

# Otterbein Towers

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FALL/WINTER 2019



*Celebrating*  
MORE THAN  
**50**  
YEARS  
OF INNOVATION  
IN CURRICULUM  
DESIGN

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE | RACIAL HEALING | AFFORDABILITY INITIATIVES



# From the President.

Otterbein Friends and Family,

Right now your mailbox is probably filling with holiday cards, each offering a family update and wishing you well. This issue of *Towers* is no different. We have lots of news to share about work on campus and the success of alumni. I am grateful to be a small part of our Otterbein family.

Let me start by thanking the Otterbein community for coming together to host the Democratic Presidential Debate. This was a true collaboration between the University and Westerville. We put our best foot forward to welcome the attention of the world and I know Otterbein shined. Most importantly, our students had a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience — attending the debate, working with CNN and *The New York Times* and being a part of a international media event. Look for our Debate Impact Report beginning on page 14.

Otterbein always strives to do the right thing for the right reason. We take our role as educators seriously and know we need to prepare our students for success in a diverse world. Leaders like Rhonda Talford Knight '96 are key to this educational process and I know you will enjoy reading her reflections on racial identity, beginning on page 18.

In addition, any university president should be thankful for the students. This past fall, we welcomed one of the strongest and largest first-year classes ever, including 720 new first-year and transfer students! This is the result of the great strategic work from our admission team. One such strategy is our approach to college affordability. Please refer to page 22 to learn more about the tactics that we are implementing to make 21st century college education affordable.

I am thankful to be the president of a truly innovative university. Otterbein has always been a path finder to lead the way for others. One of the most innovative curricula in America started right here on our campus back in the late 1960s. Today we are celebrating more than 50 years of ground-breaking history in learning with our Integrative Studies curriculum. We are dedicating an entire feature story to it on page 26.

And finally, this fall has been dedicated to important conversations revolving around Otterbein's next strategic plan. I look forward to sharing additional information in the coming months.

I hope you will enjoy this issue and pass it along to your friends. We have many things for which to be thankful and one of them is being a part of our great Cardinal family.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,



John Comerford, Ph.D.  
President



Comerford family, 2019.

## 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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Gina M. Calcamuggio, Senior Messaging Strategist

## CREATIVE DIRECTION

Hannah Farley '15, Multimedia Graphic Designer

Marcy Shultz, Director of Creative Services

## CLASSNOTES AND MILESTONES EDITOR

Becky Hill May '78, Institutional Advancement

Becky Olmstead Smith '08, Alumni Relations

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Syguda

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kathleen Bonte, Gina Calcamuggio, Beth Rigel Daugherty, Matthew D'Oyly '04, Catie Duzzny '21, Jenny Hill '05, Rhonda Talford Knight '96, Roberto Ponce, Shirley Scott '70, Aselya Sposato '21, Ed Syguda, Dana Madden Vigiletta '96

# Otterbein Towers

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18



22



14

## On the Cover.

Hand lettering by **Hannah Farley '15**

## Your One-Stop Shop for Events at Otterbein University

BY MATTHEW D'OYLY '04



**Matthew D'Oyly '04**  
Director of Events  
and Conferences

Opening July 1, 2019, the Office of Events and Conferences is dedicated to providing the finest service with the intention of creating convenient and comfortable spaces for events and conferences at Otterbein. This office is committed to working collaboratively with all campus partners and community members to provide professional and detailed care in a manner that supports the University. Our team also has a commitment to involve students in the process of crafting the ultimate experience for our guests, whether they are members of the Otterbein community, summer conference guests or long-time supporters of our arts and athletic programs.

This newly created office was proud to collaborate with campus partners, CNN and *The New York Times*, to be the host site for the fourth Democratic Presidential Debate. The Office of Events and Conferences is looking forward to diversifying the types of events on campus while offering space for rent for your next meeting, wedding or event.

If you'd like to host an event on campus, including The Point, please contact:

The Office of Events and Conferences  
[otterbein.edu/oec](http://otterbein.edu/oec)  
(614) 823-1847

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

*Save the date!*



Information about these and other events can be found at

[otterbein.edu/events](http://otterbein.edu/events)

Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation  
Jan. 22

Scholarship Competition Day  
Feb. 1

Board of Trustees Meetings  
Feb. 7-8

Science Lecture Series  
Feb. 13

Alumni Council Meeting  
Feb. 14

Graduate School Spring Guest Lecture Series  
Feb. 25

Amy Lecture Series  
March 12

Otterbein Experience Day  
March 28

Vernon L. Pack Lecture Series  
March 30

Graduate Student Conference  
April 7

Honors Convocation  
April 22

Alumni Awards Gala  
April 25

Board of Trustees Meetings  
May 1-2

Graduate School Commencement  
May 2

Baccalaureate  
May 3

Undergraduate Commencement  
May 3

First Day of Classes  
Aug. 24

Homecoming and Family Weekend  
Sep. 25-26

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY  
**HOMECOMING**  
& family weekend  
SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2020



*Olivia*

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## Gibbs Scores a Championship in the Off-Season

Wherever **Jeff Gibbs '02** goes, championships seem to follow. Gibbs, who led Otterbein to the NCAA Division III men's basketball championship in 2002, chalked up another title last summer; this time helping lead Carmen's Crew (comprised of former Ohio State University players) to The Basketball Tournament (TBT) championship this past summer.

Gibbs plays professionally overseas in Japan.



The TBT, in its sixth year, is a single-elimination tournament held each summer and broadcast by ESPN. This year's tournament featured 64 teams with a winner-take-all cash prize of \$2 million. Gibbs scored 11 points, all in the second half, and grabbed five rebounds in the 66-60 victory over the Golden Eagles, a team of former Marquette University players, in the championship game held Aug. 6, 2019, at Wintrust Arena in Chicago.

The 6-1 power forward, who plays much bigger than his size, started all six games for Carmen's Crew and played fearlessly. "Some

of the guys we played against didn't know who I was," said Gibbs, who was a late addition to the team. "A couple of games, they put guards on me. I just posted them. They had to

switch and put a big guy on me."

Gibbs, a two-sport All-American in football and basketball, graduated as Otterbein's all-time leading rebounder (1,496) and ranked fifth on the all-time scoring list (1,924). In football, the tight end finished his career holding records for most touchdowns (29), most receiving yards (2,476) and ranked second in receptions (162).

Following Otterbein, Gibbs focused in on making it into the NFL, getting tryouts with the Chicago Bears and Atlanta Falcons. "They told me what everyone's told me my whole life," Gibbs said to a Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch reporter the day after winning the TBT. "Great hands, great speed, great route running, but you're just a little too short."

So it was back to basketball for Gibbs, who found a home playing professional basketball in Europe and Japan. Gibbs, in the midst of his 16th season overseas, played his first six years in Germany, where he was known as "Mr. Incredible," and the last 10 years in Japan, earning championships and all-star honors in both countries. The 39-year-old Gibbs plans to play one more season after this and then retire from professional basketball.

Gibbs, who has four children ranging in age from five to 15, plans to come home and get into coaching, preferably at the collegiate level, after he leaves basketball.

"Honestly, my dream would be to come back to Otterbein and be the head coach," Gibbs said. "I'll be busy when I retire, watching all my kids play sports."♦



Otterbein University President John Comerford was invited to the Global Forum on Academic Freedom, Institutional Autonomy and the Future of Democracy in Strasbourg, France, in June to add Otterbein's support to a movement of global leaders committing to protecting democracy. Approximately 100 higher education leaders from around the world, including Comerford, received invitations to attend.

"Since its founding, Otterbein has stood for the rights of academic freedom and autonomy, as well as the freedom of speech of individuals, and we continue to stand resolute today," Comerford said. "Otterbein believes that all voices from different walks of life must be represented, respected and valued, and we are committing to be a national and global leader in preserving democratic societies and values."

The Global Forum recognizes that academic freedom and institutional autonomy are being subjected to growing pressure and becoming increasingly important components of a global discussion of how democracy develops — and how it should develop. The Global Forum examined a broad range of issues related to academic freedom and institutional autonomy, from being the subject of politically motivated attacks to the effect of general public policies and legislation.

Comerford signed a declaration at the Global Forum which states, in part: "Education, including higher education, is responsible for advancing and disseminating knowledge and developing ethical and able citizens. It therefore plays an essential role in modern democratic societies. Education is key to developing, maintaining, and sustaining a culture



## Otterbein Joins Global Leaders in Commitment to Democracy

of democracy without which democratic laws, institutions, and elections cannot function in practice: education furthers and supports a set of attitudes and behaviours that seeks resolution of conflicts through dialogue; that accepts that while majorities decide, minorities have certain inalienable rights; and that sees diversities of background and opinion as a strength rather than as a threat."

It goes on to state: "Education at all levels is therefore critical in helping develop the values, ethic, and ways of thinking on which democratic societies are based and which strengthen opposition and resilience to terrorism and violent extremism." ♦



**For more information on the Global Forum, visit [www.coe.int/en/web/education/globalforum](http://www.coe.int/en/web/education/globalforum).**



## Admission Efforts Yield Large Class

This fall, Otterbein welcomed an especially large and diverse class of 720 new first-year and transfer students to campus, thanks in part to Admission efforts to reach out to underserved student populations.

The University will continue to implement innovative programs to make an Otterbein education affordable and accessible, because education is a right, not a privilege.

44

**first-year students from Columbus City Schools**

*The largest-ever entering class from the district.*

59

**students from Columbus State Community College**

*Including 21 students through the Dual Admission Program and the Guaranteed Admission Program.*

112

**students benefitting from the Urban Districts Initiative**

*Almost 17% of the first-year class, from four central Ohio school districts.*

156

**students of color**

*The largest number for the sixth consecutive year.*



**Otterbein professors teach classes to incarcerated students at the Marion Correctional Institution.**

## Otterbein Brings Freedom of Thought to Incarcerated Students in Marion, Ohio

**BY ROBERTO PONCE**

I began driving to Marion, Ohio, around 4 p.m. on a Thursday afternoon in August. Kathryn Plank, interim associate vice president for academic affairs, graciously invited me to join a group of colleagues to observe the last class of Otterbein's Summer Humanities Seminar at the Marion Correctional Institution (MCI). I've never been inside a prison in the United States, so I didn't know what to expect. If anything, I was a little apprehensive. I won't bore you with details about the drive, but I do want to describe what I witnessed upon arrival.

A few colleagues were already at the main entrance. Provost Wendy Sherman Heckler came out of the main doors to receive our team. We waited for a few ►



minutes to go through security, which involved two checkpoints on either side of a gated courtyard. No wallets, electronic devices, or keys were allowed; only a small note pad and a pen.

Once we passed through the electrically controlled, barred doors, we walked through a corridor with no windows, only artificial light. When I heard the click of the door's lock behind us, I sensed something within me. I instantly learned that there were two worlds: the world inside and the world outside. And I was inside.

---

**“I enjoyed the way everyone respected each other and I learned how to respect other people’s issues.”**

— Jim

---

Brandon came to receive us. He walked us to the room where he and other students spent 10 weeks taking classes together. This room may not have had the latest classroom technology, but it did have a group of men eager to learn from a group of Otterbein faculty volunteering their time to teach.

The Summer Humanities Seminar is comprised of five mini-courses: Critical Reading and Writing Across Disciplines, Biology and Nature, Philosophy, Health and Humanities, and Reflecting on Learning in the Humanities.

These mini-courses were all taught with a focus on the humanities by Otterbein faculty members Anthony DeStefanis, Kathryn Plank, Simon Lawrence, Anna Young, Bridget Newell, Samantha Boch and Shannon Lakanen,

who volunteered their summer to teach at MCI. Although assistant professor Jessie Glover did not teach in the seminar, she held her own project through the Theater of Conviction, a theater company at MCI.

Once in the classroom, I encountered a diverse group of students. They came from different races, ethnicities, religions and ages, but they all shared a desire to learn and treated each other with respect and camaraderie.

Associate Professor Shannon Lakanen led the last class. She had each of us introduce ourselves, mingle and sit next to people we didn't know. We broke bread together. It was during this time that I had the chance to interview a few students. One student, Jim, said, “I enjoyed the way everyone respected each other and I learned how to respect other people’s issues”.

At the end of the evening there was pomp and circumstance as we all enjoyed a mini graduation ceremony. Students received their certificates, transcripts and grade. And, as with any graduation ceremony, Otterbein President John Comerford delivered a speech.

“You have the ability to think for yourselves and that is what the humanities are all about,” said Comerford.

To conclude the evening, Lakanen shared with us that doing this work has changed her life personally, professionally and spiritually. Then she simply said, “Thank you.”♦

*Testimonials are shared with students' permission, though for privacy, only their first names are used.*

”

**We went over the definition of humanities and we all wrote an essay. I understand better what it means to be human and I enjoyed being allowed to be seen as a human and not as an animal.**

- Tone

**This class taught me how to ask questions.**

- Brandon

**This was a cool term, but not long enough. By the time you were getting familiar with the subject, the course was over.**

- Black

**This environment has been electrifying, thank you for letting us come.**

- AV

# Common Book Author Fled Taliban to Become Champion Athlete



Author and professional athlete Maria Toorpakai (left) met students and signed books after the Common Book Convocation.

As she stood in front of a large audience in Cowan Hall, 2019 Common Book author and professional athlete Maria Toorpakai's life couldn't be any further removed from her childhood in Pakistan.

On Oct. 22, Toorpakai told the captivated audience about knowing as a child that she wanted to be an athlete, about the support she received from her parents, and about living for 16 years as a boy in order to play sports at a great risk to herself and her Muslim family.

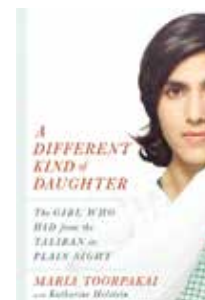
In her book, *A Different Kind of Daughter: The Girl Who Hid from the Taliban in Plain Sight*, Toorpakai recounts her harrowing journey to play the sport she knew was her destiny, rising to become the number one female squash player in Pakistan. For Toorpakai, squash was more than liberation — it was salvation. But it was also a death sentence, thrusting her into the national spotlight and the crosshairs of the Taliban, who wanted Toorpakai and her family dead.

In 2011, Toorpakai was forced to make the difficult decision to flee her country.

