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Otterbein Towers

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SPRING 2021



The Classes of 2020 and 2021 March Ahead

IN THIS ISSUE Commencement | Super-sized Season | A New Philosophy

From the President.



I have a secret. I love graduation. I love seeing our graduates' accomplishments, the pride of families, and the support of faculty and staff. But, that's not the secret part. The reality is I also love it because it means we made it through the academic year. At least for a little while, summer will take on a new and slightly more relaxed pace.

I have never felt that more than this year. Spring 2020 to spring 2021 has been the longest, hardest, and most challenging year of my career. I believe most faculty, staff, and students agree with me.

But, now that I stand on the other side of it and look back, I am filled with pride and gratitude. We took every curve ball thrown at us — a pandemic, cyberattack, budget challenges, etc. — and hit homeruns. Or, at least got on base.

This is purely a testament to our remarkable people. What makes Otterbein a special place is not our beautiful campus, but our amazing people. We needed to rebuild the entire campus computer network, redesign

every class for an online or hybrid format, review and adapt every space on campus for safety, and change every process to serve students. Staff and faculty did the work. Students adapted and overcame challenges. And it worked. You can and should be proud of every person who made this year a success.

We did not just survive. In many ways, Otterbein thrived. We were able to get out of the proverbial foxhole and charge forward despite the incoming fire. We are designing new academic programs, launching a new strategic plan, and creating new partnerships. Our work over the past year will set us up for success for years to come.

It is not just the institution that thrived. Our students did as well. Yes, it was hard. But our remarkable students are better for it. For the rest of their lives and careers, they will have the reassurance of knowing they met the challenge and succeeded. And they will have stories to tell at their 50th reunion!

There is now a great deal of talk and expectation about a return to normal in the fall. We are all looking forward to the day when practices like social distancing and mask wearing can be a thing of the past. We will continue to expect that vaccinations will allow these protections to end in time.

But, importantly, we will not “go back” to normal. We will go forward into new opportunities stronger than before. And I end the year tired, but truly satisfied and proud of what we have accomplished together.

Sincerely,

John Comerford, Ph.D.
President

MISSION STATEMENT

Otterbein University is an inclusive community dedicated to educating the whole person in the context of humane values. Our mission is to prepare graduates to think deeply and broadly, to engage locally and globally, and to advance their professions and communities.

An Otterbein education is distinguished by the intentional blending of the liberal arts and professional studies, combined with a unique approach to integrating direct experience into all learning.

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Otterbein Towers

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COVER STORY 10

Megan Imwalle '21 (above) earned a Master of Science in Allied Health with a concentration in exercise and health science. A graduate assistant athletic trainer for Otterbein volleyball, women's basketball and baseball, Imwalle plans to continue as a collegiate athletic trainer.

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Otterbein honors its commitment to giving every student-athlete a season with a packed spring semester schedule.

10 Commencement

The Classes of 2020 and 2021 celebrate their achievements in person at five commencement ceremonies over two days.

14 COVID-19 Vaccines Give Hope for Pandemic's End

Retired immunochemist Christopher Cordle '69 and Professor John Tansey discuss the new COVID-19 vaccines.



Above: Bruce Mandeville and his horse, Larissa, compete at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

Right: Denise Shively (left) at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

16 Otterbein Faculty Members Offer an Inside View into the Olympics

Bruce Mandeville and Denise Shively share their inside perspectives on the Olympic Games and the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.



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Community Organization Promotes Equity and Inclusion

Community members and organizations, including Otterbein University and other key stakeholders in the greater Westerville area, are uniting to launch a new nonprofit organization called WeRISE: Westerville for Racial Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Engagement. The mission of WeRISE is to eradicate individual and structural racism in the greater Westerville community. This organization will lead collaborative anti-racism efforts, driving meaningful, lasting and equitable change.



You can read more about this initiative by going to tinyurl.com/py25r57z



Otterbein Named Voter Friendly Campus

Otterbein University has been named a Voter Friendly Campus by national nonpartisan organizations Campus Vote Project and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). The designation recognizes efforts to break down barriers and empower students with the information and tools they need to participate in the political process. Fall semester, Otterbein's Center for Community Engagement and a group of student Democracy Fellows organized voter registration drives and educational outreach about voting options in Ohio.

Above: Volunteers reach out to fellow students at a voter registration and education event on Constitution Day, Sept. 17, 2020.

Right: Democracy Fellow Shelby McSwords '21 serves as a voter education resource for Otterbein students.





Left: (Clockwise) Nikole Hannah-Jones and Jonathan Kozol participate in a virtual discussion with Andy Chow '08 and Desmond Fernandez '21.

Below: Desmond Fernandez '21 asks a question as Andy Chow '08 listens.



Pack Lecture Discussion Sheds Light on Inequality in Education

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones and bestselling author and educator Jonathan Kozol, two civil rights champions of different generations, brought their unique perspectives to the Vernon L. Pack '50 Distinguished Lecture Series at Otterbein University on April 12. The discussion, *Confronting the Truth about Inequalities in America's Schools*, was an honest and unflinching look at race and education. **Andy Chow '08**, Ohio Statehouse reporter for Ohio Public Radio and TV, moderated the discussion and **Desmond Fernandez '21** served as emcee.

The topics of the conversation included school segregation, funding models, teacher preparation, and more. At times, the discussion was personal. Kozol shared his past experiences teaching Black children in the early 1960s when his activism got him fired. Hannah-Jones shared her choice to enroll her child in a predominantly Black public school.

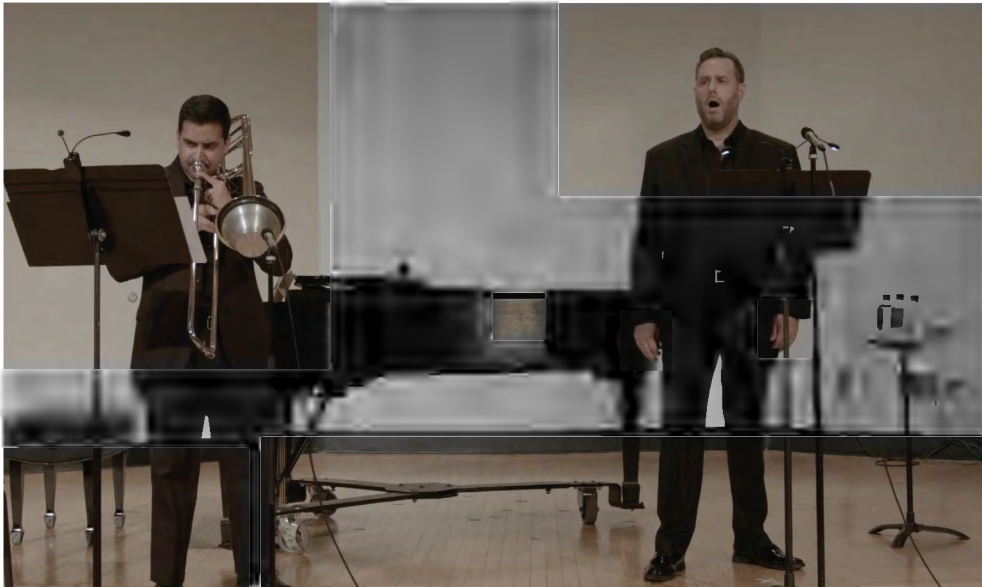
Both speakers criticized the current funding model for creating inequality in public schools because schools in affluent areas benefit from more funding from property taxes. Kozol noted that, "This (funding model) is not a mistake, this was intentional."

The speakers also discussed the role of teachers in both the problem and the solution. "You can't teach what you don't know yourself. One of the biggest problems is finding educators who know how to teach anti-racism and who believe it themselves," Hannah-Jones said.

"Most teachers in our system don't see Black children as having the same will to learn as White students," Kozol said. In his career, Kozol made a point of getting to know his Black students and their families outside of the classroom.

Marketing major **Harold Walston '21** attended the virtual event. "From a personal perspective, it was eye opening and comforting to know that such a conversation was happening on such a public platform. Information that I knew growing up as a Black child and into a young Black adult that I always thought was privy to just Black people, was being shared in an open dialogue," he said. "There was a sense of communal understanding among the virtual audience and moderators."

Read more about the founder of the lecture series, **Vernon L. Pack '50** on page 23.



Baritone Daniel Neer (right) performs the original composition *Polar Bear*, accompanied by trombonist Peter Gooch.

New Otterbein Composition Combines Music and Environmental Conservation

Otterbein University guest artist, baritone, and lyricist Daniel Neer headlined a concert with an environmental message, framed in context by conservation experts, in March. *Water Music: Art Song in Recital* featured the world premiere of a grant-funded commission, with a pre-concert discussion and post-concert talkback with Otterbein Zoo and Conservation Science program faculty and representatives from Polar Bear International.

Polar Bear, a commissioned piece supported by grants from Ohio Arts Council, Puffin Foundation West, and The Johnstone Fund for New Music, is a musical response to the global issue of climate change. It is a chamber music work for baritone and trombone by Sara Carina Graef, set to text by Neer.

“The piece is improv in nature, with lyrics that depict a polar bear searching the Arctic for food as the ice slowly disappears beneath him,” Neer explained.



The concert
can be viewed
at [www.
otterbein.edu/
towers](http://www.otterbein.edu/towers)

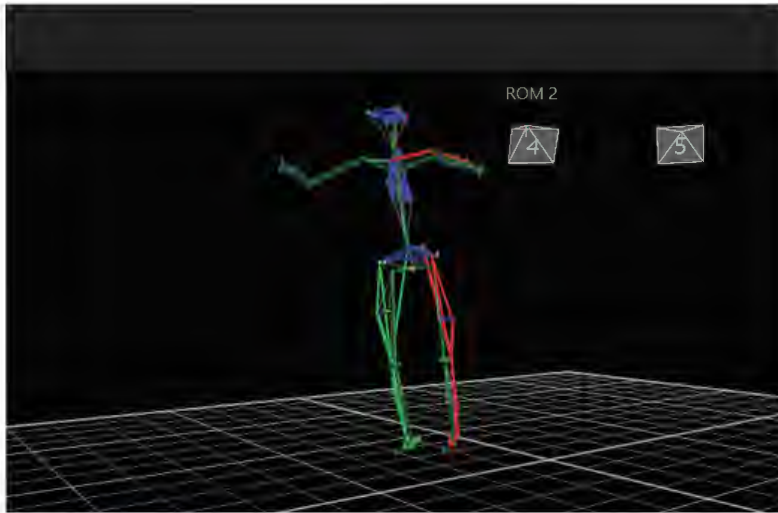
Otterbein Partners with Central Ohio Employers to Offer Scholarships

Otterbein University is partnering with major employers in central Ohio to offer a special educational benefit — The Otterbein Advantage Scholarship.

Through this exclusive program, employees of partnering organizations and their dependent children can qualify for a scholarship that provides the excellence of a private university education at public school prices.

“Most employers offer educational benefits for employees, but not to their dependents,” said Otterbein President John Comerford. “The Otterbein Advantage Scholarship allows companies to offer a benefit to both employees and their dependents and gives Otterbein access to a new group of prospective students.”

Partners include Nationwide Children’s, OhioHealth, Franklin County, City of Westerville, Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), g2o, and Knox Community Hospital. More partnerships are being negotiated.



Biomechanics Institute Offers Interdisciplinary Opportunities for Students



The Point at Otterbein is now home to the Biomechanics Institute, a new learning laboratory equipped with cameras and specialized software to study movement. The lab is the result of an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Departments of Health and Sport Sciences and Engineering.

A camera set-up encompasses the entire room, giving researchers the ability to study motions that require a large space, such as throwing, jumping, and running. Body markers are placed onto the subject at key points, such as joints and major muscle groups, to record movement. The resulting data helps health and sport sciences students see beyond the skin in assessing movement, while engineering students interpret the data and look at how they can apply that information to new technology.

