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Spring 2019

### T&C Magazine Issue 19 - Spring 2019

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# Tan & Cardinal

Spring 2019  
Issue 19



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# Wise Words

## *From the Editor*

As my tenure draws to a close, I can't help but be proud of how the T&C has grown and changed during my time on staff and now as editor-in-chief. Going from a staff of roughly a dozen writers each semester to a dedicated staff of just four people has been a challenging and often frustrating experience, but it has also allowed us to try new things and test our journalistic mettle (and find out just how late we can stay up and work before we absolutely lose it).

As we pass on the T&C to the next generation of Otterbein journalists, I'm excited to see how this publication will continue to evolve and how they will tell the stories of an ever-changing campus in their own unique way.

In this issue, you'll find stories that capture what it means to be at Otterbein and in college at this moment in time. Read about one student's firsthand experience testing the waters of online dating or how another's view of the world completely changed after a formative trip to Africa.

Join some of the most recognizable dogs on Otterbein's campus in their search for love, and find out how the fight to put free menstrual products in restrooms on campus has sparked a police investigation.

I have grown to know and love Otterbein during my time here, but as graduation approaches, I can't help but smile at the fact that there is a whole generation of students who will be beginning their own journeys in the fall and who don't yet know what a good thing they're about to start. I owe a special debt to the T&C and all the wonderful people I've gotten to work with because of it. Without this magazine, my college experience wouldn't have been nearly as rich, as maddening or as memorable, and for that I'll always be grateful.

**Abby Studebaker**  
Editor-in-Chief



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# One wild ride

## Otterbein alum's internship leads to a full-time job with animal expert Jack Hanna

By Lillian van Wyngaarden  
Photos provided

With windows cracked, McDonald's coffee in hand and miles ahead of them, animal expert Jack Hanna and Erin Sites Ensign, manager of the Jack Hanna Team at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, set off on a road trip, one of many the pair have taken together. No glamour and private jets, just sing-a-longs to old country songs and good conversation.

The duo begin discussing everything from an upcoming interview for Hanna to who should sing what harmony in the song on the radio. Moments like this feel effortless according to Otterbein alumna Erin Sites Ensign and remind her of the journey it took to get to where she is now.

Ten years ago, with majors in public relations and journalism, Sites Ensign had no idea one internship would change her life and lead to singing alongside Jungle Jack himself.

Planning on going into government work or publishing, Sites Ensign focused her efforts into writing during her time at Otterbein. She wrote for the T&C, which was then a weekly newspaper, from the moment she stepped on campus. She worked her way from ad manager her freshman year all the way to editor-in-chief her senior year. She applied for a communication internship that same year with Jungle Jack Productions and was soon catapulted into the world of a not-so-average celebrity.

With humble beginnings as the director for the Columbus Zoo in 1978, Hanna brought the zoo into the public eye with educational programs and events. The media quickly took to Hanna's upbeat and magnetic personality, inviting him on-air for television shows to showcase his programs, where Hanna was known to bring his animal friends along. From appearances on *The Late Late Show* with James Cordon to speaking tours across the U.S., Hanna's celebrity and background with



Hanna started at the Columbus Zoo in 1978.

animals solidified him as a spokesperson for the animal world.

It became clear to Kate Oliphint, Hanna's assistant and Sites Ensign's boss during her internship, that Sites Ensign would make a valuable member of the team. Oliphint says she brought young Sites Ensign on board full-time as soon as possible to start building the Jack Hanna Team, refusing to write her a letter of recommendation for future jobs because she wanted to hire her herself.

"When they offered me the job, it wasn't a question," said Sites Ensign. "I knew this was one of those once-in-a-lifetime things, and I couldn't let myself let it go."

Sites Ensign now wears the title of manager. However, the Jack Hanna Team really is just that: a team. She wears her title loosely as

she often takes on an array of jobs and tasks ranging anywhere from writing social media posts to chauffeuring Betty White, actress and long-time friend of Hanna's, to her hotel room after a visit to the zoo.

"Everyone always asks when I will leave or why I'm still there after 10 years," said Sites Ensign. "But it's because I'm not doing the same thing I did on day one as an intern. I have an entirely different world."

Sites Ensigns has found herself in tricky situations, too, since she first started working with Hanna. Managing communications and media for the man people turn to when anything happens in the animal world can quickly become a hectic task.

In 2013, Sites Ensigns recalls scrolling

through Hanna's Twitter account and seeing lists of hateful comments. "Black Fish," a documentary about Sea World and the controversy over captive killer whales, had just been released, sending angry shockwaves into the community. This resulted in negative backlash towards Sea World and all its supporters...including Hanna.

The documentary focused primarily on outdated events that had happened at the facility and put a negative spin on the organization, according to Sites Ensign. Hanna advocated on Sea World's behalf, focusing on their conservation efforts and rescue and release tactics, but was met with hostility.

"You can't have a plan in advance for stuff like that," said Sites Ensign. "In that instance [Sea World], we went dark on social media and didn't post. We accepted interviews, but with social media, we had to let the storm blow over. He stood by what

he believed and we made it through."

Despite the occasional media crisis or hectic day, Sites Ensign said working with the zoo and Hanna has given her an opportunity to thrive in an uplifting and positive environment. Unfortunately, however, working alongside the animal kingdom's main man isn't a forever gig.

Sites Ensign is currently on a two- to three-year plan due to Hanna's age. At 71 years old, Hanna's media activity won't remain the same, and she said she must think realistically when considering options for the future. But with a bit of uncertainty in the air, Sites Ensign finds excitement in thinking about what comes next. She refers to her mindset as a college senior as advice for herself, but also advice to those coming out of school and seeking a job:

"Sometimes you have to take a chance, fake it till you make it and, who knows, you may end up falling in love with your job."



As a part of the Jack Hanna team, every day is different for Sites Ensign.



Hanna and Sites Ensign (second from right) on Good Morning America. Hanna often makes TV appearances to promote educational programs for the Columbus Zoo.

# NEW SOUND ON THE BLOCK



Students take their passion for music outside of the classroom and into their own bands.

By Lillian van Wyngaarden  
Photos provided



TATTAT released their first EP in September 2018.

The Columbus music scene has long been a breeding ground for local bands to find their footing and garner listenership. From café corners for the acoustically-inclined to bar stages for those who like a party, it's no surprise that bands in central Ohio use the city to find their start, and student bands at Otterbein are no exception.

Psychedelic guitar riffs, funky grooves and a whole lot of improvisation: these are the sounds that echo off the brick walls of a basement, vibrating the floor. It sounds like a carefully-crafted song that's ready for release, except this is just a typical jam session for Barefuzz. The new-age

psychedelic rock group was founded in the fall of 2016 when percussionist Derek Petrucci, a senior communications studies major, and bassist Adam Tackett, a 2015 alumnus, two fraternity brothers, bonded over musical influences. With guitarists and vocalists Ryan Jones and Andy Maughan, and percussionist Jason Weihl, the now five-piece band recently released the seven-track EP *Extended Play* in August 2018.

While being in a band wasn't exactly what he expected when entering college, Petrucci says he couldn't imagine his life without music. Petrucci majors in communication studies, but he initially started his freshman year as a percussion major and a member

of Otterbein's men's lacrosse team. Due to a busy schedule, Petrucci had to take a step back from music to focus on athletics. Now he laughs about the fact that two years later he ended up dropping lacrosse to form the band. He saw Barefuzz as a creative outlet and a way to pursue his passion for music.