She was welcomed to train and compete in Canada by Jonathon Power, the first North American to earn the title of top squash player in the world. Today, Toorpakai is well on the way to becoming a world champion as she continues to be a voice for oppressed women everywhere. ♦

*Otterbein's Common Book Program was created thanks to a generous gift from alumna **Mary B. Thomas '28**. Since 1995, the series seeks to stimulate a year-long discussion of an academic theme derived from issues in the selected book by exploring it in classes, residence halls, and co-curricular programming.*

*This common reading experience involves all incoming first-year students, faculty, many staff members, members of the Lifelong Learning Community and student leaders. A committee of faculty, staff, and students select from over 50 books each year in an effort to find a significant contemporary work to read each year.*



**Pick up a copy of Toorpakai's book at the Otterbein bookstore!**



# Nursing Pass Rates Exceed National Averages

Otterbein nursing graduates are well prepared to begin their careers after graduation — and they've got the scores to prove it.

The most recent graduates earned first-time pass rates well above the national average on their licensure and certification exams.

During spring 2019, for the initial RN licensure, BSN student graduates had a first-time pass rate of 95%. Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) master's program had first-time pass rate of 98%.



Undergraduate nursing students in the nursing skills laboratory.

Graduates of the Nurse Anesthesia (NA) master's program had a first-time pass rate of 90% on national certification exams.

The national pass rate for an RN licensure (NCLEX) is 89.42%, Family Nurse Practitioner national certification at 82.9%, and Nurse Anesthesia certification at 82.6%.

Congratulations to the Nursing Class of 2019!♦

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## Cardinals Forever

### Remembering José Ortega Pablo and Nigel Chatman

José Armando Ortega Pablo, age 20, passed away following a tragic accident on June 27, 2019. At Otterbein, Pablo was pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing. He was also president of HOLA (Heritage of Latino Americans). His favorite quote was by his first principal in high school, Mr. Kim, *"Know where you come from, be who you are, and find the strength to move the world."*

Pablo brought joy to everyone who knew him and was quick to make connections with anyone he encountered. He made multiple friends and connections on campus with his professors and classmates. He was proud that during his two years in college, he finished each semester without owing a single penny.

Pablo left a legacy of friendship, love and hard work. We will remember him always.♦

In September, the campus community mourned the tragic loss of a member of our Otterbein family. Nigel Chatman tragically passed away the morning of Friday, Sept. 6, after sustaining injuries from a car accident. He was 21 years old.

Chatman was majoring in communication studies and was extremely well known around campus for his outgoing personality and sense of humor.

A sophomore from Reynoldsburg, OH, Chatman was a member of the debate team and a standout defensive lineman on the Otterbein football team. He earned All-Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) honors last fall as just a freshman.

In honor of their friend and teammate "Big Nige," the Otterbein Cardinals football team retired his jersey, number 97. His memory will live on.♦



# Otterbein University Earns Tree Campus USA Designation for Second Year

People often comment on the picturesque nature of Otterbein University's campus. What many don't know is that behind the scenes, some very intentional work has been done to make the campus not only beautiful, but also environmentally responsible. Thanks to that work, Otterbein has been named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for a second consecutive year.

The Tree Campus USA designation is awarded to two- and four-year accredited colleges and universities that meet or exceed five standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation relating to tree care and stewardship, education and community engagement. The program recognizes the importance of trees, which help improve air quality and reduce storm runoff, provide food and shelter for local wildlife, shade homes and buildings, and improve privacy and aesthetics when incorporated into commercial and residential landscaping.

"The Tree Campus USA designation is a reflection of the strategic work of Otterbein's grounds team. We take a holistic approach to maintaining and improving our campus, with sustainability as a high priority," said **Troy Bonte '01**, executive director of facilities management and planning.

Otterbein is located in the heart of Westerville, one of the original Tree City USA communities, and Ohio, the nation's leader in Tree City USA communities.♦

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## Otterbein Recognized for Efforts to End Sexual Violence

**The university was recently recognized for its proactive approach to sexual assault awareness and prevention on campus.**

Over the last four years, the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) has led the Changing Campus Culture Initiative, a statewide effort to end sexual violence, providing high-quality training and guidance on the best practices in response and prevention.

This year, Otterbein was recognized for meeting all five of the Changing Campus Culture Initiative criteria for preventing sexual assault.

Learn more at [ohiohighered.org/cc](http://ohiohighered.org/cc).





# Hanby House Homecoming 2019

Hanby House hosts descendants of historic Otterbein family.

BY CATIE DUZZNY '21

Descendants of the Hanby family returned to Westerville and made a visit to the historic site of the Hanby family home last July — and their roots run deep.



**Benjamin Hanby, composer of the Christmas song 'Up on the Housetop', is an alumnus from the class of 1858.**

Perhaps the best-known Hanby is Benjamin Hanby, a renowned abolitionist and a composer of the popular Christmas song *Up on the Housetop*. His father, Bishop William Hanby, was one of the founders of Otterbein University, an abolitionist and Underground Railroad station master, and a leader of the Temperance Movement. Benjamin's wife, Kate Winter Hanby was one of the two women in

Otterbein's first graduating class.

**Pam Nance Allen '96**, site manager of Hanby House, conducted years of research and identified over 60 descendants of the Hanby/Miller family across the United States. She and her husband, **Jim Allen '93**, invited these descendants to Westerville and planned a full itinerary to offer more insight into their family history and meet distant relatives.

Twenty-four descendants of Benjamin and Kate Winter Hanby, from seven different states, came to Westerville for a slate of experiences. They attended a concert featuring Civil War music performed by Steve Ball, toured Hanby House, and visited family graves in Otterbein Cemetery. They also toured Otterbein and attended

presentations on church history and the local Temperance Movement.

Hanby House is part of the Ohio History Connection, a statewide history organization that has more than 50 historical, natural, and archeological sites across Ohio. The house was built in 1846, and was once a station on the Underground Railroad. Hanby House features many complete family items such as a walnut desk made by Benjamin Hanby and a large collection of his composed music.

The Westerville Historical Society manages the day-to-day operations of the site along with the Ohio History Connection to keep this celebrated and historic home alive for generations to come. ♦



**The Hanby House, a historic site, was home to one of the founders of Otterbein, William Hanby.**



Learn more at [hanbyhouse.org](http://hanbyhouse.org)

**Hanby descendants stop for a picture in front of Roush Hall during a tour of Otterbein.**





Photos by Ed Syguda

# Undaunted by Age: A World Champion at 85

**A Special Reflection by Bob Arledge '55**

I am 86 years old and am a world champion in pole vaulting in my age group of 85–89. I earned this title on Sept. 12, 2018 in Málaga, Spain, at the World Masters Track and Field Championship competition. The temperature that day was 110 degrees. I competed against five others in my age group. There were 11 competitors in the 80–84 age group and it was personally gratifying that I beat nine of those athletes. My running speed and vaulting form is still good enough to be a 6'3" vaulter. The fact that I was just under 6' in this championship at 5'10" was a personal disappointment. However, I did well enough to get the win.

I'm aware some individuals outside the Otterbein community were skeptical about my win. They struggled to grasp the concept of an 85-year-old pole vaulter. I was asked: "Were you the only one competing?" or

"Do you just hold the pole and step over the bar?" Actually, I worked and trained very hard to achieve my success. The Otterbein SeniorLife Community in Lebanon, OH, has been an ideal place for me to train. We have a beautiful indoor pool, a state-of-the-art fitness center and an indoor track. Plus, it is a very supportive community. There were even residents who prayed for me, including grandmothers and great grandmothers.

Many have asked when I began practicing for the championship competition. Actually, I "practice" year-round. I swim three or four times per week for at least 20 minutes. The back stroke is my preferred stroke as it strengthens the lower abdominal muscles. Abdominal strength is critical for lifting the legs over the bar in a jump. I lift weights twice a week.



I lift a moderate load, below the maximum I can lift, but do three sets of 50 repetitions. Additionally, I have pole vaulted two times per week this past winter in the indoor facilities at local high schools. In the spring I practiced with the Bishop Fenwick High School vaulters (where I am the volunteer pole vault coach). This past summer I practiced in the back yard of Terry Wassen, the Wayne High School coach. It was a privilege to practice there with most of the area's best high school vaulters. The difference between me and the high school vaulters is clear: they get faster and stronger with age while I get slower and weaker!

Over the last 12 years I have experienced several muscle-skeletal injuries. Orthopedic injuries, illness and deaths are responsible for the steadily declining number of senior pole vaulters. Many have asked, including my wife of 61 years, "Why do you keep doing this?" My answer is always, "I love it and I'm pretty good at it." I vaulted in high school and when attending Otterbein College. Back then we landed in sawdust or sand and used a bamboo pole. Today we land on a huge foam pad with a flexible fiber pole.

I retired from the Air Force in 1988. In 2002, an old college track friend invited me to join him at the Ohio Senior Games in Canton. I was terrible and decided then to begin a lifestyle change, stressing fitness and nutrition. I set the goal of becoming competitive as a senior pole vaulter. I have lost weight and am now stronger and faster and take three fewer medications than I did back in 2002.

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**I believe  
the happiest  
senior  
citizens are  
those who  
remain  
active and  
have a goal.**

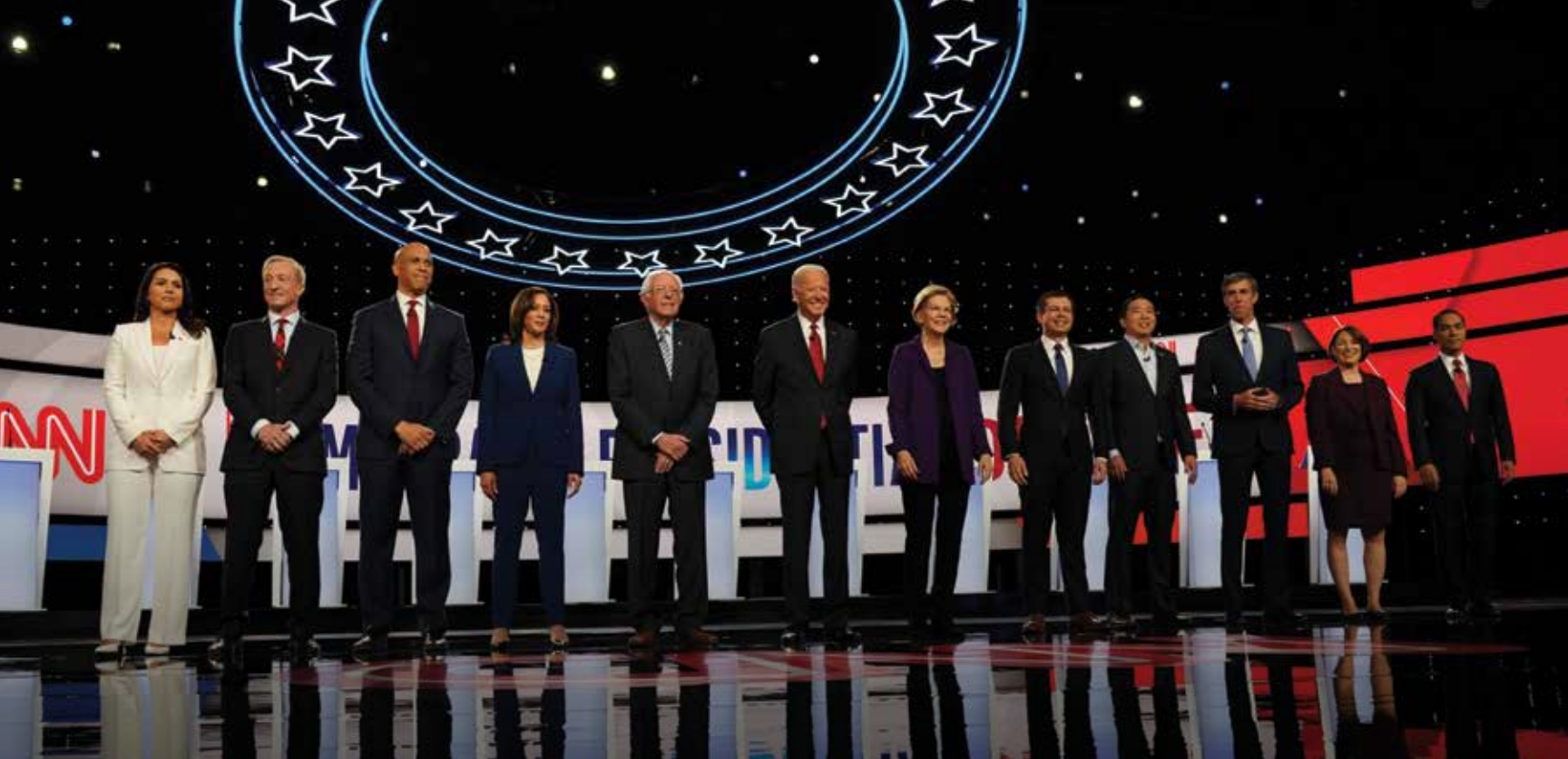
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I believe the happiest senior citizens are those who remain active and have a goal. Failure begins in our own mind when self-doubt sneaks in. When you have self-doubt it becomes self-defeating. Obstacles will always occur, but are surmountable with hard work, perseverance and love for the task. My goal is to retain my world title.

My message to seniors is this: you have more control over your health than you realize. A regular exercise program along with good nutrition is where to begin. I personally like the Mediterranean diet which emphasizes lots of fresh fruits and vegetables and wild-caught seafood. Eliminate junk food and reduce sugar intake. Studies show that muscle loss and even memory decline related to aging respond positively to exercise and good nutrition.

My own sport of pole vaulting has enriched my life in many ways I could never have imagined. It has taken me to many cities across the United States and Canada and now to Spain, which included a side trip to Africa. I am a member of the worldwide senior pole vaulting brotherhood, an aging group declining in numbers — but with members who refuse to give up.♦





# CNN & THE NEW YORK TIMES 2019 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE **IMPACT REPORT**



**October 15, 2019, was an extraordinary day for Otterbein University.**

We are proud to have successfully hosted the CNN & The New York Times 2019 Democratic Presidential Debate and a national — and international — spotlight shined on Otterbein and the entire Westerville community.

It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to help our students see the political

process first-hand and give them access to journalists, political candidates, producers and event specialists in a real-world setting on our campus.

This would not have been possible without our Westerville partners, law enforcement agencies and our Otterbein community as a whole.



## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

120+

MEDIA AMBASSADORS

135+

EMPLOYED BY CNN

400+

IN DEBATE HALL AUDIENCE

**Haley Nelson**  
ABC6/FOX28  
Reporter

"I certainly appreciate everyone's assistance **organizing live interviews with students** - as well as the consideration that went into **having a nice space for us to work**. **The students were articulate and kind - we got a lot of compliments** from the ABC Network about their live interviews."



Otterbein students, faculty and administrators spoke to the press.

Otterbein student, Aselya Sposato '21, introduced the panel of New York Times journalists before the forum.



## A Forum with The New York Times: The Conversation Before the Conversation

75+

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

7

CENTRAL OHIO SCHOOLS

WERE IN ATTENDANCE

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
SHARED THE FORUM  
WITH THEIR

**40,000+**  
SUBSCRIBERS



Otterbein students got to meet the journalists before the forum.

## CAMPUS WATCH PARTY

HOSTED OVER

250

GUESTS

AND FEATURED A  
SPECIAL RECORDED  
GREETING FOR GUESTS  
BY WOLF BLITZER

JOHN GLENN COLUMBUS  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

## ADVERTISEMENT SPECTACULAR

New year-long campaign up in time  
to welcome travelers to Columbus



## 60+ EVENTS HOSTED ON AND OFF CAMPUS

"Having the debate hosted in our community was such a **win for Westerville** and Otterbein University. We know **we have a treasure of a community** and a strong town/gown partnership; **bringing national attention** to the community provided us an opportunity to **showcase all that we offer.**"

**Janet Tressler-Davis**  
President/CEO  
Westerville Area  
Chamber



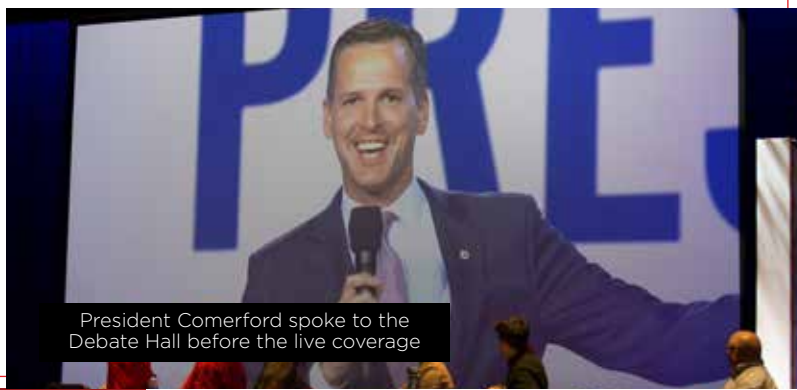
Memorial Stadium hosted national Media Row and the Cardinal Football team.



"Tan & Cardinal" staff member in the Spin Room with Senator Booker.

# CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

# PUBLIC



President Comerford spoke to the Debate Hall before the live coverage



Cowan Hall welcomed guests to the NY Times forum and the Debate Watch Party.



—  
President  
Comerford

To limit the privilege of a college education to only the wealthy is un-American and a threat to our democracy.

So, Otterbein is seeking a better way. We believe in creating opportunities for students rich with potential.

## WEB TRAFFIC INCREASE

SEPT. 13 - OCT. 23  
NEW USERS: UP 78%

## PUBLICITY VALUE

SEPT. 13 - OCT. 23  
\$1.6 BILLION

## PUBLICITY VALUE

WEEK OF OCT. 13  
\$457 MILLION

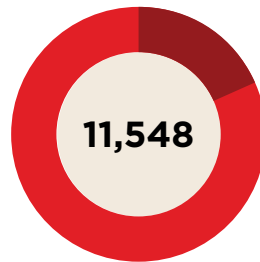


Broadway / TV Star & Alum

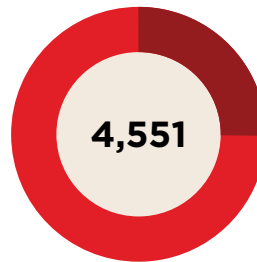
## JORDAN DONICA '16

performed the national anthem for a televised audience.

TOTAL  
Sept. 13 - Oct. 23



DEBATE DAY  
Oct. 15



## Media Hits

A media hit is any story where Otterbein is mentioned by name.

Average media hits, July 2019 = 135

- Print & Online
- Television

## TOP 10 COUNTRIES (media hits)

1. United States (10,596)
2. Australia (143)
3. Canada (64)
4. Great Britain (57)
5. Turkey (30)
6. China (27)
7. Russia (25)
8. Italy (25)
9. France (23)
10. Israel (22)  
Singapore (22)

## NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH MEDIA HITS = 58

LOCAL (COLUMBUS) MEDIA HITS

509

NATIONAL CABLE MEDIA HITS

22

NATIONAL NON-CABLE MEDIA HITS

2,062



CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer and other media representatives were on campus and spent time with Otterbein students.



Data gathered by Critical Mention, a tool that uses the cost of an advertisement of equal length, running at the same time of day in the same media outlet, to determine the advertisement equivalent (or publicity) value of a media hit.



# RELATIONS



President Comerford, along with Otterbein leaders, faculty and students did many TV and radio interviews.

# 1,600

**COLLATERAL PIECES** with info about Otterbein, Westerville and Columbus were distributed to each candidate's campaign, media and hotels.



**Otterbein's name, messaging and logo were in countless televised shots on CNN and the other 700+ members of the media on campus.**

## PRESIDENT COMERFORD'S OP-ED PIECE PUBLISHED IN THE HILL

and was sent to over 500 Higher Ed journalists

*The Hill is regarded as a "must-read" by those who influence policy in Washington and Congress*

**"HIGHER EDUCATION MUST REDISCOVER THE 'SERVICE ETHIC' OF TEACHING"**

*President Comerford*

# SOCIAL MEDIA

## TWITTER

IMPRESSIONS

**192,221**

ENGAGEMENTS

**12,466**

\* Impressions - number times a user is served a tweet in timeline or search results  
Engagements - total number of times a user interacted with a tweet

## FACEBOOK

REACH

**390,552**

IMPRESSIONS

**517,752**

VIDEO VIEWS

**63,488**

\* Reach - number of people who saw any content from your Page or about your Page  
Impressions - times a user is served a post in timeline or search results

## INSTAGRAM

LIKES

**8,782**

COMMENTS

**103**

VIDEO VIEWS

**10,792**

STATS FOR THE WEEKS OF 9/22 - 10/20

## SPANISH SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

REACH:

**82,488**

IMPRESSIONS:

**155,635**

LINK CLICKS:

**795**

**HIGHEST REACH**

FOR A SOCIAL MEDIA AD CAMPAIGN BY OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY



The banner on DeVore Hall was in televised reporting for all in media row.





# STARTING A DEEPER CONVERSATION ON RACIAL IDENTITY AND RACIAL HIERARCHY

*A Reflection by  
Rhonda Talford Knight '96, Ph.D.*



**RHONDA TALFORD  
KNIGHT '96, Ph.D.**

CEO, Knight  
Consulting Group

*Rhonda Talford Knight '96 is the president and founder of The Knight Consulting Group, LLC, and has traveled nationally and internationally sharing her work on creating culturally responsive communities that drive change for a positive impact on businesses and those they serve. She previously served as vice president and inclusion manager at Huntington National Bank, where she worked on increasing workforce diversity, workplace inclusion, and community engagement. She was awarded the 2019 Pacesetter Award at the Otterbein Alumni Awards Gala last spring.*

*The idea* that my alma mater would have hidden truths to unveil or a storied history is not something I would initially think. At least on the surface and at the heart of Otterbein, I came to understand that the faculty and staff had an unwavering commitment to me as a student while knowing I was a student of color. While I understood my racial identity was a piece of who I was when I walked into the room, during my experience at Otterbein, I never felt hindered by being an African-American woman at a predominately white institution (PWI) of higher learning. Furthermore, my narrative was grounded in the understanding that institutional racism and hierarchical systems existed, which meant I walked into spaces with my eyes wide open and the desire to understand and be understood.

However, not everyone understands that about themselves or sees the “other” this

## definition

### RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

An individual's awareness and experience of being a member of a racial and ethnic group; the racial and ethnic categories that an individual chooses to describe him or herself based on such factors as biological heritage, physical appearance, cultural affiliation, early socialization and personal experience.

way. In fact, we are at a time in our nation when the narrative about race and racial identity is laced with anger and hate. The ways race and racial identity impact people's narratives and experiences typically are not understood, valued or discussed. Although some students have positive experiences on college campuses, racial inequalities are true, as well as often overlooked, and they perpetuate a negative system of inequity. Truly, the discourse around racial inequality is in "danger of being accepted as fact in higher education," according to the Higher Education Policy Institute. This would be problematic as it supports a failed system that perpetuates inequities and a single narrative in how we address race.

"Healing from racial traumas is empowering and allows civil engagement with people that have real or perceived differences from you," said Otterbein student Angel Banks, the president of the African American Student Union and the secretary of the Student Government.

Understanding where we are in our nation and in our communities creates an opportunity to engage in conversations that include multiple narratives. Could you imagine spaces on campus where we openly talk about racial inequities? These spaces would be geared toward deepening understanding and creating racial healing that moves us all toward a future where systemic racism doesn't exist because we have all become advocates to transform our campus, community and our world. We would be pushing for transformation, including multiple narratives in our history, and providing equity in access and opportunity.

What happens when those open spaces are created and required to exist in a safe space, like at a college or university? What happens when an entire community of

people from different walks of life buys into and commits to an approach that is meant to address racial disparities? What happens when individuals are equipped with the tools and skills that can bring about change?

Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) occurs. It occurs because there are colleges and universities across our nation that have created Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Campus Centers to support communities in how they "engage citizens in racial healing and catalyze efforts to address current inequities grounded in notions of a racial hierarchy," according to the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U). The development of TRHT Campus Centers at higher education institutions is a strategic effort of AAC&U and made possible with initial support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation, and Papa John's Foundation. There are colleges and universities that have embraced what it means to "dismantle the belief in the hierarchy of human value" and are ►

Definitions sourced from The W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
[racialequityresourceguide.org/about/glossary](http://racialequityresourceguide.org/about/glossary)

Otterbein's African American Student Union marches at Homecoming parade.



## *definition*

### **INSTITUTIONAL RACISM**

Institutional policies and practices create different outcomes for different racial groups. The institutional policies may never mention any racial group, but their effect is to create advantages for whites and oppression and disadvantage for people from groups classified as non-white.

empowering our nation’s “next generation of strategic leaders and thinkers,” according to the AAC&U. Furthermore, the work is important on college and university campuses because **institutional racism** has played a role in educational settings that impact racial inequities, access and opportunity for underrepresented groups. College and university campuses have the opportunity to lead how we heal from racism and

racial inequities.

Acknowledging how our nation continues to espouse and push negative stories about race, embedded in racial hierarchy and racism, it is understood that we need to change how and when we talk about and understand racial identity, racial hierarchy and racial inequities.

“The work is important because of the increase in racial incidents on campuses, across the nation, and research indicates 45.2% of undergraduate students are of color,” said Dr. Tia Brown McNair, vice president for Diversity, Equity, and Student Success for the AAC&U and executive director for the TRHT Campus Centers.

McNair also said college campuses are successful when they “engage as many

stakeholders as possible.” I understand the importance of talking about racism, racial inequities and racial hierarchy, and as I reflect on what Otterbein was for me as a student, I know conversations about race and identity did exist at Otterbein. We had those conversations as African-American friends. We didn’t use language that indicated a discourse you might see on a syllabus; we didn’t make statements that said we were critically examining Otterbein’s touted history as an inclusive “college of opportunity” or identifying structures that prevent educational access and equality. When we had those conversations we had them in places that didn’t typically include “the other.” We had those conversations as a reminder and an affirmation of situations we saw and experienced as students. They were conversations in a moment about “matters of fact.” As I reflect, I now know how valuable those conversations could have been for so many others, because it is through conversations we all have the opportunity to grow.

However, as I dig deeper in my reflection, my most profound moment at Otterbein in discussing race was in one of our public relations courses taught by one of the most respected and loved faculty at Otterbein, Denise Shively. I recall a time

*Healing from  
racial traumas is  
empowering and allows  
civil engagement with  
people that have real or  
perceived differences  
from you.*

**ANGEL BANKS '21**

Double Major: Psychology, Criminology & Justice Studies





where I felt safe to express myself as a black female student in front of my white peers. In a course where the class assignment was to collaborate to examine and construct a mission statement for the YWCA about their goal to “eliminate racism,” I will always remember using my voice as a black female student. I remember feeling empowered to speak. I did not realize at that moment that the work I am doing today with and for communities around the globe was being awakened. More importantly, I remember it was in that moment that I wanted my white peers to understand that there is more than one black narrative and more than one black experience. I wanted them, my white Otterbein classmates and peers, to understand that they could not judge a person by their outward appearance; I wanted them to see, value, and know the idea of “listening to understand.”

In that moment, I remember simply, yet profoundly, being asked about Blackness, and in that moment I paused and simply began, “I do not speak for all black people.” I reiterated their need to know this very important factor as we moved forward in our discussion. And while this was not a common theme in our undergraduate studies, it was once visited in the mid ’90s in a safe space, and it reminds me about the value and importance of speaking about race and equity on university and college campuses across our nation and around the globe. In fact, fast-forward almost 25 years, Garth Weithman, a white and gay 2011 graduate, said conversations about racial hierarchical, racism and racial inequities would have prepared him differently for the workplace especially in a world where race is talked about openly.

I shared a little with Garth about Otterbein choosing to do this work, and we are both proud that Otterbein is choosing

to be a leader in taking on this work through creating spaces where we can build narratives that include multiple perspectives that address racial inequities through racial healing and transformation. Otterbein will be a game changer in racial equity as it looks to expose and dismantle the hierarchy of human value assigned to school districts and universities in central Ohio according to their racial composition.

As James Prysock, director of the Office of Social Justice and Activism stated, “Racial healing is necessary because it juxtaposes the various racial identities and experiences placed upon us. Everyone must recognize that they participate in race and racism consciously or unconsciously.”