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OTTERBEIN TOWERS **SPRING 2021**
THE TIME IS NOW.

Reimagining Religion and Philosophy to Tackle Complex World

By Will Elkins

Last year, faculty leaders were asked to consider how their programs were meeting the changing needs of students. The Department of Religion and Philosophy met that challenge by combining two majors and reimagining their curriculum.

The new “philosophy and religion” major will help students better understand a complex landscape of competing worldviews. They will begin to unravel how those worldviews are lived out in practice. Students will tackle big questions about how we should live, how we should organize our communities, how we should pursue justice, and how we make sense of our place in an increasingly polarized society.

“In a globalized planet, being able to navigate challenging conversations is an essential skill — one that the new philosophy and religion major will develop,” said Andrew Mills, chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy.

Three concentrations will be available to students: philosophy, religion, and social justice/ethics.

Professor Stephanie Patridge explained that the combination is built off of the natural affinity



between the two content areas, as well as between faculty members.

“We’ve always been a forward-thinking department. The pieces were always there, we just needed to make it happen,” said Patridge.

Senior Drew Wilson saw the combination first-hand with Assistant Professor Alex Rocklin’s class, *Yoga: Religion, Philosophy, and Politics*. Rocklin took yoga and showed how it is more than just an exercise routine. Wilson liked how the class showed the interdisciplinary nature of concepts you can experience daily.

“It’s really awesome to be able to pull ideas from both philosophy and religion simultaneously. While trying to assess a situation, you recognize ways to facilitate understanding in more meaningful ways,” said Wilson.

This new combination globalizes traditional Euro-centric concentrations, allowing students to expand their worldview. The major pays close attention to historical and contemporary answers to life’s fundamental questions, helping students formulate their own answers while fostering a deeper understanding of the global viewpoints.

“These two areas are designed to help people reflect on the ultimate questions in life,” said Rev. Larry Brown ’80, ordained UMC pastor and Otterbein Board of Trustees member.

Brown remembered how the generations of students before him, including his father, studied both philosophy and religion together.

“In the long term, this will broaden the pool of applicants for faculty and staff, increasing the possibilities for employees to directly impact our student body,” said Brown.

Illustrations by Hannah McLain ’15

Philosophy and Religion in the Workforce

The wide applicability of philosophy and religion provides a unique combination of communication, reading, analytical, and empathetic skills that make graduates stronger, well-prepared, highly valued employees. According to the Educational Testing Services, philosophy majors have the fourth-highest median earnings in the United States — more than \$81,000 per year, which outranks business and chemistry.

“Financial security and doing work that fulfills you are often at odds with each other. The earnings data we see for philosophy graduates nationwide is disproving that notion. This is, in turn, helping potential students see that you don’t have to abandon a passion in order to be successful,” said Mills.

Regarding post-undergraduate test scores, philosophy and religion majors score higher than other cohorts. For the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), they are tied for the highest final test scores across majors. Students score in the top five highest of all majors on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) and have the highest composite scores of all majors on the graduate record examination (GRE).

“For the longest time, the old joke to studying philosophy and religion was ‘do you want fries with that?’ That’s no longer the case. Our graduates are going on to be part of the world’s leading industries and companies,” said Patridge.

Test scores and earning potential are testaments to the importance and impact philosophy and religion majors can make in the working world, but there is more to studying in these fields than numbers.



John Posey graduated in 2020 with a degree in philosophy. He came to campus to study criminology and pursue a career with the FBI. Upon hearing from a former FBI agent, his academic focus changed.

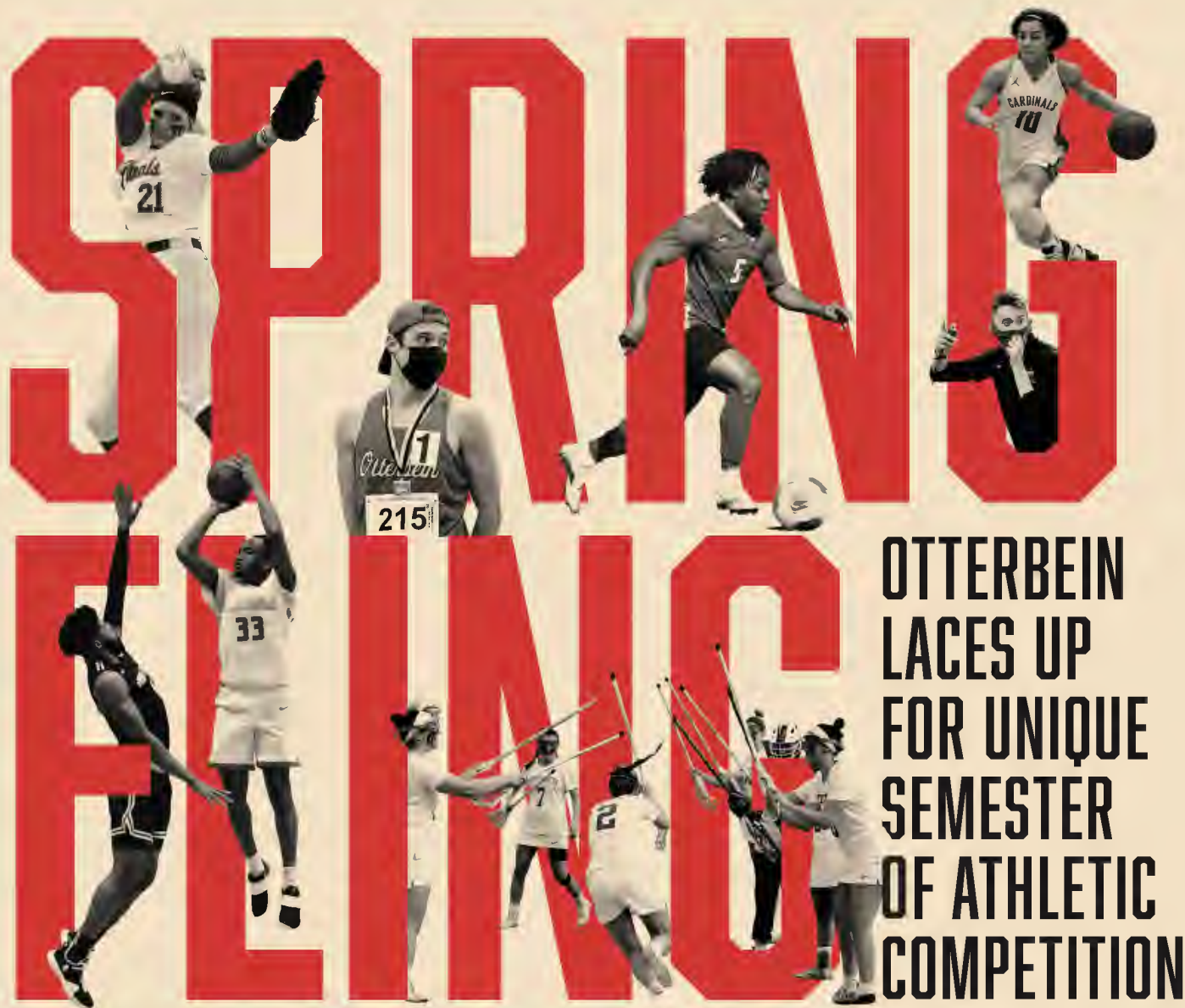
“The agent mentioned philosophy as a degree to pursue rather than criminology. I was excited to make that change as it had already piqued my interest,” Posey said. “It amazed me how you could discuss any topic and see how much it applies to your life.”

As a human resources technician for the Ohio National Guard, Posey said he interacts with people from all kinds of backgrounds: ethnically, culturally, and philosophically. The military is based on taking in information and using it to move forward with a plan of action to accomplish an objective. Posey says that is exactly what his philosophy education does for him.

“No one has ever asked me what Socrates said in 400 B.C., but the critical thinking, speaking, writing, and communication skills I learned are used every day. I’m finding commonalities and understanding across differences and I feel that’s drastically missing in society today.”



Will Elkins is the communication and social media manager at Otterbein University and holds a master’s degree in media management from Syracuse University and bachelor’s degree in telecommunications from Michigan State University. He focuses on social media strategy, marketing practices and theory, and internal communications.



OTTERBEIN LACES UP FOR UNIQUE SEMESTER OF ATHLETIC COMPETITION

BY ADAM PRESCOTT



Adam Prescott MSAH'15 is the sports information director at Otterbein, and has more than a decade of experience promoting the Cardinals. He holds a bachelor's degree in sport management from Mount Union and a master's degree in allied health administration from Otterbein.

Nearly 20 varsity sports competing in the same semester during a pandemic. That's exactly what Otterbein University and its Department of Athletics found a way to implement this spring.

Due to ongoing issues regarding COVID-19, the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) decided to postpone all fall/winter competition until after the calendar flipped.

"Athletics has a unique ability to shape people, especially younger student-athletes," said Dawn Stewart '98,

vice president for student affairs and director of athletics. "Finding a way to implement that experience safely was very important, to keep them engaged and allow them opportunities to keep growing. I'm proud of everyone for staying the course and seeing this through."

Unique conference-only schedules were devised for each sport. In compliance with OAC medical protocols, student-athletes and other Tier 1 personnel, including coaches, athletic trainers, and support staff,

were tested either weekly or multiple times per week, depending on the sport. If a team's positivity rate exceeded a certain threshold or enough "at-risk players" were missing due to contact tracing, a contest would be canceled.

"It's certainly been tough," said Colin Hartnett, men's lacrosse coach. "You have to make sacrifices and ask college kids to do things that college kids don't necessarily want to do. Sometimes you have answers and many other times you don't. But I think each program, and our department as a whole, found leadership in multiple ways to help us remain focused."

More than 450 student-athletes, and respective coaches, needed to get creative and share facilities even more than they already do. Schedules were compiled to use the Rike Center, Clements Center, Memorial Stadium, and other important spaces. Teams took turns practicing at 6 a.m. before class, and rotated in the late slot at 9 p.m. It wasn't uncommon to see the stadium lights still on approaching midnight.

"I'm proud of the guys who stuck it out, and proud of our coaches for keeping us invested," said junior linebacker Greg Nolder, a football team captain. "Sports has the power to bring people together and provides something to look forward to. No matter the circumstances, it's so much fun being with my teammates."

Support staffs were stretched thin. Athletic trainers helped oversee COVID testing while providing athletes with regular care. With no fans initially permitted at events, the Sports Information Office had to be creative through social media, website, and live video coverage to

share the latest Cardinals news.

Otterbein TV rallied a crew, mostly comprised of students, to stream as many home games as possible online. Equipment, facility, and event management staff ran ragged. Administrators handled troubleshooting behind the scenes.

Beginning Jan. 22, women's basketball launched the most hectic 18-week stretch in the history of Cardinal sports, setting a new program-best for most points in a single game on Jan. 23 against Marietta. The seasons started with no spectators, but a limited number of spectators was allowed just in time for Senior Night for men's and women's basketball.

"I couldn't have asked for anything better," said senior guard Abby Zerkle, becoming emotional when asked about seeing her parents back in the crowd.

**NEARLY 20 VARSITY
SPORTS COMPETING IN
THE SAME SEMESTER
DURING A PANDEMIC.**

"This year has been difficult with a lot of uncertainty, ups and downs, you name it. Being able to have my family at a game meant everything."

Attendance ultimately increased to a two-ticket allotment for each participant, and the competition became full throttle into March, April, and May. There was at least one event every day of the week. Frequently, multiple sports programs were suiting up at home or on the road in a 24-hour sequence.

