

# THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION

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



## THANKS BE TO GOD AND THE OLD MEN OF THE GLEE CLUB

By George Eichelberger, '18

Gentlemen, Thank you.

This last Thanksgiving day, I had so much to be grateful for. I was standing alongside some of my best friends, singing out praises to God in Hainan, China, at the end of a tour that will go down as one of my best memories in my entire time at Wheaton College.

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## THANKS BE TO GOD AND THE OLD MEN OF THE GLEE CLUB

There is something truly special about a tour with the Men's Glee Club. The 14-hour plane rides, the 4-hour bus rides, the non-stop singing, and the non-stop adventure – all of it served to develop bonds of fraternity that have changed the way I see my fellow brothers in the Glee Club.

This past Thanksgiving, however, I was not just giving thanks for the opportunity to sing in China with the Glee Club. I was also giving thanks for the resources that were given to me so that I could be there in the first place.

Gentlemen, I am so incredibly grateful for the immense support that you all showed the current members of the Club by providing so generously to help support our trip to China. I wish you all could have been there to see the hooting, hollering, and jumping up and down that went on when we announced that **over \$18,000 had been raised by Old Men for the China tour.**

Your generosity is why we were able to have this incredible, unforgettable experience. Your support allowed the brotherhood of the Club to flourish in a way that is totally unique to a tour. Your giving allowed us to sing out the gospel to many who likely had never heard it before. For many of the men in Club, your monetary support was a direct answer to prayer. You all made this trip possible.

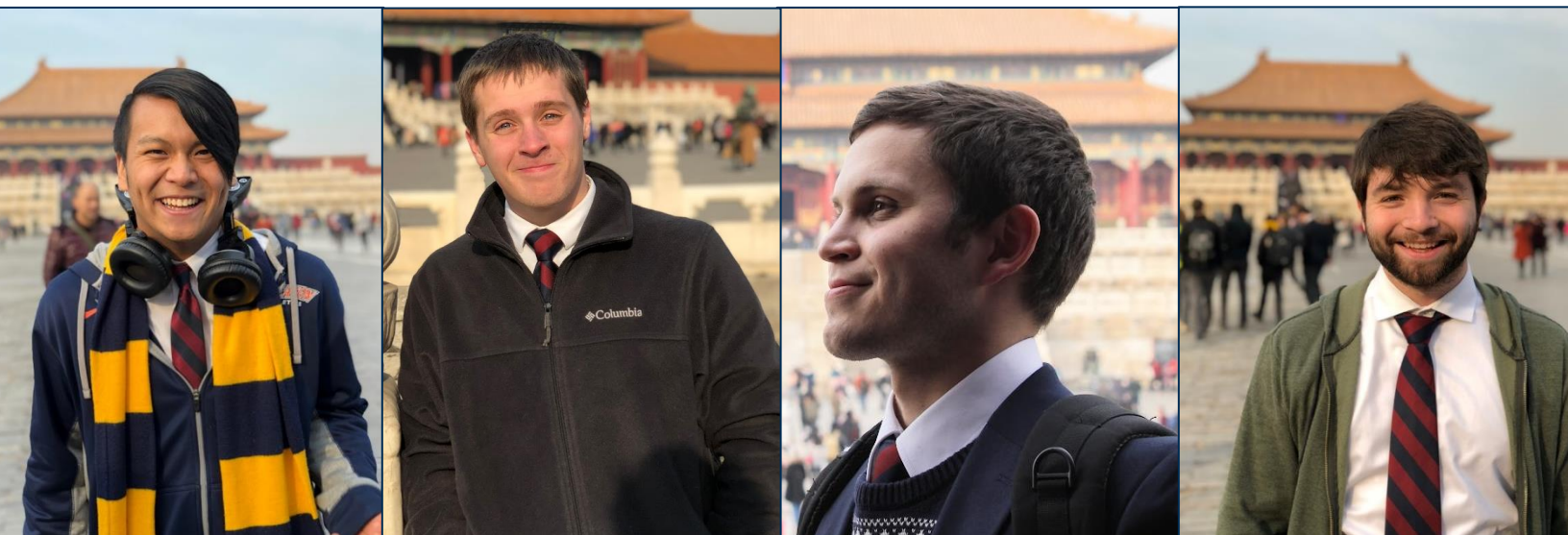
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As a way to celebrate this incredible tour, we have compiled a few stories and pictures from our journey to share with you in this newsletter. We hope that these glimpses into the tour will help communicate to you the incredible impact that your giving has had on the life of the Club.

