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Otterbein Towers

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FALL 2021



SHAPING

THE

FUTURE

OF



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

The Importance of Inclusion | Return of Broadway | Non-Profit Leaders | Legacies and Beginnings

From the President.



Dear Friends,

Working at Otterbein, you get a very real sense of history. While students, faculty, and staff are doing important work every day, I am keenly aware none of it would be possible without those who came before. We work in buildings provided by past donors, teach in programs developed by former faculty, make decisions in a shared governance system designed generations back, and even the names of those who made it possible are always in front of us – on buildings, on pavers, on plaques, and on many scholarships.

Otterbein has been built, literally and figuratively, by those who came before.

This has felt especially relevant lately as we have seen several transitions. We have seen faculty and staff retirements, including many “legends” who I know will be talked about by alumni for decades to come. I cannot list them all here, but their impact spans generations.

We have a new board chair, and I’m especially proud to say it is our first female chair in the history of Otterbein. Cheryl Herbert is a career non-profit leader and is as dedicated to Otterbein as anyone I know. We are lucky to have her at the helm.

Legacy of Leadership: (L to R) President Emerita Kathy A. Krendl, President Emeritus C. Brent DeVore, President Emeritus Thomas J. Kerr, President John L. Comerford.

We thanked Mark Thresher ’78 for a remarkable 21 years on the board, including the last eight as chair. Countless buildings, programs, and other important moments in our University history occurred on his watch and he left Otterbein better than he found it.

And last, but certainly not least, we saw the passing of President Emeritus Tom Kerr H’84. I could not imagine a humbler and more supportive leader. He assumed the presidency in 1971 at the age of 37 after arriving on campus as an assistant professor just eight years prior. He served Otterbein until 1984, but he and his wife, Donna H’15, remained a key part of the campus community. You would see them at everything and we certainly missed Tom at Homecoming this year.

It’s now our job to build for the future. And that future is bright. We saw a significant rebound in our incoming class this year after seeing lower pandemic-related enrollment last year. And it is yet another record-breaking year for student diversity. We have a new strategic plan, including commitments to launch innovative new programs. We are finally moving forward with renovations to the heart of our community – the Campus Center. Thanks to you, we are seeing a jump in gifts to support all these efforts and our students.

We can honor the legacy of those who faithfully served before by working together to ensure a stronger future for Otterbein. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

John L. Comerford, Ph.D.

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Otterbein Towers

VOLUME 94 NUMBER 2

FALL 2021



CARDINALS ON CAMPUS

Tau Delta and Kappa Phi Omega Sororities celebrated 100 years at Homecoming and Family Weekend!

Check out more of the 2021 Homecoming and Family Weekend fun online at www.otterbein.edu/towers.

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As some of Otterbein's most dedicated and beloved instructors retire, new faculty members are just starting to make their mark at Otterbein.

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Professor Suzanne Ashworth reflects on the importance of committing to relationships built on inclusion and acceptance.

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The inspiring stories of two alumni who use their life experiences to help others as leaders of non-profits.

16 **Thresher Leaves a Legacy of Leadership**

Mark Thresher '78 ends his impactful tenure as chair of the Otterbein Board of Trustees, and Cheryl Herbert, senior vice president of regional operations at OhioHealth, becomes the first female board chair for the University.

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Read, hear and experience more of these stories online.

www.otterbein.edu/towers

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Otterbein Student Government Welcomes First Latinx President

The Otterbein student body elected two women to serve as the Otterbein University Student Government president and vice president for 2021-2022 – including the first Latinx president to lead the organization. President Joseline Martinez-Cortez '22 and Vice President Cayla Andrick '22 share their visions and hopes for the Otterbein community.

"We want to make sure to pay special attention to university transparency, diversity, student involvement, and mental health, as we begin to heal from the difficult pandemic semesters we've had recently," Martinez-Cortez said. "Something near and dear to my heart is diversity and making sure that we are constantly working towards those goals and keeping our community accountable."

Andrick said their team of officers is poised to achieve great things. "The combined backgrounds, as well as our willingness to meet other students in the middle, make us able to represent all of campus," she said.

Vice President Cayla Andrick '22 and President Joseline Martinez-Cortez '22 (pictured L to R).

Westerville Community Diversity Leader Connects with Otterbein

The new executive director of Westerville for Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Engagement (WeRISE) has moved into an office provided by Otterbein's Office of Social Justice and Activism.

WeRISE Executive Director Renée Thompson points to Otterbein President John Comerford's words of how "we can do so much more when we are not siloed" in her vision for the organization, which was established with assistance from Otterbein, the City of Westerville, Westerville City Schools, and the Westerville Public Library.

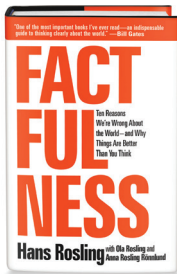
"Being on campus and having the opportunity to learn from and work with young people is so important. These are the future leaders for our world, and they are not afraid to affect changes they see needing to happen. This campus space is the perfect fit for WeRISE," Thompson said.



WeRISE
FOR GREATER WESTERVILLE

Common Book Program Welcomes Anna Rosling Rönnlund

The 2021 Common Book is *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong about the World—and Why Things Are Better than You Think*. Swedish physician and academic Hans Rosling



collaborated with his son, Ola, and daughter-in-law, Anna, on the book, which was published after his death in 2017. In *Factfulness*, the Roslings argue against assumptions that we make based on preconceived “instincts,” and they outline the instincts that prevent us from recognizing facts. The authors conclude that our resulting negative view of the world — on topics like poverty, natural disaster, and the environment — can be corrected and made more positive if we recognize our biases and

respond with logic. Anna Rosling Rönnlund will discuss the book at the annual convocation on Oct. 26.

Otterbein Starts Grant-Funded Work on Sexual Violence Prevention

Last fall, Otterbein was awarded a \$298,658 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) to improve prevention education, awareness, and victim-survivor services in response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (DVSAS) in the Otterbein community.

According to Associate Professor Kristy McCray, “The OVW grant gives us the resources needed to truly shift the campus culture in how we both respond to and work to prevent DVSAS by working as a community. Together with the Westerville Police Department and the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO), Otterbein will create a Coordinated Community Response team (CCR).”

Grant Director Susan Wismar is overseeing the effort, which includes representatives from Student Affairs, Human Resources (Title IX), the President's Office, Otterbein Police, Academic Affairs, and more.

A look at the **Class of 2025**

570

NEW FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

MEN **43%**

WOMEN **57%**

28%

students
of color

LARGEST %
FOR EIGHTH
CONSECUTIVE
YEAR



45%

have college credit

34%

Pell eligible
students

FROM 26 STATES +
NORWAY, BRAZIL, AND VIETNAM

Most popular majors for this class:

STEM majors; Nursing; Business, Accounting,
and Economics; Zoo and Conservation Science

OVERALL RETENTION IS UP THIS YEAR!

80.2%

Retention of male students increased by 6% to 82%



Otterbein Makes Big Jump in *U.S. News*, Earns Honors in National Publications

Otterbein University has been collecting honors this fall, as it is recognized in national publications for its programs and values, including *U.S. News & World Report*, *Colleges of Distinction*, and *Washington Monthly*.

In the *U.S. News & World Report* 2022 edition of “America’s Best Colleges,” Otterbein jumped from 21st place to 12th, placing it in the top 8% among 157 peers in the Regional Universities–Midwest category. Along with its overall ranking, Otterbein was recognized on these lists: Best Undergraduate Teaching, Best Value School A+ School for B Students, Top Undergraduate Nursing Programs, and Top Performers on Social Mobility. The entire survey can be viewed at usnews.com/best-colleges.

Additionally, Otterbein has once again been recognized as one of the nation’s *Colleges of Distinction*, with program-specific recognition in Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing, and Career Development.

Thanks to the ongoing voting registration and education efforts led by a non-partisan, student-run campus group called Raise Your Voice, Otterbein has been named one of “America’s Best Colleges for Student Voting 2021” by *Washington Monthly* and a “Voter Friendly Campus” by the Campus Vote Project.

Student Fellows Creating Open Dialogue About Race through Oral History Project

Four student fellows are working with faculty mentors to collect oral histories of alumni who are People of Color (POC) in a unique project for Otterbein’s Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) Campus Center.

Over the summer, the students conducted phone or virtual video interviews with alumni about their experiences before coming to campus, while they were enrolled, while participating in student activities, and when interacting with the community of Westerville. The calls were recorded to be transcribed and archived by the Courtright Memorial Library for future academic use, and the project will continue into 2022.

