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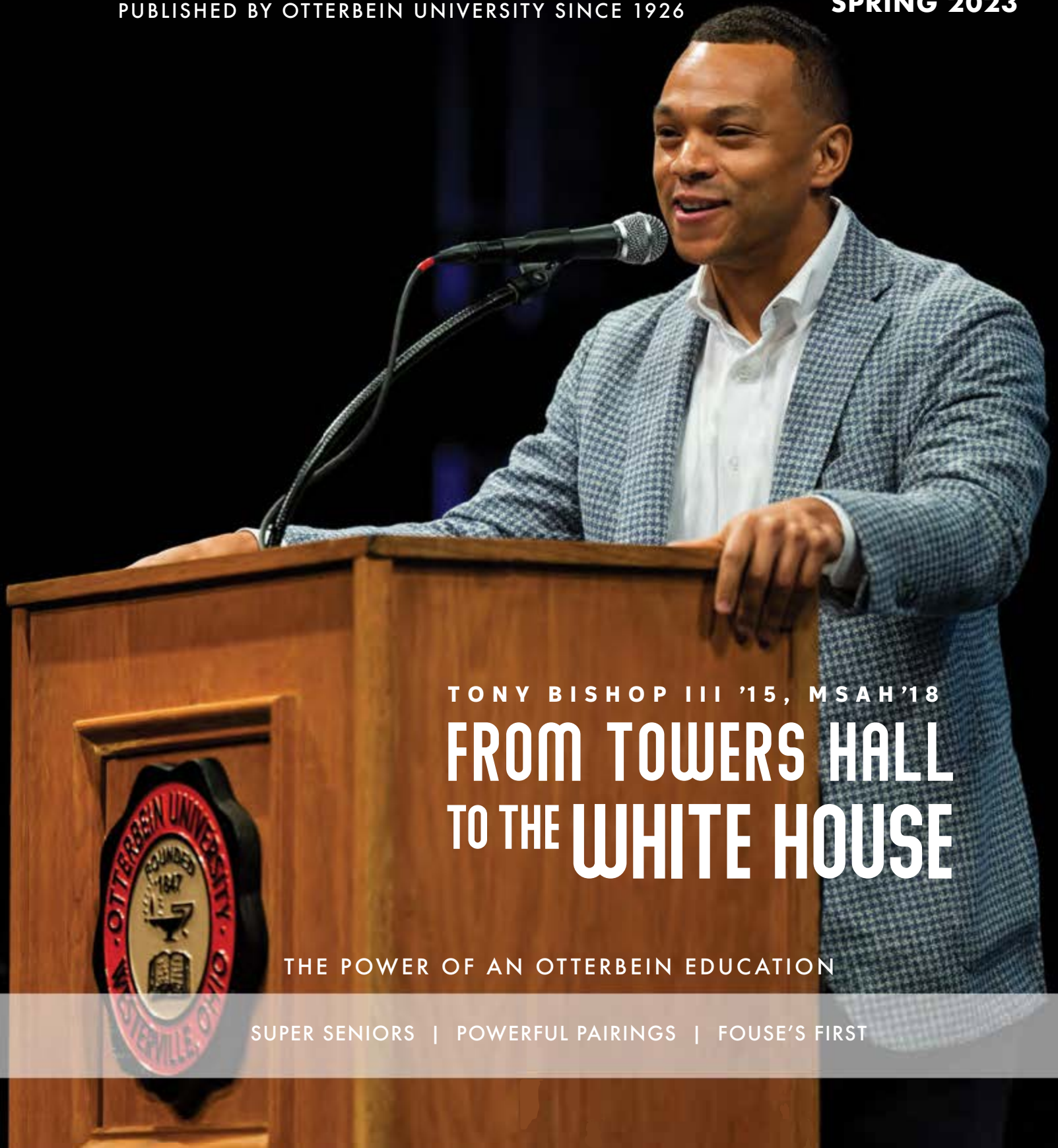
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Otterbein Towers

PUBLISHED BY OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY SINCE 1926

SPRING 2023



TONY BISHOP III '15, MSAH '18

FROM TOWERS HALL TO THE WHITE HOUSE

THE POWER OF AN OTTERBEIN EDUCATION

SUPER SENIORS | POWERFUL PAIRINGS | FOUSE'S FIRST

From the President.



Dear Friends,

We all have our little favorite memories, moments, and places at Otterbein. One of mine is at the back of Towers Hall, on the southwest corner of the building. In the mulch by the building are daylilies and I have noticed these particular daylilies are Otterbein's first sign of spring. Their green shoots are the first to appear in February and their flowers the first to bloom in March. Seeing those green shoots appear is a better predictor than any groundhog that spring is coming.

And now it is here! Spring on campus is a frantic schedule of celebrations, performances, honorary inductions, and countless other events designed to mark the end of another school year, and for the Class of 2023 the culmination of their Otterbein education. It is exhilarating and all builds up to graduation day.

You will find some of that same energy in the pages of this magazine. Otterbein has so much going on, it can seem a little dizzying at times. But, it is all an expansion and celebration of what has always made this place so special.

You can read more about the remarkable Class of 2023 – those whose first year on campus was cut short by a pandemic. You will learn about how our great faculty are working across departments and disciplines to create dynamic student learning experiences. And, of course, there are always campus leaders to highlight – past and present – who have transformed Otterbein and all the lives we touch.

Leadership has always mattered. Otterbein is leading again in higher education. We are meeting the full cost of tuition for lower income students – without loans. While other schools talk about affordability, we are walking the walk.

Our formation of an independent university system is also garnering a great deal of attention. I have been asked to speak at several higher education conferences and find colleagues across the country that know of Otterbein, know of our innovative spirit, and want to learn more. We have a growing list of other institutions interested in joining the effort to expand access for adult learners and so far, the Higher Learning Commission and other regulatory bodies have been supportive.

There is a lot going on and it can feel a little overwhelming at times. But, we can each do our part – starting with my favorite daylily telling me spring is coming. And nothing can stop Otterbein when we are all pulling together.

Sincerely,

John L. Comerford, Ph.D.



Antioch University and Otterbein faculty and staff gathered at Antioch's Seattle Campus (in-person and virtually) for a Q&A panel discussion featuring Chet Haskell and Ben Pryor from Antioch and Wendy Sherman Heckler and Bridget Newell from Otterbein.

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Otterbein Towers

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Tony Bishop III '15, MSAH'18, returned to campus this fall to address the Class of 2026 at the New Student Convocation. Bishop told the new first-year students that, "Otterbein is a one-stop shop for learning how to change the world." Sharing examples of Otterbein's transformational effect on his life, Bishop closed by inviting students to fully embrace their new community. "Let it fill you with the confidence and skill sets that it did me. Let it help you grow into that which you are meant to be." Read more about Bishop's passion, his impressive path, and his loyalty to Otterbein on page 13.



NEW CARDINAL ON CAMPUS

MEET BILL FOX:

New Vice President for Student Affairs William (Bill) Fox, Ed.D., says he is "inspired by the energy and ideas" coming from Otterbein students. Learn more about how he hopes to advance Otterbein's mission by focusing on student well-being and equity on page 6.

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Otterbein University 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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Read, hear, and experience more of these stories online.

www.otterbein.edu/towers

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Cardinals Baseball Breaks MIT Record for Academic All-Americans

Otterbein Baseball is currently riding one of the most impressive streaks in all of college athletics, having achieved at least one Academic All-America selection for nine straight years. The Cardinals surpassed the previous record of seven, held by MIT, in the spring of 2021 and continues striving for new heights.

This run began roughly a decade ago when head coach George Powell and (now former) assistant John LaCorte made a conscious decision to focus recruiting efforts on higher academic prospects, who also happened to be talented on the baseball diamond.



The strategy has clearly paid off with the program earning four OAC titles and three NCAA appearances since 2016, in addition to multiple other players receiving countless academic awards at conference and district levels.

Learn more at: otterbeincardinals.com



Otterbein Receives Fourth Choose Ohio First Grant

Otterbein has received a **Choose Ohio First (COF)** grant of **\$462,621.60** over five years from the State of Ohio and the Department of Higher Education (ODHE) for scholarship support for students from Ohio majoring in allied health, equine pre-veterinary, and veterinary technology. Otterbein currently has three additional Choose Ohio First scholarship awards, including support for scholarships for Ohio students in nursing and mathematics, computer science, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) and STEM education.



voice their opinions and needs to the government. Students are realizing how much their voice matters,” said Lindsey Payton, co-coordinator of Raise Your Voice, a student-led, non-partisan group focused on voter education, engagement, and registration.

Read more at: otterbein.edu/towers.



Otterbein Earns National Recognition for Student Voter Participation

Otterbein has been recognized by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge as a 2022 ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting. This national designation recognizes colleges and universities for making intentional efforts to increase student voter participation. According to a report from the Institute of Democracy and Higher Education, 74% of Otterbein students voted in 2020 – 12.3% over the voting rate in 2016.

“Students on our campus are beginning to realize that voting is a way that they can



Donja Thomas



U.S. Congresswoman
Joyce Beatty



Heather McGhee

Spring Semester Sees Outstanding Lineup of Speakers

Otterbein planned a lineup of signature events this spring featuring speakers on social justice, servant leadership, and the importance of diversity and inclusion.

The Otterbein community celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the annual **MLK Convocation** on Jan. 18 with a keynote address by Donja Thomas, Ph.D., an educator, writer, scholar, and Black studies activist. She shared how King's dream is not just about the attainment of an ideal aspiration, it is also about the determined ambition behind our collective intentions towards economic and social justice. She encouraged each person to use their "superpower" to work together. You can watch a recording of the convocation at otterbein.edu/mlk.

The **Kathy A. Krendl Distinguished Lecture Series** welcomed U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty to campus on Feb. 15. She discussed the types of leaders we need to create unity and overcome the unique challenges our society faces. Beatty represents Ohio's Third Congressional District. In the 118th Congress, she serves on the exclusive House Committee on Financial Services as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions. Learn more at otterbein.edu/krendl.