For all of this, I can only say thanks be to God and the Old Men of the Glee Club. I am so blessed to be a part of such an incredible group of brothers.

George Eichelberger, '18

Alumni Relations Chair



## STORIES FROM CHINA TOUR 2017

**Lucas Anholzer, '18**

“Being a part of the Men’s Glee Club’s China Tour this November was one of the best experiences I have had while at Wheaton College. I have little international experience and have never left the United States for musical purposes, so this trip was such an amazing opportunity. Because of this, it is really difficult to identify a sole moment on the trip as my favorite. As a group, we were able to see so many amazing sites, and meet some fantastic people. However, if I were forced to single out a moment on the trip that I will treasure the most, I would have to say it came during our tour of the Forbidden City.

The tour itself was fantastic, walking where former Emperors carried out their days was amazing, and to be immersed into that history was incredible. However, that experience pales in comparison to a moment that occurred later in the tour.

As our tour was concluding, we took a moment to see the Forbidden City’s Opera House. While basking in the glory of this beautiful building, Dr. Hopper had the wonderful idea (she tends to have a lot of those) that we should sing a piece at the steps of this opera house. We assembled together and performed *E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*. At first, there were only a few citizens and tourists with us at the Opera House, but as our singing continued, the size of our crowd swelled.

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In that moment, it occurred to me that we were singing a song proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, in the center of the Forbidden City, which housed dynasties that subscribed to Taoism and Buddhism, in the middle of the capital of China, where the name of Jesus is not often heard.

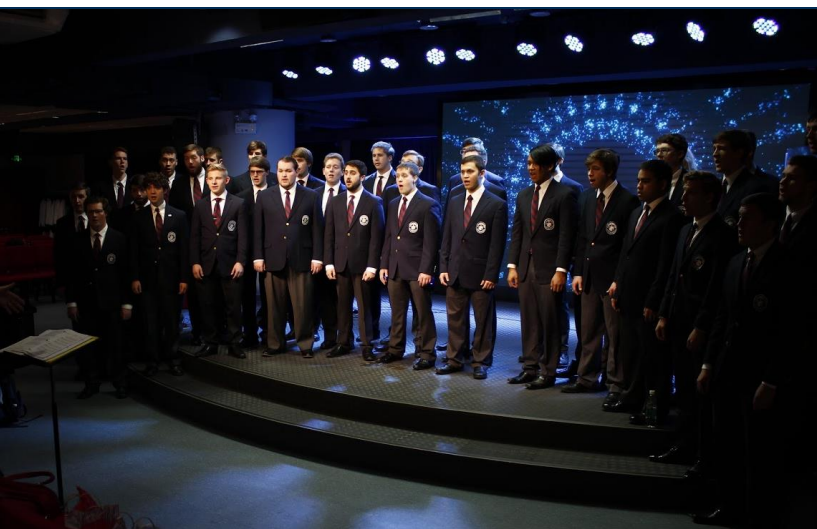
This single moment opened my eyes to the rarity of what we as a club were able to do during this trip. That is, proclaim the gospel through song in places that rarely have the opportunity to hear the good news. I am grateful that I was able to make this observation in the midst of the trip, rather than upon reflection once our work was done. It helped me keep the right mindset as we went about our performances and travel.”



## Austin Odling, '18

“My favorite moment during the China tour came during one of our first days there. We attended a Mandarin church service at an international church in Beijing. They sang the doxology as one of their worship songs and it was awesome to sing along with them in English while they sang in Mandarin. But the moment that really hit me came at the end.

We happened to be there in a day in which *over 40 people* were baptized at the church. Seeing these people be so excited in their new lives really reminded me that the body of Christ is global. We'll live our entire lives a world apart, but these newly baptized Christians are brothers and sisters with us for the rest of eternity. That was the best moment of the entire trip for me.”