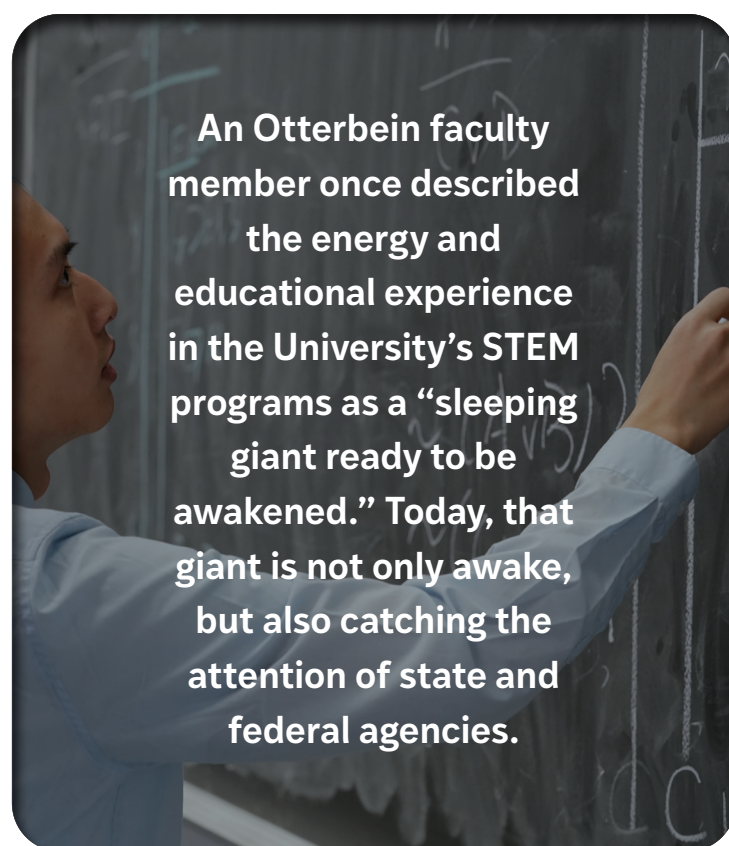
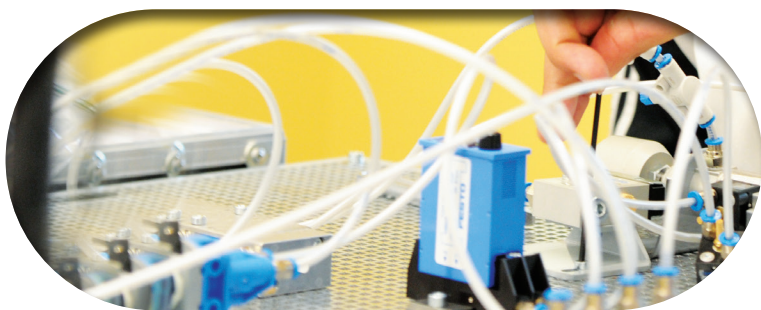
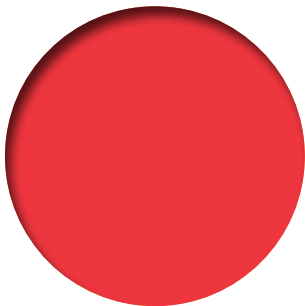
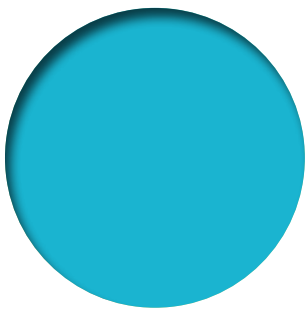
A TIME TO CELEBRATE

175th Anniversary

Next year marks Otterbein's 175th year
and we're counting on you to join us
for events, to claim your Cardinal pride,
and remember that the year 2022 means it's
a time to celebrate.

[OTTERBEIN.EDU/175](https://otterbein.edu/175)





STEM Students Set Up for Success



By Grace Weidenhamer '23



Grace Weidenhamer '23 is a health communication and public relations major from Westerville, Ohio. She plays on the Otterbein women's soccer team and is on the executive board of Otterbein's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA).

In the past year, Otterbein has received major grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, NSF S-STEM Program, Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, and Howard Hughes Medical Institution. These grants mean far more than just dollars, and recognize Otterbein's academically strong STEM programs, as well as the University's purposeful work to diversify STEM fields.

From preparing education majors to teach STEM subjects in under-served schools to creating more opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to major in STEM areas of study, Otterbein is strengthening STEM professions as a whole with the support of these grants.

"Otterbein STEM includes a dynamic, dedicated community of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians that provide a rigorous, hands-on curriculum for students interested in a wide variety of fields," said Sarah Bouchard, professor of biology and earth science.

Otterbein has a long history of experiential learning. Educational techniques incorporating hands-on learning and real-world applications can be found in most disciplines across campus. STEM education at Otterbein is taking experiential learning to a whole new level and STEM professors are leading the charge.



"You'll typically find our STEM students conducting research in the lab or field, presenting at scientific conferences, interning with one of our many university partners, or shadowing medical professionals in local hospitals and clinics," said Bouchard. "These opportunities, coupled with our challenging coursework, mean that students graduate with the skills and experience needed for whatever comes next."

STEM education at Otterbein connects teamwork, analytical thinking, and 21st century jobs, equipping Otterbein graduates with valuable skills to become future leaders and innovators. The grants open these opportunities to students who may not otherwise pursue these careers.

"Otterbein should be on the radar as a STEM school,"

said Mike Hudoba, assistant professor of engineering. Hudoba is the team lead on the Choose Ohio First grant.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Brigitte Ramos agrees. She is the team lead for one of the two NSF grants, which supports recruitment and retention of students from under-represented populations in STEM fields through Otterbein's Cardinal Science Scholars (CSS) program.

"The program is much more than the scholarship money," she said of the CSS. "We offer programmatic support."

The programmatic support Ramos cites provides opportunities outside of the classroom that will prepare students to enter the workforce. The program includes a seminar course where students will gain interview, communication, and relationship building skills, as well as professional development.

"The seminar is one tool," Ramos said, "but we will also be setting up what we call a mentorship triad, where our students will be linked with an upper-level student in their program as well as a professional."

Students will also be placed in an internship or a research experience after completing their first year in order to get a leg up in their field of study.

Some goals of the Otterbein STEM programs include building a community of STEM students, creating diversity in the STEM fields, and building connections with alumni, faculty, and industry professionals.

Kayne Kirby '02 graduated with a mathematics degree and now works as Grange Insurance's director of personal lines pricing.

"Reflecting back on the importance of my Otterbein experience, I had some influential people who were able to help shape me," Kirby said. "They put me in touch with alumni that could help me make that transition from Otterbein into my career."

Hugh Allen '62, pediatric cardiology professor at Baylor Texas Children's Hospital, sees a powerful combination in Otterbein's liberal arts tradition and STEM education.

"Otterbein allowed me to become a well-rounded individual and educator," Allen said. "A liberal arts education while studying science is better than just a science education."

Engineering graduate Abby Zerkle '21, said **"I think the Engineering Department is really something special. Yes, I gained important knowledge in the classroom, but I also learned how to become a confident, thoughtful, and ethical engineer. If it weren't for Otterbein and the experiences I had there I wouldn't be where I am right now. I am thankful for my time at Otterbein."**

For more information about Otterbein's STEM offerings visit www.otterbein.edu/COF.

COME FROM AWAY COMES BACK



Randy Adams '76

Randy Adams '76 is an accomplished Broadway producer with two Tony Award-winning productions under his belt, including *Come From Away*. Towers spoke with the producer of the acclaimed musical that tells a story of hope during the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001.

Where were you when it was announced that Broadway was closing due to the pandemic?

I was in the air coming back to New York City from London when I received word that Broadway would be shut down for a minimum of four weeks. We had just replaced part of the cast for the second year of the London production and celebrated their opening night performance the prior evening. Within five days, all productions of *Come From Away* were shuttered around the world. Melbourne, Australia, was the first to return on Jan. 19, 2021.

Broadway closed its 41 playhouses in March 2020 amid the global pandemic and reopened on Sept. 21, 2021, when *Come From Away* returned to the stage 20 years to the month after the events that inspired it.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11, members of the cast performed a free concert staging of the musical at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and a filmed version of the staged production that was released on Apple TV+, both on Sept. 10.

How has the closure of Broadway during the pandemic impacted the theater industry?

In the blink of an eye, everyone was unemployed. All the people associated with a Broadway show — actors, musicians, crew, stage managers, ushers, maintenance people, theater cleaners, box office personnel, marketing teams, general management and company management teams, dry cleaners, playbill printers, and on and on — went from working non-stop hours to nothing. All touring across America stopped. The number of people who lost jobs overnight was staggering. Broadway is a driver of tourism as well, so hotels, restaurants, and stores were also devastated. It will take time to recover all of it, but hopefully we will.

COME FROM AWAY TO BROADWAY



Do you think *Come From Away* takes on new relevance today?

I am fortunate that *Come From Away* is about kindness and goodness and taking care of people when they needed it most. It is an uplifting and energizing story at any time.

I find now that it is even more relevant because of what we have all collectively experienced this past year, during which people did extraordinary things. The people of Newfoundland still don't think they did anything special. They think, "We just took care of people when they needed help — isn't that what we are all supposed to do?" Indeed, it is what we all hope we would do in the same situation, and I think many people experienced it this past year in many ways — big and small!

How does the reopening of Broadway provide hope?

Theater people are the most resilient people in the world. The energy that will be in those theaters when they have their first performances will be the most amazing thing people have ever seen. The world is hungry for live performance and connection with people again. I think the reopening of Broadway safely is a giant boon to all arts and the city of New York. I most look forward to what new art, new

shows were created during this pandemic or post-pandemic.

Hopefully, Broadway and the tours will come back stronger than ever. Hopefully, all people will return safely with new protocols to make sure people on stage, backstage, and front of house can do their jobs and be safe and healthy.

Adams says he believes New York will come back better than ever and he hopes Broadway and the arts will be the crown jewel of the city. Explore your chance to meet Adams and see *Come From Away* on page 22.



What message does *Come From Away* impart to its audience?

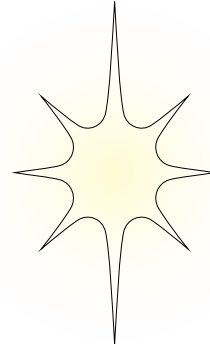
Come From Away is based on the true story of when the airspace over the United States was closed due to 9/11 and 37 planes holding around 7,000 people landed in Gander, Newfoundland, Canada, a town of about 8,000 people. They welcomed the passengers and took care of them for five days. During this challenging time, people found love, laughter, and new hope in the unlikely and lasting bonds they forged. Kindness and generosity of spirit are great gifts at any time but during times of need are the most important gifts.



More from this story on Towers Online at:
www.otterbein.edu/towers.

Passing *the*

*Retiring faculty leave
behind a legacy for new
faculty to continue*



By
Madelyn Nelson '23

Light

As students and alumni know well, Otterbein faculty members do more than lecture behind a podium. Faculty devote their lives to guiding their students through mentorship, research, networking, and other support that often extends beyond graduation. The work of Otterbein's faculty members leaves a timeless impression on students and often shapes the direction of their careers and lives.

At the end of the 2021 academic year, seven highly respected and long-serving faculty members retired. Between them, they committed a combined 201 years of service crafting Otterbein students to go into the world and make a difference.

These retirees are passing the light of learning onto newer faculty members, ensuring the Otterbein experience they helped to build will continue for generations to come.

Also retiring but not profiled is Professor Lou Rose, who joined the faculty of the Department of History and Political Science in 1991. Rose continues to serve as the executive director of the Sigmund Freud Archives, a role he has held since 2015.



Barbara Schaffner

*Associate Provost, Graduate School
Professor, Department of Nursing*

Among the group of retirees, the longest-serving faculty member is Barbara Schaffner. She began her career at Otterbein in 1985 and, for the past 36 years, has worked in the Department of Nursing and The Graduate School, helping countless students leave Otterbein ready to serve others.