Fall and winter sports played condensed schedules, and unfortunately saw their NCAA Championships canceled by Division III management.

Traditional spring sports, which were also impacted by the abrupt shutdown in 2020, attempted to play full slates as best they could.

Some teams were forced to play shorthanded at times due to illness. A handful of events were canceled or altered, but the Cardinals pressed on and spirit remained alive.

Fans who weren't on the "pass list" found creative ways to set up outside the official premises to watch and cheer from beyond the gate.

"Our biggest takeaway has been gratitude," softball coach Brooke Donovan said. "Gratitude for the game, teammates, coaching staffs, and overall opportunity to compete. We appreciate all that our athletic administration and University leadership did for us to be on the field. We tried our best to make it count."

Ultimately, the NCAA issued a "blanket waiver" for all student-athletes in 2020-21, meaning they are not docked a year of eligibility. Some will utilize it and others will likely not, especially in Division III where there are no athletic scholarships.

There were victories, defeats, laughter, tears, thrills, heartbreaks, broken records, championship runs, and all that encompasses the natural character-building of athletic competition. Regardless of the circumstances, Otterbein found ways to play — with one another and for one another. They play for how it shapes people, for what it means to a college campus, and for a true love of the game.

The Class that Wasn't Forgotten

By Madelyn Nelson '23

More than 750 graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 crossed the stage in Memorial Stadium on May 1 and 2. President John Comerford (pictured below) presided over the five ceremonies.

Otterbein held five Commencement ceremonies to honor both the Classes of 2020 and 2021 on May 1 and 2. The weekend was a delayed celebration for the Class of 2020, 96.1% of whom were employed, enrolled in graduate school, or serving in the military within six months of graduation. For the Class of 2021, it marked the end of a difficult year full of obstacles they successfully overcame.

The decision to hold a ceremony for the Class of 2020 was an easy one. "The Class of 2020 was surveyed regarding an in-person or virtual commencement. Overwhelmingly, the class supported an in-person experience. Students wanted this special opportunity for family to see them walk across the stage and be recognized for their individual accomplishments," said Steve Crawford, executive director of alumni and family engagement.

The celebration kicked off with annual events leading up to the weekend, including Lavender Graduation to honor LGBTQIA+ students and allies, Noble Transitions to celebrate multicultural students, and the Baccalaureate Ceremony, an opportunity for spiritual reflection before commencement. All of these ceremonies are available online at www.otterbein.edu/towers.

The graduate and undergraduate students of the Class of 2020 and the graduate students of the Class of 2021 were celebrated at two ceremonies on May 1. The undergraduates of the Class of 2021 were honored at three ceremonies on May 2.

With Memorial Stadium open at 30% capacity, each graduate received four tickets for immediate family to watch the ceremony in person, seated in pods with social distancing and facial coverings. All friends and family were invited to watch the special day via a livestream.

The weekend closed a chapter for the Class of 2020 and gave them the proper, formal Otterbein farewell that they deserve — a day that was a whole year in the making finally came to life.

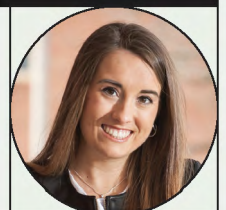
After a year of challenges, the Class of 2021 celebrated the culmination of their time at Otterbein. They persisted through guidelines, adjusted to online formats, and took the monumental steps across the graduation stage. Now, diploma in hand, they are ready to take on the world.



and the Class that Persisted

Celebrating 2020
and 2021 graduates
in one weekend

Madelyn Nelson '23 is a public relations major from Coshocton, OH. She is involved with the Student Alumni Board, Host and Tour Program, and Sigma Alpha Tau. She is an intern in Otterbein's Office of Marketing and Communications.



Alex Natividad

Spanish and Latin American studies major
 Alex Natividad will be teaching Spanish in Columbus City Schools after graduation. His career hopes include, "being the best teacher in the world." He wants to know his students as human beings and help them to find or create their own paths towards their goals.



FROM ALEX'S SPEECH

"I am not here to tell you that with hard work and dedication you can accomplish even the most unimaginable dream you may have. I am here to prove it to you. We have grown a lot and we will continue to grow. We will continue to take opportunities, but now we will also be able to create opportunities."

Gabby McGeorge

Biochemistry and molecular biology (pre-med) major Gabby McGeorge will be attending medical school to pursue a career as a cardiothoracic surgeon. On campus, she was president of the CardinalCorps Leaders, a group of students who excel academically and in service to others.



"The pandemic does not define our college experience; we have spent the last four years joining and leading sports teams, clubs, and other organizations while using our various skills to make a difference. We helped pave the way for future student leaders while also being molded into the ones we are today; we asked questions and we demanded change."

FROM ANGEL'S SPEECH



Psychology and criminology and justice studies major Angel Banks has been a student leader and strong advocate for issues of social justice and racial equality, serving as vice president of Student Government and president of the African American Student Union. Her ideal work is "building equitable and sustainable environments where people of minoritized backgrounds feel safe and are set up to succeed in life."

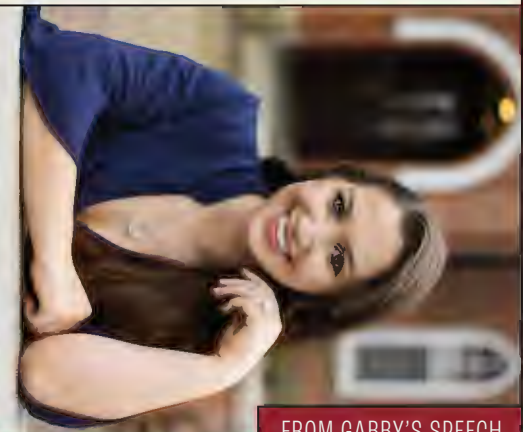


Angel Banks



THE 2021 UNDERGRAD STUDENT SPEAKERS

FROM GABBY'S SPEECH



"Otterbein has given me such a strong foundation in every aspect of my life that I know I will only continue to grow and be a lifelong learner. It has given me a clear path to my dream career; has made me critically think not only in my classes but in my everyday life; has given me a support system that I will take with me after college; and has given me an opportunity to meet people who are different than myself and challenge my current beliefs."

Inspiring Graduates of 2020 and 2021



Phanawn Bailey

'21

Finance major Phanawn Bailey played midfield for the men's lacrosse team for four years. He used his position as a student-athlete to advance equality on campus.

"I started the Black Student-Athlete Union for the purpose of bringing support and security of the valuable experience Black student athletes have in this community now and in the future. I wanted to build an allyship in sustaining an inclusive athletic environment that takes contribution from all involved with Otterbein athletics."

Despite the upended job market due to the pandemic, Kaitlyn Brooks turned an internship at TMH Solutions, LLC, into a full-time job after graduating in May 2020 with bachelor's degrees in marketing and business administration and management. She served as a student trustee on Otterbein's Board of Trustees, and she's already giving back to her alma mater as a member of the Young Alumni Board.

"I'm excited to finally cross that stage, especially as the first woman in my family to do so. I'm thankful to Otterbein for not giving up on seeing graduation through for the class of 2020."



Francesca Bryan-Couch

Dr. Francesca Bryan-Couch is a care coordination chief for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Her Doctor of Nursing Practice project was titled, *Evaluating VA Nurse Acceptance of Virtual Healthcare Technology during the Coronavirus Outbreak*.

"My most valuable experience has been the time spent with knowledgeable, compassionate, and dedicated nursing professionals. My graduating peers and the Otterbein faculty have not only supported my education and learning, but have become treasured members of my family."

DNP'21

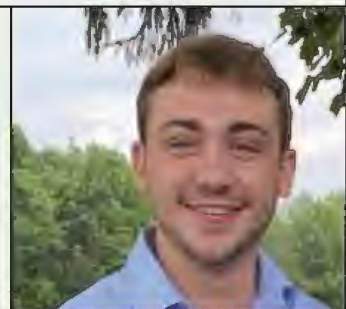
'20

Kaitlyn Brooks



Nick Hassinger is a back-to-back graduate, earning his bachelor's degree in accounting in 2020 and his master's degree in 2021.

"I chose to continue my education at Otterbein because they offered the 4+1 program for accountants. This allowed me to get my undergraduate degree in four years, then complete my CPA exams and MBA in the following year. I was able to earn all three of the designations I wanted in my career in just five years because of the opportunities at Otterbein."



Nick Hassinger

'20, MBA'21

Devin Henry

'21

Nursing major Devin Henry wrote an original song to honor frontline workers fighting the pandemic. He aspires to work in a critical care unit with hopes of one day becoming a pediatric nurse anesthetist.



"Being a nursing major and growing up in a family full of healthcare workers, I wanted to shed light on what they were doing [during the pandemic]. With the virus, it was so much more than ordinary care, and being outside looking in, I didn't feel that frontline workers had a voice. Writing *Frontline* was my attempt in giving them that voice."

GRADUATES BY THE NUMBERS

2020

517 / UNDERGRADUATE

GRADUATE **136**

2021

561 / UNDERGRADUATE

GRADUATE **137**



CLASS OF 2020 STUDENT SPEAKER

Katie Exline

Biology alumna Katie Exline is enrolled in The Ohio State University College of Optometry where she serves as the president of her optometry class.

“Amidst so many unknowns in the past year, I am beyond grateful that the Class of 2020 is being honored this May. While this might not be the graduation we expected, I am so excited that my classmates and I have been given the opportunity to return to Otterbein to celebrate together. I think this is the perfect example of Otterbein’s dedication to students and alumni.”

Graduates were seated on the field, with their friends and family in the stands of Memorial Stadium.

Where are They Now?

Class of 2020 student speaker finalists are making their mark.

Maya Venkataraman

Maya Venkataraman '20 is currently taking part in the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education's online master's degree in teaching with a concentration in K-12 English education. She hopes to teach English education in international high schools, primarily in Southeast Asia and Europe. She graduated with bachelor's degrees in psychology and English creative writing.

Dakota Brown

Mathematics alumnus Dakota (DJ) Brown '20 turned an internship into a job at Grange Insurance, where he now works as an actuarial analyst. He is pursuing an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society (ACAS) designation.

Mina Zaky

Mina Zaky '20 is currently enrolled in The Ohio State University Mortiz College of Law. He graduated from Otterbein with bachelor's degrees in sociology and criminology and justice studies.

John Posey

Philosophy alumnus John Posey '20 is currently on active duty with the National Guard, serving in central Ohio. Learn more about his story on page 6.



COVID-19 Vaccines Give Hope for Pandemic's End

**By Grace
Weidenhamer '23**

When Christopher Cordle '69 was a self-described “farm boy” in the 1950s, he vividly recalls the oral polio vaccine program “Sabin on Sunday.” In the '50s and early '60s, polio vaccinations (developed by Jonas Salk) and oral polio vaccines (developed by Albert Sabin) were administered across the United States, and Cordle remembers going with his family to take his oral vaccine. Thanks to the successful vaccination programs, polio has not been seen in the U.S. since 1979.

Fast forward to 2020 and the world is in the middle of its worst pandemic in 100 years. Cordle watched as the United States and other countries raced to develop a vaccine to fight COVID-19. He was skeptical that mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccine technology would be effective and could be developed quickly, but later was ecstatic to find he was wrong.



“The new vaccines are so extraordinary,” Cordle said. “I thought to myself, ‘Are these guys crazy? That’s never going to work. There’s not a single mRNA vaccine approved for humans in the world.’ Boy was I wrong. The thing I love most in science is when my favorite prejudice or theory is dashed by new data.”

Cordle was raised in Knox County, OH, where he resides now. While attending Otterbein, the U.S. was dominated by the race to the moon. “The country was enamored by science,” Cordle said. He attended graduate school at Johns Hopkins University as the government ramped up efforts to increase funding in science.

