

Otterbein Towers

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SPRING/SUMMER 2020



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES | MAKING PPE | CARDINAL HELPERS | STUDENT VIEWPOINTS

From the President.

Otterbein Family,

We have been here before. No doubt the pandemic is unique, but so were the other crises that Otterbein has overcome — the Civil War, two World Wars, the Great Depression, and, yes, even the 1918 flu. The *Tan & Cardinal* documentation of the 1918 flu has been especially interesting to read lately.



President Comerford's son, Garrett, helps film one of his dad's Twitter video updates during Otterbein's response to COVID-19. The team is seen here at The Point recording a message to launch the Cardinals Care Emergency Student Fund.

The spring semester did not end early (as it did in 1918), but it did end differently. Our remarkable staff and faculty transitioned all their courses and programs to an online format with a one-week notice. Our resilient students met Otterbein's high academic expectations despite the challenges this transition caused. I could not be more proud of what we accomplished together and we are featuring many of those accomplishments in this special issue of *Towers Magazine*, starting with "Leading Through Crisis" on page 5. Then read about how Otterbein manufactured PPE at The Point on page 10. And learn how students have experienced the pandemic on page 14.

We are far from done. While we deal with the daily updates and changes, we must look towards the future. We have begun a new strategic planning process, the outline of which is on page 8. It is designed to be a bottom-up planning process, where any member of our community (including alumni!) with an idea to help accomplish one of the goals can contribute.

And with all our new technological know-how, you can now read *Towers* online and see related videos and other content at www.otterbein.edu/towers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Comerford".

John Comerford, Ph.D., President

EDITOR'S NOTE: At the time this issue of *Towers Magazine* went to press, COVID-19 response was at the forefront of this University's work. We have, as an institution, responded to the tragedy of George Floyd's death and the nation's painful, continuing struggle for racial equality. Please visit *Towers* online to read the leadership's statement and follow news of programming and plans. We believe that Black Lives Matter as do our responsibilities to lead and help heal as we move forward.

MISSION STATEMENT

Otterbein University is an inclusive community dedicated to educating the whole person in the context of humane values. Our mission is to prepare graduates to think deeply and broadly, to engage locally and globally, and to advance their professions and communities.

An Otterbein education is distinguished by the intentional blending of the liberal arts and professional studies, combined with a unique approach to integrating direct experience into all learning.

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Otterbein Towers

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On the Cover.

Photo by Brian McGowan, Unsplash.com



Front, L-R: Valerie Cumming, vice mayor, City of Westerville; Rev. Vaughn Bell, board member, Westerville City Schools; Elizabeth Brown, council member, City of Columbus; James Prysock '09, director for the Office of Social Justice & Activism, Otterbein University; Cheryl Ward, director of emotional and student support services, Columbus City Schools. Back, L-R: John Comerford, president, Otterbein University; Wendy Sherman-Heckler, provost and executive vice president, Otterbein University; Margaret Koehler, professor and chair of the Department of English, Otterbein University; Kathryn Plank, director, Center for Teaching and Learning and interim associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of university programs, Otterbein University; and Tanya McClanahan, supervisor of higher education partnerships, Columbus City Schools.

Otterbein Named Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center

Otterbein has been selected by the Association of American Colleges and Universities as one of 23 universities across the United States to host Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Centers. Otterbein is the only institution in Ohio to receive this recognition. As a Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center, Otterbein will work with its own campus community as well as the Columbus City and Westerville City school districts to create positive narrative change about race; promote racial healing activities; and erase structural barriers to equal treatment and opportunity. Otterbein leaders were joined by leaders from Westerville and Columbus for the announcement on Feb. 19. ♦

Student Voter Engagement Earns Otterbein National Recognition



Otterbein University received a gold seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for achieving a student voting rate between 40-49% in the 2018 Midterm Election. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan, democratic engagement and full student voter participation. The challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship and make democratic participation a core value on their campuses. ♦

Otterbein Offers Professional Courses to Re-skill and Up-skill Workers

Otterbein University is partnering with coaching and consulting firm ALLOY to offer three new professional development certifications that can be taken at the university: Non-Routine Leadership, Business Analytics, and Strategic Brand Management. Ohio Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted attended the announcement of the partnership held Jan. 15 at The Point. Otterbein's partnership with ALLOY will help address Ohio's workforce gap.

Learn more at www.otterbein.edu/professional-development

Lecturer Discusses the Science of Selfies

Dr. Jim Tanaka, a perceptual psychologist at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, came to campus in February as part of the George W. and Mildred K. White Science Lecture Series. In his public lecture on Feb. 13, Tanaka shared his groundbreaking research in the field of cognitive and neurological processes underlying object and face recognition. Tanaka works with children with autism, utilizing special technology designed to help improve their facial recognition abilities. ♦



Dr. Jim Tanaka takes a selfie with Otterbein students (L-R) Morgan Mains, Katie Rosneck and Connor MacKenzie.

Former public servants Governor John Kasich, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger held a town hall to discuss climate change March 8 at Otterbein, moderated by actor/activist Erika Alexander.

The town hall, a collaboration with the Columbus Metropolitan Club, was the first public event of World War Zero, a new bipartisan initiative bringing together unlikely allies and people from all walks of life to help mobilize people across the country to tackle climate change and pollution.

world war zero

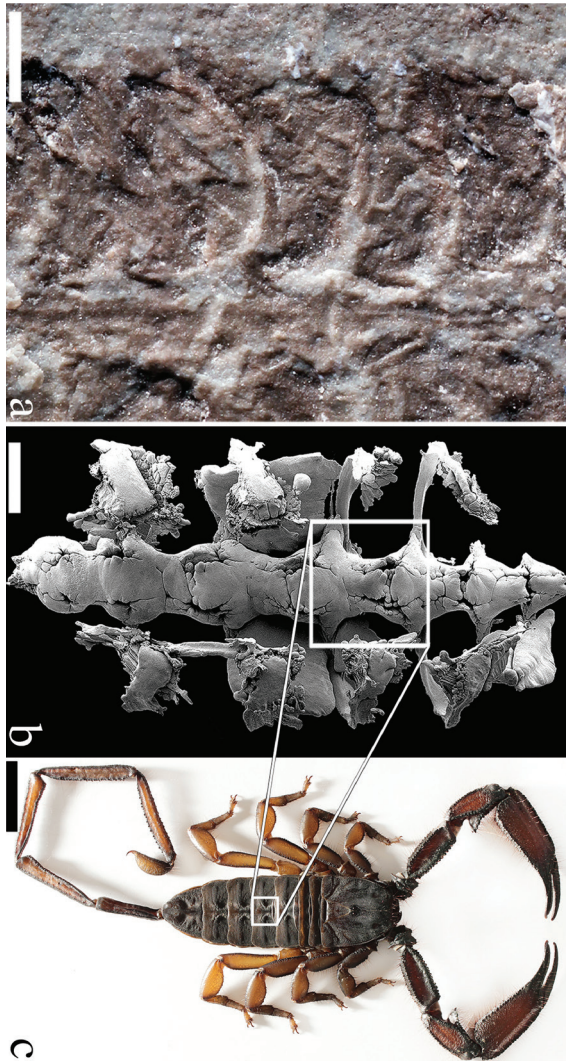
U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry addresses the audience while (L-R) moderator Erika Alexander, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Governor John Kasich look on.



The fossil (top) was discovered in Wisconsin in 1985. Upon examination, Wendruff found the respiratory and circulatory organs (center) were near-identical to those of a modern-day scorpion (bottom).



Andrew Wendruff, adjunct professor, Biology and Earth Science



Andrew Wendruff Discovers World's Oldest Scorpion Fossil

When it comes to fossils, Andrew Wendruff, an adjunct professor in the Otterbein Department of Biology and Earth Science, is a rock star. Wendruff, as part of his doctoral research at The Ohio State University, uncovered the oldest-known scorpion species from a collection of fossils discovered 35 years ago. The scorpion, which lived 436.5 to 437.5 million years ago, had the capacity to breathe in water and on land. ♦



Read about the discovery at www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/01/oldest-scorpion-known-science

COMING SOON

Stories you can read, hear and experience.

www.otterbein.edu/towers





LEADING
THROUGH
CRISIS

**HOW OTTERBEIN IS
BRINGING CERTAINTY DURING
UNCERTAIN TIMES**

BY ROBERTO PONCE

WHEN THE YEAR BEGAN,

no one could have imagined that a pandemic would define almost every aspect of our lives. Towers planned on talking with President Comerford about the University's new strategic priorities. Instead, we found ourselves in a global health crisis that moved this conversation — along with classes, meetings and events — into a new virtual reality. What follows are insights about Otterbein leaders' initial response to the COVID-19 crisis that kept learning at the forefront.

Right now, people everywhere are witnessing a catastrophe on a global scale. We have learned about how this novel coronavirus pandemic has destroyed jobs, ended lives, and affected the global supply chain. From the meatpacking industries to manufacturing, the economic impact of the pandemic has been overwhelming.

What is more, just gathering data about COVID-19 has been a colossal task. According to the Pew Research Center, the organization is "struggling to adapt to a new reality" after suspending face-to-face surveys internationally to avoid risking pollsters of contracting the novel coronavirus. Similarly, Otterbein University stopped in-person classes to



PHOTOS BY ED SYGUDA (PAGE 5) AND AJ BROWN

protect the health of students, faculty and staff.

Overnight, the University found itself coping with two crises simultaneously — one caused by a network outage due to a cybersecurity incident and another involved sending students home when Ohio Governor Mike DeWine mandated universities teach online and work remotely, transforming Otterbein's operation in days.

According to President Comerford, there is a contrast in leadership styles during normal times as opposed to exceptional ones. Typically, higher education fosters a very collaborative environment. Leaders welcome buy-in, input and feedback

as faculty and staff are highly educated individuals avid for involvement, independence, and entrepreneurship. On the contrary, a crisis demands decisions, clear direction and a top-down leadership style.

