the otterface phenomenon

in this issue:

& letters and change: evolution of greek life

& health and bikinis: a new look at fitness

& summer style: looking your best
College legacies aren’t just those spoiled, privileged kids who coattail into Mommy and Daddy’s Ivy League alma mater. They are the pieces of the school’s defining events in history as well as those moments that have yet to be played out. In this issue of the T&C Magazine – the “legacy” issue – we reflect on some of the people and places that make up our campus.

When thinking about people on campus who have left their legacies, it’s not so much being popular but being innovative. In our cover story, the “Otterface,” or someone who is easily recognizable on campus, is not something that can be measured. It’s something you know when you know. Another legacy that’s persisted, but for a longer time, is David Lehman, track athlete turned coach, who’s impacted students with his kindness and generosity throughout the decades. Some legacies, though, are behind closed art classroom doors where students draw nude figures, or maybe it’s a determined bikini competitor striving toward her goals. Among other things, legacies are physical remnants of our history, like Towers Hall.

Above anything else, I hope that from reading you take away what you want your own legacy to be. Happy reading.

Joshua Park
Editor-in-chief
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Q&A: Alumni with cool careers

G

graduating? Still without your perfect job? Don’t stress about it, even without the perfect job after graduation, this issue’s featured alumni were able to have their post-graduation jobs lead to their awesome careers. Brittany Cope, ’08, and Jonathan Juravich, ’05, are two pristine examples of Otterbein alumni who are succeeding in their fields. They were properly prepared and grabbed any opportunity presented to them, whether it be an internship, leadership position, volunteer opportunity or even a concert.

Coordinator of Comedy Development at ABC Television Network

In 2008, Brittany Cope graduated from Otterbein’s Theater and Dance Department. After graduating, she worked as a lifeguard and cater waiter for eight months until finding a job that led to her current position as the Coordinator of Comedy Development at ABC Television Network. While away from her job, Cope winds down with some roller derby fun.

Art Educator at Liberty Tree Elementary

Jonathan Juravich and his wife, Amy, might be new parents, but that doesn’t stop the success from rolling in. Often called “Mr. J,” “JJ” or just “J,” this 2005 art education major, now with a master’s degree in art education from the Art Academy of Cincinnati, is quite an accomplished Otterbein alumnus. As the Elementary Art Department chairman for Olentangy Schools, he is also the elementary art teacher, head middle school cross country and track coach and Fellowship of Christian Athletes leader at Hyatts Middle School. Additionally, he is an adjunct instructor for the Otterbein Art Department, teaching elementary art education. Juravich has quite the full schedule. In whatever spare time he has, Juravich makes and sells art for his Etsy shop and runs marathons.

What advice would you have for recent graduates?

Cope: Say yes to every opportunity. Even if you think you won’t like something, don’t make that decision until you try it first. This goes for everything — volunteer opportunities, food, athletic events (and) activities, concerts, seminars, even parties — the list goes on. Just not drugs. Always say no to drugs. The more you diversify yourself and your experiences, the more valuable you make yourself to employers. You also open yourself up for more potential jobs this way. Maybe you’ll discover a new passion you never even knew about. Plus, it’s just fun.

Juravich: Make every day count. Just that you continue to strive to be a better, stronger person — one that will make a difference in this world; that you can make your life and your life’s work meaningful. A kind spirit is contagious.

What was the most difficult thing about going from an education setting to a professional setting?

Cope: I personally didn’t find this very difficult. When I was in school I looked at my education as a job. My job was to learn as much as possible. In a similar way I view my job now as a grad school of sorts. I try to learn as much from my experiences now in a much more specific setting so that I can excel at a higher level eventually. This outlook made for an easy transition from school to professional life.

Juravich: Well I went from being a student to being a teacher. But in so many ways they are the same thing. On a daily basis I am still researching, reporting, sharing and learning — sharing that knowledge with my students. I was able to put into practice the incredible methods and strategies that I had been taught while being a student.

How hard was it to find a job after graduation?

Cope: It’s not hard to find a job for anyone with a college degree — period. Finding the specific job that you have your sights set on is hard though. One of my biggest pet peeves is when people tell me they can’t find a job and that they’re quickly running out of money. If you’re a college grad, you can find a job — whether it’s working at a small diner, a neighborhood store, as a janitor, as the check-in person at a gym, et cetera. You can find a job, and you should take whatever you can to ensure you have some source of money coming in, even if it’s nothing related to what you want to be doing. Then you can focus your career search in a more specific direction, and while you’re working those other
Jonathan Juravich

Art Education
concentration in Printmaking

Art History and Culture & Language of the Deaf Community

2005

Cross Country Team
Indoor Track Team
Outdoor Track Team
Starving Artists
Community Service Leader:
Leader of America Reads Program
Lambda Gamma Epsilon (Kings),
Member and President
IFC Member

Jonathan Juravich

Art Education

NAME:

MAJOR:

MINORS:

GRADUATED:

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES:

I create my own artwork which I show throughout the region, as well as crafts centered around my own illustrations (etsy.com/shop/jjuravich), and I am a marathon runner. So far I have run 11 marathons with plans to run much more. I also was named the Man of the Year for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in 2012, raising over $60,000 for cancer research.

Future goals for your professional life?

Right now I love the fact that I get to work with elementary school kids, coach middle schoolers, mentor high school students and then teach college students. It is an incredible way to share my enthusiasm with so many people. I would love to continue this crazy-but-wonderful schedule for as long as I can. It is so valuable to have a college instructor working in the field that they are teaching. As I lead and instruct future art educators, I am able to share what happened to me during the day and analyze it with my students. I strive to be a leader in my field, to foster respect and value for the arts in education and to inspire others to think thoughtfully and creatively.

How many hours “off the clock” do you spend preparing or doing additional things for your job?

I am really dedicated to my work as an elementary art teacher, let alone all of my other positions. You know that question that you hear about interviews with your greatest weakness? Well, mine is seriously working too much and too hard. Sounds cheesy, right? But I get up early and get to school first so I can have some quiet time to myself before chaos ensues. I mean really early — like first one through the Starbucks drive-thru — and I have to unlock the security system, as I beat the custodians there to unlock the doors.

How do you like to spend downtime away from your job?

I play roller derby, and I’ve become an avid runner. For me it is super important that I balance my work life with activities that are completely unrelated to my job. Since my job is entertainment, often things like watching TV or going to the movies end up feeling more like work than play, so athletics have been the perfect outlet for me.

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What do you think made you stand out from other applicants for your position?

My references. I’m sure that I seemed very similar to many of the other applicants in their interviews. What set me apart is that the people who I’ve worked for in the past who made recommendation calls on my behalf not only support me, but they actively seek out ways to help me with my career since they enjoyed working with me so much. When people who have worked with you before are willing to put their reputation on the line for you, it speaks volumes. Also, it’s not always just former bosses who can help you out. Sometimes the people who worked at the same level as you are more helpful as references since they often work more closely with you.

What is the “coolest” aspect of your position?

I love the fact that I impact over 600 young lives every day. I teach them about the world, about cultures, about themselves, how to express themselves. And I, in turn, am inspired by them. The coolest part of my job is the fact that I get to do what I love every single day.

What is the “coolest” aspect of your position?

I make comedy TV shows that show up like watching TV or going to the movies end up feeling

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The year was 1970, and just like David Lehman had done for the past four years as an athlete, he went to meet with the men’s cross country team in the Memorial Stadium locker room to prepare for practice. “What do you guys want to do today?” he asked everyone as they sat on the bench. Without hesitation, the team all agreed on one thing. “You tell us, you’re the coach.” Reality had finally sunk in. Just three months after graduating, Lehman was no longer just an alumnus student-athlete, but was now the assistant coach of the Otterbein men’s cross country team.

Little did he know, that job as an assistant coach would lead to 44 years of coaching at Otterbein. Now finishing up his last year as head coach of men’s and women’s track, Lehman is beginning a transition into retirement after entering the Otterbein Hall of Fame this fall.

“Part of me is saying, ‘What am I going to do every day?’ The other part of me is saying, ‘I’m going to do what I want.’”

Lehman grew up in Westerville on South State Street with his three brothers, his stay-at-home mom and his father, who owned and operated the family business, Culver Art and Frame Company. As children, he and his brothers were engaged in sports, but Lehman didn’t have a desire to run, except for conditioning. It was not until the fall of his junior year in high school, when Lehman’s basketball coach made it a requirement for everyone to go out for the cross country team, that Lehman began his running career. Quickly becoming one of the best on the team, he continued into his senior year, excelling in the 880-yard race, making it to regionals.

