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University Update - May 12, 2014

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Otterbein University

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Otterbein University Update
President Kathy A. Krendl
May 12, 2014

Welcome to finals week! It looks like we finally made it through a long, hard winter as spring has arrived on campus. We're looking forward to welcoming the Board of Trustees to Otterbein later this week for their annual May meeting. They will join us in honoring the service of faculty, administrators, and staff at the Annual Employee Service Recognition Luncheon and in celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2014.

I want to personally thank you for another great year at Otterbein. Last August, we launched the year at our Welcome Back Celebration with a focus on our vision of becoming a model community of educators, leaders and learners who set the pace for higher education and contribute to the common good. Since then we have made progress toward achieving our vision by developing new academic programs and partnerships that anticipate the needs of our region's economy and complement Otterbein's unique academic strengths. Much has been accomplished in the past nine months.

In just a few days we will come together to mark one of the most important events in our academic year. We will send our students out into the world to continue their Otterbein journey by putting their learning and their experiences to work as accomplished graduates. Without you this wouldn't be possible. Please know that the work you do on a daily basis is essential in preparing our students to lead lives of purpose. We celebrate your contributions to their success as we close this 2013-2014 academic year.

Honors Convocation Faculty Awards

Congratulations to our faculty members recognized at the Honors Convocation. **Denise Shively** (Communication) was awarded Master Teacher of the Year. **Dr. Aaron Reinhard** (Physics) was recognized as the New Teacher of the Year, and the nationally competitive Exemplary Teaching Award of the United Methodist Church went to **Dr. Charles Zimmerman** (Religion and Philosophy).

Day/Van Sant Award Winners Announced by Staff Council

The Otterbein University Staff Council announced the Day/Van Sant Award winners at their annual spring luncheon meeting last week. Please join me in congratulating **Marilyn Williams** (Student Affairs - Center for Career and Professional Development), **Diane Wootton** (Academic Affairs – Communication), and **Peggy McMains** (Academic Affairs - Center for Teaching and Learning). Great job!

Willie Franklin Receives the WARM Hand Up Award and the Carter G. Woodson Award

Congratulations to our very own **Willie Franklin** who was recently honored as a 2014 Recipient of the WARM (Westerville Area Resource Ministry) Hand Up Award at the 12th Annual Westerville Community Prayer Breakfast on May 1, 2014. Willie has donated countless hours of community service through WARM. He was honored for using his audiovisual and technological talents to spread the ideals of dignity and hope to those in need. In addition, the Otterbein University African American Student Union presented Willie with the Carter G. Woodson Award at the Noble Transitions celebration last Friday evening. Dr. Carter G. Woodson was an educator and philosopher, mentor to African American scholars. This award goes to a faculty or staff member at Otterbein University who has served as mentor and advocate for African American students. Great job, Willie!

Director of the Center for Career and Professional Development Honored

Ryan Brechbill was presented with the Office of Diversity Ubuntu Award. Ubuntu is an African philosophy that can be translated as “I am what I am because of who we all are.” The Office of Diversity Ubuntu Award is presented to members of our community or an organization that exhibits this philosophy and actively works to promote a diverse and inclusive community that embraces and celebrates our differences and our connections. Congratulations, Ryan!

Fall Enrollment Update

Freshman confirmations for Fall 2014 are down 6.7% compared to last year at this time (-39), but we are still working aggressively to recruit the class. Current student registrations are up overall, but that is driven by an increase in part-time student registrations. Fulltime undergraduate registrations are down 59 compared to May 6, 2013. If you are aware of students who have not registered for next fall, please encourage them to contact their academic advisor, the Center for Student Success or the Financial Aid office for help. We would like to see as many students registered for fall as possible before students leave campus next week.

Comings and Goings

Leah Shamblin ('11) has been hired to serve as the Assistant Director of the Center for Student Involvement. She will work primarily with Orientation and the First Year Experience Peer Mentors, in addition to working with Parent and Family programming. Leah graduated from Otterbein in 2011 with a B.A. in Public Relations and Speech Communication. She received her M.S. in Higher Education Administration from the **University** of Dayton this Spring. Leah is currently completing an internship in the Center for Student Involvement and will assume her new role beginning on June 2.

Deborah Gavlik, Assistant Director in the Center for International Education and Global Engagement, has left to take a Director position at Sinclair Community College.

Save the Date

Please mark your calendar to attend the Welcome Back Celebration on the morning of Monday, August 18, 2014, to launch the 2014-15 academic year. More information will be available this summer.

As always, if you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or a member of Cabinet. Again, thank you for your great work. I hope you have a wonderful summer.

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.