

THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THE OLD MEN OF THE
WHEATON COLLEGE GLEE CLUB. A STUDENT-LED PUBLICATION.



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FUNDRAISING APPEAL 2019

Chris Jahns

Dear Old Men,

The primary goal of the Old Man Association is to connect brothers of all ages who have been blessed to be a part of the heritage of the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club. Connections take place through our newsletter, our Facebook page, and the many personal interactions we have with one another at reunions, concerts and receptions throughout the year. It is so wonderful to share stories and memories with Old Men who came before us and those who have followed us, understanding that we all have a common "fraternitas" in Christ and through the Men's Glee Club.

A secondary goal of the OMA is to raise funds to support the men of the Club with scholarships, assist with travel and touring expenses (this year, a tour to Florida on March 7-15, 2020), and help with the cost of tuxedos. With education costs continuing to rise, many of our men face significant financial challenges. This year, we are also raising money to fund the year-end awards given to a rising senior in the Men's Glee Club and the "Old Man of the Year", as well as our Old Man receptions at Homecoming and Home Concert. Will you join us in this effort to support our current Old Men this year and in the years to come? Your gift of any size will make an impact for Christ and His Kingdom in and through the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club.

Checks can be sent to:
Wheaton College Men's Glee Club
Conservatory of Music
501 College Avenue
Wheaton, IL 60187

Or you can give quickly and easily via credit card:
www.wheaton.edu/giving, clicking on the "Make a Gift Today" button, then "Designation Options", "Give to area(s) of your choice", scroll down to "Conservatory of Music" and finally check the "Men's Glee Club" box. (It may be inconveniently located, but it is easy to use once you get there!)

All gifts are tax deductible and will be receipted.

Thank you for your generous support, partnership, and fraternitas!

WHEATON IN NETWORK

HARRY ZUBER, OMA BOARD Member '13

As we all know, being an Old Man stretches beyond our ol' Wheaton College days. And in an effort to help foster growth amongst our current Glee Club members and that of our Alumni, we would like to invite you to register with Wheaton in Network or WiN. This tool that the college has established is a great way to stay connected with our alma mater, and more specifically, our very own Glee Club.

Now you may be asking, "What sort of commitment is this?" The beauty of WiN is that you can make it what you'd like. For example, perhaps a current clubber is moving to a new city and is looking for someone to connect with. Or perhaps they are considering a particular career path and would like to connect with someone who has taken a similar path. Or maybe someone is simply looking for a mentor.

We see this as a great opportunity to stay connected with current students and be a helpful resource for them during times of transition that stretch beyond our time at college. Below you will find a link to WiN where it is easy to

register. Remember to designate Men's Glee Club as an extra curricular and that will help current students connect with you! Current members will also be encouraged to use this tool and seek out Old Men who they may be able to relate to.

Personally, WiN has helped me in the past as I transitioned out of Wheaton and I hope to share the kindness that was shown me to the current and future Men of Glee Club.

<https://win.wheaton.edu/>

WiN in Action

Max Terman '13

In my junior year at Wheaton, I had no idea what I wanted to do after graduation, let alone what God was calling me to. Despite loving my economics classes, I didn't feel any closer to understanding what the working world was like, or prepared to make crucial life decisions. I knew that I needed advice from an alumnus I could trust, but I couldn't figure out where to find someone who would share wisdom with me. I heard about WiN and searched for Glee Club Alumni in fields

similar to mine. I found Josh Hammar, who was not only an Old Man, but also lived near my hometown, and even attended my girlfriend's church! His profile said that he was always open to talking to Wheaton students, so I reached out.

Through many emails, phone calls and lunches, Josh became an incredible friend and mentor, sharing his career, life and faith with me throughout our friendship. In hearing his story, and how God was continuing to build him into a more Christ-like man, I started the process of discerning God's call for me, and gained confidence in His faithfulness. I cannot recommend WiN enough to Old Men. It is an incredible way to connect with Glee Clubbers past and present, and to fulfill our desire for community and mentorship. Even the smallest interactions can reflect God's glory to one another, and make us more like Him.



MEET THE BOARD

Ed Bedard '12

Ed is an attorney in Atlanta with his wife and their dog, a German Shorthaired Pointer named Goose. Ed and his wife met in law school at the University of Virginia. Prior to law school, Ed worked in House leadership on Capitol Hill. Ed was a Political Science major at Wheaton, and much more importantly, a four-year man. Ed thanks God every day that he is not a tenor.



Dr. Mary Hopper

Mary Hopper, Professor of Choral Music and Director of Performance Studies at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, conducts the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club and the Women's Chorale and is a frequent conductor for the Wheaton Opera production. Both of her choirs have appeared on ACDA conferences. The Women's Chorale has been invited to sing at two National Conferences (Salt Lake City and New York City) and four Central Division Conferences. The Men's Glee Club appeared on an Illinois ACDA State Fall Conference and Illinois Music Educator's Conference under Dr. Hopper's leadership.

