



OTTERBEIN
175
YEARS
UNIVERSITY

Class of 1972
Golden Reunion

Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2022



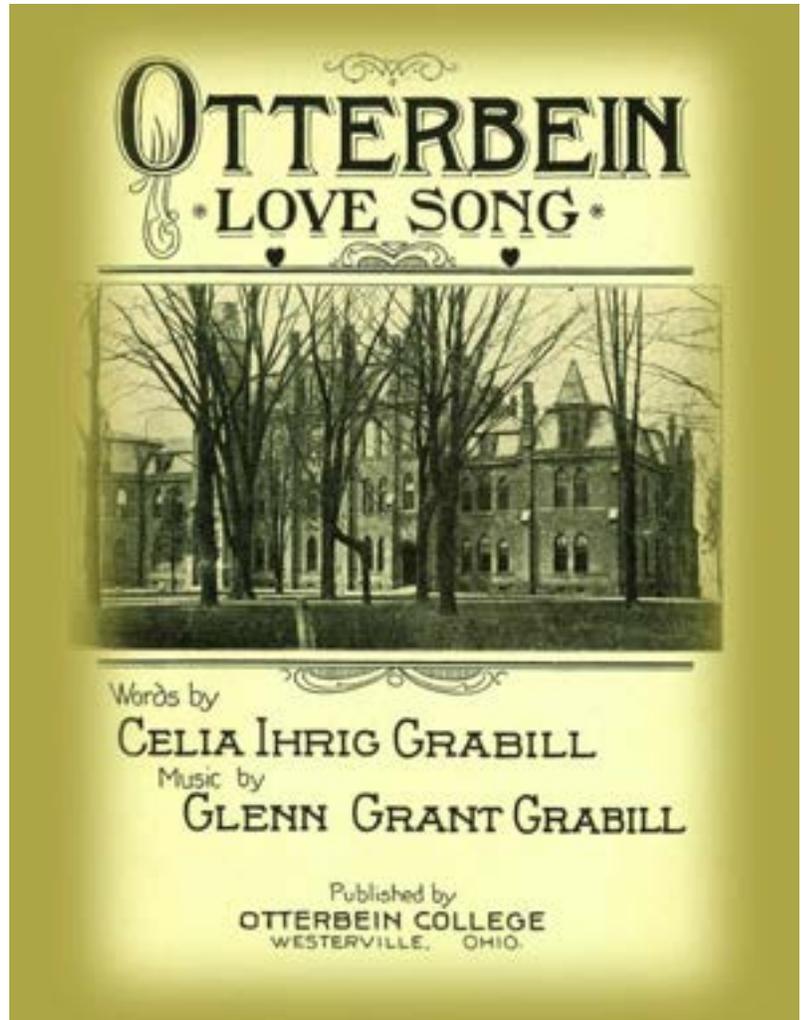
"The Otterbein Love Song"

by Glenn Grant Grabill

In a quiet peaceful village,
There is one we love so true.
She ever gives a welcome
To her friends both old and new.
She stands serene
'Mid tree tops green
She's our dear Otterbein.

Old Otterbein, our college,
We sing of thee today;
Our memories round thee linger,
In a sweet and mystic way.
O Otterbein, we love thee,
Our hearts are only thine,
We pledge anew,
We will be true,
Dear Otterbein.

Her halls have their own message
Of truth and hope and love;
She guides her youths and maidens
To the life that looks above.
Her stately tower
Speaks naught but power,
For our dear Otterbein.



Class of 1972 In Memoriam

Mr. Jack T. Anderson
Mr. Bruce A. Armstrong
Rev. Ted Bach
Mr. Michael W. Balthrop
Mr. Donald D. Bean
Mrs. Gloria Schaefer Benbow
Dr. Robert R. Bloomquist
Mr. Robin T. Bush
Mr. Kenneth M. Campbell
Mrs. Ronald D. Carter
Mr. Timothy B. Chandler
Ms. Kathryn Lee Cobb
Mr. Thomas J. Cole
Mr. E. Barry Combs
Mrs. JoAnn Turner Cooper
Mrs. Deborah Miller Crooks
Mrs. Sue McNemar Davis
Mr. Sam B. Deal
Mrs. Michael S. Delaney
Dr. MaryAnn Everhart-McDonald
Mrs. Myra Wolfe Feller
Rev. James P. Fogg, Jr.
Mrs. Willeen Bretz Fraker
Mr. Gene M. Frazier
Mr. Timothy A. Funk
Mr. William J. Gabriele
Mr. Earle E. Gilbert III
Mr. P. David Graf

Mr. Doyt J. Grandstaff
Dr. G. Paine Hade
Mrs. Pamela Fowler Hill
Mr. Alan E. Hyre
Mr. Michael E. Keadey
Ms. Karen L. Lightner
Mr. Donald E. Manly III
Mrs. Mary Lou Hammond McKeen
Mrs. Katrina Steck Mescher
Mrs. Christine Koman Mobily
Mr. Leslie E. Mokry
Ms. Heather Gayle Nixon
Mr. David S. Oldham
Mr. Thomas W. Pfof
Mrs. Dianne Brooks Powell
Mr. Mark P. Schantz
Ms. Karen Elaine Schmidt
Mr. William J. Schmitt
Mr. James D. Share
Mr. Marcus G. Smythe
Mr. Jeffrey D. Snyder
Mr. Jon B. Turner
Mr. Ronald E. Votaw
Mr. Thomas L. Weakland
Mrs. Annette Smith Williams
Ms. Becky A. Wright
Mrs. Julia Ziegler-Langille

Class of 1972 Tribute to Military Service



We would like to honor and thank all the veterans in the Otterbein Class of 1972 who served, and to recognize the families that stood alongside them.

Kathleen (Kathy) Butler



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From the time I was age 13 I thought that life would be complete if I could attend Otterbein College and work summers at Camp Wanake, which I did accomplish. And, life turned out to be pretty wonderful, not what I had originally planned but God gives you what you need, not always what you want.

