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10-23-2017

University Update October 2017

Kathy Krendl

Otterbein University, kkrendl@otterbein.edu

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Recommended Citation

Krendl, Kathy, "University Update October 2017" (2017). *University Updates & Communications from the University President*. 44.

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Otterbein University *UPDATE*



*From President Kathy A. Krendl
October 23, 2017*

During our 100th Homecoming a few weeks ago, we welcomed the Class of 1967 back to campus for their 50th anniversary. At their luncheon celebration I gave a presentation on the work we have been doing at Otterbein in recent years. I talked about our challenges and our successes and ended with our recent Kindness Matters initiative. I described some of the activities that we have been involved in since Commencement last spring when students wrote notes of appreciation to faculty and staff who had helped them along the way. At the end of my presentation, one 1967 graduate told me that kindness wasn't anything new at Otterbein. She said from the moment she stepped foot on campus, she encountered people who offered to help her find her way, offer their assistance, and welcome her into the community.



I asked her to send me her story to tell me more. I recently received her letter documenting the many times she benefited from acts of kindness during her undergraduate years here at Otterbein. As she put it, "Kindness has always been a part of Otterbein. Based on the way people treated me, I learned that I should always make an effort to help others, and I have made that a practice throughout my life. Now 50 years down the road, I realize how many friends I would have missed the opportunity to know if I hadn't extended a welcoming hand or a

kind word, if I hadn't practiced what I learned at Otterbein about being kind to others. I am so glad the institution is maintaining that spirit of kindness today."

Her comments made me reflect on the ways in which we welcome our students into our community today. The picture that came to mind was one of the peer mentor in our Women and Leadership First Year Seminar. Each week she presents a timely topic to our students. I witness the kindness she demonstrates as she reassures students that they will be fine. She advises them to get plenty of rest, take care of themselves, eat healthy foods, and call her if they get lonely. She has become my model of kindness. She brings a caring attitude and a smile to each class. It's always amazing to me that our students are often our role models at Otterbein. They help to make our community one where Kindness really does Matter.

Above and Beyond Award Honoree for August 2017

I am pleased to announce that the Above and Beyond Award for August goes to **Terri Tracy**, Software Licensing and Procurement Specialist in ITS. Terri uses her 23 years of IT experience and knowledge to advance the mission of the institution. According to her nominator, "Terri provides outstanding customer service to faculty, staff, students and alumni across the Otterbein Community. Her problem-solving skills make Terri the go-to person for the most difficult issues that seem to have no solution. These issues often require extensive research and in-depth analysis that frequently go beyond normal business hours."

Additionally, Terri teaches student workers in ITS to think deeply and broadly about issues related to technology. This education develops our students' problem-solving skills around a host of IT-related issues including cybersecurity, system performance and reliability, and configuration management. These skills have contributed to our students obtaining high-paid IT employment immediately after graduation.

Terri works closely with major vendors in the IT industry, including large corporations such as Dell, Microsoft, Apple, Adobe, and IBM. She uses her product evaluation and negotiation skills to acquire the highest quality hardware and software at heavily discounted prices. For example, Terri recently negotiated an extended five-year warranty on computers and monitors with Dell at no additional cost to the university.



Please join me in congratulating Terri Tracy on receiving the Above and Beyond Award.

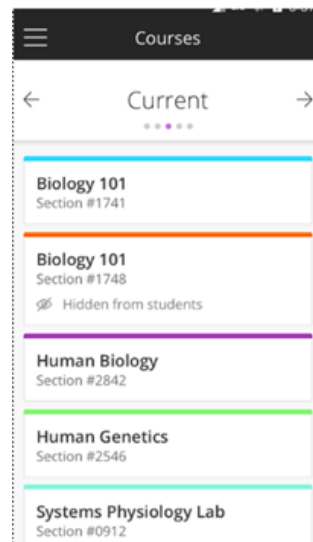
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)

The interior and exterior door access readers in Mayne, DK, Garst, Scott, and Engle Halls have been upgraded from magnetic stripe readers to proximity readers. The new readers allow access by placing the cardinal card within 7" of the unit. The new technology provides quicker access and improved reliability over the magnetic stripe readers.

MyOZone is the institutional intranet site (Ozone.Otterbein.edu). This site will be migrated to a new platform in the next three to four weeks. The current software platform was discontinued by the vendor. The interface on the new site is mobile friendly with a modern look and feel. Once the new Ozone is released, a secondary effort will begin to migrate several old intranet websites to this platform. Additional information will be sent out via email over the next few weeks.

A new instructor app for Blackboard is now available. The app helps faculty manage courses, communicate with students, and efficiently complete administrative tasks. To install the app on your tablet or phone, simply open your app store and search for "Blackboard Instructor."

During the December break, Blackboard will be moving from Otterbein's hosted environment to an SaaS environment. The migration will require BB Learn to be offline for two to three days. The SaaS migration is necessary for BB Learn to move to the latest release called Ultra. The date for the upgrade, as well as training sessions, will be announced soon.



President Krendl is pleased to offer free coffee or hot tea at The Roost for all employees throughout Fall Semester. If you don't have a Model Community mug, please contact Tammy Lowks in the President's Office, 302 Roush Hall.



BUSINESS AFFAIRS

The Center for Student Involvement, Campus Sustainability Committee, the Office of Facilities Services, and Marketing and Communications all worked together to design and implement new Trash and Recycling stations currently being installed in University classrooms.

According to Gary Johnson, Assistant Director of Campus Grounds, "the hope is that there will be new fervor and consistency in Otterbein's Recycling Program." Gary went on to say that the new bins are color coded like the trash dumpsters on campus: **RED** is for **RECYCLING** and **TAN** is for **TRASH**.

For more information, contact Facilities Services at 614-823-1300.

For all of the latest Otterbein news, visit www.otterbein.edu and check out the **Spotlights**.

Professor Selected as Commissioned Composer

Otterbein Associate Professor Jennifer Bernard Merkwitz was chosen as the 2017 Commissioned Composer for the Ohio Music Teachers Association annual conference, with her work premiering on Oct. 13.

[Read our news](#)

COMINGS AND GOINGS

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

Samantha Boch, Assistant Professor, Nursing
Katie Butt, Director, Annual Giving
Kristin Cole, Special Projects, Library
Lauren Ladd, Assistant Coach, Volleyball
Jeffrey McCormick, Faculty, Graduate Education
Kevin Rieman, Assistant Coach, Wrestling
Lydia Sellers, Stable Assistant
Sandra Skovron, Affiliate Associate Professor
Matthew Stoll, Assistant Coach, Wrestling
Judith Wymer, Mental Health Staff Counselor

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

Aimee Cerny, Lab Assistant
Karli Collins, Human Resources Assistant
Andrew Lugar, Admission Counselor
Julie McGrady, Administrative Assistant
Karen Pierson, Music Lesson Teacher
Bushra Sandhu, Development Associate
Rebekah Scarpuzzi, Police Officer
Alexander Scott, Stable Assistant

The Otterbein Women's Club celebrated their first \$1 million donated to the university with a new sign unveiling on October 19, 2017.



Thank you, again, for your hard work and dedication. As always, if you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or a member of Cabinet.

Sincerely,
Kathy A. Krendl
Kathy A. Krendl
President

Mark Your Calendars
Otterbein's annual **Holiday Tree Lighting** will be held on Friday, December 1, at 5:30 p.m.

Otterbein University Mission

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

Otterbein University Vision

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