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T & C

M A G A Z I N E

Issue 10 // Winter 2015

All Hail the Queens!

RACISM

creating a diverse campus

CAMPUS SHOOTER

how would you react?

CHRONIC ILLNESS

experience the struggle

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Cover Photo // **Evan Moore-Coll**



WISE WORDS

From the Editor

Steven Meeker and Sally Clark kiss and say 'I love you' to each other after they just pulled off a crowd-pleasing performance. On any other day this would seem normal. However, Steven is in heels and a golden dress, and Sally is in sneakers with air-brushed facial hair. As you can tell, this was no ordinary performance they were in, it was Otterbein's drag show.

For this issue of the T&C magazine, our reporters have discovered that although Otterbein is just a small liberal arts college, it does have a few shocking qualities to it. From ghost hunters to pornography in a classroom, we've scoured the campus in search of the strangest elements it holds. And we didn't come up short.

Our beloved campus holds many weird elements but is also home to many controversial issues. Take a look at page 20 to see how students deal with racism on our campus or dive ahead to page 24 and see what it's like to be a gay student here at Otterbein. You might be surprised at how accepting and unaccepting our students can be.

Otterbein is a lot like Steven and Sally. Although this isn't a typical college campus, it's still a home away from home for many students. And although they are no ordinary couple, we wouldn't want them any other way.

Happy reading!

Taylor Numbers
editor-in-chief

Taylor Numbers



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Find interesting numbers and statistics from our stories on the back cover.

Q & A Alumni with Cool Careers

by Kris Crawford

Name: Zachary Reed

Major: Sports Management

Year: 2013

Affiliations: None

Occupation: Assistant Director of The University of Texas at Arlington's Maverick Stadium.

Not everyone goes right into their dream job right after graduation, a statement that holds true for Otterbein alumnus Zachary Reed. When he graduated in 2013, he moved across the country so he could get a position in the sports management industry. In August 2015, he was promoted to the assistant director of the University of Texas at Arlington's Maverick Stadium. While he still may not be the director of a shiny new stadium, Reed is working hard to get there.

Why did you get a job in Texas?

This industry is so competitive that if I didn't bite on that now, I'd probably either, one, still be struggling to get into this industry or two, be in a job that I didn't want to be in. Another reason why is that Texas is a huge sport industry. When I got the opportunity here I was like, 'man I have so much around me—so many resources.' I actually know the gentleman; he's a really good friend of mine, who is the director of event operations and security at AT&T Stadium.

What advice would you give for recent graduates?

My advice for recent graduates is to follow what you went to school for because if you went to school for it that is something you are going to truly enjoy in life. But if you lose that, find something that makes you happy. Find the best out of your life and share it with other people and really make a difference. Challenge others to do better than what you've done.

Could you explain what exactly you do as the Assistant Director of Maverick Stadium?

I meet with clients on discussion, planning and coordination of event operations, which include

event setup/teardown, staff scheduling, event oversight and supervision of all support staff, while enhancing the guest and client experience.

How many hours "off the clock" do you spend preparing or doing additional things for your job?

If I have an event the next day, I don't sleep. I can't sleep. I've got so much just rattling up there. Off the job, I've actually gotten better at [preparing]. I would say probably between 20 to 30 hours I devote extra time to really making sure everything is ready to go, coming in to not only set up an event, but doing paperwork afterwards.

The best part of my job is just the people I work with. I say that because I value them, and I value my job.

Zachary Reed // '13 Alumna

What is the "coolest" aspect of your position?

The coolest part of my job is that I can deliver an experience to our community that will have people thinking about it the next day. "Hey, I went to UTA Maverick Stadium and had a great time; it was a great event," and that was something you helped with. So bringing an experience to people where they talk about it the next day.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

The best part of my job is just the people I work with. I say that because I value them, and I value my job because without them it would be tougher to do mine. And that's, I think, the best part about my job is just having the people, surrounding myself around good people.

What skills do you wish you had learned before you acquired your current job?

I guess learning to be proactive instead of reactive. I wish I had a better skill of that. I would rather want to learn how to dissect a situation and how it came to be—how this happened, what we can do to prevent it and what do we need to put in place to stop it from happening ever again.



// Photo Provided

How did Otterbein prepare you for your career?

Honestly, it was their people skills. I was really shocked by how engaged our community is, especially our teachers and faculty and staff. The professors I had, Teri Walter and Greg Sullivan, were the most hands-on professors I've ever had. Definitely their advice, their one-on-one time and just their dedication to their students is what made me thrive in my position today.

If you could go back in time and give your freshman college-self some advice, what would it be?

I would have told myself that in order to succeed you need to learn how to find that place where you, if there's any issues in your life or at work, that you need to stop them where they're at before you bring them in or bring them home. I would tell myself to learn how to find that part in your life where you separate yourself from work, you don't bring your work home with you and just enjoy what you have. Don't sweat the small stuff, don't let the little things bother you. Enjoy life and don't stress about the small things.





STUDENTS IN TRANSITION

by Seth Crowell

During college, students go through different life transitions. From coming in as a first-year student, to changing your major and joining Greek life, transitions can be found at every turn. It's important during these times to stay positive and seek advice whenever possible. Here at Otterbein, students are making major transitions around every corner.

Leaving the Nest

Evan Hepp, a first year English education major, attended Springboro High School near Dayton before making the transition to college. Hepp visited several large schools before deciding to attend Otterbein.

"When I came to Otterbein, I just realized that a smaller school was what I needed," Hepp said.

Another thing that attracted him to Otterbein was the large number of Christians here, as well as the desire to grow in his faith.

For Hepp, the transition to college has been easy, and he feels more productive than he was in high school. However, going from high school to college has been so easy for him that he has been worried about it at times.

On campus, Hepp is involved with the Otterbein Christian Fellowship (OCF), the university's largest religious organization. He is also a member of the Cardinal Corps Leaders, who are in charge of the university's community service programs. Additionally, he is a new member of the Sigma Delta Phi fraternity, better known on campus as Sphinx.

During his time at Otterbein, Hepp says that he wants to continue to develop, not only in his faith, but also continue on his career path.

Crossing Borders

Like Evan Hepp, many of Otterbein's students come from Ohio, the Midwest, or elsewhere in the United States. However, there are also a large group of students who come to Westerville from across the world.

One of these students is Xiaomin Guan, who prefers to go by her English name, Katherine. Guan grew up in Beijing, China and later moved to the city of Shanghai.

Guan said that her home university in China had an exchange program with Otterbein. This is what led her to attend college in the United States.

Guan says that studying abroad has been on her bucket list for a long time.

"I really have a passion about different cultures, meeting new people and broadening my horizons," Guan said.



“They don't want to immerse themselves into the American culture, which I think is kind of sad.

Xiaomin Guan // Junior Undecided

Xiaomin Guan is a junior foreign exchange student here at Otterbein.
// Susanna Harris

At Otterbein, Guan is considered a junior. Although she majored in international trade at her home university, she is currently undecided here. In terms of classes, she is taking the required curriculum of the exchange program.

For Guan, the transition from China is an adventure. However, she says that, unlike her fellow Chinese international students, who tend to stay within a bubble, she wants to explore the culture of the United States.

"They don't want to immerse themselves into the American culture, which I think is kind of sad," she said.

Guan believes that international students should be open-minded and expand their horizons.

From her perspective, international students should rely on their American counterparts, and both sides should be more open-minded.

On campus, Guan is a member of the International Student Association, as well as Kappa Phi Omega sorority. Guan is also the first Chinese foreign exchange student to join Kappa.

"I heard them saying that before there were some Swedish and German international students in Kappa or in a sorority, but I am the first Chinese student," Guan said.

Going Greek

Joining a fraternity or sorority is a very popular social outlet at Otterbein, especially among first year students. Sometimes though, like Guan, students join later.

A good example of a student who chose to join is Cheyanne Rowe. Rowe, a junior nursing major, joined Sigma Alpha Tau, otherwise known as Owls, this year.

She says she joined to meet more people on campus and to branch out.

Owls motto is "Stick Always Together," and Rowe says that during New Member Education, her sorority really embraced that.

For Rowe, the process of joining is a way to build bonds with the other girls involved, who are mostly first years, along with some sophomores and a few other juniors.

When it came to joining a sorority as a junior, Rowe said that, as a freshman she didn't really know what sororities did. She also didn't have a lot of interest in it then.

Along with Greek Life, Rowe is involved with Athletes in Action (AIA) and is a member of Otterbein's Softball Team.

Rowe balances her nursing major with all of her involvement on campus, including Owls. She says, however, that if her busy schedule becomes too much for her to handle, she will let something go. For now though, she says that it is working out.

She is glad she joined as a junior because it has given her a new group of friends.

Rowe is looking forward to wearing letters, strengthening her bonds with the other girls and whatever else Greek life has to offer.