As a pediatric nurse and nurse practitioner, Schaffner's favorite courses were the clinical related courses that taught child health at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Additionally, Schaffner has advised and advocated for young faculty through the years. She has the following words of wisdom for new faculty:

"My advice would be to maximize your reach as faculty through the department into campus-wide activities, so you understand and participate in the full campus experience. Use all the expert educators on campus for ideas, mentoring, and to provide you with constructive feedback on teaching and working with students."



Madelyn Nelson '23 is a public relations major from Coshocton, OH. She is involved with the Student Alumni Board, Host and Tour Program, and Sigma Alpha Tau. She is an intern in Otterbein's Office of Marketing and Communications.

John Kengla

*Senior Instructor, Leadership
Studies Program*

John Kengla has been instrumental in deepening Otterbein's involvement with Columbus City Schools (CCS) over the years.

"In 1989, along with members of Otterbein's Education Department, I established the Linmoor-Otterbein Scholars Program, which engaged students attending Columbus City Schools' Linmoor Middle School in summer programs emphasizing learning and attending college," he said.

He also established the Ubuntu Mentoring Program (2006-2016), which brought CCS students to campus for mentoring sessions and dinner with college students. "By centering our program on group mentoring, the Ubuntu Mentoring Program was able, over the 10-year period, to serve students attending six CCS middle schools and two CCS high schools."

When reflecting on the footprint he left at Otterbein, Kengla wants to be remembered for his teaching of First Year Seminar, Senior Year Experience, and Integrative Studies courses, along with helping Columbus City Schools students learn about future opportunities and college.



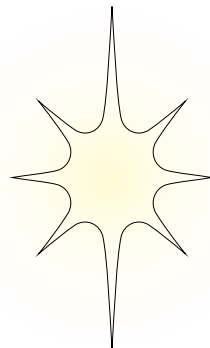
Glenna Jackson

*Professor, Department of Religion
and Philosophy*

Glenna Jackson wants her legacy to encompass inclusivity and scholarship. "Otterbein and I have been a great match. It has strengthened me, and I hope I did the same."

Her favorite memory is seeing her students make connections – especially during her time in Africa watching her students' minds at work through educational trips.

Her advice for new faculty is: "The most important thing is to be excited and passionate about teaching and your particular discipline. There is a ripple effect from enthusiasm from a leader onto whomever is being led, particularly in a classroom. Excitement is contagious."



Denise Shively

*Senior Instructor, Department of
Communication*

During her Otterbein career, Denise Shively has been deeply committed to experiential learning. She has taken students on trips to serve across Ohio, the United States, and even Africa to expand their education while enriching the lives of others.

"Some of my favorite times have been with First Year Seminar students in New Orleans when we worked on painting houses following Hurricane Katrina; working with colleague John Kengla and Senior Year Experience students serving breakfast at So Others Might Eat in Washington, D.C.; and helping build a classroom block at a school in Nkhoma Village in Malawi with Integrative Studies students and Glenna Jackson."

She has left a tremendous mark on campus and outside of the classroom, she has impacted the entire Otterbein community with her caring spirit. "I would love for students, colleagues and alumni to remember how I care deeply about them as individuals and Otterbein as an institution."

of Learning

Regina Kengla

Senior Instructor, Coordinator of Writing Services and Supplemental Instruction, Academic Support Center

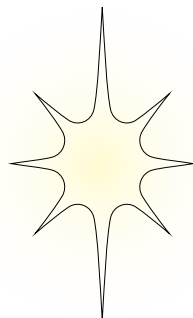
Regina Kengla has played an invaluable role providing extra-curricular academic support to students to help them succeed in their classes and teaching Integrative Studies courses and courses related to her work



in the Academic Support Center.

"I love teaching Integrative Studies, Argumentative Writing – all the courses I've taught. Groups in my Integrative Studies class designed service-learning projects, and it was exciting to see them bond, create their projects, and develop their understanding of and commitment to the public good," Kengla said.

She sees the Otterbein community come together when her past students connect with current students. "I have so many good memories of my students, and several have come back to meet with my current students, like Valentina Dixon '13, who has worked tirelessly to tell of her father's wrongful incarceration; Bertha Jaramillo-Alfaro '19, currently a paralegal focusing on immigration, constitutional, family, and civil rights; and Tony Bishop '15, whose work in politics led to him becoming the executive director of the Ohio Black Caucus."



New Faces, Same Commitment

As beloved faculty members retire, new members are making their mark. In their relatively short time on campus, these professors have made a big impact.

Aida Odobasic, assistant professor in the Department of Business, Accounting, and Economics, was named the 2021 New Teacher of the Year at Otterbein. She describes her teaching philosophy as

being centered on creating an atmosphere in which students feel empowered, engaged, and ready to take ownership of deep and meaningful learning.

"I enjoy Otterbein's close-knit community where I was able to feel at home relatively quickly after I joined in 2018. Also, I enjoy working on projects, events, and in committees with colleagues across different departments and disciplines," she said.

Odobasic loves to teach Principles of Microeconomics and challenges her students to develop critical thinking by asking thought-provoking economics questions.

"It is exciting since it is typically the first time students are exposed to the field of economics and some find it fascinating and decide to take more economics classes. I love those moments."



In only two years, **Alexander Rocklin**, assistant professor in the Department of Religion and Philosophy, has developed a new major for students, opening more opportunities within his department.

"At Otterbein, I have had the opportunity to create an exciting new interdisciplinary major, philosophy and religion. In our major, we ask big questions and develop skills in conversing across differences of worldview and life experience – giving students a deeper understanding of the views of peoples around the world and helping them develop their own answers along the way."



Terry Hermesen

Professor, Department of English

Terry Hermesen taught poetry, composition, and literature at Otterbein, and was named Ohio's co-Poet of the Year for 2009 for his book, *The River's Daughter*.

He often incorporated his passion for sustainability into his work on- and off-campus, and hopes his legacy at Otterbein will reflect that. "I hope that I will be remembered for my efforts to encourage genuine climate change action on our campus and in our region."

Hermesen's words of wisdom for new faculty are: "Dream big ... and seek connections with faculty in other departments. My favorite part of teaching at Otterbein was the willingness of colleagues – and students! – in other departments to collaborate on interdisciplinary projects."

Stay With Us: On Inclusion

“Two or three things I know for sure, and one of them is how long it takes to learn to love yourself ...” — Dorothy Allison

By Susanne Ashworth



Early this summer, I was at a stoplight, distracted with thoughts about work and the grocery list. I missed the light change. The driver behind me laid on the horn. I hit the gas and waved, “I’m sorry.” But my delay ignited fury. The car stayed dangerously close to my rear bumper. The horn blared. I could see the driver shouting at me through the windshield.

Another red light. The car pulled up next to me. The driver rolled down the window and raged. I gripped the steering wheel and waited it out. When the car finally sped away, confusion and fear twisted my stomach. We can be so wounded by a stranger’s cruelties.

It’s worse, of course, when it’s someone we know. Someone we love. It’s worse when it’s a friend, a co-worker, a teacher, a teammate. It’s worse when the people we call home deny our humanity. We can be so wounded by rejection, disrespect, and discrimination.

After I came out, my sister didn’t speak to me for almost a year. My parents tried to be accepting and supportive, but I felt the discomfort and judgements they circled. And I needed to say I’m sorry I didn’t tell you sooner, to explain that I was afraid of unbearable losses and stayed quiet.

But we got through it. With love, patience, and empathy. We are closer now, our connections more honest and authentic. We didn’t let go. We stayed. Even when it got hard.

Inclusion is important because in

its absence there is exclusion. Disconnection. Unbelonging. Inclusion is important because in its absence there is pain. But we heal in and through relationships. I remember the first time I felt completely safe with another human being. I remember the first time I felt completely known and completely loved.

**You are safe here,
you belong here. This community
wants you to find understanding,
acceptance, your people,
and yourself here.**

You are home.

”

I remember finding place and purpose at Otterbein. From that openness, I learned to love myself.

Inclusion creates relationships of healing. I try to teach – and live – from that truth. Otterbein’s commitment to inclusion is a promise we make to each other. With it, we say, “You are safe here, you belong here. This community wants you to find understanding, acceptance, your people, and your self here. You are home.”

Still, how do we do that? How do we do inclusion? How do we make an inclusive world?

There are lots of different answers to those questions. Many focus on simple acts of caring: a sincere “how are you,” asking for someone’s perspective on an issue, reinforcing shared experiences. For me, the “how” is also more fundamental than that. It goes deeper than that. It works through two interdependent capacities. An ability to stay and to stay with. “With” as in together, attentive to, and in respect to. Stay with a person, stay with a newness, stay with a difference. When we stay, we hold space for each other. We commit to being in relationship across misapprehensions and difficulty. We know that there is always more to discover, more to learn. We trust that more understanding will come in time.

And true understanding happens only through grace, humility, and compassion.



Suzanne Ashworth, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of English and the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. She recently was awarded the 2021 Ohio LGBTQ+ Leadership Award by the Ohio Diversity Council.

AN AUTHENTIC CALL TO SERVE

By
CATIE DUZZNY '21
and
JULIA GRIMM '22

**How do people find their calling — their passion to serve?
For these alumni, some of it came from personal challenges
and pain. With insight, support, and experiences from Otterbein,
they found themselves and the inspiration to help others.**

Please note: This story includes content related to suicide and self-harm.

"ONE of the things I have learned over time is that you only have control over so much. Every decision you make in life should come from your authentic self," said Tyler TerMeer '05, CEO of the Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) in Portland, OR.

Growing up, TerMeer struggled to understand his racial identity, sexual orientation, and gender identity. His journey to becoming his most authentic self began at Otterbein University.

As a theatre design and technology major, TerMeer once dreamed of becoming a production stage manager. During his senior year his life took a new direction when, at the age of 21, he was diagnosed with HIV.

This diagnosis would not stop his ambitions, but it did shift his focus — it was important to continue to live life as a strong and inspiring openly gay man of color and a powerful voice in advocating HIV policy.

**"The people around me taught me
that I was going to live..."**

"When I learned of my HIV diagnosis, I did not know what my future would be. The people around me taught me that I was going to live and empowered me to be the best version of myself," TerMeer said.