Lehman also began dating the love of his life, Claudia, during his senior year of high school. The two grew up in Westerville, and according to a church bulletin board, were both baptized as infants on the same day. Their paths...
had to sneak over the fence and go over there to run some. So we had to start researching to see how distance runners should really train and put some structure to (practice)."

Lehman said Yoest worked hard the next few years after he graduated to recruit. The men’s team then began to explode with talent, peaking when they finally won their first conference championship in 1980. Lehman’s life as a coach consisted of being the assistant cross country coach until 1999 and continuing to be the assistant track coach from his graduation in 1970 until he was named head track coach in 2009. He has done more than just build up the men’s and women’s program to what it is today. The men’s cross country team won conference six times between 1986 and 1995.

But it is not the hard workouts or the number of championships that Lehman’s past athletes remember. It is his advice, his genuine care and his friendship that has stayed with athlete Ryan Borland.

Borland, former cross country and distance runner, has been able to create a lifelong friendship with Lehman. "He was a very quiet guy," Borland said, thinking about the first time he met Lehman. "But when he and I got to talking about what we could accomplish as a group and what I might do individually, he actually was much more talkative than I realized."

Borland was attending Ohio State University and considered joining the army when he talked with Lehman for the first time. The instant connection brought Borland to Otterbein and formed the friendship that is still active today.

“My fondest memories with Coach Lehman came in all of the talks we had in his living room, looking through binders of past teams and talking about how I might fit into the history of our program someday,” Borland said. “I will cherish those memories the rest of my life.”

Lehman married Claudia Alpeter, the Alpeter and Lehman families began to grow close over the years. Thirty years later, the families spend every Christmas together, having a pasta dinner, going to the Zoo Lights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and then grabbing a Schneider’s doughnut or two.

Lehman has left a legacy on the track in his career as a student athlete, coach and friend. Now looking forward to retiring, Lehman said he feels that he will be even more active in the Otterbein community when his time as head coach is done. “I’m ready to just step back and just enjoy the kids. I will be coming back to watch all the sports — like baseball, volleyball, basketball — which is hard to get to as a coach."

David Lehman crossing the finish line when he was a student running track at Otterbein in the ‘70s. // provided by david lehman
Whether it’s improving recruits’ experiences in the Army, discovering the nature of the universe or providing health education to those in need, Otterbein’s faculty grants are paving the way for innovations while also providing learning opportunities for students.

In order to receive grant money, a faculty member has to first earn the money from the institution providing it, usually through an application process. The received grant then must be sent to the Office of Sponsored Programs, which keeps track of grants. Final approval of grants goes through Rebecca Vazquez-Skillings, vice president of business affairs, and President Kathy Kreidl, who both have to accept. Otterbein faculty received 15 grants between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, totalling $887,535.

The grant description states that Tagg, an 18-year veteran in the field of neutrino research, will take two undergraduate researchers to work at the lab. Tagg said that he has already designated one student researcher from Otterbein to work with him over the summer, and he is still looking for another. He said he normally chooses researchers from the Physics Department, but because of its small size, he may choose from a related department.

“(The NSF) knows that this is a good thing to start to expose undergraduate students to early on — to get teaching schools involved in this stuff — so that students can get involved in real science and big science early on,” Tagg said.

Referring to the graduate students at Fermilab, Tagg said many go on to be scientists, but others will go on to do finance, business or a related field.

“What they come out of this with is being very technically skilled in mathematics, computers, computer hardware and electronics,” Tagg said. “They can go into industry and do a lot of very important things.”

Money from the grant will go to covering travel and living costs from moving to Chicago and to buying hardware and laptops for students. But the majority of the grant money goes to paying summer salaries for both Tagg and his students.

At Fermilab, Tagg said he chooses the experiments he wants to participate in instead of having someone direct him. Many of these experiments involve neutrinos, which are subatomic particles that are shot from the sun in large numbers and pass through objects. Many people believe that observing these particles will give clues about how the universe was created.

However, Tagg said he believes, like many other researchers in his field, that neutrinos will likely never have a practical application in everyday life. He said that discovering the universe through neutrinos would be similar to discovering that the Earth goes around the sun in that it would not make many significant impacts.

“It’s interesting for its own sake, and that’s really the reason to do it,” Tagg said. “It’d be worth doing even if we weren’t going to discover anything because we are pushing forward barriers of technology, and we’re training up other people that can push other useful technologies.”

Tagg said he hopes to set up a remote monitoring station at Otterbein for students and himself to monitor the experiments in Fermilab at home.

The research team of psychology professors Meredith Frey and Cynthia Laurie-Rose received a $225,700 grant in the 2013 financial year from the U.S. Army Research Institute to study the factors that could influence how people in the Army can succeed. Five student researchers are assisting the professors with the grant.

The ultimate goal of the research is to come up with a replacement for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, which measures the intelligence of Army recruits in order to determine where in the Army they will best succeed.

However, Frey said that the current test takes a long time to complete and asks many questions that can be grounded in culture. For example, certain skills would be tested that men would tend to perform better at than women, leading to inaccurate results. Frey hopes to change this by replacing it with a test that measures what recruits can learn rather than what they have learned and by making the test shorter.

In addition to covering travel costs and computer software, the majority of the grant money goes to paying student researchers, research participants and to Frey and Laurie-Rose as a stipend for work in the summer.

Senior Amanda Zamary, a psychology major and one of the student researchers who has worked on the grant, said that she came to Otterbein knowing she wanted to do research and started working with Frey during her sophomore year.

“I’m going onto a Ph.D. program, so I think it’s prepared me well to continue my education, and it’s helped me realize that research is what I want to do,” Zamary said.

Frey said she encourages student researchers to be more collaborative with faculty.

“It really helps them to make a transition, from being a student in a classroom where you’re sort of sitting there writing down everything that a faculty member says and preparing for exams and things like this, to being more of a colleague and learning how to make your voice heard and to generate some of your own ideas,” Frey said.

Frey said the Army has asked the researchers to submit another proposal soon.

(above, left) Part of the Microboone liquid argon time projection chamber at Fermilab. // fermilab u.s. department of energy

(above, center right) Meredith Frey discusses the grant she received from the U.S. Army Research Institute. // andrew beers

(above, far right) Children at Woodcrest Elementary participate in exercises during a Minority Health Month event. // provided by robert braun
Assistant professor of health and sport sciences Robert Braun received a grant in 2013 to teach elementary school students, primarily of African American and Somali descent, the importance of health and exercise in a one-day event.

The Commission for Minority Health gave out the $3,000 grant in order to achieve the professor’s goal. Otterbein graduate Sharanda Whittner, who is currently employed at the commission, was a major factor in applying for and carrying out the grant. The grant money went to nutrition books, equipment and to paying instructors.

The program was for the purpose of eliminating health disparities between African American and other racial groups. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, black people had the highest death rates from heart disease and stroke compared to other racial and ethnic populations and a life expectancy 3.4 percent lower than the average American in 2012.

The event took place in April, which is Minority Health Month, at two elementary schools in Columbus, Woodcrest Elementary and Columbus Africentric, who both have a large African American and Somali population. During the day, three different grade levels from each school rotated between activities like Zumba, nutrition education and an inflatable obstacle course and other outdoor activities.

Braun said a few other Otterbein students helped with the implementation of the grant.

“I have a stack of letters somewhere from kids,” Braun said. “One school had the kids write letters thanking us for coming, taking the time out of our day. That was meaningful.”

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Find us on
It’s finally happening. Spring is in the air, and summer is just around the corner. Although fashion probably isn’t your top priority with finals looming over your shoulder, one must remember that your style says a lot about who you are as a person. Whether you’re dressing with confidence at the workplace or flirty at the club, someone is bound to notice. So put away those sweaters and pull out the sundresses, ladies, and let’s show this campus what we’ve got. This season’s top spring and summer collections feature retro florals, sporty and chic metallics, bold prints and more. You can look to these three particularly fashionable Otterbein students to help inspire a new look this summer.

Public relations major Hannah Gorman sports bold florals with a white skirt that’s both playful and fun — all while keeping it classy in her nude flats.

Jessica Ellicott, a psychology major, is shown here in high waisted black jeans with a four-button closure, a black with gold floral patterned peplum, white glitter socks and black chunky wedges. It’s perfect for a fierce night out with the girls.
Colored Scarf

Scarves aren’t just for keeping warm in the winter. If you’re looking for a burst of color to add to your outfit, aim for a light scarf. Floral print scarves mirror the season and pair great with solid color tops, light denim skinny jeans and flats.

