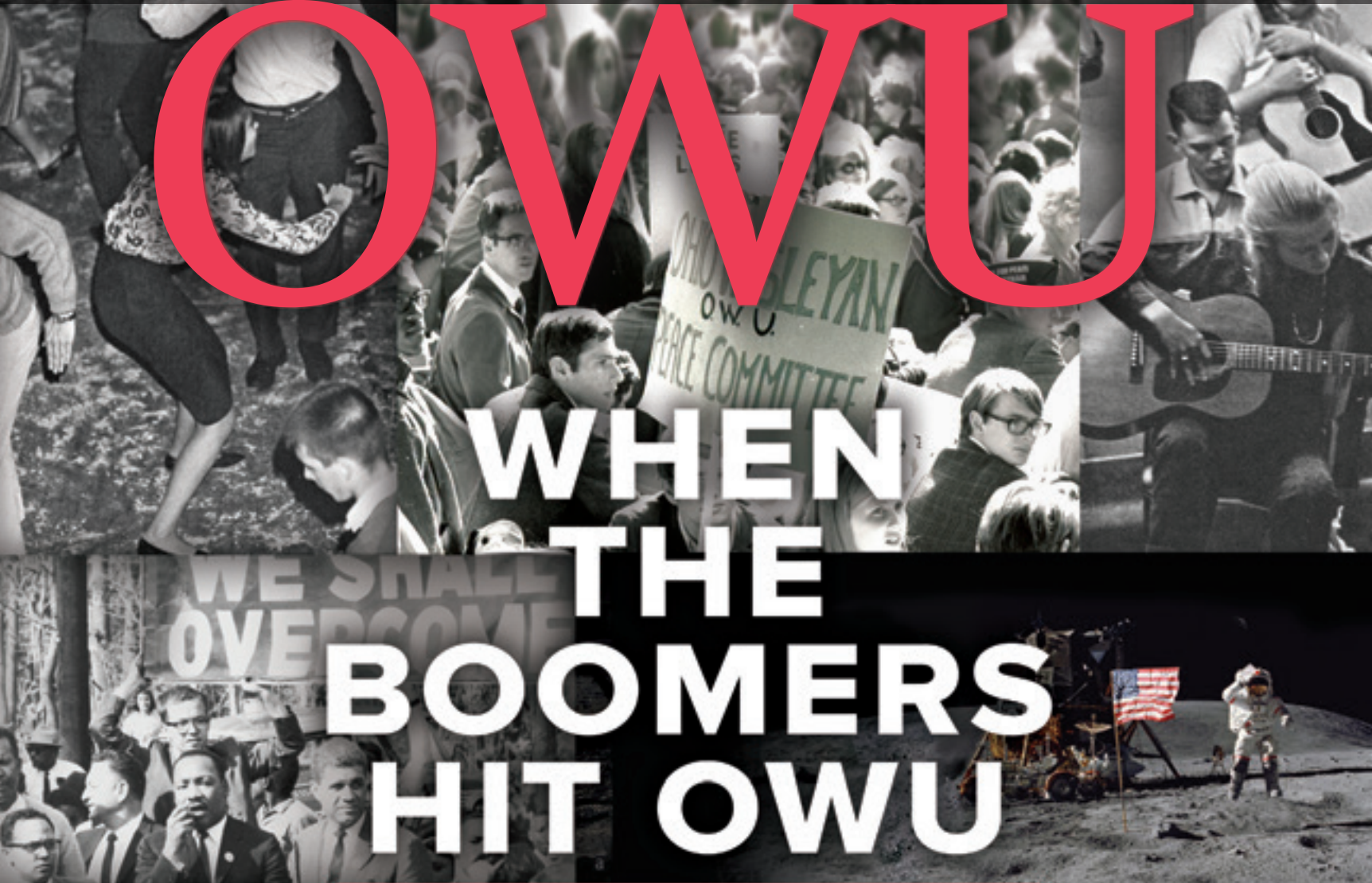


# OWU

## WHEN THE BOOMERS HIT OWU



### *The Times They Were a-Changin'*

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Alumni enjoy a sunny evening at the Alumni Weekend Blues & Barbecue on the Stuyvesant Patio, May 13.

*Photo by Mark Schmitter '12*

See more images on Instagram @OhioWesleyan.





*Features*

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When a tsunami called the baby boom generation began hitting Ohio Wesleyan in 1964, our University would never be the same.

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Lush forests, gorgeous blue sky, crystal-clear ocean, tropical birds—**Amy Work '04** is teaming up with OWU geography faculty and students to preserve Costa Rica's rich environment.

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Prize-winning authors Amy Butcher, David Caplan, and Robert Olmstead lead Ohio Wesleyan's creative writing program, carrying on a rich OWU tradition in the literary arts.

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**ON THE COVER:** From 1964 to 1969, changes nationally and on OWU campus defined the emergence of the baby boom generation. Cover collage by Bill Walker.

# TIMES OF TRANSFORMATION IN '60S AND TODAY

## *New questions challenged campuses*

In May of 1968 the Commission to Study Student Life Outside of the Classroom presented its report for consideration by the Ohio Wesleyan University Faculty, Administration, and Board of Trustees. The commission, chaired by Professor Libuse L. Reed, was appointed 12 months earlier by President Elden Smith. For a year, the commission worked in nine committees to explore every aspect of co-curricular life.

topics of:

- Barn parties (They will grow legally, if permitted, illegally if not allowed.)
- Deferred rush (Early rush splits the new student's interest and attention between orientation to academic pursuit and Greek rushing.)
- Campus dining (Recommend that dining in the new hall be coed.)
- Attractive university housing and furnishings (The current furniture

situation has been described as Early Ugly.)

- Visitation policy (Despite the motives occasionally imputed to it by the adult world, the pressure for men and women visiting in each other's rooms is probably rooted in a simple plea for privacy. How many engagements are made or broken in the public privacy of a dormitory lounge?)
- Discriminatory housing

(Recommend that all entering students be

required to agree in writing to accept the initial assignment of roommate without regard for race or creed.)

- Health and safety (Recommend hiring a full-time clinical psychologist to provide professional counseling.)
- Alcoholic beverages (The committee is deeply sensitive to the fact that no more emotionally charged issue is before the University community than the issue of liquor use by students.)
- And more.

I often hear alumni who were students in the late '60s talk about the dramatic transformation that occurred

in the campus culture between the time of their matriculation and the time of their graduation. The lengthy and comprehensive report of the Commission to Study Life Outside of the Classroom serves as a reminder that this transformation did not happen in a vacuum, nor did it happen without deep and careful reflection. While in places

**"I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE ACADEMY'S COMMITMENT TO CIVIL DISCOURSE IN WHICH THOSE WHO DISAGREE VEHEMENTLY AGREE TO LISTEN TO ONE ANOTHER."**

the language seems quaint to our 21st-century minds, the report addressed questions largely unasked prior to that time.

Since the founding of the first European institutions of higher learning nearly a millennium ago, the university campus has been a focal point for examination of and at times confrontation with the most pressing issues of the time. Half a century ago those issues included a growing awareness of the insidious impact of racial discrimination, gender inequity, economic disparity, and international warfare. A generation was maturing in a time when technology, mass communication, advances in health care, and an emerging popular culture coincided with calls for freedom of expression and self-determination, new tastes in music, and an entirely new sense of fashion.

Some saw this as a threat to the fundamental values that shape our society. Others saw it as the coming of age of a people that sought to claim for every member of society, not just those



Rock Jones chats with Eilish Donnell '16 and Bhuneshwar Arjune '16.

I recently reviewed the full contents of this report. It is a remarkable archive of this institution's experience of the dramatic and rapid changes that occurred on college campuses across the country half a century ago. Perhaps the most lasting legacy of the commission was the recommendation that the Board of Trustees delegate responsibility for student life policy away from a faculty committee on student life and to a newly formed Council on Student Affairs (now WCSA) with a majority of its membership coming from the student body.

The 1967-68 commission explored the



privileged by race, gender, or economic station, the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

There is a sense in which history is repeating itself half a century later.

Campuses across the country are being challenged to think deeply and critically about the experiences of those who in one way or another may be marginalized in our society. Some are concerned that universities are losing their sense of true purpose. And in some cases, demands of students may cross that line. But on the whole, the issues attracting media attention on campuses today (the experience of people of color, sexual assault, the LGBTQ community, student debt and the loss of opportunity as a result of college cost, the exaggerated influence of big-time athletics in Division I, to name just a few) are reflections of tensions that exist throughout our society and that cry out for careful examination and critical thought.

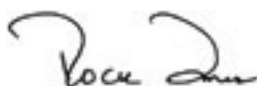
I, for one, am grateful for the historic commitment of the American academy to foster an environment where the free and open exchange of ideas, even those we may find most offensive, is protected as a virtue not to be compromised. I am grateful for the academy's commitment to civil discourse in which those who disagree vehemently agree to listen to one another and where questions can be asked about our social structure and our commitment to equity and justice.

At times, these commitments lead me to a position of great discomfort. Sometimes the discomfort results from a challenge to my own position and the recognition that the challenge has a point worthy of my consideration and perhaps even worthy of the changing of my mind. Sometimes the discomfort comes because I know the position being advocated has no merit and perhaps no basis in historical fact.

The discomfort of that moment is the price of a free and open conversation. But it is precisely that conversation that in the end creates the opportunity for a more humane world, provided others respond appropriately.

In this issue of *OWU Magazine*, we reflect on that time of extraordinary change half a century ago. Whether you have the years that give you firsthand memory of that time or you are sufficiently young to know this only as a chapter of history, I encourage you to reflect on the idealism that captured that generation and that led to such dramatic change. And I encourage you to consider the ways in which today's students reflect a similar idealism as they seek to make the world a better place.

I welcome your thoughts in response. ■



**Rock Jones**

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



**Elden T. Smith '32**, 11th President of Ohio Wesleyan

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WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

**OWU**

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**CORRECTIONS:** In the Leader's Letter, Spring 2016, the name of **Arthur Sherwood Flemming**, Class of 1927, was misspelled. We regret the error.



### Round Robin

In looking over Class Notes in the most recent *OWU Magazine*, it occurred to me that a “Round Robin” letter that began in 1951 might be of interest. The Pi Beta Phi grads of the great Mid-Century Class started this personal epistle, and it has continued to this day. Typically it has made “the rounds” in nine or 10 months, telling of marriages, births, occupations, travels, deaths, and reunions, etc. The letter was lost two times in this span of 66 years, but it was always re-started and sent on its way. Occasionally the news was earthshaking, but more often it told of everyday family happenings. It always mentioned handsome/ beautiful exceptional children who might attend OWU!

Current contributors are Joyce Bohyer Hildebrand of London, Ohio; Mary Jo Jones Kennedy of London, Ohio; Mary Nouse Russell of Rocky River, Ohio; Dorie Baker Blackmore of Troy, Ohio; Janet Graham Jenkins of Mansfield, Pennsylvania; Peggy Bender Brick of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania; Kay Parker Jex of New Canaan, Connecticut; Eleanor Rideout Melville of Owego, New York; Dottie Turnbull of Roseburg, Oregon; and Jane Williams Murphy of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Originally the “Robin” consisted of 14 Pi Phis. At present there are 10 lively “old ladies,” ages 87-88. When we entered college in fall 1946, campus was growing and maturing. The GI Bill was attracting ex-military, married students who were enrolled and housed in neighborhood Vet Ville (Quonset huts), and baby buggies were actually encountered on campus walks!

— **Joyce Hildebrand '50**

### Telling Our Stories

The current issue of the magazine was riveting to read, right to the last page. The magazine does a most effective job of telling our stories through excellent writing and colorful photography. Kudos to Larry Hamill for ‘Elliot Hall at Sunrise’ (how many of us would ever get to see that?), Rock’s ‘Leader’s Letter’, the piece on The Hamburger Inn, great coverage of Laurie Anderson, and the timely article on the Mock Convention.

I am forwarding the article on Coach Plantholt to my 12-year-old grandson who is on a Massachusetts Select Lacrosse Team to whet his appetite for attending OWU!

The picture of Jed Burt made for an emotional moment. Thank you.

Warm greetings,

— **Kathleen Law Rhinesmith '64**  
**Board Member, Life Trustee**



Eight of the 14 Round Robin writers, Class of 1950, from left: **Marty Sponsler Patterson, Janet Graham Jenkins, Mary Ellen Duis, Joyce Bohyer Hildebrand, Dottie Turnbull, Dorie Baker Blackmore, Mary Nouse Russell, and Mary Jo Jones Kennedy.**

## Step 1: Get a quill pen Step 2: Be a genius

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, Ohio Wesleyan Associate Professor of English and Department Chair Zack Long designed a course with the goal of having his students write a new Shakespearean play.

“What can I do that would be fun, interesting, and even a little experimental?” Long thought. The result—a cross between a literature class and a creative writing workshop—was called “How to Write Like Shakespeare.”

In this course, Long says, rather than just demonstrating their understanding of The Bard through an essay test or a critical paper, students put theory into practice, writing their own plays employing Shakespearean themes and methods.

**Julia Stone '16** says the class began by reading *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Othello*, and students focused not so much on the works themselves, but how the playwright was crafting his work.

“It was definitely a different way of reading Shakespeare,” Stone says.

The students then broke off into two groups—one decided to write a comedy about modern love and social media, and the other chose to create a tragedy about Tom Riddle from the Harry Potter series. Long says the students’ choices were made in traditional Shakespearean fashion because Shakespeare himself often took popular texts and used them to write plays because they would be “guaranteed hits.”

**Hannah Simpson '16** says a big challenge was using language from 1600, for instance, trying to figure out “where to use ‘you’ and where to use ‘thou.’” Both groups also faced the challenge of writing in verse.

The Harry Potter group developed a plot outline and then wrote directly in verse, while the social media group decided to write “barebones scenes” in contemporary language and then translate them into verse.

Students say the payoff was a new understanding about the techniques in the craft of creative writing.

**Nash Bonnema '19** says he “definitely [has] a new appreciation of mechanics and tropes.”

**Jordan Waterwash '18** adds, “I just get it now.” ■

### Share your opinions.

Email us at [magazine@owu.edu](mailto:magazine@owu.edu). Tweet to @OWUAlumni. Or send us a real paper-and-ink letter to *OWU Magazine*, Office of Communications, 61 S. Sandusky St., Delaware, OH 43015. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



## Students Love Summertime Classes To-Go

Ohio Wesleyan University student **Jessica Sanford '17** spent her summer working full time as a political coordinator at the National Republican Senatorial Committee in Washington, D.C. As if that didn't keep her busy enough, she also added a second minor to her double major and completed her general requirements this summer by taking two OWU online classes.

Sanford enrolled in "Exploring Computer Science" with Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Sean McCulloch and "Religions of the West" with Associate Professor of Religion David Eastman. For the first time this summer, OWU offered six online courses that could be taken from anywhere in the world.

"Taking my two online courses through OWU has allowed me to pick up another minor and to finish off my last science

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*"Taking my two online courses through OWU has allowed me to pick up another minor and to finish off my last science credit."*

— *Jessica Sanford '17*

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credit, so going into my senior year I won't have to worry about general requirements anymore," says Sanford, a politics and government and international studies major with minors in French and religion.

"It's surprisingly easy to take an hour twice per week to log on to our scheduled lecture on Google Hangouts group," she notes. "I also re-listen to lectures, and that is when I take notes, as if I were in an actual classroom lecture."

Sanford says the engaging online lectures create an illusion of an in-person class, and she appreciates how prompt her professors are at answering questions via email.

"Dr. McCulloch and Dr. Eastman have been so helpful," she says. "They email the class often with clarifications and answers to foreseeable questions.

**Ruchi Kansal '16** also enjoyed her online class, especially the flexibility of the course times.

"Even if you're not able to attend the class online, Professor McCulloch records it so we can catch up easily afterwards," says Kansal, a management economics major with a minor in mathematics.

Professors decide on the format of their online courses based on the content. Associate Professor of Zoology **Shala Hankison '95**, who taught "Evolution" online, did not require class meeting times, but students had to be in contact through online office hours, online chats, or emails twice prior to each exam.

"My favorite parts of the course are when I have had email discussions or online chats with my students," says Hankison. "Because students are required to be in contact, I hear from all of them, and some students are really engaged and have a lot of feedback."

Hankison created short web lectures, links to videos and documentaries, computer-based labs and simulations, and various other assignments. She appreciates how students could tailor the online course to suit their needs, spending more or less time on certain sections based on their level of understanding.

### Mobility and motivation

Hankison advised students to be self-motivated and to seek out their instructors as often as possible. "We still want to be



*Jessica Sanford '17 at work full time in Washington, DC, this summer. She took two Ohio Wesleyan online summer courses.*

engaged with our students and to give them the best OWU experience possible, even if it is in a different format," she says.

"The best part is being able to do the work at any time," says **Karis Lowrie '18**, who took Hankison's class. Lowrie, a zoology and classics major, said it was important to set up specific times throughout the week for schoolwork in order to stay on track.

"Taking an online course has been awesome. You get to do the work on your own time and it helps to have the lectures all online," says **Matt Maier '17**, a journalism major who took Eastman's "Religions of the West" online class.

"If you need to take a summer course, I would definitely do it online," he says. "Everything you need is right in front of you, so it is easy to do well."

The classes were a very popular choice with students. Four of the six classes filled up in the first 15 minutes of the enrollment period, and OWU had to open up additional "seats" in the classes. ■



## New Ross Director Begins Dream Job

The Richard M. Ross Art Museum has a new director. Erin Fletcher, formerly the exhibitions coordinator for The Ohio State University Libraries and Billy Ireland Cartoon Art Museum, joined OWU in August to lead the Ross Art Museum and the University's Gallery 2001 and Mowry Alumni Gallery.

Fletcher will work with museum staff to oversee exhibits, coordinate lectures and other events, curate the museum's permanent collection of more than 3,000 artworks, help solicit gifts and grants to support the museum, teach courses related to her expertise (such as gallery management), and provide leadership in museum marketing and community outreach.

**Susan McDonough '74**, chair of the Ross Art Museum's National Board of Advisors and a member of the search committee, says Fletcher has a history of collaboration and success that will serve her well in her new role.

"Erin is smart, articulate, and used to working in the college environment," says McDonough. "We were in unanimous

agreement that she'd be a perfect fit to continue the Ross's mission."

Fletcher says she is excited to continue the work begun by her predecessor, Justin Kronewetter, who retired after nearly 15 years as the Ross Art Museum's inaugural director.

"I am delighted to join the OWU family as director of the Ross Art Museum," Fletcher says. "It will be an honor to build on Justin's legacy. Academic museums provide a space for exploration and innovation that is essential to a 21st-century learning community. It's been my lifelong dream to work at a liberal arts university, and I look forward to collaborating with OWU's excellent faculty, engaging with the student body, and responding to the needs of the broader community."

Fletcher joined Ohio State in 2013 and previously worked as a retreat and residency coordinator for the Kentucky



*Chief among new Ross Art Museum Director Erin Fletcher's roles will be to oversee the leadership and direction of the museum, especially in terms of engaging the community on and off campus.*

Foundation for Women.

She holds a Master of Arts degree in curatorial practice from California College of the Arts, a Master of Arts certificate in museum studies and education from John F. Kennedy University, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in sculpture and curatorial practice from the University of Louisville.

During the academic year, the Ross Art Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed Monday and Saturday. ■

## Art project now rings on historic campus

The OWU academic year begins and ends with the ringing of OWU's original class bell. And now, a new bell stands in the center of campus as a symbol of peace and as testament to the creative work of OWU students.