"In a crisis you need to move fast. There is no time to meet with a committee and take a vote, which is not the typical way you lead in higher education," said Comerford. "The key during these situations is to be able to leverage the trust that, hopefully, you have built by being inclusive, honest and transparent so people know that decisions are made with the best possible intention for everyone."

Comerford immediately convened his leadership



team, which has met almost daily since early March, to manage both the network outage and coronavirus crisis and provide direction and strong communication to all stakeholders.

Otterbein's academic leadership also implemented smart decisions early on. Gathering insight from faculty, communicating often, collaborating with partners on campus, and being able to transition into a virtual environment helped students complete the spring semester from home. "To support faculty as they worked to convert their classes to remote learning, the Center for Teaching and Learning offered hundreds of workshops and one-on-one sessions, starting March 11 and continuing through the spring and summer terms. Although spring semester is over, faculty

and the CTL continue to prepare for the future," said Kathryn Plank, director, Center for Teaching and Learning and interim associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of university programs.

Plank said that creating resources for the faculty was very important as well. For instance, Associate Professor Jeff Smith produced two instructional videos and created other resources such as LibGuides, which are digital guides hosted on a platform managed by the Courtright Memorial Library staff. He was a critical partner to the Center for Teaching and Learning during this crisis as he supported the faculty by assessing their distinct levels of technological ability, meeting their needs, and building their confidence. Even though Smith had to transition his own classes

online, he spent 80% of his time making sure that he was helping his colleagues.

"Luckily, I had taught online before, so it wasn't as large a leap as it might have been for other colleagues," said Smith. "One of the greatest challenges was reminding colleagues how it was like when they were first learning how to teach earlier in their careers."

The greatest challenge he said, is to deliver a unique Otterbein experience so students can enjoy a sense of normalcy during these turbulent times. "Education is not only about touching a shoulder, but it is all about reaching the heart and mind of a student, and you can do it via distance learning," said Smith.

There is a sense of hope for the future. "Now we have a little more time and we can engage people to plan for our near future," said Comerford. Otterbein's summer term, delivered exclusively online, saw a 70% increase in undergraduate enrollment. Comerford also announced that Otterbein plans to welcome back students to campus this fall.

"Traditional-age undergraduate students are still going to want to go to college. There is something about athletics, fraternities, sororities, residence halls, and campus activities that a traditional-age student is still going to want," he said.

Comerford believes that the care and focus on learning will guide Otterbein through the days ahead.♦

“
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NOT ONLY ABOUT
TOUCHING A SHOULDER,
BUT IT IS ALL ABOUT
REACHING THE
HEART AND MIND
OF A STUDENT.
”



FRAMING THE FUTURE: OTTERBEIN'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Otterbein leaders have been working with representatives across the campus on a strategic plan to define the future of the University. Envisioned as a road map to help guide investments and operations, the unique times we are living in demand a strategic plan and prioritization process that is as agile as it is responsive. These core principles have been used to guide our immediate needs in response to the pandemic's effect on our institution and higher education while still offering a smart, meaningful forward focus.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Improve financial and operational strength by enhancing student enrollment and retention, identifying operational efficiencies, and growing a supportive donor base.

FOUNDATION

A solid foundation must be built to withstand the shifting environs. This plan seeks to fortify this institution's financial health, its operational practices and one of its most valued resources – its donors – to provide a foundational level of support that ensures Otterbein stands strong into the future.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Provide a forward-thinking, quality education, which integrates an innovative general education program, disciplinary rigor, and professional preparation for all students that is inclusive, accessible and affordable.

CORNERSTONE

The cornerstone is the first stone placed – all other stones are set in accordance – meaning the cornerstone determines the location and specific direction of a building. Otterbein's commitment to educational excellence, affordability, access and opportunity serve as the cornerstone of this institution. This plan recognizes the value of educational excellence and professional preparation and will use it to set the direction for what, how and why we build all that comes next.

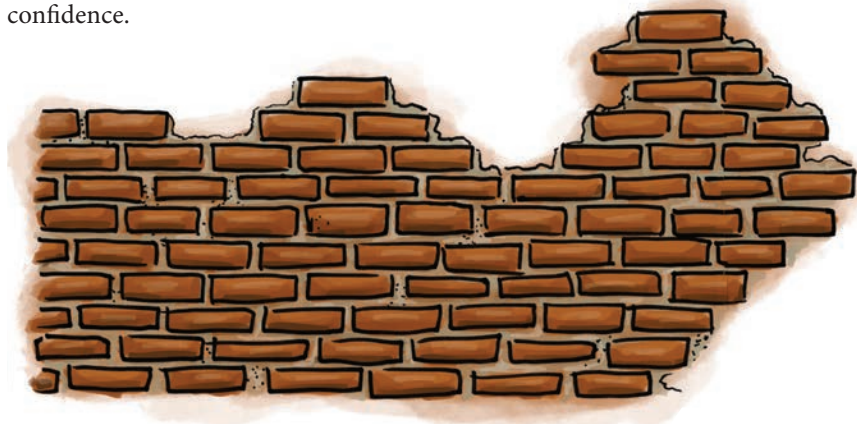


STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Enhance student development through innovative, broad-based academic and co-curricular opportunities that build campus connections and community.

BRICKS

In this plan, a commitment to developing each student can be appreciated like the strength and need of each brick. As students build experiences and understanding through learning, they are able to realize more of their potential and place with confidence.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Advance the public good through intentional educational programming and purposeful connections to community needs.

CUPOLA

The cupola stands at the top of this structure. It is used to offer not only a lookout point but also to serve as a source of light. As Otterbein remains watchful and attentive to the needs of the immediate and global communities it serves, the light from this cupola reminds us that the knowledge, intellect and compassion of our students, alumni, faculty and staff will guide us in serving and supporting a greater, public good.



Attract, retain and support a professionally active faculty and staff who believe in our mission and values, put students first and represent the diversity of our community.

MORTAR

Our faculty and staff surround our students as teachers, mentors, guides and an ever-present support structure to ensure each student's potential can be realized. As your eyes measure a wall that has been able to reach its impressive height – the mortar is visible to the eye as the force that solidifies all possibilities. Our employees are equally as traceable examples of Otterbein's mission in students' lives.



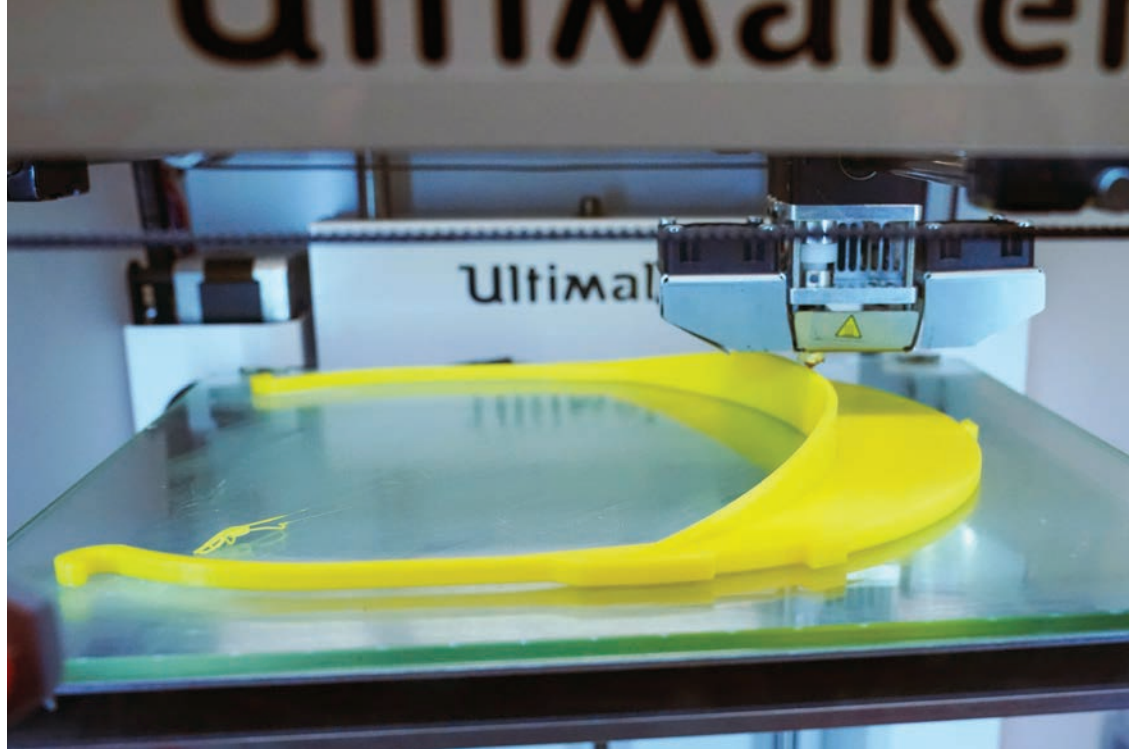
STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Build strategic partnerships to grow our reputation, build revenue and maintain relevancy to benefit students.

DOORS AND PATHWAYS

The doorways of a building give a clear point for people to enter and to head back out. Partnerships, in their best form, provide a meaningful point for great ideas, leaders and opportunities to enter Otterbein's community where they'll find strategic, collaborative, innovative experts and eager faculty and student scholars to assist. The work, realized ideas and new opportunities will go back out to advance the goals and objectives of the businesses, industries, schools, non-profits, government and health care agencies who smartly sought Otterbein's help.

Illustrations by Hannah Farley '15



OTTERBEIN'S SMALL PIECES OF ARMOR

BUILDING PPE TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

BY
**GINA M.
CALCAMUGGIO**

PHOTOS BY
ED SYGUDA

Students and University leaders working to help the greater community is nothing new to Otterbein. When a small team of students rallied together with The Point staff to build personal protective equipment (PPE) in preparation for an anticipated central Ohio outbreak of COVID-19, no one was surprised. According to Erin Bender, executive director of The Point, “it’s just the Otterbein way.”