John Daigle '15

John is living in Chicago and working for a food manufacturing company as a Key Account Manager. He is also enrolled in a Master of Divinity program at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. During his four years in the Men's Glee Club, John served as the President, '14-'15 and Social Chairman, '13-'14. "The Men's Glee Club was (aside from meeting my wife), the best thing that happened to me at Wheaton. I was thrilled to join this initiative in order to stay connected to the club myself and to see both the club and alumni flourish."



MEET THE BOARD, CONT.

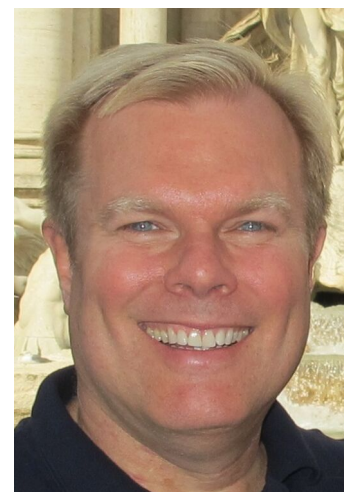


Scott Reed '16

Scott served as the President of the Glee Club '15-'16 and held two other cabinet positions in his earlier years with the club, but his most proud accomplishment was winning the Mr. Banquet competition four years running. He now lives in Bloomingdale with his wife, Leah, and works as the worship director of Bloomingdale Church. "Being in the Glee Club was the highlight of my entire Wheaton experience. The friendships, traditions, and musical worship shaped my college years and strengthened my faith in God."

Chris Jahns '82

Chris owns a scientific software company. During his time in the Men's Glee Club, Chris served as Librarian, Secretary and President (81-'82). His brother Randy ('84) served as President two years later. Chris enjoyed 11 wonderful tours with the Club, including two Europe trips in '79 and '81. "The Men's Glee Club was one of the primary reasons I came to Wheaton College. God used Clayton Halvorsen and the men of the Club to help me grow as a leader, gentleman, worshipper and musician. I praise God that the legacy and tradition of the Men's Glee Club continues and flourishes."



Karl Gunther '01

Karl is a history professor at the University of Miami. He served as Assistant Business Manager, Business Manager, and President during his four years in the Men's Glee Club. Charged with writing a short history of the MGC for the 100th anniversary celebration in 2007, he feared he would discover that it had not begun in 1907, and was very relieved to discover that it had. In his free time he sings with the Civic Chorale of Greater Miami and bakes excessive amounts of bread.

MEET THE BOARD, CONT.

Gregg Garman '71

Gregg earned a M. Ed. Degree in Educational Administration from McDaniel College (MD) in 1975 and has studied in the doctorate program in Educational Leadership at Lehigh University (PA). He was privileged to be a Second Tenor Part Leader. He also enjoyed serving the Club as Social Chairman one year and Business Manager for one year. and learned a great deal under the leadership of Dr. Clayton Halvorsen!



Mackenzie Terman '17

Max works in the Wheaton area as a hiring consultant and interviewer, following the advice of an Old Man to start his own business. He served the Club as Publicity Manager, Vice President and President, touring to the strange lands of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. "The Men's Glee Club remains a powerful reminder of God's glory and His faithfulness in my life. There are few places where young men are compelled to build God-centered relationships with one another in an environment of truth, integrity and brotherhood. The Men's Glee Club is a place to struggle, grow and excel with brothers in Christ, and I'm honored to gift that opportunity to Wheaton men for years to come."

Randy Benware '90

Randy lives in Aurora, Illinois with his wife Marie, and his five children. His eldest two children have attended Wheaton College and have been members of all 3 choirs at the college. Randy has served as a music educator the past 29 years and has been teaching at Minooka Community High School for 26 years. He is currently pianist at New Covenant Church in Naperville, IL and guest choral director at Living Word Bible Church in Morris, IL. Randy was a four-year man in Men's Glee Club and served as Assistant Librarian his Junior Year and Assistant Conductor during his Senior year.



MEET THE BOARD, CONT.



Nelson Summers '12

Nelson came to Wheaton from the frozen tundra, some might consider Canada, Minnesota. He is a 3 year man of the club, Tenor, member of Thundertones and three time champion of the bass-tenor football game. One of his proudest achievements was that he also recruited our chairman, Ed who was also his roommate the last 3 years of school. He graduated with a degree in Mathematics, and after he moved back to Minnesota to be closer to family for a few years, he moved to Denver where he works as an underwriter for a commercial insurance company. "I always appreciated the comradery and bonds that I formed during my time with the Glee Club."

