Congratulations to Dr. Joan Rocks who was one of three inductees into the OATA Hall of Fame. A big thank you to all of our alumni who were there to support them!

A new tradition was started by students in Patti Wilson’s DYAD class this past year to recognize year-end projects and to invite you to view in what ways in which you might support the Department of Health & Sport Sciences through a gift. With our recent expansion into the newly renovated Center of Health & Sport Sciences, formerly the Davis Annex dormitory, opportunities exist for alumni to support facilities as well as program funds that support scholarship, department research, student travel to conferences, and new equipment. If you can support the Department of Health & Sport Sciences with a gift, please contact the Development Office at 614-623-1950 or email Nick Wood, Director of Development at nwood@otterbein.edu.

Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year, incoming first year students will be majoring in Exercise Science and Health Promotion rather than the familiar Health Promotion & Fitness. Although classes within the major will not change, the title of the major makes it more recognizable for the prospective student/person interested in Otterbein University. It also allows the emphasis on health promotion as a vital part of the major, while representing the course of study as science based. Since more majors are applying to graduate schools, the title of Exercise and Health Sciences makes it easier for these students to market their experience. If interested in being involved in one of the advisory groups or work with msah students, let Dr. Longnecker know of your interest. Also, please keep us informed of your accomplishments.

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With the opening of the Center for Health and Sport Sciences, we were also excited to open the Biomechanics Lab. The Biomechanics Institute is a research lab located in the basement of the CHSS that supports the research endeavors of our faculty and students. Currently the lab houses a state of the art Woodway treadmill and technology to support videotaping of our running and walking subjects. Already the Biomechanics Institute has successfully led to the completion of two research projects involving runners with knee pain. The subjects participating in the research were given visual feedback using our Apple TV system to make corrections to their running gait. We have also used the lab to examine the running cadence of Program Director Dr. and Dr. Rob Braun on their promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.

With full semester 2016 upon us, the MSAH program begins its fifth year. To date, we have graduated 28 students with 71% of those seeking a new job being successful (based on our records). Fall semester brings a few new changes to the program. To start with Dr. Rocks has stepped down as the Program Director (still HSS Department Chair) and Dr. Paul Longnecker has assumed the Program Director role. The second change is the names of the tracks within the MSAH program. The Health and Wellness track is now Exercise and Health Sciences with a gift, please contact the Development Office at 614-623-1950 or email Nick Wood, Director of Development at nwood@otterbein.edu.

What a year. As a very dynamic group, from students to faculty to staff to alumni and all members of our HSS family, we experienced many firsts! Top among these was the opening of the new facilities moving Health & Sport Sciences. Our new space has allowed us to soar even higher and to provide our students with the best learning experience. Not only do we have space to teach more effectively, we also have the Biomechanics Institute, research space, computer lab, small kitchen and offices with very bright windows. Our new area has elevated the enthusiasm of all beyond measure. This building has enhanced the primary philosophy of our department and that is developing positive life-long learning relationships with our students. These relationships are so special and serve as the foundation to student learning success.

otterbein campus!! All the best, Joan

This past spring, there were 15 Health Promotion and Fitness (HPF) majors graduating. Three of these placements were diverse in their settings, often secured as a result of a relationship with an Otterbein HPF alum, frequently outside of the Columbus area, and resulted in jobs post-graduation in numerous instances.

Although all fifteen cannot be listed here, several can be mentioned.

Through the help of Chris Latimer ('13), Aaron Thompson's named the Varsity return to the National Athletic Trainers Association Quiz Bowl. This is the first time in the history of Otterbein that we have won the Ohio Quiz Bowl! In March the team traveled to Chicago for competition in the Regional Great Lakes Athletic Trainers Quiz Bowl competition where they also took 1st place. This advanced them to the National Athletic Trainers Association for the first round of the Quiz Bowl in June where they finished 4th in the nation.

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As you will read throughout this latest version of our alumni newsletter, not only are YOU integral to the success of our current students, but you help us teach our current students, you advise us on all the issues and professional standards needed for our current graduates and your financial support has provided so many opportunities for our students to experience professional conferences, provide us with necessary teaching tools and opening your own doors for us to have quality internship experiences. For all of that, I personally would not be more proud to be a part of this family and I cannot thank you all enough for helping us become the model department on campus! All the best, Joan