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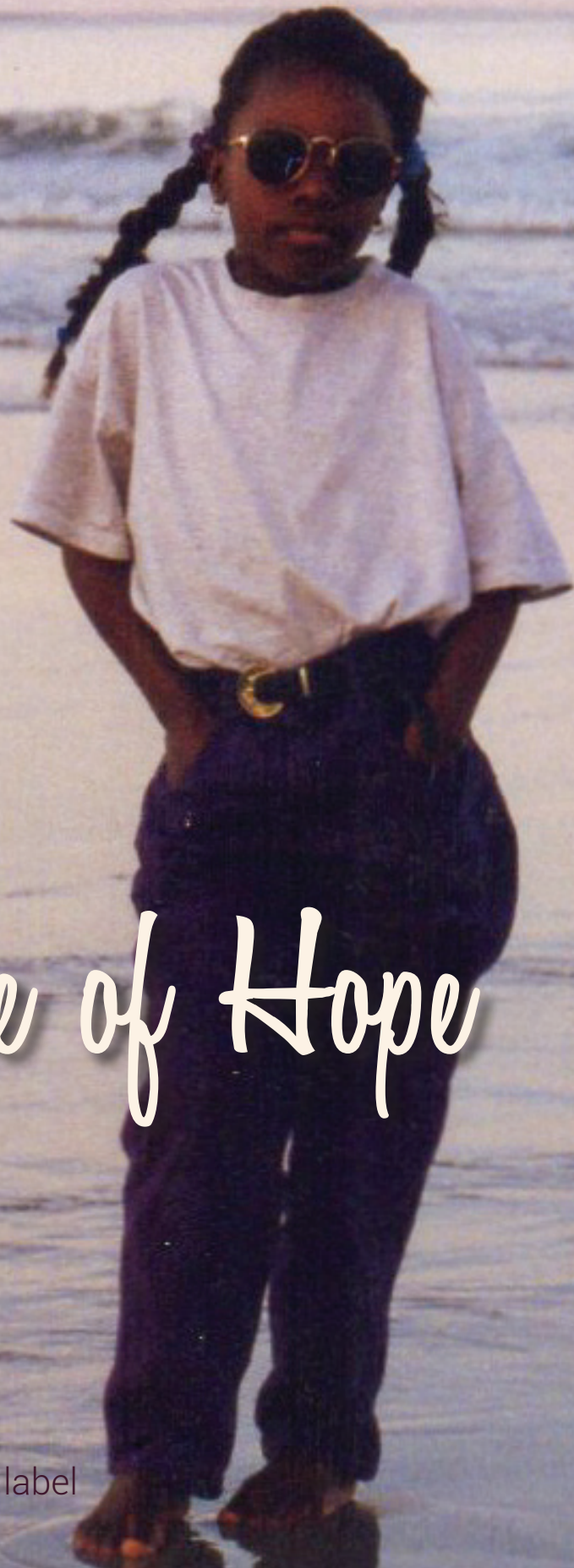
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ISSUE THREE SPRING 2014



A Degree of Hope

remembering
Alima Kasongo

also in this issue

The key to living off campus

Discover Otterbein's recording label

How a set comes together

editorial staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Josh Park

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rebecca Knopf

STAFF WRITERS

Danielle Lanning

Grace Lenehan

Lindsay Paulsen

Natasha Shorts

Katie Taggart

Emily Wells

COPY WRITERS

Kevin Gebura

Logan Meyst

Justin Roberts

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Hall

ART DEPARTMENT

Andrew Beers

Stephanie Parker

BUSINESS MANAGER

Nicole Kostiuik

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policies

The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the faculty and administration of Otterbein University.

T&C Magazine is a student publication. One hundred percent of the production, editing and design is done by the students.

The first copy of T&C Magazine is free to the public. Each additional copy is \$3 and payment can be made at the office at 33 Collegeview Road, Westerville, OH 43081. Offenders will be prosecuted.

cover photo // Picture features Alima Kasongo, shown at approximately age nine. Shortly after earning her bachelor's degree, Alima passed away from cancer.

This version of the magazine has been edited.



WISE WORDS:

from the editor

As you go from the crosswalk to Towers Hall, recognize that everything from the concrete sidewalks to the trees plotted around the building were once blueprints on a sheet of paper.

This issue of the T&C Magazine focuses on how we create in our everyday lives, whether we know it or not. It could be something physical, tangible, like the lighting, sound, design and costumes that are major components of what we view on stage of a theater production. Maybe it's the collaboration of singer and producer to arrange a track. But it may not even be something artistic – or even something we can hold or see. We create an experience, like going through the process of developing a personalized major that fits your needs. Or maybe it's how students can go about creating a healthier lifestyle, both physically and mentally. It can also be all those moments we share with others. The magazine's longest piece explores how one student pursuing her degree despite cancer managed to create a sense of unity for students and faculty.

I hope you enjoy reading. And at the risk of sounding too meta, the staff did an amazing job creating a magazine on the subject of creating.

Josh Park
Editor-in-chief



photo // andrew beers



photo // andrew beers



photo // andrew beers

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Nervous about finding a job after graduating? The percentage of currently employed alumni might make you feel a bit better.



Decisions

past and present

story by // logan meyst

Otterbein Senate may have its problems, but the structure could be changing within the upcoming year. The Governance Review Commission was approved on Feb. 19 to continue developing a new model for campus governance.

Traditionally, Otterbein's Senate has involved students, faculty and administrators in the major decisions of the university. Ideally, this would also mean Senate would be comprised of an equal number of Otterbein faculty and students, which highly contrasts with Otterbein's Senate as it stands today. While there is equal opportunity in Senate, students are underrepresented due to supposed disinterest and lack of student elections that have been replaced with an application process for open seats.

In the past, Otterbein's governance system was considered "the most advanced in the entire establishment of higher education" by Dr. Earl J. McGrath, the former U.S. Commissioner of Education, as reported in a September 1970 issue

of the Tan and Cardinal newspaper.

The governance system McGrath was describing consisted of the Board of Trustees, which acted, as it still does, as the executive decision maker for all governance as it made decisions that affected Senate. This advanced governance system was first drafted and approved in 1947, and the current Senate configuration was added in 1970.

John Stefano, theater and dance professor, chairman of the faculty council executive committee and an active member of Senate, said he thinks the proposed new governance system will return Otterbein to its former glory as an institution with an advanced governance system equally representative of students and faculty. "I think the new governance model has a chance of moving us forward and recapturing the spirit of the system that was set up in the 1970s, which was revolutionary at the time," he said.

While involved in Senate, Stefano has worked on issues involving faculty sabbatical, faculty

benefit compensation, the replacement of J-term with Cardinal term and the restructuring of Senate. Stefano said that each of these issues — with the exception of the sabbatical issue — are still being discussed.

Senate was ran, as it is today, under a network of committees and subcommittees that present new proposals, among other duties.

The Governance Review Commission was formed to revamp Senate's structure. Stefano, along with Nikki Sherbahn, a junior business management major and a member of both Senate and the Board of Trustees, and Charmaine Mosley, a sophomore nursing major and member of Senate, are each members on this commission. "We will (be able to) make more decisions more quickly under the new governance system," Stefano said.

The registered student-to-faculty ratio, according to the Senate section of Otterbein's website, is close to 4:3. However, of the 199 committee seats that are currently filled in Senate,



only 45 are listed as students. This gives students significantly less power in Senate, increasing the demand for the Governance Review Commission to give students a more appropriate amount of decision-making power.

Governance Review Commission will work to continue developing a different model for Senate with the hope that it will be restored to be more inclusive of students, hopefully becoming similar to Senate during the '60s and '70s.

Otterbein's Senate has had its critics, as many remember — student elections, heated controversies and constructive and effective discussion between staff, administrators and students.

Sherbahn views her participation in Senate as helpful to her future career goals. She said that she feels her experience in Senate has helped further her skills in the workplace. In an email, she said, "Being able to express personal opinions in a professional manner is vital in today's work environment."

Sherbahn said that being both a student trustee and a senator helps her to bridge the gap between students and the Board of Trustees. "This is a

great opportunity for me to see the university at multiple levels and also to provide student insight on current issues at hand. Otterbein has had a foundation for many years that runs on student involvement and representation."

Mosley joined Senate in order to understand the governance system at Otterbein, she said in an email. "Since decisions are made for the students, I think it is important to communicate my or other students' input and opinions," Mosley said. "I think every student should join to understand what happens when changes are made and how they are made."

To get involved in Senate contact Lisa Lee at llee@otterbein.edu. &



A 1971 Tan and Cardinal newspaper announcing new student Senate structure. // danielle lanning

Students design *unique* majors

story by // josh park

Brie Lovensheimer sat at the head of an oval table, sleep deprived due to preparation for a meeting that decided her future at Otterbein. She looked into the faces of between 15 and 20 faculty members, recognizing only one professor she had before, and she defended why she didn't want to pursue a major in marketing, science or any other major besides art history. With a faculty member at her side, she answered rounds of questions for why art history — a nonexistent major according to the course catalog — would benefit her. She described the process of proposing her major to this board as daunting, seeing as how if her proposal was denied, she would need to either seek a new major or a new university.

Students have the option to essentially create their own major or minor in a process known as individualizing. Majors and minors not offered at Otterbein could be added to a student's degree as long as there are classes available to fit the proposed program.

Giving this possibility to students allows them to take control of their education, according to Kate Lehman, assistant dean for student success.

"From a practical standpoint, it allows students to design a major they are most interested in

and be able to walk away with a degree they're really passionate about," Lehman said. "(Students) design an experience that matches their needs and interests and ultimate goals."

Majors that tend to be individualized most often are those that are offered at other colleges, according to Lehman. If Otterbein provides core classes toward that major, and if faculty are interested in the topic, there is a higher likelihood of being able to individualize. Before women's, gender and sexuality studies was a possible major, enough women's studies minors individualized to turn the minor into a major. Enough student interest can push the campus to act, Lehman said.

As of the beginning of spring semester, the Institutional Research Office counted for nine students registered with individualized majors and 29 with individualized minors.

Hannah Ewald, a junior WGSS major, has been interested in how feminism and religion

intersect. While she plans to go into the ministry, she avoided majoring in religion because of the extra four years she would spend in seminary school. However, she incorporated elements of theology in her individualized major, peace and social justice.

Being a tour guide, Ewald is often asked her major. While she discloses that she majors in

WGSS, she said she hesitates when bringing up her individualized major.

"Sometimes it's kind of off-putting to get people's responses," Ewald said. "I see how it works. It works for me. I see how it's going to impact my life and fulfill my passions."

After graduation, Lovensheimer, a junior, plans to go to graduate school,

"(Students) design an experience that matches their needs and interests and ultimate goals."

- kate lehman // assistant dean for student success

focusing on museum studies in fields of either curating, archiving, preservation or restoration. Finding a school to accompany her plans to work in this field was challenging because few schools in Ohio offer an art history major, and those that do are typically larger schools. She said she came

Brie Lovensheimer described the process of getting her individualized major proposal review as daunting. As faculty members tried to dissect the arguments of her proposal, Lovensheimer and her adviser defended why the major was important. // josh park



into Otterbein with the intent to do art history, but considered the possibility to double major in history and art when art history wasn't offered. However, time constraints were a large factor in completing both degrees.