Tribal Earrings

Tribal designs have come and gone in the ever-changing fashion industry. It seems like this time, it’s here to stay. These earrings provide a chic vibe that can be just the right look to project on summer days or nights. With their geometric shapes, they can provide a more rustic theme to a natural look.

Floral Purse

Floral patterns are described as chic and strong. Bold prints accenting simple, complementing pieces are sure to create a fairy-tale style all your own. This purse would be a nice accent to some nude pumps or that pastel sundress that’s been hiding in the back of your closet.

In the Office

Sarah Egger, a business admin major here at Otterbein, is shown wearing a peplum dress keeping her style simple yet sophisticated, and her Nine West floral heels from Macy’s really emphasize the playfulness of her outfit. This dress is sure to impress at the office.
Nude models pose and expose

story by // josh park

From an outside perspective, an older man standing naked on a platform, motionless, surrounded by a circle of chairs and wooden art easels appears almost ritualistic. The lights are low – two lamplights cast shadows on half of the man’s face while light dimmers behind him highlight the gray in his curly hair. He holds a long, narrow wooden rod in his hands, making slow, fluid movements with his entire body. At 59, Bob Maines said he’s in pretty good shape, “even better than some students.”

His shadow moves behind him as he demonstrates. He morphs his body into various poses – fishing, rowing, bowling, throwing, anything one can possibly pretend to do with a wooden rod. While his body is characterized by these poses, his face is calm and unmoving. Even with his arms and legs spread wide, Maines is focused and still.

“Right now, life is a career,” he said. “I go where my adventures take me.”

Otterbein’s Art Department is much like any other school’s, according to figure drawing professor Louise Captein. Clothed and unclothed models are incorporated into figure drawing and painting studio classes to help students hone their skills and study the human anatomy – up close and personal. As a requirement for their art degrees, Otterbein art majors will take Drawing I, where they study figure drawing, which includes nude figures.

“There is a long tradition in Western art of drawing — or painting or sculpting — from life models, and we connect to that tradition,” Captein said. “You only have to go to any museum to see that as humans we like to depict other humans.”

In her 23 years as a drawing and painting professor, Captein said she’s only had one student drop her class because of the use of nude models.

Maines’ free-spirited manner of speaking comes naturally, especially when he talks about what he does.
As he performs a multitude of poses with a staff in his hands, he discusses proportion, energy, balance and movement of his own body; self-aware but not narcissistic. As he talks about color, lighting and shadows, his insight comes from that of an artist’s background.

In 2001, Maines found a passion for acting. He spent the following six years studying and performing in independent films and the theater, establishing his career in Columbus, until a book on acting made him refocus. The book’s author claimed that a good actor is one who can step outside the comfort zone, and nude modeling became the means to help Maines better himself. Through word of mouth, Maines discovered that the Columbus College of Art and Design was seeking nude models for studio classes, and in 2007 met with Captein, who was teaching there. When she took a job at Otterbein, Maines followed while still holding a job at CCAD.

While Captein brings adults to model nude into her studios — there are others besides Maines — she also enlists students, occasionally pulling from the Theater and Dance Department. Junior BA theater major Zach Paugh currently does clothed modeling but took a chance at nude modeling his sophomore year for $10 an hour.

On his first day, Paugh said he felt nervous, more so when he had to change into a robe before entering the classroom. However, after disrobing, he said he felt more at ease. He said the students immediately took to drawing and were so focused, the tension lightened. Understanding that he was there to help other students learn, regardless of the fact that these people were students he would see outside of classrooms. His worry about “getting hard” in front of the class also alleviated as the class progressed.

“There was no emphasis on me as ‘Zach,’” he said. “More on my posture, movement, and flow.” The emphasis is also not on the fact that these models are nude. The shift moves from nudity being censored and private to being a measure of confidence and self-awareness of the body, as Paugh put it. He said it’s not about being eroticized.

Like Paugh, Maines said he was nervous when he first started modeling. However, talking to students during class helped him become more comfortable, going so far as to pass out pieces of chocolate during his breaks. Most students admire him, even the freshmen, he claimed. Captein said that when the atmosphere is studious and serious, students tend to get more comfortable. It also helps when the professor is at ease too. Maines also tries to diffuse the awkwardness.

“I like to make it fun,” he said. “It’s a type of performance.”

And Maines makes many an encore. A typical workday is anywhere from six to 12 hours, as he trades off between Otterbein and CCAD classes. Studio classes are generally three hours, so Maines conducts a varied session of poses, some as long as 30 or 45 minutes. While Paugh credits modeling as good exercise, mainly yoga, Maines said the job trained him to have better posture, but it also caused muscle fatigue and soreness.

The extensive hours modeling required distraction from stiffness but also boredom.

Maines said when holding the same position for such a prolonged period of time, it helps to be imaginative. Focusing on stains in the room, a dot on the floor, meditating or simply letting the mind wander made good distractions from the time.

At the end of the drawing and painting process, Paugh said looking at the artwork is a type of identity booster. He saw how other people portrayed him, one student drawing him as a skeleton with wings. Maines mentioned one of the perks to his job is being around young, creative people who are doing what they love. As students learn from him, he said he learns from the classes that he attends.

“I sit through lectures about anatomy or physiology,” Maines said. “I take the opportunity to learn.”

Listening to him talk about color and lighting and contrast, it’s obvious that Maines does more than pose and get paid for it. He gets paid for a free education.

“The curious mind is a rich mind.”
A glimpse into the past

story by // katie taggart

Towers Hall: the symbol of Otterbein. It appears as a silhouette on the university’s logo as well as on “Towers Magazine,” a publication that highlights the school’s students, faculty and program accomplishments. As the oldest building on campus, Towers has been a symbol of Otterbein’s history. The building has a number of stories to tell about the university’s foundation.

Towers is the last remnant of the original structures that first appeared on our campus. Ever wonder why Otterbein is in Westerville? Did you ever hear about the tunnels beneath Otterbein, and is there something to them? Or what was it like on campus so long ago? A look through Otterbein’s archives, with information provided by archivist Stephen Grinch, tells the story of how Otterbein began.

In the beginning

In 1847, the United Brethren Church opened Otterbein University. The church decided that they should open a school out of the church, realizing the need for education amongst its members. The leader of the push for the school was Reverend Lewis Davis. Throughout the Ohio conferences of the church, he would drum up support to establish the school, and over time more people began to support it. Two supporters were Reverend William Hanby, father of Benjamin Hanby and one-time publisher of the church’s paper, “The Religious Telescope,” and Jonathan Dresbach, the main benefactor to Otterbein. Those three men were the forefront of the educational movement from the church.

For the location of this new school, they needed a place that was close to Columbus to enjoy the amenities of the big city, yet far enough as to be removed from the temptations of city life. But they did not know of such a place. One day, after the church gave permission to establish a school, two of the brethren overheard two Methodists lament over the failure of the Methodist school, Blendon Young Men’s Seminary in Westerville, that they had made years before.

The church bought the seminary, which were three buildings on a small plot of land at the time. In the fall of 1847, Otterbein was opened, named after the co-founder of the United Brethren Church and the first bishop, Phillip William Otterbein.

The first few buildings

While it’s the only building left on campus from the 19th century, Towers Hall was not one of the school’s original buildings. At the time, the seminary had small structures on what is now Towers’ lawn.

One of the first buildings, built in 1855, was named Saum Hall. It was located on the east lawn, where Courtright Memorial Library currently resides, and stayed in use until 1906.

Above is Towers Hall during its dedication ceremony in 1871 from the perspective of Main and Grove streets. // provided by stephen grinch
Then there was the original Main Building. It was never finished, and the conditions of the hall led students to dislike the building. It was poorly lit, cold and smoky in the classrooms from the fireplaces that kept it warm. Because of its poor condition, many thought it was a blessing in disguise when it caught fire a few years later.

Lewis Davis, president at the time, called others to come to his home, located at Carnegie Library, now Clippinger Hall, to make some decisions about the situation. They decided that classes would continue until the end of the school year by setting up classes in the other buildings on campus. Students even went to professors’ homes for class.

At one point, administrators considered moving the school to Dayton, where the church’s headquarters were located, but Davis and the faculty decided that they would stay in Westerville. This decision came from the city of Westerville’s promise to step up and make improvements to be more appealing to incoming students.

**Towers History**

Using charred bricks from the original Main Building, they laid the foundation of Towers Hall, which took two years to build. If you are in the basement of Towers and the paint is chipped off or something is exposed, you may still see the bricks from the original building.

