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University Update - January 2018

Otterbein University

Kathy A. Krendl

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Otterbein University **UPDATE**



From President Kathy A. Krendl
January 29, 2018

When I returned from the holiday break, I found a letter on my desk. Enclosed with the letter was a check for \$61,900. The letter explained that a family member had benefitted from scholarship and grant support during his years at Otterbein in the 1990s, and they wanted to re-pay the funds to support the next generation of students. They had calculated the support he received into today's value, and the total resulted in the sum of \$61,900. When I called to thank them, the comment was, "We just felt we needed to pay it back. It was a debt that we needed to pay."

This remark prompted my thinking about how many debts I have not re-paid. There are many of them, I'm sure, and I suspect that is true for many of us. It also made me think about Otterbein's Kindness Matters initiative. How many of you presented your Welcome Back plant last fall to a friend or neighbor or community member as a recognition of an act of kindness, to say thank you, to acknowledge their generosity? And what did those individuals do next? Did it prompt them to fulfill a debt of gratitude? How many lives were touched from that simple act of distributing plants around our community, and how can we measure the impact of such actions? That is the concept behind the Kindness Matters initiative.

The question posed to us by the Columbus Foundation -- what makes kindness contagious -- is intriguing. What prompts us to re-pay debts of gratitude? Whatever debts remain for you, I hope the Kindness Matters effort will prompt you to consider re-paying them. I also hope that you will take the time to add your reflections on the meaning of kindness on our website by clicking [here](#). Your insights and experiences will help us answer the question. I'm about to make my first entry to begin to re-pay my Otterbein debts. Please join me.

Above and Beyond Award Honoree



I am pleased to announce **Larry Banaszak** as January's Above and Beyond Awardee. **Bob Gatti's** nomination follows:

I'd like to nominate Larry Banaszak for the Above and Beyond Award. Larry joined the Otterbein Student Affairs staff in 2003. He worked tirelessly to help Otterbein convert from a security department to a police department in 2011.

Over the years, the Otterbein Police Department (OPD) has received many compliments for its service on campus, as well as local, state, and national recognition for its work.

Larry has taken the lead on developing campus-wide training exercises for crisis response. He has worked with each of the vice presidents to develop their crisis response and recovery plan, oversees the Rave Alert, and has worked closely with ITS to install over 100 cameras on campus – all to ensure the safety of our campus community.

For these reasons, I am nominating Larry Banaszak for the Above and Beyond Award.

Please join me in congratulating Larry!

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A Working Summit on Climate Change

On Saturday, January 20th, over 100 individuals gathered at the Stratford Ecological Center for a “Working Summit on Climate Change” to unite forces to address the threats of climate change in central Ohio. The event was spearheaded by Otterbein English faculty member Terry Hermesen, along with Otterbein, Ohio Wesleyan University, and OSU-Marion faculty and environmentalists. Participants in the Summit included community leaders from Westerville, Delaware, and Columbus; educational affiliates and students from local area Universities and high schools; a variety of non-profit and environmentally minded community groups; local farming agencies; and many more. The event’s main purpose was to share the success stories of people already making an impact in our communities and to consider joining forces to continue to make a difference.

Virtual Reality Professional Learning Community

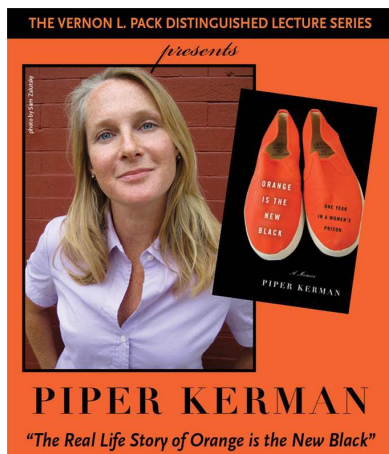
This spring, the Center for Teaching & Learning, in conjunction with The Point and other campus partners, will help Otterbein faculty, students, and staff explore the pedagogical use of virtual and augmented reality aligned with Otterbein’s *Five Cardinal Experiences* program. This initiative is the result of previous professional learning communities facilitated by the Center for Teaching & Learning. The first, in 2016, identified virtual and augmented reality in learning environments as an “emerging trend in higher education.” In 2017, a second group examined how immersive technologies could enhance traditional courses and impact student learning. The faculty in this second community decided to “pay forward” their allotted funds to purchase virtual and augmented reality equipment to be used as a shared resource by the campus community.