Finally, the community is invited to attend the **Vernon L. Pack '50 Distinguished Lecture Series** featuring author and activist Heather McGhee at 7 p.m. on April 4. Go to otterbein.edu/pack for additional information, including the location and livestream.

Over her career in public policy, McGhee has crafted legislation, testified before Congress and helped shape presidential campaign platforms. Her book *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* spent 10 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list and was longlisted for the National Book Award and Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. *The New York Times* called it, "the book that should change how progressives talk about race."



U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy visited Otterbein on Oct. 18 to have a discussion with students, faculty, staff, and the community about America's mental health crisis as part of Nationwide Children's On Our Sleeves campaign. The nation's top doctor, Surgeon General Murthy, is a national advocate in the youth mental health movement.

Teaching Awards

Teaching in Excellence Part-Time Faculty Teaching Awardees

Victoria Frisch (History, Political Science, and Modern Languages) and **Melinda Murphy** (Theatre and Dance).

New Teacher of the Year Full-Time Faculty Award

Brandon Sinn (Biology and Earth Science)

Teacher of the Year Full-Time Faculty Award

Kristina Escondo (History, Political Science, and Modern Languages)

Exemplary Teaching Award from the United Methodist Church's General Board of Higher Education

Tammy Birk (English)



L to R: Victoria Frisch, Melinda Murphy, Brandon Sinn, Tammy Birk, and Kristina Escondo.

CAMPUS CENTER PHASE 1 RIBBON-CUTTING



Otterbein Student Government celebrated the interior completion of Phase 1 of the Campus Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the new second-floor lounge on Dec. 2, 2022.

Excellence in Academics

SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Otterbein's systems engineering program has earned accreditation by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology), an internationally recognized agency that accredits programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. For Otterbein's systems engineering students, the ABET accreditation will allow them to continue their education with professional licensures, registrations, and certifications.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING

Beginning in fall 2022, accredited athletic training programs must prepare students at the graduate level. To meet this new requirement, Otterbein's Health and Sport Sciences Program has developed and will launch its new Master of Science in Athletic Training program summer 2023, with the first graduating class anticipated in spring semester 2025.

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Otterbein is the only private school in Ohio with an actuarial science program recognized for an "Advanced Curriculum" by the Society of Actuaries.



LaJoyce Cain has come out of retirement to bring back the Otterbein Gospel Choir.

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation marked the choir's first campus performance.



WE ARE committed
to opportunity.
Otterbein was founded on it.

Both of Otterbein's founders were denied an education — simply because of their families' financial situations.

This kind of story belongs in the past.

Today, Otterbein is proud to be the first school in the state of Ohio to meet the full cost of tuition for the state's lowest-income students — without the use of loans.

From merit scholarships to financial need-based awards, Otterbein is committed to ensuring more families have access to a college education they can afford.

Talent and potential thrive here. They always have. Help us make sure more future Cardinals know Otterbein is the right place for their futures to take off.

Learn more:

www.otterbein.edu/scholarships



To Support Scholarships:
www.otterbein.edu/give

STUDENT WELL-BEING AND EQUITY

are top of mind for new Vice President for Student Affairs

BILL FOX



Vice President for Student Affairs William (Bill) Fox, Ed.D., took a seat in his new office for the first time in January ready to advance Otterbein's mission by focusing on student well-being and equity. He will oversee student health and wellness, residence life, student engagement, athletics, and student conduct programs — but that's nothing new for this seasoned professional. Fox has worked in higher education for over 20 years, including a decade as dean of students at Denison University in Granville, OH. He most recently led the student affairs division at Antioch College* in Yellow Springs, OH.

OTTERBEIN TOWERS: What interested you in this role?

BILL FOX: Otterbein is a special place. I have lived and worked in central Ohio for most of my career and have always been fond of the sense of community that Otterbein fosters. I am now fortunate to be able to enjoy that feeling of belonging and pride. I have big shoes to fill and cannot wait to continue a legacy of success in building strong relationships, role modeling a strong ethic of care for students, and designing innovative programs to help students have a superb experience that prepares them for life after Otterbein.

OT: What are some of the biggest opportunities you see at Otterbein?

BF: I am inspired by the energy and ideas coming from the students. Part of being a student-centered educator means spending time listening to how students describe their experience here and what they want to see continue, change, or stop. Then it's important that

we work alongside and empower students to be responsible and accountable for co-creating that next step. I am paying attention to spaces students enjoy as they live and learn on our campus and ways to further enhance those over time. I am looking forward to leading and further developing our student affairs team — we have great people who are driven to do good work on behalf of students.

OT: Your research focuses on student wellness. How will you apply that research at Otterbein?

BF: I bring a focus on how mission, well-being, and equity are connected, and I wake up every day thinking about the role of student affairs in advancing our mission through advancing a strategic focus on well-being and equity in our work. This is shared work and I look forward to identifying ways that the Division of Student Affairs can work across the various areas of the University community to create the conditions upon which we can more fully live out our commitments to well-being and equity.

OT: What is your approach for connecting with students?

BF: Over the past 20 years, my approach has evolved with practice and student preferences. I hope our students will come to find that I am visible and accessible; genuinely curious about their experience; honest; direct when we agree/disagree; open in terms of letting them know when I don't know and asking for help and student input; supportive of their expressions about change that is needed; and that I am in their corner and hoping for the best possible outcome for their experience here and lives after Otterbein.

*Antioch College is not affiliated with Antioch University. Otterbein is currently partnering with Antioch University to create a new system of mission-driven, not-for-profit independent institutions of higher education. | You can read the full interview at www.otterbein.edu/towers.

*Haruki's
New*

HOME BASE

The journey of a Japanese student who finds his home-away-from-home at Otterbein

HARUKI TADA '24 chose Otterbein sight unseen, as barriers during the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Japanese baseball player to make a college decision without ever stepping foot on campus. Once he was on campus, he found a supportive and welcoming community dedicated to his success.

A native of Tokyo, Tada began forming a unique relationship with head coach George Powell while attending IMG Academy in Bradenton, FL. Powell visited Tada three times during Otterbein's 2020 spring break trip and became intrigued with the dual talent,

who could play the infield and pitch.

"Coach Powell was such a big influence for me," Tada said. "He made me feel really comfortable even though I had never been here. He made sure I met everyone and felt good about this new journey. I've never felt like I don't fit in."

Questions arose about Tada actually showing up when messages through WhatsApp went unanswered for most of that summer due to internet issues. But Powell received a message in August from the 5-foot-5 recruit, saying he would be in Westerville the following day.

Since that time, Powell has completed Japanese lessons on the Duolingo app and even suggested he would consider sponsoring Tada for dual citizenship down the line.

"It's been a real pleasure watching him develop," Powell said. "Seeing a young kid embrace our Otterbein

culture and adjust to college is always rewarding for a coach, but especially Haruki's acclimation. He brings such a positive energy and continues developing across all phases—athletics, academically, and socially."

Tada spent his first two seasons as a backup/JV

option but continues working for more opportunities on the diamond. In the classroom, he has a 3.55 cumulative GPA as a sport management major and finance minor.

"I was more nervous for the academic setting than baseball," Tada said. "Some classes were overwhelming at first, but it's taught me not to be shy or afraid of a challenge."

He has formed quality relationships with many teammates, notably roommates/teammates Jamie Perebzak and Nick Plucinski.

His path recently opened the door for another player from Asia, Minseo Jang (MJ) from South Korea, to join the program at the recent semester break. The two were former teammates at IMG Academy and are now reunited.

Tada also completed an internship at IMG last summer, working as a camp counselor and on the operations side as a translator for other Japanese prospects. His long-term goal is to remain in the United States, obtain a work visa, and own a company helping more international/Asian student-athletes do what he's done.



Haruki Tada with roommates/teammates Jamie Perebzak and Nick Plucinski.



Haruki Tada with Coach Powell.

FACULTY PAIRINGS AMPLIFY THE Power OF

What happens when you make a smart pairing? At Otterbein, faculty collaborations are the norm but the outcomes these partnerships produce are anything but. From Integrative Studies collaborations, which bring seemingly disparate subjects together into one class, to research projects with multidisciplinary applications — faculty partnerships are inspiring knowledge, discovery, social change, and exciting student-learning experiences. **Art secrets unlocked. Global wellness initiatives. Injury prevention for senior citizens. Happiness and the good life.** These collaborations highlight the expertise, passion, and purpose that double when Otterbein professors join forces.

For Department of Art and Art History instructor Janice Glowski and Professor and Chair of Chemistry Joan Esson, collaboration is a passion. In their Integrative Studies classes together, and in Otterbein's museums and galleries, they teach that "an art project is a chemistry experiment in disguise."

Glowski, as Otterbein's director of museums and galleries and art historian, brings her degrees in Asian art history, comparative religious studies, and chemistry to the collaboration while Esson's research and teaching focus includes technical art analysis and applications in environmental and clinical chemistry.

"Soon after I arrived on campus in 2014, I approached the Chemistry Department and talked about collaboration," Glowski said. "Joan was the quickest to respond and we began a project looking at African masks in the Otterbein collection. My students recorded from where the masks originated, who used them, and the context in which they were used. Joan's chemistry students took samples and used light fluorescence to discover what substances were found on the masks."

The early collaboration previewed what the two departments could achieve together.

One such collaboration currently can be found in Otterbein's Frank Museum, where art and chemistry students are



L to R: Professor and Department Chair Joan Esson + Instructor Janice Glowski making seal impressions using C.Y. Woo's original paste.



Top: C.Y. Woo artwork from Otterbein's collection. Bottom: Artwork with light fluorescence.

working together on the C.Y. Woo Chinese painting art collection. A \$98,000 Henry Luce Foundation grant procured by Glowski helps orchestrate student collaboration.