Originally a history major with an art history minor, she sought the opportunity to cater her education more toward her future goals. As Otterbein's first art history major, she said this might be a competitive edge on other graduate school applicants.

Unlike choosing traditional degree programs, which Lovensheimer described as merely clicking an item from a dropdown menu, the process of individualizing a major is much more rigorous. Students must go through a series of hurdles to get the major they want.

It begins with research. Lehman said students will typically look at other colleges' programs to determine what majors or minors best fit their interests. Upon finding the right program, a faculty member must endorse you. A packet of information must then be completed before the end of the student's sophomore year containing a personal statement on why the student wishes to individualize, as well as a recommendation letter from a faculty member and two members outside of Otterbein to pass judgment on the program. These two members can be faculty members of other colleges who could be considered specialists. Also included in this packet is a list of classes the student has previously taken and a projected schedule of classes to take that fit within the major or minor, which was possibly the most difficult part of the process, Lovensheimer said.

In order to be eligible for an individualized major, students must budget 52 credit hours of work remaining toward the 128 credit hours necessary to complete a degree. This typically implies that the student must be a sophomore at the latest.

"I think going through the individualizing process — I don't know that it's so much the output of the major that's really important or beneficial to employers, but I think students having initiated the process, done the research and followed through on that," Lehman said. "In some ways it's the process more than the product that's really valuable."

The final step of the process is the approval of the individualized major or minor through the Curriculum Committee, a standing committee of Senate that considers topics pertaining to undergraduate curriculum.

"If I didn't make it (through Curriculum Committee), I couldn't have this major," Lovensheimer said. "They're holding your child in their hands, and they're there not to rip it apart almost, but to rip it apart."

Susan Millsap, chair to the Curriculum Committee, said the purpose of meeting with the student is to see that the student succeeds.

"The committee likes to see the student's commitment to the major and make sure they understand the requirements to be met," Millsap said.



Hannah Ewald plans to use her WGSS major, as well as her individualized major in peace and social justice, to understand how feminism and religion relate to one another. She plans to become a minister after college, like her mom and grandparents. // [josh park](#)

At the end of the committee, faculty vote on whether to approve or deny the proposal while the student is still in the meeting. Ultimately, every member hearing her case voted to approve Lovensheimer's proposal.

While a student has yet to be denied a proposal, Millsap said there are instances where a student could be.

"A student might be denied if the program they put together is not truly unique," Millsap said. "The student also needs to be able to articulate desired learning goals from their individualized approach. The committee looks to see that the courses that they have put together do indeed help them to meet their goals."

For Michelle Dippold, a 2013 alumna, an individualized major in environmental sociology aligned directly with her interests. Dippold said she felt discouraged because the major didn't exist at Otterbein and was only offered at the graduate level. However, she was determined to pursue with individualizing after swimming with whale sharks, manta rays and other marine life at the Georgia Aquarium.

Currently enrolled in graduate school at the University of South Carolina, Dippold holds a graduate assistantship with a group of student leaders who promote environmental and sustainability issues on campus.

"This GA has allowed me to combine my passions for the environment with my passions for higher education," Dippold said. "It was essentially a perfect fit for me and my individualized major."

By creating her own major, Dippold said she had the opportunity to control her own educational experience.

"Individualizing your major is an incredibly unique and worthwhile experience for Otterbein students. It takes time and effort to put a major together, but it is an opportunity that does not exist on many college campuses," she said. "It is a great

option to guide your own education and build a program that aligns with the professional goals you have set for yourself." &



Q&A: Alumni with cool careers

story by // rebecca knopf

If you are having nerves about your career opportunities after graduation, have no fear. There are jobs out there, and believe it or not, some cool ones that Otterbein graduates have snagged shortly after graduating. To advise, inspire and instill confidence in your quest for a job, introduced below are graduates who have found success in their fields. Two of those alumni are Heather Weekley, from the class of 2011, and Paul Davis, from the class of 2006. Below, read a quick snapshot into their professional lives:

Assistant Editor at Capital Style magazine

In 2011, Heather Weekley, a broadcasting major and public relations minor, walked across the Otterbein graduation stage having just applied for her first real job. Three weeks later she walked into her first day on the job as editorial assistant at the Columbus magazine, Capital Style. A promotion in 2013 to assistant editor has made her into one excellent Otterbein alumni success story.

Associate Creative Director at Ologie

Starting with an internship his senior year, Paul Davis was able to make connections in the branding and visual communications industry. His internship turned into an entry-level job which, three years later, led him to work for The Limited. When Ologie, a branding agency located in downtown Columbus, called asking him to be a senior designer on their team, Davis jumped at the opportunity. Only six months later he was promoted to associate creative director. Now, Davis is able to make a living with his art major and be a part of a company with a diverse and unique lineup of clients.

What was the most difficult thing about going from an educational setting to a professional setting?

Weekley: Being in an office for eight-plus hours a day. You never realize how lucky you are to have free time during the day in college until you start working. I had to learn how to fit things like working out and grabbing coffee with friends into my schedule before and after work. You lose the ability to head to the gym at 10 a.m. in between classes. But on the other hand, it's so nice not to worry about homework or studying for exams on the weekends and during the evenings.

What was your favorite aspect of college?

Davis: The people and friendships you make. The experiences, good and bad, that shape you. Most importantly, the naps.

What do you think made you stand out from other applicants for your position?

Weekley: Experience. I can't stress enough how important it is to have several internships during college — I learned just as much, if not more, from my internships than I did in some of my classes. The real world experience is invaluable, and it's never too early to get started. If you're not quite sure exactly what you want to do, internships are a great way to figure out what you like and don't like about your field of study.

Davis: For my current job, there was no "accepting applications" process. It was all based on a reference and word of mouth. Sometimes the best job openings aren't announced; they're filled based on network connections and who is making an impact in their field. And again, that shows you how important it is to be involved and active in your industry.

What is the "coolest" aspect of your position?

Weekley: I love that every day is different. Some days I'm in the office all day, but other times I get to be out and about, conducting interviews or visiting stores around Columbus. The variety is awesome because I'm never bored.

Davis: We work with financial, health care, retail and higher education institutions, so we're always getting to work and create in new arenas. Traveling to Arizona to work with a university on a TV commercial, or driving to Pittsburgh

NAME: Heather Weekley
MAJOR: Broadcasting
MINOR: Public Relations
GRADUATED: 2011
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES:
Sigma Alpha Tau Sorority
2010-11 president
2011-14 alumnae president
Secretary of Panhellenic Council
2008-11
Otterbein Host & Tour Guide
Lambda Pi Eta honorary
Catholic ACTS
Alpha Lambda Delta/
Phi Eta Sigma honorary



provided photo // tessa berg



to help a financial client with a new marketing campaign, or attending Columbus arts events to help a local nonprofit better understand their audience market — the types of people, products and insights we get to experience seem to be endless. And I have the privilege of doing all of this with some amazingly talented folks. It's definitely not a desk job. We're constantly immersing ourselves together as a team so that we can collectively create something special. Oh, and I can wear jeans to work every day.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

Weekley: It's so hard for me to choose just one thing because I can honestly say that I wake up every morning excited for work. I truly love what I do. I love writing. It's so rewarding to hold a physical copy of the magazine in your hands once it hits newsstands knowing how much hard work and effort we put into each issue.

Davis: It's a cliché, but I love the people I work with and the type of work we do. Everyone is very driven to achieve the best work, but we have fun along the way. A typical meeting could include any one of the following: reviewing layouts and copy, determining who wore it better, client calls, research on new media channels, ponder how many episodes of "House of Cards" you can watch in a row without being concerned for your well-being, working out messaging strategies or brainstorming brand tag lines. And yes, we have an office dog. And the occasional Beer Cart Friday. But we also all have a common goal, and that's to help our clients tell their story. We help them articulate and share the great work they're already doing in a new and exciting manner that makes people notice. And that's my favorite part, when after you work so hard — and yes, play hard — you see that you've changed the conversation and shared a new idea with the

world — an idea that will have an impact.

How did Otterbein prepare you for your current position?

Weekley: I think the leadership positions I held while at Otterbein were extremely helpful — they taught me how to communicate, be a leader and a role model and deal with conflict, among other things. These are all necessary skills for the professional environment.

Davis: Being creative is more than being able to draw or paint. It's about sharing an idea or a point of view, and determining that you need to do research, ask questions, dissect our society and talk with others. Those are all skills the liberal arts approach provides you with. I grumbled at every integrative studies course I had to take. Why does an art major have to take a class about rocks? But here's the secret: by being forced into different areas of study, you broaden your perspective and point of view. The final execution of an idea — the design or illustration or whatever — is what you already know how to do. Otterbein helped me perfect that craft, but the liberal arts approach set me up with intangible tools that I never knew I needed, which have allowed me take my craft even further.

How do you like to spend downtime away from your job?

Weekley: I'm a big reader, so I try to read a couple books a month. And even though I'm around the magazine business all day, I love reading magazines for leisure. My idea of the perfect Saturday morning is reading magazines

at a coffee shop. I also enjoy spending time with friends and family and shopping.

Davis: Being in the moment with my family and friends. This is way more important than anything you will ever do in any job or find on any mobile device.

What advice would you have for recent graduates?

Weekley: Be open minded. I'm from Columbus, so I was hoping to stay in the area after graduation. But when I was searching and applying for jobs, I didn't limit myself and applied for positions all over the country. I was fortunate to be able to stay in Columbus, but I knew that if an opportunity led me elsewhere, that would be OK too. Your 20s are a time to explore and discover who you are as an adult, so embrace that.

Davis: 1. Work harder than anyone else. The benefits from that effort will always pay off.
2. Employers interview you for your personality. Your work and talent are the price of admission for the interview. Companies already have a team of individuals who work well together, and they want to figure out whether you would complement that team or wreck it.

3. Get involved. Join a professional organization, volunteer for a community board or attend events that relate to your intended profession. It will show that you care, that you're proactive and that you give a damn. Plus, connections breed connections, which lead to opportunities.

4. Dress for your profession. What's worse than arriving underdressed at an interview? Show up overdressed at a company where every day is casual Friday. It's something small, but how you present yourself shows what you think of yourself and reveals whether you're familiar with the company and its culture. Plus, if you feel like you fit in, you'll be more relaxed during the interview.

5. Repeat number 1.

Future goals/plans for your professional life?

Weekley: I'd love to stay in the magazine business. And at some point in my life, I want to write a book. No idea what it would be about yet, but it's on my bucket list.

Davis: As a creative, you're always refining your approach and craft, and that's how I view my future goals. I just want to be the best contributor I can to my creative team. If, through that kind of refinement, new endeavors or roles come about, that's great, but I'm more for tackling what's on my plate now and not trying to gain some long and important-sounding title. &

NAME: Paul Davis
MAJOR: Art with concentrations in Visual Communication, Computer Art and Drawing
MINORS: Art History and Music
GRADUATED: 2006
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES: Otterbein Host & Tour Guide, Sigma Delta Phi Fraternity, Delta Omicron honorary, Starving Artists Senate, Torch and Key



rainy day fashion

story by // emmy wells



Spring is a time when everything begins to feel new and refreshing. The days grow longer, the snow melts and the sun finds its way through the clouds. Spring brings warmth and life back into the cold Ohio days, but it also brings rain.

However, a few rainy days don't have to hinder your style. There are plenty of fashion hacks that will allow you to say goodbye to frizzy hair and unsightly rain attire.