At Otterbein I was involved in my sorority, Tau Delta, women's intercollegiate softball and bowling and WAA. I started out as an English major, eventually planning on being a librarian but at the end of Sophomore year, I switched to Physical Education and Health, K-12. I had to make up several major classes and took Kinesiology as an independent study with Dr. Marilyn Day. I hung out at the Sosh and was always ready for a pickup badminton game with Mrs. McCulsky. I loved WAA activities such as canoeing down Alum Creek and across Hoover Reservoir Dam to Dr. Day's home. Tau Delta was my life, probably to the detriment of my grades. Thanks to Work Study, (which I harassed Mr. Witt until I got in) I was able to be the cook at Camp Wanake in the summers and work in the Library during school. I enjoyed working in the periodical cage with Sharon Lust on Thur. nights and after the move to the new Library our senior year, the new AV facilities downstairs. I loved pranks and especially remember fertilizing an OC on Capital's campus, Miss Tyler's office full of balloons, trying to ring the bell but pulling the rope out of the case and not being able to get it back in (sorry custodian), capturing our pledge mistress, Jill Sellers, on our blast. I still carry the scar of cutting off part of my finger on a balance beam while student teaching. I could not find a teaching job upon graduation so went home to Huron substituting in the area schools. A group home for delinquent and pre-delinquent girls was being planned in Sandusky. I was hired as the assistant director and got the job of living with 12 teenage girls, teaching them homemaking skills, tutoring, and in general acted as a mother. This definitely defined my future. In 1974



I started state service with the then Ohio Youth Commission/DYS as a juvenile parole officer covering 7 rural counties of girls. Caseloads were then integrated and I was assigned intercity Toledo. I relocated to Columbus in 1976 and continued covering numerous surrounding counties. In 1984 I transferred to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction/Adult Parole Authority where I was a parole officer, parole board investigator, field services case analyst, and eventually Deputy Superintendent of Probation and Parole in Field Services. I retired with 32 years' state experience in the corrections field and a MS in Corrections from Xavier University.



After retirement I got to volunteer! I was an ombudsman for the elderly, assigned to nursing homes. I returned to Camp Wanake as a cook for school retreats and used my cooking skills at the YWCA Family Center for my church, Church of the Messiah. At age 50 I learned how to play hand bells in the church choir and continue to do so. We also have a group called the Dings that ring at senior facilities to spread musical joy and God's love. Margaret Morgan Doone, my old roommate and Nancy Smith, TD sister also ring in the group. I have stayed active in Otterbein affairs as a member of the Westerville Otterbein Women's Club and was president in 2000 when we presented Dr. Devore with a check, hitting our \$500,000 mark in donations. We have since reached \$1,000,000 and I have

been a thrift shop volunteer for 35 years. I enjoy being with family and friends, golf when my knees are good, ringing bells, playing mahjong and cards, and gardening. My partner, Rose and I traveled to England several time with Dean Van and Marilyn Day. We have enjoyed many cruises including the Panama Canal and a Mississippi Riverboat, and traveled throughout the US. We have been partners for 34 years and friends for 55, but she has been in memory care for 3 years. It is hard to lose the person you have so many experiences with and now have no one to share those memories.

Joanne Anderson Coker

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I have always loved books! I wanted to be a librarian when I grew up. At graduation, I decided I would become a teacher first and be a librarian later.

Mike Kish and his family lived down the street. My brother and I played with his boys and the neighborhood kids during our elementary years. Since Mike taught and coached at Otterbein his summers were 'free'. We had fun at the corner playground where Mike was in charge of making fun! Every weekday there were art activities, watermelon eating contests and Olympics, tennis lessons and so much more. We were there almost every day! Then Mike became Director of Admissions at Otterbein. He moved his family to Westerville, but our families remained friends. I visited Otterbein occasionally. He influenced my decision to become a member of the Otterbein class of '72 as an elementary ed major.

At Otterbein, when I wasn't being a student, I was with my Tau Delta sisters and/or the members of the Otterbein Cardinal Marching Band and the Symphony of Winds. I loved my sorority sisters, but there is nothing like being a part of a musical performance that was a job 'well done' because each of us on the 'team' did our part. Gary Tirey was an awesome man in so many ways! He offered us so many opportunities and challenges. I especially loved the travels to big and small cities alike, stateside and overseas! Gary taught under the belief that if you wanted to do something a bit different as a teacher, go ahead, do it! But make sure you knew exactly what made your idea successful if questioned by the 'higher ups'. I found myself using this approach as a teacher!

After graduation I taught first and third grades at Cassingham Elementary in Bexley, a Columbus suburb. I was on my path to taking time off to get my Library of Science degree. Instead, I became Mrs. Roger Coker! We shared a love of antiques, and thus auctions and flea markets. This passion took us to Waynesville, OH, a village north of Cincy, that was "The Antiques Capital of the Midwest". We went to buy a table and bought a house! We were there 25 years as owners of The Coker Collection. Early on, I subbed in classrooms of all ages. Positions for a teacher with eleven years' experience were not available in this rural area – too costly. Then I was approached by the director of The Mary L. Cook Public Library. She offered the part-time position of Coordinator of Children's Services. Yes, yes, yes! I was working in library! My childhood dream had come true. For almost twenty years I had one of the best jobs - I was paid to read books, buy books without taking out my credit card, play games, love children, do crafts, create literature-based programs and help a parent nurture their child's interests. I was so

thankful that I was also a well-trained and experienced teacher who became 'Miss Jo', the library lady.

As retirement approached, what would we do? Then friends invited us to visit them on Lake Waynoka in a gated community 45 miles east of Cincy. Four months later, we owned a house on a beautiful lake, a bit of heaven on Earth! We went for steaks and a pontoon boat ride and bought a house! We were involved in all sorts of clubs and activities making many wonderful friends. I was secretary of the property owners' association and the water board. I volunteered to share preschool story times at the local library. This led to a part-time job as a desk assistant. I was in a library again.

After eighteen years it was time to move back to an urban area where medical services and the amenities of life were convenient. Sometimes we do things because we need to, not because we want to. We returned to Waynesville, living 'up on the hill'. It just wasn't the same. So now Roger and I live at Otterbein Senior Living in Lebanon, OH. It is a senior community of residents who share the joys and pains of aging!

The time I spent in a quiet, peaceful village over 50 years ago influenced the paths I have taken during my temporary spiritual experience as a human being on earth. Life has been good, and Life is good. Remember we are spiritual beings going through a temporary human experience.

