one FIERCE female

wise advice and memorable stories to make the most of freshman year

in this issue: & a classmate remembered & restoring through repurposing & this is my normal students manage disabilities
WISE WORDS:
from the editor

As I gently poke a sewing needle through the worn fabric of my favorite tank top, I remember unearthing the top from the crowded racks of clothes during my first excursion to Plato’s Closet on State Street as a college freshman. Now, in my final year as an undergrad I tug lightly on a thread that needs to continue holding the exhausted material together.

The fifth issue of the T&C Magazine accentuates the need to “restore” things. From modernizing your views and perception of the feminist movement, to refurbishing old knick-knacks into decoratively useful necessities for your room or reconstructing your perception of football player stereotypes, this issue will stimulate your awareness on how change occurs. These stories illustrate the heart of our campus, which sometimes needs to heal. When the tragic death of Kyle Miller left the Otterbein community shocked, we came together to honor his life and find solace in shared memories. Restoring a broken heart often takes time, but some restorations are easier to fix. Starting on page 11 is a three-page package of stories and tips designed to help freshmen adjust to the college lifestyle.

Restore - you won’t find a more extensive look at the power of this simple, yet diverse word anywhere other than here. Pip-pip, cheerio and happy reading!

Rebecca Knopf
Editor-in-chief
features

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Reflect on a foreign exchange student experiencing the differences between two cultures.

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Can you guess the number of hours spent on a plane from Ohio to South Korea? Find the answer and more on this page.
Q&A: Alumni with cool careers

story by // rebecca knopf

Often, finding a job isn’t the problem postgraduate, it’s finding the dream job. Sometimes waiting for the perfect offer doesn’t make sense or work out. For this issue’s featured alumnus, however, the waiting game not only made sense but it produced. It created a door to his dream career. From his experiences, learn what questions you should ask yourself before taking a job that you may not be able to see yourself working at in five years.

Program Manager, Ohio AIDS Coalition

In 2005, William Arnold graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a minor in Art with the idea that he wanted to work in the nonprofit industry. For 10 months, Arnold actively searched for a career path he could love. When he finally found a job as a program manager at the Ohio AIDS Coalition, he went for it, knowing that he could see himself working in the position for years to come. By following his heart and knowing what he wanted, Arnold still finds himself happy at the Ohio AIDS Coalition.

What advice would you have for recent graduates?
Arnold: Follow your heart – don’t forget to do what you love. I feel a large amount of graduates seek employment based on salary alone. Of course we all have to eat, but keep in mind if you love what you are doing and you are making a difference, then a smaller salary is just a part of the nonprofit/public service world.

How hard was it to find a job after graduation?
Arnold: Finding a ‘job’ wasn’t a problem: finding a career was the tricky part. It took me about 10 months to land the job that I still have today, almost seven years later.

Why was it so tricky to find a career?
Arnold: I felt as if I was searching for more than just a job, so I was a bit picky in a sense. I knew I belonged in the nonprofit world so that’s where I focused my attention. I found myself finding possible positions, but nothing that I felt I could give myself to. That all changed when I found out the Ohio AIDS Coalition was hiring. Having a family member living with the virus, I knew this was a realm I could completely devote my efforts to.

What exactly were you searching for?
Arnold: Coming out of the gate, my focus was a bit scattered. I found myself considering any possible option for at least a moment, asking myself questions like: Can I see myself in that atmosphere? Is this going to make a difference in the community? Will it be more than just a JOB? I knew with my heart in mind I couldn’t go wrong.

Could you explain what exactly you do as the Program Manager for Ohio AIDS Coalition?
Arnold: I am responsible for program planning, implementation and evaluation of all OAC events, including: Community Forums, AIDS Watch Ohio, Consumer Education/Leadership Programs, Annual Positive Youth Leadership Summit, Advocacy Workshops and Trainings, Healing Weekends, the Statewide Leadership Conference and many more. We produce over 50 programs a year.

What is the “coolest” aspect of your position?
Arnold: I get to help HIV-positive people from all 88 counties of Ohio. I am an Ohioan at heart, born and raised, and it gives me a great deal of gratitude to be such a resource to so many.

What is your favorite thing about your job?
Arnold: I have found my love in the nonprofit realm. Having experience in the corporate world, I know without a doubt that it’s not for me. The fact that at the end of the day it’s about our education and leadership programs and NOT how much money we brought in the door, is a place I want to be.

What skills do you wish you had learned before you acquired your current job?
Arnold: To have patience – have patience in all aspects of life and to not allow frustration to determine anything.

If you could go back in time and give your freshman college-self advice what would it be?
Arnold: Graduate with the least amount of debt as possible. It’s better to eat beans and rice when you’re in school versus once you graduate.

Future goals/plans for your professional life?
Arnold: I would like to continue working in Public Health in some capacity. Currently I am aiming for a Masters in Public Health to round out my education.
Re-Elect

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A women’s clothing consignment store located in Uptown Westerville. We specialize in new & gently worn designer clothing, purses, shoes, hats, accessory items, and jewelry. All Otterbein students receive a 10% discount.
As college students, we’re simultaneously close to and far away from adulthood. In the most literal sense, we are adults. However, most of us are still financially dependent on our parents. Our financial status doesn’t leave us with much in our budget in terms of buying nice things for our dorm room or apartment. Repurposing or restoring everyday household items is a collegiate, budget-friendly way to add some personality to your living space.

[ Restored lamp shade ]

A decorative lamp is homey and adds a touch of personality to a dorm room or apartment. Restoring a lampshade is an inexpensive way to make sure the lamp perfectly complements the rest of your space.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Lamp
- Several different colors or patterns of paper (thicker paper like scrapbooking paper or wallpaper is best)
- Mod Podge: $5.99
- Paint Brush: $1.99 for a set of three
- Ribbon: Starting at $1.99
- Hot Glue

*Prices and products found at Jo-Ann Fabrics.*

DIRECTIONS:

STEP ONE: Cut out paper into different sizes and shapes that will fit the chosen lampshade.

STEP TWO: With a paint brush, apply the Mod Podge to the back of a piece of paper and place it on the desired spot on the lampshade.

STEP THREE: Continue to apply paper to the lampshade in varying positions to create a collage look. Repeat the process until the entire shade is covered.

STEP FOUR: Apply another layer of Mod Podge to the shade when all the paper is in place. More layers of Mod Podge can be applied as desired. Just make sure to let each coat dry completely before applying another.

STEP FIVE: Measure the ribbon so you have enough to wrap around the top and bottom edges of the lampshade.

STEP SIX: Secure the ribbon to the edges of the lampshade using hot glue.
If you know anyone who plays guitar, they probably have a considerable amount of unused guitar picks that they’ve collected over time. Making a decorative drink coaster is one way to put them all to use.

Before buying drink coasters to decorate, first ask your mom or grandma if they have any old, unwanted ones. If they do, you can make the coasters at little to no cost.

ITEMS NEEDED:
• Drink coaster: $1.99
• Guitar Picks: Prices vary, but they can be found for around $5.00 at Guitar Center
• Glue gun: $7.99
• Glue sticks: $5.99

DIRECTIONS:
STEP ONE: Arrange the guitar picks in a way that best suits the coaster. Don’t put any glue on them until you’re satisfied with the layout.

STEP TWO: Once the layout is how you want it, cover the back of a guitar pick with hot glue and place it in the desired spot on the coaster. Repeat the process by placing picks in horizontal rows.

TIP: Don’t be afraid to use broken picks. Overlapping the rows can mask damages.

ITEMS NEEDED:
• One large plate
• One small plate
• Wine glass
• Small drinking glass
• Krazy Glue: $3.49 at Jo-Ann Fabrics

DIRECTIONS:
STEP ONE: Place the large plate on a flat surface. It will serve as the bottom tier of the organizer.

STEP TWO: Deposit a generous amount of Krazy Glue around the rim of the wine glass, making sure that the glue doesn’t run down the sides of the glass.

STEP THREE: Place the glass upside down in the center of the plate, pressing firmly.

STEP FOUR: Deposit glue on the base of the glass.

STEP FIVE: Place the center of the second plate on top of the base of the glass.

STEP SIX: Deposit glue on the bottom of the small drinking glass and secure to the center of the second plate.

