurses from across the U.S. attended to learn about the cultural foodways of the Mediterranean diet, African heritage diet, Latin American heritage diet, and Indian (South Asian) foodways.

**Goran Skosples**, associate professor of economics, with **Liz Knowlton ’19** and Bob Gitter, professor of economics, wrote the article “Is Anybody Home? Remote Working Opportunities and Employment During the COVID-19 Crisis,” published in *Economics Bulletin*, Spring 2022. The article concludes there is evidence that lack of ability to perform work from a remote location due to poor internet access significantly impacts the level of employment in the United States. Since one in eight U.S. households does not have internet access, this can limit employment during a pandemic.

**Chelsea Vadnie**, assistant professor of psychology, published the article “The Suprachiasmatic Nucleus Regulates Anxiety-Like Behavior in Mice,” in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, Vol. 15, 2022.

**Chris Wolverton**, professor of biological sciences, was named co-chair of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine’s panel on biological sciences in space. The panel is one of three that makes up the Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences Research in Space 2023–2032. The survey will generate recommendations for a vision and strategy for a decade of transformative science intended to help NASA advance scientific knowledge, meet human and robotic exploration mission needs, and provide terrestrial benefits.



# classnotes

Thank you to all who sent in submissions for the Class Notes section. Due to space limitations, we ask that entries be limited to 100 words. To submit Class Notes items, please use the form at [www.owu.edu/classnotes](http://www.owu.edu/classnotes). **The deadline for the Fall 2022 issue is August 1.**

## 1950s



**David Casto '53** celebrated his 90th birthday in late December. He is pictured sporting his new “Vintage 1931” ball cap.

## 1960s



When the Fall *OWU Magazine* was delivered to **Nancy Nibbelink Turgeon '64**, she placed her Ohio Wesleyan blanket over the back of her most comfortable reading chair. Her 13-year-old Himalayan cat, The Sundance Kit, immediately noticed the improvement, pounced up to demonstrate his approval, and volunteered to substitute for the OWU mascot. He claimed, “I’m the new MEOW-U!”



**Tom Sigafos '65** published *The Cursing Stone*, an Irish historical novel built around the shipwreck of HMS Wasp. The novel follows the lives of two men—Ruairi Mullan of Toraigh Island and Sub-Lieutenant William Gubby of the British Royal Navy—as their fates intersect in the disastrous arc of the Irish Land Wars. Tom has lived in northwest Ireland since 2003. Printed copies and e-book versions of the novel are available through online bookstores, including Lulu Bookstore, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. Interested readers also can subscribe at [www.tomsigafos.com](http://www.tomsigafos.com).

**Neil Snider '67** received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his 50 years of service to the legal profession and to the Worcester County Bar Association in Massachusetts. He and his wife Diana are retired and living on Cape Cod.

## 1970s



**Julie Reidel Schoch '77** and **Emily Thayer Guziak '78** met in Long Lake, NY, in September to canoe and camp in the Adirondack State Park. While sleeping in a tent wasn't quite as comfortable as

their Austin Hall dorm room, the beauty of the protected rivers and lakes made the effort worthwhile and offered the opportunity to recall OWU adventures, such as biking, and traipsing through the tunnel between Austin Hall and Monnett.

**Emily Thayer Guziak '78** authored a memoir about forgiving her father, crediting **Dick Lovell '69** as her inspiration. Dick was her high school journalism teacher and mentor, encouraging her to study journalism at OWU. In her memoir, *Just Ask: A Memoir of Forgiveness*, Emily explores how a person can learn to truly love themselves even if they don't experience unconditional love as a child. One chapter of her memoir relates experiences at OWU. “Mostly I write about the wonderful relationships I developed there,” she says. Her memoir is available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle.

## 1980s



**Matthew Tabenken '80**, joined Sazerac Company, Inc., as state manager for ME/NH/VT. He will manage their sales and marketing initiatives and relationships with state liquor commissions, their broker network, and large volume chain accounts. Sazerac is a leading global producer of distilled spirits and markets brands including Fireball Whiskey, Mr. Boston, and Platinum 7X Vodka. Matthew has over 20 years' experience in the wine and spirits industry and for the past 12 years was ME/NH/VT sales manager for Moët Hennessy. Originally from Bangor, ME, he lives in Falmouth, ME, with his wife Joyce and daughter Lily.

## 'Never Wing It, Always Bring It'

In 2021, **Pamela Bledsoe Malone '82** completed her final season as girls' soccer coach at Chagrin Falls High School with an OHSAA Division II state championship. She was also named United Soccer Coaches National Coach of the Year in the small public school girls category.

These types of moments are unforgettable, but it's an Ohio Wesleyan memory that also makes Pam's blood pump. "I remember walking down a long hallway in Edwards," she recalls. "My clogs were loud on the wooden floors. From one of the offices I heard 'Bledsoe!,' and I knew I had to answer." That voice belonged to Harriet Stewart, and to this day, the memory raises Pam's blood pressure. "But in a good way," laughs Pam.

"Growth happens when you're uncomfortable," she says. The willingness to move beyond her comfort zone is a quality Pam learned through OWU athletics. She credits **Laura Pierce Bump '58**, Mary Parker, and Harriet Stewart, who all served in a variety of coaching, faculty, and administrative roles at OWU, with challenging her to be her best.

"They were trendsetters in pushing for equality in sports, and it's why I remember them all 40 years after graduation."

At OWU, Pam was a field hockey, softball, and track athlete. "There was no women's soccer team," she says. "But I took a class with Jay Martin, and he put me on the path to soccer. He also pushed me, and I knew I had a strong foundation to build on. I still have the notebook from his class."

As a soccer coach, Pam chose a difficult path for her players—a schedule that was considered among the toughest in the state.

"I certainly could have scheduled a 16-0 season, but we wouldn't have learned much," she says. "I schedule for two



Photo courtesy of Dad  
Brag Photography

seasons, and I wanted us to face formidable opponents. Win or lose, we'll learn something."

Chagrin Falls ended its season at 18-3-2 with a 4-2 victory in the state championship game, won 4-2 on penalty kicks. Pam is enjoying her team's success, but says she won't know for some time how good a coach she really is.