Shirley Dillon Dassylva

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After graduation from Otterbein, I taught high school English (grades 9 - 12) for four years in Belpre, OH.

Not really liking southern Ohio, I moved to Delaware and accepted a junior high English position with River Valley schools in Marion County. I completed my Masters at O.S.U. In 1981 in counseling. I remained at River Valley for 22 years.

I married my husband, Bob, in 1991 and "inherited" four grown children and eventually eleven grandchildren.

My passion (hobby) is seasonal decorating. For the last fourteen years I've been in charge of decorating our church facility. I even decorated a local restaurant for three years until it closed.

The last six years I've been busy looking after my ninety-six year old mother's medical needs.

My most cherished Otterbein memory is the 1971 Sierra Leone Foreign Study Program. That experience, more than once, helped me not only in my teaching career but in my perspective of our current world situations.

Margaret Morgan Doone



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Among the early photographs of my family is a picture of me with my parents on my father's graduation day at Otterbein. I was born while my parents lived in the Gl Village, a group of travel trailers and two Quonset huts in the area behind where the Campus Center stands today.

During my freshman year, my roommate, Debbie Arn Segner, and I lived in Saum Hall. I started as a biology, secondary education major and pledged Epsilon Kappa Tau. Due to sorority, I became reacquainted with Diane Savage Witt who had been a friend in elementary school before her family moved away.

At the beginning of my sophomore year, I changed my major to elementary education with a concentration in French. I met Kathy Butler when we were paired as roommates and we spent two years in Hanby Hall. I joined the yearbook staff for those two years and some of you will remember the "books in a box" from 1971 which included records, posters and a copy of the T & C. My most memorable experience from these two years was traveling to the outskirts of Washington D.C. to observe a total solar eclipse. It had been a wish of mine since I was 10 years old when I watched a partial eclipse by using a shadow box. I have James Fox to thank for letting me know about this trip.

I lived at home my senior year, finishing in March. I married Rick Doone in May and graduated in June.

My first career was teaching fifth grade in a rural school district for seven years. I took a leave of absence when our daughter, Erin, was born and then left teaching. I took a class in accounting through Franklin University to have one night a week with other adults and fell in love with balance sheets that balanced! I decided to change careers and



returned to Otterbein as an adult degree student.

My second career was in public accounting and I passed the CPA exam while working in a local public accounting firm. After eight years of preparing compilations of monthly financial statements and income tax returns, I changed careers again.

My third career was in governmental accounting, five years as an income tax auditor for the City of Westerville (no one wants to talk to a tax auditor), twelve years as the assistant finance director for the City, and nine years as the Business Manager for Worthington Libraries where I also was appointed to be the Fiscal Officer for the Board of Trustees. While working for the City, I earned my MBA degree from Capital University, the home of the "Friends Don't Let Friends Go To Otterbein" T-shirt.

I reconnected with Kathy Butler when she invited me to join the Westerville Otterbein Women's Club. I invited her to join the handbell choir at Church of the Messiah Methodist Church. I served on the Alumni Council for three years. Rick and I began traveling with the Otterbein alumni travel opportunities and have met many alumni from other classes. Currently I am still involved with Otterbein travel, a traveling bell choir ministry and the Lifelong Learning Community at Otterbein, all of which ensure that my retirement stays vibrant.

Mary Ellen Smith Elliott



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Otterbein memories: I remember living on 4th floor Cochran Hall my freshman year with great roommates and bonfire night and ice cream with roomies and brilliant blue skies and fall leaves and Rho Kappa Delta sorority. Inspired by my high school French teacher from

Otterbein, Becky Wagner, I was part of the French language program, spending my junior year in Strasbourg, France. The ocean voyage to France aboard the SS France was memorable, although I was a little seasick after a day on board. The university there brought tremendous academic challenges but eventual successes. We traveled all over France, Germany, and Italy. I remember seeing the grape harvest, visiting charming Alsatian villages and castle ruins tucked away in the mountains, attending Christmas midnight mass in a small French village church, singing in a French choir, and exploring the ruins of Pompeii.

Of course, these memories would not be complete without a special shout out to a few of my favorite professors: the late Dr. Carr (French), Dr. Lovejoy (Sociology), Dr. Coulter (English), Dr. Grissinger (speech) and Dr. Frank (art). They and others like them, are what made Otterbein special.

Afterwards: I spent my first 2 years out of college as a French teacher at River View High School near Warsaw, Ohio (an hour's drive east of Columbus). The teachers and parents there were so open, friendly, and welcoming to a brand-new teacher from out of town. Then it was on to Kent State University and a Master's in Library Science and Educational Technology. While there, I met my husband, Frank Elliott, also a Library Science student. We were married in April 1976 and shortly afterwards, moved to Toledo. It's hard to believe our 50th anniversary is coming up soon.

Over the succeeding years, Frank and I moved from Toledo to Oshkosh/Neenah, Wisconsin to Flint, Michigan and finally, 26 years ago, to our present home in Richfield, Minnesota, next door to Minneapolis. Every place we've lived in has been special because of the friends we've made there and the things we've done. A white water rafting trip on the Colorado River with a U of Wisconsin group springs to mind, church groups too numerous to count, biking and hiking, cross country skiing with visually impaired folks, teaching a Toledo Zoo class for preschoolers (complete with holding a boa constrictor for them to touch and

another time trying to hold a very jumpy rabbit), sunsets over California's Big Sur country, and overseas travel to England, Scotland, Switzerland, and home stays with French families in France.

I've worked in a variety of libraries ranging from a brief stint at the Toledo Blade library to public libraries in Neenah, Wisconsin and Saginaw, Michigan. I wound up my library career almost back where I started - this time as a school librarian in the Edina (MN) Public Schools' French immersion program, first at the elementary level then at the middle school.

Now, 8 years on in retirement, I'm enjoying many of the things I didn't have time for earlier. The Twin Cities offers so many opportunities for art, music, theater, and lifelong learning. I'm active in garden clubs, art groups, the Friends group of the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA) Art In Bloom, and of course French conversation groups with the Alliance Française. Three cats demand our time as well: Amber, Lily, and Henri Matisse. Frank has retired now too from the University of Minnesota science library, so we have time to spend together.

