

# THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES  
FOR THE OLD MEN OF THE WHEATON COLLEGE  
MEN’S GLEE CLUB



## An Old Man Coffee and Homecoming Game

By: Austin Odling '18

Being a 2018 graduate of Wheaton, my life has been and continues to be in a consistent season of change. That is one of the many reasons I was ecstatic to return to Wheaton, for the first time since graduation, to attend the annual Old Man coffee and sing the National Anthem at the afternoon football game.

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Before I even got to the conservatory, I ran into Johnny Daigle '15 who was President of the Club when I was a freshman. We caught up briefly while walking to the conservatory and, upon arriving, we were greeted by the smiling faces of the current Glee Club. The time spent at the Old Man coffee was a time of catching up with current members of the Club I knew, meeting the New Men, and being introduced to a group of Old Men from the 2008 graduating class who were back for their 10-year reunion. A number of Old Men who I graduated with were also present, and we got to discuss all that had occurred in the months since graduation. The official



meeting time concluded with Our Most High Conductress Dr. Mary Hopper (may she live forever) leading us in a brief rehearsal of the National Anthem to be sung that afternoon. While the official gathering time had ended, a number of the remaining men stayed behind to play the Glee Clubs most time honored of cards games: Rook. Games were played, and lessons were learned but the time concluded with a Rook game that had everything one could ask for: ups and downs, highs and lows, mistakes and luck, and Johnny Daigle narrating his every move for the benefit of young Club members future success. Continued on next page...





When the time came to sing the Anthem, the day had turned damp and cold, but the Glee Club and all the present alumni were there with smiling faces. A somewhat disorganized group of almost 70 men walked on to the field to serenade the crowd with our impressive sound. After the anthem was sung, men stayed around to chat and watch a brief Thundertones performance before parting ways.



This truly was a day of brotherhood and a time that I felt personally refreshed by. Thank you to all those who organized this day and to every Old Man who reminds me that the brotherhood of the Glee Club is something that stretches far beyond our time at Wheaton. Events like this one fill me with such joy and I cannot wait for the spring Home Concert to experience the comradery once again.



# A New Man Party

By: Winsor Boggs

For the past 112 years, the New Man Party has been a staple of the Men’s Glee Club. The Men’s Glee Club proudly proclaims that we have been doing the New Man Party in the exact same way for the past 112 years without a single change. Some individuals may have a different memory of this welcoming event, but we all know that memory can be tricky and unreliable.

To refresh the memories of the Old Men as to what happens—it all begins with a game of Rook. While the Pre-Men are learning to play Rook from the older guys, cabinet is preparing to individually welcome all the newcomers into the club. After a rousing game of Rook, New and Old men alike are put into groups. They are told that they must, as a group, choose and artistically interpret the music in a five-minute skit. Skits are awarded for most creative interpretation, best acting, and highest musical excellence with eternal glory.



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Gentlemen are slowly invited to join the ‘party room,’ where the Pre-Men can witness the glory of the fully-realized Men’s Glee Club home concert whilst snacking upon the finest of foods and beverages. One-at-a-time, Pre Men are ushered into the Final Room, where they travel through time and meet important members from the history of the Club. Many Old Men participate in this journey, including junior Paul Boersma with his stunning impression of Miss Virginia Graham.