"Yeah I'm here for school, but this is something I want to keep doing for the rest of my life," said Petrucci. "We all keep working hard at it, keep our 9-to-5's for a while, but we hope to make this [music] our full-time job eventually."

Their first performance at the intimate Kafe Kerouac has since turned into ventures



Petrucci first came to Otterbein as a percussion major.

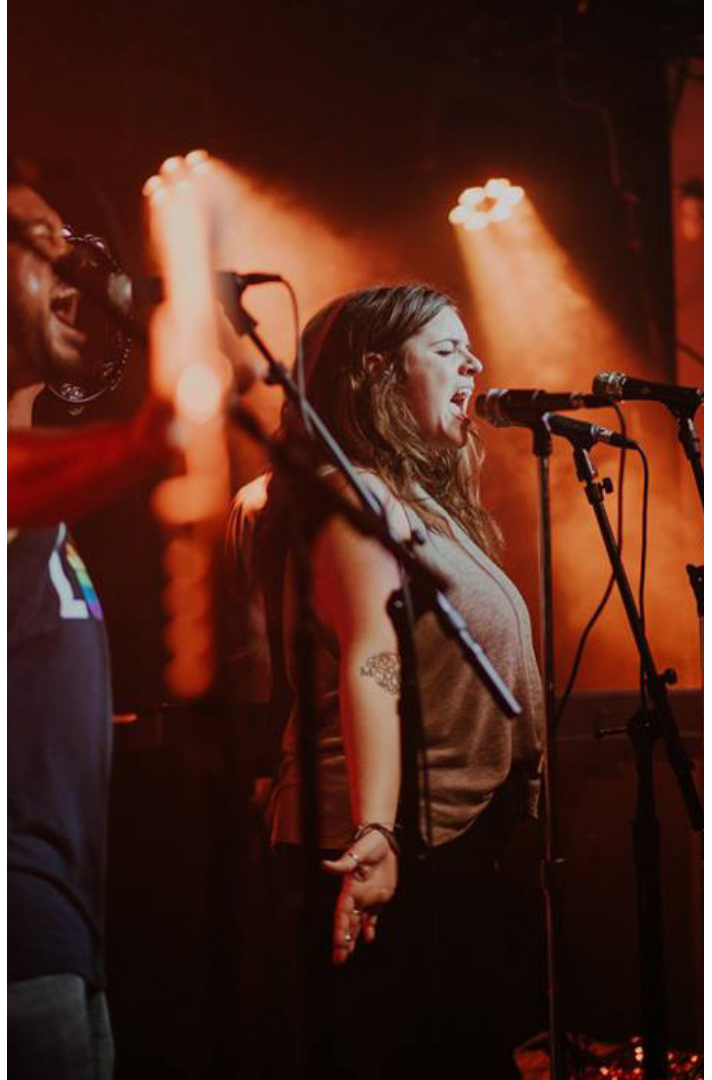
“Yeah I’m here for school, but this is something I want to keep doing for the rest of my life.”

- Derek Petrucci





Otterbein alumnus Noah Richelsen plays with current Otterbein students in the front row of a TATTAT show.



Senior Jordan Rush carries the vocals for TATTAT.

at other Columbus hotspots such as Skully's Music-Diner, Brothers Drake Meadery and Woodlands Tavern. In 2018 they won the 2018 Werkout Battle of the Bands, which secured them a spot in the line-up for Woodlands Tavern's Werk Out Musical Festival. Barefuzz also performed at Columbus' 2018 Comfest. They won the Battle of the Bands contest at Woodlands Tavern, competing against five other local bands, including TATTAT, for the chance to perform at Summercamp, a music festival in Chillicothe, IL in May. But they aren't the only student band to be on the up-and-up, garnering the interest of the Columbus music scene.

TATTAT, a seven-piece band focused on bringing everyone to the dance floor with their funk and neo-soul rhythms, also features past and present Otterbein students, and boasts its own five-track EP, *From Paradise*, released September 2018.

Through luck, good timing and a Led Zeppelin tattoo, guitarist Noah Richelsen met future bandmate and percussionist Tyler (Ty) Phillips-Bond, at a mutual friend's birthday party in the fall of 2017. The rock band's tattoo inked on Phillips-Bond's arm created a conversation between the two and quickly led to playing music together.

Phillips-Bond added Richelsen to his mix of bassist Steve Simeon and vocalist Emily Rhodes. Vocalist Ian Ulrich was also added to the group at the same time. As the four began playing together, Richelsen had some ideas on how to round out their sound. Vocalist and trumpeteer Jordan Rush, a senior psychology major, and keyboardist Jashawn Boswell, a 2018 Otterbein alumnus, joined and cemented the ensemble.

"I knew them [Rush and Boswell] from school, and I knew they were insanely talented," said Richelsen. "I had to get them in for a jam session, and they fell right into place. Now we had a full sound. We were all there."

While balancing school and other obligations may come as a challenge similarly to Petrucci, TATTAT has also used Columbus' musical playground to play shows in various venues, including a recurring gig Thursday nights at the Walrus, Woodlands Tavern and King Avenue 5. The group opened for Colorado-based band Big Gigantic at the Funk'N Beer Festival in November 2018, and also won a battle of the bands contest at GrassRoots Music Festival in Trumansburg, New York, earning a spot on the festival's bill for 2019. Most recently TATTAT played a sold-out show at Woodland's Poductions for New Year's Eve called The Funk'n Ball Drop.



2018 alumnus Jashwn Boswell plays the keyboard for TATTAT.



Richelsen and Ulrich jamming at a recent TATTAT show.



Barefuzz released the seven-track EP *Extended Play* in August 2018.

Adam Berta  
Photography

# OPERATION CODE RED

By Lindsey Jones and  
Abby Studebaker

Photos provided

Since its foundation, Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (URGE) has focused on increasing awareness regarding reproductive justice issues, sexual health and works to promote a safe sexual environment. URGE tries to engage young people in creating and leading the way to sexual reproductive justice. URGE emphasizes the value of diverse voices through partnerships with organizations,

institutions and individuals and attempts to be transparent and honest in all its initiatives.

In 2014, a chapter of this nationwide nonprofit organization began at Otterbein, and students have dedicated themselves to carrying out that same mission.

Currently, the Otterbein chapter of the organization has 17 members. By having a presence at the 2018 First Flight, the

sexual health fair and the health fair, URGE members have used events and word of mouth to get new students involved on campus.

Both Madie Moore, URGE's president for the 2017-2018 school year, and current president Amanda Reed were drawn to URGE early in their college experiences.

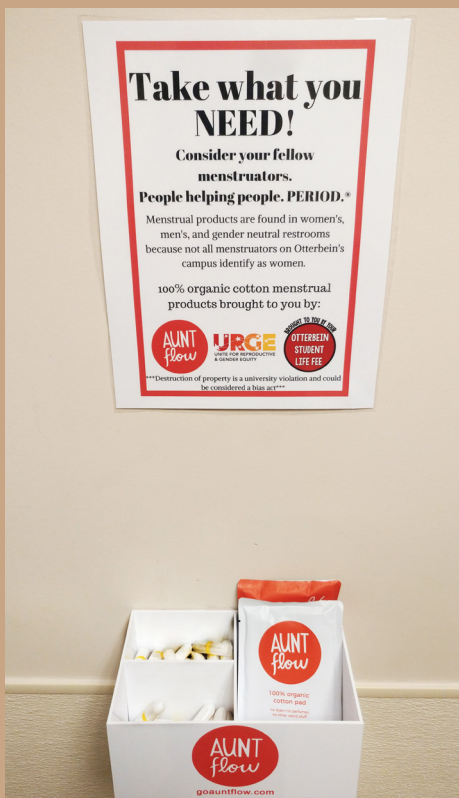
"I was interested in learning how to advocate for reproductive justice and wanted to make friends with similar interests," said Moore.