Soon after graduating, a unique opportunity came along to start a small retail clothing business, which he ran for six years before taking his career in a new direction. After receiving support and services from a local HIV



Tyler TerMeer '05

organization, he decided to put his efforts into helping "those living with HIV have the best chance at living and thriving with their disease."

Over the next several years, he worked for HIV-focused non-profits in Ohio, Arizona, Washington, D.C., and finally Portland, OR, where he leads CAP.

"I saw this amazingly progressive, well-respected non-profit that had so much potential. I had seen an amazing transformation beginning to happen in Portland and I wanted to be a part of it," said TerMeer.

CAP provides compassionate and inclusive health and wellness services to the LGBTQ+ community, those affected by HIV, and others. Recently, CAP opened the PRISM Health clinic.

"This new healthcare experience was designed for and by queer people to be a resource that is life-affirming and life-changing for LGBTQ+ people," said TerMeer.

In recognition of his many contributions to the community and those around him, TerMeer was recently named the 2021 Executive of the Year by the *Portland Business Journal*.

"Life throws curveballs both good and bad," said TerMeer. "It's up to us to be open to a new unexpected journey."

THESE ALUMNI USE THEIR LIFE EXPERIENCES TO HELP OTHERS AS LEADERS OF NON-PROFITS.

WHEN *the virtual meeting starts, the two 10th-grade football players aren't saying much, but the meeting leader, Amber Horton '16, keeps trying to connect with them as they work on their art project about Black History Month.*

"Where are we with cutting out our letters?" asks Horton.

"I'm on 'C,'" responds the one student with his video on.

After an excruciating pause, a shy student puts in the chat, "A."

Horton knows how tough it is for teens, especially those who struggle with mental health issues, to express themselves. That is why she wanted to create an outlet for students and co-founded findingBLANK in 2017 in Cleveland with her mother, Debbie. Along with several volunteers, she plans and administers after-school and pop-up programs for grades K-12.

"...I can give teens the tools to express themselves..."

Her awareness for this issue grew from a painful place back in high school with a friend who spread lies about her. Once a social butterfly, Horton would walk into empty classrooms, early for every class because no one would talk to her.

"I felt like no one would miss me. I took a handful of pills, and I thought that would have ended it all," said Horton.

Fortunately, Horton's mother found her and took her to the emergency room. A psychiatric hospitalization became the turning point in Horton's life.



Amber Horton '16

She graduated from high school and enrolled at Otterbein, where she majored in sociology with minors in psychology and anthropology. A life-changing study abroad trip made her decide to start her own non-profit, findingBLANK, after she graduated.

"I feel like if I can give teens the tools to express themselves ... through writing poetry, or journaling, or painting, or creating music, or dance movements," said Horton, "that's a way for them to not only express themselves, but also connect to other people to combat a lot of the issues that they're going through."

"It's relaxing," says a boy as he glues letters to a poster board. He's soon telling Horton he has a job at a restaurant, he plays football, he's curious about why slavery started in the first place, and that George Floyd's death made him afraid of the police.

The student holds up his finished art. Yellow letters spelling "Black" are dotted with small, cut-out pictures. Pieces of paper with "BLM" and "We want peace" stand out in greens and yellows against the black poster board.

He says, "I'm going to hang this in my room."



Catie Duzzny '21 graduated from Otterbein with a bachelor's degree in public relations. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in business administration in Otterbein's Graduate School.



Julia Grimm '22 is a double major in public relations and journalism and media communication. She is an active member of Otterbein's PRSSA chapter and is editor-in-chief of T&C Magazine.

Thresher Leaves Legacy of Leadership



After serving 21 years as a member of the Otterbein University Board of Trustees, with eight of those as chair, Mark Thresher '78 has retired. He leaves behind a legacy of impact for generations of students and employees to come.

"My wife, Debbie '77, and I always had a focus on education. Being on the board of Otterbein provided us the opportunity to extend our interest to a different group of kids," said Thresher. "Since myself, my wife, our daughter, and son-in-law are all alumni, it was the right place for us to give back."

Thresher joined the board as a respected leader in the central Ohio business community. His connections and experience helped facilitate the development of The Point, which has transformed the University's ability to recruit and retain students. This, in turn, helped give space and inspiration to a new Department of Engineering and provide robust on-campus experiential learning opportunities. These new additions to campus are some of his proudest accomplishments.

"Mark was always a champion for new ideas and possibilities," said President Emerita Kathy Krendl. "He was consistently supportive of the work and innovations Otterbein wanted to accomplish. His expertise was a major factor in securing the future of the institution."

In addition to The Point, Thresher was also on the steering committee for the Clements Recreation and Fitness Center and supported building and renovation projects for the Art and Communication Building, Shear-McFadden Science Center, Austin E. Knowlton Center for Equine Science, Memorial Stadium, new track and turf, and two residence halls.

Thresher has been a key part in aligning Otterbein's academic offerings with evolving market demands through the introduction of new programs. During his tenure, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, Zoo and Conservation Science, and Engineering programs were all established, giving Otterbein students new avenues towards a successful post-graduation life and career.

"Mark's best talent is that it isn't about him," said President Emeritus Brent DeVore. "He is first and foremost on the side helping our campus community achieve the ultimate goal of student success. He puts his ego in his pocket and provides much needed guidance."

Current Otterbein President John Comerford has felt fortunate to have Thresher as board chair. "Mark has a remarkable legacy at Otterbein. His time on the Board has been hugely impactful. Everyone has benefited from Mark's passion for Otterbein and unique ability to lead boldly and collaboratively," he said.

Otterbein University would like to welcome the newest members to the Board:

Rev. April Casperson '03, director, diversity and inclusion, Connectional Ministries, United Methodist Church West Ohio Conference

Dr. Talisa Dixon, superintendent of Columbus City Schools

Greg Jordan, senior vice president and chief audit executive, Nationwide

Kathryn Stephens '97, executive vice president, marketing and development, at The Buckeye Ranch (Alumni Council trustee)

Hannah Sturgeon '23, student trustee

John Tansey, Ph.D., professor, Department of Chemistry (faculty trustee)



Otterbein would like to thank the following Board of Trustees members for their service. We are grateful for the leadership and commitment they shared with the University.

Rev. Larry Brown '80
Jocelyn Curry '78
Joan Esson, Ph.D.
Meredith Marshall '21

"My hope is that every graduate leaves Otterbein on the path to make a difference in the world," Thresher said.

Thresher has no doubt that his successor to board chair, Cheryl Herbert, will continue to grow Otterbein along with the success of Cardinals of the future.

Herbert Steps Up as First Female Chair

Succeeding Thresher as chair of the Otterbein Board of Trustees is Cheryl L. Herbert, the first female to hold that role at the University. Herbert served as the vice chair under Thresher.

"I'm honored to be the next chair of the Board of Trustees," Herbert said. "Chair Thresher has left a big legacy to live up to, but I'm ready to take on that challenge and help position Otterbein for continued and future success."

Comerford said Herbert is poised for success in her new position. "Cheryl has shown true engagement as a board member, committee chair, and vice chair. She has been, and will continue to be, an excellent leader for Otterbein," he said.



Herbert has over 30 years of experience in the healthcare industry. She is a nurse whose career began at St. Ann's Hospital before it moved to Westerville. She has held executive administrative positions at multiple hospitals and now serves as a senior vice president at OhioHealth.

Herbert earned her bachelor's degree from Capital University and master's degree in business administration from Ashland University. She is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, has served on numerous community

Boards, and works as a volunteer in her community.

"I'm excited to see the directions Cheryl will take the University," said Thresher.



Mary B. Thomas '28 Commitment to Otterbein Award Winners

Alan Goff '75 and Coral Harris are deeply committed to Otterbein and making a difference in the lives of our campus community and beyond. After relocating from Maine to Westerville in 2018, the couple fully immersed themselves into life on campus. Together they embrace Otterbein's work toward creating a model community of leaders and learners and they epitomize what it means to work collaboratively with the University and its faculty, students, and staff.

Goff and Harris have been advocates for a number of causes, from sustainability to lifelong learning to COVID-19 support and more. Their involvement and philanthropic

Grants, Corporate and Foundation Support

The Vida S. Clements Foundation

Otterbein remains grateful for the ongoing generosity of the **Vida S. Clements Foundation**, which recently pledged \$30,000 to support the Department of Chemistry with replacing its nuclear magnetic resonance equipment. The Foundation also made a \$3,000 gift to support digitization initiatives for Otterbein's archives, in addition to support for the "O" Club.

 The Council of
Independent Colleges

Network for
Vocation in
Undergraduate
Education

The Mary B. Thomas '28 Commitment to Otterbein Award was established by President Emerita Kathy Krendl and the University Board of Trustees to recognize extraordinary philanthropic leadership, service, and advancement of Otterbein's mission. It is the highest honor Otterbein bestows upon its community members for transformational leadership and commitment. Two awards were conferred at this year's Celebration of Otterbein event at Homecoming and Family Weekend on Sept. 18.

support can be seen in a number of areas in which they are passionate. In addition to supporting the Where We STAND Matters campaign, they established the Dr. David Deever Mathematics and Computer Science Endowed Fund, Innovative Sustainability Fund, Rolling Green Fund, and the sustainable water feature and outdoor lab at The Point. They are also dedicated supporters of the Otterbein Fund, Promise House, Friends of the Library, Department of Theatre and Dance, and the Kathy A. Krendl Distinguished Lecture Series. The couple has also earmarked a planned gift for Otterbein to be used in support of the University endowment that will have a major and lasting impact.

Also honored this year was the **Westerville Otterbein Women's Club**, an organization that has had a remarkable impact on countless students and our community for 100 years. The Westerville Otterbein Women's Club was established in October 1921 by 30 visionary alumnae, faculty, and their spouses to honor outstanding Otterbein women and provide financial support to the University. For the past century, the selfless members of the Westerville Otterbein Women's Club have never wavered from their mission.