Fine Arts and Botany major **Owen Kelling '16**, a member of the House of Peace and Justice, designed and cast the bell as part of his senior project to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the P&J community. The 21-inch diameter, 200-pound bell is the largest sculpture ever produced at Haycock Hall, setting a size record for iron casting at Ohio Wesleyan.

University leaders decided to proudly display the bell near Elliott Hall and Merrick Lawn, the site of graduation, and

it was rung there for the first time at the close of 2016 Commencement.

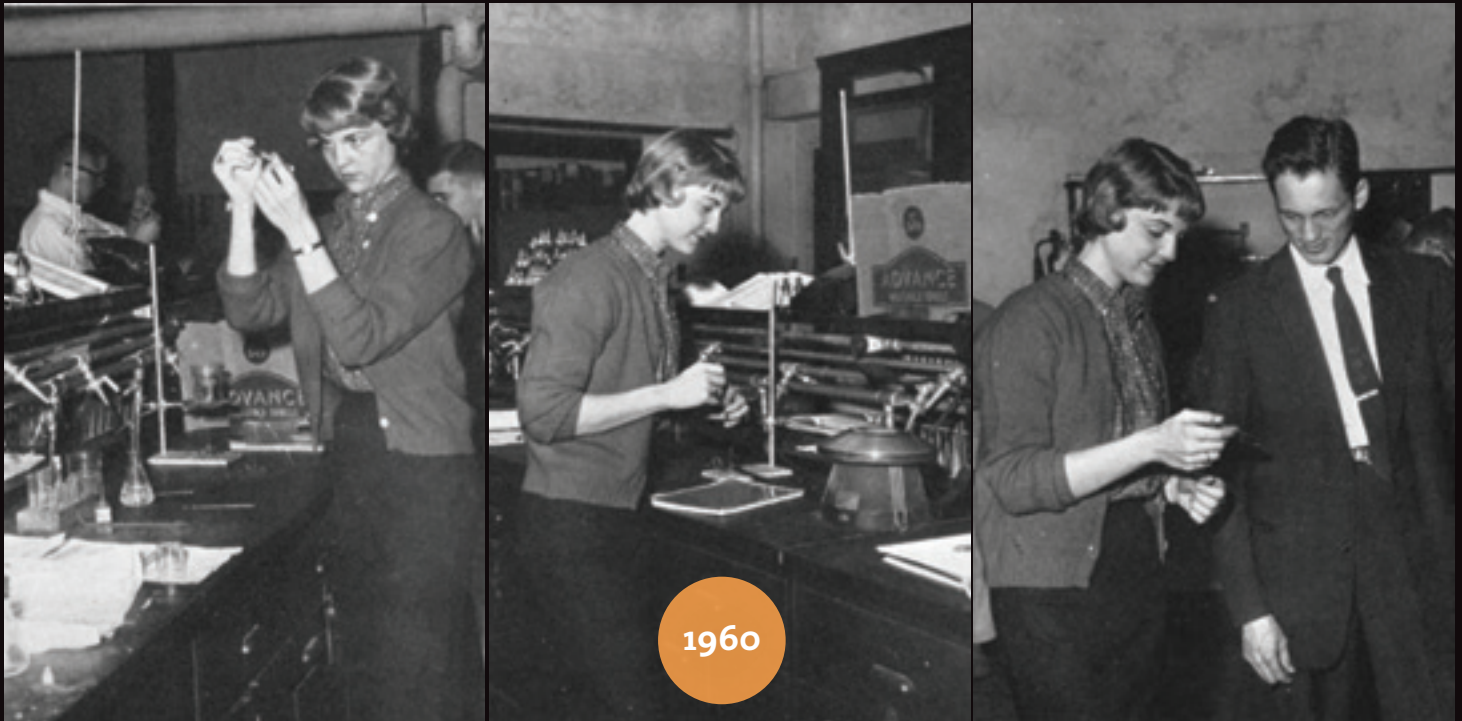
Kelling, a native of Morrow, Ohio, researched bell-founding over the summer of 2015 before undertaking his bell project last fall. He visited The Verdin Company, a bell foundry in Cincinnati, where he observed the casting of five large bronze bells, each weighing about 500 pounds.

Kelling says the bell celebrates the relationship between P&J resident activists and the arts. "We all have this deep connection to the peace our house has fostered for years, the joy it has fostered in all of its members. I see in my housemates the same latent drive to change the world that brought me to P&J in the first place." ■

*Owen Kelling '16 sculpted and cast a new campus bell, rung for the first time at the 2016 Commencement.*







## OWU WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Women studying science at Ohio Wesleyan have a strong and proud history, from research in the lab (top) to work in the field (bottom). The **Class of 1949** chemistry majors, alone, included **Catherine Winkler Olds**, **Selene Elliot Butters**, and **Lorraine “Lorry” Swatik Szabo**, who enjoyed a 38-year career at Standard Oil/BP and holds patents on Boron gasoline. OWU trustee and chemistry major **Carol Hil Kirk Latham ’65** left BP to start her own company, Thermagon, Inc.

**Amanda Matthews Woerman ’08**, a botany/

microbiology major, holds a Ph.D. in molecular medicine and is an expert in neurodegenerative diseases at the University of California, San Francisco.

The next generation continues this success. Zoology major **Shannon Schlater ’17** (bottom), spent 10 weeks last year at The Rhino Orphanage in South Africa, where she helped raise motherless calves. “With 1,215-plus rhinos poached in 2014 alone, we must realize our thirst for items such as ivory and rhino horn are driving wildlife into extinction,” she says.

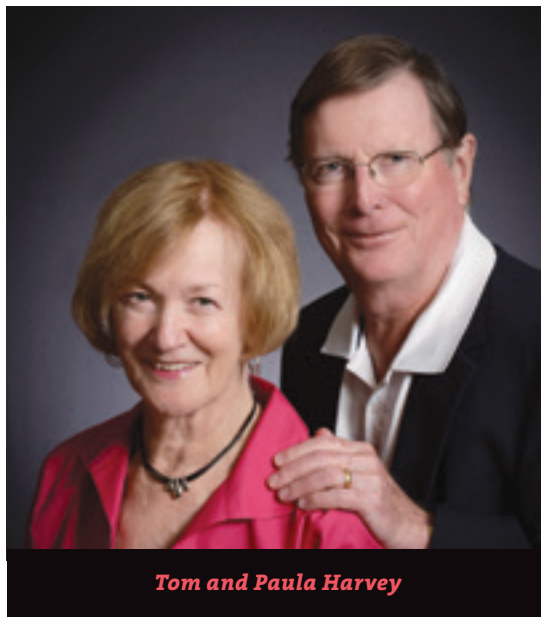


## LEGACY OF LETTERS

The year is 1863. In a handwritten letter to his best friend's sister during the Civil War, Tom Armstrong tells of his capture by the Confederate Army. Writing from Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, Armstrong details the grim and desperate conditions.

The letter is among some 240 written between 1859 and 1866 by Armstrong—Tom's great grandfather—his friend George Porter, as well as Armstrong's brother and friends. The young men left their Zanesville homes in 1861 to fight for the Union Army.

The couple discovered the letters in a wooden box in Tom's parents' house in 1994 soon after helping them move to a retirement community in Cleveland. At the time, the box remained unopened, and Tom's parents had no idea what was in it.



*Tom and Paula Harvey*

**Beeghly librarians are preserving the Civil War letters, digitizing them for online and classroom study.**

The Harveys recently donated what is now called The Paula B. and Thomas W. Harvey Collection to the OWU Historical Collection at Beeghly Library, where librarians are busy preserving the correspondence and digitizing each piece for online access and classroom study.

"We're excited about the way in which the letters are being presented and preserved," says Tom, president and CEO of The Center for Ethics in Financial Education and a Woltemade Center Board member.

"They are beautifully written," says Paula, who attended Ohio Wesleyan as a French major from 1959 through 1960.

The Harveys say "it made sense" to make this an Ohio Wesleyan gift, as the University has long been central to both of their families.

Tom is working on a historical novel based on the letters. "It's a great retirement project," he says. ■

## A WINNING SPIRIT

Misha Sher '00 fondly remembers his junior year as a Bishop soccer player. It was 1998 and the team won the NCAA Division III national championship. He soaked it all in. The cheers of his teammates. The roar of the home crowd.

"It wasn't just that we won," he says. "It's how we won."

What made it special were the many alumni from the soccer program in the stands. They all made an enormous contribution to the strength and tradition of the program, he says. "You felt like you won it for everyone who came before us, not just the team."

That winning spirit has propelled Sher throughout his career as a professional soccer player, financial executive, and now as head of sport and entertainment at London-based MediaCom, a global leader in media and advertising. He represents commercial interests of some of the world's most recognized athletes, including soccer icon Pelé, while also advising multimillion-dollar companies such as Coca-Cola, American Airlines, and Shell on how best to navigate the \$60 billion sponsorship industry.



*Misha Sher '00*

**"As time goes by you realize how special those years were, so to be able to contribute to the success of the program is important to me."**

Despite the 3,000-plus miles separating Sher from his alma mater, he stays connected with OWU. He corresponds regularly with his old coach Jay Martin—the winningest coach in college men's soccer history—keeps an eye on the program, and contributes philanthropically to Team OWU.

"As time goes by you realize how special those years were, so to be able to contribute to the success of the program is important to me," he says. "Jay made everyone feel a part of it. That experience of being a student-athlete served us well."

Sher's life wasn't always in the limelight. In 1991, when the U.S.S.R. was breaking up, Sher's family immigrated to Minnesota from Kiev in Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union. After a short time at the University of Maine, he transferred to Ohio Wesleyan where he majored in economics and minored in journalism.

"I came to the realization that what I really wanted was to be a part of a smaller, more intimate college environment with a strong academic reputation and an elite soccer program," he says. "I met with Jay, and the rest is history." ■

## BENCH DEDICATIONS HONOR SCOTT SOMMER '73, BRANDON BELL '06

In recent months, friends of two Ohio Wesleyan alumni who have passed away honored the memory of their cherished former classmates with ceremonies dedicating benches in their name on campus.

**Jon Armstrong '73** and friends dedicated a bench in honor of **Scott Sommer '73**, who died in November 1993 at the age of 42. A prolific novelist and screenwriter known for his tragicomic characters, Sommer was recalled as charismatic and as someone who “possessed a wicked wit.”

“Scott was one of the funniest people ever,” says Armstrong, a politics and government major from Sandusky, Ohio. He remembers meeting Sommer, a philosophy major who hailed from New Jersey, their junior year, when they shared a suite in Welch Hall.

Sommer went on to earn a master’s degree in creative writing from Cornell, and then settled in New York City, where he wrote four novels and a collection of short stories. He wrote the screenplay for the film *CrissCross*, starring Goldie Hawn, and his novel *Nearing Grace* was made into a feature film in 2002.

Armstrong, who worked in banking and finance in New York after earning an M.B.A. at Columbia, said the two saw or spoke to each other every day.

“One line he used often in the late '80s and early '90s was, ‘The trouble with New York is everyone has bought a ticket to his/her own show.’”

Armstrong says, “Bearing in mind that this was pre-Twitter, pre-Facebook, pre-Instagram, I always thought he was rather prophetic with regard to today’s social media. Can you imagine what he’d have to say about that?”

Sommer’s bench is inscribed, “Scholar. Novelist. Teacher. Friend.”



**Scott Sommer '73,**  
novelist and screenwriter.



**Brandon Bell '06**  
in Australia.

**Rich Kramer '06** and friends dedicated a bench in honor of **Brandon Bell '06** at a private ceremony held during Alumni Weekend last May. Bell, who grew up in Akron, Ohio, passed away in January 2016.

“Brandon was the most charismatic person I ever met,” says Kramer, an economics management major with a concentration in business management.

“He was super intelligent and could talk on any subject. Most important, though, he made you feel like you were the only person in the room in the midst of the crowd.”

After college, Bell, who friends called a “free spirit,” took time off and travelled the world after working for a company that developed medical devices. He was in Nepal in April 2015 during the earthquake, and survived after being initially among a number of missing Americans.

Kramer says he, Brandon and Ben Bell (no relation) were friends and suitemates since freshman year in 2002. “We didn’t do the whole fraternal life,” he says, “but we had our own social network.”

Bell’s friends remembered him as someone who accomplished his goals, always encouraged his friends, and whose curiosity and enthusiasm were an inspiration.

Kramer, a golf team recruit, recalls Bell trying out for the golf tournament as a walk-on and making the team.

The bench, he says is a way he and Bell’s friends wanted to remember him and serves as a way to tell others that Brandon had an impact on other people’s lives. “He had this wisdom about him,” Kramer says.

“He really made me think about what I wanted to do in my life and the kind of a person I wanted to be.” ■



Friends of **Scott Sommer '73** at June 7 dedication. Front row (from left): **Dave Gardner '72**, Professor Emeritus Robert Flanagan, Katy Flanagan, **Kenyon Pike '73**, **Paul Johnson '73**, **Jim Mendenhall '73**. Back row: **Bobby Camilleri**, **Sheila Egan**, **Ken Pifer '73**, **Mary Ellen Hart '73**, **Jim Hart '73**, **Jon Armstrong '73**.



**Rich Kramer '06** (left) and **Ted Ottaway '06**, friends of **Brandon Bell '06**, at dedication.



## Bob Gitter

## ● Supplying Great Teaching

Bob Gitter's "comfort zone" at Ohio Wesleyan is a classroom full of students in Corns Hall, with a supply and demand graph on the blackboard.

The Joseph A. Meek Professor of Economics, Bob joined OWU in 1976 after earning his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Wisconsin. In those early days, he says he'd linger outside the classrooms of Uwe Woltemade and Norman Leonard, inspired and awed by their lectures.

Now, it's Bob who provides the example of great economics teaching.

"I want to teach people how to make better decisions and to make things better in terms of jobs and income."

He teaches courses in labor economics, his main field of interest, as well as public finance, principles, and econometrics. In 1999, he was recognized for his exceptional teaching with the Bishop Herbert Welch Meritorious Teaching Award.

### 1 Motor City

Bob grew up in Detroit, prompting a lifelong love affair with the Tigers and a keen insight into the central role of economics in society. "Detroit has been in constant flux since I was born. I've seen all the changes in the city, and at the root, much of it is economics."

### 2 Old School

Don't expect to see a PowerPoint presentation in Bob's class. He says in some ways he's an "old schooler," always with his printed notes, which he's constantly revising. "I've been teaching Principles of Economics for 40 years, and I have to update my notes every year. What are the issues of the day, and what do we know about them?"

### 3 The Power of Data

Bob says the biggest change in education he's seen has been the growing power of computers, which now allow students to quickly access economic data that would have required days of research in the 1970s. "It's mind boggling. The computing power I have on my phone exceeds the power Ohio Wesleyan had when I came here."

### 4 Starbucks Dark Roast

"An economics professor is a machine that converts coffee into lectures." Bob's personal mug features photos of his six grandchildren. His three children are Seth Gitter, Leah Gitter, and OWU psychology graduate **Dan Greenleaf '05**. He and Liz Gitter have been happily married for 42 years.

### 5 Economics Starts Here

"The supply-demand graph is such a simple but powerful model." Bob says economics—more so than other social sciences—tends to rely on a model to understand what's going on with the world.

### 6 Exploring New Knowledge

"Good research complements good teaching," says Bob, who enriches his lectures with his own research experiences. His scholarship is also making important contributions into the field of labor economics. In 2002, his research on earnings and employment of American Indians on and off reservations was published in the premier economics journal, *American Economic Review*. He also works one-on-one with many students as they dive into economics research.

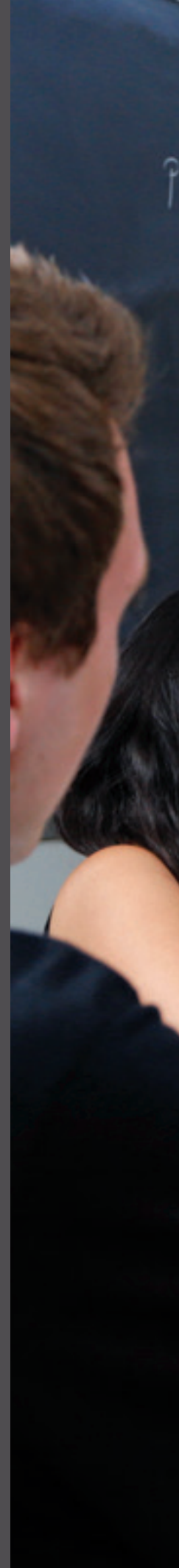
### 7 Fantasy Wizard

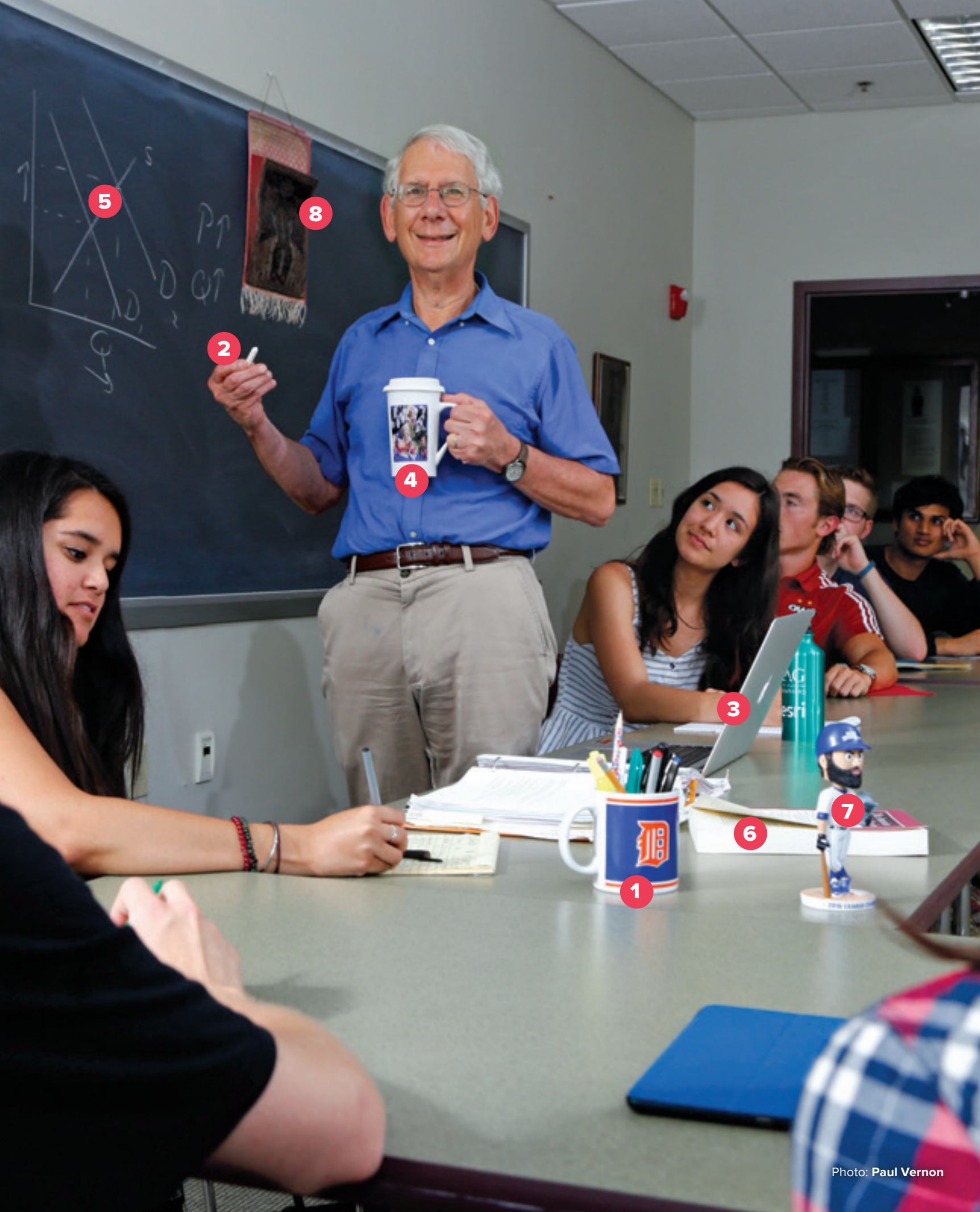
Does an economist have an edge in a fantasy baseball league? Bob uses statistical methods in economics to build his fantasy league teams—and he's won the league championship eight times in 25 years. One of his best bargains: Bob acquired Josh Donaldson for \$1 before he became an all-star and American League MVP.

