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University Update - March 27, 2015

Kathy Krendl
Otterbein University

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Recommended Citation

Krendl, Kathy, "University Update - March 27, 2015" (2015). *University Updates & Communications from the University President*. 30.
https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/university_updates/30

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Otterbein University Update
President Kathy A. Krendl
March 27, 2015

As you'll see below, a small group of Otterbein students gave up a traditional spring break in order to stay here in Westerville for a "Staycation of Service." They not only spent 400 hours engaging in community service during the week, but they also helped with the Women in Philanthropy summit, hosted here on campus on March 3-4. In addition to nearly 70 middle and high school students, more than 250 young professionals and senior women leaders from central Ohio participated in the summit. And thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors, foundations, our community partners, and registration fees, all costs were covered by external sources. Courtesy of our partners, we had international speakers with the President and CEO of The Global Fund for Women, Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, opening the summit as the keynote speaker. The next day Katie Koch, Head of Global Solutions Portfolio International for Goldman Sachs Asset Management, flew in from London to present an overview of the research Goldman Sachs has been conducting over the last several years to assess the economic and social impact of investing in women from a global perspective. The content of the entire summit was very impressive. For more information, click [Women in Philanthropy Summit 2015](#). I learned a great deal.

But what will stay with me forever is the experience of watching our students working with the middle and high school girls, connecting with women leaders from all kinds of backgrounds and professions, directing participants around campus, serving as gracious hosts to all of our guests. And perhaps most significantly I will remember the conversations I had with Musimbi Kanyoro and Katie Koch as they prepared to leave campus. Both were so impressed by our students that they encouraged me to include their internship opportunities in Otterbein's institutional listings. In fact, I understand that Katie Koch has already lined up a conversation with the Business and Economics Department and our Center for Career and Professional Development to establish a competition to award one of our students a summer internship at Goldman Sachs.

I'm not sure why I needed to be reminded that our students really are our best ambassadors, but it was very clear by the end of the summit. One of our faculty members said to me a few weeks ago, "We are so fortunate to be working with this group of young people." I couldn't agree more.



BRANCH OUT: An Alternative Spring Break Serving Women and Girls

During their "staycation of service" ten students gave up any ideas of the beach and stayed at Otterbein over spring break to volunteer with the **Center for Community Engagement** at numerous non-profit organizations who serve the needs of women and girls in Central Ohio. Highlights of the week included: Volunteering for three girls' clubs at **Walnut Springs Middle School**; facilitating sessions for 67 high school girls at the **Women & Philanthropy Summit**; designing camp activities for girls at **The Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland's Camp Ken-Jockey**, serving lunch to homeless women and their families at the **Community Shelter Board's Van Buren Center**; serving breakfast at **Faith Mission's Women's Shelter**; working in the warehouse at WARM; and labeling bars of soap for **TraffickFree**, an organization that distributes soap to high-risk motels. The **S.O.A.P.** (Saving our Adolescents from Prostitution) is labeled with hotline numbers for adolescent victims of human trafficking. In addition to serving over 400 hours during the week, students also engaged in educational reflections, leading their own discussion groups on gendered topics, including women in STEM fields, 2nd and 3rd wave feminism, building girls' confidence, and gender identity.

Enrollment Management

Over 1250 Financial aid awards for new freshmen and transfer students were mailed the week of March 6, the earliest we have ever been able to have awards out to families. Freshman applications are up 378 or 15%. Admits are up 252 or 14%. Confirmations are currently down 13. Our staff is currently reaching out to all families with financial aid awards to answer any questions they might have and encourage them to enroll.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Office of Diversity is encouraging conversations about diversity and Inclusion. We have two distinct programs which are designed to give members of the Otterbein community a safe space to discuss diversity and inclusion.

"Under the Lights" is a program which frames conversations on diversity in sports. Through innovative lectures by Rob Ruck, author of *Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game*, our own Athletic Director Dawn Stewart, and discussions led by representatives from the Office of Diversity using excerpts from ESPN's 30 for 30 series, we have had great conversations, and increased our understanding of race, gender, identity, socioeconomic diversity. The final opportunity to participate in this program this academic year is a trip to the Football Hall of Fame on Friday, April 3, 2015. Contact the Office of Diversity for more information.