Glowski has earned National Endowment for the Arts and Ohio Arts Council grants in support of her efforts. She has managed projects supported by the Mellon and Kress foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has curated more than 20 exhibitions.

Esson actively involves undergraduate students in her work, is the co-principal investigator on the National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded Cardinal Scholars Program and is the co-lead on the Choose Ohio First Cardinal STEM Scholars Program. She also enjoys her faculty-led study abroad course to Italy to study preservation and restoration of art.

"In Milan we visit Castello Sforzesco built in the 15th century, where Napoleon's troops later plastered over art by Da Vinci," Esson said. "We observe the restoration work, then go see *The Last Supper* in town. It's amazing."

COLLABORATION

BY DAN STEINBERG

Another collaborative partnership involves extending Otterbein's community to rural Ugandan communities. Since 2016, **professors Diane Ross in Education and Heidi Ballard in Sociology, Criminology, and Social Justice** have collaborated in communities and remote rural Ugandan schools to implement Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and Sexual Reproductive Health Education (SRHE).

Ross has been traveling to Uganda since 2009 supported by her non-profit organization — Forum For Youth Advocacy (FOYA) Uganda — to engage more than 75 students and community members to improve literacy, education, health and wellness, gender equity, and community engagement in rural Uganda. This work led to building libraries in multiple communities.

"An exciting feature of this work is that the projects support sustainable development as they align with several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," Ballard said.

Ross also was awarded a three-year Fulbright research grant to work with young adolescent development and teacher preparation. Ballard joined in 2016 to bring a global health perspective to the team. With partial funding from internal Otterbein grant awards, Ballard's global health and sociological perspective helped to develop tools to measure the efficacy of the MHM/SRHE projects.

Ross and Ballard's work incorporates participatory action research. In this methodology, community partnerships are developed to empower the local community members to create positive social change.

"We try to facilitate service-learning opportunities to empower American students to become global citizens," Ross said.

In 2018, Ross and Ballard expanded their work from West Nile and Eastern Uganda to the Rwenzori Mountain region. They developed a partnership with an indigenous

Bakonzio community who requested collaboration in establishing a community library, MHM/SRHE in their rural schools, and video recording of tribal elders' climate change stories. Ballard earned the Otterbein High Impact Grant in 2022 to support the work along with FOYA funding.

"We envision a Uganda where youth are empowered to create and extend their skills and talents to build a strong future. We also hope we can contribute to an America where people value other cultures and ways of being," Ross writes.



Professor Heidi Ballard (top far left) + Professor Diane Ross (second from top right) in Uganda.

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**Faculty partnerships
are inspiring knowledge,
discovery, social change,
and exciting student-
learning experiences.**

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# FACULTY PAIRINGS



**Assistant Professor of Engineering Elena Caruthers and Assistant Professor of Health and Sport Sciences Ashley Simons** are using Otterbein's

Biomechanics Institute, created by the two departments, to study human movement. The lab is equipped with motion capture cameras and specialized software that allows Caruthers and Simons to record and analyze how people move.

Their latest work uses the lab's camera system to focus on factors related to senior citizens' risk of falls. Students are identifying best practices in senior citizen activities of daily living, including gait, rising from a chair, and stair climbing.

"We're hoping to gather data to discover how people's confidence levels affect their normal activities of daily living," Caruthers said. "We have engineering and health science students working on the study, and we're collaborating with the Lifelong Learning Community for study participants."

Caruthers has had a passion for biomechanics ever since she was a

dancer growing up but needed expertise on the clinical side. Simons is a doctorate-level physical therapist but realized she needed the biomechanical side. The collaboration was a natural fit.

The lab's 10-camera Vicon Nexus system gives Caruthers and Simons the ability to study movement in three dimensions with great accuracy and precision. Once reflective markers are placed on various anatomical landmarks of the subject, the cameras track and recreate the subject's three-dimensional movement. This data can then be further analyzed on a biomechanical level by examining variables like joint angles, velocities, and accelerations throughout the entire motion.

In other applications, Otterbein athletes use the lab to study, for example, their baseball pitching motions, and pinpoint specific biomechanical patterns that could be worked on to improve their delivery.



**L to R: Assistant Professor Ashley Simons + Assistant Professor Elena Caruthers.**

But Caruthers and Simons are taking the technology to a different generation.

"By allowing us to evaluate body movement in senior citizens — to see how their joints are moving, how they use space, their velocity of movement," Simons said, "we can correlate what we see in the physical world with the biomechanical measures in the data and perhaps help improve their movement during daily living activities to reduce the risk of falls."

Caruthers and Simons hope to present their findings at conferences and in research journals.

**Students are identifying best practices in senior citizens' activities of daily living, including gait, rising from a chair, and stair climbing.**



## FACULTY PAIRINGS



L to R: Associate Professor Richard Yntema + Professor Jeremy Smith.



**English Professor Jeremy Smith** realized a few years ago his teaching and research interest in comparative literature would pair well with **Associate Professor of History Richard Yntema's** focus on European economic and social history. Smith approached Yntema to teach an Integrative Studies course together, and that's how INST 2204: Happiness and the Good Life was born.

In their course, Smith and Yntema lead students to discover how Western societies have defined "the good life" and the critical social challenges each society faced. They examine beliefs, culture, and conflicts over four eras: classical Athens, the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries, and post-World War II Europe.

"We have a lot of common interests," Smith said. "I always thought it would be a true integrative course to teach the great works of Western literature in tandem with Western civilization concepts. That's what we do."

Smith and Yntema use the texts of classic literature and history to examine ancient concepts and compare them to contemporary topics. The class integrates the study of social, political, and economic history with the close reading of works by Sophocles, Dante, Mars, and Camus.

"Raising questions with students

about concepts such as virtue and justice provides them with more of an openness to the past by looking at it in a multi-dimensional way," Yntema said. "Examining the past and relating it to the present highlights juxtapositions and inequalities students may not have realized before or allows them to see current issues in new ways."

Smith has pursued his research interests in religion, philosophy, and literature throughout his career. He is the author of *The Staircase of a Patron*, a book chronicling the United Brethren in Christ's presence in Sierra Leone, with a special focus on the missionary work of Otterbein graduate Lloyd Mignerey '1917.

Yntema's research focuses on European economic and social history. He explores the development of capitalism in Holland before 1800 in a global framework. In 2010, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Utrecht. In his courses he explores the Renaissance and Reformation, revolutions in early modern Europe, and global capitalism, among other eras.

The collaboration contributes a humanistic capstone to Otterbein's Integrative Studies program and is a prime example of how Otterbein's faculty community maintains Otterbein's commitment to the contemporary significance of a liberal arts education.

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**"Raising questions with students about concepts such as virtue and justice provides them with more of an openness to the past by looking at it in a multi-dimensional way."**

—Richard Yntema

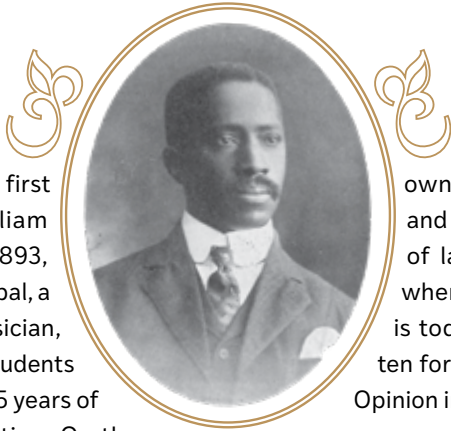




By Stephen Grinch '98

# OTTERBEIN'S FIRST BLACK GRADUATE WILLIAM HENRY FOUSE '1893

IN HIS OWN WORDS



Otterbein University's first Black graduate, William Henry Fouse, class of 1893, was a teacher, a principal, a lifelong learner, a musician, and an inspiration to students and educators in his 45 years of work in public education. On the 130th anniversary of his graduation from Otterbein, there is no one better to tell his story than Fouse himself.

In 1927, Fouse wrote to Mrs. George Alexander of Westerville, thanking her for an invitation to the Westerville High School Golden Anniversary. He wrote:

"I will not be garrulous but I must say that I was born in your beautiful town 59 years ago, son of two slaves who came to Ohio from bondage and never were able to read or write. They gave 27 years of their lives without recompense. I was born in a log cabin a mile or so from Westerville."

Fouse's family later purchased a house on Home Street, where William and his two brothers were raised. In 1889 his father, Squire, purchased a home that had been

owned by William Hanby and had it moved to a plot of land on Home Street, where the Campus Center is today. In an article written for the Westerville Public Opinion in 1938, Fouse wrote:

"Three interests dominated the life of Squire Fouse. They were a home, the education of his children, and his church. If he could speak now, (he) would say that the spirit and literary gifts of Ben Hanby had been infused into his own son, and that he, though a slave for many years, had made the correct appraisal of the magic and power of education."

Fouse was the first Black graduate of both Westerville High School and Otterbein University.

According to Otterbein historian Harold Hancock, "[Fouse] taught school in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, serving as principal of Dunbar School in Lexington, KY, for 24 years. In Kentucky he organized the Bluegrass Oratorical Association and Bluegrass Athletic Association, instituted



the Penny Saving Bank Plan in schools, and guided the development of Dunbar School into a modern school. He became president of the Kentucky National Education Association [in 1937]. Just before he retired in 1937, he received an M.A. from the University of Cincinnati."

That same year, Otterbein gave him the honorary degree, Doctor of Pedagogy.

William Henry Fouse died on June 1, 1944. His work continues to bear fruit today in the schools of Lexington, KY, where he worked for a quarter of a century, and in his hometown of Westerville, where an elementary school bears his name, and his alma mater hosts The William Henry Fouse House of Black Culture. In addition, he continues to inspire us over a century later through his writings.