TIP: Be sure to allow as much time as possible for the glue to dry before moving or using the makeup organizer.
Having never realized that your roommate, your high school classmate, or even your Orientation Leader had a mental or learning disability just like you—you are naturally surprised when you see that person walking into Kera Manley’s, coordinator of Disabilities Services, office just as you are leaving. “Most students may not realize that a friend has a disability just like them, until they see each other in passing as they enter and leave my office,” laughed Manley.

Disabilities Services, which is a part of the Academic Support Center, provides students with the materials, the understanding and the advocate that each student walking through the door may need to have a successful college experience. Ranging from both mental and learning disabilities, Manley explains that this department is there to help students from the time they are accepted into Otterbein, to the weekly meetings with the students. Disabilities Services has assisted approximately 168 students during the 2013-2014 school year.

“The most common populations that we serve are ADHD and learning disabilities,” Manley said. “The learning disabilities are typically broken down into most commonly reading, writing and math, and that could be defined as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia. Those will impact the way students are reading print and writing papers. We come up with better accommodations so that students can succeed.”

After being diagnosed with both dyslexia and dysgraphia in elementary school, Lisa Adams, junior equine business management major, was able to take a sigh of relief because she felt she could finally get the help she needed to progress in school. During her junior year in high school, Adams decided to transfer to a high school that was created for students with learning disabilities so that she could get the further help that she needed.

“Dyslexia causes my processing speed to be a lot slower than others,” Adams said. “The words do mix up, so sometimes I will just look at a page and it just goes blank. There are no words. Dyscalculia is the same thing but with numbers.”

But some learning disabilities do more than just cause problems with seeing words and numbers incorrectly: it can also affect a person physically.

Sophomore health promotion and fitness major Alex Feldstein attended the same high school as Adams so that he too could get the help he needed with dysgraphia and short-term memory loss. “Dysgraphia is having a problem with writing physically. It makes it so I concentrate more on writing the letters rather than focusing on the information I am trying to write down, so it takes away from the lesson.”

Feldstein admits that having both dysgraphia and short-term memory loss have made things very difficult at times. It is hard for those who do not know this disability to fully understand and accept it. “Certain people will question the authenticity of my disabilities. I found myself having to over-justify my disabilities.”

Feldstein sometimes finds the ignorance of his learning disabilities frustrating since he said it is a part of who he is and feels as though he should not have to justify it any further than a documented doctor’s note. “But some people just don’t want to believe it.”

Through unfortunate situations like this, Feldstein feels that he has become a stronger and more confident person. “Self-advocacy becomes a huge part of who you are when you have a learning disability.”

As he described the challenges, Feldstein said that at his previous school he had tried to prove to his professors that he needed more aid with his assignments. Feldstein even debates on whether anyone should use the word “disabilities” since “differences” seems to be replacing that stigma. Though this is not an official change for everyone who has a learning disability, Manley agrees that the meaning behind the terminology is important. “I think the terminology comes in waves just like it does with everything else.”

“I think the terminology comes in waves just like it does with everything else.”

- kera manley // coordinator of disabilities service

Opening Up about Her Disability

While more students with learning disabilities visit Manley’s office on a more regular basis, students dealing with their disabilities still learn how to deal with their disabilities in different ways. “My entire first year I hid from myself. I ignored everything I’ve ever known to conform into a ‘normal’ person. Because a ‘normal’ person doesn’t know that it takes 17 steps to get from her bedroom to the bathroom or that it takes exactly 54 steps until she gets to her room on the fourth floor of Hanby,” junior nursing major Aleth Pashi said during the Sex at Seven monologues at orientation. She admitted to the whole freshman class that she had Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

Looking back to second grade, Pashi recalls wondering why her best friend never counted the number of times she sang “Bill” in the Bill Nye the Science Guy theme song. She wondered why he did not hear a certain cricket make a sound during recess exactly six times like she did or why he did not count the number of times Arnold’s name was said in the Hey Arnold theme song, to
make sure that it never changed. It was not until she was explaining the incidences to her older sister who was in nursing school at the time, that Pashi was diagnosed with OCD.

Pashi said, “Basically, it is a chemical imbalance in your brain but there are different severities of it. For me, I count a lot, so if the room is really quiet I will sit there and count the ticks on the clock or I will count when I step. So it is a very regimented way of living because you like to do things in a certain way, a certain order, and take a certain amount of time.”

Knowing that she had OCD allowed Pashi to fully understand why she did some of the things that were uncommon to other people. It was no longer a strange occurrence but a reason behind her actions and everyone in her life knew about it.

“I remember joking with my friends on the basketball team that I was going to put my left shoe on first, and it was really funny. They knew it was a joke because I always have to put everything on my right first. They knew me.”

It is one thing to live a normal life in your hometown with your disability. Coming into college, Pashi began to feel like no one would really understand this side of her. Deciding that it was too much to tell every single person she met why she might flicker the lights a few times or why she had to drive a specific route to the same place, she just waited for those who really were interested to ask her.

Looking back now and seeing how much she tried to change into what others may consider a “normal” person, Pashi did not want other freshmen feeling as though they had to keep a part of themselves a secret from their new home. Taking the opportunity as a part of the SOAR orientation team, Pashi wanted the students to understand that although they may not struggle with the same thing, she is open enough to understand.

Pashi said, “Whether that is an actual medical issue or just like something that they have gone through, everyone’s steps to get here have been different and everyone struggles with a battle that they do not talk about. So to understand that whenever you meet someone, you do not know what they are currently fighting or what stage they are in coping with it. Just to get to know them first, and getting to know them, you will get the rest of it too.”

Agreeing with Pashi, Manley makes it clear that it is not about what they have but who they are. “It’s part of the student, it doesn’t define the student. These are all students who were accepted into college so they are bright, ambitious individuals and with the right tools and techniques and understanding in their college careers, they will get to the same result as the rest of the students.”

Whether a student has a learning disability or a mental disability, it does not change the student. It is just a normal part of their lives.

“The words do mix up, so sometimes I will just look at a page and it just goes blank. There are no words.”
- lisa adams // junior equine business major

Lisa Adams spends time with Otterbein owned horse, Jerry, and manages a college schedule like any other student. // conner scott
In the trunk

story by // susanna harris

Otterbein equestrian team member and Equine Business Management major, junior Lisa Adams, has more than typical college book and backpack in her car. Noticeably, her Jetta is chock-full of horseback riding gear, leaving no room for the additional passenger seeking a ride to and from class.

A: Show boots are specifically for impressing judges at horse shows, although sometimes Adams wears them for practice. Adams apologized for all the dirt on them and explained that she cleans them with water and saddle soap, and then uses black boot polish for the finishing touch.

B: Adams’ favorite piece of riding equipment protects her head if she were to fall off. This particular helmet is for cross-country riding, where she and her horse will jump solid fences and ride long distances.

C: Made from 100 percent sheepskin, this riding half-pad is used for practice and not shows. To Adams’ dismay, it was a little dirtier than she prefers.

D: Easily recognizable, the saddle keeps a rider firmly in place and can be a show piece to impress the judges.

E: A bridle is put on the horse’s face and is used for the rider to control speed and steering of the horse. This bridle belongs to the horse Adams has recently been riding named Jerry.

graphic // jennifer hall
photos // susanna harris
I immediately became involved with WOBN, Otterbein’s radio station. In becoming a part of WOBN, I not only discovered a new career possibility, but I found a place where I truly felt that I fit in, without having to try.

For the sake of not becoming too comfortable with the current version of yourself, make sure you do something that scares you every now and then. In order to challenge yourself and grow into the best version of yourself, you have to leave your comfort zone now and again. Whether you go to a party and force yourself to socialize or apply for a staff position you don’t feel qualified for, just do it and don’t think too deeply about it. It’s okay if you don’t end up liking whatever you challenged yourself to try, but at least you tried it.

While you’re adapting to the challenges presented by your first year of college, such as an insane amount of homework or an argument with your roommate, you’ll probably find yourself stressed and overwhelmed every now and then. During those times, it’s important to find a place that serves as an escape—a place you can rest your mind. Explore Westerville and find that place. Having a safe haven off campus is crucial in saving your sanity when things get to be too much at school. My personal safe haven is the coffee shop Java Central in uptown Westerville. If you’d rather escape somewhere a little outside of civilization, try Sharon Woods Metro Park off Cleveland Avenue. The trails and woods allow you to tune out the busyness of life.

