

OTTERBEIN NURSING ALUMNI NETWORK (OTT-NAN)

MAY 2022

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Otterbein Nursing
Alumni Network



@ott_nan



OTT-NAN'S YEAR IN REVEIW

We are excited to share Otterbein's 2021 year in review. These pages will include updates from the nursing school, alumni spotlights, and nursing fundraisers. In addition, you will find opportunities to give back and spread your Cardinal pride! Hopefully this newsletter will provides a platform to network, learn, and share for Otterbein nursing alumni, nursing students and faculty. Follow us on social and look out for our new page on Otterbein's website!

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175 YEARS: TIME TO CELEBRATE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

2022 is going to be a big year as Otterbein is hitting a remarkable milestone.

This year, Otterbein is celebrating 175 years of excellence, opportunity, and community! Throughout the year, we will honor Otterbein's history while also looking ahead to further define its future.

Homecoming and Family Weekend will be on October 1st, 2022. Registration will open soon, check out www.otterbein.edu/alumni/homecoming for details



Tentative Homecoming Schedule

Friday, September 30, 2022

- 9 a.m. Leather Helmet Gang ('O' Club Room)
- 12 p.m. College Admissions 101 (virtually hosted on Zoom)
- **Homecoming Kickoff:** including a Cardy Hour for faculty, staff, students, families and alumni. Details to come!

Saturday, October 1, 2022

- 7:30 a.m. Celebration of Otterbein Breakfast (Invite Only)
- 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Westerville Farmers Market
- **9:30 a.m. Celebration of Otterbein (Cowan Hall)**
- 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Cardy Zone (Grove St.)
- 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Westerville Vendor Fair
- **11:00 a.m. Homecoming Parade**
- 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Otterfest
- 12 p.m. African American Alumni Network Lunch (Office of Social Justice & Activism)
- 2 p.m. Otterbein Football vs. Capital



SHOP SMALL: SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HEALTHCARE HEREOS

My name is Luther Nyirenda, I'm currently a travel ICU nurse who grew up in Hilliard, Ohio! I am one of the founders of SHAPE | Medical, a healthcare brand created by local healthcare workers.

I attended my undergrad at Ohio University for my B.S.N. and will be pursuing my graduate degree in Otterbein University-OhioHealth Grant Medical Center Nurse Anesthesia Program (Go Cards!).

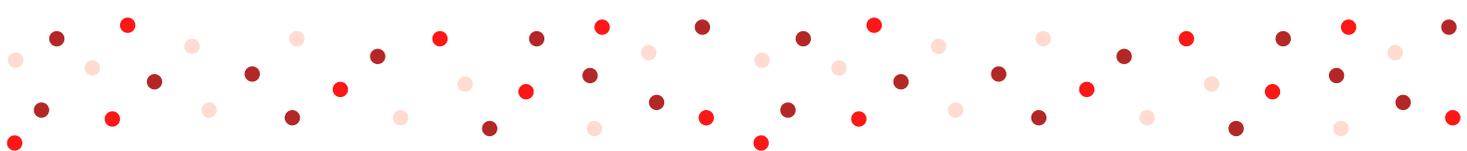
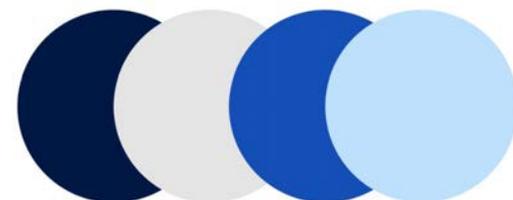
During my time at Otterbein University, I would love to become an advocate for our Nurse Anesthesia program to high school and collegiate students who are interested in the profession!



Let's Talk **SHAPE | Medical**

SHAPE | Medical is a brand, that was created by healthcare workers who are on the frontline. *Our founders and executives include:* Mara Wende, Luther Nyirenda, Tyren Busby, Morgan Clark & Ashley Mary Mers.

SHAPE | MEDICAL



SHOP SMALL: SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HEALTHCARE HEREOS

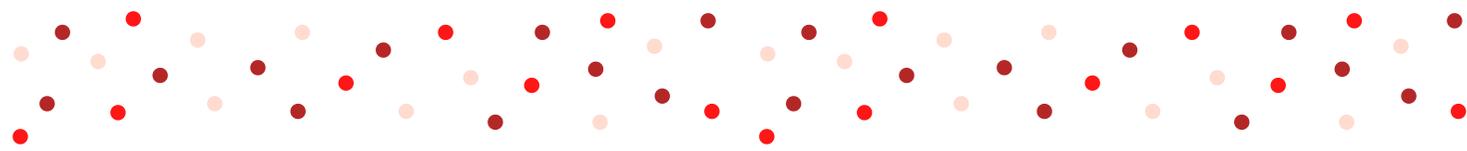
Our goal at SHAPE | Medical is to create apparel and content that empowers our healthcare workers to provide optimal care to their patients, continue growing and to shape their own path. We seek to change the atmosphere of healthcare retail through our customer's needs, and not what has been imagined for them.