Upon Moore's realization that menstrual products were not accessible at Otterbein, she set out to find a solution. This solution turned out to be a partnership with the company Aunt Flow.

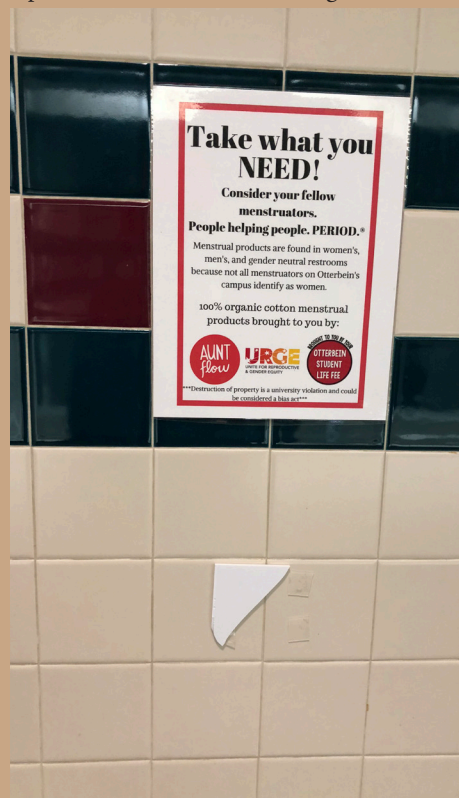
Launched in 2016, Aunt Flow was designed to help menstruators in need and has since donated more than 350,000 products to organizations across the United States. Along with using gender inclusive language, Aunt Flow additionally strives to be transparent about the contents of its products.

Reed suggested that the partnership was the perfect match. Since Otterbein actively works to promote environmental sustainability and gender inclusivity, its core values aligned with those of Aunt Flow.

The partnership with Aunt Flow allowed



Aunt Flow menstrual products are made with 100% organic cotton.



Each time a box or sign is vandalized, URGE must report the destruction to the Otterbein Police Department.

for the creation of the student-created and student-led Period Pilot Program at Otterbein to provide free and accessible menstrual products on campus.

“After we heard that other universities were offering free menstrual products on their campuses, such as Brown University and Ohio University, we began to research the different facets of menstrual equity,” said Moore. “From that initial research, we discovered that Otterbein was behind the national trend of its efforts to create a more equitable environment for female students.”

It was at the conclusion of this research that URGE decided to host an event in partnership with the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. In February

2018, at the Period Politics Symposium, menstrual activists, scholars and lawmakers were invited to Otterbein to engage in a community-wide conversation. Speakers included councilmember Elizabeth Brown, Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, who is a lawyer and author of a publication about menstrual advocacy, founder and CEO of Free The Tampons movement Nancy Kramer, and Columbus native Claire Coder, founder and CEO of Aunt Flow. The launch of the Period Pilot Program was announced at the end of the event. Through a Student Life Grant of \$3,500 provided by Otterbein University Student Government, the program was put into action.

The fall of 2018 began the pilot semester for the program. Through it, several restrooms

across campus were stocked with menstrual supplies. The Campus Center, library, Art and Communications Building, Autin E. Knowlton Equine Center, Roush Hall and the Science Center were all spots where cartons with supplies could be found in men’s, women’s and gender-neutral restrooms. URGE chose these six locations because its budget was limited, and it wanted to get the best possible sample to represent faculty, staff and students.

Despite its focus on inclusivity, URGE experienced some challenges after the start of the Period Pilot Program.

“The main issue that we are facing as an organization is the vandalism of the Aunt Flow boxes in men’s restrooms and

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“We discovered that Otterbein was behind in the national trend of its efforts to create a more equitable environment for female students”

- Madie Moore

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transphobia on this campus surrounding menstrual products in men’s restrooms,” said Reed. “It is our goal to try and educate as many people using the men’s restrooms as to why they are there and to discourage vandalism and blatant disrespect of the trans[gender] community.”

The stigma attached to menstruation could also explain destruction that has occurred around campus.

“In our culture, it is considered taboo to discuss the menstrual cycle,” said Moore. “Oftentimes, I’ll get pushback claiming the topic is too personal, gross or shameful and embarrassing to discuss openly. The stigma deepens when you complicate the topic by including all menstruators in the conversation.”

Every time containers are ripped off the walls or derogatory messages are written on the posters, URGE must report the destruction to the Otterbein Police Department as well as the Title IX coordinator. So far, no vandals have been identified.

“To be honest, the vandalism we’ve encountered is embarrassing because the other campuses that have added menstrual products into the men’s and gender-neutral restrooms have not had vandalism issues. It is an Otterbein issue,” said Moore.

Since classes have been back in session after winter break, there have not been any more recorded instances of vandalism, something that URGE is looking at as a step in the right direction.

“I think that people got desensitized to it in a way. If you see something every single day and it’s just there, like a soap dispenser, you’re not going to notice that it’s there after a while,” said Reed. “I feel like when it first appeared, it was this new, scary thing that people [didn’t] understand.”

Despite facing adversity, URGE continues to remain positive and promote the same gender inclusive message. It is testimonies about how the work has impacted students, faculty and staff that have given the group momentum. Through continued awareness and events, the group’s goal is to get more people involved and garner more campus-wide acceptance.

“Not every organization can say they are implementing tangible change on Otterbein’s campus,” said Moore. “Some of my best friendships have bloomed because of this organization. It’s an amazing feeling to find people you have a deep connection to and then work side by side to positively impact the campus.”

Now that the pilot program has finished, URGE is considering what steps they need to take moving forward and has reevaluated its goals as an organization. Currently, the group is in the process of developing a final progress report using the usage data they collected during the pilot program, including the estimated financial cost of what the program would be if implemented permanently and testimonies about its value from students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. They will then present the report to President Comerford and Otterbein senior leadership, who will consult with Business Affairs to determine if this program is something the university can and will fund.

The estimated cost is around \$5 per female student for a year’s worth of products.



Marisa Hartt and Caitlyn Ryan stock Aunt Flow boxes in Roush Hall.

No longer a “pilot” program, the initiative will now be called Operation Code Red, or Code Red for short, to symbolize the sense of urgency and the necessity of making this decision.

“Either we’re going to do this and stand for what is just and what menstruators should have on campus to be supported, or we may go a different way,” said Moore. “But it’s now time to really stand where we need to stand.”

In the meantime, URGE has found an amazing support system through faculty and staff who have volunteered to help keep menstrual products accessible on campus.

“Since we’ve finished the pilot program, technically students aren’t required to fill the boxes like we did last semester to collect data,” said Moore. “But we still want to provide this resource to menstruators on campus, and faculty and staff have been amazing and come forward to help us.”