So, let’s talk... grab a coffee, latte, or a cup of tea, OK, maybe even a smoothie, which would be the choice of my teenage daughters. Let’s find a nice welcoming space such as The Point and talk. We can start with the ever-changing Ohio weather, and then go down memory lane followed by where we are today including all about the hustle and bustle of our lives, inundated with the busyness of the mundane. Then we can land on one of my favorite topics: embedding the richness of understanding and living with differences with a deep desire to see and feel a sense of equity for all people. Let’s begin to heal and transform the world... one student, one faculty member, one staff member, one alumnus or alumna, and one community at a time – Otterbein. ♦

## definition

### RACISM

A complex system of beliefs and behaviors, grounded in a presumed superiority of the white race. These beliefs and behaviors are conscious and unconscious; personal and institutional; and result in the oppression of people of color and benefit the dominant group, whites.

A simpler definition:  
racial prejudice + power  
= racism.

## definition

### RACIAL EQUITY

The condition that would be achieved if one’s racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. When we use the term, we are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities, not just their manifestation. This includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.

# OTTERBEIN'S COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABILITY: BUILDING PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

BY  
GINA CALCAMUGGIO

ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
HANNAH FARLEY



**Gina Calcamuggio**  
Senior Messaging  
Strategist, Marketing  
& Communications

“Otterbein is seeking a better way,” he added. “We are building pathways from urban districts, public schools and community colleges. We believe in creating opportunities for students rich with potential.”

Recognizing and investing in potential is exactly what Jefferson Blackburn-Smith, Otterbein’s vice president for enrollment management, says Otterbein does. Creating more affordable pathways is one of the surest ways to meet that challenge.

“Even families that have means can be shocked by the cost of college; many middle class families haven’t saved enough money and they may struggle to pick up the added

As Otterbein found itself in the national spotlight for the CNN/New York Times Democratic Presidential Debate, University leaders seized the moment to amplify the message of college affordability and Otterbein’s commitment to addressing the problem.

From the Debate Hall stage to the printed and online pages of *The Hill*, Otterbein President John Comerford told audiences that American higher education deserves the criticism it is facing and that Otterbein is trying to be a part of the solution.

“The cost of college is out of control. We know that many deserving students and their families can’t afford a college education. To limit the privilege of a college education to only the wealthy is un-American and a threat to our democracy,” said Comerford. His words were met with robust applause.

expense,” Blackburn-Smith said. “Otterbein understands this; that’s why we’re working to help families wherever they are.”

Blackburn-Smith said there is often a disconnect for parents, noting that many share with him that they worked to put themselves through college and expecting that will be the case for their sons and daughters now. “An 18-year-old today simply isn’t going to be able to work a minimum wage job and cover the costs of tuition, room and board. It’s just not realistic,” he said.

Students acknowledge that cost — and the fear associated with it — is a critical factor in shaping final college decisions. “I

**To meet more families where they are, Otterbein has been expanding its reach to serve a broader audience through a variety of programs and initiatives aimed at addressing affordability.**

was completely shocked when I learned I had received a full-tuition scholarship to attend Otterbein,” said Dalia Cruz-Santos, an entering first year student. “Cost was a huge factor in deciding which college I wanted to go to. At the end of the day, Otterbein made it possible for me to attend college without the fear.”

Othni Obas echoed his entering classmate’s sentiment. “Cost was extremely important in picking my final choice,” Obas said. “I was fortunate to receive the Opportunity Scholarship — it really helped. This scholarship got me a step closer to my goal in pursuing my major.” Obas is majoring in psychology.

To meet more families where they are, Otterbein has been expanding its reach to serve a broader audience through a variety of programs and initiatives aimed at addressing affordability.

Critical success with efforts like the Urban District Initiative and Otterbein’s Dual Admission partnership with Columbus State Community College resulted in 61 new students for Fall 2019. Undergraduate enrollment is up more than 150 students over the last four years. As a result of those programs’ success, Blackburn-Smith said the president expressed that it was Otterbein’s responsibility to expand the reach of its efforts. One of the most transformational changes included



**Jefferson  
Blackburn-Smith**  
Vice President  
for Enrollment  
Management

creating the Opportunity Scholarship to serve families throughout all of Ohio — not just central Ohio. This effort to reach more families also paved the way for Otterbein’s tuition transparency model.

Otterbein’s Opportunity Scholarship is among an exclusive handful of statewide offerings which meets an eligible student’s full need up to tuition. Ohio families who make less than \$60,000 or those who are eligible for the federal Pell grant qualify for the University’s scholarship. While the Opportunity Scholarship is intended to help build pathways for first-generation students and those from traditionally underserved populations, Blackburn-Smith is quick to correct common assumptions. “Low income does not equal low academic strength.” In fact, it’s quite the contrary.

Among the 2019 entering first-year recipients of the Opportunity Scholarship, 35 percent of the group come from Otterbein’s highest academic range of performance. In fact, the highest ACT in the group is a 31 and the highest GPA in the group is a 4.9.

The diversity is not just in academic preparedness either. It’s true for nearly all other measures, too. For example, in regards to ethnicity, the class of scholarship honorees is divided with 59 percent of the students identifying as Caucasian and the remaining 41 percent identifying themselves as students of color.

Their academic interests range across the board as well — 18 of Otterbein’s 22 academic departments are represented in this scholarship class. Of the group, 30 are nursing majors, 28 are biology or chemistry majors, 23 plan to be business majors, 17 are pursuing engineering and 10 are pursuing criminology studies. ►





While the majority of new students do come from Franklin and contiguous counties, 37 of Ohio's 88 counties are represented

in this scholarship class with meaningful growth in representation from the southwest and northeast corners of the state.

It isn't enough, though, just to get these students here.

What further separates Otterbein from other universities — is how these students are supported on an individual basis from the moment they choose Otterbein.

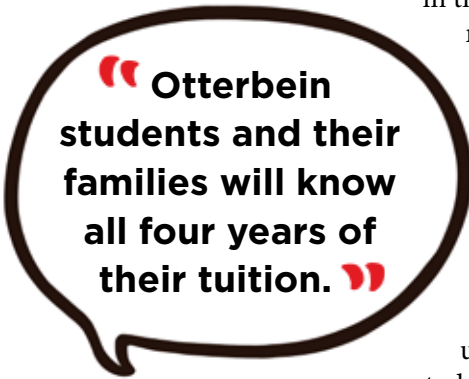
Blackburn-Smith is proud to note that many of the students who were served by early initiatives like the Urban Districts and the Columbus City Schools partnership — and the pilot class of the Opportunity Scholarship recipients — are persisting and performing at equal or higher rates than other traditional cohorts. Otterbein's success rate has been so strong and stands out so much as a model that a team of faculty members and administrators have been invited to present at the American Educational Research Association's annual meeting, one of the nation's most prestigious

research conferences, in the spring of 2020.

"The great majority of these students are successful because Otterbein does meaningful work," Blackburn-Smith said. He sees the work as a partnership. "Every student whose life is transformed also transforms Otterbein, and then they go out and change the world." The reality of that investment for Blackburn-Smith is especially poignant when he hears from families. This year, for example, the siblings and parents of a new first-generation student approached him to personally thank him for the opportunity. "They told me she was going to be the child that fulfilled the opportunity for all of them."

Many of Otterbein's new students, including the Opportunity Scholarship honorees, were invited to join RISE, a program designed to build confidence and help students make connections with professors and staff as well as offices and resources before they start school. In the next issue of *Towers*, we'll take a closer look at RISE and other Otterbein transition programs that have proven to be hugely successful.

Building affordable pathways isn't enough — especially when considering that the cost of college has risen at five times the rate of inflation. As Comerford aptly noted, "this makes it impossible for families to plan."



**OTHERS OFFER A**

**GUARANTEED  
RATE \***



Tuition transparency is Otterbein's answer to another aspect of the affordability crisis. Now, Otterbein students and their families will know all four years of their tuition — and its marginal annual increases — when they begin their Otterbein education.

“Otterbein is distinguishing itself from other universities by communicating its tuition increases with this simple and completely transparent model,” Blackburn-Smith said. To understand what makes Otterbein different, he presented the two other approaches that most universities utilize.

**“Low income  
does not equal  
low academic  
strength.”**

There's the “surprise” model, which Blackburn-Smith describes as the most common method. In this scenario, a university will consider its goals and how much revenue it will take to realize those goals — that amount is what drives what kind of tuition increase will be passed along to students. In simpler terms, the university treats the students like a bank to fund its goals. Furthering the pain of this surprise, is timing: most universities won't announce these decisions until late spring, further complicating the ease and speed with which a student can make decisions. “It's not that long ago when Ohio's annual tuition increases ranged from 6 to 9.9%,” Blackburn-Smith said.

The other model, Blackburn-Smith described is more commonly known as the “guaranteed tuition rate.” At face value this model seems promising. Universities promise students to “lock them in” at their current



tuition rate to guarantee the same rate for all four years.

What most families don't know is that in this scenario, the university frontloads the tuition rate to its anticipated, highest “year four” rate that a student then pays for all four years. In a “guaranteed” rate, a student is almost guaranteed to pay more for their four years than had the tuition varied.

Blackburn-Smith noted that public universities in Ohio are now under a required tuition freeze — unless they offer a four year guaranteed tuition rate.

“At Otterbein, we don't think either of these models is a pathway to affordability. Rather than surprise you each year, or jack up your costs higher than necessary, we will simply tell you, before you decide to enroll, what we will increase tuition each year of your degree. That way, you can decide, in advance, whether or not Otterbein is affordable, with no fear we're going to suddenly strip it from you in the future.”

Blackburn-Smith says Otterbein has been leading the way with its commitment to affordability for three reasons: “The leaders of Otterbein believe it's the morally right thing to do; it fits with Otterbein's mission and vision; and Otterbein is in a unique position to lead in this area because of its size and culture.”♦

# The Power of

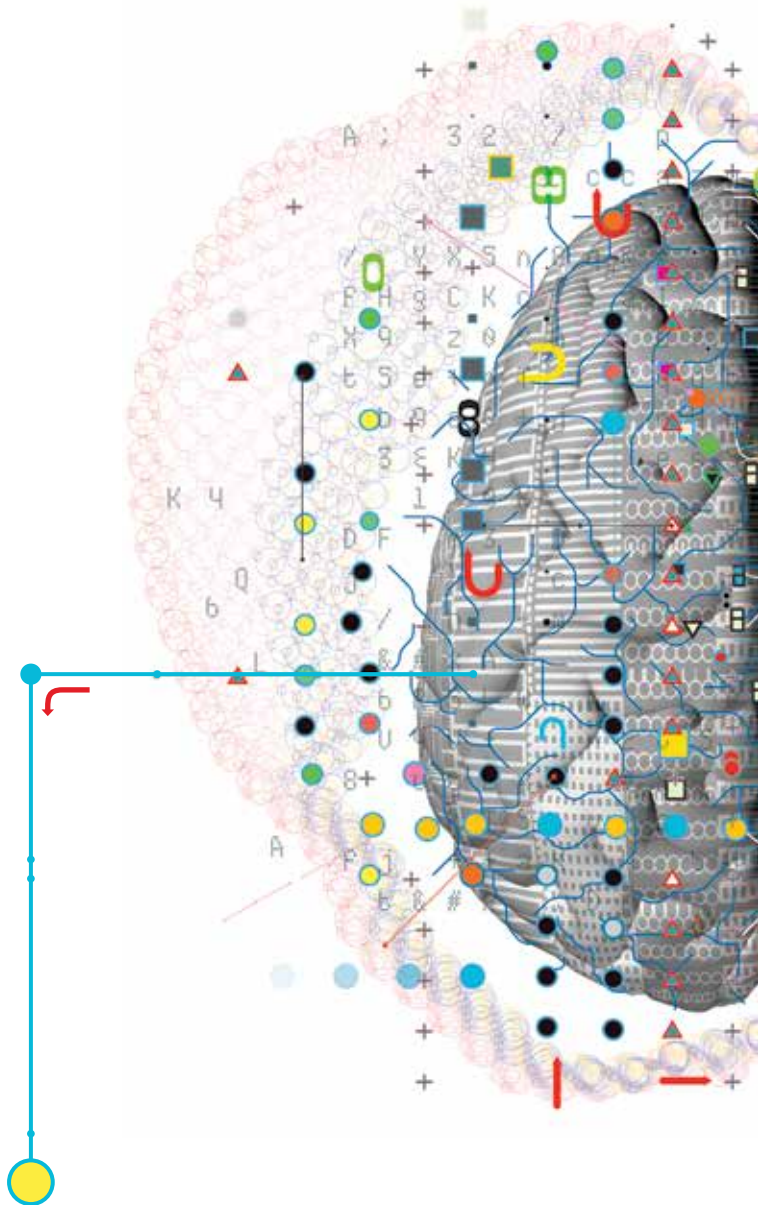
**When I started teaching at Otterbein University in the fall of 1984, I experienced lifelong learning firsthand.**

My main teaching assignment was in the Integrative Studies (IS) three-course “comp & lit” sequence: Individual and Society; Dialogue of Men and Women; and Dilemma of Existence. I had to get up to speed quickly on Shakespearean plays I had read but never taught (*Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear*), on literature I had read only excerpts of as an undergraduate (Dante’s *Inferno*, Voltaire’s *Candide*), on works by authors I had read, but not those works (Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*), and on literary texts I knew nothing whatsoever about and had never read (*The Lais of Marie de France*, Webster’s *The Duchess of Malfi*). It was an anxious time – I was often no more than half a step ahead of my students – but also thrilling. I was living an underlying IS principle every day in the classroom: it’s important and challenging and wonderful to wrestle with big ideas in the humanities (or sciences, social sciences, arts) with your students.

When **Cory Michael Smith ’09**, known for his role as The Riddler on *Gotham*, came to Otterbein in the fall of 2005, he was hungry to learn and committed to theatre. But he, too, discovered the anxiety that often accompanies learning. As he put it when he accepted the 2018 Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement, philosophy and English professors outside his major “completely disrupted me. They asked big questions, burrowed into my soul, and made me question everything. I questioned my motives for being an actor, why I was doing this. I questioned what my contribution to society would be.” But there is an “alchemy to a good education,” he said, and in that mysterious process, “it’s the liberal arts that supplies students with what they need.”