Major Decisions

Outside of Greek life, there is a wide variety of academic transitions that students can make while in college. One of these is to change your major. Usually, students choose their major in their first or second year, and change if necessary.

Some students, like senior Charmaine Mosley, switch while they are in the midst of their final year.

Mosley switched from a nursing major to health communications.

"It's not something that I was planning to do," said Mosley.

After talking to a few peers, as well as Dr.

Dan Steinberg, a professor in the Otterbein Communication Department, she realized that health communication was the major for her.

"I just feel like I wanted something that would be better for me, not as stressful and something that came more natural to me," Mosley said.

For Mosley, the difficult thing about changing majors is fitting in all of her required classes.



Otterbein alumna
Kendra Schwarz is the
brand ambassador of
(614) Media Group.
// Photo Provided

From College to Careers

Inevitably, once college has ended and graduation is over comes the search for work and a career.

Compared to coming as a first year, this is easily one of the most difficult transitions students can make.

The job search after college might be competitive and tough, but students have no real reason to panic.

Kendra Schwarz, an alumna from 2014, is in charge of the social media presence for the (614) Media Group in Columbus.

Through professors Dr. Dan Steinberg and Dr. Jeff Demas, she was able to get internships.

Through these internships and her public relations classes, Schwarz eventually found her current job, which she has had for little over a year.

Since leaving Otterbein, Schwarz said that she has become better at time management and saying no.

Kendra Schwarz said that new and eventual graduates should not worry about getting a job right after graduation. She believes that students shouldn't worry because even if they aren't employed after they leave Otterbein, they will be eventually.

Changes can be found everywhere here at Otterbein. And it is important that students learn to embrace the changes that life hands them, rather than fighting them. So if your major isn't working out for you, change it. If you need a new support system, branch out. And if you're worried about finding a job after college, don't be. Life has a way of working itself out.



Junior nursing major,
Cheyanne Rowe //
Anaemy Danner

Not Your Mother's Classroom

Learning with a twist

by Emily Jeffries

Most students, when the word classroom comes to mind, don't usually picture sex toys, shirtless classmates or pornography. That might sound more like a crazy Friday night, not an 8 a.m. class on a Monday.

Academia is what makes universities function properly. Even though Otterbein is a small campus, it has many benefits over opposing, larger state schools. Otterbein offers smaller classes, tighter communities to get involved with and a charming campus to students.

However, a lot of times, since Otterbein is a smaller university, not as many classes are offered to students. And the ones that are offered can sometimes be kind of, well...boring.

There are a handful of classes though, that are offered here at Otterbein that break those unnecessary barriers. They are classes that uniquely engage and teach students to learn in ways that aren't normally offered on such a small campus. These unique classes can be taken as electives or can be requirements for specific majors.

The course titles alone are enough to provoke idle curiosity: Human Sexuality, Massage Techniques and Gender and Sexuality in Art History.

One of the more discussed and uncommon classes at Otterbein is Human Sexuality. Despite all the buzz over the course, the professor and

students agree that it isn't anything crazy or controversial. It's simply just a class about sex.

"In other words, my class is designed to teach you about orgasms, not give you one," said psychology professor Noam Shpancer, referring to his class that is being offered in the upcoming spring.

"The ultimate goal is to help students figure out how to have a good sex life, because sex is good, but only if it's good sex," Shpancer said.

Felicia Wilson, an alumna psychology student, knows what it was like to sit in class and watch presentations be given on sex toys and how to use them. She has also seen a film featuring the inside

In other words, my class is designed to teach you about orgasms, not give you one.

Noam Shpancer // Psychology Professor

mind of a nymphomaniac, or in other words, a sex addict.

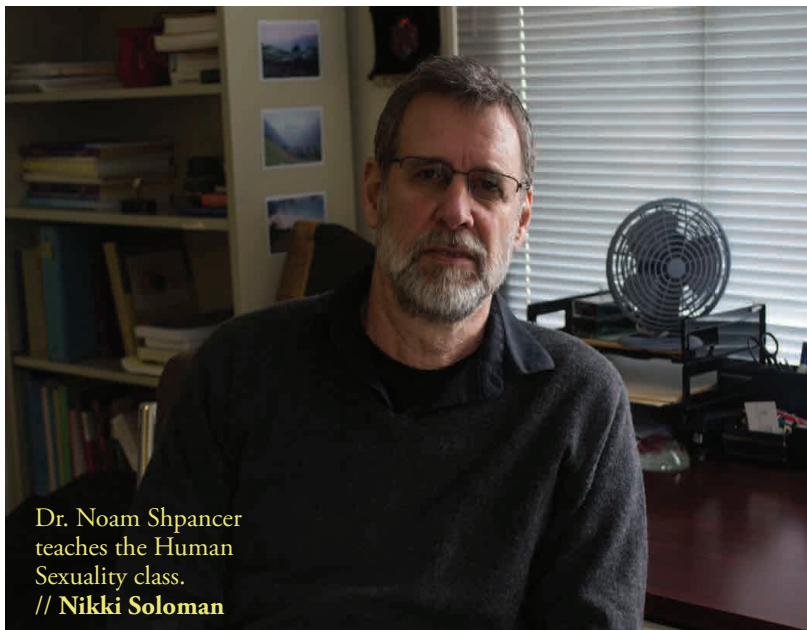
Wilson has experienced a lot in her time in Human Sexuality. The class, although shocking at first, became a place where Wilson grew as a student and a person.

"I think it pushed the boundaries of social norms in that it simply isn't 'normal' to talk so openly about sex, if at all," Wilson said.

Human Sexuality is a class that teaches students about sex and the biological, psychological and cultural aspects of human sexuality. And in a classroom setting, even at university level, it can sometimes be uncharted territory for most students. Shpancer is aware of that for his students. He tries to make sure that students are learning, not becoming overwhelmed or uncomfortable by the content.

"Noam wasn't afraid to push boundaries, and I think that is why the class worked so well. He





Dr. Noam Shpancer teaches the Human Sexuality class.
// Nikki Soloman

taught the material in an interesting way and didn't hold back," Wilson said. "The material was always delivered with maturity and tact which made it easier to learn and discuss such a taboo topic."

"Sexual ignorance can be dangerous," Shpancer said. He takes his class as seriously as his former student did. "My class is one of the only classes offered at Otterbein that can save your life."

His class is offered to psychology and non-psych majors alike. Shpancer has had an array of students in his class, from nursing majors to women's gender and sexuality studies majors. Anyone from any major is more than welcome to step foot in his classroom.

Another class at Otterbein that is uniquely hands-on is a class called Massage Techniques. This class has students learning different ways to massage one another and puts students to work on a massage table with cotton sheets, music, lotion and dim lighting.

Once the tables are set up, and the students are covered up with sheets, the professor teaches a lesson on what technique they will be learning that day. The remaining time in class is spent with students practicing the techniques on one another. The class is all about technique, and the goal is to get your partner to enjoy the massage as much as possible.

They learn what it is like to give self-massages, give others massages and how to trigger unique pressure points. This isn't an average health and fitness class, and the students prefer it that way.

One of Massage Techniques current students, Keith Pace, thoroughly enjoys the class. But he does admit that, "The most awkward thing was when we had to take our shirts off."

Massage Techniques is being offered in the upcoming spring

semester. The class is always a popular one to take with waiting lists in almost every course offering.

Art in and of itself is quite a different college class. Art classes offer creative outlets that business classes and chemistry labs aren't always able to give students. There is one particular class offered at Otterbein, Gender and Sexuality in Art History, which is extremely uncommon and discusses many topics of cultural society with art that many

other classes at Otterbein don't.

The class talks about art and its evolution through time in multiple mediums. They look through images from the ancient times to the present day to see how visual context changes and shapes students' thinking.

Gender and Sexuality is taught by art professor Dr. Amy Johnson.

"My class focuses on the body and how images shape our perceptions of sexual identity," Johnson said. "Because we all live with our bodies, so we all have something to say about them."

The class critically critiques and analyses images of breast feeding, pornography and rape culture among other things. It also looks into the male patriarchy of art and how women are portrayed as submissive

creatures to men from Greek mythology to present day.

Johnson's class, very similar to Shpancer's, has an array of students in it. Anyone of any major can sign up for her class. "You should take this class if you are interested in art and the body," Johnson said.

These classes aren't unique simply for shock's sake. They are working to make classrooms the place they should be: a place to learn about the unknown. And, sometimes, the unknown can be awkward.

These classes at Otterbein push education realms and require more from their students than diligent note taking and studying. These classes require students to place their weariness and apprehensions out the window and try something that could be very different from what they're used to.

"It seems to me that classrooms are so politically correct nowadays no one can actually discuss real issues without another person getting offended, which is why some people may find this class is not for them. If you are willing to come out of your comfort zone and respect when others do the same, you are going to gain so much more from this class," Megan Lynch said, an alumna nursing student who took Human Sexuality.