In the beginning, Towers was not called Towers Hall. It had many names: the Main Building for many years, later the Administrative Building, or Ad Building for short, since the president and administrative offices were located there. In 1955, they moved the administrators to Clippinger Hall, where the admissions office is currently located.

Because the administrative offices moved, the board of trustees decided that they should rename it. To pay homage to the original purpose, the board decided it would be called Old Main. The students ignored that title and called it Towers because of the building’s prominent towers. Seeing that the students were calling it Towers and that the towers were used in a lot of university promotions and logos, the board changed it to Towers Hall the following year.

**Association Building**

The Association Building, commonly known as the “Sosh Building,” where Roush Hall currently stands, was the last of the 19th century buildings. Certain features from that original building were copied into Roush. Students pushed for it to house the YMCA on campus, which led the university to be the first school west of the Appalachian Mountains to have a YMCA and YWCA. In addition, it housed a half-court gym. Saum Hall was torn down for the Association Building, and this building was torn down in the ’70s because the school couldn’t afford the repairs needed to keep it functioning. At the time, the country was in the middle of an energy crisis, so the college couldn’t afford to heat it.

**Tunnels**

Tunnels were built under the school as a way of transporting hot water and electricity from the service plant to different locations in the university. Back in the ’50s, student work crews would clean and do maintenance within the tunnels. Students currently aren’t allowed in because of liabilities.

There are entrances to these tunnels all over the campus, located in the theater director’s office in the basement of Cowan Hall, the basement of Roush, the basement of Battelle, the basement of the library and a hatch in front of Towers that was dug up a couple of years ago.

**Pranks and Tricks**

The campus has also seen some interesting pranks. When there were farms surrounding the campus, students would find a cow and take it up to the third floor of Towers. Cows are able to go up stairs but cannot go down on their own.

Professor Azlo Pierre Rosselot, a history and French professor, had a farm where the State Street Bob Evans is located currently, and he was known for raising chickens. He was also the advisor to Country Club, also known as Pi Kappa Phi. One night, Club invited him over for a chicken dinner. It wasn’t until he got home that he noticed that one of his chickens was missing.

In the early ’60s, Otterbein students went down to Capital and ended up taking down their goal post. As punishment, they had to pay for a new post. To do this, the students cut up the goal post they took down and sold the sections to other Otterbein students. With that, they were able to pay it off.

Reverend Lewis Davis was one of the three founding fathers of Otterbein.

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Above is the Association Building in 1895. When it was demolished, many of the structural elements were put into Roush. // provided by stephen grinch
A new form of fitness
personal health provides the motivation for a clean lifestyle

story by // lindsay paulsen

Wearing her usual spandex workout pants, sweatshirt and Nike tennis shoes, Alexa Salamon stepped out of her car and scanned the parking lot for a flat surface. Nothing was in sight. The sloped hood of her car wasn’t an option, but the flat roof would work.

Salamon quickly pulled a small scale out of her car, as well as a large pink lunch box, setting both onto the roof. She quickly measured out portions of a miniature meal of chicken, vegetables and carbs that contained a precise number of macronutrients to fuel her body during training.

Although strategic eating is part of Salamon’s daily existence, it’s only one aspect of her all-consuming lifestyle that is centered around pushing her body to its physical limits. She is a professional athlete on a mission to become a National Physique Committee bikini competitor.

Salamon isn’t alone in her goal, as she is part of a much larger nationwide community of those who are devoted to perfecting their physique.

On the outside, the idea of bikini competitions might merely look like a collection of tan and toned women prancing around a stage in bikinis. However, Salamon is living proof that the life of a bikini competitor is anything but plush.

About a year and a half ago, the senior music major at Otterbein decided to pursue a healthier lifestyle. Salamon said that she had never struggled with weight, and because of that, she had never been concerned about living a healthy lifestyle. “I had never really thought about my health,” Salamon said. “I feel like health, a lot of times, is really correlated with being thin in this country. So they think that if you’re thin, then you’re healthy, which isn’t really the case at all.”

When Salamon came to college, she became obsessed with living the college lifestyle, giving little thought to how she ate or how she treated her body.

“I didn’t care what I ate. I gained a little bit of weight, but then I just got to a point where enough was enough. I started realizing that there was a better way to live.”

Salamon noticed, though, that her body wasn’t the only part of her that needed a transformation.

“I was so dependent on other people’s reassurance in order for me to have any kind of self-esteem. I knew that something needed to change and that it needed to come from me, not from anybody else.”

One day in October of her junior year, she went out and bought a pair of Nikes, went to the gym and ran. “Screw that nerdy music girl who

To maintain a clean diet, Salamon said that shopping along the outer sections of the grocery store that display produce and meats can help her avoid the processed foods, such as crackers and cookies found in the interior aisles. // lindsay paulsen
was afraid of the gym,” Salamon said. “It was time for me to take charge of my life.”

From that day forward, Salamon committed to going to the gym every single day. “The gym at first was a place that was very uncomfortable for me. … I had to learn how to not fall off of a treadmill … but then it turned into my favorite place to be on campus,” she said.

In the beginning, Salamon spent all of her time doing cardio exercises but later decided that she needed more guidance to progress with her fitness. In addition to abandoning Pop Tarts and microwave meals, she began meeting with her personal trainer, Jenn Fekpe, who is also a certified strength and conditioning specialist.

In the beginning, they met a couple times a week to improve Salamon's strength. “When she first came, she couldn’t even lift a 5-pound weight,” Fekpe said with a laugh.

In addition to building strength, they also focused on reshaping Salamon’s body to the ideal proportions of an NPC bikini competitor.

According to Fekpe, they developed several exercises to make the lower half of her body larger while reducing the size of her bust.

As Salamon’s strength and determination increased, she decided to take on a 30-day “clean eating” challenge.

Salamon said that the concept of clean eating is a simple one. “It just means that you aren’t eating any unnatural, processed foods,” she said. The concept of clean eating might be simple, but certainly poses its challenges in fast-food American culture. To optimize her body’s performance, she sticks to a strict regimen of eating six clean meals per day at exact intervals — even if that means eating while she is at the eye doctor or sitting at the hair salon.

She has also found ways to creatively keep her diet interesting. For example, she will calmly whip up a strawberry egg-white waffle while blaring Beyonce from her iPhone, or add peanut butter to meat for added protein. Although the clean eating challenge was exactly what its name suggested — a challenge — it fueled her desire to take things a step further. Fekpe suggested that she enter a bikini competition, and Salamon agreed. “At first, I just wanted to do the bikini competition for the experience of it all. But then I decided that if I was going to do it, I wanted to do it to the best of my ability,” she said.

When she set her mind to becoming a bikini competitor, Salamon said that she was hesitant to publicize any of her goals for fear that people wouldn’t take her seriously. But fears aside, Salamon was focused on one thing: to get stronger. Improving her strength and reaching new fitness levels provided her with new highs that kept her motivated.

With her first competition approximately six months away, Salamon continues to eat clean, trains with her coach three days a week, does additional abdominal exercises for “homework” and attends normal classes at Otterbein to complete her degree. The NPC bikini competitor lifestyle doesn’t come cheap either. Salamon additionally works three jobs to afford the necessary coaching. With some mornings beginning as early as 4:30, she works as a nanny, as a helper in a church nursery and at the Vitamin Shoppe to pay for her expenses. As competition time draws nearer, she will have to invest in a competition-appropriate swimsuit, jewelry, shoes, as well as a spray tan and even another coach who will teach her a routine of poses that will highlight and showcase her muscles.

Although bikini competitions might appear to be more like beauty pageants to an outsider, Salamon said that she has never been concerned with losing weight or looking a certain way. To her, an actual bikini competition is just one tiny moment in a much greater lifestyle centered around building physical and mental strength.

“I don’t know if I latched onto all of this or if it latched onto me,” Salamon said. “Either way, I was falling for it. I literally fell in love with this lifestyle.”
A: A strict regimen of macronutrients can sometimes get bland, so Salamon keeps a veritable library of spices to add to her meals. Her collection includes garlic powder and varied grounded peppers.

B: Used for everything from making waffles to making a modified form of “fried” chicken, egg whites from a carton are a staple of Salamon’s diet.

C: “Fruit typically helps retain water, so bikini competitors don’t typically eat a lot of it,” Salamon said. However, she supplements her diet with occasional fruits, like bananas.