Boots and umbrellas:

High boots are essential in the rain. If you're not fond of rain boots, you can waterproof your shoes with beeswax.

Simply rub it over the entirety of your shoes, then use a hair dryer to melt the wax. After allowing the wax to set for about five minutes, you've got yourself some waterproof shoes.

Hardware stores or Amazon: \$5 or less

Shoes to avoid: It's probably best to save your TOMS or other canvas shoes for a dry day. Unless waterproofed beforehand, they'll leave your toes and socks a little on the soggy side. Flats and open-toed shoes are best avoided as well.

Umbrellas don't have to be a drag. Many stores feature a selection of novelty umbrellas. Find one that fits your personality, and carry it with pride.

Target: \$12.99-\$14.99

Hats and beanies:

Obviously, your hair isn't going to be at its prime when there's rain falling from the sky. Avoid the catastrophe of flat and frizzy post-rain hair by coordinating your outfit around your favorite hat or beanie.

Hair styling tips:

Use a heat-protectant spray on straight hair while it is still wet. Suave offers one, which can be purchased for \$2.88 at Wal-Mart. Make sure you then blow dry your hair completely and style accordingly after.

If you use heat to achieve your style, wait five minutes before leaving your room to go into the rain. Letting your hair cool completely seals its cuticles and helps fight frizz before it starts.

Hair products and styles:

Aussie Instant Freeze hair spray: This hair spray does just what the name says — it instantly freezes your hairstyle. The strongest hold that hair spray has to offer won't let rain and humidity stand a chance against your style.

Dollar General: \$3.50

Kiehl's Creme with Silk Groom: When frizz is threatening to take over, Kiehl's can be rubbed on dry hair to smooth out your strands.

Kiehl's: \$18

Moroccanoil Frizz Control: Spray on wet hair before styling to prevent frizz.

Beautychoices.com: \$17

Brazilian Tech Keratin De-Frizz Wand: If the humidity starts to take a toll on the sleekness of your hair, tame flyaway hairs and frizz with the smoothing Keratin Wand.

Sally Beauty Supply: \$8.79

Hairstyles: If you'd rather work with the weather than fight it with products, aim for a volumized, messy style. Air drying hair first sets the foundation for volume. After hair is dry, use a medium-sized curling iron to curl large strands of your hair, creating waves rather than tight curls. After allowing the curls to set, use your fingers to comb your hair to achieve an effortless,

graphics // jennifer hall

tips for buying

messy look. Finish your look with a medium to strong hairspray hold.

Rainy days aside, there are plenty of other fashion trends to keep up with this spring.

According to Glamour fashion magazine, some of the most wearable trends off of the spring 2014 runway are pastel colors, contrast collar button-down shirts, wide-leg trousers and knitted sweaters.

Tips on how to wear it:

Sometimes, it seems as if there is no way to pull off the looks seen on runway models. Think again. There are plenty of ways to incorporate the latest runway trends into your everyday wardrobe.

Collared button-up shirts have been around for quite some time. This season, look for one that has a boldly colored collar and cuffs. Make sure to button it all the way up to stay in tune with the latest in spring fashion.

Wide-leg trousers aren't just for tall women, as they can be worn in a variety of ways to flatter women of all shapes. They can be paired with a crop top or a tucked-in blouse, as well as with your favorite sweater to dress them down.

Tips:

Find a pair of flared trousers that has a leaner flair and a higher waist to elongate your frame.

You don't have to store your knitted sweaters just yet. Wear them over a dress on a cool day or with a skirt. To give your look more of a spring feel, opt for brightly colored sweaters. Or go with pastels, since they've been declared the latest in fashion this spring.

Based on the new arrivals at Forever 21, high-waisted shorts aren't going anywhere this season. Another common trend is bold-printed clothing, like jumpsuits, rompers and dresses.

Crop tops are still in stores as well. Just make sure to wear them with something high-waisted — the early 2000s are over. &

March

The prices of **jeans** and **winter coats** are slashed at this point if you can find any left.

Since the rush of Valentine's Day has passed and March isn't a big gifting month, **perfume** and **jewelry** are usually at reasonable prices, so buy a Mother's Day gift now. If you are looking ahead to summer travels, you'll be happy to know the cost of luggage drops this time of year.

tips by // danielle lanning

April

As stores start to bring out summer items, keep an eye out for potential sales on spring clothes.

Discounts on **rain gear** actually begin this month as stores look ahead to the warmer months of summer, so pick out some nice rain boots, a raincoat or an umbrella. April is also a good month to buy **beauty products**.

May

Memorial Day weekend brings enormous discounts to everything from cars to sandals. With the warmer weather, **flea markets** become a great place to go for bargains on almost anything imaginable. As the majority of people begin to exercise outdoors, gym memberships along with **athletic shoes** and clothes take a price cut near the end of the month.



Recording at Red Grove

photos // andrew beers

story by // grace lenehan

Located in the basement of Cowan is a place that may be unknown to students who aren't in the music department. Walking into the basement of Cowan Hall, one would expect to find a costume shop or a dressing room. Walking down the steps into a lonely corridor there suddenly appears a window placed in the wall. Looking through the window, one would see a room that he or she may not expect to see in a theater. It's not a choir or band room but a recording studio.

The low lights shine over an intimidating mixing board and a Mac computer. There are foam squares on the wall that offer a good design but are really there to enhance sound within the room. In fact, everything in the room is placed and used strategically with sound in mind, even down to the type of paint used. One can see the room next door through the window in the wall, where the musicians record.

The space looks professional, like something that could be seen out of a movie. This tranquil room is actually the location of Otterbein's record label. Yes, for those who did not know, Otterbein has a record label. Red Grove Entertainment is made up mostly of music business majors, but it is open to students of all majors. The original purpose of the label was for audio production and music business majors to

be able to continue to use the skills learned in the audio production courses. The studio will produce music from any student enrolled in the university,



"Red Grove is meant to be an actual working business.

There is money involved that flows back and forth, we have expenses and we

can raise money. We can't pay the students, obviously, but it is a working business."

- eric van wagner // red grove advisor and music lessons teacher

alumni or faculty. The organization is primarily student-run, with the exception of adviser and audio production professor Eric Van Wagner.

"Red Grove is meant to be an actual working business," he said. "There is money involved that flows back and forth, we have expenses and

we can raise money. We can't pay the students, obviously, but it is a working business."

Van Wagner focuses on creating a real-world experience for the students involved, so students are ready for a career in the music industry.

"The diploma will get you the conversation, but if you have nothing else to say, you won't get the job."

Junior Amy Gadd is one of those students. Gadd's major is music composition and theory concentration, and her minor is music and business with an audio production concentration. She is the one who helps produce the songs that other people record. This means that she meets with the musician for the session, sets up all microphones and sets everything on the audio board. Right now she is producing an extended play for senior music and religion double major Sam Scott. Once she finishes recording all of Scott's songs, she will produce all of the audio, put it on a CD and give it to Scott to distribute.

Scott showed up to the studio at 10 a.m. on a sunny Saturday with guitar in hand and ready to make music. Scott has decided to dedicate her free time to doing what she loves: performing her music. She began recording a five song EP of original music last November. The recording of this EP was not required for a class but rather something she just wanted to do. What she gets



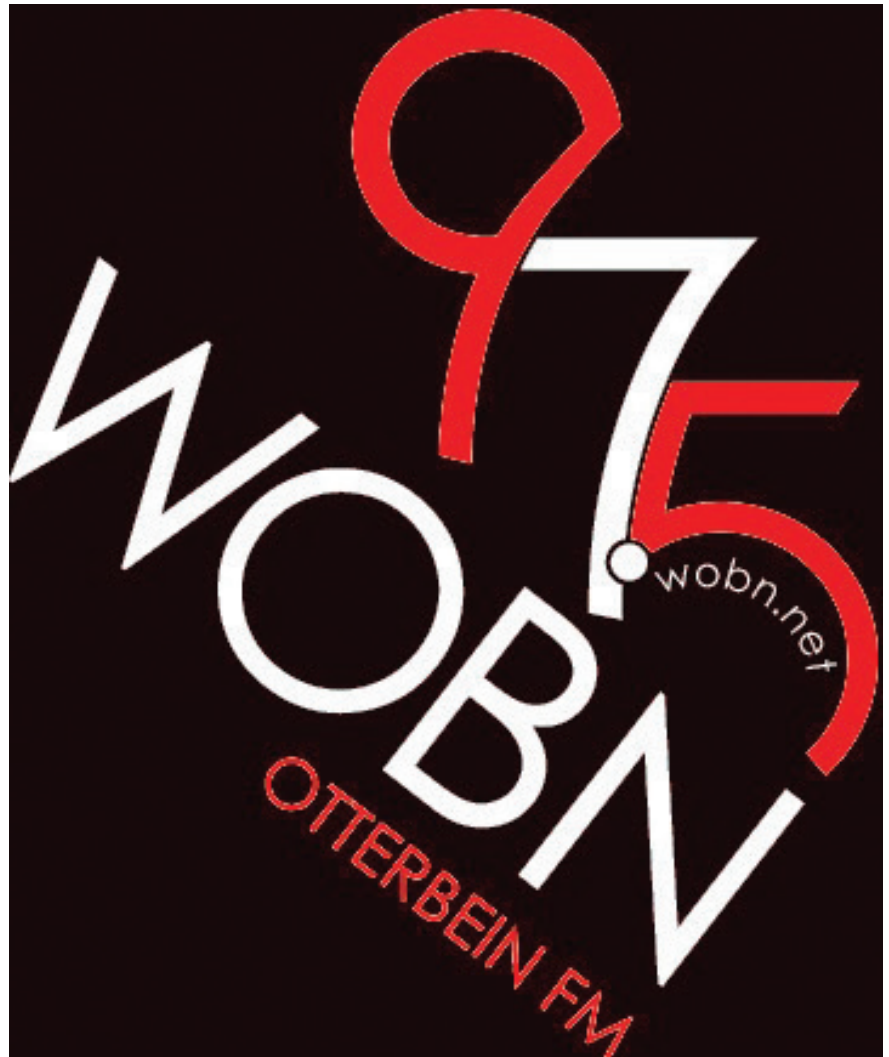
out of recording this EP is experience alone. It is not something she is doing for money or class credit. It's purely because she has a passion for writing and singing.

After Scott was situated with her guitar, Gadd started setting up the room for the best possible sound. This included placing fabric-covered flats around Scott in a way that reflected the sound appropriately. On this day, the flats were positioned at an angle where Scott sat with her guitar. Gadd strategically placed a microphone near Scott in order to get the best sound. She then closed the door, went back to the audio room and pressed record. This was all done by Gadd, with no help from other students or Van Wagner, and that is the way it's supposed to be. When it comes to the actual recording process, adviser Van Wagner leaves it up to the students.

"Eric helps out, and the other people that do audio are allowed to have their input, but since Sam's kind of my project, I'm in charge of it," Gadd said. "Sometimes if I'm having trouble, I'm always allowed to call him. Every time we record, we record by ourselves."

Once Gadd got everything set up, Scott laid down her guitar track followed by her voice track. With only two people in the studio, they managed to get a lot done. However, the students don't have complete freedom with the session. If there is a need for Van Wagner to step in and help, he has no problem doing so.

