Alumni In Service
by Aaron E. Cook, Executive Editor-In-Chief

Following in the grand tradition of countless Ohio Wesleyan graduates of generations past, recent graduates have also been called to careers in service. Some examples are Scott McBride and Loretta Ishida, ('93) who served with the Peace Corps, each in separate assignments in Africa.

Two graduates currently employed by The Corporation for National Service, (AmeriCorps), in Washington D.C. are Miles Wilson, ('87) and Vassi Johri ('94). Both became interested in working with President Clinton's National Service program after the 1993 "Summer of Service" at Ohio Wesleyan.

Closer to home, four recent OWU grads have found their service calling in Delaware. Emily Hinton, ('94), Melissa Carroll, Andy Hatton and Lauren Fair, ('95), all teach at "The Phoenix Center" located at the Delwood Children's Home. The Phoenix Center is an alternative school serving approximately 35 students ranging in age from middle to high school who are unable to function appropriately in a traditional classroom environment. The goal of the center is to help these students successfully return to their regular classrooms.

Andy Hatton has taken his experience of community service learning from OWU and applied it to "real life". Working at The Phoenix Center can be very challenging; it can be hard to "stay in control of yourself" and "be a role model for behavior when a kid loses their temper with you," said Hatton. Perseverance pays off when he gets to see the kids make it back to regular school, complete with send off party.

But how did Andy know that he wanted to work with youth as a career? It started during "Summer Of Service" in 1993. Commenting on the influence it had, Andy states, "I knew this was the type of job I wanted to do...I don’t do it for the money; it is intrinsically rewarding."

Andy intends to stick with Delwood and would eventually like to move into a program director position, however, he was emphatic that he did not want to lose one-on-one contact with the kids.

(continued on page 3)
News Release from March of Dimes

Nearly every person can think of a baby they know who experienced a complication at birth. Perhaps a baby who was born too soon and too small. Perhaps they know of a baby born with a birth defect, whether a small, self-healing hole in the heart or a severe abnormality of the brain or spine.

The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation’s WalkAmerica—the nation’s biggest walking event—raises money to help prevent birth defects and reduce the incidence of infant mortality. Nearly 1 million people nationwide will participate in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica in more than 1,500 cities and towns in all 50 states.

The Central Ohio Chapter of the March of Dimes will celebrate WalkAmerica 1996 in Delaware on Sunday, May 19. More than 70 walkers are expected to step out, raising an estimated $7,000. Walkers raise funds by asking friends, family members, business associates, and neighbors to sign on as sponsors. To participate in WalkAmerica, call the March of Dimes at 1-800-686-2569.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels provides meals to home-bound individuals. They are still desperately in need of volunteers with cars to help drive and deliver meals. Delivery takes place daily from 11am-12:15pm. Persons with cars are especially needed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Also, they would be very grateful for any monetary donations to help their mission. Contact Elaine Reiner at 548-6278.

Annual OWU Premier to Benefit Andrews House

The second annual OWU Premier will be held April 20th at 8pm in Gray Chapel. The Premier features local talent from the campus and Delaware area ranging from musical groups and poetry to dance and improv comedy. The goal this year is to raise $5000 for Andrews House. Last year’s Premier raised $3000 for Delwood, Touchstone, and Turning Point. Any questions should be directed to Betsy Maloney at 368-2226.

Bowl for Kids Sake

Big Brother/Big Sister of Delaware County will be holding their annual Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser on April 20 at Colony Lanes. It’s not too late to become a lane sponsor! To learn more about donating to this event, or to volunteer to be a Big Brother or Sister, call Sally Hinshaw at 369-2447.

Turning Point Clothing Drive

Turning Point is in dire need of women’s and children’s socks and underwear. The drop off location in Delaware is at the Tri-Rivers Fire Station on Rt. 36/37. For information, call Debbie Green at (614) 382-8988.
When I asked Andy about his experiences with community service while a student here he noted that it had a large role in preparing him for a career. The skills he developed and strengthened, mainly public relations and communication, could be used anywhere.

Andy had a few words of advice for current OWU students on the subject of community service. He stated that you should never give up when it gets frustrating, even if you are performing required community service, stick with it. Why? Because, “people don’t realize how much they can do just meeting with a kid. You may find out through a journal or letter that you are a role model to them...What you see as a little time means a lot to them.”

“My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular.”

-Adlai E. Stevenson

Ohio Wesleyan student Vassi Johri ’95, a Summer of Service team leader, walks President Clinton through the University’s storyboard display during the August 1993 S.O.S. summit meeting at the White House.