D: Finding substitutes for less healthy, conventional ingredients is a large part of Salamon’s daily challenges. She finds Stevia to be a useful substitute for sugar and coconut flour in exchange for regular flour. Trader Joe’s Coconut Oil cooking spray is also a staple of her cooking resources.

E: Precise measurements of food weight are taken with a scale, and Salamon always makes sure to keep measuring cups and spoons on hand. The Magic Bullet is another useful appliance that she uses for mixing waffle batters and making smoothies.

F: Salamon’s lunch bag contains three separate compartments for three individually contained meals, with side compartments for silverware and ice packs.

G: Chicken, broccoli, and brown rice is a typical meal for Salamon. “I eat simple food with minimal ingredients,” she said. “If I don’t understand what it is, I don’t buy it.”

You won’t find any peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or fruit snacks in Alexa Salamon’s pink “lunchbox.” The NPC bikini competitor-in-training eats six times per day, in exact 4-hour intervals to keep her body performing at its best.
Throughout my life, I had been a quiet girl who was too shy to introduce myself. In high school, I began to break out of my shell, but it wasn’t until I came here that I finally broke free from the force that is social anxiety.

By joining the T&C/O360 team, I was forced to go out there and talk to people. I went from being afraid to dial the phone to going down to someone’s place to interview them. I can now look into people’s eyes and give a firm handshake that was strengthened through countless meetings and interviews.

This confidence was not only picked up from the newsroom environment but the school itself. The professors and students all carry a type of respect and kindness that you don’t see very much in the real world. They have made learning here extremely pleasant, though I could have done without the early morning classes and weird smelling classrooms.

As a senior, I am going to miss running back and forth on campus to go from an interview to class. I’m going to miss sipping on coffee in the Bean. And I am going to miss Otterbein.

-Katie Taggart

Once in a while, we need to step back and make sure we are still passionate about our goals. In my time at Otterbein, I have struggled at points to determine my purpose. But late nights of editing stories, sentences, photos and layouts have eventually helped me realize that I am working to organize something already created: history. And after the compiling and organizing, my work and efforts I hope told someone’s story in an interesting way. My purpose at Otterbein is to be a storyteller and a memory-saver for our community. Working for student publications, I have written stories about campus issues and student life, documented events with photos and reinstated our hard copy yearbook. I don’t want to leave a legacy at Otterbein just about me but instead a legacy for our generation with the experiences we are having and memories we are making right now.

-Danielle Lanning

After only 10 minutes of practice riding an unfamiliar horse, my coach Kari and I walk over to the arena where I will be judged. Kari looks up at me trying to relax by taking some deep breaths and says, “Just ride the horse in front of you.” That last bit of advice before I entered the arena not only resounded with me as I rode through my test but through many other situations in the last couple of years.

Now every time I start to get anxious about competing a horse, or taking an exam, or entering a new job, I try to remember this simple and modifiable advice — just ride the horse in front of you. Take each problem as it is, and work with it for your benefit. Let other things stay out of the way. Collegiate riding has taught me more than just how to be a stronger rider. It has taught me to be a stronger person, knowing that I can always offer more to resolve a problem — whether it be a school magazine or a horse — if I focus my complete attention on it without getting distracted by previous inhibitions, mistakes or shortcomings. Move on and get over that bad ride or disastrous typo, and just ride the horse in front of you.

- Rebecca Knopf
At the grocery store, I used to be the kid that asked for a box of crayons instead of a candy bar. I knew we already had them at home, but I could always use more. I needed some crayons to stay sharp for fine lines and have others with the wrappers torn off so I could use the sides; new ones were just as important. There’s a pristine element about a new crayon that disappears the moment it touches paper.

My mom studied commercial art in school, and I remember sitting at the table drawing with her, dissatisfied by the scribbles on my page next to her beautiful landscapes and ink drawings. Rather than be discouraged, I began to work toward creating marks that were just as inspiring.

Today, my artwork highlights the concept of impermanence. My interest in impermanence may have stemmed from the fascination of a new crayon that doesn’t last, but it can be applied to many other aspects of life. We often forget to look at things, like the sunset or open our windows to hear birds singing. Before we know it, they’re gone. My time at Otterbein isn’t about leaving a legacy. It’s about showing others what they missed creating theirs.

- Jennifer Hall

“...You think you are perfect, but you’re not. Who would want you? You missed out on something great.” Fall of freshman year, I was so focused on having a boyfriend, so succumbed with the idea of being wanted in a romantic relationship, so infatuated with the idea that I am only worth something if I am with someone, I settled for a random guy.

After ending any potential for a relationship, he began to send text after text of anything that would tear me down. My eyes were blinded because I had fallen so far away from my relationship with God that I thought I needed this guy so that I could be worthy of love, attention and support. But Christ has shown me that love when he died for me on the cross. If I am worth God sending his son to die for me, I am worth way more than some idiot disrespecting me.

That night began a turning point in my faith where I learned I was worthy of more. Now through my writing and speaking I want to let everyone know that you have a value beyond this world. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are worth more.

- Natasha Shorts

As a freshman, I would like my legacy at Otterbein to be one of darkness and despair. I will rule the Communication Department with an iron fist. I want people to remember me as their one true leader who sat upon an iron throne with the mighty minotaur as his minion. I’m looking forward to my future years at Otterbein.

On a serious note, I first came to Otterbein as a student about eight months ago. My first topic assigned to me as an Otterbein360 practicum student was the relatively boring topic of Uptown developments by a Ms. Katie Taggart. I turned it in three weeks later to decent reviews. The frequency of suggestions that I should apply for a staff position at 360 started with one suggestion every couple weeks, then eventually it became every day. They weren’t necessary - this was one of my main goals.

I’ve been working under Anna Schiffbauer and Josh Park for both 360 and the T&C ever since. No regrets.

I want to be known as the introverted journalist. Being afraid of people yet fascinated by their thoughts and lives is a strange paradox. It sounds strange - relatable to a caring business major or an accounting major who wants to enjoy their job - but I have plans to make it work.

-Logan Meyst
When I came to Otterbein, I learned that to be a broadcasting major you have to take initiative and be the one to stand out. I, however, have never liked to do anything that I didn’t feel completely prepared for. But sometimes in life you just have to jump.

So when junior Kahla Johnson asked me to apply for radio staff my freshman year, I said, “I’ll think about it.” When she told me that the applications were due that day, I had a decision to make. I could continue to not do things I didn’t feel prepared for, or I could become a person who doesn’t let one opportunity go by.

Now that I’ve been on radio staff three times and TV staff twice, I don’t know why I thought applying was such a big deal, but it was in my 18-year-old mind. If I have any advice to incoming freshmen, it is this: don’t let fear stop you from becoming who you have the potential to be. You only get to do this college thing once, so take it for everything it’s worth, and just jump every once in a while.

- Grace Lenehan
When you’re known for doing one prominent thing on campus, it tends to stick with you throughout the years. The athlete is stereotyped into being the jock-type, the theater major being nose-deep in Shakespeare or Kafka and the science major in the lab, beaker in hand and goggles on face.

But one aspect of character is not the only thing that defines people. There’s depth into who they are, far more than a sport, class or major.

**Abbey Gray: A Mission in the Making**

When junior track star Abbey Gray remembers the destruction she saw in Haiti from Hurricane Katrina, you can tell from the look on her face that she is still in grief.

“It was just complete devastation,” Gray said. “They were just so broken, and they needed so much love.”

Gray has been the face of Otterbein women’s hurdles since she set foot on the track, breaking records in the 60-meter hurdles, the 60-meter dash and 100-meter hurdles. She does this while also balancing nursing classes.

“Abbey is the definition of someone with drive and motivation,” said junior Hannah Ewald, a women’s, gender and sexuality studies and peace and social justice double major. “She gives her all in her academics and on the track.”

Though Gray continues to excel athletically, her desires and passions extend far beyond any track meet.

Growing up in the church, Gray began to slowly find her calling as she watched church member Tami Shobe work with Children’s Medical Missions West. Shobe arranged for sick kids in Africa and Haiti to live with host families in America while they provided the treatment each child needed until they were back to health and sent home.

“I have been watching that since I was a little girl, and I was so intrigued,” Gray said. “The transformation that happens just from showing the children God’s love completely changes them in probably a bigger way than their physical needs that are met.”

With the influence of Shobe and their new pastor, whose main focus was international missions, the stage was set. After traveling to Haiti during her sophomore year in high school with her church where she spent most of her time helping out in an orphanage, the Gray family wanted to do more.