After all, classes are designed to make students become intelligent thinkers and question askers. When curriculum is dwindled down to boring lectures and exams, the idea of learning and enjoying to learn becomes a distant concept.


And in higher education, that is the last thing students should be feeling in class. Students should want to go and participate in class. They should want to go and learn more each day.

So the next time you are scheduling classes and need a few extra elective credits, you should consider some of these unique classes offered on campus.


After all, it might just save your life. &

Sex Positions

- Most commonly known as "Missionary"
- Allows for intimacy
- Good for conceiving
- One of the most used positions
- Only 25% of women achieve orgasm in this position



Sex Vending Machine



Sex in Korea and the United States

Actual slides from student projects in the Human Sexuality class. // Provided

WHAT'S IN THE BAG?



story by // Justin Jordan



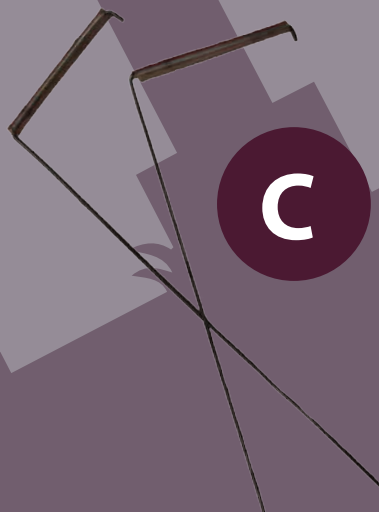
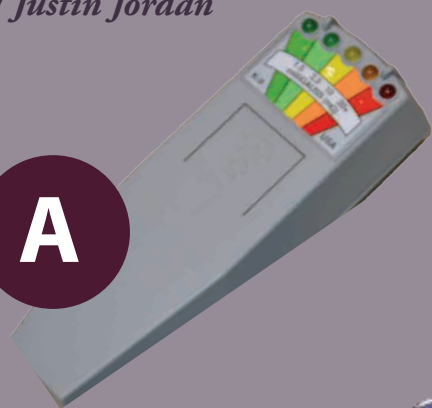
Hunting ghosts can be a long and difficult process. But ghost hunter Ross Allison has lots of experience taking out some ghastly ghouls. Allison has appeared in The Learning Channel's "America's Ghost Hunters," "The Tonight Show," MTV, CMT, CNN, A&E, the Discovery Channel, ABC's "Scariest Places on Earth," Sci-Fi's "Ghost Hunters," "Nightline" and two episodes of Travel Channel's "Most Terrifying Places in America." All of which would have been impossible without the proper tools. &

A: An Electro Magnetic Field Detector (EMF) is a device that is used to track the electromagnetic fields that ghosts can produce, but can give a false reading when an active cellphone is nearby. They were originally developed to find out how many EMFs enter the brain when people talk on their cellphones. However, ghost hunters also use them as they react to EMF readings that shouldn't be there.

B: Thermal Scanners are used to measure your surrounding temperature. Ghosts can have a tendency to make things around them really cold. Allison says he can actually see heat patterns when using this tool.

C: Dowsing Rods were originally used to detect water, but these can also be used by ghosts to communicate with the living. When they detect energy, the rods will actually cross. Sometimes, they will even guide ghost hunters to certain areas.

D: Laser Grids, when projected, will make movement easier to detect in your surroundings. This allows Allison to see things that should not be there move around in the laser.



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Living with the **UNPREDICTABLE**

Coping with Chronic Illnesses in College

by Allyson Miller

According to the Center of Disease Control, 1 in 10 Americans face major limitations in day-to-day living because of a chronic condition.

Chronic conditions are unpredictable. They occur at spontaneous times, frequently and with no warning. People with chronic conditions have to constantly be prepared because treatments, if available, do not always work.

The Center for Managing Chronic Disease defines a chronic disease as a condition that can be controlled, but not cured. The Center reports that chronic conditions are the leading cause of death and disability in the United States, accounting for about 70 percent of deaths each year.

While this number is high, it does account for many different conditions including conditions like cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, heart disease and arthritis.

If simply living with a chronic condition is not hard enough by itself, attending college adds a whole new level of complications.

According to WebMD, 1 in 15 college-age people live with a chronic condition. Here at Otterbein, there are students struggling every day with chronic illnesses.

The trouble for these students can go on and on. First, students with chronic conditions could be completely fine one semester and then be out for the next. They could also miss class for doctor appointments, hospitalization, disease symptoms and much more depending on the condition they have.

Unless a person has been personally affected by a chronic condition, it can be difficult to understand the complications that they can produce. Those suffering find it difficult to gain support from others because these conditions often do not show physical signs. For example, no one would be able to tell a person had heart disease from an outward appearance.

Paris Ring, a sophomore double major in marketing and management here at Otterbein, was diagnosed with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome this past September. As a result, she had to resign from



Paris Ring has Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.
// Susanna Harris

Otterbein's Women's Tennis Team.

Her symptoms started showing over the summer when she was taking private tennis lessons. Ring recalls that it started with pains in her wrist and tingling in her fingers.

"The doctors were kind of shocked. I'm pretty young to have it, but it's from overuse mainly from tennis, typing, writing and things like that," Ring said.

With the diagnosis, Ring has made several changes in her life. She wears splints on her hands and wrists at night, does daily rehab and takes vitamins to help heal her nerves. The biggest change has been leaving the

tennis team. However, Ring is optimistic that the rehab will help, and she will be able to rejoin the team in the spring.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome has also affected Ring's academics. Taking advantage of the Academic Support Center, she now has a note taker for her classes. She also has the option of taking her tests on a computer.

Like Ring, students with chronic illnesses have to make adjustments. Students often have the option to work with their college and its professors to find a plan that will work for them. Other times, students find solutions on their own.

Anna Phillips, a sophomore English literary studies major, was, like Ring, recently diagnosed with a chronic condition.

Phillips experienced a serious cardiac event in September, which led to a diagnosis of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. This is a condition that makes it difficult for the heart to pump blood. It is rare and often goes undiagnosed.

As a result of her heart problem, Phillips missed two weeks of classes. During this time, she received a defibrillator. The defibrillator has a wireless system that sends reports to her cardiologist every night. This system allows Phillips to visit the doctor once a year, instead of every three months.

There is no guarantee that Phillips will ever

"The doctors were kind of shocked. I'm pretty young to have [Carpal Tunnel Syndrome], but it's from overuse mainly from tennis, typing, writing and things like that."

Paris Ring // Sophomore Marketing and Management Double Major

experience another problem with her heart.

However, the defibrillator is a precaution that makes sure she is taken care of in case it does happen again.

She has a positive outlook on the experience. "It



Ashleigh Thornton battles Type 1 Diabetes.
// Susanna Harris

could be worse, and I lived, so I'm happy about that," Phillips said.

Another Otterbein student, Ashleigh Thornton, a junior public health major, has learned to manage a chronic illness while striving to do well in school.

Between her freshman and sophomore years in college, Thornton was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. The diagnosis has not only affected the way she lives her life, but also the purpose in it.

Thornton has a passion for educating people about diabetes. Right off the bat, she points out that there is a difference between Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes. Type 1 is an autoimmune disease where the body lacks insulin. Type 2 Diabetes is when the insulin in the body is very low or cannot be used effectively and is usually a result of being overweight or elderly.

After discovering she had Type 1 Diabetes, Thornton changed her major from education to public health. With this degree, she hopes to become a diabetes educator.

"At first, my parents were probably more upset about the diagnosis than I was. Then there would be certain times that I thought that this just really sucks. I would be upset about it, but then I realized that it is what it is. It's not going to hold me back," Thornton said. "That's why I want to be a diabetes educator, so I can help people, especially children that are diagnosed, get through it."

Thornton's life was difficult after her diagnosis. Symptoms that she experiences are

extreme fatigue and difficulty focusing. This made an already busy college schedule even more challenging.

"I would be trying to study and get homework done and my blood sugar would be too high or too low, so it would take me a long time to get work done. That really affected my grades and brought down my GPA," Thornton said.

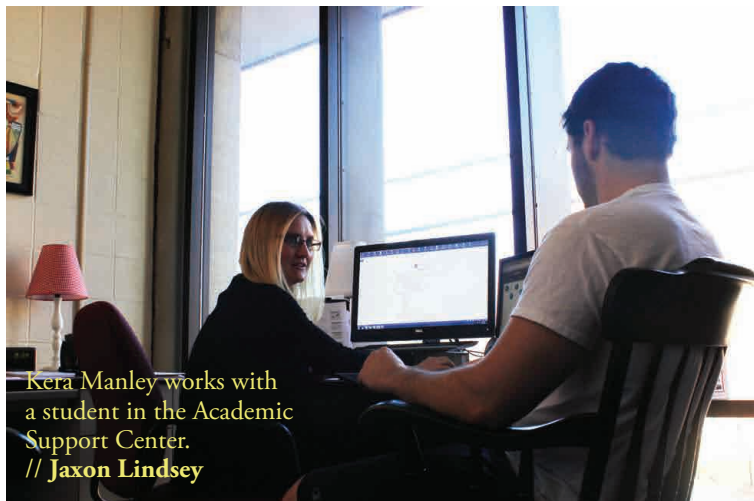
The fatigue was causing her to sleep through early classes. Now, she schedules

her classes late in the afternoon to avoid this conflict.