Pamela Beatty Fitzer

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As I look back, my college years at Otterbein hold very precious memories. Otterbein is where I found close friendships, learned the love of study, and became well prepared for a satisfying career in education. It is hard to explain to my adult children - Chelsea Beatty Brehm and Carmen Joel Brehm - who have both experienced college lives of their own how much fun we had dancing around the giant bonfire in our pajamas. Or---the TEM novelty party where we wore coconut bras. Once after a football game I ran with friends, (I wonder who you were) to ring the Victory Bell in Towers. Are students still allowed to do that? And, today as I work from my home office I am thinking that I'd rather call a "Spring Fever Day" for myself like we had each year at Otterbein!

Lynne Hokanson



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After graduation from Otterbein, I accepted a teaching adventure in a 3-room school in Southern Ohio where I taught a combined 5th/6th split class for 2 years. Although a marvelous experience, I moved to Columbus where I taught a 5th/6th class for 3 years in Upper Arlington Schools. During this period, I completed my M.A. at Upper Arlington Schools.

After teaching, I embarked on an equally fulfilling career at State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). I earned an M.B.A. at the University of Dayton while at

STRS. I retired after 25 years, but was reemployed at STRS for another 5 years.

In my 40's a motherhood called my name and I adopted a child from China at age 47 after two long protracted attempts. Rose graduated from Otterbein in 2018 and will marry her Otterbein sweetheart later this summer.

I have spent my retirement caring for my daughter and mother. There have been several trips to China and every summer spent at my home at Chautauqua Institution.

I can not write this without mentioning my two close Otterbein friends, Ginny Paine Hade and Trina Steck Mescher both who passed away in the past two years. Life is precious and can be unpredictably short so stay close to your Otterbein friends cherishing your memories.

Harriet Zech Hunter

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Many don't know that I graduated a year early. When I started my studies at Otterbein, I thought I wanted to be a music major. All those 1/2 and 1 credit courses in voice, piano and Acapella Choir added up! I also participated in the "Work Study" program whereby I took courses and worked wherever assigned to earn extra money. I remember my first summer semester, working as an administrative assistant for the Physics Department. Dr. Barnhardt was the only professor teaching that summer, thank goodness!

After completing my first fall semester, I realized music was not my career calling. But I bonded with my fellow music majors and pledged and joined the Tau Delta sorority, where many music major students were sisters. Piano/organ musician, Linda Mantor James '72 and her husband Michael James '71 have been lifelong friends. Another lifelong friend is Betsy Bridwell '70 who introduced me to the "Semester at Sea" program, sponsored by Chapman College in California. Betsy had spent a college semester traveling "abroad" on a cruise ship as an Otterbein student. I decided that I wanted to have a semester abroad and spent my Fall sophomore semester making ports of call in Europe, Africa, Central and South America, passing through the Panama Canal and experiencing the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Over the time I attended Otterbein, I had to answer the quintessential question. What do I want to do with my life? I remember taking Sociology 101, taught by Dr. Lovejoy. I soon realized I wanted to work with people and help make life better for others. I also liked science. At the time, Otterbein did not offer a bachelor of science in nursing. I found that Case Western Reserve University had a two year program, whereby all my college credits from Otterbein were accepted and I could obtain a second bachelor's degree, this time in nursing. While at Case Western, I applied and received a full scholarship from the US Navy. I became a Nurse Corps officer and spent 24 years on active duty, retiring in 1995 as a Commander. Otterbein offered me many unique learning opportunities and life experiences from 1968 to 1971 for which I am grateful.

Craig Jones

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Gail and I were married in August after graduation. We started life together in Wilmore, KY where I attended Asbury Seminary for two years. I graduated from United Seminary in Dayton in 1975. Our twins, Kristy and Cindy were also born in 1975. Five years later Josh was born. We served churches around the West Ohio conference for 40 years. Retiring in 2012.

During those years of ministry, Gail spent some years teaching French, substitute teaching, serving as the director of the Pickerington Senior Center and working with Edward Jones in financial service. Her most fulfilling job was that of mom and later Nana.

In 2012 we moved to Wheaton IL where our daughters live along with 9 of our 11 grandchildren (Zach (Abbey) Gerry, Lauren Lucas, Lucy Gerry, Annie Lucas, Sam Gerry, Micah Lucas, Lily Gerry, Abby Lucas, Declan Gerry, Hannah Jones, Olivia Jones). We are active in our local church, I play some golf and we enjoy spending some winter months in southwest Florida. We celebrated our 50th anniversary this summer with our family on Hilton Head Island, SC. We are grateful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for being with us these 50 years. Good times and bad He is faithful and His mercies are new every morning!

Diane Kendig



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My fondest, strongest memories come from my trimester off campus in Otterbein's "Foreign Study Program," the

Spanish version in Segovia, Spain the fall of 1971.

But the journey began when I entered as a freshman and placed into the last term of a Spanish minor, enough to qualify me to teach Spanish, along with my English major. And though I loved both languages dearly, and though I was very fluent—some would say way too fluent—in English, I was so unfluent in Spanish that I decided I'd better get me some Spanish fluency.

It took some doing to get in all the courses for a double major and teaching certification, especially when, in my third year, the Ohio State Board of Education suddenly required a math course for teachers. My advisor Dr. Coulter said he would write a letter to the BOE saying that he felt it was more important for me to go abroad—did he really write that? The course was waived, and in August of 1971, I arrived at the NY airport where classmates Mark Schantz and Jim Viney (and his wife Patricia, a junior) and junior Diana Shoffstall, and some other students arrived, and then John Muster arrived with champagne and toasted us off.

The next four months were the most intense living and learning experience I had ever had. The class of fifteen students from Otterbein, Ohio Wesleyan, and Earlham met around a big table in a suite near the statue of Juan Bravo for three classes a day in art, literature, and Spanish language. We went on field trips to Madrid and lived with families.