**Beth Rigel Daugherty, Ph.D., professor, English and former chair/director of the Integrative Studies program, 1994-2000**



## **Integrative Studies: 50 Years Old and Counting**

At its founding, Integrative Studies was called the Common Courses. Forged out of economic distress, national turmoil, and discussions in dean’s planning, curriculum, and faculty meetings between 1965 and 1968, the Common Courses were launched in 1968-1969. Called “a landmark in the academic life of the college” by college historian Harold Hancock, the Common Courses explored the



# Integrative Studies

By Beth Rigel Daugherty, Ph.D.



“the nature of man,” and 3) aimed to provide students with a broad understanding of ideas, movements, and patterns in world culture. Most important, all students took the courses and thus had a common foundation for campus conversations and debates about books, ideas and issues.

**The IS Program continues to work on making integrative connections – between disciplines, between students, between majors and IS, between academics and co-curricular activities, between classes and life...**

The Common Courses became Integrative Studies in 1976, with “human nature” as the theme. In a brief 2004 history, **Alison Prindle H’10**, program chair from 1987-94, says the program aims to help students make connections, gain the “flexibility of mind to negotiate and integrate different ways of knowing,” and thus become independent, life-long learners who can “participate in the important conversations of their time.”

**Lyle Barkhymer ’64**, chair from 2000-2007, writes that all IS courses ask students to ponder, through various disciplinary lenses, the same question, “What does it mean to be a human being?” For him, Otterbein’s liberal arts core is “education for living.”

I chaired the program from 1994-2000. To me, IS courses: 1) ask students to leave the “homes” of their majors and enlarge their worlds; 2) invite students to the general knowledge table; 3) remind students and faculty that all knowledge is connected; 4) prepare students, cognitively and practically, for the world of work; 5) introduce students to people different from themselves; and 6) get personal since they demand deep reflection about self, communities, and world as beliefs, ideas, and ►

environment surrounding and conditioning each society and person, and according to its first chair, Bill Hamilton, aimed to help students become “truly humane individual[s].”

Ten courses spanning drama, economics, English, history, life science, music, philosophy, religion, physical sciences, psychology, and visual arts were required at specified times during a student’s four-year college career. Though grounded in academic disciplines, Common Courses were 1) designed for the general student and not as introductions to majors, 2) focused on a common theme,

Common Course Departments  
(1968-1973)

Bill Hamilton  
(1973-1981)

Sylvia Vance  
(1981-1987)

Alison Prindle  
(1987-1994)

Beth Rigel Daugherty  
(1994-2000)

opinions are challenged.

IS has continued to evolve and adapt. Themes have changed — for example the program now focuses on “Knowledge, Action, and the Public Good” — but the principle of examining that theme from multiple disciplinary perspectives and bringing those perspectives into conversation with each other, remains.

## The “Integrative” in Integrative Studies

Integration, integral to Otterbein’s core curriculum, can be difficult to articulate. Under Sylvia Vance’s leadership as chair from 1981-1987, the program promoted integration with the campus through a quarterly IS newsletter and brought faculty from home departments together at IS Professional Day, when they learned from each other about their disciplines, talked about teaching, and discussed IS goals. During December break, faculty learned about

topics outside their fields in Interterm Faculty Seminars, such as Chile in 1987, Latin American History and Literature in 1988, and African-American Literature in 1992.

More recently, a Great Expectations conference on Otterbein’s general education is held each spring, with a guest speaker, faculty-led sessions on topics such as “Inclusive Teaching” and “Critical Cosmopolitanism,” and chances for faculty to talk to each other about their courses and the challenges and rewards of teaching general education students.

Also starting with Vance’s tenure, students saw integration in action during week-long IS Festivals organized around topics such as Mass Media or Renaissance Revisited, which featured presentations, student-led activities and papers, posters, films, guest speakers, and exhibits. More recently, IS Symposia have asked students to respond to topics such as “Roots: Where I’m From” and “Race, Power, and Privilege” with presentations, panels, and other creative activities.


Alumni consistently understand the program’s underlying encouragement of integration. As **Dr. Jeffrey Myers ’80** writes, “having to take courses in topics I would not have chosen as a chemistry major” led to my being “more accepting of individuals

overall. In my [optometry] practice, it has helped me care for folks from a wide variety of backgrounds and celebrate their experiences as being different from my own. I also have a little bit of knowledge in a wide variety of areas, allowing me to connect with others frequently.”

Some students see the value of IS courses while still undergraduates, like **Zach Reat ’05**, who said “I loved my IS classes!” as he accepted the Young Alumni Award for Community Engagement in 2012, but current IS Director Andrew Mills says too many do not appreciate their value until years later.

**Tricia Johnson Arthur ’01** notes: “It took me awhile to understand the value of an Integrative Studies program such as Otterbein’s model. My classes in astronomy, religion, and psychology, in particular, were ones that I now see offered a connection to the vast world beyond my major. And here’s the other thing: they also offered a connection to faculty specialized outside my major, connections I still have today as a result!”

As a result, the IS Program continues to work on making integrative connections — between disciplines, between students, between majors and IS, between academics and co-curricular activities, between classes and life — more apparent to current students.

  
**Andrew Mills, Ph.D.,**  
professor, religion  
and philosophy  
and current  
Integrative Studies  
program  
chair/director



Amy Jessen-Marshall  
(2007 - 2009)

Denise Shively  
(2012-2015)

Lyle Barkhymer  
(2000-2007)

Sarah Fotherly  
(2009 - 2012)

Andrew Mills  
(2015-present)

Students now take a team-taught seminar as juniors or seniors that demonstrates the necessity and value of having different disciplinary perspectives in one classroom: a sociologist and an economist examine sports, a literature professor and a biochemist contend with monsters, or a historian and a memoirist grapple with the Vietnam War. The program leaders hope the new theme, “Knowledge, Action, and the Public Good,” generates conversations about its three parts in all IS courses and thus engages students in thinking about how to use those courses and what they learn at Otterbein to serve the public good when they leave.

## The Impact of Integrative Studies

The IS Program may adapt with changing times, but it continues to open up possibilities, feed the imagination, and widen the world beyond self, family, and community while pondering those very things. **Steph Mizer '95** says, “the IS Program laid out a roadmap for how I’ve approached my profession. Throughout my career in human resources, I’ve valued things such as cross-training of team members and garnering the fullest success of an organization via a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach. The

appreciation of differences of thought, perspective and background seems to be in my bones – and that was clearly shaped at Otterbein!”

**Fonda Dawson Kendrick '95** confesses that IS classes were the most challenging ones she had at Otterbein because “they asked us to wrestle with some of the biggest questions about humanity and our place in the universe, seen through the lenses of many disciplines. IS classes gave us the foundation we needed to better understand everyday life, from literary references to practical applications of physics. Most important, IS classes underscored the idea that sometimes in life there aren’t easy answers, but we need to take the time to analyze, synthesize, and formulate the best ones possible so we can make informed choices for ourselves, our communities, and our world.”

Who knows what the next 50 years of IS will bring? But you can be sure it will involve students and faculty learning and talking together about the big, challenging, even disruptive texts, questions, and ideas that lie at the center of our academic disciplines, cultures, communities, and lives. May the IS Program’s transformative power live long and prosper!♦

## Scott Lacy '93 reflects on his Integrative Studies experience

**Early in my Otterbein experience, I received an invitation for a dinner that was actually a door into a world I didn’t know.**

Professor Alison Prindle was the director of Integrative Studies, and she invited me to share a meal and conversation with some external reviewers who were in Westerville to help with IS assessment.

Before the dinner I thought of IS as just a list of required gen-ed credits. During the dinner, Prindle and her guests revealed to me that my IS courses were opportunities to connect my inner world with seemingly countless generations of thinkers who would help me build a home in the world of ideas. Seated around a table, Prindle and her guests energized me by the depth and thoughtful spirit with which they reflected on the intellectual opportunity to design and grow a signature core curriculum that did for me what it continues to do for a new century of Otterbein students.

My IS courses wisely led me to the major I desired yet had never considered.

**They inspired me to engage in humanity’s gifts of discovery, both interpretive and scientific. From chemistry and psychology, to art, philosophy, and literature, my IS courses taught me that seeking and sharing knowledge about what it means to be human is far more rewarding and centering than preparing for a career or occupation.**

And, as it turns out, by embracing the integrative knowledge path, the IS curriculum prepared me for careers and opportunities I couldn’t and wouldn’t have otherwise discovered. I never had a class in anthropology, but today as an anthropology professor, I have the great fortune of guiding students on an integrative path of discovery that weaves life sciences, history, language, and culture to help us perceive and articulate the sheer ecstasy of what it means to be human. With hindsight, I realize I never left Otterbein’s IS program. I’m grateful for those who shaped that curriculum, and I’m proud to carry the IS torch far beyond our Westerville campus.

One of the greatest gifts we receive as humans is the heritage of knowledge bestowed upon us from countless generations of those who shared their earthly years before our own first breaths. But more important, the threads that bind astronomy and the arts, for example, eventually reveal to the learner that this incalculable inheritance comes with one price: the responsibility to embrace this gift, to nourish it through reflection into a new age, and ultimately to preserve it for future generations of our human family. The IS program at Otterbein inspired me to do exactly that.



**Lacy is an associate professor of sociology and anthropology at Fairfield University in Connecticut.**





**Don '67 and Mary Jo Allen '67 Carlos (seated) with Carlos Otterbein/James Nurse Practitioner Scholarship recipients (standing, from left to right): Raejeanne Nutter Powers MSN/ FNP '20; Laura Beth Adorni MSN/FNP '16; Amanda Urban Butters '11, MSN/FNP '1; Otterbein Nursing Professor and Advanced Practice Director Dr. Joy Shoemaker '00, MSN/FNP '02, DNP '13; and Ann Oliva MSN/FNP '17. (Not pictured: 2019-20 recipient, Tonja Fearn.)**

## Notable Fundraising News

### Celebrating Meaningful Support for Nurse Practitioners

Otterbein alumni **Don '67** and **Mary Jo Allen '67 Carlos** made a five-year commitment starting in 2015 to support an outstanding graduate student who is a registered nurse or an OSU-James Cancer Hospital nurse enrolled in Otterbein's family nurse practitioner program. The Mary Jo and Don Carlos Otterbein/James Nurse Practitioner Scholarship celebrates Mary Jo's triumphant remission of cancer, the couple's gratitude for the superb treatment and care she received from nurse practitioners at The James, and the Carlos' lifelong partnership which began at Otterbein. The Carlos Scholarship has benefited the four recipients pictured above, plus recently named 2019-20 recipient Tonja Fearn.♦

### Estate Gifts Make a Lasting Impact

Benjamin Carlson of Jacksonville, FL, who passed away in January, left a generous bequest of more than \$45,000 for the Dellinger-Carlson Scholarship endowment fund. A member of a distinguished Otterbein legacy family, he was the son of **Dr. Ben '22** and **Edna Dellinger '22 Carlson**. His sister, **Dr. Mary Cay Carlson Wells '47**, who passed away in July, was a professor of education at Otterbein and co-founded the Dellinger-Carlson Scholarship in 1988, honoring her parents and other family members, including her three children, **Kay Wells Landis '74**, **Gwen Wells Blair '76**, and **Philip Wells '77**.

**Mark Peters '70** passed away in December 2018 and left a generous bequest to Otterbein that will impact countless students in the future. Over the years, Mark devoted many volunteer hours to Otterbein University, scanning and cataloging archival material and serving as a member of Otterbein's Theatre Advisory Board. He was recognized as one of Otterbein's outstanding alumni volunteers in 2012.

Otterbein has received a generous bequest from **Robert '51** and **Joyce Enoch '51 Pillsbury** of Ewing, NJ, following Joyce's passing in 2017. Joyce and Robert attended Otterbein together, married in 1951, and raised a daughter and three sons. Robert and Joyce made the generous decision to include Otterbein University in their estate plans; their shared foresight will have a lasting impact on our University and its students. Robert's mother, **Helen Weinland Pillsbury**, was a member of the Otterbein Class of 1911.♦

## Professor Emerita Creates Legacy for Department of Art

Art and education were **Joanne Miller Stichweh's '67** passions and life's work. A 1967 Otterbein graduate and professor emerita of art, Stichweh, who passed away Nov. 5, generously committed her estate to benefit The Frank Museum of Art and the Miller and Fisher Galleries at Otterbein. The Leslie H. and Ethyl Rose Miller Gallery was established in 2006 in honor of Stichweh's parents and features work by international and local artists, artists-in-residence, faculty and prominent art alumni, enriching student learning across the curriculum.

Stichweh received her master of fine arts degree from The Ohio State University and taught art history and studio art courses at Otterbein for three decades, retiring in 2009. She was named Otterbein Teacher of the Year in 1999 and received the 2002 Women's Forum Bread and Roses Award for exemplary service in support of women. Her award-winning artwork has been exhibited locally and regionally and is included in numerous public, private and corporate collections. Otterbein alumni from every decade credit Stichweh with inspiring their lives as artists and creators.

Through her estate gift, Stichweh created opportunities for Otterbein students and honors Lillian Frank — her lifelong mentor and inspiration — who opened the door of opportunity for Stichweh and so many other national and international friends of Otterbein.♦

## Generous Francis Commitment to Impact Multiple Otterbein Areas

In June, **Jim '71** and Linda Francis committed over \$90,000 to be distributed among the Promise House, the Campus Center Revitalization Initiative, and to augment their existing endowed fund,



**Jim '71 and Linda Francis (left) with the student founders of the Promise House.**

the Jim and Linda Francis Fund for Student Support. Jim has been a member of the Otterbein University Board of Trustees since 2018. Jim and Linda have also provided crucial funds to support the refrigeration capabilities for food storage at the Promise House.♦



**Stichweh '67 at her 2010 *Gardens of Earthly Delight* sabbatical exhibition.**

## The Columbus Foundation Celebrates Anniversary and 25+ Years of Otterbein Partnership

Each year, The Columbus Foundation (which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year) advises, facilitates and stewards gifts to Otterbein through funds established by generous donors across central Ohio. Throughout more than 25 years of partnership, those gifts have brought more than \$2.7 million in crucial support to our campus and its students; in fiscal year 2019, Columbus Foundation grants for Otterbein exceeded \$87,000. Thank you to President and CEO Douglas Kridler, the extraordinary staff and generous donors of The Columbus Foundation for positively impacting Otterbein and our community!♦



## Engineering Award Established to Recognize First-Year Students

Dr. Joseph and Marilyn Harpster P'99 gifted \$75,000 in June to establish the Dr. Joseph and Marilyn Harpster Engineering Award to recognize students who have excelled in their first year of engineering studies and in building leadership skills.