Harry Zuber '13

Harry Zuber has been a member of the WCOMA for the past 2 years. He is currently living in the Chicago area working with a recruiting firm along with two other Wheaton Alumni. Harry joined the MGC right off the bat Freshman year, served as the Pub. Man., '10 - '11 and then President from '12 - '13, when he had the great pleasure to help lead the Club through their tour of France. "The Men's Glee Club was a defining aspect of my time at Wheaton College and has become an integral part of my identity after those college years thanks to our shared faith and continued fraternitas. I have benefited from that fraternitas after graduation and am excited to help foster that fraternitas amounts our current and graduated Old Men."



Cole Comfort '21

Cole is currently apart of the Men's Glee Club and is currently serving his second term on Cabinet as the Alumni Relations Chair. He had the chance to join the Glee Club on their first tour ever to China, and thanks God daily for the gift of the unique fraternitas of the Club. Cole is a Junior and currently working towards his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and is constantly encouraged by the "Men of God" who rise up around him.

OMA RECEPTION AND HOME CONCERT

Michael Smith '20

A Home Concert On April 12th, 2019, Old Men from across the country gathered to participate in the glorious pursuit that is praising the Lord through song!

The 112th Men's Glee Club home concert was certainly not the product of passivity! For months the Old Man Association, the MGC Cabinet, Dr. Hopper, and the Clubbers themselves were hard at work. The singers worked week after week to perfect their repertoire! This year's line-up included a wonderful "love" themed section, several songs in another language, and a wonderful throw back to the classic Glee Spiritual At the Cross. During one spring rehearsal, the incredibly inclined musician and Old Man, Randy Benware, filled in for Dr. Hopper and directed the club! He was able to tell the Clubbers what it was like singing At the Cross while he was in club! Certainly, a special experience for the Club!

Music was not the only part of preparation for the concert! There were several accolades and an Old Man reception to be planned! With 2019 being the second year of the formal creation of the Old Man Association, there were high standards to be upheld with regard to alumni-student connections. The first award presented for the evening was the Old Man of the Year Award. This year, beloved Old Man Rodney Sisco was recognized. This year Wheaton College mourned the loss of its long time servant and director of multicultural development Rodney Sisco. Two comments were present in every tribute to Sisco that I experienced. Everyone acknowledged that he Loved the Lord deeply and that he Loved Singing. His many years of dedication to ministry paired with his passion for the Lord and music made him the perfect recipient for Old Man of the Year.



Another award presented at the concert was most valuable senior! The Club and the Old Man Association recognized the stunning accompanist Garret Bone! Bone put on a beautiful rendition of Études-Tableaux, Op. 33 by Sergei Rachmaninoff. His dedication to the club through constant service along with his joyous personality are greatly appreciated in the Club!

The final award presented was slightly unconventional! With the construction of the conservatories new performance hall wrapping up, a final donation incentive was created! By donation, one could dedicate a chair to a person of their choosing. Many members of the Glee Club approached cabinet with great interest in the possibility of dedicating a chair to The Most-High Conductress, Dr. Mary Hopper (may she live forever)! To their delight the Cabinet had already started preparations for donation! The cabinet opened to the club a donation campaign. Clubbers could donate

their share of the donation and had the option of sponsoring clubbers who wanted to donate but could not afford to! Through this campaign, the club raised one hundred percent of its goal! The Chair was presented to Dr. Mary Hopper with Flowers and a great amount of Love from her Choir!

After a joyous evening of music and recognition, the concert concluded with the traditional all Old Man combined performance of E'en So and Mighty Fortress! The Concert was immediately followed by a lively reception in Wheaton College's new welcome center! The reception hall was littered with relics from the Club's many years of history! Old men from the 80s, 90s, 2000s, and even alumni from the past four years were present! It was a great joy seeing Christians from several generations coming together over a common shared experience! I was blessed to speak with clubbers that I had only heard legends about!



ANOTHER GLEE CLUB MEMORY

James Graham '22

All along the sidelines there was silence--no shouts of "C'mon Michael or you've got this,"--just dead silence. The windup, the pitch, the ball rolls forward and, wham-o, it sails into the outfield, it's going deep, and...

On this windy, overcast afternoon in April, the ever proud basses and altos prepared to face the perhaps overzealous sopranos and tenors in the Spring Kickball Classic. Without hyperbole, it could be said to be an event with earth-shattering ramifications. For whoever would win this one game would have bragging rights for the next hundred years. As the start of the game drew closer, players practiced their chants and victory laps, while the honorable chef, Cole Comfort, prepared a feast for the ages, one that only increased the desire to skip the game completely and devour the delicious comestibles he was preparing. Nonetheless, the basses insisted on continuing with the game, to insure its trophy would be handed to them for the 113th consecutive year. As the wind started to pick up, the two sides gathered in the middle of the field to pray. Ready to begin, the tenors and basses flip a coin. And...it's tails! The tenors have won the first battle of the war. As the tenors and sopranos anticipate the first pitch, leaders hyped up their respective sides with songs of battle and cries of war. Samuel Reich steps up to the plate, and...whack! base hit! There's a man on first; the game is underway.

