

Otterbein University

Digital Commons @ Otterbein

T&C Magazine

Current Otterbein Journals

Spring 2022

T & C Magazine Issue 25 - Spring 2022

T&C Media

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/tcmagazine>



Part of the [Nonfiction Commons](#)



T & C

Tan & Cardinal Magazine

25 Issues

The Final Chapter

Otterbein, Then and Now | Cultural Exchange | Otterbein Survival Guide

Issue 25: Nostalgia

Editorial Staff

Editor-In-Chief

Julia Grimm

Art Director

Jordyn Mary

Staff Writers

Ayan Abdi

Ambar Alveo Perez

Isabelle Fisher

Hayden Garrett

Jordan Hamzee

Bridget Oder

Eric Terranova

Cover photo by

Jordyn Mary

Printing services by

WestCamp

Policies

The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the faculty and administration of Otterbein University.

Tan & Cardinal is a student publication. One hundred percent of the production, editing and design is done by the students.

The first copy of Tan & Cardinal is free to the public. Each additional copy is \$3, and payment can be made at the office at 33 Collegeview Road, Westerville, OH 43081. Offenders will be prosecuted.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Twenty-five issues of “Tan & Cardinal” magazine; that is a milestone to celebrate! In this issue, we take a moment to pause and reflect on all this publication and its staff have accomplished over the past nine years, including the relationships it has built and the voice it has given to the campus community (see more on page 16).

Given my time with the magazine over the last three years, I can relate to past staff about the relationships I have been able to build (that story begins on page 16). Both the magazine class instructor, Emma Henterly, and my friend and current art director, Jordyn Mary, were there from the beginning. We actually all started working on the magazine the same semester.

In three years, we have made memories, including that one production night where Jordyn and I stayed at the communication building until 3 a.m. We also managed to continue to produce a magazine while surviving a global pandemic. And Jordyn and I have made a lot of BIBIBOP and McDonald's runs.

But at the heart of it all, “T&C” magazine has been about telling Otterbein stories. This issue, we talked to students on campus who are also parents on page 7. We highlight Otterbein's commuters on page 6, our international

students and the culture shock they experience coming to a new country on page 26, and tips from our older students and staff on how to succeed in college on page 28.

But, nothing lasts forever, and “T&C” magazine is no exception.

The voice of student media on campus is evolving. No longer is Otterbein student media confined to one medium to tell stories. Currently, T&C is a multimedia news organization with a website, live sports team, radio station and magazine. In the fall of 2022, the magazine will no longer be an official part of this organization. This change allows students to focus their efforts on multimedia storytelling styles through online news and video. (See more on page 23)

While I am sad to see the change, I know that the magazine has continued a legacy of student storytelling at Otterbein that spans well over 100 years, and that T&C media will continue that legacy.

Here's to more storytelling.

JULIA GRIMM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In this Issue

- 4 NOSTALGIA: THE PAINFUL HAPPINESS
by Ambar Alveo Perez '22
- 6 THE RISE OF THE COMMUTER
by Jordan Hamzee '23
- 7 DOUBLE DUTY
by Hayden Garrett '24
- 8 DYNAMIC DUO IN THE KITCHEN
by Isabelle Fisher '23
- 10 ABOUT FACE
by Bridget Oder '23 and Eric Terranova '23
- 12 OTTERBEIN, THEN AND NOW
by Hayden Garrett '24
- 14 SPOTLIGHT ON OTTERBEIN'S
FOUNDING FATHERS
by Ayan Abdi '24
- 16 "TAN & CARDINAL" MAGAZINE
by Julia Grimm '22 and Jordyn Mary '22
- 24 DEAR ME
compiled by Isabelle Fisher '23 and Jordan Hamzee '23
- 26 CULTURAL EXCHANGE
by Ambar Alveo Perez '22
- 28 OTTERBEIN SURVIVAL GUIDE
by Ayan Abdi '24 and Hayden Garrett '24
- 30 EXCUSE ME!
compiled by Isabelle Fisher '23



This page and on the cover: Past issues of "Tan & Cardinal" Magazine



Nostalgia: The Painful Happiness

By Ambar Alveo Perez '22

What is that longing for a warm homemade dinner, childhood games or teenage laughter called? What is that feeling that takes over a person when they recognize their first love's perfume 10 years later, in a different city... in what feels like a different life?

This is the emotion humans call nostalgia. It is a peculiar feeling, an overwhelming mix of sadness and melancholy with a constant underlying tone of happiness.

Noam Shpancer and Robert Kraft, both faculty from the psychology department at Otterbein University, offer their professional take on nostalgia, which is defined by Kraft as "a longing for a happy time in the past or affection for the past."

The word nostalgia was used for the first time in 1688 by Johannes Hofer, a Swiss physician. The word "nostalgia" comes from the Greek *nóstos*, which means "return" and *algos*, meaning "pain." So, why do humans enjoy returning to experience this pain?

Kraft says there's nothing wrong with going back in one's memory and reliving happy times. He uses music as an

example. "A lot of us like to listen to songs that we heard when we were in older childhood or early adolescence, maybe five or 10 years ago for a lot of students," says Kraft. "There's nothing wrong with that. We get a feeling of comfort; the music is beautiful, and part of the reason we're listening to it is because it brings back the first few times we heard that music, which is healthy."

David Ludden, who holds a doctorate in cognitive psychology, wrote in an article for "Psychology Today" about a study conducted by University of Southern California psychologist David Newman. One of the outcomes was that "people felt more nostalgic when they were with family and friends or when they were eating than they did when they were at work or school," suggesting there might be an explanation for why people feel nostalgia in particular settings.

However, the amount of time dedicated to reminiscing about "the good old times" can be crucial in considering whether or not nostalgia is healthy. "If the experience lingers intensely over weeks and months, then we're probably not looking at nostalgia per se," says Shpancer, "but at something else, like avoidance of the present, and

we may want to inquire as to the reasons for that.”

Now the question is, can people control such a complicated state of mind? Kraft says human beings have a lot of control over their thoughts and, to some extent, their emotions. Therefore, people can choose to engage in nostalgia, especially in specific settings.

“To some extent, you can put yourself in a nostalgic mindset by focusing on the past or looking at artifacts or pictures or people from your past,” says Shpancer. “And you can snap out of nostalgia by distracting yourself or shifting your attention to pressing current matters. But nostalgia, like other emotional experiences, can easily sneak up on you, or show up unexpectedly.”

For example, during finals week, a student might be struggling with a certain course, so they decide to go to their favorite coffee shop to study in an environment that makes them feel good. However, that longing for a time in the past when they were doing great in school starts to kick in. The student may think it’s not the most appropriate time to start feeling nostalgia, but do they have a choice?

Both Kraft and Shpancer agree that people should simply feel the nostalgia, as long as they aren’t spending too much time reflecting on the past. “Your best bet is

to accept what you feel, but not let the emotion dictate your decision-making,” says Shpancer. “Let yourself feel the longing for your childhood, but don’t try to be a child again.”

Nostalgia can boost one’s mood and act as a motivator. “It makes us feel better about ourselves because we know that we have this past that supported us,” says Kraft.

Nostalgia can also be seen as a bonding factor between members of a community.

“Everybody experiences nostalgia, across ages and cultures,” says Shpancer. “It strengthens social bonds, affirming ties with others and enhancing our sense of connectedness and meaning.”

Humans can go through a complex experience with nostalgia. Like every other emotion, it’s important to evaluate how much time we are investing in it, while keeping the appropriate balance between the present and the past.

“How much we’re living in memory and how much we’re living in the moment—to me, those are two different ways of being in the world,” says Kraft. “We need a balance, but we should be aware of how much time we’re spending with memory.”



PHOTO BY ABE RYOKAN VIA PIXABAY



The Rise of the Commuter

The growth of Otterbein commuters, and their college experience, during the pandemic

By Jordan Hamzee '23

Photo by Eric Terranova '23

Historically, Otterbein has been known as a residential campus. However, when COVID-19 first proved itself to be a global threat, the number of students living on campus began to drop, causing the amount of commuter students to rise.

According to Jen Pittel, the assistant director of residence life, there was an increase in commuters during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 709 commuters in the fall of 2020 versus 596 commuters in the fall of 2019. By fall of 2021, after vaccines had become widely available, the campus saw a decrease in commuters, with the number falling to 650 students.

Some commuter students find that the benefits of living at home outweigh the costs of living on campus. Gena West, a sophomore allied health major, drives anywhere between 45 minutes to an hour each day to get to campus. She says commuting helps her avoid the cost of room and board on campus, which averaged \$11,774 during the 2020-2021 academic year.

For West, one of the most difficult parts of living at home in Fredericktown is staying awake on the way to school. "I have 8 a.m. [classes] on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and I'm not a morning person, so that's a struggle," she says.

The other difficulty for West is making friends. With COVID-19, West says that people on campus are already more distant, and having fewer opportunities to socialize with her peers outside of class hours makes meeting people even more difficult. Because of this, she believes that the friends she does have are even more special.

