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2013 Common Book Convocation: Conor Grennan, author of "Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal."

Conor Grennan

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THOMAS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SERIES

The Thomas Academic Excellence Series is a program established by alumna and loyal supporter of Otterbein, Mary B. Thomas '28 (1907-1999). Her endowment was presented in honor of her parents, Fred N. and Emma B. Thomas.

The Thomas Academic Excellence Series is intended to create intellectual excitement and strengthen bonds on campus by providing a shared academic experience for many. The Series starts with summer orientation and New Student Week and continues with First Year Seminar courses and programs throughout the year. All these events create a conversation about the year's academic theme.

Mary B. Thomas graduated "cum laude" from Otterbein University in 1928 and had a lasting love of literature. An English major, Miss Thomas won the Bames Short Story Award and several other literary prizes. She entered Otterbein after spending one year at Denison University. She studied journalism at the University of Wisconsin and received her master's degree in English literature from The Ohio State University in 1933.

While an undergraduate at Otterbein Miss Thomas belonged to the Philalethean Literary Society, Sigma Alpha Tau sorority and Quiz and Quill.

She was a member of the Church of the Master, Phi Delta Gamma and the New Century Club. She served as an officer at the local, state and regional levels of the American Association of University Women, was a life member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and was a member of the Westerville Memorial Library Board. Her service to the library board included holding the offices of treasurer, vice-president and president.

Formerly employed in the treasurer's office of the University, Miss Thomas was an active member of the Otterbein Board of Trustees from 1960-1979. During that time, she served as secretary of the board and as a member of the Executive Committee. In 1979, the Board passed a resolution citing her leadership and the generosity, diversity and magnitude of her service. The resolution also named her an Honorary Trustee.

In 1977, Miss Thomas was named the Westerville Otterbein Women's Club "Woman of the Year." The award was presented to her in recognition of her "unselfish dedication and loyalty to Otterbein."

Miss Thomas was a donor to the University from the formation of the Development Board in 1948 until her death in November 1999. A member of the President's Club, she participated in many capital campaigns over the years. She donated her house to Otterbein when she moved to Friendship Village in 1979.

Her hobbies included photography, stamp collecting and travel; she visited five continents. She also owned an impressive collection of postcards depicting scenes of Westerville and Otterbein.

The Thomas Academic Excellence Series *presents*



Conor Grennan

author of the
2013 Common Book,
*Little Princes: One Man's Promise
to Bring Home the Lost Children
of Nepal*

Tuesday, October 1 • 3 p.m.
Fritsche Theatre at Cowan Hall

About Conor Grennan
Author of
*Little Princes: One Man's Promise
to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal*

Conor Grennan is the founder of Next Generation Nepal (NGN), a nonprofit organization dedicated to reconnecting trafficked children with their families in post-war Nepal, and the author of the *New York Times* best-selling memoir *Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal*. *Little Princes* has been shortlisted for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, was nominated for the Goodreads 2011 Best Travel and Outdoors Award, is a #1 international best-seller, and has been translated into twelve languages. Grennan has been recognized by *The Huffington Post* as a 2011 Game Changer in Education and Impact.

Conor Grennan spent eight years at the EastWest Institute (EWI), both in Prague and the EU Office in Brussels. During that time, he developed and managed a wide variety of projects focusing on issues such as peace and reconciliation in the Balkans, community development in Central Eastern Europe, and harmonizing anti-trafficking policy at the highest levels of government in the European Union and the former Yugoslavia in cooperation with the top experts in the field. In 2001 he was made Deputy Director of EWI's Program on Security and Good Governance, and served as the Advisor on EU Affairs to EWI's Worldwide Security Program.

Conor left EWI in 2004 on an around the world trip, during which he volunteered in the Little Princes Children's Home in the village of Godawari, Nepal. When he learned that the children in the home were not orphans, but were in fact trafficked, he moved to Kathmandu, Nepal, and started Next Generation Nepal, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reconnecting trafficked children with their families.

Grennan is a citizen of the U.S. and Ireland and was based in Kathmandu, Nepal, until October 2007. He is now on the Board of Directors of NGN. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the NYU Stern School of Business, where he served as president of the student body. Currently he resides in California with his wife and two children.

Convocation Etiquette

- Silence your cell phone and refrain from any cell phone use (web surfing, text messaging, etc).
- Do not talk or whisper during the program.
- Stay until the end of the program. (If you absolutely must leave, wait until a break in the program, or a time when everyone is standing to minimize the disruption.)

The Thomas Academic Excellence Series presents

Conor Grennan

Welcome	Dr. Alison Prindle
Recognition of Miss Mary B. Thomas, Class of '28.....	Dr. Alison Prindle
Introduction of Mr. Grennan.....	Ms. Victoria Timmons
Keynote Address.....	Mr. Conor Grennan
Concluding Remarks	Dr. Alison Prindle

A complimentary reception and book signing will be held following the lecture in Roush Hall, Fisher Gallery.

The reception is sponsored by the common book committee on behalf of the Thomas Academic Excellence Series.

The taking of photographs during the lecture is strictly prohibited.