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Only the
Family:
Overcoming a loss

Abbie Scholz pushes through the season as she deals with her brother's death.

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Special thanks to

The Scholz family

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Wise Words

From the Editor

Four years equals 1,460 days. That seems like a long time – until you're in college and it flies by. As I finish my fourth and final year at Otterbein, I've been taking the time to reflect back on the last few years. I have had countless amazing experiences. I have had my fair share of unbelievable adventures. I have made friends and connections that I know will last a lifetime.

But, my senior year has been a little different than most. Read about how I'm preparing to graduate, start my career and marry the love of my life on page 10. And as I reflect back and share one of my milestones, take a minute to discover how some other Cardinals are reflecting on their own experiences in college.

On page 6, read about some of our student athletes looking back on their most memorable moments with their teams. Or flip to page 12 to hear about how a class taken in a prison is causing students to reflect on their own lives as well as on their view of the prisoners.

Turn to page 14 to find out how Otterbein residents are regrettably reflecting on past roommates, or page 26 for a glimpse into the theater department and its opportunities.

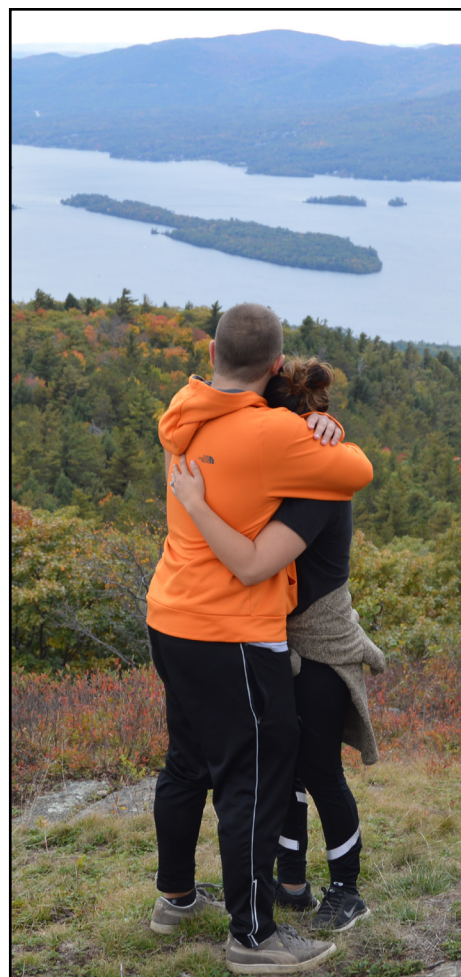
And don't forget to learn about how Abbie Scholz, a key player on the women's basketball team, is reflecting back on the loss of her brother but also looking forward to making him proud in our cover story on page 16.

Join us for a journey of reflection, and remember—even if you are going through something challenging, whether you realize it or not, you too are making memories you'll always carry with you.

Happy reading!

Sara Anloague
Editor-in-Chief

*Sara
anloague*



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Where in the World

By Abby Studebaker

Photos by Lance Kriesch

Family photo provided by Sasha Neverov

The senior recital marks the culmination of years of discipline, late-night practices and mastering instruments for most music performance majors. As Sasha Neverov stood after her final number at the piano, she smiled and accepted the many bouquets of flowers offered to her. The audience of friends and family who had come out to support her cheered wildly.

Neverov grew up in Galena, Ohio, with her three younger brothers, but their household was a little different than most.

“My parents don’t speak English to each other,” said Neverov. “My parents made me read, write and speak Russian growing up, and

my grandma—English wasn’t allowed in her house.”

Neverov’s parents immigrated from the Soviet Union—the area that is now Uzbekistan—to the United States when they were about 19 years old. They had grown up in the same city, and when her dad moved to the U.S., her mom followed a year later to marry him.

“That’s nuts,” said Neverov. “They were like 19 years old. How do you leave your country at 19?”

Neverov’s childhood was like that of many U.S. children, but there were some differences. Growing up she went to a Russian school with other Russian children, including her cousins.

They learned to read and write Russian as well as other aspects of Russian culture, like music. When she started going to an American school, her dad would come home after work and speak English here and there to help her learn. Neverov didn’t know how to speak English until kindergarten, and she spent a lot of time with her family and other Russian families in the area.

Neverov’s mother taught her how to make traditional Russian meals, including a Ukrainian dumpling called manti, Neverov’s favorite. These little dough balls are stuffed with meat, potatoes and onions and steamed. Russian cooking and music always filled their home when she was young.

Neverov also says her parents were more



Neverov comes from a close-knit family that embraces both Russian and American cultures.

strict than typical American parents.

"It's kind of funny because it's very different, like they grew up with nothing basically," said Neverov. "I remember growing up, my dad would be like 'We had to walk to school in the snow, get on the city bus and then go an hour to school,' and like 'You have a bus that comes up to your house, and you want me to drive you to school?'"

Sleepovers were another part of U.S. culture

one of our family gatherings, they'd be like 'What the hell is this life?'" said Neverov. "It's so different, and it's so cool. But I don't feel separate."

Both of her parents went to college in Russia, her dad for violin performance and her mom for nursing. Her dad now owns a dental lab, but his love for music set Neverov on the path to her piano performance major, and he has always been supportive of her music career.

Being away at college has made it tough for Neverov to keep up with speaking Russian and even with practicing Russian customs that were everyday occurrences in her home.

"I don't want to lose it," said Neverov. "I don't want to forget the language. I don't want to forget the culture or customs or anything because I want to pass it on down [for] generations, so that's very important. It goes away really fast."

Luckily there is a fairly substantial Russian community in Columbus that always gets together, and her family is only 20 minutes away. Being a part of two cultures can be tough, but Neverov likes getting to mold to two different worlds and feeling at home in both of them.

“My parents made me read, write and speak Russian growing up, and my grandma—English wasn’t allowed in her house.”

—Sasha Neverov

that was foreign to their Russian household. Neverov's dad would say "You have a bed, in your own home, why are you going to go sleep at someone else's house?"

"The stereotypes are real, I'm not kidding," said Neverov.

From vodka to moustaches to practically every male member of her family playing hockey, these little differences between American and Russian cultures mean that Neverov gets the best of two very different worlds.

"If I brought some of my friends over to

"I remember I sat down at the piano and he was like 'Oh that's it, you know, she's going to play the piano for the rest of her life,'" joked Neverov.

Now, as graduation approaches, there's nothing she loves better than playing the piano. After graduation, Neverov wants to take a year off and then go to graduate school before traveling, performing or teaching. She's never been to Russia, but she wants to.

"I still have family there; my whole mom's side is there," said Neverov. "I would love to [go], that'd be really awesome."



Neverov is a piano performance major and will graduate in Spring 2019.

Beyond the locker room with Otterbein athletes

By Alexandria McComb
Photos provided by athletes



Alex Schaffer has been playing basketball since she was 2 years old.

Alex Schaffer

Junior / Basketball

I've played a lot of sports, but the one closest to my heart was basketball. I got my first hoop when I was 2 years old, and I haven't stopped playing since. Deciding to continue my basketball career was one of my biggest milestones, just above scoring 1,000 points and being named a member of both the all-conference and all-state teams in high school. I didn't know what to expect when I arrived at Otterbein. All I knew was that I loved basketball.

Preseason conditioning was difficult. My body was not made for a 200-meter sprint. I was also the only member of the team who lived in Hanby Hall, which made me feel disconnected. But with every conditioning session, open gym and practice, I felt myself immerse into the team culture more and more.

During my entire freshman season, I sat in the last seat on the bench. Even though I wasn't playing, I fell in love with the game all over again. I learned how to be a part of a team without being an on-court contributor on game days. The experience was humbling.

I became a better person. I learned that success is not always represented through numbers. Success is always believing in your work. Success is working hard every day for the sole purpose of loving the game.



Austin Torr, number 95, plays on Otterbein's defensive line.

Austin Torr

Sophomore / Football

The most memorable game of the season was the last home game of the year against Marietta College.

We were on a roll and had just beaten Heidelberg University and Ohio Northern University. The defensive line was a close-knit group. In my opinion, we had just gotten our best win of the year.

The moments after the game were bittersweet because it was the last time we would ever play for Coach Huddleston. He was the graduate assistant for the defensive line. He taught us so much about being a good athlete and person.

It was tough talking to the seniors after the game and realizing that it was the last time I would ever play by their sides. Taking the picture of the defensive line was emotional. We were laughing and making jokes, but it was also sad realizing that we would never get to play with that exact team again.

I'm happy we ended the season on a positive note, and it gives us a goal to work toward for next season.

Being a student athlete is said to be one of the hardest things a college student can do. Balancing school work, going to practice, participating in group projects, being involved in extracurricular activities and having a social life can prove to be a difficult task to handle. Despite all of the factors that make being an athlete difficult, students continue to play their sports. Athletes find comfort in their teammates and form a family of support. Teams go through good times and bad times, but often they unite when needed. T&C magazine asked four athletes to reflect on their most memorable athletic experiences at Otterbein University.



Maddie Flasco and her family have endured a challenging year.

Maddie Flasco

Senior / Softball

My biggest challenge came during the spring semester of my junior year, when I found out that my father was diagnosed with leukemia. I didn't know what to do or how to handle it.

His treatment plan was aggressive. He had to stay in the hospital for a month, which was the hardest month of my life. I made the 90-minute drive to Copley, Ohio, to see him between classes, practices and games. It was emotionally draining, but I can happily say that he is recovering.

Just as my family and I were adjusting to our new normal, my mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The next day my brother was involved in a head-on car crash, miraculously, stepping away with only cuts and bruises. We waited weeks for my mother's surgery that would determine if the disease had spread. Luckily, it was extremely successful. She recovered, and was healthy enough to attend the team's 2018 spring break trip to Tucson, Arizona.