"Students have always tended to be honest with themselves enough to know whether or not they can handle it and know what their limits are," Van Wagner said. "There's always the



safety net that if anything is not happening that I will step in. You will never get a horrible, nasty recording.”

Red Grove also puts on several events throughout the year including the Cardinal Launch Concert and Music and Romance. The events teach the students how to set up live equipment. Another important part of the label is that it includes much more than just the music. A working label needs every position that makes for a good business. This presents an opportunity for students of other majors to be involved.

“There are people who really just want to do the contracts, or they really just want to do the licensing,” Van Wagner said. “Once I realized that, it was really nice to say, ‘This is a record label, but if you’re not interested in recording, that’s fine.’”

When Gadd and Scott graduate, they both want to continue doing music. The availability of the Red Grove record label at Otterbein has been an incredible resource for both of them. Van Wagner explained that this is one of the main reasons for the label being created.

“For the students that are on the production

side, it’s real-world experience that you just can’t do any other way,” he said. “Having to sit there and do it with perhaps a little pressure involved is a good learning experience for that.”

Even though Gadd is the one pushing all the buttons, it is also a helpful experience for the singer. Van Wagner added, “Every time that



“For the students that are on the production side, it’s the real-world experience that you just can’t do any other way.”

- eric van wagner // red grove advisor and music lessons teacher

anyone records, you always get better. I have never finished a project where the performers weren’t better musicians at the end of the project than they were at the beginning of the project.”

When Scott reflected on the experience of

being able to record and share her own written music, she is very positive.

“That really was a new experience for me, and I think if you are a songwriter and you do carry that passion that you should be able to share it with people, so they make that really easy,” she said.

Before this experience, Sam hadn’t shared her original music with many people, and recording the EP gave her a great option to do that.

“I feel like a lot of people don’t want to share things with people, but this is a really cool opportunity and privilege to be recorded and show your music with other people. I’m really excited to pass these out to people and share it.” &



LEFT: Sam Scott sits with her guitar in the Red Grove Entertainment studio working on recording her five song EP.

OPPOSITE: Amy Gadd works on the soundboard and computer to produce the audio for Scott. // andrew beers

Learning through hope

Student's dream to earn college degree fuels fight against cancer

story by // lindsay paulsen

An accomplished young woman, dressed in cap and gown, was surrounded by her smiling family and professors as Otterbein University President Kathy Krendl presented her with a diploma.

On the surface, it seemed like an image from any other commencement, but this scene took place in a sterile, blue-curtained room at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

For Alima Kasongo, receiving her diploma represented more than the idea of earning a degree. It meant more than spending hours in a classroom or days in the library. It was more than a piece of paper to hang on a wall or display on a mantel.

It was a lasting symbol that she attained the

time, she was nine years old and had been recently diagnosed with neurofibromatosis-1, a form of cancer that causes unchecked growth of tissue along nerves, resulting in nerve damage, extreme pain and loss of function.

Kasongo's first symptoms developed when she was about five years old. She had a small tumor near her eye and discolored patches of skin that were "cafe-au-lait" in color, both textbook symptoms of the disease. By the time that the family arrived in the United States and gained access to better medical care, the tumor had worsened and more began to appear on her stomach.

As she grew older, the symptoms became more severe and Kasongo underwent a series of

that Alima had vast ambitions. According to Talubezie, Alima hoped to one day do research about genetics and gene expression, as well as focus on the issue of child soldiers in their native country of Congo, due to her love of children and her country. "I know that those were some of the things that she wanted to do if she had time," Talubezie said.

Alima always wanted to have kids, Talubezie said. But she knew that she couldn't because she would also pass the disease on to them. "My sister loved children a lot. She was so great with kids. All of the kids loved her. She knew how to talk to them. She was so gentle."

Talubezie also knew that her sister emotionally struggled with her race against the clock, as the future began to look more grim. "Some people, when they know that their time is coming, would just give up. ... And Alima knew that. But she chose not to think about it. She was still very hopeful, even though she knew that she wouldn't accomplish a lot of this stuff. But she still lived her life as if she had time."

In pursuit of a career in genetic research, Alima decided to attend The Ohio State University. After two years at the large state school, Talubezie said that Alima found the school to be too large and impersonal. She then took a few classes at Columbus State Community College and decided that she wanted to attend Otterbein. "It feels right there," Alima reported back to her family, who were surprised by her interest in the small liberal arts school.

"She was determined and brave and so moved that her faculty mentors were there in caps and gowns to honor her achievement."

- kathy krendl // otterbein university president

thing she wanted most before the cancer inside of her could take it away. Less than two weeks after becoming a graduate of Otterbein University, on Dec. 11, 2013, she finally succumbed to the cancer that she had been fighting for over two decades.

A native of Congo, located in Central Africa, Kasongo and her family moved to the United States in 1996 to escape political turmoil. At the

surgeries, one of which required the removal of a large piece of tissue in her leg that also destroyed several vital muscles, making it difficult for her to walk.

Throughout the years, Kasongo's health posed challenges for her, physically and emotionally, but did little to suppress her dreams of the future.

Her older sister, Talubezie Kasongo, said

“I think she knew what she was doing,” Talubezie said. “She truly belonged at Otterbein. It is who she was.”

At Otterbein, hints of Alima’s legacy appear in unexpected corners of the office of professor Simon Lawrance. The office, found in the science building, is dotted with accents of African culture juxtaposed to photos of Lawrance teaching Zumba classes, as well as a degree from Yale University framed and resting on the shelf. Soft classical music plays in the background. Hanging near Lawrance’s computer is a list of the names of students that he advises, along with their headshots. Amidst the many smiling faces on Lawrance’s roster, there is one face that stands out brightly. Even from a small headshot photo that is no larger than a couple inches in size, the image of Alima’s face radiates the very same steadfast nature that Lawrance noticed when he first met her.

Alima arrived in Lawrance’s office in the summer of 2013 as a student transferring into the second semester introductory biology class. She explained that she was battling against neurofibromatosis-1 and made it clear that she was determined to earn her degree while gaining knowledge about the disease to combat its attack

on her body. “She never wavered from that goal,” Lawrance said.

She explained to Lawrance that she had enrolled in an experimental trial at the National Institute of Health and would be making several trips to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., for treatment throughout the semester. She expressed concern about missing class, but Lawrance assured her that they would still find a way for her to be an active participant in the course.

As she sat in the chair across from his desk, Lawrance observed that Alima’s personality was much bigger than her actual physical presence. “At the time, she was the picture of health,” he said, noting that her energy, drive, confidence and determination were evident from the very start.

Although she looked healthy upon their first encounter and managed to attend classes for the first few weeks of the semester, the challenges of neurofibromatosis made it difficult, if not impossible, for her to be physically present throughout the course.

Even still, Alima and Lawrance didn’t let the disease get in the way of education. Several of Alima’s classmates joined in the effort, often acting as tripods to hold up Lawrance’s iPhone

while Alima observed the class from her bed miles away via Skype. Talubezie, who postponed attending medical school in Prague to return to the states to be with her sister, played a pivotal role in Alima’s education at Otterbein. She constantly drove her to class and sat through class with her. At one point, she even administered an exam to her while she was in the hospital.

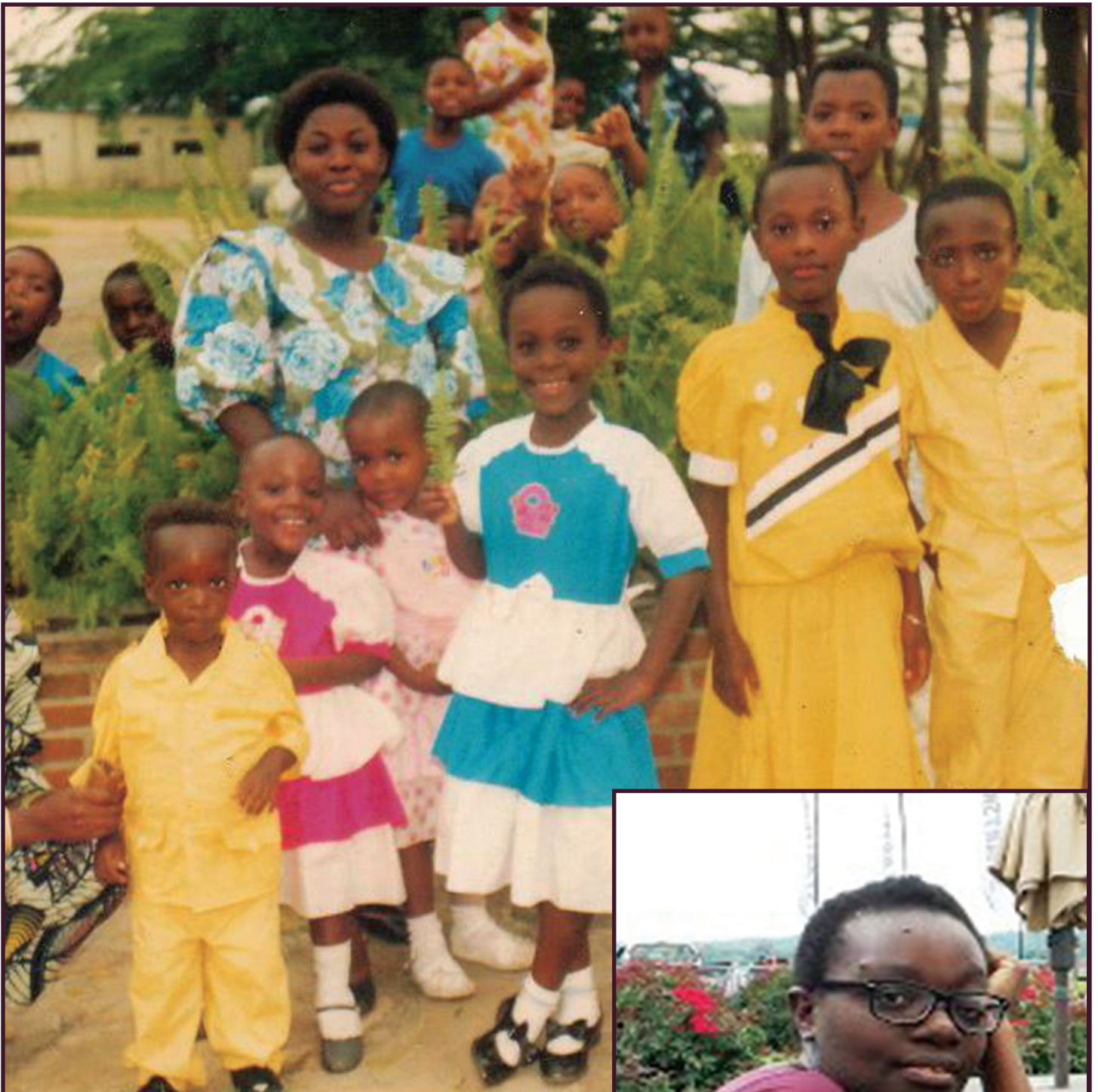
Robert Gatti, dean of student affairs, also visited Alima during her stay in the hospital and gained an appreciation for the unique learning system that Lawrance and Alima had created.

“The first time I went to visit Alima during her first stay in the hospital I went into her room and she had her laptop open on her bed. She was so excited and surprised to see me, and we started a conversation. After a few minutes I heard voices coming from her laptop and soon realized she was participating in class on Skype,” he said.