"We'll see what my students do—if they contribute to the greater good, if they give back, if they turn out to be good coaches," Pam says. "That's how I'll know I'm a successful coach."

Her advice to current female student-athletes considering a career in coaching is to never stop preparing. "Be a student of the game," she advises. "Never wing it. Always bring it."

## YOUR OWU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

When you graduate from Ohio Wesleyan, you become part of a worldwide network of Bishops and an instant member of the Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association. The Alumni Association is the heart of the Bishop alumni community inspiring, cultivating, and creating meaningful engagement opportunities to stay connected with each other and the University.

## 2021-2022 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is the governing body of the Alumni Association and works to increase awareness, pride, participation, volunteer involvement, and philanthropic commitment of alumni to OWU.

Elizabeth Long Downey '06, *President*

Keith Rozanski '99, *Vice President*

Jennifer Magro Algarotti '00, *Alumnae*

*Panhellenic Council (APHC) Representative*

Matt Bixler '78

Denise Sabo Brenner '00

Mitchell Briant '07, *Alumni Interfraternity Council*

*(AIFC) Representative*

Lauren Colpitts '02

Michelle Corbett Coutts '09

Zibbi Palmer Cunningham '99

Candace Griffith '09

Sean Harris '97

Dylan Hays '20

Kevin Hinkle '94, *W Association Representative*

September Howat '00

Katie Jenks '12

Sarah Kieta Kirwen '06

Anthony Knight '83

Katherine Konopka '21

Julie MacMillan '88

Justin McCoy '07

Vic Misiewicz '82

Andrea Moore '82

Michael Pattison '04

Anthony M. Peddle '14

Carrie Lippert Reinhardt '94

Diana Poos Roach '72

Drew Thawley '97

Julie Clemo Tutkovic '92

Gordon Witkin '77

Shondra E. Wygal '94



**Pete Geyer '81**, as founding sponsor of and advisor to the Paris-based women's cycling activism group *Donnons des Elles au Vélo* (recognized by the United Nations and European Parliament), played a key role in the return, scheduled for July 2022, of the first official women's Tour de France in 33 years.

**Deborah Venesy '82** was named the 2022 president of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She has volunteered for AAPM&R since the early '90s, most recently serving as vice president and president-elect. Deborah is currently the senior staff physician in the Center for Spine Health at the Cleveland Clinic.

**Kara Trott '83** was named one of 2022's Top 25 Women Leaders by *Modern Healthcare* magazine. The award recognizes leading female healthcare executives who are "developing policy, leading change, and guiding healthcare delivery improvement across the country." Trott is the founder and board chair of Quantum Health, the industry-leading healthcare navigation and care coordination company. She founded Quantum Health in 1999 as the first-of-its-kind consumer care coordination and navigation company focused on providing employees of self-insured employers a more effective and satisfying healthcare experience. The company has grown to more than 1,600 employees serving more than 400 self-insured employer clients and more than 2 million members. Trott also serves on OWU's Board of Trustees.

**Laura Staley '84** became a featured contributing writer and then columnist

with BizCatalyst360, an award-winning, multimedia digest. Laura writes personal essays focused on self-discovery, Feng Shui, emotional health, and transformations from the inside out. In September 2021, Laura became a columnist for the *OWL* magazine with Sacred Stories publishing. In her column, "Write for Good," Laura offers meaningful, informative articles about spiritual growth, self-discovery, and emotional wellness. She also founded Cherish Your World and has authored four books. She lives in Black Mountain, NC, and can be found on LinkedIn, Facebook, and [cherishyourworld.com](http://cherishyourworld.com) and [loveyourspaceyourlife.com](http://loveyourspaceyourlife.com).

## 1990s

**Nancy Laird '92** is in her 22nd year working at Harvard University. In September she joined the Harvard Art Museums as the director of finance. She lives in Boston.

**John Wareck '92** spearheaded an affiliate agreement for his 10-year-old real estate brokerage, Wareck D'Ostilio, with leading New York firm Houlihan Lawrence. The New York firm, founded in 1888, has 1,450 realtors in 30 offices that produced a sales volume of \$9.5 billion last year. Houlihan Lawrence Wareck D'Ostilio's 75 realtors and five offices now cover residential and commercial real estate sales for all of central Connecticut.

**William Day '93** was featured in *Tainted Magazine* for his artistic work, particularly its escapist themes. "His painting practice, existing at the intersection of intuitive abstraction and the calculated nature of architecture, channels our desire to get lost and

provides us a path to do so," the article says. "Through large-scale immersive paintings, Day's abstraction is inspiring change and building a community of creativity."



**Tom Hoag '93, Jesse Johnson '93, and Brent Norton '93** completed the Pyrenees Stage Run, a 7-day, 240 kilometer running stage race across the Spanish Pyrenees that crosses five Spanish National Parks and features 15,000 meters of elevation gain. You can read their blog at [www.psrrotro.com](http://www.psrrotro.com).

**Linda Dale Price '94** was recognized as an outstanding teacher by the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics and awarded the Myrtle Miller/Marijane Werner Award during the OCTM annual conference in October. Linda is a math coach with Troy City Schools. She and her husband, Jeff, live in Piqua, OH, and have a daughter in college and a son in high school.

**Melanie Fuller '95** was hired by Arvest Bank as president of digital banking solutions. Previously, Melanie worked in a variety of leadership roles for JPMorgan Chase, including as the executive director of strategy and operations.



**Doug Pierson '92** received two exceptional honors. First, he was promoted from brigadier general to major general of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He is currently Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Cyber Command, Joint Task Force-ARES, and Joint Force Headquarters-Cyber. Doug is pictured at the promotion ceremony with his wife, Maggie, and they were joined by their children, 1-year-old Mason and 4-year-old Olivia. Also, Sigma Chi fraternity presented Doug with the Significant Sig Award, one of the fraternity's highest honors, which recognizes alumni members whose exemplary achievements have brought honor and prestige to the fraternity.

# classnotes

**Karla Chipelo McClain '99** was named the 2021 Connecticut American Choral Directors Association Choral Director of the Year. Now in her 23rd year teaching music, she currently teaches choir and music integration at Irving A. Robbins Middle School in Farmington, CT. Karla also is assistant director of Laurel Music Camp and is an active presenter at conferences. She lives with her husband and two children in Cromwell, CT.