I’m not going to sugar coat it—finishing your freshman year with a sense of pride and satisfaction requires a lot of work. Finding new friends and missing home while trying to decide what you want to spend the rest of your life doing is a terrifying thing, and you’ll have to work at it every day. Staying true to yourself while simultaneously challenging yourself to grow is what will ensure the survival of your freshman year at Otterbein.
They say your college years are the best years of your life. Most would agree, with the exception of freshman year. It’s during that year when most of us get lost, struggle to find our niche around campus, are afraid to ask for help, get homesick and sometimes aren’t sure if we are going to make it at all. And everyone who goes through being a college freshman has memories or experiences that stay with them. The T&C asked five students to reflect back either a few weeks or a few years and sometimes aren’t sure if we are going to make it at all. And everyone who goes through being a college freshman has memories or experiences that stay with them. The T&C asked five students to reflect back either a few weeks or a few years to when they were freshmen at Otterbein. Here are the stories of Alexandra Lederman, Noah Hademacher, Hayden Bowen, Charmaine Mosely, and Nicholas Mayes &

**Alexandra Lederman**
NAME: alexandra lederman
MAJOR: studio art
YEAR: freshman
HOMETOWN: swanton, ohio

“The first night that I stayed in my dorm I went to bed around 11:30 and couldn’t really go to sleep and I woke up like an hour later shaking. Then a half an hour later, I started to feel really nauseous. So, I ran to the bathroom. I got sick, and around 1:30 in the morning, I called my mom and texted my RA. Michelle, my RA, helped me back to my room, and one of the campus police came to check on me. I was still shaking and sick, so he called the paramedics. So I took the ambulance over to the hospital and didn’t get checked in until 4:30am after being there for two hours. It turns out I had a stomach virus and a fever of 103. They put fluids in me through an IV and gave me some medication. I went back to my mom’s hotel room at 7:30 in the morning and slept for a few hours before I got up to help my roommate move in. I felt better after about three days and everything is good now. But it was really scary.”

**Noah Rademacher**
NAME: noah rademacher
MAJOR: accounting
YEAR: junior
HOMETOWN: Lansing, Michigan

“I was at a party in the spring and my big decided it would be a great idea for me and another one of my pledge brothers to have a competition to see who could do the craziest thing for the night. The night started off kind of slow and then my competition got drunk pretty early and started doing crazy stuff and everyone started yelling at me to catch up with him. Basically I drank a ton and blacked out and there was a lot of stuff that I don’t remember. But the next morning, I heard what I did and what happened… So, I was being walked home by one of my brothers after the party and there was still ice on the ground in the parking lot from it being so cold. I just started sprinting and tried to slide on the ice, but I missed the ice and slid on the pavement. So I fell and bashed my chin on the cement. There was a giant gash cut of my chin and I was bleeding everywhere. So my brother walks me back to my room and my friend is freaking out and telling me I’m getting blood everywhere, and I’m like ‘I’m fine.” Then the blood started leaking on to my arms and I started flipping out and I was like “Why are my arms bleeding?” And I was yelling at them that I needed a Band-Aid for my arm. So my friend ran to get me a Band-Aid and I put it on one spot on my arm that had blood on it and I went to bed. The next morning I wake up and I’m covered in blood and my sheets are covered in blood. And I was like “who was the drunk person that put blood everywhere?” And I’m like “I’m fine.” Then the blood started leaking on to my arms and I started flipping out and I was like “Why are my arms bleeding?” And I was yelling at them that I needed a Band-Aid for my arm. So my friend ran to get me a Band-Aid and I put it on one spot on my arm that had blood on it and I went to bed. The next morning I wake up and I’m covered in blood and my sheets are covered in blood. And I was like “who was the drunk person that put a band aid on my arm?” My friends were like, ‘YOU!”

**Nicholas Mayes**
NAME: nicholas mayes
MAJOR: education
YEAR: sophomore
HOMETOWN: canton, ohio

“During freshman year one of the best times was around Christmas time. My room was the Christmas room. I had a Christmas tree and I made my TV look like a log fireplace. Everyone would come in to my room, so it would feel like Christmas. And one of my friends from Texas had never seen snow before in real life. So one day we were walking back from class together and it started snowing and she freaked out and was so excited. So we waited a couple of hours until outside was all covered in snow, and I told her one of the best experiences with snow is actually playing in the snow. So we got all prepared and bundled up and went outside and played in the snow for her first time ever. The first thing she wanted to do was build a snowman and dance in the snow. But, I wanted to have a snowball fight. And it ended with me hitting her right in the face with a big snowball.”

**Hayden Bowen**
NAME: hayden bowen
MAJOR: allied health
YEAR: freshman
HOMETOWN: Reynoldsburg, Ohio

“My freshman year so far has sucked. I had roommate problems the second I moved in. My roommate wasn’t locking the door and taking care of the room. He would leave in the middle of the night and just wander around campus leaving the door wide open. He just wasn’t respecting the fact that I had valuable stuff in the room and I didn’t want to always be worried about it. Then, after four days, I switched dorms and got a new roommate. I moved to Clements Hall and my roommate was a real cool guy and everything was fine. Once the second week of school started and classes started getting harder and I started getting more work, I realized that I needed to have a nice and quiet place to study and do my work. I also didn’t like having to use a community bathroom. I just wasn’t comfortable. So I realized that if I moved back home, which is only 15 minutes away, I would have a chance of setting myself up for success. Along with that, I could now continue the important role I had in the house and help my mom who is a single mother with my little sister and the two dogs.”

“My freshman year I was the president of DK hall council and an event that I planned was the glow light party. We got Cardinal after Dark to sponsor us and help pay for the event. We had it held in the Campus Center. We made shirts for everyone who was involved and the first 50 people got a free t-shirt and had the chance to actually design it. We had glow sticks everywhere, people dancing, snacks and music. It was a great turnout and a lot of people liked it and it was great seeing my friends and everyone support me. People saw how hard I worked on this project and it actually helped me become an RA in the long run. Planning that party was a great accomplishment, and I became very involved. However, I learned that you can do anything, but you can’t do everything.”

**Charmayne Mosely**
NAME: charmayne mosely
MAJOR: nursing
YEAR: junior
HOMETOWN: gahanna, ohio

“My freshman year I was the president of DK hall council and an event that I planned was the glow light party. We got Cardinal after Dark to sponsor us and help pay for the event. We had it held in the Campus Center. We made shirts for everyone who was involved and the first 50 people got a free t-shirt and had the chance to actually design it. We had glow sticks everywhere, people dancing, snacks and music. It was a great turnout and a lot of people liked it and it was great seeing my friends and everyone support me. People saw how hard I worked on this project and it actually helped me become an RA in the long run. Planning that party was a great accomplishment, and I became very involved. However, I learned that you can do anything, but you can’t do everything.”
How to NOT look like a FRESHMAN

story by // taylor numbers

Don’t make yourself sound cooler:
thoughts:
I don’t care if your supposed high school BFFs used to call you “McLovin.” That sounds to me like something I would be trying to forget.

advice:
College is a place to start over, use this to your advantage. No one here knows what you were like in high school. No one cares if you were a super jerk or a nerd. Find a place on campus where you fit in and really let your personality shine.

Let go of your high school years:
thoughts:
As the great Queen Elsa once said: “Let it go.” Sure, you had a lot of good times, you may have won a state championship or received a full scholarship for your achievements in high school, but guess what, high school is over. Put away your letterman jackets and take off those class rings. No one cares that you’ve conveniently combined your love of volleyball with every club you ever belonged in on one size-seven ring. Memories are for yearbooks, not your back or your finger.

advice:
Earn an Otterbein letterman jacket, join new clubs and make new memories. Try not to let your high school years become your “glory days.”

Stop complaining about book costs:
thoughts:
Welcome to college where Amazon.com and Netflix will quickly become your new best friends. Forget loyalty to the bookstore, you’re in college now, from now on you’re only loyal to whatever saves you money. Hello sketchy van outside the Campus Center, why yes I would love to sell my books back to you for a better price.

advice:
Shop around for the best options. Before the semester compile a list of all your books and their ISBN numbers. Then check Amazon, eBay, and Chegg. If you don’t find a better deal then you aren’t doing college right.