My family has been through a lot of struggles this past year, but my team was always there for me. I've known them for a short time, but that did not stop any of them from helping my family and me. I'm very lucky to be a part of this team and thankful for the constant reminder that softball is more than just a game.



Tyler Wharton (second from left) gained confidence from joining the tennis team.

Tyler Wharton

Junior / Tennis

The thought of being a college athlete was intimidating, and I wasn't sure if I could ever be one. My hard work and determination resulted in more than I had ever hoped for. Not only did I make the tennis team, but I was in the starting lineup.

I was a shy, introverted freshman, but within the first month of being a part of the team, I began to grow out of my shell. When I was a freshman, there were four seniors on the team who pushed me to be myself. They were friends and mentors I could look up to.

During my sophomore year, I was voted captain. In less than a year, I went from an introvert to the person that was responsible for holding my team together.

Tennis gave me the confidence boost that I needed. I did things that I never thought I would do and tried things I never thought I would try, like becoming an orientation leader.

I'm a leader on the tennis team, and now I want to push and serve my teammates like those seniors did for me. I have made countless memories that will stick with me for the rest of my life. I can't wait to see how much I grow during the rest of my time at Otterbein.

What college kids don't know about politics

By Gillian Janicki
Photos by Lance Kriesch

Every time I log onto Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat I'm reminded that there is something wild going on with the politics in our country. There's always something new developing. Maybe today I get a notification from CNN that the government is shut down again, or maybe I'll read about another school shooting on Facebook. Maybe today someone will retweet a picture of the dying Great Barrier Reef onto my timeline. Everything that's going on right now has me thinking, "We can do so much more." As young people, and especially as students, our voices matter.

Our generation will be the one to deal with the consequences of decisions made by politicians today. As millennials, we are the largest generation in United States history. We are part of the most racially diverse generation America has ever had, with 44 percent of millennials being non-white, according to Brookings Institution. These statistics show the huge impact that millennials can have on everything from the economy to elections. We can do more to shape the social agenda for young people by being passionate about the issues that are important to us.

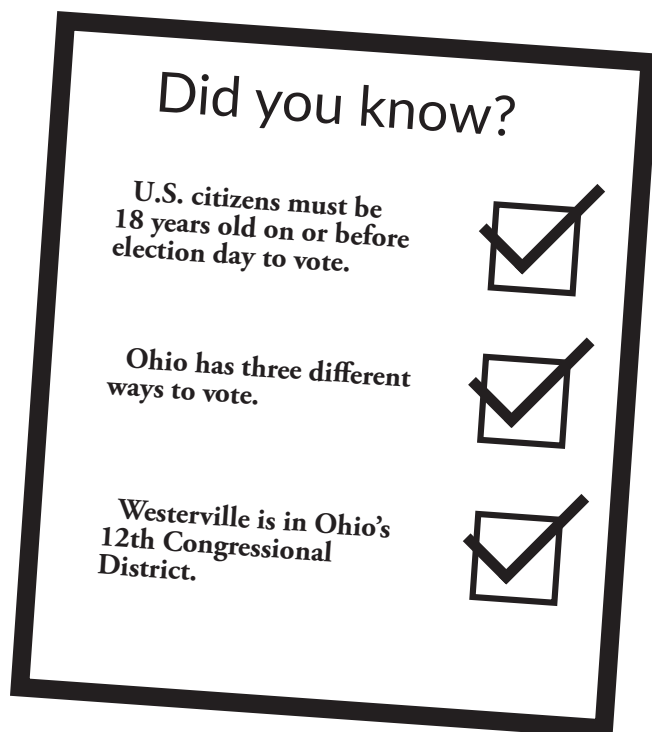
I know so many people who say, "I don't like politics, so I'm just not going to get involved or talk about it." The truth is that young people are the drivers of social progress and change. No one can address our issues as well as we can and with an upcoming election in Ohio's 12th Congressional District, now is our time to vote for someone who listens. Our former representative Patrick Tiberi, a

Republican, announced that he would resign effective January 15. This is the first time the U.S. House of Representatives seat is vacant since 2000, which creates the need for a special election to replace him. This special election will take place on Aug. 7, 2018, and the winner will fill the seat until the general election on Nov. 6, 2018. Twenty candidates are planning on running for the seat as of Feb. 26, 2018. This includes eight Democrats, 12 Republicans, one independent and one member of the Green Party. The Green Party is the fourth largest party in the United States and promotes an environmentally sustainable society.

A Democratic candidate hasn't won in our district since 1980, so if the trend continues, it seems likely that a Republican will win. Let's do Westerville a favor and make an educated decision based on what we really want from a representative. If you're not already registered to vote, get registered. See who aligns with your values most and vote for them. Don't just vote for someone because you feel like you have to.

Right now we don't have any programs other than Otterbein University Student Government for involvement in politics on campus, but

there are still ways to get involved no matter what party you choose to affiliate with. There is the Franklin County Young Democrats, the Cap City Young Republicans and the Franklin County Green Party. Gov. John Kasich gave his final State of the State speech on March 6, in the Fritzsche Theatre at Otterbein University. Events like this are great for students to attend to make their voices heard.





Gillian Janicki is sophomore public relations major with a minor in political science.

Frequently Asked Questions

How exactly do I register to vote?

Registering to vote in Ohio is a pretty easy process. You can register to vote through the county board of elections in person, by mail or online at <https://olvr.sos.state.oh.us>. You can also register at your local Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). You'll need to provide an Ohio driver's license or ID, address and the last four digits of your social security number. In order to vote in Ohio elections you must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years old on or before Election Day. You also have to be an Ohio resident for at least 30 days before the election date.

If I don't live in Franklin County, do I really have to go all the way home to vote?

Unfortunately, yes. However, Ohio has three different ways to vote. First, we have in-person early voting which means you'll be casting your ballot in person before Election Day. Early voting starts on April 10 and takes place at your specific polling location weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This could be a good chance to vote if you won't have time to go home on Election Day. Secondly, you can apply for a special absentee ballot and then mail it to your local election office. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is usually the Saturday before an election. Finally, you can choose to vote in person on Election Day. You'll have to go home and vote between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

How can I request an absentee ballot?

You can fill out the absentee ballot request form online at <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/publications/#abr>. Once you've filled everything out you can print it, sign your name and mail it to your board of elections. Once you get your ballot in the mail you can choose who you want to vote for. Then, you just mail it back to your county board of elections. The only tricky part is to make sure it's postmarked no later than the day before the election.

Where do I vote if I'm voting in person?

If you vote at the polls, you'll need to go to a specific polling location based on where you live. You can look it up online or call your local election office.

When do I vote?

This year is a little different because there will be three elections instead of two. Ohio's congressional and general primary elections will both take place on May 8, 2018. There will be a special congressional general election on Aug. 7, 2018. The Ohio general election will be held on Nov. 6, 2018.

What's the difference between a primary and a general election?

A primary election is used by political parties to nominate candidates to run for the general election. Primary elections have party members run against each other to gain the nomination. So, this means that Republicans run against other Republicans and Democrats run against other Democrats. In the primary

election, you can only vote for one party's candidate. The general election is where you'll make your final decision. Usually you'll vote between the individuals who were nominated by their party in the primary election.

Do I have to declare a party in order to vote in the primary election?

In Ohio, we have a modified closed primary election. This means that we don't declare a party when we register to vote. You can choose whatever ballot you want to affiliate with on Election Day.

Why am I voting in a special election?

Westerville is in Ohio's 12th Congressional District. This district includes Delaware, Licking and Morrow counties with portions of Franklin, Marion, Muskingum and Richland counties. Our former representative, Patrick Tiberi, a Republican, announced that he would resign effective January 15 which creates a need for a special election to replace him. This is the first time the U.S. House seat representing our district will be open since 2000.

How can I find out about candidates running for office?

Twenty candidates are planning on running for the seat as of Feb. 26, 2018. The internet is a great tool to use to find out information about candidates, and by using trusted sources, you can see who aligns with your values most. Then, you can make an educated vote based on what you want from a representative.

Saying *yes* to the *stress*

By Sara Anloague

Photos provided by Sara Anloague



Jacob proposed at the top of Buck Mountain, in Lake George, New York.

Oct. 9, 2016: My heart is pounding. Sweat is pouring. I'm breathless and speechless.

I'd just hiked miles up one of the most challenging mountains in Lake George, New York, with one of the best views. But that's not why my heart was pounding and I was breathless. The real reason was because my best friend was kneeling in front of me asking me to marry him.

"Yes! Oh my God, yes," I said, ugly-crying, as dozens of random hikers watched my proposal at the peak.

This moment was my dream come true. Even at 21 years old, I am more than ready to spend my life with someone who makes me feel endlessly happy and loved. I have been with my fiancé, Jacob, since I was 13 years old and in junior high school. It's been eight incredible years.

Some people have judged us hard-core for

being so young and taking this big step. But as long as we have support from our families and friends, we truthfully don't care what anyone else thinks. Focusing on us and our happiness has been a key to success in our relationship, and that is something I'm trying to keep in mind as I plan for my big day.

Planning a wedding can bring major stress by itself, but try planning a wedding while finishing your last year of undergraduate school, completing your internship and looking for a full-time career for after graduation – all while trying to keep up with your relationships, student organizations, eating, sleeping and working out.

I prioritize working out over other important things. Every day, Jacob and I go to F45 Training, the HIIT (high intensity interval training) studio that my dad owns, to burn as many calories and gain as much muscle as we can. Jacob loses 10 pounds in two weeks, and you can see his abs coming in. I do the same work out, and I lose one pound in two weeks and still have unwanted flab. Even though

working out is how I relieve stress, results get frustrating when I constantly compare myself to others. I just want to make sure I fit into my size-four wedding dress and don't have five chins in my wedding pictures.