## 2000s



**Edward Canterbury '02** was recognized in *Naples Illustrated* magazine's "Top Lawyers." His work in real estate law with Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. was honored.

**Martha Loizeaux '02** was admitted to the Global Field Program at Miami University. As part of her first earth expeditions course, Martha traveled to Baja, Mexico, and studied desert and marine landscapes through ecological and social field methods.

**Scott Sellers '02** was inducted into Clear Fork Valley (Ohio) Athletic Hall of Fame in August. Currently the girls basketball coach at Clear Fork, Scott was a 4-year varsity player for the boys basketball team, scoring over 1,100 points there.

**Braden Molhoek '03** was named director of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. He will move into this position in June. Braden also will be appointed assistant professor at the GTU and hold the Ian G. Barbour Chair in Theology, Science, Ethics, and Technology.

**Charlie Smith '04** was featured by the *Newark Advocate* (OH) for his business, Elite Performance-Newark. "I first got an interest in fitness the last semester of college," Charlie says. "I took a class

that ultimately prepared us to take the Certified Personal Trainer exam."



**Brittany Hicar Asmus '06** was promoted to partner status by Reminger Co., LPA. She practices civil defense litigation in their office in Toledo, OH.

**P. Richard Kramer '06** was elected to the board of directors of the Partnership for Excellence, a Malcolm Baldrige program serving Ohio, Indiana, and West Virginia.



**Ben Hammett Walkuski '07**, with the Rheumatology Research Foundation in Atlanta, GA, was included in the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy 2021 40 Under 40 list. This program celebrates future leaders within the healthcare philanthropy community. Ben earned his MBA from the University of Georgia and joined the Rheumatology Research Foundation in 2019 as the organization's first director of annual giving.

**Hilary Holmes Rheume '09** was named to the 2022 40 Under Forty list of the *New Hampshire Union Leader*. She is an attorney with Bernsten Shur, specializing in representing automotive and equipment dealers in New England. Hilary is also the chair of the board of directors for Woodside School, Inc., and a member of the board of directors for the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

## 2010s

**Kelly O'Donnell '11** was appointed director of National Confectioners Association's CandyPAC. She will support their political efforts and manage the confectionary industry's political action committee. She previously served as the PAC director for the National Association of Realtors, TriNet, and the Farm Credit Council.

**Jessica Spafford '11** and **Joshua Boggs '14** founded a new opera company, AppOpera. Their first performance, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, occurred at Emory & Henry College in Emory, VA. Their mission is to champion opera in nontraditional spaces.

**Hung Huynh '13** accepted a job as an English teacher at Lycée Saint Joseph de Marvejols in France, helping French students explore the British-American language and culture and pass the French baccalaureate exam. She spent the past seven years living and working in France, exploring the French language and culture while working and living the life she loved to explore back in the days as a French major at Ohio Wesleyan. Hung recently completed a French law degree program and hopes to be on track to become a French-American bilingual lawyer.



**Challen Brown '14** joined The Columbus Foundation in 2019 as creative manager, overseeing creative strategy and execution for marketing projects and campaigns and serving as lead photographer and videographer. In 2020, her communications and marketing team provided the campaign, including advertising and social media, for The Big Give, a 25-hour online giving event that raised \$32,403,214 to provide critical financial support to area nonprofit organizations. In March 2021, her team



was awarded the Pride of Columbus American Advertising Federation Local Award for their Spirit of Columbus campaign, created to reward and honor Dr. Amy Acton for her healthcare leadership throughout the COVID pandemic.



From left, **Colleen Waickman '13**, MD, **Brenda Gable '15**, MD, and **Meghan Schulze '16**, DO, are completing their psychiatry residencies together at The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. All three live in Columbus for their medical training and will graduate from residency as psychiatrists in 2024, 2025, and 2025, respectively.



**Kerrigan Boyd '15** and her brother, Ian Boyd, completed a thru hike of the Appalachian Trail on November 20, after

167 days on trail. She says, "There were too many highlights to pick just one—interacting with wildlife, experiencing peak fall in Virginia, the alpine zones and lakes of Maine, and the incredible kindness of the hiking community. My advice for anyone hiking a long trail is to plan it out, seek advice from others who hike, practice a bit, and jump in! You're more capable than you think, and can fill in the gaps along the way."

**Kevin Ford '15** ran more than 120 miles in 24 hours to raise money for the Westerville Education Challenge Hope Squad, a suicide-prevention program in Westerville, OH. In a message to others who have faced a tragic loss, he says, "There is always hope."

## Births



**Ron Talley '90** and Lia Talley welcomed Noah on Sept. 25, 2021. Ron moved from Ohio to Garland, TX, in June 2019, where he soon met Lia, and they married July 3, 2020.



## 2022 calendar of events

Alumni, family, and friends, join us for these upcoming events! Visit [owu.edu/alumni](http://owu.edu/alumni) for details and to register.

**May 12–13 SAE Reunion** On campus

**May 13–15 Double Reunion Weekend 2022**, celebrating classes ending in '1, '2, '6, '7

**July 23 Michigan Red & Black Luncheon**  
Traverse City Country Club

**August 6 Cleveland Guardians Game** with OWU alumni, families & students  
Progressive Field, evening game

**September 9 Cape Cod Clambake**  
Home of Rich '82 and Kim Alexander, 4 p.m.

**October 7–9 Homecoming & Family Weekend** On campus

**November 4–5 Women of Ohio Wesleyan, WOW Weekend**  
On campus

**December OWU Holiday Gatherings** Select cities

More to come at [owu.edu/alumni](http://owu.edu/alumni)

We want to hear from you



Please send us your news using the form at <http://www.owu.edu/classnotes>. Or email your news to [classnotes@owu.edu](mailto:classnotes@owu.edu). Submissions may be edited for space or clarity.