Heading into the top of the sixth inning the score was 9-5. It had proved a lopsided affair, with the basses and altos scoring a boatload of runs and keeping the tenors and sopranos at bay with excellent defense (and a tad bit of help from strong gusts of wind). However, the tenors and sopranos now have the bases loaded with two outs and Michael Smith, then Bus. Manager and now our illustrious president, steps up to kick. Michael can tie the game if he scores a homerun...In full stride he makes contact with the ball, and the basses and altos in the outfield anticipate what they know will surely be a thunderous kick. He smacks the ball with all his might, it soars high into the air and looks like it's going to be a homerun, but...No! A massive gust of wind stops the ball mid-flight, hanging in the air for the briefest of seconds, and then... it drops....straight down into the cradled arms of none other than Matt Reiskytl, the esteemed social chair of the prestigious Men's Glee Club! The tenors and sopranos tried to recover, but alas! it was in vain, as the basses and altos tacked on six more runs to add insult to injury.

So, for the 113th year the bases were victorious over the tenors, which produced boasting and cheers of victory! However, after a few minutes the empty stomachs of victors and vanquished alike led to the field being abandoned in favor of Michael Herr being called to bless the food while at least some of it still remained on the tables.

Overall, the Kickball game with the Men's Glee Club and Women's Chorale was a monumental success--one could say a game for the ages--comprised of equal parts contagious laughter, luscious food, competitive spirits, and great company, all of which led me to leave with the satisfaction that a great year with the Men's Glee Club had ended marvelously. Of course.



FROM NEW TO OLD

Paul Boersma '20

Last spring while on a stay at home Tur (commonly pronounced “Terr”) in the Chicagoland area, the gentlemen of the Men’s Glee club walked up into Pierce Chapel around sunset dressed in Mu Gamma Kappa garb. The old men carried with them the memories of old man parties past, some of them only their very own, but all united to honor a tradition and a club which had given so much to them and continued to shape their identities as makers of music and followers of Christ. The new men entered eager with anticipation for what becoming a full member of the club would come to mean to them.

Upon entering, then-President Adam Reiskytl gave opening remarks re-establishing the goals of the club and speaking to what was about to happen. The cabinet formed the club into smaller groups for prayer walks around the campus, each led by a member of Cabinet with old and new alike walking together and discussing their time in club, the year, and the impact of the three pillars on their lives. Having the privilege to lead a group last year as the publicity manager (propaganda man), I saw on the faces of the new men an understanding and respect for the many generations that had made this ritual to the club and the Lord. Memories and anecdotes were shared and hopes for the future entertained before all the groups returned to the chapel.

Upon entering the new men found the room dark and candle lit as the old men formed into a tunnel directing the new men towards the stage. More words were spoken explaining the gravity given to the landmark moment of becoming an old man. The credo was handed out to all the men and read aloud. Then, Chaplain Michael Herr read aloud each of the names of the new men as they came forward through the tunnel to be given their paddle and sweater as the old men hummed the intro of the original Halo theme.

A singing of the piece “Even So” closed the night as a new full group of old men filled with cheerful hugging and congratulatory smiles went outside for a final group prayer and singing of the doxology.



NOT CONNECTED?

Know a former Glee Clubber who doesn't receive these newsletters? Help them out! Send their email or put them in contact with alumni@wheaton.edu to assist them in reconnecting with their roots.

A Call for Glee Club Devotions

If you are interested in giving a roughly five to ten-minute devotional, the club would love to hear old men impart their experience and wisdom!

You can contact Paul Boersma (paul.boersma@my.wheaton.edu) the current VP/Chaplain to coordinate what dates would work best.



FALL 2019 CALENDAR

October 5th, 2019

Old Man Coffee and Homecoming

We invite you to come and join us for our annual Old Man Coffee and Homecoming concert. The coffee portion will begin at 9am in the Armerding building and is a great time to reconnect with old friends of the club as well as make some new ones with current clubbers and alumni alike. I am so looking forward to this time of being and singing the national anthem together.

March 27th, 2020

MGC Home Concert and Reception

Check your calendars and mark March 27th down to join fellow Old Men at the MGC Home Concert. This is sure to be a great time of giving our all to the Lord as we sing to praise him. Following the concert will be a reception hosted by your OMA board and will foster a great time of fellowship with one another.

YOUR FACEBOOK FEED NEEDS

MORE MEN'S GLEE CLUB

Want a simple way to connect to the broader community of Old Men? Join the Old Man Association group on Facebook.

Either click the Facebook button below or enter "Wheaton College Men's Glee Club Old Man Association" in the Facebook search box, click on the group and then select the "join group" button.

