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Otterbein Towers

SPRING 2019



The
Inauguration
of Our
21st
President

ONLY OTTERBEIN — INCLUSIVE › INNOVATIVE › INTENTIONAL

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I approach the anniversary of my first day as Otterbein's president, I fully appreciate all that it means to be part of this outstanding community. The inauguration week events, including the ceremony at Cowan Hall, reinforced everything that Rachel and I already hold dear about Otterbein — its values, its place in history, its educational innovation, and without question — its people and their regard for one another and this institution.

Otterbein has welcomed me and my family with open arms and quickly made us feel at home. The value of inclusion — of knowing you are not only welcome but are truly valued for who you are — is an Otterbein calling card as recognizable as Towers Hall. It differentiates us to those who want more than a sense of belonging — it speaks to those who want to be part of something meaningful. Otterbein can be counted on to do the right thing for the right reason.

That's why I want to make sure Otterbein is known as the model for 21st century excellence and a force for good in our community, state, nation, and, yes, the world. Otterbein is inclusive, innovative and intentional in ways only it can be. I believe we have something important to offer students and their families — and when it comes to values like affordability and inclusion, I believe Otterbein is an example that others should emulate.

I believe Otterbein can be the leader higher education needs right now. If you're interested in hearing more about this, I invite you to read more starting on pg. 16. I want to hear what you think, too.

I also hope you'll explore new ways that Otterbein is inclusive (pg. 20), innovative (pg. 22) and intentional (pg. 24) from the insight and ideas expressed by our students, alumni, faculty and staff.

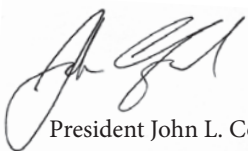
Finally, you will read about the many ways in which our alumni and friends are making an impact at Otterbein (pg. 26) and in their communities (pg. 46 – Alumni Awards).

I hope that you will enjoy our inauguration issue and pass it along to family and friends.

As I conclude my first year at Otterbein, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of this exceptional University.

I look forward to working with all of you to make sure the world understands what Only Otterbein can do.

Sincerely,



President John L. Comerford

**The Comerford family
on inauguration day.**



Mission Statement

Otterbein University 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.

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Otterbein Towers

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We are committed to creating a culture that recognizes, respects, embraces, and values differences in the broadest sense.

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Otterbein is inventive, imaginative and resourceful. We look for creative approaches both in the way we routinely do our work and how we address challenges.

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Otterbein is thoughtful, purposeful and smart. When we see there is a problem or a need, we holistically look at the scale and scope in considering a solution.

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About the Cover

John Comerford at his inauguration on April 12. The historic weekend included a variety of celebrations that brought together past university leaders, community members, students and alumni to reflect on Otterbein's accomplishments and honor future commitments to excellence.

Otterbein Women's Athletics First-Ever OAC All-Sports Trophy

For the first time in the 35-year history of the award, Otterbein University has captured the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Women's All-Sports Trophy after a standout 2018-19 athletic calendar.

The OAC All-Sports Trophy, initially established in 1985, was created to recognize cumulative success across a school's varsity sport programs and how they finish within the league. Otterbein finished the recent year with 78.25 points collectively, good enough to narrowly edge out runner-up Mount Union with 76.25.

The Cardinals nearly accomplished this feat on the women's side last year after finishing second by the same two-point margin to Ohio Northern, which had previously captured three-straight all-sports trophies.

"It's been a long time coming," said Connie Richardson, senior associate athletic director. "This was always something that Coach

Reynolds and then Dawn Stewart, especially, strove for. I think it says tremendous things about our student-athletes in general and is now a cool aspect that we get to promote from an administrative standpoint."

Otterbein was spearheaded this time around on the strength of OAC championships in cross country, soccer, softball, volleyball and indoor track and field. The Cards then had upper-division finishes in almost every other sport, including third place amongst the standings for tennis, golf and outdoor track and field.

Otterbein finished third on the men's side of the All-Sports standings, tallying 70.25 points to rank behind John Carroll (88.50) and Mount Union (75.25). The men brought home league trophies in baseball, cross country and golf along with a runner-up effort in indoor track and field.

Otterbein now has three All-Sports trophies in all as the men hold two, coming after successful runs in 2001-02 and 2004-05.



Director of Athletics **Dawn Mamula Stewart '98** holds the Women's All-Sports trophy. At right are the championship teams of (top to bottom) women's indoor track, softball and volleyball. The women's teams in soccer and cross country also won OAC championships.





WE ARE committed to affordability.

Otterbein University believes that all students who want to pursue a college education should be able to afford it. That's why we are introducing the Opportunity Scholarship across Ohio. Plus, we are committing to total tuition transparency for all future Cardinals.

Only Otterbein.



OTTERBEIN
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Learn more:
Otterbein.edu/affordability

Travel Opens Students' Eyes to New Cultures

SYE Course takes students to Vietnam and Cambodia

by Aselya Sposato '21

For English majors **Kira Judd '19** and **Elise Woods '19**, traveling to Vietnam and Cambodia was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Both Judd and Woods were enrolled in a May 2018 travel course, which combined English and history topics with Otterbein's Senior Year Experience program. After spending the spring semester in the classroom learning about the history and culture of Vietnam and Cambodia, as well as effective photography and reflective journaling techniques, the two students spent three weeks studying abroad in both countries.

"It was the best trip I've ever been on," said Woods, an English creative writing and theatre major. "It was surprising to be immersed in a culture that is so defined by the war, and I enjoyed disassociating the country from U.S. history alone."

The trip was led by Otterbein faculty members Anthony DeStefanis (who teaches U.S. history) and Shannon Lakanen (who teaches creative writing), along with a group of eight students. Throughout their time abroad, the students participated in daily writing and photography activities to strengthen their journaling skills.

DeStefanis said going to Vietnam and Cambodia gave students the opportunity to connect what they learned in a traditional, on-campus course to the people and places they learned about, while also investigating ethical travel.

"Most students in the travel course had never traveled overseas, and if they had, they'd never been to countries with such a complicated historical relationship with the U.S.," said DeStefanis. "We introduced students to writing about and photographing their experiences and what their thinking about these experiences means in their lives and how they relate to the world around them. In all these ways, we think this course is a good introduction to what the humanities has to offer students."

Both Judd and Woods agree that students looking to participate in future May travel courses should make the most of their time abroad to become responsible global citizens.

"Go somewhere you never thought you would travel to," said Woods. "Otterbein makes these kind of experiences so accessible, so say yes to every opportunity that comes your way and take advantage of the world around you."



Left: At the Cu Chi tunnels built by the National Liberation Front to escape American bombing: **Anthony DeStefanis**, **Mallory Soska '19**, **Emily Knoth '20**, **Kira Judd '19**, **Meg Schinner '21**, **Mercede Marcolongo '19**. At right is an abandoned aircraft at Khe Sanh, which was the site of a U.S. Marine base in Quang Tri Province near the De-Militarized Zone.

Environmental Changes that Benefit the Economy

A Choice of Life or Death

by Bethany Eippert '20



Winona LaDuke, a Native American activist, environmentalist and former Green Party vice presidential candidate, came to Otterbein as the 2019 Vernon L. Pack Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence.

LaDuke works nationally and internationally on the issues of climate change, renewable energy and environmental justice alongside indigenous communities.

She discussed her mission to make environmental measures the basis of the future economy.

"In Anishinaabe teachings, we have a prophecy called 'the time of the seventh fire.' It says there will come a time when we have to make a choice between two paths. One is well worn, but it is scorched. The other path is not well worn, but it is green," she said.

LaDuke believes that time is now. "It is a choice between life and death, a choice between oil and drinkable water, a choice for our food and our future.

"My focus is the transition to the next economy," LaDuke said. "I am a social economist — I want the next economy to serve people of color and poor people."

Originally from Los Angeles, LaDuke began making a political name for herself at the age of 18 when she addressed the United Nations on Native American issues.

After graduating from Harvard in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in native economic development, she returned to her ancestors' land, an Indian reservation of the Anishinaabe people located in northwestern Minnesota called White Earth.

On White Earth, they travel by horse and farm sacred wild rice like their ancestors have done for thousands of years. "We can drink the water straight from the lakes on our land. Not many people can say that," she said.

LaDuke is a "water protector," so clean, drinkable water is something she wants to preserve on White Earth and to create for all people. She has spent her life advocating for indigenous rights and social justice and fighting against environmentally harmful projects, including an oil pipeline from Canada that would cross White Earth land, with the potential of poisoning the reservation's water.

LaDuke is founding director of both the White Earth Land Recovery Program and Honor the Earth, a foundation that raises awareness and support for climate change, renewable energy, sustainable development, and environmental justice.

She also established the Eighth Fire Project to pursue the green path and has introduced renewable energy into her community by manufacturing solar thermal panels. Called Eighth Fire Solar, this manufacturing company creates job opportunities and affordable energy sources for residents within White Earth.

Her most recent project is Winona's Hemp & Heritage

Farm. According to LaDuke, hemp is one of the most important crops in America because it can provide food, paper, clothing and insulation that will lead to a sustainable, green future.

In 1996 and 2000, LaDuke ran for vice president of the Green Party with candidate Ralph Nader. Her extensive political experience led the Democrats in 2018 to request that she review the Green New Deal, a resolution to address climate change.

"I'm hoping that people realize the solutions are at hand," LaDuke said. "People just need hard work and good hearts to actualize them."

"I hope that I gave the students here new ideas and inspiration," she said. "They can make a difference if they figure out what they want to do, then do it passionately and well."





WKYC anchor Will Ujek interviews former Ohio Governor John Kasich on Otterbein's campus.

Unique Learning Opportunity Mobile Newsroom Comes to Campus

by Jenny Hill '05

A Cleveland area television station, WKYC-NBC3, provided a unique learning experience for communication students when it brought a mobile newsroom to campus on Monday, Feb. 4, to interview former Ohio Governor John Kasich.

WKYC's parent company converted a box truck into a mobile newsroom featuring clear walls, so that members of the public can watch interviews live. Eighteen students came to watch the professional news production next to the Campus Center. They submitted questions to Kasich, now a senior fellow at Otterbein, and met him after the interview.

Aselya Sposato '21, a public relations and journalism and media communication double major, was among a handful of students who watched the interview from inside the news truck. "It was interesting to see how the reporter interacted with Kasich. In public relations, we are taught to stick to three main points in an interview, and Kasich kept pivoting back to his three points no matter what he was asked. It was interesting to watch the reporter either go back to his original question or move on. The interview was very fast-paced," she said.

"It was also really valuable to see the set up of the newsroom. The truck was

small, but there were people for lighting, people for sound, people for video. You don't see all of that in the final product, but those are all important aspects of broadcast journalism," Sposato said.

Equally valuable was the learning experience that came after the interview. WKYC anchor Will Ujek and public relations professional Jim Lynch, who has served as communications director for Kasich and as chief spokesperson for The Ohio State University, talked to the students and answered their questions about journalism, public relations, and how the two work together.

ROTC Students Receive Scholarships while Serving the Country

Otterbein students **Blake Stich '21** and **Megan Carey '22** recently received Army ROTC and Otterbein scholarships to continue their education while serving their country. The ROTC scholarships cover full tuition, fees, books and a monthly stipend for each student's remaining time at Otterbein. The Otterbein scholarship covers room and board.

"This means the world to me," said Stich, a sophomore sports management major and wide receiver on the football

team. "I am blessed, humbled, and thankful for all of it and everyone supporting me."

Carey, a first-year athletic training major and hurdler on the track and field team, said, "This is all so very humbling. I'm very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to continue my education and athletics as well as serve my country and follow my family's military service tradition." Her father, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather are all members of the armed forces.



Megan Carey '22 receives Army ROTC and Otterbein Scholarships.



Otterbein Graduates First Engineering Class

by Aselya Sposato '21

The first-ever graduating class from Otterbein University's Department of Engineering exceeded national graduation rates for women in engineering at commencement this spring.

According to the American Society of Engineering Education, the national average for females earning bachelor's degrees in engineering is 19.9%. The average for minority students graduating with engineering degrees is just 7%. Amongst the 21 students graduating, 29% were female and 29% were minority students.

"My professors and fellow students have always treated me like an equal from the start," said **Reagan Nemec '19**, a systems engineering major from the graduating class. "I've never felt judged or looked down upon for being a woman."

One of the ways Otterbein's program supports its female students is through a campus chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), created by systems engineering major **Mikayla Knerr '19**. The organization conducts various outreach programs to create a safe, supportive learning environment for women and has received widespread support from both male and female students.

The creation of SWE is just one of the many ways the Engineering Department, which began in 2015, has changed over the past four years. The class of 2019

started taking engineering courses before construction began on The Point, which is now a growing STEAM innovation center and home to the Engineering Department.

"The students in this class had their first engineering lab in a faculty member's office because we didn't have the space for them yet," said Mike Hudoba, assistant professor of engineering. "Looking back on what they started with, it's such a neat legacy they get to leave behind."

In its first year, the only available major was systems engineering. Since then, the department has experienced growth and integration across disciplines by offering degrees in mechanical engineering, computer science and environmental health and safety.

"THE ACCESS TO SMALL CLASS SIZES, ON-SITE BUSINESSES AND THE MANY CONNECTIONS OF THE ENGINEERING FACULTY HAVE HELPED TREMENDOUSLY WHEN LOOKING FOR INTERNSHIPS. EMPLOYERS KNOW WHO OTTERBEIN STUDENTS ARE."
~ **MIKAYLA KNERR '19**

With the finalized construction of The Point in 2018 came new opportunities for students to pursue industry projects and on-site internships with some of the country's largest and most respected businesses like JPMorgan Chase and Nestle. Students also have the option to work with locally-based companies, like Worthington Industries, Nikola Labs and edgeThingZ.