While learning to manage the symptoms of the condition, Thornton went through a long process of getting an insulin pump. This is much more manageable for someone with an active lifestyle than the alternate option of self-injecting insulin shots.

Thornton is one of many students who has had to go through the process of adjusting to a new lifestyle. However, Otterbein offers services that can provide accommodations for students.

At Otterbein, we have Disability Services housed within the Academic Support Center (ASC). Kristy Drobney, Director of the ASC, and Kera Manley, Disabilities Services Coordinator, leads the program. The ASC works to provide services that help students



Kera Manley works with a student in the Academic Support Center.
// Jaxon Lindsey



Anna Phillips has Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy.
// Anaemy Danner

“That’s why I want to be a diabetes educator, so I can help people, especially children that are diagnosed, get through it.”

Ashleigh Thornton // Junior Public Health Major

with conditions like chronic illnesses or learning disabilities.

The ASC does not typically see students with chronic illnesses taking advantage of its accommodations, which they believe is due to the fact that the students are typically used to advocating for themselves.

However, both Drobney and Manley wish more students would continue to take advantage of services that the ASC offers. In the 2011-2012 school year, 85 students were registered with the ASC. In the 2014-2015 school year, that number nearly doubled to 169 registered students. The numbers continue to grow into this year.

The biggest effort now is to advertise the services to students so they utilize them.

As a part of this effort, the ASC has begun working with the Athletic Trainers. They refer students to the ASC when they are struggling with athletic-related conditions like concussions. They also work with the Center for Student Success, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the faculty and the library.

"The library is a phenomenal partner for us. They are very accommodating. Also, by being in the library we send the message that we are central to the University's mission," Drobney said. "There is no judgment here, and we serve all kinds of students."

What the ASC can offer for every student is advocacy. They work directly with faculty to make sure students' needs are being met, which often is not too difficult to arrange.

"We have both worked at different schools and what Otterbein offers is just exceptional," Drobney said.

"Our faculty is really understanding and flexible when they can be. There are certain circumstances that don't allow for extensive flexibility, depending on things like scheduling and course requirements," Manley said. "But as a rule, Otterbein is really supportive."

One of the best aspects of the ASC is its location in the library. Not only is it convenient, but also is a welcoming environment for students.

Manley said, "I love being in the library, and I have said it since day one of starting at Otterbein. It is one of my favorite things about our program, and it's a privilege of Disabilities Services to be located here."

College is no easy feat and battling a chronic illness does not make the task any easier. However, students can find solace knowing that they are not alone and that they have services and support readily available to them.



EXCUSES!

by Kris Crews

Dogs will eat homework and you will spill coffee on your papers. These are some of the excuses students have pulled out of their back pockets when they didn't want to go to class. Oh the desperation of coming up with an excuse so predictable and thinking that professors will fall for them. But what about excuses that are so outlandish and extreme that professors have no other choice but to think they're true?

A handful of professors here at Otterbein have shared some of the craziest excuses they've ever gotten from students. They've even shared some of the most common times in which they get these excuses. Freshmen tend to give excuses towards the end of the semester because they are not yet used to the workload and preparation for exams. Upperclassmen give the most excuses because with every new school year comes new and harder work, not to mention they are getting closer and closer to graduation.

Otterbein students also shared, with no shame of course, some of the craziest excuses they've come up with to tell their professors. Let's see what kinds of excuses fall in this category.

&

Professors

66

"A student's mother wrote me to say her daughter would miss class for the week and might appear "wispy" when she returns to class because her daughter's cat passed away. I believed the cat did die, but it seemed a bit over the top."

"One of my students told me that she had to take her friend to the Verizon store because her phone was broken."

"A student once told me that she had to go shopping with her mom."

"I'll be so late I might as well not show up."

"One of my students asked me to postpone a test so she could go to an Ohio University Halloween party."

EXCUSES!

It's always somethin'!

Students

66

"I told my swim coach that I couldn't swim because I had just gotten my hair done, and I wasn't about to mess it up!"

"One of my classmates once called to tell the [professor] she would be late because she had to pick up her chicks from the post office! I'm a city girl, but apparently you can have baby chicks delivered to your local post office. She was a farm girl!"

"My lizard got away, and I had to chase it."

"At my school, students would call professors saying they're not coming because it's hunting season."

"I am not coping well. I need a mental break from class."

"This wasn't for missing class, but I did ask for an extension on a 16-page paper that I had to rewrite after throwing up on my laptop two days before it was due."

"I ran a marathon yesterday."

"I need to go to a Chris Brown concert."

"I said my grandma died. And the funny thing was, my other siblings killed off my grandma too. My grandma was wondering why everyone was killing her."

"I got in a car accident."

"Said my stomach was bleeding...like internally."

"I said my uncle got in a car crash."

The Secret Life of *BAYLEY BANKS*

by Taylor Numbers

It's a chilly Sunday evening here on Otterbein's campus, and while some students are cozied up watching Netflix, piecing together projects or hanging out with friends, others are working on a different type of production. In a stuffy dressing room in the basement of Cowan Hall, six men are slowly turning themselves into women. A few of them have already used Elmer's Glue to paste their eyebrows down, but the majority of them are focusing on their cheek lines.

Bayley Banks struggles to contour her cheeks into the structure of a woman's. Kiki Haze, aka Bobby Moody, kindly steps in and offers some advice.

"I would just make more definitive lines," Moody advises. "And then blend it out using a beauty blender."

As you may have gathered, these aren't ordinary men in this dressing room; they are queens. Well, the queens of Otterbein University's 2015 drag show, *Drags to Riches*, that is. And Bayley Banks, well most days on campus she is known as Steven Meeker, who is a junior BFA acting major here at Otterbein. Meeker isn't completely new to the drag scene, as his reveal was last year, but he still has much to learn about the whole process.

Otterbein's drag show is considered underground, meaning a select few people know when it is going to pop up. However, you don't have to be a member of an elite group to go as tickets are open to the general public as well. The show consists of choreographed lip sync numbers with a mix of solos, duets and group numbers by the queens and kings. Between acts, the hosts play games with the audience



Steven Meeker sings Lorde's "Royals"
dressed as Bayley Banks
// Evan Moore-Coll



Steven Meeker works on contouring his face during a makeup rehearsal.
// Susanna Harris

to allow for more time backstage. And everything from the games to the music selection falls under the carefully chosen theme.

Meeker, along with the other queens, worked hard to look good for his performances, and he did it for more reasons than you would expect. He admits that for him, it's not just about dressing up as a woman for other people's enjoyment. It's more to show elements of himself without becoming the stereotype.

"I'm a straight man, with a beard, with a girlfriend (long term) but... I like pro wrestling, I'm an actor and a dancer," Meeker said. "So people try to put me in a box, and there's a lot of pressure for me to be more of a man than I already am. It's just funny that sometimes the most freedom that I get is going into that mindset of dancing. Dancing in general, and then the added layer of the female side of myself, which is great."

Meeker says he realized this past summer when he was cast as a girl in a show with the O'Neill Center, a prestigious theatre, that being dressed as a woman gives him a certain confidence that he never had as a straight man.

"Because I'm 5'9", 270 [pounds]. Which is huge, well, my height. In the acting world, I'm looked at as character guy, or you know the bigger, best friend type of stuff. But as a drag queen I can make my own type as a strong, independent woman," Meeker said. "I don't have nearly as many body issues when I'm a queen as I do a man. It's weird."

Meeker uses the drag show as a creative outlet because it allows him to express something that he couldn't express in terms of being a male. He doesn't do it to be funny. If it's funny, it's because the number he's doing is supposed to be.

"It's such a weird line to walk because I don't want to be offensive to women. That's not what I want to do at all," Meeker said.

This is our true selves with different clothes on.

Kayla Walsh // Senior BFA Musical Theatre Major

Kayla Walsh, a senior BFA musical theatre major, had the same issue in mind when she was forming her character Ryder Gently, who is a king in the drag show.

"I guess, if there's one thing that I hope people get out of drag show, or specifically this year, is that these are not caricatures, we are not portraying cartoon images of what a man and what a woman

is," Walsh said. "This is our true selves with different clothes on."