Making the Invisible Visible is a series of conversations sponsored by the Office of Diversity and the Commission on Diversity and Inclusion that addresses contemporary issues. These campus-wide conversations are opportunities for members of our community to process events and share their thoughts and perspectives. Conversations have been held to process events in Ferguson, the shooting of three Muslim students in North Carolina, and most recently the incident involving the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Chapter at the University of Oklahoma. These recent events have reminded us of the need for intercultural engagement and meaningful conversations around tough issues. The Opportunity for members of our community to meet and talk, will help us to maintain our model community, and ensure that we are better prepared to understand and meet the needs of a diverse society. The Office of Diversity is committed to on-going conversations, and we hope that you will join us.

Center for Career and Professional Development Advisory Board

Last year the Center for Career and Professional Development (CPD) completed the Continuous Quality Initiative (CQI) for Otterbein's administrative units and one of the strategic initiatives identified was to develop an advisory board. The CCPD Advisory Board is comprised of key stakeholders including students, faculty, alumni, employers, and parents. Its key function is to provide perspective, insight and advice to the CCPD on career and professional development topics. Members include:

Michelle Acker, Psychology
Emily Day, Worthington Industries
Lori Fisher, Enterprise Holdings
Pete Klipa, Discover Financial Services
Mike McCann, rev1 Ventures
Kate Melenick, JPMorgan
Charmaine Mosley, '16

Allen Prindle, Business, Accounting & Economics
Dan Steinberg, Communication
Kathryn Stephens, The Suddes Group
Adam Sullivan, '16
Janet Tressler Davis, Westerville Chamber of Commerce

The inaugural meeting was held on March 10 where the CPD provided the board with an overview of the CQI process and outcomes, along with an update about internships and professional experiences. The board will convene again this summer and conduct a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of CCPD operations.

Academic Affairs

Springtime in Academic Affairs means formal defenses of the many research and creative projects undertaken by our students. This spring, about 55 undergraduates will be defending Honors or Distinction projects, and 11 Master's and 10 DNP students will likewise defend their original work before faculty committees. Many other students participate in capstone projects through departmental requirements and in our Senior Year Experience program. In this way, an Otterbein education provides students with the opportunities that employers are looking for – a recent poll of business and non-profit leaders reported by the [Association of American Colleges and Universities](#) indicates that 91% of employers believe “a candidate’s demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than his or her undergraduate major” for career success. We are proud of our students’ efforts and greatly appreciate the faculty who advise and oversee these diverse and impressive projects.

Comings and Goings

Please join me in welcoming the following new faculty and staff who recently joined Otterbein:

Thomas Frazee, Police Officer, Otterbein Police Department
Andy Fries, Assistant Football Coach, Student Affairs - Athletics
Brent Ford, Mail Services Specialist, Business Affairs - Mailroom
Jamie Gleich, Administrative Assistant, Academic Affairs – Office of the Registrar
Sarah Hickey, Executive Assistant, President’s Office
Mark Hutsko, Music Lesson Teacher, Department of Music
Elizabeth Lux, Temporary, Business Affairs - Service Department
Keith Phillips, Director of Development, Institutional Advancement
Tylor Pimental, Police Officer, Otterbein Police Department
Ashley Shier, Faculty (PT), Department of Psychology
Nicholas Wood, Director of Development, Institutional Advancement

We wish success to the following faculty and staff who recently departed Otterbein for other opportunities:

Todd Adrian, Head Men's Basketball Coach, Student Affairs - Athletics

Peter Davila, Assistant Football Coach, Student Affairs - Athletics

Shawn Gilbert, Admission Counselor, Enrollment Management - Admission

Jeremy Pacha, Police Officer, Otterbein Police Department

Holly Ritter, Director of Internal Communications & Special Projects, IA– Marketing and Communications

Jeff Rudzinski, Grants Coordinator, Academic Affairs - Office of Sponsored Programs

Deb Stemen, General Accounting Assistant (PT), Business Office

We apologize if there are any omissions or errors. Please contact Human Resources with any corrections or concerns so we can acknowledge all new and departing colleagues.

As always, if you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or a member of Cabinet.

Sincerely,



President Krendl

Otterbein University Vision

Otterbein University will be nationally recognized as a model community of educators, leaders, and learners who set the pace for higher education and contribute to the common good.

Otterbein University Mission

Otterbein 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.