West is not the only commuter who has a tough time making social connections on campus. Noah Martin, a senior journalism & media communication major, cites similar issues. "I never really get to meet people because a lot of people meet through where they live, but I end up going home after class," he says.

However, he does appreciate the benefits of having his own apartment off campus in Westerville. "The good thing about commuting is that I save money and when I need to get away from campus, I have somewhere I can go," says Martin. "I don't have to trench through the snow like the people who live on campus do."

Danielle Davis, a junior creative writing major, takes the COTA bus to school every day. They live nearby, in the Northland area of Columbus, but because of other stops, it takes about an hour for them to get to school.

Davis always knew they would be a commuter when they decided to attend Otterbein, because like Martin, they live so close that it is hard to justify the cost of moving. "I don't mind [the commute] too much, personally," says Davis, "because it allows me to sit and clear my head."

Although commuting can be hard in terms of making connections, a long trip to campus each day is worth it to many students because of the money they save on room and board.

"There's good things and bad things," says Martin about commuting. "It's great for living your own life and feeling like an adult."



Keegan Wolfe '23 with his daughter, Stella.



Izzy Smith '22 with her daughter, Whitley.

Double Duty

The challenges that come along with being a student parent

By Hayden Garrett '24

As a single parent going to school, 23-year-old Keegan Wolfe, a junior communication studies major, wants to be a father figure to his daughter, Stella, something that was missing from his own life as a child.

"All through late middle school and high school and stuff like that, early college, I didn't have that father figure to lean on or talk to about certain things," says Wolfe. "I just want to make sure that Stella never has that problem."

While he loves his daughter and has received support as a parent, balancing school with child care comes with challenges.

"We're kind of struggling with finding a daycare and bouncing back and forth between grandparents and me," Wolfe explains. "It is a lot of time management."

Izzy Smith, a senior double major in public relations and health communication, is also 23 years old and faces similar challenges, but says that Otterbein's small class sizes and personable atmosphere have helped her. "The professors themselves have been very welcoming and accommodating if I need to bring Whitley, my daughter, to class, and they've been understanding if I have to miss class because of [her]," she explains.

Wolfe and Smith are not alone in their situations as parent-students. According to a 2019 study by the United States Government Accountability Office, 4.3 million college students are raising children. While Otterbein doesn't keep an exact count of how many of its students

have children, a look at the fall 2021 FAFSA reveals 79 students who are in school while also providing at least 50% of the support to their child—and there may be more unaccounted for.

Wolfe says having a daycare available at Otterbein would be helpful. "But that also kind of raises the question, is there that much of a need for it? How many parents do we have here that need child care?" he asks.

Looking at the estimates provided by the FAFSA, it doesn't make financial sense for the university to build out a program catering to such a small number of its students.

While the university may not have programs specifically for students who are parents, Jenny Hill, director of marketing and communications at Otterbein, says there are resources available on campus that can ease the burden for these students. "The Counseling Center, for instance, can speak with students who have children about parenting or coping with the unique stresses they are facing," Hill says. "And The Promise House encourages students who are parents to take additional items as needed and helps connect those students to off-campus services, like federal SNAP benefits."

Despite the challenges of going to school while caring for his daughter, Wolfe is determined to finish his degree so he can give his daughter the best life possible.

"I want to make sure that I'm always here, [that] she always knows that her dad's got her back," he says.

Dynamic Duo in the Kitchen

By Isabelle Fisher '23

Images courtesy of Isabelle Fisher '23

“Woah, woah, what’re you doing there?” Dad questioned as my hand grasped an 8-inch cooking knife. I was focused on the crooked carrots on the green cutting board.

I chuckled nervously and put the knife down. Scanning all the Thanksgiving goodies on the stovetop, my stomach rumbled. My dad started laughing while he picked up the knife and created 10 perfect carrot slices. My 10-year-old eyes stared up at my dad in awe as his hands shifted effortlessly back and forth on the cutting board.

I grabbed another carrot to replicate my dad’s almost perfect slices sitting next to my crooked ones. “The key to cutting the correct way is pointing your fingertips toward the food at hand,” Dad said.

The kitchen was quiet, and the movements outside included brown and orange leaves blowing across the yard. I was nervous as I bent my fingertips toward the carrot. As I cut into the carrot, I became more surprised. The carrot slices were not crooked anymore; they were even. I stared up at my dad with big, wide eyes that screamed, “I did it!”

My dad has always been a great cook. Ever since I was little, I would wake up to breakfast croissant sandwiches, coffee cake and mush laid out on the kitchen table. He cooks a fabulous Christmas morning meal, along with a perfected turkey on Thanksgiving Day and annual Ohio State football meals that always hit the spot.

Dad grew up around the restaurant and bar business and never got

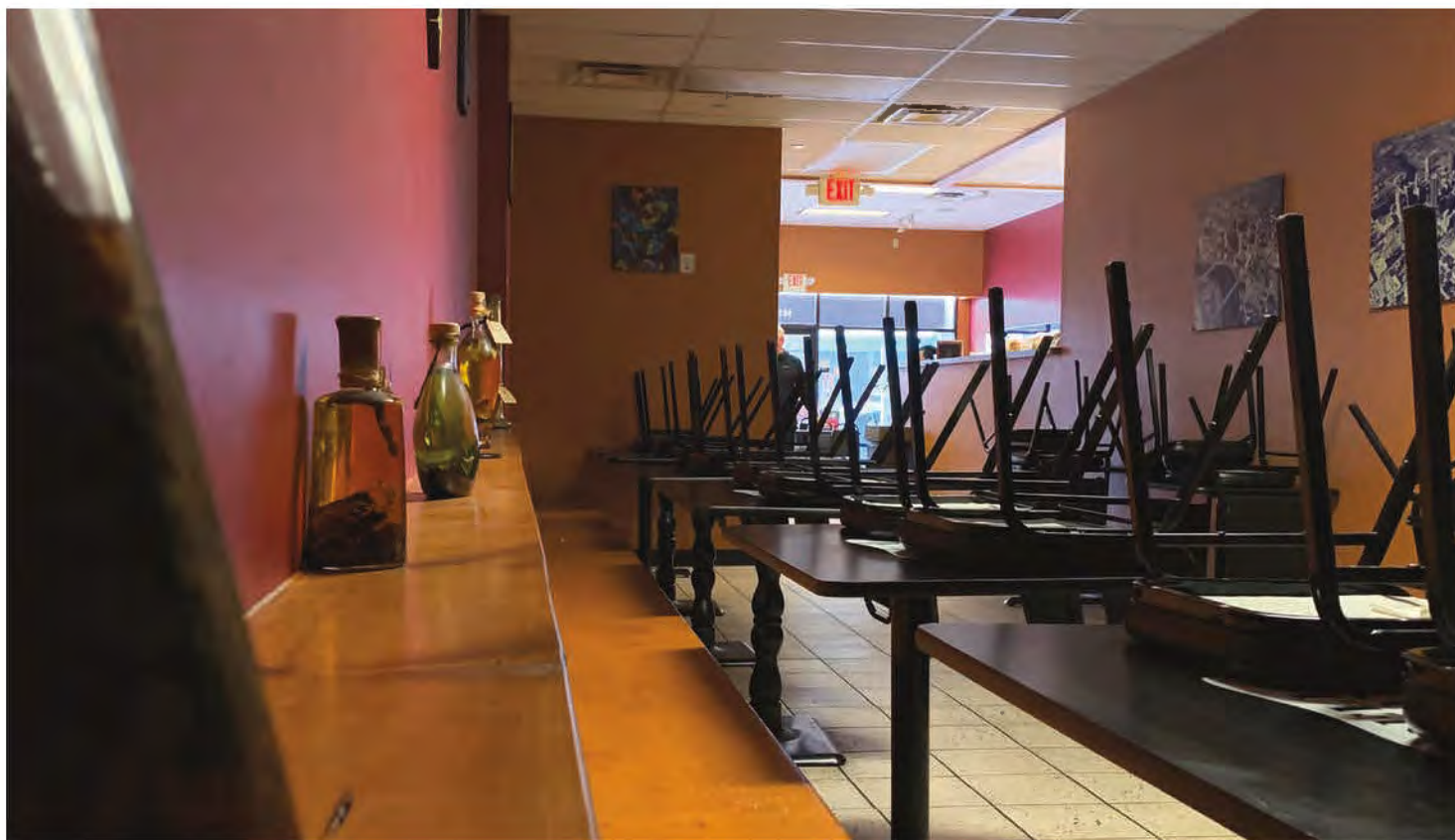
away from it. He managed many restaurants in his late 30s, including a five-star hotel restaurant. Soon after, he created his own home. Dad opened Deli Boys in 2008 and has loved every moment of it.

At age 10, I did not know how to cut onions or sauté a mushroom correctly, but Dad was always there helping me. My two sisters were older than me and did not enjoy cooking like I did. I relished the long recipes that required so much concentration that my head would hurt by the time the food was ready. Dad taught me to love the process, not just the cooked meals.

Whenever I got ahold of a tough recipe, I would always call Dad into the kitchen. He never got tired of getting up from watching reruns of “The Sopranos.” It was a routine we created.



The author's father with his business partner in their restaurant.