"Having all of these tools and opportunities at our disposal is super helpful," said Nemec. "I have no idea how we ever did it before. Now we have a space where students can learn and where there are always like-minded people around to help."

Of the 21 graduating students, several are pursuing graduate studies at The Ohio State University and Santa Clara University, while others have already accepted full-time jobs at companies like Honda and Williams-Sonoma.

"The access to small class sizes, on-site businesses and the many connections of the engineering faculty have helped tremendously when looking for internships," said Knerr. "Employers know who Otterbein students are."

The future of the engineering program is bright. Since 2015, the Engineering Department has experienced enrollment increases of 43% from four years ago.

"I'm very optimistic about the future of this program," said Hudoba. "It's been a lot of hard work, but the experience has been rewarding beyond all our expectations."



LGBTQIA+ Emergency Fund Created

by Aselya Sposato '21

Just a few months after its initial launch in November, the Otterbein University LGBTQIA+ Student Emergency Fund has now raised close to \$11,000.

The fund was created by the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) program with the goal of helping LGBTQIA+ students persist through stigma, discrimination, alienation from their families, and more. Available on a discretionary basis, the fund provides emergency relief for LGBTQIA+ students who need housing or food assistance, financial help with books or academic supplies, or other safety, wellness, or academic necessities.

"It's a recognition of the hardships LGBTQIA+ students go through," said **Casey Hall '19**, a creative writing and WGSS double major and FreeZone president. "Yes, we're college students, but some of us have other obstacles we have to get around. We want to help those in the LGBTQIA+ community who are not supported emotionally or financially."

Contributions to the fund have been made campus-wide, including donations from faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and community supporters. One generous contribution to the fund was a \$5,000 gift from U.S. Bank.

The gift was coordinated by Matt Haverman, a U.S. Bank employee who is married to **Matthew D'Oyly '04**, director of constituent communication and philanthropic programs at Otterbein. They appreciate Otterbein's commitment to providing a sense of safety and security for the LGBTQIA+ community.

"I'm excited to see the benefits students will receive thanks to U.S. Bank's generosity," said Haverman.

For Hall, the fund is something she wishes would have been available when she was a first-year student.

"Knowing people supported my community during my first year on campus

would have meant the world to me," said Hall. "I'm so excited we've created it now and people are willing to donate. It lets us know there is an ally network out there for us."

The fund is just one of the WGSS's programs addressing issues facing women and the LGBTQIA+ community on campus. Other programs include Team Consent, SafeZone and Period Politics, which was named the 2017-18 Program of the Year by the Otterbein University Student Government.

For more information about donating to the LGBTQIA+ Student Emergency Fund, visit www.otterbein.edu/EmergencyFundLGBTQIA.



Cory Michael Smith '09 returned to campus in January to host a viewing of his award-winning movie *1985* and discuss the LGBTQ issues it addresses. Set during the AIDS crisis, *1985* is the story of a closeted young man struggling with secrets and loss on a visit home to his conservative family.

Otterbein Addresses Growing Need for Mental Health Services



by Aselya Sposato '21

The Otterbein University Department of Nursing has always been committed to meeting the changing healthcare needs of society. To better address these needs, The Graduate School at Otterbein University has created a new addition to their graduate nursing programs: the Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner major of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

This addition will prepare advanced practice nurses to expand their scope of practice to include psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner care across the lifespan.

"As of 2017, psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioners are some of the highest-paid advanced nurses because they're so rare," said John Chovan, director of the new graduate major.

The curriculum for the new major is designed as an online program, allowing students to study and participate in clinical experiences from their individual locations, a feature unique to Otterbein's program.

"We're taking a cutting-edge approach in implementing this program here at Otterbein in that this curriculum can be completed from anywhere in the world," said Chovan. "That's not something you see from other similar programs in Ohio right now."

Within central Ohio, the need for behavioral health care providers is expanding. Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare is set to undergo construction to build a brand new \$112 million facility. Mount Carmel Health System has plans to build a new behavioral health hospital in Columbus. Nationwide Children's Hospital recently announced the creation of the Big Lots Behavioral Health Pavilion coming in 2020. This facility is projected to be America's largest behavioral health treatment and research center exclusively for children and adolescents.

"These indicators show us that there's soon going to be a giant need

issue of Ohio's rising opioid epidemic. As of right now, federal law grants authority for nurse practitioners to prescribe medication used to treat opioid addiction through medication-assisted treatment. Nurse practitioners, in certain settings or with appropriate board qualifications and education, are now eligible to treat up to 100 patients.

"Our students who go through this program and earn a degree with a psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner major will have the qualifications needed to prescribe and can provide assistance in combating this increasing problem," said Chovan.

"THERE'S SOON GOING TO BE A GIANT NEED FOR PSYCHIATRIC AND MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN THE COLUMBUS AREA AND OTTERBEIN WOULD BE A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN STUDENTS TO PREPARE FOR THIS NEED."

~ KELLY CORNETT, GRADUATE NURSING RECRUITER

for psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioners in the Columbus area and that Otterbein would be a great place to train students to prepare for this need," said Kelly Cornett, graduate nursing recruiter and admission counselor.

Both Chovan and Cornett agree that this program will likely help address the

Last year, Otterbein's spring 2018 nursing graduates achieved 100% pass rates on board examinations for all existing nursing programs. The university looks to continue this trend of excellence with the addition of the Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner major.

Improving Race, Ethnic and Interpersonal Communications

by Roberto Ponce

This spring, Otterbein's Diversity and Inclusion Committee sponsored two important sessions to openly and honestly inform, educate and bring the Otterbein community together in discussions of diversity and inclusion.

The meetings were originally planned as educational community discussions around the themes presented in the scheduled spring musical, *West Side Story*. However, amid concerns from students and alumni citing lack of representation from Hispanic actors, the Department of Theatre and Dance chose to change the spring musical from *West Side Story* to *Singin' in the Rain*. Some patrons opposed that change.

The committee, along with the Department of Theatre and Dance, decided to expand the conversation to not only address

the very important questions of identity and representation, but also to provide a forum for people to share and understand the different opinions surrounding the show and the decision to replace it.

The first discussion, Tackling Difficult Topics through Effective, Meaningful Conversation, was held on March 20. The session was led by **James Prysock '09 MBA '19**, director of Otterbein's Center for Social Justice and Activism, and Kathryn Plank, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. The audience was divided into small roundtable groups to talk about race relations and diversity and the differing viewpoints around the production of *West Side Story*.

The second session, a panel discussion on Identity and Representation,

was held on April 17. The panel included students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Participants explored how the performance industries are navigating who is telling and portraying stories. In addition, they addressed important aspects of their own identities and how they can influence their worlds in the entertainment industry.

"Is the pool that you are opening up for a particular role wide enough?" asked Broadway actor **Jordan Donika '16**, citing the delicate balance between representing diversity and finding the actor who best fits the role in casting. "We need to be careful not to cast for just being diverse but to get the best people for the job."

Otterbein University is committed to diversity and inclusion and these events are intentionally designed to provide opportunities to learn from one another.



Library Creates Textbook Affordability

by Jenny Hill '05

Otterbein works hard to reduce the barriers to graduation for students, and every division plays a role in that effort. Two years ago, Courtright Memorial



Library staff and the Friends of the Library teamed up to raise the funds to create a Textbook Affordability Endowment, one of many efforts currently underway to tackle the issue of textbook affordability.

Tiffany Lipstreu, director of Otterbein's Courtright Memorial Library and treasurer of the Friends of the Library, explained the need. "Just as we have financial aid for tuition and the Promise House for food insecurity, the library can play a role in lessening the troubles our students face in regards to the expensive text and course books needed to be successful in class."

"Textbook prices increase by three times the rate of inflation each year. Our students pay, on average, \$385 for their text/course books per semester, or approximately \$800 a year," she said. "That is a financial hardship for many students based on bad business practices of publishers, with students facing the high

price — either financially or academically."

The Textbook Affordability Endowment needs \$25,000 to pay out at least \$1,000 per year for the library to buy high-cost, high-use text and course books for students, which will be placed on Course Reserve to allow for wide use.

Friends of the Library have assisted with fundraising, hosting pop-up sales throughout the year and an annual benefit concert featuring the Otterbein Singers. The 2018 concert raised over \$2,000 and the 2019 concert raised an impressive \$3,131.

The fundraising efforts have had a ripple effect, and the Otterbein Student Government applied for and was granted \$4,000 to donate to the library for text and course book purchases.

To date, the fundraising total stands at \$18,576. For more information about supporting the Textbook Affordability Endowment, contact Christine Neubauer at cneubauer@otterbein.edu or 614-823-1428.

Uganda Outreach Celebrates 10 Years

by Jenny Hill '05

and developing new programs in the areas of health and wellness, literacy, gender equity and community engagement in Uganda.

According to Ross, "Otterbein professors and students have built a strong reputation in Uganda. In the past 10 years, over 70 Otterbein professors and students have traveled to Uganda, donating over \$100,000, spending over 10 months of work, to work in over 10 schools and villages."

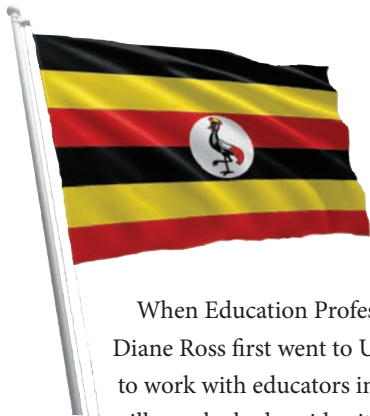
In 2016, Ross received a Fulbright for her work establishing a menstrual hygiene management and sexual reproductive health program for girls and providing them with a platform to tell to tell their personal narratives about their past, their present, and their future.

For more information about Otterbein University's Department of

Education, visit www.otterbein.edu/education. For more information about FOYA Uganda, visit foyauganda.org.



In the past 10 years, more than 70 Otterbein professors and students have traveled to Uganda donating \$100,000 and spending over 10 months of work.



When Education Professor Diane Ross first went to Uganda to work with educators in a small village, she had no idea it would turn into an expansive program that has created cultural, educational and service opportunities for professors and students for 10 years.

This year, her organization, FOYA (Forum for Youth Advocacy) Uganda, celebrated its 10th anniversary with a celebration of the dedicated service faculty and students have contributed to the people of Uganda over the years. Her mission, and that of FOYA Uganda, is to empower Ugandan children and American university students while supporting existing programs

41 Years at Otterbein

Dean Gatti Announces Retirement

by Jenny Hill '05

Robert Gatti, known to many in the Otterbein community as “Dean Gatti,” has announced that he will retire on June 30 after 41 years of service to Otterbein.

As he ended his final academic year, there were many opportunities for reflection. Most profoundly, Gatti addressed the undergraduate class of 2019 at their commencement on April 28, touching on the lessons and memories of his 41 years at Otterbein in his speech.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees honored Gatti that weekend with a proclamation to recognize “his outstanding service and contributions to Otterbein University” and granted him emeritus status.

For more than four decades, Gatti has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students while leading campus initiatives in partnership with four University presidents. From serving in residence life starting in 1978, through being named vice president and dean for student affairs in 1992, he has always put Otterbein’s students first.

As dean of students, Gatti has enhanced the student experience with his commitment to improvements and expansions to campus safety, residence life, health and wellness, community engagement, and counseling services for the overall well-being of Otterbein’s students. His work in these areas has prepared generations of students to make impactful contributions to their professions and communities.

He has been a vocal champion of social justice, diversity and inclusion, helping to create a campus community where all voices are heard and different opinions are valued regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, military status, or socio-economic background.

Gatti’s campus leadership in guiding students through their college experience by removing barriers to graduation, providing career and professional development opportunities and helping each individual student achieve success has led to significant increases in retention. His efforts have been key to the elimination of an achievement gap between students of color and white students as measured by first year retention in 2016, and in growing the diversity of the student body from 11% students of color to 19% in just six years.

Recently, he co-chaired the Otterbein University Governance Review Commission, which resulted in an improved governance structure to ensure all members of the Otterbein community are represented.

Gatti is respected not only at Otterbein, but among his peers in higher education. He held several offices in professional organizations; received numerous honors and awards on campus, professionally and in the community; has written several articles and made presentations on various topics in his field; and has served as a model to his peers and represented Otterbein’s best in the community with his professionalism.

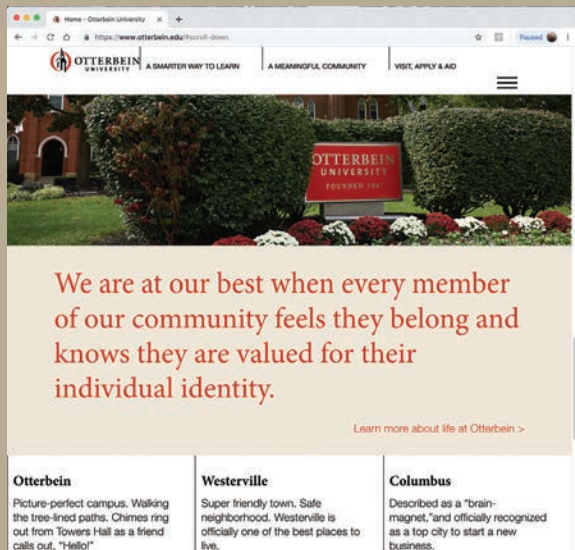
His warmth, kindness, caring and mentoring of students have created strong bonds and memories for four decades of Otterbein’s alumni, faculty, staff and friends — who all wish him good luck on his future endeavors.



IN BRIEF...