### 8 Lasting Ties

This gift from a student from South Asia is one of many Bob has received from his students over the years. He's especially grateful to have taught some 30 students whose parents were also in his classes years ago. "I'm really honored by that. It's a great responsibility."

—Will Kopp





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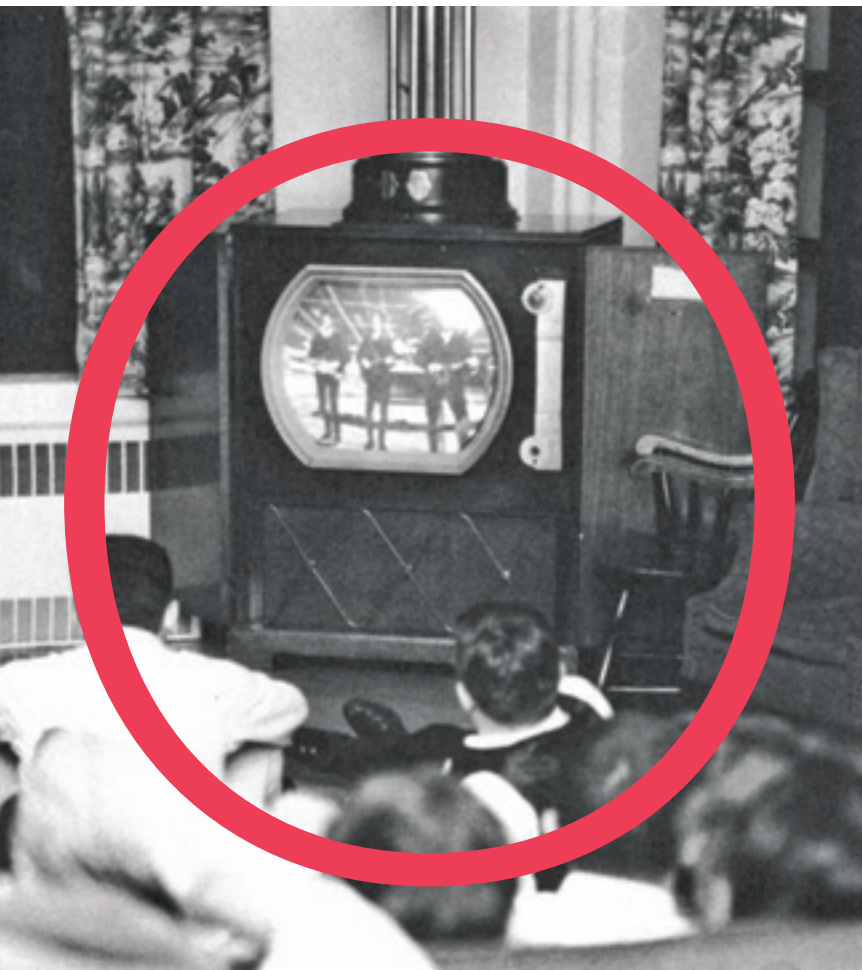
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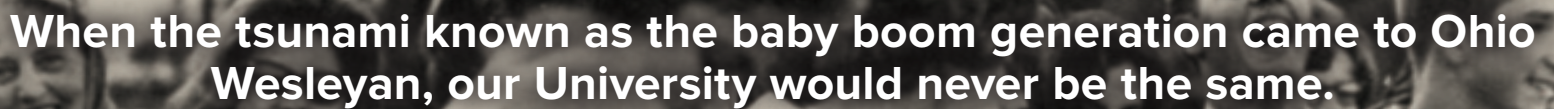




Photos courtesy of OWU Historical Collection, alumni, and other archives.

Come mothers and fathers  
 Throughout the land  
 And don't criticize  
 What you can't understand  
 Your sons and your daughters  
 Are beyond your command  
 Your old road is rapidly agin'  
 Please get out of the new one if you can't lend your hand  
 For the times they are a-changin'

"The Times They are A-Changin'" – Bob Dylan, 1963



When the tsunami known as the baby boom generation came to Ohio Wesleyan, our University would never be the same.

*By Jeff Bell*

Five decades have passed since the day the first baby boomers (born in 1946) walked onto the Ohio Wesleyan campus. But memories of that tumultuous time for Ohio Wesleyan and the nation as a whole remain fresh for boomer **Ed Haddock '69**.

The Richmond, Virginia, native says OWU was an "incredibly conservative place" when he first arrived on campus, a reflection of 1950s-America. But that began to change with the arrival of the baby boomers—Haddock among them—at the University.

The first baby boomers rolled onto the OWU campus, and within a short time, they had brought with them a new zeitgeist.

Much of it was due to the Vietnam War, which cast a cloud over campus, especially during Haddock's junior and senior years. He says arguments over the war and changing social values caused a deep divide between juniors and seniors with more conservative views and freshmen and sophomores vocal

in their opposition to the established way of doing things.

"There was no in-between," says Haddock, who was student government president his senior year. "I've never been in a situation where there were such clearly defined value systems. It would not have been more conspicuous even if it had been spray-painted on the wall in different colors."

Students turned up the volume on just about everything affecting their lives—Vietnam, the military draft, civil rights, rock 'n' roll, drug use, and the beginning of the women's movement. And they got bolder in pushing for changes to longstanding Ohio Wesleyan policies such as curfews for female students, restrictions on living off-campus, and drinking at University-related functions. Some also pushed for an end to de-facto bans on minority students pledging sororities and fraternities.

While not always successful in getting their way, Ohio Wesleyan students in the 1960s established a lasting legacy at the University, says **Tom Tritton '69**.



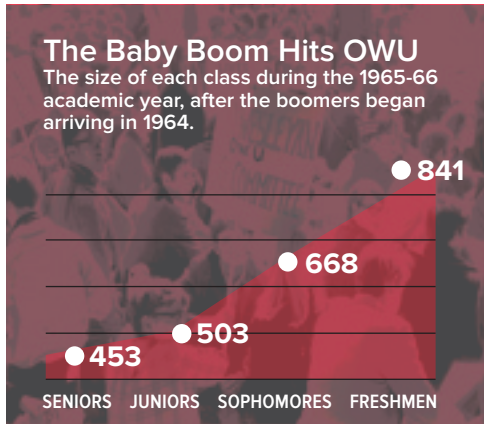
“It served as a transitional period from the passivity of the '50s to a much more dynamic, open, and questioning society that continues to this day,” he says. “It became permissible for students to challenge authority and confront things they saw as wrong. That was unlike past generations when you just went along with the program and didn’t say anything.”

Haddock believes the baby boomers who followed his OWU class had a major impact on the University.

“They brought to campus a very different culture than what had been there before,” he says. “It was led by the Vietnam tsunami and swept across Ohio Wesleyan and campuses in the rest of the country. The impact was very profound.”

### AGE OF AQUARIUS

The changing times at Ohio Wesleyan in the '60s are addressed in the book *Noble Achievements: The History of Ohio Wesleyan from 1942 to 1992*. Published as part of the University’s sesquicentennial celebration, the book was written by a number of faculty members and administrators and edited by



Professor of Philosophy Bernard Murchland.

The book notes that student unrest related to the Vietnam War was just part of “a wide panorama of societal change” in the late '60s. It included the Civil Rights Movement, the spread of rock 'n' roll, and the beginning of the women’s movement.

With the influx of baby boomers, the '60s became the polar opposite of the tranquil '50s, the book states, noting “traditions were scorned, rules were perceived as superfluous,” and students no longer went along with the idea that

the University “should fulfill the role of rule-maker, enforcer, guardian, and protector of students.”

Much of the acrimony was fueled by student demands for changes in housing policies, including elimination of the rule that forbade men and women from visiting each other’s residence hall rooms. OWU’s official but often-broken prohibition on alcohol at University-related functions was under fire as well.

Students also began to voice their concerns on the draft, racial discrimination, and the Vietnam War. In 1966, 15 students from the local chapter of Students for a Democratic Society protested a Selective Service qualifying exam in the

**The Beatles** make their first U.S. appearance live on The Ed Sullivan show on Feb. 9.



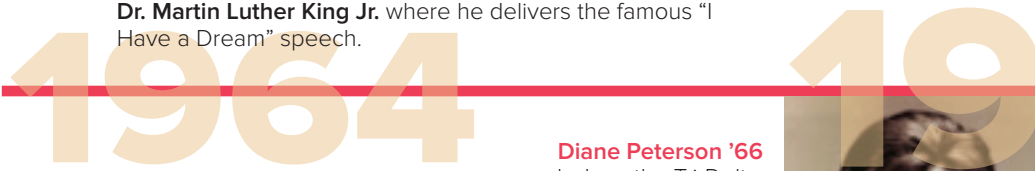
President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** into law.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. where he delivers the famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

On “**Bloody Sunday**,” March 7, some 600 civil rights marchers in Alabama are attacked on their peaceful civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery.

## OWU - CHANGING TIMES



**OWU College Bowl** team retires undefeated after five victories on TV quiz show. Gov. Rhodes proclaims “Ohio Wesleyan College Bowl Day.”

**Female seniors** are granted unlimited 1:30 a.m. curfews, but they are still required to sign out if they will be out after dorm-closing hours.

**Diane Peterson '66** pledges the Tri-Delts, integrating OWU sororities.



Guitar strumming and folk music grow in popularity on campus. Here, Pete Colket leads the **Folk Singing Club**.

Memorial Union Building (now the R.W. Corns Building). Later, pickets protested campus visits by recruiters from the Marine Corps and Dow Chemical Company, maker of napalm used in U.S. attacks on targets in Vietnam.



Dick Smith teaches a history class.

The scale of protests soon escalated. In 1968, about 250 Ohio Wesleyan students protested the war by marching through Delaware and sponsoring antiwar speakers on the lawn of Gray Chapel. In 1969, students organized a march prior to the Vietnam Moratorium demonstration in Washington, D.C. In addition, about 15 students staged a three-day “starvation strike” on campus in May that year, with a list of demands that included elimination of ROTC course credits, passage of a student bill of rights, and elimination of social restrictions.

The unrest reached a tipping point in May 1970 (at the same time as the Kent State shootings), when some 100 students took over the ROTC Building in protest of the escalation of the war. They also took part in more marches and stepped up their demands for participation in departmental meetings and on faculty committees.

*Noble Achievements* says the student protests and demands “caused serious but not insuperable difficulties for a

flexible and liberal-minded faculty.” As a result, students were allowed representation on the University Board of Trustees, and student boards were taking part in evaluation of instructors, “furthering the democratic process in the governance

of (the University).”

Several alumni from the late '60s remember OWU administrators employing an even-handed approach in addressing student demands.

“They tried to manage the situation,” Haddock says, “and were careful not to restrict our freedom of expression, meetings, and demonstrations as long as they were not damaging anything.”

While its students certainly were engaged in the issues of the day, Ohio Wesleyan was spared the upheaval and violence seen at many other universities in the '60s, says Professor Emeritus of History Richard Smith. He joined the faculty in 1950, retired in 1986, and remains part of the University community.

“There were no overturned cars, broken windows, or riotous behavior,” Smith says. “Part of it was we kept them working, writing papers and working in the lab. We demanded quality from them.”



The first **Star Trek** episode is broadcast.

**Stokely Carmichael** elected president of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

**The National Organization for Women (NOW)** is founded.



**U.S. sends** ground troops to Vietnam.

# 1966

**President Elden Smith** announces the decision of the Board of Trustees to end compulsory chapel.

More than **1,300 students** petition for an end to current housing regulations. President Smith says change is not imminent.

The **women's lacrosse team**, under head coach Mary Parker, plays its first intercollegiate game.

Fifteen students from the local **Students for a Democratic Society** chapter hold a protest at the MUB. They throw two eggs, but otherwise, remain peaceful.

**Barry Clemens '65** becomes the only Bishop player to win the Dick Gregory Award as Ohio Athletic Conference MVP in basketball. He finishes his career as the leading scorer in Ohio Wesleyan history and goes on to play 11 years in the NBA.





He says Ohio Wesleyan students of that era continued to expect to receive a first-rate education as they pursued their goals of launching careers in law, medicine, government, science, and other fields.

“Their parents were behind them, too,” Smith says. “Wesleyan was able to stay on course.”

**YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION**

Ohio Wesleyan in the '60s was still very much a place where *in loco parentis* was the order of the day, says **Jean Fitzwater Bussell '69**. That meant a curfew for women, a ban on visiting the dorm rooms of the opposite sex, and no drinking on campus.

“It wasn't until the early '70s that the University went to a much more socially liberal set of practices on campus,” she says. “The revolution took a little longer to get to Ohio Wesleyan.”

As it is today, Ohio Wesleyan in the '60s was a place where students received an education, both inside and outside the classroom, which would prepare them to make a difference in the world. For Bussell, the four years at OWU helped her realize a long-held dream—one held by many baby boomers.



Student Action Committee members begin 3-day starvation strike in April 1969 in response to concerns about administration policies.

“I wanted to be a social worker and change the world,” she remembers. “What Ohio Wesleyan did for me was to make me aware of what that meant.”

Bussell took a social work practice course with a field experience in which she worked with Delaware County families living in poverty and an urban sociology course in which she and classmates spent a week in inner-city New York.

In addition, the national events of the day, especially the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, sharpened her thinking about the future and making a difference.

“There were so many things that happened while we were at Ohio Wesleyan that have affected our culture since then and hopefully prepared us to deal with it,” says Bussell, who went on to a long, impactful career in social services. “It was an amazing experience.”

**A CHANGE IS GONNA COME**

Alumni from the mid- to late-1960s say Ohio Wesleyan was not a diverse place then, with only a small number of African-American and foreign-born students enrolled. It remained that way through the end of the decade, with a brochure produced



**Thurgood Marshall** is sworn in as first black U.S. Supreme Court justice.



Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs 35-10 in the **first Super Bowl**, known then as the AFL-NFL World Championship.

In theaters: **The Graduate** and **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?**  
On turntables: **Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band**.



The musical **Hair**



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** and **Robert Kennedy** are assassinated.



The theme for **Monnett Day** is “On Being and Becoming,” chosen to fit “the existentialist emphasis of the college.”

1967



The **football team goes undefeated** for the second time in the 20th century, finishing 8-0-1.



**Comedian Dick Gregory** performs at Gray Chapel.

by the Student Union on Black Awareness (SUBA) in 1970 noting 97 percent of the student body was white.

Racial segregation in Greek life that prevented black students from pledging sororities was still in place at OWU in the early '60s. That began to change in 1964 when **Diane Petersen '66**, a black student from New Jersey, pledged Delta Delta Delta at the urging of friends from her dorm and classes.

"While some members of the sorority guessed that pledging an African-American might raise a few eyebrows," Petersen recalls, "most never even thought about it. They simply wanted me as one of their sisters."

Unfortunately, officials at the Tri Deltas national headquarters in Texas did not see it that way. Nor did members of some chapters in the South, calling the Ohio Wesleyan chapter an embarrassment for pledging a black student.

Petersen says the national office began scrutinizing the Ohio Wesleyan chapter's records, looking for reasons to put it on probation and prevent it from initiating pledges into membership. But OWU President Elden Smith intervened on the chapter's behalf with the Tri Deltas national office, allowing Petersen to be initiated in the spring of 1965.

"President Smith was simply a prince through the entire



**Diane Petersen '66** (right) with fellow Tri-Delt sister **Sarah Emler Straub '69**.

episode," she says. "I will never forget his constant support, encouragement, and empathy." His stand against segregation in OWU's Greek system became so emphatic that he wrote to the national offices of all sororities and fraternities active at the University, demanding they adopt a nondiscrimination clause in their bylaws or be expelled from campus.

But Petersen says OWU's sororities still were slow to admit African-Americans and other minorities. "What happened to me was significant, but it didn't mean the floodgates were open," she says.

She also remembers rising awareness among students about the Civil Rights Movement during her years at OWU. That awareness continued to grow after she graduated when black students began to push for change on campus.

A watershed moment occurred in 1968 when SUBA was founded to support African-American students and enrich cultural understanding at the University. That was also the year when the Student Committee on Race Relations presented 12 suggestions to the administration on ways to improve diversity on campus. The requests, many of which eventually were adopted, included a center for African-American social activities, a black counselor on the admissions staff, more black faculty members, an African-American on the Board of Trustees, a black history course, and a



North Vietnamese launch the **Tet Offensive**.

Feminists protest at the **Miss America** contest in Atlantic City.



**Neil Armstrong** becomes the first astronaut to step onto the surface of the moon.



**Stonewall riot** in New York marks beginning of gay rights movement.

**Easy Rider** comes to the Strand Theatre.



# 68 1969

The Commission to Study Student Life Outside the Classroom recommends **students should be free to drink alcohol** within the limits of the law.



Trustees increase OWU fees to **\$2,250 for tuition** and **\$1,075 for room and board**.

**The Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs** (WCSA) is formed. Students begin serving on faculty committees, and three students are elected to the Board of Trustees.

**OWU Student Union on Black Awareness** (SUBA) is founded.

Some **250 students march through Delaware** to protest the Vietnam war and sponsor speakers on the lawn of Gray Chapel.



First-year student **Jackie Rice '72** is elected 1969 Homecoming Queen, the first black woman and freshman to win the title.

**Greek participation declines** to 62 percent of men and 48 percent of women. (In 1960, 87 percent of men and 72 percent of women were in the Greek system.)

Students organize a **march for peace** and a silent vigil in front of the MUB. More than 150 students travel to Washington, DC, for the national **Vietnam Moratorium demonstration**.





“positive recruiting attitude” to increase OWU’s minority enrollment, according to reports in *The Transcript*, the student newspaper.

## R-E-S-P-E-C-T

The national women’s movement was in a fledgling stage in the ’60s, but expectations and opportunities for women were beginning to change, says **Ann Tarbutton Gerhart ’69**.

During her time at OWU, women generally were not encouraged to go to law school. But Dean of Academic Affairs Allan Ingraham urged her to apply and even called several law schools to help her gain admission. She accepted an offer from the University of Cincinnati and went on to a successful career as an attorney.

Gerhart also received encouragement from her advisor, English Professor Libby Reed, and Mildred Newcomb, the Mortar Board advisor. In addition, Gerhart was especially inspired by two of her sorority sisters at Kappa Alpha Theta—**Barbara Brill Brown ’66**, who went to Thailand in the Peace Corps and then to law school, and **Barbara Hartley Schlachter ’67**, who became one of the first women ordained to the Episcopal priesthood.

“In a time when many young women were only beginning to think beyond the immediate goal of marriage and family, role models were very important,” Gerhart says.

Petersen says cultural biases in the mid-1960s still steered women to careers in teaching, nursing, and administrative assistant work. But as the boomers hit campus and the number of female students grew, hope and encouragement also grew for OWU women with big dreams. Petersen, for example, was inspired by Professor Barbara Tull in the speech department.

