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A couple is silhouetted against a sunset sky over the ocean. The man is on the left, looking up at the woman on the right. They are holding hands. The woman has a backpack. The sky is orange and yellow with some clouds. The ocean waves are visible in the background.

T & C

M A G A Z I N E

Issue 12 // Spring 2016

Looking Forward

FIRST-GENERATION

students who are the first in their family to go to college

DOUBLE MAJOR

risks and rewards

DIVISION 3

athletes following their dreams

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Cover Photo // **Provided**



Extended Editor Note

It's 5 a.m. and the magazine is finished. Ha! Well, it's finished to my liking before it is copy-edited by the printers next door. It's finished to the point where I can't look at it anymore. I've read every story at least eight times, and five of them were between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. My eyes are burning from staring at the screen for 14 hours straight, my head is pounding and our graphics editor Jaxon is lucky to be alive as it's been just the two of us for hours now. Production nights happen twice a semester and I'm surprised they haven't been the death of me.

Now, as I look over these precious pages of my last issue of the T&C I can laugh at thought of production night; at the arguments Jaxon and I have had; at the tireless hours I put in; at the fact that we finished at 5 a.m. and the flash drive had to be at the printers at 8 a.m.

I've put more than my blood, sweat and tears into this magazine and I hope I've left a legacy. When I first became Editor-in-Chief two years ago I didn't know where to begin, how to plan or what the heck I was doing. I've grown with this magazine for eight issues now and I've learned more than you could ever imagine. I've got tricks and tips and hidden things all over this office. Today I find myself trying to create a how-to guide to being the T&C editor as if I have all this wisdom to pass down.

Oh, but I do. And I'm afraid to leave it all behind. I've been Editor-in-Chief for so long I don't know who I am without the title. I guess that's a part of growing up, leaving the comforts of this beautiful university and becoming a real adult.

This issue of the T&C is all about connecting your dreams with reality. Whether you're a first-generation college student or you have a passion that won't make you a lot of money, know that you are not alone. And while the rest of your life might not be as mapped out as those featured in our cover engagement story, hopefully you're finally ready to move forward with your life.

All I ask of the upcoming journalism students, those who sit in our hideous green computer chairs as they sit around the long brainstorming table is this: do not take these years, or this magazine for granted. Care for her. The hard work you put into the T&C will pay off in clips, portfolio work and wonderful memories.

To my fellow 2016 graduates, I hope you've found your place on this campus, left your legacies and that your goodbyes were difficult ones. As that is how you know you've left your mark on this campus and this campus has left its mark on you.

Happy Reading!

Taylor Numbers
editor-in-chief

Taylor Numbers



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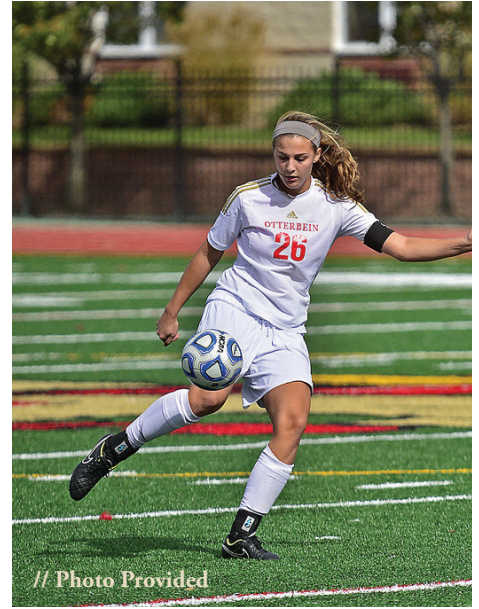
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Q & A Alumni with Cool Careers

by Boston Gregg



Cory Michael Smith in character as The Riddler
// Photo Provided

After graduating from Otterbein in 2009, Cory Michael Smith spent time acting in New York City and Los Angeles. During the winter of 2014, while still in Los Angeles, Smith auditioned for Fox's new show "Gotham." Smith plays Edward Nygma (The Riddler) on the show as it enters its third season. Smith has played The Riddler since the show began. Within the past few months, due to the show's popularity, Gotham has been renewed for a third season.

How did you get your awesome job?

My current job is portraying Edward Nygma (The Riddler) on Fox's "Gotham." I auditioned for the "awesome" role in the "awesome" job while living in Los Angeles in the winter of 2014.

Can you describe what a typical day looks like for you on the set of Gotham?

Every day is different. Filming usually takes anywhere from 10-14 hours a day, five days a week; sometimes shorter, sometimes longer. Last Friday we wrapped at 4:30 a.m. A typical day on set requires us arriving early for hair, make-up, very minimal rehearsal and getting into costume.

We also participate in various press interviews. This sometimes requires travel. And when we're not working on set, we need to be preparing for future filming, as there is very little rehearsal in television; one must be fully prepared to film upon arrival. Also, I'm often working on other projects on the side, whether it be writing, filming, workshopping a new play or film or auditioning for other projects.

What's your favorite part about your job/career path?

I like that every day is different; inconsistency invigorates me and keeps me alert, mentally and emotionally. I like that every character requires a unique way of accessing his train of thought and emotional life; [It] reminds me that every human is a single entity, and we must respect individuality and what formed someone's identity. I like that every day requires thinking about and looking for future work; it keeps me optimistic, constantly reevaluating my wants and needs and reestablishing goals.

Have you had to give anything up to get where you are now?

I've forfeited a lot of my privacy at this point. I expect I'll have less and less as time goes on. This is very saddening. I am very attracted to anonymity. I feel that the work of an actor is easier the less people know about him. So while I participate in social media, I truly feel that it's a false kind of personal interaction. Nevertheless, I will always mourn complete anonymity.

I've also forfeited my ability to plan (travel, family visits, friends' weddings, etc). I suppose it is always worth trying to plan something, but the nature of my business is that work schedules aren't given far in advance; also, additional work comes up unexpectedly, and when it comes you take it, and your plans often fall by the wayside.

Was there a single class or lesson you learned at Otterbein that stood out to you?

I loved my time in the Theatre and Dance Department, and feel that I learned a great deal from the collection of professors I had; that said, the value of a liberal arts education was made apparent by two professors outside of my major that significantly impacted the way I thought. Tammy Birk of the English Department and Dr. Stephanie Patridge of the Religion and Philosophy Department were essential to my intellectual and emotional development in college. The content of their lessons

Name: Cory Michael Smith

Major: BFA Musical Theatre

Year: 2009

Occupation: Actor for Warner Bros. Entertainment.

were earnestly challenging, and the way they enabled and encouraged honest and purposeful exchange in their classes helped me be a better communicator. As I engaged with them and was challenged by their further inquiries, the way I viewed the human condition expanded, deepened and I grew a deeper sense of how I wanted to live. I felt that Tammy and Stephanie somehow unlocked a secret door between my brain and my heart, and my acting classes taught me how to express the traffic between them.

What is your ultimate career goal?

I'm fortunate to be doing exactly what I want. I want to continue raising my bar of performance and grow the scale and breadth of my work. I want to continue working on material that excites me, in whatever medium that may be. I want to use my celebrity to bring focus to various humanitarian efforts, like my work with Alzheimer's research and funding. I hope to be able to foster younger talent the way some of my elder artist friends have supported me. I plan to continue my hand at writing and hope to have a script fully produced in the future. And further down the line, I would love to explore directing and producing a project and ushering it from its creative inception to a fully produced presentation.

If you could give one piece of advice to a college student, what would it be?

I encourage each student to have the courage to consider his potential with complete independence and autonomy, and establish goals that are just beyond the bounds of what he may initially think of as achievable, and formally structure ideas of how he would potentially achieve those goals. By writing down our goals, we are 40 percent more likely to achieve them. I believe that when we commit to being our best, most successful selves, and are not swayed or delayed by other's lack of courage, drive or creativity, we will always surprise ourselves, no matter where we land. Be brave.



Interpre DRE



by Taylor Numbers

Dreams can be tricky ideas to grasp. There's so many theories out there about dreams; They range from Sigmund Freud's theory that we use dreams to fulfill our daily urges to Harvard University psychiatrists John Allen Hobson and Robert McCarley's theory that dreams are random and don't mean anything. Whatever theory you choose to believe, we can all agree that there are common themes among some dreams. But what do they mean? According to world-of-lucid-dreaming.com here are what some of the most common theme meanings are:



Death:

A death of a friend, a loved one or even yourself represents dramatic change; A sense of an ending bringing a new beginning in your life. It isn't a psychic prediction of the end.

Falling:

Have you ever woken up in a sudden haste with a quick jolt in your legs? That's how you know you've had a falling dream. Most people associate this dream meaning with losing control or failing after a success. But believe it or not, this isn't always a bad dream to have. In fact, falling in a dream can indicate the bliss following the act of finally letting go.

Flying:

Flying in your dreams can be an awesome feeling depending on how good you are at it. If you are flying high it means you seem to feel like you have control of your life. It could also mean you feel confident in achieving your goals. However, flying low while dodging obstacles means you have a lack of control in your life.