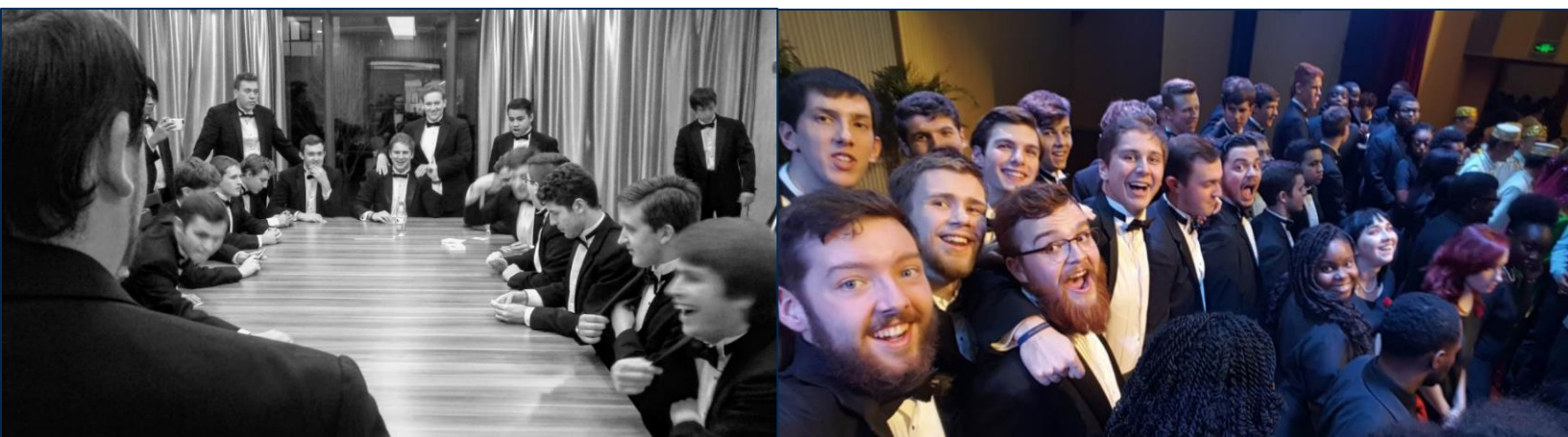


## Aiden Smith, '18

“China was a formative experience for me. I have traveled abroad many times before: Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and South America. None of these trips really prepared me for our recent trip to China. The people we interacted with in China were friendly, the country was beautiful and exciting, and the food was... interesting... all in all a fun experience.

On my other trips, it had taken me a day or two to understand what to expect, and to get in the swing of the culture. On this trip, things were constantly changing, so unexpectedly that I never really got a grasp on the rhythm of our trip. For me, this led to some frustration.

Despite the frustration and confusion, however, I feel like the trip really helped me grow, not only personally, but it helped me grow closer to the rest of the Glee Club. Since we never really got to immerse ourselves in the culture, we spent our time bonding and getting to know one another. I am incredibly thankful for the relationships I developed on this trip. Despite some frustrating moments, ultimately, I came out of it all the better.”



## Adam Reiskytl, '19

“My favorite thing about the China tour was the many opportunities we had to experience music from all different countries. We were able to hear all kinds of different sounds, ranging from a Russian children's choir to the Hainan University choir. All these groups were different. There were different styles of music, different dress, different overall appearance, different sound, and many other things different between one group and the next. However, the differences were not what amazed me - it was the similarities that blew me away.

The unifying power of music was palpable at these concerts. I couldn't speak their language. I did not look like them. They grew up on different parts of the globe, and my life probably looked absolutely nothing like theirs. Yet, when I watched them make music I understood them, at least partially. I connected with people I may never have connected to in any other way. This moment of connection, minute and seemingly insignificant was filled with meaning. This made the experience a once in a lifetime encounter with other cultures and peoples.”