“When we found out there was a need in the community, the first thing that the students and our lab manager asked was, ‘How can we help?’” Bender said that even as the University was shifting to working from home, the team realized that the tools and equipment at The Point’s Maker Space could be valuable in

helping. “As the situation continued to unveil itself, we were looking on blogs, we were looking to some of our corporate partners, we were looking to our healthcare institutions — and we were talking to them on a regular basis to learn what they needed and how we could help them.”

Bender said that the collaborative approach informed better decisions and a better strategy. “Rather than just making this or that, we went to our partners and said, for example, ‘OhioHealth — how can we best support you? Here are the tools and things we have.’”

The community partners responded with their needs and asked if Otterbein could help. So Otterbein got to work.

Bender said that as the situation was unfolding, some companies were making free designs for PPE available. The team tried a few and found they weren't good. Curtis Smith, the operations manager of the Maker Space and labs at The Point, had a source in New Zealand. They connected and Otterbein's team started to hone in on a design to start 3-D printing protective face shields. Soon after, one of the engineering students also came up with a great design to use laser printer technology to create even more face shields.

"We have five students working on this project," Smith said. "Their majors range from engineering to education and we have some graduate assistants as well."

Smith said the team is taking precautions and that he's keeping contact limited to just two people per shift to keep students safe.

Bender and Smith report that as of May 11, the team has made more than 400 face shields that are already in use with the supplies to make 1,000. "If there are other organizations that need a face shield protector, we're happy to do that," Bender said.

The Point-produced PPE has been donated to community partners including St. Ann's Hospital, Westerville City Police and EMS, Friendship Village of Columbus, Heartland of Westerville, OhioHealth, DASCO Home Medical Equipment and Otterbein's own facilities team and janitorial services crew.

But Otterbein's help doesn't stop there. The team at The Point is also making 3-D printed bushings for OhioHealth. Bender explained that this small piece means a critical piece of equipment can be kept outside of

a patient's room. This gives nurses and doctors immediate monitoring of ventilator operations without having to be completely dressed in PPE to go inside the room every time. Otterbein has made almost 300 of those pieces as of May 1.

Bender said the team was also asked to pre-emptively produce a component that would give hospitals the ability to split ventilators to serve more patients if needed. Otterbein's team also recently started making ear-saving straps to alleviate discomfort by those wearing masks for long stretches of time.

Bender said The Point's organizing principles enabled them to mobilize rapidly. "The Point's nimbleness means that when we get a call from somebody who needs something, we can immediately discuss what we can do, how much it might cost to make, and what materials it might take."

However, she says The Point's real advantage comes from another source. "It's the ingenuity of the students that separates us from a lot of places around town. In just a few hours our students will come up with something that's better. They want to give back. Otterbein people don't think about themselves first, we think about how we can provide for our partners."

Beyond the power of this crisis learning experience, Bender says this work is something they'll all remember. "I think everyone feels like they've been able to contribute in a bigger way. The small pieces we can contribute are a piece that someone puts on every day as their armor during this pandemic. To know that we've been a part of that makes us feel good."

PPE BY THE NUMBERS

PROTECTIVE FACE SHIELDS:

3 HRS

TO CREATE ON 3-D PRINTER

30 SHIELDS

CREATED IN

2 HOURS

WITH LASER CUTTER

MORE THAN 1600

PRODUCED BY THE POINT

BUSHINGS:

280

BUSHINGS CREATED FOR OHIOHEALTH

ALSO PRODUCED:

70

VENTILATOR Y-CONNECTORS

530

IPAD STAND PARTS

1000

EAR-SAVER STRAPS

Highlighting the Helpers.



Cardinals shine in difficult times – through their compassion, their generosity and their resolve to make a positive impact on the world. During the coronavirus pandemic, many people are experiencing times of need. These people are there to help.

Lana Troyer '22

In March, Otterbein made the difficult decision to take classes online and send students home to protect the campus community from the coronavirus. In the middle of adjusting to this new reality, some Otterbein students stepped up to serve the central Ohio community by offering childcare for the families of overwhelmed first responders, with the help of the Columbus Firefighters' Union, Columbus City Council member Elizabeth Brown, and Senior Instructor Dan Steinberg in the Department of Communication.

Communication major Lana Troyer was one of the students who stepped up. **“My whole motto through this was help those who help others. If there was anything big or small that I could do to ensure our first responders and their families were being taken care of, that was my priority,”** she said.

Opposite page: Lana Troyer '22
Below: Winston Spiker '20
volunteering at Adamsville
(OH) Elementary School

In addition to the stocked shelf-stable foods, produce is grown at the Otterbein Community Garden.



The Promise House Team

Otterbein's Promise House is a student-led resource center and food pantry committed to helping peers overcome socioeconomic barriers to student success. While many students left campus, the needs of the 63 students who stayed on campus and those who live near campus remained. To address these needs, the Promise House moved to a pre-packaged pick-up protocol to protect both shoppers and volunteers — and

even provides recipes for students using the shelf-stable food. The protocol mirrors those being used by many Ohio pantries. Currently, the team is growing fresh produce in the hoop house at the Otterbein Community Garden and readying the landscape for the summer growing season to provide food for both Otterbein students and neighbors.

“Otterbein has a long-standing commitment of caring for its community. It's who we are. It's what we do,” said Melissa Gilbert, Otterbein's associate dean of experiential learning and director of the Center for Community Engagement. “Students rely on the Promise House. As businesses close temporarily due to the state-mandated health precautions, students are losing their jobs. They're worried. Supporting one another is why students created the Promise House and why we're stepping up our efforts now.” Gilbert said.

During
difficult
times,
Cardinals
step up to
help others.

Winston Spiker '20

The disappointment of missing out on the celebrations and camaraderie that mark the end of a student's senior year could get some students down, but not Winston Spiker, a psychology major and offensive lineman for the Cardinals' football team. Instead, he made the most of the situation by serving his community. When his service-learning course was moved online, Spiker moved his service from Westerville to his hometown and joined his mother, who is the head cook at Adamsville (OH) Elementary School, and other volunteers to help food-insecure children.

“We are providing weekly care packages of food for the students that go to Adamsville Elementary, which is where I went to elementary school,” Spiker said. “Adamsville is a very tight-knit community of only 114 people, so when people are in need the town bands together and jumps in to help. **The power of community during times like these is inspiring. I feel fortunate that Otterbein really instills those values in us even more.**”



A

DIFFERENT

VIEWPOINT

WHILE THE PANDEMIC IS
A SHARED EXPERIENCE,
THESE STUDENTS'
STORIES ARE UNIQUE.

A pandemic is a shared experience, but many people have unique stories within that experience. Classes moved online, being separated from family and friends, losing the chance to compete at the national level. These students each have a unique view on what it means to be a Cardinal during the coronavirus.



TOM GREENSALL '20

MBA

A MBA student from the United Kingdom (which is only second to the U.S. in number of cases), Tom Greensall is balancing adjusting to online learning, being an ocean away from his family, and missing the opportunity to walk across the stage at commencement on May 2.



JOHN POSEY '20

PHILOSOPHY

It wasn't an ideal situation for philosophy major John Posey to remain on campus when residence halls were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but as a member of the National Guard, he was one of 63 students who received a special extension to stay through the end of the semester.

Despite the emptiness, Posey was sad to leave and valued the extra time he had on campus. Posey said the decision to postpone the in-person commencement ceremony was no surprise to him. Even though he wasn't able to follow the senior tradition of walking across the stage during graduation ceremonies, Posey is reminded that this is still a time for celebration for all his Class of 2020 classmates. "I acknowledge these are unpredictable times, but I will always feel that Otterbein has helped me to challenge myself beyond what I thought I could do, no matter where, when or how I was learning. Otterbein taught me so much in terms of human interaction and personal growth. I feel those lessons have made me a more well-rounded student, job candidate and individual." This summer, Posey will begin Officers Candidate School.

Still, in the midst of this international health crisis, he chose to deliver Meals on Wheels as a volunteer, and is looking forward to completing his capstone class this summer. "When our new reality hit, I wanted to help out in any way I could. I did some research and saw

WHEN OUR NEW
REALITY HIT, I
WANTED TO HELP
OUT IN ANY WAY
I COULD.

that Meals on Wheels were being inundated with requests from people who needed their services — at times over 100 new applications a day. The work with my internship had been put on pause, so I decided to use this time to volunteer and do my part to help."



DREW KASPER '20

EXERCISE SCIENCE

Cardinals wrestler Drew Kasper did not get his final chance to win a NCAA Division III national title, but he hopes his story can help the next student-athlete accomplish that.

Kasper delivered a college record of 108-13, including a 62-2 mark after moving up to heavyweight as a junior and an undefeated Ohio Athletic Conference record with two Central Regional titles. He was ranked No. 1 in the country almost his entire senior season, but because of the NCAA shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, his season was cut short. Kasper has battled depression, a learning disability and early career setbacks, but those things did not stop him — and this



pandemic won't stop him either. Kasper will have a WWE tryout later this summer in Orlando, FL. "I did everything I was supposed to do," Kasper said, "but I hope and know the future holds happiness."

What Your Scholarship Support Means to Me...

IN THE WORDS OF OTTERBEIN STUDENTS

Each spring, Otterbein brings together our generous scholarship donors with the students they support. While safeguards required the cancellation of this year's scholarship luncheon, Otterbein scholars were eager to share their gratitude in writing. We are sharing a selection of those letters here. Otterbein celebrates those who give — and those whose lives are changed — now and for the future.