Do NOT walk in packs:
thoughts:
Why don’t you just put a giant transcending neon flashing sign over top of your heads that says “please follow me OPD.” If you ever find yourself wandering around campus looking for a party, chances are the upperclassmen didn’t want you to know about it.

advice:
I understand that you’re new to campus and you’re nervous to head out on your own but your entire dorm floor does not have to make the trip with you. The key here is the “buddy system.” No more than three buddies are to head out on their own. If your entire hall does want to join, pair off and leave at three minute intervals.

Don’t wear your lanyards:
thoughts:
You know what’s even more convenient than having your swipe card and key hang around your neck? Being able to tell what year someone is because they are wearing their swipe card and key around their neck. No, it’s not actually your inability to control yourself on a Friday night that is making you look like a freshman, it’s your lanyard.

advice:
Ladies, let’s all make a pact right now that we will never go to a party wearing anything without pockets. I don’t care if you have to tape your key to your swipe card to keep them together, anything is better than your lanyard. You can even put them in one of your infamous guy friend’s bookbags if that makes you feel more comfortable. Bonus points if you keep track of your guy friend the entire night.

No more neon:
thoughts:
Ever. Anywhere. On any part of your body. I don’t care if it’s your boxers. This is not the ‘90s and your multi-colored Nike neon shirt is for real hurting my eyes.

advice:
Just don’t do it.

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Otterbein preserves artwork

Centuries of global artwork housed in Otterbein-owned Frank Museum of Art

story by // jennifer hall

Relics neatly line the shelves, tightly packed in rows like a small band of soldiers, in front of stacked boxes that cover the walls around it. Many pieces are weathered and what once had vibrant colors are now faded. A faint scent of must wafts through the air, suggesting the time that has passed since the creation of the objects.

Large, wooden eyes stare, longing to be understood and able to share the stories of its past. A dialogue of silence ensues... “Who were the people creating these masks?” “What did they do?” “What were they like?” A thin layer of plastic is the only thing separating the precious materials from the harsh realities of the atmosphere. Luckily, the Otterbein-owned Frank Museum of Art provides a safe haven for this delicate collection of African art.

The African collection is the primary facet of Otterbein’s entire Permanent Global Collection, ranging from miniature brass sculptures to large ceramic pieces. Chaz O’Neil, Otterbein alumnus and current Gallery and Museum Director for Otterbein University, explained that the collection originally began not as a pursuit for beautiful art, but as the product of early mission and service trips to West Africa.

O’Neil jokes that being alone with the collection can sometimes feel a bit intimidating, saying that he feels the artwork has something to understand and able to share the stories of the creation of the objects. Art professor Nicholas Hill notes a time when the art department was located in Battelle, stating that “One could open a closet, or a door, or a cabinet and might come upon objects that were part of the collection.” A unifying characteristic of the objects in the Global Collection is that they are composed of fragile materials—wood, fibers, clay, etc. These materials easily fall victim to the natural damage caused by the environment, creating the need for an atmospherically secure, designated storage space.

This issue of storage was solved when Lillian Frank, former Otterbein art professor and Art Department chairperson, donated her home, often referred to as her “church house,” to the university to use as a museum just prior to her death in 1999. Originally built in 1877 as the Salem Evangelical Church, the structure required serious renovations prior to opening its first art exhibition in early 2004. Based on conversations between engineers and the Columbus Museum of Art, architects in conjunction with the Otterbein Service Department completed renovations to the building that paralleled the technology used in full scale museums. A new heating and cooling system was installed along with humidity control system that created a safe environment for the delicate African objects. Many features, originally designed for the building as a church, were left in tact. For example, the long pointed windows were kept, despite needing UV protection glass and scrims to ensure that light damage was not inflicted upon the artwork.

Many people contributed to the development of an Otterbein Art Museum for the love of art and Otterbein. However, several others did so to honor Frank. According to Professor Hill, a group of former Japanese exchange students, hosted by Mrs. Frank at one point, provided the new track lighting system for the museum. A plaque on the gallery wall lists the names of other contributors to honor their donations to the university. Other renovations necessary to transform the space from church residence to a fine art museum included the addition of a security system, a fire suspension system and creating a neutral color scheme within the building to complement any exhibition that may find its way into the gallery space.

Unique in its mission, the Frank Museum of Art is the only museum in Ohio to exhibit global art exclusively. The aim for a global collection reflects the ideals of Mrs. Frank, who was highly interested in Japanese Art, making international connections by hosting exchange students from across the globe. In addition to the historic works owned by Otterbein, contemporary global work also circulates the gallery space by artists working in India, Japan, South Korea and South America.

Complementing the Permanent Global Collection, a contemporary art collection resides in the mezzanine of the Art and Communication Center. Just like Otterbein’s historic global art, this selection of work includes pieces by faculty, students and artists exhibiting work in gallery spaces around campus. O’Neil noted that faculty and staff have the opportunity to rent this artwork to decorate their office spaces while employed at Otterbein.

While numerous people provide feedback about the value of Otterbein’s art collections, many people fail to understand that having art appraised is costly and a bit subjective. As a result, the total value of artwork owned by Otterbein is a gray area. However, one piece in

“One could open a closet, or a door, or a cabinet and might come upon objects that were part of the collection.”

- nicholas hill // art professor
A selection of artwork housed in the Otterbein Frank Museum of Art. Pictured bottom right is Otterbein University’s most valuable piece, an Ewer donated by Joseph Glick. // Jennifer Hall

The Global Permanent collection with a definite value is a jade green Ewer originating from Burma. Donated by Art Collector Joseph Glick, this teapot-shaped vessel is valued at $50,000. Most pieces in the African collection range around a few hundred dollars, with a smaller group of superb pieces worth a few thousand dollars.

One must also remember that the value of art is more than a dollar amount. According to Professor Hill, “When the university accepts a gift, whether it’s the building or the object, there’s a tacit understanding that we’re accepting it to care for it properly.”

Providing educational insight and artistic enjoyment, the Otterbein Permanent Global Collection remains a valuable asset to an Otterbein education. Interacting with the objects enlightens viewers with a deeper understanding of the past. They are more than pieces of wood and metal; they are the remains of a culture.

A tall wooden sculpture of a female figure, unclad and breasts exposed, watches as visitors leave the museum, a final statement of history before exiting through the heavy double doors. Centuries of unique history and culture are exposed through the objects housed in the museum; their story lives on through visitors who come to admire them and the campus community who works to preserve them.

A selection of artwork housed in the Otterbein Frank Museum of Art. Pictured bottom right is Otterbein University’s most valuable piece, an Ewer donated by Joseph Glick. // Jennifer Hall
A forty-five degree day in September feels pretty chilly, but in March, after debatably one of the hardest winters in Ohio, that weather feels like paradise. That’s at least how junior physics major Austin Gifford felt when his friend Kyle Miller invited him for a kayak trip at Prairie Oaks Lake in mid-March last year. The two started the day around 9 a.m. Miller, a free-spirited adventure seeker, was always partaking in activities that other people wanted to do. No idea was a dumb one for Miller. Gifford said it wasn’t unusual for the two Otterbein students to sled around their apartment complex or take a kayak trip to Alum Creek at a moment’s notice.

Gifford knew of Miller in high school, attending a competing school in Hilliard. However, it wasn’t until college, where they became track teammates, that they struck up a friendship. Gifford explains that they got along so well because they both had that free-spirit mentality. He was a talented athlete on the Otterbein track team, but as a zoo and conservation science major, Miller also had a huge heart for animals. In fact, Gifford said that it was almost like wildlife followed him around, and he would do whatever he could to help an animal in need. Gifford remembers one particular story when Miller was driving to the Ohio Wildlife Center and swerved to the side of the road to save a hawk with a broken wing. He picked it up off the road and held it in a towel in the back seat until they reached the center. The center was able to revive it and it was recently released into the wild. Gifford said that Miller was the most excited he had ever saw him while telling that story.

Not only did he have a passion for the outdoors, but he also brought that passion into the lives of the people he met. Anna Young, director of the zoo and conservation science program said that he had a huge passion for animals and had an interest in SCRAM!, which is a program associated with the Ohio Wildlife Center where they go into homes and help mediate wildlife and human conflict. Gifford said that one of Miller’s talents was identifying different species of birds. He just had a keen eye and a compassionate soul for animals.