You can also submit your news to:  
Attn: Class Notes Editor  
OWU Magazine  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Mowry Alumni Center  
61 S. Sandusky St.  
Delaware, OH 43015

*Include your name and class year as well as a daytime phone number. Photos are welcome.*

**The deadline for receiving Class Notes and Faculty Notes submissions for the Fall 2022 OWU Magazine is August 1, 2022.**

# Weddings



### Janowicz-Swary Wedding

**Lauren Janowicz '15** and **Seth Swary '14** were married Aug. 7, 2021, in Traverse City, MI. They met at OWU in August 2011, marrying 10 years later. Pictured: top row from left: **Tyler Swary '13**, **Natalie Reddy '17**, **Nazar Zhdan '14**, **Megan Dill '15**, **Kathleen Sloan '16**, **Ryan Ossenbeck '15**, **John Wainwright '16**, **Lucas Janowicz '17**, **Jonathan Valentine '14**, **David Mogilnicki '16**, **Justin Segal '14**, Darcy South (friend of OWU), and **Daniel Blanchard '16**. Second row: **Taylor Weis '16**, **Kylea Davis '15**, **Kevin De La Cruz '15**, **Caroline Bonee '16**, **Ellin Youse '15**, **Cheyene Gibbons McBride**, **Morgan McBride '15**, **Brandon Henderson '16**, **Allison Greeley '18**, **Tyler Sheetz '13**, **Mariah Konrath '16**, and **Jane Suttmeier '15**. Two front rows: bride **Elise Pitcairn '15**, groom **Kelsey Caspersen Muzynski '15**, **Haley Schafer Henderson '15**, **Maria Urbina '15**, **Patricia Ryan '16**, **Zain Khan '15**, and **Daniel Rohrer '15**.



### Palmer Wentz-Cunningham Wedding

**Zibbi Palmer Wentz-Cunningham '99** was married July 30, 2021, at the Columbus Museum of Art in Columbus, OH. Pictured from left: **Paul Palmer '96**, **Denny Cole '99**, **Beth Chase Morrison '99**, **Tim Schindler '20**, **Rob Richards '77**, **Peter Cunningham '01**, **Andrew Cunningham '99**, **Cynthia Richards Cunningham '75**, bride, **Steven Cunningham '75**, **Anmarie Sorrentino Shippo '99**, **David Shippo '99**. Missing from photo: **Carl Palmer '64** and **Tom Palmer '69**.

### Hollabaugh-Serbanoiu Wedding

**Sara Hollabaugh Serbanoiu '17** and **Mike Serbanoiu '15** were married Sep. 5, 2020, and held their in-person celebration with family and many OWU friends Oct. 9, 2021. Pictured from left: **Madeleine Juszynski '18**, **Kelly Johnson '16**, **Andrew Wallace '14**, **Ashkan Molaie '15**, **Austin Viny '14**, **Ibrahim Saeed '15**, **Paul Heithaus '18**, groom, **Ben Farynowski '17**, **Jennifer Ripper Lothstein '14**, **Caroline Hamilton '17**, **Tyler Wake '16**, **Hannah Urano '15**, **Brittany Spicer '16**, **Chase Leaders '15**, **Daniel Thornton '16**, **Philippe Chauveau '15**, bride, **Kyle Hendershot '15**, **Alexander Lothstein '15**, **Memme Onwudiwe '15**, **Sarah Connelly '17**, **Meghan Finke Farynowski '16**, **Martha Hardy '69**, and **Dominique Garrett '18**





For more detailed information about the alumni listed below, please see [owu.edu/InMemoriam](http://owu.edu/InMemoriam), which includes links to full obituaries. The webpage is updated frequently, and names remain on it for one year from the date of death. The list below includes alumni and others who passed away from September 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022.

## 1930s

**Charlotte Gallant '39**, of Delaware, OH, Jan. 18, age 104. She was predeceased by parents **Blanche Walker Gallant 1906** and **Ellis Gallant 1907**, brother **Ellis Gallant '39**, and cousins **Elta Rickly Fowler '31** and **James Walker '52**. Charlotte is survived by brother **Thomas Gallant '50** and nephews **Richard Gallant '80** and **Bruce Gallant '82**.

## 1940s

**Jane Robinson '41**, of Mt. Pleasant, OH, Jan. 6, age 101. She was predeceased by husband **William Robinson '42**. Jane is survived by daughter **Janet Robinson Moland '68**. Jane was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Ruth Lucas Thurber '41X**, of Rocky River, OH, Jan. 21, age 103. She was predeceased by cousins **Elizabeth Siller Du Ross '35**, **Jane Siller Morton '38**, and **Ruth Siller Rutzen '42**. Ruth is survived by daughter **Ann Thurber Huffman '70**. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Corene Spaulding Grube '44X**, of Worthington, OH, Nov. 12, age 99. She was predeceased by husband **Hugh Robinson '43** and sisters **Jeanette Spaulding White '42** and **Betty Lou Spaulding Hockin '48**. Corene is survived by son **Garth Robinson '69**.

**Roy "Rex" Olton '44**, of Kalamazoo, MI, Nov. 6. He was predeceased by wife **Priscilla Smith Olton '45**. Rex was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Janet Carenbauer '45**, of Wheeling, WV, Dec. 16, age 98. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Eleanor Godard Frantz '46**, of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, Jan. 26, age 97. Ellie was predeceased by sister **Marjorie Godard**

**Kuespert '49**. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Clifford Dochterman '47**, of Stockton, CA, Nov. 23, age 95. He received a Distinguished Achievement Citation from OWU and was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Cynthia "Cyn" Baker McAdow '48**, of New Albany, OH, July 2, age 94. She was predeceased by husband **Harold McAdow '50**. Cyn is survived by granddaughter **Sara McAdow Fitzgerald-Butt '00**. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Dorothy Brown Wright '48**, of Wilton, CT, Nov. 10, age 95. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Charles Kaut '49**, of Charlottesville, VA, Nov. 7, age 95. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