At Johns Hopkins, Cordle studied immunochemistry and immunology, the branch of biology

that deals with the immune system. In 1980, he took a position as an immunochemist at Ross Labs, now Abbott Labs.

Although he retired from Abbott Labs in 2018, Cordle says he was mesmerized as the COVID-19 pandemic hit. He closely followed the race to develop a vaccine to combat it.

“For the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, the scientists and the people who laid the groundwork, certainly there will be some Nobel Prizes, and not only that, the thanks of the planet,” Cordle said. “The integration of all the research and development by Pfizer and Moderna is an extraordinary accomplishment in the timeframe it was accomplished in. They just said ‘Don’t worry about whose budget it is, just do this,’ and they did! These vaccines are safe and

effective and, if fully used, will save millions of lives across the globe.”

As director of the Otterbein interdisciplinary program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Professor John Tansey also followed closely how quickly the vaccines were developed.



“The thing I love most in science is when my favorite prejudice or theory is dashed by new data.”

Christopher Cordle '69



“This is really just a human health issue and not a political one.”

Professor John Tansey

“There were already other coronaviruses that people knew about, such as SARS and MERS,” Tansey said. “We already had an idea about how these viruses work, what they bind to, and their life cycle. Because we’ve had these basic advances in the sciences, it just takes far less time to develop therapies now than it would even a few years ago.”

The coronavirus uses its spikes to bond to human cells and gain entry to the human body. The result can be serious illness and death. The vaccines will build up immunity against the virus.

Tansey said the difference between the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines is due to the differences in how the information in coronaviruses is delivered to the immune system.

While the mRNA technology used by Pfizer and Moderna is new, the viral vector technology of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been used by scientists since the 1970s.

Cordle and Tansey agree that the mRNA vaccines are important developments in scientific history. The speed in which the COVID-19 vaccines were developed, and

the massive implementation of vaccines in arms, is remarkable, they say. The

COVID-19 vaccines are a big step in getting the U.S. back to the new normal.

But the vaccines have sparked political and trust issues in America

too. “This is really just a human health issue and not a political one,” Tansey said.

Cordle agrees. “I think some people are naturally distrustful of anything new,” he said. “I think many people get information from bad sources. For this vaccine, because of the necessity to have it out there quickly, it’s created a push and so some people naturally push back.”

The vaccines have introduced an ethical dilemma for some Americans. Equity in access to vaccines is at the core of this discussion.

Otterbein Professor Stephanie Patridge teaches classes in ethics, philosophy of art, philosophy of race, and human rights.



“Assuming that the goal of mass vaccination is to save as many lives as possible, then we likely do have a moral reason to pay attention to things like socio-economic

status, and racial or ethnic status,”

Patridge said.

“There is a significant amount of empirical data to suggest that

phenomena like racial weathering — advanced aging caused by the intense stress of living in a racist society — and working in frontline and essential industries have a significant impact on who gets sick (primarily those of low socio-economic status and Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and how sick they will get.”

Will the vaccine get the U.S. back to normal?

“The vaccine will get us back to the new normal life,” Cordle said. “There will never be such a thing as the old ‘normal’ again. If you won’t get vaccinated, your future and the health of your family and friends is at risk. Please folks, get vaccinated, as soon as you can.”



“...the goal of mass vaccination is to save as many lives as possible...”

Professor Stephanie Patridge



Grace Weidenhamer '23 is a health communication and public relations major from Westerville, OH. She plays on the Otterbein women’s soccer team and is on the executive board of Otterbein’s Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA).

OTTERBEIN FACULTY MEMBERS OFFER AN INSIDE VIEW INTO THE OLYMPICS

In 2020, the global pandemic postponed the Tokyo Olympics, dashing the hopes of athletes who had been training for years for a chance to compete with other athletes from around the world. This year, the Olympic Games are on track for competition without public spectators, but the pandemic could still derail those plans. How does this disappointment and uncertainty affect an Olympic athlete? How do athletes prepare for the Olympics? Two Otterbein faculty members have answers to those questions and more.

As an athlete, what does it take to prepare mentally and physically for Olympic competition?

For major competitions, athletes (and the horses) try to peak at the right time, not too early or late. Physical peak is easier to monitor and attain than mental peak. Having delays of even hours or days can influence a competitor's mental state. Having months of uncertainty would be disarming. With two team members (rider and horse), there are many more physical and mental variables to consider. Preparation takes a village, including sports psychologists, which are often part of the traveling team.

Physically, national team members, during my years, were given physical therapy sessions to help with pains and strains. I also had a sports masseuse and osteopathist attend major competitions. Outside of competitions, my horse often got more medical attention than I did (those approaches and techniques I use today in my equine therapies classes).

What should people know about the experience of competing in the Olympics?

The Olympics offers a unique atmosphere. The Olympic Village is often not accessible to all sports due to the various venue locations. Equestrians need land, so we rarely get to be in the village. The different countries identified by sportswear in the restaurants and gyms is memorable and exhilarating. Often, lifetime friends are made.

The Olympics also represent extreme stress — mental and physical, not only on the athlete but his/her support group. Finding a life partner or friends who understand the commitment and sacrifices poses a huge hurdle. Another stress is that just one thing could go wrong: a horse misstep in training, for example, and *poof* — that opportunity is gone.

Life after the Olympics can be tough. Athletes often suffer mentally and physically, including gaining weight from not being on the same workout regime after retiring from the sport. The bright side is that the Olympics undoubtedly change athletes' lives, and opens doors, opportunities, and new experiences.

Associate Professor Bruce Mandeville competed in the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympic Games, two World Championships (1994 and 2002), and two Pan American Games (1999 and 2003) as a member of the Canadian Equestrian Team. He is an accomplished coach and dressage horse trainer. He has coached students in the North American Young Riders Championship (NAYRC) to a gold and bronze medal. At Otterbein, he teaches equine business management courses, including sustainable practices, equine center design, and equine law, among others.

Bruce responds to questions in yellow.
Denise responds to questions in green.

For photos of Bruce and Denise, go to the Table of Contents page!

How has the pandemic changed Olympic qualification?

The postponement will affect athletes differently. Some will be advantaged, others not. Equestrians work in four-year cycles: World Championships, Pan American Games, then Olympics, followed by a year off. A certificate of capability is required to compete. For individual riders (not the team qualification), those required results last for 12 months. Team results from the Pan Ams and Worlds will qualify a country to send a team. Having a postponement creates chaos in this system, which is designed to keep riders safe.

The major competitions where one qualifies are “on again, off again” due to changing COVID circumstances; canceled competitions limit where equestrians can get qualified for the Olympics. On the bright side, riding horses is pretty COVID friendly — open riding areas (even indoors) offer plenty of airflow, and horses require social distancing (standing too close can get you kicked). COVID challenges many aspects of life, but equestrians benefit from still being able to ride during the pandemic.

Senior Instructor Denise Shively teaches public relations and health communication courses in the Department of Communication, as well as First Year Experience, Integrative Studies and Senior Year Experience courses. When she isn't teaching, she is involved in artistic swimming, formerly known as synchronized swimming. She is the current president of USA Artistic Swimming and has been working closely with the national team that is hoping to qualify for the Olympic Games. In previous roles as vice president of the U.S. Synchronized Swimming board of directors and as an international team manager, she traveled with Team USA to many World Championships, three Pan American Games, and the 2008 Olympic Games.

How long have you been working with artistic swimming champions?

I was asked in 2003 to serve as a team manager for our junior national team. Following the Junior World Championships in 2004, I “moved up” with the coaches and some of the team members to the senior level. Those are the athletes who ended up training for the 2008 Olympic Games. As a national team manager, I handled logistics for and represented the team officially at international competitions. That meant I was booking flights and ground transportation, securing hotel rooms, helping on deck during training, and supporting the team in any way that was non-coaching. Now as president of USA Artistic Swimming, I chair the board of directors and work to bring visibility and support to our members and the sport.

What does it take to manage athletes at the Olympics?

As the manager at an international competition, I work with the coaches to figure out what time to walk to the bus, attend very tightly timed practice sessions in the pool, watch film of practice, get back on the bus, eat, recover, and repeat the next day. Schedules are prepared to the minute for each day. There's no free time. People may not realize how many volunteers it takes to run such an event. That's my favorite part of traveling internationally with the team. Often the volunteers are young adults or college students who want to practice their English. I have gotten to know so many young people from so many countries as a result of this experience and have kept in touch with many of them.

How has the pandemic changed the way these athletes are preparing?

Our athletes were some of the leaders to embrace virtual training, especially land training. They organized sessions and invited athletes from around the world to join them. They were especially effective in building a supportive community of artistic swimmers whose training plans suddenly had to adapt. They worked with the international body FINA to host international land competitions. In February, the USA hosted a virtual World Series competition, the first of its kind.

Since the athletes are based in California, they had to follow state guidelines about returning to the pool and had to remain “in their bubble.” They often could not see family members or friends during holidays or other times of year to remain safe, healthy, and to be in compliance. Although that has been challenging, this group has remained focused on their goal of qualifying for the Olympic Games.



Check out Towers Online for more from the interview!

otterbein.edu/towers

Philanthropy.

THE HEATHER WALKER MSN'18

Memorial Scholarship was created this year after Heather passed away in July 2020. A wide circle of family, friends, and coworkers came together to establish permanent support for nurse anesthesia students who will follow in Heather's footsteps. Led by the incredible generosity of Melanie and Bunk Walker, **Brian Garrett DNP'14**, and **Alaina Dunkelberger MSN'17**, this fund has already raised over \$45,000 in scholarship support. *If you are interested in making a gift in memory of Heather Walker, visit www.otterbein.edu/give and designate "Other," then "Heather Walker Scholarship."*

Barbara K. and **Morton J. H'00 Achter** made an additional generous commitment to support the Dr. Barbara Chapman Achter Nursing Scholarship. Barbara was instrumental in establishing the first nursing program at Otterbein and served as the chair of the nursing department during her tenure.

AN ANONYMOUS DONOR HAS

given \$20,000 to support Otterbein's Academic Support Center and Disability Services, which helps students develop and strengthen the skills necessary to attain their academic goals. The center facilitates the development of learning strategies and skills in partnership with peers and professionals through tutoring, academic coaching, supplemental instruction, academic courses, and other learner-focused services.

AN ALUMNA FROM THE '70s

decade has documented a \$200,000 planned gift to establish the Pay it Forward Scholarship once the gift is realized. The donor received a full scholarship to Otterbein as a senior in high school and would like to pay it forward by helping a student who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend college without incurring significant debt.

OTTERBEIN HAS RECEIVED A

\$25,000 gift from the Huntington Foundation to support the Huntington Five Cards Fund for Columbus City and Urban District Students. The foundation has committed \$100,000 total in support for the fund.

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF

Lois Abbott Yost '52, a loyal annual supporter who passed away in 2020, Otterbein will receive a planned gift for the Abbott-Yost Scholarship, established in 2017 to support a student majoring in communications, education, or music.

OTTERBEIN HAS RECEIVED A

generous planned gift from the Sandra Paul Living Trust to support the Ken and Sandra Paul Annual Scholarship Fund. **Sandra Rubino Paul '46** passed away in 2019 and supported the University over many years with her husband, **Ken Paul '49**, who passed in 1996. Her support also helped to fund the Memorial Stadium fencing and visitor seating in memory of Ken.

BY WAY OF THE COLUMBUS

Foundation, Otterbein has received a generous gift of more than \$25,000 from the John G. and Winifred R. Hoyt Trust Fund. The gift supports the Hoyt Endowed Student Loan, which was created through a \$100,000 planned gift from the couple in 1999.