In the beginning, members hosted teas, luncheons, and picnics for new faculty, senior women students, the campus community, and guests visiting Otterbein. The club's first donation was shortly after its founding when they donated \$5,000 in 1922. In 1952, the Club established a volunteer-run thrift shop on campus to help fund donations to Otterbein under the leadership of volunteers Carol Frank and Vida S. Clements. Known simply as the Thrift Shop, the Westerville Otterbein Women's Club has donated more than \$1 million dollars to support the University since it was established, and continues to donate between \$30,000-\$35,000 each year.

In total, more than 30 volunteers work over 2,000 hours each year to operate the shop two days a week. All proceeds go directly to support the endowed scholarships the club has founded, including the Westerville Otterbein Women's Club Scholarship, Donna L. Kerr Scholarship, Westerville Otterbein Women's Club Service Scholarship, and Diamond Jubilee Grant, which provides emergency assistance to a student or students who experience unexpected financial hardships.



The Alumni Awards program is available online at www.otterbein.edu/towers.

NetVue

This grant will fund six faculty liaisons from each division to focus and re-imagine the faculty role in student discernment of vocation in preparation for the implementation of *Every Student Will* in 2022. The six faculty liaisons will be charged with learning and understanding the role of vocation in higher education during the fall of 2021 and, in the spring of 2022, helping to develop and implement training to their faculty peers. The goal will be to transform the faculty advising relationship from one focused on transactional academic progress, to one that focuses on exploring vocation. Additionally, all faculty and staff instructors for the First Year Seminar and Senior Experience courses will participate in a retreat focused on vocational exploration for students embedded in their curricular experiences.

AMOUNT

\$10,000

RECIPIENTS

Jen Bechtold, Co-Principal Investigator
Kate Lehman, Co-Principal Investigator

AWARDED BY

The Council of Independent Colleges and the Lilly Endowment

Philanthropy in Action

The Hargis Family Foundation, established by **Jonathan R. Hargis '79** and **Gretchen Freeman Hargis '77** and their family, have made a generous \$100,000 pledge as the lead supporters of a new four-year initiative, Every Student Will. The program will provide a custom education and career path for every student at Otterbein.

In July 2021, **Virginia Phillippi Longmire '55** made a gift of \$35,000 to support the Campus Center Renovation Initiative. Her support will help revitalize the Campus Center and make it the heart of Otterbein's student community once again. We are also grateful for her continued support of the Otterbein Fund with a leadership gift of \$10,000.

In honor of his retirement from Deloitte after 41 years of service, **Kenneth and Lynn Weixel** designated a donation to the Brittany Weixel Endowment. This fund, established by **Jean Weixel Reynolds '77**, is named in memory of their daughter and provides critical support to the Office of Student Affairs' eating disorder educational efforts.

The Class of 1971, in honor of their 50th Golden Reunion, has established the Class of 1971 Promise House and Community Garden Endowed Fund to help offset barriers to college success as a result of food insecurity. Major donors include **Jim '71** and **Linda Ancik '71 Augspurger**, **Jim Francis '71**, **David Phillips '71**, **Wendy Roush '71**, **Candace Scott Simms '71**, and **Tom '71** and **Cheryl Kirk '72 Turner**. The funds raised so far total more than \$68,000.

Trustee Dr. Mindy Phinney '85 made a generous \$100,000 commitment to support the President's Fund for Strategic Initiatives, which will help Otterbein launch special initiatives and capitalize on opportunities that will benefit the University and its students. The gift also supports the Otterbein Fund, helping to offset the University's most pressing annual needs and opportunities.

Curt Moore '64 made a \$10,000 gift in support of Access and Affordability as part of the For the Love of Otterbein fundraising initiative. He also made a gift of \$1,250 to provide flu shots to Otterbein students in need.

James Shilling '77 and his wife, **Hyo**, have documented a \$250,000 planned gift to support Otterbein's unrestricted endowment. The couple has generously supported the University and the Otterbein Fund for 23 years. Shilling currently serves as the George L. Ruff Endowed Chair in the Department of Finance and Real Estate at DePaul University in Chicago.

Lois Szudy MAE '99, retired director of the Courtright Memorial Library, made a \$52,000 gift from her IRA to endow funds for the Library and Department of Equine Science. She had previously made a planned gift to these funds in her estate.





Along with faculty member **Dan Steinberg**, communication students **Felicity Boykin (left)** and **Malachi Brooks (right)** met with former parent, donor, and CEO of Huntington Bank **Stephen Steinour P'15 (center)** at his office earlier this summer to express their gratitude for receiving the **Kaitlin Steinour '15 Communications Endowed Scholarship**, established by the **Steinour family** to honor their daughter and Otterbein alumna, **Kaitlin**, who graduated with a degree in public relations.

A lead gift from the late **John Howard** established a fund to honor two Otterbein families. The families were linked by marriage through multiple siblings. In total, 19 were alumni, trustees, and one was an Otterbein president. The **Howard/Norris Endowed Scholarship Fund**, at more than \$41,000, was created in loving memory of these individuals.

Ann Harting P'94 established a fund with a gift of \$25,000. She and her late husband, Bob, are parents of **Annette Harting Boose '94** and Robert Harting. Son-in-law, **Andrew Boose '06**, and granddaughter, **Elisha Boose '14**, are also alumni. The **Robert J. and Ann M. Harting Endowed Award** is created to continue their legacy.

Jack Whalen '66 and **Karen Persson '67 Whalen** made a \$15,000 commitment over three years to expand the Every Student Will initiative. They feel strongly about investing in extraordinary out-of-classroom learning opportunities for students, including internships, research, study abroad, and other professional development experiences.

Otterbein is grateful to the **Fotis Family** for gifting \$50,000 to endow two funds at Otterbein. The **Eleanor Fotis Endowed Scholarship** will fund a major in the Department of Sociology, Criminology and Justice Studies. The **William Fotis Experiential Learning Endowed Fund** will support students who want to expand their knowledge outside the classroom.

Deborah Banwart Lewis '77 in Altadena, CA, gave a substantial planned gift along with a current use gift, both to the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Otterbein is grateful for \$55,000 from **William "Bill" Cole '54**, who established in the spring through an estate gift, the **William E. Cole and Barbara Seabrook Cole Class of 1954 Athletic Endowment**. This will be the first endowed fund for the Otterbein athletic director's use. He also continued his gifts toward enhancing **Memorial Stadium**, which began with the **Cole Victory Bell**. Sadly, Bill passed away in September 2021 on his 94th birthday.

Otterbein is grateful to **William W. Davis and Ellen D. Gagne** for an additional contribution to the **Dr. William and Mary Davis H'01 Memorial Scholarship**. William and Mary participated in numerous Otterbein activities. They leveraged their education to improve others' lives; to honor this, their family made the endowment in 2019.

Annabeth Sommers Wilkinson '56 has supported Otterbein with a commitment of \$45,000 earmarked for the **Campus Center Fund**, **Otterbein Fund**, and **Robert and Annabeth S. Wilkinson Scholarship**. Wilkinson is a member of the **Class of '56**, which celebrated its 65th reunion this year!



Members of the Family Engagement Network, Kathy Cleveland Bull P'22, Tricia Ohler P'22, Mike Rudolph P'23, and Pate Rudolph P'23 (pictured L to R) welcomed families during new student move-in.

New Network Provides Family Connections and Support

The Family Engagement Network launched in April 2021 to provide a voice for parents and family members of current students. This advisory network provides insights on communications and programming targeting our extended members of the Cardinal community.

Future opportunities for parents and family members include a virtual town hall with President Comerford and a session with the career development team on supporting your student in the job search process.



Contact family@otterbein.edu to inquire about joining the Family Engagement Network, and be sure to check out our monthly Cardinal e-News just for parents and families.

Launching the LGBTQIA+ Alumni Network

For nearly 30 years, LGBTQIA+ Otterbein students have benefitted from the support, resources, and social interactions provided through the student organization FreeZone. But alumni connections were missing from their toolkit of resources.

The Alumni & Family Engagement team was approached by Suzanne Ashworth, professor of English and advisor to FreeZone, and James Prysock '09, MBA'19, director of the Office of Social Justice and Activism, about starting an LGBTQIA+ alumni network. Their hope was to provide meaningful connections between alumni and students.

A series of small focus groups were held in spring 2021 that included alumni from multiple generations located throughout the United States. These alumni shared their personal experiences as students and highlighted what they hope to see in an alumni network.

A petition to formally recognize this network will go before Alumni Council in spring 2022.

TRAVEL PLANS

Travel to the Big Apple with Otterbein

Are you ready to experience live theatre again? Do you support regional theatre? Would you like to experience Broadway through the eyes of an Otterbein alumnus? Join us on April 21-26, 2022, for a very special event.

Meet *Come From Away* producer **Randy Adams '76** in New York City and explore behind-the-scenes of the Music Theatre of Connecticut with co-founder **Jim Schilling '79**. Space is limited for this theatrical tour.

A poster for the musical 'Come From Away'. It features the title 'COME FROM AWAY' in large, bold, yellow letters on a dark blue background. Below the title, it says 'THE HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE REMARKABLE TRUE STORY' in smaller white text.

Visit otterbein.edu/alumni for more details and to make your reservation.

2,565

STUDENTS. CONNECTIONS.
LOVE STORIES.

*The time is now
to make an impact.*

BE 1 OF 2,565 DONORS

Your gift supports the **For the Love of Otterbein** initiative and our goal to inspire 2,565 unique donors by Dec. 31, 2021 – one in honor of each Otterbein student.

Become a Sustaining Donor

Sustaining monthly gifts immediately impact new programs, initiatives, and support services that ensure every student has the chance to succeed. Plus, you'll become a member of the Cardinal Loyalty Society!

To learn more about giving societies at Otterbein visit:
otterbein.edu/giving/donor-impact/

WAYS TO GIVE

- Visit the website:
otterbein.edu/givemonthly
- Scan the QR code.
- Call 614.823.1400.



Homecoming & Family Weekend

It was a beautiful weekend that gave alumni and families the chance to celebrate the friendship, memories, and pride that comes with being a part of the Otterbein community. Weekend highlights included: the Class of '70 Golden Reunion, the Class of '56 Reunion, the Celebration of Otterbein, President Comerford's State of the University, the Parade, Cardy Zone, Otterfest and so much more!

Our Alumni Award winners impressed and inspired us with their achievements and loyalty to Otterbein. You can enjoy their acceptance speeches and look for more Cardinal Homecoming moments online at: www.otterbein.edu/towers.