Other students, like freshman Breanne Held, a double major in environmental science and sustainability studies, supported Alima by making cards and care packages for her. “When Dr. Lawrance said that Alima was in the hospital, I knew right away I needed to do something. So, right after I heard the news about Alima, I started



Alima Kasongo and family on the day of her graduation at Nationwide Children's Hospital. // provided by talubezie kasongo



in loving memory

ABOVE: Alima Kasongo (second from left) with family in Burundi, early 1990s // provided by talubezie kasongo

RIGHT: alima kosongo, 2012 // provided by talubezie kasongo

to pray for her to receive the strength she needs and to heal quickly. I also made her a card to let her know that there is someone thinking about her and to stay strong,” Held said. Outside of class, other students volunteered to drive Alima from her home back to campus so that she could attend Zumba classes led by Lawrance.

About a month before the end of the semester, Alima was admitted to the hospital for a longer-than-usual stay due to complications with the disease. But that didn’t stop Alima and Lawrance from pressing forward. “It was the sense of hope that kept her going,” Talubezie said. Most importantly, she wanted to earn her bachelor’s degree.

“I think that she realized toward the end that going on and doing her research and having any kind of significant impact wasn’t very possible, but she then focused all of her energy on getting her bachelor’s,” she said.

In response, Lawrance made daily trips to the hospital, bringing his lecture notes with him and sneaking in biology lessons whenever possible. Lawrance also connected with some of his own old classmates who worked at the NIH and was able to help Alima learn more about her specific disease. But even between discussions of science, tales of childhood memories and other reflections on life in general made their way into conversations between Lawrance and Alima.

The professor soon realized that her physical state was growing weaker and that time was running out for her to earn her degree. After additional discussions with university administrators, Lawrance was able to make special arrangements for Alima to

graduate.

Lawrance also realized that it would be necessary for her to wear a cap and gown but was unsure as to how he would be able to find one upon such short notice. By a stroke of luck, he soon stumbled upon the same cap and gown that his own son wore for his graduation and gave it to Alima to wear for her commencement.

On Dec. 2, Krendl, Gatti and professors Jennifer Bennett, Jeffrey Lehman and Lawrance gathered to present Alima with her degree. The blue-curtained room at Nationwide Children’s Hospital echoed with the sound of voices singing the

“She wanted to make sure that no matter what, she had her degree.”
- talubezie kasongo // alima's sister

Otterbein Love Song.

On the day that she received her diploma, a nurse mentioned to Krendl that it was necessary for Alima to space out her pain medications for the day very carefully so that it would not affect her during her ceremony.

“Seeing Alima in her cap and gown in a hospital bed was an unforgettable moment for all of us,” Krendl said. “She was determined and brave and so moved that her faculty mentors were there in caps and

gowns to honor her achievement.”

Gatti said that it was an honor to be at Alima’s side when she received her diploma. “My emotions were all over the place,” he said. “I was excited that Alima reached her goal of getting her degree, but at the same time, I experienced deep sorrow for this beautiful young lady with so much potential, who was not going to be with us much longer.”

Talubezie said she was confident that Alima was holding on for her degree. “The weekend before, I spoke with her, Alima said, ‘I’m glad you’re here. I’m ready to go. The only thing I’ve ever wanted was my degree, and I’m fighting to make sure that I am still here for my degree.’”

Alima died a little more than a week after receiving her diploma, and incidentally on the very same day as the final exam of Lawrance’s biology class.

“It wasn’t a coincidence that that’s how it happened,” Talubezie said. “She wanted to make sure that no matter what, she had her degree.” &



Talubezie Kasongo finds both tears and joy as she remembers her sister, Alima. // **andrew beers**

boosting testosterone

Otterbein administration seeks to increase male enrollment

story by // nathasha shorts

When looking in classrooms and on sidewalks, it's apparent that the school is not reigning men. There is an unequal ratio in terms of gender. However, Otterbein organizations focused on male retention seek to understand why male enrollment is declining and how to bring more men to campus.

A report from the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee from April 1 of last year saw three trends regarding male students and enrollment: "A decline of students being admitted, enrolled and retained to graduation; weaker academic achievements compared to female students; and lower levels of engagement in virtually all aspects of university life."

The Men's Experience Committee has headed investigation into determining why men are so rare at Otterbein and why they leave. Ryan Brechbill, director of the Center for Career and Professional Development, also heads the MEC.

"The reason that we were assembled is to really bring some issues to the forefront and get different people and different committees across campus talking about some of the issues that men are experiencing on campus," Brechbill said. "It is comprised of men and women. It is comprised of faculty members, students and administrators, a strong representation of voices from around the institution, so I think that because of that we have had some good ideas, and individuals have taken those to heart."

Over the past few years the number of male enrollment and retention has dropped. Last year's

incoming class alone had a population of 64.6 percent female compared to a 35.3 percent male population.

"Bring on the men," said Gloridely Tavarez, a junior public relations and health communications major, who is excited that the committee is targeting more men. She said there needs to be more diversity in campus programming.

Matthew Quinn, junior marketing major, has seen firsthand the issues that men are having on campus, so he was more than glad to be asked to be a part of the MEC. "Last year my role was on

the MEC has been able to assist organizations targeted to men on campus, specifically Men Of Vision, a leadership organization designed to assist men in their higher education experience.

"Men of Vision is one of the primary catalysts to achieve the goals and objectives of the MEC which look to enhance the men's experience through event planning and services," said James Prysock, the MOV diversity programming chair and adviser. "Both MOV advisers and two board members serve on the MEC as well."

Brechbill has been able to see the growth of



"I want to make sure that (my son's) Otterbein experience is as rich and fulfilling as the experience of his sister, who will attend Otterbein this fall."

- jill mccullough // student affairs

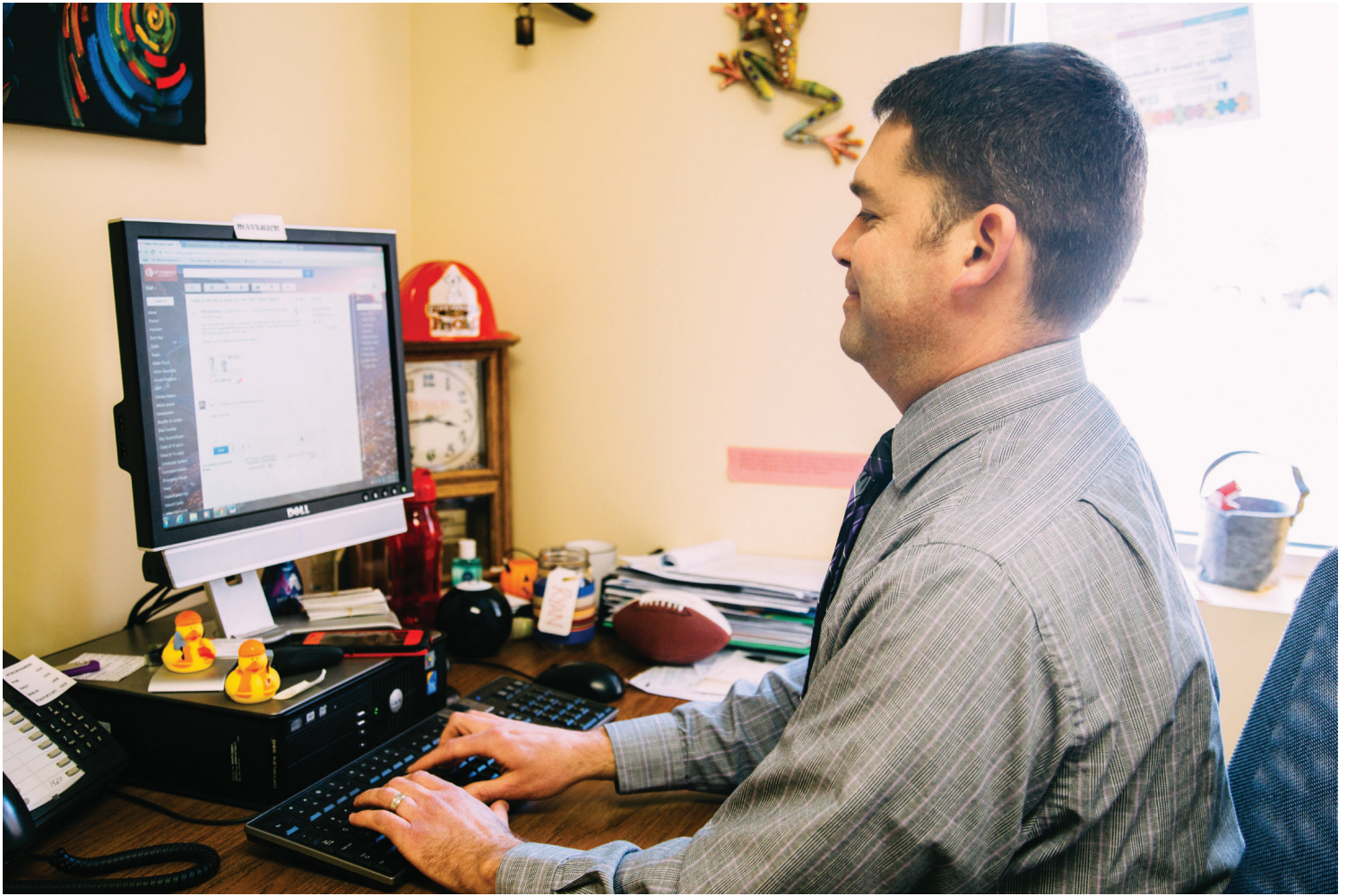
the retention rate, which looked at males leaving Otterbein — why they left, the reasons they left, with a variety of demographics."

Those focus groups, which took place January 2013, were not as narrow as the committee had hoped. Something the committee has heard was that men were not doing well in the classroom, as well as comments like, "I haven't found a way to be connected," "Otterbein wasn't a good fit." But these broad answers only pushed the committee further to not only continue their work but assist on campus as much as possible. So much so that

MOV and how, through passionate students and a greater amount of Otterbein support, it is helping men all over campus.

"Certainly Men of Vision has taken on some additional focus," Brechbill said. "James Prysock is one of the faculty advisers and has done a great job working with MOV to increase their visibility on campus. They have done a lot more programming on campus this year than they have in the past."

The MEC also played a role in the establishing of the engineering major that is available for



Ryan Brechbill, the director of the Center for Career and Professional Development, also heads Otterbein's Men's Experience Committee. // **andrew beers**

students in August 2015. Quinn said he felt some personal excitement to see some of their hard work being put to better the progress of getting more men on campus.

