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University Update - March 24, 2016

Academic Affairs

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I serve on several non-profit boards. Some of these boards have 20 or more members, and include representatives of other higher education institutions at the table. I pay particular attention to the perspectives of those board members who are not working in higher education. I learn a good deal from them regarding the public's perspective on higher education. I wanted to share just one moment from a recent meeting. I was on the phone for this particular board meeting, and the conversation turned into a heated discussion about the lack of support higher education institutions provide for students from at-risk backgrounds. The general sentiment around the table was disappointment at the number of students who last only one semester or one year and leave college with significant debt and no degree. The question turned to what to do to improve the situation. One board member suddenly blurted out, "They should all be doing what Otterbein does. They have mentoring programs; they have staff and faculty working directly with individual students. It's SO AWESOME the way they support students!" Because I was participating by phone, I couldn't read the reactions of my colleagues from other institutions, but it was an affirming moment for me. A sincere and unsolicited compliment to all of us. That is what we stand for – supporting our students and helping them succeed. The leaps we made in retention last year and again this fall are strong indicators of the effectiveness of our efforts. I hear positive feedback from parents and students frequently, but it was great to hear it from someone outside our immediate community. We ARE pretty awesome, in fact, and I don't know if we say that to each other often enough. Thank you all for being SO AWESOME!

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Please join us at the **Graduate Scholarship Showcase** to support the scholarly research and creative accomplishments of our current graduate students. This event will take place on Tuesday, April 5th from 5:00-7:00pm at Otterbein University in the Campus Center.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The Division of Institutional Advancement is pleased to share a snapshot of recent accomplishments below. As you will note, we continue to make steady progress in all areas of our work to engage alumni, friends, and prospective new members and supporters of the University community.

As of mid-March, we have recorded over \$24M in gifts and commitments for Otterbein's "*Where we STAND Matters campaign!*" As of this writing, 9,725 donors have chosen to support the campaign! As our comprehensive campaign continues, our team is working with key stakeholders to create the next iteration of campaign communication materials and messaging related to campaign priorities.

On Friday, March 18, Trustee and Campaign Chair **Kent Stuckey** and **Dr. Michael Hoggarth**, Faculty and Staff Campaign Committee Chair, welcomed twenty faculty and staff members to a robust discussion on the culture of philanthropy at Otterbein. Small group discussions were led by Institutional Advancement staff members, engaging the groups and learning how philanthropy is viewed on campus as well as what motivates support of the STAND Campaign. In addition, there was helpful input on where the Institutional Advancement Division excels and where there is room to improve. We hope to continue these discussions in the future, realizing that education is often the key to strengthening our culture of philanthropy. If faculty or staff were unable to attend, but would like to share input, please contact **Lucy Cryan**, Executive Director for Organizational Planning and Events, in Institutional Advancement, at

lcryan@otterbein.edu, and she will send a short questionnaire for you to complete and return. As always, feel free to contact our office with any questions regarding the STAND Campaign or other ways to support Otterbein.

Office of Marketing and Communications

Marketing and Admission have put great effort into a new Yield website; mail piece; and email material to encourage our accepted applicants to enroll! Watch the Monday Cardinal Tweet for the live link so you can explore the new material and see where Otterbein stands when it comes to living on campus; food; location; involvement; and fun!

As we plan for summer, radio, digital and print ads will start for summer enrollment for the adult open houses and graduate population programs. Summer at Otterbein camp initiatives can be found at www.otterbein.edu/summer and *Summer Towers* is under production and due out at the end of May.

Thanks to everyone who assisted with the STEAM announcement and demonstrations. There was huge appeal on social media, live stream and community partners. A new Flickr account of construction photos has been added and details for a building naming contest will be forthcoming. The new, creative name will be announced in the fall during Homecoming festivities.

Office of Alumni Relations

Engaging alumni through classroom experiences is a "win-win-win" for not only the alumni involved, but also for the students and the University. These experiences capture the time and talent of our young alumni sharing their expertise to educate and inspire students. During fall semester, more than 109 reported alumni participated as campus speakers or networked with students. So far during spring semester, we are aware of over 60 alumni who have given their time and talents to enrich our student's Otterbein experience. Additionally, we are partnering with Patti Wilson's FYS and DYAD courses to match 54 alumni with students in their career interest field. If you would like to have alumni speak in your classroom or wish to partner with our office for alumni engagement, please contact **Becky Smith**, Executive Director of Alumni Relations, at RSmith@otterbein.edu.