Luckily, because my dad owns the studio, the membership is one less thing we have to pay for. We live on our own and pay all of our bills, which isn't that tough until you need thousands of dollars to pay for your wedding. As we check things off the list – venue, dress, cake, food, alcohol, DJ, flowers, linens, photography and much more – our savings drain and the price tag on our big day multiplies. We are even being smart and savvy with our budget, but I'm still a broke college student striving for my dream wedding.

However, through all of the stress of wedding planning, graduating, career searching, losing weight and budgeting, I still remind myself what it's all about. It's about being happy for the rest of my life with the one my soul loves. Seven months and counting, and I get to do just that.



Sara and Jacob are tying the knot on Sept. 22, 2018.



Sara tried on more than 25 dresses before she found the one.

Making the rounds with Lyft driver Nate Bell

By Josh Plichta
Photos by Lance Kriesch



Bell's busiest times include Ohio State University football games, concerts and Thursday through Saturday nights.

Begrudgingly, someone calls the Uber—turns out it's a Lyft, no big deal. Everyone stumbles into the car, someone needs to sit up in the front. It's packed and there are five people in Nate Bell's 2007 Honda Civic. The friend riding shotgun pops the question, "So, how long you been driving for Lyft?" And that's where the story begins.

Nate Bell, a senior music major with concentrations in music theory and composition, has been driving for Lyft since September 2017. The former church music intern and Markey's Rental and Staging employee could not take the structure and rigid hours, so he decided to make his own.

"I am definitely someone who does not lead a very structured life," joked Bell. "The flexibility was really key."

Due to the strange hours of music rehearsals and band practices, Bell wanted something in which he could choose his hours and not be tied down by a schedule. Not only is the work flexible, but it's not labor-intensive, which he appreciates.

The self-proclaimed Lyft rookie has given somewhere between 75 and 100 rides, what he said was chump change in the world of ride-sharing drivers. Although still green, Bell has found quite the side job as he pursues his degree in music.

Even as a rookie, Bell quickly realized that it is not simply just about driving passengers. In order to maximize both the rider experience, and in turn potential tips, drivers often do their best to judge each passenger. Are they talkative or quiet, do they want the extra effort or simply want a ride? For Bell, the extra mile is obvious.

"Being a good driver is not just taking someone from point A to point B, but there is also an art behind it," said Bell. "Some people like to be talked to and some people don't."

The art that he is mastering during every ride has gotten him to an impressive 4.82 stars out of 5, a rating he humbly said is on the higher

side of the scale. He not only judges people's moods and adjusts for each rider, but he keeps his car ready for anything and pampers his passengers.

"I always have air fresheners in my car. I always keep complimentary water bottles in the side pockets, and I always end up having some Clorox wipes and some hand sanitizer," said Bell. "Keeping a clean car is pretty key. As obvious as it sounds, there are quite a few people who don't do a very good job of it."

As for optimal ride-time, Bell said that he usually works Thursdays through Saturdays, especially at night. Bell easily turns on his Lyft driver's app and clocks in around 7 or 8 p.m. This is when the traffic starts to pick up with potential customers looking to head downtown for Thursday-night specials or Saturday-night fun.

"Typically, I'll take Lyft or Uber when I'm going out with friends on the weekends," said Jess Fannin, a sophomore psychology major from Lexington, Ohio. "It's a great way to have fun and stay safe."

Typically, Bell starts in the suburbs and works his way downtown, progressively getting closer to the urban scene. Once there, his routine varies. Sometimes he will stay clocked in and make short trips around the city, although he said that is not ideal. Because of the stop-and-go nature of downtown



Bell enjoys keeping people safe and allowing them to have fun while he works.

Columbus and the pedestrians, it is difficult to drive, avoid walkers and worry about dropping riders off in unfamiliar locations. Due to this hassle, Bell will sometimes make his way to the airport for rides or head back out to the suburbs looking for people heading downtown.

On some occasions, when Bell knows a late night is ahead of him, he will find a place to park, hang out, grab some dinner or take a nap and wait until midnight to start accepting rides again. This freedom to choose his schedule and pick the times he wants to work is precisely why he chose Lyft for a job.

This freedom led to a spontaneous trip to Cincinnati the day before Christmas Eve. Citing this experience as his most absurd story yet, Bell received a notification that someone needed a ride from Polaris—without much thought he accepted the driving responsibility. Almost as soon as he accepted the ride, he got a call from the requesting passenger asking if he was willing to drive her all the way to Cincinnati. Bell was surprised, but figured why not; the two-hour, 121-mile-long drive was something he accepted with excitement.

"I didn't know she needed to be taken to Cincinnati until she actually called me," said Bell. "But I was like, 'Why not? Let's do this.'"

Bell ended up taking the rider all the way down to her house in Cincinnati and is actually glad he did.

"Not only was it crazy for the sheer distance factor," said Bell. "But it was probably one of the most intriguing and engaging conversations I've had with a passenger."

He said they talked about everything from relationships to life. This kind of story is what Bell has learned to enjoy the most about driving for Lyft. Rather than looking at the job as a simple, part-time endeavor, Bell takes in every part of the job.

"You get to talk with people that come from all different walks of life, all different races, all different beliefs," said Bell. "I consider it not just a job, but also a fun exercise in the human experience."

Behind bars: Writing alongside inmates

By Kaytlyn Rowen
Photos by Kaytlyn Rowen

We hand the officer our IDs and write our name and reason for being here on the list. With only two pieces of ripped-out notebook paper and a pencil, I walk through the security scanner, hoping I don't set it off.

With a deep sigh of relief, I grab my ID and visitor tag and join the rest of my group. We enter Marion Correctional Institution, in Marion, Ohio, through a closed gate where we are told to look into a camera and place our ID on a scanner. The gate shuts—our only door to the outside world.

As we are led through a long winding corridor by the warden, my heart starts racing.

I keep my eyes focused straight ahead, glimpsing at those who are eating in the dining hall in my peripheral vision as we pass.

We pass hallways of cells and I hear men's voices lingering on the brick walls.

We enter the room, a simple concrete-walled rectangle room with one door and a large window out front.

Immediately three of the men come and shake our hands, introducing themselves. The others are pulling out chairs and putting them in a circle.

As we sit down, one of them brings over a large case of water and starts passing them around, asking if he can get us coffee or tea as well. The extreme care and comfort in the men's eyes give me comfort, and immediately I can't wait to hear what they have to share with us.

A new lesson

A year ago, Otterbein students' walls of Towers were exchanged for the walls of Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville, Ohio, for the first time. Professor Shannon Lakanen, English department chair, began conversing with Piper Kerman, author of "Orange is the New Black," when she heard about a memoir

class Kerman was teaching at the reformatory.

Two years before, Kerman decided to move her family to Columbus to teach in prisons. Kerman first got involved with Marion Correctional Institution when she was invited to speak at a TEDx talk held at the prison.

After her experience at the talk, Kerman reached out to schools such as Ohio State University and Otterbein University to see if any faculty in the area were interested in being a part of her project.

Kerman wanted a male figure to teach alongside her in order to better relate to the students she, as a woman, would not be able to. Christopher Greathouse, a Denison University graduate, just happened to be the perfect candidate for Kerman's request.

When Lakanen heard about Kerman's class in the spring, she reached out to see if there was any possibility of involving Otterbein students in her class. Kerman was thrilled about the idea and Lakanen prepared a couple of her current students to visit the reformatory.

“People bear the label of their conviction, which comes from their community or demographics and preconceptions are placed on them by mass media.”

—Piper Kerman

Lakanen was given the prompt and reading assignment for the class period and prepared with her students to visit the prison for the first time.

“It was an amazing experience, so almost immediately we started talking about how to keep this going,” said Lakanen.

Following, Lakanen set up a meeting with

Kerman and Greathouse to talk about their next opportunity to combine Otterbein courses with the course Kerman was teaching in the prison. Lakanen and Kerman created parallel syllabi in order to ensure all the students were responding to the same prompts.

Lakanen's Memoir Writing in Prisons course took place in fall semester 2017 as well as spring semester 2018. Every other week the students travel to Marion Correctional Institution, an all-male prison, or Ohio Reformatory for Women.

The maximum class size is 10 students because Otterbein can only offer a limited amount of transportation. However, this semester the class size has reached 12 because one faculty member and an Otterbein alumni taking the course are able to drive themselves.

Connecting stories

The memoir assignment for the day is to write about a time a weakness was turned into a strength. Two students from each class are chosen to read their writings.

Kaitlyn Bader, an Otterbein freshman literary studies major, is nervous to share her story but is comforted by the connections she has made during the past few weeks of class. It has become apparent to her how much each of the students at the prison wants to be there and how much work they put into the class.

Bader feels comfortable talking with the women from the reformatory and knows that they really care about what each student has to say. Bader's comfort allowed her to share a difficult piece about when she had hip surgery and the rehab and pain she went through. It was one of the biggest struggles she has ever had.

After she was done reading, she heard a huge round of applause, a tradition the class has after someone finishes reading.

The amount of positive feedback she got from Kerman, her own classmates and the women sitting next to her gave her an overwhelming sense of achievement.

Kerman's unbelievably kind and optimistic feedback shows students how brave they are to share their work and teaches them to keep writing.

Towards the end of the class, one of the women across the circle addressed Bader and said, "Honey, you're walking. You're beautiful."

It took all she had for Bader to hide her tears.

Bader's heartwarming experience inside the prison made it hard for her to leave at the end of the class.

"I think people forget that they are people," said Mackenzie Siebert, a junior sociology and public relations major with a criminology minor.

