# Engaging Current Students to Develop Active Young Alumni

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# **Current Students Programs: FALL**

- August/September
  - Summer Send-Offs/Welcome Events Freshmen
  - Welcome Back Dinner w/ President Seniors
  - Freshmen Orientation & gift from Alumni Board
- October
  - Homecoming & Family Weekend (SHO)
  - Munch & Mingle
  - Dinner with 12 Strangers
- November/December
  - Young Alumni & Senior Networking Event
  - Pres Ball and Senior Class Cocktail Reception

# **Current Student Programs: SPRING**

- January
  - 100 Day Event Senior Challenge kick-off
- February
  - Young Alumni & Senior Networking Event
- March
  - Speed Networking & Young Alumni Panel - Juniors
  - Halfway There Celebration –
     Sophomores
  - Countdown to Commencement - Seniors
  - Tuition Free Forward

- April
  - Spring Fever Day
  - Dinner with 12 Strangers
  - Leadership Dinner with President – Senior Challenge
  - Senior Challenge Celebration
  - Senior Class Reception with Alumni Board
- May
  - Senior Class Photo,
     Commencement Rehearsal
     & BBQ

### **Additional Activities**

- Graduating Class Trustee elections
- Phonathon
- Senior Challenge marketing campaign
- Monthly Senior Class events promoted through myOWU

## **Spirit & Homecoming Organization**

Educated student volunteer group

Meet in Mowry Alumni Center

 Originally formed through WCSA as a Homecoming planning committee in 2006.



Homecoming & Family



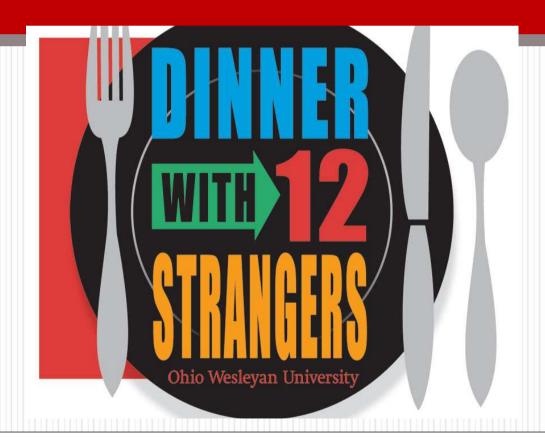
Weekend

- Banner Competitions
- BBQ on JayWalk
- Drive-in Movie & bonfire
- Mr. Bishop Man





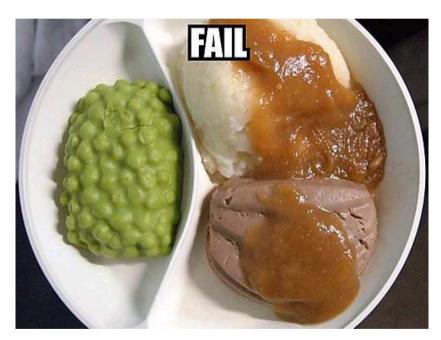
# Dinner with 12 Strangers



# Serving Up Good Food and Conversation

- Based on a simple premise:
  - Co-hosted by Alumni Relations & Career Services.
  - Sit down with 12 strangers with similar career goals and leave with 12 friends, connections and future networking contacts.
  - A local alum is invited to campus to host dinner with students – bridging the growing generation gap.

# "Though having dinner with 12 people you don't know may sound a bit "unappetizing"...



### It's so much more than just a meal!

- •These gatherings can be as informal or formal as wanted.
- •Alumni can host the dinners at the comfort of their homes, the Mowry Alumni Center or even at a local restaurant.
- •It offers a chance for students to get a feel for the extended Bishop family, and to see how they can stay involved and connected with OWU when they're no longer students!

Networking is consistently cited as the #1 way to get a job...

### **Alumni Relations**

- Invite alumni of particular career field.
- See how the alumnus wants the format.
   Provide catering if necessary.
- Introduce, spark mingling and take photos.
- Follow up with alumni & send thank you baskets.