New Website Launched

The Otterbein Office of Marketing and Communications, in partnership with divisions and offices across campus, recently launched a newly designed institutional website. The new website is an improved tool for communicating with our constituents, including prospective students and families, donors, friends and alumni. Take a look at **Otterbein.edu**.



Skip Prichard

Commencement Speakers

Skip Prichard, president and CEO of global library cooperative OCLC, spoke at the graduate commencement ceremony on April 27. Dean Bob Gatti spoke at the undergraduate ceremony on April 28 (see page 12.)

Library Receives Grant for Archives

Courtright Memorial Library, home to the university archives, encompassing over 170 years' worth of university and United Brethren Church history, recently received a highly competitive \$5,999 Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The grant will fund a professional archival consultant to develop a recommended strategic improvement plan and the purchase of environmental monitors to track the temperature and humidity within the archives.



A Century of Otterbein Wedding Dresses

Otterbein University's rotating Historic Costume Collection exhibit in Fisher Gallery of Roush Hall currently features "A Century of Wedding Gowns." This historic exhibition features clothing donated by Otterbein alumni and friends, and reflects how fashion has changed over time. It will be on display through August. Pictured at right is a dress from 1952.



New Cardinals Basketball Coach Announced

Otterbein University has hired Columbus native Andy Winters to be its next head coach for men's basketball. He takes over for Brian Oilar, who left Otterbein after four years at the helm. Winters, 28, spent the past five years as the lead assistant at nearby Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) rival Capital University. He was part of a recent 2018-19 breakout season for the Crusaders, who turned around a 12-14 record into a 21-8 campaign to share the OAC regular-season championship. Capital reached No. 16 in the national rankings, hit the 20-win plateau for the first time in a decade, earned top-seed honors in the OAC Tournament, and made its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2012.

Columbus City Schools Alumni Celebrate Graduating from Otterbein

Friends, families, teachers and professors came together with 26 Columbus City Schools (CCS) alumni to celebrate their graduation from Otterbein. The celebration on April 4 included an inspiring video featuring nine of the graduates and reflections from two of the students. The seniors received specially designed red stoles featuring the CCS and Otterbein logos to wear with their gowns at the commencement ceremony on April 28. Otterbein's partnership with CCS has led to increasing enrollment numbers from the largest school district in Ohio.



April 12, 2019



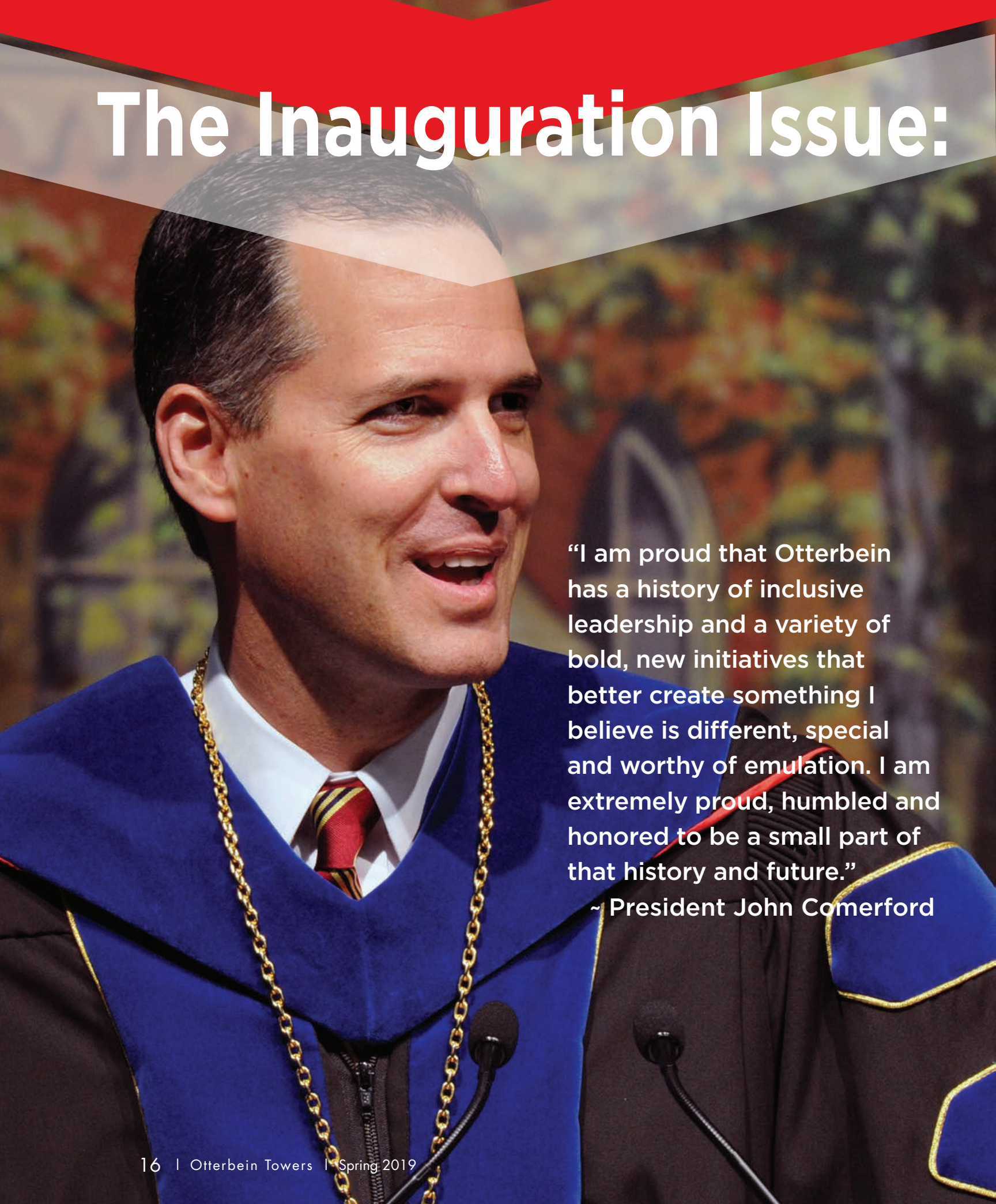
THE INAUGURATION OF



photo by Ed Syguda

OUR 21ST PRESIDENT

The Inauguration Issue:

A photograph of President John Comerford, a man with short dark hair, smiling and looking slightly to his right. He is wearing a blue academic regalia with a gold chain and a red and yellow striped tie. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with trees.

“I am proud that Otterbein has a history of inclusive leadership and a variety of bold, new initiatives that better create something I believe is different, special and worthy of emulation. I am extremely proud, humbled and honored to be a small part of that history and future.”

~ President John Comerford

Only Otterbein.

INCLUSIVE › INNOVATIVE › INTENTIONAL



by Aselya Sposato '21

The inauguration of John Comerford as the 21st president of Otterbein University on April 12 was a celebration of Otterbein's excellence and achievement, as well as a commemoration of the University's new theme — Only Otterbein: Inclusive, Innovative and Intentional.

The historic weekend included a variety of celebrations that brought together past university leaders, community members, students and alumni to reflect on Otterbein's accomplishments and honor future commitments to excellence. Events included an interactive presidential panel session featuring Comerford and President Emeriti Kathy Krendl, Brent DeVore and Thomas Kerr;

a campus community picnic; a varsity baseball game; a choral concert and the annual Alumni Awards Gala.

At the inauguration ceremony, Comerford was surprised with a video greeting featuring some of the leaders he has worked with so far during his time at Otterbein. He expressed his gratitude for Otterbein's many partnerships within central Ohio to a packed crowd of delegates from other universities, members of the Otterbein Board of Trustees, state and local governmental figures, representatives of Otterbein University Student Government, faculty, staff, alumni, family members, friends and colleagues.



Top: Fritzsche Theatre in Cowan Hall was the site of the Inauguration. Above: The 21st president is officially installed.

Top: President Comerford was introduced by good friend and a member of Blackburn College board of trustees, Cynthia LaMar (third from left) with her husband. Above: The newly inaugurated president celebrates outside Cowan Hall with the Otterbein community.

“Otterbein is lucky to be in a community like Westerville where we are surrounded by great partners from the Westerville City Council and companies like JPMorgan Chase, who understand that we will rise or fall together,” said Comerford. “We celebrate this in truly innovative programs, like The Point, where we can do more jointly than we could ever do separately.”

Comerford went on to discuss higher education in the U.S. and its relation

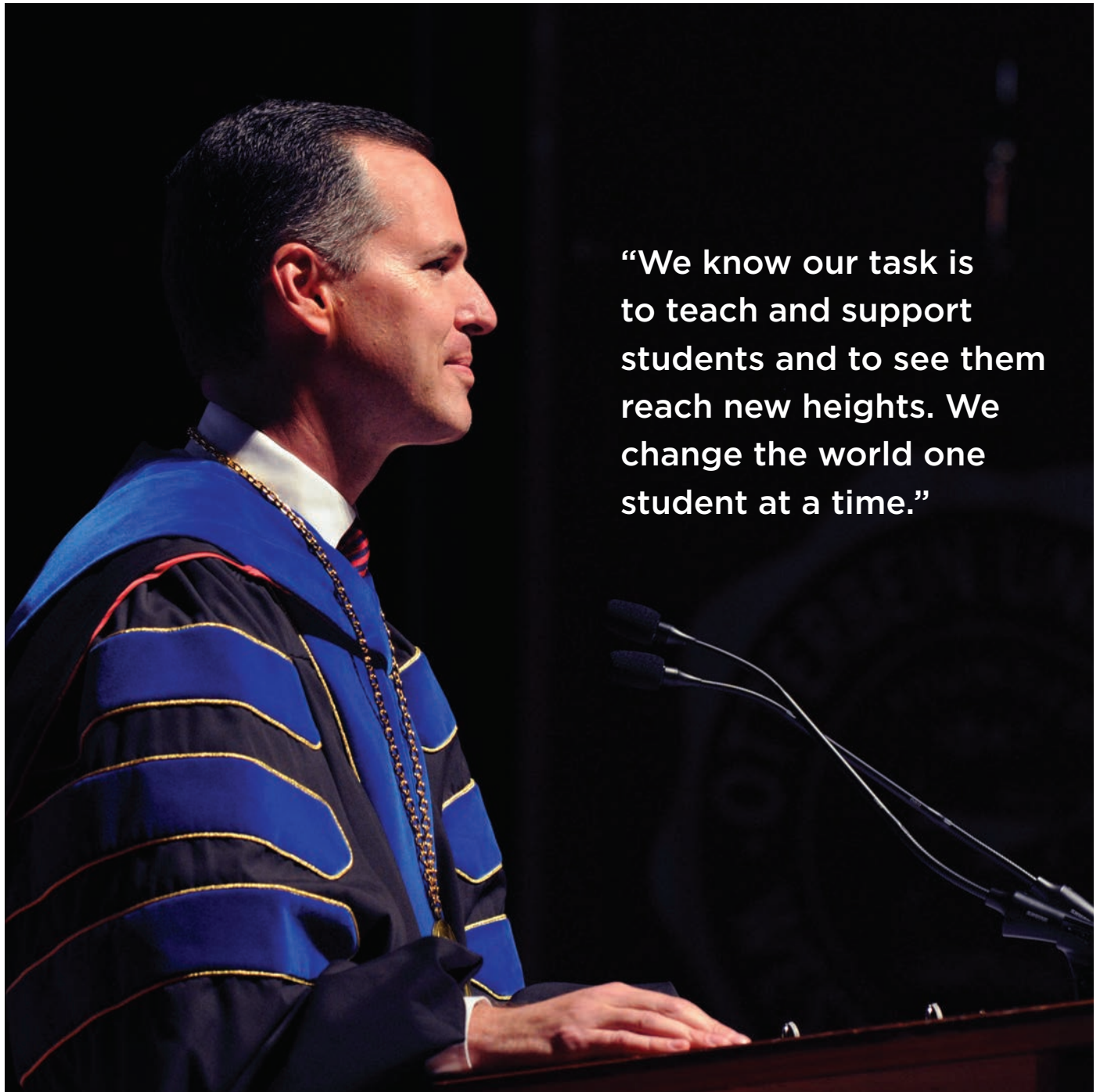
to making Otterbein a leader in being inclusive, innovative and intentional.

“Inequality is the issue of our time, and higher education is the great separator, which is why I am proud to be here,” said Comerford. “Only Otterbein is doubling down on our commitment to diversity. Only Otterbein is becoming an economic engine for our region by partnering directly with companies to create jobs and give students real experiences. Only Otterbein

is honoring its liberal arts tradition with a new, customizable curriculum.”

Comerford concluded his address by acknowledging Otterbein’s commitment to making these changes happen.

“I have been moved as I’ve learned about the remarkable work our faculty and staff do every single day,” he said. “We know our task is to teach and support students and to see them reach new heights. We change the world one student at a time.”





Presidential Panel!

**PRESIDENT COMERFORD WITH
PRESIDENT EMERITI KERR,
DEVORE AND KRENDL**

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019 | 10 A.M. | THE POINT



Only Otterbein. WE ARE inclusive.

Since its founding in 1847, Otterbein has had a history of valuing inclusivity and creating a welcoming community to expand upon. We believe students from all backgrounds enhance Otterbein's campus by sharing their exclusive experiences and perspectives. We are committed to creating a culture that recognizes, respects, embraces, and values differences in the broadest sense.

The Otterbein community is stronger thanks to the many different backgrounds represented.

Jason Jenkins '04

Director of Community Affairs,
City of Columbus

"It is imperative for Otterbein to embrace individuals from different backgrounds, skills, attitudes and experiences, because they bring fresh ideas and perceptions. During my time at Otterbein I felt that the administration, faculty and staff encouraged and harnessed these differences to make my college experience relevant, which then prepared me for success. Because Otterbein believes in diversity, they draw upon the widest possible range of views and experiences, so they can meet the changing needs of its students."