This experience has shown that these students are much more than whatever crime they committed. They are working hard to better themselves and connect with their visiting Otterbein peers.

The vision

Kerman, an official, unpaid employee of Otterbein, is volunteering her time and experience to teach in local prisons. Kerman hopes to get programs like this started, find faculty to take them over and move on to

developing the next one.

"I think it is important for people who are incarcerated to tell their own story," said Kerman. "People bear the label of their conviction, which comes from their community or demographics and preconceptions are placed on them by mass media."

Most of the incarcerated students are not traditional-aged college students, but all of them have their general education diploma (GED), and some of them have a college degree.

The incarcerated students are submitted to a selection process where they are asked to write a paper on a variety of topics in order to become selected to enter Kerman's course. Once they have completed the course, they gain two credits from Otterbein.

Students in the course are asked to read a series of short essays and write a memoir of their own from a specified prompt. The class allows each individual student to tap into what makes their experience unique and how it defines them.

"On the surface, a lot of times, there's a good amount of differences between the experiences of the two groups of students," said Lakanen. "But what we've seen is how much similarity there really is."

Kerman's ability to connect to each student individually and as a group is unmistakable. She has become a mentor for the students, teaching that everyone has potential and

everyone can be a writer.

Each Otterbein student wears a nametag when they enter the prison, and the incarcerated students wear one that says "inmate." Kerman's ability to facilitate positive and powerful conversation shows that it doesn't matter what your nametag says because everyone has the potential to do something with their life.

The next step

The impact of this course transforms not only the students on Otterbein's campus but also the incarcerated students who are able to interact and learn with the students. Because of the impact of this course, Lakanen is determined to work with Kerman to get the program to continue through Otterbein's campus.

Next semester Lakanen will be offering Memoir Writing in Prisons again and a history class will be following a similar structure. Lakanen is working to find faculty to help expand and continue this project for Kerman in following years.

The hope is that students from all majors will be able to experience this class structure and be able to interact with the incarcerated students. Similarly, Otterbein hopes to offer more opportunities for incarcerated students to learn a variety of disciplines such as history and science.



Piper Kerman co-teaches Memoir Writing in Prisons at Otterbein.

How do you feel about the differences between "Orange is the New Black" the show and the memoir? What is your level of involvement with the show?

I am mainly just a consultant for the show to ask questions, and I read the scripts before each season. I think they have done a really great job with the show. A series has to have the ability to come up with new stuff season after season and they've done a really good job of adapting it. The show relies on external conflict while the book allows you to experience the internal conflict within the characters. That's the main difference.

What are your aspirations for the future of the program?

I hope that someone, whether it's me or another professor, can keep teaching these students. I hope that more professors and topics are introduced to the students to allow them to learn multiple disciplines like history, science and English. It is important to get a practical application of higher education and to also take creativity classes.

What led to your passion to begin teaching in prisons?

I think it is important for people who are incarcerated to tell their own story. Narratives and stories are important because they create the ability to think critically about what happened in the past and develop a new story. People bear the label of their conviction which comes from their community or demographics, and preconceptions are placed on them by mass media.

Roommate **horror** stories: Im^perfec^t matches

By Audra Chaffin
Photos by Lance Kriesch

Imagine being forced to sleep in your dorm's lounge and being woken up by the sound of the fire alarm. After this, you're told by your roommate that you're still not allowed in your room and you have to go back to the lounge to sleep for the rest of the night. As outrageous as this might seem, it happened to a student on campus during his first year at Otterbein. Jacob Stayner, a senior health communication major, said this was possibly the worst roommate experience he's had, though he has had quite his share.

Stayner was a transfer student at the beginning of his sophomore year, and he was going to be receiving a random roommate for his first semester. Wanting to get to know more about his roommate and the expectations for the upcoming semester, Stayner tried to get in contact with his new roommate in numerous ways.

"I emailed him all throughout the summer," said Stayner. "He gave me his phone number, so I texted him. I also messaged him on social media, and he never answered back on anything until about four or five days before move-in day."

One night, his roommate told him that he wanted to bring a girl over to the room. Due to his laid-back personality and the fact that he was going to be staying in a friend's room for a bit of the night, Stayner told his roommate that it was OK. The roommate told Stayner that the girl he was bringing over

should be gone by around 1 or 2 a.m. but asked him to text when he was about to head back to their room. At 2:30 a.m., as he was walking back, Stayner texted his roommate, believing he was in the clear, but he got no response. Confused, but not wanting to walk in on anything, Stayner decided the safest bet would be to wait for a text in his dorm hall's lounge, where he fell asleep at around 3 a.m.

When Stayner woke up at nearly 4:30 a.m., it was to the sound of the fire alarm, and everyone began evacuating the building. Stayner thought he would finally get to go to his own bed to rest. But his roommate told him he needed to wait another 15 or 20 minutes. He did not give an explanation as to why, but Stayner did not want to fight about it. So he made his way back to the floor lounge and slept the rest of the night there.

Tracy Benner, Otterbein's director of residence life, has been working in the department for almost 18 years. She spoke on some of the policies and statistics about roommate conflicts. She said that ideally, students will talk amongst themselves and solve their issues on their own, but if they need further guidance or intervention, they should reach out to their RA. This RA will go through the roommate agreement that was made and assist in discussion between the two parties. Most issues are settled at this level, but the hall director would be the next person involved. In the rare occurrence that the situation is not solved by this point, Benner herself or an assistant director of residence life will step in.

Benner recalled that RAs typically have to deal with roommate issues weekly at the beginning of the semester, but these decrease as the year goes on. Crises that call for a roommate switch mid-semester rarely happen, maybe once a year. The Otterbein Police Department (OPD) is involved less than once a year.

Joe Rigsby, a senior and former

RA, spoke about conflict-management techniques that RAs are trained to use when disagreements arise. One of the major techniques that Rigsby and Benner both mentioned was having the students use "I" phrases instead of "you" phrases, so the parties are speaking of their concerns, and not verbally attacking each other.

Gabriella Donofrio, a sophomore marketing major, was one of the rare exceptions that Benner discussed in which the police had to become involved in the situation. Donofrio began her late October night by putting on

“Bad roommates, but good people.
—Jacob Stayner”

"When the fire alarm went off, I did tell my resident assistant (RA) because I was very sleepy and very frustrated," said Stayner.

The RA informed him that his roommate was not allowed to have girls in their room after 2 a.m. and that if he went back to the room and she was still there, the RA could make her leave. But Stayner fell asleep again in the lounge before he could take the matter any further. Stayner admitted that he never received an apology for this night's ordeal and the roommate acted like it never happened.

her purple jacket and heading out to dinner with her friends at House of Japan. But, just as she thought the night was winding down, she came back to her room to be yelled at by her roommate about a rumor that had supposedly been spread. This frenzy grew, and soon all of her suitemates were turning against her and harassing her.

Donofrio took the problem to her RA, but she never heard back and decided to try a different route. She went to her hall director, who assisted in getting the students moved and helped the process along, but the conflict did not end there. Donofrio's now ex-roommate tried to sneak into her room, at

which point she went straight to Benner. As this issue continued to boil, the ex-roommate and the rest of the suitemates began to bully Donofrio through a group chat, and she was forced to reach out to OPD, which led to a telecommunication harassment charge. This is basically a restraining order that keeps the offending party from reaching the victim through any form of technology.

Stayner and Donofrio did get something positive from their rough situations: they each learned a bit more about themselves and their preferences. Stayner realized that people can be "bad roommates but good people" and vice versa, which has made him a more

understanding roommate to others. Donofrio used to enjoy being able to lean on others, but she is now learning to be more independent, and she has grown happier.

Though Stayner and Donofrio learned very different lessons from their experiences, they had one major theme in common: you never know what you're going to get when you get a random roommate.

If you are experiencing a situation similar to Stayner or Donofrio, you can reach out to your RA or go to the Student Affairs Office located behind Hanby Hall.



Jacob Stayner (top left) and Gabriella Donofrio (top right) both had to seek help for roommate issues.

Only the *Fami* Ov

By Bethany Eippert
Photos by Lance Kriesch
Family photos provided by the Scholz family

When Abbie Scholz got a call from an unknown number and only recognized the Cincinnati area code, the Otterbein basketball player was sitting in her dorm room on a cold, quiet night over winter break. She didn't think anything of it, letting it go to voicemail. The number immediately called again. A nurse introduced herself when Abbie answered, saying it was urgent and that she needed to speak with her mother. The nurse was unable to give Abbie any details about the unexpected call, and she was immediately consumed with worry and confusion.

Without realizing it in the moment, Abbie was the first family member contacted after the death of her older brother, Wolfgang, on Dec. 14, 2017.

Abbie is a sophomore athletic training major and a key member of the Otterbein Women's Basketball team. When she got the

phone call, she was in the middle of the season preparing for a big game that Saturday against Muskingum University.

Still unaware of what was going on, she soon received a call from her younger brother, Charles, who, struggling to speak through his tears, finally told her that their brother was gone. He said that the nurse just contacted their mom, and they were on their way to the hospital and unable to contact the rest of the family members right then. Abbie tried to stay strong. Her family was preparing to celebrate her sister's birthday the next day, but now she was on the phone informing her sister and father that they had lost Wolfgang.

"Wolfgang would have wanted me to carry on and set a good example for my younger siblings," said Abbie.