During the summer and fall of Gray’s senior year of high school, an 11-year-old Haitian girl named Francesca came to live with the Gray family. Suffering with seizures from the post-traumatic stress of Hurricane Katrina and having been born with arm deformities, Gray’s family was able to provide Francesca with the medical treatment that she needed.

“She is one of the strongest, happiest girls that I have ever met,” Gray said.

Three years later, on their return to Haiti, Gray and her father reunited with Francesca.

“She never returned to having seizures like she was before she came to the U.S., and she was healthy and so grown up.”

On this same trip, Gray said the people of the country had more dignity in their homes and motivation to start a new life. She also noticed a greater spiritual zeal since her previous visit.

Looking toward summer, Gray will be spending a month in Thailand and in Papua, Indonesia alongside her brother and church members. She said it’s the relationships from the past years that push her to continue her work overseas.

“These are the connections that truly inspire me to be involved in mission work and potentially making a difference in someone’s life. The friendship and sisterhood that Francesca and I have is one that I will treasure forever, no matter if we are a thousand miles apart.”

Brandon Bruner: The Family Man

Walking onto the stage at the first annual Cardy Awards Night to accept his award as Best Newcomer, junior marketing major and track athlete Brandon Bruner seemed more focused than usual. With his fun-loving and jokester personality, many seemed excited to hear Bruner’s acceptance speech.

But it was the serious look on his face, his thankfulness and declaration of love he shared for his two-year-old daughter Ava that surprised everyone listening.

Spending a year at Wilmington College studying education, Bruner decided to leave school and become a full-time salesman at H.H. Gregg. Enjoying his life in the work world with the hope of continuing to be a businessman, he said Ava changed his mind about school.

“She just motivated me to make better decisions, and for me, college was definitely a must.”

Beginning Otterbein in the spring of 2013,
Bruner made his return back to college. Though Bruner’s outgoing personality made him well-liked and known on campus as a student, it was not until he was eligible by NCAA rules to compete this past fall that Bruner began to take Otterbein by storm in the athletic world. Breaking records during indoor track season for the 200-meter dash, placing 13th in the NCAA national track meet for long jump, Bruner seems to be unstoppable on the track.

But it is his daughter Ava who is behind all of Bruner’s motivation to excel, even though that is not the first thing that comes to mind when other people see him.

“My first impression of Brandon was that he is an athlete, he’s funny and he’s just an all-around cool dude,” said junior basketball forward Marshall Crum. ‘Basically the same impression that everyone really has of him. But Brandon is a family man for sure. He is always bragging about how beautiful his daughter is, how much he misses her and how he hopes to give her the world.’

Since track meets and school have kept him away from going home, it has been more difficult to spend time with his daughter. During his first semester, he would go home every weekend to work and spend time with Ava. However, this semester, he said, has been rough, and he only talks to her through Skype and phone calls made almost every day.

“Thinking of her, though, allows me to make way better decisions, though I really just stay to myself and try not to get caught up as much in ‘the life’ as I call it.”

With the outdoor track season ending and school soon coming to a close, Bruner is excited to spend more time with his favorite girl.

“My daughter makes me happy, so seeing her grow up and have everything I had and more will be enough for me.”

Sydney Smith: Actress and Science Buff

Recalling the first time she watched a surgery, sophomore Sydney Smith’s face lights up as she describes the fascination she had as she watched the doctors perform a knee replacement. That was her junior year in high school, the same year Smith learned that she had a talent on stage.

At Otterbein in the fall of 2012, Smith joined the rest of the incoming theater BA majors, learning to hone her craft on the stage. Having the opportunity to land ensemble roles in Otterbein plays that are usually only given to BFA majors, Smith said she feels like her rise to stardom is just beginning. Even though Smith loves the journey she is taking now, there was a point in high school where she almost considered majoring in biochemistry to take the steps to become a doctor.

“Science just clicks for me,” she said. “It fascinates me.”

Smith said her childhood fantasies would involve thinking she would grow up to one day become a doctor. She said she always took a special interest in science, and the classes she took in high school really began to grow her desire to learn. But when it came down to making the decision of what to major in, Smith had to follow her heart.

“I have always been an impulsive person, but this is a decision that really made me take time to think of what I wanted to do. I had to ask myself, ‘Is that my passion?’ I enjoyed science, but I had a hunger for theater.”

Now Smith enjoys watching surgeries on YouTube and continues to keep her mind fresh on the science of the body by remembering the name of each body part. With her dream of moving to New York and performing on Broadway or joining a theater company, Smith continues to enjoy her time as she studies theater while never leaving her science side behind.

Nana Agyepong reflects on a time in her life when her mother had to force her and her sister to join their church choir.

“When we first joined the praise team, my sister and I were so shy. It wasn’t for a while that I had a solo. I think that is what has helped me build my confidence and develop my leadership skills.”

As her confidence and leadership grew, so did her passion to get involved with singing outside of church. Participating in the school choir from middle school through high school, Agyepong said she began to understand music in a way she never had before.

After graduating high school, Agyepong was asked to become one of the praise and worship directors for her church’s large youth choir and has recently been featured as a background singer for an up-and-coming Ghanaian recording artist, Minister Nii Addo.

Still wondering whether she will follow her love for singing fully, right now Agyepong is content with continuing to sing recreationally and is looking forward to graduating and focused on pursuing her dreams as a doctor.

"I had to ask myself, 'Is that my passion?' I enjoyed science, but I had a hunger for theater.'

- sydney smith // sophomore ba theater major
As you walk near the library you inhale the sharp smell of the freshly cut grass and consider whether or not to spend some of your last Cardinal Dollars on a mocha Frappuccino from the ladies at the OtterBean Café. A well-dressed, slim, dirty blond-haired guy walks by, flashing you a genuine bright-as-the-sun smile and saying hello. You smile right back to him and say hi. Even though you have never officially met, you know him: Andrew S – something rather, you can never quite figure out his last name.

UrbanDictionary.com defines “Otterface” as “when one rubs their face rapidly under the water while showering, similar to an otter rubbing its own face while cleaning itself.” However, at Otterbein, where students cut and paste “otter” in front of almost anything, the “Otterface” title is given to students whose involvement, personalities and overall recognizability on campus make them stand out to anyone passing by. Almost all Otterbein students subconsciously know a few people who are the epitome of this, whether they be a part of the orientation SOAR team, Greek Life or just genuinely nice people who are seen every day. People who have become Otterfaces are recognizable by name or face to most students and can rarely walk across campus without saying hello to a number of people.

The phenomenon of the Otterface is well known to some students and faculty and completely foreign to others. One such student is senior vocal performance major Andrew Szczzerba, and while most students would wholeheartedly agree in naming Szczzerba an Otterface, he was surprised.

“I just think of myself as another Otterbein student,” Szczzerba said. “I don’t think of myself as somebody special.”

Szczzerba remembers hearing the term “Otterface” as soon as he got on campus his freshman year, when the term referred to specific seniors at the time. As a freshman on campus, Szczzerba told himself to be as real as he could possibly be and as open to everything and everyone as possible. This not only helped him meet many different people but made him more comfortable and confident in himself.

Often walking to and from Battelle — where he spends much of his time rehearsing and setting up for his part in opera productions — Szczzerba will smile and say hello to just about everyone. While this sometimes makes him late to classes, he doesn’t mind because that is just who he is.

“I am just one of those people where if I see somebody that I know or at least have seen before, if nothing else I will just say, ‘Hello, how are you?’ I don’t necessarily stop and hug everybody, but I have been known to do that.”

Szczzerba also claimed that while he lived on campus and ate at the Campus Center, his friends would often make fun of him because of how long it would take him to finish his dinner. Often he would find that he had been up in the CC for an hour without even touching his food.

“Going to the Campus Center for me is like an hour- or two-hour-long ordeal, and I wish I was kidding. … I will be sitting with people, and then I will see people across the Campus Center, and I will have to run and say hello, and then I see somebody in the pizza line.”

Being involved with theater in high school taught Szczzerba many things about performing
that he has found also applies to his daily life. He said he thinks that one of the big things that being involved in theater did for him was to help him to not be afraid to make a fool of himself and put himself out there.

“And if people think I’m crazy — well great, awesome.”

Szczerba’s main advice for people is to just be yourself and get to know people who you might not ordinarily associate yourself with. While it could lead to an increase in your tardiness, it will definitely expand your circle of friends.

Michael Spatafore, 2013 education alumnus, said that being an orientation leader doesn’t hurt when it comes to becoming an Otterface. As an orientation leader, students like Szczerba and Spatafore were able to meet 400 students right off the bat, which could speak to why both were kings on their class’s homecoming courts and why the last four crowned homecoming kings, including Szczerba, were all orientation leaders.