*Henry William Fouse wrote of his father, Squire Fouse:*

**"He, though a slave for many years, had made the correct appraisal of the magic and power of education."**



*These photos were supplied by Tony Bishop and show an event that was part of the first state visit by a foreign allied leader during the Biden administration — French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte Macron. Bishop attended and helped execute the event.*

*Above: Bishop at the White House before the event's start. Above, Right: This photo, taken by Bishop, includes President Joe Biden, President Macron, the First Lady Dr Jill Biden, and the French President's wife, Brigitte Macron.*

TONY BISHOP III '15, MSAH '18

# FROM TOWERS HALL TO THE WHITE HOUSE



discover what it is you really want to pursue as a career," he said.

His passion for public policy turned into jobs as a legislative aide in the Ohio House of Representatives and as a fellow with then-Chairman Hakeem Jeffries in the Congressional Black Caucus for the U.S. House of Representatives.

**W**hen Tony Bishop III '15, MSAH '18 earned his bachelor's degree in communication and master's degree in allied health at Otterbein, he never intended to work in politics. But he used his liberal arts background to adapt and apply his critical thinking skills to places outside of his major — including the White House.

"Otterbein teaches you how to think — not what to think. What I learned as a Cardinal meant I could jump into any career and be prepared from the beginning to make an impact," Bishop said.

Being prepared for any career is one thing; finding the right career is another. For Bishop, public policy turned out to be the perfect fit.

"What's truly unique and special about Otterbein is how you come to campus with one passion in mind and then through the guidance of professors, mentors and the entire community, you begin to discover another passion and then another. Ultimately through these extraordinary relationships that push you forward, you

With the Emerging Leaders delegation for the Congressional Black Caucus, Bishop traveled to Japan to establish bridges of diplomacy. Later, he was stationed in Brussels, Belgium, with the U.S. Liaison Office for the European Parliament for seven months. He then served as the executive director of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.

His latest position lands Bishop in the White House as an advisor to the White House Office of the National Cyber Director.

He credits Otterbein with helping to prepare him for his new position. "To change things for the better in our country, I had to learn how to influence people, and communications seemed to be the perfect skill set to get that job done. I do this every day at work as I try to have positive impact on one of our highest institutions in the U.S.," Bishop said.

At the heart of everything he does is Bishop's compassion for others. "It's all about helping someone else. If you have wisdom that you can share with someone to make their time easier, you should do it. That's how we advance as a country."



# Inspiring

## Graduates of 2023

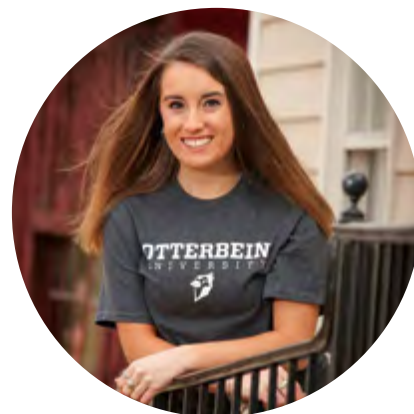
Profiles and quotes compiled by Payton Kaufman '24.

### Jenna McPeck

BIOCHEMISTRY AND  
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND  
EQUINE PRE-VETERINARY

Jenna McPeck excelled on horseback and in the classroom. She is a member of Otterbein's national championship-winning equestrian team and landed a competitive lab internship at Nationwide Children's Hospital. After graduating from Otterbein, she plans to pursue both master's and doctorate degrees.

**"The fact that Otterbein allows me to complete two unrelated majors and make them related is special. I also value the flexibility of my schedule being at a smaller school."** >



### Madelyn Nelson

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Madelyn Nelson has paved the way for an exciting career by sampling several industries as an intern: higher education with Otterbein's Office of Marketing and Communications, professional sports with the Columbus Crew, craft brewing with Columbus Brewing Company, and a major national corporation with Southwest Airlines. On campus, she took leadership roles as a student trustee on the Otterbein Board of Trustees and recruitment chair for Sigma Alpha Tau.

**^ "The individualized opportunities available on campus are amazing. The one-on-one attention with professors and staff and the opportunity to build relationships with students and teachers made Otterbein perfect for me."**



### Nick Wile

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

When he's not on the lacrosse field earning OAC honors, Nick Wile spends most of his time at The Point, where he has served as a research assistant for Associate Professor of Engineering Mike Hudoba's research of DNA nanotechnology design, and as a laboratory assistant in the Biomechanics Institute. He was also an engineering intern at Aviation Medical. After graduation, he will pursue a master's degree in mechanical engineering with a focus on biomechanics at The Ohio State University.

**^ "Otterbein helped me pave my path for my career and introduced me to friends that I know I will keep for a lifetime. I learned so much about what I enjoy and what I want to do for a career moving forward from the research positions I held under my engineering professors and an internship that Otterbein helped make happen."**







## Gabe Sharrock

### ALLIED HEALTH

Soccer standout and academic all-star Gabriel Sharrock plans to spend the next year working in the medical field before he applies to physician assistant graduate school programs. On the men's soccer team, he won athletic All-Ohio Athletic Conference honors twice, as well as all-conference, all-regional, and all-state academic honors.

^ **"The thing that I will miss the most when I graduate is my daily interactions with everyone on campus. That includes classmates, professors, teammates, coaches, food service staff, and everyone else that makes this campus so amazing. There is a sense of community on the Otterbein campus, and I am going to miss being a part of that every day."**

## Timmy Wotring

### PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Timmy Wotring is a familiar face on campus as an active student leader and current president of the Otterbein University Student Government. He has worked in the Office of Admission, served as an Orientation Leader, and been active in Greek life. He found the right fit working in higher education and plans to attend graduate school for a master's degree in higher education.

< **"Otterbein has given each and every one of us an opportunity to make our college experience what we want it to be. I'm thankful for my time at Otterbein and excited to see the growth Otterbein has moving forward!"**

## Gabriela Ahumada Mier y Concha

### THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Gabriela Ahumada Mier y Concha is giving a global perspective to her theatre career. While at Otterbein, she interned with the Des Moines Metro Opera and participated in study abroad travels with the Art Department to London, Rome and Florence. Next up, she will be attending a master's program in fine arts in England with a focus on stage design and scenic paint.



**"I love the Otterbein community. Otterbein helps you learn more and leaves you with a network you can rely on. I have honestly had so many great professors who in their own ways have helped me so much, it has truly been a pleasure being in their classes. They have taught me things that have made me a better-rounded artist and person."**



## Logan Nelson

### PSYCHOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE STUDIES

Logan Nelson earned prestigious experiential learning opportunities, including participating in a neuroimaging research program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and studying social neuroscience at the Princeton Neuroscience Institute. During his senior year he completed a semester-exchange program in the Netherlands, and now plans to pursue a master's degree abroad.

^ **"It is important to maximize your opportunities to make connections and get engaged. Otterbein provides a good environment for that."**

## Hannah Sturgeon

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES, AND POLITICAL SCIENCE



Hannah Sturgeon has been working as a fellow for the Legislative Service Commission with a focus in finance policy for the Ohio House of Representatives since graduating with three majors in December. In addition to serving as student trustee at Otterbein, she was a CardinalCorps Leader and co-leader of Raise Your Voice, Otterbein's student-led, non-partisan, voter education and registration organization. She was also involved in student government, Alpha Lambda Delta/Phi Eta Sigma national honor societies, and Women for Economic Leadership Development.

< **"I wouldn't be where I am today without the support I had from my Otterbein family. From my friends in my classes to my supportive professors and the amazing administration, 'Only at Otterbein' truly is the perfect phrase."**

STUDENTS

MAKE

BIG

IMPACT

## on Campus with Smaller Impact on the Environment

BY KAILEY MISHLER '24

In a 2022 survey conducted by *Inside Higher Ed* and *College Pulse*, 85% of college students say it's important for their campus to prioritize sustainability. At Otterbein, students are taking leadership roles in developing sustainability projects and educating others on topics from pollinators and recycling to food waste.



**Senior Hannah Brown**, a double major in biology and zoo and conservation science, has been working with Facility Services on a project to plan a pollinator and rain garden since spring 2022. Now, in her final semester, the gardens are ready to be planted north of the Campus Center, with Facility Services planting an additional pollinator garden at The Point.

Brown received funding for the project from the Otterbein Sustainability Committee and a Vernon Pack Fellowship of \$1,000, as well as a seed donation from Marci Lininger, a district environmental coordinator at the Ohio Department of Transportation. Professor Jeff Lehman and the Otterbein Chapter of the Botanical Society of America recommended native plants for the garden.

Rain gardens improve drainage, purify storm water runoff, and prevent erosion using a combination of rocks and deep-rooted plants.

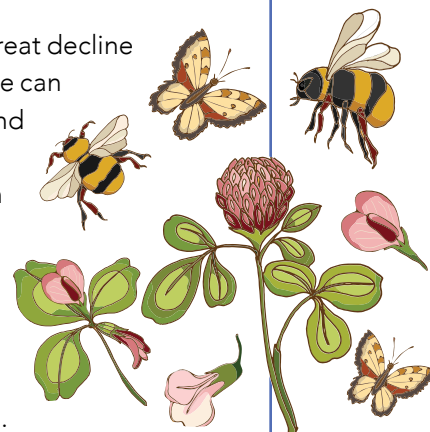
Brown stressed the importance of using native plants as habitat for bees, songbirds, and butterflies in this plan.

"We're losing pollinator species, and they're in great decline all throughout the world. Just by starting off small, we can make a big difference in the pollinator species around Otterbein," she said.

Brown hopes students will use the gardens in many ways.

"Students can go out and collect observational data for research projects, or just go out and use the garden for leisure. There are going to be signs talking about the different plants that are there and the types of pollinators you might see," said Brown.

She also hopes it will inspire more projects across campus.



### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to the students profiled in this story, these student leaders are running programs to educate their peers about sustainability issues:

#### Animal Conservation Club

Payton Chatfield

#### SEEDS

Bellastar Jakresky, Evan Friend, and Breanna Teece

#### Plan-It Earth

Abby Hanselman,  
Phoebe Gibson, and  
Tess Gallaspie



#### Otterbein Animal Coalition

Lauren Fedder

#### BEES

Kendall Sestili

#### TREES

Hannah Brown and  
Eli Gould

#### BirderBein

Katelyn Shelton

**Students also kick-started a new initiative by the campus Sustainability Committee.**

**Junior Lukas Patel**, a studio art major with a ceramics concentration, brought concerns about campus recycling from the Otterbein University Student Government to the Sustainability Committee. As a member of both, Patel has a unique opportunity to generate change.

The biggest concern was the mixing of recycling and trash on campus. As a result, the Sustainability Committee is starting a "Recycling Reboot" following conversations with students, faculty, staff, and Rumpke, Otterbein's waste management vendor.

Patel explained that this project was created to divert items going into the landfill and improve recycling habits on campus. "The plan will start with a focus on

the things we can recycle correctly and phase in more items as we are able to educate everyone on campus. Creating better signage for all recycling and trash bins is included in this plan," he said.

"The reboot has already begun as a pilot in Roush Hall, and we hope to fully implement the plan across campus in the fall," Patel said.

As for the student role in this project, he said, "I think it is essential to have student voices in conversations affecting campus, like this committee does."

Associate Professor Bethany Vosburg-Bluem, chair of the Sustainability Committee, agrees. "I believe it truly takes a whole community to successfully contribute to sustainability efforts and student voices and participation are both essential."



**First-year Student Rachel Malek** used an art class project to educate others about food waste. For Art 1150: Design 3D, the freshman art and psychology major created a board game.

"I was inspired to make this game because I think teaching people about certain food groups might help people better understand the choices that they make when shopping or throwing their food away," said Malek.

The four-player game, Let's Taco 'Bout Food Waste, is designed with lunch tray-styled game boards and food chips with "trash points" based on the environmental impact of the food. For

instance, salmon is ranked as a six because it contains chemicals that contaminate water and hurt biodiversity. Mushrooms are zero because they are natural decomposers and help the environment.

"I found out that for a lot of healthier foods, there's a lot of fertilizer that goes into production," said Malek.



Dean of Student Engagement Melissa Gilbert advocates for the student leaders and environmentalists on campus. "They are applying the skills from their academic pursuits to the big questions in front of us and are showing their peers that change is possible. Illuminating possibility is one of the best ways to mobilize others to get involved, whether it is the possibility of a butterfly landing on the coneflower, or the plastic bottle from your soda making its way to a recycling facility," said Gilbert.



*Students painted rocks for the pollinator garden.*

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Students with an academic interest in sustainability and the environment can combine their interest in science with their passion for the planet in these programs:

**Environmental Chemistry**, **Sustainability Studies**, and **Environmental Science**.



# Philanthropy in Action



Support for the Campus Center renovation continues to make a major impact as Phase 1 of the project nears completion, which includes the addition of a new elevator to access all three floors, additional restrooms, and refreshed lounge spaces. Boosted by an additional \$1 million gift from alumna and emerita Board of Trustees member **Annie Ames '86** this past fall, the University is now shifting to secure funding for Phase 2 of the renovation.

To support this project, visit [www.otterbein.edu/give](http://www.otterbein.edu/give) and select "Campus Center Renovation" under the designation drop down field.



The new lower level features an enhanced lobby and ticket booth for the Campus Center Pit Theatre, additional restrooms, and study spaces.



The second floor lobby gives students a new gathering space and new restrooms.



The main entrance greets guests with a lobby that features access to a new elevator, new front entrance to the bookstore, and an Otterbein wallscape.

## Thank you to the donors who are making a difference at Otterbein

### The Rice Family Endowed

**Scholarship in Nursing** has been established by **Marsha Rice Scanlin '74** to honor her grandfather, Earl Rice, and her father, Robert Rice. Scanlin saw both grandparents and her parents experience cancer, and she later became a two-time cancer survivor.

**The Rice Family Endowed Scholarship in Nursing** has been endowed to support a nurse at the James Cancer Hospital who is a graduate student at Otterbein University.

**Dr. Mary Ann Bradford Burnam H'19** and her husband, Paul, have established the **Dr. Mary Ann Bradford Burnam H'19 and Paul Burnam Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship**. Both Mary Ann and Paul made their careers in higher education, Mary Ann at Otterbein and Paul at academic libraries. They firmly believe that a strong undergraduate education helps prepare students for productive and successful lives and believe that Otterbein is the perfect place for undergraduate nursing students to learn, grow, and prepare for their next steps after graduation.

**Ellen Andrews '71** has generously supported Otterbein through funding for education majors. Andrews taught 41 years with the Elyria City Schools where she made a tremendous difference in the lives of her students. She is one of several in her family to attend Otterbein.

**John E. Ellis '87** was born into the world with a handicapped body but an indomitable spirit. At Otterbein, Ellis majored in radio and spent many happy hours honing his skills and teaching others at the Otterbein radio station. In his memory, his family has created the **John Edward Ellis '87 Family Endowed Scholarship** to support an annual scholarship for students in communication who

demonstrate a desire to develop their skills to overcome inequities and injustices and to make our world a better place for future generations. Additionally, a designated portion of the gift will be used to establish the **John Edward Ellis '87 Family Endowed Fund for Radio Communications**, an endowment to support Otterbein radio communications.

## Childhood Memory Drives a Donor's Passion

**"When I was a poor boy delivering newspapers over 75 years ago, the newspaper printed this message every day on the editorial page:**

*'I shall pass this way but once,  
anything I can do or any kindness  
I can show let me do it now for I  
shall not pass this way again  
– Anon.'*

During my time as city manager of Westerville, Tom Kerr, president of Otterbein University, and I established a tremendous 'town and gown' relationship, which is so essential when the University had a big presence in the city.

A few years ago, I was in a position to fulfill the above message that I had seen every day in the newspaper as a boy. Otterbein University, in my opinion, is a top-drawer college, one of the best in its class. One that all prospects considering higher education should put on the top of their list."

– O.H. (Oz) Koeplin, Otterbein supporter and former City of Westerville Manager



O.H. (Oz) Koeplin recently established the O.H. (Oz) and Dr. Priscilla Koeplin Nursing Scholarship.



## \$1 Million Gift Honors the Memory of Paul Dallas Taylor '61

In February, JoAnn Taylor made a **\$1 million gift in memory** of her late husband, **Paul Dallas Taylor '61**. Paul was a lifelong learner and educator whose time at Otterbein — as a student and throughout his life as an alumnus — was deeply important to him. Paul dedicated his professional career to teaching at the college level in Minnesota and Texas. He and JoAnn always believed in investing in people to help them achieve their goals and dreams through higher education. The gift will support the **Campus Center Renovation** with a named space as well as an endowed fund for student success with the **Otterbein READY** program.

Former parents **Dr. Roger and Betty Neff P'83, P'85** made an additional generous gift to support the **Roger H. and Betty A. Neff Endowed Scholarship**, established in 2005 to support undergraduate students pursuing international studies or studies that reflect a global perspective. Roger taught for 32 years at Otterbein, from 1961 to 1993, and served as the chair of the foreign language department for the last 20 years of his time on the faculty.

Alumnus **Daniel Gifford '88, P'21** and his wife, Deanna, have fulfilled a \$50,000 gift in support of the **Campus Center Renovation**. Daniel is part of the Gifford legacy family at Otterbein and currently serves on the Board of Trustees.

**The Linda A. Karl Chandler '70 Memorial Award** has been created by its namesake, **Linda Karl Chandler '70**, to provide internships for theatre arts students to pursue backstage or behind-the-camera work in theatre, cinema, or television. Chandler was heavily involved in theatre behind-the-scenes as an Otterbein student, and wished to honor all those who work tirelessly backstage through her gift.

Alumni couple **Pamela Hudson Dominici '68** and **Robert J. Dominici '67** made a generous \$10,000 gift in support of the **1847 Minutes for Otterbein** campaign during Homecoming and Family Weekend 2022, to encourage others to support the Otterbein Fund.

To honor and celebrate the legacy of late professor David Jones, a group of alumni, led by a generous gift from **Kyle Daniel '04**, have established the **Dr. David C. Jones Memorial Scholarship**. Jones taught marketing and related courses in the department of Business, Accounting, and Economics at Otterbein for 25 years. It is their hope that this scholarship continues his work of supporting and educating future generations of Otterbein students.

Board of Trustees member **Deborah Ewell Currin '67** and her husband, **William A. Currin '67**, continue to generously support the **Otterbein Fund** through a recent unrestricted gift. In addition, their support was supplemented by a matching gift through William's former employer.

To learn if your company or organization matches charitable donations, please visit [www.otterbein.edu/giving/how-to-give/matching-gift](http://www.otterbein.edu/giving/how-to-give/matching-gift).



**John Bullis '56, P'81, P'83, P'90** recently made a generous gift in honor and memory of his wife, **Carole Kreider Bullis '56**, to support both the **Otterbein Fund** and the **Bullis-Kreider Memorial Endowed Scholarship**, which was established in 1996 to honor John's parents, Cleo and John Bullis, and his late wife Carole's parents, Margaret and Russell Kreider.

## Grants, Corporate, and Foundation Support

Grants help to provide essential funding for new programs, research, and other areas that directly impact our students at Otterbein.

Our faculty and staff have recently been awarded grants from several organizations, including:

### Luce Foundation

**AMOUNT: \$98,000**

Otterbein's Frank Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, and Columbus Museum of Art hold the largest known collections of art and artifacts by modern Chinese painter Wu Zhongxiong (1899-1989), known as C.Y. Woo, who emigrated from Shanghai to central Ohio in 1964. In collaboration since 2018, these institutions have been



establishing an open-source digital humanities database of the more than 1,770 objects held in Ohio C.Y. Woo collections. This grant supports painting conservation for the exhibition, photography for the exhibition catalogue and database, and undergraduate and graduate research staff for the next stages of database development.