DA'VIONA FOWLER '22

Columbus, Ohio

MAJOR

Public Relations and
Health Communication

SCHOLARSHIP

Kaitlin Steinour '15
Communications Endowed
Scholarship

“When I was applying to go to school, I was always afraid that I would not be able to go to college to pursue my career. Receiving this scholarship has helped me tremendously and I do not have to worry about how I am going to pay for school. I am in the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and have visited places like L Brands and The Blue Jackets arena to see how public relations works behind the scenes. I have an internship in the Office of Marketing and Communications at Otterbein and they are helping me so much with getting real-world experience. By doing this, I can build up my resumé, so I can reach my goal to work for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. I am very thankful for this scholarship and without it I probably wouldn't be here at Otterbein University. Thank you so much for this scholarship!”



FERNANDA DE LA FUENTE '22

Columbus, Ohio

MAJOR

Mathematics

SCHOLARSHIP

Norris Family Scholarship

“I would like to thank you for your generosity in your donations. I am very honored to have this scholarship opportunity. I will be graduating early — this would not have been possible without you. You have made it affordable for my parents and me, and I can't stress enough how thankful we are. This semester I was able to pay for college without the help of my parents which is important for me because they can focus on my sister's tuition; she is in her first year at college and her expenses are higher than mine. The fact that I can relieve my parents of the stress of my own tuition makes me happy. I am motivated to do my best here at Otterbein and I hope to make you and my family proud.”

**The Otterbein community
continues to ask how they can help.
Thank you for supporting our
students through Cardinals Care.**

See page 26 for more information!

ALLISON CAUDILL '21

New Albany, Ohio

MAJOR

Nurse Anesthesia

SCHOLARSHIP

David L. Davis
Nurse Anesthetist
Scholarship



“When I was accepted into the nurse anesthesia program at Otterbein, I did what any good graduate student would do to prepare: I paid off all outstanding debts, made a budget and saved like crazy. After getting accepted into the program, a family member fell ill, which added extra responsibilities onto my plate. The

emergency funds I had saved were spent in only a few months after moving my parent in with me, and I wasn't sure how we were going to make it work. Your scholarship money came just in time and went so much further than just my tuition or school supplies, as it also gave me a little bit of stress relief in such a chaotic time. Thank you for setting up the scholarship fund and for helping me be a successful student, as well as a good daughter.”



HANNAH WRIGHT '19

Grove City, Ohio

MAJOR

Public Relations and
Health Communication

SCHOLARSHIP

Kaitlin Steinour '15
Communications Endowed
Scholarship

“Your scholarship impacted my journey in many different ways. I will start off by saying college probably wouldn't have been possible for me without assistance, so I want to say that I am beyond thankful. This scholarship was part of my great Otterbein journey, a journey that made me who I am today: a professional marketer, with so much to look forward to. I graduated in spring 2019 and am a digital marketing specialist at a marketing and communication agency in Columbus. I am beyond passionate about healthcare and being able to make a difference for a patient or family. Thank you for making these dreams possible!”

NICHOLAS HASSINGER '20

Wadsworth, Ohio

MAJOR

Accounting

SCHOLARSHIP

Michael-LeMay
Scholarship



“Thank you so much for the opportunity you have provided for me. Otterbein was my dream school as soon as I was on the campus. I plan to return next year to finish my MBA and complete my CPA exams. I started the Wealth Management Club on campus to help teach students personal finance and network with people in the business field. I was also treasurer of Alpha Sigma Phi. During the summer and winter breaks, I have interned in the tax departments of multiple companies. Without the help of the Michael and



LeMay families, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish all of this. I wanted you to know I appreciate your support and have made sure it has gone to good use.”

KAERIS CICCHINO '22

Westerville, Ohio

MAJOR

Business
Administration

SCHOLARSHIP

Michael-LeMay
Scholarship

“I am a business administration and management major with a French and marketing minor. This is my second year at Otterbein and it has been nothing short of amazing. After this semester I will have completed three internships, so I've gotten a lot of real-world experience. My goal while being here is getting the most out of every opportunity. I plan to study abroad in France in spring 2021, something I could never dream of if it wasn't for Otterbein. I fell in love with Otterbein and all that it offered me when I visited as a high school junior, but I never thought I could afford it or get in. Because of generous people like you, I got a chance to show Otterbein why I was right for them. Thank you for giving me a chance to better my future as a woman in business, and the chance to get an education and make an impact on the world. Thank you for the contribution you've made on my life.”

WE CELEBRATE OUR 1847

Society members who include Otterbein in their estate planning. Planned gifts like these help secure the future for the University.

- A bequest of more than \$138,000 was received from the estate of Dorothy Howard-Flynn, a devoted fan of Otterbein Theatre for many years.
- A very generous bequest was received from the estate of the late Professor Emeritus Roger F. Deibel, who taught future educators at Otterbein from 1965-1989, and his late wife, Dorothy, who was an educator in Westerville Public Schools for many years.
- **Cheryn Alten Houston '73**, a music education graduate and member of the Otterbein band, has dedicated a \$25,000 bequest that will one day benefit the band program.

O. H. "OZ" KOEPLIN OF

Delaware, OH, has gifted \$25,000 to advance Otterbein's nursing program. Koeplin served as Westerville city manager from 1972-1977. This gift will honor his late wife, Priscilla "Cilla" Koeplin, a leader in the nursing profession who earned her master's degree in clinical psychology at Southeast Missouri State and a doctorate degree in nursing from the University of Alabama. She was an associate professor emerita at the University of Missouri and adjunct professor at The Ohio State University. She authored six editions of the textbook *Medical/Surgical Nursing* and co-authored eight worldwide editions of "Fundamentals of Nursing." She also funded two scholarships for Missouri and Southeast Missouri State.

OTTERBEIN WAS THE

recipient of an undesignated gift of more than \$170,000 in February from the Trust of the late **Cameron Allen '47**. Allen, who passed away Jan. 23, 2017, established the trust during his lifetime. The Trust has gifted more than \$1.84 million to the University to date. Previous gifts have benefitted the Science Center Campaign, the Otterbein FUND, The Point, and other general support for the University.

Notable Giving News

HIGHLIGHTING
GENEROSITY WITHIN
OUR OTTERBEIN
COMMUNITY.

Alan Goff '75 AND CORAL

Harris have made a generous seed gift to kick off the Rolling Green Fund, an Otterbein community effort which presents an opportunity for donors at all levels to join forces to advance sustainability innovation at Otterbein. Goff and Harris are founders of the Alan Goff '75 and Coral Harris Outdoor Learning Laboratory and Sustainable Water Feature at The Point and members of the University's Lifelong Learning Community (LLC). They have recently made a gift

SINCE 2017, THE FRIENDS OF

the Courtright Memorial Library have led the charge to combat a major barrier to student success by raising funds to create a Textbook Affordability Endowment. This Textbook Affordability Endowment, once funded at the \$25,000 minimum, will produce approximately \$1,000 annually to provide access to high-cost course materials for students. We hope to secure the remaining funds for the endowment this year.



If you want to help, go to www.otterbein.edu/give, then select "Textbook Affordability" designation.

supporting the work of Nadiya Timperman, a part-time faculty member and nutritionist in the Department of Health and Sport Sciences who addresses sustainability issues in her coursework. Goff and Harris are also visiting presenters in her classes. Their generosity to the University demonstrates the importance of supporting and advancing sustainability efforts across our campus and our community.

COACH CONNIE RICHARDSON

spent 28 years at the helm of the Otterbein women's basketball program and collected 382 victories before retiring as head coach in 2019. On Jan. 25, 2020, during halftime of the Cardinals' 77-74 victory over Heidelberg, Richardson was honored and given a standing ovation by fans from both sides of the court. Otterbein recognized her achievements at center court with the surprise launch of the Connie E. Richardson Women's Basketball



Support the effort at www.otterbein.edu/give/connie-richardson-womens-basketball-endowment/

Endowment along with the Connie E. Richardson Locker Room renaming dedication. Her long-time partner, Clete Richardson, donated the lead gift to kick

off the endowment fund that will benefit Otterbein's women's basketball program. Coach Richardson tallied 16 OAC upper-division finishes while guiding the Cardinals, leading the program to a single-season record 23 wins during the 2003-04 campaign and qualifying for the NCAA Tournament in 2013. She remains on staff as Otterbein's senior associate athletic director. Fundraising for the Connie E. Richardson Women's Basketball Endowment continues.



L-R: Coach Connie's son, Nick; mother, Marilyn Ball; daughter, Hannah; and long-time partner, Clete.

OTTERBEIN IS SAD TO SHARE

the news of the passing of beloved Otterbein alumnus **Wendell Foote '60** on Jan. 22. Wendell lived in Silverton, OR, for almost five decades. He and late spouse, **Judith Lovejoy Foote '58**, were lifelong Otterbein supporters. A Korean War veteran, Wendell studied chemistry and biology at Otterbein. A member of the Otterbein football team, he met Judith in 1958. While a student, Wendell did full-time research at Battelle Memorial Institute. He later worked in the pharmaceutical and chemical industries before co-founding Specialty Polymers, Inc. At Otterbein, Wendell served on the campaign committee for the Science Center. He and Judith created the Science Center's Foote Atrium and

the All Star Corridor in Clements Recreation Center, and they put in place a bequest of approximately \$1 million to benefit Otterbein. In 2009, the Footes received the Service to Otterbein Alumni Award. After Judith's death in 2006, Wendell Foote remained a lifelong supporter of the sciences at Otterbein and he and Judith were consistently the largest annual supporters of the Otterbein FUND. Otterbein proudly recognized Wendell Foote in 2017 with The Mary B. Thomas Award for Commitment to Otterbein, the University's highest honor for extraordinary philanthropic leadership, service, and the advancement of Otterbein's mission. Wendell touched countless lives through Otterbein; he will be deeply missed.

Richard L. Foster Jr. '72 HAS created a generous \$25,000 pledge to endow the Richard L. Foster Jr. '72 Veteran Award to benefit Otterbein undergraduate students who are military veterans. Foster, a U.S. Army veteran who served during the Vietnam War, attended Otterbein with help from the G.I. Bill.