Cooking in her dad's restaurant after hours eases stress for the author.

When I went off to college, cooking meant microwaving bag after bag of stale Ramen rather than perfecting a red pepper vodka pasta sauce. One night, after only eating half of my cold noodles, I started thinking. With the stress that school brings me, I figured that I would do something peaceful for my mind.

I got in my 2002 silver Honda Accord and hopped on I-270 to head to Deli Boys. As soon as I walked in, Dad greeted me and expected me to order food. But instead of ordering my favorite chicken Philly sandwich, I asked, "Can we please stay after and cook like old times?" He smiled and proceeded to wave me into the huge kitchen.

I grabbed a saucepan and olive oil to start up my red pepper vodka sauced pasta with a side of honey roasted garlic chicken. I felt like I was 10 years old again, but instead of my dad walking me through every step of the meal, he only had to show me where all the ingredients were.

The red pepper flakes were located to the right of the oven, saucepans

were sitting on top of the wood-fired stove and the cut-up chicken breasts were inside the huge fridge on the middle panel.

Sweat poured off my face as I finished cutting up the last diced tomatoes to put into my saucepan. My dad and I sat and waited for my chicken to crisp to that perfect brown, eyeing it every few minutes to not let the sides burn.

We were silent, but the room felt like it was screaming. Screaming because my dad and I have not done this in forever. Screaming because this new memory held so many old ones.

As I pulled out my chicken breast, I checked my pasta sauce and then added all the parts together. Just like that, peace came back to me as I looked at my impressive meal. I was shocked at how good it looked, but Dad was not. "It's like we never left the kitchen, Iz," Dad said with a huge smile.

I fixed up two plates filled with pasta and chicken as my dad pulled out a chair for me to sit in. The city was

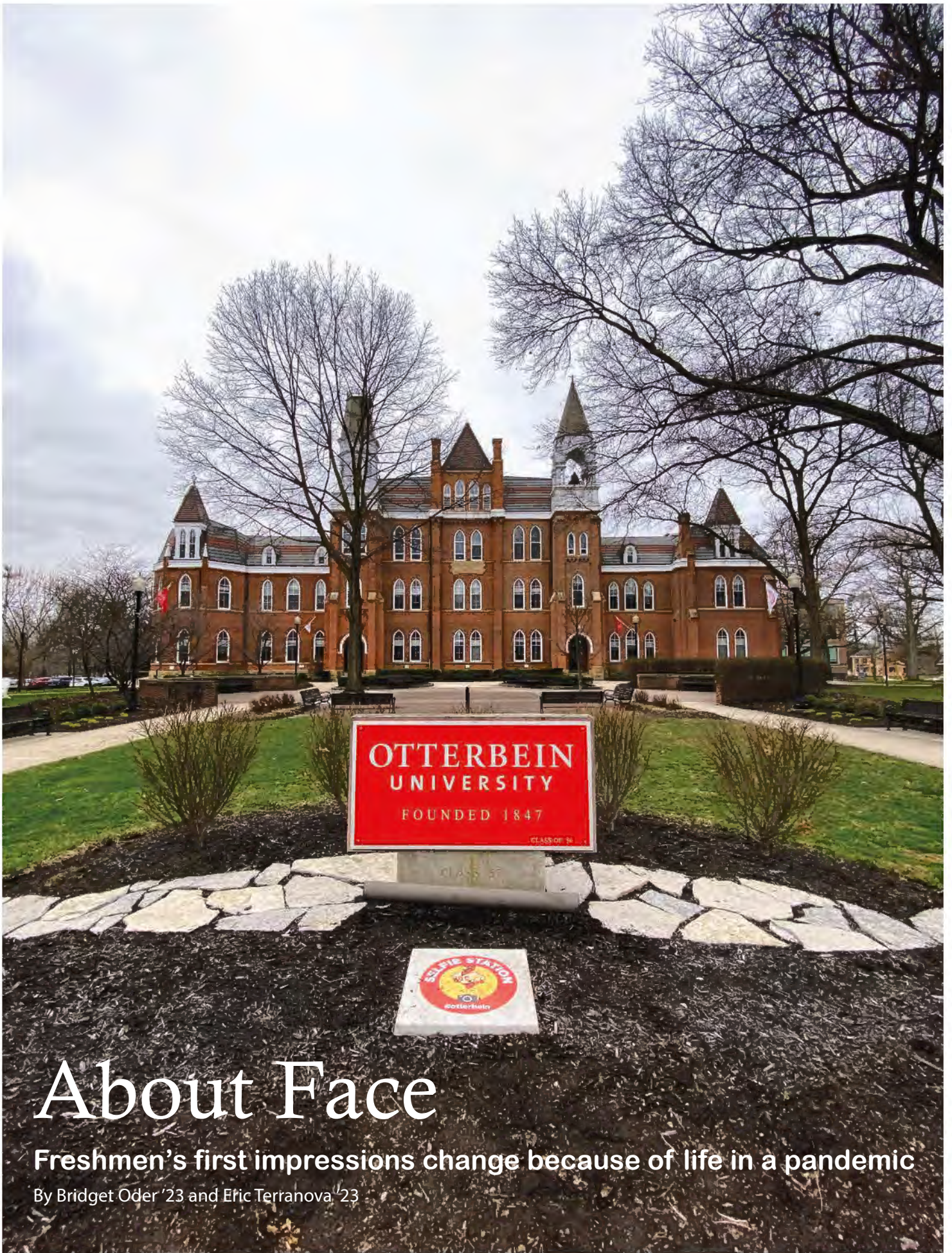
quiet as we ate the delicious meal. It was just past 6 o'clock. The kitchen was a mess of red pepper flakes and oil-filled pans, but I was not worried about the mess I would have to clean up. Instead, I took in each moment I had with Dad.

Of course, Dad helped me clean up my mess. Just like old times. "Things really have not changed," I thought to myself. I rounded up my jacket and leftover pasta before hugging Dad goodbye.

"Drive home safe, Dad!" I said as I approached the exit door. "Will do, honey!" he replied. As I took my first step outside, I immediately looked over my shoulder and saw my dad smiling ear to ear as he finished turning off the oven and stovetops.

A flashback transported me back: I had just learned how to cut carrots on Thanksgiving Day. Dad believed in me, and all was good in my 10-year-old world.

I blinked. I waved goodbye to my dad, and at that moment, all was good in my world.



About Face

Freshmen's first impressions change because of life in a pandemic

By Bridget Oder '23 and Eric Terranova '23



Kevin Bray '25 is pictured in these photos with some of his friends during lab.

Starting college during a global pandemic has changed the expectations and impressions of college that first-year students had for their arrival at Otterbein.

One of the biggest challenges coming into college is finding new friend groups. This challenge is only heightened due to the pandemic and being in an environment that emphasizes social distancing. This can be especially challenging for commuter students, whose time on campus is less than that of students who live on campus.

Kevin Bray, a freshman zoo and conservation science major, commutes to campus. One of his early impressions of college was that he would not be able to come to campus and find a friend group as quickly as those who live on campus full-time.

"I was like, 'Well, my friends [are] staying on campus. They're going to have these huge groups [of friends] instantly,'" says Bray. "And I talk with them [and] they're like 'No, it's just my couple of friends.'"

Another first impression Bray had was related to the dramatic increase in workload compared to high school. So far, that has contributed to one of the biggest challenges he's faced: time management. Bray would not call it easy—especially considering the added pressure of needing to do well to be successful professionally—but being able to manage his time wisely makes it easier to stay on top of his assignments.

Despite his first impressions, Bray has been able to meet new friends, especially in his program, and has incorporated time management skills into his routine.

Increased workload is a common expectation among freshmen, and the COVID-19 pandemic has added another complicated factor to the mix. Many have experienced a rise in their classes being online rather than in-person, and this caused some new students to worry that they would be stuck in front of a screen all day.

"I was afraid that I was going to be walking in, and I was going to be swamped with all these online classes," remembers Bray. "But then every single class I've taken has been in person."

However, the pandemic can also dramatically impact the way students experience in-person classes, too.

"I think wearing masks has made it a very different environment, because you don't get to see other people's faces and interact that way," says Abby Brown, a freshman business major, about the mask mandate that was in place for much of the semester. "But other than that, the classes and getting to have more freedom is what I thought it would be, and I enjoy it."

For Bray, the biggest challenge with in-person classes was his lab courses, where his goggles fogged up due to wearing a mask.

These challenges for first-year students haven't stopped them from getting the best college experience possible. Some freshman students at Otterbein have found ways to make the best out of their atypical college experience and to get the full package that they always dreamed of.

"My first impression of Otterbein was that I fell in love right away with the campus when I came on my visit," says freshman early childhood education major Kennedie Doup. "I chose Otterbein because it is close to home, and I wanted to go to a small school."

Doup was very excited to go to college and be on her own. She says that COVID-19 has not affected her learning experience as a freshman.

"I knew college was going to be a lot harder than high school, but COVID has not really been a problem for me," she says. "I think Otterbein was exactly how I thought it was going to be."

Peyton Carpenter, a freshman nursing major, agrees.