Soon we all began traveling on the weekends, too. I hit it off with three classmates who traveled frugally by walking, taking trains, and staying in cheap hostels, eating where locals ate. After our first big trip together to Southern Spain in October, we were like four Musketeers: Mark and me from Otterbein, Laurie from

Wesleyan, and Carole from Earlham. We shared a lot of values and dreams, and I can say, that in a way, I grew up with those three. Mark has since died, but I still see Laurie when I am in D.C., and Carole, now in retirement from being the world's best high school Spanish teacher in California, is on Facebook with me.



Back on campus in December, I began student teaching in the fall at Gahanna Junior High, assigned four classes of freshman English, and taking on an unheard of fifth class in Spanish. Good thing, because the job I finally landed after graduation at Western Reserve High School involved three classes of 10th grade English and three classes of Spanish. I taught my heart out there for two years and then taught Spanish at Oberlin High.

But I just didn't feel finished with studies, and left for grad school at Cleveland State, where I got an MA in English and took my two optional courses in Spanish. I had learned by then that Spanish and English were two doors, and whenever one closed, the other seemed to open for me. In 1984, I got a position in English at the University of Findlay, and for many years, it seemed I would live behind the English door for the rest of my life. I ran a creative writing program, on campus and in a medium security prison. I met the love of my life, Paul Beauvais, another English prof, and we wed at the college with Su Ann Farnlacher (Otterbein '71) our soloist.

I continued doing literary translation and published a book of Nicaraguan poetry. One day I saw there was a teaching Fulbright in that country. I applied, and in 1992, I spent a year teaching literary translation in Managua.

In 2010, I fully retired and returned home to Canton, Ohio. I am still writing and publishing, curate a big poetry project for the Cuyahoga County Public Library and a few weeks a year visit grade schools as a visiting poet. I speak Spanish with the immigrant children coming into the schools. I am grateful to Otterbein English and Spanish Departments, and the Study Abroad program for giving me the knowledge I have used in my life and work. I may have skipped a math course, but I did my best to be worthy of the teachers and curriculum and travel that Otterbein afforded me.



Note on photos: 1) my student ID for Spain, 2) the class at Thanksgiving at the famous Candido restaurant, 3) The four Musketeers: Me, Laurie (Ohio Wesleyan), Carole (Earlham), and Mark Schantz (Otterbein '72), 4) Me at a bullfight, wearing the hat a bullfighter threw me.

Kathryn Cobb Kramer – *In Memoriam*

By Cheryl Kirk Turner '72

I met Kathy on day one at Otterbein when I entered my dorm room in Cochran Hall. BFF was not a common term in those days, but she soon became my “Best Friend Forever”. We had two more roommates, Deborah Netzly Bartlett, and Karen Wilson Young. The 4 of us have kept in touch since that day. Kathy and I were roommates all four years. I often saw Kathy when we visited Ohio to see relatives, friends and for college reunions. When she and husband Larry moved to North Carolina we were only two hours apart and saw each other more often. We enjoyed weekend visits and a memorable cruise to Bermuda with our spouses. Kathy had always wanted to have a reunion of we four freshman roommates, and we had tried several times without success. Debbie, Karen, and I are now planning it for our 50th Otterbein Reunion and Kathy will be with us in spirit with fondly remembered stories. In January of 2020 Kathy was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer and died on March 11th. I talked to her the week of her death, and she said she was looking forward to life after death, and finally getting the answers to her many questions from the source of her faith. She told me she'd be my orientation leader when I get to heaven, and her only regret was leaving her sweet husband Larry.

Donna Stranscak Maminskas



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As I reflect on my years at Otterbein I am amazed that fifty years has separated me from all those stellar memories. I have kept in contact with many of my closest friends from the 'Bein. We shared adventures during the college years and continued to remain friends throughout our lifetime. Careers happened, families happened and it was sometimes difficult to intersect our busy lives but we have never forgotten each other.

After graduating I returned home to the Cleveland area and taught English at Medina High School. One evening I had a parent/teacher meeting with a failing student's father. When the discussion changed from his son's progress to a litter of German shepherd puppies he had just bred, he offered me one for all the care I had shown his son. That puppy was an answer to a lifelong prayer to have a dog of my own. After years of patient praying, that little guy would change the course of my life. I began showing Thor and finally decided teaching was not where I wanted to be for the rest of my life. I opened one dog grooming salon and then began a dog grooming school. I was meant to teach but this time pet grooming. I opened a second salon and remained very busy for twenty years.

After a three year courtship I married my husband Mike. Mike owned his own contracting business so we were both laser focused on our careers always working. We made time to host our small group from church each week—a good reason to keep the houseclean and presentable.

Again, God had another twist in the plan for my life. In my 'free time' I had become the new member coordinator at our church. I eventually went to Loyola University in Baltimore to become a Stephen Ministry Leader. I was once again on the path to teaching but this time it was teaching vetted volunteers to be caregiving ministers to those in crisis.





When I saw an article in our church bulletin about the Lutheran Cemetery Association and their search for a cemetery superintendent I decided to submit a resume. Don't tell God but my intentions were not very honorable. I knew the Association would NEVER hire a Woman and I was not looking for a job. With my Stephen Leader/ counseling experience and my business experience I came up on the top of the list of applicants. The Board of Directors was doubtful I could succeed. I really was not looking to change careers. I opened my Bible and set down my index finger and found the

answer to the job offer... 'Throw down your nets and follow me'. I am happy to say in 2015 I retired after twenty-two years of overseeing all facets of their two cemeteries.

Work, church and life in general kept us busy. With my husband's construction expertise we managed to secure some rental properties on the journey. We have met and made amazing friends throughout all facets of this life. It all started with the prayer of a kid for a dog. The Lord has carried us to amazing heights just by listening to His voice and following His will throughout our life.

The dogs are all gone (eight German Shepherds, four Maltese, one Corgi and four rescues). I love my Liberal Arts degree. Otterbein gave me the ability to appreciate diversity in every aspect of life, from the people to the dogs to the experiences we choose to love. No regrets. Now it is time to travel and catch up with our old friends, compare notes and make new memories.



Kathy Sellers

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My best memories from my time at Otterbein are with the Cardinal Marching Band and Gary Tirey and my friends from Tau Delta. I took my first ever French Horn lessons for Mr. Tirey even though I had already played horn for over 2 years. Needless to say, I learned a lot. I spent many wonderful hours together being friends and making music and I am still in touch with many of my band and Deltas friends today. My major was a double major in Psychology and Sociology. One of my favorite professors was Larry Cox. He could always be counted on to stretch our thinking and we never knew what interesting things we might see in class.