DINNER WITH 12 STRANGERS

December 8, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Mowry Alumni Center

### Matt Salts '02

After graduating from OWU, Matt worked at Viacom/CBS Radio as the Marketing and Promotions Assistant for WLVQ/WAZU Radio. Soon he was promoted to Marketing and Promotions Coordinator for the cluster of stations where branding and advertising became priority. Matt returned to his alma mater to work in the Alumni Relations Office as the Assistant Director



of Off-Campus Events before taking his current position as Marketing Manager with The Little Clinic. The Little Clinic is a leader in the convenient health care industry focusing on treating a minor scope of services, by Nurse Practitioners seven days a week without appointments in a retail setting.

Matt Salts Regional MarketingManager The Little Clinic 1416 S. Fifth St. Columbus, OH 43207 614.286.2938 Thank you for attending tonight's dinner! Please keep your eyes open for future programs with alums.

### **Career Services**

- Career Services:
- Recruit students and receive faculty nominations.
- Publicize via website, table tents and posters.
- Suggest fitting career field depending on student population, needs and time of year.

### Targeted Email:

Be one of the first 10 students to reply and you will be invited to "Dinner with 12 Strangers"!

This is a once-a-semester program which brings in alumni to network over dinner with students interested in a particular career field.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, we're please to have two alumni attorneys coming to campus for this event:

Libby Hendershot, Attorney
Micael Griffaton, Sr. Attorney
Company: Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease
LLP

Only 10 students will be able to participate, so reply ASAP to this e-mail with your name, major, class year and cell phone #.

# Getting the students excited!



### **Tuition Free Forward**

**Ohio Wesleyan University** 

Friday, March 26, 2010

### What is **Tuition Free Forward?**

- The symbolic day during the academic year when we celebrate that tuition no longer covers the cost of a student's education
- "Tuition Gap"
- Example:
  - At Ohio Wesleyan University, tuition covers two-thirds of the cost to educate a student.
  - Calculate the date that is approximately two-thirds of the way through the year (and then we move it to the closest Friday)
  - March 26, 2010

### Goals for Tuition Free Forward

### EDUCATE

 Current students and the campus community see the impact of philanthropy on their everyday lives

### STEWARD

 Donors are thanked throughout the event by students and the campus community

### ASK

 The Senior Challenge uses Tuition Free Forward as a opportunity to further educate the Senior Class and ask for a gift

## First Steps

- Calculate the date tuition "runs out" at your institution
- Establish Campus Partners
  - SHO, Phonathon employees and Senior Challenge Committee
- Marketing campaign to educate the campus community 3 4
  weeks before the event

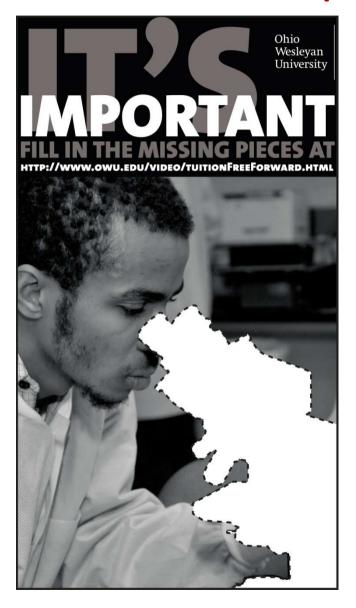


Student Homecoming Organization Volunteers

# **Building the Buzz**

Educating your campus about Tuition Free Forward

# Student Newspaper Ads





# Campus-Wide Email Blasts

### How Can I Give Back Once I Graduate?

Respond to your Phonathon call: During the academic year a group of students call alumni to provide updates about the University and to ask alumni to make a commitment to the Annual Fund for the current fiscal year. Enjoy talking with a student; then make your pledge to Ohio Wesleyan. Set up an online giving schedule: You can give all at once or give even more by breaking a larger donation into monthly payments. Online giving is quick and convenient—and you can use your VISA, MASTERCARD or AMEX at www.giving.owu.edu.

Watch your mail: Throughout the year OWU mails donation requests to alumni. Decide on your donation amount and mail it back.

### Young Alumni Who Make a Difference: Elizabeth Long '06

Elizabeth 'Liz' Long is a member of the Alumni Board and the Student Admissions Committee. She is also the Class of '06 Giving Representative to the Annual Fund. Liz supports OWU by staying active in alumni events, volunteering her time, and contributing to the Annual Fund.