This equipment is available at the Courtright Memorial library and The Point and is already being used to support teaching and learning at Otterbein. Starting in February, a new Professional Learning Community (PLC) of 20 faculty, students, and staff will examine how virtual or augmented reality can enhance the activities that earn students one of the *Five Cards*. They will share their findings during interactive “pop-up” showcases in locations throughout our campus. In addition, the purchase of this equipment allowed **Dr. Jennifer Bennett’s** Biology 2030 class to explore “A VR journey through the cell” in Spring semester.



Student Using Virtual Reality Equipment

Applications for the Immersive Technology PLC are open until Wednesday, Jan 31st. To explore Virtual and Augmented Reality at Otterbein please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning (ctl@otterbein.edu).



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You are invited to the Vernon L. Pack Distinguished Lecture on
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at Cowan Hall.

This year's speaker is Piper Kerman, author of *Orange is the New Black: One Year in a Women's Prison*. **Limited seats are available.**

Tickets are available at the Box Office.

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STUDENT AFFAIRS

The **Promise House** welcomed 400 student members during the fall semester, with over 270 pantry visits per



month and 65 volunteers (including five faculty and staff) who kept the doors open for nearly 60 hours per week. The Promise House was "adopted" by five academic departments (Communication, Art, HSS, Education, and Chemistry/BMB) and four service-learning courses whose students and staff facilitated a "round-up" for cash donations, provided over 20 drop-in volunteers, went on a giant "Costco run," and offered educational programs on ceramic tile painting and study food choices. With a generous alumni donation, The Promise House is now stocking shelves with a wide variety of both vegetarian and vegan options to ensure that students have a broader choice of foods in the pantry and a healthy stock of organic vegan options in the freezer. In addition to weekly free breakfasts, monthly pizza nights, and chicken and change discussions, we also co-hosted a Teach-In for the Planet with info on food justice, an informative Vegan Night with Coral Harris speaking with students about pathways to living vegan, and two guest speakers from OSU Extension (on Ohio food insecurity) and Star House (on teen homelessness).



MLK Service Project



MLK Service Project

In partnership with CCPD and The Kristine Yohn Wellness Program, several Adulting 101 sessions helped students develop financial literacy skills. As part of The Promise House's commitment to community service, students contributed over 800 volunteer hours. November marked the launch of a new alumni-funded emergency mini-grant program for students.

The **Center for Student Involvement** is again partnering with the **Office of Social Justice and Activism** to present Dialogue Across Difference events throughout Spring term. Dialogue Across Difference is a diversity event series tackling social justice topics

through engaging activities, critical examination, and dynamic dialogue. All events are co-facilitated by Otterbein students, and create space for people to come together to learn about diversity, equity, justice, and allyship. Events are open to the campus community and do not require any prior knowledge of the topics. Events are FYE & INST approved. Click [here](#) to view the online event calendar.

Athletics

Congratulations to the fall season athletic teams! Otterbein University ranked 26th nationally in this year's Learfield Directors' Cup standings, the highest finish for fall season in school history. Please click [here](#) to view the full article.

Otterbein Police Department (OPD)

OPD participated in a live exercise in the Science Building on December 20, which involved active shooter and a hostage situation. They worked closely with SWAT teams from the OSU Police Department and Delaware County.