DR. BARBARA ACHTER AND Dr. Mort Achter H'00 have made a generous gift to Otterbein to endow a scholarship for nursing students. Barbara worked with **Dr. Mary Ann Bradford Burnam H'19** to establish the Department of Nursing at Otterbein in 1977 and served as

department chair and professor. Mort is a professor emeritus and was chair of the Department of Music from 1975-2000. The Achters have been loyal and generous friends of the University and recently supported enhancements to Riley Auditorium at the Battelle Fine Arts Center in 2017.

Mary B. Thomas Commitment to Otterbein Award

**OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY HAS
SELECTED JAMES A. AND KATHLEEN
C. RUTHERFORD P'99 AS THE 2020
RECIPIENTS OF THE MARY B. THOMAS
COMMITMENT TO OTTERBEIN AWARD.**



For more than two decades, Otterbein Trustee Emeritus Jim Rutherford and his spouse, Kathy, have been true leadership and service ambassadors for Otterbein. Jim is a first-generation graduate of Denison University where he received a bachelor's degree in economics. He co-founded Goal Systems International, a computer systems software and information technology services company in Columbus in 1976 and has served on the boards of a number of public and privately-owned companies. He has also been a trustee of Nationwide Children's Hospital and Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). "Going to college changed the trajectory of my life," he said.

Jim and Kathy raised two sons: Mark, a 1995 CWRU engineering graduate, and Keith, a 1999 business graduate of Otterbein. It was Keith's experience at Otterbein that showed Jim and Kathy the impact of the Otterbein community and inspired them to begin creating opportunities for other students.

Jim's tenure as a trustee (2012-2018) saw the launch and successful completion of the Where We STAND Matters campaign, which raised

more than \$52 million for the University. Jim and Kathy were also key personal investors in that campaign.

In 1997, Jim and Kathy established the James A. and Kathleen C. Rutherford Endowed Scholarship, and they have continued to bolster the endowment so that more first-generation students with financial need can meet their academic and leadership potential. "Kathy and I want these students to use their education to go out and do good things," said Jim. "It doesn't matter if they make a lot of money — we want them to be competent and leave the world a better place."

To launch and help support the Where We STAND Matters Campaign, the Rutherfords made a \$500,000 commitment: a multi-year \$250,000 grant to "raise awareness of the University both locally and nationally to ensure the University's viability and competitiveness in a challenging market environment" plus a \$250,000 bequest. Their longtime annual support for the University's Otterbein FUND shows they realize the impact of unrestricted annual gifts. They are among the founding members of Otterbein's Joanne Van Sant Society, which honors donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more each fiscal year.

"We're helping deserving students lead successful lives," Jim said. "When they become successful, they can help others become successful. To Kathy and me, that's how philanthropy works."

The Rutherfords will be honored at an alumni awards ceremony during Homecoming celebrations in September. ♦

Faculty and Staff Earn State Grants for Otterbein Efforts

THE FOLLOWING FACULTY AND STAFF APPLIED FOR AND WERE AWARDED GRANTS TO SUPPORT OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES.

RECIPIENT

Barry Wittman
associate professor

AMOUNT

\$272,661.48

Associate Professor Barry Wittman was awarded a Choose Ohio First Grant of \$272,661 from the Ohio Department of Higher Education to provide computer science scholarships to Otterbein students over five years.

The primary goal of the scholarship program is to lower financial barriers for underrepresented students, including women, low income students and students from urban districts, to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science at Otterbein and become part of the booming digital economy in Ohio. The secondary goal of this program is to encourage existing Otterbein students to transfer into these degree programs. Choose Ohio First (COF) scholars will form cohorts with annual orientations and monthly mentoring sessions.

Dr. Michael
Hudoba of the
Engineering
Department,
shown holding
the Otterbein
flambeau.



RECIPIENT

Kristin Bourdage
associate professor
chair, department of education

AMOUNT

\$41,387.50

Associate Professor Kristin Bourdage, chair of Otterbein's Department of Education, was awarded three Human Capital Strategies Grants totaling \$41,387 from the Ohio Department of Higher Education to help fund partnerships with three local school districts. The Pathways to Teaching Project collaborates with PreK-12 district partners to strengthen district recruitment efforts where there are critical teacher shortages. The grant partners are Olentangy Local School District (\$17,377), Canal Winchester Local Schools (\$12,010) and Westerville City Schools (\$12,000).

RECIPIENT

Stephen Grinch '98
archivist, Courtright Memorial Library

AMOUNT

\$4,967.00

Archivist Stephen Grinch was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Preservation and Conservation Grant of \$4,967 from the State Library of Ohio, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), for the Otterbein Archives in the Courtright Memorial Library. With this grant, the Library Archives purchased two specially designed cases in which to safely store and transport the Otterbein Academic Regalia, including the current mace and flambeau (pictured above) as well as the historic university seal; repaired and cleaned the 1879 Clock that hangs in Courtright Memorial Library (Class of 1879 gift); and purchased archival supplies.

Classnotes.

Compiled by Becky Hill May '78 and Becky Olmstead Smith '08



Todd Alan Crain '94 in costume and on set for his guest star role on the Amazon Prime Series, *Hunters*.

Do you have news to share?
Submit your updates to classnotes@otterbein.edu

George Liston '52, past president of the Ohio Art Education Association and Distinguished Fellow, received the Honorary Arts Educator Award from Columbus College of Art and Design (Columbus) in November. This award is typically reserved for its alumni, although he is not a CCAD grad, he did take his professional training there.

Marcia Baer '66 was honored when the Ontario (OH) Local School District officially designated the middle school gym as the "Coach Marcia Baer Gymnasium" in recognition of her 30 years of service to the school. She was a teacher, coach and advisor during her tenure, coaching girls' sports before the OHSAA recognized them. It is

believed to be the first athletic facility to be named for a woman.

Jolene Thompson '88 was named American Municipal Power's (AMP) first woman president and CEO. She joined AMP in 1990 and has held several leadership roles at the organization, headquartered in Columbus, with more than 170 employees.

Melissa McTygue Lutz '90 works for Champlin Architecture in Cincinnati, as a principal in the firm. She serves on the board of directors, directs both marketing and business development initiatives and community engagement strategies. She was also elected this year's national president for the professional organization of the Society for Marketing Professional Services. She credits Otterbein for contributing to her success.

Andrew Tillman '90 is the chief operating officer at the Nashville Zoo, Nashville, TN.

Mark Curtis '91 was re-elected to a second four-year term as a member of the Twinsburg City Schools Board of Education in November. He was officially sworn in on Jan. 8, 2020 and elected to serve as president for one year.

Mark Becker '93 is a business analyst at Sabel Systems Technology Solutions, Beavercreek, OH.

Todd Alan Crain '94 guest starred on the new Amazon Prime series *Hunters* as Bill Badger—the over-the-top, 1977 California game show host for a very "not safe for work" segment on the eighth episode of the show. The show's executive producer is Jordan Peele and stars Al Pacino.

Royce Wong '94 received his master's degree in computer science from Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA.

Kris Young '94 is vice president, NIKE Direct Athlete Experience in Oregon.

Katrina Seymour Metzler '95 is the executive director at the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition in Washington, D.C. She was honored with the Champion of Affordability Award on Oct. 26, 2019, at the Blue Tie Ball hosted by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Water Fund. The award is bestowed to a person demonstrating outstanding commitment to ensuring access for all Americans to clean, safe, affordable drinking water.

Sarah Sphar Sheehan '95 is the content marketing manager at Within3 in Cleveland, OH.

Todd Tucker '95 received the Tempe Tourism Spirit of Hospitality Award while working as the assistant general manager at Residence Life by Marriott in Tempe, AZ.

Alumna Protects Communities through Wildfire Research

Jessica Miesel '01 protects communities from wildfires, but she isn't a typical firefighter. As an assistant professor of fire and ecosystem ecology at Michigan State University, her expertise and research focuses on how wildland fires can restore forest health and positively impact soil, plants, and animals. She participates in fire suppression efforts on the ground and maintains the same safety certification of firefighters.

Miesel came to Otterbein in 1997 to study equine science, but a summer internship her sophomore year with the U.S. Forest Service ignited her passion for fire ecology and soil science. For the internship, she measured vegetation plots that were affected by the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington.

Reflecting on it, she said, "I was nervous, especially because I had to memorize hundreds of new plant species that grow out West. But after seeing how the concepts from my courses at Otterbein helped me to understand the environment, it brought the classroom to life. It also helped to give context to my studies once I was back in the classroom."

Miesel graduated with a bachelor's degree in life and earth science with a concentration in ecology, along with a chemistry minor.

She worked for four years with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and The Nature Conservancy before returning to Ohio to earn her doctorate degree in evolution, ecology and organismal biology at The Ohio State University.

Today, she uses her classes in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial

Sciences at Michigan State to teach how proper forest management can achieve greater fire resilience and biological diversity, as her ongoing research in northern California and the Great Lakes region has shown.

In her laboratory, the Miesel Fire and Ecosystem Ecology Research Group analyzes soil samples from sites that have experienced controlled burns or wildfires, to investigate the microbial community and carbon and nitrogen cycling. Fire influences the moisture and nutrients in soil, which serves as the foundation of the entire ecosystem.

Miesel has published research in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *Geoderma*, and the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses and is an advisor for graduate research and post-doctorate studies.♦

ALUMNI PROFILE



Read more at
www.mieselecolologylab.org



Giving note.

Wendy Sherman Heckler, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, and spouse **Andrew Heckler** have made a generous pledge to create an endowed fund to support Otterbein students with financial need.



Giving note.

Family, fellow alumni and friends continue to make generous gifts in memory of alumnus **Col. Edward "Ed" Mentzer '58**, longtime Otterbein supporter, volunteer and organizer of the June Bug, who passed away on Feb. 24, 2020. These gifts support the Myers-Mentzer Memorial Scholarship, a scholarship originally endowed by Ed and his wife **Connie Myers Mentzer '60**, which honors their multi-generational Otterbein family legacy.