Walsh is one of two kings in the show, which is a relatively new concept that began just last year. The kings are essentially the opposite of the queens; they are women dressed as men. Her counterpart, Sally Clark, who is also Meeker's girlfriend, character's name is Dick Van Dyke Jr. Walsh and Clark lip synced Justin Bieber's "What Do You Mean" for this year's drag show.

Clark admits that although the kings put countless hours into the drag show, portraying a guy wasn't as hard for them as it was for the queens to portray women.

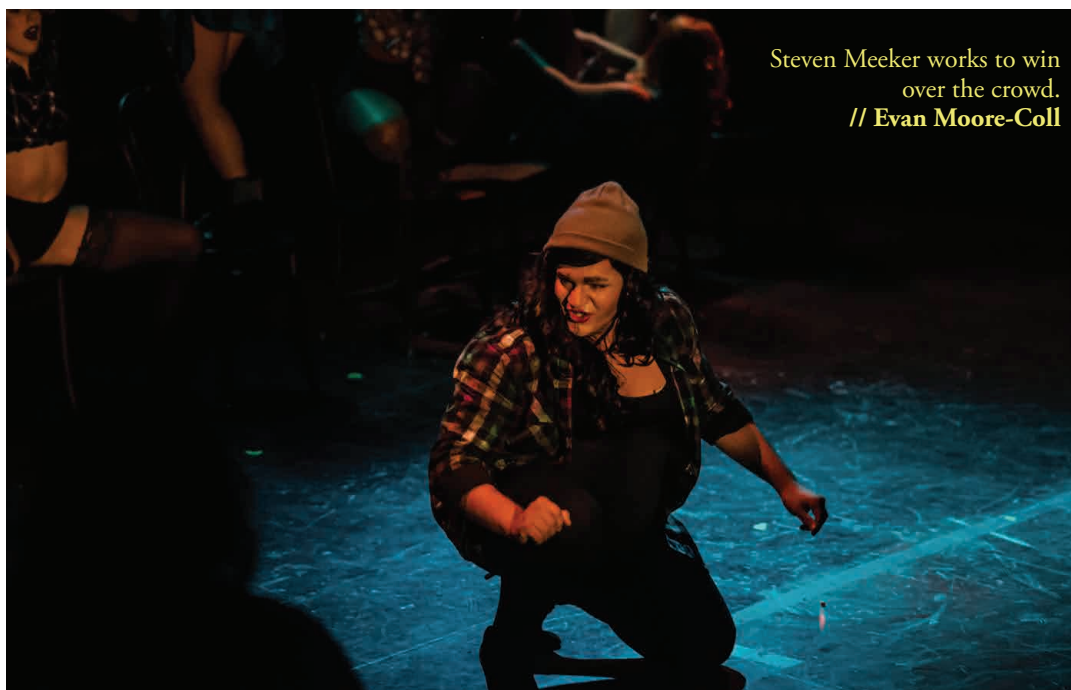
The queens try their best to mold themselves into authentic women. This process includes hours of watching videos to learn feminine dance movements, walking in heels, practicing makeup and learning choreography. Not to mention the expenses tied to it such as shopping for clothes, accessories and wigs, which can really add up. All in the name of drag.

And there's a long line of fabulous queens that came before them. Otterbein's first drag show was in September 2000. It was hosted by FreeZone!, an organization that serves gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender students and their allies (LGBTQIA+) on Otterbein's campus.

Since then, the show has received much criticism and was even forced to take a hiatus in spring of 2014 when faculty members became concerned about alcohol being consumed at the show. But

they couldn't keep students away for very long.

In order to bring the show back, the drag coordinators had to make compromises with faculty, which includes using part of the proceeds to compensate police officers who enforce the "no container" rule at the door. The rest of the money goes to the Otterbein Theatre Department's student



Steven Meeker works to win over the crowd.
// Evan Moore-Coll

Meeker lip sync's Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood" in his best performance yet.
//Evan Moore-Coll



All six queens accompanied by Annie Schroeder and the kings. //Evan Moore-Coll



organization, Cap and Dagger. However, the queens/kings get to keep any tips they make during their performances.

Although this year's drag show is sponsored by Cap and Dagger, the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) department worked with the drag show to help pick a theme/cause and to ensure the show didn't offend women or anyone in the LGBTQIA+ community.

"We decided to take the common phrase 'Rags to Riches' and morph it into 'Drags to Riches.' We chose this theme to symbolize how far the [LGBTQIA+] community has come in gaining equal rights. That being said, they are still fighting for rights in healthcare and etc.," said Annie Schroeder, a junior BA theatre major who is also the show's production manager.

how the LGBTQIA+ community is still fighting oppression. But the hosts weren't the only ones who were in on the action. In fact, the whole show was essentially a protest that highlighted female-oriented issues.

The queens and their dancers had "my body my rules" written across the visible areas of their bodies. This was in protest of the fact that even though the women in the show were dancing in an exposed manner, it is still their decision to expose themselves in that particular way. "My body, my rules" means that no one can tell women what they should do with their bodies or what should happen if they choose to do certain things. It's a protest that tells men to treat women with respect and not to take advantage of them physically or emotionally.

Meeker and his backup dancers put on a show stopping performance. //Evan Moore-Coll



“Drag show is supposed to be a night where everybody can enter a space, together in this packed room. and it doesn't matter what you are or where you come from. It's meant to keep you safe.

Steven Meeker // Junior BFA Acting Major

The hosts of the show, Afton Welch and Mason Smajstrla, both senior BFA acting majors, incorporated games and trivia in between acts to show

The protests throughout the show were a hit among the crowd, but it was Meeker's performance of "Bad Blood" by Taylor Swift that really had the crowd rattling.

He was one solo, two group acts and one duet in when his female empowerment performance began with a clip entitled "War On Women: Extended Cut" from the YouTube channel, "MoveOn" began:

"Back in my day we used Bayer aspirin as a contraceptive. The gals put it between their knees.' 'Forcing women to have an ultrasound before an abortion is justified because they already made the decision to be vaginally penetrated when they got pregnant.' ... 'A woman impregnated through rape should accept that horribly created gift. The gift of human life. Accept what God has given you and make the best of a bad situation.' ... 'If we are going to pay for your contraceptives, and thus pay for you to have sex, we want you to post the videos online so we can all watch.' 'These aren't our words, they're all real things said by prominent members of the Republican parties. Judging by their comments, the GOP must have a serious problem with women and until the Republicans get over their issues, we women have a serious problem with the Republican party.'"

Just then Swift's lyrics haunted the theatre: "Cause baby now we got bad blood..."

Meeker says his confidence soared when he heard that initial round of applause as the Swift song began. The audience's reaction was so strong that Meeker had to stop choreography halfway through the song because people were lining up to tip him. He admits that at that point, he felt like one fierce female.

This is because the drag show environment is so accepting. Meeker wants people to know that drag is a community that isn't just about men dressing up as women.

"Drag show is supposed to be a night where everybody can enter a space, together in this packed room... and it doesn't matter what you are or where you come from," Meeker said. "It's meant to keep you safe."

It's also about creating a safe environment where everybody can feel included. Meeker notes that although the Drag shows can be problematic in some ways, it was never intended to turn anybody off. Instead, it's meant for those who need an alternative and those who wish to embrace something different.



More than BLACK & WHITE

by Kris Crews

When you look around, what do you see? Do you see people who are like you, or are your eyes opened to see those who are different from you? It's easy to get in the routine of never looking beyond your walls or the groups that you're in, especially when you're running around doing this and that on campus. Being busy can be a distraction from realizing that the world is more than just black and white. There's more to be seen and more voices to be heard.

Otterbein is a liberal school and has been known for having events and discussions where students can bring topics to light that are not often talked about. One of those topics is diversity.

Diversity is a loaded conversation, but the first step one should take in addressing this conversation is by asking one simple question: Is this campus diverse enough?

Ghanaian freshman, Claudia Owusu, doesn't believe there is enough diversity on campus.

"I've heard people say 'wow, I've never been around this much diversity before.' But students here are only seeing a small percentage of diverse people here, like three or four black, Muslim, or Hispanic students. But that isn't that diverse of a campus... they're not getting the whole picture," Owusu said.

Many students, like Owusu, have come from high schools that were a lot more diverse and culturally influenced. Seeing others that were not like them is shocking and definitely an adjustment.



Freshman public health major, Ladan Barnes.
// Kris Crews



Freshman biology major, Jobita Sebastian. // **Kris Crews**

When this happens, people do not know how to associate with someone of a different race. People may make racially insensitive comments, but not know they're doing this because of the background they come from.

Ladan Barnes, a public health major, has experienced racism in her life and sees how blind society is to it.

"I come from a diverse family. I'm Caucasian, African American, Indian, Native American and Somali Arab. I've experienced more racism here than previous experiences or schools. I went to Westerville City Schools and culturally it's growing, but when I look back I realize how little diversity there was. I've also realized how racism is everywhere. I guess when I was a child I was unaware of what racism was, but now that I am an adult, I understand," Barnes said.