Missing your flight:

Have you had to make a big decision lately? Missing any form of transportation--train, bus or flight--means that you are frustrated at yourself for missing important opportunities in life.



ting our AMS

Naked in Public:

Nudity is probably the most relatable dream out there. We've all had this dream whether you care to admit it or not. Dreaming of being naked in public means that you feel exposed or vulnerable to others. If you dream that you are showing off your naked body it suggests your desire for recognition.

Running for your life:

This dream is actually common in almost all cultures. If you're dreaming that you're being chased or running for your life it means that you feel threatened in some aspect of your life. If you have this dream, try to reflect on who (or what) is chasing you. A quick Google search for dream symbols might help you analyze what you feel threatened by.

Teeth Falling out:

This dream theme might be more relatable to our upcoming graduates as it oftentimes symbolizes the fear of getting old. Don't worry though, you're not actually that old! Dreaming that your teeth falling out can also be a sign that you feel unattractive to others.

Test Dreams:

These dreams have probably haunted you since elementary school. Test/exam dreams signify the need for self-evaluation. The test can even reflect on the part of your life that needs inspected.

Trapped:

These are one of the scariest types of dreams out there. Are you trapped in a room, a car or even a shallow grave? Whatever your nightmare it's sure to mean the same thing. This dream reflects on your inability to make the right choice in real life. It could also mean you're unable to escape from something in your life. This one could call for some further research.



The First OF MANY

First-Generation College Students

by Emily Jeffries

She grew up on the north side of Columbus. She was the child of a single mother suffering from Lupus and Fibromyalgia. She was the president of her senior class at Northland High School, while working at Chipotle to pay for her prom dresses, band expenses and school fees. Today she is a first-generation college student.

Satvia Banks, sophomore public health major, was the only one who graduated high school in her family. It was almost expected for her to be the one to pursue college once she left Northland High School. Now that she is in college, she sees a lot of value in the things her mother sacrificed for her. That was something she didn't see before.

"I hated working, and I was mad that I had to. Now I feel awful about that and I don't mind working the 30 hours I work a week to help my mom out when she needs me to," said Banks.

She was the youngest of four children. Her siblings, ranging from ages 20 to 26, couldn't be

more different from one another. Banks claims to be more like her mother than her siblings.

"We didn't have very much money growing up but I never wanted anything. In fact, I didn't realize until I was older just how hard my mom worked to give me everything I wanted," said Banks.

College and higher education is not something that everyone chooses to, or is able to, pursue. In

Where I come from, college is sort of the end of all be all. If you get a college education you will have a successful future."

Satvia Banks //

Sophomore Public Health Major

fact, according to the New York Times, just 66 percent of people who had graduated from high school in 2014 had enrolled in college the following fall. That leaves a 34 percent of high school graduates who end up without college degrees.

"Where I come from, college is sort of the end all be all. If you get a college education you will have a successful future," said Banks.

Many assume that when someone is a student at an expensive, private university such as Otterbein, that the students who attend are privileged and financially well off. Looking at the high tuition rates and the beauty and collegiate finesse of Towers hall, many could infer that the students that go there are rich, preppy, Lexus-driving young adults.

However, for a lot of students at Otterbein, that is not the case. Many students are the first person in the family to pursue higher education; and many times they are paying for it on their own and out of their very own pocket. An idea that is unheard of now, especially in a world where college education is so highly valued.

Aside from going into the military or interest in trade school, a lot of times finances hold students back from pursuing their dreams at the collegiate level. Some students have never had a single person

in their family step foot on a college campus, let alone sit in classes and study and live in a dorm, while simultaneously paying for it.

Although there isn't exact statistical information at Otterbein for first-generation college students, there is still information that gives some insight at Otterbein for possible first-generation students.

"It is hard to know for sure exactly how many first-generation students we have on campus. This is a personal attribute, much like 'How many brothers and sisters do you have?' or 'What is your favorite color?'" said Sean McLaughlin, the director of Institutional Research at Otterbein. "We do not have a direct and consistent way to collect this information from all students. The best way we currently determine this is from information students provide on their FAFSA application regarding their parent's level of education."

What is known from the information on Otterbein students and FASFA applications is that about 20 percent of those at Otterbein who filled out FASFA provided information that suggests they are first-generation college students.

So, there are many students on campus who are in a similar situation as Banks. She knows she is not alone in this first-generation struggle. Banks also knows the financial pressure put on her as a first-generation college student. She feels the weight of

graduating with debt, of letting down her family and of not succeeding once her days at Otterbein come to an end.

"When no one else in your family has experienced what you are experiencing, they don't know what you're going through. I almost find that when I'm having trouble with my classes or the social aspect of college, I keep it to myself because everyone back home thinks life is perfect for me here...I don't want to ruin that for them," said Banks.

“Thinking about the complication of finances started to make me second guess if going to college was actually worth it for me.”

**Sarah Carnes // Sophomore
Psychology Major**

Sophomore psychology major and creative writing minor Sarah Carnes, has felt the pressure of being a first-generation college student as well. But with the pressure came an exhilarating experience for her at the same time.

"I have known since seventh grade that psychology and creative writing were the fields I wanted to study, and I knew that in order to get anywhere in the psych field, I needed to have an undergrad degree at the least," said Carnes.

Carnes' mother grew up in a small town where education was neither taken seriously by the

teachers nor valued by the students. Her mother's education didn't really show her the importance of being educated.

It was a small town with maybe two or three schools with few career opportunities. Because of this, Carnes is not sure if college was even on her mother's radar. When her mother moved away, she began her life in Columbus with a full time job and continued to keep on a career path.

Carnes' father followed a pathway that was also different than her own. He joined the Marines after high school. Before he began his career, he did take a few classes, but never went beyond that in order to acquire a degree from a university.

So Carnes is the first one in her family to be a college student. She is the first one to feel the stress of exam week hanging heavy on her shoulders. She is the first one in her family to sit in her dorm room and miss the feeling of being home.

She considers herself lucky because she is also the first to go on Schneider's donut runs and to experience freedom in a way she never did previously, before she came to Otterbein.

But Carnes has really felt the pressure in regards to how to pay for school. "My mom would often say, 'I don't know what you're going to do without a scholarship.' Thinking about the complication of finances started to make me second guess if going to college was actually worth it for me. If going meant an enormous amount of debt, the pressure to get in the 'right' field to make money was higher," said Carnes.

Sativa Banks
speaking at a
sociology
conference.

// Photo Provided





Katie Geyer studies at the library.
// Photo Provided

But Carnes is moving full speed ahead, studying and working two jobs. She works in a retail shop near campus and is also a writing assistant at Otterbein's writing center.

Katie Geyer, sophomore psychology and criminology major, knew that going to college was something that she would have to pay for on her own. However, that didn't hold her back from dreaming big.

"My family didn't really understand why I was going, but they knew they couldn't stop me if that was what I wanted to do," said Geyer.

Growing up in the small town of Middleton, Ohio, most of Geyer's family were blue collar workers.

"My hometown was very predictable and conservative," said Geyer.

Geyer knew she wanted to do something different than what she was accustomed to. Her family thought it was a stretch to go to a private university. Not because she wasn't smart or capable, but simply because no one in her family had ever done that before. To pack up and go to college out of nowhere, and be the first one to do so, can be a very intimidating thought.

That didn't stop her, even when the finances of it all seemed to hold her back at times. Over the past summer, Geyer was scared she wouldn't be able to

come back to Otterbein, because she didn't have enough money for the \$275 deposit to return in the fall. Her cousin ended up helping her by paying the

“But don't let it scare you. It may seem like a lot of work, and it is a lot of work, but getting this education will help you in the long run.”

Katie Geyer //
Sophomore Psychology and
Criminology Major

deposit, which was a great relief, and she was able to come back for her sophomore year.

Although Geyer receives multiple loans and grants, she is still going to graduate with debt. "I know I'm going to have debt and that scares me," said Geyer.

Her family doesn't really see the effect that has on her.

"I am a first-generation college student...they just don't really understand," said Geyer.

To keep up with the ongoing tuition costs, and to ensure her returning status for the following two years, Geyer works three different jobs. She works at Arby's, has a work study on campus and

also tutors students. She not only pays for her schooling, but also her phone bill and groceries as well. She works hard, and admits that there are days that feel extremely overwhelming and scary. And she encourages students at Otterbein to do the same.

"But don't let it scare you. It may seem like a lot of work, and it is a lot of work, but getting this education will help you in the long run...to get you out of the stigma of being a first generation college student," said Geyer.

One thing rings true with being a first-generation college student: It isn't easy. Being the first person in your family to go to college, while also stressing about the things that can come

with paying for it, isn't easy. The stress and anxiety that comes with tuition payments and late nights spent cramming for exams, can be extremely taxing. But it is worth all the turmoil.

"College is definitely possible, even when it seems as if it's not. You may have to work harder than everyone else to prove that you deserve to be here, but it'll be worth it in the end," said Banks.