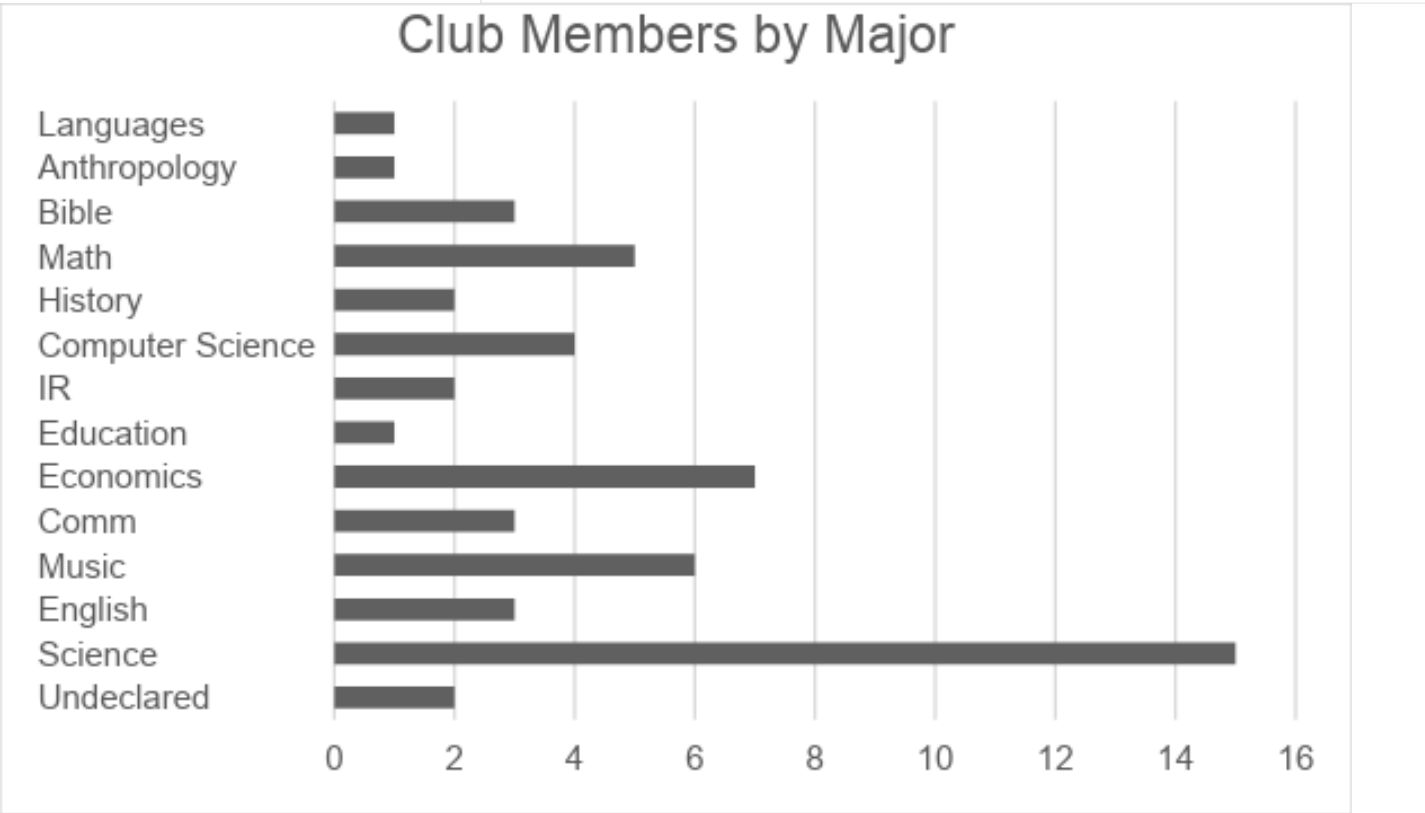
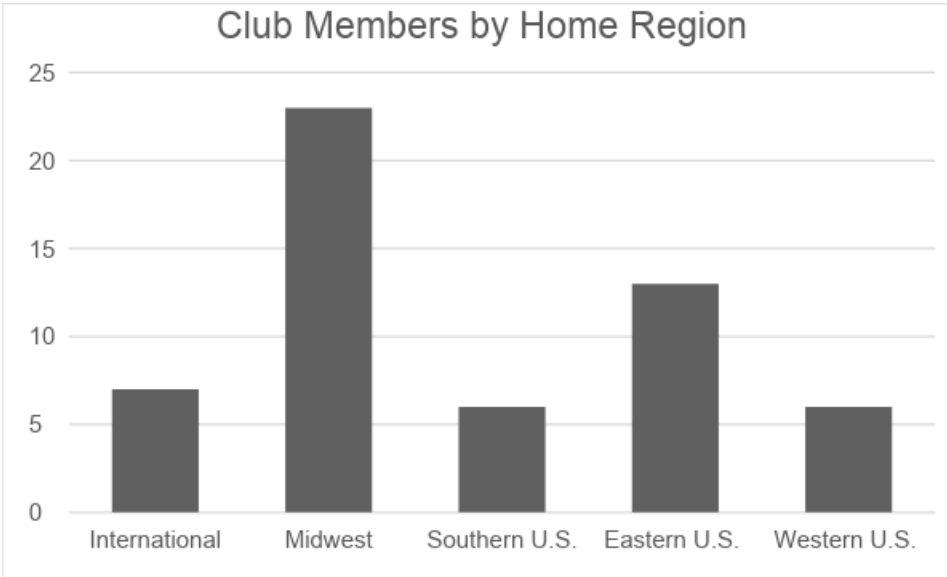
After a moment of prayer and exultation of the Pre Man and his journey into the Men’s Glee Club, the unsuspecting gentleman is declared to be a New Man. Much rejoicing follows. Once all the Pre Men are declared New Men, the three pillars of *Veritas*, *Integritas*, and *Fraternitas* are introduced and explained. Once the New Men have learned the basics of the Buxtawalk, the party is over, and all return to their places of rest with joy in their hearts.