NANCY AND OBIE '55 OBENAUER

of Bluffton, SC, have made a generous donation of \$25,000 to the Nigel Chatman Student Emergency Fund. This fund will be used to help students with emergency needs such as food, toiletries, books, utilities, car repairs, and more. Otterbein is proud of what Nigel represented and wants to continue helping others like him achieve what they are also striving toward. Their incredible gift has pushed the fund over the threshold for fund endowment at Otterbein, making it an endowed fund which will ultimately keep the emergency-based fund active at the University in perpetuity. We cannot think of a better way to help celebrate Nigel's incredible spirit and passion for Otterbein every year. *To support the fund, please visit www.otterbein.edu give and choose "Student Emergency Fund" as your designation.*

FRIENDS OF OTTERBEIN

Marcia Pollock Farabee and her husband, Paul, have documented a bequest designated to the H. Robert Pollock Speech Education Award in honor of Marica's late father and alumnus, **Robert Pollock '48**, who was an educator and professor of speech at Ashland College.

Thank you, donors!

For the Love of Otterbein: Students Share Their Gratitude

As 2020 came to an end and the impact of the pandemic on colleges and universities continued to create barriers for our students, President John Comerford had an idea: create a fundraising initiative that would directly address the challenges our students are facing and serve as a path for Otterbein to emerge as strong as possible from the pandemic. From this idea, the For the Love of Otterbein: The Time is Now initiative began and will span throughout 2021.

The initiative is focused on protecting and investing in every student's opportunity to experience an Otterbein education. Many alumni and friends have already answered the call to action and supported a number of needs, which cover two overarching themes: needs for today and needs for tomorrow.



To learn more about how you can make a difference through your support, please visit www.otterbein.edu/thetimeisnow or contact our Development team at 614-823-2707.



TIA '21,
COLUMBUS, OH

"Thank you for supporting me in the opportunity to meet and learn about so many diverse people and expand my knowledge of business so that I may pursue a successful career."

"I feel it is important to support this initiative for many reasons. I always enjoyed going to class and interacting with my professors and classmates. I also cherish the time and memories made from campus activities and groups. I want future students to have similar opportunities while we adjust to these current limitations."

MITCHELL '17
DAYTON, OH



LOGAN '21,
WILLIAMSTON, MI

"Donor support has allowed me to study in the Netherlands at Maastricht University. Over the course of four months, I made friends from all over the world and immersed myself in the culture of various European countries. I will never have an opportunity like this again in my life, and your donation helped me make the most of it! I have already accepted a position as an analyst in Fifth Third Bank's Financial Sponsors Group after graduation."

"Thank you so much. With your help, I am able to continue my schooling towards my dream job of working in a wildlife sanctuary. I am a junior zoo and conservation science and biology double major and I am currently interning at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, where I get to care for the living collection of native Ohio birds and help care for birds in rehabilitation. Without your support, I would not have this amazing opportunity for hands-on experience."

TAYLOR '22,
SANFORD, ME



"The caring on this campus is palpable. And when the pressure has come, we have risen to it together as a campus community. We are here to ask you for your help. We believe that Otterbein can and should emerge from this stronger, not weaker."

**PRESIDENT JOHN
COMERFORD**

**FOR THE LOVE OF
OTTERBEIN**
THE TIME IS NOW.

Lifelong Learning Community Reaches Milestone

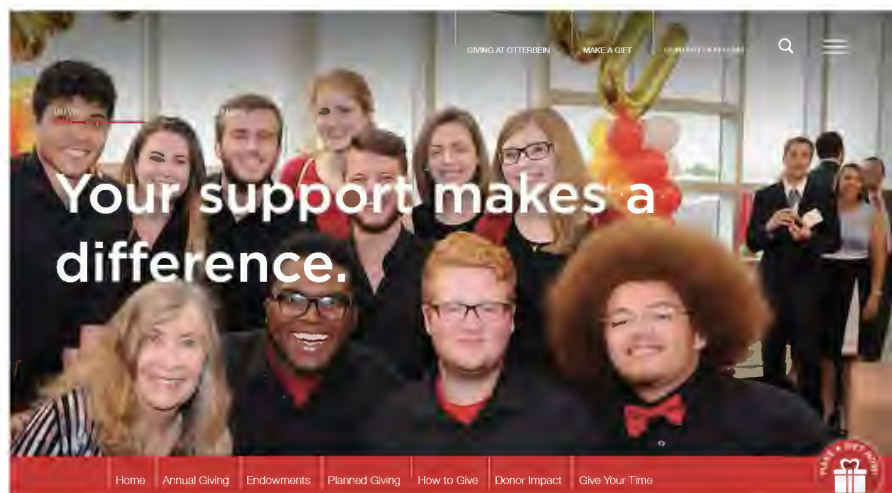
Otterbein's vibrant Lifelong Learning Community (LLC) hit a milestone in 2021, celebrating five years since its creation in 2016. Key partners in the development of the program included Department of English Professor Emerita, Alison Prindle, former Executive Director of Alumni Relations **Becky Fickel Smith '81**, and President Emerita **Kathy Krendl H'18**.

Now housed within the administration area of Otterbein's Institutional Advancement division, the LLC offers a wide array of programs aligned with the semester schedule of the University, all with an educational component: classes (one-time and multi-day) during the fall and spring semesters, mini-courses in May, travel opportunities, and social and campus activities.

Classes and programs are offered by faculty from more than 20 Otterbein departments as well as LLC members and volunteers. Since its founding, the LLC has grown to nearly 200 members and this past year, due to COVID, made the successful transition to online learning via Zoom. The online learning platform has allowed the LLC to reach alumni and friends who aren't in central Ohio, which is a great way to stay connected to Otterbein despite not living close by. This year the program also created new retirement community memberships, with Westerwood and Friendship Village of Dublin joining to offer LLC programming to their residents. Plans are in progress to continue offering virtual learning opportunity in the fall once in-person LLC classes resume.



To learn more about the Lifelong Learning Community, visit www.otterbein.edu/lifelonglearning.



New Philanthropy and Engagement Website Launched

You can visit the new website at www.otterbein.edu/giving

Institutional Advancement is delighted to officially announce the launch of the new Otterbein giving website to our community of donors, alumni, students, and friends of the university.

The new website provides the Otterbein community with an easier way to learn about philanthropy and how to give to Otterbein, while at the same time providing services and information with ease and accessibility. The site is interactive and gives better access to six main areas within Institutional Advancement at Otterbein — annual giving, endowments, planned giving, how to give, donor impact, and give your time. In addition to these areas, our current giving initiatives and priorities are highlighted to keep our alumni and friends updated on how Otterbein continues to support our students.

We hope you find the new website easy to navigate, informative, and helpful as you learn more about Otterbein's culture of philanthropy and our commitment to helping every student achieve the dream of an Otterbein education.

For any questions, suggestions, or feedback, please contact us at donor-relations@otterbein.edu.

Faculty and Staff Earn National Grants for Otterbein Efforts

Otterbein has recently received grants from prominent foundations and federal programs to support research, academic studies, and community education. Faculty and administrators pursue grants to support the mission of Otterbein, enhance faculty achievement and student learning, and strengthen social justice in the central Ohio community.



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



Recruiting and Preparing Undergraduate Mathematics Majors for Teaching Careers in Urban High-Need Schools

AMOUNT

\$1,185,537

Intended amount, over five years

AWARDED BY

National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

RECIPIENTS

Principal Investigator:
Jeffrey Smith (Mathematics)

Bethany Vosburg-Bluem (Education)
Allison McGrath (Education)

The grant will fund activities and programs to address the shortage of highly qualified mathematics teachers, particularly in urban, high-need schools.

"This is an important opportunity for Otterbein to reinforce our ongoing commitment to Columbus City Schools and other districts. It will ensure future Otterbein students have the support they deserve," said Wendy Sherman Heckler, provost and senior vice president. "This grant will have a lasting and positive impact for Otterbein students and future students at our partner schools."

Inclusive Excellence 3 Learning Community

AMOUNT

\$30,000

Over two years

AWARDED BY

Howard Hughes Medical Institute

RECIPIENTS

Principal Investigator:
John Tansey (Chemistry)

Kathryn Plank (Academic Affairs and Education)
Brandon Sinn (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology)
Michael Hudoba (Engineering)
Jennifer Bechtold (Student Success and Career Development)
Carrigan Hayes (Chemistry)
Jennifer Bennett (Biology)

Otterbein will work alongside other institutions to dig deeper into the root causes of educational inequities and develop strategies to address these challenges by adopting an inclusive, equitable, and anti-racist stance. Grant funds from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will support learning activities that promote the development of an inclusive perspective.

Classnotes.

Compiled by Becky Hill May '78 and Becky Olmstead Smith '08

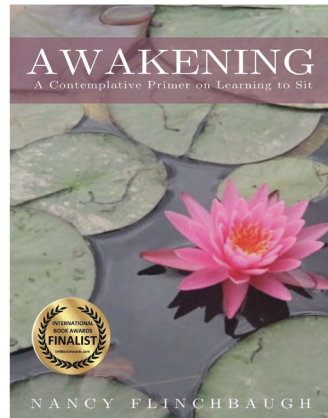
James Gilts '63 celebrated 25 years at Walt Disney World on Sept. 29 before officially retiring on Oct. 30, 2020.

Diana Miller Ready '73 competed in 19 bicycle races and seven triathlons as part of state, national, and world Senior Games in 2020. She regularly competes in Ohio, Indiana, Florida, Nevada, and Utah. She rides road and mountain bikes and teaches water aerobics at the YMCA and alpine skiing at Snow Trails near Mansfield, OH.

Steve Traylor '73 retired in 2020 as director of campus recreation, club sports, and intramurals at Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC. In 2007, he led the Terriers to the Southern Conference Championship and the NCAA tournament in baseball. He also coached at Greensboro College, NC; Florida Atlantic University, where he took his team to the NCAA Division II Regionals; and Duke University, where he won ACC Coach of the Year honors.

Bob Ready '74 retired from his warehouse manager position at HopeNow Furniture Bank, Mt. Vernon, OH.

Deborah Bowsher '75, pastor at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, opened the church for weekly Red Cross blood drives during the pandemic when other facilities were closed to them.



Nancy Flinchbaugh '77 retired after more than 26 years with the City of Springfield, OH. She has also published two books: *Letters from the Earth* in 2018; and *Awakening: A Contemplative Primer on Learning to Sit* in 2020. The latter (pictured above) was a finalist in the 2020 International Book Awards in the spirituality category.

Jonathan Hargis '79, executive vice president and chief marketing officer at Charter Communications, was presented the Executive Champion Award on Sept. 30, 2020, by the T. Howard Foundation, recognizing industry leaders that are committed to diversity in media.

Don Miller '84 is the new director of the First-Year Experience program at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH.

David Caldwell '86 joined Totem Pole Playhouse, Fayetteville, PA, in January 2021 as its artistic director. He also received an award from BroadwayWorld Raleigh for Best Director of a Play of

the Decade for his direction of *The Cake* at Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Raleigh, NC.

Greg Masters '87 celebrated 31 years as the owner of Masters Insurance Group in Westerville and Reynoldsburg, OH.

T.J. Gerckens '88 was interviewed by Stage Directions Magazine regarding his lighting design for The Lookingglass Theatre Company's production of *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*.

Jeffrey Miller '91 is an English teacher at Lake Nona High School, Orlando, FL.

Julie Foltz Schwerin '91 was responsible for the selection of 32 haiku signs to be placed in four of the gardens and natural areas of the Chicago Botanic Garden in 2021. She is associate editor at *The Heron's Nest*. She was instrumental in establishing several haiku installations including the Forest Haiku Walk at the Holmes County Open Air Art Museum in Millersburg, OH.