"My advice is to hold on to the hope," said Carnes. "I remember how discouraged I felt at one point. But you have the abilities to make things happen. I know it is cliché, but always try your best with whatever it is you're doing, because that always leads to the next great step."



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DOUBLE THE PAIN DOUBLE THE GAIN

The Challenges & Rewards of Double Majoring

by Kris Crews

Notecards full of writing on them are scattered everywhere. They have replaced the carpet and plan on staying there until the end of the semester. This is the sight of senior Josh Brandon's room, as his course load is not just for one major, but two.

Double majoring is a true test of commitment, tenacity and time management. There must be a balance between school work, organizations and job(s) to graduate with a degree in two majors.

The Otterbein Registrar office records statistics for each semester, and for the spring semester of 2017 statistics show that 9.4 percent of currently enrolled students are listed as pursuing a second major.

A part of that 9.4 percent is Josh Brandon, a double major in creative writing and women's gender and sexuality studies (WGSS). Coming into college, Brandon knew that he wanted to double major, but he was unsure which two majors he would choose.

"During my senior year of high school, it was my plan to double major but I wanted to originally do so in English and communications. I instead stuck with creative [writing], and at the beginning of my

sophomore year I was introduced to WGSS thinking it would be my minor, but I also picked it up as a major," said Brandon.

Aside from schoolwork, Brandon is also heavily involved in organizations and holds titles such as: Safe Zone facilitator, president of Free Zone, managing editor of Quiz N Quill, member of Sigma Tau Delta and peer advocate for the Women's and Gender Resource Center (WGRC).

Fortunately, his schedule is set up to where he doesn't have to take any unnecessary classes. "The good thing about creative writing and WGSS is that they can both count for the same class credit. You'll have to branch out within that major to find certain classes and reach all of your requirements, but it's still doable," said Brandon.

Although some of his classes have ended up balancing each other out, he can still be stretched too thin at times. Despite these stressful and hectic moments, Brandon is still able to see the benefits that can come from his busy schedule.

"Double majoring really helps expand your

horizons. The opportunity to be so interdisciplinary is very unique and has been so sustainable in giving me the chance to create more options that will be very applicable. I'd advise others to double major as well. If it gets too hectic you can always drop something, but it will seriously help you build new skills that will be incredibly useful in the future," said Brandon.

Senior Lizzie Casto also decided to incorporate WGSS and creative writing in her schedule where she is a double major in Theater (concentration in directing) and WGSS (concentration in political change and social activism) with double minors in creative writing and literary studies. On top of all her classwork Casto still manages to be co-social chair of Free Zone, on the executive board of Tri-Iota (WGSS Honorary society), a Team Consent facilitator, Safe Zone facilitator, peer advocate in WGRC, peer mentor and part-time sales associate at Hot Topic.

Theater was never on Casto's top list until she came to Otterbein, and then everything changed.

"I did theater a lot in high school but it wasn't really on my radar until I saw a show here and immediately fell in love. I decided to make it my major and still wanted to keep my WGSS major, then making creative writing one of my minors," said Casto.

One of the most difficult areas for Casto is making sure that she doesn't lose the voice that she has. As a busy student, it's easy to get pulled in different directions but she has learned how to remain disciplined and say no to make sure she's not exerting herself too much.

"It gets really hectic at times, but you really have to be your own advocate in these types of situations. All of these things are time-demanding, but I gain a lot of experience from it. It's hard, but I still do it, and I would encourage others to do it too. It makes you a very marketable person to employers and rejuvenates your ideas about school," said Casto.

Double majoring is tough, but what is it like to have multiple minors?

Junior Maria Slovikovski may be able to answer that question. Slovikovski is majoring in public relations and minoring in sports



Josh Brandon working on a homework assignment
// Kris Crews

communications, communication studies, dance and leadership studies. One might think it would be difficult to complete all of these classes, but Slovikovski is enthusiastic about the challenge.

"I wanted to take on these minors because I am passionate about each one of them. I chose to pursue a sports communication minor because I want to work with sports public relations. Communications is one I am taking because it will make me more marketable for employers and leadership studies allows me to understand the values, ethics and leadership style I can implement in all of my work. And last but not least, I chose to have a dance minor because I've danced since I was 4. It's a hobby of mine that I really love, and it keeps my stress level down," said Slovikovski.

Luckily the classes do overlap in order for her to still have some room to breathe, and to participate in other organizations and co-curricular activities. Slovikovski is heavily involved on campus. She is a Cardinal Core leader for Walnut Springs Middle School, an intern for the Columbus Blue Jackets, student orientation coordinator, Director of Public Relations for Otterthon, public relations chair for Otterbein Ice Hockey, Miller Winter leader and will be inducted into Mortar Board and Torch and Key honor society. at the end of the semester.

When looking at her schedule, Slovikovski admits that she is very involved.

"I know I'm over involved, but I don't want to drop anything because I love it. It's not easy, I won't lie, but I always find a way to make it work. That's the word of advice I'd give to anyone who is considering pursuing a double major... if you're going to be busy, it's only going to be worth it if you're enjoying it. I don't do it if I don't enjoy it. That's why I have these minors because I love it. You have to try to balance it and set your priorities straight," said Slovikovski.

Time, time, time. That's what it takes to be a double major and take on multiple minors. But imagine creating your own individualized major in addition to having another major with a double minor. Time sounds very limited in this instance, but one student in particular is using her skills and talents to create work that is meaningful and is doing what some may think is impossible.

Senior Ally Hurd has an individualized major in social media for social justice, paired with a WGSS major and a double minor in communication studies and political science. Alongside with her busy academic life, she also leads a very busy social life. She is an executive board member, secretary and new member

educator for Tau Delta, an executive board member and public relations chair of Tri Iota, peer mentor for FYE program, peer advocate for WGRC and Team Consent facilitator. She is also involved with Mortar Board, Center for Student Involvement student worker and Pi Sigma Alpha Honorary Society.

Many steps are required in creating an individualized major. Susan Millsap, professor in the Department of Communication, has stood alongside students and provided help for those working toward creating an individualized major.

"Not many students do it, but it does work. The main questions that need to be asked when someone is creating their own major is what is the goal? What do they want to focus on? The students need to make sure they know what it is that they want, and that's a step I help them in. I enjoy working with students to get them where they'd like to be. I love talking them through it," said Millsap.

After establishing her major, Hurd had to go through various steps to get the major approved. In order for the major to be passed and to get the go ahead, support letters must be collected to show that teachers are in approval of the curriculum being created and the specific classes that will be taken for credit. Once that's done students must

used in a different way. Not everyone has a voice but if you have a platform that is able to capture first-hand posts, that could be used as traction and can be spread to many other people and it starts a movement that is important," said Hurd.

After graduation Hurd has hopes of working for the public relations and communications side of a non-profit organization to make their social media more effective. A political science minor and a political junkie, Hurd would also like to run a social media campaign that solely focuses on politics. As she is working towards those goals of hers, she remembers that all of her hard work, although it was time-consuming and stressful, has helped her grow immensely.

"The best part is seeing the events I've helped create or initiate are spreading and that there is value in them. I've learned how to trust myself in this process and that if you aren't in love with all of the classes you've taken, Otterbein is the perfect place to help you start a major. If you think about it, the majors that we have now were created by someone at one point in time. If you want to create a major, let yourself and be confident," said Hurd.

So if you ever find yourself in a room covered in notecards, full of writing on them, your bed overwhelmed with hand-written notes and old class assignments and you are forced to sleep on the floor, remember that you are not alone.

This is college and it is still stressful, but all of the long nights of studying and working on paper after paper will be worth it. Those moments of insanity are a good trade-off for the growth, experience and new understanding of what it means to find validation from investing in something that brings out joy and passion.

Take it from these students to know that you can create an opportunity to work hard towards the dreams you have. With hard work it is possible.



If you're going to be busy, it's only going to be worth it if you're enjoying it. I don't do it if I don't enjoy it. That's why I have these minors because I love it. You have to try to balance it and set your priorities straight."

Maria Slovikovski// Junior Public Relations Major

take a proposal to the curriculum committee where they approve and ask questions before allowing it to be finalized on banner. It's a bit of a process and Hurd sees the pros and cons to it, as well as trying to keep up with her other classes and organizations.

"It can definitely be stressful at times but the hardest part is justifying my choice to create an individualized major to others. People always say why don't you major in public relations or journalism and media communication, and I stand up for myself by saying that social media needs to be



DREAMS

by Michaela Hermes

Sixteen years later and a part of her identity was gone. Junior allied health major and former soccer star, Katherine McCoy's life changed tremendously during the last five minutes of soccer practice in the fall of 2014, her sophomore season.

McCoy suffered a severe and life threatening concussion at the age of 12, where she fractured her skull and was forced to have brain surgery. Her recovery was quick, allowing her to be back on the field and leading her team to victory in a couple months.

