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University Update - November 25, 2014

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Otterbein University

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Otterbein University Update
President Kathy A. Krendl
November 25, 2014

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, I wanted to begin this University Update with a brief story that I shared at last week's Part-Time Faculty Awards event. It is from one of our students.

*Dr. Krendl: I am a senior citizen taking advantage of the opportunity to return to the college experience after 47 years since graduating from college in 1967. I am enrolled in the Seniors Program at your fine university. First, I would like to thank you, Otterbein University, and the state of Ohio for providing this program to people like myself. I am currently completing my first course, HIST 1200 The American Experience Since 1865, taught by **Professor Klehr**. To say the course, the professor, and the fellow students who are mainly freshmen and sophomores, have been enjoyable and interesting, would be an understatement. I wanted to do this for some time and finally time and circumstances allowed this to happen. I had three purposes in mind starting this: First, my own self-fulfillment; second, to see the quality of the teaching today versus 47 years ago; and thirdly to view the college student of today and their commitment and participation in the learning experience. I have been blown away in a very good way in the quality of the teaching, the classroom environment and most by the quality and intelligence of the young students in class with me. Now, if they could only learn to look up from their phones and learn to interact with humans rather than their iPhones or Androids. That may be asking too much. One can hope! I should point out that their gadgets are turned off during class. Dr. Krendl, the entire Otterbein community, from the library to the snack bar personnel, has been pleasant and helpful. I look forward to more classes in the coming years.*

The faculty member who was teaching this course was one of our part-time faculty. We are thankful for all the members of our community, as our student put it, "the entire Otterbein community," our faculty, part-time and full-time, our students, our staff, and our alumni. And each member of our community contributes in his or her own way to making Otterbein a Model Community. I am thankful to everyone for their efforts each day to make our university a special place.

Part-Time Faculty Teaching Awards Announced

It was wonderful to see so many members of our Otterbein community at the reception celebrating our part-time faculty members' service on Friday, November 21. In this season of giving thanks, I note that we are fortunate indeed to have such a talented, dedicated group of individuals working with our students.

At the reception, the recipients of our inaugural Part-Time Faculty Teaching Awards were announced. I am pleased to share the news that **Debra Scheff, '97**, MSN, Instructor in the Department of Nursing, received the award for Outstanding Teaching in a Disciplinary Area, and **Dr. Margaret (Pegi) Lobb, '02**, Instructor in the Psychology Department, received the award for Outstanding Teaching in our Integrative, General Education Programs. Please take a moment to congratulate Deb and Pegi when you see them around campus.

I would also like to thank the students in **Dr. Kimberlee Goodman's flute ensemble class**, who provided the beautiful music for the event, and the members of the planning committee who organized the event: **Marla Garcia, Jim Gorman, Alma Holl, Lisa Lee, Kathryn Plank, Maria Polak, Joan Rocks, Wendy Sherman Heckler, and Emily Tansey**. We hope to see even more of you at next year's event.

Enrollment Management Update

Freshman Applications for Fall 2015 (1,319) are up 25% compared to the same date last fall. We are seeing significant increases in applications from men (up 25%); students of color (up 61%); and domestic non-residents (up 32%.) There are 18 departments currently up in applications, 2 are even and 3 are down slightly. Transfer applications (32) are up 78%.

Third Annual Helping Harvest Festival Serves Many

In October, the **Center for Community Engagement** hosted Otterbein's 3rd annual Helping Harvest Festival at the Community Garden, funded by grants from ServeOhio and Scott's Miracle-Gro. Over fifty students hosted families served by WARM who joined in autumn-themed crafts and games as they shopped at our free farmer's market and participated in community service projects. Educational stations provided information and hands-on activities about frogs, food-insecurity, tree nuts, recycling, and eating locally. Each year, the Helping Harvest Festival provides 300 pounds of fresh produce for WARM individuals and families who attend.

New Business Affairs Intranet Site Available

The Division of Business Affairs is pleased to announce the launch of its new intranet site! Designed with you in mind, the site provides an overview of the Division, contact information for key personnel, and access to general policies, forms, and procedures for handling common administrative and operational activities. The general policies, forms and procedures available on the website will become effective January 1, 2015. We will update the site periodically to enhance the resources available to you, and welcome suggestions of additional resources to support your daily tasks. Visit us at [Business Affairs](#).

Accreditation Update

On February 9-10, 2015, a team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will be visiting Otterbein as part of our application for reaffirmation of institutional accreditation. During the first week of December, Otterbein students will receive an invitation to share perspectives on their educational experiences with the Higher Learning Commission through an online survey. The survey will be open for ten days. Student comments are very important. The answers given on the survey are anonymous and participation is voluntary. Please help encourage all students to participate in the five minute survey.

To help prepare for the site visit there will be a Common Hour on the topic of Accreditation on Friday, December 5, 2014, at 3:30 p.m. in Roush 114. We encourage all members of the community to join us and learn more about the site visit and how you can participate.

Save the Date! Women in Philanthropy Summit Scheduled for March 3 – 4, 2015

Please plan to join us for the Women in Philanthropy Summit: Investing in Women for the Common Good which is being offered in partnership with Bowling Green State University and the University of Findlay on March 3 and 4, 2015 at Otterbein. Please see the attached Save the Date card for more information.

Comings and Goings

Please join me in welcoming the following new employees to the Otterbein community:

Bonnie Ward, Assistant Director and Office Manager, Office of Sponsored Programs
Fernanda Capraro, Part-time Faculty, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures
Jeff Ankrom, Assistant Provost for Strategy and Planning, Academic Affairs

Kristi North, Administrative Assistant, Academic Affairs

We also wish the following individuals much success as they leave Otterbein to pursue new opportunities:

Jeff Bell, Senior Writer, Office of Marketing and Communications

Adrian Boudinot, Stable Assistant, Equine Center

Erin Davis, Graphic Designer, Office of Marketing and Communications

Doug Babcock, Director of Corporate, Foundation, and Community Partnerships – Institutional Advancement

Andrea Pearch, Senior Assistant Director of Admission, Office of Admission

Ebola Task Force

The Otterbein Ebola Task Force, which was created in response to the recent outbreak, has been working diligently to ensure the health, safety, and education of our campus community. The Task Force consists of members from the President's Office, Student Affairs, OPD, Service Department, Health Center, Academic Affairs (Biology & Earth Science), Business Affairs, Communications, Risk Management, and Department of Nursing. For information about the progress of the task force, please visit [Ebola Task Force Information](#). The Task Force will meet as needed to ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

Holiday Open House

You should have received an e-invitation to attend the annual **Holiday Open House** which is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 10, 2014, from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** at the President's Residence, 111 N. West Street, Westerville. If you haven't already responded, please RSVP to Lisa Lee, Executive Assistant, at llee@otterbein.edu. We hope to see you there!

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.