This love for animals and the outdoors characterized the life that Kyle Miller lived. He would often go kayaking with his dog, Scotty, sitting contently in front of him. That was the plan on that day in March: to take a relaxing spin on the lake during a beautiful day that implied that the world was thawing and winter was finally loosening its grip. Miller got Scotty into the car, loaded up the kayaks and headed to Prairie Oaks Lake in Hilliard with Gifford meeting him there. Gifford said that the two of them had just bought some new fishing gear, and wanted to try
it out. So they cruised, and they fished, and just enjoyed the day. The two Otterbein students were paddling on separate sides of the lake, out of sight from one another, when Gifford heard a yell. He figured that Miller had caught a fish, so he paddled over and upon arrival saw that Miller and dog Scotty had both fallen into the water. Miller was holding onto the kayak while Scotty started swimming toward Gifford. The first thing that Miller said to him was “grab my dog,” because he was worried that Scotty would drown. So, like a good friend would, Gifford slowly leaned over to grab the dog when his kayak caught the water. This caused the kayak to flip over and left both men in the exact same position.

Gifford explains that he was annoyed when he first fell in, but when the reality of the frigid water paralyzing his body set in, he realized how serious the situation had become. So they stayed with their boats, and they waited. Somewhere between 70 to 100 yards from the bank they held onto their kayaks and yelled for help. After a while, Gifford had a decision to make. He could stay where he was with his boat, or he could risk the long-distance swim to the shore knowing full well that the frigid water could render his muscles unworkable. So he decided to swim. His kayak was already half full of water, so he turned it upside-down to trap whatever air was left and breast-stroke kicked his way with the kayak. Meanwhile, Miller stayed where he was. The wind was unusually strong that day, and was causing him to drift farther into the middle.

Gifford said, “Kyle could physically swim, but was just unable to even make an attempt to get out, so he was just holding on.”

“...I think throughout his life, Kyle must have brought people together, and I think he’s still bringing people together.”

- Heidi Tracy // Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Otterbein

Gifford swam for at least 20 minutes and was 10 yards from the bank when his muscles suddenly froze. He was starting to fall under, when at the last second he saw a blurry glimpse of splashes in front of him, and was pulled to shore. Gifford remembers the sight of about 50 vehicles on his way out. The area was bustling with everything from cop cars, to fire trucks, search and rescue vehicles and helicopters. While the ambulance took Gifford to the hospital, the rescue boat got to the scene. The boat entered the water, sped to the spot where Miller was hanging on but was about a minute too late. Gifford was in the hospital for a few hours with no answers in sight. “I never saw him go under,” Gifford said, “So I just figured he’d be there and as soon as I was good enough I’d go over and see him.” However, from the expression on people’s faces, he saw that was not the case.

A tree was planted behind Towers in honor of Kyle Miller. // Susanna Harris

In memoriam of Kyle Miller, flowers were placed by the Otterbein sign on Towers' lawn. // Anna Schiffbauer

Kyle Miller enjoyed kayaking with his Scottish Terrier, Scotty. // provided
A tree was planted behind towers in honor of Kyle Miller. // susanna harris
When the news circulated that Miller and his dog had drowned, Otterbein sent out a mass e-mail to each student on campus on the Sunday of spring break. From Miller’s closest friends, to the people who just passed him on the street between classes, it’s undeniable that news like that made each person in Otterbein’s close-knit community come to a complete pause.

So how does a small campus like Otterbein restore from such a loss? A loss that runs so deep has affected people who didn’t even know Miller personally. For Gifford, Miller was a brother. What helped him get through was living his life in Miller’s name, and doing things that would make him proud. Gifford still came back to school and finished out the track season because Miller was so excited about track and was always concerned with Gifford’s progress.

“I still go fishing all the time because he taught me everything I know about fishing,” Gifford said with a smile, “It’s comforting to do stuff like that.”

The support system after the tragedy also spread campus-wide. Don’t be surprised to see members of the track team or zoo students wearing a green wristband with “Kyle Miller” written on it. Also, if passing through the grass behind towers hall, stop to read the plaque beside the tree that was planted in Miller’s memory. But that is not the full extent of how the Otterbein community will remember him. In a few years, when Miller’s former classmates and teammates graduate and go their separate ways, Miller will not be forgotten among the students of this university. His family has set up an endowment fund that will continue his legacy for years to come by helping fund one or two zoo student’s research project each year.

Heidi Tracy, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Otterbein, helped work out the details of the endowment with Miller’s family. Tracy, who did not know Miller personally, said that she feels like she knew him because she worked so closely with his family, and said it has been one of the most rewarding projects of her career.

There was also a 5k race held recently in Miller’s name. His family and friends were in attendance. Some of them were even sporting boxers to remember a funny story about Miller running outside in his boxers to see a bird. People from around the area also came to the 5k to offer any assistance needed. Tracy remembers one young lady volunteering at the race who was an Otterbein student. When asked how she knew Miller, the woman revealed that she had just transferred to Otterbein, didn’t know Miller, and just wanted to help out. That is the kind of impact that Miller had, and is still having, on the entire university. Tracy said, “I think throughout his life, Kyle must have brought people together, and I think he’s still bringing people together.”

There’s not much that can console the burdened hearts of the friends and family who lost someone so close to them. But if there is one thing, it is that Kyle Miller’s name is going to live on. His passion for animals, his adventurous personality and his hopes and dreams will be instilled in each student who receives his scholarship gift.

As for Gifford, he’s just going to keep living his life in the free-spirited manner that he shared with his friend.
Religious Diversity on Campus

story by // shelby booker

College is a time when both young men and women will encounter new ideas that challenge their established beliefs and make a reassessment of their faith. These students are not alone. Otterbein has services in place and offers a variety of counseling and referral services both on and off campus.

Some may associate the title of chaplain with one particular religion, however, Judy Guion-Utsler, the reverend doctor here at Otterbein, serves many people outside of her denomination or faith group.

Guion-Utsler was hesitant to take the title of chaplain. While at seminary she studied campus ministry because she liked working with students, and later returned to school to obtain a Ph.D. in higher education.

“When the chaplain position opened I didn’t apply for it because I was afraid of being limited by being labeled in some way,” Guion-Utsler said.

She believed that people would hear the word “chaplain” and assume what she thought about certain subjects based on her title alone. While she was weary of the title chaplain, Bob Gatti, Dean of Students, was certain from the beginning that Guion-Utsler would fall in love with Otterbein and its students.

“I am very fortunate that at Otterbein I am able to define the term chaplain in a much broader way than some other places might define it.”

Now she is an advisor to many of the religious organizations on campus, providing pastoral care when an organization or student is in crisis. She is a confidential reporter. This means people can come to her with their concerns or issues and she does not have to report them to the police department or the dean.

The students she advises may not even have a specific belief system. While Guion-Utsler is still adjusting to her new role as chaplain, she is already creating change in religious life.

A chaplain’s role differs from the role of a local pastor, priest or rabbi in many ways.

While other chaplains base their role upon their own pastoral identity, Guion-Utsler’s self-proclaimed role is to be everyone’s chaplain. The chaplain is responsible for creating a healthy spiritual environment on campus, and supporting all religious organizations.

Aesha Ibraheem, a junior biochemistry and molecular biology major, is the founder and president of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) program. When Ibraheem realized there was no organization on campus for Muslim students she felt the need to create one.

The MSA currently has 13 members and is continuing to grow.

“The reason I chose to come to Otterbein is because I feel very comfortable here. I truly believe that there is real acceptance here no matter what religion, gender or culture, everyone is respectful,” Ibraheem said.

Guion-Utsler’s goal is to further help different religious organizations grow and in this upcoming year she plans on working with the Jewish students to create a program which would welcome anyone who wishes to learn more about the religion. She is also working with the Otterbein Catholic Association to reinvent their mission statement.

“I think most of the people here, [including] the staff and faculty are really trying to create the best community we can. We are working to make this campus the best place we can for all students,” Guion-Utsler said.

Paul Baker, a senior music major and Buddhist, said he chose Buddhism because he is trying to make himself a better person and Otterbein allowed him to make that connection.