## Michael Smith, '20

“For one hundred and eleven years the Men’s Glee Club has been sharing its music with the world. For one hundred and eleven years, the Men’s Glee Club has upheld tradition. This year, the Men’s Glee Club got to share some of this tradition with the far off country of China. Over the years the traditions, phrases, and members of the Glee Club have changed. One change that happened this year was a change to the Old Man Party. While some parts of the tradition were dropped, the most important part of the tradition was upheld:

At 2:00 A.M. on the northern beaches of Hainan, China, 40 members of the Wheaton College Men’s Glee Club prayed. They prayed for recently welcomed Old Men. They prayed for their friends back home. They prayed that members would be truthful and loving towards one another. Most importantly, the Club prayed that they would honor the Lord and spread His love. They prayed that God would be at the center of the Men’s Glee Club.

I am thankful for the many crazy traditions of the Club and I am glad they will carry on. Yet, standing by the ocean at 2:00 A.M., half-way across the world, I saw what I am most grateful for: a group of young men dedicated to loving and honoring the Lord.”



## ANNOUNCING THE OLD MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Since 1907, Old Men from all walks of life have utilized their gifts to demonstrate veritas, integritas, and fraternitas in the world to the glory of Christ and his kingdom. In appreciation of the immense contributions that Old Men have made to both to the Club and to society at large, the Old Man Association will begin honoring one exemplary alumnus of the Glee Club each year with its Old Man of the Year award.

This award will recognize particular men who have demonstrated excellence through distinctive accomplishment in society or extraordinary contribution to the life of the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club. Nominations may be submitted before March 2, 2018 by selecting the link below. Nominations will be considered by the Old Man Association, and the recipient will be announced at the Glee Club Home Concert on April 13, 2018.

Successful nominees will meet the following criteria:

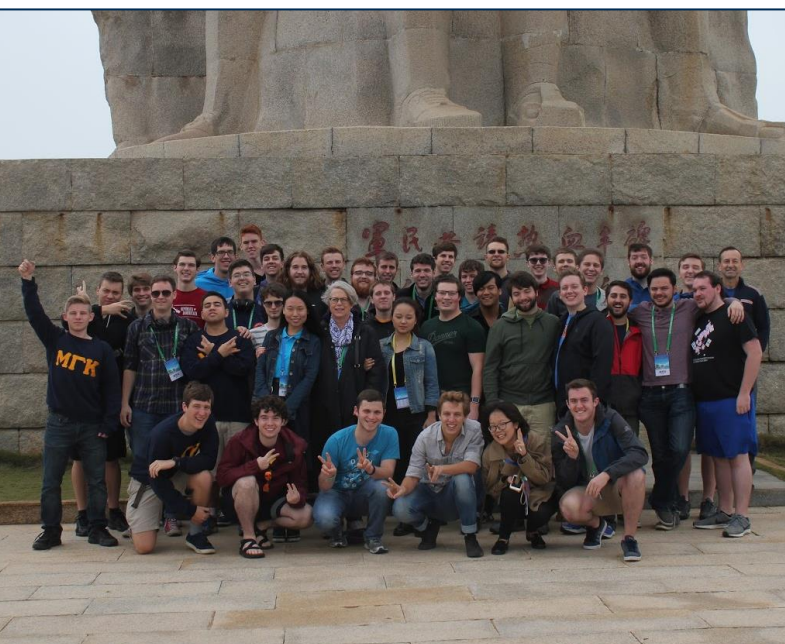
- Was formally identified as an "Old Man" during his time as a student member of the Men's Glee Club;
- Demonstrates Christian character based on Biblical principles in his life and conduct;

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- Is characterized by excellence through distinctive accomplishment in society that is easily recognized by their peers, or by extraordinary contribution to the life of the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club subsequent to graduation from Wheaton College.
- Must be present at the Spring Home Concert to receive the award publicly.

SUBMIT A  
NOMINATION

Any questions or concerns can be sent to the Old Man Association via email at [mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu](mailto:mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't miss home concert this coming April! The Old Man Association will once again be hosting a reception following the concert for all Old Men, current members of the Club, and their families. We will look forward to seeing you there!

At home concert, the recipient of the Old Man of the Year award will be announced. Remember to submit your nominations **before March 2, 2018.**



## SPRING 2018 CALENDAR

**March 2, 2018**

*Deadline for Old Man of the Year Award Nominations*

**April 13, 2018**

*MGC Home Concert and Old Man Association Reception*

## 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 