From what students have said, it's obvious that diversity needs to be discussed. But when talking about diversity, we have to look beyond ethnicity. Jobita Sebastian, a freshman biology major who comes from a Guatemalan background, notices this and understands how vital it is to educate each other about how diversity is more than just the color of your skin.

"Having diversity is more than color. It's more than the race issue, its culture. That's what we don't tend to focus on. We need to branch out more and have events where we focus on not only race, but gender, sexuality and other topics that include diversity," Sebastian said.

When we see these principles not being taught, we can jump in and do something about it.

Jordan Hawkins, junior political science major, sees the potential. We have to start a discussion or to make a movement, but we cannot do it silently.

"People say there is plenty of diversity here, pulling out the 'I have one black or Hispanic friend.' Diversity is having more than one 'token' ethnic friend," Hawkins said. "One problem that we have with diversity is the amount that are involved in organizations. Even though we have organizations talking about it, that doesn't mean that these groups won't become secularized. This happens often and people look at a certain group and say 'Oh, I'm not like them so I won't join. Those issues are their issues and I'd rather not talk about it.' If you say you stand for something, but don't do anything, you're adding to the problem. People from diverse backgrounds are also to blame when they're not making an effort or correcting someone when they have the chance to."

Students here can make a difference, but what about other sources or departments that can help as well?

Greek life plays a huge role on Otterbein's campus. But does diversity play a huge role in greek

life? Ben Schwarz, Assistant Director of Greek Life, is not comfortable with the level of diversity. Only 18 percent of the population is non-white and this year the percentage of African Americans who are in fraternities weighs in at only 9 percent. Looking at these numbers of recruitment this year, that 18 percent would not be represented.

"We did see people from diverse backgrounds that went out and tried greek life, but not at the rate that we would've liked. With a smaller size like that, it's difficult to represent," Schwarz said.

With Otterbein being a small campus, there are difficulties, but there are also ways in which the size can be used as an advantage to reach out and do events in the community to help promote diversity as well as educate people on diversity.

"This year we are trying to engage in more city wide chapters like Delta Sigma Theta (DST) or Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA). These specific chapters are interested in taking classes in the spring. This is an opportunity we are

taking to help integrate these traditional groups in Greek Life to make it more diverse. These groups do a lot of great things for the community to see," Schwarz said.

Over the years, there have been new rules or regulations added to greek life criteria. One of those new standards was introduced this year and requires Greek Life chapters to hit a certain minimum. Each chapter is to go to an Office of Diversity event or host one with the Office of Diversity. They should be following these standards and exploring identities other than their own.

"The number one barrier that is holding those back in Greek Life is the feeling of security or being around people that are just like them. There needs to be a variety and shift in the groups.

We have to break these homogenous groups. That's what causes a blockade with people not getting involved. There must be a want to continue to grow, be more present, and to create stronger roots. We are always striving to have people wanting to be a part of our values and promote what the school system stands for. We are trying to keep pushing forward," Schwarz said.

Not only is it important to recruit students for organization and greek life, but it is crucial to start recruitment of diverse students many months before attending and officially becoming a Cardinal. This recruitment starts in the Admissions Office in Clippinger Hall.

Those in admissions are the first ones to see the number of students who are looking to attend. One of the biggest obstacles prohibiting people from enrolling is the cost, causing there to be a low percent of students

“Having diversity is more than just color. It's more than the race issue, it's culture. That's what we don't tend to focus on.”

Jobita Sebastian // Freshman Biology Major



Admissions Counselor, Emily Porter. // **Kris Crews**

from diverse backgrounds attending. Emily Porter, Admissions Counselor, understands that college is not cheap, but there is financial aid to make college more affordable.

“We have new initiatives. Having a financial aid model is important because most students who have these needs are from diverse backgrounds. We aren’t getting a ton of students from metropolitan schools like Cleveland, but we do get a lot from Columbus City Schools, Whitehall Yearling, Southwestern schools, etc. These districts are targeted because they’re in need. We want to provide higher education for those who need it. We should be giving all of ourselves to all of the student. We are experts and we need to be advocates,” Porter said.

In targeting these schools, the Admissions Office

also works with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and I Know I Can. Big Brothers Big Sisters is an organization that helps kids facing adversity overcome their struggles by partnering with

organizations to help those in the community excel and to also be role models, showing that education is important. The members in admissions use their voices as an outlet. When they are able to reach out to these children and students, they also have the opportunity to walk each family member through the college steps and preparations.

“There is an academic merit diversity scholarship. We want to bridge the gap for families to understand the process of college. This is important for diverse families especially because for a lot of them this is the first time a member from their family has gone to college,” Porter said.

In order to create a movement or educate one another, there has to be the want

to be involved and not just saying “I support this.” Otterbein’s motto says this, “STAND UP. STAND STRONG. STAND OUT.” How will we do this if we are silent? How are we going to move together if we can’t learn how to stand together? It’s time to make a change.

“We want to bridge the gap for families to understand the process of college. This is important for diverse families because for a lot of them, this is the first time a member from their family has gone to college.

Emily Porter //
Admissions Counselor

a parent, caregiver, college student or mentor who wants to help each kid become motivated to beat the odds. I Know I Can is an organization founded in Columbus that is helping students pursue their desires to go to college despite their financial setbacks. The admissions office is working with these



[FINDING DIVERSITY]

by Kris Crews

"You're so pretty for a black girl." -Actual quote from Otterbein student.

When you look at this picture of me, what would you say? What kind of comment would you leave? After posting this picture on one of my social media pages, a peer of mine came up to me and said, "You're so pretty for a black girl."

This is something I've heard all of my life with the occasional, "You just seem so educated for a black girl." The list can go on and on about the racial comments I've received in my lifetime. I've struggled with never feeling pretty enough or

good enough just because of my appearance or the color of my skin. There have been multiple times in my life where others have said, "Wow, you're so beautiful," but I've never believed it or I was shocked that they thought I was pretty. I immediately expect them to finish with "...for a black girl."

I could never just accept it without having some kind of doubt. I've always felt that I've had to work twice as hard just to keep up with others and to prove that I was good enough. There has never been a choice for me in how I'm categorized or stereotyped. When someone sees me, they're surprised because I don't fit the description of a black woman they're used to seeing. When others are surprised that I am pretty or smart, what that really says to me is that you're shocked because you believe my race as a whole is neither appealing nor educated.

Being so insecure made me just want to go with the flow. Every time I heard a joke or a racial slur, I would just laugh to fit in with my friends. I figured hey, I would rather laugh with them than have them laugh at me or make jokes about my race. My identity became unclear, and I was so desperate to just feel wanted and accepted. I wanted to feel secure

and not confused about why my melanin wasn't like all of my friends. I yearned to be confident in myself and to not have to feel like I needed to be validated by someone else.

I know that I'm not the only one who has experienced these difficulties and thinks about it every day, worrying what people will think about them when they walk in a classroom if they will be the only one of their race in the classroom, and if they will be the poster child for their whole entire race. The more I think about it, the more I realize how sad and disheartening it is to have to even think this way and to always be on my toes, anticipating for someone to stereotype me or to judge me. Or having to create a response just in case someone says something racist or insensitive. I hate having to think this way, but now it's a part of my nature, it's habitual. I wish that everyone could understand or try to put themselves in the shoes of someone who is different than them and has experienced feeling this way. Not to make them suffer, but just for them to become more aware.

By having more discussions about diversity and stereotypes, we can educate more people on what they shouldn't say to others who are of a different

to happen. Yelling and screaming about it makes people feel scared or nervous; leaving people not wanting to talk about it because they will feel like they're walking on eggshells. But if we make the conscious effort to ease into it, more people would be receptive.

Not listening to the outcry of other people causes anger and destruction. The feeling of not even wanting to talk about it because we think no one will listen follows soon after. That's how I used to feel. But we should come together and refuse to turn our backs on another. It's our duty to help each other understand something they're lacking knowledge in. This is a way in which we can serve and help people.

By having more discussions about diversity and stereotypes, we can educate more people on what they shouldn't say to others who are of a different race or background from them. I know that it is not possible to change the perceptions or views of everyone, but I do believe that we can help others develop a new perception of each other if we are willing to put ourselves out there. We shouldn't be afraid to educate one another about what's wrong and what's right.



race or background from them. We need to stop being so concerned with feeling uncomfortable when talking about race and diversity. There are plenty of people who have lived every day in discomfort or in fear because of what someone has said to them or how they've made them feel. But being uncomfortable when talking about these issues a few times throughout the year is nothing compared to years of feeling isolated or like an outsider.