## 1950s

**Mary Stephan Day '50**, of Durham, NH., March 30, 2018, age 89. She was predeceased by husband **Richard Day '50**. She is survived by children **Deborah, Stephanie, Robert, and James '89**. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Carol Hoffman Williams '50X**, of West Lafayette, IN, Jan. 26, age 93. She is survived by children **Deborah Turrell Atkinson '73** and **Roger Turrell '82**. Carol was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Ann Faile Zolondek '50**, of Lexington, KY, Dec. 23, age 92. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**Lucy Beattie '51**, of Chagrin Falls, OH, Jan. 9, age 92. She was predeceased by brother **Ralph Beattie '48** and cousin **Gretchen Beattie Swartwout '49**. Lucy is survived by son **J.B. Raftus '82**; nieces **Rebecca Beattie Reed '79**, **Martha Beattie Bistriz '81**, and **Lindsay Reed '15**; and cousin **Gertrude Beattie Mayce '47**. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Harold Fultz '51**, of Lancaster, OH, Jan. 14, age 92. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**Ruth Keese Schaeffer '51**, of Willoughby, OH, Dec. 2, age 91. She was predeceased by husband **Richard Schaeffer '51**. Ruth was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Diane Wolf Saleski '52**, of Hingham, MA, Dec. 26, age 91. She was predeceased by husband **Kenneth Saleski '53**. Diane was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Sally Elliott '53**, of Willoughby, OH, Dec. 7. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Carolyn Ferry '53**, of Cleveland, OH, Dec. 6, age 92. She was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Founders' Circle, as well as Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**William Taylor '53**, of Xenia, OH, Dec. 12, age 90. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

**Melvin Van Peebles '53**, of New York, NY, Sept. 21, age 89. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity and had received a Distinguished Achievement Award from OWU. *See more on Page 46.*

**Thomas Chambers '54**, of Orange City, FL, Nov. 29, age 89. He is survived by wife **Karin Fischer Chambers '56**. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Harry "Hap" Dowler Jr. '54**, of Marion, OH, Oct. 6, age 89. He was predeceased by father **Harry Dowler 1924** and uncle **John Dowler '29**. Hap is survived by sister **Betty Dowler Davis '57**. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**William Brown '55**, of Columbus, OH, Dec. 22, age 88. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Samuel Harvey '55**, of Venice, FL, Nov. 9, age 88. He was predeceased by wife **Eleanor Beetham Harvey '55**. Samuel is survived by sister **Marilyn Petrillo '59**. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Robert Marten '55**, of Butler, PA, Oct. 7, age 88. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Robert Martin '55**, of Fernandina Beach, FL, Dec. 2, age 88. He was predeceased by mother **Isabel Lucas Martin '29**, aunt **Winnifred Lucas Pope '31**, and sister **Nancy Martin Wilkins '58**. Robert is survived by cousin **E. Fred Carlisle '56** and grandchild **Hayley Winslow Cassingham '14**. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**William Holland '56**, of Granville, OH, Jan. 5, age 87. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Bruce Homfeldt '56**, of Carlton, WA, Nov. 24, 2020, age 88. He is survived by wife **Elizabeth Petersen Homfeldt '56**. Bruce was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Donald Hudler '56**, of Charlotte, NC, Dec. 9, age 87. He was predeceased by brother **Ronald Hudler '56**. Donald is survived by nephew **Dale Hudler '82**. He was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**William McAfee '56**, of Monterey, CA, Sept. 9, age 87. He was predeceased by sister **Ruth McAfee Fenton '53**. Bill was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Sally Fenwick Richmond '56**, of McConnelsville, OH, Nov. 12, age 87. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Larkin Warner '56**, of Oklahoma City, OK, Sept. 27, age 86. He was predeceased by father **Earl Warner '26**. Larkin was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**Peter Tillou '57**, of Litchfield, CT, Nov. 22, age 86. He is survived by niece **Amy Tillou Parks '94**. Peter received a Distinguished Achievement Citation from OWU. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**Louis Simpson '58**, of Chicago, IL, Jan. 8, age 85. He was a member of OWU's Founders' Circle and Kappa Sigma fraternity. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from OWU in 2013.

**Mary Glass Brown '59**, of Chardon, OH, Dec. 26, age 83. She was predeceased by mother **Mabel Hutchinson Glass '26**. Mary is survived by husband **Charles**

**Brown '60** and cousin **Evelyn Evans Kubach '52**. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**David Smith '59X**, of Lakewood Ranch, FL, Nov. 19, age 84. He was predeceased by brother **Charles Smith '54**. David was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

## 1960s

**Norwood Band Jr. '60**, of Richardson, TX, Nov. 23, age 83. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Verrick "Vick" French '60**, of Chevy Chase, MD, Jan. 19, age 83. He is survived by wife **Patricia Ross French '60**. Vick was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Virginia Fritts Kline '60**, of Westerville, OH, Dec. 7, age 83. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Roberta "Robin" McKinney Weiss '60X**, of Plum Borough, PA, Jan. 20, age 83. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**John Cotterman '61**, of Hot Springs, AR, Dec. 19, age 82. He was a member of OWU's Athletic Hall of Fame and Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Robert Keller '61**, of Rochester, MN, April 2020, age 81. He is survived by wife **Sarah Keller '61**. Robert was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Eleanor Anderson Volk '61**, of Mount Pleasant, SC, Sept. 18, age 81. She was predeceased by husband **William Hull '61**. Ellie was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**James Hogan Sr. '62**, of Aurora, OH, Nov. 25, age 81. He was predeceased by wife **Margaret Beeghly Hogan '64**. James is survived by son **James Hogan Jr. '86**. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**David Bard '63**, of Athens, WV, Dec. 21, age 80. He is survived by wife **Carol Glomset Bard '64**. David was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Charles "Nik" Pry '63**, of Pinehurst, NC, Dec. 22, age 80. He is survived by wife **Betsy Barrett Pry '64**, brother **James Pry '67**, and son **Barrett Pry '91**. Nik was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Robert Rau '63**, of Columbus, OH, Dec. 10, age 80. He is survived by nephew **Arthur Rau III '02**. Bob was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Roger Currier '64**, of Tunkhannock, PA, Dec. 15, age 79. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Margaret Edgerton Price '64**, of Seattle, WA, Dec. 19, age 79. Margaret was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Robert Egdell '65**, of Ravenna, OH, Jan. 10, age 78. He is survived by son **Jeffrey Egdell '96**. Robert was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Carole Stoffer Luce '65**, of Mansfield, OH, Jan. 4, age 78. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**John Smith '65**, of Bay St. Louis, MS, Sept. 23, age 78. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Charles Parks '66**, of Kernersville, NC, Jan. 30, age 77. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Nancy Vanhom Bloomer '67**, of Libertyville, IL, Dec. 26, age 77. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Thomas Hill '67**, of Carbondale, CO, Jan. 3, age 77. He is survived by wife **Karen Bird Hill '67**, and nephews **Eric Seaberg '00** and **John Seaberg '99**. Tom was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Edwina Howe Hoffeld '67**, of Rockville, MD, Nov. 17, age 76. She is survived by son **Bradley Hoffeld '06**. Edwina was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Robert Brown '68**, of Reisterstown MD, Sept. 6, age 74. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

**Diane Elizabeth Karel '68**, of Chatham, MA, May 20, 2020, age 73. Diane was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.