“She was a model for me in terms of what women could accomplish,” says Petersen, who went on to a career as a physician and surgeon. “She showed me that if you can conceive it and believe it, you can do it.”

## WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

While civil rights and women’s issues were gaining attention, the war in Vietnam was the biggest thing on the minds of most men of the ’60s at Ohio Wesleyan. Their



Members of The Lyres band, all **Class of 1969**, left to right: **Erik Calonijs, Charles White, Tom Tritton, and J. Russell Jamison.**

**Students in the 1960s established a lasting legacy at OWU, moving from the passivity of the ’50s to a much more open and questioning society that continues to this day.”**

— Tom Tritton ’69

futures and even their lives hinged on the draft and student deferments to keep them from being inducted into the armed forces.

Tritton remembers having helped set up a group that counseled students on the draft. He was also one of the organizers for several peace demonstrations on campus, and his name appeared in *The Transcript* as a spokesman for the Ohio Wesleyan Peace Committee, whose efforts included OWU’s participation in an international fasting movement against the Vietnam War.

Tritton says his four years at Ohio Wesleyan changed his view of the world and led to an idealism that valued peace, nonviolence, fairness, justice, and equality for all. It helped position him to embark on a remarkable career as a cancer researcher, academician, president of Haverford College, and chair of the OWU Board of Trustees.

Part of Tritton’s outlook was shaped by the fact that he and his classmates watched nightly as network newscasts reported on the escalating number of U.S. soldiers killed in Vietnam and campus protests against a war whose purpose was unclear to an increasing number of Americans.

Haddock says he opposed the war and felt the United States had no reason to be in the conflict. But he also thought OWU was not the place for antiwar marches and demonstrations.

“My point was that’s not why we were at Ohio Wesleyan,” he says. “I felt we were there to become equipped with a voice so we could have an impact on the world (after college) rather than to get bogged down in rejecting the positive things going on at our university. We were there to get on with our education and careers and to change things that way.”

Haddock has done that during a career filled with accomplishments as an attorney, business executive, and cofounder of Full Sail University, which offers degree programs for the entertainment industry, media, arts, and technology.

**Tom Palmer ’69** remembers his undergraduate years as a time when OWU students tackled issues, including Vietnam and race issues, in a questioning yet productive way instead of “striking out” or dropping out.

He also says the shift in how students viewed the world did not

## Traditions Before & After the Boomers

### WHAT’S OUT

Dances  
Freshman Dinks  
Dry Campus  
In Loco Parentis  
Serenades  
Dorm Raids  
Discreet Alcohol  
Single-Sex Dorms  
Mandatory Chapel  
Beauty Contests  
Curfews  
Skirts & Slacks  
Student Council  
Pinnings at Sulphur Spring  
Spring Fever Day  
Bun’s  
Home Economics Fashion Show

### WHAT’S IN

Rock Concerts  
Guitars  
Barn Parties  
Student Freedom  
Folk Festivals  
Anti-War Protests  
Discreet Pot  
Coed Smith Hall  
Faculty-Student Discussion Groups  
SUBA  
Smokers  
Jeans  
WCSA  
MUB Habit  
People’s Concerts  
Hamburger Inn  
Whitey’s Nocturnal Bookstore

affect the tight-knit bonds they had with faculty members. Palmer still speaks fondly of playing in a basketball league with professors and the University chaplain and how faculty members challenged students to think independently.

### GOOD VIBRATIONS

The '60s at Ohio Wesleyan may have been filled with angst about Vietnam, civil rights, and feminism, but baby boom students, like the students who preceded and succeeded them, still made time for fun and games. Alumni from the late '60s remember attending campus concerts by the Mamas and the Papas, Paul Revere and the Raiders, and the Animals, riding cafeteria trays down the snowy hill by Stuyvesant Hall, Homecoming in the fall, Monnett Weekend in the spring, sorority-fraternity dances, football and basketball games, and socializing at "The Jug" in Delaware.

But most important, Gerhart says, were the enduring friendships made during those years. Indeed she still meets annually on Long Island with about 10 of her OWU friends.

Palmer says his interactions with faculty members and



**"I wanted to be a social worker and change the world. What Ohio Wesleyan did for me was to make me aware of what that meant."**

— Jean Fitzwater Bussell '69

his broader experience at OWU have served him well, including in his career as an attorney and civic leader in Toledo, Ohio. For him, that's the lasting legacy of having been among the first baby boomers to graduate from the University.

"I look at Ohio Wesleyan as having been a wonderful experience," he says, "because it gave me the opportunity to grow at the right pace and motivated me to continue to grow in life. I'm grateful for that and regard it as a gift."

Other alumni see it that way as well.

"For me, it was my liberal arts education and how that prepared all of us so well for life," Petersen says, "and then going back for a reunion and seeing how successful everyone was in their lives—and not just financial success."

Gerhart adds, "Every generation has had to deal with changes, and our alma mater has held our hand the whole time. It has also grown and changed along with us. But the core values—intellectual curiosity, personal tenacity, service to others, and respect for all people—have remained." ■

*Jeff Bell is a freelance writer in Westerville, Ohio.*



**Despite the turbulence of the '60s, baby boom students still made time for fun. Alumni remember campus concerts by the Animals and the Mamas and the Papas, riding cafeteria trays down the snowy hill by Stuyvesant Hall, and socializing at "The Jug" in Delaware.**





An Ohio Wesleyan alumna, professors, and students are teaming up and using high-tech geography in Costa Rica to help preserve a rich and wonderful ecosystem.



By Kathy Lynn Gray

# PRESERVING A Paradise

## THE OWU CONNECTION

By Kathy Lynn Gray

Looking out at the lush, vivid greenery around her simple home in Costa Rica, **Amy Work '04** can scarcely believe her good fortune. The sky is a gorgeous blue, a crystal-clear ocean is nearby, colorful tropical birds swoop overhead, and the sunshine is endless.

It's a far cry from her growing-up years in Westerville and her college years at Ohio Wesleyan University, where weather tended more toward overcast skies and freezing Midwest winters.

"If you would have told me when I was in college that I'd be living in the tropics and working I would have said you're joking, there is no way," Work says. "Now I know that anything's possible."

A lofty sentiment, to be sure. But one she believes in so firmly that she's trying to pass it along to other OWU students by inviting them to visit—and learn—in her little piece of paradise.

Work's life on the eastern coast of Costa Rica centers on something she was introduced to at Ohio Wesleyan: GIS—geographic information system—technology. In its simplest form, it's a way to display several sets of data on a single map so users can see and analyze the relationships between each. Accessed through computer software, the technology is used in fields ranging from archaeology to mosquito control to politics—anything that can use location as a factor.

GIS technology was growing in popularity in 2000 when



Working with Geoporter's **Amy Work '04** (far left), the OWU team included (from left) Professor John Krygier, **Olivia Lease '17**, **Michael Durfee '17**, **Christopher Pessell '18**, **Luke Steffen '16**, **Maddy Coalmer '18**, and Assistant Professor Nathan Amador.



Photo by Alejandro Orozco

Work was an OWU freshman taking a mapping course taught by geology and geography professor John Krygier.

"That class talked about how maps have helped us understand the world over time, and at the end it talked about GIS," Work says. A follow-up class taught her the nitty-gritty of GIS and convinced her of its power. By the time she graduated in 2004 with a triple major in geography, urban studies, and environmental studies, she knew she wanted to pursue a career centered on GIS.

Work was sharp, focused, and fully engaged in learning about GIS, Krygier says, especially in upper-level courses where students used the technology to help map potential pathways for future Delaware bike paths. Eventually, Delaware created



**"Amy's work shows that you can be successful and flourish with a geography major, and for her to have taken the same classes in the major that I'm taking meant even more."**

— Madeleine Coalmer '18

new paths based on the students' work.

"She's one of those people who has a vision and can see the parts needed to make it happen," Krygier says. "What Amy got in that class was that there's a tool that can make big, good things happen."

After graduating from Syracuse University with a master's degree in geography in 2006, Work became an education and GIS coordinator at the Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology, or IAGT, in Auburn, New York. Through her work there she met Anita and Roger Palmer, founders of GISetc, a for-profit company that helps educators learn to use GIS in the classroom.

Beginning in 2009, the Palmers began traveling to the Costa Rican coastal village of Bahia Ballena to introduce GIS to community leaders, in the hopes the technology would help the village transition from a farming-and-fishing economy to a tourism economy. When it became obvious the couple's yearly visits weren't enough for the project to prosper, they asked Work to live and work there full-time.

That's what she's done since August 2012. She's funded



by Geoporter, a nonprofit organization set up by Work, the Palmers, and two Bahia Ballena community members. It's designed to send educators around the world to do exactly what Work is doing in Costa Rica: solve local issues with GIS. This is Geoporter's first project.

A hallmark of Geoporter is helping communities help themselves, Work explains. "The community members are the ones who are doing it," she says. "The community has the goals and the objectives, and the focus is on getting community members to use the technology themselves."

Bahia Ballena leaders decided to tackle trash in the streets with the help of GIS. For a decade, trash had been picked up curbside at homes, but in public places, residents tended to toss it on the ground, Work says. As a result, trash ended up in local streams and then in the ocean, reducing the area's appeal for tourists.

Work suggested mapping where trash was coming from



**“Life in Costa Rica revolves around family, church and soccer, so on Sundays the entire town shows up to watch the games. And there were no trash cans near the soccer fields.”**

—Amy Work '04

as a first step. In 2013, she and community members collected trash at specific intervals on the road, counted the kinds of trash found there, and mapped the results using GIS. They found a high concentration of candy wrappers outside grocery stores near schools, for example, from students buying candy on their way home. Soccer fields—popular community gathering spots—had food wrappers and bottles.

“Life in Costa Rica revolves around family, church, and soccer, so on Sundays the entire town shows up to watch the games,” Work says. “And there were no trash cans near the soccer fields.”

An analysis of the mapped trash produced action within the year: Trash cans with sections for recyclables and sections for non-recyclables were added where they would reduce the most trash, and an education program encouraged residents to use the cans.

Since then, trash in streams has diminished and more is being recycled—exactly what Geoporter was set up to accomplish.

To spread the word about the success and encourage others to embrace the technology, Work turned to her alma mater. She contacted Krygier, who had first taught her GIS, and his new colleague, Nathanael Amador, and asked: Would Ohio Wesleyan students be interested in working with Geoporter?

The idea jelled when Work returned to the states in 2014 to be inducted into the Ohio Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame for her starring role on the Battling Bishops' national title-winning women's soccer teams of 2001 and 2002. She talked up her GIS project with Ohio Wesleyan President Rock Jones and by 2015, Amador, with Krygier's help, was offering a travel-learning course to Costa Rica. Such courses are a core element of The OWU Connection, helping students connect classroom learning with real-world practice in global settings.

“I still feel such a connection to the students at Ohio Wesleyan,” Work says. “I wanted them to see what I'm doing with my degree and to instill in students that you can apply your knowledge to anything and, if you have a passion, follow it.”

The proposal had clicked with Amador, an assistant professor of geology and geography who'd begun working at Ohio Wesleyan in 2014. He was teaching Environmental Alterations, a required class for environmental studies majors, and added the Costa Rica portion as an option for additional class credit.

“What Amy does embodies the point of the course, which is how humans impact the environment,” Amador says. “And it ties together the whole idea of being at Ohio Wesleyan, which is that graduation isn't the end of your involvement with the University community.”

By December 2015, five students, along with Amador and Krygier, were bumping along the mostly unpaved roads of Costa Rica. Each had completed an environmental project centered on the country before their trip, and their 11-day visit expanded on those projects.

**Madeleine Coalmer '18** examined the effects of ecotourism, global warming, and climate change on water supplies in Costa Rica. She wanted to find out what could be done in the future to reduce yearly water shortages during the dry season. She soon realized that even her use of water at home in Youngstown, Ohio, could ultimately affect the water supply in Central America.

“When my mom picked me up from the airport after the trip, the first thing I told her was I'm going to be more cautious of how much water I'm using,” she says.

Coalmer also learned how much opportunity her chosen major, geography, can provide.

“Amy's work shows that you can be successful and flourish with a geography major, and for her to have taken the same classes in the major that I'm taking meant even more,” Coalmer says. “It showed me that I could reach out to others



**“It’s a good model. Our alumni are spread out all over the world, and I’m hoping other travel-learning courses will take advantage of that.”**

— John Krygier, professor of geology and geography

and have connections all over the world.”

**Chris Pessell '18** of Cincinnati had studied the impact of African palm-oil plantations on the soil, water, animals, and plants of Costa Rica. African palms were brought to the country after Costa Rica’s banana-growing industry shut down. While they’ve helped the economy, native mangrove forests have been destroyed to make way for the plantations.

Pessell’s view of the industry changed when he visited a plantation on the trip. He realized he’d inflated its harm to the environment.

“I assumed it was like a tree farm, but there was a carpet of plants under the trees and a ton of different bugs,” he says. As long as the plantations aren’t expanding, he says, it doesn’t appear they’ll do additional damage to the environment.

Pessell particularly enjoyed another trip project: testing water in the Bahia Ballena area to ensure clean drinking water is available. After the trip, he helped map the data and hopes to add more as additional testing is done periodically.

“Development has encroached on the amount of water available,” Work says. “We’re mapping the water quality and the stream flow to understand what’s happening and to ensure that our dirty water is taken care of.”

The work cemented Pessell’s plan to pursue a career in water-quality testing when he graduates with his geography major.

In addition to the palm-oil plantation, students and professors visited two national parks, a bat sanctuary and a pineapple plantation; kayaked through mangrove forests; and took a whale-watching tour (but, unfortunately, saw no whales.)

Interestingly, neither Work nor Amador had opportunities similar to the Costa Rica trip while they were students.

Work’s plans to travel abroad were dashed by 9/11. Instead of traveling, she applied her GIS knowledge on local projects as a student, such as the bike-trail project.

For Amador, plenty of opportunities for study and travel existed at The Ohio State University where he obtained his undergraduate degree, but he had no money to participate.

“I think part of my passion for this is living through the students, letting them take advantage of these opportunities,” he says. “I was interested in getting students to really understand what it means to study this content outside of the classroom and to understand that people are employed doing what you’re learning in this class.”

The January trip was the second time an Ohio Wesleyan student had visited Work. The first was a year ago, when graduate **Christian Gehrke '15** took a University drone to Bahia Ballena to capture a birds-eye view of the community. The new imagery updated some from 2011 and has a higher resolution. Work will use it to see changes in the environment over time.

“We don’t have the resources to acquire a drone,” she says. “But the student had the technology to help us advance what we’re doing here.”

Krygier hopes the collaboration with Work spurs similar collaborations with OWU alumni.

“It’s a good model,” he says. “Our alumni are spread out all over the world, and I’m hoping other travel-learning courses will take advantage of that.”

In Costa Rica, the link between alumni and OWU continues. Amador visited this summer to take more water samples, and another OWU student took additional aerial photos with a drone.

Work appreciates the extra hands, the equipment and the enthusiasm that students and professors bring to the Geoporter project, but she also sees the collaboration as a way she’s giving back to the University.

“I want to be able to share with students what the University taught me,” she says. “It provided me with the foundation to know that you can learn and do whatever you want to. It shaped me into what I am today.” ■

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

*To learn more about the GIS project and travel-learning course, see [flickr.com/photos/geoporter/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/geoporter/) and [geoporter.net](http://geoporter.net), or contact Amy Work at [amy@geoporter.net](mailto:amy@geoporter.net).*



**“We’re mapping the water quality and the stream flow . . . to ensure that our dirty water is taken care of.”**

—Amy Work





# A LAUNCHING PAD for Writers

OWU's rich history in creative writing has begun a new chapter, with a team of faculty authors mentoring a new generation of students hoping to launch careers as writers and explore the real final frontier—the human heart.

*By Megan Pinto '14*



**A** liberal arts education, at its best, enlightens us to our lived experience. How do we make sense of ourselves and our lives? How do we make meaning?

Such exploration lies at the core of being a writer, too.

The best part about being a writer is that you get to explore this vast spectrum of life, blatantly and in great detail. Maybe today you're trying to understand mass shootings. Or maybe you're grieving the death of a friend. Or maybe you're about to begin a great adventure. Or maybe you feel that you're going nowhere at all.

The liberal arts tradition at Ohio Wesleyan may be the perfect environment for exploring big and complex issues—and for learning to become a writer.

For decades, Ohio Wesleyan has been producing successful writers in a variety of genres. And creative writing faculty at OWU have been inspiring students while also producing an impressive library of creative work. It's a special program that epitomizes The OWU Connection by encouraging students to think about big questions across the disciplines—and to put theory into practice through workshops, travel-learning classes, and residencies where students write, write, and write some more.

The program has been on an extremely successful run over the past few years, with graduates entering prestigious M.F.A. programs and publishing their work—and with faculty earning national and international recognition (and even movie deals) for their creative output.



## THE WRITER'S CHALLENGE

A writer is an explorer of the psyche and the soul.

Robert Olmstead, Director of the Creative Writing Program, says he uses his fiction writing workshops to “challenge the writer to find their own mind, find their own thoughts.”

“It’s the singer, not the song,” says Olmstead, “It’s ‘Who are you?’ ‘What do you bring?’ ‘What is your pallet and what do your brushstrokes look like?’ You have to work hard to go down and find who you are.”

Poet David Caplan, the Charles M. Weis Chair in English and Associate Director of Creative Writing, says his goal is to get students to be “extremely clear and expressive of the conflict they’re exploring.”

But how do they prepare students for the hard work of digging down and finding who they are? And how do they help formulate and articulate those discoveries into work that can move a reader?

## THE WRITER'S APPRENTICESHIP

According to Caplan, the creative writing department has two functions: “One, to teach and nurture the talent of the student; and two, to give the students exposure to the wider literary world by bringing in top writers.” He says many assignments “compel students to try different things.”

“My workshops with Caplan and Olmstead were critical in my development as a writer,” says **Anni Liu '13**. “I had deadlines, many readers, and engaged and available professors whose feedback I valued.”

The newest addition to OWU’s creative writing faculty is nonfiction specialist Amy Butcher, a graduate of the Iowa Writer’s Workshop. Her first book, *Visiting Hours: A Memoir of Friendship and Murder*, published last year, received praise and starred reviews from *The New York Times*, NPR, and many others.

Butcher, Assistant Professor of English, says the ultimate goal, across all genres, is to expand students’ sense of what is possible within language, and for themselves.

“In my introductory course, we study and try our hand

at some eight or nine unique essayistic forms—the personal essay, narrative essay, lyric essay, braided essay, collage essay, stream-of-consciousness essay, even multimedia essays that employ audio and visual elements and animation,” says Butcher. “Reading is everything, and the last thing I want a student to do is leave my classroom on any given day feeling there is only one way to write, or only one style, or voice, or even form.”

While helping a student become a professional writer can seem daunting, Olmstead says, “The three of us recognize it can be an extremely long apprenticeship. We create that space, that place where people can be inside of. It doesn’t have a beginning and an end. It’s ongoing.”

The faculty’s hard work pays off. They change lives.

**Martha Park '11**, received her M.F.A. from Hollins University. She received the Melanie Hook Rice Award for Creative Nonfiction, and her writing has been published in several literary magazines and on NPR’s On Being website. This past spring she was the Philip Roth Writer-in-Residence at Bucknell University’s Stadler Center for Poetry.

Park discovered her Hollins M.F.A. program “somewhere between reading Natasha Trethewey in Professor Caplan’s class, and Annie Dillard in Robert Olmstead’s class. I knew wherever these women had studied writing was a place I wanted to go, too.” She says, “The books and writers I encountered at OWU, in both literature and creative writing classes, were hugely important to me and continue to inform my reading and writing.”