Next, Abbie called Connie Richardson, head coach of Otterbein's Women's Basketball team. Without hesitation, Richardson drove Abbie to the hospital near her home in Cincinnati

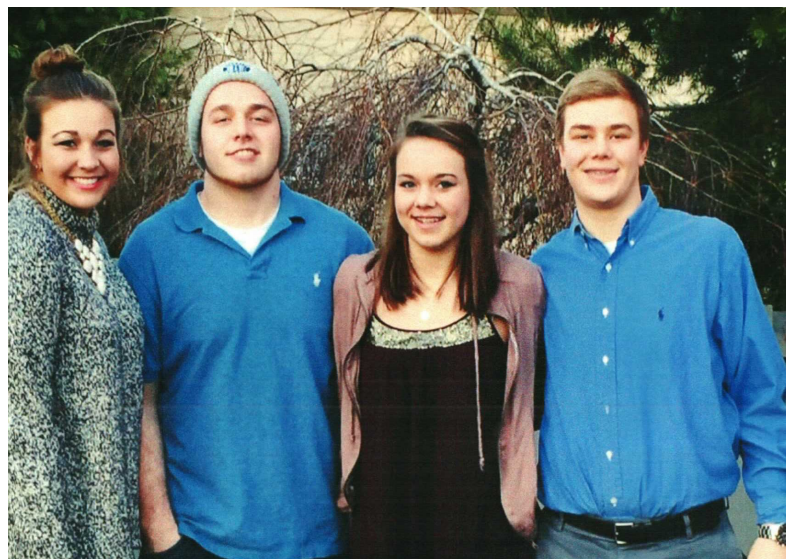
so she could be with her family. Arriving past midnight, Abbie was sobbing with emotion.

Abbie is the second oldest out of five siblings. Her older brother, Wolfgang 'Wolf' J. A. Scholz III, was only 13 months older and a year ahead of her in school. They were naturally good friends growing up and bonded over the mishaps they got into together. Abbie fondly shared some of her childhood memories. Wolfgang playfully nicknamed her Gail, short for Abigail, and eventually "Gailbert."

She showed off some of the scars she got with Wolfgang during their adventures, including a time when they were catching caterpillars and Wolfgang used a shovel to get the caterpillars out of a tree. Wolfgang accidentally dropped the shovel and cracked Abbie's head open. He made her promise not to tell their mom as he quickly got them back to their house. After explaining what happened to their parents, Wolfgang went



Abbie takes the opening tip for the women's basketball team.



The four oldest Scholz siblings: Abbie, Wolfgang, Allison and Charles.

ly: ercoming a loss

to see how Abbie was doing and to apologize. When she asked him if he got in trouble, he said, “Well yeah, but I’m just happy that you’re OK.”

Two weeks after her brother’s death, she returned to Otterbein to be there for her teammates in the upcoming games. They understood when she occasionally needed to take a moment alone during practice. The team got her a beautiful gift basket, provided moral support and did everything they could to help her through her loss; but, the best gift they gave her was a rapid return to normalcy within the team.

“He would have wanted me to continue playing basketball because he was always proud that I stuck with the sport in college,” said Abbie. “I looked around at my siblings and realized it’s up to me now. Wolfgang will always be my big brother, but he’s no longer the role model.”

Abbie has various ways of honoring Wolfgang while coping with her grief. She now writes in a journal, has pictures of him on her desk and reads poetry and books. She has become more involved with her religion and prays often. Wolfgang had coined the term “OTF,” which stands for “Only The Family,” and he used it in a way that brought all five siblings together regardless of their differences.

“Wolfgang always wanted to get a tattoo, and he drew the one he was going to get that said ‘Only The Family’ in big letters,” said Abbie. “He was going to have all of us sign our names around the letters. He never ended up getting it, and after it happened I immediately knew I had to get it for him.”



Abbie finished fourth in the OAC, averaging eight rebounds per game as a sophomore.

Now Abbie wears a necklace with his death date on it and got the “OTF” tattoo with his middle initials as a permanent reminder. All the siblings have made a commitment to get a matching tattoo with this acronym when they are old enough.

Lisa DeWeese, her current roommate, has been with Abbie through the difficult time.

“She’s an extremely positive, happy person who is laughing constantly,” said DeWeese. “She might hide her feelings to stay optimistic, but she also knows it’s important to let them go sometimes and talk about him.”

Basketball has always been a big part of Abbie’s life, and she has developed a new routine to honor her brother’s memory before every game.

Abbie, number four on the court, will silently say the Hail Mary and a prayer to God and Wolfgang asking them to look over her and give her strength during the game.

They seemed to be listening as the Cardinals went on a winning streak heading into the home stretch of their season. Abbie was among the league leaders in rebounds per game in the Ohio Athletic Conference, averaging eight rebounds per game.

Many Otterbein students may be grieving after suffering through difficult situations similar to Abbie’s. Otterbein offers a variety of services for students struggling with loss.

The Otterbein Counseling Center, located

at 146 W. Home St., provides counseling for all students to help work through any level of grief. Students can walk in and make an appointment or schedule a time online.

“When we do hear of a student who lost someone, we reach out to the student to help them in any way,” said Julie Saker, associate dean of students and director of student conduct and wellness.

New Life, a support group on campus, was formed last year by Otterbein student Sydney Peters, who still copes with losing her mother to cancer when she was 10. When a young man from her area took his life after his father died, she realized she wanted to provide this group to students to help them cope with loss.

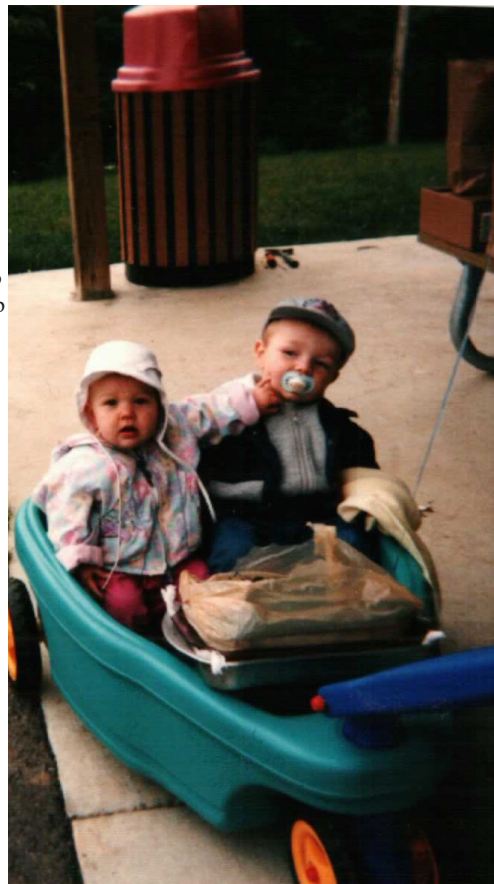
“New Life is a safe environment that enables students to

connect with people that have experienced similar circumstances in their lives so that they do not feel alone in what they’re going through,” said Peters. “It is an opportunity for students to take something tragic and turn it into a positive light and realize how it has changed them.”

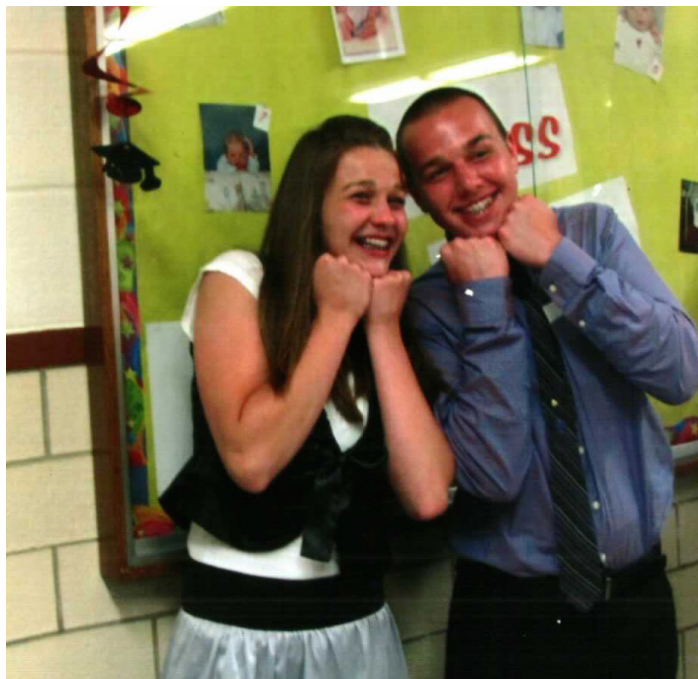
Peters welcomes all those who are upset about something that has happened in their lives to the support group. For more information on New Life, contact Peters via email at sydney.peters@otterbein.edu.

Abbie continues to work towards her personal athletic and academic success. On the 14th of every month she reads a letter Wolfgang wrote to her in September 2017,

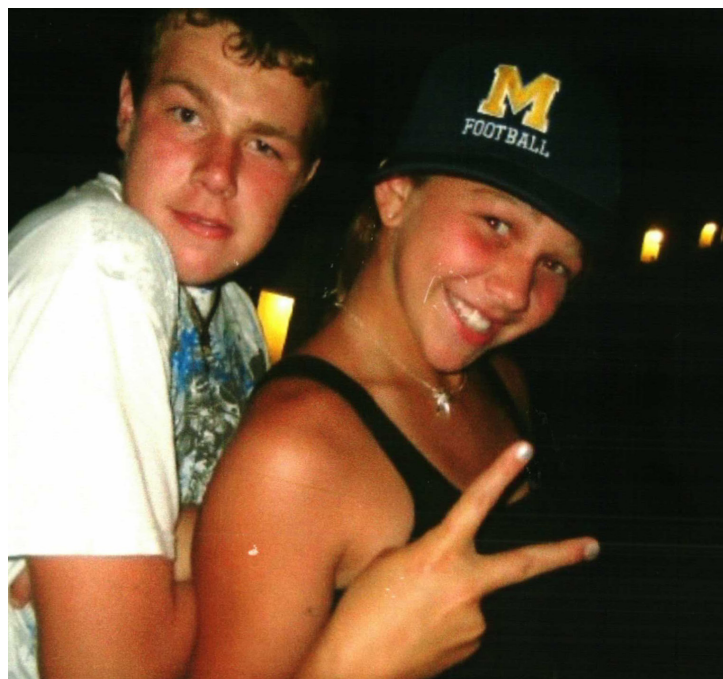
three months before his death. Abbie is empowered by her brother’s words: “You desire to do big things, Gail. You will most likely be the most successful out of all five of us if you keep that mindset right and leave your mark! I love you with everything I got girl I just want you to prove what I said right.”