As for this year’s New Man Party, I must say that this year was most truly unlike any other. The skits specifically from this year will always be fondly remembered. The rendition of the Wii Sports menu theme masterminded by senior Jiah McPadden was truly a sight to behold. As always, the New Man party was an utter hit, and a brilliant way to begin the 2018-2019 year with the Men’s Glee Club.

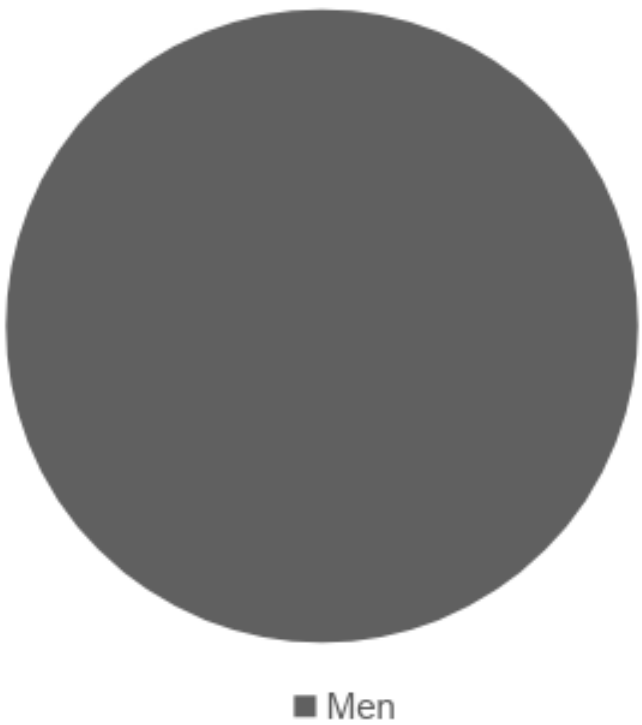


# Club Demographics

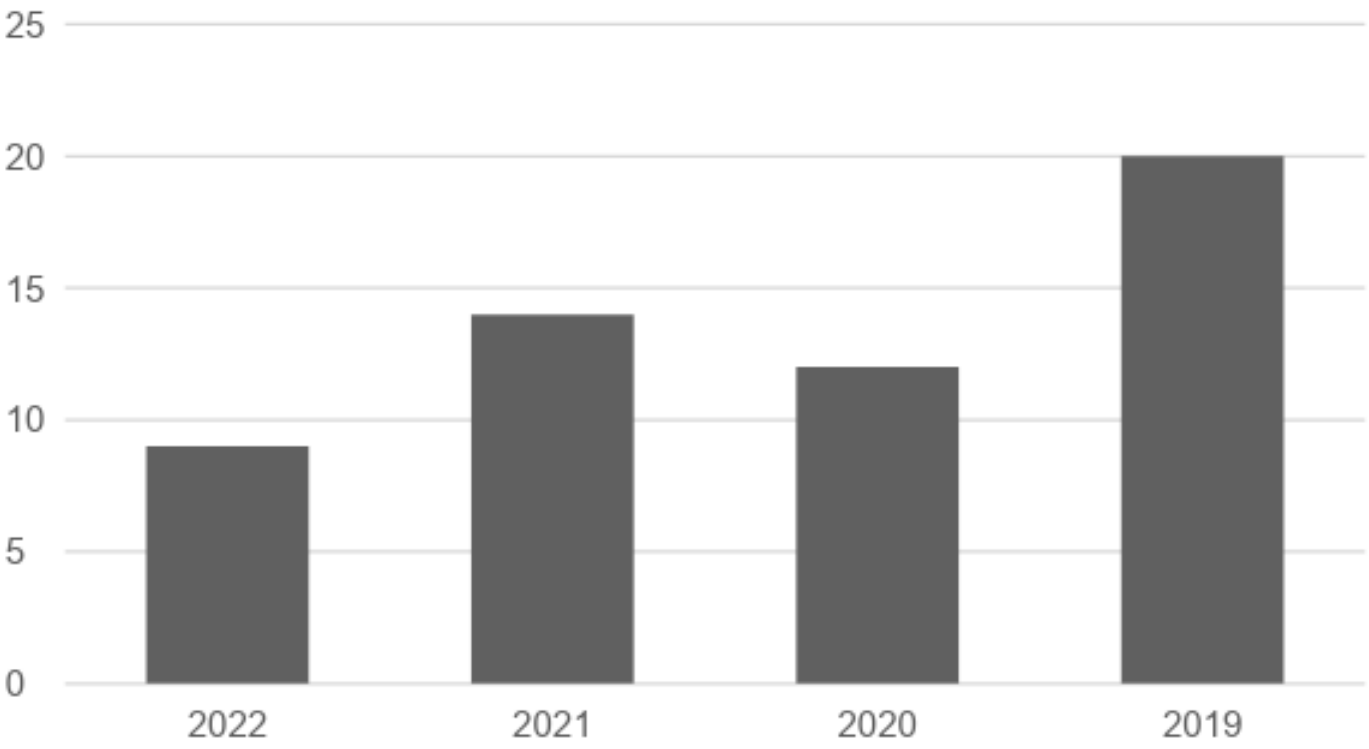
Total Clubbers: 56



Club Members by Gender



Club Members by Graduating Class



# A Brief Summary of the 2018 Chicago Tür

By 2018-2019 Club Secretary Tyler Long

The Tür started with a 3-hour rehearsal workshop in the new Armerding recital hall. Songs included “Blagoslovi,” “Tshosholoza,” and (of course) “E’en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come.” Halfway through this rehearsal, our Historian/Librarian Winsor Boggs gave a history presentation on how the New Man Party has changed over the years, and where the party is currently heading. Saturday was concluded with Buxte-food-a (our weekly club dinner) and Capture the Golden Cummerbund. The tenors maintained their victorious stewardship of the sacred relic.

Sunday marked the Glee Club’s first performances. In the morning, the club led worship at Immanuel Presbyterian Church (Dr.



Hopper’s church). After returning to campus for a quick lunch and change of attire, the Glee Club embarked on the 90-minute drive to Rockford, IL. There we joined Rockford Christian Academy’s high school choirs for a joint concert. It was a wonderful time of singing, encouragement, and reuniting with several Old Men from the Rockford area.

Monday saw the Glee Club travel to two additional venues. In the morning, Glee Club led chapel at Timothy Christian School, where we then led a workshop with the school’s high school band and choirs. The next concert was an afternoon performance and workshop with the high school choirs of Providence St. Mel. Providence St. Mel is a private school in East Garfield Park, Chicago. The school’s aim is to foster academic excellence for high-risk students in the Garfield Park area. In fact, the school has a 100% college acceptance rate among their graduating class, compared to 63% of their CPS peers. After the workshop, the Glee Club spent the evening exploring the area around Millennium Park in Chicago.

