



**“PRIDE & TRADITION”
September 2006**

Dear Ohio Wesleyan University Lacrosse Alumni:

Ohio Wesleyan University is underway with another new academic year (2006 - 2007) – 164 years after it first began serving students. Despite all the new incoming students, moving in and saying good-bye to their parents, the senior class of the 2007 men’s lacrosse team is busy getting ready for their last year, looking forward to graduation as well as competing in their final season as varsity lacrosse players wearing the Red & Black.

The University, with all its changes and plans underway to improve the campus and its facilities and programs, is fully committed to working with members of the Committee on Excellence for Men’s Lacrosse and the Ohio Wesleyan University Lacrosse Alumni Association (OLAA). We wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a short summary a meeting that recently took place in this summer in Delaware, Ohio. The individuals participating in this planning meeting, initiated by Roger Ingles, Athletic Director, included the following OWU lacrosse alumni and supporters:

- *Morty Bouchard III, Class of 1980
- *Steve Corrigan, Class of 1974
- *Chris Cortina, Class of 1998 (participated by conference call)
- *Roger Ingles, OWU Athletic Director
- *Pete Lee, Class of 1965
- *Annie Griffiths-Seiler, Class of 1975
- *Mike Holloway, Head Football Coach
- *Sean Ryan, Head Lacrosse Coach
- *Richie Seiler, Class of 1972
- *Mark Shipps, Class of 1970, Vice President for University Relations

The purpose of the meeting encompassed a variety of agenda items. The major outcome of this meeting was the generation of additional ideas and strategies to increase and bolster support for the OWU Men’s Lacrosse Team as it continues its push in working toward the goal of winning a national title.

“Who are OWU lacrosse alumni and what are we” was a key part of our discussion. The answer is simple: ***“We are a life time fraternity – a life time family” as we all played lacrosse at OWU during the past 50 years.***”

With that clear frame of reference as a guide, the planning group shared information about the current status of the OWU men's lacrosse program and OWU in general:

1. **OWU's Commitment:** The University and the athletic department are fully behind and support the men's lacrosse program, which is one of 23 intercollegiate sports at OWU. Despite the increased competition in recent years of new colleges and universities participating in Division III lacrosse (i.e. increased number of D-III schools and their impact on recruiting student-athletes), OWU is meeting the challenge by hiring additional support staff, and increasing lacrosse coaching staff time. The Assistant Coach position has been upgraded over the past two years from part-time to a $\frac{3}{4}$ time position.
2. **Remembering Our Past – Looking to the Future:** With the onset of the 2007 season, the OWU men's lacrosse program spans 50 years of history and a winning tradition:
 - A. Developed as varsity sport from 1958 – 1971;
 - B. Between 1972 – 2006, OWU has continually contended, and won its share of league titles, and has had a phenomenal record number of invitations to the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament;
 - C. Through the years, OWU lacrosse teams have seen improvements in the field playing conditions from South Fields, to Community Field/Roy Rike Field, and in recent years to Selby Stadium. For the 2007, the Bishops' men's lacrosse team will benefit from major renovations to Selby Stadium including its newly installed artificial field surface and track, thus enabling the OWU men's lacrosse program to host NCAA play-off games. In addition, the lacrosse team will now occupy a dedicated locker room in East Selby. That locker room space is in "like-new" condition, and it will require only minimal refurbishment for lacrosse.
 - D. Thanks to a number of cash gifts and pledges, including a very generous lacrosse alumnus cash gift, the renovation and construction of the artificial turf field and the new track is now complete. In addition, work has proceeded on the stadium, including a complete power washing and cleaning of the interior along with additional landscaping and painting. Next summer the wall surrounding the field will also be renovated, with much of the structure being replaced. By all accounts, once this process is complete, the stadium will be one of the finest Division III facilities (or for that matter Division II) in the country.

Varsity Lacrosse, Football, and Field Hockey are now using the field. Each locker room for lacrosse and football will include a washer and dryer for team uniforms. This expenditure has been authorized by the University and will require additional alumni financial support and gifts. We hope to accomplish that during the upcoming 50th Anniversary of OWU Lacrosse.