My years at Otterbein are some of my best memories and I cherish the friends and memories that I still have.

Nancy Jean Smith



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My family moved to the quiet, peaceful village of Westerville in 1958. When I was a freshman in high school, the Westerville Public library asked me to work for them as a page. I was on the payroll for three weeks, when I decided this was I wanted to do with my life and I set out on a path to achieve that goal.

When it came time to think about college, Otterbein College was my one and only choice. Since library school did not require a particular course of study on the undergraduate level, I majored in my favorite subject – history. Along with my studies, I worked for Dr. Ursula Holtermann, compiling and overseeing the binding together of her many class handouts for future students to use. I also worked with Dr. Harold Hancock, doing a bit of editing and checking the accuracy of the index in his History of Westerville, Ohio book.

I commuted, actually I walked, from home my freshman year. I remember one morning on the way to my first exam in Dr. Koo's economics class, I was so anxious, I threw up in a yard along East College Avenue. Another time, I presented a paper in Dr. Kerr's class and he said I was "too honest."

I moved to campus for my remaining years at Otterbein, living in Hanby Hall. I had joined Tau Delta sorority as a freshman, making some lifelong friends. I continued to work at the public library three hours each day and all day on Saturdays. One of my favorite memories is about canoeing class with Dr. Marilyn Day. My Tau Delta pledge and I were paired together in our craft on Alum Creek by the city park. Try as we might, we could not get the canoe turned to the north and were headed directly for the dam. Dr. Day was stripping off her shoes,



With my sister Dianne Smith Martin '76 in 2019

her watch, her whistle, with the intent of getting in the creek waters to “save” us. A very few feet from the top of the dam, we got the canoe under control and paddled confidently north towards the bridge. Rumor had it that my pledge and I were the only ones who got an A in the class.

I took extra classes beyond the usual three, played violin in the orchestra my freshman year, and realized by the beginning of my junior year that my major was complete and I only needed one class beyond the junior year to graduate. I talked over my future with Dr. Holtermann, who happened to be my advisor. I thought maybe I should take education classes in case I did not make it into library school. She would not allow me to do so, saying “If you want into library school, that's what you are going to do. I won't let you waste your time on anything else.” The college administration allowed me to take a class, Sociology with Dr. Lovejoy, that summer. I graduated from Otterbein in August, 1971. I was headed to library school.



With Children's poet and Otterbein professor emeritus J. Patrick Lewis, at the 2012 Otterbein Homecoming

When asked by the Alumni office if I wanted to be aligned with the Class of '71 or with the Class of '72, I chose to stay with my high school friends, sorority sisters, and those memories I had made with them all. I declared myself a member of the Class of 1972. My biggest regret is that I did not return for commencement.

While the Class of '72 was beginning its senior year in September of 1971, I was beginning my MS in Library Science at Drexel University in Philadelphia. I graduated in August of 1972, returning as a professional

librarian to the Westerville Public Library for 30 more years of service, the last 15 years managing the Youth Department. I loved serving that institution and the career that I had pursued right up to my retirement in 2003.

My connections to Otterbein continue. I have served on the Friends of the Courtright Memorial Library Council for many years and am active with the Lifelong Learning Community (LLC). I pledge anew that I will always be as true to Dear Otterbein as she has been to me.

Cheryl Kirk Turner

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I remember well the first day of my freshman year when I entered the corner room on 3rd floor Cochran Hall meeting my three other roommates for the first time, Kathy Cobb Kramer, Debbie Netzly Bartlett, and Karen Wilson Young. We were strangers then but became lifelong friends. Although, we eventually all lived in different states, we've kept in touch and are looking forward to our 50th Reunion to reunite. Kathy unfortunately passed away in 2020. See my memory page of her in the '72 Memory Book.

After freshman year, Debbie & Karen continued to be roommates as did Kathy and me. Kathy worked part-time at the Alumni Office, and through her I got a job there, too. I became one of Mary Bivins' girls and what I learned from her was an additional part of Otterbein's Education.

I met my husband Tom Turner '71 in the Otterbein Library study carrels where we became good friends before dating. By the time we started dating, we knew each other very well. This was a blessing, because after he graduated, we had a long distance relationship until our wedding. Tom got a job with BF Goodrich in New Orleans the summer of 1971. I had a year left at Otterbein and then taught one year. We were married in 1973. Tom's job was subject to transfer, and the first year of marriage we lived in three states, Louisiana, New York, and Ohio. We celebrated our first anniversary back in Ohio. Both our families were happy with Tom's transfer to Cincinnati.

With so many moves in one year a career in Education didn't seem feasible for me. Therefore, I was grateful for Mary Bivins teaching. Tom went through 3 mergers with his company, BF Goodrich Tire to Uniroyal Goodrich to Michelin. He never had to look for a job outside the company. I, on the other hand had to look for a new job/career with each of his transfers. I enjoyed all of them and learned much from each. Otterbein's Liberal Arts Education taught me how to learn and how to adapt. In Cincinnati I first worked for a small manufacturing company then a large one with worldwide divisions. Tom's next transfer was to Goodrich headquarters in Akron. There I became an office administrator for a church. His last transfer was to Greenville South Carolina where I worked in Accounting for a Real Estate Brokerage.

We have lived in Greenville since 1994. Although we have enjoyed all the places we've lived and made lasting friendships in each, we are grateful that we ended

up in Greenville. It is a great place to live at any age but especially for retirement. Because it is a headquarters for many businesses, it has a great mix of people from all over the country as well as the world. The downtown offers much in shopping and entertainment but still has quaint Southern charm. It is close enough to the North Carolina Mountains and the Carolina or Georgia beaches for weekend getaways. The weather is great. The longest seasons are Spring & Fall. The shortest season is a mild winter with only occasional snow. Snow brings everything to a halt without equipment for its removal. Summers are hot but milder than many Southern cities because of the nearby mountains.