Anni Liu says she originally intended to study neuroscience, but at the end of her first semester of poetry writing, “Professor Caplan asked me what I wanted to do with my life, and I said what I’d always known but was afraid to say: I want to be a writer. Or maybe, I said, novelist. And he asked me why I wasn’t signed up for a writing workshop.” Today, Liu is an MFA candidate in poetry at Indiana University.

Prize-winning poet **Maggie Smith '99** gained a vast national and international audience earlier this year, when her poem “Good Bones” was shared by thousands across



“In writing, it’s the singer, not the song. It’s ‘Who are you?’ ‘What do you bring?’ You have to work hard to find who you are.”

— Robert Olmstead, director, Creative Writing Program, and award-winning novelist

the Internet after the Orlando massacre. The poem, which begins “Life is short, though I keep this from my children,” was published online by the literary journal *Waxwing* shortly after the Orlando shooting, and it quickly went viral as people everywhere reflected on the tragedy.

Smith, who has published three collections of poetry and three chapbooks, says OWU was the turning point for her. “I was writing before I started at Ohio Wesleyan, but I think I started becoming a writer at OWU—thanks almost entirely to the mentorship and encouragement I received from my professors, especially Robert Flanagan.” Flanagan retired in 2002 after serving 32 years as director of creative writing, and today, the Robert Flanagan Prize in Creative Writing is awarded annually to the student who submits the best original work in fiction and poetry.

The prize was established in 1998 by **Ann Neitzel Yackel ’78**, who publishes under the pen name Ann Heath. A former student in Flanagan’s poetry workshop, she created the prize to recognize Flanagan’s contributions to the creative writing program and his exceptional teaching and student mentoring.

Smith has tried to carry on that tradition in her own work teaching poetry to advanced writers. She emphasizes “the idea of poetic identity, asking students to consider—and to challenge—the subjects, styles, and formal choices they return to again and again. And thanks in no small part to my experience at OWU, I focus on taking risks and trusting your instincts.”

## SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Students learn the craft of writing through practice and criticism, but they also learn through example. And OWU’s creative writing faculty provide their students with great “do-as-I-do” as well as “do-as-I-say” models.

“I don’t hide how much this means to me,” says Olmstead, “I don’t ask them to do anything I don’t ask of myself. I torment them. I torment myself.”

The three faculty members, ranging from early, mid,

to late career, exemplify a diverse range of interests and aesthetics.

Following the success of her 2015 memoir, Amy Butcher published an op-ed piece in *The New York Times* that literally shook up one of the world’s largest corporate giants. In “Emoji Feminism,” she hilariously lamented the dearth of positive female role models in Google’s emojis. Within several weeks, Google introduced 13 new female emojis to better represent women in the workforce—and they credited Butcher’s article for inspiring their new images of strong, professional women.

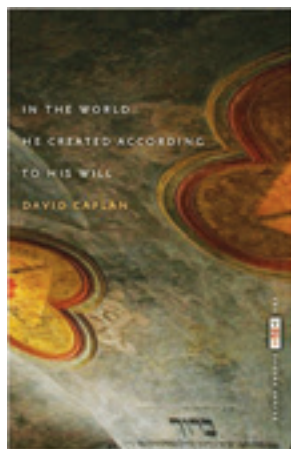
“My editor said that really never happens—that those who incite change cite the inspiration,” Butcher says. “So I was really amazed and in disbelief.”

Butcher has received numerous prizes and awards, and one of her pieces was recently selected for inclusion in *Best American Travel Writing 2016*. She is currently at work on a novel and a longer nonfiction narrative.

David Caplan is currently working on his next collection of poetry and writing *American Poetry: A Very Short Introduction* for Oxford University Press. He is a contributing editor to the *Virginia Quarterly Review* and *Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing*. He has written four books and has received numerous awards for his poetry and criticism, alongside twice serving as a Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature at the University of Liège.

Robert Olmstead, the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including a Guggenheim fellowship and an NEA Grant, is currently at work on his fifth novel. And his fourth novel has him on the verge of reaching a massive audience. *Far Bright Star*, came out in 2009 to wide praise by critics; the *Boston Globe*, for instance, wrote, “It’s the kind of novel that you will want to read once simply for the storytelling. . . . Then you will want to read it again to let Olmstead’s prose wash over you. It’s as muscular, sturdy, well hewn, and wise as the coal-black horse himself.”

Then late in 2015, Olmstead learned that the novel would be made into a movie, directed by Casey Affleck and starring Joaquin Phoenix.



“One of the pleasures [of teaching] is that you get to know the students and watch them grow as writers and as people.”

—David Caplan, Charles M. Weis Chair in English and the associate director of Creative Writing



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The faculty also regularly invite America's best writers to campus, where they give readings and meet with students.

"In my two years here, I've already had the opportunity to engage my students with *New York Times* bestselling authors and MacArthur 'Genius' grant recipients Leslie Jamison and Ta-Nehisi Coates, as well as Alissa Nutting, Traci Brimhall, Maggie Smith, Jennifer Percy, Adam Kirsch, and Kerry Howley," says Butcher.

Students also are making connections out in the real world, with University-funded grants. **Kate MacLam '11**, currently an M.F.A. candidate in fiction at Minnesota State University, Mankato, talks about getting "the real deal experience" when she went on a writer's retreat in Florida with Olmstead and poet Denise Duhamel.

**Meg Deeter '17** and four other students participated in a joint Theory-to-Practice grant to attend the DisQuiet International Literary Program in Portugal with Caplan this past July.

## A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE, ENGAGEMENT

All these recent successes carry on a long Ohio Wesleyan legacy of shaping the minds of great writers.

**Richard North Patterson '68**, author of 22 novels, 16 of which were on the *New York Times* bestseller list, credits English Professor Robert Marshall for setting an example by being both a published author and an engaged teacher. He fondly recalls that his OWU professors "were really there to teach. The level of intellectual engagement was very high."

**Edith Hope Fine '65**, author of 18 children's books, credits her liberal arts education for her career as a teacher. While



Richard North Patterson's 22 novels include *Eden* in Winter, 2014.

teaching, she would read to her students and see "mental light bulbs flashing on, a deepening understanding of the world, increased confidence, and greater empathy. I saw how books offered both escape and hope to students with rough home lives." Shortly afterward, she began writing children's stories.

## PASSIONATE ENGAGEMENT

The secret sauce for OWU's creative writing program is the passionate engagement of both faculty and students.

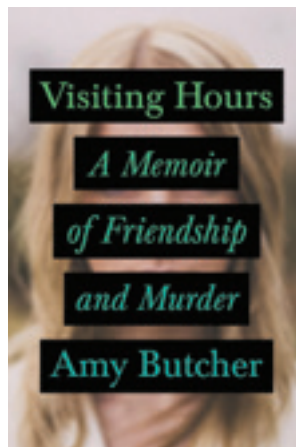
**Billie Paulus '16**, says Butcher is her closest mentor: "Both in workshop and outside the classroom, she has taught me, encouraged me, given me countless opportunities to have my writing promoted and circulated, as well as the many hours she has spent talking about craft with me and my ultimate writing goals."

"It's important for students to see an engaged writer," Caplan says. "If you're writing and engaged and bringing that knowledge into the classroom, then you're showing that writing is something you value."

He adds, "One of the pleasures is that you get to know the students and watch them grow as writers and as people."

"I've been doing it for about 40 years now," says Olmstead, "I get to go in and talk about books and writing with very committed, interested young people. There is something about young people. My generation wants to pick on them, but every semester, young people scratch out sentences on paper, sharing those stories, trying to make them better and better. It's heartening." ■

**Megan Pinto '14** is an M.F.A. candidate in poetry at Warren Wilson College. Her play "*Winter in Eden*" will receive its world premiere at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan, in January 2018.



"The last thing I want a student to do is leave my classroom on any given day feeling there is only one way to write, or only one style, or voice, or even form."

— Amy Butcher, Assistant Professor of English

“I was writing before I started at Ohio Wesleyan, but I think I started becoming a writer at OWU—thanks almost entirely to the mentorship and encouragement I received from my professors.”

—Prize-winning poet **Maggie Smith '99**

## WEEP UP

Maggie Smith

It's only technically morning. Not even the birds believe it. From her crib my daughter tries to wake them, saying *weep* for *wake*. *Weep up, birds*. What else could silence mean to her but sleep? We might be the first awake on our street, the neighbors' breathing still regular and slow, all the porches lit and moths losing their minds in that light. Rising, spellbound in the blurry dawn, I become my mother. Twentieth-century sunrise was just like this—sad, soft-focus ocher like an overexposed Polaroid. The sun is just now brimming over the golden edge of the lawn, and dew begins to sizzle there. In the dark I hear *weep up, weep up, birds*, until they do.

*This will be the title poem of Maggie Smith's next book, scheduled to be published by Tupelo Press in 2018.*

## OWU Professor Inspires #Emoji Feminism



When Google employees introduced 13 new emojis earlier this year, they credited Ohio Wesleyan University faculty member Amy Butcher, with helping to inspire the images of strong, professional women.

Butcher decried the lack of such electronic icons in a recent *New York Times* opinion column titled “Emoji Feminism.” In the essay, she described wanting to congratulate a coworker on earning tenure and having to settle for emojis of flamenco dancers and unicorns.

Upon learning of Google's efforts to remedy the digital dilemma, Butcher

said, “Although it may seem a small and seemingly insignificant slight, the lack of diversity in our emoji vocabulary mirrors the much larger issue within mainstream culture of a lack of strong female representation, particularly as it pertains to industry and the workplace.

“Considering emojis are used primarily by young women, and at a rate of over 80 percent by the younger generation as a whole, it sets a problematic and tiring precedent that women are only princesses, brides, or beings exclusively interested in pampering.

“Women are diverse, dimensional, and now the majority breadwinners in American homes,” she concluded. “It's incredibly cool and a great honor that Google recognizes

the importance in accurate and respectful representation and, in that way, in revising the everyday narrative.”

After the announcement, Butcher was contacted by media outlets including the London, England-based BBC Radio 5 live program. Hear her BBC interview at [bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03v23mg](http://bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03v23mg).

OWU Associate Chaplain Lisa Ho said it was exciting to see the impact of Butcher's *New York Times* essay.

“I seriously could not be any more proud of this woman,” Ho says. “This is what it means to follow your passion and change the world, even if it's one emoji at a time! I can't wait to use the new professor/teacher emoji designed just for Amy.”



# LAX BISHOPS HEAD to the HALL OF FAME

**Mike James '87** and former OWU women's head coach Linda Strapp were inducted into the Ohio Lacrosse Hall of Fame in June, becoming the 11th and 12th Bishops to receive this distinction.

James was an All-America attacker at Ohio Wesleyan. His senior year, he was an honorable mention All-America pick and was a first-team All-Midwest Lacrosse Association and All-North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) selection. As a junior, he won second-team All-MLA, and first-team All-NCAC honors, and his sophomore year, he was an honorable mention All-MLA and second-team All-NCAC selection.

"Mike James is very deserving of this great honor," says Director of Athletics Roger Ingles. "He was a great player, athlete and even better person. I have been honored to know him as a player and as an alumnus. He is highly supportive of OWU and the OWU lacrosse program."

James compiled 139 goals, 63 assists, and 202 points during his career, ranking fourth on Bishop career

**Mike James credited former Battling Bishop head coaches Jay Martin and Mike Pressler. "[They] had a huge impact on my life."**

lists for goals and points, and was selected to the North-South All-Star game.

"It's obviously an honor to be in the Ohio Lacrosse Hall of Fame after 30 years of coaching, playing, and managing programs," James says. During his acceptance speech, James credited former Battling Bishop head coaches Jay Martin and Mike Pressler.

"[They] had a huge impact on my life," James reflected. "It's not just coaching, it's working with people. I use [what I learned from them] in coaching and leading young men, and I use that in business."

Strapp was inducted as an official. She served as Ohio Wesleyan's head women's lacrosse coach from 1992-99, compiling an overall record of 61-50-1, including a mark of 44-22 against NCAC opponents. Her 1997 team set a school record with 11 victories, and during her eight seasons, Ohio Wesleyan had only one sub-.500 record.

Ingles says, "Linda Strapp is a valued friend and colleague who after leaving Ohio Wesleyan as one of our top coaches in lacrosse history became one of the top collegiate lacrosse officials in the country. I am excited for her and appreciate her contributions to OWU."

"Being a coach made me a better official, and being an official made me a better coach," Strapp says. "Trying to do both was difficult at times, but the dual role made me better at both."

"When I first came to Ohio Wesleyan, Mary Parker was the head coach. The game was changing, and working with Parkie made me keep the perspective

**"Being a coach made me a better official, and being an official made me a better coach."**

—Linda Strapp

of where the game came from. She appreciated that the game was changing and never held me back in any way, and I was grateful for that. I have fond memories of hosting the national tournament at Ohio Wesleyan—I was

so proud to have teams from across the country come to Ohio Wesleyan to play."

Only three individuals were inducted this year into the hall, which is managed by the Ohio Lacrosse Foundation. The ceremony was held at The Golf Club of Dublin. ■

— **Mark Beckenbach '81**



*Mike James '87 and Linda Strapp at the Ohio Lacrosse Hall of Fame induction.*

## OWU's Ohio Lacrosse Hall of Famers

The 90-member roster of the Ohio Lacrosse Hall of Fame includes 12 OWU Bishops, listed at right with their year of induction.	<b>Joe Horn</b> (coach)	1994
	<b>Fred Myers</b> (coach)	2001
	<b>Bob Sargent '76</b>	2005
	<b>Steve Meinsen '77</b>	2005
	<b>Richie Seiler '72</b>	2006
	<b>Toby Boucher '88</b>	2007
	<b>John Hildebrand '76</b>	2008
	<b>Charlie Blanchard '88</b>	2012
	<b>Blair Morrison '85</b>	2013
	<b>Dan O'Neill '85</b>	2015
	<b>Mike James '87</b>	2016
	<b>Linda Strapp</b> (coach & official)	2016

*Mike James (number 8) scores one of his 139 goals for OWU.*



# BUILDING THE FUTURE

Throughout his career, **Randall “Rand” Griffin ‘66** has been a builder.

“I like to build things—companies, people. I like to stretch their horizons,” he says. “The joy really has been the management of people and creating a strategy, then implementing that strategy—not individually—but through the teams that you build, the leadership that you provide, and the motivation that you encourage.”

His 34-year career included stints as VP of Development for EuroDisney Development in Paris and as President and CEO of Corporate Office Properties Trust (COPT) in Columbia, Maryland, where he directed the development of more than \$3.8 billion in real estate assets. He retired in 2012.

Griffin says his proudest achievements as a builder was “completing the non-theme-park portion of EuroDisney on time and under budget, despite numerous changes and challenges. The second was leading the combination of COPT and Constellation Real Estate from a small obscure REIT, after our September 1998 merger, into a nationally recognized powerhouse.”

He says the foundation for his career as a builder was laid at Ohio Wesleyan, where he majored in economics and English. He remembers challenging classes with faculty such as English Professor Libby Reed. “She gave me the communication skills that I still use in my business life today,” he says. Griffin was

“The joy really has been implementing strategy through the teams that you build, the leadership that you provide, and the motivation that you encourage.”

—Randall “Rand” Griffin ‘66



instrumental in raising funds for the Libuse L. Reed Endowed Professorship, announced in May 2003.

Griffin grew to value a liberal arts mentality, lifelong learning, and giving back to the community.

Throughout his career, and especially since retiring in 2012, he has devoted much of his time and talent to fulfilling that philanthropic spirit. Griffin has served on numerous boards, including the National Aquarium, the Center for Aquatic Life and Conservation, and the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education. He also is a commissioner on the Maryland State Arts Council.

Griffin was delighted to recognize many faces when he returned to OWU for his 50th class reunion this year. “That is the beauty of a small school,” he says.

During Alumni Weekend, he was awarded Ohio Wesleyan’s Distinguished Achievement Citation, the Alumni Association’s highest honor. A member of the President’s Circle and the Tower Society, Griffin was honored and surprised to receive the prestigious award.

“I don’t think of it as necessarily my award alone,” he says. “It is as much an award for the people that have helped me along the way.” ■

—Julia Stone ‘16





## A GREAT DAY

It was a great day to be a Bishop.

**Evan Corns '59** and his wife, Barbara, had a memorable Alumni Weekend this year, as he proudly received the Alumni Award on the same stage as four of his close friends: **Bob Gillespie '66, Mike Long '66, Rand Griffin '66, and Greg Moore '76.**

"To have received my award from David Livingston, longtime OWU alumni friend and the son of my '59 classmate and great friend, Barry Livingston, was very special," says Corns.

The man who coined the catch-phrase "It's a great day to be a Bishop" has remained actively engaged with the Ohio Wesleyan community throughout his life. He joined the Board of Trustees in 1992, serving first as a Trustee-at-Large, then an Alumni Trustee, and now a Life Trustee. He and Barbara are members of the Founders' Circle, Tower Society, and President's Circle.

Corns has created several endowments and donated funds to name the R.W. Corns Building in memory of his father. He also has been a strong supporter of Battling Bishop athletics and Team OWU. Currently, he hopes to do all he can to help Ohio Wesleyan achieve its goal of enrolling 2,020 students by 2020.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in history at OWU, Corns earned his M.A. from the University of North Carolina. While at Ohio Wesleyan, he was a leader in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity. William F. Bigelow and John Henry Reed played major roles in his Ohio Wesleyan fraternity experience. "Their leadership, humanity, and love of fraternity made a lifelong impression on me," he says.

**"So much of what I am or ever hope to be I owe to Ohio Wesleyan University and to Ohio Delta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon."**

—Evan Corns '59



Corns also acknowledges Professor of History Emeritus Richard Smith as an influential mentor. "At best, I was a very average classroom student, but it was in the non-classroom sessions—notably coffee at the MUB—that Richard Smith impacted me the most," he says.

"His tales of military valor and leadership, generals who wore both blue and gray, inspired in me a passion which I later translated to a leadership/management style in my corporate endeavors," he says. "Lessons in battle translate effectively to lessons in business."

Corns founded America's Body Company in 1976, and under his leadership, it became the largest business of its kind in the United States, with seven facilities nationwide and annual sales of more than \$120 million.

He retired from the company in 1998, but he continues to contribute his business expertise to OWU as a member of the Alumni Advisory Board for The Woltemade Center for Economics, Business and Entrepreneurship.

"Ohio Wesleyan is my hobby," says Corns of his life after retirement.

"As the plaque on our Founders Plaza notes: 'So much of what I am or ever hope to be I owe to Ohio Wesleyan University and to Ohio Delta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon,'" he says. "Ohio Wesleyan made my life. Any financial success I have received has, to a large degree, gone to OWU as my way of saying 'thank you.'" ■

—Julia Stone '16



# RAISING AWARENESS

**Meggie Feran Sexton '06**

has struggled with disordered eating (including anorexia, bulimia, and over-exercising) for almost a decade. Now, she is in full recovery and is dedicated to destigmatizing eating disorders and raising awareness.

Sexton began struggling with disordered eating her senior year at Ohio Wesleyan, and this developed into full-blown anorexia while attending graduate school. She says through treatment, she has learned that there are many others who struggle with eating disorders.

“Now that I’m in active recovery,” she says, “I want to share my experiences and help erase the stigma that eating disorders are self-centered or that they only affect caucasian, adolescent females.” She believes raising awareness about eating disorders in older women and pregnant women is particularly important because these groups are less talked about.