Sara Sheets ('93) would certainly echo these sentiments. A veteran of OWU's Columbus Initiative, Sara went on to serve two years in L.A. with the Teach for America program. Inspired by her experiences tutoring Columbus inner-city students and teaching in L.A., Sara is currently studying at UCLA to attain her master's degree in city planning with a focus on lower income neighborhoods.

According to Sue Pasters, hardly a week goes by that the Community Service Learning Office phone doesn't ring with an inquiry from an alum who would like information on how to start a community service program in their school or community, to access learning materials, or just to check-in with updates on their own service journeys. “This is the fruit of our labors,” says Pasters. “OWU alumni are proving daily that they are more than able to ‘meet the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society.’” (University Statement of Aims) In fact, through their service, many OWU graduates are truly making a difference in the world.
April 27, 1996

The Annual Hunger Cleanup is a national, one-day community service work-a-thon in which student volunteers raise money while working with community agencies. Similar to a walk-a-thon, the Cleanup mobilizes thousands of students across the country who gather hourly pledges from family and friends for their volunteer work. Ohio Wesleyan is designating April 27th a day to volunteer in Delaware. The resulting contributions will be split evenly between the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness and our own local hunger agency, People In Need. The Hunger Cleanup will be followed by Springfest ’96: A Celebration of Social Justice and Communal Rebirth - a free outdoor festival to be held on the lawns of Welch and Thompson Halls across from the Delaware City Fire Dept. To help sponsor the Cleanup, contact Sue Pasters at 368-3084 or Amy Long at 524-6801.
Be a Puppeteer for DARR

Delaware Area Recovery Resources will be presenting a puppet show for approx. 100 pre-school children during the Week of the Young Child (April 21-27). Volunteers are needed to assist with the one-hour presentation. A one-hour rehearsal will be required. The show will be co-sponsored by Action for Children and will serve children who attend daycare offered by Home-based Childcare Providers. Call Jo Simonson at 369-6811 for more information.

Easter Seals Fundraiser

Easter Seals will be holding their annual fundraising campaign in Delaware on Friday, April 19th and Saturday, April 20th. Volunteers will be accepting donations in front of both Kroger’s stores and at Walmart. Easter Seals donations are used to provide needed assistance to disabled children. To learn more about Easter Seals, contact JoAnne Kennedy at 1-800-860-5523.

Cook Books for Sale

Turning Point is offering cook books for sale. Besides wonderful recipes, these books also contain food for thought in the form of quotations and anecdotal passages. All proceeds from the sale go toward providing services to victims of domestic abuse. To get your copy, contact Christine Watchorn at (614) 382-8988, or the OWU Community Service Learning Office at 368-3084.

Big Pal/Little Pal

Big Pal/Little Pal took their littles roller skating on March 23rd. They are planning their annual trip to Kings Island for April 20th. They plan to be back in time to attend the OWU premier. (see page 2)

KICC Kids to Volunteer

Willis Intermediate School’s KICC program consists of 55 kids who are in need of service projects. Each child is to participate in four hours of community service as part of their summer experience, but they need projects on which to work!! If you could use their help, call Sonya Skeens-Crow at 369-8252 ex 446. And, as always, KICC welcomes to volunteers to play with the kids between 6:30am-6pm.

ΦΔΘ Reclaiming Tradition

In the face of recent adversity, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta have pulled together to exercise their commitment to community service. So far this semester, they have disassembled and transported a room full of bookshelves from Perkins Observatory to Beeghly Library, assisted the Theatre Department by ushering for the Colored Museum, and by combing the academic grounds for litter in preparation for honor student recruits. The brothers will be participating in future major events such as collecting donations to Easter Seals on April 20 and the campus-wide Hunger Cleanup on April 27. (see insert) As part of their regrowth, the Phi Delts are dedicated to establishing strong service connections. If you are interested in their help, contact Dan Campagna at 368-2812 or write to him at HWCC Box 1140.

Follow what you love!...Don’t deign to ask what “they” are looking for out there. Ask what you have inside. Follow not your interests, which change, but what you are and what you love, which will and should not change.

-Georgie Anne Geyer
Ohio Wesleyan Spring 1996 Schedule

APR.  16  Community Service Round Table, Benes Room B
      27  Hunger Cleanup and Spring Concert
MAY  2   Last Day of Classes
      3-9  Exam Week
      12  Commencement

Opportunity Knocks

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