Talking about diversity can be daunting, but it is a discussion that needs

Picture student was referring to. // Provided



Accepting Love

Troy, Tim & Otterbein's LGBTQIA+ community

by Sara Anloague

LGBTQIA+ is an abbreviation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual. The plus is for additional terms people use to identify themselves. But these terms do not define these people, they are just a part of them.

Several students from the Otterbein's LGBTQIA+ community feel that our campus is much more accepting than larger campuses they have visited. Some Otterbein students in the LGBTQIA+ community seem to think they have an advantage of going to a small liberal arts school.

Brigid Aslin, freshman music education major here at Otterbein, realized she was pansexual, a person who is not limited in sexual choice by gender, at the age of 16. She has personally never experienced homophobia or any kind of discrimination on campus. On the day gay marriage was legalized, Aslin came out to all of her family and friends through a Facebook post.

“I didn't feel like my house was my home anymore and when I came to Otterbein, Otterbein became my home.

Tim Neptune //
Junior Journalism Major

Brigid Aslin, a freshman music education major, is a pansexual Otterbein student.
// Anaemy Danner



She felt it was the right time and a good opportunity, so she just did it. Her mom, who is in a lesbian relationship, was accepting, but told her that she could lose her job and that she should take the post down.

For the mother of identical twins, Tim and Troy Neptune, juniors at Otterbein, it was shocking to hear that both of her twin sons were gay. However, she is very loving and accepting of them.

The twins agree that their mother supports who they are and the lives they live. As for their father, that is a very different story. Tim came out about a year before Troy, and it was difficult for their father to come to terms with. Because of some tough situations, Troy has yet to tell his father about this huge part of his life.

When Tim told his father he was gay, it was something his father could not fathom. Tim dealt with some seriously nasty comments from his father and things even got physical at one point. His father



Troy (left) and Tim Neptune (right) are twins on Otterbein's campus who both identify as being gay. // **Susanna Harris**



kicked him out of the house and told him that he was no longer his son because no son of his would be gay.

"I didn't feel like my house was my home anymore and when I came to Otterbein, Otterbein became my home," Tim said.

The Neptune twins grew up in a very small town, and it was uncommon to find a gay person, let alone gay twins.

According to J. Michael Bailey, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Northwestern University, in the case of identical twin brothers, if one twin is gay, there is a 52 percent chance that the other twin brother will be gay as well.

The twins experienced a rough few years while in high school, but things took a turn when they came to Otterbein.

"My experience being a gay male in high school was pretty awful, but coming here it's been so much better," Tim said. "With some of the things I experienced, it really made me think that being gay was this horrible thing, and I finally transitioned out of that and came to Otterbein and everyone was so accepting and loving."

Tim feels he has always been accepted on campus and has never had problems with discrimination. He is an extremely involved student. One thing he is involved in is residence life. He is a resident assistant (RA). Last year he was an RA in Davis Hall and

We're getting through this together. If I didn't have my twin brother, I would probably still identify as straight and be miserable.

Troy Neptune // Zoo and Conservation Science Major

struggled with how he should act or open up with his residents.

One of Tim's main concerns was that he did not want to turn off or alarm his residents, so he held back a little bit at first. He feels as if developing a relationship with his residents before fully expressing himself was helpful in that process.

For Tim, having a gay twin brother was a blessing. "Troy has been my number one supporter. We have always been best friends," Tim said.

Troy depends a lot on Tim as well. "We're getting through this together. If I didn't have my twin brother, I would probably still identify as straight and be miserable," Troy said.

Troy identifies outside of the gender binary and would like to be referred to as they/their.

Just like their twin brother, Troy is pretty involved on campus too. They're an RA as well and last year in Mayne Hall, Troy had an interesting conversation with a resident. They gave their personal story at an event open to all students where gender and sexual orientation was discussed.

After this event, one of Troy's residents stopped to talk to them while they were on duty. This resident told them that they did not agree with Troy and their decisions, but they would still love them through it. The resident told them that they were sinning by living their lifestyle.

This conversation really hit Troy hard because this resident knew them and certain information about their life, like the fact that they have a boyfriend.

"I'm in a positive healthy relationship, but in your

eyes it's not legitimate because I'm gay," Troy said.

This is something that is still challenging for Troy.

Even though Troy has never dealt with violence or hatred on campus, they have had a couple problems they have had to face. Being a zoo and conservation science major, Troy feels as though it is difficult being gay in a science field because they are the minority.

Nonetheless, despite certain struggles, Troy feels more comfortable and secure at Otterbein than they ever did at home. They were about 17 or 18 when they came out. But Troy said, "I feel like I've always been gay and always will be."

Troy felt that for the longest time they couldn't be who they felt they were and are. The first time they ever kissed a boy, after having kissed multiple girls before, they could not believe the spark they felt and how much they had been missing out on.

That moment was when they really knew they

were gay and it was something they needed to come to terms with. After Troy accepted this, they've had a hard time dealing with the stress and anxiety that goes along with it. It has affected them physically and taken a toll on their body.

"People don't know what you go through emotionally or mentally and also physically. My stress definitely takes a toll on my physical body and it's hard," Troy said.

But today, Troy is happy in their two-year-long committed relationship. They hope one day they will not only be accepted by their father, but by everyone.

"I'm gay and I'm seeing this really incredible person and I just want to share this person with you because I want my family to love him the way that I do," Troy said to his mom.

The Neptune twins have some advice for their LGBTQIA+ peers. "Be yourself, accept yourself, love

yourself. The right people will love you for you," Tim said.

"Don't be afraid to be who you are," Troy said. "Don't be pressured to identify a certain way."

If you or someone you know is facing issues regarding sexuality or identification, Otterbein has a student organization called FreeZone!. They meet every week on Thursdays from 9:30pm to 10:30pm at the FreeZone! House (46 West Home St.).

According to Suzanne Ashworth, FreeZone!'s advisor, FreeZone! is a social, educational and advocacy organization. It offers community and belonging to LGBTQIA+ students. They organize regular social events and gatherings. FreeZone! advocates for a safer, more respectful, more inclusive campus climate and experience for LGBTQIA+ people.



Photo // Susanna Harris



Students partake in campus shooting training session as taught by the Otterbein Police Department.
// Photos Provided



Campus Shooting

Would you be prepared?

by Justin Jordan

Imagine you are sitting in one of your Otterbein University classrooms and suddenly you hear the bone chilling sound of a gun shot. As the echo reverberates through the air, you notice that you weren't just imagining things, but others students have noticed it as well. As the panic starts to set in, you realize that you are in a room with only one exit and no weapons to defend yourself.

So what do you do? Do you try to escape? Do you barricade the door? Do you even have a plan for a situation like this?

Sadly, this is the reality for many students across the United States. There have been approximately 142 school shootings since the Sandy Hook shooting in Connecticut in 2012, according to Mass Shooting Tracker. That's nearly an average of one per week.

As that number continues to grow, the number of preventative plans rises as well.

Otterbein Police have an emergency plan for the campus if that kind of tragedy were to happen here, but few students seem to be aware of it.

Not many people have given a second thought to what they would do if there was a person out to kill them at their university. In this quiet, peaceful village, hardly anybody thinks about it. Students tend to think about their day-to-day lives, the midterms they haven't studied for, the girl they are trying to impress or a million other things. But as

the number of school shootings on campuses grow, the level of shock it causes across the nation lessens.

"That's the key to survival, is having a plan," Otterbein's Chief of Police Larry Banaszak said. "We know what to do in a fire drill; we know what to do if a tornado siren sounds."

The plan students should follow if there is a campus shooter can be found on the Otterbein website. Hidden through many clicks, you stumble upon a powerpoint. This powerpoint, divided into three separate stages, teaches students how to react in case of a shooting on campus.

The basic points to protecting yourself in the plan include:

Step one: Run away. If there is an option to exit the building safely, take it.

Step two: Hide and barricade. Many of our classrooms are filled with desks and other heavy objects you could use barricade the door.

Step three: If both of the previous options are not available, the next would be to attack the shooter using throwable objects around you. Pick up and throw whatever you possibly can. The worst thing

you could do is to do nothing. And learning more about situations like these can not only save your life, but the lives of others as well.