**Mark Kassop '68**, of Allendale, NJ, Oct. 1, age 74. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

**Keith Locke '68**, of Belmont, NC, Nov. 27, age 75. He is survived by brother **James Locke III '64**. Keith was a member of OWU's Tower Society and Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Martha Hurley Cailor '69**, of Hudson, OH, Dec. 8, age 73. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Susan Hendrickson '69**, of Jerseyville, IL, Dec. 15, age 74. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

## 1970s

**Elizabeth "Bett" Smith Jones '71**, of Bristol, VA, Dec. 7, age 72.

**Dean Nichols '71**, of Newtown, PA, Nov. 15, age 72.

**Hugh Douglas Kerr '72**, of Sarasota, FL, Dec. 1. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Edward Close '73**, of Huntington Station, NY, Oct. 4, age 70. He was predeceased by father **Elbert Close '42**. Edward is survived by sister **Catherine Close Mahler '75X**. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Richard Melluzzo '73**, of Great Barrington, MA, Dec. 19, age 70. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Susan Gardner Murray '74**, of Bel Air, MD, Sept. 17, age 69. She is survived by husband **Gordon Murray '74** and daughter **Sarah Murray 'X**. Susan was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**M. King "Chip" Hill III '76**, of Brooklandville, MD, Nov. 30, age 67.

## 1980s

**Abigail Sisson Olsen '80**, of Bethel, CT, Jan. 10, age 63. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Alison Lurton Kahle '81**, of Delaware, OH, Dec. 26, age 62. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Edward Reinkoester III '81**, of Hot Springs, AR, Sept. 5, age 62. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Richard Treseler '85**, of Surry, ME, Dec. 2, age 60. He is survived by brother **Paul Treseler '88**. Rick was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Gayle Ball '87**, of Bernardston, MA, Nov. 10, age 56.

**John McDonald '87**, of Wheeling, WV, Jan. 22, age 57. He is survived by brother **Patrick McDonald '79**. John was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

## 1990s

**Stephen "Scott" Humphrey '94**, of Cincinnati, OH, Nov. 29, age 50. He is survived by wife Courtney **Allen Humphrey '94**. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Peter Marbais '95**, of Efland, NC, May 23, age 47.

**Pryestt Strickland '95X**, of Pickerington, OH, Jan. 17, age 49.

**Timothy Hohl '96**, of Toledo, OH, Sept. 15, age 47. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

## Faculty & Staff

Angela Bezold, of Delaware, OH, Jan. 7, age 56. She was a barista at OWU.

Jo Ann Merkle Blaine, of Columbus, OH, Nov. 24. She was honored by OWU for her design and furnishings of Austin Manor.

Mary Lou Green, of Delaware, OH, Nov. 22, age 94. She worked in Buildings and Grounds.

Carol Hallenbeck, of Delaware, OH, Jan. 24, age 82. She was the former music librarian and was predeceased by husband Jan Hallenbeck, professor emeritus of history.

George Mass, of Sarasota, FL, Nov. 18, age 81. He taught psychology.

Lewis J. Overaker, of Meredith, NH, Oct. 26, age He formerly taught in the Modern Languages Department.

Edgar Reichert, of Delaware, OH, Jan. 18, age 89. He was the lead maintenance technician.

LaVern Rippley, of Rochester, MN, Jan. 6, age 86. He was an assistant professor of German.

Ray Thomas, of Delaware, OH, Sept. 16, age 73. He coached and taught at OWU.

## Friends

Jane Jackson Griffiths, of Chagrin Falls, OH, July 4, age 81. She was predeceased by husband **Dave Griffiths '51**, with whom they have an endowed scholarship at OWU. Jane is survived by daughters **Karen Griffiths Leary '78** and **Gwen Griffiths McCuaig '85**, and grandchildren **Kimberly Leary '09** and **Sarah Bruno '10**.

## Sympathy to

**Janice Kaye Fritz '57** and **Kaye Fritz Ridolfi '83** for the loss of their husband and father, Marvin Fritz, Nov. 2, 2020.

**Amy Jo Merrell Sommers '57** and **Paige Hunter '21** for the loss of their husband and grandfather, Donald Sommers, of Delaware, OH, Dec. 18, age 93.

**James McCarty '58** for the loss of his wife, Sandra Stephen McCarty, of Allison Park, PA, Nov. 25, age 82.

**Ann Griffith Seiler '75**, **Richard Seiler '72**, **Amy Griffith Stavar '92**, **Matthew Stromberg '02**, and **Leigh Stavar '22** for the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Jeanne Griffith, of Mentor, OH, Sept. 14, age 94.

**Nancy McDonald Butters '86** for the loss of her father, John McDonald, of Columbus, OH, Jan. 25, age 85.

# MELVIN VAN PEEBLES CHANGED FILMMAKING AND OUR WORLD

By Brian Granger, assistant professor of theatre

**M**elvin Van Peebles, avant-garde filmmaker-writer-performer and culture hero, was a member of the OWU **Class of 1953**, and an English major. He arrived here as a sophomore and was briefly involved with campus Greek life. His more consistent student interests, according to the few materials collected in university archives, involve his activity in AFROTC and in campus literary circles, as a couple of poems of his appear in the campus literary magazine, *OWL*.

Van Peebles served in the U.S. Air Force, moved to various cities to establish himself as a film director, and found repeated doors closed in his face due to the legal, economic, and social limitations of Jim Crow and a United States that was still in the early days of the Civil Rights Movement.

In response, Van Peebles constructed new doorways, becoming a self-taught film director and troubleshooting his way in France to a professional career as, first, an author of novels in French, and then as a filmmaker making French films.