"For me personally, COVID set the bar low my junior year of high school when we were in quarantine, so my experience has not been hindered at all," Carpenter says. "I'm super thankful everyone is vaccinated and not a lot has changed because of COVID!"

The pandemic has hindered many college career paths, but keeping an open mind can make it an enjoyable experience.

Otterbein, Then and Now

A look back on 175 years of campus life

By Hayden Garrett '24

The Otterbein community is celebrating 175 years since its founding in 1847. Much has changed during that time, and the scale of some of these changes is impressive. It's interesting to look back and see how much things have progressed.

Some of the statistics from Otterbein's early days utilize multiple dates. This is because certain aspects of the university as we know them today weren't implemented immediately after it was founded.

Graduating class size

1857 - 2

2021 - Approximately 100 graduate students and 430 undergraduate students

Campus size

1847 - about 69 acres

2022 - 140 acres

Tuition costs

In the first course catalog issued in 1848, tuition costs varied based on the educational track students pursued.

Geography, English grammar and arithmetic - \$5

Higher branches, including mathematics and natural science - \$8



Otterbein's campus in 1847

Languages and mental & moral science - \$10

In addition, each student was charged \$0.75 for "Janitor's fees, fuel, etc." and \$1.25 per week for living in campus housing. Assuming that each semester was 17 weeks, that equals a range between \$47.50 and \$52.50.

Otterbein tuition fees and room and board totaled \$44,848 for the 2020-2021 school year.



A view of campus in 1869

TOP IMAGE COURTESY OF COURTRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY; MIDDLE IMAGE COURTESY OF OTTERBEIN; BOTTOM PHOTO BY JUDE INFANTINI VIA UNSPLASH

Number of degrees and courses offered

Degrees as we know them weren't implemented until later in the 19th century. The 1862 catalog lists four courses of study:

1. Preparatory to College
2. College Course
3. Scientific Course
4. Young Ladies' Course

Otterbein's 2021-2022 course catalog lists 74 majors, 44 minors and 997 courses between summer 2021 and fall 2022.



Towers Hall in 1872

Campus buildings

The oldest building on campus is Towers Hall, which opened in 1871.

The newest building on campus is DeVore Hall, which was completed in 2006. There have been two buildings to open since then, but one of them is off campus, the Knowlton Equine Center built in 2009, and the other was a preexisting structure bought and refurbished by the university, The Point, which opened in 2018.

Number of faculty

In 1847, only one person was officially employed as a professor at Otterbein. According to the Rev. Lewis Davis in a speech he gave on Dec. 31, 1886, about the university's early days, others helped teach at the time as well: "We had one full teacher and others who helped. I taught some. Professor Griffith was our chief teacher."

Today, Otterbein's faculty is approximately 600 people.

By the Numbers

One of the greatest changes since Otterbein's founding has been the sharp rise of inflation and cost of living. Take a look at how the average prices of common goods and services have skyrocketed since 1847:

Food	1847	2022
Milk (1 gallon):	\$0.16	\$3.79
Bread (1 loaf):	\$0.10	\$1.56
Eggs (dozen):	\$0.25	\$1.93
Beef (1 pound):	\$0.12	\$4.77

Goods	1847	2022
Soap (1 bar):	\$0.22	\$4.66
Paper (1 ream):	\$2.50	\$6.00

Inflation

\$1 in 1847 is worth \$34.29 in 2022

Wages

The national minimum wage wasn't established in 1847, but according to the 1892 publication "Farm Labor in the United States," Ohio farm workers were paid between **50 and 75 cents** a day. Today, the national minimum wage is **\$7.25**.



Spotlight on Otterbein's Founding Fathers

Hanby, Davis and the Underground Railroad

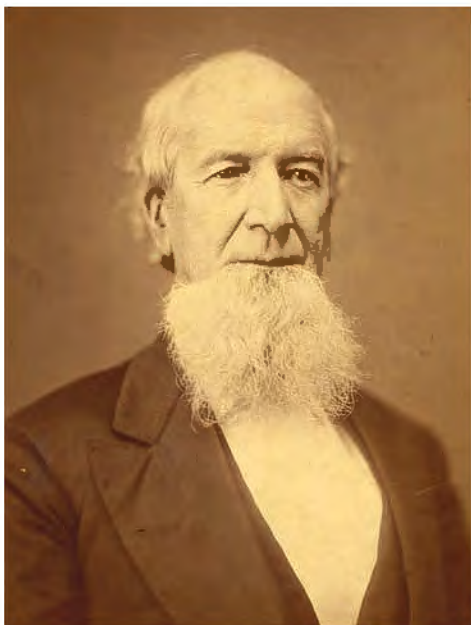
By Ayan Abdi '24

Photos courtesy of Courtright Memorial Library

It's not uncommon to walk onto a college campus and find buildings named after prominent historical figures. Sometimes these names are ones that could be recognized nationally. Other times, the focus remains hyper-local, giving remembrance to those who played a significant role in the foundation of said institution.

Otterbein University is no stranger in following this tradition. Here on campus, students might be familiar with Davis Hall and Hanby House. Davis Hall was named after the Rev. Lewis Davis, Otterbein's preeminent founding father. Hanby House was the home of Bishop William Hanby of the United Brethren Church, Otterbein's trustee and co-founder.

What sets these two names apart from others found on buildings across



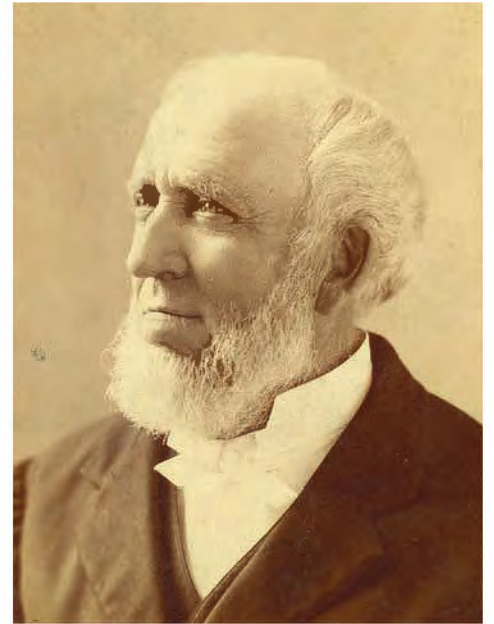
William Hanby

campus? Both Hanby and Davis were known to help shelter and transport runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad here in Westerville and were firm in their stance on the need for abolition in this country.

Otterbein opened in the fall of 1847 at the behest of the United Brethren Church. Davis and Hanby were ardent supporters and co-founders of the university. Not long after Otterbein opened, a board of trustees meeting was called, and Davis became president of this board. Three years later, he was elected president of Otterbein, and Hanby remained a fixture on the board.

When Otterbein was founded, slavery was alive and well in the United States. According to "History of Otterbein University" by the Rev. Henry Garst, "Otterbein's Board of Trustees passed a resolution [in 1853] that instructed agents and trustees to secure some colored students for this college." This position of Otterbein being open to accepting Black students led many to view the school as a strong anti-slavery center.

Allen Reichert, one of Otterbein's librarians, says Harold Hancock is the resident historian on all things regarding abolition and the Underground Railroad here in Westerville. Hancock writes in his book "Nineteenth Century Westerville" about William Hannibal Thomas, Otterbein's first Black student. Thomas enrolled at Otterbein in 1859, four years before President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation,



Lewis Davis

declaring that all people held as slaves were freed.

Thomas' admission was granted due to the politics of the United Brethren of Christ. Support was consistent from those within the United Brethren of Christ, however, opposition within the Westerville community and the student body became apparent. John David Smith writes in his book "Black Judas" about Thomas' experience at Otterbein: "White students at the university greeted him with hospitality and hostility and Thomas left the university in 1860, midway through his first term." While the acceptance of a Black student at Otterbein was notable moment, Thomas ultimately faced harm. Joe Wheelan, former editor for The Associated Press, writes that Thomas left Otterbein "after

enduring continuous physical abuse.” Thomas never received a degree from Otterbein.

“In 1859, the Religious Telescope, a United Brethren publication, which frequently printed abolitionist material, mentioned that the people of Westerville were abolitionist in feeling except for half a dozen,” writes Hancock. Among these abolitionists were Davis and Hanby, who Hancock also identifies as operators on the Underground Railroad.

Davis was said to have always been an anti-slavery man. As Henry Adams Thompson, former president of Otterbein University, wrote about Davis’ life, “[He] sympathized with all loyal men during our late Civil War and hailed with delight all legislation that would help the black man.” Garst confirms this, writing, “The home of Rev. L. Davis, the president of the college was the one usually sought out by these flying fugitives, and they never failed of a kindly welcome and aid in their fight for freedom. The author, having been an inmate of the Davis home during the four years immediately preceding the War of the Rebellion, had a good opportunity to observe the business transacted in the Underground Railroad.”

Thompson writes about an instance in which Davis was asked to respond to a published article that asserted him as an abolitionist. “A Baptist man who was present, and a friend of his but at the same time a pro-slavery man, jumped for the party who read the paper, intending to punish him but he has made his escape.” Davis read from the United Brethren Discipline, the church’s statement of faith, to show opposition to slavery.