URGE provides faculty and staff volunteers with supply kits of pads and tampons, and in return they stock the bathrooms in their buildings. Faculty and staff have also helped by sponsoring Aunt Flow boxes, coming to

teach-ins and informing their students about relevant issues.

In September 2018, URGE and the WGSS program hosted the event Let’s Talk: Fighting Menstrual Stigma and Transphobia at Otterbein. The event encouraged the community to come together to talk about the destruction and vandalism of signs and boxes and to brainstorm ideas for how to move forward. From that conversation came two important ideas. The first was to allow faculty, student organizations and anyone else who wanted to donate \$20 to sponsor an Aunt Flow box, helping to replace those that were damaged. The second idea, and a project that Moore and her team are currently working on, is to develop a survey to collect data, quantitative as well as anecdotal, of how people feel about the program, if they used the products and where products should be in their opinions (women’s restrooms, men’s restrooms, and/or gender-neutral restrooms). They hope to get a feel for the opinions of a wide range of people to try to represent as much of the campus population as possible.

In addition to continuing their work on Operation Code Red, URGE will be continuing the conversation surrounding

trans-visibility and transphobia as a way of combatting the stigma associated with the vandalism of the Aunt Flow boxes. They will also be focusing on contraception and access to contraception around Otterbein’s campus as well as building their membership and network of advocates in the Otterbein community.

Both Moore and Reed encourage interested students to attend the group’s meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7-8 p.m. in Library 126. Additionally, the group hopes that students with any questions connect with them at [URGE@otterbein.edu](mailto:URGE@otterbein.edu).



Madie Moore helped bring Aunt Flow products to campus.



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# Meet the pets



Get to know some of the most recognizable Otterdogs as they look for their perfect match.



I'm a dog of many names, and I'm single and ready to mingle! Pups, you can call me Charlie, as my mom, Zoe Ford, does, and I've been breaking hearts since I was born on Nov. 12, 2017. That's right, I may be young, but I can keep up with dogs twice my age! Just a few fun facts about me are that I love to run to the bathroom every time the toilet flushes, my favorite place to get scratches is my belly and my idea of a dream date is a day spent playing fetch and then sharing a home-cooked chicken, pumpkin and rice dinner. My human, might be graduating, but I'm planning on living the college dog life forever! Who needs a job, right? If you think we'd make a great pair DM me!



## Favorite spot on campus

The grass behind the CC, Alum Creek Bike Trail and the Otterbein Barn



## Bad habit

Putting my slobbery toys on my humans, and sitting on your head if you do not pay attention to me or are not getting out of bed fast enough!

## Favorite hobbies



I love playing beer pong (I'm good at chasing the balls when the humans miss), chasing squirrels, bike rides, fetch (indoor and outdoor), dog agility in my apartment and eating dinner.



## Favorite food

Fruits and veggies... but really I'll eat anything!

Hi friends! I'm Butter, but you can call me Butts (my dad Derek Parham does). I'm a 2-year-old boxer/cane corso mix, and I'm here to tell you that love is out there! I graduated with a degree in butt-sniffing and am currently in a relationship with my BEST FRIEND, Lady. She's a Bernese mountain dog and we get along great, so don't give up hope! There's a perfect pup for all of us out there. Besides hanging out with Lady or my human, I like to take long hikes and hang out at the dog park.



### **Favorite spot on campus**

Alum Creek Park

### **Bad habit**



Getting into the trash.



### **Favorite scratch spot**

My butt!



### **Favorite treat**

Banana chips







Goober

It's a

### **Favorite Season**



**Goober:** Winter, because of the snow. I also hate winter because I can never eat all of the snow!

**Tucker:** Fall

Hi everyone! I'm a one-year-old German shepherd/boxer mix, and I'm looking for my pawfect match! My parents, Karagan Ross and Beau LaJoie, keep encouraging me to get out and meet more friends. I LOVE playing with ropes and eating anything with peanut butter, and I'd say my favorite way to spend a Saturday night is napping, followed by zooms and another nap. My best buddy at Pawterbein University, is Tucker McCurdy, he is always my favorite playmate. I was rescued from the Franklin County Dog Shelter, and I'm so happy to be in my furever home with all the belly rubs I could ask for. If you love squirrels and stealing food off the table too, I'm the good girl for you!

### **Major**



**Goober:** Good girl studies  
**Tucker:** Good boy studies

### **Quirkiest Habit**



**Goober:** Sitting on chests  
**Tucker:** I chew and shred toys up; they've got to be good quality!



Tucker

match!

Do you like booty scratches and getting caught in the rain? I'm Tucker, and I can't wait to find the perfect pup for me! I'm a black lab who loves frisbee with my dad, Justin McCurdy, Lifesaver gummies and playing ball till the ball goes missing. My best friend is Goober; she's so pretty and fun, and we're even in the same major! My favorite hobby is taking naps with her, and my favorite spots to hang out on campus are the practice soccer fields and the Science Center. I'm hoping to find a pup who gets me and who always knows how to have a good time, could you be her?

**Birthday**



Goober: September 17, 2017  
Tucker: July 31, 2017

**Idea of a Perfect Date**



Goober: Tug of war followed by a nice dinner and zooms  
Tucker: Anywhere with a pup cup

**Nickname**



Goober: Dummy, Goobs  
Tucker: Tuck

# A day in the life

## Sean Moneypenny warms campus buildings and hearts

By: Haylie Schmall

As a child, Sean Moneypenny was often found shoveling driveways and sidewalks for friends and neighbors. Receiving \$10 per job, he rushed to the “Five and Dime” store to cash in his earnings. Little did he know, nearly 40 years later, his enthusiasm for shoveling snow would remain. During the brisk winter, Moneypenny is the first to respond to a call for snow removal at Otterbein University. In fact, he’s usually the first to respond to any need on campus.

Moneypenny is part of Otterbein’s Facility Services team. From roofs to sidewalks to room repairs, the unsung heroes of the service department support 3,000 students across 67 university buildings. For Moneypenny, the only Heating, Ventilation, Air conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) Controls Service Technician on campus, his work is more than a job. For the past 13 years, Moneypenny has helped heat campus buildings and warm student hearts. While being heavily involved around campus managing work, taking classes and running a radio show, he seeks every chance to brighten someone’s day and leave Otterbein a little better than he found it.

“Moneypenny is one of the most positive people on this campus,” said Steve Rossman, Assistant Director of Television/Engineering at Otterbein. “He’s everywhere around campus and it’s always a pleasure to see him.”

Moneypenny completes between four



Moneypenny helps shovel snow so students can get to class.



Moneypenny poses with the service van in October 2017.



Money's Mornin' Show goes live weekdays at 6 a.m.



Money Penny and his family make their annual appearance in the Homecoming parade in 2015.



Money Penny and the rest of the WOBN staff at Homecoming 2018.

to five service requests each day, from regulating the gym's temperature before a basketball game to changing an A/C unit in a residence hall. He does not take his job for granted and understands the ripple effects his work has in the lives of others.

"Students have a lot on their plate here," said Moneyppenny. "Whenever I bump into a situation, I try to make it better. And it's helping them clear their minds of problems and focus on their work."

Moneyppenny came to Otterbein with years of experience looking to make a difference on campus, but he never imagined the difference the Otterbein community would make in his life.