Founders in 1976 of local engineering firm Intek, the Harpsters' generous commitment in 2017 made possible the Dr. Joseph and Marilyn Harpster Engineering Lab at The Point. ♦

Pictured during a visit at The Point this summer are (left to right) Dr. Joseph and Marilyn Harpster P'99, Otterbein trustee (and sister of Marilyn) Jocelyn Curry '78 MBA'09 and spouse Bob Curry; Zobair Miajhi '20, a senior in systems engineering; President Comerford; and professor Jerry Brevick, chair of the department of engineering.

## The Otterbein FUND Receives Generous Support

With a generous gift in May, **Annbeth (Beth) Sommers Wilkinson '56** bolstered the Otterbein FUND, which provides critical support for Otterbein University students, programs and our campus throughout the year.

Beth's husband **Robert "Bob" Wilkinson '56** passed away on Feb. 19, 2019, and Beth wanted to "continue the legacy we began as a couple." Dedicated annual supporters of the Otterbein FUND over several decades, Bob and Beth also generously contributed to the renovation of Towers Hall and supported the Cornerstone Fund to build Roush Hall, where they are recognized with the Wilkinson Classroom.

Longtime members of the Joanne Van Sant Annual Giving Society, their philanthropy has also bolstered the Track and Turf Project and the Science Center. In 2012, they endowed the Robert and Annbeth S. Wilkinson Scholarship in memory of their



**Beth Sommers Wilkinson '56 and her late husband Bob '56**

grandson, Bradley; the fund has provided more than 33 scholarships supporting 22 scholars since 2011.

In March, Beth traveled to campus for Otterbein's annual scholarship luncheon with her son Scott and his wife, Eileen, who are Bradley's parents. Together they enjoyed meeting recipients of the Wilkinson scholarship and touring the campus.

Otterbein is deeply grateful for the difference the Wilkinson family has made for our students and our University. ♦





## Textbook Affordability Fund Helps Meet Student Needs



**Textbook Affordability.**  
*an impact that will last generations.*

Working hard to help students **OVERCOME THE BARRIER OF HIGH TEXTBOOK PRICES.**

In cooperation with University student success efforts, the Friends of the Courtright Memorial Library are building a Textbook Affordability endowment.

A minimum of \$25,000 in this endowment will make available approximately \$1,000 each year to purchase high-cost, high-enrollment text and course books.

**\$25,000 ENDOWMENT PROVIDES APPROXIMATELY \$1,000 ANNUALLY**

ONLINE AT: [www.otterbein.edu/give](http://www.otterbein.edu/give)  
OR BY MAIL: Friends of the Courtright Memorial Library, 13 Grove Street, Westerville, OH 43081

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY Library

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OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY  
13 GROVE STREET  
WESTERVILLE, OH 43081

Otterbein University and the Friends of the Courtright Memorial Library are working hard to help students overcome the barrier of high textbook prices. Since 2017, the Friends have led an effort to raise \$25,000 to endow a Textbook Affordability Fund, which will make available an estimated \$1,000 each year to purchase high-cost/high-enrollment text and course books that will be available for student use. That's an impact that will last for generations.

Students are reaching out to the library for help — the fall 2019 semester saw a dramatic uptick in those seeking materials on Course Reserve. You can help us provide access to the materials that Otterbein students need — through a donation today! The Friends' goal is within reach, and every gift matters.♦



To help, go to:  
[otterbein.edu/give](http://otterbein.edu/give)  
(Select "no" for Otterbein FUND and type 'Textbook Affordability Initiative')  
or mail to:  
**Otterbein University  
Institutional Advancement  
1 S. Grove Street,  
Westerville, OH  
43081**

## Unique Nativity Collection Given to Otterbein

Through a generous alumni gift, Otterbein's Museum and Galleries has received into its permanent global art collection the Sherrick Nativity Collection. In addition, a second gift endowment will fund the preservation, insurance, and promotion of the collection. Over 30 years of worldwide travel, **Richard (Dick) '54** and **Carolyn Brown '53 Sherrick** acquired and curated a highly unique collection of over 650 nativities and related objects, including work from well-known porcelain houses (e.g., Lladro, Boehm) and local artisans from around the globe (e.g., Peru, Italy, Mozambique, Iceland, Tanzania, Russia, Vietnam, United States).

Made from a range of media, such as carved olive wood, molded porcelain, Fenton glass, rabbit skin, wax, silver and gold, the objects show a range of regional

and local aesthetics, and depict diverse interpretations of the event. In one Laotian piece, for example, an elephant, pig and water buffalo replace the typically seen camels.

"The collection has significant potential for interdisciplinary teaching and learning. As examples of visual culture, the objects can be studied within myriad contexts, including transnational trade networks, the history of religions, cultural exchange, colonialism, and so on. Further, the Sherricks maintained impeccable provenance and descriptive records of the objects, amplifying their potential for teaching and research. The acquisition process will also be an excellent arts professional training experience for students over several years", stated museum galleries director Janice Glowski.♦



Joyce and Paul  
Wendel

## Paul and Joyce Wendel Sustainability Endowed Fund

Paul and Joyce Wendel believe that the long-term diversity and quality of all life on earth depend on bringing our lives into balance with the rest of the natural world.

The Paul and Joyce Wendel Sustainability Endowed Fund, established with a generous gift from Paul, an Otterbein faculty member who teaches education and science, and Joyce, a practicing physical therapist for nearly 40 years, is an extension of their efforts to increase sustainable practices in

their personal lives. For example, they installed solar panels on their home that generate electricity equal to their annual consumption, and they travel via bicycle and/or mass transit whenever possible. Already significant supporters of sustainability initiatives on campus, the Wendels' endowed gift will provide a lasting and permanent fund to help raise awareness, seed programs and/or purchase or renovate equipment or other items that could enhance or improve sustainability on campus.

Because of Paul and Joyce's commitment to Otterbein University through this gift, the Otterbein community will have the opportunity to learn more about sustainability practices and applications, while helping to reduce Otterbein's carbon footprint.♦

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# Corporate, Foundation and Civic Philanthropy

BY KATHLEEN BONTE

## Alternative Method to Support Otterbein Makes Unique Impact

Gifts in kind, also referred to as in-kind donations, are a type of charitable giving in which, instead of giving money to buy needed goods and services, the goods and services themselves are given. Gifts in kind are distinguished from gifts of cash or stock and can elevate a program or department on campus in meaningful ways. Gifts must fit the mission of the University and support its core programs or special projects.

Otterbein can accept donations from individuals, yet gifts in kind typically come from a corporation or agency. Potential gifts must be reviewed prior to acceptance to insure fit and any special liabilities. Great examples of gifts in kind are some of the school horses used in the department of equine science. A favorite at the Austin E. Knowlton Center for ►

Equine Science is Ted, who came to the University in 2009 from Kaitlyn Lawrence, whose trainer Kat Demas recommended Otterbein as a new home for Ted. Ted's owner had advanced to another level of competition. Demas knew about our outstanding program and contacted us to see if we were in need of a lower level mount for a secondary level rider. The timing was perfect and after a multi-step review, Ted joined the Otterbein equine program. In addition, Ted is used for Special Olympics events at the center.

Another recent example is an equipment donation from DASCO Home Medical Equipment, a local company which has generously contributed more than \$71,000 in new orthotic and athletic training equipment and supplies — more than 1,850 items — for Otterbein's athletic training program. DASCO chief financial officer **Dan Gifford '88** facilitated the gift-in-kind. DASCO was founded by Don Seeley in Westerville in 1987 and is now co-owned by his children, CEO **Rachel Seeley Mazur MBA '10** and president **Jason Seeley MBA '06**. ♦



**Ted with alumna Shauna Davee '19, now attending graduate school for veterinary medicine.**

## Recent Grant Funding

Funding through private and government agencies help Otterbein faculty and staff investigate critical research questions or explore creative endeavors — all of which enrich the student experience on campus. Grants awarded since April 2019 include:

National Endowment for the Arts, \$15,000 for *The Patti Warashina: Conversations in Clay* exhibition, as well as the Ohio Arts Council, \$3,584, for operating support for the Frank Museum. Both grants were submitted by Janice Glowski, director, museum and galleries.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, \$20,000 for the Mussel Survey - Little Miami River project, submitted by professor Michael Hoggarth. ♦

## Huntington Supports Five Cardinal Experiences

In June, the Huntington Bank Foundation gifted \$25,000 to support experiential learning opportunities for Columbus City and Urban District students attending Otterbein. The Five Cardinal Experiences program at Otterbein is an active and authentic concrete experience that engages students in real-world opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired in the classroom. A Cardinal Experience may occur in the community, on campus or around the globe. Both curricular and co-curricular experiences can serve as Cardinal Experiences. Sue Zazon, Huntington Central Ohio Region president, notes, "Huntington is proud to partner with Otterbein in supporting our local students and their educational success." ♦

## Support for Women's Leadership Initiatives

Otterbein is grateful for the ongoing support of many area companies and organizations for our Women in Leadership initiatives that include promoting women in roles on company boards and empowering girls in middle and high school to consider STEM fields and learn communication skills.

Sponsors include: Accel, Inc., Cardinal Health, Caster Connection, Donatos, BakerHostetler, JPMorgan Chase, Nichols & Company CPAs and The Women's Fund of Central Ohio. ♦



# Annual Giving

## EVERY GIFT.

Every gift — no matter its size — makes a difference.

## EVERY YEAR.

Otterbein's strength lives in the integrity and the kindness of its community.

Your support matters.

## YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

Every gift has the power to change a life.

Giving every year has the power to advance our university.

Your gift, every year, makes it possible.

## Five Areas of Impact

### 1. Strategic Priorities

- 623 first-year students enrolled.
- Six consecutive years of attracting the most diverse class in our history.

### 2. Academic Excellence

Your gift strengthens the academic heart of the University by enriching student learning and providing resources for technology enhancements, lab supplies, hands-on learning programs and more.

- 95% of surveyed students were either employed or continuing their education in graduate school within six months of graduation.\*

*\*Three-year average for the Classes of 2018, 2017 and 2016.*

### 3. Student Experience

Your gift enhances the learning environment, supports the entire campus and provides flexible, immediate-use resources both inside and outside of the classroom.

- Keeping class sizes small.
- Access to great faculty who are dedicated to teaching.

### 4. Scholarships

Your gift keeps Otterbein affordable by providing aid for talented, deserving students.

- 34% of entering students are recipients of the Opportunity Scholarship.
- Otterbein FUND Annual Scholarships are matched by Otterbein and provide a student with \$5,000 in support per year.

### 5. Caring for Our Campus

Innovation, excellence, security and vibrancy are reflected throughout Otterbein's campus, facilities and grounds.

- Improvements to laboratories and access to cutting-edge equipment.
- Classroom enhancements improve campus facilities.

## Our Goal for the 2019-2020 Otterbein FUND Campaign:

# \$800,000

Did you know that the University includes The Otterbein FUND goal when developing our annual budget? The FUND plays a critical role in balancing the budget every year.

Your gifts make possible ongoing scholarships, student services, academic resources and improvements to our facilities and grounds.



## Class Support of The Otterbein FUND

CLASS YEAR	% OF PARTICIPATION
1960	36.09
1961	35.42
1959	27.59
1954	25.84
1958	25.62
1963	24.62
1951	24.36
1962	23.70
1953	23.26
1957	21.78

The power of your gift is maximized when you give to The Otterbein FUND.

More than 2,350 donors banded together to back The Otterbein FUND last year. An impressive 67% of those donors were alumni.

Among our alumni, several classes truly led with exemplary levels of participation last year.

## Otterbein FUND Annual Scholarship

If you are interested in making a significant impact in the life of an Otterbein student, consider funding an Otterbein FUND Annual Scholarship. It's a distinctive way to assist a student today through your gift.

Your gift of \$2,500 immediately benefits a student through The Otterbein FUND Annual Scholars program.

You, as the donor, commit to funding for four years, or a total of \$10,000. As a donor, you will have the opportunity to follow your student through his or her Otterbein experience — from his or her first year on campus through commencement.

### How it works:

	GIFT FROM DONOR	UNIVERSITY MATCH	BENEFIT TO STUDENT
Year 1	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
Year 2	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
Year 3	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
Year 4	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

## Recent Otterbein FUND Annual Scholarship Donors

Annie Upper Ames '86

Craig L. Barnum Jr. '87

Col. C. Allen '52 and  
Jean Reed '53 Burris

Robert Curry and  
Jocelyn Curry '78  
MBA'09

Richard and Margaret  
Morgan '72 Doone

Dee Hoty '74

Dr. John "Ted" '57  
and Eileen Fagan '57  
Huston P'85 P'89

The Kunduru  
Foundation

Dean '84 and Kathleen  
McKinlay '86 Miller

Dr. Jeffrey A. Myers '80

Dr. Brian '67 and  
Jerralyn Scott '68  
Wood

When alumni and friends choose to support **THE OTTERBEIN FUND** in a **reunion year**, or in the case of the Golden Reunion, the legacy period leading up to it, they make possible support for the next generation of Cardinals and help their class achieve their reunion class giving goals.

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

70½ OR OLDER | DIRECT UP TO \$100,000



# YOUR SAVINGS, YOUR LEGACY



Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to support our cause.



Satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year.



Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.



Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.



Use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge to us.



## You have saved and saved. Now use your savings to create your legacy.

If you are 70½ or older, you can use your individual retirement account (IRA) to support Otterbein. Making an IRA charitable rollover gift to us will lower the income and taxes from your IRA required minimum distributions.

**Ready to talk now?** Please give us a call. Contact Kathleen Bonte, Executive Director, Development at (614) 823-2707 or kbonte@otterbein.edu.

Visit [ottugift.org](http://ottugift.org) to learn how you can create your legacy by making an IRA charitable rollover gift this year.



**International graduate, Ingrid Heinrich-Bettoni '96, traveled back to campus with her daughter for music camp. (Pictured left to right: Alyssa Libby, former Senior Assistant Director International Admission; Ingrid Heinrich-Bettoni '96; Michelle Dippold '13; Gloridely Sage Tavaraz Vargas '15).**

**Robert Crosby '50** spent an interactive evening discussing some of his most memorable work, *The Nitty Gritty of Interventions — Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, Organizational and Citizen Participation* in August. His book, *My Tgroup/OD Journey*, is available now.