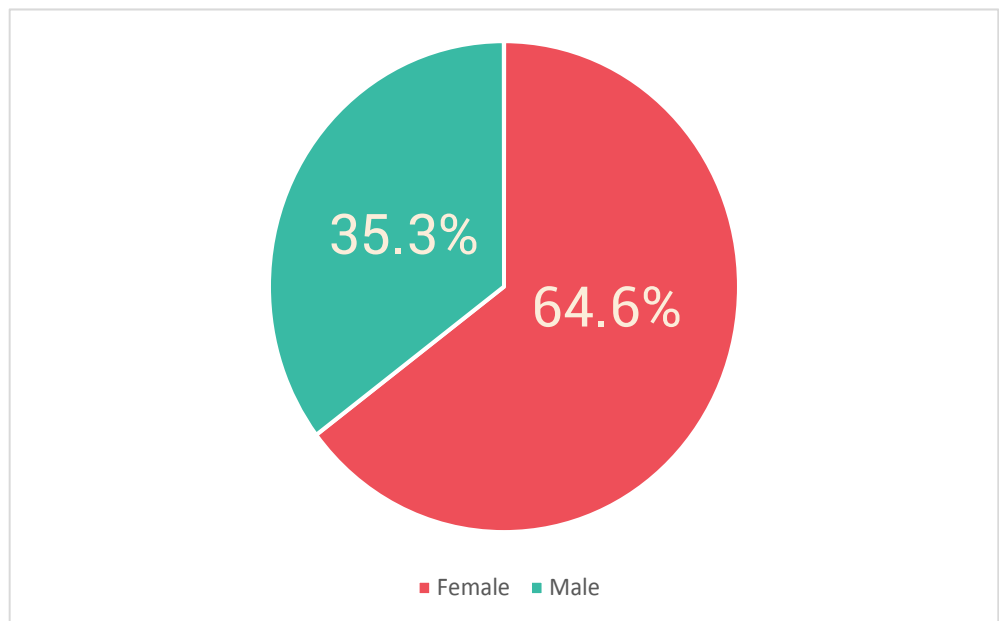
"Just knowing that I am still here and they are already starting to initiate some of our suggestions or some things that we recommend, that makes me more optimistic for the progress after I leave."

Jill McCullough, who works with Student Affairs, also volunteered to serve on MEC. She has a different perspective, not only as a woman, but also as a mother. "I have a 15-year-old son who will — more than likely — attend Otterbein in the fall of 2016. I want to make sure that his Otterbein experience is as rich and fulfilling as the experience of his sister, who will attend Otterbein this fall. That same maternal instinct applies to every Otterbein student. I want the best for all our students."

As a woman on MEC, McCullough said she thinks that all of Otterbein could benefit from their efforts.

"I would hope every woman on this campus would want to see enrollment grow for both men and women. It's just that we have some catching up to do when it comes to our men." **&**

Otterbein student sex ratio for fall 2013



graphic // **jennifer hall**

Where *in the world* are you from?

story by // natasha shorts

When it was time to begin looking at colleges, freshman Sheroki King knew it was time for a change. She had spent her entire life in Los Angeles, and after finding out that her two passions — dance and environmental science — were not offered at the California schools she looked at, King was determined to find a place that would accept her unique interests.

“My major, environmental science, is taught in California, but it is taught as a minor only [at the schools she looked into], so you cannot major in it. I am also a dancer, and (the schools I looked into) would not allow me to study both dance and environmental science, so I wanted to go to a school that would allow me to do both.”

She stumbled onto Otterbein, and it became her new home. Traveling across the country to go to school was exciting, but she struggled with the difference in culture when she arrived.

“I am accustomed to seeing things that I haven’t seen here. (For example), the gay community is very open in California. There can be a gay couple walking down the street and no one will question it. But here you kind of get eyes.”

King even ran into her first problems with racial identity when she came to Ohio.

“Biracial marriage and interracial couples aren’t an issue in California. Even the African American community is different in California. We don’t address ourselves in certain ways. But out here you’re addressed by the color of your skin, and to me that is new. I had never been called ‘light skinned’ or ‘dark skinned’ or ‘brown skinned’ or ‘a red bone’ or ‘a yellow bone.’”

King’s perspective on life came about by

growing up in California but also by how her family raised her. With an African-American father and a Belizean mother, King is one of the first generation of African Americans on her mother’s side of the family.

“Having grandparents, one from Belize, the other from Honduras — two places that were once one big country that broke apart — is huge. To have two different cultures come together and make this one giant culture — it makes me appreciate different cultures that are out there.”

But the mixing of cultures and races does not stop there. King has family that is Indian and Japanese. She is also learning about Hinduism through her cousin who just married someone of



“To have two different cultures come together and make this one giant culture — it makes me appreciate different cultures that are out there.”

- sheroki king // freshman environmental science major

the Hindu religion.

“I think the reason I am so open to different cultures is because my family alone has a little bit of everything.”

Now that King experiences all types of cultures, she hopes to use that to impact her future endeavors.

In the summer, King will be in New York dancing with the Martha Graham Dance Company as a summer program.

“I want to be able to teach, preferably in my community, because I want to give back to the



photo // andrew beers

community and teach the kids who can’t afford dance classes. As far as my environmental science major, I have no idea what I want to do with that major yet, so that’s interesting.”

King said she does know, though, that she wants to give back.

“The arts in California is slowly being taken out of schools, so I kind of want to give back because the arts helped me so much.”

Through King’s personal experiences, not only in California but in her family, she has learned to adapt to Ohio life.

King has been able to teach as well as learn about other cultures and embrace where she is now.

“I appreciate California because of the diversity I see all the time, and I appreciate Ohio as well because of the diversity I am starting to pick up and see here.” &

Behind the scenes

story by // rebecca knopf
& josh park

An hour before the dress rehearsal begins, stage manager Rebecca Schafer makes her rounds from backstage to dressing room to costume shop, calling “15 minutes,” “10 minutes” and “five minutes” before the show begins. Although it’s three days before “The Importance of Being Earnest” opens to the public, the dress rehearsal is treated like the real deal. Backstage, students wear surgical masks around their mouths and noses — one of the actors is sick, and the crew is trying to avoid spreading or contracting germs. Schafer calls for two buckets onstage, one stage left and the other stage right, just in case. Before the show begins, she sits in the middle aisle of the orchestra with a headset, calling directions for the students invisible to her backstage.

When we think “Otterbein Theater Department,” a culmination of plays and musicals come to mind, featuring a variety of talented actors, singers and dancers. These are the students who have been featured on Otterbein’s webpage, in pictures in Cowan, across banners posted outside Roush, in old issues of the Tan & Cardinal newspaper and currently on Otterbein360.com.

However, outnumbering those people we see on stage — maybe with exception to last semester’s production of “Les Miserables” — are those people we don’t see. These are the people who bring vibrancy and a sense of style to performances, who work weeks before the first rehearsal and often go unrecognized.



Renderings of the set design and sketches for costumes are made well before rehearsals even begin. // rendering provided by rob johnson, sketch provided by rebecca white



Stage Management

Among the busiest people in the production process, maybe with exception to actors and directors, is the stage manager. As the stage manager for “The Importance of Being Earnest,” Schafer, a sophomore BFA design and technology major, carries a bulk of responsibilities, which include having heavy contact with the director, tracking light, sound and scene changes, checking with crew and calling cues on her headset.

To be a successful stage manager, Schafer said one needs to have organizational skills and a strong sense of calm, especially when considering the educational setting. Also, stage managers need to have the ability to multitask and have a sense of readiness and understanding.

As stage manager, Schafer sees multiple facets of the production.

“There’s not a lot of positions where you can be actively involved in the entire process, and that’s what I love — having that crow’s-nest view over everything,” she said. “I really get to see it come together.”

As much as Schafer sees it coming together, she also sees it crumbling down — that is, at the end of all the performances. During strike, after the final performance of the show, she said she gets to hit things with a sledgehammer.

Scenic Design

When constructing the set design, architectural science plays an important role. The color of the prop, its perceived depth onstage or even the angles of a backdrop all factor into what the audience perceives. For example,

straight or diagonal lines in set pieces, such as bookcases or chairs, implies a seriousness to a drama while more curved pieces are reserved for wittier comedies.

Rob Johnson, head of design and technology and a design and theater professor, has been designing the sets to theater productions at Otterbein since 1987. When designing the set for “The Importance of Being Earnest,” Johnson kept in mind the small number of actors within the play as well as the time period. Set in Victorian London, Johnson wanted to keep the scenery minimal, made evident by the few pieces of furniture and the vast space between both the set pieces and the actors from the edge of the stage.

The pattern on the floor of the stage was meant to feel both inside and outside, he said, and the green color implies a garden setting, which appears in Act 2. The dark, wood color window panes and fireplace in Act 1 can be flipped around to reveal a beige pair of window panes and a bookcase.

The process from conception to actuality takes two to three months, Johnson said. Before rehearsals even start for the productions, Johnson takes two months to design, which includes collaborating with the director, researching the play or musical, looking at the setting, analyzing for themes and creating renderings for the show. Then, a crew of mostly students takes four weeks to construct pieces based on Johnson’s ideas.

Johnson said that when it comes to thinking about designing, it’s all about the choices you make when using shapes to make a piece.

“Everything’s been done before,” he said. “The shapes are always the same. How you put them together, though, is unique. That’s what should drive everything.”

Costume

When walking into the costume shop two days before the production’s first dress rehearsal, the crew of about 10 are huddled around tables, hunched over the nearly completed garments. As pop music plays quietly in the background, the students talk among one another, some with pins between their teeth, but few look up from their work.

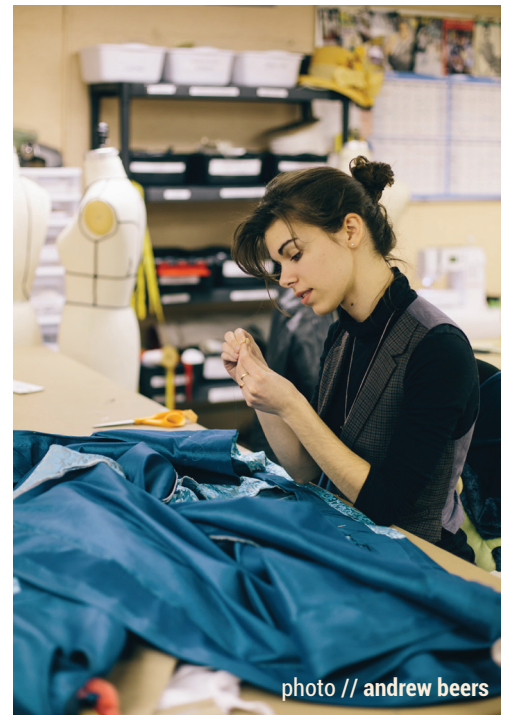


photo // andrew beers

Senior music and theater double major Ben Walsh, diligently stitching a yellow, patterned gown, has worked in the costume shop since the summer of his sophomore year. He said the

quantity and skill of the costume crew was a major influence on why theater faculty decided to choose “Earnest.”

“We had a good amount of students who were costume-focused ... so when they were selecting the season last year, they wanted something that would be costume-intensive — something that would be period and allow us to explore something,” Walsh said.

Compared to the semester before with “Les Miserables,” workers in the costume shop have significantly less to do with “Earnest.” When the theater did the production of “Les Miserables” in early October, the shop produced about 175 costumes. For “Earnest,” the crew produced 14 costumes, which Walsh said allowed for more detail orientation and focus.

Costuming begins about four to five weeks before dress rehearsals. It begins with collaborating with the director and designer. Between one and two weeks are dedicated to mock-ups, sketches and deciding fabrics, and then the final three weeks are reserved for fittings and overall sewing the costume pieces together.

Sound

Dana White, sound and lighting designer and professor, receives the script for a show a year in advance of its opening night. In the case of “The Importance of Being Earnest,” White read through the script and began formulating, planning and creating ideas back in February 2013. He listened to music from the 1890s and researched popular and commonly heard composers of the era.

Unique from other productions, “The Importance of Being Earnest” has mainly live offstage sounds. A doorbell is used, and in order to find this doorbell, White had to research different types of doorbells from the 1890s time period. They had to wire up a doorbell backstage so that actors may play with it and figure out how they want their character to ring the doorbell.