Abbie and Wolfgang were only 13 months apart and did everything together as children.



Abbie and Wolfgang smile at his eighth grade graduation from St. Peter and Paul Academy in Reading, Ohio.



Abbie sports a Moeller High School hat, where Wolfgang played football and won two state championships.



Fashion

on a college budget

By Jasmine Caldwell and Samantha Stacy
Photos by Lance Kriesch

Many college students are looking to update their wardrobe while sticking to a budget. Designer brand clothes are not exactly budget-friendly when having to worry about purchasing textbooks.

Staying trendy without breaking the bank might seem impossible, but it's not! One option for students to update their closet is to look for that one special piece that can be worn in multiple ways, and that one piece doesn't have to be expensive.

Shopping at thrift stores, consignment shops or discounted stores like T.J. Maxx can help you achieve the looks that you want for much less. All of the items that we've included are budget-friendly and under \$30 each.

A mid-length leopard print coat, which has been all the rage the past year, makes a fun, playful, but stylish statement. You'll been seen from miles away.

You might think you look like you have disco balls attached to your feet, but sparkly shoes can make you shine in the best way possible.

Bandanas, one of the most versatile fashion accessories, aren't just reserved for cowboys. When tied around the straps of a bag or through the belt loops of your jeans, they add something special without being too much.

Mules are a comfy and stylish slide alternative. Many designer brands like Gucci and Prada have their own cult versions, but instead of dishing out hundreds of dollars to achieve this effortless footwear look, cheaper alternatives are available.

All of these looks have different variations and can be customized to everyone's unique personal styles.



Bandana: \$2.99
(Buffalo Exchange)



Bandana

A multi-use piece that you can tie around your neck, bag or pull through your belt loops.

Daytime

Tied around the neck with a plain white t-shirt and a black denim jacket is an easy daytime outfit.

Nighttime

Swap the black denim jacket for a black leather jacket, and the bandana quickly goes from day to night.

Sparkly shoes

A recent, fun trend, sparkly shoes can be worn effortlessly with a variety of outfits.

Daytime

Worn with a plain white tank top, a distressed denim jacket and black skinny jeans keeps the outfit minimal and the focus on the shoes.

Nighttime

Switch the distressed denim jacket to a cropped, black leather jacket to make the look more night-ready.



Sparkly shoes: \$19.99
(Buffalo Exchange)



Leopard print coat

This bold printed piece is something that will definitely turn heads while still keeping you warm.

Daytime

Putting this piece with a plain black turtleneck and an indigo pair of basic skinnies helps mellow out the coat. Adding the fun pair of velvet, blush Vans (another fun trend) makes the outfit more fun and fresh without adding too much.

Nighttime

Converting the coat into an evening look isn't hard. Black ripped jeans and black leather oxfords makes the look more nighttime appropriate.

Leopard print coat: \$27.99
(Buffalo Exchange)

Mules

Mules have been a hot trend for almost two seasons. They're quick, easy to style and comfortable.

Daytime

Paired with a wide-legged option, the mules are highlighted while still being daytime appropriate. Adding a basic t-shirt and a comfy cardigan help keep the outfit classy, warm and not overdone.

Nighttime

Taking the same pair of mules, adding a more distressed black skinny jean, a black turtleneck and a black denim jacket with burgundy fur detailing completes the mules for a more nighttime look.

Mules: \$8.00
(T.J.Maxx)

Secret lives of

Otterbein faculty

By Abby Studebaker and Samantha Stacy
Photos provided by faculty



Denise Shively (left) with the Japanese synchronized swimming team manager at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.



Denise Shively (far right) at the FINA World Championships in Kazan, Russia, celebrating medaling of Christina Jones and Bill May in the mixed duet event.

A fun opportunity turned into an aquatic endeavor for Denise Shively, chair of the communication department and senior instructor at Otterbein University. She assumes many roles in the American synchronized swimming community.

Shively has been the team manager for several national synchronized swimming teams, including the 2008 United States Olympic synchronized swimming team, and currently serves as national judge for meets among other roles.

Early in her synchronized swimming venture, she coached her daughter's synchronized swimming team and went to a seminar at the United States Aquatic Sports convention in 2001 about managing the national team.

"I thought maybe this was something I could do in the future, and I just tucked it away," said Shively.

For Shively, that future came a lot faster than she originally thought. As a result of attending the seminar, she was then asked to serve as the

team manager for the Junior National Team and National Team Two. She decided to take advantage of it and took on the new position.

Working with groups of athletes from both teams led to more team managing opportunities for Shively. The team manager does almost everything for a team except coach. This includes things like travel arrangements and handling the media.

"My background in communication and public relations really helped me in the role," said Shively.

The 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, were an unforgettable experience for Shively when she traveled with the national team.

Shively said that the Olympics was of gigantic proportions. The Olympics are so structured and planned that it can be overlooked while traveling place to place with the synchronized swimming team.

The opening ceremonies in particular were emotional for her and all who represented the

United States.

"It was so powerful that we were all in tears because we were so proud to be there," said Shively. "I still get goosebumps."

Managing the team at the Olympics allowed Shively to meet people from all over the world.

She hopes to continue to be involved in synchronized swimming and that the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles will bring more attention to the sport.

Shively said that when the Olympic Games come to the United States, the low-profile sports get more attention from the media and Olympic viewers.

And her advice to students?

"[When] somebody knocks on your door and you think there's an interesting opportunity, open that door wider and find out what it's all about," said Shively.

We all know our professors from class, the people who lecture about *chemistry*, *math* or *communication*. But what are those teachers like outside of the classroom? What do they do for fun, other than grade papers and tests? Turns out some professors at Otterbein have secret lives students could never guess. Come along as we explore the favorite pastimes of Otterbein faculty.



Pete Sanderson has hosted Petefest in his backyard for almost 20 years.

Many professors at Otterbein have dabbled in brewing beer, but Pete Sanderson has more experience than most. He's been brewing since 1992 and has 227 batches of beer under his belt.

Sanderson retired from Otterbein in Spring 2017 after 16 years at the university. He taught computer science, but he has loved brewing beer in his spare time since he finished graduate school in Pittsburgh and moved to Springfield, Missouri.

"Pittsburgh had pretty good beer; Springfield did not," said Sanderson. "But I found out that there was a homebrew supply shop in the neighborhood—in the neighborhood meaning 10 miles out of town—and I thought you know, I can probably make better beer than I can buy."

Sanderson's log book is filled with every batch he has ever brewed, from his first, an amber Märzen, to his most recent, a mango wheat lager for Super Bowl Sunday. He brews about nine times a year, sometimes multiple batches at once. A batch is typically five gallons, or about 48 bottles, and takes a couple weeks to ferment after being brewed.

Brewing is a hobby for Sanderson, not something he's ever wanted to make money from. He likes to share his brews with friends and has held a big homebrew tasting party in his backyard every year for almost 20 years called Petefest.

Dean Johnston, chair of the chemistry department at Otterbein, has also been an avid brewer for the past 22 years.

"It's fun. It's a bit of a challenge to try and it's a little bit like cooking, you're usually following some sort of a recipe," said Johnston. "In some ways it's not all that different from some kinds of chemistry."

Johnston said the biggest concern is contamination of any batches and making sure everything is clean and sterile.

"My wife is not a fan of beer, but her training is in sterile technique in biology and cell culture, and my training is in chemistry," said Johnston. "So we're over-qualified in terms of keeping things clean."

Johnston's advice for new brewers is to not be intimidated because there is always someone around willing to help.



Kim Fischer backpacked at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Outdoor extraordinaire Kim Fischer takes backpacking and hiking to new heights. Fischer is an associate professor in the department of health and sports sciences. She has backpacked all over the country including the West on the John Muir Trail in California and has hiked the Grand Canyon 18 times.

Fischer gets a freeing feeling while being in the outdoors and enjoys every piece of nature she sees. She has seen beautiful lakes and other exquisite sights of nature on the many trails she has traveled.

"I just love being outdoors," said Fischer. "I'd much rather be outdoors than be cooped up in a building or an office."

The reward for her is seeing the pristine lakes with no sign of human activity.

Viewing the mountains of Colorado and the Alpine Lakes on the John Muir Trail in person is something that is an irreplaceable experience for Fischer.

The reason she decided to backpack is

because there were so many sights she wanted to see in the world that only backpacking would allow her to see.

Fischer points out that Hocking Hills State Park in Logan, Ohio, is beautiful, but it doesn't compare to hiking along the trails out west.

However, hiking and backpacking are not easy. Fischer says that the John Muir Trail, although beautiful, was difficult at times.

It is an extremely long trail, about 211 miles long, so Fischer questioned herself many times along the trail.

Fischer was diagnosed with cancer and finished chemotherapy in December 2017, so she's been slowly getting back into hiking and exercising. She encourages this same advice for people who want to start hiking.

"It's by little bits, that's what I've learned," said Fischer. "In re-training myself, I've realized how it's just small steps."



Michael Yonchak performed at a show at Woodlands Tavern in September 2016.