Kelly McAdams Reichert '92 is the owner of 3060 Gallery, Columbus. Her own exhibit was featured at the Highline Coffee Art Space's North Window Gallery, Worthington, OH. Reichert pays tribute to her former art professor, the late **Joanne Stichweh '67**. Her piece, *Upward Motion*, is pictured to the right.

Annette Harting Boose '94 retired from Otterbein University as staff-emeritus in September 2020.

Christopher Shaw '94 directed his first feature film, *Church People*, which opened in theaters in March 2021.

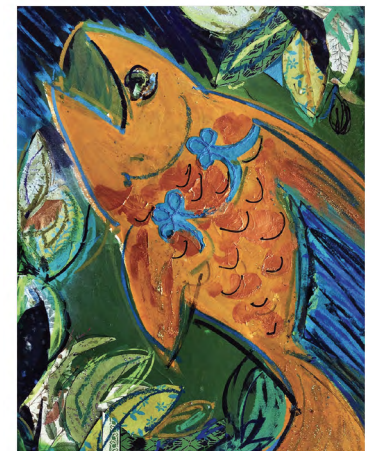
Toby Fischer '95 is the technology integration coach at Bexley City Schools, OH.

Todd Tucker '95 is the general manager of Element by Westin Hotel, Sedona, AZ.

Laura Wehner Collins '96 is a research specialist team lead at Park National Bank, and the co-owner of exhibition Minuteman Press, both in Newark, OH.

Aaron Ramey '98 and **Mandy Bruno Bogue '04** are offering a virtual masterclass, *Methods of Acting*, through The Backyard Playhouse.

Casey Speakman Cooper-Fent '01 is the proud parent of Austin Cooper, who is now a freshman Cardinal at Otterbein.





Giving note.

'64 Grads Give Back
Mike Doney '64, Lloyd Jones '64, and Gene Gangl '64 have provided annual scholarships via the JDG Scholarship to Otterbein students for the last 15 years totaling approximately \$38,000. Additionally, they have established an endowment fund valued at approximately \$85,000.



Giving note.

GOLD Alumni
The classes of 2011-2020 make up the Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) alumni. The group includes 5,956 individuals, 723 (12%) of whom have made an average gift of \$55 to Otterbein since they graduated, totaling more than \$40,000. Thank you, GOLD alumni! Gifts of every size matter and make a difference.

Do you have news to share?

Submit your updates to classnotes@otterbein.edu

Vernon Pack '50 Reflects on Creating Distinguished Lecture Series

by *Dana Madden Viglietta '96*

At 95 years old, alumnus **Vernon Pack '50** shows no signs of slowing down. Pack, a former social studies teacher, still leads day trips throughout Ohio where he imparts his unique and vast knowledge about Ohio history with curious attendees. Knowledgeable about well-known facts to tidbits that even history buffs might not know, Pack takes delight in sharing his knowledge with others.

In 2002 at the request of the University, Pack created an endowed fund that established the Vernon L. Pack '50 Distinguished Lecture and Scholar-in-Residence Program. The endowment provides funding for a distinguished lecturer to visit campus to address important current topics that reflect on ethical, spiritual, and social issues.

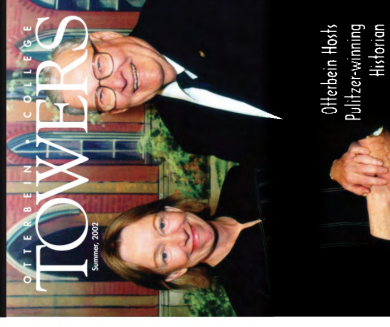
In a recent interview, Pack shared, "The series has challenged me over the years to learn more about various topics presented at my alma mater. I firmly believe that the lecture series has been beneficial to many students. Bringing to the campus talented speakers for the various departments, I feel certain, has added salient information to each department's curriculum."

His experience teaching in Columbus Public Schools offers him a unique perspective on this year's lecture, which focused on the intersection between race, equity, and education with lecturers Nikole Hannah-Jones and Jonathan Kozol. "As a retired public school teacher, I look back at my nearly 30 years in the classroom. I realize that hearing these two persons' thoughts could have helped me during the final several years after desegregation was implemented within the Columbus schools. No college course in racial matters was offered by Otterbein, [at the time], so I was not prepared for the problems that occurred at two of the Columbus schools," said Pack.

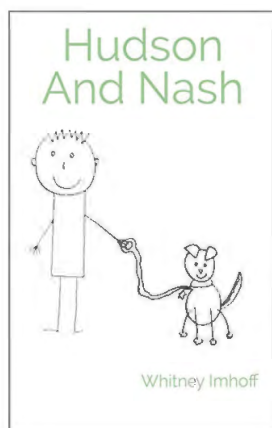
At Otterbein, Pack majored in history and was a member of Zeta Phi fraternity. He received a master's degree in education from The Ohio State University and later served in the Navy for nearly three years. As a lifelong learner, Pack is already looking forward to next year's lecture, which will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Vernon L. Pack '50 Distinguished Lecture Series.

Read about this year's event on page 3 or learn more at www.otterbein.edu/towers.

ALUMNI PROFILE



Matthew D'Oyly '04 is the director of the Office of Events and Conferences at Otterbein. He won the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors - International 2020 Outstanding New Conference and Events Professional Award for his work creating the events office and executing the DNC debate events.



Whitney Reschke Imhoff '04 has written a book (pictured above), *Hudson and Nash*, which helps introduce young readers to chapter books. The book is loosely based on family adventures with husband, **Ryan Imhoff '04**, and son, Ronich, who adores his beagle, Bella. She is a licensed early childhood teacher, and has taught as a reading specialist in northeastern Ohio for over 16 years.

Erica Hlavin Bell '05 is associate professor and administrative director of the Neuroscience Research Institute at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. She was named in the *Columbus CEO Future 50*, Class of 2021.

Christopher Martin '05 was promoted to assistant director of information technology at the Franklin County (OH) Board of Developmental Disabilities in Oct. 2020.

Brandon Moss '05 graduated from The Ohio State University with a doctorate degree in musical arts in conducting in fall 2020. He wrote and defended his dissertation, *George F. Bristow's Praise to God: An Analysis and Historical Commentary*.

Nathan Speiser '05 is the executive vice president of sales and marketing at FlightSafety International. He was previously employed at NetJets and W.W. Grainger.

Tyler TerMeer '05 was named Health Executive of the Year 2021 by the *Portland Business Journal*. He is the CEO of Cascade AIDS Project and Prism Health, offering community-based services to those with HIV in Oregon and southwestern Washington state.

Christopher Austin '06 performed the role of Ghost #2 and Reh Heine, Stage Manager, in the digital CATCO production of *A Christmas Carol* last December. The contemporary re-telling of the classic was set in Columbus as bank owner Ebony Scrooge journeys to redemption.

Chaz O'Neil '06 was accepted into the ROY G BIV Gallery for Emerging Artists show *ImageOhio*, a juried exhibition of the best

lens-based art. His work was exhibited this spring at the Fort Hayes Shot Tower Gallery, Columbus, and included in a group exhibition, *Greater Columbus: The 2020 Greater Columbus Art Council Visual Arts Exhibition*, at The Columbus Museum of Art, which ran through April 2021.

Ben Patterson '06 is a deputy city attorney with the City Attorney's Office, Oakland, CA.

Kyle Williams '07 is the new dean of students at Oglethorpe University, Brookhaven, GA. Prior to this, he worked at Texas A&M University - Commerce, first as area coordinator of the Department of Residential Living and Learning, and then as co-director of Minority Males Matter.

Becky Smith '08 began a two-year term as the president of the Central Ohio Technical College Alumni Council, Newark, OH. She is currently the administrative assistant in the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement at Otterbein.

Wes Jenkins '09 is an apparel and costume designer for Disney parks, experiences and products, retail stores. He recently designed a *Ratatouille*-themed dress that sold out online. He also designed clothes for the new Disney nuiMOS collection.

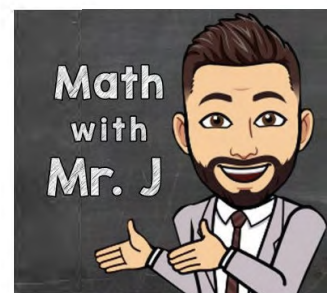
Bryana Anderson Ross '09 joined the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon and Half Marathon

Board on Oct. 1, 2020. She is the health, wellness, and aquatics manager for the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, where she has worked since 2010, and has twice finished the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Half Marathon.

Kolby Kindle '10, actor in the Australian Tour of *Come From Away* (produced by **Randy Adams '76**) had his first post-pandemic performance the last week of January 2021.

Renee Buchele '15 received her master's degree in social work from The Ohio State University, May 2019.

Molly Morton Clark '10 is the elementary band and string director in the Quaker Valley School District, Sewickley, PA.



Adam Johnson '11, a fifth-grade math teacher in the Cardinal Local School District, Geauga County, OH, started an educational YouTube channel in 2018. *Math with Mr. J* has grown to over 200 videos covering several grade levels. With more than 12 million total views and over 100,000 subscribers, he is reaching people from all over the world.

Christopher Shaw '94 Brings Church People to the Silver Screen

by Taylor Gill '24

Director **Christopher Shaw '94** has always had a passion for film. During his days as an Otterbein student Shaw studied theater performance, acting, and directing. As a college student, when asked his aspirations, he would say he wanted to be a “movie star.” His focus at Otterbein was heavily on acting. But now he is a director — and his new film, *Church People*, premiered in March.

The winter of Shaw’s senior year of college he was able to dive into his studies through internships in California. “I spent 10 weeks in ‘La La Land,’” Shaw said.

While working in production facilities and editing houses Shaw began to learn non-linear editing techniques he would later use as a director.

About a year later as a college graduate, he packed up his things and moved to California the day after Christmas to pursue acting. While living in California, Shaw found himself needing some lightheartedness.

“I sensed the Lord was changing my heart and I needed to laugh,” he said.

With a love of Christian comedies, Shaw found a series he really enjoyed, created by Thor Ramsey.

Inspired by Ramsey and utilizing his skills behind-the-camera, he began creating and posting his own video

sketches. He posted and sent his videos to creators and his vision and aesthetic appeal caught Ramsey’s eye.

In 2010, Shaw and Ramsey began collaborating on short films.

Ramsey had the initial script for a film he wanted to create. He brought Shaw on as the director of the full-length Christian comedy, *Church People*.

“The movie is a satire, but it is not mean-spirited,” Shaw said. “Thor would always say, you only satirize the things you love.”

Actor Stephen Baldwin came across social media seeking support for the film and joined the project as a producer. *Church People* was shot in 2016 and premiered in March 2021, with a three-day theatrical run. The film hit the top 10 box office results on a per-screen average.

“The response was great, people really liked it,” Shaw said. “I love inspiring stories, what inspires me are redemptive messages and messages of hope. The biggest message is the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

ALUMNI PROFILE



Giving note.

Otterbein Student Ambassadors

This year, 15 Otterbein Student Ambassadors made over 33,000 calls to alumni, parents, and friends to give University updates, invitations to virtual events, update contact information, and raise funds for students and priorities.

Over 750 members of the Otterbein community made an average gift of \$77 through a student caller.



Giving note.

Loyal Cardinals

The Cardinal Loyalty Society recognizes donors who give to any fund at Otterbein for at least three or more years in a row. Collectively, this group of more than 1,800 donors contributes more than \$2 million to Otterbein each year.



Giving note.

Making an Impact

The Joanne Van Sant (JVS) Leadership Giving Society recognizes donors who give \$1,000 or more to any fund at Otterbein in a given fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Together, this group of more than 360 donors contributes more than \$2.2 million to Otterbein each year.

Kaitlyn Christlieb '12 is a social studies teacher at Bloomfield-Mespo Local Schools, North Bloomfield, OH.