Ana Lucia Manzuti MBA '20

International Student (Brazil)

"People from a certain type of background may think differently than those from other backgrounds. Thus, it is necessary to make sure we have representations for all people in order to negotiate and create plans and solutions that are accommodating for every stakeholder."

Scott Fitzgerald

Director of Human Resources and Legal Affairs,
Title IX Coordinator

"Otterbein is helping establish the central Ohio chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, which helps recruit Hispanic nursing students and offers a mentorship program, networking, and scholarship opportunities. By exposing our students to the diversity within us, we are better preparing our students for success as they graduate from Otterbein and start to change our world."



Alison Prindle

Professor Emerita, Department of English,
Lifelong Learning Community

"We value having presidents at Otterbein who see lifelong learning as a core university value and who see that Otterbein's commitment to creating community has been welcoming in a special way to those of us who are retired but still open to learning about ourselves and our world."



Otterbein is taking action to become more inclusive.



James Prysock '09, MBA '19
Director, Office of Social Justice
and Activism

"President Comerford knows the importance of making strong actions to celebrate and support our diverse populations at Otterbein. The diversity-based organizations and academic programs are gaining more exposure on campus, and he is in support of continuing those efforts."

Suzanne Ashworth
Professor, Department of English and Women's,
Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

"President Comerford is the first president in Otterbein's history to attend a FreeZone meeting to meet and talk with students in their own space. Through initiatives like the LGBTQIA+ Student Emergency Fund and moving the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center to a more central and accessible location, we are working directly with President Comerford to reflect and reinforce our commitment to non-discrimination, openness and belonging."



The arts at Otterbein enrich the community with diverse artists and subject matters, creating and promoting dialogue.

Chris Kirk
Former Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance

"The decision to produce *West Side Story* was, for us, an opportunity to immerse our students in a diverse culture and to engage our campus and community in a meaningful dialogue about issues of identity and representation regarding casting. The decision to shift away from producing this musical didn't stop the dialogue, but it has given us a deeper understanding and compassion for diverse perspectives and points of view."



Dennis Davenport, Chair, Department of Music

Janice Glowski
Director, Museum and Galleries, Department of Art

"The Frank Museum of Art is dedicated to exhibiting and collecting global art. Each year, our signature arts programming — Otterbein and the Arts: Opening Doors to the World (ODW) — hosts innovative artists from around the world, expanding Otterbein's community access to diverse backgrounds, world views, and creative explorations. Opening Doors works collaboratively across the arts at Otterbein to invite participants to move beyond single narratives about 'the other' toward an inclusivity that fosters deeper understanding and cultivates global and local citizenry."

"Otterbein choirs perform African American spirituals, and our jazz ensembles engage in an art form that is rooted in African American music but is now multi-cultural and global in its influences and appeal, from Brazil and Cuba to contemporary Africa to Asia and Europe. Even the European classical tradition embodies diverse ethnic and national traditions, diverse composers and performers, and diverse approaches to music old and new."



Only Otterbein. WE ARE innovative.

Otterbein is inventive, imaginative and resourceful. We look for creative approaches both in the way we routinely do our work and how we address challenges. We equip students with pioneering technology, state-of-the-art facilities and a network of passionate do-ers to shape the future of higher education.

New programs are assessing and providing for changing needs in the job market.



John Chovan
Associate Professor and Program Director,
Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program

“The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis reports that by 2025, the net availability of prescribing mental health care practitioners will decrease by 2,000 to 13,000 professionals. In response to the increased demand for PMHNPs, the Department of Nursing has created a Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner major of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. This is intentionally designed so licensed registered nurses from around the globe will have access to this program, having a wide geographical impact. poising us to change access to health care around the globe.”

The Point has created a unique model that gives students a first-class education while setting them up for success after college.

Reagan Nemec '19
Systems Engineering Graduate

“Because of my close connections with professors, I obtained all of my internships and co-ops. I interned at the largest food company in the world (Nestlé) and one of the world's most successful car companies (Honda). Because of those experiences, I was able to get a full-time job (with Honda) lined up before the end of my fall semester of senior year.”



Elizabeth Ries '19
Systems Engineering Graduate (transfer student)

“My first summer at Otterbein, I got an internship. This is unheard of at large public universities — a freshman getting an internship, never. The next year, The Point had opened and Nestlé rented some space. I was able to continue this internship with them, now at Otterbein, for the next two years.”

Our partners benefit from up-and-coming talent and, in return, provide real-world experience.

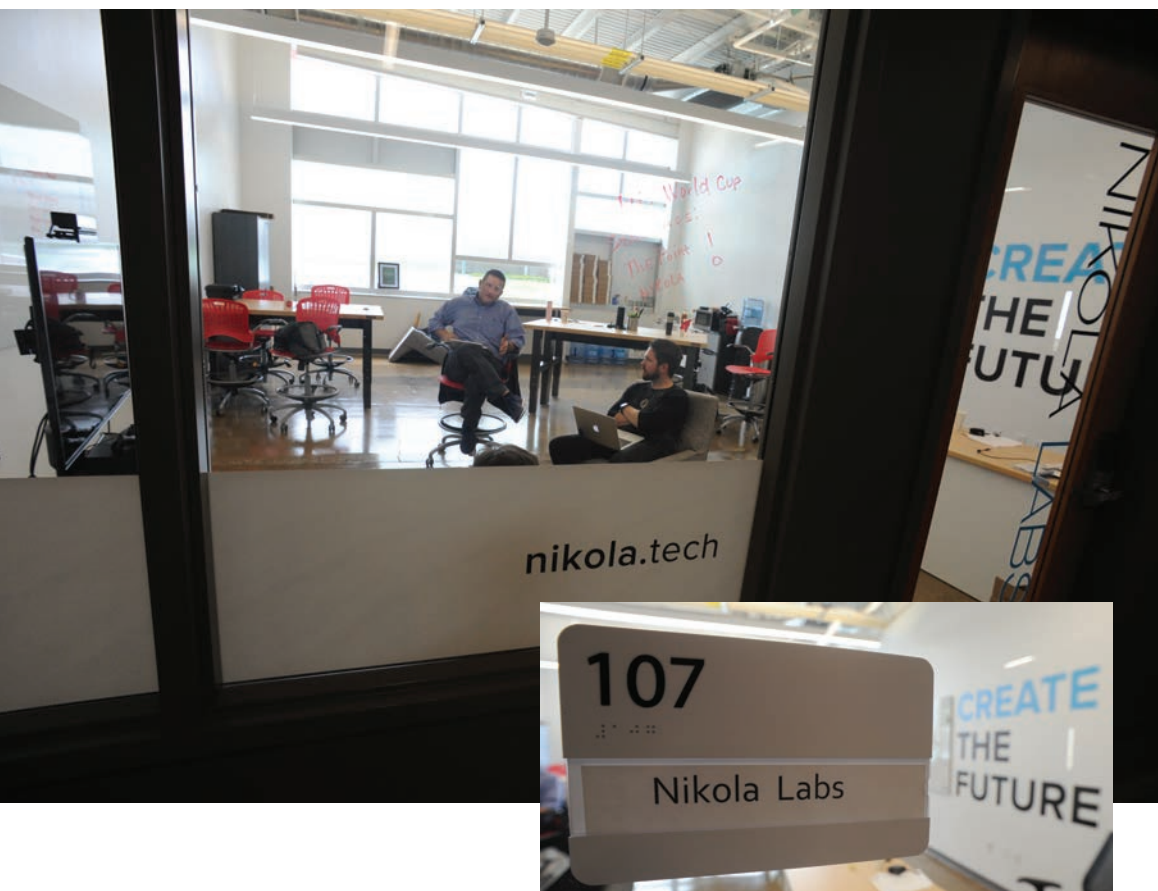
Jeff Becker
Chief Maker of edgeThingZ
Partner with Nursing and Engineering

“As a startup, we work with current technologies — but on a budget. The students are learning the latest technologies and practices, but we can also afford them. That’s a tremendous asset. The collaborations are becoming products. One product we have worked on with the departments of nursing and engineering is now impacting nursing education in developing countries. When we collaborate, good things happen.”



Toby Rice
Electronics Designer, Nickola Labs
Partner with The Point

“Otterbein students offer (us) a fresh perspective and generally are talented and hard working. (Our) relationships with today’s students and educators provide insight into business and engineering challenges. The students we are working with get real-life work experience that a classroom can’t provide. I think Otterbein’s approach will push more students to become entrepreneurs.”



Only Otterbein.

WE ARE intentional.

Otterbein is thoughtful, purposeful and smart. When we see there is a problem or a need, we look holistically at the scale and scope in considering a solution. We anticipate, explore, discuss and research solutions in a proactive, forward-thinking manner.

Otterbein is creating a recruitment strategy that contributes to an increasingly diverse campus community and beneficial learning environment.



Jefferson Blackburn-Smith
Vice President for Enrollment Management

“We believe that our community is stronger and our learning opportunities greater with increased diversity and inclusion. We also believe that any student who wants an Otterbein education should have that opportunity, regardless of socioeconomic circumstances. We are making a strong, conscious effort to recruit students from under-served populations and letting the world know that students of all backgrounds are welcome and supported here. When President Comerford arrived, he was instrumental in the creation of the Otterbein Opportunity Scholarship, Otterbein’s meet-full-need-to-tuition scholarship for Ohio Pell-grant-eligible students, taking the good work we were doing in central Ohio and expanding it to include the entire state of Ohio.”

The reimagined Integrative Studies curriculum purposefully works to prepare students to be better global citizens.



Wendy Sherman Heckler
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

“The new Integrative Studies curriculum is organized around the theme of Knowledge, Action, and the Public Good. We want every student who moves through our INST courses to think deeply about how humans create meaning, not just across academic disciplines but across cultures and historical eras. We ask students to explore the ways in which we are all connected, locally and globally. And ultimately, a goal of the INST program is that Otterbein students see themselves as responsible, engaged, and informed citizens, capable and willing to act in ways that will serve the public good.”

Reagan Nemec '19
Systems Engineering Graduate

“Integrative Studies courses gave me a well-rounded experience so that I would not only be skilled in multiple disciplines but also think of the world from multiple perspectives. I also learned that what we make as engineers can have a profound impact for good or evil on the world. I took classes on the nuclear plant failure at Chernobyl and on dam construction and their impact on the environment. I cannot say enough on how essential these classes were to understand that we aren’t just building something, we are impacting the world around us in bigger ways than we may imagine.”

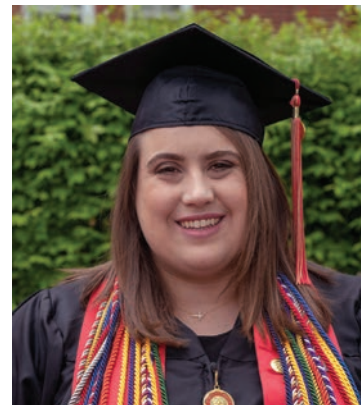


The Promise House saw a need to address socioeconomic barriers and challenges to success — including food insecurity — in a way that maintained the dignity of an individual, and found a solution.

Haylie Schmoll '19

Public Relations Graduate and Co-founder of The Promise House

“One in 10 college students are food insecure around the country, according to Feeding America. That means three of my peers could be struggling right now. In fact, out of Otterbein’s 3,000 enrolled students, 300 of them could potentially be food insecure. Gaining the so-called ‘freshman 15’ is a constant topic of conversation; food insecurity is not. To combat this, I joined a group of students to help form The Promise House, a community resource center and food pantry improving the lives of our fellow peers, neighbors, friends, and family who are struggling every day and often get overlooked. We created a volunteer network where students, faculty and staff can support one another through challenges and rise with one another against all odds.”



Melissa Gilbert

Associate Dean of Experiential Learning and Director of the Center for Community Engagement

“We founded The Promise House to raise awareness on campus about the hidden struggles of our students, to make hunger visible, and to bring food to the table. Our students showed up with the tools to break down the socioeconomic barriers that were standing in the way of their peers’ academic journeys.”



A Campus Center for the Future

by Dana Madden Viglietta '96



Take one step into Otterbein's Campus Center and it doesn't take long to see that this well-loved 55-year-old building is in need of a major update. Opened for the campus community in 1964, the Campus Center has seen decades of students come and go, and while it's been maintained with attention and care over the years, it's easy to see that the building that many consider to be the "heart of campus" isn't meeting the changing social, academic and professional needs of our students today.

Aside from the obvious "bricks and mortar" facility updates that are necessary to provide services and programming for today's students (i.e. the dining hall and bookstore), a Campus Center for the future is so much more than just four walls and a place to buy your books and grab a meal.

Otterbein's Campus Center is an opportunity:

- To create a dynamic space for meaningful connections.
- To build community.
- To grow leaders.
- To help Otterbein realize its full potential.

Meaningful Connections

In a day and age where "connecting" with someone digitally is nearly the norm, we must find ways to make face-to-face, interpersonal connections happen with purpose and meaning. The Campus Center must be a destination that students seek out to connect with friends, share a coffee with a professor or simply relax and interact with others. While we certainly embrace the technology advances of the last few decades, we must also ensure that our Campus Center fosters relationship building and meaningful human connections.

Building Community

Otterbein's sense of community is one of its greatest assets. The Campus Center has always been a place where students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends have come together to share experiences and build cohesiveness. A revitalized Campus Center will be an environment for finding common ground, interacting regularly, celebrating our core values and taking an active role in sustaining our community.

Growing Leaders

While learning about leadership often starts in a classroom, acquiring the skills of leadership happens when

In Their Own Words: Student Perspectives

"The Campus Center is the first place that I truly felt included during my freshman year. I had just gone up to the Nest and planned to eat by myself, as I didn't know anybody yet. Two students saw me and invited me to sit with them, and they are now two of my closest friends."