Dr. Michael Yonchak teaches band, percussion and popular music at Otterbein University and also happens to be a member of more than four bands in central Ohio. These four bands include an indie rock band called “Sunrise Reset,” a country-western cover band called “Acoustic Edge,” the Flamenco Company of Columbus and the Redbird Faculty Jazz Combo at Otterbein.

“[Those groups have me] playing everything from a restaurant to a street fair to working with the Columbus symphony,” said Yonchak. “I don’t think there’s a venue I haven’t played.”

Yonchak plays percussion—mostly drum set in the variety of bands he’s in. But all the bands Yonchak is involved in don’t take up an equal amount of time on his calendar. There are different periods during the year where one band would have more rehearsal time than the other depending on what performances they have coming up.

“Those rehearsals go in spurts, but when they hit, it dominates your whole world,” said Yonchak.

There is a magic to performing live in front of an audience. He says you prepare and rehearse as much as you can, but something can still go wrong.

“You just learn to adapt,” said Yonchak. “That might be why I keep doing it—because I like that thrill of danger.”

Although the idea of performing live can be scary, there is an art to it. The environment of the performance has a drastic effect on the energy of the performers. Yonchak especially notices this when he’s performing on stage.

He prefers to have living, breathing people around him, not only on stage performing with him but in the audience to give him energy. He feeds on energy from the audience and also from his fellow band members.

Yonchak appreciates that he is able to apply what he has studied and trained to do in music to the bands he plays in. Not many musicians are able to have opportunities to have paying “gigs” as they call them. Being a musician is not a steady job, but Yonchak has found a way to make it one.



Erin Baumann recently decided to try a belly dancing class.

“I want to be one of them.”

Those were Erin Baumann’s first thoughts when she auditioned for the dance minor at Otterbein and saw all the beautiful dancers she’d be working with.

Baumann graduated from Otterbein in 2009 and is now an assistant professor of allied health. She started dancing almost as soon as she could walk and continues to dance today.

Growing up, Baumann became more serious about dancing and tried ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop and modern, although her favorite was tap because it came easily to her and allowed her to make a lot of noise.

Baumann says that Otterbein’s department of theatre and dance offered her an opportunity to grow that was missing in her family-run studio back home in Cleveland, Ohio. The program opened her eyes to what dance could be. Her two favorite dance memories were dancing a tap number to “Singing in the Rain,” a song her grandmother loves, at her senior dance recital in high school and being part of the dance concert her junior year at Otterbein where she performed “The Time Warp” from the movie “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.”

Baumann loves that dance allows her to express herself through movement, create art with her body and relieve stress.

“I think this is part of the physical therapist in me, but I love analyzing movement in general, and so I really enjoy using my body to produce different shapes or different sounds,” said Baumann. “I feel like I can almost be outside of my body and just hear it and feel it, and you just feel so much better afterwards; it’s almost like therapy.”

Baumann now works at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and teaches allied health at Otterbein. With her busy schedule it’s hard to make time for dance, but she still manages to incorporate it into her routine.

“I like to treat dancers, so I’ll live vicariously through them as they’re prepping for competition or a recital,” said Baumann.

She also tries to take different dance classes at studios in the area. Baumann just started a belly dancing class with one of her friends in Grandview, Ohio. It’s her first time belly dancing, but she’s excited to try this new style of dance.

She and her husband are planning a trip to Spain in May, and before they go, she would like to learn how to flamenco, a traditional Spanish dance style. Incorporating dance into little parts of her life through travel, classes or just dancing around in the kitchen is something she plans to continue doing.



Joan Esson and her 4-way team have to make different formations in the air while plummeting toward the earth.



Joan Esson practices at Start Skydiving in Middletown, Ohio.

When Otterbein professor Joan Esson isn't teaching chemistry, you might be able to find her jumping out of an airplane.

Esson first became interested in skydiving 20 years ago when she was dating a man who was a skydiver, and he asked her to come along and watch him jump. After watching him and others do it, she decided she was ready to try.

The first jump was nerve-racking, and Esson said that if she hadn't been physically attached to the instructor she might not have gotten out of the plane.

"As soon as the door opened, I just started freaking out, and I was like 'No I can't do this, I can't do this,'" said Esson. "But my then-boyfriend jumped out right in front of me, and I was like 'Well gosh darn it if he can do it, I'm going to do it.'"

As soon as Esson jumped, she fell in love with the feelings of freedom and peace she experienced. She's been skydiving ever since that day and has grown more involved in the competitive side of the sport.

There are different types of competitive skydiving. Esson and her team compete in the freefall portion, where they have a certain amount of time to make a number of different

shapes in the air.

Esson has met a lot of great people through skydiving that she might not have met otherwise. She used to be on an all-women team, which is unusual because only 14 percent of all skydivers are women. She loves that skydivers come from all walks of life and there is a supportive community.

"I get antsy when I don't jump in a while," said Esson. "In skydiving, you're so stuck in the moment that everything else goes away."

One of the biggest misconceptions Esson had at first, and that many people have, is that skydiving is unsafe.

"Everyone thinks it's a high-risk sport," said Esson, "but comparatively to downhill skiing or even driving a car it's a safer risk when you look at the statistics."

Still, Esson recommends only going to drop zones that are certified by the United States Parachute Association (USPA) because they enforce certain safety standards.

It's been about two years since Esson's last skydiving competition, but she and her team are currently gearing up for the 2018 USPA Skydiving National Championships, which will take place in September 2018 in Rochelle, Illinois.

BUILDING A BRIDGE TO BROADWAY

By Lillian van Wyngaarden

Photos provided by Kaylee Barrett and Steven Meeker Jr.

The living room of an old country house sits center stage; so does the lawn, the study, the bedroom and the kitchen. The whole house is center stage as the audience roams from room to room as if in a museum, peering into the hidden lives of the characters in each room. “Fefu and Her Friends” is an immersive play with different scenarios unfolding simultaneously throughout the theater in the various rooms, but eight hours earlier these very same scenes were being rehearsed for the first time over coffee mugs, scribbled scripts and playful banter.

Kaylee Barrett, a senior BFA, Bachelor of Fine Arts, acting major, roams the now-empty house at the end of the night, the conversations and energy of the characters lingering in each room. She helped cast and stage the show for this evening alongside

her boss, Kate Lumpkin of Kate Lumpkin Casting, and could not help but reflect on the past eight hours of craziness. The power of the show and passion of the performers settled on Barrett as she made her way to the train station and home to Hamilton Heights, tears forming in her eyes. At this moment, amongst the night rattle of the train and images of the play stained in her mind, she felt she was right where she was supposed to be.

“This is what I want to do,” said Barrett. “It’s art. Making art that really means something and doing it because it’s important in the world, not because you’re going to make a million dollars off it. It feels right.”

The feeling of comfort within the New York theater world is one Barrett has experienced multiple times already during her time at her internship with Kate Lumpkin Casting. Getting the internship, however, took Barrett stepping outside of her comfort zone with the

help of the Otterbein Department of Theatre and Dance’s internship program.

Otterbein’s Department of Theatre and Dance started its professional internship program in 1983 under Charles, or Chuck, Dodrill, the founding chair of the department of theatre and dance. The internship program is founded on the idea that all students should have opportunities to go and integrate into the professional world outside of the safe, cozy space of Westerville.

According to Christina Kirk, the current chair of the department, the internship program was revolutionary for the time Dodrill created it. She notes that not many schools were sending their theater students on internships in 1983, making Otterbein stand out from the beginning as a bridge to the professional world.

The bridge to the professional world for



Steven Meeker teaching a mime class during his time at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.



The senior theater majors on internship grab a slice with Otterbein faculty.

theater students at Otterbein starts in class. All BFA design and technology majors and BFA performance majors are required to have an internship as part of their core curriculum. Any BA, or Bachelor of Arts, majors have the option of taking the internship class. This is because BFA entails a more specific career path than BA majors, who are open to a wider variety of studies.

Mark Mineart and Thomas Warren, both professors within the department with extensive backgrounds in the theater industry, teach the current internship class for performance majors. TJ Gerckens, associate chair and professor within the department, teaches the internship class for design and technology majors. Professors for the internship class prepare students on how to craft résumés, cover letters, personal websites and reels while also bringing a direct line of connections from the theater industry in New York and other cities. While students are responsible for locating and pursuing their own internships, the line of connections aids the students in their search.

Lili Froehlich, a BFA musical theatre alumna who graduated in 2013, used the connections she was able to make at Otterbein to land her an internship dancing alongside choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler, who has choreographed for musicals such as “Hamilton.” Blankenbuehler was on a long list

of dream choreographers Froehlich hoped to work with, and when she heard that he would love to have an intern through a director she had worked with before, she could not have been more thrilled. Through the internship, Froehlich was able to dance, watch and take notes on the magic that took place behind the curtain on Broadway.

“My favorite part was watching him

It’s art. Making art that really means something and doing it because it’s important in the world, not because you’re going to make a million dollars off it. It feels right.

—Kaylee Barrett

[Blankenbuehler] work and create,” said Froehlich. “He is quite literally brilliant. I will never forget the way he deeply broods and intensely thinks about his choreography.”

Froehlich notes that the experience acted as a direct pipeline leading her to every job she has had thus far. Blankenbuehler offered her a personal assistant position with him after her internship and soon after provided her with her first post-graduation performing job in the ensemble for the national tour of “Joseph

and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” This led her to the position of dance captain in the Broadway revival of “Cats.” She currently acts as dance captain and female swing, a performer whose job is to play multiple roles in the acting ensemble of a show, for the Philip Company national tour of “Hamilton.”

“This career is filled with no’s, heartbreak and constant uncertainty,” said Froehlich. “But every time I have a first rehearsal, run-through...or open a new show, I feel extremely thankful and know I made the right choice pursuing musical theater.”