Andrea Keil '12 is president of the Ohio Music Teachers Association - Central East District, recently recognized by the Music Teachers National Association as the 2020 Local Association of the Year. She is the owner of Music Makers Piano Studio located in Grove City, OH.

Jake Robinson '12 is in the feature film, *The Mimic*, released in February. The comedy, based on a true story, unfolds as a man suspects his neighbor is a sociopath and goes to extreme lengths to uncover the truth about him.

Leondra James '13 is the director, data analysis at Wpromote, a digital marketing agency in El Segundo, CA. Additionally, she is currently in a data science fellowship with BlackcomputeHER, supporting computing and tech education and workforce development for Black women and girls, and a computer science research mentorship program with Google.

Marina De Macedo Pires '14 is the lead vocalist for the folk band, The Heartstrings Project, who just signed with Tiny Records. Their album, *shadow people*, was released in December 2020 and features their first single, *am*. She also is active in theater, even landing the role of Jasmine in the Broadway company of *Aladdin*.

Sara Tevis Weeks '14 graduated with high distinction from Liberty University in 2020 with a master's degree in public health.

Ben Willis '14 (pictured below) was awarded the Art Unites CBUS grant from the Greater Columbus Arts Council for his photographs of the Black Lives Matter protests in Columbus in 2020.



Jacob Bowman '15 completed his doctorate degree in philosophy at The Ohio State University in December 2020.

Bailey Dye '15 earned her doctorate degree from The Ohio State University in August 2020. She is a medical writer at Medpace, Inc., in Cincinnati.

Megan Foust '15 is the individual giving manager at Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Saint Paul, MN.

Tyler Perry '15 is a music therapist at Dayton Children's Hospital, Dayton, OH.

Abby Dawson '17 works in event sales for Play: CBUS,

a 52,000-square-foot indoor active entertainment facility for all groups and ages located in Worthington, OH.

Mary Arnold Long DNP'16 is a subject matter expert writer for Relias, a healthcare training company, Johnson City, TN. She was co-recipient of 2020 Clinical Manuscript Award from the *Journal of Wound, Ostomy & Continence* for the article, "Decreasing Incontinence-Associated Dermatitis in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit: A Quality Improvement Project."

Courtney Kilmer '17 is an assistant teacher at the Goddard School in Columbus.

Allison Asarch '18 was a winner of Netflix's *Sing On!*, a karaoke-elimination style gameshow. She won the '80s *Mixtape* episode. She auditioned in Nashville, then was flown to England for the competition hosted by Titus Burgess. She hosted a live Q&A with alumni on Nov. 19, 2020, to share her story.

Kristina Crawford '18 is a news producer at KOTV, Tulsa, OK.

Shaquille Alexander '19 passed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination (CPA) in 2020 and will soon be a licensed CPA in the state of Ohio. He works for KPMG as a tax associate.

Nikki Campbell-Muriente '19 is an athletic trainer for Orthopedic ONE in Westerville. On Oct. 16,

2020, while working at the Resolute Athletic Complex, she performed CPR and discharged a defibrillator on a 17-year-old athlete who experienced a sudden cardiac event, restarting his pulse before EMS arrived. The EMS and attending physician both credit Campbell-Muriente's quick actions for saving the athlete's life.

Audrey Evans '19 was accepted into the master of arts in educational studies program at The Ohio State University.

Carrie Baldwin Curtis '20 is a leasing agent for Oakwood Management, New Albany, OH.

Bethany Eippert '20 is a communications associate at Chard Snyder, a third-party administrator of employee benefit plans in Mason, OH.

Drew Kasper '20 has signed a three-year contract with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). In his four years with Otterbein's wrestling team, he compiled a record of 108-13, including a 62-2 mark at heavyweight, and finished as a two-time All-American. He was ranked first in the country before the NCAA Championships were canceled due to the pandemic.

Lance Kriesch '20 was accepted into the ROY G BIV Gallery for Emerging Artists show *ImageOhio*, a juried exhibition of the best lens-based art. His work was exhibited at the Fort Hayes Shot Tower Gallery, Columbus, OH, earlier this year.

Karen Castro '11 Serves Her Country as a U.S. Diplomat

by Felicity Boykin '24

Even as a student at Otterbein, **Karen Castro '11** always knew she wanted to pursue a career overseas to continue making the world a better place.

Castro enjoyed learning new languages and cultures, so she started out as an international business major. During her junior year, she studied abroad in Argentina where she took an international economics course in Spanish.

After returning to Otterbein, Castro decided to change her major to international studies. She wanted to focus on exploring different culture in a broader perspective, rather than just economically.

“I am so glad I switched majors,” said Castro. “Studying abroad opened my eyes to all of the opportunities there are to learn about cultural perspectives on how to make the world a better place.”

After graduating, she went to work in Congress as an intern, legislative aide, then immigration caseworker. Then she joined the U.S. State Department. She was a Pickering Graduate Fellow in the Office of the Coordinator for Cuban Affairs then in the U.S. Embassy in London while earning her master’s degree in international peace and conflict resolution from American University.

ALUMNI PROFILE



After earning her graduate degree, she spent two years as vice consul at the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou, China. She returned to the U.S. for two years before departing for Brazil. Since December 2020, she has been serving as vice consul at the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro, where she assists American citizens in Brazil with any legal issues they may be facing.

These legal issues vary from imprisonment to lost passports. It is Castro’s mission to get these citizens back home or keep them in touch with their families. She also deals with immigrant services, which could mean helping Brazilian students who want to study abroad or assisting a family who wants to visit Walt Disney World.

“The gratification of helping citizens is so valuable to me,” Castro said. “It is so meaningful to have a sense of purpose and satisfaction that I am serving my country.”

Castro enjoys having a job that pays her to travel the world, meet new people, and learn about their cultures.

“This job is a reminder that people can show kindness no matter what cultural background we are from, even if we don’t speak the same language.”

Daniel Kunkel '20 is a virtual game master for Insomnia Escape Room. He oversees a small team of other game masters running events for teams from Google, National Science Teaching Association, and other groups around the world.

Kayla Queer '20 is a rotational employee at Covestro LLC, Pittsburgh, PA.

REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO GOOD

- Class of 1970: 50th Golden Reunion (postponement)
- Class of 1971: 50th Golden Reunion
- Class of 1996: 25th Reunion
- Class of 2011: 10th Reunion

Milestones.

Marriages

1 Julie Foltz '91 to Daniel Schwerin, Aug. 27, 2020.

2 Maggie Ellison '10 to Omar Ahmad, Oct. 10, 2020. Officiant, **Micaela Coleman '10**.

3 Chelci Fauss-Johnson '10 to **Anthony Gardner '11**, Sept. 26, 2020. In the wedding party, **Cassandra Cardenas Spohn '10**.

4 Kaylyn Armstrong '11 MAE'17 to Jon Womeldorf, Sept. 26, 2020. In the wedding party, **Laura McDaniels '12**, **Kristalynn Davis '13**, and **Lauren Farrell '11**.

5 Kristin Yarger '13 to Christian James, Sept. 5, 2020. In the wedding party, **Zach Alexander '13**, **Chris Wyse '08**, and **Micah Hudson '11**; the groom's parents are **Tom '68** and **Nanci Grey '88 James**.

6 Sara Tevis '14 to Jerry Weeks, June 30, 2018. In the wedding party, **Elizabeth Murphy '13**.

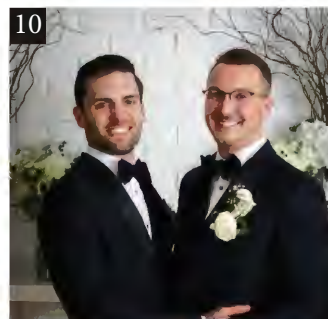
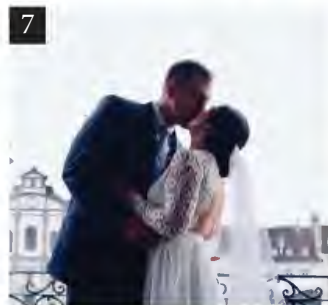
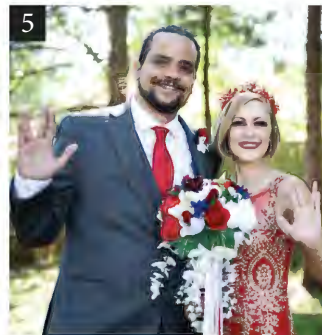
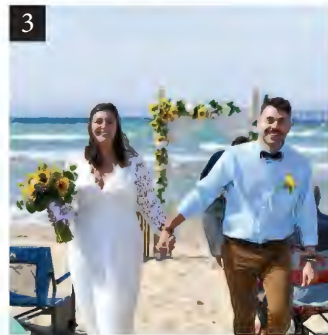
7 Alicia Contrascier '15 to **Ryan Klipa '14**, Nov. 9, 2018.

8 Katherine Mackerty '16 to **Mackenzie Boyer '15**, Oct. 10, 2020. Pictured in the wedding party, Jexemany Rodriguez, Kailee Morgan, **Jessica Takos Austin '16**, **Samantha Harper '18** and **Ally Hurd '16**. **Chelsi Campbell-Ferguson '14** officiated.

9 Aimee Horne '17 to **Nicholas Lascola '17**, Jan. 9, 2021. In attendance, **Dayna Ober '17**, **Alyx Lynham '18**, **Meaghan McEwen '17**, and **Andrew Sucharski '17**.

10 Trevor McDonald '17 to Jamie Dykes, April 24, 2020.

11 Carrie Baldwin '20 to Tyler Curtis, Aug. 8, 2020. In the wedding party, **Priscilla Williams '21** and **Priscilla Puddoc '20**.



Births



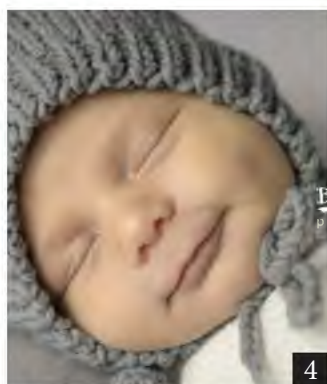
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12

1 Ellie Hempleman Akey '05 and **Brandon Akey '05**, a son, Andrew Thomas.

2 Carrie Eckert Egan '05 and Jonathan Egan, a son, Noah.

3 Ben Patterson '06 and Dorothy Eshelman, a son, Graham.

4 Amanda Cattey Argo '07 and Matt Argo, a son, Emmett Troy.

5 Becky Smith '08 and **Gary Smith '90 P'05**, a great-granddaughter, Alayah Rose.

6 Sarah Martindell Swandell '08 and Jordan Swandell, a daughter, Olympia Grace.

7 Kristin Sutton-Harris '09 and Stephen Harris, a daughter, Ora Rose.

8 Stephanie Perry Staudt '09 and Mike Staudt, a daughter, Macy.

9 Danielle Vickers Beltz '10 and Ryan Beltz, a daughter, Reese Cameron.

10 Elizabeth Freshley Coy '10 and **Stephen Coy '08**, a daughter, Violet Ruth.

11 Natalie Yost Prescott '10 and Jacob Prescott, a son, Anthony Jacob, who joins big brother, Jackson.

12 Kelley Folger Johnson '11, a son, Samuel LB.

Alex Lake '14, a daughter, Emma Opal (not pictured).

Milestones.

In Memoriam

Long form obituaries can be found at: otterbein.edu/alumni/classnotes/obituaries
if you would like a copy of an obituary, email alumniinfo@otterbein.edu or call 614-823-1650.