3. **Funding OWU Athletic Programs:** Ohio Wesleyan's has two primary sources of income: tuition (including room and board and fees) and gifts (including income from our investments made possible by those gifts). Our Athletic Department receives its fair share of the tuition and fees as part the normal budgetary processes, and it also benefits from gifts from alumni, students, parents, and friends. Over the last five years, the University, the Athletic Department, and the W Association (working with OLAA) have worked hard to combine and improve the fund raising efforts in the Team OWU program. During the last school fiscal year 2005-6, these efforts led to raising over \$130,000 of incremental support (above budgeted amounts) for all of OWU 23 teams. In fact, Roger Ingles reported at the meeting that OWU now ranks second among NCAC schools in total support for Athletics (budgetary dollars plus Team OWU), Incremental annual support for OWU lacrosse from Team OWU has increased from \$10,000 five years ago, to \$18,000 today, due to the success of the program.
4. **The Good News:** In addition to having a new turf stadium for practice and home games for the Bishops' lacrosse team for the 2007 season, the other "news" is that all 2007 Bishop Lacrosse season home games will be Web cast. The games can be viewed on the internet, although audio/play-by-play announcing of the games may not be available. Additional information regarding the 2007 season schedule will be posted on the Home Page of Ohio Wesleyan University - be sure to check the Website under "Men's Spring Sports 2007."
5. Collectively, the meeting generated many options, suggestions and strategies, where you, as OWU Lacrosse alumni can be involved in supporting the goal of the program in winning its first national championship. Here's how we can all help in a concerted team effort:
 - A. Get directly involved by providing your time, professional expertise and talents, or financial support with specific gifts to the "Remembering Mr. Rickey Campaign" to fully fund the Selby Stadium's renovation and to improve support to TEAM OWU – MEN'S LACROSSE.

- B. Attend and support OWU lacrosse by participating in regional events held by OWU and OWU Lacrosse Alumni Association (OLAA).
- C. Identifying high school prospects who are potential student-athletes for Ohio Wesleyan University, and the men's lacrosse program and providing their names to the OWU lacrosse coaching staff for follow up. There was much discussion during the meeting regarding recruiting, and Coach Ryan committed not only to a busy summer recruiting schedule, but also to improve recruiting planning and communications with OLAA and the lacrosse alumni group.
- D. Serving as a regional coordinator to other OWU lacrosse alumni for possible student/athletes identified for follow up with the OWU lacrosse coaching staff. Coach Ryan will be working to identify and work directly with four regional coordinators who will funnel contacts from other alumni and friends in their geographic areas (Long Island area, Baltimore area, Syracuse area, and the Midwest and beyond).
- E. Serving as a decade "chairman" or graduating class contact for the Committee on Excellence for Men's Lacrosse and OLAA to reach out and communicate with other lacrosse alumni to reconnect with the OWU men's lacrosse program.
- F. Becoming a member of OLAA.
- G. Volunteering to your individual professional skills and expertise to support OWU and the men's lacrosse program through recruiting, hosting, and/or planning fundraising events, marketing strategies, communications, and leadership.

We hope and trust that this letter conveys the passion of this alumni group and the commitment of the University, and the team effort that is needed from all 450+ lacrosse alumni to fulfill the goal of the OWU Men's Lacrosse Team in winning its first Division III National Championship! We need your time and talents, ideas and action to make this a reality. Working once again as a team with a common goal, OWU Lacrosse Alumni - the "life time fraternity and family" can achieve this goal within five years.

Go Bishops!

Morty Bouchard III
Lacrosse Alumnus
Class of 1980

Mark H. Shipps
Lacrosse Alumnus
Class of 1970

Contact Listing:

*50th Anniversary Celebration for OWU Men's' Lacrosse
Brenda DeWitt, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations
Phone # 740-368-3329
Email: bedewitt@owu.edu

Committee Members:

*Steve Corrigan, Class of 1974: stevecorrigan2@hotmail.com

*Chris Cortina, Class of 1998: chriscortina29@hotmail.com

*Roger Ingles, OWU Athletic Director: rdingles@owu.edu

*Pete Lee, Class of 1965: joetteandpete@aol.com

Annie Griffiths-Seiler, Class of 1975: agseiler@owu.edu

*Mike Holloway, Head Football Coach: mchollwa@owu.edu

*Sean Ryan, Head Lacrosse Coach: smryan@owu.edu

*Richie Seiler, Class of 1972: RSEILER@MAIL.FRIENDSBALT.ORG

*Mark Shipps, Class of 1970, Vice President: mhsphipps@owu.edu