2017 Women's Cross Country Team

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Facilities Services

Otterbein University is now recycling food waste from the Campus Center. In the last ten weeks of 2017, 6,280 pounds of waste were removed to be processed into organic compost. In the future, this program will be expanded to other services and vending locations on campus. The University's partner, Innovative Organics Recycling, has agreed to donate compost back to the University for use at the Community Garden.

Big changes are coming for the Otterbein University Campus Center. Plans are underway to modernize the building, which was built in 1964. BHDP Architecture, located in Columbus, has been engaged to aid the University with architecture and engineering for the planned upgrades. The project will improve the student dining experience, provide additional meeting and event spaces, enhance recruiting and student retention, and modernize the building systems. Visioning for the new spaces is underway with stakeholder meetings scheduled for the end of January. These sessions will engage and seek guidance from the campus community as we move forward into formal design.



New Furniture in Roush 336

Classrooms throughout campus were upgraded with new or reallocated furniture over the 2017 holiday. The enhancements were designed and spearheaded by the Learning Environments Coordinating Committee (LECC).

The Point is well underway with Phase 2 of the project. Overall the project is on schedule. Owner turnover is still set for July 6, 2018.

Budget Office

The Budget Office continues to make progress on streamlining Budget Transfers. The process has been implemented among a small group of University users. The Budget Office is working with ITS to create e-mail notifications and with HRIS/FIS to establish appropriate approval queues for remaining University areas. The test phase for e-mail notifications will be Winter 2018. Following a successful testing period, further roll out of budget transfers would begin in April 2018. The goal is to have online budget transfers in place University wide by July 2018.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)

The campus internet demand has been growing at 60% per year for the past four years. To meet current and future demand, Otterbein's internet connection and campus backbone equipment were upgraded to 10G from 1G during the December break. This improvement to the campus infrastructure provides the capacity required to meet these demands during peak periods, as well as improved file transfer speed for large files. A special thanks to our network engineers, **Tim Pindell** and **Bradley Shearrow**, for implementing this technology with minimal downtime.

The Banner 9 Administrator (INB replacement) is being released this week to campus functional areas for quality assurance testing. This upgrade provides a modern look and feel with improved functionality and increased efficiency. If the testing goes well, the system will be live by the end of May. Banner 9 for self-service banner (SSB) testing and release will follow the administrator release.

During the December break, Blackboard moved from Otterbein's hosted environment to a SaaS environment. The SaaS migration was required for BB Learn to upgrade to the latest release called Ultra, a modern interface with streamlined functionality to improve the learning experience.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



WHERE WE
STAND MATTERS
The Campaign for Otterbein's Future:
Investing in Students First

Positive Momentum Continues

The Institutional Advancement team brought calendar year 2017 to a successful close. Donors continue to support the University at a solid level. Contributing to this success was the return of the Columbus Foundation's *Big Give*, a Presidential Challenge, and the annual outreach on Giving Tuesday. Implications of the new federal tax law are under review.

Campaign Update

As of mid-January, commitments to the Where We STAND Matters Campaign have exceeded \$45 million, 90% of the \$50 million goal, from more than 10,000 donors comprised of alumni, faculty, staff and students, corporations and foundations, parents (former and current), and friends of the University.

Two highlights include the planning underway for the re-envisioned Campus Center and the Grove, as well as the designation of an estate gift of \$500,000 to strengthen our Five Cards program.