Giving note.

Dan '70 and Regina '70 Bremer P'98 have pledged \$25,000 over five years to increase the impact of the Bremer Family Endowed Scholarship.

Becky Tippenhauer '96 earned her BSN degree from Xavier University in August 2019. She is now a registered nurse at UC Health in Cincinnati, OH, on the BMT/Oncology/Hematology unit.

Paul Smith '98 is the aviation budget officer in the office of Aviation Forces at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C.

Heather McLeish Juzenas '02 earned recognition as a certified cooperative communicator (CCC) by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The certification signifies standards of professionalism in communications and competency in the electric cooperative industry. She serves as communications manager at The Energy Cooperative headquartered in Newark, OH.

Sarin Arnholt Wilson '03 is a middle school science teacher at Pulaski County Schools, Somerset, KY. She also earned her master's degree in teacher leadership, a STEM certification, and national board certification from Morehead State University, Morehead, KY.

Art Todd '04 is a manager at The Greentree Group, an IT and organization business solutions provider headquartered in Beavercreek, OH.

Phillip Keck '05 is an IT support analyst at Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, MD.

Callie Firman '06 is employed as a leadership development consultant at WellStar Health System in Atlanta, GA. Firman relocated to Atlanta in 2017.

Mayme Moyer Kugler '06 is the director of institutional research at Hagerstown Community College, Hagerstown, MD.

Senchal Shaw Murphy '06 is the director of learning and development at The Kroger Company, Cincinnati, OH.

Janel Iden Blankespoor '07 is the assistant women's basketball coach/director of NCAA compliance/SAAC advisor at Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH. She received her master of education in higher education administration and student personnel from Kent State University, Kent, OH.

Kyle Gehring '07 is the director of ticketing operations for HomeTown Ticketing in Frisco, TX.

Randi Hopkins '09 is the director of healthy living at the Sky Family YMCA in Bonita Springs, FL.

Molly Metz '09 is an assistant professor, teaching stream, in the department of psychology at the University of Toronto, ON, Canada.

Grace Wolf '11 is the senior demand planner at Smithfield Foods in Suffolk, VA.

Jill Humrichouse Fair '12 is a school counselor at Center Point-Urbana

Community Schools, Center Point, IA.

Samantha Bickerdt Shivener '12 is the campus minister at Jacob's Porch Lutheran Campus Ministry, Columbus.

Patrick Conley '13 is a SNAP-Ed fiscal associate at The Ohio State University Extension Office, Columbus.

Jami Easterday '13 is a certified nurse practitioner for Adena Health Systems in Chillicothe, OH.

Joshua Hartley '13 is a consultant, communications business partner at Cardinal Health, Dublin, OH.

Holly Bruner '14, area coordinator for the honors residence hall and the historic horseshoe at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, co-authored a featured article in the *Association for College and University Housing Officers-International (ACHUO-I)* September 2019. The article, *Timing is Everything*, explores the topic of interim roles within the scope of housing and residence life.

Thea Kennedy '14 is a graphic designer at University School in Cleveland, OH.

Katie McClain Shaw '14 is a manager of teacher leadership development for Teach for America Southwest Ohio, Cincinnati, OH.

Eric Wolff '14 is the music publishing coordinator at The Walt Disney Company in Burbank, CA.

Alumnus Reflects on His Travels During the Pandemic*

by **David Thomas '69** *Written April 21, 2020.

My wife, Susan, and I were on an international house- and pet-sitting assignment in Chiang Mai, Thailand, when the pandemic really began to spread. We had arrived there on Feb. 25 after having spent a week near the Gold Coast of Australia during which there was growing concern around the world about the impending crisis.

From Brisbane, we flew to Hong Kong and had a 32-hour layover there. We took advantage of the situation and did sightseeing (we wore masks) by bus, ferry and train — we were either the only people aboard or there was merely a handful of other passengers. Local residents were staying at home and many businesses were closed.

From Hong Kong, we flew directly to Chiang Mai. We felt safe and healthy in Thailand, which had seen far fewer confirmed cases and deaths from the coronavirus than our home state of Colorado. We sheltered in place, which was easy because we knew only one other person in Chiang Mai and we don't speak the language. Our temperatures were checked multiple times when we went to a supermarket for supplies, and everyone was wearing face masks. All businesses except for grocery stores and pharmacies were closed.

We made a conscious decision to stay in Chiang Mai to wait out the pandemic, because it was much more dangerous to return to Colorado — facing health risks on multiple flights. However, on April 3, we had to consider a different option. The U.S. Ambassador to Thailand urged all U.S. citizens to either leave the country immediately, or to face staying there for an undetermined length of time.

Our original plan had been to return to the U.S. on May 7, but that flight from Chiang Mai to Hong Kong had already been cancelled. All airlines serving the Chiang Mai airport were shutting down their operations, and all airports in Thailand were closing down. If we didn't leave soon, we could have been stranded in Chiang Mai for several more months. So we made the difficult decision to leave, which we saw as “jumping from the frying pan into the fire.”

We booked our flights, arranged for someone else to care for the two dogs and the house, and we left Chiang Mai on Sunday afternoon, April 5, on Bangkok Air's last flight for the remainder of April. We flew on Bangkok Air

from Chiang Mai to Bangkok; then Korean Air from Bangkok to Seoul, South Korea; and Korean Air / Delta from Seoul to Los Angeles; then on American Airlines from L.A. to Denver. After 45 hours of travel, five airports, four flights, three countries, and an unknown number of times our personal items were handled by others, we had come back home.

We got to our house in Estes Park, Colorado, at 1 a.m. on April 7, and began our self-imposed two-week quarantine — “self-imposed” because NO ONE directed us to quarantine. At LAX airport, most airport and airline personnel were not wearing masks, nor were the agents who received us in Immigration and Customs. No one checked our temperature, asked any questions about our travels in Southeast Asia, or even gave us a self-diagnosis questionnaire like the one we had to complete for South Korea. A dozen TSA employees at LAX security were chatting without masks as we, the only two people in line, went through. We were shocked that there wasn't a more comprehensive procedure upon our arrival back in the U.S., as we had anticipated being questioned and examined by CDC personnel. In reality, there was no procedure at all.

The CDC operates a quarantine station at LAX; its jurisdiction includes Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and (part of) Southern California. Yet, we had no contact with CDC in Los Angeles. We had dinner in a restaurant within LAX, and none of the cooks was wearing a mask. After our experience in Los Angeles, I felt that the word “lax” was an apt description of COVID-19 screening procedures at LAX airport.

Two weeks later, our state was among several where protesters are insisting that the government lift the restrictions designed to “flatten the curve” of the pandemic. Susan returned to work as a triage RN in our local hospital on April 22.♦

ALUMNI PROFILE



Thomas on a walk with dogs Shirley Temple (left) and Countess Beth (right).



Giving note.

The Fotis family and friends have donated more than \$32,000 to establish the Cathy "Kate" Fotis Endowed Scholarship at Otterbein in memory of Cathy Fotis, a history buff and longtime Otterbein theatre fan who passed away in April due to heart failure. The Fotis family were Westerville neighbors and are advocates of Otterbein and education.

Ashley Jungclas '16 is currently working on her master of business administration degree at Ohio Dominican University, Columbus.

Audrey Vrancken '16 is an executive assistant in the marketing department at Washington Prime Group, a real estate investment trust that invests in shopping centers and is headquartered in Columbus. Audrey also serves as the alumni advisor for Tau Epsilon Mu sorority at Otterbein.

Lindi McGaughy DNP '17 is an assistant professor of clinical practice at The Ohio State University College of Nursing Columbus. Linda earned her BSN '02 and MS '04 from The Ohio State University, Columbus.

Morgan Poczekaj '17 is a marketing coordinator at M+A Architects in Columbus.

Wesley Thompson '17 is a financial business specialist at Nationwide Insurance, Columbus.

Jordan Van Dootingh '17 is the corporate communications coordinator for the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers in Cleveland, OH.

Ashley Beck Zimmerman '18 is a preschool teacher at the Ohio School for the Deaf in Columbus.



Cardinals Care.

Cardinals are rallying together to show support and help take care of Otterbein students during these uncertain and challenging times.



Visit otterbein.edu/CardinalsCare to hear why your support means so much. The Cares Act offers enhanced opportunities for both taxpayers who itemize and those who don't to take charitable deductions. To make a gift, scan the QR code below with your smartphone's camera, visit otterbein.edu/CardinalsCare, return the envelope included in this issue of Towers or call 614-823-1472. Thank you!



#SupportOtterbein





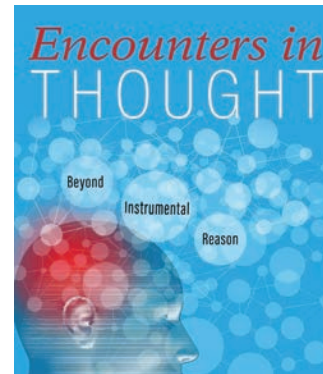
Correction: **Robert Crosby '50** published a book, *Memoirs of a Change Agent, T-groups, Organization, Development, and Social Justice*, with Chris Crosby and Gilmore Crosby. Check out his new free podcast at robertcrosby.podbean.com.



Karen Hoerath Meyer '65, published her ninth book this spring. *Choosing Sides*, historical fiction for young readers, is set in 1875 during Westerville's Temperance Movement.



Sherri Mabry Gordon '90 has written nearly 30 non-fiction books for middle- and high-school students. Six were published last year. Her books focus on hot topics and current issues and are designed to assist students in developing reports, debates and speeches on important and relevant topics. Titles include: *Internet Security and You, Weaponized Social Media, Getting to Know Apple Swift, Violence Against Women, Coping with Bipolar Disorder, and Everything You Need to Know About Smoking, Vaping and Your Health*. She also writes regularly for VerywellFamily.com and VerywellMind.com on a variety of topics including bullying prevention, parenting and relationships.