Tracy Benner, the Director of Residence Life, supplied Guion-Utsler with a list of students on campus and their religious identity. The highest number listed was Roman Catholic with 426 students while the least was Hindu with no students to date.

“That’s something I want to work on, the way we ask our students to identify themselves and how we ask the question,” Guion-Utsler said.

Guion-Utsler wants students to know of her open door policy. “I am the chaplain for everyone on this campus, whether or we not we share the same beliefs or value system. I get to define this role and I can represent more than one kind of student.”

Members of Otterbein’s Muslim Student Association following their group meeting. // jennifer hall
Religious Groups on Campus

Otterbein has numerous programs that allow students to make a spiritual connection. The Religious Life Council (RLC) is the administrative managing and organizing group for all religious events and programs on campus. It is a wide-ranging organization that offers students of various religious cultures and heritages to come together in this mutual agency. The RLC’s affiliation includes a variety of representatives from each of the religious organizations on campus.

- **Athletes for Action (AIA)** is a religious program that helps students learn how faith and sports intertwine.
- **The Otterbein Gospel Choir** allows students to come together as a group to be spiritually charged, enjoy spiritual acceptance, create bonds and have a good time.
- **Otterbein Christian Fellowship (OCF)** is open to anyone and acceptable to people of any Christian faith.
- **Blessed Pope John Paul II Society** is a Roman Catholic student group that attempts to live and spread the message of Jesus Christ.
- **Humble Dance Ministry** is a collection of women who worship God and demonstrate their praise through dance.
- **Habitat for Humanity** encourages students to bring awareness of poverty housing concerns.
- **A Buddhist Philosophy House** on campus, located at 146 W. Home St., exists to provide students with a place to practice various forms of Buddhist meditation, study and lifestyle.
- **The Muslim Student Association (MSA)** group mission is to educate students on the Muslim religion while maintaining a welcoming and open-minded environment.

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Find us on
Feminism Evolves
what the movement means today, and what it encompassed before our time

story by // dystany hall

The sun beamed down on Towers Hall with such intensity that even the windows could not protect the classroom and students from the sun’s rays. Clamoring ensued as students wished they had their sunglasses because of the incredibly harsh sunlight. However, small talk about the sun faded as clouds overshadowed the blinding rays. With the annoyance of the sun out of the way, conversations about underlying agony within the classroom could be discussed. Emma Watson’s United Nations speech about the UN Women initiative, HeForShe, was to be watched. Birk made her way to the classroom’s desktop and opened the Google search bar while the ruckus continued. As Birk hit the play button, silence took over the students, something that rarely happens in WGSS classes.

Otterbein University has been open to males and females since it was established, a historical triumph during this time period. Currently, the number of females enrolled is 62%, compared to males at 38%. In 2012, Tammy Birk spearheaded the creation of the WGSS program and has been focused on building ever since. “We have about 20 majors and 14 minors right now. Of course, there are some who haven’t declared it to the Registrar yet, but this is a good ballpark estimate. The program is only three years old, so we’re happy to have these numbers—and expect that they will grow as the program becomes more visible to students,” Birk said.

This year, more students are registered as WGSS majors and minors than ever before. The Violence Against Women Act became law in 1994, which contributed to a lot of people contemplating whether or not they are a feminist. “It really helps. People start asking questions because they are able to see that their professors are feminist or maybe even that their friends are. It provokes people to come out as feminists which is great,” said Hurd.

This year, more students are registered as WGSS majors and minors than ever before. Junior Ally Hurd, a WGSS major, predicts that more people will enroll in the program within the upcoming years. Since the WGSS program is fairly new, Birk and students have been trying to build buzz about the program on campus. Last year they organized many events like Project Unbreakable, a program that was launched to provide survivors of sexual violence and assault a way to face their attacker and demonstrate their own resilience at the same time. This year, Birk and company look to kick off the year with intense event planning.

“We’re looking into a lot of pre-established programs that we can bring to Otterbein,” Hurd said. “One in particular is called Hollaback, which is an organization in New York that is all about fighting against street harassment. Also during the course of the year members of Team Consent will be going to FYS classes to teach about exactly consent is since many people are still unclear on the issue.”

Of all of the events planned by the program, the largest is always Feminist Pride Day. According to Hurd, Feminist Pride Day contributes to a lot of people contemplating whether or not they are a feminist. “It really helps. People start asking questions because they are able to see that their professors are feminist or maybe even that their friends are. It provokes people to come out as feminists which is great,” said Hurd.

The WGSS program is a mystery to most students, but as the program becomes more visible to the students, “It provokes people to come out as feminists which is great,” said Hurd.

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Timeline of Women’s Rights & Feminism in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>The Seneca Falls Convention was held where The Declaration of Sentiments was announced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>At a Women’s Convention in Akron, Ohio, Sojourner Truth gave her famous “Ain’t I a Woman?” speech.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>The first birth control clinic was opened by Margaret Sanger.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>The 19th Amendment was ratified, granting all American women the right to vote.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>The Violence Against Women Act became law in the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded by Betty Friedan, author of Feminist Mystique, and 28 other women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>The Supreme Court ruled in Roe v. Wade that women have right to safe and legal abortion, making anti-abortion laws unconstitutional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>In Olympia, Washington and D.C., the Riot Grrrl movement began, giving feminists a voice through their art.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded by Betty Friedan, author of Feminist Mystique, and 28 other women.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Eve Ensler’s feminist play, The Vagina Monologues, premiered in New York City.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Feminists organized the first official SlutWalk to show that it shouldn’t matter what a woman is wearing; no one should be assaulted.</td>
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The WGSS program is a mystery to most students, but as the program becomes more visible to the students, “It provokes people to come out as feminists which is great,” said Hurd.
students on campus because people don’t understand what WGSS stands for or what the classes are based around.

“We talk about feminism as a general movement for social justice. That includes women and how we’re treated in society and how we’re viewed. But the program also goes on to include discussions on sexual orientations and genders outside of the gender binary. So, through the study of this you learn about so many other differences and diversity. The program is the stepping stone to being a true social justice warrior,” commented Hurd.

Recently, in pop culture feminism has become a hot topic. Stars like Beyoncé Knowles, Jennifer Aniston, Taylor Swift, Nicki Minaj, Lorde and Emma Watson are all proudly coming out as feminists and are becoming the true social justice warriors. At this year’s MTV Video Music Awards, Beyoncé took the stage and performed her song “Flawless.” During the performance, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s famous “We should all be feminists” TedxTalk was sampled in her song and the correct definition of feminism was heard by millions. In the song, and at her TedxTalk, Adichie said “Feminist: the person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes.” Beyoncé used her platform as a megastar to publicize to millions that she is indeed a feminist and proud. After her performance the Internet exploded with talks about feminism and what it means to be a feminist.

At this moment in time, feminism is still seen as a bad word. Some even refer to it as the “F” word, explaining why so many women and men are reluctant to being labeled as feminists. “People are uncomfortable [with feminism] because of the stigma it has behind it. You get labeled as a hairy-legged lesbian, or a bra-burner, or something of that nature. People don’t want to rock the boat and be seen as an outcast,” freshman WGSS major Calli Woodruff said. “Feminist” is a complicated word because it means so many things. There’s no one type of feminist. Some people are also reluctant to identify as a feminist because of the word itself. People are reluctant because they think it’s female-centered -- and they’re right. That’s not to say that we’re not trying to benefit men as well. Men are hurt by the patriarchy. But females are systematically oppressed, and we need the main focus of the movement.”

But Watson is trying a new approach. In her UN speech she states that, “We don’t often talk about men being imprisoned by gender stereotypes but I can see that they are and that when they are free, things will change for women as a natural consequence.”

With Watson’s latest statement, and the help of other stars, the word “feminism” is starting to have less of stigma throughout the pop culture world. By the guidance of these stars, teenagers are starting to do more and more research on feminism and what it means to be a feminist. Tumblr blogs are being created every day by teenage girls and boys that allow them to have open dialogue on the subject.

Feminism is on its way to becoming mainstream and when things get to that point you can never get away from them. “I think it’s wonderful that feminism has a large young audience these days. It’s important for youth to be involved with movements like this now so that when they take the reins they can do so with a better understanding of how the world works and what we can do to change it. What I would tell young feminists is to keep speaking up. If you don’t say anything about what you don’t like in the world then you will never be heard. As Audre Lorde once said, ‘Your silence will not protect you,’” Woodruff said.