When Moneyppenny is not in his service van, he is at the campus radio station. Since 2008, Moneyppenny has helped wake up Westerville with Money's Mornin' Show on WOBN-FM 97.5 in Westerville. The show is live weekdays at 6 a.m. and replays at 9 a.m. Friends and family wake up just to catch the action, including his 14-year-old son, Adam, his biggest fan tuning in each morning.

Moneyppenny continues to serve as a positive role model for his son by taking classes on campus. Completing one course each semester, his goal is to complete a broadcasting degree and walk across the stage by 2027, the same time his son will obtain his undergraduate degree.

"Adam will be the first in the family to graduate from college," said Moneyppenny. "I can't wait to see him do that, and I want to be right behind him."

Adam admires his dad's dreams while always putting others before himself.

"He has inspired me to open up to people and look at life on the bright side," said Adam Moneyppenny.

The following is a typical day for Sean Moneyppenny.

**4:50 a.m.** Moneyppenny leaves his home in Canal Winchester to drive 40 minutes to campus. On the way, he listens to the 89.1 American Family Radio.

**6 a.m.** Lights, soundboard and microphone are switched on in a hurry. On the dot, Money's Mornin' Show hits the airwaves. Moneyppenny plays Luke Bryan to kick off Country Wednesday. Each day of Moneyppenny's "office space/family friendly" show is themed from country to jazz and every genre in between. In between tracks, he is joined by fictional guests Cletus Hapsfield, Pops and #1 Otterbein Sports Reporter Rockin' Ronnie for special segments of the weather, the day's events, Otterbein news and sports coverage.

**7 a.m.** Moneyppenny closes the show and rushes from the Arts and Communication Building to the Service Department. He

sends a quick text to his wife wishing her a great day before entering the shop.

**7:30 a.m.** On the clock, Moneyppenny logs into the computer to see what jobs need to be done for the day, making a list of what the day will hold. "Around here, if you don't think you're busy you're not looking hard enough," said Moneyppenny. "There's always something to do."

**7:45 a.m.** The campus center hot water heater is having issues, so Moneyppenny loads up his service van and is off to his first job. Making his way to the kitchen, he stops to say hi to the chef. "There hasn't been anything I couldn't fix for you, man! Why start today?" He ensures the chemicals are okay, and while he is working, one of the catering staff members points out an additional repair that is needed. Moneyppenny needs to order a part to complete the job, so he spends 10 to 15 minutes researching the part to ensure he gets the best deal; he prides himself on stretching university funds.

**10:30 a.m.** Moneyppenny is sent to fix a noisy A/C unit in Devore, but he doesn't want to wake the residents. "They need their sleep! Some of them didn't get to bed until 3 a.m.," said Moneyppenny. He will install a functioning A/C unit and bring the broken unit to the basement for repair.

Before installing the new A/C unit, he takes a moment to clean it and test it before



Moneyppenny with his son Adam and wife Jill get ready for the 2016 Homecoming parade; this year the theme was superheroes.



Moneypenney and family celebrate one year of his morning show.

taking it to the room. “The kids deserve a clean unit. That’s the least I can do for them. They pay a lot of money to go here, so I should give them the best.”

**11:30 a.m.** It’s lunch time. Moneypenney takes a minute for himself, checks in with his family and tries to catch a few z’s.

**12:30 p.m.** Back to work! Moneypenney drives down to the Art and Communication Building to adjust thermostats. Students have been complaining that it’s too hot in one classroom and freezing in another. Moneypenney gets to the bottom of it by reprogramming the systems to regulate the temperature throughout the building.

**1 p.m.** It’s almost time for class. Moneypenney makes his way to room 126 and hopes he arrives in time to get his favorite seat. Notes out, he waits for JAMC 3500: Race, Gender, Class and Media to start.

**2:30 p.m.** There’s just enough time for one more job. He heads to the Rike to change all the filters in the heaters on the floor before practices begin. On his way into the building, he notices a student crying on the bench. He takes a moment to stop and console them. Offering a listening ear and some unsolicited advice, the student collects herself and is on her way to practice in no time. She thanks Moneypenney, but he

brushes off the acknowledgement. “Students are why I come to work every day,” he said. “If I can put a few smiles on people’s faces or make their day better by fixing something, then I know I’ve done my job.” He finishes his job in the Rike and makes an extra round of the building to check the thermostat levels before leaving.

**4 p.m.** The work day is over. Moneypenney gets on the road just in time to beat rush hour traffic home. He unwinds on the long drive and reflects on the day. As he listens to the radio, he prepares for the next morning’s radio show.

**4:40 p.m.** Home at last. After nearly a 12-hour day, Moneypenney looks forward to relaxing with his family. Greeted by the family dog, Abbie, the two play for a few minutes. He gathers around the table with his family to talk about the day. They anticipate the weekend ahead when Moneypenney and his son will travel to a slot car tournament.

**9:00 p.m.** Time for bed. Moneypenney hits the hay early so he can get up early and remove snow. He may start his day earlier than the rest, but he feels that it’s worth it. After all, “It’s all for the kids!”



Moneypenney working in the radio station in the Art and Communication Building.

# Looking through new eyes

By Abby Studebaker

Photos provided by Cameron West

## Africa? You?

Not a big fan of nature. Or bugs. Or animals, rain or dirt. Cameron West is the last person who would describe himself as the outdoorsy type—in fact, one family camping trip in an RV as a child was enough for him. But after talking with communications professor Denise Shively and weighing the financial pros and cons, West decided to take the leap and travel to Africa in May 2018 after completing his junior year, a choice that would change not only his opinions on roughing it but also how he sees the world.

The trip, which can be taken for Senior Year Experience or Integrative Studies credit, would take students to Nkhoma Village, Malawi as well as Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. Dr. Glenna Jackson and Professor Shively first teamed up to lead the course in 2014 and have traveled every May since.

As West sat in Shively's office and listened to her talk about Malawi, he became more and more excited.

"She was emotional even talking about the trip," said West. "I love stories, and so listening to her tell these stories, I thought 'Well, maybe I can tell my own story after this trip.'"

West was able to pay for the trip partly through the GO:Fund, a one-time \$2,500 grant towards a transformational study abroad or internship experience for eligible students. The grant was one of the biggest reasons that he decided to take the chance and go on the trip—he knew that there was no good reason not to take advantage of the money, and Shively estimated that undertaking a similar trip on one's own could cost roughly \$10,000 to \$12,000.

## Muli bwanji!

In the semester leading up to their trip, West, the other students and Jackson and Shively met every few weeks to learn more about Malawi, Africa in general and what they would be doing while they were there. From learning a little bit of the primary language, Chichewa, to listening to students who had previously taken the trip talk about their experiences, they attempted to prepare for nearly a month of being immersed in another culture. With each meeting, West said that it felt like a little bit more of the puzzle was being filled in regarding what to expect, but at the same time nothing could truly prepare you.

"Nobody could explain exactly what the experience was going to be like because it really is a unique experience to everyone," said West.

In preparation for being in a new country, West also made a point to get all the vaccinations and medications he would need to prevent diseases like malaria and cholera.

After weeks of preparation, the time arrived, and the group embarked on three flights for a total of 22 hours. After finally touching down at the airport in Lilongwe, Malawi,

they were greeted by Justice and Nyathipa, their Malawian hosts for the duration of their trip. Justice welcomed them into his home in Nkhoma, Malawi and would soon come to be a close friend as they navigated the physical geography as well as the cultural terrain.