All of her childhood memories, best friends, leadership skills, discipline and competitive edge were all formed through this experience and returning to play soccer. For McCoy sports were not only connected to her name, but to her identity as well. They defined who she was.

As her high school soccer career came to an end, it came time for a college decision. McCoy knew that soccer was more than just a sport to her and the thought of giving it up was heartbreaking. She decided to continue her soccer and educational careers at Otterbein University.

"I still remember the feeling on the first day of preseason my freshman year, I was so nervous, but I was excited and confident in myself," said McCoy.

In the blink of an eye the Otterbein soccer team became her second family and had changed her life forever.

"This program gave me my first real sense of purpose on this campus and my first true friends," said McCoy.

Waking up and going to practice everyday was her ability to escape the reality of school and stress. For her, soccer was her primary outlet. Before college McCoy was known as a star on the field, but wondered if it would be that way in college. As her freshman year came and went she had the opportunity to prove her skills to the coaches and her teammates, allowing her to not only play in the games, but be a part of starting line up.

McCoy's sophomore season came quick and

kicked off with a trip to London, England for a soccer tournament. Shortly after the team's return to Otterbein, they traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for a game. This game for McCoy was a setback when she suffered her third major concussion, first in her college career. After three weeks McCoy returned to the field and continued to prove herself.

A couple weeks later, her life changed. With a short five minutes left of practice, McCoy took a ball to the head.

"After I stepped off the field that day, I never imagined it would be my last practice as an Otterbein soccer player," said McCoy.

As the weeks went on it seemed impossible to feel completely like herself without any symptoms. Six months later in April 2014, the symptoms started to vanish, but she still questioned if playing soccer was a possibility. Throughout the summer months

"I plan to continue to prove myself and grow with my team over the next two years and do all that I can to put us on top."

Matt Hughes //
Sophomore Education Major

McCoy visited multiple neurologists looking for an answer. After a visit to the Cleveland Clinic one sunny summer day, things didn't seem so bright for McCoy. She was told the news that she had dreaded for months, two more years of soccer is not worth the risk of permanent brain damage and a ruined future, her neurologist explained.

"All those years of soccer, stepping onto the field, playing with the people I loved, was done, just like that," said McCoy. As her soccer career came to a quick end, she knew that she could only be positive and realize that everything happens for a reason.

With big dreams since the age of 3, to play soccer for a university and be their star player, leading the team to multiple victories, seemed like the only right thing to young McCoy. But as we all know things happen unexpectedly.

Even though stepping onto the field again wasn't an option for McCoy she still wanted to be involved with her team. She had a huge transition in her role with the team during the 2015 season, but is still at practice everyday and traveling to the games with her team. It still hits weak spots not being able to play, but she sees potential in every one of her teammates and wouldn't be the person she is today without the experiences with them.

"No matter what you love or what your passion is, never take it for granted," said McCoy.

Picking up a basketball and playing anywhere at anytime has been the life of Otterbein sophomore education major Matt Hughes ever since he can remember.

"My very first memory of playing organized basketball was when I was in the second grade, playing in a league at my neighborhood recreation center," said Hughes.

Basketball has been a huge part of Hughes' life since the age of eight and he has grown tremendously with the sport. He continued to play at his local recreation center until fourth grade came and he had the opportunity to join his school team. Hughes played with this group of kids from here on out, as they grew closer and stronger, defeating every grade together.

"I was on a team with my best friends, who I played with from beginning to end," said Hughes.

Hughes was a student-athlete at Bishop Watterson High School in Columbus, Ohio, where proving himself on the court became a natural thing. By his sophomore year, he was receiving varsity playing time and his love for the sport grew even stronger. Then came junior year, where Hughes was one of the starting five and one of the team's leading scorers.

"As a junior, I was playing with the same team that I had back in fourth grade when it all started," said Hughes.

He helped lead his team to victory as a junior, where they not only made an appearance at the state championship for the first time in school history, but his team finally took home the gold.

"Winning the state championship was one

of the most amazing feelings I have ever had in my life, I literally felt as if I were on the moon,” said Hughes. He was awarded the division 2 tournament player of the year with scoring 14 points and had seven rebounds.

Senior year came and Hughes knew it was his last season to prove himself to the college scouts coming to watch him. He had the opportunity to lead his team back to the state championship, as he had the highest scoring average on the team. Even though the team didn’t come out on top, Hughes did, with 23 points, 10 rebounds, being named all-league, all-district (for the second year in a row), including first team honors and second team all-state as a senior.

“Being able to play with the same guys for nine years was like having a second family and when the hard times came, like not finishing our final season on top, we were still there for each other,” said Hughes.

The college decision came quick for Hughes, but he knew that he wasn’t ready to give it up that soon. Otterbein was close to home and a perfect fit for him, not only to continue his basketball career, but his educational one as well.

“The transition was harder than expected,



Matt Hughes goes in against a defender. // Photo Provided

especially because my college team is in a rebuilding phase and I had been used to winning at every level I’ve played,” said Hughes.

With half of his college basketball career being over Hughes has had the opportunity to still be successful with being a starting player as a sophomore, averaging over 10 points a game, and being named one of the team captains his sophomore year.

“I plan to continue to prove myself and grow with my team over the next two years and do all that I can to put us on top,” said Hughes.

Hughes has not only had the opportunity to be a star player on the court in high school, but there seems to be a bright future ahead for him as his goes

into the second year of his basketball career here at Otterbein University.

“After graduation, my dream is to teach and coach basketball. I want to be able to share the experiences I have had with kids who someday may have the same dream,” said Hughes.

For some athletes talent comes natural, but for others it isn’t as easy of a task. Injuries can pop up and be healed to perfection, or they can stick with you forever. It takes the right person to be able to fight the injuries for an ongoing seven years and still refuse to give up.

For sophomore exercise science and health promotion major Becca Gallagher, being a track athlete has had its ups and downs.

Running was thrown into her life around the age of 10, when her mom signed her up for the track team to boost her cardio for gymnastics. She hated every minute of it, but refused to quit.

As high school came, Gallagher decided to stick with track, until her freshman year when things changed. Suffering a stress fracture and torn disk in her back due to gymnastics, running seemed impossible.

“Gymnastics had been my sport since the day I could walk, but after countless injuries I knew it was time to decided if it was really worth it in the long run,” said Gallagher.

Following the injury, Gallagher decided to quit gymnastics to avoid severe back issues, but also couldn’t continue with track her sophomore and junior year. Her senior year came quickly and she knew that track gave her the chance to escape from stress and other problems for a few hours a day. She loved running and the competitive angle was a drive for success. “Track had become my new escape and motivation,” said Gallagher.

As her senior season started, shin pain became a huge problem for her. She pushed through the pain to prove to herself that she could be more powerful than an injury.

Gallagher quickly realized her love for the sport and it opened her eyes to wanting to continue with it in college. Once she started receiving letters from universities for track, she decided to visit Otterbein University. It caught her eye because it was small, close to home and the coaches wanted her on a personal level.

Her dreams became true when she committed to run for Otterbein University in April of 2014, right before her high school graduation.

“Everything had seemed to be falling into place,” said Gallagher.

Freshman year began and track came to follow. Within the first few weeks of preseason her shin pain had returned, but at an extreme level. She was demanded to start rehab on an every day basis, but was still allowed to run at her own pain tolerance. Gallagher competed throughout the indoor season, but once outdoor season came the pain was unbearable.



Becca Gallagher taking off for a sprint. // Photo Provided

Knowing that she was going to be unable to run for some time, she kept herself positive and knew that she would be back to running shortly.

After X-rays and MRIs Gallagher was put into a boot and completely shut down. She was still going through rehab everyday and supporting her team at practice and meets.

Although she was frustrated, Gallagher continued to stay strong through her adversities. The love of track was the one thing that was motivating her to keep going.

“I love the sport and knowing I only have a few more years to do it, I couldn’t give up,” said Gallagher.

Sophomore year, she started right into daily rehab and constant pain. As things seemed to start going downhill for her running career she still refused to quit. As this past indoor season of 2015 went on Gallagher was able to compete every now and then as she forced herself to push through the pain. It is now outdoor season and Gallagher is still fighting chronic shin splints.

“It will be worth it and everything will pay off some day as long as I keep up with therapy,” said Gallagher. Her teammates give her the ambition to stick with it and make it all worth it. Gallagher emphasizes on the love she has for track, but continues to fight through the pain.

Being the star with a big dream, fighting injuries, but refusing to give up, or having no choice other than to let go of what you love, is where different athletes are made. But one thing that connects them all is the ability to dream. Each and every athlete has the dream of being the star player and one saying going pro, but that isn’t the case for everyone. Things happen when we least expect them to and in some cases worse than others, but they’re all for the better. As Hughes, Gallagher, and McCoy all said, everything happens for a reason.