Class Notes.

1950s

Nita Leland '55 recently released her memoir, *Born Creative: Paint, Passion & Purpose*. The book chronicles her career as a watercolor artist, author, and international workshop instructor.

Thelma Hodson Orr '56 is 86 years old. It's been 65 years since her Otterbein graduation, and she has wonderful memories of her time on campus.

1960s

Sharon Smith Miller '67 published her first book, *In the Midst of This Mess – A Mother's Journal*. She graduated as valedictorian with a degree in writing and literature from Antioch University Midwest, Yellow Springs, OH, in May 2019, when she was 75 years old.

1970s

Ray Farris '71 has retired from his law firm, but is maintaining his active practice law license from his home in Ohio.

Sue Osman Roy '75 is the CEO and president at Ohio State Grange in Fredericktown, OH.

Kurt Helmig '77 retired at the end of 2019 from the U.S. government after 35 years of service. He spent most of his career with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, then Homeland Security, Immigration, and Customs Enforcement, providing administrative support to law enforcement and

intelligence personnel as a mission support specialist.

Susan Mayberry Bernadzikowski '78, is in her 10th year of chairing the English Department at Cecil College, North East, MD.

Philip Mowrey '78 retired this summer after serving for 40 years in the field of medical laboratory diagnostic testing. As the chief director, cytogenetics and genomics, at the Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, Chantilly, VA, he was promoted to national director of advanced diagnostics, genetics, genomics, and research and development (Cytogenetics and Genomics Division) in 2018, helping to merge three acquisitions, then overseeing the six Quest Cytogenetics laboratories.

Mark Overstreet '79 became the vice president of business development for Smartfinancial.com, Columbus, in December 2019.

1990s

Melissa DeVore Bruney '93 is now the COO at Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails. She has held various positions at the council, including product program, fund development, and director of membership/volunteer development.

James Byers '93 was appointed to a two-year term as the chairman for the legislative committee of the Ohio State Chiropractic Association. He is also serving his second term as a



Retired teachers Rebecca Wright Osborne '75, Kathie Reese Inniger '74, Ann Heddeshheimer Geldis '75, and Carol McClain Cosgrove '74 (pictured L to R) traveled to Asheville, NC, where they enjoyed a painting class and reminiscing together.

school board member of Waynesville (OH) Local Schools.

Jill Conarro Kramer '93 is a realtor in Florida in the Sarasota, Bradenton, Siesta Key, Anna Maria Beach, and Parrish communities.

Sarah Hughes Daly '94 earned her master of liberal studies degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, May 2021. She is the director of prospect development at Southern Methodist University. She also serves on the board of directors of APRA, the international organization for prospect research professionals. She is a proud mom of two teenagers.

Michelle Johnson Ball '95 became the executive director of strategic marketing and communications at Muskingum University, New Concord, OH, in April.

Wendy Peterson Bradshaw '95 was named the director of community engagement for Safelite AutoGlass. She will lead the Safelite AutoGlass Foundation, promoting the health and well-being of families in the communities where associates live and work. She also is the executive director and fundraiser for the U.S. office of Afrika Tikkun, a nonprofit for impoverished youth, based in South Africa.

Sheree Greco '96 recently served as guest stage management advisor and mentor for the Otterbein Department of Theatre's production of *The Tempest*.

Jenny Neiman Smith '97 earned her doctor of education degree from Northeastern University, Boston, in July. As an active duty military connected spouse to **Paul Smith '98** and parent to three military
(continues on page 25)

connected students, her research addressed culturally responsive school leadership in military connected schools. Paul has served in the United States Coast Guard as a helicopter pilot and officer for nearly 20 years. He currently serves as the Aviation Resources Division Chief in the Office of Aviation Forces at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Tracy Hedrick '99 is the chief marketing officer and senior associate athletic director for The Ohio State University Department of Athletics and Business Advancement.

2000s

Anthony Fulton '00 has served 10 years in the English Department at Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD, where he was promoted to full professor.

Jeff Stewart '01 accepted the position of system director of strategic marketing for CHRISTUS Health, a Catholic non-profit organization, and is responsible for marketing functions across all corporate and regional ministries. He is based in Dallas.

Jason Jenkins '04 was named one of *Columbus Business First's* 40 Under 40 in May 2021. He is the director of community affairs, Office of the Mayor, City of Columbus.

Alumnus Experiences Ohio by Hiking the Entire Buckeye Trail

BY GRACE WEIDENHAMER '23

As the longest loop trail in the United States, Ohio's Buckeye Trail provides approximately 1,444 miles of hiking paths that capture so much of what Ohio has to offer. Established in 1959, the Buckeye Trail crosses public and private lands on footpaths, rural backroads, urban sidewalks, rails-to-trail pathways, canal towpaths, and more.

Travelers on the Buckeye Trail experience Ohio's unique terrain, from the rugged hills of southeast Ohio to the beachfront views of Lake Erie. Throughout it all, the trail is a perfect way to experience the wonders of Ohio.



Otterbein alumnus and dentist **Jeff Yoest '77** has been a member and volunteer of the Buckeye Trail Association for 25 years. Growing up in Westerville as the son of an Otterbein faculty member and coach **Bud Yoest '53**, Yoest was curious to explore more of the state he calls home. He has nearly completed the entire 23-section loop trail over the past three years.

"It's been a joy," Yoest said. "It has given me an appreciation for my state, its natural beauty, its history, and its culture. We don't have anything spectacular, like out West, but Ohio has beautiful landscapes no matter where you are."

Yoest began his journey to hike the trail's entirety in fall 2019 with hopes to complete the loop this October.

"One section that I really enjoyed was in the western part of the state because at the time it was in full autumn color, flat, following the Miami and Ohio towpath, with ruins of the old canal for many miles," Yoest said. "I went through little towns, which I really enjoyed, because I got to talk with local people and learn and see the history of the area."

Yoest said the weather and his "aging body" were his main challenges, but he hopes that by sharing his experience, the Buckeye Trail will receive the attention it deserves. He encourages others to get out and experience Ohio's unique natural diversity in the slow lane on the Buckeye Trail.

Do you have
news to share?

Submit your updates to classnotes@otterbein.edu

Brian Meyer '04 has been named the Fort Myers Mighty Mussels manager for 2021. The team is the Minnesota Twins' low Class A affiliate in the Florida State League. He has 13 years of collegiate coaching experience, reaching the NCAA Tournament with three different programs. He was a second baseman for Otterbein, before spending three years as the team's hitting coach and recruiting coordinator.

Katie Crabtree Thomas '04 was named one of *Columbus Business First's* 40 Under 40 in May 2021. She is the manager of population health marketing at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Josh Fitzwater '05 was named one of *Columbus Business First's* 40 Under 40 in May 2021. He is owner and chief visionary officer at Holden Ellis, a marketing firm in Columbus.

Molly McIntyre Haywood '06 is a director at Lument, a financial services company located in Columbus.

Dave Hutte '06 directed a newscast that won an Emmy Award for Best Weekend Newscast, Market 41, at the Lower Great Lakes Region of the NATAS (National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences) regional Emmy Awards. This is his second Emmy win out of three nominations.

Jess Medors Laughlin '06 is founder and gifter of good vibes at xoLaughlinCo.com,

providing gift sets that come packaged and ready to gift.

Ladan Osman '06, author of *Exiles of Eden*, was named one of the 2021 winners in poetry for The Whiting Foundation, which awards \$50,000 each to 10 diverse emerging writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

Mary Teaford Pezzulo '06 is the creator of the *Steel Magnificat* blog on the Patheos Catholic channel, where she writes about everything from current events to movies to poverty in the Ohio Valley to the kindness of strangers. She is the author of *Meditations on the Way of the Cross* and *Stumbling into Grace*.

Amanda Applegarth Fisher '07 was elected to serve as the Belmont (OH) County Coroner. Her term began in January 2021.

Tyler Stephen '08 was voted Coach of the Year in 2021 by his league counterparts, having led Otterbein men's and women's tennis teams to OAC Tournament Championship matches. He is the second league coach since 2000 to receive Coach of the Year honors without having won a championship.

Whitney Prose Bruno '09 moved to northern Ontario to be the pastor of the Little Current and Sheguiandah United Church of Canada. The churches focus on right relations with First Nations peoples, affirmation of gender and sexuality, and protection of the environment.

Stephanie Myers Tucker '09 earned her master of science degree at The Ohio State University, December 2020. She is now working for Planned Parenthood as a clinician/nurse practitioner.

2010s

Laura Mantle '10 took home the top prize in the 2021 National Auctioneers Association (NAA) International Auctioneer Championship in Minneapolis in July. Along with a cash prize, she will represent the NAA as a brand ambassador for the next year. She is an instructor at The Ohio Auction School as well as owner of Mantle Auctioneering. She has Certified Auctioneer Institute and Contract Auction Specialist designations from the NAA.

Kirsten Peninger '10 had a short story published in the book *Sherlock Holmes of Baking Street* under her pen name, Elise Elliot. The short story is titled *What She Kneaded*.

Adena Griffith '11 is the studio manager at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center.

Desiree Redman '11 is an executive fellow, nursing operations, at Medical University of South Carolina Health, Charleston. She earned her master's degree in business administration at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in May.

Paige Malick '12 is a certified physician assistant at AFC Urgent Care, Bridgeport, CT. After struggling through rotations in New York City and the boroughs during COVID-19, she was able to complete
(continues on page 27)



Marian Lerner '02 in front of her installation for her master of fine arts degree thesis exhibition at Columbus College of Art and Design's Beeler Gallery in May 2021.

her master of science degree in physician assistant studies at Mercy College, Bronx, NY, in November 2021.

Emily Harper '15 is a certified nurse practitioner in neurology at OhioHealth Physician Group Dublin Methodist Hospital and Doctors Hospital. She earned her master's degree in nursing from The Ohio State University in May 2020.

An-J Hays '15 earned a bachelor of fine arts, animation degree from the Columbus College of Art and Design, May 2020 and works for the Terra Gallery in Dublin, OH, as a 3D animator/artist/music composer.

Lindsay Morris '15 is an ER travel nurse for Tailored Healthcare.

Jenni Hunter Sheik '15 is the account manager, higher education, for Wiley Publishing, specialists in accounting, business, career skills, and psychology courses.