Aaron Kerr '91 published *Encounters in Thought: Beyond Instrumental Reason*. He is an associate professor of philosophy at Gannon University, Erie, PA, and chair of the Philosophy Department. He teaches environmental ethics and has published in the areas of the philosophy of meaning in music, the sacred, the ethics of technology and the contemplative life.



Shannon Reed '96 will have her first book published by Simon & Schuster on June 30, 2020. *Why Did I Get a B? And Other Mysteries We're Discussing in the Faculty Lounge*, a book of memoir and humor about her 20-year teaching career.

Entertainment Corner



Sean Billingslea '02 published his second book in the Arkrames series, *Sabra and the Amazon City*. As an avid fan of science fiction and fantasy, as well as being a middle- and high-school math and science teacher, his books provide age appropriate adventure reading for teens.



Jen Knox '07, published *Resolutions*, a multi-perspective family drama with AUX Media (March 2020). A portion of the book is set to be adapted to film.

Milestones.

Marriages

1 Mark Becker '93 to Beth Becker, June 30, 2019.

2 Nikki Boeshansz '02 to Stuart Meyer, Aug. 10, 2019.

3 Benjamin Garnett '06 to Sarah Satterly, June 15, 2019. Otterbein alumni in attendance (pictured) were **Matthew D'Oyly '04**, **S. Ryan Davis '03**, **Alyson Brown Bates '04**, **Katherine Colburn Humphrey '17**, **Adam Humphrey '06**, **Jonathan Stewart '01**, **Ester Stinson '02**, **Brian Gray '05** and **Becky Gray '09**.

4 Jessica Rugh '08 to Michael Harding, Dec. 6, 2019. Otterbein alumni in attendance were **Ellie Brookings '09**, **Kelly Fischer Berkshire '08**, **Joe Berkshire '07** and **Kelly Shoup McLeese '07**.

Molly Metz '09 to William Ryan, July 28, 2018. In attendance was **Ashley Shier Showalter '09**.

5 Kate Weale '10 to Chris Panknin, Nov. 22, 2019.

6 Cody Green '14 to Kayla Thompson, Aug. 18, 2019.

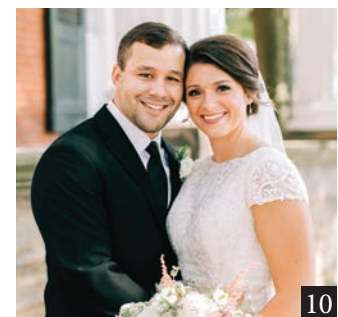
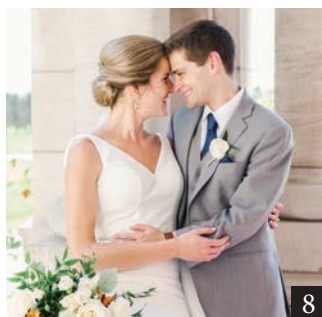
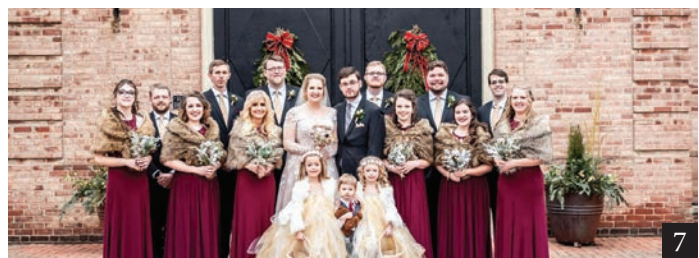
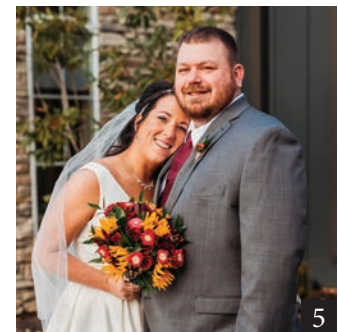
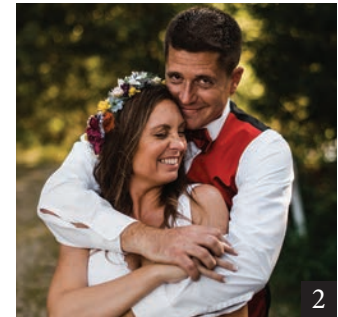
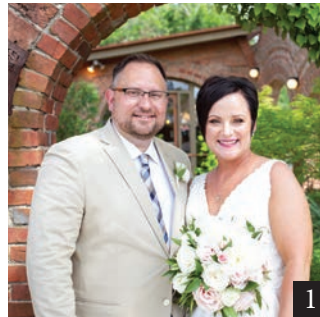
7 Chelsi Campbell '14 to **Parker Ferguson '15**, Dec. 29, 2018. Otterbein alumni in the wedding party

included **Justin Young '10**, **Jack Brangham '12**, **Sam Oakley '15**, **Evan Hedrick '14**, **Christopher Dardio '16**, **Tobias Ewing '16**, **Sara Mason '16** and **Jordan Abbruzzese '15**.

8 Gina Heitkamp '15 to **Anthony Reinhard '15**, July 20, 2019. Otterbein alumni in the wedding party included **Kaylee Cialella '15**, **Ty Compton '15**, **Devon Fitzgerald '15** and **Scott Stornes '15**.

9 Erin Crist MBA'17 to **Adam Ingram MBA'17**, Oct. 13, 2019.

10 Morgan Watts '18 to **Kyle Minyo '18**, Aug. 10, 2019. Otterbein alumni in the wedding party included bridesmaids, **Macy Yount '18**, **Alexa Taylor '18** and **Ashley Hall '18** and best man, **Alex Scotton '18**.





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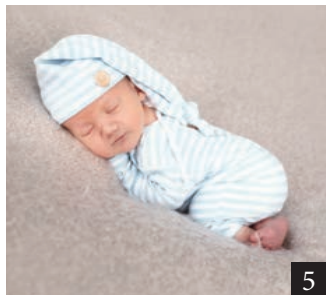
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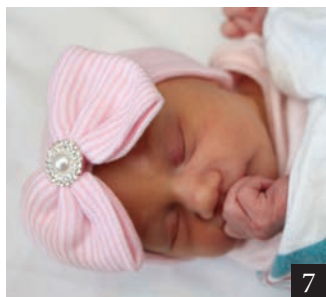
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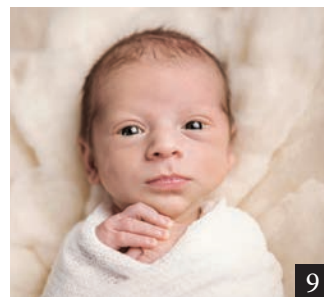
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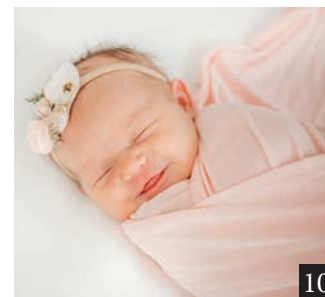
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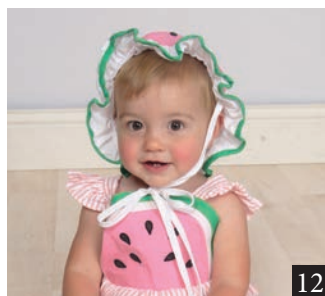
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Births

1 Ashley Palmer '00 and Aaron Palmer, a son, Paxton Knox.

Art Todd '04 and Calah Todd, a son, Judah David.

2 Brooke Pearse '05, a son, Beau Matthew D'Auteuil.

3 Kacy Walton Bielozer '06, and Matt Bielozer, a son, Benjamin Matthew.

4 Misty DeMichael Kiger '06 and **Nicholas Kiger '06**, a son, Cameron Nicholas.

5 Hilary Patrick Nichols '08 and William Nichols, a son, Nolan.

6 Erica Wilkins Trainer '08 and Todd Trainer, a son, Elias William.

7 Michele Shull Loudon '09 and Adam Loudon, a daughter, Harper Ellis.

8 Kayla Sechler Luttrell '09 and **Thomas Luttrell '09**, a son, Eric Daniel.

9 Marinda Roderick Fries '10 and **Andy Fries '09 MAT'12**, a son, Luke Andrew.

10 Devin Smith Byard '11 and Michael Byard, a daughter, Raina Michele.

11 Caitlin Mulkie Lindemuth '11, a daughter, Molly Ann.

12 Jayme Detweiler Crowell '11 and **Ryan Crowell '11**, a daughter, Fynlee Anne.

13 Danielle Fabian Spencer BSN'11 MSN'17 and **Matthew Spencer MBA'17**, a daughter, Ava Jane.

Do you have a wedding or baby news to share?

Please send news to classnotes@otterbein.edu

Milestones.