Currently a kindergarten through fifth grade physical education teacher at Wilder Elementary School in Westerville, Spatafore found that he had some friends who wouldn’t walk to class with him because he would take too long when he stopped to say hello to everyone, always ending up late. He also mentioned that after joining Greek life in his junior year, the amount of people he got to know on campus blew up.

“There is a whole side of campus that people don’t realize is there.”

Spatafore said that while he didn’t realize he was an Otterface, it isn’t shocking.

“I am just a happy guy, and I am loud.”

While being popular might seem like the main reason people like Szczerba and Spatafore have become Otterfaces, they both agree that smiling a lot is a huge help. However, students aren’t the only ones who can become an Otterface.

Take the OtterBean ladies for instance. Not originally designated as Otterfaces, that is exactly what they have become to our coffee-crazed campus. While students may not know Melissa Fullerton and Kathy Gray’s names, their faces, whether seen behind the OtterBean counter or at the drag show, are immediately recognizable.

Fullerton has been working through Bon Appetite for Otterbein for the past 2.5 years, while Gray has been working on the campus for eight years. Fullerton said she thinks that they are pretty talked about on campus, and when they are seen out from behind the OtterBean counter attending Otterbein events, students will come up to give them hugs and ecstatically say hello.

Sometimes she said she feels like they act as mothers to all of the students who come to them needing a caffeinated pick-me-up. And when students need to vent, Gray said that they will offer whatever advice they can — “not that we always have the perfect advice, but we listen.”

Because of the connection to Otterbein students, Gray and Fullerton will continue to be recognized as Otterfaces to future Otterbein classes.

“Definitely, you guys bring me back every year,” Fullerton said.

While the Otterface label is an accurate title for the OtterBean ladies, the term is more commonly given to gregarious and involved students, like Szczerba. With Szczerba graduating, campus will be on the look-out for someone with a winning personality, genuine positive attitude and contagious smile to dub the new Otterface.

(top) Andrew Szczerba waves to someone he knows near Towers Hall.

(center) Kathy Gray, left, and Melissa Fullerton, right, work at the OtterBean Café.

(bottom) Kathy Gray rings up a snack for a student.

&

andrew beers
I t was nearly 25 years ago when Cindy Heston-Sievers nearly quit on her Otterbein education after one year because she didn’t really know what she wanted in the future and thought she was wasting money.

But that all changed when she joined Greek life as a freshman and soon established an identity for herself and with her sorority sisters.

“Adjusting to college is huge for a freshman anyway, let alone throwing on top a decision about something that can make or break your college life,” said Heston-Sievers, who graduated from Otterbein in 1989 with a degree in business administration and finance. “Being in a sorority made me come back after my freshman year.”

Greek life has been at Otterbein for over 100 years, but for alumni like Heston-Sievers and hundreds of students today, it can make a huge impact on defining their college careers and who they become.

Heston-Sievers served as an officer for three years, chaired Greek Week and held the position of social chair. There were around 100 women in the Epsilon Kappa Tau, also known as EKT, chapter while she was a student. “When I was in school, Greek life was the center of the social activity. I know that’s very different now,” she said.

There are far more options than Greek life at Otterbein now, but participation in fraternities and sororities continues to rise.

In fall 2013, 180 women signed up to go through the sorority recruitment process, and at the end of that two-week process, about 120 of the women decided to join a sorority. Just over 100 men joined a fraternity. That was nearly a 50 percent increase for fraternities and 20 percent increase for sororities since 2011. Today, about 24 percent of current students are involved in a Greek organization, according to Mike Stumpf, former assistant director of the Center for Student Involvement and director of Greek life.

Otterbein also has charters with three National Pan-Hellenic Council chapters, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, which function between multiple college campuses. Stumpf said it can be difficult for city-wide chapters to stay connected due to the lack of proximity that an on-campus Greek group would benefit from. NPHC has a city-wide charter because there isn’t always a large population of black students on a single campus to support and sustain a Greek group.

There are a total of eight fraternities on campus, two of which belong to national fraternities.

The most recent fraternity to join Otterbein’s Inter-Fraternity Council, Phi Delta Theta, received its charter to join campus in March 2013. A couple years prior, Andrew Pea and a few students decided to initiate a chapter of the national fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. It took the men two and a half years to gain acceptance and approval from the other fraternities at Otterbein, according to Stumpf.

“In the five years I’ve been here, I’ve had at least a dozen (groups of students) want to start a new fraternity or sorority on campus,” Stumpf said. Phi Delta Theta was the only successful one during that time.

Otterbein has some defunct local sororities and fraternities that faded out due to lack of interest or membership over the years.

Stumpf said he thinks there is a need for a seventh sorority on campus. With so many women going through the recruitment process and only six sororities, there have been discussions at Panhellenic Council about re-establishing Rho Kappa Delta, also known as Arcady, which disbanded in 1980. Stumpf said he thinks it might be a few years for another sorority to emerge since interest in Rho Alpha Chi, also known as PAX, diminished when the remaining members graduated in spring 2013, according to Stumpf.

Greek transitions
Becky Smith, the director of alumni relations and a 1981 graduate of Otterbein, has recently decided to pull together the Greek alumni presidents to create the Greek Alumni Council, which met for the first time in July 2013.

Of Otterbein’s 24,000 alumni, Greek life makes up a large portion that Smith wants to reach out to specifically. The meetings will bring discussions about Greek alumni involvement on campus among other ways to strengthen the connection alumni have toward their Greek experience.

Now working at JPMorgan Chase, Heston-Sievers also serves as the alumnae president of EKT and is reaching out to over 900 living alumnae members for the chapter’s anniversary event in 2017. “We’re trying to strengthen our alumnae chapter to build up to that 100th celebration, to make sure it’s successful,” she said.

Theta Nu is also celebrating Three sisters of Epsilon Kappa Tau creating a poster in the late 1980s. // provided by stephen grinch
their 100th anniversary in 2017. The 100th anniversary of Tau Epsilon Mu and the 95th of Sigma Delta Phi will be celebrated at Otterbein’s fall 2014 homecoming celebration.

According to Smith, in the ’70s and ’80s, the Roost, which is now the OtterDen, was the hangout spot for Greeks. The walls were decorated with pledge paddles and Greek crests. During pledging, sorority sisters would go on “Coke dates” with a member of a fraternity at the Roost and prove they had the date by including a napkin with a note from their date in their rush book.

Originally, Greek life at Otterbein was a secretive way for students to gather. Groups were formed in order to be independent of the university’s regulations.

“I think over the years, Greek life has taken on a lot of different roles from providing community service to providing leadership development,” Stumpf said.

In the 19th century, there weren’t any Greeks on Otterbein’s campus, according to archivist Stephen Grinch. Instead, literary societies existed at Otterbein, and on most other campuses, as an outlet for students beyond the classroom. The societies developed from being solely book clubs to having debates, reading papers and other activities and became the main social force on campus. The societies were therefore deemed secretive by the university and therefore deemed secretive because of standards held by the United Brethren Church, which founded Otterbein. The university did many things to prevent the social meetings and tried to take control by preventing groups from using Greek letters or being affiliated with national fraternities and sororities.

In the 1920s, social groups began to grow in strength on campus and more faculty members became comfortable with the idea of having student clubs. As a young alumnus of Otterbein, A.P. Rosselot, a foreign language and history professor, had a better understanding of student life on campus compared to the other faculty members.

“Rosselot started to promote the idea that Greeks weren’t necessarily bad things, they could be good for the university’s health as a whole,” Grinch said.

By 1921, the university ordered that all groups must disband on their own terms or be dismissed by the university. However, at the end of the year, the administration would accept petitions for literary, social, scientific or religious clubs.

Greek groups at that time reinvented themselves in order to be recognized by the university as a social club. For instance, Sigma Alpha Tau became Owls.

Many groups formed, and 12 clubs were officially recognized by the university in fall 1921 and were listed in the Sibyl yearbook. Grinch said these clubs instantly became the dominant social force on campus. The literary societies started to fade out and were gone by the end of the ’30s.

Fraternities and sororities were officially approved by the faculty on Jan. 18, 1932.

Enrollment at Otterbein dropped during the ’30s because of the Great Depression, and fraternities and sororities had to disband or merge with another group. Zeta Phi was formed in 1931 as part of a merger between three fraternities.