We have been in love since our days at Otterbein and will celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2023. We always enjoy coming home to Otterbein. We marvel at how the quiet peaceful village has changed, but when we walk the campus and see the beautifully renovated Towers, we see much to remind us of the past. We are proud to say we are Otterbein Grads and to see how well Otterbein has moved forward into the next century. We feel sure that it will continue to do so.

Lynda Deffenbaugh Weininger

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I taught Jr High Science in Mt Sterling, Ohio for a very short time after graduating from Otterbein. After marrying my husband, David, whom I met while student teaching at Sunbury Middle School, we moved closer to his hometown.

I taught mainly Fourth Grade at Mohawk Local Schools south of Tiffin, Ohio for almost 35 years. I completed my M. Ed. At Heidelberg College. We raised two children, Christie and Drew, in a farmhouse that was built in the 1880's. Christie is currently the director of Rutherford B. Hayes Library and Museums in Fremont, Ohio. Christie is also an alumna of Otterbein. She has two children. Our son, Drew, is a graphic designer and has worked on many tv shows and movies. He lives in Burbank, California. My husband obtained his Ph.D. in math and taught at Heidelberg University. He later became the provost there.

My memories of Otterbein include a great year of making friends, particularly during my freshman year in King Hall as a Cellar Dweller! There was the bonding experience with the huge bonfire and wearing of our beanies (I still have mine!) We had occasional nighttime panty raids and went sledding (on meal trays borrowed from the dining hall, I believe!) down the very small hill behind the dorm. We learned faces and names in the original Face Book! My sophomore year was spent in Clements Hall, and by then I was a sorority member of EKT. Junior year, I was a J.C. in King Hall along with Debbie Andrews, and my senior year, where I roomed with Gail Donley and Debbie Boring, was the first year we were permitted to have a sorority house! It was so cool to be living in a house and it seemed like a small triumph that the college allowed this to happen. Another memory is slathering on baby oil while sunbathing on Barlow Beach. I also recall the guys sitting in the campus center and rating the gals 1-10 as we descended the curved stairway after eating in the dining area. Yikes! I fondly remember Spring Fever Day...a wonderful surprise of cancelled classes for the day spontaneously announced early on a beautiful weather day. Although there was a lot of campus unrest in many areas of the country during my college days, it felt fairly safe at Otterbein.

I had many professors that I enjoyed, such as Dr. Day and Dr. Dodrill. Dr. Holtermann was a bit intimidating to me! But the professor I remember the most was Dr. Leonard for Geology class. We went on several trips, mostly in Ohio, to places that were geologically notable. I also remember A.K. Jenkins, who dealt with campus housing.

We have done some traveling since retirement and enjoy tagging along on our grandchildren's events. I am currently active in our church and spend time reading, antiquing and learning how to play Bridge. I continue to stay in touch with Otterbein friend Pam Beatty Fitzer.

Diane Christine Savage Witt



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My memories of Otterbein start when I was born to two Otterbein Graduates. My parents had told me about Scrap Day, May Day, pledging (Mom had pictures), Serenades, etc. I knew where Ben Hanby was buried, where to find the Benchmark on the Association Building, and where to ring the bell in Towers.

I will start my memories when my parents and I moved to Westerville and lived next door to my grandparents in a house on the corner of Park and Knox. I was 8 years old, the neighborhood had lots of children my age, and it was

Westerville's Centennial. At night, from my bedroom, I would hear the bell from Towers Hall, chiming out the hours and half hours. From my window, I could see the top of Cowan Hall and a single red light on the top of the broadcast tower of WOBN. The quiet peaceful village lived up to its name.

During school time, I rode the bus through the campus with stops for students. During the summer, I walked with my friends to the park for the city recreation activities. For many activities, we sat on the tiered seating facing the Band Shell, watching programs, contests, and other activities.

Ten years later, I was seated on those same seats (in a boy-girl-boy-girl arrangement) and wearing pajamas, waiting to be led to the State Theater to see "The One and Only Genuine Original Family Band", and singing "Dakota! Dakota!" along with John Davidson and the rest of the freshman class.

In 1962, our church conference held their summer camp at Otterbein College. We ate at Barlow Hall, my room was on the third floor of Saum Hall, and I had classes in Towers Hall, all without air conditioning.

During college, I remember seeing Saum Hall, the oldest building on the campus, being demolished to make room for the new library. The new library was terrific, but I saved a brick from Saum.

In the spring of 1967, the Westerville and Chillicothe high school casts of "The Sound of Music" came to Otterbein's Convocation to hear Maria Von Trapp speak. Afterwards, the casts met in the Campus Center, while waiting for Maria

von Trapp to talk with us. I was there with the cast from Chillicothe, as well as a certain Keith Witt with the cast from Westerville.

As a freshman in 1968 I was placed in in one of the large corner rooms of Cochran Hall. These rooms had been the Sorority rooms at one time. (When our oldest daughter started at Otterbein, she was placed in one of the larger rooms in the basement of Clements Hall where our sorority rooms had been.)

During my first term, I was heading back towards Cochran Hall, and was passing the EUB church, when I spotted President Lynn Turner walking on the sidewalk, coming in my direction. I told myself to get ready to smile and think what to say. He spoke first. "Hello Diane! I saw your parents last night." He mentioned where they had been, but I was too shocked that he knew my name to remember. I responded with appropriate niceties; I hope. I was impressed and flattered. I didn't even know he knew my parents let alone me.

Small colleges are great!

I was slow in declaring a major and kept my options open.

I tried out and was selected for the A Cappella touring choir. We were gone many weekends plus two weeks in Florida during Christmas break. Prof Chamberlain demanded perfection, and we tried to live up to his expectations. We traveled on a crowded touring bus and got to know the members of our choir. One of the guys, who also was in my calculus class, suggested that we sit together on the bus to work on our calculus. That didn't work out well, but we did walk around a "castle", where we were to sing that night.

EKT was a good match for me. I had a great Active. She looked out for me and was understanding about Choir and musicals. Also, many thanks to the sister who let her homecoming escort check the alumni files for my home address (three years after I graduated.)

I loved to canoe so I signed up for canoeing with Dr. Day. At Troop's pond, I first learned how to sink a canoe and recover it. By the second term I was sailing a canoe on Hoover Reservoir. By 1974, I had my own canoe. And I still have that canoe to this day.