Initially we wanted to sell products, but through our foundations we have found that we want to be a brand where you can buy something, learn something, and take something away.

When you go to work, you're there for your patient but here we show up for you.

To learn more about SHAPE | Medical, go to: **shapemedicalscrubs.com**





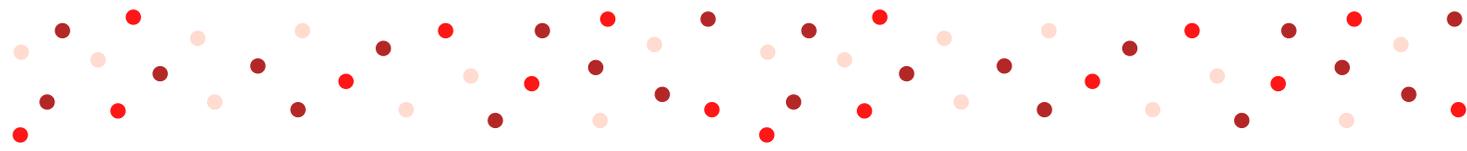
OTT-NAN SPOTLIGHTS: DR. JOHN CHOVAN

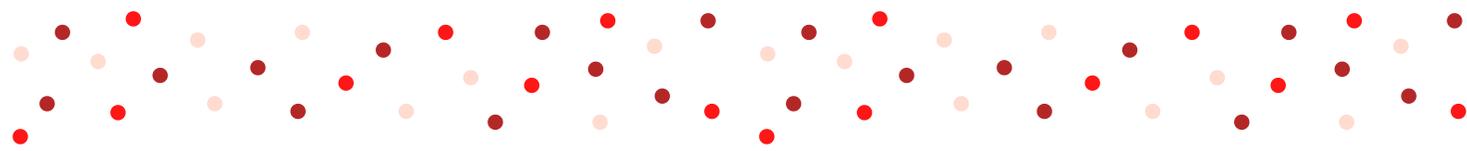
I was born on a Sunday in September making me a Virgo. A friend who was into astrology told me once that traits of a Virgo man include rational thinking, problem-solving; able to be calculative yet follow his heart in different scenarios; strong intuitive skills; and ability to sniff out imposters easily. Well, I don't know how much of that is true about me. But I think my ability to listen to my intuition and yet think rationally to solve problems has often propelled me into leadership positions.

So, being named Chair of the Department of Nursing and Chief Nurse Administrator has been a natural progression for me. Plus, I am so proud to serve as role model for other men, members of the LGBTQ community, and people of Appalachian descent who aspire to a profession in nursing, in nursing education, and in nursing leadership.

Some of you may know that I started my journey at The Ohio State University studying to be a music teacher. After I completed my music degree and there were no jobs in music, I studied engineering; electrical first, and then biomedical engineering.

After a 20-year career as an engineer, I felt a call into a helping profession and landed in nursing. As a practicing psychiatric / mental health nurse practitioner, I first worked in community mental health and then in hospice and palliative care. All the concepts and thought processes I learned since my first day in music school I bring to bear on helping people live the best quality of life they can live. That includes my patients, their families, my colleagues, my students, and everyone my life touches. Like ripples in a pond, serving humanity is an exponential reach. And I feel so lucky, even blessed, to be sharing my gifts in this leadership position and to be leading an incredible team of brilliant nursing faculty, skilled staff, and thirsty students.





OTT-NAN SPOTLIGHTS: DR. JOHN CHOVAN

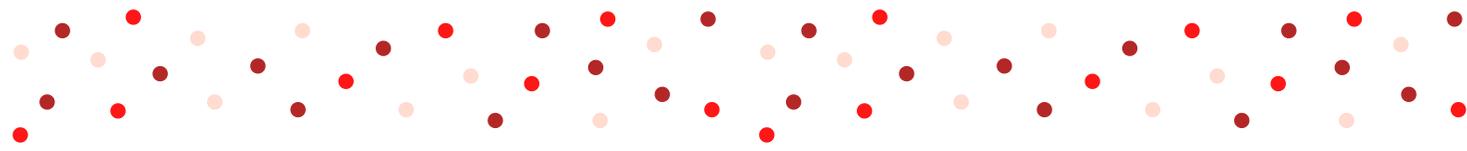
Otterbein's pass rates remain in the high 90s in all programs, with the BSN at 96% despite the COVID pandemic! The BSN received a full five-years approval once again from the Ohio Board of Nursing. Our nurse anesthesia program is one of the top programs in the country. Our psychiatric & mental health nurse practitioner enrollment is growing and graduates our first cohort this spring. And our first BSN to DNP graduates will walk across the stage at graduation in May as we witness our seventy-fifth Doctor of Nursing Practice.

The Otterbein University Simulation & Integration Center (formerly known as the Skills Lab) is up and running and our students are using high- and mid-fidelity mannequins in exciting simulations. Nursing faculty Dr. Regina Prusinski and Dr. Kirk Hummer recently received grant funding to increase the number of Family Nurse Practitioner students through a pilot project with IHA, a local urgent care facility.