Terry Hermesen was inspired by poetry long ago, but his passion to use his unique view of the world has helped him inspire students for decades. Whether it's lecturing in class, meeting with students one on one or reflecting alone in his office. Hermesen never lacks a colorful perspective.
// Nikki Solomon

A POETIC PERSPECTIVE

LIFE IN TERRY'S WORLD

by Jasmine Caldwell

*At first we are speechless, wedded
To stasis, through we jab at where we
Do not want to be.*

The sun is out and shining. "It's really nice outside, do you guys want to have class outside?" Everyone excitedly nods. The class walks through the grand doors of Towers Hall and follows Terry Hermesen down South Grove Street and enters the graveyard. His class surely wonders why are we here? Are we really going to sit on gravestones? Why couldn't we have just sat on the lawn? But Hermesen brought pillows and blankets to sit on that he carries out from his Prius parked on the side of the street; he clearly planned this trip to the graveyard. The question still remains, why are we here?

"I thought we'd change up the scenery," said Hermesen. The semiotics of the graveyard. The underlying meanings. All of the codes of graveyards. Why is this weird? Does his class just think it is weird because no one has ever taken them to a graveyard? Is it just a code that we have in society? These are the questions that Hermesen provokes his class with.

*Then we are free
And the pages of the world open
As if we were-always-their center
No matter our direction.*

Hermesen is a poetry specialist. He grew up in Illinois for the first twelve years of his life. His hometown was special for many reasons but mainly because it was close to his grandparents. Both of them were German immigrants; making Hermesen a second-generation American. His grandma was a storyteller. She always told stories and inspired him to pursue his lifelong passion: writing poetry. She herself wrote poetry, although she did not tell Hermesen that until a year before she died. Why? He doesn't know, but maybe he gets his passion of writing, just like she did.

*It all depends upon these wands-
Their steady blending
Of surface and depth,
The rhombuses and trapezoids
Our arms make
With their awkward incarnations.*

You walk into his Otterbein office and you see things everywhere. Interesting things, just like the tree stomp sitting directly in the middle.

"It's from Towers. They cut a tree down outside and it was rollable. So, I rolled it up here. It's a nice foot stool," said Hermesen. He wanted to make his office an office he wanted to be in.

No desk, just memorable and ornate objects of all different shapes, sizes and colors. Book shelves full of books, lots of books; Poetry books, in both English and Spanish. A preserved blowfish on one of the tables. A class exercise hanging from the ceiling. Things are scattered, all having meaning. Each and everything having relevance, having some kind of tie to him.

*It's as if-from above-we're combing the hair
Of the wind, smoothing the tangles,
Now worrying out a knot,
Probing ease and deliberation,*

His road to poetry started a long time ago, back in the sixties, during his high school years.

"[It started from] thinking about life. What is life? That ended up becoming poems. My first poem...



// Jasmine Caldwell

it was asking questions. My family was really into sports, it had to do with that. 'If there's losers as well as winners, there must be something gained from losing?'" said Hermesen.

Poetry is his outlet. In 1968, Hermesen, now 66, graduated and went on to Wittenberg University where he began studying philosophy. He then switched to English. His college years

were full of demonstrations and controversies. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in poetry and went on to spend 20 years teaching in schools and publishing his work.

Through that time, he also worked at a chain bookstore at the local mall. "I really liked it because I had a great manager that understood how to manage. She gave us freedom and responsibility. She

was a mentor for me in some ways." That manager gave him the freedom to craft and create a system for people to order books locally, which was a great life lesson. With people coming into the bookstore looking for books, not every book was there. He worked out the book system so that when they did not have the books people wanted, they could order it through him and their bookstore. She showed him that if you are in charge you can be rigid, but you can also be flexible in some way.

With that, he also worked as a guest poet in elementary and high schools for a while, teaching the kids poetry, teaching them what he loved so much. Then he realized, he wanted to teach in college. Even though he had his MFA, he needed his PhD. to become a professor and teach in colleges. So, he went back to college. Before he came to Otterbein, Hermesen taught at OSU Marion for ten years until he got a divorce. After that, he decided to go through with it and get a PhD. in art education and poetry at the age of 53.

*The push of the given
Against the smallest
Angles of the will-
So sweetly we are held
Above reflection*

Hermesen moved on with his life, got remarried and applied to universities all over the country, and ended up here at Otterbein. He loves the "openness of the students, they're willing to learn. A lot of places the atmosphere is painful like why are we

doing this, but not here." Through his INST 1500 class, Investigation of Self and Society, he is able to experience that. The class centers itself around semiotics and everything surrounding it. Through assigned short writing projects, the students are able to dive into topics. Topics that stretch from lawn care to sports and back around to magazine clippings and their impact. There they can unpack what exactly things mean. Why do they mean that? Why is it coded like that? Big questions are asked and answered. "I like to teach people how to interpret things from their point of view, through advertising, barbies, art, ect." One day, he brought a barbie into



// Jasmine Caldwell

Terry Hermesen teaching a class
// Jasmine Caldwell

younger. He played sports all growing up, including basketball. When he was in high school, he was the last person to be cut three consecutive years off of the basketball team. His kids also play sports. Although, he questions the codes of sports. Why are they so heavily emphasized? With the movie *Concussion* surfacing, these questions became even bigger to him. Why do we dedicate so much time and effort to these sports, when ultimately we could get hurt? Or we could be doing something else. Why are sports and play so important to us? His son plays baseball and did not get to have a spring break because of how important that game is. Why is that? Why does he have to spend his spring break practicing and playing games?

*And the luscious dark
Carrying us on.*

- *Hermesen, Lessons In Trust*

All of these questions are questions that arise in his personal and professional life. Being a professor at Otterbein, Hermesen is able to go through all of these questions. When Hermesen leaves

Otterbein, he wants to leave with his students being taught how care more deeply about the world and teaching them the tools to do so, through poetry and semiotics. "I want to guide people so they are making their whole self," said Hermesen. He wants to continue to write poems, and translate more Chilean poetry to English. He wants to be able to interact with other cultures. He wants to leave Otterbein helping other students accomplish their dream as he has done with his.



his class and gave the students ten minutes to write semiotically what they saw.

Outside of class he is an avid reader. He translates Spanish poetry, Chilean poetry to be more precise to English. He started translating these poems strictly to help him learn Spanish essentially. He took four years of high school Spanish, and one quarter of Spanish and now has been taking classes to continue and further his knowledge. Through translating, he came to love the process. Although he is not completely proficient, he is still working towards

being so. Through his sabbaticals, one in 2009 and another in 2013, he was able to travel to Chile. There he taught at bilingual schools. The kids were fifth graders that knew how to read and write in two languages, mainly English and Spanish.

"They are my role models," he said. While going there to help teach the kids, he was also able further himself through that as well. He also loves sports especially baseball.

Sports have always been a huge part of his life. His family was very into sports when he was

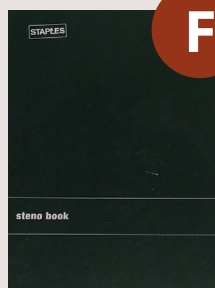
// Jasmine Caldwell



WHAT'S IN THE BAG?



by Taylor Numbers



The murse is a trend sweeping the nation-- said no one, ever. Sarcasm aside, this beautiful bag belongs to a longtime instructor of the T&C Magazine, and Columbus Dispatch reporter, Mike Wagner. And although he is forced to defend his bag, shoelaces and even leopard-print (he claims they were "turtle shell") reading glasses to his students we can all admit that he is the most fashionable male professor we've seen. Mainly due to his fabulous wife, Kristy Eckert who was former Editor-in-Chief of Capital Style magazine. For years now students in the journalism department have wondered what exactly is in Wagner's murse.

&

A. Photos of his wife on the day of their engagement, their youngest son Cooper and a silly string of photobooth images are keepsakes to look back on while traveling for work.

B. A family member gave Wagner a Larry Bird Basketball card as a Christmas present. Larry Bird was his childhood hero.

C. Fruit helps him keep up with people half his age while he works out.

D. Advil is for after he get's his butt kicked by 20-somethings at the gym.

E. Southwest: Wagner forgot to take this out of his murse but it's from a trip to Austin, Texas with T&C students.

F. Notes: Wagner is an investigative reporter for the Columbus Dispatch and is always working on a project.

G. Laptop: His work laptop goes with him wherever he goes.

MAJOR MISINFORMATION

by Amanda Ifantiedes

High school graduation is a time said to be put aside for celebrating all academic accomplishments, from learning the colors to decoding calculus. But for those graduates who decide a college education is the next step on their path, the pressure of figuring out “what you want to be when you grow up” often overshadows the graduation excitement.

When enrolling in a university, some students find themselves seemingly in perfect alignment with a particular major while others recognize they should remain undeclared since nothing feels quite right yet. It still doesn't matter; 70 percent will change majors at least once during an undergraduate education according to collegeview.com.

When it comes to dealing with parents and guardians, practicality and cost are frequently the biggest concerns for what college major and career path their child chooses. Even if the adults are on board, peers can be just as cruel in judging one another and who picked the “better major.” Students throughout Otterbein's community had very different views on why they picked their “impractical” majors and spoke out to defend themselves along with hoping to change the world's perception of their passions.