Emily Abrams '16 earned her master of science degree in student affairs and higher education from Miami University, Oxford, OH, in May 2020. She is now working toward her doctorate degree in higher, adult, and lifelong education at Michigan State University.

Pearson Huggins '16 earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Ohio
(continues on page 28)

Alumna Recognized as Influential Black Woman in Business

BY TAYLOR GILL '24

Margenett Moore-Roberts '94 graduated from Otterbein with a bachelor's degree in theatre and education and a minor in English. Today she is the chief inclusion and diversity officer at IPG DXTRA. Her career journey recently earned her recognition as one of *The Network Journal's* 25 Influential Black Women in Business.



"My work began in a really informal way," said Moore-Roberts, who began her diversity work at Yahoo. She was part of an employee resource group — a group where people who have similar backgrounds get together to support and share ideas.

At the time, Yahoo didn't have a chief diversity officer, but through those discussions it became obvious there was a real need. Moore-Roberts was the first person to take the position of chief diversity and inclusion officer at Yahoo. She worked at Yahoo a total of six years.

The company Moore-Roberts works for today, IPG DXTRA, is a marketing services organization. She leads a small team of people who do measurement in the workforce and employee engagement surveys.

She also leads a diversity and inclusion strategy that helps her team think about topics that are most important based on the data they gain through surveys.

"Ultimately my job is about creating the conditions for more diversity to exist within our organization," Moore-Roberts said.

The goal of her work is to effect change from within. "I'm looking to drive positive change and offer perspective that has not been fully considered before," she said.

Along with the work Moore-Roberts does at IPG DXTRA, she also has an LLC consulting business. In her consulting, she works with a small number of clients who ask her to do a training session or talk with them about diversity and inclusion within their companies.

"Consulting is a lot of listening to understand what they need help with and what they are trying to solve for," Moore-Roberts said.

Moore-Roberts is very passionate about her work. "My mother would say it's better to light a match than curse the darkness, so I just started lighting matches where I could."

She is thankful to have a platform to speak about something so meaningful to her. "It's really just been about the moment, to try and contribute something positive to the way this country thinks about race and racism and issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion," Moore-Roberts said.

University's Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dublin, OH, in May 2021. He is now completing an internal medicine residency with Mount Carmel Health Systems.

Ryan Hutcherson '16 was nominated for Ohio Teacher of the Year by his superintendent for successfully adapting the choir program in Maysville Local School District middle and high schools in Zanesville, OH, during the COVID-19 restrictions. Both choirs have increased in number under his direction. He also founded the school's pop music a cappella group, Panther Tones. This year, the select audition group of 10 members competed in the International Championship of High School A Cappella, winning first place in the seven-choir quarterfinal to advance to the next round.

Danielle Keating '16 and her adopted rescue horse, Ivie, competed at the 2021 Morgan Grand National horse show in Oklahoma City, OK. It was the pair's first time competing at that level, and they won two of the three Morgan Grand National Championships in jumping, crowning them World Champions in the discipline.

Angel Romina '16 received her master's degree in public administration, non-profit management, from Ohio University, Athens, April 2021.

Elijah Gonzalez '17 is assistant director of technical operations in the Athletic Department at Stanford University, Stanford, CA. He previously spent time as a member of the broadcasting team at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. In his final year in Worcester, he was promoted to the director of video and network production within Holy Cross athletics.

Claire McGeehan '17 was accepted into the master of fine arts, art and ecology, program at Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughn, Ireland.

Christian Meister '17 is the assistant principal and head boys' basketball coach at Westfall High School, Williamsport, OH.

Maria Slovikovski '17 is the associate director of athletic communications at The Ohio State University.

Meghan Stursa '17 is the assistant director of advancement at the University Laboratory High School at University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Urbana, IL. She credits her experience with the Otterbein Telefund for her success.

Sara Anloague Bogan '18 is a communications specialist with OhioHealth. She supports central Ohio care sites and system sustainability, and is the editor-in-chief of the internal newsletter, focusing much of her time on Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus.

Michael Anderson '19 earned his master of education degree from Kent State University in 2021. He is now a resident director at Ohio University, Athens.

Brigid Aslin '19 earned a master of science degree in education from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL, in May 2021. She is now the coordinator of campus life for leadership, clubs, and student organizations at Barton College, Wilson, NC.

Jeremy Paul '19 earned his master of education degree in college student personnel from Ohio University, Athens, in April 2021. He is now the assistant director of sorority and fraternity life at Ohio University.

Heather Sandvik '19 received her master of art degree from North Central College, Naperville, IL, in May 2021.

Tobias Varland '19 is an account executive, season ticket service, for the FC Cincinnati professional soccer team.

Sam Buganski '19 will be completing a year-long residency at Core Clay in Cincinnati, OH. Core Clay is a community of artists and students working side-by-side.

2020s

Michelle Begue MSN'20 is a family nurse practitioner at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH.

Danielle Burden '20 is an Indiana Family Farm animal care associate and will be working with alibaba tortoises, goats, sheep, cattle, donkeys, chickens, rabbits, raptors, snakes, and more.

Sam Farraar '20 is pursuing a master of science degree in organic chemistry at Wright State University, Dayton, OH.

Nathan Forney '20 is pursuing a doctorate degree in chemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Jenny McFarland '20 became a full-time zookeeper at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in April 2021. She'll be working with parrots, ferrets, rabbits, pigeons, snakes, tortoises, and more.

Sara Short '20 is the volunteer engagement program officer for ServeOHIO, the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

Brittany Katona '21 is a kindergarten teacher at Saint Brigid of Kildare Catholic School, Dublin, OH.

Jonathan Major '21 completed his master of business administration degree at Ohio University, Athens, in June 2021. He is now continuing in the medical school at Ohio University.

Sarah Pannitto '21 is a veterinary technician at Cryan Veterinary Hospital, Westerville.



Giving Notes

Gifts from alumni and friends are critical to Otterbein's success — thank you for counting Otterbein among the charities you support!

For the Love of Otterbein

As of October 2021, nearly 200 brand new donors supported the For the Love of Otterbein: The Time is Now initiative. Thank you to all the individuals who stepped forward to support students during this time of great need. **Learn more at www.otterbein.edu/thetimeisnow.**

1847 Minutes for Otterbein

Thank you to the alumni, parents, and friends who made generous matching gifts and challenges for the 1847 Minutes for Otterbein campaign in September in support of the Otterbein Fund, including **Harvey Smith '55, Bill '56 and Sonya Stauffer '56 Evans, Neil Leighton '59, Judy Graham Gebhart '61, Bob '67 and Pam Hudson '68 Dominici, Jessica Miesel '01, Stacey Moyer '07, Maggie Ellison '10, Brad '12 and Karissa Dahdah '12 Longo, Mechelle and Anton Buys Du Plessis P'20, and John and Rachel Comerford.**

LLC Scholars Program

Last spring, the Lifelong Learning Community at Otterbein established the LLC Scholars Program, an award-based initiative that helps students entering their final year of coursework through monetary support as they work to finish their degrees. To date, the program has raised more than \$6,500. **Learn more at www.otterbein.edu/lifelonglearning.**

A Trip Down Memory Lane

As we approach Otterbein's 175th Anniversary in 2022, more than 3,000 alumni have shared their stories for our oral history project memory book. In addition, 313 alumni made gifts to support the Otterbein Fund while reminiscing about their time on campus as students. Thank you!

In-Kind Gift Benefits The Point

JPMorgan Chase recently donated \$78,000 of in-kind contributions to The Point at Otterbein, which includes computer monitors, cabling, touch screen TV, computers, desk chairs, tables, and office supplies. The Point offers unique co-working and tenant spaces for companies, large and small, to operate alongside students and faculty. **Learn more at www.otterbeinpoint.com.**

Alumnus Changes Course as Adult Student

BY WILL ELKINS

"College set me free." Those words from Otterbein alumnus **Jerrod Estell '19** speak not only to his academic career but also his personal journey.

In 2016, five years out of high school, Estell found himself at a crossroads. He wasn't sure what his future held but he needed a change. He had been going from one dead-end job to the

next, just making ends meet. While running in a Columbus marathon, something clicked. After the race, he decided to enroll in college.

He began his second venture into school at the remedial math level, somewhat of a shock as a 24-year-old.

"I wasn't the best student in my late teens," Estell said. "I had lost track of myself in middle and high school, hanging with the wrong crowds. I was ready to correct that path."



While in community college, Estell

tested into pre-algebra and didn't miss a point all semester. He felt continuing with math would be a valuable career choice. With that solid foundation, he knew Otterbein should be his next step towards a better future.

Entering Otterbein at 25 years old, Estell was eager to begin formulating his post-graduation plan. Not knowing exactly what he wanted to do, he was confident mathematics would be useful in any field. He found mentors in math professors Iona Hrinka and Jeremy Moore, as well as significant career planning sessions with Ryan Brechbill in Student Success and Career Development. Estell says he immediately felt welcome, something he wasn't necessarily expecting as an older student.

"These professors and staff helped me figure out where I was going in life and what I wanted to do. We'd discuss coursework, careers, and life," he said. "At a tipping-point of my life, this was so great how supportive they were. Without them, I'm not sure I'd be where I was meant to."

College is an important time to discover yourself. Now a graduate student at Ohio University earning two degrees, for Estell, that's why Otterbein "set him free." He found himself and his passion.

Marriages.