## 729 kwacha = \$1 USD

Every day in Nkhoma was different, according to West. The group would wake with the sun around 5 a.m., eating a simple but fresh breakfast together before embarking on the day's adventures. Every minute of the experience was packed, leaving little room for relaxation but allowing the students to make the most of their limited time.

The focus of the trip was on service learning, and so part of their time was spent working on service projects to benefit local communities. While some students offered medical services or pursued environmental interests, West said there was one project in particular that he felt a deep desire to pursue: building a school.

"I've been in school before, and I know what it's like to be in school—I can relate to that," said West.

“It was just [one of] those moments where you're like 'What am I doing? Wow, can you believe this?'...I just felt so free”

- Cameron West



West with one of the finished desks for the Cardinal Classroom.



West and other students helped pick out all of the materials needed to build these desks.



The Cardinal Classroom was a project started in 2015. First the foundation was laid, and then piece by piece groups added a roof, electricity, and finally desks, providing a place for teachers and students to come together and learn.

West and the group went with two local craftsmen to the lumber and metal yards, where they would pick out the wood, steel and other materials needed for the desks. West was chosen to carry the satchel full of Otterbein money used to pay for the materials, counting out the Malawian kwacha each time they needed to make a purchase.

One memorable moment for West was when they formally dedicated the Cardinal Classroom and he was chosen to represent the students by screwing in one corner



West screwing in one corner of the sign dedicating the Cardinal Classroom that Otterbein students helped build.

of a sign to the building. Jackson and the school's headmaster were also chosen to screw in corners.

"That was like us completing the project," said West. "We represented all the different

components, all the people that put everything together in the end."

## Places to see, mountains to climb

Aside from engaging in service projects, West and his classmates participated in all



kinds of experiences that he never thought he would have before coming on this trip. From playing with babies at a crisis nursery to climbing Mount Nkhoma with Justice and Nyathipa to seeing critically endangered black rhinos on a night game drive at a protective game lodge. The man who had never traveled outside of North America before found an Africa filled with adventure, wonder and humanity.

West said his favorite day from the whole trip was when they were travelling to a village that was not accessible using the van they usually travelled with, so they rented a truck and hired two men to lead the way on motorcycles.

On the way back from their outing, West decided to ride on the back of one of the motorcycles, something he had never done before, and was amazed as he looked at the savannah all around and up at the sky.

“We were out in the middle of nowhere, and the truck was way behind and there was another motorcycle way ahead,” said West. “It was just [one of] those moments where you’re like ‘What am I doing? Wow, can you believe this?’...I just felt so free.”

## Seeing differently

West may have returned from Africa nearly a year ago now, but he still feels the effect of the trip and is aware of how what he learned and saw have changed his perspective. For one thing, while in Malawi their group had very limited access to technology, and they got to see how Malawian people provide for their families and keep their communities running without things like internet, running water and electricity. When their group would have brief access to Wi-Fi, West said he regrets how much their preoccupation with their phones and social media instantly pulled them away from the moment and divided them.

“If you’re going to go to Africa, go to Africa. Really go,” said West. “Try as much as you can to just avoid the phone, avoid Facebook, avoid Instagram, because it just complicates things and takes you away from the element that you’re in.”

West also said that he is more aware of both himself and of people around him now than he was before taking the trip. He now thinks about how important it is to recognize

and be aware of where people are from as a way of showing respect for them and their experiences, something he has gotten to use in his communications internship at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Since Malawi, he is now asking questions that he wasn’t before.

He is also more aware of how frivolous he can sometimes be, and that nice things and places aren’t always the most important things, especially when travelling.

“I’ve been a little more aware now of maybe what’s necessary and what’s not,” said West. “There are a lot of cool places to travel in the world where perhaps you might have a more fulfilling experience if you’re not staying in the 5-star hotel [or] the luxury resort.”

West also said that the value Professor Shively and Dr. Jackson brought to the trip really couldn’t be replicated anywhere

else. Their connections, relationships and expertise made every moment worth it and made for a special experience that, West said, probably couldn’t happen at any other time in your life.

Overall, West returned home from Africa a changed person, with new insights and experiences that he couldn’t get anywhere else.

“The most impactful, for me, were the experiences where I felt uncomfortable,” said West. “It was absolutely life changing to be able to be put in a place where you’re no longer in control.”

West said that now as he is beginning to look for jobs as graduation approaches, he is once again ready to go somewhere new, somewhere that forces him to be uncomfortable.



As a service learning trip, students spent time working on service projects to benefit local communities.



Cameron and Mwenecho climb Mount Nkhoma.

# SENIOR EXHIBITION SCHEDULE 2019

All Senior Art Exhibitions are held in the Miller Gallery located at 33 College View Road. The Gallery is easily accessible through the front doors of the Art and Communication Building.

March 18 – 22  Sam Buganski, Kiera McIntyre

*Reception Sunday, March 17, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

March 25 – 29  Yang Chen, Autumn McCandlish, Kenneth Will

*Reception Sunday, March 24, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

April 1 – 5  Audrey Evans, Ellen Tian, Sierra Wright

*Reception Sunday, March 31, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

April 8 – 12  Madi O'Neill, Shaukeria Reese, C.J. Smith

*Reception Sunday, April 7, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

April 15 – 19  Sierra Lawhead, Rachel Nitchman,  
Kalyn Schroer

*Reception Sunday, April 14, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

April 22 – May 3

Otterbein Artists in Residence exhibition  
with Susanna Harris & Anna Kamphaus



MILLER  
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# Learning to play fair



Otterbein athletes learn about the realities of sexual assault and how to combat issues.

By Bethany Eippert & Kaytlyn Rowen  
Photos provided by Dr. Kristy McCray

Sexual assault is a danger that many people are aware of and some have sadly experienced first-hand or know someone who has. However, if you are in this type of situation or are witnessing it, it is often difficult to know how to react calmly and safely.

In order to help Otterbein students understand how to react in difficult situations, such as sexual predation, Dr. Kristy McCray, an Otterbein assistant professor in sports management, has created the Fair Play program. McCray has done extensive research throughout her dissertation about rape culture, sexual assault and various related topics.

Fair Play is geared towards breaking gender roles and stereotypes as well as reducing “rape myths.” Rape myths are described by McCray in her dissertation as “stereotypes and myths—defined as prejudicial, stereotyped, or false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists—in creating a climate hostile to rape victims.” Rape myths often only hold the victim of sexual assault accountable, which in turn contributes to a culture that is passive to rape.

McCray’s research shows that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men experience sexual assault on college campuses. In order to describe the link between rape myth acceptance and attitudes towards women, Fair Play’s curriculum works to break stereotypes and empower all people.

Similarly, the #MeToo movement has empowered sexual assault survivors across the nation to voice their experiences. Many of these events have made national news due of their association with athletic departments.

Former sports medicine doctor for Michigan State University and the National Gymnastics Team Larry Nassar assaulted over 330 women and girls beginning in the 1990s. This scandal led more than 100 Ohio State University student athletes to step forward regarding the sexual misconduct and abuse they experienced from their own team physician, Dr. Richard Strauss, from 1979 to 1997. The athletes have accused university officials, including now-congressman Jim Jordan (a former wrestling coach), of knowing that the abuse was occurring and doing nothing about it.