"There should be spaces for bonding, such as pool tables and TVs, a place for studying, a new dining hall that is easier to access for all students. Overall it should be a place that everyone feels comfortable going to in order to hang out and feel connected to the campus community."

students put their knowledge into practice. The Campus Center provides a place for practicing these skills through the work of the Center for Student Involvement. Leadership opportunities include student organizations, Greek life, student government, the Campus Activities Board (CAB), orientation, multicultural center and numerous programs for first-year, commuter and international students.

Realizing Our Full Potential

There are countless reasons why a revitalized Campus Center will benefit Otterbein. Student unions now serve as a university's crossroads to connect the entire campus and its community in a tangible and direct way. These buildings reinforce and enhance existing campus connections, spirit, and character, but

also become transformative for their institutions. Student unions should provide campus social hubs and "be extroverted;" they must create a dialogue between inside and outside spaces that facilitate large gatherings and events, present diverse dining opportunities, and welcome people inside by showcasing active program and lounge spaces. Students want a place to connect socially, but also provide resources for academic and career success. To achieve this, student unions now house a great variety of social spaces, from small-scale quiet nooks to large, flexible meeting and conference rooms, according to experts in the field of student union design. A renovated Campus Center should also promote Otterbein's values, character and brand to future students and the community at large.

"As a tour guide, I've seen families come into the Campus Center and seem pretty underwhelmed. It was built in the '60s, and it shows. A new campus center is vital to recruiting new students."

"Faculty and staff should feel like they can utilize the amazing space offered just as much as students. Creating bonds among students, faculty and staff could greatly impact their lives and cause them to find more happiness and meaning in life."

As someone who is about to become an alumnus, I would love to come back to the Campus Center and see how much it has changed from the Campus Center I had during my time at Otterbein. I would love seeing all the new additions and renovations. I think having a modern campus center is a huge selling point for prospective students. If the Campus Center is truly a fun place to be, then students will be naturally drawn to it and the University."

Right now, the Campus Center is a pass-through building for students to walk through, eat, then move on. It is not a destination for students. A modern campus center would provide a destination for students to relax or work on homework as well as being a fantastic spot to hang out with friends. It would also provide a space to work on projects in collaborative spaces with updated technology."



Support the Campus Center Initiative

If you would like to impact the student experience at Otterbein, consider making a gift to the Campus Center Fund. For more information, please contact Michael McGreevey, vice president for Institutional Advancement at 614.823.1305 or mmcgreevey@otterbein.edu, or visit www.otterbein.edu/21stCenturyCampusCenter





Recent Gifts and Fundraising News

Campaign Donors Honored

A new display on the first floor of Roush Hall (above) honors our 10,000+ donors and illustrates the impact of Otterbein's largest-ever comprehensive campaign, Where We STAND MATTERS, which ended in June 2018 and secured \$52,775,000 in support of Otterbein priorities.



Luis and Mary Navarro P'11

Personal Touches Made a Difference

Board of trustees member **Mary Navarro** and her husband, **Luis**, have made a **significant commitment to the Campus Center renovation as well as The Otterbein FUND**. In making their gift, Mary noted the impact Otterbein had on their son, **Bill Navarro '11 MBA '17**. "Our son received a great education from Otterbein. He felt a part of something special at Otterbein and that welcoming environment helped him do well in his classes. The personal touches from the president, faculty and staff made a difference to him."



Hylda '60 and Jerry Strange '58

60th Wedding Anniversary Commemorated

Hylda Mosier '60 and Jerry Strange '58 met in Cleora Fuller's English 102 class in the fall of 1956. They were married on Aug. 22, 1959. After Otterbein, Jerry went on to teach mathematics at the University of Dayton, retiring as Emeritus in 2000. Hylda, after raising their two children, went on to spend 20 years as a teacher's aide in Centerville City Schools. On Aug. 22, 2019, Hylda and Jerry will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. To commemorate this joyous occasion, Hylda and Jerry have established **The Hylda '60 and Jerry '58 Strange Endowed Scholarship** to help future students obtain an Otterbein education and, perhaps, meet their soul mate just as they did.



Peg Harmon

Honorary Alumna Leaves Estate Gift

In the fall of 2018, Otterbein received a generous gift exceeding \$90,000 from the estate of teacher and education advocate **Margaret "Peg" Harmon H'08**, who died July 16, 2018. Harmon's bequest creates **The Peg Harmon-Sarabella Johnson Scholarship Fund**, which supports first-generation Otterbein students and honors both Harmon and Sarabella Johnson, a dear friend whom she thought of as a daughter. Harmon entrusted friend and former Otterbein Library Director **Lois Szudy MAE '99** with facilitating the estate gift.

The Witt Family Legacy

T. Kent '75 and **Jane Melhorn '75 Witt** made a \$52,000 grant last October to establish **The Witt Family Scholarship**. The Witts are an Otterbein legacy family with graduates across several generations, including Kent's parents, **Elsley '49** and **Margaret '74**, Kent's and Jane's children, **T. Kent Jr. '02** and **R. Kyle '02**, **Katy Witt Leonard '05** and **Kelly '05**, Kent's three brothers, **Keith '72**, **Kevin '73** and **Kerry '77**, as well as an uncle, nieces, nephews and cousins. The first award to an Otterbein student will be made this fall.



Witt Family Reunion 2016

Parents Honored for Commitment to Education

Matthew '88 and **Kristine Heston '88 Puskarich** have gifted \$26,000 to endow **The Cliff and Mary Ellen Heston Scholarship** in honor of Kris' parents and their commitment to higher education. Both Cliff and Mary Ellen are retired employees of the Cambridge City (Ohio) School District. Kristine and her sister **Cynthia Heston-Sievers '89** received scholarship support as students at Otterbein, and both the Heston and Puskarich families wish to ensure an Otterbein education is possible for future students. The Heston Scholarship will support Otterbein students with a preference for those from Guernsey County.

Memorial Scholarship Honors Parents

Bill and Mary Davis' four children (Donald, Bill Jr., Richard, and Deborah) and their spouses have donated over \$60,000 to endow the **Dr. William and Mary Davis H'01 Memorial Scholarship**. A retired physician and Army veteran, Dr. Davis and wife Mary were married for 68 years; they both died in 2008. During their half-century in Westerville, they developed a love for Otterbein and participated in campus life in many ways. They were longtime members of the "O" Club and the Church of the Messiah. They were recognized and received the Otterbein Honorary Alumni Award in 2001.



WOWC Thrift Shop

WOWC Continues Giving Through the Thrift Shop

The members of the **Westerville Otterbein Women's Club** donated \$27,500 for student scholarships last fall. Founded in 1922, the Club consists of members (men as well as women welcome!) with an interest in supporting Otterbein University. Members devote great personal effort and many volunteer hours each week from fall through spring managing and operating the Otterbein Thrift Shop. Proceeds from their sales support three scholarship endowments and one financial assistance grant endowment established by the Club. The Westerville Otterbein Women's Club surpassed \$1 million in donations in the fall of 2017 and continue to generously support Otterbein scholars. They welcome new members and are always in need of Thrift Shop volunteers. Contact Club President **Joyce Miller '61** at jsrmlmiller@gmail.com for more information.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Corporations, Foundations and Grants

by Kathleen Bonte



Otterbein President John Comerford, Erin Bender, executive director of The Point at Otterbein and **Nicholas Akins P'15**, chairman, president and CEO, American Electric Power.

President John Comerford welcomed donors, partners, trustees and others to The Point in February for a **Celebration of Impact** event and the naming of five funded spaces in the building. **Nick Akins P'15**, chairman, president and CEO of American Electric Power, provided remarks on the value of The Point and the AEP Foundation's inspiration for providing \$500,000 in support. Others recognized that day were Corna Kokosing, the Ralph Johnston Family, the Vida S. Clements Foundation and the City of Westerville.



Josh Corna, president, Corna Kokosing Construction Company



City of Westerville officials and City Council members



Dean Johnston, professor and chair, Department of Chemistry, and Dean's father, Ralph Johnston.



Vida S. Clements Foundation trustees

The **Lubrizol Foundation** of Cleveland sponsored this year's Science Lecture Series on campus. Representing Lubrizol at the event were **Michael Huston '86**, senior technical fellow, and Daniel Knapton, manager of component science with Lubrizol Additives. Otterbein welcomed Professor Richmond Sarpong of the University of California, Berkeley, as the featured speaker for the lecture. Sarpong's research interests focus on organic synthesis: developing new chemical reactions and methods to make carbon-containing compounds.

New organizational gifts included additional funding for the **Kathy A. Krendl Distinguished Lecture Series from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation (\$15,000)** and the **Roush Family Fund (\$10,000)** with support from board member **Wendy Roush '71**.

Sponsors for the elegant **Alumni Awards Gala** provided additional underwriting to make the night truly special. Thanks goes to **Creekstone Benefits** and its president and founder, **Tiffany Geiger '96**. Also, thanks to **Follett Higher Education Group**, which sponsored the Gala for the second year. Other recent corporate sponsorships include more than \$7,500 in funding for the **Young Academy Entrepreneurs Investor Panel** event held in March. Funders included **DASCO**, **Home Medical Equipment**, **Grote Company**, and **Preferred Wireless, LLC**.

Support and funding secured through faculty and staff initiatives with support from the Grants and Sponsored Programs Office include:

- **Women's Fund of Central Ohio**, \$10,000 for The Otterbein Women's Network.
- **National Endowment for the Humanities**, \$5,999 for a Preservation Assistance Grant.
- **Vida S. Clements Foundation**, \$6,000 for Digitizing Sports History at Otterbein University.
- **PepsiCo Foundation**, \$10,000 for Introducing Energy Efficiency and Solar Production to Campus.
- **The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation**, \$9,700 for The Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted and Talented.™

Support for the Otterbein FUND each year is critical. Special thanks to BHDP Architecture for its \$5,000 gift to the fund.

Annual Giving: You Can Make a Difference!

If you ask anyone at Otterbein why they love the University, the answer is almost always the same:

It's the people.

Ask students this question and they will talk about a professor, roommate, or staff advisor who taught them to look at the world in a different way.

Ask alumni and they will tell you about faculty and staff they still stay in touch with, and fellow alumni who showed up to their birthday, wedding or recent reunion.

Ask Otterbein parents, and they will share the ways they've witnessed their students evolve into thoughtful citizens and leaders.

Ask the Annual Giving Office, and we will quickly respond: It's YOU.

Loyal alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of Otterbein are the ones who allow the Otterbein experience to remain accessible for our students thanks to their generous gifts. Our donors are our partners in all that Otterbein has to offer, allowing us to advance our mission and continue to prepare graduates to tackle the most critical challenges of our time. YOU make Otterbein what it is today.

We are proud to acknowledge the significant difference you make with your financial support. That's why we've expanded our donor societies to recognize not only those who give at leadership levels, but also all those whose consistent annual support impacts the daily experience of all Otterbein students.

To learn more about our societies, please read below. To activate or maintain membership, make your annual gift today using the envelope included in this edition of *Towers*.



It's the people.



Questions? Contact Katie Butt, director of annual giving, at kbutt@otterbein.edu or 614-823-1472.



The 1847 Society:

Honors donors and their families who provide a gift to Otterbein through their estate.



The President's Society:

Honors donors who make gifts totaling \$5,000 or more, to any fund, within the fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).



The Joanne Van Sant Society:

Honors donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999 to any fund, within the fiscal year.



The GOLD Young Alumni Society:

Honors graduates of the last decade who give \$100 or more for each year since graduation, to any fund, within the fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).



The Cardinal Loyalty Society:

Honors donors who give consecutively, from 2 years to 25+ years.

compiled by Becky Hill May '78 and Darray Richardson '20

1954 reunion year
Homecoming 2019

1959 reunion year
Homecoming 2019

1964 reunion year
Homecoming 2019

1969 reunion year
Homecoming 2019

1974 reunion year
Homecoming 2019

1979 reunion year
Homecoming 2019

Bob Arledge '55 won the pole vault competition in the 85-89 age category in the World Masters Track and Field Championship in Malaga, Spain.

Joe Antram '77 was elected Logan County Commissioner in the November general election. In 2013, he celebrated his retirement from 35 years of teaching.

Sheryl Farkas Midwinter '79 works with Wells Fargo Bank in Monroe, NC.

Beth Carnahan Cave '80 is a teacher with Conroe Independent School District in Conroe, TX.

Jill Schlichter Phillips '84 retired from Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities where she was a physical development specialist at Fayette Progressive School.

Dan Gifford '88 was elected to serve on the Otterbein University Board of Trustees. He is the CFO of DASCO Home Medical Equipment, Westerville.

Mark Mnich '88 is a senior designer and director of business development with Priority Designs in Columbus, OH.

Jolene Thompson '88 is executive vice president of member services and external affairs at American Municipal Power and the executive director of the Ohio Municipal Electric Association.

Susan Brown '90 is senior minister at First United

Methodist Church of New Philadelphia, OH.

Ginger Williams Carr '91 is a teacher with Pickerington (OH) Local Schools.

Tracey Ellwood Gamb '92 is a human resources hospital manager with Affiliated Veterinary Specialists in Maitland, FL. She also serves as the co-director of the Central Florida Veterinary Practice Managers Association.

Larry Gifford '94, who was diagnosed with Young Onset Parkinson's Disease in 2017, has accepted an invitation to join the Michael J. Fox Foundation's 30-person patient council.

Michell Beck '95 is teaching four orchestras and AP Music Theory at Olentangy (OH) High School.