In addition to a doorbell, an offstage piano is also played and period appropriate compositions had to be chosen.

Choosing the actual music for the March production was the first class project for White’s upper-level sound design class. They had to pour over the script in the same manner White had done months previously and find instances when the characters or stage directions talk of German music, French music and English opera. The class had to ensure their music selections were appropriate for the time period. The class’ selections were featured as pre-show and intermission music for the audience.

Freshman BFA design and technology major Karen Crenshaw was hired as sound operator only three weeks before opening night. Currently enrolled in the sound and technology class, she was chosen from her peers to become a sound operator, a position that also counts

as one of her production assignments for this semester, a requirement every BFA major must fulfill.

Crenshaw said that learning all of the technical equipment has been somewhat difficult.

“I think part of the process for being here is learning the process and how to do it, and if you make a mistake, you can learn from that,” Crenshaw said.

Even though she had only been learning the sound equipment three weeks before the show’s opening, she was solving sound challenges on her own.

“That’s what I like about this program,” she said. “It’s very student-driven. We have faculty advisers, but we’re the ones running the show.”

Not only was she personally responsible for sound checking everything, but she was also in charge of executing all of the sound cues on time and keeping the four onstage microphones and the backstage microphone working properly.

Despite the many hours Crenshaw spends in Cowan — between classes and producing the shows — she is still glad to be in the Otterbein theater program.

“I think that’s where I get the most satisfaction out of it, painting the set, being the sound board operator, knowing that I love it.”

Lighting

Only three days away from “The Importance of Being Earnest” opening night, all of the design tech students and advisers evoke a confident and relaxed vibe. Seated a few rows behind the tech table, White fiddles with his keys, green laser and money knot.

White designs the lighting for the production in addition to the sound. However, he steps back

once all of the students are trained in their jobs.

“After opening night I won’t be here. ... Students do everything. That’s part of the design of the program. I’m only observing and giving notes at this point. Every single position in the show is a student as far as producing is concerned.”

Lights of different colors are lit and pointed at an expanse of white muslin that covers the back of the stage, creating a sense of ever-so-slightly moving cloud forms.

In order to help influence his lighting decisions, White surrounds himself with images of the time period. Within the script, he pays attention to specific references of time in order to get the lighting right. In “The Importance of Being Earnest,” the script mentions that many of the scenes take place during twilight hours. To generate ideas, White and his assistant often texted back and forth in the evenings, describing and commenting on the sunsets they saw.

“You’d never know it, but there are 36 light cues in this show,” White said. “It’s all happening very, very, very slowly, so that (with) all of those things, when you mention time, you look up and you go, ‘Oh, oh yeah. It must be around 7 o’clock. It’s twilight.’ But you don’t notice that it’s doing that.”

White doesn’t feel that he is deprived of the credit he deserves for the work that he puts in to a production.

“The people who choose to do this as part of our profession do it for a reason. This is part of our makeup. This is what we love to do. The only person I care that notices it is the next person who hires me. I don’t do this because I want applause or attention or anything like that. I do it because it’s really fun.” &



Freshman Karen Crenshaw works the tech table as sound operator for the March production of “The Importance of Being Earnest.” // **andrew beers**

three-year housing policy still under student

scrutiny

story by // danielle lanning

In 2010 when Otterbein required students to live on campus through junior year, students expressed disapproval of the policy. Now, four years later, it appears that students still wish they had the option to move off campus sooner.

In a recent survey of 100 Otterbein students conducted by T&C Magazine, 89 percent said they would rather have the option to live off campus before they reached senior status.

A strategic plan called for the university to increase the percentage of residential undergraduate students from 55 to 60 percent. The final decision to change the housing policy was made at Senate, and it first went into effect for students who entered in fall 2010, who are now seniors.

Before becoming a three-year requirement, Otterbein only required students to stay on campus for two years, or until having junior status.

Students at Denison University are required to live on campus all four years, said Donna Davis, the coordinator of student housing at Denison. Out of the 2,100 enrolled, only six students currently commute. Davis said that students who commute must be living with their parents or guardians within a 25-mile radius of the university.

Unlike both Denison and Otterbein, Capital University has no requirement in their housing policy for students to live on campus for any amount of time.

At Otterbein, about 85 percent of incoming students live in the residence halls. Stephanie Zimdars, a sophomore early childhood education major, was among the 15 percent who commuted to campus her first year. "It was challenging [to be a commuter] because I didn't get to meet as many people," she said. Being involved with the marching band, Zimdars said she met most of her friends in her classes. She said a benefit of commuting was being able to enjoy home-cooked meals.

In order to have some independence from her parents, she decided to apply to become a resident assistant for her sophomore year in order to live on campus.

Although getting away from home was Zimdars's original intention for applying, she said

residents to stop by to say hello or talk about any issues.

Tracy Benner, director of the Office of Residence Life at Otterbein, lived on campus during her undergraduate years at Wilmington College for all four years in traditional residential halls. "I think that I saw that the people who moved off campus, we lost touch with them," she said. Of the Otterbein students surveyed, 69 percent expressed the main reason to live on campus as having proximity to their classes and peers.

For commuter students, Benner suggests students eat in the dining hall and stay on campus all day to get connected and involved. She has seen families make accommodations for the student to at least live on campus for the first

year to really immerse themselves in the college atmosphere. "I personally wish we could have all first year students in on-campus housing," she said.

"I tend to think that if you live in the traditional residence halls for four years, when you move out,

you will be excited to share an apartment with someone," Benner said.

Since the initiation of the requirement to live on campus longer, some students have attempted to skirt around the housing policy and live off campus sooner.

Benner said there has been a slight increase in students who decide to commute from home. By claiming to commute from the address of a

"I tend to think that if you live in the traditional residence halls for four years, when you move out, you will be excited to share an apartment with someone."

- tracy benner // director of the office of residence life

she realized how much she actually enjoyed the job after she took the course to become a resident assistant.

"I love getting to know residents," she said. Zimdars is one of two RAs on the third floor of Mayne. Together, they plan activities for the residents of the floor about once a week for bonding, hanging out or having dinner. She also leaves the door to her room open, encouraging



parent or guardian's home, some students have then lived in their own apartment or house at a different location. The university discovers a student has falsified their address when the police bust a house party and get the names of those living there.

Otterbein requires the commuting address of a student to be the same as what is filed on the FAFSA with the federal government. Parents must provide a driver's license as proof of an address change before a student can claim to commute from a new residence. Some other schools require students to have parents fill out the form or have it notarized.

Benner said that if the university were to find out a student falsified their address record and their financial aid forms filed with FAFSA, the student would have a judicial violation with a possible penalty of being charged with a full year of campus housing as a penalty.

Anonymous comments left by students on the surveys shared concerns about a sense of community among upperclassmen, the quality of the rooms and lack of air conditioning. Other comments addressed the alcohol policy, parking and the food service at Otterbein.

Students also commented on the benefits of living on campus including the value of on-campus living experiences and the community created by the RAs.

Every year, the Office of Residence Life compares the GPAs of students who live on campus and those who commute. GPAs for on-campus students during the 2012-13 academic year are better, averaging at 3.19, instead of 3.08 for off-campus students. Graduation rates are almost 7 percent better for on-campus students.

"The more residential we are, the better it actually is for students," Benner said.

Financial reasons were a major reason as to why 82 percent of students surveyed said they wanted to live off campus.

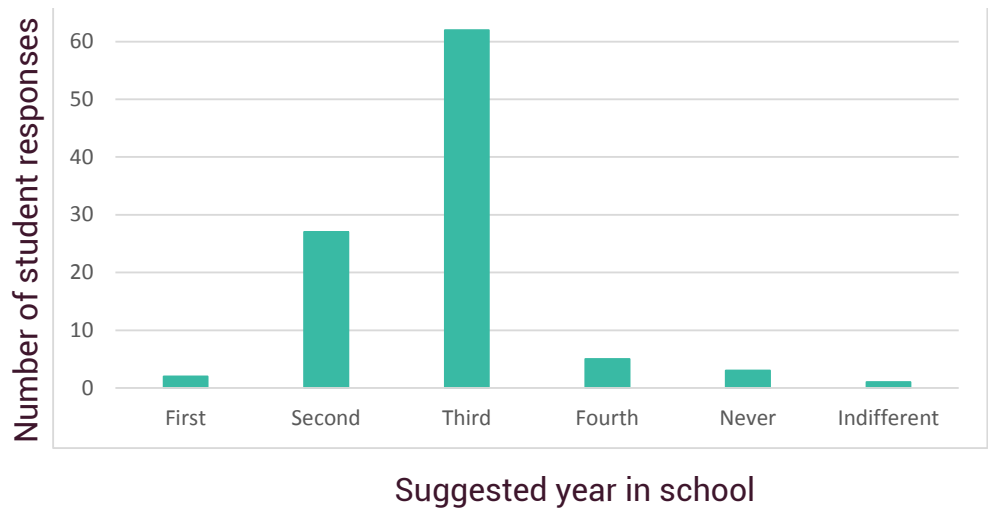
Benner said the Office of Residence Life has also researched the students with the highest financial need and compared where they were living. Students with the highest financial need are typically living on campus or with their parents, rather than an off-campus house or apartment with friends. Benner said this is because students with the highest financial need are less likely to have flexible money each month for bills such as rent and utilities.

"If you sign up for on-campus housing, that's it. We charge you room and board," she said. "We are not turning around and saying, 'Gosh, our heating bill was pretty bad this month. Everybody has to pay an extra.' We don't do that, we just pay it."

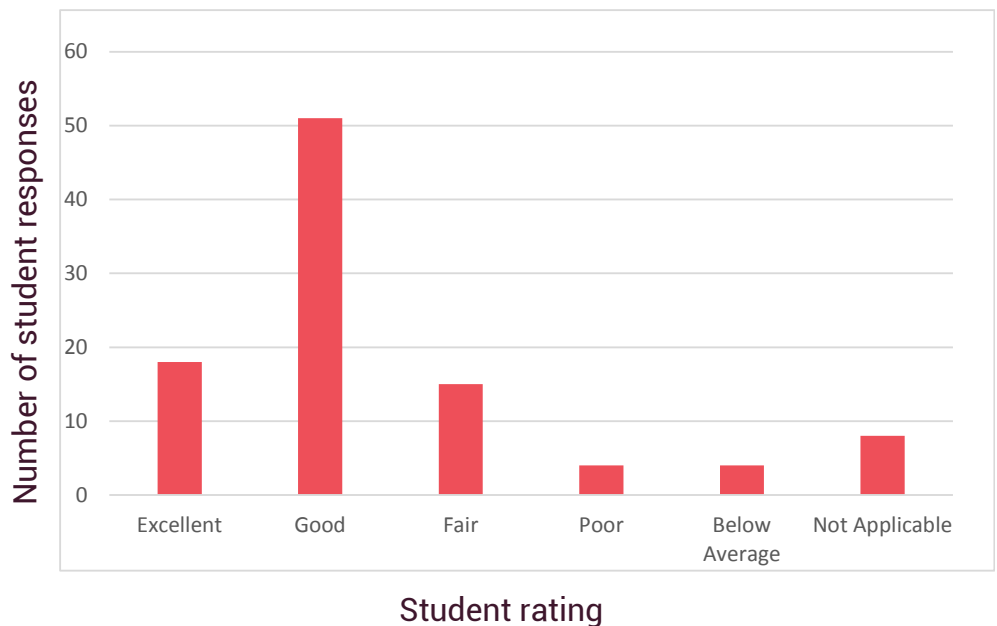
"I think that living on your own is highly overrated actually," Benner said.