Sophomore psychology major and creative writing minor Sarah Carnes plans to use her degree as a stepping stone toward working in the fields of health psychology, clinical counselling or potentially criminology.

Sam Buganski, sophomore art and women's, gender and sexuality studies (WGSS) double major, on the other hand came in declared as a psychology

major but quickly realized that psychology was not the appropriate realm for herself. The passion for art existed long before college, though her parents didn't feel that art would be the appropriate career path—Buganski's passion won over.

Senior creative writing and literary studies double major and religion minor Claire Winslow has stayed centralized around the realm of literary possibilities but Otterbein has helped her hone in on her love for creative writing.

The final student who stood ready to fight back against this notion of impractical majors is sophomore Lily Mann. With her WGSS (social activism and political change concentration) and literary studies double major and pre-law minor, Lily plans to attend law school and eventually serve as a child advocate.

Yes, everyone's story is individualized but there are similarities that recur throughout all of the accounts collected. A liberal arts education was going to be the best way to learn critical thinking skills and become the well-rounded individual each person wants to become in order to reach the next steps of their journey.

As Carnes alone described it, “Liberal arts schools have a unique quality that big schools just don't.”

They allow for closer networking opportunities and tighter community building within departments than other types of universities can offer. For all of these students, this was an essential piece in choosing Otterbein.

Coming into college, writing was a known skill and passion for Sarah Carnes. The question



Lily Mann is proud of the work she's done with the WGSS department. // **Photo Provided**

“Unless you are my future employer, my degree is none of your business.”
Lily Mann //
Sophomore WGSS & Literary Studies Double Major

was still where to go with her initial double major in creative writing and psychology. Although the exact experience that sparked her interest in psychology cannot be pinned down, she realized the passion for writing would be retained even “without the degree to fuel the fire.” Even as someone who felt confident that a liberal arts degree in the humanities field would be the perfect fit. She still has her doubts about whether choosing psychology over English is really about passion or practicality. No matter which area of study is being discussed, Carnes lights up when describing all of her future possibilities and the wide open doors in front of her because of these choices. But why do so many still try to shut down people's search for the field they feel is right? Why would society get the right to dictate the next forty years of each person's life?

That is the exact question Lily Mann already had the answer to.

“Unless you are my future employer, my degree is none of your business,” said Mann.

This opens to another commonality amongst the stories of students picking majors with the odds stacked against them. The vast majority do not care what people think if their choice. Of course strong

Claire Winslow diligently works on her next creative writing project. // **Photo Provided**



support systems and not needing to defend life choices would be great, but that still isn't stopping these determined students because they aren't choosing these studies to please others. They choose them for themselves.

Law school was always part of Mann's plan. It is just the route to get there that has significantly changed. Initially she thought she would join the Navy as a nuclear engineer and then attend law school after the five-year minimum required for the severance package. Instead she is now getting a degree in what her dad refers to as "underwater basket weaving," more formally known as WGSS, along with literary studies. Her dad, like so many others, does not understand how these undergrad studies are in any way preparing her for law school—but Mann unquestionably has it figured out. These degrees allow for the development of critical thinking skills necessary for law practice and countless other majors.

By concentrating on social activism and political change within the WGSS major, Mann is learning the flaws in our current social structures along with the groups of people that are most affected by these inequalities. This, along with the pre-law minor, lays her ideal foundation for future studies and career aspirations in child advocacy.

Whether looking at parental concerns or the student's own doubts, planning beyond college is a practical and prevalent area of discussion. The battle for many students who choose the less planned majors is coming to terms with and recognizing

that true passion cannot be silenced. This is exactly what happened for Sam Buganski when beginning her journey at Otterbein. Although Buganski came in as a psychology major because her parents thought that was an appropriate and practical fit, the drive to continue on that path was nonexistent. Upon switching her major to art, Buganski explains, "[she] finally felt like [she] wasn't wasting [her] time in classes." Buganski's ideal life after college includes living a minimal lifestyle, seeing the world (or at least the country) and selling her artwork at various festivals.

A common argument brought against students like Buganski, who choose the less certain path, is that their dreams sound too romanticized. That so few people actually make it as successful people in the psychology, English, WGSS and art worlds. Time and time again outsiders, whether family, friends or strangers, are eager to bring up their doubts and negative opinions about the life choices of others. This then calls into question: does everyone have the same definition of success? For Buganski, success is defined as "creating artwork that can call into thought and question social norms and the viewer's selfhood."



Sam Buganski spends many hours working towards her art degree.
// Photo Provided

Money is not always the point, even though many choose to define success based on it. What is clear amongst all of these students is that money doesn't matter if they don't feel empowered and meaningful within their line of work.

Winslow is a perfect example of someone who understands the balance of dreams doing what is necessary until those can be fulfilled. Although the plan is not set in stone, Winslow would love to work for a small literary journal and publish new authors while still being able to write her own essays.

Before college, her life plan included everything from engineering to advertising, but eventually the question became "How can I make money reading?". No matter the major within the realm of humanities, Winslow realized they all would teach her to think critically and they would open known and unknown job opportunities. Much like Carnes, she has come to terms with the fact that a career in writing is unlikely to make her rich and that writing might not even be her job. But no matter what, writing will remain an integral part of her life.

No matter the major or career path, passions will still drive what you do and influence the way you live. Since these students are frequently forced to defend the worth and practicality of their majors, it's interesting to hear their takes on whether a truly impractical major exists. The overwhelming consensus: no. Carnes takes a logistical approach to this question. She believes that universities wouldn't continue to offer programs if they didn't lead their students somewhere.

"There are reasons we have options because not everyone is supposed to be on the same path," said Carnes.

This seems like an obvious fact everyone is already aware of, yet people continue to receive criticism for living out what we know to be true: variety is necessary for life as we know it to continue.

Especially when looking at a liberal arts education, the purpose is to expose students to knowledge beyond their discipline. Winslow describes this phenomenon by saying an "English degree teaches you to communicate and think critically, not just how to read."

For Mann whose major does not directly correlate to her chosen career, she firmly believes that since "there are millions of career paths, there has to be a way to reach each of them. Any type of degree has its own unique set of possibilities."



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IT'S NOT ALL FINGERPAINTS AND PLAY-DOH

Acrophobia in Reality by Polly Sellers. // **Amanda Kline**

by *Boston Gregg*

As the clock clicks closer to midnight, Polly Sellers stares at a computer screen in the communications design studio. Sellers, a junior art major with a studio concentration in communication design and photography, is critiquing her own work. Beside her sits an open sketchbook with a page divided into squares. Some of the squares are filled with words, and others are filled with sketches.

Satisfied with her project, she logs off the computer and heads to bed. She's lost count of the amount of hours she's been in the studio this week piecing together her work. Seller's hard work is oftentimes overlooked because her degree is in art. But it's not all watercolors and canvases.

"[They say] 'Why did you choose that? Why didn't you choose to minor in that and choose something else to major in?'" said Sellers.

Defending her major is a skill

set Sellers has acquired over the years. She states that she puts in the same amount of hours that other students would in a science lab or doing field work, she just happens to be in a studio. Behind closed doors, after a day's worth of classes are finished, that's when Sellers puts in her "lab hours."

Sellers still finds that people undermine her work, but she stands by her major and doesn't listen to those who say it's a waste of money and a degree.

"People don't take us seriously," said Sellers. "Typically [people] aren't going to tell me I'm stupid, but I get that impression."

A typical day for Sellers is spent, hours on end, in the art studio. Just last semester alone she had three studio classes lasting around three hours each.

Whenever Sellers finds free time she tends to spend it in the art building working on her projects. She typically works on at least one project a day.

"I usually have two to three projects to work on at one point. I'll spend until midnight or later in the studio working on the computer designing or if it's photography, I might spend thirty minutes just setting up the lights right," said Sellers.

Sellers pulls a lot of her inspiration from Mark Eshleman, a Columbus native and the creator of Reel Bear Media. Eshleman got his start making music videos and taking photographs for Twenty One Pilots' concerts long before

“People don't take us seriously. Typically they aren't going to tell me I'm stupid, but I get the impression.”

Polly Sellers //
Junior Art Major



Photo Illustration of Sellers' brother Patrick titled *Drowning*. // Amanda Kline

Twenty One Pilots took off and gained international success.

Although Sellers has yet to make it big, she's working hard to prove herself. Just last summer Sellers applied for an internship with Rockford Homes, a real estate company. There she worked using her creative style to help advance marketing techniques.

"I loved the data analysis we had to do based off of our customers, like why were they going towards these homes? The different neighborhoods they're going for. The different styles they were attracted to," said Sellers.

During her time with Rockford Homes, Sellers worked on page layout design for the home layouts, made fliers and took photos of homes. This real

will help train the new Orientation Leaders while getting the chance to design the page layout for the orientation pamphlets, the First Flight booklets and the First Flight t-shirt design.

Her current communication design class is working with three clients, and the clients choose a winning design from the class. And the winner gets paid. Their first client, The Westerville Music and Arts Festival, wanted a one-of-a-kind poster design. Sellers' poster design won, proving that she is more than equipped for the road ahead of her.