**Bob Arledge '55** is a 2019 Excel Award recipient for his lifelong dedication to fitness and competition, including his September 2019 participation in the European Masters Athletics Championships (pole vault) in Venice, Italy.

**Jack '66 and Karen Persson '67 Whalen** received the Hamilton Vision Commission's 2019 Vision Award in the "Live" category for their "long commitment to making a difference in Hamilton." The Vision Award is given to those that improve life in Hamilton, OH, by upholding the philosophy of Hamilton's Vision 2020 Plan. The Whalens work with the Hamilton Community Foundation, Fort Hamilton Hospital, Greater Miami YMCA, Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Butler County United Way, Rotary

Club of Hamilton, and many more organizations in the surrounding community.

**Peggy Farmer Muse '78** retired from 35 years as an elementary music specialist in Virginia Beach City Public Schools and 41 years in music education.

**Scott Shabdue '86** retired from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a research scientist.

**Jolene Thompson '88,** executive vice president of American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) and executive director of the Ohio Municipal Electric Association, was named chair-elect of the American Public Power Association (APPA) Board of Directors during the organization's annual conference held June 7-12 in Austin, TX.

**Suzanne Hamilton '89** joined ERIEBANK as vice president, commercial real estate. She has been providing financial expertise to clients since 1991 with specialties in lending, underwriting and analyzing commercial real estate.

**Jeffrey Hill '91** was named Payroll Man of the Year at the American Payroll Association conference in May. This award is given to the man or woman who has consistently volunteered for committees in the APA.

**Beth Sanders '92** is the chair of the Department of Human Services at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.

**Michelle Johnson Ball '95** is the executive director of strategic communications for Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina.

**Kate Visconti '97, MBA '03** is a principal in technology consulting at PwC, New Zealand.

**Stephen Grinch '98,** Otterbein University archivist, is Otterbein "O" Club's 2019 Outstanding Service Award recipient for his outstanding contribution to preserving Otterbein's athletic history.

**Julia Williams Hall '99** is the vice president for accounting and administration/CFO at Cedarwood Companies, Akron, OH.

**Chris Lenz '02** is regional manager at Benzer Pharmacy in Ohio.

**Mindy Williams '03** completed her master's degree in medieval European history at Marquette University, WI, and is attending Purdue University, IN, to earn her doctorate degree in history.

**Tom VanParis MBA '04** is executive vice president at Hoosier Energy, IN.

**Thomas LoSchiavo '05** was named Firefighter of the Year for 2019 at Brentwood Fire & Rescue, Brentwood,



## Giving note.

**Annie Upper Ames '86** made two generous new pledges to Otterbein: in April she committed to a new Annual Fund Alumni Scholarship (a pledge to provide a \$2,500 scholarship each year for four years, which is matched by Otterbein with an Otterbein Alumni Scholarship Award in the same amount); in June she made a gift of \$50,000 apportioned to the Otterbein FUND and the Campus Center Revitalization Initiative.



## Alumna Continues to Rack Up Athletic Awards

by Shirley Scott '70

The moment **Carol Smith '69** arrived on campus, she knew Otterbein was the school for her. The Miamisburg (OH) High School grad and basketball star welcomed her new opportunity to play modern full-court basketball at Otterbein and led the charge for actual basketball uniforms to replace traditional hockey tunics. Smith was instrumental in the undefeated season of 1965-66, during which the Cardinals also beat Ohio State.

Smith went on to teach at Walnut Ridge High School in Columbus, where she broke new ground by establishing a girls' basketball program — so successful that they played in the 1977 state finals. Simultaneously, Smith played Amateur Athletic Union basketball and was invited to try out for the American women's Olympic basketball team for 1976, the year the sport was added to the Olympic roster.

Influenced by Otterbein's Marilyn Day and Coach Judy Jensen, Smith herself turned influencer after she left teaching to raise her son and daughter. Determined to bring Ohio girls' sports in line with boys' sports, she founded the Ohio Girls North/South All-Star Game, running it for nine years. Smith also

spent countless hours on multiple committees to provide opportunity and organization for Ohio's high school girl athletes.

Her own outstanding record, along with her tireless work for students, earned her induction into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016.

Smith played basketball until the age of 40 but has recently turned to pickleball as her athletic outlet. The game is played on a half-size tennis court with large paddles and a Wiffle ball. Smith has competed in singles and doubles, and earned the gold medal at this year's Arnold Schwarzenegger Sports Festival in Columbus — a victory that peeved players half her age because there were no age categories. And her recent fourth-place turn in singles at the National Senior Olympics in Albuquerque, NM, brought her an extra measure of pride and pleasure.

Congratulations to Smith on her continuing athletic success even as she celebrates the 50th anniversary of her Otterbein graduation!♦

### ALUMNI PROFILE



TN. His accomplishments for this year include: earning his paramedic license, promotion to engineer, certifications in hazmat tech, basic life support instructor, fire inspector 1, FFA drone operator and incident safety officer. He also volunteers with the Williamson County Rescue Squad, teaches the EMT program at Columbia State Community College, provides CPR training, helps run the

medical team at Church of the City and works part-time as a paramedic at Williamson Medical Center.

**Chaz O'Neil '06** traveled to El Bruc, Spain, as part of the 2019 Ohio Art League Can Serrat Residency Award. He then headed to Dresden, Germany, as part of the 2019 Greater Columbus Arts Council's Residency Exchange

Program. Artist residency programs provide an extended period of time for artists to concentrate on research and production of their artwork; the exchange aspect of the program allows artists to collaborate and foster relationships with local artists and organizations. While in Dresden, O'Neil acted as ambassador for the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the city of Columbus.

**Matt Lofy '08** was promoted to director of marketing and community outreach at the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Ursula Guggisberg Bennett '09** and husband, **Kyle Bennett '08** work for Guggisberg Cheese in Millersburg, OH. Guggisberg Baby Swiss was named Grand Champion at the 2019 United▶



**Kyle Bennett '08 (second from left) with the award-winning Guggisberg Baby Swiss cheese.**

States Championship Cheese Contest in March at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, WI, competing against 2,555 other entries.

**Cassandra Cardenas Spohn '10** welcomed **Chelci Fauss Johnson '10** to Cassandra's wedding recently. While at Otterbein, they were the "CTeam" with a news segment and radio show. They are still a team today. Spohn recently opened her own dance studio, Studio C Dance and Performing Arts, Boca Raton, FL.

**Mark Hogan '12** left the New York Mets to start a career in the real estate industry with The Corcoran Group. He has closed his first sales deal along with conducting multiple rental transactions in downtown Manhattan.

**Jonna Stewart Raffel '12** is an English language arts teacher at TriVillage High School, New Madison, OH. She was named Darke County Teacher of the Year by her peers for the 2018–2019 school year.

**Cailin Sendelbach Shelton '12** studied emerging models in conservation and education as well as spiritual connections to nature in Thailand. A science teacher at Gahanna (OH) Middle School South, she is a graduate student in the Global Field Program at Miami University, OH.

**Lillie Teeters '12** is an instructor at Southern West Virginia Community College, Mount Gay-Shamrock, WV.

**Lucas Bean '13** is a hospital communications specialist at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, Iowa City.

**Margaret Trevino MSN '14** is working as a nurse anesthetist in Germany.

**Brandy Stiverson Bailey '15** started a new position as a career coach at Ohio University, Lancaster campus, in June.

**Hannah Farley '15** is the multimedia graphic designer for the Office of Marketing and Communications at Otterbein University.

**Kirstyn Federer Fullenkamp '15** is a senior leave specialist at Cardinal Health, Dublin, OH.

**Kristen Lakes '15** is a skin processing supervisor at Community Tissue Services, Dayton, OH. Her medical manufacturing teams produce skin allografts used for burn victims, providing over 50% of the burn skin in the U.S.

**Alexx Conrad '16** is the youth services librarian at Westerville Public Library.

**Taylor Horn MSAH '16** received his doctorate degree in physical therapy at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, in 2019.

**William Olotu MSAH '16** received his doctorate degree in physical therapy at Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in 2019.

**Lauren Blumberg '17** is an elementary music teacher at Brookville Local Schools, OH.

**Clayton Farley '17** is a senior fund accountant at Ultimus Fund Solutions in Columbus.

**Lauren French '17** is a fifth grade teacher at Granville Exempted Village School District, OH.

**Katie Krebs '17, MSAH '19** is a fitness consultant at Columbus Fitness Consultants.

**Troy Neptune '17** was accepted into the doctorate program in biology at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, this fall.

**Joseph Weisenberger MSN '17** is working at Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC.

**Brandon Bellman '18, MSAH '19** is a physical therapy doctoral student at The Ohio State University.



### Giving note.

**President John Comerford and Rachel Rumple-Comerford** have been supporting projects in need since their arrival at Otterbein in 2018: the Promise House, the Otterbein LGBTQIA+ Emergency Fund, Friends of the Library and physical space renovations. They celebrated the completion of their first year with a five-year \$50,000 commitment that will benefit, in part, the Otterbein FUND and the Campus Center Revitalization Initiative.

## Alumnus Spreads Good Will in Russia

by Aselya Sposato '21

After relocating to Russia six years post graduation, Westerville native **Todd Roese '92** has spent nearly 22 years working as a missionary with Word of Life Church in Saratov, Russia.

Upon graduating from Otterbein, Roese, a mathematics major, football player and active member of Otterbein Christian Fellowship, spent time working at Bank One, now JPMorgan Chase, in demographic research. In May of 1997, a friend asked him to visit Saratov on a short-term trip to help the newly started church there.

“At first I said, ‘No way, I’m not going to Russia.’ But the more I thought about it, the more it made sense, and I went for two weeks that summer,” said Roese. A year later, he was invited to work at the Russian church full-time.

“I only anticipated staying for about nine months, but I ended up staying for a couple years,” said Roese. “Then I decided to move there permanently.”

During his time in Saratov, Roese helped grow the church to one of the largest Protestant congregations in Russia. He’s also helped start new churches, trained future church leaders through Bible schooling and coached an American football team, called the Saratov Aviators. Roese now leads an English-speaking service for the international student community in Saratov.

In addition to his role with the church, Roese and his wife have also been busy raising autism awareness in the Saratov region. When his own son was diagnosed with autism, Roese was inspired to dedicate his time to improving ways for Russian doctors and professionals to become more qualified in diagnosing, treating and educating children with autism.

Since then, Roese has started the Autism Care Collective (ACC), a charity based out of Columbus, Ohio. In the fall of 2019, ACC partnered with the

Ohio State University, Nationwide Children’s Hospital and others to welcome and receive a team of doctors from Saratov for an autism symposium. This team had the unique chance to witness scientifically based methods of autism diagnosis and care in the United States.

“Russia is decades behind the U.S. in everything with respect to autism,” said Roese. “We are changing this, and everyone on both sides of the ocean is excited about this symposium. Our team will connect with their American peers to collaborate and create new systems that will better ensure that every child with autism in Saratov has the ability to reach their full potential.”

ACC is also in the process of partnering with Saratov State University to create a master’s program in applied behavior analysis (ABA). No such program currently exists in Russia.

In the future, Roese hopes to always maintain his work and relationships with Word of Life Church and ACC, as well as his many personal relationships. Despite living in a country with a history of political tension with the U.S., Roese said this largely hasn’t affected his life in Saratov.

“Russian people do seem to have a hard outer shell and have become a little negative towards westerners and Americans in general,” said Roese. “It’s not easy to break through, but I did so by throwing myself into learning the language, culture and the people, and by being upfront, honest and passionate about my Christian faith. This has made all the difference and allowed us to make many lifelong friends in Saratov, for which we are eternally thankful.”♦

### ALUMNI PROFILE



Todd (left) and family.





**Pictured left to right: Hugh Evans, Roehampton exchange student, fall 2011; Catherine Kerber '12; Michelle Dippold '13, study abroad coordinator; Tabitha Piper '15, MAT '19.**



### Giving note.

In June, the **Westerville Otterbein Women's Club** gifted \$32,700 raised by WOWC members through the Otterbein Thrift Shop in support of scholarships and emergency assistance endowment funds for Otterbein students. The Club surpassed \$1 million in donations in the fall of 2017 and continue to generously support Otterbein scholars annually. The Otterbein Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers! Contact Club President **Joyce Miller '61** at [jsr1miller@gmail.com](mailto:jsr1miller@gmail.com) or **Suzi Jones '62** at [srjones3555@att.net](mailto:srjones3555@att.net) for more information.

**Andrea Burton '18** is a graphic designer for The Promo Girl, LLC, Westerville.

**Kathryn Cerqua '18** is an assistant department manager at Barnes & Noble College.

**Michael Grimm '18** is the choral music director at Madeira (OH) High School and Madeira Middle School. A 2014 graduate, he returned to his alma mater and now directs the same choirs he participated in as a student.

**Susanna Harris '18** was accepted into the Master of Fine Arts program at Kent State University, OH, this fall.

**Jehdeiah Maitland '18** is a registered nurse at OhioHealth, Columbus.

**Kiersten Taylor '18** is a human resources onboarding coordinator for Benore Logistics in South Carolina.

**Jake Zappala '18** joined Butler and Burke, LLP, in Winston-Salem, NC, as an associate accountant.

**Adeline Almendinger '19** is an assistant merchant at Express, Columbus.

**Emily Dawson '19** is administrative and events coordinator at The Columbus Partnership, whose mission it is to improve the economic vitality of the Columbus region.

**Karly Durco '19** is an assistant account manager with Bowers PR & Marketing, New Albany, OH.

**Nicole Gaydos '19** is a regional associate inside sales representative for Sports Imports, Hilliard, OH.

**Maria Glusich Stith '19** is the communications assistant for the Delaware County (OH) Board of Commissioners.

**Lauren Heberling '19** is a communication coordinator at Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, Columbus.

**Lindsey Jones '19** is a communication specialist in corporate communications on the public relations team at Nationwide Insurance, Columbus. The team supports proactive efforts across the organization including measurement of the success of campaigns.