Photo supplied by Peter Jones via Getty Images

His first film, *The Story of a Three-Day Pass* (1967), which he adapted from his own French novel and directed in France, allowed critics and audiences in the United States to finally “discover” and praise Van Peebles when the award-winning film toured here after its release.

His stunning, satirical film *Watermelon Man* (1970) was his first American-made feature film, but *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song* (1971) is the film most frequently associated with Van Peebles and arguably his most famous work.

Not limited to filmmaking, Van Peebles composed music and wrote and performed songs on a number of albums. He wrote novels, plays, and many musicals. *I Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death* (1971) and *Don't Play Us Cheap!* (1972) both ran

on Broadway, where Van Peebles received multiple Tony Award nominations, and the two shows were nominated for the Best Book of a Musical category in their respective years.

Van Peebles' Distinguished Achievement Citation from OWU is one of scores of awards and work credits. He was active as an artist and provocateur right up to his recent passing. And he somehow found time, amid his renaissance life, to be a devoted father and family man.

Yet, I am struck by the thought that his journey—at OWU and beyond—was marked by a continual sense of being made an outsider, of not being fully understood and appreciated.

I'm thrilled that space is being made to pay tribute to him, and in that same thought I wonder if even this mention is enough. I am not overstating to say that Van Peebles is an artistic voice that made other voices in the industry possible. Having lived a life that forced him to open doors, his own life and work was itself a door opener.

It would be a mistake to label Van Peebles' achievements as only an African American inspiration, though his presence and impact as a pioneering Black artist is profound. He was simply avant-garde as a director, and his vision and DIY directing style, which gave him a commercial hit, had a major influence on Hollywood film in general, beyond the narrower discussion of race. A low-budget film that becomes commercially successful (think of films such as *Juno* or *The Blair Witch Project*) is a familiar concept now, but Van Peebles was arguably the first to do it outside of the major studio system, and he did it decades earlier, with the highly charged *Baadasssss*. It is hard to conceive of the innovations of 1970s cinema, and the alternative cinema that followed in the 1980s and '90s, without Van Peebles.

I could go on, but for a quick example I can say that the swift and smooth violence of Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained* does not exist in a world without Van Peebles. Spike Lee's signature floating camera shots, and the charged public arguments his characters engage in around race, do not exist in a world without Van Peebles.

In the credits of *Baadasssss*, we're told the film is “Starring: The Black Community,” and this credit is both novel and prophetic in that Van Peebles put urban African American lives and language, in all their grittiness and soul, on screen. In doing so, he awakened and inspired the political imagination of artists worldwide.

He certainly inspired me, and Van Peebles's halo extends into the present and our lives here at OWU in yet another, and somewhat unexpected, way.

His son Mario, an established film director and actor in his own right, directed me in my first professional TV appearance. It was a tiny role, but it was my first, and I was the only African American aside from the junior Van Peebles on the set.

Van Peebles made a point to take some time and give me some coaching—something he not only did not have to do but wouldn't have been expected to do, given the size of my small acting role. But I was deeply moved by that sense of care and concern with seeing excellent work happen.

It's a feeling that I think endures at Ohio Wesleyan, and so I remember Van Peebles, the artist and artist nurturer that he was, as we all should: with great pride and endless appreciation.



# WILLIAM BATCHELDER DEDICATED LIFE TO PUBLIC SERVICE

Longtime OWU Politics & Government Professor Ben Arneson challenged his students to prepare for lives of public service by asking them to sign cards that became known as the Arneson Pledge. The cards stated: “With a view to serving the public interest and regardless of the nature of my future vocation I pledge that, upon leaving college, I will devote a portion of my time to active and definite participation in public affairs.”

One of the firmest adherents to that pledge was **William G. Batchelder III '64**. Batchelder, who died in February—on Abraham Lincoln’s birthday—devoted his life to helping Ohio become stronger, smarter, and better.

Bill Batchelder was first elected to the Ohio House of Representatives just five years after graduating from Ohio Wesleyan. At the time, he was the youngest state representative in Ohio history.

After 38 years of serving his district, with a brief pause to serve as an appellate judge, he left as speaker of the Ohio House in December of 2014, saying, “I’ll miss most the idea of being able to change things in a way that makes us a stronger, better state, that gives our children better opportunity to have a good education.”

He did it with conviction, compassion, keen intelligence, oratorical flair, and an unrivaled understanding of the legislative process. Former Ohio Governor Bob Taft called him “a lawmaker’s lawmaker.”

Governor Mike Dewine called him “a pillar of the Ohio House of Representatives.” He added, “Bill was a consummate legislator who helped me as we passed a drunk driving bill in 1982 for which I will always be grateful. I have sought his advice many times over the years. He was a Ronald Reagan Republican—a classic conservative whose guiding principle was freedom.

His dedication to conservative principles was so strong that early in his career he became a charter member of the conservative faction of House Republicans known as the “Caveman Caucus.” His early mentors included John Ashbrook and Robert A. Taft.

Nevertheless, Batchelder worked with colleagues across the aisle to pass legislation with bipartisan support and tackle complex problems.

One of the most daunting of those challenges occurred in 1985, when Cincinnati-based Home State Savings Bank collapsed, placing Ohio’s entire savings and loan industry at risk and threatening the savings of hundreds of thousands of depositors.

Democratic Gov. Richard F. Celeste, knowing Batchelder’s grasp of the complexities of the Ohio Deposit Guarantee Fund, appointed him to the team developing solutions. Celeste said Batchelder used his intelligence to understand the complex problem and his wisdom to pull people together for a solution. As a result of the legislative solutions, Ohio lost no money during the crisis.

Speaking to the *Columbus Dispatch*, Celeste said, “He was a stalwart in the House in fashioning a bipartisan solution. No member worked harder on the House side than Bill Batchelder.”

He served as speaker of the Ohio House during his final four years in office.

After serving in the minority party during his first 26 years in

the House, he was determined as speaker to provide bipartisan leadership. He ensured that all representatives had an opportunity to speak on pending legislation, and he restored the practice of allowing amendments to be offered on the floor of the House by either side prior to a vote.

While he was speaker, he also returned to Ohio Wesleyan in February 2012 to address students and the entire university community at Mock Convention. He urged students to engage in the political process throughout their lives.