Like many college students, Sellers juggles a busy schedule on a daily basis. Like going to class, working on projects, preparing lessons for the new



Sellers' winning poster design for the Westerville Music & Arts Festival. // Photo Provided

make a crack at being an art major, just remember not to judge a book by its cover... unless you're an art major and actually have to critique the design of the book cover.



“They liked the work that I did because it was so creatively affective.”
Polly Sellers //
Junior Art Major

world experience gave her the chance to incorporate her major into her work.

"They liked the work that I did because it was so creatively affective," said Sellers.

Seller has found a way to incorporate her art into other positions she holds as well. On campus she has been an Orientation Leader for the past two years and was chosen to be an Orientation Coordinator for this year's orientation team. Her personal growth and development from that program alone has strengthened her self-confidence and her public speaking skills. As an Orientation Coordinator, she

Orientation Leaders and working on other assignments in her free time.

But each new opportunity gives her a chance to enhance her portfolio and grow as an artist.

Sellers is one example of a plethora of art majors dedicated to working hard to accomplish their future career goals. She strives to prove that her major is just as important as the rest. Sellers remains confident in her chosen field no matter what others say. So the next time you

Polly Sellers // Amanda Kline



HOPES & AS

Through the four years at college, we find our passions and figure out what our dream is. Whether that dream is going to graduate school, immersing ourselves in the world of jobs or starting a family. So, what is your dream after Otterbein?

Callon Holloway, 32

Middle Childhood Education,
MAT

"I'd like to get a job teaching fourth or fifth grade somewhere. I just really like kids at that age because they have a positive energy and haven't decided they hate school yet."

Ashley Gruenbaum, 23

Early Childhood Education,
endorsed in 4th and 5th

"I'd like to get a job teaching preschool or kindergarten. I would like to have a positive effect on the children and help them succeed at a young age."

Katie Cerqua, 20

Art History & Studio
Concentration in ceramics

"I'd like to work around the world, travel and find art that was lost or forgotten and restore it."

Kiana Hernandez, 18

Political Science &
Communications

"I would like to become a high school government teacher in the state of Ohio. Educating young adults [about] the importance [of] their vote means the world to me."

Nicolette Campbell-Muriente, 20

Athletic Training

"I want to get my masters and keep my focus on athletic training. I want to find a job at a university or high school."

Meggin Kelley, 19

Allied Health

"I want to go to grad school for [occupational therapy and travel.]"

Sydney Cunningham, 18

Nursing

"I hope to start working, but I am unsure if I will stay in Ohio."

Conner Fry, 19

Criminology

"I want to be a detective."

Kenna Walquist, 19

Allied Health

"I want to go to grad school for PT, buy a large house and have lots of dogs. I also want to have an engagement ring the size of my fist."

Alex Kidwell, 19

Nursing

"I'm thinking of switching my major, I would love to end up doing photography."

Emily Klipa, 21

Psychology

"I want to go to grad school and work in pediatric psychology."

Megan Bennett, 21

Business Administration

"I want to work and have a hot husband, a Range Rover and 2-3 babies."

Mikaela Pennington, 18

Nursing

"I want to go back to school to become a nurse practitioner."

Christian Johnson, 19

Allied Health

"I want to move to California or Florida and be a physical therapist."

ASPIRATIONS Of Otterbein University

by Jasmine Caldwell

Jenny Rinehart, 19

Nursing

"I want to get a masters in nurse midwifery."

Missy Dean, 19

Business, minor in Math

"After Otterbein, I want to work in an office setting where I can help people with their finances and have an one on one relationship with my clients."

Sharlee Lowe, 20

Equine Pre-Vet

"I want to open and practice at an equine hospital, specializing in sports medicine."

Toby Varland, 18

Sports Management

"I want to work with a professional sports team and provide them with everything they need!"

John Gill, 19

English Literature

"After Otterbein, I want to be a writer."

Leah Koskinen, 19

Equine Pre-Vet

"I want to work in the emergency section of a large animal hospital."

Clay Ramirez, 20

Psychology

"I want to become a psychologist and help people."

Josiah Ingram, 19

Allied Health

"I love soccer and want to stay close to sports after college even if I can't play due to my knees. I want to hopefully specialize in something sports medicine related later on."

Sydney Townes, 19

Criminology

"I want to become a criminal interrogator for the FBI and travel to different hugely populated cities undercover, especially Hawaii."

Angela Park, 19

Athletic Training

"I want to attend school for physical therapy."

Drew Shaffer, 20

Communications

"I want to expand my firm company."

Allie Berger, 19

Middle Childhood Education

"My dream job is to teach eighth grade American history after I graduate."

Juan Rivas, 20

Sociology & Global Studies

"I don't know yet, I just want to be happy."

Kenneth Will, 19

Criminology

"Hopefully, I want to work for the FBI."

&

MATT COLE

Congratulations, Matt Cole!

We are very proud of you and all you have accomplished at Otterbein.

Your future is so bright, we've got to wear shades. Rock on!

Love,
Mom & Dad

CHRISTOPHER RAPP

Christopher,

Whatever you believe, you can achieve!

Congratulations! We are very proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Grammy, Gram,
Grampa and Bella

LACIE KERN

We are all so proud of you and your accomplishments Lacie!

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11.

With love: Mom, Dad, Ian, Paw Paw, Grampy, Fifi, J.D., Mackenzie, & Reagan



SEAN FEVERSTON

Sean,

We are so proud of all that you have achieved and the amazingly smart and kind-hearted person you have become. Go forward with confidence in your journey, secure in the knowledge that you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Congratulations!

We Love You!

Dad & Mom

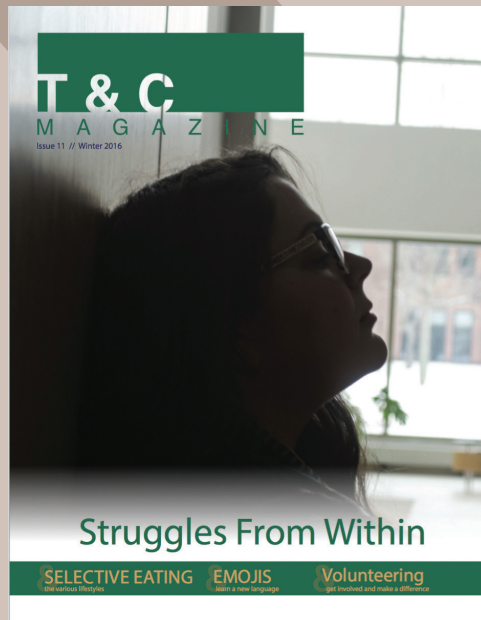


T & C

M A G A Z I N E

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

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



TYING THE KNOT

COLLEGE EDITION

by Mary Murphy

This past January, Monica Smith stood on a California beach at sunset with her boyfriend Cole Ishida-Plavcan as a few family members watched at a distance. Although the words coming out of Ishida-Plavcan's mouth were muffled by the crash of the tides, there was no question as to what he was saying. Tears streamed down Smith's face as she clasped her hands over her mouth. She was in complete shock. Suddenly, the urgency to get to Carmel beach before sunset began to make complete sense as the man she'd been dating for seven and a half years knelt before her and asked her to continue making him the happiest man alive by agreeing to marry him.

"It's super cheesy and I love it," said Smith.

For most college students, balancing a social life with group projects and exams is a lot to deal with. But some students here at Otterbein are planning a wedding while juggling everything else as well. Still being a student, and a nursing student nonetheless, Smith has faced some challenges

with being engaged.

"The most difficult part would be planning a wedding. It's a lot more work than I had expected, so trying to incorporate planning with schoolwork and graduation has been a bit of a challenge," said Smith.

Smith advises that any other students that are considering getting engaged during school should

a long time as they met through their high school's youth group. Even though they've been together for three and a half years, Hutcheson also admits that she has faced criticism for being engaged at a young age on multiple accounts. While she doesn't face direct insults, there are comments people make that, in turn, make her feel uncomfortable. Hutcheson will hear friends tell people she is engaged, but then

add a disclaimer such as: "Kim is engaged. But they're not getting married until they graduate so it's not like they're throwing their life away or anything."

Hutcheson and Tavenor were both 20-years-old at the time of their engagement. Tavenor popped the question at Highbanks

Metro Park on August 16, 2014. At the time, Tavenor was a camp counselor and saw Hutcheson every weekend. Every visit they had together, Hutcheson was surprised with puzzles and riddles for her to solve that revealed a series of jumbled letters. At the end of the summer Hutcheson unscrambled the letters that revealed a message to contact her roommate and close friend, Alania.

"She had been gone the whole summer so when I called she insisted we hang out before she would tell me anything. We had a girls day where we got manicures and went out for lunch and watched a movie. Then she said she wanted to explore Highbanks so we headed over," said Hutcheson.