In 2013, Tate Publishing published Sexton’s memoir *To the Moon and Back—A Daughter/Mother Journey Toward Eating Disorder Recovery*. She hopes the book will help others in similar situations realize they are not alone. She wants them to know that “eating disorders are serious illnesses rooted in low self-esteem, perfectionism, even having a strong genetic component, but they can be untangled and



“It’s okay to be human and to be imperfect.”  
—Meggie Feran Sexton '06



undone. It’s okay to be human and to be imperfect.”

A journalism and psychology double major at OWU, Sexton this year received the Ohio Wesleyan Young Alumni Award. The award honors alumni who have graduated in the past 15 years and have demonstrated significant or ongoing commitment to extraordinary professional work, research, volunteerism, or service to the University.

“To be able to receive the [award] is truly due to the support that I’ve had along the way, which is rooted in my OWU family.” She identifies this family as her cross-country and track teammates, professors, advisors, and Kappa Alpha Theta sisters.

Sexton worked at OWU for three years as Assistant Director of Young Alumni and Student Engagement, where she encouraged young alumni to form volunteer committees and give back to the OWU community. She also helped with senior programming and connected graduating students with young alumni for networking and job searching purposes.

Sexton currently works full-time as a health systems manager for the American Cancer Society. She says it is both motivating and rewarding “to be a part of something much bigger than myself.” ■

—Abby Hanson '16



# Alumni Weekend '16 Highlights

#owureunion | Facebook | LinkedIn | Twitter | Instagram





This year some 800 alumni returned to campus May 13-15 for a weekend of fun and reminiscing. Weekend highlights included the 50th Reunion Welcome Luncheon for the Class of 1966, a Blues and BBQ Kick-off dinner and Reunion dinner, and a ceremony recognizing Alumni Award winners. **To nominate individuals for 2017, see [owu.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-awards](http://owu.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-awards) and the envelope insert in this issue.**



**Sacha Negron '91**, great-great-granddaughter of OWU leader Frederick Merrick, enjoys the festivities at the Class of 1991 reunion.



**Ron Stephany '66** celebrates his 50th reunion in style.



**Gordon Smith '54 and Helen Crider Smith '56**, with **Nina Carmichael-Tanaka '19**. Nina spent spring semester in Tanzania, where she visited The School of St. Jude, which is supported by the Smiths.



# CALENDAR of EVENTS

The following is a listing of OWU alumni events around the country. These events offer alumni, families and friends opportunities to network with fellow Bishops and to reconnect with OWU near your hometown.

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

## SEPTEMBER 2016

**September 10** | Columbus, OH  
Alumni & Friends at the Columbus Zoo

**September 13** | On-Campus  
I-cubed Video Chats

**September 16** | Sunbury, OH  
Team OWU Golf Outing

**September 16-17** | On-Campus  
Women of Ohio Wesleyan (WOW)

**September 20** | Columbus, OH  
Central Ohio breakfast series featuring President Rock Jones

**September 29** | Columbus, OH  
Monnett Club featuring Professor Amy Butcher

## OCTOBER 2016

**October 6-7** | On-Campus  
Board of Trustees

**October 6-8** | On-Campus  
Alumni Board of Directors

**October 7-9** | On-Campus  
Homecoming & Family Weekend; Hall of Fame, Delta Tau Delta 150th Anniversary, various Greek and athletic reunions, Celebration of Endowments/Scholarships

**October 15** | On Campus  
Dale Bruce Honorary Coaches Recognition

**October 22** | Boston  
Head of the Charles

**October 22** | Boston  
Bishops in Service

## NOVEMBER 2016

**November 2** | Columbus, OH  
Monnett Club featuring Nikki Hildebrand Smith '01

**November 15** | Columbus, OH  
Central Ohio breakfast series

**November 28** | On Campus  
Hudler Tree Lighting

## DECEMBER 2016

### DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS

**December 1** | Denver, CO; New York, NY

**December 4** | San Francisco, CA  
**December 8** | Boston, MA; Philadelphia, PA

**December 8** | Chicago, IL

**December 14** | Columbus and Cleveland, OH

**December 15** | Washington, DC

## FEBRUARY 2017

**February 11** | Naples, FL  
Red & Black Luncheon with President Rock Jones and Board of Trustees

### On the JAYwalk? In Beeghly Library? In class? At your reunion or other alumni event?

**Did you meet your spouse on campus?** Tell us your story and we might just select it for our issue featuring "Love Connections"! Email us by October 21 at [alumni.owu.edu](mailto:alumni.owu.edu) or send to: Alumni Relations Office, Attn: Katie Webster, Mowry Alumni Center, 61 S. Sandusky Street, Delaware, OH 43015.

### Honor Fellow Alumni

Be part of an important OWU award tradition. Nominate someone you believe has shown a commitment to excellence post-OWU, and a significant or ongoing commitment to extraordinary work, research, volunteerism, or service to the University. See [owu.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-awards](http://owu.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-awards) for criteria, nomination forms, and previous recipients.

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

**Alumni  
& friends**

### Don't Be a Stranger!

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

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

### SAVE THE DATES

### Homecoming & Family Weekend

October 7-9, 2016

### Reunion Weekend 2017

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

#OWUreunion

# CLASSnotes

## 1940s

**Annetia Schumacher Lukas '49** was honored at the 109th annual banquet of the Radnor/Buckeye Valley Alumni Association. She was employed by the school system for 27 years.

**Elva Welday Newdome '49** was featured in *Mansfield News Journal* for her tenure with the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra.

## 1950s

**Judson Millhon '51** was posthumously inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame on May 21 for his achievements in basketball.

**Beverly Lane Koski '52** was recognized at the Jewish Housing Council's "Eight Over 80" celebration for her significant contributions to the Sarasota, FL, community.

**Caroline Naumann Luhta '52** was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

**Richard Jackson '53** published *The Rules*, a book of business advice.

**Sara Bonnell Potsdam '58** retired as full-time nursing supervisor at Canton-Potsdam Hospital, where she worked for nearly 29 years.

## 1960s

**Richard Winger '60** is still in politics and was re-elected to city council for the third time in November, after serving as mayor of Vero Beach, FL, for two years. He serves as chairman of the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments, sits on the Indian River Beach and Shore Commission, is the city representative on the Indian River Lagoon Conservation Coalition, and serves on the Florida League of Cities Environment and Energy Committee. He also serves on the Indian River County Republican Executive Committee.

**Ursula Parrish Daniels '61** earned one of four "2016 Women of Achievement" awards from the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey.

**Paul Schimmel '62** was featured in *Nature Medicine* journal for his work as a molecular biologist and founder of aTyr Pharma, a biotherapeutics company.

**Charles "Chuck" Smith '64**, of Tipp City, OH, was appointed to the Ohio State Dental Board by Governor John Kasich for a four-year term.

**Peter Lee '65** is starting his third year as a youth lacrosse coach

## A CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE DECADES

These OWU '46 classmates—shown here at their 1956 10-year reunion—shared a lifelong friendship that began as their freshman year unfolded in 1942. **Phyllis White O'Reilly '46** (left) and **Joanne Lawrence Root '46** (center) grew up in New London, OH, and then proceeded to campus together; **Virginia "Ginny" Bagley Heischman '46** quickly became an integral part of the trio. They were inseparable for four years and often reminisced about their OWU days in the years to come.

Pleased and proud that their OWU connection had stood the test of time for nearly 75 years, Joanne planned to attend the 70th class reunion in May, but she fell ill in mid-April. The circle of friendship remained unbroken until May 22, when at, age 91, Joanne passed away peacefully in Norwalk, OH, with her best friends Phyllis and Ginny in constant touch with her until the end. Ginny, a widow, lives in Westerville, OH, and Phyllis, also a widow, lives in Austin, TX, near her family. Joanne is survived by her husband of 67 years, Thomas Root, son and daughter-in-law **Thomas Root '74** and **Kathy Geer Root '75**, daughter Susan Root Moore and sons Steven and W. Todd Root.



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

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

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

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





**1 | Fresh face of the OWU swim team**  
Proud grandmother **Carolyn Hardin Smith '56** is pictured with her granddaughter, Maddie Penn, who will attend OWU in the fall, and **Megan Downing Teeters '09**, Maddie's swim coach at Bishop Watterson High School. Maddie will be a member of the OWU swim team.

**2 | LA Supervisor Race**  
OWU board member **Ann Muenster-Nuiry '73** (left) with **Kathryn "Kathy" Barger Leibrich '83**, who is running for Supervisor in Los Angeles County's Fifth District.

**3 | Sorority sisters at Cleveland Founders Day**  
Members of Kappa Alpha Theta reunited for Cleveland Founders Day on February 20, celebrating Ann Tarbutton Gerhart's 50-year anniversary of initiation. Pictured from left are: (front row) **Barbara Gelhaus Dellinger '56**, **Laurie McGregor Connor '77**, **Sarah Kieta '06**, (back row) **Trish Carleton '83**, **Ann Tarbutton Gerhart '69**, **Rachel Spetrino McCoy '11**, **Ros Seabury Collins '52**, and **Colleen Kam Springer '70**.

**4 | State golf championship winner**  
**Kevin "Andy" Dunn '00** was named the head varsity boys golf coach for The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, GA, in January. He had been an assistant in the program for seven years before being named head coach. His team won the state championship in classification 3A. Andy's wife of 8 years Jordan, five-year-old daughter Ryan, and three-year-old son Drew are all doing well.

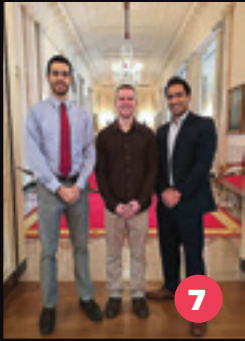
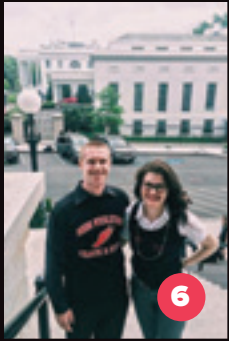
**5 | Lee-Churchill wedding**  
**Victoria "Tory" Lee '09** was married to Hugh Churchill on November 14, 2015. The couple lives in Royal Oak, MI. OWU alumni joining in the celebration were, from left: (front row) **Caitlin Chesnut '09**, **Juanita Kwan '08**, **Hillary Robertson '11**, **Emily Turner '09**, **Britta Buchenroth '09**, **Sally Born '09**, **Tory Lee Churchill '09**, **Ariel Haytas '09**, **Carolyn Scott Lee '72**, **Laura Wicker Hackett '77**, **Mark Lee '74**; (back row) **Megan Morris '05**, **Marie McNeely '08**, **Michael Green '08**, **Lee Schott '09**, **Yaser Helal '09**, **Claire Knight '09**, **Nick Baker '09**, **Charlie Hackett '74**, **Pete Lee '75**, and **Tom Scott '74**.

**6, 7 | OWU alumni work as White House staffers.**

[Photo 6] **Kyle Herman '11** and **Anna Cooper '13** are pictured in front of the White House, where Kyle is employed as an analyst, and where Anna was associate director of technology and operations for presidential personnel until May.

[Photo 7] Kyle (middle) was visited at work by **Usman Javid '10** (right) and **Sharif Kronemer '12** (left). The three men are all former leaders of the Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs, OWU's student government.

**8 | Glee Club alumni reunite on cruise**  
Former members of the OWU Men's Glee Club gathered for a reunion cruise November 7-14, 2015. Aboard the Emerald Princess, they visited Princess Cay, St. Martin, Grand Turk, and St. Thomas, gathering twice throughout the trip to sing old Glee Club songs. Glee Club members pictured with their spouses are, from left: (back row) **Larry Plum '68**, **Patsy Plum**, **Rich McCreery**, **Sue Harrison '62**, (middle row) **Chuck Sowder**, **Ginny Goll '69**, (front row) **Herb Kinney '69**, **Sherry Kinney**, **Diana Smith '69**, and **Steve Smith '69**.



**9 | Monnett Club gathering**

Members of the Columbus Monnett Club gathered on April 26. Among the gathered group were, from left: **Ginny O’Grady Shipps ’70, Jan Thome Kisting ’93, Marilyn Ellis Haas ’61, and Vickie Sheets ’72.**

**10 | Golf Fundraiser for Military Heroes**

**Dave Ferguson ’67**, a Phi Delta Theta, co-chairs and co-founded Holes for Heroes, a golf fundraiser to salute and assist wounded and recovering military heroes and their families at home and abroad. The 10th anniversary of the event, sponsored by the San Diego Downtown Breakfast Rotary Foundation, will be held September 16 in Solana Beach, CA. Visit [holesforheroes.org](http://holesforheroes.org).

**11 | Phi Gamma Delta pig dinner**

Fijis reunited March 19 at 2016 annual gathering. Among the 100+ who attended are, left to right: Marv Frye (retired OWU track & field coach), **Jim Goode ’67, Barney Apel ’67, Bob Pfeiffer ’67, Lowell Vorpe ’67, Clendon (Jay) Parr ’70, Glenn Bloomquist ’67, Gary L. Smith ’67, and Mark Shipps ’70.**

**12 | Chi Phi alumni reunite**

More than 50 Chi Phi alumni gathered on campus on April 30. Those in attendance included: **Jeff Allen ’69, Neil Aring ’69, Bob Bachman ’68, Dave Banks ’68, Pete Bleckner ’68, Jack Brant ’69, Woody Clark ’67, Wayne Clark ’68, Stu Clinton ’65, Harvey Cobb ’67, Randy Conklin ’67, Tom Connolly ’67, Bruce Cook ’65, Paul Cummings ’70, Ron Danielson ’66, John Deitz ’67, Bob Egdell ’65, Fred Evans ’68, Josip Galetovic ’67, Kirk Hornbeck ’68, Dana Jack ’69, Laurence Jacobsen ’68, Jon Jaffe ’71, Bill Jobson ’66, Jim Kanters ’66, Tom Lange ’68, Ira Lapidus ’68, Bob Lohr ’69, Henry Lukas ’67, Ray Luthi ’70, John McWilliam ’67, Jeff Meeks ’70, Bruce Nichols ’68, John Piastra ’70, Bob Pierce ’70, Jim Prosnit ’71, Dean Rushmore ’69, Mark Schiff ’67, Jasey Schnaars ’72, Rick Schwarz ’72, Walter Siegi ’63, Jim Souder ’65, Saul Spigel ’69, Dick Stonberg ’68, Gene “Chip” Tiesler ’68, Tom Urban ’70, Jerry Walker ’70, Jim Whitman ’69, Tom Wilson ’70, and Nate Wolinsky ’69.**

**13 | Making history in Centerville**

**Martha Hibbert Boice ’53** was influential in adding Erma Bombeck’s Centerville, OH, home to the National Register

of Historic Places. Pictured during the presentation at a Centerville City Council meeting are, from left: Patrick Hansford, chair of the Landmarks Foundation of Centerville-Washington Township; Nathalie Wright, the preservationist who wrote the application; **Martha Hibbert Boice ’53**; and Centerville Mayor Mark Kingseed. *The magazine apologizes for the incorrect caption that appeared with this photo in our previous issue.*

**14 | Celebrating a treasured life**

A group of alumni gathered to celebrate the friendship and life of their dear OWU friend, **Gordon MacDougall ’79**, who passed away on April 25. Pictured from left are: (front row) “Cal” **Mark Johnson ’80, Tim Feldman ’80, John Mengel ’80, Grant Whiteside ’79, Andy Hard ’80**; (back row) **Chris Kelly ’79, Jim Vandegriff ’79, John Foley ’79, and Henry Chapman ’79.**

**15 | Alumni connect on stage**

Two OWU alumni recently met while acting in a production of “Black Coffee” (an Agatha Christie mystery) at the Delray Beach Playhouse in Delray Beach, FL. Pictured second from left is **Doug Moore ’75** as Constable Johnson, and third from left is **Kevin Finneran ’90** as Inspector Japp.



volunteer with the San Luis Obispo YMCA. His grandson, Tobey (11), will be starting his third year as a participant, and Raegan (9) will be starting her first season. In January 2016, Peter was elected president of the 805 Youth Lacrosse Association, a 501c3 founded to promote the growth of competitive youth lacrosse teams in San Luis Obispo County.

**Thomas Saunders '66** is the artist behind the "Crystal Synergies" exhibit of abstract prints, which is presented in OWU's Mowry Alumni Center and Beeghly Library.

**Nancy Beams Hoelzer '69** is a printmaker and painter whose work was featured in the Martha's Vineyard Art Association's Old Sculpin Gallery in Edgartown, MA.

**Arthur Keown '69** was appointed Alumni Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech.

**Susan Phillips Read '69** is now counsel at the global law firm of Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

## 1970s

**Stephen Penny '70** delivered a presentation titled "The Indians of Southern New England" to the Vernon Historical Society in Vernon, CT, on March 6.

**Dan DiBiasio '71**, president of Ohio Northern University,

received the Distinguished Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) Award at the university's Greek Awards banquet.

**Tremper Longman III '74** presented a lecture titled "Silent Suffering: Encouragement in the Midst of the Pain of Life from Job, Psalms, and Lamentations" at Hope International University on February 22.

**Lawrence Reddick III '74**, presiding bishop of the Eighth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, delivered the 2016 commencement address at Paine College.

**Carol Galante '76** is now independent director of the board of directors for Ocwen Financial Corporation, a leading financial services holding company.

**Morten Arntzen '77** has been appointed senior shipping industry advisor at Macquarie Specialised Investment Solutions.

**Nancy Grover '77** published an article titled "Injured Workers with Comorbidities May Be Ripe for 'Gene' Testing" on [workerscompensation.com](http://workerscompensation.com).

## 1980s

**Alton Doody '80** was the 2016 Schwebel Lecture Series speaker for Kent State's Hospitality Management Program on April 14.

**Karl Ferchau '80** transferred from Citigroup's Operations and Technology Division to its Finance Division in 2014 and was recently promoted to senior vice president within its Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Department. Karl specializes in international reporting/accounting system development for Citigroup and works in Long Island City, NY. He earned an MBA from the Simon School of Business at the University of Rochester in 1982 and graduated from Citicorp's Global Institute of Finance in 1990.

**Donna McCabe Schaeffer '80** was appointed to be an associate judge on the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, MD, by Governor Larry Hogan in December 2015.

**Jennifer Wells Levine '82** released a new novel, *Summer Secrets*, on May 4.

**Laura Staley '84** inspires people to thrive in the spaces they live and work. After a flood of a finished basement in 2000, Laura learned that she could live with belongings she loved rather than hand-me-down stuff she didn't like. Trained and certified by the Western School of Feng Shui in 2004, Laura helps clients courageously let go of unwanted items, arrange their spaces for optimal comfort, safety, and flow, and create lives they love. She founded Cherish Your World in 2004, and her company became an LLC in July

2015. Laura will soon publish *Let Go Courageously and Live with Love: Transform Your Life with Feng Shui*. Her passions include writing, speaking, and consulting, alongside her love of running, biking, swimming, dancing, meditation, yoga, and spending quality time laughing with friends and family. She lives in Columbus, OH, and has two adult children. You can visit her website [www.cherishyourworld.com](http://www.cherishyourworld.com) for Tips of the Week and a monthly blog.

**Amy Fenton '85** directed the play "The Clean House," a Pulitzer Prize finalist that was performed at The Theatre of Western Springs in April.

**Richard Vandenburg '85** and **John Liegey '86** are co-owners of Greenport Harbor Brewing Co., a fast-growing brewery in Greenport, NY.

**Todd Fitch '86** is now offensive coordinator and receivers coach for the Louisiana Tech University football team.

**Craig Sutherland '86**, a seventh grade science teacher in Newark, OH, received a Golden Apple Award from WROC-TV in January. The award recognizes outstanding educators in the area, as nominated by their students.