# Classes of 1971 and 1972 Make an Impact During 50th Golden Reunions

Congratulations to last year's **Golden 50th Reunion Classes of 1971 and 1972** for their support of two worthy initiatives that are making a major impact on our students and Otterbein community. **The Class of 1971** spearheaded the fundraising and efforts to establish the Community Garden Learning Pavilion (shown here during the ribbon-cutting ceremony this past fall), and in an effort to address the rising

cost of college textbooks, the **Class of 1972** created the **Class of 1972 Textbook Affordability Endowment**, which enables Courtright Memorial Library to purchase curriculum materials for students to use to reduce the costs of their curricular expenses. **To learn more about the upcoming Class of 1973 Golden Reunion fundraising efforts, please contact Kathleen Bonte at [kbonte@otterbein.edu](mailto:kbonte@otterbein.edu).**



Members of the Golden Reunion 1971 class celebrate the pavilion ribbon-cutting.

## Choose Ohio First Scholarship Support for Equine and Allied Health

**AMOUNT:** \$462,621

Supports scholarships for Ohio students entering pre-veterinary studies, veterinary technician, or allied health majors at Otterbein University. These students will engage in cohort-based learning opportunities as well as work-based learning opportunities like internships with companies and businesses throughout central Ohio.



## Howard Hughes Medical Institute

**AMOUNT:** \$377,800

Otterbein's focus for its second grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute is on building the community needed to bring lasting cultural and structural change by increasing University enrollment and retention of students who have been historically excluded from the sciences.



MEET  
the  
Team

We are excited to share that the Advancement team has added some wonderful colleagues in recent months to assist with alumni and family engagement, events and conferences, and serving the needs of our donors.

We're proud to introduce you to the new Advancement team members you might see on campus or hear from in the future.



**Justin Akers**

Event and Technology Coordinator

Justin works closely with clients to arrange customized event venues and provides excellent audio and visual resources for both big and small events.

To book your next event, contact Justin at [akers4@otterbein.edu](mailto:akers4@otterbein.edu).



**Stephanie Clark**

Senior Director of Development

Stephanie creates opportunities for alumni, parents, and friends of the University to make major transformational gifts through endowments, planned gifts, and scholarships.

Contact Stephanie at [clark35@otterbein.edu](mailto:clark35@otterbein.edu).



**Marcus Fowler**

Director of Alumni and Family Programs

Marcus directs, improves, and expands alumni and family engagement programs, both in-person and virtual, and works with the Young Alumni Board, Student Alumni Board, and long-established 50th Golden Reunion programs.

Contact Marcus at [fowler6@otterbein.edu](mailto:fowler6@otterbein.edu).



**Carley King '22**

Annual Giving Program Coordinator

Carley manages the Student Engagement Officers and strengthens campus philanthropy through the Student Alumni Board, Senior Class Gift, and faculty and staff giving programs.

Contact Carley at [king3@otterbein.edu](mailto:king3@otterbein.edu).



**Alexis McNeal '23**

Event and Conference Coordinator

Alexis works collaboratively with all campus partners and community members to provide convenient and comfortable spaces for events and conferences at Otterbein.

To book your next event, contact Alexis at [mcneal1@otterbein.edu](mailto:mcneal1@otterbein.edu).



**Mary Beth Metz**

Coordinator of Alumni and Family Programs

Mary Beth grows engagement with alumni, families, and friends of Otterbein through virtual and in-person programming and social media outreach.

Contact Mary Beth at [metz1@otterbein.edu](mailto:metz1@otterbein.edu).

*Save these Dates!*

## Upcoming Alumni and Family Events

The Office of Alumni and Family Engagement is planning a variety of events — both in-person and virtual — for you to reconnect with your Otterbein family. Here's what coming up in the months ahead:

- > **April 25:** Senior Theatre Showcase in New York City.
- > **April 29:** Toast to the Class of 2023 (for graduates and their families).
- > **May (TBD):** New Graduate Happy Hour in Columbus.
- > **June 6:** Washington, D.C., Area Happy Hour with President Comerford.
- > **Aug. 20:** Columbus Crew Soccer vs. FC Cincinnati in Columbus.
- > **Sept. 15-16:** Homecoming and Family Weekend.

We're always adding new events, so be sure to check our events page for details and updates at [www.otterbein.edu/alumni/events-travel](http://www.otterbein.edu/alumni/events-travel).



### TRAVEL PLANS

## Alumni and Friends Travel Program: Send Us Your Ideas

The Otterbein Alumni and Friends Travel Program has covered a lot of territory, so we'd like to hear where you think we should go next. As we plan our future travel endeavors, please contact Becky May '78 at [rmay@otterbein.edu](mailto:rmay@otterbein.edu) or (614) 823-1305 to share your ideas for the destinations that have always been on your bucket list.

Visit [www.otterbein.edu/alumni/alumni-travel](http://www.otterbein.edu/alumni/alumni-travel) for more details.



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Daniel Evans '74 received the Distinguished Service Award to Public Education in Montgomery County

### 1960s

**David Geary '69** was inducted into his Connellsville (PA) High School Hall of Fame. He is a retired Air Force officer who served in various senior assignments. He was public affairs director for the U.S. Department of Energy and communications director at Lockheed Martin Corporation. He taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy, West Virginia University, and University of Alabama, and is on the board of directors of the business school of the University of New Mexico.

### 1970s

**Barb Volpe '71** earned her master's degree in education from Ashland University.

**Daniel Evans '74** received the Distinguished Service

Award to Public Education in Montgomery County Public Schools for his 33 years of service as a high school social studies teacher and coach of their Mock Trial Team.

**Bill Reid '76** recently retired as the president and owner of the Closet Factory of South Carolina.



Bill Reid '76

**Jim Schilling '79** was involved in the production of *Lend Me A Tenor*, directed by Otterbein alumna **Pam Hill '75** in November at the Music Theatre of Connecticut.

### 1980s

**Nancy Day '80** shared an evening of original music featuring songs from her new album *What is in a Dream* at the Church of the Master in Westerville in October. The concert also featured **Dan Clark '73** (bass, guitar), **Amy Levine '82** (flute), and Laurie Jarski (cello, banjo, guitar and violin). Day has produced 17 albums and toured in 39 states.

**Janet Tressler Davis '82** was recognized in the *Columbus CEO Future 50*.

She is president and CEO of the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Mark Holm '83** is a certified pharmacy technician at Northwind Pharmaceuticals in Indianapolis, IN.

**Peter Klipa '89** is the chief operating officer at Harvest Strategy Group, Canal Winchester, OH.

**Angela Hoover Leckwatch '89** is a communications specialist at Collins Vision in Fort Myers, FL.

### 1990s

**Lisa Manne '91** received two National Science Foundation grants to study diversity of seabirds in the Southern Ocean and long-distance dispersal via satellite tracking of birds.

**Joe Rinehart '91** was recognized as a 2022 Volunteer of the Year by the City of Mount Vernon, OH. He serves as the board chair for the Mount Vernon Music and Arts Festival,



Joe Rinehart '91

was the announcer for the city's Memorial Day Parade and leads the video production team for the annual Knox County Food for The Hungry simulcast each December. He works

as department chair for communication and director of broadcasting at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

**Bryan Thao Worra '97**, an award-winning Lao poet based in the U.S., was reappointed by Governor Tim Walz to serve a second term as the representative of the Lao community on the Minnesota legislature's Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. He has served as president of the International Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association; was the 2022 Poet Laureate of Necronomicon Providence; and is the first Lao writer to become a professional member of the Horror Writers Association. He represented the nation of Laos during the London 2012 Summer Games as a cultural Olympian.

**Rebekah Wolf Doak '98** is the owner and founder of Elavie Consulting, LLC.

**Crystal Austen Von Oesen '98** is a learning manager at CohnReznick, New York. She serves as the head of advisory practice learning and development.

### 2000s

**Heather McLeish Junzenas '02** is vice president of marketing and member services at The Energy Cooperative in Newark, OH.

**Mary Logan So '02** was named the first female vice president of safety, human resources, and employee development at

George J. Ingel & Co., Inc. The Builders Exchange of Central Ohio recognized her with the 2021 Industry Impact Safety Award.

**Krista Lively Stauffer '02** opened an acting studio, Box Media Studios Academy, in Worthington, OH. She is acting in a production of *Into the Woods* at the Short North Stage this spring.

**Adam Bauer '03** is the assistant vice president for enterprise sourcing at Wellington Management Company in Boston, MA.

**Jason Shelton '03** received his master's degree in sports administration from the University of Cincinnati in December.

**Brian Meyer '04** was named the 2022 manager of the year for his work at the Fort Myers Mighty Mussels, a class A baseball affiliate for the Minnesota Twins.



Brian Meyer '04

**Lauren Sheldon Schluterman '05** is an associate veterinarian at Bowman Road Animal Clinic, Little Rock, AR.

**Alyson Blazey Vigneron '05** is an early childhood music and drama specialist at The Wellington School, Upper Arlington, OH.

## Alumna Starts Encore Career as a Podcast Co-host

BY ERICA BUSH '25

**Carol Ventresca '76** has spent her career helping others with their careers since she graduated from Otterbein with a double major in sociology and psychology. She has worked as a career advisor at The Ohio State University, an executive director at Employment for Seniors, and now as a co-host of the *Looking Forward Our Way* podcast.



The *Looking Forward Our Way* podcast covers topics such as employment, housing, technology and more for people who are moving through life in their own direction. Ventresca has been working on this podcast for six years.

"It is fun! My goal is to learn something new every day, have fun doing it, and make sure that I'm creating resources and information that I can give to people when they need it," Ventresca said.