Giving Note

Robert Woodruff '67 has made Otterbein the beneficiary of an undesignated bequest exceeding \$388,000. A retired educator and school volunteer, he has been honored with multiple teaching and community service awards. He is also a generous supporter of Otterbein's Library Textbook Affordability Fund and Campus Center initiative. He established the Robert E. Woodruff Endowed Student Teacher Enrichment Fund in 2007.



Polly Talbott '71 was recognized by the mayor of the village of Lynbrook, NY, on the 20th anniversary of the opening of her business, A la Carte Cooking School.



John Hussey '78 and **Paul "Ike" Eiseman '77**, along with wives, **Betsy Rogers Hussey '78** and **Laurie Eiseman**, planned a gathering of Pi Kappa Phi brothers in Southport, NC, last October. Front row: **Mike Thomas '76**, **Pat McEvoy '76**, **Tom Wolfe '77**, **Bob Fresch '78**. Back row: **Ed Brookover '76**, **Chip Case '75**, **Arnie Ettenhofer '78**, **Mark Hartman '80**, **Jim Lewis '76**, **John Hussey '78**, **Paul "Ike" Eiseman '78**.

Bryan T. Worra '97 and the Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota won a \$50,000 Joyce Award to assist in producing an exhibit celebrating the Lao community's 45th anniversary in the state. The grant is meant to create new work reflecting multicultural communities in the Great Lakes region.

Brian Batch '98 recently became a business director for Lisa Snow Prepublishing Services in Tyler, TX.

Scott Fais '98 is managing editor at *FUNWORLD Magazine*, a trade publication of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions in Orlando.

Melody McDowell Reed '99 is the executive director for Glass Axis, a nonprofit glass art facility in Columbus.

Jeremy Young '00 was elected president of SCI Engineered Materials, Inc. Previously, Young served as vice president of operations

for SCI, implementing the company's sales and marketing strategy.

Keitiaunna Howard '03 is the founder and executive director of Pretty Brown Princess, an outreach program for young women. She is also a business analyst for Anthem, a health care provider.

Ryan Horton '04 is a director of applied sports science at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.

Stephanie Neff '04 teaches vocal music, music appreciation and personal development in Pickerington, OH.

Max Jackson '05 teaches choir and AP Music Theory at Lebanon (MO) High School.

Scott Willyerd '05 is the president and managing partner with Dick Jones Communications, a public relations firm based in Pittsburgh.

Benjamin Garnett '06 is an active duty Army musician stationed at Fort Lee, VA.

Kate Baldwin '07 is membership services manager at the Idea Foundry, Columbus. Idea Foundry is a community of makers where ideas come to life.

Lucas Crumley '07 is the assistant district director for Ohio Congressman Troy Balderson of the 12th Congressional District. He previously served the district with Congressman Pat Tiberi.

Stacey Moyer '07 teaches K-6 music in Forest Hills Schools in Cincinnati. She also sings with the Young Professionals Choral Collective.

Amber Gunnoe Starkey '07 is a manager of finance

operations at Cardinal Health. She was nominated for the Finance Leadership Award and won Concur's Innovation Award, competing with 50,000 companies worldwide.

Rachel Amey '08 is a middle school choir teacher at Columbus Gifted Academy.

Brian Day '08 is director of marketing and ticket operations at Loyola University, Chicago.

Doug Stevens '08 is an auto claim section manager with State Farm Insurance in Atlanta.

Meg Young '08 teaches band in Bellefontaine, OH.

Rebekah Clevenger '09 is the director of development with Adena Health Foundation in southern Ohio.

Mark '78 P'05 and Deborah Scott '77 P'05 Thresher have gifted \$30,000 for the Otterbein FUND. Mark is chair of Otterbein's Board of Trustees, and he and Debbie are parents of **Chelsea Thresher Ross '05**. They have also endowed the **Mark and Deborah Thresher Fellowship** and the **Deborah and Mark Thresher Family Scholarship** at Otterbein.

Giving Note



Akiko Suzuki '95 joined other alumni for dinner in Tokyo last September. Pictured are Alyssa Libby, Otterbein International Recruiter, **Sachiko Shinkai '79**, **Hugo Fukuda '05**, Suzuki and **Mika Matsumura '91**.

Michael Price '02 joined fellow alumni at the 2019 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Conference and Trade Show. Back row: Price (Bexley), **Deana Harris White '81** (New Albany), **Jeff Storer '13** (Bexley), **Taylor Lindsey '16** (Grandview Heights), **Chuck Thacker '15** (Whitehall) **Ben Swauger '18** (Obetz). Front row: **Rich Niccum '90** (Delaware County), **Darcy Baxter '09** (Westerville) and **Mindy McInturf '07** (OPRA).



Otterbein Book Corner



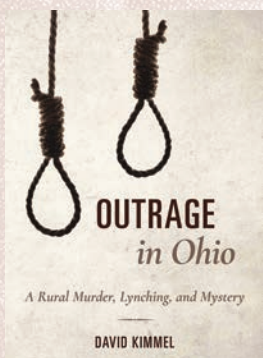
Robert Warner '56 (pictured with wife, **Emily Bale Warner '58**) has self-published a digital guide for how to outline what family members need to know and/or do after a loved one's death. You can download it at lastbestgift.org.



Elaine Clinger Sturtz '81 published her fifth book: *Life Lessons of a Lone Trooper, The Fruit of Your Labor*. The book shares the stories and legacy of her husband, David Sturtz, who served in the Highway Patrol and was the first inspector general for the State of Ohio. Through his life and stories, the reader will learn from a life well lived and be challenged to leave a legacy and bear fruit in their own lives.



David Kimmel '85 published his first book, *Outrage in Ohio: A Rural Murder, Lynching and Mystery*. In the book, Mary Secaur, age 13, is murdered in June 1872 in Mercer County. Suspects include Kimmel's ancestors, brothers Absalom and Jacob Kimmel. An English professor at Heidelberg University, he recently received the Faculty Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding service to the university through leading committees and chairing task forces.



Have you written and published a book? Let us know at classnotes@otterbein.edu. Send us a high-resolution photo of yourself and the book cover. Let all your Otterbein classmates know of your publishing success.

Kerri Davidson '00 is a poet, author and screenwriter. She recently released her latest book of poems, *How to Fly*, a motivational collection meant to inspire others on their journey to self-discovery.

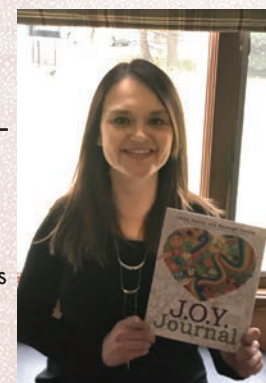


Daniel Largent '00 published his novel, *Before We Ever Spoke*, in June 2018. He has appeared on FOX Sports



1350, ESPN Cleveland Tonight, Live on Lakeside and other TV and radio shows and embarked on a media tour in Mississippi and Alabama this spring.

Kayleigh Hanlin '11 coauthored, with her mother, and published her first children's book, *J.O.Y. (Just Own You) Journal* in September. The book is full of guided activities and illustrations to help kids discover self-acceptance and self-love at their own pace.



Melanie DeBear '09 is a choir teacher with Northland High School in Columbus.

Cody Boyce '10 has a digital media company focused on podcast and video production

located at the Idea Foundry in Columbus.

Carrie Dvorsky '10 works with the Department of Youth Services as a music teacher at Circleville, OH, Juvenile Correctional Facility.

Sean McDaniel '10 is working at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH.

Jamie Wells '10 is the social media and communications specialist for the Convention and Visitors Bureau of South Padre Island, TX.

Jemma Dougherty '12 is a volunteer coordinator for Blind Veterans UK in England.

Josh Howey '11 is a senior video producer at The Ohio State University and owns a wedding videography business.

Caitlin Lindemuth '11 teaches third grade general music at Western Row Elementary

Giving Note

Otterbein received a generous bequest from the estate of retired teacher **Mary Keck P'60**, who died April 24, 2018. The estate gift supports students through **Otterbein's Alumni Memorial Scholarship program**. Mary was the wife of the late **Waldo M. Keck '28**, a national and international leader with the YMCA.

Loretta Evans Heigle '69

Gun Violence Prompts '69 Alumna to Chair Task Force

By Aselya Sposato '21

Amid the United States' third consecutive year of increasing firearm death rates, Otterbein education alumna **Loretta Evans Heigle '69** is doing what she can to address this national crisis. Heigle is chairing a task force on gun violence with First Community Church in Columbus.

Though still in the early stages of planning, Heigle and her fellow church members hope to reduce and raise awareness of gun violence by hosting various speakers to discuss the issue, registering more young people to vote, working with other like-minded groups, and providing educational opportunities to church and community members about gun laws in Ohio.

According to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 39,773 gun deaths nationally in 2017, an increase of more than 1,000 from 2016.

"It's astounding that so many people are dying due to gun violence," said Heigle. "We have to do something about it, and I knew I wanted to be a part of a group that would. The youth in our community are also aware that we need



Loretta Evans Heigle '69 with grandchildren.

to do something, so it's very important that we empower them to take a stand."

Heigle, who worked in the public school system throughout much of her teaching career, is helping the task force connect with high school groups in the area.

She credits Otterbein's hands-on learning environment with preparing herself and future graduates to take on powerful leadership roles.

"Otterbein gives all students a voice and offers countless opportunities for leadership," said Heigle. "The very idea that every student and every life counts is a value relevant to the mission of both Otterbein and this task force."

In addition to her role with First Community Church, Heigle also stays active within the Otterbein community. She is excited to co-chair the 50th reunion of the class of 1969 this fall.

"The class of '69 was just such a great group of people," said Heigle. "The planning committee hopes to bring back as many of our classmates as possible for this celebration."

For more information about Heigle's work with the First Community Church task force, visit www.fcchurch.com/gun-violence-prevention/

Profile

School in the Mason (OH) City School District.

Daniel Lopez '11 owns an online training business and performs in theater productions across the country.

JP Lococo '12 is the director of corporate partnerships at Austin FC.

Josh Reynolds '12 is director of instrumental music at Whetstone High School, Columbus.

Jon Wagenman '12 tours with artists and bands in Nashville,

TN. He also cofounded Farmview Homes, a sober living recovery residence company in Middle Tennessee.

Emily Barger '13 teaches middle school and high school orchestra at Norwalk (OH) City Schools.

Leondra James '13 is an analytics and operations manager for Saatchi & Saatchi, a global communications and advertising network in Los Angeles.

Timothy Kincer '13 is based in New York City as a freelance music director, accompanist and vocal coach. He just

finished his master's of music in piano performance at NYU Steinhardt.

Julie Koenig '13 teaches voice and piano at Flourish Music Academy in Greeley, CO.

Nikki Krzebiot '13 is an actor and singer in Chicago, IL.

Isaac Maupin '13 is working towards his Ph.D. in ethnomusicology. He teaches introduction to music, jazz history and creativity and innovation in rock music at University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Derek Shell '13 teaches middle and high school band in the Lakewood Local School District in Hebron, OH.

Lauren Ward '13 is a veterinary surgeon at Medivet, London, UK.

Joseph Bui MSN '14 is a registered nurse at Grant Medical Center, Columbus.

Kayne Edwards '14 teaches high school choir at an international school in Southern China.

Greg Benson '12

Band Director Marches in the Granddaddy of them All — Twice

by Shirley Scott '70

The journey for **Greg Benson '12** from Thomas Worthington High School to the Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA, marched him right through Otterbein University.

As a member of his high school marching, concert, and jazz bands, Benson set his sights on a large public university music program until his mother, **Barb Lehman Benson '76**, convinced him to also audition for her alma mater. When Otterbein's band director, Margaret Underwood, personally sought him out after that audition, he chose Otterbein.

According to Benson, at Otterbein he found the perfect combination of influential individuals: Jay Miglia providing saxophone instruction and guidance; Jim Bates shaping his perspective and approach to music education; and Amy Chivington facilitating an outstanding student teaching experience in Grove City, OH.

Benson performed with Otterbein's marching band and wind and jazz ensembles, and was a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, a national honorary service organization for university bands that re-established a chapter on campus when he was a student. He spent his summers in Rockford,



IL, performing with the semi-professional Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps.

Already in his short tenure as a music educator, Benson has accompanied bands to Pasadena's Rose Parade twice, from Grove City in 2017 and Pickerington in 2019. The latter performance honored the memory of late director Mike Sewell '79.

Following graduation, his Otterbein network expanded when he was hired to assist band director and Otterbein alumnus **Jason Graham '07** at Grove City High School, an opportunity that gave him his first Rose Parade appearance.

He took up the band directing duties of the late Sewell when he accepted his current position as director of bands at Pickerington High School North, home of the 186-member Marching Panthers. He credits Sewell with creating a band program worthy of its Rose Parade performance, Benson's second appearance.

In January 2021, the Rose Parade will feature a float honoring America's band directors, sponsored by the **Michael Sewell '79** Memorial Foundation.

Benson said he plans to continue already-strong Pickerington High School North band traditions at the state level and to move the program forward nationally.

Giving Note

Wendell Foote '60 made a stock gift providing over \$20,000 for the Otterbein FUND and \$10,000 for the Department of Physics.

Giving Note

Kathy L. Smith '69 made Otterbein the beneficiary of a generous bequest that will one day support the Campus Center as part of the Class of '69 legacy gift.

Elyse Brigham Gotschall '14 is an advancement marketing manager at the University of Mount Union, Alliance, OH.

Holly Herron '80 DNP '14 retired from 30 years with Life Flights, over 5,000 flights, and is now OhioHealth's EMS director and Otterbein's undergraduate clinical coordinator. She

mentored more than 1,600 nursing students. She was recently given *Columbus* CEO's 2019 Healthcare Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jerrin Hill '14 is a neurosurgery physician assistant at Grant Hospital, Columbus.