Anyone can be a feminist and the WGSS courses are open to everyone. “You don’t have to be an academic to be a feminist. You don’t need to be a WGSS academic to understand what women go through. You live in it, you understand what you live,” Birk said. In that classroom in Towers Hall, only a handful of students are not WGSS majors or minors and those students claimed to be new to feminism.

Early childhood education major Sarah Helke recognizes the importance of feminism and gender equality even though she is not in the WGSS program. “I used to say ‘I’m not a crazy feminist but...’ everyday I wanted to share my views and I really wish I could go back and tell my younger self to be proud of what you believe in. Everyone I know in my hometown thinks that being a feminist means that you don’t shave your arm pits, that you don’t like men, and that you are unattractive but that’s just so wrong. We need to get rid of that stigma,” Helke said.

The WGSS program here at Otterbein hopes to continue to expand and share the truth behind feminism. “A couple things I would like people to know about feminists is we’re normal people,” Woodruff said. “You might think of us as a raging, man-hating, bra-burning lesbian who wears bikinis in winter and doesn’t shave her legs. But really, we’re probably a lot more like you than you might think.”
Teamwork transcends gender

Number 25 sticks out for many reasons; but it’s not the neon orange cleats that everyone is staring at, it’s the shiny blonde lock of hair dangling from underneath her football helmet. However, on October 27, 2012, during Otterbein’s rival game against Capital University, when Alana Gaither, a then-sophomore kicker, was knocked to the ground just seconds after her kick was blocked, everyone’s focus shifted to her teammates. Some called the hit on Otterbein’s only female football player unfair. Others said she was fair game. Gaither didn’t think the hit was that big of a deal but it sure got a response out of some of her teammates.

“Some people believe it was a cheap shot, other feel it was a clean hit due to the blocked kick. Either way, some of the guys on the team took offense to it. I think they felt they had to protect their sister,” Ty Compton, a senior defensive back and team captain, said. “It kind of set the tone for the rest of the game that we were not going to let them push us around. The game was very physical, but I think Alana responded well and has done a great job kicking.”

“the football team is one big family. We are all brothers and we now [have] a sister.”
-Ty Compton // senior sports management

Present Day
It’s Homecoming weekend and game day. Two hours before kickoff, Otterbein’s football team is already in full uniform warming up. The stadium roars with Eminem’s track “Lose Yourself.” The music ripples through the speakers just barely masking the echoes of the player’s shoulder pads colliding. The excitement in the air is almost tangible as the stadium fills with students both new to Otterbein and the returning alumni. On the field the new turf hasn’t quite settled. As the linemen practice plays, grains of rubber bounce between the turf, imitating each step they make.

Glancing across the field uniformity floods your vision. Otterbein’s football team consists of 128 players ranging in size and appearance that all become a blur when they assemble on the sideline. Player numbers aren’t enough to separate each individual and if you stare too long your vision may become one big sea of tan and cardinal red. If you look close
enough, though, you can see Gaither’s infamous locks, bounce in response to a “good job” tap to the helmet after her first successful field goal kick of the game. Gaither went on to make two field goals and two extra points for a total of eight combined points in the Homecoming game against Marietta College. Although Gaither is clearly a talented kicker, most everyone on campus knows her as “the girl on the football team.” However, senior public relations major Alana Gaither is much more than that.

A different type of fútbol

Gaither didn’t dream of being a football player her whole life. Sure, she was a Browns fan, and enjoyed watching Sunday football with her father, but she wasn’t a die-hard.

“I just loved kicking,” she said.

Her love for soccer transformed into a whole new infatuation during Gaither’s sophomore year at Firestone High School in Akron, Ohio.

It all began when the senior kicker was kicked off the team because he didn’t show up to a game. This became a problem because the same kicker played on the soccer team, so hostility was created between both the soccer and football coaches.

“Out of frustration,” Gaither reported, “the football coach came to the girls soccer practice and was just like, ‘do any of you want to try it?’”

Which is just what she did; and the coaches must have been impressed because after tryouts she was offered a spot on the team come spring.

Gaither admitted that there are still things she doesn’t know about the game of football and she could never ref a game herself, but she can still follow along and knows what’s going on. “I always just saw it on TV you know, kickers take three steps back and two to the side, and since I came from a soccer background I didn’t need to teach myself much. I kind of just self-taught myself how to do it.”

Journey to Otterbein

Gaither began getting a lot of attention after she was recognized by ESPN for kicking a 43-yard field goal which was thought to be the longest field goal kicked by a girl in the country during her senior year in high school.

“I was on a Yahoo News story page and it kind of got blown out of proportion.” Gaither confessed that she doesn’t play football for the attention though. “I don’t like the fact that I had a record for being a female… I’m out there scoring the same amount of points that guy kickers do, so for me it was kind of weird to have a separate category for a female in a male’s sport.”

Gaither said she had played soccer since she was 4 years old. She was recruited here at Otterbein by Brandon Koons, the women’s soccer coach, who then shared her highlights with the head football coach Joe Loth.

Gaither recalls telling Koons, “I was probably only going to (play) Division III if I could do both. Or else I probably would have gone to a bigger school.”

Ultimately, Gaither played both soccer and football up until her sophomore year and then ceased to play soccer her junior and senior years at Otterbein. She admits that it was harder to play both sports in college because in high school football games were on Friday nights, as opposed to college football games which are generally on Saturdays. As a result, Gaither missed all the Saturday soccer games and at the end of the day she didn’t feel like she was giving either sport her all and that didn’t set well with her.

“I wanted to get 100 percent fulfillment from one thing and I chose football because I figured I could always join adult soccer leagues when I’m older but this is kind of it for football,” she said.
Gaither came to camp the same way all freshmen did and had confidence in herself after seeing that her stats were pretty comparable to the other kickers on the team coming in. Compton, one of the team’s captains, stated that when Alana joined the team he thought it would be a positive experience.

Compton said he “had heard Alana was a good kicker in high school and was interested to see if she could transition that to the college game. It also showed me that our coaches were looking for the best players they could find, regardless of gender.”

Both Gaither and Compton agreed that the team supported her from the start. They said there wasn’t really any awkwardness. Although Gaither said she couldn’t blame them for having to get used to her and that she went into the situation where she didn’t expect respect unless she earned it. So she did all the conditioning with them.

“I think when they saw me doing all the same tests as them, it was like OK, she’s here for the right reasons,” Gaither recalled, “and then they saw me kick and it didn’t take long for it to seem normal. I think because I don’t really make a big deal of that then they don’t. It just feels natural. Since I kicked in high school now it’s just normal for me.”

Gaither also didn’t receive any special treatment. During two-a-days she was still expected to do everything the guys do, not when it came to weight, but she is expected to do the same lifts and sprints at practice. Even if there’s a day where the kickers aren’t kicking at practice, she and the other kickers are still expected to be there. Gaither actually likes this though, she believes she would miss out on the wholesome team feeling if she wasn’t there. Compton added that “the football team is one big family. We are all brothers and we now (have) a sister.”

Since joining the team
During her freshman year, Gaither was injured in preseason for soccer so she didn’t get to see the field her entire freshman year. Her sophomore year, however, was her time to shine. Compton described the first practices with Gaither stating that “as a freshman coming in we are all trying to find our way. I think it was that way for all the freshmen, including Alana. We did not dwell too much on the fact that we had a female on the team. We were all trying to find our own way. We also knew from the first time we saw Alana kick that she was for real. She was very accurate with her kicks and we knew that she could help the team in the future.” And she did.

“I always just saw it on tv you know. Kickers take three steps back and two to the side, and since I came from a soccer background I didn’t need to teach myself much.”

- alana gaither // senior public relations major
Gaither described her most memorable moment in her career at Otterbein as the Capital University game her sophomore year. During that game she made two game-changing field goals. She said that it was the first time she felt like she really contributed to an overall game, and an important game at that. Since then, Gaither has been the starting “extra point” kicker and “close-range field goal” kicker for the past three years now.