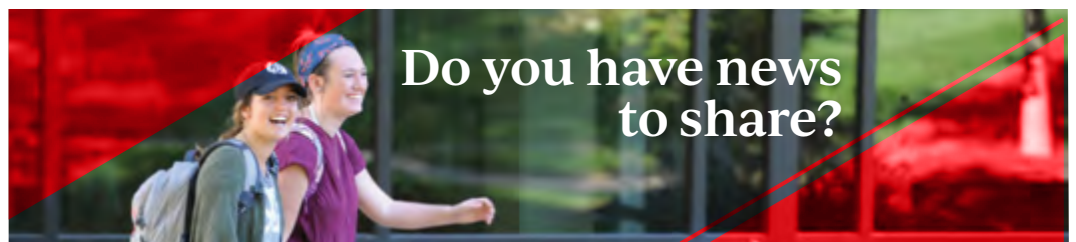
With employment being a common talking point of the podcast, Ventresca has shared her belief that the older generation still has a lot to give to the workforce and that all people should be able to have an encore career if they choose.

"Ohio has an aging population. At some point in time, we're going to have more older adults than those in the regular workforce. We need to see the value of people working regardless of their background, education level, race, culture, gender, or age," Ventresca said. "Older adults should have those opportunities to work and use their skills."

In addition to working on her podcast, Ventresca has worked closely with Otterbein's development staff for decades and has contributed to multiple funds that provide scholarships to Otterbein students, including the Albert E. Lovejoy Endowed Prize, the Larry Cox Fund, and the Ventresca Family Fund.

The Ventresca Family Fund is available for Otterbein sociology students who are looking for financial support when getting an internship. The fund helps students offset costs that may arise in their internship experiences, like gas or parking costs.

"The Ventresca Family Fund has been going for almost 20 years and we've put thousands of dollars in students' pockets to help them with internship costs. I'm so happy with that," Ventresca said. "I hope someday that all of the students will get internship opportunities in their majors."



Submit your updates to [classnotes@otterbein.edu](mailto:classnotes@otterbein.edu).

# Alumnus has Unique Journey as Athlete, Actor, and Entrepreneur

BY CATIE DUZZNY '21, MBA'23

**Michael Echols '80** loved his time at Otterbein under the bright lights — on the gridiron and the stage. He turned his time as a football player and theatre student at Otterbein to a career acting in films and television shows and owning his own business.

As a theatre and speech major, Echols performed in many Otterbein productions, including *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (with guest actor Robert Forster) and *West Side Story*. But he still found time to compete with the Cardinals football team and join Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

Echols said it was easy balancing athletics and theatre. "My teammates would be down front with their girlfriends watching, coaches gave me thumbs up after shows, and professors would give me grades on my performance," he said. "Both were passions of mine."

After graduation he began working with State Farm Insurance, modeling, and doing local commercials. Eventually, he moved to Los Angeles where he was cast in a big-budget commercial.

"I was confident and quit my day job, but this business has a way of humbling you. I stayed true to the game and prevailed," stated Echols.

He went on to have speaking parts in *Days of Our Lives*, *General Hospital*, *Married with Children*, and *Cheers*; steady work as a stand-in and double on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* for Mike Dorn; and a recurring role on *NYPD Blue* as Officer Lowen.

He also had roles in *A Low-Down Dirty Shame*, *Rising Sun*, and *Guarding Tess* with Otterbein alum **David Graf '72**.

Echols has since become an entrepreneur and owns Mystique Limousine Service, LLC. He has driven for many elite actors, singers, athletes, and businesspeople, including Rihanna, Ed Sheeran, Dwayne Wade, Michael Strahan, and many more.

Echols said both his time on stage and his days playing football led him to where he is now. He hopes that current Otterbein students find the passion and commitment for what they do.

"Immerse yourself in the business. Surround yourself with people who are striving and working toward their goals. Lastly, be on time! If you are late, you are forgotten," said Echols.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

**Bradley Vernatter '06** is general director and chief executive officer of the Boston Lyric Opera following a two-season term as acting general and artistic director.



Bradley Vernatter '06

**Andrew Tobias '08** is the chief political reporter at [Cleveland.com/The Plain Dealer](http://Cleveland.com/ThePlainDealer). He appeared last fall on MSNBC discussing the Senate race between Tim Ryan and J.D. Vance.

**Laura Norman '09** and **Jeremy Paul '19**, hosts of the *CBjectively Speaking* podcast, a Columbus Blue Jackets fan podcast, were awarded Entertainment Podcast of the Year by the Columbus Podcast Awards in September.



Jeremy Paul '19 and Laura Norman '09

## 2010s

**Stephanie Freas '10** is the assistant director of the Muskingum County Library in Zanesville, OH. She received the Muskingum County Women of Achievement Young Adult Award.



**George Schubert '12** is the director of multifamily investment sales team at Newmark in Nashville, TN.

**Joshua Hartley Tice '13** is a manager, communication business partner for Cardinal Health in Dublin, OH.

**Kaila Hill '15** is currently stage managing and show calling live events, particularly in fashion and luxury, with Nazar Agency.

**Tyler Perry '15** was hired as the first music therapist at The Buckeye Ranch in Columbus, OH.

**Hannah Kuo '18** earned her master's degree in nursing, summa cum laude, at Capital University, Bexley, OH, in December 2022. She is teaching undergraduate nursing students in the clinical setting at Otterbein this spring.

**Josh Plieninger '18** is an associate attorney at Metz Bailey & McLoughlin, LLP, in Westerville, OH.

**Jake Grundey '19** is a financial accounting analyst at The Ohio State Comprehensive Cancer Center in Columbus, OH.

## 2020s

**Alexander Clevinger '20** earned a master's degree in physics at Kent State University, Kent, OH, in December 2022. He is continuing to work towards a doctorate degree.

**Jason McDonald '20** is a project accountant for Walsh Construction, Chicago.

**Derek Parham '20** is a journalist for ABC 13 News in Bowling Green, KY.

**Lauren Kess Barker '21** was promoted to a specialist of workforce management at Nationwide Financial Services, Inc., Columbus, OH.

**Lindsay Cooperrider '21** is an admission counselor for the visual and performing arts at Otterbein University.

**Emma Shannon '21** is a case worker for Huron County Job and Family Services in Norwalk, OH.

**Stephen Blauch '22** was part of the U.S. national tour of *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, performed at the Midland Theatre in Newark, OH, last fall.

**Emma Gill '22** is a preschool teacher at Hilliard City Schools, the same preschool she attended as a child. Her story was featured on WBNS 10TV news last August.

**Joseline Martinez-Cortez '22** is a partnership coordinator at Experience Columbus in the Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Center.



Joseline Martinez-Cortez '22

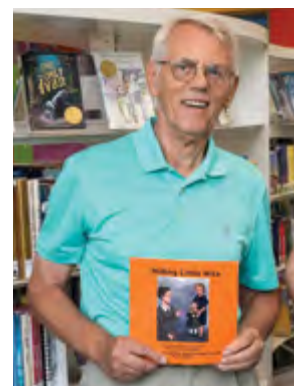
## Authors

**Karen Hoerath Meyer '65** has written her 10th book of historical fiction for young readers, *Secrets in the Sky Nest: Freeing Slaves Through the Underground Railroad*.



Karen Hoerath Meyer '65

**Paul Paulus '66**, dean emeritus and former professor of psychology at University of Texas at Arlington, coauthored the book *Creativity and Innovation: Cognitive, Social, and Computational Approaches*. Paulus has also published *Two Families in the Hiding Place*, about the hiding of a Jewish family during World War II in the Netherlands by his parents. All the royalties from this book go to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. His children's book, *Hiding Little Nita*, about the deaf daughter of the Jewish couple, was published several months ago. This book's royalties go to the American Society for Deaf Children.



Paul Paulus '66



Todd Graeff '71

**Todd Graeff '71** recently published a novel, *Good as Given*. It is the story of Doug Diehl, who became superintendent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge when Congress opened it to drilling. While his nonfiction and short fiction have been widely published, *Good as Given* is his debut novel.



Les Epstein '83

**Les Epstein '83** published two poetry collections: *Kip Divided* and *Sleep Cinematic: A Golem's Quartet*.



OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

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## Travel Adventures Bring McGraw Hill's Traci Tatman '95 Around the World

BY OLIVIA STANLEY '25

**Traci Tatman '95** tailored her Otterbein education to take her to exotic locations around the world. She's been to the Galapagos Islands, Amazon rainforest, Ecuador, and numerous U.S. National Parks — and has the photos to prove it.



Majoring in communication and minoring in environmental science, Otterbein prepared Tatman with the tools to explore and grow her career.

"I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have strong communication skills and that's true in any field that you decide to go into," Tatman said.

Tatman is currently the director of content development for McGraw Hill Education's

Custom Solutions team. Some photos from Tatman's own travels have been published in the science textbooks.

One of her biggest communication challenges occurred when she was asked to present some of McGraw Hill's materials to representatives from the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Education. Saudi Arabia has very different societal norms when it comes to women, however, she was able to cope with those norms thanks to her experience on the speech and debate team at Otterbein.

"I had to speak through an interpreter and the interpreter had to be male," Tatman said. "There were certain things that I could or couldn't do, but my experience on the speech and debate team at Otterbein set me up for success. I was able to think on my feet and clearly communicate without making them feel uncomfortable and while answering some tough questions."

However, to get to this point in her career, Tatman pressured herself into thinking she had to have everything figured out by graduation. She explains that it's okay to not know what's coming next.

"Don't let the pressure rush you, take the time to explore your options and, if you can, travel! Outside of the Otterbein classroom, the world is the next best classroom you can be in," Tatman said.