**Peter Martin '87** is president and founder of Testimonial Builder, a platform to showcase customer testimonial videos.

## AN SAE MINI-REUNION



OWU Trustee **George Romine '67**.

John Teets, now living in Maine, has taken 12 annual transcontinental trips in his SUV to visit his five children and 13 grandchildren who reside in the East, as well as one of his sons and family, who live in Palos Verdes. California transplants, "Sandy" (Venice, CA), Steve (Oak Banks, CA), George (Palos Verdes Estates, CA), and Pete (Arroyo Grande, CA) had the

A group of OWU alumni took the opportunity to reconnect at Palos Verdes Estates in Southern California for a mini-reunion in February. Pictured from left are **Andrew "Sandy" Wellman '63**, **Steve Hughes '65**, **John Teets '64**, **Pete Lee '65**, and current

opportunity to reunite with John, as some of them hadn't seen John in more than 50 years. They shared memories about OWU, including classes, professors, friendships, classmates, and athletics. The years spent living together at the SAE house in the early and mid-1960s, with sage advice from Chapter Advisors William F. Bigelow, John Reed, and Coach Fred Myers, ensured that they would always represent Ohio Delta Chapter of SAE as "True Gentlemen." Having copies of the OWU yearbooks from 1962–1966 on hand helped the friends walk down memory lane.

As John plans to make his annual trek to Southern California in 2017, the brothers of SAE plan to gather again at the "same time and the same place." Go Bishops and Phi Alpha!

## 1990s

**Kamal Saggi '90** is now dean of social sciences at Vanderbilt University.

**Robert Rodgers '91** is now CFO of Unishippers Global Logistics, LLC.

**Matt Schrader '91** is now managing director of strategic accounts at INVNT, a global brand communications agency.

**Elizabeth Kanne Miller '92** was named deputy head of GEMS Nations Academy, a new school in Dubai, India.

**Keith Rucker '92**, a former lineman for the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals, Washington Redskins, Kansas City Chiefs, and Cincinnati Bengals for eight years, is now defensive coordinator at Summit Country Day School.

**David Breslin '93** is now head of school at Williamsburg Christian Academy in Williamsburg, VA.

**James Bryant '93** is now special teams coordinator for the Colorado State Rams.

**Shannon Leary Knall '93** was appointed to the Wisconsin Governor's Council on Autism. Shannon currently serves as Autism Speaks Wisconsin's Policy Chair.

**Brad Schwartz '94** is a mixed-media artist whose work was featured at Trails End Gallery in Chewelah, WA, in June.

**Deborah Shatzer '94** portrayed Elizabeth Campbell, a historical Delaware, OH, resident, in a dramatic presentation at the Big Walnut Area Historical Society meeting on June 14.

**John Repenning '95** was featured in *The Indianapolis Star* on February 25 for his work leading GreenCycle, a central Indiana-based operation that produces organic mulch, compost, and soil blends from recycled food, yard, and wood waste.

**Abram Wilson '95** was posthumously celebrated for his

work and music as a trumpeter on June 14 at St. James Studio, London.

**Heather Ward Borland '97** is now student wellness coordinator at Denison University.

**Drew Thawley '97** is now managing director for the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute Foundation.

**Kgutlisi Moloi '98** was the star of "Always & Forever: A Tribute to

Luther Vandross" at the Joburg Theatre March 31-April 3.

**Elizabeth Royer '98** is rugby coach for the Burlington, VT, community team and an assistant coach for the girls team at Essex High School.

**Martin Forman '99** was inducted into the newly established Big Walnut High School Alumni Hall of Fame.

## WATER FOR PEOPLE

**William Day '93**, a Boulder-based artist, recently partnered with the OneWall community art initiative in Denver to create an art installation on a 50-foot brick wall in downtown Denver. The three-panel installation was commissioned by Absolut Elyx luxury vodka company—but the installation wasn't intended to simply sell spirits. Instead, Will was tasked with representing Absolut Elyx's recent partnership with Water for People, an international nonprofit organization that works to bring safe water and sanitation to those in need.

In September of 2015, Absolut Elyx and Water for People began a five-year journey to bring access to safe water to 100,000 people in the countries where they work, according to Water for People. So far, their efforts have helped nearly 13,000 people gain access to safe drinking water.

Will's piece focused on coppers and blues.

"The real challenge was finding a relationship between the two colors because you really don't see them together he says. It was about giving back and coming together."

Will says the scale of the project inspired him. "It challenged me to express how we work together with colors and a message that will impact people...The message isn't about Will, but about all of us collaborating on a global vision that is sustainable, has integrity, and is making an impact; one that will change people's lives."



**Aman Narain '99** is now CEO for international markets at BankBazaar.

**Phillip Penix-Tadsen '99**, assistant professor of Spanish in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Delaware, published the book *Cultural Code: Video Games and Latin America*.

**Joshua Shade '99** has joined Opus Bank as managing director, senior client manager—commercial banking, Arizona region.

## 2000s

**Joshua Kessler '00** served as a mentor playwright to high school playwrights during MadLab's Young Writers Short Play Festival.

**Branden McGhee '00** was promoted to district manager of Atomic Credit Union in 2015.

**Heather Hover Seddelmeyer '00** has led the Rivals Basketball Club in Massachusetts for the past seven years.

**Jennifer Barnes-Gatzke '01** is now a realtor with Keller Williams Performance Realty in Cañon City, CO.

**Jessica Mathews '01** serves on the board of Transit Columbus in Columbus, OH, and is the creator of the organization's PlaceMakes initiative, which transforms public areas like parking spaces and low-traffic streets into communal destinations.

**Honorah O'Neill '01**, a painter and sculptor, created an interactive solo exhibition titled "Chimera," which was featured at the Trailer Box Project in Danbury, CT.

**Leah Webb Schryer '01** is now director of support services at Change, Inc. (Westminster, MD), an agency that provides services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Timothy Stanos '01** is now managing director at Avascent, a strategy and management consultancy serving government-driven markets.



## RESTORING THE “ROLLS ROYCE OF BICYCLES”

**Diana Johnson Galante '03** is an objects conservator at the National Museum of American History in Washington D.C., which means she's an expert at studying, preserving, and restoring three-dimensional art and artifacts. Her recent work has included the restoration of a 1896 women's safety bicycle.

Diana spent more than 200 hours cleaning and restoring the Columbia bicycle, which went on display in the museum's Taylor Foundation Object Project.

Diana knew that the bicycle would be an exciting restoration project, though it would require significant work. Donated to the museum in 1950 by the son of its original owner, Mary Noble Wiley of Montgomery, AL, the bicycle stands out for its intricate ornamentation, added by Tiffany & Co.

Diana began by documenting what she knew about the bicycle and photographing it. She could tell right away that the bike had once had an impressive look to it.



“It was clear to me that this object was supposed to be bright and shiny—I mean, it was so elaborately embellished by Tiffany. It was like the Rolls Royce of bicycles, meant to distinguish its owner from all the other women on their run-of-the-mill bicycles,” she told the museum blog.

“There are different motifs at different locations on the bicycle. There are rosettes and other organic Art Nouveau-inspired motifs repeated throughout the frame, and then the handlebars have a very different motif—dogwood flowers with leaves.”

For Diana, the bike's intricacies tell a story that she hopes museum visitors will connect with, even if it takes a bit of imagination.

“Something that I love about historical objects in this museum is that you can think about actual people using them. You just have to think, she rode this, probably wearing a full skirt and fancy hat. She was stylin'.”

**Christy Seymour Sturtz '01** donated a copy of her book, *Just Try It, Georgie!* to the New Carlisle Public Library in Ohio.

**Vincent McGinnis '02** was featured in *Florida Today* newspaper for his work as a plastic surgeon.

**Jason Dopoulos '03** is now managing director at Lancaster Pollard.

**Brandon Bytnar '05** was selected as a “2016 Top 40 Under 40” trusts and estates lawyer in Florida by the American Society of Legal Advocates.

**Kaluhath “Kenneth” De Abrew '05** starred in the play *Guards at the Taj* at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, DC.

**Kathleen Cooper Coughlin '08** is now middle school athletics director in Upper Arlington, OH.

**Elizabeth Davis '08** is now director of international and off-campus programs at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD.

**Christopher Myers '08** was featured on WeWork.com for his work in recruiting at Bespoke Search Group.

**Daniel Strumlok '08** was featured on syracuse.com for his service as a veteran Marine Corps infantry officer and for his love of his 1950 Chrysler Imperial.

**Will Yoder '09** is now a sports community leader at Instagram.

### 2010s

**Trevor Hawley '10** is now leading enterprise software sales at BetterWorks in San Francisco. Trevor was previously with Localytics, based in London the past two years to launch their European office, and other Boston tech companies, including HubSpot and Performable.

**Colleen BriecK Yoder '10** is now a first grade teacher at Palo Alto schools in California.

**Evan Bai '11** completed his Ph.D. in genetics at Yale University and was awarded the Carolyn Slayman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation. His Ph.D. thesis

focused on understanding how relatively benign brain tumors progress to malignancy. After graduation, Evan joined Vertex Pharmaceuticals in Boston as a research scientist to help discover and develop novel therapeutics for cancer, cystic fibrosis, and other diseases.

**Tyler Cordell '11** is now assistant coach for the Columbia University women's basketball team.

**Martha Park '11** was chosen as a spring 2016 Philip Roth Resident in Creative Writing at Bucknell University.

**Amanda Barker '13**, a member of the OWU softball team, was inducted into the Granville High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Krishna Borhara '13** completed her master's degree in geology at Bowling Green State University and will be starting her Ph.D. in the fall at Utah State University, working on fault mechanics with Jim Evans.

**Leah Shaeffer Porrata '13** is director of education at Gulfshore Playhouse, a performing arts theatre in Naples, FL.

**William Thieman '13** is now the high school boys' varsity tennis coach at Bishop Watterson High School in Columbus, OH.

**Mason Espinosa '14**, former OWU quarterback, has been signed to the Billings Wolves. He also was named the Indoor Football League's Offensive Player of the Week in April.

**Madelaine Mavec '14** featured her abstract paintings and paper products at an art opening reception at the Gates Mills Library in Gates Mills, OH, on March 3. She also exhibited “Escaping Reality” at the Guren Art Gallery at the Cleveland Botanical Garden March 19-April 24.

**Samuel Abbott '15** is an English teacher and head varsity baseball coach at Reedsburg High School in Reedsburg, WI.

**Kristen Krak '15** performed in “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” in April with the CATCO Theatre in Columbus, OH.

**Elaine Young '15** has been awarded the Harriet Evelyn Wallace Scholarship from the American Geosciences Institute.

She is pursuing her master's degree at the University of California, Davis.

**Mark Mandych '16** is the recipient of a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program grant, through which he will be spending the fall in Hamburg, Germany, teaching English to high school students.

## Marriages 2010s

**Jacob Kohr '11** was married to Mary Conley on May 28 in Terre Haute, IN.

## Births 1990s

**Gina Marino Thawley '98** and **Drew Thawley '97** celebrated the birth of daughter Eleanor "Ella" Mae Thawley on April 13.

## 2000s

**Jennifer Blair Hall '00** and her husband Randy welcomed son Daniel Franklin Hall on April 2.

**Cindy Luth Nelson '00** celebrated the birth of daughter Cassidy Nelson on March 22.

**Michelle Uton Simpson '00** and her husband Ricky celebrated the birth of son Micah Lance Simpson on February 26.

**Emily Motsay Welly '00** and **Nicholas Welly '00** welcomed daughter Caroline Frances Welly on April 13. Also celebrating are uncles **Burton Welly '01** and **Timothy Welly '07**.

**Hugh Boyle '02** and his wife Heather celebrated the birth of son Edward "Teddy" McArtor Boyle on April 12.

**Alison Drake Burciaga '03** and her husband Juan welcomed Juan Burciaga III on February 11. He is the grandson of **Tim Drake '74** and **Sandi Aker Drake '75** and the great-grandson of the late **M. Richard Drake '43** and **Nina Drake '43**.

**Elizabeth Tullberg Bedford '04** and **William Bedford '05** celebrated the birth of son Elton Lloyd Bedford on May 25.

**Elizabeth Davis Conway '04** and her husband Devon welcomed son Maxwell Sulla Conway on May 8. Also celebrating is grandfather **James Davis '76**.

**Brenda Johnson '04** and her husband Michael welcomed son Nathan Brendan Champion on April 8.

**Emily Snider Kagey '04** and **Jacob Kagey '04** welcomed their second son, Davis Graham Kagey, on March 26. Davis joins his big brother, Forrest Patrick, born January 9, 2012.

**Eric Korn '04** welcomed daughter Layla Ann Korn on May 5. Also celebrating is uncle **Jarod Korn '06**.

**Amy Blinn Mosley '04** and **Wesley Mosley '04** welcomed son Grant David Mosley on April 13.

**Leah Cressman Robertson '04** and **David Robertson '05** welcomed daughter Stella Sophia Robertson on May 31.

**Colin Campbell '05** and his wife Tara celebrated the birth of daughter Alma Elizabeth Craft Campbell on March 10.

**Jennifer Blystone Casper '05** and her husband John welcomed son John Allan Casper on May 18.

**Whitney Richards '05** and her husband Seth celebrated the birth of son Creighton Nance Wensinger on May 5.

**Erin Eilbeck Sykes '05** and **Curt Sykes '07** welcomed daughter Fern Luella Sykes on February 12. Also celebrating is aunt **Katelyn Eibeck '12**.

**Read Allen '06** and **Kathryn Holick Allen '06** welcomed daughter Elizabeth Robbins Allen on October 15, 2015. Also celebrating are grandparents **Stephen Allen '77** and **Holly Boeckel Allen '77**.

**Christina Burfeindt Brown '06** and **Charles Brown '03** celebrated the birth of son Henry David Brown on May 4. Also celebrating is aunt **Jennifer Maxwell '12**.

**Jill Murphey '06** and her husband Bryan celebrated the birth of son Everett Murphey Johnson on March 24.

**Melissa Herman Snow '06** and her husband Michael welcomed daughter Isabelle "Izzy" Louise Snow on May 2. Also celebrating is uncle **Douglas Herman '08**.

**Elizabeth Walbridge Chapman '08** and her husband Stephen welcomed son Hunter Thomas Chapman on March 8. Also celebrating is great-aunt **Susan Walbridge Blake '85**.

**Rachel Jolly Janiak '09** and **Brian Janiak '12** welcomed son Ellis Finley Jolly Janiak on March 16. The family lives in North Quincy, MA. Also celebrating are grandfather **Tom Jolly '77** and grandmother **Jane Gumley Janiak '78**.

**Brittany Coss Pace '09** and **David Pace '10** welcomed son Connor David Edward Pace on March 18.

## 2010s

**Brent Pleiman '10** and his wife Shannon welcomed son Elijah Henry Pleiman on February 6.

**Jillian Ristau '12** celebrated the birth of daughter Helena Ristau on March 22.

## In Memoriam 1930s

**Mary Midden Humes '39**, of Delaware, OH, April 14, at the age of 98. She was predeceased by her husband, **Harry Humes '40**.

## 1940s

**Arline Lennox Bingham '40**, of Simsbury, CT, May 5, at the age of 97. She is survived by a daughter, **Evangeline Bingham '66**, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Dorothea Heckman Hartley '41**, of Lakeside, OH, February 22, at the age of 96. She was predeceased by her husband, **Richard Hartley '40**. She is survived by daughters **Doranne Hartley Coad '67** and **Sandra**

**Hartley Geiger '70**. Dorothea was a member of the OWU Tower Society and Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Ruth McKinney Isaak-Lyle '41**, of Honolulu, HI, February 20, at the age of 96. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Valonia Rayfield Moore '41**, of Lexington, KY, February 4, at the age of 96. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Georgia Faith Noble '41**, of Santa Barbara, CA, March 18, at the age of 96. She was preceded in death by a sister, **Mildred Faith Miller '28**, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Margaret Brown Conger '42**, of Asheville, NC, January 29, at the age of 94. She was predeceased by a sister, **Wilma Conger Perrill '35**, and is survived by a nephew, **Kenneth Nitche '81**.

**Catherine Urton Dittrick '42**, of Dublin, OH, March 27, at the age of 95. She was predeceased by her husband, **Paul Dittrick '42**. She is survived by a daughter, **Carol Dittrick Wolters '73**, a nephew, **Douglas Dittrick '55**, and a niece, **Wendy Dittrick Harris '66**. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Harriet Rittenour Smith '42**, of Reynoldsburg, OH, March 22, at the age of 95. She was predeceased by her mother, **Olivia Roberts Rittenour 1918**, and her husband, **Alan Smith Jr. '40**. She is survived by a daughter, **Christie Smith Bolender '69**, and a son, **Alan Smith III '66**. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Miriam Johnson Bruton '43**, of Richardson, TX, April 12, at the age of 94. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ariel Brooks and Geneva May Johnson, two brothers, **Rolland Johnson '39**, **Wilbur Johnson '41**, an uncle, **Wilbur Johnson 1909**, and a cousin, **Constance Murphy Devitt '37**. Miriam was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

**Margaret Arnott Cordes '43**, of Glen Mills, PA, June 6, at the age of 94.



**Dorothy Ginn Keith '43**, of Hendersonville, NC, March 28, at the age of 95. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Beverly Wright Meister '43**, of Boone, NC, February 18, at the age of 94. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Herbert Meister '40**, and is survived by a son, **David Meister '71**. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Richard Peppler '43**, of Euclid, OH, March 26, at the age of 94. He was predeceased by his mother, **Gwendoline Bond Peppler 1910**, and a cousin, **Robert Adams '41**.

**Margaret Whiting Funsett '44**, of Shaker Heights, OH, May 9, at the age of 94. She was preceded in death by a brother, **Herbert Whiting '38**. She is survived by a sister, **E. Jean Whiting Addison '39**, and a cousin, **Kathryn Shimmon Crowther '43**. Margaret was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Cecily Maitland Wilkinson '44**, of Frederick, MD, March 28, at the age of 93. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**M. Eleanor Anderson '45**, of Missoula, MT, March 21, at the age of 92. She was preceded in death by a brother, **William Searles '37**, and was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Edward Morris '45**, of Tulsa, OK, April 30, at the age of 93. He was preceded in death by his mother, **Catherine Fissel Morris 1912**. He is survived by a sister, **Carolyn Morris Conarroe '49**; four sons, **John Morris '70**, **Eric Morris '73**, **Edward Morris '83**, and **Christopher Morris '81**; and four grandchildren, **Victoria Morris '12**, **Sara Morris '12**, **Marshall Morris '13**, and **Jennifer Morris '14**. Edward was a member of the OWU Tower Society and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Ellen Archea Berghamer '46**, of Cincinnati, OH, May 17, at the age of 93. She was a member of the OWU Tower Society and Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

**Barbara Rothstein Clark '46**, of Powell, OH, May 7, at the age of

91. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

**Joanne Lawrence Root '46**, of Norwalk, OH, May 22, at the age of 91. She was predeceased by a son, an aunt, **Rena Fink Williams 1909**, and a cousin, **Emma Sage Van Brunt '35**. She is survived by a son, **Thomas Root '75**, and a daughter-in-law, **Kathy Geer Root '75**. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. Please see a longer version of this obituary online at [owu.edu/](http://owu.edu/) magazine.