After the depression, the number of students on campus began to increase, but with the start of World War II, many men were enlisted in the military, and only four fraternities remained active. Unlike the fraternities, the sororities thrived during this time.

Most students belonged to Greek life in the ’50s and ’60s because it was the main social option continued on next page

“People don’t understand Greek life. They think it’s just, ‘Oh, you’re gonna go party,’ but we do a lot of good things on campus.”

- Ashley Mann // Junior theater major

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on campus for students to get involved.

In 1971, over 60 years after the first sorority, the board of trustees voted to allow the sororities to have their own houses.

Every chapter of Greek life was native to Otterbein until 1981 when the national fraternity Alpha Sigma Phi joined campus. They disbanded shortly after in 1984, and it wasn’t until 2001 that the chapter returned to Otterbein.

In the '80s and '90s, Greek participation decreased due to many other opportunities on campus and negative national headlines surrounding Greek life, according to Grinch. During this time, Greek life did participate in a large amount of community service, which has carried over to the present day.

“A lot more students are working their way through college, and there are many more activities that are away from campus,” Grinch said. “Greeks have gone from purely social clubs to more social and philanthropic clubs. They do a lot of good will and local outreach.”

**Current Greek experience**

Ashley Mann, a junior theater major, said she felt connected with the women in Theta Nu and decided to pledge during her freshman year. “I felt more at home here than anywhere else on campus,” she said. “Overall, it gives me a feeling of friendship and a place of belonging. And honestly, if it wasn’t for Theta Nu, I would not be at this school anymore.”

Mann recognizes that Greek life membership ebbs and flows from year to year. In the '90s through the early 2000s, Theta Nu had five to 10 members, Mann said. During that time, the current alumni president of Theta Nu had to revamp the pledging process. Now, Theta Nu has almost 70 active members and is the second largest sorority at Otterbein following Sigma Alpha Tau, with almost 80 actives.

Mann said the Greek chapters on campus strive to be involved at Otterbein, within the community and to give Greek life a good reputation.

“A lot of people don’t understand Greek life. They think it’s just, ‘Oh, you’re gonna go party,’ but we do a lot of good things on campus,” she said. “We’re not just girls who wanna go out. We’re girls who are also involved on campus.”

Currently, Theta Nu’s philanthropy, or charity that they volunteer with and support, is Westerville Area Resource Ministry, as well as participating in other opportunities on campus, such as Relay for Life and events with the Center for Community Engagement.

Every fraternity and sorority is required to participate in community service during the year. Each chapter must sponsor a philanthropy project and average 10 hours of service per member by at least 75 percent of the chapter.

Like the rest of the Greek life chapters at Otterbein, Mann said pledging and being a member of Theta Nu still comes with secretive practices.

“It’s not secret because it’s bad,” Mann said. “It’s secret because it’s tradition.”

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**Samantha Skeen**

We are so very proud of you, Samantha. You’ve worked hard and did your best. Congratulations.

We love you.

Mom, Dad and Stephanie

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**Ryan Santille**

Congratulations, Ryan! We are so proud of you & love you so much!

Love,
Mom + Dad

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For a guy who has lived in almost every corner of the United States, freshman broadcasting major Elijah Gonzalez doesn’t quite have a clear-cut answer to “Where in the world are you from?” Gonzalez has lived in California, Tennessee, Ohio and Chicago — places with very different cultures within the U.S. However, living in four different places has allowed Gonzalez to pull something from each of these cultures, which have shaped him into the young man he is today.

From birth to his early teens, Gonzalez lived in California. His hometown of Calabasas is located in the southern region, about 10 minutes from Malibu. In California, he remembers warm weather, something he didn’t have in other places he had lived.

“It helped me learn a lot about being adventurous and being outdoors because you could be outdoors basically all year round,” he said. “So I think my adventurous side comes from that.”

Gonzalez’s father’s job as a music lawyer led them to music city: Nashville. Coming from California, he said he experienced a bit of a culture shock. The stereotype for people in California is “surfer dudes,” and he said he thought that the stereotype in Nashville would be “rednecks.” However, Gonzalez soon found out that although these two places are very different, stereotypes aren’t always true.

“Some of it was true, some of it wasn’t true, but it was definitely a whole different culture to live in.”

While going from Southern California to “the South” was a change, it really shattered the thought that every stereotype about a place is true. When someone thinks about Nashville, they probably think that everyone walks around in cowboy hats and boots, but Gonzalez said that’s not always true.

“Being able to see things broadly kind of came from Nashville,” he said. “Just broadening my view of other people and everyone else.”

Gonzalez graduated from high school in Nashville, and while he was packing his bags for Ohio, his family was packing theirs for Chicago. Now coming “home” means going to the big city, which he said is a completely different environment.

“It’s public transportation,” he said. “It’s everything that I’ve never done my entire life.”

But moving once again, this time to Chicago, also opened Gonzalez’s eyes to many different kinds of people.

“When I would walk down the street, I would see homeless people lined up basically on the streets, and that’s something that, living in Nashville, you don’t see a lot.”

Gonzalez said he also noticed that there were so many more people in Chicago with different ethnic backgrounds and styles of living. In Chicago, he said there are so many things people can see on a daily basis that can’t be seen anywhere else.

So out of all of these places, how did Gonzalez end up in Westerville? He chose Otterbein after an extensive college search. This search involved applying and getting accepted to 11 different schools. He applied to schools down south before he knew his family was moving to Chicago. He also applied to a few schools out in California, where he had previously lived, as well as schools around Illinois to be close to his next home. But the deciding factor of choosing Otterbein was its location. He said he really enjoyed that Otterbein was a small town but very close to the city of Columbus. As a broadcasting major, Columbus offers many opportunities in his career field.

Each of these places played a role in shaping Gonzalez as a person. Whether it be the adventure of California, breaking stereotypes in Nashville or living the city life in Chicago, this young man has seen it all. But for now, Gonzalez calls Otterbein home because it is where he feels the happiest and feels that he can make strides in his future career.

Wherever Gonzalez ends up down the road, nothing will replace the experience of living in four very different places. Some people might let moving around get them down, but for Gonzalez, it was an adventure. He said his travel experience has been an enjoyable ride so far.

With that attitude, who knows where Gonzalez will end up next?
Andrew Szczzerba

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.
- Albert Schweitzer

CONGRATULATIONS,
ANDREW SZCZERBA!!
You've made us so proud!!

Love,
Mama, Tata & Natalie

Katie Taggart

Katie,
Upon your graduation,
hold your memories in one hand,
but leave the other open...
for your life is just beginning,
and the world that awaits you is endless.
We are so very proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Michael

Anna Schiffbauer

Congratulations Anna

“You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!”
— Dr. Seuss, Oh, The Places You’ll Go!

We are so proud of you.

With Love,
Mom, Dad, Sara,
Striker and Dora

Maura Breen

You've worked so hard, and we are so very proud of you. Go and conquer one environmental crisis at a time.

We love you S.B.A.

Mom, Dad, Pat and Grandma

Brice Frentzel

Congratulations Brice! You have worked hard to achieve your goals. You are a positive leader and have so many wonderful qualities! You are an amazing man and we are very proud of you! We love you!

Mom, Dad, Brock, Grandma and Grandpa Frentzel, and Grandma and Grampa Norton
Kyle Ripma

Congratulations, Kyle!

We are so proud of you and your hard work over these past few years. Keep up the good work in law school!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Stephanie, Jake & Cody

Evan Keir

CONGRATULATIONS, EVAN KEIR!

May your life be filled with adventure.
Your dreams are waiting.
Get on your way!
Proud of you.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Megan Sinneway

You’ve come a long way, little girl! We are so very proud of you! Shoot for the moon, go after your dreams, you deserve them!!

You mean the world to us, you’ll always be our BABY!!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Tyler Dubiak

Tyler,
Success is not about the car you drive
It’s about the place you’re going.
It’s not about how you look.
It’s about how you see yourself.
It’s not about who you know.
It’s about who you are.
And you are by every definition of the word, a success.
Congratulations!

Love,
Mom

Sarah Andress

You’re braver than you believe
and stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.

Congratulations Sarah!
May 18, 2014
Mama and Papa
Oma and Opa
Heidi and Heri
12 hours per weekday

1,007 twitter followers

100 percent of presidential candidates who have spoken at Otterbein have lost in the election

David Lehman attended Otterbein in the fall of 1966

Alexa Salamon eats exactly six meals per day

The cost of a plane ticket to Haiti from Columbus ranges from $700 - 1,000

24 percent of Otterbein students are Greek