We are also partnering with the Admission Office to connect alumni with prospective and admitted students in the Experience Otterbein visit days and regional Yield Dinners. The Young Alumni Advisory Board, Greek Alumni Council and Alumni Council have been provided recruitment materials to share with prospective students and parents. Additionally, on a trip to Seattle, Richard Ji met with alumni to share ways they can assist in recruiting. We also connected alumni in Costa Rica and Turkey with our international recruitment efforts. The collaboration between Alumni Relations and the Admission Office is our OARS program - Otterbein Alumni Recruiting Students.

Office of Development

Since our last report, there have been several major gifts and proposals close, and our gift officers continue to reach out and visit with alumni and friends. In our efforts to meet with as many donors and potential donors as possible, the development staff has travelled to 15 states in the last nine months – in addition to their Ohio travel - resulting in more than 300 face-to-face visits.

To date this fiscal year, 41 proposals have been accepted leading to \$4,104,000 in commitments for the Campaign. Also, this has been a significant year for our Planned Giving program, led by **Candace Brady**, Director of Development for Planned Giving, with more than \$2.9 million in planned gift commitments.

Although performance in Major Gifts and Planned Giving is strong for FY16, Annual Fund/Annual Giving is currently behind previous years, both in gifts and in number of donors, particularly alumni donors. We are working closely with our telefund partners at Ruffalo Noel Levitz and exploring other strategies to improve this situation. In the final months of the year there will be increased outreach to capture donors who consistently give, yet have not in this year.

This month's efforts for Annual Fund/Annual Giving through LOVE Otterbein are building through the good efforts of the faculty and staff campaign. The "I LOVE Otterbein" honor roll site is a great way to recognize colleagues or students across the campus.

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

During the March University Senate meeting, the Senate unanimously approved a new University alcohol policy brought forward by Otterbein University Student Government. The policy will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for vote at their meeting in April. If approved, the policy will be in effect beginning Fall Semester 2016. The intention for the alcohol policy is to create a safe and responsible drinking culture on campus by allowing students, who are of legal drinking age, to responsibly consume alcohol in their respective living unit. Additionally, the policy would allow alcohol to be served at Otterbein sponsored events on campus -- these events would include donor events, alumni functions, and other related events.

Indoor Track and Field tallied 21 All-OAC performances, 14 All-Region awards and qualified three student-athletes for the NCAA Championships. Both the men's and women's teams each broke six school records as well. Senior **Amariah Huck** and freshman **Dani Kissel** earned All-OAC honors in women's basketball, while junior **Jake Phillis** represented the men's team on the all-conference list. The women's season was highlighted by an upset victory at nationally-ranked Capital.

After four years of serving as general manager at Otterbein dining for Bon Appetit, **Debbie Robinson** has taken a similar position with Rose-Hulman University in Indiana. Debbie was a pleasure to work with, and we wish her all the best!

It's that time again for LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS! I thank you in advance your nominations of the great student leaders we get to work with each day! Please use the Google doc form (link below) to nominate students, faculty, staff and student organizations for Leadership Awards! Everyone can serve as a nominator, including faculty, students, and staff! The descriptions of each of the awards are found by clicking on the link below:

2016 Leadership Awards Nomination Form

Nominations are due **MONDAY, MARCH 28th** and must be submitted using this form. The awards will be presented at **The Celebration of Service & Leadership** on Wednesday, April 13th at 7pm in the Campus Center.

Investigative Sergeant **Richard Tiburzio** was recently promoted to Deputy Chief of the Otterbein Police Department. Rick has been with the Otterbein Police Department since August 2013. Prior to coming to Otterbein, Rick worked at the Westerville Police Department for 33 years. He served as a Sexual Assault Investigator, and was chosen as the Officer of the Year several times while serving with them.

We welcome new police officers **Rebekah Scarpuzzi** who graduated from Cedarville University in 2013, and **Ben Maurer** who graduated from Bowling Green State University in 2014 with a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice.