A Second Look

When Gaither steps into her uniform, she often receives special attention from onlookers in the crowd, or even the other team. She says that now, since it’s her seventh year playing, she’s so used to people taking an extra look. And they do take a second look. The afternoon of the Homecoming game, while walking the sidelines before practice, Gaither had photographers almost hovering around her. One man stopped her asking for a picture for his daughter: “she plays soccer and she would love to see you in that uniform.”

Whether she will admit it or not, Alana is an inspiration to a lot of young women out there. However, she believes that “at the end of the day we’re all just athletes. There’s no real gender barrier when we’re all on the field.”
Once a greek, always a greek

story by //ashley kraner

Banners raised high, the houses pristine, and in every direction, bold greens, oranges, purples and blues were bursting with pride for their respective Greek chapters. It’s homecoming weekend for Otterbein University, and all of Greek Life has put their best float forward.

But something bigger began to stir, something more than just the students on campus. Across the entire nation, every year, Greek alumni journey back to the university to reconnect with one another and their old chapters.

Parading along with the Tau Epsilon Mu sorority is sophomore Megan McGill, whose first homecoming as a sorority active is marked by a very significant birthday. TEM is in its centennial year, and dozens of alumnae have returned to celebrate.

“The whole front lawn was filled with old and new TEMmers,” McGill said. “Even the roof.”

More centennial celebrations will be sweeping the campus soon, with Epsilon Kappa Tau (EKT) and Theta Nu both turning 100 in 2017. And as another homecoming weekend passes, there’s certainty in the spirit of Otterbein Greek life. They’re proud and here to stay.

Homecoming is a chance for generations of Greek members to reconnect, share traditions and pass along cherished memories. Past members from every chapter crowd their respective homes to hunt down old composites, stop to laugh at the haircut of the decade or visit a bedroom that used to hold their bunk. Kathryn Kocian, an alumna of Epsilon Kappa Tau, finds that, “the active chapter feels different to me, but I am also older than them. The world is different. Otterbein is different. There have been a lot of changes to Greek Life overall.”

Greek life has seen many transformations over the decades. The sororities and fraternities we know today originally formed from groups known as Literary Societies, founded in the 1850s. In 1908, Pi Kappa Phi or the “Country Club,” as it is recognized today, was founded, followed by Sigma Alpha Tau (“Owls”) in 1910. When chapters were officially recognized in 1922, over half of the student population identified with a Greek organization. Membership has both grown and ebbed through the decades. Today, Greek life represents 25 percent of the student body.

Chapters can still trace back members to their original founders. The daughter of Tau Epsilon Mu sorority’s founder, Alma Guitner, made a banner that said ‘Happy 100 TEM,’” she said. “Another chapter brought us donuts for breakfast with a note that said ‘Congrats on your one hundred years!’ We all come together in these times. It’s a really strong support system.”

Active membership in Greek life can last just four short years, but McGill will always be recognized as a part of her sorority. The memories, connections and values of Greek life don’t end after graduation.

Chelci Fauss-Johnson, an alumna of Tau Epsilon Mu, said, “You end up going to weddings, parties and babysitting children of your friends from school that were in your sorority and it is a cool feeling. It is like a whole other family that Otterbein gives you and you can never lose that.”

Graduation may be the furthest thing from McGill’s mind as she strides down Grove Street, cheering with her sisters, but being Greek is an experience that enhances more than just the years spent at Otterbein. Cindy Sievers, an alumna of Epsilon Kappa Tau, shared that she gained lasting friendships and valuable skills that could be used in her professional life.

Whether it’s coming back to Otterbein for her own alumni homecoming reunion, or perhaps finding a job connection through a former sister, McGill has gained an irreplaceable network of relationships. “I don’t see my future without TEM,” she said. “I definitely see myself coming back and still being a part of TEM in the future, because it’s been such a big part of my life already even though I’ve only been active for half a year. It’s changed me for the better and I have the whole sisterhood to thank.”

When that inevitable day of graduation does come, McGill can breathe a little easier knowing she has 100 years of sisters waiting for her on the other side.

Actives and alumni enjoy making new connections and maintaining old friendships during Otterbein homecoming weekend.

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While some non-Ohioan Otterbein students draw their roots from other states such as California, Texas or New York, foreign exchange student Hanbyul Cho calls the 6,749-mile-away city of Seoul, South Korea home.

Cho grew up in Daegu, South Korea, a smaller city about two-and-a-half hours south of Seoul, which is the South Korean capital. Duksung Women’s University is on the outskirts of the city where she attends college, majoring in Graphic Design and International Trade.

Cho says that she “wanted to experience other countries and make friends,” so she decided to come attend an American college for a fall semester about a year-and-a-half ago. To be eligible to attend Otterbein or any English-speaking university, foreign exchange students must pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language, or TOEFL.

While Cho is proficient in the English language, she still finds that she struggles.

“In [the] classroom, I just listen to the professor talking, and if I don’t know about something, then I usually study by myself, because I couldn’t explain what I don’t know … That is kind of a challenge for me,” Cho said.

While the TOEFL test was difficult, Cho finds that the most difficult thing to adjust to lies in the Art department, where each four credit class requires eight hours of in-class time. At Duksang, her art classes are only three credits and she is only in class for three hours each week.

“I didn’t know that, it’s a lot more time, [I’m] very busy,” Cho laughed. “I anticipated to live here more freely.”

She has certainly found her schedule to be tighter than expected. Not only is Cho taking three art classes—painting, advanced communication design, and beginning (film) photography—but she is also taking microeconomics and Zumba.

There are so many differences between the language, culture and environment of Seoul and Columbus. However, some of the most striking differences Cho has noticed between the two has to do with transportation, shoes, manners and style.

“Legally, we could get a license but most university students [in Seoul] have no car because it is expensive and traffic jams are awful,” she said.

Cho admitted that it has been hard without the easily accessible public transportation she used in Seoul:

“Here most students have their car and the supermarket and other stores are really far from [campus], so I can’t imagine walking to there.”

Cho said that she was surprised to see a girl walk across campus with her friends without her shoes on. While this girl may be barefoot outside, Cho has discovered that many Americans do not take off their shoes, even when they are guests and enter a house.

“Whenever we come into a house we take off our shoes, but here the culture is to not, so that’s kind of weird but funny and convenient,” she said.

In addition, Cho said she has found that Americans are free to express their own style and personality. She said that there is a larger variety of color and style here than compared to Korea.

Greeting mannerisms are different as well. Cho has found that most Asian cultures are more passive. However, in America, people say hello and make eye contact, which she thinks is quite nice.

“I like the more free style,” she said.

Something Cho definitely does miss is her boyfriend. Although they have only been together a few months, they lived near each other in Seoul.

“We met almost every day, so I miss him a lot,” she said.

Although they aren’t able to see each other daily anymore, texting helps them keep in touch, even from around the world.

Cho has one younger brother and one younger sister who both attend high school in Daegu. While one might think she would call home more often than she does, they are not active phone callers. Cho says she calls her family about once or twice every two weeks, but it’s similar to the phone call schedule she had in Seoul.

When asked if her parents were excited that she was in America studying, Cho said that they were both excited and worried. She went on to say that originally they balked at spending the money for her to come to Otterbein.

At the end of fall semester, Cho says she hopes to travel to warmer regions, like the southern states or even to the west coast, where she has heard it can be very beautiful and has unique culture—plus she hates cold weather. While she may be a little worried about traveling alone, she has traveled far from her own college city to explore, learn and live in a virtually unknown college town in the middle of America. She will be able to take the language, living and travelling skills learned during her semester here at Otterbein with her wherever she goes &
the largest religious faith on campus is Roman Catholic, with 426 students.

The most valuable piece in Otterbein's permanent art collection is worth $50,000.

The year greek life was officially recognized at Otterbein is 1922.

The length of the field goal kicked by Alana Gaither that resulted in a Yahoo! feature is 43 yards.

The amount of time Monty Bradley served as Chaplain before retiring is 30 years.

168 Otterbein students are living with a mental or learning disability.

The distance from Otterbein to Ohio Thrift is 3.3 miles or 11 minutes.

15.25 hours is the duration of time spent on a plane flying from Columbus, Ohio to Seoul, South Korea.

TEM celebrated their 100th birthday this year.

Graphic // Jennifer Hall
Westerwille Grill

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