Paul Baker '15 teaches at Music Royale in Powell, OH. He also works with Music Go Ground in Gahanna, and has recorded his second album.

Sean Brewster '15 is events and office manager for the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio.

Megan Foust '15 works with the St. Paul (MN) Chamber Orchestra as the development coordinator.

Leah Hecker '15 teaches middle school choir at Davis Middle School in Dublin (OH) City Schools.

Brice Henry '15 is a music teacher, choir director, and musical director for first grade through high school in West Liberty Salem (OH) Local Schools. He also teaches private lessons in voice, piano and saxophone.

Chris Latimer '15 is a strength coach for the St. Louis Cardinals minor league affiliate in Johnson City, TN.

Miranda Martin-Hecker '15 teaches private lessons at Music & Arts in central Ohio.

Flexibility and Size Attracted Alumna to Otterbein's Graduate School

by Danielle DiMarzo '21

For **Lauren Keller MSAH '17**, Otterbein was the perfect place to return to school for her master's degree and the allied health program offered everything she was looking for to advance her education.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in human nutrition from The Ohio State University, Keller worked in corporate fitness for four years, then decided it was time to go to graduate school.

"I loved that the allied health program was a blended program — that way I could continue to work full-time outside of the classroom," said Keller.

Otterbein's flexibility is what first drew Keller to the school. She could attend her classes in the afternoons and still work her full-time job. The program allowed her to work on assignments based off what she was interested in; however, she still enjoyed being able to learn about topics that interested other students as well.



Otterbein's size was a nice change for Keller after receiving her bachelor's degree from a large, public university. She said it was rewarding to have her professors know her by name and have conversations with her, rather than her just being a name and grade on a paper.

Now that she has completed her master's degree, Keller has decided to return to Otterbein as an adjunct instructor. She taught a class during the fall semester of 2018 and is teaching exercise for special populations during summer 2019.

"I get to bring my experiences in the workplace to class — my real-life examples can enhance what they are learning," said Keller.

Keller wants to help her students feel ready for a life outside of the classroom. "I had to learn on the job, so I hope I can bring that knowledge to students so they can learn more in the classroom before they start their careers."

Stephanie Maupin '14 is a director for Event Marketing Strategies in Columbus.

Tyler Perry '15 is working towards a graduate degree in music therapy at Immaculata University, Malvern, PA.

Pat Seesholtz '15 is the business development manager for Blue Label Digital Marketing in Lancaster, OH. He was recently inducted into the Fairfield Union Athletic Hall of Fame.

Emily Abrams '16 is pursuing a graduate degree in student affairs and higher education.

Zachary Dunlap '16 received his doctorate of physical therapy degree from Walsh University in April.

Ally Hurd '16 teaches ninth and 10th grade special education with Teach for America at John Adams College and Career Academy in Cleveland.

Ryan Hutcherson '16 is the director for the middle school and high school concert choirs and a capella groups for Marysville (OH) Local Schools. He was also recognized as the school district's exemplary educator of the year.

Jillian Keefer '16 is a research technician with Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Andrew Kovalski '16 is studying saxophone performance at Youngstown State University and tuning pianos in the area.

Dillon Limbaugh '16 teaches K-5 music at Gattis Elementary School in Round Rock, TX. He is also codirector for the fourth and fifth grade choirs.

Marlena Latham Luikart '16 is a field canvas director with Clean Water Action, an environmental advocacy group in Washington, D.C.

Kim Shapiro '16 is an environmental health and safety specialist at Safex in Westerville.

Erin Ramey Watson '16 is in the master's of physician assistant studies program at Ohio Dominican University, Columbus.

Sophia Fleshman '17 is a choir director at Riverdale Local Schools in Mount Blanchard, OH. She is also the director of a competitive show choir, an a capella group, and the school's musical.

Lauren Keller Quintana MSAH '17 is a manager at the Huntington Fitness Center, part of Ohio Health, Columbus.

Meghan Stursa '17 works in sales at Music & Arts in Worthington, OH.

Katlyn Bliss Vogel '17 is an exercise science specialist at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus.

Corey Beckett '18 is assistant manager of athletic facilities and operations at the College of Wooster, Wooster, OH.

Kelly Dishun '18 is an exercise physiologist and manager at Huntington Fitness Center, part of OhioHealth, Columbus.

Sam Eau Claire '18 is a case manager with Nationwide Insurance in Columbus.

Megan Garner '18 is attending physician assistant school at Mount St. Joseph University, Cincinnati.

Sam Gossett '18 teaches music for fourth through eighth grade for Twinsburg (OH) City Schools. She is also the director of the marching and concert bands.

Michael Grimm '18 works with Olentangy, OH, Local Schools at Johnnycake Corners, Alum Creek and Freedom Trail Elementary Schools as a general music teacher and beginning band director.

Nick Hahn '18 is the assistant technical director for the Short North Stage, Columbus.

Maria Hendrix MSN '18 is a family nurse practitioner.

Damaris Murphy '18 is an exercise physiologist at Martha Moorehouse Outpatient Care, Columbus.

Melissa Schlecht '18 was onboard Norwegian Cruise Lines this spring doing alterations/costuming for their production of *Jersey Boys*. She returned to the Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine as the Costume First Hand in April.

Kameron Smith '18 is the assistant director for Methow Valley Riding Unlimited in Winthrop, WA.

Adunia Tsehaie '18 is working with AmeriCorps.

Jacob Walters '18 is working in the accounting department of University Hospitals in Cincinnati.

Madison Wolfe '18 is a fifth grade teacher for Worthington, OH, City Schools.

Candice Wroten '18 teaches grades six-12 orchestra and popular music in America at Washington Local Schools in Toledo, OH.



MAKE A GIFT TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE

Are you already making annual gifts to help Otterbein invest in our students? Consider adding a planned gift to your gifts of cash or property this year. Increase the impact of your giving, provide greater tax savings, preserve wealth for you and your family and make an impact on students now and in the future.

Added Gift Options

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● Estate tax savings

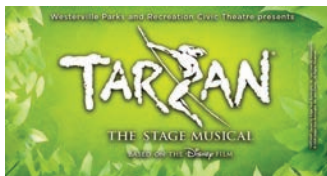
For more information on how you can leave a legacy at Otterbein, please contact Michael McGreevey at 614.823.1305 or mmcgreevey@otterbein.edu.

Entertainment Center



Dee Hoty '74 was cast as Mary Cassatt in 5th Avenue Theatre's production of *Marie, Dancing Still*.

Judith Berger '75 was awarded a Broadway World Columbus Award for Best Costume Design-Community for her work at the Westerville Parks and Rec Children's Theatre's production of *Tarzan*.



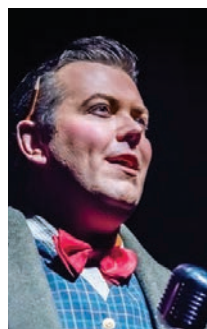
Tony Gonzalez '03 has returned to Transcendence Theatre Company, Sonoma, CA, after serving as the associate choreographer for the 10th Anniversary Tour of *Rock of Ages*.

James Dailey '05 created and produces a podcast, *It's All Been Done Radio Hour*, which was named Best Hidden Gem in Cbus Top Picks in *The Columbus Dispatch*.



Valerie Accetta '04 received a Broadway World Columbus Award for Best Director of Musical-Professional for her work in *Pippin*, *Weatherwane* Playhouse, Newark, OH.

Matthew Wolfe '04 received a Broadway World Columbus Award for Best Director of Play-Community for his work in the Westerville Parks and Rec Children's Theatre production of *It's a Wonderful Radio Play* and Best Director of Musical-Community for their production of *Tarzan*.



Luke Bovenizer '06 was awarded a Broadway World Columbus Award for Best Director of Musical-Community for his work in the Westerville Parks and Rec Children's Theatre production of *Tarzan*.

Judy Stinolis '06 won an Emmy in the Team Coverage category for *Fireball: Piecing it Together* in 2018. She was also nominated for an Emmy in the Spot News Category for *Kirkersville: A day of tragedy*. She works at WCMH-TV, NBC4 in Columbus.



Derrick McPeak '12 received a Broadway World Columbus Award for Best Scenic Design-Community for his work in the Westerville Park and Rec Children's Theatre production of *Tarzan*.



Tommy Betz '16 was part of the ensemble of the *Sound of Music* National Tour this past winter and spring.



Kayla Walsh '16 played the role of Edith in *Blithe Spirit* this spring at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Hilton Head Island, SC.



Morgan Anita Wood '18 (pictured at right with other cast members) was cast in the original Puerto Rican tour of *Hamilton* in the ensemble and as understudy for the Schuyler sisters. Following the run in Puerto Rico, the troupe toured the U.S. mainland. The photo is from their opening in San Francisco in February.

MILESTONES

Compiled by Becky Hill May '78 and Darray Richardson '20

Marriages

Sallie Meredith '88 to Mark Bowen, Nov. 18, 2017.

Kate Altier Reagan '97 to William Patton, Jan. 26, 2019. She is the assistant director of auxiliary maintenance at Otterbein.

Robyn Henry '00 to Dave Chessman, June 16, 2018, on the dock at the Manhattan Community Boathouse in New York City where Robyn is a volunteer and kayaking instructor. In attendance at the reception were **Christy Witt Hoffman '00**, **Sheryl Warren Wisniewski '00**, and **Pat Green '02**.

Bridget Rumer '04 to Alex Jurkiewicz, Jan. 12, 2019 at the Rosary Cathedral in Toledo.

Kristen Lavric '07 to Michael Smith, Feb. 16, 2019.

Claire Ekardt '08 to Travis Shoemaker, Jan. y 26, 2019.

Jessica Buschmann '09 to Jonathan Napolitano, March 9, 2019.

Emma Brock '12 to Samuel Howard, Oct. 13, 2018. Otterbein alumni in attendance included **Katie Falter '14**, **Cameron**



Will Patton with Kate Altier Reagan '97.



Dave Chessman with Robyn Henry '04.



Alex Jurkiewicz with Bridget Rumer '04.



Kristen Lavric '07 with Michael Smith.



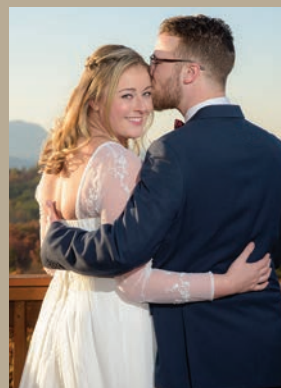
Travis Shoemaker with Claire Ekardt '08.



Jonathan Napolitano with Jessica Buschmann '09.



Samuel Howard with Emma Brock '12.



Alexandria Weber '15 with James Brackbill '13.



Zachary Dunlap '16 with Jennifer Long.



Lauren Keller '17 with Daniel Quintana.



Caleb Vogel '17 with Katlyn Bliss '17.



Christian Meister '17 with Katie Faught '18.

Hobbs '12, Stanzi Schalter '12 (bridesmaid), **Amanda Huxtable '10, Andrea Varadi Enright '12, Kyle McIntire '12, Shelly Vance '14, Lauren Friednash '12** (bridesmaid), **Jacob Robinson '12**. Not pictured: **Adam Schalter '12**.

Bethany Adams '14 to Justin Aksterowicz, Jan. 5, 2019.

Alexandria Weber '15 to **James Alexander Brackbill '13**, Nov. 10, 2018 in Gatlinburg, TN.

Zachary Dunlap '16 to Jennifer Long, June 1, 2018. The groomsmen included **Tyler Green '16, Justin Christoff '16** and **Justin Roberts '16**.

Lauren Keller '17 to Daniel Quintana, May 19, 2018.

Katlyn Bliss '17 to **Caleb Vogel '17**, June 22, 2018.

Katie Faught '18 to **Christian Meister '17**, Aug. 11, 2018.

Births

Heather Fess Knapp '93 and Kent Knapp, a son, Zadok Von Walter Knapp.

Melica Hampton '04, a daughter, Amira Ayobami Eman Fayemi.

Ellen Hempleman Akey '05, a daughter, Piper Leigh. Nana is **Miki Payne Hempleman '76**; **Tyler Hempleman '07** is an uncle.

Andria Keller Glasstetter '05 and Tom Glasstetter, a daughter, Camryn.

Katy Witt Leonard '05 and Lance Leonard, a daughter, Lucy. She joins sister, Charlize, and brother, AJ.

Missy Butcher Goetz '06 and Robby Goetz, a daughter, Sadie Grace Marie.



'04

Amira Ayobami Eman Fayemi



'05

Piper Leigh Akey



'05

Camryn Glasstetter



'05

Lance Leonard, Lucy Leonard, and Katy Witt Leonard '05.



'06

Sadie Grace Marie Goetz

Classnotes ONLINE!

In an effort to share news faster and reach more alumni across the country and around the world, we post achievements and career news via our alumni social media outlets (with permission), and via our Classnotes webpage, otterbein.edu/classnotes.

Send your wedding and baby photos with accompanying information by email to: classnotes@otterbein.edu

or go to: www.otterbein.edu/classnotes.

Photos should be medium to high resolution (at least 800 pixels on the shortest side) and clearly in focus. We reserve the right to refuse any photo which does not meet minimum quality requirements.