Despite all these successes, the Department of Nursing is passing through a bit of a rough spot right now. The university had frozen hiring for two years and then several of our faculty separated from Otterbein, either because of retirement or having finished their doctorates attracted appealing opportunities to do different things. And this happened amidst the impact of COVID-19 on our world and our profession.

But, as we say in psychiatric nursing: Resiliency matters; Recovery happens! We have been fortunate to have amazing clinical partners and to hire a cadre of extremely talented adjunct faculty to fill some of the gaps. Plus, we are currently searching to add a new member of our faculty.

We are a small but mighty team and I look forward to leading the department into its new regrowth phase to emerge even stronger!





OTT-NAN SPOTLIGHTS: DR. JOHN CHOVAN



In closing, I challenge the nursing alumni to reach out and lend a hand. If you can come to campus in person or virtually, perhaps you could sit with some of our students and just talk with them. Perhaps you can share some of your stories to normalize their experiences and to help you understand the stressors that today's students are experiencing. Perhaps you would be willing to be a guest speaker to talk about your own journey in nursing, help us recognize clinical excellence of our students, or perhaps contribute in some other way.

My door is usually open, unless I'm in a virtual meeting, so, stop by or drop me an email message and let me know how we can connect you back to you alma mater. I appreciate you all very, very much and look forward to connecting with you. As is written in the Otterbein Love Song, "we pledge anew we will be true to Otterbein!"



ALUMNI WRITE-A-THON

Interested in giving back? Sharing your life-changing experience while at Otterbein?
This is your chance!

The Alumni Write-A-THON is a collaborative project between the Alumni Relations Office, Admissions and OTT-NAN.

We are looking for undergraduate and graduate nursing alumni to write letters to students who have been accepted to Otterbein.

Self scripted, your short, hand written letter will express your own heartfelt reasons for choosing Otterbein, as well as welcome student to the Cardinal family. This is a great project for those who live miles away but want to volunteer and share their memories.

For more information, reach out to Abby Gropitch at abigail.gropitch@otterbein.edu



OTTERBEIN COLLEGE OF NURSING REGISTRATION

Nurse Anesthesia Program BSN to DNP

The application for the Summer 2023 cohort is open, Deadline is August 1st, 2022.

Registration is also open for the Nurse Anesthesia Applicant Preparation Information Sessions. The first hour will include program overview, and the second will feature special topics imperative to interviews.

Other Graduate Level Degrees:

The Family Nurse Practitioner, BSN to DNP, Psychiatric and Mental Health, BSN to DNP, and Doctor of Nursing Practice, MSN to DNP, are currently accepting applications for Summer 2022.

Undergraduate nursing applications must be received by May 1st. Guaranteed Admission Requirements include: high school GPA: 3.5 and ACT: 24. Visit www.otterbein.edu/nursing

Program Contact:

Kelly Cornett, BS, ASN, RN
Graduate Nursing Recruiter
cornett1@otterbein.edu
614-823-3272



**OTTERBEIN GRADUATE SCHOOL
INFORMATION SESSION**

Nursing Programs:

- > Doctor of Nursing Practice
- > Family Nurse Practitioner
- > Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

 **OTTERBEIN
UNIVERSITY**
GRADUATE NURSING

REGISTER TODAY!

Learn more: grad-visit.otterbein.edu



**OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY-
OHIOHEALTH GRANT MEDICAL CENTER**

**Nurse Anesthesia Program
BSN to DNP**

**Applicant Preparation
Schedule**

ONLINE: January 18 • May 17 • July 19
IN-PERSON: March 15

 **Grant Medical
Center**
OhioHealth

 **OTTERBEIN
UNIVERSITY**
GRADUATE NURSING

Learn more: grad-visit.otterbein.edu

Learn more: grad-visit.otterbein.edu

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT NURSING ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT

Otterbein University Student Nursing Association (OUSNA) is a student branch of the national (NSNA) and state (OSNA) Student Nursing Associations. Its major goals are to contribute to nursing education, to provide programs of professional interest and concerns, and to aid in the development of the whole person and his/her professional role. OUSNA provides speakers, fundraisers, and service opportunities to help meet these goals.

During the 2021-2022 academic calendar, events include: Resume/Job Application, Financial Planning, and conversations regarding mental health.

OUSNA also organized an American Red Cross Blood Drive in October, January and March of this academic year. Hundreds of volunteers donated to help aid in the national blood shortage. Stay tuned for upcoming events and workshops by following them on Instagram @OtterbeinOUSNA. Contact London Newman, OUSNA president, at newman4@otterbein.edu, if interested to speak at future events or help in any way!



OTT-NAN UPDATES

Check out our new logos thanks to the Otterbein Marketing Department!



Visit the atrium of the Science Center to see the updated display case that highlights the nursing program.



Check out OTT-NAN now on the Otterbein website to stay up to date and connected!

Top shelf: Heather Walker Memorial Scholarship

Second shelf: Undergraduate and graduate nursing program

Third shelf: Sigma Theta Tau: Kappa Lambda Chapter

Bottom Shelf: Nursing supplies and donated items