**Bonnie Pergande Holby '47**, of Asheville, NC, February 26, at the age of 90. She is survived by a sister, **Mary Pergande Haapa '39**, and was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**James Kratt '47**, of Louisville, KY, February 21, at the age of 90. He was predeceased by a brother, **George Kraft '41**, and was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Caroline Watkins Pierce '47**, of Tryon, NC, February 13, at the age of 91. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Donald Fetrow '48**, of Chillicothe, OH, April 9, at the age of 93. He was preceded in death by a cousin, **William Rohr '40**, and is survived by a son, **Charles Fetrow '73**. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Darlene Walter Maurer '48**, of Central Point, OR, May 8, at the age of 90.

**Elizabeth Kesling Smith '48**, of Knoxville, TN, May 11, at the age of 89. She is survived by a son, **David Kesling '73**, and a cousin, **Eleanor Newcomb Rice '46**. Elizabeth was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**John Wunderlich '48**, of Aurora, IN, March 18, at the age of 91. He was predeceased by his wife, **Joan Finn Wunderlich '48**.

**James Breece '49**, of New Albany, IN, May 19, at the age of 88. He was predeceased by his father, **James Breece '20**. He is survived by his wife, **Roberta Tewalt Breece '49**, a sister,

**Patricia Breece McKinney '47**, and two children, **James Breece '74** and **Anthony Breece '77**. James was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Carol Ballinger Gregg '49**, of Fredericktown, OH, May 11, at the age of 88. She was predeceased by her parents, **Lucille Carroll Ballinger '24** and **J. Kenneth Ballinger '23**, and an uncle, **Robert Carroll '28**. She is survived by her husband, **Robert Gregg '45**, and a daughter, **Susan Gregg Cunningham '73**. She was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Patricia Baldwin Kilpatrick '49**, of Cleveland, OH, March 3, at the age of 88. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Elizabeth Erbach Lewis '49**, of Tecumseh Island, Indian Lake, OH, May 26, at the age of 88. She was predeceased by her husband, **William Lewis '51**, and was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

## 1950s

**Ann Sirlouis Atherton '50**, of Norwalk, OH, January 31, at the age of 87. She is survived by a daughter, **Elizabeth Atheron Matthews '79** and was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Please see a longer version of this obituary online at [owu.edu/magazine](http://owu.edu/magazine).

**Charles Gregg '50**, of Mount Vernon, OH, February 7, at the age of 90. He is survived by a brother, **Robert Gregg '45**, and a sister-in-law, **Carol Ballinger Gregg '49**. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Elizabeth Prugh Weldon '50**, of Waxahachie, TX, March 23, at the age of 87.

**Oneida Litsinberger Boerger '51**, of Marysville, OH, April 27, at the age of 86.

**Corinne Latham Cooper '51**, of Sarasota, FL, May 13, at the age of 86. She was preceded in death by her mother, **Dana Latham '20**, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Carol Fox Green '51**, of Grove City, OH, August 26, 2015, at the age of 85. She was predeceased by her husband, **Carl Green '51**, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

**Theresa FitzGerald Kettler '51**, of Buckeystown, MD, May 20, at the age of 86. She is survived by a daughter, **Cathleen Kettler Viets '83**, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Floyd Mussard '51**, of Arroyo Grande, CA, March 19, at the age of 90. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Helen Hoffman Mussard '51**, and two cousins, **Anne Tryon McGrew '32** and **Martha Tryon Yohe '31**. He is survived by a niece, **Amy Seaman Fredrick '79**. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Neil Bantly '52**, of Orleans, MA, April 1, at the age of 85. He is survived by a daughter, **Amy Bantly Stansfield '83**. Neil was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

**Robert Canright '52**, of Shelby, OH, March 4, at the age of 85. He was preceded in death by his parents, **H. Joyce Canright '21** and **Helen Hiteshew Canright '26**. Robert was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Ronald Hood '52**, of Gibson City, IL, February 19, at the age of 85. He was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity.

**Sally Atkinson Hudnutt '52**, of Elyria, OH, April 14, at the age of 85. She was predeceased by her parents, **George Atkinson '29** and **Kathryn Wilson Atkinson '30**, and her husband, **Arthur Hudnutt '51**. She is survived by two daughters, **Elizabeth Hudnutt Adelsberg '93** and **Kathryn Hudnutt Allanmeyer '80**. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Milton Lenc '52**, of Grand Junction, CO, January 22, at the age of 89. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**John Roberts '52**, of Kent, OH, April 14, at the age of 85. He was

a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Ruth Wilson Baker '53**, of Beachwood, NJ, February 2, at the age of 83. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Mitchell Baker '53**, and was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Nancy Rulketter Fairhurst '53**, of Toledo, OH, May 10, at the age of 85. She was predeceased by her parents, **Ruth Gammell Rulketter '27** and **J.W. Rulketter '25**, and a daughter, **Katherine Fairhurst '75**. She is survived by two children, **Virginia Fairhurst Keller '81** and **William Fairhurst '79**. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Dan Martin '53**, of Wellington, FL, December 14, 2015. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Dorothy DeMeo Martin '56**, as well as three sons and a daughter. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Sarah Roberts Ahrendt '54**, of Hilton Head Island, SC, June 1, at the age of 83. She was predeceased by her parents, **James Roberts '23** and **Aline Pierce Roberts '23**, and an uncle, **Donald Pierce '33**. She is survived by a brother, **James Roberts '51**, a daughter, **Kimberly Ahrendt Furnald '80**, and a nephew, **Frederic Roberts '84**. Sarah was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Denver Newman '54**, of Portsmouth, OH, March 4, at the age of 83.

**Richard Treis '54**, of Douglas, MI, May 22, at the age of 86. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**Linda Powell Artuso '55**, of Long Beach, CA, March 31, at the age of 82. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

**James McIndoe '56**, of Willoughby, OH, May 24, at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife, **Sarah Phillips McIndoe '56**, and was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

**Donald Patchin '56**, of Chicago, IL, March 8, at the age of 81. He is survived by two sons, **Darian Patchin '87** and **Dorian Patchin '87**. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**William Sumpter '56**, of Midlothian, VA, April 18, at the age of 81.

**Charles Crawford '57**, of Alpharetta, GA, May 5, at the age of 81. He is survived by a sister, **Margaret Crawford Hevel '55**, and two brothers, **A. Robert Crawford '53** and **William Crawford '61**. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Robert Lowe Jr. '57**, of West Windsor, NJ, March 12, at the age of 81. He is survived by a sister, **Nancy Lowe Hancher '57**, and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Oliver Foster '58**, of Los Angeles, CA, March 17, at the age of 79.

**David Huit '58**, of Marshfield, MA, March 5, at the age of 82. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Judith Allen Foster '59**, of Columbus, OH, May 9, at the age of 78. She is survived by her husband, **Sidney Foster '58**, and two siblings, **Janet Allen Esch '62** and **Jerry Allen '61**. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Patricia Tappan '59**, of Hobe Sound, FL, February 17, at the age of 78. She is survived by a son, **Joseph Tappan '85**, and was a member of Delta Gamma sorority.

## 1960s

**Thomas Butters '60**, of Durham, NC, March 31, at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife, **Lynn Evans Butters '60**, and a son, **Bret Butters '87**. Tom was a member of the OWU Tower Society, a recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Citation, and a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Elizabeth Gilchrist Cummings '61**, of Marietta, OH, February 21, at the age of 75. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**John Flannery '64**, of New Castle, PA, March 24, at the age of 74. He is survived by two brothers, **Harry Flannery '69** and **Richard Flannery '64**. John was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

**Laura Robbins Torbet '64**, of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, April 11, at the age of 73.

**Terry Talling '66**, of Casstown, OH, February 24, at the age of 71. He is survived by a brother, **Thomas Talling '73**, and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Mary Patterson '67**, of New York, NY, April 17, at the age of 70. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Barbara Hartley Schlacter '67**, of Iowa City, IA, February 17, at the age of 70. She is survived by a sister, **Suzanne Hartley '71**, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

## 1970s

**Beth Vereeke Crawford '70**, of Durham, NC, February 20, at the age of 67. She was preceded in death by her father, **Edwin Vereeke '43**, and is survived by her husband, **Jeffrey Crawford '70**, and was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Selden McNeer '71**, of Chesapeake, OH, May 31, at the age of 66.

**Benjamin Edmonds '72**, of Detroit, MI, March 11, at the age of 65.

**Katherine Denman Black '77**, of Seattle, WA, March 4, at the age of 60.

**Blair Werthmann '78**, of Chatham, NJ, February 5, at the age of 60. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

## 1980s

**Jennifer Fyles Potthoff '81**, of Cape Eliz, ME, March 8, at the age of 56.

**Elliot Warren '81**, of Wellesley, MA, June 6, at the age of 58. He was a member of Chi Phi fraternity.

**Christopher Berking '83**, of Ipswich, MA, June 3. He is survived by a sister, **Margot Berking Daigle '85**, and was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

**Nicholas Van Taylor '83**, of Westminster, MD, February 28, at the age of 54. He is survived by his wife, **Teresa Bradley Taylor '85**, and a brother, **Samuel Taylor '79**. Nicholas was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

**Evonne Shahid '85**, of Columbus, OH, April 4, at the age of 52. She is survived by a sister, **Sonnetta Shahid-Sturkey '83**.

**Marilyn Sandusky '86**, of Columbus, OH, February 3, at the age of 68.

**Susan Proctor '87**, of Potomac, MD, May 15, at the age of 51. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Mary Seymour '89**, of Wheeling, IL, June 4, at the age of 49. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

## 1990s

**Stephen Kacir '95**, of Norristown, PA, March 22, at the age of 43.

## 2000s

**Kavya Krishna '06**, of Minneapolis, MN, March 27, at the age of 31.

**Nathan Jackson '07**, of Duluth, GA, April 23, at the age of 31.

## 2010s

**William Stroud '10**, of Delaware, OH, February 27, at the age of 72. He received an honorary OWU Alumnus Award in 2010 for



his loyalty and service to Ohio Wesleyan.

**Christopher Newman '11**, of Lorain, OH, June 6, at the age of 27.

**Luke Gabbert '19**, of Lewis Center, OH, February 6, at the age of 19.

## Faculty/Staff

Edward "Jed" Burt, 37-year faculty member at OWU and internationally respected ornithologist, April 27, at the age of 68.

Richard "Dick" Daake, who taught at OWU for 36 years, May 3, at the age of 69.

Peter Manicas, former OWU professor, December 27, at the age of 81.

## Friends

Lynne Muskoff, of Columbus, OH, and a member of the Ross Museum Advisory Board, April 13, at the age of 78. She is survived by a brother, **Lloyd Ferguson '62**, and a nephew, **William Ferguson '92**.

## Sympathy to

**Jane Moorhead Feller '43** for the death of her husband, Lyle

Feller, on April 14, at the age of 94.

**Eileen Seabright Smith '46** for the death of her husband, Carl Smith, February 15, at the age of 89.

**Marjorie Young Force '51** and **Debra Force '75** for the death of Frank Force, Marjorie's husband and Debra's father, December 12, 2015.

**Larry Green '52** and **John Green '79** for the death of Betty Green, Larry's wife and John's mother, August 29, 2015, at the age of 82.

**Clifford Cooper '53** for the death of his wife, Lucinda Bangs Cooper, January 17, at the age of 82.

**Thomas Stewart Haas '56** for the death of her husband, Dennis Haas, January 18, at the age of 81.

**William McAfee '56** for the death of his wife, Patty Wellman McAfee, February 13.

**Katherine Boles Smith '71** and **Carolyn Smith '06** for the death of Katherine's mother and Carolyn's grandmother, Belle Morris Boles, May 5.

**Duncan MacGruer '75** and **Amanda MacGruer Davis '77** for the death of their father, Malcom MacGruer, February 2.

**Nancy Notley '75** and **Judy Notley Burke '83** for the loss of their father, William Collier Notley of Gwynedd, PA, September 1, 2015.

**William Nutting '76** and **Angela Nutting Farwick '82** for the loss of their mother, Patricia Nutting, March 11, at the age 87.

**Deborah Tavenner '77** for the loss of her mother, Jean Tavenner, March 28.

**James Reichert '78** for the death of his father, Douglas Reichert, February 14.

**James Barger '78**, **John Barger '79**, and **Kathryn Barger Leibrich '83** for the death of their father, **Richard Barger, January 17**.

**Lisa Bookman Mears '82** for the death of her father, George Bookman.

**Jennifer Blair Hall '00** for the loss of her father, Millard Franklin (Frank) Blair, December 28, 2015, at the age of 77.

The deadline for receiving Class Notes and Faculty Notes submissions for the Winter 2017 OWU Magazine is October 5, 2016.



Contributions in honor of Jed Burt may be made to support the Ohio Wesleyan Natural History Museum.

## In Memory of Professor Jed Burt

Edward H. "Jed" Burt Jr., 37-year faculty member at OWU and internationally respected ornithologist, died April 27, at the age of 68.

Burt, Professor Emeritus of Zoology, filled his career with teaching, mentoring, and discovery. He joined the Ohio Wesleyan Department of Zoology in 1977, where as professor and two-time department chair, he impacted the lives of thousands of students and colleagues.

"There is no higher calling, no greater purpose in life," he said. "I hope that I convey to all my students my passion for the birds I love, and the science that provides me with boundless excitement, and the privilege I feel in becoming a trusted confidant in their lives."

## The Final Word *Cont'd from page 48*

ran down to the guidance office and, of course, everybody was busy. This one counselor couldn't have been more than 24 and she called me over. I hurriedly explained my situation: that I had missed the recruiters, had not applied to a single school, and skipping college was not an option.

She got my financial materials together over a few days, did the calculations, and called an associate director of admissions at Ohio Wesleyan. With me sitting right there she talked about what a great student I was, how I had made a mistake, and that Ohio Wesleyan would be happy to get me. When she hung up, she told me I was invited to visit the campus. We did the formal application, and a couple of months later, I was accepted here.

Forty years after graduating, I still get choked up by that story because I did not choose Ohio Wesleyan; Ohio Wesleyan chose me.

That guidance counselor is Carolyn Beeler, and the associate director of admissions is Richard Payne. I remained in touch with him but I had long lost track of her despite my best efforts.

About 13 years ago, we reconnected, and I asked her how I could repay her for all she did for me. She simply said come to Beachwood and talk to my kids. I did, but that seemed hardly enough.

Last year, I was inducted into a college hall of excellence in Columbus and nothing pleased me more than having Richard Payne and Carolyn Beeler there so I could recognize them publicly for changing my life.

I'm here to tell you that acknowledging the people and institutions that contributed to your success is good for the soul.

The journey ahead will be exciting. How you travel it is as important as what you achieve. ■

Burt was recognized as the 2011 Ohio Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Among many other accolades, in 2013 he received the Margaret Morse Nice Medal from the Wilson Ornithological Society for lifetime contributions to the field.

Burt delivered hundreds of presentations at national and international scientific conferences, often in collaboration with undergraduate students. He wrote seven books, many research papers, and received a number of research grants. His research into the microbiology of feathers led to his new insights into the evolution of avian color and feather-maintenance behavior.

A resident of Delaware, Burt is survived by his wife Pam and his children, Jeremy Bredon Burt and Michelle (Burt) Bauman.

At his request, contributions can be made in support of Ohio Wesleyan's Natural History Museum. Please submit gifts to the William D. Stull Endowment Fund, Ohio Wesleyan University, c/o Jodi Bopp, Mowry Alumni Center, 61 S. Sandusky St., Delaware, OH 43015.

*Please see a longer version of this obituary at [owu.edu/news-media/owu-magazine/](http://owu.edu/news-media/owu-magazine/).*

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please email your news to [classnotes@owu.edu](mailto:classnotes@owu.edu). You can also submit your news to:

The Ohio Wesleyan Magazine, Ohio Wesleyan University, Mowry Alumni Center, 61 S. Sandusky St., Delaware, Ohio, 43015, Attn: Class Notes Editor.

Include your name and class year as well as a daytime phone number, should we need to reach you. Photos are welcome. Submissions may be edited for space.

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# THE DAY AFTER

Adapted from the May 8, 2016, OWU Commencement Address by Gregory L. Moore '76

**C**lass of 2016, these past four years were a chance for us to see how we did as parents; what you remembered from what we tried to teach you. It was a chance for you to prove that you didn't need mom and dad telling you what to do. This diploma is evidence that we passed the tests.

So let's talk about The Day After.

Going forward, Mommy and Daddy get a lot less credit and lot less blame for what you do. You are responsible for what happens from now on. Choose your mentors carefully and be intentional about what you want to emulate. The most successful people I know read a lot, drink very little, and take sleep seriously.

Be a good citizen of the world engaged with the issues of the day and not just focused on achieving personal wealth and power. Try to live a truly integrated life, with friends of different races and backgrounds.

There are those who say the most important thing is not how many times you fall down in life but whether you get up. Perseverance, of course, is important. But for my money, if you're falling down a lot, that means you're having a hard time moving forward.

It shouldn't be a question now of whether you can walk. It's a question of balance. That means doing things in moderation, making good decisions and always weighing consequences before you act. You are going to hit walls, encounter obstacles, and stumble.

But the key is to stay on your feet and try not to go all the way down.

Goals are very important. Be as clear as you can about where you're headed. I recommend establishing goals in five-year intervals. For example, you might start out saying I want to see some of Europe—or save 10 percent of what I earn and buy a small house. Not bad goals by the way. Be rigorous in making your dreams happen.

I recommend looking in the mirror every day. I mean really



**“I did not  
choose Ohio  
Wesleyan;  
Ohio Wesleyan  
chose me.”**

—Gregory L. Moore '76

looking at yourself. Not just to primp and boost your ego! But do you like the person you see? I once had a successful young businessman say that if someone was across from him in a negotiation and was clearly out of his or her league, he would take advantage of them without a second thought. I thought to myself, what about the mercy rule?

In the end, you'll have to figure out what you would do in situations like that. But karma is a real thing.

To the young men here, remember you have mothers and maybe sisters. Respect women and fight for them to be all they can be. It's been a Man's World for a long time. But that doesn't make it right.

To the young women here—and I have two young daughters—all I can say is demand respect and Girl Power!

I can't emphasize this enough: There are no shortcuts in life. You get what you get by working hard and being honest. Lying and cheating to get over is the road to ruin. You will be caught. That one mistake will follow you for the rest of your life. There is the cliché that America loves a comeback story. That might be true in sports. But my experience is we live in a pretty

unforgiving world.

Finally, I want to urge you to make time for your friends and loved ones. The pace of life quickens as it gets more complicated. Create memories with the important people in your life, especially the people you love in the crowd today. No matter who you become, don't forget who you have been and who helped you along the way.

Let me close with one last personal story.

I had never heard of Ohio Wesleyan before I came here in 1972.

I was the first person in my family to ever go to college. I knew nothing about the application process and, in fact, missed out completely when the college recruiters came to my high school. I thought you graduated from high school and during the summer applied to the college you wanted to attend.

When I learned the truth at the end of the year, panicked, I

*Cont'd on page 46*

What advice would you give the Class of 2017? Email your thoughts to [magazine@owu.edu](mailto:magazine@owu.edu) or tweet to [@OWUALumni](https://twitter.com/OWUALumni).



# Honoring Alumni

For nearly 50 years Ohio Wesleyan University has embraced a wonderful tradition of honoring alumni by annually bestowing alumni awards. These awards foster lasting connections with our most amazing alumni and recognize their lifetime achievements.

It is OWU's unique way of saying "Thank you" to these outstanding individuals.

Be a part of this important award tradition by nominating an individual who has shown a commitment to excellence post-OWU, and a significant or ongoing commitment to extraordinary work, research, volunteerism, or service to the University. To nominate someone, review criteria, and view previous recipients see:

[owu.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-awards](http://owu.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-awards)





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