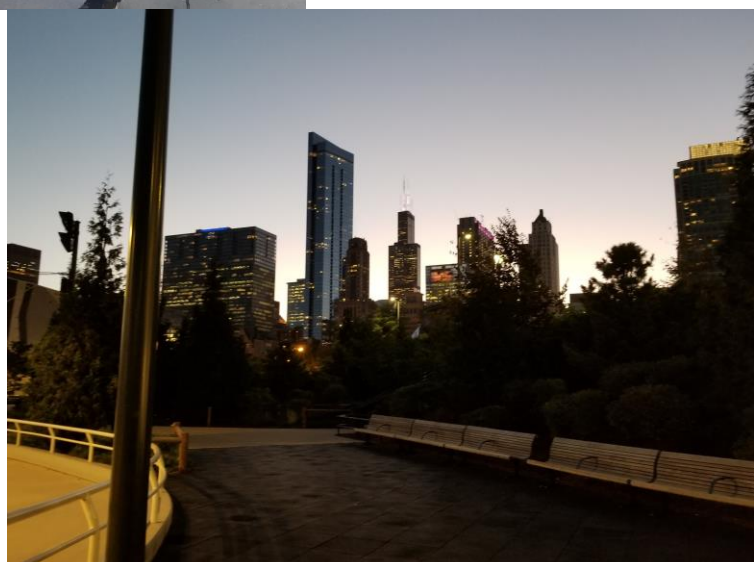
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Tuesday, the last day of TÜR, brought the Glee Club to Wheaton Academy, where we participated in a choral workshop and led chapel. Then, Glee Club gave our last performance of TÜR in a choral workshop at Glenbard East. As a final chapter, the usual course of chastisement (i.e., horseradish) was bestowed upon all who had brought such punishment on themselves by late arrivals (or sleeping through entire days of TÜR).



Over the course of the TÜR, many hijinks were had. Stories were told. Gifts were given. Awards were won (often unintentionally). But most importantly, Glee Club was able to sing for Christ before several hundred students. Please pray that God will use our work on TÜR to turn hearts to Him. May the Glee Club continue represent the brotherhood and fellowship of Christ as we boldly declare His praise through song.



## Michael Smith on Michael Smith

Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2018 five time platinum album seller Michael Whitaker Smith came to Wheaton College to perform a benefit concert. Michael W. Smith stated at the concert that he came in part because his wife is an alumnae, but mostly because he wanted to invest in a new generation of Christian musicians. As a Christian musician myself, I would like to attest to the sincerity of Smith’s statement. For the duration of the performance Michael W. was very humble and very genuine.

The concert was intended as a gift to future musicians, but I’m sure all of the students in attendance felt Smith’s performance alone was an incredible gift. Smith performed many heartfelt and genuine songs. Notably, he performed “*Above all*” as a tribute to Billy Graham. Students and patrons alike enjoyed the many auditory wonders that were emitted by Smith and the Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra. By performing a wide variety of songs, Smith kept audience members of all ages thoroughly entranced.

In the second half of the concert Smith was joined by the Wheaton College choral ensembles. Many students will attest that singing along with Michael W. was an absolute joy. By the end the audience, choirs and Michael W. Smith were on their feet worshipping with one another! Edman chapel was nearly brought to the ground as the ensembles reprised “Total Praise”. When all was said and done, many new men enjoyed their first circle up, many audience members left with hearts full, and many future musicians from Wheaton College were gifted a new music building. This Michael Smith was proud and honored to be a part of an incredible evening filled with generosity and passion for the Lord.

-Michael I. Smith



Men’s Glee Club, Women’s Chorale, Concert Choir, and Symphonic Band practice with Michael W. Smith and Director (Old Man) David Hamilton.



# A Bass-Tenor Football Rivalry

By: Matthew ReiskytI

On a sunny October afternoon, the basses and tenors gathered for the commencement of the 112<sup>th</sup> annual bass-tenor football game. The basses came in confidently with 111 years of victories in their back pocket, not expecting anything but another win, while the tenors dreamed that that day would be their first taste of victory since the beginning of time. After a beautiful rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by the Women’s Chorale and a prayer over safety and fun, the game a foot.