When the two reached the observation deck, Tavenor was there with his roommate and Hutcheson's other three roommates. Tavenor got down on one knee and proposed.

"I very happily said 'uh huh!' They still make fun of me for that. Then we went back to my apartment where many of my close friends had gathered to celebrate," said Hutcheson.

The couple didn't shy away from the idea of being engaged during their college years.

"We had known for a while we wanted to get married and knew that we couldn't get married until after I graduated due to my crazy schedule so we saw an engagement as the next logical step in our relationship before marriage," said Hutcheson.

She admits that having a two-year engagement has given the couple plenty of time to plan things out and talk about their future in serious and practical terms.

"We had known for a while we wanted to get married and knew we couldn't get married until after I graduated due to my crazy schedule so we saw an engagement as the next logical step in our relationship before marriage."

**Kim Hutcheson//
Senior Psychology Major**

remember this: "The biggest thing is to make sure you know you're going to be happy and have no self-doubt. Most everyone gets some kind of criticism for getting engaged or married young, but if that doesn't bother you then you know that you are confident enough in your relationship and should just be happy."

Neither Smith nor her fiancé really had any concerns about being engaged during college or at a younger age. Smith admits that nothing has really changed for them as they have been together for so many years and are even living together now. They are currently looking forward to planning their wedding, and the rest of their lives, together.

While Smith admits to having faced criticism about being engaged young and in school, it often comes from people who don't really know them as a couple.

"Those that know us never gave us criticism on getting engaged because they already had an idea of how Cole and I are as a couple," said Smith.

Her friends and family saw their engagement as no surprise and were very excited for the couple.

Senior psychology major Kim Hutcheson, 21, and her fiancé Chris Tavenor have also known each other for





Both Chris Tavenor & Kim Hutcheson were 20 years old at the time of their engagement. Bottom: Chris Tavenor proposes to Kim Hutcheson at Highbanks Metro Park // Photos Provided



Sometimes it is a misconception that you have to give up things when you're getting married, but it is more an addition of compromises.

"I still want to do everything I used to want to do," said Hutcheson "Yes I have another person to think of, but my desires are just as valid as they have always been. I just have my best friend by my side to go through those experiences with and I couldn't think of anything better than that."

Being engaged in college hasn't stopped junior sports management major Elizabeth Engle from being involved on Otterbein's campus. Currently

Engle serves as CAB president, an RA in Garst Hall, Residence Hall Coordinator of the Triad and the Sports Management Club president.

On March 6, 2015 Engle was on spring break in Fort Myers, Florida where her then-boyfriend at the time, David Keeran, had traveled to spend time with her. After a day spent at the pier and beach, the couple retreated to watch the sailboats at sunset.

"I wasn't expecting anything and was completely oblivious," said Engle. "He started saying words that I don't even remember and then got down on one

knee and asked me to be his forever. It was simple and perfect!"

At the time of the engagement, both Engle and Keeran were 20-years-old.

The most difficult thing for Engle about being engaged hasn't been that they made this decision, but the amount of people telling her they think she should wait. She is often questioned about her choice to be engaged young and in college, but knew that it was what they wanted as a couple and that it was their choice and

nobody else's. She finds it common to be asked if she is ready to settle down and to be told that she should "explore more" and "live life" before getting married. She admits that friends and family were surprised by the engagement because they had only been dating for two years and her family had only met him a few times. Concerns were met with a few good conversations and reassuring their parents that they were not going to quit school. Once thoroughly discussed, friends and family alike were happy for the young couple and their choice to take their relationship to the next level.

Being engaged is an indescribable experience; it changes your life in ways that can never be fully understood until you're experiencing it yourself.

"Being engaged is something that changes your life in ways that can't really be explained. My daily routines are no different, but yes, my life is much different," said Engle.

Something to keep in mind if you are considering getting engaged or married young is, "You are the only one who can control your life. Don't let anyone hold you back from doing something your heart tells you," said Engle.

While being engaged in college can be faced with criticism and challenges, that doesn't mean that it isn't the right choice for a couple. It is more than plausible for two young adults to commit their lives to one another while still successfully living out their lives, college and their dreams.



Elizabeth Engle and David Keeran got engaged in Fort Myers, Florida // Photo Provided





WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU FROM?

by Michaela Hermes

Imagine leaving your everyday life for the past 18 years, packing up and moving 2,500 miles across the country. Leaving behind everything and everyone to pursue your college dreams, but then not being accepted into your desired department. Carlie Watson, senior public relations major, experienced this first hand.

Watson was born and raised in beautiful Seattle, Washington. She planned to pursue her dream as a musical theatre major and some day be on Broadway, but things quickly changed. Watson applied to Otterbein University, as well as their theater department. As she anxiously waited for the mail everyday, she never expected what her acceptance letter would hold. Watson had been accepted to Otterbein University, but was not accepted into the theater program.

She thought long and hard about whether or not to choose the college she loved or the major she planned. Watson decided to take another visit to Otterbein. After being accepted and talking with the admissions department, she knew that Otterbein was the best fit for her. But what would she major in? What would she do for the rest of her life?

Watson had the opportunity to meet with some faculty in the Communication Department, knowing that working with people on a personal level could be something for her.

"The Communication Department was comfortable, super personal, intentional and they noticed me for myself and wanted me here personally," said Watson.

But why Ohio? Traveling across the country to attend a private university doesn't sound like something everyone would do. Watson wanted the opportunity for change and says that Otterbein felt like home and was the perfect fit for her.

"In Ohio people are kinder and gentle, whereas in Seattle people are cold," said Watson.

Growing up in Seattle, Watson loved being adventurous. Her favorite thing about home is the mountains and its scenery.

"Washington is very adventurous, Ohio you have to search for the hidden treasures," said Watson.

Being a family person, moving away can be difficult, but moving across the country is extreme.

Moving far away for college, Watson was left without knowing anyone. She was lonely as first, but getting involved was a major key to success for her.

"Keeping relationships are hard when you're so far away, but it made me appreciate my family more and the effort put towards the relationships," said Watson.

And although she is thousands of miles from home, Watson doesn't go a day without talking to her mom.

"Just getting to hear her voice brightens my day," said Watson.

The distance is especially hard for her when she's had a rough day or week and she just wants to be with her family. Watson can't just pack up and go home for the weekend. For Watson, missing the feeling of being able to physically hug and see what is happening in her loved ones lives, rather than hearing about them, is the worst of it all. But she is more than thankful for the people Otterbein has connected her with.

"My friends have taken me in as their sister, and their parents treat me like I'm one of theirs," said Watson.

As four years have gone by in the blink of an eye for Watson, this lifetime experience has changed her completely. She has had the opportunity to become involved in things that would have never sparked her interest four years ago. Watson is a member of the Sigma Alpha Tau sorority, Otterbein Christian Fellowship, the worship team and multiple bible study groups.

"I have had the opportunity to pour my heart into things that I love, which then pours into other people's hearts," said Watson.

Being able to mentor others into a better life isn't only benefitting them, but Watson as well. Before coming to Otterbein, Watson's relationship with God was fairly weak. Her experience here has changed her for the better.

"The reason I am here is because of my relationship with God and how it has changed my outlook on life, how to love others and has lead me into a direction that is what I want to do for the rest of my life," said Watson.

She connects her love for God through her work



and the drive to help others build their relationship with him.

As Watson now goes through tough times she not only has God to turn to, she also has her sorority sisters and friends. Watson has the ability to impact anyone's life that she interacts with. Starting with the smile on her face, to just being able to have a two minute conversation with her can turn a bad day into a great one.

As graduation is quickly approaching for the senior, public relations major, Watson has big plans for her future. Four years ago, she planned to graduate with a degree in musical theater, but as we all know things change. For Watson she has spent the her time here at Otterbein learning about herself, growing with God and becoming involved with anything possible to make her future as bright as possible.

Post-graduation, Watson plans to join the full time staff of Cru, a Christian ministry geared toward reaching out to college students and starting movements on campuses that provide an outlet for people to grow in a relationship with God, learn about him or explore Christianity while in college. Watson will travel to Florida and have the opportunity to train with fellow Cru members to start her own movement.

Even though moving back home seems like a great idea after being away for so long, Watson only plans to return home for a short period of time as she raises a team of supporters for her movement. Watson then has plans to move back to central Ohio, working with Cru and college campuses to spread the love of God and Christianity, hopefully at Otterbein University.

"Through my personal experience- moving out of state and coming to Ohio was the best thing for me. I got to grow within myself, learn who I am and what I love with no regrets," said Watson. "I can't imagine where I would be today if I wouldn't have traveled 2,500 miles across the country to attend Otterbein University."



by the

NUMB3RS

9.4% of students are enrolled as *double majors*.



20% of Otterbein students who filled out FASFA are *first-generation students*.



Seattle, WA is *2,404 miles* from Otterbein.

The 2015-16 academic year at Otterbein has *479 individual student athletes*.

Terry Hermesen got his *Ph.D* when he was *53*.



The *median age* of first marriage is *27 for women* and *29 for men*.