**Amanda Julca '19**, was ranked first on the list of The 10 Best Lifestyle Photographers by Peerspace in Miami, FL.

**Joel Lohoua '19** is a program manager at Landmark Health, Hilliard.

**Bryant McKnight MSAH '19** is an exercise physiologist at OhioHealth Employer Services.

**Alex Schaffer '19** is an account coordinator at Geben Communication, Columbus.

**Haylie Schmoll '19** is an events and experience coordinator for BrandWell Solutions, Columbus.

**Kalyn Schroer '19** is a graphic designer with Eleven Fifty Seven, Sidney, OH.

**Anna Shultz '19** is a registered nurse on the cardiovascular step-down unit at Doctors Hospital, Columbus.

**McKenzie Siebert '19** is a business analyst at Worthington Industries, Columbus.

**Katarina Tieu '19** is the event coordinator at Brookshire Waters Edge, Delaware, OH.

**Meagan Van Stone '19** is a marketing specialist at American Family Insurance, Columbus.

**Cameron West '19** is a VIP tour guide at Walt Disney World, Orlando.

**Hannah Wright '19** is a social media specialist at Fahlgren Mortine, a marketing agency in Columbus, OH.



**Randy Adams '76** is the producer of *Come From Away*, now on Broadway at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre and on a national tour across North America. *Come From Away* is the winner of the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Musical (2019) and was named Outstanding Musical (2017) by the Helen Hayes Awards, the Dora Awards, the Outer Critics Circle and the Drama Desk.



**T.J. Gerckens '88** was featured in *Live Design* magazine for his lighting design of The Goodman Theatre's production of *The Music Man*. He also won the 2019 Theatre Bay Area Award for Outstanding Lighting Design (Tier 1) for *Metamorphoses* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.



**Beth Triffon '07** was recently seen in an episode of *Veronica Mars* as boss to Patton Oswalt's character, Penn Epner.



**Emma Brock '12** made her Off-Broadway debut as everyone's favorite boss, Michael Scott, in *The Office! A Musical Parody*. She will be embarking on a national tour with the production which will come to Columbus in January.



**Alayna Barnes '13** was a finalist in the Samuel French Off-Off-Broadway Playwriting Festival in New York City for her play *All of the Everything*.



**Jordan Donica '16** joined the cast of The CW's Friday night series, *Charmed*, as a new series regular in the role of Jordan, a mysterious law student/amateur boxer. Donica was also honored to sing the National Anthem at the CNN & The New York Times 2019 Democratic Presidential Debate held on campus on Oct. 15.

Entertainment Corner.



**Daria Redus '18** has been cast as Sandy Cheeks in the national tour of *The SpongeBob Musical*.



Giving note.

With a gift of \$25,000, **Cynthia and Kenneth Jackson** endowed the Dr. Cynthia Rowles Jackson '69 and Mr. Kenneth C. Jackson '71 Health & Sports Sciences scholarship fund at Otterbein. The Jacksons met at Otterbein; Cynthia retired in 2004 after seven years as chair of the Health and Physical Education Department at Otterbein and went on to teach as an adjunct professor at Otterbein.



# Milestones.

## Marriages

**Susan Rush '80** to Thomas Lindsay, May 3, 2019.

**1 Kelley Youman '05** to Jorge Rodriguez, March 8, 2019.

**2 Meryl Scarton '07** to Emily Barnhart, June 7, 2019, in Charleston, SC. In attendance were **Valerie Vining McClure '07, Erica Riblet Haque '07, Ericka Graves Payne '06, Andrea Ribot Ulbrich '07** and **Kathy Rainsburg '06**.

**3 Jennifer Blackburn '11** to Andy Pittel, June 1, 2019. In attendance were **Danielle Wood '11, Melissa Sechnick '10, Alex Stewart '11** and **Devon Collins '12**.

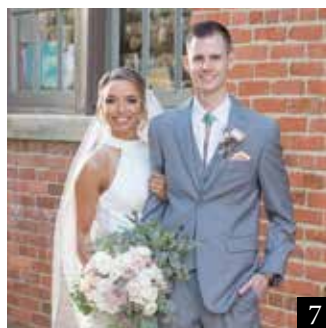
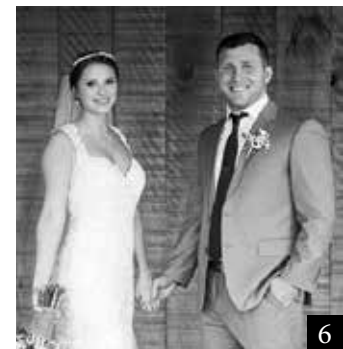
**4 Tiffany Rader '13** to **Matthew Workman '12**, July 27, 2018. In attendance (pictured) were **Josh Coleman '11, Emily LaCorte '13, Joe Helmer '89, Michael Adolph '13, Jake Russell '13, Adam Wolfe '11, Erin McMonagle Brennan '00, Addy Passaro '13, Stephanie Rader '91, Tyler Rader '91, John LaCorte '11, Chelsea Canon '13, Tanner Graham '15, Kyle Culver '10, Taylor Ellis '16** and **Patrick Coleman '14**.

**5 Shannon Back '15** to **Todd Thomas '10**, June 21, 2019, at the Estate at New Albany. There were 33 Otterbein alumni in attendance, including eight in the wedding party.

**6 CC Fisher '16** to **Zac Hamilton '15**, Oct. 28, 2018. Otterbein alumni in the wedding party included **Cara Fisher '09, Hanna Wiley '16, Ben Hamilton '16, Auggie Fisher '10, Travis Laird '15, Brick Davis '15, Ryan Moore '15, Tanner Graham '15** and **Vic Scarpelli '15**.

**7 Kenleigh Immel '16** to Jason Paselk, Aug. 17, 2019.

**8 Kerigan McNamara '17** to Evan Gardner on June 8, 2019. Otterbein alumni in attendance included **Brian Hammel '18, Victoria Shoemaker '17, Katy Williams '17, Rylie Markle '17, Elizabeth Lefever '17, Brooklyn Terrill Greene '17** and **Olivia Knodel '17**.







6



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2



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Do you have a wedding coming up or a baby on the way?  
Please send news to [classnotes@otterbein.edu](mailto:classnotes@otterbein.edu).



4



8



3

## Births

**1 Keira Kiley '98** and Shelley Goldman, a son, Micah Edan.

**2 Karin Hanson Bosh '03** and **Kyle Bosh '02**, a daughter, Kylie Ann.

**3 Hillary Kessler Goff '09** and **Ryan Goff '10**, a daughter, Bellamy Kaye.

**4 Laura Greene Berger '10** and **Andy Berger '06**, a daughter, Adeline Elise.

**5 Laura Chenos Hochberg '12** and **Matt Hochberg '10**, a son, Austin Joseph.

**6 Karissa Dahdah Longo '12** and **Bradley Longo '12**, a son, Charles Augustus.

**7 Korey Keplinger '13**, twins, Knox Douglas and Riley Ramon.

**8 Stephanie Murphy '14** and Scott Taylor, a son, Brooks Hudson.

**9 Amie Gale Whalen '16**, a son, Charles.

# Milestones.

## In Memoriam

Long form obituaries can be found at: [otterbein.edu/alumni/classnotes/obituaries](http://otterbein.edu/alumni/classnotes/obituaries)  
If you would like a copy of an obituary, email [alumniinfo@otterbein.edu](mailto:alumniinfo@otterbein.edu) or call 614-823-1650.

'41 Kathleen Mollett Augspurger	06/19/19	'53 Stanley L. Kagel	06/27/18	'68 Rhonda Lee Warner	07/23/19
'43 Miriam Struble Gilson	02/13/15	'57 Mary Ann Moser	03/23/18	'69 James R. Henry	06/02/19
'47 Frank L. Hannig	12/02/18	'57 Dale A. Walterhouse	05/29/19	'69 Victoria Kaiser McKim	07/06/13
'47 Mary Cay Carlson Wells	07/24/19	'59 Joyce Kistler Jones	10/08/19	'71 Thomas A. Burak	12/19/14
'49 Jean Walden Clare	05/12/19	'59 Linda Longberry McAllister	02/07/19	'72 ASN'85 Leslie E. Mokry	09/16/19
'49 Edith Peters Corbin	08/18/19	'60 Robert W. Munden	07/22/19	'74 Ted C. Downing	09/15/19
'49 Doris Peden Fouts	07/18/17	'60 Wayne K. Wright	01/26/19	'75 William A. Muryn	05/03/19
'49 Thomas J. Kearns	05/19/14	'63 Edward G. Case	09/28/19	'88 Michael S. Highman	11/06/19
'50 Joan Hopkins Albrecht	06/15/19	'65 Carol Darling Carter	07/25/19	'89 Susan Melissa Walsh	10/31/19
'51 Lee G. Burchinal	07/09/19	'65 Jill Limbach Morrison	10/26/18	'90 Patrick C. Jones	05/07/19
'51 Ruth Anne Smith Moore	05/04/19	'66 Stephen D. Bretz	08/12/19	'93 Margery Fisher Murphy	09/11/19
'51 Jean Share Sherriff	05/08/19	'66 Marcia Searfos Ogle	09/04/19	'98 Laurel Haffner Miller	08/05/19
'52 Edgar Rarey	04/19/19	'66 Masaaki Tsuda	07/19/19	'13 Jenna Barnett Searcy	06/03/19
'52 Don E. Steck	09/29/19	'67 Judy Gebhart Bear	08/27/19	'15 Panyan Wu	06/01/19
'52 Glenn C. Winston	10/14/19	'67 Joanne Miller Stichweh	11/05/19		



*Save the date!*

Homecoming & Family Weekend 2019 is in the books, and what a great experience for alumni, parents, and friends. Even the unexpected rainfall could not dampen the spirit and excitement across campus. The Class of 1969 rallied for their 50th class reunion; alumni of the Concert Choir performed once again under the direction of Dr. Craig Johnson, **Jeremy Lahman '99**, and Dr. Gayle Walker; and families reunited with their students for fun and laughter courtesy of the Columbus Zoo. Mark your calendars for next year ... we can't wait to see you on campus!

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY  
**HOMECOMING**  
& **family weekend**  
SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2020



## New Additions to the Alumni Team

The Office of Alumni Relations welcomed two new staff members this summer.

**Becky Olmstead Smith '08**, administrative assistant, joined the team in June. (And no, she's not the same **Becky Smith '81**, who retired in 2018.) Smith brings a wealth of experiences from her time working at Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University Newark, where she received her associate degree and serves on their alumni council.

Stacey Rusterholz accepted the position as assistant director of Alumni Relations. She works closely with the 50th reunion committee, the Alumni Awards Gala and the constituent communication calendar. Rusterholz is a familiar face to Otterbein, having served as the assistant director of the Center for Community Engagement for the last three years. ♦



Welcome (left to right)  
**Becky Olmstead Smith '08**  
and **Stacey Rusterholz**

## Alumni Boards

Alumni volunteers make a significant difference in the life of Otterbein. Check out these highlights from summer meetings:

**The Alumni Council** spent time discussing the next great innovation in Alumni Relations. This group will not rest on its laurels! **Christy Boyd**



Pictured (left to right): **Olivia Smith '21** (Student Alumni Board member), **Kayleigh Hanlin '11** (Young Alumni Board member), **Wes Utsler '21** (Student Alumni Board member), **Mitch Snyder '17** (Young Alumni Board member), **Craig Tomastik '13**

**Farnbauch '88** led the group in a highly productive discussion on innovation.

**Ben Schwarz MBA '19**, associate director of Alumni Relations, and Lauren Shirley, assistant director of Annual Giving, presented an outline to restart a student-alumni council. **Johnny Steiner '96** launched a task force to review the structure of Alumni Council. President John Comerford engaged alumni on Otterbein's next strategic plan.

**The Young Alumni Board** looked at programmatic priorities for the coming years, and the **Greek Alumni Council** spent time discussing best practices for engaging alumni members. Great work by all of our alumni volunteers! ♦

## What to look for in 2020

The team in Alumni Relations will focus on various life-stage programs in the coming year. Not all programs will appeal to everyone, yet the goal is to provide programming content relevant to Cardinals early in their careers and those ready to retire; content just for families; and content that simply is social.

**We would love to hear your ideas. What are you looking for from Otterbein? Where might you suggest holding an event?**

Please send suggestions to Steve Crawford, Executive Director of Alumni Relations:

[crawford2@otterbein.edu](mailto:crawford2@otterbein.edu)



OTTERBEIN ALUMNI TRAVEL PRESENTS

# MAJESTIC WEST

Sept. 7-13, 2020

Enjoy stunning views of the American West including the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Big Sky!



Photo credit: Jack Sanders

On this great American adventure, visit the cowboy town of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. 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. Search for free-ranging herds of buffalo and check off one of life's must-dos with the thrill of seeing Old Faithful erupt.



\$2,695 per person. Includes double occupancy plus airfare. Single also available. Group flight from John Glenn International, Columbus, to Salt Lake City. Departure from other airports also available. To learn about the "Early Bird Discount" and book this trip, contact Warther Tours at 330-556-4535. *A deposit is required at booking.*

**For more trip details and full itinerary, visit [www.otterbein.edu/travel](http://www.otterbein.edu/travel).**

**Questions? Call Becky Hill May '78 at 614-823-1305 or 1-888-614-2600.**

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Icilda Watkins Dickerson '88  
Maggie Ellison '09  
Christy Boyd Farnbauch '88  
Eric Farnbauch '90  
Susan McDaniel Gable '80  
Daniel C. Gifford '88, P'21, P'23  
Sonya Lowmiller  
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Peter Klipa '89, P'14, P'17  
Rhonda Talford Knight '96

Barb Maurer Lindeman '64  
Mike Mesewicz '87  
Mary Logan So '02  
Kathryn Felsenthal  
Stephens '97  
Nancy Case Struble '79  
Jean Sylvester MBA'10  
Jae Benson Van Wey '71, P'91  
Nate Van Wey '72, P'91  
Jack Whalen '66  
Karen Persson Whalen '67



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**EVERY YEAR.**

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**623**

first-year students on campus.



**95%** of surveyed students were either employed or continuing their education in graduate school within six months of graduation.\*

*\*Three-year average for the Classes of 2018, 2017 and 2016.*

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Online:** Visit [otterbein.edu/give](http://otterbein.edu/give)

**Phone:** (614) 823-1400

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The Inaugural Kathy A. Krendl Distinguished Lecture Series on Nov. 19, 2019, featured Anita Perez Ferguson, Ph.D. as the distinguished speaker and the dedication of “The Krendl” at The Point.