The 111<sup>th</sup> President of the Men’s Glee Club, Austin Odling, fought wild animals of many kinds, the 111<sup>th</sup> President of Vices, and the entire city of Chicago in order to arrive at the game to officiate it, and made it just in time for the opening kick-off. The first half included a steamrolling of Samuel Reich by the 300-pound meat train, James Graham, a pick six by Cole Bothun, and an absolutely enormous tackle by Michael Loewer. After a last-second touchdown for the basses by the 300-pound meat train himself, the score line was at a close 21-14.



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During half time, the tenors plotted their plan to defeat the basses in the second half, while the basses came up with an even better plan to further defeat the tenors. Then they were off. After a quick touchdown for the basses and some solid defense by both sides, the tenors recovered a fumble (all without the ball touching the ground) from El Presidente himself and were faced with the opportunity of a lifetime, that is, to tie the game. However, being trapped within their own backfield, Scott Moore and the tenors could not get out of their own endzone and were forced to punt. After that punt, a stellar one by Josh Adams Might I add, the basses soared onward by scoring three more touchdowns and many a time tricking the tenors defense by snapping the ball so poorly that the tenors knew not who to guard.

Immediately following the game, the Gentlemen of the Men’s Glee Club did not forget why they came out that day and gave thanks to the Lord for health and weather and brotherhood. After the basses were presented with Cupcake and pronounced the victors of the past 112 years of Bass-Tenor football, the members of the Men’s Glee Club and



Women’s Chorale ate delicious burgers, grilled to perfection by Cole Comfort and exchanged kind words of fellowship to one another, whilst reminiscing about the game that had just been played. Every member present, whether Tenor, Bass, Alto, or Soprano, and of course, our most high conductress (may she live forever), Dr. Hopper, left that field full of Veritas, Integritas, and Fraternitas, and also in desperate need of a shower. Go basses!



## A Call for Missions Prayer Requests

Gentlemen,

For the past 112 years great men have and gone from the Men's Glee Club of Wheaton College. However, though many no longer have their physical presence in each of our rehearsals, they are still a part of this brotherhood that will last the test of time. Each living by our core values of *Veritas, Integritas, and Fraternitas*.

These men have been called to all sorts of pursuits such as: Education, Business, Science, Politics, music, ministry, and many others. Today, however, I want to reach out specifically to those Old Men who became missionaries. In this new and (hopefully) ongoing section of the newsletter I want to put out a call for prayer requests, in order that as a brotherhood of Old Men, we could come alongside and encourage you through prayer. My hope is that we could share these requests here on the newsletter as well as on the Facebook page, however, if there are prayers you would rather keep with more "*Securitas*" than I would be more than happy to keep them just within our Old Man Board. Through these requests, I hope that we can all grow closer as a multi-generational community bound by the fact that we share a similar experience. If you are an Old Man in missions, or know of one and have a prayer request (or few), then please don't hesitate to email me at: [cole.comfort@my.wheaton.edu](mailto:cole.comfort@my.wheaton.edu) or feel free to post it straight onto the Facebook page which you can find a link to on page 14.

This is a special community that one would be hard pressed to find anywhere else. And so with that I urge you to take the opportunity of being in this group to it's fullest potential. Because, you can't have opportunity, with out unity!

In Fraternitas,

Cole Comfort, Your Alumni Relations Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next largest event for Old Men is the Glee Club Home concert with reception in April. It is sure to be a great time of singing, meeting new friends, and reconnecting with old ones. More info to come later, but we are already excited to see you there!

Not Connected?

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



Fall 2018 – Spring 2019  
Glee Club CALENDAR

**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
Glee Club Christmas party and exchanging of Relics.

**April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
*The Men's Glee Club Spring Home Concert as well as Old Man reception following the concert. Join us for singing true Glee Club songs as well as the best fellowship you'll ever get after ward. Concert starts at 7:30pm in the College Church Sanctuary, we hope to see you there!*

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 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.

Find us on 