Having done Musicals in High School, I tried out for the musical and was delighted when I made the chorus. Then I was thrilled when I also was listed as one of Dean Van's dancers. I sang and danced through "Music Man", "My Fair Lady", and "Fiddler on the Roof".

Full rehearsals ran late. I remember on one late night, as we were heading to the dorms and Tower's bell was striking 12, we locked arms together with each other and sang "We're Off to See the Wizard" with the proper dance steps as we

followed the Otterbrick road on Grove Street.

I finally declared math as my major and made sure I had the educational requirements so I could teach. Dr. Wiley became my adviser, and he also made sure that I had computer experience as a terminal operator at the Otterbein's computer center.

My term abroad junior year in Sierra Leone with Dr. Addington and other Otterbein students was a unique experience. I can talk about what I saw and what I did, but

I cannot properly express my feelings in words. This experience remains a wonderful memory.

My sad memory was in the fall of 1971, when I saw the observatory on top of McFadden Science Hall melt in a fire. I watched it from my dorm room in Mayne Hall.

Our class of '72 was the last class that voluntarily wore beanies, and I appreciated knowing names and hometowns. By the time we graduated, Otterbein had Spring Fever Day, a Student Trustee, no dress code, and the card key for women. I made a date stay with me outside the dorm until Tower's bell rang 2 times and the dorm door was locked so I could use my card key for entry.

Elsley Keith Witt, Jr.



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I was introduced to Otterbein College and Westerville in June 1960; "...a quiet, peaceful village..." where brick streets were replaced with brick streets. My dad had taken a job in the Admissions Office, and we moved from the mountains of Western Pennsylvania to a home on West Park Street. Immersion in college life started immediately. Red Moreland (OC print shop manager) and his three daughters lived next door on the west, and (Dean of the College) David Waas and his four daughters lived on our east side. I was nine and had three brothers. The girls were great playmates. Retired English Professor Emeritus John Smith lived two doors up the street. He loved children and always found time to say hello. He addressed his spouse as "dear wife". That impressed me, and I often call Diane by the same name to this day.

As the years went by, there were many interactions with the college. At 13, I had a paper route that encompassed West College Ave, West Main Street, and West Home Street. Among my deliveries were Zeta Phi fraternity, English professor James K. Ray, Mary B. Thomas (Trustee), and other prominent Otterbein associates. I took French from Sylvia Vance in the fifth grade at Longfellow Elementary. My brothers and I watched as the old student union was razed and the current campus center was built. We also watched the construction Davis Hall and Davis Annex and played on top of their walls after the workers went home in the evening. We also got to know many of the faculty through attendance at the Church of the Master and Otterbein's frequent campus events. From 9th through 12th grade, I was gainfully employed in the kitchen of the Campus Center, first washing dishes, then graduating to bussing tables and stocking the food lines; year-round thanks to Otterbein's academic class schedule and the many conferences and camps held on campus during the summers.

As a freshman, I had high hopes as a math and physics major, but my grades soon told me I needed to find another major, and my number 49 in the new draft lottery told me I really needed to find a new major. I joined AFROTC, was offered a pilot training slot and was told all I had to do was graduate. I switched my major to Music and had a lot of fun the next three years. I received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1972. After learning that my entry into active duty was delayed until November 1973, I remained enrolled at Otterbein and earned a Music Education

teaching certificate K-12 in June of 1973. I left for pilot training at Reese AFB, Texas and spent the next 27 years loving every minute. I ran in to Diane in the Campus Center during fall homecoming in 1975. We were married the next August.

I was accepted into the freshman class in early 1968. That June - August, I participated in Otterbein's work/study program at McCurdy Mission in Española, New Mexico and discovered that there was a much bigger world than the Columbus suburbs. The "see the world" bug had bitten, and from then on, (far) away from home was where I wanted to be; touring Europe with the Acapella Choir in 1969, a YMCA waterfront Director in New Hampshire from 1970-1972, and around the globe flying for the Air Force. I've been in the Persian Gulf twice; once from the east, and once from the west, as well as Canada, Europe, Central and South America, the Pacific Theater, the Middle East and all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Thank you, Otterbein!

Otterbein provided me a truly liberal arts education. Beside the required music curriculum, I studied Astronomy, with Professor Muster, Earth Sciences/Spelunking with Dr. Leonard, Modern European History and Economics with Professors Rothgery, and Voskuil. I went on to earn a master's degree in Aeronautics. When I retired from the Air Force, I was Chief of Plans and Programs at Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, engaged in our nation's space launch programs and managing the world's premier gateway to space. For the next twenty years, I continued to be involved in the country's space program. I was Director of Planning for Florida's Space Authority, then moved to Albuquerque where I was a long-range planning consultant for the Missile Defense Agency's Airborne Laser Program, and finally a Program Director for US Space Command's Rocket Systems Launch Program—where we repurposed retired USAF Peacekeeper and Minuteman rockets to launch satellites for NASA and other research organizations. Music is still a large part of my life, but Otterbein provided the foundation for a constant quest for learning that has kept me going.

My wife, Diane Savage Witt, '72, and I have had two of our three children also graduate from Otterbein: Christy (Witt) Hoffman '00, and Dr. Laura (Witt) Harvey '03. Our son, Elsley Keith Witt III wanted to be an engineer and graduated from the University of Cincinnati.

747 1st flight to London



APOLLO 13

"Houston, we have a problem"

DAILY NEWS

NIXON SENDS GIs INTO CAMBODIA



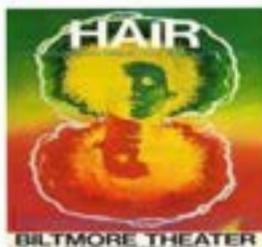
1970 Billboard

Top Rock'n'Roll Hits

1	I Think I Love You	6	Jesus Christ Superstar
2	Rio	7	The Rapper
3	The Tears of a Clown	8	Believe
4	Wanda Sue We Got to Go	9	Spit in the Sky
5	I Want You Back	10	Green-Eyed Lady

2-TIME SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS

ALL MARCHING BANDS 2010 ORIGINAL



VINTAGE 1970