Darcia Custer Shoemaker, Westerville native, Otterbein alumna and author of “Choose You This Day,” worked to preserve the history of the Hanby Family. Custer writes, “There was another call to service which Hanby never failed to answer. This was the call of the Underground Railroad. He operated a station and in emergencies acted as a conductor.” Hanby occupied the house next to



Davis, and Hanby built a barn on his property to help lodge the runaway slaves they harbored. Hanby House was previously located where the Church of the Master now resides. Today, Hanby House is memorialized as a museum on West Main Street. The Davis home existed on the land where Courtright Memorial Library now sits.

According to historian Wilbur Henry Siebert’s “The Mysteries of Ohio’s Underground Railroads,” Hanby’s oldest son, Benjamin Hanby, watched over the runaways. Benjamin Hanby was a part of the second graduating class at Otterbein. Hancock considers him to be one of Otterbein’s best-known students. Siebert writes, “Mr. Hanby’s oldest son Ben took the runaways into family worship and back to their refuge for the night. He also collected extra clothing, food, and money to provide for unexpected arrivals. At night he saw to it that the barn windows and doors were properly fastened. Before they departed after dark, Ben viewed the streets in the vicinity.”

Davis and the elder Hanby were principle individuals in the formation of Otterbein University, and their oversight and ardent support of Otterbein greatly impacted the city of Westerville. The influence that Davis and Hanby had on the city, however, goes beyond the opening of a university. Their work in ensuring the safe travel of runaway slaves and a consistent stance on the need for abolition marked them as pioneering individuals and leaders in this movement, especially in Westerville.

“Otterbein University is one of the institutions that did not need to shift position to adjust itself to the progress of events which culminated in the issue of the emancipation proclamation, and the overthrow of slavery,” writes Hancock. “From the very first, and throughout the great conflict, it maintained the position which at last triumphed. This honorable record of the university, in one of the most notable conflicts that ever occurred in our country, and indeed in the world, cannot but be a matter of great satisfaction and just pride to its friends through all time.”

T & C

Tan & Cardinal Magazine

25 issues of team- and career-building

By Julia Grimm '22 and Jordyn Mary '22

In the fall of 2013, “Tan & Cardinal” magazine was born out of “The Tan & Cardinal” newspaper, the student-run newspaper on campus. The newspaper was an important part of the Otterbein campus community, covering important topics for its audience; its staff came from different departments across campus. When it evolved into a magazine, the new publication carried on the legacy of the newspaper: reporting on topics relevant to the Otterbein community and having fun while creating it.

PHOTO BY JULIA GRIMM '22

The Tan and Cardinal

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF OTTERBEIN COLLEGE

VOL. 10.

WESTERVILLE, OHIO, SEPTEMBER 28, 1926.

No. 3.

Miss Mildred K. Moore
Injured In Auto Wreck

WET STREET IS CAUSE

All Occupants Pinned Beneath Car
As It Strikes Bridge
Abutment.

GRIDIRON BATTLES

Oct. 2—Cincinnati at Cincy.
Oct. 28—Heidelberg (Westerville) at Westerville.
Nov. 15—Baldwin-Wallace at Berea.

**TAN TEAM CONQUERS FINDLAY
COLLEGE BY 2-0 SCORE IN NON
CONFERENCE TILT SATURDAY**

From newspaper to magazine

The transition from T&C newspaper, a weekly print news publication, to a biannual magazine was a hard decision for Otterbein students and faculty.

“We were all really attached to the newspaper,” says Lindsay Paulsen ’14, an equine business and facility management double major who was editor-in-chief of the newspaper and then the magazine during the transition. “Tuesday nights ... some of us weren’t leaving until 4 or 5 o’clock in the morning; we had some rough nights. But, as you probably know, you develop really strong relationships with people. ... [The newspaper] has a special place in our hearts.”

As other alumni and professors reflect on T&C newspaper, they all agree that despite the late end times, production nights are now fond memories that they look at as times where they built and cultivated relationships.

“It goes back to the Tuesday night production nights,” says Anna Schiffbauer ’14, a business administration and psychology double major who was active on T&C newspaper and magazine in a variety of staff roles. “At the time, the late nights could be pretty terrible. But looking back, they were a lot of fun. Afterward, there were a few of us who would go to McDonald’s and get an ice cream cone.”

These relationships have turned into lifelong friendships for some former newspaper staff. Paulsen says that during the pandemic, she and some of her group from the newspaper started having a monthly phone meeting.

Despite students’ love for and dedication to the newspaper, it needed a change.

Tan & Cardinal Newspaper

By Bridget Oder ’23

Tan & Cardinal Newspaper and its role on the Otterbein campus has truly grown over the past century. From 1909 to 1917, Otterbein University had two student news publications: The monthly journal, “The Otterbein Aegis,” and the weekly newspaper, “The Otterbein Review.” It was decided that these two publications would be discontinued and that a single newspaper would take their place.

In September 1917, the first edition of Tan & Cardinal newspaper went on sale. The newspaper was traditionally published on Thursdays and would run from the start of the school year in September through the end in June. Paper sizes varied over the years, and page counts ranged from four to 16. For much of its run, the English department was in charge of the publication, though in its final years it was under the jurisdiction of the communication department’s journalism program.

In the spring of 2013, almost 100 years after its debut, the decision was made to end the print run of the newspaper. All weekly content was moved online, and “Tan & Cardinal” magazine began, with publication frequency ranging from one to four times a year.

“I just want people to know how much fun putting out the T&C [newspaper] was,” says Lindsey Kuhn ’13, a journalism and public relations double major who was news editor and editor-in-chief for the newspaper as well as a web editor for the student news website. “Behind the scenes you had students who were on deadlines, working until the sun came back up the next morning to write it, design it and edit it. My experience at T&C was one of the highlights of my college career.”



Mike Wagner (left) with former editor-in-chief Kris Crews '17.



Former editors-in-chief Sara Bogan '18 (left) and Kris Crews '17 (right) on a trip with Otterbein student media to New York City.

“To continue with a weekly newspaper, and just a weekly newspaper, wasn’t educationally responsible,” says Hillary Warren, who has advised Otterbein student media for over 20 years, as she reflects on the drastic reduction in newspaper-related jobs available post graduation. “We didn’t have enough students to operate a newspaper and to operate a website the way it needed to be operated ... and students were exhausted.”

At the time, both a news website and weekly newspaper were being run by students. (The website, formerly known as otterbein360.com, is now tandcmedia.org. Read more about it on page 22).

Warren says that it took many meetings to decide that it was time for the newspaper to be discontinued and replaced by the magazine as an outlet for students interested in print. The advantage of the magazine was that it would run on a much more manageable production schedule—one issue per semester.

The magazine continues a legacy

Despite the change, the magazine continued the newspaper’s legacy of creating excellent student writers while building relationships between the magazine’s staff members.

“I think in my first couple years, just to meet new people, make friends, become a part of something [was what I enjoyed about the magazine],” says Sara (Anloague) Bogan '18, a public relations major who was involved in “Tan & Cardinal” magazine throughout her four years at Otterbein, including as assistant editor and editor-in-chief. Later in her school career, Bogan became a commuter. She says that the magazine gave her a sense of community during this time.

Mike Wagner, an investigative projects reporter for “The Columbus Dispatch” who advised and instructed student media at Otterbein for almost 10 years, saw the magazine as a better opportunity for students to build relationships.

“With the magazine, I think [the camaraderie] got stronger,” says Wagner, who advised the magazine for the first five years of its existence. “[In] the newspaper, everybody kind of had their own section or their own expertise.” Wagner says the magazine allowed for more collaboration as students shared progress on their stories with each other.

Wagner says he further encouraged students to bond through critiquing each other’s work and collaborating on stories. On production nights, they would have a staff dinner together, where he would throw out ice breakers like, “Everybody talk about their first concert.”

“I remember, then we got into favorite artists, and Bruce Springsteen’s one of mine, and there were two students

continued on page 20

AWARD WINNING publication

"Tan & Cardinal" magazine is the recipient of many awards through the Ohio News Media Association collegiate competition.

2016



1st in in-depth reporting for Violet Strong by Taylor Numbers '16

2nd in in-depth reporting for Muslim Misconception by Allyson Miller '17

2nd in design for issues seven and eight



2019

2nd in arts and entertainment for Celebrating 100 Years of T&C by Abby Studebaker '19 and Madi O'Neill '19; Love You Lots, Tater Tots by Abby Studebaker '19 and Madi O'Neill '19; and Behind Bars: Writing Alongside Inmates by Kaytlyn Rowen '19

1st in design for issues 22 and 23

2022



2015

1st in design for issues one and two

3rd in arts and entertainment for A Winter Wonder Wardrobe by Joshua Hartley '13



2017

1st in in-depth reporting for Combating Inner Battles package by Amanda Ifantiedes '18 and Mary Murphy '18

1st in design for issues 10 and 11

2nd in news coverage for issue 11

3rd in photojournalism for photos taken by Susanna Harris '18

2021



1st in in-depth reporting for Behind Closed Doors by Aselya Sposato '20

who didn't know who Bruce Springsteen was," recalls Wagner, "So, in that particular night, I drove everybody crazy, because while I was there, I made them play Bruce Springsteen songs for like, three hours."