ALUMNI PROFILE

## LEAVE A LEGACY

*Through an Estate Gift to Otterbein*

**Remembering Otterbein with a bequest from your estate will help sustain and strengthen the University in years to come.**

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

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

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

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

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



**Kathleen Bonte**  
Executive Director, Development  
(614) 823-2707  
kbonte@otterbein.edu



## Marriages.

**1 Paige Malick '12** to Kia Manoochehri, Nov. 12, 2022. The bride's parents are **Keith '75** and **Ruth Ruggles '75 Malick**. Tau Delta sisters who attended were **Kristalynn Davis '13**, **Katherine Court Manning '11**, **Julia Oesch Best '11**, and **Megan Navarre '12**.

**2 Elizabeth Carr '13** to Sam Musto, Aug. 13, 2022. The wedding party included **Mackenzie O'Brien Hartwell '14** and **Katie Miller Zimmerman '13**.

**3 Elisha Boose '14** to Justin Kramer, Oct. 29, 2022.

**4 Meghan Stursa '17** to Shane Barnovsky '17, Aug. 13, 2022. The wedding party included **John David Parkison '18**, **William King '17**, **Daniel Schlosser '17**, **Melissa McGrath '18**, and **Laurel Welsh Davis '19**.

**5 Anna Butler '18** to Christopher Miller '17, March 26, 2022. The wedding party included **Abigail Smith Niswonger '18**, **Joshua Niswonger '17**, and **Kaitlyn Young '22**.

**6 Bailey McElwain '18** to Josh Plieninger '18, May 28, 2022. The wedding party included **Maria Reed '18**, **Savannah Sarkine '18**, **Rachael Owens '18**, **Megan Garner '18**, **Kyle Blust '18**, **Tyler Boatwright '22**, **Jacob Schafer '18**, **Justin Henry '18**, and **Daniel Dubal '18**.

**7 Tyler Thompson '19** to Caitlyn Dubeansky, Oct. 15, 2022. The wedding party included **Tim Snyder '19**, **Connor Brett '19**, and **John Putnam '19**.

**8 Kaitlyn Brooks '20** to Ryan Manny, July 30, 2022. The wedding party included **Abbie Gossett '19**, **Reagan Spiegel '19**, **Alex Trussell '20**, and **Max Driver '21**.

**9 Lauren Kess '21** to Luke Barker, Aug. 22, 2022. The wedding party included **Aselya Sposato '21** and **Brittany Katona '21**.

**10 Hannah Smith '21** to Eric Peck Oct. 2, 2021. The wedding party included **Alyssa Miller '20**, **Tara Brush '20**, and **Gabby Bruner '23**.







**1** Jemma Layne, born to **Jaimie Knittle Greathouse '02** and Justin Greathouse.

**2** Theodore Alan, born to **Abby Tamasovich Weaver '07** and Jay Weaver.

**3** Adler Scott, born to **Jayme Detweiler Crowell '11** and Ryan Crowell '11.

**4** Foster Hayden, born to **Jennifer Miller Clark '12**.

**5** Wren Nadara Boose Kramer, born to **Elisha Boose '14** and Justin Kramer.

**6** William Randall, born to **Melissa Treharn Loth '15** and Ryan Loth '15.



**Do you have wedding or baby news to share?**

Please send news to [classnotes@otterbein.edu](mailto:classnotes@otterbein.edu).



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

### 1940s

**Pauline Hockett Scherrer '48**,  
Jan. 18, 2022.  
**Harry B. Ashburn, Jr. '49**, Oct. 2, 2022.  
**Joan Shinew Mason '49**, June 17, 2022.  
**Virginia Cole Kraner '49**, July 22, 2022.

### 1950s

**William F. Lehr '53**, Oct. 31, 2019.  
**Carolyn Hooper Hovik '53**,  
Sept. 11, 2022.  
**Thomas G. Miller '54**, Jan. 4, 2020.  
**Gerould W. Maurer '54**, Nov. 2, 2022.  
**Glynn H. Turquand '54**, Nov. 25, 2021.  
**Phillip L. Detamore '55**, May 18, 2022.  
**William A. Replogle '56**, Aug. 24, 2022.  
**John R. Howe '57**, Nov. 5, 2022.  
**James L. Widmaier '58**, Aug. 22, 2022.  
**Wavalene Kumler Tong '59**,  
Sept. 21, 2022.

### 1960s

**Glenda R. Williams '60**, Aug. 20, 2020.  
**George C. Wagner '60**, Dec. 12, 2019.  
**Marlene Lembright Stillson '60**,  
Sept. 18, 2022.  
**Ann Bostater Hart '60**, Dec. 28, 2022.  
**Paul D. Taylor '61**, June 28, 2022.  
**Sharon Neibler Kuntz '62**, Oct. 19, 2022.  
**Judith Stewart Pilkington '62**,  
May 17, 2022.  
**Jo Hoffman Thomas '62**, Dec. 16, 2021.  
**S. Modupe Broderick '63**, Nov. 17, 2022.  
**Gar J. Garman '63**, July 8, 2022.  
**Thomas H. Kreimeier '64**, July 20, 2021.  
**Michael D. Dudley '64**, June 25, 2022.  
**Jeanette Litsey Westerfield '65**,  
Oct. 2, 2022.  
**Charles W. Shackson '65**, Aug. 6, 2022.  
**Lee G. Peglow '65**, May 5, 2022.  
**Margery Wheelock Rodeheffer '66**,  
Sept. 17, 2022.  
**Wanita Gallogly Ross '66**, Jan. 11, 2023.  
**Thomas F. Shoaf '66**, Oct. 29, 2022.  
**Frank P. Dustman '67**, Oct. 15, 2022.  
**Jack R. Gempel '67**, Mar. 30, 2022.  
**John H. Kendall '68**, Jan. 17, 2023.  
**Brenton I. Chivington '69**,  
Sept. 20, 2022.

### 1970s

**Richard A. Harsh '70**, Jan. 2, 2023.  
**Candace Scott Simms '71**, Aug. 28, 2022.  
**Annette Smith Williams '72**,  
Aug. 15, 2022.  
**Gerald W. Gordon '72**, Nov. 27, 2022.  
**Michael D. Finlaw '75**, Nov. 17, 2022.  
**Robert W. Becker '75**, Nov. 7, 2022.  
**Thomas A. Simmons '76**, July 4, 2021.  
**Barbara A. Stoops '76**, Jan. 31, 2022.  
**Beth Ann Hassenpflug Mansperger '79**,  
Jan. 29, 2023.

### 1980s

**Edwin R. Cox '83**, July 3, 2022.  
**Mark L. Frazier '86**, Aug. 31, 2022.  
**John E. Ellis '87**, June 15, 2022.

### 1990s

**Susan Elizabeth Brown '90**, Feb. 21, 2020.  
**Carol Stevens Volpi '94**, Aug. 14, 2022.  
**Joane Lotarski Ross '95**, Feb. 26, 2021.

### 2000s

**Matt D. Russell '00**, Jan. 17, 2023.

### 2020s

**John A. Carlisle '21**, June 11, 2021.

## Remembering our Fellow Cardinals

We care about our Otterbein community. If you know of a Cardinal who has passed, please share this sad but important news with us at [alumniinfo@otterbein.edu](mailto:alumniinfo@otterbein.edu).



**John R. Howe '57**, son of former Otterbein **President J. Ruskin Howe '1921**, and **Mary Brewbaker Howe '24**, died Nov. 5, 2022, at the age of 87. At Otterbein, he was the definition of "Big Man on Campus," being involved in almost every aspect of student life.

Howe sang in the Men's Glee Club, appeared in theatre productions, and played on the tennis team. He was a member of Torch and Key, Phi Sigma Iota, and Phi Alpha Theta academic honorary societies, Cap and Dagger Theatre honorary, and Varsity "O."

He was a member of the Student Council and served as class vice-president his junior year and class president his senior year. He was a brother of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and served on the Interfraternity Council, serving as president of both his senior year.

He began his academic career teaching at Princeton University. He later served in many positions at the University of Minnesota, including professor, dean of the history department, head librarian, and president of the university retiree association.

He was a specialist in the history of the American Revolution and the early days of the American Republic, publishing numerous books and articles on the subjects. He is survived by his wife, **Judith June Jenkins Howe '58**.



## Officers of the University

|                            |                            |
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| <b>Chair</b>               | Cheryl L. Herbert          |
| <b>Vice-chair</b>          | William E. Harrell Jr. '94 |
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| John E. King '68                     |                               |

## Alumni Council

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| Bob Buchan '76               | Tammy Roberts Myers '88         |
| Amy Trimble Burton '98, P'18 | Dom Porretta '13                |
| Maggie Ellison '10, MBA'19   | Bryana Anderson Ross MBA'09     |
| Erin Sites Ensign '08        | Mary Kruila Somyak '07          |
| Lindy Gilkey '06             | Kathryn Felsenthal Stephens '97 |
| Leondra James Gonzalez '13   | Sheronda Whitner '12            |
| Matt Lofy '08                | Kyle Williams '07, Ed.D.        |
| Greg Masters '87             |                                 |

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- Matching gifts are made on a per-donor basis (e.g. I will match up to \$500 for the next \$500 donated).
- Challenges are group and milestone-based (e.g. if 100 people donate from the class of 1996, I will give \$250).

If you would like to inspire others by creating a giving Challenge or Match during Founders Day 2023, please contact Dana Viglietta '96 at [dviglietta@otterbein.edu](mailto:dviglietta@otterbein.edu) or call (614) 823-1639, by April 14, 2023.



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## Recognizing a Long Loved Tradition

Otterbein's alma mater, affectionately known as the *Love Song*, is getting a moment of celebration. A new plaque in Towers Hall (first floor) honors **Glenn Grant Grabill '1900** and **Celia Ihrig Grabill H'64**, who wrote and composed the University's official song. Two grandchildren of the couple were on hand for the official dedication on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day.



PHASE 1 OF THE CAMPUS CENTER renovations revealed an Otterbein-branded first-floor wall mural that not only gives the *Love Song* a spot of prominence — it's sure to “ever give a welcome to friends both old and new” as they visit this busy and beloved building.