*Ohio House Speaker Bill Batchelder speaks at OWU’s 2012 Mock Convention in Gray Chapel.*

Professor Emeritus of Politics & Government William Louthan, who has been the parliamentarian at every Mock Convention since 1972, says, “It is always a great experience for students because ‘real world’ politicians participate. Batchelder played that role to perfection in 2012. His enthusiastic involvement brought the whole room to life.”

Bill and his classmate and future wife, **Alice Moore Batchelder '64**, met at OWU. She also has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in public service, serving as a federal judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the U.S. 6th Circuit since 1991. They have two adult children, William G. Batchelder IV and Elisabeth Akers, and eight grandchildren.

# OWU Women's Soccer Team Does It Again

*This year marks the 20th anniversary of the second consecutive national championship victory by the OWU women's soccer team. The following article celebrating the win ran in the Winter 2002 issue of OWU Magazine.*

Junior forward Erika Howland scored midway through the first half and the Ohio Wesleyan defense made it stand up as the Battling Bishop women's soccer team defeated Messiah, 1-0, in the NCAA Division III championship game on Nov. 30 at Artificial Turf Stadium on the campus of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y.

The national championship was the second in a row for Ohio Wesleyan, making the Bishops the first team to repeat as NCAA D-III champion since the University of California at San Diego in 1995-97. The win also extended the Battling Bishops' NCAA D-III-record winning streak to 45 straight games. The shutout was Ohio Wesleyan's 20th of the season. The Bishops did not allow a goal during their 5-game march to the national championship.

Howland put the Bishops on the scoreboard with 21:15 left in the first half. Ohio Wesleyan had earned a corner kick and sophomore defender Toni Frissora sent the ball into the box from the right side. The ball came down near the right post into a crowd where senior midfielder Lindsey Bland nudged it out to freshman midfielder Sarah Wall, who tapped the ball over to Howland near the left post. Howland buried the shot into the open net to put the Bishops ahead to stay.

"It was just kind of bouncing around, they didn't clear it and then we didn't get a shot off," Howland said. "I have one run that I make and kind of clean up anything and it just happened to come by that way. I just had it right in front of me and I had an open goal..."

Howland had a chance to give the Bishops a 2-0 lead on a crossing pass from senior forward Emily Bayer, but the ball skipped by before Howland could get a shot off with an open look at the goal. Later, Howland crossed the ball to Wall, but Messiah keeper Maggie Futato made the save on Wall's shot. Wall had another good shot with 13:20 left in the half, but her shot from a crowd hit the crossbar and went over...

Benedict had the Falcons' best chance to score in the



second half, winding up from near the top of the box but seeing her shot go wide left with 16:13 left in regulation time.

With the time winding down, Messiah played forward and put more pressure on the Bishop defense, but Ohio Wesleyan kept the Falcons off the scoreboard...

Ohio Wesleyan threatened to put the game on ice when Wall made a run in from the left side, but her shot toward the left post was saved, as was a follow shot by Howland.

While Hammond was not credited with a save in the game, there was no denying the importance of her defensive play. She was named Defensive Most Valuable Player of the tournament by the NCAA D-III women's soccer committee.

"Nothing really was a hard shot on goal, it was just being knocked into the 18 box and I just had to clean it up in there," Hammond said...

"Our game plan was to keep control of the ball, and I think for the most part during the game we kept great control of the ball," Howland said. "Liz (Sheehan) and Deb (Lochner) did a great job in the middle, and Mindy stepped it up huge in the goal.

After scoring the game-winning goal in the championship game and contributing a goal and an assist in Friday's semifinal game, Howland was named the tournament's Offensive Most Valuable Player.

Hammond and Howland were joined on the all-tournament team by junior forward Liz Sheehan and Wall...

Ohio Wesleyan finished the season with a 24-0 record.

"I think it's just unbelievable what the (team has) accomplished, going through an undefeated season," Barnes said. "Winning it twice in a row is just absolutely surreal. I feel great for the upperclassmen that have done incredible things from starting their career winning 19 games in a row and then they finish it off by winning 45 straight."





# Your support creates better lives & a better world

**Belle Norman '22**  
**Hometown:** Dresden, Ohio  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Minors:** Philosophy & Zoology



“I came to this campus as a small-town girl from rural Ohio and am leaving an educated woman rising in her field. I can now see the world past the cornfields. I am empowered, educated, and grounded.”

**Financial Support:** **George Poe Scholarship**

“I am forever grateful to those who donate so that students like me have the chance to have the experience of a lifetime.”

**Alumni Connection:** **Kim Leary '09** supervised Belle during her externship at Nationwide Children's Hospital Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, where she shadowed professionals working with children with autism spectrum disorder.

“This experience was unparalleled. I developed a new perspective into the mental health field and treatment—and what I hope to accomplish in this field.”

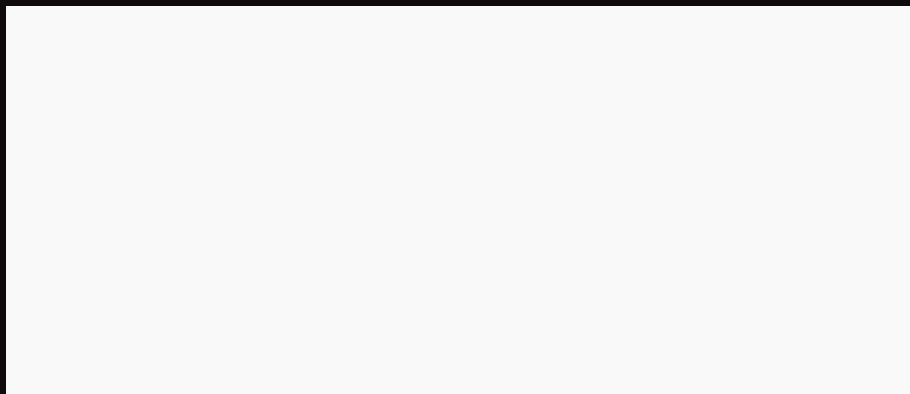
**After Graduation:** Belle has already accepted a job as a **mental health specialist at Nationwide Children's Hospital**. She plans to attend graduate school after gaining more experience.



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*April on campus*  
Photo by Paul Vernon