A path to professional success

The magazine didn't just build relationships. It also taught students important skills.

Paulsen says that her experience on the magazine, along with her experience in Otterbein's equine program, prepared her for success working in equine journalism.

"It really set me up perfectly to go work for a horse magazine, because then I could just do the same thing that I did in college, but I could do it in a full-time, professional capacity," she says. "I didn't have this lag time where I started a new job, and I had to learn the ropes of everything. I just kind of hit the ground running."

She would go on to work in equine journalism at Active Interest Media for over seven years, holding positions like managing editor of "Dressage Today" magazine and digital editor of DressageToday.com.

"Whether we're talking about the newspaper or the magazine, I'm thankful for that experience, every single day of my professional life," says Paulsen. "That taught me more than any class I've ever taken."

Paulsen was not the only former editor-in-chief to pursue a job in magazines after college. Bogan's first job was also in publications.

"Honestly, every single time I bring it up, everyone's super impressed with the experience [on the magazine]," says Bogan. "And I think that's something that is unique to T&C and unique to Otterbein. ... I think the experience that we get to immerse in with T&C is impressive in the eyes of employers. And so obviously, it helped me get jobs."

Bogan had an internship at OhioHealth her senior year, and they liked her so much that they created a position as editor-in-chief of the associates' storytelling publication to keep her.

"When you think about going into the real world into a new job, they always ask you, 'What leadership experience do you have?'" says Bogan. "[The magazine] was always a huge example I would give—knowing how to manage a magazine and the team and a staff and all these things."

Wagner says that including these skills in the class was intentional. In developing the classroom component of the magazine, he interviewed 12 communication

continued on page 23



Former editor-in-chief Sara Bogan '18 (center) with the T&C crew on a late — or early — production night.



Former editor-in-chief Marlie Griffeth '21 (left) and former assistant art director Danielle DiMarzo '21 (right) edit together on production night.

BOTTOM PHOTO BY JULIA GRIMM '22; TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA BOGAN '18

Editors-in-Chief: Then & Now

Reflecting on the big transition “Tan & Cardinal” magazine is about to go through, it’s impossible not to think about those who have led the publication from the beginning to where it is now.

As told to Ambar Alveo Perez ’22

Then



Lindsay Paulsen '14 was a journalism and equine business & facility management double major at Otterbein and held the position of editor-in-chief for “Tan & Cardinal” from 2013 to 2014. During her time in the position, she got to experience the shift of the newspaper to the magazine format in 2013. She shares her view on how this job impacted her.

Why did you decide to take the position of EIC?

As a freshman, I wanted practical experience. I ended up being editor-in-chief for “Tan & Cardinal” in the newspaper format for one semester. Then, transitioning to the magazine as EIC in my junior year in 2013, I think it was just sort of the next natural step.

What did being editor-in-chief mean to you at the beginning of the experience compared to the end of it?

When you first come into a position like that, you’re thinking of all the ways that it will benefit you. But once you have really formed a bond with your team, and spent a lot of these long hours together producing a project, I think the motivation kind of changes. I felt like I really wanted to do a good job, not so much for my resumé or whatever else, but I just didn’t want to let down the people that I worked with. I wanted to do justice to all the time that we as a team put into things.

Describe your experience in three words.

Hustle, insomnia, satisfaction.

Any final thoughts?

The sense of camaraderie is a huge thing. I feel like every achievement is better and more fun to celebrate when you have other people to celebrate it with.

Now



Julia Grimm is a senior public relations and journalism & media communication double major. From joining the magazine publishing class in her freshman year to leading the staff in her last year of college, Julia is now reflecting on the turn “Tan & Cardinal” is making to a potential component of a multimedia capstone project.

Why did you decide to take the position of EIC?

Professor Millsap in the communications department got me into the magazine class. I fell in love with it that first semester. I knew I wanted to be on staff because we had some really good staff that year. I really watched them be successful, and I was like, “This is something I could do.” My first year on staff I was art director, but I knew I wanted to be editor-in-chief. I’m graduating a year early, but I knew that my final year that’s what I wanted to do.

What did being editor-in-chief mean to you at the beginning of the experience compared to the end of it?

I just saw being EIC as an opportunity to build skills for a future career. I also really wanted to learn how to lead a team. I don’t think I would say my wishes really changed, but I would say it’s been great to see how that evolved and how I’ve been able to build and learn those skills that I wanted to learn.

Describe your experience in three words

Friendship, skillbuilding, teamwork.

Any final thoughts?

What I hope remains—as I reflect on my own experience—is the camaraderie and the friendships. It’s just a really unique experience. Seeing people come together to create a product—that’s been really interesting to learn about.

T&C Media

By Bridget Oder '23

T&C Media is made up of four student media productions that are created, written, edited, designed and produced by students.



The T&C Media website publishes stories on campus events that the student body will care about. This consists of news, opinion pieces, sports coverage and stories on campus life. Journalism students run the website.



WOBX 97.5 The Wildcard, T&C Media's radio station, gives students hands-on experience that helps them prepare for a job in radio production after graduation. Students produce their own radio shows. Any student who has taken the accompanying class can participate.



The live sports team covers Otterbein's sports games and produces other video work across campus. Any Otterbein student can participate, regardless of their major.



"Tan & Cardinal" magazine is produced as part of a journalism class that is open to all majors. In the class, students work with the magazine staff to put together a 32-page general interest publication for the student body. Throughout the semester, the students write, copyedit and design the magazine.

professionals to see what they were looking for in the young talent they hired.

“The No. 1 thing was, the writing wasn’t good enough,” says Wagner. “So, I tried to use the magazine as this writing laboratory that could help students, regardless of what field they would go into. And I’m proud of this, because many of them would use writing samples from the magazine, even if they weren’t applying for a [journalism] job.”

This rang true for Aselya Sposato ’20, a public relations and journalism & media communication double major. The former editor-in-chief of the magazine took a job at Huntington Bank in corporate communications after graduation. She says that while it is public relations writing, not journalism, she uses the management and soft skills she learned while on the magazine in her job.

The learning that occurs while working on the magazine is important, and so is the mission of the publication: to be a voice for the Otterbein campus.

Wagner says that the magazine allowed for growth, helping student media tell the stories of a modern Otterbein that has become more diverse.

“I think part of the beauty of the magazine is just giving the people of Otterbein and the students of Otterbein and all the people that make up the community the chance to use their voice and share their story,” says Sposato.

It always comes back to the people, whether it’s students working together to produce the magazine or the stories of people on campus that are shared within its pages.

“It’s the people that make it good,” says Bogan.



Aselya Sposato '20 (top) and Lindsay Paulsen '14 (bottom) and their editor-in-chief headshots from 2019 and 2014 respectively

What’s happening to the magazine?

By Julia Grimm '22

As the Otterbein communication department makes changes to the journalism & media communication (JAMC) major, some of these changes are affecting student media. “Tan & Cardinal” magazine is one of the student media productions in the department, and while it will no longer be published every semester, an option to create a magazine will still be a part of the major.

The restructuring of the JAMC major has prompted the inclusion of a new multimedia capstone course. Magazine publishing will now be a part of this capstone course as one of several media options

students may produce as a collaborative project. For example, the capstone students might produce some form of digital media, like videos, instead of or along with a magazine publication for their project. When published, it may also go by different names other than “Tan & Cardinal” magazine, depending on the direction of the project.

While some may mourn the loss of the traditional structure of the magazine, the department sees the changes in the major as an opportunity to better prepare students for a multimedia-focused workplace after graduation.

Dear Me

Compiled by Isabelle Fisher '23 and Jordan Hamzee '23

College can be both a long slog and over in the blink of an eye. We asked three freshmen to think ahead and write letters to their future selves, with advice they hope to keep in mind over the next three years, and three seniors to write letters to their past selves, to share the knowledge they wish they'd known as freshmen.

Letters to my grown-up self

Ellie Blankenship '25
environmental science major

Dear senior Ellie,

Hi! Hopefully, you are not too stressed out right now, [this] being your senior year and all, but I just wanted to check in with you from your freshman spring semester. I am going to be optimistically imagining you and the future without any COVID-19 restrictions moving forward (I hope it is true). The first thing I want to address is chemistry and if you successfully made it through that and its obstacles. I am not going to lie; it never really seemed like your strong suit, but I have a feeling you stuck it out. I think that would have been your only large academic struggle at this point, and I hope I am right.

Also, by our senior year, you probably have gotten an internship somewhere. I feel like you did end up going out of state for this. I envision a national park on the East Coast or potentially with the Environmental Protection Agency or United States Geological Survey out west.

Similarly, have you gone on a trip yet? I was thinking possibly a May term travel course or a backpacking trip with someone. It would be really fun and interesting to see more of the world.