Otterbein's 11 residence halls, two Commons apartment complexes and five theme houses have enough room for 1,350 students to live on campus. Theme houses are run by Residence Life and students have the option to live there as sophomores.

Preferred year for students to live off campus



Otterbein students rate dorm life



graphics // jennifer hall
results derived from survey conducted by danielle lanning

Greek houses are not included in housing options provided by Residence Life, but some are owned by the university. The current policy allows sophomores to live in the Greek houses, but no more than 50 percent of the house can be sophomores. Some of the organizations put other requirements for living in the houses, such as GPA. In terms of financial aid, the Greek houses are considered off campus.

Residence Life is including a new option for continuous housing in Garst which will be switching to a co-ed hall. The continuous housing

will accommodate students who aren't living in Commons but need summer housing or year-round housing, such as international students or those with internships.

Housing prices for the 2014-15 academic year will be approved by the business office and announced in late spring. &



reducing the

photo // andrew beers

story by // katie taggart

stress

Look and feel your best by staying healthy: mind, body and soul

Empty Red Bull cans and Little Debbie wrappers are some of the usual things one would find on the floor of a college dorm after a late night of studying for exams, writing papers, working off campus or after a fun night with friends. With all this going on, getting into a healthy routine might not be at the top of the list, but what students need to realize is the importance health is to college-age students. Luckily, there are many opportunities and services that Otterbein provides to help students get on track and live better, healthier lives.

With the demand of a busy schedule, fitting in time for exercising and eating healthy can be a challenge. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 69.2 percent of Americans over the age of 20 are overweight.

Dr. Dana Nottingham, family doctor at the Otterbein on-campus health center, said that she believes that students on campus are, overall, healthy and active. When it comes to being active, Nottingham recommends that students should get their heart rate up for 30 minutes a day, five to six times a week. This can be from going to the gym, walking to class or climbing stairs.

The Clements Center is free for students and faculty and has many types of exercise equipment. It also provides Zumba and weight classes for those who need a group environment to get up and move.

But exercise is only one part of being healthy. Nottingham also advises a low-fat diet for students, like fruits, vegetables and limited junk food. "Limit high-fat sauces, like cheese sauces, gravy, all the stuff you guys like," she said. "Every now and then (those foods) are fine as long as you're higher on the fruits and vegetables, lower on the fats — you're going to be better off. And make sure you drink plenty of water." When eating, students should also try to eat more brown foods. Instead of white breads and rice, go for wheat bread and brown rice.

For students who require special dietary needs, Otterbein provides a gluten-free option. General Manager of Bon Appetit Debbie Robinson said, "The Nest has a separate fridge that has gluten-free crackers, bread and snacks. You just have to ask and they can walk you through it," she said.

Lydie Dorelien, junior

health education major with a focus in public health, knows all about what goes into changing from first-hand experience. Back in January, her sister asked her to become a vegetarian for a New Year's resolution. She knew that getting protein while being a vegetarian was difficult, so she decided to mix it up and instead became a pescatarian. A pescatarian is a person who eats seafood and no other types of meat. So far, Dorelien has found that there are a number of benefits that come with this diet change.



photo // andrew beers

with eating three meals a day with two snacks in between," she said, "I eat breakfast now and it has totally changed my appetite." Dorelien also found out that she doesn't feel as sluggish when she goes out to exercise.

The only problem is that it's forced her to cook. "I can't go out to fast food places because they don't have many options for me, so it's forced

me to cook. It's a negative-positive.

"I really miss chicken. I miss the chicken wings from (Buffalo Wild Wings) and things like that." But even though Dorelien misses it, she plans on



"Millennials and the new Generation Z live in a society that's always known stress. You're part of this society that has stress built in."

- julie saker // associate dean of students & director of student conduct and wellness

"It's really helped me to portion my food. I'll have half my plate with fruits and vegetables and then some rice and fish. This also helped me

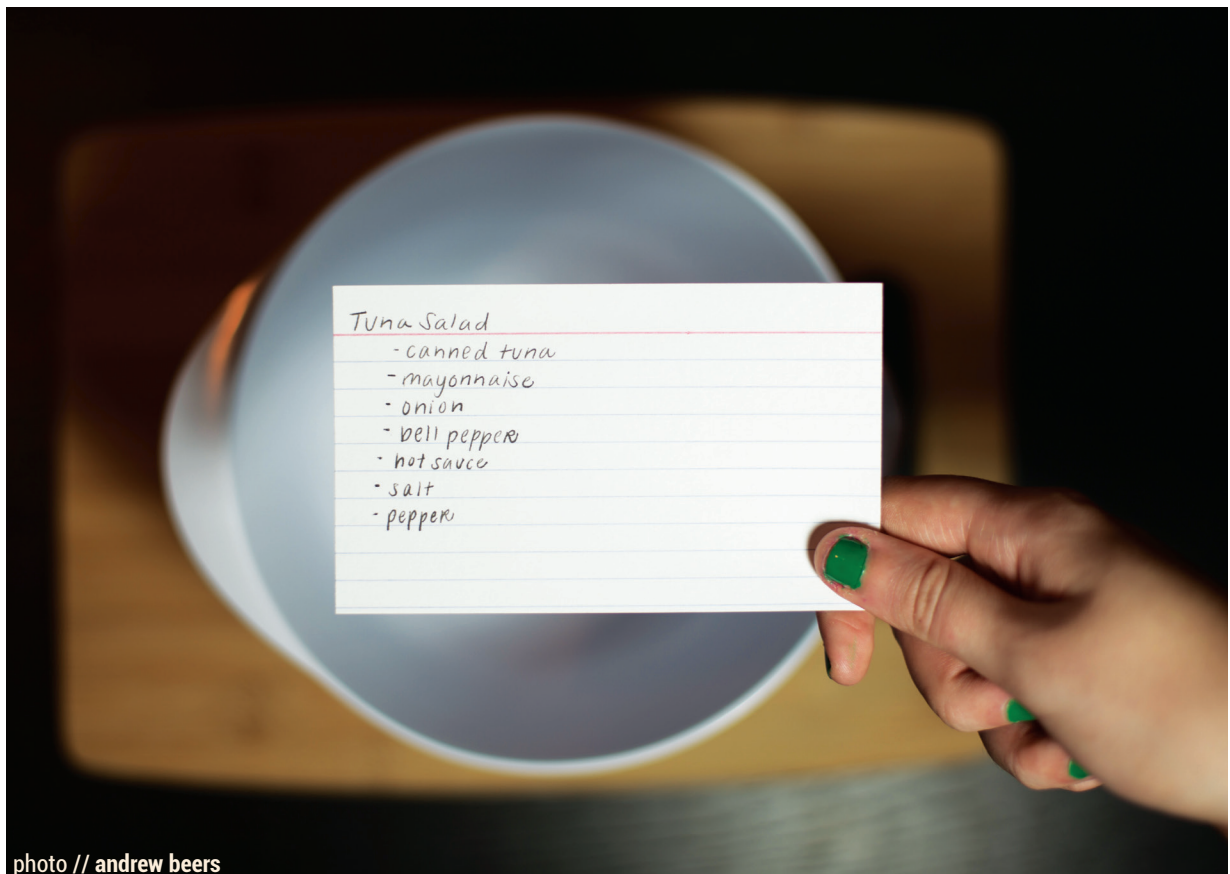


photo // andrew beers

keeping up with the pescetarian diet.

Along with physical health, mental health is important to the life of a college student.

Julie Saker, associate dean of students and director of student conduct and wellness, said she noticed stress is a big problem with students. "Millennials and the new Generation Z live in a society that's always known stress. You're part of this society that has stress built in," she said.

One of the main causes of stress is sleep deprivation, Saker said. Sleep affects physical and mental functions, which is important to note when staying up to complete projects and deadlines. "Try to plan ahead," she said. "Be mindful that sleep can have a huge impact on what you're doing."

On average, college-age students should be getting 7 1/2 to 8 hours of sleep every night, but this can vary between different people. Nottingham said that she believes that most students could be sleeping more often. "Lack of sleep can lead to stress," she said, "If students are noticing crying spells, weight loss and feeling overtired, they should seek help for stress."

Another cause of sleep deprivation and stress is the wide variety of technology surrounding students. Advances in technology have also been known to cause stress for the average college student. In 2012, the University of Gothenburg in Sweden released a study that showed that the intense use of cellphones and computers is causing stress, sleep disorders and depression. For example, working on your computer for an extended period of time can cause physical stress to the body. With the added muscle tension from working on deadlines, like late-night essays, there is more physical stress to the body.

With cellphones, the concentration on the screen can cause fatigue. Because many students are using their phones a majority of the day, many of them are tired on a daily basis and this results in headaches and stress.

In order to prevent these problems, try to turn off electronics at least one hour before going to sleep so you can wind down from the buzz of devices. Also, try to take frequent breaks while using computers. This will break up the physical and mental strain on the body. But doing this can be hard with the busy schedules of college students.

Mental health is based on getting good sleep, nutrition and exercise, but as Saker said, those things go out the window when you're busy. This is why Saker advises students to plan on being realistic. "Just know yourself. Know what causes stress for you like academics or relationship situations," she said. "Part of it is not coming up with an answer, but knowing what those factors are in life that are tough for you. Being realistic can help you to be in control. Try and plan for it."

While planning, students should factor

in fun. It can be for as short as half an hour — plan for something that can help relieve stress. Things like meditation or hanging out with someone who makes you feel better can lessen the stress built up with school. Senior organizational communication major Holly Bruner has found this advice very useful. "Don't overwhelm yourself if you are stressed. Make a to-do list, and take it step by step. Map out your day if you need to. More importantly, don't put the burden of all of your stress on yourself. There's a reason we have three free counseling sessions, so use them."

Taking advantage of the services helped Bruner realize that she wasn't taking enough time for herself. She would tell herself that she'll find time during fall and spring breaks but didn't. "After the first session, I came out feeling relieved. Dr. (Kathy) Ryan was really

easy to connect with and genuinely cares about the well-being of the students she sees."

Bruner tells other students not to hesitate. "Go to Student Affairs and make an appointment. I was one of those people that was worried about how others would think of me if I told them I went to see a counselor," she said. "It's only an hour, which means you won't waste your whole day, and it is on campus. If you don't like it, you don't have to go back. However, if you do like it, there's a lot of options for students who need more than three sessions."

Even with all of this people are still going to feel stress. What has to be done about this is to take a look at a long-term approach to stress management. Changing your attitude toward stress is a way of doing this. Stress will always be present so learning how to handle it can make a big difference. &



photo // andrew beers

by the

NUMBERS

in 2010, 57 percent of students in all colleges were women

5-6 students per year ask for a **gluten-free** meal option

gluten-free
meal option

current number of living alumni:

23,893

cowan
hall holds
991 seats

16,662 alumni are living
in Ohio



otterbein offers **three** free counseling sessions

otterbein requires at least

60

percent of students to live on campus

2,256 miles between Westerville and Los Angeles

83 percent of 2011 respondent graduates are currently **employed**

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