In Memoriam

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

'33 Elizabeth Zechar Wagner	03/11/01	'50 Ellen Coleman Peters	08/23/18	'58 Edward Mentzer	02/24/20
'35 Robert Ball	04/03/12	'51 John Hoover	01/06/20	'59 Theodore Hampton	01/06/20
'35 Gwendolyn Williams Sullivan	02/20/11	'52 Marilyn Barr Ball	09/02/18	'59 Nancy Gallagher Macakanja	12/19/19
'36 Anna Medert Haidet	02/03/20	'52 H. Dale Rough	04/10/20	'59 David Tobias	03/06/20
'37 Louise Bowser Elliott	03/20/18	'53 William Cain	01/15/20	'59 Robert White	01/23/20
'44 Robert Morris	12/01/19	'53 Robert McMullen	04/10/14	'60 Wendell Foote	01/22/20
'45 Morton Woolley	12/11/19	'54 Lloyd Lewis	04/21/19	'61 John Reichard	12/20/19
'48 James Duvall	10/19/19	'54 Glenn Miller	04/05/18	'61 Kathryn Krumhansl Heidelberg	03/24/20
'48 William Tudor	10/16/19	'54 Sally Bodge Wadman	04/20/20	'63 David Moser	02/08/20
'49 Daniel Corcoran	04/18/20	'54 Sara Lawton Winston	04/26/20	'69 Stephanie Brandon Yund	03/23/20
'49 Hallie Long Kennedy	01/09/13	'55 Patricia Kaltenbach Ampe	05/24/16	'89 Jan Waibel Jones	01/07/20
'49 Winifred Robbins Riley	03/10/19	'56 Frances Meyers Strong	04/24/20		
'50 Richard Kirk	04/08/14	'58 Raymond Cartwright	01/02/20		



Otterbein Mourns Passing of Beloved Professor

Otterbein shares with sadness the passing of Professor Norman Chaney, who died peacefully at home on Wednesday, May 6, surrounded by his wife, Freda, and his family. During more than 50 years at Otterbein, Professor Chaney taught literature, creative writing, poetry, Shakespeare seminars, and other courses and wrote three books: *Theodore Roethke: The Poetics of Wonder*, *Six Images of Human Nature*, and *The Appointed Earth*.

He was chair of the Department of English from 1992 to 1999. He wrote and presented scholarly papers following sabbaticals which took him as far away as Canberra, Australia, and as close to home as Ohio's Malabar Farm. He will be deeply missed by students, colleagues, and countless members of the Otterbein family whose lives he touched.

To support a memorial scholarship being created, visit www.otterbein.edu/ChaneyScholarship and designate "Chaney Memorial Fund."

Today's success >>> Tomorrow's greatness >>> The future's promise.

HONORING OTTERBEIN'S CLASS OF 2020

Until we can safely share in a commencement ceremony, we proudly recognize the grace, tenacity and determination that defines the Class of 2020.

To view a collection of celebratory messages, visit otterbein.edu/class-of-2020/



Alumni Programming Expands Virtually

CARDINALS NOW HAVE NEW AND EXCITING WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED WITH OTTERBEIN.

Alumni Relations rolled out a new series of virtual opportunities this spring. This new series provides unique insights in the Otterbein community, providing content that is both useful and entertaining. Here are the highlights:

CAREER TRANSITIONS

Every other Tuesday, we post reflections from experts to help those impacted by the economic downturn. Please feel free to share these insights with your family and friends seeking employment opportunities.

MID-WEEK MINDFULNESS

A regular series called Cardinal Fly-By: 5-minute learning lecture will give you a condensed and informative insight into hot topics of the day. Look for sessions featuring faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We will occasionally post longer segments to give you a more in-depth look at topics.

INSIDE THE NEST

On Thursdays, we offer a behind-the-scenes look at campus life. Look for stories from alumni, too!



Steve Crawford
executive director
Alumni Relations

We want to hear from you, too. Please let us know what topics you would like to see featured. Just email us at alumniinfo@otterbein.edu. And don't forget to follow us on social media. Find the appropriate links at otterbein.edu/alumni.

Save these dates

Exciting opportunities planned for the Cardinal family. More details coming soon.

Aug. 5

A Toast to Otterbein

Sept. 25-26

Homecoming & Family Weekend

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY
HOMECOMING
& family weekend

ALUMNI TOUR TO IRELAND Sept. 21 - Oct. 2, 2021

For those itching to travel again, Otterbein has tentative plans for an alumni tour to Ireland. More details to come.



To the Class of 2020

Welcome to the alumni family!

We look forward to celebrating with you in person and seeing you walk across the stage in full academic regalia. You've joined an exclusive alumni community, and we are proud to call you alumni. Go Cards!

Alumni Matters.



COVERING THE CRISIS

A new program hit TVs in Ohio in March and quickly became so popular it is the subject of international news articles, memes, t-shirts and even a song or two. That program is Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's daily coronavirus briefings, live every weekday at 2 p.m. Three Otterbein alumni have been actively involved in the program — Statehouse News Bureau Chief **Karen Kasler '89** and Statehouse News Reporter **Andy Chow '08** are on Ohio's PBS and NPR stations every day with live coverage of the briefings; and **Megan Wycuff '11** is deputy director for *The Ohio Channel*, the broadcasting arm of Statehouse News, which airs the daily briefing. **Andrew Tobias '08** also covers the Ohio Statehouse and Gov. DeWine's briefings for Cleveland.com.

Pictured (left to right) is Andy Chow, Megan Wycuff, and Karen Kasler in the studio of *The Ohio Channel* at the Ohio Statehouse.

Alumni on the Frontlines

CARDINALS ARE OFFERING ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO THEIR COMMUNITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC.

When Otterbein alumni graduate, they go into their communities inspired to make a difference. Today, alumni across the country are contributing to the fight against the coronavirus in many ways. From the healthcare providers, researchers or first responders who are working to overcome the virus to the teachers who are educating our children during the most difficult circumstances — and everything in between. Their service to the greater good is needed and appreciated now more than ever.



SALUTING OUR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

From nurses like **Sophie Allen Wei '19** (left), who is caring for COVID-19 patients at Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca, NY, to researchers like Sophie's husband, **Derek Wei '19** (below), a grad student at Cornell testing antiviral drugs against the virus, Otterbein alumni are making a difference in the lives of people directly impacted by the virus.



DRAWING WITH MR. J

When **Jonathan Juravich '05** (left) was named Ohio Teacher of the Year in 2018, his passion for art education found a wider audience. Now his online series, *Drawing with Mr. J*, is reaching out to students wherever they are during this health crisis, engaging them in short, themed drawing challenges to promote social and emotional skills. [wosu.org/classroom/drawing-with-mr-j/](https://www.wosu.org/classroom/drawing-with-mr-j/)

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Karen Persson Whalen '67

PLANNING FORWARD

In Times of Uncertainty

**These days, it can be
difficult to anticipate what
the future may hold.**

**We thank the members of our 1847 Society,
who have a firm understanding of their
legacy at Otterbein.**

*Each has made an investment in Otterbein's future
through a planned estate gift.*

*Estate gifts are a bridge to the future for Otterbein
University and its students.*

*With their commitments, our 1847 Society members
ensure that Otterbein's educational mission will not
only endure, but flourish. We celebrate their
generosity and foresight.*

**For questions about The 1847 Society,
or to share your plans with Otterbein,
please contact us.**



Kathleen Bonte
Executive Director, Development

(614) 823-2707
kbonte@otterbein.edu



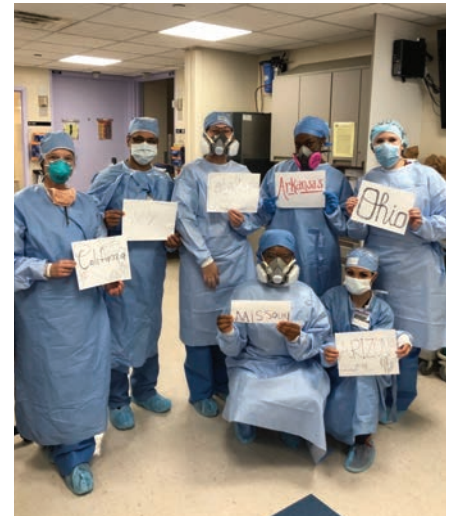
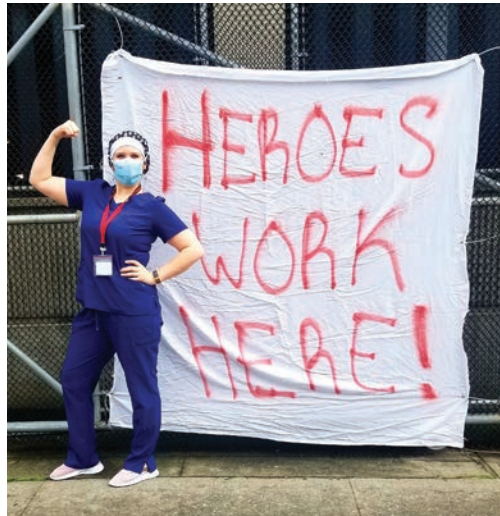
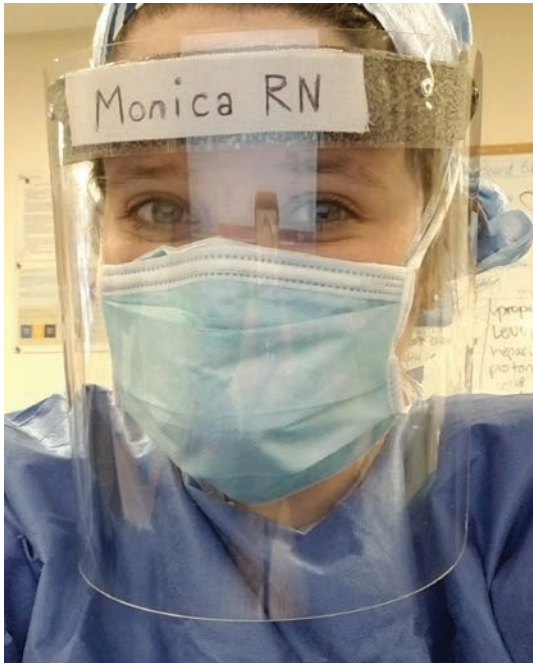
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A Life-Changing Perspective

In April, Monica Arce '21, a senior nurse anesthesia student in the Graduate Nursing program at Otterbein, volunteered to work in the fight against COVID-19 as a frontline ICU nurse in New York City. Arce says after working 12-hour shifts for 21 straight days, she was “honored to work alongside some of the bravest, most knowledgeable and inventive nurses I have ever met.” Visit Towers Online to read more of Arce’s heroic personal account and the Otterbein values that shape her. www.otterbein.edu/towers