1 Rebecca Zapor '05 to Joshua Findell, April 24, 2021. **2** Erin Myers '10 to Gary Safir, Oct. 6, 2018. The wedding party included **Becky Robinson '10** and **Andrew Spisak '10**. **3** Rachel Ripley '12 to **Anthony DeGenaro '12**, March 15, 2019. The wedding party included **Matt Neitz '12** and **Brent Ford '12**. **4** Ali Ernest '13 to Derek Gerdeman, June 19, 2021. **5** Calli Studebaker '14 to Alex Lake '14, May 15, 2021. Attendants included **Megan Studebaker '11**, **Kristen Ramer '14**, **Laura Basford '14**, **Rachael Puthoff '14**, **Scott Staarmann '13**, **John Stefanik '14**, **Elliott Greenhill '11**, **Alex Stansell '11**, and **Mike Mackessy '15**. **6** Kendra Schwarz '14 to William LeGrand, March 19, 2021. The wedding party included **Audra Kohler '14**, **Brianne Buletke Markley '14**, **Katie Jump '15**, and **Elyse Brigham Gotschall '14**. **7** Ally Hurd '16 to Jon Bozeka, May 8, 2021. In attendance were **Katie Mackerty '16**, **Mackenzie Boyer Mackerty '15**, **Jessica Takos Austin '16**, and **Carrie Coisman '16**. **8** Ashley Jungclas '16 to Michael Weisenberger '13, April 24, 2021. The wedding party included **Andrea Burton '18**. **9** Lauren French '17 to Aaron Dickson, June 19, 2021. The wedding party included **Ashley Gillum Kamps '17**, **Chelsea Snyder Keiber '16**, and **Mackenzie O'Brien Hartwell '14**. **10** Zoe Nietert '17 to Alec Mieras, Aug. 2020. **11** Meghan Stursa '17 to Shane Barnovsky '17, Aug. 13, 2021. The wedding party included **Aidan Barnovsky '18**, **John David Parkison '18**, **William King '17**, **Daniel Schlosser '17**, and **Laurel Welsh Davis '19**. **12** Madison Wolfe '18 to Jacob Schafer '19, March 27, 2021. The wedding party included **Samantha Keller '17**, **Carly Whipple Steenrod '18**, **Mary Donnelly '19**, **Miranda Giannini Osborne '21**, **Joe Schick '18**, **Josh Plieninger '18**, and **Dan Duval '18**. Parents of the bride are **Kellie Little Wolfe '89** and **Kyle Wolfe '90**. **13** Alyson Shaw '19 to Jaryd Murphy '19, June 26, 2021. The wedding party included **Tiffany Palguta '19**, **Gabby Johnson '19**, **Hannah Hilborn '19**, **Eric Norton '18**, **Collin Hoffmann '20**, and **Colton Hann '20**.

NOT PICTURED

Elizabeth Plahn '88 to **Art Robertson**, July 18, 2020.

Meghan Davis '16 to **Benjamin Hartwig '12**, June 11, 2021. The wedding party included **Jordy Wherley Deptowicz '16**, **Brandon Cross '09**, **Jacob Keller '14**, and **Conner Underwood '14**.





1 Grace Christine, born to **Jill Ciersezwski Van Dresser '05** and Frank Van Dresser Jr., joined siblings Aubrie, Chelsea, Blake, and Carter.

2 Caroline, born to **Stacy Petrolewicz '08**.

3 Elayna Maeve, born to **Amanda Cramer Foraker '10** and Fritz Foraker, with sibling, Evangeline.

4 Natalie Ann, born to **Abbey Hirt Hadlich '10** and Jack Hadlich.

5 Camden Beckett, born to **Jennifer Miller Clark '12**.

6 Evie Sage, born to **Brandon Barker '13** and Jenna Barker.

7 Rory Neil, born to **Rose Powell Grady '13** and Eric Grady.

8 Camdyn Rose, born to **Cody Green '13** and Kayla Green.

9 Nolan Andrew, born to **Maddie Agler Smith '13, MSN '19** and **Kyle Smith '11, MSN '20**.

10 Henry Evan, born to **Amie Gale Whalen '16** and Jacob Whalen.

11 Isla, born to **Katie Brown Zety '16** and **Michael Zety '17**.

NOT PICTURED
Sterling Patrick, born to **Kaitlyn Lloyd Kennedy '08**.



Otterbein honors the memory of the alumni and friends we have lost.

1940s

Phyllis Nelson Reinheimer '44, May 3, 2021.
Maxine Putterbaugh Alvarez '48, Feb. 15, 2021.
Beverley Hancock Corcoran '48, June 22, 2021.
Richard H. Bridgman '49, July 12, 2021.
Johnneta Dailey Haines '49, June 4, 2021.
Dorothy Potts Helman '49, Aug. 17, 2021.
Anna Bale Weber '49, May 8, 2021.
Regina Arnold Wheelbarger '49, April 26, 2021.

1950s

Glenna Keeney Long '51, April 14, 2021.
Fred Martinelli '51, May 15, 2021.
Jacqueline Ritchie Pletz '51, May 18, 2021.
Ruth Williams Martinelli '52, Jan. 17, 2021.
Phyllis Reed Morgan '52, June 7, 2021.
Nancy Longmire Seibert '52, Dec. 28, 2020.

Helene M. Miller '53, March 9, 2021.
Lois Beheler Beachler '54, May 6, 2021.
William E. Cole '54, Sept. 13, 2021.
Virginia A. Ford '55, Aug. 12, 2019.
Peggy Bates Hockett '55, Jan. 31, 2020.
Richard W. Clark '56, April 4, 2021.
G Richard DeVore '56, May 5, 2019.
O. Kent Reed '56, Aug. 7, 2021.
Mary Windom Salter '56, March 26, 2021.
Shirley A. Smith '56, May 29, 2021.
Shirley A. Baker '58, Aug. 16, 2021.
Barbara Noble Earnest '58, June 9, 2021.
David L. Burger '59, June 11, 2021.
Charles F. Mohr '59, March 4, 2021.

1960s

Robert C. King '61, April 6, 2021.
Christine Fetter Greene '63, April 8, 2021.
Jerry E. Ginn '64, July 3, 2021.
Harold P. Zimmerman '64, June 28, 2021.
David W. Fais '65, April 17, 2021.
Susan Knecht Coldsnow '67, April 26, 2021.
Marie Joann Platano '67, March 8, 2021.
Sharon K. Anthony '68, Dec. 25, 2020.
James V. Allen '69, April 17, 2021.
Robert T. Hewitt '69, Jan. 29, 2020.
Marshall W. Winner '69, May 13, 2021.

1970s

Daniel A. Aumiller '70, April 27, 2021.
Cheryl Waters Kempf '70, May 8, 2021.
Paul R. Beeney '71, May 26, 2021.
Nancy Eddy Carmichael '71, April 18, 2021.
Sharma Rife DeNeui '71, July 17, 2019.
Delores A. Joseph '71, May 20, 2020.
D. Brett Reardon '73, Nov. 25, 2019.
Lynn A. Salser '76, June 23, 2021.
John D. Woodland '76, March 15, 2021.
John M. McIntyre '78, June 26, 2021.

1980s

Sylvia Waggoner Surret '85, Aug. 8, 2021.

1990s

Steven R. Tallman '92, Dec. 30, 2020
Stacy Pintar-Mantey '96, Jan. 1, 2019.

2010s

Katherine Falter '13, June 30, 2021.

Remembering our Fellow Cardinals

Read more about each of these special friends of Otterbein at www.otterbein.edu/alumni/classnotes/obituaries.

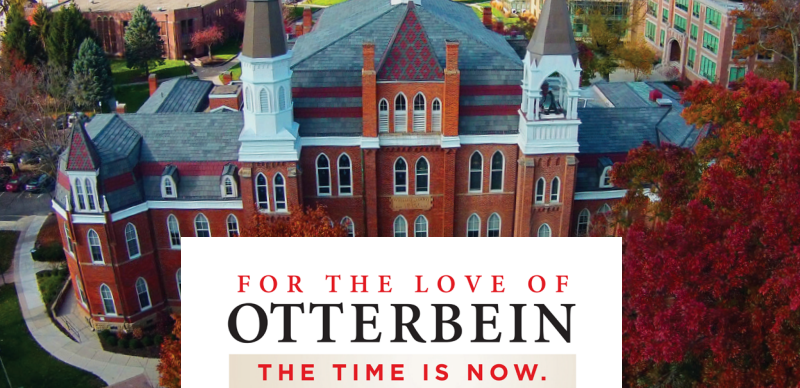


George Phinney H'89 died on July 15, 2021. A professor for 30 years in life science, he was an avid birder, fisherman, and hunter in retirement. He is survived by his daughter, **Dr. Mindy Phinney '85**, who serves on Otterbein's Board of Trustees.

Ruth "Petie" Dodrill H'94 died on Aug. 26, 2021. She introduced children's theatre to Westerville in 1962, and costumed over 100 productions and directed 26 children's productions at Otterbein.



JoAnn Tyler H'95 died on May 26, 2021. A professor of health and physical education from 1962-1997, she coached the women's tennis team to an OAC championship in 1986.



FOR THE LOVE OF
OTTERBEIN
THE TIME IS NOW.

CHALLENGING MOMENTS in history inspire MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES.

If there is one thing we've learned over the past year, it's that Otterbein is resilient. No matter the hurdle or barrier, we will not let the challenges of yesterday and today define our future.

Our entire campus community is motivated by one goal:

ENSURING THAT OUR STUDENTS SUCCEED.

The key to each chapter of Otterbein's history is that we come together to serve our students and equip them with the knowledge, skills, and resources to become productive, thoughtful members of society who make the world a better place.

If ever there was a time to show your love for Otterbein, **THE TIME IS NOW.**

SUPPORT

Hands-on Experiential Learning
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Innovation Fund
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Thank you to everyone who has already offered their support.

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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Alumni Council

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Remembering Otterbein's 18th President

President Emeritus Thomas J. Kerr H'84 was a builder of ideas and bold initiatives, implementing programs that established Otterbein as a leader in higher education.

He launched the University's nationally acclaimed Integrative Studies curriculum, a continuing education program for adult learners, and the shared governance system which made Otterbein the first university in the nation to have a student and faculty member seated as voting members on the Board of Trustees. New academic programs were established in nursing and computer science as well as in equine science, journalism, and cooperative education.

During Kerr's presidency, the library was dedicated, the Rike Center was built to address the changing needs for men and women's athletic programs, renovations to the old alumni gym became the Battelle Fine Arts Center, and the scene shop was added to the back of Cowan Hall expanding the theatre seating space for more patrons.

Read more about the life and legacy of President Emeritus Thomas J. Kerr H'84 by visiting www.otterbein.edu/towers.



"If we are to achieve cherished goals in every area – academic, co-curricular and administrative – we must continue to innovate. The patterns we construct must reflect the value base of choices, the interdisciplinary nature of problems, the interaction of people, and the holism of life. My personal challenge is to direct this creative human capacity."

— Dr. Thomas J. Kerr H'84 FROM HIS INAUGURATION ADDRESS