Steven Meeker Jr., a BFA acting alumnus who graduated in 2017, used this line of connections as well to land an internship with Michael Cassara, also an Otterbein BFA musical theater alumnus, at Michael Cassara Casting where they ultimately began to shape their degree for a different path in writing. Much like Cassara, who uses his degree in the casting field, Meeker works as a National Theater Institute apprentice at the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center, as well as working on an independent writing residency there. Meeker also acts as the resident artist at the Access Theater in New York City. Meeker notes the connection they made with Cassara opened their eyes to the idea of taking their degree a different route.

“The internship is the single most important

thing your senior year,” said Meeker. “It’s where you learn about people and make connections. It taught me more about theater in 10 weeks than I could’ve [learned] in any other capacity.”

Barrett’s internship with Kate Lumpkin Casting also came through connections as Professor Warren personally knew Lumpkin. However, before landing the interview with Lumpkin, Barrett previously applied to five different internships. When the phone rang with a New York number, Barrett felt a wave of nerves. It was Lumpkin offering her first internship position to Barrett who snatched up the internship with the new and upcoming casting office.

After landing the internship, Barrett was able to get a taste for the theater industry through her normal day-to-day, which was actually not so normal. Unlike most office jobs that operate 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Barrett is on-call at all hours, meaning Lumpkin calls her in as she needs her...which is often. While she is usually called in around 9 a.m., she will not leave until anywhere from 7 to 11 p.m. Her work varies between setting up paperwork and tables for auditioners, answering questions, coffee and lunch runs and sometimes even getting to sit in on auditions and experience the other side of the table, a foreign feeling for most Otterbein students on internships.

“[Sitting in on the auditions is] super helpful for me because not only do I get a sense for what it feels like on the other side of the table, I can also see what they want from performers, so I know what to bring into my own auditions,” said Barrett.

In the midst of New York City craziness, from the terrors of the subway to people belting their favorite songs in the middle of the street, Barrett notes the importance of a positive attitude and work environment when it comes to working within the theater industry. She says that Kate Lumpkin Casting has shown her the importance of leading with kindness.

“You have to try and be as positive as you can,” said Barrett. “In an industry that can be so negative and based on looks, it can feel very personal when you keep getting told ‘no’ in auditions. You have to try to find the humor and kindness in it all.”

The internship program gives students these opportunities to nurture and build connections, while also allowing students to learn and unveil the realities of the industry, both positive and negative. According to Kirk, it is the single thing in the department that “ensures a student goes out and starts their career.”

The industry continues to morph and change as programs become increasingly competitive, but the department of theatre and dance continues to build upon its internship program to offer Otterbein students the push they need to relocate in a city and launch their careers.



Lauren DiMario, a senior on internship in New York City, and Kaylee Barrett explore the city.



A reading of “At the Barre” during Meeker’s independent writing residency at the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center.



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Lifelong Learners

By Jasmine Caldwell

Photos by Madi O'Neill and Lance Kriesch

Joanne Stichweh walked into Otterbein's Art and Communication building last fall just like every other student in Dr. Janice Glowski's class. She took her seat in the back left corner of the classroom, placed her notebook and pen on the desk and was ready to learn more about art history.

But that's where the similarities between her and most of the other students in the class stop.

Stichweh is 72 years old, not officially enrolled at the university and isn't graded in the class.

She is here because she wants to continue her own learning journey along with four other women in the class. The Senior College program at Otterbein allows people over the age of 60 to take classes for free.

"They bring life experience, which helps [the class] see and interpret things differently," said Glowski. "They bring a greater historical knowledge. Sometimes they will remember it themselves. They bring a kind of curiosity to learn and explore without some pressure around how will this get them a good grade."

All of Ohio's state universities allow residents 60 years old or older to attend classes for free. Private institutions, such as Baldwin Wallace University and Marietta College, have started similar programs as well.

"Senior citizens have been taking classes for a long time," said Stichweh, who was also a professor at Otterbein for 31 years before retiring from the art department in 2009. "During the 30 years that I taught here, I almost always had senior citizens, one or two, sitting in on a class."

According to Otterbein's Office of the Registrar, 21 senior citizens registered for a class during Spring 2018.

Stichweh taught nearly every class in the department, including art history and studio classes. Since retiring, she has continued to take classes in the field that she loves most.

She has taken five classes through the Senior College program at Otterbein and continues to take as many as she can.

The senior citizens may take one course per semester and the course must be lecture-based. The participation level is up to the instructor as the seniors do not receive credit or a transcript for taking the courses.

Sharon Carlson, is a senior citizen who has been taking classes for many years.

"I have always been interested in art and

recognized that I know nothing," said Carlson, 75, who was a professor in the Otterbein nursing department before retiring. "I have always been immersed in the science field also just as a personal interest."

Carlson retired from Otterbein after 32 years in 2011. She was teaching when the first nursing class graduated in 1980.

Carolyn Forbes, one of the seniors in the program, heard about the classes through Carlson and Gail Hacker, who were sitting in on one of Glowski's classes.

"I said 'I would love to do that,' so I sat in on a class last year and this year and am really enjoying them," said Forbes.



Janice Glowski has been teaching at Otterbein for the past four years.



Sharon Carlson was once a professor in the nursing department.



Joanne Stichweh is now taking classes that she once taught herself.

Originally from Maryland, Forbes, 74, took many art and oil painting classes when she was younger. Her passion for music and art started early on.

"Sometimes in life we have to do what is practical, and I ended up doing several other things," said Forbes, who married a West Point cadet, received her life teaching credentials for grades K-8 and taught for several years. She also worked in social work and management.

When Forbes retired, she decided that she wanted to dedicate more of her time to the arts. This program allows her to achieve that goal.

"We do the homework and the reading, but not anything that she [Glowski] has to grade," said Stichweh.

Having already gone through college once, the women are all able to sit back and learn about art and culture in Glowski's class like they never have before.

Senior citizen students in Glowski's class do not have to worry about grades or taking

any of the quizzes or exams, as the classes are participation-based for them. Otherwise the women participate just as any other student would, offering their own ideas and thoughts to the class discussions.

"I think that maybe the students like us after a while," said Carlson. "They realize that we have a sense of humor, we have a perspective. I love having access to hearing what they think, too."

“They bring life experience, which helps [the class] see and interpret things differently.”
—Janice Glowski

Being able to take classes is an amazing opportunity, but the women are also able to appreciate things about Otterbein's campus that not many students do.

"The size of the campus is wonderful because you can walk around, enjoy the campus and see all of these wonderful exhibits," said Forbes.

Glowski is in charge of all of the art exhibits on campus, so they know when the exhibits change and can view them at their convenience. The women all intend to take another course next semester and many more after that.

These classes are not only helping form and teach undergraduate students but also seniors citizens as they continue their lifelong learning.

"I think it's pretty cool because as an adult student you can bring a different perspective of class discussions with your life experiences that you've had," said Jamie Gleich, who is an adult student herself and previously worked in the registrar's office.

Being able to sit in on classes and practice continuous learning "is truly a gift," said Forbes.

Taking classes every semester that they can, the senior women are able to learn about topics that they were not able to before. They also are able to interact more with people that they would not be able to otherwise.

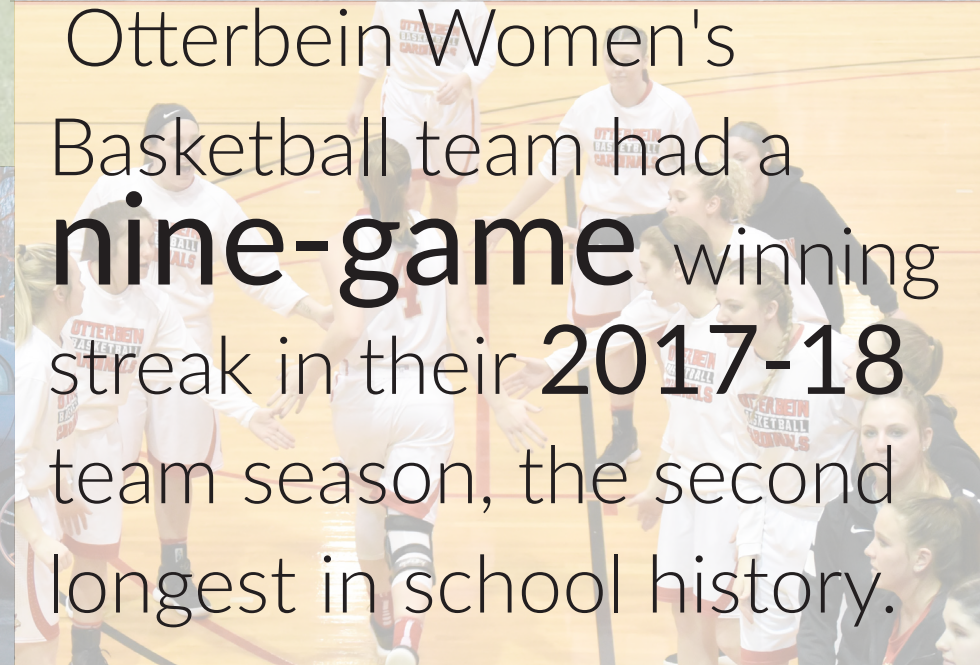
By the Numbers



Only **14** percent of skydivers are women.



The average cost of a wedding in the United States is more than **\$35,000.**




Otterbein Women's Basketball team had a **nine-game** winning streak in their **2017-18** team season, the second longest in school history.



When giving rides, **70** percent of the price tag goes to the Lyft driver.



There are **27** prisons in Ohio: **24** male and **3** female.



Synchronized swimming became an official Olympic sport in **1984.**