'41 Jean McCloy Needham	03/09/21	'56 Lola McWherter Smith	04/21/20	'67 Marie Joann Platano	03/08/21
'44 Ruth Deever Moody	12/31/20	'56 Joyce Hickok Waggamon	01/24/21	'68 Jennifer Kelly	02/28/21
'45 Robert Love	01/18/14	'57 William Schrader	01/12/18	'68 Mary Welty	08/26/19
'46 Patricia Nutt Shuter	12/12/20	'57 Carolyn Lucas Zolg	12/15/20	'68 Larry Zingarelli	11/22/20
'47 Miriam Woodford King	11/11/20	'58 Marsh Cassady	02/13/21	'69 Frederic Ackerman	11/29/20
'48 David Geehring	03/06/21	'58 Nancy Whipp Grimm	11/20/20	'69 Carol Airhart Anderson	11/02/20
'48 Henry Roberson	06/23/18	'58 Sharon Main	01/16/21	'70 Paul Drotovick	12/27/20
'49 Gary Garrison	01/03/15	'58 Fred Nocera	11/28/20	'71 Richard Walker	10/04/14
'49 Mary Frail Lutz	10/31/20	'59 Lee Frazier	09/09/20	'72 Katrina Steck Mescher	01/29/21
'49 Marilyn Call Pflieger	11/02/18	'59 Barbara Gerber Roush	12/27/20	'73 Steven Kennedy	12/17/20
'49 George Vawter	03/16/21	'59 Karen Siegfried Wright	11/02/20	'73 Marilyn Vilums	01/31/21
'49 Joseph Wheelbarger	02/09/21	'60 Earnestean Martin Allen	01/02/21	'74 Steven Safreed	12/08/19
'50 Waldon Reed	11/18/19	'60 Janet Gurney Welch	10/02/20	'74 William Smucker	01/11/21
'51 Walter Beahm	12/17/20	'61 Ronald Ritchie	12/30/20	'77 Timothy Hayes	02/19/21
'51 Meredith Schlatter	01/31/21	'62 Judith Reighard Graffius	03/23/21	'80 John Schlichter II	11/19/20
'51 James Shand	11/30/20	'62 Vernon Phillips	12/20/20	'84 June Paxton Burns	01/21/21
'51 Betty Detamore Shives	12/27/20	'63 David Cheek	03/17/21	'85 Lorraine Zimmerman	01/12/21
'52 Joan Waugh Marlett	11/26/20	'63 Martha Slack Kinhead	02/06/21	'87 Lynne Stephenson Burley	01/02/21
'52 Floyd Miller	01/30/21	'63 Kathy Ackerman McDannald	10/27/20	'88 Marvin Sitton	02/20/20
'52 Marilyn Neitz Narby	12/21/19	'64 James Clary	02/07/21	'91 Amy Stanger Cox	10/28/20
'52 Lois Abbott Yost	11/19/20	'64 Frances Wellons O'Toole	11/15/20	'91 Cara Ettenhofer	12/21/20
'53 Jay Jacoby	01/24/21	'64 Gary Stansbury	02/25/21	'93 Karen Stoltenberg Eckelbarger	11/24/20
'53 William Molter	12/07/20	'65 Porter Miller	11/10/20	'94 James Friesner	12/15/20
'54 Frederick Collins	03/12/21	'66 Jack Gruber	01/05/21	'99 Anne Ivers Lathrop	03/06/21
'54 Robert Moore	11/26/20	'66 William Patterson	09/10/20	'04 Kathy Faiella	01/02/21
'55 Richard Bishop	01/12/21	'66 Suzanne Taylor Taeger	11/19/20	'10 Thomas Beck	02/01/21
'55 Douglas Huelf	09/16/20	'67 William Beougher	12/24/20		
'55 Patricia Tumblin Rapp	11/06/20	'67 Allen Myers	11/26/20		



Honoring a Family Legacy

Paul Stuckey H'83 passed away March 12, 2021, and is remembered fondly as part of the Stuckey family legacy at Otterbein. He served as the pastor of Westerville's Church of the Master, and as an Otterbein trustee in the 1960s. He dedicated more than 60 years of ministry in the United Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches.

Paul is survived by his wife of more than 68 years and partner in ministry, **Margaret (Peg) Ridge '71 Stuckey**; sons, **David '75**, **Doug '77**, Eric, and **Kent '79**, who followed in his footsteps as an Otterbein trustee; 10 grandchildren, including **Katherine '11**, and Ridge '22; and a great grandson. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Kaye.

Celebrating 175 Years of History

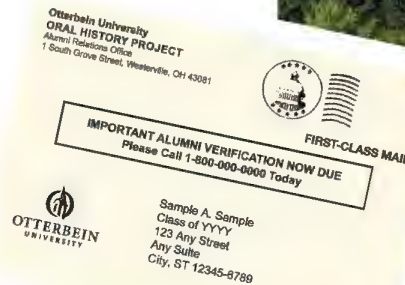
In 2022, Otterbein will mark 175 years since its founding on April 26, 1847. Things have certainly changed since the days of a few students matriculating in one building. Every alumnus who has walked the halls and walkways of campus is part of Otterbein's history, and many of their stories are Otterbein's stories, too.

Now, as Otterbein prepares to celebrate 175 years of history, the team in Alumni and Family Engagement is asking alumni to share their stories with us. Were you the captain of a sports team or a soloist in the choir? Tell us! Were you inspired by a professor or dean of students? Tell us! Did you propose to your spouse at the amphitheater or go on donut runs with your lifelong best friends? Tell us!

We have partnered with PCI (Publishing Concepts, Inc.) to collect the stories of Otterbein. You'll receive a yellow postcard (pictured) asking you to schedule a phone call with a PCI representative to share your stories — so please keep your eye out for it.

Your stories will be edited into a book celebrating 175 years of Otterbein and will be released in April 2022. A book may be purchased through PCI when you share your story.

We look forward to hearing your Cardinal story.



And the award goes to ...

Since Alumni and Family Engagement started our series of *Cardinal Fly-By*, *Inside the Nest*, and *Between Two Cards* videos, we've heard from countless alumni and friends around the world who have enjoyed connecting with campus with each episode. And it seems the critics agree with them!

Our video series has been recognized with a Pride of CASE V Award by a panel of higher education peers. We earned a silver award in the Alumni Relations: Pivot category, which recognized the many creative ways institutions shifted programming in response to COVID restrictions.

Thank you to the many campus partners, alumni, and parents who contributed to these video projects — and thank you for watching.



Alumni Volunteers Lead through Unprecedented Year

Since July 1, 2020, more than 220 alumni have volunteered their time in service to Otterbein. That's more volunteers than the previous one-year period, despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic.

These dedicated Cardinals have spoken in the classroom, shared insights in alumni programming, led class reunion efforts, raised funds, served on boards and councils, and so much more. Otterbein is made better by the contributions of our volunteers, led by the committed members of our Alumni Council.

Icilda Watkins Dickerson '88 will complete her term as the first chair of



Icilda Watkins Dickerson '88

a reimagined, future-thinking Alumni Council, serving during the most challenging year in recent history. Additionally, **Dan Gifford '88, P'21, P'23** will finish his term as the Alumni Council trustee. Our sincere gratitude goes out to these two alumni for their leadership and service.

Also completing terms on Alumni Council are:

Chris Cargill MBA'16, Mark Curtis '91, Eric Farnbauch '90, Christy Boyd Farbauch '88, Pete Klipa '89, Nancy Case Struble '79, Jack Whalen '66, and Karen Persson '68 Whalen. Thank you all for your unwavering support Otterbein.



Dan Gifford '88, P'21, P'23

VIRTUAL SUCCESS

The pandemic provided the unique opportunity to expand our audience and reach with new and exciting virtual programming, connecting Cardinal alumni and friends from around the globe in new and meaningful ways. For more information, visit www.otterbein.edu/alumni.

TOTAL MINUTES OF VIDEOS

TOTAL VIRTUAL EVENTS HOSTED

TOTAL NUMBER OF VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

MAY 2020

BEFORE

AFTER

0

**9 HOURS
22 MIN**

0

45

0

2,341

Board of Trustees.

Peter R. Bible '80
Rev. Larry C. Brown '80
John L. Comerford, Ph.D.
Deborah Ewell Currin '67
Jocelyn Curry '78, MBA'09
Joan Marie Esson, Ph.D.
David W. Fisher '75, P'11
James L. Francis '71
Daniel C. Gifford '88, P'21, P'23
William E. Harrell Jr. '94
Theresa Harris
Cheryl L. Herbert
Lisa L. Hinson P'17
K. Christopher Kaiser '77
Meredith C. Marshall '21
Elijah McCutcheon '22
Nevalyn Fritsche Nevil '71
Mindy S. Phinney '85, M.D.
Rebecca C. Princehorn '78
Joan Rocks H'20, Ph.D.
Brant O. Smith '95
Mark R. Thresher '78, P'05
Alan P. Varrasso MBA'11
Alan Waterhouse '82

Trustees Emeriti.

Thomas R. Bromeley '51
Michael H. Cochran '66, P'93
William L. Evans '56
Judith Graham Gebhart '61
Terry L. Goodman '70
Mary F. Hall '64, Ph.D.
John T. Huston '57, P'85, P'89, M.D.
Rev. Erwin K. Kerr H'02, P'91
John E. King '68
John W. Magaw '57
Thomas C. Morrison '63
Jane W. Oman H'96
Paul S. Reiner '68
Peggy Miller Ruhlin '79
James A. Rutherford P'99
Wolfgang R. Schmitt '66, P'91
Kent D. Stuckey '79, P'22
Alec Wightman

Officers of the University.

CHAIR
Mark R. Thresher '78, P'05
VICE-CHAIR
William E. Harrell Jr. '94
VICE-CHAIR
Cheryl L. Herbert
SECRETARY
K. Christopher Kaiser '77
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Alan Waterhouse '82
PRESIDENT
John L. Comerford, Ph.D.

Alumni Council.

Wendy Peterson
Bradshaw '95
Chris Cargill MBA'16
Mark Curtis '91
Icilda Watkins Dickerson '88
Maggie Ellison '10, MBA'19
Erin Sites Ensign '08
Eric Farnbauch '90
Christy Boyd Farnbauch '88
Daniel C. Gifford '88, P'21, P'23
Lindy Gilkey '06
Sonya Lowmiller
Higginbotham '98
Peter Klipa '89, P'14, P'17
Rhonda Talford Knight '96
Dom Porretta '13
Mary Kruiila Somyak '07
Nancy Case Struble '79
Jean Sylvester MBA'10
Jack Whalen '66
Karen Persson Whalen '68



Join the STEP UP FOR STUDENTS CHALLENGE

Be a part of Otterbein's largest philanthropic scholarship initiative for students. Take the challenge and make a difference today.
For more information, please visit www.otterbein.edu/giving

PLANNING FORWARD In Times of Uncertainty

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

Each has made an investment in Otterbein's future through a planned estate gift. Estate gifts are a bridge to the future for Otterbein University and its students.

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

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

www.plannedgiving.otterbein.edu



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A Celebration to Remember

It was a picture-perfect weekend. Memorial Stadium was transformed into a different field of dreams as Otterbein hosted five commencement ceremonies to honor the Classes of 2020 and 2021. The event rallied more than 325 faculty, staff, students, and alumni into service and celebration to recognize the record-number of graduates, including more than 200 alumni from the Class of 2020. Most importantly, it provided their well-deserved walk across the stage. Board Chair **Mark Thresher '78** presided over his final commencement, punctuating 21 years of leadership. It was an unforgettable closing for the two classes Otterbein will always remember.

Meet the graduates from the cover →

Seniors Emma Kate Lampe and Desmond Fernandez, pictured on the cover, graduated as members of the Class of 2021 with their BFAs. After graduation, Lampe is heading to New York City. Fernandez has signed with DDO Artists Agency and DGRW Inc. in New York.