IN MEMORIAM

Deaths

'44	Dorothy Hilliard McFall	12/01/18	'56	Carole Kreider Bullis	01/17/19	'65	Charles R. Gilmore	01/03/19
'45	Mary C. Lord	12/18/18	'56	Dale E. Griesmeyer	01/15/19	'68	Karen Hillyard Schein	01/11/19
'45	Helen Jean Thompson	05/28/18	'56	Joan Neeley Szul	03/04/19	'69	Ruth Stanley Farmer	10/28/16
'46	Sandra Rubino Paul	01/14/19	'56	Robert E. Wilkinson	02/19/19	'69	Donald E. Kinsler	07/17/18
'48	John F. Wells	01/05/19	'57	Clara Kirkpatrick Colsch	10/13/18	'70	Mark N. Peters	12/05/18
'49	Michael Kiriazis	3/7/2019	'57	Kay Fulcomer Shaw	01/06/19	'73	Jill A. Harris	11/06/18
'49	Barbara Stephenson Lyter	10/05/18	'58	JoAnn Piper McCann	01/09/19	'75	Donnalea Cain Phinney	12/25/18
'50	Paul Schuller	11/28/18	'59	Bruce E. Bryce	11/27/18	'81	Mary Mason Weaver	11/15/18
'51	Richard A. Dilgard	11/23/18	'59	Yvonne Fryman Millikin	05/26/18	'82	Randall C. Rogers	03/27/19
'51	Priscilla Warner Berry	03/03/19	'59	Donald J. Sternisha	11/04/18	'85	Edmond L. Conard	08/09/18
'54	Jean Hostetler Bromeley	05/29/19	'61	Loren D. Reynolds	10/06/18	'95	Donald Drew Mollick, Jr.	01/27/19
'54	Ross M. Morris	10/07/18	'63	Rancie Bilbrey Titley	01/10/19	'09	Thomas A. Baker	01/14/19
'54	Duane H. Smith	10/04/18	'64	Martha Deever Matteson	02/20/19			
'54	Donald W. Shilling	05/17/18	'64	Regina Fehrens Poulard	01/06/19			
'55	Ruthann Williams Bennett	12/31/18	'64	Jeanie Pfleger Sutton	03/29/19			
'55	Tatsuo Tsuda	08/12/18	'65	Judith Padfield D'Angelo	12/09/18			

Friends of Otterbein

Pat Adcock	11/16/18
Dick West	01/15/19

Long form obituaries can be found at www.otterbein.edu/classnotes.
If you would like a copy of a particular obituary, email alumniinfo@otterbein.edu or call 614-823-1650.

Otterbein Making Impact in Honduras

Otterbein's Nursing Department is making a big impact in Honduras, where poverty and violence are rampant, health care providers work with minimal equipment and supplies, and educational programs lack technology to train nurses. Things are only getting worse as aid from the United States has ceased.

In the face of those challenges, three organizations came together to improve nursing education in Honduras. A delegation of four Honduran nurse educators from three universities received

hands-on simulation training at Otterbein from May 17-19, thanks to the support of the Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) and equipment created by edgeThingZ.

Training nurses for real-life scenarios using simulation equipment is key to saving lives. The educators will take what they learned back to their communities in Honduras and educate their peers. They also received gifts of cutting-edge, low-cost technology with them.

CAMO was founded in Orrville, OH, in 1993 by Executive Director Kathy Tschiegg. The organization has a headquarters in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras, which is home to five universities. Otterbein President Emeritus Brent DeVore sits on the board of CAMO and his wife, Nancy Nikiforow, is a pro bono grant writer for the organization.

CAMO develops training protocols, raises money for nursing education equipment, and connects American nurses with their Honduran counterparts to improve education and services for the

country's poor. Otterbein's nurses, for their part, are exposed to new cultures and have the opportunity to improve the lives of those beyond their reach.

Jeff Becker, chief maker at edgeThingZ, is partnering with CAMO to provide a low-cost classroom technology that edgeThingZ developed in partnership with Otterbein's Nursing Department. The Healthcare Education Simulation Station (HESS) offers an alternative approach to high cost nursing simulation equipment to benefit nursing education and nursing outcomes globally. This alternative approach enables simulation training to be conducted at a price that Honduran nursing education programs can afford. A single high-tech manikin can cost \$100,000, and a full simulation center can cost more than \$1 million. The HESS system costs \$49 per month.

Becker fondly calls the technology the "Otterbein Innovation," and it is already being used by nursing education programs at The Ohio State University, Kent State University, Wittenberg University, Marion Technical College, Mercy Health and others.





The 1956 Otterbein production of *Brigadoon*.

Theatre and Philanthropy Found in the Archives

by Stephen Grinch '98, Otterbein archivist

My father's favorite line from the musical *Brigadoon* was, "My aim on this occasion is to be hospitable — not philanthropic." Fortunately, Otterbein alumni feel no such restrictions on their generosity.

That line has been uttered three times on the Cowan Hall stage — in 1956 by **Paul Koons '59**, in 1967 by **Greg Sabatino '68**, and exactly 40 years ago this past May by **David Witt '79**. The photo is from the 1956 production, and we believe that Koons is on the right in the dark coat. (If you can identify anyone else in this image we would love to hear from you.)

Photographs and programs from the 1967 and the 1979 productions of *Brigadoon* can be found, along with over 50 years' worth of Otterbein Theatre programs and photographs, in our online institutional repository, the Digital Commons: digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/theatre_dance/. Here you can also find the seasonal brochures from 1958 to the present, as well as back issues of OTAND, the Otterbein Theatre and Dance Alumni Network Newsletter. More content is being added on a regular basis, including programs and images from productions before 1958 as well as the department's current productions.

On the subject of theatre, since 1951 most of Otterbein's plays and musicals have been staged in Cowan Hall. Its official name is Cowan Memorial Hall, named in honor of its benefactor, **Clyde E. Cowan '1904**. He was a leading figure in the Pennsylvania coal industry, whose philanthropy to Otterbein included the \$400,000 necessary to build an auditorium that would serve as both a chapel and a theatre for the University. Originally, he made the donation on the condition that it would remain anonymous until after his death. Sadly, he died over a year before the building was dedicated, and his widow granted Otterbein permission to name the building in his honor. Our spotlighted artifact is a bronze bust that we believe to be Clyde Cowan. It has been in the archive for at least 25 years, and it has no label or marking, other than the name "Hendrickson," which is cast on the back of its base. Please contact us if you have any information about this item.

Clyde E. Cowan '1904, the man for whom Cowan Hall is named.



The bust of Clyde Cowan?



Cardinal Tales

by Steve Crawford

Alumni Council Making a Difference

Members of Alumni Council volunteer their time and share their expertise to provide insight and guidance on key alumni initiatives. At the February 2019 meeting, the Council took their responsibilities to a new level and split into four working groups, tackling important issues facing Otterbein including:

- Admissions
- Otterbein FUND
- Career Development
- Graduate School

The goal? Bring alumni perspectives into consideration and change the conversation. Often, alumni ask how they might volunteer and make a difference at Otterbein. The efforts of Alumni Council will create new opportunities and help respective units achieve goals.

Otterbein is the special and forward-thinking institution because alumni care and take active involvement with the future of the school. Are you looking for ways to be involved? **Check out the volunteer section of the alumni website. Your support will make a lasting difference in the life of Otterbein.**

If you're looking
for ways to get
involved in Alumni
matters at Otterbein,
please visit
[www.otterbein.edu/
alumni](http://www.otterbein.edu/alumni)

Attention Alumni:
If you wish to opt out of
Otterbein's Online Directory,
please email the Office of
Alumni Relations at
alumniinfo@otterbein.edu.



A Familiar Face, a New Role

A familiar face to the Otterbein community, **Ben Schwarz MBA '19** has joined the Alumni Relations team as the associate director. He's already familiar with campus, both as a graduate school alumnus and as the former associate director for the Center for Student Involvement. Ben will coordinate Homecoming & Family Weekend, staff the Young Alumni Board, and develop new initiatives for both current students and families. Please welcome Ben to Alumni Relations!



Candy Canzoneri, English faculty, teaches a course on screwball comedies of the 1930s and 1940s this past May.



"AS A RECENT RETIREE, I WAS EAGER TO INTERACT WITH ADULTS WHO WANT TO CONTINUE TO LEARN AND SHARE THEIR IDEAS."

– Rich Tenaglia, member

"I DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY PROGRAMS. WE LOVE IT."

– Laura and Sal Piazza, new members

"THE LLC PROVIDES AN ENERGY TO PURSUE NEW AND DIFFERENT THINGS WITH PEOPLE OF LIKE MINDS."

– Marlene Deringer, Department of Education, Otterbein Faculty Emerita

More than 160 Members

LLC Completes Third Year

The Lifelong Learning Community (LLC) at Otterbein has completed its third year with more than 160 members and over 30 lectures and events. We invite you to join your fellow alums, your neighbors, and members of the Otterbein community who come together weekly to explore new ways to understand our world.

The 2019-20 season will kick off Aug. 14, 2019. The coming year will include nearly 40 presentations on topics such as Japanese art, theatre and music in Japan, today's college students, China, Uganda, medical research, a photographer's eye on nature, the 1970s, Ohio archaeology, nursing on an Indian reservation, a lecture by a Fulbright Fellow from Argentina, day trips, and much more.

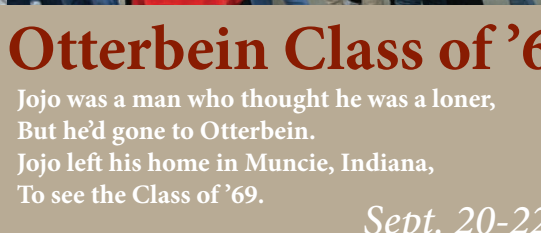
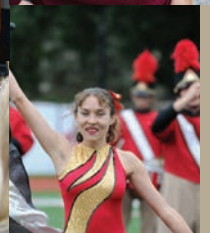
We have been especially grateful to our LLC members who have served as volunteers, the Otterbein faculty, and the LLC members who have offered their expertise to our audiences.

Registration for the 2019-20 season opens July 15. Contact the Alumni Office at 614-823-1650 or via email at lifelonglearning@otterbein.edu for additional information about joining our membership.



Come on Home to Otterbein!

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY
HOMEcoming
& family weekend
SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2019



Otterbein Class of '69...

Jojo was a man who thought he was a loner,
But he'd gone to Otterbein.
Jojo left his home in Muncie, Indiana,
To see the Class of '69.

Sept. 20-22, 2019

GET
BACK!





Award Winners

For complete bios of all the award winners,
go to www.otterbein.edu/alumni



Distinguished Alumnus Award
Robert Yakely '62, MD



Mary B. Thomas Award
Annie Upper Ames '86

Creative Achievement



Mindy McGinnis '01

Leadership & Citizenship



Melica Hampton '04

Professional Achievement



Carl Gelfius '00

Pacesetter



Rhonda Talford Knight '96

Special Achievement



Roger Nisely '67

Special Achievement



Margaret Wooding
Baker, MSN '97

Honorary Alumna



Mary Ann Bradford
Burnam

Honorary Alumna



Lajoyce Daniel-Cain

Rising Stars



Amanda Helmrich
Julca '06



Christine Humphrey
MSN/MBA '14
DNP '18



Kimberly Shapiro '16



Anna Walker '07



Sheronda Whitner '12

ALUMNI TRAVEL

More details at www.otterbein.edu/alumni/travel

Questions? Call **Becky Hill May '78** at 614-823-1650 or 1-888-614-2600.

The Ultimate NEW ORLEANS EXPERIENCE *Oct. 7-11, 2019*

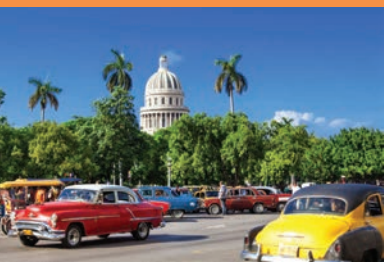


Fly with us into Louis Armstrong New Orleans International or join us there. Lodging in an historic hotel in the heart of the French Quarter and an antebellum mansion on a Southern plantation.

Tour the Garden District and Bourbon Street, visit the National World War II museum and cruise the Mississippi and the Bayou.

\$1,545 per person, double occupancy, plus airfare.

Single and triples also available. There is a wait list for this trip, contact **Warther Tours today at 330-556-4535.**



Timeless Cuba *Oct. 22-30, 2019*

Once again, Otterbein is partnering with an exceptional cruise line, Oceania Cruises, and travel vendor, GoNext, to offer Timeless Cuba, providing the ultimate in ambience, comfort and flavor for your travel experience. **Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis.**



MAJESTIC WEST *Sept. 7-13, 2020*

Enjoy stunning views of the American West as you make your way through Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and Big Sky Country on this great American adventure. Marvel at Grand Teton National Park's towering peaks, marked with mountain glaciers. Experience the Wild West as it once was at Yellowstone National Park, home to an incredible array of wildlife and Old Faithful. To see details on all these trips, visit www.otterbein.edu/travel



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THE OTTERBEIN FUND

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EVERY YEAR MATTERS.



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Your gifts to **The Otterbein FUND** bridge the gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost of the Otterbein experience. The FUND provides scholarship support for students, fuels our experience-rich curriculum, enhances student programming, and helps Otterbein meet strategic priorities and maintain our beautiful 286-acre campus.

Your Impact Matters!

Otterbein has been sustained for more than 170 years by a remarkable circle of giving. We give so that Otterbein can provide an affordable yet world-class education for our students, who are themselves inspired to "pay it forward" for future generations. You power the Otterbein circle of giving. Your gifts mean we can respond to the emerging needs and priorities of our campus and our students.

Please use the envelope provided in this magazine to make a gift or visit www.otterbein.edu/makeagift

Questions? Contact Katie Butt at: 614.823.1472 | annualgiving@otterbein.edu



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Dean Gatti Retires

Dean Robert "Bob" Gatti H'03 is retiring from Otterbein at the end of June after 41 years of service to Otterbein — 27 of which he served as vice president of student affairs. He gave the Commencement address at this year's undergraduate ceremony. See story on page 12.

PARTING
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SHOT