“There is research that links athletes and sexual violence,” said McCray. “Fair Play is being done in a proactive and preventative way to change the culture in a positive way. Athletes are leaders on campus and in the community. They can be role models that can help set the stage for changing campus and athletic department culture.”

McCray said even before #MeToo she was interested in finding a way to change attitudes about sexual assault. She was the director of a rape crisis center in California and ran a program similar to Fair Play for high school students called My Strength.

Over winter break of 2017, 64 men and women of Otterbein’s basketball and wrestling teams were the first to complete the Fair Play curriculum in a pilot program. McCray

received an internal grant from Otterbein to fund the program.

The program was 8 sessions long, each about 60-90 minutes. Led by McCray, the curriculum worked to help athletes understand sexual violence and rape culture, healthy sex education, gender/gender-roles, sexuality and bystander intervention. Fair Play is discussion based with videos and activities to help students understand the material instead of a classic lecture-based course.

Both men and women receive the same curriculum, except for one day. The day of separation asks students to reimagine gender roles and works to empower both genders. The class sessions are also split up into two sections of first- and second-year students and the other with students past their second year.

In the fall of 2018, the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) awarded Fair Play \$9,447 in order to fund the program,



McCray gives a Fair Play presentation to student athletes.

with the requirement that they partner with a local agency. Currently, Fair Play has been collaborating with OhioHealth's Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO). As a rape crisis intervention and prevention program, SARNCO provides advocacy and medical and emotional support services at OhioHealth Emergency Departments and other facilities in central Ohio.

Jill Davis, the SARNCO campus prevention educator, helped lead a similar Fair Play curriculum that fall for the women's softball and tennis teams, as well as about half of the football team. There were 36 women and 45 men who participated in the program, however this time it was a 10-week program made up of one-hour sessions on Wednesday nights.

"I love this program," said Davis. "I think it's the best that exists. It's 10 weeks of an ongoing conversation which makes it more impactful and that's how people learn."

SARNCO recently honored McCray and other Otterbein staff members as Community Partners of the Year for their sexual violence prevention work.

Before and after the completion of the program, McCray surveyed the participants and found that students felt they gained a greater understanding of what sexual assault is and how and when to intervene as a bystander.

Feedback from students was positive, and one student even said that everyone on campus should go through a program like this.

"The challenge is getting to the students who do not want to engage," said McCray. This training is oftentimes something that people don't think they need to learn about or that is important until they understand its magnitude."

Fair Play is a unique program in the way that most similar programs are exclusively geared towards male athletes, but Fair Play aims to educate all genders. This program is also much more long-term than most programs as most are simply a 60-minute course. In addition, Fair Play is intended to be across multiple athletic teams in order to help build relationships between all athletes and help them learn to look out for each other even if they play different sports.

Currently the program has run out of money to continue the curriculum, but McCray, and other faculty, are still in search of more grant opportunities to continue the program. McCray hopes to eventually be able to package the program and share it with other universities to continue spreading awareness and education.

If you have been sexually assaulted, or need assistance in any way, SARNCO's 24-hour rape helpline is 614-267-7020. The Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) also offers a helpline at 1-800-656-4673.



Otterbein students during a Fair Play training session.

# Digital dating

One student takes 10 days to find out if dating apps are all they're cracked up to be.

By Jasmine Caldwell

Illustrations by Katie Cahill

Online dating has an enormous stigma surrounding it, but in recent years it has become more prevalently used. Tinder, Bumble, Coffee Meets Bagel—all are apps marketed to find your perfect significant other or new, fun hookup. So, what's with the hype surrounding these notorious dating apps? Could I find Mr. Right? I would give it 10 days and see if this new brand of online dating had any magic to it.

## Download complete.

As I opened my newly downloaded Tinder, I began to swipe away—boy after boy. Soon, I began to get notifications of my matches. As I browsed through, I saw a few boys that seemed interesting. Then, I saw him. Let's call him Jack, a 25-year-old law student with a goofy smile. Before I had the chance to message him, he had already taken initiative. "Hi."

The rest of the day, we talked about general things: where are you from, do you have any siblings, what's your favorite condiment. We made a plan to go Condado, a taco joint, the next day.

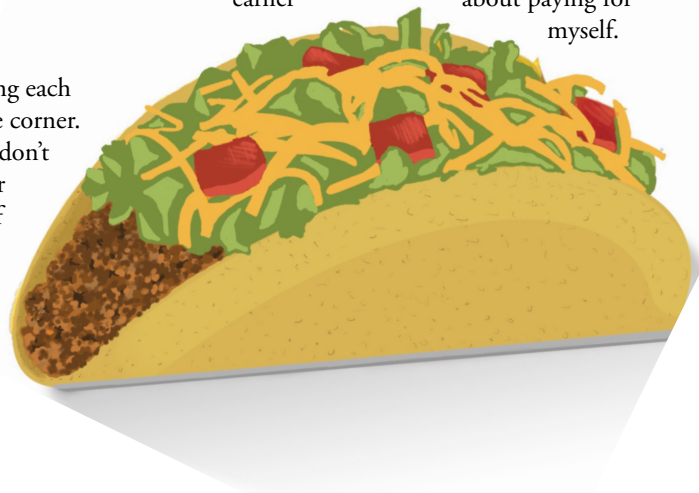
## Day two

We exchanged a few text messages, and meeting each other was just around the corner. I got ready as usual (you don't want to overdo it on your first date). As I got out of my car, I looked at the restaurant, Condado. A good first date destination. Good queso and guacamole, tacos and a nice calming atmosphere. As I was

walking in, I saw a boy sitting at the front table fiddling with his phone in one hand and keys in the other. He was wearing a white shirt with black skinny jeans and white shoes. It was him, Jack. I noticed that he coordinated his outfit a lot better than most boys. As I took another step towards him, I began to get nervous.

Before I could walk up to the table, he lifted his head and caught me in my path. To my surprise, he immediately stood up with a wide grin, smoothed out his pants and moved to pull my chair out at the table. What was I getting myself into?

As I sat down, our waitress came to our aid, asking us what we wanted to drink. We both awkwardly chimed in at the same time, saying "Water, please." He looked at me with a nervous grin, "I'm sorry." The rest of the date consisted of lots of tacos, awkward stories from our childhoods and a few jokes. As the bill was placed on our table, it took less than two seconds for Jack to whisk it away to his side and slide his card into the holder; I didn't even have a chance, despite making multiple comments earlier about paying for myself.



There's something about not allowing others to pay for you that gives me satisfaction, but he wasn't budging.

We walked out of the restaurant and towards my car, where he gave me a farewell hug and opened my car door. He opened my car door. For me. Driving home, I replayed all of his quirky jokes and awkward comments. He was charming. As I locked my car, I looked down at my phone to see a text message from him: "I'm glad we went. It was great getting to know you better! I would love to do that again sometime."

## Now what?

Day three. We played a little bit of text message tag as we were both busy most of the day. He began to tell me a bit more about his life and what he wanted in the future. It was refreshing talking to someone who had substance, someone who had aspirations and goals and who genuinely seemed to want to know mine.

Day four. I woke up to a "good morning" text from Jack. He had woken up at nearly 8 a.m. to study for a presentation in two days. We exchanged a few messages and that night he called me to talk about his day and vent—I was all ears. I was watching documentaries on YouTube about the food trade in China, so it was nice to have a little break from screen time. Our conversation stretched everywhere: his day, my day, our weeks, our lives. Two hours later and I realized I needed to go to bed, so I wished him goodnight and shut off my light.