Now, let me ask about your post-graduation plans: I haven't thought too much about after I graduate as of now, but currently, I am planning on going to grad school for natural resource management (probably out west). I have a feeling that it has changed, but right now I am thinking about being a natural resource specialist. Is that still what you are thinking? I have a feeling you are just going with the flow and seeing what the world has to offer. Either way, I am proud of you, and I am grateful for our persistence through these four years. And I am really excited to see what happens in the future!

From, freshman Ellie



Cale Callahan '25
business analytics major

Dear senior Cale,

I am writing to you from your freshman year of college, and what a ride it has been. You have made so many new friends, learned a lot of lessons and improved so much as a person. School and wrestling are going great, and you have been able to balance a social life and your responsibilities. You should be proud.

If there is any advice I could give you as a freshman in college, I would tell you this: First, school has been a little rough starting out in terms of managing time, but knowing you, you will keep the same studying habits you had in high school and be just as successful.

Second, college wrestling is hard. Be patient with yourself. There are going to be some bumps in the road. Don't get down on yourself as much and keep your head up.

Third, don't be so shy—open up to people. All your friends from both high school and now in college enjoy you so much better when you just let loose and have fun.

Lastly, stop worrying so much about things you cannot control. Trust me, it will save you so much stress and anxiety if you just let some things be. Regardless, keep up what you are doing and be the most successful person you can be. Don't worry about other people's success. Focus on yourself. You will thank me in the long run.

From, freshman Cale



As told to Isabelle Fisher

Olivia Eckels '25
business major

Dear senior Olivia,

I hope you're way more settled right now than you were three years ago. I'm hoping by the time your senior spring semester comes around, you have one or more internships under your belt, have decided to attend law school and completed your undergraduate degree in three years.

There is a big possibility that you are just as close with your tennis teammates as you were our freshman year, while still doing Target runs to stay sane. Maybe you're in the pre-law club or joined student government like I've been thinking about doing? I know our daily routine as a freshman was hard because of living in a dorm, so I hope you are now living in an off-campus house with your good friends. Maybe they are your Owl sisters or tennis teammates! Most of all, I hope you are enjoying your last semester as a Cardinal and leave this place knowing that you met many great professors and made lifelong friends.

From, freshman Olivia



Letters to myself when I thought I knew everything

As told to Jordan Hamzee

Sam Shalvey '22
journalism & media
communication major

Dear freshman Sam,

When you were first looking at colleges, you didn't know if you wanted to wrestle in college because you weren't sure if you could be successful at the college level. Then, when you found out that Otterbein brought back their wrestling program during the 2016-2017 season, you decided it would be worth a shot. Once you started your first semester, you realized that you were capable of being successful at this level if you would be willing to put in the work. It helped you develop balance and learn how to manage your time. It wasn't always easy, but freshman year was the best.

As a senior, you don't waste your time anymore. Wrestling teaches life lessons, and your coach expects a lot from you, which has helped cut bad habits. If I could go back and tell you anything, it would be to keep working hard. It's easy to get caught up in distractions, but I wouldn't change anything.

You always knew you were interested in journalism and are happy to be a part of a program that you are passionate about and that brings you joy. Keep working hard, and continue surrounding yourself with the right people, because good things will happen.

From, senior Sam



As told to Jordan Hamzee

Elise Schneller '22
nursing major

Dear freshman Elise,

You decided to go to Otterbein because you felt the authenticity when you toured campus. You knew you wanted to go into nursing because you have always enjoyed caring for others, and your experience at Otterbein was even better than you thought it would be. The professors provided one-on-one instruction and cared about what you did during your time here and post-graduation.

A global pandemic presented changes in the classroom and the hospital. At first it was a learning curve, but you still had a great experience. You have enjoyed pediatric and obstetric nursing classes the most. Your favorite class has been John Kengla's senior year experience, because he values each student for who they are.

If I could give you any advice, it would be to study harder so that your classes will be easier, and to take extra chances. You have changed a lot because you are becoming who you want to be. You have become a leader on campus by joining the orientation team, the student alumni board (eventually becoming president) and by becoming a peer mentor. Keep going out and taking chances, and don't be afraid to struggle.

From, senior Elise



As told to Jordan Hamzee

Jack Rafoth '22
systems engineering major

Dear freshman Jack,



Senior year of high school, you were not sure if you wanted to attend college because you did not know if you needed to, given the careers you were interested in. Ultimately a push from your dad helped you decide to attend Otterbein, giving college a try. Now, four years later, you are about to graduate with a degree in systems engineering, which is a step toward a graduate degree.

During your time away at college, you have become more independent. You are now shaped to work professionally and have had three internships, as well as a job that you got through connections at The Point. You have become more patient and learned that it's OK to spend a lot of time on projects—those things don't always need to be rushed. You even learned how to cook. Utilize the professor's office hours more often and teach yourself new study habits, because they truly work.

From, senior Jack

Cultural Exchange

The challenges that international students face when coming to a new country

By Ambar Alveo Perez '22

Images courtesy of students

This spring term, Otterbein University welcomed 12 international students to campus—the latest cohort in a tradition that goes back about 15 years.

Over the last six years, until he left Otterbein for a job at American Electric Power in April, James Prysock has been involved with the international relations program. In his most recent role as director of the Office of Social Justice and Activism, he managed the program, providing guidance to students as they navigate the challenges of living in a foreign country.

Homesickness can be a problem for many college students, but when “home” is hundreds or thousands of miles away, the problem can be even more acute. Prysock compares it to a roller coaster.

“When students first come here, many of them are a little bit nervous, but kind of excited at the same time,” he says. “They’re just trying to adjust.” Prysock shares that the students usually find a rhythm after a few weeks, reaching the peak of the roller coaster as they make some friends and figure out their routines. But when everyone leaves for break, the roller coaster dips.

“A lot of international students go, ‘Well I can’t go home. I can’t see my family.’ I think that is a period of time where a lot of students get very homesick.” According to Prysock, after this period of homesickness, students power through and are determined to finish the semester strong.

But homesickness isn’t the only adjustment international students need to make. “Tan & Cardinal” asked several students to describe some of the challenges they’ve faced this year.

Ruby Powell, a second-year student from London, England, studying zoology, says that the grading system in America is quite different from the one at home.

“At home our grades are usually made up of two exams and an essay, or vice versa, whereas here you can get points for just being present in class,” she says. “Attendance, participation in class, homework, quizzes, exams, et cetera are each considered a percentage of your grade here.”

For Anna Abou Adal, a third-year student from Beirut, Lebanon, who is studying biology, the lack of community



Ruby Powell
Place of origin: London, England
Major: Zoology
Second-year student



Anna Abou Adal
Place of origin: Beirut, Lebanon
Major: Biology
Third-year student

and familiarity is a culture shock: “Here, it’s more self-centered than community—or family—centered, compared to Lebanon,” she says.

On the other hand, third-year student Seok Jun Hong from Seoul, South Korea, who is studying economics and applied statistics, was impressed by how vocal Americans are with compliments. “I think it’s common in Asian culture or East Asia [that] you don’t compliment someone you don’t know,” he says. “At first I was like, ‘Why are they complimenting me?’ but after four weeks, I kinda get that it’s just a cultural difference.”

The students also commented on some “American habits”



Seok Jun Hong
Place of origin: Seoul, South Korea
Majors: Economics, Applied Statistics
Third-year student



Yukino Nombara
Place of origin: Osaka, Japan
Major: Education
Third-year student

that have caused some confusion or amusement.

“I’m surprised that everyone wears [Otterbein-branded] clothes ... and has other merchandise from school, such as stickers and mugs,” says Yukino Nombara, a third-year student from Osaka, Japan, who is studying education. “In Japan, there’s no people wearing clothes from school on a daily basis. But American ones are different from Japan and really stylish. I want to get them! Generally, American people visually show their passion or love. That’s lovely!”

Meanwhile, Abou Adal was amused that students celebrate half birthdays and was even more surprised by

American excess. “Everything is bigger than at home,” she says. “The portions, the quantities, the distances—especially the distances.” Powell, meanwhile, found it confusing that some students pack up and leave at the designated time instead of waiting for the professor to dismiss class.

“But the most confusing thing here is the phrase, ‘How are you?’ ” says Powell, “It’s used way too sparingly here. Someone will ask you this but in passing, so before you can answer they will be at the other end of the building ... very odd.”

Prysock shares that another frequent hardship that international students go through is building connections with domestic students. “We have some really good people here on campus, but we also have people that are very shy, and some don’t know how to approach students from out of the country,” he says.

Hong has experienced this firsthand. “It depends on the course you’re attending,” he says. “For example, I kind of had a hard time making a group in my training and development class, because it’s only for seniors and most of the students are in their last semester, which means they all knew each other except for me.”

Powell shares that she’s had very positive experiences, but it also tends to be more challenging for her to make friends in her classes. “I’ve learned that it takes classmates a little longer here to mingle, and [they] are less likely to start a conversation,” she says. “But thankfully, I’ve only had positive experiences with my classmates and enjoy our group work.”

Prysock says a possible reason why domestic students hesitate to talk to international students is stereotypes. “American media does not portray things accurately sometimes, because it’s about who’s telling the story,” he says. “If people in your respective countries are not telling the story, then there’s a chance that the correct story is not being told.”