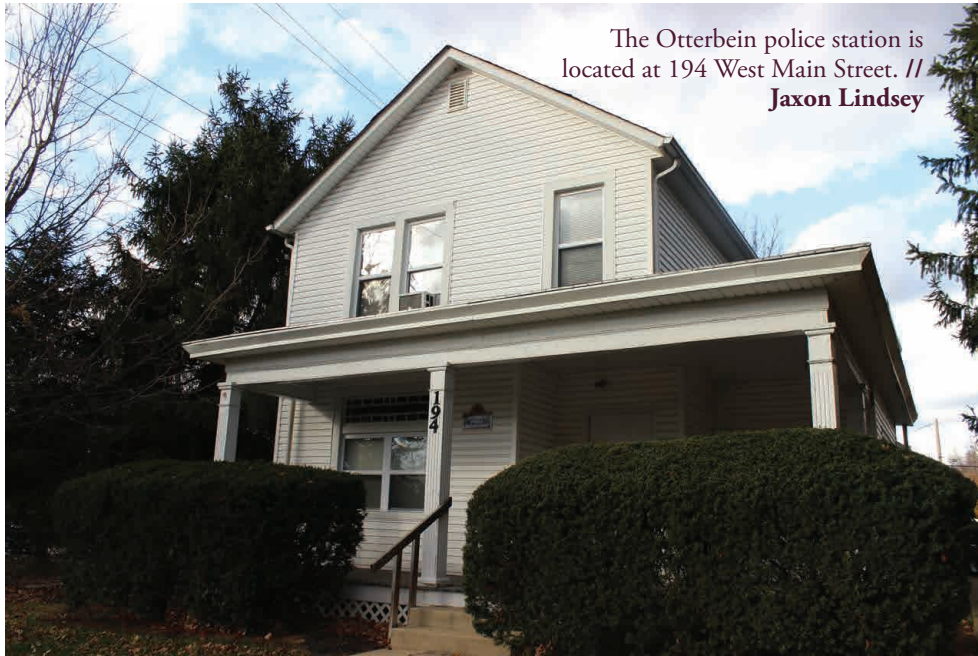
The Otterbein Police Department also hosts training sessions on campus shootings. But with the events not highly attended, it can be hard to get information out to the community.

"The past 15 years of our lives have been saturated with talks of terrorism in all forms. I think we are rightfully scared of, not only people abroad, but now also people in our neighborhoods and schools.

Carrie Coisman //
President of Student Government

Next time you get an email about one of these training sessions, encourage your friends to join you. As students, we can take our safety in our own hands and become a safe community. Every day more and more campus shootings happen, hurting people just like you. But that doesn't have to be the situation.

In many high schools, students and faculty are required to go through active shooter training



The Otterbein police station is located at 194 West Main Street. // Jaxon Lindsey

“I would like to think that if this classroom, this building or people in this building were trained, their chances for survival are going to be very good.”

Larry Banaszak // Chief of Police

“I would like to think that if this classroom, this building or the people in this building were trained, their chances for survival are going to be very good.”

Otterbein’s Student Government President Carrie Coisman says that many students aren’t aware of the danger around them.

“The past 15 years of our lives have been saturated with talks of terrorism in all forms,” she said. “I think we are rightfully scared of, not only people abroad, but now also people in our neighborhoods and schools.”



regularly. But Otterbein has never had a mandatory training session for occurrences like this, yet we have fire drills every month.

“One of the issues I have with this particular type of training is that it should be mandatory. Every student, staff and faculty person should have to go through the training and receive periodic updates,” Banaszak said.

But to get more people informed about Otterbein’s plan, it takes more than the police department. If you want to be more prepared for a situation like this, be sure to make an effort to go to these training sessions.

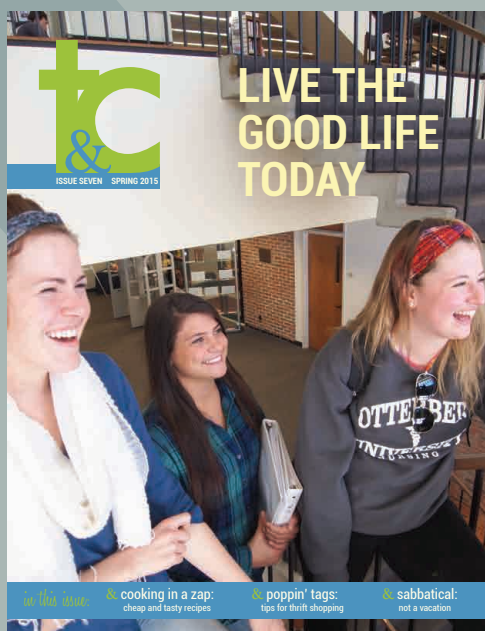
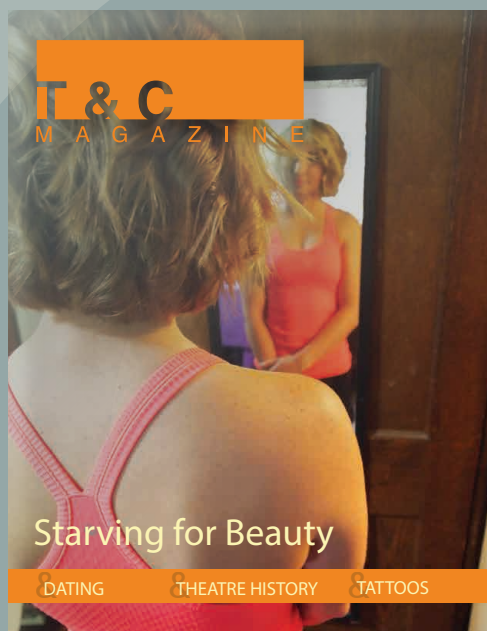
“Many people that don’t know what to do and haven’t been trained, freeze. They hide under their desk, and then they get executed,” Banaszak said.

Illustration of member of OPD on duty. // Jaxon Lindsey



T & C M A G A Z I N E

Stories from the **HEART** of Otterbein's **STUDENT BODY**



Want to write for us?
Contact us at:
writefortandc@gmail.com

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU FROM?

by Seth Crowell

Imagine yourself in another part of the world, where everything is completely different from how it is at home. There is even a language barrier that makes communication difficult for you. For a majority of Otterbein's international students, including Alexy Stanislavovich, this is exactly the case.

Stanislavovich is a first year business administration major. Technically speaking though, he is a sophomore.

He was born in Russia, but moved to the neighboring country of Belarus when he was three. That was where he grew up and received most of his education.

Stanislavovich first heard of Otterbein when he was studying abroad in Latvia. He transferred here after he spent a year at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Both Otterbein and Miami are partnered with his home university in Latvia, which allowed him to transfer from one college to the other.

Stanislavovich said that the American college experience is "absolutely different" from that in his home country. Differences can be seen in everything from the people to the general campus environment and even the amenities. For example, where Stanislavovich is from, the schools don't have as many dining facilities. They only include one canteen that serves as a dining hall, as well as a café.

Stanislavovich adds that compared to home, Otterbein has a much better library. Another difference between American and Latvian schools is that the professors in Latvia don't always seem to have as much understanding of the subject matter as his American professors do. Stanislavovich said that professors in Latvia aren't as well-educated as their American counterparts.

"I can't say that they don't know their subject, but

I just didn't feel it in my freshman year, because now when I'm studying something like financial accounting I just feel all the experience that my professor has," Stanislavovich said.



The flag of Belarus. This is where Stanislavovich grew up.

// Image Source: Google

Stanislavovich stated that he sees the experience of the professors here as motivation to do better. He said that the professors here also do their best to make sure that he understands what he's learning and studying.

In Latvian schools, if a student doesn't understand something being taught, it is viewed as a problem for the student to try to solve. However, "here at Otterbein, every professor cares," Stanislavovich said.

The main challenge that Stanislavovich faces each day is the language barrier. However, he says that he is able to understand what his professors are saying in class more than when he tries to do reading or homework.

"On the lectures I understand everything. The main problem for me is doing homework and reading," Stanislavovich said.

Despite the language barrier, and the fact that he is only here for one year, Stanislavovich says that he is enjoying the American college experience. On



Alexy Stanislavovich was born in Russia.

He is now a first year business administration major here at Otterbein.

// Susanna Harris

campus, Stanislavovich is in the process of becoming a member of the Lambda Gamma Epsilon fraternity, otherwise known as Kings. He also enjoys his classes, where he said that he learns something new every day. Stanislavovich said that what helps him get through his day is all the friends he has made here.

However, despite how much he enjoys his experience at Otterbein, Stanislavovich said that there are things back home in Belarus that he does miss. For him, this includes his family and dog, as well as his friends, coaches and trainers. Like most college students, he had to sacrifice family time in order to continue his education. This was something that Stanislavovich was willing to do.

He adds that he made the decision to attend college in the United States, across the world from either Belarus or Latvia, on his own.

"This is one of my steps to success in life, and I know that everything that I sacrificed will benefit me with time," Stanislavovich said.

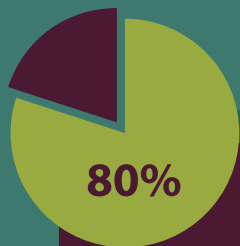


by the

NUMB3RS



During the **fall semester of 2015**, there were a total of **97 international students** on campus.



80% of campus is made up of **white students**.

Up to **15% of students** skip class **regularly**.



3.8% of the adult population in the United States identifies as **LGBTQIA+**.



According to WebMD, **1 in 15** college-age people have a **chronic health condition**.



Following graduation, **84% of Otterbein students** have a full time job **within six months**.