### **Showing Your Support Has Its Benefits!**

Everyone (students, faculty, and staff) who enters the raffle at the Tuition Free Forward event or online will receive a \$25 gift certificate from The Refectory Restaurant and Bistro, via email.

Other raffle prizes include: OWU gear, Hoggy's \$20 gift cards, Funny Bone tickets (must be 21 or older), Columbus Museum of Art passes, Free Bowling, Center of Science and Industry (COSI) tickets and much more!!!

### **Tuition Free Forward Question:**

What building on campus houses the fund-raising staff?

A. Monnett Morgan B. Merrick C. Mowry

D. Burton-

Continue to email your answers to <a href="mail.com">OWUTFF@gmail.com</a> to enter for a chance to win two tickets to Shadowbox Cabaret at Easton Towne Center. GOOD LUCK!!!

Now through May, donors pay your way!

Philanthropy education

Donor profile

Incentive to get involved

Trivia question

### **Fortune Cookies**



- Donations exceeded \$3.9M last year in support of OWU students.
- Last year, \$42M was awarded in financial aid and scholarships.
- Last year, 9,543 alumni, parents and friends gave to OWU.

### **Other Tools**

- Table tents
- Posters
- Facebook
- Blog
- Twitter
- Viral Marketing
- Use your students!



# Celebrating the Day

# Setting Up

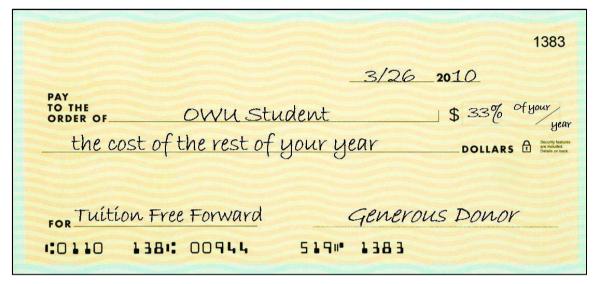
- Prominent space on campus
- Student volunteers
- Visit by school mascot, president, etc.



 Schedule for 2 – 3 hours during the busiest time of day

# **Engage Your Audience**

- FOOD!
- Music
- Decorations
- Enter to win a raffle
- Play a game
- Sign 'Thank You' cards



of Art, a round of golf at Oak Haven Golf including cart or a \$50 Visa gift card. Visit links.owu.edu/tff to learn more.				
Name	Class Year			

# Make it Engaging

### **Jeopardy Game for Prizes**





Students playing Jeopardy with OWU trivia and giving facts

OWU BUILDINGS	OWU ATHLETICS	OWU GREEK LIFE	FACTS ABOUT ROCK	OWU ALUMNI
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500

### Results

- Over 500 students attended
- 275 signed 'Thank You' cards
- Several Senior Challenge gifts





**Craig Ullom**, VP of Student Affairs, signs donor thank you cards at TTF

# Transitioning to Young Alumni



OWU's young alumni program strives to set a foundation for continued involvement and engagement with the university, translating to on-going volunteerism and giving. Young Alumni programming is designed to provide activity to alumni under 10 years out from the institution. Finally, it is a key component in increasing visibility of the Alumni Association to our alums and increasing OWU visibility in the cities where programming is held.

# Young Alumni Programming

- Regional Programming:
  - Boston
  - Chicago
  - Cincinnati
  - Cleveland
  - Columbus
  - New York City
  - Washington D.C.
- Program Types
  - Educational
  - Volunteer
  - Social



- Event Examples:
  - Mohican Canoe Trip & Cook-Out
  - NYC Young Alumni Holiday Party
  - Mid-Ohio Food Bank Service Night
  - Speed Networking & Panel
  - Munch & Mingle
  - Dave & Buster's Game Night with the Senior Class
  - Wine Tasting at Camelot Cellars



### Recent Successes

### **Senior Challenge**

- Led solely by student volunteers
- Record 53%
   participation
- \$12,500 raise for the Annual Fund

### **Young Alumni Committees**

- Washington, D.C.
- Chicago
- Self-motivated, plan own events