From the Office of Justice and Social Activism, Prysock tries to bridge the gap between domestic and international students. He encourages the international students to get out of their comfort zones and spend more time talking to American students instead of just their international friends. For domestic students, Prysock asks them to take the time to get to know international students and to be patient with students who may struggle with English.

“Sometimes in our culture, we don’t have a lot of patience,” reflects Prysock. “You say, ‘Hi. How are you doing?’ [and] you keep on walking. It’s that kind of stuff where we don’t have a lot of depth when it comes to relationships in our culture. We may know a little bit about many people, but we don’t know a lot about hardly anyone, so it’s [about] building those connections.”

Otterbein Survival Guide

A student's guide to navigating college

By Ayan Abdi '24 & Hayden Garrett '24



Coming to college is a significant transition for many students. The intensive schedule, heavy workload, potentially large financial investment and unprecedented amount of freedom can leave prospective students feeling overwhelmed or stressed. But they need not bear the weight alone.

There are plenty of ways an Otterbein student can get the help that they need. The university has many resources at its disposal that can help improve one's experience and make their transition into college smoother. "Tan & Cardinal" magazine spoke to a number of professors, students, resource offices and orientation staff members to create a guide on some of the ways new students can survive—and thrive—throughout their time at Otterbein.

1) Don't Be Afraid to Reach Out

Although students face many challenges when transitioning to college, they are far from alone.

"All of the staff and faculty here are willing to help and want you to succeed, and we are your biggest fans. So don't be afraid to reach out to us," says Kelly Murphy, assistant director of orientation and engagement at the Center for Student Involvement. "If you need any help or anything, we are more than happy to point you in the right direction or get you any resources you need to be a successful student."

Otterbein's faculty is more than willing to help their students, too. Professors have dedicated office hours for students to access help outside of

class time. They understand some of the difficulties and challenges that come with students working their way through college.

"No matter what problem you're facing, no matter how weird, difficult, frustrating, alienating—whatever it is, I guarantee that I have seen some version of it before," says Deborah Solomon, chair of the department of history and political science and associate professor of East Asian history. "I guarantee you're not the first person to face the kinds of struggles that you're facing."

Solomon also points out that Otterbein has numerous organizations around campus that students can reach out to for assistance, including the Academic Support Center and Writing Center, as well as the adviser

each student is assigned. Talking with professors and taking advantage of these resources can help students thrive at Otterbein.

2) Form Connections

However long or short, a student's Otterbein journey probably includes a lesson about the importance of networking. Often, students don't know where to start or even what networking entails.

The first step for students to start networking is getting to know their peers. Networking doesn't just mean talking to those who may offer you a job or an internship; it's about connecting with many varied resources in your field and outside of it.

Kate Lehman, assistant dean for student success at the Student Success and Career Development office, always urges students to get involved.

"I'm a big believer in, students should be involved in things outside of class," she says. Forming and fostering these connections can not only improve students' confidence, but it can also lead to a more enjoyable social experience and environment during their time in college.

"Put yourself out there and talk to people in your classes or go to meetings. It makes it a lot easier to form friendships," says Corinne Eutsey, a junior criminology & justice studies and political science double major. "I think being able to form connections with your professors [is important], so you are not afraid to reach out for help in school or networking with future opportunities."

3) Find A Balance

It's also important that students find a good balance between school and life.

Elijah McCutcheon, a senior political science major, recommends students check out places like the Campus Center, the Multicultural Center and the Office of Social



Justice and Activism for spaces to relax. "The OSJA is a wonderful place for our students to hang out and chill," he says.

Solomon cannot recommend the library enough. "I really love it in there. ... It's one of the places that I recommend, [if] students have time between classes, that they get in the habit of going," she says.

If going to the library sounds like it's too closely related to school, Anna Walker, a senior theatre major, recommends Uptown Westerville. "There are a lot of really great restaurants in Uptown—Asterisk, Thai Grille and Koble are my favorites, and Java Central is always worth a stop," she says. Uptown Westerville is an easy walk from campus, and there are free public parking lots available for those with cars.

4) Enjoy Yourself

None of the previous steps work as well without this last one.

Enjoying yourself at Otterbein—keeping yourself calm and open to new experiences and change—is important for success.

Embracing new experiences is a huge part of what college is all about, says Don Eskew, professor and department chair of business, accounting and economics. "To be really happy in college, try to find that place that makes you want to get up in the morning and go, 'Oh, man, I can't wait to go to this class. I can't wait to talk to this professor. I can't wait to try to find an internship here,'" he says. "What I'm trying to say is, it's OK to feel [things] out. It's absolutely OK to do what you want to do."

Embracing new experiences is bound to bring changes that must also be embraced. "Be okay with the growth that is going to happen in your four years here," says McCutcheon. "It will be tough, but I promise you, when you look at yourself on the other side, [you will] be proud of yourself that you made it through."

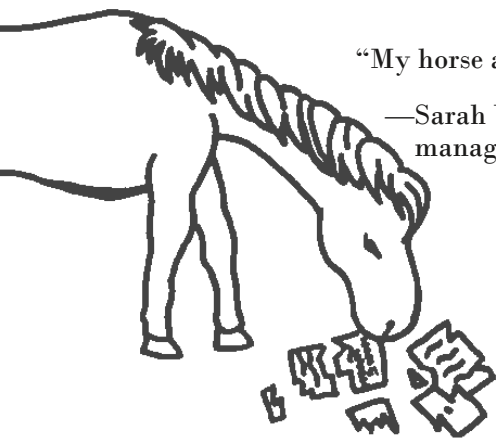
Excuse Me!

Otterbein students and professors share their best (and worst) excuses for missing assignments and class.

Compiled by Isabelle Fisher '23

Illustrations by Elizabeth Thompson '23

What makes a horse, dog and a tarantula similar? They've all been used as excuses for missing assignments or classes from Otterbein students (and professors). Here are some of the best excuses given to (and by) Otterbein professors.



“My horse ate my homework—this is not a lie.”

—Sarah Vince '25, finance and equine business management double major



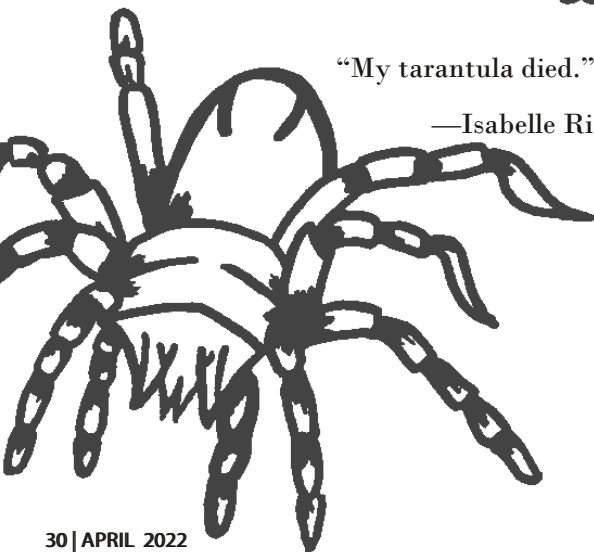
“A mother once wrote me about her daughter saying, ‘My daughter might be a little weepy today in class, because her cat passed two days ago.’ ”

—Dan Steinberg, senior instructor in communication



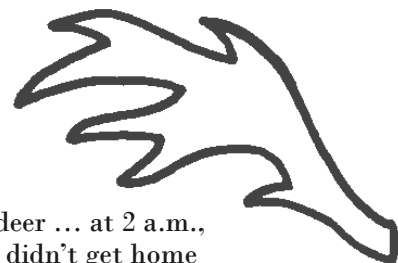
“Last fall, one of our dogs got into some papers my wife was grading while we were out and actually ate a student’s [homework]. That was funny.”

—John Tansey, chemistry professor and faculty trustee



“My tarantula died.”

—Isabelle Risko '25, zoo and conservation science major



“My roommate hit a deer and killed the deer ... at 2 a.m., and I had to drive an hour to get her. We didn’t get home until 5 a.m. and therefore will not be in our morning class. Here’s [a photo of] the disembodied antler for proof.”

—Zoya Bokhari '22, theatre and business administration double major



otterbein student media

T&C Media is a student-run news organization serving the Otterbein University community that seeks to provide accurate and reliable coverage of events and issues affecting the campus community. Its branches include a website, magazine, live sports video team and radio station. T&C Media is not only an extracurricular activity, but also a service to the college community in general and student body in particular. All students are eligible to be involved in all aspects of production. Visit www.tandcmedia.org to view student-written stories and for more information about each organization branch.

WOBN is the student-run radio station of T&C Media that broadcasts on 97.5 FM. WOBN broadcasts to the Otterbein and Westerville community and can be streamed live anywhere in the world from www.tandcmedia.org. Students showcase a wide variety of music, from national stars to local artists, with general airplay focusing on modern alternative. WOBN is the exclusive radio home for Otterbein athletics. It broadcasts all football games, most men's and women's basketball and baseball games, and select lacrosse games.





tan & cardinal