PROMISE HOUSE GRAND OPENING SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016

This April, the doors will permanently open to Otterbein's new Promise House, a community volunteer and resource center for students. The Promise House, located in the Home Street Commons Lounge, hosts a new student organization to address key socioeconomic barriers students face while in college. The Promise House provides a student food pantry, Ohio Benefits Bank counseling, financial literacy workshops, opportunities to mentor local youth, and volunteer programs at the community garden. Ten student peer advocates have taken the lead of this effort, and are currently recruiting additional volunteers. Their first effort, Unpack Privilege: Pack-the-Mac, provided 2500 meals to two local food pantries, with some of the macaroni and cheese available now at the pantry. The students are hosting **The Promise House Party**, a grand opening event, on April 8th from 11:00 to 3:00. Please bring a donation for the food pantry and stop on by to learn more about the efforts of our students. If you are interested in joining the Promise House, please contact **Lauren Klingshirn**, lklingshirn@otterbein.edu, (AmeriCorps VISTA) at the Center for Community Engagement.

STEAM INNOVATION CENTER UPDATE

If you are interested in following the STEAM Center renovations, please click [here](#). We are posting photos so you can monitor progress on the project in the coming weeks. The work is moving along, and the first phase is on track to open this summer. We have hosted a few hard hat tours for prospective donors and are moving forward with grant submissions and funding opportunities. We are talking about the possibility of naming the building, naming labs, and other naming options. The position for the Executive Director of the Center is now posted, and we are starting to receive applications. Partners, including some of our future tenants, are helping us identify funding sources for the position, Center operations, and the facility itself. Outside organizations are contacting us about using the facility to provide educational programs and services to support the Center's tenants and engage outside groups. We are also meeting with prospective tenants. The STEAM Innovation Center team is meeting weekly to monitor and coordinate all of the activities associated with the project.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to the following Otterbein employees who have recently been recognized for outstanding achievements:

Scott Fitzgerald, Director of Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator, was selected to participate in the HR Acuity Employee Relations Round Table for Higher Education at the University of Virginia. Scott will serve as a discussion leader for a session on Navigating Title IX on Campus at this national conference.

Katherine Reichley, Academic Assessment and Accreditation Specialist, was elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the 2015-2016 membership year of the national Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP). Katherine also recently completed the requirements for recertifying the Professional Standards Master Degree, Option II certificate.

Dawn Stewart, Director of Athletics, has been selected as a 2015-16 Division III Under Armour AD of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

Ed Syguda, Senior Communication Manager and Photographer, will be honored this summer with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Power Performers has announced that **Ben Schwarz**, Assistant Director of the Center for Student Involvement - Campus Activities and Greek Life, and Otterbein University have won the Campus Event Planner of the Year Award in the category of "Most Memorable Event" for 2015. Ben's contribution stood out among more than 1,700 campuses nationwide to be honored for 2015.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Please join me in welcoming the following new members of the Otterbein community who have joined us in recent months:

Kathleen Frissora, Executive Assistant to the VP for Business Affairs - Office of Business Affairs
Benjamin Maurer, Police Officer - Otterbein Police Department
Rebekah Scarpuzzi, Police Officer - Otterbein Police Department
Daniel Tarkeshian, Stable Assistant - Austin E. Knowlton Center for Equine Science

The following individuals have left their positions with Otterbein. We wish them much success in their future endeavors:

Deborah Jamieson, Secretary/Receptionist - Office of Admission
Kalee Mack, Financial Aid Counselor - Student Financial Services
Kalinda Watson, Risk Management Director - Office of Business Affairs
Benjamin Shoemaker, Director of Admission - Office of Admission
Cheryl Patton, Registration Services Specialist - Office of the Registrar
Billie Clark, Stable Assistant - Austin E. Knowlton Center for Equine Science
Celia Villagran, Information Records Clerk - Office of Admission

As always, if you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or a member of Cabinet.

Sincerely,



President Krendl

Otterbein University Vision

Otterbein University will be nationally recognized as a model community of educators, leaders, and learners who set the pace for higher education and contribute to the common good.

Otterbein University Mission

Otterbein is an inclusive community dedicated to educating the whole person in the context of humane values. Our mission is to prepare graduates to think deeply and broadly, to engage locally and globally, and to advance their professions and communities. An Otterbein education is distinguished by the intentional blending of the liberal arts and professional studies, combined with a unique approach to integrating direct experience into all learning.