Day five. We didn't talk much. I worked most of the day, and Jack had a big presentation the next morning. I occasionally got a "I wish I could be done with this," text from him.

Day six. At about 1 p.m., Jack called me. I nervously answered. "Hello?" He had just finished his presentation and wanted to get lunch. I muttered out a questionable "Sure." "You don't have to if you don't want to, I just thought I would ask," he said. I reassured him that I would go, after all I hadn't eaten dinner yet. We went to a local Panera. As we sat down, we talked and he began to tell me about his presentation. For what I gathered from his explanation, law school isn't a joke. And then, it happened: DTR, defining the relationship. Oh god. He brought it up in casual conversation.

"So, what do you think of this? I really am starting to like you and just want to know where your head is at." My immediate reaction was to look for the closest exit, but I couldn't. I explained to Jack how I liked how things were going and that I didn't want to move anywhere near the speed of light, it had only been barely a week. He understood and moved the conversation along. As we left, he gave me a tight hug and told me to drive safe.

Days seven and eight. We didn't talk that much besides a few texts and

Snapchats. He studied most of the two days, while I worked nine hours both days.

Day nine. I walked into work at noon, not really wanting to be there. About an hour into work, I was walking to the back when out of the corner of my eye I saw a man at the register. I turned around on my heels to greet him, and then realized he had flowers in his hand. "Delivery for Jasmine." No. No he did not. "That's me." I took the flowers, yellow roses, and proceeded to run back to the office. I cracked a smile despite myself. It was the first time someone had just delivered flowers to my job before, let alone my favorite flowers.

I opened the card and read the small handwritten message: "I know you don't want to move too fast, but you deserve these." Should I text him? Not bring it up at all? I had to say something. I mapped out a text message, "Thank you for the flowers." Quick, simple and to the point. He texted me back shortly after with a smiley face.

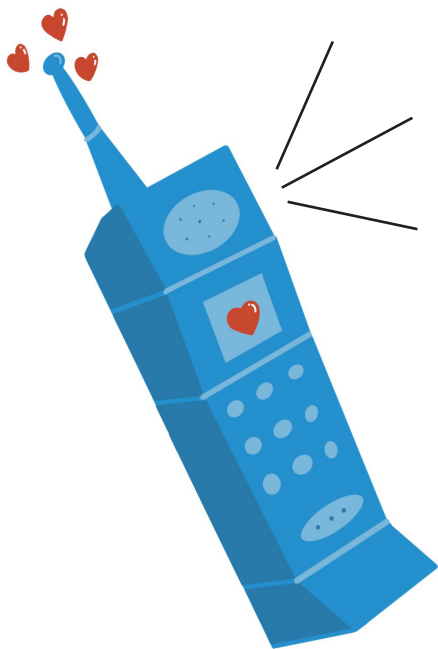
## Day 10

It had arrived. The day to decide if this online dating hack had done the trick or if I was ready to call it quits. As nice as Jack was, I wasn't ready to move into a relationship or anything close to it. It was interesting seeing

what the internet could connect you to. On paper, Jack was everything a girl would want: smart, driven, kind and not too bad on the eyes, but I knew that later down the line, it might not work out.

He sent me a "Hello" text message around 4 p.m., so I took my chance. "Hi, I've enjoyed our time together very much. I think you're great, but I think after the past week and a half I realized that I'm not looking for anything too serious. I'm sorry." To the point and honest. He had read the message almost immediately and began typing. "Could we at least stay friends? You never know what could happen in the future when you are ready." Oh no, there was a little hope in his message, but I wasn't opposed to staying friends. We got along well and made each other laugh.

"Yes, I think that would be nice," I sent. Twenty minutes later, my phone beeped. It was Jack. "Not that it matters, but I like you a lot and I am happy that we can remain friends. Maybe I'll make you fall in love with me like you have with me." My mouth dropped to the floor. Completely by accident, I apparently broke a boy's heart in 10 days.



"I'm glad we went. It was great getting to know you better! I would love to do that again sometime"

# Digital dating: Student stories

We took to social media to ask students about their online dating horror stories and successes. We've kept them anonymous for privacy purposes, but who knows, if you've ever swiped right on Tinder you might just recognize yourself in their words. So, what do you think: Is online dating a yay or a nay?

Once upon a time, after trying a number of dating apps, I discovered the **beauty of Bumble**, or rather what I thought was beauty. I had met a cute blonde who was in my area and we really hit it off. She was only a year older so we had much in common both being in the greater Columbus area. We decided to meet up at a deli in German Village. Driving down there I was nervous and excited for my first date via social media. Seeing her through the window, my heart leapt—I was jazzed. But upon getting closer to her I was spooked... **she had a mustache!** Now, I'm not opposed to women with hair, but she had a bigger mustache than me. I was uncomfy. We had a decent dinner and just as things were coming to an end and **I was about to scoot**, she asked if I wanted to see the Countess of Monte Cristo, which is a female take on Shakespeare's famous play and is about 2.5 hours long. Needless to say I had to avoid being too intimate during that time, as I did not want to pursue another date, and it made for an **awkward** play. When we parted ways, I gave her a hug, and as I was walking to my car I saw her speed by, going 40 in a 25, clearly **not too happy** with the conclusion of the date.

So, I met my boyfriend (he goes to Otterbein) on Bumble. He **gave me his number** and Snapchat, but I was scared to text him. We would Snapchat and message on Bumble, but when he **tried to hint** at meeting or hanging out I got super **nervous**. I made him wait three months until I gave him my number and then five months before we met. For our first date we went out for ice cream and it was really chill; I felt like I'd known him my whole life. We've been **together ever since**. I was surprised at how there was no difference between messaging him and talking in person! I was nervous we wouldn't mesh well or be able to hold conversations when we met in person, but everything worked out, and we've technically been **dating 10 months** (even though we matched on Bumble a year and three months ago).

My girlfriend and I matched on Tinder over the summer. We messaged each other a few times, but then the **conversation died out** for a few weeks until school started back up and I saw her while walking to class. That prompted me to message her again on Tinder to ask if that was her. She said yes and we hung out that next day. We've been **dating for about five months** now!

I met a guy on Tinder and we planned to go on a **double date** with one of my friends. I thought he was from Westerville, but turned out he **took a bus** over an hour from Athens for the date. The four of us went bowling, and it was honestly really awkward and uncomfortable. We didn't get along very well and were just **very different people**. When we went to leave, he just walked in my front door and ended up **staying the night** in my bed. Luckily, I have an amazing best friend who let me stay in her room across the hall because he made me so uncomfortable. He got picked up by his dad in the morning and I **never saw him again**.



All my life I've been dating online; it's nothing scary or new to me. But meeting her...for some reason, I was nervous. I was the one who **made the first move**, messaging her first on Tinder. It was something like, "I haven't seen you around before," because it is a small community after all (both the Otterbein community and the lesbian community). The first date was at her house. I think she was more **skeptical** than I was—she kept asking if I was an axe murderer. But she was really funny, and I had a great time. It's almost been a year. At Christmas this year, when she came home with me, I remember looking at her and thinking, "Yeah, I could do this for the **rest of our lives**." So, I asked her to marry me. It's the **best decision I've ever made**, and I'll make it every day over again.