Office of Alumni Relations – Important Dates

- ◆ Lifelong Learning Community Spring Kick-off – Monday, February 19, 3:30 p.m., The Point
- ◆ Community Service Plunge inviting alumni – Saturday, March 17, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Endowed Scholarship Luncheon – Saturday, March 24, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Alumni Awards Ceremony - Saturday, April 21, 7:00 pm, Cowan Hall
- ◆ 24th Cardinal Migration to York and Gettysburg, PA – May 7 – 10 (register by March 1)
- ◆ Summer Breeze: Relive the 70s Decade – June 15 – 17
- ◆ The Inns and Coves of New England travel opportunity– September 10 – 18, 2018 (register by March 1)
- ◆ Homecoming 2018: *Home is Where the Heart Is* - September 21-22; 50th reunion for the Class of 1968

Office of Annual Giving and Advancement Services – Giving Notes of Interest

- ◆ The average annual fund gift is up 22%.
- ◆ Web giving dollars have increased 54%.
- ◆ Upgrade dollars have increased 34%, from \$99,294 in FY17 to \$133,472 in FY18.
- ◆ The Columbus Foundation's *Big Give* took place in mid-October, with over \$56,000 secured for Otterbein.
- ◆ Ninety more donors needed in FY18 to reach our new goal of 60% of faculty and staff giving.

Office of Marketing & Communications

The search team for an executive director of marketing and communications, led by **Jefferson Blackburn-Smith**, is currently in the screening process of a small group of top candidates. On-campus interviews will begin soon.

Kindness Matters at Otterbein

- ◆ Watch for events and opportunities to celebrate Kindness at Otterbein.
- ◆ Share your kindness-oriented stories and stay connected for opportunities to get involved on the new website, OtterbeinKindnessMatters.org and follow us at #OtterbeinKindness.
- ◆ Share your ideas for programming with **Gina Calcamuggio** by e-mail to gcalcamuggio@otterbein.edu or by phone at 614-823-1331.

KINDNESS
MATTERS
AT OTTERBEIN 

COMINGS AND GOINGS

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

John Baker, Assistant Coach, Athletics
Allison Barlow, Operations Coordinator, Academic Affairs
Katie Butt, Director, Annual Giving, Inst. Advancement
Samuel Clein, Accompanist, Music
Kristin Cole, Asmnt/Spec Proj Lib/Asst Prof, Library
Madelaine Hill, Asst Dir, Annual Giving, Inst. Advance.
Patrick Kerley, Asst Volleyball Coach, Athletics
Jason Kitchen, HVAC Mechanic, Facilities
Kristen Miller, Dev Assoc, Inst. Advancement
Gabriela Montes Trujillo, Counselor/Recruiter, Enroll.
Kacie Sampson, Administrative Assistant, Stu. Affairs
Keyomah Shakoor, HR Generalist, Human Resource
Nicole Sutton, Assistant, Library
Judith Wymer, Mental Health Staff Counselor, Stu. Affairs

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

Aimee Cerny, Lab Assistant, Nursing
Karli Collins, HR Assistant, Human Resources

Kay Covert, Secretary Receptionist, Student Wellness
Thomas Frazee, Police Officer, Campus Police
William Harper, Professor, Mathematical Sciences
Patricia Keane, Faculty, Nursing
Lauren Ladd, Asst Volleyball Coach, Athletics
Andrew Lugar, Admission Counselor, Admission
Paul Markoff, TV Production Assistant, WOCC TV Services
Julie McGrady, Administrative Assistant, Campus Center
Amy Overturf, Intrntnl Admission Counselor, Admission
Jennifer Pearce, Exec Director, Marketing & Communications
Karen Pierson, Music Lesson Teacher, Music
Tim Priest, Assoc Director, Campus Operations
Allen Prindle, Professor, Business/Accounting/Economics
Senath Rankin, Exec Assistant, Inst. Advancement
Sarah Rauschenberg, Stable Assistant, Equine Science
Bushra Sandhu, Dev Assoc, Inst. Advancement
Rebekah Scarpuzzi, Police Officer, Campus Police
Alexander Scott, Stable Assistant, Equine Science
Lydia Sellers, Stable Assistant, Equine Science
Sarah Shumick, Asst Dir, Grad Recruitment, Admission
Matthew Stoll, Assistant Wrestling Coach, Athletics



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy A. Krendl".

Kathy A. Krendl, President



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.